Spirit Squad

The Rams Army leads the student cheering section to Ellis Field on Homecoming Weekend
The Rams Army leads a procession of students to Ellis Field for the Homecoming football game against Burroughs. Founded by students in 2012, the Rams Army is an athletics-oriented school spirit group focused on bringing MICDS the best sporting atmosphere possible.

PHOTO CREDIT: TIM PARKER

As I sit down to write this letter, Thanksgiving is just around
the corner. Given all that has taken place since August, in
some ways it’s hard to believe that we’re only a third of the
way through the school year. On the other hand, knowing
schools as I do, it is certain that once winter break is over,
the year will start to fly. Admission season is already in full
swing, and our fall athletic season has come to a close. It
was an exciting season with plenty to celebrate and a
special congratulations to our State Champion Girls Golf
and Girls Field Hockey Teams! I’m also pleased to share
that our Bold Action Campaign continues apace.

This fall, under the Board’s leadership, we’ve been deeply
engaged in strategic planning. Board Chair Julie Lilly ’86
and Board Vice-Chair Bill Polk ’74 have led the
Steering Committee, which includes several past Board Chairs. The
Steering Committee conducted a careful review of the recent
ISACS Self-Study and Visiting Team Report; Portraits of a
MICDS Graduate created by faculty, staff, board
members and parents; and lots of parent and alumni survey data. Armed
with a deep understanding of what we as a community value most about
our past experiences and our strong aspirations for the future, this
group developed a broad set of three categories for Priority Committees
to consider.

These emerging priorities build on the Strategic Plan 2009–2014, and will
doubtless feel familiar to those who’ve been involved with the School: Great
Teaching, Spectacular Programs and Curriculum; Transformative Student Experience; and
Vibrant School Future. For the last couple of months these Priority Committees have
been hard at work developing clarity around those strategies and tactics that will
help us move the needle in these key areas. They have developed metrics, crafted
timelines for implementation and anticipated additional resources, when needed.
The recent, full-community, online Jam Session provided additional information and
useful analytics.

Over the next few months, we will work to refine our next strategic plan
under Steering Committee oversight with input from the full board, administrative
team, faculty and staff, parents, current students and alumni. Just as we did the last
time around, we will hold a number of small group discussions in the morning over
coffee and in the early evening on campus. In addition, we will host a virtual town
gathering similar to the Jam Session format to vet new draft language. The
Board will then move to endorse the next strategic plan for the upcoming five
to seven years.

While the main priorities of the strategic plan will feel familiar, there are some great
ideas for bold steps that could prove to be significant for us. With the wind in our
sails, it’s exciting to look to the future. My hope is that each of you will continue
to share your deepest aspirations for MICDS as we finalize our next roadmap. Also,
be sure to check out the tablet version of the magazine — it is full of informative
and fun bonus content.

With warmest regards and wishes for a magical winter,
ON A ROLL

Lower School P.E. students eagerly await Skate Week each fall. This wildly popular roller skating unit offers the opportunity for students to improve balance as well as self-confidence — and teachers Jim Lohr and Sue Orlando observe remarkable growth in students in just one week's time. Skate Week also supports the Parent-School Partnership, bringing parents and teachers together to skate along with the children.
A Strategic Vision for MICDS
Preparring the roadmap for continued excellence

With one eye on recent progress and the other fixed boldly to the future, MICDS has embarked on a process to create a multi-year Strategic Plan that will provide direction as the School strives to fulfill its Mission and build upon its remarkable level of successes in recent years.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, led by Board Chair Julia Jansen Lilly ’86 and Head of School Lisa Lyle, includes Vice Chair Bill Polk ’74, and former Board Chairs Terry Pflager ’80 and Stuart Campbell. This group held a series of meetings throughout the spring and summer to identify priorities that are critically important to the future of MICDS, based on data and research including the ISACS Visiting Team Report (November 2013), Parent Surveys, ‘Portrait of a Graduate’ exercises conducted with faculty, staff and parents, and more.

FROM THESE ORGANIC FIRST STAGES, THE FOLLOWING KEY PRIORITIES HAVE EMERGED:

- Faculty Excellence, Spectacular Programming and Pedagogy – Cultivating a World-Class Faculty and Programs that Prepare Students to Make Their Mark on the World
- Transformational Student Experience – Creating a Student-Centered Experience that Fosters Each Student’s Unique Potential
- Vibrant School Future – Ensuring a Wise and Disciplined Stewardship of Our School’s Resources, Including Financial, Physical and Human

In the fall of 2014 Priority Committees were established to begin work on the emerging themes. This October, the School held its first-ever ‘Jam Session’, an online, moderated, one-day conversation designed to capture the full voice of our School community. More than 350 people registered for this community-wide conversation and the nearly 800 posts provided great insights and affirmation of the three emerging priorities.

The ultimate goal of this strategic plan is to provide a roadmap for MICDS to realize even greater achievement and its full potential as a truly world-class independent school community. We are excited by our initial progress and will continue to share updates in the months ahead!

On Board
Seven trustees begin their tenure

MICDS welcomes the following new board members: Chris Carman, Chief Financial Officer at Clearent, LLC, Luiz Edmond, President, North America, Anheuser Busch InBev, and Juan Ferreira, Global Marketing Lead, Monsanto; Stacey Liekweg, Vice President - Business Development at Radalogica and Kendra Neely-Martin, Sales, Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals. In addition, Angela Martin will begin her board term as president-elect of the MICDS Parent Association President and Christy Kloecker Thompson ’84 joins the board as first vice president of the MICDS Alumni Association.

We also thank the following board members who dedicated their talent and leadership to MICDS and who have rotated off the board this year, including Board Chair Terry Pflager ’80, Kathy Button Bell, Jane Campbell, Greg Fox, Jill Pruellage Hunt ’86 and Felicia Pulliam.

Warm Welcome
Introducing new faculty members

MICDS proudly welcomed 17 talented educators to its faculty this fall. To learn more about them, please view their introductory videos on the MICDS YouTube channel, MICDSSTL. Pictured, (front row, from left) Branson Lawrence (MS Science), Grace Barlow (MS History), Betsy Cornwell (LS Long Term Sub), Lisa LeGrand (3rd Grade Associate) and Dana Lambie (4th Grade Associate); (second row, from left) Tricia Dimit (US/MS French), Sarah Elliott (US Spanish), Steven Crumb (US French) and Brigitte Leschhorn (US English); (third row, from left) Adam Wilson (US English), Elizabeth Bergman (US Science), Christopher Barker (US Spanish), Brooke Williams (US Art) and Elizabeth Wells ’99 (US History); (fourth row, from left) Phil Brotherton (US Spanish), Kevin Arendt (US Math) and Juan Murillo (US Math).
Enthusiastically Devoted

Julia “Julie” Jansen Lilly ’86 begins her tenure as MICDS Board Chair

Julie Lilly ’86 has taken the helm as Chair of the MICDS Board of Trustees and brings to her role an understanding of our community as well as a deep passion for the School. She succeeds outgoing Board Chair Terry Pflager ’80.

“MICDS played an incredible role in my life,” said Lilly. “I truly believe that the opportunities I had at MI and what I learned during my time here are paramount to both the happiness and the success that I enjoy today,” she continued. “From a second grader to a graduate, I had opportunities to be a leader, I developed connections with teachers and classmates who are still part of my life, and I learned to be a life-long learner — this foundation is what set me on the paths I pursued and the successes I have achieved.” It’s through that lens that Lilly takes on the duties of Board of Trustees Chair.

“MICDS is a significant part of my life and I’m excited to give back in this capacity. I consider it both an honor and important responsibility.” Both she and her husband, Steve Lilly ’85, are alumni and parents of Drew ’16 and Arden ’19. She was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2010 and has served as Chair of the Educational Life Committee, a member of the Executive Committee and Vice Chair.

Julie is Chief Operating Officer at Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, L.C., one of the leading law firms in the Midwest. In this role, she oversees the general operations of Lewis Rice by working closely with the Management Committee, attorneys, and staff. She practiced in the Firm’s estate planning and litigation departments for several years prior to accepting her current administrative role, and is a former Chairman of the Firm’s Recruiting Committee.

Julie’s enthusiasm, expertise and vast knowledge of our School and community will enable her to lead the Board and guide the MICDS Strategic Planning efforts, according to Head of School Lisa Lyle, who stated, “Julie brings an abiding commitment to MICDS because of her many connections to the School as both an alum and as a mom, and she also brings deep organizational and leadership expertise because of her professional experience. This combination of head and heart allow her to provide collaborative, disciplined and visionary leadership for the Board.”

A CONVERSATION WITH JULIE LILLY

What are you most excited about in your role as Board Chair?
Strategic Planning is first and foremost on my mind as it is a vitally important responsibility for the board. It is such an exciting prospect to determine how best to allocate our energy and resources to best benefit our students and the long-term interest of our School as we chart the course for the next five to seven years.

