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Greetings from the President

In his recent study, *Group Geniuses: The Creative Power of Collaboration*, psychologist Keith Sawyer argues that “collaboration is the secret to breakthrough activity.”

Throughout its history, one of the hallmarks of a Lauralton Hall Mercy education has been the “collaborative spirit” of its community working shoulder-to-shoulder in fulfilling its dreams. In many ways, the manner in which our Mercy core value of “collaboration” is put into action differentiates Lauralton Hall from other college-preparatory schools.

This edition of *Hallmarks* offers a number of examples of effective collaborative efforts. In several instances, we have seen how the collaborative effort has transformed a group into more than the sum of its parts. An empowered Lauralton Hall community has accomplished much more than anyone originally thought possible. We have witnessed *The Creative Power of Collaboration* in “breakthrough activity.”

Our feature article outlines our Campus Master Plan, which we developed with the assistance of the international firm of Einhorn, Yaffee, and Prescott (EYP). This participatory process enabled us to realize a coherent vision for betterment of our campus, one step at a time. You will read how the Lauralton family—students, faculty, parents, alumnae, trustees—participated in helping to shape the Plan and how energized they are with it!

Teaching students moral and social responsibility for a lifetime of engaged citizenship in a global society continues to inspire and challenge us. The newly created partnership between Lauralton Hall and Catholic Relief Services through our Global Solidarity Schools Initiative will enable students, faculty, administration and others to forge greater understanding and connections to the human family around the world, especially those who are poor and suffering. Our students in the Environmental Club are collaborating with environmental groups both locally and globally on sustainability issues.

These are but a few examples of our “breakthrough activity” through collaboration. Read more in the following pages. And, better yet, come visit our campus and see for yourself!

Warmest regards,

Toni Iadarola, Ph.D.
President
Arbor Day tradition reaches out to the community

On April 27, the Class of 2011 participated in the Alumnae Induction Ceremony and the annual Arbor Day celebration, a time-honored tradition at Lauralton Hall. Since 1908, each graduating class has planted a tree on campus. This year, the Class of 2011 has chosen to give back to the community by planting their class tree on the Milford Green rather than on campus. This is part of a school-wide environmental initiative and pioneering effort on the part of students that speaks to their commitment to community and global awareness. Members of the Class of 2011, like alumnae before them, took part in the tree planting tradition, a symbol of the Mercy values which have taken root during their years at Lauralton, as their tree will take root in Milford’s soil.

Students to sing at Epcot

Music teacher Margaret Sargent announced that Lauralton has been invited to perform at Disney World’s Epcot Center on December 19. Fifty-five students will be singing in two performances at the Candlelight Processional. Held every year at Epcot, the Candlelight Processional is among Disney’s most popular and memorable holiday highlights and not to be missed. A mass choir, joined by a 50-piece live orchestra and a celebrity narrator, tell the story of Christmas in words and music, in a very moving performance. Performances are held at the America Gardens Theatre. Performances take place each evening from November 25 to December 30.

In The News

Partnership with St. Martin de Porres Academy in 8th year

Summer Academy—a partnership between Lauralton Hall and St. Martin de Porres Academy, a New Haven-based Nativity model school—completed its 8th summer. Middle school girls from St. Martin de Porres participated in a three-day enrichment program in July hosted by Lauralton Hall. A day of science included robotics, environmental science and CSI/forensics activities led by Lauralton science teacher April Kelley. On the second day, participants worked on art activities—painting, abstract art, collages and friendship bracelets. The sessions wrapped up on day three with a fitness program under the direction of Peggy McGowan, PE teacher at Lauralton Hall. Participants rotated throughout the day with yoga, dance, a fitness/health workout in the training room and culminated at Amity High School in Woodbridge with a rock wall climbing experience led by Richard McGowan, PE teacher at Amity.

Lauralton Hall students volunteered as teacher-aides and mentors to the students. Peggy McGowan serves as the Program Manager and works in collaboration with Allison Rivera, President of St. Martin de Porres Academy and Christine Ring, Lauralton Hall Campus Minister. Summer Academy is funded in part through the generosity of the Mercy Ministry Fund of the Sisters of Mercy of the Northeast Community. Each participant receives a full scholarship to the program which strives to encourage, challenge, support and broaden the experiences of the girls in an ongoing effort to help prepare them for success in the next school year.

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Latin lives at Lauralton!

Sixteen Lauralton students, accompanied by Latin teacher JoAnne Piedmont and Spanish teacher Patricia Doerr set off on May 11 for a day of “all things classical” as they participated in State Latin Day. The annual event, sponsored by the Classical Association of Connecticut, was held at Holiday Hill in Cheshire where two thousand toga-clad students of Latin and Greek gathered from all over the state for a day of crafts, scholastic and athletic competitions and fun.

In the academic tests on literature, grammar, derivatives, mottoes and phrases, and a pentathlon of all five, the Lauralton students excelled, garnering ten awards. Brenna Donahue, ’14 took summa cum laude in Derivatives, with Rhiannon Crandley, ’14 awarded cum laude. Mary Spillane, ’14 earned magna cum laude in the Pentathlon. Katie Wilcoxon, ’13 was a triple winner with magna cum laude in Mythology and cum laude in both Derivatives and the Pentathlon. Emilia Tanu, ’13 earned magna cum laude in Derivatives and cum laude in the Pentathlon. Cameron Gerrity, ’13 was awarded maxima cum laude in both the Pentathlon and Latin grammar.

Lauralton hosts Science Olympics

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls from schools throughout Fairfield and New Haven Counties spent May 14 going for the “gold” at Lauralton Hall’s annual spring Science Olympics and competing in the following activities:

- Constructing a paper tower
- Designing a better bone
- Genetic analysis of SpongeBob Squarepants
- Analyzing fingerprints—“Identifying who stole our afternoon snacks”

With the help of Lauralton faculty and students, participants competed in problem-solving events. Students worked in teams. Lauralton Hall hosts Science Olympics twice each year. Schools, students or teachers interested in learning more should contact scavar@lauraltonhall.org.

Roper family supports Lauralton students

“We wanted to assist underprivileged young women in obtaining a Lauralton education. We also wanted to set an example of giving back from alumnae who share similar backgrounds.” —JONATHAN ROPER

Elaine Little Roper, ’92 and her husband Jonathan have established The Nikki Giovanni and Elaine D. Roper Scholarship, providing financial assistance to minority students attending Lauralton Hall. Named after world renowned poet Nikki Giovanni and his wife Elaine who is an educator and mother of six children, Jonathan Roper announced this new scholarship during Ms. Giovanni’s visit to Lauralton in April. “We wanted to assist underprivileged young women in obtaining a Lauralton education. We also wanted to set an example of giving back from alumnae who share similar backgrounds. Lauralton helped to shape my wife into the woman I have loved for over 15 years. I can’t think of a better way to honor her and do good at the same time,” Jonathan Roper explained.

The first Nikki Giovanni and Elaine D. Roper Scholarships will be awarded this academic year.

Editors Note: The Lauralton Hall community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jonathan Roper on August 22, 2011. Our condolences go out to the Roper family.
In The News

Community recognizes student effort in SADD program

The Lauralton SADD program was nominated to be a finalist in Milford’s 23rd Annual Mayor’s Youth Award, an honor given to young people who have done outstanding work in the Milford community. Teachers, principals, school advisors, parents and other community members nominate finalists for the award. The award ceremony was held for all finalists on May 17, at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium, where each nominee received a certificate from Mayor James Richetelli, Jr.

Students involved in SADD were active throughout the school year promoting leadership, healthy decision-making and safety. This is an intense program on the consequences of drinking/texting while driving. SADD provided the Lauralton community with “thumb-bands” as reminders not to text while driving. SADD members were also involved in the “Sticker Shock” campaign, which is promoted by MADD. For this campaign, prior to the holiday season students went to cooperating package stores in the Milford area and placed stickers on items which read “Hey You, It is Illegal to Provide Alcohol to People Under 21.”

