

Georgetown Scholarship Biography

Lauren Anne Munoz Geoghegan was born on September 27, 1988 in Los Angeles California, the oldest of three daughters. She attended public elementary school and Immaculate Heart Middle School and High School. She took seriously the Immaculate Heart mission of developing “Women of great heart and right conscience.” At Immaculate Heart, she forged her values and goals of humility, integrity, hard work, her curiosity and love of humanity, and a desire to know the world and its people. Her senior yearbook quote was “Timshel”, a Hebrew word meaning, “Thou mayest” taken from John Steinbeck’s *East of Eden*, reflecting her understanding of the importance of choice between good and evil. These experiences formed her foundation, along with the support and love of family and friends, that girded her future at Georgetown and beyond.

Lauren spent 11 years of her life on the Hilltop- four years as an undergraduate and 7 years working in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, first, as an Information Officer and then 6 years as an Admissions Officer. Lauren’s love for Georgetown ran deep.

While an undergraduate, Lauren was committed to making the most of the opportunities that Georgetown had to offer. She reveled in meeting new people and making new friends in all walks of her life on and off campus. Although Lauren was a Government major, her adventurous spirit and love of other cultures led her to supplement her studies in the Government department with minors in Arabic and Spanish. This led her to study for a semester in Spain at the Complutense University of Madrid, travel throughout Europe, Morocco, Turkey the Middle East, and study Arabic in Lebanon. She helped to finance her studies at Georgetown by working in the Information Booth for visitors and her senior year- working as a resident assistant at Darnall. In addition, she held down a part-time job off campus all four years and interned on Capitol Hill for the Honorable Adam Schiff. Lauren valued all of these experiences but most of all valued her friends, and all of the people that she met. She lived Georgetown’s values of serving others, developing the whole person, promoting diversity and pursuing learning, and academic excellence. Lauren led by example. She positively influenced the lives of many.

Lauren valued her career in the Georgetown Admissions Office, because it presented an opportunity to act on her deeply held commitment to providing equal

opportunity to higher education for all students. As an information officer, she was responsible for all of the tours on campus and also worked with colleagues and Georgetown students in the phone room to inform and recruit prospective students. As an admissions officer, Lauren had many duties. She recruited students in her designated region of Southern California where she visited and gave talks to students at local high schools and met with high school counselors, Georgetown interviewers, and alumni. She traveled with a group of 4 other colleges- Harvard, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, and Duke, to recruit high school students in different states. Making herself available to support student applicants in her region, she also read their files for admission and advocated for the students she recommended to the admissions committee. She co-ran the GAAP student weekends for admitted students and enjoyed working with Georgetown student volunteers. These were but a few of her many responsibilities as an admissions officer.

In the Georgetown Admissions Office, Lauren wanted to reach out to prospective students who otherwise would not apply or even know about Georgetown. Lauren was committed to making the Georgetown student body more diverse. Every day in her years in admissions, Lauren worked to give others the opportunity that she had, to be exposed to the Georgetown environment that promoted the pursuit of making the world a better place for all.

In early 2016, Lauren had already begun dreaming about a bicycle trip around the world with her partner Jay Austin. They planned to travel through Africa, Europe, Anatolia, Central Asia, India, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and South America. Together, they spent the next 18 months preparing for the trip. Jay set up a blog, simplycycling.org, to share their preparations, to chronicle their trip, and inspire others. Lauren saw this as a sabbatical, a time to take a break in her higher education journey, to go and see the world and its people while she was still young, healthy, and unencumbered by other responsibilities. She embarked on this journey on July 6, 2017 with a flight to South Africa. Lauren cycled through 26 countries; 8 in Africa (in Egypt she used public transportation), 13 in Europe, Turkey, and 3 in Central Asia in a little over a year. She rode thousands of miles on her bicycle in all types of weather and terrain. She encountered many acts of kindness from strangers who offered food, shelter, and friendship. Her indomitable spirit, perseverance, and love for what she was doing powered this incredible odyssey. On July 29, 2018, Lauren and her partner Jay Austin, were murdered by ISIS terrorists along with two other European cyclists as they neared the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe.

Lauren never lived to see her 30th birthday. But in her short life, she lived more than many people do in a lifetime. For those who knew Lauren, one could only fall in love with her enthusiasm for living, her gusto for appreciating the wonders surrounding her, her passion to connect with others, and her love and appreciation for her family, friends, and the people she met. She was humble, intelligent, curious, thoughtful, and kind and lived the Georgetown ethos of *Cura Personalis*.