

THE WORD

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY MAGAZINE

LEADING AT IWA

Around the Academy,
students take the lead.

Alumna Spotlight

Shelby Trahan '14 gets candid
about her on-camera career.

we love
IWA





Katelyn Blade '21 and Emily Quin '22 prepare to take the stage in "Hamlet," Falcon Theatre's spring production. Several IWA departments contributed to the show. Read the full story on page 13.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2020
Vol. 14, No.2

THE WORD

MISSION

Incarinate 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.

LEADERSHIP

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609 Crawford St. Houston, TX 77002

ON THE COVER

Kennedy Trahan '20, Flappy Falcon (Abbigale Martin '20), Grace Michael '20 and Olivia Green '20 on the roof of our downtown campus.

Photo by Kevin Lopez, Sign lettering by Julia Ramualdo dos Santos '20

PHOTO CREDITS

Holly Beretto, Freeman Photography, IWA Falcon Athletics, Kevin Lopez, Maria Bello '20 (Page 20), Francesca Garcia (Page 21), Olivia Green '20 (Page 29), Amelia Horner '22 (Page 20), Lauren Lacanlale (Page 28), Alyson Lukk/Bulpen Marketing (back cover senior wordmark), Amanda Pape (Page 36, inside back cover), Emily Quin '22 (Page 21), Katie Schuller (inside back cover), Ziegler Cooper Architects (Page 30)

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We talk about leadership a lot at Incarnate Word Academy. What does it look like? What does a leader do? Who can be a leader? And, all within the context of our Young Leaders Program. It's among the only ones of its kind in the country for high schools, and we are unbelievably proud of the confidence and skills it has given our young women. The tools they're given help them right now and in the future as they go into college and careers. They are learning how to be a servant leader. These same skills are transferable to building positive relationships and problem-solving in family life.

Leadership at IWA isn't a theoretical endeavor. Our students test their wings applying their skills as they take on active leadership roles throughout the school. From focused officers in Student Council, to directing plays, to founding volunteer groups, to creating businesses, I see firsthand that our students are go-getters and they get things done! You can read more about it all in this issue's main feature, which looks at leadership all across the school. I am so proud of how this program has developed and how our students have profited from it over the years.

Leaders, I think we all know, must adapt to changing times. And, wow, did we have change this spring! When we left for Spring Break on March 12, we didn't know when — or if — we'd be back at IWA. Of course it turned out we had to close campus for the rest of the academic year. That was difficult and challenging, and absolutely necessary. Yet, it allowed us to embrace another way of leading. I have to give a shout out to two seniors, Olivia Green and Grace Michael, who totally embraced servant leadership in the midst of the need for change and flexibility. To keep our students connected to IWA, our morning prayer and daily announcements needed to go online. Amid all of their remote learning responsibilities, Olivia and Grace cheerfully accepted their new environment embracing a five-day-a-week commitment to serve as part of the hosting team and taking on major roles. They also took on the responsibility to execute a happy Zoom event for the incoming freshmen scholarship recipients. I was amazed at their ability to think on their feet, something that leaders often have to do. They represent IWA well as strong leaders, with their grace, poise, humor, good information and welcoming spirits.

As we close this year, I am also tremendously proud of our faculty and staff, for their creative approaches to learning and communication while we've been off campus. Those efforts are chronicled in our feature "Learning in the Time of Covid-19." I think you'll love it as much as I did.

Finally, a word to the Class of 2020. I know you didn't get the spring semester you wanted or thought you would enjoy. That's not fair, and obviously disappointing. But you all have inspired me with your good humor, the way you adapted to the situation and the way you've looked out for each other. You are truly the embodiment of what it means to be a Woman of the Word. I look forward to celebrating you at our graduation ceremony in July.

Praised be the Incarnate Word!

Sr. Lauren Beck C.V.I.

Sister Lauren Beck
President



**LEADERSHIP AT IWA ISN'T
A THEORETICAL ENDEAVOR.
OUR STUDENTS TEST THEIR
WINGS APPLYING THEIR
SKILLS AS THEY TAKE ON
ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLES
THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL.**

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



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY



Left to right: Emily Santiago '20, Alex Benedict '21 and Madison Seymour '21, practicing their broadcast journalism skills.



AROUND CAMPUS

NEW CLASSES DEBUT AT IWA

As Incarnate Word Academy closed out the spring semester, it marked the end of the first full year for two new, innovative classes at the Academy. The 2019–2020 academic year saw the debut of Python and Broadcast Journalism.

Mrs. Eleanor Hernandez, who teaches technology and computer science courses for IWA, helmed Python.

“We offer basic coding with our web design class, and more complex coding and concepts with the AP Computer Science Programming course,” she explained. “We felt Python could be an add-on that would benefit the computer science classes.”

IWA offers a robust STEM curriculum, including six computer sciences courses. Python was open to students in grades nine through 12. Hernandez said she learned the coding language in college and, in teaching it for the first time, found it fascinating to be on the other side of the classroom coin.

“The girls responded really well to it since the language is easy to read and comprehend,” she said. “It’s a really powerful language to learn. What really ‘got’ them was that Python is used in a lot of current online services, like YouTube, Instagram, Google and Netflix. So, it was a good chance for them to learn something that is actually in the real world.”

Another class offering real-world applications is broadcast journalism. Jamie Adams, who teaches in IWA’s social studies department, leads the class, which he said gives students the chance to learn useful skills such as interviewing and improving

their ability to communicate.

“They also have the opportunity to improve skills in video editing and techniques for video storytelling, as well techniques that are useful in photography and videography,” he said. “I have always had an interest in journalism, photography, video, editing and the ‘toys’ that go along with all of that. Teaching a class like this gives me the opportunity and an excuse to play with all of that, as well as teach students how to use it all and encourage them to use their creativity to tell stories.”

Adams led a broadcast journalism club at the middle school where he taught before coming to IWA. Last year, when the Academy’s administration asked teachers

to suggest new ideas for electives, Adams jumped at the chance to offer broadcast journalism as a course. Throughout the year, students taking it could be seen around the halls, shooting video on their iPads, interviewing classmates and faculty, and developing stories as esoteric as how the school’s vending machine is stocked or making a video for the admissions department that captures a day in the

**“TEACHING A CLASS
LIKE THIS GIVES ME
THE OPPORTUNITY...
TO ENCOURAGE
THEM TO USE THEIR
CREATIVITY TO
TELL STORIES.”**

— JAMIE ADAMS

life at IWA.

“The course is ever-evolving,” said Adams. “I learn from what I see that works and what I see that could work better. Not being on campus this quarter affected the changes I was going to implement this semester from what I observed last semester. So I’ll push those improvements to next year. Students have risen to the challenge this quarter, though, and have produced some great work from home.”

Rest assured, between the two classes, IWA students will have a lot to look forward to this fall.

ACADEMIC AWARDS SHOWCASE SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Celebrating our students is central to what we do at IWA. From academics to the arts, the young women of IWA have proven their exceptional abilities.

Class of 2020 valedictorian Laura Cromwell intends to major in software engineering at Auburn University. At IWA, she was a member of the swim team and served as a Student Council class representative. Her favorite part of IWA is the Young Leaders Program.

"I have grown so much in the confidence of my abilities to lead, and I know that I am capable of whatever I set my mind to," she said.

Salutatorian Grace Garwood will attend Texas A & M University, where she plans to study biology and philosophy, with plans for a career in bioethics.

"I am thankful IWA has provided me such an in-depth foundation of moral theology and the biological sciences, and given me an environment to cultivate my confidence in my beliefs and the courage to pursue a continued rigorous education," she said.

Grace was part of IWA's Campus Ministry Team, played soccer and volunteered at SHINE Catholic Missions for two summers.

We congratulate these young women on their accomplishments.

For a full listing of academic awards, visit www.incarnateword.org/2020-academic-awards.

STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

Ursula Buchwald '20 is a finalist in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. She's an excellent student who enjoys science, is a leader backstage in IWA's Falcon Theatre program, and also competes with the Quiz Bowl Club at events around the state. She's heading to Olin College of Engineering after taking a gap year and is one of 15,000 students nationwide to receive the honor. Maria del Carmen Bello '20 is a National Merit Commended Scholar. She'll be attending the University of St. Thomas and studying the humanities. Mary Juliette Billings '21, Sofia Garza '21 and Anna Hartman '21 all qualify to advance through the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2021.



Ursula Buchwald '20



Maria del Carmen Bello '20



CLASS OF 2020 VALEDICTORIAN
LAURA CROMWELL
Laura will attend
Auburn University.



CLASS OF 2020 SALUTATORIAN
GRACE GARWOOD
Grace will attend
Texas A & M University.



SERVANT OF THE WORD AWARD
OLIVIA GREEN '20

University of Texas at Austin
Given to the current senior who has made a meaningful impact on IWA and the larger community through service projects and school leadership, and has shown the ability to enlist and inspire others in her efforts.



SPIRIT OF THE WORD AWARD
CLAIRE SONNE '20

College of Charleston
Recognizes a senior who exudes school pride, demonstrating a love for the academy through her actions and her words.



WOMAN OF THE WORD AWARD
GRACE MICHAEL '20

Texas A & M University
Awarded to the senior who excels in the three pillars of the Academy, embodying a mastery and love for academics, a firmly rooted value system, and an active Christian spirituality.