The busiest time of the SADD year is prom week. Activities included a SADD-walk, Hearts of Love to all juniors and seniors attending prom, placing MADD red ribbons on all cars for awareness, and a SADD-sponsored “Hard Truth” assembly presented by MADD to juniors and seniors.

2011 Summer@Lauralton—Sports & Enrichment for Kids a success!

More than 350 families enrolled their daughters and sons in 23 athletic and enrichment programs offered this summer at Lauralton Hall. “To say that we were oversubscribed is an understatement!” noted Athletic Director Nicolle Camara. “We had 500 slots for children ages 6 through 14, in 18 programs beginning in July that ran through mid-August. We filled up in no time and had to turn away families. We also had another five programs for high school students that focused on study skills, writing resumes and college essays, as well as soccer, field hockey and strength training. Our campus was buzzing with activity from 9 in the morning until 8 at night!” Programs for the younger children consisted of a variety of athletic programs including basketball, baseball, cheerleading and soccer. The enrichment programs ranged from art, cooking, to forensics, robotics and video-making.

Oceanography class completes “Challenge 20” global initiative

Led by science teacher April Kelley, ’85, Lauralton’s oceanography class completed the global initiative Challenge 20, sponsored by the National Association for Independent Schools (NAIS).

Challenge 20 is based on Jean-François Rischard’s book High Noon 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them. The oceanography class partnered with Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, Florida and the Al Hekma International School in Bahrain to investigate the causes and potential solutions for marine pollution. The three classes communicated through a student designed and maintained project wiki (A wiki is an internet database of pages which visitors can edit live). Through their work together, the students learned about their topic as well as the similarities and differences between their cultures while making some new friends. Mrs. Kelley hopes to continue working with NAIS on Challenge 20 in the upcoming school year.
Introducing the Comprehensive Campus Master Plan

Lauralton’s Comprehensive Campus Master Plan (CCMP) is an all-inclusive development plan that embodies Mercy principles of collaboration and stewardship by preserving the historic nature of the buildings and grounds, while incorporating sustainable, green technology.

Everyone involved in developing the plan—students, faculty and staff, the Board of Trustees, alumnae, and parents—knew that transforming the CCMP from a vision into reality would require effective collaboration on a grand scale. An aggressive timeline was laid out and requests for proposals were sent to a number of highly regarded architectural firms. Members of the Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees reviewed the submissions and with the unanimous selection of EYP Architecture and Engineering, the CCMP is now being fleshed out.*

“Collaborative research and planning always advances ideas,” says EYP Senior Master Planner Charles Craig, LEED AP, “Each person’s point of view is an essential ingredient, but the larger common good is most important in a successful campus plan.”

“What I like about the plan,” says President Toni Iadarola, “is that it incorporates input from all members of the Lauralton community to create the best learning environment. Our students need 21st century skills to gain entry to the right college, but we also want to promote a love of lifelong learning. Their environment should stir their intellectual and aesthetic curiosity.”

Lauralton’s status as the oldest Catholic college-preparatory school for girls in Connecticut was recognized in 2011 when it was added to the Register of Historic Places by the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council. However, this legacy presents a challenge—to retain the school’s unique historical character while incorporating modern technology and infrastructure.

*The Lauralton Board of Trustees will review the final plan in the fall and are anticipated to endorse it as a working document, a framework to guide future development.
“We readily identified a need for more functional classroom space to accommodate teaching and learning in this 21st century,” says Dr. Iadarola. “We wanted to find the most innovative and cost effective ways to accomplish this goal. However, classroom configurations were only one issue.”

EYP is known for expertise in historic preservation as well as academic design and energy consulting. The firm also values client collaboration and integrating diverse ideas. “When our firm was founded in the early 1970’s, it developed an expertise in preservation architecture—converting mill buildings to new uses, for example,” says Alexander “Sandy” Carroll, AIA, LEED AP, EYP Master Planner. “In order to do that, you need an integrated approach among engineering, architecture, and planning, as well as between client and designer.” Focus groups allowed EYP architects to speak with many members of the Lauralton community. “We met with the Trustees, alumnae, faculty, administrators, the librarian, athletic coaches, guidance counselors, the grounds crew and building maintenance staff, among others.” says Sandy.

EYP was especially impressed with the engagement of the students. “The intense sense of community here was immediately apparent,” says Charles Craig. “We met with the Environmental Committee and members of the senior class. They spoke about the importance of tradition.”

One example of this timeless connection to the school was the nostalgia experienced by one of Lauralton’s most famous alumnae, U.S. Congresswoman Rosa Delauro, ’60. When she visited the school during a speaking engagement, she couldn’t resist a quick visit to her old bedroom. “They had boarders back then and I was one of them,” said the legislator. Bystanders noted that fond memories brought tears to Rosa’s eyes. “Lauralton has evolved over the years,” she said, “but the spirit of this place—our memories—will always be here.”

Comprehensive Campus Master Plan goals:

- The Campus Master Plan will reflect Mercy principles and history. It will identify opportunities to manifest and celebrate Mercy traditions and accomplishments in the physical environment, within buildings and throughout the grounds.
- The Campus Master Plan will foster community. It will create settings that are open and inviting, to support interaction among all members of the Lauralton community.
- The Campus Master Plan will advance the core purpose of educating young women. It will improve effectiveness of instructional spaces to accommodate student learning in the 21st century with sufficient and well-designed spaces and appropriate technologies.
- The Campus Master Plan will support the pursuit of knowledge and recognition of truth. It will enhance study spaces, by expanding the range of types and their locations on the campus.
- The Campus Master Plan will respond to the needs of others. It will include facilities that accommodate service learning and outreach programs in which Lauralton students participate.
- The Campus Master Plan will be physically effective. It will ensure that facilities comply with current building and safety codes. Proposals will focus on improving physical conditions and the quality of life for all users.
- The Campus Master Plan will be fiscally adroit. It will advance strategies for sequencing and phasing of projects to improve the effectiveness of Lauralton’s buildings and grounds that are likely to be fiscally attainable. Plan proposals will seek to lessen recurring maintenance costs.
- The Campus Master Plan will be sustainable. Its proposals will advance green design principles and will identify ways for reducing Lauralton’s use of energy and the generation of greenhouse gases.
Balancing safety with historic preservation is a top priority. For example, the school’s interior doors date from different eras and are historically noteworthy, but architectural preservation will need to be balanced with life safety and accessibility concerns. EYP has recommended early upgrade measures to give Lauralton greater flexibility in renovation designs and space reuses. The plan also calls for the school’s historic carriage barn to be converted into a multi-purpose space. This will allow for teaching, performance and rehearsal for the highly successful music and choral programs as well as rental space to accommodate special events.

The site proposal incorporates landscape elements such as bioswales to help filter impurities from runoff water and to reduce the volume of runoff, a bird sanctuary, and storm water management. The recommendation incorporates the relocation of the softball field to a place that will have minimal impact on the historic landscape. In the future, tennis courts and additional practice fields could be added.

Energy efficiency is also a key goal, although Lauralton is actually more energy efficient than many modern structures thanks to factors such as tall windows which provide natural light. The Director of EYP’s Energy Practice, Bob Kennedy, PE, CEM, LEED AP, asserts that becoming energy efficient “is more than just improving how you heat and cool a facility. It is also about how you manage it and how you respect its character. We have compiled a series of recommendations—not a dramatic change of direction—but essential updates, and important incremental steps have already been implemented.”

