

SUMMER 2024

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY



THE ORIGINAL

Shady Ladies

Commemorating 50 Years of Coeducation at Shady Side Academy



ACTION SHOT



Students utilizing the newly completed Class of 1966 Memorial Hall Library at the Senior School. The new, modernized, and digitally connected library features collaborative learning spaces, a multi-use classroom and meeting space, and a small presentation stage, as well as a spacious mezzanine.



**DEAR SHADY SIDE
COMMUNITY,**

This issue of *Shady Side Magazine* celebrates a momentous milestone in our Academy's history—the 50th anniversary of coeducation at Shady Side Academy.

"We invited the ladies and they came," Headmaster

Sam Greene wrote in the 1974 *Academian*, "influences which we need, and surely welcome."

The decision to admit girls to the Senior School culminated many years of debate and discussion among the Board of Trustees, combined with the trending shift to coeducation at many preeminent colleges, universities, and independent schools at the time.

The self-proclaimed Original Shady Ladies—as the more than 40 girls who enrolled over the first four years soon dubbed themselves—were a smart, intrepid, and competitive group. They quickly occupied leadership roles and positively affected the quality of campus life in and out of the classroom—and for generations to come.

Girls composed more than 25 percent of the student body by the end of the 1970s and almost 40 percent a decade later. Today, girls make up close to 50 percent of the overall student body, something even the pioneers of coeducation at Shady Side could not have envisioned at the time. All of this has helped bring more women teachers and coaches to Shady Side as well—at the time of the change, women composed less than a third of the faculty and administration, while today they represent a majority.

Coeducation at Shady Side has come to inspire increased enrollment, expanded offerings, and a more balanced, informed worldview. Current research affirms these developments and suggests that having boys and girls come together is important as early as the formative, primary years, where attitudes and perceptions are molded. Additionally, studies on brain development and learning show no significant benefits to separating boys and girls in educational settings—that both cognitive and social skills are enhanced through coed interactions.

Over the past five decades, we have witnessed countless young women and men grow, learn, and succeed together in transformative ways. As we reflect on this significant anniversary, we celebrate the achievements of our female students and alumnae, and honor the visionaries who advocated for coeducation, the dedicated educators who supported it, and all the students who embraced it, paving the way for future generations.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Here's to the next 50 years of growth, learning, and shared success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart".

Bart Griffith '93
President

DEFINITION'S

MESSAGE

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY MAGAZINE

OUR MISSION

Shady Side Academy challenges students to think expansively, act ethically, and lead responsibly.

EDITOR

Diana Toole, Chief Marketing Officer

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Bart Griffith '93, President

Brea Neri, Director of Communications

Lauren (Donaldson) Ramakrishna '02

Rev. William F. Schulz '67

Diana Toole, Chief Marketing Officer

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

James Knox, Associate Director of Multimedia

Laura Stewart, Social Media Strategist

Dylan Sun, Class of 2025

Jenna Wallace '14

Nico Zurcher Photography

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tara Hoover

PRINTING

Broudy Printing

Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni & Development Office at development@shadysideacademy.org.

www.shadysideacademy.org



ON THE COVER

Shady Side's first female students brought a new energy to the school, as can be seen in these photos from the archives.

DEPARTMENTS

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Building Spaces That Inspire

The new Rockwell Middle School is officially underway. Discover how this latest addition to campus will transform learning and create endless possibilities for future generations.



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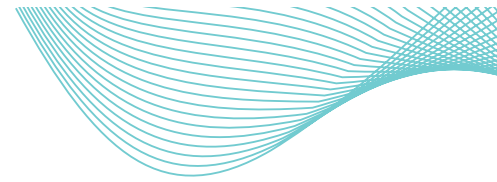
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The Original Shady Ladies

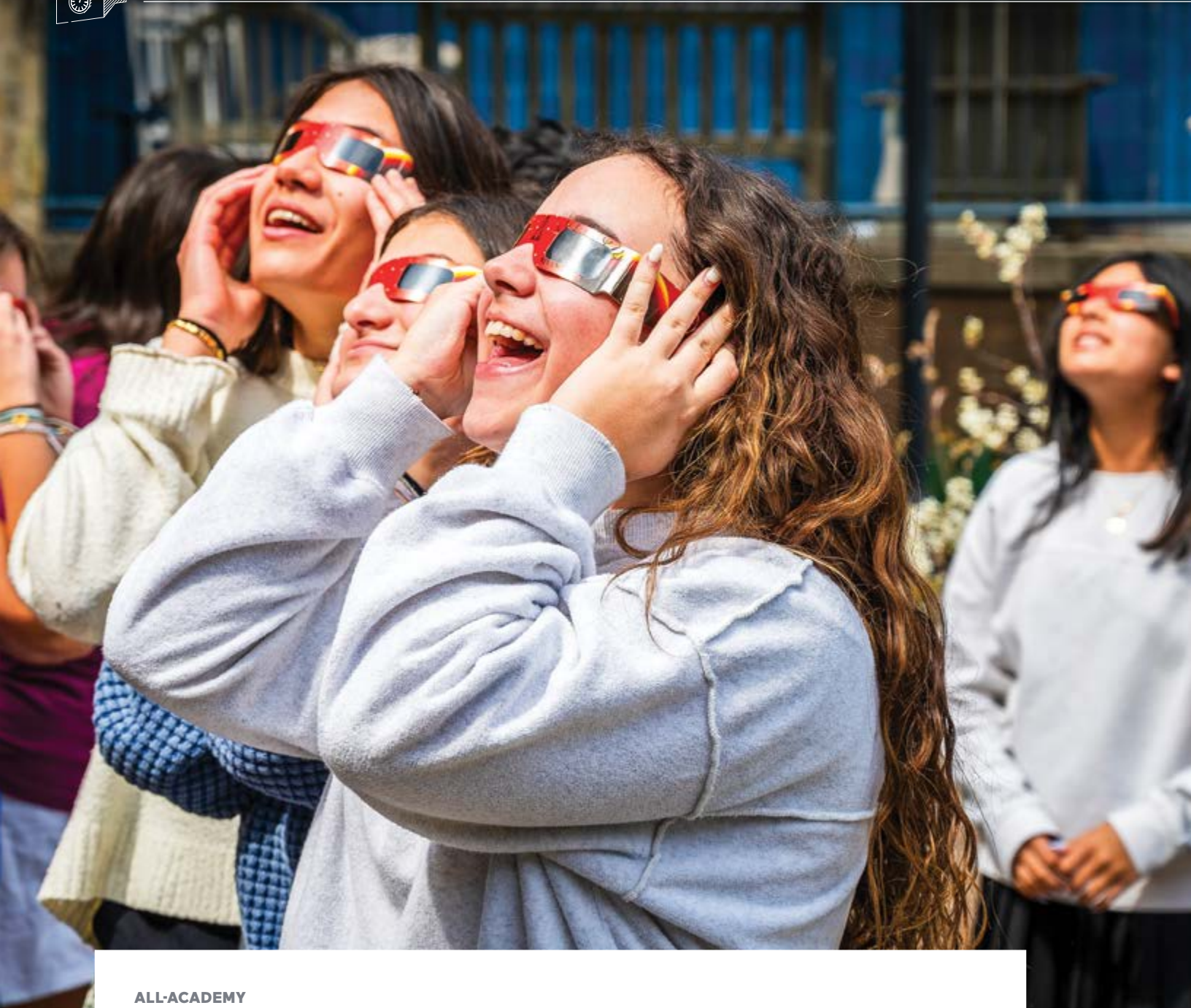
How Shady Side's first female students transformed the Academy for the better.



7

Commencement & Closing Exercises

The Class of 2024 is off to new adventures. Take a peek at how the Shady Side community celebrated them and others this Spring.



