

SUMMER 2023

shady side

academy



Investing in Talent

Shady Side Academy's Journey
to Fortify its Faculty and Staff



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SUMMER 2023

contents



The pre-kindergarten building at the Junior School is being expanded into the Early Learning Center and will accommodate all students in JPK, SPK and kindergarten. Construction began in spring 2023 and will be completed in time for the 2023-2024 school year.

Correction: The winter 22-23 article on the girls volleyball co-op failed to recognize the leadership of junior Elle Caron, who started the club volleyball program that preceded the varsity team. Our sincere apologies to Elle.

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President's Message

DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:



Many years ago, while still a Senior School student at Shady Side, I heard the late David McCullough '51 address the SSA community in a crowded Mellon Gymnasium. He offered an influential piece of advice that expresses so much of what I have come to believe about the power of excellent teaching to shape a student's future.

"Don't choose your major before you go to college, or even when you first arrive on campus," he said. "Instead, find out who the best professors on campus are – the ones that truly love their subject matter – and take *their* classes. That's how you will discover what you want to study."

As McCullough knew so well, while curriculum and

facilities play an important role in the development of young people, it is *educators* that transform lives and help students discover their purpose. For this reason, and on the heels of a pandemic that disrupted the workplace across industries, Shady Side continues to dedicate resources towards the recruitment, retention and development of its faculty. You will enjoy reading about these ongoing efforts in this issue.

Researchers have found in recent years that interest in the teaching profession has declined by 40% since 2010. Enrollment in graduate schools of education has also hit historic lows, and the pandemic and its corresponding stresses only added to the burdens so many teachers feel at the moment. Additionally, the retirement of baby boomer educators has contributed to a labor shortage in schools across the country.

We also know that the newest generation of teachers brings changing attitudes and priorities about schools as workplaces. They represent a nationwide shift in how many early career Americans view and understand their work-life balance and the levels of personal fulfillment they derive from their workplace.

Educators also find themselves challenged by the promise of what could quickly become a remarkable educational renaissance, propelled by a confluence of forces: advances in the field of cognitive science, the emergence of a global innovation economy and the prevailing sense that our children will end up in careers that have not yet been invented. We see the dawning of an AI world filled with smart cities, smart robots and augmented reality – disruptive technologies that have extraordinary potential to redefine how we live and learn.

All of this means that leading schools like Shady Side must do their part to stay engaged with the expectations of faculty and staff and continue developing supports for teachers who seek to inspire learning that moves with a changing world.

Thanks to all of you in the SSA community who continue to value and prioritize the adults who positively affect the lives of the Academy's students forever.

Glory to Shady Side!

Bart Griffith '93
President



Senior School Theatre Productions Recognized by Local Awards

Senior **Ayli Davidson** won the award for Best Student Stage Manager in the Third Annual Prime Stage High School Drama Awards for her leadership of the crew of the Senior School fall play, *Puffs*. *Puffs* also earned nominations for Best Actor (junior **Aaron Little**), Best Actress (senior **Ellie Brisland**), Best Supporting Actor (senior **Ben Rohr**), Best Supporting Actress (junior **Kayla Zhu**), Best Student Scenic Design (junior **Parker Roscoe**) and Best Student Sound Design (senior **Zach Kamenov**). The Senior School winter musical, *Chicago: Teen Edition*, earned three nominations in the Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater: Best Lighting Design, Best Crew/Technical Execution and Best Student Orchestra.



Senior School Fall Play *Puffs*,
Senior School Winter Musical
Chicago: Teen Edition, Senior
Ayli Davidson



Senior Named a 2023 Coca-Cola Scholar

Senior **Elaine Gombos** was one of only 150 high school seniors nationwide named 2023 Coca-Cola Scholars, a prestigious and highly competitive award that includes a \$20,000 college scholarship. Gombos was the only student from the Pittsburgh area and one of only five from Pennsylvania. Each Coca-Cola Scholar is given the opportunity to celebrate a teacher or mentor who has had a significant impact on their development by giving them the Coca-Cola Educator of Distinction Award. Gombos chose to recognize her faculty advisor, Senior School Math Teacher **Chad Fularz**.



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Speech and Debate Team Members Place in Top 25 at National Tournament

Three Senior School Speech and Debate Team members placed in the top 25 in their events at the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in June in Phoenix. Juniors **Mathew Long** and **Hari Viswanathan** placed eighth and 25th, respectively, in Congressional Debate: Senate, while senior **Nichole Poltinnikov** finished 15th in Lincoln Douglas Debate. SSA was recognized by NSDA as a Debate School of Excellence for the second straight year. Long, Viswanathan and the team of junior **Abby Ondos** and sophomore **Audrey Jiang** (Duo Interpretation) also competed at the National Catholic Forensics League Grand National Tournament in Louisville in May.



Four Students Named to PMEA All-State Ensembles

Four Senior School students reached the highest level a high school musician can achieve by earning places in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Festival music ensembles in 2023. Senior **Grant Cummings** (Eb soprano clarinet) was named to the All-State Concert Band, junior **Sophia Jho** (harp) and senior **Hannah Song** (viola) were named to the All-State Orchestra, and junior **Hari Viswanathan** (piano) was the first SSA student ever named to the All-State Jazz Ensemble. It marked the most SSA musicians to earn PMEA All-State honors in a year.



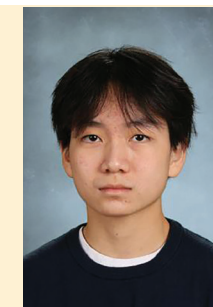
SIX SENIORS RECOGNIZED AS 2023 NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Six members of the Class of 2023 were named finalists in the 68th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program: **Ella Gardner**, **Emma Gardner**, **Elaine Gombos**, **Michael McCoy**, **Savita Thompson** and **Alexander Todd**. Finalists were chosen from a nationwide pool of 16,000 semifinalists in the competition for 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$28 million.



Three Students Win National Medals in 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Three Senior School students won national medals in the 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Junior **Yuntong Pan** won a gold medal in art for his painting, *To Mom, Grandpa, Adai, and Icecream* (above); senior **Elaine Gombos** won a silver medal in writing for her critical essay, *From Enemies to Lovers: Japanese War Brides and Their Influence on Multiculturalism in the United States*; and sophomore **Sarah Voigt** won a silver medal in writing for her flash fiction story, *Wonder Girl*. Pan, Gombos and Voigt were among 14 SSA students who won Gold Keys at the regional level to advance to the national competition.



Rising Senior Places Second in National Harp Competition

Junior **Sophia Jho** achieved great success in the 2023 American Harp Society National Competition. After being selected as one of eight finalists in the Intermediate II division after video auditions, she competed in the live final rounds in Los Angeles on June 2, where her outstanding performance earned her a second-place national ranking and the opportunity to perform in the Winners Recital.



Middle School Science Olympiad Team Places Eighth at National Tournament

Earning the second-best national finish in program history, the Middle School Science Olympiad Team placed eighth out of 60 teams in Division B (grades 6-9) at the 2023 Science Olympiad National Tournament, held in Wichita in May. Congratulations to team members **Alex Bi**, **Ethan Chen**, **Evan Chen**, **Anna Ching**, **Allison Guan**, **Claudia Iannetti**, **Ellie Laman**, **Anna Litster**, **Vivan Poddar**, **Hanna Singhi**, **Max Shaffer**, **Anna Grace Shultz**, **Thomas Wang**, **Evan Xiang** and **Andrew Xing**. The team earned the trip to nationals by finishing second at the Pennsylvania State Tournament on April 22.



Junior School Hosts Fifth Annual International Fair

On March 11, the Junior School celebrated its Fifth Annual International Fair, where students learned about the diversity of cultures within the school community. Parents, grandparents and special friends volunteered to share their home countries and family heritage through 18 different “nationality rooms” around the school representing Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea and Turkey. Students “flew around the world” with their passports, touring the rooms to learn about each country and its culture through food, stories, music and games.



Professional Theatre Company Works with Senior School Acting Students

In spring 2023, Senior School students in **Dek Ingraham’s** Acting class had the opportunity to work with local theatre professionals to create a piece of devised theatre. Molly Rice and Rusty Thelin, founders and co-artistic directors of the RealTime Interventions interactive theatre company, worked with the class of six students over the term to create five original scenes inspired by the theme of power dynamics. Their work culminated with a private performance of three scenes for a small audience of faculty and staff during class on May 22, followed by a Q&A.

UPenn Partnership: Social Innovators Program

The Social Innovators Program, a unique partnership between SSA, the University of Pennsylvania and Schoolyard Ventures, is a 12-week virtual program that allows Senior School students to learn about social entrepreneurship and experience it first-hand while earning a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from Penn. A total of 15 students participated during the 2022-2023 school year, with projects including a variety of topics from mental health support services to promotion planning for young entrepreneurs, to the creation of in-home technology services helping elderly residents.



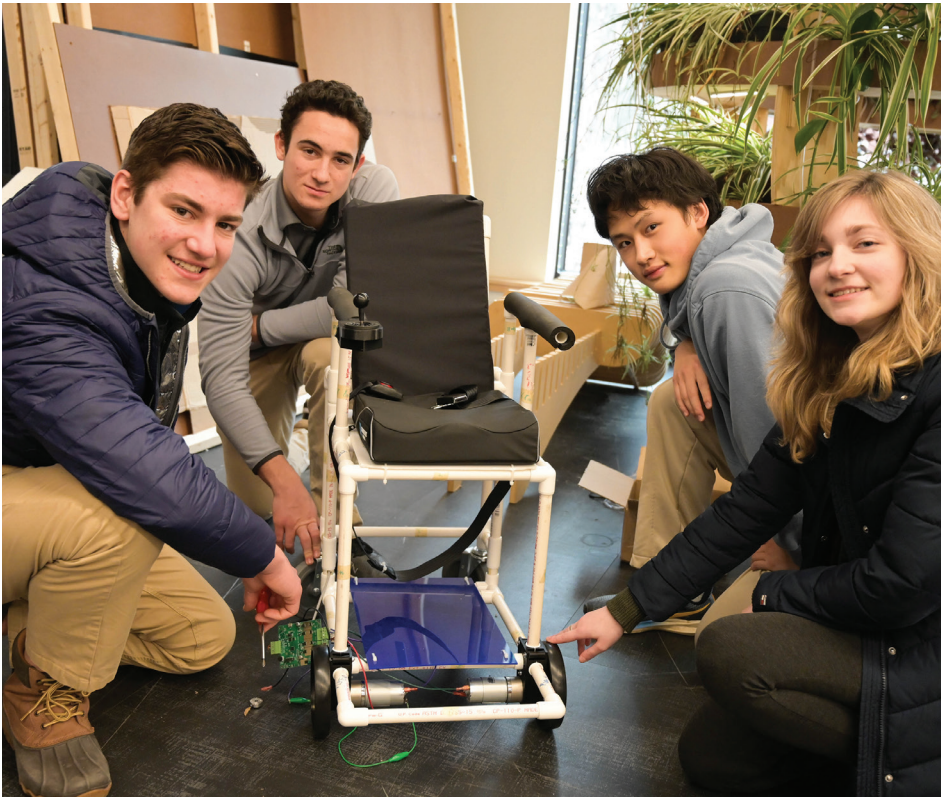
Hands-Only CPR and AED Training at the Middle School

In recognition of American Heart Month and Damar Hamlin’s CPR Challenge, the Middle School trained every single student in grades 6-8 in hands-only CPR and AED use from Feb. 13-17. The effort was the brainchild of Middle School Fitness and Wellness Teacher **Betsy Gorse**, who helped to train 213 students over four days together with Fitness and Wellness Teacher **Pam Lloyd**, Director of Safety & Security **Jim Reeder** and Director of Nursing **Melanie Haynes**.



Senior School Tech & Design Students Build Assistive Technology Devices

Each year, Senior School students in **Jesse Robinson’s** Community Connections in Tech & Design elective are paired with community partners to identify and solve problems according to the design thinking framework and utilizing the resources and tools in the Glimcher Tech & Design Hub. This year the course’s focus was on assistive technology, creating projects to assist people with disabilities or injuries. The four students in the class – senior **Parker Hawn** and juniors **Elle Caron**, **Thompson He** and **Jonah Sackrowitz** – built a low-cost, lightweight, motorized pediatric wheelchair for the Open Wheelchair Foundation, 3D-printed prosthetic hands in partnership with e-NABLE and 3D-printed a variety of assistive devices with Makers Making Change.



MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND PITTSBURGH STEM SUMMIT

Eighteen Middle and Senior School students had the chance to engage with leaders across the region’s most innovative tech community at the 2023 STEM Summit, held April 19, at the Energy Innovation Center (EIC) in Pittsburgh. The event was designed to showcase the diverse array of STEM-related careers that are available for our future workforce. Students heard from keynote speakers, participated in experiential learning opportunities and learned about the many different career trajectories from local businesses.



