

Lauralton Hall

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR LIFE



HALLMARKS
SQUARED
V2.2018

*A fresh snowfall captured by Christopher Carveth, Esq. P '00, '02,
mentor to the Lauralton Mock Trial Team*

GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Luralton Hall Community,

The Christmas season at Luralton Hall began on October 25 – the day Kathleen Spencer Sargent ’58, leader of our Alumnae Auxiliary, and her husband Jerry arrived after school to begin setting the stage for *Christmas in the Mansion*. With Jerry on a ladder in Mercy Hall and Kathleen (an indefatigable volunteer for 50 years!) handing him hooks, the Sargents efficiently prepared for the countless yards of garland that transformed our campus into “*All that glitters...*”, this year’s event theme.

I am filled with gratitude for students, alumnae, parents, retirees, trustees, faculty and staff, and all of our loyal volunteers throughout the academic year. Special thanks (to name a few) to *Christmas in the Mansion* Chairs LeighAnn Paine Weber ’89, P’20 and Maria Bravo P’15, Preview Party Chair Debbie Boyle Bowley ’62, P’94, ’98, and Decorating Chair Mimi Nelsen P’07. And, thank you to all who lent a hand whether to string lights, post a flyer, or bake cookies. It is your dedication and love for Luralton that sustains our School and our most beloved traditions.

By the time you read this issue of *Hallmarks Squared* many of you will already have enjoyed the festivities of *Christmas in the Mansion*. The glittering Saturday night Preview Party was supported in large part by a generous “Choir of Angels” —you are truly guardians of our Mercy Mission. I hope I had the opportunity to say hello to each attendee over the weekend and thank you personally. On behalf of all who worked to officially bring back *Christmas in the Mansion*, thank you for attending, supporting our vendors, participating in the raffles, purchasing goodies in the bake shop, and sharing in this joyful and meaningful Luralton Advent tradition; current Luralton students benefit directly from your support.

My wish for you this holy season is that you and your loved ones experience the same sense of joy, goodwill, and warmth of community spirit felt on our campus at *Christmas in the Mansion*. In the words of Catherine McAuley, “God preserve and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this holy season.”



Science teacher April Kelley ’85 guides Alex Brenton ’21 and Madeline Plumb ’20 during a dig in October.

Unearthing History

Where else in this area can you get a hands-on learning experience uncovering 19th century artifacts on a property listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places? Only at Luralton! Inspired by student interest several years ago, April Kelley ’85, LH science teacher, leads an authentic archaeological dig on campus under the guidance of State of Connecticut Archaeologist Dr. Brian Jones.

Artifacts recovered are documented following State archaeological protocols, removed to Luralton Hall’s science labs for cleaning and analysis, and curated with the School’s archives. As the dig progresses on the site of the former Victorian greenhouse, students will seek to answer questions related to the age and purpose of the greenhouse in the lives of the property’s early occupants. Recently uncovered items include hand-forged nails, brick pieces, a metal shutter clasp, and shards of window glass.

In a report for the State of Connecticut students have documented the techniques and tools they’ve used along with photos and descriptions of their findings. These include a jar of hand-blown glass likely used for apothecary between 1890-1930 and pieces of burnt clay brick common in the 1800s. Read the full report with photos at luraltonhall.org/dig.



Surrounded by ghostly ancestors Morticia (Alanna Murphy ’19) shares Addams family history with Alice (Olivia Cholewczynski ’19).

A Spooky Fun Musical

The weekend before Halloween was perfect timing for *The Addams Family: A New Musical* at Parsons Auditorium in Milford.

The talented cast included Alanna Murphy ’19 as Morticia, Brynn Conrad ’20 as Wednesday, and Karina Brea ’19 as Pugsley. Lead cast members also included several performers from boys’ schools Fairfield Prep and Notre Dame West Haven. With a strong supporting cast, ensemble of talented singers and dancers, and an experienced stage crew led by Beatrice Phillips ’19 the show was a high-energy, charming, nostalgic twist on the ’60s sitcom. This is the 17th LH musical directed by Fine Arts Department Chair Margy Sargent P’16, ’18. She said, “This show was a great opportunity for students to hone their acting and comedic skills and to perform some challenging dance steps like the tango. All of their hard work during an intensive eight week schedule paid off – audiences loved it.”



