THE WORD

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY MAGAZINE | SPRING 2018

stronger *together*

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ON THE COVER

All-school Mass at Annunciation Church is a beloved IWA tradition. This September, we gathered as a community of faith to pray for God's peace and comfort for those who suffered or lost their lives due to Hurricane Harvey. We prayed for strength to reach out with love and generosity where we are needed - to be a source of God's light in the world. Photo: CatchLight Group

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 cornerstones are academics, values and spirituality.





FROM THE PRINCIPAL

From Hurricane Harvey to the Houston Astros' exciting World Series championship, the Incarnate Word Academy community has experienced both unthinkable challenges and great cause for celebration this year. Through it all, the school community remained steadfast in its commitment to service.

Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I. and I have been so proud to see the IWA community come together to serve its own and others. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we were humbled by the outpouring of support and "can-do" attitude of our students, faculty, and staff. Parents volunteered to prepare meals for affected families. Students, faculty, and staff showed up at one another's homes to begin the hard work of restoring lives to normal. Our Campus Ministry Team gathered us together to pray for strength and trust in God's plan. You'll read about these and more everyday acts of service in our feature story, "Stronger Together" later in this magazine.

As principal, I am proud of Incarnate Word Academy's commitment to integrating values into our curriculum and student organizations. As you'll read about in this magazine, innovative courses that we offer like Leading with Service encourage students to learn about community issues and be a part of the solution. In fact, this January the senior class was the first class to exhibit service portfolios that outlined their four years of work in the Christian Service Learning Program. This year's Career Day showcased student service with TED-style talks from IWA students about their passions, including a team that organized crafts for patients at Texas Children's Hospital. We are teaching the young women at Incarnate Word Academy that service is not just for times of crisis, but a lifelong commitment.

So often, we describe the IWA community as a sisterhood, and it has never been more true than this school year. Leading with Business' fall project, Sister Sticks, donated their profits to Candlelighters, an organization that has helped several IWA families with patient support services such as paying for parking during extended medical treatment. The annual talent show hosted by the Teens 4 Unity club also raised funds for the Candlelighters organization in honor of fellow classmates in addition to funding their upcoming mission trips.

It's clear that though this has been a challenging year for Houston, IWA students are prepared live out their values as Women of the Word whether it is through coursework, cafeteria conversations, or encounters beyond our walls.

Akary armant

Mary Aamodt, Ed.D. Principal of Incarnate Word Academy

PICTURED OPPOSITE: IWA Principal Dr. Mary Aamodt meets with students in the Jeanne de Matel Center for Student Life. These IWA students gave TED talkstyle presentations at Career Day to share their soaring destinations, bold promises, and extraordinary solutions with fellow students.

AROUND CAMPUS



2018 National Merit Scholars & National Hispanic Scholars Recognized

Senior Elizabeth Diamond has been named a Finalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. The 15,000 finalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state and represent fewer than one percent of each state's high school seniors. Three additional students—Emily Marquines '18, Kassidy Porche '18, and Susannah Wilson '18—have been designated as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program, placing them among the top 34,000 of over 1.6 million students who took the 2016 PSAT. Lastly, the National Hispanic Recognition Program identified Victoria Bonilla '18, Emily Marquines '18, and Kassidy Porche '18 as the top two percent of Hispanic/Latino students who take the PSAT their junior year. Congratulations to these students on their outstanding achievements!



Perry Outreach Program

The Perry Initiative partnered with Baylor College of Medicine to host the Perry Outreach Program in Houston for young women in high school. IWA sent its largest group ever this year—seven IWA students had the privilege of participating in this day-long program. Participants performed mock orthopedic surgeries and conducted bio-mechanical engineering experiments, while also hearing from prominent women engineers and surgeons in the field.



Scholastic Art Awards

Michela Durrette '19 and Natalie Birney '19 earned Silver and Gold Keys, respectively, in the 2018 Scholastic Art competition. The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers partners with visual and literary art organizations across the country to bring the Scholastic Art competition to local communities. Award winners are selected from over 330,000 submissions across 29 categories and best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Gold Key works are also considered for National Award distinction and, if chosen as a National Medalist, are recognized in part at the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

YLP hosts former Ambassador

Now in its eighth season, Leadership Live! is a student-run speaker series that invites distinguished leaders from the Houston community to IWA to share the stories of their lives and their leadership journeys with students in an informal setting. IWA's Young Leaders Program kicked off the 2017-2018 season of its speaker series with a distinguished guest: Mr. Chase Untermeyer, former Ambassador to Qatar under President George W. Bush.

Mr. Untermeyer recently published the book *How Important People Act: Behaving Yourself in Public*. He has previously held elected office in the Texas State Legislature and served as a United States diplomat. He is now a professor, a consultant, a businessman, and active in serving the Houston community.

