

THE WORD

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY MAGAZINE | FALL 2017



DARING
DESTINATIONS:
IWA in the next five years

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ON THE COVER

Kassidy Porche '18 listens in class in the new Academic Building. This will be the first full school-year in the state-of-the-art building, that was completed and dedicated in February 2017.

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 PRESIDENT

When I was a child I was fascinated by a rather ordinary toy: a kaleidoscope. I can remember twisting the long tube so that the pieces of brightly colored material inside took shape to form beautiful patterns. It wasn't just one shape you could make; you could twist over and over and it would not repeat the pattern. It seemed like magic to me.

As I sit down to write this letter, that childhood memory comes to mind and I see a correlation with my IWA experience. Rather than twisting a long tube, I simply focus on different areas of the school and am thrilled at what I see.

This summer many of our students are involved in summer programs, showing that their interests, nurtured in the classroom, take shape in the real world. We have one student participating in an Asia Society leadership program to learn more about global affairs and further much-needed positive dialogue and understanding in the world. Another is studying at Georgetown University, getting a head start on her AP Government course and learning about the ins and outs of college life. Yet another is flexing her spirit through a course at the University of Notre Dame called "Exploring God's Call." It is so heartening to see our students stretch and engage in opportunities beyond what they learn during the school year.

The kaleidoscope turns. A new bus is rolling into our parking lot. This much needed roving IWA advertisement is a great addition to our fleet of buses that run the roads each day transporting our students to all kinds of activities and events. I am so grateful to those who stepped up to pay for it - the Booster Club through their Super Bowl fundraising efforts and the generous gala donors during our "Raise Your Paddles" event.

Twist again. I see our new five-year Strategic Plan ready to roll out. It was a community effort to create and it will take all of us to implement it. It is an honor to uphold the 145-year legacy of educating young women, helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus the Incarnate Word, and live according to His values.

Summer vacation will have come to a close by the time you read this letter. It is understandable that my focus would turn to our dedicated faculty and staff. It is through their efforts that IWA can maintain high standards in Academics, Values and Spirituality. You'll read about one such faculty member in our new "Office Hours" section; I hope you will be amazed at the experience she brings to the classroom and her dedication to helping our students dream big.

As you read this magazine, I hope you, too, will be excited by all that you see happening at IWA. I think you will agree that God has truly blessed us. I trust that He will continue to bless us and guide our efforts to be true to our mission.

Praised be the Incarnate Word.

Sr. Lauren Beck C.V.I.

Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I.



IWA President Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., joined by Auxiliary Bishop George A. Sheltz, presents Graduate of Distinction Jacqueline Bergeron with her diploma at the 140th Commencement Exercises.
Photo by Kevin Lopez

WORD IN THE WORLD

how IWA girls spent their summers away from 609

One of the many joys for faculty and staff returning for a new school year is hearing about the experiences IWA students have sought out to enrich their personal interests over the summer. It's another reminder of how IWA students are committed to the pursuit of their passions! Here is a small sampling of some of the programs and organizations our students were involved with this summer.

Isabella Altman '18 attended the Junior State of America Summer School at Georgetown University. The program brings students from across the world to learn about government, politics and foreign policy. The program hosted impressive speakers including John Lewis, Hadas Gold, and Rod J. Rosenstein. "It has truly been one of the most memorable experiences of my life! I wanted to apply because I love JSA, politics and foreign policy, and I wanted to get a head start on AP Government. The most rewarding part was the mandatory participation in a Debate workshop. We were required to speak once as the main debater and three times as a subsequent speaker. I always get very nervous when I speak in front of people, and so I was dreading my turn! When I started to speak my hands were shaking and my heart was racing but my preparation kicked in and after a few sentences I felt confident! JSA taught me to challenge myself, even when the task is intimidating." (Photo 1)

Mary Boneno '18 attended Notre Dame Vision in South Bend, Indiana for a week-long exploration of God's call and the ways in which we all can respond to this call using our own gifts. Mary spent a second

week across the street from Notre Dame at Holy Cross College for a course called Saints and Scholars. "I loved the track I participated in called 'Living Laudato Si: Theology and Sustainability.' We learned about how to take care of the environment and how we can put this into practice in the local community." (Photo 5)

Kai Davis '18 attended the Stress on Analytical Reasoning (SOAR) Program at Xavier University of Louisiana. The three-week residential program provided early exposure to science and health careers. "This program has been very eye-opening. I'm able to live on an actual college campus and see what college life is like - including giving myself enough time to walk to class! They use a block schedule and I was very much used to it because of the IWA schedule. Most importantly, I've learned so much about ACT Prep, Statistics and sciences including Organic Biology, Chemistry and Physics." (Photo 3)

Katie Edwards '18 attended WonderWorks at the University of Houston, a pre-college program in arts, literature, and film. Katie wanted to explore her budding interest in architecture, which was sparked

while attending the UrbanPlan program at IWA last summer. The month-long course was taught by esteemed professors in association with the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design.

Norma Ferrel '19 attended the Texas Governor's School at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. Texas Governor's School was established by the Texas Legislature to provide a rich and challenging academic experience for advanced high school students, and offers the three-week residential program free of cost for accepted students. Norma studied International Relations, Psychology of the Criminal Mind, Drawing & Sculpting, and Drama and got a taste for college life: "Even though the campus is spread out and the walks are long, the classes are worth it."

Pilar Fuentes '18 spent 3 weeks at a YMCA Camping and Outdoor Leadership program called Powerful Gift. Pilar completed 40 hours of community service and visited two National Parks in Seattle, Washington.