MARGARET SHELTON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Leah Lucas '21
Dana Theroux '21

CHARLENE BARRY THEOLOGY AWARD
Anne Culbreth '20

RENSSELEAR AWARD FOR ENGINEERING
Anna Hartman '21

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS AWARD

Ursula Buchwald '20
Laura Cromwell '20

2020 SERVICE LEARNING AWARD
Lillian Sudkamp '20



Mary Juliette Billings '21, Anna Hartman '21, Anna Hasker '20, Kaitlyn Rzasnicki '22, Alessa Elkareh '22, Lauren Richards '22, Mary Uyenco '22 and Isabelle Lavoie '23, with math teacher Dr. Stephanie Doneske took part in the annual University of Houston Mathematics Competition in February. More than 100 schools participated, with exams in algebra, geometry, precalculus, calculus and other math subjects.

IWA STUDENTS TAKE HOME SCHOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARDS

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers and honors the work of students across the country. This year, more than 320,000 entries were submitted. Seven IWA students received Gold or Silver Key awards and honorable mentions. "Our school continues to shine," said Josie Postel, IWA's art teacher.

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS



Kendal Broussard '21
Gold Key



Sarah Edwards '23
Gold Key



Page Rhodes '20
Silver Key

SCHOLASTIC WRITING AWARDS

Julia Romualdo dos Santos '20
Silver Key (2)
Honorable Mention

Lillian Sudkamp '20
Silver Key (2)
Honorable Mention

Amelia Horner '22
Silver Key
Honorable Mention

Claire Garcia '22
Silver Key
Honorable Mention



Isabella Kerfers '20 won 3rd Place in the Society for the Performing Arts Student Art Contest for "Soft Serve Mountain."

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR IWA COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE

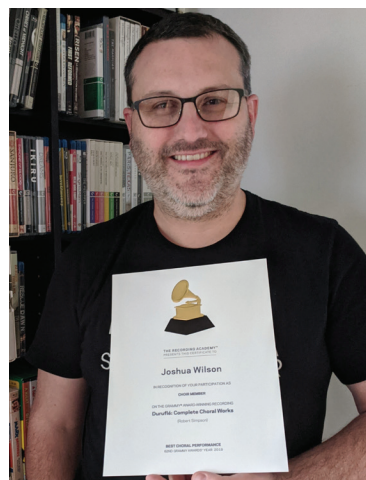
Incarnate Word Academy earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. The school is one of six in Houston to receive the honor. IWA began offering the class last year, and to date, 35 students have taken it.

"When we see more and more young women taking classes like this one, and succeeding at them, it reinforces the idea that women can go on to careers in computer science," said Eleanor Hernandez, who teaches the class.

IWA CHOIR DIRECTOR PART OF GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING EFFORT

In addition to directing the Incarnate Word Academy Choir, Josh Wilson sings with the Houston Chamber Choir. Earlier this year, the group won its very first Grammy Award for its recording of "Durufle: The Complete Choral Works." The award was presented on Jan. 26.

"It's a really special thing," Wilson said about the honor. "We knew this recording was special when we did it, and it would be something people would listen to and get satisfaction from. It's really beautiful, and it was a real labor of love."





*Thank you,
Dr. Aamodt!*

A SALUTE TO DEDICATION

PRINCIPAL MARY AAMODT RETIRES

Across the 15 years that Dr. Mary Aamodt has led Incarnate Word Academy as principal, she's been a tremendous example of grace, kindness and leadership. Her forward-looking approach to education led to the creation and implementation of an academic program that has enriched the lives of so many young women. She has had a keen eye for attracting talent to the school, teachers who academically excel in the classroom and have high student expectations, as well as being compassionate educators. Her encouragement to teachers to try new ideas has resulted in enhanced curricular and extracurricular programs. One such teacher is Regina Galassi, who is also IWA's academic dean.

"Dr. Aamodt has supported my growth as a teacher and been a tremendous model for me of the type of administrator I hope to be," she said. "I admire her relentless commitment to her vocation in Catholic education. Her high standards have not only helped IWA become the school it is today, they have also laid the foundation for what will come next."

Leslie Flickinger, the school's dean of students, echoes Galassi's sentiments.

"Dr. Aamodt's has been a wonderful mentor. Her unwavering dedication to the students and faculty of IWA will be deeply missed."

When students are asked what they love best about IWA, the No. 1 answer is sisterhood — Dr. Aamodt's contribution to that is unmistakable. She supports a student-centered community that helps to strengthen the strong bonds throughout.

During her tenure at IWA, the Young Leaders Program was developed and grew from one optional class during lunch to a successful four-year program. More recently, Dr. Aamodt has focused on STEM initiatives. Under her leadership, exciting new classes have been added to the curriculum in this important area.

"Dr. Aamodt is a tremendous example of what it means to be a servant leader," said Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., IWA president. "Her love for education and her commitment to the unique opportunity that an all-girls Catholic education offers, is apparent in everything she does. I, along with the faculty, staff and the Sisters of my congregation, are extremely grateful for Mary's contribution to the long, proud history of IWA."

IWA TRANSITIONS

FAREWELL TO MRS. FLICKINGER

Mrs. Leslie Flickinger is retiring as our dean of students. She's been a member of the administration since 2005 and is known for her devotion to our students' well-being and the Academy's pillars of academics, values and spirituality. We wish her luck in her new adventures in retirement. IWA will welcome Carmen West as our new dean of students this summer.

AN ENGLISH TEACHER SAYS GOODBYE

"Seventeen years have gone by in a blur," English teacher Mitch Mooneyham, reflected on his career at IWA. He's retiring, having spent nearly two decades teaching freshman English, contemporary literature and the popular elective World in Motion.

The idea for that course came about in part because of Mooneyham's wife, also a teacher, who had enjoyed several co-curricular courses in graduate school. The course design, however, was Mooneyham's.

"I thought, wouldn't it be great to take a couple of decades in history and look at them from every conceivable angle?"

The result was a course that blends science, math, business, literature, the arts and religion, with different class periods taught by different IWA teachers, focusing on their special interests or passions.

"The girls really enjoyed it," he said. "And every day is different. One day, they're listening to Verdi, the next they're learning about Harriet Tubman."

Mooneyham has enjoyed working with his students, and fellow English teacher



Lorien Cuneo, who is also IWA's college counselor, thinks that feeling is reciprocal.

"Mitch's friendship and passion have made my time at IWA feel less like a job and more like an adventure," she said. "And I'm impressed with how he's inspired young people to love reading."

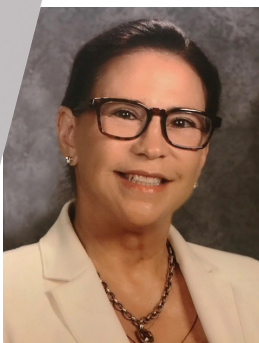
"I feel like I'm cheating," Mooneyham joked. "I get paid to read great literature and talk about it. This job has been a blessing."


He and his wife plan to take a year to think about what their next adventure should be. But odds are, it involves a seaside locale...and a lot of books.

NEW PRINCIPAL JOINS THE FALCON FAMILY

Ms. Andrea Smith assumed the role of Incarnate Word Academy on June 1, 2020.

She came to IWA after serving as assistant principal at St. John XXIII High School in Katy. Smith has extensive administrative, curriculum, development and counseling experience.



A group of female students in school uniforms are sitting on a light-colored tiled floor, gathered around a golden retriever. The dog is lying down, looking up at the students with its mouth open in a happy expression. One student in a red sweater is petting the dog's head, while others are reaching out or looking at it. The background shows a large, open indoor space with other people and furniture visible in the distance.

Students interact with therapy dogs before final exams in December, part of IWA's Wellness Week, just one of the school's wellness offerings this year.

IWA OFFERS WELLNESS INITIATIVES

Success is important at Incarnate Word Academy, but the push for excellence can sometimes be challenging. To help students understand how to manage stress, chart success and incorporate self care into their routines, the Academy hosts a series of wellness initiatives. Programming is developed following annual student surveys to determine which subjects are important to them.

This year's wellness initiatives brought

speakers to IWA to discuss body image and handling anxiety and stress. Held during Flex Time, the assemblies allowed for ample questions from students. And IWA's Wellness Week in December gave the girls a break each day during Flex Time to color, dance, play with therapy dogs or make arts and crafts.

"Our students' mental and physical health is just as important to us as their academic success," said Erika Eberhart, IWA's school counselor. "It was great to see their participation in these initiatives and to give them tools for self-care. We're already building on this foundation for next year."



AN UP CLOSE LOOK AT FORENSIC SCIENCE

Picking up fibers and looking for clues in a mock crime scene or hunting through an old case file to solve a decades-old disappearance are part of the routine in IWA teacher Christine Westman's forensic science class. In addition to learning scientific methods, the hands-on course allows students to develop critical thinking and analytical skills. This spring, the class went to the Museum of Natural Science for a forensic anthropology lab and a blood spatter analysis lab.

"They had the opportunity to look at authentic human skulls and practice developing a biological profile based on gender and ancestry by analyzing various structural characteristics of the skulls," said Westman. They also learned about the behavior of blood and how to determine what happened at a crime scene by analyzing the blood spatter patterns. "A good time was had by all!"



IWA students taking part in a forensic anthropology lab at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

COLLEGE TRIPS SHOW STUDENTS THEIR FUTURE

Students at IWA have lots of opportunities to learn about the college process. Each year, we host a panel with IWA alumnae who return to the Academy to talk about their college experiences and there are lunchtime visits from colleges across the country. Yet one of our most popular programs are college trips, taking groups of students on two-day visits to colleges and universities across Texas. This year, we hosted one in the fall, where our juniors visited the University of Texas at Austin, St. Edward's University, Baylor University and Texas A&M University. This spring, we offered

a special trip for sophomores, touring Texas State, University of the Incarnate Word, Trinity University, and St. Mary's University.

