



The concept for this year's annual report was inspired in part by two recent events at the Academy. The first was a Prayer Service for Becca Lueke, a recent graduate of STA who passed away in December of 2013. At the conclusion of the service, our STA girls stood in solidarity, side-by-side with arms around one another, and sang the school song one last time to Becca.

The second event was an all-school assembly organized to honor our extraordinary school principal along and another incredible STA student who were recently diagnosed with cancer. Their story is highlighted in the report. It was an incredible sight to see as over 120 STA girls grasped each others' hands as their pony tails were cut off and donated to a cancer organization.

We believe there is no other place like St. Teresa's Academy. It is at STA where these bonds of friendship are first formed and grow into the wonderful stories you are about to read. While space was limited in the annual report, here you can enjoy, in their entirety, the stories of love and friendship as told by the women of STA.

Click the STA class years
(to the right) to link
to the wonderful stories
told by the women of STA.

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|------|------|------|
| 1957 | 1970 | 1994 |
| 1958 | 1975 | 1996 |
| 1960 | 1979 | 1999 |
| 1961 | 1980 | 2005 |
| 1967 | 1986 | 2006 |
| 1967 | 1990 | 2007 |
| 1969 | 1992 | 2013 |

Class of 1957

Following our 50th class reunion, the five of us who had spearheaded plans for our social gatherings for that weekend all felt that if anything had come out of our reunion experience it was that we loved getting together! That feeling had started during the planning for our 40th reunion, but ten years later, in 2007, we really didn't want to wait another five or ten years to see each other!

So, to satisfy our desire to get together, but with no pressure, it was decided that we would pick a place to meet, a day of the week, plus a time, and anyone who could come, just show up! No organization, no need to call, just come! Panera's off of 103rd and State Line was picked to make it easy since we come from both sides of the line. Tuesday sounded good, and we went with 9:30 am, not too early. We have been gathering there on Tuesday mornings for the past six and a half years. Just to shake things up a little, we meet at someone's house instead, but still try to keep it simple.

Our STA friends/sisters all feel they can share what's happening in their lives which is then an opportunity at times to ask for prayers, get some sympathy and support (we all need it sometimes), discuss current topics and get new ideas, talk about the latest book you are reading, or movie, or hear the funniest stories ever!! Tuesday morning has truly become a cherished part of our week!

The casual aspect of Tuesday morning is such a strong factor in how many of us approach it. In other words, it's just worked in with our day. We may be in sweats because we have just been walking or have come from the gym after exercising. At the same time one of us may be dressed for a fancy lunch later. There could be two or three of us, or there could be eleven!

Sharon Potts



(l to r) 1961 bridesmaids Paula Schmidt Duke and Sylvia Vandever Scherrer and bride Sharon O'Connor Potts having lunch with other classmates at O'Neill's Restaurant in September, 2013. We have lunch there every other month. This is also something we have been doing since our 50th reunion.

Class of 1958

In 1998, shortly after our 40th reunion many of us wanted to stay in touch, so we started “books & more.” We meet monthly discussing book selections, world affairs, and our lives! Susan Matney condenses the topics and sends them along to our sisters across the country. We’ve had so much fun that we now travel, lunch, attend movies and theatre together.

Over the years life threw its curves and we began praying for one another, then for family and friends, and eventually requests came from outside our circle. Turns out we’ve become a pretty powerful prayer group, or so we’ve been told! In addition to our prayers, Pat Roberts, our master knitter, has brought comfort and support to countless with her beautiful prayer shawls.

During the Christmas season we make contributions to a local organization we believe provides assistance to the most vulnerable in our community. Throughout the year we support the willow tree women, an outreach of the justice project, a group inspired by Sr. Donna Ryan to ensure that women in need receive help, hope and justice.

We have been together for many years, we support one another in tough times, operations, illness, death, and celebrate the good times, grandchildren, retirement, and travel. I think we’d all agree that our STA friendships are among the most important in our lives, they nourish us, sustain us, and make us laugh!

Cathie Sullivan



Graduates of the Class of 1958 gather together in the corner booth at Winstead's.

