On Thursday, May 4, 2017, Bishop James Johnston, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and donors to the Academy 150 Capital Campaign helped St. Teresa’s Academy to break new ground in education for young women.

ground·break·ing (adjective): breaking new ground; innovative; pioneering
Remaining at the forefront of educating and empowering young women today takes vigilance, adaptability, and support. St. Teresa’s Academy remains committed to providing students with a college preparatory education that inspires them to tackle their bright futures with confidence. As a result, the Academy 150 Capital Campaign was launched during STA’s 150th anniversary year in 2016.

The Academy 150 Capital Campaign ensures that students and faculty benefit from the most advanced educational tools and spaces to learn, study, exercise, and grow in faith. Enhancements include a new Library/Learning Commons, Makerspace/Robotics Lab (strengthening STA’s emphases on STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), Campus Ministry Department, Outdoor Commons, and athletic spaces.

The Academy 150 Capital Campaign has raised nearly $9 million toward the ultimate $15 million fundraising goal. Since the campaign’s Ground-breaking in May 2017, tremendous progress has taken shape on the enhancements to the Goppert Center and throughout campus, and completion is projected by spring of 2018.

PRESERVING THE CAMPUS AND ENDOWMENT

In addition to building enhancements, campus preservation and endowment remain important components to the Academy 150 Capital Campaign. The campus preservation fund will ensure the land, trees, and statues on the historic Windmoor Campus are cared for and maintained for generations to come. The creation of a campus-wide arboretum will include a contemplative prayer walk.

For the 2017-2018 school year, St. Teresa’s Academy has offered more than $850,000 in scholarships, discounts, and financial aid to more than 45% of the student body. The endowment fund is a crucial element in preserving STA’s tradition of serving students from a wide range of socioeconomic, cultural, and racial backgrounds.
When completed, the renovation to the Goppert Center will add over 25,000 square feet to the facilities within the Windmoor campus.

BUILD WITH US

The enhancements taking shape as a result of the Academy 150 Capital Campaign will help to ensure that future graduates of St. Teresa’s will find there are no glass ceilings.

Please consider a generous gift or 3-year pledge to help reach the Academy 150 Capital Campaign goal. Your help is still needed and appreciated.

To donate, please visit stastars.org/capitalcampaign.
The Learning Commons, a combination research library and computer lab, serves as space for studying, researching, collaborating, and project-based learning. Three additional Active Learning Classrooms (ALC’s) encourage student collaboration and peer teaching, simulating how students will work in future workplaces.

The Academy 150 Capital Campaign will support:

- ENDOWMENT, making an STA education more affordable
- CAMPUS PRESERVATION, preserving the campus and buildings for years to come
- SOUND AND VIDEO EDITING/RECORDING STUDIOS
- ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL, including a new elevator and accessible restroom facilities
- LOCKER ROOMS, to store equipment and belongings
- NEW STAR SHOP AND CONCESSION STAND
The Campus Ministry Department will have a prominent home at the entrance to the Goppert Center, signifying the important role Catholic faith plays in the education and lives of our students. The Outdoor Commons provides a gathering space for an outdoor classroom or study group.

When completed, St. Teresa’s Academy’s modern Makerspace/Robotics Lab will provide a cross between a classroom and a creative shop for hands-on projects.

New athletic spaces offer exercise and training equipment as well as areas for pre-game preparation and post-game therapy.
Microsoft Features
St. Teresa's Academy

St. Teresa’s Academy’s investment in the most-advanced technology for their students caught the eye of Microsoft headquarters in Seattle, Washington.

As a result, the company recently produced a marketing video showcasing St. Teresa’s and the far-reaching academic benefits technology has brought to students and faculty.

STA provides each student a Microsoft Surface Pro 4 Tablet, loaded with the latest software. A Surface Pro 4 Tablet acts as a personal laptop, with the added versatility of a tablet, including an accompanying stylus.

