

SPRING 2021



URSULA UPDATE

# SOME PATHS LEAD BACK HOME



A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNAE, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF **ST. URSULA ACADEMY**



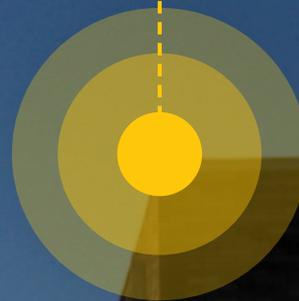
# SOME PATHS **LEAD BACK HOME**

During high school, girls often dream of life after graduation. For some, it means looking forward to campus life. For others, it means landing a fantastic job so she can buy a car and be independent. For others, it means getting out of her hometown to explore the world, with nothing holding her back. Wherever her dreams take her, she has a path for the next few years.

And, after a few years—sometimes more than a few—a path that once led away from home often becomes a road beckoning one back, lit with wonderful memories of happy times.

SUA has lit a path home for many alumnae over the years. Our grads fondly remember their days in these halls, and, although their roles change when they return, they want to rekindle those feelings.

We at SUA are grateful that the grads featured in our cover story found their path back home, as we are better—and brighter—for it.





## URSULA UPDATE

### PRESIDENT

Mary Conlisk Werner '74 P '01, '03, '05

### PRINCIPAL

Nichole Operacz Flores '89 P '15, '21

### EDITOR

Jane Pfeifer

### LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Tess Segura

### CONTRIBUTORS

Yolanda Robinson Durden '86 P '14  
*Alumnae Engagement Coordinator*

Rita Hayes P '26, '28  
*Director of Admissions and Marketing*

Michelle Moses P '22, '24  
*Special Events and Advancement Services Manager*

Emily Otto  
*Annual Fund Coordinator*

Josh Yecke  
*Director of Advancement*

### SPECIAL THANKS

Avery Kamm '25, Cora Pearson '26

***Ursula Update is published for the alumnae, families, and friends of St. Ursula Academy.***

**Please direct all comments to:**

(419) 329-2253 | mmoses@toledosua.org  
St. Ursula Academy, 4025 Indian Rd., Toledo, OH 43606



ST. URSULA ACADEMY

## CONTENTS SPRING 2021

- 4 A Letter from the President
- 5 A Letter from the Principal
- 6 A Letter from the Board Chair
- 7 SUA Board of Trustees Welcomes Four New Members
- 8 COVER STORY: Some Paths Lead Back Home**

### ACADEMICS

- 14 Forensic Science Course New to SUA
- 16 Faculty Members Spend Summer Helping Future Arrows

### ACTIVE ARROWS

- 19 The Pandemic Can't Stop SUA Students with a Cause
- 21 The Merici Society Brings Christmas Cheer
- 22 Her Love of the Water Led to a Love of Water
- 23 More Clubs Added to the Junior Academy

### ARTS

- 24 The Art of Musical Theater Class Flourishes
- 25 Tiny Door Project Brings Joy to Community

### ATHLETICS

- 26 Kelsey Hills-Finucan '04 Enters BW Athletic Hall of Fame
- 27 Athletic Signings

### ARROWS IN FAITH

- 28 SUA Remembers Sr. Kathleen Padden
- 29 Arrows Get Creative with Service Projects
- 30 The Toledo Labre Project Perseveres through the Pandemic
- 31 One Ursuline Ministry Closes; Other Opportunities Expand

### ADMISSIONS

- 32 Class of 2025 by the Numbers

### ALUMNAE

- 33 Alumna Profile: Maryann O'Conor '72
- 34 SUA Receives \$1 Million Planned Gift to Honor 1960 Alumna
- 35 Alumna Profile: Erin Baker '98
- 36 The Nonprofit Track: Working for the Common Good
- 38 Class Notes
- 40 In Memory of our Alumnae
- 41 In Memoriam
- 42 Alumna Profile: Kai Perry '98

## Mary Conlisk Werner '74, President

### MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in the Ursuline tradition and rooted in the Catholic faith, St. Ursula Academy educates each young woman, transforming her through intellectual inquiry, personal growth, spiritual formation, and compassionate service, empowering her to lead confidently in a global society.

### VISION

St. Ursula Academy is the premier educational choice for young women and their parents, fostering a learning environment that develops young women of wisdom, service, and faith so that each is empowered to embrace the challenges of the world with leadership, courage, and compassion.

### CORE VALUES

- Ursuline Spirituality
- Academic Excellence
- Service
- Leadership
- Community
- Openness to Change
- Care of the Individual
- Development of the Whole Person

### ALMA MATER

St. Ursula, St. Ursula,  
our own loved Gold and Blue:  
Across the years of memories  
Our hearts go out to you.

Friendships formed  
are cherished as years go by,  
Scenes of happy days;  
Today we sing thy praise anew,  
We'll loyal be to the Gold and Blue  
And our own loved SUA.

St. Ursula, St. Ursula,  
our own loved Gold and Blue:  
Across the years of memories  
Our hearts go out to you.

Recently, I had an impromptu conversation with a group of Junior Academy students. The girls were wide-eyed and curious. "What is your job at SUA?," they asked. "How do you get to be the President?" The questions flowed as the girls had my undivided attention. And then when I shared that I was a graduate of St. Ursula Academy just about 50 years ago, after a chorus of "WHOA!," the next question came. "Why did you come back to work at SUA?"

I paused and said most sincerely, "Because of each of you."

I knew from my high school years at SUA, combined with my subsequent years of service as a Board Member and a parent of three SUA graduates, that the St. Ursula Academy experience transforms lives. The experience of developing leaders, faith, and the bonds of sisterhood, not to mention our outstanding academic foundation, were in sync with my calling to be a part of something bigger, something bolder, and something that changes lives.

The other alumnae who work in these halls share a similar passion. Whether a teacher, principal, school counselor, alumnae engagement coordinator, or even our own Director of the Junior Academy, SUA gave each of us wings to fly. Those wings brought us back home, and we are honored to return to continue the mission of St. Ursula Academy—to prepare young women for college, but most importantly, for a life of meaning.

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Mary  
President*



Follow President Mary Werner on Twitter @mwerner74pres.

“ Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back, and reasons to stay. ”

DALAI LAMA

## Nichole Operacz Flores '89, Principal

We love the moment our Arrows return “home” to SUA. We find that so many Arrows return home for a purpose—whether it be to tell a story, give thanks, visit faculty, or to simply remember. No matter the reason, we cherish those visits, knowing there is no place like home.

Leaving home is not easy and does not happen without vast preparation and luminous growth. As we prepare to graduate 123 Arrows from the Class of 2021, I can't help thinking about the intentional dedication that goes into every Arrow. From the moment each one of them enters our quiver, we sharpen our Arrows in preparation for their future flights.

We take each Arrow and sharpen her with knowledge, providing her an educational experience that awakens her mind. Some of these experiences include trying a new art course or challenging herself with an Honors or Advanced Placement course. Other experiences may include competing in academic competitions, such as our STEM program or Architecture Club. Other students enjoy traveling to a different country or participating in Mock Trial.

We take each Arrow and sharpen her faith life with an awareness of the needs of others. Our Labre program is one example of the ways students respond to the needs of local people weekly with food, company, and prayer. Not only do students participate in service hours, but they also pray together during Mass, prayer services, and retreats.

We take each Arrow and sharpen her confidence with an array of leadership opportunities, both in and out of the classroom. From Student Council to the moments students have with each other in a classroom, they are learning to use their voices and their hearts.

By graduation, our Arrows are well prepared for us to pull them from the safety of our quiver, draw them back, and then let go. They have their eyes set on college and their hearts set on making a difference in the world.

What they discover later is the labor of love that was put into each one of them while she was here at SUA. They recall their fond memories and realize the challenges and celebrations that led to their own personal growth. Our Arrows return with love, gratitude, and a plethora of actions that have made our world a better place for the last 166 years.

As an alumna, Class of 1989, it has been a walk down memory lane serving as principal. My four years at SUA were filled with faith, friends, and academics. The vibrant school spirit that permeated SUA in 1989 is still very much alive and pulls at my heart every time I enter the building. I also am so grateful for the sacrifices of my parents and the vision that they had for me. Just as my parents drew me back to let me fly, this year marks a personal moment for me. My youngest daughter, Abigail, will be graduating with the Class of 2021. I, too, will be drawing my bow and sending her off into the world, knowing that she will forever call SUA “home.”

Prayers to our Class of 2021 and all our families and friends,

***Nichole***

*Principal*



# Craig Mancinotti, Board of Trustees Chair

In following the theme of this issue of *Ursula Update*, that “some paths lead back home,” I am compelled to draw out some of the work to be done in St. Ursula Academy’s 2020 Strategic Plan, *Making a Difference*. The plan requires action for the entire school, but specifically articulates a few areas where we need to build and improve the roads that lead alumnae back to SUA. These roads will lead our alumnae home to teach, to serve, and to give.

› **Come home to teach**—we need to attract, hire, and retain the most talented, diverse, and mission-congruent faculty, and we know that our alumnae community holds tremendous potential for us to achieve this strategy.

› **Come home to serve**—we need to expand the connection of current students with alumnae through a comprehensive program of events and speakers. We know our alumnae have lived and learned lessons that they can share with our girls—and with each other—that will enrich their perspectives. Additionally, we need our alumnae to serve on our Board and committees (welcome home, Mérida and Lauren; pg. 7), coach our teams, and help us network with their friends, family, and classmates, near and far.

› **Come home to give**—we need to create a culture of philanthropy that provides alumnae with fulfilling opportunities to support SUA’s mission. We know the power of women’s philanthropy and believe SUA can offer alumnae a unique opportunity to do the good that they want to do. It’s our responsibility to build the roads for them to do that—otherwise, our mission to educate each young woman can’t happen.

I’d be remiss to not thank the alumnae who are already teaching, serving, and giving, as each of you lay the foundation for our new roads.

We’re still in the early months of preparing and building these roads that lead home, but our faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees are working on them every day. As we continue to take action on *Making a Difference*, if you notice a road home to SUA, take it. It will make a difference for you and for our girls.

**Craig**  
*Board of Trustees Chair*



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Craig Mancinotti** P '09, '12  
*Chair*

**Lisa Strasser Krebs '92** P '25  
*Vice-Chair*

**Jodi Miehls** P '16  
*Treasurer*

**Kristen Connelly Polizzi '90** P '19, '21  
*Secretary*

**Mérida Allen '97**

**Timothy A. Alter** P '98, '01

**John Amonett** P '18, '20

**James Bingle**

**James DeVerne** P '15, '19, '21

**Lauren Deaton Dzierwa '96** P '27

**Sr. Joy Gray '68, OSU**

**Taber Hinkle** P '17, '19

**Alison Rasmus Krieger '95**

**Tracee L. Perryman, Ph. D. '97**

**Mary Ellen Pizza, M.D.**  
P '04, '07, '09, '10

**Kathryn Rotte** P '13

**Sr. Sandy Sherman, OSU**

**Aly Sterling** P '16, '20, '25

**Michael White** P '20

**Sarah Richard Zibbel '98**

**Mary Conlisk Werner '74** P '01, '03, '05  
*President*

**Nichole Operacz Flores '89** P '15, '21  
*Principal*

ST. URSULA ACADEMY IS  
SPONSORED BY  
THE URSULINE SISTERS OF TOLEDO

# SUA Board of Trustees Welcomes Four New Members



**MÉRIDA ALLEN '97** is the Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director for Multi-Ethnic Education and Engagement Center at the University of Dayton. She recently joined SUA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Mérida earned a bachelor's degree in Education and Communication from the University of Toledo, before going on to earn a master's degree in Higher Education Administration, as well as a graduate certificate in Communication Studies, from the University of Toledo. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of Dayton in the Education Leadership Program, with a concentration in Higher Education.

Mérida will provide tremendous wisdom and perspective as the Board works toward enhancing its efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion planning and action.

---



**JAMES BINGLE** has been a Senior Trust Advisor at Fifth Third Bank since 2017. Jimmy is a Toledo native with more than eight years of experience in fiduciary services, estate planning, and probate administration.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio University before attending University of Toledo College of Law, from which he graduated in 2012. Jimmy is married to Katy Kurz '03 and has a daughter (a future Arrow) and two sons.

Jimmy's passion for Catholic education has been an important part of his life since kindergarten. He will be able to help continue that enthusiasm in SUA's mission.

---



**LAUREN DEATON DZIERWA '96** is the Chief Financial Officer/Partner of Laibe Electric/Technology. Lauren is part of the Advancement Committee of the Board, as well.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics from Bowling Green State University. She holds certifications in Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) and National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). Lauren has received two community awards: ProMedica Health System Young Philanthropist of the Year in 2016 and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Woman of the Year in 2018.

Lauren and her husband, David, are the parents of Abbey '27 (one of SUA's newest Arrows) and Evan. She is a proud SUA alumna and wants to continue using her financial and fundraising expertise to help move SUA's mission forward.

---



**MICHAEL WHITE** is the owner of Buckeye Real Estate Group. He has been building homes since 1994. Mike has also built numerous commercial buildings in the area. Buckeye Real Estate Group has been chosen for the fourth year in a row to build the 2021 St. Jude Dream Home.

Mike attended the University of Toledo and graduated with a marketing degree from the College of Business. He is married to Anne (30 years) and has four children: Jacob, Jason, Aaron, and Ellie '20.

