



THE DART



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St. Teresa's Academy's *The Dart*

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Advisories say goodbye to seniors

Molly Huber
Staff Writer

The class of 2004, after four years at STA, is bidding their final farewell to the Academy in search of higher education and knowledge of a world outside high school walls. Seniors are saying goodbye to familiar teachers and friends, but also to their advisories, which have been a staple in their daily lives since the first day of freshman year.

Advisories are one of the many unique aspects of STA. Upon admittance to the school, each girl is assigned to an advisory, which is conceptually similar to a homeroom, only with some differences. An advisory, for those readers who do not already know, is a mix of students from all four grades, headed by an STA teacher who assumes the additional role of an advisor. It is a widely known fact that one of the main functions of an advisory is to throw parties. Parties are held to celebrate an advisee's birthday or sometimes just for fun, and plenty of food is always a must.

"[Advisory parties] are basically just a lot of love and appreciation for each other, shown through food," said Senior Elizabeth Sherman of Ms. Renee Blake's advisory. "Advisory is just a good time."

Last Tuesday, the class of '04 celebrated their final parties with their advisories, which were held in honor of the departing seniors. They were presented with gifts such as dorm room essentials as well as pictures to commemorate their years at Stars.

"It was really sad," said Sherman. "[The seniors] were talking about how we had planned the

senior parties for three years, and now our advisory was doing it for us."

Although advisories serve many other useful functions as well, the all-grades environment helps underclassmen transition more easily into high school. Upperclassmen are usually ready to offer advice from their own personal lives to help underclassmen, who they know will be going through the same things.

"When I came [to STA] as a sophomore, my advisory really helped me adjust," said Senior Gina Lauricella of Ms. Arlene Hernon's advisory. "They were the first people I met. We were in the same place at the same time every day, so I got to know more about them and they got to know more about me."

The unique mixture of students from every grade allows students to make friends with people in other classes or with people they would not usually expect.

"You become friends with people simply because you both are in the same advisory," said Senior Alex Persley. "I got to know people that I probably would not normally talk to."

According to Persley, her advisor, Mr. Matthew Bertalott, helped her feel at ease throughout her years at STA.

"[Bertalott] told us that our advisory was a safe haven, a place where we could be comfortable," said Persley. "It was the one place where I could have my shirt untucked without getting in trouble, but I just had to make sure I tucked it in before leaving advisory."

Although the seniors are leaving, the memories of the moments they shared with their



photo by Rachel Straughn

Senior Caitlin Corcoran turns to Senior Seabrin Stanley for comfort on Tuesday May 4, the seniors' last day at STA. advisories will stay with them. Macintosh advisees will remember winning every advisory competition the school had to offer; Bertalott advisees may remember

teaching Junior Caitlin Buerge to dance during one of their parties and Blake advisees have T-shirts to remind them of all the fun they had together. Some people

think the T-shirt idea was a bit over-the-top as far as advisory pride goes, but advisee Sherman insisted that the T-shirt was just see **Advisories**, page 2

Graduates to embark on new and diverse roads

The 2004 graduates will go their separate ways, embarking on new and exciting adventures. Many of these girls have chosen to travel truly unique paths. In honor of their expanding horizons, the Dart staff has decided to profile four of these remarkable ladies, Rachel Jackson, Geri Peticino, Agie Sparks and Jessica Yeager.

Rachel Jackson



In the fall, Rachel Jackson will attend Florida A&M University (FAMU), a historically black university in Tallahassee, FL. Jackson aspires to become a broadcast journalist.

"I chose to attend FAMU because it is one of only five accredited African American colleges that have a school of journalism," said Jackson. "Journalism has become quite a

prestigious major at FAMU."

Jackson said that by deciding to go to FAMU she is following her passion.

"When I was only 8 or 9 years old I remember making mock television shows," said Jackson. "It was funny because I would watch the news and when a commercial came on I would hurry up into my room and record myself like the TV journalists."

Jackson said FAMU is the best place for her to achieve personal growth as a journalist. She also knew that FAMU was the right choice since her junior year.

"After stepping onto the campus last spring I knew that it was the place for me," said Jackson. "The students on campus were very friendly and open. I get this feeling of southern comfort."

Although Jackson looks forward to college life, she still has fears that are specific to her university.

"I think that the distance

away from home is so intimidating," Jackson said. "It is a 24-hour drive to FAMU. Because of that, I can only come home on major holidays."

Jackson said that she is also a bit fearful about the element of change that college brings. Rachel said that she would miss her years at STA.

"I will miss not only my friends at STA, but I feel like I will most miss those opportunities to empower my fellow students at STA," Jackson said.

Jackson served as her senior class president this past school year. She hopes to continue to grow in her leadership abilities in college.

Geri Peticino



On June 28th Senior Geri Peticino is leaving for Westpoint Military Academy. The school,

where students receive full scholarships paid by the United States government, is an hour North of New York City, in Westpoint, NY.

"It's one of the best schools in the country," said Peticino. "Plus, it has everything that I want."

Peticino, who has been playing soccer since kindergarten, will also play at Westpoint. As for inspiration, "strong women throughout history" have played a large part in her decision.

"Not many women go to Westpoint," said Peticino. "It's an inspiration to do something that not very many have."

At school, Dr. Joe has been an immense mentor, telling Peticino stories and being very supportive.

Though she doesn't get much of a summer break, Peticino is looking forward to her experience at Westpoint.

"I think I'm most excited about boot camp," said Peticino. "It's definitely going to be a challenge of my character. I've

never had to do anything like that before.

Boot camp consists of obstacle courses, pushups, sit-ups and other grueling physical activities. The first six weeks are focused on the military spectrum, like uniforms, officers and guns.

