



IUA STYLE SHOW

Sunday, February 16, 2020 Junior League of Houston

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THE Word

MISSION

Incarnate Word Academy provides young women with a Catholic college preparatory education, helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus, the Incarnate Word, and live according to His values. Our conerstones are academics, values and spirituality.

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Principal

Dr. Mary Aamodt, Ed. D.

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ON THE COVER

Students create with the 3D printer during Engineering Design and Analysis.

Photo by Kevin Lopez

WHEN WE WALK WITH THE FAITH IN JESUS, THE INCARNATE WORD, WE HAVE A BEACON TO LIGHT THE WAY.

SR. LAUREN BECK, C.V.I IWA PRESIDENT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I love new beginnings. There's something exciting and extraordinary about the beginning of a journey, the anticipation of where you'll go, mingled sometimes with anxiety of how you'll get there. The start of high school is a lot like that. I watch our freshmen enter our doors with looks of happy curiosity on their faces, ready to head into the next phase of who they are. I see their excitement, I see their confidence, I see their shyness and their trepidation. And then, I watch our upperclassman reach out to them, to help them along, bolster their confidence, share in their successes and show the way.

Watching our young women help each other is the embodiment of the sisterhood we look to achieve at IWA as we create Women of the Word. And that assistance builds confidence among all our students, just as it shows them that they can do anything they set their mind to. I pondered that a lot as I read over our cover story for this issue, which spotlights all of the incredible STEM offerings we have here at Incarnate Word Academy.

I remember the days when young women were conditioned to believe that "girls aren't good at math and science." In addition to being emphatically untrue, this slanted view made many young women shrug their shoulders, thinking those subjects were too hard, and not really meant for them. But the world is changing – rapidly. We are evermore reliant on technology, and those who can develop the skills to harness technology will certainly change the world for the better. With our courses in Engineering Design, AP Computer Science and a host of other STEM offerings, we are proving to our young women that they can not only be good at math and science, but they can embrace it and see it as a path forward.

Over the years, many people have mistakenly thought that faith and science were in conflict with each other. Like the myth of girls not being good at math and science, this is also untrue. The Church has a long companionship between faith and reason, and it was the Church that established many of the leading universities, starting even before the Middle Ages. And, lest we forget, Pope Francis graduated college as a chemical technician, and has written extensively about our relationship with the environment in his encyclical, "Laudato Si."

Faith and reason are twin pillars on the journey not only here at IWA, but in the larger world. We may question things at times in our lives, we may not know where we are going, let alone how to get there. But when we walk with the faith in Jesus, the Incarnate Word, we have a beacon to light the way. As we continue the journey of this school year, and watch our students prepare themselves to be the women they will become, we do so knowing we are providing them with a strong foundation to break stereotypes, grow in faith and proudly accept their place as Women of the Word.

Praised be the Incarnate Word!

Sr. Lauren But C.V.I.

Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I.

President

I COULDN'T BE MORE SATISFIED WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND WITH BEING PART OF THE IWA COMMUNITY.

CHARLIE TURNER 2019-2020 BOARD PRESIDENT

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Incarnate Word Academy Board of Advisors, I would like to say thank you to all the supporters of IWA listed in the annual report. If you are new to the Academy, I would like to welcome you and hope that you join those listed in the report by sharing your time, talent and treasure. The continued generosity makes a difference and enables the Academy to carry out its mission.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Advisors over the past few years and it is an honor to serve as president this year. I was privileged to have worked with and learn from members who had several years of experience serving the Academy. Their efforts and advice helped accomplish many things including developing a strategic plan, a major expansion and renovation to the campus, a successful capital campaign with no debt financing and an improved alumnae network. Last year we also celebrated the Academy's 145th anniversary and Sister Lauren's 50th year as a Sister of the Incarnate Word. I would like to thank the veteran Board of Advisors members who concluded their terms last year. Looking forward there are still some solutions that have not yet been completed along with new challenges and opportunities. I am excited to welcome the new Board of Advisors members and I look forward to their energy and perspectives. I am confident their strategic thinking and guidance will make positive contributions to the Academy.

My wife, Alison and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this year. We are blessed to have three daughters and decided before they were born that we were committed to providing them with a Catholic education. When our oldest daughter was in middle school, we toured various high schools and I remember the first time we visited IWA. We immediately realized that the possibility of her attending a school as exceptional as IWA was an opportunity we didn't have growing up. What more could a parent desire than for their child to have opportunities they didn't? I am happy to report that she graduated from IWA in 2017 and has adjusted well to college life. We have another daughter currently attending IWA and our youngest has a few

more years before high school. Catholic education is a big part of who they are and Alison and I couldn't be more satisfied with our commitment to Catholic education and with being part of the IWA community.

On a personal note and on behalf of the Board of Advisors I would like to thank school president, Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., principal, Dr. Mary Aamodt, the faculty and staff for their dedication to the mission of IWA and for providing the cornerstones of Academics, Values, and Spirituality.

Praised be the Incarnate Word,



Charlie Turner IWA Board of Advisors President 2019-2020



"THE THING THAT'S GREAT ABOUT A SCHOOL LIKE IWA IS THIS: EVERY STUDENT WHO IS GOOD AT MATH AND SCIENCE IS **A GIRL**. SO YOU CAN'T REALLY BE A GIRL AND HAVE ANY OF THESE 'GIRLS AREN'T GOOD AT MATH' THOUGHTS IN YOUR HEAD AT OUR SCHOOL BECAUSE EVERY STUDENT THAT'S GOOD AT MATH IN OUR SCHOOL IS **A GIRL**. AND THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S KIND OF NEAT ABOUT THAT."