As excitement for the Campus Master Plan gains momentum, long-range plans include an addition for the west side of the school building and library to invigorate an already active green space that will be further enhanced as a 21st century campus quadrangle. “I like the name ‘Mercy Green,’” says Dr. Iadarola. “History, sustainability—time-honored Mercy Values—that name pretty well sums it all up.”
T.E.A.M. Together Everyone Achieves More

A diverse community comes together to collaborate on Lauralton’s future

Yvonne Fosse-Previs, ’90, Guidance Counselor
It is exciting to see how the campus master plan reflects the work going on inside of our school. The building will be a manifestation of the wonderful education provided to our students, as well as the ways we are preparing Lauralton women.

Morgan Ferguson, ’11 When we met with the campus planners we focused a lot on improving parts of the school that would benefit the students the most. We discussed expanding the bathrooms and building more sports facilities. We also discussed wireless connection throughout the campus and having updated technology.

Yvonne Fosse-Previs, ’90, guidance counselor
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Tony Rowan, Trustee, Parent ’06 The Campus Master Plan is providing a useful tool—a blueprint to accommodate the needs and facility requirements of Lauralton Hall. It is also facilitating the ongoing dialog of our vision for education, extracurricular interests, safety, and sustainability.

Margy Sargent, Music Teacher We shared our ideas and they came back with suggestions. We talked more and they modified the plans. The team has really listened to what our students need and worked to make those things possible.

Madeline Rudden, ’12 Composting, anti-idling signs—we discussed the importance of “going green” and setting the standards high. It was important to meet with the campus planners because it showed how much support Lauralton gives the Environmental Club.

Joanna Dlugos, ’11 The master planners wanted our opinion on how we felt about Lauralton. I told them we definitely need bigger bathrooms and a track field.
**Michelle Dalena, ’11** I love Lauralton’s comfortable atmosphere and antique feel. Improvements that I request would be for newer desks. Also, I think a better sidewalk for students walking from the train. More seating outside would help us be able to appreciate it even more.

**Guylendy Dormevel, ’12** I think to improve the school even more is to make bigger classrooms and invest in a field hockey turf field. Every girl should consider attending this school and creating a better future for themselves. They would love it because I certainly do.

**Janice May, RSM** Mother Claven dreamed of a school that prepared young women in the Mercy tradition. Working with the architects to create the classrooms and spaces for our students moves forward her dream. We need to listen and be ready for our future.

**Suzanne Fitzpatrick, ’11** As an athlete I feel there is room for improvement in the athletic facilities. Playing tennis for my four years at Lauralton would have been more convenient if we had courts on campus. The addition of new fields and courts would give student athletes an advantage.

**Michael Murphy, Parent ’14** It is vitally important to invest in the academic curriculum and tools for learning as well as in the physical infrastructure and amenities at the school. The plan reflects that concept while balancing the rich history of Lauralton and its existing uniqueness.

**Rebecca Napolitano, ’11** What would truly improve our campus would be a change in the field hockey field. At times the grass and layout of our complex itself kept us from having a home game during state tournaments. A turf field would make it more conducive for our athletes.
Lacing up their hiking boots and stocking up on mosquito repellant, Principal Ann Pratson and World Languages Department Chair Patricia Doerr embarked on a life altering trip to Africa this summer. Ann and Pat are representing Lauralton Hall in The Global Solidarity Schools Initiative (GSSI). GSSI is an exciting new program developed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to build links between American Catholic high school students and the most vulnerable people around the world. CRS works in more than 100 countries, providing lifesaving relief in the wake of natural and man-made disasters, as well as helping people in poverty. Ann describes how Lauralton got involved. “President Iadarola had a relationship with CRS when she was president of Cabrini College. CRS is an extremely efficient charity with 95% of their budget directly funding outreach programs. Although they are an international organization, collaborating with schools in the U.S. is one of their priorities.
Last fall we invited a CRS representative to speak at our faculty in-service retreat to learn more about what they are doing, and how our students could get involved. After listening to Dennis Fisher, CRS Education Outreach Program Officer, describe the GSSI goal of helping Catholic high school students truly experience solidarity with the poorest people in the world, we said we would love to be part of the pilot program.

The pilot will consist of three phases. First, there is a Faculty and Staff Workshop where supporting curriculum is developed within the various subject areas. Once the GSSI activities have been mapped out, it’s time for Global Solidarity Week. Focusing on the theme of peace building, students will explore an aspect of solidarity with the downtrodden. The program will culminate with a School-Wide Action, where the entire school is involved in bringing the culture of solidarity to life.

Removing the Walls that Separate Us

One obstacle to solidarity is the unfortunate human tendency to erect walls between each other. GSSI addresses this obstacle with its theme for 2011, which poses the question: "What are the Walls in Your Life?" The Solidarity Week activities planned for November will help Lauralton students discover the root causes of conflict and how to heal divisions between peoples.

“The goal is to incorporate GSSI events in each classroom,” Ann Pratson notes. “GSSI is curriculum-based, so in October CRS will return to do a professional development day for the faculty on creating a curriculum-based program. After that we will form a planning committee comprised of faculty and students.”

“Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” —Pope John Paul II

 Relationships that Transform

At the core of the CRS model is the idea that transformation happens best through relationships. “This is true of a Lauralton education,” Ann Pratson continues. “Our students are constantly fostering relationships with faculty, staff and each other to build the skills, tools and vision they need to make the world a better place. But there is nothing as transformative as being immersed in the reality of a person in radically different circumstances than your own.”

CRS invited Lauralton Hall to be part of a summer trip to Malawi, Africa, and learn about CRS programs firsthand. They requested that the principal and a teacher participate to gain a better understanding of CRS programs and then share their observations with the rest of the Lauralton community.

Ann and Pat, along with representatives from two other Catholic high schools, spent nine days in Malawi visiting different sites, including the Bakhita Girls Secondary School, food distribution centers, irrigation projects and programs for people living with HIV/AIDS.

“Incredibly, about half the country is just 17-years-old or younger,” Pat reports. “It’s poor, but relatively stable. The people are very friendly and want to improve their lives. We intend to share our experiences in Malawi not only with the Lauralton community, but with other area churches and schools to help raise awareness of global issues and the importance of CRS projects. CRS has great respect for the people they help. Their whole thrust is to go and be one with the people. It’s not about going to save people.”

Ann Pratson sees this as the essence of collaboration and brings the concept full circle to the Lauralton experience. “I feel that collaboration is so important for women. Studies have shown that girls learn best when collaborating. Once students take ownership of a project, the more they become involved and the more meaningful the project becomes. That’s how CRS operates and that’s how we operate as a school.”

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. They alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. Source: CRS website
Modeling Mercy Values to Build a Sustainable World

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB is one of Lauralton Hall’s most successful exemplars of the Mercy value of collaboration. The club has also reached outside the Lauralton community to forge alliances at all levels of the environmental movement. The Environmental Club partners at the municipal level with the City of Milford; at the state and national levels with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Audubon Connecticut and the National Audubon Society; and internationally through the club’s involvement with Roots and Shoots.

Working within the Lauralton community

Lauralton’s administration has encouraged students in their mission to promote sustainable living and good stewardship of the earth. Donna DiMassa notes that, thus empowered, the expectation is that the students will provide genuine leadership as well. One of the club’s first projects was the Environmental Fashion Show which has been held annually for the last six years in honor of Earth Day.

“This is not a teacher-run activity,” explains Donna. “It’s about the girls feeling empowered to take over the management of a project. We let them figure out how to make it a success.”

To celebrate America Recycles Day, which is supported by the National Recycling Coalition and sponsored by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Club hosts Trash-Free Lunch as an all-school event. The goal is to raise awareness of ways to reduce/reuse/recycle, and to emphasize the importance of buying products made from recycled or sustainable materials. Students and faculty who bring trash-free lunches—reusable sandwich containers, cloth napkins, durable lunchboxes, flatware and a permanent water bottle—receive tickets to participate in the Eco Prize Raffle, which includes prizes such as colorful tote bags, sandals made from recycled tires, and stuffed animals of endangered species. “In the past, the school has won a computer and a park bench made of recycled milk jugs by participating in the state’s America Recycles Day pledge to recycle.”