Peticino wants to learn how to speak Chinese and plans on doing something in intelligence.

While she looked at a few other schools in New York, Truman and KU, she didn't apply to any schools besides Westpoint once she started the application process.

Though she's excited to be moving on, Peticino says she's going to miss the familiarity and camaraderie of STA.

"I'm going to miss seeing everyone everyday and talking to other people," said Peticino. "Westpoint is harder. There are a lot more rules. I'm definitely going to miss the freedom that I've had at STA."

see **Profiles**, page 2

Vogel says goodbye

As senior looks ahead to future she reminisces about experiences, time spent at STA

Jen Vogel
Editor-in-Chief

I stood to the left of the doorway to room D206, just out of sight of the students within. I took a timid step forward, then spun around to face my best friend. Inside that classroom sat row after row of what I saw to be mature, self-assured sophomores and juniors, confidently preparing for the first day of Honors Algebra II with Ms. Herson. I was just a freshman and, in a very freshman-like manner, had forced Maddie to walk me to my dreaded class. She offered a sympathetic smile and reminded me that I'd have to go in eventually, and that they couldn't be mean to me at least not while the teacher was watching. With that in mind, I took a deep breath and stepped through the doorway. As heads turned and followed my entrance, I felt a warm blush creep over my cheeks, intensifying to a burning crimson red when one of the students whispered, "Are you lost?"

Well, fortunately, I survived that class, and all those that followed over the next four years. But the classes are not what I'll remember when I think back to my time at St. Teresa's.

I'll remember group projects and study groups, which, under the guise of working on homework, produced more laughs and inside jokes than they did projects or study guides. Certain ones proved more memorable than others, the most famous being the biology study group sophomore year when Jenny wrote down the answers to the study questions, but not the questions themselves, posing a minor problem in studying for the test. The physics study group this year scored a close second, when a mouse in my basement bathroom momentarily disrupted our concentration, and Andrea worked to catch the mouse in a trash can so she could set it free outside. Plus, to the amazement of my study partners, I stuffed a whopping 42 grapes in my mouth.

I've nearly forgotten the hundreds of projects approximately 99.9 percent of which were assigned in Honors World History sophomore year. I've completed in my life, but I will never forget the project that incited Sarah Kitts's nervous breakdown. I will always remember the infamous 3 a.m. phone call, and my repeated attempts to pacify her hysterics. Then there was the computer graphics calendar and Sarah Fox's "turban of craze." Not to mention Sarah and Jenny asking me questions about the computers approximately once every 2.7 seconds, at which point I calmly reminded them that I was taking the same class they were. Okay, so maybe I screamed it at the top of my lungs either way, the questions stopped.

Winter at STA always provided some quality entertainment. I can confidently say that one of the funniest moments came on a

the seal, her legs flying over her head, and the dazed look on her face as she lay in the snow. Well, maybe that's not entirely true. Maybe my friends and I pushed her down on the seal but I'll still remember her legs flying over her head and that dazed look on her face.

Then there were the multiple attempts to attack Mr. Whitney with snowballs. Almost everyone in the Honors American Literature class huddled, shivering, behind the brick wall outside Goppert with snowballs in hand, waiting for him to come to silent study. It took about 20 minutes for us to realize he wasn't moderating silent study during those mods. Oops. That's okay, because one year and about three attempts later, we got him.

I could write hundreds of pages about my years at STA (much more easily than the six-page College Composition paper I should be writing) but unfortunately Brittany and I only get one page this issue, so I'll try to be concise.

I remember the yard day of all yard days freshman year when we had a blow up slide and snow cone machine; getting sent to the corner of health class almost every Wednesday because Maddie and Jane wouldn't stop talking to me; "American Dreams" parties with Fud; running the Rockhurst shuttle with Katie and Annie; admiring Woodward's beautiful singing voice; talking about the advisory grizzly bear with Emily; and late night conversations online with Kelly and Jane, and all the indescribably strange things I said to them when I was delirious from sleep deprivation. I remember being tackled in the quad, tackling other people in the quad, playing big booty in freshman year Accelerated English and Jane almost getting a concussion after hitting her head on the wall in the cafeteria. I remember nights of boredom, nights of driving in reverse away from Carrie down Jane's street, nights of hiding in the backseat of Jenna's car and nights when my cell phone would turn on without my knowledge and transmit entire conversations, again, without my knowledge. And Cashen will be eternally grateful for the night I saved her life from a car-sized opossum.

I can still remember the exact days that Jenna, Katie and Ann got their picture phones. My time management skills have never been the same since. I'll never forget the spring break cruise or my birthday in the Bahamas, or the way I sometimes can't resist running up to say hello to Annie at the end of the night. I'll remember Justine for her animal-like qualities and our frequent lunch outings, and Allison for the striking similarities she shares with Amy Miller.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of my memories from STA - it's merely a sample of the experiences I am so lucky to have had over the past four years. Now I'm just waiting to

Newspaper holds memories for co-editor

Jen Vogel
Editor-in-Chief



Three years ago, at the end of my freshman year, I stared at the publications application. Which publication did I want to apply for: Newspaper or Yearbook? I hate to admit that I could have gone either way - it was the toss of a coin, really. Looking back on it now, I'm so glad I circled Newspaper.

When I think about it, most of the memories I associate with newspaper have absolutely nothing to do with the publication of the paper. I think of our gingerbread house making contest before Christmas, and making Valentines in February. I think of the hours Brittany and I spent decorating the staff calendar, only to forget to include the dates relating to staff deadlines. And of course, I think of our after hours party when we watched "Pirates of the Caribbean" at school one night.