DR. MAUREEN JOHNSON, IWA CHEMISTRY AND ENGINEERING DESIGN TEACHER

Dr. Johnson's inclinations hold up to the research. Study after study has shown that girls' school graduates rate their confidence in math and computer skills at least 10 percent higher than their co-ed peers.* Similar studies show that girls' school graduates are six times more likely to major in STEM subjects and three times more likely to consider a career in engineering. The takeaway?

Incarnate Word Academy is uniquely prepared to encourage young women to pursue degrees and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) because at our core, we know how to educate girls.

In the heart of the "Energy Capital of the World," IWA educates young women through our dedicated faculty, innovative courses, and a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities designed to be the first step in a lifetime exploring the wonders of STEM. We've highlighted just a few of the courses, programs, people, and partnerships that open our students' eyes to the possibilities — and realities of a career in STEM. We dare you not to be inspired!

*Fostering Academic and Social Engagement: An Investigation into the Effects of All-Girls Education in the Transition to University performed by Tiffani Riggers-Piehl, Ph.D., Principal Investigator with Gloria Lim, Ph.D. and Karen King.



AP COMPUTER SCIENCE

We all know how to use computers. We click, swipe and tap all day long on iPads and iPhones, PCs and Androids, apps and software. Yes, we know how to use it. But how many among us have the first clue about understanding the technology behind it? The truth is — not many. That's exactly what Mrs. Eleanor Hernandez, IWA's resident technology teacher, is trying to change with IWA's AP Computer

abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the internet and global impact. Lessons are taught using a blend of traditional lectures, lively discussions and hands-on projects, including coding different games and apps using App Lab software. Despite the challenging materials, junior Dana Theroux '22 described how epiphany moments made all of the hard work

ALL STUDENTS DESERVE ACCESS TO AN EDUCATION THAT PREPARES THEM TO PURSUE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES BUT ALSO, AT A VERY BASIC LEVEL, TO USE THE TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLY.

ELEANOR HERNANDEZ, AP COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER

Science course. Mrs. Hernandez saw how computing dominates almost all aspects of teenagers' lives today and championed this class with the conviction that "all students deserve access to an education that prepares them to pursue careers in computer technology but also, at a very basic level, to use the technology responsibly."

AP Computer Science is offered in collaboration with Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools), a program that brings sustainable computer science programs to high schools across the country. The course curriculum is structured in accordance with the College Board, and is structured around "7 Big Ideas" — creativity,

worth it. "We learned how to code in JavaScript which is something that I've always wanted to learn how to do," she said. "It's like another language — it's like taking French or Spanish — there's this exciting moment of 'Woah! I understand, this makes sense."

AP Computer Science students enrolled with varied experience and aspirations. Some students, like Caroline Moody '20, have plans to continue their studies in college. "I want to minor in computer science," she said." "I want to be an analyst in intelligence communities, but I want to specialize in computer analyzing." Other students, like Camille Anigbogu '20, shared that taking this class allowed her to explore her options and

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see what interests her. Simply put, she "wanted to learn more about this thing that dominates our lives."

For students who want to continue "learning the language," IWA expanded its partnership with Microsoft Philanthropies' TEALS program to add an additional computer science course to the curriculum this year, Python programming. Mrs. Hernandez encourages all of her students to enroll. "The Python class will be purely coding and will give students much more experience. Interested students can graduate high school with a solid foundation in the basic principles, in addition to a coding language," she said.

Regardless of students' backgrounds and future plans, they did all share that they were happy that they took the course. For them, it was a class that wasn't just in the abstract, but something that they use in their daily lives. One told us, "As soon as we had our discussion about data and



ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ANALYSIS

You might not guess that a general engineering course would start with a personality test, but that's exactly how it began for the students taking IWA's Honors Engineering Design and Analysis. Developed by the University of Texas' "Engineer Your World" program, the introductory engineering course was highly scaffolded to teach students not only how engineers use math and science to solve problems, but also the many ways that different teams work together.

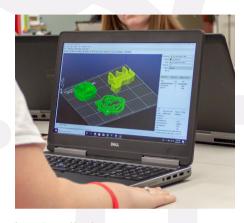
"[IT WAS] THE MOST INTERESTING CLASS I'VE EVER TAKEN. I'VE NEVER TALKED ABOUT A CLASS AT HOME SO MUCH IN MY LIFE!"

ANNE CULBRETH '20

Each unit of the course focused on a different type of engineering, and each unit culminated in a different group project. The students had no say in who was in their group; Dr. Maureen Johnson, the course teacher, intentionally grouped students based on the differences and similarities that were revealed in each unit's personality test. When asked if they had a favorite grouping, the students overwhelmingly saw the benefits of diverse styles. "Each different team had strengths and difficulties," said one. "Overall, I liked having groups that were more different from each other because you learned more. There were longer discussions and it took more time to

start a project, but we learned how to communicate and how to work together, and I think that's going to help you more in the long run."

In addition to mature approaches to group work, students finished the year with a solid understanding of what many types of engineers actually do. Dr. Johnson explained, "I think I was halfway through college before I figured out what engineers really do. And that is why I like this class. Students learn to problem solve, and they do studies in the different disciplines. For example, in the coffee unit, they learn about analyzing data in chemical engineering. In the programming music unit they learn about what electrical engineers do. With the seismic tower unit they learn a little about what civil and mechanical engineers do. And this very last unit that culminates in the final project is a little bit about aeronautical engineering



but it's really about systems engineering — where you take all these subsystems and integrate them. It's really a project integration unit."