Untermeyer noted that among all of the many different kinds of positions he has held and industries he has worked in, there was one common thread: leaders at all levels. He explained: "There are lots of different programs of leadership; there are courses taught, there are institutes, there are military styles and corporate styles and civic styles of leadership. I really think it all boils down to the same thing which is: the willingness of a person to take on a task usually for the good of others and the ability to carry it out. The key to successful leadership is remembering that you are by no means the most important person. You are merely there to help other people."

Mr. Untermeyer offered a few key takeaways:

- We are all important people.
- Modeling great character and behavior is critical.
- Half the battle is showing up with a sincere effort to try.
- Read biographies. Read lots and lots of biographies!

When the Leadership Live! team asked to take a photograph with him, Mr. Untermeyer shared one last piece of advice he learned in public office: when taking pictures and official portraits, always stand at an angle!

Other Leadership Live! speakers this year included Jeanie Reckart of Fidelity Investments and Billy Forney, a 9/11 survivor. Keep an eye on the IWA website to learn about upcoming Leadership Live! events.



SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICISTS *IWA Physics classes take part in a global convention*

The 88th Annual Meeting of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists in Houston this year featured an unusual new element: a sea of red sweaters walking the vast hallways of the George R. Brown Convention Center. All 102 of IWA's physics students attended the international conference a short walk away from 609 Crawford Street.

The conference is held in a different U.S. city each year, and this was the first large conference to take place in Houston after Hurricane Harvey, a feat that prompted a convention tour by Mayor Sylvester Turner. The conference exists to provide cutting-edge technical insight, high-level networking, and business development opportunities for thousands of geoscience professionals.

Though they are not yet professionals, the entire senior class and a handful of juniors got a unique chance to explore the many applied disciplines of the geosciences sector, including global oil, gas, mineral exploration, near surface geophysics, archeology, and more. Kate Burnaman '18 explained: "I've always enjoyed STEM studies but haven't decided what I want to study in college. It was eye-opening to go to this conference and discover how many different professions you can have with the same degree."

The Physics I, II, and Honors students began the day with a high-school focused presentation with two other schools from the Houston area. Afterwards, IWA's young women were treated to a private question and answer session hosted by three leading female professionals in the geoscience industry. Denise Cox (*President of Storm Energy*), Deborah King Sacrey (*President of Auburn Energy*), and Larkin Spires (*Geophysicist and Project Manager*) spoke to the students about their paths in the energy sector. Ms. Cox assured students that, "there are a lot of jobs out there rooted in geophysics besides oil and gas. What makes a good geoscientist is a love of math and science, the ability to think differently, to be comfortable taking risks, and cross-functioning between the right and left brain."

When asked if any of the women had experienced obstacles in their career, Ms. Sacrey reflected, "There is less and less prejudice every single day. It's a high-stakes industry and competition can be male against male, female against female, culture against culture. However, it's up to you to be your best. You are in control of yourself and you are responsible for doing your best, and supporting each other. Your job, your generation is to make it a little better."

With nearly 8,000 people from across the world in attendance at the convention, Ms. Cox's parting advice to the girls was very timely: "You have to be prepared to hit the ground running and make a sacrifice for things that you want. And most of all, network, network, network."

ATHLETICS







Volleyball

Varsity volleyball had a great season marked by outstanding leadership within their young team. Says team co-captain Ashley Kindla '18, "We were really passionate about our conference victories which led to advancement to the state finals. We were thrilled to be there." Ashley's co-captain, Kate Burnaman '18, was named the Memorial Hermann Ironman Sports Medicine Athlete of the Week. After having a season filled with injuries and surgeries, she made an inspiring comeback that earned her this honor. Memorial Hermann representatives surprised Kate with the award during a routine volleyball practice. Even more surprising? The award included a short film segment highlighting her athletic achievements and aired on AT&T Sportsnet during an Astros game!

Cross Country

The cross country team finished 3rd place in district rankings and performed exceptionally well at the TAPPS state meet in Waco, TX. Senior Reagan Coleman made headlines by earning the 14th best time in the state in addition to all-district accolades.

Basketball

Season highlights for Falcon Basketball include winning the Faith Christian Academy tournament where senior, Ifeoma Mbue, was named tournament MVP and Kennedy Trahan '20 was recognized on the all-tournament team. The team also dominated in district play earning IWA's first top 10 TAPPS basketball ranking.

Swim

The swim team had a record-breaking season. Without any seniors competing this winter, the team broke school records in the 200-meter medley and 100-meter breaststroke. Notable wins include 1st place in the Alief Invitational and 2nd place in the St. Thomas Episcopal Invitational. The season ended with an impressive 7th overall finish in the 400-meter relay at the state meet.

Soccer

Senior leadership defined the success of the varsity soccer team. Seven seniors led a more offense-driven and competitive team to a 3-2 double overtime win against Pope St. John XXIII and a thrilling district playoff run.

OFFICE HOURS *with Coach Perez, IWA Athletic Director since 2004*



POP QUIZ!

Favorite app? Social media! I like to keep up with people and this is the best way. I enjoy posting about family, school, Astros, Rockets, Texans, etc. I'm most active on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Follow me @coachrickyp!

