Rowland P. McKinley  
1923 - 2006

White bucks and a Marine Corps crew cut were Mr. Rowland McKinley’s trademarks, but the Hunting Valley campus, 10 future headmasters and his staunch loyalty to US boys were his legends. On Founders’ Day, September 22, 2006 there was a moving tribute to the memory of Mr. Rowland McKinley, University School’s fifth headmaster. Mr. McKinley was headmaster for 25 years, from 1963–1988. Geoff Morton, Tony Jarvis and Kerry Brennan, all protegés of Mr. McKinley’s, came to Founders’ Day to remember a man who had strength, courage, vision, and a terrific sense of humor. Eric Tannenbaum ’07 played a stirring Elgar Cello Concerto in E Minor and the Glee Club sang Randall Thompson’s “The Pasture” from Frostiana, the US Alma Mater, and reintroduced a favorite of Mr. McKinley’s, The Anniversary Marching Song. Will Gilkeson ’10, gave a wonderful tribute to his grandfather.

Mr. McKinley was responsible for moving grades 9–12 from the Shaker campus to Hunting Valley, despite opposition from some Trustees, alumni, and consultants. He had the vision to see what the Hunting Valley campus could become, and the move was made in 1970. He was staunchly loyal to all of the US boys and faculty, and wrote glowing recommendations for all college-bound boys from US, despite some faculty opposition. He hired at least 10 teachers who went on to become headmasters at other schools and was responsible for taking the school to new academic heights.

The morning was a great tribute to a truly visionary leader and educator.

The International Dinner and fall play on Friday, November 10. The dinner will take place from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in Stouffer Dining Hall. An RSVP form is included with this issue of the Valley Voice. Afterwards, there will be an 8 p.m. performance of the fall play, Magic Time – a very engaging backstage comedy about a troupe of actors as they prepare to give their last performance of Hamlet at a summer theatre in Chicago. There will also be a Saturday performance at 8 p.m.

The International Dinner provides a unique opportunity to share an evening with other US families while sampling delectable dishes from America and around the world. All US families (grades 8 - 12) and faculty are invited. Each family is asked to bring a delicious homemade dish to share. If you would like to volunteer for set up/clean up or if you have any questions, contact co-chairs Clare Paquelet (cmpaquelet@aol.com) or Noelle Fazio (flognf@aol.com).
Senior Section

Monday, November 6
• Senior class lunch with Headmaster - Lunches I & II, Callow Room

Friday, November 17, 2006
• Senior parent party, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the home of Paula and Steven Polakof

SAT I and II exams are offered on the following dates:
Saturday, November 4
Saturday, December 2
(Registration deadline is November 1)

Friday, June 8, 2007
• Graduation- 10:30 a.m.
  Please note date change!

Check the web site http://upper.us.edu for all college counselling visits.

Junior Section

SAT I and II exams are offered on the following dates:
Saturday, November 4
Saturday, December 2
(Registration deadline is November 1)

Check the web site http://upper.us.edu for all college counselling visits.

Sophomore Section

Wednesday, November 1
• Photo Retakes
• Winter Sports Meeting 7 p.m. (mandatory if your son will be trying out for a winter sport)

Saturday, November 18
• Conference day with sponsor – make appointment with Ann Friebertshauser

Tuesday, November 21
• Eat a big breakfast, spare lunch will be served.

Future Dates: January 8 Sophomore Coffee
Same date, different location, we will meet in the Lecture Room.

Obel-Omia Welcome Reception
Friday November 17

The University School Parent Association cordially invites all parents to a reception welcoming Carolyn and Michael Obel-Omia on Friday, November 17 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Light hors d’oeuvres will be served in the Upper Commons at the Hunting Valley campus. Please stop by to give the Obel-Omias a warm welcome.

Annual Thanksgiving Food Project

An annual event of the Hunting Valley community is the Thanksgiving Food Project. It is a time when the boys contribute time and money to help those less fortunate. The boys will pack and deliver approximately 250 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in Cleveland. Each boy is expected to contribute $15 to the food drive, eat a spare lunch served on Tuesday, November 21 and help pack the baskets. (The money saved from the spare lunch and donations will be used to purchase turkey, potatoes and the canned goods for the baskets). On Wednesday, November 22 US boys will deliver the baskets.

