



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 create programming to help member schools follow St. Angela's directives to faithfully and joyfully fulfill their missions.

The 2025 fall edition of Laurel Links celebrates and honors good works from a few of our member schools. Be sure to make note of the upcoming programs for the remainder of the year listed on the right.

Thursday January 15-Sunday January 18, 2026

UEN biennial Student Retreat

St. Raphael Retreat Center ~ Dallas, TX

"God will be in your midst" ~ Practicing St. Angela's Counsels in Daily Life

Co-hosted by Ursuline Academy of Dallas

January 27, 2026

Annual UEN Student Service Awards announced

February 11, 2026

What's U.P.? Student Leadership Zoom conversation

Saturday, March 7 - Thursday, March 12, 2026

United Nations 70th Commission on the Status of Women

New York City, NY

Ursuline Schools collaboration with

Working Group on Girls and The Grail of the Bronx

April 2026

Annual Student Service Awards and

Nichole Flores Esteemed Educator Award

Sunday, June 14-Saturday, June 20, 2026

Social Justice Immersion Experience for Students

St. Vincent dePaul/Ozanam Center ~ Cincinnati, OH

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Each spring, the Ursuline Education Network confers Athletic Awards to student athletes who exemplify Ursuline core values through their participation in sports. Nominated by personnel, coaches or teachers from individual schools, two athletes from each school are eligible to receive the following awards:

Senior Scholar Athlete is awarded to a high school senior only, who has demonstrated outstanding athletic fortitude while maintaining high academic achievement over four years.

The Spirit of St. Angela Award is awarded to a student athlete, regardless of age/grade, who embodies St. Angela's directive to "do something, get moving, be confident and risk new things."

Formally announced in June, the Ursuline Education Network congratulates the following athletes who received awards from their schools during 2025 spring awards ceremonies:

School	Senior Scholar Athlete Recipient	Spirit of St. Angela Award Recipient	Nominator
Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Bronx, NY	Brianna Ramos	Valentina Ortiz	Tara Harrison
Beaumont School of Cleveland, OH	Cecilija Dautovic	Emma Wolf	Tim Ertle
Saint Ursula Academy of Cincinnati, OH	Nia Jones	Grace O'Toole	Kelly Powers
St. Ursula Academy of Toledo, OH	Lily Krebs	Clara Lalor	Mike Donnelly
Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati, OH	Anne Weber	Elsa Friede	Colleen O'Brien
Ursuline Academy of Dallas, TX	Ellen Muirheid	Elena Montenegro	Stefanie Hill
Ursuline Academy of St. Louis, MO	Brooke Tatum	Claire Fagan	Jen Brooks
Ursuline Academy of Wilmington DE	Eliza Johnson	Sadey McPherson	Lauren DiSabatino
Ursuline Academy-Dedham, MA	Abigail Carlo	Victoria Airasian	Mike O'Connor
Ursuline High School, Wimbledon, UK	Ema Kandalova		Polly Harrison



Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights, OH is proud to announce the celebration of its 175th anniversary, marking nearly two centuries of educating young women for life, leadership, and service.

Founded in 1850 by the Ursuline Sisters, Beaumont is the oldest school in Cleveland and one of the oldest all-girls Catholic high schools in the country. The anniversary year officially began on September 9, 2025, with a special Founders Day Mass and Community Celebration at the Guardians baseball game with the Terminal Tower lighting up in Beaumont's blue and white colors that evening. There will be a year of celebrations including events, initiatives, and storytelling opportunities that honor Beaumont's rich legacy and vibrant future. *"This milestone offers us the opportunity to celebrate the enduring power of all-girls Catholic education and the generations of young women who have gone on to make a difference in the world,"* said Wendy Hoke, President of Beaumont School. *"At Beaumont, our students are deeply rooted in faith and inspired to rise into purposeful, compassionate leaders, a mission that has remained constant for 175 years."*

Click The Land logo below for a link to read about the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland celebrating 175 years!



By Authors Chris Mosby & Richard Osborne
Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement, Cleveland,
Communities, Social Equity
November 17, 2025



In honor of its 170th Anniversary, The Academy of Mount St. Ursula of The Bronx, NY held a special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, October 26 celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Edmund Whalen. The following day,



AMSU welcomed His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, who blessed a new student prayer room—celebrating faith, service, and the Ursuline tradition of empowering young women.



Cardinal Dolan was gifted an AMSU bucket hat from the students, which he promised to wear with enthusiasm!



