

Lauralton Hall



We were excited to come together on Lauralton's historic campus on Saturday, May 14 for the Claven XXXI Awards. Family, friends, and the Lauralton community gathered to celebrate these deserving honorees:

Mother Mary Augustine Claven Award

Mary Kate Curran '81

Linda Franco Giordano '68

Kara Krysynski Justo '89

Deirdre M. Walsh '96

Dawn Russo Crotty '70, posthumously

Patricia Ford Money '79, posthumously

Reverend Peter H. McClean Award

Patrick J. McNeela P'13

Gerald T. Sargent, Jr.

Reverend Cornelius J. Doherty Distinguished Service Award

Patricia F. Doerr P'07

Corinne M. Chace

GATHERING AS A COMMUNITY

A LETTER FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lauralton takes pride in having a lively community where we gather and celebrate! And, how fortunate that our historic, 25-acre campus at Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall offers so many beautiful reasons to gather:

Student-Centered

- Mass in the Chapel brought students and faculty together to honor the sacraments of the Catholic faith, including our Kairos VI Mass, Lenten Sacrament of Reconciliation, Ascension Thursday Mass, Baccalaureate Mass, and so much more;
- The Class of 2023 Junior Ring Ceremony was held outside in the beautifully adorned Grotto, and allowed for legacy mothers and grandmothers to place class rings on their daughters' fingers;
- School spirit is not lacking at Lauralton Hall, where pep rallies in the Athletic Center were filled with music, games, and cheering for the clubs and sports of the season as well as Spirit Week;
- The Claven Auditorium provided the perfect layout for our student-directed winter play, *The Three Musketeers*. Adapted by Ken Ludwig and directed by Kaylor Garamella '22, it was a fun twist on the classic tale of heroism, treachery, and honor;
- The annual [Spring Concert](#) featuring the Freshmen Choir, Concert Choir, and Advanced Vocal Ensemble, as well as our award-winning Symphonic Orchestra and Jazz Orchestra was held on Wednesday, April 27. We were delighted to host the extended Lauralton community on campus in the Claven Auditorium and Athletic Center;
- The Lauralton student body gathered to support three student-athletes recognized in November for [D1 signings](#). In addition, a fourth senior signed in April, followed by D3 signings;
- On Sunday, May 1 the [Fair at Lauralton](#) offered LH faculty and staff the opportunity to welcome 5th-8th grade girls from dozens of towns and cities across CT onto our campus for an indoor and outdoor enrollment event, which offered insight into academic, artistic, spiritual, athletic, social, and co-curricular offerings.

Community Outreach

- An exuberant crowd kicked off the 'season' at [Irish Night](#), the tradition of which pays homage to Lauralton Hall's Irish roots beginning with Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin. This year's sell-out event welcomed entertainment from Highland Rovers Band, Brennan-Lucey Academy of Irish Dance, and the Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band;
- After nearly a decade's hiatus, we were thrilled to host the [Claven Awards](#), honoring ten award recipients, with their families and guests joining us to pay tribute to their significant contributions to the Lauralton Hall community and society as a whole.

Alumnae Focused

- [Wedding bells are ringing](#) in the Chapel as nine Lauralton alumnae held their wedding ceremony at Lauralton during the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Alumnae and other community presenters interacted with a highly engaged student body at [Career Day](#) on Monday, April 11;
- Jubilarians from the Classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 (shown right) were invited to join the Class of 2022 for Graduation to commemorate 50 years since their own commencement ceremonies;
- And have you saved the date? We look forward to reconnecting with you at [Homecoming-Reunion Weekend](#) September 10-11, 2022.



View more photos from events highlighted herein at: lauraltonhall.org

We are fortunate that today's technology offers us the opportunity to gather digitally when our network of over 7000 living alumnae can be found all over the United States, and beyond. I invite you to join our online community by liking and/or following us on our various social media channels.

In Mercy,



Elizabeth A. Miller

Elizabeth Miller, Head of School

FOLLOW US!

Connecting a network of over 7,000 women across the globe!

