Austen Earl ’97: The highs and lows of a TV writer

Grateful Dead lyricist Barlow on the band’s prep school impact

25 years of Ohrstrom Library
A WORKER REPLACES WINDOW CASINGS IN HARGATE / PHOTO: PERRY SMITH
Sports in Context at St. Paul’s

Not long ago, a friend expressed to me his surprise that Harvard College had recently admitted a student from IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla. IMG’s mission is to provide a strong academic program for high-performing athletes – it subsumed Bollettieri Academy, which in the 1980s and 90s was the training ground for many outstanding tennis players. I was surprised by my friend’s surprise actually. No societal phenomenon in the last 25 years has had a more profound impact on independent secondary schools – their missions and curricula – than the influence of athletics on the college admission process. Period.

Many philosophically nimble schools have used athletics as one way to raise their profile through higher admission rates to the country’s most competitive universities. Some of the schools that have “doubled down” on athletics have done so successfully. They argue that the enhanced focus on elite athletes and their contributions to their communities have strengthened the schools by attracting other students with the promise of selective college admission.

Discussion of the role of athletics at St. Paul’s has been vibrant. Over the last five years, after consultation with the dean of admission and the athletic director of a well-known university, our trustees formed a task force to study the independent school landscape and our place within it with regard to athletics. The strategic synthesis of this work and the many conversations we have had internally about athletics resulted in this consensus: St. Paul’s School should continue to provide an athletic program in ways that enhance strong teams and support students who aspire to play sports in college – all within the context of our mission to educate the whole child.

This balance has been a hallmark of the School for years, providing students with opportunities to grow in all the critical ways they can – including through an approach to sports that does not sacrifice the elements of our curriculum that promote intellectual, spiritual, and creative development. We are a school committed to providing many opportunities for our students to discover and develop their passions – in Greek class, the robotics lab, the Oates Performing Arts Center, and every other venue here at SPS. To some, our commitment to this balance may appear in the current secondary-school climate to be counter-cultural.

Earlier this spring, I announced to the School community that, following the 2016-17 school year, we will withdraw from the Independent School League. We are doing so because we were found in violation of league bylaws concerning merit-based financial aid. The School currently has three merit-based scholarships – the Cook (1973), the Greene (2005), and the Ross (2006). These scholarships have brought the School more than 110 remarkable students from Montana, Alabama, and Northern New Jersey, respectively, and have been transformational for SPS. They have never been used as athletic scholarships. Over the course of months of conversation with the league, it became clear that our continued membership would require one of two actions: prohibit scholarship winners from participating in the ISL or convert the merit-based awards to need-based awards. Neither option was viable in the context of our mission.

Our departure from the ISL does not signal a change in the School’s philosophy regarding athletics – we will continue our commitment to a strong athletic program, one predicated on serving all students, including support for those who wish to compete in college. Most importantly, student learning and growth will remain at the center of what we do.

The Independent School League continues to affirm many values we admire and adhere to, and I hope our departure will not change our relationships with member schools. I am confident that we can continue – and even enhance – some of these relationships.

Above all, our focus will be on doing what is best for our students in this distinctive learning environment, understanding that our athletic program provides one rich context, among many, for their learning and growth.

Michael G. Hirschfeld ’85
WHO THE HELL WRITES THIS CRAP?

A year in the life of a very average TV writer / by Austen Earl ’97

ROAD CREW

Reflecting on the first interscholastic crew race at SPS – 65 years later
by Fergus Reid III ’51

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow on impacting a prep school generation
by Jamie Young ’85

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Software engineer Mark Edmond ’95 looks at the data behind monikers
by J. Brown/M. Edmond ’95

ON THE COVER: Life as a TV writer can be stressful, according to Austen Earl ’97.
Sketch artist: Jim Roldan
On April 11, and after many months of consideration, Rector Mike Hirschfeld ’85 informed the Steering Committee of the Independent School League that St. Paul’s School has decided to withdraw its athletic program from ISL play.

While for 43 seasons St. Paul’s has enjoyed the competition, spirit of integrity, fair play, and camaraderie among the 16 member schools, the School chose to withdraw out of respect for league bylaws. Three merit-based scholarships offered to SPS students are in violation of an ISL bylaw prohibiting member schools from offering non-need-based financial aid. For this reason, and because of the School’s commitment to offering admission to students from many different backgrounds, St. Paul’s has elected to give up its ISL membership.

“There is no ambiguity concerning the fact that, since 1973, innumerable St. Paul’s School students have benefited from the lessons ISL competition has provided them,” Hirschfeld wrote to the ISL Steering Committee. “Out of respect for the league’s prohibition of merit-based financial aid, and in light of our own evolving thinking about financial aid and access, St. Paul’s School is withdrawing from the Independent School League.”

The decision represents neither a change in the School’s admission policy nor a change to the mission of SPS athletics.

Hirschfeld shared with the Trustees in an April 12 letter that, in the future, St. Paul’s athletes will compete, but not exclusively so, in what was established in the fall of 2015 as the “Five Schools League.” Member schools include Andover, Exeter, Choate, Deerfield, and Northfield Mount Hermon.

In announcing the league’s formation last fall, Choate Athletic Director Ned Gallagher said that, similar to the ISL, the Five Schools were “a group of like-minded schools, each committed to maintaining an education-based athletic program. As such, our teams and student-athletes operate within a context that places academic and community values first and foremost.”

With the addition of St. Paul’s, the group will become the “Six Schools League” (SSL). The exception to SSL participation will be the SPS football program, which Hirschfeld is hopeful will continue to compete as a non-league opponent with some of its ISL rivals as well as other New England independent schools.

“We remain committed to providing the very best competition for SPS athletes.”

“We remain committed to providing the very best competition for SPS athletes,” said Hirschfeld.

St. Paul’s School currently offers three merit-based scholarships; the Cook for students from Montana, the Greene for students from Alabama, and the Ross for students from Northern New Jersey. The Cook, established in 1973 — the same year St. Paul’s joined the ISL — pre-dates the Greene and the Ross, and had been granted an exception to the league bylaw through more than four decades of competition. Cook scholars, like Greene and Ross scholars, are selected on the basis of character and academic accomplishment, not athletic achievement.

Director of Admission Scott Bohan ’94 pointed to the generosity of SPS families, in part through regional scholarships, as a primary reason the School is able to attract students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Though St. Paul’s would not have made the decision to withdraw from the ISL if not in violation of the bylaw prohibiting merit-based scholarships, SPS Athletic Director Scott Heitmiller ’81 said there are some positives to the transition.

“While we are sad to leave the ISL, this will actually give our athletic teams the flexibility to create more parity in their schedules,” said Heitmiller.

To ease the SPS transition out of the ISL, and in an effort to respect the scheduling of the 15 other member schools, Hirschfeld proposed to the Steering Committee that St. Paul’s maintain an ISL schedule as a non-member through the 2016-17 academic year, abiding by all rules, though SPS teams would be ineligible to qualify for ISL titles. The decision on that proposal was accepted at a meeting of the ISL athletic directors.

“We have the utmost respect for the ISL and all of its member schools,” said Hirschfeld, “and we are sad to have to make this decision. We will miss the many strong rivalries and relationships we have formed through athletics and our common commitment to the character development of our students.”

Hirschfeld said that it is his sincerest hope that the School will maintain those relationships into the future, and that SPS student-athletes might continue to benefit from competition with many – if not all – ISL schools through non-league play.
Revisiting Salem

Eighty percent of the 184 students admitted to St. Paul’s School for 2016–17 have decided to enroll at the School in the fall. The 147 new students include 73 boys and 74 girls. The yield is the highest ever for the School, eclipsing last year’s figure of 79 percent.

“We knew that such a talented group of accepted students would have many great options,” said Director of Admission Scott Bohan ’94, “but 80 percent of them chose SPS. This says a lot about what people see when they visit our school – they want to be a part of it.”

Similar to numbers in recent years, 1461 students applied to St. Paul’s for the 2016–17 academic year. Of that number, only 13 percent were offered admission to the School.

Among the 184 admitted students are 92 girls and 92 boys from 26 states and 14 countries, including Brazil, Finland, France, Switzerland, and Vietnam, among others. A total of 964 students applied for the Third Form, 325 for the Fourth Form, and 172 for the Fifth Form. New student enrollment includes 102 Third Formers, 30 Fourth Formers, and 15 Fifth Formers.

Of particular note is that 100 percent of admitted Fourth Form girls accepted the School’s offer of admission. Overall, 78 percent of accepted female students have chosen to enroll at SPS. Of the newly admitted students, 64 (43.5%) will receive some form of financial aid. Overall, 41 percent of all students enrolled at St. Paul’s will receive tuition assistance in 2016–17. Included in the enrollment numbers for 2016–17 are 32 (21.7%) direct SPS legacies. There are 33 (22.4%) new students of color. Nineteen percent of all new students live outside of the United States. Total School enrollment for the Fall Term is expected to be around 531 students.

“The process was remarkably rewarding this year,” said Bohan. “We had truly talented and nice students in the applicant pool, and ultimately we accepted an incredible group of young people. They will be wonderful additions to the community in many ways.”
I woke up my first night in Brewster House to the ringing of the Chapel bells across the meadow, thinking, “Will these Chapel bells chime all night?”

Within the first week, I quickly grew tired enough to fall asleep. Never having attended or taught in a boarding school before, I took on the role of head of house, English teacher, and adviser to The Pelican. My new job challenged me from early morning to late at night, but gradually, as I grew more confident and comfortable living in community, I found my passion working with teenagers.

Positive changes have been made, under six different Rectors in 25 years, to strengthen the curriculum and enhance the residential life of both the students and faculty who live and work at St. Paul’s. We have become a more humane community, rich with opportunities for both adults and students to continue to learn.

When I arrived with my young family, I told my military parents, who knew little about independent schools, that living in Millville was much like living on an Army fort, where the generals lived in the big houses and the soldiers lived in the barracks. The surrounding acres of woods, ponds, and paths provided safe, friendly playing spaces for my two sons to grow up, and the wonderfully diverse student body gave them a taste of the broader world. I discovered that “living in one another’s back pockets” in Millville could be both positive and negative. Faculty families looked after one another’s children and supported each another daily. I learned never to grow too angry with a colleague, because we might sit across a table in the Upper sharing a meal that same day.

In the 1990s, we rushed to Seated Meals four days a week, sometimes immediately after a 5:15 p.m. class. Today we enjoy seated dinners with white tablecloths and candlelight several times a term and have meaningful, informal dinners with our advisees all year. Dorm life has also improved. In my first year, only two faculty members lived in Brewster House, and a third faculty member joined our advising team from outside the house. Together we three rotated duty every third night and advised up to 13 students each. We were just learning the depth of our responsibilities, but we shared good advising instincts. Today at least five faculty advisers work in each house, and advisee loads are limited to six, facilitating relationships between faculty, students, and parents. Duty rotation is a manageable once-a-week commitment, and faculty are regularly trained on academic advising, boundary issues, diversity, adolescent development, and risky teen behavior.

I participated in the redesign of the English and History Departments into the humanities program in the early 90s. I still remember the angst of parents when we introduced this curriculum in the Third Form. How would our students ever learn history? Could an art teacher teach writing? Would an English teacher understand a timeline? We grew as teachers, collaborating every day and learning together with our students. The Third Formers in that first year cleverly created form T-shirts, with caricatures of the six teachers and the slogan: Stop the Insanity. Stop Humanities. We didn’t stop it. Years later, teachers from around the world come to observe the School’s successful humanities program.

I sit now in Chapel closer to Coffin’s Corner than I ever imagined. I remember my early trepidation about joining an Episcopal school with Chapel four days a week, hymn singing, and formal Evensongs. Chapel has become my favorite time of day, the chiming bells a reminder of what I was meant to do.

Candy Dale
Humanities Faculty
It was important to me,” shares former longtime SPS Librarian Rosemarie Cassels-Brown in a recent interview with Alumni Horae, “to let the students feel it was their library.”

The move would have been a lot easier to manage with the 350-book collection maintained by the School as far back as 1858. But the collection grew rapidly from its infancy, according to Cassels-Brown, doubling every few years.

It’s hard to fathom that it has now been more than 25 years since Ohrstrom Library first opened its own hallowed doors on January 14, 1991. The new library was first conceived in conversations between Eighth Rector Bill Oates and Cassels-Brown. Initially, the Board of Trustees considered an addition to Sheldon, but abandoned the plan as unfeasible late in 1986. In the spring of 1987, architect Robert A.M. Stern, parent of Nicholas Stern ’86 and a self-described fan of the School’s architectural history, presented a site proposal and preliminary sketches for a new, yet-to-be-named library. Care was taken, says Cassels-Brown, to ensure as a priority the mirroring of the comfortable study spaces for students that existed in Sheldon.

“We were aware that, in spite of the size and sophistication of the new building,” she says, “it had to be a place in a fully residential school where students would feel at home.”

The plan was accepted by the Trustees and the Library Review Committee, and ground was broken for construction of the new facility near Lower School Pond on June 4, 1988.

Eighteen months later, on December 12, 1990, Anne Locke, a beloved SPS librarian, closed Sheldon Library for the final time, turning the key just before the School convened for Christmas Break. On the eve of the Last Night Service, December 11, 1990, Reverend Clark had read A Christmas Carol, surrounded by faculty and students, at a closing event, capturing the spirit of the holiday season and honoring nine decades of service for Sheldon as a library.

Today, the library maintains its founding mission . . . of “supporting the teaching and research at the School in very much the same way as when we first moved in.”

– Kevin Barry
Director of Ohrstrom Library
“We do not mourn for Sheldon, however,” wrote Reverend Clark in the Spring 1991 Alumni Horae, “because our plans for its future envisage much use by important offices, and much coming and going there by students, faculty, alumni, and friends.”

Cassels-Brown retired two years later, and Bob Rettew ’69 became the director of Ohrstrom Library, beginning in the summer of 1993. The design of Ohrstrom was forward-thinking, says Cassels-Brown, citing the card catalog stations in the building’s main entryway that were placed there for simple conversion at the right time to computer stations. Rettew accomplished that transition in 1995. He also co-created the School’s first “smart” classroom in the lower level of Ohrstrom and initiated the digitization of School resources, beginning with Alumni Horae.

Though Ohrstrom officially opened in January of 1991, it took the library staff close to three months to shelve the 65,000 volumes after their journey to the new site. That process was complete in time for the weekend of April 20–21, 1991, when the building was officially dedicated, with Board President James Kinnear ’46 and fellow Trustees Edmund Pillsbury ’61 and George Ohrstrom ’45 helping to usher in the new era.

On Saturday, April 20, Mr. Kinnear spoke at a dinner celebrating the library’s official inauguration. There he posed the question, “Why do we need a library?” He answered his own query by declaring, “This library will be encouragement for academic excellence. It will provide instant availability of the wisdom of the ages. It will provide for serious interchange of ideas among our students and faculty…”

Times have changed since Cassels-Brown used to make regular visits to the New England Book Fair, where she would load up her personal vehicle with books for transport back to St. Paul’s. “It became clear to us over the last several years,” says current Director Kevin Barry, “that information needed to be deliverable outside the walls of Ohrstrom – 24/7.”

Today, the library maintains its founding mission, adds Barry, of “supporting the teaching and research at the School in very much the same way as when we first moved in. The critical change is the shape of the content and the way it is delivered.” Barry cites the School’s 500,000 e-books, 26,000 streaming video resources, user-driven acquisitions (determined by an algorithm that measures the most commonly accessed online resources) and much, much more. He is quick to share that the School has always been blessed with a skilled, dedicated, and knowledgeable library staff.

“It is not difficult to imagine nor pious to hope,” wrote Reverend Clark in the spring of 1991, “that someday someone else will write of some of our eminent graduates that what a future generation has come to cherish of their life and thought had something to do with their education in Millville and the books they read in Ohrstrom Library.”
Loading boats for transport to Lake Quinsigamond for the Worcester Regatta, May 25, 1951. (Photos: SPS Archives)
On the 65th anniversary of the occasion, the author recalls the first interscholastic crew race in SPS history

by Fergus Reid III ’51

This article is a tribute to the author’s dear friend, former Halcyon captain Stephen Reynolds ’51, who died on April 28, 2016.
History

After 80 years of intramural rowing at St. Paul’s School, history was made in the spring of 1951, when the School allowed SPS crews to compete in their first “outside” race. This year, 2016, celebrates the 65th anniversary of that important event. Prior to 1951, St. Paul’s School boasted a rich rowing tradition – the envy of many schools and even some colleges – but, with the two-club intramural system, SPS oarsmen had competed solely against one another.

SPS boys began rowing on Lower School Pond in 1857. The sport became more competitive and formalized in 1870, when then-Rector Dr. Henry A. Coit formed the Halcyon and Shattuck Boat Clubs. The two clubs practiced together, commencing formal competition on Long Pond in 1871. Interest in rowing grew quickly and, by the early 1900s, while the new sport of baseball had been banned by the Rector for being “too rowdy” for SPS students, crew had replaced cricket as the School’s most popular sport. More than one third of St. Paul’s students rowed in either a Halcyon or Shattuck eight-oared boat on Race Day, but in an effort to protect the School’s club rowing tradition, SPS crews were not allowed to compete interscholastically.

In the fall of 1950, roommates Stephen Reynolds ’51 and myself, Fergus Reid III ’51, captains of the Halcyon and Shattuck crews, were determined to try and change this restrictive policy. Both of us came from families with long traditions of rowing at St. Paul’s School. Reynolds’s brother, Marcus ’45, captained the Halcyon crew. Stephen and his brother, Kenneth ’50, went on to captain Yale’s varsity heavy-weight crews in 1954 and 1955, respectively. My father, Fergus Reid, Jr. of the Form of 1919, captained the Shattuck crew, as did my brother, Bill Reid ’52, and my nephew, Sam Reid ’81.

Reynolds and I felt competing against other schools could only strengthen the St. Paul’s rowing program. So, after securing the critical support and encouragement of our coach, Percy Preston, we petitioned the School’s trustees for permission to enter the New England Interscholastic Regatta (NEIRA), to be held in Worcester, Mass., in May 1951.

The SPS trustees had serious concerns about the impact “outside” races might have on the club system. They did not want to damage or dilute participation in the School’s highly successful intramural program or diminish the focus and excitement that surrounded the Anniversary Boat Races in early June. They were also concerned about the expense of regatta participation. In 1951, the estimated cost to transport shells and bus crews to and from a race location was $300, a sum more than the trustees seemed willing to allocate.

After several months of deliberation, the trustees finally gave their approval. Thus, 80 years after the first Halcyon-Shattuck boat race on Long Pond, St. Paul’s oarsmen were allowed to test themselves against the best crews in New England.