“This is not a teacher-run activity. It’s about our students feeling empowered to take over the management of a project. We let them figure out how to make it a success.”—DONNA DIMASSA
Making sustainable contributions to Lauralton’s hometown

A tradition that predates the Environmental Club, but enjoys the group’s wholehearted support, is the Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony. Each year the graduating class plants a tree which serves to remind each young alumna of the Mercy values which took root in her heart during her Lauralton years. As part of a school-wide environmental initiative to increase global awareness, this past spring the Class of 2011 chose to give back to their local community. Working in partnership with the Milford Tree Commission, several members of the graduating class planted a sugar maple on the Milford Green, replacing a tree that had been damaged during the harsh winter.

Environmental Club collaborative projects

Composting: Students and faculty initiated a pilot program to compost lunchroom waste such as coffee grounds, banana peels and other discarded food by-products.

School-wide recycling: Paper, cardboard, plastics and other recyclables are collected weekly and delivered to or picked up by recycling facilities.

The LH Swap Table: With a focus on recycle and reuse, students and faculty swap items—take something and leave something.

“No Idling” program: To encourage energy efficiency and reduce unnecessary air pollution from gasoline and diesel fuels, members of the Club installed signs from Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, reminding buses and other motorists to turn off their engines while waiting for students.

Animal Adoption: Through the Sierra Club, for each adoption, the Environmental Club receives a stuffed animal that represents a wild animal whose habitat needs protection.

Eco-jewelry: Students create unique one-of-a-kind jewelry from magazines, gift wrap, bottle caps, soda-can tabs and other items that are considered trash and sell their creations at lunch.

Environmental Committee targets state and national partnerships

The Environmental Committee is another example of interschool collaboration that blossomed into a larger partnership. An outgrowth of the Environmental Club, the Environmental Committee is comprised of students, teachers, and administrators. The Committee is especially excited about their collaboration with Audubon Greenwich, the National Audubon Society’s first environmental education center in the U.S.

The English Department and the Environmental Committee contacted Audubon Connecticut to explore the possibilities of creating a bird sanctuary at Lauralton. Taralynn Reynolds, the At Home Coordinator from Audubon Greenwich, noted, “We look for native plants and the presence of invasive plants that might compete with them. We also note different types of wildlife such as birds, snakes and butterflies which signify a healthy habitat to create not only a wildlife sanctuary, but an environment where students can study, science, math, poetry and art.”

President Iadarola sees a perfect fit for Lauralton in the project. “The Audubon plan serves several strategic outcomes. It moves us closer to one goal of the Campus Master Plan in creating an ecologically friendly campus; it provides onsite opportunities for science classes to study species of birds, butterflies, reptiles and mammals; it sensitizes students to the influence nature had on writers like Emily Dickinson and Henry David Thoreau; it supports en plein air art classes, and of course, it beautifies the campus—a worthy goal in itself.”
“...on this commencement day, as our graduates begin the next stage of their lives, may they always be grateful for the blessings they have already received and for those that await them in the future.”

—TONI IADAROLA, PH.D., PRESIDENT

Class of 2011
“…this is a bittersweet day for you, for you will miss your friends. Keep close the friends you have made here—they are more valuable than you know….and, no matter what direction you take, remember that we are your alma mater….you will always remain in our memories…and in our hearts.” —TONI IADAROLA, PH.D., PRESIDENT
Danielle Sekerak

Danielle leads by example garnering many academic awards throughout her years at Lauralton. She is the recipient of such recognitions as Lauralton’s Woman of Mercy Award, the Francis Warde Service Award for volunteering over 100 hours of service, Connecticut Scholar-Athlete, and the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Award. Danielle received a department medal in Mathematics for demonstrating excellence, commitment, and interest in the study of this subject.

“Danielle is simply the crème de la crème, not just academically, but in everything she has given to our school community as a leader, helper, friend and role model,” said Principal Ann Pratson. Danielle will attend Villanova where she will major in English and pursue a career in medicine or law.

Rebecca Napolitano

Rebecca has received many accolades such as high honors and has earned recognition for excellence in the study of Science, Latin, Mathematics, and English. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Latin Honor Society. Rebecca is the recipient of the Dartmouth Book Award, the Sr. Mary O’Neil Award for Mercy Character, and the Francis Warde 100+ service hours award. In addition, she was also awarded the U.S. Achievement Academy National Science Award, Wendy’s Heisman School Winner and State Finalist, and a Coca-Cola Semi-Finalist.

“Rebecca is a real scholar and enthusiastic about learning,” Principal Ann Pratson said. Rebecca will attend Connecticut College to major in Classics Teacher Education and Physics Teacher Education with minors in chemistry and math.

Aida-Cristina Cruz

The McAuley Award is given to a student for her dedication and commitment to Lauralton’s mission. This award was presented to this year’s recipient, Aida-Cristina Cruz, by the Chair of the Lauralton Hall Board of Trustees, Eugenie Guterch, RSM. She participated in the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society, Environmental Club, Spanish Club, LH Cares, and the Humanities Club. “Many of our younger students have looked to her as the ideal of what they can achieve”, remarked Principal Ann Pratson. “She represents the very best of our student body.” Aida-Cristina will attend Providence College.

The 89 graduates of the Class of 2011 were accepted at 137 colleges and universities and were awarded almost $8 million in merit aid.

- Albertus Magnus College
- American University
- Amherst College
- Assumption College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brandeis University
- Bryant University
- California State University
- Central Connecticut State University
- Chapman University
- Clark University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Colby-Sawyer College
- College of Charleston
- College of the Holy Cross
- Connecticut College
- Cornell University
- Delaware State University
- Denison University
- DeSales University
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Elms College
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emmanuel College
- Endicott College
- Fairfield University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Fordham University
- Franklin Pierce University
- George Mason University
- Gettysburg College
- Hamilton College
- High Point University
- Hofstra University
- Howard University
- Iona College
- Ithaca College
- John Carroll University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY
- Johns Hopkins University
- Johnson & Wales University
- Keene State College
- King’s College
- La Salle University
- Lasell College
- Le Moyne College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Loyola University Maryland
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Manhattan College
- Manhattanville College
- Mariost College
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Merrimack College
- Miami University, Oxford
- Morgan State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- Mount Saint Mary College
- Mount Saint Mary’s University
- New York University
- Nichols College
- Northwestern University
- Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio
- Pace University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pepperdine University
- Providence College
- Purchase College
- Quinnipiac University
- Roanoke College
- Roger Williams University
- Roosevelt University
- Rutgers University
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Anselm College
- Saint Joseph’s University
- Saint Louis University
- Saint Michael’s College
- Salisbury University
- San Diego State University
- Siena College
- Simmons College
- Southern Connecticut State University

- Springfield College
- St. Andrews Presbyterian College
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. Edward’s University
- St. John’s University
- Stonehill College
- Suffolk University
- Texas Christian University
- The American Musical and Dramatic Academy
- The Catholic University of America
- The George Washington University
- The Ohio State University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Arizona
- The University of Scranton
- Thomas College
- Tiffin University
- Tulane University
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music
- University of Connecticut
- University of Dayton
- University of Delaware
- University of Hartford
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Michigan
- University of New Hampshire
- University of New Haven
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Richmond
- University of San Francisco
- University of South Carolina
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- University of Western Ontario
- Villanova University
- Virginia Wesleyan College
- Wagner College
- Wellesley College
- Western Connecticut State University
- Western New England College
- Wheaton College
- Wheelock College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Xavier University
- York College of Pennsylvania
- York University
Among the most important collaborations at Lauralton Hall is the partnership between the President, the Board of Trustees and the corporate governing body of the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community. A diverse group of men and women comprise Lauralton Hall’s Board of Trustees, appointed by the Mercy Northeast Education Sponsors Council. The Trustees hold fiduciary and legal responsibility for the school as they ensure its long-term viability. They also serve as advocates and ambassadors to the larger community. In doing so, the Board of Trustees approves policies and the strategic direction of Lauralton Hall while leaving management of the school to the President and the school’s Leadership Team.

