Sr. Rosemary Flanigan and Sr. Ruth Stuckel cut the ribbon to welcome the crowd into the newly completed Goppert Center expansion as part of the Academy 150 Capital Campaign.
As I face my retirement at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, my heart is filled with a great deal of pride and nostalgia for St. Teresa’s Academy. For me, St. Teresa’s has served not only as my alma mater, but also my mission, my inspiration, and my community.

YOU, MY FELLOW ALUMNAE, have been one of the most significant parts of my experience as President of this amazing sisterhood. It has been a joy to witness the spirit and accomplishments of generations of empowered, confident STA women, who embody the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, to serve our dear neighbors without distinction.

The recent Dedication and introduction of the expanded Goppert Center illustrates the power of our St. Teresa’s Academy community. Those who shared of their time, talents, and treasures during the Academy 150 Capital Campaign have helped to elevate the extraordinary educational experience at St. Teresa’s for the next generation of young women. If you haven’t toured the newly completed spaces on our beautiful campus, please stop by for a visit - you will be so proud!

You’ll see within the pages of this edition of Starbeams that we are looking forward to a busy and exciting school year ahead. The incoming freshman class has set a new record in enrollment, and the new spaces and tools have helped pave the way to add 12 new courses to STA’s challenging curriculum! Read on to find out more.

New St. Teresa’s Academy Alumnae Director Welcomed

Paula Schweiger Holmquist, St. Teresa’s Academy class of 1977, replaced Kathleen Fleming Barry (’69) after her retirement as Alumnae Director on July 1. Kathleen served as STA’s devoted Director for the past ten years. In reflecting on her experiences and the thousands of alumnae with whom she has connected, she states, “Thank you for the many relationships that I will treasure forever. What a great group of women with which to work, play, and laugh. This Sisterhood here at the Academy is the real thing!”

Paula is a fourth generation STA alumna who is excited to support the sisterhood, while getting to know you, and keeping you connected to your alma mater. Paula has worked within the development department at St. Teresa’s since 2016, contributing to the Academy 150 Capital Campaign and outreach efforts. Prior to that, she was the communications and outreach director at St. Peter’s parish, where her family is parishioners. Paula and her husband, David, have two sons, Robbie and Ryan, both of whom are in college. She loves her family of men, but relishes being back “home” at St. Teresa’s Academy, surrounded by the current generation of ambitious students, and supporting and engaging STA alumnae in the continuation of the legacy.
PRESIDENT NAN BONE announced this past spring that she would be retiring at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. Nan has led St. Teresa’s Academy with tremendous vision and enthusiasm for 12 years and it is painful to let her go. We appreciate her service, her ongoing legacy, and the fact that she gave the Board of Directors ample time to find a replacement while keeping the school strong.

Since her announcement, a search committee of four Directors and four STA community members, including faculty member Jo Weller, was formed. The committee’s goal is to select a candidate in the fall of 2018, before the end of the calendar year. The full Board and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet will approve the appointment of STA’s new President.

A description of the position is posted on the St. Teresa’s Academy website. Please share it with others you think might have interest in the role. There is no substitute for word of mouth recruiting, particularly in our own sphere of influence in Kansas City where STA has thousands of alumnae.

In addition, please keep us in your prayers. This is an important function that we undertake with humility. We know there will be many great candidates to build on Nan’s legacy, and the many great Presidents that preceded her. With hard work, we’re confident that the new President will find great joy and satisfaction at St. Teresa’s, leading the school to even greater heights. Thank you for all that you do to form these young women’s hearts and minds and to make STA a great educational institution.

President Search Committee
Kevin Connor, Chairman
Beth Haden (’02)
Kathy Teahan Jantsch (’76)
Sister Rose McLarney, CSJ
Ann Tierney Prochnow (’84)
Mark Thompson
Jo Weller
Michelle Wimes
Goppert Center Dedication Celebrates Educational Beginnings

On May 18, STA students, faculty, staff, members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and Academy 150 Capital Campaign donors gathered together to celebrate the Goppert Center Expansion Dedication and Mass. Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. presided over Mass and blessed the new spaces, cutting the yellow ribbon to welcome the crowd into the newly completed Center.

The renovations added over 25,000 square feet to the Windmoor campus, which include the Fahey Learning Center, a state-of-the-art Makerspace/Engineering Lab, prominent Campus Ministry Department, elevator, and workout facilities. The expansion was completed as part of a $15 million capital campaign investment, which includes endowment and campus preservation components.

