



Issue 32

June 2019



Letter from Brooklandwood

Charley Mitchell '73, Director of Alumni Relations
 cmitchell@stpaulsmd.org
 410-821-3036

An 11th Commandment + A Prayer = A New Upper School

If St. Paul's were to create an 11th Commandment, it might read: "Thou Shalt Have an Upper School Suitable for Thy Students to Labour." And then a line from our School prayer: "To Toil and Not Seek for Rest."

Those sentiments have combined to drive the vision for a new Upper School with features consonant with the requirements of a 21st century education. This vision, a result of the efforts of many individuals—school leadership, Upper school faculty, parents, alumni, grandparents and others who are integral to the We Are St. Paul's Campaign, created to procure the necessary funding—is now becoming reality, as the gaping holes in the side of Ratcliffe Hall facing the Lower School can attest.

The building that would be named Ratcliffe Hall in 1972 was, originally, two buildings, creatively known as the "Science" Building and the "Library Building"; the former was dedicated in 1965, the latter a year later. They were designed to accommodate 160 students. Pupils passed from one to the other via a covered portico (aka, arcade) until 1997, when that area between the buildings was converted into additional space, in a creative effort at adaptive reuse that increased the size

of Ratcliffe Hall by a third, with new



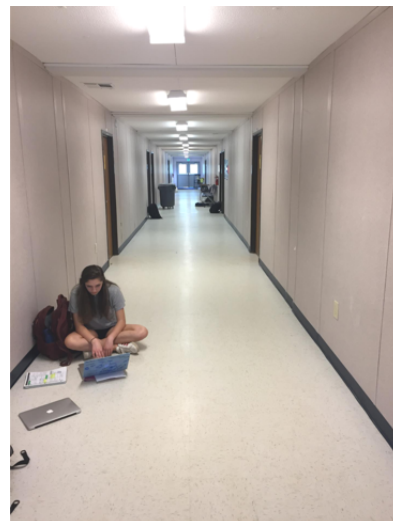
classrooms, a photo lab, an office and common area for socializing, or dozing, students.

The handsome architecture and features of our new, yet-to-be-named Upper School were designed by the firm Bowie Gridley and have been rendered in detailed, color drawings and 3-D animation that reveal a central atrium, student commons, an expanded learning services center and state-of-the-art labs for engineering, biology, chemistry, and physics. Classrooms and faculty offices will be grouped by academic discipline to enhance collaboration between students and faculty. (Fisher Hall, which opened in 2011 and houses the Scheffenacker Library, remains open and will be integrated into the design of the new building. The chapel is unaffected as well.)

Of the building's three floors, one is to be named for history teacher Louis Dorsey Clark, a second for science teacher William A. Bassett and the third for James H. Ratcliffe, of the aforementioned Ratcliffe Hall. Messrs. Clark and Bassett served our alma mater in numerous roles for many years; Mr. Ratcliffe served St. Paul's for 23 years as assistant headmaster, chair and teacher of science, coach and overseer of dress and hair codes before retiring in 1972 (to learn more about him, [click here.](#))

Upper School faculty and students have migrated to new classroom space on the west side of campus. The English, Social Science, Math and Language departments are in the new Math/Language Building, a conjoined series of learning cottages (aka trailers) adjacent to the baseball field, while science classrooms are in renovated space in the lower level of Kinsolving Gym (in what were, at various times, Coach Tullai's office, the cafeteria and a bike shop). The renovated Price Building that once housed our Maintenance Department now features the offices of Interim Upper School Head Howard Schindler, Dean of Students Sam Kaplan, Academic Dean Elena Pavlovski, and Assistant to Upper School Head Robin Webster (plus a few classrooms).

Demolition of Ratcliffe Hall is well underway, and the remaining edifice will come down in early summer. The new loop road is



now open and passes behind the building allowing the community to enjoy a college-style quad, bordered by the new Upper School, Brooklandwood, and Chapin Hall (our Middle School), retaining our spectacular view south to our playing fields and the Green Spring Valley. And in the midst of this extraordinary change to St. Paul's is Mr. Ratcliffe, smiling upon us across the decades.

Editor's Note: Fundraising for our new Upper School continues in earnest under the "We Are St. Paul's" capital campaign, to ensure that its cost is fully covered by gifts. We will need the full and generous support of the St. Paul's community to reach this goal.

