



Alumnae Association of the College of Saint Teresa
Our 35 Year History 1989-2024



A Letter from our President



Since 1989, following the closing of the College, the CST Alumnae Association has been creating its own story, based on the foundation provided by the Rochester Franciscans who established a college rooted in academic excellence and the personal development of each student who would become part of the Teresan legacy.

Beginning with a financial donation from the Sisters, which became the Teresan Scholarship Fund, to the loyal alumnae who paid dues, attended reunions and provided donations large and small, our Alumnae Association remained solvent and active for the next 35 years. With the dedication of all who served on the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, staff members who served under the direction of our Executive Director **Colleen Kocer Peplinski '87**, and with the spiritual guidance and direction from the Rochester Franciscans, we beat the odds and achieved more than ever imagined.

We have so much to celebrate! Class reunions on our beloved Winona campus grounds, which remain a source of Catholic education; chapter reunions in Chicago, Phoenix/Tucson, Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Washington D.C.; our Teresan newsletters that kept us updated; the establishment of the Saint Teresa Leadership & Service Institute at SMU; and our biggest celebration....the legacy of our Teresan Scholarship Fund. From its beginnings in 1991, followed by generous alumnae donations, the Teresan Scholarship Fund has now awarded over \$2.5 million dollars....yes, million, to 2,364 undergraduate and graduate students.

As you read through the pages that follow, you will be immersed in the story of our Alumnae Association, beginning with the closing of the college in 1989. It became an independent association that thrived in ways beyond our beautiful campus to continue the building of the CST legacy through enduring friendships, educational scholarships and programs, and always with a commitment to honor our foundation of academic excellence and service to others.

I am confident our story and the legacy of our college and our alumnae association does not end with this closing chapter. As alumnae we have been given a gift...the Teresan spirit. It grew in us from our life on campus and encompasses each of us today. Our Teresan story lives on through the friendships we grew, the families we nourished, the careers we chose, and the communities we served. Each of YOU are our legacy. YOU are the reason we have existed for 35 years! YOU are the reason we celebrate all that we have accomplished in our amazing history.

With love and gratitude for an incredible 35 years, and always in the Teresan Spirit,

Betty Ford '75

President, Alumnae Association of the College of Saint Teresa

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Chapter 1 - History

College of Saint Teresa and the Re-Birth of the Alumnae Association 1989—2024

For the past thirty-five years, the Alumnae Association of the College of Saint Teresa has remained active, maintaining an ongoing presence in the Winona, Minnesota community and on the original college campus. Graduates and students who attended the College of Saint Teresa have continued to celebrate their heritage by attending annual reunions. The elected leadership of the Alumnae Association has maintained oversight and management of the college endowment and scholarship funds; acquired the Tea House to serve as the Alumnae Office; established the Saint Teresa Leadership & Service Institute for Women at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota; and preserved and strengthened the bonds of their long-standing support for and relationship with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Rochester, Minnesota. It is an impressive testament to the Teresan legacy of community, leadership, service... and loyalty. Remarkably, even in 2024, there were more than 1,000 active, dues-paying members of the Alumnae Association.

A Look Back

The College of Saint Teresa Alumnae Association's Board of Directors first learned of the closing of the college as a four-year degree-granting institution during a conference call with **Sister Michaea Byron '48**, the President of the College, on July 26, 1988. It was announced that the last academic year would be 1988-1989, with final graduation in the spring of 1989. The decision to close the college was made by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees of the College of Saint Teresa (CST) based on three identified problems: the yearly deficit, insufficient enrollment, and increasing costs. Long-term borrowing was unsuccessful, and the Board of Trustees was unable to obtain a line of credit. The Board of Trustees was then faced with three options: 1) declare bankruptcy; 2) keep CST open until funds ran out; or 3) accept the offer from the Sisters of Saint Francis to establish a line of credit to help phase out the College. The Board accepted the third option. In her final remarks, summarizing the executive committee's difficult decision to close the college, Sister Michaea informed the Alumnae Association members, *"We are not ending but will continue to celebrate the heritage that is ours."* By unanimous consent, the Alumnae Association notified the CST Board of Trustees: "The College of Saint Teresa is not dead ... the Alumnae Association is a viable organization and offers cooperation and support to the Board of Trustees."

In Transition and In Remembrance

At the request of the Board of Trustees, a CST-in-Transition Committee was established to obtain information and determine how to go about the closure of the college. A member of the Alumnae Association board was appointed to the committee.

In January, 1989, with the impending closing of the college, CST-in-Transition committee members, Norene Oppriecht (CST Counselor) and **Mary Ellen Quinn Grobe '71**, presented the

Alumnae Association with a plan to create a commemorative quilt— *a traditional feminine art form*— as a fundraiser to help defray the costs of the college closing. For donors who gave \$100 or more, their name and year of graduation would be placed on the back of the quilt, as well as on a dedicated plaque. All alumnae were notified of this fundraising effort. The 60” x 60” quilt design, entitled “*Her Works Praise Her,*” was envisioned as a representation of the structural and human foundations, combined with symbolic characterizations of the “Teresan Experiences.” The quilt provided opportunities for members of the college community to remember, celebrate, and believe in the values of the “Teresan Experiences,” and share stories as they designed and stitched the individual quilt pieces. By July 1989, more than 300 persons donated nearly \$30,000 to go to college expenses. The quilt remains part of the College of Saint Teresa Alumnae Association history.

Visions of the Future

The work of the CST-in-Transition Committee continued until the Alumnae Association Board of Directors held its first official election of officers in September 1989 for the 1989-1990 term, with **Frances (Fran) Joyce Daly ‘57**, serving as President, and **Addy Radechel Murtaugh ‘51**, as Past President. A new mission statement “*Visions of the Future*” was adopted and distributed to alumnae, requesting their feedback. The final version states: “In order to maintain, foster, and spread the Teresan Spirit, the Alumnae Association of CST will continue to perform its traditional functions by:

- maintaining an Alumnae Office;
- continuing to organize and coordinate annual alumnae reunions;
- maintaining and strengthening our longstanding support for and relationship with the Sisters of Saint Francis;
- establishing a networking system to link CST Alumnae Association throughout the country;
- promoting the development of Alumnae chapters;
- continuing to advocate expanding leadership roles for women in the church and society.”

In September 1989, following the closing of the college, the Alumnae Association board identified the possible roles that a new, independent Alumnae Association would assume after the college closed:

- holding regular reunions,
- establishing a repository for records,
- networking, and
- funding operational needs.



VERITAS
CASTITAS
FIDELITAS



“Her Works Praise Her” Quilt

The quilt’s design suggests a leaded stained glass window and reflects the spiritual, academic, and student life of the College of Saint Teresa. The interdependence of separate pieces creates the image of a whole stronger and more beautiful than any individual panel and depicts the foundations from which the qualities of a Teresan develop; characteristics expected in a CST graduate as a result of the Teresan Experience, regardless of chosen academic major, included: a pastoral component of spirituality and sense of community; an academic component of scholarship and appreciation of the arts; and a student affairs component of leadership and commitment to service.

Discovered in the archives, the original design for the college seal was included in the quilt design. The College of Saint Teresa’s three-part approach to education—spiritual life, service, and scholarship—is represented by six panels contained within an arch radiating outward from the circular panel of the College Seal. In a rainbow of colors, the panels are positioned to resemble the color wheel, symbolizing the eternal circle of life and the complementary theme of diversity. Each panel depicts a characteristic or quality expected in a CST graduate: the flame of *spirituality*; three human figures representing *a sense of community*; *scholarship* depicted by scroll and mortarboard; *appreciation of the arts* by the music to the opening phrase of the Alma Mater; two hands depicting service and the diversity of CST student body; and the logo for the CST *leadership* program.

Six foundation blocks at the bottom of the quilt represent St. Francis; the foundresses, Mother Leo Tracy OSF and Sister Dominic Mahl, OSF, depicted arriving in a horse-drawn surrey; and Saint Teresa of Avila with the significant structural blocks of Saint Marys Hospital, Rochester, MN; the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels Rose Window with the Campanile; and Lourdes Hall forming the bottom row. Stitched into the quilt is the legacy of everyone: students, faculty, staff, and friends. It embodies for each of us the spirit and love of the College of Saint Teresa. Inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Teresa of Avila and Sister Leo Tracy, the college has a long tradition of excellence. The quilt also is a permanent reminder of the College of Saint Teresa’s significant role and contributions to the history of Winona County. The beautiful quilt reminds us of the college’s legacy in each of us.