Anne Culbreth '20 described the course as "the most interesting class I've ever taken. It was nice to be able to come into class and know you're not going to be sitting in a lecture or taking notes — it was a very hands-on experience and you get to really see what the areas of engineering are. I've never talked about a class at home so much in my life!"





STEM CAMP

This summer, IWA partnered with Catapult Learning, an organization specializing in education solutions, and with the Houston Independent School District to offer a week-long, free summer camp for students interested in exploring STEM studies in a fun, relaxed environment. "Programs like this help inspire our girls to feel confident in their STEM capabilities and consider the possibility for a future in STEM," said Gina Galassi, academic dean. "Bringing more STEM opportunities to our campus allows us to empower our young women in an environment that strengthens their confidence and helps them find their voice, all while building networks

with individuals in the Houston STEM community."

The five-day camp focused on basics of the engineering design process, with students receiving a project brief each day and going through the design process: define the problem, research, brainstorm, choose a solution, build a prototype and test. The camp culminated in team presentations of the students' creations, which included a robot coded to perform small tasks and a Rube Goldberg-style device made of simple machines like inclined planes, levers and pulleys.

Teachers from Catapult Learning led the camp, and they paid the highest compliments to Academy women. In addition to the fact that the students came to the classroom with a great foundation in STEM, teacher Mary Stevens added, "In 30 years, this is the most fun I've ever had as a teacher and this is the first time the kids have ever said thank you."

OUTSIDE-THE-CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES TO DIVE INTO STEM AT IWA

Made for Medicine Club Engineering Club FemTech Club Falcon Theatre's Tech Team

OFFICE HOURS

WITH DR. MAUREEN JOHNSON, IWA SCIENCE TEACHER

WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY?

My dad worked in the steel industry and both of my grandfathers worked in the same factory in Gary, Indiana. They looked at me and said, "You like math. You should be an engineer." So I studied chemical engineering at Michigan Tech and eventually went on to get my Ph.D. from Rice University in environmental engineering.

IF YOU WEREN'T A TEACHER, WHAT WOULD YOU PICK FOR A CAREER?

Well, I wasn't a teacher for many years. I worked as a chemical engineer in the oil industry for nearly 30 years for different companies. I started as an engineer, then moved up to supervisor, then manager. My family and I lived in many places — Alaska, Lubbock, London — and I got to travel all over the world visiting assets.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING IN THE OIL INDUSTRY?

I traveled the world and my family did very well. But specifically, one of my favorite things that I ever saw in the oil industry was at BP. We had a floating production platform in Angola, a very poor country that had had a terrible civil war for 30 years that left the country very poor. As a company, we hired Angolans, sent them to the North Sea for training, and then brought them home to Angola so they could operate their country's production facilities. I was pretty proud of the things that we did to help Angolans. So if you're in a position where you can go into a country and change the game for some people, that is not a bad thing at all.

I LOVE THAT AS A TEACHER I CAN HAVE SOME INFLUENCE IN SHARING MY PASSION FOR ENGINEERING AND HAVE MORE YOUNG WOMEN CONSIDER A CAREER IN IT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MISSION IS AS A TEACHER?

I tell all my students on their very first day of their sophomore year that my mission in life is to convince them to be scientists and engineers because I think it gives them tremendous opportunity as individuals. There is tremendous opportunity personally, and if you want to try to make people's lives better, there are tremendous opportunities for technical people in that area too. My role here is to suggest it to these young women that they can be those people. The answer may be no, but I just ask them to consider it.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING A TEACHER?

This is kind of my dream job, teaching. What I saw in the oil industry was that there just weren't enough young people to do the technical jobs and there really just weren't very many women. If there aren't enough people in a certain job, people just look at how you're different. There aren't very many role models for women, and then everyone looks at the ones that are there and sees how they are different. And so I love that as a teacher I can have some influence in sharing my passion for engineering and have more young women consider a career in it.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A TEACHER?

I experienced several years of very intense work stress and health stress, and I realized that I wanted to do more good in my life. So while undergoing treatment for cancer, I started doing an alternative certification program to become a teacher.

AROUND CAMPUS



DETERMINATION, FOCUS AND GRIT

IWA Valedictorian Michela Durrette '19 was in the sixth grade at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton when she suffered a single seizure that changed everything. Three days after her seizure, Michela found herself being wheeled into surgery in the Texas Medical Center to remove the astroblastoma tumor that had been pressing in on her frontal lobe. After a successful surgery, Michela faced a long road to recovery that included radiation, frequent check ups and side effects from the surgery that got in the way of day-to-day life.

Despite this "new normal," Michela refused to give up on her dreams of academic success. "When I was diagnosed with cancer, all my doctors said that I probably wouldn't make good grades anymore, I shouldn't expect to," she said. "They just wanted to prepare me for the

fact that that might happen. Rather than using that as an excuse to give up I used it as motivation to work harder. Everybody else was happy that I was OK and alive but the push to succeed academically came from myself. I like getting good grades — that's my thing. So I didn't want cancer to take something that made me happy and made me feel powerful and successful and like myself away from me."

Six years later, Michela has made her dreams come true; she graduated from IWA as the valedictorian and is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Houston Honors College on full scholarship. Her dream job is to work at NASA and develop space technology because she loves math and the idea of coming up with "solutions to problems that are literally out of this world." IWA chemistry and engineering teacher Dr. Maureen Johnson has some advice for NASA. "I can only imagine that her experience of facing brain cancer has

helped bring out the person that was always there," she said. "What she is now is someone who really wants to make a difference. Seeing a young woman who wants to make a difference in the world through science is just awesome. Michela wants to work for NASA and I'm telling you right now they should just figure out what spot they're going to put her in because she's someone who makes things happen."

