

New Form Plaques

Editor's note: Using a grant from the Form of 1973 Mentor Fellowship, SPS Archive Assistant Lisa Laughy, who moonlights as a woodcarver, has been commissioned to revive the form plaque project. The project was initiated in 1921 by Fourth Rector Samuel Drury and carried out by original woodcarver John Gregory Wiggins, who memorialized School history in wood from 1921 to 1953. Production of the plaques ceased in 1990 – until Laughy's proposal to reignite the tradition in the spring of 2010. Plaque descriptions have traditionally been printed in Alumni Horae.



1993



1998



2008



2012

A large snowflake design represents the blizzard of March 1993, which covered Millville in snow. The spirals (middle left and right) represent the blizzard's intense winds. An open book with the initials "DVH" represents the appointment of David Verne Hicks as Tenth Rector. The book symbolizes the Rural Record, a journal of day-to-day life at the School from 1857 into the early 20th century. The Tien Track, outlined in the upper right corner, was dedicated in October 1992. The comedy and tragedy masks represent the Tracy Memorial Theater, dedicated during Anniversary Weekend 1993.

The New Hampshire State House dome is the central image of the 1998 plaque, representing the march by more than 300 SPS community members to the State House lawn to encourage the addition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s name to the holiday, previously called Civil Rights Day. An open book with the initials "CBA" represents the appointment of Bishop Craig Barry Anderson as Eleventh Rector. The IV inscribed on the trophy represents the four sports teams to win New England championships that year – field hockey, wrestling, and boys and girls crew. An element from the Henley-on-Thames coat-of-arms represents the crews' trip to the Henley Regatta, where the girls won the Peabody Cup. The feathers symbolize the birds of the four newly renovated houses in the Quad – Manville's owl, Simpson's pelican, Brewster's rooster, and Ford's eagle.

The 2008 economic recession is represented in the central image by a grumpy bear holding a stock market chart with its arrow pointing down. The boys varsity squash team won the New England championship, an event represented by the two crossed squash racquets behind the bear. The year 2008 saw the end of the use of lunch trays in the dining hall as seen in the monogrammed SPS tray located to the left of the bear. The SPS waffle depicts the newly acquired waffle iron, complete with SPS crest-branding capabilities. The winter of 2007–08 produced record levels of snow and ice. The background behind the bear depicts the snow-covered School grounds, with a layer of ice extending beneath the ursine feet.

An open book with the initials "MGH" represents the appointment of Michael Gifford Hirschfeld '85 as Thirteenth Rector. The Greek letter Delta surrounded by a laurel wreath represents the Delphians, winners of the Club Cup competition for the school year. The World Trade Center towers, dated 9/11/11, mark the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. A snowman holding a jack-o'-lantern recalls the big storm near Halloween – the only significant snowfall of the winter season. In the lower left corner is the newly constructed Lindsay Center for Mathematics and Science, dedicated on November 29, 2011.