Visions of the Future (continued from page 5)

A new annual dues membership of \$25 was adopted and the Alumnae Association began moving forward with the first “homecoming” reunion after the college closed. Held at the Kahler Plaza Hotel and Assisi Heights in Rochester, Minnesota, approximately 140 Teresans and Sisters attended. At the recommendation of the retiring part-time Alumnae Association Director, the director position was changed to a full-time Executive Director position with a part-time Assistant to allow the Executive Director time for travel and necessary tasks.

With renewed energy, the Alumnae Association board developed criteria for a new alumnae Executive Director and Dawn Hughes was hired in September 1988. When Dawn resigned six months later, **Fran Joyce Daly ‘57**, temporarily assumed the position while still maintaining her responsibilities as President of the Alumnae Association board. Following a request to the State of Minnesota for a tax-exempt number, the Association began the process of applying for non-profit tax status in the spring of 1989. To qualify for tax-exempt status, a scholarship program had to be established as a completely separate 501c3 entity. In April 1990, the Teresan Scholarship Fund (TSF) received approval as a separate 501c3 entity, and the Alumnae Association became tax-exempt as a 501c7 entity, both in full accordance with IRS rules.

Following the establishment of the fund, Fran felt it was time to resign and the search began for a full-time Executive Director. Since **Colleen Kocer Peplinski ‘87** had served on the Alumnae Association board after her 1987 CST graduation, the board hired her as interim Executive Director. Colleen had direct experience relating to office skills and mass mailings, and was willing to temporarily fill in until the Alumnae Association board could fill the position permanently. However, in the fall of 1992, the Alumnae Association board offered Colleen the permanent position of Executive Director. The name of the Association was formally changed to “The Alumnae Association of the College of Saint Teresa” when its revised Constitution was adopted February 1992.

Reunions and Chapter Gatherings

Following the *Visions of the Future* and the desire to promote and develop alumnae chapters throughout the U.S., Teresans in localized areas often gathered at chapter events hosted by individual alumnae or groups. Throughout the many years of the college and the Alumnae Association, Teresans enjoyed many gatherings in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Arizona, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and locations beyond. How wonderful it was to celebrate the rich Teresan heritage with each other.

Throughout its thirty-five-year history, the Alumnae Association continued to promote its mission by hosting an annual reunion each year on a five-year class rotation. For the first five years, reunions were hosted in Rochester, Minnesota, and then over the remaining thirty years, the reunions returned home to the beautiful Winona campus. Attendance was just over 100 people in the early years, but it became standard for 200+ attendees during the last 20 years.

In 2005, **Sister Mary Lonan Reilly '50**, a member of the Alumnae Association board, wanted to engage more Teresans by hosting an all-school reunion in celebration of CST's Centennial year in 2007, based on the offering of undergraduate courses to young ladies starting in 1907. The Alumnae Association board voted unanimously to support the idea, and the planning began. With the help of Teresan tri-chairs, **Bridget Doyle '63**, **Kathy Bennett Beatty '67**, and **Kissie Noll Larson '74**, a huge celebration attracting 660 alumnae gathered at the campus in Winona to renew friendships July 4-8, 2007. Sister Mary Lonan created "CST Over the Decades," engaging many Teresans in a performance for the attendees. Several other events were held at that celebration, including the Liturgy of Lights and 1001 Donuts. Teresans were invited to speak and share their wisdom with sister Teresans. It was considered the celebration of a lifetime for Sisters and alumnae of CST.

Reunions continued but were significantly different in 2020-2021, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. With the help of technology (Zoom), the Mass was still celebrated in the beautiful Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels, the highlight of every reunion. Individual classes were able to gather virtually in Zoom rooms.

The final CST All-School Reunion was celebrated June 6-9, 2024, with over 650 alumnae and guests in attendance. It was a beautiful weekend on campus for alumnae from the classes of 1949 to 1992, Sisters of Saint Francis, former faculty and staff. With all classes represented, it was a time to see classmates but also friends from other classes on campus during our college years, creating connections that spanned decades since being together. With a picnic kick-off on Thursday, to campus tours, presentations, Liturgy of the Lights, 1001 Donuts, Mass celebrated by Father Michael Joncas, the banquet and a Closing Prayer Service in the chapel on Sunday, it was a true celebration of all that is Teresan. With the final procession out of the chapel, led by the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, and the Campanile bells ringing across the campus and into the bluffs, a sense of gratitude emanated throughout, and we knew the Teresan spirit would live on through each of our alumnae.

Our Greatest Resource

The longevity of the CST Alumnae Association was in large part due to steadfast and loyal staff members, including Teresans **Barbara Bennett Burchill '71** and **Maureen Cooney '71**, and all others who served over the years. This was especially true during the final decade, with Amy



L-R: Amy, Lisa and Colleen

Rubie as Office Manager, and Lisa Wantock as Administrative Assistant. Amy's expert customer service skills and bookkeeping knowledge allowed **Colleen Kocer Peplinski '87**, Executive Director, the opportunity to focus on direct alumnae care. Amy's professional manner and efficient organizational skills created the vision of an alumnae office staff member who truly lives to serve. Meanwhile, Lisa's attention to detail with the Teresan Scholarship Fund program has benefited the Alumnae Association in numerous ways, and her creativity produced the beautiful

Teresan News magazine, sharing all the latest news and information with the alumnae. What a fantastic duo to compliment Colleen's warm hospitality, vision, organizational skills, and most notably, her Teresan spirit and Franciscan ideals of purity, loyalty, and truth. Her vivacious personality and vision for the Alumnae Association have kept the association alive and well for over 33 years she has served. Colleen's smile created a warm and welcoming hospitality, demonstrating her Teresan spirit. These characteristics became her legacy.

Colleen followed the lead of so many wonderfully gifted Sisters and Teresans who became members of the Alumnae Association's Board of Directors. Over the past 35 years, the association was blessed by the high level of leaders and advocates for all Teresans they served, most notably the respective committees including the CST Board of Directors; the Teresan Scholarship Selection Committee; the CSTea House, Inc.; the Saint Teresa Leadership & Service Institute for Women (STLI - SMU) Advisory Council; the 2007 Centennial Celebration; and many, many more. With each of these opportunities to serve, the Sisters of Saint Francis continued to participate at every level, guiding and nurturing, serving and leading along the way.

Closing With Grace and Dignity

When the Alumnae Association board completed their latest five-year strategic plan in early 2019, it became clear that with our aging alumnae, the association membership would decline significantly in the 2020's, affecting participation, membership dues and donations. After analyzing our financial records and historical data, the board realized there were two options moving forward: remain an association with diminishing funds, members and staff; or determine a closing date while funds and association numbers remained large enough to sustain us for another two to three years. With a heavy heart, the difficult decision was made to close the Alumnae Association. The final vision was to plan a way to *close with grace and with dignity*, following the lead of Sister Michaela when the college closed. Gratitude has been expressed to the Sisters of Saint Francis and the leaders who had been instrumental over the past 35 years.

With the year 2024 honoring the 100-year celebration of the beloved Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels, and the 35th anniversary of the independent CST Alumnae Association, it was decided to make this the appropriate time to gather all alumnae for an all-school reunion honoring our past and celebrating all that we have accomplished. Truly, this was not the ending, but a transition into complete ownership of the Teresan identity; to walk with grace and continue the Teresan legacy that lives on in each of us.

The final twelve members serving on the Alumnae Association's Board of Directors, along with the three dedicated staff members, formed the "dream team" to lead with gratitude, humility, and celebration in their hearts; bonding together as one unit, ready to show up and devote their combined time and talents into the 2024 all-school reunion celebration. Over a two-year period, the board and staff did a deep dive of planning to determine what would make this reunion a true celebration of all that *was, is, and will be* for our alumnae. Board members and staff took the lead, with the help of numerous volunteers from all classes, in covering the various areas including Day Events, Evening Events, Sacred Chapel Space, Liturgies, the Banquet, and general

Reunion activities. For all board members, it was a blessing to go through each stage of the planning and coordination, knowing the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Francis, the CST faculty and staff, and the Teresan alumnae will live on past this celebration, and the final closure in 2025.