"We believe college is a match to be made, not a prize to be won, so experiencing college campuses firsthand helps students find their fit," said Lorien Cuneo, IWA's college counselor. "The trips help students get a sense of different campuses and learn about college admissions expectations."

That was definitely the case for Carson Chesnut '22. "The trip really opened my eyes to new possibilities," she said. "Until that trip, I hadn't really given private colleges a chance. I was able to see the great opportunities that all the colleges had to offer. I can't wait to go on the next one!"



IWA students at the University of the Incarnate Word.



A JOYFUL NOISE

IWA CHOIR MEMBERS SELECTED FOR ALL STATE

Four Incarnate Word Academy Choir members were selected for the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) All State Choir. That's a school record.

Sofia Garza '21, Iman Haddad '23, Dominique Nanquil '20 and Katelyn

Powell '20 sang in the All State Choir Concert on Jan. 25, 2020, in Richardson. It's the second year that Sofia and Dominique have been selected for the honor; it's a first for Katelyn and Iman. The four were selected following competitive auditions held last fall.

"It's wonderful to see these hard-working young musicians being recognized

in this way!" said IWA's choir director Joshua Wilson. "This is an incredible accomplishment."

The weekend of the concert featured two days of rehearsal, culminating in a Saturday night performance at the Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts. Dr. Pamela Elrod Huffman from Southern Methodist University served as clinician

and conductor for the event, which also featured orchestra, jazz band and concert band performances.

Wilson said he was proud of the students' accomplishments and truly appreciated the IWA community's support for the choir program.



Top: Sofia Garza '21, Iman Haddad '23, Katelyn Powell '20 and Dominique Naquil '20, representing IWA at TPSMEA All State.
Bottom: The full all-state choir ensemble in concert.

WORKING TOGETHER

"HAMLET" IS A MULTI-DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION

IWA's Falcon Theatre production "Hamlet" was more than a student performance. It was a collaboration with faculty and staff from four different departments, working together to bring a punk rock version of the play to life.

"I was overwhelmed by the amount of excitement and support shown for our 'Hamlet,'" said Katy Mulvaney, IWA's fine arts chair who directed the show.

Lillian Sudkamp '20 and Jacqueline Kaase '21 designed the show's skulls, and computer science teacher Eleanor Hernandez created them on IWA's 3D printer.

Broadcast journalism teacher Jamie Adams and four

of his fall-semester students designed the set for, shot and edited "The Daily Denmark News" segments, used as scene enhancements, and written by Kate Sullivan '21 and Reagan Huckle '23. Lily Cromeens '21 and Kaila Caligur '20 anchored them, with Abbigale Martin '20 as field reporter. Adams also shot "The Denmark Five," an opinion roundtable written by Kate and Reagan, and featuring English teachers Sarah Gibbons, Lorien Cuneo, Eric Kerr-Herally, Mitch Mooneyham and Robin Riehl.

Holly Beretto, IWA's director of marketing and communications, stepped in with her friend Alice Berry, an Episcopal High School teacher, who lent costumes from her own punk rock band days, and borrowing others from EHS' costume shop. Biology teacher Stephen Comer played



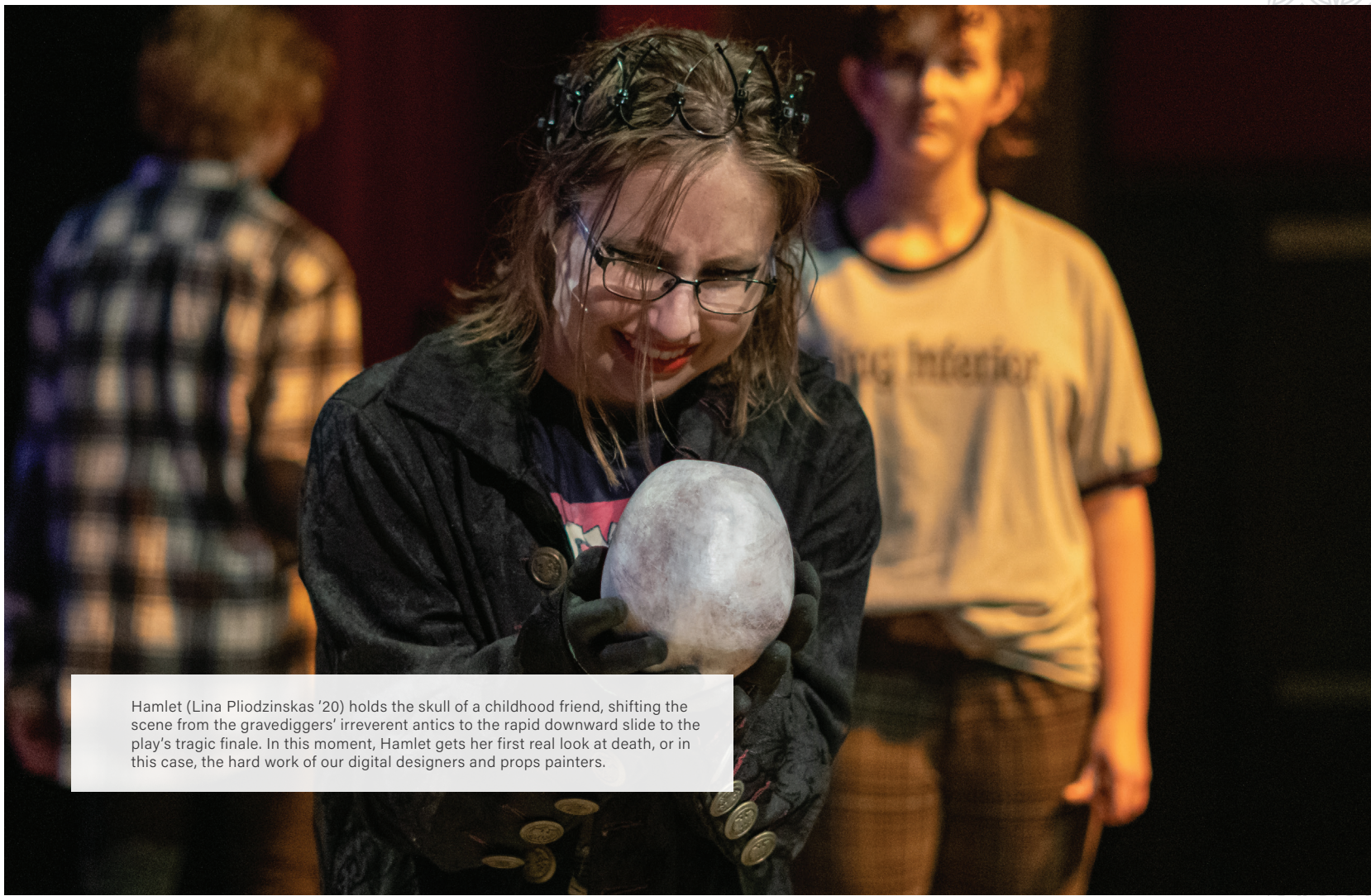
Abbigale Martin '20 interviews Jacqueline Kaase '21, playing Fortinbras' captain in a news segment designed to remind the audience of the looming war on the border.

the ambassador from England and monitored activity backstage.

"All the IWA teachers and staff work so hard, seeing them take yet more time to support our students warmed my heart," said Mulvaney. "It meant so much to our thespians to know these adults were proud of them too!"



Hamlet (Lina Pliodzinskas '20) holds the skull of a childhood friend, shifting the scene from the gravediggers' irreverent antics to the rapid downward slide to the play's tragic finale. In this moment, Hamlet gets her first real look at death, or in this case, the hard work of our digital designers and props painters.



BLOG POSTS SHOW A SLICE OF IWA LIFE

Launched at the start of the 2019–2020 academic year, the new blog page on IWA's website was designed to give students, faculty and staff a place to share their experiences at the Academy.

"I was looking for a way to share all of the voices at IWA," said

IWA Blog

Voices, Thoughts and Impressions from the IWA Community



Holly Beretto, director of marketing and communications. "The posts are everything from reflections on our most sacred church seasons to what it's like to captain a sports team. It's one more way to tell all these great IWA stories."

Anyone can contribute to the blog, which has published entries from IWA mom Samantha Edwards, sharing her work in the Spirit Shop; Academic Dean Regina Galassi, discussing the school's transition to online learning this spring; and Leah Lucas '21 writing about how Advent allows her to be closer to Jesus. Entries are typically less than 250 words and showcase individual personalities.

Read them all at www.incarnateword.org/blog.

For information on how to contribute, please email hberetto@incarnateword.org

LENTEN PHOTO CHALLENGE SHOWCASES CREATIVITY, SPIRITUALITY

It all started with IWA's photography club, which was looking to do a 30-day challenge, asking members to take photos every day for a month, with each day having its own theme. As that was getting underway, however, Campus Minister Ana Paula Panzarini came across a Lenten Photo Challenge, with every day offering the opportunity to share a photo depicting a different Lenten theme such as ashes, dust, a meatless meal and spring

cleaning. The photography club eagerly adopted the challenge, collaborating with the Campus Ministry Team to get the word out and pick daily winners, which were displayed on the TV screens around IWA and on the school website and social media.

This year's challenge winners were Sofia Martinez '21 with 47 submissions, Kaitlyn Rzasnicki '22 with 46 submissions and Dana Theroux '21 with 40 submissions. They'll receive a Spirit Dress Day when we're back in school this fall.

See the entries at www.incarnateword.org/lenten-photo-challenge.



