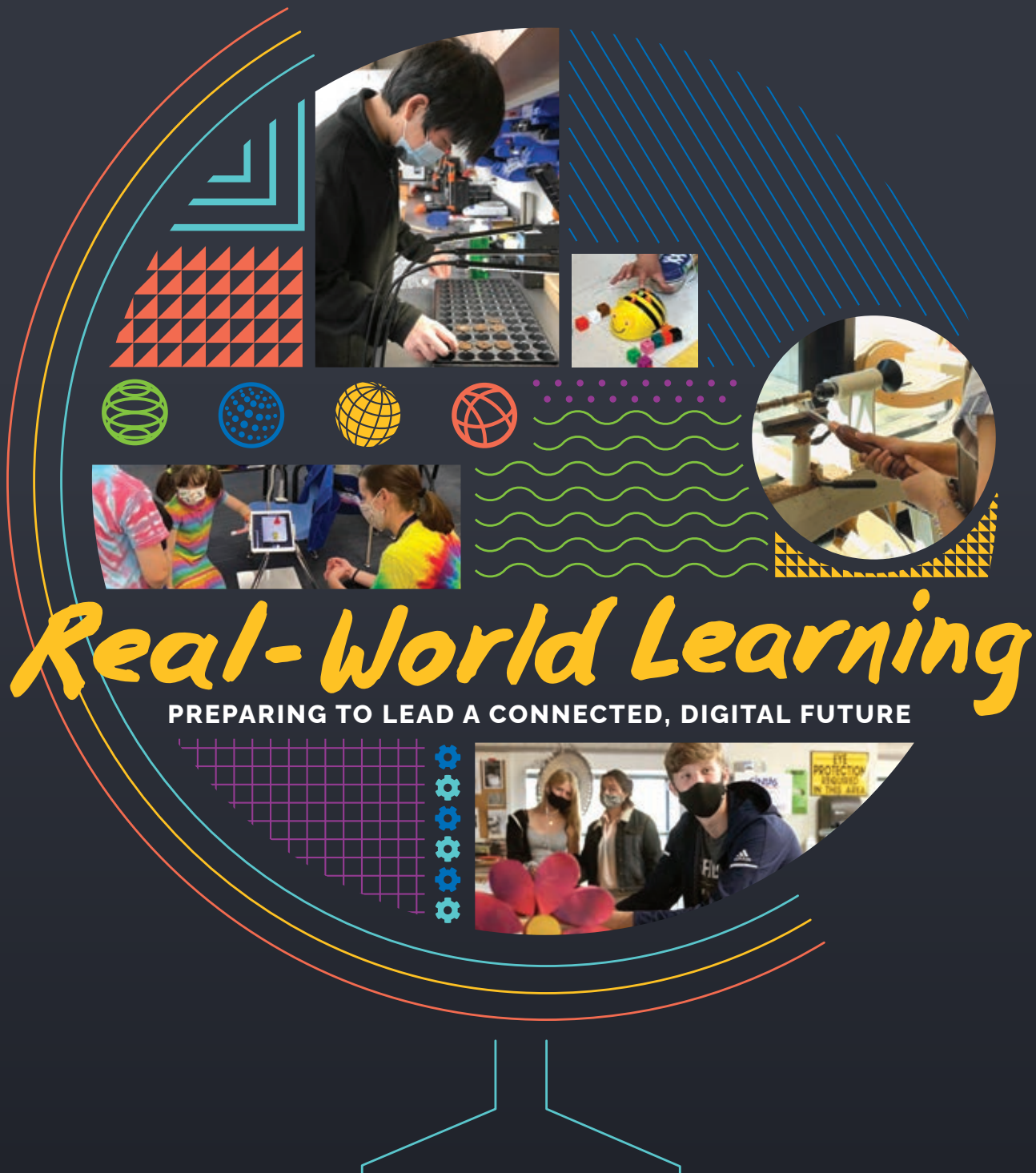


SUMMER 2022

shady side

academy



Real-World Learning

PREPARING TO LEAD A CONNECTED, DIGITAL FUTURE

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FSC to be placed
by printer

Construction is underway on The Gene Deal Fields, located at the lower fields on the Senior School campus. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 14-16, 2022, to celebrate the state-of-the-art athletic complex.

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Correction: In the In Memoriam section of the Winter 2021-2022 issue, William F. Aiken should have been noted as the grandfather of Isabel '13, Margaret '16 and Jillian '19 Aiken. Our sincere apologies to the Aiken Family for the error.

President's Message

DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:



During his sophomore year, Amir Awais '24 sought an effective way to support students aspiring to pre-medical programs and careers in surgery. So he created a digital educational platform that curated a range of instructional technologies and videos. No teacher at Shady Side required him to do this – he was simply curious and internally motivated. With some help from his family and the partnership of two outside organizations, Amir was able to build a prototype within just a few months.

Amir's story typifies much of the learning we celebrate at Shady Side. Yet as the educational landscape continues to transform, and students demand opportunities to connect and engage beyond the four walls

of the classroom, we expect to see even more of our students learn as Amir did, by "doing real things in the real world."

SSA students find meaning in the pursuit of two vital, purpose-driven questions: What do I care about beyond myself? And what do I plan to do about it? At a time when so much is changing all around us, our support of such curiosity and regard for others will *never* change.

But much *is* changing, and it presents an opportunity for those who seek to teach and inspire such purpose in our schools. Innovations in digital technology, advances in the field of cognitive science, and continued changes in our economy and the nature of work itself all necessitate that we provide dynamic, real-world opportunities for students.

Imagine a Shady Side that inspires intensive learning about biodiversity by way of sustained research along Pittsburgh's rivers, global finance through direct observation of leaders at PNC, the Hill District via a hands-on oral history project, philanthropy through visits with local foundations, and a deeper understanding of World War II via travel to Europe. Envision an Academy that helps students to gain practice launching their

own start-ups or to complete externships at tech companies, design firms, museums, hospitals, and charities. At SSA, we aspire for education to be more than covering chapters in a textbook.

This past spring, I hosted a Senior School Parents Association Book Club discussion of *The Code Breaker* by Walter Issacson. His book tells the story of Nobel Prize-winner Jennifer Doudna and her discovery of CRISPR technology, a gene editing tool that opens up a brave new world of medical miracles and challenging ethical questions. Prior to reading, a number of parents considered such technology distant science fiction. They left our discussion not only impressed that CRISPR is a present reality, but also that *Shady Side students are already using it* – through Advanced Biology classes and real-world learning experiences like our Science Research Seminar, which prepares and places students in summer internships at university research laboratories.

Driven by purpose, our graduates can lead the changes that shift the trajectories of their communities and industries. They can achieve the breakthroughs and establish the trends.

But they must first engage and connect with their world before envisioning how they might positively affect it. We are eager to provide them with more and better opportunities to do so.

Best,

Bart Griffith
President '93

NEWS AND NOTES

aroundtheacademy

Middle & Senior School Rocketry Teams Qualify for National Finals

Both the Middle School and Senior School Rocketry Teams qualified for the national finals of The American Rocketry Challenge, held May 14 in The Plains, Va. Both SSA teams placed among the top 100 teams from across the country and competed for \$100,000 in cash and prizes and the title of national champion. While the teams did not advance to the International Rocketry Competition, they had a solid showing at nationals. Congratulations to Senior School team members **Isabel Brunner, Cassidy Mineo, Jillian Zana, Alex Chow** and **Leo Rickard**, and Middle School team members **Akshay Lath, Jackson Bitsoff, Simon Braver, Evey Fuhrman, Luke Golden** and **Kiran Thompson**, and to faculty coaches **Matt Brunner** and **Natalie Bobek**.



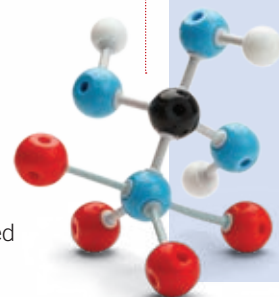


AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Middle School Science Olympiad Team Places 11th at National Tournament

The Middle School Science Olympiad Team competed virtually in the Science Olympiad National Tournament, which was hosted in partnership with Caltech. Final results were announced on May 18, and SSA finished in 11th place out of 60 teams in Division B (grades 6-9). The following students placed in the top 20 of their events at nationals: **Ethan Hou, Hanna Singhi, Evan Xiang, Sophia Gombos, Vivan Poddar, Anna Litster, Neyla Hinedi, Ethan Chen, Shaurya Gulati, Ellie Laman, Claudia Iannetti, Chloe Wang, Jeffrey Brunner** and **Andrew Xing**.



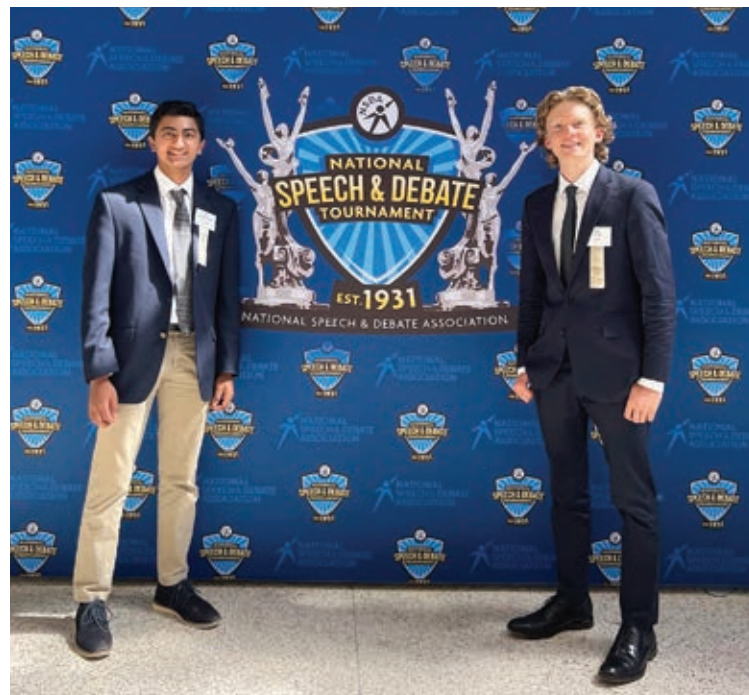
Middle School Places First in National Science League Contest

For the second straight year, seventh grade students placed first in the nation in the National Science League (NSL) Life Science Contest. **Kiran Thompson, Kristen Appleman, Paolo Scolieri, Hanna Singhi, Chloe Wang, Özge Uzman, Ethan Jiang, Alex Bi, Anna Grace Shultz** and **Andrew Xing** contributed to the winning score in the contest. Individually, Bi placed first in the nation, Jiang placed second in the nation, and Wang and Uzman tied for fourth.

Speech and Debate Team Members Compete in State and National Tournaments

Three Senior School Speech and Debate Team members competed at the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Tournament, held June 13-17 in Louisville, Ky. This year, 4,848 students from 1,081 schools and 51 states and territories competed at the national tournament. Junior **Nichole Poltinnikov** competed in the Lincoln Douglas Debate, finishing sixth in the nation, and sophomores **Hari Viswanathan** and **Mathew Long** competed as Senators in the NSDA Congress, where they advanced to the semifinal round. Overall, SSA was recognized as a Debate School of Excellence.

In addition, freshmen **Sunny Zhao** and **Audrey Jiang** qualified to compete in the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand National Tournament, held May 27-29 in Washington, D.C. Zhao and Jiang competed in the preliminary round of Duo, a speech event.



Sophomore Wins Congressional Art Competition

Sophomore **Sophia Jho** was the winner of the 2022 Congressional Art Competition for Pennsylvania's 17th District for her pastel pencil artwork, *Adrift*. Her piece will be hung in the U.S. Capitol along with the winning entries from other congressional districts nationwide.



Students Win Seven National Medals in 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Five Senior School students won seven national medals in the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, including six gold medals and one American Visions Medal. The winners were sophomore **Sophia Jho**, gold medal in art (drawing/illustration) for *Adrift* (above), gold medal in art (painting) for *Korean Fish Market*; senior **Crystal Ma**, gold medal and American Visions Medal in art (fashion) for *Plastic Biosphere*; junior **Maria Schwendeman**, gold medal in art (painting) for *Affection?*; junior **Hannah Song**, gold medal in writing (personal essay/memoir) for *Pink Ribbons*; senior **Anker Zhao**, gold medal in writing (journalism) for *National Security Versus Individual*. More than 100,000 students submitted more than 260,000 works to the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and less than 2,000 received national medals, placing them within the top 1% of all submissions.

Three Students Selected for PMEA All-State Music Festival

Three Senior School students reached the highest level a high school musician can achieve by earning places in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) 2022 All-State Festival music ensembles. The all-state musicians were junior **Grant Cummings**, clarinet; junior **Hannah Song**, viola; and sophomore **Sophia Jho**, harp. The students performed with their ensembles at the annual PMEA All-State Festival at Kalahari Resort in April 2022.



Senior Named to Junior Achievement's 18 Under Eighteen

Senior **Jasmine DeBruce** was named to the inaugural class of Junior Achievement of Western PA's 18 Under Eighteen presented by NexTier Bank. The program celebrates 18 extraordinary students who are defining their generation through their entrepreneurial spirit, leadership and service to their communities. DeBruce served as president of the Senior School Black Student Union, and she previously introduced the first Black Student Union at SSA Middle School. DeBruce also created the Black Scholar Society, an organization dedicated to creating a network for future Black leaders in Pennsylvania and uplifting Black youths throughout the region by providing them with opportunities to grow their résumés, knowledge and experience.





Junior School Hosts Fourth Annual International Fair

On May 6, the Junior School hosted its fourth annual International Fair, where students learned about the diversity of cultures within our own school community. Numerous families volunteered to bring the country of their heritage to life, hosting 11 different “nationality rooms” around the school representing Austria, China, Colombia, France, India, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Serbia, Sudan and Ukraine. Students spent the morning touring the rooms and learning about each country and its culture while enjoying food, stories, music and dance.



Award-Winning Author Malinda Lo Virtually Visits Senior School Students

On April 28, interested Senior School students, faculty and staff gathered in the library to join a virtual discussion and Q&A with Malinda Lo, author of the 2021 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, *Last Night at the Telegraph*. Lo discussed the historical research she conducted for the book, which centers around a young Chinese-American woman struggling with her identity in 1950s San Francisco.



Student Designers Showcase Their Work at Warhol Teen Fashion Show

Four Senior School students showcased 10 upcycled fashion designs at The Andy Warhol Museum’s Teen Fashion Show, held March 25 in Pittsburgh. The teen-curated fashion show placed a focus on sustainability, and runway looks included repurposed, reimagined and recycled garments and accessories designed by teens. SSA student designers included **Crystal Ma** (above), **Sophia Sandholm**, **Cecelia Messner** and **Anna Brown** and several other students served as runway models. Ma also worked with The Warhol Museum on planning and organizing the show itself.

