

*“Do something. Get moving. Be confident.
Risk new things. Stick with it. Get on your knees.
Then be ready for big surprises.”*

UEN Big Events coming in 2024-2025

- Thursday, October 10, 2024: International Day of the Girl: Virtual student conference on A-I hosted by Ursuline High School, Wimbledon
- Monday, October 21-Tuesday, October 22, 2024: UEN Athletic Director Conference, St. Louis, MO
- Thursday, February 13-Sunday, February 16, 2024: Student Leadership Conference, Cincinnati, OH
- Thursday, March 13-16, 2025: United Nations 69th Commission on the Status of Women Conference, New York City, NY
- Sunday, June 1-Tuesday, June 10, 2025: Life and Legacy of St. Angela Pilgrimage

The Ursuline Education Network assists member schools to continue the Catholic, Christ-centered educational traditions originally established by founding congregations of Ursuline Sisters. The goal of UEN is to ensure the charism of St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline order, remains an integral part of the educational experience from preschool through college. Together, we help member schools follow St. Angela’s directives to DO, BE, RISK and achieve BIG SURPRISES in order to faithfully and joyfully fulfill their missions. This spring edition of *Laurel Links* celebrates and honors just a few examples from some of our member schools. Be sure to make note of BIG SURPRISES awaiting on the 2024-2025 horizon!



STUDENT SERVICE AWARDS

The Ursuline Education Network honors students who model St. Angela’s 10th Legacy: “Never fail to render your neighbor the services that may depend on you” by awarding annual Student Service Awards. Students nominated from member schools submitted written essays about their service experiences and were honored for exhibiting some recognizable attributes which model St. Angela. Student service award recipients were announced on January 26, 2024 and essays were posted on the UEN website during the month of February. Award winners received certificates and commemorative pins from UEN. Congratulations to all of our deserving students who practice *serviam* and the school educators who are esteeming them. Pictured below are UA-Dallas recipients Sophia Colbert and Amanda Robb with Principal Andrea Shurley.



School	Student recipient	Grade
Academy of Mount St. Ursula	Amy P.	12
Academy of Mount St. Ursula	Maribella B.	12
Beaumont School	Lucy S.	12
Beaumont School	Samay T.	12
Ursuline Dallas	Amanda R.	11
Ursuline Dallas	Sophia C.	10
Ursuline Academy Dedham	Simone C.	12
Sacred Heart Academy	Mary B.	11
Sacred Heart Academy	Allison C.	11
Sacred Heart Model School	Addie L.	8
Sacred Heart Model School	Gray W.	8
Ursuline Academy New Orleans	Evie B.	12
The Ursuline School New Rochelle	Fiona G.	12
The Ursuline School New Rochelle	Lila V.	12
Ursuline Academy St. Louis	Claire C.	9
Ursuline Academy St. Louis	Caitlin D.	12
St. Ursula Academy Cincinnati	Isabella B.	12
St. Ursula Academy Cincinnati	Lelia F.	12
St. Ursula Academy Toledo	Anna H.	12
St. Ursula Academy Toledo	Olivia E.	12
St. Ursula Villa	Jack R.	6
St. Ursula Villa	Laila S.	8
Ursuline Academy Cincinnati	Emily R.	12
Ursuline Academy Wilmington	Nora M.	11
Ursuline High School Wimbledon	Isabella T.	10

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati, twenty six students and thirteen chaperones attended UEN's Student Retreat in New Orleans January 11-14, 2024. The theme of the retreat was Faithfully and Joyfully: incorporating St. Angela's teachings in everyday life. Facilitator Jane Cruthirds, Director of Mission Formation for Sacred Heart Schools in Louisville, KY, prepared an interactive, historical and spiritually rich program focused on St. Angela's hospitality, and the vital role her instruction can have in students' daily lives. Jane used many resources from the collaborative Ursuline AMOR project website, *Angela's Story*, by Mary Cabrini-Durkin and the book *Also in Your Midst*, by Sr. Martha Buser OSU. Co-hosted by Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, a school visit, prayer service in the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and private tour of the Shrine museum was incorporated into the retreat experience. Retreatants constructed a make-shift "piazza" with St. Angela imagery as its center. Embracing the spirit of *insieme* was encouraged as a method to practice St. Angela's counsels daily. Chaperones aided and participated with students in structured listening sessions modeled after the recent Synodal sessions in Rome. UEN thanks Jane Cruthirds for serving as retreat facilitator and Christy Zurcher of Ursuline New Orleans for offering gracious, southern hospitality.

Faithfully and Joyfully

UEN Student Retreat~January 2024 ~New Orleans, LA



How you are being called to be more like a piazza...open, gracious, hospitable, and filled with joy?

