

# Lauralton Strong

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR LIFE



HALLMARKS  
SQUARED  
V1.2018

**Lauralton Hall**

Connecticut's First Catholic College Prep School for Girls

*Members of the Class of 2018 tossed their caps after a joyous graduation celebration—the 112th in Lauralton Hall history—on June 2. (Photo Credit: Christopher Carveth)*



## WELCOME TO HALLMARKS SQUARED

The name is a nod not only to this new size—it reflects our commitment to strengthen our efforts to keep you informed in a timely, efficient way. As we begin the new academic year, we are Luralton Strong! Read on... and let us know what you think of our newsletter at [editor@luraltonhall.org](mailto:editor@luraltonhall.org). We hope you'll enjoy it exponentially!



# On Sound Footing

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It is often said that it's not so much how you start, but how you finish that determines the outcome. It's my pleasure to report to you that we finished this year strong! When it became apparent last fall that the school had some major financial challenges to overcome, the trustees of the Luralton Hall Board (the majority of whom had been on the board for a year or less) stepped up. Over the course of 14 board meetings and several phone-a-thons this group of volunteers went above and beyond to insure that Luralton Hall continues to have a bright future.

The Board worked tirelessly to get Luralton back on a sound financial footing. Trustees took a significant role in fundraising, not only by making early and significant personal contributions to the Loyalty Appeal, but by sponsoring fundraising events and making enumerable direct personal appeals to donors. Several trustees led the successful effort to refinance the school's debt, consolidating the outstanding demand note and mortgage into one instrument. We are very pleased with the interest rate and more favorable terms and conditions provided by our new lender, the Knights of Columbus. The Finance Committee and the Board have worked with Head of School Elizabeth Miller to revamp the budgeting process to ensure a timely and balanced budget for this coming fiscal year. Also, we're putting in place a more rigorous financial reporting routine to ensure the Board has all the information it needs for appropriate oversight.

Other Board actions this year include engaging a new audit firm, T.M. Byxbee Company, P.C. While not a factor in the decision process, we are delighted that the audit partner for Luralton Hall happens to be a graduate of an all women's college and fully appreciates the benefits of an all women's education. We have also engaged the law firm of Mayer Brown, on a *pro bono* basis, to conduct a forensic study of the school's past business practices. One of the primary objectives of this initiative is to learn from our mistakes and ensure we don't ever repeat our recent experience.

I want to thank our Board members for all of their hard work these last many months. I also want to recognize Georgia Dickinson, Sheila Kempf, Sr. Irene Holowesko, RSM and Mike Amato. While these trustees are retiring from the Board, I will always be grateful to them for all of their many contributions to our success. I especially want to thank you, the Luralton community, for responding in such a positive and constructive way to the challenges of this past year! Lastly I want to thank Elizabeth Miller, the Board's sole employee. Elizabeth's incredible leadership this last year enabled me to have the exceptional pleasure of shaking the hands of 107 extraordinary young women as they crossed the stage earlier this month to receive their Luralton Hall diplomas. I'm looking forward to a similar experience when I help welcome the strong incoming Class of 2022 at the matriculation ceremony this coming fall.

I hope to see you all at many of the upcoming Luralton Hall events such as our golf outing on October 8 at Great River and of course, Christmas in the Mansion on December 1-2. Also, I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't appeal to you to give as generously as you can to our annual fund. No independent school survives on tuition alone, so please participate and help **Keep Luralton Strong!**



Patrick McNeela  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# \$2,204,875

Total Gifts to the Luralton Loyalty Appeal

\$2,250,000  
\$2,000,000  
\$1,750,000  
\$1,500,000  
\$1,250,000  
\$1,000,000  
\$750,000  
\$500,000  
\$250,000  
\$0



With a \$3,500 capstone gift from the Class of 2018, we gratefully closed the Luralton Loyalty Appeal on June 2, 2018. Words alone cannot express our appreciation to all who supported the Appeal. We—leadership, faculty, and staff—will show you by continuing to advance the Mercy Mission.  
— Elizabeth Miller, Head of School

## You Can Help Keep Luralton Strong

Luralton is blessed with a generous, loyal community that in times of uncertainty has remained unwavering in its support for our School. This kind of commitment represents not only an investment in our Mission and the young women we educate, but shows the significant positive impact we can make when we come together for the benefit of this School we all care about. As we move forward, your contributions are vital in supporting today's students and ensuring that Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall will continue to thrive for generations. Please consider making a charitable gift today to our annual fund for the 2018-2019 academic year. Together we will **Keep Luralton Strong!**

Thank you,

Kathleen Kearns Donahue '80, P '06 '14, Director of Advancement

PS There are two ways to give: The enclosed reply envelope or online at [luraltonhall.org/give](http://luraltonhall.org/give)





# Celebrating New Alumnae

## CLASS OF 2018

On a sunny Saturday, June 2 Lauralton Hall celebrated its 112th commencement awarding diplomas to 107 young women in the Class of 2018.