I think of the intense yearbook rivalry, and the much anticipated Publications Olympics. I think of the April Fools Issue that Brittany and I began planning at the beginning of this year, and how much fun we had dressing boys up in skirts, dressing me up like a pirate, making Mr. Thomas pregnant and giving the entire yearbook editorial staff a criminal record. Plus, Brittany finally got to put hot boys in the newspaper.

I'll always remember the legacy of three best friends: James, Marie and Lynn; and I couldn't possibly forget the look Mr. Thomas gets on his face when he hears Annie and me clapping up the stairs and into his room - it's pure joy. When I think about all the time I spend in that room - we've estimated it at about 20 hours a week - it's no wonder that it holds so many memories. I mean, it's practically my room, right Mr. Thomas? Anyway, this has been a week to say goodbye. Now I have to say some of the hardest goodbyes: goodbye to my newspaper room, my newspaper staff and my newspaper advisor. But don't cry too hard - I'll be back for Publications Olympics training in the fall.

Advisories

(continued from page 1)

a way for her advisory to bond. Sitting in the quad on their last day of school, seniors Sherman, Persley and Jessica Yeager debated on the topic. "Last year's seniors came up with the idea," said Sherman. "They say 'Studly Blakesfers' on them and we made them just for fun. I love my T-shirt."

"Whatever, your advisory just wants to be full of themselves," joked Persley. "It sounds like such a Rockhurst thing to do - egotistical and vain." "Yeah, that T-shirt was a waste of money," Senior Jessica Yeager

Waking Up Our World: Tears to goodbye



Brittany Cummings
Editor-in-Chief



I remember my first day at St. Teresa's. I was really nervous about high school. I would never say grade school was a bad experience, but I never fit in quite like the other kids did. I swam constantly and never had time to play after school. When I walked into St. Teresa's, I felt the warmth of each girl immediately.

A couple of weeks into the year, Mr. Wilson pulled Kayleigh Gamble, Rachel Hogan and me aside because he thought we'd do well on the Math team. I couldn't help but laugh! Math had never been one of my strong subjects. As Kayleigh and I laughed across the quad, I remember finding out she was the daughter of a friend of my mom's (one connection!). A couple days later, I realized Jess Ponnath had gone to a school with a boy I'd had a crush on from the Blazers. It was such a small world already!

And that hit off four of the most incredible years of my life. How can I forget sitting in Ms. McCarthy's room with Jess and Caitlin on heathbaby.com or looking up pictures of Prince William? (Yes, we thought we were rebels!) How can I forget sophomore year in Ms. VanLeeuwen's class? (Doesn't Kelly Shuss look like Barbie? She is

gorgeous!)

What about sophomore year swim team? I don't think I'll ever forget spending the State meet with Beth Taylor, Maggie Mullane and Ali Sherman. How much fun is St. Louis with a bit of racing, a hot tub and the "Hill", mmm? How could I ever forget all the dance parties or Chemistry study sessions junior year? I'll never forget the tornado alarms at Caitlin's house!

I can't imagine having spent the last four years anywhere else. Through St. Teresa's I have met some of the most beautiful people (in every aspect of the word). I have been blessed with wonderful friends - people who never cease to amaze me every day.

The thought of leaving only really crossed my mind the last Friday night of high school. I know the world beyond St. Teresa's will be full of surprises and incredible things, but I can't help but want to remain here forever. I guess it's selfish to want to be only with these people eternally and I'm so sorry. I've been so lucky to be encompassed by some of the greatest people I've ever known that I can't imagine letting them go. And I don't want to. But oh man! The world is in for something so special. As I depart, I want to say thank you. I am forever grateful for the moments I've shared with you. I can't believe it's over. But what a ride!

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Editorial Policy

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Unsigned editorials present the opinions of The Dart staff. Signed editorials reflect the opinions of the individual.

Letters Policy

The Dart encourages letters to the editor. All letters are to be submitted to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205. If a letter is to be considered for publication, it must be typed and signed by the author. The author's name may be withheld upon request.

shirts? Come ooon!"

"Well I could say your drama club T-shirt was a waste of money!" Sherman retorted, pointing to Persley's baby blue tee.

"Yes, but Drama is an actual club," argued Persley, "unlike your advisory, who just wants to be full of themselves."

Sherman laughed, but still insisted that the shirts were made for bonding purposes only, and not to show anyone else up. Then she sighed and

you guys," she said.

Many seniors agreed that college will bring a lot of changes, one of which is the absence of advisories.

"My last advisory party showed me that people really cared and they appreciated being in advisory with me," said Lauricella. "You tend to develop a common bond with those girls in your advisory, but I realize that in college, I'll be on my own. I'll definitely miss [advisory]."

Who's the captain of this pirate ship?

Mr. Eric Thomas
Advisor

With only losing five seniors from the DART staff this year, I have the luxury of saying goodbye to each of them. Here goes:

Like Lindsey Douthit before her, **Katie Monaghan** was far and away the most serene staff member as a senior. While chaos often twirled around and the cacophony of "Mr. Thomas! I need help!" rang out around her, she quietly and expertly edited her stories, designed her page and slipped out of the mayhem.

Katy Corogenes had her page completely figured out. Page design was no mystery: "A story goes here, a column goes here... and if Rachel could just give me a vertical rather than a horizontal, I'd be done." As an editor she was

elegant, eloquent and effortless.

Kelly Woodward had enemies in the publications room - eight of them by the end of the year. She hated the computers, and she is sure they hated her. Kelly, you are free! No longer will they curse you with their uncooperative text boxes and unpredictable point sizes! Now if you could just leave the computers alone.

