

## UEN Updates

Rosann Whiting  
Director of Ursuline Education Network



Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of Laurel Links. We proudly showcase some of our member schools with photos and informative articles. I found it particularly interesting to see what the young women in Wimbledon, England are doing for service projects. We are so blessed by their membership as it opened the door for UEN to become an international organization.

In February, approximately 80 Ursuline educators from around the globe participated in the URSULINE TEACHMEET that you will read about. More of those opportunities are being planned so that the Ursuline charism will continue through collaborative partnerships on each Ursuline campus across the globe! It was such a very special gathering of educators.

In March, the annual NAULC meeting took place in St. Louis. I was asked to present an update of the work that UEN is doing and happily did so. The comments from Ursuline Sisters who attended the meeting was very positive and encouraging.

I traveled to St. Louis recently for the Global Scholars' capstone project presentations. In just a few weeks, I will travel to Wilmington and New Rochelle to do the same thing. The students who seek the Global Scholar Student distinctions on their diplomas have devoted much time and effort to research a global issue that intrigued them. It is my hope that this course of study might influence them in further social service projects, or even in career choice! We will proudly add more schools into the UEN Global Scholar program in the very near future. Should you wish information about it for your school, be sure to reach out to us!

The UEN Board of Trustees will meet virtually in early May. At that meeting, we will honor the service of Nichole Flores and Jim Koehler, both of whom have served on the board for 7 years. They graciously agreed to add one year to their service so that we could transition as a board following COVID. Each of them has been a tremendous resource to me and leaves a legacy of dedication to their individual schools as well as to UEN. Thank you so very much for your service!

April signals the "beginning of the end of the academic year." Many events showcasing students will be the highlight of each week on every campus! Seniors are preparing for graduation, final exams loom on the horizon, underclasswomen await the "next year", while award ceremonies are a regular occurrence. Don't forget to nominate students for the two ATHLETIC AWARDS recognized by UEN. I heartily congratulate those seniors who will leave the Ursuline schools this year and begin their "next steps" in life. Never forget the Angeline charism which has influenced you in the past few years! May St. Angela protect you always!

*Rosann M. Whiting*



# UEN SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2022-2023

Congratulations to all recipients of UEN Student Service Awards. Each student was nominated by a school faculty or staff member for their outstanding achievements fulfilling the Ursuline core value of *serviam*. Student essays can be viewed through a link on the UEN website:

[Ursuline-education.com](https://www.ursuline-education.com)



Ursuline Academy of Wilmington's Innovation class launched a trial at Christiana Care for their Patch-It Bear program. These unique bears feature patches that represent the milestones young patients typically reach during their hospital visit. The bears will comfort and motivate the young patients plus help doctors and nurses! All the bears are made from fabric remnants making these bears sustainable and snuggly! The team consisted of Kaya Blair '24, Isabella Caraballo '24, and Emily Copeland '23. Once the team receives valuable feedback from both the patients and the healthcare team, they will be able to revise their prototypes accordingly and refine their solution to better meet patient needs.

| Student Name  | School                      |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Ashlei R.     | Academy of Mount St. Ursula |
| Merienne W.   | Academy of Mount St. Ursula |
| Grace C.      | Dedham                      |
| Reese A.      | Louisville                  |
| Anna B.       | Louisville                  |
| Elliot G.     | Mt. Merici Academy          |
| Zoe N.        | Mt. Merici Academy          |
| Emerson Q.    | New Orleans                 |
| Kelly N.      | New Orleans                 |
| Lena G.       | New Rochelle                |
| Alexandra P.  | New Rochelle                |
| Rachel R.     | St. Louis                   |
| Lindsey F.    | St. Louis                   |
| Ellie G.      | SUA Cincinnati              |
| Taylor R.     | SUA Cincinnati              |
| Kathryn A.    | SUA Toledo                  |
| Leah Y.       | SUA Toledo                  |
| Sarah Kate G. | UA Cincinnati               |
| Amelia M.     | Ursuline Dallas             |
| Victoria A.   | Ursuline Dallas             |
| Maria K.      | Villa Angela-St. Joseph     |
| Roland I.     | Villa Angela -St. Joseph    |
| Audrey P.     | Wilmington                  |
| Norah M.      | Wilmington                  |
| Charlotte O.  | Wimbledon                   |
| Eirinn F.     | Wimbledon                   |
| Emma G.       | Youngstown                  |
| Jeffrey H.    | Youngstown                  |



Dr. Andrea Shurley, Principal of Ursuline Dallas is pictured with UEN Service Award recipient Amelia Mappus and Sr. Lois Castillon, Director of Mission and Heritage.



