WELCOME TO EXCELSIOR NEWS

Sacred Heart Academy’s Mission is to provide young women with an exceptional college preparatory experience that is grounded in Catholic values. We are called to enrich the minds and hearts of our students so that they may enter the world with confidence, competency and compassion. It is our responsibility to ensure that our leadership decisions and plans reflect this vision and meet the needs of our community and our surroundings. This newsletter is designed to inform our community about these initiatives.

2020-2021 ADVISORY COUNCIL

It is with gratitude and pleasure that Sacred Heart Academy announces five new members of our Advisory Council and the new Executive Chair, Tara Cocchiarella Barreira ’02.

The Sacred Heart Academy Advisory Council’s purpose is to promote the school’s Mission by offering expertise and serving on the Finance and Investment Committee, the Development Committee, and the new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. The council is comprised of a diverse group of professionals who embody and promote Sacred Heart Academy’s core values.

You may read more about Sacred Heart Academy’s Advisory Council here.
NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tara Cocchiarella Barreira ’02 has been appointed Chair of the Sacred Heart Academy Advisory Council. Tara is Director of Chemicals, Manufacturing and Control operations at Gemini Therapeutics, a precision medicine company for genetic disease therapies in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tara has been an integral member of the Advisory Council since 2018.

Jamie Z. Boussicot, M.B.A., ’99, is currently Assistant Director of College Success at Achievement First in New Haven. Jamie has a wealth of experience and leadership in multicultural affairs and higher education.

JoMichelle Corrales, Ph.D.’93 is an active member of the Sacred Heart Academy community. She is currently Senior Vice President, Medical Director at BioMed Communication Partners in New York City.

Kimberly A. Jones, Esq. ’96 is an experienced non-profit management and government relations professional. She is currently the Executive Vice President of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Joseph Quaranta P’22 is President & CEO of Community Medical Group, an independent physician association in New Haven. Dr. Quaranta lives in Orange with his wife Marci ’87 and daughters Emma’22, and Maya.

Paula Rice, P’18, ’21 has joined the Advisory Council as Chair of the Diversity Committee. She is mother to Kaelyn, ’18, and Kelsey ’21. Mrs. Rice is Director of Diversity and Equity Programs at Southern Connecticut State University.

THANK YOU
We are extremely grateful to the members of the Advisory Council whose terms have ended this year. Your service has been a blessing.

TRACY A. CHURCH ’79
SALLIE A. DEMARSLIS ’82
STEPHEN C. LAPOINTE P’18
EARL W. TUCKER P’10,’13

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
Sacred Heart Academy made a commitment to take measurable action towards advancing cultural competency around issues of race within our culture. Through many discussions with our students and alumnae of color and in consultation with professionals in the DEI field, Sacred Heart Academy announces that Pascha McTyson has been hired to lead Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives at our school. In addition to her Catholic education, Ms. McTyson is a higher education professional with more than ten years in the DEI field, most recently at Columbia University. You may read more about Ms. McTyson and our DEI efforts here.

PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT
The Sacred Heart Academy Endowment was founded in 1979 by then principal, Sr. Ritamary Schulz, ASCJ, ’59. A strong leader and true visionary, Sister recognized decades ago that in order for Sacred Heart Academy to continue the promise of excellence in Catholic education for young women, it was necessary to build a strong Endowment and support the future of the Academy. We wanted to take a moment to highlight our newest endowed fund established this month in memory of Eleanor Quirk Uihlein and in support of student scholarships. We are deeply grateful to Lisa Hammeal Uihlein ’79 and her husband, Kurt for their generosity in establishing this fund which will provide support to future generations of young women inspired by the mission of Sacred Heart Academy.
UNITED IN MISSION FOR 75 YEARS

Sacred Heart Academy and Notre Dame High School have a longstanding history as brother and sister schools. In 1945, with the blessing of the Diocese of Hartford, the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Brothers of Holy Cross began planning the opening of Sacred Heart Academy on Green Street in New Haven and Notre Dame High School on Campbell Avenue in West Haven.

In 1946, Brother John Baptist Titser, CSC, and Sister Antonine Signorelli, ASCJ, welcomed 117 young men and 17 young women to their respective schools. We owe a debt of gratitude to Brother John Baptist and Sister Antonine for establishing the vision for our schools.

Deeply rooted in this history, today Sacred Heart Academy and Notre Dame High School take an innovative, student-centric approach to academics. Students benefit from a single-gender learning environment while enjoying coed opportunities such as sporting events, clubs, mission trips and other extracurricular activities. We are proud to share the history of our schools with the greater community as we launch a collaborative marketing campaign with NDHS this fall. We hope you enjoy our billboard, digital advertising and radio campaigns.

Excelsior Woman SPOTLIGHT

We have tremendous pride and confidence in every young woman who graduates from the halls of Sacred Heart Academy. The *Excelsior Woman Spotlight* features just one of the many women blazing trails out in the world.

Hollie Tracz ’10 is a Senior Publicist at NBC News where she is currently focused on the 2020 Presidential Election. She attended St. John’s University as a Mass Communications major followed by New York University where she received her Master’s Degree in Public Relations and Corporate Communications. While attending NYU, Hollie completed a number of internships at companies including The Knot and Calvin Klein before joining NBC News.

**How did SHA prepare you for college and beyond?**

*SHA prepared me for a college education as well as a professional career with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. Because of SHA, I had the rare opportunity to shadow a fellow alumna, Sheri Weidner, at Viacom Media Networks during my senior year of high school. Sheri went above and beyond to introduce me to others across the company, which ultimately influenced my decision to pursue a career in Communications.*

**What advice would you give a SHA student today?**

*Appreciate and enjoy the time you get to spend at SHA. Being a part of the SHA community means so much more than receiving a stellar education. It teaches you to be strong, confident, and proud of your accomplishments. More importantly, SHA provides an opportunity to be part of a community of strong female leaders many years after graduation.*

You may learn more about Hollie [here](#).