



STONE

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CORNER

On May 23, 2015 the Brown County Ursuline Community officially welcomed and blessed Sr. Phyllis Kemper to the position of Congregational Minister for the next four years. The community was joined by members of Phyllis' family, several Companions and friends. Outgoing Congregational Minister Sr. Lucia Castellini was also joined by family members. Lucia says of her years in leadership, "It was a privilege to have served our Community for the past 4 years. I learned much and met good and supportive friends along the way. I truly believe that the Holy Spirit sends wisdom and grace to those in our community leadership which enable them to take on the pioneering heart given to us by St. Angela and Julia Chatfield." Lucia will continue her work as co-director at Hope Emergency and her involvement in other community commitments.

Phyllis will also continue to serve at Chatfield College Findlay Market Cincinnati Campus as student advisor on a part-time basis. During the reception following Mass, Phyllis shared this reflection on her leadership of our community. "As I was preparing for my installation as Congregational Minister of the Ursuline of Brown County, I recalled a song I had heard a number of years ago—*Standing on the Shoulders*. It begins:

*"I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me
I am stronger for their courage; I am wiser for their words,
I am lifted by their longings for a fair and brighter future,
I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this earth."*

(Standing on the Shoulders - Joyce Johnson Rouse, 1995 - Rouse House Music, ASCA)

I knew I was standing on the shoulders of some very awesome women who preceded me in office. I started thinking of the leaders I knew personally, and the past superiors I learned about over the years. I pray that I may have their courage, wisdom, and vision."



The Ursuline Community present for the installation ceremony on April 23, 2015. Sister Phyllis is in the front row, fourth from the left.

CORNERSTONE is the way we share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with you. We rely on your donations to meet our expenses. Thank you for your support. Sister Christine Pratt, OSU, Editor

We are initiating a new feature introducing to you an alumni from Ursuline Academy, Chatfield College or the former Boarding School and present Companions. These women and men exemplify how the legacy of St. Angela is alive in our world today.

Our legacy continues . . .

Carmen Carigan is a 2015 graduate of Ursuline Academy who will attend Indiana University as a Wells Scholar studying Business and Political Science. Honored as the recipient of the Archbishop McNicholas Award, she says “. . . this award will stand as a symbol of my love and passion for Ursuline for the rest of my life.” The following talk Carmen gave at the graduation ceremony illustrates her love and passion.



Carmen Carigan

Distinguished members of the Administration, Board of Trustees and Faculty, Devoted Parents and Friends, and lastly, members of the incredible Class of 2015, it is my distinct honor and privilege to have been elected to speak on behalf of my class today. I am here to encapsulate what this fantastic group of young women is all about as we move forward towards a new chapter of our lives.

From about the age of 6, I have consistently been asked the same question by family, friends, teachers, cashiers, blatant strangers, and telemarketers everywhere: “Did you know that you kind of sound like a man?” As a young girl, I’m sure you can imagine that I found this to be pretty horrifying, but over time I have learned to love it. One of my most distinguishable qualities has always been that I have a pretty unique voice; it’s not only loud, but also low. Through theater experiences and some therapy sessions with my mom, I have learned to count my “manly” voice as a blessing. I can be heard over pretty much anyone at any time, and if I need the attention of a room I accomplish it with little to no strain.

But that’s not the only reason I cherish my voice. I thank God for my voice because for the past four years I attended a school that has taught me what I say matters. I’ve met people who have shown me that my thoughts expressed verbally can inspire the indifferent and challenge the conventional. One would think that I’ve primarily learned this lesson from the Ursuline administrators and teachers, whose prevailing mission is to instill the qualities inherent in the tagline, “Voice. Values. Vision.” in every student who walks through the doors of this school. I can most definitely say that because of the talented faculty and dedicated administration, those three words and everything they stand for will stay with me for the rest of my life. But from the 194 voices coexisting on this stage with me, I learned lessons that I could never learn in a classroom. I now know that because I’ve had the gift of attending a school where I was not only taught, but shown that my thoughts and opinions count, I now have the power to impact the world around me in my own way.