Front Row L-R: Mary Frohnauer '77, Connie Scheid Caine '82, Mercedes Brabender McGowen '61, Mary Suilmann '80, Sr. Sue Reif OSF '73, Amy Rubie AM, Cathy Jedlicka Standish '82

Back Row (standing) L-R: Colleen Kocer Peplinski '87, Marianne Ewing Texley '76, Betty Ford '75, Maureen Salmon Speltz '72, Jo Suilman Stejskal '72, Mary Kay Stepanik McDermott '77, Lisa Wantock AM, Kristin Thiele Holien '86

Chapter 2: Teresan Scholarship Fund *A Phoenix Arises —The Teresan Legacy*

With the closing of the college, one of the challenges facing the Sisters of Saint Francis and the Board of Trustees was determining the disposition of endowments, annuities, and insurances. Living donors were contacted to determine how to assign their bequests. Since thirty-one donors were no longer living, it was up to the Winona County District Court to determine the disposition of those funds. College attorneys presented the court with a report of efforts to reach donors, with a memorandum of law outlining the legal basis for the transfer. After reviewing the report, the court decided the best way to meet what the donors intended was to present these funds, with interest from the endowment used, to award scholarship money to undergraduates, graduates, and for continuing education, to the Teresan Scholarship Fund (TSF) which had been set up in April 1990, as a separate fund under 501c3 in full accordance with IRS rules.

At the October 1990 General Meeting of the CST Alumnae Association, the alumnae board, recognizing the need to have a purpose other than social, appointed a scholarship committee to define eligibility criteria and other necessary information needed for accepting applications for scholarships. In addition to transcripts and letters of recommendation, each applicant was required to submit an essay describing their past educational experiences, involvement in the community, ways they have been of service to their church or community, and future education and career goals. The first donation to TSF was a \$500 bequeathed donation from Marion

Krebsbach, a friend of the college, with an intended goal to present the first scholarship in 1991.

During the October 1991 Alumnae Association annual reunion held at Assisi Heights, Sister Michaela reviewed events that occurred since July 1988, highlighting the disposition of funds through Winona County District Court. At that time, she surprised all attending by presenting a check for \$827,826.67 for the Teresan Scholarship Fund to alumnae board president, **Terri Wintering '73**. An understandably emotional response of gratitude followed from the Alumnae board members and other alumnae attending the reunion. All realized that not only was this a catalyst for the scholarship program, but this gift bestowed a great responsibility on the Alumnae Association to remain a viable organization to maintain and manage these generously donated funds. A variety of amendments to the Association constitution were adopted at the February 1992 Alumnae Association board meeting. The Teresan Scholarship Fund was added to its list of purposes, and the Vice President of the



Sister Camille Bowe '35, President of the College of Saint Teresa 1952-1969, and Ann Patterson Gibson '69, first Teresan Scholarship Recipient

Alumnae Association was designated as the chair of the Teresan Scholarship Fund selection committee. Thus began the true rising of the Teresan academic legacy that continues to live on today.

The first scholarship was awarded in December 1991 to **Ann Patterson Gibson '69**. The amount of the award was \$550 based on the earning interest of the fund that was only in its first few months of investment.

The Alumnae Association's purpose since its founding has been to maintain and foster the Teresan values developed at the College of Saint Teresa. The 35 years of existence of the Alumnae Association following the closing of the college have been possible because of the faith and determination of all the Franciscan Sisters, alumnae, and families of former students, as well as others who have contributed to and volunteered in the association since its beginning in 1991. Their support and contributions, along with the alumnae board's faithful stewardship of the scholarship funds, the years of dedicated service by the volunteer members of the Scholarship Selection Committee, and the leadership of the Executive Director and staff have superbly fulfilled the association's initial goal of fostering academic excellence.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the Teresan Scholarship Fund provided a rebirth, promoting our Teresan legacy of community, leadership, and service into the future. Since 1991, the Scholarship Committee has awarded 2,364 scholarship and enrichment awards totaling more than \$2,500,000. With the generosity of the *Ardis Seifert Steel '49 Legacy Gift* in 2021, the Scholarship Committee significantly increased the top awards ever given by the TSF. In 2022, the Teresan Scholarship Fund provided five students \$10,000 each, and in 2023, five students each received \$15,000. Many of the recipients of the scholarship have truly affected the lives of others, serving in careers as teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, social workers, counselors, scientists, musicians, authors, and other careers too numerous to list.

As part of the timeline for the closing of the Alumnae Association, it was necessary to spend down the principle of the scholarship fund with the final disbursement of scholarship funds for both undergraduate and graduate awards at the end of 2023.

The privilege of administering this fund for over 30 years included the selection of outstanding candidates who continue to live out the Teresan legacy of service and leadership.



***Teresan Scholarship Selection Committee
Receives Kudos for Final Review 2023***

Gratitude for the countless hours of reviewing the hundreds of applicants each of these devoted Teresans has covered each year, serving in total over 1,000 hours!

Left to Right: Member, Karen Machlica '77, Chair - Cathy Jedlicka Standish '82, Members, Sheryl Wurzbarger Delke '86, Mary Tacheny '81, Rose Campanaro Carlson '87, Midge Richmond Hudrlik '68 (not pictured: Mariah Snyder '60)

Chapter 3 - Sisters of Saint Francis

Remain with Us Always

Just as the Rochester Franciscans supported us during our years as college students, they continued their support of alumnae since the college closure. It's impossible to even begin to address all the ways the Sisters have offered assistance throughout these years as the list would go on and on. However, we do want to acknowledge some of the Sisters who have shared their guidance, time and talents.

Served as caretaker of archival records of the College of Saint Teresa: **Sister Margaret Clare Style '41**, and since 2019, **Sister Shirley Schmitz '66**

Served as caretaker of our individual college transcripts: **Sister Ramona Kruse '60**, and since 2021, **Sister Shirley Schmitz '66**

Created a long-term plan (1992) for the Alumnae Association: **Sister Katerina Schuth '63**

Served as active members of the CST Alumnae Association Board of Directors since its inception: **Sisters Ingrid Peterson '57; Franchon Pirkel '57; Edith Zamboni '50; Ellen Whelan '52; Fidelis Logan '43; Shirley Schmitz '66; Joan Blank '61; Georgene Stuppy '66; Ethylind Loudner '46; Mary Lonan Reilly '50; Gavin Hagan '46; Lalonde Ryan '63; Briana McCarthy '69; JoAnn Chevalier '87; Sue Reif '73**

Developed and led customized retreats and pilgrimage programs for CST alumnae on a Franciscan Pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy: **Sister Ramona Miller '67**

Remained a powerhouse of prayer for the Association, alumnae and individual alumnae prayer requests

When the college was active, many endowments for scholarships had accrued, often based on inspirations of the Franciscan Sisters themselves. After the college closed, the Sisters, with court permission, transitioned these remaining funds to the 501c3 entity that the Alumnae Association had set up in 1990. These funds provided a wellspring for a core activity of the association during its 35 years. This helped the Alumnae Association solidify its mission of continuing to support higher education.

Many of the Sisters who served students so faithfully during the CST college years have passed through death, but they live on in the hearts of alumnae association members whose lives they have touched in so many ways as educators, mentors, spiritual leaders and as friends.

The Rochester Franciscans continue to serve as examples of servant leadership to all alumnae and friends, living their mission:

Led by the Holy Spirit to embrace the Gospel life of continual conversion, through prayer, community and service, in the tradition of Francis, Clare and Mother Alfred, we, Rochester Franciscan Sisters and Cojourners, commit ourselves to be a compassionate presence for peace in our world, striving for justice and reverence for all creation.

Throughout the years, the Sisters have attended many CST Alumnae Association events, including reunions and chapter gatherings. We have had the privilege to be present when the Sisters concluded each event by singing the beautiful *Blessing of Saint Clare*. They continue to leave an indelible mark on our lives and spirit.



The Blessing of Saint Clare

May you always be with God, wherever you may be.

And may God be with you always.

May you always be with God wherever you may be.