And of course our editors in chief: While perhaps being confused about what issue we were working on and what stories were going where, **Brittany Cummings** was the constant staff cheerleader and hug dispenser. A deadline never felt dead with Brittany; it was more often "beautiful" or "incredible" or "lovely." Her relentless

optimism ("Oh, I am sure it will get done.") and continual guilt ("I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.") had as much to do with this paper improving as picas and pull quotes. The publications room will never be quite as bubbly as when Brittany walked in with an apology and an embrace.

Every publication needs a staffer to be "concerned," or perhaps "worried," or maybe "obsessed" with the details. What should the page titles look like? Should this be "then" or "than" in this sentence? Is it "picture phone" or "camera phone?" Jen Vogel would grab page proofs, take them home and clean up our paper. The design and content of the paper owe so much to her guiding hand. Even with Jack Sparrow, diving and

constant chills on her mind, she could focus on the paper still.

To understand these two editors, just consider the newspaper calendar: an intricate, if at times puzzling, record of all things significant and insignificant. At the beginning of each month, an activity period was filled with markers and laughter. The Feb. 18 square of the calendar held a bizarre alien. March 27 greeted us with a dinosaur. Throughout their afternoon of 76 consecutive frees, Jen and Brittany would carry on about Veteran's Day ("I made it") and Orlando Bloom. But eventually they would distract themselves from the calendar, and return to what they did best - yes, even better than the calendar. They worked on making the DART better.

Katy Corogenes

Most likely to have her page finished before the stories for the page are finished

Katie Monaghan
Most Likely to have just one more thing to change on her page before it's done

Kelly Woodward
Most Likely to molest the computer

Jen Vogel
Most Likely to pose as Jack Sparrow while holding not a sword, not a hat, not a gun, but instead a stool in her hands

Brittany Cummings
Most Likely to find at the end of her rainbow a hot boy from Rockhurst, Hollywood. Lord of the Rings really any hot boy will do

photo poll: This is your one chance to be quoted in the Dart. What would you, as a senior editor, like to say?



"Katie with an 'ie' is way better than K-A-T-Y." Katie Monaghan, Entertainment editor



"I still don't understand how to work those computers." Kelly Woodward, Sports Editor



"I like Yearbook!" Jen Vogel, Co-Editor-in-Chief



"I'm so sorry I'm late again guys! I'll be on time next time! I love you, don't be mad at me!" Brittany Cummings, Co-Editor-in-Chief



"Uh, can I retake my picture?" Katy Corogenes, Features Editor

Teachers want to don cap, gown with class of 2004

Colleen Slentz
Staff Writer

It's not only the seniors who have spent four years at STA - this is the fourth year for many of our teachers, too.

"It was a tremendous milestone for me," said Ms. Denise Rueschhoff, Geography and World History teacher. She says she feels that "to see students go from freshman year to senior year is exhilarating."

Some teachers, however, don't count this graduation as having any major significance for them.

"I am sad to see this class go, because they have been here with me since the beginning," said Ms. Kjersten Metzler, Chemistry teacher. "But I feel connected to every senior class. I guess I'm more excited [than sad] because I know how much possibility's out there for them."

It is especially interesting for Ms. Wanda VanLeeuwen, English teacher. Like Rueschhoff, she has taught some of the current seniors when they were freshmen.

"It's kind of an interesting feeling when you get them back as a senior," she said. "You can see that they've changed a lot."

Metzler, VanLeeuwen and Rueschhoff weren't the only teachers who started four years ago.

The list is long indeed, and includes VanLeeuwen, Rueschhoff,

Bertalott and Metzler along with Ms. Alice Amick, Ms. Jennifer Benjamin, Mr. Matthew Bertalott, Ms. Robin Good, Ms. Jennifer Martin, Mr. Michael Schroer, Ms. Theresa Wallerstedt, Dr. Jo Weller and Mr. Richard Wilson.

Does having seen a class through high school make any of them feel more connected to STA? VanLeeuwen thinks it does. "When you first come to a new school you don't know anybody except your own students," said VanLeeuwen. "At some point or other I've known all grade levels now."

Rueschhoff expresses a similar sentiment.

"I have the privilege of knowing everyone on campus," she said. "They all had to come through my class. This is the first year I've known everybody."

Metzler, Rueschhoff and VanLeeuwen all agreed that graduation was special for them, regardless of whether it's the fourth they've been to at STA or not. Rueschhoff likes this one particularly.

"I think they're a pretty outstanding class," she said. "Graduation makes you feel very proud because you've seen all these young women grow from being basically adolescents to these young adults. I find it's very moving."

Profiles

(continued from page 1)

Agie Sparks

Motivated by her love of and devotion to singing, Senior Agie Sparks auditioned this February at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa for a spot in the music performance program in hopes of fulfilling her dream since freshman year of becoming an opera singer.

After looking at Indiana University, Bloomington University, DePauw University, UMKC and Eastman College, Sparks decided on Simpson based on the financial package she was offered, the small size of the student body, the comfortable distance of three and a half hours by car and the "old-fashioned" atmosphere of the campus.

Sparks is excited about attending Simpson next fall, but does have some worries about her selected area of study. "I'm not completely ready for it," Sparks said as she reflected on previous experiences in vocal performance. "I am nervous about going and 'making it', but I am ready for the challenge."

Sparks has been a member of Freshman Chorus, Concert Choir, A Cappella Choir, and

STA Singers. She has also been involved with the Lyric Opera and the choir at Grace and Holy Trinity Church. Sparks said that this involvement as well as some of her relationships has helped her decide to pursue vocal performance.

"Ms. Benjamin and John Schaefer at church helped me love singing, but I came to the decision to go into vocal performance by myself," Sparks said. "These experiences just gave me a taste of it."

Sparks has received tremendous support from family and friends who are excited about her decision.

Jessica Yeager

It's not every day one of your fellow classmates goes to Harvard. It's also out of the ordinary for a peer to apply to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Columbia, Cornell, Northwestern, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Washington University, and the University of Rochester and get accepted to all but Princeton.