And, of course it will be very meaningful and such a privilege to present a diploma to my son in 2016 when he graduates.

What do you find most rewarding about serving the School in this capacity?
Working alongside and with such dynamic people has been so rewarding and meaningful. Our board members are so talented and engaged and our administrative team is top-notch — we get to learn so much from them. Mary I changed my life and it is so rewarding to be able to give back to something that has meant so much and continues to mean so much to me and my life. I feel very lucky to be part of this School and its mission.

What character traits do you admire most in others?
I admire those who are engaged, who are enthusiastic and who are committed to what they do. I really believe in ‘all in!’ And I try to approach all things in my life with this commitment. I also admire people who are capable decision makers. It is a skill being able to make smart decisions and to be able to make them at times where you don’t have all of the information or the benefit of time. Smart decision making is a skill. I admire those who have these traits and aspire to have these qualities as well.
How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Students participate in hands-on learning experiences near and far

This summer, Upper and Middle School students had unforgettable experiences in real-world classrooms in our nation’s capital, wondrous national parks and villages in Peru.

COMPASSION AND CULTURE: MICDS PERU SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Total immersion experiences are especially effective ways for world language students to rapidly improve their speaking and comprehension skills. MICDS offers many such experiences, including an annual summer service trip to Peru. This summer, 12 students, accompanied by World Languages Teachers Ines Shultz and David Sanders, spent two weeks traveling in Peru.

During the trip the MICDS group visited historical sites, sampled local cuisine, attended arts performances, and even worked as chocolatiers, making molds at a local factory in Cuzco.

Volunteer work included caring for senior citizens and young children in nearby orphanages. These experiences put the students’ speaking and listening skills to the test, as some noted the difficulty of speaking fluent Spanish and comprehending the Quechua (the native language of the Incans).

At the orphanage, MICDS students quickly bonded with the children by helping them with classwork and playing with them at recess.

A day trip to Machu Picchu (below) was a definite highlight. “It was stunning,” said Jack Baumstark ’17. “We were over 12,000 feet up and looking down on one of the most advanced ancient civilizations in the world — where time is measured in centuries, not minutes or hours … It was one of the coolest places I have ever seen in my life.”

In the city of Chincha, students volunteered at a PAMS (Peruvian American Medical Society) Clinic, using their language skills to register patients, assist physicians with medical histories, and observe some procedures.

For Elizabeth Love ’16, a visit to an elementary school in Chincha was a highlight of the trip. “I helped them learn how to do simple addition on their fingers, and all of them were so excited when I taught them some English,” she shared. “One little girl said she wanted to be just like me when she grew up. I realized what a difference we were making there and how important service is.”

“Apart from admiring the beauty of the Incan ruins, what deeply impacted me was the willingness that every student showed during community service,” said Ines Shultz. “Regardless of the activity, whether playing or feeding the children or elderly, or assisting the doctors with patients, the students showed love and compassion to all the people they met and helped.”

THE ULTIMATE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: TETON SCIENCE SCHOOL

Imagine calling the ecosystems of Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park your science classrooms for one week. Ten students in 8th through 11th grade did exactly that as participants in a Teton Science Schools adventure led by Middle School Science teacher Michelle Hrastich in June.

The Teton Science Schools program immerses students in hands-on experiences in field ecology, animal tracking, geology, wildlife observation and more.
Imagine calling the ecosystems of Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park your science classrooms for one week.

Both plate tectonics and glaciers have helped to create the Grand Tetons.

Other highlights included traveling to Yellowstone National Park, and hiking the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone to the brink of a 308 foot high waterfall, known as the Lower Falls. Students also learned about the geology of the Yellowstone area and used infrared heat sensing guns to gauge the temperatures of the park’s many geysers.

The wonders of Yellowstone left an impression on all of the students. “The scenery there was so beautiful and the geysers were really cool,” said Alaina Baumohl ’19, adding that one thing she liked most about the trip was being able to become better friends with students in other grades.

Michelle Hrastich agreed, stating, “The kids’ top two favorite moments were learning about and exploring Yellowstone and the feeling of accomplishment they had when they reached the top of Blacktail Butte during their challenge hike. This was a wonderful trip!”

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION: CLOSE UP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Historic monuments and key government institutions in our nation’s capital were interactive classrooms for 31 members of the Class of 2018 who capped off their year-long study of American Government and Law with a Close Up Foundation trip in June.

The Close Up trip gave students the opportunity to walk in the steps of historic figures and see firsthand the places where laws are made, debated and changed every day. The five-day trip was organized by 8th Grade American Government and Law teacher Chris Militello, who was accompanied by colleagues Lisa Huxley and Tanya Roth. The MICDS contingent participated in study groups at various locations in Washington, D.C., nightly Mock Congress sessions and other activities that built camaraderie with student participants from 11 other states.

“Using our nation’s capital as a classroom is a powerful way for students to explore the links between history and the rights and responsibilities of American citizens today,” said Militello. The group visited many historic sites, including the World War II Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and Capitol Hill.

Their itinerary also included a day trip to Philadelphia to visit Independence Hall, Congress Hall and the Liberty Bell.

Of the many memorable sights of D.C., Atri Bhattacharyya ’18 most enjoyed viewing the documents that founded our nation. “It was also really cool to make new friends from around the country,” he said.

“Because of their course work in 8th grade, our students brought a solid foundation of knowledge of the various sites they visited and readily stepped into leadership positions in the group activities,” noted Lisa Huxley.
A Perfect Score
Eleventh grader earns a 36 on the ACT

Junior Allison Tielking '16 has scored a perfect 36 on the ACT, an achievement that only one-tenth of 1% of students who take the test accomplish.

Allison began her studies at MICDS in ninth grade and credits her teachers for challenging her to strive for excellence. “Every teacher I have had has helped me to become a better student because their different teaching styles have taught me how to adapt quickly. The variety of classes MICDS offers and assignments the teachers give create daily challenges.”

Her Spanish teacher, Rene Ashman, says, “Allison has an insatiable appetite for learning and possesses an energy, drive and academic curiosity that make her a true scholar.”

Beyond the classroom at MICDS, Allison is a member of the Math Team and participates in Science Olympiad, TEAMS, Debate, the Diversity Council and Peer Tutoring. She also is a coxswain for the St. Louis Rowing Club, co-head of Quiz Bowl, a volunteer at a resale store and a lab researcher. She also participated in MICDS’ exchange program with Instituto Albert Einstein in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Allison is interested in pursuing studies in bioengineering and computer science.

“Scoring a 36 on the ACT is a rare and significant accomplishment,” said MICDS Director of College Counseling Matt Essman. “The ACT has long prided itself on being an assessment that measures a student’s general education development, and with Allison’s success in a very rigorous program of study here at MICDS it comes as no surprise that she attained this superior result.”

14 Seniors Honored
National Merit Semifinalists Chosen

Fourteen members of the Class of 2015 have been named semifinalists in the 60th annual National Merit Scholarship competition. Winning scholars are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies. They are among 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who will compete for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring.

“We are thrilled to have such a strong showing in this year’s National Merit Competition,” said Matt Essman, Director of College Counseling. “Having 14 students honored is an indicator of the strength of our academic program.”

High school juniors enter the competition by scoring well on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarships Qualifying Test; semifinalists are named at the beginning of senior year.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. Congratulations to all!
Students as Research Scientists
2014 STARS Program

Eleven MICDS Upper School students experienced firsthand what it is like to work as research scientists as participants in the 2014 STARS (Students and Teachers as Research Scientists) program: Harrison Critchfield-Jain ’16, Lynn Dankner ’15, Dennis Grigoryan ’15, Davis Johnston ’15, Christina MacAskill ’15, Stephen Mattingly ’15, Kavita Patwardhan ’15, Achintya Rai ’15, Katherine “Gigi” Rill ’15, Rohit Srivastava ’15, and Chloe Stallion ’15. MICDS was pleased to have more STARS participants than any other school this year.

The prestigious six-week summer STARS program pairs academically talented junior and senior high school students with top research mentors from the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Saint Louis University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the host institution, the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The primary purpose of STARS is to ready students to prepare and present a research paper.

At the conclusion of the program, faculty members present The LMI Inc. Award for Excellence in Research to various students for outstanding achievement in research. The winning research papers chosen are based on the difficulty and complexity level of the research, procedure of the research, findings, quality of writing and the overall quality of the research process. Four of the 18 honorees were MICDS students: Lynn Dankner, Davis Johnston, Stephen Mattingly, and Chloe Stallion.

To learn more about our students’ research topics, check out the digital edition of MICDS Magazine!

The STARS program provides pre-collegiate research opportunities for some of the most promising students in greater St. Louis.

