

SUMMER 2021

shady side

academy



BULLDOGS UNLEASHED

SSA Reveals New Athletic Logos and Branding

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This spring, SSA senior **Melissa Riggins** won gold medals in both the 800 and 1600 meters at the PIAA Track & Field Championships, becoming the sixth female in WPIAL history to win six PIAA gold medals. Riggins, who will attend Georgetown this fall, finished her high school career with 6 WPIAL and 6 PIAA gold medals, sweeping the 800 and 1600 in each of her three years of competition (2018, 2019 and 2021 – the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19).



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President's Message

DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:



During one of my visits to Country Day School this past fall, as our community was actively searching for its next mascot, a third grade girl eyeballed me in the hallway with resolve and determination.

"Squirrels, Mr. Griffith. We need to be the Squirrels."

Smiling at the thought of it, I asked for a rationale.

"Just look around," she said. "They're literally *everywhere*."

Squirrels, Grizzlies, Skywalkers, Gummy Bears, Triceratops...we simply heard it all.

We even had one student vote for the Hellbenders in honor of the salamander species native to the creek that runs through the Senior School campus. I playfully suggested

that if we became the Hellbenders we should probably change our motto to "Crawled Out of Hell and Bent on Going Back," a proposal that briefly entertained but was summarily dismissed by my many advisors on the matter.

More than 600 separate mascot nominations later, we are the Bulldogs – and appropriately so. A breed known for loyalty, courage and competitive spirit, the Bulldog embodies so much of what has been characteristic of Shady Side for nearly 140 years.

Though Bulldogs must often strain and labor to move forward, they remain entirely proud, undeterred, and ever capable of giving and receiving love through it all. *And what's more Shady Side than that?*

As the Bulldog continues to become part of the SSA community, each of us will find our own ways to identify with this new symbol. Some faculty, parents, and alumni are already bulldog owners and now have a deepened connection – other community members who have prior associations with schools or colleges that also claim the bulldog have celebrated the change and unification of their fandom.

Upon the announcement, I also heard from excited SSA alums who played for the famed Morningside Bulldogs youth football team, once a longtime feeder to Shady Side. One shared the following: "Bulldog blood runs deep with me and the Morningside guys who attended SSA. I know the 'old' and 'new' Bulldogs have changed my life, and I am forever grateful."

Another alum offered that "ex-Morningside Bulldogs were once at the heart of SSA athletics and so the new mascot brings back some important history." Read more about some of our Morningside Bulldogs alumni in the *From the Archives* feature on the inside back cover.

Regardless of how each of us come to embrace this change, we can take heart that we have a symbol that can bring our community together. We are indeed all Bulldogs – even if you had your heart set on Squirrels.

Glory to Shady Side and Go Bulldogs!

Warmest regards,

Bart Griffith '93
President

SSA Receives Anonymous \$2 Million Student Support Gift

Shady Side Academy received the largest programmatic gift in its history, an anonymous \$2 million donation dedicated to academic and social support for talented students of promise whose enrollment at Shady Side presents a uniquely challenging educational or cultural transition.

"The gift will expand student access to individualized learning support, mentorship and guidance, and better ensure all students maximize their potential at SSA, achieving excellence in the classroom and building lasting relationships as members of the school community," said President **Bart Griffith '93**.

Students from various socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds will benefit, and the gift will support both students who receive financial aid and those who pay full tuition.

The gift also establishes a permanent endowment for Shady Side's Equity and Inclusion Fund, a critical step in the Academy's Equity and Inclusion Action Plan.

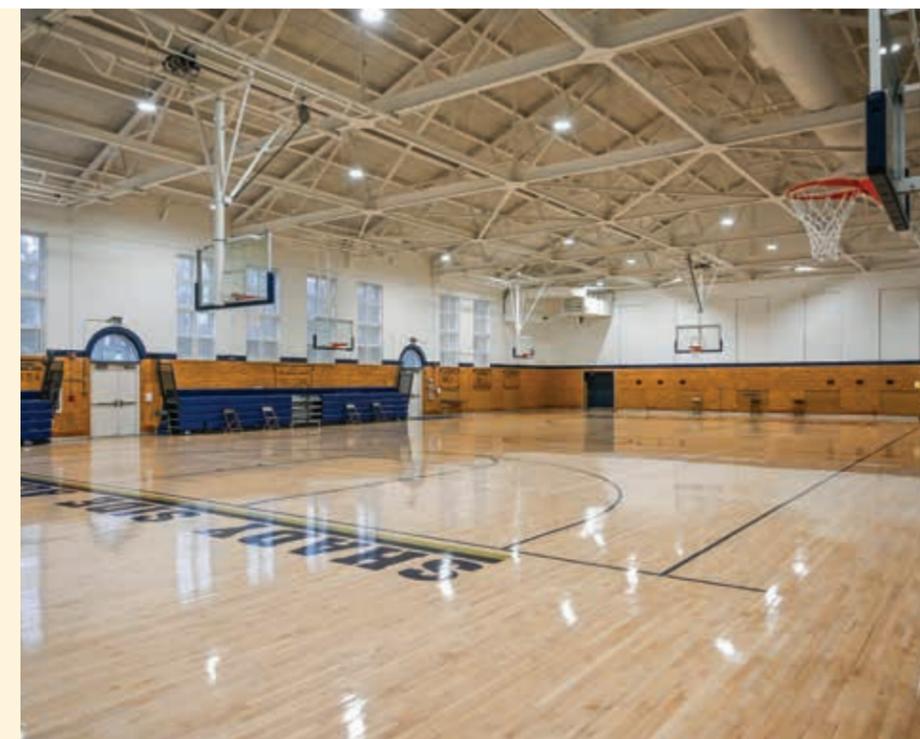
For more information or to learn how to contribute to Shady Side's student support or equity and inclusion initiatives, contact Director of Alumni & Development **Dr. Allison Saras** at asaras@shadysideacademy.org.

"The gift will expand student access to individualized learning support, mentorship and guidance..."

– President Bart Griffith '93

CURRY GYM GETS A FACELIFT

The Senior School's Curry Gymnasium received a much-needed facelift, resulting in a brighter, more inviting space for athletic competitions, camps and events. Renovations began last summer and were completed in time for the 2020-2021 basketball season. The work was done by the SSA Facilities Department and included: sanding and refinishing the gym floor and installing inserts for a volleyball net; new glass basketball backboards and supports; a new scoreboard; new bleachers seating 225; new LED lighting; and a fresh coat of paint on all of the structural steel and walls. Outside, a small parking lot with handicap parking was added at the rear entrance of Curry Gym, new sidewalks to Curry and Mellon Gym were laid, and exterior lighting was added for the parking lot and sidewalks.





Speech and Debate Students Compete in State, National, World Tournaments

Senior School Speech and Debate Team members won two events at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) tournament, held online in March. Sophomore **Maya Leyzarovich** won the state title and was named Outstanding Speaker in Congress-Senate, while senior **Jack Thornton** and junior **Anish Kusumanchi** won the Parliamentary Debate title. Leyzarovich and sophomore **Nichole Poltinnikov** qualified for the National Catholic Forensics League Grand National Tournament in May, where Poltinnikov finished in the top 16 of Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Leyzarovich competed in Congress. Poltinnikov also competed in Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in June. Junior **Riley Doyle** and freshman **Hari Viswanathan** competed with Team USA at the 33rd World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship, hosted virtually in April by South Korea. Doyle advanced to the finals of Impromptu Speaking, while Viswanathan competed in the finals of After-Dinner Speaking.



Senior School Rocketry Team Competes in TARC Nationals

For the first time ever, the Senior School Rocketry Team qualified to compete in the 2021 National Finals of The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC), the world's largest rocket contest. SSA was one of 100 teams selected to compete – and the only team from Western Pennsylvania. SSA competed in The Plains, Va., on June 12-13 and finished 51st overall. Team members competing were seniors **Alexander Biglan** and **Nicholas Zana**, juniors **Isabel Brunner** and **Ava Kronman**, and sophomores **Cassidy Mineo** and **Jillian Zana**.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS EARN TOP HONORS IN NATIONAL SCIENCE LEAGUE COMPETITION

Middle School sixth and seventh grade students earned top honors in the 2020-2021 National Science League (NSL) competition. The seventh grade team of **Ethan Chen**, **Samraj Delfyett**, **Alex Mai**, **Annika Sandholm**, **Samantha Larkin**, **Regan Mulderig**, **Maya Agarwal**, **Sam Davidheiser**, **Mateo Maiz**, **Evan Xiang** and **Sophia Vrcic** placed first in the nation in the NSL Life Science Contest. Individually, Chen placed first in the nation, and Delfyett and Mai tied for third. The sixth grade team of **Hanna Singhi**, **Andrew Xing**, **Chloe Wang**, **Paolo Scolieri**, **Ethan Jiang**, **Ria Sehgal**, **Kiran Thompson**, **Omar Awais**, **Charlie McChesney** and **Helena Khalil** placed second in the nation in the NSL General Science Contest.

Senior Wins National Computing Award



Senior **Qingqing Zhao** was a National Honorable Mention Winner of the 2021 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. She was one of 360 young women chosen nationwide for the award, which recognizes high school students for their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing.

Eighth Grader Wins National Medal in Scholastic Art & Writing Awards



Eighth grader **Mark Henne** was one of only 10 students from the Pittsburgh area to win a national medal in the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Henne won a national Silver Medal in writing for his Personal Essay & Memoir piece, *A Pot of Forgiveness*. He was one of 12 Middle and Senior School students who won Gold Keys in the regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in January, advancing to the national competition.

Junior Wins Scholarship at National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium



Junior **Steven D. Liu** represented Pennsylvania as one of two oral presenters in the 59th annual National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS), the premier showcase for science, technology, engineering and math research by high school students, held virtually in April. Liu won third place in Oral Presentations in Chemistry, earning a \$4,000 college scholarship for his research project, *Optimizing Nannochloropsis Growing Conditions for Biodiesel Production Through Analysis of Lipid Content*. Liu advanced to the national competition after placing first and winning a \$2,000 scholarship at the state competition in April.

Senior School Team Places Fifth in the World in ACSL Competition

A team of Senior School students placed fifth in the world and first in Pennsylvania in the 2020-2021 American Computer Science League (ACSL) Classroom Division. The competition consists of four exams administered from December to May on circuit diagrams, logic, counting systems, data structures and programming languages. The top three student scores in each round are submitted as part of the team score. **Ariella Avigad**, **Lars Barkman**, **Josh Castro**, **Braden Crow**, **Tyler Hart**, **Steven Liu**, **Angela Xue** and **Nick Zana** contributed to SSA's team score over the course of the year.

New Endowed Dr. Craig T. Kerins '63 Chair in English

Shady Side Academy announced the endowment of a new faculty chair in English. The Dr. Craig T. Kerins '63 Chair of English, made possible by a generous gift from Kristi Kerins in honor of her brother, will assure exceptional instruction in English through the ongoing recruitment and retention of superior faculty. Senior School English teacher Jeff Miller was named the inaugural Dr. Craig T. Kerins '63 Chair of English at the Faculty/Staff Closing Days Celebration on June 11 and will serve a five-year term.

Dr. Craig T. Kerins '63 is a retired board-certified orthopedic surgeon in Augusta, Ga. Growing up he was, in his own words, an "uninspired and unmotivated student." His parents enrolled him in Shady Side Academy in 10th grade hoping he would be challenged and motivated. His three years at SSA were the most challenging of his life, transforming him into a strong, confident young man. He lettered in football and wrestling, served on student council and was an artist for the humor magazine. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Dartmouth College, a master's degree in biology from the University of Richmond and an M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia, completing his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

"The opportunities and mentoring I received at Shady Side changed my life," said Dr. Kerins. "I had many great, memorable teachers at Shady Side, but Dick Gregory – Mr. Gregory to me – stands above them all. He was strict but kind. Everything was an educational opportunity. He loved the school, the students and his vocation. That was quietly evident to all of us."



Senior School Head Trixie Sabundayo, Kerins Chair Jeff Miller and Academy President Bart Griffith '93

"Although Craig and I attended independent schools for a brief three years, they were incredibly impactful years on the trajectories of our lives," said Kristi Kerins, a former head of school at independent schools. "It seemed right and fitting to honor our parents in a special way for all that they sacrificed to provide us with a great education and experiences at independent schools that were nothing less than transformative in our lives."

"Through its support of our English faculty, this gift will benefit generations of Shady Side Academy students to come," said President **Bart Griffith '93**.

With the establishment of the Kerins Chair, a total of six endowed chair appointments are available to SSA faculty, made possible by generous gifts from SSA community members to the faculty endowment.



SSA Celebrates MLK Days of Service 2021

Shady Side Academy celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the 11th annual SSA MLK Days of Service across all four campuses in January. Although unable to send teams of volunteers into the community or invite parents to join service activities on campus, SSA kept this important tradition alive by engaging students in educational and service activities.

Country Day School students celebrated Dr. King's legacy during a virtual assembly where students and faculty sang together, listened to an author's reading of *Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.?* and shared student artwork. Following the assembly, students participated in a "Peace Project," where each class studied and created a WordFoto about a person who championed peace and equity.

The Junior School celebrated MLK Day with a virtual all-school assembly, where students learned about Dr. King and how he worked to make the world a better place and listened to clips from his *I Have A Dream* speech. Students also listened to a conversation between sixth grader **Julian Brown** and his father, Jonathan, about Dr. King's work and listened to a kindness song written by Julian. Teachers planned class activities and art projects to honor Dr. King as well.



Julian and Jonathan Brown

Middle School students commemorated MLK Day with a virtual all-school assembly, and then each grade watched and discussed one of Dr. King's speeches in their advisory.

Senior School students participated in an advisory group activity to raise their awareness of homelessness in Pittsburgh, including a free-writing exercise, video and group discussion.

Through a multi-campus food drive, the Middle and Senior Schools combined to collect two carloads of donations for Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh's daytime shelters, which provide warmth and food to the homeless population during the cold winter months.