SERVICE



Lower School Families Plants Trees for Earth Day

On April 23, more than 40 families from the Country Day and Junior Schools met in Frick Park for Shady Side Gives Back, a community service event to plant trees and celebrate Earth Day. Alongside Pittsburgh Park Rangers, SSA families helped plant more than 40 trees along Nine Mile Run Trail in Frick Park that were suffering from canopy gaps.

Senior Wins Rotary Service Scholarship

Senior **Smrithi Shyam** received the \$2,000 Service Above Self Scholarship, given for excellence in community service, from the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area. Shyam has been a dedicated volunteer and service leader during her four years at Shady Side, working with organizations such as Bethlehem Haven, SisterFriend and Her Best Foot Forward.



Junior Spearheads Collection Drive

Junior **Deven Nahata** organized a drive to collect bedding and baby supplies for Hello Neighbor, a nonprofit organization founded by **Sloane (Berrent) Davidson '97** that supports refugee and immigrant families in Pittsburgh. In honor of the MLK Day tradition of service, Nahata invited the SSA community to drop off donations from Jan. 17-31. Nahata has been volunteering for Hello Neighbor since seventh grade and was awarded the organization's inaugural Youth Champion Award in 2022. Over the years, he has spearheaded numerous drives at SSA.



Senior School Service Learning Club Volunteers with Family House

Members of the Senior School Service Learning Club prepared meals for guests at Family House Pittsburgh three times throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Family House offers housing at a reduced fee for family members of or those receiving medical care at Pittsburgh area hospitals.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RAISES OVER \$2,500 FOR CHARITIES

Eighth grader **Eva Friedlander**, president and founder of the Middle School Feminist Alliance Committee, collaborated with the Community Service Committee for a successful bake sale in January that raised \$725 for the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. In February, the Community Service Committee organized a Valentine's Day basket raffle, raising \$943 for the Pediatric Cardiology and Heart Institute at UPMC Children's Hospital. Another bake sale in March, led by eighth grader **Özge Uzman** and the Community Service Committee, raised \$1,000 for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.



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for the latest Bulldog gear!





Country Day School 5th Grade Musical, ¡Saludos, Amigos!



Middle School Winter Musical, Frozen Jr.



Junior School 5th Grade Play, Henry the Monster



Senior School Winter Musical, Chicago: Teen Edition



New Academy Administrators

MICHELLE MERSON

Head of Middle School



Michelle Merson joined SSA in July 2023 as head of the Middle School, succeeding Amy Nixon. Merson brings more than 25 years of experience teaching and leading in middle schools. From 2016 to 2023, she served as head of middle school at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences in Santa Monica, Calif., where she was responsible for 330 students and 80 faculty and staff. She previously served as Crossroads' assistant head of middle school, middle school dean, assistant director of the summer program, humanities teacher, and basketball and swimming coach. In partnership with the consulting firm Independent School Management, she also co-facilitated a summer program for new middle school heads and principals. A native of St. Louis, she holds a B.A. in history from Mount Holyoke College and an M.A. in American studies from Pepperdine University.

"Michelle has always found great joy in working with this age group, dedicating her career to supporting middle school students as they navigate a dynamic and challenging phase in their lives," said President **Bart Griffith '93**. "A remarkably student-centered leader, she brings a unique capacity to help middle schoolers emerge strong, healthy, and well-prepared for high school and young adulthood."

"The Middle School is a vibrant, joyful place, and I am committed to seeing it flourish in the coming years," said Merson. "The dedication of the faculty to the care and education of students is most compelling for me. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead and support Shady Side's outstanding programs and to listen deeply to its students, faculty and families. There's a great tradition of intellectual curiosity evident at Shady Side, and I am thrilled to be a part of it."

AMY SZLACHETKA

Chief Financial Officer



Amy Szlachetka was appointed chief financial officer in June 2023, succeeding Jim Rohr Jr. '92. As the Academy's principal finance and business officer, she manages and administers all financial functions, including budgeting, accounting, investments, long-range financial planning, physical plant funding, auxiliary revenues, and oversight of all assets and liabilities. She serves on the Executive Leadership Team and as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees. Szlachetka joined SSA in 2005 as assistant comptroller, then became the director of financial planning, subsequently renamed controller, in 2014. She also served as head girls basketball coach for several years. Prior to SSA, she practiced law at Westinghouse Electric Corp. in the corporate litigation division.

"A longtime and trusted leader in the Business Office, Amy brings an incredible wealth of skill and relevant experience to the role," said Griffith. "SSA will not miss a beat with her at the helm!"

JAMIE SCOTT '98

Chief Philanthropy Officer



Jamie (Brush) Scott '98 was appointed Chief Philanthropy Officer in May 2023, succeeding Dr. Allison Saras. As an alumna, parent and member of the Alumni & Development team for 15 years, she brings rich experience to the role, as well as strong relationships that extend across the SSA community. Scott first joined

Shady Side in 2005 as the assistant director of communications before moving to the Alumni & Development Office in 2008, where she served as director of alumni relations and then as leadership programming and major gifts officer. In the latter role, she engaged and supported governance and alumni leadership groups including the Board of Visitors and Alumni Council and helped to launch the IDEA Alumni Committee, while also securing significant gifts from a range of constituents.

"A relational leader who possesses social ease and a love for Shady Side, Jamie has a knack for connecting with others and drawing them into the life of the Academy," said Griffith.



Investing in Talent



Shady Side Academy's Journey to Fortify its Faculty and Staff

BY KAREN RICHTERS / PHOTOS BY JAMES KNOX AND ELAN MIZRAHI



Throughout its 140-year history, Shady Side Academy has maintained a commitment to educational excellence, a core value deeply ingrained in its institutional ethos. But alongside its growth and transformation, Shady Side has always recognized that the heart of any great school is its people – the talented faculty and staff members who serve as mentors, advisors and coaches, and build relationships with students that last a lifetime.



Now, as Shady Side is engaged in developing its next campus master plan, the Academy continues to take deliberate steps to fortify its people, recognizing the pivotal role faculty and staff will play in any future success.

President **Bart Griffith '93** underlines the significance of this endeavor, emphasizing that attracting and retaining the most diverse and talented faculty and staff requires ongoing and sustained relationship-building. "Having a strong faculty is crucial for the success of Shady Side Academy as it enriches the academic environment, enhances the educational experience for students, and drives research and innovation in and out of the classroom," he said.

As part of this deliberate investment in its employees, the Academy created a new executive team role dedicated to faculty and staff recruitment and professional development. Since his arrival in 2021, Chief Talent Recruitment and Development Officer **Dr. Armani Davis** has been instrumental in spearheading the Academy's recruitment efforts, cultivating relationships with organizations and community partners regionally and beyond to curate a pool of talented educators who would thrive at Shady Side.

Part of the rationale for doing so, Davis explained, is to introduce talented young educators and college graduates to the idea of teaching in an independent school, as many have never been exposed to independent schools as a career option. By personalizing the recruitment process, Davis hopes to enable interviewees to envision themselves as an integral part of the institution.

As part of his recruiting efforts, Davis has also designed a new onboarding program for faculty, which comprises eight themed workshops to help

new employees become accustomed to SSA, and a mentorship program between new and senior faculty.

"We want our new educators to feel a sense of engagement and belonging within our organization," said Davis, emphasizing the Academy's commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive environment.

Davis is also revitalizing the Academy's professional development framework to ensure the continued growth of faculty. As part of these efforts, he implemented a new "teachers-teaching-teachers" model for in-service days in 2022-2023, where faculty members are tapped to lead workshops



for their PK-12 colleagues around a core strategic theme. The first such day, held on Nov. 1, was dedicated to relational teaching strategies and met

with great success. The same model was replicated on May 1, with a day of workshops focused on civil discourse and providing a balanced and informed worldview in the classroom.

"By embracing our uniqueness and placing it at the forefront, we are able to seize the opportunity to excel as educators," commented Davis. "Engaging with our colleagues allows us to gain valuable insights and foster an intimate experience that shapes our journey to success."

"Engaging with our colleagues allows us to gain valuable insights and foster an intimate experience that shapes our journey to success."

— Armani Davis, Chief Talent Recruitment and Development Officer



Opposite and left: Teachers-teaching-teachers workshop held on Nov. 1 in-service day
Photos by James Knox

After an eight-month process marked by deliberation, comprehensive research and feedback by committee members and Littleford, the committees presented their initial recommendations to the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors on April 28, 2023.

Considering the feedback and comments from the two boards, the committees finalized their recommendations and on June 8, 2023, shared the culmination of their hard work with the entire PK-12 faculty and staff, followed by breakout sessions to collect feedback.

"What's important is that we're at a place where we are making recommendations. Not everything is written in stone. So, going to the faculty and making our recommendations was very much to hear their feedback to see if we missed something along the way," clarified Trustee and Co-chair of the Evaluation and Professional Development Committee **Cat McLaughlin**. "It was not to stand in front of them and say, 'This has been ordained and determined.'"

The breakout groups facilitated meaningful discussions, allowing committee members to gather valuable feedback from faculty and staff. The engagement of the faculty and staff in this process is a testament to Shady Side's commitment to fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment.

The Academy aims to use this input to drive meaningful changes.



Enhancing the overall experience for faculty and staff has also been a key focus at Shady Side Academy. "It has been about 20 years since the school has comprehensively reviewed the ways in which we honor, support and assess faculty," noted Griffith. "Given ongoing shifts and evolutions in workplace expectations and experiences due to the pandemic, the Board of Trustees and my office felt this was the moment to self-reflect in regard to workplace experience."

Recognizing that a supportive, equitable and rewarding workplace is crucial for recruitment and retention, SSA enlisted the expertise of Littleford & Associates, a management consulting firm with deep experience in the independent school market, to conduct a comprehensive 10-month review of Shady Side's existing systems in three areas: faculty salaries, faculty evaluation and professional development, and employee benefits.

The partnership between trustees, faculty and administration was crucial to the success of the Littleford Study. As such, three committees were formed, each focusing on a different system. Each committee was co-chaired by one trustee and one faculty member and consisted of three additional trustees, seven faculty and four administrators. The Benefits Committee also included one staff

member, since its work also impacted staff. Together, each committee actively worked to provide recommendations on how to improve the faculty and staff experience at Shady Side.

The collaborative committee structure was designed to give trustees a more empathetic and informed understanding of the faculty's perspective, while giving the faculty a better understanding of the trustee's governance and fiduciary responsibilities.

"I think it was very much a part of Littleford's plan with Bart to get all stakeholders on each of the committees so that we could learn from each other's perspectives as well as work on the problem at hand," said **Tom Rossi**, faculty co-chair of the Evaluation and Professional Development Committee and Senior School science teacher.

The committees' diverse composition of individuals from different campuses, age groups and roles ensured a broad spectrum of viewpoints, representing the interests of the greater community.

"I liked being able to collaborate with colleagues from different divisions, in addition to administration and trustees," said **Claudine Runnette**, faculty co-chair of the Benefits Committee and Country Day School counselor. "It feels like a partnering and more of a true collaboration. Everyone brings their own strengths, and I appreciate that."

The Evaluation and Professional Development Committee, chaired by McLaughlin and Rossi, aimed to revamp the existing faculty evaluation system to better support professional development and growth. Recognizing the disparities in the current systems used across the four schools, the committee sought to leverage technology to design a more cohesive and sustainable approach. In pursuit of fairness and inclusivity, the committee took inspiration from existing best practices while exploring potential new approaches. Emphasizing simplicity, clarity and professional growth, the committee proposed a PK-12 evaluation system aligned with Shady Side's strategic objectives. This solution would

incorporate in-classroom assessments, goal-setting mechanisms and transparent criteria, with the overarching goal of nurturing a culture of growth and excellence. The evaluation framework would also be used to tailor professional development opportunities to each faculty member's individual goals. Investing in the evaluation and professional development processes has been deemed crucial for fulfillment, recruitment, long-term growth, and organizational learning and development. With a unified and thorough process, Shady Side can provide feedback on faculty performance, elevating the institution's commitment to excellence in education.



“We acknowledged the challenge of striking a balance between the school's values and the need for a competitive compensation framework.”

— Jeff Todd '85, Trustee

With the determination to design a comprehensive and transparent faculty compensation system, the Salary Committee, co-chaired by Trustee **Jeff Todd '85** and Middle School Science Teacher **Lauren Messner**, researched salary structures employed by other educational institutions. Their primary objective was to develop a system that attracts exceptional educators while aligning with Shady Side Academy's mission and ensuring both prospective and existing faculty members feel valued. “We acknowledged the challenge of striking a balance between the school's values and the need for a competitive compensation framework,” said Todd.

Transparency and fairness were essential guiding principles for the committee. Developing salary bands was one of the steps recommended to foster openness, allowing faculty members to understand how compensation decisions are made and reinforcing a sense of equitable treatment.

