

SUMMER 2019

shady side

academy

Pursuing Their Passions

Unique Programs
Empower SSA
Students



Editor

Lindsay Kovach

Associate Editor

Jennifer Roupe

Contributors

Val Brkich

Christa Burneff

Cristina Rouvalis

Photography

James Knox

Additional photos provided by SSA faculty, staff, alumni, students and parents.

Class notes photos are submitted by alumni and class correspondents.

Design

Kara Reid

Printing

Broudy Printing

Shady Side Academy Magazine is published twice a year for Shady Side Academy alumni, parents and friends. Letters to the editor should be sent to Lindsay Kovach, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni & Development Office, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

Junior School, 400 S. Braddock Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15221, 412-473-4400

Country Day School, 620 Squaw Run Road East,
Pittsburgh, PA 15238, 412-963-8644

Middle School, 500 Squaw Run Road East,
Pittsburgh, PA 15238, 412-968-3100

Senior School, 423 Fox Chapel Rd.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15238, 412-968-3000

www.shadysideacademy.org



facebook.com/shadysideacademy



twitter.com/shady_side



youtube.com/shadysideacademy



instagram.com/shadysideacademy

**FSC to be placed
by printer**



FEATURES

16 Pursuing Their Passions: Unique Programs Empower SSA Students

22 Commencement 2019

40 Alumni Profile: Jonathan Zittrain '87

44 Alumni Profile: Jill Portnoy '06

SUMMER 2019

contents



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Around the Academy
- 33 Sports Briefs
- 38 Hillman Performing Arts Series
- 48 Alumni Events
- 52 Class Notes
- 59 In Memoriam
- 61 From the Archives

The Senior School winter musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, was presented Feb. 8-10, 2019. One of the principal characters, the Audrey II plant puppet, was built from scratch by a team of students, led by seniors **Lucie Green** and **Lily Scheele**, junior **Ava Caron** and sophomore **Bridget Onest**. The students built four puppets representing the plant's stages of growth, from a small plant in a 6" pot to a fully-grown plant that is roughly 4' tall, 4' wide and 7' long. Junior **Sanjna Narayan** was the puppeteer for three of the four plants while junior **Max Minard** voiced the puppets.

President's Message

DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:



I shuffled into the Junior School cafeteria alone, clenching my tray, scanning the room for a friendly face. It was my initial visit to campus as incoming president, and like many “new kids” who enter school lunchrooms, I worried about where I would sit, who I would eat with and how I might fit in with the crowd.

All of a sudden, a plucky first grader seated with her friends at a nearby table piped right up.

“Hey! What’s *your* name?!”

“I’m Mr. Griffith,” I replied, a bit surprised.

“Well you should eat with us!” she exclaimed, yanking out the empty chair next to her. “We always have the *best* conversations!”

And boy, did we ever, immediately covering a lot of ground: goldfish, dogs, Pokémon, books,

favorite foods, brothers and sisters who tattle – it was a robust, raucous discussion and simply great fun. The students reveled in entertaining me with stories about their teachers and the love they have for their school and each other. They wanted to know about my family and when they would get to meet my children. They were curious about what a school president does and if I knew how to ride a bike without training wheels. Finally, they wondered if we would have more lunch table conversations in the future. I assured them they could count on it.

During that memorable lunch and in each and every interaction since, Shady Side has continued to impress me as lively, engaging, and warm. But most of all, my alma mater has revealed itself as a community committed to a mission that seeks to inspire thought, action, and leadership in an era of extraordinary change. Has there been a time in the life of our school, in the life of our city and world, when this mission has been more relevant? More inspiring? More essential for young people and the remarkable future they will inherit?

I am humbled to be named your president, and I can think of no higher honor than to come home to Pittsburgh to steer the school I love into its promising future. I would like to thank Board of Trustees Chair Jon Kamin ’91 and all of the members of the Presidential Search Committee, led by Rob Mullin ’93 and Jeff McDaniel ’88. Their generous support in the interview process and during the ongoing transition period has proven invaluable for me, Danica and my entire family. We feel known, cared for

and celebrated as we start our new life in Pittsburgh – and we are forever grateful.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Amy Nixon. She has served so capably as interim president, leading Shady Side forward on multiple fronts and modeling our Guiding Principles in all she does. Throughout the transition, she has been tremendously helpful to me, proactive in her communication and a source of considerable guidance and wisdom. I am personally grateful for Amy’s example, and I look forward to continuing to partner with her as she returns this year to her role as head of the Middle School.

Danica and I are poised to embrace our role as new SSA parents as well. Our daughter, Colette, and son, Cannon, will start at Country Day this fall as fourth-generation Shady Side students. The kids are excited to carry on this special family tradition and cannot wait for school to start. In the meantime, they have been happily exploring Pittsburgh this summer, taking in a Pirates game, riding the Duquesne Incline, and devouring a Prantl’s burnt almond torte. Please let us know what they should do next!

I wish you every good thing in the remaining days of summer and look forward to connecting with you in person soon. Until then, here’s to our bright future and to the many “best conversations” ahead!

It is so good to be home. Glory to Shady Side!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bartley P. Griffith Jr. '93". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bartley P. Griffith Jr. ’93
President

Jesse Robinson Named Director of the Glimcher Tech and Design Hub

Jesse Robinson joined the Senior School in August as the director of the new Glimcher Tech and Design Hub, an innovative space dedicated to robotics, fabrication, engineering and computer science. In this newly created position, Robinson will partner with the school's academic leadership to promote innovation and creativity across the curriculum while overseeing the day-to-day management and use of the new facility.

His responsibilities will include: collaborating with academic department chairs to find opportunities to enhance the curriculum through projects in the Glimcher Tech and Design Hub; working directly with students in the facility and teaching classes; creating opportunities for programming in the facility, including partnering with outside organizations, and fostering engagement with the broader community; maintaining the lab spaces and equipment; training faculty and students to use the equipment safely and responsibly; and supporting teachers in utilizing the lab spaces for their own instruction in order to promote innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

Robinson came to SSA from Greens Farms Academy, a PK-12 independent school in Westport, Conn., where he served as director of information technology and a computer science teacher since 2013. Robinson designed Greens Farms' technology curriculum and academic technology plan, assisted in developing the STEAM signature program, established Lower and Upper School makerspaces, implemented a 1:1 Apple laptop program, advised the robotics club and taught computer science. He also served on the planning committee for the Westport Maker Faire. For the 2019 Faire, he spearheaded The Great Duck Project, an initiative to create the world's largest crowdsourced 3D-printed duck.



He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in instructional technology from Duquesne University, and is finishing his doctoral degree in instructional technology at Duquesne University.

The Glimcher Tech and Design Hub, scheduled to open in time for the 2019-2020 school year, is located on the lower levels of Rowe and Memorial Halls. A Fabrication and Robotics Wing will house a variety of innovative learning and creation spaces, including a fabrication lab, robotics arena, workshop and wet lab, which will be fully equipped with 3D printers, a laser cutter, CNC router and mill, table saw, drill press and more. A Computer Science Wing will house two spacious computer labs, a computer collaboration lounge and faculty offices, providing a new home for the Computer Science Department, which offers advanced courses in robotics, mobile apps, game design, 3D modeling, artificial intelligence and more. Directly inside the entrance will be the new SSA Café, named and supported by the SSA Parents' Association, where students and teachers can eat, socialize and connect.

The Glimcher Tech and Design Hub is part of The Campaign for Shady Side's commitment to expand and upgrade science and technology facilities on all of SSA's campuses. To support the \$2.8 million project, or for information on naming opportunities, contact Director of Alumni & Development **Dr. Allison Saras** at asaras@shadysideacademy.org or visit www.shadysideacademy.org/campaign.





Speech & Debate Students Compete at State, National and World Tournaments

Five members of the Senior School Speech and Debate Team competed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) State Tournament, held at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in March. Junior **Akshay Amesur** was the 2019 PHSSL state champion in Impromptu Speaking and junior **Giridhar Viswanathan** was PHSSL state champion and was also named Outstanding Speaker in Congress House. Junior **Max Minard** earned second place in Humorous Interpretation, and the team of juniors **Alex Reuter** and **Ahmer Shaikh** earned a place in the semifinals in News Broadcasting. Minard, Shaikh and Viswanathan also competed in the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand National Tournament in Milwaukee in May, while Minard and Amesur competed in the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Tournament in Dallas in June. Amesur and Viswanathan represented SSA at the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC) in Toronto, Canada, in April.

Academic WorldQuest National Competition

A team of four Senior School students won the Academic WorldQuest regional competition in March and finished 26th at the national competition held April 27 in Washington, D.C. The team consisted of seniors **Matteo Secomandi**, **Djibril Branche** and **Andrew Sveda**, and junior **Arjun Patel**, and was coached by history faculty members **Rachel McCool** and **Kyle Smith**. Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of America, Academic WorldQuest tests students' knowledge of international affairs, current events and other information about the world. SSA has won the Academic WorldQuest regional competition and advanced to nationals in five of the last six years.



Science Olympiad Teams Compete at State Tournament

On April 27, the Middle School Science Olympiad team placed fourth out of 35 teams in Division B (grades 6-9), while the Senior School team finished fifth out of 36 teams in Division C (grades 9-12) at the State Tournament at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. Middle School students earned first place finishes in six different events, while Senior School students earned first place in one event.

National Merit Scholarship Winners

Six members of the Class of 2019 were selected as winners of National Merit Scholarship awards. **Nick Lauer** and **Walter Navid** were awarded \$2500 National Merit Scholarships, **Amanda Zeng** won a National Merit PPG Foundation Sue Sloan Scholarship, Hank Lin won a PPG Foundation Scholarship, **Connor Leemhuis** won a National Merit Mary E. Beyerle Scholarship, and **Oliver Henry** won a National Merit Northwestern University Scholarship.

Students Earn Top Honors at PJAS State Competition

Three Senior School Students earned First Award honors at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences (PJAS) State Competition, held May 20 at Penn State University. Earning First Awards were: junior **David Liang** in the Computer Science category for his research project, "Using Deep Learning to Detect Malicious URLs"; freshman **Gloria Mancilla-Balog** in the Zoology category for "The Effect of Grooming Techniques on Equine Heart Rate"; and freshman **Steven Liu** in the Engineering category for "Electronic Prevention of Rust - The Enemy of Steel."



Two Faculty Members Named to Endowed Chair Positions

Two Senior School faculty members were named to endowed chair positions at the Academy in June. Science Department Chair **Dr. Joe Martens** was named to **The Howard Heinz Chair in the Sciences** for a five-year term through June 2024. Dr. Martens has taught science since 2014 and was named chair of the Science Department in 2017. He also coaches the Science Olympiad team and is a member of the residential life staff. Senior School history teacher **Rachel McCool** was named to **The F. Walter Jones Jr. Chair in History** for a five-year term through June 2024. McCool has taught history since 2008. She also has coached boys and girls tennis and served five years as a dorm advisor in Morewood House.

A total of five named endowed chair appointments are available to SSA faculty, made possible by generous gifts from members of the SSA community to the faculty endowment fund. Each endowed chair holder receives an annual stipend for a five-year term. The other three endowed chairs are:

- **The Richard K. Mellon Chair in Mathematics**, currently held by Junior School fourth grade teacher **Lisa Budd** until June 2022
- **The George and Ann Magovern Chair in Science**, currently held by Senior School science teacher **Dr. Scott Peterson** until June 2022
- **The Julia D. and James C. Rea Chair in Humanities**, currently held by Middle School social studies teacher **Molly Braver** until June 2022



JUNIOR SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHERS PRESENT AT NSTA CONFERENCE

Junior School science teachers **Jeff McCarroll** and **Melanie Smith** presented a session at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Conference on Science Education, held in St. Louis, Mo., April 11-14. The presentation, entitled "Engineering Challenges and the Power of Analyzing Failure," shared their observations from a Buddy Science Challenge that Junior School students performed this year and gave teachers language to use to help students positively respond to failure. The conference drew thousands of science educators from all across the country and featured more than 1,000 sessions.

WSSA-TV Story Nominated for Student Emmy

A team of six Senior School students earned a 2019 Student Emmy nomination from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Mid-Atlantic Region for a WSSA-TV news story that they produced in 2018 about students' response to gun violence. Juniors **George Grune**, **Jack Naughton** and **Elle Santora**, seniors **Max Farner** and **Ronan O'Connor**, and 2018 graduate **Jackson Clark** earned the nomination for the story, which covered the March for Our Lives Pittsburgh (which was organized by SSA students **Erin** and **Emma Simard**), the National School Walkout, discourse among student groups about gun violence, and SSA's campus security efforts. It was one of only seven nominees in the competitive News: General Assignment - Serious News category.



Student Named to Beckwith Board

Sophomore **Nora Navid** was named to a two-year term as a student member of the board of the Beckwith Institute, a health care institute dedicated to improving patient care. She joins junior **Nicole Caputo** on the board. SSA alumnus and trustee emeritus **G. Nicholas Beckwith III '63** and his wife, Dotty, are co-founders of the Institute.



Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Senior School students won 45 awards in the regional competition of the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, including 35 art awards and 10 writing awards. Art awards given by the Pittsburgh Arts Region included four Gold Keys, 10 Silver Keys and 18 Honorable Mentions. Writing awards given by the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project at the University of Pittsburgh included five Silver Keys and five Honorable Mentions. Four students who won regional Gold Keys in art had their work advance for judging in the national competition: junior **Akshay Amesur** and junior **Giri Viswanathan** in Photography, and senior **Eliana Gagnon** and junior **Hyelim "Rose" Lee** in Drawing & Illustration.

