THE NEXT CHAPTER:
WELCOMING DR. LUIS OTTLEY, HEAD OF SCHOOL
As I write this letter, my first for SPA Magazine as Head of School, the view out the window of my office on the Randolph Campus is ice-laden tree branches and small mountains of snow everywhere. This is my first winter as a Minnesotan, and it reminds me of the many other firsts of these last few months: my first day of school as Head, my children’s first day as Lower School students at the Goodrich Campus; my first Spartan Homecoming; my first Reunion; my first Pops Concert.

It has been a whirlwind of firsts since my arrival in July, and I am glad to have the chance to share some of my thoughts on the early months of my tenure at SPA in the Q&A in this magazine, starting on page 22. As you’ll read, I have been immersing myself in life at school and spending time with our exceptional students, their families, and our faculty and staff. For most of our alumni/ae, this magazine is our first “meeting,” and I want our alums to know that the many SPA graduates I’ve had the pleasure of meeting so far—at Reunion and at our regional alumni/ae events—have been fantastic ambassadors for the entire SPA alumni/ae community. I’m looking forward to meeting more of our alums in the months and years to come, and deepening my own understanding of the story and the history of this remarkable school.

You’ll find pieces of that story in the pages of this magazine, which provides a wonderful overview of some of what our students have accomplished in the last six months. One of the things I’m learning about SPA students is the joy they take in their lives at school. This accounts for their remarkable successes, whether in their academics, on their athletic teams, or their work in the arts. In this issue, you’ll read about our National Merit semifinalists and our Science Fair winners; the dozens and dozens of awards given to our plays and musicals; and our incredible Spartan teams, including State Championships in soccer and tennis.

I’m also learning that this kind of excellence does not stop when our students leave SPA: you’ll also read about just a few of our alumni/ae, who are taking our mission statement to heart as they change the world in a myriad of ways in pursuit of their chosen professions and their dreams.

All of this is just a snapshot, of course: even a fifty-page magazine cannot capture the entire essence of this amazing institution. Learning about that essence has been the joy of my time here so far, and I’m grateful and proud to be continuing that work as SPA’s seventh Head of School.

With appreciation,

Dr. Luis Ottley
Head of School
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Sixteen members of the Class of 2023 earned national recognition in this year’s National Merit competition. Eight seniors were named National Merit Semifinalists, and another eight were named Commended Students. The 16 seniors represent 16% of the Class of 2023.

The eight Semifinalists were Andrew Bai, Linnea Cooley, Cooper Bollinger Danielson, Emma Goodman, Will Moran, Nolan Wagner, Colin Will, and Cassandra Zirps. Semifinalists make up less than one percent of qualifying seniors in the competition; nationally, about 16,000 high school seniors were named Semifinalists this year, based on PSAT scores from the fall of the student’s junior year. Semifinalists now move on to the Finalist competition; Finalists will be announced in spring 2023.

The eight Commended Students were Michael Barshack, Tenzin Bawa, Hannah Brass, Benjamin Chen, Madeline Fisher, Soren Mishra, Leo Sampsell-Jones, and Max Shaffer. Commended Students are recognized as those in the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students in the competition based on PSAT scores from the junior year.

In December 2022, SPA senior Julia Colbert ‘23 was one of 25 young women honored at the Target EPIC Awards ceremony, held at Target headquarters in Minneapolis. The EPIC Awards are a program of the Target Women in Science and Technology initiative, which recognizes young women in the Twin Cities area who are “epic” (engaged, passionate, innovative, and curious) about STEM fields. EPIC Award winners were selected based on their contribution or influence in a STEM community in or out of school; knowledge-sharing through mentoring, club participation, or other extracurricular activities; their capacity for inventing, designing, building, and researching improvements using STEM concepts; and seeking opportunities to learn and grow. Julia’s selection was based on her impressive academic work in STEM at SPA, which includes an independent study project developing a chewing gum that cleans teeth, advanced math and computer science classes, and her volunteer work establishing a Middle School “intro to engineering” program for girls underrepresented in STEM last spring. Julia plans to study applied math and data analytics in college next fall.
At the 2022 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May 2022, SPA student-scientists Ruth Mellin ’22 and Alex Moore ’22 took third place in the Robotics and Intelligent Systems category for their original research project, entitled Project SERSI: Smartphone-Enabled Robotic Sign Language Interpreter. Mellin and Moore developed their project as part of SPA’s Advanced Technology Projects class and earned a spot at the ISEF finals through their exceptional performances at regional and state science fairs.

ISEF is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition. Mellin and Moore were among 1750 high school students from 63 countries to qualify for the final ISEF competition, which was held in Atlanta May 7-13, 2022. ISEF finalists present their original research to judging teams made up of university faculty and scientists, industrial engineers and scientists, representatives of private and federal research centers and agencies, medical researchers, and post-doctoral fellows. Awards are given in 21 categories in science and engineering; Mellin and Moore’s third-place award in the Robotics and Intelligent Systems category carried a prize of $1,000 and put them among the top high school scientists in the world.

Director of Computer Science and Engineering Dr. Kate Lockwood, who accompanied Mellin and Moore to Atlanta, calls ISEF “a once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity. Lockwood and the two students spent the week in Atlanta, attending symposia and panel discussions on a wide range of scientific topics. “I was excited just to qualify for ISEF, but the experience of meeting people from across the US and the world, all with so much talent for science, was so much more inspiring than I could have imagined,” says Moore about his experience at ISEF. “Like everyone I met, I was amazed by the quality of every project I saw, so for us to win third in our category was a great honor, especially as the culmination of so much hard work throughout the school year.”

The writing of four Middle School students were chosen by the COMPAS Creative Classroom Program for inclusion in this year’s COMPAS anthology, a collection of the year’s best student writing. The students—Olivia George ’29, Ariella Kim ’28, IzzyGail Middlebrook ’28, and Yotam Muchtar ’29—wrote their pieces last spring with visiting artists in Grades 5 and 6. In addition to their inclusion in the anthology, Olivia and IzzyGail were recipients of the Lillian Wright Award for Creative Writing.
Celebrating Indigenous People’s Day

SPA celebrated Indigenous People’s Day in Fall 2022 with gatherings in each division and opportunities for students to celebrate and reflect on the cultures and histories of our nation’s Indigenous people. A highlight of the celebration was the Upper School assembly, featuring guest speaker Judge Sarah Wheelock, the first Indigenous judge to sit on the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Judge Wheelock joined Upper School Intercultural Club representatives Maya Coates Cush ’23 and Milkii Tigro ’23 for a presentation and discussion with Upper School students and faculty.

In October 2022, student-journalists from SPA’s four Upper School publications attended the annual Minnesota High School Press Association (MHSPA) conference, held at the University of Minnesota. The students, who produce SPA’s award-winning publications including The Rubicon print newspaper, the digital RubicOnline, the Ibid yearbook, and the Iris: Art + Lit literary magazine, attended sessions, met with student journalists from around the state, and were also the recipient of dozens of awards for the 2021-22 series of publications. Awards included Best In Show honors for all four publications: first place for The Rubicon and Iris: Art + Lit, second place for RubicOnline, and third place for Ibid.

All four publications were also recipients of Gold Awards from the Journalism Educators of Minnesota, and sixteen Gold Medallions from MHSPA were awarded for individual feature stories, cartoons, graphic designs, and promotional materials.
Six SPA students attended the 2022 Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) in San Antonio in late November 2022. SDLC is a 3-day conference for high school students from around the world to come together and explore identity, social justice, and community building, and is held in conjunction with the National Association of Independent School’s People of Color Conference for faculty and staff of independent schools.

“SDLC builds and supports the growth of student leaders by creating space for deep self-reflection in order to develop dialogue across cultures, and helps create action steps and strategies for change in schools,” says Intercultural Life Program Specialist Alexis Irish ’15, who accompanied the students to the conference and also attended SDLC as a student. “Students build friendships with kids from across the country who share the experience of attending an independent school,” Irish says. “Students often regard SDLC as transformative, which is evident in their actions once they return to SPA.”

In addition to the students, Irish was one of nine SPA faculty and staff who attended the 2022 People of Color Conference, including Head of School Dr. Luis Ortley and Board of Trustees member Bartlett “Bake” Baker.

