

SPA

The Magazine of
St. Paul Academy and
Summit School

TURNING UP THE VOLUME:

STUDENT VOICE IN LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL



Scott Streble

Dr. Ottley with Lower School Principal Beth Nelson and Board President Tim O'Brien '77 at the Fifth Grade Final Assembly

CENTERING STUDENT VOICE

The end of the school year is a celebratory time, filled with rituals and special events marking both endings and beginnings. One of the perks of being a Head of School is being a part of these momentous occasions: watching our fifth graders walk across the Goodrich stage for the last time; speaking to our eighth graders as they look ahead with anticipation to Grade 9; and shaking each senior's hand as they accept their diploma at Commencement and, in that moment, transition from "student" to "graduate." These are joyful, humbling moments, and I'm grateful to be experiencing them for the first time here.

A commonality that all these rituals share at SPA is how the students are always at the center of them. Whether it's the fifth graders performing at their Final Assembly or the seniors electing their classmates to speak at Commencement, it is always the student voice that speaks the loudest at these events. That is how it should be, and it's why that student voice is the focus of this issue of *SPA Magazine*. In our feature story, starting on page 13, you'll read all about that voice and how it is encouraged, supported, and lifted up throughout a student's time in Lower and Middle School.

Those K-8 years are critical for developing and inspiring a child's voice because they provide the foundation for all that comes next—which you'll also read about in this issue, whether it's our Upper School students' success at the state Science Fair,

their multiple publication awards, or their triumphs on their athletic teams. That is the beauty of the K-12 arc at SPA, and watching that arc unfold through our students' achievements has been one of the most satisfying elements of my first year as Head of School.

That first year is now coming to an end, and I am grateful to all who supported me as we moved through this time together. It has been a busy, exciting, fruitful year. I am now looking forward to taking advantage of all that Minnesota has to offer over the summer, and I am also looking ahead with eager anticipation to the next school year. This is one of the wonderful things about being an educator: the opportunity to reflect and then the chance for a brand-new beginning every fall. I cannot wait to see what the second year of this extraordinary journey brings.

With appreciation,

Dr. Luis Ottley
Head of School

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SPA Magazine is published twice annually by St. Paul Academy and Summit School for alumni/ae, parents, and friends of the school.

We welcome your comments and thoughts. Please contact us at spamag@spa.edu with suggestions for stories, news, and photos, or write us at *SPA Magazine*, 1712 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN, 55105.



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2022 *IRIS: Art + Lit* Magazine Earns Pacemaker Award from the National Scholastic Press Association



Hue, the 2022 *Iris: Art + Lit* magazine, was named a Pacemaker award winner by the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). Known as the “Pulitzer Prize of student journalism,” the NSPA Pacemaker is the preeminent award in scholastic press; *Hue* was one of only six high school literary art magazines in the country to receive the prestigious award.

Iris: Art + Lit is a collection of student poetry, essays, paintings, drawings, and photography. Submissions are solicited by magazine staff, led in 2022 by Eliza Farley '24 and Poppy Ploen '24,

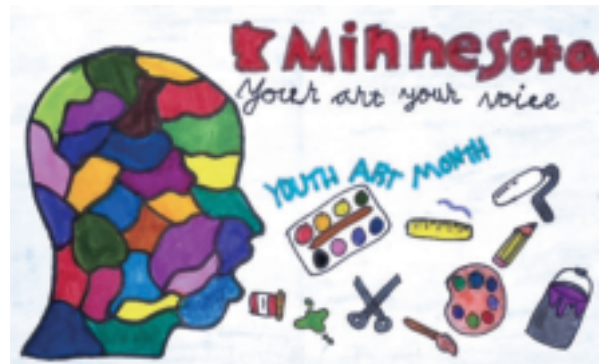
and collected from the Upper School English and Fine Arts departments. External jurors then rank submissions in each medium; jurors for the 2022 issue included photographer John Christenson and poet and author Su Hwang.

Director of Publications Kathryn Campbell, who advises the *Hue* staff, notes that submissions for the magazine “showcase our invested, curious students who care deeply about how they present their ideas and creativity, and represent just a snapshot of the work supported by a faculty that is intensely dedicated to our craft and our kids.”

Middle School Artists Sweep State Flag Competition



Three Middle School artists swept the podium in the Art Educators of Minnesota's Youth Art Flag contest. Jayden Tilton '28, Elana Broderius '29, and Luca Kempcke '28 placed first, second, and third, respectively, for their flag designs; as the first-place winner, Jayden's flag design was highlighted at the Minnesota State Capitol and the national exhibit in San Antonio, where it was raised with other winning flags from each state.



Elana Broderius '29



Luca Kempcke '28



Jayden Tilton '28

Heidi Deuel '23 Earns Athena Award for Athletic and Academic Achievement



SPA senior and two-sport captain Heidi Deuel '23 was the 2023 recipient of the St. Paul Area Athena Award for St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Deuel was a standout athlete in soccer and hockey during her time at SPA, and was named captain for both teams during the 2022-23 season. Deuel will attend St. Olaf College in the fall of 2023, where she plans to play club soccer and hockey.



The Athena Awards honor and celebrate senior female student-athletes from public and independent schools in the Twin Cities for their athletic achievements. The award is based on a student's dedication, excellence, and outstanding achievement in individual and team sports.

Lower School Diversity Night Celebrates Family Cultures



Henna painting at Discovery Night

Drake Gallery Showcases the Work of Joy Liberman



The paintings of Lower School art teacher Joy Liberman were showcased in the Harry M. Drake Gallery in spring 2023. The exhibit featured new paintings by Liberman, who retired in June 2023 after a 36-year career teaching art in SPA's Lower School. Entitled *I Wonder*, the collection of paintings chronicled Liberman's "wonderings about fractals in nature."

In April 2023, the Lower School celebrated the diversity of its community with a Discovery Night Culture Share event, sponsored by the Lower School Parent Association. The event featured mini-sessions led by parents and designed to introduce participants to elements of a family's culture and traditions. Mini-sessions included introductions to Korean, Hmong, and Israeli culture as well as interactive sessions on Japanese cooking, games of Gaga (an Israeli game resembling dodge ball), Kubba (a Swedish lawn game), backgammon, and cricket, Henna painting, Ukrainian egg decorating, Brazilian dance and Flamenco lessons, and a Jewish Shabbat celebration. After the mini-sessions, participants enjoyed a performance by Tiyumba Drums & Dance, an African dance company expressing the beauty and history of African culture through dancing, singing, and drumming.

Both Upper School Robotics Teams Qualify for 2023 State FTC Tournament

Both Upper School robotics teams—nicknamed the Autonomice and The Robotters—advanced to the 2023 State FTC Tournament, held in February 2023.

The teams qualified for State after exceptional performances in the qualifying tournament, at which both teams were also the recipients of multiple awards. The Robotters won the Inspire Award, the highest award given at FTC competitions; the Inspire award is given to the team that best embodies the ‘challenge’ of the FIRST Tech Challenge program. The Robotters also won the Stratasys Award (for 3D printing) and were finalists for the Connect Award.

The Autonomice won the Connect Award (for connecting the dots between community, robotics, and the diversity of the engineering world), and were finalists for the Motivate Award (for working well as a team and encouraging others to participate in robotics).