Class of 1960

Your e-mail requesting stories and photos came at just the right time. While we are here in Florida, we're fortunate to have a number of KC friends visiting us this winter. Kathy Schurig Sullivan ('60) and her husband Tim Sullivan stopped by this past Sunday for a brief visit -- after their vacation in St. Petersburg -- on their way back to KC by way of a sightseeing stop in Savannah.

Kathy and I went to five years of grade school together before my family moved away from KC (to Oklahoma), then we reconnected at STA where we both graduated in 1960, and then went on to graduate from Avila four years later (1964). Our husbands, Frank Bax and Tim Sullivan have been good friends since their college days together at Rockhurst.

Next week, another friend from STA and Avila, Mary Bien Sharp ('60) and her husband Don, will be visiting from KC. While I have been away from Kansas City since 1981, my KC friends -- many of them with ties to STA and Avila -- remain some of my dearest and closest ones. (The same is true of Frank who has kept close ties with many of his Hogan and Rockhurst friends.)

What do they say: "Old friends are the best friends."

Our next KC visitors will be Mary and Don Sharp. Mary Ann Dunn Brown ('59) and her husband Spencer will be joining us in March.

All the best,

Mary Agnes Castrop Morrow-Bax



(l to r) Frank Bax and Mary Morrow-Bax (1960) and Mary Sharp (1960) and husband Don playing golf together during a vacation in Florida. The two Marys went to STA together and on to Avila where they graduated in 1964. Their husbands attended grade school together at St. Mary's in Kansas City, MO.

Class of 1961

As my husband and I prepare to leave on February 26, 2014, for our dear friend's funeral, Tom Lyon, husband of Teresa Haake Lyon, I am reminded of our deep and continuing friendship with several girls. Teresa and I started school together at St. Francis Xavier in kindergarten. Her parents then moved to St. Peter's Parish. After 3rd grade my family moved to St. Peter's. Walking back to school in early 4th grade, Margay Green (Welch) ran down her drive-way and said, "Hey wait, I'll walk back to school with you." Mary Sue Stephenson Rhodes was also a classmate. We all continued schooling at STA graduating in 1961. In our freshman year Mary Lou Waters Early joined us at St. Teresa's.

After high school Mary Lou, Sue and I went on to St. Teresa's College (this was 1961, remember). Margay went off to Webster Grove in St. Louis and Teresa went to Mount St. Scholastica. After graduation from college (1965) Sue and I taught together at St. Bernadette's in Raytown for 2 years. Needing more funds because I was getting married, I went to the public school in Turner, Kansas, Oak Grove for a year while my husband finished his education at the University of Kansas Medical School.

When my husband and I married, Sue was my maid of honor and Teresa, Mary Lou, and Margay were in the wedding. Living finally in Oregon where my husband practiced Orthopedic Surgery, I was almost a yearly visitor to KC to see friends and family. On the occasion of my 50th birthday I asked my husband, instead of jewelry would he consent to bringing the KC GIRLS to Klamath. "Sounds good," he said. So in August 1994, all 4 came to Klamath and we had the best time ever, with also 2 of my Klamath friends. We continued meeting someplace yearly and had fantastic fun and created more and more memories. Now we prepare to go to Kansas City to pay our respects to one of our dear friends and his wife, Teresa, whom I first met in kindergarten. We all turn 70 years old this year of 2014. My, oh my, what a ride!

Susan St. Clair Laubengayer

Class of 1967

While I still have many friendships with classmates from STA, I have 2 of the most wonderful, special friendships of my life from my STA family. Just last night I got together with Mary Fleming Vannice and Maureen Hurley Holman and we spent the entire night going through a wonderful high school scrapbook that Maureen resurrected from her father's basement after his recent passing.....what a treasure chest of memories.....dances, darts, pictures, even toilet paper from our first TPing escapade.

You said keep it brief, but I can go on and on about this friendship.....the first day in home room I sat across from Maureen and we became instant friends. Mary was in a different home room but knew Maureen from grade school. Little did I know then that almost 50 years later I would still have the same close friendship that we did then. Our friendship has continued through college, marriages, births, deaths, happiness, sadness, kids and now grandkids. We get together every month for dinner and never run out of things to talk about. Some of the best laughs of my life have been shared at this dinner. But it's not only about the good times, it is knowing we are there for each other in all times...