ALL-ACADEMY

Learning Through a Historical Solar Eclipse

On April 8, students across all four divisions engaged in a series of activities and lessons to explore the science behind eclipses, their historical significance, and the wonders of our solar system. At the Middle School, students learned about the eclipse in science classrooms in the week leading up, and on the day, were invited

outside to track the movement of the eclipse. Meanwhile, Senior School students in Physics II Calculus, Physics II Algebra, Principles of Engineering, and Astronomy traveled to the path of totality. This exciting field trip applied what they learned about orbital mechanics and optics phenomena.



COUNTRY DAY, JUNIOR, & MIDDLE SCHOOL

Practicing Peer Leadership by Turning Fears Into Friends

Shady Side's Middle School Visual Arts eighth-grade classes embarked on a project that bridges the gap between fear and friendship. Teaming up with students from the Country Day School and Junior School, this initiative turned the fearsome monsters of young imaginations into cherished companions. Students were tasked with dreaming up their very own monsters during Visual Arts classes. Their drawings were then passed on to the skilled eighth graders in the Middle School to use their sewing skills to breathe life into the students' creations. Each monster was transformed into a soft, huggable stuffed animal, turning what was once a source of fear into a source of comfort and joy.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Building Relationships by Reading Memoirs

What do eighth-grade students have in common with Trevor Noah, Andy Warhol, and Dorothy Parker? That's what students sought to explore as they read, reflected on, and discussed a variety of memoirs. Through Socratic seminars, students exercised effective communication and civil discourse by listening to others and sharing their perspectives.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Bridging Generations Through Oral History

Senior School students embarked on a unique project that gave them an opportunity to delve into the rich narratives of their educators. "Recording Our History" is an initiative that provides a unique insight into the relational teaching approach that sets Shady Side apart. The project, in collaboration with Fox Chapel's Cooper-Siegel Community Library and under the guidance of history teacher Dan Coyne, came about after inviting Cameron Smith, the library's local historian, to speak to students about producing oral histories for public consumption. Among the interviews were those with Cari Batchelar, retired Senior

School art teacher, and Paul Ejzak '89, Senior School English teacher. The interviews, meticulously edited by Mr. Smith, have been published on ourcommunitystories.org, a platform dedicated to preserving and sharing the diverse stories of the Fox Chapel community. Scan the QR code to listen to students and faculty explore their shared history.





Around the Academy

COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Making the Local Habitat a Classroom

Country Day School's fourth-grade students embraced environmental stewardship through a habitat restoration project with the Audubon Society at Beechwood Farms Nature Preserve. Led by Fourth Grade Teacher Justin Rebitch, the program spanned the academic year and focused on invasive species, bird identification, and human impacts on ecosystems. Students engaged in hands-on activities like planting trees and creating "seed bombs" to revitalize local flora and fauna. Bird-watching and biochar production further enriched their experience. This initiative fosters a deeper connection to nature, empowering students to be responsible stewards of the environment.



SENIOR SCHOOL & JUNIOR SCHOOL

Experiencing Engineering Across Grade Levels

Senior School students in Physics II and Principles of Engineering were challenged to design and build their own projects utilizing their learning. Students used cutting-edge equipment in the Glimcher Tech & Design Hub to bring their designs to life and shared them with Junior School kindergarten students once completed.

COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Exploring the Cosmos through Interdisciplinary Experiences

Country Day School students in Ginny Sinnott and Maggie Burke's senior pre-kindergarten class finished their Exploration of Space unit with a "Journey Into Space Day." Parents were invited to observe the day as the students received "official" NASA badges and trained as junior astronauts. They completed six missions including testing their skills with a moon jump, navigating through an asteroid belt, digging for moon rocks, and coloring the solar system. The class then headed outside where they coded and maneuvered Rugged Robots as "Mars Rovers" through an obstacle course with Technology Specialist Kate Weber. Also outside, they hopscotched their way through a countdown to launch rockets with the force of their jumps. To round out the event, parent Vivan Shah shared mini museum pieces of the Apollo 11 and the Space Shuttle Discovery. "Journey Into Space Day" is just one example of how Shady Side Academy teachers make learning engaging and fun through experiential learning opportunities.



COMMENCEMENT

On the Move: The Class of 2024

Shady Side Academy celebrated the 133 members of the Class of 2024 at Commencement on Saturday, June 8, 2024. The ceremony featured choral and jazz performances, a senior speech by Sadie Navid, and a keynote address by Dr. Anthony P. Williams, Head of School for The Neighborhood Academy. Senior Thompson He presented the class gift. Members of the graduating class are off to numerous esteemed universities, academies, and programs this fall. View a full list of the Class of 2024's college selections on page 10.



Commencement & Closing Exercises



1

1 The Shady Side Academy Class of 2024.

2 Sadie Navid delivers the senior speech.

3 A traditional Scottish bagpiper leads the processional into the Michael J. Farrell Stadium.

4 Senior Haihan Wang snaps a selfie with Academy President Bart Griffith '93 after the ceremony.

5 Graduates Sara Laman, Natalie Caputo, Zora Burroughs, Elliott Scheri, and Sadie Navid.

6 Dr. Anthony P. Williams offers the Class of 2024 words of wisdom in his keynote address.

7 Fellow graduates applaud their friends as they receive their diplomas.



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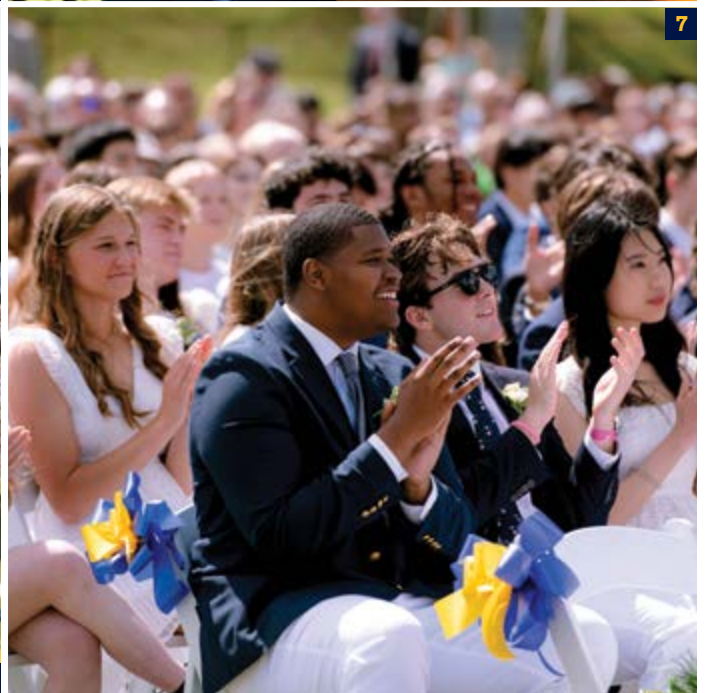
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CLASS OF 2024 COLLEGE SELECTIONS

AS OF JUNE 3, 2024

Allegheny College
American University
Barnard College
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chatham University
Clarkson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
College of Wooster
Coppin State University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne University
Elon University
Fairfield University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Hampton University
Harvard University
High Point University
Indiana University Bloomington
Ithaca College

Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Loyola University Chicago
Marist College
Miami University
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Olin College of Engineering
Oxford College of Emory University
Penn State Altoona
Pennsylvania State University
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
SUNY Cortland
Temple University
Texas Christian University
Tufts University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Naval Academy

University of California, San Diego
University of Cincinnati
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina
Wilmington
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
University of Rochester
University of South Florida
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Westminster College
Yale University



BY THE

2X

SSA students are admitted to ivy league schools at 2x the global rate

133 GRADUATES WILL ATTEND

90

DIFFERENT COLLEGES IN

27

STATES PLUS D.C. AND CANADA

73%

of the Class will attend a 2024 U.S. News & World Report Top 100 ranked National University or Liberal Arts College

4

STUDENTS WILL ATTEND HBCUS

3

STUDENTS WILL PURSUE MILITARY LEADERSHIP

3

STUDENTS WILL ATTEND TOP WOMEN'S COLLEGES

15%

of students will play college athletics in eight different sports, with five student-athletes committing to NCAA Division I athletics programs

What's just as important as where the Class of 2024 is going is how they got there. These graduates' college decisions are the culmination of an educational journey at SSA that challenged them to think expansively, act ethically, and lead responsibly, wherever they go next.