Farewell to Longtime Friends: Retiring Faculty and Staff

In June 2022, five long-time faculty and staff members with a combined 127 years of service to SPA retired. Anne Klus, Dr. Steve Heilig, Dr. Julie McGlincey, Bill Remackel, and Bryn Roberts were honored at a retirement celebration in June 2022. As he has done throughout his tenure as Head of School, Roberts offered remarks on each retiree at the event, reflecting on Klus’ 34 years of service as Director of Choirs, Heilig’s 24 years of service teaching US science, McGlincey’s 31 years of service in the Lower School, and Remackel’s 38 years of service on the school’s facilities staff. Dr. Jill Romans, Assistant Head of School, then spoke about Roberts’ sixteen years as Head and introduced a surprise special performance by three alumnae—Elizabeth Berg ’07, Nissa Rolf ’16, and Ananya Narayan ’20—who performed numbers from musicals produced during Roberts’ tenure.
Two SPA productions were the recipients of a combined 35 awards for excellence in performance from the Hennepin Theatre Trust’s Spotlight Program. *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the 2022 Upper School spring musical, was the recipient of 22 Spotlight Awards; and *The Trojan Women*, the 2022 Upper School fall play, was the recipient of 13 awards.

The 22 awards earned by *The Drowsy Chaperone* were the most ever earned by an Upper School performance. The 2018 musical, *Rent*, earned 19 Spotlight Awards; the 2017 musical, *Guys and Dolls*, earned 18 awards; the 2016 musical, *Les Miserables*, earned 14 awards; and the 2015 musical, *Urinetown*, earned 16.

Spotlight is an awards program for high school musical performances; throughout the school year, Spotlight evaluators attend participating high school’s musical performances and awards honors to selected productions, ensembles, and individuals.

**THE DROWSY CHAPERONE**
**SPRING 2022**

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The Spotlight Awards for *The Drowsy Chaperone* included:

**ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE:**
- Overall Production: Outstanding
- Overall Performance: Honorable Mention
- Achievement in Theatre: Honorable Mention
- Vocal Performance: Outstanding
- Ensemble Performance: Honorable Mention
- Acting Performance: Honorable Mention
- Dance Performance: Honorable Mention
- Student Orchestra: Honorable Mention
- Costume Crew: Honorable Mention
- Run Crew: Outstanding
- Overall Technical Team: Outstanding
- Light & Sound Crew: Honorable Mention

**INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE:**
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role: Clea Gaïtas Sur ’23 as Woman in Chair
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role: Davyd Barchuk ’22 as Robert Martin
- Honorable Mention Performance in a Leading Role: Annika Brelsford ’22 as Janet Van de Graff
- Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role: Soren Miller ’23 as Aldolpho
- Honorable Mention Performance in a Supporting Role: Sarina Charpentier ’22 as Trix
- Evaluator Shout-Out: Olivia Szaj ’22 as The Chaperone
- Evaluator Shout-Out: Leo Sampsell-Jones ’23 as Feldzieg
- Evaluator Shout-Out: Connor Overgaard ’24 as George
- Outstanding in Technical Leadership: Vivian Johnson ’22 (Stage Manager)
- Outstanding in Technical Leadership: Will Sedo ’22 (Lighting)
The Spotlight Awards for The Trojan Women included:

ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE:
Overall Performance: Outstanding
Ensemble Performance: Outstanding
Sound Crew: Honorable Mention
Achievement in Theatre:
  - Honorable Mention
Acting Performance:
  - Honorable Mention
Costume Crew: Honorable Mention

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE:
Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role: Alison Mitchell ’23 as Hecuba
Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role: Valerie Wick ’23 as Helen
Honorable Mention Performance in a Supporting Role: Parisa Ghavami ’23 as Leader of Chours
Honorable Mention in Technical Leadership:
  - Bri Rucker ’24 (Board Operator) and Quenby Wilson ’23 (Costume Designer)
Evaluator Shout Out: Clea Gaïtas Sur ’23 and Soren Miller ’23
Commencement speaker and retiring Head of School Bryn S. Roberts addresses the Class of 2022 and the SPA community for the final time.
On Sunday, June 5, 2022, SPA celebrated the 107 members of the Class of 2022 at the school’s 122nd Commencement ceremony, held on the North Lawn of the Randolph Campus.

Ceremony highlights included remarks from Senior Speakers Noa Ní Aoláin Gross and Val Chafee, elected by their classmates to speak at Commencement, and the awarding of the school Bowl honors, given this year to Divya Bhargava (Faculty Bowl), Will Sedo (Alumni/Ae Bowl), and Per Johnson and Alexander Moore (Head of School Bowls). The official Commencement address was given by Head of School Bryn S. Roberts. This was the sixteenth and final Commencement for Roberts, who retired at the end of June 2022.

After the ceremony, the graduates and their guests celebrated with an outdoor reception in the Lilly Courtyard.

### 2022 BOWL RECIPIENTS

**Divya Bhargava** received the 2022 Faculty Bowl, awarded to that senior who has shown unusual breadth and depth of intellectual interest and outstanding commitment to academic excellence.

**William Sedo** received the 2022 Alumni/Ae Bowl, which is presented to an individual elected by the faculty from nominations made by the senior class. It is given each year to that member of the class deemed to be most outstanding in many areas of school life.

**Alexander Moore** (left) and **Per Johnson**, pictured with Head of School Bryn Roberts, were the recipients of the 2022 Head of School Bowl, awarded to those members of the senior class who have been recognized by their peers and teachers for significant contributions to the school.
CLASS OF 2022
COLLEGE CHOICES
BASEBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
Spartan baseball hit their stride mid-season with a five-game streak that included wins over IMAC rivals Mounds Park Academy, Minnehaha, Blake and Providence. After a solid 11-12 regular season, the team was seeded fifth in the section and 7-3 in conference play. In postseason competition, the team was seeded #5 in section 4AA and began play with a 5-4 victory over the Nova Knights and a 3-1 victory over the LMAC Titans before falling in the third round to MPA and Roosevelt.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Griffin Schwab-Mahoney ’24, William Steinhacker ’22, Boden Strafelda ’22 and Judah Thomas ’22

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Tommy Verhey ’23

BOYS’ LACROSSE (CO-OP)

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
TriMAC lacrosse, a cooperative program with Concordia Academy, DeLaSalle, Minnehaha Academy, St. Agnes, South St. Paul and St. Croix Lutheran, finished the season 8-7 with notable wins over Breck, Providence, Waconia and Holy Family. In postseason play, the team was seeded #9 in Section 3A and upset #8 East Ridge 10-6 before falling to #1 seed Woodbury.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Joey Stolpestad ’23

FIRST TEAM ALL-SECTION:
Joey Stolpestad ’23

GIRLS’ GOLF

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
Under first year Head Coach Angie Kritta, the team improved scores in every competition over the course of the season. In postseason play, Nikola Barkwell ’23 advanced to the second round after shooting 97 on day one. In the second round, Barkwell shot 96 (193 over two days), falling just short of a State tournament qualification.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Nikola Barkwell ’23
BOYS TENNIS
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
STATE CHAMPIONS! Boys’ Tennis had a championship season, following up a strong regular season by clinching the Section 4A title with a 4-3 win over IMAC rival and qualifying the team for the State tournament. In individual section competition, the doubles teams of Leo Benson ’24/Maik Nguyen ’24 and Baasit Mahmood ’24/Jacob Colton ’25 finished first and second respectively, also qualifying for the State doubles tournament, joining Kai Sih ’22, who qualified for State singles. The team dominated the State tournament and was crowned Class A State champions for the first time since 2008 after defeating Breck in convincing fashion, 5-2. The doubles team of Benson and Nguyen fell in the semifinals to a duo from Rochester, but rallied and were able to capture a third place title defeating a duo from Fridley 7-6, 6-2.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Leo Benson ’24, Baasit Mahmood ’24, Maik Nguyen ’24 and Kai Sih ’22