Senior Jessica Yeager did just that. "Graduating is exciting because we're starting a new path in our lives," said Yeager. "It's incredible that we are going to this new place we've never been before. It's so refreshing." When choosing which prestigious university to attend, Yeager knew she wanted a big-

city. She loves New York and Boston, so in the end she was choosing between Harvard and Columbia.

At the NHS Induction ceremony in March, Yeager was named the Valedictorian for the Class of 2004.

"It's so exciting and fun," said Yeager. "I can't wait to give a speech at Graduation. My mom will just tell people 'she's Valedictorian.'"

Yeager plans to major in engineering and concentrate on either chemical or environmental engineering.

"I've always been a math and science kind of person," said Yeager, who loved Ms. Kjersten Metzler's chemistry class.

Yeager will miss the time she has spent with friends, having fun with them these last four years.

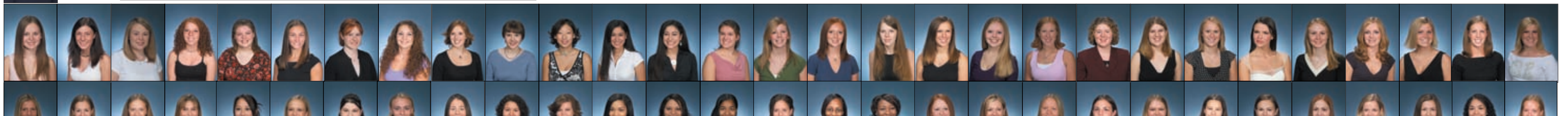
"I'm always laughing so much and having a good time with my friends," said Yeager.

She doesn't know anyone attending Harvard with her, but she thinks it's the best for her.

"It's a good thing because when I came to St. Teresa's, no one from my grade school was there with me," said Yeager. "It makes you branch out that much more. I know a lot of people in Boston, so it'll be fun."



“Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.”
-G. Randolph



Katie Monaghan

Page Editor



When I look back at my freshman year, I remember a having sense of uncertainty. I was a small, awkward four-year old entering the world of high school. I knew very little about high school other than what was portrayed on television with the cliques, petty drama, and crazy parties. Entering STA, I expected all the stereotypical high school conundrums. What I didn't realize was that I was entering a unique and

incredibly "un-stereotypical" high school.

It's the little quirks about STA that make it unique. From the dress code "pant" to the announcements preparing us for the actual announcements, I am assured of the greatness of this wonderful school. I will miss all the "hey, hey STA!" and "yahoo and a yee-doggies!" I will miss the sound of girls shouting in classrooms for a tampon. I will miss the stench of girls not showering for days and the contests of who can go the longest without shaving. I will miss coming to school in pajamas and knowing that nobody will care. I will miss the pit...I mean,

cafeteria. I will miss those crazy ping-pong and badminton intramural team names. I will miss that smelly old bowling alley with its awesome shoes, even though it has gone to the great bowling alley heaven. I will miss all the creative ways girls try and fit into their buttonless, zipperless skirts. I will miss the uniform sweater with all its holes and wind-chilled warmth. I will miss yard days, especially our sophomore year blowup slides. I will miss the teachers throwing water balloons off of the M & A building. I will miss Mr. Whitney's "hemp cereal, Mr. Fud's colorful socks and Ms. Montag's Power Point

slide shows. I will miss Chris Cakes' pancakes flying through the air, Sarah's catering from Price Chopper, vending machine meals and above all bake sales!

Now I realize what these little quirks have given me. These four years of uniqueness have given me the strength to pursue individuality, the courage to voice my opinion, and the will to strive for better. I see what this all-girls school has given me. It has given me lasting friendships, confidence in myself, knowledge far greater than anyone could expect to gain from a classroom and a place to call home.

Only, I am leaving my home shortly. It has taken me four

years to awaken from my small, awkward self into the person I am today. I will not flatter myself to say that I have reached my full maturity, but I owe it to STA for giving me a solid platform to stand on in fulfilling my potential. I leave STA with all the quirks, all the eccentricities and greatness to pursue my life thus far. I leave STA armed with all I have learned. I leave STA with the sense that it will always be with me. I will forever remain a part of the Academy. My freshman year, I was inducted into a sisterhood and that is exactly what STA has given me - sisters. Thank you, St. Teresa's Academy.

Katie Hembree and Ali Ryan

Staff Writer and Page Editor



The tears, the laughter, the sorrow, the joy...no this isn't a Lifetime movie, this is junior year-reality. Our junior year is finally over and we are all rejoicing. There have been many good times, but man there have also been some

really bad times. We can't help but pat ourselves on the back for that passing grade in chemistry and completing so many hours of standardized tests.

Freshman year we entered STA, unsure of what to expect. We suffered through the required courses, watched videos we hope to never see again, and learned how to prepare our eyes. We excitedly experienced our first STA mixer. The memories of Frosh Fest still make us laugh.

Sophomore year we were excited to no longer be the lowest of the low. We went to Teresian for the first time and have memories that many of us wish

we could forget. We proudly displayed our new drivers licenses, a small step toward freedom. We wished that we would have known how important freshman year grades were. Overall, sophomore year was pretty uneventful and seemed like a blur in the grand scheme of our high school career.

As we entered this year, we were both excited but being upper classmen about terrified by Chemistry horror stories. We proudly carried activity sheets instead of full accountability. We looked at the new uniform fine rules with disgust as we realized that one un-tucked shirt

would mean accountability for our senior year. We could park in the parking lot instead of on the side streets (if we managed to drag ourselves out of bed in time to get a spot). After much consideration between white or yellow gold, and the best size, we came together as a class and received our rings. We had our first college planning session with Ms. Hart where many of us were terrified about the decisions we will soon have to make.