NUMBERS



Commencement & Closing Exercises

LACROSSE

Mac Mohn – Harvard University (NCAA Division I)

Sydney Birchard and Rachel Jones – Franklin & Marshall College (NCAA Division III)

Jamie Rhoades – Clarkson University (NCAA Division III)

SQUASH

Gabe Feinstein – Middlebury College (NCAA Division III)

CROSS COUNTRY

Chelsea Hartman – Brown University (NCAA Division I)

BASKETBALL

Eli Teslovich – Case Western Reserve University (NCAA Division III)

SWIMMING

Maya Wilshire – Smith College (NCAA Division III)

SOCCER

Caroline Liptak – Marist College (NCAA Division I)

Amir Awais – Case Western Reserve University (NCAA Division III)

Andrew McKim – Carnegie Mellon University (NCAA Division III)

FOOTBALL

Carter Simko – Davidson College (NCAA Division I)

Isaiah Beckham – Allegheny College (NCAA Division III)

ICE HOCKEY

Mya Kearns – Robert Morris University (NCAA Division I)

Savanna Muir – SUNY Cortland (NCAA Division III)

CLASS

COLLEGE ATHLETIC COMMITMENTS

OF 2024

Pictured below: 12 of the 15 total members of the Class of 2024 who will play collegiate athletics at the Spring Athletic Ceremony. From left to right: Carter Simko, Isaiah Beckham, Chelsea Hartman, Rachel Jones, Sydney Birchard, Andrew McKim, Amir Awais, Gabe Feinstein, Mac Mohn, Eli Teslovich, Caroline Liptak, and Jamie Rhoades. Not pictured: Mya Kearns, Savanna Muir, and Maya Wilshire.



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Celebrating the Fifth Grade

On June 5, students, teachers, and parents gathered on the Country Day School campus to celebrate the fifth-grade class at this year's Closing Exercises. The ceremony featured several musical selections, letters from the fifth-grade class and three-word memoirs, and a graduation address from Junior Sophia Gombos, an SSA "Lifer" who attended Country Day.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Moving On Up to the Middle School

On June 6, Junior School Closing Exercises for the fifth-grade class were held at The Frick Pittsburgh Museum and Gardens. The ceremony featured several musical selections, fifth-grade memoirs, and a graduation address from Senior Jack Engel, an SSA "Lifer" who attended the Junior School. The next day on June 7, the Junior School also celebrated Moving Up Day, with each grade performing songs and receiving medallions to mark the occasion.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcoming the New Senior Schoolers

The Middle School eighth-grade class was officially promoted to the Senior School on June 7 at this year's Middle School Closing Exercises in the Richard E. Rauh Theater. The ceremony featured choral, concert band, and string ensemble performances, and remarks from eighth-grade student Jack Morowitz and Head of School Michelle Merson.





Performance Scene

SENIOR SCHOOL

The Senior School winter musical “Zombie Prom” transported audience members to the atomic 1950s. Senior Jay Zhu earned a 2024 Gene Kelly Award nomination for their performance as Toffee, while the entire cast and crew earned six other nominations for the show. Of those nominations, Shady Side took home awards for Best Lighting Design and Best Crew/Technical Execution.







JUNIOR SCHOOL

Third-grade students at the Junior School culminated their interdisciplinary academic unit on the United States by performing the witty and humorous play “The Thirteen Colonies Game Show.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eighth-grade student Siena Weber as the Wicked Witch of the West in the Middle School's musical performance of "The Wizard of Oz" in February.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Senior Madeira Semins starred as Lady Macbeth in the Senior School's riveting rendition of Shakespeare's timeless classic "Macbeth."



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eighth-grade student Alexandra Hoe (right) starred in the Middle School's performance of "A Wrinkle in Time," which took audience members on a journey through time and space.



Performance Scene

COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

In May, Country Day School students put on a school-wide performance of "Finding Nemo, Jr." The Unified Parents' Association helped create a vibrant reef setting for the heartwarming performance that told a story of family, friendship, and adventure.







Sports Briefs



1

1 Senior Cheerleaders at this year's Senior Night. From left to right: Trinity Brock, Alexa Hogle, Claudia Knopes, Valentina Cardenas Galvan, Ella Isasky, Stevenie Nussbaumer, and Veronica Koval.

2 Sophomore Sissi Zhu competes in a Girls' Swim meet last school year. In addition to breaking multiple school records, the team had an individual PIAA runner-up in multiple events and two relays that finished the season with All-State Honorable Mention honors. They finished with a 6-5 overall record.

3 Senior Ashlyn Suttelle (center) scores a goal in the Girls' Prep Ice Hockey team's match-up with the Steel City Selects. Sophomore Aurora Cunkelman (left) stands by for an assist. The team finished with a 14-6-2 record.

4 Freshman Chloe Will competes in the Girls' Cross Country team's meet on September 22, 2023. The team finished the season with a 6-6 record.

5 Freshman Evan Chen returns the ball in the Boys' Tennis team's match against Fox Chapel in April. The team finished with a 7-5 record and were WPIAL team qualifiers.

6 The Football team, led by Senior Nathan Mallory, takes the field for their game vs. North Catholic on September 1, 2023. The team finished with a 5-6 record.



2 3







Sports Briefs



7



8 9





10



11

7 The Girls' Soccer team competed for the WPIAL Championships at Highmark Stadium and was runner-up. They also made the PIAA semifinals this year and finished with an overall 17-5-1 record.

8 Senior Josh Valinsky goes in for a layup in the Boys' Basketball victory over Valley. The team finished with an 18-9 record.

9 Boys' Golf team member and Junior Kabir Chaudry putts the ball in their match against the Highlands on August 22, 2023. The team finished with a 4-10 record.

10 Sophomore Nico Grzymkowski carries the baton during a relay race in the Boys' Track & Field team's meet on April 3. The team finished their season with a 3-5 record.

11 Senior Andrew Zeng eyes a pass to a teammate in a Boys' Ultimate Frisbee match this year. The team finished with a 5-5 record and third in the league.

12 Senior Carston Bareford competes in a freestyle event. The Boys' Swim team finished with a 10-1 record and placed in the Top 5 at the WPIAL Championships. All three relays qualified for the PIAA State Championships, with the two Free Relays earning an All-State Honorable Mention and two individuals making it to the finals in both the 200 and 500 Freestyle events at the PIAA meet.



12



Sports Briefs



13

13 The Girls' Basketball team celebrates their WPIAL Championship win. The team finished with an impressive 26-3 record.

14 Senior Tina Liang makes a play in the Girls' Ultimate Frisbee match against North Allegheny. The team finished with a 2-8 record and third in the league.

15 Senior Gabe Feinstein plays the ball. He is going on to play Squash at Middlebury College in the fall. The Boys' Squash team finished with a 49-31 record in individual matches throughout the season.

16 Senior Zachary Barbor makes an impressive catch. The Baseball team finished with an 11-9 record and were WPIAL team qualifiers.

17 Senior Rachel Nath returns the ball in a match. The Girls' Tennis team finished with a 13-3 record.

18 The Boys' Soccer team celebrates their win over Kiski Prep. They finished with a 16-6-1 record and as the Section 2A Runner-Up, WPIAL 2A third place, and state quarterfinalists. Senior Amir Awais set the Shady Side Academy single-season goal-scoring record at 40 goals.



14 15





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18



Sports Briefs



19



20 21





22

19 Team Captain and Junior Audrey Jiang spikes the ball in the Girls' Volleyball team's game against Apollo-Ridge. They finished with a 2-18 record. Audrey dons The Neighborhood Academy's colors and uniform because this was the first year that SSA took part in a PIAA-approved cooperative sponsorship with The Neighborhood Academy to allow students to play on their volleyball team.