TIMES AND CIRCUMSTANCES

A-I in the Ursuline Classroom



Professional Development Conference
Friday, September 26, 2025

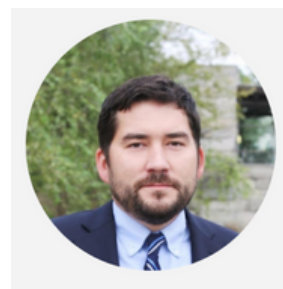


Michael Beck



Zach Heck

On September 26, UEN hosted a professional development conference on Artificial Intelligence at Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio. Derived from the virtual A-I Conference for students hosted in 2024 by Ursuline High School of Wimbledon, UK, the conference for educators included policy development, best-use, personal learning strategies, and avoiding legal pitfalls. Participants heard from three professionals in A-I education and law. Michael Beck, the conference keynote, provided an overview of best use, personal learning and policy development. Based on his years of instructing students in A-I use through his non-profit **Code For Kids**, Michael's work promotes A-I and STEM education in marginalized communities. Educators were led through a writing session for developing policies and learning strategies as they align to Ursuline school mission.



Andy Cullison

The afternoon provided a session of legal Q and A with attorney Zach Heck of Taft Law from Dayton, OH, whose practice focuses on privacy and data security. Specifically, Zach assists clients in the areas of privacy compliance, data governance, and guidance in the aftermath of an information security incident, including data breach. Zach fielded many questions and concerns brought forth from schools navigating A-I boundaries. The final conference session was a presentation by Dr. Andrew (Andy) Cullison, the founding executive director of The Cincinnati Ethics Center at the University of Cincinnati. Andy's presentation focused on his work which specializes in K-12 ethics education, and co-curricular ethics programs at the collegiate level for students/faculty/staff. At the conclusion of the conference, a considerable digital bank of A-I resources was made available by Michael Beck for future use by UEN teachers. Additionally, the University of Cincinnati announced the opening of a new Center for Explainable, Ethical, and Trustworthy AI (CEET), a first-of-its-kind hub for humanities-based research and public engagement on the societal dimensions of artificial intelligence. Ursuline educators can take advantage of resources being developed by CEET. Two anticipated outputs from CEET of specific interest for UEN school collaborations would include the development of K-12 lesson plans, activities and educational materials on AI ethics, and the launch an annual AI Ethics Summer Camp for high school students. A-I remains one of the most pressing issues within our Ursuline institutions, touching all subject areas. Using strategies offered with **"prudence and good advice"** from our conference presenters, our schools can **"remain steadfast"** while moving successfully within these unique times and circumstances. To learn more about content shared, get a link to A-I resources, or a connect with CEET at The University of Cincinnati for your school, contact peggy@ursuline-education.com.

Adult Responsibility and Psychology Classes
Partner with DePaul USA for Service Learning Project
Christy Zurcher - Director of Mission Integration
Ursuline Academy of New Orleans



This school year, Ursuline Academy of New Orleans' Adult Responsibility and Psychology classes partnered with DePaul USA New Orleans as part of a meaningful service-learning project. "Depaul USA is a national homeless services nonprofit organization and affiliate of the international homelessness services organization, Depaul International Group." - depaulusa.org Mrs. Christina Schlaudecker's Adult Responsibility class has taken on a sustainability focus, inspired by Ursuline Sister Francis Xavier Hebert, who is remembered as the first female pharmacist in what would become the United States. With medical supplies scarce in colonial Louisiana, Sister Xavier cultivated an extensive herb garden at the Old Ursuline Convent. She used the plants to prepare teas, infusions, and remedies that helped treat the sick throughout the community. Mrs. Maureen Cremaldi's Psychology class has taken a different approach. Their workshop, scheduled for December, will focus on emotions and how they are experienced in daily life. The class will explore how gratitude is connected to all emotions, including positive feelings we experience when life is going well. One emotion they are highlighting is tranquility—DePaul guests will create tranquility terrariums, help participants explore how gratitude deepens their experience of peaceful emotions where life is good. As participants mindfully arrange living plants, stones, and soil, they'll participate in being present and grateful for the small, beautiful thing that brings them calm to their space. On Friday, October 10, Ursuline hosted its first workshop with guests from DePaul USA. During the session, students and guests explored how herbs and essential oils can support overall well-being. Ursuline students created a guidebook highlighting different herbs and the essential oils derived from them, explaining their benefits for health—such as calming stress, fighting germs, and easing aches. The guide also includes tips on using natural remedies safely in everyday life. As part of the workshop, students presented the guests with a "coffee table book" showcasing the healing properties of various herbs. They also created candles infused with essential oils to promote relaxation and eucalyptus bundles for showers, which can help ease stress and open the sinuses. The Adult Responsibility class has also started an herb garden and planted several crops with the goal of hosting a farmers' market in the spring, where DePaul guests and students can celebrate sustainability and community connection. In the spirit of *Serviam*, these Ursuline girls are truly making a difference in their local community!