During the past academic year, 22 new Microsoft Surface Studios were introduced into STA’s STEAM curriculum. Surface Studios are computers with large monitors that open up tremendous possibilities in processing and creativity. The video illustrates how both these technological tools are enhancing students’ academic experiences.

STA President Nan Bone said, “I am so proud that, after considering schools across the nation, Microsoft selected St. Teresa’s Academy as the best example of technological advancement within education.”

Microsoft’s video titled, “Kansas City’s oldest school uses new technology to energize education,” may be found on the company’s website and within select retail stores (including the Overland Park location). Microsoft is committed to producing a second video featuring, in further depth, the benefits of STA’s Microsoft Surface Studios.

Watch the video at: vimeo.com/stteresas
Above: Students use their Surface Pro 4 Tablets during calculus class to collaborate on a challenging problem. Left: STA’s Microsoft Surface Studios provide the higher processing capabilities needed for data analytics, game and app development, and prototype drafting.
STA WELCOMES TEACHERS TO EXPAND MATH CURRICULUM

For the second consecutive year, St. Teresa’s Academy hosted the Exeter Math Institute to benefit area middle, high school, and university teachers and their students.

STA, along with Rockhurst High School, welcomed 113 mathematics teachers from 68 different schools to learn from trained faculty from the Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

In training, teachers were placed in the role of the student as they worked collaboratively and creatively to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Jo Weller, STA’s math instructor and curriculum director, stated, “In addition to student-centered and math-centered professional development, Exeter Math Institute is a wonderful opportunity to bring teachers from the greater Kansas City metro area together to share experiences and ideas, and truly learn from each other.”

The Institute’s unique curriculum of problems and labs will enrich an estimated 12,000 students within public, charter, private schools, as well as institutions of higher learning.

Teachers who experienced this year’s event shared the following feedback:

“In over 15 years of teaching high school math, this is the only professional development where I actually did math. Finally something relevant!”

“We all need more engaging lessons, and Exeter has an approach that is refreshing and student focused.”

*Included among the schools attending the Institute were: Academie Lafayette, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Cristo Rey Kansas City High School, F.L. Schlagle High School, Hogan Preparatory Academy, Missouri Western State University, Our Lady of Presentation, Ruskin High School, St. Ann Catholic School, and Shawnee Mission East High School.*
“We value the connections STA has made with the educational community through Exeter Math Institute, and look forward to continuing in the future.”

—Jo Weller, STA Curriculum Director
STAR GALAXY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS STA STRATEGIC DIVERSITY GOALS

To celebrate diversity within the St. Teresa’s Academy community, the Star Galaxy Committee was formed as a standing committee of the Star Parents Association.

Star Galaxy welcomes all parents (and former parents) to help cultivate an inclusive, welcoming environment that values and respects a racially, culturally, ethnically, geographically, and economically diverse student body and community.

Former STA parent Jason Duckworth and current STA parent Carla Smocks will lead the committee during the 2017-2018 school year, as they did the previous year. As their guide, the committee follows the three goals for diversity and inclusion outlined in STA’s strategic plan:

- Student Education and Awareness
- Faculty Training/Education
- Recruitment Efforts for Students and Faculty

The Star Galaxy committee made significant progress toward the goals for student and faculty education and awareness as evidenced in the many successes in this area.

Within the past year, in conjunction with STA’s Inclusion Project, students were invited to experience the Kansas City Landmark Bus Tour. The Bus Tour, which is organized by the Johnson County Public Library, led students through some of Kansas City’s landmarks related to segregation/desegregation efforts. The Tour was created based on the book titled, Some of My Best Friends are Black, by Tanner Colby (a required summer of 2017 reading assignment for STA juniors). Students learned how racial issues have shaped not only the city’s physical landscape but also the social and political structure of the society.