First concert? 1977. KC and The Sunshine Band. I really loved that band growing up.

Ideal vacation? A week in Hawaii with no phones or other electronic devices.

Trait you most admire in your students? The sisterhood. How the students carry themselves and interact with each other. How committed the girls are to their beliefs, values, and spirituality. It's inspiring!

Read the rest of our interview with Coach Rick Perez at www.incarnateword.org/news.

A career in sports has been a life-long dream for Athletic Director Rick Perez. His passion for sports was first inspired by his dad and uncle while growing up in Southeast Houston. Pairing his love of sports and interest in education, he went on to earn his degree in physical education from the University of Houston and M.Ed in secondary education from Grand Canyon University. Although he never played in college, he dedicated his spare time to coaching middle school football, basketball, and baseball.

Rick has come a long way since he got his start at IWA as a physical education teacher back in 2001. Over the past seventeen years he has served as head basketball coach and head softball coach in addition to teaching various physical education classes and other athletic director responsibilities. He currently serves as the assistant softball coach but his impact goes far beyond the field. On any given day you may find him transporting teams to and from games, creating partnerships within the Houston community, leading set-up for a sports banquet, or sharing live game updates and photos on Instagram. He is truly devoted to the advancement of the athletic program.

For Coach Perez, Incarnate Word Academy has always been a family affair; both his wife and daughter are graduates of the Academy. Aside from marrying his wife and raising their three beautiful children, Rick considers winning the Jeanne de Matel award in 2017 as one of his greatest accomplishments. Jeanne de Matel award recipients exemplify excellence, dedication, and creativity within the school community-qualities that Rick tries to demonstrate in everything he does. He is motivated by the strong values and beliefs shared by IWA faculty and students. He makes an effort to continue to instill these same values in the girls while empowering them to lead successful lives after graduation regardless of whether or not their future is in sports. As a word of advice, Coach Perez encourages anyone who is interested in playing or working in sports: "If you love it, go for it."

WORD IN THE WORLD







IWA debuts at Model UN

Incarnate Word Academy joined hundreds of students gathered together at the University of Houston for the annual Model United Nations (MUN) Conference. The club was started at IWA this year by Alyssa Caver '19, who is interested in pursuing a degree in international relations, and sponsored by AP U.S. History teacher Mr. Adams. Model UN is an education simulation of the United Nations that engages high school students with international relations and diplomacy. Delegates are assigned a country and challenged to research, represent, and advance the goals of their assigned country. Alyssa says it is "an important exercise in learning how to understand a position that you might not personally agree with."

First Place in UST Essay Contest

Congratulations to IWA senior Triciajane Asuncion who took first place in the annual University of St. Thomas(UST)/ Archdiocesan Essay Contest. In addition to personal recognition by Cardinal DiNardo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Debra Haney, and UST President Dr. Ludwick, Triciajane received a \$2,000 scholarship to UST. IWA students played a major role in the Catholic Schools Week ceremony, serving as altar servers alongside the Cardinal, greeting guests as ushers, and singing from the choir loft with the St. Thomas High School choir. In addition to Triciajane's top prize, 8 IWA students received awards or honorable mentions.

Close Up

Twenty IWA seniors traveled to Washington D.C. this January with the Close Up High School Program, a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization which aims to inform, inspire and empower young people to exercise their rights and accept the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. The students spent six days interacting with the people, processes, and places that make America's federal city so unique. From visits to Washington's famous monuments, memorials, and institutions, to meetings with their Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, Close Up students get a first-hand look at the American political system and consider what role they, as individuals, play in our democracy.

JSA meets with Congressman Brady

Nine Incarnate Word Academy students had the privilege of attending the Huffington Award Luncheon hosted by the Asia Society of Texas at the Hilton Americas this fall. The luncheon was hosted to present the Huffington Award for Contributions to the Honorable Kevin Brady, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in the United States Congress. It is the highest honor awarded by the Asia Society Texas Center and past recipients include former Exxon Mobil CEO and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, as well as President George H.W. Bush.

The IWA students in attendance were chosen because of their participation in the Junior States of America club on campus and were one of only four groups of high school students invited to attend. The remainder of the packed ballroom was filled with corporate, community, and government leaders from throughout the state of Texas.

After opening remarks and the award presentation, IWA students listened to a conversation between U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady and Dr. John Diamond, a

fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. Congressman Brady has been particularly influential on the national scene this year due to his participation in the historic Republican tax bill in December 2017.

After the main event, Congressman Kevin Brady hosted a private thirty-minute Q&A session for the high school students because as he stated, "all of the issues that we talk about today are much more about your future than mine."

IWA students engaged with the Congressman directly and asked him about taxes, health care, and international trade. After each answer, Congressman Brady replied back, "What do you think?" giving the high school students a chance to share their thoughts with the 8th Congressional District Representative. He encouraged them to find ways to raise their hands in service—whether in their church, school, or other groups: "I believe that we lead when we serve others. I hope that in life when you get the chance to offer yourself up to serving others, you take it. It's an amazing experience."





