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A Note from the Alumni Director



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Those interested in the cultural history of St. Paul's may wish to consider our yearbooks. Escorts to our past, they captured the personalities, traditions and atmospherics that characterized our campuses in Mt. Washington and, starting in 1952, in Brooklandville. Our yearbooks, first published in 1941 have changed over the decades, and the nature of that evolution may correlate with societal trends ranging from geopolitical events to shifts in pedagogical approaches to education and the advent of technology.

Prior to 1968, a narrative description of each graduating senior appeared on his yearbook page. Written by student yearbook staffs, these descriptions were nicely crafted, often subtle and gently sardonic impressions of each senior and his legacy. Photographs included a senior portrait—as now, likely ordered by his mother—and candid shots illustrating some dimension of the fellow's personality. Brief resumes gave an account of what each senior did during his time at St. Paul's: academic achievements, athletic activities, clubs and so forth. Rounding out these yearbooks were photographs of underclassmen, faculty and staff and descriptions of the various clubs: the Gun Club, the Spectator Club (which awarded Danglers for outstanding rhetorical performances), the Philosophy Club, the Student Workers' Club. These yearbooks are a boon for campus historians, archivists and class-reunion chairs.

The complexion of the St. Paul's yearbook began to change in 1968. A more individualistic style offered little about how each graduating senior fit into the broader School community. Senior pages lost the prosaic narratives of personalities and what classmates thought of peers—resumes remained, so at least we know who was inducted into the Cum Laude Society, who wrestled and who was in the Taxidermy Club. But insights into personality and character evaporated. We know even less about each new alumnus starting with the 1969 Crusader, as personal poetic lines began seeping onto senior pages, replacing resumes.

Photographs, many of seniors as small boys, came to dominate senior pages, and much of what little text remained became code-like, inside stuff meaningful only to their closest buddies and, in time, likely and sadly forgotten.

Several reasons may be behind this metamorphosis. A generational reaction to the Vietnam War that diminished trust in established institutions had become firmly rooted by the late 1960's, perhaps leading to more focus on self. The growing number of seniors presented formidable editorial and writing challenges for busy yearbook staffs. More visual styles of learning, featuring more color illustrations and less text, became more prevalent in classrooms, especially as costs of color production dropped (four-color first appeared in the 2000 Crusader, for senior portraits only). And the ubiquity of personal technology has inevitably made us more self-focused, absorbed as we are in our electronic devices. Although these explanations behind the changes to our yearbooks may be overly speculative, today's visual accounts of each year in Brooklandville, while aesthetically pleasing, leave little trace of the mark each graduate has made during his time at St. Paul's. And that is a loss for us all.

Voices from the Hill: Richard J. Cross III '85



Richard Cross's resume bills him as a "strategic thinker with strong writing skills and a track record of conceiving and executing external relations plans and maintaining strong working relationships with disparate publics"—an apt description given his background as chief speechwriter for a former governor and three members of Congress, spokesman for a Congressional committee and a business advocacy group, political operative and commentator, and author of numerous op-ed articles in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., newspapers.

"People have always told me they liked my writing," Richard said. "Thanks to the great tutelage I got from former St. Paul's teachers

Michal Makarovich and Al Cauffman, I had a chance to develop it." Following St. Paul's, Richard earned a B.A. in political science from Johns Hopkins University and did graduate work at the University of Connecticut.

While still at Hopkins, he began working as a press aide and speechwriter for Congresswoman Helen D. Bentley of Maryland's old Second Congressional District. "Mrs. Bentley was a bit of an awe-inspiring and, at times, fearsome figure with a reputation for irascibility," Richard recalled. But she was also a former newspaper editor, and she took an interest in helping me cultivate my writing skills. After I left her office, gravitating into the communications field seemed natural."

After several stints in the world of corporate communications, Richard served for three-plus years as press secretary for Congressman Robert D. Ehrlich, who succeeded Rep. Bentley in 1994, the year the Republicans retook the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years. In 2000, Richard was appointed Senior Writer at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

When Rep. Ehrlich was elected governor of Maryland in 2003, Richard became his chief speechwriter, crafting original speeches and supervising and having editorial authority over speeches prepared by staff in two dozen state departments. "During a busy week I was either writing or editing about a dozen speeches," Richard recalled. "The governor was very hands-on about his remarks, and told me that I was the only person he knew who could write something close to what he would have prepared himself had he the time.

That's the key to having value as a speechwriter: Knowing your boss and not trying to put your own words in his or her mouth."

After Gov. Ehrlich was defeated for reelection, Richard left Annapolis for Washington and a post as communications director for the GOP side of the House Financial Services Committee, where a major project was overseeing the rollout of complex mortgage-reform legislation in 2007.