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Zahir Hassan ’27

SOFTBALL
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
Softball focused on collective development throughout the season, finishing 5-10 overall. Highlights included a 10-0 win over Harding in the season opener and season sweeps of IMAC rivals Blake and Breck. The team was seeded #7 in section competition and lost to two tough opponents—Hill-Murray and Totino-Grace—in the double-elimination tournament.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Tamari Christopher ’28
BOYS’ GOLF
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
Boys’ Golf had a solid season, finishing second in the conference. In section play, Connor Overgaard ‘24, George Peltier ‘23, Henri Peltier ‘24 and Will Fenlon ‘25 all advanced after shooting 77, 80, 88 and 89 respectively. In the second round, Overgaard shot 81 (158 over two days), good for a fifth-place finish at the section tournament and a State tournament appearance at the Ridges at Sand Creek golf course in Jordan.
ALL-CONFERENCE:
George Peltier ‘23
ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Connor Overgaard ‘24 and Ethan Peltier ‘25

TRACK AND FIELD
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
At the section track and field championship meet, every Spartan ran their best times of the year and senior Jack Hlavka ‘22 qualified for the State meet after placing first in the 800-meter dash (1:58.23). Additional top five finishes at sections included Maren Overgaard ‘26, who placed fifth in the 800-meter dash (2:29.22). At State, Hlavka qualified for the 800 final after running a personal best time and SPA record of 1:58.16 in the opening heat. In the State final, Jack ran a 2:00.76, placing seventh overall.
ALL-CONFERENCE:
Jack Hlavka ‘22 and Maren Overgaard ‘26
ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Henry Burkhardt ‘22, Clare Ryan-Bradley ‘26, Julia Taylor ‘25 and Oliver Thompson ‘25

GIRLS’ LACROSSE
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
In its inaugural season under Head Coach Taylor Tvedt, Spartan girls’ lax finished just short of .500 at 5-7 overall and posted big wins over Hastings, Waconia and St. Cloud. In the postseason, the team was seeded #9 and defeated #8 St. Paul Lacrosse Bobcats 12-11 in the opening round before falling to a tough Gentry Warriors team.
BOYS’ SOCCER

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
STATE CHAMPIONS! High expectations for this year’s boys’ soccer team were fulfilled when the Spartans were crowned Class 1A State Champions for the first time since 1994. The team’s 8-3-3 regular season and 4-2-2 conference record earned the #1 seed in Section 3A; the boys powered through section competition, defeating Nova 5-0 in the quarterfinals and St. Croix Lutheran 4-0 in the semifinals and advancing to the section title game. The title game against Minnehaha was a hard-fought match, but the Spartans came out on top 1-0 and advanced to the State tournament for the first time in a decade. At State, SPA posted two 6-0 wins against St. Cloud Cathedral in the quarterfinals and Maranatha in the semis. The championship match against St. Anthony Village was by far the team’s toughest challenge, but the Spartans’ stellar offense and unbreakable defense came through with a 2-0 victory to win the Class A State championship.

IMAC GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR:
Cooper Olson ’24

MSHSL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:
Cooper Bollinger Danielson ’23, Nathan Cohen ’23, Yash Kshirsagar ’23, Awaale Osman ’24 and Ezra Straub ’25

ALL-STATE:
Cooper Bollinger Danielson ’23, Nathan Cohen ’23, Cooper Olson ’24 and Ezra Straub ’25

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Cooper Bollinger Danielson ’23, Nathan Cohen ’23 and Ezra Straub ’25

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Cooper Olson ’24 and Awaale Osman ’24

GIRLS’ TENNIS

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
Notable victories for girls’ tennis included wins over Highland Park, St. Paul Central, Minnehaha Academy and Cretin-Derham Hall. In Section 4A competition, Georgia Ross ’25 advanced to the third-place singles match and the doubles duo of Nellie Larson ’26 /Autumn Spaulding ’23 also competed in the third-place match.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Alison Browne ’23, Nellie Larson ’26 and Leni Nowakowski ’23

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Georgia Ross ’25 and Autumn Spaulding ’23

ACADEMIC ALL-STATE:
Nikola Barkwell ’23, Alison Browne ’23, Alyssa Ebert ’23, Naysa Kalugdan ’23, Anna Nowakowski ’23 and Leni Nowakowski ’23

Nellie Larson ’26
VOLLEYBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
The Spartan Volleyball team took big victories over South St. Paul, St. Anthony, and IMAC rival Breck, finishing with an 8-11 regular season record. In the postseason, the Spartans faced off against Hiawatha Collegiate in the first round of section competition, winning 3-0 before falling in the second round to a talented Richfield squad.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Riley Erben '23 and Solvej Eversoll '23

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Johnna Melk-Johnson '23

FOOTBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
The SMB Wolfpack, a cooperative program between SPA, Minnehaha Academy, and The Blake School, had another solid season, finishing 4-4 behind the leadership of SPA seniors and Wolfpack captains Joey Stolpestad '23 and Brody Rindelaub '23. In the postseason, the team received a bye in the first round, advancing straight to the semifinals against Benilde St. Margaret’s where they would ultimately fall 25-7.

ALL-METRO SECOND-TEAM (DEFENSE):
Joey Stolpestad '23

ALL-DISTRICT FIRST TEAM:
Brody Rindelaub '23 and Joey Stolpestad '23

DISTRICT DEFENSIVE MVP:
Joey Stolpestad '23

WHY WE PLAY DISTRICT AWARD:
Ryan Spangler '23

GIRLS’ SWIMMING AND DIVING

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
The Sparks swimming and diving team, a co-op between SPA and Highland Park, had an exceptional season. At the conference diving meet, SPA divers ruled the podium with Elena Sjaastad '23 placing first, Avi Coleman '27 placing second and Bella Moet '27 placing third. Sparks swimmers were also conference champions, finishing in first place with 557 points, edging Central by one point to claim the title. In section competition, diver Elena Sjaastad '23 and Avi Coleman '27 both medaled, finishing sixth and seventh; and swimmers, Linnea Cooley '23, Claire Kim '24, Audrey Peltier '27, and Ayla Rivers '23 finished third in the 200 Freestyle Relay. Cooley and Peltier were also a part of the 400 Freestyle Relay team that finished fourth.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Clara Ann Bagnoli '24, Avi Coleman '27, Claire Kim '24, Bella Moet '27, Audrey Peltier '27 and Elena Sjaastad '23

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Linnea Cooley '23
GIRLS’ SOCCER
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
It was a championship season for girls’ soccer. After a 6-5-3 regular season, the team turned up the heat at exactly the right time to power through the postseason. The Spartans earned the #2 seed in Section 3A and marched through the competition, defeating Hiawatha Collegiate 8-0 in the quarterfinals and St. Croix Lutheran Academy 2-0 in the semifinals before taking down rival Minnehaha Academy 1-0 in a nailbiter of a section final and advancing to the State tournament for the first time since 2016. The girls were seeded #3 at State and advanced to the championship match after defeating St. Charles 1-0 in the opening round and IMAC rival Breck in an intense double-overtime game that eventually went to penalty kicks, with SPA outshooting the Mustangs 3-1 to punch their ticket to the championship. The girls’ exceptional State run came to an end with a 3-2 loss to St. Anthony Village in the championship game.

MSHSL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:
Sawyer Bollinger Danielson ’25, Andrea Gist ’23, Elizabeth Tuttle ’26 and Annie Zhang ’25

ALL-STATE:
Sawyer Bollinger Danielson ’25 and Annie Zhang ’25

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Sawyer Bollinger Danielson ’25 and Annie Zhang ’25

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Lucia Gonzalez ’26, Clare Ryan Bradley ’26 and Elizabeth Tuttle ’26

CROSS COUNTRY
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:
Cross country had a strong season capped off by exceptional performances at the IMAC conference championship: the girls’ team finished first overall, defeating conference rival Blake by one point to take the IMAC title. Taylor Barkwell ’25 took second place overall in the conference. In section competition, Paloma Good ’27 qualified for the State meet after finishing 11th overall.

ALL-CONFERENCE:
Taylor Barkwell ’25 and Paloma Good ’27

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:
Alyda Overgaard ’28 and Johanna Pierach ’25

State Runner-Up!
Homecoming 2022 was a festive week filled with special activities and events on both campuses. The entire Spartan family came together on Friday, September 23 to celebrate Blue and Gold Day at the Pep Fest, the All-School Homecoming Carnival, and the boys’ Homecoming soccer game.
THE NEXT CHAPTER:

MEET DR. LUIS OTTLEY, HEA

Dr. Luis Ottley speaks to the audience of parents, faculty, staff, students, alumni/ae, and friends at his installation on August 31, 2022.
After more than 30 years in independent school education, Dr. Luis Ottley knows how to get to the heart of a new school community.
At opening assemblies for each division on the first day of the 2022-23 school year, Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley introduced himself and then asked the students for a favor: he was looking for a few Lower, Middle, and Upper School students who might be willing to allow a brand-new Head of School to shadow them for a few hours during the school day.

