



The Board of Trustees
of Girls Preparatory School
Announces the Retirement of
Headmaster Stanley R. Tucker, Jr.



Girls Preparatory School

205 Island Avenue • Chattanooga, TN 37405



In 2006, the Board of Trustees and I began planning the long-term transition of leadership at GPS. At that point, I was 19 years into my headship and, frankly, even then it was difficult for me to envision the end of my years in this place I have come to love so dearly. We knew, however, it was critical that we carefully plan the passage of several senior leaders of the school who were nearing the end of their careers. Years later, the final piece in the leadership puzzle is about to be put in place with my retirement and the appointment of the next Head of School.

On June 30, 2014, I will complete my service at GPS. I will have been preceded in retirement by Starlet Speakman and Rickie Pierce – friends to whom I will always be grateful. The three of us assumed the day-to-day leadership of GPS when Dr. Nat Hughes retired in 1987, and we worked hard to carry on his dream of what the school could become. Now, a quarter of a century later, I hope he and the Founders believe we have been faithful to their dreams.

In this age of rapid turnover among independent school heads, it is unusual for a headmaster to serve one school for more than ten years, much less twenty-seven. Most schools change heads every five to seven years, but the GPS Board of Trustees values stability. Over the years, twelve Chairmen of the Board worked hard to support me and help me grow in my role. Their advice and counsel were invaluable to me. I will always be grateful to Felix Miller, Butch Greene, C. G. Mills, Joan Frierson, Margaret Cate, Joe Donnovin, Linda Chapin, Tom Heys, Sissy Tarumianz, Marilyn Center, Scott McGinness and Pat Conroy. Their love for and belief in GPS inspired me. Their friendship warmed me. Their vision of what GPS could become encouraged me to press forward. I will soon be serving Nini Davenport as she assumes the leadership of the Board, and I know my last two years will be fulfilling and productive due to her chairmanship. These Board Chairmen have been supported by over 100 other Board members – women and men who served our school unselfishly, wisely and generously. They have been quite a team, and without their efforts we would have failed.

In the final analysis, whatever success GPS has enjoyed the last quarter of a century is the result of the legions of teachers who have so lovingly mentored our girls. Their efforts to modernize the school have resulted in national recognition as well as the unparalleled success of our girls in college and in life. They have never wavered in their commitment to the girls and the Founders' vision of integrity, service, respect, and responsibility. I have been pulled along by the immensity of their efforts.

Through the successes and the failures of these years, I have had one constant companion. Terri has been as much a part of GPS as I. Her roles over these years are too many to mention. How many games, plays, and graduations has she attended? How many cheerleaders has she encouraged and befriended? How many times did she pick me up off the emotional floor and push me forward? I could never have thrived or even survived without her.

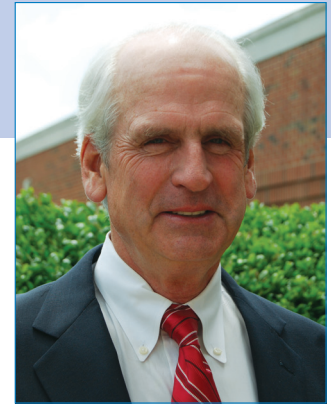
And, finally, here's to the girls, for in the end, GPS is about the girls. By the time I leave, over 3000 girls will have graduated from GPS. I will always think of them with admiration and appreciation. I know they will always strive to bring honor to their school.

I can never adequately express my appreciation for having been given this incredible opportunity. As my last years here pass, I will move through each day knowing I was given a gift greater than I can repay.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Randy Tucker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and 'T'.

Randy Tucker
Headmaster

It is with great appreciation that the GPS Board of Trustees accepts and supports Randy Tucker's decision to step down as Head of School as of June 30, 2014. After extensive discussion with Mr. Tucker, we all agree that he has, in his usual thoughtful manner, selected an appropriate time to begin this transition. As has always been the case, he has placed the school's best interest first in his decision-making process.



