

# reunion

## Form of 1970



LOUIS H. FOISY

FORM PHOTO (l. to r.), row 1: Chris Phillips, Brooke Roberts, Clem Wood, John Martin, Scott Johnson, Alec Haverstick, Tres Davidson, Colly Burgwin, Peter Culver, Bill Craumer, Fritz Newman; row 2: John Warner '71, Dave Shiang, Tad Stewart, John Eldridge, David Chapin, Bill Rafferty, Steve Moorhead, Charlie Wagner, Guy Nouri, Chip Gowen, Nat Niles; row 3: Mike Herter, Craig MacColl, Chris Charles, Lorne Johnson, Don Lippincott, Chris Bartle, Former Faculty George Mayer, Hy Blair, Jr., Sandy Stewart, Frank Kenison, Bruce Bossidy, Mory Houghton, Brock Holmes; row 4: Steve Crandall, Tom Bedford, Nat Wheelwright, Doug Bateson; present, but not pictured: Charlie Bell and Jimmy Evarts

### Comfortable with Each Other and Also with Ourselves

by the Form of 1970

The Form of 1970 arrived at Anniversary in the collective expectation of celebrating its 40th reunion as it had the previous seven, when a small group of “usual suspects” dominated the activities and led the form through a series of often riotous escapades designed to test individual memories of our one-time home. Instead, the form experienced a transforming event, during which we remembered classmates and teachers no longer with us, spoke of what SPS had meant to each of us, and used that perspective to talk about what we wanted to be and become between now and 2020, when we celebrate our 50th.

Perhaps the best way to summarize the weekend is that the form, which had been

responsible for the Fall 1969 “LOVE” sculpture, seemed totally focused on what one member termed “creating new liturgy” rich with content for the coming years.

To embrace such an undertaking seemed entirely natural. Most of us entered the School in 1965 or 1966 and were 15 or 16 when the infamous Sixth Form Letter, the SPS equivalent of a declaration of independence, was published in the spring of 1968. SPS immediately became a different place, no longer isolated from the events of the Sixties, enmeshed in them instead. And we were swept into the eye of the storm. Our next two years seemed as if we were dancing along the fault line between the “Old” SPS and the one being born. By the time we graduated, we hardly knew what had hit us, but we did know it had changed us – and the School – forever. We had experienced freedom and the responsibility that accompanies it. And we liked it.

The question of the weekend became how to actualize that sensibility in 2010



and beyond. One of the great gifts of the School to us was its emphasis on one's relationship to God and to man, and its focus on spirituality, service, and the importance of "peace" that had so filled the last two years of our lives there. In our reflections on the current state of the world and the School, these lessons struck us as immensely timely and important, and we found ourselves at the start of a process in which we hope to do something to help the School continue to foster these values in the future. We are not sure what this "something" shall be, but we are excited about the very process of working together to find a way to give back to the School something of what it gave to us. Stay tuned.

We began the reunion with our usual stickball game, which turned quickly serious as we dedicated the game and the field we played on to our beloved formate, Mark Cameron, who departed our lives but not our hearts in the fall of 2007. From there we progressed to the Chapel steps, where we remembered with both humor and gravitas all those we knew from our form and from the faculty who are no longer with us.

Lest you think us a maudlin bunch, let it be known the rituals were performed with much laughter and continued conversation that prompted the observation that, as a group, we were comfortable not only with each other but also with ourselves. This was further evidenced by the almost five-hour gathering at the home of Bob '69 and Annie Rettew, where each member of the form was offered the opportunity to talk about what the School and the form meant to him and how it had informed, if at all,



JANA, F. BROWN

his later life. Most everybody spoke as we came together as we had not since our departure from the School in 1970. The Form of 1970 was back.

Saturday included the usual events . . . Parade, lunch, pictures, sports. What was noticeable, however, was the coalescing of the form around the stories of the night before and the desire to affect the future. This was brought beautifully into focus on Saturday evening when we were treated to the premiere of a new Tom Iglehart '69 film, *Departure 1970*, masterfully produced from raw footage he shot in Millville during our Sixth Form year. There was the LOVE sculpture with Dick Aiken holding a Eucharist. There were the sports, the classroom, the woods and, most of all, the people. Not just formmates but Bill Oates commenting on the life of giving back he expected from every Paulie.

After the film, we discussed the future. Suggestions were many and action steps delineated. The rest is up to us.



To obtain a copy of *Departure 1970*, contact Steve Crandall '70 at [sales@ashawayusa.com](mailto:sales@ashawayusa.com).



GEOFF FORESTER