Ursuline Education Board of Trustees announces **The Nichole Flores Esteemed Educator Award**. The Award honors the memory of UEN Board member and St. Ursula Academy Toledo Principal Nichole Flores, whose commitment to Catholic, Ursuline education was exemplified through her service to the Ursuline Education Network. Having faithfully and joyfully served as a Board member and Officer, Nichole was an ardent supporter of faculty and staff members in continuing the commitment to excellence in education.



"Cling together with bonds of charity, esteeming one another, helping one another, supporting one another in Christ Jesus."
St. Angela Merici ~ 9th counsel

Beginning in the spring of 2025, a single award will be given to a deserving educator from an Ursuline Education Network member school. Nominees for the award show their commitment to Ursuline Education through demonstrative approaches, as Nichole did in her life. Examples include incorporating St. Angela's teachings in classroom curriculum or in non-academic programs of influence, collaborating in UEN supported programs, and serving as witness to St. Angela's teachings by modeling Ursuline spirituality in personal and professional life.

Save the Date



URSULINE
EDUCATION NETWORK

In Concord Together

Athletic Director Conference
for Ursuline Schools

October 21-22, 2024

Ursuline Academy
St. Louis, MO

Social to be hosted Sunday evening, October 20, 2024.
Conference begins 9am Monday morning and includes mass celebrating the Feast of St. Ursula.

Conference information and registration
available on the UEN website beginning July 1, 2024

www.ursuline-education.com

Questions? Email peggy@ursuline-education.com



Congratulations to Ursuline Academy of Dallas in celebration of their sesquicentennial year!



Ursuline Academy Wilmington continues celebrating its 130th anniversary and marking the occasion with several key events throughout the year. On Saturday, February 3rd, members of their community came together to learn more about the origins of the Ursuline order of Sisters, our foundress St. Angela Merici, and how her legacy lives on in their alumnae and current students. A presentation on St. Angela Merici entitled *Celebrating our Ursuline Heritage: The Legacy Continues* was led by Sr. Maureen Welch followed by a panel discussion with Sisters Marion Lynch, Patricia Schifini, Kathleen Finnerty, Jeannie Humphries, and Betty McAdams.

Celebrating our Ursuline Heritage: The Legacy Continues...



Ursuline Sisters
contemplatives in ministry





Planning zoom between
US and Australian students



Team of Sisters
from the Asia-
Pacific



Some of the Community
Kitchen participants

Community Kitchen – Chrab Viel, Cambodia

Submitted by Erin Prada

Director of Global Education & Upper School Spanish Teacher

Ursuline Academy, Wilmington DE

In October 2023, International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) selected Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE and St Ursula's College Kingsgrove's Community Kitchen proposal as the recipient of the 2024 Moulton Grant for Global Citizenship. This international recognition is awarded annually to a project submitted by a member school or team of member schools that is designed to advance educational opportunities for women and girls in disadvantaged situations around the world.

In collaboration with a team of Ursuline Sisters in the Asia Pacific, Global teams from Delaware, USA and Sydney, Australia have joined forces to carry out a multi-layered project over the course of 2023-2024 school year and beyond. The awarded grant funds support the development of a space for local women at Mother of Peace School, an Ursuline-established school in Chrab Viel, BaPambang, Cambodia, to build community while generating economic opportunities for themselves and their families. These women collectively utilize the school kitchen space outside of operating hours to prepare recipes, which they sell at the school and surrounding markets. Grant funds have equipped the kitchen with a gas stove, cookware, and all necessary materials for the women to get their small businesses off the ground. Our pilot group started with ten local women, but with growing interest over the past few months, we will be expanding the number of participants to include additional community members.

Our Australian and American students at Ursuline and St Ursula utilize core components of Ursuline Academy's Leadership and Innovation curriculum to share ideas with one another. Through Zoom and Flipgrid, our students have been practicing problem solving and entrepreneurship from different cultural perspectives. They have also been working together to compile an Ursuline Global Cookbook, where recipes from The Community Kitchen serve as the very first entries. In addition to honoring the Cambodian women and their efforts, the cookbook seeks to unify and celebrate our entire global Ursuline community. We are blessed to have such rich and beautiful cultural diversity around the world, and we hope this publication, slated for distribution in summer 2024, will facilitate the opportunity to connect and share with one another.

The Community Kitchen project continues to develop, and we will carry out future phases over the next academic year. In the meantime, faculty lead from St Ursula's Kingsgrove, AntoinePe Nader, prepares to present project updates at the ICGS symposium in Melbourne, and further developments will be presented at the ICGS annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland in June. Through these two professional development opportunities, we look forward to sharing about ongoing efforts and our Ursuline network as a whole to girls' schools educators from around the world.