“As coaches, we are so proud of our students, not just for their accomplishments at the tournament but for how well they represented SPA,” says robotics coach Dr. Kate Lockwood, SPA’s Upper School Director of Computer Science and Engineering. “Despite the long day,



Members of The Robotters at the qualifying FTC tournament.

our students stayed focused, supported their teammates, and interacted professionally with judges, referees, and other teams.”

Middle School Math Team Wins Division, Qualifies for State MATHCOUNTS Competition

SPA’s Middle School math team had another successful season, with all six members of the “Gold” team finishing in the top 15 of the Saint Paul division to win the division title. Jack Gao ’28 brought home gold with a perfect score of 140 for the 5 meets, Zack Berchenko ’27 placed 3rd, Peter Hovan ’28 placed 5th, and Isaak Senaratna ’27 and Kaya Cayci ’28 tied for 8th place. In addition to the division win, team members Zack Berchenko ’27, Jack Gao ’28, Peter Hovan ’28, and Isaak



The Middle School Math Team

Senaratna ’27 qualified to compete at the Minnesota state MATHCOUNTS competition, held in March 2023. “I really appreciate the effort these students put in all year,” says Middle School math teacher Curtis Becker, who advises the team. “Each student has a strength they bring to the team,” Becker says. “I am really proud of all of them and their work this year.”

MATHCOUNTS®

Spartans Shine in 2023 Minnesota Scholastic Arts Awards



Nineteen SPA students in Grades 10-12 received recognition in this year's Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards (MSAA) program. Established to ensure that artistic talent was recognized in schools and communities across the country, the MSAA's offer recognition in 25+ diverse categories.

This year's 19 MSAA winners earned 25 Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention awards:

Gold Key

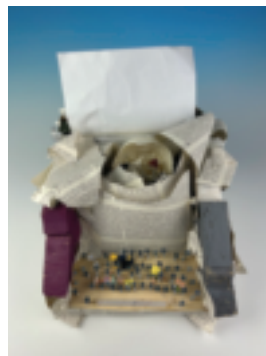
- Zoe Cheng Pinto '23
- Linnea Cooley '23
- Lucy Murray '23
- Liza Thomas '25

Silver Key

- Hadley Dobish '25
- Charlotte Goings '24
- Elizabeth Malloy '23
- Cassandra Overholt '25
- Wyatt Tait '23
- Quenby Wilson '23

Honorable Mention

- Violet Benson '24
- Linnea Cooley
- Lilith Greene-Friedman '23
- Carys Hardy '24
- Maya Ketema '23
- Thomas Kovarik '25
- Hobbs Lillygreen '23
- Leila Mosenfelder '25
- Cassandra Overholt (2 pieces)
- Audrey Senaratna '24
- Savannah Switzer '24
- Wyatt Tait (2 pieces)
- Quenby Wilson



Savannah Switzer '24



Linnea Cooley '23



Wyatt Tait '23



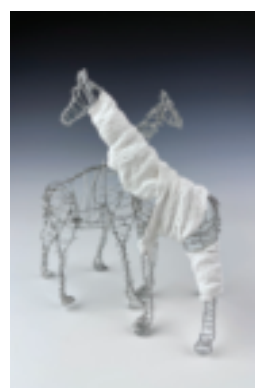
Liza Thomas '25



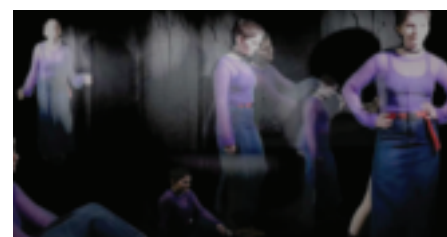
Zoe Cheng Pinto '23



Hobbs Lillygreen '23



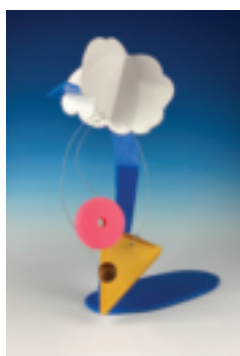
Cassandra Overholt '25



Quenby Wilson '23



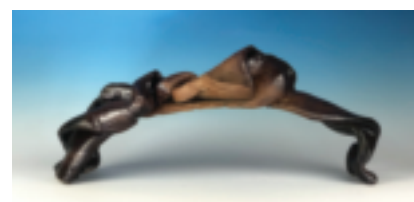
Lucy Murray '23



Charlotte Goings '24



Carys Hardy '24



Lilith Greene-Friedman '23



Maya Ketema '23

Upper School Science Teacher Karissa Baker Honored with Two Teaching and Mentoring Awards



Karissa Baker

Upper School faculty member Karissa Baker was honored with two teaching and mentoring awards in spring 2023: one from the Minnesota Academy of Science (MAS) and the other Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS).

Baker is the recipient of this year's Seagate Excellence in Science Mentoring Award from the MAS, which recognizes outstanding STEM educators who find creative ways to nurture students' interest in scientific research and discovery, promote STEM education in their schools, inspire students to pursue their interests in STEM, and encourage students to engage in hands-on research and exploration. She is also the recipient of the Regional Teaching Award from JSJS, which recognizes her exceptional contributions to advancing student participation in STEM research at SPA.

Baker teaches Upper School physics and the Advanced Science Research (ASR) course,

which she designed a decade ago for students who wanted to conduct independent original research in an area of their interest and choosing. "ASR is a challenging academic and scientific experience, but one that allows students to apply so much of what they've learned throughout their science coursework at SPA," says Baker. "We are in a special and uniquely privileged position at SPA to be able to offer this program, as we have the space and resources, including equipment, materials, and teacher staffing to support students through novel student-designed and implemented science research projects. I am grateful to have the privilege to mentor students through the research process, starting from idea generation all the way through sharing their research beyond the walls of our institution in science fair competitions and publication of their papers."

Student/Faculty Sculpture Collaboration Featured in Community Exhibit at CHS Field

A collaborative sculpture project between student-artist Wyatt Tait '23 and Upper School art teacher Spencer Legendre-Gillespie was part of a community exhibit on display in downtown Saint Paul in spring 2023. The series of sculptures created by Tait and Gillespie were featured in the "Faux Bloom 2023" Sculpture Garden, located on the plaza near CHS Field, as part of the St. Paul Saints' home opener celebration.



Student-Scientists Win Multiple Awards at Minnesota State Science Fair; SPA Secures Additional Spot in Regeneron ISEF Competition



Advanced Science Research students at the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair.

Over spring break, SPA student-scientists competed in the 2023 Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair (MSSEF). Qualification for MSSEF was based on results from the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair, which was held in February. Seven students competed at State: Rishi Bhargava '24 and Humza Murad '24 (team project), Henry Choi '24, Julia Colbert '23, Rita Li '24, Aaron Lindeman '23, and William Richardson '24. The seven were recipients of multiple awards (see full list of awards at right).

Among the awards was an additional finalist spot in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for Rishi Bhargava '24 and Humza Murad '24. Regeneron ISEF is the world's largest international pre-college science competition, and one SPA project conducted by junior Henry Choi already qualified for the final stage of the competition. Rishi and Humza now join Henry as ISEF finalists with their project, *Project WASP: Watering Atmospheric Self-Irrigating Planters*.