UEN offers special thanks to Dr. Molly Gower of St. Mary College, Notre Dame, IN. In celebration of St. Ursula's Feast Day, Dr. Gower shared her insights and wisdom on Historic Women of the Church with UEN schools. On Monday October 20, she recorded a virtual presentation, followed by speaking to classes in person at Saint Ursula Academy in Cincinnati, OH. On Tuesday October 21, Dr. Gower spoke to the students at Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati. Envisioning the presence of women during influential times in the Church's history was

central to the theme of her presentations. "Consider openness to imagination as an invitation to knowing how women were present in history." Dr. Gower's recording is available for use by UEN teachers in their classrooms.





SPORTS

Ursuline Academy of St. Louis loves the Ursuline athletic spirit which drives the friendly competition with sister schools!
 "Oh the places you'll go!"
 2025



FIELD HOCKEY

St. Louis at Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville, KY



TENNIS

St. Louis at Ursuline Academy Cincinnati, OH



VOLLEYBALL

St. Louis hosting Ursuline Academy Dedham, MA and Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, LA



Congratulations to the JV and Varsity Cross Country teams of St. Ursula Academy Toledo, OH for winning the Ohio Catholic High School League Championship on October 7!
#goarrows!



On Wednesday, November 12, nine students from Ursuline High School of Wimbledon, UK received certificates of completion of the UEN Global Scholars Program. Students shared their project writing and research, culmination of their studies, in capstone presentations. The students represent the first cohort from Wimbledon to fulfill the challenge of being Global Scholars. Congratulations students and faculty of Ursuline High School!

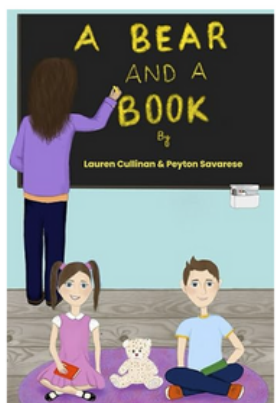


**Seniors at The Ursuline School of New Rochelle honored for
“Bear and a Book” service project.**

**Shannon Dufresne
Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications**

*“You have more need
to serve others
than they have
to be served.”
~ St. Angela’s First Counsel*

From Yonkers classrooms to recognition in Washington, Ursuline seniors Lauren Cullinan '26 and Peyton Savarese '26 have shown what it means to live *Serviam*. Their friendship and determination transformed a small idea into nearly 2,000 acts of kindness—reminding the Ursuline community that service is not only what we do, but who we are. Their project began as a conversation between classmates who shared a love of books. Both attended Paideia School 15 in Yonkers before enrolling at Ursuline, where teachers encouraged them to pursue their passions and give back. At Ursuline, English teacher Ms. Tonianne Bellomo deepened their appreciation for reading and writing and challenged them to use their gifts in service to others—a momentum that helped spark A Bear and a Book. Their plan was simple: read to young children, then leave behind a bear and a book to encourage reading at home. The response has been immediate. Children clutch their new stuffed animals, open their books, and often start reading aloud before Lauren and Peyton even leave the room. “It feels really good to see their reactions,” Peyton said. “In some classes, the kids begin reading right away.” The project’s reach quickly caught the attention of local leaders. In March 2024, the Yonkers City Council awarded the students Certificates of Recognition for their commitment to literacy. On September 11, 2025, U.S. Rep. George Latimer, who represents New York’s 16th Congressional District, honored Lauren and Peyton on the congressional floor, praising their work as an example of young people making a lasting impact. Like many service projects, A Bear and a Book faced early challenges. Funding each gift bag cost about \$6, and finding resources proved difficult at first. Lauren and Peyton turned to local businesses, teachers and individual donors for support. The community responded generously, sponsoring entire classrooms. “Since launching this project, I’ve learned that I’m capable of more than I thought,” Lauren said. “Fundraising and organizing at this scale pushed me to grow as a leader.” Peyton agreed, noting how the project stretched her skills. “This experience taught me so much about teamwork, creativity, and perseverance,” she said. Together, they have already reached a milestone: publishing their own book, also titled [A Bear and a Book](#), [now available on Amazon](#).