There was, however, one important condition attached to the trustees’ approval: No SPS varsity crew would be permitted to compete. The School would be represented at the NEIRA regatta by the top crews from Halcyon and Shattuck – not as SPS crews.

In early March, both clubs began training on the indoor rowing machines and, on April 7, when the ice finally broke on Long Pond, the crews took to the water immediately. For the next six weeks, practice was intense under the watchful eye of Coach Preston. Finally, on May 26, 1951, the time came to depart for Worcester’s Lake Quinsigamond.

Pre-race speculation had the Halcyon crew as the stronger contender. Their crew was a bit heavier, and they had four returning veterans in addition to captain Reynolds, including Archie Alexander ’51, Hovey Clark ’51, Ken Ives ’51, and Mike Metcalf ’51. There were, however, those who felt the Shattuck oars might be quicker and blade work a bit more precise. The Shattuck boat, in addition to me, captain Reid, only had the powerful George Christian ’51 returning. But with Bill Reid, our veteran coxswain, we were thought to have a good chance.

Kent School out of Connecticut, however, was another story. They were heavily favored by reason of tradition and experience, and there was a fear among some that SPS might be trounced, proving the fledgling efforts to compete beyond the intramural program a mistake. At that time, Kent was generally considered to be to rowing what SPS was to hockey in the years before artificial ice.

On May 26, 1951, undaunted by the reputation of our opponents, the two SPS crews boarded the buses for the drive from Concord to Worcester. When we arrived at Lake Quinsigamond, we found our assigned boathouse, unloaded the shells, and waited.
The Race

After what seemed like an eternity, the time finally came for the SPS rowers to launch the boats and make our way out to the starting line for the race. The water was calm and the weather cool and clear for the one-mile championship event.

Once settled at the starting line, the five eight-man shells – Kent, Shrewsbury, Tabor, and the Shattucks and Halcyons – sat nervously and quietly. In the Halcyon boat, Reynolds turned his head slightly and looked toward me in the Shattuck boat, just beyond the Kent boat, and smiled. I nodded and returned the salute.

All boats got off quickly, rowing at about 40 strokes per minute. As the crews settled, Tabor and Shrewsbury began to fall back, while Kent had already surged into second place, with a slight lead over Kent’s lead continued to grow, while the Shattucks settled, Tabor and Shrewsbury began to fall back, while Kent had already surged into the lead. At the quarter-mile mark, Reynolds turned his head slightly and looked toward me in the Shattuck boat, just beyond the Kent boat, and smiled. I nodded and returned the salute.

At the half-mile mark, Kent maintained a solid lead, but Reynolds’s Halcyons were really beginning to close, with the Shattuck boat still keeping pace. At the three-quarter-mile mark, the Halcyons had easily taken over second place, with the Shattuck crew still in a close third. Both boats were beginning to reel Kent back, seat by seat. The final quarter mile was a thriller, as the Halcyon and Shattuck boats gained water on Kent with every stroke. All three crews raised their beats as they drove toward the finish line.

The final result was in doubt until the very end. When the flag went down, the strong Kent crew had crossed the line a mere two seconds ahead of the Halcyon boat to take the victory, while the Shattucks finished third, two seconds behind Halcyon. At the time, The Pelican recorded the finishing times as: Kent 5:18; Halcyon 5:20; Shattuck 5:22.

It was a memorable day for both SPS crews; we had met the challenge of a very fine opponent. As the oarsmen boarded the buses for the return trip to Concord, several of us could not help asking, “How would we have done if we had entered one varsity boat?”

One week later, Anniversary Race Day for all eight crews of each club was successfully rowed on Long Pond. Once again, Reynolds’s strong Halcyon boat outdid the Shattucks. The Worcester adventure had not tarnished the luster of the day in any way. The traditional Flagpole Ceremony drew an especially large crowd, and captain Reynolds was presented with the Dole Cup by my father, recognizing Halcyon as winner of the majority of the day’s crew races.

Postscript

There was one cloud hanging over the ceremonies at the flagpole that day; the Concord City Council had just ordered Long Pond closed to all boating activities as a result of concern for the quality of water in this important reservoir. Thus, more than 80 years of rowing on Long Pond came to an end, and the new era of rowing began – at the club and interscholastic levels – on Turkey Pond.

Winter Sports Highlights

The alpine ski teams placed first and third, respectively, in the Lakes Region.

Skiers ruled a nearly snowless winter as the Nordic and alpine teams earned league and regional honors. The girls captured the NEPSAC Nordic title, as Lucy Hochschartner ’16, Tessa Schrupp ’16, and Ellora Sen ’17 earned All–New England honors. Orion Watson ’16 joined Hochschartner and Schrupp as Lakes Region all–stars. The girls Alpine team won the Lakes Region Championship and took second in New England in the combined slalom and giant slalom. Harley Hayes ’17, Mari Nakamura ’19, and Isabel Chobor ’17 earned both slalom and GS honors from the Lakes Region.

Boys alpine skiers James Lee ’16 and Oliver Van Everen ’16 earned Lakes Region honors, while helping the boys to third in both events.

In hockey action, All–ISL players Isabel Stoddard ’17, Finley Frechette ’17 (13g,18a), and Gillis Frechette ’18 (31g, 11a) led the SPS girls (18–7–1) to another NE tournament appearance and second in the ISL. As a team, the Big Red gave up only 16 shots and 1.54 goals per game. The girls hockey team.

Fifth Former Emiliana Geronimo was the SPS representative on the ISL’s girls basketball all–star squad, helping the Big Red to an 11–win season.

Wrestlers Sam Dickey ’16 and Alex Feye ’17 earned both All–ISL and All–New England honors in their respective weight classes.

Henry Parkhurst ’16 (All–ISL) earned the ISL’s individual sportsmanship award and helped SPS to a share of the New England team sportsmanship award.

The boys basketball team earned the ISL’s team sportsmanship trophy.

Boys JV

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Grand Total

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In an interview with Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow, the author explores the spell the band cast on the boarding school culture of his era and how it initiated the music-sharing economy that exists today.

by Jamie Young ’85
It’s Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at 4:20 p.m., and I’m standing in front of 212 Clayton Street in The Haight in San Francisco. I’m meeting John Perry Barlow, Grateful Dead lyricist, philosopher, Harvard Fellow, and generally fascinating individual, to talk to him about music, writing, collaborating with Grateful Dead founding member Bob Weir, life with the band, and whatever else he wants to discuss. Barlow and Weir, as it turns out, first met 53 years ago at Fountain Valley, a Colorado boarding school, and have remained best friends throughout their lives.

John Perry has been very sick lately and, despite this, agreed to sit down with me for a wide-ranging discussion. One of the subjects I want to explore with him is the influence the music and the myth of the Dead had on life at St. Paul’s School over at least a 20-year span. Grateful Dead music was anachronistic from the outset, but certainly by my time at SPS, the early through mid-1980s, while absurdly out of the mainstream, this wacky, improvisational, unpredictable songbook became a soundtrack for many of our lives. SPS wasn’t distinct in this regard, however, and I wanted to ask John Perry if the band was aware of the fascination level in the prep school and college world of the Northeast and what he – what the band collectively – thought about it.

Did the band ever talk about the Grateful Dead subculture that existed at boarding schools in New England like SPS? Many of us were drawn into it, trading bootlegs, traveling to concerts when we could, listening to little else . . . maybe some Dylan, a little Neil Young.

It was discussed. I was mystified by it. All those fancy prep schools. John F. Kennedy, Jr., who attended Choate, was a close friend, and at his 18th birthday party I met his roommate, who is still a friend of mine. He told me that the GD was more important to him than his family, his religion, and his school. I said, ‘Ha! You need to readjust your priorities, young man.’ It was remarkable.
The music of the Grateful Dead is something like a superbug. Once exposed, those of us who were at all susceptible (and, to be clear, not everybody was), slowly, insidiously our perfectly reasonable music collections consisting of more conventional bands like Led Zeppelin, Rolling Stones, The Police, The Cars, Crosby Stills and Nash were supplanted. They were relegated to the back burner, replaced by an ever-growing collection of hissy-sounding cassette “bootlegs” of Grateful Dead concerts, going back as far as the late 1960s.

Fifth and Sixth Formers had something of a sixth sense for younger students who might become Dead faithful, and made certain those willing were introduced to the sounds of the Grateful Dead experience, usually by repeated listenings of the sine qua non bootleg by which all others at SPS would be judged: The Fox Theater, Atlanta Georgia 11/30/80, or simply, “The Fox.”

Those first listen to crackling audience recordings of an obscure concert traded and reproduced on analog tapes countless times – degrading just a little bit each time – is a shock to the ears. It’s a bit like the first taste of an oyster; interesting, but off-putting at the same time. The music is insidious, though, a little like a Trojan horse, meaning, once inside your psyche it won’t easily let you go. I asked a few of my formmates for their thoughts on this.

Of course, as with religion and politics, the Grateful Dead remains a subject of strong debate.

**Andrew Corsello ’85:** Even now, the SPS/Dead thing mystifies and tasks me. You know how when you travel to foreign countries and people ask, ‘Monsieur, what is it with you Americans and your guns?’ and despite your best efforts to lay it all out, you ultimately end up holding your head in your hands and mumbling, ‘I dunno, man, it’s just…madness.’ That’s what it’s like for me whenever people who weren’t at SPS in the 1980s but know something about it ask, ‘Dude, what is it with you Paulies and the Grateful Dead?’

**Charlie Shaffer ’85:** My take is that the allure was due to the band’s ability to produce spontaneous content every night. Also, we were living in a uniquely pre-digital time period. Bootlegs were something like baseball cards in that they were physical artifacts that we collected, traded, and indulged in because of their inherent scarcity. Sure you could record them if you had equipment, but that process took time and energy. And the term bootleg itself implied an ill-gotten, smuggled treasure.

I remember writing the playlist and personalizing the covers of the Maxell tapes with Grateful Dead sketches. Each one was carefully rendered and preserved and represented a piece of time and sound stolen from history.

So, while it was the music that created such a deep connection, the medium, i.e. fragile cassettes with handwritten lists and drawings, was a huge part of the message. We were archivists and archaeologists, and the tapes were a physical connection with a tie we thought might be lost forever.
The tape-trading culture...

Whether you embraced Grateful Dead music at SPS or not, one thing was undeniable: As a Paulie in the early 1980s, nobody could escape the sounds of *Scarlet Begonias* into *Fire on the Mountain* thumping through the walls at Conover-Twenty or the Upper as we put on our jackets and ties for Seated Meal and were granted a 30-minute, tune-cranking session by the powers that were. Everybody in the dorm would turn the stereos as loud as possible between 5:30 and 6 p.m., creating a musical stew audible campus-wide.

If you took to the Grateful Dead and were ambitious enough, within short order you could grow a concert collection of 20 to 30 bootlegs. An extremely focused (i.e. obsessed) individual could quickly expand to several briefcases of TDK cassettes, filled with over a hundred concerts to share and trade with fellow Deadheads.

I asked Barlow about the tape-trading culture, as not everybody in the band necessarily agreed it was copacetic for fans – including devoted SPS students – to tape and trade concert recordings. No other band had ever allowed it, and the counter-argument was that giving away free music would destroy album sales, possibly bankrupt the band. Those in favor won out, and the rest was history. The tape-trading culture was a fixture of Grateful Dead lore from that point forward, including at St. Paul’s.

Fast forward to the late 1990s. The Internet was exploding and the first iterations of the “sharing economy,” including controversial music-streaming sites such as Napster and others, were making music available online. For free! Barlow was a massive contributor to Internet culture during that period, being dubbed “the Thomas Jefferson of Cyberspace.” In fact, he is credited with coining the term “cyberspace,” and is considered an important contributor to Internet culture and society, penning seminal articles such as *Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace*, *The Economy of Ideas* and *Crime and Puzzlement*, among many others. I asked him about the Internet.

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**What do you think about the way we live vicariously through social media now?**

*What comes at you out of that screen is not experience. It is information. Information is alienated experience. It’s got as much relationship to experience as beef jerky does to cows. I’d say we could lay claim to inventing viral marketing (through tape trading). We had viral sharing of songs and concerts and that created obsessive new Deadheads. It worked well for us. We did just fine financially, not so much from record sales, but our records weren’t all that good anyway.***

**But why the fascination at boarding schools like SPS? For me personally, attending the concerts was a feeling of freedom, young and free in America to cut loose a bit and forget about convention.**

*It might have been the longing for a sense of belonging to something real, something dangerous. Among the Deadheads, you were in a community of strangers who would risk their lives for you. And you belonged there. People need experiences. They need to go on quests. They need to feel like they’re outside their areas of understanding and they need to learn about magic. That’s one of the things the Deadheads were terrific about. They’d head off on tour with four Deadheads and a dog, a microbus with three working cylinders, and $2.68 in change, and somehow they knew they would get through the thing just by synchronicity and belief.*
Nick Hutchinson ’85, a musician in the Denver area, experienced the Dead just as Barlow explained, and it has influenced his life ever since: “Around the summer of 1987, I had fallen in love with the music of the Dead and I decided I’d take a serious stab at learning to play the guitar because I wanted to be involved with music on the performance side. Three decades later, I continue to wrestle with my musical obsession, all thanks to a flash in my late adolescence. Losing oneself in the music can be very therapeutic. I remember the moments at Grateful Dead concerts when both the band and the audience seemed to meld. Those were nice experiences of what some might call magic.”

Estimated > Eyes, China > Rider, Scarlet > Fire… just great stories and great vehicles for improvisational music, played a little differently every time.

(Laughs) The funny thing is I don’t have the slightest idea about these song transitions that have you guys so captivated. I think it’s very interesting, and I decided at a certain point that the reason you did that was because (Robert) Hunter and I wouldn’t give you a dogma, so you decided to go into the only part that you collectively realized you controlled… what the band would play next. Because it was actually up to you (the audience). There were never set lists; the audience would manifest a song and that would be what got played. The band knew that and looked at the song order as their spiritual production.

So conventional…
Indeed.

At a January 2016 gathering of ’85 faithful in Keystone, Colorado…

When I talk to people about St. Paul’s, about returning for reunions and maintaining close friendships with classmates from 30–plus years ago and the feeling that nothing has changed in that span, most look at me in disbelief. “You’ve been friends for 35 years?” The merits of the music aside, like it or hate it; I think there’s something of this continuity, this sense of family, in the Grateful Dead, something timeless and enduring. If nothing else, the culture, or the music as a continuing presence, has set a frame for long-lasting friendships. Perhaps that was doubly made true by our coming of age together at boarding school.

At a recent gathering of the faithful in Keystone, Colorado, Nate Downey ’85 reflected on the connection between close friendships of our era and our shared love for the music and lyrics of the Grateful Dead.

“Would our friendships have endured if the lyrical aura of Hunter and Barlow were substituted by Bowie and Byrne? Probably,” said Downey. “But in the context of a school full of kids from all over the globe, the music brought people together. That was critical. The improvisational nature of the music was a source of psychological inspiration to us and continues to be. The band’s songwriting was an essential ingredient of its success, and I guess that’s what keeps us coming back to the well.”

Front row (l. to r.): John Trevor, Johnny Greene, Steve Vehslage, Charlie Newton; row 2: Jamie Young, Nick Hutchinson, Andy Corsello, Charlie Shaffer, Haydn Cutler; row 3: Richard Baldwin, Chris Wirth ’86, Dave Foulke, Tim Billings, Mike Karnow, Will Maeck, John Britton, Back Row: Bart Quillen, Nate Downey, Court Faucett.
WHO THE HELL WRITES THIS CRAP?

A Year in the Life of a Very Average TV Writer

by austen earl '97
WARNING: If you’re looking to learn something useful about Hollywood, please close this magazine, log into the SPS alumni directory, and contact Nicholas Stoller ’94 or James Vanderbilt ’94, who will have 7–10 TV and film projects released in the time it takes you to read this article.

MONDAY
02
FEBRUARY

It’s NBC on the line!

With seemingly every other writer in town. Ordering their comedy pilots for filming. My phone is silent. Except for random friends I now hate for making my phone buzz with texts like “What’s that place you like with the pickles? Sorry wrong person.”

The day ends with disappointment

After six months of work, NBC has decided to pass on the Sebastian pilot written by Austen Earl. My agent tells me she’s sorry. I say, “It’s fine, writing it was a great experience, I learned a lot, and dnsijgUDN5AGLASDGNsjaosdamsoimfe.” It gets harder for her to understand me due to all the depression pills I’m popping into my mouth.
FEBRUARY 3 – Laugh in disgust
Like almost everything that sells in Hollywood these
days, this concept is somehow “based on the true-life
story of the writer.” Spend the next 16 minutes stewing
on why this pilot is getting made over mine. How is this a
relatable concept? Who would want to watch it? And it’s
so predictable. Let me guess – the Manhattan match-
maker is the no-nonsense woman of Cupid’s dreams,
but also the one person on Earth who seems impervious
to his charms? Laugh in disgust when I see that become
truth on p.13 and then look around the Silverlake café
I’m in. Quickly realize it’s 11 a.m. and this place is packed
full of recently rejected writers who are all doing the
same thing with different scripts.

FEBRUARY 8:30 a.m.
Ah, the sweet freedom of unemployment.
Up early to start deleting the real
estate apps that were helping me find
the dream home my wife and I would
buy after the pilot got made, ordered
to series, and then sold into syndication eight years
later. Luckily we love our current house. The builder
somehow perfectly harnessed that magical feeling an
adult experiences when cramming himself into a kid’s
playhouse. Not helping it feel bigger are a set of toddler
twins, the parrot, and the incontinent Chihuahua. All of
whom seem to need something from me right now.

10:30 a.m.
I lie to my wife (who is two steps away on the far end of
the house) and say I need to go to a café to brainstorm
projects for next year. End up reading the scripts of
every pilot ordered over mine. Lots of good ones, but
also some super questionable ones. Like one called I’m
With Cupid. The logline: “His powers rendered useless in
this modern Tinder age, the immortal god of romance
teams up with Manhattan’s leading matchmaker to
bring true love back to the human race.”

FEBRUARY 3 – Laugh in disgust
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I’m in. Quickly realize it’s 11 a.m. and this place is packed
full of recently rejected writers who are all doing the
same thing with different scripts.

MAY 11 – Great news!
The I’m With Cupid pilot tested huge with a Las Vegas test
audience made up of 20 still-drunk people who waddled
over to the screening room in flip-flops that would’ve
been thrown away long ago if not for the invention of duct
tape. These are all people who’d lost too much money
gambling to do anything else on a Sunday morning but
spend half an hour watching an unknown sitcom for the
promise of six inches of a Subway sandwich. And now
they’re deciding what TV shows major networks will
bring to your living room next fall. For me, that means
I’m sitting in the Cupid executive producer’s office, try-
ing to get a writing job on the show. Words coming out
of my mouth are – “It’s such a relatable concept! I would
totally watch this show!” And, “It was so refreshing how
you matched Q with the one woman who is impervious
to his charms!” (In the show, Cupid’s Earth name is Quincy
Pid, but he just goes by Q. Q Pid. Don’t argue with it, bro –
it comes from real life!)