LEADING WITH SERVICE

"Dear young people, we didn't come into this work to "vegetate," to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark." Pope Francis, 2016 World Youth Day

Each semester, IWA's Leading with Service class is asked to read Pope Francis' 2016 World Youth Day address. They are asked to draw connections between Pope Francis' call to "make a mark" and IWA's definition of an authentic, bold, servant leader—someone who creates extraordinary solutions which make the world special. Students in Leading with Service come to see that faith and leadership go hand in hand. Ms. Gina Galassi, who teaches Leading with Service, explains that "The Leading with Character course is all about self reflection as a leader—growing in empathy, courage and authenticity. The Leading with Service course gives the girls a chance to put that into practice by working on a project that speaks to their heart."

The semester begins with Catholic Social Teaching principles and exposure to various needs around the Houston community. The students are challenged to form groups, create a daring destination, and make a meaningful impact on the community around them over the course of a semester. Says Ms. Galassi, "this class is really good for our girls. It gives them a hands-on encounter with a social concern in our community and empowers them to go out and make a change. The hope is that by creating an extraordinary solution in this class, they will walk away from the semester with eyes opened to needs around them and the confidence to step up and help in the future."

On the opposite page and in the Hurricane Harvey story that follows, you'll notice how our girls are leaving their mark. In the words of Katherine Rose '19: "We as followers of Christ are called to put down our phones, log out of Netflix, silence Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram and go out and do something. There are so many extraordinary solutions that we can come up with and accomplish if we just put our hearts, brains, and hands to the cause." Amen.







Project Bloom

Last semester's Project Bloom team worked with The Summerhouse, a Houston Heights non-profit that provides high-quality programming for young adults with intellectual disabilities. The students aimed to have an impact long after the semester was over, and after meeting with Director Donna Fruge, discovered that the biggest need for the organization was a new shredder to continue helping young adults learn job skills. The team hosted a series of bake sale campaigns to raise money to fund the purchase of a new shredder. They also fostered a relationship with the young adults at Summerhouse by enlisting their help in packaging the baked goods and inviting them to the IWA Christmas Concert for an evening of fun.

Soccer at Nativity Academy

This group supported the San Francisco Nativity Academy mission of providing constructive after-school care by implementing an academic and athletic after-school enrichment program for the Pre-K 3 class. The girls coached a soccer program every other week to teach the students the basics of physical education and even invited special guests— IWA Soccer Coach Bryan Gonzalez and the girls from the varsity team. Says Ms. Galassi, "The principal at San Francisco Nativity Academy finds our approach to service extra meaningful because we encourage hands-on experiences. The school was appreciative of the close positive impact the girls had on the kids. The girls would come to class talking about the Nativity Academy students by name."

Heal the HeART

"This was our chance to make somebody's world special." Students in the Heal the HeART group wanted to work with children and teenagers with cancer. Heal the HeART partnered with The Periwinkle Foundation, an organization that provides programs for children, young adults, and families challenged by life threatening illnesses. The Periwinkle Foundation gave feedback on ideas and logistics during the planning process and helped to facilitate the visits to a clinic at Texas Children's Hospital. IWA students spent two days crafting and making art with cancer patients. Project Manager Miranda Wilkes '19 reflected, "The children were happy, welcoming, and always smiling. It's a feeling I cannot describe and hope that everyone gets to experience."



STRONGER together

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40: 28-31

It is impossible to look back on the 2017-2018 school year without recognizing the staggering impact of Hurricane Harvey. In the span of a few days, the families of students, faculty, and staff found their worlds turned upside-down: homes, clothing, keepsakes, and cars flooded with some 52 inches of rain.

The first day that Incarnate Word Academy opened its doors after the devastation, President Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I. welcomed weary students, faculty and staff back with an all-school assembly. She recognized that even though the major destruction, loss, pain, and suffering tapped into our fears, we continue to trust "that God will make a way where there seems to be no way, that He walks with us through every storm. We move forward together because we are a people of faith. We are a people of hope. We are a people of love."

Over the last seven months, we have witnessed the beautiful truth that God *has* made a way. We have affirmed in our words and deeds that we *are* a people of faith, hope, and love. We continue to witness stories of everyday servant leadership within the IWA community: students, families, faculty and staff serving as a living expression of the Incarnate Word Academy mission in the world.

Servants in the Storm

Identify your values. Live with integrity. Embrace and practice empathy. Lean into fear.

These are the lessons that are discussed, debated, and grappled in the required Incarnate Word Academy course, Leading with Character. A requirement to take before the end of their sophomore year, Leading with Character is a unique requisite

course in a high school curriculum, but a course that sets our school-and our students-apart. Says Director of Character and Leadership Charles Kafoglis, "When you are asked at age fourteen to begin identifying, reflecting upon, and articulating your strengths, passions, and values, it really signals that you are beginning the transformative process of becoming a young woman. It sets the tone for who you want to be and what this school is asking you to focus on in the next four years."