Mike strongly believes in single-sex Catholic education.



# SOME PATHS LEAD BACK HOME

by **JANE PFEIFER**, *Editor*

*Two of St. Ursula Academy's many beloved teachers—two with really “fun” classes—are alumnae who found a path back home after graduation. One never strayed too far and had a clear idea of what she wanted to do; the other ventured far away, then made a life-altering change that brought her back to SUA. Both exemplify SUA spirit and confidence; they are great examples to their students of what it means to be an Arrow through and through.*

## HOME IS WHERE THE SOFTBALL DIAMOND IS

### **AMY MUSZYNSKI**

**(“MISS M”) '04** is one of St. Ursula Academy's true “characters.” With a loving, larger-than-life personality and hilarious sense of humor, she immediately draws students to her. Visitors (“Arrows for a Day”) who spend an hour in her class rave to their parents about “Miss M.” Seniors who had her as sixth graders still show up in her classroom after school, just for a chat. She knows everything about all of them. She's

the outrageous teacher who made them laugh and definitely formed an impression.

Most of the students know that Miss M is an alumna—her love for SUA is obvious, and she certainly shares her stories of her days at SUA with them throughout the semester. Surely, they know she is a state championship softball player (2004); she is so proud of that victory. But they might



## KELSIE LaVALLEY '08, *School Counselor*

After SUA, Kelsie LaValley '08 attended Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, and studied Middle Childhood Education. She graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts and

her licensure in Language Arts and Reading, Reading, and Social Studies for grades 4-9.

Her first teaching job was taking over her older sister Alyssa's maternity leave for her first-grade class. After a few years of teaching, Kelsie left to earn her master's degree at the University of Toledo, from which she graduated in 2017 with a Master of Arts in the Counselor Education program, specializing in School and Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Kelsie made her way back to SUA when she completed her last semester of her internship for school counseling. "At first, it was a little strange adjusting to my high school teachers now being my colleagues. Looking back on it

now, though, it has been such a blessing reconnecting with all my previous teachers, and it feels like a full circle. They helped me so much to get where I am today, and now I can do the same for my students.

**"It feels so good to be back, and I feel blessed to be able to walk these halls as a member of the SUA community!"**

"I find myself reflecting on my own high school experiences often, especially when I am with my freshman and seniors. It is such a transitional time, and I can remember how exciting and challenging those years were. I reflect often on how SUA was a huge component in shaping me as a student, professional, and community member."

Kelsie's grandma Judy (Taylor) Hood, mom Kristine (Hood) LaValley, two sisters, many aunts, and cousins all attended SUA. "This community has always felt like home!"

not know about all the work she has put in over the years behind the scenes, especially during the time when the Junior Academy was just a dream.

A Catholic girl from the get-go, Amy attended St. Rose before coming to SUA. Older sister Jill graduated from SUA in 2000, but it was more the academic rigor and the softball program and its coach that drew Amy to SUA than the legacy of her sister. Her friends and teammates were mostly going to Perrysburg High School, but she wanted more. And more she got. She made varsity softball as a freshman, so she ended up as a four-year letter winner. During her freshman-year season, she was a starting pitcher and traveled with the team to a tournament in Nashville. She managed to squeeze in playing freshman basketball in the winter, too.

As the next few years rolled by, softball (and academics) took over her life: conditioning, hanging out with her friends on the team, practicing, getting ready for games. But her hard work paid off.



By junior year, the team was the district runner-up. But that wasn't good enough for the rising seniors, who were determined to do better the next season. Amy said, "We all met and decided 'we are going to win it all this year.' We got some new talent, it was our coach's last year, and we knew we were the perfect group to win the championship." They "totally understood what it took to win—and we also didn't want our season to end."

So, at the end of Amy's senior year, with all the other senior challenges going on (exams, senior project, graduation, grad parties, and playoffs), the girls focused and kept on winning. Eventually, they did make it to the final four in Ashland, Ohio. The championship game—SUA vs. Uniontown Lake—was a nail-biter until the sixth inning, when SUA hit a little grounder to the shortstop, who couldn't make the play in time. Amy scored to tie the game at 1. Then her teammate, showing no attempt to slow down, barreled into home to score another run. SUA won 2-1, securing its first state championship in softball.

When asked about her most cherished memory of SUA, one might think Miss M would say her state championship win. And she does...but she immediately adds something that is equally near and dear to her heart: the fact that she helped develop and has been part of the Junior Academy since its inception.

Obviously, Amy didn't go directly from her graduation to working at SUA. Well, in a way she did. She attended University of Toledo to earn her teaching degree; because the SUA coaches and athletic director knew she was in town, they asked her to coach the freshman softball team the spring after she graduated. Amy agreed, although it was a bit "awkward" to be a player one year and a coach the next. But she loved being back with the team and on the SUA field.

Amy earned her bachelor's degree in Education with a middle school social studies emphasis from the University of Toledo. She subbed at St. Rose, her former elementary school, then added Assistant Athletic Director at SUA to her resume, then became a part-time teacher at SUA, all while coaching and working behind the scenes to help launch the Junior Academy.

The JA was officially established during Amy's second year teaching at SUA. She knew she wanted to be part of it from the minute she heard about it. Her first year in the JA, she taught social studies, computers, study skills, and physical education. Now, she is an integral part of the JA, as the only teacher who has been there from the beginning. She teaches social studies mainly and, occasionally, a different class or two.

Amy now drives to school each morning with her niece, Kailyn Blakeman, who is a junior. "It makes me feel old; she was just six when we started the JA." Kailyn's mom, Jill, is Amy's older sister, making Kailyn a second-generation Arrow. Amy's younger sister, Dr. Ashley Muszynski, graduated in 2007. SUA is clearly in the Muszynski/Blakeman family's blood.

And Amy is the model for Arrow pride. "SUA will always be my home. I'm so involved. This school means so much to me; I'm fully invested in it. I spend more hours here than at my own home."



## ASHLEY GIBEL DIEBALL '08, *Theology Faculty*

Ashley Gibel majored in musical theatre at Bowling Green State University after she graduated from SUA. But by her junior year, she felt a true "call back home to SUA," which hit her during an acting class. "I could feel God calling me to a different path in life, or rather, to take a turn on the path He had already laid before me, because the time developing my skills in the arts was certainly valuable, as I still use those skills in music ministry today. After saying 'yes' to God's call, I changed my major and graduated from BGSU with a Bachelor of Science in Education. I immediately started working towards my Master of Arts degree in Theology, in hopes of one day returning to St. Ursula to teach." She graduated with her master's degree in 2016.

Ashley had just finished her first year of master's degree classes at Lourdes University when she received a call that St. Ursula needed a theology teacher, and her name was the first to come to mind. "It was surreal returning! It felt like I had never left."

"Having been back for a while, I occasionally reflect on my own high school experience, but we're living in a different time now. Our Arrows experience high school through a completely different lens. However, the Arrow sisterhood and SUA community are timeless, no matter the decade or century."

**"I still vividly remember my last time driving out of the SUA parking lot after graduation practice! I was in tears, but I knew SUA would always be home, and I was confident that I would be back some day."**



# I WOULD (DRIVE) FIVE HUNDRED MILES...

## KIRSTEN KEDZIERSKI HINSHAW '00

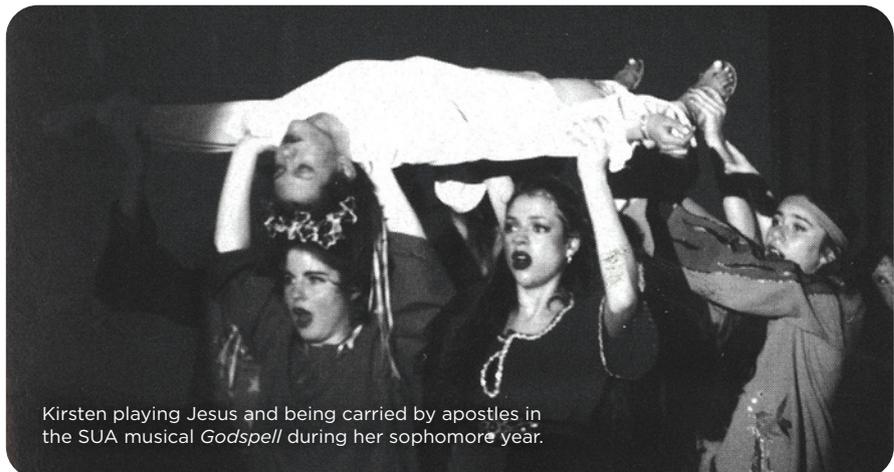
decided her path back to SUA would be circuitous, winding, and unexpected. And that's okay, because Kirsten is one of the most creative, outgoing, and gregarious people one could ever meet. An actress through and through, she would probably never take the easy road anywhere—that would be too boring.

Instead, her path took her through all 50 states; along the way, she performed in a few regional shows, attended a Costa Rican wedding that changed her life, lived in 15 apartments, and finally moved back to her hometown of Toledo.

After graduating from SUA, Kirsten made a beeline to Manhattan to study at the American Music and Dramatic Academy (AMDA). While her living accommodations were less than ideal (“the apartment building was transitioning from a mental health facility to a “dorm,” but it was about 50/50 when I was there,” she said) and she was still 17 years old, she embraced the learning at AMDA. In her fourth quarter there, she auditioned for—and got—a role in “Mame,” which was being produced in Hilton Head, S.C. After

that, she earned a role in “Grease,” and she began a whirlwind tour of the U.S., performing in 47 states, in auditoriums of all sizes. Sometimes, when performing in bigger cities, famous stars took a role in the production, so she worked with the likes of Frankie Avalon and Chubby Checker.

Daily life traveling between cities on a crowded bus was fun, but challenging. If the cast had a few days in one city, Kirsten and her friends could explore. But that didn't happen too often.



Kirsten playing Jesus and being carried by apostles in the SUA musical *Godspell* during her sophomore year.

After one year, she had to decide on another path: renew her contract or take on a new role in the tour of “Fame,” where she would be an assistant company manager and have a slightly more flexible schedule, with an “out clause” in her contract. She went into management, but soon after left and moved to Los Angeles. Although she hated the city and quickly moved back to New York, she ended up becoming great friends with her roommate, even attending her wedding in Costa Rica, at which Kirsten met her husband, who was attending a completely different wedding at the same resort.

By 23, Kirsten was tired of NYC and the daily grind of auditioning, so she moved to Washington, D. C., where her now-husband lived. She found a great job in arts education at the Kennedy Center, where she worked with teachers to help them make lessons more inclusive for students

who were hearing-impaired or blind, or who had behavioral or sensory issues. Although she loved her job, Kirsten and Scot decided to move to Chicago, a new city for both of them.

In Chicago, Kirsten, who had fallen in love with the idea of teaching while working at the Kennedy Center, started in on getting a college degree online—and finished it in only two years, taking loads of credit hours at a time. She holds a Communication and World Culture bachelor’s degree from the City University of New York. She had a baby two weeks after she completed her degree (Parker ’31, a future Arrow).

Another move came along, this time to Ann Arbor, Mich. A surprise call from Mary Werner, who had just become president of SUA, led to a conversation about joining the SUA faculty and directing the school musical, which eventually

became a reality. Kirsten has now been back at SUA since 2014 and has directed six full-scale musical productions (her seventh was cancelled by the pandemic).

Kirsten’s favorite classes to teach are “The Art of Musical Theater” and, surprisingly, “JA Financial Literacy.” She loves being back in a single-gender atmosphere, as it makes her remember what she loved about SUA as a student: “I just liked that we could be ourselves and not worry about others.” She is also reminded of how nice it was to be so close to her Arrow sisters. “My class was so supportive of each other; we were absolutely dedicated to each other. I love when I see that in students these days, too.”



## ELLEN LOEFFLER KALINOSKI '77, *Visual Arts Faculty*

Ellen attended University of Dayton after graduating from SUA; there, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in

Commercial Design and attended a summer study abroad program. She worked as an art director in Dayton, then moved back to Toledo, where she became the designer/photographer for a hospital. After working as an art director at a local advertising agency, she started her own design and photography business.

“When my oldest daughter was a junior at SUA, the principal and president approached me about teaching photography. I had never taught before, but soon found I enjoyed it and loved connecting with the girls in a class that they were excited about and eager to learn. Being back among the young ladies is invigorating and exciting,

and just being in these halls makes you feel alive!” Kalinoski said.

“It’s so interesting to see how similar, but different, the girls of today are. I feel many of them are more focused on their goals and future than we were, yet so many of our experiences are the same: friends, yearbook, dances, sports, and many other activities.”

In reminiscing about her time at SUA with her Arrow sisters, Kalinoski said, “SUA gave us a strong foundation and shared experiences that continue to grow each year. We have so many funny stories and experiences that we still laugh about today!”

“The friendships I made as a student at SUA have continued over the years, and these women are still my closest friends today.”



**YOLANDA ROBINSON DURDEN '86, P '14**  
*Alumnae Engagement Coordinator*

"SUA traditions are a part of my daily work routine. I start with prayer, share announcements of recognition and words to motivate, and reflect on ways individuals in our community can be part of something meaningful. I look to shine a light on our personally accomplished SUA graduates. I am blessed."



