

THE WORD



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

SPRING 2016



I AMIN.

The Campaign for *Incarnate Word Academy*.



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

SPRING 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

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ON THE COVER

To better serve the needs of our students, Incarnate Word Academy is embarking on a \$15-million capital campaign to greatly enhance our existing campus. Pictured on the cover is a rendering of Incarnate Word Academy's new 6-story academic building and front elevation, facing Capitol Street.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Students listen closely to the homily at all school Mass at beautiful Annunciation Church.

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.

"I admit it is an ambitious goal...I totally trust that God will guide our steps to bring our project to a successful conclusion."



There is a buzz in the air at IWA. Along with all of the exceptional work that is happening in the classrooms, the auditorium, the gym, the sports fields and out in the community, there is even more. For over a year now we have been assessing our educational and parking needs and planning how we might expand our campus to meet those needs. At long last, creative ideas have merged together into a practical and feasible plan. The architects went to work and designed a beautiful building that is sure to please.

On January 14, we broke ground for a critically needed 6-story addition to the Academy--one that will allow us to expand our facility to include additional classrooms, collaborative learning areas, teacher planning areas, a designated area for our unique Young Leaders Program, additional space for our Fine Arts Program and additional space for Campus Ministry. Please see plans further along in this magazine. The timeline for the construction of the building is one year and it is scheduled to be completed by January, 2017. This time next year we should be in it. Isn't that exciting?

The entire project will cost \$15,000,000 for both the building and addressing our much-needed parking solution. I admit it is an ambitious goal and, at times, the thought of it is a bit daunting. However, I believe that God is walking with us every step of the way and I totally trust that God will guide our steps to bring our project to a successful conclusion. I truly believe in the words of St. Paul as he writes to the Ephesians:

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us.*

Our capital campaign theme is I AM IN. It is an invitation to everyone to say "YES!" to this important project. We all need to be IN to cross the finish line. The Incarnate Word Sisters are IN. The Faculty and Staff are IN. The Members of the Board of Advisors are IN. The Capital Campaign Committee Members are IN. Individual foundations are IN. Many of our alumnae and friends have stepped up to participate in the I AM IN Campaign. We are 43% there. And now it is time to reach out to all of you. So I pose the question to you....Are you IN?

May God bless us all during this Lenten season. In this jubilee year of mercy, let us live the message of Pope Francis as he challenges us to express our faith by reaching out to others in concrete everyday actions.

Praised be the Incarnate Word,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Lauren Beck C.V.I." in a cursive script.

Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I.
President

“I am most proud of our students. Empathetic and kind, driven and joyous, IWA students do it all.”



The growth that IWA has seen in recent years—both in people and programming—is truly coming to fruition. Not only is the curriculum expanding each year to include more diverse opportunities, IWA’s dedicated faculty is creating meaningful experiences that are priming our students to be curious, lifelong learners. With the rigor of 28 honors and AP courses and unique electives that inspire intellectual journeys, learning is a lot more than sitting at a desk. Students are also inspired to find solutions to real-life character, community and business challenges in classes like Leading with Service or Leading with Business, a course leveraging a partnership with the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Recently, the Harvard Graduate School of Education released a report titled “Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions.” Among many interesting recommendations, Harvard recommends that college admissions offices encourage “meaningful, sustained community service” and “collective action that takes on community challenges.” IWA students already leverage meaningful, sustained service through the service learning program and collective action through Leading with Service. IWA students have always been prepared for college, but because of IWA’s meaningful growth and focus on developing servant leaders, they are now even more prepared to accomplish their goals.

While our programs are flourishing, I am most proud of our students. Empathetic and kind, driven and joyous, IWA students do it all. This spring our students have confidently performed in the choir and handbell choirs as well as in the annual talent show and The Sound of Music. The students have also performed well in the classroom. Our students are articulating connections they see between their courses and opting to enroll in challenging and enriching course loads. Our recent graduates are also inspiring. This spring, several recent alumnae returned to campus for our annual college student panel, and their accomplishments, wisdom and poise indicate that an IWA education prepares students to be learners and leaders. I’m honored to spend my days with the faculty, staff and students at IWA and look forward to many exciting days ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Aamodt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M'.

Mary Aamodt, Ed. A.
Principal

WORD IN THE WORLD



Clockwise from top: (1) AP Economics students took part in the Houston Bar Association's Mock Voir Dire Program at the Harris County Courthouse in downtown Houston. Pictured are the students being welcomed by Judge Robert K. Schaffer, Presiding Judge of the 152nd District Court. (2) Students Cheryl Gingoyon and Sarah O'Connor attended the STEM Perry

Outreach Program hosted by Baylor College of Medicine. The all-female panel of medical doctors and biomedical engineers shared their career experiences with students and hosted mock surgery workshops. (3) 17 students and 2 chaperons traveled to Croatia, Slovenia and Italy for a Spring Break to remember! The group is pictured in front of the Adriatic Sea in the



IWA STUDENTS MAKE US PROUD



2



3



7

7

Croatian city of Zadar. (4) A group of IWA students marched in the Rally for Life in Austin. Here students are reaching the finish line at the Texas State Capitol. (5) Students contributed their coins to the annual Penny War fundraiser and competition hosted by IWA Club Teens 4 Unity. This year the funds raised were donated to Catholic Charities Refugee Resettle-

ment Program. (6) Twelve brave IWA students made the best of their cancelled flights while traveling to Washington, DC for the Close-Up program during winter storm Jonas. (7) October baseball for the Astros brought lots of eyes to Incarnate Word Academy! Here are our students reporting live from downtown with Fox 26 Sports Reporter Nate Griffin.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

MU ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES

Mu Alpha Theta is a Mathematics Honor Society dedicated to inspiring a keen interest in mathematics, developing strong scholarship within the subject and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school.