WWW.LAURALTONHALL.ORG



Teaching & Learning Together

Bottom Row (L-R): Susan Fracker, College Counselor; Jill Waldron, Math; Jen Shea, Science; Margaret Sargent, Fine Arts-Chair; Alexis Lazarus, Math-Chair; Erin Chamberlain, School Counselor; Jennifer Amore '00, English; Catherine Gallagher '85, English; Elizabeth Miller, Head of School; Marnory Hawes, World Language; Eleni Milazzo, World Language-Chair; Pam Boynton, English-Chair; Jessica Tommaselli '07, English; Melanie Woods, Accounts Receivable Manager; Beverly Isselee, World Language; Katie Hutchinson, School Counselor; Yvonne Fosse-Previs '90, Director of Counseling; Jan Powers '75, Dean of Academics

Top Row (L-R): Courtney Dwyer, History-Chair; Mark Allen, History & Fine Arts; Susan Cavar '88, Science-Chair; Christine Miller, History; Tracie Serio, Math; Danielle Kratter, Math; Theresa Napolitano, Science; Lauren Korman, History; Erin Pinsince, Science; Pat Krissik, Registrar; Matthew Rossetti, Fine Arts; Kathryn Gorman, English; Erin DaCosta, Religion-Chair; Anna Wiecekowska '10, Religion; Kristen Finnegan, Librarian; Anne Noel, Math; Trina Bowman, History; Charles O'Donnell, Technology Director; Kathleen Shine, Director of Enrollment; Lon Barkman, Maintenance; Susanna Khan, World Language; Kathleen Donahue '80, Director of Advancement; Jennifer Casceillo, Athletic Director & Dean of Student Development; Sherri Franzman, Business Manager

Not Pictured: Kim Bernier, Administrative Assistant & Athletic Office Manager; Nicole Benson-Ayisi '04, Alumnae Relations & Media Manager; Raul Nadal, Maintenance; Gavy Duran, World Language; April Kelley '85, Science, and Dean Aufiero, Religion



Head of School Elizabeth Miller

Continuing Her Leadership



Purposeful, dedicated, and inherently humble—for over 40 years, Jan Powers '75 has been the steady, often behind-the-scenes, pulse of academic life at Luralton Hall. Over the course of her trajectory at LH, first as a student, then a math teacher, and for the past eight years as Dean of Academics, Ms. Powers has led with integrity and strength.

“When I was thinking about high school, I didn’t—initially—want to come to Luralton,” Ms. Powers

begins. “Then, Milford High was the ‘cool’ place to go. But my mother persisted because she was the product of a Catholic education, and she wanted the same for me. She wanted the best for me. And so I came.”

“I have so many happy memories of being a student here,” she adds. “Back in the day, we wore black and white saddle shoes and pinned a small navy beanie on our heads,” she reminisces. “I was always in uniform,” she chuckles, noting that the Sisters of Mercy on campus were sticklers about the now iconic navy blue jumper and white blouse. “We even had a navy blazer to wear with a patch that was embroidered with the Luralton emblem,” she continues. Her favorite class, of course, was math, and Ms. Powers fondly remembers Mrs. Ferro who taught Algebra, Sr. Stephen Marie, and Mrs. Valovcin, who she says, “even made me like English!”

Forty years later, Ms. Powers has dedicated her entire professional career to guiding, mentoring, and teaching four generations of Luralton students. After graduating from Luralton in 1975, Ms. Powers secured her B.S. in math from Central Connecticut State University in 1979 and her M.A.T from Sacred Heart University in 1985. She began her career as a math educator at St. Mary’s High School in New Haven, and joined the LH faculty very soon thereafter, teaching geometry. Ms. Powers was appointed Chair of the Math Department in 1985 and guided that department until 2011, when she was named Coordinator of Academic Affairs. She was again promoted to Dean of Academics in 2014, where she has remained since, serving as the Co-Chair for both the 2008 and 2019 NEASC Accreditation process.

“When I was a student, I loved the close-knit class we had, and I value the way in which I was encouraged by my teachers to speak my own mind, to think for myself,” she said. “When I started teaching at Luralton, Sr. Margaret “Peggy” Rooney ’51, was a strong principal and Sr. Madeline was our Vice Principal,” she recalls. “They were quite the dynamic duo. And it was impossible not to love Sr. Lilyan “Lil” Fraher ’55 (1937-2021) and Sr. Mary McCarthy (LH Trustee 2017-present),” she says. “They brought such a loving vibe to campus.”