Marianne Kelly Sears



(l to r) Marianne Kelly Sears, Maureen Hurley Holman and Mary Fleming Vannice, Class of 1967. This picture was from a road trip we recently took to Colorado to see one of our other wonderful STA friends, Kathy Cody Brock. She would be joining us for those dinners if she were here!

Class of 1967

My Sisterhood started in 8th grade at Visitation with the wonderful young women who welcomed me into their class. Most of us then journeyed on to STA where our friendships and caring continued for four years. And, now, 47 years later, we are all still in contact via email, Facebook, lunches and dinners. Our STA women are pretty special!

Suzie Haake



Class of 1967

I am submitting a photo and short story for 3 of us who have been “sister-friends” since high school, STA Class of 1967.

Sophomore year at STA, Patty Alshouse Cross, Mary Fitzgerald and Mary Jo Giblin Saviano, started what has become a life-long friendship through many trials and many more joyous times. There have been weddings, births, deaths, major illnesses and retirement plans but we’ve kept up with one another over these many years. One of our most treasured traditions is our fall trip. Patty moved to Kansas City with her family from Minnesota and when she married after college ending up living in Texas. She really missed the annual fall color we love so much in the Midwest so we established our “fall trip.” Every year in October we plan a trip somewhere that regales us with the color of the season. Fall 2013 was our 23rd year and we continue to plan ahead for our reunions, we are STA sisters!

Mary Jo Giblin Saviano



(l to r) Mary Fitzgerald, Patty Alshouse Cross and Mary Jo Giblin Saviano

Class of 1969

“We are the class of 1969, we are really fine!” Or is it Wine?

We were all coming home for Christmas vacations from our various universities and were excited to see each other. We gathered for our first fondue party at Louanne’s parent’s home. Six giddy college girls devoured the Andre’s fondue and desserts, and emptied eleven bottles of wine! We didn’t realize we were beginning a life long tradition in which all of us looked forward to each year. Not necessarily the wine but the friendships! Katy (Iwerson) Tenn, Lenette (Campbell) Crawford, Lou Hein, Mary (Mulloy) Kuhnlein, Patty (Lippert) Butler.

Each year we got together and celebrated with stories from school, boyfriends, and future jobs. The conversations shifted from 20 something ponderings on to graduation, new jobs, engagements, marriages, children, children’s schools, graduations, children’s marriages, parents and siblings deaths, ending careers, grandchildren, and the life cycle of retirement plans. But our friendships were always most important to us. The bonds we made in elementary and high school have lasted through 40 years of never missed “fundue” parties every Christmas. It is the highlight of our holiday. Just the girls. There is lots of laughter, love, stories, memories, appreciation, and now maybe wisdom.

There are five of us now and we barely make it through two bottles of wine, but the same Andre’s fondue and dessert torte will always be our favorite meal together; sharing stories, living through ups and downs of life, and always being there for each other as ever lasting friends. “That’s just what we do, oftentimes with the help of fine wine.”

Louanne Hein with editions from Patty, Mary, Lenette, and Katy.



(1990's) Back row (l to r) Katy Iwerson, Lenette Campbell, Diane Graham;
front row (l to r) Patty Lippert, Louanne Hein, Mary Mulloy



(2011) Back row (l to r) Lenette Campbell, Katy Iwersen;
front row (l to r) Mary Mulloy, Louanne Hein, Patty Lippert

Class of 1970

Sisterhood: the solidarity of women based on shared conditions, experiences or concerns.

Many of our relationships began at or before STA and have continued through the years since. But in this case the sisterhood began at STA, took a break and began again anew.

Take for example the sisterhood of Liz Leahy Heinshon, Margie Cartella Leahy Keary and Molly McCaffrey Gallagher. We all started as freshmen at STA in 1966, the year the school was celebrating its Centennial.

There were celebrations abounding and we were in the thick of it.



(l to r) Liz Leahy Heinshon, Molly McCaffrey Gallagher, and Margie Cartella Leahy Keary

Liz and I had gone to Visitation together while Margie was a St. Peter's girl. Our sisterhood did not begin until too many years later. By fate Liz and I reconnected at our 20 year reunion. We were just two girls standing around catching up with our classmates and something clicked. Our differences were a few – I was now living in Houston and she was still in KC; I had married early and she had waited some time; she has a nursing degree while I have no degree; I had 3 children that were in their teens at that point and her only daughter would not be born for another 3 years. Yet we clicked.