IWA students put these

lessons into action while the

rain was still falling this August. After the widespread devastation of Hurricane Harvey became apparent, students sprang into action. Says Katherine Rose '19, "I remember I was in shock that my home was flooding again. Even though I was scared, I decided that I was not going to let the flood make me afraid. Even though we had water in our house, others had it worse. We felt the need to go help people who were stuck in their homes so we took our fishing boats into the water and we helped families who were stuck in their homes."

The servant-leader mentality—the willingness to take on a daunting task for the sake of others—was exhibited over and over again in the storm's aftermath. Students joined the volunteer lines at the George R. Brown Convention Center, organized donation collections, and communicated with one another to determine who and where to help. Word spread quickly, and current

The last memories of our house are not sorrowful, but ones of smiling kids with wheelbarrows, laughter, and a warm hug when I cried. You are women of character and strength. JEFF AND TERRI KING

PARENTS '17

families, alumnae, and even the Sisters at the convent opened their flooded doors to large groups of students, faculty, and staff armed with brooms, garbage bags, and rolled-up shirt sleeves.

Suzanna Marbach '19, who took the photo on the opposite page, explained what it felt like to be on the

receiving end of so much support: "My house flooded after Hurricane Harvey. I went to clean my house after the floodwaters receded and I ran into four of my teachers who were shoveling up the ripped- out walls of my living room. I don't even know how they knew to come! Then I found out that students and more teachers were at my house earlier helping. I have never heard of a more caring school, and it touches me that they came to help."

We were proud to hear stories of service among our alumnae as well. The family of Elizabeth King '17 lost their home, vehicles, and the majority of their possessions. The devastation delayed Elizabeth's travels to her freshman year of

college at Spring Hill in Alabama. Despite her own personal setbacks, Elizabeth was quick to throw on sneakers and volunteer at donation drop-offs around Houston. Current IWA parent Katy Theroux heard of the King's losses and gathered an "army of angels" to help clear out the house. Mrs. King said she had always been grateful for the IWA community, but only in that horrible situation did she understand that the network of friends would be lifelong. She wrote in an open letter to the IWA students: "The last memories of our house are not sorrowful, but ones of smiling kids with wheelbarrows, laughter, and a warm hug when I cried. You are women of character and strength."

When the streets began to dry, schools and workplaces re-opened but the hard work of restoring lives to normal was only just beginning. Many in our community knew that the recovery would be long and reached out to see how they could help their fellow classmates and IWA families. We heard from our families that once-simple tasks now felt daunting. We heard from families about the difficulties of getting daughters to school with fewer family vehicles and slow-moving highways. We heard that lunches and dinners were harder to prepare with destroyed kitchens and entire first floors gutted.

The IWA community sprang into action. Coach Perez and Mr. Jorge Bonilla offered to provide a temporary bus service for Kingwood students who had difficulty getting to and from school. Coach and Mr. Bonilla made the two-hour commute twice a day in order to get our girls to school. Parents sprang into action as well. Mrs. Nerine Kerfers, mother of Isabella Kerfers '20, began working with the school to coordinate meals and drop-offs for families whose homes were damaged by the floods. Mrs. Kerfers named her group "Meals of Love" and rallied IWA families to do what they could to help their IWA community. By the semester's end hundreds of meals had been lovingly cooked by IWA families, for IWA families. One parent who received the Meals of Love wrote, "Learning to be on

THANK YOU

We are particularly humbled by the offer of support from religious communities and schools from across the country who sent money to our Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund. We are forever grateful to the following organizations who arranged collections, dress-down days, and bake sales to raise money for our families.

Servants of the Holy Heart | Kanakakee, IL Bethany Community | Pittsburgh, PA Society of St. Ursula | Rhinebeck, NY Salvadoran Enterprises for Women | Baltimore, MD Franciscan Missionaries of Mary | Bronx, NY Sisters of St. Joseph | West Babylon, New York Sisters of St. Joseph Associate | North Tonawanda, NY Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM | Fargo, ND Sisters of Mercy of the Americas | Silver Spring, MD Academy of St. Elizabeth | Morristown, NJ Notre Dame Academy | Staten Island, NY Providence High School | Burbank, CA St. Augustine Preparatory School | Richland, NJ the receiving end of help is something new for us and we are slowly learning to embrace it. The support from the IWA community has been humbling and we are so thankful for you being there for us in our time of need."

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

"This has been one of the greatest gifts post Harvey."

"Words cannot express the gratitude we felt after reading this letter."

"This letter brought hope for me. I wish I could show those who donated my humble appreciation in person, but I know that you will help me in telling them that."

These are just some of the moving words that we received from IWA families who received tuition assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. All in all, nearly 10% of Incarnate Word Academy students were seriously affected by storm damage. We know that under normal circumstances, many parents sacrifice so that their daughters can receive a Catholic education. The enormous financial burden that Hurricane Harvey placed on some families had been so great that it put an Incarnate Word Academy education in peril. That's when we turned to our community for help.