Throughout their discussions, the committee considered the varied roles of faculty across different campuses and appreciated the diverse perspectives that shaped the school's academic landscape. “We wanted to focus on recognizing the value of experience in education and in life and have that reflected in a compensation system that promotes growth and continuous learning,” commented Messner.

The Benefits Committee, chaired by Trustee **Joe Reschini** and Runnette, was tasked with evaluating SSA's employee benefits package and recommending possible revenue-neutral improvements. Recognizing the significance of employee feedback, the committee conducted a survey to



elicit valuable insights regarding current offerings. The responses garnered from the survey proved to be instrumental in shaping their recommendations, especially regarding the need for more proactive employee benefits education.

The committee also sought the expertise of SSA's benefits consulting firm, Henderson Brothers, who provided invaluable data regarding industry trends and alternative models for benefits such as disability insurance and retirement plan vesting.



Throughout their discussions, the committee focused on equity, ensuring benefits were affordable to all employees from health insurance to tuition remission. Honest and open sharing of opinions among committee members was a crucial aspect of their work, providing valuable anecdotal insights.

As a next step, Shady Side's administration and Board of Trustees will begin the process of implementing the committees' recommendations over the next three years. “Some of the recommendations are straightforward in application that can be applied to the community's benefit right away,” said Griffith, “while others are more involved and will require additional time and study to administer effectively.”

Shady Side Academy's unwavering commitment to investing in its people is a testament to the school's dedication to its mission. In attending to recruitment as a year-round endeavor, Shady Side is able to pursue a professional population that can be hired and cultivated beyond the windows that were previously available.

By focusing on recruitment and retention, improving the workplace experience, and providing industry-leading compensation, evaluation and professional development systems, SSA is creating an environment where talented faculty can flourish professionally. Shady Side remains confident that these investments will pave the way for sustained success and a lasting legacy of educational empowerment.



SENIOR SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT



CLASS OF 2023



From left, senior speakers
Elizabeth Kamin and
Joseph Bellinotti



LIFERS

Shady Side Academy celebrated the 110 members of the Class of 2023 at Commencement Exercises on Friday, June 2, at Michael J. Farrell Stadium. The ceremony began with the Class of 2023 processing into the stadium, and **Rev. Thomas E. Johnson Jr. '73** gave the invocation. Academy President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed families to the celebration, and Alumni Council President **Jim Ambrose '05** welcomed the Class of 2023 to the ranks of Shady Side alumni. Senior **Smrithi Shyam** presented the class gift, a swinging bench to be placed outside the Glimcher Tech & Design Hub. Seniors **Joseph Bellinotti** and **Elizabeth Kamin** delivered the senior speeches, and **John Taylor '64**, the Mary and Robert Raymond Professor of Economics at Stanford University, delivered the commencement address. Then Griffith, Senior School Head **Trixie Sabundayo**, Board of Trustees Chair **Rob Mullin '93** and Dean of Studies **Claire Logsdon** presented diplomas to the graduates. Following the ceremony, graduates and guests enjoyed a reception at the stadium entrance plaza. For additional photos, videos and a list of senior award winners, visit shadysideacademy.org/commencement.



Left: Commencement
speaker John Taylor '64
Below: Class of 2023
throws Commencement
programs in celebration



SHADY SIDE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2023

BY THE NUMBERS

COLLEGE MATRICULATION STATISTICS:

110
GRADUATES

will attend **64** colleges in **24** states plus D.C. and Canada

were admitted to **197** colleges

65% will attend college out of state

84% will attend a *US News & World Report* Top 100 National University or Liberal Arts College

61% will attend a *Barron's* Most Competitive college

15% will play college athletics in **9** sports

2 will play junior hockey and **1** will take a gap year



A SNAPSHOT OF THE CLASS OF 2023'S SSA EXPERIENCE:

5 states and **3** countries

18% are "lifers" who attended SSA from grades PK-12

52% attended SSA Middle School

13% are boarding students

55% completed an independent study or senior project

18% earned a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from UPenn via the Social Innovators Program

35% participated in the performing arts (theatre production or musical ensemble)

9% were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program

Helped **7** SSA athletic teams win **10** league championships



2023



CLASS OF 2023 COLLEGE CHOICES

AS OF JUNE 2, 2023

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Allegheny College | Marquette University | University of Alabama |
| American University | New York University | University of California, Los Angeles |
| Amherst College | Oberlin College | University of Colorado Boulder |
| Arizona State University | Occidental College | University of Florida |
| Barnard College | Ohio State University | University of Georgia |
| Boston College | Ontario College of Art and Design University | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign |
| Boston University | Pennsylvania State University, University Park | University of Maryland, College Park |
| Brown University | Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro | University of New Hampshire |
| Bucknell University | Princeton University | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| Carnegie Mellon University | Purdue University | University of Notre Dame |
| Case Western Reserve University | Rochester Institute of Technology | University of Pennsylvania |
| College of the Holy Cross | Rollins College | University of Pittsburgh |
| College of Wooster | Saint Mary's College | University of Richmond |
| Cornell University | Saint Vincent College | University of Rochester |
| Denison University | Southern Methodist University | University of San Diego |
| George Washington University | Syracuse University | University of Texas at Austin |
| Hamilton College | Temple University | University of Toronto |
| High Point University | Tulane University | Utah State University |
| Howard University | Union College | Villanova University |
| Juniata College | United States Military Academy | Wake Forest University |
| Kansas State University | | Washington University in St. Louis |
| Kenyon College | | |
| Loyola University Chicago | | |

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLOSING EXERCISES

The 71 members of the Middle School's Form II class were officially promoted to the Senior School on Monday, June 5, at Middle School Closing Exercises. The ceremony was held in the Richard E. Rauh Theater of the Hillman Center for Performing Arts for eighth graders and their families. President **Bart Griffith '93** welcomed students and families, Head of Middle School **Amy Nixon** presented several student awards and **Ahmed Elsayed** gave the Form II student speech. An instrumental performance of *Ashokan Farewell*, arranged by students **Kristen Appleman** and **Alex Chen**, was played in memory of their late classmate, **Justin Sharek**. Assistant Head of School **Brian Johnston** and Nixon presented the certificates. Afterwards, the Class of 2027 and their families enjoyed a reception on the Mary Hillman Jennings Plaza.



CLASS OF 2027



JUNIOR SCHOOL CLOSING EXERCISES



CLASS OF 2030



The 49 members of the Junior School's fifth grade class were officially promoted to the Middle School at the Closing Exercises ceremony on Tuesday, June 6. The ceremony was held at The Frick Pittsburgh for fifth graders and their families. Fifth graders performed band and choir pieces, and presented their memoirs. Junior School lifer **Sophia Stafford '23** gave the graduation address. Assistant Heads of School **Melanie Smith** and **Dan Stern**, along with Head of Lower Schools **Dr. Jennifer Asmonga** and Academy President **Bart Griffith '93**, presented the graduates with their certificates. Following the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed an outdoor reception.



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL CLOSING EXERCISES

The 18 members of Country Day School's fifth grade class were officially promoted to the Middle School at the Closing Exercises ceremony on Tuesday, June 6, on the school lawn. Fifth graders presented three-word memoirs, recited a poem they wrote and performed a song. Country Day School lifer **Alex Kronman '23** gave the graduation address. Then, Academy President **Bart Griffith '93**, Head of Lower Schools **Dr. Jennifer Asmonga**, Assistant Head of School **Katie Nestor** and fifth grade teacher **Kelley Gregg** presented graduates with their certificates. The ceremony closed with letters from the fifth grade class, the recessional and a reception.



CLASS OF 2030



FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

POSNER AWARDS

Established in 2004 by the late **Henry Posner Jr. '37**, his wife, Helen, and their four sons, **Henry III '73**, **James '75**, **Paul '77** and **Robert '78**, the Posner Award for Meritorious Faculty Performance is presented annually 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 2023 recipients are Middle School Math Teacher **John Curry** and Junior School Third Grade Teacher **Jennifer Riscili**.



JOHN CURRY

Often described as "kind, responsible, honest, respectful and always going above and beyond" for his students, John Curry taught mathematics at the Middle School from 1980 until his retirement this spring. He also served in several administrative roles at the Middle School from 1991 to 2019, including dean of students, director of studies and assistant head of school, before returning to the classroom full-time in 2019.

One former student and now parent said, "The lessons I learned in the classroom from Mr. Curry in self-discipline and personal responsibility set a foundation for the rest of my life, but his kindness and humanity outside of the classroom have had an equally profound impact."

From always greeting students with an enthusiastic "Hello!" to referring to figures in textbooks as "cartoon goobers," Mr. Curry has left a lasting imprint on the students who have passed through the Middle School.



JENNIFER RISCILI

Jennifer Riscili has served on the Junior School faculty since 2003 in multiple roles – library assistant, first grade assistant, kindergarten teacher, second grade teacher and currently, third grade teacher. She also coaches the Junior School cross country team and has been a faculty representative for the Blue & Gold Fund for many years.

Riscili ensures her students understand the importance of "mistakes are proof that you're trying" which is a quote she often shares with her class. One student said, "When any of us are having a hard time mastering our math facts, she always comes and helps us. She is silly and fun and has made my last two years at Shady Side Academy amazing!"

Riscili also has coordinated many service efforts over the years, including the second grade food drive, third grade pajama drive for foster children and the Junior School holiday giving tree.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Michael J. Farrell Award for Exceptional Interactions with Students
Marilyn Martens, *Junior School Kindergarten Teacher*

Michael J. Farrell Award for Going Above and Beyond
Natalie Bobek, *Senior School Science Teacher*
Betsy Gorse, *Middle School Health and P.E. Teacher*
Micaela Tucker, *Junior School Learning Specialist*

Michael J. Farrell Award for Innovative Educators
Corinne Cornibe, *Senior School Computer Science and Mathematics Teacher*
Colleen Mientkiewicz, *Country Day School Visual Arts Teacher*

Class of 1961 Faculty Award for Excellence
Hannah Boyer, *Senior School Mathematics Teacher*

Ruth and F. Walter Jones Service Prize
Meredith Colicchie, *Associate Director of Enrollment*

Kenneth M. Raymond Vasko Memorial Award
Mary Guering, *Middle School Librarian*

President's Award for Distinguished Staff Service
Terry Colvin, *Senior School Bus Driver*

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY RETIRING FACULTY & STAFF

Seven faculty and staff members retired in 2023 after a combined 212 years of service to the Academy.



CARI BATCHELAR
Visual Arts Teacher and Chair of Arts Department, Senior School, 35 years



TERRY COLVIN
Bus Driver, Senior School, 18 years



JOHN CURRY
Mathematics Teacher, Middle School, 43 years



TIM FLANDERS
Custodian, Senior School, 26 years



MARGIE HEINTZLEMAN
Science Teacher, Country Day School, 27 years



STAN NEVOLA
Band Teacher, Senior School, 41 years



AMY NIXON
Head of School, Middle School, 22 years

20
23



At Shady Side Academy, we're encouraged by the steadfast support of our community to step up and grow our impact.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

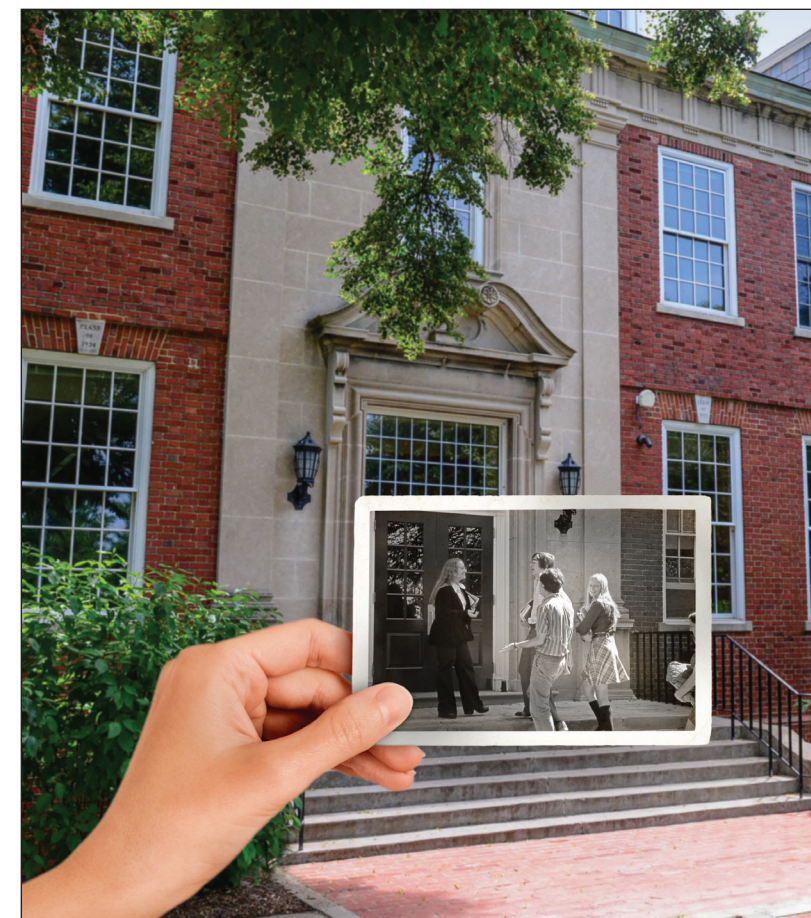
The 2022-2023 Donor Impact Report is available online at
impactreport.shadysideacademy.org.