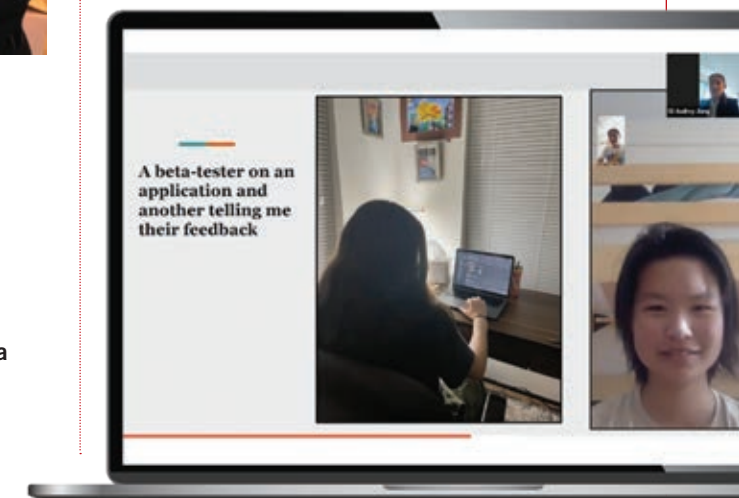
Award-Winning Poets Visit Sixth Grade

On April 12, sixth graders had the unique opportunity to meet and learn from two award-winning poets who visited the school in person: Robert Hass and his wife, Brenda Hillman, whose grandson, Leon, is a sixth grader at SSA. Hass is one of the most celebrated and widely read contemporary American poets and a leading translator of others’ poetry, while Hillman is one of contemporary American poetry’s most eclectic and innovative writers. The visit came about when the couple’s grandson spotted his grandfather on a poster in **Mrs. Pam Onest’s** English classroom and began working with this grandmother to coordinate a visit.



UPenn Partnership: Social Innovators Program

For the second year, the Social Innovators Program, presented in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and Schoolyard Ventures, was offered to Senior School students at SSA. 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 UPenn. Shady Side remains the only school in Pittsburgh to offer the unique initiative. A total of 17 students participated during the 2021-2022 school year, with projects including a variety of topics, from community-wide recycling plans, to promotion planning for young entrepreneurs, to the creation of surgery videos for medical students.



SSA Striders Raise Nearly \$7,000 for Walk for Children’s Hospital

Several Shady Side Academy students formed the “SSA Striders” team that raised nearly \$7,000 for the 2022 Walk for Children’s, an annual fundraising walk benefitting the UPMC Children’s Hospital Foundation. The walk was held Saturday, June 4, in Schenley Park. The SSA Striders included Senior School students **Smriti Shyam, Elle Ruttenberg, Chloe Wells, Kathryn Wolfe** and **Reese Ruttenberg** and Middle School student **Brooklyn Ruttenberg**. The fundraising efforts, which included a highly successful bake sale hosted by the Ruttenberg sisters at their home, raised a total of \$6,916, exceeding the team’s \$5,000 goal and earning a “Top Team” achievement recognition by The Walk.

Middle School Community Service Committee Collects Hygiene Items

The Middle School Community Service Committee held a drive from April 11-27 to collect personal hygiene items for the Light of Life Rescue Mission in Pittsburgh, which serves individuals and families experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction. Each grade was asked to donate different items to the drive, including travel-sized deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hand sanitizer, soap, body wash, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as masks and granola bars. The MS Parents’ Association assembled and delivered more than 60 personal hygiene kits.



Students Help Ukraine

A student-led drive at the Senior School collected non-perishable food items and medical supplies for those impacted by the war in Ukraine. Held March 7-17, and spearheaded by junior **Maya Leyzarovich**, the drive was part of a multi-pronged effort by student leaders in the Service Learning and International Clubs, including **Veronica Koval, Avery Litwin** and **Sophia Sandholm**, to educate the Senior School community about the war and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, which also included a teach-in and a bake sale. Two carloads of donations were delivered to Sts. Peter & Paul Ukranian Orthodox Church over spring break.

In March, the Middle School Community Service Committee organized two very successful fundraisers benefitting Brother’s Brother Ukrainian humanitarian relief efforts. Through a basket raffle and dress-down day, the committee donated \$3,116.



First Graders Participate in Jared Box Project

As a culminating project for their humanities unit on communities, Country Day School first grade students participated in the Jared Box Project. This community service project provides elementary-aged children in the hospital with fun and engaging activities in decorated boxes, sent with a personal note. The first grade class asked families in each grade at Country Day to bring in different items to fill the Jared Boxes, from coloring supplies, stickers, toy cars, Play-Doh, crafts, Legos and puzzles. First graders then assembled and decorated the boxes and wrote notes to go inside, and will send them off to brighten a child’s day. Together, the first grade classes assembled 46 Jared Boxes.

SSA Children of Steel Tutoring Program Wraps Up Successful Year

Children of Steel, a student-led club that pairs Senior School students with Country Day and Junior School students for weekly Zoom tutoring and enrichment sessions, successfully wrapped up its first full school year after starting midway through the 2020-2021 year. Student tutors included **Wesley Dillon, Logan Starta, Dani Strauss, Rohan Anand, Tommy Certo, Alexandra Demchak, Ericson Kimbel, Tiffany Wu, Madison Zunder, Joey Bellinotti, Maila Davis, Delaney Mulderig, Bree Murphy, Ben Myerburg** and **Jinny Guo**. The tutors met with CDS and JS students on a weekly basis, working with children on whatever the parent requested – helping with homework, practicing spelling words, reading together, or doing enrichment work in an area where the child excels. Several other area high schools have started Children of Steel chapters as well.





1. Country Day School First Grade Around the World Project
2. Country Day School Second Grade Wax Museum
3. Country Day School Fourth Grade Inventor's Box Showcase
4. Country Day School Fifth Grade Show
5. Junior School Pre-Kindergarten Alphabet Parade
6. Junior School Third Grade State Fair
7. Junior School Fourth Grade Greek Museum
8. Middle School Winter Musical, *Mary Poppins Jr.*
9. Senior School Winter Musical, *Pippin*



NATIONAL BULLDOG DAY



**A New Annual Tradition
Celebrating Bulldog Pride**

BY LINDSAY KOVACH



ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21,
Shady Side Academy students,
faculty and staff celebrated
National Bulldog Day with
a special All-Academy
celebration featuring treats,
games, music, blue and gold
spirit and of course – dogs!



Junior School students were greeted in morning carpool by SSA's mascot, Blue, waving to families and getting students excited for the day ahead. Junior and Country Day School students then joined together for a virtual assembly to watch the video premiere of CDS music and theater arts teacher Tami Fire's original song, *Blue the Bulldog*. The song was a hit, and the music video features students from both schools (and Blue!) singing and dancing. Afterward, both lower schools enjoyed visits from service dogs and cotton candy treats, courtesy of the Parents' Association. Blue waved farewell to CDS students and families at afternoon carpool.

At the Senior School, a community gathering was held in McKnight Hockey Center during lunch periods. The rainy weather did not dampen the fun as students and faculty lined up to grab lunch from one of four food trucks: Las Chicas, Burgh Bites, Millies Ice Cream and Pittsburgh Smokehouse. Inside the rink, students ate while enjoying a DJ,



games, a Spirit Store pop-up shop, and cotton candy from the PA. But nothing could top the visitors from FurKid Rescue – six adorable rescue puppies that students could hold and play with – talk about stress relief!

Middle School students enjoyed a visit from three service dogs, a scavenger hunt with prizes of SSA swag, and a lively dance contest with Blue the mascot. In an overwhelming vote, the sixth grade claimed top dancing honors over Blue. Students danced their way out the door to music from DJ BMW,

grabbing a bag of cotton candy from the PA on the way.

All four campuses came together to collect donations for FurKid Rescue the week of April 18-23. The nonprofit animal rescue organization was incredibly grateful to receive 10 crates, 80 bags of food, more than 250 toys and so much more.

The SSA Spirit Store released limited-edition SSA pet bandanas, and families submitted photos of their pets wearing them to be featured on SSA social media. A limited number

of bandanas are still available for \$4.95 at the SSA Spirit Store.

Finally, SSA launched Build the Bulldog, an initiative to create a collaborative, crowdsourced, 3D-printed statue of the Shady Side Bulldog, which will stand guard on the porch of the Glimcher Tech & Design Hub. Plans to unveil the 3D-printed Bulldog will be forthcoming.

With all four campuses swelling with Bulldog pride, the energy was simply barktastic! We look forward to an even bigger and better Bulldog Day celebration next year.



FUEL TO THRIVE

Steven D. Liu '22 Earns National Recognition for Biodiesel Research

BY JEN ROUPE

Class of 2022 graduate **Steven D. Liu** earned national recognition and more than \$30,000 in awards for his original research on algal biodiesel production in two prestigious STEM competitions last spring.

In his research, *Techno-Economic Assessment of a Cost and Quality-Based Algal Biodiesel Production Process*, Liu used computer modeling to design a process for producing biodiesel fuel from algae that minimizes cost and environmental impact while maximizing quality and efficiency. His modeling suggests algal biodiesel could be produced for 10% less than conventional diesel fuel.

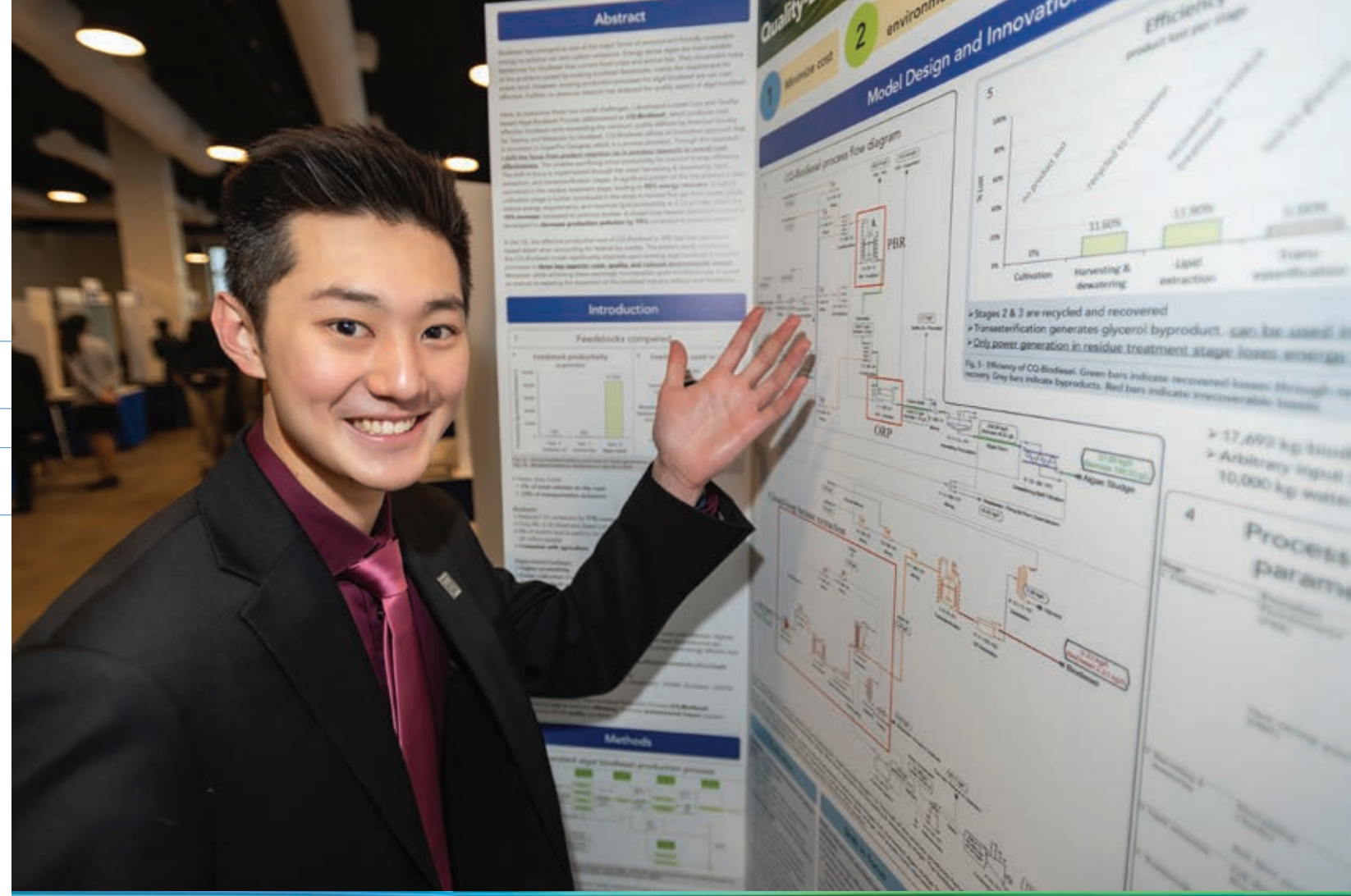
In January, Liu was named one of 40 finalists in the 2022 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS), the nation's oldest and most prestigious STEM competition for high school seniors. Finalists were chosen based on their projects' scientific rigor and their potential to become world-changing scientists and leaders. They were selected from 300 Top Scholars named earlier in the year, who were chosen from a pool of 1,804 entrants. Liu won \$2,000 as a Top Scholar and \$25,000 as a national finalist, and SSA was also awarded \$2,000 to contribute toward excellence in science, math or engineering education. In May, Liu's research won a Grand Award and two Special Awards worth \$3,150 at the

2022 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Atlanta, which featured 1,750 student finalists from around the world.

As a national finalist, Liu had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in STS Finals Week in Washington, D.C. in March, where his research underwent rigorous judging by experts and was displayed in a public exhibition. He also met leading scientists, attended panel discussions and keynotes, and forged

friendships with the other finalists while enjoying social events and sightseeing tours. The week culminated with a black-tie awards gala live streamed on YouTube.

Liu said the best part of STS finals week was the people. "The smaller participation makes the finalists that much closer. The friendships I made will last forever – we're sort of a family now. The coolest thing was that we could discuss our projects and our inspiration and the difficulties we went through. It



Left: Steven Liu (center) with Society for Science President & CEO Naya Ajmera (left) and Regeneron Founder & President Dr. George Yancopoulos

Above: Steven Liu presenting his research at the STS Finals Week Exhibition

felt like a moment of celebration of all of the work that we've done."

The STS experience also meaningfully impacted Liu's future plans. He will attend Stanford University this fall, attracted by the launch of its new Doerr School of Sustainability alongside the Stanford Earth and Stanford Engineering schools. "I want to make a huge impact on society, specifically in the energy sector," he said. "Initially I was more interested in energy creation, but now I feel like I'm shifting away from pure science research, and I want to focus more on entrepreneurship and the

technical side. The STS Entrepreneurship Panel I attended was really impactful, because they were alums of STS who created startups."