And may God be with you always.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Chapter 4 - Tea House

The Importance of the Gathering Space

In 1919, the College of Saint Teresa purchased a private house facing Wabasha Street on the block where the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels and Alverna Hall were later built. To accommodate those building efforts, the house was moved to its current location so that construction of the Chapel and Alverna could commence. The house was converted, wings added, to serve as a tea house, a gathering place for students. In addition to tea, students could also purchase soft drinks, sandwiches, hamburgers, ice cream, and other snacks. It was a place on campus to relax with friends.

From the mid-1920s through the 1970s, the Tea House was a frequently visited destination for CST students. Although located on the CST campus, it had a special atmosphere—a place that carried a touch of the outside world. It was like stepping off campus without really leaving. “*Let’s meet at the Tea House*” was a common phrase heard on campus.

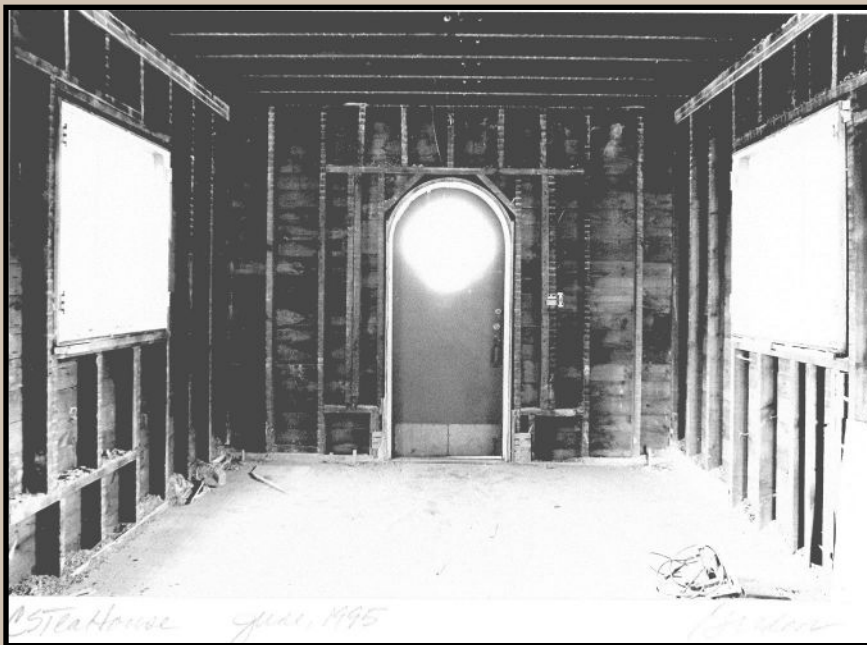
As the college faced growing financial strain and eventually closure, the Tea House also suffered. Services decreased and students rarely dropped in. From the late 1970s to the early 1980s, the building was only opened for a few special events. During this time, the condition of the building deteriorated. Regrettably, CST alumnae from the 1980s did not have the experiences nor fond memories of the Tea House that earlier generations experienced. After the college closed in 1989, the campus property, including the Tea House, was eventually sold to the Hiawatha Education Foundation (HEF) in 1992. Under new ownership, the Tea House was slated for demolition, with the property planned to be used as a parking lot by Winona State University (WSU), which had purchased Lourdes Hall from HEF.

However, the history and charm of the Tea House and the symbolism it carried for both CST graduates and the Winona community were not forgotten by two alumnae who lived and worked in Winona. **Frances Bowler Edstrom ’67** and **Ann Patterson Gibson ’69** had the interest and energy to initiate the work of restoring and re-opening the Tea House. Initially, they were most interested in preservation, imagining the building would be used as a heritage center. They contacted HEF and expressed interest in the possibility of saving the building. Fran and Ann also approached the Alumnae Association board about taking on the project. In the early years after the college closure, the Alumnae Association board had its hands full managing new roles and responsibilities, and the board declined to take the Tea House on as an additional project.

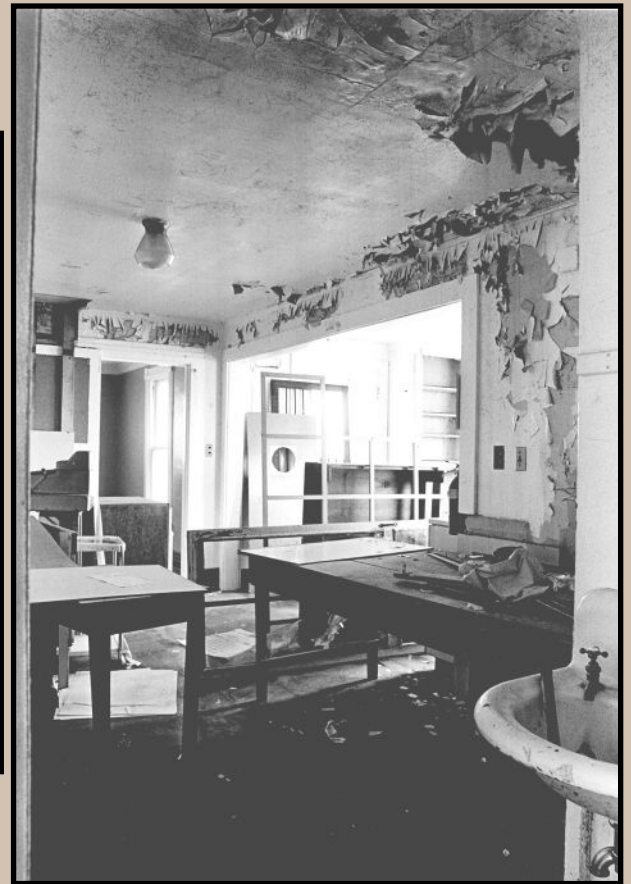
Fran and Ann then explored the possibility of starting CSTea House, Inc., a new 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission would be to restore the Tea House and offer women’s programs “in the spirit of the College of Saint Teresa.” They presented their vision to Robert Kierlin, President of HEF, and to Dr. John Kane, Vice President of WSU, who decided that WSU could get by without the parking lot. This cleared the way for Mr. Kierlin to offer a rent-free 20-year lease in 1993 with the provision that expenses of renovation and operation would rest with the anticipated non-profit organization.

Sarah Arendt Martin JD, CST '69 drew up the paperwork for the new non-profit, CStea House, Inc. Initial CStea House board members were: **Frances Bowler Edstrom '67**, President; **Ann Patterson Gibson '69**, Vice President; **Susan Schlink Edel '69**, Treasurer; and **Sharon Erickson Ropes '76**, Secretary. Also serving as officers in later years were **Maureen Cooney '71** and **Marcee Holland Peplinski '75**.

And then the work began, with fundraising as the first task. Presentations and requests for support were made to several Winona groups and national chapters of the CST Alumnae Association. Other fundraising activities included: letters to all 8,000 living alumnae to enjoy “A Virtual Cup of Tea” and “1001 Daffodils”; articles and requests in the CST newsletter; an evening of musical talent and tribute to **Sister M. Camille Bowe OSF '35**, past President of the College, in Saint Cecilia Hall “*Merci, Sister Camille*”; a Garden Tea Party held on the Alverna Hall lawn; and individual meetings with potential donors. Great interest in the project was demonstrated by the support that poured in from alumnae and friends. All fundraising activities were designed to call forth memories of the college, thus keeping its spirit alive. A very special contribution of \$15,000 came from Rosemary Curtin, a long-time CST staff member, in honor of her friend **Margaret Weigel '32**, Director of Admissions for the college, who was the first personal contact from CST to thousands of incoming freshmen. In appreciation of Ms. Curtin’s gift, a plaque in the Tea House recognizes the interior of the Tea House as the *Margaret Weigel Center*.



1994—Interior walls gutted



With money available, restoration of the building officially began in 1994. Sherman Smith, Winona architect and husband of **Lori Frisch Smith '71**, contributed the building plan pro bono. Winona construction firm Mills-Henningsgard undertook the major reconstruction of the building with the assistance of a variety of local subcontractors.

In 1997, the CSTea House, Inc. received the Honor Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. The formal dedication of the building occurred in 1998. CSTea House board members were honored by the CST Alumnae Association with the Service to Alumnae award in 1999. In 2012, the Tea House was part of the Winona County Historical Society House Tour.