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jscott@shadysideacademy.org.



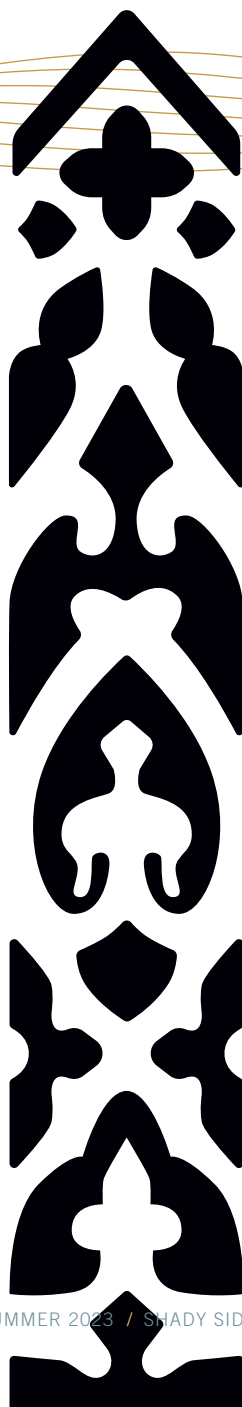


Courtney Hershey Bress '92

COLORADO SYMPHONY HARPIST PERFORMS
A CONCERTO FOR THE AGES

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AMANDA TIPTON PHOTOGRAPHY AND FROM THE HIP PHOTO



Courtney Hershey Bress '92 grew up surrounded by the enchanting music of the harp the way other kids listened to nursery rhymes or Raffi tunes. As a toddler, she would sit on the base of the 6-foot tall instrument as her mother, a professional who played at weddings and other events, plucked the strings.

Bress started playing the piano at age 6, and at 7, she announced that she wanted to be a harpist too.

"I wanted to be just like my mom," Bress said. Her parents bought her a 3-foot high harp with levers instead of pedals to change the pitch.

Bress not only became a professional like her mother, performing around the world, but she also won a coveted spot in the Colorado Symphony as principal harpist in 2001. Most major orchestras have only one harp, and so competition for that seat is fierce.

This May, Bress reached another milestone in her musical career when she played the world premiere of Grammy

award-winning composer Michael Daugherty's concerto, *Harp of Ages*, at Boettcher Concert Hall in Denver. Bress had asked Daugherty to write the composition for her, and he agreed to compose his one and only harp concerto.

Her fingers plucked and strummed the 47 strings as she showcased the range and beauty of the oldest known instrument. Alternating between Irish wedding music, Detroit blues and a funky movement inspired by Harpo Marx, she stretched the audience's idea of what the harp can do. In one movement, she tapped the side of it as though it were a percussion instrument while plucking the strings with the other hand.



"It's a piece of art. It's the harp of my dreams."

The performances on May 12-14 were even more special because she played her brand-new harp – a Lyon & Healy Style 3 Gold, one of only about 60 ever made in the world. The first time she strummed a chord on the rare instrument, it was as though a bolt of lightning struck her. "It's a piece of art," she said. "It's the harp of my dreams."

It was a highlight of her career, playing a dream concerto on her dream instrument.

After all three performances, Bress received standing ovations.

Among her fans in the audience was **Stan Nevola**, who retired this June as band teacher at the Senior School. He has remained a mentor and friend to his former student and one of her biggest supporters over the years. "I wouldn't miss it," he said of watching her play the world premiere.

"I have many alumni who have gone on to careers in music or have gone on to do music on the side," he said. "But nobody has reached the level that Courtney has."

Bress performing
Harp of Ages

Photo by Amanda
Tipton Photography



Even as a little girl, Bress was serious about the harp, studying under Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra principal harpist Gretchen Van Hoesen. (She said her mother, Suzanne Hershey, though an accomplished harpist herself, knew better than to teach her own daughter).

In middle school, though, her enthusiasm flagged as she realized how many hours of intense practice it would take to make it in the highly competitive world of music. At one point, she considered quitting.

But by high school, when she enrolled at Shady Side Academy, her musical ambition had returned. Her confidence grew as she began to win music competitions and played in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra. She began to believe she could be a professional musician.

At Shady Side, she performed solos at school recitals and took music theory classes from Nevola.

Bress had a rare combination of traits, Nevola recalled – social and well-liked but also driven and disciplined as a musician.

“Many musicians tend to be more ethereal, more romantic in their interpretations of music. And Courtney is more of a realist. While she is incredibly expressive in her playing, her ability to be disciplined within the frame of being an artist is pretty unique,” he said.

She decided to apply for conservatory, and her parents were nothing but supportive of her taking a stab at a career that can be crushingly competitive.

“Some parents say, ‘Wait – you are going to get a music degree? What if you don’t succeed?’ My parents were never like that. They were very supportive.”

She studied with Kathleen Bride at the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music, earning a Bachelor of Music and the Performer’s Certificate. Though she knew the world of classical music was

competitive, she didn’t realize just how hard it was to break in until she saw the scarce job listings that were posted rarely.

One week, there was only one posting on the job board. It was for a harp seat with the U.S. Army Field Band.

Bress laughed, but her teacher overheard and stopped her. She encouraged her to go to the audition, insisting she had what it took to get the job. Joining a military band wasn’t the job she had envisioned after conservatory, but she took her teacher’s advice and won the seat.

One week after graduating from Eastman, Bress began basic training in Fort Jackson, S.C., for eight weeks, running and exercising in the summer heat. “I was in the best shape of my life. I gained 15 pounds of muscle.”

After basic training, she traveled with the band to all 50 states, playing a concert grand pedal harp in many small towns. “It’s kind of a public relations band for the Army,” she said. “I have played in the best concert halls. I have played in cow barns.”

Though it wasn’t always glamorous, she called it a great first job that enabled her to push herself. “I became a soloist every year on tour. It made me a better player.”

As Nevola put it, “She paid her dues.”

After three years traveling with the Army band, she decided to go to graduate school and aim for her ultimate goal – a job in a major orchestra, which is a challenge for any musician but especially a harpist. She received her Master of Music in orchestral studies at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, studying under Sarah Bullen.

Bress was already on the audition circuit, talented enough to be invited to try out for harp jobs that would occasionally open up at symphonies. She



Left to right: Michael Daugherty (composer), Courtney H. Bress '92, Andrew Litton (conductor).

Photo by Amanda Tipton Photography

would always make it through the early rounds, held behind screens so the judges couldn’t prejudge who was playing. The process was nerve-racking. “Auditions are cut-throat and awful for your ego,” she said. “You almost have to be perfect.”

When the audition opened up for the Colorado Symphony, she played perfectly – until she made a single mistake in the last round. She heard a laugh from the music director, who was standing behind a screen. After the audition, Bress asked the music director why she had found it funny. She answered, “Because you finally made a mistake – I had to know you were human.”

Even after more than 20 years with the Colorado Symphony, Bress is often the first one on stage before a concert. One of the occupational hazards of the harp is the time it takes to tune all 47 strings, a process she often continues during intermission. “There’s an old saying that a harpist spends half their life tuning their instrument and the other half of their life playing out of tune. I thought that was funny when I was younger, but now I disagree because I do play in tune.”

A harpist also manipulates the seven pedals that change notes from flat to sharp. “It’s very technical, and you’re moving constantly,” she said.

She also teaches harp as an adjunct professor at the University of Denver’s Lamont School of Music, an instructor for the Lamont Summer Academy and a lecturer at the University of Wyoming. She was the assistant professor at Colorado State University from 2016 to 2021. Her teaching style is both encouraging and demanding.

Because the harp is so different from other instruments, many composers don’t know how to write music for it, she said.

In fact, Bress was so frustrated with lackluster orchestra harp parts that she wrote a book, *For Love of the Harp*. In the book, she gives advice to young musicians and relates stories about her career, then provides a guide to arranging and composing music for the harp.

“I think most composers would agree it’s the hardest instrument to compose for. Which is why I chose Michael Daugherty for this piece. He gets it.”

When she first joined the Colorado Symphony, she played an orchestral piece he had composed that included a beautiful passage for the harp. Why not commission a whole concerto, a rarity for a harp?

When she approached him about it 10 years ago, Daugherty agreed. “Sure, I will write one harp concerto in my lifetime,” he told her.

So she approached the executives at the Colorado Symphony, who told her she could pursue it if she could find an outside donor to fund it. She found support from the Kenneth and Myra Monfort Charitable Foundation.

Bress made two trips to Ann Arbor, where Daugherty teaches at the University of Michigan, and they worked on the piece together, becoming good friends in the process. “It’s all his piece, but I did a little bit of editing to make a few things more idiomatic.”

She was thrilled to work with him and play a composition that suited her so well.

“I love *Harp of Ages* by Michael Daugherty, because it encompasses all the ways the harp can be played. Daugherty wrote gorgeous arpeggios to contemporary effects such as pedal slides and tapping on the body of the instrument. I love how every movement is different and demands the harpist to change gears and create something different as the piece progresses. I truly feel that the piece matches my own personality, from warm-hearted to flashy and energetic.”

The composer took a bow with her on stage afterwards.

Reflecting on the experience, Daugherty said, “Working with Courtney over a period of a year on *Harp of Ages* for solo harp and orchestra was a joy! Her performance of this innovative and unique concerto with the Colorado Symphony was simply amazing and the audiences went wild every night.

“Courtney has the technique to play anything and her acute musical instincts communicate with the audience in a special way. Our collaboration was truly ‘one for the ages!’”



Courtney Hershey Bress '92 with her dog, Perseus. Photo by From the Hip Photo



SKYY MOORE '19

From WPIAL Star to Super Bowl Champion

BY BRAD EVERETT / PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ALUM'S FAMILY AND KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Like most folks in Western Pennsylvania – and many around the country, for that matter – an 8-year-old boy from New Kensington watched intently as the Steelers took on the Arizona Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII.

In seeing the black and gold pull off a dramatic last-minute win, this boy began to dream, not only of playing in the Super Bowl, but also scoring a touchdown in the big game.

“Ever since I saw that Big Ben pass to Santonio Holmes in the back of the end zone, I wanted to do that,” said **Skyy Moore '19**.

And wouldn't you know it, 14 years later, Moore found himself on that same grand stage when he represented the Kansas City Chiefs, who squared off against the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LVII. And with an estimated 115 million people watching in the United States alone, Moore used his only catch to score his first career touchdown, one that came in the fourth quarter and vaulted the Chiefs to a 38-35 win.

“It was a dream come true,” Moore said.

The performance was just one of many “Skyy-lights” Moore has had since graduating from Shady Side Academy. He has transformed from a high school quarterback who was lightly recruited by colleges into a promising NFL wide receiver entering his second season with the world champions.

Moore fondly remembers his days at Shady Side Academy, and his teachers remember him well, too. Not only for his football talents, though.

“I don't think of him as a super football player. I think of him as Skyy, the sweet student,” said **Pam Boehm**, who taught Moore's ninth grade history class. Moore met **Jordyn Harris '19** in that class. The two began dating their senior year and remain together to this day.

Moore arrived at Shady Side Academy his freshman year after previously attending Valley Junior

High in New Kensington, Pa. So, what compelled Moore to go to SSA in the first place? Easy – that's where his mom wanted him to go.

“Honestly, I really didn't have a choice. My mom made me,” Moore said with a laugh. “At first I didn't want to go, but as I got there, and I was going through the school year meeting new people, I definitely realized this was way better than what I was coming from.”

They say “mother knows best,” and in this case, Moore's mother, Timika Hastie, made a hasty decision that she said she doesn't regret one bit.

“In middle school, I started to see a change in his friends' behavior,” she said. “He was always extremely smart, and I didn't want him to take the same ride downhill that they were going.”

Left: Moore celebrates Super Bowl win
Below: Moore wearing his NFL Super Bowl ring
Photos provided by Kansas City Chiefs



Instead, Moore began to “Skyrocket” at his new school. His development was strikingly noticeable to some of his teachers who saw him grow immensely in his four years.

“As a ninth grader, he was a good student, but he was learning how to become an organized learner,” said **Karen Serdy**, who taught Moore in Spanish I and III. “When I had Skyy in 11th grade, he had developed that organization. He had time management skills that were incredible, and he had developed into a leader.”

