



Issue 31

Winter 2019



## **Letter from Brooklandwood**

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### **Our Young Alumni**

One appealing aspect of serving as St. Paul's alumni director is interacting with our future alumni. These interactions take multiple forms: coaching middle-school sports (consistent with my level of competence); helping with papers in the Writing Center; advising on college application and IB extended essays; and serving as an advisor to our school newspaper (in its second year as a joint effort with SPSG)—all with the goal of helping our students succeed and thrive.

My first stint at my alma mater was as 7th grade lacrosse coach in 2012, prior to joining the staff later that spring, an assignment that reintroduced me to the occasionally frustrating but often amusing vagaries of trying to get 11- and 12-year-old boys to do what they're supposed to do, when they're supposed to do it (my youngest at that time being halfway through college). Many in this community know that lacrosse equipment poses challenges for boys this age, consisting as it does of a number of components.

Included in my team rules were the importance of keeping a checklist and packing equipment the night before, so nothing's forgotten. These rules were, I came to think, only marginally useful, as we coaches constantly dealt with missing arm pads, shoes, mouth guards, jerseys and so forth. (Game jerseys were a particular challenge, with practice jerseys pressed into game service, numbers added with athletic tape.) My suggestion to one kid, who arrived at practice wearing slippers because he couldn't find his cleats, was that he look under his bed, since studies have shown that 77% of items lost by 7th graders are there.

Incidents during games proved distracting: stink bug inside a glove, missing cups suddenly replaced with borrowed ones just prior to face-off, sweat pants that stayed up only with the coach's borrowed leather belt, and a boy who, repairing at halftime to the nearby mobile lavatory, failed to return in time for the face-off. In one game, when asked if he was ready to go in, a boy asked "where do I go?" When informed the midfield wing: "What do I do?"

One game day I arrived at the gym to discover that one kid had injured himself en route to the locker room from the middle school (a distance of 30 yds.), two kids with no jerseys, a third

with no equipment at all and a fourth nowhere in sight, said by his teammates to be taking a math test.

Basketball presented its own obstacles. When one boy arrived at practice with one shoe—explaining he'd lent the other to a friend—he was sent off to find it. And one of the boys on that 6th-grade team, now a junior on the varsity, recently reminded me of that season's most memorable event—arriving for an away game, I scraped the side of a parked car with our school's minibus, bringing the off-duty cop in the parking lot aboard to interview each boy, an exciting few moments (for them) that cost us our pre-game warm-ups. Those sixth-grade boys likely remember me more for that than for anything I taught them on the court.

The first kids I coached are now college sophomores, and I'm glad I know a small core of kids in each SP class from coaching in the years since. Before long these underclassman will head to college, and some will call me about finding internships through the Crusader Network, our mentoring/networking program designed to introduce young alumni to older ones, for career advice and to continue building lifelong St. Paul's relationships.

Connecting our students with our wide alumni network is one of the most valuable services St. Paul's offers its graduates. Crusader alumni have embraced this program and are generously giving time and expertise to help our young guys find summer internships and employment opportunities. We offer the program to our seniors as well, matching them with alumni for their spring senior projects while simultaneously grooming them to become part of the St. Paul's Alumni Association, now more than 3,300 strong.

## Short Take

Mark Walsh '72 writes: "I recently sat with actor Robert Duvall at a Virginia Film Festival dinner. He said he lived in Annapolis as a young boy because his father was on staff at the Naval Academy. I asked Duvall if he remembered Steve Belichick, an assistant football coach at Navy (and father of NE Patriots Coach Bill Belichick), and told him I had played lacrosse against Bill Belichick in college.

"Duvall said he did not remember a Coach Belichick but said he'd always loved watching lacrosse.

Then he turned to me and said 'You know, there was a high school in Baltimore called St. Paul's. They were really good at lacrosse and used to beat all the colleges in the area, even though they were only a high school!' After picking my jaw up off the floor, I told Duvall that I'd played lacrosse at St. Paul's, and that his memories and talent assessment were, of course, right on."



## Voices from the Hill

***Garon Lizana '13***

Anyone planning to visit Inner Mongolia would do well to check in with Garon Lizana '13, who recently returned from that region of China after researching Hohhot's ethnic Mongolians on a Fulbright Scholarship. "I explored their political and social identities as a minority through interviews in Mandarin, conducting bilingual literature reviews, making field



observations and collaborating with scholars at Inner Mongolia University," explained Garon.

Garon wasted little time after graduating Magna Cum Laude from Tufts University, where spent his junior year studying in Shanghai, won the Chinese Language and Literature Prize and was inducted into the International Relations Honor Society. "I had looked at a lot of strategies for how I could get back to China, and Fulbright was my number one choice," he told me. "I wanted to get more experience conducting academic research, improve my Chinese and get further outside my comfort zone than I had been able to in Shanghai."