**MINNESOTA
ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE**

Award Winners Include:

Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Finalists

Rishi Bhargava and
Humza Murad

Minnesota Academy of Science Gold Award

Rishi Bhargava and
Humza Murad

Minnesota Academy of Science Bronze Award

Julia Colbert

Seagate Emerging Scientist Award, Top 10% of students competing in the state science fair for the first time

Rishi Bhargava and
Humza Murad

3M Young Inventor Award

Julia Colbert

3M Science Applied to Life Award

Rishi Bhargava and
Humza Murad

American Chemical Society, Minnesota Section, Outstanding Experimental Project in Chemistry: Honorable Mentions

Julia Colbert and
Aaron Lindeman

American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE): Best Display of Mechanical Engineering

Rishi Bhargava and
Humza Murad

Bolton and Menk Young Inventor Award

Rishi Bhargava and
Humza Murad

Henry Giles '24



ALPINE SKI

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

In a tough IMAC conference, both boys' and girls' Alpine ski teams finished fourth out of seven teams. In conference competition, **Evy Sachs '26** finished 6th, **Wyatt Tait '23** finished 8th, and **Maya Sachs '23** finished 10th in overall scoring. At the section meet, the girls' team finished tenth, and the boys' team finished seventh, sending **Henry Giles '24** to state for the third year in a row.

ALL-CONFERENCE:

Evy Sachs '26, Maya Sachs '23, and Wyatt Tait '23

ALL-CONFERENCE

HONORABLE MENTION:

Rio Cox '23 and Juliette Smith '27

BOYS' BASKETBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

In one of the most successful seasons in decades, the boys finished the regular season with an 18-10 record and big wins against rivals Providence, Twin Cities Academy, and St. Croix Prep. In the postseason, the Spartans were seeded third in the Section 4AA tournament; the team rolled to a 62-50 quarterfinal victory over St. Croix Lutheran Academy before falling to a talented Concordia Academy team in the semifinals.

ALL-CONFERENCE:

Ethan Carter '24 and Tysen Hayes '24

ALL-CONFERENCE

HONORABLE MENTION:

Mikkel Rawdon '24



Ethan Carter '24

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

Girls' basketball put up impressive regular season wins over Math & Science Academy, Nova Classical, and North Lakes. In postseason competition, the Spartans were the twelfth seed in their section and defeated the thirteenth seed Math and Science Academy 58-50 in the opening round. In the second round, the girls played tough but ultimately fell 49-16 to powerhouse St. Croix Prep.

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:

Catherine Hooley '23 and Naomi Kempcke '24



Naomi Kempcke '24

BOYS' HOCKEY

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

Spartan boys' hockey finished with a solid 14-12-1 overall record. Highlights of the regular season were the team's victories over South St. Paul, Breck, and St. Paul Johnson. In section play, the fourth-seed Spartans matched up against five-seed Highland Park, taking a 5-2 victory and advancing to the semifinals against #1-seed Mahtomedi, ultimately falling to the eventual tournament winner.

ALL-CONFERENCE:

George Peltier '23 and Nelson Wodarz '23

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:

Alex Armada '23 and Will Black '24

Nelson Wodarz '23



Symbol denotes
team or athlete
competed at
the State level

GIRLS' HOCKEY

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

In its debut year, the cooperative girls' Phoenix hockey team—a collaboration between SPA, Burnsville, Faribault, Faribault Bethlehem Academy, DeLaSalle, and St. Agnes, put up some impressive wins in the regular season, defeating Eagan 4-3, Apple Valley 5-1 and Hopkins/Park 8-3. In the postseason, the Phoenix received the third seed but fell in a close 2-1 game to sixth seed Eastview.

ACADEMIC ALL-STATE:

Heidi Deuel '23 and Greta Magnuson '23

SECTION 3AA ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS:

Team award

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION:

Ella Bond '26, Charlotte Goings '24, and Aurelia Meza '24

HOBEBY BAKER AWARD WINNER:

Greta Magnuson '23



Heidi Deuel '23



NORDIC SKI

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

It was a championship season for Spartan Nordic. The boys' team was paced by veteran skiers **Thomas Kovarik '25** and **Jack O'Brien '23**, who took first in the relay at the final conference meet. The girls, led by individual IMAC champion **Taylor Barkwell '25**, were IMAC conference champions for the third consecutive year and qualified for the Minnesota State Nordic meet. At state, the conference champion sprint team of **Helen Townley '25** and **Maren Overgaard '26** came in second overall in the relay. In individual pursuit competition, finishers included **Inga Wing '25** (25th), **Taylor Barkwell** (42nd), **Paloma Good '27** (62nd), **Alyda Overgaard '28** (77th), and **Eleanor Mody '27** (105th).

ALL-STATE:

Maren Overgaard '26, **Helen Townley '25**, and **Inga Wing '25**

ALL-CONFERENCE:

Taylor Barkwell '25, **Paloma Good '27**, **Alyda Overgaard '28**, and **Johanna Pierach '25**



Maren Overgaard '26 and Helen Townley '25

Maik Nguyen '24 and Milan Mishra '25



FENCING

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

Spartan fencing once again dominated the regular season and went to the Minnesota State High School Championships looking to defend its title. In a competitive field, the mens' and womens' teams both finished in the top three in the state, with the womens' finishing second and the mens' finishing third overall. Individually, **Halle Cowgill '24** took second in women's saber and **Maik Nguyen '24** took second in men's epee. Additional top five finishes at State included:

MEN'S SABER:

William Moran '23 (3rd place)

MEN'S EPEE:

Milan Mishra '25 (3rd place) and **Maik Nguyen '24** (2nd place)

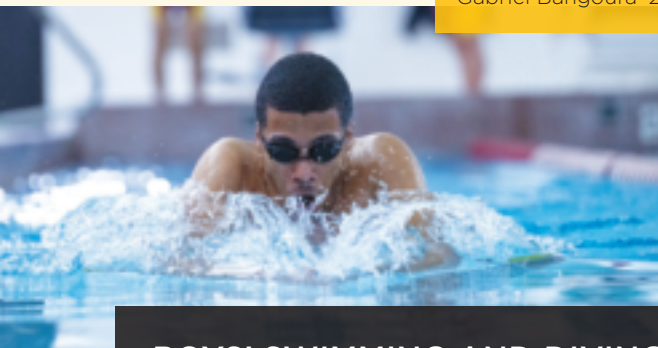
WOMEN'S SABER:

Annie Bai '24 (4th place) and **Halle Cowgill** (2nd place)

WOMEN'S EPEE:

Belle Weng '25 (5th place)

Gabriel Bangoura '23



BOYS' SWIMMING AND DIVING

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

The Trojans, a cooperative with Highland Park Senior High School had another solid season, placing third at the St. Paul City meet. At the section championship meet, **Connor Overgaard '24**, **Gabriel Bangoura '23**, and **Rishi Bhargava '24** had great performances, finishing in the top 8 in multiple events. Connor finished 4th in the 100 Backstroke & 8th in the 100 Free; Gabriel finished 5th in the 50 Free & 6th in the 100 Fly; and Rishi finished 7th in the 100 Breaststroke and 8th in the 200 IM.

ALL-CONFERENCE:

Gabriel Bangoura '23, **Rishi Bhargava '24**, and **Connor Overgaard '24**



TURNING UP THE VOLUME:

STUDENT VOICE IN LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

BY **AMI BERGER** | PHOTOGRAPHS BY **SCOTT STREBLE**

The traditional hallmarks of student leadership—being the club president, the team captain, the lead in the school play—are usually reserved for a student’s high school years. But those Upper School accomplishments don’t happen without a foundation of confidence and self-awareness, and at SPA, that foundation is

being built every day in the Lower and Middle Schools.

