

It's Magic Monday, February 26, 2018!

This month we celebrate Laura LeBrun Hatcher '94.



After graduating from Mercy in 1994, Laura attended the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), where she received her BFA. She is a creative consultant, graphic designer, and owner of Hatcher Design Office (HDO), an award-winning graphic design firm she started 15 years ago. Laura's work primarily focuses on the non-profit sector, including education, health care, the arts, children's issues, and disability rights.

Laura has been an adjunct professor at her alma mater MICA and remains an adjunct professor at Towson University, where she has been teaching graphic design for 15 years. Laura's sister, Jennifer, is a Mercy alumna from the Class of 1998. Laura is married to Brian Hatcher, who is director of creative services for Loyola University Maryland. Laura and Brian's daughter, Olivia, is a current freshman at Mercy. Their son, Simon is 11 years old and goes to St. Elizabeth's School for special needs students. She enjoys Power Yoga and spending time with her family.

When a student at Mercy, Laura fondly remembers working on the plays and loved all the time she spent painting in what she remembers as "the tiny art room." She especially appreciated the support and encouragement she received from so many teachers, some of whom are still at Mercy and who are giving the same care to her daughter that they gave so generously to her.

Laura's community service is extensive. Laura is chair of the MICA Alumni Council. She volunteers on the "50,000 Kids Committee" for Young Audiences of Maryland, which helps bring arts education to students. She serves on the development committee of Make Studio, a working art studio and gallery for adults with developmental disabilities (founded by Cathy Goucher '90, another Mercy alumna). In 2015, The Daily Record recognized Laura as one of the "Leading Women" in Maryland. Laura is an active advocate for special needs children. As a member of the Church of the Nativity, Laura assists with the Buddy Ministry during Sunday Mass, which helps include children with special needs in the liturgy.

Laura's son, Simon, has physical and cognitive disabilities and requires ongoing, multifaceted medical treatment. Laura's advocacy for him and children like him led to her involvement with Little Lobbyists, a non-partisan organization of families whose children have complex medical needs. Little Lobbyists maintains a presence on Capitol Hill, educating lawmakers about the impact of governmental policy on children who have complicated healthcare and life-saving needs. Laura is the director of communications and a member of the executive board. She recently delivered an address at the Capitol Building during a press conference hosted by House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, with Sister Simone of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, and Ady Barkan from the Center for Popular Democracy as the two other speakers.

The spirit of Catherine McAuley lives on through Laura. Her desire to educate and empower those around her, her continued service to others, and her dedication to her family, are why she is one of Magic Monday's honorees. Laura has grown from a Mercy Girl to a Woman of Mercy and continues to use her gifts and talents for the good of others.