**JENNIFER ROBERTSON GUZMAN '95, P '15**  
*Director of the Junior Academy Program*

"Returning to SUA has reenergized my sense of purpose and renewed my passion for education. Working alongside some of my favorite high school teachers has given me a greater appreciation for the positive impact they had on my life. I hope to pass along the same support and empowering confidence to our current Arrows."



**HOLLY SHIPLE MARTENS '05,**  
*Director of Finance*

"Walking back into halls brought back a flood of happy memories, but the best part was I got to have SUA's delicious, frosted sugar cookies once again!"



**ROXANNA FAIR '13,**  
*Maintenance*

"I'm so happy to be back at SUA! Every day, I'm able to experience the same encouraging and supportive environment I had as a student. I feel so fortunate to say I love where I work!"



**MARY FONDREN-BEAKAS '82, P '18 (x2)**  
*Main Office Receptionist*

"Being back home at SUA, I feel a sense of warmth, a strong community of faith, and sense of belonging. I love reconnecting with my roots and strengthening friendships from years gone by.

As alumnae, we take great pride in our school, and we can relate to the traditions and know the value of an Ursuline education. Our hearts go out to you, Arrow Sisters!"



**MARY CONLISK WERNER '74, P '01, '03, '05**  
*President*

"Over the years, SUA was never far from my heart. But being back home confirmed why it was never far. The same intangible spirit of joy, sisterhood, and academic excellence still lives in these halls. *Soli deo Gloria* remains the foundation!"



**SUSAN STRUGALSKI MORELL '66,**  
*Maintenance*

*Susan was too busy keeping our school ship-shape to share a memory! But no one wears more SUA spirit shirts than Susan!*



**BOO ANDERSON HENSIEN '73, P '06**  
*Main Office Receptionist*

"Wow, what does it feel like to be back home? It feels like I have my favorite pair of PJs on, and I could not be more comfortable!"



**REBECCA ALEXANDER MEHRING '94, P '22**  
*ASP Clerk, Women in Leadership Faculty*

"What a blessing and life-changing experience it has been being back home at SUA. I have the beautiful gift of working with some of my past incredible teachers who had such a profound mark on my being.

We have such a strong faith-filled presence here that I am blessed to absorb every day. There's no place like home."



**NICHOLE OPERACZ FLORES '89, P '16, P '21**  
*Principal*

"Returning to SUA reminded me of the strong faith I developed during my time here. It also gave me the chance to share more memories with my own two girls, who are Arrows themselves."



# Forensic Science Course New to SUA

by **RITA HAYES**, *Director of Admissions and Marketing*

New to SUA this year is a Forensic Science course that has quickly become a student favorite.

Perhaps the biggest inspiration for the course came from alumna Tonya Wiggins Rider '86 sharing her knowledge of the field. Rider visited SUA in 2018 and 2019 to explain her experience as a former detective with the Toledo Police Department and her current role as a professor of criminal justice at Bowling Green State University. She has also appeared on the true crime series *Cold Justice*—a show in which real-life criminal cases are re-examined.

Following these visits, growing student interest in a Forensics course at SUA further contributed to Dr. Kara Kile's desire to create the course.

[The course] incorporates an impressive amount of science and technology disciplines...it also requires mathematics skills and exposes students to criminology and criminal justice.

Kara, SUA faculty member and science department chair, shared that students in her Fall 2019 Anatomy and Physiology course showed a great deal of interest in forensics. This interest, along with Kara's multidisciplinary science background in biomedical engineering, generated momentum for the new course offering.

Kara went to work creating the course outline, which was enthusiastically supported by SUA's academic leadership team. In fall 2020, she offered the first

Forensic Science course to juniors and seniors. This semester, she is teaching another fully enrolled section of the course. Enrollment has only increased for next year, with possibly three sections being offered throughout the year.

In class, students explore a wide variety of science techniques that are used to analyze crime scene evidence, including numerous physical evidence investigation activities, such as DNA fingerprinting, latent print discovery, presumptive drug testing, chromatography, handwriting analysis, blood typing, blood stain pattern analysis, hair and fiber analysis, and impressions identification. For example, students apply physics and mathematics to learn how the patterns in a blood splatter can provide details about the timeline of events and tell the story of the way a crime may have occurred. Finally, students experience simulated crime scenes to determine what happened through crime scene investigation and reconstruction. Students work in teams to secure the scene, identify and photograph evidence, collect evidence, interview witnesses, and create crime scene sketches.

In addition, the students look further into career opportunities in both forensic science and criminal justice. Throughout the course, they draw connections to well-known criminal cases. A variety of hands-on or demonstrated lab activities further the students' understanding of topics.

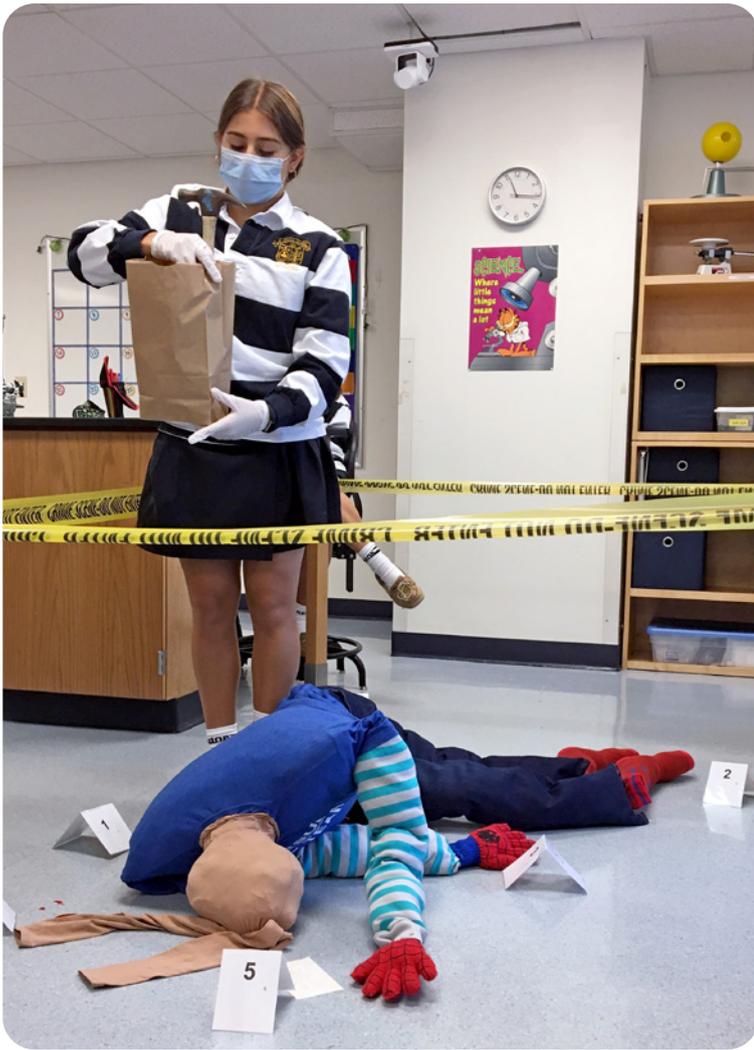
Students also explore relevant topics throughout the course, such as the CSI effect, criminal behavior analysis, digital forensics, death investigation, eyewitness testimony, and facial composites.

One of the aspects of the course that is unique is the way it incorporates an impressive amount of science and technology disciplines, including biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy, physiology,

anthropology, entomology, psychology, and computer science. It also requires mathematics skills and exposes students to criminology and criminal justice.

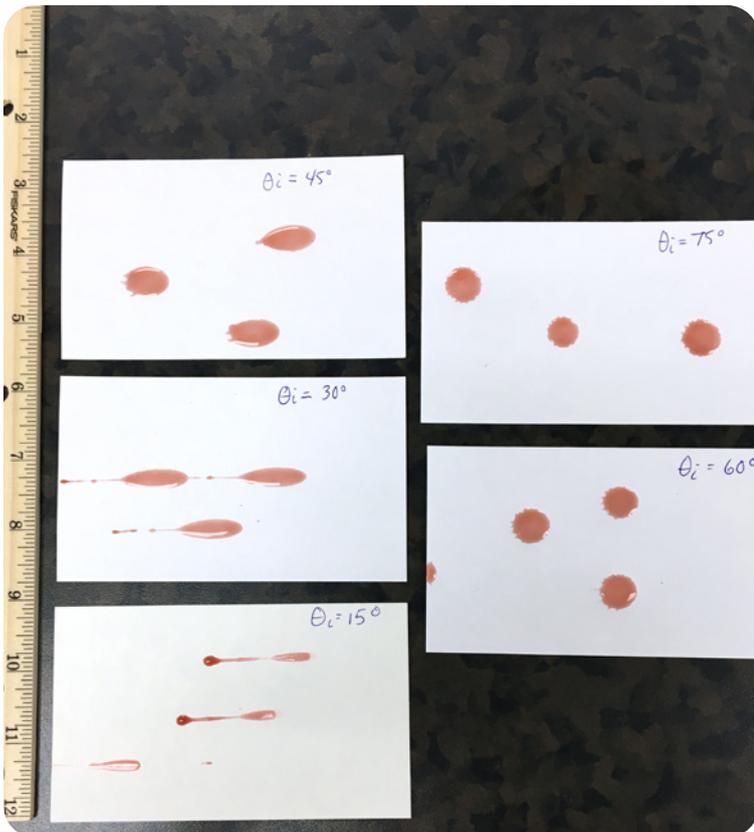
Kara said student feedback, as well as including students in the process of selecting topics for discussion and choosing class activities, helps improve the course. The students' input allows Kara to continually incorporate content that is exciting and engaging.

The course concludes by touching on social justice and the Innocence Project. The class discusses historic court cases that have had a profound impact on the US criminal justice system.



Forensic Science is one of my favorite classes I have taken at SUA. It isn't a required class, yet I would say that everyone should take it. From case studies to labs, I have learned so much in a short amount of time. My favorite part of the class is researching cases (both old and recent) and determining who I think the suspect is based on the given evidence. Forensic Science is such an interesting topic and is definitely the highlight of my day!

**KALEENA SIERS '21**



# Faculty Members Spend Summer Hours Grading AP Exams to Help Future Arrows

While many teachers take a well-deserved summer break, a few take advantage of the option to read Advanced Placement (AP) exams—with the altruistic reason of learning more about the test, which will, in turn, help them teach their students more about what to expect the next year when taking their own tests. Although the pandemic turned this convocation of readers—a wonderful place to meet with peers from around the country—into a Zoom experience last summer and this summer, readers still learned all they could about the test itself and the grading nuances.

## Dr. Violeta Padron, World Language



**Why she does it:** “I wanted to know more about the College Board expectations and parameters for the AP Spanish exam so I could bring that information back to SUA. Being an AP reader has made me a much better AP teacher.”

**A little loco:** “When I tell people I spend seven days, six-to-seven hours a day, in the summer grading high school AP Spanish exams, they think I am crazy!!! One year, I graded 783 essays. That is more than 100 essays a day!!!”

**Years grading AP exams:** four

**Small world:** “At the grading site a few years ago, I ran into an old friend from graduate school whom I had not seen in a long time, but it was at breakfast on my very last day!”

We had been eating breakfast at around the same time in the same room all week and never saw each other! Usually about 1700 readers are on site for the AP language readings, so this is not that unusual!”

## Dr. Kara Kile, Science



**Why she does it:** “I hope to use this reading experience in AP Biology in guiding my course development, in particular those elements that are intended to foster exam preparedness in my students. I hope to rotate my experience next year and participate in the AP Computer Science reading program to aid in developing our growing Computer Science course offerings at St. Ursula Academy.”

**The experience:** “The event is scheduled for seven days in June, with grading taking

place throughout the day. Readers are expected to contribute between four and eight (or more) hours per day. Usually, readers would travel from all over the country to gather at a single location, where grading would take place in person.”

## Brandi Sharlow, Social Studies



**Why she does it:** “I chose to become a reader for AP Research to better my instruction of the course. Learning how the exam is scored and how the rubric is implemented year to year has been extremely valuable in teaching AP Research.”

**Big job:** “The exam for AP Research is an approximately 5,000-word academic paper from a year-long research project. I score about three or four per hour.”

**Just checkin' to see if you were paying attention:** "As I was reading the literature review of one paper last year, I could tell it was excellent. It was so professionally written and the argument was synthesized flawlessly. As I reached the methodology section of the paper, I continued to be impressed with the concise, academic, and meticulous method description, rationale, and implementation. Then I reached the section on the experiment; the student wrote at the point of testing microplastics that he or she "sacrificed the clams," indicating the dissection of clams to analyze microplastics absorbed in the water. It was so casually embedded in the paper I could not stop rereading it and laughing. But overall, just seeing extraordinary research done by these young students is remarkable!"

### Chrissy Rode, English



**Why she does it:** "I was a young teacher, and I wanted to understand how I could help my students do better on the AP Literature test.

I knew the students who were sitting in front of me in class were talented. I just wanted to see if knowing more about the test itself would help me help them get higher scores."

**Speed racer:** "I can score about 30 essays an hour, as I don't have to write comments. I work eight- or nine-hour days each year, so I grade about 1500 essays and back-read (read previously graded essays), bringing me to about 2000 for the week."

**Years grading AP exams:** 19

**Go Arrows!:** "About 20 times, I have graded my own students' essays! I have started to read an essay, thought, "Hey, that sounds like something I might have said," and looked at the back of the book only to find our school code. Each time, I have told the room leaders and had other people back-read my scores. I can say that the national readers are often very impressed by our students."