MIDDLE SCHOOLER COMPETES IN STATE GEOBEE

Middle School seventh grader **Pedro da Silva** qualified to compete in the 2019 National Geographic Pennsylvania State GeoBee, held March 29 in Harrisburg, Pa. The National Geographic GeoBee is an annual geography competition for grades 4-8 that includes three levels of competition: school, state and national. As SSA's school champion, da Silva took a proctored online qualifying test, and the top 100 students who took the test qualified for the state competition. The champion from each state advanced to the national championship.

SSA Receives \$5.224 Million Gift to Financial Aid Endowment

This spring, Shady Side Academy received the second-largest charitable gift in its 136-year history, a \$5.224 million gift to the financial aid endowment that will ultimately fund seven scholarships for students in grades 6-12. The gift was made in honor of late Middle School Headmaster David A. Mancosh Sr. and his wife, Rose Marie, by a group of anonymous donors known as “The Family and Friends of David and Rose Marie Mancosh,” to create the new **David and Rose Marie Mancosh Scholarship Fund**. The donors’ intent is to fully support students for their education at Shady Side from grades 6-12, thereby lessening the financial strain and emotional stress on students and their families. Recipients will be called Mancosh Scholars.

“Dave and Rose Marie Mancosh were integral parts of the Shady Side Academy community for years, and their influence has been felt for generations,” said Interim Academy President **Amy Nixon** in April. “This gift ensures that their legacy will continue and influence countless lives over the course of the coming years. A gift of this scope means a number of different things. It means that the donors want to honor the Mancoshes in a meaningful and powerful way, one which both Dave and Rose Marie would applaud. It also means that they believe in Shady Side’s mission and the impact it can have on young people’s lives. We are thrilled that seven students per year in perpetuity will be the beneficiaries of an SSA education as a result of the friends and family of the Mancoshes.”

To qualify for a Mancosh Scholarship, a student’s financial aid need must equal or exceed 80% of current and projected tuition costs. Qualified students will be selected by the Admissions Office on the basis of academic ability as well as talents in the arts, athletics and other areas. The Mancosh Scholarship will cover 80-85% of tuition, with the Academy covering the remaining 10-15% from general scholarship funds. In addition, SSA will provide scholars a minimum of \$2,500 per year to cover additional costs such as books, meals and activity fees.

In the 2019-2020 school year, four Mancosh Scholarships have been awarded to one student each in grades 6-9. In subsequent years, a new scholar entering grade 6 will be selected, increasing the number of Mancosh Scholars by one per year until a total of seven scholars is reached. Should a Mancosh Scholar withdraw prior to grade 12, a new scholar would be selected to take their place in the same grade.

David A. Mancosh Sr. joined Shady Side Academy as a seventh grade teacher in 1953 and became headmaster of the Middle School in 1966, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. He passed away in 2014. He and his wife, Rose Marie, had four sons who attended SSA: **David Jr. '70, Daniel '72, Donald '75** and current Board of Visitors member **Douglas '76**. To honor his legacy, the Middle School grants the David A. Mancosh Award each year to the eighth grade student who consistently exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding member of the school community. The Mancosh Reading Room in Rowe Hall on the Senior School campus is also named in his honor.



Late Middle School Headmaster David A. Mancosh Sr.

“David was a strong leader who was completely devoted to the pursuit of developing the young minds and character of his students,” said Board of Trustees Chair **Jonathan Kamin '91**, who attended the Middle School while Mancosh was headmaster. “Rose Marie was a kind and graceful lady who helped all of Shady Side’s students on a daily basis, from assisting them in selecting the right book in the library to helping them navigate through life. Together, they were pillars of the community who worked tirelessly to instill meaningful values in the lives of Shady Side students. The Mancosh legacy is one that shaped generations of students and has continued to sustain the Academy for the last 30 years. This gift is truly transformational, and the entire Academy thanks the donors for such a tribute.”

Approximately 30% of SSA’s students receive some sort of financial assistance, including need-based financial aid, merit-based scholarships and grants, and tuition remission for children of employees. In 2018-2019, the Academy awarded more than \$3.7 million in need-based financial aid to 190 students. However, each year the demand for need-based financial aid outweighs the funds available. The Mancosh Scholarship gift will allow seven more deserving students to attend SSA each year without placing financial strain on their families.

This historic gift was made in support of The Campaign for Shady Side, an ambitious \$31.7 million fundraising initiative. One of the campaign’s goals is to raise \$4 million for the financial aid endowment. With this generous gift, the Academy has exceeded that goal. Learn more at shadysideacademy.org/campaign.

Ninth Annual MLK Day of Service

Approximately 175 Shady Side Academy volunteers engaged in hands-on community service projects at six locations on the Academy's ninth annual MLK Day of Service on Jan. 21. The volunteers, which included students in grades PK-12, parents, faculty, staff and alumni, celebrated the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday by volunteering on the national day of service, making it "a day on, not a day off." The volunteers' work benefited eight partner organizations, including Beverly's Birthdays, Center for Victims, Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh, Support Our Troops, Family House, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Harmarville and the H.J. Heinz Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.



Sixth Graders Co-Sponsor a Water Well in South Sudan

Sixth graders at the Middle School have been supporting the work of Water for South Sudan for the past three years, and the water well that the class co-sponsored has been drilled in the village of Wunkuel in Achol, Tonj, South Sudan. Water for South Sudan is a nonprofit organization founded by Salva Dut, who is featured in the book *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. After reading the book in English class this year, the sixth graders held a walk-a-thon on Global Action Day in December to raise funds to support the drilling of a water well in a village in South Sudan. Access to clean water transforms villages, allowing children, particularly girls, to go to school instead of spending their days journeying long distances to carry water to their homes.



SSA STRIDERS WIN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER AWARD

The SSA Striders team that participated in the 2018 Walk for Children's was honored with the Youth Fundraiser Award from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation in May 2019. The award, which honors generous fundraisers age 18 and younger, was given in recognition of the team's outstanding effort to raise nearly \$25,000 for the 2018 Walk for Children's in support of sick kids and their families.



Bounce for Bundle-Up

On May 22, Junior School students enjoyed a special visit from Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Steven Brault and the Pirate Parrot to celebrate being the grand prize-winning school in the 2019 WTAE-TV Project Bundle-Up Fundraise The Jolly Roger competition. The kindergarten class raised \$4,645 this year through its annual Bounce for Bundle-Up service project, with those funds going to the Salvation Army's Project Bundle-Up to purchase new winter outerwear for disadvantaged children and seniors in Western Pennsylvania. The Pirates' visit included a 30-minute all-school assembly with games and prizes, as well as a special classroom visit with kindergarten students. In the Bounce for Bundle-Up project, students collect pledges from family and friends based on how many times they can bounce a basketball in three minutes.



Lacrosse Face-Off Against Suicide Event

The boys and girls lacrosse teams hosted the SSA Lacrosse Face-Off Against Suicide Event on May 4 at Michael J. Farrell Stadium on the Senior School campus. The event featured a full day of youth and high school lacrosse games, including an evening doubleheader with the SSA boys and girls varsity teams taking on Western Reserve Academy, plus tons of activities, raffles and food. The event raised more than \$30,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. The event was spearheaded by senior boys lacrosse captain **Ronan O'Connor**, who lost his older brother, Tom, to suicide in 2013.

SSA Hosts Two More Innovation Speakers Series Events

Shady Side Academy hosted the second and third events in its inaugural Innovation Speakers Series at the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation. On Feb. 21, *How Platforms and Blockchain Are Reshaping Business for Today and Tomorrow* featured two associate professors from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business: SSA parent Dr. Timothy Derdenger and Dr. Param Vir Singh. On April 30, *Smart Cities: The Impact in Pittsburgh and Globally* featured Karen Lightman, executive director of CMU's Metro 21: Smart Cities Institute, Mike Zeto, VP of IoT solutions and general manager of Smart Cities – Internet of Things at AT&T, Santiago Garces, director of the Department of Innovation and Performance at the City of Pittsburgh, and special guest and SSA alumnus **Erik Buell '68**, chief technical officer of FUELL.



Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Speaks at Senior School

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dr. Bill Phillips gave a dynamic and entertaining presentation for Senior School students on April 5. His demonstration on the cooling of atoms involved balloons, silk flowers, racquet balls, packing peanuts, liquid nitrogen, levitating magnets and a surprise explosion in a trash can, ending with a standing ovation by students and faculty. Dr. Phillips was a co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics for development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light. He is currently a physicist and fellow of the National Institute for Standards and Technology and the distinguished university professor and College Park professor of physics at the University of Maryland.



Senior School Students and Faculty Attend L.E.A.D. Conference

On March 13, 18 Senior School students and four faculty members attended the second annual L.E.A.D. (Learning Equity, Acceptance and Diversity) Conference at Sewickley Academy. This student-led leadership conference focuses on equity and inclusion, and this year's theme was "For What You Believe In." Seniors **Ella Benec** and **Chayla Edwards** and sophomore **Charlotte McDaniel** led workshops, while the other students attended other student-led workshops. Everyone had the privilege of participating in The Defamation Experience, an interactive program that explores the intersections of race, class, religion, gender and the law.

Student Artwork, Music Featured at Warhol Museum

Two SSA students were invited to be part of the Andy Warhol Museum's Youth Invasion 2019 event and art exhibition. Senior **Eliana Gagnon's** four-piece series *Represent the Underrepresented* was selected for inclusion in the youth art exhibition, which ran from April 5-20. Eighth grader **Sloane**

Simon, a vocalist, songwriter and guitarist, was invited to perform at the Youth Invasion event on April 5, which kicked off the exhibition.



Author Jordan Sonnenblick Visits the Middle School

Jordan Sonnenblick, author of 11 books for children and young adults, visited the Middle School on March 11. He conducted writing workshops with sixth grade English classes, who had recently finished reading his book *Zen and the Art of Faking It* and had lunch with the sixth grade book club, then spoke at an all-school assembly.



Remake Learning Days at SSA

The SSA Junior and Country Day Schools both hosted events as part of Remake Learning Days in May, a festival of hands-on educational events for kids across the Pittsburgh region. On May 6, Junior School computer teacher **Karen Sandora** hosted Coding Day, where first and third grade students and families enjoyed a morning of coding together. On May 11, Director of SSA Farms **Anna Sekine** and Country Day music teacher **Tami Fire** hosted Seeds of JOY!, where kids and families spent an afternoon planting seeds, singing songs and playing games outside.



Parenting Expert Speaks at SSA

On Jan. 9, parenting and youth development expert **Deborah Gilboa, M.D.**, known as "Doctor G," visited SSA to speak to parents and students. In the morning, Dr. Gilboa spoke to students in grades 4-8 about the power of failure and how it helps kids to learn new things, grow in character and develop resilience. In the evening, she spoke to parents about "the expectation gap" between parents and kids, and how parents can safely step back so kids can step up to grow in character, confidence and ability.



1. Country Day School Early Childhood Extravaganza
2. Junior School Pre-Kindergarten Alphabet Parade
3. Junior School Kindergarten Art Show
4. Junior School First Grade Play
5. Country Day School First Grade Restaurant
6. Junior School Second Grade Play
7. Country Day School Second Grade Wax Museum
8. Junior School Third Grade State Fair
9. Junior School Fourth Grade Greek Museum
10. Country Day School Fourth Grade Play
11. Junior School Fifth Grade Night of Wonderful Themes





6



7



8



9



10



11

STUDENT
PERFORMANCES



12

12. Country Day School Spring Show *Take Me to the Movies!*

13. Middle School Winter Musical *All Shook Up*

14. Senior School Winter Musical *The Little Shop of Horrors*

15. Senior School Original Works Theatre Festival



13



14



15

A Message from Outgoing Interim President Amy Nixon

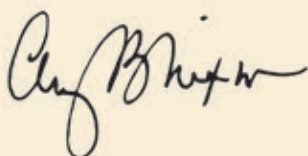
DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY,

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Shady Side Board of Trustees for asking me to serve as the interim president of the Academy for this past year. It has been an honor and a privilege, and I am gratified to have been able to step in and help. My goal has been to keep us moving forward so that our next president can get off to a good start, and I think that Bart Griffith will find that all is in order. Bart is a wonderful choice for us, and I know that he will start quickly yet thoughtfully, as I have been able to witness his style over the last eight months. We are very fortunate to have him.

Leading an institution of this size and complexity is an interesting proposition. As with all schools, there are our main stakeholders: students, faculty, staff, administration, parents, alumni and trustees. These groups generally have the same goals in mind, which is delivering the best educational experience to our students as we possibly can, and one that serves our mission of challenging students to think expansively, act ethically and lead responsibly. My experience over the years at the Middle School has been reinforced by my experience as interim president this year, and I am happy to report that our mission is alive and flourishing at all levels.

Shady Side is a very special place. As we work towards constant improvement, we never lose sight of the most important part of this complex puzzle, which is our students. No matter which campus they are on, we help them grow on every level in different but age-appropriate ways. As with any long-standing and successful institution, one of the biggest challenges we face is to build on our successes as opposed to resting upon them. We are constantly engaged in reflection and conversation about our continuing improvement, and I have no doubt that Bart Griffith will lead us forward in this. We heartily welcome him back to SSA, and look forward to introducing him to our entire community.