Help Educate and Empower STA Students

Your help is still needed to reach the fundraising goals set for the Academy 150 Capital Campaign. The results of the campaign are designed to help educate and empower students of St. Teresa’s Academy to successfully compete in an ever-evolving world. Please give or pledge to the Campaign by visiting stteresasacademy.org/giving.
A surprise presentation unveiled the newly named Kissick Court, branded as a token of immense appreciation when the gym floor was refinished. Under the leadership and direction of STA Board member Jim Kissick and Pete Browne, Kissick Construction’s exceptional handiwork and generosity can be found throughout campus — in ways that are clearly evident, as well as those that are not.
Curriculum for a Changing World

During the 2018-2019 school year, 12 new courses have been added to the rigorous, college preparatory curriculum at St. Teresa’s Academy. The recent additions to the Goppert Center and Windmoor campus, along with cutting-edge educational tools, have opened up exciting new curriculum possibilities. Course offerings are regularly evaluated to ensure students receive an education that will effectively prepare them for their bright futures.

New Courses Added in 2018-2019

- AP Physics
- Database Systems
- Engineering Design & Development
- Entrepreneurship & Women
- Fitness Activities
- Game & Virtual Reality Development
- Genocide in the Modern World
- Internet & Computer Security
- Personal Fitness
- Physical Science
- Research & Design: The Windmill Project
- Weaving II

The new Fahey Learning Center provides the ideal atmosphere to study individually or to join forces with a group.
Foley Computer Science Classroom

The Foley Computer Science Classroom is one of three new active learning classrooms (ALCs) designed to encourage students to collaborate. Research studies prove that the benefits of active learning include:

- Increased content knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities
- Positive attitudes toward learning
- Increased enthusiasm for learning in both students and teachers

Makerspace/Engineering Lab

The Makerspace and Engineering Lab offers opportunities for making, creating, inventing, and learning by doing, with technology as a building material. Students will gain knowledge utilizing skills such as 3D printing, precision cutting, microcomputer control, robotics, and computer programming, preparing them for future studies and careers in the in-demand STEAM fields.

Campus Ministry Department

The new Campus Ministry Department is prominently placed in the heart of the campus. Under the glow of the cross, this cozy space is sure to become a popular spot to plan liturgies, retreats, and service projects.

Workout Facilities

St. Teresa’s Academy’s steadfast mission, established by the Sisters of St. Joseph, is to educate the whole student in body, mind, and spirit. The new workout facilities, which overlook the McDonnell Family Sports Complex, are filled with a wide variety of cardiovascular and strength-training exercise equipment. It’s a motivational place for students to strengthen their physical health.
This past spring, St. Teresa’s Academy hosted nine girls from the St. Joseph School in Le Puy-en-Velay, France.

St. Teresa’s Academy and the St. Joseph School have entered into an exchange program involving students from both institutions with the goal to learn more about their founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. STA students visited the St. Joseph School in June of 2017, and the gesture has now been reciprocated by hosting the students from France in the homes of several STA families.

Bringing together these two sponsored institutions is vital to continuing the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This experience for both communities is just the beginning of a partnership intended to expand relations globally, connecting institutions sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Knowing the schools’ founders and the history surrounding them will keep the charisms of the Sisters alive for years to come.

While in Kansas City, the French girls attended classes with their host students and were provided special schedules to explore electives such as yoga, dance, acting, art, music, app design, and more. Their experiences off campus included a visit to the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum, the WWI museum, and a tour of Avila University.

The trip ended with a full day of activities revolving around service. The French students embarked on outings to Journey House, a CSJ ministry designed to help women transition from prison into a new life; and Jerusalem Farms, where the organization’s four pillars—prayer, community, service, and simplicity—were discussed. Next year, a group from St. Teresa’s plans to visit Le Puy to continue building on the important past and legacy of the founders of these two historic educational institutions.
Our stay in STA gave me the sister I always dreaming of: I do not know how to thank for this grace! Manon Jarave

Our stay in STA opened my eyes, my mind and my heart to the real meaning of the Sisters of Saint Joseph's calling us to serve our dear neighbors without distinction. Our visit in Journey's House and Jerusalem's Farm touched me very deeply and I will never forget the meeting with Veronica, the Sisters Jordan... Celestine Rey