Liu has been passionate about science and the environment since childhood. Around age 12, he nearly set his family's kitchen on fire trying to turn vegetable oil into biodiesel. As a sophomore and junior at SSA, he built a Tesla coil and a Wimshurst machine in his Advanced Physics classes under the guidance of **Dr. Scott Peterson**. During his junior year, he conducted an Independent Study under faculty advisor **Dr. Devon Renock**, exploring how to grow algae and turn it into biodiesel in the labs of the McIlroy

Center for Science & Innovation. That research won him a first-place award at the 2021 PRSEF, a trip to ISEF, and a third-place award at the 2021 National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. It also helped him gain admission to MIT's 2021 Research Science Institute (RSI), a prestigious six-week summer program, where he expanded his research into algal biodiesel production.

"Without guidance from Dr. Renock with my first project, this biodiesel simulation project would never have happened," said Liu. "That independent study changed my life in a lot of aspects."

Real-World Learning

PREPARING TO
LEAD A CONNECTED,
DIGITAL FUTURE

BY LINDSAY KOVACH



In today's rapidly changing world, schools and colleges are challenged with preparing students for jobs and careers that may not yet exist.

Doing so requires more than imparting content knowledge in core academic subjects; students also must be taught skills and literacies, such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, flexibility and technology literacy, which will equip them to solve complex real-world problems. Ultimately, students must be agile learners, able to adapt and lead in an increasingly digital world.



“Shady Side is focused on providing real-world learning experiences that prepare students to become leaders at the intersection of technology and the liberal arts,” said President **Bart Griffith ’93**. “Artificial intelligence, smart robots, augmented reality and other advances suggest the future of our world is digital and rapidly changing. SSA stands out in its capacity to produce the leaders who will humanize this digital future, lending it an ethical dimension and ensuring it all serves to strengthen our communities.”

Educational technology, STEAM and design thinking initiatives are intertwined at all levels of Shady Side’s PK-12 curriculum, and not just for technology’s sake. Rather, technology is leveraged as a way to break down the classroom walls and engage kids in relevant, real-world learning experiences.

Faculty members in all grades and disciplines are supported in this work by a team of experts, including Innovative Teaching and Learning Facilitator **Jody Kokladas**, Glimcher Tech & Design Hub Director **Jesse Robinson**, two educational technology collaborators and technology faculty.

LAYING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Shady Side students as young as junior pre-kindergarten begin learning technology skills that lay a strong foundation for the multitude of real-world learning experiences that lie ahead.

Using educational coding programs designed for young children such as ScratchJr, Junior School Technology Literacy Teacher **Karen Sandora** helps students learn foundational skills such as sequential processing, logic and reasoning in a fun, playful and age-appropriate way. Kindergarteners utilize BeeBot robots to code directional sequences of forward, backward, and left and right 90-degree turns. The kindergarten-coders build obstacle courses and mazes for their BeeBots to navigate, and even program them to move and groove to a synchronized dance routine.

“Providing our students with the tools to explore programming languages when they are young creates a solid foundation for success in learning to code in later years,” said Sandora.

In order to build capacity and support all learners, Junior School Educational Technology Collaborator **Brittany Andy** works alongside classroom teachers and specialists to meaningfully integrate technology into their classes. For example, this past year Andy helped third graders produce green screen videos for the annual State Fair project in addition to the standard state boxes and presentations. The videos highlighted fun facts about each state, utilizing visually appealing graphics, photos and text. One student reported “live” from the Grand Canyon, while another was white water rafting and skiing.

“Developmentally, the type of thinking that goes into coding, programming and design is very sophisticated,” said Andy. “The thought is intentional, complex, multifaceted and requires children to think deeply, as opposed to simply memorizing and reciting.”

At Country Day School, Educational Technology Collaborator **Kate Weber** taught junior pre-kindergarten students how to use Sphero robots to simulate the curling event at the Winter Olympics. Students controlled the robots using iPads and attempted to steer them into the center of a bullseye to get the most points.

Weber also worked with CDS fourth graders to create 3D-printed products for Design to Make a Difference, a Pittsburgh-based STEAM showcase that combines maker education with altruism. Students were challenged to design and build a product that would assist others in the real world. Prototype products included a cup with a built-in coaster, a headphone holder for student desks that prevents cords from tangling, and “The Renaissance” snack bowl, which includes a tray, cup holder and utensil storage all in one.

“The work that my team does is about empowering student learning pathways through design, computational thinking, maker-centered learning and personalization,” said Kokladas. “A variety of projects take place across the lower schools, including coding camps, passion projects and interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary learning.”

“Developmentally, the type of thinking that goes into coding, programming and design is very sophisticated. The thought is intentional, complex, multifaceted and requires children to think deeply, as opposed to simply memorizing and reciting.” — Brittany Andy, Junior School Educational Technology Collaborator



TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

At the Middle and Senior Schools, active learning skills serve as the basis for projects across a variety of subjects, which places students at the center of assignments and allows them to guide their own learning path through collaboration and questioning. Active learning methods ask students to engage by thinking, discussing, investigating, collaborating and creating. Ideas are shared and examined, and feedback and concerns are communicated among various student and faculty groups.

“My work at the Middle and Senior Schools focuses on collaborating with faculty to support creativity, critical thinking and design as we embrace technology to foster authentic learning activities,” said Kokladas. “The goal is to enhance and enrich both teaching and learning.”

This past year, Kokladas assisted **Matt Brunner’s** sixth grade science students in putting their own creative touch on projects

by broadcasting them “live” from the Mesozoic Era, a mere 200 million years ago. Utilizing a green screen and the Do Ink app, students acted as newscasters, reporting on the lives of dinosaurs utilizing modern graphics, eye-catching visuals and detailed images of various predators.

Kokladas also helped eighth graders in **Katharine Pryor’s** social studies classes transform the standard family tree project into an interactive, shareable website. Through the use of family photos, immigration records, personal memories, family crests, traditions and even recipes, the project evolved into a personalized digital family history book that could be shared with relatives and updated in years to come.

At the Senior School, students in **Josh Baringer’s** German class created original musical compositions based on the lyrics of a German song, then shared their works with a faculty member at Humboldt-Gymnasium high school in Gifhorn, Lower Saxony, Germany.

“The volunteer effort, led entirely by students, resulted in more than 5,000 face shields and bands that went directly to front line health care workers.”

— Jesse Robinson, Glimcher Tech & Design Hub Director

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

At the Senior School, state-of-the-art learning spaces support high-caliber STEAM courses and independent learning opportunities that open up a plethora of real-world learning experiences across disciplines.

The new Glimcher Tech & Design Hub is an innovative facility that is unparalleled in the Pittsburgh region, offering all SSA students access to cutting-edge equipment in its fabrication lab, robotics arena, workshop and wet lab. As its director, Robinson partners with school leadership and faculty to promote innovation, creativity and design thinking across the curriculum, and he also teaches a number of elective courses.

In Robinson’s Community Connections Through Tech & Design course, students work with community partners to identify and solve problems according to the design thinking framework, utilizing the resources and tools in the Glimcher Tech & Design Hub. The course themes and projects change annually and are driven by the interests of enrolled students. Past courses have focused on real-world design projects in sustainability, assistive technology and children’s television production, and students have designed and built hydroponic garden systems, prosthetics and created a children’s TV show with student-designed puppets and animatronics. This past year, students completed the first half of a two-year endeavor to create a mobile, modular escape room.

“The escape room is a fantastic example of a multidisciplinary project that has involved students in courses outside of the Glimcher,” said Robinson. “Students in English courses developed the theme and storyline, advanced physics students have designed many of the puzzles and other classes have provided additional input and help.”

Students in **Dr. Scott Peterson’s** advanced physics classes have utilized the Glimcher’s Fab Lab to design and build independent projects and are given the freedom to create anything that interests them. Recent student projects have included an orbital simulator, a projectile game on different

planets, a neural network exoplanet hunter, an electric guitar, an embroidery machine, a waterphone, an electric go-kart, an electrified wheelbarrow, a Tesla coil, a Wimshurst machine and much more. Art classes have utilized the Glimcher to design and create independent projects like parametric furniture, while Latin classes used the Fab Lab’s laser cutter to create Roman curse tablets.

Student clubs have used its resources to complete projects benefiting local and global organizations. For example, Robinson assisted a group of student volunteers in partnering with 3D Printing Pittsburgh to fabricate face shield head bands during the first few months of COVID-19 for local first responders and health care workers.

“The volunteer effort, led entirely by students, resulted in more than 5,000 face shields and bands that went directly to front line health care workers,” said Robinson.

A variety of special programs including the Summer Science Research Seminar, the UPenn Social Innovators Program, the Independent Study Program and Senior Projects give Senior School students the opportunity to design their own real-world learning experiences. For example, 2022 graduate **Karen Linares Mendoza** took the Science Research Seminar as a junior, which landed her a summer internship at the University of Pittsburgh’s Sound Brain Lab conducting cognitive research on the role of speech cues in auditory processing. Then as a senior, she was able to extend that learning through an Independent Study, where she led her own research comparing the neural tracking of speech sounds in native and non-native English speakers, even recruiting SSA Chinese boarding students as participants.

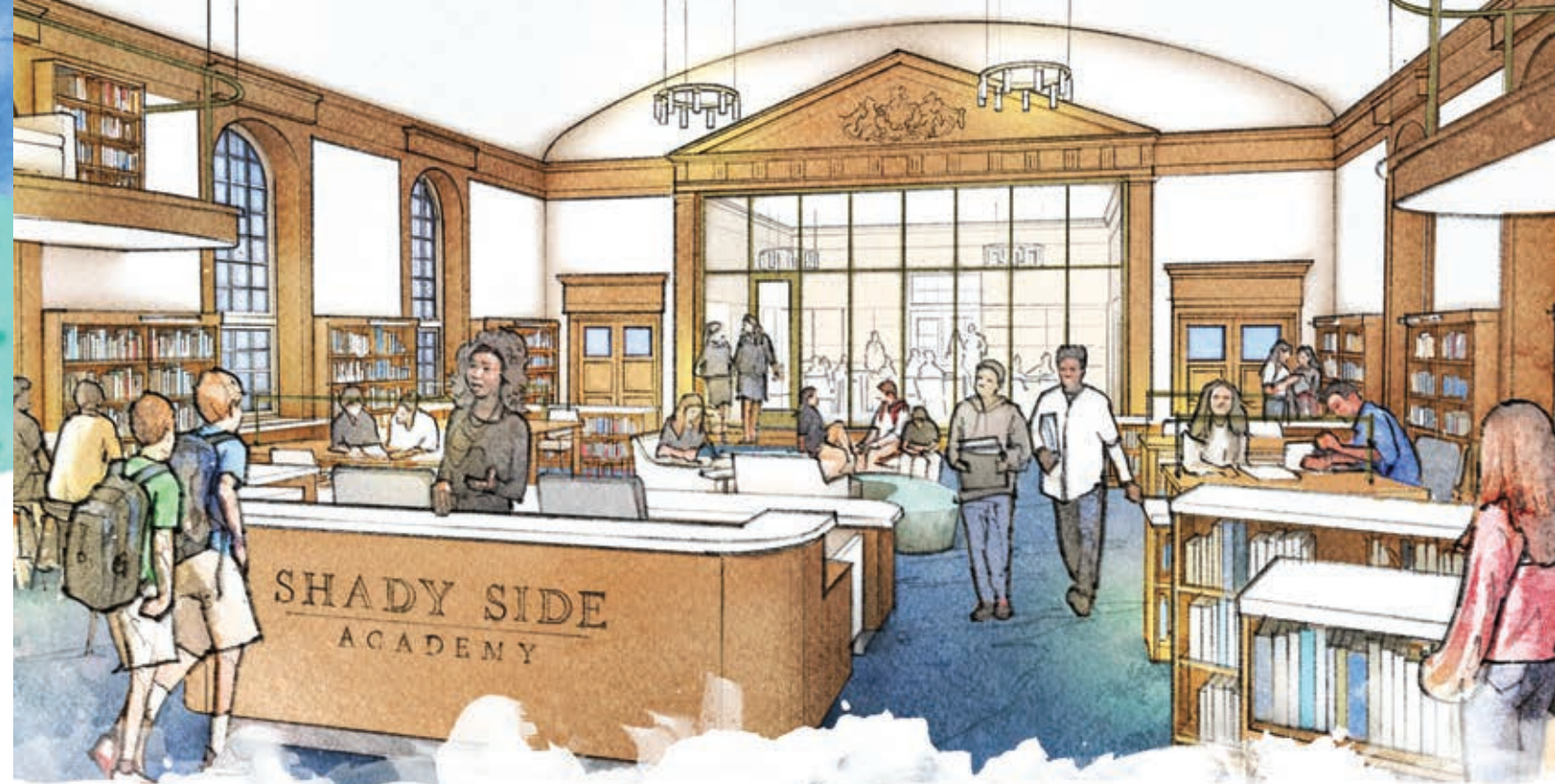
“Even before this research, I was interested in majoring in cognitive sciences, and this solidified my interest,” said Linares Mendoza, who will attend Johns Hopkins University this fall. “I’m grateful because Shady Side has prepared me more than I could ever imagine.”

“We envision academic excellence not simply as the absorption of a body of knowledge within the four walls of a classroom, but rather as an engagement with the content and people making a difference in our world and to our future,” said Griffith.



The Class of 1966 Memorial Hall Library Project

IN APRIL 2022, THE ACADEMY ANNOUNCED THE MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY PROJECT, A \$2.2 MILLION CONVERSION OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL'S MEMORIAL HALL FROM ITS ORIGINS AS A CHAPEL AND THEATER SPACE TO A CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY THAT SERVES AS A HUB FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH, COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND SMALL COMMUNITY EVENTS.



Dr. Bartley Griffith '66 generously contributed the lead gift to kick off the project, and he challenged his 1966 classmates to raise additional funds to secure the naming opportunity for the new space in honor of their class. Thanks to incredible support, the library will be known as The Class of 1966 Memorial Hall Library. With gifts and commitments from additional alumni, parents and friends, more than \$1.75 million has been raised in support of the project. Currently, the initial phase of construction is underway, with the expectation that the project will be complete in advance of the 2023-2024 school year.

As the world becomes increasingly digital and classroom learning more collaborative, a library is no longer merely a storage space for books and a place for quiet study. Instead it demands a design that supports connections between people, technologies and ideas, as well as shared spaces for digital learning and research, team projects, socialization and study.

The new 5,500 square-foot Class of 1966 Memorial Hall Library will feature enhanced digital platforms, a host of collaborative learning spaces, a large, multi-use classroom and meeting space, and a small presentation stage in support of events and gatherings. A spacious mezzanine will provide further opportunity for students to come together and effectively engage with both course content and one another.