Glenn Blade	Sophia McCullough	Anna Winter
Sarah Culbreth	Sarah O'Connor	Peyton Wood
Lauren Daniels	Julie Phillips	Lauren Zammit
Theresa Doan	Marina Pirzada	Isabel Zubizarreta
Kaitlyn Hoffeld	Haley Turner	
Lynsey Lucas	Lilian Turner	

SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The Sociedad Honorarica Hispánica recognizes high achievement of high school students in the Spanish and Portuguese languages.

Anel Acosta	Sarah Irish	Sarah O'Connor
Glenn Blade	Chrysta Joy Jaucian	Julie Phillips
Crystal Cano	Lydianne Juguilon	Marina Pirzada
Rebecca Da Jose	Kaylee Kieschnick	Madison Sears
Lauren Daniels	Julia King	Haley Turner
Elizabeth Engbarth	Lynsey Lucas	Lilian Turner
Allison Gomez	Sophia McCullough	Anna Winter
Valerie Green	Mariana Ochoa	Peyton Wood

VISUAL ARTS SCHOLASTIC EVENT

Congratulations to the following students who received recognition for their work!

Rebecca Bujnoch, <i>Superior Rating</i>	Tiffany Phan, <i>2 Superior Ratings, 2 Perfect Scores</i>
Cristobella Durette, <i>Superior Rating</i>	Krista Prodoehl, <i>Superior Rating</i>
Megan McKee, <i>2 Superior Ratings, 1 Perfect Score</i>	Talia Voltz, <i>Excellent Rating</i>

2016 REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received recognition for their work!

Leah Moreau, <i>Gold Key for Painting</i>
Talia Voltz, <i>Gold Key for Sculpture</i>
Kaethe Habenstein-Leal <i>Honorable Mention for Photography</i>



NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Three Incarnate Word Academy students have been recognized as Commended Students. They represent the top 5% of the students taking the SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Kirsten Covington

Katie Edwards

Caroline Siegfried



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Anel Acosta	Cristobella Durette	Hannah Kaiser	Gabrielle Simon
Izzy Bacilla	Vivian Duttlinger	Kaylee Kieschnick	Hannah Tello
Jacque Bergeron	Evelyn Fischer	Julia King	Sophia Tolman
Katherine Bigunac	Allie Fitzgerald	Lynsey Lucas	Haley Turner
Glenn Blade	Adrianna Geegan	Jennifer Martin	Lauren Turner
Eden Caligur	Allison Gomez	Megan McKee	Jacqueline Valladares
Sarah Culbreth	Morgan Hall	Leah Moreau	Elyssa Vega
Claire Marie Cuthrell	Julia Heiser	Sarah O'Connor	Anna Winter
Lauren Daniels	Chrysta Joy Jaucian	Mariana Ochoa	Peyton Wood
Hannah Doan	Lydianne Jugulion	Marina Pirzada	Lauren Zammit

University of St. Thomas/Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Essay Contest



The 12th annual University of St. Thomas/Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Essay Contest was celebrated with a Mass and Awards Ceremony on Jan. 11, 2016 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. More than 6,000 students from archdiocesan Catholic schools wrote essays for the contest.

Alexandra Parris, *2nd Place*

Pictured with parents left; Winning essay below

Libby Diamond, *Honorable Mention*

Samantha Pozzi, *Honorable Mention*

Brianna Villareal, *Honorable Mention*

Far too many things drew me toward Incarnate Word Academy four years ago. Having come from a background of exclusively public schooling, this friendly, familial community full of bright, talented young women and amazingly supportive faculty and staff felt almost like a completely different world.

I am proud to call IWA my alma mater, and am so sad that my days there will be coming to a close this May. This academy—the oldest all-girls Catholic school in Houston!—is an institution rich in faith, knowledge, and service, in so many more ways than can be expressed in one page. We have National Merit Scholars, AP Scholars, and every other type of scholar imaginable in each classification (all due to our brilliant, caring teachers!) Our senior classes are accepted to such prestigious universities as Tulane, Vanderbilt, Dartmouth, and Brown. Each year, our Campus Ministry Team hosts a school-wide Service Day. This year, freshmen and seniors visited eleven different service sites across Houston, helping everyone from the sick, to the old, to the hungry.

Every morning, we begin our day with prayer. This is a prayer I will remember all the days of my life, long after I have finished my schooling. We remember the Mother of God and the foundress of the Incarnate Word Sisters, Mother Jeanne de Matel. At the end of each mass, a day that is filled with the melodic voices of our vocal choir and the beautiful chimes of our handbell choir, we kneel and rejoice, “Praised be the Incarnate Word! Now and forevermore!” At IWA, I have become closer to my God, a God who loves me and will carry me through the toughest challenges of my life. I have learned the joy that is serving those in need, and will never stop giving my time to make the world a better place. I have matured into a young woman ready to take my place in the world and change it for the better.

And I owe it all to Incarnate Word Academy.

Alexandra Parris, Class of 2016



Campus Ministry fosters the personal and spiritual growth of the entire IWA community by encouraging students to follow Jesus, the Incarnate Word, through the charism of the C.V.I. Sisters. Students are empowered to live out their faith by dedication to service, daily prayer and reflection, annual retreats and weekly Eucharistic Liturgies. Pictured on this page are the students enthusiastically embracing their call to live as Women of the Word. Pictured clockwise from the top (1) IWA students traveled to the Rio Grande Valley for a week of service during Spring Break. After learning about the social concerns facing border communities, the students spent 4 days working on Habitat for Humanity job sites. (2) Students arrive at school early to attend weekly Mass on Wednesdays in our school's intimate chapel. (3) Students break bread with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word during National Catholic Schools Week. We wouldn't be here without them!