Olivia Green '20 spent three weeks in June volunteering at San Francisco Nativity Academy. She offered services wherever there was a need; she organized donations, cleaned classrooms, and spent time working with many of the Nativity Academy's young students. Olivia first heard about the organization from the YLP Leading with Service class, and knew immediately that she wanted to get involved: "I loved working at this school, because it allows me to give back to a place that is providing Catholic education for those who really want it."

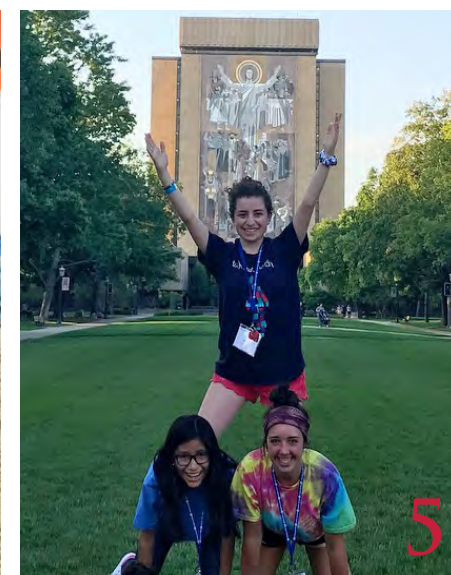
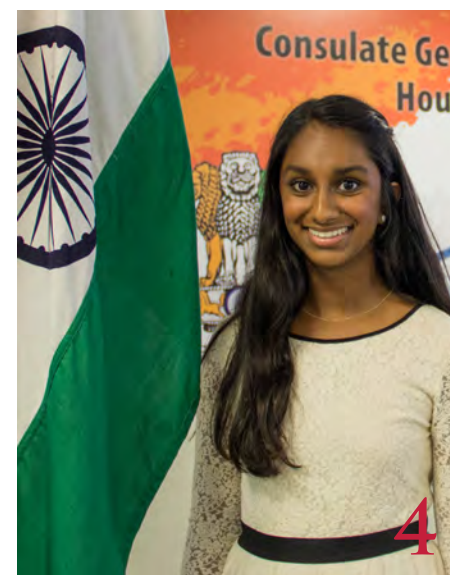
Camryn Johnson '19 stayed busy this summer!

After completing the Harris Health Summer Junior Volunteer Program, Camryn traveled to Loyola Marymount to participate in a pre-college program about Entrepreneurship. If she wasn't working or studying, you could probably find her in the dance studio instructing young students in dance! (Photo 6)

Grace Michael '20 attended the Asia Society Young Leader's Institute Leadership Conference, which aims to cultivate leaders in a globally interconnected city and world. This summer session had a particular focus on India, and each day the group researched and debated topics including: global foreign and regional policy, women's rights, economic infrastructure and development, population growth, and access to resources. Grace says that it was a challenging but worthwhile experience: "This was particularly interesting to me because I was able to explore my own family's heritage. I thought about the larger world around me and understand more deeply the impact that each person can make as we work to care for all that God has given us." (Photo 4)

Clare Cromwell '18, Laura Cromwell '20, Libby Diamond '18, Paige Henderson '21, Kassidy Porsche '18, Madeline Taylor '21, and Lillian Sudkamp '20 volunteered as Graduate Assistants for the DeBusk Enrichment Center for Academically Talented Scholars (DECATS) program. IWA students helped teach courses to gifted and talented elementary students and tried to model the leadership principles from the Young Leaders Program. (Photo 2)

**See more of what our students are up to over the summer and school year by liking our Facebook page!*



AROUND CAMPUS

IWA choir hits high note

The IWA choir took top honors in all categories and earned sweepstakes at the state-wide TPSMEA Concert and Sight Reading contest this spring. Also earning top honors at TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble was soloist Sarah Culbreth, and small ensemble Chrysta Jaucian '17, Sarah Culbret '17h, AnaLaura Trentadue '18, Audrey Moffet '20, Susannah Wilson '18, and Abigail Meyer '18 (pictured opposite).

This contest is attended by many private schools from all over Texas. They do not compete against each other, but for a scoring by a panel of judges. The IWA choir participated in both concert reading (where you perform a song that you have practiced beforehand) and sight reading (where you perform a song that you've never seen before). Each of IWA's three performances earned perfect scores.

One of the competition judges remarked that he was "aware of the rich choral tradition at IWA and was looking forward to hearing IWA." All in all, IWA swept the contest, representing our wonderful school with skill, talent, and tremendous poise. Encore!

AP Scholars Announced

68% of IWA juniors and seniors took 252 Advanced Placement (AP) exams in May 2017. The AP Program measures demonstrated achievement in college-level subject matter for 11th and 12th-grade students. 85% of IWA students who take an AP test earn college credit, demonstrating the rigorous preparation an IWA education provides.

In addition to college credit, the College Board acknowledges students who have earned academic distinction based on the average score of the AP Exams they have taken. Nine juniors attained this distinction along with twenty-four seniors - more than a third of the graduating class of 2017. Nineteen IWA students received the designation of AP Scholar, nine received AP Scholar with Honors, four received AP Scholar with Distinction, and Valedictorian Anna Winter earned National AP Scholar.

Exams are offered at IWA in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, French Language & Culture, Latin, Psychology, Spanish Language & Culture, Statistics, US Government & Politics, and United States History.

Hats off to all IWA students who sat for exams and a special congratulations to the thirty-three IWA students who earned recognition! See the full list at www.incarnateword.org/news.