2014 STARS Participants:
(Front row, from left) Kavita Patwardhan, Christina MacAskill, Chloe Stallion, Katherine “Gigi” Rill and Lynn Dankner.
(Back row, from left) Dennis Grigoryan, Achintya Rai, Davis Johnston, Harrison Critchfield-Jain, Rohit Srivastava and Stephen Mattingly.
Middle School Community Honors 14 Class Deturs

Celebrating academic achievements

Fourteen members of the Class of 2019 were honored for their outstanding academic records at the annual “Class Deturs” Assembly on September 5. Students earning the highest academic marks for the previous school year earn the distinction of “Class Detur.” Middle School Head Jen Schuckman presented certificates to the honorees, noting, “We are proud of these students and celebrate their hard work and this incredible achievement.”

34 Class Deturs Recognized at Upper School
Enduring tradition lives on

The Upper School honored its enduring tradition of recognizing Class Deturs during an assembly on October 13. The Detur Prize originated at Harvard College in the 17th century. Upper School Head Scott Small, who recognized the honorees, noted, “While we can’t quite trace our tradition back to its 17th century origins, the Detur Prize has been an enduring honor that recognizes those students who have, through hard work and fortitude of intellectual inquisitiveness, maintained the highest possible grade point average during the previous school year.” Congratulations to everyone.
Raised in Song

Fall Choral Concert highlights

The Upper School Choirs, featuring the MICDS Concert Choir, Chorale and Chamber Choir, presented their annual Fall Concert on October 19 in Orthwein Theatre. Musical selections highlighted a wide variety of musical genres, including American folk songs, spirituals, sea chanteys, poetic settings, and multicultural pieces. Among the pieces performed were Silvey’s “Nine Hundred Miles,” Lauridsen’s “Sure on This Shining Night” and Hogan’s “Music Down in My Soul.” The MICDS Choirs were directed by Dana Self and accompanied by Kathleen Baker.

Check out the digital edition of MICDS Magazine for video highlights of the concert!
Heads Up Football

Rams put player safety first

Breakdown, Buzz, Hit, Rip, Shoot.

These five steps to the Heads Up Football Tackle Technique are being implemented in football programs nationwide to set new standards in player safety. And MICDS is at the forefront of this important training. This summer, our School was the first independent high school to set up training sessions for its entire coaching staff.

According to Rams Varsity Football Head Coach Josh Smith, Heads Up Football is a movement through the youth leagues to make participation in the sport of football safer, “taking the head out of football.” The program focuses on four key safety issues: concussion awareness, heat stroke prevention, proper fitting of equipment and heads up tackling techniques. “We are on the ground floor of making football safer not just for our students but for St. Louis players in general,” Smith explains. “The Heads Up Football organization is using our coaches’ feedback to help them effectively bring these safety standards from the NFL and collegiate level to high schools.”

In July, MICDS brought in Missouri’s two master Heads Up Football trainers, John Roderique and Rob Droege, to work with all 14 MICDS Middle School through varsity level coaches as well as coaches from area schools. The training goes way beyond a typical clinic, according to Droege. “We are teaching a certified curriculum developed by USA Football to make the game better and safer for all parties involved,” he says.

So what is Heads Up Football all about? It literally means getting the head out of the game. Coach Smith explains, “Players used to be taught to find ways to put their helmet on the football when tackling as a way to knock it loose. Heads Up Tackling teaches strategies for reducing helmet contacts, training players to tackle from a sound football position where contact is initiated with the shoulder and chest, not the head.”

The Heads Up program also mandates the use of common language when teaching skills to ensure consistency and safety. As players learn proper techniques at a younger age they will be better prepared to play safely as the game gets faster and more physical. A high school coach himself, Droege sees the long-term advantage of common drills and language. “We will spend a lot less time starting at square one and covering the basics every year,” he says. “Players and parents will have more confidence in not only the football knowledge of the staff, but also that the coaches are looking out for the safety of the athletes.”

Player safety has always been and will always be the number one priority for MICDS Athletics. “Not only do we want our kids to be safe, we want their parents to understand that we will do everything possible to take care of them,” says Senior Athletic Trainer Stacey Morgan, who, for example, meets with every team during its pre-season to teach student-athletes how much water they need, and what foods are best to consume before practices or games.

With its talented staff of certified athletic trainers, coaches and team physicians on call, our School has always been at the forefront of implementing best practice safety and injury prevention techniques. MICDS was among the very first schools to implement baseline concussion testing more than seven years ago, and the testing parameters were expanded this year. “Because we require athletics, all students in grades 7 through 12 are tested,” Morgan explains. “If a student has sustained a concussion, we repeat the baseline test and do not permit them to return to play until the baselines are equal.”

She continues, “We understand how much it means to our student-athletes to play their sport, so we take our responsibility to get them back out there safely very seriously.”
A Measure of Success

MICDS wins second consecutive Lee McCandless Award

Congratulations to Athletic Director Don Maurer and the MICDS boys and girls sports programs who received the 2014 Lee McCandless Award in June. This award is presented annually to the school which wins the most team points in varsity Metro League competition during the school year. Points are earned for first, second and third place team finishes in the following:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Wrestling
- Field Hockey
- Boys and Girls Tennis
- Baseball
- Football
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Track / Field
- Boys and Girls Golf
- Girls Swimming / Diving
- Girls Lacrosse

“This award is a measure of success,” said Head of School Lisa Lyle. “When looking at the complete picture of the 2013-2014 athletic season, we have truly had remarkable successes. This award is a fitting conclusion to a spectacular year for the MICDS athletic program.”

Back-to-Back Titles

Rams Field Hockey defeats Cor Jesu in Midwest Championship

In a season worth celebrating, the number one seeded Rams finished big, bringing home a second championship title in as many years.

According to head coach Lynn Mittler, the team set their sights on a second consecutive title just moments following their 2013 win. “The minute we won last year, the team just turned around and said, ‘Let’s do it again next year.’ All season, the team worked together toward that common goal.

Rams Roundup

Fall sports season highlights

With nearly 400 student-athletes competing in nine different programs, the fall athletic season wrapped up marked by two State Championships — in Girls Golf and Field Hockey — top 10 state finishes for Boys and Girls Cross Country and Girls’ Tennis, and many occasions to celebrate. See the back cover for coverage of the Girls Golf championship season and check out the digital edition of MICDS Magazine for fall sports season highlights.

MICDS knew playing Cor Jesu (17-4) would be a challenge. Earlier in the season, the Rams beat the Chargers 3-2 in a close game. “Cor Jesu is just an incredible opponent; they never quit and I knew it would not be an easy game,” Mittler said.

But with 10:55 to play in regulation and the game tied 1-1, Bridget Condie ’16 sent the ball careening through traffic off a corner. Through the maze of players, limbs, and sticks, Condie’s shot met Lilly Thiemann’s ’16 stick, and in one motion Thiemann redirected the ball out of the air and into the net at Soccer Park, securing the MICDS win.

“I am just so proud of this team and their ability to set and reach goals together. It was a special year,” Coach Mittler said.
Beyond the Classroom

Teachers become students with energizing professional development work

Throughout the year, MICDS faculty participate in enriching professional development work to keep current in best practices and emerging trends. Many of these opportunities are made possible by generous donors.

WILMA & ROSWELL MESSING JR. ’34 SUMMER SABBATICAL AND EDWARD M. RIVINUS SUMMER SABBATICAL
Laura Bradford and Rachel Tourais
Science Teachers Laura Bradford (Upper School) and Rachel Tourais (Middle School) traveled to the Galapagos Islands for an 11-day expedition. Renowned biology professor Randy Moore led a tour of the Islands’ rich geological history and biodiversity. This trip provided a deep dive into topics covered in the 7th and 10th grade science curriculum. Both teachers plan to integrate new units in geology and environmental biology into their courses, which are part of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) recently adopted by MICDS. The expedition also served as a scouting mission to develop a future Eliot Summer Academy research trip as part of our School’s expanding global learning travel offerings.

Both teachers plan to integrate new units in geology and environmental biology into their courses...

CAROL B. AND JEROME T. LOEB FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS
Becky Lorey and Paul Reinke
Upper School Mathematics Teachers Becky Lorey and Paul Reinke attended “The Infinity Project: Math for Innovators,” workshop at Southern Methodist University to introduce engineering-based units into Integrated Mathematics 2 course. It offered hands-on opportunities to explore technology that students use in a highly sophisticated STEM environment. Lorey and Reinke can now teach their colleagues to incorporate Infinity Project modules covering topics in electrical, mechanical, environmental and biomedical engineering into their courses.

“An interdisciplinary approach forces the mind to use other senses, viewpoints and applications that will make learning more permanent,” Reinke explains. “Our STEM curriculum coupled with our new building establishes MICDS as a leader in science and math education among schools nationwide. I have already seen a number of students proceed to challenging STEM degrees and professions during my tenure, and I expect that number will only increase as we continue to grow our curriculum.”
Rather than traveling down a set of railroad tracks, the reader can now actively shape the story…

THOMAS FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Meghan Clark

Eager to learn a more communal approach to writing, Middle School English Teacher Meghan Clark participated in Washington University’s Summer Writers Institute. She chose creative nonfiction for her study to strengthen her teaching for her 8th grade students.

