

## **Chester Earle Baum, Jr. '36**



Chester Earle Baum, Jr. graduated from St. Andrew's School in 1936. He was class valedictorian, football player and champion wrestler. From here he went on to Haverford College. In 1940, he returned as an English teacher (the second alum to do so), and coached football and wrestling. During this time of war he received a commission from the US Naval Reserve and was called to active duty in 1941. He served with the Office of Naval Intelligence and Amphibious Forces in the Pacific. After his service in the Navy, he once again returned to the shores of Noxontown Pond. In 1946 Ches received his Masters of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University.

In 1955 he became chair of the English department, retiring in 1970. Upon leaving St. Andrew's, he moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he taught at Kirkland Hall College and served as Coordinator for the Maryland Drug Abuse Council. Again, he found his way back to SAS in 1997 serving as the School archivist til 1999.

The English prize presented at commencement is named in his honor.

Ches enjoyed sailing, playing golf and acting on stage. Ches passed away in October 2001 at the age of 82. Former SAS English teacher Chris Boyle wrote this about Ches upon his passing: "In my 15 years of working closely for and with Ches, he taught me two vital joys: first, and most important, the joy of teaching; and secondly, the joy of collegiality. In other words, he taught me how to teach, and he taught me how much fun it can be to do it with others. He made me into a teacher. His humor rubbed off, and I still find myself, unconsciously, imitating his gestures and persona in my classroom."

Baum corridor located on the second floor of Founders' Hall, now houses sophomore boys and was formerly known as D corridor.