Ms. Powers, who wants to clarify that this profile is not a “retirement profile,” is quick to credit the many strong female administrators she has had the pleasure to work alongside. “Karen Yardley took a very important role as the first President of Luralton Hall, and everyone acknowledges that she has a heart of gold,” Ms. Powers begins. “It was a pleasure to have worked in administration when Barbara Griffin brought technology to Luralton and Ann Pratson was principal with Cynthia Gallant then the Dean of Academics,” she continues. “Now, the Leadership Team headed by Elizabeth [Miller] has worked steadfastly to bring LH through the pandemic as we navigated national health guidelines and hybrid learning modules. Of course, I have to acknowledge my work with Pat Krissik, our Registrar, over the years,” she continues. And faculty can readily attest to the quick wit and genuine camaraderie of this twosome, who have long been infamous for their skits at faculty retirement luncheons. “I couldn’t hope to work with a better group of people throughout my career,” she adds.



Ms. Powers has made many key contributions to academic life at Luralton during her tenure. She is most proud of her work in implementing the block schedule, which allows students the benefit of extended labs in the sciences and in-depth analysis and discussion in the Humanities; and the establishment of the [UConn ECE program](#), which allows the transfer of ECE credit undertaken

by Luralton high schoolers to applicable college credit. “I’ve always valued learning and the process of being a life-long learner,” she notes. “Because after all, how do you teach without teaching how to learn?”

Yet, the most salient tenet of Ms. Powers’ career at Luralton Hall is what she terms, “the power of a Mercy educator.” “I don’t think our School would be the same vibrant and nurturing place it is without the Mercy philosophy of educating young women. Our alumnae are testament to the Mercy belief in the power of a woman’s voice. We need that strength now more than ever.”



Dedicated computer science and math teacher, Danielle Kratter began teaching this course four years ago and is not surprised Luralton received this honor, as Luralton has been repeatedly lauded with this accolade since the award’s inception in 2018.

Kratter studied mechanical engineering as an undergraduate at University of Michigan. She understands the benefit her current course offers to provide extensive STEM opportunities while still in high school. Kratter explains, “This opportunity, to explore the main components of computer science at a college level before students leave Luralton, helps them to be better prepared for college majors and post-graduate careers.”

Kratter continues, “I see many people in non-programming careers, such as medicine and fashion design, where they must implement coding into some aspect of their job. We are becoming more dependent on computers, and it is important for our students to be exposed to the various applications of computer science. This course provides a background in programming that helps to prepare Luralton girls for a career in computer science as well as a foundation in the principles that they could apply to any career.”

A measure of assessing a class is examining the student experience. The AP Computer Science class is definitely #LHStrong. Hailey Reed ‘22 truly appreciates the challenges and notes, “As a STEM-focused student, I am grateful for the opportunity. We learn a variety of coding languages and many topics regarding both software and hardware that I will be able to expand upon next year. This AP course gives me a definite advantage for college.”

Luralton was also able to offer AP Statistics and AP Psychology coursework as on-campus courses for the first time during the 2021-2022 academic year. We are grateful for the opportunity to expand academic offerings.

Committing to Innovation

We are #LHProud to share that LH has been recognized with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. Only presented to a handful of Connecticut high schools, this award celebrates the challenging work of senior students who engage in Luralton’s AP Computer Science Principles course. Here, students are not simply coding in one specific language but are learning the foundational skills for computer science, in addition to looking at cyber security, how the Internet works, and data structures. Adopting the syllabus from Harvard’s freshman year computer science course (CS50 program), Luralton students learn to write in the following languages: C++, Python, Scratch, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

If you are 70 1/2 years old with an IRA...

Honor the sisters who brightened your future. You can direct a gift to Luralton Hall in honor of the Sisters of Mercy and satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution from your IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or your life insurance plan. Talk to your financial advisor about this strategic giving opportunity.

Learn more at [LuraltonHall.org/Give](#) or call the Advancement Office at 203-877-2786 ext. 129



Records of [Luralton Hall’s history](#) since the purchase of the property in 1905 and opening of the School reside in the Archives, now on the lower level of the Saint Joseph Classroom Building. This includes items ranging from the scrapbook of a boarding student in the 1950s that documented her twelve years at Luralton Hall, to the original invoice for the kitchen range purchased in 1916, to class t-shirts from 2018.



Photos: Shrades Shuttlers Photography

Welcome Our Newest Alumnae—the Class of 2022!

Saturday, June 4 the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall extended community gathered to celebrate its 116th commencement. Head of School Elizabeth Miller and Board Chair Paul Fama P'17, P'26 congratulated each of the 94 graduates onstage as they conferred their diplomas.

Valedictorian Brooke Jones (top left), daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Jones of Easton, has been a top high honors student throughout high school and was among five Lauralton seniors named Summa Scholars by the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford. With unparalleled dedication to her peers, Brooke served as Class President for three years, Co-President of Mock Trial, and Vice-President of Youth in Law as part of the Youth & Government club. She earned the Harvard Book Award and the Laura E. LaFlamme '88 Book Scholarship. Brooke has plans to study government and law while attending Harvard University this fall.