On behalf of the Board, I want to express our gratitude to Mr. Tucker for his relentless desire to raise the bar at GPS. For the past 25 years under his leadership, the school has enjoyed unprecedented campus growth from three major capital campaigns. The C.G. Mills Complex with its Frierson Theater, pool, Caldwell Fitness Center, new gymnasium and administrative offices was the result of the first campaign; the second campaign built the Elizabeth Lupton Davenport Middle School; and the third campaign constructed a new dining hall and the C. Ben Harnsberger Student Center. Funding from these campaigns has strengthened our endowment and also supported the financial aid program for deserving students.

Under Mr. Tucker's leadership, we have maintained a balanced budget and brought GPS through some of our country's most trying financial years. The financial infrastructure of the School remains solid, and contributions to our annual fund have risen in the past two years. His stewardship of school resources has produced a program that is more comprehensive than that at many competitive schools with much larger budgets.

More important than the physical growth of our campus is the academic evolution that GPS has experienced under Mr. Tucker's guidance. His vision has furthered the Founders' mission to educate young women by engaging the mind, stimulating the spirit and instilling values and self-confidence. The GPS faculty and staff provide an excellent all-girls' learning environment and continually fine-tune the methods of teaching young women. Named a National School of Excellence in 1991, GPS remains a school that is highly regarded by its peers. We have received national recognition for strong academics, STEM programs and technology initiatives, a trailblazing school laptop program, a 21st century global curriculum, preeminent arts, and a competitive athletic program that establishes GPS first in the state in many sports.

Over GPS's 106-year history we have had only seven Heads of School. The Board takes this leadership transition period seriously and will move thoughtfully forward in conducting a national search to identify the best candidate to be our next leader. Lizzer Bright Graham '77 has accepted appointment as Chair of the Head of School Search Committee, which will be formed in the coming months. A web page will be established, and correspondence will be maintained to keep alumnae, parents, faculty, staff and the GPS community informed of our progress throughout the recruiting endeavor. We anticipate that our new Head will be announced in the fall of 2013. GPS is among the most attractive schools in the country for Head of School candidates, and we anticipate selecting a new Head from an impressive applicant pool.

The Board also expresses our appreciation to Terri Tucker for her dedication, support, and contributions to GPS and its extra-curricular activities. She has served the school as a marvelous hostess and dedicated coach during her husband's tenure. We wish both Mr. and Mrs. Tucker good health and good fortune in the years ahead.

Randy Tucker is a quintessential leader, and we have been blessed to have him as Headmaster. We look forward to having him at the helm for the next two years and are confident that he will leave GPS in great stead and poised for future growth under new leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Pat Conroy, Jr." The signature is stylized and cursive.

William Pat Conroy, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees



C.G. Mills Complex completed in 1991.

“The addition of the C.G. Mills Complex and the Elizabeth Lupton Davenport Middle School are improvements that I was proud to be a part of, but I would hope that my legacy is that I helped GPS evolve from a school of traditional classrooms to a school of engaging and active learning experiences.”

- Randy Tucker



Elizabeth Lupton Davenport Middle School completed in 1999.

Board of Trustees

2011-2012

Chairman: William P. Conroy, Jr.

Vice Chairman: Anita D. Davenport '77

Treasurer: Laura A. Leach '69

Secretary: Marilyn Sherman Center '58

Ashley Averett '95

Sheila Boyington

Margaret Wheland Cate '49 *ex officio

Bradley B. Cobb

Robert Frederick Decosimo

Kenneth J. DeFoor

Elizabeth Bright Graham '77

Linda Robinson Graydon '73

Jody Jackson

Jane Kline

Barbara McNeil McDonald, M.D. '79

W. Scott McGinness, Jr.

Claire Hunt McVay '87

Michelle C. Ruest

Chris St. Charles, M.D. *ex officio

Lisa St. Charles *ex officio

Walter Keith Sanford

Lisa D. Reynolds Shanahan '83

Christine Benz Smith, Ph.D. '72

John Spann, M.D.

Judith Finley Stone '54

Stanley R. Tucker, Jr. *ex officio

Mary Moncure Watson '74

Karen C. Welborn

Randy Wilson