JUNE 6 – Employed once again
I find my chair for the first day of the I’m With Cupid
writers’ room (“The Room”). I look around at the other nine
writers and wonder how we can all live in L.A. and be this
impossibly pale. The first thing we do (as is true in any
“Room”) is pick where we’re eating lunch that day. Getting
a free $15 lunch brought to you every day is by far the
best perk of being a TV writer. It’s also how you maintain a
core physique that can best be described as Swiss cheese
that’s been sitting in the hot sun. Except for the inevitable
one person that everyone on staff hates (if there isn’t one,
it’s you), this is a great group and as these hilarious people
start throwing ideas around, I start to think – this crazy
show might really work! Below the table, I download a
new real estate app that’s supposed to be sick and start
daydreaming about my future life in Hancock Park.
SEPTEMBER 9 – Table read goes well
After a summer of exciting brainstorming and writing sessions, the table read of the second episode goes very well. Solid laughs, actors really jelling in their parts, the story seems like the ideal second episode of the show. Then the network execs enter to deliver their notes. “This wasn’t as funny as we thought it would be. The characters didn’t seem to be connecting. Is this really the ideal story for our second episode?”

We writers walk back to “The Room,” squinting and shuffling along like a pack of nerdy vampires who’ve just been given the ability to be out in daylight. The summer of fun optimism is dragging behind us like a dying balloon. We pass two different writers’ rooms on the Fox lot and hear uproarious laughter from each. Both shows were created by Nicholas Stoller ’94. But he isn’t in either room because he’s off filming a sequel to one of his other hit movies. (Fun fact = Nicholas Stoller could buy eight cars and still not fill the number of enviable parking spaces he currently has reserved for him at various studios around town.)

OCTOBER 6 – 8:30 p.m.
After a lot of retooling, I’m With Cupid premieres. The critics love our show. “The Critics” are what I call my mother, sister, and wife’s parents. None of them work at the New York Times, which hates it.

OCTOBER 6 – 8:47 p.m.
Go online to see how the Twittersphere is reacting. Put my laptop in the garbage after reading the third version of the comment – “Who the hell writes this crap?”

OCTOBER 7 – 8:17 a.m.
After refreshing the go-to “overnight TV ratings” website for the 137th time, I see our show premiered to decent numbers. About five million people watched it. How do they measure that? No, seriously, I’d love for you to explain it to me. I have no idea.

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m.
Back in “The Room,” we’re spinning the “decent numbers” in ways that would make Washington lobbyists gag. “A lot of people were watching the World Series Wrap-Up on Fox Sports West – next week will be better.” “This is one of the best numbers for a Fox show in a non-Daylight Savings 8:30 timeslot since the third season of The Mindy Project.” Text wife – “U know how we want to buy a house? what about a staycation in Pasadena this Saturday?” Wife loves the idea. I book the trip.

10:19 a.m.
Hit confirm on non-refundable hotel reservation in Pasadena and look up to see our boss enter with news. Apparently network is concerned about the ratings and just threw out one of our future episode ideas. We’re working all weekend. Text wife: “remember that staycation? What about a WORK-cation?!”

SEPTEMBER 9 – Back in “The Room”
I delete the new sick real estate app and replace it with Airbnb. Text wife – “Would you be open to a Finnish couple crashing in our kids’ playroom from October 21st to the 29th?”
Austen Earl ’97 has been a television writer since 2005.

Among his credits are:

Writer/co-creator of the NBC comedy pilot *Sebastian Says*, which filmed in April 2016 and stars Sebastian Maniscalco, Tony Danza, Vanessa Lachey, and Megan Ferguson ’01.

Staff writer of the 2016 CBS TV series *Angel from Hell*, starring Jane Lynch and Kevin Pollak.

Story editor and staff writer of the CBS TV series *The Millers*, starring J.B. Smoove, Will Arnett, and Beau Bridges. The comedy ran from 2013 to 2015.

Staff Writer of the NBC sitcom *Up All Night*, starring Christina Applegate, Will Arnett, and Maya Rudolph. The series ran from 2011 to 2012.

10:31 a.m.
Show is definitely getting better and finding its legs, but the ratings won’t stop declining. We’ve worked so hard, but we’re in full Daylight Savings time and the World Series is long over.

You know you’re running out of excuses when you start trying to blame the bad numbers on the listeria outbreak at Chipotle. Everyone is cursing millennials who don’t watch TV and secretly calling our agents to see if they can get us meetings with “The Future.” Or as Hollywood likes to call it – Netflix.

TUESDAY
24
NOVEMBER

Step out of “The Room” to take a call from agent. She can’t get me Netflix right now (they’re not super interested in meeting with anyone from *Cupid*), but she has some good news – NBC wants to order a second episode of my *Sebastian* project. The project they didn’t pick up last February. What does that mean? No, seriously, I’d love for you to explain it to me. I have no idea. Basically they want me to write a new pilot for them, but don’t want to pay pilot money, so they’re calling it the second episode. I’d do this job for free, so I say yes. It’s new life, a little bit of extra money, and we can stop renting our kids’ playroom to funky Northern Europeans.
NOVEMBER 24 – 1:28 p.m.
Walk back into “The Room” and hide my smile by taking big bites out of a $13 prosciutto and buffalo mozzarella sandwich. See mozzarella squish out all sides of the bread and, after five months of endless free food, wish my stomach was even half that toned.

DECEMBER 9 – Show cancelled
Despite high praise from “The Critics,” Cupid is cancelled. Unemployed yet again, but have a pilot to write. Anything that keeps me out of that tiny dollhouse we call a home. Hole up in a Silverlake café that seems 80% less bitter with so many network decisions still left to be made. We’re all making TV! And by that I mean clicking on videos like a deaf guy in Berlin who just walked through a city full of people who learned sign language so they could say hello to him. It’s sensational. No wonder millennials don’t watch network TV.

FEBRUARY 1 – 11:22 a.m.
My episode 2 (cheap new pilot) has been finished for almost a month now and people at NBC claim to like it. But for 22 days, my phone has only buzzed with texts about whether or not I’ve seen Deadpool. WTF? Tomorrow is the one-year anniversary of the first “no” and everything is playing out like horrible déjà vu. Call friend to vent about the cruel fate, but he jokes that people never give the same gift two years in a row. That oddly makes me feel better.

FEBRUARY 2 – 1:51 p.m.
The phone rings. It’s NBC. They’re ordering the episode 2 (cheap new pilot). I am ecstatic. My agent tells me she’s excited. I say, “So am I! This is going to be such an awesome experience, I’m going to learn so much, and I...” It gets harder for her to understand me due to all the anxiety pills I’m popping into my mouth.

I’m With Cupid is a fictional show made up for the purposes of this article. Anyone with Hollywood connections who wants to make it happen, please contact me. The concept is loosely based on my true-life story.
Your name is more common in some professions than in others. Shown here are current St. Paul's student names by the professions in which they are most disproportionately represented.
What is in a NAME?

Software engineer Mark Edmond ’95 looks at the data behind monikers, including names of SPS students and how they might relate to future careers

by Jana F. Brown and Mark Edmond ’95
“If you have a big enough data set,” says Mark Edmond ’95, “you can see that there are patterns within that data.”

One pattern Edmond has explored in depth over the last year is that of first names, and their disproportionate appearance among certain professions.

A computer scientist and software engineer by trade, Edmond set out to prove – for fun – that certain names can be career predictors, launching his own testing site, Seattle–based Verdant Labs, in the summer of 2015. Edmond’s fascination with names was born around the same time his daughter, Ivy, came along. After searching for the perfect moniker to fit his first child, he created Baby Names by Nametrix, an app for iPhones and Androids to ease couples’ search for naming their offspring. The app includes basic naming conventions such as origin and meaning, pronunciation, and recommendations based on nationality.

But Nametrix goes a step further by offering a matrix on future political party leanings and possible profession based on a child’s name. Edmond found that girls named Emma, for example, have historically gravitated toward creative professions, while there are a disproportionate number of farmers named Elwood.

Edmond’s data source is the Federal Election Commission’s public report of donors, which includes full names and professions of all individuals on the list. Because of its lighthearted nature and easy user interface, the Nametrix went viral in 2015, earning feature spots on Good Morning America, Freakonomics.com, the New York Times, and USA Today, among others. Also last year, the names and professions infographic generated by Edmond and Nametrix was featured in The Best American Infographics, which “showcases visualizations from the worlds of politics, social issues, health, sports, arts and culture, and more.”

Most recently, Edmond has developed and launched appreccs.com, a website that sifts through user reviews, ignores ones that are paid or planted by developers, and provides honest recommendations for users on the best apps for their time and money. Edmond’s filter allows browsers to search that distilled list in multiple ways, including price and average user rating. Edmond describes the app as something that “organizes reviews based on levels of trustworthiness.”

St. Paul’s School Application

For the purpose of this article, Edmond was given the first names of all students currently enrolled at St. Paul’s School and asked to run them through his Nametrix software to investigate names of SPS students and how they might relate to future professions.

The data set of first names and professions was drawn from the public FEC records of 10.5 million campaign contributors over the last three decades, plus data on Wikipedia related to first names and profession. “It’s not a perfect cross-section of the population,” admits Edmond of the 11 million individuals on the combined list, “but it’s a very large data set.”

Before offering the SPS–based results, Edmond issued a caveat.

“It’s important to have fun with this,” he says, “and to remember that, just because a name is associated with a certain profession, you should take it only as a fun fact.”

Professions by Name

Let’s start by looking at the name Michael in relation to the most disproportionately common professions for all Michaels. In order of proportion they are:

1. Plumber
2. Firefighter
3. Mechanic
4. Choreographer
5. Political Scientist
Professions by St. Paul’s School Current Student Names

What can we find out if we apply this kind of analysis to the SPS student body? By calculating the professions people with each name have historically leaned toward and combining those results, this is what Edmond found:

1. Surgeon
2. Computer Scientist
3. Financial Professional
4. Lawyer
5. Banker
6. Structural Engineer
7. Dentist
8. Historian
9. Professor
10. Doctor
11. Salesperson
12. IT Professional
13. Judge
14. Financial Executive
15. Civil Engineer

“My suspicion is that there is something to be said about what your parents decide to name you,” says Edmond of the SPS data. “The results illustrate that there does seem to be a connection between educational expectations of SPS parents and names. But this should not prevent anyone from entering any profession – it’s just an interesting connection.”

“A question that comes up,” says Edmond, “is usually along the lines of this: ‘Huh? Why is choreographer in there? Surely there aren’t all that many choreographers named Michael out there.’”

But the key to understanding this is that Edmond is not interested in the most common professions for Michaels; he’s looking for the most disproportionately common professions for Michaels.

He wants to know this: Relative to the rest of the population, what professions have Michaels tended toward?

“In the data set from the FEC,” explains Edmond, “there are 3,034 firefighters, and a whopping 104 of them are named Michael. That’s 3.4%. How about plumber? Forty out of 924 (4.3%) plumbers are Michaels. Since 4.3% is higher than 3.4%, Michaels are more common among plumbers than firefighters even though there might be a higher total number of firefighters named Michael. To put it another way, the next plumber you bump into is more likely to be a Michael than the next firefighter you encounter.”

Let’s do the the Math: Percentage for ranking a profession for a name = number of people with that name in that profession/total number of people in that profession.

Names by Profession

By applying the same principles, you can calculate the opposite relationships between names and professions. Let’s look at the plumber profession, for example. What names are disproportionately common? We can find out with the help of the formula below.

Let’s do the the Math: Percentage for ranking a name within a profession = number of people with that name in the profession/total number of people with that name.

We can then rank names by the calculated percentages. Here are the top results for plumber (in the general population):

1. Salvatore
2. Vernon
3. Vincent
4. Theodore
5. Johnny

[You can see more names by profession at verdantlabs.com/professions.]
Bloom
by Jay Erickson ’93
Longhouse Press, 82 pages, $14.95
Reviewed by Michael Matros

Jay Erickson ’93 charts his cancer’s chronology in his poetry collection, Bloom, just after this epigraph by Rilke: “Let this darkness be a bell tower and you a bell.”

August 12, 2013: “CT scan shows metastases in abdomen and lungs.” Four days later: “diagnosed with Stage IIIC testicular cancer.” And on through more surgery and other treatments toward resolution and the creation of this book, harvested from entries in Erickson's cancer blog throughout his ordeal.

While Bloom is explicitly a book about cancer, to approach it as an exercise in “poetry therapy” is to trivialize the quality of the verse. These are wonderful poems in any context. Erickson's words reflect a keenness of eye and ear – of all his senses, in fact – and an understanding of the necessary balance in poetry between observation and reflection.

More than anything else, these are poems about devotion to the poet's family and to their rural life, where, as Erickson's biography states, he “is a musician, producer, entrepreneur, beekeeper, carpenter, wanderer, and gardener” and where he lives “with his wife, daughter, chickens, dog, bees, and cat.”

At home “chickens peck at the leaves and bees suckle in the crowns...honey heavy in the comb/eggs still warm in my hand.” There is comfort here, even with a gathering storm: “I can see the breast of a thundercloud/heaving towards us, my love/blanket pulling across/the sky to cover the green land...lie here with me...take this dry hand in yours....”

Nature, in its beauty and violence, is the source of imagery for his disease: “We walk slowly this morning/along a tongue of/dry grey gravel snaking through a/white and peaceful field...we pass a rare coalition of robins...they are combing the brush for/the few remaining berries...we pause at a small mess/of fur and blood...still red, it must have been/last night’s kill.”

Nature and the mess of mortality: As you can see in the book’s cover, a bloom like a flower spreads, but black like cancer. “Today,” Erickson tells us, “I sat with chemical fire/poured into my veins/to/burn this bloom of death.” His doctors, necessarily infusing the entirety of his body with chemicals, is much like Jeff, who comes every two weeks to mow the lawn, “dappled with clover”: “he says he hates clover/treats it like a weed/fights it all summer...I shout my dissent/met with a shrug.”

Toward the end, poem XXXIII looks at a somber acceptance. In full: welcome to the age of abbreviation where moments are compressed and stacked on top of each other tightly while we peck at them like chickens eating ice

Living the Ancient Southwest
edited by David Grant Noble ’57
School for Advanced Research Press, 174 pages, $24.95
Reviewed by Richard E. Schade ’62

It is the mark of a seasoned editor to select the most relevant and comprehensive set of articles on a topic, in this case studies on cultural areas of the ancestral Pueblo, the Ho ho k a m, and the Fremont peoples. Here, David Grant Noble ’57, a professional photographer and authority on the region’s ancient history, gathers 18 previously published articles, each an exquisite exemplar of readable scholarship.

Cartographically, the Pueblo cultural expanse is centered on the Four Corners area (Chaco Canyon being a central site), on the Hohokam of Arizona’s Gila River/Sonoran region, on the Fremont lands of much of present-day Utah. It is the mythical “Land of Enchantment,” the visually overwhelming realm well worth an understanding beyond the stereotypical “West” of the spectacular Monument Valley.

The first three articles define the “human wilderness” of native peoples challenged for eons (more or less the period contemporaneous with the European Middle Ages) by living in arid places: peoples who understood the subtle climatic distinction between the desert floor and higher mesas, not to mention the advantage of the oasis-like canyon environments. Four articles discuss the dwelling places, be they seemingly inaccessible pueblos carved high into the face of cliffs, or the impressive, stand-alone stone structures of Chaco Canyon and elsewhere.

Coverage of Zuni, Hopi, Navajo, and Fremont contexts fascinate by virtue of detailed discussions of petroglyphs, pictographs (one of which depicts the supernova of 1054), other wall paintings (evocative negative and positive images of hands) as well as geometrical designs (interlocked meanderings reminiscent of woven patterns). An interview with an aged Navajo woman tells of the atrocities of Anglo invaders, part of the memory tradition of her people, while another narrative speaks to the more progressive policies of the National Park Service.

Particular attention is paid to pottery, to the coil-built production technique and its decorative design. Mimbres black-on-white ware is discussed from a representational perspective (birds, animals, even birthing humans) and from the standpoint of cosmology.

The concluding essays present research on the mapping of trails and well-worn stone stairways up cliff-sides as well as on the fascinating phenomenon of the “song itinerary,” that is, song sequences centered on certain landscape features reliably mapping paths across wild open spaces of presentday Arizona – an ancient GPS, if you will.

The essays in this beautifully illustrated book, when taken together, map the profound achievements of older and more recent archaeological scholarship, all of it based upon years of research by scholars.
engaging the cultural landscapes. In *their* minds, the authors “*live in the ancient Southwest,*” each devoted to the explanation of the rich and complex Native American context they so admire and respect.

### Soul Food Love

*Alice Randall and Caroline Randall Williams ’06*

A mother–daughter duo redefines soul food by mining the traditions of four generations of black women and creating 80 healthy recipes. In May 2012, author Alice Randall penned an op-ed in the *New York Times*, chronicling her quest to be “the last fat black woman” in her family. She turned to her daughter, Caroline Randall Williams ’06, for help. Together they overhauled the way they cook and eat, translating recipes and traditions handed down by generations of black women into easy, affordable, and healthy dishes. *Soul Food Love* relates the authors’ fascinating family history, explores the often fraught relationship African–American women have had with food, and forges a powerful new way forward that honors their cultural and culinary heritage.

### Grania’s Tears

*Elizabeth Nolan ’84*

This children’s book is a bicultural love story about two equally powerful leaders; a brave Kurdish jinn called Tijda and a beautiful Irish priestess named Grania. When Grania’s community is threatened by the advancing Roman army, Tijda and Grania form an alliance that ultimately gives birth to the Kurdish people. As the story unfolds, readers encounter 500 magic carpets, tears of sorrow that transform into sparkling rubies, and an enchanted orchard that nurtures the very first pomegranate harvest.

### Moon Talk

*Wade Stevenson ’63*

The latest collection of poetry from Wade Stevenson is a lyrical, elegiac work celebrating the moon as myth and metaphor. From the *Midwest Book Review*: “*Moon Talk* provides a powerful example of form, usage, poetic license, and interaction between poet/writer and audience. By taking one poem and deconstructing it line by line, Stevenson achieves what few other literary studies provide – a thorough, *in-depth* analysis of the poet’s toolbox.”