US families who wish to extend their support for the Thanksgiving Food Project may make a monetary contribution. Checks payable to the US Thanksgiving Food Project should be sent to the school, attention Ms. Monica Boczek. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

How to Raise Financially Responsible Children
A Presentation by Charles Collier

On Thursday, November 16, the University School Alumni Association is sponsoring a continental breakfast and discussion on How to Raise Financially Responsible Children led by Charles W. Collier, senior philanthropic advisor for Harvard University. The program will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Shaker campus. Continental breakfast will be in the Barry Gallery, and the presentation will begin at 7:45 a.m. in Conway Hall. To RSVP or for more information, please call or email Marcia Grant at 216.831.2209 or mgrant@us.edu. Reservations must be received by November 3.

Tree and Wreath Sale

Plan to join other US families at the annual USPA Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale on Saturday, December 2; Saturday, December 9; and Sunday, December 10 at Smythe Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have beautiful Fraser Firs, Douglas Firs, Scotch Pines, and Blue Spruce, ranging in height from 4 to 9 feet, plus plain and decorated wreaths and pine roping.

Volunteers are needed during the days of the sale to sell trees, trim tree trunks, and secure trees onto the cars. We also need help November 29 to unload the trees. This is a great way to meet new US families and to catch up with old friends. To volunteer contact Betsy Stueber at stueber4@aol.com.
Freshman Section

Here’s the lowdown on winter sports and the alternatives for 9th graders:

• The only sport with “9th Grade Only” is Basketball. Practice begins November 6.

• Freshmen may qualify for the varsity swim team or the junior varsity hockey team (practices begin November 3) or the junior varsity wrestling team (practice begins November 10). A mandatory meeting for parents of athletes trying out for the varsity swim team will be held on Wednesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall. Parents will meet with Brian Perry, head coach.

• If a 9th grade boy does not participate on an interscholastic team, the field options are: general fitness, class squash, class basketball, indoor track, or outdoor projects.

• All boys are encouraged to try out and be a part of a team. An alternative to playing on a team is to be manager. It fulfills the physical education requirement and is a great way to be a part of one of the teams!

Conference with your Son’s Sponsor
Saturday, November 18

Now is the time to call and schedule the conference with your son’s sponsor. At the Hunting Valley campus conferences are scheduled for Saturday morning, November 18. Each conference lasts for one-half hour and may be made between the hours of 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Please call Mrs. Ann Friebertshauser, executive assistant to the headmaster, 216-831-2200 ext. 7358 or email afriebertshauser@us.edu to schedule the conference. She has the master calendar for all of the sponsors. If you are unable to attend a conference on November 18, please contact your sponsor directly to discuss alternate arrangements. Your son is welcome at this conference.

Heard in “The Valley”

Oh, Prescott. Where in the world is Prescott? The rumors are surely circulating on this one! Rumor has it that dear Prescott has met with foul play. Another rumor is that he is in hiding for his own protection. Prescott’s whereabouts are a mystery and his fate unknown. How did this happen? Are we at least searching for him?

Well, here’s the scoop! Prescott’s head was lost. We do have his natty blue blazer and school tie and the bag that he calls “home” but, sadly, no head. Truth is, our administration wants him back. We have an A.P.B. out for his head. Any leads?

Is it true Mr. Obel-Omia has his own page on Facebook?

True. Mr. Obel-Omia does have his own Facebook page and it is true that he checks other Facebook pages. He has been known to send messages asking students to “clean up” their Facebook entries. Mr. Obel-Omia wants our boys to understand that everything they do on the web is saved and is available to the public. He notes that “colleges and universities have admitted to visiting MySpace and Facebook pages in order to determine if they want to admit a particular student. When they see a boy posing with a bottle of beer or doing something randy or inappropriate, they have dismissed his candidacy. Likewise, employers have also used the spaces, making decisions concerning employment. Students would be wise to use those spaces judiciously.”

