



# Crusader CONNECTION

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## **Letter From Brooklandwood**

By Charley Mitchell '73, Director of Alumni Relations

*"In token of our regard and esteem for him not only as a teacher, but as a friend and because of his unwavering justice toward all problems both large and small, we, the class of 1958, wish to dedicate this yearbook to James H. Ratcliffe."*

Following college at Hobart, where Mr. Ratcliffe was an All-American lacrosse player who also lettered in basketball, he taught for 16 years at Episcopal Academy and for three years was headmaster of Christchurch School. He arrived at St. Paul's in 1949, where for the next 23 years he served as Assistant Headmaster, chair of the science department, teacher of biology and physics, basketball and lacrosse coach and advisor to numerous clubs. As the disciplinary overseer for much of that time, many Crusaders recall him, unlit pipe in hand, eyeing shirt collars to inspect hair length, infractions warranting two words that inspired a visit to the barber by all but the most rebellious student: "By Monday..."

After the father of Bruce Campbell '62 died in a shipyard accident when Bruce was small, his mother met Mr. Ratcliffe through a cousin who'd been a Hobart classmate. "They married when I was in second grade. Jim, whom I always called 'Dad,' had great common sense," said Bruce, who became a Crusader in second grade when Mr. Ratcliffe was hired by Headmaster Appy Middleton. "Jim was old-school. He never had to yell—he just gave 'the



Look,' and we all knew. A lot of my friends would tell me, years later, that they wished they'd listened more to my dad—some say he changed the direction of their lives."

"Mr. Middleton and Mr. Ratcliffe did a great job overseeing the School's move to Brooklandville in 1952," said longtime teacher and coach Mitch Tullai. "The Mt. Washington campus had been very popular, but they created an atmosphere conducive to learning, and many understood that St. Paul's was a really good place to be." Mr. Tullai recalled that the school sold much of the statuary that had dotted the estate of Capt. Isaac Emerson, from whose heirs St. Paul's purchased Brooklandwood, and that when one piece of statuary, that of a nude woman adjacent to the pool house, went unsold, Mr. Ratcliffe, observing the proprieties of the day, put a t-shirt over the figure—triggering the law of unintended consequences as the students removed the offending garment.

Jack Ordeman, our headmaster from 1966-1985, told me that Mr. Ratcliffe was great to work with. "After we discussed issues and I made a decision, he supported me completely, even if he didn't agree. And even though guys complained about his old-school, disciplinary approach, invariably he was the first teacher alumni wanted to see when they came back to campus."

Nick Ratcliffe '56, Jim's son, takes some credit for his father coming to St. Paul's. "When he announced that he was taking a job at a school in Illinois, I protested that the school had no lacrosse, and said I wanted to go to St. Paul's to play," Nick said, suggesting that his father's close friendship with Mr. Middleton also factored into the decision. "My father had an uncanny way of knowing when a kid had gone off the tracks, and he could ferret out why."

When Mr. Ratcliffe retired in 1972, after 23 years at St. Paul's, the Board of Trustees accepted Mr. Ordeman's suggestion that the Upper School be named "Ratcliffe Hall," a name it carries today, and the space where, for 45 years, Crusaders were educated. The class of 1972 gave Mr. James H. Ratcliffe a fitting tribute in its yearbook dedication upon his retirement: *"In every school there is one man who is remembered by all classes...combining humor, common sense, and sound advice, he has consistently stood out as a man who gains respect and*

*earns it."*

**In Case You Missed Farnham Warriner:** In the February issue I wrote about this long-time, memorable faculty member whose word vocabulary drills and competitions boosted our SAT scores. [Click here](#) to listen to him teaching a class (with thanks to former Headmaster Jack Ordeman)

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## **Voices from the Hill: Dick Caples '67**

For the last 33 years, Dick Caples '67 has been the engine behind New York's Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, a world-renowned modern American dance company. (Lar Lubovitch is an American choreographer who studied at Juilliard under Martha Graham, among others.) During his time as the company's executive director, Dick has raised more than \$20 million, produced more than 2,000 performances seen live by more than one million people, and arranged tours of more than 20 foreign countries and 30 American states. In 2010 Dick received an Ernie Award from Dance/USA, recognizing his outstanding service to the dance profession.

"The company's mission is to create, perform and teach," says Dick, who's the longest-serving American dance company executive director. "We've done this over the years by creating more than 70 new dances for our company as well as for other companies." His duties include managing the annual operating budget of \$1.5 million, overseeing a staff of five and a payroll for 30-plus performers and, of course, working with the company's board of directors. Prior to his arrival in New York, Dick was director of the Santa Fe Festival Theater, which produced its own original theatrical stagings of classic and modern dramas and musicals.

