



# Crusader CONNECTION

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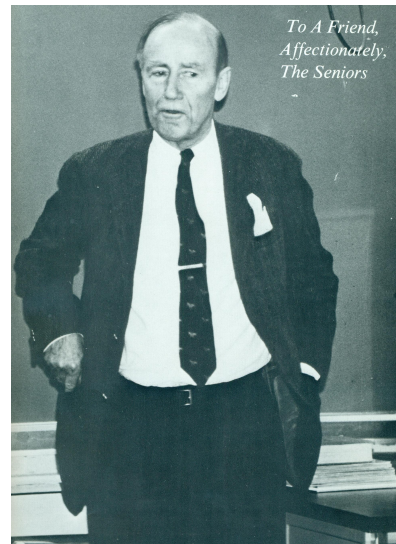
## Letter From Brooklandwood

"Clue Game, fellas, and clue number one: Fiction, not fact! Clue number two: in this story, two young boys floated down the Mississippi River on a raft! Hands, fellas! Stop!"

Thus begins Farnham Warriner's class in literature appreciation at St. Paul's. Following each clue he calls for hands, then bellows "STOP!" The boys who think they know the answer slide to the front, gingerly handing their slips of paper to Mr. Warriner. The tension is palpable as the verdict comes: "You're right!" or "You're wrong, and you're eliminated!" This ritual is repeated for each boy with the temerity to have raised his hand. Additional clues are given until one or more winners emerge, each receiving their choice of a Classic Comic or a pencil.

From the early 1960's through the mid-1980's, hundreds of St. Paul's middle schoolers competed in Clue Games and memorized esoteric words under the spell of Farnham Warriner. His classes consisted of vocabulary exercises, recorded stories and discussions of language and literature. Our composition books were divided into sections for word vocabulary, grammar, spelling, word usage and general information.

In each class Mr. Warriner gave new words and definitions, which we meticulously recorded in our speckled notebooks (his admonition, "my definition, fellas, and my definition only!" precluded synonyms). When a Warriner word was uttered in class, boys erupted in paroxysms of excitement, screaming for recognition from Mr. Warriner, who madly pointed at the hands he saw first. We weren't beyond a bit of creative etymology—though "apprehension" meant "fear," the definition became "fear of Mr. Henschen," a nod to teacher John Henschen. When "prevalent" meant "widespread," one wag announced that he had a



prevalent on his bed.

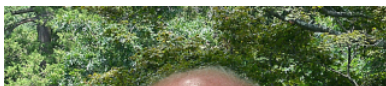
But a Draconian regimen of punishments generally ensured order. A boy who misbehaved before the bell starting class was given a choice of a ping—a thumb-assisted finger to the miscreant's ear— or a Saturday detention, served at Mr. Warriner's house. We anxiously awaited his announcement at the end of each class: "The following boys will report to my house on Saturday at 9 am, and NOT NINE ONE!" This was not bad duty, however, for Mrs. Warriner made breakfast to the detainees, and their daughters were our age, and cute—and Mr. Warriner paid for chores performed.

Stringent measures were employed for one incorrigible student, "Bobby," who spent many class sessions copying his vocabulary in the "Dungeon," a damp, unfinished basement room in Brooklandwood that now houses the business office. The zenith of many classes came with "Bobby, to the Dungeon!," with Mr. Warriner, oblivious to the boy's protestations and the roaring of his classmates, escorting him downstairs to labor in solitary confinement.

Mr. Warriner's passion for language and literature was infectious. The tales of this enigmatic man were legend: his extraordinary grasp of language, yet he'd forget he'd driven to school and get a ride home; his penchant for quoting lengthy passages of poetry, yet he'd greet dinner guests with "how nice of you to stop by; do come in for a drink!"; his uncanny retention of literary trivia, yet he once introduced two of his students, who were brothers, to one another. And more than a scholar, he was a champion tennis player who in his day played against Bill Tilden and Bobby Riggs. A remarkable physical anomaly, Mr. Warriner played tennis well into his eighties, his lobs that unfailingly landed on the baseline causing great consternation among opponents sixty years his junior (including this writer). For years he and Frank Roberts were the top-ranked men's senior doubles team in the United States.

But his vocabulary words are his legacy, and former students still have great fun with them, as hands go up even today at the utterance of a Warriner word. Farnham Warriner died on March 6, 1985, while driving home from the campus he so loved. He was 84. There'll never be another Mr. Warriner, for he was unique (OHHH, Sir, Unique!! One of a kind!!)

*Readers are invited to identify the Warriner words in this story.*



## **Voices from the Hill: Randy Woods**



Randy Woods' announcement that he's retiring at the end of this school year as Head of our Middle School kicked off a national search to replace him (Christopher Cox, from Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, NC, will be our new head). Filling Randy's shoes is a tall order, given the enduring relationships he has forged with students, colleagues and alumni during the more than 30 years he has been associated with St. Paul's. His Crusader resume includes, it seems, most every position on campus: Director of Admissions and Financial Aid; Director of Summer Programs; Assistant Middle School Principal; Director of Health and Wellness; math, science, and religion teacher; and coach of numerous sports at the Upper and Middle School levels.

Randy first arrived in Brooklandville in 1984. He left in 1995, after his two sons, Jason and Ryan, graduated in 1993 and 1994, respectively, to serve as Head of the Middle School at The Episcopal Academy in Lower Merion, PA. In 2000 he began a two-year assignment as Director of Field Ministry for the Fellowship of Christians in Universities and Schools (FOCUS).

