



## Art in Rosemary Beach

### DBU Grad Lauren Carvalho '10 Opens Bookstore & Gallery

**W**hile on a family vacation in Rosemary Beach, Florida, the Carvalho family enjoyed the pace and beauty of the beachside town but realized that it was missing something: a bookstore and an art gallery.

Lauren Carvalho, a DBU alumna and art major, soon began dreaming with her mom, Diane (an active member of DBU's Women's Auxiliary Board), about starting their own business in the town. "Our prayer was that the Lord would pave the way," Lauren reflected. "He provided us with the vision, the perfect building, amazing builders,

Lantern offers more than 10,000 books for patrons to browse and purchase along with an art gallery, featuring a new exhibit every six weeks.

Lauren serves as the Gallery Director for The Hidden Lantern, seeking out artists to showcase in the gallery and curating exhibits. She spends about 50 percent of her time teaching art classes to all ages, from children to senior adults. Lauren also finds time to create art in her studio, as she serves as the resident artist.

Often drawing her inspiration from the ocean and its wildlife, Lauren enjoys incorporating objects from nature into her artwork.

A native of Plano, Texas, Lauren received her bachelor's degree from DBU in 2010. During her time at the University, she was instrumental in forming DBU's art show, an annual event showcasing art work created by students, faculty, and staff members.

She also began formulating her dream for The Hidden Lantern. "Lauren shared her dream of opening a gallery soon after I met her," explains Dr. Dawna Walsh, chair of DBU's Art Department. "She tailored many of her art projects and papers towards that goal. Since opening her gallery, she has supervised several art interns who went to Rose-

mary Beach to learn under her expertise. Lauren's creative spirit and enthusiasm still pervades the Art Department...and we could not be more proud!"

The small class sizes at DBU helped Lauren develop her artistic skills, and she is thankful for the one-on-one critiques she received from her professors and classmates. "Some of my favorite memories are being surrounded by fellow art peers working on final projects late into the night. I miss that creative energy. No one understands you better than those who are experiencing firsthand what you are going through at the time, especially in the art studio," she recalled.

Along with growing her creativity, the Lord used DBU to help establish a strong foundation of faith for Lauren. "The numerous chapel services I attended and Bible classes I took instilled His truths in me," she recalled. "Whenever I face intimidating challenges, I am reminded of all those times God got me through in the past."

In the future, Lauren plans to expand her personal art portfolio and begin exhibiting her work in galleries across the country. She also has plans to establish installation shows in her gallery and find new and unique ways to utilize the space. But for now, Lauren is thankful to be living out her dream and grateful to the Lord for giving her the vision.

*The Carvalho family is pictured left (courtesy of Jacqueline Ward Images): (left to right) Jennifer, Lauren, Diane, Tony, Jr., and Tony, Sr., at The Hidden Lantern. Images above courtesy of Jack Gardner.*



and fabulous employees."

In 2010, the Carvalhos' planning and dreaming became a reality as The Hidden Lantern Bookstore and Gallery held its grand opening in Rosemary Beach.

"Mixing the visual arts with literature has been a great cultural combination to the town," Lauren expressed. The Hidden