Richard is now back in the private sector, as manager of government and external relations for COLA, the nation's premier clinical laboratory education and accreditation organization. "I've been fortunate in that my experience has enabled me to build skills that allow me to segue back and forth between the private, non-profit, and political sectors." He still keeps a hand in Maryland politics, penning op-ed pieces for the Baltimore Sun and doing occasional freelance projects for candidates. He also blogs at rjc-crosspurposes.blogspot.com.

He's been back to campus to speak to the Page editorial staff, and the alumni office hopes he'll make a return visit before long, to share his experiences with future Crusader alumni.

A Look Back at St. Paul's

Winter 1934: The committee convened by headmaster George Hamilton to design a school seal comes up with two swords crossed over a shield with the motto, "I have fought the good fight." That seal is used until 1998.

April 23, 1960: Skip Darrell '60 (3 goals) and Charles "Tink" Gunnoe '60 (2 goals) lead the Crusaders to a 7-3 win over Sewanhaka High School of Long Island, at Floral Park, N.Y. Dick Peterson '61 and Fred Betz '60 each chip in with a goal. Admission to the game is 15 cents.

St. Paul's News, Spring 1978: Faculty member Farnham Warriner reviews "Eye of the Needle," by Ken Follet: "I have read many potboilers in my time but this is one of the most lurid. The description of one of the sex episodes is inexcusably lascivious and outperforms such an erotic writer as Sidney Sheldon."

Editor's note: Many alumni, who fondly recall Mr. Warriner's literature appreciation classes, will recognize several of his vocabulary words in the foregoing excerpt.

Are You Connected?

Your alma mater is looking for alumni with expertise and interest in all types of social media, to provide ideas about how we might better use that to keep alumni informed and connected. Those interested in helping out should contact Charley Mitchell '73, Director of Alumni Relations

at cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org

Upcoming Events

- Alumni Tailgate at Princeton University, April 17, 4:30-6 PM, prior to the St. Paul's-Garden City lacrosse game at Princeton (game starts at 6:30). Free for alumni and guests.
- Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend, May 2-3, on campus (some events held jointly with SPSG reunion classes)
- ROMEO end-of-year luncheon, June 3, 12 PM, Brooklandwood

Memorabilia

Found in School Archives: Large reel of 16-mm film labeled "Mt. Wash. St. Paul's Old Film," in the

inimitable cursive of Louis Dorsey Clark, featuring scenes of the Mt. Washington campus, circa mid-1940's: well-dressed boys waving to the camera, masters exiting a building (including Mr. Clark and Don McDorman '33), automobiles. The film is in fragile condition—the alumni office seeks the advice of those with the expertise to have it digitized.

School Store

The school store, on the south side of the Middle School adjacent to the squash courts, has a wide range of St. Paul's gear: jackets, fleeces, caps, sweats, mugs and more. Too far away to shop in person? [Check out some items here.](#) Order online or phone the store directly at 410-821-3037.

Crusader Connect



Headed south for warm weather and want to see which fellow Crusaders are on Florida's Gulf Coast? Our free app for the iPhone, iPad and Droid is just what you need. This SP Alumni App allows you to find contact information easily for any alumnus in the U.S. who is in our data base. Alumni can update their contact information, share photos and class notes and network with fellow alumni via LinkedIn. We hope this convenient app will help us all stay better connected—download it with these easy steps: [download](#)

Please note that you won't 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 with your preferred email address; once we make the change you will need to wait several weeks until our vendor updates the data.

State of the Reunion

Plan to attend Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend, May 2-3, with a special welcome for five-year reunion years ending in 4 and 9. Enjoy the varsity lacrosse game on Friday afternoon vs. Mt. St. Joe and the casual Blue-Gold Cocktail Party under the tent on Hamilton Lawn. Saturday's family cookout and Reunion Cocktail Party will be joint affairs with the reunion classes of St. Paul's School for Girls. 20% off all merchandise at the School store for Crusader alumni! Thanks to all class reunion chairs for their efforts.

In Memoriam

Ronald L. Bray '50 (March 2014)

Letter to the Editor

Chris Wilson '67 writes: I really appreciate you illuminating us with the history of Rev. Kinsolving (Feb. issue). I've always wanted to learn about why he is so honorably acknowledged by St. Paul's—especially since I have such fond memories of Kinsolving Gym. Thanks to you, now I know and am edified by your effort! He was so incredibly dedicated to educating Baltimore's finest boys. He is truly the first "Mr. St. Paul's"!

"Crusader Connection" welcomes letters to the editor, which may be edited for clarity and brevity. They may be emailed to the alumni director at the address above. Go easy on the all-caps key.

Bored? Read Back Issues!

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

Please remember the Annual Fund. Our goal for alumni participation is 30%; we're presently at 17%. Giving is easy: www.stpaulsschool.org/makeagift. Your alma mater thanks you!



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