Author Lisbeth Kaiser

Middle & Senior Schools Support Homeless Children's Education Fund

Led by junior **Vanessa Han**, the Senior School Service Learning Club raised more than \$800 in February for the Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF), which supports the education of homeless youth in Allegheny County. The club sold "HCEF + SSA" stickers produced in SSA's Glimcher Tech and Design Hub and raffled off gift baskets to raise the funds. At the Middle School, seventh grader **Ariya Nahata** gave a presentation on HCEF during an all-school assembly, then organized a "penny war" fundraiser, with the winning advisory in each grade earning the chance to pie teachers and students in the face. The effort raised \$1,883 for HCEF – an auspicious number since it is the year of Shady Side's founding!



Senior School Public Health Club Raises \$700 for COVID-19 Relief in India

Sophomore **Smrithi Shyam** and the Senior School Public Health Club raised more than \$700 to send equipment such as oxygen concentrators, PPE and testing kits to India through UNICEF during the COVID-19 crisis. Club members designed and sold "Make A World of Difference" T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts and hosted a bake sale in May to raise the funds.

Third Grade Collects 270 Pajamas for Foster Love Project

Third graders at the Junior School held a weeklong pajama drive to support the Foster Love Project, a Pittsburgh nonprofit that offers a free shopping center for kids in foster care. Students collected 270 pajamas, which were delivered to the Foster Love Project on May 11.

NATIONAL BULLDOG DAY DONATION DRIVE BENEFITS FURKID RESCUE

In honor of SSA's new school mascot and National Bulldog Day on April 21, all four campuses held a donation drive for FurKid Rescue, a foster-based animal rescue nonprofit organization based in Pittsburgh. On April 28, donations were delivered to FurKid Rescue, which included 15 crates, 26 beds, 37 bags of pet food and treats, more than 200 toys and more.



Freshman Leads School Supply Drive for Hello Neighbor

In January, Senior School freshman **Deven Nahata** organized a school supply drive to support Hello Neighbor, a nonprofit founded by alumna **Sloane (Berrent) Davidson '97** that supports resettled refugees in Pittsburgh. Senior School students and families donated calculators, binders, folders, crayons, markers, coloring books, colored paper, pens, pencils, backpacks and other craft materials. On Feb. 3, Deven and his mother delivered the donations, which nearly filled their car trunk, to Hello Neighbor. The items were distributed to refugee children in the Pittsburgh area.



STUDENT PERFORMANCES

1. Country Day School First Grade Restaurant
2. Country Day School Second Grade Wax Museum
3. Junior School Pre-Kindergarten Alphabet Parade
4. Junior School Third Grade State Fair
5. Junior School Fourth Grade Greek Museum
6. Middle School Winter Musical Variety Show
7. Senior School Spring Musical, *NOW. HERE. THIS.*
8. Senior School Digital Theater Festival





SSA Hosts COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for Local Educators & Students

Shady Side Academy partnered with Rite Aid to host two sets of COVID-19 vaccine clinics in the spring to help local educators and students get vaccinated as quickly as possible. On March 12 and April 10, more than 400 teachers and staff from SSA and nine other PK-12 schools received the two-shot Moderna vaccine from Rite Aid pharmacists in Curry Gym on the Senior School campus. When ages 16 and up became eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, SSA hosted a second set of clinics on April 24 and May 15, where more than 150 SSA and area high school students were vaccinated.



Junior School Hosts Third Annual International Fair

On March 18, the Junior School hosted its third annual International Fair, where students learned about the diversity of cultures and heritages within their school community.

Students were taken on a virtual flight around the world, boarding "SSA Air" to virtually visit 12 countries, immersing themselves in a new culture with each stop. A total of 21 families volunteered to bring the countries of China, Croatia, India, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Peru, Phillipines, Serbia and Sudan to life through presentations that included narration, video, photos, music, cooking demonstrations and more.

New Academy Administrators



Dr. Armani Davis Chief Talent Recruitment and Development Officer

In this new role, Dr. Armani Davis is dedicated to the recruitment and professional growth of SSA's faculty and staff. He was previously a faculty member at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's

College of Education and Communications, serving as a Frederick Douglass Institute Scholars Fellow, instructing courses for aspiring teachers and communications professionals, and coordinating student teaching. He also was the faculty lead for the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs at Pittsburgh's Coro Center for Civic Leadership and served in leadership roles at Robert Morris University, Urban Innovation21 and The Pittsburgh Promise. A native of Pittsburgh, Dr. Davis holds a B.A. in integrated marketing communications from Duquesne University, an M.A. in communications from Edinboro University, and a Ph.D. in instructional management and leadership from Robert Morris University.

"Dr. Armani Davis brings a wealth of experience in instructional leadership, mentoring practices and community outreach," said President **Bart Griffith '93**.



Sean Simmons Director of Athletics

Sean Simmons succeeded **Gene Deal**, who concluded his 31-year tenure as AD to become an alumni engagement officer for SSA. Simmons was previously director of athletics for the Pine-Richland School District, where he oversaw one of

Western Pennsylvania's outstanding athletic programs. Prior to Pine-Richland, he served more than a decade as an associate athletic director at Robert Morris University, four years as an academic coordinator for student-athletes at the University of Virginia, and six years at The Hun School of Princeton, where he taught math, coached soccer, basketball and track, and was an advisor, dorm parent and diversity coordinator. Born in Trinidad, Simmons earned a B.S. in finance at Seton Hall University and an M.S. in athletic administration from James Madison University.

"In Sean, we add a proven, established leader to our team, someone who will preserve Shady Side's most important traditions while guiding SSA athletics towards a dynamic, exciting future," said President **Bart Griffith '93**.



Bayh Sullivan Director of Enrollment

Bayh Sullivan joined SSA following the retirement of **Katie Mihm '83** and oversees strategic enrollment management, student recruitment, financial aid, retention and re-enrollment, as well as admissions processes, records and research.

She previously was director of enrollment management at The Ellis School in Pittsburgh, where she raised the admissions yield 12% over her seven years. She also spent three years as a consulting and client services manager for Generation, a branding and communications agency in New York City, where she devised multimedia marketing strategies for independent schools and colleges. A native of Pittsburgh, she is an alumna of Ellis and Bryn Mawr College and completed a Coro: Women in Leadership Fellowship.

"Bayh assumes this leadership role at a moment of great strength and opportunity for SSA," said President **Bart Griffith '93**. "And I believe she is uniquely poised and ready to help us seize and build upon this exciting momentum."



Dek Ingraham Hillman Center Executive Director and Senior School Performing Arts Chair

In this new role, Dek Ingraham leads the Senior School's performing arts program, overseeing faculty and classes in theatre and music, teaching theatre classes and

directing theatre productions. He oversees staff and programming at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts, including the Hillman Performing Arts Series and community performances, exhibitions and partnerships. He previously served in a variety of leadership roles at the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council for more than a decade and was director of the Pittsburgh New Works Festival since 2017. He assisted in teaching and was instrumental in designing the theatre minor at Chatham University, and taught directing workshops for South Park Theater. He holds a B.A. in theatre from Chatham University and is working toward his M.F.A. in theatre arts with a dual focus in directing and pedagogy from the University of Idaho.

"Dek's warmth, intelligence and commitment to student-centered teaching and the performing arts resonated with us," said Senior School Head **Trixie Sabundayo**. "He demonstrated that he could uniquely deepen SSA's performing arts offerings as well as expand the Academy's community partnerships, especially within Pittsburgh's thriving arts and cultural sector."

THE GENE DEAL FIELDS

Shady Side Academy has announced The Gene Deal Fields project, a transformative \$1.75 million athletic facilities initiative that will honor the extraordinary legacy of longtime SSA coach and former Director of Athletics **Gene Deal**.

In partnership with Strada LLC, a Pittsburgh-based design firm, Shady Side is transforming the lower grass athletic fields on the Senior School campus into a state-of-the-art outdoor sports complex featuring a number of critical enhancements, highlighted by a multi-use turf field lined for lacrosse, soccer, baseball, softball and field hockey. The project will include a dramatically improved spectator experience, including a new grandstand, viewing pavilion and terrace, a new scoreboard, and upgraded landscaping and walkways. There will also be new team dugouts and a batting tunnel for baseball and softball. In addition, the project will feature innovative drainage and storm management systems.

ENHANCED UTILITY & DURABILITY

With nearly 700 students enrolled in the Middle and Senior Schools and only one turf field supporting numerous athletic teams, first-rate field space is currently at a premium at Shady Side. This results in many teams having to play or practice on grass fields that are often unplayable due to adverse weather conditions, poor drainage, and wear and tear from a high volume of use. The Gene Deal Fields will be all-weather, all-season and durable enough to withstand constant use year-round, enabling more SSA teams the daily opportunity to develop their skills and compete.

UPGRADED SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY SPACE

The Gene Deal Fields will feature meaningful enhancements for spectators, significantly improving upon the wooden bleachers that previously overlooked the lower fields. At the moment, most fans must bring their own chairs or stand on the hillside while watching games. A new grandstand, terrace and pavilion will not only improve the spectator experience but also provide an outdoor gathering space conducive to events such as Homecoming tailgates, admissions open houses, and parent socials.

INCREASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VISIBILITY

The Gene Deal Fields will enable Shady Side to increase engagement with surrounding communities by making the facility available to youth, recreational and nonprofit organizations when not in use by SSA teams. Shady Side will also be able to host WPIAL and PIAA playoffs at this facility, something that will increase the Academy's visibility and community partnerships.

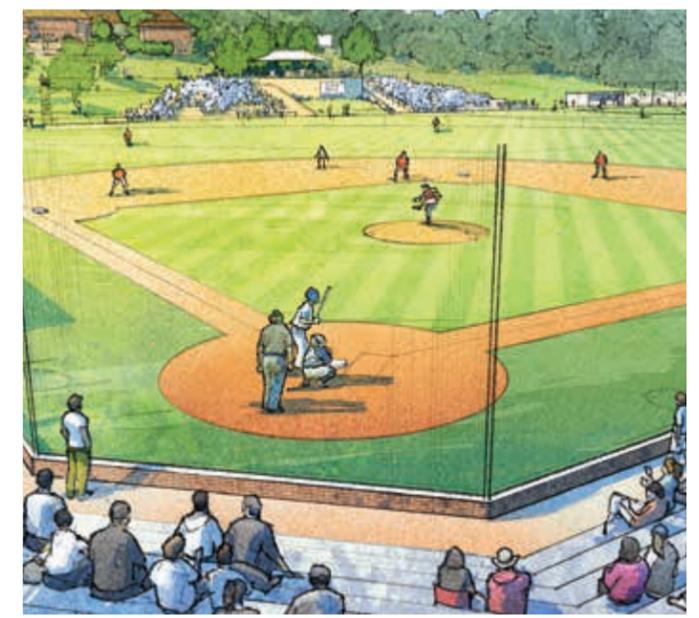
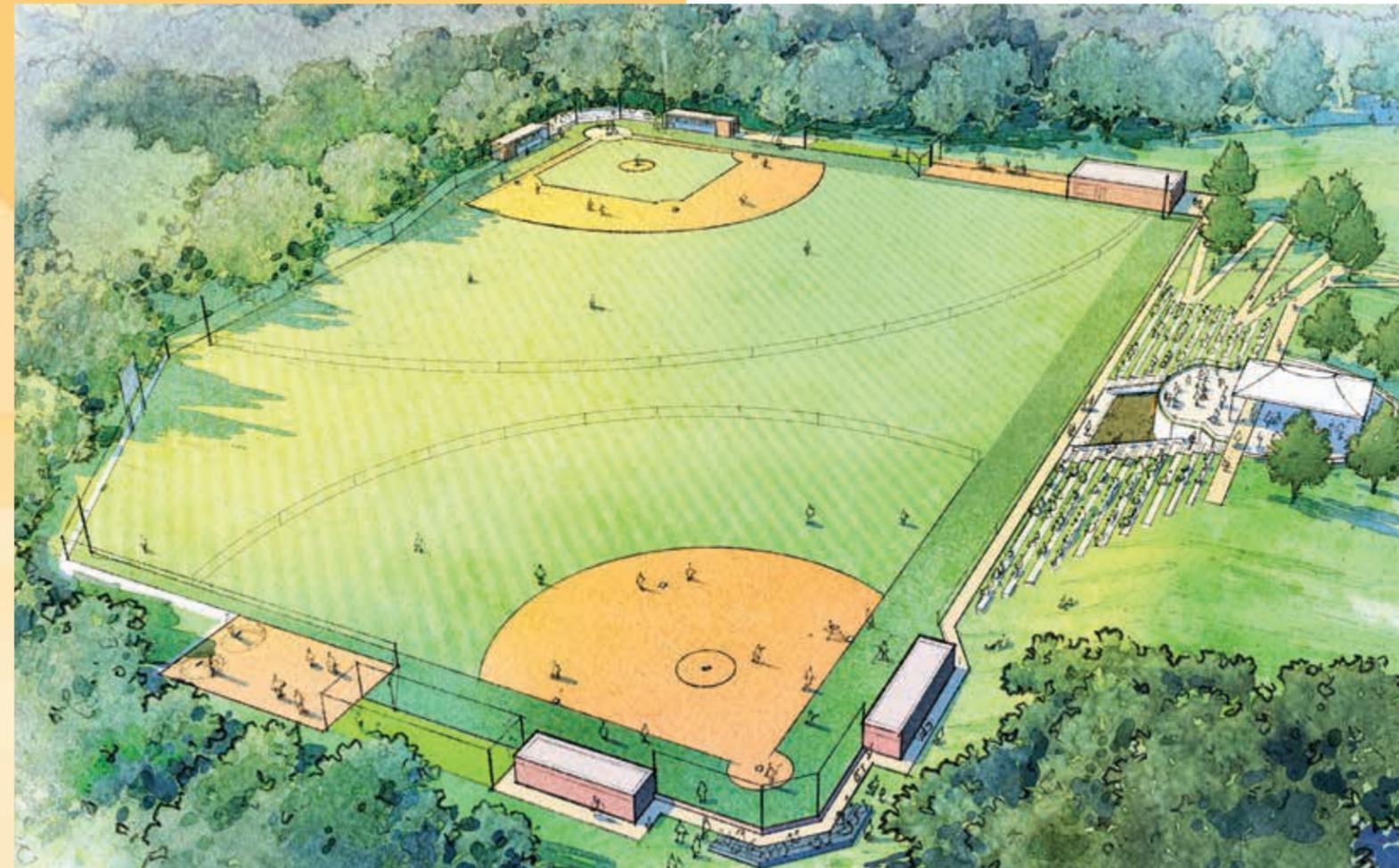
COST EFFECTIVENESS

While upfront base preparation of a newly sodded grass field is less costly than the installation of a multi-use turf field, the significant cost savings from turf over a period of years make it a much more financially sustainable option. Additionally, year-round rentals of the facility will provide auxiliary revenue to the Academy.