The Alumnae Association Finds Its Home

For a short time after the college closed in 1989, the alumnae office remained in St. Teresa Hall. When Cotter Schools moved into that building in 1992, the alumnae office moved across the street into office space at the former Mary A. Molloy Library, which was St. T's Tennis & Sports Center and included the Cotter gymnasium. Years later, the beautifully restored Tea House returned to the CST alumnae once again. In 2001, the CST Alumnae Association board agreed to move the office to the Tea House, paying rent to CSTea House, Inc., which maintained management responsibilities for the building. In 2013, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota renewed the rent-free lease and saw a changing of the guard at the Tea House. The founding members amicably stepped down from the CSTea House, Inc. board, and the CST Alumnae Association board members, in effect, took their place. CSTea House, Inc. remained a 501c3, but the Alumnae Association board assumed financial and maintenance responsibilities for the building.

Since its restoration, the Tea House has been used for activities as varied as graduation parties, weddings, 50th-anniversary receptions, bridal and baby showers, club meetings, and weekly art classes. And, of course, it has been a center of activity for each annual reunion, except during the isolating years of COVID-19.

Certainly, fundraisers and fun-raisers kept the Tea House building open. The Alumnae Association extends its gratitude to those who sent monetary contributions for the Tea House over the 35 years since the College of Saint Teresa closed. In addition, the Alumnae Association offers a special appreciation to those local people who have stepped up with money, time, and talent over the years, including the alumnae and their spouses, former CST staff, Boy Scouts, and Cotter sports teams.

Over the past century the Tea House has served students and alumnae through good times and tough times. What a gift that the alumnae have been able to maintain and enjoy this building for the past thirty-five amazing years. During this time, both the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels and the Tea House held a spiritual appeal to the alumnae, calling them back home.

With the closing of the Alumnae Office in winter 2024, the management of the Tea House returns to its owner, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. The beautiful Memory Garden will remain in front of the Tea House for all alumnae to remember, holding a special place in their hearts for years to come.



Tea House—Spring 2024

Chapter 5 - STLI

Saint Teresa Leadership & Service Institute for Women

In August 2002, Brother Louis DeThomasis, President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (SMU), approached the CST Alumnae Association with the idea of an institute at SMU that would honor the legacy of the College of Saint Teresa, providing an opportunity for Teresan and Franciscan teachings and values to be passed on to future generations of young women. Graduates of the Institute would become members of the CST Alumnae Association and a part of the Alumnae Association legacy. In September 2003, the Alumnae Association board, with the endorsement of the Sisters of Saint Francis, approved the formation of the Saint Teresa Leadership & Service Institute for Women (STLI). This program was meant to fill a void felt by alumnae, the Sisters of Saint Francis, faculty, and staff after the closing of the college in 1989.

The original STLI advisory council consisted of nine Teresan alumnae appointed by the CST Alumnae Association board and one SMU representative. Six of the nine founding Teresan members served on the advisory council for the entire nine years of its existence.

The first Director of the Institute, Barbara Vaughan, was hired in March 2004. In June 2004, the first meeting of the STLI council envisioned the Institute as “a living and learning community that provides an academic course series with a distinct focus on Teresan, Franciscan, and Lasallian values and academic leadership theories; and co-curricular programs and activities that offered opportunities for leadership development and service learning.” The first words of the Institute's mission statement are a testament to the College of Saint Teresa and CST alumnae:

In the tradition of courageous women throughout history, the Saint Teresa [Leadership] Institute fosters, within an academic setting, a spiritual, social, and cultural environment through which the leadership potential of women is nurtured in a community that celebrates personal integrity, excellence, joy, and service.

These words are also true for the young women of STLI. CST alumnae can take great pride in the courage and strength of character of each of these students who took part in the Institute. The first 19 students enrolled in the Institute in September 2004, with 29 students enrolled by March 2006. Over the nine years of STLI's existence (2004-2013), 79 young women were members of the Institute. Community, service, and leadership were reflected in the numerous and diverse activities and involvement of the students.

As undergraduates, STLI students served in various leadership roles at SMU. They helped plan community service activities, including *Real Me!* workshops, Spruce Up Winona, the Project Compass dance, the Women's Speakers series, and the *Current Social Issues Women Are Addressing* series. They assisted at CST reunions, a senior residence home, a homeless shelter in Winona, and at the Salvation Army. Working with a subcommittee of the STLI council, they created an oral history DVD to honor and capture the Franciscan and Teresan shared tradition. This video was presented and shown to the Rochester Franciscans at Assisi Heights and to the CST alumnae at the 2007 CST Centennial celebration in Winona.

Since graduating from SMU, STLI young women have gone on to fulfill their leadership and service roles in many different ways. As one STLI graduate wrote:

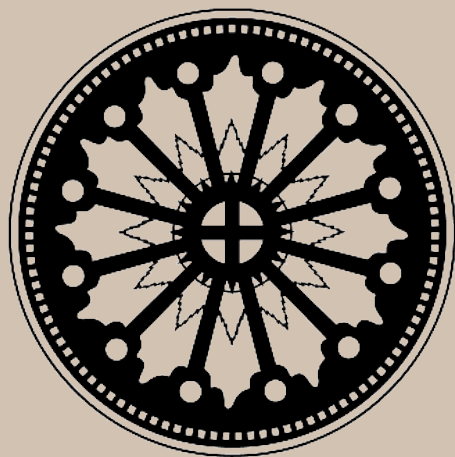
The key things that I took away from my time with STLI were leadership, sisterhood, and ethics (and of course the doughnuts!) I deeply appreciated the experience that STLI provided, and it made an indelible impression on me. I was provided exemplary examples of women in leadership, which has led me to strive to be a leader in my own right. I've learned about the different examples of women leaders, and it has shaped how I see myself as a mentor/leader. I am forever grateful for the experience of sisterhood that STLI provided, exposing me to women of different faiths, different socioeconomics, and politics.

The STLI Institute introduced and passed on the CST legacy to many young SMU women. The first courses in women's leadership incorporated into the academic curriculum at Saint Mary's were the three original leadership courses. Following the STLI years, these courses were incorporated into an SMU Leadership minor, with six academic courses and both women's and men's leadership clubs active on campus.

Community. Service. Leadership. For many graduates, these words serve as reminders of their CST and STLI experiences, and influence daily decisions in family life, professional endeavors, and volunteer work. It is part of the College of Saint Teresa heritage and the Teresan spirit. It is who we are.



Pictured below are former STLI members who joined us for an appreciation reception at the June 2024 All-School Reunion (L-R Back) Sharon Locy '63, Betty Ford '75, Sandra Maskell '84, Michelle Haas Bailey '63 and in the front is Mercedes Brabender McGowen '61



Chapter 6 - Our Legacy Continues ...

The College of Saint Teresa has created esteemed women who have demonstrated leadership in their chosen careers. Even after the closing of the physical college, we still saw the spirit and intent of academic excellence and service abound. We have so many amazing alumnae who have forged successful careers in education, the medical field, social work and social justice careers, the arts, and many others. We were reaching for those glass ceilings and crashing through them, even before we knew of that term. These women have modeled themselves after the Rochester Franciscans and have touched many lives and created pathways for the younger generation of women to follow.

Our service and impact are not just seen in our professions, but in the services we provide to our communities we call home. You can always recognize a Teresan and the willingness and ability to volunteer, serve, and lead in church and other community organizations. Our Teresan spirit lives on and is strong.

The Alumnae Association has connected us all for these past thirty-five years and allowed us to spread those Teresan values out to more people through the financial scholarships created for us, family members, or close connections to pursue their academic goals. The value of academic excellence lives on in our next generations, of both men and women, to continue the good work set forth by our Rochester Franciscans. Our alumnae have modeled the importance of service and leadership in our lives as examples for our children, as well as all the people who are connected to us.

We hold tight to those values set forth by the Sisters, and we see them continue to unite us. Even though another chapter is closing in our beloved College of Saint Teresa history, its impact, memories, and legacy will continue to live on forever in us as alumnae and in our future generations.

Even on our beloved campus, Cotter Schools will continue to educate young people just as the Sisters of Saint Francis built this campus to do! Feel free to connect with Cotter for future campus tours and stay connected to our college home *'mid the bluffs so staunch and true*. We are grateful for those that came before us with a wish and a prayer, and helped us fulfill our mission. Now, these young students at Cotter, as well as our Teresan Scholarship recipients, will continue to strive for excellence in education well into the future.