Sincerely,



Amy B. Nixon
Head of Middle School



Accomplishments Under Amy Nixon's Tenure, 2018-2019

ACADEMICS

- New math, handwriting, phonics and instrumental music curricula implemented at Country Day School

ARTS

- Black Box Series added to Hillman Performing Arts Series

ATHLETICS

- Field hockey, boys soccer, girls ice hockey and girls lacrosse teams won league titles
- Football team went undefeated in the regular season

COMMUNITY

- Innovation Speakers Series launched

FACILITIES

- Senior School Farrell Stadium turf & track replaced
- Junior School Spanish and first grade classrooms added
- Senior School Fitness Center opened
- Senior School Glimcher Tech & Design Hub under construction

LEADERSHIP

- Dr. Jennifer Asmonga hired as head of Country Day School

PHILANTHROPY

- \$5.224 million gift received, the second largest in Academy history, to establish the David and Rose Marie Mancosh Scholarship Fund

PROGRAMS

- Country Day School After School Adventurers program launched
- Country Day School hot lunch program added

SAFETY & SECURITY

- Campus Safety Department established and staffed
- New door lock and visitor management systems implemented at all four campuses
- ALICE training held at all four campuses



PURSuing THEIR PASSIONS

UNIQUE PROGRAMS EMPOWER SSA STUDENTS

BY VALENTINE J. BRKICH

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES KNOX



(LEFT)

SANJNA NARAYAN

You might say that rising senior **Sanjna Narayan's** educational journey has been literally that – a journey.

As a sophomore she had a Parkin Fellowship in the Philippines, where she taught a fine arts and political issues class. While there, she also worked with a robotics team to introduce a method of tutoring involving chatbots. Last summer she and 12 other Senior School students took part in the Academy's biannual theatre trip to Scotland, and this past April she spent three weeks in France, where she stayed with a group of SSA exchange partners.

As a junior, Narayan took the Summer Research Science Seminar course, which prepared her for the 200 hours of research she's doing this summer at the Gross Lab in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine. "We're studying the development of eyes in zebra fish," she says, "which we hope will help in the prevention of certain pediatric diseases."

Although Narayan is still not sure what career she'd like to pursue, she says she enjoys being outside of her comfort zone. "These types of opportunities are allowing me to do that. And I know I won't regret it, no matter what."

Narayan is just one example of how Shady Side encourages and challenges its students to pursue their individual interests and enables them to customize their educational journey through unique programmatic offerings and other opportunities.

"We believe in giving students not only a strong foundation upon which to build, but also interesting paths to take once they have that foundation," says **Amy Nixon**, head of the Middle School who served as interim Academy president in 2018-2019. "All students are likely to go further in their efforts when they truly care about something, whether it's coursework, a club or a sport. We offer an amazing array of choices in their coursework where they can take a deep dive into a particular topic. As a result, they stay engaged and passionate."



ANNABEL EVERETT

It all begins at the Junior, Country Day and Middle Schools, where the seeds are planted with small opportunities for students to design independent projects and lead clubs and activities. Then, at the Senior School, things like international travel opportunities, advanced college-level electives, independent study and senior projects, and more than 50 student-led clubs and leadership opportunities give students even more ways to individualize their academic journey. It's a type of well-rounded, personalized education that SSA believes leads to successful, fulfilling careers.

"The opportunity for students to design an independent study, a senior project or a unique course of study provides them with the vehicle to pursue a passion, answer a burning question and delve deeply into an area of interest," says **Sophie Lau**, head of the Senior School. "While our students work incredibly hard in all of their endeavors, these unique opportunities open new windows of learning that might not be available in a traditional classroom setting."

One of the more life-changing opportunities SSA offers its students is the chance to travel the world through exchange programs, Parkin Fellowships,

the biannual summer theatre trip to Scotland, and more.

Nixon says that students who go on these trips come back with a much broader perspective that is not only healthy but necessary in the modern, interconnected world. "This perspective ranges from topics of economic systems, government, equity and inequity, religious

practices – you name it. It's one thing to read about these things in a book; it's quite another to see it in practice."

Senior School theatre and English teacher **Dana Hardy-Bingham**, who also directs the drama program, has been leading the theatre trip to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland since 2016. "It's truly an eye-opening experience for these kids," she says. "They get to see all different kinds of art – dance, spoken word, music, poetry, performance art – really out-of-the-box, wacky type of stuff. They learn that theatre just doesn't take place on stage, and seeing performers from all around the world gives them a cross-cultural perspective."

Hardy-Bingham says trips like these also let students experience other cultures and perspectives. "So many students grow up in a bit of a bubble, and the moment they cross the divide into an international situation, they are forced to confront other cultures. It's so important for kids to learn about other cultures to learn empathy. Learning about people who are different, who grew up with different expectations, social norms, politics, etc.



NICOLE JANI

The more they experience this, the more they accept others' differences."

It also pushes students to step out of their comfort zones. "I wasn't really interested in theatre until I came to Shady Side," says Narayan. "And I certainly never thought I'd be traveling to other countries to perform. It was easily one of the best experiences of my life."

Rising junior **Annabel Everett** also took part in the theatre trip, as well as the French exchange trip. Says Everett, "These kinds of opportunities really encourage you to reach beyond, to go a step further. If I hadn't gone to Scotland and France, I'm not sure I would've developed a passion for acting or the desire to learn French. It's all about applying what you're learning to the real world and seeing what else is out there."

Shady Side also gives its students the opportunity to take advanced, college-level electives. At the Senior School, these electives are available in almost every discipline, which enables passionate students to pursue an interest in-depth.

Take recent graduate **Nicole Jani '19**, who has a passion for science and mathematics. As a junior and senior, she took numerous advanced math and science electives including Discrete Structures, Fractal Geometry and Chaos Theory, Physics II with Calculus, and Quantitative Chemical Analysis. "I guess I like math so much because I'm a very logical thinker," says Jani. "It just comes easy to me."

As a senior, Jani learned about and created things she's never imagined before. For example, in Fractal Geometry and Chaos Theory, she designed a 3D-printed fractal called a Menger sponge; and in Physics II with Calculus, she built a 3D electric violin and, for her final project, a working record player.

She also excelled in chemistry, which much like math appeals to her logical nature. "I think it's so interesting to

AIDAN SHILLING



see how science can explain so many questions about our lives and the world around us."

That said, when she attends Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) this fall, she doesn't plan on working only inside a lab. "I want to be out working in the field on real-world problems that can help a community – something that blends my love of both science and math."

Another way SSA gives students the chance to customize their learning experience is through independent study and senior projects. Students in grades 10-12 can design their own independent study courses for credit for a single term or a full year. They meet at least twice a cycle with their faculty mentors and have to complete an application process and present their ideas to a committee for approval. Seniors can also pursue a serious learning experience outside the classroom in the final three weeks of their senior year through the Senior Project program.

Tara O'Brien teaches history and economics at the Senior School, and oversees the independent study and senior

project programs. "The independent learning opportunities SSA provides its students allows them to pursue studies or artistic passions beyond the scope of the curriculum," she says.

Some examples of independent study projects include Mobile Device Application Development, The Science of Drilling and Fracking, Writing the Novel, and Analyzing Financial Models in Professional Sports, just to name a few.

Aidan Shilling '19 took part in three independent studies during his time at the Senior School. The first was as a sophomore, when he worked with a professor from CMU on computer organization. "We delved deep into the CPU, what it's made of and how it works," says Shilling. "Then we created a simulated computer using a bunch of logic gates, and I added a feature to it that enabled it to do multiplication and division." As a senior, Shilling did an independent study in game theory and behavioral economics, and one on Unreal Engine 4 with NVIDIA files.

Senior Project applicants have to submit a topic and goals they wish to accomplish and find a faculty mentor and a sponsor in the local community. They are required to commit 25 hours a week for the first three weeks in May toward completion of the project. Then, just before graduation, they share what they learned in a presentation. Projects include everything from job-shadowing EMTs and trauma units to volunteering at local nonprofit organizations.

Shilling, who plans to study computer science at Drexel University, focused his senior project on virtual reality game design. "I just love the artistic aspect of game design and integrating creativity into coding. I am extremely interested in VR and neuromorphic computing, which, unlike a binary computer, mirrors the idea of how the brain is constantly rewiring itself."



JORDYN HARRIS



Some students, like **Jordyn Harris '19**, use their senior project to do an internship in a field of interest. Harris, who's always been interested in biology, volunteered at the Monroeville Surgery Center, where she worked as a certified medical assistant, checking patients in and preparing the post-op recovery rooms as patients come out of their procedure or surgery. "It's been an eye-opening experience," says Harris. "It's really helped me get a clear idea of what career path I want to take as I plan to study medicine at the University of Pittsburgh this fall."

For his senior project, **Koji Shimada '19** wrote a musical, which he staged and performed part of at the Senior School's annual Original Theatre Works Festival. He also did an independent study in rhythm transcription software, which allowed him to combine his interests in computer science and music. "It's a way to take what I've learned in some of my other classes and then apply it to music,



which is something I'm very passionate about," he says.

Of course, one of the best ways to pursue a passion is to join a club related to that interest. Shady Side not only offers more than 50 student-led clubs to choose from, it also encourages and empowers students to start their own.

As a freshman, Shimada founded The Intonations, SSA's all-male a cappella group. "We typically have around 10 to 12 members every year and perform at school concerts and assemblies," he says. "We've sung for admissions events and even at Barnes & Noble at the Waterworks for their summer book sale. It's been a really great experience."

Rising senior **George Grune** pursued his passion for film and video production by co-founding the SSA Film Club as a sophomore. In 2017–2018, the club

began producing the WSSA-TV News, a monthly student-produced video show that includes a mix of campus news, sports, features and humor. "Once a month we get together to film videos," says Grune, who's been into filmmaking since his years at the Middle School. "Some are serious, but most are comedy-based. We've done spoofs on things like *The Office* and *Carpool Karaoke*. Then we share them on YouTube and at school assemblies. It's a lot of fun."

Nixon says there are always challenges when you give kids this much freedom, but the benefits greatly outweigh any risks. "The chance students take in starting or leading something, like a club, is that they will make errors, or even fail. What a great opportunity that is – to fail in a safe environment! On the other hand, they might also find a new interest that will lead down another unexpected path, all of which is terrific."

Although other schools may try to offer their students similar opportunities, Nixon believes SSA is ahead of the curve. "With our size and facilities, we can offer more than most," she says. "No other local school offers an international service opportunity like our Parkin Fellowships. We also have amazing faculty, facilities and a dedication to choices like speech and debate, Science Olympiad, and a huge array of clubs."

According to Lau, this is just the way that education is and should be moving. "Advances in technology, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, are making content delivery and information acquisition less and less important facets of education," she says. "Today's students need skills of inquiry and analysis in order to be creative problem solvers – and that's exactly what Shady Side Academy is giving them."



2019

Senior School Commencement





Class of 2019



Far left: Commencement speaker
Lisa M. Schroeder, incoming president
and CEO, The Pittsburgh Foundation
Left: Senior speaker Hank Lin

Shady Side Academy celebrated the 125 members of the Class of 2019 at Senior School Commencement Exercises on May 31, 2019, at the Roy McKnight Hockey Center. Lisa Schroeder, incoming president and CEO of The Pittsburgh Foundation, gave the graduation address, while **Hanwen “Hank” Lin** gave the Senior Speech. Senior **Andrew Sveda** announced the class gift of a commissioned piece of artwork on the six pillars near the fabrication space and corridor of the new Glimcher Tech and Design Hub, as well as funds gifted to support the work of Lillian Grate, the Academy’s director of equity, inclusion and community relations, to continue the mission of the Academy.

Visit shadysideacademy.org/commencement for complete coverage of Commencement week, including event recaps, videos, award winners, legacy family photos and more.

Lifers



The Class of 2019

BY THE NUMBERS

The 125 members of the Shady Side Academy Class of 2019 will attend 73 of the world's finest colleges and universities this fall. With a broad range of academic interests and a genuine curiosity, these graduates leave SSA ready to make their mark on the classrooms and communities they are about to join.

College Matriculation



Admitted to
184
colleges

Will attend
73 colleges in
24 states
plus Washington, D.C.,
and the United Kingdom

62%
will attend
college out
of state



19%
will play college
athletics in
9 different sports



Were admitted
to Ivy League
schools at more
than the global rate
(24% vs. 7%)

3x



91%
will attend a "very competitive" or
"most competitive" college as ranked by
Barron's Profile of American Colleges



100%
of those seeking
merit scholarships
earned awards

57%
overall admit rate
compared to global
average of 39%

SSA Experience



19%
are "lifers" who attended
SSA from grades K-12

21%
participated in the Senior
School boarding program



22% participated
in a global or
off-campus program

40%
completed an
independent
study or
senior project



45%
participated in
the performing
arts (theatre
production or
musical ensemble)



58%
attended SSA
Middle School

80%
lettered in at least
one varsity sport; **52%**
lettered in two or more



Class of 2019 College Choices

Allegheny College
 Bates College
 Boston College
 Bowling Green State University
 Brown University (3)
 Bucknell University (5)
 Carleton College
 Carnegie Mellon University (5)
 Chatham University
 Colby College
 Colgate University (2)
 College of Charleston (2)
 Colorado State University
 Connecticut College
 Cornell University (4)
 Davidson College
 Dickinson College
 Drexel University
 Duquesne University (2)

Emory University (2)
 Fordham University (2)
 Franklin & Marshall College
 George Washington University
 Georgetown University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Gordon College
 Harvard University
 Howard University
 John Carroll University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kent State University
 Kenyon College (2)
 Lafayette College (2)
 Lehigh University (2)
 Loyola University Chicago (2)
 Miami University-Oxford (5)
 Michigan State University (3)
 Nazareth College

New York University (2)
 Northeastern University
 Northwestern University
 Pennsylvania State University (6)
 Pennsylvania State University, Berks
 Point Park University
 Princeton University (2)
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)
 Rice University
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University
 University of California, San Diego
 University of Maryland, College Park
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan
 University of Mount Union

University of Notre Dame
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh (11)
 University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
 University of Richmond
 University of Southern California
 University of St. Andrews
 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Vanderbilt University (2)
 Villanova University (2)
 Wake Forest University
 Washington & Jefferson College (2)
 Washington University in St. Louis (3)
 Western Michigan University
 Wilkes University
 Williams College (2)

2019

Middle School Closing Exercises

The 77 members of the Class of 2023 were officially promoted to the Senior School on June 5, 2019, at the Roy McKnight Hockey Center. The Form II Class Gift Committee donated funds to the school's efforts to purchase more outside play equipment. Form II student speaker **Elizabeth Kamin** shared her insight on "how to survive middle school." Interim Middle School Head Brian Johnston presented graduates with their certificates.