In 8th grade, students spend time during the second trimester perfecting a personal essay. Clark’s professional development helped her discover specific ways she can better model the writing process for students. “They assist me in selecting a topic, strengthening my narrative arc, and revising for clarity,” she says. “This shows that I am willing to toil alongside them as they approach a substantial task. It upends the idea that ‘good writing’ is a clean, straight-forward task. With each draft I hand out, students see how many hours go into improving a piece of writing.”

The Summer Writers Institute also helped Clark to implement a more interactive “Writers Workshop” format. She will use this approach during the longer teaching periods of the new schedule. “What I learned was myriad. I was introduced to new nonfiction texts to share with my students, and new skills, tips and instructional strategies that I’ll use to help students jumpstart the writing process,” she says.

POLK FAMILY SUMMER SABBATICAL FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

Elizabeth Helfant, Matthew Mahaffey and Tex Tourais

Upper School English Teachers Matthew Mahaffey and Tex Tourais and Director of Pedagogical Innovation Elizabeth Helfant attended the Electronic Literature Organization conference, “Hold the Light: Identity, Change, Commitment,” to dialogue with leading researchers and pedagogical pioneers about the exciting new field of eLiterature that is emerging as a radical departure from the traditional study of texts. Central to the study of eLit is observing how the interaction of students with a digital medium fundamentally changes the sensory experience of the reader. As Tourais explains, “eLiterature focuses on how authors can use technology to bring some of the lesser-considered modes to the fore by incorporating music and sound effects or film elements into their story-telling, and giving their readers a choice in determining the outcome of these narratives.” He adds, “This is forcing us to reconsider what we mean by ‘authorship’ and ‘readership’ … Rather than traveling down a set of railroad tracks, the reader can now actively shape the story by using pieces of it like LEGO blocks that can be put together in a multiplicity of ways.”

This conference offered a perfect foundation to support the English Department’s plan to grow its curriculum to more fully realize our School’s vision for progressive 21st century teaching and learning.

ISTE CONFERENCE AND LAUSANNE LEARNING INSTITUTE

David Doherty and Elizabeth Helfant

To learn more about ways that technology is being used to teach writing, Upper School English Teacher David Doherty participated in the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) Annual Conference, followed by a three-day workshop at the Lausanne Learning Institute in Memphis.

ISTE is the leading technology and education conference in the world, with over 14,000 attendees. Doherty had the opportunity to hear about emerging education-related tools from industry leaders like Google, Samsung and Edutopia, and to learn how colleagues around the country use these new tools to enhance students’ overall experience. At the Lausanne Institute he learned more about specific tools for the classroom. He presented “Writing Digitally: Tools to Enhance the Writing Process,” which covered Google add-ons and extensions. Also presenting was Elizabeth Helfant, who led 12 different sessions on classroom technology.

“I have been able to share these new tools with my departmental colleagues, many of whom subsequently decided to use Google Classroom in their own courses this year,” Doherty says. “In this way I was able to play a small part in keeping MICDS at the cutting edge of technology integration and educational best practices.”
Cultural Connections

MICDS hosts students from Argentina and Germany

Ziplining, baseball games, ferris wheels and more were all part of two exchange programs that took place on campus this fall. MICDS families hosted students and faculty members from Instituto Albert Einstein in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and from Max Planck Gymnasium in Dortmund, Germany. Guests attended classes and school events, enjoyed field trips and special dinners sponsored by MICDS parents.

Exchange programs reinforce the MICDS belief that immersion-based cultural experiences are integral to the mastery of language and a broadened worldview. “There is no better way to gain an appreciation and empathy for different cultures than to share daily life with peers from other countries,” says Director of Global Learning Erin Hamill.

MICDS student Hayden Medart ’16 hosted German student Annika Henkler, and the pair quickly bonded over their similarities and enjoyed discovering their differences. “It’s important for everyone to learn the perspectives of people from other countries,” Hayden said. “We are so lucky to make these connections with people our own age.”

Supporting Shoeman

School-wide service project helps clean water initiatives

One billion people around the world lack access to clean water. Environmental Club Heads Rebekah Greenspan ’16 and Lily Xu ’16 led a school-wide community service effort to raise awareness of this global issue through a collection for the Shoeman Water Project.

“It is increasingly important to raise awareness of global issues, help people in need, and promote global citizenship among young people like us so that we can help solve these problems,” Rebekah explained.

More than 150 pairs of shoes were collected in Lower, Middle and Upper School for Shoeman — an organization which exports new and gently-used shoes to street vendors in places like Haiti, Kenya and South America. The funds raised help to provide drilling rigs, hand pump repair and water purification systems in needy communities around the world.

“Shoeman is a great organization to support because it allowed us to help in more than one way,” noted Lily. “We were very glad that the full MICDS community joined together to participate.”
Just a few months into their first full school year as the heart of the Upper School, McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall have transformed our teaching and learning community. On any given day in these new spaces, students are solving complex equations on classroom walls, printing 3D models, listening to engaging and informative speakers on the auditorium stage, studying by the fireplaces, collaborating with classmates at spacious tables, moving effortlessly between lab space and classroom space, programming robots and so much more. The opportunities for exploration and growth are limitless.

Q: Why Give?
A: My parents made sacrifices to send us to Mary Institute because they valued the importance of a good education. So I feel it is my responsibility to give back. Not all families can afford the tuition of a school like MICDS. It is important to give those children the same opportunities that were given to me. I benefited from excellent faculty, a rigorous curriculum and beautiful facilities, and now I am trying to do my part to make that possible for other students.

Q: Why STEM?
A: I remember the day, as an 8th grade student in Miss Vorhees’ Math class, that the switch went on and I knew that I wanted to be a teacher. It was not how Miss Vorhees taught, but her passion for teaching and her love of the subject that impressed me. I wanted to inspire people to love math and science and keep the passion alive for future generations of students.

In the four years since MICDS implemented a robotics curriculum and clubs, student interest has steadily increased. The addition of the Carol B. ’59 and Jerome T. Loeb ’58 Robotics Laboratory in McDonnell Hall has infused this program with even greater energy as students and teachers realize the opportunities made possible by this spectacular resource. The lab’s configuration includes a 12-foot square playing field, ample classroom space for group work, a 3D printer, storage for state-of-the-art tools, and a break-out space for aspiring Middle School programmers to work in close proximity to Upper School students.

The new space, says Robotics Teacher and Club Advisor Becky Lorey, has transformed the teaching of robotics and the opportunities available to the Robotics Club.
Electronics and Robotics, an applied science elective for grades 9-12, requires students to apply math and science skills to learn engineering principles, construction techniques and Robot C programming language. Lorey explains that robotics is unique because it offers “a total hands-on experience that challenges students to logically work through a process and then find creative solutions to the issues that inevitably arise.” And that’s the best part — the building of confidence as students learn the invaluable skill of being resilient.

For Joe McAllister ’16, who has a keen interest in learning multiple programming languages, the opportunity to learn Robot C was a major factor in his selection of the course. He has not been disappointed. “We dove right in to creating our own LEGO Robot, and the class is an exciting application of the programming skills I’ve been developing over the last year and a half,” he says. “All in all, the opportunities to focus in on Computer Science, my future college major, would not have been possible without this STEM building.”

The Upper and Middle School Robotics Clubs also use the lab for practices, taking full advantage of the 12-foot playing field and its vast resources as they prepare for competitions this winter. As the students design, build and program robots, they also learn skills such as leadership, teamwork, and the basic principles behind the engineering design process. The Upper School students also perform community outreach, sharing their interest in science and technology with younger students.

**Campaign Update**

**Bold Action: A Campaign for MICDS**

has enjoyed great success since it was made public in April 2013! We are grateful to have received support from all constituencies in our community — parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and friends of the school. While we continue to seek support and offer some wonderful naming opportunities in McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall, we have shifted our focus to the other capital project, a new aquatic center, and two endowment initiatives: Faculty Excellence and Student Access.

The Annual Fund continues to be a fundraising priority. We encourage everyone to consider increasing their support by making a multi-year commitment. To date, nearly 400 donors have contributed $52.7 million to support our School, allowing us to make remarkable progress toward the fulfillment of our goals.

For more information on how you can support our Bold Action Campaign, please contact Director of Development Kelly Dopman ’76, kdopman@micds.org or 314-995-7374.

**Funding Priorities**

**ANNUAL FUND**

**BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

- McDonnell Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Facility/Brauer Hall
- Aquatic Center

**SUPPORTING FACULTY EXCELLENCE**

- Tuition Benefit Fund
- Apprentice Teaching Fellowship

**ENSURING STUDENT ACCESS**

- Financial Aid Program
- Assistance Beyond Tuition

Q: Why Robotics?