Members of the Class of 2020 enjoying Mercy Day include (from left) Anne Clark, Abby Ligas, Caron Kim, Rachel Lacobelle, Ella (Minnie) Seo, and Anna (Lanie) Barnett.



Being Extraordinary

Luralton celebrated Mercy Day September 24 along with other Mercy schools around the world. Mass was celebrated in the Athletic Center to accommodate the entire student body, faculty, and staff as well as parents, alumnae, retirees, trustees, and other special guests. Celebrant Father Tom Simisky, President of Fairfield Prep reminded us to be “extraordinary in our acts of Mercy in the spirit of Catherine McAuley.” Luralton’s Advanced Vocal Ensemble echoed Fr. Tom’s message performing “The Circle of Mercy” during the Communion meditation, followed by a rousing recessional of “Our Lighthouse” led by our Music Ministry and accompanied by our religion teachers and musicians Damien Connolly and Dean Aufiero. Following Mass the community enjoyed LH’s first-ever Food Truck Festival.



At West Point are (from left) Head of School Elizabeth Miller, Skylar Korman ’19, Jade Petalcorin ’21, Carolyn Canavan ’19, and Trustee Michelle Guzzi.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Students representing Luralton Youth & Government, Mock Trial, and Debate attended a presentation September 20 by Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Attending with Head of School Elizabeth Miller and Luralton Trustee Michelle Guzzi P’14 were Skylar Korman ’19, Jade Petalcorin ’21 and Carolyn Canavan ’19. “I’m interested in studying law at college, and it was an inspiration to hear perspective from Justice Ginsberg as the second woman appointed to the highest court,” said Carolyn. Thank you to Mrs. Guzzi for this extraordinary opportunity.

Members of Luralton’s Advanced Vocal Ensemble and Concert Choir will attend the 2019 American Celebration of Music in Italy during April break. After visiting Assisi LH will sing in Vatican City during celebration of Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica and in a recital at the Sistine Chapel, part of the Pope’s official residence.



Keep Luralton Strong

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

In the first issue of *Hallmarks Squared* mailed to you in August, we launched our 2018-2019 Annual Fund, **Keep Luralton Strong**. As you can see in the financial graphics below, Luralton is operating based on tuition revenues contracted for this academic year. We are using best practices for planning and budgeting to operate within our means.

So, why the need to **Keep Luralton Strong**? We rely on you—our past and current parents, alumnae, faculty and staff, trustees, and friends of the School—to help fund the important improvements and resources that go a long way to enhance our girls’ LH experience. This academic year, for example, the fund will be used for items ranging from library acquisitions to faculty professional development to new chairs for our instrumental ensembles. And, note that **your gift to the annual fund will be put to use in the current academic year**—of direct and swift benefit to our current students.

Please consider making a charitable gift today to our 2018 – 2019 Annual Fund. Your participation matters, regardless of the magnitude of your gift. It demonstrates the importance of shared responsibility in the life of our School as we advance the Mercy Mission. In a show of strength, every single member of our Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff gave to the annual fund this autumn—a testament to our Mission. I hope our commitment will inspire you to support the annual fund.

You can donate securely online at luraltonhall.org/give. Or send a check payable to Luralton Hall in the enclosed envelope. If you’d like to discuss other ways to give, such as a pledge or stock transfer, please contact me directly at 203.877.2786 ext. 129.