Leadership

Act Bravely, Beyond You

by Libby Diamond '18

Ever wonder why students at Incarnate Word Academy are so motivated to reach for the stars and work hard to achieve their goals? The mindset of never underestimating oneself is the central foundation of the school's growing Young Leaders' Program. The program's theme this year is "Act Bravely, Beyond You." This slogan invites girls to take a new approach to the circumstances they are faced with daily. Whether that includes participating in a theater production for the first time, volunteering to head the Winter Ball committee, taking initiative to reshape the school's Falcon Families program, or reaching out to the wider community through a service project at the Salvation Army, stepping out of one's comfort zone is not only encouraged, but is expected.

These achievements may seem to have limited impact, but we believe that over the long term these day-to-day accomplishments add up to much more. By approaching each day with an earnest desire to be brave in some way, IWA students extend the fruits of their leadership skills beyond themselves.

Listen 'n Lead Speaker Series Highlight

by Victoria Bonilla '18

On September 17th, IWA hosted Reggie Bibbs, and Lou Congelio, of the Just Ask Foundation for the first Listen 'n Lead of the 2015-2016 school year!

Reggie Bibbs, a native Houstonian, was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis at eight months. A genetic disease that causes skin tumors to grow in and outside of the body, NF had a history of affecting Reggie's family. When his older brother died due to neurofibromatosis, Reggie was moved to create an organization that allowed for him to spread awareness about NF, broadcast his journey, and connect with others who have been diagnosed with neurofibromatosis.

In celebration of his informative campaign, students inquired about NF, how his life has been effected by it, and how he plans on attaining a global platform. Reggie informed IWA that there are two types of NF, that neurofibromatosis actually worked in his favor, and that a tour of Canada was in the near future for himself and his establishment.

Students also asked for advice on accepting personal appearances to which he readily said, "Learn to accept yourself



and embrace who you are. Know who you are first and always know that there is hope." With social media publicizing that there only is a certain type of beauty, it was incredible to meet a man who rose beyond cruel comments and taunting to become an advocate for what he was bullied for.

Reggie Bibbs continues to act bravely, beyond himself and inspired IWA to pick a cause and do the same.



PwC | Halliburton | Incarnate Word Academy Fourth Annual Young Women's Leadership Conference

Over 60 mentors from Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Halliburton led 69 Incarnate Word Academy seniors in the fourth annual Young Women's Leadership Conference: a day-long seminar to teach IWA students about interviewing, professional networking, dressing for success and navigating the workplace. The conference - held exclusively for IWA students at PwC's offices at Wells Fargo Plaza in downtown Houston - aims to build student confidence, inspire students to take managed risks and set expectations for working in a professional environment.

The participating students gave rave reviews. One student noted that just one week later she had an interview for a summer job and put many of her mentor's suggestions to use. She came prepared for the interview with specific examples of her leadership experience and had prepared follow up questions about the open position. Looking beyond summer jobs to lasting careers, another student eloquently stated that "...actually seeing and listening to professional women talk about their successes is concrete evidence that hard work pays off." We couldn't agree more!

"Actually seeing and listening to professional women talk about their successes is concrete evidence that hard work pays off."



Fine Arts



Falcon Theater Presents *Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music*

The Academy strongly believes that fine arts education allows students to develop and polish their creative abilities, gain an appreciation for the arts, and expand their talents and skills into arenas outside the classroom. The latest production from Falcon Theater, Rodgers' & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*, showcased just how diversely talented our IWA community is. The ensemble cast included senior Elyssa Vega, who spent last summer at the Rockets Summer Intensive, played the role of Liesel Von Trapp in addition to choreographing the dances for "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" and "So Long, Farewell". Alexandra Parris, also the class of 2016, spent last summer as a production intern at the Houston Ballet and put her expertise to use as the Technical Stage Manager. The Falcon Ringers lent a hand to provide the beautiful sounds from the Bells of Nonnburg Abbey and perhaps most fittingly, our very own Sister of the Incarnate Word - Sister Mary Margaret Rosberg played a nun of Nonnburg Abbey. It was truly a group effort and as Director Ms. Mulvaney stated proudly, "This IWA cast and crew was particularly well positioned to tell a story of love, music, and family." Bravo!

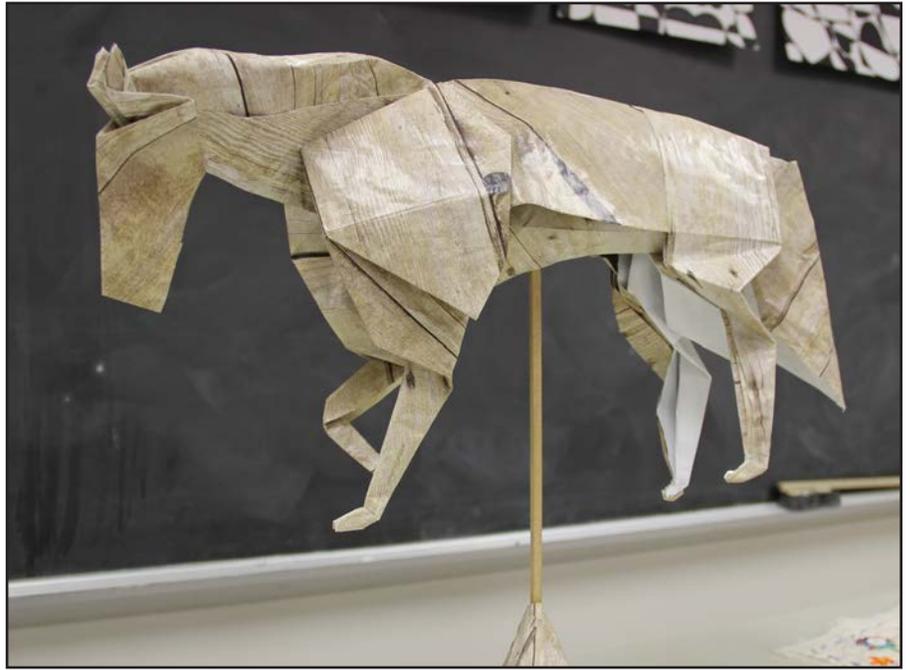
"This IWA cast and crew was particularly well positioned to tell a story of love, music and family."