A: Of course, mathematics is my love, but robotics encompasses science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I currently am a Core Values Judge for FIRST LEGO League at the qualifying, regional and World competitions. I want students to have a place where they can gather and collaborate to design, construct and test their projects. Of course that place has to be equipped with the tools and materials robotics students need such as a 3D printer, drill press, band saw, and sheet metal brakes. It is very exciting to have such a facility on the MICDS campus.
Teaching, learning, collaboration, quiet study, community building and so much more occur each and every day in the spectacular new spaces made possible by McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall.

1 The Hermann Courtyard for Learning has become a popular location for special events at the Upper School, including the annual Activities Fair and a Spirit Day Pep Rally in September.

2 On beautiful fall days, students gather in groups to enjoy the sunshine on the Polk Family Terrace.

3 JK-12 Mathematics Department Chair Amy Scheer works with 9th grade Integrated Math-Accelerated students to reinforce factoring skills.

4 The patio just outside the Taylor Hearth provides both a peaceful spot to read and a view of the fireplace.

5 AP Biology students model the process of mitosis and meiosis using pop beads in a state-of-the-art CLAB. The ample space in the CLABs allow students to move easily between labs in progress and lecture space.

6 The Technology Center, staffed by students and professionals, is centrally located on the first floor of McDonnell Hall and provides support to students and faculty.

7 The outdoor teaching space adjacent to the new building, cultivated with many plantings that are native to Missouri, is changing with the seasons. Students and teachers use this living laboratory for scientific research and observation, and also find it an appealing place to sit with sketchpads in hand.
UPDATE ON BOLD ACTION: A CAMPAIGN FOR MICDS

Annual Fund

IT’S YOUR TURN!
Support the Annual Fund

There is no single gift more important to MICDS than a gift to the Annual Fund. At every turn, the Annual Fund is at work — supporting the teacher who fosters critical thinking in your child, providing financial aid dollars to deserving students, assisting in the development of new curriculum in the classroom and much more.

The Annual Fund turns up the volume and amplifies every student’s experience, every day. It provides the School with the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and to take advantage of new opportunities. In today’s hyper-competitive world, the Annual Fund gives MICDS an edge.

Last year, 100% of our Board of Trustees, 97% of our faculty and 85% of our parents contributed to the Annual Fund. Your gift will help turn MICDS students into future leaders in the community, nation and world by giving them access to the best resources possible, today. Please consider making a gift to support the 2014–2015 Annual Fund. Every single gift matters and makes a difference.

Additionally, a multi-year commitment has the most impact because it ensures a steady stream of support for the School; it allows MICDS to look beyond the present and plan for a vibrant future for our students. All multi-year gifts are celebrated as supporting the School’s current campaign, Bold Action: A Campaign for MICDS.

Visit http://www.micds.org/Page/Support-MICDS/Give-Online to make your gift today!

“Gifts to the Annual Fund provide our School with that extra margin of excellence, and will ensure that today’s students enjoy an extraordinary educational experience!”
Reunion Giving

CELEBRATE AND SUSTAIN
Help set the pace for the Annual Fund with a Reunion Gift
If you graduated in a year ending in “0” or “5,” it is your Reunion year! We hope you will come back to MICDS for Reunion Weekend, April 30 – May 2, 2015.

Reunions are special and important milestones for alums and the School. In addition to a visionary education — whether you attended Mary Institute, St. Louis Country Day School, or MICDS — this institution introduced you to friends and faculty that, in their own ways, prepared you to be the person you are today. Reunion Weekend offers an opportunity to rejoice in those relationships, and refresh the ones that may have faded a bit since your last time together. At MICDS, classes celebrate reunions every five years.

MICDS depends on the generosity, enthusiasm and spirit of its reunion alumnae and alumni to anchor the Annual Fund. Reunion alums help set the pace for the Annual Fund, inspiring our parents, grandparents and other alumni through their gifts.

Reunion Giving is a yearlong fundraising campaign that takes place in the months leading up to Reunion Weekend. The class gift is your opportunity to show support for MICDS as a class. Everyone who is celebrating a reunion this year is being asked to change lives and change the world by making a special class gift to the Annual Fund. All gifts made to the Annual Fund in your reunion year, including the sum of any multi-year pledge, will be included in your reunion gift total.

A multi-year commitment has the most impact as it ensures a steady stream of support for the School; it allows MICDS to look beyond the present and plan for a vibrant future for our students. It also means that MICDS can focus on securing new donors and new revenue sources, and contact you less frequently over the coming years. Gifts made over five years also allow smaller gifts to add up quickly, and the entire amount will count in your class reunion gift total. All multi-year gifts are celebrated as supporting the School’s current campaign, Bold Action: A Campaign for MICDS.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Cusworth McNally ’00 at 314-995-7425 or smcnally@micds.org.

Leave a Legacy

BE BOLD, TAKE ACTION
Help lay the Foundation of MICDS, join the Eliot & Thompson Society

“MICDS provided a foundation in my life that is invaluable. At Country Day I developed core life skills I use every day, and I fondly remember strong relationships with teachers, coaches and friends. For these reasons and more, I felt strongly that MICDS should be a part of my estate plans, to help provide the same opportunity for generations to come.”
– Jason Saghir ’88, Eliot & Thompson Society Member

What is the Eliot & Thompson Society?
The Eliot & Thompson Society honors alumni, parents, grandparents, former parents and friends of MICDS who have expressed their commitment to the heritage and mission of our School by naming MICDS as a beneficiary of a planned gift or bequest.

If you have already provided for MICDS in your will or estate plans and would like to be recognized as a member of the Eliot & Thompson Society, or should you wish to be an unpublished, anonymous member, please contact Kelly Dopman ’76, Director of Development at 314-995-7374 or kdopman@micds.org.

Visit micds.org/giving/estateplanning
RAM PRIDE: Burning Bright

A look back at Homecoming 2014 celebrations
Beautiful blue skies, enthusiastic Rams fans of all ages, unwavering school spirit and lots of fun were the hallmarks of Homecoming 2014, which proved to be a spectacular celebration of the community that is MICDS. From the Friday evening pep rally and lighting of the bonfire, to the MICDS - JBS Family Fun Run, to the carnival and athletic competitions in every fall sport — there was something for all Rams fans to enjoy.

Check out the digital edition of MICDS Magazine for full coverage of Homecoming, including more photos and a highlight video.
Celebration of Athletics

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2014 BEGAN WITH A NEW EVENT HONORING THE RICH LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS AT MICDS. The Celebration of Athletics on September 26 featured special tributes to MICDS Living Legends Don Casey, Alice Galt, Susan Orlando, Alison Naunheim Todd ’78 and Ron Holtman (below), whose combined tenures at our School total a truly impressive 184 years. In recognition of their accomplishments, each Living Legend received an MICDS Honor Medal. A video narrated by Fox Sports cast member Joe Buck ’87 shared the vast contributions each Living Legend has made to MICDS as teachers and coaches.

The evening also marked an important milestone in our School’s history — the merger of the Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School Hall of Fame.

The Master of Ceremonies was Tom Ackerman ’93, Sports Director at KMOX Radio, lead sports anchor on KMOX’s “Total Information A.M.” and a host on the Cardinals Radio Network.

“The athletes that we honor tonight are the true stars of the game, be it with their incredible athleticism, their dedication to their team or the power they’ve shown to change the world they’d been given,” he said.

To begin the Hall of Fame Inductions, Ackerman recognized the 429 alumni who are Hall of Fame members, asking those in attendance to stand for a round of applause.

Congratulations to the 2014 inductees.