Moore mentioned Serdy, Boehm, **Adam Janosko** and **Matt Weiss** as being his favorite teachers. Janosko taught Moore’s English elective, Literature and Sport, while Weiss was his U.S. History teacher.

“Those were my funnest classes. They made sure learning was fun,” Moore recalled.

One of his more memorable assignments was the U.S. History paper he wrote in Weiss’ class as a junior.

“He did it on rap and Reagan,” Weiss said. “His thesis was that rap during the ’80s was a response to Reagan’s politics being harmful to the Black community, and that a lot of rappers recognized that and responded to it with their music.”

Janosko pointed to an essay Moore wrote on his relationship with football that he called “beautiful.”

Moore’s love for football took off at SSA, as well. The impact was instant, as Moore became the team’s starting quarterback his freshman season, a rarity in high school football. **Dave Havern** was the head coach for Moore’s first two seasons before **Chuck DiNardo ’00** took over the job after Havern retired.

“With Skyy, you realize a couple of things immediately,” DiNardo said. “The first thing you saw was, he’s a really good kid, a really genuine kid. The other thing was, this is a kid who really loves football.”

Shady Side Academy didn’t win a game when Moore was a sophomore, one of the reasons being that he broke his ankle a few games into the season. Moore then had an explosive junior season when he both threw and rushed for more than 1,000 yards while helping Shady Side finish with a 6-3 record.

Moore’s senior season was a remarkable one, leading Shady Side to a conference title and its first undefeated regular season in 10 years. Moore accounted for 46 total touchdowns and became the first player in WPIAL history to throw and rush for 1,000 yards in the regular season twice.

But Moore faced some adversity that season when he rebroke his ankle in the team’s WPIAL first-round playoff win against Serra Catholic. Without him, Shady Side Academy was eliminated from the playoffs the following week.

“I know he was so depressed. It was depressing for all of us,” his mother said. “But one thing with him is, he’s always had a tremendous work ethic. He went to therapy and did so much more than the doctor even suggested to get ready.”

Most of Moore’s college offers were from Mid-American Conference and FCS schools. He considered waiting things out a little longer, but ultimately decided to commit to Western Michigan University in November of his senior year. The Broncos had recruited him to play defensive back, but Moore moved to wide receiver when he arrived. He was a quick study, too, as he was selected all-conference his freshman season. In three seasons at Western Michigan, which included the shortened pandemic season in 2020, Moore had 171 receptions for 2,482 yards and scored 17 touchdowns. That included a monster 95-1,292-10 line his junior season.

With his stock at its highest level yet, Moore decided to declare for the NFL draft following his junior season. There

“The first thing you saw was, he’s a really good kid, a really genuine kid. The other thing was, this is a kid who really loves football!”

— SSA Head Football Coach Chuck DiNardo ’00

were rumors that his hometown Steelers would select him, a development he at one point thought had actually come to fruition.

“It went the Steelers, the Colts and then the Chiefs,” Moore said of the draft order in the second round of the 2022 NFL draft. “The team picking before the Steelers (the Philadelphia Eagles), they were on the clock when I got a phone call. I’m thinking, ‘Oh.’ I didn’t even look at the number. I just answered the phone, I’m thinking it’s the Steelers. But I guess my TV was behind. It was the Chiefs.”

That pick went over especially well with Janosko, whose wife is from Kansas City.

“As soon as he was drafted by KC, I sent him a text. I said, ‘If you ever need a home-cooked meal, I have people there.’ I’m rooting for him on two different levels,” Janosko said.

Most players go their entire career without making a Super Bowl, let alone winning one. But Moore got a ring in year one as he began to develop a rapport with two-time NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes.

“Playing with him is what it seems like,” Moore said. “You have a quarterback that can make every throw. It’s just everything that you could want as a receiver.”

Moore said his rookie season was like a roller coaster with lots of ups and downs. He had 22 catches and didn’t score a touchdown in the regular season, one that saw him cough up the ball several times on muffed punts. Moore, though, remained patient and kept working, knowing his time would come. It most certainly did. His big punt return in the final minute set up the winning touchdown in the Chiefs’ 23-20 win against the Cincinnati Bengals in the AFC Championship.

Two weeks later at the Super Bowl, Moore had a large contingent of family and friends make the trip to Glendale, Ariz. The group included both his mom and dad (Roger Moore), grandmother, siblings and girlfriend. It was a joyous night for the bunch, who watched Moore haul in a Mahomes pass on 3rd-and-goal before running into the end zone for a 4-yard touchdown to extend the Kansas City lead to 35-27 with 9:22 left in the game. It propelled the Chiefs to their second title in four years.

“Honestly, I’m so glad it’s caught on video because I really don’t remember it,” Moore said. “There were so many emotions flowing around. Once I crossed the goal line, it was like a blur.”

His family was left with blurry eyes after watching him shine in the biggest game of his life.

“I was just so excited. I just cried out. He literally picked up his dad and swirled him around. It was so funny. I just think he was so excited. I was so happy for him,” said Hastie.

Those who taught or coached Moore in high school were obviously happy for him, as well.

“It’s so much fun now for me to be a fan,” DiNardo said. “I tell people all the time I’m one of his biggest fans. Someone gifted me one of his rookie cards. For me, it’s a ton of fun to put on a KC jersey and root for him.”

And although it’s been four years since Moore was a student at Shady Side – his teachers described him as “earnest” and vividly remember his big smile – Moore talks about his days there proudly.

“Shady Side helped me deal with all different kinds of people,” he said. “It puts you in different situations, and when you handle those situations in the real world, it’s like you recognize, ‘Oh, I’ve done this before’ or ‘I know a person like this.’ It’s so diverse. So I feel like it prepared me for the real world.”

His experiences at Shady Side Academy, he said, continue to benefit him as he prepares for his second season with the Chiefs. For Moore, the sky’s the limit.



From left: Moore and KC Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid during practice. *Photo provided by Kansas City Chiefs*

Skyy Moore and his mother, Timika Hastie, at Moore’s graduation from Shady Side Academy. *Photo provided by family.*

Opposite: Skyy Moore hugs his mother, Timika Hastie, after being selected by the Kansas City Chiefs in the second round of the 2022 NFL draft. *Photo provided by family.*



WINTER

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Record: 25-4

Captains: Na'Khiya Ellis, Antoinette Fitzgerald, Cate Sauer

Highlight: The girls basketball team had a historic season, winning the section with a perfect 10-0 record, earning the No. 1 seed in the WPIAL 3A playoffs (where they finished third), and advancing to the PIAA quarterfinals for the first time in program history. Freshmen **Karis Thomas** and **Maggie Spell** earned All-Section honors, and Thomas made the Trib High School Sports Network All-WPIAL team. Coach **Jonna Burke** notched her 500th career win during the season and was the TribHSSN Class 3A Coach of the Year.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Record: 17-10

Captains: Nico Matt, Ethan Salvia, Eli Teslovich

Highlight: The boys basketball team had a successful season despite battling some difficult injuries down the stretch. The Bulldogs earned a 10-2 section record to earn a share of the section title and a No. 3 seed in the WPIAL Class 3A playoffs, where they finished sixth. The team qualified for the PIAA Championship, where they fell in the first round. Juniors **Nate Mallory** and **Eli Teslovich** were named All-Section, and Teslovich, who scored his 1,000th career point during the season, was also named Section Player of the Year.

GIRLS PREP ICE HOCKEY

Record: 9-13-1

Captains: Neely Nicholson, Ellie Brisland, Britta Klinke

Highlight: The girls prep hockey team played some amazing hockey in a season filled with pride and positive energy, despite late-season injuries that left the Bulldogs with a short bench. The team played three games in the North American Prep Hockey Association playoffs and hosted a NAPHA tournament weekend at SSA in the fall. The Bulldogs traveled to New York and Ontario for games during the season as well.

BOYS PREP ICE HOCKEY

Record: 32-17-2

Captains: Mathew McEnroe, Michael McCoy, Luke Begg, Johnny English

Highlight: In its first season under Coach **Eric Tangradi**, the boys prep hockey team set a school record by winning 32 games. The Bulldogs went 8-11-1 in Midwest Prep Hockey League action, falling to defending champion Bishops College Prep in the MPHL quarterfinals, but ended the season strong with three wins. Senior **Mathew McEnroe** was named an MPHL All-Star, and senior **Michael McCoy** earned MPHL Honorable Mention honors.

GIRLS SQUASH

Record: 7-5

Captains: Morgan Golden, Lizzie Uhlman

Highlight: The girls squash team played some tough competition during the regular season to help them become battle-tested heading into nationals. The Bulldogs were seeded No. 4 in Division V at the U.S. High School National Squash Championships in Philadelphia, where they finished as the runner-up thanks to strong play in the semifinals by sophomores **Sam Recchi** and **Cooper Danforth**.

BOYS SQUASH

Record: 8-9

Captain: Gabe Feinstein

Highlight: The boys squash team showed great improvement throughout the season, playing in eight different tournaments. The Bulldogs competed in Division VII at the U.S. High School National Squash Championships in Philadelphia, going 3-0 to finish at the national runner-up. SSA was led by junior captain **Gabe Feinstein**, who played at the No. 1 position all year.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Record: 7-5

Captains: Chloe Wells, Sara Laman

Highlight: The girls swimming team qualified for the WPIAL 2A Championships in seven events, including all three relays. Sophomore **Ellis Bekman** placed sixth and broke 25 seconds in the 50 freestyle to win a WPIAL medal and qualify for PIAAs, and competed in the 100 free. Junior transfer **Maya Wilshire** also made a big splash, qualifying in both the 200 and 500 free. As a team, the Bulldogs finished 20th at WPIALs.

BOYS SWIMMING

Record: 8-4

Captains: Kevin Johnson, Soren Cooper

Highlight: The boys swimming team qualified for the WPIAL Championships in nine events, including all three relays. Sophomore **Soren Cooper** placed third in the 500 freestyle and sixth in the 200 free to advance to the PIAA Championships, while **Austin Liu**, **Jasper Chapman**, **Kevin Johnson** and **Cooper** advanced in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. At states, Cooper swam his best time to place fourth in the 500 free and finished eighth in the 200 free.



SPRING

BOYS ULTIMATE FRISBEE – PHUL CHAMPIONS

Record: 7-2

Captains: Aidan Adams, Hari Viswanathan

Highlight: The boys' ultimate frisbee team made history in 2023, capturing the first PHUL title in program history by defeating St. Joseph's, 8-6, in the Division 2 championship under the guidance of longtime Head Coach **Matt Weiss**. Junior **Hari Viswanathan** and senior **Aidan Adams** were named to the PHUL Division 2 All-City Team.

BASEBALL

Record: 8-12

Captains: James DelVecchio, Henry Fried, Aedan Reagans, Bryce Trischler

Highlight: The baseball team had a successful season under Head Coach **Sean Wilson**, finishing third in Section 3 with a 6-6 section record. The Bulldogs earned the No. 11 seed in the WPIAL 3A playoffs, losing in the first round to Neshannock. Seniors **Aedan Reagans** and **Bryce Trischler**, junior **Mathew Long** and sophomore **Brady Trischler** were named All-Section, while sophomore **Soren Cooper** was Honorable Mention All-Section.

BOYS LACROSSE

Record: 9-13

Captains: JP Henry, Andrew Krakora, Mathew McEnroe, Mac Mohn, Ethan Salvia

Highlight: The Bulldogs tested themselves with a competitive non-WPIAL schedule and advanced to their third straight WPIAL 3A Championship game, finishing as runner-up to Mt. Lebanon, and qualifying for the PIAA tournament. Senior **JP Henry**, junior **Mac Mohn** and sophomores **Seamus Riordan** and **Ben Michels** earned All-Section and All-WPIAL honors, and Henry was named WPIAL Player of the Year and a USA Lacrosse All-American.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Record: 10-7

Captains: Sydney Birchard, Morgan Golden, Neely Nicholson

Highlight: Under head coach **Sarah Lamphier**, the girls lacrosse team earned a No. 5 seed in the WPIAL 3A playoffs, where the Bulldogs fell in the semifinals to eventual champion Pine-Richland. Seniors **Neely**

Nicholson and **Morgan Golden** and junior **Sydney Birchard** earned all-section honors, while junior **Rachel Jones** was second-team all-section and senior **Antoinette Fitzgerald** was honorable mention. Nicholson also earned All-WPIAL and Academic All-America honors.

SOFTBALL

Record: 3-13

Captains: Reagan Schriveer, Dani Strauss, Savi Thompson

Highlight: Softball season was highlighted by the Bulldogs' first section win in two years in a challenging WPIAL 3A division. A dramatic improvement in team defense powered a remarkable mid-season improvement in the team's play. Freshman pitching stalwart **Becca Schriver**, along with senior **Dani Strauss** and junior **Lexi Hogle**, were impressive in the circle all season.