Michela shares her story precisely to make a difference; she wants kids who might be going through the same experiences she's had continue to pursue their dreams and what makes them happy. "Cancer can't stop you and you shouldn't let it. Just because you get cancer doesn't mean you're a different person. It just becomes a part of your journey. It doesn't define you for the rest of your life, and you move forward. And that's what I am here to show."

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

As a college preparatory academy, IWA is always proud when our students succeed. This spring, Norma Ferrel '19 was named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Competition, which recognizes students of superior academic performance. Norma was one of 15,000 students from across the country to gain the honor, scoring in the top one percent of junior-year students taking the PSAT. She received a certificate of merit for her achievement. In September, Ursula Buchwald '20 was named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. She subsequently submitted an application to continue on to the competition for finalists. Maria Bello '20 and Olivia Ochoa '20 were named Commended Students in the competition, having scored in the top four percent of students who took the PSAT as juniors.









Top Left: Norma Ferrel '19 Top Right: Ursula Buchwald '20 Bottom Left: Maria Bello '20 Bottom Right: Olivia Ochoa '20

AP SCHOLAR RECOGNITION

More than three dozen IWA students have been recognized for their academic prowess. We're so proud of their achievements.

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

Alyssa L. Caver '19 Michela V. Durrette '19 Olivia L. Ochoa '19

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams

Elise J. Amsler '19 Rebecca E. Barry '19 Liana E. Fantich '19 Norma G. Ferrel '19 Claire E. Fuller '19 Hallie R. Lyons '19 Alanis Meza '20 Caroline P. Moody '20 Kaitlyn E. Wilkes '19

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

Camille J. Anigbogu '20 Maria Del Carmen Bello '20 Isabel U. Buchwald '20 Eva M. Burgess '19 Clare I. Finger '20 Sarabeth N. Hanz '19 Anna T. Hasker '20 Emma B. Hudson '19 Chloe A. Juanico '19 Suzanna L. Marbach '19 Haley R. Miller '19 Meghan A. Moody '19 Mindy A. Nguyen '19 Shanna C. Pham '19 Lina S. Pliodzinskas '20 Anna E. Pruneda '20 Niccole I. Riera '20 Katherine A. Rose '19 Adriana Rucoba '20 Mary Katherine Saye '19 Merriam M. Scafide '20 Brooke A. Spivey '20 Bou-si L. Valentin '19 Eleanor A. VanCleave '19 Alexandra X. Watson '19 Caitlin M. Wisneski '19 Evyn G. Yasinski '19 Marguerite C. York '19 Rachel M. Zakarevicz '20



MIRANDA WILKES '19 WINS NCWIT AWARD

Congratulations to Miranda Wilkes '19 for receiving the Houston Affiliate Award from the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT). More than 4,000 girls from all over America applied to the program and Miranda was one of 100 accepted students in the Houston area. In addition to the award, NCWIT connects girls to other women in STEM for networking, scholarships, and internships. Miranda is already hoping to inspire others with this award: "I'm hoping to spread the word about this organization to other girls in the school. It's a great opportunity for people wanting to learn more about the computer science field."



IWA's choir on the big screen at Minute Maid Park.

IWA CHOIR TAKES THE STAGE AT MINUTE MAID

The Incarnate Word Academy Choir sang the national anthem at Minute Maid Park on Aug. 20. Led by Mr. Josh Wilson, IWA's choir director, the students performed before a crowd of Astros fans, as well as more than 300 IWA parents, teachers, staff and friends who bought tickets for the event.

Wilson, who also leads the St. Thomas High School Singers, has had that choir perform the anthem before Astros games for the last six years. Toward the end of the 2018 season, he approached the Houston Astros management about finding a spot for IWA's choir to sing. Returning choirs receive priority to reserve dates for singing; others, like ours this year, choose from what remains. First, however, Astros management have to hear the choir's performance

of the anthem, and choirs must adhere to guidelines about how it can be performed.

"The choir did a great job of learning the arrangement we chose in a short amount of time," said Mr. Wilson. "We worked on this for barely two weeks before performing it at Minute Maid Park. They did a fantastic job, and I'm so proud of them."



UPGRADED: IWA AUDITORIUM GETS NEEDED TECH ENHANCEMENT

Thanks to generous donations at last year's Gala, IWA upgraded the light and sound boards, installed a much more sophisticated and powerful speaker system, and installed a set of LED lights in the auditorium. The new system makes it easier to run assemblies, and the possibilities for Falcon Theatre and IWA's Teens for Unity Talent Show are staggering. In addition to the exciting on-stage changes, the upgrades also improve communication backstage. As the student light and sound designers put it when they first saw the new tech booth, "It's like a spaceship in here..."

Mulvaney's designers and assistant directors helped to develop another creative way to present this story of the traditional versus the modern. Most of the characters were costumed to fit rural Tennessee of the 1920's, while the out-of-towners or "ahead of their time" characters were dressed in modern fashions, as though the modern world was invading "heavenly Hillsboro" and challenging its residents with brand new ideas.

"The design ended up as a hybrid between the two time periods, hopefully highlighting the tension between the traditions of Hillsboro and the new-fangled science descending on them," wrote Mulvaney in her director's note. "But what feels most anachronistic about the play in the end is the tenor of the

debate. Both sides are full of worthy ideals and righteous anger. But what feels striking in 2019 is that Brady and Drummond, former friends who have moved away from each other in their political beliefs, never allow the debate to descend into personal sniping."