Visual Arts

Talia Voltz '16, was awarded a *Gold Key for Sculpture* in the 2016 Regional Scholastic Art Awards.

Kaethe Habenstein-Leal *Honorable Mention for Photography*



REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

The following students who received recognition in the 2016 Scholastic Art Awards.

Leah Moreau, *Gold Key for Painting*

Talia Voltz, *Gold Key for Sculpture*

Kaethe Habenstein-Leal *Honorable Mention for Photography*





Athletics

BASKETBALL

The Varsity Basketball team's mantra this season was "It's not how you start, it's how you finish." Overcoming a slow start, the team swept Awty, Beaumont Kelly, and St. Pius X and reached playoffs for the first time in three years. Varsity sent three athletes to the district team: Mikayla Herreth, Ifeoma Mbue, and Mojoko Mbue. Congratulations!



CHEERLEADING

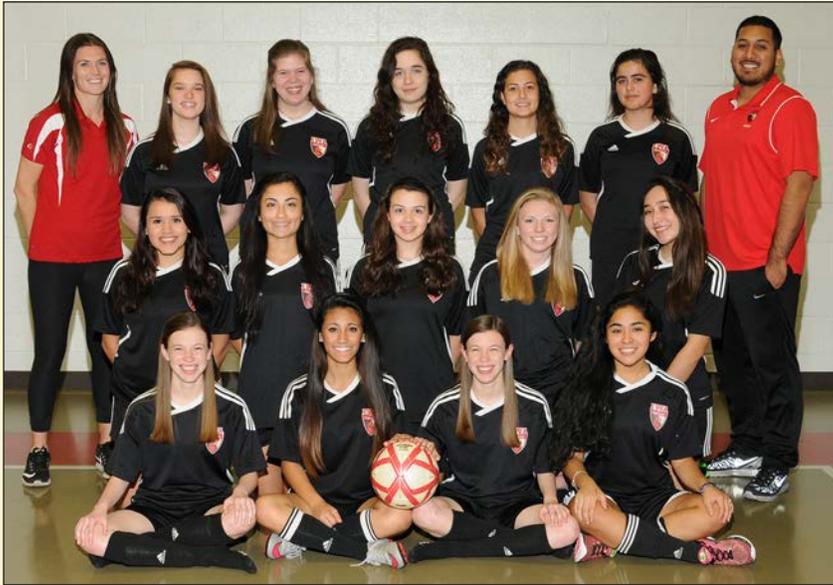
The St. Thomas High School Cheerleading team is comprised of student athletes from Duchesne Academy, St. Agnes Academy, and Incarnate Word Academy. Membership on the squad provides the opportunity for personal growth, leadership, and involvement in many activities with students from other Catholic schools in Houston. A season highlight was cheering the St. Thomas Eagles to victory against Strake Jesuit at NRG Stadium!



TRACK & FIELD

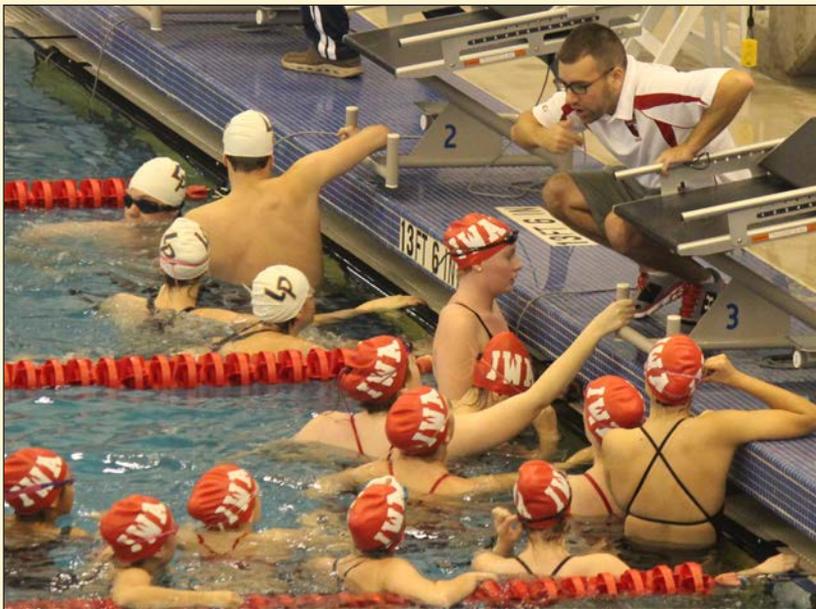
The track & field team at IWA has had a fantastic season! The crowning moment came when IWA took first place at the Rosehill Christian School track meet in Tomball. IWA defeated 10 other schools to take top place.





SOCCER

The young team was led by first year head coach Stephanie Ochs, who plays for the Houston Dash, and Coach Bryan Gonzalez. With only 3 seniors on the team, this season was about developing fundamentals and learning how to operate as a team. Nadia Herrada '16 was named team MVP in addition to landing a spot on the All-District Honorable Mention team. Alessandra Taliente '18 and Stefania Taliente '18 won the Champion of Character Award, given to the team members who show the most spirit.