This is my second experience in an American SBJ school, like Klara and Coline, and it makes me envy all the students who are graced with the possibility to spend four years, day after day, in STA!!! Capucine Reymond

Our stay in STA gave me the great opportunity to discover a new way of life, so different from my daily life with my family in Le Puy! Emma Accouffe

Our stay in STA offered me the privilege to get to know you and you are so very special that it changes my life to feel so warmly accepted as a member of your school community! Marie Tempère

Our stay in STA taught me how to enjoy to be far from my parents and siblings; I did not know I would like it so much, and I surely did not expect that I would not want to get back there ever!!! Elise.
spotlight on alums

1973

MARY KAY O’MALLEY received the President’s Award for Community Engagement from the University of Missouri System. This Award recognizes faculty who are involved in exemplary community engagement activities, such as volunteerism, service-learning, educational programming, and outreach. In her nominating letter, Dr. Barbara Bichelmeyer, the interim chancellor and provost for the UMKC School of Law, stated, “We believe that Professor O’Malley’s long history of service to the community and her mentorship of many students who continue that tradition makes her an excellent candidate for this recognition.” Mary Kay works as a clinical professor at the UMKC School of Law.

1999

LEA-SUZANNE AVILA currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, working as a Senior Property Manager for the U.S. General Services Administration’s Public Buildings Service for the Lower Manhattan Field Office.

2004

ANNIE HADEN TWEEDY and her friends from STA have been doing an annual soup exchange with their mothers around the Christmas holidays for many years now. The women from the Class of 2004 include Jenny Jantsch Johnson, Jenna Jantsch Oehlerking, Allison Wilkerson Marchese, Sarah Kitts Howard, Maddie Kramer Palan, Jen Vogel Schroeder, and Katie Gillis Berrios. The participating mothers who are also alums are Kathy Teahan Jantsch, class of 1976, and Joane Van Dyke Wilkerson, class of 1979.

2009

CRISTIN BERARDI CULVER, with her husband Quentin, welcomed their first child, Julian Joseph Culver, in November of 2017. They are enjoying this fun new time in their lives.

2010

LINDSAY BOWERS HASSELWANDER married Nicholas R. Hasselwander of Leawood, Kansas, in September of 2015. Lindsay graduated from Maryville University of St. Louis in May of 2018 with a Masters of Science in Nursing degree, with a focus as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

2012

ALEXANDRIA MEDIAVILLA ANN, RN, BSN, PCCN, received the 2017 March of Dimes "Rising Star" Nurse of the Year Award. She graduated from the Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri - Columbia in May 2016. She works in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit for the University of Kansas Health Systems.

Ones.” Follow her on Instagram: @theminivanmominsta.

Practice from Creighton University where she graduated with honors in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. After 12 years away, Dr. Penaloza is back in Kansas City working as a Nurse Practitioner at Truman Medical Center in the Gastroenterology Clinic. She is happy to be back home in K.C. with friends and family!

2005

SUZANNE RUSSELL PARKER works as a Legal Aid lawyer in New South Wales, Australia, where she has made her home. In her work, she assists vulnerable clients living with disabilities.

SARA PENALOZA, DNP, APRN, NP-C, attended Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where she obtained her Bachelors of Science degrees in Nursing and Exercise Science. She obtained her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Creighton University where she graduated with honors in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. After 12 years away, Dr. Penaloza is back in Kansas City working as a Nurse Practitioner at Truman Medical Center in the Gastroenterology Clinic. She is happy to be back home in K.C. with friends and family!

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2013

**SARAH KOSTORYZ**, after an experimental art intensive at Headlong Performance Institute, has decided to stay in Philadelphia and learn what it’s like to be somewhat independent. She has an artistic day job for a small local company, Hana Willow Design, where she preserves wedding bouquets into artwork. Beyond that, she’s slowly getting in touch with the Philly performance scene, working on *The Quiet Circus* and producing her own piece, *In the Dark, I Find You*. Sarah is enjoying her options and learning about herself.

2014

**KATIE HORNBECK** was the only woman on a 13-person team that built a rocket that won the 2018 NASA Student Launch Competition. Katie studied mechanical engineering at Vanderbilt, graduating in May of 2018. For her senior design project, she participated as a member of the Vanderbilt Aerospace Design Lab team.