Inherit the Wind shows that fighting for what we believe in does not require us to hate or demean our "enemies." Our ideals are strong enough on their own. We are clever enough to win our case with the truth. Our beliefs should inspire us to reach higher...not drag us and our opponents through the mud."



ATHLETICS

TRACK AND FIELD

The JV and Varsity track and field teams had great seasons. JV was undefeated and won their third championship title in a row. Coach Chris Warren described the team as, "by far, the youngest but best team I've ever coached overall." Meanwhile, varsity closed out the season in third place in the district, fourth place in TAPPS 6A Regionals, and qualified for the state meet in five events.

Stand-out performances included Fiona Cosgrove '22, who broke the school record in the high-jump and was the only qualifying freshman in the state meet to finish third overall. Another stand out was first time track and field athlete Merriam Scafide who qualified for three

events in the state meet including the high jump, 4x200 and 4x400 relays. Sophia Cantoni '20 also made a new school record in the 100m hurdles. Other accomplishments included Meredith Britt '19 as the season's MVP who scored more

points of anyone all season in the shot put and discus, and great performances by Maddie Taylor '21, Amanda Stockton '21, Valerie Guzman '20, Anora Lee '22, Chimere Egesi '22, Audrey Hernadez '22, and Nicole Cross '22.



SOFTBALL

The softball team had a strong season and made it to the second round of TAPPS playoffs after a stunning 13-0 victory over Houston's Concordia Lutheran High School. Varsity advanced to the playoffs in San Antonio where they won their firstround game against St. Mary's Hall. They were taken down in the second round by St. Agnes Academy, who went on to take first place in the TAPPS Tournament. Congratulations to Klarissa Martinez '22 who made All-State Honorable Mention and First Team All-District, Abby Muniz '20 who made Second Team All-District, and Sasha Olguin '19, Aidan Neaves '19 and Mary Uyenco '22 who received Honorable Mention All-District.



GOLF

Golf continues to be increasingly popular at IWA with 24 girls on the team. This year, Sarah Rosales '19, Lili Laughlin '21, Eileen Evans '20, Persia Fombin '22, and Morgan Sword '19 all competed in the TAPPS Regional Golf Tournament.



WORD IN THE WORLD

A JOURNEY OF SERVICE, SANCTITY AND SISTERHOOD

IWA Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage Opens Hearts and Minds

Theology teacher Rachael Valka reflects on her experience leading students through service work across the city.

Monday, March 11

A small but eclectic mix of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors awaited what the next few days would hold.

We walked to our first stop, the Beacon, a ministry of Christ Church Cathedral serving as a kitchen, laundromat, legal office, and health clinic for Houston's homeless. Here we got our hands dirty and our hearts broken. After sorting donated clothes, we set up what was affectionately called "the Incarnate Word pop-up store," where we helped clients find one shirt, one pair of pants, and one pair of shoes each. Our hearts broke as the women poured over a table filled with clothes trying to find something that would help them feel normal again, beautiful again. Our hearts broke when we ran out of men's clothes with a long line waiting. We got our hands dirty handing out sugar and creamer for coffee and folding the clothes in the laundromat. Smile after smile in the coffee line reminded us of the innate dignity of the human person: rich, poor, homeless. The greatest and the least.

We spent the afternoon at Holy Cross Chapel for Mass, picnicking in Tranquility Park and back to Holy Cross for confession. Our chapel reflections focused on our experiences that day, and on Matthew 25, where Jesus discusses how we treat the least among us. Where did you see least today? Where did you see the least today? How did you serve the least? How were you the least?

Tuesday, March 12

With clouds looming, we drove to San Jose Clinic for a tour. For much of its

history, San Jose Clinic sat just down the street from IWA and was run by the Villa sisters, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. It now has a state-of-the art facility midway to the Medical Center.

St. Joseph's House is part of Magnificat House, founded by IWA alumna Rosemary Badami '41. It serves as a psycho-social rehabilitation center. Our time there had the feel of new groups formed working side by side with adults working through the bondage of mental illness. Everyone with a rag in hand, cleaning, laughing, smiling.



IWA students organize clothing at The Beacon

The members are responsible for keeping the house running with cooking, cleaning, newsletters, gardening and much more. In this place we worked side by side with those whose dignity is restored as they find their way back from the chains of mental illness.

Wednesday, March 13

Early the last day, we celebrate a beautiful morning mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Just a block down the road we walk to Catholic Charities Guadalupe Center to fill paper bags with groceries for the hundreds of people who come through the social services center daily.

We jump into action. Two students alone

bag a pallet of beets and carrots. The others work an assembly line of pasta, cans, rice, boxed milk and other goods. We reorganized the boxes in the pantry and filled every shelf with grocery bags ready for the next day.

Back at Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are welcomed with open arms. Two priests agreed to hear any confessions left to be given, and we are offered space for our last picnic.

The weather is unpredictable, so we decide to go back to school early for final reflections followed by pizza and a movie on the life of Father Damien of Molokai. I let the girls' time of sharing fill the chapel with the lessons they learned...

"Everyone just wants a friend."

"Every woman just wants to feel beautiful."

"My barriers about the homeless were broken."

"My taboo about mental illness was broken."

"I learned that We can see Jesus in others. I learned that I can see Jesus in each of you."

"I think I finally learned what sisterhood means. It means we are all here for each other."

