

## FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES REMEMBER LAUREN

I knew Lauren as a friend. And, as friends go, I could never have hoped for a better one. Lauren was never stingy with encouragement, accolades, or affection, but rather gave liberally and generously of herself, her time, and her energies to all those around her. She connected with people in ways that were profound and meaningful. The consummate conversationalist, she was genuinely inquisitive in a way that sought to understand, never to judge. She valued people, their thoughts, feelings, and integrity, more than anything else. In her presence, you were valued, you were heard, you were appreciated, and you were loved. Her love was constant and unconditional. No one ever walked away from Lauren without a smile on their face and a heart a little less heavy.

Lauren taught me the value of relationships - what it means to walk with someone through life, to be present for them, to truly listen to them, to care for them. Where others could not be bothered, she cared. Where others did not have time, she made time. Where others did not dare go, she went in search of connection to herself and others, her optimism never faltering, her patience never fading. Across the years and continents, her friendship was unwavering, and I am forever grateful to her for that.

Her loss is felt every day by those who loved her, but we are all infinitely better people for having known her.

**Stephanie Gallo C'10**

Lauren and I met our first day as undergraduates at Georgetown. She may indeed have been the first person I met on campus, given that she lived across the hall from me, and that her door was always open. I struggle to think of a person more influential in shaping my time at Georgetown than Lauren. She was a dedicated friend, patient listener, a pointed critic, and a loyal companion. Her zest for life, and for building relationships with those around her, represented a person who saw the best in every situation and every individual.

**Allen Hunter C'10**

The Georgetown ethos of service often looks to what we can do outside of our campus community, be it in D.C. or around the world, Lauren recognized that some of the most important selfless service we can provide is to those around us who are struggling and in need of a helping hand, a listening ear, or an open heart to remind you that you are valued. Lauren gave of herself in this way both as a student and as an admissions counselor, seeing people's potential, empathizing with their struggles, and encouraging them to succeed, whether it be through a long conversation in the dining hall or an affirmative admissions decision that changed someone's life by making them a Hoya. Lauren led by example to make the Georgetown community a little more understanding, welcoming, and accepting with each action she took.

**Kaitlyn Neuberger C'10**

I remember when Lauren was first covering the admissions region for Meg Lysy who was on maternity leave, and Lauren was reading hundreds of files for the first time. Lauren's notes were so detailed, so inclusive and so thoughtful... and so plentiful. She treated each applicant like a genuine individual, enjoying and noting all the wonderful aspects of each candidate. The challenging part is that Lauren had 800-900 files to read. Even as Lauren quickly learned to budget her time and complete reading according to a schedule, she never compromised a thorough, complete and detailed read.

As her "supervisor" I would review final decision rosters, and true to form, if I were to ever ask the question about a candidate whose decision looked a little askew, IMMEDIATELY Lauren would know the details of the case right off the top of her head. She valued each candidate and perpetually saw the good in everyone. Lauren was eternally optimistic and positive. There could be no truer test of character than working a full day in the Undergraduate Admissions Office phone room during an approaching application deadline. ALWAYS, Lauren was friendly, positive and so cordial. Lauren had a natural inclination of the counselor-always asking for more details if she did not understand a caller's questions, seeking clarity, ALWAYS, with a friendly tone. I honestly do not think Lauren would ever harbor a negative thought about anyone.

**Bruce Chamberlin, Senior Associate Director Georgetown University Office of Undergraduate Admissions**

Lauren Geoghegan will be missed by all who knew her and those whose lives she touched. A wonderful, thoughtful, caring soul, Lauren always maintained a joy for our work and the people she met. No matter how many days she had to travel, how often she had to speak before audiences, or how many files she had to read, Lauren treated each and every interaction with the student or family member as if it was the first one of her day. Full of energy and excited to share the wonders of Georgetown with students who might never get the chance to visit, I and no doubt others were in awe of her tirelessness. Whether they realized it or not, students and families left a meeting with her, having a deeper understanding of what we mean by the term *cura personalis*. Lauren cared about every person with whom she met, and would do her best to make sure that they understood that.

It is with sadness that we realize that our days going forward will be a little less bright without her ebullient presence in them. That said, we can all take solace in the memories we have of our time together and know that our lives have been made all the better by our having shared as many days with her as we did. It is beyond our power to add days to our lives, Lauren was one who made sure to add life to her days. May we follow her example and live each and every day we have on this earth to its fullest.

Requiescat in Pace.

**James Colman, Senior Associate Director Georgetown University Office of Undergraduate Admissions**

While Lauren and I didn't stay in close touch after graduation, I was so thrilled to follow her journey as she biked across the world during the last several months. She inspired me and so many others with her bravery and her determination to go forth and see the best in people from all corners of the world.

I was devastated to learn that in the midst of this incredible adventure, Lauren was killed in a terrorist attack in July. Seeing the outpouring of sadness in memories from around the globe on social media, I know that she touched countless people. I'm happy to know these people were able to feel the warmth of her spirit.

I truly believe that Lauren exemplifies the best qualities of Hoyas—courage to blaze a new trail, kindness to make others feel loved, and passion to inspire them to push forward towards greater things each day.

**Nicole Cronin Ashong SES '10, M '11**

She, without comparison, embodied fully the sentiment of Georgetown's permeating message of Cura Personalis.

Her capacity for love and empathy emanated from her and was tangible to all who knew her. Lauren was a genuine person, and she showed genuine interest in all those with whom she interacted. She was kind and demonstrated sincere compassion for everyone. This unique and evident characteristic is part of what makes her death so tragic but her life so profound. She taught us, her peers, to love more purely, to embrace life without cynicism of the evil the world can hold, and constantly work to see the best in people. She was killed in a cowardly and inhumane act, but I have no doubt that Lauren would have shown the men who killed her love, if she had had a chance. This is the legacy she leaves many of us. A clarion call to be better versions of ourselves, versions more like her, to believe in the potential of good, to serve others, and to, most importantly love others without jealousy, motive, or self-preservation.

She embodied its (Georgetown's) ethos, and her memory will continue to inspire those of us fortunate enough to have even briefly crossed paths with her to strive to carry on her mission of love, humility and service.

**Margaret Mullins C'10, Law'22**

In her 29 years on this earth, Lauren has touched more people and seen more of the world than most people can hope to in this lifetime. She lived her life knowing that the only thing that matters-really matters- are the people in it.

**Joelle Thomas C'10**