In addition, the entire school, including faculty and staff, attended a special viewing of Hidden Figures, a movie based

Above: Students Leah Dorris (left) and Liv Richardson experienced Kansas City through a unique perspective thanks to the Kansas City Landmark Bus Tour and insights from the book Some of My Best Friends are Black. Below: Following the tour, Leah and Liv attended a panel discussion on real estate segregation in Kansas City. (l to r): Leah, KC Public Schools chief communications officer Natalie Allen, author Tanner Colby, Liv, and KC real estate attorney Shomari Benton.
on a best-selling book. *Hidden Figures* chronicles the true story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Students’ responses to the enlightening film included:

“*The portrayal of segregation was so powerful. I really liked how it went into the struggle of both being a woman and a minority.*”

“It made me feel empowered. Thank you to every woman who has come before me!!”

“My main take away from the movie is to be the first to do something that seems impossible.”

Jason Duckworth, Star Galaxy co-chair, stated, “St. Teresa’s is committed to striving for the important goals outlined by the strategic plan and supported by the Star Galaxy committee. This committee is a valuable resource in working toward diversity and inclusion within the STA community.”

In an effort to strive toward meeting the goals outlined in the strategic plan, the committee will be focusing efforts toward student and faculty recruitment and retention this year.

*After viewing Hidden Figures, one STA Student reflected, “This movie really opened my eyes to how it really was in that time and the challenges black women faced.”*
spotlight on alums

1949
SISTER MARY ANN DONOVAN has moved to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, better known as Carondelet. Sister Mary Ann states, “I am retired but not inactive. There is always something happening here that I have an opportunity to become involved.”

1957
SISTER MARY ANN NESTEL, CSJ, was appointed by the Mayor of St. Louis to serve on the St. Louis Senior Citizen Service Fund. This group is responsible for granting two to three million dollars yearly for seniors.

1961
MARTHA MEAGHER DOWNEY and her husband Hugh retired after 52 years of volunteer work as founders directing Lailba Association in Africa. They continue to live six months each year in Kenya, East Africa. They started a new non-profit organization called His Work Foundation in 2012, which supports Catholic priests who are working with the very poor in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

SHARON SMART is a member of the BOTAR Organization, Jackson County Historical Society, Native Sons and Daughters Organization, and Westport Historical Society. She maintains responsibility for obtaining speakers for the Westport Library.

1966
KATHLEEN KOEHLER JACOT has been married for 30 years to Andy Jacot.

They met at the American Restaurant in 1984 and have continued to work together in the restaurant industry. They have owned their own catering business, Feasts of Fancy, for 16 years. Throughout their lives, they have been dog parents and have raised numerous dogs, including Great Danes, Mastiffs, Anatolian Shepherds and Cattle dogs. They moved to Kearney, Missouri, in 2012, where they enjoy 4.5 acres of land, and their beautiful scenery.

1967
CATHY CZUCZEJKO retired in March after 26 years as a NICU nurse at Children’s Mercy Hospital and Clinics.

1979
CATHERINE (CATHY) BRADLEY CUMMINGS has owned/operated Vito’s Ristorante in Oklahoma City, OK, since July 2004. Her second restaurant, Bacon, has been open since March 2017. She was elected to the City Council of the Village in April 2017, serving as the only woman on the Council.

1982
MARY PAT SIMMONS ROSEWICZ recently started her own travel-planning consultancy, combining her experience as a management consultant and mom with her long-time passion for travel. She encourages and helps people experience the insight, power and joy that travel can bring to life.

STA Alumna and Faculty Member Wins Playwright Competition
Michelle Tyrone Johnson ('82) won the New Works Playwright Competition for her play titled, The Green Book Wine Club Train Trip. Michelle is not only an STA alumna, but also a valued member of the English department.