Eugenie M. Guterch, RSM serves as chairperson of the Board and is joined by James Moye ’P11 as Vice Chair. Eighteen Trustees serve on one or more committees including, Facilities, Development, Governance, Mission Integration and Finance.

Collaboration between the Trustees and the President is key to a successful partnership securing an academically flourishing and financially sustainable future for Lauralton Hall. This effective collaborative partnership has led to the development of a new Campus Master Plan, identified and provided for facility upgrades including fire protection systems, energy efficiencies, important cost savings, created new revenue streams, and increased philanthropy.
Faculty & Staff News

Newly Faculty Appointments

**Bertha Maiese**  
SPANISH  
Bertha received a BS from University of Mayor de Cundinamarca in Columbia, SA. She earned her MAT from Sacred Heart University. She has taught most recently in Bethany, New Haven, and Bridgeport.

**M. Fernando Franco**  
SPANISH  
Fernando earned a BA from Western Connecticut State University and received his MA from University of Connecticut. He comes to Lauralton with teaching experience at Litchfield High School, Fairfield University and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

**Meghan Piatak**  
RELIGION  
With a BA from University of Scranton, Meghan also has a MA from Weston Jesuit School of Theology. She most recently taught at Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree, MA.

**Dean Aufiero**  
RELIGION  
Dean has a BA from Franciscan University. He has worked in a number of academic institutions as a substitute teacher.

**Christine Redding**  
HISTORY  
Christine has a BA from Southern Connecticut State University and has most recently served as a substitute teacher at Foran High School in Milford. Christine is not a stranger to Lauralton having served as an assistant coach for the Crusader’s field hockey and softball teams in 2010-2011.

**Kimberly Rosenberg**  
ART  
Kimberly earned a BA from University of Buffalo and an MA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She is also teaching at Paint, Draw & More in Redding, CT.

“I have been able to set high expectations because I was lucky enough to have educators who showed me what high expectations were. I can be a great teacher because, during my Lauralton years, great teaching was shown to me.”

—SAMATHA SHERWOOD ’04
New Staff Appointments

Jennifer Casceillo
DEAN OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
Jennifer has a BS and MAT from Sacred Heart University where she also earned Administrative Certification. Most recently, Jennifer taught History at Notre Dame High School of Fairfield and served as their Assistant Dean of Students during 2010-2011.

Beverly Catchpole
DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING
Beverly comes to Lauralton having served as the Director of Annual Giving at King Low Heywood Thomas School in Stamford. She has a BA in Economics from the University of Rochester and her MBA in Information Systems from Pace University.

Megan Donaher
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT
Megan graduated from Endicott College with a BS and continued at Endicott to receive her MBA. Megan has worked as a development assistant with the Westport Arts Center and served as development consultant with Celebrate Westport Calendar and Builders Beyond Borders (B3).

Colleen Reilly
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Colleen received her Masters in Interactive Communications from Quinnipiac University and a BS in Communications from St. John's University in New York. Most recently she was Assistant Director of Communications for Cheshire Academy.

Take Note!

Faculty awarded NEH grants

Three Lauralton faculty members were awarded with prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities grants to pursue their studies last the summer. History teacher Marilyn Cummings participated in a research study and workshop entitled “The Spanish and Mexican Influences on California, 1769–1884” at California State University. English teachers Kate Rodgers, ’67, and Pamela Boynton attended an Emily Dickinson workshop in Amherst, Massachusetts. In each of their programs, they learned new curriculum and pedagogies which they plan to incorporate into their classrooms.
Sister Gloria graduated from Lauralton 61 years ago and immediately embarked on a remarkable spiritual and humanitarian adventure; she joined the order of the Daughters of Charity. Nine years after becoming a nun, Sr. Gloria was sent to Bolivia and has remained there ever since, teaching and caring for orphaned and abandoned children. On a recent visit to the United States, Hallmarks was able to catch up with this quiet yet formidable servant of the poorest of the poor.

“Five of us were chosen for Bolivia,” Sr. Gloria recalls, “but I was the only who could manage any communication. Thanks to my wonderful language teachers at Lauralton—especially my Latin teacher, Father O’Connell—I was able to speak Spanish with the local people and understand what they were saying! It was a big help in transitioning to a new culture, a new life.”

“My first ten years in Bolivia were spent in a little town lost in the tropics. It was the time of the habit and cornette,” she says, referring to the elaborate starched head-covering worn by the Sisters then, “but surprisingly we survived the tropical heat”. In 1970 she became principal of Saint Anthony’s Primary School, a Jesuit mission, but one year later, the Jesuits were expelled from Santa Cruz and she was sent to La Paz where she was made superintendent of 52 Jesuit Schools.

The Bolivia of the 1970s was a politically unstable and often violent place. The Cold War was raging and anyone who helped the poor ran the risk of being labeled a Communist. When Sr. Gloria discovered she was on a government enemies list, she stayed on the move, but never stopped working with the poor.

In 1981, Sr. Gloria was missioned to a home for abandoned and orphaned children, ages 5 to 18. She was made director of the facility in 1990. “This year we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Saint Ignatius Home and School,” Sr. Gloria states. “When the school first started, classes were held under trees or in the field. Today, with the help of our friends in the United States, the school has physics and chemistry labs, music and art rooms.”

The school nourishes the emotional needs of its students as well. “Most of our children come to the orphanage at age four or five. Some are orphans; some have been abandoned because their parents cannot afford to feed them. This type of abandonment is very difficult to recover from.”

Thankfully, miracles of recovery do happen. “We are very proud that many of our graduates have been placed at the State University,” says Sr. Gloria. “Thousands of Bolivian students take the entrance exams, yet only a few hundred are placed. Our students have gone on to become architects, lawyers, mechanics, electricians and one even became our own priest! Whether they go to university or to jobs, after the students leave St. Ignatius, they come back to visit.” She glows when she adds, “When they return, they present their families to me and introduce me as their mother. I’m proud to say that I currently have 109 grandchildren, with twins on the way!”

Even as she is enjoying a holiday with her extended family here in Connecticut, the needs of her mission family in Bolivia are never far from her thoughts. “Bolivia is home for me,” she says. “The situation, economically and politically, is very difficult there right now. We depend on your continued financial support and caring for the missions, but, most of all we depend on your prayers.”

For more information about Saint Ignatius Home and School, contact Kathleen Donahue at kdonahue@lauraltonhall.org
Collaboration Raised to a Fine and Fun Art

“Collaboration is essential in my work as a teacher and even more so in performing and directing. Nothing that goes onto a stage or into a film is a solo act. A production is made up of many very different pieces working in harmony to create something beautiful.”

With a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting and directing, and over two decades on stage and in front of the camera, Stephanie knows the value of collaboration. She credits Lauralton with preparing her for the kind of teamwork it takes to succeed in the performing arts.

“I didn’t think of it as collaboration back then,” she reflects, “but I was quite aware that the faculty and staff were a team. They took a cohesive approach to all aspects of our education.” Stephanie also felt strongly supported by her fellow students. “We did everything with a group focus. This was evident in the way we studied, prayed, even in the way we attended dances and football games. I belonged to a bunch of hardworking, proud people who stood for something and who were viewed as special because of who we were and what we stood for as a community.”

As a teaching artist Stephanie has educated students of all ages—from children in grades K-12 at the McLean School, the Imagination Stage and the Black Rock Center for the Arts, to adults at Montgomery College’s Lifelong Learning Institute. Her years at Lauralton provided a strong foundation for her teaching style. “I take a very collaborative approach to teaching,” Stephanie states. “I may be the leader, but I encourage my students to use their imaginations. I incorporate their ideas to create performance pieces that the kids own, that they are proud of, that they recognize as their own, and that they can’t wait to share with the rest of the world.”

