

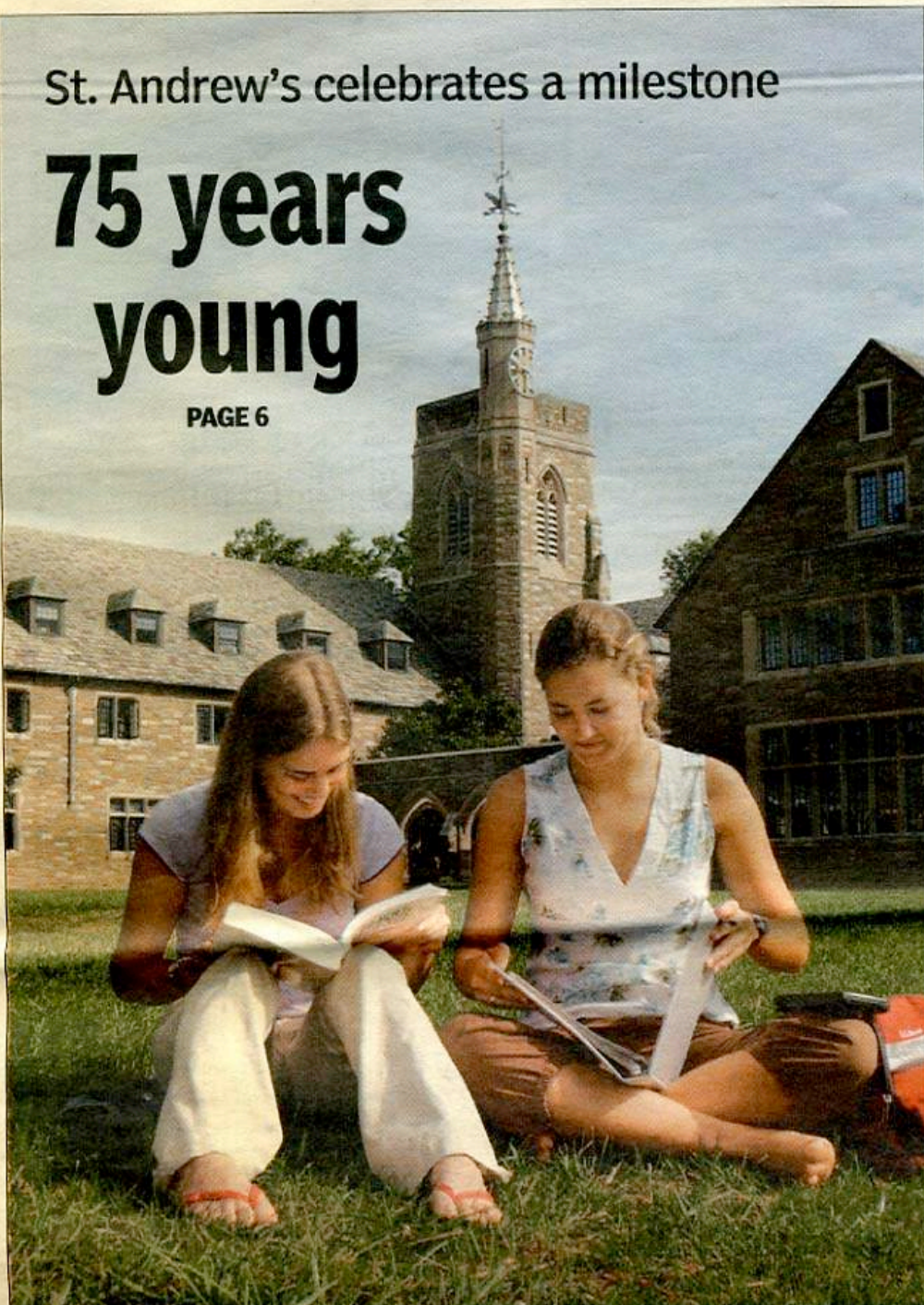
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# Crossroads

St. Andrew's celebrates a milestone

## 75 years young

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# COVER STORY

## St. Andrew's continues founders' vision of rigorous learning

By CAROL CHILD  
Special to The News Journal

**M**IDDLETOWN — On Noxontown Pond there is a community committed to a purposeful life, engaged in service to others, valuing study, debate, argument, exploration and diversity, while balancing athletics with academics and faith. This is St. Andrew's School, a unique, private boarding school for boys and girls in grades nine through 12. Most faculty live on campus; they greet visitors openly. Even the faculty dogs are friendly.

