



NDA ALUMS: Young women making a difference

Two inspiring alumnae of Notre Dame Academy were honored on Saturday, December 10 at the Alumnae Christmas Open House. Jenny Girard Malley '87 received the Sr. Mary Aloysia Service in Education Award and Tina Tankalakis '98 received the Alumnae Leadership in Service Award.

Starting with her time at NDA, Jenny has combined her thirst for knowledge with her passion for sharing with the community. After earning a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University, Jenny worked with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, assisting women who had no access to health care during their pregnancies--work that she still continues. She was also on the staff of the DC Service Corps, an Americorps Program working with underserved youth in the District of Columbia.

Returning to California, she shared her skills with the Points of Light Foundation and the Youth Leadership Institute. She then served as the Director of Christian Service at St. Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco.

Recently, Jenny has explored the connection between service and faith in many settings. She received a master's in theology from the University of San Francisco and certification in Spiritual Direction. She now serves as Co-Director of Campus Ministry at Holy Names University in Oakland, inviting students and staff into prayerful moments throughout the day and the year.

Jenny strives to connect justice with faith in all that she does. Her focus has been to engage in social justice through teaching others to serve those in need. She writes "It was at NDA that I formed some of my closest friends and where I learned how to speak up for myself and for others whose voices went unheard.... And if I can teach that to other women through my example, more so than through my lesson plans, then I am truly blessed."

Born and raised in Los Angeles, designer Tina Tangalakis always sought to combine her love of art and humanitarian work. She studied costume design at the California Institute of the Arts. After several years in the entertainment industry, she decided to begin designing.

In 2009, Tina choose to volunteer abroad--in Hohoe, Ghana. There she quickly became enamored with the culture and warm hearts of the friends she made. With her vast background in business and design, Tina created a team with local seamstresses to begin Della. She sought to create more than a business, she wanted to find a way to improve the lives of local women.

In the past 7 years, Della has worked with over 200 artisans in Ghana, offering full-time employment to more than 30 women, providing them with social security and health benefits, weekly literacy classes and mentoring in leadership skills. In the United States, Della has been featured on Grey's Anatomy and has launched products through the Apple Store, Anthropologie, TOMS, Urban Outfitters, Seychelles Shoes and dozens of other boutiques.