“The nuns, especially Sister Gertrude and Sister Madeline, had an enormous influence on me,” she says. “The sisters dedicated their whole lives to educating us, even though some of us—namely me—were more troublesome than others. I had a wild streak when I started Lauralton, but Sister Gertrude, my Latin and homeroom teacher, slowly and persistently chipped away at my ‘rough spots’ until I emerged senior year a true and polished young lady. At Lauralton I was taught to persevere, to stand strong and to believe in myself. My years there also helped me develop a strong work ethic and gain confidence, which has been immensely helpful in my work as a performer, a director and as a teacher.”

Stephanie aims to instill the same confidence in her students and encourages them to believe in themselves. “As a teacher, I see each student as capable of succeeding. Yes, we may need to find different routes, but success is always possible if the student believes it’s possible, too.”

For all the hard work that goes into creating a performance, Stephanie never forgets that the creative process should also be inspiring and enjoyable. “I provide a structure, a script, the ground rules, but then I encourage the students to explore, to play, to let the imagination go. This freedom brings a variety of insights and dynamic interpretations of a scene, play or exercise. Each of us is a gifted human being. We all have imaginations and unique points of view. I make sure the kids trust each other and me and that they understand that theater, whether it’s Shakespeare, Neil Simon, or David Ives, can be serious work. But it should also be a lot of fun.”
When Joanna Lee, ’99, hung up her Lauralton uniform and packed her bags for Georgetown University, she envisioned a big future in politics. At Lauralton she had been active in Debate Club and Youth in Government. She avidly followed the national political scene and was always up on current events.

“It looked great on a resume, sounded fantastic to adults, and I was certain that politics was the career path for me,” she reflected while speaking at the April 2011 Father/Daughter Brunch. “I majored in government at Georgetown and was fortunate to intern with U.S Representative and Lauralton alumna, Rosa DeLauro. After graduating I took a job at Goldman Sachs, which was another great resume builder and definitely a ‘parent-approved’ opportunity. I quickly realized, however, that neither finance nor politics were something I could get passionate about. My career lacked the creativity I craved.”

Joanna then made what might appear to be an unlikely career move—she began working in the fashion industry and never looked back. Joanna loves her job as Marketing Director at J. Crew, a clothier known for quality, craftsmanship, and the kind of understated elegance that makes it a favorite shopping destination of First Lady Michelle Obama and other fashion trendsetters. Joanna credits Lauralton with deepening her sense of the value of discipline and teamwork. “Lauralton did a great job of fostering collaboration among the student body. I remember it took a small army to pull together events like Christmas in the Mansion. Lauralton was also wonderful at pairing up freshman with juniors who became their ‘big sisters’ and generally encouraging students to mentor each other across classes.”

Those skills served her well in the corporate world. “I’ve been lucky to have worked for brands like Lilly Pulitzer, where collaboration and team work are a true priority. It takes designers, merchants, marketers and salespeople to run a successful fashion business. Inspiration and creativity come from all parts of the company. The industry is often stereotyped in movies like “The Devil Wears Prada” as being full of diva-like personalities where the superficial trumps substance, but sharp decision-making skills, hard work, and collaboration are absolutely essential to success.”

Joanna's advice to Lauralton students is practical and direct. “Don’t be in a rush to choose your life’s work. Discover what you love. You have to work at what you love if you want to be good at what you do. It might seem that nothing would be easier than deciding what you love, but sometimes it is difficult.”

Joanna also counsels students to be proactive and take risks. “Instead of waiting to be taught, go out and learn,” she says. “There’s no switch inside you that magically flips when you turn a certain age or graduate from some institution. You start being an adult when you decide to take responsibility for your life. You can do that at any age.”

“That said, being a Lauralton daughter has its rewards, so you don’t want to rush it either. Be nice to your parents,” Joanna advises. “You only have a short time under one roof with your parents. Treasure it. You’ll be doing your own laundry and buying your own groceries soon enough. Be thankful for your parents and be thankful for your experience at Lauralton.”

This includes treasuring those Lauralton friendships. “I am incredibly appreciative of Lauralton’s ability to foster genuine, personal connections—whether it’s relationships with teachers, coaches or fellow students. The friendships you establish at Lauralton will last a lifetime. I have a monthly dinner with my two best friends, both Lauralton grads. One is a successful lawyer at a major law firm. The other works at one of the world’s largest investment banks. We often pinch ourselves, as we look at our lives in New York. Most importantly, we talk about how lucky we were to have had teachers that challenged us, parents who supported us and friends who made it fun. We all got our start here at Lauralton and will be forever grateful.”

“If you’re excited about what you’re working on, you’ll be successful in any field.”

—JOANNA LEE,
'49 Regina Kozlowski Griffing writes that she enjoys Hallmarks and is blessed to have had such a good education at Lauralton. She has been married for 56 years to her husband Charlie and they have seven loving children, 15 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She has fond memories of the working carousel, the water pump nearby and the grotto. Regina entered Lauralton as a day student when she was in the seventh grade and remembers gratefully how kind Sister Mary Aubert was to her in making her transition to a new school so easy. She remains close friends with her classmate Margaret Derlitz Hods-son, ’49, who also had seven children—five sons and two daughters.

'Marilyn Johnson Miller is proud to announce the birth of her great grandson, Ethan Robert, on June 18, 2010. Marilyn, who resides '54 Marilyn Johnson Miller

‘56 Nancy Aurilio Cingari and her husband Vincent celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October with a renewal of vows at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull. Nancy and Vincent also celebrated their anniversary with a family trip to Cancun, Mexico and continued their celebration with an extended trip to Hawaii. Nancy is a registered nurse who retired from St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport after 45 years and now works at Ob-Gyn Specialty Group in Bridgeport. The couple has seven grandchildren.

‘57 Kathy O’Leary Banville, reports that several members of the Class of 1957 met in early June for a mini-reunion. They were eager to attend the Golden Girls Luncheon in September.

‘61 Shirley Horvath Anderson, traveled to Spain and took a cruise to the Greek Isles last year. Summer plans include an Alaskan cruise and land/air trip. She notes that “all these destinations were very high on my ‘bucket list’ and I am so happy to have checked them off!” Shirley, who has two sons, two grandchildren and a grandson puppy, works as a compliance auditor at a local hospital in Georgetown, SC, where she has been living for the past 15 years. She is looking forward to the Class of 1961 50th reunion which she plans on attending!

‘61 Margaret Dorney Giordano is anxious to catch up with friends at the 50th celebration. She is currently living in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

‘66 Cynthia Smith Kinney and her husband Michael are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Mia Grace Kinney, born on March 16, 2011. Parents are her son Christopher Kinney and his wife Candice. Cynthia is a current member of the Lauralton Board of Trustees.

‘72 Linda Lewis-Young sends greetings from Tasmania, Australia, where she has been living since 1995.

‘77 Claudia Bruno Sheketoff is thrilled that her daughter Amy Jo Sheketoff, ’14, had an amazing freshman year at Lauralton. Her older daughter, Melissa Sheketoff, ’08, spent a semester abroad at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In March, Claudia, husband Alan and their children had a wonderful experience visiting Melissa in South Africa.

‘77 Elizabeth Simonetti, Ed.D., is pleased to announce her new organization Multiply the H.A.R.V.E.S.T. which provides economic development in Togo, West Africa where she served as a missionary. The non-profit is focused on initiatives in health, agriculture, rural development, education and trade, supported by the values and spirituality of Catholic social teachings. They are launching with three initiatives: creating a sewing cooperative that will sew mosquito bed canopies for sale at reduced prices to decrease the incidence of malaria; forming a cooperative that will create family planning instructors that will teach literate and illiterate couples natural family planning techniques; and helping small farmers use drip irrigation to increase the quantity and variety of crops in order to improve the health and nutrition of local communities.