2014 HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEES

- 2004 MICDS Men’s Golf Team
- 2000 MICDS Men’s Lacrosse Team
- 2001 MICDS Women’s Lacrosse Team
- 2004 MICDS Men’s Lacrosse Team
- 2004 MICDS Women’s Lacrosse Team
- 1971 CDS Men’s Tennis Team
- 1972 CDS Men’s Tennis Team
- 1995 MICDS Women’s Tennis Team
- 1996 MICDS Women’s Tennis Team
- 1997 MICDS Men’s Tennis Team

2014 HALL OF FAME INDIVIDUAL INDUCTEES

- Wade T. Childress ’22*
- Ann Lortz Brightman ’57
- Michael G. Holt ’65
- Christopher C. Allen ’66
- Michael A. O’Guin ’69
- David K. Jolley ’71
- Robert H. Neuwoehner ’71
- Kenneth B. Cohen ’72
- James M. Watkins ’72
- Paul F. Detjen ’75
- William L. Mullenix ’76
- Erik L. Bond ’77*
- Jeffrey A. Bebee ’79
- Felice Lugo ’80
- John M. Howell Jr. ’83
- Michael J. Christ ’86
- John G. Gregory Jr. ’87
- Thomas F. James IV ’87*
- Christopher S. Livingstone ’89
- Burton Roberts III ’90
- Matthew A. Goodman ’94
- David P. Connors ’95
- Kevin A. McCarthy ’96
- Deanna Brown Soukup ’96
- Sommer Lawal ’97
- Elizabeth Lanese Geiger ’99
- Edward T. Bade ’00
- William E. Benoist Jr. ’01
- Nicholas Ferrigno ’01
- Anne Marbarger ’01
- Ann Menees ’01
- Alexander B. Bean ’02
- Thomas C. Noel III ’02
- Lindsay Gossage Terrell ’02
- J. Matthew Dunajcik ’04
- Eric G. Hollensbe ’04
- Beverly Markwort ’04
- Julie Anne Stupp ’04
- *inducted posthumously

2014 HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEES

- 1997 MICDS Women’s Tennis Team
- 1998 MICDS Women’s Tennis Team
- 2002 MICDS Women’s Tennis Team
- 2000 MICDS Men’s Water Polo Team
- 2001 MICDS Men’s Water Polo Team
- 2002 MICDS Men’s Water Polo Team
- 2003 MICDS Men’s Water Polo Team
- 2004 MICDS Men’s Water Polo Team

*inducted posthumously

PHOTOS BY LINDA RIVARD

PHOTOS BY LINDA RIVARD
Seattle, WA . . . Raleigh-Durham, NC . . . Silicon Valley. Ask people where they think innovative startup and tech activity is happening in the United States, and these are some of the first cities you’re likely to hear. But St. Louis? Not so much. Better known for its beer, blues and baseball than as a hotbed of booming entrepreneurial activity, St. Louis has emerged in the last few years as an up-and-comer among cities experiencing strong startup growth in the wake of a struggling economy. Still, most people seem to take a bi-coastal view when it comes to identifying cities where innovation is taking place, assuming that places like St. Louis are a way station rather than a final destination for folks looking to participate in the New Economy.
Dan Lohman is on a mission to change that. A successful entrepreneur who has launched seven startup companies since 2005, Dan has quickly established himself as a major player in the rapidly growing startup and tech scene that has emerged in St. Louis. He was named a St. Louis Business Journal “40 under 40” honoree in 2013, and shows no signs of stopping in his search for new opportunities right here in his hometown. His most recent ventures include Lab1500, a co-working space where entrepreneurs can collaborate and learn about the various logistical pieces of business, and Pushup Social, a technology startup which lets website owners create their own social networks in a matter of minutes. Together, these companies are helping to define St. Louis’ new economy, and fulfill Dan’s goal of placing St. Louis squarely on the map of entrepreneurial activity currently taking place across the country.

Looking back, Dan would not have guessed that he’d end up where he is today. Growing up in Kirkwood as the son of an artist mother and a father who is a professor of biochemistry at Washington University, he developed a passion for science while at MICDS which led him to think about a future career as a physician. Following his graduation from MICDS in 2000, he went to Cornell, where he earned degrees in Economics and Neurobiology & Behavior. Although Dan’s interests while at Cornell were initially pre-med or biotech, he found himself gravitating toward the idea of a business career, which led to a move to Boston and a first job at BearingPoint as an IT and business consultant. With his wife Liz, whom he met at Cornell and married shortly after graduation, Dan settled into his new city and enjoyed learning about the different facets of how businesses work.

Before long, however, Dan was itching to strike out on his own. Opportunity came knocking. Contacted by fellow MICDS classmate and best man at his wedding, David Singer ’00, he returned home to St. Louis and joined David and his mother Joanne in restarting a furniture business that had been founded over 60 years ago by David’s grandfather. The success of this first startup, Warehouse of Fixtures (www.stlwarehouse.com) encouraged Dan to cofound with a friend another business in 2009 called Refurbiture (www.refurbitureinc.com), an office systems remanufacture company. The next year, Dan and Liz cofounded Cubicle.com (www.cubicle.com), a website that meets today’s consumer preference for buying customized cubicle products directly online rather than dealing with the hassle and expense of the usual retail experience. With the success of this newest venture, Liz resigned her position as an engineer at Boeing in 2011 in order to devote herself to Cubicle.com full time.

While these early startups suggest an inherent restlessness that Dan freely admits — “I went to kindergarten twice because I wouldn’t sit down” — they also reveal his keen ability to identify and then grow previously unmet areas in the marketplace that then spawn demand for additional startups in related products and fields. He credits a large part of his talent to the lessons he learned at MICDS. He says, “If I really trace back what I learned or my experiences at MICDS that led to where I am today, I would say it is problemsolving. MICDS really did teach me how to solve a problem. I think that’s a core premise I use to build a business or do anything — what problem are you solving? What is the core challenge? Why are you doing...
it? You don’t build a product just because it’s a neat shiny object. The way you build a successful business is taking a look at what the problem is, and what you can do to solve it.”

Dan is a huge believer in the power of networking, and the idea that you can build a business that takes you to the next level by meeting the right person. This principle has certainly proven true for him. Casting about for new opportunities in 2011, he struck up a friendship with his now-business partner Jan Andersen, a likeminded Lafayette Square neighbor who shared Dan’s spirit of entrepreneurial adventure. Casual late night brainstorming sessions soon led in 2012 to the creation of **Ignition Tank** (www.ignitiontank.com), in order to support their ambitions of starting additional companies while offering other startups the necessary resources and back-office support to help launch and accelerate their growth.

**Lab1500** quickly followed. Looking for more space to house Cubicle.com and IgnitionTank, Dan and Jan in 2012 leased an old two-story warehouse at 1500 Washington Avenue downtown and set about restoring it to house their operations. The building ended up offering them more space than they needed, so Dan and his partners set up shop upstairs and opened up the first floor as a collective co-working space for other local entrepreneurs to meet and exchange ideas. Today, **Lab1500** comprises a major part of Dan’s operations, and has become a thriving hub of activity for entrepreneurs. On any given day, you will find people working on computers or meeting together at cozy tables, clustered in breakout areas with whiteboards and monitors, attending various workshops and classes, and/or making use of Lab1500’s ample WiFi service and printing capabilities. Modeled not as a profit center but as a sustainable entity, Lab1500 offers modest membership rates available on a monthly or annual basis for individuals and corporations.

Dan’s current main interest, **Pushup Social** (www.pushup.com), is a direct by-product of Lab1500’s fertile cross-breeding culture. It was here that Dan and Jan met Yomi Toba, a co-founder of LockerDome and Lab1500 member who was looking to start a new business. Together, they teamed up in June 2013 to start Pushup Social, a technology company that allows other website owners to create their own social network in a matter of minutes. Another new organization, **LaunchCode** (www.launchcode.com), followed two months later, with the purpose of helping aspiring programmers (or “coders”) gain experience to land a job by pairing them with an experienced developer at an established company. Along with providing these mentor companies a pipeline for potential new hires, this paired mentor program also helps meet LaunchCode’s own need for talent while building St. Louis’ larger talent pool in a chronically underserved marketplace. With the start of Pushup Social, Dan stepped away from everything else to assume the role of Pushup’s CEO in order to realize his fledgling startup’s full potential. Pushup Social launched publicly this summer after securing capital from a group of private investors, and is now focused on attracting additional business and investment in order to scale up operations.

Not surprisingly, Dan’s recent efforts with Lab1500 and Pushup have garnered the attention of the larger St. Louis business community. In a February 2014 *St. Louis Business Journal* article, Rick Holton Jr. ’93, a general partner at Cultivation Capital, recognized Dan for the vital role he has played in fostering startup’s full potential. Pushup Social launched publically this summer after securing capital from a group of private investors, and is now focused on attracting additional business and investment in order to scale up operations.

Given his remarkable track record, one might well wonder what Dan Lohman has in store next. For now, he says, he is focused on proving that Pushup Social can
be a tremendous success, and that St. Louis can grow its own rapidly expanding tech companies while continuing to support other local entrepreneurs with projects and ideas of their own. He explains, “Time is probably my most valuable resource right now … In the last year or so I’ve been able to place some of my past responsibilities in the hands of my colleagues, which allows me to focus completely on Pushup’s potential.”

As for managing his other interests, Dan says, “The only way we’ve been able to do this in order to grow different companies is by finding the best possible people to manage these companies’ day-to-day affairs.”

In the meantime, Dan and his wife Liz have another new project to attend to that is proving to be a true labor of love — a new baby girl and first child named Josephine, who was born this past June. And while Dan’s long-range plans have yet to be determined, one thing’s for certain — the man who wouldn’t sit still in kindergarten won’t be putting his feet up anytime soon.

MICDS Magazine sat down recently with Dan to learn more about his various accomplishments and the aspirations he has for his hometown.

Most people don’t necessarily think of St. Louis as a hotbed of entrepreneurship and invention. What factors do you think St. Louis offers that make it particularly hospitable to this kind of activity today?