HONORING GENE DEAL

Hired in 1982 and appointed as SSA's fifth athletic director in 1990, Gene Deal has been a beloved figure at Shady Side for more than three decades. He played a central role in the Academy's 1992 decision to rejoin the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL). This was a bold, visionary move that meaningfully changed the face of SSA's athletic program, increasing its visibility and providing its teams with important competitive balance. Under Deal's leadership, Shady Side has won 64 WPIAL titles, four WIHLMA titles and 15 PIAA state championships in 18 different boys' and girls' sports since 1993. At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, Deal stepped down after 31 years as AD and assumed a new role as an alumni engagement officer at SSA.

*The \$1.75 million project is being funded entirely by donations, including a generous lead gift from the DSF Charitable Foundation and major gifts from a range of SSA community members. You can make a gift online at giving.veracross.com/SSA/GDF or for naming opportunities, contact **Dr. Allison Saras** at asaras@shadysideacademy.org or 412-968-3077.*



UPenn Partnership: The Social Innovators Program



OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP with the University of Pennsylvania and Schoolyard Ventures, the Social Innovators Program gives SSA Senior School students the tools and opportunity to build initiatives and organizations that positively impact society. A total of 38 Senior School students signed up for the inaugural session, which ran from Feb. 22 to May 23, 2021. The 12-week virtual program allows students to learn about social entrepreneurship and experience it first-hand, while earning a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from Penn. Shady Side is the only school in Pittsburgh participating in this unique initiative.

Building on the structure and tools provided by the program, students were inspired to complete a variety of projects, ranging from connecting gamers online to creating a better boarding school experience to helping veterans understand and utilize various new technology platforms.

Sophomore **Hannah Song** completed a project called #TheBeautyOf. She said, “My project is a teen support service focused on promoting a more convenient and comfortable environment for teen girls who don’t know how to seek support when struggling mentally. Through my platform, I strive to help teens build confidence to find and use their voices and share their stories by surrounding them with other teens going through similar experiences.” She created weekly mental routines based on finding beauty, the art of reflection and how to set boundaries. “I was extremely proud that more than 35 teen girls, ages 10-18, across four countries joined my platform over the course of the program.”

Junior **Maura Offstein** titled her project “RepFinance,” a program to assist teens in gaining exposure to financial news, specifically from the perspective of women and people of color. She said that she grew both academically and personally throughout the completion of her project. “Ultimately, I didn’t just build a service, but I also built invaluable relationships. Through the interviewing and experimentation process, I was able to build and create relationships both inside and outside of my community. I met one on one with my peers, professors and other professionals I had never met before, and even spoke with the individuals in SSA’s Business Office.”

Other service-based initiatives included a swimming academy, a companionship program for home-bound senior citizens, a program to improve relationships between police officers and people of color, and an online storytime program for children.

Other innovators created actual product prototypes, including junior **Dhilan Fye**, who designed “The Cup Organizer” to help make the lives of busy parents easier and more efficient. The device is designed to handle each household member’s drinking glass to limit the unnecessary use of multiple cups and save time. Fye said, “I designed and produced each piece in my father’s workshop. The Cup Organizer is placed next to the family’s water supply and when the family member is done drinking, they simply place the glass back in their designated spot, therefore allowing them to always know where it is. While it may seem like a simple piece, the target market consistently stated that the amount of dishwashing they did on a day-to-day basis was absurd, so I created this apparatus to help them.”

Other student-created products included a new non-dairy frozen dessert and an aromatic stress-relieving car clip for drivers.

Senior **Emory Anderson** experienced numerous benefits from the Social Innovators Program and said she would highly recommend the program to students. “Even if you are not interested in business/entrepreneurship, this is a really excellent experience to meet potential mentors and have the opportunity to try a new area without the consequences of failing.”

While the end products produced by SSA’s Social Innovators were impressive and may be lasting, what’s most important are the lasting skills, tools and takeaways they gain from such an experience: stronger problem-solving and project management skills, resilience, flexibility, increased comfort with risk-taking, self-confidence and so much more.

The Social Innovators Program is just one of the countless ways SSA works to cultivate skills and equip students to make a positive change in the world. For more information on the program, visit www.schoolyardventures.com/ssa.

2021 Social Innovators Projects



Maeve Kelley – The Maeve Kelley Swimming Academy

The Maeve Kelley Swimming Academy offers concierge, technique-focused swimming lessons to busy parents who want their children to improve their swimming skills. Kelly works with parents who want their kids to feel more confident and capable in their swimming abilities but don’t have time to find their kids a pool or private instructor.



Monica Singh – TailorThrift

TailorThrift is centered on people interested in thrifting and creating their own style in order to combat clothing waste. The project works to teach and encourage thrifters to upcycle or alter clothing when faced with sizing issues.



Avari Gupta – Reinventing Frozen Non-Dairy Desserts

In Reinventing Frozen Non-Dairy Desserts, Gupta created a new ice cream for those who suffer from lactose intolerance or simply don’t enjoy dairy for ethical or personal reasons. This new ice cream is predominantly made using a mix of cashews and oats, which is a combination that is not so commonly used and creates a satisfying texture.



Morgan Golden – Companionship with Elders

Companionship with Elders is focused on putting a smile on homebound elders’ faces and giving them a source of companionship. Golden does this by creating “quiet companions,” writing uplifting notes, and creating other positive crafts for these homebound elders to fulfill their need for companionship.



Caesar Curran-Blakely – Caesar’s Growth Methods

Caesar’s Growth Methods is designed to help small business owners who need help expanding their clientele.



Emory Anderson – UpWomen

UpWomen is focused on expanding and deepening the access to donations for women’s shelters in the Greater Pittsburgh area. It does so by training groups of people on how to coupon and shop for free and discounted products needed by women’s shelters.



Tiba Bakuri – Game Connect!

Game Connect! is focused on giving aid to those who are new to PC gaming by using a pen pal system. This system gives beginners a “guide” of sorts in the form of a more experienced gamer.



Riley Doyle – Boarding Better

Boarding Better merges the competitive spirit that most boarding students have with the opportunity to get to know others in their community. It does so by creating competitive events during a week focused on community bonding. Boarders are paired into teams and encouraged to get to know each other as they compete for a prize.



Santiago Maiz – LearnToGym

LearnToGym is a service in which Maiz walks teens his age through a normal day at the gym and shows them how to use the equipment properly, while providing a friendly presence making the experience far less stressful.



Andy Marous – Worn

Worn streamlines the experience for buyers of used sneakers. It analyzes each shoe to give it a unique price markdown based on wear, avoiding tedious bidding and reducing the need for back-and-forth communication between buyer and seller. It combines easy access to information with a specific price for a quick and hassle-free buying experience.



Maura Offstein – RepFinance

RepFinance helps teenagers get exposure to financial news specifically from the perspective of women and people of color. RepFinance curates high-quality resources and uses a system of mass text messaging to distribute simple, yet engaging content.



David Mnuskin – Minority & Low Income Kids in Tennis

Minority and Low Income Kids in Tennis is focused on helping low-income children get opportunities to play tennis in the city of Pittsburgh.



Selah Curran-Blakey – POC & Police Unite

POC & Police Unite is focused on creating more empathetic and trustworthy relationships between police officers and people of color (POC) who have or might experience police brutality in their lives. Curran-Blakey connects participants on each side using Instagram and Zoom calls.



Emily Michaelsen – The Soteria Project

The Soteria Project provides teens who may be experiencing emotional abuse with assessments to determine if they should seek help and with access to relevant resources. It also connects these teens with organizations that can help them address the challenges they are facing.



Caden Green – Internship Inquirer

Internship Inquirer reduces the time and effort put into internship searching for undergraduate engineering students by providing field-specific internships that are catered to students' interests and skill sets.



Stephanie Chen – Palliative Care Pen-Pal

Palliative Care Pen-Pal connects children who are enduring palliative care with high school students by allowing them to exchange letters to learn more about each others' life experiences.



Alexander Lynn – Asian Weekly Newsletter

The Asian Weekly Newsletter is focused on sharing current events that are relevant to the Asian-American Pacific Islander community. It sends weekly updates straight to readers' email inbox that are brief, informative and educational.



Joe Anania – Gym Education

Gym Education focuses on helping younger high school students develop confidence and a more profound understanding of what to do in the gym by pairing them with older high school students who are more experienced.



Charlie Karet – Equipment for Kids

Equipment for Kids is focused on expanding the access of underprivileged children to sports equipment by providing free basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls.



Dhilan Fye – The Cup Organizer

The Cup Organizer is designed to help make the lives of busy working parents easier and more efficient. The device is designed to handle each member of a household's drinking glass to limit the unnecessary use of multiple cups.



M. August Michels – Virtual Rowing Session

The Virtual Rowing Session focuses on the sport of crew and gives people the opportunity to experience a workout prepared by rowing coaches, and to learn the basics of the sport.



Cassidy Mineo – Perfect Practicing

Perfect Practicing is an online program that helps music students customize their practice schedules. Mineo meets with each participant to discuss their goals, talents and areas of improvement, then develops a schedule perfect for their musical ability and lifestyle.



Nichole Poltinnikov – Debate Discovery

Debate Discovery provides the formal training debaters need to perform well in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate format, a popular style of one-on-one competitive debate. The program offers a weekly Zoom class and a text/email hotline to answer questions.



Kevin Johnson – Tech for Vets

Tech for Vets is focused on expanding and furthering veterans' understanding of how to use various technology services, such as Instacart or Amazon. Johnson meets with veterans via Zoom to provide one-on-one technology help.



Maya Leyzarovich – Story Time with Maya

Story Time with Maya is an online Sunday night story time, where kids of all ages log on to enjoy different children's books. It allows youth to engage in contextual and critical thinking questions to build English proficiency.



Kai Perentis – Team Connect

Team Connect connects families of children with disabilities with local youth teams, giving these kids more social opportunities through sports.



Sara Burr – Women's Hockey Central

Women's Hockey Central is focused on raising awareness and opportunities around women's hockey.



Anker Zhao – Shady Side Study Buddies

Shady Side Study Buddies is a mobile app that focuses on streamlining the communication between students who need tutoring and their tutor. The app includes direct messages and scheduling features, while also allowing the student to choose a tutor based on a brief description.



Rohan Shrishrimal – Finance to You

Finance to You provides students with financial education via a virtual course led by a financial expert. In the meetings, students discuss financial topics that are most relevant and important to them.



Na'Khiya Ellis – Learning Differences

Learning Differences is a lesson plan focused on enhancing students' knowledge about learning differences. It allows students to engage in conversations and experience learning differences to obtain a better understanding of them.



Alexa Karet – Giant Eagle Composting

Giant Eagle Composting is a local service that helps people in Pittsburgh prevent food waste. By setting up a free drive-thru where customers can drop off food to be composted, busy people who care about the environment are able to make a difference with minimal hassle or investment.



Dylan Nauhaus – Arabic Club

Arabic Club is focused on trying to help people that want to learn Arabic. The student-led class was built around the kind of language education that students can get excited about.



Bree Murphy – De-Stressing Drivers

De-Stressing Drivers is an aromatic car clip filled with essential oils to help new drivers, and drivers in general, relieve stress while driving.



Gretchen Chalmers – Unwind Worksheet

Unwind Worksheet is an accessible and easy outlet for teens struggling with mental health. Through a worksheet, filled out every night before bed, teens can express their thoughts and feelings surrounding daily highs, lows and stresses.



Hannah Song – #TheBeautyOf

#TheBeautyOf is a teen support service focused on promoting a more convenient and comfortable environment for girls who don't feel comfortable or know how to seek support when struggling mentally.



Chase Kuhleman

Kuhleman's project, which is unnamed, focused on connecting musicians and music lovers with local venues that remained open and played live music during the pandemic.



Cecelia Messner – Shady Side Art

Shady Side Art is working towards gaining recognition and business for artists at SSA by showing their work on social media and generating interest from other students and faculty.



Ben Bischoff – Derm-Assist

Derm-Assist helps people who have eczema or other skin diseases find skincare products tailored to their individual conditions. Derm-Assist requires personal input and then connects the patient with medication options from various sites and analyzes which ones best fit their personal needs.



BULLDOGS UNLEASHED

SSA REVEALS NEW ATHLETIC LOGOS AND BRANDING

Shady Side Academy unleashed a new era of school spirit when it revealed the new Bulldogs logos and branding to the SSA community on Friday, May 28. The virtual live-streamed event, called “Bulldogs Unleashed,” was hosted by President **Bart Griffith '93** and featured a high-energy logo reveal video, the SSA cheerleaders, and remarks from Griffith and outgoing Athletic Director **Gene Deal**. After the event, T-shirts with the new Shady Side Bulldogs logo were distributed to all PK-12 students, faculty and staff.



“Shady Side Academy’s new Bulldog brand exemplifies the historic values of our community: determination, pride, strength, excellence, intelligence and respect,” said Griffith. “At the same time, it is entirely of the moment: accessible, engaging and with a modern aesthetic appropriate for a school seeking to lead in a changing world. This bold and unique branding will serve our community well for generations to come.”

“What a great day for Shady Side Academy,” said Deal. “We finally have great-looking logos and branding that match the high quality of all of our athletic programs. I can’t wait to see our students, parents, alumni and fans wearing the SSA Bulldog with pride at games, on campus and in the community.”

Immediately after the reveal event, Bulldog pride was evident across the SSA community. A limited number of SSA Bulldog T-shirts and hats went on sale in the SSA Spirit Store and began flying off the shelves as orders rolled in from parents, alumni, and students. New Shady Side Bulldog banners were hung on each campus to greet families and visitors. On Tuesday, June 1, students, faculty and staff wore their new Bulldog T-shirts to school. And on Friday June 4, at Senior School Commencement, Griffith led the processional into Farrell Stadium walking a real bulldog, outfitted in a sparkling blue and gold cape.