SWIMMING

When looking back on the 2015-2016 IWA swim season, the first word that comes to mind should be "record," as in record-breaking! Led by junior Angelique Longobardi, with a strong supporting cast of swimmers, including Isabelle MacDonough, Emma Clarkson and Evyn Yasinski, these girls contributed to breaking six school records in both individual and relay events. Kudos to them and the entire swim team for a successful season!



VOLLEYBALL

The Varsity Volleyball team had the most successful season in recent years. With six seniors, they were a veteran team with a lot of experience playing together. The team had an overall record of 18-9, advanced to playoffs in Dallas and landed 3 girls on the All-District 2nd team: Ashley Kindla, Elizabeth King and Mary Amsler.

FEATURE STORY



I AM IN: The Campaign for Incarnate Word Academy

Mother of God, pray for us!

Mother Jeanne de Matel, pray for us!

**Praised be the Incarnate Word,
NOW AND FOREVER MORE!**

This prayerful call and response echoes over the loudspeaker and throughout the classrooms and hallways at the start and close of each day at Incarnate Word Academy.

Praised be the Incarnate Word...

Incarnate Word Academy provides our students with an exemplary education grounded in academics, values, and spirituality

– and to prepare them to succeed in today’s complex and highly competitive world – we must ensure that we have the facilities needed to support our high-caliber academic and extracurricular

One of our many strengths over time has been the ability to maintain traditions of the past while keeping an eye on the future.

programs.

In the past several years, Incarnate Word Academy community has been blessed to experience several areas of significant growth that require us to consider expanding our current facilities:

1. Our growing enrollment requires additional classrooms and meeting spaces.
2. Our innovative Young Leaders Program continues to gain popularity with our students. Over half of the

time has been the ability to maintain the traditions of the past while keeping an eye on the future. Incarnate Word Academy has analyzed various options for addressing its facilities needs. One option that was carefully examined was renovating the convent building and repurposing it for school use; however, an in-depth assessment revealed that the structure has serious foundation problems. The resulting repairs and renovations would have been extremely

Board of Advisors determined that it is more fiscally responsible to construct a new building large enough to accommodate our growing student body and to support future growth.

Incarnate Word Academy's new academic building will feature:

- Five classrooms, including one seminar classroom
- Two collaborative learning centers
- Young leaders conference center
- Performing arts studio
- Art room
- A rooftop deck

To address the current and future need for parking, we will accommodate a new parking space adjacent to our campus. We also expect our parking space to generate future earned income for years to come from special event visitor parking revenues (ie. Astros baseball games, conventions, Discovery Green events, etc.).

Incarnate Word Academy has engaged SBWV Architects to design our new facilities, and EE Reed Construction has been chosen as the building contractor.

"Forme, the building marks this school's expansion, a modern look on our tradition oriented school. There will be room for new innovative ideas to blossom, for friendships to be strengthened, and for futures to start off on the right foot.

- ANNA WINTER, CLASS OF 2017

student body actively participates in YLP programming which provides life-changing character and leadership-building experiences for our students.

3. Our thriving Fine Arts Program needs more space to accommodate our expanding student body.

4. As enrollment and activities on campus increase, so to do our parking needs. Our corner of Houston is being rapidly developed, and we are challenged to become less reliant on metered street parking and more self sufficient.

All of these challenges are truly a blessing as they are a sign of the increased demand for an all-girls Catholic education in downtown Houston.

...Now and Forevermore!

One of our school's many strengths over

costly and, most importantly, would not provide the space that Incarnate Word needs to accommodate our programs and growing enrollment.

Therefore, based on extensive analysis and discussion, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word along with the IWA



The view from the 6th floor rooftop

GROUNDBREAKING

On January 14, hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and supporters attended the dedication ceremony at Incarnate Word Academy to announce the launch of its \$15,000,000 capital campaign.

Presided over by Bishop George Sheltz, the Groundbreaking was an opportunity to come together and pray for God's guidance in this transformative project. Sr. Lauren Beck, announcing that the campaign had already raised more than \$6,000,000 towards its goal, expressed conviction that this project will serve a high purpose: "I trust that God is working through all of the wonderful people that are part of this project as they each contribute the talents which have been given to them. I trust that God will guide our steps and bring us this project to a successful and

beautiful conclusion."

Student Speaker Anna Winter '17, expressed the excitement felt by all of the faculty, staff, and students in attendance: "For me, the building marks this school's expansion, a modern look on our tradition oriented school. There will be room for new innovative ideas to blossom, for friendships to be strengthened, and for futures to start off on the right foot."

Thank You

We live in challenging times that require wise, compassionate leaders with strong values, exceptional academic preparation, and a drive to serve others. Accordingly, there has never been a greater need for the kinds of educational opportunities that Incarnate Word Academy provides.

Incarnate Word Academy is committed to providing first-rate academics to develop world-class leaders for a world-class city. Your support and gifts provide critical support for our capital campaign, which will have a transformative impact on our students and on the greater Houston community for generations to come. Thank you for your commitment to sustaining Incarnate Word Academy's tradition of excellence.

Mother of God, pray for us!

Mother Jeanne de Matel, pray for us!

**Praised be the Incarnate Word,
NOW AND FOREVER MORE!**

For more information on the capital campaign including construction progress, photos, and giving



From left to right, Mr. Charles Bourgeois, Mr. Mike Jones, Dr. Mary Aamodt, Mr. Binh Vuong, Mr. David Sears Archbishop George Sheltz, Mr. Eric Self, Mrs. Kay Hawthorn, Sister Virginia O'Donnell, C.V.I., Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I.

