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A Note from the Alumni Director



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Many Crusaders have fond recollections of headmaster H. Atherton "Appie" Middleton, who served from 1944-1965 and who, among overseeing other milestones in 20th century St. Paul's history, presided over the move from Mt. Washington to Brooklandville in 1952. (I have long wondered if his resignation in 1966 had anything to do with my entering that year as a sixth-grader.)

"A headmaster's job," Mr. Middleton allegedly said, in his self-deprecating and endearing manner, "is a glorified janitor." Born in Baltimore and reared on the Eastern Shore, our 29th headmaster attended the Marston School and Johns Hopkins, where he was an outstanding football and lacrosse player. Mr. Middleton then headed to Philadelphia to coach the varsity lacrosse team at Penn and teach at Episcopal Academy, where he also coached football and wrestling. He arrived at St. Paul's in 1944 determined to bolster the academic curriculum and win appropriate accreditation (that year, 12 of the school's 24 graduates went into the military). By 1950 he and the board of trustees were exploring a move to larger space, as the school was outgrowing its Rogers Avenue campus.



The logistics of moving a school must have been akin to planning for D-Day. Classes began in 1952 in the old Emerson stables on the new Brooklandville campus (the site of today's Lower School). During his 22-year tenure, Mr. Middleton would develop the Lower and Middle Schools, expand enrollment, institute a grading system and standardized testing, plan two new Upper School buildings, initiate our tradition of giving bibles to graduates and bring in key faculty members such as Martin Tullai, Thomas Longstreth, Jeanne Shreeve and Michael Rentko. He also added an Oldsmobile station wagon and "its first school bus, seating 20 and painted all-blue with the letters 'SP' and a single gold stripe," according to *We Have Kept the Faith*, Angelo Otterbein's history of St. Paul's.

Alumni have fond recollections of Mr. Middleton. "He was like Captain Queeg in *The Caine Mutiny*, massaging change from his pocket in one hand while delivering his morning message to us in Kinsolving Gym," recalled Dutch Hall '50. "He really understood young males, and his strong belief in reformation led to second and third chances. I suspect every alumnus looked back and said a silent thanks to our venerable headmaster for having saved us from ourselves." Cliff Low '65 recounted an act of kindness: "As my mother drove into campus one day from Falls Road, the only entrance in those days, to fetch my brother Bruce for a doctor's appointment, she crashed into one of the large iron gates and wiped out the right front of our brand new '56 Plymouth wagon. So we piled into Mr. Middleton's car, and he drove us downtown."

Mr. Middleton laid the foundation for St. Paul's to become an integrated school, in the wake of the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision to abolish segregation in public schools. By the early 1960's the school's admissions policy had become non-discriminatory, and according to Otterbein, Middleton "made it clear in his last year as headmaster that the first black student would begin in the fall of 1966, so that his successor, John T. Ordeman, would not have to endure the potential backlash arising from his having accepted a black student his first year." Mr. Ordeman, who became head of school in 1966, says Mr. Middleton told him, "The school's yours now, and I'll stay away." I know he was doing this out of deference to me," he said recently. "I had to encourage him to visit campus, even to see his grandson play sports."

"He sincerely cared about the kids, his faculty and the staff and it showed," says that grandson, Wick Sollers '73. "You can't fake it for long. My grandfather believed in affording a second (or third) chance to students who might be struggling, academically or behaviorally. His competitive nature was well-disguised, for he was an extremely kind, gentle and empathetic person."

S. Atherton Middleton, our 29th and longest-serving headmaster, died on December 21, 1982, and is buried in Centreville, on his beloved Eastern Shore.

Editor's note: I thank Carter Sollers Bond, Mr. Middleton's daughter, for her editorial review of this story.

Calling all Crusaders for the 45th annual Bull Roast & Auction: The Brooklandwood Bash

Friday, February 19 in Pollock Gym. Enjoy our enhanced décor and menu while bidding on spectacular vacations, Rihanna and Ravens tickets, artwork, a Hank Aaron framed/signed jersey, private tours, an experience at Sagamore Farm and much more. [Get tickets here](#) (half price for young alumni, classes 2006+).

Voices from the Hill: Ted Watson '07





Upon returning to St. Paul's in 2013 as a faculty member, Ted Watson '07 proclaimed that teaching environmental science at his alma mater was his dream job. His daily demeanor as he goes about his many campus duties suggests that his enthusiasm has little abated. "I knew I'd love the students, but a real bonus has been the wonderful faculty relationships I've formed. We often talk about the kids and how much we enjoy our interactions with them." In addition to his classes, Ted coaches JV crew and fresh-soph soccer, leads the Outdoor Club, has his paramedic/CPR training at the ready during the fall Kinsolving Trips and participates in community service projects.

Ted earned his B.S. in natural resource ecology at the University of Vermont and is now grinding away in a graduate program in STEM teaching (with a biology concentration) at Stevenson University. The great outdoors has long enticed him, for he's a certified ropes-course instructor and, as a former camp director and a coach at the Baltimore Rowing Center for students in low-income areas of

Baltimore City, he's taught canoeing, kayaking and Olympic-style rowing. In 2013 Ted coached a varsity lightweight double boat to the U.S. Rowing Junior National Championships in Oak Ridge, TN. When a member of the Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Department, he rode an Advanced Life Support Ambulance and provided basic life support and was an IV Technician Care provider—Ted was recognized as a Top Ten Responder for 2012.