This may strike some as an unusual career path for a Crusader who earned a B.A. from Yale in German Studies (inspired by Carel Beernink) and spent years studying in Germany and Italy before graduating from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, taking an M.A. in international studies and international law, before enrolling in law school at Cornell. But after seven years practicing corporate law at two prestigious New York firms, Dick saw a future in the arts. "Although I loved the intellectual aspect of practicing corporate law, I wanted passion, emotion and meaning too, and I found that in the arts."

Dick has served on panels of various national and

regional arts organizations, including the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Dept. of Cultural affairs. In an era when funding for cultural organizations seems to diminish each year, Dick has helped keep the non-profit Lubovitch Company at the forefront of modern American dance.

"I had a great time at St. Paul's. Back in my day, the school had little in the way of arts programs, but it was already a great place for intellectual exploration (and for sports!)," says Dick, a constant presence on the Headmaster's List, winner of both the Kinsolving Award and the Alumni Medal, and a three-sport athlete who garnered numerous book prizes and served as the yearbook editor. "Through its religious heritage, St. Paul's also fostered a spirit of public service. The exploration and service that were encouraged then have led me over the years to a career, and a life, I never would have imagined but would have hated to miss."

### **◆ Alumni Association News**

- ◆ Our 4,000th alumnus! (More than 3,900 Crusaders have graduated; approximately 3,200 of whom are living.)
  - St. Paul's first awarded diplomas in 1905.
- ◆ The Brooklandville Bash/Bull Roast raised \$100,000 for the ole alma mater in March—we thank co-chairs Will Gore '08 and Josh Scheinker '92 for their leadership!
- ◆ Alumni Association Officers for 2017-18
  - President: Josh Scheinker '92
  - Vice President: Brent Hargest '02
  - Treasurer: Dave Hughes '74
  - Secretary: Skip Gibson '91
- ◆ Though we didn't sell a sufficient number of tickets in the "Give St. Paul's A Lift" car raffle for anyone to drive that BMW home, the raffle raised more than \$26,000—and Sean Link '02 won the cash prize of \$10,000
- ◆ Contact the Alumni Office if you'd like to get involved in Alumni Association activities and events, or if you're interested in hosting an event in your area—we have the budget; we just need hosts and venues!
- ◆ Nominations sought for:
  - Alumni Awards, to be given at Blue-Gold Reunion Weekend (May 4-5, 2018)
  - the Alumni Association Board of Directors

### **Remembrance of Things Past**

"It would be a good thing if two or three typewriting machines, of the kind now in most general use, could be provided; and instructions given in short hand." Trustee Minutes, March 21, 1900

"In reference to Headmaster Percy Coulthurst: It was felt that he "was not a sufficiently good administrator for the position and should not be re-engaged...(he) did not maintain sufficient discipline, especially in the afternoons, that he failed to carry out the orders or requirements suggested by the committee in regard to the boys wearing rubbers, that he failed to get the trash around the grounds and building cleaned up." Trustee Minutes, March 29, 1923

"Mr. Hamilton then spoke of the great value of the school's work in forming character especially. He instanced the case of a boy who had been compelled to leave the School for a year and attend the public school in Hampden, and had then returned to St. Paul's, showing the very unfortunate effects of being confronted with different and much lower standards of conduct, and deprived of the character building influence of a church

- Our Athletic Hall of Fame (next class to be inducted in 2018)



### **Crusader Connect App**

Headed west and want to find fellow Crusaders in Carefree, AZ? ? Our free app for the [iPhone](#), [iPad](#) and [Droid](#) is just what you need. This SP Alumni App allows you to find contact information easily for any alumnus in the U.S. who is in our database. Alumni can update their contact information, share photos and class notes and network with fellow alumni via LinkedIn. We hope this convenient app will help us all stay better connected.

Please note that you won't be able to download if your email address does not match the one in our records. If you are so advised, please email me at [cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org](mailto:cmitchell@stpaulsschool.org) with your preferred email address; once we make the change you will need to wait several weeks until our vendor updates the data.

school."Trustee Minutes, February 28, 1935

"Mr. Ordeman reported that students of the St. Paul's Schools will participate next year in joint classes in major courses. Heretofore they have only attended half credit and enrichment programs together." Trustee Minutes, April 12, 1976

"Coach Bill Heller's heel-and-toe race walkers unlimbered their leg muscles early enough this spring to garner a fine 15" trophy for third place in their inaugural appearance in the Penn A.C.'s second annual 12-mile walk at Philadelphia on March 29. Pacing the swivel-hipsters was "Tucky" Johnson, followed by Wilson Levering, David Cain, Jerry Lang, and Bill Kommalan." "The Walking Team," 1958 Crusader Yearbook, pg. 82 photo





## **In Memoriam**

Christian Louzan '10 (May 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!](#)



St. Paul's School

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