### Robot Law

*Curtis Karnow ’71, co-author*

Curtis Karnow ’71 shares his expertise on liability under tort law for actions by autonomous artificial intelligence in *Robot Law*, which brings together exemplary research on robotics law and policy – an area of scholarly inquiry responding to transformative technology. Expert scholars from law, engineering, computer science, and philosophy, including Karnow, provide original contributions on topics such as warfare, domestic law enforcement, personhood, and other cutting-edge issues in robotics and artificial intelligence.

### The Color Symphonies

*Reviewed by Hannah MacBride*

Wade Stevenson’s poetic volume is an ode to the dynamism and vitality of color. In his powerful and playful verses, color is not a static quality, but a life force, the active and vital energy of the universe.

Color has a life of its own in Stevenson’s poetry. His writing vibrates with verbs as he speculates on the nature of light, the timelessness of color, and our relationship to our senses. Colors go beyond metaphor or simile, to act as participants in the Dionysian symphony of life.

Many of the poems are pure experience. The speaker succumbs to the power of the subject, but the human element is not lost in these musings. Instead, we are the experiencing eye, open or closed, that chooses to let color empower and enrich our lives, or not.

“*Live red*,” Stevenson urges in “*Words To The Miserable Man,*” and “*Do anything you want* – short of being sterile or monotonous.” Color is synonymous with energy and energy is synonymous with life, he asserts. It is personified in the “*Rainbow Lady*” and set to music in “*The Blind Man Talks about Color.*”

Part meditation, part ode – and wholly reverential, *The Color Symphonies* sparkles with the iridescence of a world we live in but don’t often see. “*Life starts in the dark,*” Stevenson reminds us in the short poem “*Sun Sparks*” and ends “*buried in the blackness of the tomb.*” Colors, by contrast, are the essence of life and joy. And this is what you will find in Stevenson’s poetry – unfettered joy, brilliantly evocative verse, and a good dose of color therapy. Don’t expect to experience a sunset in the same way again.
Mike Ricard was an only child from a blue-collar home in Pembroke, N.H., when he entered St. Paul’s School on a scholarship. His experience at the School changed his life. Mike viewed his return in the fall of 1994 as a faculty member as a way of giving back.

In 2009, Mike was named director of the Advanced Studies Program, which provides a rigorous academic experience each summer for 275 rising New Hampshire high school seniors.

Mike and his wife, Emily, live in Drury with their two children. He says that being around students at SPS “makes me think of what the place did for me.”

Together, the Ricards have made an estate provision that in time will further strengthen the SPS community.
1946
Sid Lovett
sidlovett@gmail.com
www.sps.edu/1946

Mike Coe shared with us that he traveled to Guatemala in January. While there, he went fly-fishing with his son, Andrew. Mike caught a Pacific sailfish that weighed more than 140 pounds. Mike, Andrew, and the chief mate of the fishing trip released the hefty female after taking a picture with her.

1947
Charlie Dodge

Save the date for our 70th Anniversary, June 2, 3, and 4, 2017. I hope to see many formmates in attendance.

1951
John Lorenz
cossacks4ever@fairpoint.net
www.sps.edu/1951

1955
Nat Howe
nathowejr@yahoo.com

A mini-reunion luncheon was held on February 17 at The Union Club in New York City, hosted by Dyer Wadsworth. We were joined by five members from the Form of 1954 and one from the Form of 1956. Members from our form included David Iams, John Holbrook, Rink Reynders, Paul Horne, Harry Wilmerding, Jake Roak, Albert Gordon, Dyer, and me.

Jake Roak sends this news: “On February 26, I attended the Yale–Princeton hockey game at Princeton’s Baker Rink with Morris Cheston and his sister, Charlotte Betancourt. We were met by Princeton coach Ron Fogarty and the evening’s emcee, John Cook, who is a good friend of Mo’s from his hockey days at Princeton and the St. Nicholas Hockey Club. Morris was presented a Princeton hockey jersey with his number 10 and the captain’s ‘C.’ He played hockey for four years at Princeton and was named the outstanding player of his freshman team and later the outstanding member of the varsity as a senior. All of this took place underneath several portraits of SPS and Princeton hockey great Hobey Baker (Form of 1909). Morris was then escorted to the entrance of the ice, where he was met by the captain of the Princeton team, Mike Ambrosia, who took him out to center ice between the two teams lined up on their respective blue lines. John Cook introduced Morris to the crowd, noting not only Mo’s accomplishments as a player, but also his many contributions to the sport over the last 65 years. Finally, Morris was asked to drop the ceremonial first puck to start the game.”

1956
Zach Allen
zach@zach-allen.com
www.sps.edu/1956

1957
Bill de Haven
bill_dehaven316@hotmail.com

Bill de Haven’s March news: “The Form of 1957 continues to be busy. We will be having our annual dinner at The Philadelphia Club on Friday, May 6. Long-distance awards will be given. Alumni from Florida, Maine, and California are expected to join us. In all, 20 are expected to attend. In September, we will be gathering with wives and others in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Check with Sandy Holloway for details.”
1958

Philip Bradley
brad0260@umn.edu

Larry D’Oench reports: “I work as a volunteer in the capacity of a deputy assistant alternate trainee carpenter, building scenery for our local theater. It’s not as much fun as doing stage lighting at SPS but, c’mom, it’s show biz and it’s a way to learn from people who really know what they’re doing. Our motto is ‘if the audience can’t see it from 50 feet, then use masking tape.’”


1960

Dimitri Sevastopoulo
dimitrisev@nyc.rr.com


1961

Chris Jennings
jenningshome2@gmail.com

Mike Seymour
mike@hol.edu

www.sps.edu/1961

1963

John Groman
jgroman@usa.net

Jim Taylor shares: “The Form of 1963 enjoyed another successful ski trip in Alta and Jackson, Utah. We have been gathering in various configurations for more than 20 years. Currently featuring multiple artificial joints, but that doesn’t slow us down. Those in attendance, including me, were Brink Thorne, Scott MacLeod, Marett Taylor ’90, Harry Atherton, Ian McLaughlin, Dick Hawkins, and Peter van Roijen.”

1964

Rufus Botzow
rcbotzow@charter.net

Ted Baehr writes: “My wife, Lili, is a saint who survived six operations for different cancers last year and has been on chemotherapy for more than 20 years. My daughter, Evelyn, is getting married to Jeremy Car roll in Verona, Italy, in June. My son, Peirce, and his wonderful wife, Christina, are expecting their sixth in Tasmania, Australia. My son, Robby, has increased our Movieguide® reach to over 34 million per month – radio, TV, and web. My son, Jim Baehr ’01, was promoted to Major in the Marine Corps and is winning cases as an assistant U.S. attorney in New Orleans.”

Terry Lichty writes: “Susan and I are winding down (or is it up?) from our winter sojourn in St. John, USVI (having arrived on Halloween, 2015), during which time we had the pleasure of having David Patterson and Deborah Allen over for drinks and dinner. Unfortunately, I overcooked the tuna. We’ll hook up again when we get back to Cape Cod, where we both have places (David and Deborah in East Orleans, Susan and I in Chatham). Following our nephew’s wedding in Miami, we are off to Paris and the south of France for a month. We hope to have a chance to get together with Thierry Aube while there, and catch up on what has happened since the 50th reunion.”
1965

Randy Morgan
wyndmoor@comcast.net

John Rice
jwise460@gmail.com

Nat Prentice reports that he and Anita attended the wedding of Melody and Bill Colt’s daughter, Kelsey Colt ’04, in Monroe, N.C., on March 5. He shares: “Of course we were going to attend. Bill’s and my friendship goes back to Old Hundred football practice (I was 12, Bill was still 11) on the Lower Grounds on a day in September 1959, which I will remember forever because of a sarcastic remark I made about Bill’s baby-blue helmet and his infamous response (which I recounted at every one of our reunions but the last one). The wedding festivities were great fun. Saw Bill’s brother, Zene Colt ’64. Needless to say, Bill and Mel are very proud, in fine form, and send their best.”

1966

Richard Woodville
rwoodville@verizon.net
www.sps.edu/1966

The 50th reunion committee for the Form of 1966 has been working all year long to plan what we hope to be a memorable event for this benchmark reunion. If you read this before June 3–5, which is Anniversary Weekend, formmates Phillips, Grand, Moorhead, H. Clark, Chapin, J. Wheelwright, Rulon-Miller, Roberts, Carrick, Apostol, Evans, Perkins, Coppedge, and I would be thrilled to have you join us. Visit our webpage at www.sps.edu/1966 for the latest information.

1967

Tom Beale
Beale.tom@loreda.org

David Rea shares: “In April, Bob Ewell was recognized by the American Hockey Coaches Association with the Joe Burke Award, presented annually to the person who has given outstanding contribution, support, and dedication to women’s ice hockey. Bob, a 1971 graduate of Colby College, took over the women’s hockey program in 1978. He built the Colby program into one of the flagship programs at the time – it was the third varsity program in the country, following Brown and Cornell. Bob’s dedication helped maintain Colby’s status. In 1985, Bob left Colby for Princeton, taking over that program from Bill Quackenbush. His six Princeton teams were competitive in the Ivy League, and he brought in a recruiting class that led Princeton to the Ivy League title. He coached several of the great women’s players of the pre-Olympic era, including Lee Johnson and Alicia Curtain at Colby and Patty Kazmaier and Mollie Marcoux at Princeton. His overall coaching record at Colby and Princeton was 129–115–10, but his contributions to the development and growth of women’s hockey in its early days was his largest measure of success.”

1971

Dennis Dixon
dennis.c.dixon@gmail.com
www.sps.edu/1971

Curt Karnow writes: “Sorry I can’t make the reunion this time, but I will wear my SPS T-shirt during Anniversary Weekend. Not much news, but I am a co-author of a new book, Robot Law, which just came out. The book is not about the robotic actions of judges, but rather legal issues arising from the use of robots and artificial intelligence.”

Mark Wheeler shares: “We’re off to France for a year and..."
writes: “as a tie-in, I performed (as narrator) with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Andres Lopera Conductor, “Learning to Hear Color” concert at the Newman Center on the University of Denver campus. Part of my presentation was a short story about how the late Joe Donovan taught me to listen to music by giving me a record – Oistrach Brothers J.S. Bach Concerto for Two Violins – and telling me to go back to my room, put it on, and see if I could hear the colors. Last time I performed on stage with a big group of musicians, I was playing Sammy Sparrow, a chimney sweep, in Benjamin Britten’s Let’s Make an Opera! – accompanied then by the Woods Hole School Fourth Grade Flutaphone Ensemble, so this was something of a step up.”

David Holt shares: “Recently we went to Sugar Moon Farm, a working sugar camp, to walk in the woods and enjoy a huge meal of blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, biscuits, bacon, and baked beans, as well as a tonic made with hot water, maple syrup, and cayenne. We were a group of 11, including a teenager from Italy and one from South Korea; Pax the German shepherd went too. It was serious carb loading. We walked on part of Gully Lake Trail, made famous some years back by the mysterious Hermit of Gully Lake. My wife Donna’s family used to run a sugar camp, so I know how much work it is, including cutting wood and tapping trees in the mud or deep snow.”

Congratulations to our very own ironman, Charlie Bronson, on his second-place finish in the Ironman 70.3 Subic Bay Philippines Triathlon. The headline from the Philippine Daily Inquirer read, “61-Year-Old Takes First Crack at Triathlon, Ironman 70.3.” According to the article, while Charlie was already accomplished in swimming and running, he bought a bike and learned to ride it only six weeks before the race. The bike portion is 56km, the longest distance in the event. After living in Hawaii for a year and a half and in the Philippines for about a year, Charlie is back in the San Francisco Bay area, where he works for Pursuant Health, a high-tech, big-data healthcare startup.

Speaking of the San Francisco Bay area, it looks like our form’s most prolific and active “club” is in the Bay Area. Prescott Stone, social secretary of the Form of 1972 San Francisco Bay Club, reported that “while the iPhone took a fuzzy photo, the SF gang, less...
Halsted Wheeler, got together in February for a nice lunch. We talked about the SPS news (the St. George’s news had just been released then). Not much to report. Fifty percent of us are still on our starter wives. Our daughter, Anna Stone, got married last June to Michael Piccione. Only Mark Wainwright is a grandfather.” The lunch included Pres, Charlie Bronson, Mark, and Doug Chan. I caught up with Mark over the phone to trade tales and swap stories, marveling at how their little club has been the most active of our form over the past few years. Pres commented that living in a rural area, such as your humble scribe does, there are not a lot of SPS alumni nearby. However, upon further reflection, after catching up with my neighbor Pete Putnam ‘45, I realized that with the two of us and our population of just over 2,000, Pine Plains, N.Y., has one of the highest per capita of SPS alumni after Concord, with one per thousand population. We dare any other town or municipality to top that one. The gauntlet is thrown. Please keep your cards and letters and photos coming.

1975

Carl Lovejoy
clovejoy2@gmail.com

Gregg Townsend and Kevin McCaffrey submitted these notes.

As of late March, Randa Wilkinson was off to Cairo for a short-term consultancy with the World Health Organization. She’ll be working with the Emergency Response Team for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office and is excited “to get there and get to work!”

Jeff Cooley writes: “I still get a little adrenaline rush when spring air wafts – I feel the call of Turkey Pond. But, for now, I will satisfy myself ramping up for a spring season of selling lots of art. I run the Cooley Gallery in Old Lyme, Conn. My wife, Betsey, and I are planning several intriguing exhibitions. Meanwhile, two kids, including Ben ‘03, are married and three are roaming. I am your new form agent, so I look forward to being in touch and inspiring support from all.”

Stephen Turner reports: “A number of ’75ers made my December by joining a get-together I hosted in Boston. Among the group, including various spouses and life partners, were Bill Newlin, who made the trip from afar, Anne Latchis, Tom Welch, Twig Mowatt, Kevin McCaffrey, Owen Andrews, and Randa Wilkinson. The Boston area is the scene of much activity for my thriving business, which specializes in commissioning (quality assurance and start-up/tune-up) of high–performance green buildings. One daughter is in Ireland for a college semester, the other just back from a high school semester at The Mountain School in Vershire, Vt. In New England? Give me a holler at 401–533–7335.”

Jeremy Smith writes: “It’s been a long time, Gregg, since we were both in Kittredge with Scott Monrad ‘71 and the late Carl Kiger ‘71. But life has been mighty good. Susan and I are looking forward to our 37th anniversary this year (hardly seems possible she’s put up with me that long) and are planning to get up to Iowa to visit our son and five-year-old granddaughter. I’m out at Marshall Space Flight Center on the team designing and implementing the flight software for NASA’s new heavy–lift rocket, the SLS, which will return the U.S. to manned spaceflight capability. And it will eventually throw our crews on deep space missions, including to Mars. That’s just a couple sentences that summarize where I am now, but it’s been a fun and complex 40 years. I’ve spent most of it in aerospace, a field that’s about as cyclical and unstable as any, so I’ve had a lot of jobs end unexpectedly as projects were either delivered or canceled. The upside is we’ve lived in a lot of different and interesting places, and I’ve worked at pretty much every major company ever I hosted in Boston. Among the group, including various spouses and life partners, were Bill Newlin, who made the trip from afar, Anne Latchis, Tom Welch, Twig Mowatt, Kevin McCaffrey, Owen Andrews, and Randa Wilkinson. The Boston area is the scene of much activity for my thriving business, which specializes in commissioning (quality assurance and start-up/tune-up) of high–performance green buildings. One daughter is in Ireland for a college semester, the other just back from a high school semester at The Mountain School in Vershire, Vt. In New England? Give me a holler at 401–533–7335.”

Hal Sprague sends this update: “I have been living in Evanston, Ill., for about 22 years, and enjoyed 14 years here as an environmental lawyer at Abbott Laboratories. I retired in 2007 employment at the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, which is a policy (non–legal) position. I have had great fun advocating for sustainable storm water management practices in urban communities. I am also amicably divorced and have two terrific kids.”

News from Carl Lovejoy: “Tomas Stone sent a thoughtful, albeit brief, apology to Gregg Townsend regarding his request for formnotes fodder: ‘I have no news to report other than an updated e-mail address. I was sorry to have missed our 40th reunion, but it’s a long way to Millville from my home in Steamboat Springs, Colo.’

Don Keyser
dakeyser@fiduciary-trust.com
www.sps.edu/1976

Annie Burleigh
annie.oh.burleigh@gmail.com

Our friend and formmate, Chuck Kuehn, died from pneumonia on March 19, 2016, following a recurrence of lymphoma. His daughter, Sarah, wrote: “My dad touched the lives of so many people. He never...”
knew a stranger and never turned down a chance for an adventure. When he came down with pneumonia, he was trying to fly to Key West for one last fishing trip. Dad passed swiftly and peacefully, surrounded by immediate family and loved ones. He was ready to go, to get the show on the road, and get on with his next adventure. So the next time you reel in a big fish, hit a monster drive off the tee, hear a great new song or band for the first time, make fresh tracks in the snow, or make friends with a stranger, know that he’s right there with you.” Chuck was an integral member of our NOLA Habitat build – one of the few who showed up with a tool belt and know-how. Warren Ingersoll shares this golfing memory of Chuck: “We got to a par five with a hidden green that was virtually impossible to hit in two. I told him to hit an eight iron to the corner. He turned to me and said, ‘Warren, I didn’t come up here to lay up.’ I told him to hit it 230 with a 50-yard draw. Chuck hit a three iron in the hole for a double eagle, the rarest shot in golf. Our pro of 25 years had never heard of it being done. Stay long and straight in heaven, Chuck.”

Billy Schlosser sends sad news: “On November 29, my beautiful and dear wife, Lisa, passed away quietly and peacefully in my arms. We were watching a live-streamed service from Agape International Spiritual Center, where Reverend Michael Beckwith, one of Lisa’s true supporters and mentors, was speaking. We had listened to some of her favorite music, and we sat silently, hand in hand, for almost two hours. I stroked her face and head, telling her I loved her, and that God was embracing her on her journey. We were together for 32 years, as partners in music, business, life, love, and as parents (of our gorgeous, talented, now 21-year-old Emily Haber). Lisa’s recent passion was to make music and videos with her family. We had the idea of putting our love into a colorful family band called Laughing Pizza. It was Lisa’s vision that drove the mission – to share our family spirit. We were able to touch thousands of families’ lives, and our videos played on PBS stations for nearly eight years. Over the last three years, I was privileged to share her journey through ovarian cancer. We both learned an incredible amount about life and love. I thank all of you who have shared your ‘Lisa stories’ with Emily and me. We love you and feel your support in our grief.”
Lindsay Walsh enjoying a night out in Sausalito, Calif. McRae '80, Andrew Greenebaum '80, and Richard '80 and you might see me there.