“I think that we have a lot of the anchors in terms of resources that provide the seed for that type of entrepreneurial resurgence. We have the capital, we have tremendous educational institutions and programs, and other anchors like the Danforth Plant Science Center and Bridge Park that allow us to tap into some of those resources. Another aspect that’s really helped St. Louis build its momentum in the entrepreneurial world is the ability for people to be collaborative. Unlike other cities which are much more cutthroat, it’s a small enough scene that a success for one company is a success for all of us. People are very supportive of one another."

“What we haven’t done well in the past is connecting the dots and celebrating that and getting that into the media … Traditionally, at least in the last 10 or 20 years, we haven’t been really great at celebrating our successes, or talking about what’s really happening. And in the last two to three years, I would say, we’ve seen an emergence of St. Louisans as cheerleaders, specifically around the tech community and entrepreneurial space. We’re showing the successes, entrepreneurs and investors are jumping in, new support organizations are being formed, and major corporations we are seeing are supporting business as well. In the past, being a startup wasn’t a great thing to advertise. Now it’s a huge rallying point of pride that the community has, and it’s leading to some very exciting things for St. Louis.”

Is there a particularly memorable teacher or experience that you had during your time at MICDS?

That’s very difficult to answer because I had so many great memories and so many great teachers! But I would say some of my best memories are of Doc Kalmar’s German class, and Michael Skinner — who taught 9th grade biology and coached wrestling — as well as playing ultimate frisbee in the fields, and athletics generally as well. I was on the golf team, and wrestled for a year, and have great memories around that.

What advice would you have for current MICDS students thinking about their own future in terms of college or careers?

My advice is to go with something that is rooted in a solid foundation of science or technology and engineering. But that being said, if you’re truly passionate about something, just run with it! If you don’t know what you want to do — what you’re passionate about — sample things … I see there’s a huge need for talent on the technical side, meaning more developers, coders, and people that can really solve problems, and I think that science and technology emphasizes how to break down a problem and solve that.
Ever wonder what the MICDS campus looks and feels like during the summer months? Though many classrooms are quiet and the artwork is largely absent from the hallways, the MICDS community remains vibrant year-round. The energy that comes from joyful teaching and learning permeates the campus as many students, faculty and adults spent many hours at MICDS participating in enriching experiences.

From analyzing DNA in the biology lab, to fencing tournaments in the gym, to filming a Hall of Fame shortstop, to staging a Summer Stock show, enjoy these sights of summer at MICDS.
Partners in STEM Education

The state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor learning spaces in and around McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall were the perfect settings for Sustainability Institute workshops in June. MICDS partnered with Webster University to host two days of the annual Institute, which carried the theme, “The Ripple Effect: Water Education.” Educators from across the region, representing preschool through grade 12, studied the power of water education, observing the many sustainable features of McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall, including the green rooftop, water harvesting features and the greenhouse, and engaging in hands-on activities that demonstrated their vast potential as learning tools.

From Garden to Table

The MICDS community works in earnest to ensure that delicious, healthy foods are offered for lunch each and every day. The School’s commitment to sustainability has led to the cultivation of two gardens on campus – one near the Upper School’s Alumni Dining Hall and one adjacent to the Middle School’s Freeman Arts Building. Many individuals, including teachers, students, Flik food service chefs and grounds department personnel, work together year-round to nurture these gardens, which produce herbs that are used by the food service staff as well as vegetables and fruits that have been served upon request at special events, including the Sustainability Institute.

A Place to call Home

New campus residents were spotted in early June in the pond adjacent to McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall. To the delight of passers by, a mama duck and her babies made themselves at home in this beautiful natural setting designed to provide a variety of outdoor learning opportunities for all students.
Rams Sports Camps: A Competitive Edge

Athletes of all ages wishing to improve their skills and knowledge of their favorite sport take to the fields for Rams Sports Camps in June and July. These camps provide top-notch instruction from professional coaches, including many MICDS varsity coaches, in nine sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, squash, tennis and volleyball. Depending upon the sport, camp options are available for athletes in grades K – 12.

Curtain Call: Summer Stock Theater

Now in its third year as a summer offering, the Summer Stock Theater program gives aspiring thespians in grades 7–12 the opportunity to participate in a full-scale theatrical production as actors, directors or stage crew members. This year’s original show was Live from the House Down the Street, a story about the cast of a popular comedy TV show spending one week together in a house to establish a solid working relationship. Comedy ensued when the older members decide to play a trick on the newer members.

Restored Green Space

Removal of the temporary “learning cottages” set up behind Olson Hall during the construction of McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall began almost immediately after the close of school in June. The beautiful grassy lawn was replaced by early August.

Enrichment and Exploration at Eliot Summer Academy

Eliot Summer Academy, named after our School’s founder, visionary thinker William Greenleaf Eliot, challenges middle and high school students with an array of offerings, including robotics, studio art and college essay writing. Science Seminar, taught by Katrina Brandis, was offered this summer. Students in the course learned molecular and cellular biology research techniques, DNA sequence analysis, and bioinformatics. Using these techniques, students created molecular and computational tools that can be used to study the effects of specific genes on living organisms.

Emi Butler ’16 mixes a buffer to prepare an agarose gel for DNA analysis.
A Hall of Famer and A Miracle Dog

A little bit of Hollywood and St. Louis royalty spent time on campus in June. Cardinal legend Ozzie Smith filmed a cameo in Founders Court for the upcoming feature film Marshall the Miracle Dog, based on a true story and due in theaters in early 2015. Marshall was found badly beaten on an abandoned property in 2010. During his surgery, he died on the operating table, but was resuscitated by the medical team, who sewed up his face and amputated his badly infected front leg. Marshall’s new purpose in life is to share his story of courage and the will to overcome abuse, visiting more than 250 schools and inspiring a children’s book, an educational curriculum, and now, a feature film.

Summer Fun at Pegasus

Though its origins date back to the 12th century, the art of fencing remains highly popular with teens and tweens today. In fact, fencing classes typically reach capacity enrollment at Pegasus every summer. Hundreds of kids in grades K – 12 have made Pegasus a top summer camp choice of families from all over the world for more than 25 years. They come for a variety of activities that explore the sciences, technology, the arts, drama, sports, P.E. games, swimming instruction and much more.

¡Unanes Con Los Aventureros!
(Join the Adventurers!)

Niños and niñas in grades JK – 6 joined the ¡Aventureros! MICDS Spanish Immersion Camp for a celebration of a variety of Hispanic cultures through cooking, nature, arts and crafts, music, dancing and games. All activities were conducted entirely in Spanish and were led by MICDS teachers and bilingual counselors.

“‐The energy that comes from joyful teaching and learning permeates the campus.”
Special events brought generations of alumni together for friendly competition on the golf course and for time to reminisce and reconnect with dear friends on campus this fall.

NOW LIVE FOR ALL ALUMNI:
MICDS CONNECT

Check it out today at connect.micds.org!

MICDS Connect, the new website exclusively for MI, CDS and MICDS alumni, is up and running! MICDS Connect is now your go-to source for all things alumni — events, photos, class news, alumni profiles and a plethora of networking tools, including a business directory.

With MICDS Connect, you can login any time, anywhere, read the latest news, search for a classmate, share a photo or an update, or rsvp for an event — the resources make it easier than ever before to stay connected to your classmates and your school.

Editor’s Note: 75th Reunion Honoree George Erker ’39 was incorrectly identified in the reunion photo spread in the Summer 2014 issue of Class Notes. We regret the error.
21st Annual Holtman Cup Golf Tournament
September 19, 2014
Forest Park Golf Course
For alumni and current MICDS dads

PHOTOS BY ALLISON LIGHT

1 Congratulations to this year’s winning team members (pictured above):
   Jeff Cammon ‘05, Van Pierce ‘06, Matt Mach ‘05 and Blake DeCola ‘05

2 The Holtman Cup is engraved with the names of all tournament champions.

3 Representing the Class of ‘82 (seated, from left) Hans Mugler, Eugene Harris and Chris Millitello;
   (standing, from left) Mike Latta and Doug Schukar

4 Dixie Deibel ’60 and Bob Karn ’60

5 CDS ’80 classmates (from left)
   Terry Pfieger, Page Hereford, Eric Finch and Terry Erwin

6 The man who needs no identification,
   Coach Ron Holtman

7 (From left) Kevin Tipton ’93, Steve Braeckel ’95 and Austin Hasek ’93
20th Reunion of the Class of 1994
September 27, 2014
Brauer Hall

PHOTOS BY ALLISON LIGHT

1 20th Reunion Class of 1994 and Guests
2 Greg Iken, Victoria Caltagirone Iken ’94, Betsy Metcalfe ’94, Yasmeen Queeshi Daud ’94 and Shiraz Daud
3 Chris Brennan and Dena Bashiti
4 Mark Carter ’94, Vic “Señor C” Caltagirone and Chris Danforth ’94
5 Jenny Leydig Charles ’94, Molly Danforth and Sarah Saghir Brauer ’94
6 Milly Barrera and Bethany Pugh
15th Reunion of the Class of 1999
September 27, 2014
Head of School
Lisa Lyle’s Residence
PHOTOS BY DEBBIE HIGGINS