**CLARE MITCHELL** graduated from Rockhurst University in May of 2018. She will be joining the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in August and will serve with them for one year. Clare will be serving in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at a community health clinic where she will advocate for uninsured or undocumented individuals seeking quality health care. Jesuit volunteers live in the community, where they focus on living simply, walking alongside the most vulnerable in society, and growing in their spirituality.

**STA Alumna Leads HBO Series**

Dayna Lynne North (’91) works as a writer and Executive Producer on the hit HBO series *Insecure*, co-created by and starring Issa Rae. *Insecure* tells the story of a young woman who, along with her best friend, struggles to navigate the tricky professional and personal terrain of Los Angeles. *Vulture*, an entertainment news source, describes the series as, “Razor-sharp. An aspirational show about characters, women in particular, trying to shape and direct their own lives.”

Dayna started writing stories and poetry as a child. Her passion for the arts was nurtured as an actor in Kansas City, where she was heavily involved in local theatre, including Theatre For Young America and the Coterie.

Dayna began her early writing career on the critically acclaimed Lifetime drama *Any Day Now*, starring Annie Potts and Lorraine Toussaint, before joining the staff of *Soul Food: The Series* for its final season. She served on the staff for the first two seasons of the pop culture phenom *Veronica Mars*, starring Kristen Bell, wrote the television movie, *An En Vogue Christmas*, starring the pop group En Vogue, and was a Co-Executive Producer on the ABC Family drama *Lincoln Heights*, which garnered the NAACP Image award for Best Drama, as well as the Gabriel Award for Best Entertainment.

“I have been a storyteller as long as I can remember. Early on, while watching movies like *E.T.*, *Superman*, and *The Color Purple*, I was drawn to film, and used to devour the behind-the-scenes featurettes on HBO.”
The passing of any St. Teresa’s Academy alumna is mourned in the STA community, but the recent death of Kate Brosnahan Spade, class of 1981, drew national attention.

Katy, as her high school classmates knew her, rose to fame as an entrepreneur and trailblazer in the fashion and branding industries. During her impressive career, she founded both Kate Spade and Frances Valentine, where she created beautiful, happy, colorful handbags, shoes, clothing, and accessories. She became a household name and an inspiration for young women, including students at St. Teresa’s. Katy’s career provided a remarkable example to STA students who, like Katy, are educated and empowered to strive to reach their own goals.

Molly Scanlon, an STA classmate of Katy’s, reminisced, “Katy was the girl who would wear her grandmother’s brooch on a Fair Isle sweater with her hair in some funky up do and look like a million bucks. She was sweet and spunky, and had a raspy laugh that was almost an accessory - it was like the perfect laugh for her eclectic style.”

Katy left behind her husband, Andy Spade, and their daughter, Frances Beatrix. Her untimely death acts as a reminder that there are resources available for those who need help, such as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Duffy Flanagan, 1938
Mary Betty Bahl Green, 1938
Mary Catharine McMahon, 1939
Dolores Waters Fleming, 1942
Anne Mesplay Limbaugh, 1946
Nancy Jane Broadway McQueen, 1946
Regina Carrigan Howard, 1947
Terry Klein Holmer, 1957
Susan Ruddy Kleinschmidt, 1958
Jeri Welch Scanlon, 1958
Cathie Jo Frisch Sullivan, 1958
Elena O’Shea Nordstrom, 1961
Nancy Wells Shires, 1963
Betsy Klein, 1972
Kate Brosnahan Spade, 1981
Lisa Ketron Sloan, 1986
Jacque Curry Moore, 2001
KATIE TAMPKE (’14) SERVES AS AN INTERN FOR THE LIBERIA MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE CARTER CENTER. The Carter Center was founded by Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter in 1982, and is “guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering. It seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.”

The Liberia Mental Health Program focuses on mental health policy and education in Liberia because of the devastation from years of civil war, and, subsequently, a crippling Ebola outbreak, had on the mental health infrastructure in the country. The program helps serve those with mental illness by training professionals who can recognize, treat, or refer patients so they can get the care they need. Furthermore, it reduces stigma so that people living with mental illness can feel comfortable seeking treatment. The Carter Center is working with the Liberian Ministry of Health to create something sustainable and meaningful.