BOYS TENNIS

Record: 7-3

Captains: Tommy Certo, David Mnuskin

Highlight: The Bulldogs had a winning season and earned a No. 5 seed in the WPIAL 3A Team Championship, defeating Norwin in the first round before falling to No. 4 Upper St. Clair in the quarterfinals. The team of junior **Chase Hartman** and sophomore **Sid Ramineni** qualified for the WPIAL 3A Doubles Championship, advancing to the quarterfinals.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Record: 5-4

Captains: Isaiah Beckham, Deacon Durham, Alex Kronman, Nico Matt, Charlie Stafford

Highlight: Five Bulldogs competed in two events at the WPIAL 2A Individual

Championships, with senior **Charlie Stafford** earning an eighth-place medal in the 800 and the 4x100 relay team of juniors **Eddie DeBruce**, **Nate Mallory** and **Deacon Durham** and sophomore **Jalen Bey** placing 12th. Earlier in the season, Stafford set a new school record in the 800 meters (2:00.79) at the Pine-Richland Invitational.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Record: 5-4

Captains: Maila Davis, Chelsea Hartman, Dre'Onna Lewis, Bree Murphy

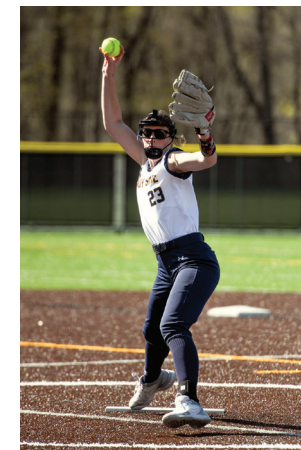
Highlight: Seven Bulldogs competed in five events at the WPIAL 2A Individual Championships. Junior **Chelsea Hartman** won silver in the 3200 and bronze in the 1600, freshman **Rhyley Bendel** was fourth in the 800 and seventh in the 1600, and the 4x800 relay team of Hartman, Bendel, freshman **Ella Van Norman** and senior **Kate Nury** won silver. At the PIAA Championships, Hartman placed fifth and set a school record in the 3200 (10:58.25) and was eighth in the 1600, while the 4x800 relay team placed eighth, and Bendel was 14th in the 800.

GIRLS ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Record: 2-6

Captains: Abril Linares-Mendoza, Monica Singh

Highlight: It was a season of challenges and progress for the girls ultimate frisbee team, which had two wins against Fox Chapel. They ended the season with a loss to No. 1 North Allegheny in the first round of the PHUL playoffs. Senior **Abril Linares Mendoza** was named to the PHUL All-City Team.



Class of 2023 College Athletic Commitments

Sixteen members of the Class of 2023 committed to playing athletics at the college level in nine different sports, with six student-athletes committing to NCAA Division I athletics programs.

Joey Bellinotti – Football, Case Western Reserve University (NCAA Division III)

James Bernier – Football, Kenyon College (NCAA Division III)

Thea Conomikes – Field Hockey, University of Richmond (NCAA Division I)

Nate Ewell – Football, Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro (NCAA Division II)

Emily Gutstein – Lacrosse, Occidental College (NCAA Division III)

JP Henry – Lacrosse, Marquette University (NCAA Division I)

Maeve Kelley – Swimming, Amherst College (NCAA Division III)

Nico Matt – Track & Field, Case Western Reserve University (NCAA Division III)

David Mnuskin – Tennis, Oberlin College (NCAA Division III)

Neely Nicholson – Ice Hockey, Boston University (NCAA Division I)

Kate Nury – Field Hockey, Hamilton College (NCAA Division III)

Ethan Salvia – Lacrosse, Marquette University (NCAA Division I)

Cate Sauer – Rowing, Princeton University (NCAA Division I)

Bryce Trischler – Baseball, Saint Vincent College (NCAA Division III)

Max Wickland – Football, Case Western Reserve University (NCAA Division III)

Noah Yeh – Football, University of San Diego (NCAA Division I FCS)

Alumni Gatherings

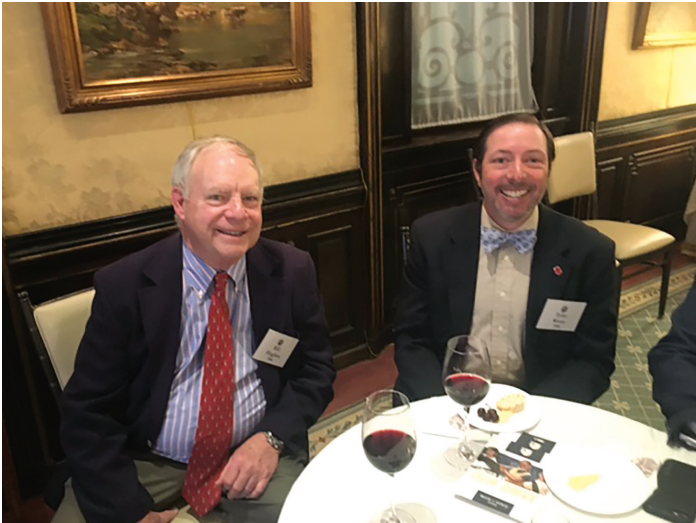
STANFORD

At the beginning of February, alumni gathered at the home of Board of Visitors member **John Taylor '64** in Stanford, Calif., for an informal gathering to hear from President **Bart Griffith '93** about the Academy's developing master plan.



WASHINGTON, DC

In early March, **Bill Reichblum '78** and Board of Visitors member **Kerry Hannon '78** co-hosted a gathering at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. After hearing from President **Bart Griffith '93** about the unique value of a Shady Side education, alumni asked inquisitive questions regarding faculty and academic rigor.



NEW YORK

SSA traveled to New York City in April to host an alumni reception at The Chatwal in Manhattan, where alums from multiple generations had a chance to reconnect, reminisce and mingle with each other.



CHICAGO

In May, **Alison Fragale '93** graciously hosted alumni at her home in Chicago, Ill. Alumni Engagement Officer **Gene Deal** and President **Bart Griffith '93** mingled and discussed the Academy's future initiatives.



50 Days Until Graduation

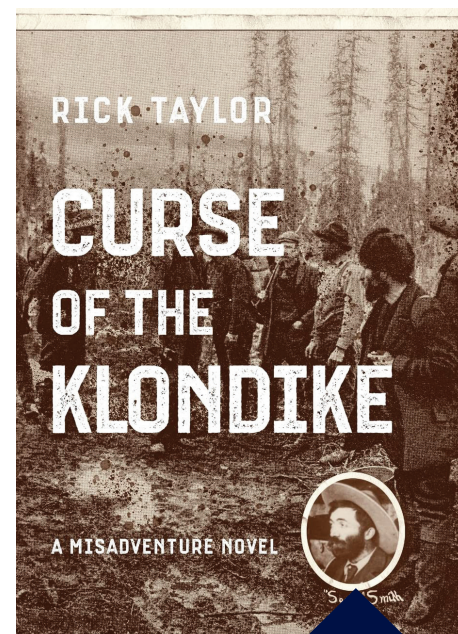
In April, the SSA Alumni Council hosted a celebration for the Class of 2023 called 50 Days Until Graduation! The Alumni Council, in collaboration with the Alumni & Development Office, sponsored a free lunch from Dad's Food Truck on the Senior School campus. Alumni Council members enjoyed congratulating the seniors, and it was a great opportunity to welcome the Class of 2023 into our alumni network!

Alumni Softball and Baseball Reunion

A little rain couldn't keep them away! On May 20, Alumni Engagement Officer and former Athletic Director **Gene Deal** hosted softball and baseball alumni for a fun day of games and a family picnic. Alums of all ages enjoyed playing on the brand-new Gene Deal Fields and spending time reminiscing together about their championship teams. A big thank you to the former coaches who were in attendance. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 18, 2024**, as a tentative date for our 2nd annual Softball and Baseball Reunion.



Included in this section are news items received through June 30, 2023.



1959

Rick Taylor's debut novel *Curse of the Klondike*, published by Koehler Books, follows four generations from the wilds of Alaska and Canada at the end of the 19th century to the living rooms of Elgin, Ill., in the 21st century. Learn more about his written works, including numerous poems, at ReadRickTaylor.com.

1966

Casey Wolff, Esq. wrote an article for *AlphaNet*, detailing his experience living with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AAT), a rare, genetic, incurable condition that has affected him and his eight siblings, including his brother, **Matthew Wolff '77**. A resident of Naples, Fla., Wolff helped form a local support group and has been spreading awareness about AAT for the past 10 years.

1968

Erik Buell, co-founder and CTO of FUELL, took another step towards making e-bikes a true car replacement with Flluid-2 & Flluid-3 – the world's longest range E-bikes. Learn more at www.fuell.us.



1968

In March, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture **Tom Vilsack** (right), a former two-term governor of Iowa, visited classmate **Doug Campbell** in California, celebrating 68 years of friendship.

1971

Gus Succop writes: "Beth and I had a most enjoyable visit with Cheryl and Gene Deal in January when they journeyed south to connect with alumni. **Denise (Fezza) Beall '93** and her husband, Ben, also joined us. Meeting not far from our home in Davidson, N.C., Gene spoke of today's SSA, which prompted some of us to elaborate on yesterday's SSA beginning in 1958. We continue to savor the delight of attending the 50th Reunion!"



1972

Mark Lauterbach and his wife, Rondi, celebrated 45 years of marriage this year. Living in Tucson, Ariz., Mark continues practicing ministry in his church and training leaders for the church in Serbia. Together, they have three children and seven grandchildren.

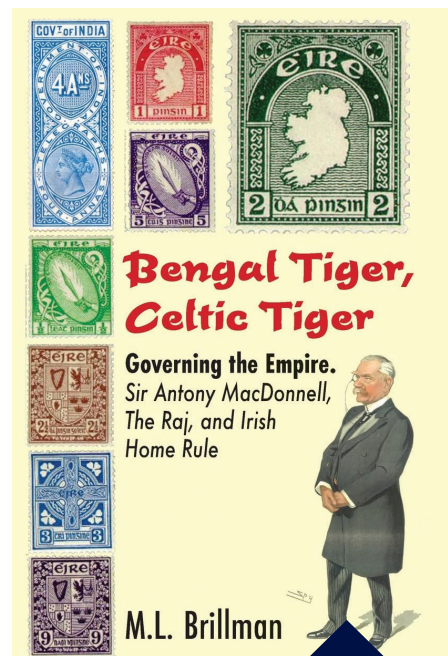
1980

Jeffrey L. Pollock, Esq. was honored on May 2, 2023, by the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) in Pittsburgh with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been involved and active with ZOA for more than 16 years, most recently completing a series of three two-years terms as president.



1991

Christian Borle was nominated for the 2023 Tony Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical for his role as Joe/ Josephine in *Some Like it Hot*. Borle previously won Tonys in 2012 for *Peter and the Starcatcher* and in 2015 for *Something Rotten*.



1991

Michael Brillman, a professor at Santa Clara University, has written *Bengal Tiger, Celtic Tiger: Governing the Empire. Sir Antony MacDonnell, the Raj, and Irish Home Rule*, published by Edward Everett Root Publishers. The book offers significant insights into the governance of the British Raj and the development of Irish home rule – in all of which Sir Antony Patrick MacDonnell played major roles.



1992

Courtney (Hershey) Bress performed the world premiere of Grammy Award-winning composer Michael Daugherty's harp solo concerto, *Harp of Ages*, with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in May 2023. SSA community members in attendance included former Senior School band teacher Stan Nevola, **Brian Squires '89**, **Steve Puller '89**, **Harley Bress '90** and **Kambra McConnel**, plus Bress' dog, Perseus! (see story page 28)



1993

Graham Westerberg was presented the Class of 2003 Faculty Award at the Holton-Arms School's closing ceremony in Bethesda, Md. He has worked at the Holton-Arms since 2003 and serves as the school's athletic director. Also at the ceremony was SSA trustee emerita and past parent Susie Wean, who is an alumna and trustee emerita of Holton-Arms.



1996

Aarti Mann plays Violet Ebner in the Netflix original show *The Recruit*, which premiered on the platform in December 2022. The show has been renewed for a second season.



1998

Mary McKinney Flaherty joined TobinLeff, a mergers and acquisitions advisory and exit planning and consulting firm, as its first female partner in March 2023.

Rick Siger began serving in Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration as secretary of community and economic development in January 2023. Previously, Siger served as chief of staff and senior advisor to the president at Carnegie Mellon University.

Michael Walsh served as chair of the Humanitarian Security Challenges Working Group for the second Summit for Democracy, co-hosted in March 2023 by the United States and the governments of Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Korea and Zambia. Walsh is a senior subject matter expert who regularly advises governments, humanitarian organizations, and think tanks on democracy, development and security affairs.