1 (Front row, from left) Zooey Martin, Susanna Burke Menees, Janey Brauer Thompson, Hadley Muckerman Reynolds and Ginny Brunner Becker; (back row, from left) Steve Pelligreen, Martha Fogarty, Nora Mullinex, Melinda Chu, Hayden Prescott, Hannah Kaufman, Jennifer Belmont Jennings, Yelena Podorozhansky, Katherine McPheeters, Lindsay Reed, Michael Novack, Robb Preston, Chris Haffenreffer and Dick Lammert


3 Anatoliy Belaygorod, Yelena Podorozhansky ’99, Chris Haffenreffer ’99 and Kate Haffenreffer

4 Janey Brauer Thompson ’99 and Jennifer Belmont Jennings ’99

10th Reunion of the Class of 2004
September 27, 2014
Olson Hall
PHOTOS BY DEBBIE HIGGINS

1 Michelle McNeill '04, Tricia Robson '04 and Bretlyn Curtis '04
2 Chuck Heffern '04, Marie Heffern, Davey Oetting '04, Alex McMullin '04 and Tim Stutz '04
3 10th Reunion Class of 2004
4 Emily Fuhrman '04, Tracy Laramie '04 and Grace Fleming '04
5 Dana Fuchs Greulich '04, Dani Johnson '04, Laura McLaughlin '04 and Ben Hiller
CAROL FERRING SHEPLEY ’68
Lori’s Lessons: What Parkinson’s Teaches About Life and Love
UNIVERSE.COM, OCTOBER 2013
When Lori Patin first received her diagnosis of Parkinson’s at age 55, she wanted to cry until she died. When she made up her mind to fight the disease, her husband and caregiver, Bob, took a stand beside her. In Lori’s Lessons, author Carol Ferring Shepley tells the story of the Patins’ love throughout the course of the disease and how it affected their lives. (Amazon.com)

SARAH WILSON ’78
My Smart Puppy Guide: How to Train Your Dog to Come
MARCH 2014
Want your dog to come when you call? “My Smart Puppy Guide: How to Train Your Dog to Come” gives you easy dog games that quickly teach your dog to come to you tail wagging! Sarah Wilson, author of nine books and respected dog trainer for 25+ years, delivers the exact information you need to succeed. Her exclusive dog training tips — tested over many thousands of dogs — give you precisely what to do and how to do it (as well as what to do if your dog has other ideas!)

ROBERT ZAFFT ’82
The Corridors of Power: An Alex Broadman Mystery
BOOKBABY, APRIL 2014
The newest mystery thriller from RJ Zafft — the murder of a beautiful French colleague catapults Alex Broadman from his cushy job with a Paris-based organization into a snake pit of espionage, passion, and death. Hunting a killer from the suites of a grand chateau to the subterranean crypts of the City of Lights, Alex discovers that the only way to survive in a world with out rules is to make — and enforce — his own.

Derick Driemeyer ’52 and his wife, Sally, were honored as the recipients of The Danforth Distinguished Service Award, given by the Danforth Plant Science Center at its annual Plantasia Gala on October 25, 2014. The award recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have been important partners in the development of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and in the advancement of St. Louis as an international center for plant science. In 2011, the Driemeyers made a generous gift to endow the Sally and Derick Driemeyer Director of Science and Outreach Fund to support training of next-generation scientists in St. Louis-area schools and to elevate public interest in plant science and agriculture.

Fred Hanser ’59 was one of seven “Outstanding Directors” profiled by the St. Louis Business Journal in its October 17, 2014, issue. Hanser has been a director at Stifel Financial Corp. since 2003 and played a key role in the formation of Stifel Bank & Trust in 2007. “Ron Kruszewski, chairman and CEO at Stifel, offered the following comment in the article, “Fred has a knack for making connections and bringing people together.”

Spencer Toder ’04 is a member of the St. Louis Business Journal’s “Top 30 Under 30” Class of 2014. Toder is a broker in the corporate and investment services division of Colliers International St. Louis. The “30 Under 30” award recognizes the future leaders of the region and those who someday might appear on the cover of the Business Journal.
for the record |

births & adoptions

Nicole Werther ’94 and Daniel Lev: Adam Robert, May 5, 2014 (PICTURED, LEFT)
Elizabeth Markwardt Sherman ’97 and Matthew: Wesley Edward, September 13, 2014
Jake McDonald ’98 and Caroline: James P. III, March 25, 2014 (PICTURED, BELOW)
Laura Noland Tarrasch ’98 and Michael: Augusta Ayers, May 18, 2014 (PICTURED, BELOW LEFT)
Tom Cohen ’01 and Meghan: Hazel Jane, August 5, 2014

marriages

Chip Hiemenz ’02 and Alexis Millenbaugh, July 26, 2014 (PICTURED, BELOW)
Camille Boever ’03 and Jacob Branch, May 8, 2014
Matthew Kramer ’04 and Emily Arenson, July 12, 2014

alumnae/i deaths

(July 1, 2014 through November 1, 2014)

Laura Rand Orthwein ’37, September 15, 2014
Martha Lyter Engler ’38, July 25, 2014
Margaret Hope Magnus ’42, August 22, 2014
Louis S. Dennig Jr. ’43, November 1, 2014
Marietta McWilliams Hager ’43, October 30, 2014
Sarah Chivvis Wilcockson ’45, July 8, 2014
Richard E. Clark ’52, October 22, 2014
Joan Hilmer Oetting ’53, August 30, 2014
Ralph N. Sansbury ’55, October 4, 2014
Dale Bodenheimer Harrell ’56, October 27, 2014
Elizabeth Robinson Reed ’64, August 29, 2014
Bonnie DuBois Hilton ’73, October 14, 2014
Renee Desloge Nelson ’85, July 12, 2014

former faculty

Jean N. Coleman, Mary Institute Art Teacher, July 10, 2014
Quotable quotes from guest speakers on campus this fall.

"Talent is given to you. Confidence and motivation are ultimately up to you."

Dr. Greg Dale, Duke University
Director of Sport Psychology and Leadership Programs for Duke Athletics
Professor of Sport Psychology and Sport Ethics
Presentations for coaches, parents and Upper School students

"I love the contrast of clown and daily life—where we have to solve problems all day. In clown we must keep the problem going; this makes for humor, which leads to connection."

Claire Wedemeyer ’94
A classically trained actor and circus clown and coordinator of Circus Flora’s “Clowns on Call” outreach program bringing laughter to hospitalized children
Workshops during 5th Grade Mini Camp

"The role of a writer is to start the reader in an ordinary world and then quickly move them to an extraordinary world."

Ridley Pearson
Best-selling author of 48 novels for both adults and middle schoolers, including Peter and the Starcatchers, Kingdom Keepers and the Steel Trap series
Workshops for Middle School students

"We learned lessons on that mountain that most people don’t learn until they are 85."

Nando Parrado
Businessman, best-selling author of Miracle in the Andes and survivor of a 1972 plane crash in the Chilean mountains
Keynote speaker at an Entrepreneurs’ Organization event hosted at MICDS

"I’ve discovered that to do something great you need help, a collective genius—a team of geniuses."

Max Planck ’00
2014 Harbison Lecture Speaker
Technical Lead of the Story Studio at Oculus VR, focused on developing the art of storytelling in virtual reality
Presentations and class demonstrations in Middle and Upper School

Check out the digital edition of MICDS Magazine for bonus editorial content on all of these speakers and for bonus video of Ridley Pearson and Max Planck ’00.
CONGRATULATIONS to the members of the MICDS Girls Golf Team, who finished their perfect season and made School history by winning the program’s first team title in the Class 1 Missouri Girls Golf Championships on October 14.

The Rams won the team title by 14 shots over defending champ John Burroughs. MICDS, which led by two strokes after the opening round, shot 334 on the second day for a 664 total. “We had a great few days in Springfield,” said MICDS coach Steve Johnston. “We’re just so proud of them. They held their composure after playing in tough conditions. It was a special year, with very talented players and encouraging parents.”

Shannon Gould ’18 and Abby Schroeder ’16 finished in the top 10 individually. Gould fired a 78-76 — 154 to finish fourth individually. Schroeder followed in seventh individually at 160 after recording a 79 in the second round. Nicole Shearing ’16 closed with an 89 to finish the championships at 171, Madison Wrobley ’15 had consecutive 90s for a 180 total and Mia Schroeder ’18 rounded out the team’s lineup at 184 with a 95 in the final round for a 184 total.

With this year’s championship, MICDS has brought home hardware in three of the last five Class 1 Championships, finishing as runner-up in 2010 and 2013.