The Olathe Civic Theatre Association awarded the New Works Playwright Competition during a competition held in March of 2017. Five short teaser plays by local playwrights were presented, and the audience chose the winning performance. As the winner, Michelle’s play received a staged reading in July 2017.
1985

CONSUELO CRUZ holds a bachelor’s degree in Marketing and Spanish, and a master’s degree in Romance Languages. She works as a marketing coordinator for Kansas City’s Office of Cultural Creative Services. Through her job, she promotes programs and initiatives from various communities in Kansas City, including the Latino community. In addition, she promotes area arts organizations and artists.

1986

JEANNIE KONG EVARTS has been elected “Director-at-Large” for Realtors Association of Maui for the next 3 years. She has been ranked in the top 5 percent in her field and loves her job. Jeannie just finished her term as Vice President on the Board of Directors of Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation. Jeannie is the proud mother of four children who feels passionately about their direction in life. She is married to John Evarts whom she calls one of most “compassionately optimistic” people she knows.

CAREN FOSTER WILKERSON and her husband, of 30 years have three beautiful children, Alexandria, Alyssa, and TJ. They have a grandson, Noah, and soon will have their first granddaughter, Aaliyah Rose. Caren and her husband, a social worker, live in California where she works in the early childhood field.

DEITRA L. NEALY-SHANE is heading back to school in the fall of 2017 to begin coursework in Educational Psychology at Howard University. She is scheduled to complete the program in spring of 2022, a year after her 35th Class Reunion.

1987

MARYANN MITTS earned an MA in Pastoral Studies from the University of Loyola-New Orleans in May 2017. She will graduate with a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas in May 2018. Maryann is currently Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Missouri Southern State University.

1989

PATTI HAMMONDS-GREENE, PH.D. completed her Ph.D. in Social Work, Planning, Policy, and Administration in May 2016 from Clark Atlanta University.

AMY VICKERY ENGEL won the Gateway Readers Award for her young adult novel, The Book of Ivy. Her first adult novel, The Roanoke Girls, was just released earlier this month. When Amy talks to high school groups she tells them that she credits her creative writing class at STA for her writing skills.

1990

AMY CLOSSICK-ROUDEBUSH married Forrest Roudebush whom she met her freshman year of high school. They have six children, three boys and three girls. They have lived in Kansas City their entire marriage, and are parishioners of St. Thomas More in south Kansas City. Amy graduated from Avila University with a bachelor degree in Nursing. She has worked at Belton Regional Medical Center for 10 years as an infusion and clinic nurse in the outpatient department of Hematology/Oncology. In addition, Amy works at Avila University as a campus nurse. She received the Daisy Award at Belton Regional, which is a peer nominated award given to a nurse who provides both compassionate and excellent nursing care to her patients. She hopes to pursue a master’s degree in Nursing in the near future.

SEQUITA BROWN RICHARDSON, family practice physician, recently passed board recertification. She is an eMentor for STA students. Her daughter, Victoria, graduated from St. Teresa’s Academy in 2016, and is currently attending Oklahoma State University. Her other daughter, Olivia, will graduate from STA in 2020.

1991

KERRI REIFEL was promoted to supervisory special agent with the FBI and moved to Virginia to work full time in the profiling unit. She specializes in crimes against children and has spent the majority of her career working violent crime all over the country.

1995

ANNIE RUES NEIDEL completed her Ph.D. program in English at Saint Louis University in 2016. She lives in St. Louis with her husband and two children, and is the program coordinator of the Honors Program at SLU.
SONYA SALAZAR EMORY will complete a Master of Theological Studies from Newman University in August 2017.

1998

2000
JESS DOTSON HAGEN started a company, Experience Events Group, in 2015, and now manages events and experiential marketing campaigns all over the world. Some of their clients include Techweek, TEDxKC, the Brookside Art Fair, and KC Film Fest. Jess said, “It’s been a wonderful two years growing a company and providing jobs and opportunities within the Kansas City ecosystem.”

2001
DANIELLE ENRIQUEZ-FOWLER recently moved back to Kansas City after 9 years in Chicago.

EMILY DOOLAN VANDENDALE married in May 2014, and her son, Arthur, was born June 2015.

