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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2015

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Ursuline Academy Announces Inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame Class

Wilmington, Del. - Ursuline Academy will induct seven former athletes and coaches to its first ever Athletic Hall of Fame on Sunday, April 26. This inaugural class was chosen from Ursuline's rich history of athletic excellence and represents a cross section of sports including basketball, volleyball, cross-country, track and softball.

"We are thrilled to start this new tradition at Ursuline," says Cathie Field Lloyd '70, Ursuline Academy President. "The Hall of Fame is a way to honor and celebrate the athletes and coaches that have contributed to our success and paved the way for our current students and future generations of young female athletes."

The inductees are:

Laura Lange Capodanno '46 – Capodanno, commonly referred to by students as "Mrs. Cap," was at the forefront of girls' high school athletics as an administrator, teacher and a coach. Mrs. Cap was one of the first female athletic directors in the region. She also led the Raiders to back-to-back state basketball titles in 1974 and 1975, which helped establish Ursuline as an athletic powerhouse, long before girls' sports enjoyed its current popularity. Inspiring students to achieve athletic excellence balanced with sportsmanship marked her long tenure at Ursuline. Her success in sports earned her spots in both the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Karen Conlin '74 – A three-sport varsity athlete, Conlin captained the 1974 basketball team that won the state title and was voted All-Catholic player of the year. She went on to be a four-year starter on the University of Delaware's basketball team. While playing at Delaware, she was captain of the team twice and was named team MVP for her contributions as a point guard. Conlin held records for team assists in a game – 12 – and in a season – 88. She also played one

year of college softball. Conlin was inducted into the University of Delaware Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Elena Delle Donne '08 – Delle Donne helped Ursuline gain national recognition with her illustrious high school basketball career. She led Ursuline to three straight Delaware State Championship titles, was ranked as the number-one overall high school recruit, and was a McDonald's All-American. She still is the only player at Ursuline to score more than 2,000 points and set the girls high school national record for consecutive free throws made (80) in the 2005-2006 season. Other accomplishments included being named Gatorade Player of the Year 2005, 2006 and 2008.

Delle Donne went on to a successful basketball career at the University of Delaware where she was voted CAA'S "Player of the Year" and "Rookie of the Year" as a freshman. As a junior, she eclipsed the 2,000 point mark for her college career and as a senior, led the Blue Hens to a successful run in the NCAA Championships. Delle Donne was the 2nd draft pick in the 2013 WNBA draft, named 2013 Rookie of the Year, and is currently playing in the WNBA for the Chicago Sky.

Helen Doherty '54 – Doherty was a true trailblazer for women's sports. Doherty was the first female athlete to play on a CYO's boys' basketball team. She went on to be a three-sport athlete (basketball, softball and track) at Ursuline before playing for the Philadelphia Aces in the Women's World Tournament for Basketball from 1964-1968. For her play, Doherty was selected as the World Basketball Association All-American in 1965. Doherty played softball for 25 years and earned numerous titles such as Sportsmanship of the Year award in 1965. She also was a track standout, winning a pentathlon in 1958. Finally, Doherty played a key role in Ursuline's basketball program; she founded and coached the team from 1955-1971.

Kate Mills '04 – Mills, both a volleyball and basketball standout while at Ursuline, was the 2004 Gatorade Player of the Year in both sports. In the same year, she was voted first team all state for basketball and volleyball, received the Jane Thatcher Howell Outstanding Athlete Award, and scored 1,000 points. Mills went on to play Division I basketball at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst where she was captain of the team from 2005 – 2008. She holds the current record for most blocked shots with 194. After college, Mills played professional basketball in Spain and Portugal for six years, leading her team to the semifinals each year. Currently Mills is a civil engineer for the City of Dover and continues to give back by offering free basketball skills training and counseling for young women in Spain and Delaware.

Louis Olivere – Olivere is one of the most accomplished track and field coaches in the state and dedicated more than 20 years of his career to leading Ursuline to 12 state track titles and 3 state cross country titles. His efforts won him “Coach of the Year” five times and “Catholic Conference Coach of the Year” four times. In addition to these accolades, Olivere was inducted into the Delaware Track Hall of Fame in 2010. He continues to volunteer at meets and mentor young athletes to help them reach their full potential.

Val Whiting-Raymond '89 – Whiting-Raymond is one of the greats in Delaware women’s basketball, becoming the first athlete from Delaware to play in the WNBA. While at Ursuline, she led her team to four state titles; she was the three-time “Player of the Year” from 1987-1989 and scored 1,347 points in her career. Her efforts earned her All-American and All-State honors as well as a full scholarship to Stanford University where she led her team to two National Championships in 1990 and 1992. In addition, she was a two-time Kodak All-American and two-time Pac-10 Player of the Year. She graduated as Stanford’s second leading scorer and all-time leader in rebounds and blocks, earning a spot in Stanford’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Professionally, Whiting-Raymond played in Italy, Brazil, and Israel, as well as in the American Basketball League (ABL) and the WNBA for the Detroit Shock and Minnesota Lynx.

The athletes and coaches were chosen by a cross-functional committee of administrators, coaches and teachers that reviewed numerous applications submitted by former teammates, coaches, friends and family members. The committee was charged with selecting athletes that achieved success and embodied the Ursuline mission of service to others. Ursuline will add members to its Athletic Hall of Fame every three years.

The inaugural class will be honored at a brunch held at Ursuline on Sunday, April 26. Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased in advance. Reservation forms will be available on the Ursuline Website. ATI Physical Therapy is the presenting sponsor for this event.

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Ursuline Academy is an independent Catholic school community serving boys ages three through grade five and girls ages three through grade twelve that empowers students for leadership and service in our global society.