AYC has record IWA attendance

Fifteen IWA students attended the Archdiocesan Youth Conference (AYC), the highest attendance in any year since IWA began participating. IWA students, along with over 2,800 other participants from all over the local Church, challenged themselves to live out their faith through informative presentations, outstanding national speakers, and inspiring new friendships. Attending AYC is also a unique opportunity to interact with the Cardinal and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese to celebrate the sacraments, pray, and reflect on the role of the Young Church.

Elise Amsler '19 and Libby Diamond '18 were commissioned as members of the Youth Council for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. They will serve as IWA's representatives for the 2017-2018 school year. The IWA Campus Ministry Team (CMT) organized the group of IWA students to attend AYC, but many other IWA students attended the conference with their parishes. Susannah Wilson '18 was also commissioned on the Youth Council, and she will represent her home parish, the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Chaperoned by Campus Minister Kim Valdez and Leadership teacher Gina Galassi, AYC is also a great tool to help CMT prepare for a new year. CMT organizes liturgies, retreats, and service projects for their classmates throughout the year.



Super Bus Arrives!

If you saw a dynamic duo heading west on I-10 in a 2017 StarTrans Multi-Function School Activity Bus this summer, it may have been IWA's very own Coach Perez and Mr. Binh! The Athletic Director and Director of Operations booked one-way tickets to Alabama with one goal in mind: bring back the new 14-passenger bus in time for the girls to use this fall.

The bus will be put to use immediately; student-athletes travel to away games and practice facilities throughout Houston; the Campus Ministry team travels to off-site retreats; and teachers plan field trips to enrich their curriculum.

Thank you to the generous donors at the 2017 Legacy Gala & Auction who matched dollar for dollar the amount raised by the IWA Super Bowl Sunday volunteers. More than 100 volunteers (including 37 students) worked an 18-hour shift at the Houston Texans Store to help raised \$45,000 for a new school bus.

Chick-fil-A Leader Academy comes to IWA

The IWA Young Leaders Program continues to have an impact in IWA's hallways and this year they are proud to announce their latest innovation: a partnership with Chick-fil-A Leader Academy.

Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is a national high school leadership program focused on impact through action. Thirty IWA students will take part in the seven-month curriculum to learn valuable leadership lessons. Students will execute two service projects to strengthen their project management and leadership skills, culminating in an end-of-program Impact Project in the local community.

The program is fully-funded through generous sponsorships from local Chick-fil-A Operators. So, if you find yourself in the Chick-fil-A in the Park Shoppes on McKinney, tell them thanks for supporting IWA!

IWA faculty models lifelong learning

IWA teachers know that students learn more when they are inspired to love learning. How do they know this? They live it! Over summer break, IWA's faculty followed their passions to programs and conferences all over the country. Here are just a few of their adventures:

- Ms. Cuneo (AP Literature and Composition), Ms. Micheletti (Biology), Ms. Douglass (Statistics), Mr. Adams (US History and Psychology), and Ms. Doneske (Chemistry) attended the **Rice University AP Summer Institute** to get a leg-up on teaching Advanced Placement coursework.
- Mr. Richardson (AP US Government) took his love for all-things politics to the next level as an **AP test-grader** in Salt Lake City. In just two weeks he read thousands of AP US Government essays written by students across the country.
- Francisco Perez (Technology), Kristan Siegel (Math), and Kelly Morrison (Library Science) traveled to San Antonio for the **International Society for Technology in Education Conference**.
- Clemencia Rodriguez (Reception) took time off to visit the family of a boy that she sponsors in Guatemala. She has some awesome photos and even better stories!
- New choir director Josh Wilson attended the **Texas Choral Directors Association Convention in San Antonio**, where he participated in workshops and music reading sessions. You may recognize Mr. Wilson from St. Thomas High School's Choir - he'll be teaching at both schools next year!
- The student becomes the teacher...becomes the student! Leadership teacher Gina Galassi is enrolled in a **doctoral program at St. Louis University**. She also attended the **Leadership Challenge Forum in San Diego**.
- Katy Mulvaney (Theater) learned some new strategies for keeping students focused in the course **"Developing Control Over Attention" by the Association of Texas Professional Educators**.
- And rounding everyone out, proving that even principals still love doing homework was Mary Aamodt at the **University of Texas at Austin Center for Professional Education Leadership Academy**.

OFFICE HOURS

with Mary McGivern, IWA Physics teacher since 2006

Working at an all-girls high school is quite a contrast from what Physics teacher Mary McGivern calls her "former life." In 1975, she graduated from West Virginia University with a BS in Chemical Engineering and was the only woman in her class to major in an engineering field. At graduation, the boys in her grade gave her an award simply "for putting up with them."

Shortly after graduation she moved to Baytown with Gulf Oil (she got the best job offer in her graduating class) to work at a polyethylene plant and was surprised to find that there was not a woman's bathroom on-site. She spent the next five years working and studying for her MBA at University of Houston at night. She transitioned to marketing, product and business management at Chevron Headquarters from which she retired in 2001 as the General Manager of the Alpha Olefins business.

Today, far from being the only girl in the classroom, Mary stands in front of 20 young women five times a day, teaching Physics I, II and Honors. However Mary's past is still very much a part of her present; she can see her old office building from her classroom window and uses it as a reminder to inspire students with real-life applications. She brings students to professional gatherings like the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the Women in Energy Event.

Mary is as inspiring in her faith as she is in the lab. She is a lector at St. Vincent de Paul parish, and earned a Masters of Liberal Arts in Catholic Studies from the University of St. Thomas "just for fun." She is a beloved teacher and her students can be assured that the feeling is mutual: "My proudest accomplishment is to have inspired young women to pursue STEM degrees and careers. Impacting the lives of students creates ripples in the water with an opportunity to change their lives and those they encounter."