Wellesley parade on May 22, so they’ll even be on a float in the Marlboro, and Natick. I think gigs are in Framingham, Millis, with the drummer. Most of the band and good tunes. I work, they’re changing the name. Fun called Loaded Dice, but I think.

Wellesley, Mass., last week, auditioned with a rock band in News from:

New York and was on a book tour for a bit, where I saw Laura Iglehart and Jamie Neilson. The reviews were mostly good, and I sold some copies. Teaching at NYU and Yale, and here and there, according to the adjunct life.

Plan to stay in Vermont and practice as a speech-language pathologist here after graduation. Glad to be back in Vermont. Missing you all.”

1979

Liz Robbins
glob4@verizon.net

News from Andy Schlosser: “I auditioned with a rock band in Wellesley, Mass., last week, called Loaded Dice, but I think they’re changing the name. Fun band and good tunes. I work with the drummer. Most of the gigs are in Framingham, Millis, Marlboro, and Natick. I think they’ll even be on a float in the Wellesley parade on May 22, so you might see me there.”

Kedron Barrett shares: “Between painting, shows, and treks to Maine to look after my mother (who taught at SPS until 1975), I’ve been refurbishing a 200-year-old house in northern Germany, where I intend to someday relocate my Berlin studio. Finally managed to get to New York last year to visit Will Schwalbe ‘80 and my son, Ilya, who was living temporarily in Brooklyn. Also saw Evie Gurney. I’ve recently seen Christoph Partsch, who lives up the street from me in Berlin. I’m aiming to finally join you all again for the 40th.”

Jeanette Richmond writes: “I had a lovely vacation in Vienna visiting Lili Cassels-Brown last fall, hiking in the Vienna Woods, going to the opera, and meeting Maylo the superdog. Makale ’17 is now a Fifth Former, and busy with all sorts of activities (robotics, orchestra, ukulele club), while my youngest, Anna, is 5’5” at 11 years old and threatens to make me the shortest woman in my family in a few years. She is busy with figure skating, horseback riding, playing the clarinet, and being a safety patroller. I’m keeping busy with running a law library and hiking a fair amount in my free time. I’ll be at SPS often over the next few months, which should be fun.”

David von Gunten writes: “I am still practicing law in Denver, Colo., home of the Super Bowl Champion Denver Broncos. I was at the AFC Championship game and watched Tom Brady spend a lot of time on his back. I also won a number of bets for food and drinks from my friends in North Carolina. Outside of work, most of my time is spent playing platform tennis in the winter and tennis in the summer, and heading to Taos, New Mexico, where we have a place. My wife, Lisa, runs Bison Innovative Products and travels quite a bit, both sourcing materials for the company’s products, primarily from Brazil and Peru, and viewing tests of company products in Los Angeles and San Antonio. My oldest son, Andrew, teaches at the Wuhan Britain China International School, teaching Chinese high school students who wish to attend western colleges, primarily in the United Kingdom or North America. We visited him in Wuhan in early January and also went to Shanghai and Beijing. My youngest son, Reid, graduated from George Washington University last year and is finishing up a master’s at GW in the business school, specifically in computer information systems.”

Jamie Neilson shares that he is working for “a four-years-young school called the Episcopal School of Los Angeles in the heart of Hollywood. We’re in an old warehouse that at one time was the post-production facility for Victor Fleming’s films. The milieu is fun, nice kids and great colleagues, but very time- and energy-consuming.”

1980

Susannah Albright
salbright2011@gmail.com

Mason Wells
mbwells@usatoday.com

Marion Guyer shares: “I don’t think I’ve written in decades. I moved to Berkeley, Calif., in 1987, had two children – now all grown up, and went into public
health and medicine. I am the chief of hospital medicine at the county hospital, where I did my residency training. I truly appreciate my family, good health, patients, and friends. Cheers to the Form of 1980. I hope to see you at the next reunion.

1981
Biddle Duke
biddleduke@gmail.com
www.sps.edu/1981

Elizabeth Nolan (Hurtado)'84 (front, l.) posing for a photo with the creative team of her book, Grania's Tears.

1984
Jane Kalinski
jkalinski@comcast.net

Elizabeth Nolan (Hurtado) shares that she has written her first children’s book. The book was inspired by a manuscript she wrote 15 years ago while working with refugees at the International Institute of Boston. Grania’s Tears, is a bi-cultural love story about two equally powerful leaders, a brave Kurdish jinn named Tijda and a beautiful Irish priestess named Grania. When Grania’s community is threatened by the advancing Roman army, Tijda and Grania form an alliance that ultimately gives birth to the Kurdish people. Grania’s Tears transforms what was once a dark and violent Kurdish creationist myth into a peaceful, positive story with important messages about forced migration, multiculturalism, and gender equality. Given the story’s Kurdish subject matter and the ongoing European refugee crisis, this book is very timely.

Greg Selch writes: “Greetings from New York City. I’ve been living in Greenwich Village since 2001, running my own furniture business since 2004, and father of two daughters who spend half their time with me and my wife, Nathalie, and half with my ex in Brooklyn. Both girls will be at Avenues in Chelsea next year. Addie will be in seventh grade and Beatrice in fifth. I had Chip Alliger ’85 staying with me a few weeks ago and I have been working with Alison Horne-Rona ’82 doing design work. I see Mariza Scotch ’82 all the time (it’s never enough though) and, if I’m lucky, I run into Diane Dwyer on the street downtown. Christina (Unhoch) Mason ’86 has moved back into the city, and we have had a few cups of coffee. I’m always happy to see my friends from SPS.”

Update from Alexandra Strawbridge Maurer: “Ann and Kipp Sylvester hosted Maja Paumgarten-Parker and me for the SPS squash event in N.Y.C. in November. It was great to catch up with Bobbie Nottebohm, Morris Barrett ’83, John Musto ’87, and many others. I have been living in Maine since 1994, and now I am very lucky to have Lynn Sullivan ’85 teaching my kids how to love history and current events discussions at North Yarmouth Academy.”

1986
Jill Forney
pjforney@comcast.net
www.sps.edu/1986

Hello, everyone. I hope 2016 is treating you well so far. I’m sure all of you remember Jessica

1987
Mona Gibson
monagibson5@gmail.com

Tony Brooke writes: “Hi, everyone. As you’ve probably heard, the music business has seen some interesting changes. A while back, I began a career shift, and picked up a master’s in information science, with an emphasis on music industry metadata exchange. I work at Pandora now. I started in the Curation Department, and now I’m a product specialist in Content Operations. I ensure that the new music and data sent by many companies to Pandora arrives safely in our huge curated library. This means coordinating between engineers, curators, librarians, external partners, and industry standards bodies. It’s fascinating and very challenging. In other news, I’m on the board of the San Francisco chapter of the Recording Academy. This is the organization known for the Grammys, but more importantly it supports artists and technical people to improve their careers. I’d be glad to help musicians, engineers, producers, and industry folks join if interested.”

1988
Sarah Jones
sarahbjones13@gmail.com
Terrific web series, you’ll find information on his name into Google or IMDb and in which he stars as Dr. Jack Without Kids’ Morris. Be sure to check out a show if you’re in the area. I would recommend checking out the broadway centric performing arts college I’ve seen on Facebook. Based on the accliques I’ve seen on Facebook, most recently performing Forbidden Broadway. Based on the accolades I’ve seen on Facebook, I would recommend checking out a show if you’re in the area. And speaking of acting, make sure to check out Grinnell Morris’s recent work. Type his name into Google or IMDb and you’ll find information on his terrific web series, Married Without Kids, and also the upcoming feature film 96 Souls, in which he stars as Dr. Jack Sutree.

It looks like Tim Kelly is headed home. Tim writes: “After 12 years as an expat in Asia (three in Japan, nine in Taiwan), my wife and I have decided to move to the U.S. to give our kids a chance to learn English. YouXu is nine years old and Nick is four, so we can’t wait much longer. Considering I just spent an hour unsuccessfully trying to get YouXu to learn 15 words for his third-grade English test tomorrow, the sooner the better. My stepdaughter, Wanting, 20, will be joining us after she finishes college next year in Taipei. We are planning to move to the greater Boston area, so perhaps I’ll make it our next reunion.”

I’ve heard lots of wonderful news from the form about SPS admissions. It looks like SPS will be “Form of ‘88: The Next Generation” for the next several years. Congratulations and best of luck to all of your kids as they start their St. Paul’s adventures. I love keeping up with people, so please keep the formnotes coming.

1989

Laura Munro
laura_munro@dpsk12.org

Michelle Joan Wilkinson shares: “I am working as curator at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The museum opens to visitors on September 24. Formmates and friends should stop in for a visit.”

1990

Charles Buice
charlesbuice@hotmail.com

As many of you will have heard by now, our friend and formmate, Maggie Cassidy, died on February 16 at age 43. They are difficult words to write, much less acknowledge as truth, but rather than jumping into the current news of the rest of us, I thought it would be appropriate to devote a few lines here to Maggie. Maggie was living in Shreveport, La., having recently completed medical school at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where she graduated with distinction. It was an incredible accomplishment, and she was just getting started on a second career, having spent more than 15 years in New York City after college at Berkeley (see the more complete obituary on page 55).

It was in New York City, as we were all just beginning to stumble our way into adulthood, that many of us had the good fortune of reuniting with Maggie and building on friendships that lasted for the rest of her far-too-short life. We had an extraordinary amount of fun in her company. Maggie was a force and a connector and collector of people, and she was a ceaselessly devoted and loving friend. Several from the Form of ‘90 made the trip to Lexington, Ky., for her funeral, spending time with her family and friends, and with each other. In attendance over the two days of remembrances and celebrations were Nelly Calder, Katy Lederer, Lauren Schlesinger Monahan, Anne Fulenwider, Claire Fiddian-Green, Mac Carbonell, Paul Spadone ’89, and myself. Anne’s husband, Bryan, and my wife, Jen, both great friends of Maggie’s, joined the SPS crew. Maggie’s family was incredibly gracious and welcoming in their time of grieving, and they opened up their home to a large gathering the afternoon of her funeral to share stories and pictures and memories of our wonderful friend. Nelly shared a remarkable reading of letter excerpts between her and Maggie, stretching over decades and revealing two people learning how to navigate their worlds, maintaining the strength and connection of a friendship that made the navigation always easier, even when easy was not what it always was. On April 2, Jen and I were joined at a gathering in celebration of Maggie at our home in Brooklyn. Her incredible sisters, Anne and Katie Cassidy, and Katie’s husband, Bob, came to be with us. Also in attendance were Nelly Calder; Katy Lederer, Mac Carbonell, Anne Fulenwider, Tim Hodge, Marie Schley, Annie White ’91, Alex Garcia-Man-silla ’91, Eliza Griswold ’91, Ben Kunkel ’91, Winslow Lewis ’91, Nick Morton ’89, Paul Spadone ’89, and David Larsen ’88. It was a great group of folks who loved Maggie, and we shared stories late into the evening. In sharing in Maggie’s loss with all these incredible friends and others over the last weeks, we are reminded of our important and deep connections to one another. And we are reminded how natural and nice it is, all these years later, to find ourselves in each other’s company. We are heartbroken, but you have, as ever, brought the rest of us together, Maggie. We love and miss you.”
Marcy Chong  chonghall@gmail.com  
www.sps.edu/1991

Justin Kurtz is doing well, living in Northampton, Mass., with his wife, Jennie, his twin boys, Sasha and Cornelius, and his nine-month-old son, Nathaniel. He is currently an associate professor of music production and technology at the Hartt School in West Hartford, Conn.

Becca Doucette shares: “Finally settling in Utah after being deployed or in school for ninety percent of 2015. Hoping to make this home for the next decade. Using my Arabic daily at work and editing my husband’s third book, to be published later this year. Don’t get out to the East Coast often enough, especially to see all our family and friends, but trying to change that to at least once a year. Will miss the 25th reunion and my dad’s 80th birthday bash due to summer military obligations, but such is life. If we do get settled in, I’d like to start another band, perhaps one with a pioneer flavor this time, since Utah didn’t partake in the Civil War.”

Sophie Backus shares: “I am enjoying working as an RN as part of a great team on the brain injury and rehabilitation floors at Orlando Regional Medical Center. Spending our free time dancing at the beach. Look us up if you are in the area.”

An update from Clay Wang: “I am currently a professor at the University of Southern California and I am the lead investigator of a NASA–sponsored project to launch fungi into space for the purpose of potentially developing new medicine for use both in space and on Earth. The experiment will be aboard the Space X CRS–8 mission, which launched on April 8, 2016. My work is featured in Popular Science, the Los Angeles Times, and other publications.”

Chris Gates  
iamchrisgates@hotmail.com

This summer, Ian McKee will be launching a mobile app called Torch, aimed at improving the team sport experience for recreational athletes around the world. Formmates, as you’d expect, are lending a big hand, including Philip Warner, Jeff Halpern, Dylan Wolin, Josiah Hornblower, and me. As the app hits the market, we’d like to invite you to become a test user and offer your feedback. Torch is still an early–stage startup and any critique, advice, or support is very welcome. To receive our newsletter and stay informed, please contact Ian at ian@torch.co.

Kimiye Corwin writes: “I recently performed in an Off–Broadway production of The Changeling with the Red Bull Theater. I’ll be in D.C. next, performing at The Studio Theater in a production of Hedda Gabler this May/June. I’ll be bringing my 10–month–old daughter with me and would love to meet up with other D.C.–area alumni who have little ones.”
Husani Barnwell shares: “While at St. Paul’s and beyond, I’ve been able to cultivate a spirit of giving that continues to play out in my life. In addition to other endeavors, I’ve recently become a mentor and career counselor for the American Association of Advertising Agencies’ career development program with MECA (Manhattan Early College of Advertising), IAM (High School for Innovation in Advertising and Media), and BMCC (Borough of Manhattan Community College). I’m also competing in the New York City Triathlon with Dahni-El Giles ’95 and Charles Best to raise money for ScriptEd, a non-profit that helps underserved students gain technology and coding experience. As a team, and thanks to many generous donors, our fundraising efforts last year were a success, but we hope to surpass our times and fundraising by 10 percent this year. To accomplish this, we created a campaign utilizing the hashtag #110PercentForScriptEd — bringing truth to the oft-used athlete cliché, as we truly are giving this 110 percent. In addition, I’ve also just begun work as an associate creative director at the highly acclaimed advertising agency R/GA.”

Morgan Stewart morganpstewart@gmail.com

Aly Jones and I got a quick L.A. visit from Roberta Bruce in February. Too short, but so fun. I also spent an amazing (and occasionally sunny) weekend with the Day family in Seattle. Lisa, Graham, and their three daughters, Luella, Marion, and Harper were the best hosts ever. From ferries surrounded by gun-wielding Coast Guard boats, ill-advised hikes in a torrential downpour, and too many laughs to count, never a dull moment with that crew.

1995

Dahni-El Giles writes: “Paulies, Paulies, and Paulies. Oh my! This winter, I enjoyed in-person catch-ups with Erika Lea, Chris Simons, Will McCulloch, Raegan McDonald-Mosley, Starr Ferguson, Ted Shergalis ’93, Kathy Ewald ’89, Shamika Lee ’98, Meredith Petrin ’97, Andrew Bleiman ’98, Chris Eastland ’98, and former SPS Admissions Director John Green. In January, I joyfully returned to SPS to chat with students about navigating success and micro-aggressions. In April, I returned to Longhaul Farm to volunteer under the expert and hilarious guidance of Jason Angell. Finally, Charles Best ’94, Husani Barnwell ’94, and I will once again join forces to race for the glory of ScriptEd.org and its inspiring students in the 2016 New York City Triathlon! We aim to finish 10 percent faster than our rookie performance and raise 10 percent more in donations. Find our fun launch video on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter (#110PercentForScriptEd). ScriptEd equips students in under-resourced schools with fundamental coding skills and paid coding internships at various companies. When united, the skills and internships produce access to careers in tech.”

Landon Loomis shares:

Grace Evans ’95 married Gian Alberto Veca on October 10, 2015, in Rome. Paulies in attendance included (l. to r.) Jill Thompson Smith ’96, Isabel Smith Margulies ’94, David Parshall ’65, John Evans ’66, Nick Lukens ’95, Charlotte Evans Will ’99, Isabella Calder ’95, the groom, the bride, Jess Parsons ’95, Harry Eichelberger ’95, Liz and Louise Rauch, Tim Wallack ’94, Ned Rauch ’94, Gordy Rogers ’95, Jodie and Geoff DeVito ’95, and (not pictured) Bill Jackson ’66.

Morgan Stewart morganpstewart@gmail.com

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Austen Earl ’97 (plaid), writer of the pilot Sebastian Says, with comedian Sebastian Maniscalco and actresses Molly Mitchell ’06 (l.), and Megan Ferguson ’01.

“Andy Bay just came down to Brazil and visited with my family. His trip covered a lot of ground, starting in Brasilia, where Holly and I live with our three boys – and where we caught up with Ian McKee ’94. Next, we hiked for four days through the Chapada Diamantina National Park in Northeastern Brazil and ended with two days in Rio, where we just missed Erik McKee and his family by a few days. Despite all the turmoil in Brazil, it was the perfect venue to catch up with old friends.”

SPS friends gathered in New Orleans last year to celebrate the wedding of Alex Tilney ’96. Pictured (l. to r.) are: Peter Light ’96, Lisa Tilney ’89, Sarah Stehli Howell ’97, Amanda Filoso Schreyer ’96, Alex, and Nick Yap ’97. Merritt Tilney ’91 also attended.

Form Director Emily Brands writes: “I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Anniversary. Please register on the SPS website or e-mail me directly for details (emmie777@gmail.com). And if anyone is in the D.C. area, I’d love to meet up as well.”

Jenn Connelly Garcia-Alonso and her family have recently moved back to the New York metropolitan area after several years in Abu Dhabi.

Form Director Ben Bleiman shares: “Our daughter, Madeline, just discovered how to be angry, which is her new go-to face. It’s either an important developmental milestone or she legitimately is over living with me. I’ve seen this before; Mark DeVito gave me an identical look most of Fifth and Sixth Form.”

Form Director Erica McClendon Walker sends the update: “I’m living in Hyde Park with my dear husband, Rob, and our lovable sons, Hans (7) and Owen (4). The boys are Lego architects par excellence, though we all experience our share of blocks underfoot. I’m currently doing social work at a federal vocational training program. In my ‘spare’ time, I serve on my older son’s local school council, design jewelry, and work on building and maintaining urban gardens in my neighborhood. Last weekend, I had the pleasure of meeting up with Jan de Bakker, his lovely wife, and sweet baby daughter. I wish more Paulies lived in Chicago, but I encourage anyone passing through to say hi.”