Learn more from our K-8 educators about how the signature pieces of the Lower and Middle Schools are preparing students from the first day of Kindergarten to the last days of Grade 8 to find their voice, decide what leadership means for them, and get ready to change the world.

TURNING UP THE VOLUME: LOWER SCHOOL



“It is powerful when students can see how their noticings, their suggestions, can turn into actual action and change.”

– Beth Nelson, Lower School Principal





BEN PIERCE

Kindergarten Homeroom Teacher

“Kids come to Kindergarten at all different stages. Some kids are still learning their letters and some are already reading chapter books. Some kids can put together two-digit numbers in their heads and others can’t accurately count to six. And that’s fine! This is a year when they’re really just learning how to do school. We want them to discover themselves, but also understand that they are part of a community. We spend a lot of time practicing our Empathy Tool, and learning that ‘everybody else in the room is just as important as I am.’

“A big part of Kindergarten is the kids learning to make their own decisions and getting comfortable with their own autonomy. A lot of them will spend the first few weeks not understanding how to act during our free-choice periods: they’ll look at us and ask ‘what should I do?’ And the answer is ‘Well, I’ve got good news and bad news. The good news is there are all sorts of things to do, and you can look at the list on the SmartBoard and make a choice! The bad news is that I’m not going to tell you what to do. You get to decide for yourself’.”

The Lower School uses the **TOOLBOX Social Emotional Learning Curriculum** to help children regulate themselves, build resilience, and restore relationships within the context of our learning community. Every Lower School faculty and staff member is trained in the TOOLBOX curriculum, which offers a common language to maximize understanding between adults and children and is based on the principle that each person has an innate capacity to seek and find solutions to regulate their own behavior, to practice empathy, kindness, and compassion and to become more and more resourceful, resilient, and confident.

The TOOLBOX is based on these 12 tools:

- **Breathing Tool:**
I calm myself and check-in.
- **Quiet/Safe Place Tool:**
I remember my quiet/safe place.
- **Listening Tool:**
I listen with my ears, eyes, and heart.
- **Empathy Tool:**
I care for others. I care for myself.
- **Personal Space Tool:**
I have a right to my space and so do you.
- **Using Our Words Tool:**
I use the “right” words in the “right” way.
- **Garbage Can Tool:**
I let the little things go.
- **Taking Time Tool:**
I take time-in and time-away.
- **Please & Thank You Tool:**
I treat others with kindness and appreciation.
- **Apology & Forgiveness Tool:**
I admit my mistakes and work to forgive yours.
- **Patience Tool:**
I am strong enough to wait.
- **Courage Tool:**
I have the courage to do the “right” thing.



TAYLOR TVEDT

Director of Lower and Middle School Athletics

“We’ve moved to a model of sports clinics in Lower School athletics instead of competitive teams. Students in grades 3-5 have seven different sports they can choose from over the course of the year, and we encourage them to try more than one sport during a season if they’re interested. It’s really the only time in a student’s athletic career that they can double up on a sport in a single season—we want to get them away from the specialization piece at a time in their lives when they’re really excited to just try anything. We’re getting a lot of participation from kids that might not be all that interested in a specific sport, but just enjoy playing with their peers during the clinics. That’s exactly what we’re after: enjoying athletics and being part of an athletic community.

“A big benefit of the Lower School clinics is the way they are increasing athletic participation once the kids get to Middle School, especially for girls. Middle School girls’ soccer and softball participation was dwindling a few years ago, but numbers have shot up since we started offering those clinics in the Lower School. And more athletic participation in Middle School is great for the entire program—we’ve started a Student Athlete Leadership group in Middle School to really start developing those kids’ leadership skills. We want to build a sense of pride and school spirit in grades 6-8 so when those kids get to the Upper School, they’re ready not just to play at that level but to lead at that level.”



DR. NAOMI TAYLOR

Director of Intercultural Life

“We have had an affinity group for students of color in the Lower School for five years, but this year we expanded the program to include all students. It’s called Intercultural Club Time, and every student K-5



participates. We built the offerings around what the Lower School leadership team was hearing from students about how they wanted to engage with their peers and their interests. So we have a Common Ground group for students of color, and a Muslim identity group and a Mishpacha group [for Jewish students] and groups for kids

interested in neurodiversity and LGBTQ. So the groups themselves are very diverse, but the lessons during Intercultural Club Time are all the same: there’s always a story component, a movement component, a hands-on activity, and everybody gets to share. It’s a very fun time that the kids really look forward to.

“The goal here is to normalize differences early on and in age-appropriate ways, and give students the space to share, to bring their whole selves to school, and to have a place to ask questions. Kids notice differences at a very young age, so if we can name those differences and talk about them in celebratory and affirming ways, we can put every child on a developmental arc towards positive identity development.”

DAN STEINHACKER

Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher

“We begin referring to the kids as ‘fifth grade leaders’ very early on, and we lay out all the opportunities they’re going to have during the year to be leaders and role models for the rest of the school. Each of the opportunities has a purpose, and they all build on each other. Being an assembly emcee gives them the experience of being a public speaker; being a Kindergarten buddy gives them the experience of being a mentor and caring for a much younger child; the Principal’s Council helps them understand what it takes to work with a group to make changes. Kindergarten buddies are probably everyone’s favorite, because when the Kindergarteners see their buddy in the hallway, it’s like they’re seeing a celebrity. The kids love it.



“The kids sometimes roll their eyes and joke about being called ‘leaders’ all the time, but they really do understand what that means. They’re ready for it. They like the prestige of it, but they also understand that being a leader is also about service. And there’s some sacrifice in that—when you’re planning the Halloween assembly, you’re missing recess for two weeks, which is a big deal in fifth grade. But the end result is worth it, because the entire community is always so engaged and supportive of the kids’ efforts, and now you’ve got kids who understand that what they do matters to the entire community.”



Lower School Principal Beth Nelson (second from left) and Assistant Principal Jake Ban (far right) with the Grade 5 Principal's Council



BETH NELSON

Lower School Principal

“The Grade 5 Principal’s Council is new this year. It’s part of the rotation of Grade 5 ‘jobs’ that the kids rotate through, so every fifth-grader gets to be a part of the group at some point during the year. We were looking for ways to make sure that I could have that student voice and student perspective in my ear, because our fifth-graders know a lot about how the school works.

“The group meets with me and Jake [Ban, Lower School Assistant Principal]. We meet in the conference room where the adults have their meetings, and we have an agenda and meeting



norms, and we assign a timekeeper and a note-taker. One of our agenda items is ‘noticings,’ and this generates a lot of conversation about the general culture of the building. What are we noticing at assembly? At lunch? At recess? One of the groups noticed that we weren’t doing a very good job cleaning up after ourselves at lunch, so we created a video about how to wipe down your table when you’re done eating that we showed at assembly. We’ve done assembly skits about voice levels in the hallway. It is powerful when students can see how their noticings, their suggestions, can turn into actual action and change.”

TURNING UP THE VOLUME: MIDDLE SCHOOL



“Middle school is such a transitional period for kids, since they’re just starting to really figure out who they are, both as individuals and as part of a community.”

– Kate Glassman, Middle School English Teacher





BOBAK RAZAVI

Middle School Social Studies Teacher

“The Spartan Council is our student council for sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders. The idea is that they have voice and agency to address the issues at school that they care about. We want them to be invested in creating the experience they’re having every day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Council is part of the Middle School ‘activities’ program, where kids get to pick a co-curricular activity to participate in over the course of the year, and we end up with about 20 kids who are really invested in being leaders and in coming up with ideas for new programs and making an impact on the way we do things around school.