POP QUIZ!

First concert? I heard my first live band at a skating rink in West Virginia in the '60s and they were called the 1910 Fruitgum Company. I remember dancing on skates to their hit song "Simon Says".

Any book recommendations? "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up". My sister recommended it and I think she was trying to tell me something! It is a Japanese woman's method of decluttering. I'm excited about putting the method into action.

One lesson you've learned at IWA? The importance of writing thank-you notes. I say this because of the

very kind notes I have received from students over the years which have inspired and encouraged me to continue in my efforts to mentor young women. Looking back, I don't recall writing thank you notes to my teachers and I wish I had.

Trait do you most admire in your students? Perseverance. Physics doesn't always come easily to every student. I greatly admire those students who struggle and keep at it and ultimately have a successful experience in the course.

Read the rest of our interview with Mary McGivern at www.incarnatword.org/news



Class of 2017 Valedictorian Anna Winter addresses her fellow graduates at the 140th commencement exercises.
Photo by Kevin Lopez

CLASS OF 2017 COMMENCES

With the toss of a cap outside the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, seventy young women took their place in Incarnate Word Academy history as its one hundred and fortieth graduating class.

The baccalaureate mass and commencement exercises were a beautiful summation of four years of growth in academics, values, and spirituality. Celebrant Bishop George Sheltz spoke of faith as the fundamental ingredient for a successful life. He commended the education that the young women have had the privilege to receive from the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament since 1873: an education rooted in a relationship with Jesus, the Incarnate Word with an obligation to live according to His values.

Valedictorian Anna Winter, who will attend the University of Virginia in the fall, addressed her fellow graduates with a message of encouragement and self-determination: “Our lives are now dependent on *our* choices, *our* actions, *our* thoughts. While other things and people may influence us, we are the only ones who have a final say in the matter. That being said, we are now dependent on ourselves to develop relationships with our roommates, sorority sisters, professors, bosses; we are the one’s who have to choose to turn off Netflix and go outside to look at the stars; we are the one’s who have to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead of us. The world is not going to show us a clear cut path that we are expected to follow, rather it is up to us to make the most of what may lie ahead.”

The IWA Class of 2017 will attend prestigious colleges and universities throughout the world and together have earned over \$8.5 million in merit-based scholarships. More than two-thirds of the graduating class have already earned college credit due to their performance in Advanced Placement classes. Seven graduates will play varsity athletics in addition to their academic pursuits. Together they have completed more than 7,000 hours of community service and one young woman is dedicating her first year out of high school to spreading the Gospel with NET Ministries before matriculating into the University of Texas in Fall 2018.

To see a full list of the colleges and universities the Class of 2017 was accepted into, visit our website at www.incarnateword.org/news.

Congratulations and go forth, Women of the Word!

RAISING THE ROOF FOR IWA

Over four hundred people filled the ballroom at the Omni Houston Hotel to show support for Incarnate Word Academy at the 2017 IWA Legacy Gala and Auction, “Raise the Roof!”

The evening was a celebration of one hundred and forty-four years of excellence in Catholic education, and a particularly historic school year: “Tonight’s theme “Raise the Roof” is so apropos because that is exactly what we did this year. Last year at the gala you saw the renderings; this year you can visit the reality. With the help of SBWV Architects and EE Reed Construction, we now have a beautiful new six-story building. It is a dream come true.”

The IWA Gala and Auction is one of the major fundraising events for the school and helps the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament provide an exemplary affordable Catholic education for young women in Houston.

Alumnae speaker Victoria Haddad graduated from IWA in 2015 and attends the University of St. Thomas on a full scholarship. Victoria’s words of gratitude for those who supported her in her education moved the packed Omni Houston Hotel ballroom: “You cannot put a price on an IWA education because it is the gift that keeps on giving. I was blessed to receive scholarships all four years that I attended Incarnate Word Academy and I appreciate the people that contributed to my education immensely. Even in high school I knew that I was being awarded a unique opportunity to be educated beyond textbooks and exams; I was being educated in how to be a lifelong student, how to be a Woman of the Word within a community that spans generations.”

Each year, Incarnate Word Academy proudly presents the Agatha Sheehan Award to a person or persons who demonstrate integrity, passion and excellence in their field, making them leaders and role models in the community. The 2017 honorees were Pat and Gene Reed, an outstanding Houston couple with hearts for service.

Sister Lauren Beck presented the award with these kind words: “Throughout your 55 years of marriage you have accomplished great things. In your joint endeavor of EE Reed Construction, many people have benefited from your ethical business practices and your excellence in quality building. You have raised a wonderful family and many more have benefited from your living out the Christian values you have embraced throughout your lives and shared with your family friends and employees.”

Thank you to the Reed family and all who attended the IWA gala for your generous support of our great mission. Praised be the Incarnate Word!

Photos from the event can be found at www.facebook.com/incarnatewordacademy



Alumnae speaker Victoria Haddad attends the University of St. Thomas on a full scholarship. Victoria serves as a member of the UST Executive Board of Student Government and hopes to attend the University of Texas Law School to pursue a career as an attorney. Photo by Kevin Lopez



DARING DESTINATIONS

It is my privilege to present the Incarnate Word Academy 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. I would first like to thank the dedicated members of the Strategic Planning Committee who represented the various IWA constituencies. Their help was crucial to give credence to the validity of the plan. I would also like to thank the faculty and staff, who worked diligently to create this plan in the best interests of our academy. Their dedication has been truly inspiring.