It’s a strategy he’s used before as a new Head of School: getting to the heart of a new community by seeing how it works for students from Kindergarten all the way up to Grade 12. But in all his years as a school administrator—including serving as Head of School at two previous schools—he’s never seen anything like the response he got from his new student body. Instead of the usual three or four volunteers, more than 30 SPA students from all three divisions reached out with invitations for Dr. Ottley to spend the day with them.

“Usually just a few hands will go up, so this is a lot more than I was expecting,” says Dr. Ottley with a laugh. Within the first few weeks of school, he had already shadowed six students in all three of SPA’s divisions and is now looking for ways to fit another two dozen invitations into his busy calendar as soon as possible. “I recognize that the excitement of having the Head of School follow them around might run out,” he says, “but my intention is to find a way to involve as many kids as I can in helping me to see SPA from the inside out.”

Dr. Ottley speaks at his installation, while his wife Carrie applauds (right).
Dr. Ottley’s unwavering attention to students and their classroom experience is one of the many reasons SPA’s Board of Trustees made him their unanimous pick to succeed Bryn Roberts, who retired in June 2022, as SPA’s seventh Head of School. And his deep and lasting commitment to the schools in his charge also accounts for the affection of his former colleagues at St. Martin’s Episcopal School (SMES) in suburban Atlanta, many of whom traveled halfway across the country on their own first day of school to attend his installation at as SPA’s new Head on August 31, 2022.

Speaking on their behalf at the installation ceremony, held on the Randolph Campus’ North Lawn on a perfect late summer day, SMES Chaplain Stephanie Taylor told the hundreds of SPA faculty, students, parents, and Trustees in attendance to expect in Dr. Ottley a leader “who is constantly looking toward the future, constantly paying attention to those around him, so that he can build them up and make sure that they realize their own potential for greatness.” “Luis is a person who will occasionally be found sitting cross-legged listening as a kindergarten student carefully sounds out the new words they are learning to read,” Taylor told the audience. “You may never see that image in the school viewbook, and it might not make its way into his Head of School communications, and you won’t know about it unless you witness it, because he doesn’t do it for you to see. He does it because that child needs to know that they are seen.”

Now six months into his tenure, Dr. Ottley brings a remarkable depth of independent school experience. Prior to his headship at SMES, he also served as Head of School at Marin Horizon School in Mill Valley, CA, for six years. He has led two Middle Schools, serving as Middle School Principal at Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx (NY) and as Middle School Director at University Preparatory Academy in Seattle. Dr. Ottley holds a B.S. from Allegheny College (PA), a M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins University (MD), and an Ed.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently working towards a Master of Divinity degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CA).

*SPA Magazine* sat down with Dr. Ottley for a conversation about his long career as an educator, his first months as Head, and his vision for SPA’s future.
In accepting the position as SPA’s new Head, you have mentioned that you were inspired, in part, by the school’s mission, “shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world.” How and why does that statement speak to you?

There is a great deal of courage in SPA’s mission, but it’s not just courageous: it’s aspirational. It’s a guidepost. Shaping minds and hearts with the goal of changing the world is something you have to strive for, and that is powerful. It resonates with me because it’s so unapologetic in articulating what this school is and who we are and what we believe. The mission is how I knew that this would be a place that would align with my own values and would allow me to use the gifts and talents that I have to be of service to this community.

I also read into the mission that SPA is place that understands the importance of grace and good intentions: of giving each other grace and assuming good intentions. I think that’s critical right now because I believe that we are at an inflection point with regard to change. I don’t just mean at SPA or in the Twin Cities, but nationally and globally as well. We are living in incredibly volatile times—a global pandemic, a racial reckoning, fractured politics—and we need schools that are committed to changing the world for the better more than ever. That’s what our mission inspires us to do here, and frankly, who wouldn’t want to be a part of that? Who would not want to be part of a school committed to offering to the world something better, something transformative?

What was your own school experience like?

I attended a private Episcopal school in Panama for a number of years—my father was an Episcopal priest, so my three siblings and I could attend an Episcopal school at a significant discount. There would have been no other way for my family to afford a private education otherwise. Education was very important in my family: my father was a first-generation college graduate; his brother had to drive him an hour and a half to school every day, putting his own ambitions in jeopardy so that my dad could go to college. My aunt graduated from college when she was 62. She was the oldest graduate from Brooklyn College to ever receive a degree.

I think I have always seen education as the key to changing the world. I left Panama at age 17 to attend a United World College, an international high school made up of 200 students from 72 different nations. The UWC vision is about promoting world peace through international understanding.
You were preparing for a career in computer science when a professor you admired changed your life by encouraging you to go into teaching. What is it about teaching that is so compelling for you?

I’ll be honest: my first year of teaching didn’t feel fun at all. I’m a kinesthetic learner, which means I write things down in order to remember and synthesize, and my lesson plans as a first-year teacher were pages and pages of “What am I doing next? What am I saying? What are the kids doing?” If my second year had been like my first year, I probably would have left the profession. But in my second year, I started to get the hang of it. I found my teaching voice and developed my own pedagogy and teaching philosophy. I spent a lot of time observing my more experienced colleagues, just trying to figure out how they did it and what felt right for me. And the relationships that I started to develop with the students started to make it fun. I know the fatigue of teaching full-time; you never really rest because great teachers are always thinking about their kids. It’s an emotional job to be in the classroom, and not everyone is designed for that or inspired by it. But I certainly am.

This is now my 31st year in schools, and I have been in the classroom for more than half of my career. No matter where I have been in the last 20 years, I have always found opportunities to get into the classroom. Being with students is always the best part of my day no matter what the subject is. In San Francisco, I taught Spanish to first graders; in Atlanta I taught the Old Testament to sixth graders; in New York City, I taught health and wellness to sixth graders; and in Seattle, I taught Algebra I. There is no substitute for being in the classroom with students in terms of understanding a school community, whether you’ve been at the school for a month or a decade. It’s always been an important tool for me in that regard.
That explains the time you’ve spent shadowing SPA students these first few months. What has that experience been like?

It’s been one of the most valuable things I’ve done since I’ve arrived. So far I’ve spent time with students in all three divisions—a junior and a senior, a seventh- and eighth-grader, and a fourth- and fifth-grader. And every single one of those kids was over-the-moon proud to show me their school. They were absolutely delighted to introduce me to their friends, to tell me about their classes and what they love about SPA. They wouldn’t describe it this way, but they modelled how we live our mission, by virtue of their kindness, their willingness to share their experiences, and their commitment to the ideas that are important to them. Even in the Middle School—and I’ve been a Middle School teacher so I’m very familiar with that developmental stage—there was absolutely no “I’m too cool for this” attitude. There was just such a sense of pride in what they were doing in their classes, and an authentic sense of joy that I don’t think I’ve ever witnessed in a school before. Being with them inspired me. It filled me up, truly. Having spent that time with them has further fueled my desire to understand the magic of this place even more deeply.

None of this came as a surprise to me, because when I visited SPA back in the fall of 2021, my interview with a group of Middle and Upper School students was the highlight of my time here. Those students were fantastic. They had amazingly insightful things to say about the school and their experiences. They told me about the things they love and about the things they don’t love. They understand what the challenges are and they have a very clear vision of how the school could be even better. But what I remember most is that all of them spoke so eloquently about how the school and the faculty made them feel. They talked about being a whole person, about bringing their whole selves to school every day and having those selves really seen and appreciated by their teachers. This is the hardest thing in the world for a school to do. But it is here.

The students are also very aware of the fact that I’m SPA’s first Black Head of School, and they understand that I bring a different perspective and that there is space for that here. I hope that means that the idea of “bringing your whole self to a school” as a student—or as an employee, or a parent, or an alum—has even more resonance. We know that kids learn best when they are in spaces where they feel that they belong, and it’s critical that every student here feels that this is their space, that this is their community.
Six months in, what’s on your to-do list?