### Caitlin Shawaker, Art History



**In her own words:** "Last year, my AP Art History proposal was chosen as a main conference session for the 2020 Annual AP Conference in Boston, Mass. Because of the pandemic, however, the conference was canceled, and the possibility of presenting this year is still up in the air."

My workshop proposal, "Art Is a Performance: Igniting Kinesthetic Learning in AP Art History," focuses on engaging students through movement and improvisation.

My workshop plan promoted kinesthetic learning as a strategy and vehicle for better engagement and retention of the AP Art History curriculum. Participants would reflect and understand how mindful, kinesthetic learning strategies statistically increase memory retention and mastery of content.

One game is formatted like the TV show, *The Bachelorette*, where contestants compete for their one true love. One student is named the Bachelorette, Venus (from the Botticelli painting, *The Birth of Venus*). The other students choose compatible male artworks to act as contestants. Beforehand, students complete a contextual analysis essay to prepare for the presentation. During the presentations, Venus introduces herself (age, job, hobbies, perfect date); then, the contestants introduce themselves, all justified with visual and contextual details from the chosen artworks. Then, contestants may "call out" one competitor to make themselves seem like the better option. Students must think on the spot and get creatively saucy! In the end, Venus chooses her one true love with a gifted rose, and everyone has had an in-depth review of the artworks."

# Senior Jayla Russell Won't Limit Herself

Jayla Russell's future is filled with possibilities. The senior has currently been accepted to 27 universities across the county. She has earned more than \$2 million in college scholarships to date.

Jayla set a goal for herself—to go to college for free. She did not want her parents to carry the financial burden of college. She has certainly reached that goal through, as she said, “determination to do it and staying focused.” She constantly works to maintain her 4.5 GPA, as well as involves herself in activities.

Currently, her top choices for schools are The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Johns Hopkins University. Wherever she chooses to go, Jayla will study to be a physician's assistant.

Jayla wants younger Arrows to know that they should never limit themselves; she set her mind on a goal and met it, and she wants others to know they can, too.



---

## Three Seniors Earn Commended Student Status from PSAT

Seniors Olivia LeBlanc, Elizabeth Newsom, and Kate Reimer were named Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program last fall.

Approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” a spokesperson for NMSC said. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”



OLIVIA LeBLANC



ELIZABETH NEWSOM



KATE REIMER

# The Pandemic Can't Stop SUA Students with a Cause

The annual Breast Cancer Bowl was not held in October last year because of the pandemic. The flag football event in conjunction with other area schools raises money and awareness for breast cancer research. But this disappointment did not stop one SUA student from ensuring that she and her Arrow friends still raised money for an important cause.

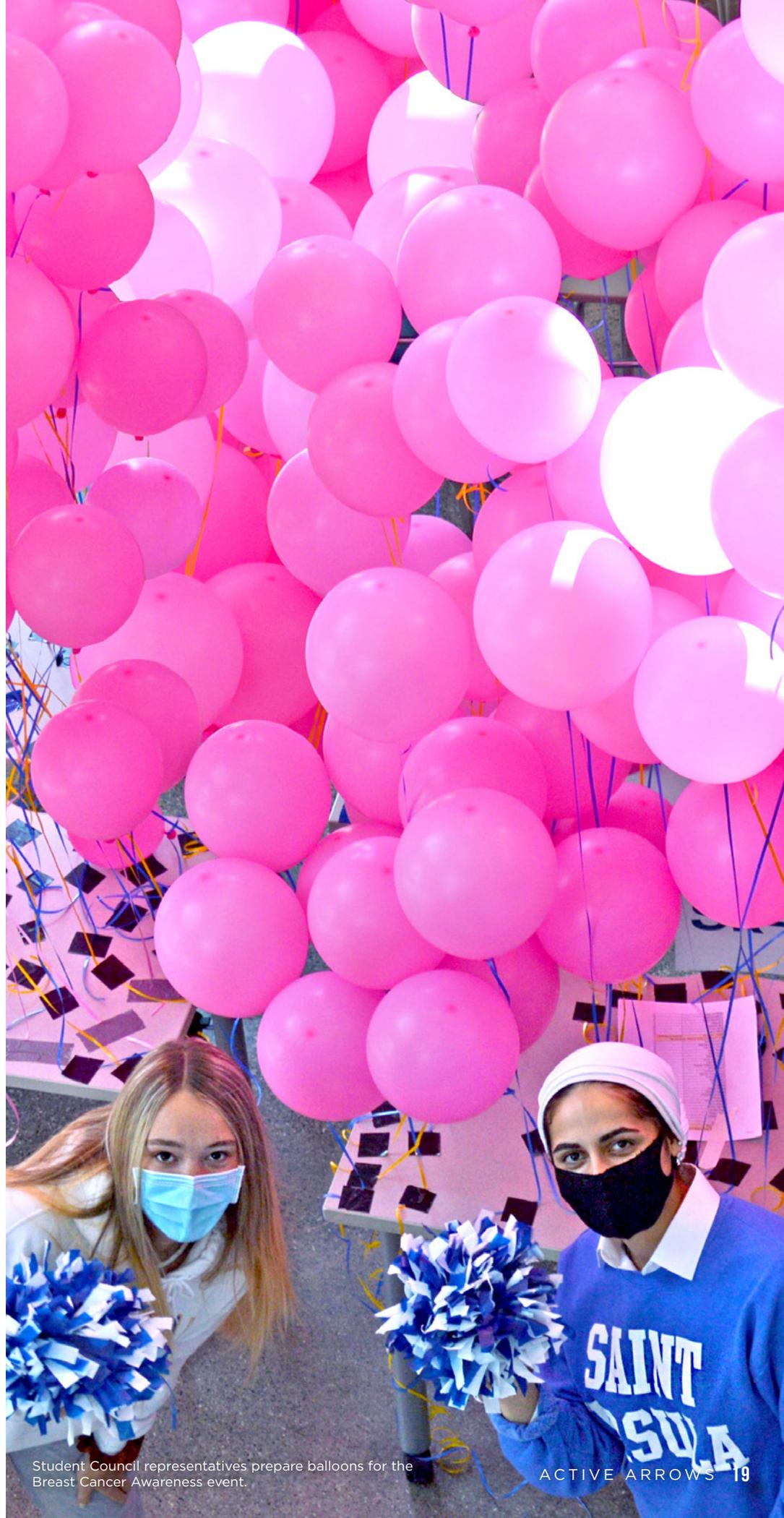
Elizabeth Stout '23 presented an idea to Student Council to raffle tickets for balloons. Student Council members and moderators were in favor of her idea. Just a week and a half later, the event took place.

The first all-school event of the year allowed students to purchase tickets for inflated pink balloons. Some balloons just had air inside, while others had a small scroll with a prize. Prizes included items such as Target gift cards. Students popped their balloons to see if they were a lucky winner.

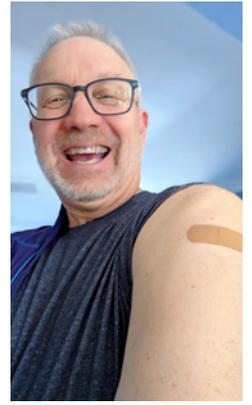
Balloons were \$2 each to purchase, and the prizes were donated. In just that short week and a half, the students raised nearly \$2,000 to donate to the Victory Center.

Lissa Guyton, 13abc news reporter, visited SUA to learn more about the event. Breast cancer research is personal to both Lissa and Elizabeth. Elizabeth's mom, Margaret Guyton Stout, passed away from breast cancer when Elizabeth was only seven. She was also Lissa's sister.

Elizabeth feels it is important to raise both money and support. And that is just what she did.



Student Council representatives prepare balloons for the Breast Cancer Awareness event.



On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12 and 13, and March 5 and 6, the majority of SUA's faculty and staff were blessed to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Thanks to the diligence of the leadership team, SUA was included in the "mass vax" event.



# The Merici Society Brings Christmas Cheer to Faculty and Staff

by **RITA HAYES**, *Director of Admissions and Marketing*

The Merici Society, SUA's parent organization, helped make Christmas merry for SUA's faculty and staff this year. Typically, The Merici Society would host a luncheon for Christmas. The members were not able to do so this year because of COVID-19 protocols. The Merici Society still wanted to extend a special thank you to faculty and staff who have taught and supported the Arrows, five days a week, in-person, this school year.

They reached out to all SUA parents and requested monetary donations. The response they received was overwhelming.

With the money raised, a Christmas wonderland was set up for faculty and staff to walk through and receive their gifts. The Society generously gave the faculty and staff gifts that ranged from lottery tickets to individual charcuterie boards to Amazon gift cards and much more, at each station.

The excitement was palpable as each new group entered the wonderland, and faculty and staff couldn't believe the plethora of gifts they received.

SUA parents, once again, proved that they are one of the school's biggest supporters.

“

To have gifts that a wide range of people of different ages, genders, and backgrounds would appreciate and treasure is no small feat!

**CAROLINE JARDINE**,  
*Art Teacher*

”



## Todd Richard P '21 Earns Volunteer Award

Each year, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) holds National Philanthropy Day to celebrate altruism and its contribution to communities across the country. The Northwest Ohio chapter called for nominations of outstanding volunteers who make a difference in local organizations. SUA proudly nominated Todd Richard for the Volunteer Recognition Award.



Todd has been instrumental in developing and running SUA's Parent Ambassador Society during the last three years. The purpose of this parent group is to support admissions events and be ambassadors in the community by sharing their daughter's experience. Todd has been a smiling face to greet prospective parents at 8th grade visitation, Open House, information sessions, and Preview Days. He is also a member of The Merici Society.

Todd and his wife, Lisa (Fretti) '82, have senior Maria at SUA. Although Maria will graduate this May, the entire Richard family will definitely continue to support SUA.

Congratulations and thank you, Todd!

# Her Love of the Water Led to a Love of Water



Lily Schwartz '21, a member of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Conservation Teen Advisory Council (ConTAC), has a passion for preserving and protecting Ohio's waters.

Schwartz and the other high school students on ConTAC "act as the voice of Ohio's youth to ODNR and help expand the reach, impact, and quality of the agency's youth initiatives. Members develop innovative and practical ideas that empower young people to protect and preserve Ohio's natural resources, provide feedback, and make recommendations to enhance outdoor outreach. Council members also get the chance to explore careers in the natural resources sector and develop valuable networking and leadership skills," according to the Commission.

For Schwartz, her sailing hobby led to a passion for conservation. "I think by introducing people to the beauty and wonder of Lake Erie at a young age, you can instill a passion for keeping it clean," Schwartz said. "My dream for the lake is to eliminate plastic pollution and keep it clear for everyone who wants to spend time on the water," she said.

“ I think by introducing people to the beauty and wonder of Lake Erie at a young age, you can instill a passion for keeping it clean. ”

LILY SCHWARTZ '21

## WHY WE GIVE

"Doing something that would benefit the girls, and at the same time protect and preserve the environment, felt like **a great way for us to give a gift that is in-line with our values.** We never could have imagined how important the bottle fill stations would be this year while health and safety measures required students to not use drinking fountains, but we're proud that our support has helped St. Ursula in this way."

**MELANIE AND ANDREW JEFFREY P '20, '22**

Learn more about giving in-line with your values and supporting girls at SUA by contacting Josh Yecke at [jyecke@toledosua.org](mailto:jyecke@toledosua.org) or (419) 329-2277.





# More Clubs Added to the Junior Academy

by **CORA PEARSON '26**, *Junior Academy Student*

The JA Director, Mrs. Guzman, sent out a survey earlier in the school year to the students of the JA, asking their opinions on what clubs should be held this year. After looking over student responses, she decided that the clubs that were going to be hosted include Art Club, Student Council, Writing and Skit Club, Diversity Club, Just Dance Club, and Anime Club.

In Just Dance Club, all the participants get together and play the popular game, “Just Dance.” During the game, the players try to follow along with the characters on the screen as they dance to popular songs. The club’s host, Ms. Sharlow said, “Just Dance Club is a fun outlet for students to release energy, anxiety, and tension, and to express themselves through music and dance.”

The Art Club is being hosted this year by Ms. Shawaker, an art teacher at SUA. Ms. Shawaker said the club has done a variety of art projects and a few short skits or bits of improv. The club is also open to virtual learners, who may pick up all the supplies they need at the school and then use Zoom to follow along with the other participants.

According to the members of the Anime Club, they get together to do trivia, draw, compare characters, and even watch anime. The club also likes to get together just to have a space to talk about their favorite shows with no judgement!

Dakota Strong, an 8th grader at the JA said, “Diversity Club helps bring more diversity to the school and a confidential area to talk about racism in our school.” According to Dakota, the girls in this club have talked about topics such as racism, feminism, and stereotypes.

JA Student Council has done so much to help our school this year. Mia Hasty, a 7th grader, said some of the activities they have planned are dress down days, events for Intramurals, and some fun for Catholic Schools week, such as sending cards to other Catholic schools in the area! Mia said they also helped organize a JA “preview day” for possible new students next year.

Being a member of the Writing and Skit Club is a way for students to practice skills such as acting and script writing. Maddie Gill, a 7th grader, said the members of the club split into groups and each have their own skit to prepare. The skits are about two- to five-minutes long and even include fun props and costumes.