At home that night I smile, knowing sisterhood is a call to be the hands and feet and love of the Incarnate God to each other and to allow others to be the same to me. I smile knowing I belong to a community of service, sanctity, and sisterhood.

This story has been edited for space; read Ms. Valka's full journal at: www.incarnateword.org/iwa-blog. Her book, Breathing Again: A Hurricane Harvey Memoir, is available for Kindle on Amazon.

SPRING BREAK TRIP EXPLORES OLD WORLD CITIES

"One must travel, to learn," wrote Mark Twain in The Innocents Abroad, And learning was certainly the focus of this year's spring break trip to Belgium, England and France. Thirty-one IWA students and four faculty spent a jampacked week exploring landmarks, practicing their French and taking in European culture. In Bruges, they saw the tunnels used to evacuate 300,000 allied soldiers from the beaches at Dunkirk, one of World War II's most dramatic stories. In Paris, in addition to visiting the Louvre, they heard the stories of some of its most famous pieces of art, including the Mona Lisa and Winged Victory, while in London, the itinerary included a stop in the Cabinet War Rooms, the command center for Britain's operations during World War II. There was also time for sightseeing, shopping and tasting local flavors.



TEALS COMPUTER SCIENCE FAIR

The Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) Computer Science Fair is a capstone event for students in Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS classes. This year, 15 IWA students attended the TEALS Computer Science Fair at Houston Baptist University's College of Engineering to gain a greater understanding of the varied and exciting college and career paths in computer science. Students learned through presentations,

demonstrations and activities including chatting with female executives from Conoco-Phillips in the Women Talk Tech session, competing in (and winning) a hacking competition, and learning how to brainstorm and pitch ideas for software applications.



CLASS OF 2019



THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2019 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO MORE THAN 100 DIFFERENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS TEXAS, THE U.S. AND ABROAD. TOGETHER, THEY HAVE EARNED MORE THAN \$6 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS. PLEASE JOIN THE SISTERS OF THE INCARNATE WORD AND BLESSED SACRAMENT, THE IWA BOARD OF ADVISORS, FACULTY AND STAFF IN EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS FOR THE IWA CLASS OF 2019!

Elissa Akuchie Elise Jeannine Amsler Alexis Celeste Arenas Rebecca Elizabeth Barry Audrey Helen Battaglini Mary Margaret Bauman Mary Liliana Tatiana Billings Natalie Elizabeth Birnev Ava Catherine Brendgord Meredith Walker Britt Eva Marie Burgess Mia Cantu **Judith Alaniz Cashin** Alyssa Leigh Caver Celeste Caroline Collins Kelsei Madison Cotter Catherine Rebekah Cuthrell Michela Vincenza Durrette Jayme Simone Eaton Zarahi Lee Estrada Liana Elise Fantich Norma Guadalupe Ferrel Claire Elizabeth Fuller Fatima Aracely Garcia Meena Iliana Garcia

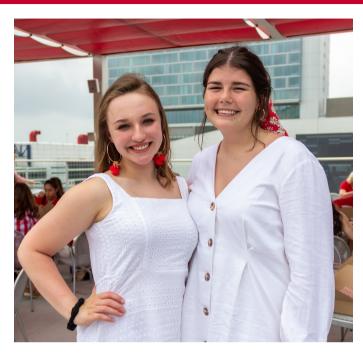
Megan Elizabeth Garney Isabella Violet DiStefano Grimm Ysabel Josephine Guevara Sarabeth Nicole Hanz Xitlali Herrera Claire Anne Hess Kristen Nicole Hillegeist Emma Blake Hudson Jana Ovie Ikoya Camryn Alexandria Johnson Chloe Ann Juanico Hallie Ruth Lyons Jacquelyn Grace Madden Suzanna Louise Marbach Kirby Alexandra Mason Nancy Ann Matthews Samantha Agnes Meyer Haley Rose Miller Meghan Anne Moody Isabella Elaine Musatto Catherine Amanda Navarijo Aidan Elizabeth Neaves Jenny Nguyen Mindy An Nguyen Vivian Vy Nguyen

Madeline Nicole Novak Olivia Lucia Ochoa Sasha Danielle Olguín Shanna Cam Thi Pham Mashal Pirzada Adrianah Nicolle Rangel Julia Rodriguez Sarah Rene Rosales Katherine Andry Rose Alesandra Ruiz Angelica Joanna Sanchez Mary Katherine Save Isabel Rose Smith Morgan Victoria Sword Sofia Isabella Tellez Claire Marie Theroux Jessica Joann Thornton Bou-si Lily Valentin Eleanor Anne VanCleave Alexandra Xurong Watson Kaitlyn Elise Wilkes Miranda Grace Wilkes Caitlin Marie Michelle Wisneski Evyn Grace Yasinski Marguerite Cecilia York

ALUMNAE

RED CHECK CELEBRATION WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2019 TO THE ALUMNAE SISTERHOOD

There are many things that alumnae recall from their days at IWA: the plaid skirts, the vibrancy of our downtown campus, the sense of community they felt from teachers, staff and their friends. All of those events are highlighted in some way in the annual Red Check Celebration. Held every spring, the event includes a rooftop luncheon and party that officially welcomes the graduating class into the IWA alumnae sisterhood. That's followed by an all-school assembly where the seniors present skits and tributes drawn from the memories of their four years as IWA students. They often impersonate their favorite teachers and immortalize key events from the school year, all done with good fun and humor. The annual gathering serves as a wonderful milestone as our young women transition from students to alumnae. This year, we were so grateful to the Classes of 1969 and 1994, who volunteered for the event.