Lauralton's highest honor, the Catherine McAuley Award, was presented to Jessica Sanchez of Milford. During her four years at LH, Ms. Sanchez consistently demonstrated the Mercy values of compassion, courage, spirit of volunteerism, and sound academic performance.

Valedictorian of the Class of 2018 Caroline Favano of Norwalk will attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where she plans to pursue operations and information management. Salutatorian Lily Wald of Derby will attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville majoring in neuroscience.

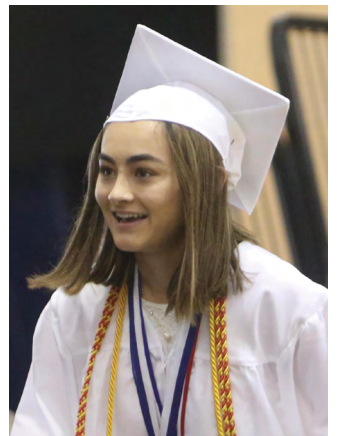
Graduates will be attending 70 different colleges in 24 states. Seniors were accepted into some of the most selective engineering, medical, liberal arts, information technology and business undergraduate programs in the country at schools including Boston College, the College of William & Mary, Tufts University, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia, Wake Forest University, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale University.

In addition, 29 seniors received Lauralton Hall's Frances Warde Service Award for contributing

more than 100 hours of service during this academic year.

In her remarks to graduates, Head of School Elizabeth Miller advised the young women to follow their "inner GPS." Mrs. Miller said that while it's practical to "store your favorite locations," she encouraged graduates to seize opportunities to "take the detour" and "venture further afield." She also challenged the members of the Class of 2018 to consider the impact and legacy of their Mercy education. Mrs. Miller asked, "Why idle when we can thrive?" reminding the new alumnae that they are greatly needed to advance the Mission of Mercy in the world.

**For a look at major school-wide honors and distinctions achieved this academic year, visit: [lauraltonhall.org/2018awards](http://lauraltonhall.org/2018awards)**



McAuley Award Winner Jessica Sanchez



Salutatorian Lily Wald (l) and Valedictorian Caroline Favano



## RETIREMENTS

At a luncheon on June 14 in Claven Auditorium Lauralton Hall faculty and staff, along with special guests, celebrated the retirements of five educators: History Teacher Marilyn Cummings (30 years), Spanish Teacher and World Languages Department Chair Pat Doerr (18 years), Athletic Director Jeanne Cooper (4 years), Health and PE Teacher/Health Department Chair Peggy McGowan (18 years), and Principal Cynthia Gallant (19 years). Library Department Chair Terry Cole Lawler also will retire in August after 45 years of service.

As colleagues paid tribute, the consistent theme was the talent and dedication each brought to her role and the positive impact on hundreds of Lauralton women. We thank these dedicated educators for their contributions to LH and wish them great happiness!



Among LH retirees honored at Lauralton's June 2 graduation are (from left) Marilyn Cummings, Pat Doerr, and Peggy McGowan.



## AND IN OTHER NEWS



### Engineering Team Lands Top Honors in Aircraft Challenge

The LH Engineering Team was awarded the highest score among eight high schools participating in the 2018 Sikorsky STEM Challenge. At a May 4 presentation to engineers at Sikorsky's manufacturing facility in Stratford, teams were evaluated for their work on the yearlong project—to implement a Stability Augmentation System (SAS) for the Corsair aircraft. Ashley Currivan '10, an engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft, mentored the 18 LH team members. Read the full story here: [lauraltonhall.org/news](http://lauraltonhall.org/news)

### Seniors Fly to D1 Athletics

Five Lauralton 2018 grads have committed to Division I athletic programs: Sara Fagan will play softball at Sacred Heart University, Emma Larke will play softball at the University of Maine, Caroline Monahan will play soccer at the College of William & Mary, Caroline Sargent will swim for the University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Claudia Tagliavia will be rowing at Fordham University. LH is proud of these student-athletes' drive and discipline. Go Crusaders!



### Summa Scholars Soar

Six LH seniors were honored as 2018 Archdiocesan Summa Scholars by the Archdiocese of Hartford for their outstanding academic achievement: Caroline Favano, Juliana Gonzalez-Rey, Caitlin Lynch, Grace Murray, Julia Elizabeth Petalcorin, and Lily Wald. These students honored LH teachers Danielle Kratter, Theresa Napolitano, John Blahnik, and Pam Boynton for their profound impact on academic excellence. We are #LHProud of all!