The JA is so great academically, and the addition of more fun clubs this year made it even better socially.

# The Art of Musical Theater Class Flourishes

*When a girl's gotta sing, a girl's gotta sing—unless, of course, a worldwide pandemic keeps her from doing so.*

This year, SUA girls who love to sing faced so many disappointments. The musical was cancelled, the Art of Musical Theater and Bella Voce classes were delayed until the second semester, and any singing that could happen was from behind a mask. But, true to their strength and resolve, the Arrows overcame their setbacks. By semester two, a strong group of singers was enrolled in The Art of Musical Theater and singing their hearts out every Friday to an appreciative (but small) audience. The girls rehearsed their solos all week in masks, but on Friday, as long as every fan and fellow classmate was far, far away, they could belt out their songs. And, as an added challenge, Mrs. Hinshaw, the Director of Performing Arts and their teacher, upgraded the class to honors-level—the girls had to be in charge of lights, sound, video, and costumes for their Friday performances. Parents could not attend, sadly, but Mrs. Hinshaw made sure they received a videotaped version each week. At the end of the quarter, the girls could sing for two audience members in a special performance. Overall, the students felt creatively fulfilled, even in the time of a worldwide pandemic.



Evelyn Maloney '22 performs "Rose's Turn" from *Gypsy* during The Art of Musical Theater class.

## SOLI DEO GLORIA

Avery Kamm '25

Eighth-grader Avery Kamm has such a unique style of illustration—we were thrilled that she created this piece just for *Ursula Update*!



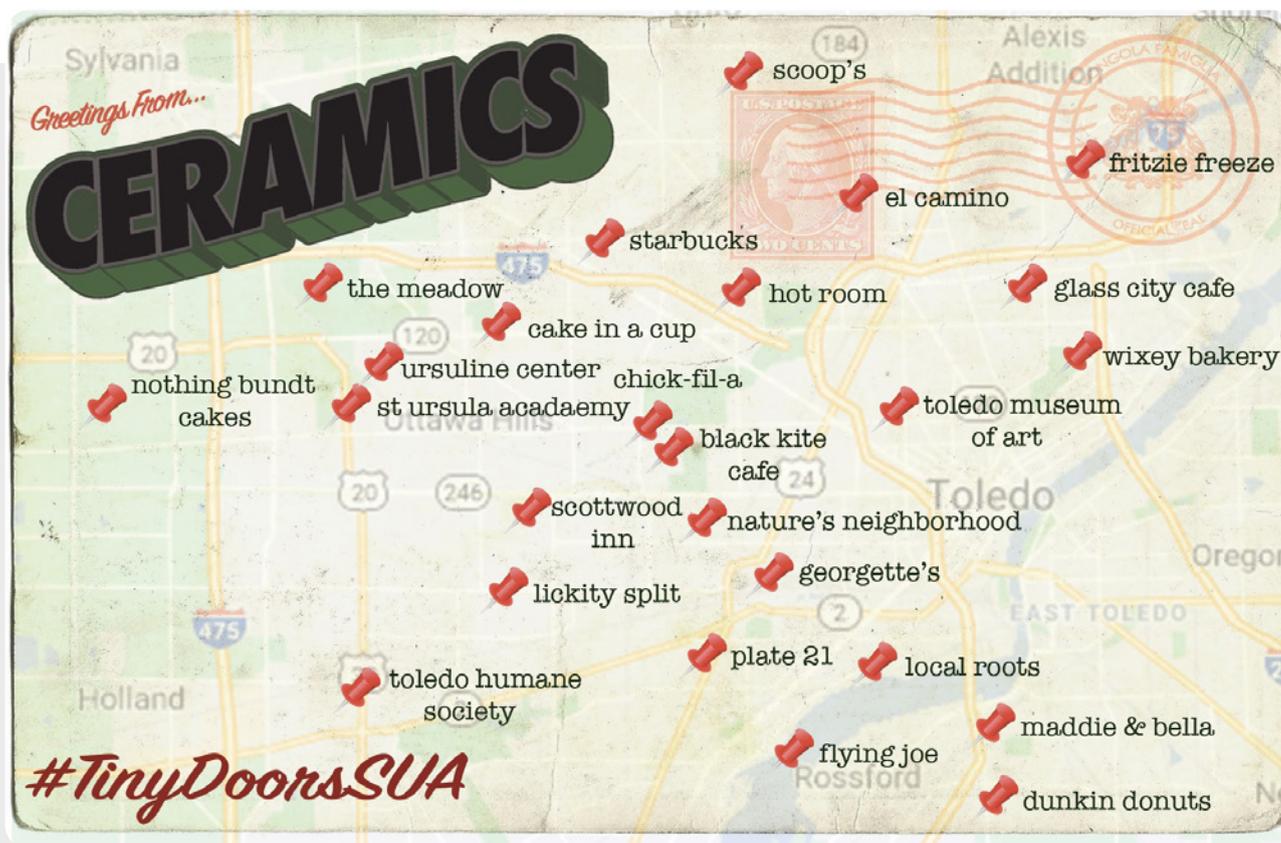
# Tiny Door Project Brings Joy to Community

Last spring, when students at SUA were learning from home, Caitlin Shawaker, a fine arts teacher, introduced the girls to the “Tiny Door Project” in her Ceramics course. The project was inspired by the tiny doors in Ann Arbor that have always caught Caitlin’s eye.

In this project, students choose a location that means something to them and then recreate its door with clay. The tiny door is then placed at that location. Caitlin thought that, when people felt stuck inside, this fun activity would allow an opportunity to get out to explore and find the tiny doors.

The project was such a hit that “season two” of the “Tiny Door Project” was introduced to her Ceramics students this year. That added about 30 doors to locations around Maumee, Sylvania, and the greater Toledo area.

One of Caitlin’s students created a map to help people find all the tiny doors. Kate Ortiz '21 is both a Ceramics and Women in Digital Art student. Her map allows people to search for all the tiny doors that have been placed across the community. Shawaker believes it is important for her students to use their art to bring enjoyment to others.



## Dance Team Continues Its Winning Path

SUA's Dance Team placed **first in the large jazz and large pom categories** at the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA) "virtual" state tournament on March 13.

The first-place wins in jazz and pom mark the **eighth consecutive year** that the SUA Dance Team has taken the top ranking in these categories. These wins bring 19 state titles in the last eight years to the school.

Varsity Dance Team head coach Morgan Melchert said, "Every year, but especially this year, I'm incredibly proud of these young women. Through a year full of uncertainty, change, and disappointment, the team has worked just as hard as any other year. The dancers have learned resilience and adaptability through this process, and that the hard work is always worth it!"

### Breaking News at Deadline:

The Dance Team earned second place in jazz and third place in pom at the National Competition! Congratulations, Dance Team, for placing in the top three in the country!

# Kelsey Hills-Finucan '04 Inducted into BW Athletic Hall of Fame

Kelsey Hills-Finucan '04 spent a lot of time on the volleyball court at St. Ursula Academy, parlaying her skills into a D-III college athletics opportunity. At Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio, her volleyball skills really took off.

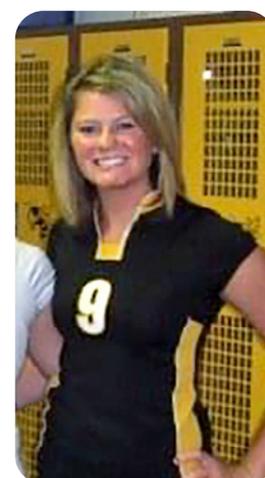
Hills-Finucan was a four-year All-Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) selection in volleyball and a team captain who earned All-American honors.

For BW's volleyball team, she holds the record as second all-time in kills and seventh in digs and blocks. The OAC Freshman of the Year, two-time OAC Player of the Week, and three-time Academic All-OAC pick helped BW to an 88-43 record during her time with the team.

"In fall 2020, I was honored to be inducted into the Baldwin Wallace Athletics Hall of Fame for volleyball. Volleyball has been a huge part of my life since I was about 10 years old. It has taught me many life lessons, and I've made amazing friendships along the way.

"I am very grateful for my time at SUA, as it helped to shape me both athletically and academically. Playing at St. Ursula afforded me the opportunity to work alongside extremely talented teammates and showed me what can be accomplished through teamwork and selflessness."

Hills-Finucan works as an insurance broker with the Oswald Companies in Cleveland and resides in the area with her husband, Jack, son, Johnny, and daughter, Molly.



ST. URSULA ACADEMY



## ARROW BOOSTER CLUB GOLF OUTING

Monday, June 21, 2021 (time TBD)  
Legacy Golf Course, Ottawa Lake, Mich.

All proceeds will go toward the St. Ursula Academy Athletic Department. Watch your email for more details on time, sign-up procedures, and other information.

# ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

St. Ursula Academy is proud to announce the following 10 student-athletes from the Class of 2021 who signed National Letters of Intent on Nov. 11, 2020, and March 3, 2021.

- ANNIE BENNETT**  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, CROSS COUNTRY
- MOLLY DYNDY**  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, SWIMMING
- ALY FINCH**  
WHEELING UNIVERSITY, VOLLEYBALL
- MEREDITH FOSTER**  
NOTRE DAME COLLEGE, SOCCER
- CAITLIN HEINZE**  
UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, SWIMMING
- MARIE PANFIL**  
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY, BASKETBALL
- EMILY SAVAGE**  
LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, BASKETBALL
- CORINNE STANEART**  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, SWIMMING
- MIRANDA SULLIVAN**  
UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, SOCCER
- GABRIELLE WHITZEL**  
LOURDES UNIVERSITY, BASKETBALL

SUA Athletic Director Mike Donnelly said, “St. Ursula Academy is excited to celebrate the 10 student-athletes who signed National Letters of Intent so far this year. Their academic and athletic successes have enabled them the opportunity to continue their pursuits at the college level. We wish them the best of luck in college!”

AT SUA, MORE THAN **63 PERCENT** OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS.



# SUA REMEMBERS SR. KATHLEEN

by **MICHELLE MOSES,**  
*Special Events and Advancement Services Manager*

A true educator, leader, and Ursuline historian, Sr. Kathleen Padden (also known as Sr. Gabriel) died on November 3, 2020, at 91.

Sr. Kathleen entered the Ursuline Community on January 27, 1950. Her teaching career began at St. Angela Hall in Toledo as a novice, then progressed to assignments at the elementary level at Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, Lima St. Gerard, and Perrysburg St. Rose. She continued her career at St. Ursula Academy for 28 years, serving as a teacher, an assistant principal, the principal, and the president. She also served the Ursuline Community as a council member and as the General Superior. Her most recent position was that of archivist.

Sr. Kathleen also served the greater northwest Ohio community as the assistant to the principal, Fr. John A. (“Arch”) Thomas, at Central Catholic High School. She was also the consultant for high schools as part of the Diocesan Schools Office.

In 1988, she took a sabbatical at the University of San Diego, then taught English conversation at Sei Urusuru Gakuin (St. Ursula High School) in Hachinohe, Japan. SUA maintains a relationship with the Hachinohe school, and SUA has enjoyed the students’ biannual visits (in pre-COVID times).

A “fun fact” about Sr. Kathleen is that she chose the Arrow as SUA’s team name and mascot.

Sr. Kathleen was an incredible leader and strong advocate for all-girls education and St. Ursula Academy. Her legacy lives on in the halls of SUA, and the SUA community greatly misses her.





# Arrows Get Creative with Service Projects

by **EMILY OTTO**, *Annual Fund Coordinator*

While at SUA, students are required to engage in a variety of service projects. These acts of service are intended to expand a student's awareness of those in need and develop skills in responding to their needs. A crucial part of the growth process is to reflect upon and write about the service completed. This reflection on the experience allows students to discover its impact on their personal life and to realize the joy and grace that God can bring to those who serve and to those who are being served.

The goals of SUA's service requirements are the following:

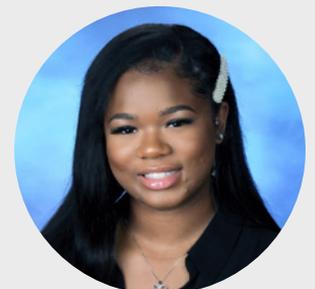
- › To encourage students to see the value of service and the contribution they can make to society and the local community by following in the spirit of St. Angela Merici
- › To broaden students' vision of the work of social justice as modeled in the Scriptures
- › To create a positive association and working spirit between SUA and local agencies serving those in need in the community
- › To foster personal growth as the student uses her time, talent, and resources to serve others, and to encourage the student to find meaningful service using her individual and unique abilities and interests

During the pandemic, many of the traditional service projects were paused. However, students found creative ways to continue with service projects, including tutoring other SUA students, helping with the Toledo Labre Project (mostly working from home to assemble meal kits), and using Zoom to meet with agencies to assist with children's needs, such as reading and homework assistance.

---

## Service with a Smile

Jakya Warren '21 recently earned the 2020-2021 Ursuline Education Network Service Award after accumulating more than 1,000 hours at Kidz First Summer Camp as a camp leader. She has given of her time and talent, emulating the spirit of St. Angela, for the last several years.