A Parent's Perspective

The Fischer's can count many blessings in their lives. We have been blessed with a loving marriage, wonderful children, and a large, lovable, and rowdy extended family. Another blessing we hold dear is a very special relationship with Incarnate Word Academy. We can honestly say that from the moment we took our first tour, met students and faculty, and saw the sea of red sweaters and plaid skirts we were hooked! IWA has met or exceeded all the expectations we had for our daughter's high school experience. They have been welcoming and appreciative to us, and inspirational and nurturing to our daughter.

Through the blessing of IWA, our daughter has experienced lasting friendships, devoted faculty and staff, faith-filled activities, and lots of fun! A highlight of her time at IWA has been her active participation in the Young Leaders Program. This inspiring program that was created at IWA, has been brought to life by its faculty and staff. This unique to Houston program is creating the leaders of tomorrow!

We are now at a critical time in IWA's history where the success of the "I Am In" Capital Campaign is extremely important to the growth of the YLP and the school. The "I Am In" campaign will provide additional resources for the leadership program, much needed classroom and work space, and an opportunity to grow the school to its fullest potential.

We are committed to the success of the campaign and feel like it's an opportunity for us to show our daughter what leadership looks like outside of high school. We want to ask you to be the leader you want your daughter to be. Be the leader by giving generously to the "I Am In" Capital Campaign.

Beth and Steve Fischer
Parents of Evelyn Fischer, '16



"It's an opportunity for us to show our daughter what leadership looks like outside of high school. We want to ask you to be the leader you want your daughter to be."

- BETH & STEVE FISCHER

ALUMNAE EVENTS

Sunday Funday!

Alumnae had a blast at the first annual Sunday Funday at Incarnate Word Academy! Over 50 alumnae gathered together in the familiar halls of IWA and celebrated their sisterhood all afternoon with mimosas, a taco truck, and karaoke! The afternoon ended with ice cream provided by alumnae Susan Sahwani-Garcia '94 who owns the Chocolate Wasted Ice Cream Truck you might have seen around the neighborhood. We were thrilled to get to spend a relaxing afternoon with our alumnae in a fun and lighthearted event and hope to have an even bigger turnout next year!



Alumnae College Panel

We were so pleased to have seven graduates return to Incarnate Word Academy for one of our most well attended after school events - the Young Alumnae College Panel. IWA students listened intently to the recent graduates' stories of first college roommates, advice on choosing a major, and tips for juniors and seniors in the midst of the college selection process. Most of all, recent graduates provided assurance that IWA has prepared them well for the challenges ahead. Thank you for coming!

Top Row: Katie Phillips '15, Virginia Birkofer '14, Hannah Licea '15, Mia Rochon '15,

Bottom Row: Catherine Clark '13, Evelyn Leal '14, Lauren Gonzales '14



ALUMNAE giving back

Rosie Carrabba, Class of 1955

The Young Leaders Program invited Mrs. Rosie Carrabba, IWA Class of 1955 to talk about her time at the Academy and her experiences as a long-standing Houston businesswoman.

Mrs. Carrabba shared her life story with her characteristic humor but also related many practical lessons she has learned from a lifetime in the hospitality business. She urged the girls to be proud of their IWA degree, to work hard no matter your position and to find satisfaction in doing your job well.

"My favorite IWA tradition was having fun with the girls and making sure the sisters didn't find out!"

Though she graduated many years ago when students still wore caps as part of their uniform, she said that Incarnate Word Academy still teaches the same important lessons of integrity and hard work that made her successful personally and professionally. She related that the "best thing my parents did was send me to IWA" and followed in their footsteps by sending her daughter here in 1974.

IWA students were delighted to hear all of the ways that the school was different when Mrs. Carrabba was a student but let out a laugh when Mrs. Carrabba related that her favorite IWA tradition was "having fun with the girls and making sure that the sisters didn't find out!"

Pictured Clockwise from left: Mrs. Carrabba addresses the student body; students get a kick out of the uniforms pictured in Mrs. Carrabba's 1955 yearbook;



Ann McStravick, Class of 1949

The Academy brings to mind so many memories for me. But while these memories include events and happenings, for me, it is the memories I have of the many individuals I met and interacted with that means the most. From the nuns who taught us to the “girls” in my class, it is these relationships and interactions that I hold dear. It is also the Catholic values taught and life skills acquired while a student at the Academy that have help guide me in my life.

This capital campaign is a wonderful way for me, and all former students and supporters of the Academy, to provide a

foundation for the Academy to continue to provide a place for positive personal interactions and growth, to develop meaningful relationships, to promote Catholic values, to instill life skills and strengthen spirituality for the next generation of women.

Yes, this world is ever changing, but by helping to provide a solid foundation for the Academy, we can help ensure there remains a place where the women of the future can develop these relationships, skills and values. It is my pleasure to be able to contribute to this capital campaign: I AM IN!

Ann Glazier McStravick '49



Incarinate Word Academy is so proud of and grateful for its alumnae. We are especially indebted to those who continue to devote their time, talent and treasure to our school's mission of making a Catholic, college preparatory high school education accessible to young women across Houston. If you would like to get more involved with the Academy, please reach out to our Alumnae Relations Co-ordinator, Sara Montelongo, at smontelongo@incarnateword.org

ALUMNAE updates

1944

On January 7, 2016 Catherine Davis Kerbow welcomed one great grandson and on January 8, 2016 welcomed twin great grandsons. One of her sons lives with her and all the rest live here and there. They keep in touch and are always home for Christmas. God has been very good to her and for that she is eternally grateful.

1948

Mitzi Pool Bridges '48 will retire this year after 25 years of writing novels.

1960

Josephine Lamonte Simpson

'63 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with mass and dinner with friends and relatives.