The new Bulldogs logos and branding were designed by Rickabaugh Graphics, a nationally renowned firm based in Ohio that has created award-winning brands for hundreds of professional teams, colleges, K-12 schools and sports organizations nationwide.

The SSA Bulldogs athletics and spirit branding family includes 15 primary, secondary and tertiary marks, plus sport-specific marks for each athletic team. The primary logo and wordmark feature the face of a strong, determined bulldog wearing an “S” dog tag inside a shield, which symbolizes strength. Above the shield are the words “Shady Side” in a custom font and “Bulldogs” in a gold banner with a keystone-like shape, in a nod to the state of Pennsylvania. Other primary marks include a “Bulldogs Athletics” wordmark and the bulldog head by itself, with or without the tag. Secondary marks include a full-body version of the bulldog, and “SSA” and “S” monograms alone or inside the shield. Tertiary marks such as a paw print, bone and keystone can be used as smaller accents on uniforms and merchandise.



The school’s brand colors of blue and gold were adjusted slightly. SSA Blue was darkened from PMS 541 to PMS 282, a deep navy blue, and SSA Gold was lightened a bit from PMS 124 to PMS 1235, the same gold used by the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Penguins and Pitt Panthers. The font used in all of the new marks was custom designed by Rickabaugh Graphics specifically for Shady Side and is called “Bulldog.”

The brand development process began in January 2021, shortly after SSA announced the Bulldog as its new mascot in late December. Rickabaugh Graphics was chosen through a competitive RFP process, in which proposals from seven different branding and design firms across the country were evaluated. A branding committee of SSA administrators, coaches, faculty, alumni, parents and trustees, chaired by Director of Communications **Jen Roupe**, was formed to lead the effort. The four-month process included a community-wide branding survey, multiple design concepts and rounds of revisions, and focus group testing with SSA students, alumni, parents, faculty, coaches, administrators and trustees.

“Our goal was to create a strong Bulldog brand that was unique to Shady Side, and we wanted to do it right – with an expert design partner and the input and feedback of our community along the way,” said Roupe. “Rickabaugh Graphics is simply the best at what they do, and we could not be more thrilled with the result. We believe the new SSA Bulldog branding will generate pride and enthusiasm among SSA community members of all ages.”

“Rickabaugh Graphics is extremely honored to have been part of creating the new Bulldog image for Shady Side Academy,” said owner Eric Rickabaugh. “SSA has a strong commitment

BULLDOG LOGOS



PRIMARY MARKS



PRIMARY WORDMARK



PRIMARY LOGO AND WORDMARK



BULLDOGS WORDMARK



BULLDOG HEAD WITH TAG



PRIMARY LOGO



BULLDOG HEAD

SECONDARY MARKS



MONOGRAM



BULLDOG MONOGRAM SHIELD



MONOGRAM SHIELD



S MONOGRAM SHIELD



S MONOGRAM



FULL BODY BULLDOG

TERTIARY MARKS



PAW



BONE



KEYSTONE



"SHADY SIDE ACADEMY'S NEW BULLDOG BRAND EXEMPLIFIES THE HISTORIC VALUES OF OUR COMMUNITY: DETERMINATION, PRIDE, STRENGTH, EXCELLENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND RESPECT."

– President Bart Griffith '93

to excellence, and it was important that the new athletic brand match that same level of high achievement. The redesign process was a careful and conscientious undertaking led by the SSA administration, and the school's commitment to including the entire SSA community in the process is to be commended. Without question, the input of SSA stakeholders helped tremendously in the shaping of the new look. We believe the new logos capture the pride, energy and innovation that will continue to move Shady Side Academy into a very bright future."

Over the summer, the next phase of the SSA Bulldogs brand rollout got underway. Rickabaugh Graphics created Bulldog-branded designs that will be phased in to SSA's athletic playing surfaces, including the Peter Sauer '95 Court in Mellon Gym, the ice rink in McKnight Hockey Center, the McKelvy Field turf in Farrell Stadium, and the turf in the new Gene Deal Fields athletic complex (see story on page 12).

A kid-friendly Bulldog mascot costume is being designed, so that the SSA Bulldog can perform and engage with community members of all ages at athletic contests and school events. Plans are in the works for selecting and training mascot performers, as well as a "Name the Bulldog Mascot" contest in the fall.

A limited inventory of SSA Bulldog T-shirts and hats are on sale in the SSA Spirit Store at <https://store.shadysideacademy.org>, with a larger inventory of Bulldog merchandise expected to be available in the fall.

Watch the logo reveal video and learn more about the mascot search and branding process at www.shadysideacademy.org/mascot.

2021

SENIOR SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT



Lifers



Senior speaker Raymond Zheng

Shady Side Academy celebrated the 117 members of the Class of 2021 during Commencement Exercises on June 4, 2021. The in-person ceremony was held outdoors at Michael J. Farrell Stadium for seniors and their guests. Academy President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed families to the celebration, and Alumni Council President **Mollie Hanna Lang '99** welcomed the Class of 2021 to the ranks of Shady Side alumni. Senior Annabel Everett presented the class gift, recognizing the SSA Facilities staff for their tireless work this year to make in-person learning possible for every student. Seniors **Eve Mango** and **Raymond Zheng** delivered senior speeches, and longtime Director of Athletics **Gene Deal** delivered the graduation address. The ceremony concluded with a reception at the Farrell Stadium Entrance Plaza. For additional photos, videos and a list of senior award winners, visit shadysideacademy.org/commencement.



Senior speaker Eve Mango



Class of 2021

CLASS OF 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

COLLEGE MATRICULATION



117 graduates will attend
77 colleges in
26 STATES
plus D.C., France and Scotland

Admitted to
195
colleges and universities

61% overall admit rate vs. global average of 39%

79% will attend college out of state



14% will play college athletics in **8** different sports

54% will attend a *US News & World Report* Top 50 National University or Liberal Arts College



26% will attend a *US News & World Report* Top 25 National University or Liberal Arts College

58% will attend a Barron's "most competitive" college

6 WILL ATTEND an Ivy League or Ivy Plus college

Admitted to the most selective (<25%) schools at **2x THE NATIONAL RATE**

1 WILL ATTEND a U.S. service academy

SSA EXPERIENCE

21% are "lifers" who attended SSA from grades K-12

47% attended SSA Middle School



23% participated in the Senior School boarding program

30% completed an independent study or senior project

7 earned a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from UPenn via the new Social Innovators Program

17% were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program

34% participated in the performing arts (theatre production or musical ensemble)

82% lettered in at least one varsity sport;
47% lettered in two or more

HELPED 5 SSA athletic teams win **11** league championships



SHADY SIDE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST

- Allegheny College (2)
- American University (2)
- Amherst College
- Auburn University
- Barnard College
- Bates College
- Boston University (2)
- Bowdoin College
- Bucknell University (2)
- Carnegie Mellon University (3)
- Case Western Reserve University (2)
- Colby College
- College of Wooster
- Colorado College
- Dartmouth College (2)
- Davidson College
- Denison University (2)
- DePaul University
- Dickinson College
- Emerson College
- Emory University (4)
- Fairfield University
- Ferris State University
- Georgetown University (2)
- Harvard University
- High Point University
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Indiana University Bloomington (2)
- Kenyon College
- Le Cordon Bleu Paris
- Lehigh University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Mercyhurst University
- Miami University (2)
- Montana State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- Muhlenberg College
- Niagara University
- Northwestern University (3)
- Paul Smith's College
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University (2)
- Rhodes College
- Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Saint Francis University
- Saint Louis University
- Skidmore College
- Spring Arbor University
- St. Lawrence University (2)
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- Texas Christian University
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- United States Naval Academy
- University of California Berkeley (2)
- University of California San Diego
- University of Chicago (2)
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (3)
- University of Kentucky
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan (2)
- University of Minnesota
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh (4)
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of St. Andrews
- University of Tennessee
- University of Wisconsin (2)
- Virginia Tech
- Wake Forest University (3)
- Washington & Jefferson College (2)
- Washington and Lee University
- Washington University in St Louis (3)



JUNIOR SCHOOL GRADUATION



MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION



The 70 members of the Middle School's Form II class were officially promoted to the Senior School on June 9, 2021, at the Middle School Closing Exercises. The ceremony was held in the Richard E. Rauh Theater of the Hillman Center for Performing Arts for eighth graders and their families. Academy President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed everyone to the celebration and Head of Middle School **Amy Nixon** presented several student awards. **Sophia Gombos** was the Form II student speaker, as voted by her classmates. Afterwards, the Class of 2025 and their families enjoyed a reception on the Mary Hillman Jennings Plaza.

Class of 2025



The 35 members of the Junior School's fifth grade class were officially promoted to the Middle School at the Closing Exercises ceremony on June 8, 2021. The ceremony was held in Withers Gymnasium for fifth graders and their families. A fifth grade slideshow was shown, and the fifth graders presented precepts inspired by the book *Wonder*. Head of Junior School **Brad Davies** delivered remarks to the graduates and, along with Academy President **Bart Griffith '93**, presented graduation certificates. Following the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed an outdoor reception.



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL GRADUATION



Speaker Jake Rohr '21



The 17 members of Country Day School's fifth grade class were officially promoted to the Middle School at the outdoor Closing Exercises ceremony on June 7, 2021. Fifth graders gave three-word reflections, read class poems by Joyce Sidman and sang songs. SSA Class of 2021 graduate and CDS lifer **Jake Rohr** gave the graduation address. Head of Country Day School **Dr. Jennifer Asmonga** and President **Bart Griffith '93** presented the graduates with their certificates. Families enjoyed a small reception following the ceremony.



Class of 2028



FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

POSNER AWARD WINNERS

The Posner Award for Meritorious Faculty Performance is presented annually to up to two faculty members at Shady Side who, through their special 'gift of teaching' and mentoring, have affected, in a highly special way, the learning, development and lives of one or more individual students. The 2021 recipients are Country Day School librarian Courtney Anderson and Junior School physical education teacher Karen DiFiore.

Karen DiFiore

Known for her infectious enthusiasm, creative teaching, authentic kindness and occasional laugh-inducing outfits, Karen DiFiore always spreads joy at the Junior School campus.

A committed colleague who regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty, DiFiore made surprise visits to Academy families during COVID-19 distance learning. Many students would look outside their window, only to see DiFiore dressed in an inflatable hippo-unicorn costume, dancing and waving.

One colleague said, "She is always willing to chip in and contribute to make the Junior School a brighter place to be every day – for students, parents and colleagues."

Whether in the Junior School gym or leading a team of young cross country runners, she is known to encourage students to push harder, reach further and always aim high.

A parent said, "Mrs. DiFiore is a joyful presence and a gift to all that she meets. She is known as a top teacher and impressive human being."



Courtney Anderson

Known to always put what is best for students at the forefront of everything that she does, Country Day School Librarian Courtney Anderson rose to the challenge of this school year by making video recorded book talks. One parent said, "She took the time to make each child feel unique and special by selecting an individual book that she knew was right for each student."

In addition to reimagining the library, Anderson also took on the challenge of teaching STEEM for the first time. Her STEEM classroom was filled with gardens, shade structures and even a makeshift bear habitat. She found new ways to explore the CDS campus and made STEEM concepts come alive through the careful planning of engaging and hands-on lessons.

As another parent described, "Her demeanor and her patience and her genuine interest in finding what makes her students 'tick' to enhance their learning shines through in each project... It is something special for a mother to be able to see a teacher know and care for her child."

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Farrell Award for Exceptional Interactions with Students

Pamela Onest
Middle School English Teacher

Amy Yam
Senior School
Mathematics Teacher

Kenneth M. Raymond Vasko Memorial Award
Andrea Cespedes
Middle School Spanish Teacher

Farrell Award for Going Above and Beyond

Mary Lynch
Senior School English Teacher

Claudine Runnette
Country Day School
Student Services

Melanie Smith
Junior School Science
Teacher

Farrell Award for Innovative Educators

Chris Donato
Junior School Music Teacher

Stefanie Vorrasi
Middle School Art Teacher

Class of 1961 Faculty Award for Excellence
Justin Jackson-Strong
Senior School Mathematics
Teacher

Ruth and F. Walter Jones Service Prize

Gene Deal
Athletic Director

President's Award for Distinguished Staff Service

Mark Medina
Academy Mail Courier

Tom Vilsack '68

SERVING A SECOND STINT AS U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS /
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT at Shady Side Academy, Tom Vilsack '68 was so fascinated by politics that he carried around a copy of Herbert Humphrey's book *The Politics of Joy*, sometimes tucking it into his back pocket.

At Hamilton College in upstate New York, Vilsack met a girl he liked. "His pickup line was, 'Are you Democrat or Republican?'" said his lifelong friend and classmate, Douglas Campbell '68. Fortunately, Christie Bell was a fellow Democrat, and the romance flourished as Vilsack went on to law school.

While most aspiring politicians move to power centers such as Washington, D.C., New York City or Los Angeles, Vilsack married Christie and settled down in her rural hometown of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where he became a small-town lawyer.

Say goodbye to Tom Vilsack, Campbell thought as he drove away from his best friend's wedding, surrounded by cornfields. "I figured that was the last I would hear of him." Who launches a prominent political career from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa?

But to his and other people's astonishment, Vilsack not only became the mayor of the tiny town – the post opened up after a tragic public shooting – he went on to become a state senator, the governor of Iowa, a presidential candidate, and then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Barack Obama.

And now, at the age of 70, he is doing something even more remarkable – serving a second stint as Secretary of Agriculture under President Joe Biden.

"No one has ever come back as Secretary of Agriculture," Vilsack said.

Campbell said his friend's career is a testament to his ability to do good no matter where he is. "He applied himself and did a good job," said Campbell, founding partner of Campbell & Levine law firm in Pittsburgh. "He never said, 'I am stuck out in the middle of nowhere.' Instead, he said, 'Let's make things better,' and people rallied behind him."

Vilsack was surprised to get a call from Biden shortly after the 2020 election. The president-elect floated the possibility of a second stint at the Department of Agriculture, though he was still considering several other candidates.