Have you passed Hunting Valley police cars parked on SOM Center Road just beyond the driveway entrance to US? According to the rumor, they are ticketing those who do not obey the stop sign and/or the posted speed limit.

True. Our young (and not so young) drivers are well advised to obey traffic laws. We don’t want to start or end the day with a trip down the road to Hillcrest Hospital.

• Thursday, November 7
Freshman Fall Donut Break -- Long Break (Callow Room)

• Friday, November 17
Welcome Reception for Carolyn and Michael Obel-Omia will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the school. Plan on attending!!

• Save the date: The USPA 9th Grade Parent Coffee will be held on Friday, January 5 in the Callow Room at 8:30 a.m.
The Prep Shop

The Prep Shop is chock full of all sorts of US paraphernalia for men, women, boys, and girls. If you don’t see your size, special orders are welcome.

The Prep Shop is open every day during both lunch periods from 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For your holiday shopping and other needs, the Shop will be opened during Fall Sports’ Dessert on November 9, International Dinner on November 10, and parent conferences on November 18.

Athletes who have received varsity letters can order varsity jackets now. Just bring the letters to the Prep Shop and place an order for this custom fitted jacket. If your son will be receiving his first varsity letter on November 9, have him stop in the Prep Shop to be custom fitted and to place a preorder for his varsity jacket. Then, he will complete the order with the letters by returning to the Prep Shop after the Sports Dessert. A jacket is usually ready to be picked up in 2-3 weeks. You will beat the holiday rush if you reserve your jacket now.

You can also shop online at www.us.edu.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities contact: Kelly Biggar 440-442-9866 or biggararb@adelphia.net or Olivia Demas 330-659-3001 or oliviapd@aol.com.

Well Done, Scholars!

We are pleased to report that Mark Howland and Brandon Sharp are among 1,600 high school seniors named semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding African-American high school students. In addition, 10 of the 16,000 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists are University School students! They are: Grant Cathcart, Avinash Chak, Samuel Chen, Josh Frankel, John Lisy, Michael MacCombie, Robert MacDonald, Benjamin Pinkas, Neal Sharma, and Eric Walk. More than 1.4 million seniors entered the competition as juniors when they took the Preliminary SAT. The semifinalists represent less than 1% of all high school seniors across the country. Class of 2007 Achievement scholarship winners will be announced April 4, 2007. Merit scholarships will be awarded in mid-July. Congratulations to all!

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun...

Sharing good food, good wine and getting to know one another better, all the while helping the efforts of the After-Prom Committee. The senior and junior mothers hosted a lovely evening on September 28 at the Smythe Pavilion to welcome freshman and sophomore moms. The weather was cold and rainy but tasty fires, along with the wine and food, kept more than 100 ladies swapping stories and generally having a great time. The hostesses raised money to pay for the wine and food by holding a raffle. Parents were also very generous to donate gift certificates to after-prom. The evening was a huge success -- the party was scheduled to run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. but lasted until the lights were turned out at 9:40 p.m. Many asked if we could get together again soon. Look for an invitation after the holidays for a repeat “Girls Night Out.” Thank you all for your support!

Pass the Word . . .

Members of the Class of 2006 may pick up their copies of the Mabian on Wednesday, November 22, the day before Thanksgiving. The Alumni Office will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bagels, juice, and coffee will be available. If a member of the Class of ‘06 is unable to attend, he may contact Jeffrey Starrett (jstarrett@us.edu) to make other arrangements. The Alumni Office will not allow a Mabian to be picked up without the alumni present unless prior arrangements have been made with Mr. Starrett.

Lottery Raffle Tickets

What do Starbucks gift cards, college sweatshirts, lottery tickets, and Christmas trees have in common? All contribute to the success of After-Prom, which will be held on May 5, 2007.

Thanks to everyone who has donated gift cards. Nancy McGinty is still happily accepting donations of gift cards.

As you are traveling the country looking at colleges, please pick up a tee shirt, sweatshirt, or hat for after-prom prizes.

Lottery ticket sales have been brisk. The deadline for buying them is November 20; see the enclosed flyer for further details.

All of these activities allow us to provide a fun and safe after-prom for our junior and senior boys and their dates. Many thanks!!