Beginning the new academic year as Lauralton Hall's Leadership Team are (from left): Director of Marketing and Communications Diane Siroky, Business Manager Sherri Franzman, Athletic Director Steven Waizenegger, Head of School Elizabeth Miller, Director of Advancement Kathleen Kearns Donahue and Director of Enrollment Kathleen Shine.



# Alumnae

## Homecoming/Reunion Weekend, September 22-23, 2018

All alumnae are invited as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee Class of 1968 and recognize all classes with years ending in 3s and 8s!

The reunion kicks off on Saturday, September 22 at 11 AM featuring a parade of classes followed by a luncheon at noon, campus tours, Mass in the Chapel, and an evening social. Sunday, September 23 begins with a prayer service at 11:30 AM. After that, the Class of 1968 will be inducted into the Golden Girls Society and attend a special luncheon.

To register, go to [lauraltonhall.org/reunion2018](http://lauraltonhall.org/reunion2018) or contact Nicole Benson '04: [nbenson@lauraltonhall.org](mailto:nbenson@lauraltonhall.org) 203.877.2786, Ext. 115



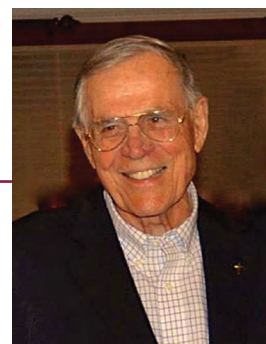
## Alumnae Share Career Insight and Advice

On April 30 more than 30 alumnae representing classes from 1957 to 2011 participated in Career Day at LH. Keynote Speaker Heidi Hellauer Bullock '81 (pictured above) talked with students about her 25-year career serving in the U.S. Air Force, where she recently retired from active duty as Deputy Director of Contracting for the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The other alumnae speakers represented professions in law, medicine, engineering, social work, technology, online retail, education, product development, marketing, public affairs, veterinary, and the arts. We appreciate all of our speakers who took time to visit campus and talk with our students about the education, training and skills required for their professions and to offer a look at a day in the life of their chosen careers. Thank you, alumnae!

# SPREAD THE WORD!

ENROLLMENT OPEN HOUSE: 9•30•2018  
8TH GRADE ENTRANCE EXAM: 10•13•2018

## Bill Murphy IN MEMORIAM



William (Bill) Murphy spent his life advocating for justice and education. Beginning in 2004, Bill paid the full, four-year tuition that allowed 16 young women—including several sets of siblings—to attend Lauralton Hall. He continued to support many through college. His generosity happened quietly, behind the scenes, as he wished. Today, we honor Bill before the entire Lauralton Hall community for his generosity and humility.

Bill passed away in Norwalk on October 6, 2017. After a 32-year law career, he became an ordained Roman Catholic deacon graduating from Yale Divinity School. He was active in the ministry for 22 years at St. Joseph's Church in Norwalk. He also served multiple local agencies supporting public and private education, poor families, and the homeless.

Barbara, Bill's wife of 52 years, told Lauralton Hall that Bill also supported many Fairfield Prep students. At Bill's funeral, many of the Lauralton and Prep beneficiaries volunteered as ushers, as Barbara described, "helping people up our steep steps, escorting them to seats, and handing out programs." With Barbara's approval, the students showed their gratitude by wearing Bill's favorite flower—red roses—on their dresses and jackets.

God Bless you, Bill, for your humble service. *If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.* — Romans 6: 3-9

For a list of Lauralton loved ones who have passed away in the last year, please visit: [lauraltonhall.org/inmemoriam](http://lauraltonhall.org/inmemoriam)

PLEASE SEND CLASS NEWS & PRAYER INTENTIONS TO:  
[lauraltonhall.org/classnotes](http://lauraltonhall.org/classnotes)



Members of the LH Class of 1968 recognized at graduation on June 2 (from left): JoEllen Vitale Lisi, Barbara Zelich Ferguson, Georgia Douglass Dickinson, Barbara Swartwout Gibbons, Patricia Tristine Toth, Mary Wargo, Mary Elaine Halas Scott, Marie "Cookie" Tomaszycy-Reshenk, Beth Benedict Schrader, Mary Ellen McGuire-Schwartz, and Nancy Petrucelli Gabrielle

# SAVE THE DATES

9·5·2018

Mass with  
Bishop Caggiano

~

10·8·2018

Golf Outing

~

10·26 – 10·28·2018

The Addams  
Family, A Musical

~

12·1 – 12·2·2018

Christmas  
in the Mansion

~

3·2·2019

Irish Night

~

4·27·2019

Annual Gala



## Lauralton Hall

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy  
200 High St, Milford, CT 06460  
LauraltonHall.org

Please update your contact information at [lauraltonhall.org/MyInfo](http://lauraltonhall.org/MyInfo)  
or call 203.877.2786 ext. 148.