



Issue 29

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Letter from Brooklandwood

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Among my favorite St. Paul's stories is one about Randall Coleman '39 selling a St. Paul's dance ticket to Al Capone.

Capone had been released from Alcatraz in 1939 and was living in Baltimore in early 1940 while undergoing treatment at Union Memorial Hospital for syphilis. According to Randall's son, Ran Coleman '65, who recounted the incident in *The Spirit of St. Paul's* (the 1999 collection of anecdotes about our school), young Randall, doing a post-graduate year at St. Paul's, figured out where the gangster lived and knocked on the door of his rented house on Pimlico Road.



As Ran recounted the incident, Randall "was met by a hard-looking man who made it quickly known that he didn't want a ticket to a dance at St. Paul's and suggested that dad scram," at which point a voice from deep inside the house instructed the man to buy a ticket from the kid, which he apparently did. Randall completed the transaction and, being an astute Crusader, scrambled.

No one from Capone's entourage showed up on the St. Paul's campus in Mt. Washington for the dance (which was, to be sure, just for students). So did Capone really buy a ticket? It really doesn't matter, for the story is more than the improbable intersection of a notorious gangster and a student hustling to support his school dance; it's a tale of the ingenuity of a St. Paul's student with a sense of humor, and a narrative that helps illuminate the essence of alumni relations.

A principal objective of our alumni program is to learn those stories and use them as vehicles to help alumni stay in touch with one another, and by association, their alma mater. The shared memories expressed in stories solidify common bonds and help draw alumni back to campus for reunions, games, theater performances and to speak with today's students. Alumni gather in other cities, at Crusader receptions and for "beer caucuses" with Headmaster Dave Faus when he travels. In our Crusader Network, older alumni mentor younger ones in their careers. Crusader alumni are in each other's weddings and become godparents to each other's children.

This spring, Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Carey Deeley '69 took a St. Paul's senior into his courtroom for the student's senior project, an experience bound to help our senior decide if the practice of law might be his calling. This connection is another sign of a vibrant St. Paul's alumni community that extends far beyond the rolling hills of Brooklandville.

Al Capone wasn't in much condition to dance, anyway, for the syphilis was slowly destroying his nervous system. He moved to Florida in 1940, where he died in 1947, a week after his 48th birthday.

Readers are invited to send the author their accounts of interactions with mobsters and bootleggers.

Thanks to Ran Coleman '65 for his original account of the Al Capone dance-ticket story in The Spirit of St. Paul's.

Voices from the Hill

Ben Seigel '92



During a recent conversation, Ben Seigel '92 reminisced about his days at St. Paul's. He was managing editor of The Page, which he was delighted to know is still published. "I was a decent, if undersized lacrosse player on the top high-school team in the country (1992), and was happy to run third midfield," he said. (He modestly neglected to mention his selection as "most trendy" in senior

Remembrance of Things Past

The New York Times, June 22,

1913: President Woodrow Wilson arrives at Brooklandwood as a guest at the wedding of Miss Ethel Preston McCormick, daughter of Mrs. Isaac Emerson, to Mr. Francis Huger McAdoo, the son of Wilson's Treasury Secretary. The wedding party features three bridesmaids and 14 groomsmen; the happy couple honeymooned on Capt. Isaac Emerson's yacht, "which has been completely overhauled and furnished for the couple."

Report of Headmaster Henry A.

Converse to the Trustees, June 14,

1919: "Although I found the house and a good deal of the furniture in very bad shape, I have by careful supervision managed to keep the chairs, beds and

elections.) Ben went to Swarthmore College, earning a degree in political science and two-time all-conference honors as a midfielder and captain in his senior year. At Swarthmore, Ben and classmate Jason Zengerle (now political correspondent at GQ Magazine) cofounded a satirical magazine, Spike, which lived on well past the founders' graduation in 1996.

Ben landed a job after college in New York as a web designer and research analyst at the Social Science Research Council, which led him to Portland, OR, where he started a community-based program training low-income and unemployed adults in web programming and design and other computer skills. He returned to New York to earn a Master's degree at New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service and serve in senior leadership positions at a national nonprofit organization, Seedco, where he helped develop and run community development initiatives, including projects that assisted workers and small business impacted by 9/11 in New York and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Ben's expertise in workforce development and community partnerships ultimately led him to Washington as an Obama appointee with a post at the Department of Labor, where he forged a relationship with then Secretary of Labor Tom Perez (now chair of the Democratic National Committee), serving as a senior policy advisor and director of the Department's Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. At the Center, Ben created an initiative that connected thousands of job clubs and networking groups based in churches, coffee shops and elsewhere with the resources of the nation's public workforce system.

mattresses in such shape that there will be practically no work to be done on them. The cellars and the yards are now cleared of the rubbish with which they were filled when I came."

Trustee Minutes, June 11, 1928: "The Headmaster recommended that day scholars who sing in the choir be allowed a reduction of \$25, to make their tuition \$100...(he) made a verbal report on the curriculum and also on the athletic contests, especially with teams of corresponding size and weight from Gilman, McDonogh and Friends Schools."

Spring 1979: The Page wins first place in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's awards for high school newspapers.

May 21, 2004: The Crusaders jump out to a six-goal lead in the first quarter and never look back, defeating Gilman, 15-10, for an MIAA A Conference lacrosse championship that ends a 12-year drought. Twelve of the 15 goals are assisted.