The first significant lesson I learned about voice came very early on in my high school career. It is that your voice is what makes you stand out, and distinguishes you from all who came before you and who will come after you. It feels like yesterday that the freshmen class of 2015 cautiously entered this very gym for our first pep rally. Mind you this “pep rally” was occurring after the respective sports team had already won its game, we were really all congregating to just do a few cheers and pat ourselves on the backs. As our class sat down in the “Freshman Section” of the bleachers, sitting right next to us were the seniors doing their infamous “We we Are are The Seniors the seniors The Seniors the seniors” cheer. This chant, although super redundant and pretty unoriginal, functions as sort of a rite of passage for every senior class. Confused as to what the freshmen should do to display class spirit, a few of us, in our infinite 14 year old wisdom, decided to get up the courage to start a freshman chant. Believe it or not, we decided it would be an awesome idea to use the seniors’ age old chant and replace seniors with freshmen! As you can all imagine, we were booed very loudly and given a few death glares mixed with head shakes. In that moment of pure terror, I knew that I belonged to the right class. I could already tell we had some spunk; whether that was a good or bad thing I didn’t know at the time. However I did know that raising our voices to make us stand out would be no problem in the next four years.

My freshman year predictions turned out to be accurate; over the next three years the class of 2015 used our voices to transition from timid freshmen into confident upperclasswomen. We finally learned all the words to the school song and sang it proudly at every assembly and prayer service we could. We also used our voices sophomore year to cheer on our Spirit Week dodgeball team to victory. That win will live on in all of our hearts forever, I can assure you that.

But it wasn’t until junior year that I learned my next big lesson about voice, that it helps us to grow in our relationships with God and each other. As I’m sure most of you know, there are 195 of us up here today, but not every member of the Class of 2015 is physically on this stage right now. We are so very beyond blessed to have a sister in the sky up in Heaven today, Miss Jordan Angelina Hoak. Jordan passed away at the beginning of our junior year and as anyone can imagine, it absolutely devastated us. She was so beautiful in every single way; she was kind, smart, one of those few people who was a friend to everyone, and most definitely used her voice to do good in the world during the time she was here.

In the days, weeks and months following her death, I have never seen more loving and caring words exchanged in my life. I saw some of my classmates who didn’t traditionally get along holding and helping each other in the hallways. I saw people starting

random acts of kindness trains that permeated the entire school. I saw 194 girls care so deeply about each other that I don't think there is any way that I can't call these people next to me family, because I know that I love them so much and they love me back. Through Jordan's death, I learned that voices heal, like the cappella choir's did when they sang so beautifully at Jordan's funeral. Voices deepen our faith, which I found through praying together as a class throughout the grieving experience. But most importantly, my classmates and this school showed me that voice has the power to unite. Speaking kind words, cracking a joke to brighten a friend's day, or singing "Everyday" from High School Musical in the café as a class creates memories and inseparable bonds that will connect us all for the rest of our lives. I think our class can thank Jordan for teaching us that our ability to vocalize our inner thoughts is such a gift, because they can convey love, compassion and empathy in a way nothing else can.

So with this realization, I bring you all to the final lesson that Ursuline Academy and this amazing class of 2015 have taught me about voice. Over the past four years, I have learned that since our words can be so authentic and inspired, with an Ursuline education we can use our voices to change the communities around us and, I have no doubt, the world someday. Already I have seen my talented classmates distinguish themselves and promote change in our school and local community. I feel as though I can equate our voices to an echo in a cave. Now stay with me here. When someone shouts in a cave, the sound vibrates and touches every single thing in that space. Every part of the cave is affected by that sound. So to you all, my classmates and my sisters, I say: Never stop raising your voice because every single thing you have to say is valuable. And choose what you have to say wisely, because your voice affects every single person and thing around you and is a reflection of who you are to others.