At the 2012 All Good Festival in Marvin's Mountaintop, WV, things weren't all good, for Ted, one of eight EMTs responsible for more than 20,000 people, dealt with calls ranging from drug overdoses to a patient in labor—the EMT team treated more than 275 patients during the six-day festival. Earlier Ted did a habitat restoration internship with the National Park Service—among his duties were assisting the ecologist at Montezuma Well National Monument in Arizona, collecting and processing hydrology data for submission to the U.S. Geological Survey and constructing irrigation systems and fence lines throughout park lands. "My work in the NPS system inspired me to encourage our students to engage in more outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, kayaking and camping. I love leading our sophomores on a Kinsolving Trip each fall—these three-day outings are, in my view, an essential part of the overall St. Paul's experience."

While a student at St. Paul's, Ted was head counselor at the Bridges program for two summers, an experience that stoked his interest in teaching and working with students—now a vocation his alma mater hopes lasts a good long time.

Remembrance of Things Past (previously A Look Back At St. Paul's):

Trustee Minutes, February 1907: "The report of the Head Master (Miles Farrow) was submitted orally, showing thirty one boys in attendance, all in good health and generally satisfactory in average of deportment and studies. He also reported two donations to him personally of \$25 and \$100 from two patrons of the School, Miss Stokes and Mrs. William W. Williams."

Trustee Minutes, November 18, 1919: "Mr. Wyatt reported that the Y.M.C.A. had increased this year the \$175 its charge for the use of their gymnasium...Mr. Bonsal spoke in favor of electing women as members

of the Board of Trustees. There was considerable difference of opinion as to the advisability of making this change.”

March 8, 1935: Rudy Kilian and His Kadets supply the music at a danced sponsored by the St. Paul's Cotillion Club. Tickets are \$1.00, “couple or stag.”

January 18, 1955: In the first basketball game played in the new Kinsolving Gym, a young Crusader team falls to Gilman, 58-37. Freshman Bob Vettters '58 leads St. Paul's with 14 points; Dave Bimestefer is high man for the Greyhounds, with 19 points.

Alumni Association News

- Watch for invitations next month for **Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend, May 6-7**, with a special welcome for class years ending in “1” and “6.” We'll have plenty of activities for the whole family, and a special salute to the class of '66 on their 50th reunion!
- New York-area Crusaders: Keep an eye out for invitations to both a New York City event this spring and an alumni tailgate on April 2 prior to the St. Paul's-Garden City lacrosse game at Manhasset High School.
- Last call for nominations for the fourth class of our Athletic Hall of Fame, with the induction ceremony this fall. The selection committee will conclude its deliberations shortly, so send nominations of individuals, coaches and teams to the alumni office ASAP.
- SP has contracted with PCI to publish a new alumni directory (at no cost to the school). Alumni will soon receive a postcard asking them to call PCI and verify/update personal/professional contact information. PCI will ask if you wish to purchase a print and/or electronic version of the directory—while we urge you to verify your information, please do not feel obliged to purchase. The directory will publish in 2017.
- The Crusader Network continues to grow. Close to 90 alumni are signed on as mentors, to help with networking and career advice, and more Crusader seniors and college students are using the CN. Let the alumni office know if you would like to be a mentor, or would like to contact one.

To The Editor

Bill Mayhew '63 writes: “Thank you for your piece on Isaac Emerson and Brooklandwood (*November issue*). But there is a correction to this statement: *In 1911 Emerson built the Bromo-Seltzer Tower at Calvert and Baltimore streets, which featured a 51-foot revolving Bromo-Seltzer bottle.* The building at this location (Calvert & Baltimore) wasn't the Bromo-Seltzer tower. It was the Emerson Hotel, which opened in 1911 but no longer exists. The Bromo-Seltzer tower (also completed in 1911) was at the northeast corner of Lombard and Eutaw, where it still stands, just two blocks north of Camden Yards. Thanks again for this article.”

Crusader Connect

Need to find fellow Crusaders in San Diego? Download our free SP Alumni app for the iPhone, iPad and Droid and find contact information for any alumnus in the U.S. who's in our data base. Update contact information, share photos and class notes and network with fellow alumni via LinkedIn. This convenient app helps us all stay better connected—download the app for [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), or [Android](#).

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advised, please [email me](#) with your preferred email address so we can make the change.

In Memoriam

Carl G. Hilgenberg II '56 (October 2015)
Joseph L. Carter, Jr. '58 (December 2015)
Charles Tilghman "Tim" Levering '45 (December 2015)
Kyle A. Greaver '10 (January 2016)
Zachary W. Pressman '09 (January 2016)
Joseph L. "Bud" Booze '48 (February 2016)

Insomnia? Read Back Issues!

Distraught over missing earlier issues of "Crusader Connection"? Despair no more! [Check them out on the website.](#)

Alumni participation in annual giving stands at 18%. **So please [remember the Annual Fund](#)—your School needs you!**

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