Well, it’s a pretty long list. These first months have been incredibly busy. I’m taking the opportunity to really listen to people and to have as many conversations with as many different constituencies as I can. I want to hear from the kids, from our parents, from our faculty and staff. Aside from the shadow days with students, I’ve also been having as many one-on-one meetings with teachers as I possibly can—I try to meet with any teacher who wants to meet with me. Carrie and I hosted two events at our home for families new to SPA this fall, and those events were so fantastic. I wish every faculty and staff member could have heard the way those new families talked about how much they already love SPA, how welcome they feel.

I do have some ideas now that have surfaced out of those conversations. As an example: one thing that has come up consistently is the need for updates to the Goodrich Campus, which has enormous historical value—those spaces have so many wonderful stories to tell, and we need to ensure that they can continue telling that story for the next generation of Lower School students. I’ve also had conversations about our athletic programs, and how we can better position those programs and our student-athletes.

But any big decisions right now are likely premature. As a researcher, I don’t think I have statistically significant data yet about what our priorities need to be. I’ve got to continue along this journey and collect more data from more people, including our alumni/ae. That was something I heard loud and clear at Reunion in the fall—alums want to see me out and about and spending time with alums around the country. I made a commitment to do that, and I’ve already made one trip to Washington D.C. for an alumni/ae event, with a few more planned for the spring [in San Francisco and Arizona]. This is all a part of taking the time to really read the room, so to speak, and get to know this community during this first year. It will just make me a better leader for the school.
Speaking of students: you are the first Head of School in many years who is also a current parent. What’s that been like?

Yes, my wife Carrie and I are the proud parents of two Lower School Spartans! My daughter Paloma is in Grade 3 and my son Luis Jr. is in Grade 1. The Lower School is such a magical place; we couldn’t be more pleased with how they’re adjusting so far. And personally, as a dad, there’s nothing like walking into the Lower School and exchanging a hug with my daughter in the hallway or giving my son a high-five.

There are challenges, of course, to being a Head of School and a parent at the same time—imagine you’re a teacher during conferences and the Head of School walks into your classroom. I don’t want anyone feeling uncomfortable, so out of respect for that dynamic, Carrie is much more involved on the parent side than I am. I do miss out on some of that parent/school interaction, and that’s hard for me, but there are always pluses and minuses to having your kids in the same school where you work. Fortunately the plusses far outweigh the minuses, at least for me. I wouldn’t want to know what Paloma and Luis would say about that, though.
“...[I’m] taking the time to really read the room, so to speak, and get to know this community during this first year. It will just make me a better leader for the school.”

– Dr. Luis Ottley
ALUMNI/AE EVENT CALENDAR

February 2023

REGIONAL ALUMNI/AE EVENT: PHOENIX/SCOTTDALE
Meet Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, noon
Mowry & Cotton at The Phoenician Resort
6000 E Camelback Road, Scottsdale
Free of charge, lunch provided
www.spa.edu/alumni/events

March 2023

REGIONAL ALUMNI/AE EVENT: SAN FRANCISCO
Meet Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley
Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 6 p.m.
Wayfare Tavern
558 Sacramento Street, San Francisco
Free of charge, appetizers and refreshments provided
www.spa.edu/alumni/events

April 2023

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/AE AWARD EVENT:
Celebrating Molly Greenman ’71
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6 p.m.
Huss Center, Randolph Campus
Invitation to come

For additional Alumni Events, visit www.spa.edu/alumni/events

Many thanks to all alumni/ae who attended Reunion 2022 during the weekend of September 9-10. The entire alumni/ae community gathered on Friday for the All-Alumni/ae Reception and Art Show, featuring the work Patton Blackwell ’67, Mystie Brackett ’72, Rhys Conlon ’97, and Dutton Foster ’57, and the Heritage Brunch on Saturday morning celebrated alumni/ae graduating 50 years ago or better. A highlight of the weekend was the ceremony for the inaugural class of inductees for the new Alumni/ae Athletics Hall of Fame, held on Saturday afternoon; class parties for classes ending in “7” and “2” were held on Saturday evening. Our young alumni/ae from the Classes of 2007, 2012, and 2017 celebrated their 5th, 10th, and 15th Reunions on Friday November 23.
Planning is already underway for Reunion Weekend 2023 on Friday and Saturday, September 8-9, 2023.

This year, we will celebrate reunions for classes ending in “3” and “8”. Young alumni/ae who graduated in 2008, 2013, or 2018 will celebrate their Reunions on Friday, November 24. We are currently recruiting Class Reunion Volunteers to assist in planning class parties and welcome all graduates to join their class committee, including those who do not live in the Twin Cities. For more information about volunteering, contact Chris Jenkyns, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni/ae Engagement, at cjenkyns@spa.edu.
**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/AE AWARD:**
**Molly Greenman ’71**

St. Paul Academy and Summit School is pleased to announce that Molly Greenman ’71 has been selected as the 2023 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recipient. Greenman recently retired as the President and CEO of The Family Partnership, a Twin Cities nonprofit offering services to families including mental health therapy, early childhood education and care, family home visiting, and advocacy. Greenman’s transformative 35-year career at Family Partnership deepened the organization’s work with families and communities impacted by multi-generational inequity and trauma, and transformed its programs and services to clear the path for family success. She became CEO of Family Partnership in 2004 and retired in October 2022.

A reception celebrating her Distinguished Alumni/ae Award will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at SPA’s Huss Center for the Performing Arts.

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**ALUMNI/AE COUNCIL UPDATE:**
**Welcoming New Council President Walt Lehmann ’81**

The SPA Alumni/ae Council is pleased to welcome Walt Lehmann ’81 as President. Walt is the managing partner of Lehmann PLC (formerly Lehmann Strobel PC), representing independent producers, artists, and writers as well as museums and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. Walt has been active on the Alumni/ae Council the last few years, most recently serving as the Fundraising Committee Chair, and is excited to further strengthen the bonds between the alumni/ae community and school. Walt follows Council Past President and now Fundraising Chair Hayley Peterson ’08, whose term as President concluded last year. To learn more about the work of the Alumni/ae Council, contact Chris Jenkyns, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni/ae Engagement, at cjenkyns@spa.edu.

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**ALUMNI/AE REGIONAL EVENTS:** **Meet Dr. Luis Ottley**

Many thanks to the Washington D.C. alums who joined us on Wednesday, November 30, for our first regional alumni/ae event with new Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley. Attendees gathered for a cocktail reception at Zaytinya to meet Dr. Ottley and reconnect with each other. Two more regional events this spring (dates on page 32) will offer alumni/ae in the Phoenix/Scottsdale and San Francisco areas the opportunity to meet Dr. Ottley; both events are open to the entire alumni/ae community and are free of charge, with refreshments included. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

More information about both events can be found at www.spa.edu/alumni/events.
Athletics Hall of Fame: Now Accepting Nominations

The launch of the SPA Athletics Hall of Fame during Reunion 2022 was a huge success. We are now in the process of planning for our 2023 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees and are currently accepting nominations. We invite the entire SPA alumni/ae community to submit nominations for consideration as part of the Hall of Fame Class of 2023. The Hall of Fame recognizes those individuals from Summit School, St. Paul Academy, and the merged St. Paul Academy and Summit School who have made a significant impact on the school through athletic accomplishment. Nominations of athletes from those classes celebrating their Reunion in 2023 (8’s & 3’s) are especially welcomed.

Please visit the online Athletics Hall of Fame to read more about our 2022 inductees, visit the historical timeline of athletics at SPA, and submit nominations for the Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

The family of Hall of Fame inductee Nancy Gaver Priedeman ‘46.
SPA ANNOUNCES NEW Director of Institutional Advancement

SPA is pleased to announce the appointment of Sarah Johnson as the school’s new Director of Institutional Advancement. Johnson has been a member of the IA team at SPA since 2009, most recently serving as Senior Development Officer since 2013. She steps into the Director role following the retirement of Dorothy Goldie ’73, who retired in December 2022. Johnson has had a twenty-five year career in nonprofit philanthropy, with roles at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra before joining SPA in 2009. She is also the parent of two SPA alumni in the Class of ‘19 and ‘22.