Aesthetically, the renovation of Memorial Hall will accentuate the

building's original architectural features, including the memorial vestibule, the large radius windows, and the proscenium arch that once framed the stage used for plays and performances. The space will be more open and flexible than ever before and replete with natural light.

For more information on the project or to make a gift of support, contact Jamie Scott '98 in the Alumni & Development Office at jscott@shadysideacademy.org or 412-968-3032. Read more about the history of Memorial Hall on page 57.



The Class of 1966 as pictured in the 1965 yearbook

2022 SENIOR SCHOOL

Commencement

Shady Side Academy celebrated the 127 members of the Class of 2022 during Commencement Exercises on Friday, June 3, 2022, at Michael J. Farrell Stadium. Academy President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed families and guests, and Alumni Council President **Jim Ambrose '05** welcomed the class to the ranks of SSA alumni. Senior **Sydney Demchak** presented the class gift, while seniors **Georgia Horgan** and **Steven Liu** presented senior speeches. The graduation address was given by **Bentley Weiner '92**, vice president of HBO Sports, who encouraged students to strive for success through a series of tips from her own SSA classmates. For additional photos, videos and a list of award winners, visit shadysideacademy.org/commencement.



Senior speakers Georgia Horgan and Steven Liu



CLASS OF 2022



Bentley Weiner '92



THE CLASS OF 2022

by the Numbers

College Matriculation

127 graduates will attend **84** colleges in **27** states plus D.C. and Canada

56% will attend a Barron's "Most Competitive" college

52% will attend a *US News & World Report* Top 50 National University or Liberal Arts College; **31%** will attend a Top 25 school

14% will play college athletics in **7** different sports

Admitted to "Very Selective" schools at **2x** the national rate (23% vs. 11%)

SSA Experience

10% are "lifers" who attended SSA from grades K-12

50% completed an independent study or senior project

50% attended SSA Middle School

24% participated in the boarding program

Hail from **9** states and **6** countries

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

46% participated in the performing arts (theatre production or musical ensemble)

14% were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program

Helped **8** SSA athletic teams win **13** league championships



CLASS OF 2022 COLLEGE CHOICES

Amherst College
Bates College (2)
Boston College
Boston University
Brown University (2)
Bucknell University (3)
Carnegie Mellon University (2)
Case Western Reserve University
Chatham University
Claremont McKenna College
Clarkson University
Colby College
Columbia University
Cornell University (4)
Dartmouth College (3)
Davidson College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Duquesne University
Elon University (3)
Fashion Institute of Technology
Furman University
George Washington University (2)
Grove City College
Hamilton College
Hampton University
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Kenyon College
Lawrence University

Lehigh University
Liberty University (2)
Maine Maritime Academy
Marietta College
Marquette University (2)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University (2)
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University (2)
Pennsylvania State University (3)
Pennsylvania State University
New Kensington
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen's University (2)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University (2)
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
Stanford University (2)
Syracuse University (2)
Temple University
Texas Christian University
Tufts University
Tulane University

United States Merchant Marine Academy
University of Akron
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland (2)
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami (2)
University of Michigan
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of New Hampshire
University of Notre Dame (3)
University of Pittsburgh (8)
University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
University of Pittsburgh Greensburg
University of Southern California
University of Toronto
University of Virginia (2)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University (4)
Washington University in St. Louis (2)
Wesleyan University
Westminster College

MIDDLE SCHOOL Closing Exercises

The 67 members of the Middle School's Form II class were officially promoted to the Senior School on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at Middle School Closing Exercises. The graduation ceremony was held in the Richard E. Rauh Theater of the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on the Senior School campus. President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed students and families, and Head of Middle School **Amy Nixon** presented several student awards. Form II speaker **Ethan Chen** addressed his classmates prior to Nixon and Assistant Head of School **Brian Johnston** presenting the graduation certificates. A reception on the Mary Hillman Jennings Plaza for the Class of 2026 and their families concluded the event.



CLASS OF 2026



CLASS OF 2029



JUNIOR SCHOOL Closing Exercises



The 39 members of the Junior School's fifth grade class were officially promoted to the Middle School at the Closing Exercises ceremony on Monday, June 6, 2022. The ceremony was held in Withers Gymnasium for fifth graders and their families. President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed families and a fifth grade slideshow was shown with highlights of the past year. Head of Lower Schools **Dr. Jennifer Asmonga** introduced 2022 graduate and SSA lifer **Jasmine DeBruce**, who gave the graduation address. After being presented with graduation certificates by Assistant Heads of School **Melanie Smith** and **Dr. Peter Mathis**, the Class of 2029 was welcomed to the Middle School by **Amy Nixon**. Following the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed an outdoor reception.





CLASS OF 2029



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL Closing Exercises

The 19 members of Country Day School's fifth grade class were officially promoted to the Middle School at the Closing Exercises ceremony on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, in the Great Hall. The ceremony began with the fifth grade processional, a welcome by President **Bart Griffith '93**, and each fifth grader providing a three-word reflection. Head of Lower Schools **Dr. Jennifer Asmonga** introduced 2022 SSA graduate and CDS lifer **Charlie Karet**, who gave the graduation address. Fifth graders sang *The Garden Song* before Griffith, Asmonga, Assistant Heads of School **Josh Frechette** and **Katie Nestor**, and the fifth grade teachers presented the graduates with their certificates. The ceremony concluded with an outdoor reception for friends and family.



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 2022 recipients were Senior School Computer Science Teacher David Szlachetka and Senior School Music Teacher Dr. Daniel Brill.



David Szlachetka

At SSA since 1994, David Szlachetka has served as computer science teacher and department chair, director of academic technology, dean of students and dean of academic affairs. "Mr. S" has also been a member of the Residential Life program, served on the Admissions Committee and coached several varsity sports. He was a systems engineer at Westinghouse Electric Co. before joining SSA.

A parent wrote, "All three of our children are better students and citizens due to Dave's guidance as their freshman advisor as well as ongoing support and encouragement throughout their high school years. One of our children was quiet and thoughtful throughout his time at Shady Side but Dave didn't let him hide, and instead drew out his strengths as a quiet leader academically, athletically and socially. Dave took the time to understand the gifts he had and helped him share those gifts with others on the field and in the classroom. He encouraged him to bring out the best in fellow students with his positive attitude and leading by example."



Dr. Daniel Brill

Dan Brill has taught music at the Senior School since 1986, directing the choral and strings groups and previously serving as chair of the Arts Department. He also taught secondary music in Kansas, Nebraska and Pennsylvania and has taken advantage of numerous professional development opportunities to study, sing and perform under master conductors. He retired at the end of the 2021–2022 school year.

A parent wrote, "We have been amazed by the energy of Dr. Brill and the countless hours he spends with his students outside of the classroom to prepare them in the best way possible. He gives his best and expects the best effort from his students, which they give him day in and day out. Dr. Brill is a tremendous role model for his students, with his hard work and dedication, and wise and calm demeanor. Dr. Brill embodies the school's mission to build complete individuals and prepare them to live meaningful, vibrant and gratifying lives."

Additional Awards

Michael J. Farrell Award for Exceptional Interactions with Students

Paul Waked, *Middle School Science Teacher*
Nick Hammon, *Junior School Kindergarten Teacher*

Michael J. Farrell Award for Going Above and Beyond

Margie Heintzleman, *Country Day School Science Teacher*
Carol Schneider, *Senior School World Languages Teacher*

Michael J. Farrell Award for Innovative Educators

Natalie Potts, *Middle School Art Teacher*
Jillian Velotta, *Junior School First Grade Teacher*

Class of '61 Faculty Award for Excellence

Alicia Segura-Pinto, *Senior School World Languages Teacher*

Ruth and F. Walter Jones Service Prize

Maria Thieman, *Senior School Nurse*

President's Award for Distinguished Staff Service

Jeremy Schreckengost, *Academy Grounds Superintendent*

Kenneth M. Raymond Vasko Memorial Award

Lauren Cannon, *Middle School English Teacher*

Catherine Heald '80

Guiding Travel Adventures Throughout the Globe

BY CRISTINA ROVALIS / PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY CATHERINE HEALD

Catherine Heald was working on Wall Street at LF Rothschild when she completely upended her life to move to Hong Kong, sight unseen. With her life savings of \$1,000 in hand and the phone numbers of two contacts in her pocket, she boarded a plane, having absolutely no idea what she would do when she landed.

To her family, the decision to abandon her career in the financial/technology industry was impulsive and totally impractical. Why would a 25-year-old woman leave midway through an MBA program to go to a country where she didn't know a soul?

But Heald only listened to her inner wanderlust. She had developed an obsession with Hong Kong while reading James Clavell's novel *Tai Pan*. She just had to get there, and she would find a way to make it work.

As soon as she stepped off the plane and onto the teeming city streets, she was mesmerized. "This is the coolest place ever," she thought. "It was East meets West. It was a British colony, but it was still 98 percent Chinese. Just walking down the street I was blown away. I reveled in getting out of my comfort zone."

She stayed for seven years, traveling all over Asia, making many friends, meeting her first husband and starting a tech company in Hong Kong.



Today Heald helps other adventurous spirits through her company, Remote Lands, which sets up customized luxury journeys throughout Asia. The self-described "adventurer, Asiaphile and serial entrepreneur" uses her extensive knowledge and experience to take people anywhere from five-star hotels in Tokyo to a yurt in a remote corner of Mongolia and everywhere in between.

Heald, who is based in New York City, offers unique travel experiences, including a trip through the "Stans" – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. On a recent trip there, she hiked along the Tien Shan Mountains in Kyrgyzstan, a stunningly beautiful range undiscovered by the West. She visited the ornate mosques in Uzbekistan's Samarkand, one of the richest cities during the Silk Road times.

Her company also offers personalized expeditions for up to 16 travelers at a time featuring a private jet and luxury hotels. She has led tours that start in Tokyo and Kyoto and take



“Luxury is being able to go to a small town in Japan or India, or Nepal or Bhutan, where you can meet local people and have an authentic experience.”

– Catherine Heald

passengers through the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Bhutan and Greece, before finally arriving in Venice. Instead of herding the entire group through a shared itinerary, each couple has their own transportation and local guide to take each traveler to whatever sites they prefer.

But Heald says there is more to luxury than elegant hotels and private jets.

“Luxury is being able to go to a small town in Japan or India, or Nepal or Bhutan, where you can meet local people and have an authentic experience. When I am in Kyrgyzstan, I’m going to be staying in a yurt,” referring to a portable, lightweight felt structure that is used by nomadic cultures.

She also specializes in travel to remote corners of Japan, another favorite destination of hers. Pre-pandemic, she traveled to Asia about six times a year, as did many of her stateside staff. Remote Lands also has an office in Bangkok, Thailand.

The travelers are supported at every turn by local guides who know the regions. “We help travelers and hold their hands every step of the way.”

Heald meets with clients before designing what she calls a “bespoke” travel itinerary for them. She learns their preferences – the pace of travel, whether they want to spend time in nature or with culture and history, enjoying contemporary art or hiking. “All of these little details are so important,” she said. “We like to think that we change the world in our own tiny little way, by introducing our clients to totally different cultures and taking them outside their comfort zone, expanding their minds, and helping to really understand the world.”

Mollie Fitzgerald, owner of Frontiers International Travel in Wexford, Pa., said she has been working with Remote Lands for years. “I have long admired Catherine’s perspective on Asia. She lived there and she tells it like it is. She has astounding taste and flawless contacts.”

As a travel agent, Fitzgerald has booked trips through Remote Lands for clients, including trips to less well-known parts of Japan, a chartered yacht trip in Indonesia and a trip to Borneo, where travelers ventured into the wild and saw orangutans.

She said the private jet trips Heald organizes are outstanding. “A number of companies have private jet trips, but they are usually larger, 50 to 75 people. Remote Lands’ group size is much smaller. They are able to get into hotels that don’t take groups.”

Heald’s business was booming until March of 2020, when COVID-19 utterly devastated the travel and tourism industry, especially to Asia, where many countries immediately closed their borders.

In March of 2020, Remote Lands was forced to cancel or postpone 450 trips and furlough many staff. “It was horrible,” Heald said. By the summer of 2020, they were able to book trips to the Maldives, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Sri Lanka, some of the first Asian countries to reopen. But still the entire travel industry was down.

Now that many Asian countries are reopening and there is pent-up demand for adventure, business is ramping back up and she is hiring employees, often young people who in previous lives were lawyers, doctors, dentists or Wall Street traders. “They say, ‘Life is too short and I want to travel and do something I love’ she said.

Even when many trips to Asia were on hold, Heald was immersing herself in the culture by studying Japanese on language apps for an hour a day. “It’s hard, but when I finally get to Japan, I will test it out and it will be fun.”

“I just always want to always keep learning and traveling, reading books about all these places. I’m fascinated by geopolitics, which is obviously hugely important in the world, especially during a time like this.”

Heald inherited her love of travel from her great-grandparents, who lived in Pittsburgh and traveled the world to buy 19th-century Asian artwork and antiques.

A native of Greensburg, she transferred to Shady Side in ninth grade, becoming a five-day boarder. “Boarding was so much fun. It was like a pajama party every night, and we would all eat together in the dining hall.” Those bonds are still strong, thanks to Facebook. “Our class is very close-knit.”

Upon graduation, she went to New York City in 1980 to attend Barnard College, Columbia University. “I sort of fell into a computer science major, which was brand new at the time. I figured computers might become important in the future.” She was one of the only girls in her classes.

She spent a semester abroad in France and fell in love with travel as she made her way around Europe.

Upon graduation, she worked as systems analyst on Wall Street. At night, she attended an MBA program at New York University’s Stern School of Business. During that time, she began reading books by Clavell, the initial spark of her interest in Asia and the driving force behind her abrupt life change. She says she regrets not finishing her MBA but never regretted a minute of her time exploring the diverse and fascinating continent. “European culture is so similar to ours, but in Asia, it has totally different religions,

languages, the alphabets are so different. Comparing Chinese to Korean to Japanese to Vietnamese to Indonesian cultures, they’re all completely different from one another,” she said.

Heald worked first for the Apple distributor in Hong Kong, and then started her first company, an e-book publisher that focused exclusively on travel. Apple was the distributor, and they bundled the CD-ROMs with their computers. When Bill Gates launched the multimedia PC in 1992, she was on stage with him to demonstrate her travel CD-ROM.

Though the company was a success, she had to overcome many obstacles to learn how to do business in China, which was far less modern in the early 1990s. “Everybody was still riding bicycles, the roads were bad, and the GDP was much, much lower,” she said. “So doing business over there was extremely difficult, but it was also fascinating.”