Chapter 7 - Teresan Scholars Carry on the CST Legacy *Celebrating Teresan Scholarship Recipients Since 1991—2,364 Scholars—\$2,507,015 Awarded!*

Claire Haddad Kuefler—Noblesville IN
Graduate School—Nova Southeastern University
Undergraduate School—Franciscan University of Steubenville

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My first and most consistent inspiration are my parents, who have always supported me in working toward my goals, been my number 1 cheerleaders, and have provided a listening ear and coaching on countless occasions. My grandparents have played a considerable role in this as well. My Grandma, Mary Ellen, is a College of Saint Teresa alumna who went on to pursue a graduate degree at Purdue University following her graduation. Her dedication to her education, her work, and her family set a precedent for our family that my parents continued, and established values that were instilled in me. I'm proud to be the first woman on either side of my family with a doctoral degree, and I'll never forget the ways my Grandma paved that path for me!

What motivates you?

Wow, where do I start! I think the answer to the question is multi-fold, and has also evolved over the years. My husband and I welcomed our first child, a baby girl, in December 2023. Motherhood has been such a gift. These days, she is my primary motivator!

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

One particularly significant academic accomplishment was the completion of my doctoral dissertation for my clinical psychology program. I was allowed some flexibility in undertaking the project, and elected to create a treatment manual for women with schizophrenia during pregnancy. This has already had utility in my career, as I now work as a Clinical Psychologist and Coordinator of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery program at our local VA, a program dedicated to help Veterans with serious mental illness identify and achieve their self-determined goals and reconnect with their community.

During graduate school, I was also humbled to undertake a project in which I, alongside some peers from my cohort, developed a presentation on coping with stress, uncertainty, and newfound responsibilities during the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic. We offered the presentation to students and professors at the university, clinicians at local mental health facilities, and parents from local schools. In a time of unprecedented societal stress and uncertainty, I hope our work was able to make a difference in the lives of families trying to manage lockdowns and quarantines, unemployment, lost family or friends, boredom, isolation, and more.

(Above: Claire with her sponsor and grandmother Mary Ellen Lanphear Haddad '68)



Teresan Scholars Carry on CST Legacy *(continued)*

Any further information you would like to share:

I am very grateful to the College of Saint Teresa alumnae for their generosity to the Teresan Scholarship Fund! Every dollar of every check made a difference for me, in both lessening the financial burden of college and graduate schools, as well as motivating me to continue to dedicate myself to my academic study. *Thank you!*

Olyvia Horsman—Wabasha MN

Graduate School—South Dakota State University Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My family has been a huge motivator throughout my entire life. I have always been pushed to do my best, and accepted by my family that my results were indicative of my best work possible. My family has always supported me and been in my corner. I would not be where I am today without their love, support, and faith.

What motivates you?

I would say my future is a big motivator. Since I am still in graduate school, I need to focus on my purpose in order to keep going. I know that going through a hardship hand in hand with God, makes crossing the finish line more rewarding. Because of this I take the struggles that come with

veterinary school and carry them on my back. I remember my “why” which is to help those in need, being the advocate for the voiceless, and spread God’s love through veterinary medicine.



Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

My biggest achievement was getting accepted into veterinary school, as it is a 2% chance to get in. I had worked my entire life with the goal

of getting accepted. I was fortunate enough to have the choice of which program I wanted to go to. Now I am almost done with my first year!

Any further information you would like to share:

I am saddened that the Teresan Scholarship Fund program is ending, although I am very grateful to have been a recipient in its final year. *(Olyvia was sponsored by family friend Mary Sirian Peterson ‘88)*

Elizabeth Hermodson-Olsen —St James MN

Graduate School— St. Catherine University and Gallaudet University

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My main inspiration has come from the learning and experiences I have had within my family. I am grateful to have grown up with four siblings and my parents who all provided me with a piece of who I am today. A major pillar of inspiration and encouragement are my parents, and I don’t just say that because my Mom is an alumna of CST :) They have truly gifted me with the tools and encouragement to pursue my interests. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by people that cheer me on, listen to my interests, and encourage me to pursue great goals for myself!

What motivates you?

I am motivated by curiosity and love of learning. I am also motivated to find and work in areas that highlight my strengths and provide me with purpose. Continuing education and working in areas of healthcare and accessibility are two areas that do this for me.

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

I cannot name one, so first getting my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2020 as that was an achievement I truly enjoyed and have pride in. Second, receiving my Master in ASL/English Interpretation at Gallaudet University where all my studies were conducted in American Sign Language (ASL). This is a goal that came to me later, and I am very proud and grateful for this achievement!



Any further information you would like to share:

I feel very fortunate and grateful for my education. As I write this I am in Washington D.C. finishing my last month of course work for my interpreting masters degree and will be returning to Minnesota for an internship and future work. I am excited about the future to pursue further physical therapy work, and working towards a career in medical interpreting for ASL/English interpreting. I always wish to give my deepest gratitude to the Alumnae Association of CST for the financial support over the years that has supported my journey to this point.

(Left: Elizabeth with her mom/sponsor, Rosine Hermodson-Olsen '83, at an American Physical Therapy Association Awards Ceremony; Above right: Elizabeth heading to work as a physical therapist)



**Clare Gallahue —Woodbury MN
Undergraduate School—University of St. Thomas**

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

In a fitting coincidence for this prompt, my scholarship application essay this year revolved around the many amazing women who have inspired me during my academic journey. To begin, I have been inspired by my mother and my grandmother and sponsor, **Nancy Flood '55**, as they both dedicated their lives to nursing and helping others through education. I have also been inspired by my aunt, **Meagan Flood '80**, with her work as an educator. I feel especially honored to be going into the same field of work as she did and will continue to be inspired by her as a first-year teacher. I have been inspired by my sister, Molly, who was also a recipient of the scholarship and just completed her PhD in Earth and Planetary Sciences. Lastly, I have been inspired by everyone in the Alumnae Association for their generosity and compassion in establishing this scholarship. From them, I have been able to afford adding my minor in Special Education to help prepare me to better support all of my future students.



Teresan Scholars Carry on CST Legacy *(continued)*

What motivates you?

The biggest thing that motivates me is my students. I am currently student teaching in a first-grade classroom, and my school serves a predominantly low-income neighborhood. In addition, almost half of my students are new to the country and are learning English as a second language.

Despite these additional barriers, I see them trying their hardest each and every day. Even when concepts are difficult for them to understand, they nonetheless try their best and support one another. My students motivate me with their willingness to try new things, the confidence they hold with their abilities, and the genuine kindness they show to each other.

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

This May I will be graduating with my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and will also be receiving a minor in Special Education. I hopefully will be a classroom teacher this upcoming fall.

Any further information you would like to share:

I would like to end by once again thanking the Alumnae Association and the generosity they have shown me. You have truly changed my life and helped me achieve my degree with substantially less financial burden.

Anne Daly—South Bend IN
Undergraduate School—University of Notre Dame
Graduate School—Notre Dame Law School

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My grandfather was a doctor, but he didn't see it as a status symbol. He would say, I had certain skills, and the community needed them, so I used those skills to serve my community. I aspire to be humble and give back to my community like he did.

What motivates you?

I like being able to help create concrete, positive change for my clients. Law is a great fit for me in this way.



Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

Last year, I externed at the National Immigrant Justice Center and won asylum for a client from the Chicago Immigration Court. Knowing that I was able to help my client secure safety and a future for herself in the United States was an incredibly rewarding feeling that has spurred me to pursue a career in immigration law after graduation.

Any further information you would like to share:

Thank you so much to the donors for their generous scholarship support!

Above L-R: Anne Daly, her Aunt Weeci, and Aunt/sponsor Charity Rowan Floen '81 in Toledo, Spain.

Clare Buntrock—St Paul MN
Undergraduate School—University of Notre Dame
Graduate School—University of Minnesota Medical School

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My inspiration through the years has been my parents. Both of my parents are extremely hard workers, and their Catholic faith has inspired them to serve others. Growing up, my father would take me to volunteer with him for the Knights of Columbus and Christmas Anonymous even after a long work week as he saw how important it was to give back to the community.