‘85 Maribeth Devine and husband Tom announce the birth of their son William Charles, born May 31, 2011. He joins his sister Claire (8) and brother Jack (6). Maribeth is a member of the Alumnae Executive Board.

‘89 Kathy A. Kuhar was recently appointed Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services at Quinnipiac University School of Law. Kathy has been with Quinnipiac since 1996 and prior to her new position she was Director of Admissions at the School of Law.
'90 Elena LaGratta Coppola and her husband Joe joyfully welcomed their third child, Matthew Roger, into the world on May 18, 2010. Big sisters Gabriela and Emilia love having a little brother to complete their family. She and husband Joe, President of Coppola and Sons Construction, Inc., reside with their three children in Stamford.

'91 Keri Gleason O’Connor was recently surprised by her husband Tom when he took her back to the Lauralton chapel for a visit in honor of their ten-year wedding anniversary. The couple had warm memories of their Lauralton wedding and continued their celebration throughout that weekend.

'91 Jennifer Rolfe and husband Benton Hale announce the birth of their first child, a son, Porter Rolfe Hale, born February 2010. Jennifer is an attorney and also reports that she is a volunteer in New York City for numerous organizations, including serving as co-chair of the Viennese Opera Ball. Jennifer has also chaired the Mayflower Ball and notes that her LH volunteerism is deeply engrained.

'94 Gillian Bowley and her husband Brian Cavagnolo of San Francisco announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Maia Ambry, born April 20, 2011. Proud grandmother is Lauralton’s Assistant to the President for Special Projects, Debbie Boyle Bowley, ’62.


'95 Stacey Salko Cirillo and her husband Scott announce the birth of their son Maxwell Andrew Cirillo. Max joins big sister Abigail (3 yrs.) and brother Zachary (5 yrs.). Stacy and Scott live and work in Mendham, New Jersey.

'96 Julia Pond. London-based choreographer and former member of New York-based Lori Belilove’s Isadora Duncan Dance Company, premiered the “Little Difference Words Make/Son of the Sibyl” at Old Saybrook’s Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center ("The Kate") in July 2011. The all-female cast imbues the Isadora Duncan technique with a contemporary feeling, creating a theatrical experience by turns ritualistic, restrained and ecstatic. The USA premier at The Kate was a homecoming for Julia who has lived abroad since 2005. The performance also features popular Connecticut singer-songwriter and LH alum Sara LeMieux, ’97. For more information about the work visit www.juliapond.com.

'96 Erica Stella Lauer and husband Mark announce birth of their second child, Nathan Walker, born July 8, 2009. He has a big sister, Olivia, who is 3.

'96 Katherine Sewell Wetmore and husband Christopher announce the birth of their son, John Christopher, born November 25, 2009. His older sister Gracie is thrilled to have a younger brother! Also proud is John’s grandmother, Mary Lou Serritella Sewell, ’62.

'97 Sara Krochko announced her engagement to Thomas Carroll.*

'98 Katie Chiota Dresch and husband Brian, along with big sister Hailey, welcomed Campbell Rose on June 28, 2011. Proud grandparents are 2000 Claven Award recipient Dee Trautman Chiota, ’61 and 2011 McClean Award recipient Hon. John P. Chiota.

'98 Eileen Donohue was married to Brian Kenney, December 11, 2010 in the Lauralton Hall chapel.

'98 Amy Hiltz is engaged to Luis Perez.

'98 Ashley Moore Heaney announces the birth of her son, Nolan Alexander, born December 23, 2010 in Minneapolis.

'98 Bethany Oleynick Mpuku and husband Bob welcomed their first child, a son, Mason Thomas, on April 24, 2011.

'98 Taryn Stone Bobko and husband Jason, who were married on August 26, 2007, welcomed daughter Annabelle Lee on Feb. 6, 2011, joining big brother Ripley Anton who was born September 30, 2008.


'99 Mary (Christy) Pugh married Sergeant David P. Splan, October 10, 2010.


'99 Stefanie Stevens has announced her engagement to Lee Thomas Seslar.*

*Wedding planned to be held in Lauralton Hall Chapel

Class News
Friends from the Class of 2000 gather in April at Jennifer Scifo Baglio’s baby shower. From (l to r) Mary Oliveri Rob, Gianna Izzo DeSalvatore, Shannon Kelly Ruby, Jennifer Scifo Baglio, Clare Donnelly Spillane, Gina Gavern Cranston, and Alyson Ahlberg Cahill.

‘00 Nicole Secondi is engaged to Michael Giordani.*

‘01 Alena Mazotas recently hosted a Launch Party as a new Stella & Dot Stylist. The company is a San Francisco based social selling company that creates flexible entrepreneurial opportunities for women. For more information on Alena’s new business venture, see www.stelladot.com/brillant.

‘02 Diana Ferraro announced her engagement to Andres Carvajal.*

‘02 Sarah Jane Flood, a 2006 graduate of the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, and a 2010 post graduate of George Washington University, is a grants coordinator for the George Soros Open Society Foundation in New York City. Sarah is engaged to David Eric Hansen and is planning an October 2012 wedding.

‘02 Dana Golino is engaged to Chris Hausser.

‘03 Vanessa Dalling announced her engagement to Thomas Naples.*

‘03 Anne Loh is engaged to Mark Russo.*


‘04 Samantha Sherwood joined Teach for America, a program that puts top college graduates into the nation’s most poverty-stricken schools. Now in her third year of teaching, Samantha is a sixth grade science teacher in the South Bronx. She has taken the lead to redo the school’s science curriculum by focusing instruction in each grade on one topic, such as earth or life sciences. She is also helping start the school’s first newspaper. Samantha was featured in a front page article of the New York Times in May 2011 in regard to Mayor Bloomberg’s proposed education budget cuts. Afterward, her former faculty at LH applauded her on her achievements.

‘04 Valerie Spaight has announced her engagement to Brendan Olinyk.

‘05 Janine Bivona is engaged to Bryce Nyquist.*

‘06 Rachel Oberg announced her engagement to Chris Meyer.

‘06 Victoria Pennick married Tim Fitzmaurice, June 24, 2011.

‘06 Alyssa Reyes, who in May 2010 graduated from Yale University with Distinction in the major of Biomedical Engineering, has completed her first year at the

*Wedding planned to be held in Lauralton Hall Chapel
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She spent the summer mentoring Philadelphia high school students and collaborating on a public health website. Alyssa is engaged to be married to Matt Smith.

’07 Katherine Elizabeth McClain graduated from the University of New Hampshire as a Presidential Scholar majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She works for the Key Corporation in Rhode Island with troubled youth ages 11–19 in the juvenile courts.

’07 Melissa Salandra is engaged to Tom Tidgewell.

’07 Allison M. Vicenzi was the recipient of the William G. Millman, Jr. Memorial Scholarship which is presented to students at the University of Notre Dame who intend to attend law school and return to CT to practice. Allison is entering her senior year at University of Notre Dame and is majoring in Finance and Economics. The scholarship was created by the law firm Wiggin and Dana LLP, New Haven, and the CT Bar Association’s Antitrust & Trade Regulation Section in memory of their partner William Millman who succumbed to cancer.

’09 Bridget Gates completed her sophomore year at Bucknell University as a stand-out member of the Bisons women’s softball team. Bridget was a team captain her senior year at Lauralton, made 26 appearances with 19 starts as pitcher and ranks eighth in program history in single-season appearances. She also ranked in the top ten in Patriot League play, earning Rookie of the Week twice in the 2011 season, as well as Pitcher of the Week. During her freshman year at Bucknell, she joined a classmate as the first Bison since 1992 with at least ten wins in her freshman season.