Vanessa Hosman '22
Branches
March 9, 2020



Grace Michael '20
Community Meal
March 20, 2020



Dana Theroux '21
Light
April 3, 2020

CAREER DAY BRINGS EXPERTS TO IWA

Career Day, one of the most-anticipated sessions on the IWA calendar, brings professionals from a variety of fields to campus to discuss with students what their jobs entail and the career they followed to get there. More than 30 professionals came to IWA in January to share their insights on the fields of engineering, medicine, entrepreneurship, public relations, architecture and business. The day began with a Women in STEM panel, after which students participated in small-group sessions where they learned about the guest speakers' careers and asked them questions.



Students show off the President's Cup trophy with Athletic Director Rick Perez and Assistant Athletic Director Bryan Gonzalez.



IWA WINS STEPS FOR STUDENTS PRESIDENT'S CUP

From the minute IWA announced it would take part in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's annual Steps for Students fundraiser, the goal was clear: Come home with the coveted President's Cup, the trophy awarded to the high school with the most participation based on the school's enrollment. Incarnate Word Academy cruised to victory with a

stunning 33% participation rate, netting donations and walkers from 126 people. Daniel, Cardinal DiNardo presented the trophy to Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., IWA's president and Athletic Director Rick Perez at the event on Feb. 15.

"It's great to win this!" said Beck. "It shows how we can come together for a shared goal, and I loved seeing so many IWA students and their families out at the walk."

While schools raise money through

the Steps for Students program, every dollar each school raises goes directly to the school. IWA plans to use its funds to purchase warm-up uniforms for the athletic teams.

"I'm just so proud of these girls," said Perez. "They really stepped up for us, and for each other. This is our first time winning and the event was a lot of fun."

The next Steps for Students is set to take place in February 2021.



Left: Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., IWA President with Athletic Director Rick Perez and Dean of Students Leslie Flickinger at the Steps for Students race. Right: Daniel, Cardinal DiNardo and superintendent of Catholic schools Debra Haney present the President's Cup to Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I. and Athletic Director Rick Perez.



Incarnate Word Academy 2019-2020 varsity basketball team

ATHLETICS



FALCONS MAKE SCHOOL HISTORY

When the Falcons varsity basketball team defeated St. Agnes Academy on Feb. 8, it marked the first time IWA beat St. Agnes in the sport, ever.

The game went right to the buzzer, before IWA won 43-42.

The Falcons were up 41-39 with 13.3 seconds left in the game. The St. Agnes Tigers took back the lead on a 3-pointer, making the score 41-42. Then, with seven seconds remaining, Anora Lee '22 made a layup, cinching the win.

Athletic Director Rick Perez compared the contest between the two schools to David and Goliath.

"For a school as small as we are to take on an opponent three times our size, and win, that's just a great feeling," he said. "And it's a lesson for our girls: We have the confidence and the ability to win. These girls have so much heart!"

The team went on to finish third in our district, and later lost to the Village School in the regional championships. But that Falcon spirit isn't diminished. Returning team members are already looking ahead to next year.



IWA cross-country team

A WINNING SEASON

CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM FINISHES THIRD IN THE STATE

"It was an eventful year," Chris Warren, IWA's cross-country coach, said of the season, which saw the Falcons take third in the TAPPS state cross-country meet Class 6A.

Last year, the team placed fifth at the meet, and Warren said it's terrific that they came roaring back to the 2019-2020 season ready to take on the competition.

"These girls have such a great work ethic," he said. "They really wanted that victory."

And it took a lot of work to get there. The team had to cope with the graduation of some of its varsity runners. Then two runners were sidelined by injuries at different parts of the year.

"They work as a unit," Warren said of his team, noting that their third-place finish was behind much larger schools. "To run against them and do so well is really a big deal."

CELEBRATING WINTER SPORTS

Our winter sports banquet, held right before Spring Break, acknowledged the hard work and dedication our student-athletes embody, on and off the court. Awards for most valuable player, character and newcomers were handed out.

We also want to share the news that at the state swim meet, IWA had two top 10 placements. Carson Chesnut '22 finished eighth in the 50 freestyle, and our 4x100 free relay team of Eileen Evans '20, Carson Chesnut '22, Sandra Taboada-Palau '21 and Olivia Hill '23, took seventh place.



Basketball
MVP: Anora Lee '22
Champion of Character: Ciera Brooks '20
Newcomer of the Year: Kaitlyn Rzasnicki '22

Swimming
Most Valuable Swimmer: Eileen Evans '20
Champion of Character: Brooke Spivey '20
Newcomer of the Year: Olivia Hill '23

Soccer
MVP: Klarissa Martinez '22
Champion of Character: Sophia Cantoni '20
Newcomer of the Year: Skylah Saracho '22

Sophia Cantoni '20 with her parents on Soccer Senior Night, and on the playing field (inset).



HONORING EXCELLENCE

IWA'S SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SHINES IN CLASS AND ON THE PLAYING FIELD

Each year, the Scholar-Athlete Award recognizes a graduating senior who has earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.6 and has participated in at least two sports during her senior year. This year's winner is Sophia Cantoni '20.

"Throughout her time here at IWA, Sophia has consistently been willing to help others and makes the necessary sacrifices to complete any job she has committed to," said Athletic Director Rick Perez.

Usually the award is given at IWA's Academic Awards Night. This year, the ceremony was cancelled due to Covid-19. Perez delivered the accolade virtually as part of a weeklong celebration of IWA student success.

Sophia played on the soccer and track teams for four years and earned the Champion of Character Award for Soccer. She's also one of IWA's Graduates of Distinction.

"Her strong work ethic and commitment set her apart as a leader," said Perez.

Maria Bello '20 put a creative spin on a video about how disease travels for her Honors Engineering and Design class.

LEARNING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

TECHNOLOGY HELPS STUDENTS AND FACULTY STAY THE COURSE

The coronavirus forced Incarnate Word Academy, like schools all over the world, to close, but lessons didn't stop. Remote learning began on March 20 and continued through the end of the semester. With a little help from technology, faculty and students embraced the challenge. Every week, teachers shared videos with their classes about content to be covered that week. Students worked on lessons at their own pace, and IWA implemented online office hours with each department that students could attend via Zoom.

"I'm so impressed with the creativity our faculty have shown, designing lessons for our new reality," said Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., IWA's president. "And

the videos our students have created in response have been imaginative and fun."

One video by Maria Bello '20 was for an honors engineering lesson about the spread of disease.

"We researched how viruses spread, collected a lot of data about the state of the U.S., made predictions about the further spread of the virus, and discussed our opinions about how to address the issue," she explained. "I think it was a pretty creative way for Dr. [Maureen] Johnson to implement the uses of engineering to present issues."

In her video, Maria pretends she's a doctor, explaining how disease travels. For one segment she populated a room with multiple images of herself, created with a program called Meme Maker.

"It was a slow process of taking multiple pictures and cropping myself out and pasting them all into one image, but I think it turned out surprisingly well," she said.

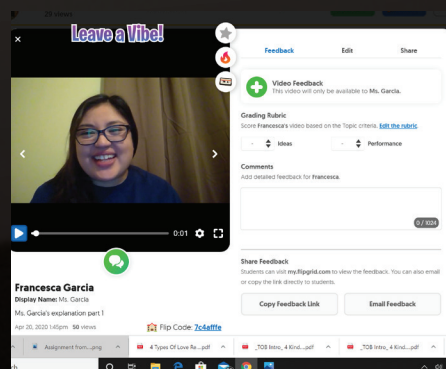
Johnson agreed, and Maria's was one of several videos she shared with IWA faculty and staff. For her AP chemistry class, Johnson used Zoom to help prepare students for the exam.

"In the two weeks before APs started, we conducted five Zoom review sessions focused on material students requested,"

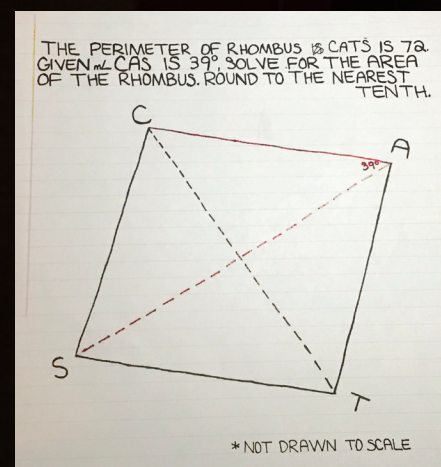
she said. "I also gave them EdPuzzle review videos. I was impressed by their dedication. We have 15 students in AP chemistry this year. Most attended every Zoom review."

Math teacher Dr. Stephanie Doneske prepared her AP calculus class for the exam using videos she recorded of herself teaching the remainder of the course's curriculum and having students watch AP live lessons provided by College Board.

"The adjustment from classroom to online learning was hard at first, and it took a few weeks to figure out a plan I was comfortable with and could implement in a timely manner," she said. "What helped was that I had experience making video lessons."



Theology teacher Francesca Garcia used FlipGrid to spark class discussions.



Amelia Horner '22 created this problem for Ms. Siegel's Geometry class. It was solved by her classmate Leah Dumanlang '22.

The Western Front: Battle of Britain

After the fall of France and Italy's introduction to the war, there was only one major obstacle standing in Germany's way: Great Britain. In order to defeat them, Hitler planned an operation by land and sea that he called Operation Sea Lion, but there was a problem: the British Royal Air Force (RAF). Hitler knew that before he could conquer Britain, he had to gain dominance over air attacks. So on July 10, 1940, he began to launch air raids over the English channel, destroying both port targets and RAF bases. It looked as if Hitler might succeed, he had weakened the RAF to the point where it would be difficult for them to continue fending off German attacks. But, after Churchill ordered a bombing of Berlin, Hitler decided to start launching retaliatory attacks against London on September 7, 1940, called "the Blitz", giving the RAF time to rebuild and refocus. When the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) began its all out attack against London, the RAF were able to repel it and British air superiority was secured. Hitler's invasion of Great Britain would have to be postponed for another day.