1983

Josea Ricardo Cobb '83 was blessed with her first grandchild on May 25, 2013 to her daughter, Jennifer Rae Cobb. Josea's daughter Jennifer Rae now works at the City of Houston in Human Resources and her son Jamie Jaudon Cobb is working on his 2nd Bachelor's degree in Science in Nursing. She and her husband, James celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary in December.

of cosmetic services that are "metal-free". She is blessed to have such a great opportunity to serve this area of Houston, and she wanted to share the news with her family & friends!

1986

Diana Diaz Granados lives with her family in Dhaka, Bangladesh but also keeps a home in Wisconsin. She works for a research institution providing training to scientists who study emerging infectious diseases and other public health issues. She is looking forward to her 30-year reunion!

UHV 2014.

2011

Joanna Roberts '11 graduated in 2015 Summa Cum Laude from SFASU with a bachelor of science in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is currently pursuing her masters degree in Speech Pathology.

2012

During the fall of 2015, Christiana Fote '12 worked on a humanitarian engineering project in the Offense North District of Ghana. The group worked on sustainable engineering



and husband, Dr. Bobby Simpson celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary by enjoying a trip to Sicily and Italy. Josephine was able to see and experience the village where her grandparents grew up. What a trip our ancestors made to enter this country of which they were all very proud!

1962

The Class of 1962 spent a few relaxing days at the Chain of Lakes resort last February. Photo (picture 1) submitted by Peggy Schulin, '62.

1963

Raymond & Victoria Garcia

She is very appreciative for the education IWA gave her, in faith and books. Life and the Lord have given her a better understanding of what that means. She sends a wholehearted thank you!

1985

Dr. Annette Mata -Murphy has been practicing dentistry for over 22 years, and just opened a new cosmetic practice with a colleague, in the West University area of Houston. Her dream is becoming a reality; to offer her patients the most current & advanced technology in the dental field. She will be providing a full spectrum

1988

Shera Higgs Thompson (picture 2) is married to Dana Thompson and has two children, Chace (8) and Viktoria (3). She recently launched her own Public Relations, marketing and government relations firm in the D.C. area.

2000

Heather Rooney is an OB RN-BSN at St. Luke Community Healthcare in Ronan, MT. She married on February, 28, 2015 and has a Bachelors of Art in anthropology from UH 2006, and a Bachelors of science in nursing from

solutions to developmental needs in remote villages of the region. These projects include a bio-digester which uses human waste to produce methane gas for cooking and heating, a sand water filter which filters out bacteria and other contaminants from stream water, and a bicycle-powered generator to charge cell phones. She is currently finishing up a B.S. in Civil Engineering at The Ohio State University.

Ariana Montelongo '12 and Paige Weishaar will both be graduating from Texas Christian University in May 2016 (picture 3). They

both studied abroad this past semester; Paige in Italy and Ariana in Spain. While abroad, Ariana met up with Jillian Davis '13 in Paris!

Updates

We would love to hear from you. Please send us your updates. You can e-mail your recent news and pictures to smontelongo@incarnateword.org or call (713) 227-3637, ext. 128.

Reunions

If your class is celebrating a reunion or if you are interested in a tour of the



Academy, please feel free to contact Sara Montelongo at smontelongo@incarnateword.org or call (713) 227-3637, ext. 128.

Lasting Legacy

Have you considered including IWA in your estate planning? It is a thoughtful and positive way to impact the lives of our students for generations to come. If you would like to receive more information about planned gifts to IWA, please email our Director of Advancement, Ginger Przybyla at gprzybyla@incarnateword.org.

ALUMNAE save the dates!

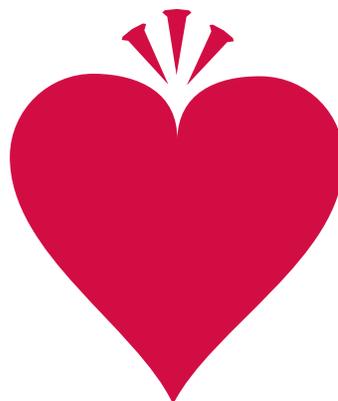
***Pennies from Heaven!
2016 Gala & Auction
April 23, 2016***

***2016 Red Check Luncheon
May 19, 2016***

Class of 1966 mark your calendars to join us for the 50th Anniversary of your read check luncheon! If you would like to help, join, or donate, please contact Sara Montelongo at smontelongo@incarnateword.org

***2016 Commencement
April 23, 2016***

***Saluting Alumnae Luncheon
March 4, 2017***



ALUMNAE reunions

1948

On January 28, 2016 eight active 1948 class members met at the Sacred Heart Society Hall for their Thursday Spaghetti Lunch. They have been meeting there on the last Thursday of the month for the past five years. Besides having a great meal, enjoying each other's company, they needed to finalize the plans for their 69th Annual Class Reunion Luncheon. This year they have chosen to celebrate at the Christie's Restaurant on Westheimer. Arrangements have been made by Elizabeth Guerrini Cuccerre for May 3, 2016 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. More details as regards to directions and lunch menu listing with cost will be included in the invitation to arrive by April 19, 2016.



Following lunch, the class members held a "A Book Signing" to honor our great author, Mitzi Poole Bridges '48. She signed and gave each classmate a copy of one of her other six series novels and all were delighted to receive one. A Memorial Prayer service was also held for classmate Jeanne Cendrick Kemper who passed in November of 2015 and Charley D. Bridges, husband, of Mitzi Poole Bridges who passed in December of 2015. We recently received notice that May Ida Dodson & Blanche Khalad have passed. We will remember them when we meet in May. May all our loved ones rest in peace especially during this year of mercy.