Over the next few years when I would visit KC we would get together for lunch and dinner and catch up. It just wasn't a real visit if I didn't see Liz. When her daughter went to STA, it brought back so many memories for us and our times. While many things had changed – there was an entire building for the gym, not just the small place we had that is now The Commons, many were the same – walking from M&A to Donnelly, making new friends and having great times.

Margie married the year after graduation and moved away while her husband was in medical school; they returned to KC for his residency. After his death in 1999 Margie moved out of their home and took some time to herself and lost touch with STA. Shortly before our 40th reunion she updated STA with her contact information. She attended our reunion and like Liz, we clicked.

Whenever I let my KC friends know I'm going to be in town Margie is always one of the first to respond.

Through email we stay connected, updating each other on the good things – my grandson's upcoming graduation – and the difficult times – Margie's son is battling cancer. Each of us knows we can reach out to each other for prayer and a pick me up.

Each time I'm in KC it's just the 3 of us at dinner. Most recently our favorite spot has become Seasons 52 on The Plaza. We all look forward to a glass of wine, a great meal and of course remembering the good times – a time we cherish and hold dear.

Would I change anything? Only one. That we could have started this sisterhood sooner.

Molly McCaffrey Gallagher

Class of 1975

Seven girls from four Catholic grade schools became friends for life at St. Teresa's Academy. Some of our memories stray outside the criteria for the Academy Girl: arranging our "new" modular scheduling for free time together (for sunbathing nearby while discussing long dresses for the next dance); cafeteria fun (with a few pie fights and an apology to our entire class); secret sessions in the sick room inside D111; pranks in the library (Aunt Bev might've secretly enjoyed them); boys (and boys streaking across campus – "Girls, get away from the windows!"); weekends taking turns borrowing a parent's car and older friends' IDs; and a lot of sleepovers (without much sleep).



(l to r) Becky O`Kelley Cannon, Diane Flake Sudhoff, Kathy Berg Callegari, Theresa Allegri Alani, Jennifer Jordan Carr, Victoria Henges Menninger, Carole Immenschuh Schroeder DVM

Despite all above efforts to the contrary, as well as dire predictions by worried counselors, we must have assimilated enough education to start in our diverse career paths; as our group includes a veterinarian, a lawyer, a commercial pilot, a realtor, a business woman, an interior designer, and an Etsy entrepreneur featured in national publications.

We're still active in each other's lives, through weddings, babies, birthdays, vacations together, and struggles, too. Our annual time together at the lake transforms us into teenagers as we laugh, catch-up and retell old stories while indulging in adult beverages.

2015 will be the 40th anniversary of our graduation from St. Teresa's Academy. I doubt any of us could have imagined we would still be together, supporting and enjoying each other as much as ever, all these decades later. We are quite grateful that's how life turned out.

"The Girls"

Becky, Carole, Diane, Jenny, Kathy, Theresa and Victoria.

Class of 1979

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We call ourselves the Circle of Friends, a close knit group of five women from the class of 1979. It is a name that originated from a Christian rock song of the same name that perfectly describes the tight bonds of friendship. Originally, two arrived at STA good friends from Christ the King. The other three best buds from St. Peters. We were not a “group” in high school but had occasional social outings in common. It was nearly 15 years after graduation that we really started to solidify our true connectedness as a group.

We have nurtured these friendships in many ways. We have been to and in each other’s weddings. We have celebrated births, new jobs, and life’s milestones. We have united and stood strong while one grieves. Two lost parents very young. One lives in the shadow of cancer. Two buried siblings prematurely. Between us we’re raising 15 children. Our spouses know and like one another. Two have had significant health challenges with daughters. In each other we have found unconditional acceptance and love and trust that builds over years. Together we have woven a tapestry that weaves together our individual stories with our shared memories. And when we gather, we have a candle that is a circle of five figures carved out of stone. The flame burning brightly in its center is our shared image of God and our reminder that He is always in our midst.