Royal Air Force Pilots



German aircraft during the Battle of Britain



RAF Song from Horrible Histories 2012

22

Emily Quin '22 created a virtual World War II museum exhibit for her World History Since 1500 C.E. class.

Keeping lessons engaging was a priority for IWA faculty. Mrs. Kristan Siegel teaches geometry and for one lesson had her students create a problem to solve for the area of a trapezoid or rhombus.

"I randomly chose a different classmate and emailed her the problem created by her friend," she said. "The student had to solve the problem, and create a FlipGrid talking through how she did it."

FlipGrid allows educators to create a series of topics and makes it easy for students to record videos with fun effects that show how they've mastered the topics. Siegel liked leaving individualized feedback for each student and hearing them talk through their problem-solving strategies.

Theology teacher Mrs. Victoria Mastrangelo's students wanted a way to talk to each other about the weekly reflections she asked them to complete. So, Mastrangelo had them post those reflections to FlipGrid.

"Each student submitted her own reflections and questions, and then responded to a peer," she said. "It was great because they did a great job of responding to each other's questions and furthering their thoughts on the topics like we would have done in Socratics at school."

Fellow theology teacher Mrs. Francesca Garcia did something similar, using FlipGrid to replace traditional classroom discussion. For one lesson on the Paschal Mystery, she recorded her lecture notes on EdPuzzle, and had students respond to a question about the lesson on FlipGrid.

"They were able to see that the question

could be answered in different angles and share their perspectives with each other," she said.

Meanwhile, social studies teacher Mrs. Stefanie Howard continued to use Google Classroom in her 10th grade and Honors World History Since 1500 C.E. classes.

"I broke our learning platform into modules with guided work due at the beginning of the week, and independent reflections due at the end of it," she said. "One really cool lesson we did was a virtual World War II museum, where students created a virtual exhibit about the war and connected it to the bigger picture of world history."

Emily Quin '22, asked Howard if she could incorporate more elements than the assignment required into her project. The experience gave her a richer look at the war and the world. "I enjoyed this project because I didn't just get a rich view of what happened during World War II but why the different players did what they did in both military strategy and ideology," she said.

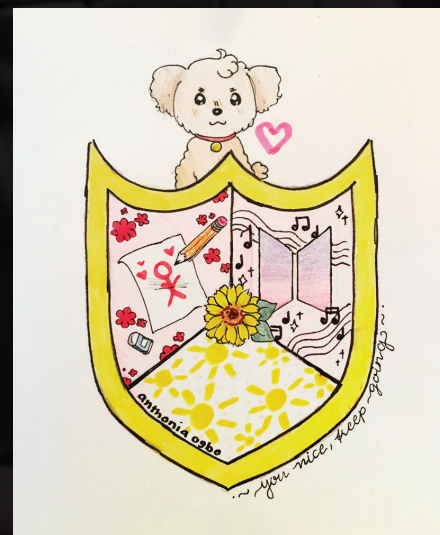
Social studies teacher Mrs. Catherine Neaves also tapped into her students' creativity for a unit on the crusades in her World History to 1500 C.E. class. Part of the lessons dealt with heraldry, how coats of arms are designed and signal a knight's family or allegiance. Neaves had students design their own, which had to include a motto in any language, an animal and three symbols that expressed their individuality.

"I enjoyed finding things about myself and my personality and incorporating them into my own heraldry," said Anthonia Ogbo '23, who used her dog

as her animal. "He was my first pet and holds a special place in my heart. For my colors, I chose pink and yellow because they are my favorite colors and I think they reflect my personality well. And right in the middle of the crest, I drew a sunflower because they stand tall and shine bright, something I think I do for the people around me."

Neaves loved seeing the ways her students expressed themselves and clearly connected with the material.

These innovations show how dedicated the IWA faculty is to maintaining the Academy's commitment to strong academics. Regardless of what classroom learning might look like in the fall, that commitment doesn't change.



The shield drawn by Anthonia Ogbo '24 for Catherine Neaves' social studies class incorporates a quote from her favorite band, her love of art and the fact that her family calls her "their sunshine."

LEADING AT IWA

ALL ACROSS CAMPUS, STUDENTS TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES

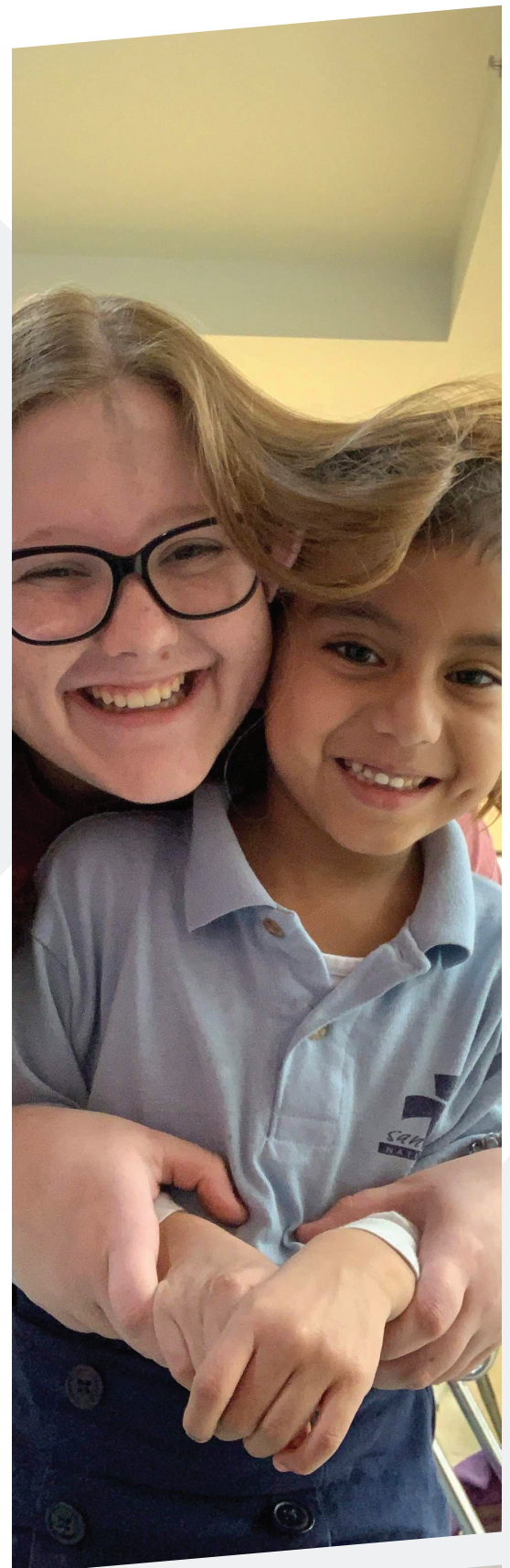
At Incarnate Word Academy, nurturing and empowering young women to become servant leaders is an important part of what we do. Our Young Leaders Program, YLP as it's affectionately known, is unique among high schools, offering students opportunities to grow in leadership skills by not only learning theories of leadership, but putting them into practice.

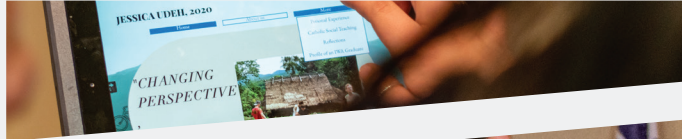
YLP gives students tools that help them have a positive impact as leaders. That impact is seen across all aspects of their

lives, both in and out of school. They head student clubs, spearhead volunteer initiatives and mentor each other in a variety of activities.

"Watching these girls mature into confident young women through these experiences is not just personally satisfying for me, it also gives them a firm foundation for whatever they choose to do in life," said Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., IWA president.

Read on to see some of our favorite examples of leadership learning.





YLP FOUNDER PASSES THE BATON

Charles Kafoglis came to Incarnate Word Academy as a math teacher after building a career as a consulting partner with PwC. He was drawn to IWA's pillars of academics, values and spirituality. But he saw there was an opportunity to help students develop the skills that were essential for success in the 21st century. One of those is leadership, and he started the Popcorn Leadership Club to address it.

"We met in the auditorium at lunchtime," he said. "We watched a series of movies like 'The Pursuit of Happyness,' where leadership was a story component, and discussed what leadership looked like."

The club evolved into IWA's

LEADING AT IWA

cornerstone leadership class, Leading With Character, which started in 2012 and would become a requirement for all students. That class would jumpstart YLP, which Kafoglis has helmed since its inception. Today, the program offers four classes: Leading With Character, Leading With Service, Leading With Business and Leading With Personal Finance. Among the only programs of its kind in the country, it offers students



Charles Kafoglis with the YLP directors in 2015.

the opportunity to earn a Concentration in Leadership Studies or graduate with a Distinguished Leader distinction. Students who take three or more leadership classes and earn a 90 or higher can receive a Concentration in Leadership Studies. The Distinguished Leader distinction is a four-year journey allowing students to grow in leadership skills. (see Page 26)

"We coined the phrase 'authentic, bold, servant leader' to describe the kind of leader we wanted our students to become," he said. "And that is a unique flavor of leadership. It aligns with a transformational leadership model. It's definitely the right model for us, because we want our students to view leadership as service and a calling to create extraordinary

solutions that make the world better."

Kafoglis has loved his 12 years at IWA and is grateful for the school and the other leadership teachers who developed the program. But, he explained, he feels he's done what he set out to do with YLP, and it's time for whatever the next challenge is.