Voices from the Hill

John Thorpe, 2019 Honorary Alumnus



John arrived in Baltimore in 1983 to become Chair of the Mathematics Department at St. Paul's. Since joining the faculty, he has taught every math course that is offered in the Upper School, founded and directed the Jazz Band for 10 years, served as Academic Dean for 15 years, and was the Upper School Principal for six years. John is currently the IB Diploma Coordinator and Chair of the Upper School Religious Studies/TOK department. He has also served as our School's archivist.

John grew up in Rhodesia (in the country that is now Zimbabwe) and his first degree was a double major in English and Music from Rhodes University in South Africa. He later earned an M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from the Johns Hopkins University.

John taught for five years at the International School of London during which time he taught International Baccalaureate math courses and helped to write the IB Math Studies curriculum.

He left London and moved to New York City where he introduced the IB Diploma Program at the Dwight School and served as Head of Mathematics, IB Diploma Coordinator and IB Math Examiner.

John's wife, Dr. Clair Francomano, is a geneticist who will soon take up a new position as Professor of Medical Genetics at Indiana University School of Medicine. His son, Charles (SP Class of 2010), earned the IB Diploma at St. Paul's and, after graduating from Vanderbilt University, is pursuing a doctoral degree in naturopathic medicine and a master's degree in acupuncture at Bastyr University. John's daughter, Emily (SPSG Class of 2008), graduated from Towson University and is a nationally ranked ballroom dancer who trains and competes throughout the United States.

John will retire in July after 36 years of service at St. Paul's. During retirement, he is looking forward to practicing clarinet and travelling to support Emily and her husband Daniel at their international competitions.

Remembrance of Things Past

Trustee Minutes, March 21, 1900:

"During the past year, Mrs. Walter P. Smith secured for the school boys the use of the vacant lot nearly opposite the school on Franklin Street, and had it graded and put in order to be used as a play-ground. The boys have two half-holidays each week, and in suitable weather go to the Park for their games."

Spring 1905: St. Paul's awards its first diplomas.

***The New York Times*, June 22, 1913 :**

President Woodrow Wilson arrives at Brooklandwood as a guest at the wedding of Miss Ethel Preston McCormick, daughter of Mrs. Isaac Emerson, to Mr. Francis Huger McAdoo, the son of Wilson's Treasury Secretary. The wedding party features three bridesmaids and 14 groomsmen; the happy couple honeymoon on Capt. Isaac Emerson's yacht, "which has been completely overhauled and furnished for the couple."

Trustee Minutes, February 6, 1951:

"The school appears to be in a healthy situation. The faculty is unquestionably the

Alumni Association News & Events

- We welcomed **73 new members** of the Class of 2019 to the Alumni Association on June 8— [click here for photos.](#)
- **On June 10 we hosted the Young Alumni Career/Networking Night** with SPSG Alumnae Association. It was a great success, with more than 70 attendees.

Upcoming:

- **Alumni Receptions** in New York City and Boston, TBA
- **NEW! St. Paul's Stories Podcast**, now available in the App Store—subscribe now to "St. Paul's Stories" for alumni interviews, student-generated content and more!

In Memoriam

David M. Speed '70
(January 2019)

strongest we have had in a number of years. While there has been some unrest among our older students due to the uncertainty of their military status, the student body has been very serious."

John S. Rutherford '60
(February 2019)

John A. "Bud" Hatfield '44
(March 2019)

Peter S. Hoblitzell '51
(March 2019)

Scott Dozier '04
(April 2019)

Gordon R. Jones '48
(May 2019)

Letters to the Editor:

Former Headmaster **Jack Ordeman** writes: "It is generally acknowledged that Charles Carroll of Carrollton bought the Brooklandwood property and built the mansion as a gift to his daughter, Mary, and her husband, Richard Caton. If, in fact, Carroll lived with his daughter, Mary Carroll Caton, in his later years and died in her home, perhaps a plaque should be placed on Brooklandwood. I think that the mansion is of significant historical interest that an account of its ownership—Catons, Browns, Emersons, the Maryland Hunt Cup and the St. Paul's Schools—might be placed in the main hall."

The Right Rev. **Arthur B. Kinsolving** writes "I love the Crusader Connection!"

Get Involved!

Contact the Alumni Office...

- to get involved in Alumni Association activities and events, or to discuss hosting an event in your area—we have the budget; we need hosts and venues!
 - with nominations for the Alumni Association Board of Directors and our Athletic Hall of Fame (next class to be inducted Fall 2019)
-

Back Issues Beckon!

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

Remember the St. Paul's Fund—your School needs you!



Follow us!

QUICK LINKS

Make a gift | SP News

St. Paul's School

11152 Falls Road • Brooklandville, MD 21022 • (410) 825-4400

[Unsubscribe](#) from this eNotice.