Vilsack wasn't sure he would get the job. He figured there were so many qualified people aiming for those few prestigious and powerful jobs in the cabinet. He had the privilege of doing it once, and he figured that it was someone else's turn.

Secretary Vilsack greets a colleague at the USDA Whitten Building in Washington, D.C.

Secretary Vilsack and EPA Administrator Michael Regan met with agriculture and energy leaders, and a group of Future Farmers of America.

Secretary Vilsack attended an interview at the White House in Washington, D.C., after being sworn in for a second time as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.



Then, in early December 2020, he got another call from Biden. He wanted him back.

Vilsack was honored to be asked to return to Washington. He wasn't sure, though, if his wife would have the same enthusiasm. After all, the couple had been in public service for more than four decades. Maybe she would tell him it was time to move on. She had always been his political partner and confidant, the rock by his side.

"Christie, what do you think of going back?"

"You've got more to do," she told him.

In accepting the job, Vilsack asked Biden to tell the public that the president-elect had approached him, not the other way around. "I didn't want them to think I was backdooring it," he said.

The last time he started as Secretary of Agriculture, it was a different world. The country was in an economic depression because of the subprime mortgage crisis. When Biden became president, the country and world faced an even more dire crisis – COVID-19.

"We knew we had to act quickly and decisively with the American Rescue Plan," Vilsack said. "The President basically was saying that we need to get the vaccines out to people."

Heading up the agricultural department a second time, his priorities also have shifted to promoting initiatives to combat climate change. "We are encouraging farmers to undertake certain practices in their farms that sequester and store carbon and convert it to methane." That, in turn, could be used to create a natural, renewable biofuel to replace fossil fuels. "We also want them to think differently about agricultural waste and manure" by applying it more precisely to avoid overuse, which can be harmful to the environment, Vilsack said.

Another goal is to address the racial inequities in the agricultural assistance programs.

"For almost 100 years, policies and practices have either discriminated against socially disadvantaged producers – Black farmers, Hispanic farmers, Native American partners, Asian Pacific farmers – or limited access to USDA programs and assistance." At the same time, White farmers have received assistance that



Secretary Vilsack is (virtually) sworn in as the 32nd Secretary of Agriculture by Vice President Kamala Harris on Feb. 24, 2021.

That's where he got the political bug, winning a state senate seat before running for Governor.

The 1998 Iowa gubernatorial race was an uphill battle. "We hadn't elected a Democrat in the governor's office in 30 years, and I was down by 23 points with three weeks to go. Because of the lesson of not giving up here, I ended up winning." He served as governor from 1999 to 2007.

During the 2008 presidential election, he threw his hat into the race but withdrew as Obama's popularity exploded. Then he was asked to join Obama's cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture, a great honor, serving the full duration of both of Obama's terms.

Vilsack had never been a farmer himself, but as a small-town lawyer in Iowa, he came to learn about their lives. "I represented farmers during the 1980s when there were some serious challenges for farmers. I learned how tough the farming business is every single day. They're just good, good folks."

Vilsack acknowledges that politics has become tougher than ever. "But on the other hand, there are very few places in life where you can impact and affect people's lives in a direct and positive way. My department is currently providing nutrition assistance to 43 million Americans. We are making meals better from a nutritional standpoint for up to 30 million children in America in schools every day."

Campbell said the power and publicity have never changed his childhood friend.

Sometimes, when Vilsack made the long drive from Iowa to Washington, D.C., he would make a stop in Pittsburgh. Once, Campbell got a taste of the VIP treatment when they went to a Penguins game together in a black vehicle with a driver and flashing lights, accompanied by state police. "We would drive up to the ramp by the door to the arena. Everyone would say, 'Who is that? You can see how seductive it could be. But it never got the best of him. He is unassuming.'"

Even as politics has become uglier and more partisan, Campbell said his friend has managed to stay above the fray. "It's a blood sport," he said. "He is untainted by scandal. I am really proud of him."

The teenager who kept Herbert Humphrey's words in his back pocket still loves politics.

allowed them to purchase modern equipment and maximize their harvest. The Department of Agriculture will relieve the debt for up to 16,000 socially disadvantaged farmers who have either borrowed directly from the USDA or borrowed from a bank with a USDA guarantee. "We are creating opportunities for the socially disadvantaged producers so the gap is reduced."



VILSACK CAME FROM humble beginnings – he was born in the Roselia Foundling Asylum and Maternity Hospital, an orphanage in the Hill District. He was adopted at age 1. He grew up in Squirrel Hill, just a few blocks from Campbell. The two met in nursery school and stayed close throughout their lives.

Both boys transferred to Shady Side Academy for high school. Vilsack struggled mightily his sophomore year, nearly flunking out. He had to adjust to a more rigorous school, and he was dealing with turmoil at home. His parents were separated, and his mother was addicted to alcohol and prescription drugs. Living through that experience would give him empathy decades later when he was helping to combat the opioid crisis during the Obama administration.

Vilsack thought about dropping out of Shady Side. "I was ready to quit," he said. "Friends like Doug are a large reason why I stuck it out. They reinforced that there was something in me that was worth not giving up on," he said when he and Campbell returned to campus for their 50th reunion and gave a speech to students.

Farm Aid President Willie Nelson and Pennsylvania Farmers Union Vice President and farmer Michael Kovach talk with Secretary Vilsack via Zoom in May 2021.

"I learned an incredibly important life lesson at Shady Side – an understanding of what to do with failure. You are going to experience failure in your life. And it's better to experience it early in life and learn from it, so that you're in a position to deal with it when it happens later in life."

He said he wasn't a natural athlete, but he liked the friendships he made on the football team. He was a lineman, and Campbell was a quarterback on the JV team. "He didn't run fast, but he had a big heart," Campbell said. "He was big and could block."

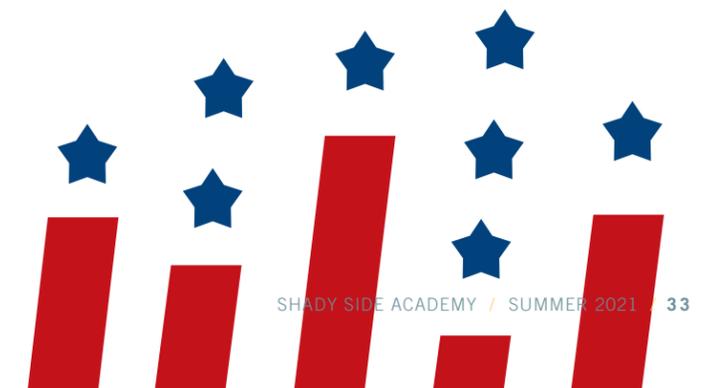
He also ran against Campbell for student council president. Campbell won by promising to repair the water fountains so students wouldn't have to lean in so close to get a drink. He made Vilsack his vice president. "He learned his first lesson in politics," Campbell quipped.

It was one of the only times Vilsack lost an election.

Vilsack said his Shady Side education enabled him to go to Hamilton College. "It's a fairly well-known, small college in upstate New York where I met my wife. If I hadn't met Christie, I wouldn't be talking to you as Secretary of Agriculture. I would not have had the level of success had she not been so supportive and such a tremendous advisor."

After he attended Albany School of Law, the couple moved to Iowa, and his father-in-law offered him a job at his practice. "I probably would still be there practicing law, but the mayor of that small town was shot and killed in a council meeting" by an angry citizen.

Vilsack had been active in the community, raising money for new youth athletic facilities. So when tragedy struck, the people in town encouraged him to fill the void. He was elected mayor in 1987 and held the position until 1992.





Negotiation is a basic toolkit to achieve two things – How do I get what I want? How do I leave the relationships with the people involved as good as or better than I found them?”

ALISON FRAGALE '93

Negotiating Success

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS /

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EILEEN MOLONY PHOTOGRAPHY

An employer with two job openings offers one to a male candidate and the other to a female.

The man says, “Thank you. Let’s talk terms.”

The woman says, “Thank you. I will start on Monday.”

This happens all the time, said Alison Fragale '93, an organizational psychologist and expert in human behavior. Women’s reluctance to negotiate for themselves – and the resentment they face if they do – is one of the topics she studies as a professor at the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School.

“For most people, negotiating conjures up a set of characteristics that we associate much more with men than with women – dominance, confidence, assertiveness, etc.,” said Fragale. “Women are supposed to be warm and nurturing. The idea of negotiating for yourself creates this conflict between how they think they need to be and what feels comfortable. So, what ends up happening is that women think, ‘I can’t do that. If I do, people won’t like me.’ So, they often don’t negotiate for themselves – leaving things on the table, rather than risk disapproval from the person across the table.”

Research shows that one of the biggest differences between men and women is the willingness to negotiate in the first place. If they do ask for more money, a better job title, more vacation, they often are judged as too aggressive, she said.

As a consultant for corporations and the military, Fragale advises women to figure out a way to ask for what they want without eliciting resentment. The key is to do it in a way that also conveys concern for the relationship.

For example, when Sheryl Sandberg joined the executive team of Facebook, she negotiated her salary with Mark Zuckerberg. In asking for more money, she explained how the skills she was demonstrating during the salary negotiation would help him down the road because she would be using it for the company. Fragale said Sandberg conveyed the message that it would be the only time she would be on the opposite side of the table as Zuckerberg.

“That kind of messaging is really effective for women. It’s good for men too, but for women, it’s a game-changer.”

Margaret Ann Neale, the Adams Distinguished Professor of Management, Emerita at Stanford University, said Fragale is one of a handful of female scholars in the country doing important research on gender differences in organizational behavior, among other topics. “Most of the research on negotiation is written by men. There are some clear exceptions, including Alison.”

As the mother of two boys and a girl, Fragale teaches her children how to negotiate for privileges from an early age. For example, her kids wanted to finish watching the last five

minutes of a television show instead of getting ready for school. She didn’t want them to be late for school. So she came up with a compromise – she would bring down their clothes and they could finish watching the program while getting ready. Both parties got what they wanted.

But another time, when the kids asked to win back weekday screen privileges, she asked them to come up with something that would make her budge. But they couldn’t come up with a good incentive, so they lost that negotiation.

“I truly believe everything is negotiable, except for a few things that are health or safety related,” she said.

Fragale lives in Chicago and teaches in North Carolina, an unconventional work arrangement. But when her husband wanted to move back to Chicago, she did exactly what she teaches other women to do – she negotiated a deal that worked for both parties. The plan was for her to fly south a few times a month and teach intensive seminars to graduate students.

Pre-COVID-19, she logged about 100,000 air miles a year, not only as a professor but as a keynote speaker and consultant to corporations around the world. She would also use the time in the air to write up the schedules of her three children, who are all named after Chicago and Pittsburgh sports figures. (For example, her oldest son’s first name is Jordan, after Michael Jordan, and his middle name is Bradshaw).

It was exhausting, but she and her husband coordinated their schedules to balance two high-powered careers with being involved parents. Sometimes it meant having “airport dates” at the Admiral’s Club before takeoff or after landing.

She also serves on the board of Great Lakes Academy (GLA), a charter school in southeast Chicago that serves Black and Latinx students. “It is one of the most underserved and underfunded public districts in Chicago, and GLA is a charter school created to provide a Shady Side Academy experience for children in that community.”

Neale, her former advisor at Stanford, is amazed at her many accomplishments. “Here is a woman who has three kids, and she volunteers not only for the kids but also in the community. She teaches an enormous amount, both in an academic environment and also with companies and corporations to try to help people become more effective in their negotiations and their leadership. It’s just stunning all the things she is able to accomplish.”

She also returned to her alma mater in January 2020 and led a leadership development retreat for the SSA leadership team at the request of her former SSA classmate, President Bart Griffith ’93.

Even as a teenager, Fragale had a knack for juggling responsibilities without getting flustered.

Fragale transferred to Shady Side Academy as a high school freshman and threw herself into all of the advanced math courses the school offered. In her senior year, she planned to take two advanced math classes – BC calculus and another with linear algebra and differential equations – but there was a problem in that they sometimes met on the same day and time. She approached Joe Felder, who taught one of the classes, and proposed a solution herself – she would make up the work from the classes she missed. “I basically went to him and negotiated,” she said.

He told her to go for it, and she excelled in both classes. “Mr. Felder was an amazing teacher. The fact that Shady Side was offering those classes in 1993 still amazes me.”

She also took a macroeconomics class, the kind of college-level class not found in many high schools at the time. “Shady Side was transformational for me in so many ways,” she said.

Fragale made lifelong friendships there, and stays in regular contact with Erin Mancuso Smith ’93, her field hockey teammate.

“Alison is incredibly bright, and she tackles everything effortlessly,” said Smith, an emergency room physician in Charlotte, N.C. “She took the highest level of calculus and never broke a sweat. She was very athletic and she’s also hysterically funny.”

After Shady Side, Fragale earned a Bachelor of Arts in math and economics at Dartmouth College, and she figured she would go into business. After all, her father ran an engineering firm, and it seemed like a good path. Thinking she would eventually get an MBA, she moved to Chicago to become a management consultant with McKinsey and Company. “I absolutely hated it,” she said.

She realized that the business career she had originally envisioned wasn’t for her. So, she cast around for a new path. She had always been interested in psychology and wanted to use the field to help others improve the work environment and create better leadership. She decided to pursue a Ph.D. in organizational psychology at Stanford University under the mentorship of Neale.

She also found creative ways to test theories, the hallmark of a good scholar, Neale said. “Alison was a delight to have as a student.”

In her dissertation, Fragale conducted research on status and speech, and found that when people use qualifiers in their speech – words like really, kind of, or maybe – it is usually associated with low status, and that women tend to use those qualifiers

more. But those speech patterns can be status-enhancing in groups that work interdependently. “Powerless speech signals warmth,” she said.

Now, as a consultant, she uses that kind of research to advise corporations on issues such as the different ways men and women respond to job ads. Women are reluctant to answer a job ad unless they have 100 percent of the qualifications listed, she said, while men only check off about 60 percent before deciding to apply.

That presents a problem when employers write what Fragale calls “unicorn” job ads, a long list of all the qualities they are seeking in the ideal candidate. But that isn’t meant to be realistic – it’s more an opening offer meant to kick off a negotiation process. The trouble is that many women feel intimidated and do not bother to apply.