Pictured: Standing - Clarissa (Porras) Schiefen, Teana Sechelski, Elizabeth (Guerrini) Cuccerre, Mitzi (Pool) Bridges, Angelina (Bolcerek) Heinrich, Patricia (Gibson) Huebne; Seated - Teresa (Paratore) Dodgen, Sr. Jean Marie (Jo Ann) Guokas.

1965

IWA Class of 1965 met in October on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th to celebrate their 50th Anniversary of graduating! There were 104 in their graduating class and Sr. Jean Marie was Principal. They have been meeting from time to time and many of them have been very active in their parishes as well as the Arch-Diocese of Galveston-Houston, thanks to the education and foundation the Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament.

On October 2nd, they met at Jeanette Murray-Sebesta's home in Sugar Land for a lovely Italian dinner. All the guys went to Linda Albright's home also in Sugar Land to play poker. There were 18 classmates present. On October 3rd, they met at the Tomball VFW Post #2427 Bunker where Bill Shaffer, husband of Josephine '65 is the Post Commander and she is in the Auxiliary. They had a brief Memorial Service for the classmates and sisters they've lost and then shared a Bar-B-Q Dinner. There were about 14 classmates present along with spouses. On October 4th, they met at a lovely restaurant in Houston and had brunch. There were about 8 classmates present, again with spouses. All in all it was a great weekend with a couple of girls traveling all the way from areas of Cumming, GA and Forest, OH. They also made individual donations to the Sisters which were delivered to them on Saturday morning, Oct. 3rd. This was just a small way of saying "Thank You".



*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.*



Sylvia Wuensche Bludau '54
Charles D. Bridges, Husband of Mitzi Pool Bridges '48
Ida Wondrak Dodson '48
Eloise Andrews-Flores, Mother of Kathy Clay and Josephine Shaffer '65
Mary Ann Hadley '43
Thomas Hegger, son of Tracey Perez Hegger '76
Carol Sotello Jones, '76
Jeanne Cendrick Kemper '48
Blanche Khaled '48
Terry Lewis, Grandfather of Sophie Vogel '18
Christopher Maroul, nephew of Sister Bea Maroul, C.V.I.
Joseph E Ricardo Jr, father of Josea Ricardo Cobb '83
Jerry Kloc Riley '46, cousin of Teana Sechelski '48
Lawrence Ross, husband of Irene Ross '58, departed March 1, 2015
Jenny Dora Russell, aged 98, departed September 18, 2015
Josephine Scalis '66
Barbara Swick, mother of Melissa Swick '87
Harriet Hokanson Strieber '55
Karen Warfield, Niece of Sister Bea Maroul, C.V.I.
Dorothy Gable White '53

ANNUAL REPORT *corrections*

To ensure that the traditions and values of Incarnate Word Academy will continue for generations to come, IWA relies on the support and commitment of the Sisters, our alumnae, board of advisors, corporate partners, families, faculty, staff and friends. We are grateful and blessed to have such loyal, generous and committed champions for our school.

You can find the full Annual Report for 2014-2015 in the fall issue of The Word. Below you will find additions and corrections to that report.

SPIRIT OF THE WORD ANNUAL FUND

ACADEMY STEWARDS

SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE

\$250-499

Mary Jo '74 & Joe Montalbano

MARGIL CIRCLE

UP TO \$249

Melissa Michelliti

Patricia '84 & Rick Perez

Donna & John Rocha

Irene Ross '58

FACULTY & STAFF GIVING

Louise Kelly

Jenny & Jim Faber

Melissa Michelliti

Patricia '84 & Rick Perez

Stasie & Tim Smith

ALUMNAE GIVING BY DECADE

1950's

Dolores Adlong '54

Irene Ross '58

1970's

Melody Delgado '77

1980's

Patricia '84 and Rick Perez

CUMULATIVE GIVING

\$500 - \$999

Independence Bank

Mary Margaret '60 & Lawrence Keen

Mary Jo '74 & Joe Montalbano

2015 GALA

GALA & AUCTION UNDERWRITERS

HONOR SOCIETY - \$500

Gail Chevalier '90

Sonja Earthman Novo '59

Mary Margaret Keen '60

Betty Ann Kowis '53

Mary Jo '74 & Joe Montalbano

TICKETS & DONATIONS

Mary Jo '74 & Joe Montalbano

Victoria & Ross Sears

GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Bishop Rizzotto Scholarship

Mary Jo '74 & Joe Montalbano

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

Pete Chiara

Lanette Kowis '88

James Booth

Kay & Hub Hawthorn

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

Joey Kowis

Betty Ann '53

Antoinette Patronella '53

Lanette Kowis '88

Lisa Steen

Bernice Purcell '41

Betty Ann '53 & Joey Kowis

Lawrence Ross

Irene Ross '58

Raymond & Anita Wey

Mary Ann Wey '65



2015-2016
Spirit of the Word
ANNUAL FUND

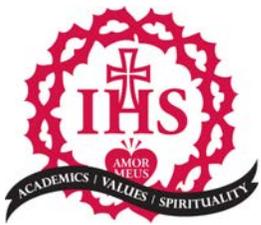
ACADEMICS + VALUES + SPIRITUALITY

WWW.INCARNATEWORD.ORG/SPIRITOFtheword



IWA DEPENDS ON
THE GENEROSITY OF
COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS
LIKE YOU TO KEEP OUR'
TUITION LOW AND UPHOLD
THE MISSION OF THE
SISTERS OF THE
INCARNATE WORD.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS.
HONOR THE PAST.
SUPPORT THE FUTURE.
GIVE TO IWA TODAY.



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

A Catholic College Preparatory for Young Women, Est. in 1873

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ORGANIZATION
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