We are grateful this project has allowed Ursuline Academy Wilmington and St Ursula's College Kingsgrove to form a stronger bond as sister schools and also with a supportive and collaborative team of Sisters in the Asia Pacific. This project would not be possible without the leadership of Sr. Nongnut (Thailand), Sr. Supansa (Thailand), Sr. Sensa (Indonesia), and Sr. Entin (Indonesia) who live in Chrab Viel, as well as Sr. Lee Veriga (Australia), who has been of great aid regarding both coordination and communication.

New Ursuline School Presidents Named

DALLAS, Texas – Andrea Shurley EdD, has been selected the next President of Ursuline Academy of Dallas, effective July 1, 2024. The naming of Dr. Shurley as the eighth President of Ursuline Academy culminates a comprehensive selection process for a successor to current President Gretchen Kane. "For nearly a decade, Andrea Shurley's leadership has been essential to the successful innovations and growth at Ursuline Academy, assuring excellence in academics, student well-being, and faculty and staff development," said Jon Piot, Chair, Ursuline Academy of Dallas Board of Trustees.



"Our community is truly blessed that her dedication and passionate commitment to the Catholic Ursuline core values and all-girls education will energize her vital new efforts to lead Ursuline."

A highly accomplished Catholic educator, Dr. Shurley joined Ursuline as Principal in 2014, having served eleven impactful years in teaching and administration with the Schools of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco, California, including a transformative tenure as Head of School, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School. Prior to her work in education, she built a successful technology career first in Austin and then in Silicon Valley.

BLUE ASH, OHIO — Ursuline Academy has named alumna Patricia Norton Boehm, Ed.D., as its next president, effective July 1. Boehm '94, who currently serves as Ursuline's interim president, was unanimously selected by the board of trustees following a thorough national search. Boehm brings extensive school leadership experience to the role and boasts strong Ursuline ties as an alumna, administrator, and current parent. Since assuming the interim position last summer, she has developed a comprehensive plan to improve Ursuline's organizational structure and revamped the admissions and enrollment experience, among other accomplishments.

"I am honored to lead my alma mater at this pivotal time," Boehm said. "Ursuline provided me with a transformative educational experience, and it is a privilege to help make that experience possible for young women today."



Prior to assuming the interim presidency, Boehm served as Ursuline's major gifts officer. She returned to the Cincinnati area from Mobile, Alabama, where she served as the associate head of school for UMS-Wright Preparatory School.

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Laurie Eichelberger Leiva has been selected as the new President of Ursuline Academy New Orleans, effective July 1, 2024. Laurie comes from the Advancement Leadership Team at Loyola University New Orleans with a proven track record of transformative leadership, a commitment to educational access and excellence, and a deep understanding of Catholic education. In the outward-facing role of President, Laurie's skills, personal attributes, and values will help her lead Ursuline Academy successfully toward and beyond our 300th anniversary in 2027.



"Ursuline's mission and values, the overarching commitment to Serviam, and the opportunity to continue building on the history of educating young women in New Orleans resonates deeply with me. It is with a tremendous sense of honor and gratitude that I accept the role of President at Ursuline Academy New Orleans. Meeting the students, alumnae, parents, faculty, staff, trustees, and Sisters during the interview process was inspiring and I look forward to joining them in embracing the rich legacy of Ursuline and the vibrant spirit of St. Angela Merici in preparation for the tricentennial anniversary in 2027."



Ursuline schools celebrate TWO Gatorade players of the year in high school girls basketball! Congratulations to Zakiyah Johnson, a junior guard/forward from Sacred Heart Academy of Louisville, KY and freshman guard Jezelle "GG" Banks from Ursuline Academy Wilmington, DE.

The Life and Legacy of Saint Angela Merici

10-Day Pilgrimage & Study Tour for Ursuline Educators
during the Jubilee Year 2025!

June 1-10, 2025



And I see better and hold
more dear and pleasing
the good things which I see you
constantly doing,
and now, even more,
I want and am able to help you
and do you good in every way.

St Angela Merici, Prologue to Counsels: 24-25



URSULINE
EDUCATION NETWORK

The Ursuline Education Network
invites member schools to participate
in an educator's pilgrimage
to Italy in 2025.

A Jubilee Year in the Catholic
Church, we additionally honor the
500th anniversary of St. Angela
Merici's trip to Rome, from where
she solidified her determination to
form her Company of St. Ursula.

The pilgrimage is open to adults of
all UEN member schools, educators,
family, and friends.

Continuing education credits will be
offered to educators who take part in
additional formation for curriculum
development, so to enliven St.