20 Junior Neely Hawn fields the ball in the Girls' Lacrosse team's match against Fox Chapel on April 23. The team finished with a 12-5 record and competed in the WPIAL semifinals.

21 Alternate Team Captain and Senior Lakin Glessner handles the puck in the Boys' Prep Ice Hockey team's game against Lake Forest Academy on November 4, 2023. The team finished with a 29-19-5 record.



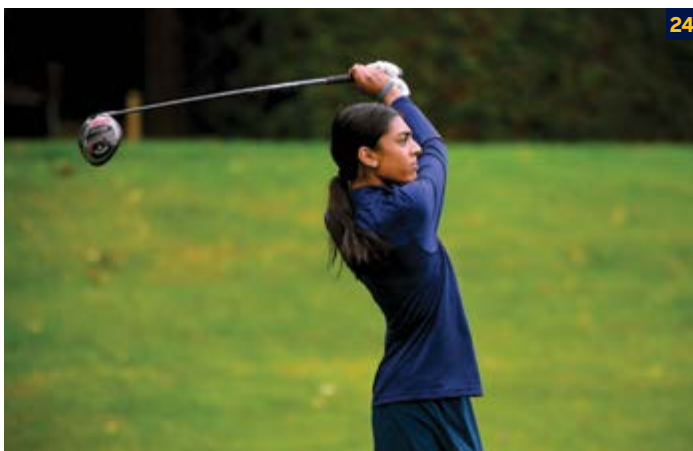
23

22 Sophomore Jazmine Johnson fields the ball for an out on first base. The Softball team finished their season with a record of 2-10.

23 Junior and WPIAL Player of the Year Seamus Riordan fields the ball against a defender in the Boys' Lacrosse team's victory over Milford. The team finished with a 13-7 record, winning both their section and the WSLA B Bracket tournament.

24 Girls' Golf team member Sophomore Ariya Nahata takes a swing. The team finished with a 6-8 record.

25 Girls' Squash Team members compete. The team finished with a 7-8 record.



24



25



26

26 Girls' Track & Field Team Captain, Team MVP, and Senior Chelsea Hartman competes in the 1600m run at a meet this year. The team finished with a 8-3 record. Several athletes and relay teams placed at both the WPIAL and PIAA Championships, including a first place win for Chelsea at the state level in the 3200m run, setting a new school record.

27 Freshman Torben Clark strides toward the finish line in the Boys' Cross Country team's meet on September 22, 2023. The team finished with a 9-4 record.

28 Senior Sydney Birchard fields the ball in the Field Hockey game against Aquinas. The team finished with a 15-5 record and won the WPIAL Championships.

27



28

28



THE ORIGINAL

Shady Ladies

Commemorating 50 Years
of Coeducation at
Shady Side Academy



When Shady Side Academy released the 1974 issue of its yearbook, the “Academian,” a striking difference from its predecessors stood out—the inclusion of female students. In a satirical letter printed in its pages, William Ralson Crabbe, Shady Side’s Principal from 1883–1913, penned a letter from beyond the grave to the current President Samuel S. Greene exclaiming, “Rumors are everywhere, even here, and I would not question you about one so laughable except to offer you an opportunity for humorous denial: There are girls among the students at Shady Side!” An unflappable Greene responded in print, “Yes, the report about girls at Shady Side is true. We invited the ladies and they came, bringing with them most influences which we needed, and surely welcome.”

The self-proclaimed “Original Shady Ladies” matriculated at Shady Side following a unanimous approval from the Academy’s Board of Trustees to begin admitting women into the Senior School during the 1973–74 school year. More than 40 women joined the student body, with three—Helen (Dupre) Durfee ’74, Virginia (Franke) Kleist ’74, and Ann (Leiper) McLarnan ’74—graduating in Shady Side’s first coed class.

Georgia Greene ’75, one of President Greene’s daughters, said her father was keen to move to coeducation during his tenure. “He really believed in it and wanted it to happen,” she says. “I know he was really proud of that accomplishment.” The first talks about coeducation began in the late 1960s. At one time, Shady Side considered merging with a local all-girls school, but ultimately moved forward independently.

While Shady Side’s move to coeducation occurred during a

“When we came to Shady Side, it was as if there were no barriers. There wasn’t that sense of any inequality.”

period of mixed reactions to societal change—continuing unrest over the Vietnam War, strong support and opposition to the women’s rights movement—Shady Side was an overwhelmingly welcoming environment for its first female students. “When we came to Shady Side, it was as if there were no barriers,” says Kerry Hannon ’78. “There wasn’t that sense of any inequality.”

The women who came to Shady Side were eager and ready to learn, and certainly deserving of their spots. Kevin McCarthy ’73 was a voting member of the Admissions Committee during his senior year. He had the opportunity to interview many of Shady Side’s first female student candidates. “When it came to admitting women, it was a serious endeavor,” he says. “We understood the responsibility we had.” The bar for admission was set just as high for the women as it was for the men. “Frankly, the pool of candidates we had was excellent. We had some really hard decisions to make,” McCarthy recalls.

Continued on page 33



Helen (Dupre) Durfee '74



Virginia (Franke) Kleist '74



Ann (Leiper) McLarnan '74



Shady Side Opens Doors To Females

Shady Side Academy will break a 90-year tradition this fall and go co-educational in its senior school, Dr. Samuel Greene, academy president, announced today (Feb. 1, 1973).

Dr. Greene, also headmaster of the senior school which includes grades nine through 12, told a press conference at the Duquesne Club that the school's board of trustees voted unanimously to admit girls this September.

"In order that young men and women may share the experience of education and encounter similar joys and pressures together Shady Side has reshaped its academic environment", Dr. Greene said.

The senior school at 423 Fox Chapel Road, Fox Chapel, operates a day school and a five-day resident

boarding program.

Dr. Greene said if 10 or more girls indicated they want to take advantage of the boarding plan the school will remodel Ellsworth Dormitory on the campus to provide for them.

Dr. Greene said the senior school now has 260 day students and 60 five-day boarders. Total enrollment at the academy's three schools — senior, middle and junior — is 700.

In discussing the decision, Dr. Greene said: "In addition to better preparing the young people of Pittsburgh for the 'real world' I believe co-education at Shady Side will better prepare our students for college. Co-education will increase our enrollment, expand our curricular offerings and bring a new diversity to Shady

Side".

He described the move as "an exciting change for Shady Side and an exciting opportunity for Pittsburghers".

Dr. Greene said the decision was "keeping pace" with a changing world and said the co-educational plan may be extended in the future to the middle school, whose separate campus is at 500 Squaw Run Road, Fox Chapel.

He said the concept of co-education has been under consideration for four years. The final decision on the part of the trustees was taken only after polls of both parents and students showed a large number approved of the move.

An article announcing the transition ran in the local paper in 1973.



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY
1973

COEDUCATION in SEPTEMBER

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY WILL ENROLL GIRLS
IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL
FOR THE FALL TERM IN SEPTEMBER 1973

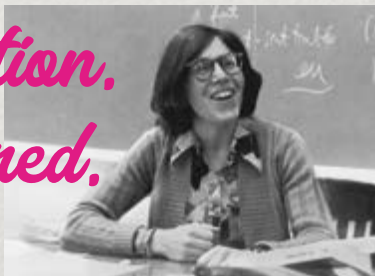
On Wednesday, January 24, 1973 Shady Side's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to admit girls to all four grades at the Senior School. John P. Davis, Jr., '42, Chairman of the Board, emphasized the importance of the decision to the Pittsburgh community. In adopting coeducation Shady Side will afford the young men and women of Pittsburgh a viable alternative to public education and a more natural environment for education.

