Adventures of a Lifetime:
The Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty

For fourteen years, the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty has provided St. Francis faculty members with the type of learning adventures that ignite classrooms, inspire curiosity, and bring the far-away to the fingertips. Established in honor of our esteemed first principal, Sarah W. "Sally" Woolrich, these awards underwrite unique professional development journeys that span the globe—from mapping the migration of polar bears to traveling the ancient Silk Road to exploring the Holy Roman Empire.

Thanks to the generosity of our St. Francis community, life-changing trips and training serve to spark the imagination of our world-class faculty. The first-hand insight, hands-on lessons, and artifacts they return with truly bring learning to life.

E-STEAM
Amanda Heidemann

What do you get when you combine a sunny personality with first-rate solar energy research? A classroom that shines with real-world math application and remarkable student ingenuity. When math teacher Amanda Heidemann (fourth grade) contemplated the fourth grade's year-end math project—the design and construction of scaled model houses featuring solar energy components—a lightbulb went off. Why not visit the heralded Hawai'i Preparatory Academy Energy Lab, a top student-centric research and collaborative education facility? The first zero-energy, -water, and -waste school building in the world, the Energy Lab offered our St. Francis educator a direct view into efforts to create a healthier planet. This knowledge will, in turn, inspire our students to calculate volume and conversions, collect data, and graph solutions for energy-efficient models worthy of Hawaii's sunny shores.

ENGLISH
Carol Bedard and Morrie Bogrand

Honoring middle school curricula rich in the grand works of Shakespeare, Dickens, and Chaucer, teachers Carol Bedard and Morrie Bogrand traveled to England to "reincarnate" these literary giants. Between strolling the streets of London and taking in performances at The Globe Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, the two attended the Globe Theatre Teacher's Workshop on Shakespeare and visited the Charles Dickens Museum. Through exploration of Shakespeare's immense body of work and a glimpse at the world's largest collection of Dickens artifacts, Mrs. Bedard and Mr. Bogrand gained an insider's feel of the period's political, cultural, and religious influences. Stepping further back in time, they ventured to the countryside of Canterbury and Oxford, where a Medieval Walking Tour, plus stops at Leeds Castle and the White Cliffs of Dover, punctuated their peek into the Middle Ages, when Chaucer lived and wrote in this bustling center of learning.

MISSION WORK
Carol Kemper

Jumping at the chance to "be a blessing and show God's love to children in need," Primary I teacher assistant Carol Kemper planned to travel with Chapelwood Methodist Church for a Mission on the Move trip to Tapachula, Mexico. There, Ms. Kemper was set to spend a week ministering at a home for children whose parents are in prison and orphans pulled from street life—helping to break generational ties to oppression, poverty, and crime. Through art activities, play, and worship, Ms. Kemper envisioned not only sharing the love of Christ with these children, but also offering the home's regular care providers a much-needed rest. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ms. Kemper's mission trip had to be postponed. We look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful and inspiring stories of her work upon her return.

MATH
Holly Plost

Ask Technology/Math Specialist Holly Plost how to motivate kids to (gasp!) enjoy math, and she'll tell you it's all in their mindset. Fueled by Dr. Carol Dweck's research-based model—supporting the potential of a "growth mindset" versus the stagnation of a "fixed mindset"—St. Francis has worked to encourage a growth mindset among faculty, staff, and students for a number of years. This past summer, Mrs. Plost headed to Stanford University for a two-day workshop on "Teaching Mindset Mathematics" led by Dr. Jo Boaler, a Stanford mathematics professor, researcher, and author. The event highlighted the role mindset plays in determining success and failure, with an emphasis on helping students embrace challenge as an opportunity to learn and improve, rather than avoiding it due to potential failure. Mrs. Plost led a campus book study covering Dr. Boaler's book, *Mathematical Mindsets*, and has returned from Stanford armed with further research for teaching mindset resiliency in math and beyond!

SPANISH
Maria Capecchi and Mercedes Perli

Lower School Spanish teachers Maria Capecchi and Mercedes Perli believe that learning a language should entail not only instruction in a classroom, but also immersion in a culture. Indeed, research suggests that when teachers educate students on the food, music, dance, artists, and traditions of a country, the more engaging that education becomes. Thanks to a summer trip to Malaga, Spain, this language-loving team was able to brush up on the life and times of Pablo Picasso (introduced in the fourth-grade curriculum) through trips to The Picasso Museum and the artist's childhood home. They also added in a local cooking class, roamed through a popular market, and took in a tablao flamenco (traditional flamenco performance) as well. After unpacking their stories, videos, and pictures, Ms. Capecchi and Mrs. Perli have planned classroom activities highlighting the marvels of Malaga. Olé!

How to Give to the Woolrich Fund

CASH/CREDIT CARD GIFTS
You may make your tax-deductible gift with a check or credit card (American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa). To do so, please return this donation form with your check, or make a gift online at www.StFrancisHouston.org/Woolrich.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED ASSETS
Giving stock is an easy way to enhance the learning environment at St. Francis. You can deduct the full market value of the appreciated stock donated to St. Francis. Please contact our Advancement Office at 713.458.6114 for additional information.

MATCHING GIFTS
Employers frequently match their employees' gifts, doubling or sometimes tripling your donation. If you give a donation, and your employer matches the gift, you receive acknowledgment for the gift *and* the match in our annual report, along with recognition for your company. This is a great way to capture an additional gift!

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS
Your gift can be made in honor of a favorite educator or staff member—past or present.

GIVING LEVELS
The Woolrich Fund giving levels are as follows:

Golden Oak	$50,000 and above
Silver Birch	$25,000–$49,999
Bronze Maple	$10,000–$24,999
Red Cedar	$5,000–$9,999
Purple Plum	$1,000–$4,999
Blue Spruce	$500–$999
Yellowwood	$100–$499
Evergreen	Up to $100