# The Toledo Labre Project Perseveres through the Pandemic

by **EMILY OTTO**, *Annual Fund Coordinator*

The Toledo Labre Project has nimbly adapted to the current pandemic and to new safety measures. St. Ursula Academy and St. John's Jesuit teams have continued to feed people, despite the challenges; in fact, Labre has not missed a single Monday since the pandemic began. Even more important, Labre has only missed two Mondays in eight years, both because of Level 3 snow emergencies.



Both students and adults have made Labre what it is—a beautiful outreach to the poor and a way to introduce our students to the realities of poverty.

**MARK DUBIELAK,**  
*Labre Moderator*



The food looks a little different these days; instead of hot casseroles, much of the food is now sandwiches made in people's homes and delivered in individual lunch bags along with a drink, something sweet, and a bag of chips—an easy solution to the new health standards made necessary by COVID-19. The food is still delicious and hearty. Some casseroles have reappeared in the past few weeks and are now becoming part of the Monday offerings, as they were in the past.

“My constant gratitude goes to the many people in our school and in the SUA community who have supported Labre. Both students and adults have made Labre what it is—a beautiful outreach to the poor and a way to introduce our students to the realities of poverty. Labre is always a group effort! From the sowing, weeding, and tending of the Labre garden to the countless hours of baking, cooking, sandwich-making, and food serving, every task has been a gift to help God's people,” Mark Dubielak, SUA's Labre Moderator, said.

## WHY I GIVE



“I learned from my parents to think ahead and save. When I think ahead, I want the opportunity for Catholic education to be available to others who want it, but who might struggle to afford tuition. Working with St. Ursula, I was able to establish the Helfrich Family Scholarship Fund, which will fund scholarships for girls for years to come. Along with a gift to build and name the Helfrich Family Main Office, the scholarship was a good way for me to honor my family and show appreciation for my Catholic education.

**Looking further ahead, I've designated St. Ursula Academy as a beneficiary in my estate plans.** Each day, I pray in thanksgiving for my parents, my Catholic faith, and my Catholic education, and following [my parents'] encouragement to think ahead and save, I see my current support and my planned gift as a great way to tie those three blessings together.”

**JANET HELFRICH '64**

---

Learn more about endowed scholarships, planned giving, or other ways to support girls at SUA by contacting Josh Yecke at [jyecke@toledosua.org](mailto:jyecke@toledosua.org) or (419) 329-2277.



# While One Ursuline Ministry Closes, Opportunities to Expand Another Ministry Open

by **MARY WERNER '74**, *President*

“While we are closing a ministry, we will never retire from mission.” Sr. Sandy Sherman, Ursuline Convent President, shared those words with SUA leadership when she announced the closing of the Ursuline Center of Toledo. The Ursuline Center, adjacent to SUA, opened in 1985 as a private retirement home for the Sisters. It was eventually licensed and able, over the years, to welcome members of other religious communities, diocesan priests, immediate family members of the Sisters, and Ursuline Associates.

According to Sr. Sandy, the decision to close the Ursuline Center was neither quick nor easy. “As Ursulines, we have always kept the advice of our foundress, St. Angela Merici, before us when faced with such decisions.” St. Angela writes, “If according to times and circumstances, the need arises to...do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice.”

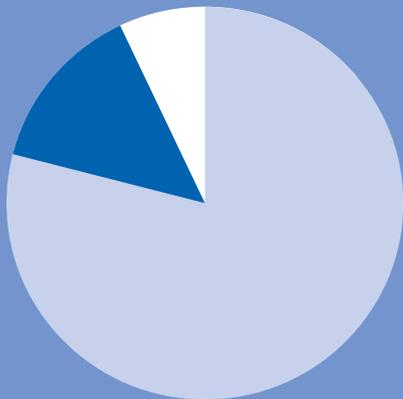
After evaluating all possible options, the Sisters decided to close the facility and lease the building to St. Ursula Academy. Sr. Sandy shared, “This move will provide space for future generations and will preserve the Ursuline legacy and mission through the lives of the young women SUA educates and forms in the spirit of St. Angela.”

While the Ursuline Center’s nursing home ministry will be coming to an end, the Ursuline Sisters’ legacy and mission continues in the generations of young women who have been, and will continue to be, educated at St. Ursula Academy. The Ursuline Sisters have been an integral part of the St. Ursula Academy community for more than 166 years, and their impact has been profound. The St. Ursula community prays for the Sisters, the residents, and the employees of the Center as they transition through these next several months.

WELCOME, NEW FRESHMEN!

# CLASS OF 2025

## BY THE NUMBERS



● 79%  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

● 14%  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

● 7%  
OTHER PRIVATE, CHARTER,  
AND HOMESCHOOL  
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

# 21 LEGACIES

(MOM OR GRANDMA)

# 23 LITTLE SISTERS

# 28

ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP  
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Members of the Class of 2025 have been accepted from the following schools:

All Saints

Anthony Wayne Junior High

Blessed Sacrament

Christ the King

Fassett Junior High - Oregon

Genoa

Homeschool

Lake Middle School

Lial

Maumee Valley Country Day School

Notre Dame Junior Academy

Ottawa Hills Junior High

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Perrysburg Junior High

Regina Coeli

Springfield Middle School

St. Aloysius

St. Benedict

St. Joan of Arc

St. Joseph Parish School - Sylvania

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns

St. Pius X

St. Rose

St. Ursula Junior Academy

Sylvania Public

Arbor Hills Junior High

McCord Junior High

Timberstone Junior High

Toledo Christian

Toledo Public

Beverly Elementary

Elmhurst Elementary

Old West End Academy

Toledo School for the Arts

Trinity Lutheran

Wildwood Environmental Academy

## Yolanda Robinson Durden '86, Alumnae Engagement Coordinator

Greetings, fellow alumnae,

My first year back at SUA is completed, and I am so glad that—if I could be anywhere—I am here at SUA.

As I connect with you and reconnect you to our alma mater, know that the girls who walk these halls carry your spirit. I have learned that we are more alike than different. We all have had a unique student experience, and I pray that your alumnae experience will be even better. Your time, talent, and treasure are still needed in these halls. Wherever your path has led you, I hope you have been able to live a life of meaning, and whatever your story may be, I hope it confirms that you are not alone. I am an email or phone call away if you would like to learn how to get involved.

Until we connect, take care and be safe.

In sisterhood,

**Yolanda**

*Alumnae Engagement Coordinator*

[ydurden@toledosua.org](mailto:ydurden@toledosua.org) | (419) 329-2245



### ALUMNA PROFILE

## Hear Me Roar!



**Maryann O'Connor '72** was one of the first generation of women to not only secure and excel at a career in business, but also break the glass ceiling.

Her husband of 41 years, Richard Deak—speaking for his humble wife—said she had a successful 36-year career in sales and marketing for Procter & Gamble, where she was associated for many years with top brands such as Covergirl and Olay.

“Maryann joined the sales organization of Procter & Gamble in 1977 at a time when women were only beginning to be accepted in the sales departments of major corporations. She was a pioneer in a male-dominated world and was one of the women who broke down barriers to the benefit of generations of women to come,” he said.

Maryann retired to pursue her passion for education and volunteerism. She recently completed a 12-year post as a trustee for the Woodlynde School, a private school in suburban Philadelphia that serves students who learn differently. For the past six years, Maryann has been Board Chair; in this position, she initiated and completed an \$11 million capital campaign that transformed the campus. She led successful multi-year fundraising efforts and was a principal contributor. She oversaw the construction of a new student commons, learning centers, and several classrooms.

“She was a pioneer in a male-dominated world and was one of the women who broke down barriers to the benefit of generations of women to come.”

**RICHARD DEAK**, *husband*

Maryann has also been a leader of the fund-raising efforts of her local library, as well as contributing her expertise to an international charity supported by Procter & Gamble alumni.

Maryann advises and mentors young women who are considering careers in the business world.

# SUA Receives \$1 Million Planned Gift to Honor a 1960 Alumna



St. Ursula Academy has received a pledge of a \$1 million planned gift in memory of SUA Class of 1960 valedictorian and Bishop's Cross recipient Nancy Jean Fulop Short, who passed away in 2014. The gift, established by Nancy's husband, Bill Short, will establish **The Nancy Jean Fulop Short Scholarship Fund** to support four full-tuition, merit-based scholarships, one per each high school grade, at St. Ursula Academy.

After Nancy graduated from St. Ursula Academy, she went on to Mary Manse College, where she graduated summa cum laude. Nancy taught English literature, as well as high school art, in the Toledo school system before she began a 30-year legal career as an expert in securities law. She was awarded a J.D. from The University of Toledo College of Law, where she was first in her class, and an LL.M. from Yale Law School.

“We are thrilled and honored by this extraordinary demonstration of support for our students and their future.”

**MARY WERNER,**  
*SUA President*

Nancy's legal career was just as illustrious as her academic career. She began her legal profession teaching at Rutgers Law School, then moved into private practice in securities law at the Manhattan law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meager & Flom. After practicing securities law for 10 years, Nancy moved into legal publishing at Matthew Bender, and she later retired from

Bowne & Co. Inc. Short said, “She really enjoyed rubbing elbows with some of the best and brightest minds in securities law.”

After her retirement, Nancy took on another completely different challenge by enrolling in the New York School of Interior Design. She wanted to combine her dual interests in art and interior design with her legal background to provide legal expertise to designers in New York City. Sadly, she passed away at age 72 before she could realize her vision.

In every academic setting, Nancy excelled, but financial barriers necessitated that she receive full scholarships to attend each institution. Bill said, “My wife was shaped by the four institutions she attended—all of them on full scholarship. I'm struck by the role that the scholarships Nancy received played in her life and career.” Now, Bill would like to make the same opportunities possible for bright future SUA students. The Nancy Jean Fulop Short Scholarship Fund will not be endowed, but rather spent completely, over a generation, for merit-based scholarships.

“We are thrilled and honored by this extraordinary demonstration of support for our students and their future,” SUA President, Mary Werner, said. “Honoring the memory and legacy of Nancy Short in this way provides opportunities for our bright students to experience this outstanding college prep education. All of us at SUA express our deep appreciation to Bill Short for what will be an incredibly impactful gift.”

---

**Planned gifts—including will bequests and other estate gifts—are another growing source of support for St. Ursula Academy.** They allow donors to create lasting philanthropic legacies while also maintaining control of their assets during their lives and providing tax advantages for themselves and their heirs. For more information on ways to make a difference through planned giving, contact SUA Director of Advancement Josh Yecke at [jyecke@toledosua.org](mailto:jyecke@toledosua.org).

## Beyond Books: Library Employee Reaches out into Community

“The three most important places for individuals are their home, their school or place of employment, and the place where they feel most comfortable in their community.” **Erin Baker '98** has worked to make sure the community surrounding the Kent Branch Library, part of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) system and her previous work site, felt safe and welcomed in her building. “The environment at Kent was like a family. Everyone knew each other, and when someone was having a bad day, we worked to make their day better.” She always encouraged the staff and visitors of the branch to pursue opportunities to better themselves. So, when the position of Coordinator of Organizational Leadership for the library system came along, she could not deny her interest nor the advice of her branch family to “practice what she preached.”

Although it was a hard decision to consider leaving her Kent Branch family, Erin applied for and was chosen for the position. Her responsibilities leaped from a branch level to an organizational level, where she now provides leadership and coordinates with others to plan and implement various systems.

Erin honed her leadership skills while at SUA by participating in basketball and track, the Ambassador Society, the Afro Club, and the National Honor Society. Erin holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications and media studies from Northwestern University and a Master of Business Administration from the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.

The tides are changing at TLCPL for the betterment of the community, thanks to Erin. Her academic background, along with her professional work experience in the community, has led the organization to recognize the need to support the individuals who use provided services.

Erin understands that being a part of the library system is “beyond books.” She has worked to make all branches safe spaces to have critical discussions. As neutral locations, libraries can provide spaces for community members to have informed conversations. SUA helped Erin grow her passion for community service in a way that has now benefited many.



As of March 2021, Erin was selected as the TLCPL Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Now, she will lead the organization in creating an equity, diversity, and inclusion plan that provides benchmarks, timelines, and specific action steps.

Outside of work, Erin’s community involvement includes chairing the City of Toledo’s Human Relations Commission, where she supports Toledo residents working to overcome prejudice and build mutual respect through community and neighborhood development, social justice, youth empowerment, and violence prevention. She also received a 2020 “20 Under 40” Leadership Recognition Award.

20 UNDER 40  
SINCE 1996

**2020 SUA  
ALUMNAE NOMINEES**

---

ERIN BAKER '98  
TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MELANIE CAMPBELL '01  
CITY OF TOLEDO

KIMI RAE CHAPMAN '99  
CALIFORNIA YOGA

EMILY CROAK '08  
ALY STERLING PHILANTHROPY

KELLY (KRUEGER) DANICKE '07  
PROMEDICA

SYDNEY (WILLIAMS) SPRAW '01  
DESIGNETICS

A blue graphic with a banner-like shape. At the top, it says "20 UNDER 40 SINCE 1996". Below that, it says "2020 SUA ALUMNAE NOMINEES" in bold white text. A white horizontal line separates this from a list of names and their affiliations, also in white text. The names are: ERIN BAKER '98 (TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY), MELANIE CAMPBELL '01 (CITY OF TOLEDO), KIMI RAE CHAPMAN '99 (CALIFORNIA YOGA), EMILY CROAK '08 (ALY STERLING PHILANTHROPY), KELLY (KRUEGER) DANICKE '07 (PROMEDICA), and SYDNEY (WILLIAMS) SPRAW '01 (DESIGNETICS).