CLASS NOTES

1954

CHRISTINE SCHULZE (1)

Christine Michulka Schulze and husband Adrian Schulze celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in September. The couple is an award-winning polka and waltz duo. They attend St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Stonewall, Texas, and are active in the St. Rose and St. Thomas societies.

1958

SR. ROSANNE PLAGENS

Sister Rosanne "Annie" Plagens celebrates her 60th (diamond jubilee) anniversary of vows with the Sisters for Christian Community.

1959

CATHERINE FILER

Catherine Linbeck Filer welcomed great-granddaughter, Monica Allison Hennessy, on April 20, 2018.

1962

PEGGY SCHULIN

Eleven members of the Class of 1962 celebrated their annual reunion with a beautiful weekend at the Artesian Lakes retreat.

1968

ROSEMARY POWERS

Rosemary Powers retired from Wells Fargo Bank after 34 years of service and is loving the retirement life.

1969

PAULA GILL

Paula Chajkowski Gill retired from a career in nursing in February.

1974

GRACE JUNEAU

Grace Duran Juneau and husband Johnny Juneau celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary this year. Grace retired after a 40-year career in education (30 in bilingual and 10 in adult education). She now spends her time as a volunteer religious education teacher, with her four children and eight grandchildren in Kenefick, Texas.

1975

SHIRL MCCRARY (2)

Shirl Green McCrary traveled to Rome and Poland to visit family, friends and holy sites. She is pictured in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

1983

BLANCA TREVINO-DIAZ (3)

Blanca Trevino Diaz started a new culinary adventure by opening her own food truck, Loading Zone Grill, in Manchaca, Texas.

1999

SARAH SEPOLIO

Sarah Sepolio graduated with a bachelor's degree in pscyhology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

2006

ALLISON ORTEGA-MUNOZ (4)

Allison Ortega Munoz graduated from Texas Tech University with a master's degree in special education with a concentration in applied behavior analysis (ABA) in May 2019. She has been an educator for six years and is now in her third year as a middle school special education manager for a local charter school system in Houston.













2007

CHRISTINA GARCIA-RAMIREZ (5)

Christina Garcia-Ramirez and husband Kevin Ramirez (STH '07) welcomed son Caleb Ryan Ray Ramirez on March 7, 2019.

AMANDA GONZALES (6)

Amanda Flores married Cory Gonzales on July 27, 2019 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

2010

ANDREA MARMORATO (7)

Andrea Marmorato graduated in December from Houston Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She is now a cardiovascular ICU nurse at Texas Children's Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.

2012

ALYSSA EAGLETON (8)

Alyssa Eagleton graduated from Tulane University with a master's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology in 2018 and bachelor's degree in psychology in 2016. She is now attending Tulane University School of Medicine. Alyssa will be a triple graduate of Tulane when she finishes her medical education having attended Tulane both as an undergraduate and graduate student. She was also accepted into several other M.D. programs, but is delighted to return to her alma mater.

SARAH HARRIS (9)

Sarah Presas married James D. Harris on May 11, 2019 after both passed the Texas state bar exam. She practices employment law and defends government contract cases; James practices malpractice and personal injury law in Houston.

EMMA LAMPSON (10)

Emma Lampson earned a Master of Education with an exceptionality as an educational diagnostician from the University of St. Thomas in Houston in May 2019. She is an educational diagnostician in Pearland ISD, where she has been a special education teacher for the last three years. She is pictured with fellow alumnae Catherine Gonzales '12 and Ariana Montelongo '12.

STEPHANIE KINER (11)

Stephanie McConnell married Chase Freeman Kiner on Feb. 9, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois.

2013

JILLIAN DAVIS (12)

Jillian Davis graduated with a master's degree in speech language pathology from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in Boston in May 2019.

2014

SABRINA ORTIZ (13)

Sabrina Ortiz graduated from Texas Tech University in May 2019 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and sports management. She now works as an account executive for the WNBA Dallas Wings.

2015

CLARISSA DE SANTIAGO (14)

Clarissa de Santiago graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in August 2019 with a bachelor of science degree in health science, minoring in human health perspectives and Spanish. While at SFASU, Clarissa held many leadership roles in the following organizations: Chi Omega Fraternity, Jack Walkers (University Ambassadors), SFA101 Teacher Assisting and the Student Nurse Association. Upon finalizing her degree, she participated in an internship at Texas Children's Health Plan. Clarissa intends to further her education by attending nursing school in 2020.























LAMIRACLE LEDET (15)

LaMiracle Ledet graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a bachelor's degree in management and was a member of business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi. She is currently a credit analyst for Lone Star Capital Bank and would like to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the future.

HANNAH LICEA (16)

Hannah Licea graduated with honors from George Mason University in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in psychology and a minor in data analysis. Throughout her collegiate career, she served as chapter president for Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology; was selected to be an OSCAR Fellow for undergraduate scholarship outreach; and studied abroad in the Peruvian Amazon. This fall, Hannah began the Master of Science program in industrial organizational psychology at Texas A&M University.

2016

GABRIELLE SIMON (17)

Gabrielle Simon is a senior at Baylor University. She is currently a human resources and sales intern for DISYS, a global staffing and IT consulting firm that supports companies in the energy sector.

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Barbara Anne Osterhaus, C.V.I.

Sister Barbara Anne Osterhaus, C.V.I., died May 14, 2019. Born on September 7, 1938, she grew up in the Heights and attended All Saints School and Incarnate Word Academy. Following her graduation from IWA, she entered the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Houston, on September 8, 1956.