Fourth graders at Ursuline Wilmington, DE led a heartfelt Rosary Prayer Service in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. With reverence and joy, they guided the school community in prayer, reminding all of the power of faith and discipline. The school gathered in their newly completed Rosary Walk and Piazza – a peaceful and sacred space for reflection, prayer, and connection.



Sacred Heart Schools and Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Celebrate Launch of Ursuline Innovation STEM Center with Special Blessing from Archbishop Shelton Fabre



Archbishop Shelton Fabre blessed Sacred Heart's new Ursuline Innovation STEM Center, which houses the Ursuline Environmental Education Program and the Ann Cowley Wells '60, '64 BSEE Design Lab, on September 24 during a liturgy and ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Archbishop Shelton Fabre spoke to the group gathered for the blessing and ribbon-cutting, saying, *"We gather today to bless and dedicate the new Ursuline Innovation STEM Center. It will soon be a busy hub of activity where students, faculty, and staff may come to study, to learn, to share fellowship, and to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ and our wise use of all that he has entrusted to our care."*



The Ursuline Legacy : Leadership, Faith, and the Arts

By Jeanine Boutiere, Fine Arts Department Coordinator

Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati, Ohio



As an Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati alumna and teacher, I have spent over half of my life connected to the Ursuline tradition. Recently, I have started to feel a greater call to learning about the strong, faith-filled, and talented women who created, nurtured, and still guide, the most influential community in my life. As we have seen this year call Sr. Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU, Sr. Rose Ann White, OSU, and Sr. Ellen Doyle, OSU, home to our Heavenly Father, I felt the desire to learn about and commemorate the Ursulines of Brown County grow louder within me. In partnership with Sr. Patricia Homan, OSU, who allowed me to explore and bring assets from the archives at Brown County, this month's exhibit honors the myriad ways in which these women have had an impact on their communities. We, of course, know of the courage and faith required of Julia Chatfield and her companions. To cross an ocean and, from the wilderness of 1845 Brown County, build a refuge and home for so many, speaks to their determination and trust in God's vision for them. The blueprint for the education of young women of faith, still provides a guiding path for us today at Ursuline Academy. This path includes veneration of the arts in all of its forms. From the written word, to performed lines on a stage, wood that has been expertly carved, and melodies finely scored, the legacy of the Brown County Ursulines is rich with artistic devotion to St. Angela, her followers, and their faith. To honor the lasting impact of the Ursulines, and specifically their contributions through the arts, displays at Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati include the following: hand-carved wood pieces, books and images the Sisters designed and produced through their Brown County printing shop, a collection of published writings (including a two-act play), a framed landscape painting by Sr. Elizabeth Browne, OSU, a framed photograph of the award-winning sculpture of Julia Chatfield by Sr. Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU, a drawing by Julia Chatfield herself, a painting by Julia's sister Matilda Chatfield, a photo quilt of the Ursulines and Brown County, as well as art prints and a drawing created by myself and my students. Juniors and seniors in advanced portfolio courses (pictured below) were invited to choose a meaningful image of St. Angela, Julia Chatfield, or the grounds at Brown County. Using a printmaking process called monotyping, the students painted their images in reverse, with water-soluble oil paints on a clear printing plate, which was run through an etching press to transfer their work to dampened rag paper. Some prints were added to over multiple classes, soaking the paper and registering the image to match up with the previous layers of printing. Each monotype is a unique piece of art, with each brush stroke and mark creating a singular image that cannot be repeated. Some students then chose to augment their prints by adding details and texture with micron pens. The exploration of a printmaking process was particularly meaningful, with the history of the Ursuline print shop at Brown County. As a product of the Ursuline community, it has been my joy to research and present a display that I hope adequately honors the rich, and very much alive, legacy of St. Angela Merici and the Ursulines, as I am blessed to continue educating my own students in the Ursuline tradition.