Samuel Greene, President of Shady Side Academy and Headmaster of the Senior School, announced the Board's decision at a news conference January 31, 1973 at the Duquesne Club. He stated that Shady Side initiated a study to research the possibility of coeducation three years ago. Since that time, trustee and faculty committees have developed coeducational models in every area of school life. Edwin F. Scheetz, Jr. '50 and Leslie Scammon, Jr., Co-Chairmen of the Trustee-Faculty Committee on Coeducation, have approval from the Board of Trustees for their committee's proposal for the adoption of coeducation.

Coeducation will not only bring YOUNG LADIES to Shady Side in September. The sexual shift will be accompanied by additional academic offerings in music, art and language. Six new faculty members will be added to the Senior School staff. Dormitories will undergo construction renovations and serve as additional classrooms facilities. The Academy's athletic program will include physical education and competitive interscholastic sports for girls. Additional locker room space in Curry Gymnasium and additional playing fields will provide a complete sports program for the girls. And although no final decision will be made until April 1, 1973, girls will be accepted as boarders at the Senior School as five-day resident students.

Coeducation is an exciting challenge for Shady Side and an exciting opportunity for Pittsburgh.

“That’s what Shady Side was about— it was a one-on-one personal connection. Our teachers cared. And it didn’t matter if you were a man or a woman, they cared.”



“I think the Admissions Committee did a masterful job of picking the initial classes of coeducation,” says Stacy Anderson '76. “There was the assumption on the part of everybody at the Academy that we were all qualified, and maybe beyond qualified, to be there.”

John Chesley '74, a senior when Shady Side adopted coeducation, remembers an English class with teacher Tom Murphy that included two women in the group of 10 or so students. “I recall they both brought a serious attention that infected the rest of us,” he says. “It was a wonderful experience.”

Male students from that era recall administrators and teachers setting the precedent for excitement about the changes to the student body. “It was clearly a lot of change,” Andy Mathieson '74 says. “At the same time, it was change in the right direction. All of us were counseled to be patient, to be kind, and I think we were successful at that.”

Unsurprisingly, teachers led the charge in welcoming and uplifting Shady Side’s first female students. “All of my teachers were just as welcoming to me as they were to all of the other kids,” says Durfee. Classmate Kleist boasts about her

classroom experience as well. “I was so pleased with the courses I took and how intellectually fascinating they were,” she says. “The teachers were superb—every one of them.”

Hannon, now a journalist and author, says long after she graduated, English teacher Richard Gregory would mail her clippings of her articles with his own edits and notes. “It was Mr. Gregory saying, ‘I’m still watching you, I’ve still got your back,’” she says. “That’s what Shady Side was about—it was a one-on-one personal connection. Our teachers cared. And it didn’t matter if you were a man or a woman, they cared.”

Women Lead the Way

Stepping into leadership roles, several female leaders quickly made their mark at SSA.

1973–74

First Female Board of Trustee Members

Helen Avner, Lillian Goldsmith, Dorothy Gilpatrick, Dorothy Hill, Caryl Kline, and Frances Minno

1994–95

First Female Alumna Board of Trustees Member

Stacy Anderson '76

1997–98

First Female President of the Alumni Association

Elizabeth A. Taaffe '87

2003–04

First Female Trustee Emeriti

Susanne C. Wean

2011–12

First Female Board of Trustees Chair

Mary Jo Dively

2018–19

First Female Academy President (Interim)

Amy B. Nixon

English teacher Angela (Rumble) Irvine was on the faculty before coeducation and took a leading role in supporting the new women students in 1973 and for decades to come.

In a tribute to Irvine following her death in 2015, Katie (Hoopes) Mihm '83 wrote, "My class in 1979 had only 17 girls. Shady Side was a very different school back then, and in many ways, Angela was our voice. She watched out for us. Her room was a safe haven for us."

Anderson recalls spending an entire summer sipping lemonade and iced tea in Irvine's backyard while reading and discussing "every word that John Updike had ever written at that point" so she could earn enough English credits to graduate in three years instead of four.

Adding women to the student body brought forth other changes to Shady Side's landscape. Ellsworth House was remodeled as a dormitory for female students, and the visitor's locker rooms in the gymnasium became the women's locker rooms. Girls' sports teams took to the field while the school began offering

electives, independent study, internships, and art and music classes; provided a counseling department; and held its first prom.

Yet with such intense change, Shady Side maintained its commitment to academic rigor, athletic prowess, and community building. "Shady Side has always managed to change dramatically while keeping its most important roots," Anderson says. Fifty years after Shady Side adopted coeducation at the Senior School, Chesley says the school continues to grow and adapt in smart ways. "That ability to make those major changes every generation is emblematic of a strong institution with a life that continues beyond the individuals who are in place at any particular time," he says.

That's a sentiment that President Greene shared with his deceased predecessor, Mr. W. R. Crabbe, in his 1974 "Academian" letter: "So I can give you the assurances for which you have so thoughtfully written: in the most important sense, nothing has changed. On that score, you may rest in peace."

"Shady Side has always managed to change dramatically while keeping its most important roots."

Taking the Field

Coeducation introduces female athletic teams to Shady Side Academy.

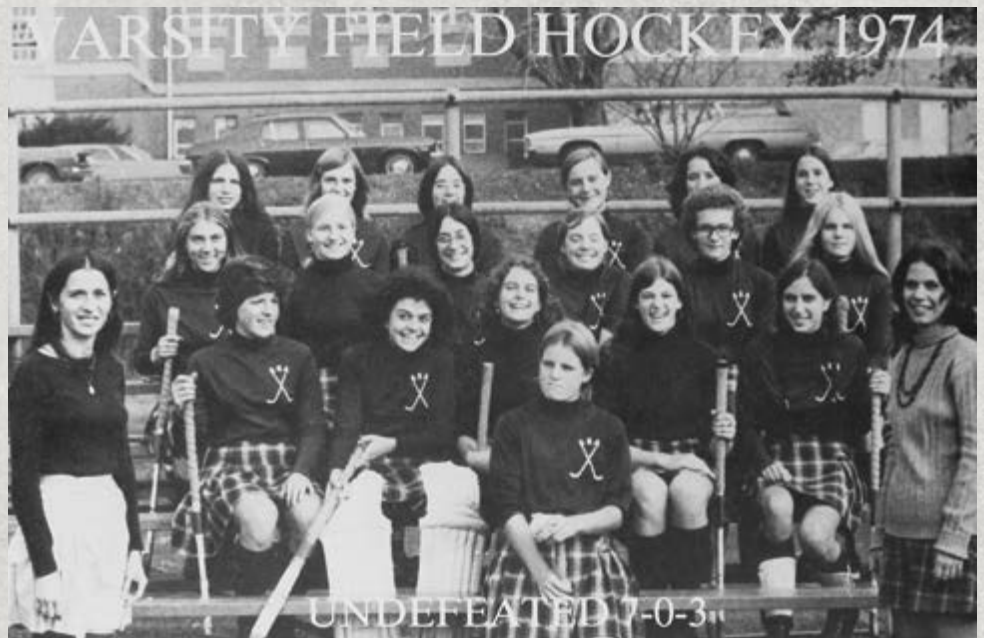
Shady Side Academy students aren't merely expected to excel in the classroom; they are tasked with competing athletically as well. SSA's sports requirement is a long-standing tradition, and when the Senior School adopted coeducation in 1973-74, women on campus were expected to fulfill it.

"This was 50 years ago; girls weren't as involved in sports as they are now," says Virginia (Franke) Kleist '74. "Shady Side required you to participate in sports, which was a foreign concept to me."

Shady Side prepared to introduce a range of physical education and interscholastic team sports for girls before the 1973-74 school year. Shady Side's first female students participated in field hockey, swimming, tennis, gymnastics, cheerleading, basketball, track and field, cross country, and softball.

Kleist rose to captain of the Girls' Swim team, which had just five swimmers in its inaugural year. But the sport quickly captured her heart. "I still have a first-place ribbon from the inaugural Shady Side Academy Invitational for the Girls' Swim team," she says. "Now I do open water swimming. I love swimming, and that is left over from swimming at Shady Side."

