

Brief History Saint Paul's College

Archdeacon James S. Russell of the Episcopal Church founded St. Paul Normal and Industrial school, which opened on September 24, 1888 with 3 teachers and forty students. The school was incorporated in 1890.

By 1913 the school's curriculum stressed technical skills, and enrollment had passed 500 students. A collegiate department in teacher training was added in 1922 and received state accreditation in 1926. In 1941 the school offered a four-year liberal arts curriculum and received a name change to St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute.

In a final name change in 1957, it became St. Paul's College.

By 2013, Saint Paul's College had educated more than 20,000 students through its caring staff, educational programs, small classes and close, family-like campus. The students arrived from as far away as California, the Virgin Island, Africa and parts of Connecticut, Chicago, the Eastern Shore, Washington, D.C, as well as Southside, Virginia and Lawrenceville. During the 80's and 90's, students from Nigeria attended the college due to the college's supportive and welcoming environment.

During its peak years, the college had a tremendous economic impact on the Town of Lawrenceville and on Brunswick County.

- Some students were drawn to the school based on previous generations who attended; referral from alumni and some because of the school's reputation and affiliation with the Episcopal Church.
- Saint Paul's College offered a diverse, liberal arts education where students were prepared to become active community members and prepared for a life of service and engagement.
- Greek Life on the campus was vibrant and active and annually the Greek-letter organizations hosted annual membership events. Many students became active in sororities and fraternities, under the direction of the local alumni chapters and national organizations to provide service to the community.

Today, graduates of Saint Paul's College have contributed in the public sector and private industry through business, education, financial services, insurance, community development, non-profits organizations and as clergy. Many have served in dual careers, as teachers, coaches, mentors and civic responsibilities. Graduates of Saint Paul's have completed extensive careers in state and federal government and brought their expertise to their communities to continue to build and empower.

The Saint Paul's College experience has shaped generations and many graduates have now had the ability to share their education and resources to pave the way for future generations to attend and graduate from college. Saint Paul's College is the bedrock and foundation that upheld thousands of students who are now parents and leaders throughout the United States and beyond.

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This legacy has continued to the third and fourth generation producing doctors, lawyers, educators, musicians, and change agents based on a foundation that started in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

Saint Paul's College offered Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Command) Classes and Army ROTC Scholarships. This helped many students to gain valuable leadership skills and discipline as cadets. Students who completed Army ROTC have continued as leaders in their chosen professions. Today, Saint Paul's College can count career military officers and veterans as a part of their history.

Alumni of Saint Paul's College have organized to form the non-profit SPC4Life organization to further the goal to acquire and restore the legacy of Saint Paul's College through educational programming and community engagement for underserved communities.

In 2020, amid the largest, pandemic in world history and racial injustices impacting some many, the chorus of our school song is the motivation behind this movement, SPC4Life.

“Dear Saint Paul's, how I love to hear thy name. There's no other school that ever seems to be the same. Thine green hills are the loveliest of all. And some day, we'll be coming back again to dear Saint Paul's.”

Saint Paul's College, a historically black college and university was founded on the principle of educating people of color to serve their communities. Dr. James Solomon Russell's goal was to provide an opportunity for persons to be trained and then to go on to lead others to the power of knowledge and self-sufficiency. His goal has been attained, and today SPC4Life is positioned to move the vision forward.

Saint Paul's College, a historically black college and university, has been a part of this community since 1888, is on the dawn of **“A Rebirth”**. As we are embarking on this good work and noble cause, we have engaged alumni, friends and partners to help us in these efforts. Our goal is education and revitalization, while supporting those who may not otherwise have access due to past racial inequities.

Our common goal is clear --- Rebirth this historically black college, Dear Saint Paul's and impacting generations to come!