"Each of us is a little like a rock that you keep chipping away at to reveal the gem within," he said. "When enough is revealed, light shines in and illuminates out on to others. It's time for me to go and chip away at a different part of the rock."

He knows he's leaving the program in good hands, however. Eric Kerr-Heraly, currently IWA's educational technologist and an English teacher, takes the lead this fall (see story below).



Charles Kafoglis dresses up as Santa Claus and shares some holiday cheer with Stephen Edworthy, IWA director of finance.

MOVING FORWARD

YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

"I've had an interest in our Young Leaders Program since I arrived at IWA," said Eric Kerr-Heraly, one

of the Academy's English teachers and its educational technologist, who takes on the role of YLP director at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. "No other high schools do what we do with leadership."

The program's uniqueness is one of the many reasons

he's excited to helm the initiative.

"All of these classes are project based and student based. I think that's definitely the way forward in education."

Kerr-Heraly took part in YLP's leadership coaching program during the 2019-2020 school year (see story, Page 26). He loved

its mentoring approach to students and the ability to work with them one-on-one to help them address individual projects and ways they were looking to succeed.

He's looking to build on that as he assumes his director duties, and he's interested in finding ways to integrate YLP more into the fabric of the Academy, as well as

A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP STORIES

LEADERSHIP LIVE! TURNS 10

Leadership Live! is one of IWA's most popular ongoing programs. An outgrowth of the Young Leaders Program, Leadership Live! brings experts to campus to discuss their career journeys and share insights about their approaches to leadership. The all-school assemblies allow students to not only hear leadership stories, but also ask questions and gain insights.

"The students are the ones who work to put on the programs," said Charles Kafoglis, founding and outgoing director of the IWA Young Leadership Program. "So, they get a chance to practice their own

leadership skills, as well as learning event and project management."

Past guests have included Jeff Linder, meteorologist for the Harris County Flood Control District, who spoke about storm preparedness and becoming an unexpected celebrity during Hurricane Harvey; Jamie Belinne, assistant dean of career services at the University of Houston's Bauer School of Business, who discussed ways to think about future careers and why failure is a great teacher; and a member of the expedition to rescue miners trapped in Chile, who framed the harrowing story from a leadership perspective.

"The students really love the series," said Kafoglis. "It makes them proud to know these important people come to see them and share their experiences."



Jamie Belinne, assistant dean of career services at the University of Houston's Bauer School of Business, shares insights about how to choose a career that fits.

develop relationships with the downtown community.

"We have a great relationship with PwC and our seniors attend a women's leadership day there each year," he said. "I'm looking to do things like that with other organizations downtown, to create internships for our students and show them how different careers can look."

Kerr-Herally expressed

his gratitude to YLP founder Charles Kafoglis, who's retiring (see story, Page 24), for working so closely with him in the months before he takes on the lead role.

"I really appreciate all the work he's done to build this special program," Kerr-Herally said. "His vision, drive and creativity are so apparent. He definitely leaves big shoes to fill!"



Matt Hall discusses the importance of a sound financial foundation at Leadership Live!



Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale with students after his Leadership Live! talk in 2014.



Erik Kerr-Herally

LEADERSHIP COACHING HELPS STUDENTS GROW

IWA expanded its Young Leaders Program last fall, offering leadership coaching to students. Six faculty coaches worked with sophomores to help them select formal enrichment opportunities and to make a meaningful impact in their co-curricular activities.

Coaches also worked with seniors, helping them envision and complete their extraordinary solution. Coaching is a great complement to the existing leadership curriculum.

“While the courses offer a unique and valuable head start for our students, what will truly drive their success in college and beyond is how to apply the principles to

their everyday lives,” said Dr. Mary Aamodt, IWA outgoing principal.

“IWA is one of the first high schools in the nation to create this opportunity for our students and we were proud to join a select few leading colleges to offer personalized leadership coaching for students,” said Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I., IWA president.

The coaching program

faculty learn more about students’ personalities outside the classroom.

“I was able to find out which students wanted to pursue careers in medicine and which ones had a passion for theology or the environment,” said English teacher Eric Kerr-Herally, who served as a faculty coach.

The program will continue in the new academic year.

LEADING AT IWA



A round-table discussion in our YLP classroom.

STUDENTS GRADUATE AS DISTINGUISHED LEADERS

Students who complete the coursework necessary for a leadership concentration (three of the four classes offered in our Young Leaders Program); who take part in an enrichment program; make a substantial contribution to their clubs, honor societies, fine arts or other IWA activities; and create a video that tells their leadership story earn the Distinguished Leader distinction, noted on their diplomas.

2020 DISTINGUISHED LEADERS

Kennadi
Barker
Ursula
Buchwald
Sophia
Cantoni
Kate
Cleveland
Laura
Cromwell
Anne
Culbreth
Eileen
Evans

Grace
Garwood
Olivia
Green
Isabella
Kerfers
Abbigale
Martin
Grace
Michael
Caroline
Moody
Kathy
Nguyen
Katelyn
Powell

May
Priestley
Laila
Richards
Niccole
Riera
Julia
Romualdo dos Santos
Merriam
Scafide
Lillian
Sudkamp
Maria
Trostmann
Rachel
Zakarevicz

A COOL IDEA

LEADING WITH BUSINESS CLASS LAUNCHES FROZEN DRINK COMPANY

The IWA cafeteria was transformed into a beach-side beverage shack last November, as the Leading With Business class launched Slush N' Rush after half a semester of planning and research.

"We knew we wanted to do some kind of food item," said Madeline Taylor '21, who was part of Slush N' Rush's operations team. "People really like those."

After deciding to open the drink business, serving blue raspberry and cherry limeade slushies, students divided into four teams. Product development created the drink recipes, determined how large a serving should be and ensured that the drinks tasted the same every time they were made. The finance team kept track of cash coming in from the sales, and made projections on how much the business needed to earn to pay back the seed money loan IWA gave the business. Marketing generated business buzz, designed posters advertising sales dates and developed exciting promotions for the IWA community. Operations handled aspects such as cup inventory and ensuring the other teams had the materials and resources they needed to succeed.

"It was really fun," said Randi McBride '21 about Slush N' Rush. "The planning could sometimes be stressful. I joked I felt like I had a 9-to-5 job. But this really taught you how to work with other people and realize not everyone thinks like you."

Slush N' Rush raised \$730, which it gave to the spring semester Leading With Business class as start-up money.



STAGING SUCCESS

STUDENT DIRECTORS SHOWCASE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Students must be involved with Falcon Theatre for a minimum of two years before fine arts chair and IWA theater director Katy Mulvaney will consider them as student directors.

This year's student directors, Ursula Buchwald '20 and Lillian Sudkamp '20, started with Falcon Theatre as freshmen and had handled a number of responsibilities. Both were assistant directors. Ursula worked on Falcon Theatre's tech crews and Lillian was a backstage manager. The two co-directed the fall show, "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic." It follows the action of what happened in the common room of a certain magic school while a certain

boy wizard and his fellow students were basically saving the world.

"The play had this goofy energy that I felt is a big part of Falcon Theatre," said Ursula. "It just fit really well."

The pair split their directing according to their own strengths and interests. Ursula handled day-to-day duties such as scheduling rehearsals. Lillian directed exits and entrances. They closely collaborated on how the show should look and flow.

"We both had a shared vision," said Lillian. "We didn't disagree much on how scenes should be."

Both students felt being directors pushed them to embrace new challenges. They aren't the only ones who felt that way. Alyssa Caver '19 student directed "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" in 2018.

"I took all four leadership classes, and I remember feeling 'oh, this is familiar' about certain concepts because I'd been involved in theater, which taught me about how you need to work with others," she said, "and

about the way leadership and theater dovetailed. The biggest lesson I learned as a student director was how to facilitate everyone else's involvement in the vision I had for the show."



A scene from "Puffs," co-directed by Ursula Buchwald '20 and Lillian Sudkamp '20. The final production embodied their shared vision for the show.

MAKING AN IMPACT

IWA'S DANCE TEAM OFFERS LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

IWA's Impact Dance Team has been incredibly successful this year, bringing home a Grand Champion Team in Small Class award at Atascocita High School's Ascension Competition and winning Overall Grand Champion in class for its team contemporary dance routine at Klein Forest High School's Miss Dance Drill Team Texas competition. That's in addition to other accolades, including recognition as the dance team with the highest GPA.

Their success is partly due to Dance Coach Lauren Lacanlale, but Lacanlale credits the troupe's officers,

dance captain Kennadi Barker '20, co-captain Emily York '21 and lieutenant Elizabeth Drake '22, who provided leadership to their peers and collaborative ideas for their coach.

"I added officer positions to the team to give the girls something to work toward," Lacanlale said. "It was also a way for them to grow in responsibility and self-discipline."



Kennadi Barker '20



IWA Impact Dance Team

Officers took on responsibilities from choreographing routines to keeping up team morale in the face of challenging rehearsals. In addition to competing, the team performs for the IWA community throughout the year, whether presenting a Halloween flash mob to "Thriller" or putting together a holiday routine for the annual Incarnate Word Academy Christmas Concert.

"Being captain, I really learned how to separate my personal feelings and

issues from my dance life," said Kennadi, who will be attending the University of Mississippi in the fall. "This year, I really focused on doing what was best for the team and what would propel them into future years."

Kennadi hopes to one day do marketing for a sports team and is hoping to find work in a dance studio while in college.

"She's a go-getter," said Lacanlale. "She always had tons of ideas, and I know she'll be successful in whatever she does."