Sheerin Vesen writes: “I don’t have anything wild or crazy to report. My two-and-a-half-year-old, Philippe, has a way more active social life than I do. He hangs out with Harry, the son of Meghan Sullivan ’98, at the local D.C. public library for French story time each week. Philippe also got to jostle with Adele Shartzer’s boys, Jackson (6), and Bennett (2 1/2), a few weeks ago over pizza and...”

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emmie777@gmail.com
www.sps.edu/1996

Form Director Ben Bleiman
benny.bleiman@gmail.com

Form Director Erica McClendon Walker
benny.bleiman@gmail.com

1997
Cornelia Van Amburg
cvanamburg@stribling.com
Amy Singer
Amelasinger1@gmail.com

Sarah Stehli Howell shares that she, along with Peter Light ’96, Lisa Tilney ’89, Amanda Filoso Schreyer ’96, Merritt Tilney ’91, and Nick Yap celebrated the end of bachelorhood for Alex Tilney ’96 in New Orleans. They ate crawfish, walked in a second-line parade, and congratulated Alex on locking it in with an incredible lady, Sarah Hughes.

2016. He joins big sister Martina. And if anyone is in the D.C. area, I’d love to meet up as well.”

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Legos. **Mish Brown** graced us with her presence (and narrowly avoided getting maimed by flying plastic toys) on her way to Bozeman to visit **Drew (Hanes) Westerman**. Philippe's Franco-Anglo-Vietnamese linguistic combo often leaves us scratching our heads, but increasingly it has us laughing hysterically. I'm still plugging away, managing international B2B marketing at Rosetta Stone and trying to keep my husband out of high-terror-threat countries (easier said than done)."

2000

*Elizabeth Leeds*

esmarshall@gmail.com

*McKay McFadden* shared that after a three-year fellowship in

2001

*Jim Baehr*

jimmybaehr@gmail.com

www.sps.edu/2001

*Clayton Sachs*

clayton.sachs@gmail.com

www.sps.edu/2006

2006

Caroline Randall Williams is currently a visiting assistant professor of English literature and creative writing in West Virginia University’s English Department. Her first collection of poetry, *Lucy Negro, Redux*, came out last June. Thanks to her work in food activism and literacy, she was named in 2015 by *Southern Living* as one of “50 People Changing the South.” Her co-authored cookbook, *Soul Food Love*, recently won a 2016 NAACP Image Award.

Sarah Booker shares: “I now live in Pittsburgh, where I’m trying to learn enough about hockey to be a Penguins fan. After four years in Atlanta for med school, I’m slowly readjusting to winter. Luckily, before starting pathology residency here at UPMC, I married a guy from Buffalo who has taught me how to drive in the snow (slowly). He is also a resident at UPMC (in urology). We met during med school at Emory, where he grew to love (tolerate?) my frequent SPS stories. Outside of residency, we spend most of our time chasing around our energetic dog, Jack, whose favorite snacks are carrots and furniture. If you’re ever in the ‘burgh, give us a call!”

2011

*Meredith Bird*

birdie4949@gmail.com

www.sps.edu/2011

Maggie Smith ’98 training for an upcoming marathon this summer in Colorado.

Children of Lucy ’99 and Matt Rojansky: Abraham (l.) and Edith, holding baby brother Solomon.

the University of Mississippi’s creative writing program and a residency at the Villa Lena Art Foundation in Italy, she is finishing her first novel and looking for a literary agent. The novel is about three friends hitchhiking across Central Asia. She's also proud to be the godmother to Winston, the second-born son of **Clay Nichol**, though seriously concerned about the influence of his godfather, **De-Wolf Emery ’99.”**
1932

George Hollister Hogle

a respected psychiatrist, who packed his 100 years with travel, social activism, family adventures, a long career as a Jungian analyst, and worked for the peace and welfare of all, died at his home in Woodside, Calif., on November 28, 2015.

Dr. Hogle was born on April 10, 1915, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Mary Copley and James A. Hogle of the Form of 1895. He entered St. Paul’s School as a Fourth Former in 1929.

He went on to Yale University, where he majored in metallurgical engineering and discovered a passion for liberal causes. After graduating in 1936, he worked in his family’s mining business and as a stockbroker, but soon realized he wanted to do something different with his life.

In 1939, Dr. Hogle joined the Quakers and became active in the War Resisters League. By the time the U.S. entered World War II, he was classified as a conscientious objector. Around the same time, Dr. Hogle volunteered for a clinical trial at Massachusetts General Hospital crucial to the development of new antimalarial drugs, an experience he credited with eventually launching his medical career.

His work with the Quakers also led to meeting Carl Jung, a psychiatrist he had admired for some time. At the end of the war, Dr. Hogle went to Germany as part of an American Friends Service Committee relief mission. After two years of distributing supplies, he traveled to Switzerland to meet Jung.

Inspired by Jung, Dr. Hogle returned to New York and attended Columbia Medical School. During his internship at Columbia, he met Lois Crozier, whom he married in 1949. The couple had three children before moving to England so Dr. Hogle could study with Jungian analyst Gerhard Adler.

The family later settled in Palo Alto, Calif., where Dr. Hogle completed a psychiatric residency at Stanford Medical School and was admitted to the San Francisco Jung Institute. He eventually became president of the institute, opened a private practice, and in 1974 was appointed associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Stanford.

Dr. Hogle and Lois divorced in 1965. The following year, he married Ann Meilstrup Raymond, a painter with three children of her own. Both were opposed to the Vietnam War and, in 1967, served 10 days in Santa Rita Prison for protesting. Dr. Hogle’s activism stretched across decades and issues. Well into his later years, Dr. Hogle participated in protests against nuclear war and demonstrated in favor of civil rights and gay rights. He was a liberal Democrat who believed women should play a larger role in governing. He championed compassionate end-of-life choices and worried about climate change.

The Hogles traveled extensively, once taking all six of their children to Kenya on a trip they said helped the two families blend into one. In 1990, Dr. Hogle wrote a note to St. Paul’s describing what he called “a trip of a lifetime” to Antarctica. Later, the Hogles saw the Arctic, touring the region aboard a Russian icebreaker.

Dr. Hogle cared deeply for animal welfare, a trait inspired in part by a land donation his parents made to Salt Lake City in 1931. The site became the Hogle Zoo, which remains a popular destination today.

Dr. Hogle stayed active and curious throughout his life, skiing until he was in his 80s and learning to use iPhones and other new technology when he was in his 90s. He loved the opera, the symphony, and dark chocolate. He read the New York Times and the San Francisco Chronicle, and rooted for the San Francisco Giants. He never stopped enjoying social events, either. In April of 2015, 150 people gathered in Woodside, Calif., to celebrate his 100th birthday.

In addition to his wife, Ann, Dr. Hogle is survived by his children, Allan C. Hogle, Stephen C. Hogle, and Frances Kelley; his stepchildren, T.M. Raymond, Megan Aguilar, and Kit Colman; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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1936
Francis Royster Bliss

Army veteran, devoted classics professor, singer, hiker, and family man, died on March 16, 2016, at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington, Maine. He was 96.

Born on June 7, 1919, Mr. Bliss grew up in Maine, the son of the Reverend Francis William Bliss and Marian (Miller) Bliss. He arrived at St. Paul's School as a Fourth Former in the fall of 1933. At SPS, he ran track for Old Hundred and was a member of the Concordian Literary Society, and the Glee Club. On entering St. Paul's, he was hailed as a beautiful soprano, “unfortunately” on his way to being a tenor. Mr. Bliss often remembered his 1936 formmates Lex Bayard and John Purdy. Later, all three had sons who graduated with the SPS Form of 1964.

Mr. Bliss went on to earn his B.A. in classics at Bowdoin, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with the Class of 1940. He began his graduate work at Yale, but was interrupted by the U.S. entry into WWII. He joined the Army and, after basic training, became a First Lieutenant in the 1st Platoon, 53rd Army Field Hospital.

The Field Hospital was to follow the Third Army into France after D-Day to care for wounded American soldiers. On July 14, 1944, 38 days after the invasion of Normandy, the hospital platoon sailed from England to Utah Beach, landing in LSTs with combat engineers and all their gear. They walked several miles with full field packs and impregnated clothing, past mine fields to their first bivouac area. Soon after, the platoon was moved to the Brest Peninsula in Brittany, and for the next month they treated the wounded during the siege of Brest by the 29th Division.

As it happened, General Patton's 3rd Army advanced rapidly to the east, so the Field Hospital was then attached to the 9th Army and followed the unit across France into Belgium and, finally, in February 1945, into Germany. Mr. Bliss remained deployed until the war in Europe was over. He returned to the States to finish his Ph.D. in 1951 at the University of North Carolina.

In the midst of the war, Mr. Bliss met Second Lieutenant Frances Crossfield Ware, an Army nurse with a beautiful Southern accent. They were married on September 6, 1943. The couple had three children, Deborah, David '64, and Margaret.

In his career, Mr. Bliss taught classics – Latin and Greek, language and culture – first at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, then at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was chair of the Classics Department. He came to the University of Vermont in 1966. Until his retirement from UVM in 1979, he taught all levels of Greek and Latin as well as courses in literature in translation and ancient history. His research ranged widely on the literary and material remains of ancient Mediterranean culture. He published important articles on Homer, late fifth-century Athenian literature, and Latin literature of the Augustan period and early Empire.

Mr. Bliss participated loyally in the Classical Association of New England (CANE), which bestowed upon him its Barlow–Beach Distinguished Service Award. At the annual meetings of CANE, his presentations on the pronunciation and recitation of Latin and Greek poetry were legendary. At one meeting, he sang from memory an entire ode of Pindar. He was an enthusiastic tenor in the UVM Choral Union, and in the 1977–78 season of the Royall Tyler Theatre, he acted a principal role in a production of Le Malade Imaginaire in French.

Singing found its roots when Mr. Bliss was 10 and a chorister at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. He became a lifelong enthusiastic singer of traditional and choral music. In Maine, after his retirement, he joined the shape-note singing community and enjoyed singing on the tenor bench for 30 years.

While in Vermont, he and Frances joined an outing club and hiked the mountains, often bringing their loyal dog, Hector. In Maine, they climbed many peaks and introduced many young people to the pleasures of trekking. Mr. Bliss went on countless rain-soaked adventures and never lost his zest for these great times.

Mr. and Mrs. Bliss made numerous trips to Europe to witness and study ancient, medieval, and Renaissance cultural artifacts. On their trips, it was not unusual for them to camp with a tent; they always traveled inexpensively.

Mr. Bliss was an early supporter of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. He took great pleasure in growing food for the family. Throughout his life, he was opposed to violence and race hatred. He contributed regularly to the Southern Poverty Law Center. He was public-spirited and joined several friends in building New Vineyard's first public library.

Over a long lifetime of devotion to teaching, the arts, outdoor recreation, gardening, and travel, Mr. Bliss was blessed with a host of admirers and friends. He was an amusing and often quirky teacher, frequently bringing his students home for dinner or escorting them to a concert or a play. He was always involved with the Maine Classical Association, supporting and encouraging high school level classics teaching.

Mr. Bliss was predeceased in 2012 by his beloved wife, Frances. He is survived by his son, David '64, and his daughter-in-law, Judy Uhl; his daughters, Deborah and Margaret; and his grandchildren, Laura and Thomas Bliss.

1936
John “Jack” Rollins Rumery

a newspaperman, sportsman, and gentleman known for his good nature and kindness, died on January 21, 2016, in Southern Pines, N.C., after a brief illness. Mr. Rumery was 99 years old.
Born in New York City on September 24, 1916, Mr. Rumery was the son of Ralph R. and Gladys Gilbert Rumery. The family lived in Short Hills, N.J., and summered on Nantucket, Mass., and in Gilbertsville, N.Y., in a town founded by an ancestor named Abijah Gilbert.

Mr. Rumery came to St. Paul’s as a First Former in 1930, but transferred to Cheshire Academy in Connecticut in the spring of 1934. He competed with the Delphian club. He contracted polio as a high school senior and, because of the lengthy recovery, needed an additional year to complete his secondary school curriculum.

As an undergraduate, Mr. Rumery attended the University of Virginia, graduating in 1941 with a degree in commerce. At UVA he was a member of Delta Psi.

Athletics were a big part of Mr. Rumery’s life. During his school years, he played football, hockey, and baseball. Polio weakened his leg and kept him from playing team sports at UVA, so he managed the baseball and football teams as a way to remain active in the games he loved. He also enjoyed golf and tennis well into his eighties.

Mr. Rumery was unable to serve in the military during World War II, but worked as a navigator for the Air Transport Command, ferrying crucial supplies from Presque Isle, Maine, to a base in the Arctic Circle.

After the war, Mr. Rumery took a job as a salesman for a newspaper in Schenectady, N.Y., a decision that launched his long career. He went on to become the owner and publisher of the St. Johnsville Enterprise and News in New York, which he sold before moving back to Gilbertsville. He retired as a salesman for Syracuse Lithograph in Syracuse, N.Y.

Mr. Rumery was married three times. He had two children, John and Sarah, with his first wife, Felicity N. Koller. In 1961, he married Beatrice Butler Sargent. The couple lived in Gilbertsville until her death in 1971. In 1977, Mr. Rumery married Nancy Kluge Hall, and the couple moved to North Carolina in 1981, having enjoyed visits to Pinehurst.

Mr. Rumery was a member of the New York and North Carolina chapters of Sons of the American Revolution and a member of the golfing fraternity Tin Whistles in Pinehurst. He remained in touch with St. Paul’s throughout his life, penning frequent notes to the School and hosting alumni luncheons until 2010.

Mr. Rumery was predeceased by his brother, Richard Gilbert Rumery; his daughter, Sarah Rumery Heighton; and his stepdaughter, Susan Sargent. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Rumery; his son, John R. Rumery, Jr.; his stepdaughter, Lisa Brooks; his stepson, David Hall; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

1940
Edward Brooke Stokes

Mr. Stokes was born in Philadelphia on June 10, 1921, the son of Edward Lowber Stokes, a onetime Republican congressman from Pennsylvania, and Mary Baldwin Irwin Brooke. Mr. Stokes came to St. Paul’s School in September of 1936, though his father had written to the School in December of 1922, asking for “an application blank to enter my boy, who is now 1 1/2 years old” into the School. At SPS, Mr. Stokes was a member of the Missionary Society, worked on the yearbook, and competed in boxing, football, and baseball. He was a member of Old Hundred.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School in 1946 with a degree in economics, having had his studies disrupted by service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

According to his obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mr. Stokes was skilled at creating businesses. He first worked for Elkins Morris & Co. as an investment broker, after finishing his Army service. In 1948, he founded Stokes and Co., which “specialized in municipal and corporate securities.” Four years later, the company combined another concern and became Elkins, Morris, Stokes & Co.

In 1949, Mr. Stokes married Catherine “Kitty” Merritt. The couple lived on the Main Line throughout their 66-year marriage, together raising three sons.

Mr. Stokes shifted careers in the 1970s, developing shopping centers throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. His projects included Exton Square Mall, Ardmore West, Newtown Square Shopping Center, and the North End Center in Pottstown, according to the Inquirer. He also created garden apartments in the two states and continued to work in real estate development until his 1987 retirement.

Mr. Stokes was a member of numerous professional associations throughout his careers in finance and real estate, including the New York Stock Exchange, the Bond Club of Philadelphia, and the International Council of Shopping Centers. He served as president of the Board of Trustees of Commonwealth Realty Trust in Philadelphia.

Mr. Stokes doted on his family, including his three sons and his grandchildren. He enjoyed tennis, golf, bridge, and tracking his family genealogy. Mr. Stokes was a longtime volunteer with the Cub Scouts and Little League Baseball.

Mr. Stokes’s wife of 66 years, Catherine “Kitty” Merritt Stokes, died on April 6, 2016. He is survived by his sons, Edward, Jr., Michael, and Peter; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a sister.

1943
Andre Walker Brewster II

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during the Boxer Rebellion. His great-grandfather was Benjamin H. Brewster, attorney general during President Chester A. Arthur’s administration, while his brother, Daniel B. Brewster ’42, was a U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressman, and candidate for the Democratic nomination for president in 1964.

Mr. Brewster attended the Gilman School in Baltimore, before entering St. Paul’s School as a Second Former in 1938. He competed in football, baseball, track, and hockey for Isthmian and qualified as a junior marksman. He spent two years on the Student Council, served as vice president of the Sixth Form, and was a dorm supervisor. He received the School Medal and earned Second Testimonials in 1943, graduating cum laude.

Mr. Brewster was accepted at Princeton, but enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving during World War II as a Second Lieutenant in Guam and China. He also served in Korea and became a Marine Corps Officers Candidate School instructor. He was discharged as a First Lieutenant.

In 1945, Mr. Brewster married Nancy Moffett Peterson and together the couple raised three children. Mr. Brewster earned his LL.B. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1948 and was elected to the Virginia Law Review and the Order of the Coif. He joined the law firm of Venable Baetjer & Howard and eventually became a partner at Piper & Marbury. As a corporate attorney with a natural instinct for solving complicated legal issues, he represented many of the major Baltimore businesses during his career. These included Alex Brown & Sons, Equitable Trust Co., Fidelity & Deposit Co. of Maryland, First National Bank, Monumental Corp., Savings Bank of Baltimore, the Rouse Co., Ryland Group, Sun Life Insurance Co., and Union Trust Co. Mr. Brewster became managing partner of Piper & Marbury in the 1970s, expanding the firm from about 50 lawyers to 350 lawyers in several major cities. Although officially retired at 71, he maintained an office at the firm, now known as DLA Piper, until his death.

Mr. Brewster wrote to SPS in 2008 that he was “deeply indebted to the School for my education, values, and friendships” and was a regular contributor not to the “brick and mortar” of the School, but to decreasing tuition costs for others. Mr. Brewster was a former trustee of the Johns Hopkins University and of Johns Hopkins Hospital, serving as chairman of the board of the hospital from 1981 to 1986. In this capacity, he helped shape the Johns Hopkins Health Systems Corp.

Outside of work, Mr. Brewster was a sportsman who hunted, fished, and played golf. Steeplechase horses were one of his great passions, and among those he owned privately or as part of Arcadia Stable were Maryland Hunt Cup winner Buck Jakes and timber horse champion Bubble Economy. In the racing world, he was known as a loyal owner and a consummate gentleman.

Mr. Brewster worked diligently to keep some parts of the Baltimore area free from development and was a founder and board member of Baltimore County’s Land Preservation Trust. He was also a founder and former secretary of the Caves Valley Golf Club in Baltimore County.