“School spirit is a big thing for the Council—we spend a lot of time planning spirit days for Homecoming, planning the socials—but this year the kids have really stepped up in terms of leading our assemblies. They work really closely with Vito [Sauro, Middle School Activities Coordinator] and they figure out the plan: who’s going to make announcements? Who’s going to make the video? What kind of issues have come up in Council that we should address with the whole school? We just had a couple of kids make a stop-motion video about picking up after yourself because they thought we were leaving too much trash around after snack every day. We showed it in assembly and you could have heard a pin drop, which almost never happens. The teachers were all talking about it at lunch, like ‘could you believe how quiet it was?’ But I think that’s a natural outcome of what happens when you hand students the reins and let them take charge—their peers will listen to them. It’s very powerful.”





Members of the Class of '28 at Widji in January 2023.

KATE GLASSMAN

Middle School English Teacher

“Middle School is such a transitional period for kids, since they’re just starting to really figure out who they are, both as individuals and as part of a community. The experiential learning component of the curriculum is meant to support that, because there are important parts of connecting as a community that you really can’t do in a classroom. You need to get out in the world and do stuff together. That’s the whole point of the Widji trip in seventh grade: just being human beings together out in this amazing place where you’re doing all these amazing things. You’re cross-country skiing, you’re otter-sliding down hills, you’re eating breakfast with different people every day, you’re giving piggyback rides to someone you haven’t been friends with since kindergarten. It’s this great experience for them to see each other in a new way, to break out of their comfort zones. You can try things that might seem scary, but you’re with your classmates and your teachers so it feels safe, it feels okay to try.



kindergarten. It’s this great experience for them to see each other in a new way, to break out of their comfort zones. You can try things that might seem scary, but you’re with your classmates and your teachers so it feels safe, it feels okay to try.

“The magic of Widji is what happens while we’re all there, but it also comes back to school with us. You can see it in advisory—the quieter kids will start talking more. You see groups working better together because they shared a granola bar when someone’s fell in the snow. They’re more willing to take risks after Widji, because they’ve been rewarded for that. They find these new parts of themselves that they’re really excited about and proud of.”

Shannon Browne



Middle School Advisory

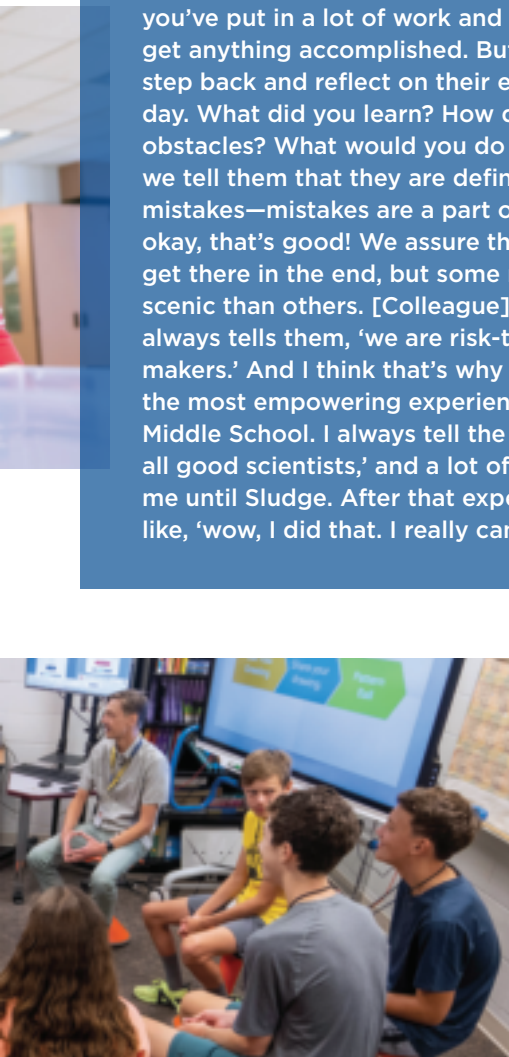


SHANNON BROWNE

Middle School Science Teacher

“Our ‘Sludge’ unit is the culminating laboratory experience in eighth-grade science. Each student is given a unique mixture of unknown substances, and they have two weeks to separate and identify each substance. Everything the kids have learned in the lab up until that point--describing and identifying matter by its properties, finding density and boiling points, how to separate mixtures—comes into play during Sludge. Eighth-grade science is all about conducting investigations where students collect, organize and interpret data. Students learn how use evidence to support claims, and then we ask them to apply all that deductive reasoning to Sludge.

“It can be really frustrating for kids, no question. We’re very upfront in the beginning of the unit about the challenges—that there will be days when you’ve put in a lot of work and feel like you didn’t get anything accomplished. But we ask them to step back and reflect on their experiences each day. What did you learn? How did you overcome obstacles? What would you do differently? And we tell them that they are definitely going to make mistakes—mistakes are a part of it! And that’s okay, that’s good! We assure them that they will get there in the end, but some routes are more scenic than others. [Colleague] Stacy Overgaard always tells them, ‘we are risk-takers, mistake-makers.’ And I think that’s why Sludge is one of the most empowering experiences they have in Middle School. I always tell the students, ‘you’re all good scientists,’ and a lot of them don’t believe me until Sludge. After that experience, they all feel like, ‘wow, I did that. I really can do science.’”



VIRGINIA ANDRES

Middle School Principal

“Our advisory program is at the core of what we do—the foundation of our Middle School community is built on advisory. The curriculum we use is part of the Developmental Designs program, which is an equity-based program. The skills and routines that students practice in advisory are meant to create a community, a space where each child has a sense of belonging and feels like they can show up as their authentic self at school every day. Those practices are universal across every advisory group—all Middle School faculty at SPA are trained in the program—so it is a shared language used by every teacher and every student in the Middle School.

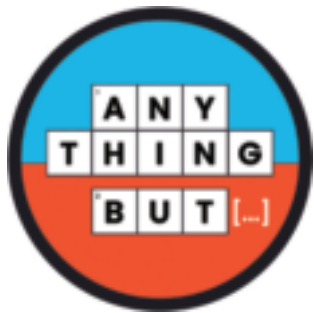


“We have multiple advisory touch-points every day: there’s a morning advisory check-in where everybody is greeted by name. There’s always a share, and there’s always a common activity that the kids probably think of as a ‘game’ but it’s a purposeful activity that’s meant to generate reflection on how the group is operating as a community. Are we following our group norms? Are different voices being heard? Those activities build on each other over the course of the year: for example, the share at the beginning of the year might be ‘what toppings do you like on pizza?’ and then later in the year we’ll move to topics like ‘what does it mean to be a good friend?’ or ‘what are your aspirations for next year?’ And eventually, we expect the students themselves to run that morning check-in. The point is to elevate the student voice and empower them to be the ones who are setting the tone for the day. It becomes their responsibility to decide the kind of community they want, and then act accordingly.”

TURNING UP THE VOLUME

ALUMNI/AE VOICES

"SPA taught me to be confident in speaking up for my ideas," says Rashmi Raveendran, Class of 2021. She and two of her SPA classmates, Nikolas Liepens '21 and Aman Raman '21, are putting that confidence to work in a podcast called Anything But. The podcast features notable people talking about anything but what they're notable for. It's a passion project for Rashmi, Nikolas, and Aman, who talked with SPA Magazine about how SPA helped them develop their own voices and the confidence to take on the world after graduation.