The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place March 6 to 17 at the United Nations in New York. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world contributed to the session. The priority theme examined and studied innovation and technological change, to enhance education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Additionally, the Commission reviewed challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, conclusions of the sixty-second session in 2018. Three UEN member schools attended some of the sessions: Ursuline Academy New Rochelle, NY, Ursuline Wilmington, DE and St. Ursula Academy Cincinnati, OH.



Brescia House School



## GLOBAL TEACHMEET



“The more you esteem them, the more you will love them; the more you love them, the more you will care for and watch over them. And it will be impossible for you not to cherish them day and night, and to have them all engraved in your heart, one by one, for this is how real love acts and works.”

*St. Angela Merici - Prologue to the Counsels*



On February 15, over eighty Ursuline educators from twelve countries around the world, gathered virtually to learn about global partnerships through virtual collaborative, classroom learning experiences. The Global Ursuline Teachmeet was hosted by Graham West of Brescia House School in Johannesburg, South Africa and Maria Barton from The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, New York. Graham and Maria shared the framework of their journey of academic development, including lesson plan structures, overall challenges, successes and opportunities. Development of their program through implementation spanned more than two years. Featured clips from some of the final student project collaborations covered global topics such as equality and equity, the Israel/Palestine conflict and environmental racism. The Teachmeet included two, twenty-minute breakout sessions for participants to discuss and share best practices on topics of relevance for their students and schools. The Teachmeet generated enthusiasm for educators seeking novel ways to broaden students minds toward global awareness and understanding. It also served to strengthen Ursuline connections and cultivated potential future collaborations between Ursuline schools. In addition to Maria and Graham, other school colleagues who participated in successful virtual classroom collaborations were Laura Van Houten and Gen Savary-Williams from Brescia House School, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Adrianna Robertson and Chris Bratt from The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, New York, USA.

Since the Global Teachmeet, Graham launched a new online community exclusively for teachers in Ursuline schools around the world. The platform will be a place to make connections, share ideas, create collaboration opportunities and larger virtual events for both teachers and pupils. Interested teachers can join at <https://www.globalursulineteachers.com/> and click 'login' in the top right corner to join the virtual community. Once registered, please visit the 'Forum' to introduce yourself and participate in themed discussions. There is a forum category for each of the breakout room themes used during the Teachmeet.

*Updates from Ursuline High Wimbledon, England.  
Submitted by Polly Harrison, Director of Extended Learning.*

Ursuline High Wimbledon students enjoy the Philanthropy Project! Our year 8s students have been taking part in the annual Philanthropy Project, run in conjunction with a national organisation called First Give. In the project, each of our 7 classes explores social issues and looks at which local charity they would like to support to help tackle those issues. They then meet with the charity, raise funds for them, work to make others aware of the charity and the social issue it addresses, and prepare a pitch for the Grand Final to win £1000 for their charity. This will take place on 28 April and they are getting very excited! Our students have been busy running bake sales, doing sponsored walks/runs/rollerblades, washing cars, running raffles and doing all kinds of imaginative things to raise funds. So far, as a year group, they have raised over £5,200 which is incredible. Enrichment for year 12s- service options prove the most popular of all! At Ursuline Wimbledon the year 12s are just finishing their two terms of enrichment. They have a choice of 20 different activities including 8 service options which always prove the most popular. With 190 students in our year 12 that is a lot of placements- especially as some students choose to do more than one. Rukeywe is our star year 12 as she helped with the homeless centre and the food bank. We are very proud of all our students for their work in serving others. Here is some of what they have said about their experience:

*"Interacting with younger children helped my communication skills as well as patience, listening & fostering an encouraging environment."*

*"I loved being able to help people who are often in need of it, it's been great to see how different people work."*

*"I liked how I could form relationships with the children and develop new communication skills."*

*"From this enrichment I have gained better communication skills with children. I liked being able to help out children with their reading and I have seen them develop their reading skills through the year."*



Pictured top, our year 12s led a business competition for year 5 students from the local Catholic primaries. Here they are on a trip to Covent Garden Apple Market as part of this project. Pictured middle, Millie, Sinead and Rhea, together with seven other year 12s, went to Perseid every week since September to work with children and young people with extra learning needs.