KERRIN TORRES-MERIWETHER and her husband, Brooks, celebrated 5 years of marriage in July 2016, and are the parents of two young children, Jailen and Kerrigan. Kerrin is the Staff Development Teacher for a large public high school in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is responsible for the professional development of over 100 teachers, and manages the School Improvement Plan focused on literacy, math, and cultural proficiency goals for 1,600 students.

RONDI JOHNSON PRUITT gave birth to a son, Malcolm Jamaal Pruitt, on March 3, 2017. At birth, he weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. He is a healthy and happy little boy.

ERIN SMITH O’LAUGHLIN and her husband Matt celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary in February. They happily reside in Brookside with their five children, ages 2 through 8. You can frequently find them all outside. She is enjoying her work as a private practice primary care physician, and her husband continues to work as an industrial engineer in Quality Management at Blount International.

2002
KATIE KEEN MILLARD has been teaching in the De Soto School District since 2006. She has been married to her husband, Bryan Millard, since June 2008. They have a daughter Gwendolyn (6), son Jacob (4), and a baby girl due in September 2017. They enjoy living in Prairie Village and spending time at local parks with their family.

EVAN KOPULOS is living the dream in Phoenix with her husband Bryan and their chihuahua Preston. Evan and Bryan were married in February 2017 at the Arizona Biltmore. For the past ten years, Evan has been working in real estate for Capstone Realty Professionals, where she has focused on growing their property management division. She currently has over 300 properties in her portfolio and growing daily. She is working on getting her Broker’s license.

CHARITY HARRIS TROTTER has a daughter who just turned two, and her son will be four in September.

2003
JESSIE FOX BUSTAMANTE was married to Jared Bustamante on December 10, 2016. In April 2017, she joined the law firm of Fisher Phillips, a national labor and employment law firm, as an associate attorney.

DR. MICKEY HOGAN-ELBE graduated in 2017 from St. Louis University School of Nursing with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing degree with Specialty in Family Nurse Practitioner, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Louis University. She is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Honor Society of Jesuit institutions of higher education. This is the highest honor at Jesuit institutions including all disciplines. She is a Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner.
ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY | starbeams

2005
RACHEL STRAUGHN NAVARRO was honored as Museum Educator of the Year by the Missouri Art Educators Association.

2006
JULIE SHUSS works as a marketing partner on Cerner’s revenue cycle management marketing team.

ALEXANDRA BURR PASQUINELLI welcomed her second son, Giovanni Francesco Pasquinelli, on December 13, 2016.

2008
OLIVIA DESIMIO WALTERS was married on August 13, 2016, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri.

BRIANNE TAORMINA, beginning in the fall of 2017, will be working on her graduate degree while teaching lower-division English classes at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

2009
STEPHANIE LANKFORD was married to Bryce Scovill (O’Hara class of 2009) on October 22, 2016, at St. Elizabeth Parish.

EMMA SPENCER is a registered nurse working on her Doctorate in Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Leadership in Population Health. She is on the board for Missouri Health Care for All. She is an active member of the Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses Association, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Emma is living in St. Louis where she works to improve healthy outcomes and affordable access to health care.

2010
KELSIE FISS recently graduated from Pharmacy School at the University of Kansas with a doctorate degree. She started a residency at the University of Kansas Health System where she spent her junior/senior year service project. Everything has come full circle.

2013
RUBY DIBBLE has been hand picked for inclusion in Pi Kappa Lambda (PKL), the National Music Honor Society. The Society exemplifies excellence in academics and musicianship. Faculty nominates students based on academic qualifications as well as “the merits of each nominee, to affirm that the person is making a contribution to the music world.”

2016
MEREDITH RAYMER is a freshman at New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi and majoring in Engineering and Computer Science. She spent her spring break in Jordan working with Engineers for Social Impact, and a project for an engineering ethics course.