SPA Magazine: What was the inspiration for the Anything But podcast?

Nikolas Liepins: "The idea for Anything But was born out of a conversation that Rashmi and I had last summer. We both wanted to work on a podcast passion project, and eventually figured out that we wanted a talk show where we could feature interesting people. But what would set us apart? Notable people are so often asked the same questions about the same things, but they are so much more of a person than what we know them for. So we wanted to provide a platform for notable people to share more about themselves with the world and help the world connect better with these people we know and love."



Rashmi Raveendren '21, Emory University '25 and
Aman Rahman '21, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities '25

Rashmi Raveendren: "Niko and I both love conversations where you can talk about anything and everything, so we created Anything But by combining that with the idea of allowing people a platform to talk about topics they never get asked about. Even though Niko and I are co-hosting the podcast on opposite sides of the country, speaking with him and our guests from all over has been incredible."

SPA: How do you think SPA helped you develop your own voice?

Aman Rahman: "My experience on the Upper School Council (USC) has truly helped form my leadership skills and to find my own voice as I had the opportunity to represent the student body, and to directly communicate and work with the administration at SPA. Having the opportunity to work on huge and transformative initiatives that affected how students were able to operate at school was essential for my own personal development."

Nikolas: “[SPA classmate] Levi Mellin and I decided we wanted to start an entrepreneurship club at SPA, so we did. Ben Bollinger Danielson, one of our History teachers, helped connect us with alumni to organize some guest speaker events, students from all class years joined the club, and we created a fun environment to throw ideas around. I’m proud of how Levi and I got the idea going but more so how we built a team that worked together to create something new. Building culture and community is hard, but our team managed to do it—a great crash course in something I’m sure we’ll continue doing throughout our lives.”

Rashmi: “During my time at SPA, my debate teacher Tom Fones taught me how to be confident in my voice. In my time as a debater at SPA, we were all pushed to succeed, do our best, and aim for high achievement, but we were also expected to have fun and speak up with our own voices. This balanced leadership was so well demonstrated to me by Mr. Fones, and he was always such a supportive presence for me and all his students. He was critical to my growth as a student and person.”

SPA: Thinking back, what were the elements of your SPA experience that prepared you the best for college?

Aman: “I absolutely believe that my success in college is due to my experience at SPA, especially the discussion-focused classes, rigorous curriculum, and the close connections with teachers. Being able to analyze and discuss a wide range of different topics in depth is essential in college, and those are skills I already have because of SPA. I’m also used to managing my time and reaching out to my professors—especially if I need help with something—because of SPA. These are skills that are so important in college and I’m sure they’ll be important in my post-grad endeavors as well.”

Rashmi: “SPA taught me to be confident in speaking up for my ideas and pursuing new interests that might be outside my comfort zone. This has been essential to my college career as I experience larger communities of students, all of whom are doing so many incredible things. To make things happen, you have to be confident in your goals and in your ability to make them happen. SPA encouraged me to try new things and speak up if there were things I wanted to change.”



Nikolas Liepins '21, Stanford University '25 and Rashmi Raveendren

ALUMNI/AE EVENT CALENDAR

August 2023

TWIN CITIES ALUMNI/AE RECEPTION WITH DR. LUIS OTTLEY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023, 5 p.m.

Malcolm Yards, 501 30th Ave SE, Minneapolis

Visit www.spa.edu/alumni/events
for more information

September 2023

REUNION WEEKEND 2023

Friday and Saturday,
September 8-9, 2023

Visit www.spa.edu/alumni/events
for more information

2023 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

Friday, September 8, 2023,
5-6:30 p.m.

Huss Center for the Performing Arts
Visit www.spa.edu/alumni/events
for more information

November 2023

YOUNG ALUMNI/AE REUNIONS: Celebrating the Classes of 2008, 2013, and 2018

Friday, November 24, 2023

Locations and times vary;

Visit www.spa.edu/alumni/events for details

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

ALUMNI/AE COUNCIL UPDATE:

The SPA Alumni/ae Council is looking for new members as we look ahead to our priorities and activities for 2023-24. Volunteering with the Council is a wonderful way to network with other alums and stay connected to the school. To learn more about the work of the Council, contact Kate Bogdan, Assistant Director of Alumni/ae Engagement and Annual Giving, at kbogdan@spa.edu.



2022-23 ST. PAUL ACADEMY AND SUMMIT SCHOOL ALUMNI/AE COUNCIL

Walt Lehmann '81
President

Mercedes Henderson Clark '88
Volunteerism Chair

Matt Gollinger '96
Events Chair

Hayley Peterson '08
Fundraising Chair

Elena Averbakh '02

Dr. Kevin Boeh '86

Chris Cheney '88

Peter Daniels '02

Jim Delaney '93

Jamie Forman '77

Stephanie Hill '11

Emily Gleason '03

Ali Hussain '07

Reid Kett '13

John Moore '95

Dorothy Munholland '07

Courtney Vincent '92

REUNION WEEKEND 2023

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2023



All alumni/ae are invited to join us for Reunion Weekend 2023 on Friday and Saturday, September 8-9, 2023. The weekend will feature our 2023 Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the opening of the Alumni/ae Art Show, and the Blue & Gold Bash cocktail party for all alumni/ae on Friday evening. The Heritage Brunch for classes graduating fifty years ago and better will be held on Saturday morning, and Class Parties for classes ending in "3" and "8" will be held that evening. Keep an eye out for Reunion Weekend communications via mail and email. For more information or to volunteer to help plan your Class Party, please email Kate Bogdan, Assistant Director of Alumni/ae Engagement and Annual Giving, at kbogdan@spa.edu.



MOLLY GREENMAN '71 Receives Distinguished Alumni/ae Award



Greenman addresses attendees at the DAA ceremony, held in the Huss Center for the Performing Arts.

Two special events were held in April 2023 in celebration of Molly Greenman '71, this year's recipient of St. Paul Academy and Summit School's Distinguished Alumni/ae Award (DAA). On April 10, Greenman spoke to students and answered questions about her career in social work, her time at Summit School and the merged SPA, and her thoughts on social justice at a special Upper School assembly. Then on April 25, Greenman was honored at the official DAA recognition ceremony, featuring remarks from Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley, Greenman's friend and former SPA Trustee Bruce Lilly '70, and from Greenman herself. "There are many ways to make a difference, and I know many of you are already 'on it,'" Greenman told the audience at the ceremony. "If we can keep supporting and encouraging each other to do a little more, it will make a difference."



Molly Greenman '71 answers a question from a student during her talk at an Upper School assembly on April 10, 2023.



Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley and wife Carrie Eagles (at right) with Greenman and her husband Michael Kehoe at the DAA ceremony.



Friends and classmates were in attendance at the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award ceremony honoring Greenman on April 25, 2023.

REGIONAL EVENTS WITH HEAD OF SCHOOL DR. LUIS OTTLEY: San Francisco and Arizona

Many thanks to the alumni/ae who joined Dr. Luis Ottley for regional events in San Francisco and Arizona this past winter and spring. Chris Jenkyns, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni/ae Engagement reports that both events were lively and enjoyable, and provided an opportunity for alums to connect with Dr. Ottley and each other. Regional events with Dr. Ottley are tentatively planned for the east and west coasts in 2023-24.



Be Social With Us!



Facebook:
facebook.com/SPAalum



Instagram:
instagram.com/spa_spartans



LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/groups/1949775 or search on "St. Paul Academy & Summit School Alumni".