Over time, though we are all independent, we’ve learned how much relying on one another enhances our lives and our ability to negotiate life’s sometimes tumultuous terrain. We’ve shared troubles with kids, spouses, in-laws and parents. We’ve laughed until we’ve peed our pants and cried buckets unashamedly. We’ve learned to manage each other’s personalities. Some are bossy. Some are people pleasers. We annoy each other. We have disappointed each other, but we work through it. We’ve shared many memorable travel adventures. And while we aren’t neighbors and two live in other parts of the country, our cell phones are a lifeline. All it takes is a quick text to get us in prayer mode for both insignificant and major reasons. None of us feel alone. That is a gift.

In a world where people don’t always take time to nurture relationships, we know we are blessed. Thank you St. Teresa’s for the foundation upon which these bonds formed. It was at the Academy that we were introduced to the amazing possibilities of the bonds women are capable of forming. They do, indeed, enhance our lives. And God smiles. Because through Him, we celebrate each other. I am blessed to have a daughter currently at STA and I hope she will establish similar ties in her journey through life.

As our namesake song says....”We have one Father, We share this prayer...that we’ll gather together no matter how this highway bends...I will not lose this Circle of Friends....”



Pajama party, fall 2007. Yes we are 46 year old women wearing matching pajamas!



(l to r) Co O’Sullivan Bauman, Nicole Renaud Swift, Lynn King Debacco, Mary Flavin White, and Ann Cosgrove Drennan

Colleen O’Sullivan Bauman

Class of 1980

Fourteen girls became connected from 1976-1980. We shared classes, boyfriends, parties, sledding, TPing, football games, dances, vacation. We saw each other in good and bad times and still chose each other.

We went to separate colleges and afterward some of us lived in different cities. But, we still celebrated each others lives--dating, jobs, weddings and births. Through it all, we still made the effort to get together, once a month, one every other month, whatever fit our schedules, for a "girls night out" or "ladies at the lake." When kids were little and we were at different schools it was harder to connect but we still tried.

Now our kids, for most of us, are older and we are connecting more often. We have shared births of children, grade school sporting competitions, watching our kids go through high school together, sickness of children, sickness of parents, death of parents and kids going off to college and getting married.

At each and every stage, particularly when times were hard, you could always count on these girls getting together to support each other, serve a funeral meal, pray for whatever was the need at the time, share a glass of wine to mull things over and basically laugh our bums off at our lives. When life changes occur, whether its tips on potty training, how to handle our teenagers or our relationships, these are the women we turn to for support or laughter.

I believe it was the bond forged through those gates on 57th street where we learned each others strengths and weaknesses, gifts and failures, priorities, faith, and sense of humor. We learned in high school how to be there for one another and that we matter deeply to each other. We know each other. There's nothing to hide our secrets are known by these women! What better comfort. They still love us!

Two of the women in our group daughters, who met at STA, set up their prospective brother and sister on a blind date. This last summer those two got married! Now two of our high school friends are in-laws. I'm not sure who was more excited, the "girls night out" or Molly and Martha, the proud mother-in-laws.

Looks like the next chapter in our lives together involves arbitration! (You know how grandmas can be about sharing grandchildren.) Who knows what the next 10 years will bring? The last "girls night out" had everyone loading the Pope App on their phones! We can be religious while sharing drinks! (I think we did learn that at STA.) One thing that is sure is the next chapter involves each other and more laughter and tears. I can't wait...

Shauna Aylward Fletcher



Back row (l to r) Kate McNamara Hausman, Molly Havey Mincher, Sue Coppinger Devereux, Jennifer Keller Petree, Brigid Neville Ohlemeyer, Jean O'Laughlin Chesney; front row (l to r) Michele Mayer Orpin, Shauna Aylward Fletcher, Lori Orpin, Kathy Welsh Watkins, Martha Neenan Franke, Holly Shea Grohmann, Patti Russell Woodhead

Class of 1986

My memories of STA only grow fonder as I age. At the time, of course, it didn't occur to me that the friendships I had made would last a lifetime, and as we walked off the grounds following our graduation ceremony, I'm sure the lot of us would never have imagined we would still be so connected. I'm proud to say that my closest friends are the ones I made while at STA. Most of them were fellow Stars, a few from surrounding schools, but the bond we made remains unbroken. Some of our 1986 class of phenomenal women have moved away, but many of us remain connected and banter with the best of them through digital social channels. My closest friends are all still near me geographically, and it brings me great joy to know that I can count on them no matter what. They've cared for me during struggles, they've celebrated with me, and I can count on them for anything. I, too, have had the honor of watching them blossom, develop their careers, become mothers, active community members and I'm proud to have them as part of my life. I cannot imagine my life without them.