She met her first husband there, a famous British author named Simon Winchester. “I was in an Apple showroom and I heard this plummy accent of a gentleman asking which Mac he should buy, and that was it,” she remembered. “We were engaged in Tonga six weeks later and married on a Russian ship by the captain as we cleared international waters in 1989. We honeymooned in Singapore, Madras and Cochin. My family back in Greensburg was furious that I had eloped and left them out, but living on the other side of the globe was much harder back then.”

She was catapulted into a whirlwind social life. Thanks to her husband’s connections and his close friendship with Sir David Tang, the couple enjoyed visits from John Cleese, Jeremy Irons, Princess Diana, Lauren Hutton and members of the British aristocracy. Though they divorced after 11 years and she has since remarried, they remain good friends.

After selling the company and moving back to New York, Heald started a second tech company called Wanderlust, which created educational software for children ages 8-14. “I managed to convince MGM to license me the Pink Panther character, who starred in our animated video games where he traveled around the world and learned about all the different cultures.” She said Wanderlust was Silicon Alley’s first IPO in 1995.

Despite her success, she wasn’t in love with the tech world. “It changes so fast. You need a new business plan every six months.”

So, she asked herself: What do I love doing every morning?

Her answer? Thinking about Asia, talking about Asia, traveling to Asia. In 2006, at age 42, she started Remote Lands. She found her true calling as she sends new adventurers into the parts of the world she loves.

Every day is an adventure, for both Heald and her clients.



ZAC

COUGHLIN

'17

TESTING THE RECIPE FOR *Sweet Success*

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS / PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY ZAC COUGHLIN

Like many kids, Zac Coughlin loved sweets, the gooier the better. He would go to Dairy Queen and load up his Blizzard with cookie and candy bits and then scarf down Hostess snack cakes at home. At the mall, he would walk past the clothing stores to stare at the expensive chocolates in the windows of the Godiva shop, the way an adult might ogle a diamond ring in the jewelry shop.

"I was a candy-crazy child," he said.

Unlike other kids, Coughlin created his own chocolate company at age 13. When his family held a holiday party, Coughlin dipped strawberries, pretzels and Oreos into melted chocolate and decorated them with a multi-colored chocolate drizzle.

"Where did you get these?" the guests asked him after eating his treats. "These are so good."

Zac's Sweet Shop was born – and he soon brought it with him to Shady Side Academy Middle School, selling to students. He had the keen attention to ingredients and presentation of a pastry chef, an entrepreneur's eye for profit margins, and his own drive to become the next big chocolate brand.

Today the 24-year is going full tilt on Zac's Sweet Shop, his online dessert company, which received a boost when Beyoncé added it to her website's directory of Black-owned businesses in June 2020, in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd.

He didn't meet Beyoncé personally, but somehow she found out about his Los Angeles-based online company that sells salted caramel pretzels and Oreo truffles and other bite-sized treats to customers around the country.

On June 19, 2020, Coughlin woke up to find that his website received 300 hits overnight. *This is really weird*, he thought as orders from all over the country poured in. "Then I looked at my analytics and saw Beyonce.com and I almost lost it."

"I went from eight orders the previous week to over 100, and I got a bunch of press, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Buzzfeed* and more. It was an insane effect."

But as happy as he was about the bump in sales, "it was a sad and heavy time, and made me sit back and think about what I could do as a Black business owner. Zac's Sweet Shop saw

sales like nothing I've seen before (from people investing in Black-owned businesses) so I immediately felt the need to donate a portion of proceeds to organizations doing important work. Seeing so many people come together made me feel proud to be part of the communities I am a part of, and I also wanted to lead by example and build a meaningful business with passion and purpose."

Coughlin, who is biracial, wants to be an inspiration to other Black bakers and confection makers.

He grew up eating dessert first and watching TV shows such as *Cupcake Wars*. But he never saw anyone who looked like him on those shows. He wanted to prove that he could excel in the predominantly white and female world of baking. Instead of mowing lawns, he would sell dessert trays for parties, earning about \$400 to \$500 at a time, and spreading the word with his first batch of business cards. Even back then, he watched his bottom line, earning profit margins of 60 to 70 percent.



“Being biracial and being adopted by white parents has always given me this sense of determination and this drive to prove my worth. I worked really, really hard to prove myself, but over time, I realized that I didn’t have to do it in every situation.”

Even the way he transferred to Shady Side Academy was an act of will. He grew up in McKeesport, a former steel town in the Mon Valley, and attended the public schools. A swimmer, he met competitors from Shady Side Academy at meets and decided he wanted to attend the school too. He thought its high academic reputation would put him on the pathway to achieve his goals and convinced his parents to let him go to school across town.

After transferring to SSA, the kid who was at the top of his class at his old school found it difficult. “It was a huge culture shock,” he said. Linda Lee McDonald, a Senior School English teacher, worked with him on his writing, guiding him from a conversational style

to an academic tone. She helped him with his college essay and even developed a marketing line for his sweet shop that he uses to this day – *Our chocolate covered pretzels collide your sweet and salty cravings like nothing you’ve ever had before.*

“Linda McDonald was my champion,” Coughlin said. “She was an awesome teacher.”

Coughlin interned in the Academy’s Communications Office, and he valued the mentorship of Lindsay Kovach, assistant director of communications.

“Lindsay Kovach was an integral role in my growth at SSA – she not only allowed me to explore my business and creative pursuits but also was a huge guide for me,” he said. “From interning in her office, working with her on expanding the Fox Chapel Farmers Market, to her listening and giving me so many fun and slightly crazy ideas for Zac’s Sweet Shop. I value her friendship to this day.”

For any insecurity he may have felt at first, he overcame it with his ebullience and good nature.

“Zac was as friendly and as generous and as community-building as any student I have ever met,” McDonald said. “He was always looking for the next laugh. What you didn’t see was the deep ambition underneath and the commitment to his dreams. It was an unusual combination.”

There is no better place to sell candy than a school full of hungry teenagers. He set up shop in the hallway of the Middle School – until an administrator took him aside and politely said, “Zac, I love what you’re doing. But we just aren’t sure if it’s legal to do it in school.”

Coughlin said he understood and would take his business off-campus, but he remembers thinking to himself – *I’m going to have to figure this out.*

The orders still came in, and Coughlin and his father started delivering the sweets to his classmates after school. “I was always hustling, and I was never going to take ‘no’ for an answer.”

When there were school dances and then prom, the student committee often bought desserts from Coughlin. “It was like, ‘Zac makes these amazing sweets. Everyone loves them. We should get them,’” said Ananya Satyawadi ’17, his classmate and friend.

“Zac had a magnetism about him,” she said. “He was, and still is, one of the nicest people you will ever meet. He would talk to everyone, regardless of what clique they were in.”

He also dreamed big for college, setting his sights on the University of Southern California, a highly competitive school. His essay was about being adopted and what it meant for his identity. “Are those your real parents?” people would ask. “Have you ever met your birth parents? What country did you come from?”

He said being adopted, growing up in McKeesport and attending Shady Side Academy has allowed him to identify and relate with a variety of people from diverse backgrounds, an asset as an entrepreneur.

“Nothing happens overnight. And a lot of the times people forget that I started this business almost 10 years ago. It’s definitely been a crazy, crazy adventure.”

“I grew up in so many different environments, racially, economically, socially. I have used that to my advantage. I really have been able to look past those external factors and not be judgmental. I just look at the person.” He also likens the layers of his personality to the layers of chocolate and crunch and salt that go into his bite-sized creations.

He wasn’t accepted to USC initially. He enrolled at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and then transferred to USC in 2018 as a sophomore. He majored in communications at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, and minored in music industry at the Thornton School of Music, graduating cum laude in 2021, as a first-generation college graduate.

During his first two years of college, he focused only on school and his many internships in the music industry, putting Zac’s Sweet Shop on the back burner. He threw himself into the music business with his usual vigor. His freshman year, he interned with Crunch Music, which managed artists like Sia and Lorde, braving an hour commute each way in Los Angeles traffic to get to the offices. The next year, he was an intern at Capitol Records.

He had stopped making candy, and one day he mentioned to his friends that he used to have a sweet shop.

“That is so cool. Why don’t you try it again?” they asked him.

He realized they were right. He did miss dipping strawberries and Oreos and pretzels in chocolate and decorating them. Even with a full course load and

his budding career in the music industry, he would spend whatever time he could find on the weekends to work on his chocolate business. Initially, he wanted to open a storefront in Los Angeles, but he couldn’t afford that. Then he looked into a pop-up store, but that wasn’t feasible either.

He decided to go online and direct-to-consumer instead and used a Kickstarter campaign to finance the launch of zacssweetshop.com in October of 2019, his junior year. Six months later, the pandemic hit. The timing couldn’t have been worse.

“It was really, really tough to stay afloat,” he said. “It was a nationwide launch with no media, no marketing, no PR, just word of mouth.”

Even if he could barely afford to pay his \$2,000 a month rent for his business, his other career in music was progressing well. In 2020, he interned at KYN Entertainment, first as a digital marketing intern before being hired as an artist manager, overseeing the girl band called Boys World. He helped book gigs, did marketing, set up meetings and otherwise managed the artists. “It was so much fun. I am grateful because I learned so much and grew as a person – personally and professionally.”

But it was hard having one hand in the music business and another in the dessert business. In March of 2022, he left KYN to devote himself full-time to Zac’s Sweet Shop. He is still riding the Beyoncé bump in sales as more people discover his sweets.



When people refer to him as an overnight success, he reminds them that he has been hustling to sell his chocolate-covered delicacies from the time he was 13.

“Nothing happens overnight. And a lot of the times people forget that I started this business almost 10 years ago. It’s been a crazy adventure.”

He has recently moved to a bigger kitchen – “five feet bigger, but hey, it makes a difference,” he said. He also hired two part-time employees and increased the weekly order volume significantly. “We also have obtained clients like Google, Disney, Hulu, American Express and Amazon, and have catered television and movie premieres for *Coming 2 America 2*, *Black-ish* and Michael B. Jordan’s drive-in series. “To think that my sweets have been enjoyed by celebs like Jason Momoa, Yara Shahidi and Selena Gomez is just amazing.”

“There have been so many amazing bakeries, cookie shops and cupcake shops that have reinvented the wheel, but I think that no one has disrupted the chocolate confectionery space like I have in a long time. I’m excited to grow and reach as many people as I can across the country.”

As always, Zac Coughlin is thinking big.





WINTER

BOYS BASKETBALL – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

Varsity Record: 20-7

Captains: Thompson Lau, Josh Chu, Rian Fitzgerald, Ethan Salvia

Highlight: The boys basketball team had a historic season, finishing as WPIAL champions for the second time in school history and the first time in 22 years. Led by Head Coach David Vadnais, the Bulldogs utilized a strong group of senior leaders and underclassman talent to win the WPIAL title, defeating Avonworth, 66-54, at the Petersen Events Center. The team advanced to the second round of PIAA playoffs, where they fell to South Allegheny in double overtime, 69-58.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Varsity Record: 9-12

Captains: Zion Jackson, Natalie Stevens, Cece Messner

Highlight: The girls basketball team finished the season with a 9-12 record, finishing tied for the third place in the section. The Bulldogs qualified for the WPIAL playoffs, where they were eliminated in the first round of play. Senior **Natalie Stevens** was selected to play in the prestigious 2022 Roundball Classic All-Star Games, which feature the top senior basketball players in Western Pennsylvania.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Varsity Record: 7-3

Captains: Kira Meyers, Chloe Wells

Highlight: The girls swimming team qualified for the WPIAL Championships in eight events, winning medals and qualifying for PIAAs in five. Junior **Maeve Kelley** defended her WPIAL title in the 500 freestyle and finished second in the 200 freestyle. **Kira Meyers, Ellis Bekman, Alex Jaffe** and Kelley finished second in the 200 freestyle relay and fifth in the 400 freestyle relay. Freshman Bekman placed sixth in the 50 freestyle in her first season of WPIAL competition. At the PIAA Championships, the 200 freestyle relay team placed 14th to earn All-State honorable mention honors, while Kelley earned All-State honors in both the 200 and 500 freestyle by finishing third in each event.

BOYS SWIMMING

Varsity Record: 5-5

Captains: Dev Weiss, Kevin Johnson

Highlights: The boys swimming team qualified for the WPIAL Championships in eight events, earning medals in three and qualifying for PIAAs in four. Freshman **Soren Cooper** earned a fifth-place finish in the 200 freestyle and a third-place finish in the 500 freestyle. Cooper, **Kevin Johnson, Dev Weiss** and **Will Badeer** finished seventh in the 200 freestyle relay and 10th in the 400 freestyle relay. At the PIAA Championships, Cooper gained All-State honors by placing 10th in the 200 freestyle and ninth in the 500 freestyle.

BOYS PREP ICE HOCKEY

Record: 20-20-1

Captain: Cole Douglas

Highlight: The Bulldogs hosted and won their Thanksgiving tournament, going 4-0 with wins over Hoosac School, the Hun School, Blythe Academy and defeating Wyoming Seminary School in the championship game. SSA also hosted the Midwest Prep Hockey League (MPHL) playoffs in February, falling in the first round to Lake Forest.

GIRLS PREP ICE HOCKEY

Record: 10-7

Captain: Izee Powell, Jaidan Fahrny

Highlight: This was the first season the Bulldogs competed in the North American Prep Hockey Association (NAPHA). The team was consistent and competitive, finishing 10-7. SSA hosted a weekend of NAPHA action on Feb. 18-20, going 2-1 in three games.

BOYS SQUASH

Record: 4-3

Captains: Lars Barkman, Bobby O'Brien

Highlight: After no matches in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19, the Bulldogs were eager to get back on the court this year. The team made the first trip in school history to US Squash High School Nationals in Philadelphia, Pa. SSA was seeded No. 12 and finished nationals in the same spot. The past season was one of the most successful in recent years, and the team is looking forward to next season.

GIRLS SQUASH

Record: 5-3

Captains: Megan Dollard, Morgan Golden

Highlight: After no matches in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19, the girls squash team had one of the best seasons in recent history. The Bulldogs were ranked No. 12 heading into the US Squash High School Nationals, where the team upset No. 5 Nardin Academy and No. 4 SquashBusters before falling to No. 1 Hill School in the semifinals – although **Molly Walsh** beat Hill's top-ranked player. SSA finished third in the division at nationals.



SPRING

GIRLS LACROSSE – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

Varsity Record: 18-4

Captains: Dylan Green, Cece Messner, Molly Walsh, Jenny Woodings

Highlight: The SSA girls lacrosse team won its third straight WPIAL Championship, defeating Mt. Lebanon, 15-7, in the title game. The team advanced to the quarterfinals of the PIAA tournament before falling to Wilson, 11-7. The Bulldogs wrapped up the 2022 season with an 18-4 overall record.