FYI

### St. Andrew's School

**WHERE:** 350 Noxontown Road, Middletown

**CONTACT:** 378-9511; Fax: 378-7120; www.standrews-de.org

This year St. Andrews celebrate their 75th anniversary, reflecting on the past and looking ahead at what is to come. Alumni are commemorating the founding with a capital campaign. Cornerstones, as the campaign is called, celebrates the twin cornerstones that laid the foundation of the school — the physical cornerstone of Founders' Hall, laid on an unseasonably wintry Nov. 30, 1929, and the \$1 million endowment of founder A. Felix duPont, who envisioned a church school of faith and learning available to all, regardless of financial means.

The school, which opened in the fall of 1930 with 32 boys, remains open to all, regardless of means, and is dedicated to racial and ethnic diversity. Girls were admitted in 1974.

Located on 2,200 acres of farmland, woods and protected wildlife habitat near Middletown, St. Andrew's is situated on the largest open green space in New Castle County

# 75 years of life lessons



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St. Andrew's students and faculty members assemble in the basement chapel for services.

Students are taught stewardship for the natural environment and for their school. They are taught "No one picks up after you." They learn to look out for each other. Seniors serve as mentors and, as such, are domiciled throughout the lowerclassmen dorms. The small seminar-style classes encourage discussion, inspiring

a thirst for knowledge and to learn a subject intensively and be thoroughly conversant with its content, according to Greg Doyle, communications director, a St. Andrew's alumnus and a graduate of Villanova University.

Seniors engage in tutorials and in exhibitions, wherein a student reads a book, writes

about it from various perspectives and then defends the paper before the faculty.

Tuesday evenings students meet for the Headmaster's Forum to discuss a student-suggested topic such as the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. Discussions often become passionate, evoking thought and discus-

sion for day. The typ Andrew's s and filled tions, incl service as t Appoquin trict and A "It is sai raise a cl Zendt, dir and financi alumna a University. "Initial come here being arc time," said faculty.

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Special to The News Journal/SUCHAT PEDERSON  
From left: Steve Coupet, Dae Hyun An, Peter Zimmerman and Antonia Clark sit down to dinner on a Wednesday.



The News Journal/JENNIFER CORBETT  
Sophomore Beloved Rogers listens in English class.



The News Journal/JENNIFER  
American studies teacher Nigel Furlong listens for Allison Prevatt discuss a class reading assi



# learning

sion for days after.

The typical schedule for St. Andrew's students is rigorous and filled with many obligations, including community service as teachers' aides at the Appoquinimink School District and Adapted Aquatics.

"It is said it takes a village to raise a child," said Louisa Zandt, director of admission and financial aid, a St. Andrew's alumna and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Initially, the faculty who come here love kids; they love being around them all the time," said Will Speers, dean of faculty.

Members of the faculty host students' pizza nights in their homes, or cookies and milk in their dorm apartments.

Joy McGrath, director of advancement, is a St. Andrew's alumna, now living in an apartment with her dog in the 10th-grade boys dorm.