2000

Dr. Cyrus Raji, M.D., Ph.D. presented at TEDxStLouis on *COVID-19 Effects on the Brain and Related Cognitive Functions*. Dr. Raji is an assistant professor of radiology and a principal investigator in the Neuroimaging Labs Research Center at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.



2004

Elizabeth Yates was named to Private Equity International's *40 Under 40: Future Leaders of Private Equity*, which recognizes industry professionals who stand out for their drive, leadership qualities, passion for innovation and technical skill. Based in San Francisco, Yates joined the investment management company Thoma Bravo in 2016.

2006

Anastasia (Rygle) James was recently named director of curatorial programming for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, where she is responsible for leading visual arts programming including directing five public galleries, implementing public art projects, and leveraging pop-up opportunities in downtown Pittsburgh.

2008

Jenny (Dawson) Bradham and **Austin Bradham**, along with big sister Eloise, welcomed Charlotte Ann Bradham on Dec. 22, 2022.



2012

Jenna Hebert married Dr. Tariq Parker on Dec. 30, 2022, in Jamaica. **Lia Farrell** and **Erin Gorse** served as a bridesmaid and maid of honor. The couple met at Oxford University, where they were both Rhodes Scholars, and currently reside in Boston, where Hebert is an associate within the TechAtlas division of RA Capital Management and Dr. Parker is a neurosurgical resident at Mass General.

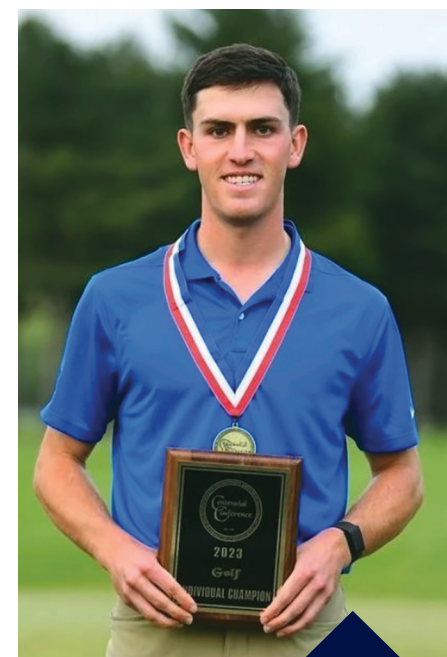
2012

Katie Natoli recently reconnected with classmate **Ashley Ferree**, who founded the Paw Project Rescue, an organization based in South Carolina that helps rescue dogs in need. Her younger sister, **Emily Natoli '16**, adopted a rescue dog through the organization.



2012

Rahsaad Phillips, dean of student life at The Lab School of Washington (D.C.), connected with SSA Senior School English teacher and Dean of Form IV Adam Janosko at the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education's Dean of Students Summit in New Orleans, La.



2019

Jas Fuhrer of Franklin and Marshall College won the 2023 NCAA's Centennial Conference Men's Golf Championship in April 2023. He also helped the men's team secure their third consecutive conference championship title and 13th title since the inception of the conference.



2016

Taylor (Wood) Clark married Adam Clark on Oct. 15, 2022, in Pittsburgh. SSA community members in attendance included **Holly (Jewart) Dressler** as matron of honor, **Courtney Kozdron** as a bridesmaid, **Mark Antosz**, **Abbie Minard**, **Dequay Young**, **Kerry Broker '17**, **Caldwell Holden '17**, **Catherine Jewart '19**, **Ivor Wood IV '19** and **Brandon Jewart '10**, as well as former faculty/staff members Carol and Harold Hendershot, Randy Broker, Martha Banwell, Donna and Tim Giel, Nelly Jones, Kelli Wood, Bonnie Maxwell and Chris Erler, Rhett Jenkins, Andrea Cespedes, Molly (Girls) Kemp, Stan Nevola and Dana Hardy-Bingham.

2019

Gwyneth Phillips of Northeastern University was named the 2023 Women's College Hockey Goaltender of the Year and a CCM/AHCA First Team All-American after leading the Huskies to their third straight NCAA Frozen Four.



2019

Hannah Price, an ice hockey player at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was one of three collegiate recipients of the 2023 Capital District Sports Women of the Year awards, and was a finalist for both the ECAC Wayne Dean Sportsmanship Award and NCAA Hockey Humanitarian Award. Upon graduating magna cum laude with dual degrees in economics and sustainability studies in May 2023, she was honored with RPI's Livingston W. Houston Citizenship Award. Price signed a contract to play professional hockey with the Sabors in Vienna, Austria, next year and plans to attend law school in the fall of 2024.

2002

Meredith Boyle and her partner, Chef Fernando Navas, look forward to welcoming Shady Side students, families and alumni at Balvanera, their new restaurant serving traditional Argentine fare in Pittsburgh's Strip District, opening in fall 2023.





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

**Submit your Class Note
via our online form at
[www.shadysideacademy.org/
class-notes](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/class-notes)**



2019/2022

Former Bulldog lacrosse players battled it out in the NCAA this year. **Emmie Lau '19** of Brown University beat **Cecelia Messner '22** and Columbia University during a match in March 2023. **Ronan O'Connor '19** of Williams College defeated **Thompson Lau '22** and the University of Massachusetts Amherst in April.



2021

Melissa Riggins, a sophomore at Georgetown University, won her second straight title in the 800 meters and was a member of the 4x800 meter relay team that finished second at the Big East Outdoor Track & Field Championships, earning All-Big East honors. She placed 11th in the 1500 meters at the NCAA Championships to earn second-team All-America honors.



2022

Lauren Jochims (far left) competed at the NCAA Women's Rowing National Championships in Camden, N.J., in May 2023, as a member of the University of Virginia's Cavaliers. Her team won a bid to the championship after winning the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships, where Jochims' boat, the UVA Women's Varsity 4+, took first place.

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 information received through June 30, 2023.

GRADY JENSEN '40

Grady Jensen passed away Jan. 31, 2023, in Redding, Conn. He attended Hobart College, served as an aviator in the U.S. Navy and earned an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Grady lived in Scarsdale, N.Y., for 46 years while working in management and human resources for Cresap, McCormick and Paget, ABC, New York University, Eastern Air Lines, Columbia University, Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express and the Senior Personnel Employment Council. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Mary Margaret Wilber, and his brother, Henry. He is survived by his three children, Timothy, Eliza and Caroline, and five grandchildren.

JAMES M. LAWTHER '41

James M. Lawther passed away Dec. 30, 2022, in State College, Pa. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War II and attended Penn State University, where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering. He spent the bulk of his career as an associate professor of engineering research at Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory. As an inventor, he held three defense-related patents, but his most pioneering work was in highway noise reduction through the use of sound barriers. He was predeceased by his wife of 37 years, Charlotte Schall. He is survived by his daughters, Nancy (Huseyin Kocak) and Laurie (Tom Kush), three grandsons, three great-grandchildren, and a brother, Robert.

JOSEPH A. HARDY III '42

James M. Lawther passed away Jan. 7, 2023, in Farmington, Pa. He attended Lehigh University and served as a radioman in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II before earning a degree in industrial engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He co-founded 84 Lumber,

formerly Green Mills Lumber, the largest privately owned building materials supplier in the world. He was a successful businessman, founding the Nemaconin Resort and real estate development firm, Hardy World, LLC. He was predeceased by his first wife, Dottie, and two brothers Robert and Norman Hardy. He is survived by his current wife, Jodi Hardy; second wife, Debbie Maley; children, Joseph A. IV, Paul, Robin, Katherine Drake, Margaret, Paige Enriquez, Taylor '15 and JJ; stepsons Logan Williams, Lloyd Williams and Austin Hardy; 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

PETER G. BOLANIS '47

Peter G. Bolanis passed away Dec. 19, 2022, in Pittsburgh. After graduating from Cornell University and serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, he returned to Pittsburgh and joined the family business of Bolan's Restaurant and Candies. As president of Bolan's Candies, Peter oversaw all candy creations and stores and served as president of Retail Confectioners International. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nancy; his sons, George '89 (Fran) and Michael '90; and five grandsons.

PAUL B. DICKEY JR. '47

Paul Browning Dickey Jr. passed away March 18, 2023, in Palm Beach, Fla. After graduating from Trinity College, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War and participated in a well-known circumnavigation of the globe by a fleet of destroyers. He enjoyed a successful career as a stockbroker for more than 40 years. "Brownie" was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Lucy, and is survived by his children, Heather (John) Schneeberger, Paul B. Dickey III, Laura (James) Boutelle and William Y. H. Dickey, and three grandchildren.

WILLIAM M. PATTERSON JR. '47

William M. Patterson passed away March 25, 2023, in Pittsburgh. He graduated from Bowdoin College and served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Korean War. He owned and operated Patterson Industrial Supply Co. for the majority of his career, followed by Smith Machine Co. in his later years. Bill was predeceased by his wife of 40 years, Marilyn, and his sister, Elizabeth. He is survived by his children; Elizabeth '93 (Gary), Josephine (Ben), William III '77 (Rena), and Juli; his brother, David '51; and many grandchildren.

ALAN I W FRANK '50

Alan I W Frank passed away June 19, 2023, in Pittsburgh. After graduating from Harvard University in 1954, he served as a special agent in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps. He earned a law degree from Columbia University and was president of National Petroleum before establishing the AIWF Corporation and serving as its president and CEO. He created the Alan I W Frank House Foundation to support the preservation of his historic family home and co-authored a book about the house. Alan was predeceased by his sisters, Joan Frank Apt and Barbara Frank Dane. He is survived by his daughters, Darcy Frank Mackay and Kimberly Frank Shaw, and four grandchildren.

GEORGE WEHN JR. '50

George Wehn Jr. passed away March 3, 2023 in Upper St. Clair, Pa. He earned a degree in engineering from Lehigh University, then served in the U.S. Air Force until his honorable discharge in 1983 as a lieutenant colonel. George continued serving his country at the 911th Air Reserve Base in Pittsburgh while simultaneously overseeing the family business, George Wehn & Sons, a commercial carpet distributor, for 40 years. He was the beloved husband of 67 years to Gloria and father of George "Matthew," Jeffrey, Dennis and the late James.



Paul G. Benedum Jr. '50

Paul G. Benedum Jr. died May 17, 2023, at his Naples, Fla. home. “Benny” lived his life as a geologist, businessman, angler, jazz enthusiast and philanthropist. A proud alumnus of SSA and Brown University, he believed that education was the stepladder to a better life. After decades of leadership on the board of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, he formed the Paul G. Benedum Jr. Foundation to provide educational opportunities to those less fortunate. In addition to foundation work, he had an active role in the family oil and gas business, Benedum Interests. He is survived by his love, Mary Ellen Kennerdell.

A trustee emeritus of Shady Side Academy, he was one of the school’s most generous donors, with gifts totaling more than \$3 million over his lifetime. His personal and foundation gifts supported capital projects such as the Benedum Visual Arts Center and the Benedum Student Center in Rowe Hall on the Senior School campus. The Paul G. Benedum Endowment Fund, SSA’s primary philanthropic support for faculty professional development, awards more than \$250,000 to teachers each year. He also endowed the F. Walter Jones Chair in History. In recognition of his lifetime of leadership and service, the road leading to SSA Middle School was named Benedum Lane in his honor in 2022.

JOHN M. STUHLBREHER '52

John Martin Stuhldreher passed away May 8, 2023, in Sonoma, Calif. After graduating from Notre Dame University and U.S. Navy flight school, he was stationed in Alameda, Calif., and joined an operation squadron flying in the Pacific and Far East. He graduated from law school at the University of California, Berkeley, and began a long career in aviation safety, working for the federal government in Washington, D.C. on the Civil Aeronautics Board and the National Transportation Safety Board, later becoming NTSB general counsel. John is survived by his wife, Patti; their children John Jr. (Tami Hatch); Anne (Tim Wirth) and Billy (Megan); and five grandchildren.

PETER W. CRANE '54

Peter Warner Crane passed away March 28, 2023 in Arizona. After graduating from Dartmouth College, he joined the U.S. Navy and was a naval aviator for nine years. He became a test pilot on the F4 Phantom at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, Mo., then served as a pilot for Northwest Airlines for 30 years before retiring. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Shirley; his children, Kenneth (JoAnn) and Debbie Kapitan; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and brothers Jay '56 and Dick.

ROBERT A. KUHN'S '54

Robert Atchison “Bob” Kuhns passed away April 8, 2023, in Ontario, Canada. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later his successful career in international business took him all over the world. He had his private pilot’s license, enjoyed flying and had a love for sailboats. As a dual citizen, Bob spent his life living in the U.S., Jamaica, and Canada. He was the loving husband of Valerie, twin brother to Jim '53 (Linda), father to Rob (Esther) and Linda (Maurice), grandfather, stepdad to Helen (Rob) and Fiona (Nick) and step-grandfather.