Isabelle, working with our local Food Bank to help those experiencing food poverty. This is a new project this year and came from our links with this charity both in lockdown and through the Philanthropy project.

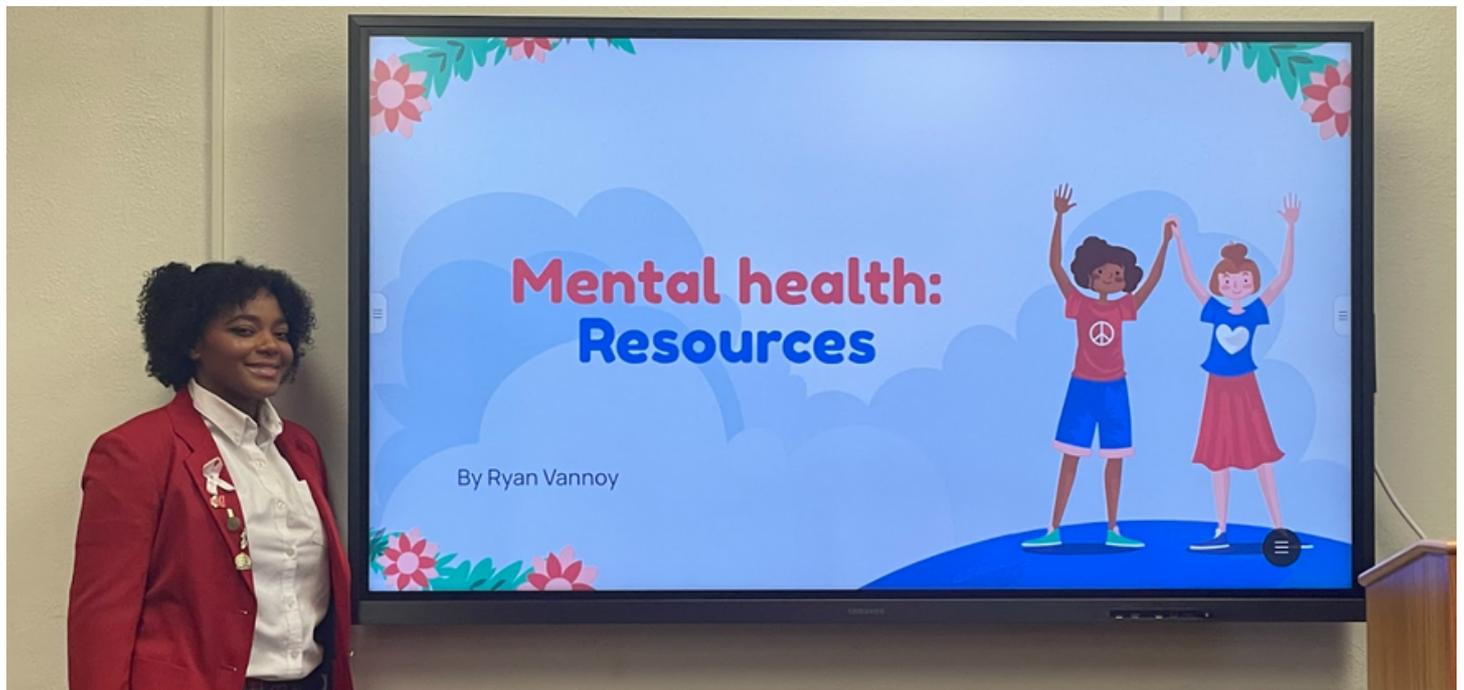
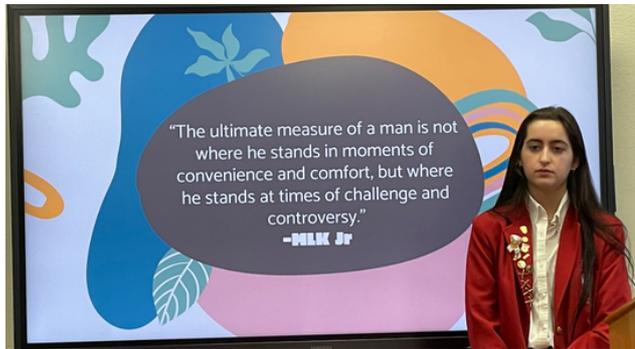
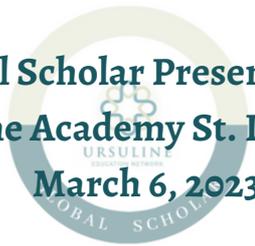