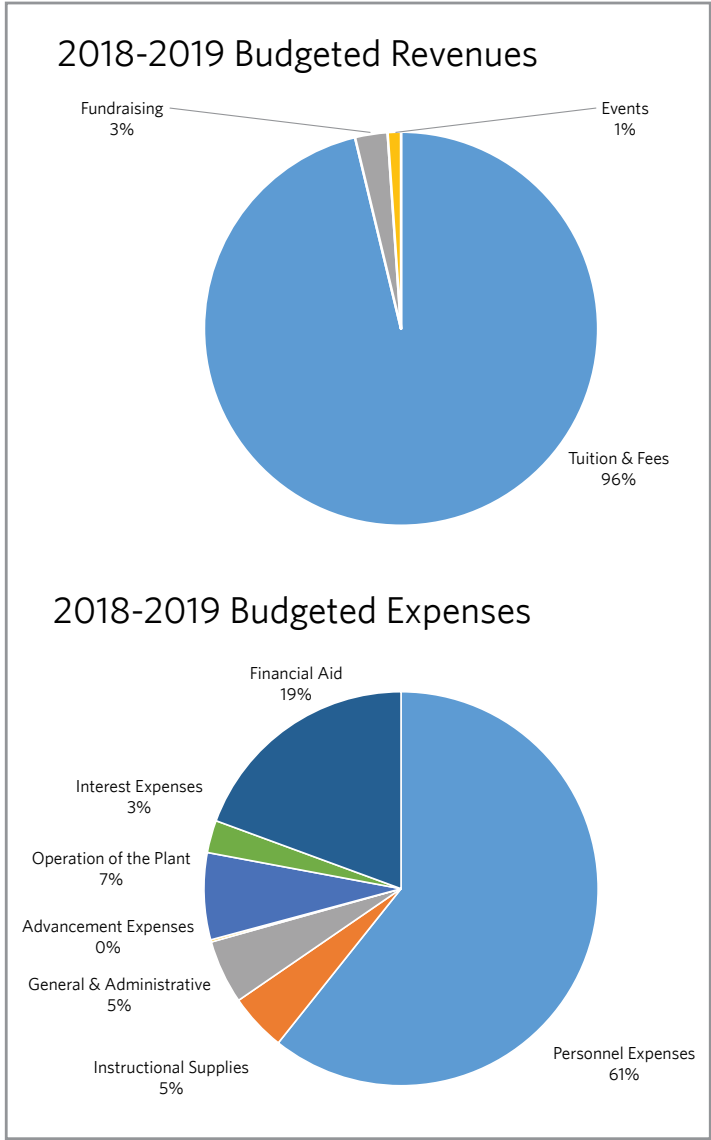
Thank you for your generosity and support for this year’s fund and for the many ways you give to Luralton. Wishing the entire Luralton Hall community a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2019!

– Kathleen Kearns Donahue ’80, P’06, ’14, Director of Advancement

Luralton Hall

Connecticut’s First Catholic College Prep School for Girls

OPERATING FINANCIAL REPORT—



Budget for twelve months ending June 30, 2019



STRATEGIC PLANNING

This spring Judith A. Carey, RSM, PhD will facilitate a strategic planning session with the Luralton Hall Board of Trustees, Leadership Team and Academic Team. Sister Judy has extensive experience as an organizational consultant in disciplines including leadership development, strategic planning, and effective organizational behavior.

Fact:

LH Offers Rich Academics



207 class sections



75 courses



35 faculty



Class sizes 5 to 22

Stellar Swim Team Season

The LH Swim & Dive Team had a strong 9-2 season under direction of our coaching team led by Fran Pfeiffer P’89, ’90, ’95. Coach Pfeiffer has coached swimming at LH for 24 years racking up seven LH state championships. At the SCC Championship November 1, LH finished second to powerhouse Cheshire High School. The team went on to achieve runner-up status at the Class S State Championship Finals at Wesleyan University on November 14. On top of a demanding schedule this fall, the team of 40 swimmers voluntarily spent even more time in the water, participating in a lap-a-thon as part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Crusaders raised more than \$7,000 for the Lion Heart Foundation to support research at the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale. We are proud of our swimmers—and all of our fall athletes—for their discipline and good sportsmanship displayed this season as each team demonstrated altruism in supporting the community.