Our plan acknowledges our current strengths and help us to build on them for a stronger future. We have created specific goals, objectives and strategies to make our shared vision a reality. This is the best kind of plan: ambitious, hopeful, and attainable. It allows IWA to continue the vision and the legacy of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and look to new horizons for the future.

Through the plan, we look toward our daring destinations in the areas of Academics, Values and Spirituality. The plan also includes ways in which we might expand our Young Leaders Program, develop new programming and strategies to sustain IWA well into the future.

The plan is staff-driven with Board of Advisors oversight with regular evaluations. It will be our road map for achieving our shared vision by 2021; we have created specific goals, objectives and strategies to make our shared vision a reality. It carries with it the commitment to embrace the complementary implementation document in order to realize a successful outcome.

With a clear vision for the future and our strategic plan in hand, it is time that we express our gratitude to Jesus, the Incarnate Word, to whom this school is dedicated for His loving and guidance now and forevermore.

Sr. Lauren Beck C.V.I.

Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I.
President of Incarnate Word Academy

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY IS:



Catholic in Mission & Action

Goal 1: An appreciation and understanding of Incarnational Spirituality will be integrated throughout the school culture as a core belief and value.

We believe that education exists in the context of spiritual growth and a commitment to serve others. For that reason, we built our strategic plan on a foundation of faith. We will continue to provide a quality Catholic education for young women in the spirit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word.

DARING DESTINATIONS

- Develop and offer faith formation opportunities based on Incarnational Spirituality to students, parents, faculty and staff.
- Provide more opportunities for our community to live out their faith through sacraments, prayer life, and service.

Sustaining the Future

Goal 2: Utilize strategic planning, financial planning, and advancement strategies to ensure Incarnate Word Academy's viability and maintain accessibility to those who desire an Incarnate Word Academy education.

As we approach the 145th anniversary of Foundation Day, it is clear that we have all been given a gift; it is now our responsibility and our privilege to continue IWA's legacy for years to come.

DARING DESTINATIONS

- Implement a comprehensive, multi-year facility plan that integrates infrastructure and technology initiatives.
- Build stronger relationships with our constituencies, both to ensure the future of Incarnate Word Academy and to invite their rightful investment in it.
- Develop a succession plan for the position of President and other key administrative positions.

Academically Rigorous

Goal 3: Motivate and empower each student to develop personal leadership skills and pursue a successful college career and life-long learning experiences.

As the world changes rapidly around us, we remain committed to assisting each student graduate with the necessary skills and character traits to thrive in a 21st century society. We will continue to provide the necessary environment, including current technology, skilled teaching and innovative learning processes, to challenge each student to excel academically to the best of her ability. We believe in the importance of focusing on the individual to ensure that each student has the opportunity to participate fully in academic pursuits, co-curricular activities and to be valued and supported by peers and staff.

DARING DESTINATIONS

- Continue to attract and retain highly qualified faculty and staff and participate in comprehensive professional development opportunities.
- Amplify the use of technology into the classroom experience
- Continue to integrate the character and leadership principles of the Young Leaders Program into the overall culture of the school.
- Mold the Incarnate Word Academy co-curricular program (student activities and athletics), to support and complement the Academy's educational mission and goals.

Want to learn more? Read the full strategic plan at [www.incarnateword.org/strategic plan](http://www.incarnateword.org/strategic-plan).

A note from the Office of Alumnae Relations

CARMEL TAJONERA '08



It was such a joy to watch the Class of 2017 graduate in May. It was special to share in their gratitude for their four years at IWA and their excitement for what is to come.

We enjoy receiving your updates, seeing you at the different reunions and alumnae events, and are grateful for your continued prayers and support for our dear alma mater. We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming All-Class Reunion in October. Praised be the Incarnate Word!

RED CHECK LUNCHEON

The Class of 2017 was welcomed into the sisterhood of IWA Alumnae at the annual Red Check Luncheon on May 18. Held for the first time ever on the new rooftop patio, the luncheon was hosted by the Class of 1967 who are celebrating 50 years since their graduation from 609 Crawford Street!

Thank you to all of the alumnae from 1951, 1977, 1987, and 2007 who also joined us for the tradition. We had a great time reminiscing over Red Check Luncheons past and all agreed that the new location on the patio rooftop is something special!



CLASS NOTES

1948

The **Class of 1948** celebrated 69 years since their graduation from IWA on May 2, 2017. The annual luncheon was held at the original family-owned Carrabbas Restaurant on Kirby Drive. On September 19, 2017, the active grads will gather at **Dolores (Pontius) Thomas'** Pearland home for an "All '48 Class Birthday Celebration Bash!" Mark your calendars: The ladies of '48 will return to the Sacred Heart Society on January 25, 2018 for their delicious Spaghetti Lunch! (1)

1960

Josephine (Lamonte) Simpson celebrated the graduation of her grandson Cameron from Texas A&M University-Galveston with a degree in Maritime Administration. She and husband Bobby Simpson will celebrate 42 years of marriage with a cruise to Sicily and the Adriatic Sea! (3)

1966

Mary (Poletti) Patronella and her 90-year old mother celebrated the 100th birthday of Maria de Los Angeles Lerma, mother of **Elsa Lerma '66**, **Lucy (Lerma) Machacek '67** and **Olga (Lerma) Shieble '70**, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in March. The alumnae love getting together and celebrating each others' family milestones! (4)

1967

In April, the **Class of 1967** celebrated 50 years of sisterhood with a reunion weekend in Galveston. A full weekend of festivities included breaking bread together at Foxtail, Mario's Italian Restaurant and Sunshine Bakery. The group celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Co-Cathedral and enjoyed fellowship at The Commodore, which is also celebrating its 50th year! A wonderful time was had by all—so great to stay in touch with each other throughout the years! (2)

1993

Toni (Long) Marshall became the new Principal at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School in Houston in July 2016. (10)

1994

Susan (Sahwani) Garcia is the owner/glaci re of Chocolate Wasted Ice Cream, a small batch creamery and dessert truck in Houston. She was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Greater East End Management District in September 2016. For the second year in a row, Chocolate Wasted was named "Best Food Truck" by PopShop America. The company was honored with the Local Hero Award by Edible Houston this year and was named the #1 spot for ice cream in 2017 by Eater Houston. (12)

1996

Gin Braverman and Bret Bailey Whitacre welcomed a daughter, Whit Bailey Braverman on September 10, 2016. She fills their world with joy!