SPA Online Directory:
spa.edu > **Alumni/ae** > **Directory** to search for classmates, local alumni/ae, or alumni/ae in a particular field or industry.



SmugMug photo galleries:
stpaulacademy.smugmug.com > **Alumni/ae** to view photo galleries from all events.

ANNUAL FUND VOLUNTEERS: We Couldn't Do It Without You!



Each year, St. Paul Academy and Summit School relies on the time, effort, and commitment of dozens of volunteers to help the Annual Fund reach its fundraising goal. These volunteers are the backbone of the school's efforts, according to current parent and SPA alumnus David Murphy '90, who chairs the Parent Campaign for the Annual Fund. "Our parent volunteers make all the difference," says Murphy, who has led SPA's parent volunteers for three years. "The willingness of current parents to reach out to their peers speaks volumes about how much the parent community values the school."



As we close out the fiscal year, we thank all our volunteers—parents, alumni/ae, faculty/staff, and friends of the school—for the success of the 2022-23 Annual Fund. We couldn't do it without you! We look forward to another great year for the Annual Fund in 2023-24; to make your gift now, please visit www.spa.edu/giving or scan the QR code at left.

SPARTANS GIVE | SPA ANNUAL FUND

Those who may have missed the opportunity to give on April 20 are encouraged to visit the Spartans Give Day website to add their gift, or contact Chris Jenkyns at cjenkyns@spa.edu.



Give Today!

Spartan Giving Day Breaks the Record for Single-day Giving

This year's Spartans Give Day on April 20 was a huge success, breaking school records for single-day giving and unlocking more than \$20,000 in challenge funds over the course of the day. Senior Development Officer Alyse Simondet reports that gifts from the event totalled almost \$50,000 from 172 donors (including 21 first-time donors) from 22 states and Washington D.C. The 172 gifts are the most received on a single day and included current parents from every grade and alumni/ae from 39 different class years.

LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETY: Leading the Way

On May 17, members of SPA's Leadership Giving Society gathered at the home of Head of School Dr. Luis Ottley and his wife Carrie Eagles for a reception celebrating philanthropic leadership. The evening featured remarks from Dr. Ottley and Leadership Giving Society Chair Bake Baker '71.

The Leadership Giving Society recognizes individuals taking a leadership role every year in ensuring the strengths and future of St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Donors making gifts of \$2,500 or more to the Annual Fund are members of the Leadership Giving Society. Together, Leadership Giving Society members represent over 70% of the total dollars raised by the Annual Fund.



SPARTANS GIVE SMART

Meet Al and Kendra.
SPA Parents.
Love things vintage and antique.
Support SPA with a
monthly recurring gift.

"Recurring gifts work so well for us.
We set it up once and we were done."

Setting up a recurring gift means your support is put to work right away through ongoing, monthly gifts to SPA by credit card. It's convenient and your gift arrives on time, without the stress of remembering to give.

If you would like to set up a recurring monthly gift, please contact Alyse Simondet at 651-696-1302 | asimondet@spa.edu or visit www.spa.edu/giving/ways-to-give.



ST. PAUL ACADEMY AND SUMMIT SCHOOL



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 Kate Bogden,
Assistant Director of
Alumni/ae Engagement and
Annual Giving, at
kbogden@spa.edu.

SPA

Remembering William Beadie '58

Members of
the classes
of '57, '58,
and '59 came
together to
make a gift to
SPA in memory
of their close
friend Bill
Beadie '58,



who passed away on August 21, 2022. Bill was a part of a group of Academy alumni who gathered together often over the years, for breakfast at the Downtowner or for a friendly game of poker. "This gift is in fond memory of Bill Beadie, aka 'Beadie Bus'," says Mike Parish '58, a member of the group that also includes Tom Roe '59, Andy Holt '59, Bill Blake '58, Jim Gardner '59, and Tom Patterson '57.

'70

Class Agent

Charlie Greenman



▲ The class of 1970 gathered in September for an outdoor picnic. Pictured are: **Katie Hartzell Blevins, Chip Lindeke, Craig O'Brien, Bob Adair, Ellen Seesel, Kate O'Brien, Mary Lindridge Stockwell, Terry Schilling, Gilbertstadt and Charlie Greenman.** (Not pictured: **Paul Kroeger**)

'77

Class Agents

Alice Berquist

Tom Wood



The women of the Class of '71 gathered at the home of **Alice O'Brien Berquist** in May 2023 to celebrate their 70th birthdays. Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Mary Manlove, Susan Headley Keller, Barb Godfrey Kuykendall, Marion Warwick, Carol Kramer Swanson, Jane Bratnober Ransom, Nancy Mairs Daly and Ann Schilling McKiernan;** (second row, left to right) **Molly Greenman, Elizabeth ("Binkie") Cammack Closmore, Marta Ljungkull;** (third row, left to right) **Sharon Kennedy and Alice O'Brien Berquist.** Flowers were from **Ginny Stryker Brodeen** who was unable to attend.

'63

Class Agent

The Class of 1963 is looking for a
Class Agent. Please contact
alumni@spa.edu or 651-696-1308.



▲ **James Goins** has retired from his career as an Engineering Manager with Hewlett Packard and now lives with his wife of 53 years in North Las Vegas, NV. James, who has been involved with prison ministry for more than 30 years, volunteers on a weekly basis as a prison chaplain for six different units within state and county prisons and jails across southern Nevada.

'77

Class Agent

Hank Brandtjen

In February 2023 **Hank Brandtjen** went helicopter skiing with Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH) at their Monashees lodge in BC,

Canada. Also skiing that day was fellow SPA alumna **Cack Ferrell Wilhelm '02**. Hank says that CMH offers some of the very best deep powder skiing on earth, and if it is a trip on anyone's bucket list to call him!



'85

Class Agent

Dave Kansas

▲ **Carolyn Vellenga Berman** published a book this spring that had been in the works for a decade. *Dickens and Democracy in the Age of Paper* is about literature and politics and Carolyn says she drew inspiration from reading *A Tale of Two Cities* during her junior year at SPA.



'86

Class Agent

John Patterson



▲ **Steve Pelletier** connected with old SPA friend and teammate **Ken Rice '85** at a squash match at Hamilton College this spring. Steve's

son Henry plays squash for Connecticut College and Ken's son William plays for Hamilton.

'88

Class Agents

Dan Deuel

David Salchow

Anne Elizabeth Moore will see a new print edition of her book *Body Horror: Capitalism, Fear, Misogyny, Jokes*, as well as an audio version published this spring. Anne was funded last year by a New York State Council on the Arts Support for Artists grant, and was a Ragdale fellow and Yaddo resident. She lives in upstate New York and holds community writing workshops, teaches at SVA, and is working on an investigative podcast as well as a follow-up to her previous book, *Gentrifier: A Memoir*.

'90

Class Agents

Debbie Lipschultz Goldenberg

Darren Strafelda

▲ **Tony Sanneh**

was in attendance at the State of the Union as the guest of Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

Founder of The Sanneh

Foundation, Tony was recognized as a local leader working to expand opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and play.



