



Issue 5, January 2013

## **A Note from the Alumni Director**



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The quality of the academic program at St. Paul's has long been a major attraction of the Crusader experience. The English curriculum has always ranked among the strongest academic offerings, with teachers such as Bob French, Tom Longstreth and Farnham Warriner, among others. Who could forget Mr. French's intense class discussions and encouragement to write about one's passions, regardless of ensuing controversy? Or Mr. Longstreth's devotion to (dare one say "obsession with?") "Catcher in the Rye," a reference to which in any Longstreth paper would allegedly earn a higher grade? Or Mr. Warriner's "Clue Games" and word vocabulary lists, for which "my definition, fellas, and my definition only," would do? Alumni more recently minted will fondly recall similar literary and pedagogical habits of our current English faculty.

St. Paul's is taking the next step in this robust tradition with the Writing Center at St. Paul's School, which opened in the Scheffenacker Library in September. Four juniors and four seniors have been trained as peer readers to help students with thematic organization, narrative structure and fundamentals of grammar and punctuation. The Center, directed by English teacher Matt Kasper '00 and co-director Apryl Doyle, is staffed throughout the day by faculty and the student mentors, and the activity over its first three months has been impressive. Students visit for help with papers on a range of subjects and are encouraged during each session to reflect on their thinking process as they write; at the end of each session they are asked to critique its value and suggest how the experience might be improved. As part of the Scheffenacker speaker series, four visiting writers come to campus throughout the year to speak to classes and visit the Writing Center.

Further underscoring the importance of good writing for success in college and beyond, St. Paul's has

announced the creation of the John Robert French '50 Prize for Excellence in Written Expression. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous alumnus donor, the prize honors the aforementioned Bob French, Class of 1950, who taught English at St. Paul's in the late 1950s and early 1960s and chaired the English Department. Three cash prizes will be awarded annually, one each to a student in Grade Four, Grade Eight and the Upper School, with winners chosen based on their writing portfolios and a writing exercise.

We alumni who have benefitted from the excellent instruction in writing and English over the decades, from mentors such as Bob French, Farnham Warriner and Tom Longstreth, will no doubt be pleased by these developments at our alma mater.

## **Voices from the Hill: Jeff Kukucka '05**



Jeff, a forensic psychologist, was invited to attend an advance screening of the new Ken Burns documentary, "The Central Park Five," along with colleagues from the Innocence Project—a national, non-profit organization that has exonerated over 300 wrongly convicted individuals through the use of DNA testing. The film tells the 1989 story of the Central Park jogger and the five young teens wrongly convicted and imprisoned for assaulting her. After the film, Jeff met with Burns and the five exonerees, on their first night together since the 1989 incident. Jeff highly recommends the film as an illustration of how his research plays out in the real world.

After graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Loyola College in Maryland in 2009, Jeff earned his M.A. in forensic psychology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City in 2011. Presently a doctoral candidate in that field, he anticipates earning his

Ph.D. in May 2014.

Jeff's current research explores how biases in criminal investigation and adjudication can lead to wrongful convictions, and also tests reforms designed to prevent such devastating errors. He is keenly interested in human lie detection, interrogation techniques, false confessions, investigative biases and the impact of expert testimony on juror decision-making. Jeff's dissertation research will test a new procedure that he hopes will help forensic scientists analyze evidence in a more objective fashion, thereby reducing the risk of errors that implicate an innocent person.

Jeff has won a number of grants to fund his research and present his work at national and international conferences. He's published articles in several academic journals and recently completed a series of studies, funded by the National Science Foundation, in which he collaborated with two Connecticut police departments to promote legislation mandating that custodial interrogations be videotaped. He's also teaching at Hunter College.

"I think this is incredibly important research," Jeff says. "You hear these terrible stories about people who have been in prison for decades for crimes that they didn't commit, and you think, 'What went wrong? How can we stop this from happening again?' Often forgotten is that we're not only putting away an innocent

person, but letting the real criminal go free. I guess what we're really trying to do is ensure that the 'justice' system lives up to its name."

Jeff says his interest in this field began at St. Paul's in 2004-05, where he developed a passion for psychology in Ms. Blakeslee's AP Psychology class. He regrets not having taken Howard Schindler's forensics class, which, in retrospect, "would have been perfect for me," he says. Jeff plans to return to campus later in January, at Howard's invitation, to share his experiences with current students.