**Dearly Departed Alumnae**

As of July 1, 2011

’27 Regina Devitt Moher, mother of Linda Moher Gilmartin, ’57 and Patricia Moher Frary, ’62, November 11, 2010

’28 Florentine Egan Kane, April 3, 2009

’31 Gertrude E. Rodrigue, October 19, 2001

’38 Helen Carroll Pizzo, April 1, 2011

’41 Constance Bond Williams, March 4, 2011

’46 Eleanor May Balogach, February 14, 2011

’46 Norma Silvernail Dolan, February 2, 2011

’47 Eileen Geaney Kelly, January 25, 2011

’50 Joanne Anderson Small, May 29, 2005

’51 Sally (Sara) Plumb Sokolski, March 27, 2011

’54 Joan Kelly Jarosik, January 18, 2011

’54 Sally Foley Martin, former Lauralton faculty; mother of Julia Martin Doherty, ’82, Mary Ellen Martin Warner, ’83, Sara Martin, ’87, sister of Mary Foley Dardani, ’51, February 8, 2011

’58 Patricia Mulvihill Davis, January 27, 2011

’59 Barbara Neary Smith, November 12, 2010

’63 Kathryn Lucarelle Penzotti, daughter of Kathryn Castelot Lucarelle, ’38, November 5, 2010

’64 Maureen V. McInerney, February 20, 2011

’87 Julie Ann Riazza, sister of Kari Tuczynski, ’93 and Suzanne Vecchi, ’90, June 27, 2011

’04 Kathryn (Kate) O’Brien, May 18, 2011

**In Memory**

Vincent Ambrose, husband of Theresa Chickanis Ambrose, ’48, February 19, 2011


Joseph D. Dolan, husband of Mary Ann Scull Dolan, ’56, April 24, 2011


Vivian Doyle, mother of Colleen Doyle, RSM, ’57, February 2, 2011

Elaine Fogler, mother of former Trustee and 2002 McClean Award recipient Stephen Fogler, Karen Fogler Creigh, ’72, Linda M. Fogler, ’75, grandmother of Vanessa Fogler, ’99; February 6, 2011

Gregory F. Gosselin, son of Lorraine Baduine Gosselin, ’51, May 18, 2011

Dr. Raymond Gabriele, father of Lauren Gabriele, ’02, March 11, 2011

Rachel Anne Lisi, daughter of Ernest and Judith Tarinelli Lisi, ’64, November 10, 2010

George V. Ludington, husband of Carol Mitzak Ludington, ’63, January 16, 2011

Marie McGuire, mother of Mary Ellen McGuire-Schwarz, ’68 and Anne McGuire, Ph.D., ’69, December 14, 2010

Catherine Eleanor Morgan, former secretary for the principal, mother of Mary Morgan Wolff, ’65, February 21, 2011

Philip (Michael) Obuhanick, brother of Alumnae Executive Board member, Penny Obuhanick Denos, ’80, Paula Obuhanick Wood, ’74; uncle of Cara Denos, ’10; June 11, 2011

Sister Mary Reagan (Sister Mary Agneta), RSM, former Lauralton faculty member, December 28, 2010

Clarence O. Rogers, grandfather of Kathryn C. Rogers, ’14, April 12, 2011

Martha Chapps Wall Sena, mother-in-law of former Board of Trustees member Rosemary Wall, March 13, 2011

Todd Scull, husband of Suzanne McCurry Scull, ’85, November 14, 2010

Lawrence Steele, husband of Noel Brady Steele, ’56, April 21, 2011
Mass cards
A special way for you to remember loved ones.

All members of the Lauralton Hall community have the opportunity to have mass offered in memory of a family member, friend or for a special intention.

The suggested donation is $10.

To request a mass card, please contact kdonahue@lauraltonhall.org or 203-877-2786, ext. 114.
Stay Connected!

Connecting with Alumnae Near and Far

Built on a social networking platform, Tripping is a global community of travelers focused on cultural exchange and hospitality. Tripping enables travelers to directly connect with local people and each other to share travel tips, friendly cups of coffee and home stays. It’s safe, free and good for the world.

Sign up for tripping.com...Join the Lauralton Hall Alumnae network today! https://www.tripping.com/network/Lauralton-Hall-Alumnae.

When traveling...You can meet local members of the Lauralton Hall Alumnae Network wherever you go. For example, imagine flying to London and meeting up with expats who graduated from Lauralton Hall or alumnae who are currently studying there. They’ll give you travel pointers, talk to you about their city over lunch and even invite you into their homes. Your trips will instantly become more colorful, cultural and memorable.

When at home...Not going anywhere for a while? You can meet travelers and local members of the Lauralton Hall Alumnae Network in your area. In addition to expanding your personal and professional networks, you’ll have fun connecting with other members for conversation, parties, dinners and other fun local activities.

Sign up for our E-Newsletter...Keep informed about all the latest happenings at Lauralton! Sign up to receive our new online bi-monthly e-newsletter which is sent out every other month to your e-mail address. If you are not already receiving our e-news, you may sign up on our website, www.lauraltonhall.org.

Find us on:

Mystery Photos
Identify these photos and win a Lauralton shirt!

Send the details and your memories to the Alumnae Relations office or e-mail kdonahue@lauraltonhall.org.

Last Issue’s Winners

Penny Obuhnick Denos, ’80 was the first to identify the beautiful fireplace located on the second floor of the mansion. In her day, it was Father Doherty’s religion classroom. Several members of the Class of 1961 also recalled the classroom where they learned Latin from Sister Conta.

Numerous members of the Class of 1964 wrote in to share their memories of their classmates in this photo. The lucky winner was Vicki Paone Grande, ’64, of Orange, who knew immediately that the girls standing were Mary Alice Houde, Sue Keefe, Charlotte Lovino and Bonnie McFarland. On the piano bench sat Chris Karpowicz and Cheri Jarvis. Honorable mention goes to Maryann Roche, ’63, of Fairfield who has fond memories of Bonnie McFarland who also attended St. Joseph College in West Hartford with her. She fondly recalls that Bonnie was never without a smile!

November 9, 2011: Boston Alumnae Reception
December 6, 2011: Washington, DC Alumnae Reception
December 7, 2011: Christmas in Song, 7:30 PM, Parsons Complex, Milford
January 25, 2012: Class Agents Meeting at LH; 12:30 PM and 6:30 PM
January 26, 2012: Naples, FL Alumnae Reception
January 30, 2012: Ft. Lauderdale, FL Alumnae Reception
February 6, 2012: San Francisco, CA Alumnae Reception
February 15, 2012: Valentines Dance for Senior Citizen Community, 1:30 PM
March 3, 2012: Irish Night, 7:30 PM
March 7, 2012: New Haven Alumnae Reception
March 12-14, 2012: Annual Spring Phone-a-thon
March 2012: Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner; date to be determined
April 11, 2012: Student Career Day
April 24, 2012: Class of 2012 Alumnae Induction Ceremony & Luncheon
May 12, 2012: Grounds Beautification Day, 9:00 a.m., raindate May 19
June 3, 2012: Class of 2012 Graduation & Class of 1962 50th Reunion Graduation Reception
Annual Fund
2011–2012

“Since very little good can be accomplished without money, we must look after it in small as well as in great matters.”
—CATHERINE MCAULEY, FOUNDERESS OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Your gift matters!
Each gift to the Lauralton Hall Annual Fund improves the quality of every student’s education.

Annual Fund support allows us to:
• Maintain and build our community
• Provide the opportunities and tools young women need for success
• Grow and improve our programming
• Teach and uphold the Mercy tradition

To make a gift online go to www.lauraltonhall.org/give

Giving Levels

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Announcing The Lauralton Hall

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors individuals who have performed with distinction and/or have been instrumental in the overall development and success of Lauralton Athletics.

Awards will be presented at the inaugural Lauralton Hall Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Dinner at Racebrook Country Club Orange, Connecticut in Spring 2012

Eligibility criteria and nomination form are available at www.lauraltonhall.org/athletics

Deadline for Nominations: November 1, 2011