Class of 2023





2019

Junior School Closing Exercises and Moving Up Day

On June 4, 2019, the 30 members of the Class of 2026 were promoted to the Middle School as part of the Junior School Closing Exercises and Moving-Up Day. Fifth graders passed their leadership medallions down to the fourth graders. Junior School Head Ellen McConnell Sanderson presented graduates with their certificates, and the event concluded with the entire student body singing *The Moving-Up Song*.

Class of 2026





2019

Country Day School Closing Exercises

Students in grades PK-5 celebrated the end of the school year and the graduation of the 14 members of the Class of 2026 at the Country Day School Closing Exercises on June 3, 2019. The Honorable Karen Dunn Kelley, U.S. deputy secretary of commerce, gave the graduation address. Country Day School Head Dr. Jennifer Asmonga presented graduates with their certificates, and the entire student body joined in singing the school song.

Class of 2026





The Posner Award

FOR MERITORIOUS FACULTY PERFORMANCE

Thanks to the generosity of the late Henry Posner Jr. '37 and the Posner family, the Posner Award for Meritorious Faculty Performance is presented annually to up to two Shady Side teachers who have a "gift of teaching" and have had a significant impact on the learning, development and lives of their students. The 2019 recipients were retiring Junior School kindergarten teacher Janice Brozek and Senior School math teacher Chad Fularz.

Janice Brozek



Janice Brozek taught at the Junior School for 23 years and has now embarked on a well-earned retirement. Known for her attentiveness, kindness and encouraging nature, Brozek is credited for helping students delight in learning at an early age.

"Mrs. Brozek is keenly observant of each child. She pays close attention to how a child is progressing in class, both academically and socially. By knowing each child so well individually, she is able to motivate and challenge a child when such guidance is needed the most and in the way that is most effective for that child," stated one parent.

"Mrs. Brozek has nurtured and encouraged my son, and as a result, he is confident and excited about learning. He likes school because he has a supportive and caring teacher."

Chad Fularz



Chad Fularz has taught mathematics at the Senior School since 1998. He served as the Form VI dean from 2011-2016 and is currently the chair of the Math Department.

Described by a former student as "patient, positive and a huge supporter of his students," Fularz is often credited for building student's confidence and self-worth. One parent stated, "My son genuinely respects and likes Mr. Fularz as a person because he is compassionate, knowledgeable and clearly respects his students."

Another former student said, "Mr. Fularz epitomizes a measured and kind teaching attitude in the difficult subject of mathematics. I'm positive that he has tremendously influenced many students through his supportive nature, both in and out of the classroom, just as he as influenced me. Thank you, Mr. Fularz."

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Class of 1961 Faculty Award for Excellence

Lucas Frankel
Senior School College Counselor

President's Award for Distinguished Staff Service

Thomas Szymkiewicz
Facilities

Ruth and F. Walter Jones Service Prize

Vanessa Cannon
Senior School Admissions Assistant

Kenneth M. Raymond Vasko Memorial Award

Pamela Onest
Middle School English Teacher

Farrell Award for Exceptional Interactions with Students

Christina Rowan
Junior School First Grade Teacher

Kyle Smith
Senior School History Teacher

Farrell Award for Going Above and Beyond

Andrea Cespedes
Middle School World Languages Teacher

Tiffanee Peterson
Junior School World Languages Teacher

Farrell Award for Innovative Educators

Mandy Fong
Middle School World Languages Teacher

Laura Greif
Country Day School Third Grade Teacher

Devon Renock
Senior School Science Teacher



Girls Prep Hockey – WIHLMA Champions

by Abby Todd '19

The girls prep hockey team had one of the most successful seasons yet, finishing with a record of 13-4-3 and earning yet another WIHLMA Championship title. The seniors have won the banner three out of four years at Shady Side, and after a hard loss to The Hill School last year, the girls were happy to beat the same rival in the championship this year. The team was led by captains **Gwyn Phillips**, **Hannah Price** and **Rachele Whitehead**, along with seniors **Abby Todd**, **Chayla Edwards**, **Bailey Loehrke** and **Amanda Bunje**. With strong younger classes and an incredibly cohesive team dynamic, the team expects to keep the championship banner at SSA for years to come.



Girls Basketball

by Josie Szlachetka '19

The girls varsity basketball team had a very successful season. Coached by **Amy Szlachetka**, they went 13-1 in section play, only losing to Carlynton in overtime. The team's overall record was 20-5, losing by a combined total of only nine points throughout the season. The team finished the regular season with the lowest "points against" average in all of the WPIAL due to an aggressive, physical style of defensive play and their stinginess in giving up second shots to their opponents. The team made a historic run in the playoffs, earning the program's first appearance in the WPIAL finals and advancing to the second round of the PIAA Championship. The team will lose five senior captains, **Catherine Jewart**, **Ariana Goitz**, **Ella Benec**, **Emmie Lau** and **Josie Szlachetka**, but will have a strong group of players returning for next season.

Boys Basketball

by Mason Tomlin '20

It was a year of tests for the boys varsity basketball team: a test of their love for the game and a test of their love for each other. Finishing with a record of 9-12 (7-5 in section), the group was tested early on with some tough losses, including multiple one-point deficits. The senior-loaded team, led by captains **Will Cochran**, **Jas Fuhrer** and **Ronan O'Connor**, stayed together and battled its way back into WPIAL playoff contention. Characterized by a hard-nosed defensive attitude and extraordinary hustle, the team finished the regular season on a three-game win streak, clinching a playoff berth behind strong offensive performances from senior guard **Colm O'Connor** and senior forward **Mike George**. The season came to an end in the WPIAL first round at the hands of a talented Lincoln Park team. Looking forward, the team will look to replace nine graduating seniors, and will miss the hard work and dedication that they gave to the basketball program.



2018-2019 WINTER SPORTS RECORDS

Varsity Teams	W	L	T	PCT.	Team Accomplishments
Boys Basketball	9	12	0	0.429	WPIAL First Round
Girls Basketball	20	5	0	0.801	WPIAL Runner-Up, PIAA Second Round
Boys Swimming	6	5	0	0.545	Third Place WPIAL
Girls Swimming	6	5	0	0.545	11th Place WPIAL
Boys Prep Ice Hockey	18	19	2	0.486	
Girls Prep Ice Hockey	13	4	3	0.765	WIHLMA Champions
Boys Var. Ice Hockey	10	5	0	0.666	ISHL Runner Up
Girls Prep Squash	2	2	0	0.501	
Boys Prep Squash	1	7	0	0.125	
Totals	85	64	5	0.631	

Boys Prep Hockey

by Drew Fergus

The boys prep hockey team had a successful 2018-2019 winter season, in and out of the Midwest Prep Hockey League. The team competed against top club and prep school teams from far and wide. Most weekends during the winter season included multiple games at home or away in Vermont, Detroit, Chicago, Buffalo and Quebec, Canada. The team finished with a record of 18-19-2 led by coaches **Jonathan Johnson** and **Stu Smith**. Captains **Brendan Gaffney**, **Matthew Cottiero** and **Keegan Wolfe**, along with seniors **Ryan Jochims** and **Bradin Zaba**, guided the junior-heavy team through this very competitive season. Highlights of the year include being the Bauer Motown U18 AAA tournament champions in Detroit, and runner-up in the SSA Thanksgiving tournament. Defenseman **Sawyer Smith** was named an MPHL all-star. With much of the roster returning next season, including 12 rising senior players, the team hopes to have a historic season.



Girls Prep Squash

by Addie Todd '20

The girls prep squash team, led by senior captains **Paige Golden**, **Clara McCormick**, **Caroline Barkman** and **Isha Reddy**, had a great season. Under the instruction of new Head Coach **Lucas Frankel**, the team's fitness and skill set were improved. The team won a hard match against the co-ed Sewickley Academy squash team and traveled to Dickinson College to compete against the collegiate squad. Additionally, SSA won two exhibition matches against Winchester Thurston and Steel City Squash. The team should have another strong season next year with many returning players.



Boys Prep Squash

by Griffin Garrard '19

The boys prep squash season was a rollercoaster ride with a lot of new and old faces battling for spots. The team was led by seniors **Johnny Andreos**, **Johnny Lu**, **Matthew Wellstead**, **Connor Klinvex** and **Griffin Garrard**. Together, they helped mentor and guide the freshmen and sophomores throughout the season. However, it was freshmen **Lars Barkman** and **Bobby O'Brien** who helped the team improve and beat some quality players. Head Coach **Mercedes Dollard** did an amazing job as well. The team played hard against University School, Steel City Squash and at the Mercersburg Academy tournament. Overall, it was a successful season and team is looking forward to next year.



Girls Swimming

by Maya Groff '20

Throughout the season, the girls swimming team showed amazing growth in their abilities and finished with a 6-5 record. A highlight was the senior night meet against Springdale, in which everyone had outstanding performances, some reaching their goals of qualifying for WPIALs. Seven girls advanced to the WPIAL meet, including seniors **Sophia McMahon** and **Marie Kim**, junior **Maya Groff**, sophomore **Ashley Chu** and freshmen **Alexandra Jaffe**, **Crystal Ma** and **Kira Meyers**. The 200 medley relay team, composed of Kim, Groff, Jaffe and McMahon, advanced to states, as did Groff in the 100 breaststroke. The team had great success in the pool throughout the season and looks forward to making a big splash next year.



Boys Swimming

by Nick Lauer '19

The boys swimming team was led by seven seniors with robust support from underclassmen, finishing the year with a 6-5 record. The team steadily improved and peaked on senior night with some incredible swims and time drops. Eight swimmers qualified for the WPIAL meet, including seniors **Adrian Beckford**, **Will Engel**, **Nick Lauer** and **Eliseo Salazar**, juniors **Sean Kelley** and **Andrew Meyers**, and sophomores **Andrew Liu** and **Stefan Stratimirovic**. It was a successful WPIAL meet for the team with significant time drops for both individuals and relays, and a third-place overall team finish. Highlights included Stratimirovic, Kelley, Lauer and Beckford winning gold in the 200 free relay and silver in the 400 free relay, and qualifying for states in both events. Individual PIAA qualifiers included Beckford in the 50 and 100 freestyle, Lauer in the 200 and 500 freestyle, and Stratimirovic in the 100 butterfly. Congratulations to Coach **John Landreth** and all of the swimmers on a great season.

Boys Lacrosse

by Ronan O'Connor '19

The boys lacrosse team had another strong year under the leadership of second-year coach **Cam Thompson** and senior captains **Colm O'Connor**, **Jack Naughton** and **Ronan O'Connor**. Playing one of the toughest schedules in the WPIAL, the team battled through injuries to achieve success and reach the playoffs as the No. 3 seed. Notable wins during the regular season came over longtime rivals Mt. Lebanon, North Allegheny and Fox Chapel. The team also came together with the girls team to raise more than \$30,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at the Face Off Against Suicide event. The season ended in the WPIAL semifinals with a close loss to eventual champion Pine-Richland.



Girls Lacrosse – WPIAL Champions

by Josie Szlachetka '19

The girls lacrosse team had an exceptional season, securing the program's first-ever lacrosse WPIAL Championship. Coached by **Katy Phillips** and captained by seniors **Ella Benec**, **Emmie Lau** and **Abby Todd**, the team finished the season with an overall record of 17-3-1. In the WPIAL tournament, the team defeated Sewickley and Mt. Lebanon to advance to the title game, where SSA beat No. 1 seed Upper St. Clair 12-11 in double overtime. The team advanced to the PIAA quarterfinals before bowing out to Manheim Township. The team returned many talented players this season, but also brought in a strong freshman class resulting in a diverse age range on the field. Between a strong defense and a fast-paced but patient offense, the team was able to create its own brand of lacrosse that fueled a historic season.



Girls Softball

by Trinity Murphy '19

The softball team had a challenging season, finishing with an overall record of 3-9 under Head Coach **Dave Havern**. However, this didn't stop the players from having a great season and learning the fundamentals of the game. The coaching staff is very hopeful for next year due to the overwhelming number of returning starters, and more pitching experience. The team is looking forward to next season.

Boys Baseball

by Brendan McLaughlin '19

After a 2-2 start against some strong teams during the annual Florida spring break trip, the baseball team was unable to find its stride after returning to campus. The team finished with a section record of 2-10 and an overall record of 6-12. Despite missing the playoffs, the team finished out the year with strong wins against Beaver Falls and rival Fox Chapel. The team returns a strong group of core players next year, and is looking forward to some wins on the diamond.





Boys Tennis

by Russell Erb '20

The boys varsity tennis team had another amazing season. With hard-fought wins over Allerdice and Central Catholic, the team finished second in the section. In WPIAL play, the team won tough matches against Mt. Lebanon and Allerdice to face Fox Chapel in the WPIAL finals for the second year in a row. Although it was a hard-fought match, the team ended up losing 3-2. At the PIAA tournament, the team went in with confidence and swept the first round 5-0, but fell short in the quarterfinals to No. 1 seed Unionville. Under the leadership of senior captain **Naman Dua**, the team finished the season 12-3. In doubles action, Dua and sophomore Colin Gramley won the WPIAL title and finished as the PIAA runners-up. With all but one player returning next season, the team is looking forward to capturing the state title.