At SPA, we find meaning in being together, sharing our successes, and lifting each other up, and supporting the SPA Annual Fund is a way for the entire community to help. Donations enable SPA to advance core priorities and respond to new challenges by providing funding that can be used immediately. Your generosity also supports our faculty in inspiring creativity and critical thinking in our students and creating a community that brings joy to learning.

Please consider making a gift to the Annual Fund and help us shape the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world.

Visit www.spa.edu/giving or scan the QR code to make your gift online.

2021-22 Annual Report CORRECTIONS

Please note the following correction to the 2021-22 Annual Report: Maurine Hatting should have been listed in the Former Faculty/Staff and Friends section. We extend our apologies for the error.


“Our philanthropy is important to us so we set up a Donor Advised Fund. SPA is now just ‘on our list’ and we can easily and consistently make our annual gift to the school. It’s worked out really well.”

For more information about directing a gift to SPA from your Donor Advised Fund, visit www.plannedgiving.spa.edu/donor-advised-funds
Looking to the future is also the goal of the Peter A. Steck Ph.D '72 Memorial Fund for Ongoing Faculty Education in the Sciences. The Steck Fund was established by Ernest Steck in memory of his brother Peter, a member of SPA’s Class of 1972 who passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack at the age of 45. Peter was a professor of biochemistry and a dedicated cancer researcher who served on the faculty in the Department of Tumor Biology and Neuro-Oncology at the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston. His research has been acclaimed for the discovery of a new tumor suppressor gene, but was cut short by his death in 2000. Ernie Steck created the fund to provide ongoing resources for SPA’s science faculty in all three divisions as a testament to Peter’s work as a scientist and his affection for SPA. “SPA was where Peter first developed his strong interest in science and made many lifelong friends,” Ernie says of his younger brother. “SPA provided him with a strong foundational education, which he carried on to the University of Minnesota where he started taking classes in biochemistry and microbiology.” The Steck Fund will support professional development for individuals and groups, enabling SPA’s science teachers to stay on the cutting edge of current developments and trends in science and science education.

The Cardwell Hjelm Endowment Fund for Curriculum Development will be used to support curriculum development grants for SPA faculty, especially those in the early stages of their careers. The fund was created to “provide opportunities for committed, passionate teachers to create new curriculum that will encompass emerging critical issues,” according to Ken and Andrea Hjelm, who established the fund in honor of their granddaughter Alexandra Cardwell ’23, and her parents Alycya and Joe Cardwell. “We’ve been so impressed by what SPA has provided to Alexandra in terms of education and opportunities,” says Ken. “We’ve seen first-hand the quality of the program, and we wanted to support that with a focus on curriculum and especially supporting younger faculty with new, forward-looking ideas.”

“The faculty at SPA is so strong,” says Andrea. “We hope this fund will give those wonderful teachers even more opportunities to explore new ideas and think about even better ways to connect with their students. We’re so grateful that Alycya and Joe chose SPA for Alexandra,” she says, “and we want to ensure that the teachers that have made her experience so exceptional have the opportunity to continue that excellence in the future.”

“Establishing an endowed fund allows our donors to direct their philanthropy to areas of academic and school life they care about the most while also meeting the school’s most important priorities,” says Sarah Johnson, SPA’s Director of Institutional Advancement. “These funds support the school in perpetuity and are a great way to create a lasting legacy at SPA. We are incredibly grateful to the Cardwell and Hjelm families, and to Ernie Steck for their generosity,” Johnson says.

If you would like more information about establishing a permanently endowed fund, please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Sarah Johnson at 651-696-1422 or sjohnson@spa.edu.
Have news to share?

Email your news to alumni@spa.edu or send it to Class Notes:
St. Paul Academy and Summit School
1712 Randolph Avenue,
St. Paul, MN, 55105

We look forward to hearing from you!

Become a Class Agent!
Class Agents keep in touch with their classmates and provide updates on SPA happenings.
Class Agents also help with special events and reunions. All classes welcome additional volunteers and multiple Class Agents are encouraged.

To become a Class Agent, please contact alumni@spa.edu or 651-696-1302.

Contact Your Class Agent
Please visit our website at www.spa.edu/alumni/connect or reach out to Director of Annual Giving and Alumni/ae Engagement Chris Jenkyns at cjenkyns@spa.edu.

‘45
Class Agent
Ginny Kinkead Stockwell
Jean West was inducted into the St. Paul Academy and Summit School Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 10.

‘47
Class Agent
Stan Shepard
St. Shepard was inducted into the St. Paul Academy and Summit School Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 10.

‘49
Class Agents
Bill Clapp, Peggy Hamm Lemmon, Jean Ambler
Ann Luyten Dieperink was inducted into the St. Paul Academy and Summit School Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 10.

‘50
Class Agent
Brad Smith
Mark Paper was featured on the Carlson School of Management website honoring his extraordinary 60-year career as CEO of Lewis & Bolt Nut.

‘53
Class Agent
The Class of 1962 is looking for a Class Agent. Please contact alumni@spa.edu or 651-696-1308.

‘58
Class Agent
The Class of 1958 is looking for a Class Agent. Please contact alumni@spa.edu or 651-696-1308.

‘58
Class Agent
Addison Woodward
Addison Woodward served as a delegate for Presidential candidate and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar in the 2020 Democratic Presidential primary. Addison is pictured here with Senator Klobuchar and Congresswoman Robin Kelly at an event in Chicago.
'59

Class Agents
Margaret Byers
Jim Gardner
Ginny Magnuson

Jane Bennett* was inducted into the St. Paul Academy and Summit School Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 10.

'66

Class Agent
Mike Brown

Held in conjunction with the Mr. Baseball and Ms. Softball Awards and the Minnesota All Sports Alliance, Mike Brown was honored on June 19, 2022 at Target Field as the recipient of the 2022 Mr. Baseball Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes one in appreciation for their years of service and dedication to youth baseball.

'67

Class Agent
Phil Bratnober

Mary Clark’s book, Madeline Island Bear, a novella of stories from her years at Summit School and growing up on the island has been published and distributed by Fulton Books.

'68

Class Agent
Anne Cowie

Some local members of the St. Paul Academy Class of 1968 met for dinner with Tom Verhey as he stopped during his drive from Flathead County Montana to his home in Charlotte, South Carolina. Pictured left to right: Joe Benson, Bill Levin, Jim Vaughan, Greg Pierce, Jim Kamman, Tom Verhey, Doug McMillan and Bill Sjoholm.

'70

Class Agent
Charlie Greenman

On July 17, 2022 a long planned memorial for Peter Stryker took place at Big Bay Town Park on Madeline Island. St. Paul Academy and Summit School alumnus in attendance were Jim Stryker ’66, Ginny Stryker Brodeen ’71, Jeff Greenman ’72, Gates Blodgett, Bob Adair and Charlie Greenman. Peter was remembered with stories and reflections and his humor and strong spirit are greatly missed.

'72

Class Agent
John Edgerton

Mystie and Chuck Brackett have picked up a new hobby in 2021 and are now avid pickleball players and play three times a week with a group of players ranging from 50-83 years old.

'73

Class Agent
Charlie Zelle

Dorothy Goldie retired from her role as SPA’s Director of Institutional Advancement in December 2022 after 12 years of service. She had previously served on SPA’s Board of Trustees and is the parent of two alumni.

'75

Class Agent
Lit Field

Over the summer Litton Field Jr and his wife Anne completed the Northwest Passage, by ship, going from Greenland to Nome, Alaska.

'77

Class Agents
Carol Bagnoli
Jay Ettinger
Rob Mairs

Founded in 2016, Michael Schloff created Maplewoodshop to help all children develop life skills through woodworking. Since 2017, the company has worked with over 120 schools and camps nationwide helping thousands of children discover the intelligence in their hands. Schloff also invented a workbench that enables any school table to be turned into a woodworking table. The company is now endorsed by the regional Carpenters Union to provide pathways into the trades.

*Deceased
The Spartan fans who cheered on the boys’ soccer team during their State Championship run included classmates Rob Mairs, Jamie Roux, Mark Thomas, Jay Ettinger, Molly Tschida Brennan, and Carol Bagnoli. Not pictured but in attendance were Kristen Hoeschler O’Brien, whose son Jack O’Brien ’23 was on the winning Spartan team, as well as Gerard ’88 and Kevin ’85 Lagos, and Sara Mairs ’84.