Cheers to the Class of 1986. We have a very special group of women. I know so few other people who have remained connected, even remotely, to the friends they made when young. We will celebrate 30 years together in 2016, and when we see each other then (or before) it will be with hugs, laughter, camaraderie and joy.

Elisabeth Spillman Nord

Class of 1986

I came to STA as a scared freshman in the fall of 1982. I was not there by choice—I lived in Blue Springs and was the only one in my grade school going to STA. My parents made me go and told me that I could transfer sophomore year if I wanted to, but I had to give it a chance. Well, needless to say, I graduated from STA in 1986, so as with most things, they knew best!

I ended up meeting many wonderful girls who became good friends and a one of them became my very best friend who I have needed many times in my life—she has been with me through college, a wedding, babies, teenagers, and a divorce.

Some girls I haven't seen since we graduated—others I see at reunions every few years, or trivia nights every year, or just for a girls get-together every now and then. My life is much richer because of these friendships.

I also love the fact that I have two daughters who are now STA alums—Class of 2011 and Class of 2012 (and hopefully there will be a Class of 2022, as well). They have absolutely loved their days at STA and I love seeing the women they have become because of their times there.

Theresa (Terri Becker) Waller



(l to r) Vickie Brocato Stoneberger, Theresa Becker Waller, Jennifer Jordan Loe, Lorraine Sullivan

Class of 1990

This is an excerpt from an email that I sent to both Nan Bone & Kathleen Barry last May about one of our classmates--Carolyn Saladino Accurso, Class of 1990--who passed away on May 19, 2013. I felt that the STA community needed to know of her passing and to keep her family, her husband and her daughter in prayer. In this letter I sent to them, I spoke of the "sisterhood" that is still very much a part of us all...

Sadly, our classmate, Carolyn Saladino Accurso passed away last night (Sunday). The outpouring of support & sisterhood on Facebook (in a private message that has reached over 100 messages/people) has been tremendous. To just give you some excerpts of the messages on the feed, here's what some said: Many classmates spoke of the bond we're still sharing 23 years later; one classmate said that her parents would be proud and more at peace to know that they sent their daughter to a school that harvested support & care all of these years later; another student wrote how proud she was to know each of us and felt energized by our love; another wrote that the love we shared then, is what is getting us through this difficult time now.....the messages are wonderful & many, but I think it's moments like this when STA should really be recognized for the special place it is, and for future students to know.

The outpouring of support was tremendous when all of this was happening last May. Even though many of us had not been in face to face contact with one another, there was comfort & support in numbers via social media---as strange as that may sound it was true.

Sincerely,

Andrea Brancato Vovk

Class of 1992

As we pass through our 4 years at St. Teresa's, we experience sisterhood in different ways. We are first greeted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, their bonds of sisterhood formed through their love for the teachings of Christ and for educating young women. We soon discover our own sisterhood. Our deep bond takes shape on the first day of orientation, and as it turns out, lasts well past the 4 years we spend on the campus at STA.

We support each other through youthful joys and sorrows: first crushes, first dances, first break ups, acceptance into colleges, family crises. The bonds of friendship grow over the 4 years, maybe helped by proximity, but once we leave the halls of Donnelly, Goppert and M&A, we choose to keep replenishing these bonds. And we are still supporting each other through all that life offers us to this day.

I am proud and feel blessed to say that I am still very close with so many of my STA sisters. Even if I haven't talked to or seen a classmate for years, when I do, it's an immediate pick-up-where-we-left-off experience. And the laughter, oh the laughter! When my classmates get together, a good time is guaranteed. I don't think there are women on this planet that make me laugh as hard, or make me feel as supported and loved as my STA sisters do.

Recently, 10 members of our class were able to schedule a dinner to honor and celebrate the 40th birthdays of our dearly departed sisters, Lara Phelps and Eileen Teahan. It was a poignant night, but a celebratory one, just as our Lara and Eileen would have wanted it. Although, they may have insisted on some dancing.