Another Grammy for Sean Patrick Flahaven '91



On February 5, **Sean Patrick Flahaven '91** won a Grammy Award as producer of the Best Musical Theater Album, *Into the Woods (2022 Broadway Cast Recording)*, starring Sara Bareilles. He was also nominated this year as producer of *Mr. Saturday Night*, starring Billy Crystal, and Christopher Tin's classical album, *The Lost Birds*, featuring Voces8 and the Royal Philharmonic. He previously won a Grammy as associate producer of *Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast Recording)* in 2016. He won Tony Awards as a co-producer of Best Musical Revival, *Company*, in 2022 and Best Musical, *Hadestown* in 2019. He is Chief Theatricals Executive of Concord, based in New York City, and was included in the Variety500 in December 2022 for the fourth year in a row.

Alumni/ae Spotlight: Annie Tsong '94



Our online "Alumi/ae Spotlight" series continues, highlighting the work of SPA graduates across the country. Below is a condensed version of our recent Spotlight on Annie Tsong '94; read

Annie's full profile and all our Spotlights by scanning the QR code below.

As the Chief Strategy and Product Officer at Amyris, a biotech company in Berkeley, CA, Annie Tsong '94 works to find new and innovative ways to develop renewable chemicals used in products ranging from pharmaceuticals to footwear. Annie is guided by an ambitious vision to replace outdated and environmentally harmful methods of manufacturing.

After SPA, Annie attended Harvard University, earning her undergraduate degree in biochemical sciences before receiving her PhD in genetics from the University of California - San Francisco. Annie initially wanted to follow her father—her mentor and role model—into a career in academic science, but realized that academia was not her calling, and decided to join a young biotech company. She initially began as a "bench" scientist before progressively leading larger technical teams in the Research and Development division over a period of 10 years. Four years ago, Annie made the leap to the commercial division, and worked at the intersection of technical innovation and commercial implementation in her current role as Chief Strategy and Product Officer.



Read Annie's full profile and all our Spotlights by scanning the QR code at left.

'99

Class Agent
Lisa Stein



▲ Leslie Gerberding De Paz, Ellen Osthus, Emily Gold LaGratta, Meaghan Moriarty, Katy Gehrig, and Anna Kirkness had a mini-class of 1999 reunion at Camp DuNord in February 2023.

'03

Class Agents
Tom Christ
Brenden Goetz
Aleks Sims



▲ Shor Ayzik Salkas was the keynote speaker at the 2023 Upper School Speaker Day, held on April 24 and sponsored by SPA's Upper School Council. Shor works to support LGBTQIA+ communities through many projects and organizations like the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, Out in the Backyard, SHIFT Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis Transgender Equity Council, and the new LGBTQ community center project, Our Space. Shor's talk focused on their life experiences and decades of training and facilitating conversations about equity and gender. Their remarks kicked off Speaker Day, which is a day-long program attended by all Upper School students, featuring dozens of guest speakers in small-group sessions organized around a central theme. This year's theme focused on "Gender Identity and Experience."

'04

Class Agents
Ashley Anton
Andria Mann
Tyler Olson
Sarah Raisch

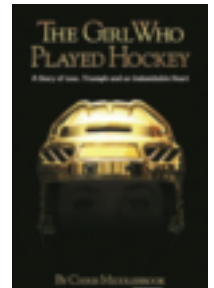
▲ Claire Wahmanholm's third poetry collection, *Meltwater*, was published in March 2023 by Milkweed Editions. *Meltwater* was also named by Racket as one of the top eight books to read by Minnesota authors in 2023.



'11

Class Agent
Bobby Whitaker

▲ Chris Middlebrook, author of *The Girl Who Played Hockey – A Story of Loss, Triumph and an Indomitable Heart* tells the story of Delaney Middlebrook's diagnosis of long QT syndrome. At SPA, Delaney was a six-year varsity player, two time All-State honoree, two time Captain, Athena Award and Spartan Cup recipient, as well as a Dean's List student. She went on to play four years of Division I hockey at Niagara and RPI before heading to Sweden to play professionally for four years. In 2017, she was inducted into the inaugural class of the Minneapolis Hockey Hall of Fame, joining NHL players, Olympic gold medalists and hockey legends.



'15

Class Agent

Luke Bishop



▲ **Isabella Star LaBlanc** is currently starring in “True Detective” and recently came back to SPA to speak with students in our World Religions classes to share about her experiences, her family’s reservation in South Dakota, and her ancestral homeland here, in the Twin Cities.

'18

Class Agent

Maya Shrestha

Iya Abdulkarim was selected to speak at TedxTalks Austin 2023. A biologist, designer, and researcher Iya graduated magna cum laude with departmental distinction from St. Olaf College and is a Texas Design in Health Distinguished Student Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin. As a trilingual speaker with an upbringing influenced by two cultures, she has a unique understanding of some of the intricacies of linguistic and cultural contexts. She is adept at building bridges and views the challenge of doing so as an invitation in her work as an interdisciplinary innovator.



'19

Class Agents

The Class of 2019 is looking for a Class Agent. Please contact alumni@spa.edu or 651-696-1308.

▲ **Max Moen** was granted an ETA Fulbright Award for Germany next year and was the recipient of the German Certificate of Advanced Language Proficiency at Yale. He will spend next year as an English Teaching Assistant at a school in Hamburg.



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

1948

C. Elizabeth Cobb

Passed away December 26, 2000

1951

Bruce Monick

November 30, 1932 - January 10, 2023

1953

Mary Dosedall Guyer

December 24, 1934 - March 20, 2023

Neil Mogilner

August 1, 1935 - July 14, 2019

McNeil Seymour

December 21, 1934 - April 2, 2023

1959

James Andrews

October 31, 1942 - January 9, 2023

Dr. Thomas A. Broadie

June 26, 1941 - March 30, 2023

1961

Byron Davis Ford

July 19, 1943 - April 3, 2023

1963

Michael Booth

October 8, 1945 - October 26, 2022

Peter Brooks

May 17, 1944 - January 21, 2023

1968

Gardner Bemis

Passed away March 25, 2023

Kevin Driscoll

Passed away March 2, 2023

1971

Theodore Mark Kohn

December 19, 1953 - May 16, 2023

1974

Kevin Harris

July 6, 1957 - December 25, 2021

1983

David Arenson

April 9, 1965 - July 10, 2021



Full remembrances are available on the SPA alumni/ae website or by scanning the QR code at left.

Upper School Winter One-Acts



Middle School Winter Instrumental Concert

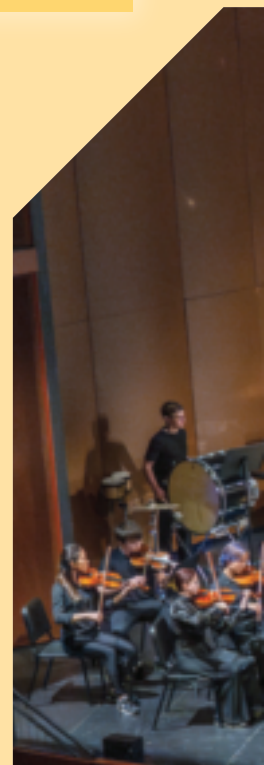


For more photos from
SPA's student performances,
visit stpaulacademy.smugmug.com

Middle School Musical, *Matilda*



Middle School Winter Choral Concert



Middle/Upper Jazz Band Cabaret



Upper School Vocal/Orchestral Spring Concert and Community Chorale



ST. PAUL ACADEMY
AND SUMMIT SCHOOL

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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 651-696-1308.

Middle School Social Studies teacher
Bobak Razavi with his Grade 7 advisory.



“Our advisory program is at the core of what we do—the foundation of our Middle School community is built on advisory.”

– Virginia Andres

READ MORE IN OUR COVER STORY ON PAGE 13