1997

The **Class of 1997** celebrated 20 years of sisterhood with a reunion weekend in July. The full weekend of festivities included a night on the town, a morning tour of our beloved IWA with their families, lunch at The Grove and family fun at Discovery Green! (6)

2004

Aliana (Acosta) Peska and husband Ben Peska celebrated their four-year wedding anniversary on May 25. They welcomed son Carter Drake Peska on September 15, 2016; daughter Kinley Grace will turn three next year. She currently handles marketing and communications for the Memorial Hermann Physician Network. (5)

2006

Kentasha (McGregor) McMorris recently graduated from Lamar University with a master's degree in Education Administration. She and her husband Sean McMorris also welcomed son Jaxson Anthony McMorris on September 24, 2016. (11)

2007

Michelle (Dubroc) Reed and husband Timothy Reed welcomed their second child Paige Marielle Reed on May 9, 2017. Paige joins big brother Peyton.

Brittany Revia de Garc a and husband Bernardo Garc a welcomed daughter Rosemary Mayt  Garc a on April 8, 2017.

They have been married since December 23, 2014.

Jennifer (Masters) Stavinoha and husband Jeremy Stavinoha welcomed daughter Kateri Elaine Stavinoha on March 7, 2017.

2008

Sarah (Maraffa) Falgout and husband Andrew Falgout welcomed son Carson Hayes Falgout on May 3, 2017. Carson joins big brother Hudson Paul.

Jasmine (Owens) Ross started working for Woodfield Pharmaceutical as a Quality Control Chemist in June 2017. She and husband Mikyle Ross welcomed son Malachi Andrew Ross on June 23, 2015, and recently celebrated his second birthday!

2009

Alena (Finigan) Sarabia wed Austin Charles Sarabia on June 3, 2017 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart with Fr. Mark Goring officiating. Bridesmaids included **Ashley De La Torre '09**, **Stephanie McShane '09** and **Cristina Vaglienty '09**. (13)

Blanca (Ontiveros) Torres wed Donald Torres on March 18, 2017 at St. Phillip the Apostle Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. The couple resides in Corpus Christi where she is a preschool teacher.

2010

Victoria Cote recently accepted the position of Historic Site Coordinator at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.

Monica Garcia has reached the last leg of the race to complete her goal of becoming a physician. She is currently enrolled as a medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. Prior to her acceptance, she graduated from Texas A&M University in May 2014 with a B.S. in Kinesiology. She went on to complete a master's degree in Biomedical Science at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey in December 2015. She worked as a medical scribe in Houston at an underserved pediatric clinic until December 2016, before moving to Michigan in January.

From Cubicle to The Cook's Nook

JOI CHEVALIER '86



After a nearly 20-year career in technology—in numerous startups and most recently Dell—**Joi Chevalier '86** was ready for something new.

Growing up in a large Creole and Texan family, Chevalier wanted to find a way to combine her passion for food with her business and technology acumen. For eight months, while still working at Dell, she attended evening classes at the

August Escoffier School of Culinary Arts. There, she saw the need for a food start up incubator. “I thought, why don’t we have this same sort of community and development for new products in innovation in culinary,” she said. “We have it in technology.”

Transforming a residential property in East Austin, The Cook’s Nook was born. Austin’s first culinary incubator, The Cook’s Nook is a co-working space that provides vital support to chefs and food entrepreneurs in the early stages of business. Chevalier believes the community aspect of the incubator is a powerful asset: “The co-working space builds social capital, which is so important to any food ecosystem.”

Since its official opening in May, Chevalier has received praise for The Cook’s Nook from the Austin-American Statesman, Tech.Co, Austin Inno, and Field & Feast.

POP QUIZ

Favorite IWA memory? Red Check days! I loved seeing friends demonstrate their creativity and the latest pop-cultural dances on stage. And Latin class—consistently my favorite class, and still my go-to for all things linguistic, analytical, or just for reading.

Favorite teacher? So unfair! Several, of course. Sr. Vincent was so skilled at teaching complex mathematical concepts; and Mrs. Whittington—her love for travel and world history directly impacted my undergraduate and graduate school choices.

What college(s) did you attend after IWA? I attended The University of Texas at Austin and University of Oxford, United Kingdom as an undergraduate. And back to UT Austin again for graduate school.

What advice do you have for current IWA students and young alumnae? Always look up and out, never down. You never know who or what you might miss. Be courageous at all times. Follow the threads that fall in front of you—you never know where they might lead. I’ve gone from being an aerospace engineering student to a Milton academic to a technology professional and now entrepreneur and owner of a culinary incubator. You never know where you may go or the routes you may take even as you continue to achieve your personal goals.