She received both her B.A. and M.R.E. degrees from the University of St. Thomas. She served as an elementary school teacher in in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston for 19 years, then moved to ministry to the deaf, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. She also served as the director of Deaf Apostolate in the Diocese of Beaumont. She would spend 20 years in ministry there, with roles as secretary for the Office of Religious Education, the Office of Worship and the Tribunal. Upon retirement, she returned to the Motherhouse in Houston and continued to serve the Community wherever she was needed. She was a member of the Congregational Leadership Team from 2014-2018.

Sister Barbara Anne was faithful to God, her community, her family and her friends. She was known for her gentle spirit and the humorous way she expressed her views.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Louisa DeLeon '88 Lynette Hodges Finger '61 Sylvia Mata Freeman '69 Bernice Swierkowski Guess '67 Rebecca Hasker Sr. Rosalia Purcell, C.V.I.
Joanne Thomas Stell '49
Gloria Bergeron, sister of Denise Henry '78
Edward Billings, father of Liliana Billings '19
and Julliette Billings '21

Ronald Gene Embry, former Incarnate Word Academy faculty

"Gus" Herman Freitag, Jr., father of Rhonda Herrington '71, Deb Jaska '75 and Diane Kopfensteiner '78"

"LEADING LADIES" GALA PUTS IWA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

One of the most-anticipated events on the IWA calendar is the annual gala and auction. Held April 13 at the Hilton Americas-Houston, the evening was an opportunity to not only raise funds for the Academy, but also to honor the Scanlan Foundation, which supports Catholic religious, charitable and educational institutions in Texas. Larry W. Massey, president of the Scanlan Foundation, accepted IWA's Sister Agatha Sheehan Award on the foundation's behalf.

The gala's "Leading Ladies" theme paid tribute to the young women of IWA, who lead across a variety of areas, including academics, fine arts, our Young Leaders Program and athletics, as well as serving as models to others in the way they conduct their lives.

They embody the values of the Scanlan sisters, several of whom attended IWA. Their father, Thomas "Tim" Scanlan, immigrated to the United States from Ireland, and would go on to be successful in the mercantile business, real estate and other endeavors, serving as mayor of Houston from 1870 – 1873. The Scanlan Foundation was established in 1947 and has since generously given millions of dollars to IWA, allowing the school to continue its mission to offer a college preparatory education to students of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

The gala and auction proved a great success. One of the auction highlights was an exclusive dinner with Houston Astros player Jose Altuve. Shelby Trahan '14 served as the emcee, and Virginia Birkofer '14 was the alumnae presenter.

Our 2020 gala and auction will be held April 17 at the Hilton Americas-Houston.







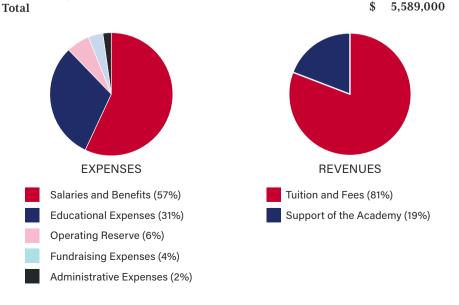




2018-2019 SNAPSHOT

Incarnate Word Academy, founded in 1873 in Houston, Texas, is owned and operated by the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The revenue and expenses listed below include only the activities of the Academy. For the fiscal year 2018-2019, our revenue from tuition and fees represented 81% of our total revenue. While it costs the Academy over \$18,875 to educate a student, our tuition was only \$14,150. For additional funding necessary to finance the full cost of education at IWA, the Academy relied mainly on assistance from the Congregation, fundraising events and the generous support provided by foundations, alumnae, parents and friends of the Academy.

REVENUES:	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 5,640,000
Support of the Academy	
Annual Fund	\$ 407,000
Spring Gala	\$ 355,000
Raffle Sale	\$ 132,000
Scholarships	\$ 90,000
Donations and Contributions	\$ 375,000
Other Income	\$ 329,000
Total	\$ 7,327,000
EXPENSES:	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 4,188,000
Educational Expenses	\$ 2,300,000
Administrative Expenses	\$ 121,000
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 270,000
Operating Reserve	\$ 448,000
Total	\$ 7,327,000
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS	
IWA Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,157,000
Named Scholarships	\$ 2,432,000
Sr. Brendan O'Donnell	
Knight-Powell	
Most Rev. John McCarthy	
Most Rev. Vincent Rizzotto	
Most Rev. George Sheltz	
Bernice Stasny Purcell	



2019-2020

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ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout our long history, Incarnate Word Academy has been blessed to have the support of many generous benefactors including the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, alumnae, the Board of Advisors, corporate partners, families, faculty, staff, and friends. Each individual gift ensures that the traditions and values of Incarnate Word Academy will continue for generations to come. We are so thankful for these gifts and proud to recognize the donors whose names are listed on the following pages. The following donors contributed to the Academy between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

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\$15,000+

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up to \$249

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The Bello Family
Claudia '92 and Edwardo Betancourt
Maggie Bilski '67

continued on next page

26%

increase in family/parent participation to the IWA Annual Fund.

100%

Students at IWA are passionate about local organizations! Each year, students dedicate more than 8,000 hours of community service through our Christian Service Learning Program.

Ursula Blanchard Annessa Boane '56 Joyce and Willie Bohuslav Jorge Bonilla

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Betty Ann Kowis '53

Renae Sinclair Kay and Hub Hawthorn

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continued on next page

Corrections?

Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in reporting donors' names in the 2018-2019 Annual Report. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact the Office of Marketing and Communications at 713.227.3637 or email Holly Beretto at hberetto@incarnateword.org

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