Over the years, we've all grown and changed. We are no longer the freshmen who come to school with perfect hair and make-up. We're proud to have

showered within the past week. Sleep deprivation has become part of our lives. We've strengthened our existing friendships and established new ones. We've realized that maybe a C is a good grade, no matter what our standards were before. We have begun to discover who we are and who we want to be. We realize the potential we have to change the world. Now as the year closes, we look forward to our senior year. We'll be the rulers of the school and our senioritis, which has already set in, will be deserved. Juniors, we have but a mere three words to say: Gracias, Merci, Thanks!

Looking Back...

"I leave STA armed with all I have learned."

—KATIE MONAGHAN, SENIOR

"Over the years, we've all grown and changed."

—KATIE HEMBREE AND ALI RYAN, JUNIORS

"Being young at heart will keep you going."

—JUANA SUMMERS, SOPHOMORE

"Just try to picture life in the other girl's Birkenstocks."

—NICOLE FARLEY, FRESHMAN

Juana Summer

Page Editor



Being a sophomore is the middle ground in high school. You are no longer a freshman who always wins the intramural competitions and loves EVERYTHING STA. Yet, as sophomores, we still carry around full accountabilities and are subjected to brutal criticism from upperclassmen. Believe

it or not, most of us still secretly have some form of school spirit. As sophomores this year, we have managed to survive CCC, one of the largest and most time-consuming projects, with only minimal scars on our GPAs as well as memories of dancing to the Spice Girls afterwards in the cafeteria. This year, we have learned to manage our time well, take risks, pick and choose what to involve ourselves in, as well as learning the definition of an all-nighter. We've learned what, according to Morality class, is the "icing on the cake" and we've

taken the PSAT: the first step in high school standardized testing. At the beginning of sophomore year, I remember thinking that everything was going to be different, that there would be extreme differences from freshman year. I was right. Everything changed. I've gotten to watch my peers get their drivers licenses, and later manage to run into stationary objects. We went to Teresian for the first time and were allowed to party with all of the older kids, a definite difference from the Freshman Mixer. Maybe it has something

to do with having spent another year together, but our class seems much closer. It's great knowing that you can say hello to someone who doesn't eat at your lunch table, and knowing that they'll say hello, or smile back at you. I watch this year's freshmen, and it's nostalgic remembering how yesterday we were fumbling around through the hallways and arriving to class late because we couldn't find our way. That was yesterday, but what happens tomorrow? As the Junior class of 2005, we gain a new accountability,

the fear of chemistry class, four new class officers and all the traditional privileges of being upperclassmen. Next year, we will be the ones taking ACT prep courses and attempting to find a parking spot. We will also be the ones who get to take a well-deserved week off for service projects. And last but not least, we are one step closer to being seniors. So, to the class of 2006, be yourselves, stay strong and take time out of your day to frolic, because being young at heart will keep you going.

Nicole Farley

Staff Writer



When I first walked into the doors of STA back in September, I came to the sinking realization that I was as nervous as I had been on my first day of kindergarten. I was excited to start high school and meet new friends. But as one of only two girls from Cathedral of St. Peter's to attend STA, I knew it wasn't going to be easy. I was worried that everyone would already know each other, and that I would be left behind without the years of friendship the other

girls already shared. I soon learned that I was wrong. There was nothing to worry about. I immediately met new friends and was happily accepted into the STA community. Learning how to step outside of boundaries and meet new people proved to be one of the most important things I learned all year. But along the way, I've learned countless other practical things too. These include all those "valuable" lessons, such as Ms. Bode's Health class, the Pythagorean Theorem and, of course, the true difference between pride and prejudice. And where would I ever be without Ms. Blake's year-long animal research project?

I have truly been blessed. Along with the scores of important classroom lessons, I have also learned some things that, well, only come from experience. The following is "The Top Five Things Every Girl Should Know Before Becoming A 'Star.'"
5.) *Boys are always optional:* Yes, you CAN survive without boys at school! No matter how much you miss them, you will still see plenty of them on the weekends. And besides, how wonderful is it to wake up at 6 a.m. and throw something on with only 15 minutes of primp time?
4.) *Don't let yourself be finished by finals:* To make sure that F-i-n-a-l doesn't begin to spell T-h-

e-E-n-d for your summer plans, be sure to study for them. A lot.
3.) *Procrastination really doesn't pay:* Never, never, NEVER wait until the night before a paper is due to write it. When you're falling asleep in the school cafeteria, a place where decibel levels stretch way past whatever "legal" is, you know there's a problem.
2.) *Always make the grade:* Everything they told you was right. Work as hard as you can in all of your classes. GPAs are kind of like buildings and economies they take a much longer time to build up than to take down.
1.) *Be friends with everyone:* Make friends with as many people as you can. Most likely,

you will cross paths with one another at some time and, come graduation, you will be proud to know all of your classmates. These are lessons that, thankfully, did not take long for me to learn, but will be useful for a long time to come. Something that is often stressed at STA, and will certainly be helpful in the future, is how to be open-minded and accepting. Give everyone and everything a chance, and step outside of your comfort zone. Just try to picture life in the other girl's Birkenstocks. Even if you're the star of the play, and she's the star scholar in the Science Club, remember what ties us all together - we are all Stars.

'Beyond Cool' signs off for the year

Katy Corogenes

Features Editor



Pardon my corniness, but looking back at the past four years at STA I can truly say that the STA community is

Beyond Cool. But what does that mean? Why is STA cool? Who makes it cool?

Well, I'm not sure, that's like trying to explain the phenomenon of the platypus. But I can at least try (mainly because I can't turn in a two paragraph column).

