Personal Statement – Gracyn Walker Robinson ’89  
Candidate for Alumni Association Fund Chair

This past June, through the combined efforts of an Agent team comprised of fourteen, the Form of 1989 broke three records for a 25th reunion:

- Highest participation record: 79%
- Most dollars raised: $345,371
- Most dollars raised during a 5-year reunion span: $5,205,351

The appeals process can be delicate, and is one which requires both patience, and connection. As Main Agent for our 25th Reunion, I relished in our regular, 6-week rotating conference calls, because the laughs shared (before talking numbers), brought a sense of familiarity and comfort that now spans decades.

Reaching the goals we established early on in the process also required someone willing to rally the troops, to set an alarm at 1 a.m. to place calls halfway around the globe, to not be afraid to ask for stretch gifts, and above all, to never tire of discussing the critical importance of the Annual Fund to the School’s overall budget.

St. Paul’s is at a unique juncture. There are traditions alumni hold sacred as central tenets to an SPS education; yet we also need to help the School maintain and extend its competitive edge. This is a delicate, requisite process.

I believe the success of the Annual Fund rests in the Participation bracket. Many alumni with positive recollections of St. Paul’s feel stretched thin, yet still give what they can, and often, go beyond. The continuity of outreach is critical to the Annual Fund’s overall gains each year. Tapping into each student’s cumulative St. Paul’s experience also plays a valuable role in knowing where to set targets.

As Alumni Fund Chair, some of my goals will be:

- Raising overall participation
- Considering new platforms for giving, including an anonymous matching donor concept (a standard at my alma mater, Middlebury College).
- The need to broaden the understanding of why Annual Fund dollars matter beyond bar graphs.

The Annual Fund fuels the competitive salaries for our dedicated faculty; it contributes to facilities improvements and the UPenn Fellowship program; and it is a critical driver for the funded scholarships for which St. Paul’s is known, and distinguished, from its rivals.

It is an honor to submit my name to support the mission that defines St. Paul's, and to raise awareness of the impact of the Annual Fund as Alumni Fund Chair.

As Coach Sandy Sistare would rally cry at 5 a.m. in the Gordon Rink: "Let’s put a nickel in it." I believe we can.

All of the above is grounded in the strong, personal relationships which have been nourished through constant communication ever since our graduation in 1989. St. Paul’s is first and foremost a faith-based academic institution; and the personal relationships which have flowed forth from that, both strengthen and serve to guide the loyalty and outreach of its alumni.
WORK EXPERIENCE

2014-Present  OLSON LEWIS+ Architects, Manchester, MA- Interior Designer
Interior Designer of established architecture firm for over 30+ years specializing in BioTech, Academic, and Residential Architecture and Interior Design industry sectors.

2012-2014  ACASA design, Wenham, MA- Sole Proprietor
Interior design boutique specializing in Project Management, Procurement, Schematic Design, Conceptual Development, Purchase Orders, and Installations on all projects; both residential and commercial.

2002-2012 Gracyn R Whitman Design, Wenham, MA- Sole Proprietor
Interior design firm servicing residential design projects, specifications, design development, and installation.

1999-2002 Houlihan Lawrence, Inc. Bronxville, NY- Director of Design
Responsible for the Schematic Design, Conceptual Development and oversight of the redesign of the company's 24 corporate offices over 3-year time frame
Worked closely with Nancy M. Seaman, CEO, Houlihan/Lawrence, Inc.

Projects: Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruise Lines
Responsibilities included the FF&E selection for public spaces aboard RCCL ships
Preparation of all concept boards to be presented to RCCL Directors
Travel to Germany to attend the annual Heimtextil trade show

1997-1998 Niemitz Design Group, Boston, MA - Intern
Assisted principal designer, Peter Niemitz, on hospitality projects

1994-1995 JP Morgan, Milan, Italy- Intern
Worked in the Milan, Italy office of JP Morgan

1993-1994 National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC- Intern
Assisted Renaissance Curator, David Brown, in curatorial affairs at the NGA

DISTINCTIONS

May 2011 North Shore Design Show, Wenham, MA- Invited Contributor
Mar 2011 Real Estate (cover), Boston Sunday Globe, March 13, 2011
http://www.boston.com/realestate/specials/homerepair/2011/remodeling_a_cape_cod_home/
May 2010 North Shore Design Show, Wenham, MA- Invited Contributor
May 2005 Life at Home (front page), The Boston Globe “Best in Show”, Thursday, May 5, 2005
Nov 2004 Kitchen and Bath Ideas “Share the Joy”, November/December issue, 2004
Oct 2004 25th Anniversary “This Old House”, Carlisle, MA- Invited Contributor
June 2004 Recipient of 2005 Luxury Living Award, World Trade Center, Boston, MA
May 2004 Junior League Showhouse Kitchen, Charlestown, MA - Invited Contributor

EDUCATION

1996-1999  NESAD at Suffolk University, Boston, MA- Professional Degree, Interior Design
1990-1993 Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT- Bachelor of Arts, Art History/Italian
1989-1990 Boston University, Boston, MA
1986-1989 St. Paul's School, Concord, NH

ALUMNI WORK/VOLUNTEERING

2009-2014 Main Agent, Form of 1989, 25th Reunion Alumni Fund Chair, Concord, NH
2004-2009 Volunteer, SPS Alumni Fund, Form of 1989, Concord, NH
2000-2004 Volunteer, Middlebury College Alumni Fund, Middlebury, VT

BOARDS

2004-2010 North Shore Nursery School, Beverly Farms, MA
2007-2009 Co- President, Board of Trustees, North Shore Nursery School, Beverly Farms, MA