**Saint Ursula Academy of Cincinnati Hosts Dr. Lisa Damour
New York Times Bestselling Author and Psychologist
Jill Cahill ~ Vice President of Communications**



Saint Ursula Academy was thrilled to welcome back renowned psychologist and bestselling author Dr. Lisa Damour (virtually) as a guest speaker for the whole community! Dr. Damour is a nationally recognized expert on the emotional lives of teenagers, author of **The Emotional Lives of Teenagers, Under Pressure, and Untangled**, and even served as a consultant for Pixar's **Inside Out 2**. Simply put—she knows teens inside and out and has personal experience as the mother of 22 and 15-year-old daughters. And lucky for us, she knows Saint Ursula, too, from past visits and long-standing connections with our school community! This time, Dr. Damour guided students, parents/guardians, and faculty/staff through strategies of resolving conflict and the power of courageous conversations—those real, heartfelt

talks that strengthen bonds, nurture trust, and deepen the SUA sisterhood. With parents, she explored How to Talk to Girls about Delicate Topics (and Everything Else). The session covered many topics, including why some kids don't open up to parents when something is bothering them, what ways and times kids feel most connected to parents, and how to talk to teens about hard subjects. With teachers and staff, Dr. Damour focused on how girls exist and work together in a school community. She discussed the impact of COVID on teen development and communication skills. She also shared some insight into the need for teens to belong and what that looks like when it is healthy and when it is not. Another key topic was how to help teens understand their options in conflict resolution. With students, she unpacked navigating a school community where students are with other girls they did not choose. That means daily interactions with girls they love, girls that are acquaintances, and maybe some girls with whom they have differences or conflict. She shared why being polite to everyone, even if you are not friends, is the gold standard of behavior in an authentic sisterhood. She helped the students understand how to determine which scenarios to act upon, how to approach a conflict that needs resolution, and how to move past a conflict that may not require a resolution. The students were left with some real solutions for some common situations that occur in a large community of teens. Each session left our community inspired and equipped with practical tools and compassionate wisdom to better navigate the teenage years with the young women we love.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
URSULINE ACADEMY OF WILMINGTON!!!
RANKED #1 BEST CATHOLIC K-12 SCHOOL
IN DELAWARE BY NICHE FOR 2026!**



**Eighth grade students from St. Ursula
Academy of Toledo, OH enjoyed a class trip
to Washington, DC in October.**

“With God’s help, you will do much good for others.”

Erica Martinez | Chief Communications Officer

Ursuline Academy of Dallas, TX

Georgina Cruz Kattas, a resident of Mexico City, passed away in December 2024 at the age of 96. A fiercely independent woman, she was not married, had no children, and did not have any heirs. Understanding the importance of financial security in her later years, she had established a trust 25 years prior, naming Ursuline Academy of Dallas as the beneficiary. This spring, Ursuline Academy was blessed to receive Georgina’s bequest and subsequently established The Georgina Cruz Kattas Scholarship Endowment, which will provide tuition support to students with financial need in perpetuity. Her decision to entrust Ursuline Dallas was guided by thoughtful conversations with her financial advisor in Brownsville, Texas. He encouraged her to reflect on the most peaceful and joyful moments of her life. She recalled fond memories from her time as a boarding student at Ursuline, where the Ursuline Sisters provided her with guidance, refuge, and a profound sense of gratitude for their influence on her journey. Before attending Ursuline, Georgina lived in Mexico City with her father, a successful merchant. She lost her mother as a child, and when her father remarried, her stepmother arranged for her to attend boarding school, a decision that ultimately led her to Ursuline. Upon returning to Mexico City, her father gifted her a large chicken farm, which she managed with determination, transforming it into a lucrative business. Over time, the city’s expansion created a demand for land, enabling her to sell the farm at a significant profit. Those who knew Georgina described her as energetic, intrepid, and courageous. She found joy in simple pleasures—food, jewelry, and travel—while embracing solitude. A passionate explorer, she embarked on solo journeys across the world, even traveling alone to Japan in her mid-80s, a destination she cherished deeply. In addition to her trust, Georgina ensured that her generosity extended beyond borders, providing for the Ursuline Sisters in Mexico by naming them as the beneficiaries of her home in Mexico City. Her legacy remains one of strength, independence, and an enduring gratitude for the kindness she received, which she, in turn, passed forward.



Service-Learning Immersion for Ursuline Students

June 14-20, 2026

*Hosted at the Society of St. Vincent dePaul
Cincinnati, OH*



The Ozanam Center for Service Learning will tailor an experiential week of social justice activities for Ursuline high school students to challenge misconceptions of poverty and examine solutions. Additionally, students will engage in a service opportunity at Hope Emergency Program, a non-profit founded by the Ursuline Sisters of Brown County, OH which supports the rural poor.

*Interested in learning more or
sending students to the immersion?*

Contact peggy@ursuline-education.com with questions.

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