The Fulbright project reflected Garon's intrigue around the intersection of culture and politics, and his interest in Inner Mongolia grew out of that junior year in Shanghai. After four months of Chinese language study in Harbin, he decamped for Hohhot, a major industrial center and the capital of Inner Mongolia, in the north of China. (Inner Mongolia is not to be confused with the adjacent and independent nation of Mongolia, bordered by China and Russia.)

Arrival in Hohhot was a shock to the young Crusader, who knew not a soul there and who quickly had to procure living quarters and navigate a complex registration process in Chinese. His mentor at Inner Mongolia University helped him shape his research topic: identifying how ethnic Mongolian identity is reshaped/reimagined—amid social, political, and economic pressures—to assimilate in urban China. Taking advantage of every opportunity during this adventure, Garon took classes in anthropology and Mongolian at Inner Mongolia University, joined a baseball league, taught weekly English classes as a volunteer, participated in both a school talent show and athletic meet, and traveled throughout China and Mongolia.

For those unfamiliar with that part of the world, Garon's observations are intriguing: "While on the surface fairly similar to many other Chinese cities, Hohhot's historical and geographic position in the greater Mongolian cultural sphere gives it a unique flair," he explained. "For example, traditional Mongolian script appeared with Chinese text on street signs and storefronts, and Mongolian buns, soups, tea, yogurt, and stone-grilled meats were available in certain restaurants along with regular Chinese staples. Beyond Hohhot's towering skyline and high-speed trains, other regions of Inner Mongolia have vast, sparsely populated expanses of desert or rolling grassland, with a still significant but dwindling number of Mongolian herders," he continued. "On my travels, I was lucky to stay in a Mongolian ger (yurt) and learn from my hosts how desertification, economic pressures, and urbanization projects had threatened their livelihoods in the countryside."

After returning stateside, Garon tapped into the Crusader Network and connected with, among others, Chip Andreae '73, who has long experience on Capitol Hill. Garon recently landed an internship at C4ADS, a nonprofit organization that provides data-driven analysis and evidence-based reporting on global conflict and transnational security issues, and where he'll be doing research on transnational organized crime.

"St. Paul's gave me a strong base in Chinese that set me apart from many of my peers who had begun only once they got to college, Garon said. "In addition, classes like IB 20th Century History helped me better understand the current world order and the historical developments behind it; books like *Overthrow* by Stephen Kinzer were particularly important in helping me form a critical lens. This foundation in history and social science and my language skills especially helped prepare me to succeed in and beyond college."

Editor's Note: Three current St. Paul's faculty members studied on Fulbright Scholarships:

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## Remembrance of Things Past

**January 26, 1895:** Former members of the "Boy's School" gather for drinks in the study of the assistant minister and establish the Alumni Association, whose members are known as the "Old Fellows." Formal recognition occurs in 1913, with Robert Nelson, class of 1910, as first president of the "Association of Old Boys."

*Baltimore Sun, January 8, 1938:* St. Paul's christens its new \$29,000 Mt. Washington gym with an 18-15 basketball win over St. James, of Hagerstown. Howard Smedley '41 leads the way with 7 points.

**One day in 1944:** Walter F. Herman '44 answers 104 of 105 questions correctly to finish second nationally in Time Magazine's current events competition.

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## Letters to the Editor:

Mitch Tullai writes: "I have started a blog, 'In A Few Words,' featuring sports history and humor and American political history. I hope alumni and other readers will sign up to receive an email when I post." To do so, [click here](#).

## Alumni Association News & Events

- **March 30, 2019, 6:30 p.m.:** Brooklandwood Bash, Middleton Athletic Center - [buy your tickets here!](#) **Young Alumni**, don't miss out on savings for our largest fundraising event of the year! Check out our special pricing for members of the class of 2008 and younger.
  - **May 2, 2019, 11 a.m.:** Crusader Cup Golf Outing, to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund, Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
  - **May 3-4, 2019:** Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend, with cocktails and dinners for classes ending in "4" and "9" on May 4, and the class of 1969 celebrating its 50th reunion
  - **June, TBA:** Young Alumni Career Fair on campus, with SPSG Alumnae Association
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## In Memoriam

Jonathan M. Deibert '10  
(November 2018)

David S. Mudd '71  
(December 2018)

William J. Price IV '42  
(December 2018)

Lt. Col. James F. Turner IV '82 (December  
2018)

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## Get Involved!

### Contact the Alumni Office...

- 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 Fall 2019)

## Back Issues Beckon!

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

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