BOYS LACROSSE – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

Varsity Record: 17-6

Captains: Thompson Lau, Andy Marous, Jacob Hintermaier, Will Badeer, Ethan Salvia

Highlight: The Bulldogs won their first WPIAL Championship since 2014, defeating Mt. Lebanon, 12-11, on an exciting overtime goal from junior **JP Henry**. The season ended in the PIAA quarterfinals with a loss to eventual state champion Radnor, 10-7. The team also finished second in the Midwest Scholastic Lacrosse Association Tournament, and **Ethan Salvia** was named WPIAL Player of the Year for the second straight season.

BASEBALL

Record: 9-5

Captains: Sam Luketich, Josh Chu, Bobby O'Brien

Highlight: The SSA baseball team finished second in sectional play with a 9-5 overall record. The Bulldogs advanced to the WPIAL playoffs, but fell to Laurel by a score of 13-4 in the first round of play.

SOFTBALL

Record: 3-11

Captains: Ariya Tayal, Sophia White, Marnie McCormick

Highlight: The Bulldog softball team completed its 2022 season with a rousing 20-18 senior night win against Northgate. The season featured leadership from many long-term stalwarts, effective pitching from all four pitchers and a multitude of players braving new position assignments. With a large team returning, the Bulldogs expect good things next season.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Record: 10-2

Captains: Phil Pollice, Logan Starta, Charlie Stafford, Hunter Graham

Highlight: The Bulldogs had 10 athletes qualify to compete in the WPIAL Individual Championships in six events. **Isaiah Grier** finished 10th in the 200 meters; **Phil Pollice** finished 12th in the 400; **Eddie DeBruce** finished 13th in the 100; Pollice, **Charlie Stafford**, **Chris Sullivan** and Grier finished 16th in the 4x400 relay; Stafford, **Ethan Kolek**, **Liam Atkinson** and **Dane Thomas** placed 14th in the 4x800 relay; and DeBruce, **Isaiah Beckham**, **Deacon Durham** and Grier competed in the 4x100 relay.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Record: 6-4

Captains: Drew Hines, Emma Lammert, Karen Linares Mendoza, Kira Meyers

Highlight: The Bulldogs had 10 athletes qualify to compete in the WPIAL Championships in six events, with two winning medals and one advancing to PIAAs. **Chelsea Hartman** took second place in the 3200 meters and **Gabby Hill-Junke** took eighth place in the 200. **Maila Davis**, **Reese Ruttenberg**, **Dre'Onna Lewis** and Hill-Junke placed ninth in the 4x100 relay, Ruttenberg placed 10th in the 100, **Ortiz Ortiz** placed 11th in the shot put, and **Maggie Marquette**, **Kate Nury**, **Avery Litwin** and **Karen Linares Mendoza** placed 13th in the 4x800 relay. At the PIAA Championships, Hartman set a personal record and finished No. 11 in the 3200.

BOYS TENNIS

Record: 15-4

Captains: Sam Bitzer, Thomas Certo, David Mnuskin

Highlight: The boys tennis team finished as the runner-up in the WPIAL Team Championship, and advanced as far as the PIAA Quarterfinals, before falling to defending state champion Lower Merion. In doubles action, junior **David Mnuskin** and senior **Sam Bitzer** won gold in the WPIAL Doubles Championships and earned fourth-place medals at the PIAA Doubles Championship.

BOYS ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Record: 6-3

Captains: Wilson Todd, Dev Weiss, Ben Runnette

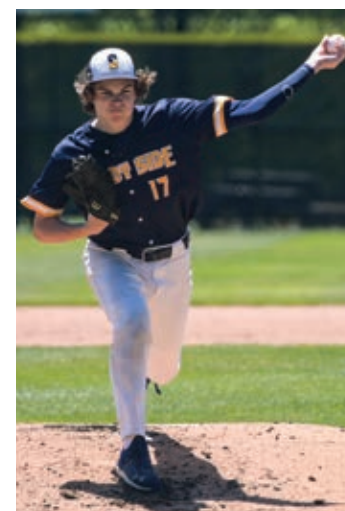
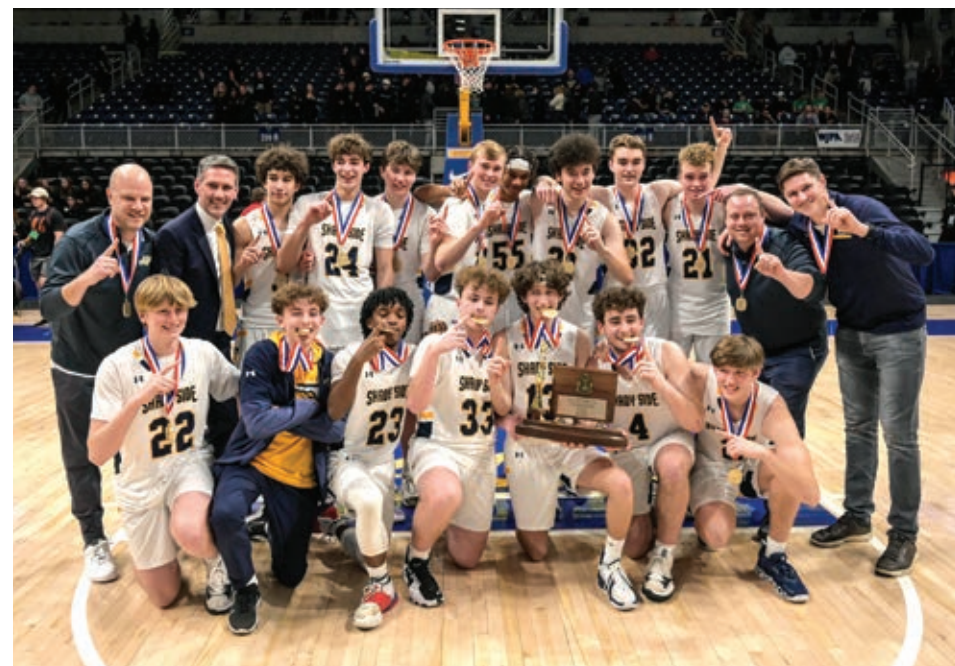
Highlight: The boys ultimate frisbee team finished as the Pittsburgh High School Ultimate League (PHUL) Division II runners-up. Senior **Dev Weiss** was named to the PHUL All-City Team and Head Coach **Matt Weiss** was named the PHUL Boys Division II Coach of the Year.

GIRLS ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Record: 5-2

Captains: Tiffany Wu, Erin Vanetta

Highlight: The girls ultimate frisbee team finished as the Pittsburgh High School Ultimate League (PHUL) Division I runners-up, and senior **Tiffany Wu** was named MVP of the finals. Senior **Erin Vanetta** was named the PHUL Girls Division I Player of the Year and to the PHUL All-City Team.



College Athletes

Thirteen more seniors signed letters committing to college athletics programs in March and May, bringing the total number of college athletes in the Class of 2022 to 18. The spring signees included:

- **Will Badeer** – Lacrosse, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (NCAA Division III)
- **Lars Barkman** – Squash, MIT (NCAA Division III)
- **Dylan Green** – Lacrosse & Ice Hockey, Wesleyan University (NCAA Division III, NESCAC)
- **Gabby Hill-Junke** – Soccer, Bates College (NCAA Division III)
- **Drew Hines** – Track & Field, University of Maryland (NCAA Division I)
- **Jacob Hintermaier** – Lacrosse, Maine Maritime Academy (NCAA Division III)
- **Ericson Kimbel** – Soccer, Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington (USCAA)
- **Thompson Lau** – Lacrosse, Amherst College (NCAA Division III)
- **Cecelia Messner** – Lacrosse, Columbia University (NCAA Division I)
- **Izee Powell** – Ice Hockey, Dartmouth College (NCAA Division I)
- **Lacika Tompa** – Rowing, Marietta College (NCAA Division I)
- **Wes Warden** – Golf, Cornell University (NCAA Division I)
- **Erin Vanetta** – Soccer, Westminster College (NCAA Division III)



winter/spring alumni events

Alumni Gatherings

NAPLES

In January, alumni, parents, grandparents and friends gathered at The Old Collier Club to welcome **Bart Griffith '93** back to Naples, Fla., for the first time since 2020. SSA grandparents Helen Hanna Casey and Stephen Casey, and Mary Anne and Hoddy Hanna hosted the event, along with current parents Gus Engel and trustee emerita Annie Hanna Engel. Griffith spoke to the guests about current successes and future plans for Shady Side.



Annie Hanna Engel, Danica Griffith, Bart Griffith '93, Helen Hanna Casey and Stephen Casey

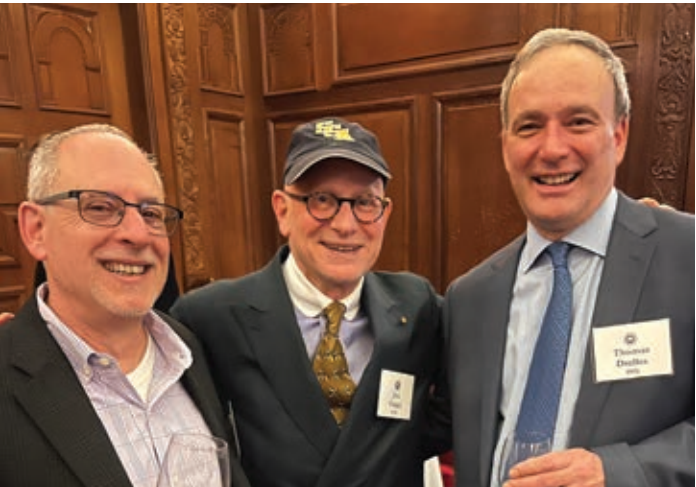
BEVERLY HILLS

Alumni Engagement Officer and former Athletic Director **Gene Deal**, along with Chief Philanthropy Officer **Dr. Ali Saras**, hosted an alumni reception in Beverly Hills, Calif., in March. Alumni from six different decades were in attendance to reconnect and reminisce about their time at SSA.



NEW YORK

Jim Finkel '78 hosted an alumni reception and wine tasting for more than 50 guests at The University Club in Manhattan on May 12. Finkel shared a variety of Burgundy wines from his personal collection, and President **Bart Griffith '93** thanked those in attendance for the continued support.



Top: Bill Tisherman '78, reception host Jim Finkel '78 and Tom Drelles '76
Bottom: Abbie Minard '16, Vincent Kondaveeti '93 and Linda (Chung) Quarles '90

NATIONAL BULLDOG DAY HAPPY HOUR AND DONATION COLLECTION

Shady Side's Alumni Council organized a donation drive drop-off and happy hour at Hitchhiker Brewing in Sharpsburg to celebrate National Bulldog Day on April 21. To help support the student-organized donation drive, alums were asked to donate items to FurKid Rescue, a foster-based animal rescue in Pittsburgh. Thank you to **Whitney Menarcheck '06** for organizing the event, and to all who participated.



51 DAYS TO GRADUATION

In anticipation of commencement, the Alumni & Development Office treated the senior class to a food truck lunch to celebrate their resilience and hard work during the past several years. A big welcome to the alumni community to the Class of 2022!



Our future is
BRIGHT

THANK YOU

to the Shady Side Academy community for coming together to make the 2021-2022 **Blue & Gold Fund** campaign a success!

Because of your generosity, Shady Side surpassed the \$2.2 million goal and received **\$2,259,090** from **1,377** donors.

For more information, visit www.supportssa.org

Included in this section are news items received through May 1, 2022.

1966

John Harrison writes: “Life continues to be good here in New Hampshire despite the COVID-19 chaos of the past couple years. Les and I are still loving our bit of paradise on the Great Bay outside Portsmouth. We are still doing a lot of traveling, some business, mostly pleasure, as our kids are now getting on with their lives in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. Believe it or not, there are still some colleagues who are crazy or desperate enough to still want to work with me. I’ve been in Vancouver recently shooting new episodes of the *Creepshow* television series for Shudder/AMC. I am also still writing/ directing the podcast series, *Sounds Scary*, for Universal Music Group, which I hope is out later this year. And in between, I’ve been enjoying the monthly Zoom catch-ups with classmates, organized by the intrepid **Lance Labun**. For those of you who haven’t yet joined in, I really encourage it. Lots of great conversations, both humorous and

serious. One could almost believe we’re still sitting around Croft or Morewood or Rowe shooting the sh*t.”

In a first-of-its-kind surgery, transplant surgeon **Dr. Bartley P. Griffith** performed a successful transplant of a genetically modified pig heart into a 57-year-old man with terminal heart disease. The historic surgery was conducted at the University of Maryland Medical Center. The organ transplant demonstrated for the first time that a genetically modified animal heart can function like a human heart without immediate rejection by the body.

1967

Former astronaut **Jay Apt** virtually visited the SSA Middle School on May 10, sharing how his experiences building model rockets and reading science fiction as a student at SSA evolved into a career in aerospace engineering that included four NASA space shuttle missions. He shared many stunning

photos of the view of Earth from the space shuttle and said that was the best part of being in space.

1968

Erik Buell is currently recording an album. He writes: “The album is guitar centric stuff. Stories in a range of emotions with rock, country and Americana music influences. I am fortunate to be recording in the Los Angeles area with some really good players, so we’ll see how it comes out.”

1973

Henry Posner III’s railroad company, RDC Deutschland, was contracted in March by the German government to run a daily Ukranian refugee train. Posner speaks four languages including Russian and was aboard the first train transporting refugees and served as a translator. RDC, which stands for Railroad Development Corporation, was founded in 1987.

1978

The Second Act Show, hosted by **Kerry Hannon** and John Tarnoff, featured guest **Carl Kurlander** on April 21. Kurlander shared lessons he’s learned from his career and establishing a non-profit. You can view the YouTube video at [secondact.show](#).

Kerry Hannon joined Yahoo Finance as a senior columnist covering work and jobs, retirement and entrepreneurship with some travel reporting.

1982

Dr. Marc Harrison, who is president and CEO of Intermountain Healthcare and a pediatric critical care physician, spoke at an SSA Senior School community assembly about his lifetime pursuit of making health care more equitable and affordable for all, and the work he has done transforming Intermountain’s strategy from a “sick

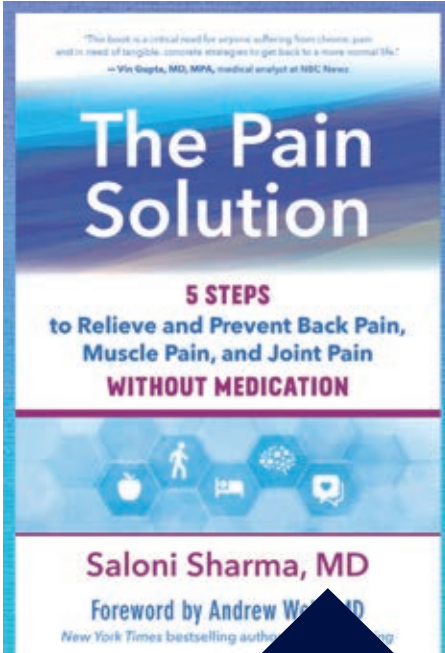


1993

Vincent Kondaveeti writes: “I recently had some eventful SSA encounters. Some were planned, such as the NYC get together with **Bart Griffith** and **Jamie (Brush) Scott ‘98**, and other pleasant surprises, such as running into **Sunny Choi** at a restaurant. In other news, my daughter, Lucia Kondaveeti, age 5, had a staged graduation by the class parents as she finished nursery school and begins kindergarten in Manhattan next year.”

model” to a “well model.” His advice to students was to seek to make the world a better place by starting small, learning from failure, acting with integrity and courage, and being “absolutely intolerant of other people’s intolerances.”