2019 SPRING SPORTS RECORDS

Varsity Teams	W	L	T	PCT.	Team Accomplishments
Boys Baseball	6	12	0	0.333	
Girls Softball	3	9	0	0.251	
Boys Tennis	12	3	0	0.801	WPIAL Runner-Up, PIAA Quarterfinals
Boys Track & Field	5	1	0	0.833	
Girls Track & Field	5	1	0	0.833	
Boys Lacrosse	10	8	0	0.555	WPIAL Semifinals
Girls Lacrosse	17	3	1	0.851	WPIAL Champions, PIAA Quarterfinals
Totals	58	37	1	0.611	



Girls Track & Field

by Krystyna Rytel '19

The girls track & field team had a successful 2019 season, finishing with an overall record of 5-1 and qualifying for the WPIAL team playoffs. Several athletes also qualified to compete in the WPIAL Individual Championships. Sophomore **Melissa Riggins** placed first in the 1600-meter and 800-meter runs, setting the WPIAL records in both. Freshman **Gabby Hill-Junke**, senior **Aya Youssef**, senior **Krystyna Rytel** and Riggins placed second in the 1600-meter relay, and junior **Maya Groff** tied for sixth in the pole vault. At the PIAA Championships, Riggins won gold medals in the 1600-meter run and 800-meter run. Her performance in the 800-meter run broke the PIAA record. Hill-Junke, Youssef, Rytel and Riggins earned bronze medals in the 1600-meter relay, setting yet another school record. Congratulations to all the athletes on a great season!

Boys Track & Field

by Drew Fergus '20

The boys track & field team had an excellent season under the leadership of Head Coach **Adam Janosko** and senior captains **Nick Lauer**, **Connor Caputo**, **Dino Tomlin** and **Brendan Gaffney**. The team performed exceptionally well, finishing with a section record of 5-1 and qualifying for the WPIAL team playoffs for the first time since 2004. When the team suffered injuries to many pivotal runners and throwers, the true character of this group showed as athletes stepped up to fill those roles, earning enough points to advance to the WPIAL playoffs. Sophomore **Adam Lauer** won a bronze medal at the WPIAL Individual Championships and placed 15th at the PIAAs in the 3200 meters. Senior **Billy Frohlich** finished fourth in the 300-meter hurdles at WPIALs and also competed at PIAAs. Junior **Eddie Faulkner** placed seventh in the triple jump and ninth in the long jump at WPIALs. The boys had a great year and are looking forward to another great year in 2020.



The Hillman Performing Arts Series: *New Season Offers Something for Everyone*

BY CHRISTA BURNEFF / PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PERFORMERS

The Hillman Performing Arts Series is entering its 14th season in 2019-2020. The introduction of the Black Box Series was so well-received in 2018-2019 that it will be back and even better this season. With three Black Box shows in the Peter J. Kountz Theater and four Main Stage shows in the Richard E. Rauh Theater, the Hillman is proud to offer one of the most well-rounded series in the Pittsburgh area.

The season kicks off Sept. 28 in the Black Box with Grammy Award-winner Dom Flemons. With a repertoire that spans more than 100 years of cross-genre music, Flemons promises an evening that shares how he earned the name “The American Songster.” The Main Stage Series begins Oct. 19 with world-renowned mentalist Wayne Hoffman. Hoffman will have the audience on the edge of their seats with his mind reading and



**Six
Appeal**

**Bindlestiff
Family Cirkus**



comedy show *Mind Candy*. On Nov. 16, the series welcomes jazz pianist Ariel Pocock for an intimate evening of original music in the Black Box. The innovative songwriter draws inspiration from many genres, including Brazilian and Cuban folk music, which will be showcased in an acoustic piano and guitar duo. On Dec. 14, dust off your holiday garb for the return of Six Appeal Vocal Band as they bring their *Ugly Sweater Party* to Pittsburgh. Enjoy an evening of original and classic holiday tunes reimagined only the way Six Appeal could.

The Hillman Series takes a brief break in January for the Senior School winter musical production, but returns Feb. 15 with violinist Tami Lee Hughes. Accompanied by pianist Byron Burford-Pearse, Hughes will share *The Legacy Show*, an incredible multimedia performance celebrating African-American history and culture. Blackwater closes out the Black Box Series on March 14 with a high-energy brand of Celtic music that blends folk, classical and contemporary influences into a unique and dynamic sound. The Main Stage Series closes April 18 with Bindlestiff Family Cirkus, a unique hybrid of vaudeville, circus, comedy and music that is sure to please every member of the family!

For more information on the series performers, ticket prices and subscription packages, visit thehillman.org.



LET US *Entertain You!*

ALL SHOWS
SATURDAYS AT 7:30

Dom Flemons

SEPT. 28 • BLACK BOX



Wayne Hoffman

Mind Candy

OCT. 19 • MAIN STAGE



Ariel Pocock

NOV. 16 • BLACK BOX



Six Appeal

Ugly Sweater Party

DEC. 14 • MAIN STAGE



Tami Lee Hughes

The Legacy Show

FEB. 15 • MAIN STAGE



Blackwater

MAR. 14 • BLACK BOX



Bindlestiff Family Cirkus

APR. 18 • MAIN STAGE

THE HILLMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS • Richard E. Rauh Theater | Peter J. Kountz Theater
Shady Side Academy | 423 Fox Chapel Road | Pittsburgh PA 15238

www.TheHillman.org | 412-968-3040

Jonathan Zittrain '87

Photo: Electronic
Frontier Foundation

DEFENDS YOUR ONLINE PRIVACY (EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT)

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS

In an era of online data breaches and fake political ads on Facebook, it's easy to throw up your hands and say that privacy is dead.

Jonathan Zittrain, a Harvard University expert on the internet and ethics, has heard it all before. Our personal information is out there. There's no way to hold back the marketers. What's the point in fighting for something we've already lost?

To counter these fatalistic remarks, he says, "It's not realistic to say the cat is out of the bag. There are always more cats in the bag. It can always get worse. There is always something to defend."

As the faculty director for the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, Zittrain is considered an expert in the debate on the influence of big tech companies in our lives. His areas of expertise are all over the news – blowback against the latest data breach, the ethics of artificial intelligence or security cameras with face detection technology. Zittrain, the author of *The Future of the Internet – And How to Stop It*, is in demand as a scholar, panel moderator and essayist.

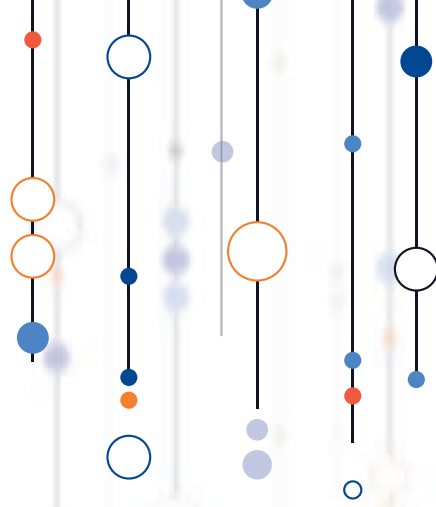
Unless social media companies make reforms to protect users, privacy breaches will only get worse, he said. Zittrain predicts that the next generation of Facebook algorithms might even identify and exploit subtle mood changes in its users.

“For example, you might have had a fight with your partner, and you’re really upset. A next-generation search engine might be able to get a sense from your online behavior – what you are reading, how you’re clicking on things. It’s the ability to make inferences from things you wouldn’t think would be revealing.”

This kind of technology could set us up for exploitation. “Maybe you just got fired from your job. That’s exactly the right moment to suggest a payday loan or a trip to Vegas or something. We all have moments where we would choose to do something that we’d later regret.”

As Facebook faces increasing pushback from politicians and the public, Zittrain wrote an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* titled “Mark Zuckerberg Can Still Fix This Mess.” He urged Zuckerberg, the powerful CEO of Facebook, to make changes in light of highly publicized data breaches related to the 2016 election.

Just as doctors and lawyers take an oath to put the good of the patient or client over financial self-interest, Facebook should take “an informational fiduciary oath” to put users’ privacy over



Top: Jonathan Zittrain interviewed Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg at Harvard University.

Middle, Bottom: Zittrain is in demand as a scholar, panel moderator and essayist.



Photo by Martha Stewart



Photo by Martha Stewart



Photo by Jon Chase, Harvard University

its profits, Zittrain says. “Doctors don’t ask patients whether they’d consent to poison over a cure; they recommend what they genuinely believe to be in patients’ interests,” he wrote in his op-ed. “Too often a question of ‘This app would like to access data about you, OK?’ is really to ask, ‘This app would like to abuse your personal data, OK?’”

Zuckerberg reached out to Zittrain after reading his op-ed, and proposed visiting Harvard for a conversation. Zittrain knows how to command a room. His live interview with Zuckerberg in February addressed some of the most pressing issues of the day. “It was a remarkable interview,” said Charles Nesson, founder of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society. “He was comfortable talking at the highest level with Zuckerberg about the problems of the internet.”

That’s what people have come to expect from Zittrain, or “JZ,” as he is known on campus.

“When it comes to the internet and society, he is able to start with the most basic element and unpack it in terms of current political and economic problems,” said Nesson. “He is the best overall source for the history of the internet.”

That may be because he joined what is now called social media when these platforms were just emerging.

Growing up in Churchill, Pa., he loved tinkering with the bulky Texas Instruments computer his family bought for \$99 at J.C. Penney. In sixth grade, he signed up for CompuServe, an early online service provider that was popular in the 1980s, and joined a forum dedicated to Texas Instruments computers. “It was so low bandwidth, basically Teletype on a screen. There were no graphics,” he said.

But for Zittrain, who divulged his name but not his age online, it was a thrilling gateway to a new world. The precocious teenager did a good imitation

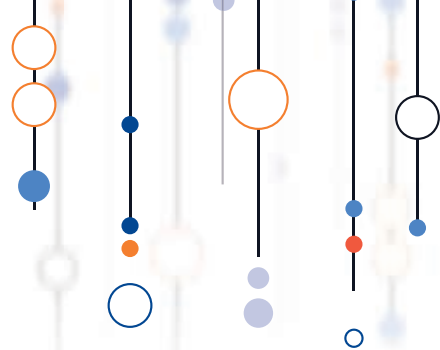
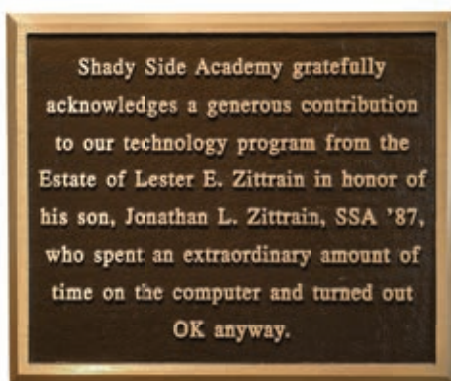


Photo by Jon Chase, Harvard University



A plaque displayed in Hunt Hall on the Senior School campus honors Zittrain's time well-spent on the computer.

of an adult by writing in complete, grammatically correct sentences. "I acted like a sixth grader thinks an adult acts like."

And it worked. No one guessed they were talking to a kid.

He spent hours on the forum, and at \$6 an hour, the CompuServe charges added up. His stunned parents saw the amount billed to their credit card and told him, "I don't know what you are doing, but you can't do this anymore."

Of course, Zittrain couldn't afford to pay for the service himself. But he was offered a chance to be a systems operator or "sysop," moderating the message

boards and answering computer-related questions in exchange for free time online. He was thrilled with his new role.

Decades before he became a national authority on the subject, he found himself wrestling with thorny moral issues about online conduct. "Sometimes it was necessary to kick someone off the forum, and I found myself wondering: How do you do this fairly? To what extent should the forum be self-governing? At what point should a moderator step in?"

At the same time he took on the responsibilities of a systems operator online, he was adjusting to the rigorous academics of SSA's Middle School. "I was just trying to get through the day," he said. "I went from an elementary school that did not give homework to a middle school that modeled itself as a New England prep school – all-boys, coat and tie every day, and a very intense schedule. I think I worked harder at the Middle School than I have at any other time."

Harder than at Harvard Law School? "Yeah, definitely, definitely, I worked harder at Shady Side Middle School," he said.

But he found nurturing teachers at Shady Side who helped him expand his horizons. He was inspired by Senior School physics teacher Bob Reiland, English teacher Dr. Sarah Eldridge and philosophy teacher Dr. John Sutula. "We'd do circuits around the quad and to the gym. I feel like I learned more about the problems of philosophy taking a walk with John Sutula than I did in philosophy classes in college."

Sutula remembers Zittrain sitting at a lunch table where the students would hold discussions about famous philosophers and topics raised in class. Zittrain was also an enthusiastic peer tutor.

"Zittrain was so bright that I was a little worried when he worked with other students," said Sutula, who still corresponds with his former student. "But he had an internal kindness that he was

able to help other students see things without showing it to them. He helped them discover it themselves. I watched Jon Zittrain help them come to a better way of getting their thoughts on paper."

Zittrain also made fast friends with Jon Beckerman '87, now a TV writer. "We would spend countless hours having the craziest conversations, whether about nerdy pop culture or philosophy," Beckerman said. "The TV show *Freaks and Geeks* could have been a documentary about our middle school years. There was a lot of Dungeons and Dragons and Monty Python and classic rock." Beckerman said his friend was always extraordinarily smart and kind.

When Beckerman would visit Zittrain at his house, he was baffled by his friend's fascination with the online world. "He was having these conversations with grownups in far-flung corners of the world," he said. "I didn't get the appeal at all. I thought he was wasting his time. Obviously, he was way ahead of the rest of us."

Zittrain would swap software with other users by sending floppy discs back and forth through the mail. His parents, both lawyers, used their mailing label – Zittrain & Zittrain, Attorneys at Law. When as a teenager, he was asked to give the keynote at the Texas Instruments exposition in Chicago, a group from the forum met him at the airport gate. The adults expected a lawyer, but instead, they were shocked to learn that their question-answerer and rule-enforcer was a gawky boy.