Salutatorian Caroline “Cee” Begg (middle), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Begg of Trumbull, has served as Co-President of the Wright Sisters Engineering Team, an officer for both the National Honor Society and Latin club, and a Lauralton Student Ambassador. “Cee” also served as Captain of the Varsity Swim & Dive team. She was named a Summa Scholar by the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford; she earned the Worcester Polytechnic Institute STEM Leadership Book Award and the Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Achievement. “Cee” will be attending the University of Pennsylvania this fall with plans to study Economics and Computer Science Engineering in the Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology.

For more than 20 years, Lauralton has bestowed its highest honor, the Catherine McAuley Award, to the senior who best demonstrates Mercy values throughout her four years at Lauralton. This year, that honor was awarded to Kaylor Garamella (bottom), selected for her kind and caring treatment of others, strong academic purpose, and infectious positive attitude.

This year's graduates will attend 62 distinct colleges in 25 states and two countries beyond the United States. Seniors were accepted into some of the most selective engineering, health sciences, liberal arts, and business undergraduate programs.

For a look at senior awards and college acceptances, please visit:

www.lauraltonhall.org/Classof2022.



SAVE THE DATES

Opening Mass

Celebrated by Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

September 7, 2022



Homecoming-Reunion Weekend

September 10-11, 2022

Nonsense: The Musical

October 28-29, 2022



Christmas in the Mansion

Preview Party
December 3, 2022

Christmas in the Mansion

December 4, 2022



Irish Night

March 4, 2023

Welcoming New Board Chair

The Board of Trustees upholds the Mission of Lauralton—to provide a school community which empowers young women to fulfill their highest potential. On July 1, the Board will see new leadership as 2019-2022 Board Chair Paul Fama P'17, P'26 steps down to welcome Trustee Patrick Lagrange P'19 into the role. In accordance with Lauralton's policy which states that no current parent can serve on the Board of Trustees, Fama is moving into the role of “current parent” once again as his youngest daughter Viviana begins her Lauralton journey this fall as a member of the Class of 2026.

During his tenure as the Board Chair, Fama was a judicious steward who took on his duties with dedication and grace and fostered the important advances of developing new signature programs, addressing significant facility needs, improving faculty and staff compensation, and securing the School's finances. The Lauralton community is sincerely grateful for Fama's active leadership during these last three years.

Lagrange is the proud father of Anna Lagrange '19, a student at Indiana University majoring in theater and minoring in film production. He has over 30 years of experience advising companies, organizations, and their stakeholders regarding performance improvement, strategic planning, operational and financial restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, and capitalization. He has served on the LH Board of Trustees for the past three years, most recently as Chair of the Advancement Committee, which recommends approval of policies and programs relating to philanthropic giving, fundraising initiatives, and alumnae engagement.

Lauralton Hall also extends their sincere gratitude to Cindy Kupec Gallatin '79 (Trustee: 2016-2022) as she steps down as Vice-Chair of the Board to welcome Charlotte Evans '64 who will continue her board service now as



Photo: Shrades Shuttlers Photography

Vice-Chair. Additional thanks to Kathy Kuhar '89 (Trustee: 2016-2022), Mary McCarthy, RSM (Trustee: 2004-2009, 2017-2022), and Anthony Rowan Jr. P'08 (Trustee: 2007-2013, 2016-2022) for their dedication and years of committed service.

We look forward to Lagrange's leadership of the LH Board of Trustees, and to welcoming five new Trustees: Ray Peloso P'14, P'16, P'21, Dr. Peter Jokl, GP'21, Lisa Shea P'14, P'21, Sheila Scullion Sullivan '84, P'16, and Johana Rendon-Ledesma '12.



Lauralton Hall

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LauraltonHall.org

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Thank you to Rev. Guy Dormevil for celebrating Mass with us on Ascension Thursday. Fr. Guy is a Lauralton Hall Trustee, Alumna Parent (2012), and Episcopal Vicar for Haitian Catholics for the Diocese of Bridgeport, and we are grateful for his message to our student body about the importance of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension.

Please keep us up-to-date on your latest moves at:

LAURALTONHALL.ORG/MYINFO

For a list of Lauralton loved ones who have passed away in the last year, please visit:

LAURALTONHALL.ORG/INMEMORIAM



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