WILLIAM S. TREESE SR. '54

William Treese Sr. of Eastham, Mass., passed away Dec. 26, 2022. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University and master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and worked as a commodity broker in New York City and a financial planner for Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh. He and his family moved to Wolfeboro, N.H., where he taught English at Brewster Academy, before eventually settling in Worcester, Mass., where he taught and served as head of the English department at Worcester Academy for 18 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Judith, and his brother,

James '52. He is survived by his son, William Jr., and brother, John '58.

EDWARD C. CHALFANT '56

Rev. Edward Cole Chalfant passed away Jan. 24, 2023. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University and a Bachelor of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary, he was ordained in the Diocese of South Florida, where he served many years as a parish priest and diocesan bishop. After his move to Ponte Vedra Beach, Ed joined the clergy of Christ Episcopal Church, and when the church began a mission congregation at the Serenata Beach Club, he served on the rotating clergy staff and became vicar in 2004, retiring in 2020. He is survived by his wife, Marydee; his son Cole (Megan) and daughter Meg; four grandchildren; and his brother and sister, David Chalfant and Constance Walker.

JOHN C. HASSENPLUG SR. '57

John Charles Hassenplug Sr. passed away Dec. 31, 2022, in Carnelian Bay, Calif. He studied civil engineering at Bucknell University and received a master’s degree in public works from the University of Pittsburgh. In the late 60s, he worked for Cal Trans and helped design the J Street bridge in Sacramento. A resident of

Lake Tahoe for 50 years, he was general manager of the North Lake Tahoe Utility District for 38 years and served on the Board of Supervisors. He was preceded in death by his wife, Susan, and survived by his children, Suzanne, John Jr. (Marta) and David (Katie), and four grandchildren.

A. DUFF LEWIS JR. '57

A. Duff Lewis Jr. of Rochester, N.Y, passed away April 19, 2023. He earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Grove City College and an M.S. in industrial administration from Purdue University. After a 26-year career at Kodak, he worked at Rogers Casey and the University of Rochester before retiring in 2004. He is survived by his children, Amie Lewis Kulak (Christian), Jennifer Lewis White (Robert), Katie Lewis Moore (Brian) and Jonathan Lewis (Stephanie); 12 grandchildren; his former wife of 34 years, Nancy Lewis; and dear friend, Emiko Hildebrant.

JOHN B. HOLT '58

John Breckenridge “Breck” Holt passed away March 7, 2023, in Bluffton, S.C. A graduate of Lehigh University and U.S. Army veteran, he worked as an in-house accountant for a number of different firms in Dayton, Oklahoma City, Kansas City and Columbus. He was predeceased by his brother, William “Bill” Holt '54. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Moorman; their children, Kevin and Mary Beth; and his twin brother, Michael '58 (Joyce).

ROGER C. WIEGAND '59

Roger Conant Wiegand passed away Dec. 4, 2022, in Sewickley, Pa. He attended Harvard University, where he developed into a world-class squash player and won a national championship in 1963. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and graduated from George Washington University Law School. He was a partner at Reed Smith and CEO and board member of T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Kay Campbell Wiegand, and survived by his children, Roger Conant Wiegand, Jr. (Diana), Betsy Wentz (Chris) and Susan Brown (Scott); nine grandchildren; and his brothers, Frank '56, Phillips '58, Bruce '65, Andrew '69 and Jeffrey '72.

JOHN P. MARTHA '60

John “Paul” Martha passed away Feb. 4, 2023 in Pittsburgh. He attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he was an All-American halfback in football. In 1964, he was the first-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers. While playing for the Steelers, he earned a law degree from Duquesne University. He finished his pro football career in 1970 after playing one year for the Denver Broncos, returning to Pittsburgh to practice law with Reed, Smith, Shaw and McLay. He became general counsel for the DeBartolo Corp., which led him to executive positions with the San Francisco 49ers (NFL), Pittsburgh Penguins (NHL), Pittsburgh Maulers (USFL) and Pittsburgh Spirit (MISL), in addition to overseeing operations at the Civic Arena. One of his most notable accomplishments was helping to settle the 1982 NFL strike. He was the father of J.P. '84 (Tiffany), Chris '90 (Jennifer) and Rich (Sandie); grandfather of eight; and brother of David (Jane), Lynda Burkel and the late Albert, Jr. and Richard.

JOHN W. JACOBSEN '63

John W. Jacobsen passed away Jan. 12, 2023, in Marblehead, Mass. After graduating from Yale University and Yale Drama School, he taught and led scenic and lighting design for more than 60 theater productions at Emerson College and Wheaton College. In the early 1970s he and his colleagues formed White Oak Design, producing sound and light shows. In 1988 he and his wife, Jeanie, founded White Oak Associates, which led strategic planning initiatives for more than 100 museums over 30 years. After retiring in 2017, he published three books for the museum community. In addition to his wife, John is survived by his sisters, Marian Langdon and Joan Halbert.

JOHN H. NEELY V '63

John Neely V passed away April 30, 2023, in Salem, Mass. After graduating from Princeton University, he married his first wife, Caroline Kaneko, then served in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and attended Harvard Law School. His specialty was environmental law and after a period in Denver, he returned to

Massachusetts to site power plants and develop early recycling laws. He later worked in consulting and banking. He was predeceased by his second wife of nearly 40 years, Christine Sullivan. He is survived by three children, John VI (Justine), Abigail (Alexander Breslaw) and William; four grandchildren; his partner, Candace Mesa; and two sisters, Shirley Brown and Mary Lou Everett.

ROBERT F. MALONEY III '64

Robert “Bob” Fidelis Maloney III passed away Feb. 13, 2023. A graduate of Lehigh University, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy prior to a long and varied career in banking and business consulting that took him to all parts of the world, including Brazil. He was predeceased by his brother, James, and son, Robert IV. He is survived by his wife, Christy; children, Jane Courtney Newman and Meredith Ann Maloney; two grandchildren; and siblings Carol Anne Coulson and Michael Maloney '64.

ALLEN T. BANKSON '66

Allen Todd Bankson passed away June 24, 2023. After graduating from Kenyon College, he worked as an engineer for Erie Lackawanna Railway, later Conrail and Norfolk Southern, from 1973 to 2010, living in Youngstown, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Atlanta. For the last decade, he maintained a second home in Aspinwall, Pa. Allen is survived by his sister, Joan Procopio, and brother, Thomas Bankson '68 (Linda).

JAY S. REICH JR. '66

Jay S. Reich Jr. passed away Jan. 15, 2023, in Boca Raton, Fla. After graduating from American University, he worked for his father at Jay Reich Advertising, one of the largest agencies in the Pittsburgh region. From 1972 to 1977 he was the manager for guitar legend Roy Buchanan, recruiting Billy Price as the lead singer and other musicians for Roy’s band. He also negotiated Buchanan’s recording contract with Atlantic Records. Until his death, Jay was an energy manager/consultant for Chrislynn Energy Services. He is survived by his sister, Judy Reich.



inmemoriam

JOHN L. POTTENGER '67

John L. "Jay" Pottenger died Feb. 23, 2023, in Connecticut. A graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School, he devoted his career to the Yale Law School clinical programs, where as a professor his work included legislative advocacy, prison legal services, trial practice, landlord/tenant law and professional responsibility. He was a tireless advocate for affordable housing, and his work in housing and community development made an extraordinary difference in the Greater New Haven and larger Connecticut communities. He is survived by his wife, Sue; and his children, Will, Jack and Emma.

JOHN W. SHEARER '67

John W. "Yog" Shearer, of Neshannock Township, Pa., passed away Nov. 4, 2022. He was the beloved husband of Patty for 44 years, father of Allison, and brother of Ruthie.

GARRY L. FLOOD '75

Garry Lee Flood passed away in April 2023 in California.

THOMAS VEY '75

Thomas "Mark" Vey passed away June 10, 2023. Mark was one of the first Pittsburgh recipients of a living donor, intra-family kidney transplant from his father, Dr. E. Kenneth Vey in 1974. He received two additional successful kidney transplants, including one from his brother. He graduated from the University of Denver and was a silver and bronze medalist in tennis at the Transplant Olympics. He was preceded in death by his sister, Anne. He is survived by his daughters, Andrea (Scott) Greak and Elana (Cody) Safford; four grandchildren; and siblings Paul '70, Scott '74, and Eric '78.

NATHAN W. WATKINS '76

Nathan Wheeler Watkins died June 3, 2023. He attended Kenyon College and Kansas State University. He worked for Bird Music & Vending, eventually becoming operations manager, and later was owner and president of Bluestem Vending Service in Emporia, Kansas. After 40 years in the vending and entertainment sector, he began a second career with the U.S. Postal Service. He is survived by his wife, Sherry; daughters, Sarah Iris, Hannah Elizabeth Hilker (Adam) and Sophia Margaret; and brother, Dr. Matthew Wells Watkins.

JUSTIN R. EHRENWERTH '97

Justin R. Ehrenwerth died May 11, 2023, in New Orleans, La. He attended Colby College, Oxford University and law school at the University of Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel, then as assistant counsel to President Barack Obama. where he took the lead on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill litigation. An internationally recognized expert on coastal policy, he was the inaugural executive director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, and later president of the Water Institute in Baton Rouge. He is survived by his wife, Dana Dupré; their sons, Louis and Charles; his father and stepmother, David and Judy; and his sister, Lindsey '99.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Dr. Robert Atwell, father of Bob Atwell '70

Phyllis Baer, wife of the late Donald Baer '43

Constance Cole, former librarian and teacher at Country Day School

Laurie Culberston, sister of David Batchelar '69 and sister-in-law of former Senior School Art Teacher Cari Batchelar

Florence Curry, mother of former Country Day School Science Teacher Margie Heintzleman

Helen DeBaldo, mother of Athletics Equipment Manager Joel DeBaldo

Edith "Toto" Fisher, wife of the late James Fisher '38 and mother of Chester Fisher '66

Henry Gailliot, father of Board of Visitors member Anne '94, Charles '96 and Peter '98 Gailliot

Edward "Ted" Hillman, father of Wendy Todd, father-in-law of Spencer Todd '89, grandfather of Abigail '19 and Jack '21 Todd

June Isaly, wife of Thomas Isaly '51 and mother of Timothy Isaly '80

Jean Katarincic, former trustee and mother of Julie '81, Jay '83 and Jim '87 Katarincic; grandmother of Jack '16, Molly '18 and Charlie '21 Katarincic

Gary Katz, husband of former Middle School Learning Specialist Amy Katz

Andrew Li, former Senior School student in the Class of 2026

Susan Sphar, former trustee and mother of Lauren '86, Kate '90, Andrew '93 and Jeremy '96 Sphar

Kenneth E. Macek, former interim head of the Senior School and father of Ken '93 and Joyce '94 Macek

Sandra Mackie, wife of Senior School Garage Mechanic Dennis Mackie

Kathleen "Kay" Mausteller, former Senior School librarian and mother of William '93 and Elizabeth Mausteller

Charles Scales Sr., father of Charles Scales Jr. '83; grandfather of Charles Scales, III '14 and Junior School teacher Jazmine Scales Pavlick

Blyth Steere, mother of Jim '77 and Margaret '87 Steere

Richard "Dick" Whiteman, former headmaster and teacher at Country Day School

Bob Grandizio Sr. A Legend in SSA Athletics History



Robert J. Grandizio Sr., passed away March 2, 2023. One of the most revered, beloved figures in Shady Side's history, Bob was a teacher, coach, athletic director and director of alumni relations for more than three decades. After graduating from Springfield College, he arrived at Shady Side in 1965 and served as a football, wrestling and baseball coach, science and P.E. teacher, and dorm parent. In 1966, he became the youngest head football coach in Western Pennsylvania and went on to earn a 92-58-3 career record and win five IPSL Championships. A native of Swissvale, he also established relationships with local youth sports organizations across the region, which helped him attract students and players to SSA. In 1982, he was appointed SSA's fourth director of athletics, a role he held until 1990, when he left to become assistant head of school and admissions director at The Kiski School. Inevitably drawn back to SSA, he was appointed director of alumni relations in 2002 and helped Shady Side complete a \$35 million capital campaign, the largest in its history. In 2008, upon his retirement and in honor of his legacy, Shady Side dedicated the Robert J. Grandizio

Athletic Complex, which since has served as a hub for SSA athletics and the entire community. Bob is survived by his wife, Cindy; their four children, Leigh '84 (Ken), Shari '87, SSA Director of Admissions for Grades 6-12 Bob Jr. '91 (Pam) and Lara '96; and 14 grandchildren, including current Senior School student Marley.

"I feel extremely lucky to have him be a part of my life. ... His players, students, colleagues, administrators, parents and alumni truly loved him. He will be dearly missed."

— Gene Deal



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



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