IN MEMORIAM
Mary Jo Mathews Hopkins, 1942
Mary Carol Burns Mitchell, 1942
Maryellen Pendergast Nacy, 1944
Estelle Jean Murphy, 1946
Norine Ann Beuder O’Brien, 1950
Barbara Hodes Culver, 1951
Edith Maschler, 1957
Kathleen Reinhardt Kapp, 1969
Elizabeth O’Hallahan Walter, 1969
Kathy Jackson Shea, 1978
Paula Schweiger, 1982
Christine Gravino Rogers, 1990

Career Paths Explored through eMentoring

The eMentoring program matches each participating student with a volunteer mentor who works in the career she would like to explore. Through email exchanges, the mentor and student communicate to share information, ask questions, and provide insight into a range of careers. Because the program takes place through email, there are no geographical barriers or time constraints to participating.

Within the eMentoring relationship, students have learned, “What does a typical work day look like for you? Where did you go to college? What internships would be helpful? What extracurricular or volunteer activities should I be doing?”

If you would be interested in participating in the eMentoring program, please contact one of the program directors: Kathleen Barry at kbarry@stteresasacademy.org, or Paula Holmquist at pholmquist@stteresasacademy.org.
HONORING
THE CLASS OF
1967

St. Teresa’s Academy
Alumnae Reunion
LET’S CELEBRATE! OCTOBER 7, 2017

Celebration of Mass at 4:30 p.m.

~

Presentation of the Annual Distinguished Alumnae Award

~

Buffet and Cocktails $40 per person

~

Tours of the Beautiful Campus

Questions? Contact Kathleen Barry, alumnae director, at kbarry@stteresasacademy.org or 816.501.0023.
Susie Haake has devoted her life to volunteerism, advocacy, and humanitarian efforts. Her passion for serving others is demonstrated throughout her career and personal life.

Susie currently works as a volunteer management consultant and advocate for people with disabilities. Previously, she retired as the Employee Volunteer Program Manager after 36 years with Hallmark. There, she was praised for her skills in connecting caring community volunteers with nonprofit agencies who benefited from their help.

The extensive list of organizations that have gained from Susie’s involvement includes the Women’s Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center, Jacob & Ella Loose Foundation, Heart of American United Way, Niles Home for Children, and The Whole Person, to name a few.

Susie’s sister, Jesdon Haake McCowen, ’60, describes her as “a humanitarian, advocate, volunteer matchmaker, friend. Susie embodies, at the highest level, a woman who inspires others to ‘serve our dear neighbor.’”
MERCY FAVROW, '13, DISCOVERED HER PASSION FOR VOLUNTEERING during her junior and senior year service project at St. Teresa's Academy. At that time, Mercy served at the Mattie Rhodes Center, a community development organization dedicated to individual and family well-being through social services, behavioral health counseling, and the arts.

She found that volunteering allowed her to experience her community at a deeper level, build relationships, improve and expand her job skills, and provide a deeper sense of purpose. Mercy stated, “I like it [volunteering] because it helps you to be involved in the community and learn more about what’s going on in your backyard.” During her STA service project at Mattie Rhodes, Mercy explained, “... at Mattie Rhodes, I was able to create relationships with the kids and everyone that works there.”

Mercy’s experiences have led her to seek volunteer and work positions within her community where she will be of service to others. She has worked as an art teacher at a summer camp, and as an after-school program teacher. She currently gives back to her new community in San Francisco through volunteering and work.

Mercy’s devotion to service recently gained the attention of Dos Mundos/Two Worlds, Kansas City’s bi-lingual newspaper, which featured her in an article titled, “Volunteer/Young Professional Encouraging Young People to Donate their Time.”

Mercy hopes others will follow her example to enrich their own lives and experiences. She stated, “It gives more of a sense of purpose, knowing that you are helping our the community.”
WOMEN’S SYMPOSIUM ENCOURAGES CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The faculty and staff of St. Teresa’s Academy introduced the Women’s Symposium to enlighten students, encourage social activism, and support STA’s commitment to serve the dear neighbor.