But even with his age out in the open, he was promoted to manage all of the private forums on CompuServe. "The more I got into it, the more puzzling and humbling the challenges were."

After graduating from Shady Side, he racked up one impressive degree after another. In 1991, he graduated summa cum laude from Yale University with a Bachelor of Science degree in cognitive science and artificial intelligence.

Four years later he received a J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

While he'd worked as a federal court law clerk, a Congressional staffer, and an intern at Microsoft, his heart was in academia. In 1997, he used his many talents – artificial intelligence, computers, the law – when he co-founded the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society.

After a three-year stint as Oxford University's professor of internet

governance and regulation, he returned to Harvard in several new roles. Today he's the George Bemis professor of international law at Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a professor of computer science at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He's also the vice dean for library and information resources for the Harvard Law School Library.

Beckerman, today a thriving Hollywood writer and showrunner, is in awe of how Zittrain makes use of his diverse talents. "He has a unique skill set,

which is only becoming more important in the world of Facebook and Twitter, at the intersection of social media and politics."

Beckerman and Zittrain sold a pilot to Showtime about a professor at a prestigious university and her misadventures with powerful people in politics and technology. Beckerman, the Emmy Award-winning writer of *Late Night With David Letterman* and the sitcom *Ed*, said it was a dream project collaborating with his childhood best friend. Though the network decided not to greenlight the series, the former Shady Side classmates may shop it around to other networks.

Though both are busy in their respective fields, they find ways to keep up with each other's accomplishments – the Hollywood writer even set a Google alert to catch any new articles written by or about the tech-ethics superstar. "I am always happy to read some new op-ed he has written," Beckerman said. "I always feel like his mind is a million miles ahead of mine."

"When it comes to the internet and society, he is able to start with the most basic element and unpack it in terms of current political and economic problems. He is the best overall source for the history of the internet."

– Charles Nesson, Founder, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society

Photo by Martha Stewart





JILL PORTNOY '06

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN BIO-CRIMINOLOGY

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS / PHOTOGRAPHY BY TORY WESNOFSKE

JILL PORTNOY PUSHED THROUGH REPS OF SQUATS, PULL-UPS AND BURPEES. THE CROSSFIT CLASS WAS A GOOD WAY TO CLEAR THE PROFESSOR'S MIND AFTER SPENDING HER MORNING FOCUSED ON RESEARCH.

As she was leaving her class, she stopped to chat with the instructor, Chris Martin. He mentioned giving fish oil to his young son as a nutritional supplement. Portnoy, an assistant professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, had previously done research that showed Omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in fish oil supplements, can reduce disruptive behavior in children. Then Portnoy mentioned something else that had piqued her curiosity as a criminologist – the effects of exercise on aggression.

"I've always wanted to start a CrossFit class in a jail," she said, not expecting Martin to take the idea seriously.

"That would be incredible," he said, to her astonishment. "Let's do it."

Now, after months of discussions with government officials, they have approval to start Operation CrossFit at a New Hampshire jail beginning in August. Martin designed the exercise routine, while Portnoy will conduct research on the effects of structured exercise on mental and physical health. Initially, both inmates and guards will self-report on stress levels, but at later stages, she plans to include physiological indicators such as cortisol levels.

While most criminologists study the link between socioeconomic factors and antisocial behaviors, Portnoy's

research also explores biological risk factors. Working in a small subspecialty of the field called biosocial-criminology, she measures saliva, sweat, hormones, heartbeats and other physiological factors.

Operation CrossFit is one of many ways the 30-year-old professor is making her mark in criminology. For example, she made headlines with a study that found a correlation between a low resting heart rate and antisocial behavior and delinquency. Recently, she received funding to study people's reactions to extremist propaganda, and the effects of stress levels of police officers during active-shooter training.

It's this kind of groundbreaking research that has earned her national accolades. Portnoy recently received the Early Career Award from the American Society of Criminology at the organization's annual meeting. This national award recognizes a person who makes "significant contribution to the scholarly knowledge on developmental and life-course criminology."

"Jill's a rising star," said Sheldon Zhang, chair of the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. "There aren't many bio-criminologists in the country, and she has made a reputation for herself. She has studied juvenile nutritional imbalance and to what extent it can lead to behavior problems. In poor communities, some of the behavioral problems can be resolved through nutrition. It is a very interesting line of inquiry."

Adrian Raine, a criminologist at the University of Pennsylvania and Portnoy's Ph.D. advisor, said, "For sociologists, bad neighborhoods and racial discrimination are the causes of crime. They are partly right, but you can't ignore biology. There is a resurgence in this area, and Jill is on the vanguard of a new wave of young scientists in the field."

Portnoy grew up as a rule follower, a good student, the opposite of a risk-seeker. But she was always fascinated by the deviance of the criminal mind. At age 12, she listened to TV interviews of Timothy McVeigh before he was executed in 2001 for the Oklahoma City bombing.

What makes a person go to such a dark, evil place? What makes a mass murderer tick?

"I am so high-stress that I couldn't imagine committing a crime. So for me it was trying to understand something that was foreign to me."

Portnoy transferred to Shady Side Academy in eighth grade. "It was an incredible experience. I had a really great group of friends and inspirational teachers. It was a very nurturing environment."

She credits Senior School philosophy teacher Dr. John Sutula with teaching her to think critically when analyzing material – a skill she relied on in college.

Hilary Weingarden O'Brien '06, a Shady Side classmate, said Portnoy was both an empathetic friend and a great student. "She is really smart. I wouldn't have been surprised if she had gone into hard sciences or medicine. She was always a strong writer, too."

Portnoy attended the University of Pennsylvania, and her early interest in criminology deepened during her freshman year. As part of a community nursing class, students visited a jail to interact with female inmates. She felt great empathy for the women in jail, especially those separated from their children. "I really felt for these people and wanted to help them. People who are incarcerated are often forgotten. We are locking these people up and not doing anything to rehabilitate them."

Her senior year, she wrote her undergraduate thesis on the so-called 2D:4D ratio – whether having a long ring finger in relationship to the index finger could be tied to high levels of testosterone and increased aggression. She found only a weak relationship between the 2D:4D ratio and aggression, but the experience deepened her desire to do more research into the causes of antisocial behavior.

Upon graduating from Penn with a bachelor's degree in criminology and Hispanic studies, she headed to the University



"JILL IS A VERY CAREFUL LISTENER. SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO TAKE ON NEW KNOWLEDGE AND PLACE IT INTO CONTEXT AND WEIGH THE EVIDENCE."

– Adrian Raine, Professor of Criminology and Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania

of Cambridge, where she was the Gates Cambridge Scholar. There she aggregated results from studies examining resting heart rate and antisocial behavior. She also met her husband, Henry Donaghy, the Marshall Scholar at Cambridge, and the couple eventually married in Memorial Hall at SSA Senior School.

Portnoy returned to Penn for her Ph.D. in criminology, working under Adrian Raine, the Richard Perry university professor of criminology and psychiatry in the Department of Criminology. She was a standout scholar, Raine said. "Her writing is amazing. She is a very hard worker and open to new ideas. Jill is a very careful listener. She has the ability to take on new knowledge and place it into context and weigh the evidence."

Raine was impressed with her early research on resting heart rate and antisocial behavior using data from the Pittsburgh Youth Study, a famous longitudinal study of three cohorts of students at Pittsburgh Public Schools.

“What I found was that people with low resting heart rates tend to be sensation-seekers,” Portnoy said. “A low resting heart rate is an unpleasant state, so they do things that are exciting to raise their heart rate to a more comfortable level. For them, committing a crime or cheating can be fun and exciting. It’s true for both men and women across all ages.”

But, she says, it’s not as though someone with a low resting heart rate is destined for a life of crime. A thrill-seeking youth with a low resting heart rate could excel in high-risk work such as bomb disposal. By shedding new light on the causes of risky behaviors, she hopes others will find ways to intervene before risk-taking escalates to crime.

After Portnoy submitted her findings to *Criminology*, a prestigious academic journal, Raine received an uncommon response from the publication’s editor – he didn’t want any revisions. “The science was airtight, the logic and execution and writing were great,” Raine said. “Overall, it was impeccable.”

Her subsequent study on Omega-3 supplements led to a spate of headlines on the benefits of salmon and fish oil supplements for children. As a follow-up, she studied the impact on the entire family. “The kids’ behavior improved after supplementation, which reduced stress for the parents. Therefore, the parents’ behavior improved as well. They committed less psychological abuse towards one another.”

Her husband, Henry, said, “She really gets into helping people get on the right path. That’s her main motivation – helping out people who have struggles in life.”

At a time when hate crimes and conspiracy theories are in the news, Portnoy has received a grant from the Department of Defense to study people’s reactions to extremist propaganda. She plans to monitor the heart rates and sweat production of people being exposed to reactionary material. “The goal is to identify people who are susceptible and see if we might be able to counter propaganda.”

She also has received funds from her department to study the impact of stress on decision-making by law enforcement officers. She will measure the level of cortisol, a hormone released in response to stress, during a “simulation” training using real guns and paintball pellets. “It is extremely realistic,” she said. “Some of the police officers were so nervous that their hands were shaking.” She hopes to determine the optimal level of psychological stress in these situations. A certain level is necessary, but not so much that officers become nervous and shoot impulsively.

In addition to her research, Portnoy is an engaging teacher. “The students all want to talk to her. There is always a line out of her door,” said Andrew Harris, a criminology professor and associate dean for research and graduate programs at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

“She is very unassuming and incredibly approachable.”

Portnoy’s work generates interest in the current surge of true-crime shows and documentaries. Like her students, Portnoy is a fan of the podcast *Serial* and the documentary series *Making a Murderer*. She is always asked whether the hit TV show *CSI* is realistic. “Probably not,” she said. “It’s embarrassing, but I have never seen it.”

Instead of watching the many spinoffs of crime drama, she is busy studying the body to get a better understanding of the criminal mind. “She is well-situated to make a really significant mark on this field,” Harris said. “It was a fringe a few years ago, but now Jill is on the cutting edge.”





winter/spring alumni events

2019 SPRING DOWNTOWN LUNCH

For the second consecutive year, a member of the Board of Visitors was the featured speaker at the Spring Downtown Lunch. **Dr. John B. Taylor '64** spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in the Founders Room of the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh. Taylor is a professor of economics and director of the Introductory Economics Center at Stanford University. His fields of expertise include macroeconomics, monetary policy and international economics. He is world-renowned for his policy analysis and for creating an interest rate forecasting tool that came to be known as "The Taylor Rule." Taylor's talk, "Big Changes in the Economy and Economic Policy," led to an in-depth question and answer session with the more than 75 alumni in attendance.



GET TOGETHER. SWEAT TOGETHER.

On Feb. 9, the Alumni Council hosted a group of alumni, parents and friends for a workout and brunch at the Junior School to help fund financial assistance at the Academy. The workout was led by the fitness professionals at SHAPE Training.



50 DAYS UNTIL GRADUATION CELEBRATION

To celebrate 50 days until graduation, the Alumni & Development Office surprised the Class of 2019 with lunch from the Franktuary food truck on April 12. The Academy welcomes the class to the SSA alumni community.



Alumni Regional Events

More than
4,000
miles traveled
from winter 2018
to spring 2019



New York, N.Y.



Washington, D.C.



Naples, Fla.



The Alumni & Development
Office personally
connected with more than

800
alumni, past parents and
grandparents

BOARD OF VISITORS YEAR IN REVIEW

The Shady Side Academy Board of Visitors (BOV) was founded in 2001 by **John Kramer '57** and **Ed Grefenstette '85** with a desire to revitalize and strengthen the Academy's bond with alumni across the globe. The BOV exists to serve as ambassadors for Shady Side Academy, to communicate and promote the school's mission, and to offer expertise to the Academy president, Board of Trustees and administration on important school topics. Comprised entirely of alumni who are leaders in various fields, its members are strongly committed to maintaining and enhancing the values and resources that make the Academy a center for academic excellence.

Led by co-chairs **Linda LaMagna '83** and **Tom Worrall '87**, the BOV had a historic year. The first-ever fall meeting of the BOV was held in conjunction with Homecoming weekend, providing an additional opportunity for members to gather on campus to provide feedback and discussion. The philanthropic generosity of the BOV is at an all-time high, with members participating in the Blue & Gold Fund and Campaign for Shady Side initiatives with fervor. In addition, LaMagna and Worrall toasted to **Bart Griffith's '93** final meeting as a BOV member, in order for him to begin his new role as president of the Academy.

This year's annual spring meeting kicked off with important updates from Interim Academy President Amy Nixon and other administrators on finance, enrollment, development, and diversity

and inclusion initiatives. As tradition has it, BOV members were invited to Senior School assembly, where **Mark Kramer '96**, **Abhishek Mehta '01**, **Michele Lieber '86** and **Doug Mancosh '76** participated in a career-related Q&A panel. To view the Q&A, visit the Shady Side Academy YouTube channel.

Following assembly, a roundtable discussion was held to help foster connections between BOV members and current students. Twenty Senior School students spent an hour with BOV members discussing colleges, careers and life at SSA then and now. The day concluded with a joint session with the Board of Trustees, led by a moderator, discussing organizational transition and the opportunities that lie ahead for Shady Side. After a marathon day of reports, discussion, feedback and input, BOV members enjoyed a reception with trustees and administrators in the Keefe Ellis Commons of the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation.

Shady Side Academy is indebted to the leadership, dedication and expertise of the Board of Visitors. Thank you to all who were in attendance, including **Bart Griffith '93**, **Kerry Hannon '78**, **Alex Howson '82**, **Remington Jackson '08**, **Mark Kramer '96**, **Michele Lieber '86**, **Linda LaMagna '83**, **Doug Mancosh '76**, **Abhishek Mehta '01**, **Fred Parkin '59**, **Ben Ross '10**, **Ryan Ruskin '86**, **Bill Wallace '66**, **Dr. John Taylor '64** and **Tom Worrall '87**.





