

Meet the 2020-2021 Ursuline Academy Alumnae Association Committee Members



Joanna Schumacher Arat '99

Joanna has served as the liaison of the Alumnae Association Committee since 2015 when she started her role as Alumnae Relations Officer. She is an Ursuline parent to twin boys in the 4th grade and lives with her family in Pike Creek. Joanna is also a twin and works with her twin sister, Jenna, at Ursuline. She is a two-time published author and enjoys coffee, baking, and reading.



Kristen Blanchard '90

Kristen is beginning her fourth year as a member of the Alumnae Association. During her time at Ursuline, Kristen ran cross country, winter and spring track, as well as co-edited the yearbook. She currently works at the Delaware College of Art and Design.



Rebecca Byrd '98, Treasurer

This is Rebecca's second year as a member of the Alumnae Association, where she serves as Treasurer. While at Ursuline, she participated in Model UN, Library Council and was also a member of the National Honor Society. When not busy as a partner with a successful State government affairs firm in Delaware, Rebecca is a voracious reader. She resides in North Wilmington with her two cats, Anna and Pumpkin.



Mardee Cool '86

This is Mardee's second year on the Alumnae Association. During her time at Ursuline, she was the manager for the basketball and track teams (and has the state championship jacket to prove it!). She has one daughter in junior year at Ursuline and her other daughter just graduated from Ursuline in 2020. Even her son went to UA for early education. Mardee has devoted much of her time over the past 13 years volunteering at Ursuline, including with the marketing committee, advancement committee and parent guild. Mardee currently works at Roch Capital in Glen Mills and her family just moved back to Wilmington after 18 years in West Chester.



Elsa Kegelman '15, Communications

This is Elsa's second year on the Alumnae Association. While at Ursuline, Elsa participated in Chapel Choir, Exchange Choir, Academic Bowl, National Honor Society, and Salesianum School Theatre, before attending NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she studied acting. Today, Elsa is a working actor in the Philadelphia and Delaware communities. She is also a founding member and a board member of New Light Theatre, a Delaware-based theatre company dedicated to examining the human condition, raising awareness for thematically related issues, and donating to charitable organizations. Elsa will next appear onstage with New Light Theatre's *Othello* in January at the Delaware Historical Society. Elsa has also been a supporter of Ursuline's fall musical, having taught workshops for the casts of *Once on This Island*, *Bright Star*, and *School House Rock Live! Jr.*



Christine Meyer '88

Christine is serving her third year on the Alumnae Association. During her time at Ursuline, Christine ran cross country, was a swimmer/diver and played on the softball team. In 2007, she started a utility contracting company. In January of 2019, she opened BAI Excavating, LLC and is proud to be one of the only WBE excavating contractors in the tri-state area. She is the mother of three sons and currently serves on the Executive Guild with the Ministry of Caring. Christine currently lives in Wilmington with her husband of 26 years, Jim, two dogs, Messi & Jack.



Kayla Miller '08, Secretary

Kayla is serving her second year with the Alumnae Association. While at Ursuline, Kayla proudly played on the varsity basketball team. Today, she is a Manager with International Team Tours at Anthony Travel and a Performance Coach with Titus Sports Academy, Inc. She currently lives in Wilmington with her boyfriend and their dog, Mia.



Joan Przywara '53

Joan is starting her second year on the Alumnae Association after previously serving. Joan was a "lifer" at Ursuline Academy, is a mother of five, and a grandmother to 10. Two of her daughters graduated from Ursuline, as well. Joan retired from St. Mary Magdalen in 1998 where she worked for 25 years, but she has been a Girl Scout professional for the past 75 years! Describing herself as a "Professional Volunteer," Joan has served on various boards and committees for organizations such as the Wilmington Diocese, AARP, CYM, Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay, and more. Her granddaughter is a freshman at Ursuline.



Carie Riley Sweet '00

Carie is in her third year with the Alumnae Association. While at Ursuline, she played on both the volleyball and softball teams. She also served as Junior Class President, treasurer of the Student Council and was a member of the National Honor Society. She currently works as an event and outing coordinator in the golf industry and enjoys playing golf in her free time. She also serves on the board of the Friends of Wilmington Parks and is the proud aunt to 10 nieces and nephews. Carie and her husband, Kevin reside in the Rockford Park area of Wilmington with their two cats, Carlos and Freckles.



Loreta Ulmer '66, Communications

This is Loreta's second year with the Alumnae Association after previously serving from 1994-96. Loreta is a retired associate professor from Old Dominion University. She is an instructional designer who taught in the College of Education. While at Ursuline she was in Glee Club, and participated in Model UN. Currently she resides in Lewes, DE. She enjoys hiking & camping with her three children, their spouses, and 5 grandchildren.



Mary Kate Williams '11, President

Mary Kate is in her third year with the Alumnae Association and currently serving her first term as President. Mary Kate kept busy during her time at UA, not only competing as a member of the basketball and volleyball teams, but she also served on the Student Council (Class President), Dance Club, National Honor Society, Choir, One-Acts plays and Spirit Club. Mary Kate is currently a Commercial Real Estate Broker with Jones Lang LaSalle. She first fell in love with the real estate industry while in college. After 3 years in Property Management, she got her Real Estate license and made the jump into Commercial Brokerage 3 years ago. Mary Kate is a proud aunt and godmother and has previously dedicated her time to help coach Ursuline LS/MS volleyball.