In April, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced a commitment to funding the **Dr. Leon Haley Jr.** Trauma Center at University of Florida (UF) Health, Jacksonville. The trauma center, named after the late UF Health CEO who passed away last year, will be a state-of-the-art level one trauma center to serve the needs of Jacksonville residents and the surrounding communities.



1996

Dr. Saloni Sharma published *The Pain Solution: 5 Steps to Relieve and Prevent Back Pain, Muscle Pain, and Joint Pain Without Medication*. The book debuted in the No. 1 spot for new releases for back pain on Amazon in May, and is available on [amazon.com](#). Dr. Sharma is dual board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and pain management. She is medical director of the Orthopaedic Integrative Health Center and specializes in the non-operative care of musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction, employing a multi-modal approach including the use of acupuncture.

1984

Margaret Hazlett was named Greenwich Academy’s next head of school beginning July 1, 2023. Greenwich Academy, located in Greenwich, Conn., is a college preparatory day school for girls. Hazlett currently serves as dean of students at Franklin & Marshall College.

1990

Professional jazz musician **Craig Davis** hosted a workshop for the SSA Senior School Jazz Combo in the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on Feb. 27. During the workshop, the combo was able to polish its repertoire for the Winter Concert. The two pieces they worked on were *Desafinado* and *Joy Spring*.

1993

Artie Gilkes was an award recipient of the Brooks Running Inspiring Coaches Program, which recognizes high school track and cross country coaches who have gone above and beyond for their athletes.

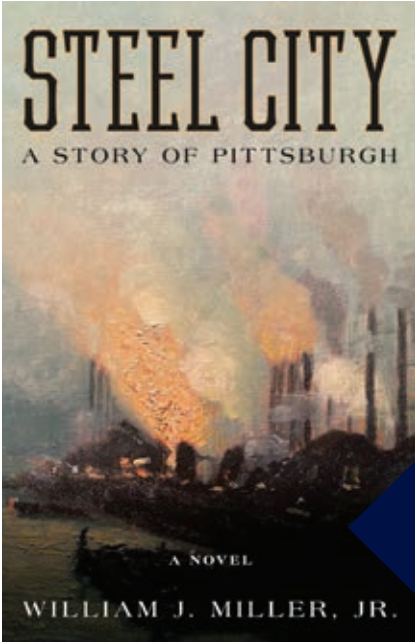
1994

Richard Hughes, chair of the United Kingdom’s Office for Budget Responsibility in London, was profiled in *The Guardian* in December 2021.



1998

Brendan Griffin is pictured here on the set of *Unsinkable* in Pittsburgh. He plays Charles Lightholler in the big-screen adaptation of the play *Titanic to All Ships*, which is about U.S. Senate inquiries into who was at fault for lives lost in the 1912 disaster.



1968

Bill Miller writes: “Hello to my long-lost classmates! The last time I saw many of you is when we graduated from the Middle School in 1964, and I don’t want to do the math on how many years that is. Let me give you a very quick rundown on what I’ve been up to. After graduation from Hotchkiss and then Trinity, I worked for a few different publications before landing at *Time Inc.*, where I was happy to discover **Ed Strauss**, who was already on the staff of what is now called consumer marketing, basically subscription and newsstand sales. It was a great place to work and I stayed for more than 30 years. My wife, Warren, and I recently moved out of New York City, where we have lived for more than 40 years, and will be splitting our time between Watch Hill, R.I., and Greensboro, N.C. I am also blessed with two beautiful daughters, and a grandson and a granddaughter who are just as fun as everyone told me they would be. I retired in 2014 and for the last five years I have been working on an historical fiction novel about our favorite city entitled *Steel City: A Story of Pittsburgh*. It tells the story of a young man who graduates from college and against his family’s wishes becomes a newspaper reporter where he covers the great events of the turbulent decade of the 1890s. *Steel City* will be published in September by Globe Pequot, the trade division of Roman & Littlefield. Until then, it’s available for pre-order at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and BookShop.org, which supports local independent bookstores. I’d love to hear from any or all of you to catch up or talk more about the book.”



2000

Left to right: **Zachary Weidner**, **James Antoniono**, **Ashley Bower** and **Henry Martone** met up for an annual ski trip in Utah.



2001

Brian Gumberg and Jackie Atlass were married in March 2022 in Pittsburgh. Shady Side alumni in attendance included **Sumit Gupta**, **Adam Bell**, **Beth (Maher) Grover**, **Amit Grover**, **Todd Smith**, **Meredith (Armstrong) Repetto**, **Mark Lovett**, **Mac Lynch**, **Brett Gerson** and **Josh Marks**.

2002

Nicole (Baraff) Sherman is the founder and CEO of HighView, a program which connects high-potential students from underserved communities with industry leading companies, mentors and resources, setting them up for success in college and beyond.

2003

Jen Spyra authored her debut book *Big Time: Stories by Jen Spyra* and was a featured speaker at a Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures Series event on July 21, where she was interviewed on stage by SSA history teacher Matt Weiss.

2010

Olivia Seecof completed her fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, N.Y., in July and started as an attending physician at NYU Langone Health. She will be doing outpatient supportive oncology and inpatient palliative care consults.



2005

Kyle Wolfley received the 2021 Andrew Krepinevich Writing Award for his book *Military Statecraft and the Rise of Shaping in World Politics* at the Army Strategist Association's Awards Breakfast in October 2021.



2009

Becky Tisherman married Jeremy Puissegur in October 2021 at her family's property in Butler, Pa. **Eva Raimondi** officiated the ceremony. Alumni in attendance were **Sara Tisherman**, **Robert Tisherman**, **Marina Soffer**, **Eva Raimondi**, **Paige (Kiliany) Wright**, **Anna Brill**, **Sonum Bharill**, **Ayse Baybars**, **Anthony Balouris**, **Charlie Rosenthal**, **Ethan Schneider**, **Michelle Bucklew**, **Eric Bucklew**, **Alex Dowd**, **Luke Racek**, **Scott Majesky** and **Jon Chu**.

2012

Here There Be Dragons, an original musical featuring music composed by **Theo Teris**, premiered at the Players Theatre in New York City on June 16, and ran through July 17. The show is about a tight-knit group of Dungeons & Dragons players who embark on their final quest the night before college graduation. Learn more at www.terisandoneill.com/heretherebedragons.

2015

Jackson Fitzgerald was named one of Pittsburgh's 30 Under 30 by the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. Fitzgerald co-founded Hedge Pay in 2019, which aims to bring a popular banking trend among the young, known as round-up savings, and wed it to other businesses that could bank on those round-ups.

2017

Luke Tomasovic began a combined M.D./Ph.D. degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in June 2022. He intends to complete his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, and for his graduate work, hopes to develop antibody-based therapeutics that target cancer cell proliferation and migration. Luke graduated in 2021 from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in chemical & biomolecular engineering, and he previously conducted research at the University of Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech, Emory University and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He recently co-founded educational nonprofit A Great Work Foundation, and plans to leverage his career in medicine to address disparities in educational access.



2012

Dr. Joshua Pettengill married Dr. Michelle Stefanelli on May 15, 2021, in Scranton, Pa. The two met while attending Gettysburg College and graduated medical school together in May 2021. They reside in Philadelphia, Pa., where both are completing their residencies.

2021

At the Big East Outdoor Track Championships, Georgetown University freshman **Melissa Riggins** won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:04.78, setting a new facility record and earning All-Big East honors. Riggins also qualified to compete in the NCAA East Preliminaries in May.



2019/2021

Charlotte McDaniel '21, freshman at the University of Minnesota, caught up with **Chayla Edwards '19**, a junior at University of Wisconsin, when the Wisconsin women's ice hockey team was in town to play a two-game "Border Battle Series" against Minnesota on Jan. 21-22. Edwards plays defense for the NCAA Division I Badgers, who were ranked No. 1 in the nation heading into the weekend before losing both games to the No. 5 Golden Gophers, 2-1 and 4-3. Both Charlotte and Chayla were presidents of the Black Student Union while at Shady Side.



2020/2021

On Dec. 10, 2021, **Andrew Fergus '20** (Army) and **Porter Markel '21** (Navy) faced off against each other in the Army-Navy men's ice hockey game.

SHOW OFF YOUR BULLDOG PRIDE



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



SKYY MOORE '19

DRAFTED BY NFL'S KANSAS CITY CHIEFS IN SECOND ROUND

Shady Side Academy alumnus and Western Michigan wide receiver **Skyy Moore '19** was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs in the second round of the 2022 NFL Draft on April 29, 2022, making him the 54th pick overall in the draft.

Moore is the third SSA player ever drafted by the NFL. **Paul Martha '60** was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first round in 1964, and **Eugene Baker '94** was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the fifth round in 1999.

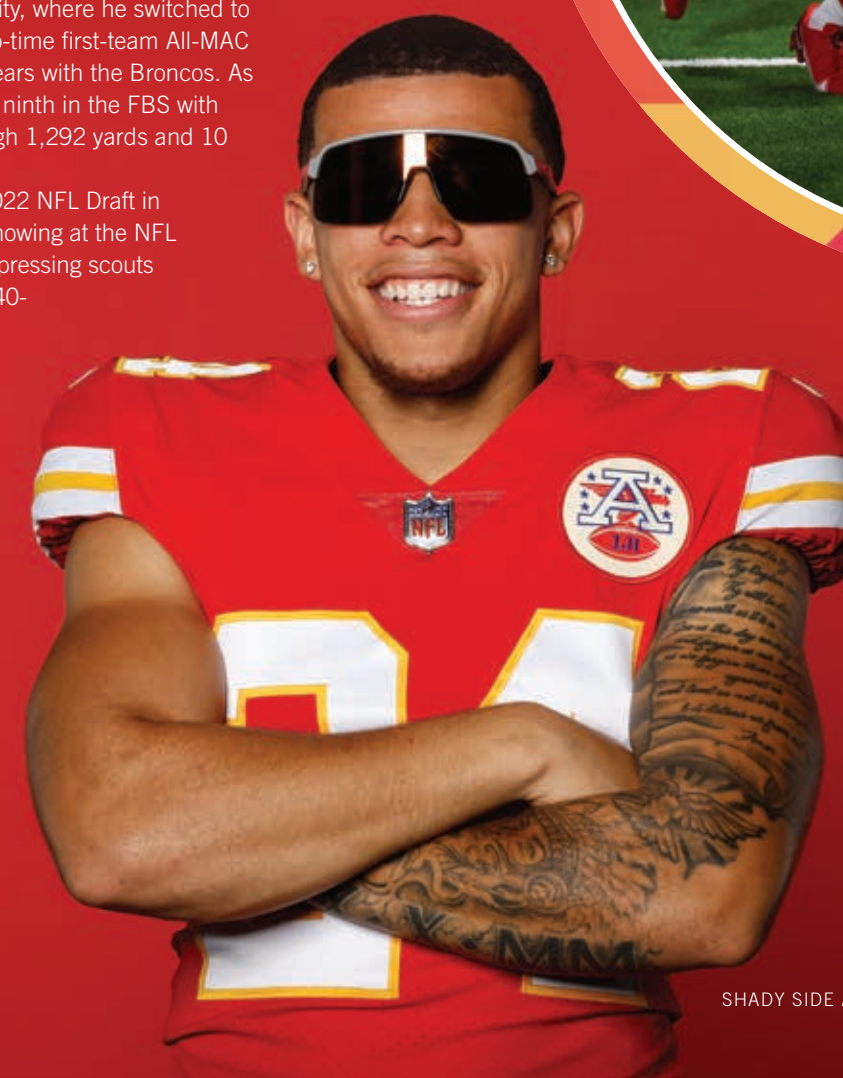
A native of New Kensington, Pa., Moore played quarterback and defensive back at SSA. As a senior in 2018, he led Shady Side to a 9-0 regular-season record, an Allegheny Conference title and a No. 1 ranking in WPIAL Class 2A, while earning all-state, all-conference and Allegheny Conference Offensive Player of the Year honors. He is the first player in WPIAL history to run and pass for more than 1,000 yards in two seasons. Moore went on to play for NCAA Division I Western Michigan University, where he switched to wide receiver and was a two-time first-team All-MAC selection during his three years with the Broncos. As a junior in 2021, he tied for ninth in the FBS with 95 receptions for a team-high 1,292 yards and 10 scores in 12 starts.

Moore declared for the 2022 NFL Draft in January and had a strong showing at the NFL Combine in early March, impressing scouts with his speed (4.41 in the 40-yard dash), work ethic and large, sure hands. ESPN football analyst Mel Kiper called him "the most underrated player in this draft at any position."

In joining the Chiefs, Moore will catch passes from one of the NFL's top quarterbacks, All-Pro and Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes.



Photos courtesy of
Kansas City Chiefs





inmemoriam

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, 2022.

KARL J. KAUFMANN JR. '39

Karl Jacob Kaufmann Jr. passed away May 10, 2022. During World War II, he left the University of Michigan to join the U.S. Army, training as a radio technician. He began his career in retail at Gimbels in Pittsburgh, becoming well-known in the retail industry. He worked for a variety of well-known stores, ultimately serving as vice president and women's merchandise manager at Hamburger's (Phillips-Van Heusen) in Baltimore. He was predeceased by his wife, Elaine Kaufmann. He is survived by his children, Allyn Kaufmann (Bruce Dicoskey), Karl (Margrit) Kaufmann III, K. Kaufmann and Abbe Kaufmann, and two grandchildren.