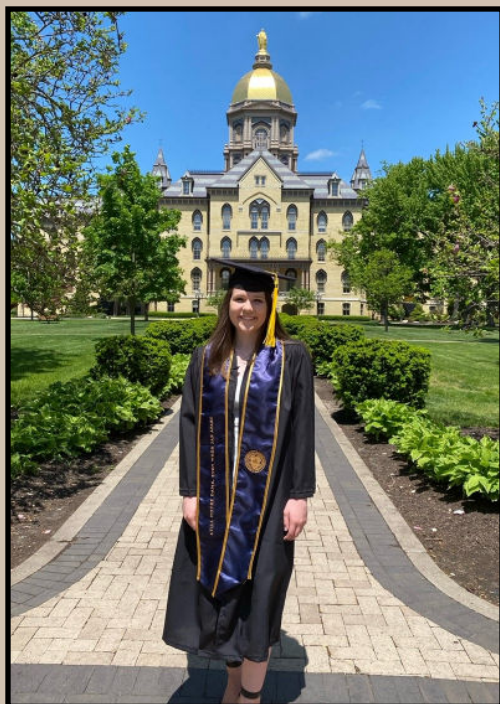
Right: Clare at White Coat Ceremony



Seeing their commitment in all that they do in work, volunteering, and being active in the Church motivated me to also want to serve others as best as I could, which in turn led me to pursue medicine as my way of helping those in need.

What motivates you?

My biggest motivation is my desire to serve others. Throughout my Catholic school education, servant leadership was always at the forefront of my education and in high school I was able to play an active role in this with writing a letter with the Sisters of St. Francis for their anti-human trafficking campaign. As I continued onto college, this desire to serve others continued and I found ways of giving back to the community by volunteering at the local food bank and at a respite home for medically fragile children. When I was discerning my career, I knew I needed to pursue a path that allowed me to serve others to the fullest as this is what brought me the most meaning and joy, leading me to a career in medicine.



Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

My most significant academic accomplishment to date has been the privilege to attend medical school and now in my third-year clinical rotations work directly with patients and help with their care. While I am still a student in the hospital setting, I have the gift of time to spend with patients and listen to their worries and concerns. With this time, I can think of many instances over my third year that I was able to brighten a patient's mood, calm their worry, or help them feel less alone while undergoing medical treatment. It is in these moments I experience great joy, as I am reconnected back to my call to serve others and was able to make even one patient's

experience more positive.

Any further information you would like to share:

I am extremely grateful for the gifts from the Teresan Scholarship Fund and Ardis Steel Legacy Fund over my college and graduate school years. These gifts have allowed me to pursue my passion of medicine and ability to serve others. *Thank you!*

(Clare was sponsored by her aunts **Karen Byron Pathoulas '81** and **Helen Byron Valencia '75**)

Teresan Scholars Carry on CST Legacy *(continued)*

Jennifer Standish—Chapel Hill NC

Graduate School— University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My mom (and sponsor), **Cathy Jedlicka Standish '82**, is one of my biggest inspirations in life. She has raised me to always approach relationships—whether personal or professional—with kindness and integrity. In a professional world where competition and interpersonal politics can distract us from what really matters, I am so grateful that I have had her as an example of another way to move through the world. She always stands up for what she thinks is right while maintaining an open mind and a willingness to learn from others and from her mistakes. I am lucky to call her my mom.

My aunt, **Loretta Jedlicka Jungbauer '76**, has also inspired me to care for others most in need. She has been there for my family through several difficult periods, and in doing so has been an example to me as someone who will be in your corner when you need them. I have aspired to have this awareness and willingness to put aside my own wants for others in need.



*Above Right: Jennifer with her mom, **Cathy Jedlicka Standish '82** at the Chicago Marathon*

Finally, I am inspired by people who continue living and having faith in a better future despite facing challenges and loss that I can only imagine. This may sound cheesy, but people who have lost family members to war who continue to push for peace, addicts who try again and again to get sober, and the civil rights activists who continued to organize in the face of racialized violence, for example, inspire me to keep doing the next right thing even when I feel hopeless.

What motivates you?

I am motivated by the belief that workers and working-class people must have more power and voice if we are going to create a just world. My research on anti-union laws is dedicated to understanding how worker power, dignity, and well-being has been taken away in our country so that the workers and worker advocates can get it back. The people who make this country run—from nurses to teachers to fast food workers and janitors—deserve to have their living needs met and to have a say in how the hospitals, schools, and companies they work for operate. I believe that this is an important step in making our communities more equitable, caring, and collaborative.

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

I am proud to say that, with the generous help of the Teresan Scholarship award, I am about to finish my dissertation and earn my PhD in history. This journey has been emotionally and mentally challenging, and I have wanted to give up multiple times. I am proud that I have found the courage and fortitude to keep going and completing my degree. I am also proud of the teaching and public engagement work that I have done in graduate school. As an oral history instructor at UNC, I have guided students as they developed several exciting public-engagement projects, from K-12 teaching resources to publishing a peer-reviewed article contextualizing insights for the voting-rights activists they interviewed for our class. Seeing students thrive on their own with the skills and knowledge that you offer in the classroom is the most rewarding feeling in the world.



Lauren Renk—Chicago IL
Graduate School—Concordia University, Wisconsin

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

I've been in healthcare in many forms over the last ten years. Some of the years have been tough, especially when I think back to the beginning of the pandemic, but somehow there is always a silver lining that can be found when serving others. I have been so fortunate to have worked as a bedside nurse for the last seven years, but I knew I wanted to play a greater role in my patient's lives when it came to managing their health. I feel so blessed to be able to help patients manage their health every day—it is an honor to be trusted by them!

What motivates you?

When I pass my boards, I am eager to get into primary care to help my patients focus on disease prevention and maintenance of their health! Although I will play only a small part in healthcare, I am motivated to continue my education and advance my skills to ensure I am providing my patients with the most up to date information so they can have the best outcomes.

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

My greatest academic achievement will be when I graduate with a Master's degree in May. Prior to starting graduate school, I had a goal to keep a high GPA throughout—I was able to do that which feels really good after lots of studying!

Any further information you would like to share:

I feel so blessed to have been afforded a scholarship from the Teresan Scholarship Committee. Without the support of the CST alumnae, I would not have been able to finish my degree without taking out a loan. Because of their generosity, I was able to drop down to working part-time while completing clinical hours required by my program. I was able to truly immerse myself into my education as I did not have the added pressure of figuring out how to pay my tuition. I am so grateful to CST, and I hope to pay it forward by using my degree to improve the lives of my future patients.



Above: Lauren before doing a presentation for school on breast health for women at a domestic violence shelter last October!

Thank you CST alumnae!!

(Sponsored by family friend **Colleen Kocer Peplinski '87**)

Ben Fortun—Chapel Hill NC
Graduate School—University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

I have had the pleasure of working with numerous inspiring people throughout the years but most inspiring to me are my students. My students come from many different backgrounds and learning experiences and I am always impressed at how much I, in turn, learn from them. My students are what drives me to commit myself to Teresan values of charity and service, and to my academic responsibilities as an educator.

What motivates you?

Mainly my passion for education and justice is what motivates me to accomplish my goals and help others. I care deeply in educating future generations, and I put a lot of hard work into ensuring my students succeed and reach their full potentials.

Teresan Scholars Carry on CST Legacy *(continued)*

Additionally I am fervently passionate for justice whether it is on my campus or in my community. I am constantly looking for ways to help those around me.



Can you share with us your most significant academic/professional accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

Academically the accomplishment I have been most proud of is my inclusion in the forthcoming book on the *United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America* which is due out in 2025.

But my proudest moment overall is founding a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee in the UNC History Department. It is the first DEI committee ever in the history of UNC's history department.

Any further information you would like to share: ie. what you have been doing since graduating/since receiving the TSF Scholarship:

Since receiving the TSF Scholarship, I have used the funds to further my research on Filipina/o laborers on the West Coast. Additionally the funding has allowed me the time to apply to jobs at community colleges to further the diversity of students I can teach. Teaching at a community college is the ultimate dream of mine as I believe community colleges offer the most diversity and opportunity in education.

(Sponsored by family friends Cathy Jedlicka Standish '82 and Loretta Jedlicka Jungbauer '76)

Grace Johnson—Monument CO

Undergraduate School— Creighton University

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My parents have greatly inspired me; they are the most selfless people I know, and they have always loved and supported me. My younger brother has a number of disabilities including cerebral palsy, and growing up with him inspired me to pursue a career in physical therapy. In addition, I am inspired by my grandmother, who is also my confirmation sponsor, by the way she so devoutly lives her life.