We asked for your help, and you answered. Your generosity of spirit, prayer, and financial support in difficult times was, according to one IWA family, "an affirmation of the goodness of people and the generosity of the Lord in answering our prayers." Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us to provide bus transportation, uniform replacements, and tuition assistance to our IWA families in their hour of need.

We are thankful that every family who applied for tuition assistance due to Hurricane Harvey damage received it because of the generosity of the IWA community. We are thankful that our students, faculty, staff, parents, and wider Incarnate Word Academy community acted as God's light in the world during a dark time in Houston's history.

More than anything, we are thankful that the flood waters revealed what we have known all along: we are people of faith. We are people of hope. We are people of love.

We are stronger together.



pictured

(1) Isabella Kerfers '20, Savannah Ward '20, and Alanis Meza '20 pictured with boys from St. Thomas High School during a lunch break in the midst of four straight days of demolition. Since school was cancelled, these students assisted "mostly elderly people who had no help, recruited people wherever we went, and found love and strength in the whole community of Houston." (2) Sister Mary Margaret Rosberg, C.V.I. modeling what it means to be a Woman of the Word at a Catholic Charities Harvey event. (3) Mr. Chou (IWA Math teacher), Libby Diamond '18, Samantha Pozzi '18, Julia O'Neil '18, and Mrs. Micheletti (IWA Science teacher) cleared out a house in Kingwood. (4) One of the last neighborhoods to be hit in Hurricane Harvey was Kingwood, TX. Many of our students who travel from Kingwood by car each day found themselves with no way to get to school. Coach Rick Perez and Mr. Jorge made the 2-hour round trip drive twice a day in order to get our girls to school. (5) IWA teachers Dr. Doneske, Mrs. Neaves, Mrs. Valdez, and Mrs. Ellaham (Math, History, Theology, and English respectively) showed up ready to work at the Marbach house in Kingwood. (5) Allison Huddleston '21 and Abigail Neaves '21 bring smiles to a kitchen demolition. (6) Students participating in the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy took part in "Do Good December"—a challenge to organize acts of service in the season of giving. The group spent two Saturdays at the Bradford Place Convent covering the Harvey demolition with Christmas decorations—and more importantly returned in January to help take them down!

ALUMNAE





SALUTING ALUMNAE LUNCHEON

Women of the Word from as early as the Class of 1948 to as recent as the Class of 2011 gathered at The Junior League of Houston on March 3, 2018 for the annual Saluting Alumnae Luncheon.

This year, the Academy honored Marie "Peaches" Gonsoulin Owen '54 and the Louis & Peaches Owen Family Foundation for their deep-rooted sense of philanthropy for organizations across the country, and in gratitude for their continued dedication and support to IWA.

More than 100 alumnae and friends were in attendance to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the IWA sisterhood and Marie "Peaches" Owen '54. As representatives of the Academy, Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I, senior Katherine Edwards '18 and Carmel Tajonera '08 thanked alumnae for blazing the trail for future Women of the Word and for their continued support of IWA.

The afternoon closed out with a moving rendition of the alma mater and class photo shoots. A delightful time was had by all and we are already looking forward to next year!







View more photos from the 2018 Saluting Alumnae Luncheon at www.incarnateword.org/alumnae.

A WORD with PEACHES OWEN '54

It has been nearly 65 years since Marie "Peaches" Gonsoulin Owen '54 walked the halls of 609 Crawford, but the lessons she learned at Incarnate Word Academy have lasted a lifetime.

After graduating from the Academy, Peaches worked for Prudential Insurance Company while her husband Louis (STH '52) finished his degree in chemical engineering from Rice University. Friends in high school, the couple reconnected a few years after graduation one lucky night at the local bowling alley—and the rest was star-crossed history.

Married for more than 60 years, Peaches and Louis dedicated their lives to serving Christ through their work, their family and devotion to their Catholic faith. Experiencing great success in their business, they founded the Louis & Peaches Owen Family Foundation to share the gifts God bestowed upon them and to try to do good with their fortune.

It is Peaches' hope that through the couple's example, their family and others "share in the desire that serving God through serving others is the greatest blessing of all."

POPFavorite IWA memory? Receiving ourQUIZrings as seniors at Annunciation CatholicChurch on October 8, 1953.

Favorite teacher? Sister Agatha (English teacher and librarian), Mrs. Rutledge (Social Studies) and

Sister James Phillip (Principal and Social Studies teacher).

Favorite IWA

tradition? All the activities with Sodality during the years. (*Sodality was an organization similar to IWA's present-day Campus Ministry team.*)

How did your experience at IWA shape your path in life? IWA's lasting effect on me was to always keep my Catholic faith active and to always try to stay true to it.

Did you have a mentor growing up that inspired you? My parents were my mentors throughout my life and taught me the value of family life. My mother taught me the love of family and my father taught me the love of God.