The sisterhood that exists with our class, and all STA alums, is so strong and so deep. Sadly, we have seen our share of loss - 2 of our brightest lights are missing whenever we reunite. We have held each other as we mourn the loss of fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. But this is why these bonds are so important; they lift us up in happy and sad times. No matter where life has taken us, this sisterhood is someplace we can always return for support and love.

Lara and Eileen, we miss you so much. As we all celebrate our 40th birthdays this year, you are felt at each celebration. Know that you would have made each party that much more fun, that much more complete. You are still part of our sisterhood, and we can't wait to see you again. One big reunion is coming up in the distant future, and it will be a blast!

Carolyn Paugh



We have gone on 4 trips in the last 6 years.

Class of 1994

When this email was received, it prompted a simple email to all, “write it up.” With some back & forth about who would write it up, there was no question that we were all compelled to respond.

Our friendship formed freshman year at STA. We all had different connections to one another--grade school, sports, drill team, classes, car pools. Our friendships morphed and strengthened throughout our 4 years at STA, and have continued to do so over the nearly 20

years since our graduation. During high school we were inseparable. While we have lived in different cities, states and continents since graduation, in all but geography, inseparable we remain. We’d like to think we’ve matured, and in many ways we have. However, our spouses will tell you of the teenage laughter, squeals and stories they endure each time we are together.

Our triumphs and tragedies have changed since high school, but what remains constant is our love & support of each other. While we have endured more of both than we felt we deserved or could tolerate at times, our friendships help make the victories sweeter and the defeat bearable. While we do not see each other as often as we would like, once together we immediately connect as though no time has passed. We are forever friends, forever sisters, forever grateful for one another and to STA for bringing us together.

Roseanne Ciarlelli Corley



(l to r) Reina Enriquez Gabbud, Roseanne Ciarlelli Corley, Christen Mossinghoff Bishara, Kelly McGlenn Kerschen & Lori Bailey Meyer

Class of 1996

I can remember St. Teresa's Class of 1996 freshman orientation like it was yesterday – it was August of 1992. We all wore buttons that had '96 printed on them with dot-matrix style numbers and our names hand-written in black pen. It's pretty scary for a fourteen-year-old girl who barely knew anyone, and I had no idea that attending St. Teresa's – which was definitely the road less traveled where I came from – would change the course of my life. I can recall each instance when I met Katie V., Katie P., Kelley, Karen, Emily and Bridget – whether it was at orientation, in freshman choir, in Mr. Firth's Life & Death class, or at a table in the cafeteria, each situation was unique. It was like God was putting together a puzzle for me and I never saw the entire picture until I became an adult. When I made the choice to spend my time with these girls, I made the choice to create the best friendships I will ever have. Our time together in these past twenty-two years have been filled with so many ups and downs, but our friendship has lasted the test of time. When we are together, we can only be our true selves because it is what we've always known of each other. There is an old saying, "make new friends, but keep the old...one is silver and the other gold." They are my gold; it only gets better as time goes on, and I can thank St. Teresa's for showing me the priceless gift of sisterhood.

Christina Hocker



Standing (l to r) Katie Potter, Bridget Bolin Quinn, Karen Moran Redlich, Christina Carollo Hocker, Emily Spencer Stanton; seated paugh (l to r) Katie Viesselman Thorne, Kelley Smith Werkowitch

Class of 1999

Where do I start with these girls? They are my life, my loves and my life long friends! We've been through things that are probably not appropriate for this type of audience, however we've been through things that are worth shouting from the mountain tops! We've known each other for a very long time which in turn means we've been through the tough teen years and learning to become women together.

We got each other through STA (good and bad) and boyfriends (good and bad). We all went our separate ways for college and yet our friendships survived. We've been at each others sides through engagements, weddings and now babies! We may not talk daily or even for months at a time, however the bonds we've made with each other will allow us to never skip a beat and pick up like we're physically together every day. I love these girls and they make my life better...they make me better. For this I thank them and I thank STA for the relationships it allowed me to make with them.

Jessie Shechter Thomas



Our group is pretty awesome. We're lucky to have each other. Brooke (Kuechler) Harris, Christine (Deeken) Myre, Annie (Duethman) Waters, Beth (Cusick) Koch, Lori (Moore) Underwood, Jessie (Hodes) Underwood, Becky (Wiedeman), Kori Saunders, Katharine Bodde, Jessie (Shechter) Thomas

Class of 1999

My group of friends from the Class of 1999 is still quite close. Attached is a photo from Colleen's wedding (I apologize as they are a few years old). We all still get together as often as we can both with and without our children for happy hours, play dates, baby showers, weddings, and more! Several of us are actually friends from grade school, but our STA bond is what keeps us strong.