What motivates you?

I am motivated by the desire to do my best in everything I do not for myself but rather for the greater glory of God. In this way, I am drawn to opportunities to serve others not out of a place of self righteousness, but because these opportunities continue to be the most positively impactful experience I have had in life.

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

This year I was nominated to serve as our chapter president of Alpha Sigma Nu, the highest honor society at Creighton University, and I also was accepted into all 6 doctorate of physical therapy programs that I applied to as I continue on to graduate school next year!

Any further information you would like to share:

I just want to say a huge thank you! The scholarships I received through this organization allowed me to grow in so many ways these last couple of years. I have met so many incredible people that have impacted the course of my life for the better, and I have learned so much through all the experiences I've had at Creighton University. I am forever grateful for this opportunity, and I cannot thank you enough for the support! I have so clearly been blessed by our good and gracious God, and I am excited to share this same love with all of the people I get to interact with now and in the future to build God's kingdom here on earth.

(Grace was sponsored by her aunt Kathryn Scanlon Remold '88)

Alice Spong—St Paul MN
Undergraduate School—Marquette University

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

It is only fitting to say that my grandmother **Katie Drew Spong ‘65**, who is also my sponsor, has forever been my inspiration and role model throughout my life (*and is pictured below right with Alice*). She exhibits a palpable energy to everyone around her that is filled with love, curiosity, and creativity. Her passion for healthcare throughout her life is a large reason I hope to become a physician one day, as she has shown me throughout my entire life the importance of selflessly caring for others and the kindness that every human deserves.

What motivates you?

I have been lucky enough to have experiences in these last few years that have pushed me to further pursue my goal of being a physician. In working at a Pelvic Floor Clinic, I have had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of patients and truly learn their stories and needs in that moment. Each interaction is special to me, with each patient providing a unique narrative that I have the honor to be a part of. It is through these learning experiences with patients that I



am further motivated to push through the challenges of being a pre-medical student to reach my goal. It is an extremely exciting, yet challenging journey, and with each learning moment, I get a glimpse into what lies ahead.

Can you share with us your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

One of my greatest achievements has definitely been my journey in navigating college and all of the new learning experiences I have been fortunate to have. This process is not an easy one, but I am surrounded by people that want to see me succeed which makes this much easier. I dive head first into any and every learning opportunity I have been given and will always give it 100%. This has allowed me to grow both academically and personally throughout these last three years, all while maintaining my personal values.

Any further information you would like to share:

I don't think there will ever be enough words to say thank you! But I truly feel like the luckiest person to be surrounded by this community and have so many people rooting for me throughout this journey.



Annalise Frodermann—Eden Prairie MN
Undergraduate School—Creighton University

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

Much of my inspiration comes from those I surround myself with. My family, friends, and peers have been very strong role models throughout my life, and I am extremely grateful for these relationships.

What motivates you?

I am motivated by my future. With a degree in public health, I'll have the skills necessary to enact tangible chang-

Teresan Scholars Carry on CST Legacy *(continued)*

es in our world and improve the health of all. Reflecting on what my future career will look like is quite motivating to push through hardships I am faced with.

Can you share with us your most significant academic/professional accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

My most significant academic accomplishment to date is successfully completing 3 (almost 4) semesters at Creighton University! Throughout my time here, I have learned so much about myself in addition to the world of public health, and I am looking forward to what the next two years hold.

(Annalise's sponsor is family friend, Midge Richmond Hudrlik '68)



Emira Marcela Vargas Moreno—Minneapolis MN **Graduate School—University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

The life of Francis of Assisi has been a constant source of inspiration for me, from my school days in Bogotá, Colombia, to my personal and professional life. Francis' example of fighting for social justice, serving the community, practicing humility, and showing love towards all living beings has greatly influenced my perception of the world and how I act in it.

What motivates you?

My motivation comes from a genuine passion to expand fundamental rights in my country, particularly in areas where social disparities are most pronounced and access to education, healthcare, and jobs is scarce. My goal is to work alongside others to help establish the essential conditions that enable individuals to live with autonomy and dignity. I believe that every person and community should have the freedom to make their own choices about how they want to live and contribute to the creation of more equitable and prosperous societies for everyone.



Can you share with us your most significant academic/professional accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

My most notable achievement was leading the development and implementation of the Schools in Peace strategy, which has been recognized as a flagship project of UNICEF. This innovative initiative has received national and international acclaim for its role in building individual and collective capacity to foster a culture of peace in regions affected by violence and armed conflict in Colombia.

I am also proud to have been awarded the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Scholarship, which acknowledges both my academic excellence and my leadership in advancing human rights.

Currently, I am involved in an investigation into mining practices in Colombia and exploring the use of due diligence and strategic litigation to protect the rights of individuals and the environment.

Any further information you would like to share:

I expect to graduate in May 2025.

(Emira is sponsored by Sister Tierney Trueman OSF)

Andrew Toth—Auburn MA
Undergraduate School—College of the Holy Cross

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

My love for the Spanish language and Latin American culture has inspired me to always make a positive difference in the world, especially with the immigrant population.

What motivates you?

Doing good and meaningful work motivates me as I have transitioned to my professional life which is why I am a Bilingual Legal Coordinator now at Ascentria Care Alliance.

Can you share with us your most significant academic/professional accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

I believe my greatest accomplishment to date is graduating from Holy Cross with a double major in Spanish and International Studies.

(Right: Andrew with sponsor/grandmother Mary Gallagher Toth '61)



Mitchell Olson—Rochester MN
Undergraduate and Graduate School—College of Saint Scholastica

What/Who has inspired you through the years?

As a physical therapy student, seeing people regain mobility has been my primary inspiration over the past few years. Whether I see an amputee walk with new legs or a patient with a stroke raises their hand to wave at me, functional mobility has always given people their lives back. I'm so proud to be in a profession that allows me to help people regain mobility and learn something from each person I see.

What motivates you?

The college I attend promotes the values of love of learning, hospitality, stewardship, respect, and community. I strive to be a community builder, incorporating these values daily.

Can you share your most significant academic accomplishment to date? Or greatest achievement?

The scholarship money I have received has allowed me to spread and receive God's love through others in the world. Recently, due to the scholarship, I was able to go on a mission trip, serving Mexican children through physical therapy. During this time, I was able to work in an orphanage and help children see the light of the world in our interactions. We also worked in an outpatient clinic where, in Spanish, I assisted a mother with finding the correct device—a kind of ankle brace—that would help her child.

Any further information you would like to share:

I am sincerely honored and humbled by the support from the Teresan Scholarship Fund. Because of the gift of scholarship from Saint Teresa's, I can continue to move forward, knowing that God will use me to build community. Thank you for entrusting me to be your representative into the future and to continue God's work through our hands.

(Mitchell was sponsored by his mother, Megan Batterman Olson '90)

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- CST alumnae and friends for their support and encouragement over the 35 years. Our accomplishments were built on your belief in us.

“The benefit of being a Teresan is never-ending.”

written by Betty Lou Clapsaddle LaPointe '50

Future Resources:

Visit the Rochester Franciscan website at: www.rochesterfranciscan.org to stay connected.

For CST Transcripts, call CST Records: 507-282-7441

To visit the Tea House or Chapel in the future: www.smumn.edu
or email SMU Event Services: eventservices@smumn.edu

To visit campus, click on Cotter Schools: www.cotterschools.org
Development Office: 507-453-5000

CST Website: www.cstalums.org (through December, 2026)



Colleen Kocer Peplinski, '87
 Executive Director 1992-2024
 College of Saint Teresa
 Alumnae Association

*"Teach by works more than words."
 Saint Teresa of Avila*

A leader is often described as visionary, empathetic, innovative, resilient, and adaptable. These words capture the essence of a leader's ability to foresee future trends, understand and connect with others, bring new ideas to life, withstand challenges, and adjust to changing circumstances. This only touches the surface of what Colleen means to our Alumnae Association. She embodies the Teresan values at the heart of our mission.

As our Association arrives at its ending, gratitude abounds for the woman who faithfully led and persevered, leaving an indelible mark not only on this campus we love so dearly but reaching past, current and future generations. Our successes are largely hers and the Rochester Franciscans.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
 --Margaret Mead