What advice do you have for current IWA students and young alumnae? Always do your best in anything you try and be happy. Be kind to all and keep the faith. And marry a guy from St. Thomas High!

> Read the rest of our interview with Peaches Owen '54 at www.incarnateword.org/news.



Incarnate Word Academy welcomed 10 distinguished alumnae to its annual Career Day in February. Each alumna, along with other participants from the greater Houston community, shared about their professional experiences and journeys after IWA.

PICTURED: Susan Sahwani-Garcia '94, Owner of Chocolate Wasted Ice Cream Co. • Gin Braverman '96, Owner/Principal Designer of Gin Designs Group •
Franceska (McCaughan) Ostermann '06, Owner of Franzie's Flower Design • Nicole (Marin) Capelo '07, Marketing Manager of Houston Downtown Management District • Erin (Webb) Hermosillo '09, Attorney at Vinson & Elkins • Jada Davis '10, Energy Modeler at Aliantgroup
• Erika DeLaRosa '11, Teacher at Houston Independent School District • Domenica Delgado '11, Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Clinical Research Coordinator at Houston Methodist • Jamie Roy '11, Consultant at Utegration • Michelle Roy '13, Supply Chain Management at Shell.

CLASS NOTES

1954

Joyce (Vento) Coles is an active parishoner at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. She is an Extraordinary Minister and a member of the Altar Committee, and has served as president of the senior group "STreaMliners." Joyce is also the Mass Coordinator for the Italian and English Mass held at the Italian Cultural and Community Center of Houston held on the second Sunday of each month.

1957

The Class of 1957 celebrated their 60th Class Reunion on September 16, 2017 with a wonderful luncheon at Season 52. They had a wonderful time laughing and remembering the fun days at the Academy—with gratitude, they are thankful for their education and friendships at IWA! (7)

1958

Irene (Brotherton) Morello wed Frank Anthony Morello (STH '58) on October 14, 2017 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Houston. *(1)*

1961

Linda Girogio beat the winter blues and enjoyed a week-long cruise to Honduras and Mexico in February. **JoAnne (Macura) Montgomery** is happy to be back in Texas after spending 20 years in Aztec, New Mexico. She served as a teacher's aide for 18 years.

1964

Joyce (Oehl) Sharp and husband David (STH '62) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 with a renewal of vows officiated by Deacon Ken Martin (STH '63). Joyce retired from the real estate legal profession after more than 50 years in the field. David is a retired Deputy Chief in the Houston Fire Department after 40 years of service. Joyce and David enjoy fishing, boating and relaxing at their lake house on Houston County Lake in Crockett, Texas. (3)

1969

Christine (Warren) Plunk enjoys researching genealogy and traveling throughout the United States. She is looking forward to travel adventures to Europe this year.

1973

After 17 years as the box office manager, **Joyce Murray** retired from the University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance in April 2017. *(2)*

Marissela (Lopez) Ramirez wed Rene Ramirez on April 22, 2017 at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. *(6)*

1974

Renette (Hundl) Jasmer and husband Scott traveled to Europe last May for the centennial of Fatima and the canonization of Jacinta and Francisco Marto. They also traveled to Ireland, Spain and Portugal. Renette has worked for United Airlines for 17 years. (5)

1975

Deborah (Freitag) Jaska and husband Curtis welcomed their first grandchild, Chloe Marie, on August 3, 2017. *(10)*

Shirl (Green) McCrary and husband James have been happily married for 37 years and have six grandchildren. They recently welcomed granddaughter, Whitney Renee, in Australia. *(8)*

1976

Kathryn (Hernandez) Roeder joined the faculty at Frassati Catholic High School in Spring, Texas, as the new Chemistry and Environmental Science instructor.

1977

Virginia (Demny) Fursteneberg

retired from teaching after 25 years with Houston ISD and Pasadena ISD. She and husband John enjoy riding their Harley Davidson motorcycle on trips and group rides. Virginia is an active volunteer with the Chevron Houston Marathon, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston Open, BP MS 150 and Ironman Texas in The Woodlands, Texas. (4)

Loretta (Martinez) Williams is looking forward to her youngest daughter's upcoming nuptials—Catarina Elaine Williams to Kyle Clarkson on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2018, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with officiant Father Henry Walker. Loretta is a Juvenile Probation Officer with the DP-180 and Young Offenders Program. Loretta is a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas - San Jacinto Chapter, and continues to be very active with the Harris County Historical Commission.

1978

The Class of 1978 along with '78 graduates from St. Thomas High School, Strake Jesuit, St. Agnes Academy and Duchesne

Academy of the Sacred Heart will gather for a 40th Class Reunion on Saturday, April 21st at the Ragin' Cajun on Richmond Avenue.

1985

Annette Mata-Murphy, D.D.S., has partnered with cosmetic dentist Guy Lewis, D.D.S, and opened the new Portofino Dental practice in October 2017 serving The Woodlands and Shenandoah, Texas areas.