In January 2017, during junior/senior service program week, freshmen and sophomore students spent one day learning from experts on a wide range of important subjects.

Kansas City, Missouri, Councilwoman Jolie Justus kicked the day off as the keynote speaker. Councilwoman Justus was chosen because of her work on legislation in the Missouri State Senate, and her efforts to improve the lives of women, children, and working families. She shared her philosophy that “if you’re not at the table, you’re probably on the menu.”

Over the course of the Women’s Symposium, 34 presenters spoke in their area of expertise in 19 different subjects. In addition, students had the opportunity to visit the Organization Fair, where they could learn more about the presenters and organizations, and consider their own junior/senior service projects.

Carrie Jacquin, STA English teacher and Symposium organizer, said, “I hope that the Women’s Symposium was a chance for STA students to dip their toes in the pool of social activism and the beginning of what is a life-long conversation for them around civic engagement. The faculty and staff want to believe that we’re equipping students with the skills and confidence to take their place at the table in their future businesses, communities, organizations, and legislative bodies and advocate for positive change.” The Women’s Symposium is slated to continue during the 2017-2018 school year.

In breakout sessions, students chose from topics including:
- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Mental Illness
- Climate Change and The Environment
- Refugee Resettlement
- Leadership
- Equal Pay
- Racial Justice
- Media and Body Image
- Sexual Assault
- Leadership
- Pathways to Activism
- Death Penalty

Women’s Symposium presenters (l to r): Reginald Griffin, death row exoneree, Joseph Amrine, death row exoneree, and Cyndy Short, capital attorney with the McCallister Law Firm and Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, spoke with students on issues related to the Death Penalty.

Photo courtesy of Brad Lewis.
class of 2017

ACADEMY WOMAN

Congratulations to Isabelle Gatapia (center), 2017 Academy Woman. Nominees Emma Kate Callahan (left) and Molly Burns (right) joined Isabelle for the announcement. The award recognizes a senior who possesses the finest personal qualities and characteristics of an STA student, including leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and cooperation.

VALEDICTORIAN

Emma Kate Callahan was recognized as valedictorian of the class of 2017 at the Awards Ceremony in April. Emma Kate plans to study nursing and dietetics at the University of Dallas.

SALUTATORIAN

Katie Donnellan was named salutatorian of the class of 2017. Katie plans to major in accounting and entrepreneurship with a minor in environmental science through the Honors Program at the University of Kansas.

MISSOURI SCHOLARS 100

Caroline McDonald was selected for the Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2017.
ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Seventeen 2017 graduates committed to play intercollegiate sports at 15 different colleges. This is the largest numbers of collegiate athletes in St. Teresa's history. STA graduates have been represented in intercollegiate athletics for 25 consecutive years.

BASKETBALL
Natalie Hull, Regis University

CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK & FIELD
Emma Kate Callahan, University of Dallas

CREW
Katie Donnellan, University of Kansas

LACROSSE
Helen Krause, University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Kamryn Lanier, University of California, Berkeley
Molly Muehlebach, Benedictine College

SOCCER
Elexa Pierson, Howard University
Paige Powell, Rockhurst University
Tess Rellihan, University of Missouri
Meghan Schmidt, Rockhurst University
Macy Trujillo, University of Missouri

SOFTBALL
Martina Florido, Central Methodist University

SWIMMING
Emma Winfrey, Occidental College

TRACK & FIELD
Lauren McCann, Marquette University

VOLLEYBALL
Mary Keller, Spring Hill College
Jacque Smith, Kansas State University
Gabby Wimes, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
FBLA ACHIEVEMENTS

Eighteen Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members competed in the State Leadership Conference in Springfield, Missouri. Bridget Graham took 1st place in Journalism, and qualified to compete at Nationals in the summer. Maureen Egan and Lulu Fiss took 9th in Community Service Project Reporting on the work of the Recycling Committee.