Angela within the classroom. The
pilgrimage is an opportunity to
experience the grace and

contemplation of St. Angela's life, to
enrich student instruction, and grow
her vine of spirituality in our schools.

Please consider joining us as we
celebrate the Life and Legacy of
St. Angela Merici!

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TRAVEL PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- Round-trip economy class airfare from Cincinnati or New York.
- U.S. departure tax; Customs user fee; security tax and all airport taxes.
- Deluxe motor-coach transportation as noted in the itinerary.
- Eight (8) nights' accommodation at first-class hotels throughout the tour.
- Breakfast daily, plus 7 dinners including a festive meal at Cantine Santa Benedetta.
- Full-time tour manager and local guides as needed.
- Portage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels.
- Entrance fees to sights noted in the itinerary, and coordination of daily Mass.
- Comprehensive travel insurance (mandatory add-on to package price).

Refer to Terms & Conditions for items or additional costs not included in the package price.

Itinerary includes stops in
Desanzano, Brescia, Florence and Assisi.
Pilgrimage will conclude in Rome with celebration
of 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass on the Solemnity of
Pentecost, celebrated by His Holiness Pope Francis
and a visit with Ursuline Sisters in Rome.

Educators who are seeking continuing education credit will
participate as a study cohort.

Three preparation sessions are required prior to travel:
December 18, 2024 ~ February 24, 2025 ~ May 1, 2025.

Group instruction will include content sharing and
curriculum development to be completed in summer 2025
for immediate classroom use.

REGISTRATION REQUIRES A \$500 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT BY JULY 1, 2024.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR THE PILGRIMAGE,

Go to The UEN Pilgrimage Web Page of Peter's Way Travel:

<https://petersway.com/1196.html>

Questions regarding the Pilgrimage travel and itinerary, can be directed to

Karen Rohrecker, Director of Sales & Marketing

karen@petersway.com



What'sUP??

Virtual Student Leadership Meetings

Join with other student leadership teams from UEN member schools to discuss and share your Ursuline-Piloted programs or just what's on the horizon at your school!



Wednesday September 11, 2024

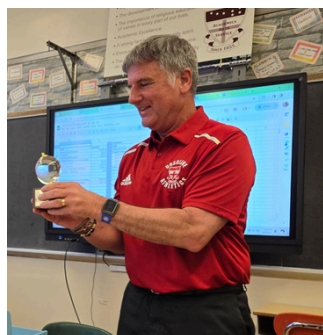
Wednesday January 8, 2025

Wednesday April 9, 2025

3pm Eastern/2pm Central/8pm UK

Meetings will last approximately 45 minutes.

To receive a zoom link to attend What'sUP meetings,
email peggy@ursuline-education.com



Ursuline Education Network Treasurer and long-time Board Member Jim Koehler, of Ursuline Dallas, receives thanks and appreciation for his extended service at the UEN Board of Trustees Meeting in April.



2024-25 UEN Board Executive Officers pictured left to right: Joni Mullen, incoming Treasurer from Ursuline Academy St. Louis, MO; Michele Bernot, returning Vice-President from Beaumont School, Cleveland, OH; Carrie Wentzel, returning President from Sacred Heart Schools, Louisville, KY; and Jen Guzman, incoming Recording Secretary from St. Ursula Academy Toledo, OH.



The Ursuline School of New Rochelle and Academy of Mount St. Ursula welcome students from Brescia House School in South Africa.

"The visit strengthened our global Ursuline community and was a celebration of unity and understanding across continents. Thank you to the Brescia House School for gracing us with your presence and enriching our community with your unique perspectives and joyous spirit!"



UEN Board of Trustees

Carrie Wentzel, Chair - Sacred Heart Schools, Louisville, KY
Michele Bernot, Vice-Chair - Beaumont School, Cleveland, OH
Jim Koehler, Treasurer - Ursuline Academy of Dallas, TX

Patricia Boehm - Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, OH
Jen Guzman - St. Ursula Academy, Toledo, OH
Kathy Hammond - St. Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, OH
Meghan McArdle, OSU - Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Bronx, NY
Trisha Medeiros - Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, DE
Dr. Colleen Melnyk - The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, NY
Joni Mullen - Ursuline Academy, St. Louis, MO
Mary Kate Tracy-Robidoux - Ursuline Academy, Dedham, MA
Stacy Shoulta - Mount Merici Academy, Waterville, MA
Julia Waters - Ursuline High School Wimbledon, England
Lisa Wolfer - St. Ursula Villa, Cincinnati, OH
Christy Zurcher - Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, LA



Contact UEN

Peggy McCormick-Platz
Director

peggy@ursuline-education.com



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