# THE NONPROFIT TRACK:

## *Working for the Common Good*

by **YOLANDA ROBINSON DURDEN '86**, Alumnae Engagement Coordinator

***The daily grind can have an upside: a nice paycheck. But sometimes people choose to work in industries that offer more intrinsic rewards—areas such as non-profits, for example. These high-intensity companies still put their employees through the paces, but the rewards come in the form of helping others or raising money for research. It's not surprising that many St. Ursula Academy graduates work in the non-profit arena, as employees in this sector have often spent years serving their community; it's part of who they are.***

### **ANN CURSON FRIEDHOLM '89**

As a young girl, Ann Curson Friedholm '89 already knew SUA might eventually be the place for her, as she lived across the street from the two-generation SUA family, the Strassers. Once enrolled, Ann excelled on

the swim team and took advantage of the many leadership opportunities she was given; she liked how it felt to be a leader. She also excelled in the classroom, earning the valedictorian honors for her class.

After she graduated from SUA, Ann earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University, then went to work for Procter & Gamble. She later earned an MBA from the University of Southern California, with a focus on Marketing. After that, she worked at Nestle for 10 years.

Eventually, Ann had four children and, as is seemingly mandatory for mothers with small kids, she chaperoned a class trip to the Toledo Zoo one day. There, she met Tammi and Jason Carr (son of University of Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr) and their son, Chad. Ann and Tammi connected well and eventually worked together on several projects of similar interest.

In September 2014, the Carrs found out that Chad had a brain tumor. Within a

few months, Tammi had convinced Ann to help her start a new foundation to raise money for research and treatment. With Tammi's fundraising skills and Ann's strategic planning expertise, the ChadTough Foundation was born. The challenge was to change the zero percent survival rate for Chad's kind of cancer. Anne felt, with God's help, it would be possible.



From what started by helping a family beyond the “meal prep train” and offering 10 hours per week of business consultation has moved to a full-time job.

After working with a family whose son had diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), an aggressive brain stem tumor, the ChadTough organization decided to merge with those working on DIPG efforts and renamed the new group ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation, of which Ann is the Chief Executive Officer. The foundation has raised awareness of childhood brain cancers and millions of dollars for research and treatment.

Ann is in a unique position because her passion is supporting families that have gone through a life-changing experience, yet she has not had to face that situation herself. But she feels she has made a difference in the lives of families who have had a child diagnosed with brain cancer. Children have survived because of the work she has done. Her efforts are allowing families to have more time together than ever before.

Family has always been Ann's number one priority. She says the families she meets have given her the confidence to go after leadership opportunities, and she encourages others to think as big as they want. Her path showed itself—from SUA to corporate positions to consulting while caring for her family. Ann knows the Lord has a plan for her life, and her only job is to follow it.

**Only four percent of cancer research funds are earmarked for childhood cancers, and only one percent of that money is specifically used for brain cancer research.**

## LISA STRASSER KREBS '92

Lisa Strasser Krebs is the Executive Director of Girls on the Run of Northwest Ohio. She said she wanted to be part of the organization because she “saw what an all-girls environment can do” during her years at SUA. Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a local non-profit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. GOTR works to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running.

Lisa has faced some challenges this past year because her organization is based in schools, and extracurricular programs had to pause. Through her years of work and life experience, she knew there would be a light at the end of the tunnel, though. GOTR recently hosted its annual in-person 5K Run at Levis Commons in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Lisa is from a long line of SUA women. Her Arrow roots run deep with her grandmother Mary (Nunnhold) Boyer '34, mother Patricia '63, aunts Sharon '58 and Mary '68, along with her sister Lori '86, all attending the school. Coming from a Sylvania junior high school, Lisa transitioned from a quiet and studious

girl into an Arrow driven by leadership, sportsmanship, and friendship. She credits her SUA friends with helping with that transformation. While at SUA, Lisa was heavily involved in Student Council, French Club, Varsity Soccer, Latin Olympics, and the National Honor Society. Being from a big Catholic family, she always wanted to attend the University of Notre Dame; her dream came true, and she majored in Marketing.

After graduation, Lisa was hired at a *Fortune* 20 company and spent 10 years in the Chicago area before returning to Toledo. She knew that upon her return to Toledo she “would need to reconnect with SUA.”

Like the women in her family before her, Lisa has a heart for SUA. Her daughter, a student in the Junior Academy, enjoys having her mom's support as she finds her way through activities and club participation at school. Lisa is a member of the SUA Board of Trustees, as well as the Advancement and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committees of the Board. “I love the benefits of a single-sex education, and I love it when I get the opportunity to be an advocate for SUA in the community. The Ursuline sisters are still a respected part of my experience, and because of what they've done, the Spirit remains present in the halls of SUA.”



# CLASS NOTES

'66

**Melissa (Gase) Sass '66** is living her best life in retirement. She and her husband reside in North Dakota, about 2.5 hours from the capital of Bismarck, on 40 acres with her family of animals: 10 cats, two dogs, two horses, three miniature donkeys, 50 sheep, 12 goats, and three llamas. Melissa had worked with the disabled community for many years, living in places like Rhode Island and Florida, but now is devoted to her animals. This one-time “city girl” has settled into country living at its finest.

'80

In the summer of 2020, **Lori Kasher '80** was a Contact Tracer and Nurse Investigator for the Rhode Island Department of Health, investigating day care/camps and adolescent detention centers. In fall 2020, she went back to teaching pediatric clinical simulation and taking classes for her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in nursing so she can teach full time at a college or university.



'90

**Rachael (Sweeny) Baldwin '90** has been with Aly Sterling Philanthropy since 2013 and has been the lead in branding and marketing, as well as in fundraising communications practice. Currently, she is the Vice President; in this role, she manages business development and assists with growing corporate social responsibility service line.

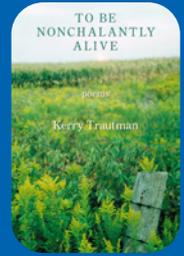
**Julie E. (Payne) Bloemeke '90** was nominated for the 2021 Georgia Author of the Year in the category of Poetry–Full-Length for her piece, “Slide to Unlock.” The winner will be announced in June 2021. Past winners include Jimmy Carter, John Lewis, and Sandra Meek. Julie was also named Third Outstanding Finalist for her work, “After Rousseau’s ‘The Dream,’ Museum of Modern Art, 2016” in the 2020 Fischer Prize Winners. She will be reading for National Poetry Month in April for the LOGOS Collective.

'93

**Jennifer (Williams) Dorsey '93** became the Assistant District Counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, in August 2020.

'94

**Kerry (Jensen) Trautman '94** has published her fourth book of poetry, *To Be Nonchalantly Alive*. It is available on Amazon.com or through the publisher, Kelsay Books.



'95

In January 2021, **Rebecca Piazza '95** joined the Biden-Harris Administration as a Senior Advisor for Delivery in the Office of the Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services at the USDA. She is a part of a team responsible for managing programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the National School Lunch Program to help increase access to nutrition assistance and expand access to healthy foods.

'00

**Sara Streicher '00** has made a name for herself in Hollywood—she’s currently a writer on Amazon Prime’s *The Wilds*, which premiered in Dec. 2020. Prior to that, she was a writer on Netflix’s *Daredevil*.

'07

After graduating from the University of Toledo (UT) in 2011 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and a minor in French, **Nancy Magginis '07** earned her MBA in Marketing and Leadership from UT in 2013. She pursued her interest in the French culture to better understand and communicate in French in the business world; she also studied abroad in France and eventually completed a second bachelor’s degree in French Language and Literature in 2015. Nancy continued her education and earned a Juris Doctorate from University of Toledo School of Law in 2018. She recently became an Assistant Public Defender in the Toledo Municipal Court (Housing Court)/Maumee Municipal Court (Lead).

'08

**Emily Croak '08** was named Vice President of Aly Sterling Philanthropy (ASP) in January 2021. ASP is a consulting firm that works with nonprofits across the country, helping them to further their missions and impact. Emily has been with the firm for three years. “Working with nonprofits that are driving real change in their communities is incredibly fulfilling work; I feel lucky to have found a role where my skillset and passion aligned.”

## '09

**Tiffany Akeman '09** recently accepted the position as Director of Admissions at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Digital Learning School. Tiffany is participating as a 2021 Woman of the Year candidate for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for the Toledo region. She also works throughout the year to advocate for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society by helping with events such as Toledo Walk MS, Bike to the Bay, and her family's own "Strike Out MS" bowling event.

## '10

**Megan Gallagher '10** has been invited to join Linklaters Americas, a global law firm, as a 2021 summer associate in its London office. She will be working with the firm's US transactional groups. Megan graduated in 2014 from Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language, Writing, and is currently working on a Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School. She expects to graduate in 2022.

## '11

**Kristen Prahli '11** has been assigned as SUA's school resource office through the Toledo Police Department. She said, "I'm very excited to be back at St. Ursula working as a school resource officer. I am grateful to have the opportunity to return to my alma mater, and I look forward to working with staff and students."

## '12

**Tayler Belinske '12** graduated in 2020 from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She was recently hired as an Associate Attorney at Thomas Quinn, LLP, in Chicago.



**Mary Gibbons-Georgevich '12**, a chaplain at Mercy Health—St. Anne Hospital in Toledo, has had to fulfill her role in unusual ways in this year of the pandemic. While she still offers spiritual and emotional support to patients and her colleagues at the hospital, this year she has had to facilitate phone and video calls among family members regularly, something she never expected in her career of being so physically and emotionally connected to patients. "I've had families on Zoom as their loved ones are very sick, and we sit outside the [glass doors of the ICU] and talk." Gibbons-Georgevich reports that she feels much more optimistic these days as COVID-19 numbers decrease. "We feel a glimmer of hope right now," she said.

## '13

**Lauren Poellnitz '13** graduated in May 2020 from the University of Dayton with a Master of Science in Materials Engineering.

## '14

**Alaina Durden '14** was admitted to the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences in August 2020. She is currently the president of the Student National Medical Association, vice-president of Student to Student, a Sports Medicine Club Med 1 representative, and an Orthopaedic Club member.

**Charese Foster '14** graduated with her master's degree in International Studies from the University of Denver in June 2020.



## '17

**Ireland Flores-Rae '17** graduated in January 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Education and Promotion from Baldwin Wallace University.

---

Join SUA's LinkedIn group, "**Alumnae of St. Ursula Academy, Toledo,**" to network with other alumnae and learn about upcoming SUA events and professional development presentations.

# IN MEMORY OF OUR ALUMNAE —

JUNE 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2021

**Grace (Karshner) Sattler '41**

*Mother of Marcia (Sattler) Richard '71 and Mary (Sattler) Miller '77*

**Lucille (Shea) Sullivan '41**

**Rita (Fischbach) Hayes '42**

*Mother of Christine (Sheline) Flynn '60, Judith (Hayes) Patitucci '72, Michelle (Hayes) Bauer '74, Marcia (Hayes) Rubini '75 and Rita (Hayes) Yoder '84*

**Jeanne (Lehnert) Michaels '42**

**Carol (Lauer) Harms '44**

**Carol (Ryan) Heron '44**

**Patricia (Carstensen) Bercher '45**

**Phyllis (Norton) Kuznear '45**

**Barbara (Czarnecki) Walker '46**

**Mary (Magrum) Worchuck '47**

**Doris (Segan) Myers '48**

**Barbara (Floyd) McGowan '49**

*Mother of Meg (McGowan) Niehaus '80 and sister of Dr. Nancy (Floyd) Harshman '61*

**Connie (Floyd) Ruth '49**

*Mother of Sarah (Ruth) Travis '90*

**Rita (Coon) Sabin '49**

**Marilynne (James) Webb '50**

**Eleanor (Fuerst) Harms '51**

**Rosemary (Kline) Moore '51**

**Margaret (Schnapp) Keller '52**

*Sister of Patricia Schnapp '54*

**Suzanne (Brunner) Schroeder '52**

*Mother of Elizabeth (Schroeder) Preston '76, Sally (Schroeder) Price '80, Karen (Schroeder) Sledge '83, sister of Mary Pat (Brunner) Birsén '46*

**Peggy (Ankenbrandt) Cunningham '53**

*Sister of Judith (Ankenbrandt) Yaklin '55*

**Verna (Davidson) Schwartz '55**

**Joyce (Fels) Brondes '56**

*Sister of Sharon (Fels) Crystal '54 and Darryl (Fels) Briscoe '56*

**Mary (Jordan) Heil '58**

*Sister of Kathleen (Jordan) Diller '63*

**Margaret (Wiles) McCready '59**

*Mother of Tamara (McCready) Arndt '83*

**Carol Ann (Mattimore) Murphy '60**

**Mary Jo (O'Konski) Patke '60**

*Sister of Kathy (O'Konski) Bucher '68*

**Judith (Burkart) Hill '62**

**Lora (Mitchell) Meyers '63**

**Sharon (Gliatti) Zeberkiewicz '63**

**Karen (Kirsch) Kunz '67**

**Lydia Allen '68**

*Mother of Aimee Cole-Laramore '88*

**Colleen (Whelan) McGregor '70**

*Sister of Joan (Whelan) VanAuken '64 and Mary Sue (Whelan) Estes '67*

**Kathy (Craver) Templin '71**

*Sister of Linda (Craver) Buford '70*

**Sharon (Edwards) Stengle '72**

**Catherine (Schoen) Aldrich '73**

*Sister of Peggy (Schoen) Gruber '70, Mary Schoen '75, Judy (Schoen) Thomas '78, and Martha "Marty" (Schoen) Grohnke '80*