Kristen Hoeschler O’Brien chaired the September 24, 2022 VocalEssence Gala and invited some of her and Terry O’Brien’s (’85) classmates to help celebrate! Pictured left to right: Rob Mairs, Brad Brunell, Scott Smith ’85, Kate Smith, Mary Brunell, Kristen Hoeschler O’Brien, Craig Smith, Merritt Clapp-Smith and Laura O’Brien Smith (mom to Alec Smith ’27).

Tony Sanneh was announced as a member of the 2022 Athletics Hall of Fame Class at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sanneh was recognized with this honor after his impressive soccer career at the collegiate and professional level.

Andrew Youn’s organization, One Acre Fund, was recently announced as the Grand Prize recipient of The New York Times’ opinion columnist Nicholas Kristof’s yearly holiday giving initiative. The $100,000 prize will go towards One Acre’s work to support farmers in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi and other countries to boost harvests.

On the set of a Good Morning America segment about turkey farmers, ABC News correspondent Rebecca Jarvis had a surprise guest land on her head. “They never do this,” the farmer Rebecca was interviewing told her.

Alumni Gathering: Washington, D.C.

The work of Tiffany Clark was featured in an exhibition at the University of Minnesota: “A Picture Gallery of the Soul,” a group exhibition of more than 100 Black American artists whose practice incorporates the photographic medium. Sampling a range of photographic expressions from traditional photography to mixed media and conceptual art, and spanning a timeframe that includes the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, the exhibition honors, celebrates, investigates, and interprets Black history, culture, and politics in the United States.

Cack Wilhelm was recently named to the Fortune 40 Under 40 list after becoming a top investor in the data infrastructure space. She has led investments in data platforms Monte Carlo and Obsidian Security, as well as joined data software firm Cribl’s $200 million Series C round.

SPA alums gathered in Palm Springs in April 2022 to celebrate the marriage of Jessie Garretson to Nat Magee. Pictured left to right are: Austin Lilly, Dorothy Goldie ’73, Matt Wolff, Jessie Garretson, Lexi Nisita, Louise Parker, Kenzie O’Keefe, Kelly Walters and Karin Obaid ’09.

A mini SPA reunion took place on September 10, 2022 in downtown Minneapolis to celebrate the engagement of Hannah Mack to Alec Simpson. Pictured left to right (standing): Bob Mast ’76, Derek Schaible ’07, Ethan Mack ’07, Eric Severson, faculty; Hannah Mack. Pictured left to right (seated): Isabelle McCormick, Anne Klus, retired faculty: Steven Qian.

Emilia Topp-Johnson is part of a scientific research team located at Summit Station in Greenland, a research outpost that sits 10,000 feet above sea level in the middle of the Greenland ice sheet. Emilia is one of five researchers who are “overwintering” at Summit Station and is the youngest person ever to overwinter at any of the National Science Foundation’s polar research stations. Her team is gathering field data for a variety of research institutions including NASA.

Sabrina Rucker was named one of the top innovators under 25 by Minne Inno. Minne Inno has compiled a list showcasing 10 innovators aged 25 and younger who have already distinguished themselves in Minnesota. The selections range from young venture capitalists to founders, CEOs and small-business owners. Those on the list were chosen based on nominations received from the community and Minne Inno’s editorial selection process. Despite their young age, these leaders in the local startup scene are advancing their respective fields into the future.

Maya Shrestha was named one of the top innovators under 25 by Minne Inno. Minne Inno has compiled a list showcasing 10 innovators aged 25 and younger who have already distinguished themselves in Minnesota. The selections range from young venture capitalists to founders, CEOs and small-business owners. Those on the list were chosen based on nominations received from the community and Minne Inno’s editorial selection process. Despite their young age, these leaders in the local startup scene are advancing their respective fields into the future.

SPA Class Agent

Aram Desteian

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SPA Class Agent

Sarah Crandall

SPA Class Agents

Nolan Filter
Jessie Garretson
Vanessa Levy
Ariella Rotenberg

SPA Class Agent

Anne Walli

SPA Class Agent

Maya Shrestha
Reunion Weekend 2022: Class Parties


CLASS OF 1972: Front row: Chick Lindsey, Jeff Greenman, Roar Dons, Alice Wright, Bridget O’Brien, Ginnie Weed Murphy, Sue Sinclair Zmuda, Mike Ross, Roger Rudolph, Laura Cummins Swain, Laura Little, Sarah Works Freeman. Back row: Tom Martin, Tom Swain, Gus Ljungkull, Rob Tesar, Roger Winship, John Shepard, Mystie Brackett, Dave Jackson, John Edgerton, John Michaels, Andy Fulton, Lucy Rogers, Paul Quast, Phil Thwaits, Kathy Garretson Weed, Carol Adler Zsolnay.

Many thanks to all who joined us for Class Parties celebrating classes ending in “2” and “7 on Saturday, September 10 during Reunion Weekend 2022, and special thanks to all our Class Volunteers who helped plan these memorable events.

Save the date for Reunion 2023: September 8-9, 2023. See page 33 for more information.

CLASS OF 1982: Rigger Poore, Lila Randolph-Poore, Irene McNeely, Gina (Shapiro) Janetka, Alison Suessbrick, Sally (Cammack) Miesen, Griggs Nichols, Steve Mohring, Marko Nikituk, Sarah Neirmeyer, Josie Holman, Lisa (Martin) Sarnowski, Libby (Driscoll) Hlavka, Katie Clapp, David Weyerhaeuser, Brian Winges.


2022 Hall of Fame Induction

The inaugural induction ceremony for the St. Paul Academy and Summit School Athletics Hall of Fame was held during Reunion Weekend on Saturday, September 10, 2022. The ceremony was attended by inductees and their families, friends, and classmates. We were honored to celebrate these remarkable individuals who have contributed so much to the history of the school through their athletic achievements.

Hosts and retired SPA teachers and coaches Mickey Scott and Jim McVeety welcome the audience to the induction ceremony.

The family of inductee Robert Carley, Jr. ‘43
More photos from the event are available by scanning the QR code at left.

Inductee Jean Carlton Ambler ’49 (center) and family

Patrick Brown, son of inductee Molly Priedeman Brown ’39

Sally Davis Patterson ’57, sister of inductee Jane Davis Bennett ’59

Inductee Jean Carlton Ambler ’49 (third from right) and family

The family of inductee Laura Floane Boone ’53 included (left to right) her sister Christina Floan Hart ’67, daughter Andrea Floan Oskvold, and sister Alice Floan Nixon ’62

Katharine White, the daughter of inductee Nancy Gaver Priedeman ’46

Ruth Putnam Huss ’57, daughter of inductee Henry Putnam ’25

Inductee Stan Shepard ’47
Alumni/ae Spotlights

Our online “Alumni/ae Spotlight” series highlights the work of SPA graduates across the country and around the world. Below are condensed versions of a few of our most recent Spotlights; read full profiles on the Alumni/ae website or by scanning the QR code at right.

CLAIRE WILHELM ’10
NASA Operations

Not every person can say that they have their dream job only 12 years out of high school, but Claire Wilhelm ’10 is one of the lucky few. As an Operations Research Analyst at NASA, Claire is a technical liaison between program offices and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at NASA. Her portfolio includes the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, Human Landing Systems, the Lunar Gateway, and Lunar Terrain Vehicles.

Claire first interned at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center while still in college, working on the Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission studying solar wind patterns on the Earth. After college, she worked as a research scientist and engineer at Johns Hopkins University and the Department of Defense before joining NASA as an Operation Research Analyst in April 2022. “My current work is very cross-cutting,” Claire says. “My technical background is of course very helpful to the day-to-day work, but I operate at a much broader level than I would if I were working in design or something similar. I love being involved in a wide variety of projects and translating between various teams of technical and non-technical stakeholders to enable mission success.”

Jeremy Stein ’98 recently moved to London, UK from Copenhagen, Denmark to start as the General Manager of Studio for Tonic Group and Epic Games. His work focuses on the hit game “Fall Guys,” an award-winning game with millions of active players.