Your Legacy, Our Future

For more than 135 years, the generosity of individual donors has enabled Shady Side Academy to grow into one of the nation's top private schools. Now, you can leave a legacy that will impact generations of students to come. With numerous planned giving options, you can support Shady Side Academy while gaining a variety of personal benefits.

For more information on planned giving options, visit plannedgiving.shadysideacademy.org or contact Dr. Allison Saras at 412-968-3077.



We made history!



BLUE & GOLD
FUND



Thanks to our amazing donors, we achieved our **\$1.5 million goal** for the 2018-2019 Blue & Gold Fund, which is the most the Academy has ever raised in a single year.

If you have any questions or would like to know how your gift can impact Shady Side, contact Alicia Barnes at 412-968-3017 or abarnes@shadysideacademy.org.



classnotes

Included in this section are news items received through May 1, 2019.

1952

David H. Patterson writes: "Still remembering those good old days at SSA!"

1959

John Duff authored the book, *Charles Gilbert Reilly: An Honorable Life*. It's a remembrance of the author's great uncle, who graduated from Princeton in 1912 and fought and died in World War I in America's most lethal battle, the Meuse-Argonne.

Rick Taylor writes: "My second book of poetry entitled *Headstone in the Headlights* was published recently. You may recall that the first was entitled *Never Alone in a*

Cemetery. One poetry enthusiast here in Shepherdstown, W.Va., has said that I can't seem to get out of the cemetery. At the age of 77, I've got to start thinking about such things. Both books are available on Amazon. Helps me to break even."

1962

Kent Rockwell writes: "I visited England at the end of May to spend a few days with **Martin Monk** trout fishing. Martin had some health issues recently, but is still getting about well enough to lead me on this expedition. I am retiring as CEO of ExOne Co., but I still serve as chairman of the company. I am also chairman and CEO of

Rockwell Venture Capital, which provides venture funds and counsel to a variety of industrial investments globally. My home is now in Port St. Lucie, Fla."

1964

Stewart "Chip" Newell writes: "I am launching a third condo project, Verdante at Lincoln Park, in Portland, Maine."

1968

Erik Buell, chief technical officer of FUELL, was a special guest at the SSA Innovation Speakers Series event *Smart Cities: The Impact in Pittsburgh and Globally* on April 30. Buell is a pioneer



1964

Members of the Class of 1964 gathered for dinner in April at the Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh. A great time was had by all.

Front Row: **John Chernoff, Jerry Stephenson, EJ Strassburger, Bob Whitehill**

Second Row: **Bill Guy, Bob Maloney, John Taylor, Dick Chalfant, Don Middleton**



1977

Matt Wolff and his wife Pamela have opened a new health and wellness franchise in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood. Matt writes: "OsteoStrong delivers skeletal strength conditioning through a groundbreaking new technology, and everybody from athletes to grandmothers can use the Spectrum machines. Users see rapid and measurable improvements in bone density, strength, energy, posture and balance all without breaking a sweat and in just 10 minutes per week. We extend an invitation to all of the Shady Side community to visit our center at 6125 Spirit Street, Pittsburgh, for a free session on the Spectrum machines. Please visit www.osteostrong.me for more information."

of modern race motorcycle technology as well as a world-class engineer and inventor.

Joe Safier writes: "My work as chair of the Beverly Hills Charitable Solicitations Commission was publicized in a recent edition of the *Beverly Hills Weekly*: http://bhweekly.com/issues/pdf/2019_1022.pdf

1978

Kerry Hannon's most recent book, *Never Too Old to Get Rich: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Starting a Business Mid-Life*, was released in June 2019 and is available on Amazon.

Carl Kurlander writes: "Our new movie, *Burden of Genius: Dr. Thomas Starzl's Journey Into Organ Transplantation*, premiered in Pittsburgh on April 12 at the Carnegie Science Center, kicking off a weeklong run from April 12-18. The film, which has been playing around the world from London to New Delhi, won a couple of Best Documentary prizes at film festivals."

Lisa Scales, CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, spoke at SSA Senior School assembly on April 15 as part of the Alumni Fireside Chat Series.



1978/1979/1981/2014

Four SSA alums got together for lunch over the Christmas season. Pictured: **Lillian Klein '14**, **Catherine Vodrey '81**, **Scott MacLeod '79** and **Sarah Vodrey '78**.



1981

Lance Lasner is engaged to marry Jennifer Smith. Lance practices medicine in Virginia and serves as president of the NOCA Center for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.



1981

John Tadler writes: "On March 1, 2019, I retired after 27 years of service with the Allegheny County Police. Over the years I served as a patrolman, sergeant and lieutenant. I worked all three uniform districts, was a drug interdiction officer and a K-9 supervisor, but the highlights of my career were attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. (Session 254), and serving as the commander of the Mounted Unit. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my family and watching Molly, Corrina and Alice grow up. The photo is of me in December 2018 in Homestead, Pa."

1981

Mark Fowler writes, "After I graduated from Indiana Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, I married my best friend, Thea. We have one son, Miles, who is 25 and living in New York, working at *The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon* (I keep telling him that he's in for a shock when he gets a real job!). I've worked in the nuclear power industry my entire career. I've been employed at four different nuclear power stations across this country, and have visited many other sites, both domestic and international. The last station I worked at was a generating station in New Jersey where I was the senior manager of design engineering and the design authority at the second largest nuclear station in this country. For the last six years, I've been working for the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations as the assistant to the CEO. This organization represents the self-regulating oversight for the nuclear industry at large, and was formed just after the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania as a promise to this country that a similar accident would never happen again (and it hasn't). Thea and I are looking forward to a long, relaxing cruise in Alaska in 2019. Wishing all the best to my SSA family!"

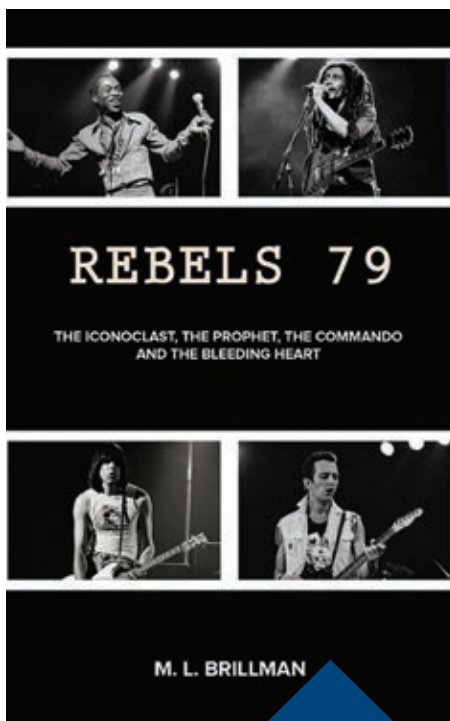


1982

Former faculty member Bill Sayles and his wife, Nancy, attended a performance by the Cape Ann Symphony Orchestra, featuring special guest **Owen Young** (cello). Young has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1991.

1989

Nina Coslov was featured as an expert in a segment on NBC's *Today Show* hosted by Maria Shriver. The segment focused on the common misconceptions about menopause, including information women should be aware of in their 40s.



1991

Michael Brillman, a history professor at Santa Clara University, published his first novel, *Rebels 79: The Iconoclast, the Prophet, the Commando and the Bleeding Heart*, which is about music in the 1970s. He gives a shout-out to SSA by name and mentions **Chris Frantz '70**, drummer for Talking Heads.



1992

Brian Ratner and his wife, Jamie, appeared on ABC's *Shark Tank* seeking investors for their company, CertifiKID, a website for parents that provides savings on family activities and entertainment. In what may go down as the toughest negotiation in *Shark Tank* history, the Ratners expertly negotiated their way to a \$600K deal with "shark" Kevin O'Leary in exchange for 19% equity in CertifiKID. O'Leary subsequently invited Brian and Jamie to appear with him on ABC's *The View* on April 11 where each of the "sharks" featured their favorite business of the season.



1993

Artie Gilkes, head coach of the State College Area High School boys track & field team, was named the 2019 PTFCA Indoor Track & Field Boys Coach of the Year after leading his team to the PTFCA indoor State Championship in 2018.



1994

Anuraag Sahai writes: "I got married a while back and have two lovely girls. We just moved out of New York City to Scarsdale in Westchester County. I am a radiologist. I am really looking forward to the reunion this year. Can't believe it's been so long (and that we are that old!)."



1996

SSA lifer **Ryan Kushner** published his first book *Accelerate This! A Super Not Boring Guide to Startup Accelerators and Clean Energy Entrepreneurship* about clean energy, innovations programs and how they work. He's applying the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you want them to do unto you, including the environment and ecosystem that supports freedom, happiness and prosperity.



1996

Members of the class of 1996 gathered for dinner in Pittsburgh. **Andy Allen** and his wife, **Kristan**, **Mark Kramer**, Middle School faculty member **Dave Vadhais** and his wife, **Courtney (Chesin) Vadhais**, **Matt Henderson** and **Annie (Mulock) Westbrook**.

2000

Arun Janakiraman writes: "I recently moved back to Pittsburgh and joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School as an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, and was named the medical director of the Perioperative Evaluation Center at UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside. On one particular day at work, I admitted a patient whose outpatient doctor is **Kareem Idrees**, and **Ricky Harika '02** ended up being her anesthesiologist for her surgery. I've also seen **Pete Ritchie** at the hospital. It's so nice to see some familiar faces around every day."

2002

Bari Weiss was a guest co-host on ABC's *The View* on March 4, 2019 and featured in the May 2019 issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.



2004

Kevin Rich and his wife, **Katie**, welcomed a daughter, **Reagan Roy Rich**, in December 2018. She weighed 5 lbs., 6 oz., and was 19 inches long.



2005

Jim Ambrose married **Maura Natale** in Erie, Pa., on Sept. 22, 2018. In attendance, from left to right, were **Jake Klinvex**, **Jack Dingess**, **Kevin Rich '04**, **Ben Schmerin**, **Kathryn Egan**, **Nick Macpherson**, **RT Tourek**, **Maura (Natale) Ambrose**, **Matt Orie**, **Jim Ambrose**, **Tiffany Shento**, **Evan Frye**, **Dave Cunningham '06** and **Zak Klinvex '07**. Jim and Maura currently live in Pittsburgh. Jim directs the marketing and business operations for **Desmone Architects**, and Maura is a speech-language pathologist for **Akron Children's Hospital** in Mahoning Valley, Ohio.



2005

Luke Mindlin married Katy Mindlin in March 2019. In attendance were mother of the groom and Interim Academy President **Amy Nixon**, **Geoff Abraham '04**, **Morgan Geistman '06**, **RK Galey**, **Sam Leff '09**, **Louis Leff '77**, **Larry Wechsler '70**, **Jake Rogal '06**, **Dave Watson**, **Casey Mindlin '06**, **Clancy Nixon '75**, **Taylor Joss '02**, **Rory Cosgrove '07**, **Max Quinlin**, **Max Hofmann**, **Tom Wechsler**, **Hannah Levinson**, **Annie Quinlin '04** and **Will Scott**.



2009

Michael Mitrakos and **Drew Neillie** were married Nov. 3, 2019, at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara, Calif. In attendance were **Scott Majesky** and his wife **Maia**, **Jonathan Chu**, and groomsman **Phil Stahlfeld**. Michael and Drew work and reside in Austin, Texas.

2006

Anastasia (Rygle) James writes: "I recently left my position as curator of exhibitions and programs at SUNY New Paltz to become a founding curator at the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, founded by George Lucas and Mellody Hobson in Los Angeles."



2008

Emily (Harmon) Weimer and **Daniel Weimer** welcomed a son, **Andrew**, on July 19, 2018, in Pittsburgh. Andrew is happy and healthy. He made his first visit to the Senior School campus during Homecoming, and his days are filled with the noises of children playing at the Junior School across the street from his house in Point Breeze.



2008/2014

Three swimmers with Shady Side connections earned four national titles and 18 medals at the 2019 U.S. Masters Swimming (USMS) Spring National Championships, held April 25-28, 2019, in Mesa, Ariz. Senior School chemistry teacher and Head Swim Coach John Landreth won six medals, including a national championship in the 100 butterfly in the men's 45-49 age group. **Trevor Scheid '08**, who resides in the San Francisco Bay area, won the national championship in the 500 free in the men's 25-29 age group. This comes 11 years after he won the same event and set a PIAA state record as a senior at SSA. In addition, Scheid won the mixed 200 free relay and men's 200 free relay, placed second in the 100 free, 100 fly, 200 free, mixed 200 medley relay and men's 200 medley relay, and placed fourth in the 50 fly and 50 free. Scheid is a 2012 graduate of Stanford University, where he studied management science and engineering and was a member of the NCAA Division I men's swimming team. **Jason Weis '14**, who resides in the Boston area, medaled in three events in the men's 18-24 age group. He placed fourth in the 1000 free, fifth in the 500 free and eighth in the 200 free. He also competed in the 50 free (23rd), 100 free (22nd) and 200 IM (11th), as well as in two relay events. Weis is a 2018 graduate of Georgia Tech, where he studied biomedical engineering and was a member of the GT swim club.



2009

Elizabeth (Rosenberger) Giel and **Timothy K. Giel Jr.**, high school sweethearts of 12 years, were married Dec. 1, 2018, at Saint Paul Cathedral with a reception following at LeMont Pittsburgh, the same venue as their junior prom 10 years prior. The groom's blue letter from his SSA letter jacket was the bride's "something blue" on their wedding day. Liz is a pharmacy manager for CVS in the Tribeca neighborhood of Manhattan. Tim, a former pitcher in the New York Yankees organization, is a senior analyst for Major League Baseball. Liz and Tim honeymooned in Switzerland and Italy, receiving a blessing from Pope Francis at the Vatican on Jan. 2, 2019, in their wedding attire. The couple resides in Port Imperial, N.J.



