



**Ursuline Fine Arts Teacher Caroline Rufo** not only has the respect of her students, but as an accomplished public artist, serves as a role model for the community. With art degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and Mass College of Art, her skill and creativity spill out in both the classroom and the community.

This fall, Caroline's artwork "**Hub and Tide**" was unveiled as a permanent installation that wraps a one-story building in **Boston's Seaport**. Caroline designed it as a nod to the various types of work that go on in the city, and was inspired by Hokusai's "Great Wave over Kanazawa" and Allan Rohan Crite's drawings of the Charlestown Navy Yard. In November, Ms. Rufo's students spent a day at the Museum of Fine Arts, and then made a trip to the Seaport District to view the installation. When asked what makes Ms. Rufo such a great teacher, one of her students credits her with teaching "how to think outside of the box when it comes to creating art."

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTION

**Humanities and Social Studies Teacher Dr. Sarah Sedman** pursued her recent PhD in part to show her students the value of being a life-long learner and to encourage them in the belief that learning is fun and fulfilling.

Sarah (along with Dean of Academics Beth Choiniere) teaches **Ninth-Grade Colloquium**, a required course for all freshmen to help learn research skills, time management, note-taking, and stress management. Key to her approach: "listening to students' needs and treating them as human beings." The curriculum is designed to help students build their resilience and problem-solving skills, and includes units on entrepreneurship and leadership training.

Sarah starts the year by having her students set academic and personal goals. They spend the following months honing those attributes through cross-curricular projects and end by creating a website portfolio with a resume and inventories of their technical, creative, and academic skills. This spring, the ninth-graders held a Culture Fair in Angela Hall as a capstone project. Explains Sarah, "Thematically, it fits with the consciousness of the community to be inclusive and to learn about and respect others. At the same time, students were engaged in a highly-scaffolded process of learning how to research, build writing skills, and fight misinformation."



# NEW & NOTEWORTHY

JUNE 2025

## STUDENT EMPOWERMENT & ACHIEVEMENT



Tori with Bruins legend Cam Neely

**Victoria Higgins '26** embodies the core values that Ursuline champions in its students. In March, this talented junior was inducted into the **Dorchester Hall of Fame** for her service work at a food bank over two years and for subsequently starting her own nonprofit to provide kids in need with Christmas gifts and school supplies.

Just days later, Tori was recognized with a **Boston Bruins MIAA Sportsmanship Award** that recognizes high school ice hockey players from across Massachusetts who exemplify a commitment to sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication both on and off the ice. Congrats, Tori! You've made Ursuline proud!

Ursuline's **Theatre Arts** program is thriving under the leadership of **Fine Arts Chair Susan Glancy**. This year, they were proud to present three productions that feature strong literary women - **Pride and Prejudice**, **Matilda, Jr.**, and **Little Women**. Students excelled on and off the stage as directors, choreographers, music directors, costume designers, lighting designers, stage managers, artists, sound technicians, designers, and performers both on campus and at the METG High School Drama Festival.



Congrats to the **Speech and Debate** team for a successful season, culminating with six team members participating in the State Finals in April. After many hours practicing their craft and competing at tournaments nearly every month, the team was proud to salute **Grace Jean '26** (right) for bringing home the State Champion title in Poetry and **Caroline Kisgen '26** (left) for placing 6th in Novice Oral Interpretation.

# COMMITMENT TO SERVICE & JUSTICE

This year, peer ministers from Ursuline's senior class were invited to assist as pallbearers at two **Lazarus Ministry funerals at St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston**. Accompanied by **Athletic Director Michael O'Connor** and **Campus Minister Jordan Grubb**, the students lived out Ursuline's mission of respect, compassion, and service in a deeply personal way.

St. Anthony's Lazarus Ministry provides burials for those who are homeless, abandoned, and with no known next-of-kin, no matter their faith. Ursuline's participation in this ministry allows our community to affirm our belief in the dignity of each individual as a unique creation of God. This beautiful opportunity echoes back to 2019, when Ursuline was proud to host a Lazarus Ministry funeral on campus for Donald Benson, a veteran who died without family or resources.



## Advocacy Letters Update

Earlier this spring, we told you about **Dr. Phyllis Morrison's** 11th-grade Theology class project to research, write, and send advocacy letters on issues close to their hearts. Since then, junior **Maired Gero** has seen her push for equal access to bilingual programs in Boston's special education classes go from a letter on Mayor Wu's desk to a new initiative in the city. Congrats, Maired. **Emilia Org** also received a letter of encouragement from Governor Maura Healey in response to her letter advocating for the reopening of Norwood Hospital.

# ALUMNAE ENGAGEMENT

## New Year Networking!

Ursuline's first **New Year Networking Breakfast** was held in early January at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Norwood as part of a renewed commitment to creating meaningful connections among students and alumnae. More than 75 attendees were inspired by a keynote address by **Mary Sugrue P'15, President/CEO of the Irish American Partnership**, who coached our up-and-coming grads and young alums on the nuances and benefits of building relationships in professional circles. This was followed by a panel discussion with students who had recently completed job-shadows as part of Ursuline's new Ursa Majors & Minors Externship Program. Resume reviews and professional headshot photography were offered at the event, sponsored by the **Sullivan Leadership Development Fund**.



## Women In Leadership

On March 7th, Ursuline held its **Women in Leadership Forum** for the 26th time, bringing alumnae professionals back to campus to share their career experiences with our high school students.

The morning began with a compelling keynote address by **Tara Sullivan '11, Principal, Healthcare VC at Flare Capital Partners**. In her

remarks, Tara emphasized the importance of understanding one's "superpowers" and truly leaning into them. She also encouraged the students to seek out people, especially women, who can support them as they navigate new opportunities.

"Some of you will choose careers where you're surrounded by amazing women. Others will choose careers where maybe you're in the minority. Either way, you will be so prepared, in part because of your education at Ursuline, to have a voice and speak up. I've followed Ursuline closely in the years since I've graduated, and young women like you have helped make such massive strides on really important things in our society. You've made it known that inclusive communities are the only way forward. That is pretty awesome, and we should acknowledge that inclusivity is an amazing collective superpower held by Ursuline girls. I hope you carry that forward together down your different paths."

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- Tara Sullivan '11



A beautiful mural made by Madame Taylor's French class, with an even better message: Everyone is welcome!



## Stories of Ursuline

Have you seen the 15 Ursuline student and alumnae profiles shared for this year's Day of Giving? Visit [www.ursulineacademy.net/giving/stories](http://www.ursulineacademy.net/giving/stories) or scan this QR code to read them all!



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