STA is cool because of the individuals who make it up, from the half awake senior who managed to stumble into class 15 minutes late to the freshman who arrived at the crack of dawn perfectly pressed and ready for school. There are also the rebellious sophomores and frazzled juniors that populate the halls. But then there is the faculty, that rare breed who is crazy enough to actually show up for this circus each day.

"We each carry a bit of that coolness with us when we set out into the brave new world."

—KATY COROGENES, FEATURES EDITOR

Coolness emanates from the inexplicable brown stains on the ceiling of the cafeteria, the fourth floor ghost, and the dancing babies relief on the third floor. It echoes through the art room, makes a stately appearance in Zahner lounge, and finally culminates in the sunshine that floods Ms. Rez's room.

But that still doesn't explain the coolness of STA. If anything, it's just a little glimmer of what STA is, who we are. We each carry a bit of that coolness with us when we set out into the brave new world. Most will never realize the coolness that resides in each and every one of us. Most will be disturbed or repulsed by our stories of not shaving our legs or gorging our selves on Rotel. They won't see that deep down, beyond all those revolting habits, is coolness.

Maybe I haven't really uncovered what makes STA cool, but maybe our coolness is not meant to be understood, but rather it should be appreciated. So whenever I get down about myself in college I'll just whip out the STA spirit shirt and my star slinky and revel in just how cool I am.

Ok, maybe that last part was a little too much, but I will look back on my memories of STA and try my best to not forget how cool we are.

That's all Folks.



1. The Getup Kids, a local Kansas City band, enjoy more popularity as interest in pop-punk bands surges.



2. 50 Cent releases the hit "In Da Club," and his album "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" goes to the top of the charts.



3. American Idol spawns music superstars Clay Aiken and Kelly Clarkson, a movie starring Clarkson and runner-up Justin Guarini, and a hit album for "so bad he's good" William Hung.



4. Usher makes a comeback with his song "Yeah," and his album "Confessions."



1. Status bags, such as those from Louis Vuitton and Coach, become popular among teens.



2. Stilettos cause foot pain as they return to the fashion front, partly due to HBO's "Sex and the City."



3. Crocs, water resistant clogs in candy colors, become extremely popular among STA underclassmen.



4. Trucker hats are made popular by Ashton Kutcher and dirty truck drivers nationwide.



1. The OC, a primetime drama starring unknown and attractive actors, becomes the year's most popular new show.



2. "Newlyweds," a reality show with married couple Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, rejuvenates Simpson's career by showcasing her lack of intellect (chicken or tuna?).



3. Friends ends to much fanfare after 10 years on the air.



4. "The Simple Life," with socialites Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie, is a runaway hit in the summer.



1. Arnold Schwarzenegger becomes governor of California in the recall vote against Gray Davis.



2. Martha Stewart's wholesome and all-American image is shattered by accusations of insider trading.



3. The latest chapter in Michael Jackson's escalating weirdness comes as he is charged with child molestation.



4. The war in Iraq dominates the news, especially when dictator Saddam Hussein is captured and evidence of mistreatment of prisoners comes to light.

Pop Culture Review

in out

- "The Passion"
- "Yeah" Usher feat. Ludacris
- "Confessions," Usher

- "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King"
- "Get Low," Lil John and the Eastside Boys feat. The Ying Yang Twins
- "Speakerboxxx: The Love Below," Outkast
- Kelly Clarkson
- Bennifer
- Jennifer Lopez
- Ben Affleck
- Hilary Duff
- "The Simple Life" finale
- "Gilmore Girls"
- "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy"
- "Trading Spaces"
- Ugg Boots
- Kate Spade Purses
- Long, straight hair
- Black
- Schwarzenegger vs. Davis
- Capture of Saddam Hussein
- SUV's
- Liza Minelli and David Gest wed

- Clay Aiken
- Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher
- Jennifer Aniston
- Johnny Depp
- Lindsey Lohan
- "Friends" Finale
- "The OC"
- "Newlyweds"
- "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition"
- Stilettos
- Luis Vuitton Murakami bags
- Bangs
- Bold Colors
- Bush vs. Kerry
- Coverage of treatment of POW's
- Fuel-efficient cars
- Melissa Etheridge and Tammy Lynn Michaels wed

Kelly bids farewell to her fellow students

Kelly Woodward

Sports Editor



Mr. Thomas was teaching his Journalism class while eight to ten seniors sat in the back working

on spreads, finishing homework and talking about prom. It was in that moment, that split second, that I just stopped: I watched all the girls I had become so used to being with in that classroom. My eyes started to tear up and all I could think about was, "Two weeks left."

People say that a small paper cut hurts more than a big scrape on your leg. I am starting to believe that. It's the small things that I'm going to miss the most and the small things that are beginning to hurt.

"It's the small things that I am going to miss the most and the small things that are beginning to hurt."

—KELLY WOODWARD, SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago I started "the lasts" of my senior year. The last time I would work on the newspaper, the last dance I would attend, the last class I would take, etc. Now that we have come to the last days of school, I can't help but think that this will be the last time I will see many of these girls. Graduation is an end for me. It's the same for others; not only for my class, but the other classes and the teachers as well.

When you have become so accustomed to living your life a certain way, it's hard to imagine anything different. We live our lives at STA waiting for those last few days when we can start saying goodbye and living our lives in another world. Trust me, it's not all it's cracked up to be. I have now begun "the things I will..." including whose voice I will miss most, the moment I will never forget, the moment I wish I could forget, etc. Every day I remember a new memory and a new moment that I will keep with me for the rest of my life.