LH swimmers at the State Championship Finals include (from left) Vivian Freitas ’21, Jenna DePasquale ’21, Caroline Begg ’22, Rory Woods ’19, Veronica Lester ’22, Ashlyn Blessey ’22, and Claire Kehley ’22.



Above: Players enjoyed a competitive game, on-course challenges, and lots of Crusader camaraderie at LH’s Golf Outing October 8 at Great River Golf Club in Milford. Thank you to all who came out to support the event!



Karen Yardley



Molly Yardley '09

A Legacy of Leaders

The LH campus houses a trove of art from stained glass in the Chapel to the statuary on our grounds. In an effort to showcase these works we are relocating some special pieces. For example, now hanging in the Mansion boardroom is a portrait of Karen Yardley. Artist Cathy Amendola, mother of Blake Amendola '97, painted the portrait as a gift to LH in 1997.

In addition to serving as Lauralton's first lay principal in 1988, Mrs. Yardley went on to become the School's first president in 1993. She served in this position for ten years, setting the course for LH's most senior leadership position.

"Mrs. Yardley's years of service and place in our School's history warranted a special spot," said Head of School Elizabeth Miller. "We thought it very appropriate to hang the portrait in the Mansion, a place central to Lauralton's history and the setting of the portrait."

Mrs. Yardley is the mother of Molly Yardley '09, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Captain Yardley is currently serving our country as the first woman in a new specialized unit whose core mission is to conduct advise-and-assist operations with allied partner nations. According to Captain Yardley, advise-and-assist efforts are not new; however, this is the first Army mission designed specifically to assist allies over the long term. Captain Yardley has received specialized training in language, culture, and the military's most advanced equipment to, in turn, train partner security forces all around the world.

We thank the Yardley women for their service and are proud of the Lauralton legacy of leaders.

Our Lauralton Identity

In an October 5, 2018 email, Head of School Elizabeth Miller shared the news with students and parents that Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall's school uniform will be returning to the signature classic jumper beginning in fall 2019.

As Mrs. Miller wrote, "We **Keep Lauralton Strong** by protecting its identity, promoting its Mission, and living its Mercy values. By keeping our uniform distinctive from other area schools we **Keep Lauralton Strong**."

Mrs. Miller also noted, "We live at the intersection of tradition and innovation." To that end, the uniform will also add a lettered dress cardigan in navy for special assemblies beginning next academic year.

Here's just a sample of the overwhelmingly positive response to the news of our signature jumper's return:

Thanks for reaffirming a much-endearred hallmark of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall. – Renee Carlson Eason '78, P'13, '19

Fantastic!... as an alum, I'm thrilled that my girls will have uniforms that are exactly like mine was! –Paula Hiltz '85, P'22

Thank you for honoring our tradition. – Pat Christy Philipp '70

Made this alum smile big today! –Danielle Black Sabino '02

Wonderful news!! Tradition as it should be!! –Tricia Grether Kemperle '92

I was very proud to wear that jumper! We stood out among the rest. That IS a Lauralton Hall tradition!! That IS Lauralton!! –Theresa Moore McMillan '84

I am so glad that this is a tradition that will return and remain. –Karen Fogler '72, P'18



They've Come a Long Way... and Are Paying it Forward

The theme of the 2018 Homecoming Reunion Weekend, "You've Come a Long Way," certainly rang true over the weekend of September 22-23. Alumnae traveled from as far away as Texas and Minnesota and from as far back as the Class of 1938 to attend their reunion weekend with more than 200 other alumnae.

The event celebrated in a special way our alumnae milestone years (those who graduated in years ending in 3 and 8) and the Golden Girls (those celebrating 50 or more years since their graduation).

Among the highlights on Saturday: Alumnae enjoyed lunch in Claven Auditorium as they reminisced over old photos and yearbooks. Afterward, with current Lauralton student ambassadors as tour guides, alumnae had the opportunity to see campus changes and improvements as well as take a trip down memory lane through the catacombs and dining hall.

Later in the afternoon Mass was celebrated in the Chapel by Rev. Charles H. Allen, S.J. Following Mass, alumnae enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Mansion. The beautiful fall weather led guests to mingle out on the Mansion porch and the Carousel well into the evening.