Read the rest of our interview with Joi Chevalier '86 at www.incarneword.org/news

CLASS NOTES (CONT'D)

Rebeca Garcia has settled into her new role as an Account Manager in the client success division for Meltwater, a global media intelligence tech company in Austin. Prior to accepting this role in early 2017, she was working in the tech industry in San Francisco. Rebeca is happy to be back in Texas and in the same city as her sister **Melissa (Garcia) Goodman '98**, brother-in-law and two adorable nephews!

2013

Catherine Clark graduated cum laude from Trinity University with a B.A. in Communication and Spanish in May 2016. Under a fellowship, she went on to attend and graduate from the University of Southern California in May 2017 with a master’s degree in Journalism. During her fellowship, she traveled to Thessaloniki, Greece to report on the refugee crisis there. Clark is now the Managing Editor for Pecan South, the only magazine for pecan growers in the southern United States. (8)

Ivana Ezeude graduated from Rice University this past spring with a B.A. in Biological Sciences. She will start medical school this fall at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Jillian Davis graduated from Louisiana State University this past May with a B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She will be attending Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in Boston this fall to pursue a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Pictured with sister **Jada Davis '10**. (7)

Brianna Nevels graduated cum laude from Spelman College in Atlanta with a degree in political science and minored in psychology. She will be attending Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in the fall. (9)

Katie Revia graduated from the University of Dallas with a B.A. in Business, with concentrations in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and Ethics.



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.

Francis Harrison, brother of Sr. Mary Ann Harrison '69, OCD

George Harrison, brother of Sr. Mary Ann Harrison '69, OCD

Harry Steven Kerbow, son of Catherine Davis Kerbow '44

Rose Marie (Kubala) Maresh '53

Eileen Minogue, sister of Sr. Carmel O'Malley, C.V.I.

Regina Turnini, mother of Angie Adams '66, Theresa Gillespie '71, Stella Kortokrax '72

Christina Vella, mother of faculty Robin Riehl

Jim Wilkinson, father of faculty Stephanie Wilkinson

ALUMNAE WEDDINGS

Alena Finigan '09
to Austin Sarabia

Blanca Ontiveros '09
to David Torres

BLESS THESE BABIES

Gin Braverman '96
a daughter, Whit Bailey

Sarah Falgout '08
a son, Carson Hayes

Kentasha McMorris '06
a son, Jaxson Anthony

Aliana Peska '04
a son, Carter Drake

Michelle Reed '07
a daughter, Paige Marielle

Brittany Revia de García '07
a daughter, Rosemary Mayté

Jennifer Stavinoha '07
a daughter, Kateri Elaine

FROM THE BOARD OF ADVISORS PRESIDENT

Aristotle is quoted as saying “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Incarnate Word Academy excels at educating the heart. In fact, the foundation of the academy is not built solely only academics, but also on values and spirituality.

Each time I walk into the school, I am reminded that the education at IWA is truly profound. I see students enthusiastically seeking knowledge and preparing for the future. I see students joyfully experiencing prayer and worship. I see students compassionately working to be of service to their community. I see heart.

Each time I walk into the school, I feel the care and support of the faculty and staff as they encourage the young women of IWA to excel in their academic endeavors. I feel the love and dedication of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. I feel heart.

I did not have the opportunity to attend Catholic schools and did not truly know what I missed until I served on the Board of Advisors. I now see so many ways that my life would have been enriched by attending IWA. The young women of the academy are blessed with an excellent academic education that also cultivates compassion, empathy, faith, character, excellence, and personal integrity – an education of the heart.

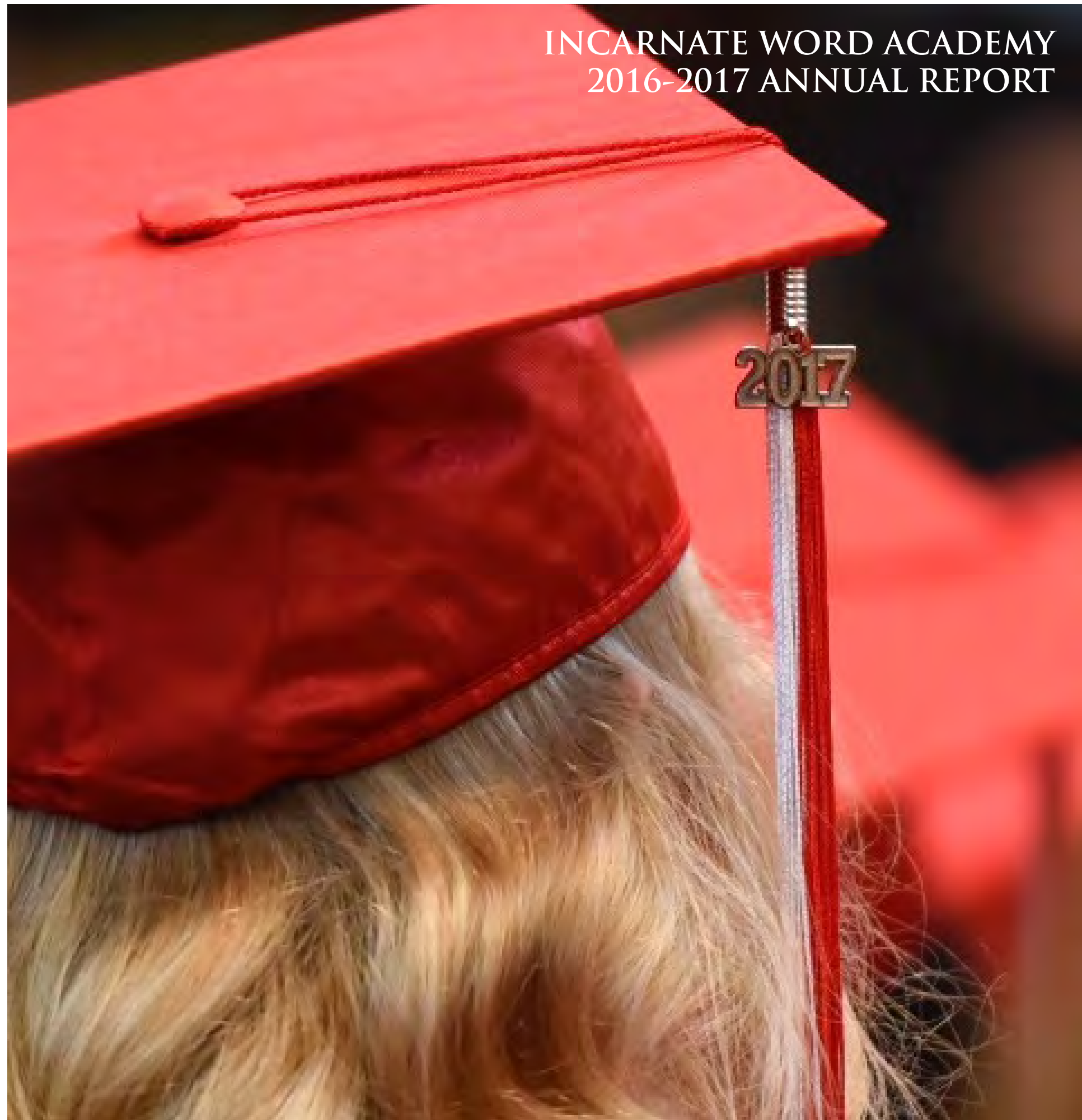
Finally, the Annual Report is included in the next few pages. On behalf of the Board of Advisors, I would like to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all the supporters of IWA listed in the report. Your continued generosity enables the academy to carry out its mission of providing young women with a Catholic college preparatory education, helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus, the Incarnate Word, and live according to His values. Thank you for giving from your heart.