As I say my last goodbye I want to leave all of you with this as a little advice for your next years: Live each day like there is no tomorrow, don't dwell on the pettiness - it's not worth it. Think really hard when you are mad at someone to see if it's really worth it, make sure you have fun. Finally, for those of you on Newspaper staff, I highly suggest learning how to use the computers, it's a pain if you don't. Goodbye and good luck. I will miss you all!

You were 122 freshmen.
90 service hours, 12 plays, 9 dances, 4 spring breaks and 1 Class Day later...
You are graduates.

- Lindsee Acton •
University of Kansas
- Tiffany Adams •
Loyola University Chicago
- Amy Aldrich •
Kansas State University
- Melissa Ann •
Baker University
- Jeni Anton •
De Paul University
- Liza Arroyo •
Northwest Missouri State University
- Amanda Artigas •
UMKC
- Janelle Bailey •
Illinois Wesleyan University
- Tonia Barksdale •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Andrea Benben •
UMKC
- Kelly Bower •
University of Kansas
- Hilary Bowker •
UMKC
- Courtney Brawner •
University of Missouri Columbia

- Ashley Fowlkes •
Rockhurst University
- Sarah Fox •
Drake University
- Christine Frechin •
Benedictine College
- Carrie Gabhart •
Southwest Missouri State University
- Kayleigh Gamble •
Northwestern University
- Allison Garcia •
UMKC
- Madison Garcia •
UMKC
- Lynnette George •
Xavier University Louisiana
- Katie Gillis •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Deirdre Goodwin •
Northwest Missouri State University
- Krystal Griffin •
University of Kansas
- Annie Haden •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Kelly Harbison •
Rockhurst University

- Kat Liljegen •
Belmont University
- Gracie Livers •
UMKC
- Sarah Lombardo •
Undecided
- Megan Mabry •
University of Kansas
- Abby Madden •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Annie Mandl •
Rockhurst University
- Ashley Manlove •
Philander Smith College
- Andrea Martin •
Colorado State University
- Stephanie Martinat •
University of Kansas
- Morgan Martin-West •
Truman State University
- Cathy-Anne Mashburn •
Penn Valley Community College
- Megan McAnany •
Kansas State University
- Shannon McSorley •
Loyola University Chicago

- Cara Putthoff •
Southwest Missouri State
- Meaghan Quinly •
Truman State University
- Emily Riesmeyer •
Colorado State University
- Erinn Riley •
University of Dayton
- Jessica Rosas •
De Paul University
- Erica Rowe •
University of Kansas
- Lynette Samborski •
Kansas State University
- Alison Shelby •
Undecided
- Elizabeth Sherman •
Dartmouth College
- Kelly Shuss •
Kansas State University
- Ann Smith •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Agie Sparks •
Simpson College
- Lauren Spear •
Undecided



- Anne Buchanan •
University of Kansas
- Aleyn Bucklew •
Drake University
- Caitlin Buerge •
Bethel College
- Kim Bui •
Rockhurst University
- Katharine Bush •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Cindy Cameron •
Rockhurst University
- Stephanie Carr •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Stephanie Cashen •
Northwest Missouri State University
- Caitlin Corcoran •
Goucher College
- Katy Corogenes •
Eugene Lang College
- Justine Cotter •
University of Kansas
- Ashley Cousins •
Kansas State University
- Brittany Cummings •
Truman State University
- Caitlin Dimond •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Amanda Doyon •
UMKC
- Erin Fitzgerald •
University of Kansas
- Erin Fitzpatrick •
University of Missouri Columbia

- Stefanie Hardacre •
University of Kansas
- Maureen Healy •
Creighton University
- Rachel Hemkens •
UMKC
- Lauren Higgins •
UMKC
- Madeleine Hill •
Loyola University Chicago
- Amber Hix •
Central Missouri State University
- Rachel Hogan •
Truman State University
- Andrea Horn •
Southern University
- Rachel Jackson •
Florida A&M University
- Diana Jantsch •
Creighton University
- Jenna Jantsch •
Colorado State University
- Jenny Jantsch •
Kansas State University
- Loren Jevons-Lee •
University of Kansas
- Jane Kaufman •
University of Dayton
- Emily King •
St. Mary's College of California
- Sarah Kitts •
University of Tulsa
- Maddie Kramer •
University of Denver
- Gina Lauricella •
UMKC

- Mary Meiners •
Undecided
- Andrea Minton •
Undecided
- Katie Monaghan •
Truman State University
- Jeanene Moynihan •
Central Missouri State University
- Emily Mulloy •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Laura Munoz •
Dominican University
- Lauren Neal •
Texas Woman's University
- Lauren Noonan •
Northwest Missouri State University
- Kelly O'Brien •
Kansas State University
- Megan O'Donnell •
Creighton University
- Allie Palmer •
Texas Woman's University
- Geri Pedicino •
West Point
- Allegra Perkins •
Truman State University
- Alex Persley •
University of Notre Dame
- Jess Ponnath •
Kansas State University
- Christen Poynter •
City College of San Francisco
- Laura Prather •
Butler University
- Ashley Price •
University of Missouri Columbia

- Hilary Stanley •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Seabrin Stanley •
Northwest Missouri State University
- Kate Stueve •
Drake University
- Danelle Tinoco •
University of Missouri Rolla
- Maggie Triano •
University of Kansas
- Sarah Valdivia •
Undecided
- Jen Vogel •
University of Notre Dame
- Becca Waechter •
Undecided
- Amanda Weber •
Truman State University
- Kristalynn Wells •
Westminster College
- Christine Weston •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Allison Wilkerson •
Lewis University
- Emily Willets •
Truman State University
- Kelly Woodward •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Rasheedat Yahaya •
University of Missouri Columbia
- Jessica Yeager •
Harvard University
- Casey Young •
University of Missouri Rolla