Allison Summers Besse



Class of 2005

I've been living in Valparaiso, Chile, for the past 5 years. During those years, I've been visited by 6 STA alums, 2 of which have stayed (are staying) for a few months. Katie Alley (2005) visited me for a week while she and a college friend were traveling around Latin America. I had only been here a year and was still getting things going, but she got to help me with random house projects, run around the city with me, and meet some of my local friends.

Eli Medina (2005) came on a whim, though we were not close friends while at STA, and stayed for 3 months before traveling around Latin America with her sister, Kathleen (2007) who also stayed for a few weeks. These wild and crazy Medina girls made that summer one of the most fun I've ever had here, and now I always pop in to say hello when I come back to KC for a visit.

During their stay, Suzanne Russel ('05) and her Aussie husband made a quick pass through town on their way to Patagonia, just a brief get together before they traveled on to Argentina, but a fun way to catch up!

Alex Persely ('04) and 3 of her friends came to Valparaiso for a great long weekend, and we went on vineyard tour with wine tasting and food pairings that is still one of my favorite memories since I've been here.

And finally, Kate Cofran ('05) is currently staying with me, mostly to improve her Spanish and thaw out on the beach while the US has one of the coldest winters on record. All in all, it's been great to have so many fun visitors from high school, and I love being able to host all of the Stars that have come my way!

Katie Kelly ('05) visited too! I realized that as I was going through photos. She came for 10 days and we had an absolute blast horse back riding on the beach, camping in the northern grape valleys, and doing crazy things like sleeping in bus stations.

Ali Sherman



Class of 2006

My friends and I loved our time at STA. Many of us have stayed friends after graduating in 2006 and spreading across the country for college. We try to get together whenever any of us are home for holidays whether it's dinner, drinks or simply stopping by each other's family homes to say hello! The shared stories of our time at STA bring a lot of smiles and laughs. A few of our friends and fellow alums got married over the summer, Molly Wilkerson Green, Emylie Leonard Bernstein and Sarah Tampke Hare. It still throws me adjusting to their names! And many of us attended the weddings as we could - coming from Chicago, Buffalo, North Carolina and Denver. We had such great times in high school and I am so grateful that we are still part of each other's lives!

Thanks for the opportunity to share!

Best,

Lauren Befort

2007

During the holiday season, these alumnae (Class of 2007) got together at Mary Nulton and Kelly Nelson's shared apartment near STA to catch up, share memories and laugh together. We've stayed friends through colleges near and far, moves across the country (and across the ocean for both Tracy Haden and Michelle Jantsch!), new jobs and new loves.

This coming September, we will be reunited again, standing proudly by Mary's side as bridesmaids as she ties the knot! We're so glad that St. Teresa's brought us together and look forward to many years of friendship to come!

Kelly Nelson



Back row (l to r) Ashley Devine, Emylie Leonard Bernstein, Katie Kennaley, Sarah Tampke Hare, Lisa Peterson, Molly Wilkerson, Julie Shuss, Clare Morris, Riki Allen; front row (l to r) Lauren Befort, Laura Strickland, Abigail Sosinski



Top row (l to r) Mary Nulton (soon to be Mary Nulton Stuckey in September), Carolyn Wiedeman; bottom row (l to r) Tracy Haden, Kelly Nelson, Claire Cullen, Francesca Swalwell, Michelle Jantsch

Class of 2013

An excerpt from an email sent to the Class of 2013.

A few more months and it will be a year since we graduated from possibly one of the best places on earth. We are all, without a doubt, so grateful for the Academy and the sisterhood it fostered in our class. This was especially

evident as we celebrated our dear Becca's life. I look at her prayer card every day now and say St. Teresa of Avila's words that are written on the back. Her monogram is on my laptop, as I am sure many of you have placed your copies on your cars, water bottles, laptops, etc. Becca, we love you, sweet girl.

Peace. Love. Stars. Chocolate. Waldo Pizza. Sister Joan.

Carrie Hudson