Katie’s job includes assisting the team in writing reports and amending agreements between The Carter Center and the Ministry of Health. In addition, she performs research on various topics surrounding mental health that is pertinent to their work.

“IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE TRULY SERVING THE DEAR NEIGHBOR AND NOT JUST SERVING OURSELVES.”
—Katie Tampke

Katie attributes her experience organizing a mission trip to Nicaragua during her senior year at St. Teresa’s Academy for inspiring her philanthropic work. Katie states, “This was my first experience volunteering internationally and it had a large impact on my decision to pursue my current path.” Based on her experience, she recommends, “Volunteers need to research the organization they plan to work with to ensure sustainability and community incorporation is integral to their mission. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are truly serving the dear neighbor and not just serving ourselves.”
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
2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Dana Tippin Cutler, class of 1982

“Dana has given tirelessly of her time and talents to a variety of organizations . . . in service to the ‘dear neighbor.’” - Ann Zimmerman, class of 1982

Dana Tippin Cutler has dedicated her life to the practice of law, advocacy for diversity and inclusion in her profession, and raising her cherished family. Dana works as a partner in her family’s law practice, James W. Tippin & Associates, with a focus in education law (charter and hybrid schools in Missouri), and defense litigation.

Dana expresses that she values the faith-based education she received at St. Teresa’s Academy, as it established a great foundation for her and helped her understand the importance of service to others. Dana’s passion for philanthropy is evident throughout her involvement with numerous professional, community, and civic organizations. From 2016 to 2017, she served as president of The Missouri Bar, the first African-American woman elected to that role. The Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City named Dana the “Woman of the Year” in 2016, the same year that Dana was awarded the Sly James Diversity and Inclusion Award by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association.

In addition to serving on many law boards and committees, Dana is a member of the Board of Curators of Lincoln University, and the Board of Directors for Swope Community Enterprises, and Swope Parkway Health Center. She is an active member of Concord Fortress of Hope, and is the co-judge of Couples Court with the Cutlers (a nationally syndicated Emmy-nominated court television show) with her partner in life, in practice, and in marriage, Keith Cutler, Sr. Dana is the proud mother of three adult sons, Keith, Jr.; Dean; and Austin Cutler.

The Distinguished Alumna Award was introduced in 2009, and formally recognizes an alumna who has positively and substantially influenced her profession, her community, or issues affecting society at large.

All alumnae are encouraged to attend the St. Teresa’s Academy Reunion Celebration on October 13, 2018, where Dana Tippin Cutler will be honored.
ACADEMY WOMAN

Congratulations to Emilie Blanck, 2018 Academy Woman. Nominees Natalie Kistler and Layne Stowers joined Emilie for the announcement. The award recognizes a senior who possesses the finest personal qualities and characteristics of an STA student, including religious and moral character, leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and service.

VALEDICTORIAN AND MISSOURI SCHOLARS 100

Natalie Kistler was recognized as valedictorian of the class of 2018 at the Honors and Awards Ceremony in April. In addition, she was selected for the Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2018. Natalie plans to study biochemical engineering with a pre-med emphasis at the University of Southern California.

SALUTATORIAN

Emma Anielak was named salutatorian of the class of 2018. Emma will be exploring the engineering field at the University of Michigan.
Class of 2018 Highlights

The following are just a few of the highlights achieved by the great class of 2018:

- One-hundred percent of our students took the ACT exam and the average score was 26. The national composite average is 21.
- The class of 2018 has been accepted at over 160 colleges and universities and will attend over 60 different institutions nationwide.
- Over 75% of our graduates received one or more merit or talent-based scholarship offers for academics, athletics, visual and performing arts, leadership, or service.
- Our students’ intended majors include the health field, social sciences, science, technology, engineering, math, business, visual arts, language, law, journalism, and education.
- Our students reached out to over 50 agencies across the Kansas City Metro area serving the dear neighbor with over 17,000 hours of volunteer service.
- Artists in the class of 2018 received one gold key, six silver awards, and nine honorable mentions in the National Scholastic Arts program.
- Fourteen students received National Advanced Placement recognition for their performance on their AP exams.
- Two students qualified for the state competition of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).
- Four choir members were in the KC All Metro District Choir, and one choir member gained gold exemplary ratings in the Missouri State Festival and was a member of the Missouri All-State Choir.
- Six of our graduates will be participating in college athletics in basketball, lacrosse, rowing, and volleyball.