Fragale advises corporations hoping to attract more women and minorities to rewrite their ads with this research in mind, so they don’t lose out on female prospects. For example, an ad may provide a list of ideal characteristics but indicate that they don’t expect candidates to have all of them.

Fragale also studies aspects of negotiation and power unrelated to gender. For example, with two people going back and forth, is it better to make an offer first or hold back and respond to the person?

Many people say it’s a good time to hang back and see what the other person offers. “But science says to go first,” she said. “When you go first, you start to constrain the other person’s thoughts around what’s possible. They get anchored to it, and you end up with a better outcome.”

By nature, humans are egocentric, she said, but good negotiators ask a lot of questions to find out what is important to the other person and what doesn’t matter. “Negotiation is a basic toolkit to achieve two things – How do I get what I want? How do I leave the relationships with the people involved as good as or better than I found them?”

Neale said Fragale is a natural negotiator. “She is an incredibly thoughtful person. She can help herself, but she also can take the perspective of other people and help them. She walks that tension very nicely.”

For Fragale, negotiating isn’t something that people should learn about only to get a better salary or a better price on a house or other formal contracts. She believes it is a useful skill that can help with almost every interpersonal experience in life.

It’s like math, a favorite subject of hers. Just as the basics of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division can be applied to a myriad of situations, so can the basics of negotiation. “It’s a skill set that you can apply to any kind of problem.”





WINTER

GIRLS SWIMMING

Varsity record: 5-3

Captains: Ashley Chu, Emory Anderson, Rory Engel

Highlight: Sophomore **Maeve Kelley** won two medals at the PIAA Class 2A Girls Championship. She won a silver medal for placing second in the 500 freestyle (5:03.22), and earned a fifth-place medal in the 200 freestyle (1:54.66). She won gold medals in both events at the WPIAL Championships. The 400 free relay team also earned a WPIAL medal, placing seventh.

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

Prep record: 11-14-2

Captains: Will Laychur, Porter Markel

Highlight: Boys prep hockey had a great season highlighted by winning the Alpha MLK Tournament in the U18 Division.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

Prep record: 3-3

Captains: Sara Burr and Aubrey Suttelle

Highlight: In a season that allowed for only six scrimmages, the girls remained focused on their individual training and worked to improve every day they could be on the ice.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Varsity record: 14-3

Captain: Rian Fitzgerald, Thompson Lau, Ethan Salvia

Highlight: The boys basketball team competed in the WPIAL Championships, suffering a tough quarterfinal loss to Ellwood City in overtime, 81-73. The team had a great overall record and is excited for next season.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Varsity record: 1-14

Captains: Nyla Rozier, Morgan Fox-Grellich, Antoinette Fitzgerald, Cecilia Messner

Highlight: This season, the team had their first inter-squad blue vs. white game. The game was both fun and competitive, coming down to a final shot at the buzzer to determine the winner. Every player on the team played and scored, which made it a memorable event for the team.

BOYS SWIMMING

Varsity record: 5-3

Captains: Andrew Liu, Raymond Zheng, Stefan Stratimirovic

Highlight: Due to COVID-19, the season was cut short, but the boys still earned five wins. Being able to be in the pool every day to train felt like a victory. Senior Stefan Stratimirovic placed seventh in the 100 butterfly to medal at the WPIAL Championships.

BOYS SQUASH

Prep record: 0-0

Captain: Noah Strauss

Highlight: Due to COVID-19, the team was not able to compete in any matches this season. The team used the time to improve basic skills and prepare for next season.

GIRLS SQUASH

Prep record: 0-0

Captains: Megan Dollard, Selma Kamin, Morgan Golden

Highlight: Due to COVID-19, the team was not able to compete in any matches this season. The team used the time to improve basic skills and prepare for next season.

Twelve More Seniors Sign with College Athletics Programs

Twelve more seniors signed letters committing to college athletics programs in March and May. The signees, who were joined by their coaches, college counselors, families and friends, included:

- **Caleb Massie** – Soccer, Spring Arbor University (NAIA)
- **Joey Mele** – Football, Case Western Reserve University (NCAA Division III)
- **Emory Anderson** – Soccer, University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
- **Erin Canning** – Soccer, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (NCAA Division III)
- **Joshua Castro** – Football, Muhlenberg College (NCAA Division III)
- **Bruce David** – Soccer, Bates College (NCAA Division III)
- **Colin Gramley** – Tennis, Denison University (NCAA Division III)
- **Gianna Lamanna** – Lacrosse, Washington & Jefferson College (NCAA Division III)
- **Ryan McLaughlin** – Golf, St. Lawrence University (NCAA Division III)
- **Liam Mendham** – Football, Allegheny College (NCAA Division III)
- **Aubrey Suttelle** – Ice Hockey, St. Lawrence University (NCAA Division I)
- **Jack Todd** – Lacrosse, Washington and Lee University (NCAA Division III)



SPRING

BOYS TENNIS – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

Varsity record: 16-1

Captains: Colin Gramley, Adeel Piracha

Highlight: The boys tennis team defeated top-seeded Franklin Regional, 3-2, to win the program's eighth WPIAL 3A Team Championship and its first since 2014. The Bulldogs advanced to the quarterfinals of the PIAA Team Championship, where they fell to Conestoga, 3-2. Senior **Colin Gramley** finished fourth in the PIAA Singles Championship, after earning a silver medal at the WPIAL Singles Championship.

GIRLS LACROSSE – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

Varsity record: 17-2 | **Captains:** Catherine Johnson, Clarie Taylor, Maddie Recker, Cecelia Messner

Highlight: The girls lacrosse team won its second straight WPIAL 3A Championship, defeating top-seeded Mt. Lebanon, 9-8. The Bulldogs closed out the season with a 20-10 loss to Manheim Township in the quarterfinals of the PIAA Class 3A Championship.



BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Varsity record: 4-3

Captain: Sean Bennett, Mark Fire, Adam Lauer

Highlight: Highlights included captain **Adam Lauer's** second-place WPIAL finish and ninth-place PIAA finish in the 3200 meters, as well as the strong cohesion of an all-freshman 4x100 meter relay team. Special congratulations to freshman **Deacon Durham**, the high points winner, and captain **Sean Bennett**, the Coaches' Ironman Award recipient.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Varsity record: 6-1

Captains: Melissa Riggins, Katie Sparvero

Highlight: Senior **Melissa Riggins** won gold medals in the 800 and 1600 meters at both the WPIAL and PIAA Championships for the third year, and earned first-team all-state honors in both events. Freshman **Chelsea Hartman** placed third at WPIALs and 11th at PIAAs in the 3200 meters. The 4x400 relay team placed fifth at WPIALs and 16th at states.

BASEBALL

Varsity record: 10-5

Captains: Tyler Hart, Cayden Leavy, Joe Mele, Porter Markel

Highlight: The team competed in the first round of the WPIAL Championships, losing 4-2 to California. Senior **Tyler Hart** had an RBI single for the Bulldogs.

SOFTBALL

Varsity record: 3-9

Captains: Sara Burr, Ariya Tayal, Sophia White

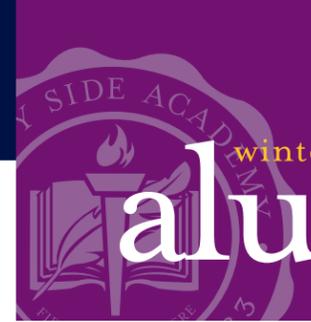
Highlight: Although the team only had three wins, the girls improved each week and had a great time doing it.

BOYS LACROSSE

Varsity record: 14-5

Captain: Jack Todd, Thompson Lau

Highlight: The boys lacrosse team finished as WPIAL runner-up, then fell to District 3 champions Wilson, 12-6, in the first round of the PIAA Class 3A Boys Lacrosse Championship.



Alumni Virtual Speaker Series

The Alumni & Development Office has pivoted into a new world of online engagement, connecting with alumni near and far. Over the winter and spring, the Alumni & Development Office was fortunate to visit virtually with several alumni who have not been able to make it back to campus since they graduated, but were willing to share their stories as part of a speakers series.

On Feb. 24, **Michael Noel '80** hosted "A Winegrower's Journey," sharing his 15-year journey growing and producing wine from a two-acre vineyard in Oregon. He spoke about site selection, land preparation, plant variety, growing, harvesting, winemaking and tales from trips around the world.

On April 14, a fellow classmate, **Jill (Klein) Matthiasson '80** hosted a virtual wine tasting featuring wines from her vineyard in Napa Valley, Matthiasson Wines.

On May 12, **Dan Leers '98**, curator of photography at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and **Anastasia (Rygle) James '06**, deputy director for art and education at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, hosted "A Conversations with Curators." The duo shared their professional experiences as curators and how SSA helped lead them down this career path.

On May 26, **Josephine (Caminos) Oria '91** invited alums into her kitchen for a virtual cooking demonstration of a family favorite recipe from her new book, *Sobremesa: A Memoir of Food and Love in Thirteen Courses*.

On June 14, **Dr. Kali Arnold '94** of The Namaste Project led fellow alumni through a mindfulness, meditation and yoga virtual session. Dr. Arnold is a physician, pilates teacher and reiki master practitioner in Atlanta, Ga. The program was organized and sponsored by the SSA IDEA Committee.



Josephine (Caminos) Oria '91



Dan Leers '98



Anastasia (Rygle) James '06



Dr. Kali Arnold '94

Included in this section are news items received through May 1, 2021.



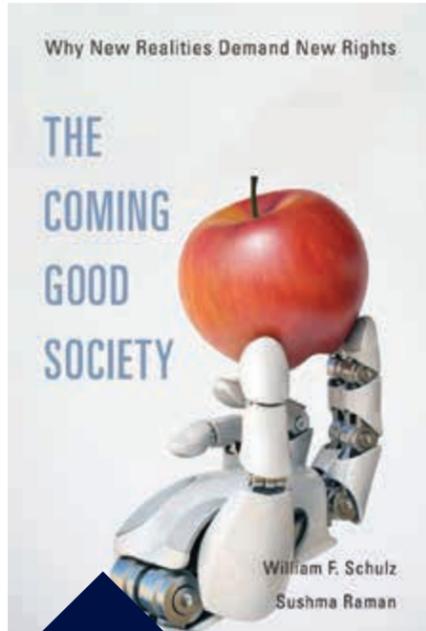
1967

Pat Loughney spent several days with **Chris Skelly** and another famous "Tennessean" in May 2021. They had a great time reminiscing and are looking forward to the 55th class reunion.

1968

In February 2021, **Tom Vilsack** was confirmed as the United States Secretary of Agriculture. Read more about Vilsack on page 30.

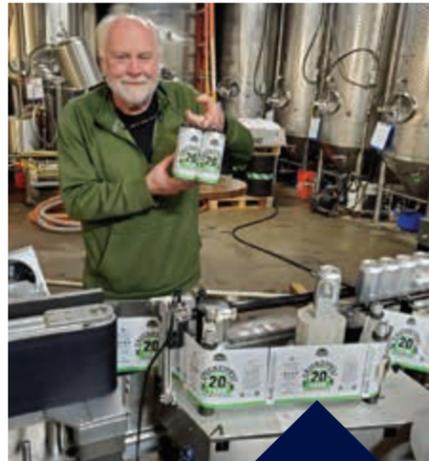
John Whitehill writes: "Hello everyone, this time from San Francisco, which was cool in the 1960s and just as cool now. We are making that daughter trip, with Tucson, Az. being our first stop, and now in San Francisco spending time with Maddie, her several roommates and her Ecuadorian dog. We are headed to Muir Woods today. I've been in touch with Ed,



1967

Bill Schulz writes: "Difficult as it has been to promote a new book during a pandemic, I was honored that Harvard University Press released my latest book on human rights, *The Coming Good Society: Why New Realities Demand New Rights*. The book was co-authored with Sushma Raman, with whom I work (to the extent that I do work, being mostly retired now) at the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Next up is a memoir of my years leading Amnesty International USA."

Bill and Paul. Paul addressed a book club that Maddie invited us to participate in on a discussion about the sordid treatment of native Americans. This is not the history that Aber taught."



1968

Rick Reed is the founder and co-owner of Cricket Hill Brewery, which celebrated its 20-year anniversary in June. In 2000, after several business trips to London, where he enjoyed several famous pubs, and trips to California, where he first encountered an American style microbrewery, Rick and his wife, Patti, were inspired to start a brewery near his home in New Jersey. He attended the American Brewers Guild brewing school and purchased the brew house, tanks, bottling line, cold box and essential equipment for his Fairfield location in 2001.

Erik Buell, the American Motorcycle Hall of Fame inductee who has raced and designed motorcycles his entire life, has built a powerful, long range e-bike: the Fuell Fluid-1, a pedal-assisted e-bike with 100 newton-meters (74 ft. lbs) of torque and a 125-mile range.

Paul Krause is engaged and he's moved to Vancouver Island. He is working on publishing a book.



1971

Mark Schwartz's granddaughter, Dina Margaret Schwartz, loves wearing his SSA hat.

1976

Katherine (Walker) Laramie writes: "Hello class of '76! I am looking forward to the class reunion this year, and am bringing my husband of 20 years, Russ Laramie. We live in Missouri on a 36-acre farm, and I still work for Boeing in St. Louis. Starting in 2020, I accepted the senior management position for Structures Technology in St. Louis, a branch of Boeing Research and Technology. Russ and I now have seven grandchildren, two Siamese cats and a couple of horses."

Bob Risoleo writes: "I became of counsel in the Washington, D.C., office of Sullivan & Cromwell on January 1, 2021, after 35 years at the firm, including 29 years as a partner. I continue to work on a few projects and for a few clients as I plan the next chapter in my professional life, which will not involve working at a law firm. I hope to see everyone at the reunion in October and would love to see any members of the Class of 1976 who are in the nation's capital and surrounding areas."

David Glosser writes: "I hope that all of the Class of 1976 are looking forward to a much better year. We are slamming here in Sarasota, Fla., with the economy on fire for the past six months. Staying the course to find that retirement soon. Happy summer!"