Postcards drawn by 8 Francis as part of the "send a smile" project run by their charity, Arts and Homelessness International.



Cake sale run by 8 Catherine in aid of STEM4 which supports young people's mental health

Global Scholar Presentations  
Ursuline Academy St. Louis, MO  
March 6, 2023



Ursuline students from St. Louis presented their Global Scholars Capstone projects on March 6, 2023. Pictured top left is Mia Raible, top right is Elisa Schmitt and center pictured is Ryan Vannoy. The Ursuline St. Louis Global Scholars program is overseen by Joan Mullen, M.A., Director of Mission Integration.



Angela Merici Online Resources [AMOR] is a collaborative initiative to make information and multi-media presentations on Saint Angela Merici and the Ursuline charism more accessible to diverse audiences and for differing applications. Whether you are just becoming acquainted with Angela and the Company of Saint Ursula she founded, or are a long-time friend, the AMOR Project is here to welcome and assist you. We invite you to explore the topics and utilize the tools the AMOR site offers, and the links and references to other materials which may support your spiritual reflection, classroom engagement, or academic research. One recent

addition to the site is The Pilgrim's Guidebook to Convocation 2022. Sr. Carol Curtis, OSU, Louisville has digitally compiled the comprehensive resources shared in each session. Best of all, the resources are directly linked for ease of use at your computer or in your classroom. **Learn more at <https://mericistudies.org/>.**



# Save the Dates

URSULINE  
EDUCATION NETWORK

## Strong in Adversities

Mental Health Strategies For Ursuline Schools

Professional Development Conference

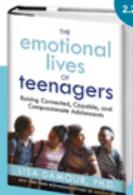
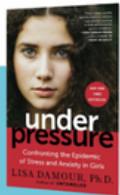
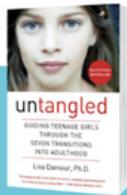
November 5-7, 2023

Beaumont High School - Cleveland, OH

Featuring **Dr. Lisa Damour**,  
expert and best-selling author on child  
and adolescent development, family  
mental health, and adult well-being.



LD Untangling family life.



Conference registration opens August 1, 2023

Contact Rosann Whiting, UEN Director with questions.  
director@ursuline-education.com

# Save the Dates!



URSULINE  
EDUCATION NETWORK

## Student Retreat

### January 12-14, 2024

Hosted by Ursuline Academy  
New Orleans, LA  
with *Diane Fulgenzi, OSU*

Funded in part by a generous grant from the  
Ursulines of Cincinnati.

Registration opens September 1, 2024

For more information contact Rosann Whiting, Director  
director@ursuline-education.com



## Sacred Heart Academy choir tours Ireland

In March, the choir from Sacred Heart Academy of Louisville, KY, under the direction of music teacher Jill Shurman, had the opportunity to travel to Ireland. With the help of Dublin Ursuline Sister Anne-Marie Dixon OSU, the choir was able to visit the Cabinteely Community School. Built by the Ursuline Sisters who first opened the school in 1962, Cabinteely maintains strong Ursuline foundations through trusteeship of the Ursuline Sisters. Jill Shurman reflected on their visit to the school, "I am forever grateful for this experience for my students and Cabinteely school. Their music teacher taught us 'Be Still and Know that I am God' which we will sing at our spring concert in Louisville. "

## UEN Board of Trustee Members

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Christy Zurcher - Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, LA



UEN thanks and honors our  
outgoing Board of Trustee Members:

Nichole Flores, Chair  
Jim Koehler, Treasurer  
Ramona Payne  
Julie Scherer

### Contact us

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