Dr. Liz Baker, Principal for Student Affairs, stated, “From service to visual and performing arts, from leadership to athletics and most of all, from an academic standpoint, these young women have served, performed, led, and competed with grace and perseverance.”
STA STUDENT AWARDED TOP JOURNALIST AWARDS

Zoe Butler, class of 2018, was awarded the 2018 Student Journalist of the Year from both the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) and the Missouri Journalism Education Association (MJEJ). Zoe was the co-editor-in-chief of Dart and DartNewsOnline, STA's nationally award-winning student-run newspaper and online news site. Brad Lewis, STA's publication adviser, stated, "Zoe was chosen from dozens of applicants based on her journalistic skills in writing, editing, videography, photojournalism, and leadership. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor.''

ARTISTIC AWARDS

A ceramic sculpture by Jannely Montagner, class of 2021, received The Jack Troy Award for Artistic Merit at the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jannely's piece was one of five pieces selected for this award from the 200 pieces on display. The K-12 Ceramic Exhibition happened during the NCECA conference. The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is a dynamic organization that fosters global education and appreciation for the ceramic arts.

ECYBERMISSION TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE

STA students, Irene Nguyen, Bailey Bright, Haley Sparks, and Ally Fox, pictured with Science Teacher Mary Montag ('80), members of the class of 2021, received first place in the eCybermission competition sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP). Their team, "Montag's Angels," invented "Code Red," a solution designed to detect the presence of date rape drugs.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

STA's Track & Field team advanced eight girls in nine events to the MSHSAA Class 5 State Track & Field Championship in Jefferson City, Missouri. The team produced seven All-State Athletes, including Leah North, class of 2021, State Long Jump Champion. Throughout the season, STA track & field athletes broke six school records (4x100M Relay, 4x200M Relay, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, and Javelin).
THEATRICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
The STA production of 9 to 5 The Musical received a nomination from the Starlight Theatre Blue Star Awards for Outstanding Costume Design and Construction, Tier 1. The talented students recognized include Reilly Atkins (Lead Designer), Emma Boxx, Lauren Boxx, Sophia Brown, Maggie Dodderidge, Maura Graham, Lauren Hawley, Ailis Reavey, Anna Ronan, Avery Schmitz, and Avery Smith. STA has earned at least one Blue Star nomination in every year a production has competed.

STA STUDENT CROWNED THE NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS STATE QUEEN OF MISSOURI
Erris Pierson, class of 2019, was crowned the National American Miss State Queen of Missouri. She successfully participated in the three required elements of the competition: formal wear presentation, personal introduction/public speaking, and a six-judge, round robin interview panel.
Erris's many accomplishments include establishing a philanthropic entity called the Lil' Jonah and The Whale Initiative, which raises funds and awareness about neuroblastoma cancer, a devastating form of childhood cancer. After meeting 3-year-old Jonah, who was afflicted with the illness, Erris lobbied the Missouri Legislature to make November 14, 2016, Pediatric Neuroblastoma Awareness Day in the State of Missouri. Missouri State Senator Shalonn Curls, STA class of 1986, submitted the piece of legislation.
Erris will continue to use her platform to create awareness around the need to develop better diagnostic tools, treatment options, and research dollars to help kids battling cancer. Additionally, during her reign, she will travel throughout the state and nation encouraging girls to grow in their own self-confidence, personal strength, and self-worth. She will next head to Anaheim/Hollywood, California, to compete for the national Teen title in November of 2018.

MUSICAL ACCOLADES
Courtney Talken, class of 2018, was selected to the Missouri All-State Choir. She was only one of six girls selected for this honor (from a field of 200) through a rigorous audition process. This was Courtney’s second year participating in the choir, which is only open to junior and senior students.
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 Paula Holmquist, Alumnae Director, at 816.501.0022 or starbeams@stteresasacademy.org.

ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY
AUCTION 2018
GOPPERT CENTER GYM
STA CAMPUS

Mark your calendar to attend this year’s annual Auction, BLOOM. The evening will be filled with delicious food and drink, and silent and live auction entertainment! Bring your family and friends to share a table among the blossoms.

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

Chairs:

Jennifer & Steve Franke
Gina & Charlie Penner
Molly & Jeff Hupke
Maureen Aylward Wirtz (’83) & Steve Wirtz

To find out more, please visit stteresasacademy.org/auction2018.