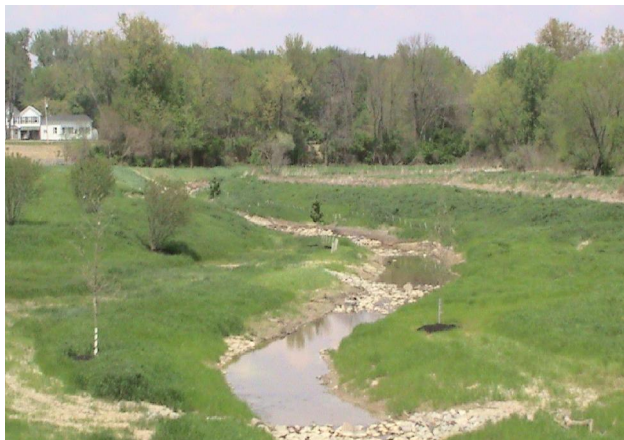
You have shown over these four years your ability to raise your voices in so many amazing ways. For those blessed with angelic singing voices, never stop using your beautiful tone to move people, it is powerful. For those who have stepped up to lead in many capacities here at UA, always remember to listen to the voices around you to guide your decision-making. For those who have shown witness to our faith through community service, continue to be the voice for the disadvantaged and those in our community that need your help. For those who have excelled in athletics, let your voices be heard as you play as a team, not as an individual. And never stop surprising people with your kind, light-hearted, caring personality when you speak, as opposed to the intimidating image you put forth on the court, field, track or pool. For those whose voice is depicted through artistic expression, be it drawing, sculpting or dancing, always use your creativity to inspire, awe and entertain. For those who have participated in the many politically- focused clubs, be a voice for our generation and continue to motivate young people to stay involved and informed about the world around them. I wouldn't be surprised if I saw one of you on the news or as President one day. And for all of you who have continued to use your voice in the classroom as active participants in the learning process, never stop inquiring and pursuing perfection, your academic abilities pushed me every day and will influence your peers in college and beyond. You have used the gifts God has given you to inspire, advance, diversify, and transform each of us in this Class of 2015. Continue to let your amazing talents and voices echo around your community and your world.

I am going to end with a quote by Steve Jobs that is so appropriate for this class and truly encompasses my wish for our futures. "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life... Don't let the noise of other people's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary." Thank you parents, for giving me the absolute privilege of going to school with your daughters, they are all so extremely talented and are poised to make a unique difference in their own ways. Thank you Ursuline faculty, staff and administration, for truly instilling voice, values, and vision in each and every one of us. I can almost promise you that I may not remember what the equation for force is, or what Latin roots make up the words of this speech. But, what I will take away is the ability to think critically, question the norm, show compassion for others, and respect the dignity of every life. So Ursuline Academy, you have accomplished your task. We have learned not for school, but for life. And lastly, thank you to my sisters, the members of the Class of 2015. Through triumph, challenge, and so much laughter and love, we have emerged victorious after 4 years of hard work. Thank you all for never losing that spunk, for altering my path in life. I am fundamentally changed for the better because I knew and learned from all of you. Go out, in the words of Walt Whitman, and sound your barbaric yawp over the rooftops, and raise your beautiful, inspiring voices for the rest of your lives. Congratulations, ladies. We did it!

Dam removal and stream restoration project nears completion

The Ursulines of Brown County celebrated the Solomon's Run low-head dam removal and stream restoration project with a tree planting ceremony on April 24, 2015. Joining the Ursulines for the ceremony were representatives of the project team, staff and students of Chatfield College, friends and neighbors of the sisters in St Martin, Ohio.

The Ursulines chose to place the waterway and returned watershed into a conservation easement. This easement is added to the already existing farmland easement that the sisters formed in 2010. "We dedicated this site with a tree planting and blessing of water and trees as a symbol of our faith and in



Spring picture of Solomon's Run returned to its natural state as it was when Foundress Julia Chatfield arrived in Brown County in 1845. Trees planted April 24, 2015

The Ursulines of Brown County

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appreciation for all the hard work contributed by the project partners,” said Sr. Lucia Castellini, Congregational Minister of the Ursulines of Brown County.

The Project could not have been accomplished without the many generous donors whose contributions made it possible for the Ursulines to provide the required match for the grant. Those attending the planting ceremony included representatives from the project’s technical team: Ohio Valley Resource Conservation and Development Program, Burgess and Niples Environmental Engineering Team, Ohio EPA, Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District, Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District, White Oak Creek Watershed and Little Miami Watershed. “Now that the dam is removed and the restoration work is nearly complete, we expect to see this once impaired stream returned to a healthy, fully functioning stream,” stated John Kellis, Project Manager with Ohio Valley Resource Conservation and Development. “The Ursulines of Brown County exemplify what it means to be good stewards of our local watersheds,” Kellis added.

For a pictorial chronology of the project, please visit our website and click on Solomon Run project www.ursulinesofbc.org.



Those attending the tree planting ceremony included representatives of the project’s technical team, Ursulines of Brown County, Companions and staff, Chatfield College staff and Board Members, Ohio State District 66 Representatives, friends and neighbors.