Finally, many thanks to IWA’s president, Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., principal, Mary Aamodt, and the faculty and staff who are so dedicated to the mission of IWA and for providing the cornerstones of Academics, Values and Spirituality. Thank you for including the heart in education.



Pamela Powell
President of the Board of Directors

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT



IWA relies on the support and commitment of the Sisters, our alumnae, board of advisors, corporate partners, families, faculty, staff, and friends to ensure that the traditions and values of Incarnate Word Academy will continue for generations to come. We are grateful and blessed to have such loyal, generous, and committed champions for our school. The following donations were received by the Advancement Office between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

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I AM IN Campaign Phase I

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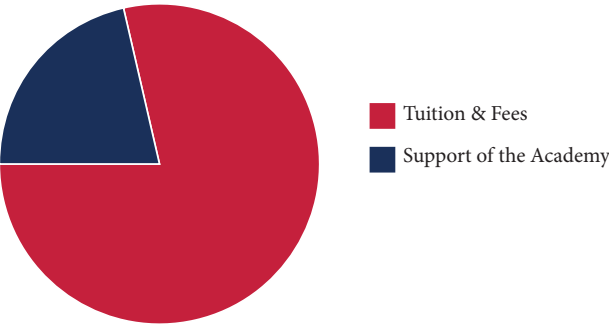


Financial Report

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 2016-2017, our revenue from tuition and fees represented 73% of our total revenue. While it costs the Academy over \$17,000 to educate a student, our tuition was only \$12,500. 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.

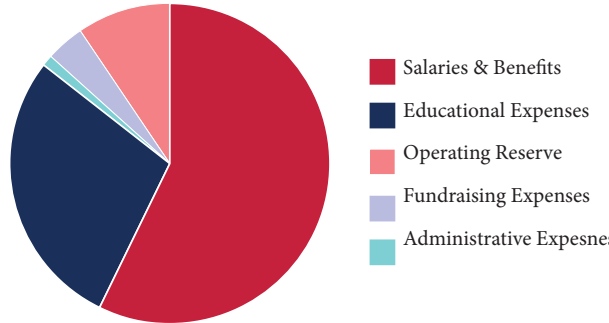
REVENUES:

Tuition & Fees	\$4,672,000
Support of the Academy	
Annual Fund	\$362,000
Spring Gala	\$347,000
Raffle Sale	\$124,000
Scholarships	\$155,000
Donations & Contributions	\$375,000
Other Income	\$315,000
	<u>\$6,350,000</u>



EXPENSES:

Salaries & Benefits	\$3,636,000
Educational Expenses	\$1,802,000
Administrative Expenses	\$76,000
Fundraising Expenses	\$237,000
Operating Reserve	\$599,000
	<u>\$6,350,000</u>



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

IWA Scholarship Fund	\$2,832,000
Named Scholarships	\$2,150,000
<i>Sr. Brendan O'Donnell</i>	
<i>Knight-Powell</i>	
<i>Most Rev. John McCarthy</i>	
<i>Most Rev. Vincent Rizzotto</i>	
<i>Bishop Sheltz</i>	
<i>Bernice Stasny Purcell</i>	
	<u>\$4,982,000</u>

Incarnate Word Academy is audited annually. The audited reports are on file at the Academy. The financial report above is a non-audited statement. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in reporting donors' names in the 2016-2017 Annual Report. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact the Office of Marketing & Communications at 713.227.3637 or email cthedinger@incarnateword.org.



The senior class celebrates their final day of classes - and uniforms - in style. The Class of 2017 kicked off an instantly beloved IWA tradition of decorating the uniform skirt in the colors of their new colleges and universities before leaving 609. Photo by Kevin Lopez.

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