John Chesley '74 recalls excitement over an influx of new athletes and sports. "I remember the sudden appearance of some pretty skilled girls teams," he



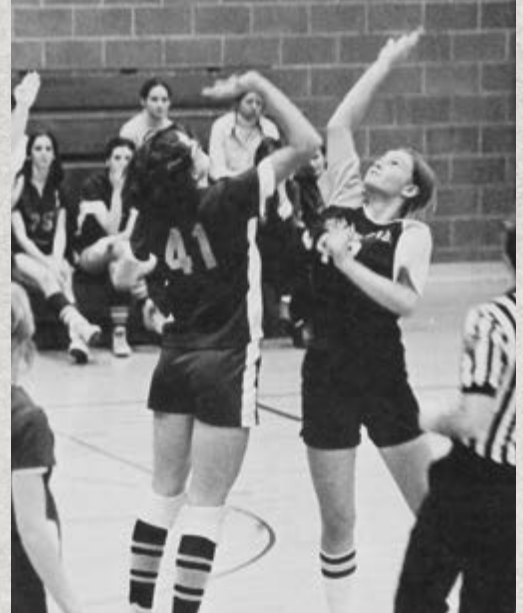
says. "Field hockey, for example. We didn't have that before. It was vibrant in a different way than we were used to."

Sue (Milinski) Rakaczky '75 chose field hockey and basketball for her first forays into the world of sports. "It was exciting to have the athletic opportunities that SSA provided," she says. "Title IX [which prohibits sex-based discrimination in any federally-funded education program] had only been passed in 1972, so girls' scholastic sports were new for many students."

Starting women's teams from scratch didn't come without its disadvantages in the early

years. "The women's teams were disproportionately young because most of the students were freshmen and sophomores. So we were at a bit of a competitive disadvantage from that standpoint," recalls Andy Mathieson '74.

Still, articles in "Shady Side News" and "The Academician" championed contributions by the new female athletes. One writer discussed the first softball games by highlighting the high scores: "While boys' baseball plays low scoring, comparatively dull games, the girls have introduced high scoring, free swinging softball to the Shady Side campus." The team ultimately went 3-4 in its first season.



“I remember the sudden appearance of some pretty skilled all-girls teams. It was vibrant in a different way than we were used to.”



A May 1974 Girls' Swim meet ended with The Ellis School on top and Shady Side in a close second. Writing an article about the event, Stacy Anderson '76, the team's star swimmer, said, "The team's spirit was not dampened, even as they watched Ellis carry the trophy home, because, win or lose, we still get a pizza!"

Over the years, Shady Side continued to develop its athletics programs for women. In later years, women began pushing for and participating in more sports, including lacrosse (1987–88), soccer (1991–92), squash (1991–92), ice hockey (1996–97), and golf (2005–06).

Over the past 50 years, Shady Side's girls' teams have become powerhouse competitors, with division and state championships across multiple sports. The 2023–24

school year alone stands as a testament to their dedication and excellence, with standout performances across various sports.

The Varsity Girls' Basketball team ended their 2024 season as WPIAL Champions. Girls' Swimming broke several school records and had an individual PIAA runner-up in multiple events. The team also had its first competitive diver qualify for WPIALS in over 15 years. The Girls' Varsity Track & Field team reached the WPIAL Team semi-finals, and Senior Chelsea Hartman set a new school record in the 3200m, won at WPIALS, and

qualified for the PIAA Championships. Freshman Meriwether McCargo won the WPIAL singles title in Girls' Tennis. The Girls' Soccer team reached the PIAA semifinals with a 17-5-1 record.

The legacy of coeducation at Shady Side Academy has not only enriched the academic environment but also significantly elevated its athletic prowess. From the pioneering teams of the early '70s to today's powerhouse squads, female athletes at Shady Side have consistently risen to the occasion, breaking records and achieving remarkable success. 🌟



Shady Ladies Pull For Close Second

With new suits, a large and loud crowd, and pizza as an added incentive, S.S.A.'s girls' swimming team made a gallant effort to win their meet here on May 16, only to fall short by $3\frac{1}{2}$ points to the Ellis School in the final tally. Outnumbered in size, but not in spirit, the Shady Ladies made a fine showing on their way to many individual best times and a near-perfect season. Coaches Al Rose and Gail Hindman were quite pleased with the outcome of our first season and look for a bright future in S.S.A.'s girls' swimming.

The medley relay "A" team of Lynn Pitcher, Virginia Franke, Amy Davidson, and Becky Bennett started the meet off with a close second place finish to a strong Ellis team, and with S.S.A.'s "B" team finishing fifth. Shady Side's only wins came in the 100 freestyle and 100 individual medley, with Stacy Anderson taking both of these events. Amy Davidson came in for a fourth in the individual medley with Karen Pavlovich squeezing in for fifth. Helen Dupré put up a tough fight in the 50 freestyle, tying for third. Betsy Wertheimer picked up second and fifth place points with a good performance in the 50 backstroke. Our breaststroke duo of Liza Bronaugh and captain Virginia Franke battled their way to fourth and fifth in that event. In the final event of the meet, the 200 freestyle relay, the S.S.A. "A" team passed the Ellis team, but couldn't catch Winchester-Thurston, as the foursome of Helen Dupré, Karen Pavlovich, Amy Davidson, and Stacy Anderson picked up valuable second place points with the "B" team

placing fourth.

The final team standings placed Ellis on top, SSA at a close second, Winchester in third, and Divine Providence Academy finishing fourth. The team's spirit was not dampened, even as they watched Ellis carry the trophy home, because, win or lose, we still get a pizza!

—Stacy Anderson

GIRLS' SOFTBALL FINISHES STRONG

The girls' softball team finished its first season with a 3 and 4 record. The team made considerable progress over the course of the season. Although beginning the season with a 33 to 6 loss at the hands of the powerful Plum team, the girls finished the season with three straight victories: over Divine Providence, 27-3, and over Winchester, 25-9 and 28-6. Although none of the games could be called defensive matches, the defense did hold tight toward the end of the season. The team consisted of Susie Magovern at short, Julie Greene at second, Karen Stahlfeld at first, Lisa Struk, Bahra McConnel, and Anne Miller sharing duties at third, Georgia Greene and catcher Romy Albin as the battery, and Sally Kessler, Mary Beth Hudak, Missy Robinson, Kathy Till, Linda Dupré, and Joy Mallick in the outfield. With all the girls returning with experience as a team, coaches McMahon and Castellana are looking forward to a very good season next year. Susie McGovern is the captain-elect.

—Romy Albin

An article in the Shady Side News in 1974 reports on the Girls' Swim team's narrow loss against The Ellis School.

Navigating Retirement Through Lifelong Learning

Mary Krauland's evolving
legacy as a member of the
Shady Side Community.



IF MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTATES the definition of retirement—“withdrawal from one’s position or occupation or from active working life”—we may need a new term to describe Mary Krauland’s current status. While the esteemed teacher officially retired from her 40-year tenure at Shady Side’s Senior School in 2019, she certainly hasn’t withdrawn from active working life, even at Shady Side.

In March 2023, Krauland traveled with the Senior School Speech and Debate Team to the Pennsylvania State Tournament, where she witnessed two SSA parliamentary debate teams place second and third. She wasn’t simply there to spectate though; she has coached the team since 2005, and continues to do so in retirement alongside head coach and Senior School History Teacher Dr. Mike Bowen.

“What’s so special about speech and debate is watching the students evolve from freshmen until they finish as seniors—how poised they become, how willing to speak,” Krauland says.

Coaching the Speech and Debate team is just one of the many leadership roles Krauland has held. She came to the Senior School in 1979 as a math teacher (one of only two women in the math department at the time). In 1995, she became Assistant Dean of Students, ultimately rising to Dean of Students through 2009. She also held posts as Dean of Faculty, Interim Assistant Head of School, and Dean of Studies.