**Susan (Petas) Doukides '74**

*Sister of Marina (Petas) Wade '81*

**Lisa Mercurio-Schrickel '74**

*Sister of Chris (Mercurio) Jones '66, Melinda (Mercurio) Weiner '68, and Shelley (Mercurio) Benore '69*

**Barbara (Hanudel) Rudnicki '76**

*Mother of Angela (Rudnicki) Ludec '12*

**Michele Hamilton '87**

**Tanya Dorsey-Wiggins '90**

**Jennifer (Rawson) Pizza '93**

*Sister of Carrie Rawson '89*

# IN MEMORIAM

JUNE 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2021

**Susan Antkowiak**, mother of Julie (Antkowiak) Harberson '81, Tracy (Antkowiak) Potts '84, and Tammy (Antkowiak) Michalak '87

**Bruce Aseltyne**, father of Amy (Aseltyne) Carroll '91

**Jackie Bass**, mother of Mary Kay (Bass) Minder '77

**Joseph Bauer**, father of Julie (Bauer) Kniseley '81

**Roland Beeler**, father of Kathleen (Beeler) Baker '72

**Janet Beroske**, sister of Mary Ann (Lavigne) Steinbaugh '58

**Sam Botek**, brother of Sandy (Botek) Brown '67

**David Brunner**, brother of Mary Pat (Brunner) Birsen '46

**Richard Burgin, Sr.**, father-in-law of Cynthia (Brown) Burgin '75

**John Calgie**, father of Johanna (Calgie) Brancati '93 and Jacqueline (Calgie) Chandler '98

**John Carey**, father of Elizabeth Carey '93

**Lee Carter, Jr.**, father of Trina Carter-Matthews '91

**John (Jack) Chezek**, father of Donna (Chezek) Posluszny '70

**Paul Cousino**, brother of Mary (Cousino) Matsumoto '55

**Margaret Deedman**, mother of Sandra (Deedman) Zollweg '69

**Michael J. Duckworth**, brother of Mary Gloria "Daisy" (Duckworth) Davis '68

**William Farmer**, father of Colleen Farmer '86

**Michele Flanagan**, mother of Cierra Bourdeau '23

**Robert Fowler**, father of Anne (Fowler) Scott '71

**Robert Gantzios**, father of Nonny (Gantzios) Wohl '81

**Ruben Garcia**, father of Andrea Garcia '97

**Richard Garn**, brother-in-law of Patricia (Babula) Garn '73

**Reynold Gerson**, husband of Linda (Wannemacher) Gerson '64

**Valentine Glinka**, brother-in-law of Nancy (Szombati) Glinka '61

**Roy Gonia Jr.**, father of Kelly (Gonia) Javorek '86 and Tracy Gonia '88

**David Gottschalk**, father of Kate (Gottschalk) Liebelt '07

**John Graves**, father of Lauren Graves '15

**Robert Hannon**, husband of Diane (Marciniak) Hannon '64

**Fredrick Henning**, husband of Sharon (Duffey) Henning '56

**Christopher Hensien**, husband of Boo (Anderson) Hensien '73; father of Molly (Hensien) Mann '06, brother of Elizabeth (Hensien) Ogletree '67, Mary Hensien '72, Barbara (Hensien) Schlembach '74, and Janice (Hensien) Lovell '66; brother-in-law of Kathleen Anderson-Lubin '72, Susan (Anderson) Nowak, '76, Jane (Anderson) Bechtel '77, Amy (Anderson) Brodbeck '80, and Sara (Anderson) Gradel '82

**Jean Hohl**, mother of Carolyn (Hohl) Hohenberger '74

**Dora Hornack**, mother of Tracy (Hornack) Todak '83

**Russell Howard**, father of Anapurna (Howard) Madrone '86

**James Inebnit**, father of Jean Inebnit '68 and Jane (Inebnit) Sutter '68

**Ellen Johnson**, mother of Traci Johnson '83 and Sabrina Johnson '84

**Frederick Joseph**, brother of Barbara (Joseph) Fee '67

**Stephen Kaptur**, brother of U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur '64

**Dr. Thomas Klein**, father of Kirsten (Klein) Dusseau '89

**John Kornacki**, father of Amanda Kornacki '93

**Donald Kress**, father of Jenean (Kress) LaCorte '95

**Marietta Kruse-Wells**, mother of Cynthia (Kruse) Wanamaker '85

**Joan Kwiatkowski**, mother of Sr. Barbara Kwiatkowski '71

**Norman Lehmann**, brother of Betty Ann (Lehmann) Maraldo '57

**Robert Lemle**, brother of Darlene (Lemle) Woods '71

**Vernon Links**, father of Stephanie (Links) Brubaker '89

**Daniel P. Lowry III**, step-son of Molly (Higgins) Lowry '87

**Mary Lumbrezer**, mother of Lois (Lumbrezer) Marvin '71 and Joan (Lumbrezer) Faison '77

**John Mackley, Jr.**, husband of Ann (Schira) Mackley '65

**Walter McFarland**, brother of Lois (McFarland) Smith '81

**James H. McGowan**, father of Meg (McGowan) Niehaus '80 and brother-in-law of Dr. Nancy (Floyd) Harshman '61

**Don McKone**, father of Suzi McKone '04

**Bernadette Meads**, mother of Erin (Meads) Darah '87

**Martha Egan Mollenkopf**, mother of Ann (Mollenkopf) Wischmeyer '81

**Dorothy Murawa**, mother of Charlene (Murawa) Donelan '78, Donna (Murawa) Katafias '82, Mary (Murawa) Super '85, Christine (Murawa) Foetisch '87, Deborah (Murawa) McDonald '88, Kathleen Murawa '90, Gretchen Murawa '94, and Maureen (Murawa) Karubas '98

**William Nachtrab**, father of Marcia (Nachtrab) Rashley '67 and Anne-Marie (Nachtrab) Ainsworth '74

**James Nortz**, brother-in-law of Sondra (Sommers) Nortz '66

**Rita Nowak**, mother of Deborah (Nowak) Doak '75

**James O'Connell**, son of Debra (Wheeler) O'Connell '76, brother of Kelly (O'Connell) Rickey '07

**Thomas O'Connell**, father of Joan (O'Connell) Periat '79 and Jeanne (O'Connell) Keeling '83

**Antoinette O'Connor**, mother of Patricia O'Connor '77

**Roland Osterman**, father of Marda (Osterman) Perrotta '91

**Sr. Kathleen Padden**, OSU, (see article on p. 28)

**Michael Paszkiet**, father of Courtney Paszkiet '06

**Sharon Hoffman Patterson**, mother of Raelyn (Patterson) Calendine '87

**Sherry Petit**, daughter of Sharon (Abel) Mackey '56

**Justine Pinkelman**, mother-in-law of Alison (Malhoit) Pinkelman '72

**Paul Roshong**, brother of Elaine (Roshong) Bender '68

**Bernard Rosplohowski**, father-in-law of Tracy (Kawczynski) Rosplohowski '92

**Kenneth Rosplohowski**, husband of Tracy (Kawczynski) Rosplohowski '92

**Ethelmae Schimmel**, mother-in-law of Mary Jean (Dixon) Schimmel '65

**Patricia Schmidbauer**, mother of Mary Schmidbauer '83

**Michael Shaw**, father of Lauren Shaw '26

**David Socha**, father of Maribeth Socha '96 and Catherine (Socha) Erwin '00

**Margaret Stengle**, mother-in-law of Joyce (Murtagh) Stengle '82

**Ronald Streichert**, husband of Sharon (Glazier) Streichert '55

**Dr. Gerald Sutherland**, father of Noralyn Sutherland '78

**Francis Szollosi**, father-in-law of Melanie (Czubek) Szollosi '95

**Frederick Tank**, brother of Frances (Tank) Sattler '62 and Mary Jane (Tank) Burke '64

**Irma Thomas**, mother of Kimberly Thomas '88

**Mike Thornton**, brother of Connie (Thornton) Limes '84

**John Gregory Todak**, son of Tracy (Hornack) Todak '83

**Nancy Utrup**, sister of Gloria (Utrup) Jeffers '57

**Scott Valiton**, son of Sue (Waldeck) Valiton '68

**Thomas Weisenburger**, husband of Sandra (Szabo) Weisenburger '57

**Richard West**, husband of Constance (Koszycki) West '60

**Jennifer Woods**, daughter of Darlene (Lemle) Woods '71

**Please send news of an alumna's or an alumna's family member's death to Michelle Moses at [mmoses@toledosua.org](mailto:mmoses@toledosua.org).**

## Keeping History Alive



When thinking back on St. Ursula Academy, **Kai Perry '98** remembers how well prepared she was for college when she graduated. Although Kai has not lived in Toledo for many years, she has fond memories of life in her Westmoreland neighborhood when people like Harry Belafonte, Maya Angelou, and James Baldwin often stopped in at her home.

Kai's father, Dr. Robert L. Perry, was the first director of Bowling Green State University's Ethnic Studies Program/Center. The program provided multicultural education and improved racial balance in university course offerings. Kai's mother, Dr. D. LaRouth Perry, spent her career as an English teacher in a public school system and taught in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Toledo. She was a community leader and an avid socialite in northwest Ohio, as well as the founding director of the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. Kai's parents naturally drew thought-leaders to their home, making visitors such as Maya Angelou commonplace in Kai's world.

While at SUA, Kai was a member of the swim team and the Afro Club. She also participated in the Drama Club, Spanish Club, Concert Choir, a musical, the Science Fair, and Student Council. After graduation, she attended Hampton University, a historically Black college and university (HBCU) in Hampton, Va. There, she became the captain of the sailing team, which is the only Black collegiate competitive sailing team in the country. After earning her degree in Psychology, she returned home. A summer weekend when the Tall Ships—large, traditionally-rigged sailing vessels such as topsail schooners and brigantines—docked in downtown Toledo changed the trajectory of Kai's life. Her mom toured the Amistad replica (see sidebar) and noticed that there were no people of color on the crew. She told a tour guide that she thought it would be a good idea to have someone of color on the crew when the ships headed next to Detroit. The tour guide took her comment into consideration, and soon Kai was hired to work as a deckhand/educator aboard the Schooner Amistad as it sailed around the county. She made a difference in the lives of so many who heard the story of the slaves aboard the ship.

More recently, Kai has earned a master's degree in Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University and is currently a doctoral candidate of Educational Psychology at The University of Connecticut. Her research focuses on the intersection of racial identity development and academic achievement among

students in urban schools, and she is conducting educational research at Yale University's School of Medicine in the department of pediatrics. In addition, Kai is an adjunct professor at The University of New Haven. Kai's greatest passion is evidenced by her work as a community organizer, including her time spent as a board member for both the Amistad and Telling Our Story (TOS), an after-school program for young Black people that teaches Black history not taught in schools. Kai works with others in the sailing community to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sail training and Tall Ships community.

### The Amistad

La Amistad was a world-renowned slave ship that sailed from Sierra Leone full of slaves to the Americas for many years.

In the late 1990s, a group of people felt it was important to build a replica of the ship to educate the world about the notorious original Amistad. After years of fund-raising, on June 13, 2000, the recreated Amistad sailed for the first time—this time, as a vessel for education.

"The Freedom Schooner Amistad transformed a ship of enslavement into a symbol of hope and a monument to the pursuit of universal human freedom. Today, the replica sails the world as a continuation of that symbol and as a floating classroom, reaching thousands of people every year," according to Amistad Committee, Inc.





# DONOR IMPACT

In Remembrance of Sr. Kathleen Padden, OSU

“

Not only has the Sr. Kathleen Padden Scholarship allowed me to attend SUA, but it also helped me to continue to explore my Catholic faith and challenge myself with the courses SUA offers. Already, I can see the enormous impact this scholarship will have in preparing me for my future. Sr. Kathleen continues to be an inspiration to me, and **I will be forever grateful** for the opportunities her scholarship has provided.

**JULIA REIMER '24**

”

---

Learn more about the Sr. Kathleen Padden Scholarship, endowed scholarships, or other ways to support girls at SUA by contacting Director of Advancement Josh Yecke at [jyecke@toledosua.org](mailto:jyecke@toledosua.org) or (419) 329-2277.



**ST. URSULA ACADEMY**  
4025 Indian Rd.  
Toledo, OH 43606

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TOLEDO, OH  
PERMIT NO. 242

# FIND YOUR PATH BACK TO SUA THIS SUMMER

## Reunion Weekend 2021

### Alumnae Mass and Cocktail Reception

Saturday, June 26, 2021

4:00 p.m. Mass

5:00-6:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception

This year, we will recognize Honor Year classes ending in '0, '1, '5, and '6, as our reunion last year had to be postponed. We will have all activities outside at St. Ursula Academy, weather permitting. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regulations limit attendees per COVID-19 rules, so please RSVP quickly to reserve your spot!

Visit the SUA website for more details on individual class reunions.

Contact Michelle Moses at [mmoses@toledosua.org](mailto:mmoses@toledosua.org) or (419) 329-2253 with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you there!