Alumni Association News

The Alumni Association raised more than \$100,000 for the alma mater during the 2017-2018 year, with three events, two in partnership with the Parents' Association:

The Brooklandwood Bash (formerly the Bull Roast): \$80,000 (partnering with the Parents' Association): Chairs: Will Gore '08 and Eben Eck '84. Benefit: St. Paul's Fund and Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Crusader Cup Golf Outing: \$12,000: Chairs: Brent Hargest '02, C.J. Ilardo '03, Brian McGettigan '03.

Following the unrest triggered by the death of Freddie Gray, Ben found himself back in Baltimore in the spring of 2015. Perez had recommended Ben to lead a White House team reporting to Valerie Jarrett that would work side-by-side with the city to tap into a wide range of federal assistance to help with the immediate aftermath of the unrest. One of the team's projects helped the city double its summer youth employment program.

Ben is presently Executive Director of the 21st Century Cities Initiative, an urban research and policy project of The Johns Hopkins University, whose mission is to help cities address economic, health, safety, education and housing inequities through applied research and policy development. A recent project measured the capacity of the financing system in Baltimore to support the growth of startups and other small businesses. Another is using sophisticated data analytics to help Baltimore and two other cities predict housing vacancies and better target neighborhood revitalization funds.

Ben and his wife, Lisa, have a son, Auden (10) and a daughter, Juno (7). The family lives in Silver Spring, which presents Ben with a traffic-laden commute to his office on Hopkins' Homewood campus. "St. Paul's gave me an opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities that I found both challenging and rewarding—AP courses, three seasons of team sports, and extra-curriculars like The Page and Model U.N.," Ben said. "This experience had a big influence on my career, where I have been able to navigate multiple sectors and places and work with people of all backgrounds, which has helped me develop a diverse

Benefit: Alumni Scholarship Fund

Car Raffle: \$12,000 (partnering with the Parents' Association).

Benefit: tuition assistance for faculty children

More than 300 alumni, current and former faculty and friends attended **Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend** on May 4-5. The Alumni Association presented its 2018 alumni awards to five men:

- John S. Morton III '68, Distinguished Alumnus
- Warren B. Powell '73, Outstanding Alumnus
- C.J. Ilardo '03, Outstanding Young Alumnus
- Michal Makarovitch & William Smith, Honorary Alumnus

[Click here for pictures of the Weekend: link](#)

Mitchell Stadium Dedicated, Tullai Field Re-dedicated



On May 4, St. Paul's celebrated the opening of its new athletic facility and honored the legacy of two legendary teacher-coaches on May 4 with the dedication of George L. Mitchell '44

set of skills and experiences and an interesting perspective on the country and world."

In Memoriam

Henry P. Hopkins '38 (June 2018)

William G. Anderson '50 (July 2018)

Charles D. Barnes '54 (February 2018)

Michael A. Buck '66 (October 2017)

Kurt Kaltreider '61 (December 2017)

Justin A. Shank '98 (December 2017)

Andrew L. Coale '89 (February 2018)

Kenneth F. Wittelsberger '46 (March 2018)

Wayne L. Nield '65 (April 2018)

Charles E. "Charley" Mahaffey '55 (April 2018)

Thomas W. Litzenburg '53 (May 2018)

Donald P. Malkemus '52 (May 2018)

Stadium and the re-dedication of Martin D. "Mitch" Tullai Field. The stadium features seating for 1,000 fans, an expanded press box and viewing plazas at both ends.

[Click here for photos](#)

Letters to the Editor:

From Margot Reiling, faculty member

1965-1995: "Un grand Merci for the story on Mr. Ratcliffe (*June 2017* issue)! He was the one who interviewed me, in 1965, on an almost 100 degrees day at the end of August. I was dressed up with stockings, high heel shoes, gloves and a hat; Mr. R. In shorts, T-shirt and sneakers, and pipe in his mouth. He asked me a few general questions, then handed me a French textbook and said, 'Be here on Friday, 9am.' All I could say was, 'but...but,' and he said, 'You'll be fine!' Little did I know I was off to a 30-year career!"

From Tony Rowan '73: "My daughters are fascinated by the story of Annie (*Winter 2018* issue) and again plan to visit on Blue/Gold weekend and see if they can hear or see anything unusual. I took my son Will metal detecting one afternoon under the bleachers, but alas found only a few modern coins. But as we passed the mansion I had just a small tinge of angst wondering how I might react if I saw a girl in the window or heard laughing or whatever others have recalled."

Get Involved!

Contact the Alumni Office...

Congratulations to Lou Baker '19

- to get involved in Alumni Association activities and events, or to discuss hosting an event in your area—we have the budget; we need hosts and venues!

- with nominations for the Alumni Association Board of Directors and our Athletic Hall of Fame (next class to be inducted in 2019).

Back Issues Beckon!

Insomnia? Looking to avoid someone? Read back issues of the Crusader Connection.
[Click here for back issues.](#)



Lou Baker is the first Crusader to win the Maryland State Golf Association Junior Championship. He went 69 – 68 to shoot 7 under par and win the Championship by 2 strokes.

[Click here for more information](#)

Remember the St. Paul's Fund—your School needs you!



St. Paul's School

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