After SPA, Jeremy attended Tulane University, where he graduated with a degree in Political Economy. While at Tulane, he discovered an interest in sports writing and took a gap year to work with computers and volunteer on a sports video game blog. This opportunity opened the door for Jeremy to jump further into the world of video game development when he was hired to join the staff of the “Madden NFL” game. Jeremy has gone on to serve in a wide range of positions in video game development and product management; he now leads large teams of game developers.

CHARLIE MCGARRAUGH ’96
Crypto Strategy

Charlie McGarraugh ’96 currently resides in London, UK where he is the Chief Strategy Officer at Blockchain.com, one of the largest crypto financial services companies in the world. In his role, Charlie is responsible for many strategic initiatives and co-heads Blockchain’s institutional services business.

Prior to joining Blockchain.com, Charlie spent a number of years at Goldman Sachs (relocating to London in 2009 in the process), being named Partner in 2012, and worked in a number of senior level roles, before leaving the company in 2016. He then jumped into the world of tech entrepreneurship as CEO of Stratagem Technologies, a financial technology company. The company was acquired by Blockchain.com in 2018 and Charlie has been working at Blockchain.com ever since. Although Charlie resides in London, he frequently travels to the United States to visit the company’s offices in New York City, Miami, and San Francisco, and to spend time with his relatives in Minnesota.
Nicole Paster Putzel ’89 is a classically trained chef, cookbook author, and cooking teacher who is passionate about creating healthy and well-balanced meals for others. Nicole’s journey has been filled with many twists: After graduating from BU, she worked as a reporter and anchor for small news stations across the country in Durango, Colorado and Alexandria, Minnesota. After a stint in Chicago real estate, she moved with her husband to New York City, where she took cooking classes and ultimately enrolled in culinary school full-time. In 2008, Nicole and her family moved back to Chicago where Nicole continued to pursue her passion; she earned her culinary arts certificate from The Art Institutes Culinary Arts School in Chicago.

Now a mother of two, Nicole has embraced her passion for cooking, teaching, and finding opportunities to support others. Most recently, she published her first cookbook: *The Seasoned Plate: Delicious and Real Food Recipes by the Season*, which was inspired by cooking from her backyard organic garden. Nicole runs a small meal-preparation business; meals are packaged in glass mason jars to promote environmentally friendly practices.

URI NEREN ’94
Advising Entrepreneurs

“Atypical, diverse, strange and a blast,” is how Uri Neren ’94 describes his career. A successful entrepreneur who recently sold his startup company, Innovators Inc., Uri describes his professional journey as “wandering...but not lost.” “Entrepreneurism is the only theme you could pick out of my wandering path,” Uri says—a path which has included advising corporate CEOs, milking goats and making cheese, fundraising for public radio, leading arctic expeditions, working on public policy, and eventually starting several companies.

Now, having sold Innovators, which worked with companies such as 3M, Patagonia, Google, and the Mayo Clinic to build effective and profitable innovation departments, Uri supports entrepreneurs in their own businesses. He serves as an adviser to Stout Street Capital, a venture capital fund, while he’s looking for his next company to start—“likely in the green energy space,” he says, noting that his senior prediction in *The Rubicon* forecast that someday he would “hug a tree.”

SABRINA RUCKER ’18
College Student & Entrepreneur

Sabrina Rucker ’18 is an entrepreneur and the founder of StoryForge, an app for underrepresented authors. StoryForge provides support and editing tools for authors looking to eventually publish their work, and has grown out of Rucker’s passion for addressing the systematic inequalities in the publishing industry.

“The fun and scary part of entrepreneurship is that you don’t really know what you’re doing most of the time,” says Sabrina, noting that her day-to-day work on StoryForge can vary from researching competitors to teaching herself animation for a demo reel of the app. Earlier this year, she pitched the StoryForge app to the University of Minnesota’s BizPitch competition, winning the Social Impact Award. Sabrina’s entrepreneurial successes were recognized this fall when she was named one of the Twin Cities’ top young innovators under 25 by Minne Inno, part of the *Twin Cities Business Journal.*
1941
Perrin Brown Lilly
Passed away May 10, 2022

1942
Clinton Seth Abbott, Jr.
September 8, 1924 - November 18, 2020

1945
Priscilla “Polly” Nye Dickson
Passed away June 5, 2022

1947
Edith Nye MacMullen
Passed away October 6, 2022

1948
Deborah Bancroft
1930 - November 6, 2022
Anne Hartley
Passed away October 27, 2022
Caroline Peet Johnston
June 11, 1930 - May 15, 2022

1949
Audrae Margaret (Norris) Gruber
May 28, 1931 - March 31, 2022
Gretchen Richter Law
SPA was notified of Ms. Laws passing in the summer of 2022.
John Joseph Schlenk, Jr.
September 26, 1931 - March 11, 2022

1951
Richard “Dick” Strand
Passed away on November 3, 2022

1952
Ariel Welch Dickerman
Passed away on October 27, 2022

1953
Marlene Heger Bixby
May 22, 1936 - July 2, 2022
James Stevenson
September 16, 1935 - November 6, 2022

1955
Robert “Bob” Gardner
March 7, 1938 - November 9, 2022

1958
William M. Beadie
Passed away August 21, 2022
See sidebar at right

1959
Jane Davis Bennett
Passed away December 1, 2022

1961
Samuel Mairs
Passed away on October 14, 2022
George Roth, Jr.
Passed away October 24, 2022

1963
Vicki Bechik Hickman
May 8, 1945 - August 21, 2022
Philip Fitzpatrick
Passed away November 20, 2022

1965
Karl Burton
Passed away May 17, 2022

1968
Otto Christenson
Passed away fall 2022

1975
Thomas McNeill
September 14, 1957 - January 4, 2023

1980
Peter Mairs
Passed away September 26, 2022

Former Faculty & Friends
Russell Haigh
Passed away December 21, 2022
Malcolm McDonald
Passed away August 25, 2022

Our condolences are with the family and friends of those we have lost.

Full remembrances are available on the SPA alumni/ae website or by scanning the QR code at left.
Bill Beadie, who served St. Paul Academy and Summit School as a tireless advocate in multiple roles, passed away on August 21, 2022.

A member of St. Paul Academy’s Class of 1958, Bill was an invaluable friend and supporter of the school as an alumnus, a parent of alums, and a volunteer. He served on the SPA Board of Trustees from 2002-2006 and then again from 2010-2022. Prior to his terms as a Trustee, he served on the Alumni/ae Council and as an ad hoc member of the Board’s finance committee.

An attorney by profession, he joined Moore, Costello, and Hart in 1966 and practiced construction law there for 42 years. His legal and construction expertise often came into play in his volunteer work for the school: he helped negotiate construction contracts and was instrumental in the construction of the Huss and Schilling Centers. He was a tireless fundraising volunteer for the annual fund, and always did so with a light touch, never forgetting his role as a Trustee.

Bill was known for the deep, enduring relationships he formed with people, most of all his wife Carol, whom he married in 1965. He was devoted to his SPA Class of 1958 classmates and worked hard to keep those friendships alive. He believed in the value of a hand-written, thoughtful note, a curious mindset, and regular conversation. As a Trustee, Bill made sure he knew as many teachers, administrators, maintenance workers, and security guards as possible around the school. He was a fixture at Drake Arena, skating for exercise three mornings a week. Bill was preceded in death by his brother David Beadie ’54. He is survived by his wife, Carol, sons Guy ’86, Ryan, and Bill ’91, and four grandchildren.

Bill is deeply missed by the St. Paul Academy and Summit School community, and we are grateful for his unwavering service to our school.
PERFORMANCES

Upper School Fall Play: *The Trojan Women*

Middle/Upper School Jazz Cabaret

Upper School Musical: *The Drowsy Chaperone*

Middle School Spring Choral Concert
Upper School Spring Vocal/Orchestral Concert and Community Chorale

For more photos from SPA’s student performances, visit stpaulacademy.smugmug.com

Middle School Fall Play: And A Child Shall Lead

Upper School Pops Concert

Middle School Spring Instrumental Concert
TO PARENTS OF ALUMNI/AE: If this is no longer the current mailing address for your alumni/ae child, please let us know at alumni@spa.edu or 651-696-1318.

“We Are the Champions”

Three Spartan teams played for state championship titles in the last two seasons: boys’ tennis and boys’ soccer were crowned state champions, and girls’ soccer took state runner-up. Read more in Spartan Sports on pages 14-19.