In 2002 Randy was lured back to our Middle School, rising to become its head in 2013. Anyone who talks with Randy, or reads an email from him, readily sees his commitment to middle-school boys. "I hope my legacy is rooted in the words that hang prominently in the foyer of Chapin Hall—that when you enter these hallways you become part of something bigger than yourself," he says. "Aside from my desire to be the best teacher, coach, and administrator possible, my passion has been for boys to understand that they truly impact their world when they understand that it is not all about them, but how the talents and giftedness they possess can be used to benefit others."

Along with his work in the classroom and on the athletic fields and courts, Randy helped forge a relationship with SOZO Children, a group in Uganda that cares for over 100 orphans. He visited the SOZO orphanage in May of 2014, performing some woodworking and repair projects and distributing donated sports equipment and over 200 St. Paul's athletic T-shirts for the children. "I was thrilled the following year," Randy says, "when the SOZO Children's Choir, during their United States tour, reciprocated by performing for our middle school and visiting classes with our boys."

Randy holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Towson University. Prior to his career in education, he served in the United States Navy's Nuclear Power program from 1970-1976, which included two tours (1971-1973) of Vietnam onboard the USS Long Beach, a nuclear powered, guided missile cruiser. He was honorably discharged as a First Class Machinist's Mate (MM1).

An avid golfer and woodworker, Randy has coached soccer, football, tennis, basketball, baseball and golf. He's led five JV basketball teams to championships and is currently an assistant varsity basketball coach. "As exciting as those championships were, they were not as gratifying as seeing who these young men have become today—successful teachers, educational administrators, business owners, physicians, financial leaders, fathers, and husbands," Randy says. "For many of them the adolescent years were filled with one challenge after another. I would like to think that St. Paul's helped them develop the resilience that has served them well in their journey to manhood."

## Film of Life on Mt. Washington Campus Found in Archives

A reel of 16-mm film labeled "Mt. Wash. St. Paul's Old Film," in the inimitable cursive of Louis Dorsey Clark, featuring 26 action-packed minutes from our Mt. Washington campus (1922-1952):

- nattily dressed faculty and boys preening for the camera
- masters exiting a building, including Mr. Clark and Don McDorman '33
- dorm and classroom scenes
- basketball and lacrosse—note, at the 24-minute mark, guys trying to mark Howdy Myers
- Headmaster George Hamilton supervising chores—boys working off demerits?

The film, in fragile condition, has been digitized by Siobhan Hagan of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving Image Archive—please help us identify faculty and students who appear in the film, and the era. I thank colleagues Cliff Low '65, Jeff Yingling and Jill Wagoner for their help.

Watch Film



## Remembrance of Things Past

Enrollment reaches its nadir in 1881, with nine boys, who board in the school building at 95 St. Paul Street but attend public school. Francis F. Beirne, "St. Paul's Parish: A Chronicle of the Mother Church (1967), 132.

"Mr. (Headmaster Henry Thompson) Holladay brought up the question of corporeal punishment...it was understood and agreed that such punishment in general should cease, but that in the event of a serious breach of discipline the boy's parent would be advised of the alternative between expulsion and switching before the latter should be administered." Trustee Minutes, January 30, 1930.

## Alumni Association News

### **Save These Dates:**

**March 24, 2017:** The Brooklandwood Bash/Bull Roast & Auction (Pollock Gym) [Get tickets here](#)

**March 30, 2017:** Washington, D.C., alumni reception, 6:30 pm at the offices of King & Spalding, 1700 Pennsylvania Ave., across from the White House

**May 4, 2017:** Crusader Golf Outing (Elkridge Club)

**May 5-6, 2017:** Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend (campus), honoring classes ending in "2" and "7"

**Alumni around the nation:** Contact the alumni office if you're interested in hosting an event in your area—we have the budget; we just need hosts and venues!

**Nominations are being accepted for alumni awards** (to be given at Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend on May 5), the Alumni Assn. board of directors and our Athletic Hall of Fame.



## Support the Alumni Scholarship Fund



**Support the Alumni Scholarship Fund and have a chance to win a 2017 BMW 2 Series Convertible** in the "Give St. Paul's A Lift!" raffle! Tickets are \$100—only 999 will be sold. Winning ticket to be drawn at the Brooklandwood Bash/Bull Roast & Auction on March 24 (need not be present to win). [Get tickets here](#)

## Crusaders & Lakers to Face Off for the 100th Time

Tuesday, May 16, figures to be quite a day in Crusader lacrosse history: We'll take on the Lakers of Boys' Latin for the 100th time, and it's the final regular-season game of Coach Rick Brocato. Let's mark this historic occasion by sending the alumni office your memories and reflections on this historic rivalry (or any aspect of the St. Paul's lacrosse tradition). Send us a photo or brief write-up of a memorable game, team, player, coach or season. Whether you played or cheered from the grandstand, we want to hear from you.



## In Memoriam

Louis W. Shroyer '37 (January 2013)  
 Richard Gunkel '61 (October 2016)  
 Alexander L. Ruiz '07 (November 2016)  
 T. Bryan McIntire '47 (December 2016)  
 Robert G. Proutt '46 (January 2017)  
 David Dalbke '72 (February 2017)

## Back Issues Beckon!

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

**Remember the Annual Fund—your School needs you!**

Give Today!



St. Paul's School

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