DR. GEORGE H. GILMORE '42

Dr. George Hogg Gilmore passed away Feb. 4, 2022. After serving two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he graduated from Bowdoin College and went on to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Professionally, he was a passionate physician, successful businessman and innovative software founder. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet Elizabeth Donaldson, son, George H. Gilmore Jr., and brothers, Dr. James Gilmore '41 and Samuel Taylor Gilmore '44. He is survived by his children, Anne (Scott) Reid, Holland (Nicolette) Gilmore '76 and James (Gina) Gilmore '79, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

MICHAEL G. TURNER '43

J. MURRAY EGAN '44

James Murray Egan passed away Nov. 29, 2021. He graduated from Yale University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he was note and case editor of the *Law Review*. He actively practiced law for more than 65 years, first as a partner with Weller, Wicks and Wallace, and, after the practices combined, with Metz Lewis

Brodman Must O'Keefe. He was a former member of the Shady Side Academy Board of Trustees. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Elisa Camilli Egan. He is survived by his children, twins Marguerite and Luceille Egan, David (Delia) Egan '74, James (Connie) Egan '77 and Peter (Heather) Egan '81, and eight grandchildren, including Marney Egan '03, Kathryn Egan '05, David Egan '07, Jamie Egan '08 and Tim Egan 09.

WALTER L. SHANAHAN JR. '46

Walter L. Shanahan Jr. passed away Nov. 19, 2021. He attended the University of Pittsburgh before joining his family business, Shanahan Transfer and Storage Co. His career was interrupted when he was inducted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Upon discharge, he returned to work in the family business until he sold the company in 1975. He later worked for Mayflower Transit Inc., as vice president, agency development and sales. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Ann Byrnes Shanahan. He is survived by his daughters, Susan (Sam) Davis, Carol (Greg) Dale, Linda Shanahan, Colette (Bill) Fike, Maureen Shanahan and Sarah Shanahan and two grandchildren.

JAMES G. BERRY JR. '47

James Glenn Berry Jr. passed away Feb. 5, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army, and was a graduate of Washington & Jefferson College and Purdue University. He retired from Gulf Research as an environmental engineer. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Haynes Berry. He is survived by his children, Carol Jean (Rodney) Hoffman, Douglas Berry, Richard Berry and James G. Berry IV, and five grandchildren.

ARTHUR MCSORLEY JR. '47

Arthur "Bud" McSorley Jr. passed away June 16, 2021. He graduated from

Lafayette College and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He began his lifelong career in the construction industry with Casey Company, where he eventually became president and owner. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy McSorley, and daughter, Holly McSorley. He is survived by his children, William "Art" McSorley (Beth Conlin), Christine (Donald) Bell, Susan McSorley and Richard (Susie) McSorley, and four grandchildren.

WILLIAM G. SANDER JR. '48

William G. Sander Jr. passed away Nov. 16, 2021. He was a graduate of Brown University and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. His career included work in the investment financial industry both in New York and Pittsburgh. He is survived by his sister, Anne McCune.

RICHARD G. ROBBINS JR. '49

Richard "Dick" G. Robbins Jr. passed away Jan. 15, 2022. He was a graduate of Colgate College and served in the U.S. Army. He worked for Alcoa before starting his own manufacturer's representative company, Robco Sales and Engineering. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years, Marcia Robbins. He is survived by his children, Richard (Yi-Jin) Robbins, Brinton (Julie) Robbins and Michael Robbins, and nine grandchildren.

JAMES M. WALTON '49

James Mellon Walton passed away Jan. 2, 2022. He received a B.A. in English literature from Yale University and served in the U.S. Army. He then attended Harvard Business School and received a

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

master's degree in business administration before joining the Gulf Oil Corporation, the company founded by his maternal grandfather, William Larimer Mellon. In 1968, he was appointed the president of the Carnegie Museums and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, a position he held for 16 years. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Ellen, his children, Joe (Molly), Rachel, Jimmy (Betsy) and Mary (Allen), and seven grandchildren.

PHILIP B. HEYMAN '50

Philip Benjamin Heymann passed away Nov. 30, 2021. He received his bachelor's degree from Yale University. He was then awarded a Fulbright grant and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, before serving in the U.S. Air Force's Office of Special Investigations. He later received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was a case editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He spent his career as a lawyer, federal prosecutor, legal scholar and law professor. He served four Democratic presidents over six decades and helped prosecute major investigations, including Watergate and the Abscam bribery sting operation. He worked as a professor at Harvard Law School and authored numerous books on antiterrorism. He is survived by his wife, Anne Heymann, children, Stephen Heymann and Dr. Jody Heymann, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

FREDERICK B. MALVIN '50

Frederick Bage Malvin passed away Feb. 4, 2022. He received his bachelor's degree from William & Mary College and master's degree from George Washington University and the Naval War College, and took advanced tax law courses from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Following a 22-year career in naval aviation where he logged more than 5,000 flight hours and was commanding officer of U.S. Naval bases in the Bahamas and Norfolk, he retired in 1980. Six years later, he founded the CPA firm of Malvin, Riggins & Co., serving as board chair until his retirement. He was predeceased by his children, Cynthia Blocker and Jonathan Malvin. He is survived by his wife, Donna Malvin, son, Robert Malvin, stepchild, Gena (Eddie) Sisson, and two grandchildren.

BERYL E. WARDEN '50

Beryl E. "Jack" Warden passed away April 12, 2021. He graduated from the University of Maryland via the U.S. Air Force ROTC program. Warden graduated from helicopter flight school, successfully serving 20 years and retiring in 1975 as a lieutenant colonel. He was preceded in death by his son, Chris Warden. He is survived by his wife, Louise Warden, and daughter, Kathleen Warden.

WALLACE R. HARPER '51

Wallace "Wally" Russell Harper passed away May 1, 2022. He was a graduate of Bowdoin College. For more than 25 years, he worked in payroll and sales for Mutual of New York, eventually rising to the role of vice president. His love of music began at SSA, and he played in a variety of Dixieland bands throughout his lifetime. He was predeceased by his son, Gordon Harper. He is survived by his former wife, Deborah Harper, daughter, Emily (Jon) Erickson, current wife, Enid Harper, and two stepchildren, Sean Holt and Tamara Holt.

JAMES M. RAE '51

James Marshall Rae passed away Dec. 15, 2021. He attended Yale University, where he was an All-American swimmer and qualified for the Pan American Games. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he went on to practice law in New York City. Specializing in international corporate law, he developed an expertise in the Middle East, and his work took him around the world, from London and Beirut to Doha and Riyadh. He is survived by his wife, Ann Rippin Rae, his children and grandchildren.

DR. JOHN B. SOUTHWICK '51

Dr. John B. Southwick passed away March 29, 2022. He was a graduate of Yale University and New York Medical College. After his residency, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Darmstadt, Germany. Following his honorable discharge, he worked as a general practitioner for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Joanne Southwick, children, Stephen (Lori) Southwick, Mark (Monique) Southwick, Kurt (Steven) Southwick and Amy (Jack) Tompkins, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

DR. RICHARD C. REPP '53

Dr. Richard "Dick" Cooper Repp passed away Nov. 17, 2021. He was a graduate of Williams College and Worcester College, Oxford, England. After three years of teaching at Robert College, Istanbul, he returned to Oxford, obtaining a doctorate in the history of the Ottoman Empire, and was appointed university lecturer in Turkish history and fellow of Linacre College. Later, he served as master and pro-vice chancellor of St. Cross College until his retirement in 2003. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Cathy Repp, children, Martha Repp and Jonathan Repp, and one grandchild.

JOHN G. ZIMMERMAN JR. '54

John Galt Zimmerman Jr. passed away March 16, 2022. He graduated from Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business. He then joined the U.S. Navy until being honorably discharged in 1967. He spent his corporate career in management with US Steel, USX Corporation and Aristech Chemical Corp., from which he retired in 1990 as manager of business planning. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Margaret Fraser Ratcliffe Zimmerman, and children, John Galt Zimmerman III and Margaret (S. Bradley) Traverse, and three grandchildren.

DAVID HUGHES '57

David Hughes passed away April 15, 2022. He was a graduate of Malvern College, Worcestershire, England. He served as president of the National Association of Retail Furnishers, British representative to the European Federation of Retail Furnishers, chairman of the British Shops and Stores Association, liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers and Freeman of the City of London. He is survived by his wife, Dawn Hughes, children, Tim, Chris and Anna, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

WILLIAM B. TAFEL SR. '60

William Bard Tafel Sr. passed away Jan. 8, 2022. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, master's degree in education from Duquesne University and a master of divinity from Wycliffe College and the University of



Toronto. He taught history, algebra, physics, French and general science at Avalon Junior and Senior High School, and was camp director at Sheldon Calvary Camp. He served as a parish minister and rector at many churches throughout Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and South Carolina. He was also co-owner of Real Pit B-B-Q and The Piano Barn. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Becky Pitts Tafel, children, Billy Tafel, Heather (Scott) Parker, Rebekah (Todd) Alden, Jennifer Tafel (Jay Welborn), Thomas Tafel (Anne Griffin), Nicklos Tafel, Derek Hall, Jamie (Jacob) Bagley and Edward Tafel, and seven grandchildren.

WALTER P. RHODES JR. '61

Walter P. Rhodes Jr. passed away Feb. 15, 2022. He began his career at U.S. Steel, from which he retired as comptroller in 2002. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Donna Rhodes.

THOMAS E. ADDENBROOK '62

Thomas E. Addenbrook passed away March 25, 2022. He graduated from Florida Southern College and spent his career at US Steel. He was preceded in death by his wife, Orena Cloud Addenbrook. He is survived by his children, Cynthia Addenbrook and David Addenbrook, and former spouse, Carolyn Addenbrook.

WILLIAM L. PIPER '65

William Lloyd Piper passed away Jan. 19, 2022. He was a graduate of Drexel University, where he earned a degree in electrical engineering. He worked at Delco/Delphi Electronics, where he earned three patents for his work developing technology to control airbag systems, antilock brakes, blind spot detection and navigation hardware. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Lynn Clover, and one grandson. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Hendrix, sons, Clark (Amy) Piper and Jared (Kimberly) Piper, and five grandchildren.

THEODORE G. TAVERNER '66

Theodore Gilbert Taverner passed away Jan. 12, 2022. He graduated from Allegheny College and received his doctorate in

linguistics from Georgetown University. He worked at the Department of Education for 40 years as a management program analyst. He is survived by his wife, Marina Taverner, brother, Fred (Peggy) Taverner '68, two stepchildren and two step-grandchildren.

KENNETH P. CHRISTMAN JR. '69

Kenneth Phillip Christman Jr. passed away March 20, 2021. He graduated from Princeton University, University of California, and received his J.D. from Yale Law School. He worked for the IRS in the transfer pricing branch of the international division. While there, he authored numerous regulations, including Treas. Reg. §1.482-7T, Taxation of Cost Sharing Arrangements, and other types of published guidance. He later served as executive director for Ernst & Young's National Tax Transfer Pricing practice in Washington D.C. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Loretz, and children, Caroline, Claire Marie and Kenneth Phillip Christman III.

HUGH G. VAN DER VEER III '71

Hugh Van Der Veer III passed away Jan. 4, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Lucie, his children, Hugh Van Der Veer and Barbara (Luis) Longo, and two granddaughters.

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Rodger Blair, husband of former Senior School faculty member Charlene Blair and father of Ryan Blair '95

Dr. Marcelo Corpuz Jr., father of Marcelo Corpuz '86, Marcellito Corpuz '87, Veronica Corpuz '92 and grandfather of Nico Grzymkowski '26 and AJ Thomson '32

Cindy Davis, mother of Scott Lerch '82, Matthew Lerch '86, Tiffany Lewis '90 and Brandon Lerch '94

Margaret DiPasquale, mother of Tony DiPasquale '93

Spero Drelles, father of William Drelles '72, Robert Drelles '74, Thomas Drelles '76 and Todd Drelles '81 (deceased)

Elizabeth (McCooley) Fisher, wife of Patrick Fisher '03

Cora Mae Francioni, mother of Director of Facilities Paul Francioni

Dr. Abraham Friedman, father of Eli Friedman '01

Frank Fuhrer, grandfather of Casey Wagner '05, Francis Fuhrer IV '18, James Fuhrer '19 and Garrett Fuhrer '21

Arthur Gilkes, father of Artie Gilkes '93 and John Gilkes '03

Marcia Gumberg, grandmother of Jill Gumberg '97, Amanda Gumberg '98, Brian Gumberg '01, Zachary Gumberg '03, Ali Gumberg '10 and Stanley Gumberg '30

Susan Hassenplug, wife of John Hassenplug '57

Yongboon Kim, mother of Ann Kim '83 and Alice Kim Blake '88

Kenneth Mauder, husband of Debi Mauder, Academy director of administration & planning

Betty Jane Miller, mother of Glenn T. Miller Jr. '74 and Anne E. Miller '77

Stephen Oliphant, stepfather of David Roscow '86 and Jonathan Roscow '87

Dr. Parvathi Rao, mother of Dr. Bindu Gutti '91 and grandmother of Krishna Lakkimsetty '23

Richard Schaefer, father of Country Day School faculty member Katie Schaefer

Jon Carl Slesinger Sr., father of Lisa Slesinger '80 and Jon Slesinger '82

Michael Szlachetka, father of Senior School Computer Science Teacher Dave Szlachetka, father-in-law to Academy Comptroller Amy Szlachetka, and grandfather of Donald (Doc) Szlachetka '16 and Josie Szlachetka '19

Diana Terezis, mother of Dr. Cynthia Terezis '81, Dr. Teresa Terezis-Klemes '84 and Nick Terezis '87, and grandmother of Ava Terezis '25

Jane Vodrey, mother of Sarah Vodrey '78, Catherine Vodrey '81 and William Vodrey '83, and grandmother of Julia Hendrickson '04, Valerie Hendrickson '07, Henry Klein '11 and Lillian Klein '14

Wayne Yoest, father of Eric Yoest '16

MEMORIAL HALL

In January 1954, construction began on Memorial Hall, a space that Headmaster Dr. Erdman Harris dreamt of for years as “a way to honor the Shady Side men who have served their country and in memory of those who gave their lives.” On Sunday, Nov. 21, 1954, a dedication ceremony was held, featuring Dr. Harris, then retired, as the guest speaker. The event welcomed more than 400 guests, including Board of Trustees President E. Bruce Hill, Class of 1901, Headmaster George Follansbee, faculty, major donors and the families of 57 alumni who had given their lives in the service of their country.

Upon entrance, guests saw the walls adorned with large plaques, engraved with the names of the 57 alumni veterans. Brass chandeliers, natural pine woodwork and pews, and a hand-painted Pennsylvania state seal completed the stunning décor. The space was considered state-of-the-art and featured a soundproofed corridor, the finest lighting equipment, specially heated music practice rooms, soundproof/fireproof doors, and a projection room directly above the stage area.

SSA Business Manager Mr. Walter D. Wilkinson stated, “This is something that we have needed for a long time. It represents a definitive advance in the physical aspects of the Academy.”

For the second half of the 20th Century, Memorial Hall represented the very heart of the Senior School campus, serving as the space for daily chapel, weekly assemblies and the performing arts hall.

Plans are now underway to revitalize Memorial Hall, transforming the space to become a state-of-the-art gathering space for the SSA community once again. For more information on the project, see the story on page 22.





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