1993

Yvonne Treviño is a licensed esthetician and laser hair reduction technician.

2000

Heather Day (Rooney) is certified in obstetrics and works as an RNC-OB at St. Luke Commuity Healthcare in Ronan, MT.



IN MEMORIAM

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.

Dorothy (Lawrence) Fenske '40

Vivian (Abadie) Lane '41

Agnes (Ankenbruck) Stanley '46

Frances (Marino) Seeberger '49

Lena (Marino) Syma '57

Josephine (Santos) Davenport '59

Rose Marie (Plagens) Rogers '60, sister of Sister Roseanne Plagens '56

Mary Catherine (Rocamontes) Cheng '62

Mary (Kocurek) Thompson '62, sister of Barbara (Kocurek) Davis '67 and cousin of Sister Roseanne Plagens '56

Lucy "Lucia" Anne (Ferrara) Bettler '66, sister of Mary Jo (Ferrara) Piwetz '69

Barbara (Kocurek) Davis '67, sister of Mary (Kocurek) Thompson '62 and cousin of Sister Roseanne Plagens '56

Susan (Aldana) Rogers '79

John Delome, husband of Helen (Riley) Delome '67

Hazel Ruth Sellers Husband

Johnny Longoria, Jr., brother of Bridgette Longoria '08

John Martin (STH '45), brother of Betty Ann (Martin) Kowis '53 and uncle of Lanette Kowis '88

Elias "Sonny" Martinez, brother of Melissa Martinez '81

Sister Kathleen O'Malley, C.V.I., sister of Sr. Carmel O'Malley, C.V.I.

Lloyd Joseph Pablovich, *father of Veronica (Pablovich) Massa* '61

Justino Rosales, husband of Norma (Herrera) Rosales '55

Frank Tamburello, brother of Mary Ann (Tamburello) Foster '57

Joe V. Valdez, Jr., *father of Cecilia Valdez* '82 and Viviane (Valdez) Castaneda '86











2005

Amy Rizkallah is an Associate Attorney at Woodfill Law Firm in the Galleria area of Houston practicing family law.

2010

Christina (Coleman) Chiarello wed Mark Chiarello of El Paso, Texas, on July 1, 2017 at St. Louis, King of France Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. **Danielle Duplechain '10** was a bridesmaid at the wedding. The couple met at the University of Texas at Austin. (9)

Sarah Washburn is the proud mother of two daughters, BaileyQuinn Alene (4) and Maggie Marie (2), and is currently getting her culinary degree from the Culinary Institute LeNôtre.

2011

Domenica Delgado is a Research Coordinator in the Orthopedics & Sports Medicine department at Houston Methodist Hospital. The department cares for many of the Houston area sports teams including the world champion Astros, Texans and Dynamo, as well as members of the Houston Ballet, the Houston Symphony and the Houston Grand Opera. (11)

2013

Elizabeth Hesse graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in December 2017. She currently works for CGI Solutions and Technologies in Lafayette, LA as a business analyst. She will wed Michael Saunders on April 21, 2018.

2014

Shelby Trahan graduated cum laude from the University of North Texas in December 2017 with a bachelor of arts degree in Journalism/News. Upon completion of her degree, Shelby was offered and accepted a position as a Multimedia Journalist for KLTV in Tyler, Texas. *(12)*

2016

Carolina Olivares is a sophomore at Texas Christian University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Journalism and a minor in Spanish. She is currently a reporter for ESPNU Campus Connection and TCU News Now, the social media intern for TCU Athletics, and is a writer for TCU 360 where she had the opportunity to interview Reid Ryan, president of the Houston Astros. (13)

ALUMNAE WEDDINGS

Irene Brotherton '58 to Frank Morello (STH '58)

Marissela Lopez '73 to Rene Ramirez

Christina Coleman '10 to Mark Chiarello

BLESS THESE BABIES

Deb (Freitag) Jaska '75 *a granddaughter, Chloe Marie*

Shirl (Green) McCrary '75 a granddaughter, Whitney Renee

KEEP IN TOUCH

We would love to hear from you! If your class is celebrating a reunion or if you have an update you'd like to share—let us know!

www.incarnateword.org/alumnae

all-class Repuison Save the date

OCT. 6, 2018 www.incarnateword.org/alumnae



Root, root, root for the home team!

When you can hear the Minute Maid homerun train from your classroom window, its easy to have team pride. Senior Mikayla Herreth says, "I just love the Astros so much because they surprise you every single time and make all of us in Houston so happy." After the trials of Hurricane Harvey, IWA was thrilled to have a front-row seat for the tribulations of the Astros World Series victory. IWA students cheered their next-door neighbors on with a street parties, painted classroom windows, Astros gear with their uniforms, and a sidewalk mural outside the 609. The girls were out in full force to welcome the team home from their victory in Los Angeles and news reporters took notice; IWA students could be seen on several news networks throughout the exciting series!



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