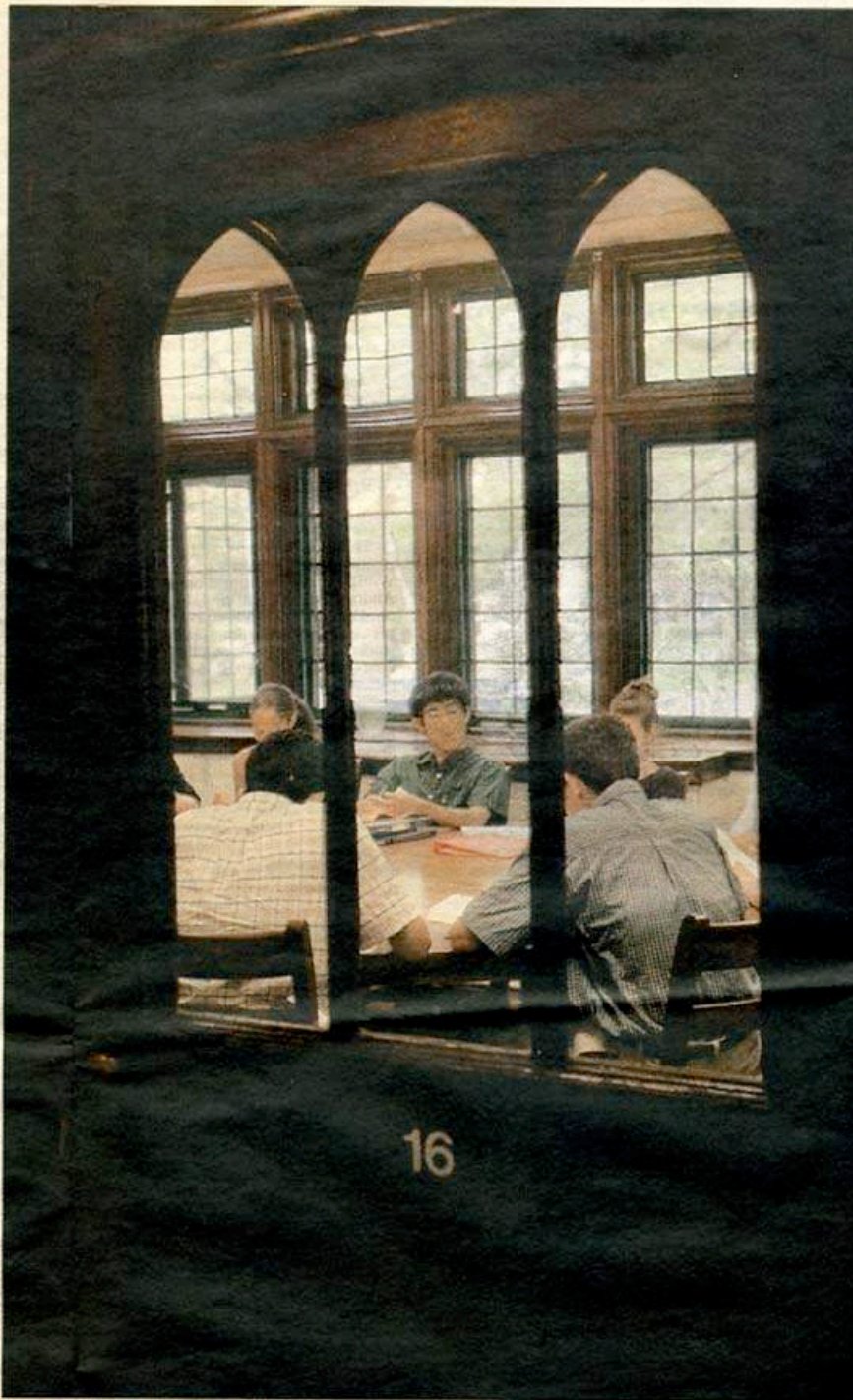
The founders, envisioning plans for St. Andrew's in N.C. Wyeth's masterful mural on St. Andrew's dining-hall wall, look on at Wednesday family-style dinners laid with white linen cloths, students serving while other students, faculty and guests sit together at the long tables.

"The faculty spends a great deal of time outside of class being with students," said Speers. "Some of the most important teaching moments happen away from a formal classroom lesson, and we want to have teachers who can act on those moments, in the same way a parent would know by the tone of their child's voice, that it was time to listen and talk."

On St. Michael's Day, Sept. 29, at the chapel service following dinner, chaplain Jay Hutchinson told this story: One day, Michelangelo, who was named for St. Michael, was chipping away at a block of marble. When a passerby asked what he was doing, Michelangelo replied, "Freeing the angel."