STUCO PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON LEADERSHIP

Grace Michael '20 served as part of student council, or StuCo, since her sophomore year. She was both sophomore and junior class president, before being elected student body president last spring. It's a demanding role, one that shaped Grace's life inside and outside IWA.

"The most valuable thing I've taken away from my experience is that a leader is only as good as her team is," she said. "I have been blessed to work with a truly incredible group of leaders at the Academy."

She collaborated with several of them, fellow StuCo members, to plan IWA's Winter Ball. It's one of her fondest memories from senior

year, working to choose a theme, advertise the event, planning the menu, and decorating the venue.

Grace received the Woman of the Word Award, given to a senior who embodies the Academy's pillars of academics, values and spirituality (see Page 6). She volunteered with Summerhouse, a nonprofit that serves intellectually disabled young adults. She'll graduate with a Distinguished Leader certificate.

Senior year didn't turn out the way Grace expected, given the school's closure after the Covid-19 pandemic. But she feels the Academy, and her leadership roles, prepared to her to take on the challenge of remote learning and work to help keep IWA's student community together.

"The simplicity of filming what Oliva, the student body



Student Council president Grace Michael '20 leads a brainstorming session about Winter Ball.

vice president, and I would have said over the intercom each morning with the rest of our awesome morning announcements team has been the highlight of my quarantine," she said about the daily announcements that were sent to students, faculty and staff each day by email and later posted on the school website. "The IWA faculty and administration have truly reminded us that the IWA

community is not confined by the walls of the 609. It is instead connected through the sisterhood we share as Women of the Word."

LEADING AT IWA

BUILDING BLOCKS

OLIVIA GREEN '20 CREATES A LASTING PROGRAM

Olivia Green '20 started volunteering at San Francisco Nativity Academy the summer before her freshman year at IWA. As a sophomore, she joined a group of seniors who were doing their Leading With Service project there. Junior year, she took over the weekly visits, launching The Big Sister Club.

"I'm excited to know I was able to help foster a relationship between IWA and San Fran," she said. "They now know that IWA girls are always willing to put their best effort into any task that they need."

Sharing her passion with others and encouraging them to be part of the program that helps underserved children

"makes my heart happy," she said. She also has a deep respect for the hard work of San Francisco's faculty and administration.

"She's an awesome individual," said Dr. Lupe Hernandez, principal of San Francisco Nativity Academy. "She's wise beyond her years and such a giving person. I've learned so much from her."

The experience taught Olivia that it's often the littlest things that make a leader—creating a spreadsheet listing volunteers or reminding students to have service hours forms signed. She also learned an important lesson about the ripple effects leadership has, discovering that when others see how passionate someone is about a cause, they often want to join in.

She said that IWA gave her incredible leadership role

models.

"Dr. Aamodt, Mrs. Flickinger, and Sister Lauren have been there to help me along my service learning journey, and I am forever grateful for their guidance," she said. "They've helped me

see what kind of leader I'd like to be."

Next year, Olivia's sister Emily Green '22 wants to take over the program at San Francisco Nativity Academy.

"She loves working with the kiddos as well," Olivia said.



Olivia Green '20 with students from San Francisco Nativity Academy

WORD IN THE WORLD

DAY OF INTERNSHIP GIVES SENIORS CAREER INSIGHTS

IWA's annual Career Day invites professionals to campus to share their career journeys with students. This year, Academy seniors could participate in an optional Day of Internship, spending Career Day with firms and organizations around Houston.

Anne Culbreth '20 is heading to Texas A & M University to study architectural engineering and spent her Day of Internship with Ziegler Cooper Architects, a downtown Houston architecture firm. She met several of the firm's architects, attending a pitch planning meeting and learned how to use the program architects use for designing buildings.

"Going to the company for the day allowed me to see how my career would fit into the grand scheme of the project, and what I would be doing on a day-to-day basis."

Anne became interested in architecture and architectural engineering because of her love of church design. A highlight of her day was discovering that one of Ziegler Cooper's project managers worked on Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church,

which is one of her favorites.

"We ended up spending the rest of the day going down into the archives in the basement of the building, finding the original structural plans for it, and just looking at how it was built," she said.

Julia Romualdo dos Santos '20 will attend the University of Texas at San Antonio. She's thinking about studying criminal law, but chose to do her Day of Internship at Edwards & Associates in Stafford, Texas, shadowing Stacy Garcia to learn about the firm's medical malpractice specialty.

"I looked at trial exhibits and Mrs. Garcia talked about the amount of medical research that they have to do in order to put them together as well as convince the jury of their point," Julia said. "She also walked me through how they pick a jury."

Julia also got to read Garcia's very first closing argument and learned the lawyer was nervous when she had to deliver it.

"I understood more about the amount of work that went into preparing for a trial, and it was very eye-opening," Julia said. "I could actually picture myself doing that one day."

The next Day of Internship program is planned for January 2021.

Anne Culbreth '20 spent her Day of Internship at Ziegler Cooper Architects, the firm that designed Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church (below), one of Anne's favorite buildings. She was able to see plans for the church and talk about the design process with one of the firm's project leads.





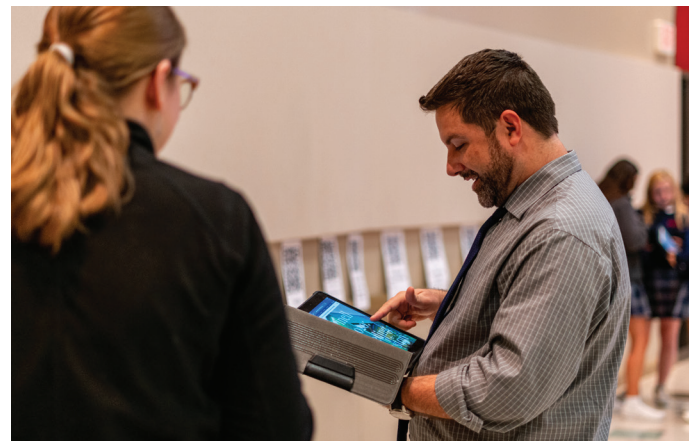
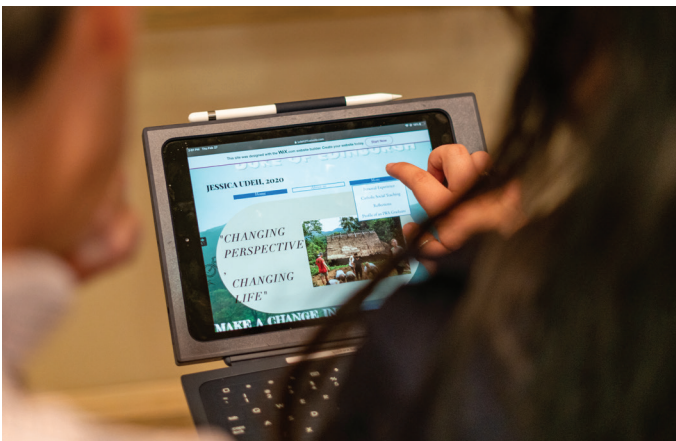
BEING WOMEN FOR OTHERS

IWA STUDENTS SHARE THEIR TIME AND TALENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

Students at Incarnate Word Academy learn many things during their years here. One of the most important is how to serve as women for others. And service is an important component to an IWA education; this year, students dedicated more than 10,000 volunteer hours to organizations around the Houston community as part of the school's service learning program.

"This is more than going through the motions of volunteering," explained Ana Paula Panzarini, IWA's campus minister, who oversees the service learning program. "Our students are encouraged to find something they are passionate about, explore volunteering options and discern the social justice issues that will best meet their service learning for their time at IWA. Students then commit to complete most of their hours to their chosen agency, where they learn to be servant leaders willing to assist with what the community truly needs."

Just before Spring Break, students hosted a service learning fair, discussing their projects with members of the IWA community. During their senior year, as part of their requirements for service learning, each student reflects on the impact of her service and completes a service learning portfolio, showcasing her service and application of Catholic social teaching as the final project for the Theology IV course. Students worked at their parishes, the Houston Food Bank, summer camps, adult day centers and a host of other nonprofit organizations.



Scenes from our service learning fair.

ON CAMERA, UP CLOSE

SHELBY TRAHAN '14 TALKS ABOUT WORKING IN TV

Most people are still asleep when Shelby Trahan '14 heads into work at KPLC-TV in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She's a cohost for the station's morning newscast, which means she's typically up at 3 a.m. and on the air at 7 a.m. But she doesn't mind at all.

"Being on 7 News Sunrise, and the Fox29 Morning Show, allows me to be myself," she said, laughing. "We do cover serious things, but we also have fun. I don't like hard news. I like doing features, the fun stuff."

There's no typical day for Trahan. She might find herself in a gym, working with a trainer to demonstrate a new fitness craze, or careening down a water slide into a waterpark pool. She's covered floods, school shooting threats and road repairs. She's done goat yoga, gone fishing and taken a self-defense class.

"People want to be able to see themselves reflected in stories," she said. "And working on the morning newscast, at a local station, we can really tap into those feelings."

As a student at IWA, she learned the importance of connections. She felt immediately welcomed when she started here as a freshman, and knew she was part of a great community. Several family members attended IWA, including her aunt, Bethany Trahan '93, and cousins Dana Rogers '94 and Lauren Rogers '99. Younger sister Kennedy graduates this year, and another sister, Lauren, is part of the Class of 2022.

"I love that IWA cares for its students," she said. "The faculty really teach and connect with students on a personal level."

Following graduation from IWA, Trahan attended the University of North Texas, earning her B.A. in journalism in December 2017. The following month, she was hired as a multimedia journalist for KLTV in Tyler. She stayed eight months before packing up and moving to Lake Charles.