Jonathan Puth shares: "Hey everyone. Life is terrific. Practicing law, two great kids, and my spouse, Mira, and I celebrated our 32nd anniversary. After a drive from D.C., last night, I woke up to a brilliant day at the New

Jersey shore. I am feeling very good and hope all is well."

Kurt Pankopf writes: "This past year, my family bought in on the stay-at-home part of the pandemic, and I am really happy spring has sprung and I can get out and about. I've been working from home for the last six years, so this past year was a breeze. I am having fun watching the newbies navigate the practice. I am feeling ready to hit the off-roading trails soon. I haven't been out for almost two years, mostly due to some medical and some COVID-19. But tuning the bikes up and getting ready to get out by Memorial Day. My sanity check is photography. The blog: Kurt Pankopf Photography."

Malcolm Goldsmith shares: "En route to Greenville, S.C., from San Francisco, Calif., for a week of bicycle training in its foothills."

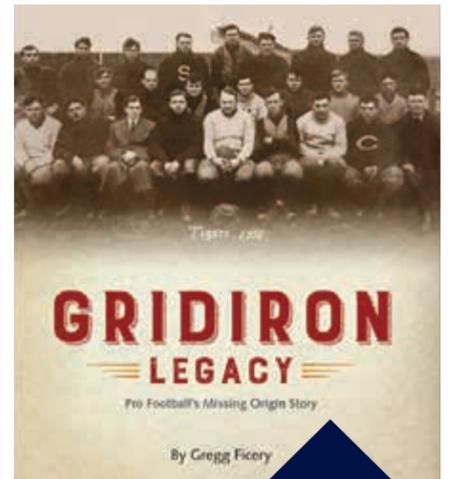
Patty (Van Horn) Florin writes: "We are doing fine in France. We have both been working from home since January and enjoying being together but missing the outside world. Our daughter is in Montreal, and she has been working from home for a year now. She is coming to see us in July, and I will be going to Montreal in September. Not sure yet if I can manage the reunion in October – waiting to see how the work schedule evolves. Take care."

Jon Bosse writes: "I've been living in Southern California since 1982. I've been married for 33 years with two boys, ages 31 and 28. Best regards."



1981

Lance Lasner married Jennifer Smith in May in Florida.



1982

Gregg Ficery is working on publishing *Gridiron Legacy: Pro Football's Missing Origin Story*.



1985

Todd Stein wrote the screen story for *Infinite*, starring Academy Award nominees Mark Wahlberg and Chiwetel Ejiofor, directed by Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*, *The Equalizer*). Originally planned for a Memorial Day weekend theatrical release, due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the film premiered June 10 exclusively on Paramount+ as the flagship movie for the new streaming service.

1990

Brian Monroe writes: "Hello SSA family. Me and my wife, Chasity, have been quarantining in Memphis, Tenn., and I was so looking forward to coming back to campus for my 30th class reunion. (I can't believe I am this old. I can still hear Coach Deal yelling at me!) We are preparing to relocate to Denver, Colo., as I just accepted a position as vice president of people services for DaVita. Please feel free to reach out at bkeithmonroe@gmail.com."



1993

Holton-Arms School named **Graham Westerberg** its director of athletics and physical education. Graham has been at Holton since 2003 and has had a hugely positive impact on the athletics programs there through his dedication to the students, developing one of the finest swimming programs in the Washington, D.C., area and always leading with his trademark outgoing nature and relentless community spirit. He has also been recognized multiple times by his peers as a coach of the year.

1995

Former Pittsburgh Police Cmdr. **Jason Lando** accepted a position as police chief in Frederick, Md., in March 2021. Lando

joined the Pittsburgh Police in 2006 and was the Zone 5 commander from late 2014 to 2019. He most recently was commander of the city's narcotics and vice division.

1996

Andrew Allen recently launched Alpha Three Aviation (AlphaThreeAviation.com), a Pittsburgh-based air taxi charter offering door-to-door regional service for business or personal travel. He has flown professionally for more than 20 years and was appointed to the Pennsylvania governor's state Aviation Advisory Committee. He lives on his family farm in Saxonburg, Pa., with his wife, Kristan, and kids, Drew, 9, and Liv, 8.

1998

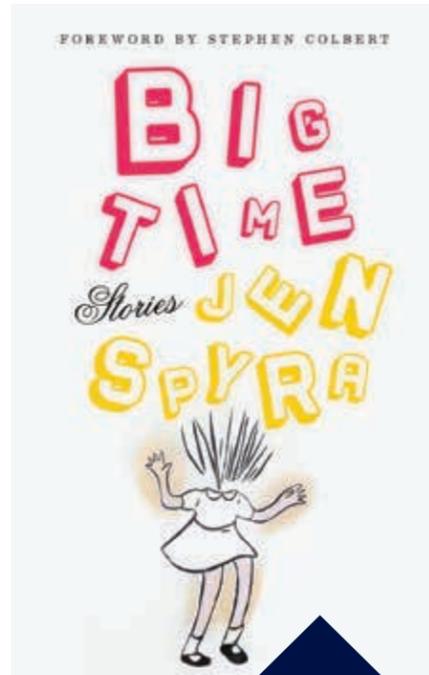
Will Foster founded OUR STUDIO | design (ourstudiodesign.com), a consortium of citizens, makers and designers. It transpired as a way to connect citizens with local makers, providing a platform for customers to design individualized custom furniture and have it manufactured in their own community.

1999

Anne (D'Appolonia) Dickson was featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Magazine*, WTAE and KDKA in spring 2021 for her pop-up floral installations around the city. Dickson owns Fox and the Fleur, a Fox Chapel floral design company that she started a little more than four years ago. During the pandemic, Dickson used floral arrangements to brighten up downtown Pittsburgh. In an effort to do something nice for health care workers, she also decorated Shadyside's Family House exterior entrance with an installation of flowers. Anne and her husband, **Andrew Dickson**, have three children at Shady Side's Country Day School.

2001

John Rhoades became the new owner and publisher of the online publication *NEXT Pittsburgh* on Jan. 1, 2021.



2003

Jen Spyra is the author of a new book of 14 stories, *Big Time: Stories*. Spyra spoofs brides' frenzied quest for a chiseled physique, envisions a date with Sherlock Holmes and shows how to survive your most obnoxious friend's destination birthday party. Stephen Colbert, her former boss and verbal sparring partner on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*, wrote the book's foreword.

2008

Vijay Kedar is the co-founder and CEO of Tomorrow Health. The company, which launched in April 2020, is a comprehensive platform for all home medical equipment and supply needs. By combining technology-enabled operations with personalized service, Tomorrow Health curates the home healthcare products, supplies and support best suited for the clinical needs of patients, deliver directly to their doorstep, and navigate insurance benefits on their behalf. Tomorrow Health has raised \$25 million in a Series A funding round.



2004

David Mitchell married Alina Galushko in Vail, Colo., on Oct. 2, 2020. David was joined by fellow classmates **Patrick Cendes** and **Richard Donahue**.

2010

Olivia Seecof writes: "This fall, I will graduate from my family medicine residency at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and be starting my fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City."

2012

The Open Mat, a nationally respected news resource for college, high school and international wrestling, announced the addition of **Christopher Miller** to the staff as editor in March 2021.

Rashaad Phillips, an independent school educator, presented at the NAIS People of Color Conference, held online in December 2020. Phillips and a colleague hosted an online workshop entitled "I Woke Up Like This: Teaching and Practicing Authenticity in Predominately White Spaces."



2009

Shortly after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services enlisted CVS Health to administer COVID-19 vaccines to long-term care facilities, **Elizabeth Rosenberger Giel** was tasked with the most critical role of her pharmacy career thus far. As vaccine depot leader for New York City, it became her duty to efficiently help mobilize the long-term care vaccine team into both nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She said, "These efforts were the most rewarding days of my career as I witnessed my team truly bring peace of mind to long-term care facility residents, staff and their loved ones."

When Giel was forming her team, fellow SSA alumni **Robert "Gray" Garrard '16** immediately stepped up to serve on the frontlines throughout New York City and state. Their team made three visits to each long-term care facility to ensure residents and staff received their initial shot and critical booster. The team successfully completed the vaccination effort in 12 weeks. Through these tremendous efforts, Giel and Garrard found themselves reflecting on skills that they gained throughout their time at Shady Side; perseverance, working together under pressure, and overcoming adversity. More than 200,000 COVID-19 vaccinations were administered throughout New York City and state long-term care facilities, and they were honored to serve on a team together helping contribute to this incredible feat. They were proud to be among the CVS health care professionals across the country helping to vaccinate one of the most vulnerable populations against COVID-19.



2014

Dennis Briggs and his wife, LoRen, welcomed Navy Mae Briggs on Feb. 6, 2021.



2014

Max and Zac Prizant pursued their lifelong dream of running across the country. Along the way, they raised money for those hardest-hit by the ongoing pandemic. The duo raised funds for COVID-19 relief with the organization Heart to Heart International. They began their journey on May 21, 2020, in San Francisco, Calif., and ended on New Year's Eve when they arrived at the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, after 208 days of a daily marathon average.



2017

Clayton Krol graduated from High Point University cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology, minor in sales, on May 8, 2021. His lacrosse team also won the Southern Conference Championship on May 7. The team advanced as one of 16 competing in the NCAA tournament for the National Championship for D1 lacrosse.

Shady Side Academy and your classmates want to hear from you! Tell us what's happening in your life!

Submit your Class Note via email to classnotes@shadysideacademy.org.

2015

Dylan Groff was named community relations council associate at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

2017

Colby Poerio, a senior midfielder on the William Smith College field hockey team, was among the 2,050 student-athletes from more than 140 Division III teams to earn a spot on the 2020 NFCA Division III National Academic Squad. Poerio is majoring in biology and environmental studies.

Dante King graduated from the College of Wooster and has been accepted into Cornell University as a Ph.D. candidate in a six-year classical art and archeology program.

2019

Hannah Price plays ice hockey for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which chose not to compete during the 2020-2021 school year. Price used the pause from hockey practice and competition to embrace the Troy, N.Y., community by collecting food for homeless shelters, serving meals to the needy and mentoring elementary students.

In March, Bucknell University sophomore goalkeeper **Clara McCormick** was named the Patriot League Field Hockey Goalkeeper of the Week after totaling 11 saves to earn her first collegiate win in a 2-1 double-overtime victory against American University.

WE DID IT, BULLDOGS!



THANK YOU to the 1,300 SSA alumni, parents, faculty, staff, grandparents, corporations and foundations who gave to the Blue & Gold Fund in 2020-2021! Thanks to your generosity, we raised a record-breaking \$2,157,291 in support of our students, faculty and programs.

For more information, visit www.supportssa.org.

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Visit store.shadysideacademy.org for the latest Bulldog gear!





in memoriam

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, 2021.

RICHARD SIMON '39

Richard "Dick" Simon passed away Nov. 4, 2020. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and served in World War II. He was a dedicated volunteer leader with several organizations, including Rodef Shalom Congregation and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Nancy Lichenstul Simon. He is survived by his children, Sharon (Donnie) Dunlap and Kenneth (Linda) Simon; and four grandchildren.

DR. EDWARD J. DIAMOND JR. '41

Dr. Edward J. Diamond Jr. passed away March 4, 2021. He was a graduate of Yale University and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, and served in World War II. For 18 years, he worked as an optometrist for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Edith Diamond. He is survived by his children, Dr. Edward (Patrice) Diamond III '69 and Kenneth (Elizabeth) Diamond '74; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

HENRY F. MUNNIKHUYSEN '43

Henry "Hank" Farnandis Munnikhuisen passed away Aug. 24, 2020. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in three years with the accelerated wartime. He served in the U.S. Navy for more than 30 years in various capacities, including commanding officer of the USS Mitscher and the USS Pensacola. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Dolores. He is survived by his children, John Henry Munnikhuisen and Gail (Marshall) Hall; and two grandchildren.

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

AIMS C. CONEY JR. '47

Aims "Joe" C. Coney Jr. passed away Jan. 9, 2021. After graduating from Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he served two years in the U.S. Army. He then returned to Pittsburgh for a 51-year legal career at K&L Gates. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Rita Coney; children, Aims "Andy" (Terry) Coney III '72, Sally (Steven) Wheeler and Nancy (Drew) Forhan; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

DR. LOREN ROSENBACH '47

Dr. Loren Rosenbach passed away Nov. 9, 2020. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joyce (Goldstein) Rosenbach. He is survived by his children, Jeff (Lynn) Rosenbach '72, Woody (Brooke) Rosenbach '78 and Lisa (Jeffrey) Lee '80; three grandchildren; and his second wife, Barbara (Clegg) Rosenbach.

HERBERT D. FERGUSON '50

Herbert Davis Ferguson passed away Jan. 26, 2021. He was a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, the Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh, where he obtained his Master of Education. He also served as a U.S. Army medic in Germany. After returning home, he worked for ALCOA as a staff photographer. Later employed by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, he established a photographic department and was named head of medical photography. He then became the director of medical imaging for the University of Pittsburgh and eventually served as the university photographer, retiring in 1996. He was predeceased by his wife, Ann Pearce Ferguson. He is survived by his daughters, Heidi (Steven) Fowler and Vicki Ferguson; and two granddaughters.

JAMES S. URDA '52

James S. Urda passed away Feb. 9, 2021. He was a graduate of Bucknell University and received his master's degree from the University of Michigan. He spent three years in the U.S. Navy. He spent his career in hospital administration, retiring as director of Heron Point retirement community. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Suzanne Schell Urda; children, James (Randy) Urda, Jane (John) Detwiler, Robin (Paul) Pendery and John (Naomi) Urda; and nine grandchildren.

RICHARD G. DAVIS '53

Richard Grosvenor Davis passed away March 2, 2021. He was a graduate of Bowdoin College. He worked for 35 years for the Social Security Administration, where he was responsible for processing disability claims in Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. He was predeceased by his wife, Marlene Frances Suran, and brother, Rev. William Davis '45. He is survived by two brothers, John Davis Jr. '42 and George Davis '56.

THOMAS D. MULLINS II '54

Thomas Darragh Mullins II passed away Dec. 31, 2020. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He spent his career with Gulf Oil before starting his own consulting firm, Petroleum Advisory Services, which was based in London, England. He moved back to the U.S. in the early 1990s and became associate director of Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, founding the Harvard Islamic Finance Information Program. He was preceded in death by his wife, Corinne "Coco" Mullins in 2001. He is survived by his children, Thomas Mullins III, Brewer Schoeller and William Mullins; and six granddaughters.