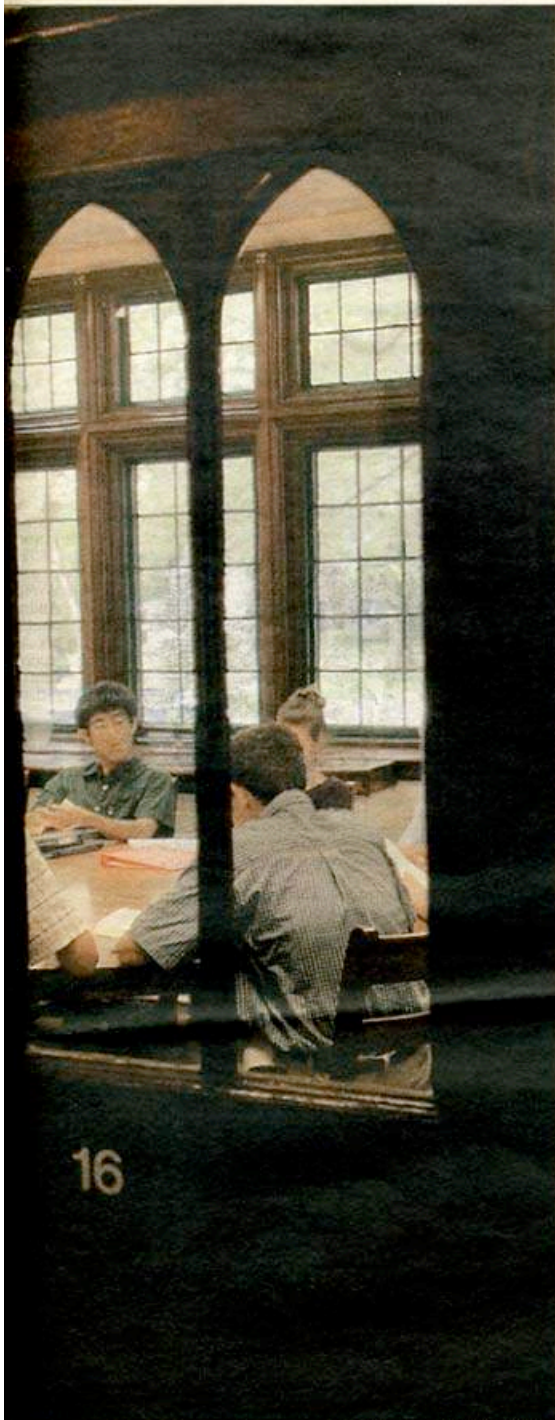
JENNIFER CORBETT  
Jennifer Corbett listens to her reading assignment.



DAE HYUN AN  
Dae Hyun An (middle) and his classmates sit around a table during English class on a Saturday morning.

JENNIFER CORBETT





The News Journal/JENNIFER CORBETT  
 it around a table during English class on a Saturday morning.

## Capital campaign targets renovations, financial aid

This year St. Andrew's, an Episcopal school, is celebrating its 75th anniversary. St. Andrew's alumni are conducting a capital campaign to raise \$25 million. Over the years, the intellectual leadership and service of generations of St. Andrews have made a difference in communities across the globe. St. Andrew's students have entered the world as scholars, confident leaders and citizens of good character. They are Wall Street wizards and ministers. They advance democratic elections in Kyrgyzstan; they come back to St. Andrew's to teach. One, Robert Jordan, class of '82, was killed on 9/11, while he was employed by Cantor Fitzgerald in New York.

St. Andrews maintain that the world needs St. Andrew's to continue its commitment to the development of young people of intellect and spirit.

This year three areas require significant investment:

■ **E**ndowment growth to fund financial aid and faculty enhancement, to support the human core of the school.

■ **C**onstruction of a new O'Brien Arts Center, dedicated this October, for the visual and performing arts programs.

■ **R**epairs and renovations to the 75-year-old Founders' Hall.

Board of Trustees chairwoman Katharine (Kitten) duPont Gahagan, granddaughter of founder A. Felix duPont, is dedicated to St. Andrew's.

According to St. Andrew's headmaster, Daniel T. Roach, St. Andrew's grants \$3 million each year in financial aid for tuition. Of the 272 students enrolled this year, 45 percent receive financial aid, averaging \$24,000 per student.

According to Greg Doyle, communications director, annual tuition is \$31,000, yet it costs the school \$48,000 per year to educate one student.

"We have a national admissions pool," said Roach, "who travel around the U.S. from September to January when applications are due looking for students, particularly from public schools, but from private schools as well. The one constant since Felix duPont founded St. Andrew's in 1929 is that in 2004 the school still remains accessible to all Americans, reaching into all socioeconomic classes.

"We are proud that the socioeconomic diversity of St. Andrew's reflects the changing face of America. At our 75th anniversary, this makes us quite unusual among American private schools. It gives us strength among small boarding schools. Our very distinct identity gives us the reputation and strength to attract students worldwide."

"We want kids who can add to the puzzle, who can make each other better kids," said Louisa Zandt, director of admission and financial aid. "We look for intellectual curiosity, that spark, kids of great character, who show community interest, willing to try new things and take great risks."

Said Will Speers, dean of faculty: "We want teachers who will continue to learn, who will work with other faculty members in thinking and rethinking about how to teach and coach and advise.

"I think the students pick up on how the faculty live here, because it seems to become a role model for them, not in becoming a teacher, but in living a life with meaning, a life with engagement, and a life that is intimately connected with other people. We've certainly witnessed that in the last 20 or so years in the number of students who have been engaged with people and service in their professional work and in their communities."

Carol Child



Special to The News Journal/SUCHAT PEDERSON

St. Andrew's gives \$3 million in financial aid each year. Almost half the students receive assistance.