Krauland’s SSA resume alone reveals her hardworking nature, which also drove her when she was one of the few female math majors at the College of St. Francis in Illinois. “I wasn’t intimidated,” she says. “I just figured you do well on merit. You work hard, and that’s how you achieve.”

Arriving at SSA in 1979, just six years into coeducation at the Senior School, Krauland recalls seeing strength and fortitude in the girls who took her classes. “Shady Side provided a good place for girls to feel comfortable and to achieve what they wanted,” she says.

As a dean, Krauland had the tough task of connecting with students while enforcing the rules. Scores of alumni can attest that shortened hemlines and untucked shirts couldn’t escape Krauland’s watchful eye, yet her consistency and calm demeanor made students feel safe.

So safe, in fact, that students knew she could take a joke. Krauland recalls a memorable end-of-year skit



**You can’t stop learning.
It would be very boring
if you stopped learning
something new.**



put on titled, “The Faculty Meeting.” Student Henry Martone ’00 played Krauland, donning a wig and a thrifted dress that looked eerily similar to one she frequently wore.

In the skit, Martone’s Krauland led the meeting and began by admonishing the students to get their backpacks out of hallways—an instruction that any Senior School student during her time as Dean of Students will recall. Krauland’s daughter, Dr. Christine (Krauland) Mariscal ’03, a freshman then, kept checking to see if her mom was laughing at the skit with everyone else. Sure enough, she was. “It was hysterical,” Krauland says. “You had to have a good sense of humor to be in the Dean’s office.” (And no, she never wore that favored dress again.)

While Krauland enjoys reminiscing about SSA days of old, she’s equally excited about the school’s present and future. She appreciates how academic freedom continues to shape engaging classroom experiences.

That freedom ignites faculty cooperation and ingenuity that inspires the whole community. Krauland says that fellowship with English teachers in her early years at Shady Side sparked a newfound love of reading that stands today. She’s even in a book club with other past teachers.

Spurred on by the intellectual curiosity that Krauland says marks all members of the Shady Side community, Krauland also holds current Board of Directors positions at the Armstrong County Memorial Hospital, the Armstrong Center for Community Learning, and the Garden Club of Allegheny County.

“I just love new learning opportunities,” Krauland says. “You can’t stop learning. It would be very boring if you stopped learning something new.”

Spoken like a true teacher (who is *sort of* retired).

BUILDING SPACES THAT INSPIRE

Thoughtful design makes the new Rockwell Middle School a place to foster connections.



On May 20, SSA community members gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Rockwell Middle School. Pictured (from left to right) are Chief Philanthropy Officer Jamie (Brush) Scott '98, Director of Facilities Paul Francioni, Academy President Bart Griffith '93, Lead Donor S. Kent Rockwell '62, Board of Trustees Chairman Robert S. Mullin '93, Head of Middle School Michelle Merson, Middle School Dean of Students Amy Hurtuk, Middle School Students Noa Litwin and Sebastian Woodhouse, and Middle School Assistant Head of School and Dean of Studies Brian Johnston.



COSTA
CONTRACTING, INC.

FUTURE OF THE
NEW

When Middle School Dean of Students Amy Hurtuk attended the official Rockwell Middle School groundbreaking ceremony on May 20, she was struck by the footprint's expansiveness. "I didn't realize how big the space would be until I was standing in it," she says. At almost 50,000 square feet, the new building will cover an impressive footprint, but Hurtuk is most excited about the opportunity she and her fellow educators have to facilitate expansive learning for Shady Side's Middle School students. "This new building allows us to be forward thinking in terms of what the classroom experience will look like, and how we build community," she says.

The new building's design is the result of thoughtful collaboration between Shady Side's administration, Middle School leaders, and architecture and campus

planning firms Strada Design and DMZ Planning.

"From the start, faculty were consulted to determine direction for the new building," says Brian Johnston, Assistant Head of School and Director of Studies at the Middle School. "The architects asked us about the features we wanted to include. And as planning proceeds, we will continue to talk about all of the things we want to be attentive to as we finalize the new space," Johnston says.

Foremost on educators' list of needs was a wealth of adaptive spaces that encourage student engagement. The Rockwell Middle School will deliver on that charge with 14 spacious classrooms connected by breakout spaces that teachers can use for a variety of needs,

"This new building allows us to be really forward thinking in terms of what the classroom experience will look like, and how we build community."

— AMY HURTUK

such as consultations with individual students or even testing spaces. Two open teaming spaces will serve as flexible classrooms where students can collaborate for group work, study sessions, or commingled classes.

"One of the things I'm most excited about for our students and teachers is that these rooms will give them the space they need to easily adapt a room to different activities and have the ability to let the kids spread out," Johnston says.





While the new building's second floor will house classrooms and learning spaces for sixth through eighth grades, students will find individual rooms for art, technology, chorus, and band/strings classes on the building's ground floor. The art and technology rooms will share a makerspace in between them that's meant to inspire innovation and creativity, and each room has direct access to an outdoor patio for increased space.

Students will also find extensive room for learning and socializing in the ground floor's library and dining hall spaces. Throughout the building, large windows allow for ample natural lighting and provide a closeness to the landscape outside. "The natural light is one of the greatest features of the new building design," Johnston

says. "You'll find huge windows everywhere—in the classrooms, in the atrium, the library, even in the dining hall."

Eighth-grader Sebastian Woodhouse expects the new windows to provide a nice boost for future Middle School students. "I think all of the natural light will brighten the mood for everyone at the Middle School and make it an even better place to learn," he says.

While planning for all that's new, Middle School leaders recognize the importance of maintaining a reverence for Shady Side traditions. An expansive staircase in the new building's main entrance atrium is meant to mirror the impact of the staircase in the current Middle School building where students are used to convening for break time concerts—when musical groups

“

One of the things I'm most excited about for our students and teachers is that these rooms will give them the space they need to easily adapt a room to different activities and have the ability to let the kids spread out.

— BRIAN JOHNSTON



**They're asking us questions
about what we think would
make the Middle School better.
It's nice that students are
involved and are being heard.**

— NOA LITWIN, CLASS OF 2028



or individual students perform during Wednesday conference period. “There are traditions that we can easily bring over to the new campus,” Hurtuk says. “It’s still going to be the Shady Side Academy Middle School, because we are bringing the heart of the school with us to the new building.”

Once students and faculty make their move to the Rockwell Middle School, Hurtuk looks forward to collaborating with students to make the space their own. “I oversee our Student Leadership Committee, and in the coming years, we will think about how that committee can start to build traditions in the new space,” Hurtuk says. “There are endless possibilities for students to get creative when thinking about

new clubs or ways they want to utilize the new spaces.”

Noa Litwin relishes the opportunity to make an impact on the next generation of Middle School students. The rising ninth-grade student says the Middle School teachers are already seeking input from students. “They’re asking us questions about what we think would make the Middle School better. It’s nice that students are involved and are being heard,” she says.

Although she won’t get to experience Rockwell Middle School as a Middle School student, Litwin hopes to visit the school in a mentorship capacity while she attends the Senior School. “We learn by teaching, so if Senior School students can help the Middle schoolers learn,

that can also help the Senior School students develop skills,” she says.

Johnston sees value in fostering more connections between the Senior School and Middle School students as well. “I’m really looking forward to being able to more readily have student interaction between schools—to have the Senior School students come over and lead assemblies so they can talk to the students about what it’s like to be at the Senior School,” Johnston says.

“It’s exciting to think about how we as a 6–12 Upper School campus can work together,” Hurtuk says. “There are just so many more possibilities once it’s walkable.” 🌀



Top: S. Kent Rockwell '62 (left) and his partner, Pat Babyak (center), with Academy President Bart Griffith '93. Kent and Pat generously committed \$15 million in support of the Campus Master Plan—the largest gift in the Academy's 140-year history.