On Sunday Lauralton hosted the annual Golden Girls Society luncheon. The newest members—29 alumnae from the Class of 1968—were formally welcomed to the Society in a pinning ceremony. More than 100 Golden Girls attended Sunday's events.

In an incredible show of support gifts to Lauralton Hall related to reunion activities totaled more than \$10,000. "Our alumnae go a long way to support Lauralton," said Director of Advancement Kathleen Donahue. "Their generous gifts go straight to our annual fund, **Keep Lauralton Strong**, and will have a direct positive impact on students. We thank them for 'paying it forward' to support our students and the legacy that is Academy of Our Lady of Mercy."

Alumnae, mark your calendars now for Homecoming Reunion Weekend to be held September 21 - 22, 2019. Join us as we celebrate all alumnae, especially classes with years ending in 4 and 9.

For more information or to join the 2019 Reunion Planning Committee, please email alumnaerelations@lauraltonhall.org.



Call for Claven Awards Nominations

Lauralton is accepting nominations for the Claven Awards, presented to exceptional individuals who have had a significant positive impact on our School community. The Awards, named

in honor of Lauralton Hall's founder Mother Mary Augustine Claven, were launched in 1980 as part of the School's 75th anniversary. There are three awards:

- **The Mother Mary Augustine Claven Award** is given to a woman who exemplifies the core values of a Mercy education. These include compassionate service, educational excellence, concern for women and women's issues, global vision and responsibility, spiritual growth and development, and collaboration.
- **The Reverend Peter H. McClean Award** recognizes the dedication of a man whose enduring friendship and generosity endear him to the Lauralton Hall community.
- **The Reverend Peter H. McClean Award** recognizes a devoted faculty or staff member who has demonstrated outstanding service.

Award nominations are accepted on an ongoing basis. Details to follow about a formal awards ceremony in the 2019–2020 academic year. Please submit your nomination at lauraltonhall.org/claven



LH Family Ties

Today the LH student body includes 46 direct legacy students, which we define as having a mother and/or grandmother who graduated from Lauralton Hall. This does not discount the aunts, sisters, cousins, and other relationships that are also an important part of growing Lauralton family connection.

The Class of 2022 has an especially strong legacy of 15 students. According to Director of Enrollment Kathleen Shine who has worked in LH admissions for nearly 23 years the legacy story goes beyond girls simply following in family footsteps. "We appreciate the fact that our students have options and yet they choose Lauralton," she said. "It tells us that our alumnae continue to believe strongly in the long-term positive effect of their Lauralton experience."

One of the most poignant moments for a legacy family is the Junior Ring Mass. Students have the opportunity for their alumna mother and/or grandmother to present their rings in the traditional LH ceremony. On October 4, 2018 members of the Class of 2020 received their rings in a ceremony after Mass in our Chapel.

Pictured above after the Mass are juniors with their alumna mothers and grandmothers. Pictured right are Olivia Geckeler '20 with her mother Amy Toth Geckeler '88 and grandmother Diane Szabo Toth '59



For a list of Lauralton loved ones who have passed away in the last year, please visit: lauraltonhall.org/inmemoriam
Please send class news and prayer intentions to: lauraltonhall.org/classnotes

SAVE THE DATES

March 2, 2019
Irish Night

~

April 27, 2019
Spring Auction

~

Sept. 21-22, 2019
Homecoming
Reunion Weekend



Lauralton Hall

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



Mercy Education
System of the Americas

Please update your contact information at lauraltonhall.org/MyInfo
or call 203.877.2786 ext. 148.



Mission of Compassionate Service – LH activities during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October raised nearly \$5,700 for the Get In Touch Foundation and the Norma F. Pfriem Breast Cancer Center (surpassing \$50k raised by LH since 2003 for these organizations). Pictured here kicking off “Pink Week” activities are members of the Class of ‘22 at LH’s 3rd annual Daisy Run on October 20.