Nancy Brewster, Mr. Brewster’s wife of 70 years, died on February 27, 2016, a week after his death and on the morning of a memorial service for her husband. Survivors include his son, Andre W. Brewster; his daughters, Nancy Brewster Paternotte and Wickes Brewster MacColl; his brother, Walter Wickes Brewster; his half-sister, Frances Cochran Smith; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Mr. Brewster was predeceased by his brother, Daniel ’42, and his sisters, Catherine Brewster Jackson and Betty Baugh Towers.

1944
Samuel “Richard” Leatherman III

remembered as a true Southern gentleman and emblematic of an earlier age, died February 23, 2016, at the age of 89. Mr. Leatherman was born on August 16, 1926, in Memphs, Tenn., to Samuel Richard II and Irene McNeil Morrow Leatherman. His father was general manager of the Abbay and Leatherman cotton plantation in Robinsonville, Miss., where the family was raised. Mr. Leatherman’s early education was completed in a one-room schoolhouse at the plantation.

“I taught Richard to read, some eight years ago, he has had no other teacher so far,” wrote Mary Mayo Cooper to the vice rector of St. Paul’s School on March 10, 1940. The change to life for Mr. Leatherman at St. Paul’s was dramatic, according to his family.

“His Latin teacher on his first day said, ‘How am I going to teach you Latin when you don’t even know how to speak English?’” his daughter, Mary Leatherman Carr, told the Memphis Commercial Appeal in February.

But, Ms. Carr added, Mr. Leatherman more than proved his mettle. “He was one of the honor students of the class. His Latin was impeccable.”

At SPS, Mr. Leatherman competed with Isthmian and Shattuck. After an early graduation from St. Paul’s because of World War II (Mr. Leatherman left the School in 1944 and considered himself part of that form), he went to Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., and then entered the U.S. Navy and its V-12 College Training Program. He eventually graduated from the University of Virginia.

After his discharge from the Navy, Mr. Leatherman worked at First Tennessee Bank and eventually served as president of Memphis Furniture Manufacturing Company, the family business. He was also a prominent cotton farmer.

Away from work and in retirement, he enjoyed tracing family history and spending time outdoors. He liked spending time in the woods, chasing turkeys, and locating coys of quail with his 1979 National Grand Champion bird dog, Miss One Dot.

Mr. Leatherman traveled the world with many of his dearest friends in the U.S. Senior Golf Association. He was a member of the Memphis Country Club, Memphis Hunt and Polo Club, The Belvedere Club in Charlevoix, and The Everglades Club of Palm Beach. In a message to St. Paul’s School in 2006, Mr. Leatherman outlined
his passion for golf. "I play golf five days a week, very often with my old St. Paul's roommate, Albert Austin ['45]."

Mr. Leatherman's first wife was Mary "Carroll" Seabrook Leatherman, who wrote Goodbye to Ole Miss, an account of life in Southern society. They were married for 61 years, until her death in 2011.

He is survived by his second wife, Sandy Allen Leatherman; his daughters, Mary Leatherman Carr and Irene Leatherman Brownlow; a brother, Robertson Morrow Leatherman '49; a sister, Irene Leatherman Orgill; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, S. Richard Leatherman IV, and a sister, Kate Leatherman Orr.

1948 Alanson Bigelow Houghton II
Episcopal priest, Marine veteran, and proud public servant, died peacefully at his home in Pawleys Island, S.C., on January 24, 2016. He was 85 years old.

Born in Corning, N.Y., on August 3, 1930, Rev. Houghton was the son of Amory Houghton, Sr. of the Form of 1917 and Laura Richardson Houghton. Rev. Houghton's father was the chairman of Corning Glass Works. His family includes many other SPS alumni. Rev. Houghton grew up in Corning, but attended the Arizona Desert School in Tucson, Arizona, before enrolling at St. Paul's School as a First Former in the fall of 1942. At SPS, he sang in the Choir and made many good friends. Rev. Houghton was interested in religion at an early age, and was enthusiastically confirmed at SPS in the spring of 1943. Though he enjoyed his time at the School, where his brother, Amory '45, was also a student, Rev. Houghton completed the final two years of his secondary school education at Middlesex School in Concord, Mass.

Rev. Houghton was proud of his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. He continued his education at Adelphi University for undergraduate work and also studied social work at Hunter College. Rev. Houghton earned his M.B.A from Harvard, his LL.D. from Emerson College, and his M.Div. from New York Theological Seminary. He spent the early part of his career working for Corning Glass Works, before finding his true calling as an ordained Episcopal priest.

In his long ministry, Rev. Houghton served at a number of different churches, including Church of the Epiphany in New York City, Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Church of The Heavenly Rest in New York City, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

It was during his rectorship at Church of The Heavenly Rest that Rev. Houghton met his second wife, Billie Fisher Carr. The couple married on June 16, 1979, and, in addition to raising four children of his own, Rev. Houghton became the stepfather to Billie’s five children.

From New York, the Houghtons moved to Charleston, S.C., for his appointment at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. The couple eventually retired to a home overlooking a beautiful marshland at Pawleys Island. Rev. Houghton was a devoted public servant, who felt a duty to give back to his country and his community. He was a dedicated philanthropist and trustee of the Houghton Foundation, who enjoyed starting and supporting charitable programs in the communities in which he lived. He loved to write and was a loyal correspondent, who penned many notes and cards, prayer books, and letters to the editor. He was the author of two books published in 1988, Partners in Love: Ingredients for a Deep and Lively Marriage and Be Not Afraid: Words of Hope and Promise.

Rev. Houghton was predeceased on April 7, 2013, by his wife of 34 years, Billie Fisher Carr Houghton. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Laura Houghton Beer, and his stepsons, John Thomas Fisher Carr and Oscar C. Carr III. He is survived by his siblings, Elizabeth Weinberg, Amory Houghton, Jr. '45, and James Richardson Houghton '54; his children, Alexander “Sandy” Stewart Houghton, Alanson Bigelow Houghton III, Hope Houghton Newell, and John Carter Houghton; his stepchildren, Blanche Carr Symons, Scott Carr Adams, and E'Lane Carr Tipson; 19 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1948 George "Bruce" Leib
who spent his 52-year career on Wall Street, died on April 3, 2015, in New York City. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Leib was born on April 12, 1930, to Isabel Halderman and George C. Leib. He attended the Eaglebrook School in Deerfield, Mass., before arriving at St. Paul's School as a Second Former in the fall of 1943. Young Bruce followed his two older brothers, Gordon B. Leib '42 and John H. Leib '45, to the School.

He attended St. Paul's until midway through his Third Form year; eventually graduating from Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana. He continued his education at the University of Virginia, graduating with the Class of 1952.

Mr. Leib spent the majority of his career working for a single Wall Street financial firm which, during his tenure, took on various names, including Baker Weeks, Reynolds & Co., Dean Witter Reynolds & Co., and Morgan Stanley.

On the personal side, Mr. Leib was married to Carroll Ingalls, with whom he had two children, Cara and Eric.

Mr. Leib loved to travel and made frequent trips to visit his many friends in Southampton, N.Y., and Palm Beach, Fla. He enjoyed playing golf and was a dedicated equestrian. It was during a riding excursion in Central Park that Mr. Leib met his second wife, Christine Jensen. The couple married in 2007 and were divorced in 2012 after five years of marriage.

Mr. Leib was predeceased in 2006 by his first wife, Carroll, and in 2004 by his son, Eric. He was also predeceased by his brother, John H. Leib '45. Survivors include Mr. Leib's daughter, Cara Leib; his brother, Gordon B. Leib '42; two nieces; and two nephews.
Alden Banning Ashforth

best known as a fine composer, an esteemed professor, and a dedicated documentarian of New Orleans jazz, died of cardiac arrest on January 29, 2016, in New Orleans, La. He was 82. He was supported by his three daughters, his partner, Steven Teeter, and his close friend, David Wyckoff '50.

The son of Henry Adams Ashforth of the Form of 1920 and Mariana Tremaine (Richardson) Ashforth, Mr. Ashforth was born on May 13, 1933. He grew up in New York City; at “Milbank” in Greenwich, Conn., and at “The Homestead” in Deer, N.H.

Mr. Ashforth studied at The Buckley School in New York, before enrolling at St. Paul’s as a Second Former in the fall of 1945. His interest in music blossomed at St. Paul’s as a Second Former in the fall of 1945. He left out of Central Junior High School as a European settler in Dublin. Mr. Wright was born on October 21, 1931, to John P. and Berryville, Va. Together the couple had his community, died on January 10, 2016, at River-Mead in Peterborough, N.H. He was 84 years old and a longtime resident of Dublin, N.H.

Mr. Ashforth is survived by his partner of 40 years, Steven Teeter; his daughters, Robyn R. Ashforth, Melissa A. Hipple, and Lauren E. Dimen; six grandchildren; his sister, Marna A. Geoffroy; his step-sister, Christina M. Whitman; and his former wife. He was predeceased by his half-sister, Eleanor A. Harvey; his half-brother, Henry A. Ashforth, Jr.; and his stepbrothers, Michael and Peter Madden.

Thomas Pearson Wright

a man who cared deeply about public service and made significant contributions to his community, died in the Keene public school system before enrolling at St. Paul’s School out of Central Junior High School as a Second Former in the fall of 1945. He left St. Paul’s in the summer of 1949, completing his high school education at Proctor Academy in Andover, N.H. On a data sheet submitted for enrollment at St. Paul’s, a young Mr. Wright listed magic and swimming among his interests.

Mr. Wright was well liked and established many friendships at St. Paul’s. At the end of his Fifth Form year, Mr. Wright’s parents determined that he should complete his schooling at Proctor. He graduated from Proctor in 1951 and spent the next four years at Trinity College in Connecticut, graduating with the Class of 1955.

On September 12, 1959, Mr. Wright married Georgia Bluford Spencer in Berryville, Va. Together the couple had
DECEASED


Mr. Wright met Elizabeth “Story” Smith in Nantucket and the couple married on March 16, 1973, and enjoyed 41 years of marriage. Tom and Story Wright settled together in Dublin, N.H., that same year. He worked for the family business, J.A. Wright & Company, a company based in Keene known for making Wright’s Silver Polish. Mr. Wright eventually retired as J.A. Wright’s vice president.

A dedicated public servant, Mr. Wright served as a Keene city councilor and was a member of the Dublin planning board (1972–77), the zoning board of adjustment (1978–86 and 1991–2000), the Dublin Transportation Committee, and the Dublin Lake Preservation Committee (1997–2008). He helped draft the first master plan for the town of Dublin.

Mr. Wright was a member of the Dublin Lake Club. He served on the boards of the New Hampshire Lakes Association, the Monadnock Conservancy, the Southwestern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, the Historical Society of Cheshire County, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), and the Dublin Historical Society. He was particularly proud of his part in working with the SPNHF to create the Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest in Lempster, N.H.

An outdoorsman, Mr. Wright enjoyed salmon fishing, skiing, meteorology, and travel. He was happy when making his way down a ski trail. Mr. Wright had fished for salmon in Iceland, New Brunswick, and Quebec’s Gaspe Peninsula. He was a certified weather spotter for the National Weather Service. Mr. Wright also practiced yoga and was a featured participant in the public television series Yoga for the Rest of Us. He was a devoted gardener who once was awarded Best in Show by the Dublin Garden Club for his daffodils.

Mr. Wright was predeceased on July 12, 2014, by his wife, Story. He was also predeceased by his brother, John M. Wright ‘49. He is survived by his children, Spencer, Georgia, and Jock; his stepchildren, Will Wear and Kate Van Wely; five grandchildren; his sister, Mary Wright; his first wife, Georgia Spencer Wright; his sister-in-law, Patricia Wright; his nieces, Susan Wright and Sarah Stanley; his nephews, J.B. Wright ’72 and Joshua Wright; and his loyal Bernese Mountain dog, Oliver.

1956
Sir John Bruce Woollacott Ropner

who oversaw a noted arboretum in North Yorkshire, England, died February 13, 2016, at the age of 78.

Born on April 16, 1937, Sir John was the son of Sir Leonard and Esme Ropner. He went to school at St. Peter’s Court and Eton College in England. In 1955, he came to SPS as an exchange student from Eton, traveling along with his parents, who stayed at the New Hampshire Highway Hotel on Fort Eddy Road in Concord.

“As long as I am outside and taking active exercise, I don’t mind really what I do,” he wrote in his application to the School, “but, without any doubt, hunting and shooting are my favorite recreations – swimming and tennis come a very close second.”

During his year at SPS, Sir John embraced a variety of activities, including Halcyon crew, Glee Club, the Scientific Association, the Missionary Society, the Shavian Society, and the Concordian Literary Society.

Upon returning to Britain, Sir John performed his national service with the 17th/21st Lancers. He then studied to be an accountant at the firm of Peat Marwick. He capped his career as head of the property division of Ropner PLC.

What ultimately distinguished Sir John in Britain was his stewardship of Thorp Perrow, a 100-acre arboretum established by his father. Once Sir Leonard died in the late 1970s, his son took over the estate and guided it to prominence with a long-term revitalization plan.

According to the British Telegraph newspaper, “The estate is a horticultural treasure trove, providing a haven for five ‘National Plant Collections’ – comprehensive collections of species – and 67 trees designated as ‘champion’ specimens by the Tree Register of the British Isles.” Prior to his death, Sir John oversaw the replanting of an avenue of cherry trees.

Sir John was known for his sense of fun and adventure. He was master of the Bedale Hunt and was made high sheriff of North Yorkshire in 1991. He was never happier than when surrounded by his family.

Sir John married three times, to Anne Delme-Radcliffe in 1961; to Auriol Mackeson-Sandbach in 1970; and to Nicola Agnew in 1996. She survives him. Sir John also leaves behind four daughters and a son. He was predeceased by one daughter from his first marriage.

1958
Hugh Hollister Hogle

a conservationist, photographer, and surgeon, who pioneered techniques that helped countless breast cancer survivors, died February 25, 2016, surrounded by his family and close friends. He was 76.

Dr. Hogle was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 6, 1939, to James E. and Bonnie Smith Hogle, the second of four close-knit brothers who remained so into old age. He began his education at the Stewart Training School in Salt Lake City and entered St. Paul’s School as a Second Former in 1953. At St. Paul’s, Dr. Hogle sang in the Glee Club and was a member of the Acolyte Guild, the Athletic Association, the Concordian Literary Society, the Propylean Literary Society, the Missionary Society, the Rifle Club, and La Junta. He served as editor of the yearbook, chairman of the Dance Committee, president of the Scientific Association, and as a dorm supervisor. He competed in football and hockey with Delphian, captained the Shattuck crew, and rowed with the SPS crew.

He attended Oberlin College and the University of Utah, where he earned a
Mr. Secor was born on October 30, 1942, at Doctor’s Hospital in New York City to Jay Ketcham Secor and Pamela (Tower) Secor. After his parents’ divorce, Mr. Secor lived in Old Westbury, N.Y., with his mother and stepfather, Thomas LeBoutillier of the Form of 1933, and numerous full, half- and stepsiblings, including his younger half-brother, former New York Congressman John LeBoutillier, who took care of Mr. Secor throughout his years of sickness and injury.

After attending the Green Vale School on Long Island, Mr. Secor chose to come to St. Paul’s as a Second Former in 1956 because he loved winter and winter sports, cherished time spent in the outdoors, and felt the high academic standards of SPS would fit his ambitions well. Mr. Secor was very interested in music from a young age and played guitar well enough to find a job playing at a night club during the summers and to start the Shifters Band with Malcolm Seymour ’61 and Dudley Weaver ’61. Mr. Secor also played lacrosse, wrote for The Pelican, and served on the student government.

From SPS, Mr. Secor attended the University of Arizona, earning both his B.A. and his J.D. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1968, while living in San Francisco. He soon moved to New York City to become a sports agent and instead bought the Tittle Tattle singles bar on First Avenue and 65th Street, which he then ran from 1969 to 1982. The establishment soon became one New York’s most infamous gathering places for stars of sports and entertainment, ranging from pro athletes Joe Namath, Pete Rose, and Ken Stabler to musicians Tom Jones and Paul Anka to famed director Steven Spielberg, who met his first wife, actress Amy Irving, one night at the Tittle Tattle.

In 1982, Mr. Secor founded Stars Model Management Inc., a modeling agency, which he ran until his death.

In 1989, Mr. Secor, a lifetime health and workout fanatic, was struck by a car while jogging in New York City. The accident left him paralyzed from the chest down. In a split second, he went from an independent, fun-loving bachelor to someone completely dependent on others for even the most basic tasks. The neurologists at Bellevue Hospital predicted...
that Tim wouldn’t make it out of intensive care. Instead, Mr. Secor defied the odds and the dire predictions to live for 27 more years. According to his SPS friend Malcolm “Mike” Seymour ’61, “We all knew that Tim fought for life every day over his long confinement, and that his attitude and acceptance of his plight was remarkable.”

Mr. Secor is survived by his siblings, Nicholas Secor, Susan Secor Humes, John Bosley Secor, John LeBoutillier, Steve Secor, and Beth Secor; and numerous loyal and wonderful friends, including Curt Curtis, who visited often and brought him great happiness.

**1962**

**Ellerbe Powe Cole**

An attorney and outdoorsman, died peacefully on January 23, 2016, with his family at his side. The cause was pancreatic cancer. Mr. Cole was 71 years old and a resident of Augusta, Maine.

The second oldest of six children of Clarence Alfred Cole, the Third Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, and Catharine Powe Cole, Mr. Cole was born on July 15, 1944, in Charlotte, N.C. He later grew up in Columbia, S.C. He excelled in elementary school and remained an active Harvard alum- nus, staying in close touch with many of his classmates.

While a student at Harvard, Mr. Cole met Carol Elizabeth Irvine of Glasgow, Scotland, who was working for one of his professors. The couple wed on December 30, 1967, in Cambridge, Mass., and were married until her death in 2012.

In 1968, Mr. Cole began his active duty in the U.S. Navy, initially at the Naval Station in Charleston, S.C. He was later assigned to the cruiser USS Little Rock (CLG-4), the flagship of the sixth fleet, and stationed in Gaeta, Italy, where he and Carol lived for a year and a half. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1969, at which time he and Carol moved to South Carolina, where they welcomed their first child, Peter ’91, in 1972.

That same year, Mr. Cole earned his J.D. from the University of South Carolina. He subsequently clerked for Judge Clement Haynsworth. Settled in Washington, D.C., in 1974, the Coles welcomed their second child, Andrew ’93. In D.C., Mr. Cole worked for the Commission on Civil Rights, co-authoring numerous reports on compliance with civil rights laws by various federal agencies. While living in Washington, the family visited Maine for the first time and were captivated by the magnificent coast and woods. They moved to Augusta in 1974. Ellerbe and Carol lived in the same house on the west side of town for the remainder of their lives.