BIOINFORMATIC CONFERENCE

Emma Kate Callahan, Kara Sarson, Ony Oligbo, Claire Franey, and Lydia Lundquist attended the Midwest Bioinformatics Conference hosted by the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) in partnership with UMKC and Children’s Mercy. The Conference provided students the opportunity to learn more about career opportunities available in the bioinformatics industry.

STA JOURNALISM WINS TOP AWARD

STA’s DartNewsOnline (DNO) won a 2017 Pacemaker Award during the NSPA National High School Journalism Convention in Seattle, Wash. The Pacemaker is considered the highest award in the world of scholastic journalism, and DNO was one of just 15 websites given the prestigious award.

ECYBERMISSION COMPETITION

Congratulations to the 16 freshman STA teams from the Conceptual Physical Science class who submitted projects in the eCybermission Engineering Design National contest. “The One Hit Wonders” team of (l to r): Macie Washington, Nicolette Landrum, Katie Moore, and Cadina Palelei celebrated a second place win in the state of Missouri.
MUSICAL ACCOLADES

Congratulations to the 90 STA students who sang at the MSHSAA State Music Festival. The STA Combined Choir and STA Singers Chamber Choir received straight “I” Exemplary Ratings from each of the seven judges.

The following students earned entrance into the MSHSAA State Solo/Ensemble Music Festival at the University of Missouri: Reilly Atkins, Gina Bisacca, Rose Genaris, Margaret Jordahl, Elise Malone, Isabella Pichardo, Olivia Richardson, Eden Schulte, Courtney Talken, and Madi Winfield.

ARTISTIC AWARDS

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recognize the vision ingenuity, and talent of the nation’s youth. The program has grown to be the nation’s most prestigious recognition initiative and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers. Cat DeRousse (Fashion) and Ellie Grever (Painting) were selected as the “Best-of-Show” from the Gold Key winners, representing two of only five works selected for American Visions & Voices Medals.

THEATRICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Blue Star nominations were awarded to the cast and crew of Jane Eyre for Outstanding Overall Production, and to Libby Terril (seated center) for Outstanding Actress in a Lead Role (as Jane Eyre). Modeled after Broadway’s Tony Awards, Starlight Theatre’s annual Blue Star Awards recognize achievement and excellence in musical theatre among Kansas City area high school students.

Sophomore Reilly Donnelly’s original work, Noise, was selected for performance in The Coterie Theatre’s 2017 Young Playwrights’ Festival. Her piece was one of only a handful chosen for presentation on The Coterie stage on May 7. Her work is part of a three-way collaboration called WORDS + MUSIC, produced between teen playwrights from The Coterie, opera composers from UMKC Conservatory, and performers from the Lyric Opera.
St. Teresa’s Academy is committed to the education of young women. We are a Catholic, independent, college preparatory high school sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The Academy is rooted in Christian values and embraces a diverse student body. We promote excellence in education through a challenging curriculum, personal responsibility, and participation in extracurricular activities. St. Teresa’s Academy has been accredited since 1923.

The Starbeams newsletter features news and information relevant to students, families and alumnae of St. Teresa’s Academy. For more information, contact Kathleen Barry, alumnae director, at 816.501.0023 or starbeams@stteresasacademy.org.

Light Their Way

STA AUCTION 2017

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017
GOPPERT CENTER GYM
ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY CAMPUS

Mark your calendar to attend this year’s annual Auction, Light Their Way. The evening will be filled with bright lights, delicious food and drink, and silent and live auction entertainment! Bring your family and friends to share a table under the stars.

Proceeds from the Light Their Way Auction benefit the education, programs, and facilities provided by St. Teresa’s Academy.

Chairs:
Christian Weld-Brown & Jim Brown
Beth & Brian Madden
Michelle & John Bunch
Diane & Rob Wilmot

To find out more, please visit stteresasacademy.org/auction2017.