"This just feels right where I am supposed to be," she said. "I am so blessed to be surrounded by people who support me, who make me better, who I can inspire, too."

Trahan loves being able to connect with her community, and is still amazed when people recognize her in the grocery store or elsewhere around the city.

"They'll say, 'I follow you on Facebook,' or 'You make me want to watch the news' and that's crazy to me," she says. "It's really cool to see."



ALUMNAE

ALUMNA TAKES ON IWA ADVANCEMENT ROLE

Cristina Flores '10, joined the Academy as IWA's advancement associate in December 2019.

She leads the school's annual fund efforts, raising financial support for IWA, and spearheads alumnae relations, cultivating a spirit of Sisterhood for Falcons even after their time at the school has come to an end.

Cristina spent four years doing digital marketing for the Houston Dash and Houston Dynamo, before heading to College Station, where she worked in the enrollment and academic services marketing department at Texas A&M University, her collegiate alma mater.

"IWA gave me so much as a young woman, and to be able to give back to the school as a member of the staff is such a blessing," she said. "I want to support IWA's mission of building strong Women of the Word any way I can."

Alumnae can look for Cristina's "What's the Word" newsletter, charting school and alumnae happenings, which is emailed four times per year. The next issue comes out in June 2020.



LOOK WHO ELSE WORKS FOR IWA:



ANN MARIE MONTALBANO '98
CATAPULT LEARNING REPRESENTATIVE



KAITLYN PENA '15
ADMISSIONS ASSISTANT



CASEY SCOTT '11
REGISTRAR

CLASS NOTES



Class of 1962

Several members of the Class of 1962 gathered for a mini-reunion at a lake house in Cleveland, Texas.

Mary (Poletti) Patronella '66 celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Ron "Ronnie" Gene Patronella on August 2, 2019.



Claudia (Jimenez) Rodriguez '04 recently launched a luxurious floral boutique right here in Houston.

Please send updates or photos to Cristina Flores '10 at cflores@incarnateword.org for next issue's Class Notes.



Lindsey (Stryk) Janak '09 married Nicholas Janak on June 29, 2019, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Praha, Texas. Several IWA alumnae were in attendance to help celebrate the special day.

Photo: IWA reunion at the Janak wedding reception.

From left to right, Allison (Schimelpfening) Shepard '09, Stephanie (Moore) Mock '08, Lindsey (Stryk) Janak '09 and Caroline (Clark) Rohr '09



Allison (Schimelpfening) Shepard '09 married Joshua Shepard on February 23, 2019, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in College Station, Texas. They met at Texas A&M University and regularly attend Aggie sporting events.



Anastasia Walloga '14 recently celebrated her White Coat ceremony at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine located on the campus of Virginia Tech. After graduating from Spring Hill College in 2018 with a B.S. in biology, Anastasia earned an M.A. in biomedical sciences from Bluefield College. She is now pursuing a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine and will graduate in 2023.



Sisters **Olivia '15** and **Jacque Bergeron '17** celebrated the launch of their own online boutique, Amigals. Jacque, who holds a degree in textiles and apparel from the University of Texas at Austin, creates all of the company's products by hand. Olivia, who earned her degree in finance from Texas Tech University, handles all marketing and finance for the business.

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.

Frances Carlin, Class of '48

Elizabeth Cuccerre, Class of '48

Teresa Dodgen, Class of '48

Mary Elizabeth Ellis '65

Christine (Flanagan) Imber '31

Marie "Peaches" (Gonsoulin) Owen '54

Geraldine (Guokas) Pape, Class of '45

Consuelo Sanchez, Class of '52

Barbara Faye (Crump) Sulak '60

Sister Yvonne Wuensche, C.V.I. '55

Jo M. Bankston, mother of Donna Bankston Dornak '78

Neil Brown, father of Darby Brown '20

Charles Caruso, grandfather of Megan Garney '19 and father of Whitney Garney

Tony Huerta, father of world languages teacher Jennifer Luke

David Siegel, father-in-law of math teacher

Kristan Siegel

Mary C. Weis, mother of Belinda Postman-

Kaylani '67 and Barbara Van Postman '69



Sister Yvonne Wuensche, C.V.I. '55

IWA alumna and former science teacher Sister Yvonne Wuensche, C.V.I. passed away on Feb. 24. Born Feb. 8, 1937, she graduated from IWA in 1955, entering the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament that September. She made her final profession of vows in 1961. Yvonne earned a B.A. and M.Ed. from the University of St. Thomas, and a Master of Science in geology from the University of Houston. She taught in the Diocese of Beaumont and Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. She served as executive director of the St. Vincent DePaul Society. After retiring, she worked in IWA's library and labored many hours capturing the history of the Academy. She is remembered for her dedication to education, scientific background, her natural inquisitiveness and her love of geology.



Geraldine Guokas '45 and her sister, Jo Ann Guokas (Sr. Jean Marie) '48.
Next Page: Sister Jean Marie '48, summer 1946, and Geraldine Guokas '45 graduation portrait.

GIVING BACK

GUOKAS GIRLS SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF IWA STUDENTS

Two of the most influential women in Amanda Pape's life were her mother, Geraldine Guokas Pape '45, and her aunt, Jo Ann Guokas, or Sister Jean Marie '48. So, when her mother passed away in November 2019, she decided to honor their legacy. She and her husband, Mark Gresham, partially endowed The Guokas Girls Scholarship to Incarnate Word Academy earlier this year. The first scholarship recipient enrolls at IWA this fall.

"Education has always been important to our family," said Pape. "My mother was a college graduate in a time when women were really only starting to do that regularly. Sister Jean Marie was a teacher. And both loved IWA."

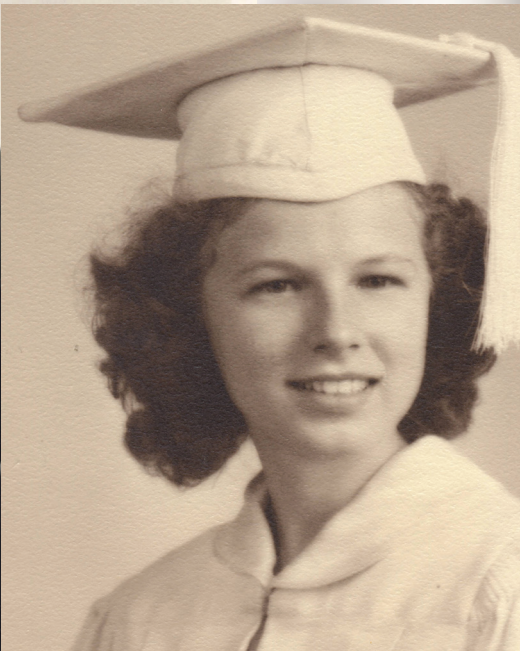
Geraldine, or Gerrie, as she was known, and Jo Ann were born in Houston, in 1928 and 1930, respectively. Along with

their older brother and parents, they lived in Houston's First Ward and attended St. Joseph Catholic Church and School. After graduating from IWA, Gerrie majored in history at the University of Texas at Austin, earning her bachelor's degree and going on to work for Humble Oil (now Exxon), Magnet Cove Barium, and later McClelland Engineers. She married Frederick Henry "Fred" Pape in 1954, and the couple had five children.

Jo Ann entered the Convent of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in 1946 at the age of 15. She would graduate with her IWA class in 1948 and took her first vows the following year, taking the name Sister Jean Marie. She earned her bachelor of arts and master of religious education degrees from the University of St. Thomas and a master of education and counselor certification from the University of Houston. Sister Jean Marie taught in elementary schools around the region, before coming to IWA as a science and math teacher in 1955. She would spend 24 years at the academy as a teacher, principal,

ADVANCEMENT

*Ann as a
candidate
Summer 1946*



director of development and president.

The gift provides one \$1,000 need-based scholarship each year for an academically talented student, beginning with her first year at the Academy and renewable for four years.

"I truly hope this scholarship helps make it easier for deserving and hard-working young women to receive the high-quality education IWA offers," said Pape. "The church and Catholic education have always been important to our family, and we are so proud to give this gift in honor of our mother and our aunt."

Since the family set up the scholarship, Sister Jean Marie raised the balance of the endowment, drawing on her own vast network of friends, fellow IWA alumnae and colleagues within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

"I think it would really make my mom happy to know we did this," Pape said. "It's wonderful to give the gift of an Incarnate Word Academy education to others."

ALUMNA REMEMBERS IWA IN HER LAST REQUESTS

Our oldest-living alumna passed away on Feb. 27. Christine (Flanagan) Imber was born Jan. 10, 1914 in Port Arthur, Texas. She attended the University of the Incarnate Word, and married Joseph Robert Imber in 1947. They were married for 44 years, and had two children. She was active in her Catholic faith and her community, serving on several charities and boards, including the Charity Guild of Catholic Women. She was a Lady Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Christine worked for several years for The Texas Company, later Texaco, and was the first woman to serve on the board of The Texaco Country Club.



ALUMNA AND SUPPORTER REMEMBERED

Marie "Peaches" Owen '54 was a generous supporter of Incarnate Word Academy and its mission. Through the Louis and Peaches Owen Family Foundation, she gave annually to IWA, showing both her love for her alma mater and her passion for education. Peaches passed away on Dec. 7, 2019. Born in Galveston on Feb. 4, 1937, she married Louis Walter Owen the year after her graduation from Incarnate Word. The couple lived in New Orleans, Tyler and Houston, and had three children. The couple established their foundation in 2006 and were enthusiastic philanthropists for causes in Texas and throughout the country. Their giving enabled the couple to live their Christian faith. Peaches will be remembered for her kind and gracious heart.



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

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