## **A Look Back at St. Paul's**

November 1914: "What gives promise of being a hard-fought basketball game will be played at Hollins Hall Saturday night, when the St. Paul's (sic) meet the Cornell team," reports the Baltimore Sun. "In the last two contests between these teams St. Paul's was returned the winner by a narrow margin and the Cornells will be out for revenge. St. Paul's line-up will be: Beiget, Grempler, Wilkerson, Latusky, forwards; Mainz, centre; Davis and Steinkamp, guards."

February 24, 1944: The Crusaders defeat public-school champion Southern, 40-29, to win the A Conference basketball championship. St. Paul's finishes the season 21 and 2, a badly needed salve for a winless football season. Residents of Mt. Washington, the school's home at the time, summon police to quell the celebration, punctuated by ringing of the Victory Bell. The Sun reports that the "fast play was marred by considerable roughness," with 34 fouls called. Crusader center George Mitchell is the pivotal player in the win, along with Captain Billy Crockett, Ace Adams, Jack Turner and Billy Hooper.

December 8, 1937: The first Kinsolving Gym opens on the St. Paul's Mt. Washington Campus, with a student population of 140. Featuring a "floor of gumwood with a covering of Bakvar," it also served alumni and parents for three nights weekly of badminton and was the venue for dances, proms, speakers, assemblies, films, bazaars and other communal events.

From the December 16, 1955 issue of the *Monitor*: "It is with regret that we must express a feeling that some of the writers for The Monitor have become lax and irresponsible in their duties...if these prevailing tendencies continue in the direction in which they are now headed, it will become difficult and perhaps impossible to publish any further issues." *Editor's Note: This warning hit its mark, for the Monitor continues in print today, under the direction of English faculty member Cameron Baird.*

January 29, 1980: A standing-room only crowd of more than 1,500 gapes in amazement as St. Paul's wrestlers end Mt. St. Joe's domination of A Conference wrestling with a stunning win over the Gaels, 31-29. Mt. St. Joe had won six consecutive A Conference dual meets and had not lost a local meet during that span. Crusader Claf Hall '81 pins his opponent, while teammates Craig Pfeifer '80 and David Darrell '80 win their bouts. The *coup de grace* comes courtesy of heavyweight Mark Pellington '80, who pins his man with 10 seconds remaining in the first round. This win was "just like the movies," Coach Jamie Andrew tells the Sun, citing the crowd, the pressure and Pellington's climactic heavyweight win. The Crusaders win their final two matches to clinch the A Conference Championship and place first in two tournaments.

## **In Memoriam**

Theodore "TK" Sanderson, Jr. '53 (October 24, 2012)

William "Chris" Spencer '68 (December 6, 2012)

## **Read Back Issues of "Crusader Connection"!**

Distraught over missing earlier issues of this newsletter? Despair no more! [Click here.](#)

## **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bull Roast and Auction: February 22, 2012**

Following the recent alumni hockey and basketball games and an enthusiastic group of young alumni at their annual Pancake Breakfast, alumni sights are now set on the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bull Roast and Auction on February 22, 2013, in Pollock Gym, from 6-11 P.M. Please join us! For tickets and more information, [click here.](#)

## **“Crusader Connect”: An App to Track Fellow Alumni**



Headed to Floyds Knobs, IN, and want to see which fellow Crusaders are in the area? Our new, free app for the iPhone, iPad and Droid is just what you need. The St. Paul's Alumni App allows you to find contact information easily for any alumnus in the United States who resides in our data base. Alums can update their contact information, share photos and class notes, check news and scores and network with fellow alums via LinkedIn. Over 150 alumni have downloaded the St. Paul's Alumni App; more are doing so each week. We hope that this convenient app will help us all stay better connected. Download it with the easy steps [found here.](#)

Please note that you will not be able to download if your email address does not match the one in our records. If you are so advised, please email me at [cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org](mailto:cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org) with your preferred email address, so we can make the change and advise you when we have done so. Young alumni:

You cannot log in with a St. Paul's email address, as those addresses are deleted shortly after graduation.

## **State of the Reunion: Blue-Gold Weekend 2013**

Save the date for next spring's Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend: May 3-4, 2013, with a special welcome for five-year reunion classes ending in 3 and 8. The varsity lacrosse game will be played on Friday May 3 at 3:30 P.M. vs. Gilman, followed by a casual Blue-Gold cocktail party. Saturday will feature alumni games, a family cookout and varsity baseball game at 4 P.M. vs. John Carroll. Class Reunion Chairs have been contacting classmates and making plans for class dinners and other activities. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out with the reunion for your class.

**[Remember the Annual Fund!](#)**

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