Professionally, Mr. Cole initially worked at the law offices of Jim Mitchell & Jed Davis, P.A. He also served at the Naval Reserve Stations in Augusta, Bangor, and Winter Harbor for more than a decade, including two years of active duty. He achieved the rank of Commander.

Mr. Cole later joined the Maine Municipal Association, where he worked for 18 years, retiring as a senior staff attorney in 2006. At MMA, he provided legal advice and training to town and city officials across Maine and represented municipal interests. He also was responsible for many guidance materials, including a manual on town meetings and elections that is still in use today. Mr. Cole was blessed to forge many lasting friendships with colleagues at MMA.

An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Cole hiked, camped, cross-country skied, and canoed extensively throughout the state of Maine with his family and friends. He was a longtime member of the Abenaki Ski Club and often volunteered to help maintain various public trails in Central Maine. He also was a voracious reader, particularly of nonfiction, poetry, and news. He was a self-described Grecophile, making multiple trips to Greece to vacation and explore the antiquities. Mr. Cole also traveled extensively in France, Canada, and Morocco, often walking from town to town. Closer to home, he was frequently seen walking with Carol and their dog, Laddie, on the Kennebec Rail Trail, from Augusta to Hallowell, Maine.

In addition, Mr. Cole loved and supported area music and arts programs, including the Lithgow Library, Maine Fiddle Camp, Farnsworth Museum, Harlow Gallery, and the music program at Colby College. In recent years, he was an enthusiastic participant at contra dances around Maine and throughout New England, and he self-published a newsletter highlighting local area art, music, and dance events.

Mr. Cole enjoyed connecting people of all backgrounds and ages and often sought to introduce friends and acquaintances to each other with the hope of creating new friendships. He was a loyal alumnus of St. Paul’s School, a man who continually fostered companionship among his former classmates. He twice served as form agent (1987–1992 and 2011–2016) and acted as form director from 1992 to 1997. Mr. Cole organized the Form of 1962’s 50th Anniversary in 2012. He also conducted an SPS walking tour for the 50th reunion of 1964 at Anniversary 2014.

Mr. Cole was predeceased by his wife, Carol, by his brother, Carl, and his sister, Elizabeth. He is survived by his sons, Peter E. Cole ’91 and Andrew M. Cole ’93, and their spouses; four grandchildren; his siblings, C. Alfred Cole, Jr., Catherine, and Laura; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.
1964
Howard Sheperd “Shep” Paine

an author, military historian, and renowned military miniaturist, known as one of the best in the world in his field, died on August 1, 2015, at his home on the Northwest Side of Chicago, five days after suffering a stroke. He was 69 years old.

Born on July 29, 1946, Mr. Paine was the son of Richmond S. and Mary Collyer Paine. Mr. Paine’s father was serving in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Berlin at the time of Shep’s birth, so he began his life in Germany, before the family moved back to the U.S. and settled in the Boston area.

Mr. Paine attended Dexter School in Brookline, Mass., before enrolling at St. Paul’s School as a Second Former in the fall of 1959. At SPS, he competed with Isthmian and Halcyon. He was a member of the Art Association, the Dramatic Club, and the Pelican Board and sang in the Choir. As a Sixth Former, Mr. Paine was the recipient of the James Appleton Thayer Medal for excellence in dramatics.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967, serving with the 3rd Armored Division in Germany and rising to the rank of Sergeant. Mr. Paine earned his B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1971. He settled in the Chicago area for the next four decades, building his career as an artist who focused on creating some of the world’s most detailed and well-respected military miniatures, and widely sharing displays of those figures and scenes in museums. Unveilings of his work were highly anticipated by those in the field.

In a fall 2014 interview with Alumni Horae, Mr. Paine said he developed a passion for history during his years at St. Paul’s. He added that, while he found the events of the past interesting in their own right, he was more drawn to the people who made the events happen.

“You meet more interesting people and make more interesting friends if you don’t limit yourself to the ones who are alive,” he told Alumni Horae.

Although he had not previously considered himself an artist, Mr. Paine had always been consumed by artistic pursuits. He was a Fifth Former at St. Paul’s when he began to experiment with combining his love of art with his affinity for history. He spent his spare time in his final two years at SPS painting 20mm–high plastic figures (about the length of one knuckle), forming them up into regiments along the wainscoted molding of his dorm room in Wing.

By the time he had completed his military service and was studying humanities, history, art, and literature at the University of Chicago, Mr. Paine had more than doubled the scale of his figures to 54mm, crafting them out of two-part epoxy putty, with a particular focus on figures from the Napoleonic period, an era in history that attracted him because of the fascinating characters it produced.

“People began wanting to buy them and I started putting myself through college by selling these figures,” he said. “It was the ideal college job.”

In his career in this niche field, Mr. Paine used his broad knowledge of military history to create pieces for private collections, museums, and other large institutions, including the Franklin Mint and the home of artist Andrew Wyeth. His models and figures reflected his acumen for the Napoleonic era, the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. He also created several pieces of fantasy, including a scene from The Hobbit, and from famous works of art.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Paine was commissioned by Monogram to create how-to tip sheets for building models. They are now considered collector’s items. Around the same time, Monogram asked Mr. Paine to create 20 dioramas for its military vehicle series. According to his obituary in the Chicago Tribune, “from his earliest finished plastic figures through the end of his active period as a scale modeler in the mid-1990s, Mr. Paine sold every piece he completed.” Mr. Paine was forced to retire due to vision problems that emerged in his fifties.

Mr. Paine enjoyed sharing with others his knowledge of and love for scale modeling. He co-founded the triennial World Model Expo and was an advocate for the fair judging system of the Military Miniature Society of Illinois. He published countless articles on the topic and wrote several books, including How to Build Dioramas, Building and Painting Scale Figures, and Modeling Tanks and Military Vehicles. An online biography of Mr. Paine describes him as a “champion of the diorama.”

Jim DeRogatis, a fellow modeler who released the 2008 biography Sheperd Paine: The Life and Work of a Master Modeler and Military Historian, called him “arguably the best-known military miniaturist in the world….He has done more than anyone else to elevate modeling to the level of an art form, one that includes elements of painting, sculpting, historical research, and vivid storytelling.”

Mr. Paine described his own work as detail-oriented, both because of the care with which he studied the figures and his close examination of the periods in which his creations lived. He was passionate about his research before attempting to duplicate a particular figure or scene artistically, but he possessed a strong sense of self and was always careful not to take himself too seriously.

Mr. Paine was a lifelong bachelor, who enjoyed time with many friends, family, and fellow scale-modeling enthusiasts. He is survived by his sisters, Diana Jeck, Emily Paine, and Martha Paine.

1990
Margaret Greenwood Cassidy

a doctor, devoted aunt, daughter, sister, and friend, who had an infectious laugh, died unexpectedly at her home in Shreveport, La., on February 16, 2016. She was 43 years old.

Maggie Cassidy was born October 25, 1972, in Lexington, Ky., to James Cassidy, Jr. and Martha Greenwood Cassidy.
She attended The Lexington School, where she excelled in many areas, especially mathematics and music, before entering St Paul’s School as a Fourth Former in the fall of 1987.

At St. Paul’s, Dr. Cassidy was known as a diligent student and a natural and multi-talented musician, who began to explore an interest in music at the age of five. While at SPS, Dr. Cassidy played guitar and piano and sang in the Choir. She was also a singer and keyboard player in the student rock band “Salt of the Earth,” composing some of her own music and lyrics. She played squash and soccer for Isthmian and was a consistent contributor to the girls JV tennis team. A National Merit Scholar, Dr. Cassidy received Second Testimonials as a Fifth Former and graduated magna cum laude with distinction in mathematics and modern languages.

Dr. Cassidy earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of California at Berkeley. After college, she moved to New York City, where she lived for more than 15 years. In the city, she reconnected with many of her SPS formmates, building on friendships that lasted for the rest of her far-too-short life.

“We had an extraordinary amount of fun in her company,” said formmate Charles Buice. “Maggie was a force and a connector and collector of people, and she was a ceaselessly devoted and loving friend.”

In New York City, Dr. Cassidy was devoted to helping others. In her professional life, she worked for nonprofit organizations such as the Floating Hospital and was the deputy development director for the Center for Court Innovation. Outside of work, she participated in multiple marathons, raising money for Team for Kids, a group dedicated to funding New York Road Runners’ Youth and Community Services programs, which provide free or low-cost health and fitness programs for inner-city children.

It came as little surprise to those who knew her when Dr. Cassidy chose to continue her generosity toward others by choosing the medical field as her second career. She returned to Lexington and attended the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, graduating with distinction in May 2015. While in medical school, she volunteered at the Salvation Army and the Nathaniel Mission Free Clinic, which serves the residents of Fayette County, Ky. At the time of her death, she was in the midst of a residency in internal medicine in Shreveport, La.

Dr. Cassidy was fortunate to be able to experience many cultures during her lifetime, including travels in Egypt, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Japan, the Philippines, and Cuba. She frequently shared her love of music by giving mixed tapes (then playlists) to friends and family. She enjoyed spending holiday time at home with her family, especially her nieces and nephews, often helping them solve 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles. Her infectious laugh could often be heard in the kitchen as she was helping to prepare holiday meals. That laugh will be greatly missed.

Dr. Cassidy is survived by her parents; her sister, Anne; her brother, Peter, and his sister, Laurel, and their children, Eva Pace, Emery, and Stokes; her sister, Katie Sutherland, and her husband, Bob, and their children, Isabel and Nash. She also leaves many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins and her sweet terrier, Holly – her best friend to the very end.

1993
Kimberley Ann Stanton Dias

She was 40 years old.

Ms. Dias was born on May 6, 1975, in Coral Gables, Fla., to William and Ann Stanton Dias. She grew up in rural Florida, attending St. John’s Lutheran School and working on her family’s horse farm. In 1988, she was selected in a nationwide competition to attend a summer session of the School of American Ballet in New York. At that program, she by chance attended a presentation about a boarding school in Concord, N.H., that would allow her pursue her passion for dance, while opening the door to academic opportunities she never thought possible. As a result of that fortuitous encounter, St. Paul’s became the transformative aspect of her life.

At St. Paul’s, Ms. Dias danced with the SPS Ballet Company. She earned a number of academic awards and was active in the Acolyte Guild, the Cum Laude Society, the John Winant Society, and the Scientific Association. Ms. Dias loved science and, during the summer after her high school graduation, worked in the cytogenetic laboratory at Memorial Sloan–Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, before attending Princeton University.

Despite her initial intentions to pursue a medical career, once enrolled at Princeton, the interests of Ms. Dias shifted toward politics and business. She ultimately earned a bachelor’s degree in 1997 from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs. Four years later, she received her M.B.A. from Columbia University.

In her career, Ms. Dias worked at several financial management firms, including Salomon Smith Barney and John A. Levin & Co. She was the founder of her own hedge fund, Affirmed Capital, which focused on the healthcare sector. The job was an ideal combination for her interests, allowing her to spend time understanding not only the company’s fundamentals but also the medical research behind the business. Investing was ultimately her great passion, even though it failed to deliver joy, even in success.

Ms. Dias remained active in the St. Paul’s community as a member of the Alumni Association Executive Committee (2004–06), as a form agent for the Form of 1993, and as a mentor to younger alumni.

Ms. Dias is survived by her parents, William and Ann Dias, and her brother, Danny Dias ’95.
COMMUNITY

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Alumni/Parent Reception, the Langham Hotel, March 30

HONG KONG
Alumni/Parent Reception, The Apex, March 10

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
SPS Conversation, hosted by John Meeks ’91, February 25

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
Alumni/Parent Reception, Union League of Philadelphia, April 19

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
Alumni Association Reception/Award Ceremony, JW Marriott Union Square, April 20

SEOUL
Alumni/Parent Reception, Shilla Hotel, March 8

SHANGHAI
Alumni/Parent Reception, Three on the Bund, April 11

SINGAPORE
Alumni/Parent Reception, China Club, March 12

Upcoming Events
Be sure to visit www.sps.edu/alumnievents for upcoming event information and to register for our summer gatherings.
Jennifer Groman ’83 took an unconventional route to NASA, where she now serves as chief of facilities engineering, after spending two years as NASA’s federal preservation officer and manager of the agency’s cultural resources program. Her background in historic preservation has made her uniquely qualified to help the relatively young NASA preserve its atypically new relics.

In the late 1970s, my dad [Walter John Groman ’57] was an expatriate general manager for Kimberly–Clark in El Salvador. There we lived in a copy of the Fallingwater house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. That got me very interested in architecture.

Having gone to school in the 1980s, I needed a recession-proof career, so historic preservation became my specialty field in architecture school, because people tend to reinvest in existing buildings rather than build new ones during a recession.

At the University of Texas at Austin, I was selected as a Henry Luce Scholar, which took me to Malaysia, where I worked for the National Trust for Malaysia and met my future husband. I set up a company related to historic preservation. It was difficult to succeed without a lot of startup money, so eventually I moved to Australia to work with my future husband, who was in the same business. I eventually worked as the heritage officer and strategic planner for Australia’s sixth largest city.

My expertise became policy and compliance with historic preservation laws. In 2000, we returned to the States and I worked for the Army in El Paso, continuing my work in the field, before moving to Maryland to work for the Pentagon. My main role at the Pentagon was to develop policy and put out fires for the Army related to historic sites, Native American and Native Hawaiian concerns, and compliance with cultural resources laws.

I really never saw myself working for NASA. There was a space architecture program I was interested in when selecting a specialty architecture program for graduate school, but I decided to follow a different path.
NASA is thought of as a young agency, but they needed to build a historic preservation program. So after more than 10 years of working with the Army, I moved to NASA to help with that. The way the law works, anything can be historic if it is considered important to our nation’s history. This includes 25–year–old spacecraft.

Normally, there is an unofficial threshold of 50 years or older to be considered for the National Register of Historic Places. The concession is for items of exceptional national significance – they can be any age, which pretty much covers NASA’s artifacts and several of its buildings and structures. An example is the space shuttles themselves, which are eligible for the National Register. We even nominated the space shuttle Discovery to be a National Historic Landmark and preserved the remaining shuttles by giving them to museums for display and protection.

The burst of activity in the 1960s for Apollo produced NASA facilities that are starting to deteriorate. My new world involves determining which critical properties we should steward. Just picture the original Apollo launch pad, which has a tower built for a specific vehicle. The superstructure changes for each launch vehicle, so some decisions involve tearing down existing structures to make way for new technology and advances in engineering.

NASA actually makes history. I came along from 2011 to 2015 to build policy and program with the goal of preserving that history. Now I am in charge of all new construction, coming full circle to my architecture background. Much of our construction program is dedicated to repairing aging infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines across NASA centers, and replacing aging laboratories to include state–of–the–art technologies for our engineers and scientists who do important work in support of NASA’s missions.

I am challenged now with how to maintain the historic structures and facilities that are part of the nation’s heritage. Maintaining those is a challenge when they are becoming or have become obsolete. Things become out of date quickly nowadays, and we have to constantly upgrade and change. I am now in charge of demolition as well as saving historic sites as the law implies. It’s a 180–degree turn and a great responsibility trying to balance NASA’s historic legacy and reduce its footprint at the same time.
Alumni Association Award Recipient

William H. Taft IV ’62
Respected public servant

by Jana F. Brown

Though his lineage might suggest otherwise, William Howard “Will” Taft IV ’62 says that politics were not a frequent topic at his family’s dinner table.

Taft, who was named this year’s recipient of the SPS Alumni Association Award, is the great-grandson of 27th U.S. President William H. Taft, who also served as the nation’s 10th chief justice.

“But entering a career in the law wasn’t a surprise,” says Taft, who has held numerous high-level positions in the federal government under four different presidential administrations, “although I can’t say I went into it knowing what it was really like.”

From his five years as a student at St. Paul’s, Taft recalls skating on the black ice of Lower School Pond, making good friends, and appreciating the guidance of SPS masters John Walker, Carroll McDonald, George Smith, and George Tracy, among others. After his SPS graduation, Taft earned his B.A. from Yale in 1966 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School three years later. He planned a career in private practice, but was recruited to a government job by then—chairman of the Federal Trade Commission Caspar Weinberger.

“I said yes because it made sense,” says Taft.

In the early 1970s, Taft served as assistant to Weinberger, who was President Nixon’s director of the Office of Management and Budget. In that role, he helped Weinberger with budget oversight for the entire federal government. Taft next spent several years as executive assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare before his appointment by President Ford as general counsel to the same office. Taft left federal service for four years during the Carter administration, but returned in 1981 to serve as general counsel to the Department of Defense under President Reagan. Taft eventually served as deputy secretary of defense and acting secretary of defense (for three months at the start of 1989). To prepare for his time in the DOD, Taft “studied up on the military and gained even more respect for the people who serve.”

During the Gulf War, from 1989 to 1992, Taft was appointed U.S. ambassador to NATO. As head of the U.S. delegation, Taft was an important liaison between American and foreign ministers at a tense time, which saw the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

“It was rewarding to be a part of those negotiations,” says Taft, “to make sure the alliance [of NATO] stayed together in the absence of the Soviet Union.”

For eight years during the Clinton administration, Taft worked in private practice in Washington, D.C. He returned to federal appointment in 2000, when President George W. Bush tabbed him to serve as chief legal adviser to the U.S. Department of State under Secretary of State Colin Powell.

While working under Secretary Powell, Taft became known as an advocate for the humane treatment and proper interrogation of detainees. “We had people who had been captured in Afghanistan and we were faced with how to treat them,” Taft explains. “I studied the Geneva Conventions and the requirements for the humane treatment of prisoners. We believed that we should continue to follow the Geneva Conventions as a matter of international law, and treat others the way we would want our own troops to be treated if captured.”

Since his retirement in 2006, Taft has remained involved in advocacy for human rights. He has served on the board at Freedom House for the last seven years, including a stint as chairman from 2009 to 2014. The organization promotes human rights and the expansion of freedom throughout the world. Taft is also blessed with three children, William V ’96, Maria, and Julie, whom he raised with his wife, Julia Vadala Taft. Julia Taft, a federal appointee known for her devotion to refugee protection and international disaster relief efforts, died of cancer in 2008. Taft was remarried in 2011 to Judith Harkness, and the couple now resides in Rhode Island.

From 2007 to 2009, Taft taught international law and diplomacy at Stanford University, where he shared the lessons of his career with his students. “The most important thing,” he says, “was teaching them to have respect for the law.”
An inspired chef.
An award-winning author.
A supporter of the Annual Fund.

I am SPS

(Caroline ’06)

#IamSPS
The familiar infrastructure of the Hargate Building is recognizable even as it undergoes major renovations. Hargate will soon be home to a new community center, due to open in January 2017.