2011/2012

Jatara McGee '11 and **Reggie Mitchell '12** were married over Memorial Day weekend in Pittsburgh. Alums in attendance included **Katrina Andrews '11**, **Rashaad Phillips '12**, **Kelcei Edmonds '12**, **Alieyyah Lewis '11**, **Dennis Briggs '14**, **Tyrel Hill '14**, **Charles Calabrese '14**, **Louis Berry '15** and **Jarred Brevard '14**.



2013

Quaishawn Whitlock, who serves as a resident educator/artist at the Warhol Museum and the Father Ryan Arts Center in McKees Rocks, provided a personal tour for SSA exchange students from China when they visited the Warhol Museum in January, and did the same for the German exchange students who visited in September. Quaishawn participated in the Chinese exchange program at SSA in 2011-2012.



2015

Ryan Wagner, a rising sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, was part of the undefeated NCAA Division III National Championship men's ice hockey team. The team was the first D3 team to have an undefeated season. Ryan also received academic honors in his first semester at school with a 4.0 GPA.

2015

Shea Minter was featured as a student profile by the Center for Statistics and Machine Learning Program at Princeton University. Her main research project involved running an online survey in order to gauge how or why people change their attitude towards a political idea. Her central question revolved around seeing how racial attitudes impact foreign policy decisions. Minter graduated from Princeton in spring 2019.

Hamilton College's women's lacrosse midfielder **Kara Pooley** received the Jean-Marius Gelas Memorial Award, presented annually to a senior student-athlete at Hamilton who has displayed outstanding development in sportsmanship, leadership, character and athletic ability. Pooley was a team captain her senior year and a four-year starter. She helped lead the Continentals to three postseason appearances including the semifinals of the NESCAC championship in 2017. She was named to the All-NESCAC first team and the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association all-region first team in 2019. She finished her 64-game career with 135 points on 93 goals and 42 assists. Pooley is one of only a handful of players in team history to record more than 100 career points, draw controls, ground balls and caused turnovers.



2016

Three members of the Class of 2016 reunited for a summer internship at PNC Bank. Left to right: **Lindsay Miller**, **Cameron Robinson** and **Caroline Colville**

2016

Blake Goodman, a goalie on the University of Richmond men's lacrosse team, won a 2019 Southern Conference Pinnacle Award for the second straight year for having the highest GPA on a championship-winning team. The Spiders won the SoCon Tournament in 2018 and 2019.

GEAR UP FOR HOME^{SSA}COMING!

HOME^{SSA}COMING IS OCTOBER 11-13, 2019! Order your gear from the SSA Spirit Store through Oct. 31, and enter code HC2019 to save 19%.

store.shadysideacademy.org

The Academy expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the following Shady Side Academy alumni and friends. Although we are unable to include remembrances of all, we sincerely value the special involvement in and contributions to the Shady Side Academy community during their lives. These listings include all information received by May 1, 2019.

JAMES R. MORROW '38

James Robert Morrow passed away Aug. 31, 2018. He was a graduate of Penn State University. He also served as a bomber pilot in World War II. After the war, he was a CIC agent and flew in the Air Force Reserve, from which he retired from in 1972 as a full colonel. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Maxine. He is survived by two daughters, Monica Morrow and Jill Morrow, and two grandchildren.

JOHN H. CORSON SR. '39

John Hughes Corson Sr. passed away Aug. 28, 2018. He attended Lehigh University, where he earned a B.S. in metallurgical engineering. He joined the U.S. Army as a technician in an ordinance company that served general purpose vehicles. After the Army, he worked in the steel wire industry for the John A. Roebling Company and Carpenter Steel, among others, and held a patent for the method of heat treating hot-rolled steel rods. He later switched career fields, working as a stockbroker and operating mobile home parks. He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Elizabeth King. Survivors include his children, John (Karen) Corson Jr., Robert (Mari) Corson, and Jean (Patrick) Tweedley; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

ROBERT M. THOMPSON SR. '40

Robert M. Thompson Sr. passed away March 6, 2018. He was a graduate of Princeton University and served as a U.S. Air Force bombardier in WWII. He was a successful businessman and owned his own insurance agency and multiple real estate buildings, and he was the co-owner and founder of Redshaw computer software. He was predeceased by his wife, Janet. He is survived by his children, Rob Jr. (Diane), TerriAnn, Wendy (Conrad), and George; and six grandchildren.

JOHN MORRISON '42

John Morrison passed away March 31, 2019. After serving in the U.S. Navy, Morrison received his bachelor's degree in engineering from Yale University and his master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan. He retired as president and chief executive of Automated Container Corp., which he started in 1981 after Owens-Illinois Inc., his employer since 1965, shed the division in which he led product development. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Morrison. He is survived by his children, Ken Morrison, Pete Morrison, Bob Morrison and Margie Morrison; and eight grandchildren.

HARRY J. BECHMAN JR. '45

Harry J. Bechman Jr. passed away Oct. 18, 2017. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Kelly Bechman. He is survived by his children, Harry (Mary) Bechman III, Andrew (Maureen O'Brien) Bechman, Janet (Daniel) Kiefer, Judith Bechman, and Susan (Felix) Mackey; and 11 grandchildren.

FREDERICK J. CLOSE III '49

Frederick Jacob Close III passed away Sept. 17, 2018. He was an international businessman who had the opportunity to travel the world. He was a talented sculptor and enjoyed working with school children as a frequent guest art teacher in Madison, Ohio. Close was instrumental in creating the Madison Food Center and was awarded the 2006 Man of the Year by the Madison Perry Chamber of Commerce for his philanthropic work. He is survived by his wife, Angela; daughters, Karen Close and Kate (Joshua) Kislevitz; and two grandchildren.

FITZHUGH BROWN '50

Fitzhugh Lee Brown passed away Nov. 8, 2018. He was a graduate of Harvard University and served in the U.S. Army, playing the bagpipes in the Second Army Band. He worked for Rust Engineering Company and Koppers Company of Pittsburgh, which was founded by his grandfather Henry Bedinger Rust. Brown spent the first part of his Koppers career in the engineering and construction division, and later became a vice president and corporate comptroller. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Florence; his children, Elizabeth (John) Brown Van Sant and William (Mary Ellen) Brown; and seven grandchildren.

EDWARD L. MCCANCE '53

Edward L. McCance passed away Dec. 5, 2017. He received his B.S. in aeronautical engineering from Auburn University. He worked for McDonnell Douglas and Pratt & Whitney. He was predeceased by his first wife, Jeanne Bothwell McCance, and son, William McCance. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Spencer McCance; sons, Thomas (Eve) McCance and Edward (Carol) McCance Jr.; and four grandchildren.

WILBUR SUTHERLAND '54

Wilbur "Bill" Sutherland passed away Feb. 5, 2019. He was a graduate of Cornell University and University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business. Upon graduation, he began a 45-year career as a financial adviser helping individuals plan for the future. He worked for a number of major firms and retired from Stifel Nicolaus. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nell Sutherland; two children, William Sutherland and Nancy Sutherland; and three grandchildren.

JAMES H. KNOWLES JR. '58

James H. Knowles Jr. passed away Dec. 6, 2018. He graduated from Yale University and obtained his M.B.A. from Harvard University. He started his financial career at Pittsburgh National Bank and helped the bank form its first private equity/venture capital firm. He was instrumental in the formation and continuation of several firms that today are recognized as Pittsburgh traditions. One of his greatest achievements was being instrumental in helping form UPMC. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sherin Hetherington Knowles; three children, Janet Johnson, Pack Knowles and Sherin (Charles) Spoffor; and six grandchildren.

JOHN P. MCGHEE II '62

Dr. John Paul McGhee II passed away Dec. 12, 2018. He was a graduate of Northwestern University and part of the honors program in medical education in its second year of inception. He served in the U.S. Army and was chief anesthesiologist at Munson Army Hospital. After his honorable discharge, he practiced at University of Iowa Hospitals and Evanston Hospital. He served as district director on the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists for 15 years before moving on to serve as president and eventually receiving the ISA Distinguished Service Award. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sharon; children, John Paul III (Valerie) McGhee, Anne (Jim) Wagner; and five grandchildren.

SAMUEL P. HARBISON III '70

Samuel P. Harbison III passed away March 26, 2019. He most recently worked at Google in Pittsburgh. He is survived by his wife, Diana Drew Harbison; sons, Samuel (Leigh) Harbison and Michael (Kiera) Harbison; and two grandsons.

CARL J.D. SUCCOP '70

Carl J.D. Succop passed away April 7, 2019. He received his B.A. in applied science and a B.S. in metallurgical engineering from Lehigh University. He worked as vice president of sales at American Roller Bearing. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Donna Succop; sons, Nathan (Briana) Succop '99 and Christopher Succop '14; daughter, Andrea (Frank) Tigano '01; five grandchildren; five brothers, Lawrence Succop '62, J. William (Nancy) Succop '65, David (Robyn) Succop '63, James (Carole) Succop '75 Benjamin (Sara Lou) Succop '79.

EDWARD B. MOSLE '83

Edward "Ted" B. Mosle passed away on March 26, 2019. He earned an M.A. in teaching from College of Notre Dame and a B.A. in history from Yale University. He worked as a teacher at Baltimore City College and The Knox School in Saint James, N.Y. He also served honorably as a lieutenant combat veteran on the USS Midway in Desert Storm I. He is survived by his mother, Fay; brother, William "Chip" Mosle '88 (Jenn); sister, Anne (Jim); and many nieces and nephews.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Salvatore "Sam" Commendatore, father of Country Day School faculty member Michael Commendatore '92, and grandfather of Devin '23 and Aiden '26 Commendatore

William Curry Jr., father of Country Day School faculty member Margie Heintzleman, and grandfather of Peter Heintzleman '25 and Leo Rickard '24

Janet Gilmore, wife of George Gilmore '42, and mother of Holland Gilmore '76 and James Gilmore '79

Sally Graham, wife of George Graham '55

Thomas Johnson Sr., father of Rev. Thomas Johnson Jr. '73

Ruth Ann Trant LaMagna, mother of Michelle LaMagna Schafer '85 and Board of Visitors co-chair Linda LaMagna '83

Mary Lou Leck, mother of Metz server Laura Erdody

Carol Jean Molyneaux, mother-in-law of Jamie Edwards '74, and grandmother of John '03, Catherine '07 and David '08 Edwards

Richard Nassar Sr., father of Richard "Dicky" Nassar Jr. '80

AnnaMae Newmaster, mother of Technology Department staff member Bruce Newmaster

Albert Pavlik, grandfather of Shea Minter '15 and Colin Kolano '18

William Francis Pizoli, father of Country Day School faculty member Ginny Sinnott

Howard Roughen, father of John Roughen '85

David Scherbarth, father of Matthew '12 and Andrew '15 Scherbarth

Richard Swager, father of Facilities custodian Patty Huston

John Tweardy Jr., father-in-law of Country Day School nurse Lisa Tweardy

Ann Boyles Watson, wife of James Watson '57, and sister of Dotty Beckwith

Jack Weiss, grandfather of Bari Weiss '02

Jane Weiss, mother of Adam '03 and Eric '06 Weiss

Note: All obituaries appearing in Shady Side Academy Magazine are edited to a consistent size and format.

The Evolution of Computers at SSA

In 1979, the Senior School campus housed a “computer terminal” on the second floor of Rowe, which held one system called a DECWriter. The DECWriter was connected on a leased telephone line to the computer system at Carnegie Mellon University. One AP Calculus class used the system to expand textbook knowledge with practical experimentation using BASIC (Beginners All-Purpose Symbolic Instructional Code). In addition, geometry and algebra classes altered the curriculum to include a two-week instruction at the end of the school year on fundamental techniques in system and code operations.

At the end of the 1979 school year, Math Department Chair **Joe Pavlovich** told the *Shady Side Academy News* that he would not consider purchasing an in-house computer for the school.

But, as technology continued to change, so did Pavlovich and his views. In 1981, in an effort to keep in tune with the increasingly technological world, Pavlovich and Senior School math teacher **John Sutula** embarked on a plan to incorporate computers as an educational device in Algebra I and II, and to integrate computers into other areas of curriculum. With faculty and administrative support, the 1981-1982 school year began with five microcomputers.

At the time, Sutula told the *Shady Side Academy News*, “We are about to embark upon a program to greatly increase our use of the computer as a tool and as an object of study.” He stated that the immediate goal was to have one microcomputer in each mathematics classroom. Long-term, the Academy hoped to purchase a sufficient number of computers to allow “a typical class to work as a group with computer-assisted instruction programs.” The newly-formed Senior School Computer Club used the new computers to program games and, more importantly, they were charged with managing the dining hall seating rotation.



The 1981-1982 Computer Club



Forty years later, Shady Side will kick off the 2019-2020 school year with the opening of the state-of-the-art Glimcher Tech and Design Hub. Located on the lower levels of Rowe and Memorial Halls, the space is designed to encourage Senior School students to reach further into the future of automation and technology and features two spacious computer labs, a modern fabrication space, robotics arena and more. For more information on the new space, visit shadysideacademy.org/campaign.

If you have any additional information on the history of computers at Shady Side, please contact Lindsay Kovach at lkovach@shadysideacademy.org.



SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

423 Fox Chapel Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage

PAID

Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 609

www.shadysideacademy.org

*Find Your Way
Back Home!*

SHADY SIDE
ACADEMY *Pittsburgh, PA*

HOME **COMING**

OCTOBER 11-13

Register online at shadysideacademy.org/homecoming by Oct. 4!