HARTLEY P. WALKER '55

Hartley P. Walker passed away May 28, 2020. He was a graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was a corporate insurance broker and served as the auditor for the Edgeworth neighborhood of Pittsburgh. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ann (Harper) Walker; children, Hepburn (Kellie) Harper, Russell (Pat) Walker; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

G. WILLIAM BISSELL '56

G. William Bissell passed away Dec. 6, 2020. A graduate of Williams College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he spent his career in estate law at what is now K&L Gates. He was preceded in death by his wife of 31 years, Kay Ebbert Childs Bissell. He is survived by Kay's children and their families, John (Rebekah) Burgwin Childs, George (Miya) Childs and Louise (Nevin) Woodside.

BRIAN M. KENT '60

Brian M. Kent passed away May 19, 2020. He earned his B.S. from Purdue University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in forestry biometrics from Pennsylvania State University. After earning his Ph.D., he accepted a job as a forestry professor at Colorado State University. In 1981, he transferred to the U.S. Forest Service, where he worked until he retired in 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Theresa Kent. He is survived by his daughters, Mary Kent, Suzanne Kent, Robert Kent and Megan Van Kent; and one grandchild.

CHRISTIAN Z. SCHOVE '60

Christian Z. Schove passed away Feb. 8, 2021. He was a graduate of Lafayette College, earning a degree in civil engineering, and served in the U.S. Army. He co-founded Chapel Construction Company, where he had a reputation throughout Western Pennsylvania for quality workmanship. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; two stepchildren; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

JAMES F. MALONE III '61

James F. Malone passed away March 1, 2021. He was a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He was a lawyer for more than 40 years, working for Dickie, McCamey and Chilcote P.C., before starting the firm Malone, Larchuk and Middleman. He is survived by his wife, Janet Malone.

THOMAS T. FLANNERY '63

Thomas Thorburn Flannery passed away April 9, 2021. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he worked for Gulf Oil in Boston and upstate New York before returning to Pittsburgh, where he purchased and managed an automotive parts distribution company and two service stations. He entered the executive search business as his second career, joining Resources for Management. He subsequently acquired and merged Resources with the Pittsburgh office of Boyden in 2001 and spent the next 20 years recruiting top executives. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Stephanie King Flannery; children, William Flannery '98 and Erin (Robert) Franklin '00; and three grandchildren.

THOMAS M. HUGHES '63

Thomas Mifflin Hughes passed away April 13, 2021. He earned his B.A. and M.Ed. from Colorado University-Boulder. He is survived by his daughters, Jenny (Andrew) Gordon and Megan Cicale; and one grandchild.

STEVEN ALLON '68

Steven Allon passed away Sept. 13, 2020. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He was a retired surgeon of ophthalmology. He is survived by his wife, four children, one grandchild, and three brothers, John Allon '66, Edward Allon '70 and Jeffrey Allon '72.

KENNETH P. CHRISTMAN JR. '69

Kenneth Phillip Christman Jr. passed away March 20, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Loretz; and children, Caroline, Claire Marie and Kenneth Phillip Christman III.

PETER C. ABERNATHY '89

Peter C. Abernathy passed away April 24, 2021. A graduate of the University of Colorado, he worked as a security specialist for Target Corp. He is survived by his parents, Elizabeth and Chris Abernathy '66, sister, Brooke (Adrian) Braun, and fiancée, Laura Anderson.

OLAJUMOKE O. ADEBIMPE '96

Olajumoke Adebimpe passed away March 19, 2021. She was a graduate of George Washington University. She spent her career at Walt Disney's Epcot Center, where she fulfilled her dream of becoming an imagineer. She served on the SSA Board of Visitors from 2008-2014. She was preceded in death by her father, Victor Adebimpe, and her brother Oluseyi Adebimpe '90. She is survived by her mother, Folasade Adebimpe, and brother Babatunde Adebimpe '93.

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Frederick Albitz, stepfather of Christopher Reigel '82 and the late Andy Reigel '85

Lois Ament, mother-in-law of former Senior School faculty member Michele Ament, and grandmother of Caitlin (Ament) Dieringer '05, Jesse Ament '07 and Daniel Ament '09

John Burbank Jr., former Middle School headmaster, 1986-1995

Patricia Burke, mother of the late Steve Burke '72 and Chip Burke '79

Thomas Cangiano, father of former Academy President Tom Cangiano

James Cavalier, former Senior School English teacher, 1955-1962

Dr. Lillian Charie, mother of Craig Charie '79

Alan Cohen, grandfather of Isla Cohen '33

Arlene Cohen, mother of Erik Cohen '97 and Warren Cohen '94

Natalie Curry, wife of the late David Curry '47

Francis Evarts Fairman III, father of Francis Fairman '75 and Mimi Fairman '72

Sarah Helt, former Senior School assistant registrar, 2003-2012

Susanne Hershey, mother of J. Alexander Hershey '90



Mary Louise Hunter, mother of David Hunter '73, Peter Hunter '71 and wife of the late David Hunter '46

Matilee Howard Johnson, wife of former Academy President A. Emerson Johnson

F. Bryan Kennedy, father of David Kennedy '78, Mary (Kennedy) Adamis '80 and Daniel Kennedy '84

Kathy Lynn Kotys, mother of Ben Kotys '02

Bernard Latterman, grandfather of Kelly Latterman '10

Orville Lerch, father of Scott Lerch '82, Matt Lerch '86, Tiffany (Lerch) Lewis '90 and Brandon Lerch '94

Robert Little, husband of former Junior School Head Cheryl Little, and father of Justin Little '92 and Brandon Little '93

Kristine Neimann, wife of Larry Neimann '55, and mother of Scott '80, Andrew '81 and Craig '87 Neimann

Robert Norman, father-in-law of Senior School faculty member Matt Weiss, and grandfather of Maya Weiss '18 and Dev Weiss '22

Judy Markstein, wife of Donald Markstein '44

Dorothy Maxwell, mother of Middle School faculty member Bonnie Maxwell and grandmother of Scott Majesky '09

Albert Perry, father of Facilities staff member Joe Perry

Shirley Follansbee Reineman, daughter of the late Robert Follansbee '24; wife of the late Walter Reineman '47; mother of Walter Reineman '77; grandmother of Evan Reineman '13; and mother-in-law of Rev. Stephen Ayers '72

Eugenia "Jean" Rossi, mother of Senior School Science Teacher Tom Rossi and grandmother of Samantha Rossi '08, Nicholas Rossi '10 and Olivia Rossi '16

Donald Roupe, father-in-law of Academy Director of Communications Jen Roupe, and grandfather of Julia Roupe '21 and Jordan Roupe '25

Morton Alfred Seltman, father of Paul Seltman '85 and Scott Seltman '96

Richard "Dick" Thornbaugh, father of John Thornbaugh '75 and David Thornbaugh '76

Dorothy Walker, mother of Country Day School PK teacher Bethany Smith

Angela (Rumble) Irvine SENIOR SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER, 1972-2015

Angela Cowan (Rumble) Irvine passed away Feb. 8, 2021. She was 81 years old.

During her 43 years of teaching at the Senior School, Irvine was known for her quick Southern wit, love of language and literature, and deep care for the many students and colleagues who sought her guidance and support. She modeled integrity and purpose in all she said and did, helping and encouraging thousands of students to find their voice.

When Shady Side embraced co-education in 1973, shortly after her arrival, Irvine became a mentor and champion for SSA's female students. "Shady Side was a very different school back then, and in many ways, Angela was our voice," said Katie (Hoopes) Mihm '83. "She watched out for us. Her room was a safe haven for us... She made us feel that we all had something smart to contribute."

Upon her retirement in 2015, Irvine embraced a tradition typically reserved for seniors by giving her own "Senior Sage" at an assembly. In it, she said, "The real business of education is not about reading good books. It's about leading good lives. It's about creating empathy within, so that we reject bigotry, prejudice and narrow-mindedness, and choose instead justice for all, tolerance for each other's differences, and generosity toward those who have less. For what use is a fabulous intellect, unless it is informed and guided by a good heart?"

Among her SSA faculty colleagues, Irvine was a beloved friend with a fierce loyalty to all things Shady Side. "She could be so down-to-earth, but her imagination and intellect could soar, and she could

be at home with the most challenging of ideas," said Buddy Hendershot, retired Senior School English teacher. "Angela is one of the 'great ones' in the history of Shady Side. She was a 'woman for all seasons,' having a great mind, heart and soul."

Among her former students, Irvine impacted many lives. Angela Schaefer Lawler '93 said, "Ms. Irvine was the first person who truly encouraged me to speak my mind, exercise the strength of my written word and hold my own."

A.H. Kim '83 added, "Ms. Irvine was my favorite teacher in high school, my advisor for my valedictorian speech, and the first face I looked for at SSA reunions... I will cherish those memories and so many more."

"Angela Irvine is one of the most vivacious and witty people I have ever met; and I cherish the memories of my time as her student at SSA," said Christian Wedemeyer '86. "She was one of a few teachers at SSA who opened up worlds of true learning to me, of delight in ideas and symbols and meanings."

Angela was the mother of John (Crystal) Rumble and late Laura Clare Rumble O'Connell '81 and loving grandmother of Victoria (Niki) Rumble Konopasek Torres and Caitlin O'Connell '12.



A LONG LINE OF BULLDOGS AT SSA

While the new SSA Bulldogs mascot was just made official recently, there have been Bulldogs representing Shady Side on athletics fields during much of the Academy's history.

The Morningside Bulldogs were a youth football team based in the Morningside neighborhood of Pittsburgh from 1950-1979 and served as a feeder program to SSA for many years. Founded and coached by Joseph Natoli Sr., the youth team was for boys ages 13-15, and served as a way to prepare and train athletes for high school football. Natoli served as head coach for 29 years, boasting a final record of 271-19-8 and earning the title of "the winningest football team in the world."

In the late 1950s, through a connection forged by then-Headmaster **George Follansebee '30**, Natoli established a relationship with the athletics department at Shady Side Academy. Natoli promoted to his young Bulldog athletes that if they earned good grades and served as positive role models in the Morningside community, he would assist them in the admission process at SSA. It was a win-win, as Shady Side saw an influx of incredible student-athletes for a number of years.

"We had at least two Bulldogs recruits every year from 1960 to 1980," said former Athletic Director **Bob Grandizio Sr.** "Without the Morningside Bulldogs, SSA would not have had the success that we had in the football program. The majority of those kids went on to play college football."

Some of those collegiate athletes included **Paul Martha '60** (University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Steelers), **Ray Conway '60** (University of Pittsburgh), **Mike Eastman '77** (University of Maryland) and **Billy McCarthy '79** (West Virginia University).

Grandizio worked directly with Natoli for many years, noting that he was incredibly proud of the student-athletes and the racial and socioeconomic diversity the partnership brought to the Senior School campus.

"These were good kids and great athletes, and this partnership served as a solid pipeline to success for everyone involved," said Grandizio.

He also noted that the SSA freshman football team would host a scrimmage against the Morningside Bulldogs every year. The SSA team never won. "We did come close one year though," he laughed.



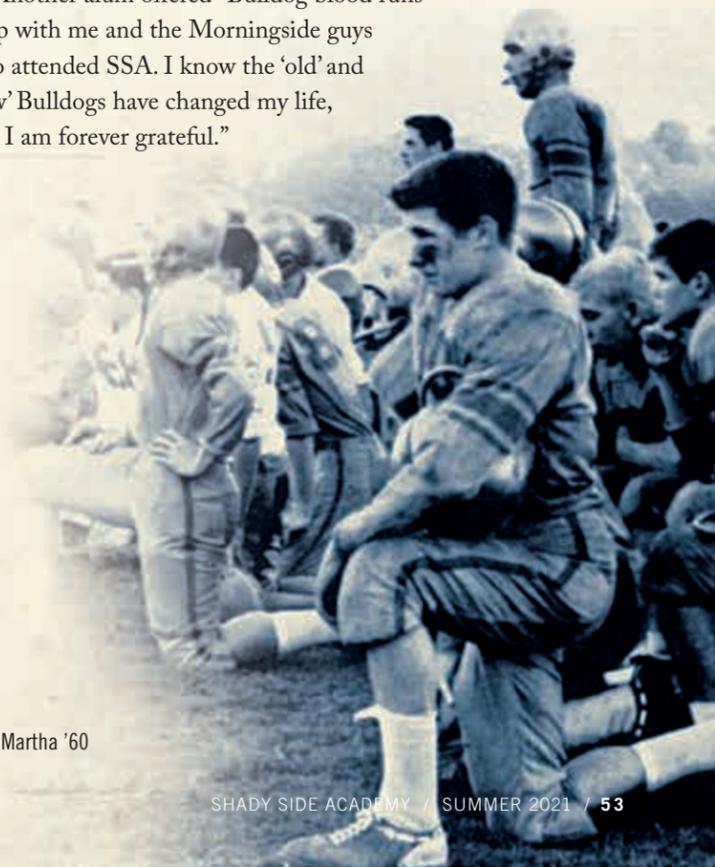
Bob Grandizio Sr.

Natoli equally appreciated his relationship with SSA, and sent his own son, **Joseph Natoli Jr. '79**, to SSA. Natoli Jr.'s three daughters are also SSA alums – **Maria Natoli '10**, **Katie Natoli '12** and **Emily Natoli '16**.

In addition to coaching, Natoli worked in the Pittsburgh Parks and Recreation department for 40 years. For his leadership of the Bulldogs and four decades of service with the city and county, Morningside's sports field was renamed Joe Natoli Field in 1980, just after Natoli put the Bulldogs into retirement.

Upon the announcement that Shady Side would become the Bulldogs, President **Bart Griffith '93** heard from excited SSA alums who played for Morningside. One alum shared, "The former Morningside Bulldogs were once at the heart of SSA athletics, and so the new mascot brings back some important history."

Another alum offered "Bulldog blood runs deep with me and the Morningside guys who attended SSA. I know the 'old' and 'new' Bulldogs have changed my life, and I am forever grateful."



Paul Martha '60



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