Right: Noa Litwin (left) and Sebastian Woodhouse (right) won't get to experience Rockwell Middle School as middle schoolers since they are moving up to the Senior School. However, they look forward to the ways that they'll be able to collaborate with Middle School students on campus.

A FOND FAREWELL

to Hunt Hall and McCune Library

By Bart Griffith '93
President, Shady Side Academy

Within “So Stand Throughout The Years: A History of Shady Side Academy 1883–1958,” writer George P. Swetnam characterizes the feeling of eternity he observed in the halls of the Academy:

“Shady Side is not the past, nor the future. It keeps pace with time, yet is in itself timeless...the founders are gone; the faces are changed; the buildings are new. Yet the spirit is there, unchanged and unchanging. The buildings may decay, the men may pass, the students may finish their work and be replaced by others. Still the Academy does stand throughout the years.”

With respect for the many seasons of Shady Side's history and in support of a Campus Master Plan dedicated to the creation of a connected, sustainable Upper School campus for Middle and Senior School, Shady Side has recently said goodbye to two Senior School spaces with vast histories to pave the way for the creation of dynamic new learning spaces.

First, in March, SSA began the demolition of Hunt Hall to create room for the new Rockwell Middle School. Hunt Hall was first known as Ellsworth House, a dormitory and home away from home for generations of boarding students designed by architect E.P. Mellon, Class of 1894. Hunt Hall functioned as a residence space for over seventy years.

In 1996, when the need for additional Senior School classrooms emerged due to increased enrollment, President Peter Kountz led the conversion of Ellsworth House into an academic

center named for Roy A. Hunt, Class of 1899 and a longtime trustee. As Dr. Kountz put it during Hunt Hall's dedication, the reimagined space lent “new life to an old presence.”

For almost thirty years, Hunt Hall's intimacy, warmth, and whimsy combined to produce a unique learning environment for the Foreign Language and Computer Science Departments, among others. Though no longer a dormitory, Hunt Hall continued to serve as a sort of home for faculty and students alike, appropriately extending the legacy of Ellsworth House. With the benefit of hindsight, the conversion proved a wise and endearing move that benefited Shady Side for nearly three decades.

However, the building's utility gradually lessened over the past decade, in part due to the most recent facilities enhancements at the Senior School. As a space still effectively rooted in its original 1920s dormitory design, Hunt Hall lacked classroom size, natural light, gathering areas, and energy efficiency—all key design principles for contemporary schools. Over 100 years old, Hunt Hall also remained one of the most challenging buildings at Shady Side to maintain.



So, with an eye towards Shady Side's future, connected campus we bid a fond farewell to Hunt Hall while also cherishing the community's memories of it, some extending back a century.

Then, in April, the Shady Side community bid adieu to McCune Library.

Some may not know that McCune Library was originally known as Aiken House, a dormitory constructed in 1924. Aiken House was a tribute to Aiken Avenue, the site of Shady Side's first schoolhouse, where the project's lead donor, John R. McCune, had enrolled in 1883 as part of the Academy's first class of nine students.

Aiken House was later remodeled as a library in 1936, thanks to a gift from Mr. McCune's son, Marshal L. McCune '27. In support of this gift, a committee of Shady Side mothers also collected a \$2 per capita library fee and staged a benefit that realized enough funds to buy furniture, fireplace tools, and, most importantly, a card catalog case. Pine-paneled walls, a wood-burning fireplace, small alcoves for private study, and wrought iron balustraded balconies all made for a cozy, charming atmosphere.

In fact, before the introduction of the Benedum Student Center—and a now-defunct space in the basement of Rowe Hall that some veteran faculty may remember as "The Pit"—McCune Library once served as the primary area for Senior School students to spend time outside of class. While a strict commitment to quiet study was the rule for most of the building's history, students always found a way to relax and make the space their own.

However, in an increasingly digital and interconnected modern world, libraries that best prepare students for tomorrow must do more than merely provide shelves for books and nooks and crannies for individualized, quiet study. Modern libraries demand a design that supports convening and collaboration, the exchange of ideas and technologies, as well as open, shared spaces for team projects and community gatherings.

All of the above, combined with the costs associated with an aging infrastructure and our desire to utilize a recently dormant Memorial Hall better, led to the decision to bid a grateful adieu to McCune Library.

Of course, such developments are nothing new for Shady Side. Over Shady Side's 140-year history, the Academy has continually altered its buildings, grounds, and campus configurations. School buildings have been occupied, built, torn down, and repurposed. Campuses have been bought, established, expanded, departed, sold, and merged.

At the same Hunt Hall dedication ceremony, Dr. Kountz characterized Shady Side's resilient adaptability as fundamental to the continued miracle of its perseverance.

Let us carry forward the legacy and many lessons of Hunt Hall and McCune Library into the new chapter that awaits SSA, confident in our ability to navigate change while we "stand throughout the years." 🌀



Hunt Hall a.k.a. Ellsworth House



Students studying in McCune Library



Students outside McCune Library, 2008

REMEMBERING BENEDUM HALL

By Rev. William F. Schulz '67

When the school bus pulled into the courtyard of Shady Side Academy's Middle School in September 1960, the ghosts were there to greet us. This was only the second year that Benedum Hall, as it had been christened, had served as a school following its many years as a private mansion. Apparently, its spectral residents hadn't yet fully adjusted to the transformation.

The Middle School was set on 30 acres a quarter-mile from the Senior School, in a million-dollar stone mansion built by James Edward Lewis (1873–1936) in the late 1920s. Thanks to a generous, timely gift from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Shady Side could buy the property for \$230,000 after the death of Mr. Lewis's widow, Henrietta, in 1957. Academy Trustee Paul G. Benedum was President of the foundation, which gave an additional \$100,000 to renovate the twenty-four-room house into classrooms and offices.

I hesitated before descending the stairs of the bus. I had attended Shady Side's Junior School on Braddock Avenue in Pittsburgh since kindergarten. I lived three blocks away, so I had always walked to school. The hour-long ride to Fox Chapel was an entirely new experience for this ten-year-old. As was the fact that the boys were dressed in ties and jackets—something that would have never been the case at the Junior School unless it was class photo day.

I was looking forward to the fact that for the first time in Shady Side's history, there would be girls—four young women to be exact—in our classes. Though I couldn't have put it in these terms at the time, I hoped the girls might "civilize" Shady Side a bit. I was hardly aware of

how difficult it must have been for those four young women to endure a school full of boys.

Despite these uncertainties, I had no choice but to get off the bus, carried along by a swarm of boys equally terrified but doing their best imitations of bravado. As I entered the school, I was stopped dead in my tracks.

I had not anticipated that the building itself would play a role in my education. Everywhere I looked, there were intimations of a different age: in the marble on the floors, in the sweeping spiral staircase to the second floor, in the stained glass atop some of the windows. I had visited grand estates like Mount Vernon and Monticello as a tourist with my parents and, each time, had tried to imagine what life in those places had been like. But in those cases, I was merely passing through. Here at Benedum Hall, I would be in residence, so to speak, and could steal a few moments here and there to conjure up the lives of those who had occupied these rooms long before it was a school.

In short order, the entire student body gathered in what I took to have been the ballroom. A space where we would eat our cafeteria meals and be party to all-school gatherings. Once a year, this space would even be transformed into the scene of a phenomenon



*The Middle School a.k.a.
Benedum Hall*

entirely new to me called a “prom.” I probably started to worry that very first day about who I could ask to the prom, but was quickly distracted by the thought that this very space was where, in ages past, other people had quite literally swept each other off their respective feet.

The all-school assembly over, we departed for our homerooms. In my case, that meant up the intimidating staircase followed by a right turn into a wing with three rooms which I assumed had been bedrooms. I wondered what secrets those walls could tell about heartache or intrigue or simply sleepless nights.

For the next three years, I would remain bewitched by Benedum Hall—its expansive library presided over by the niece of Willa Cather; its garages now transformed into a woodworking studio for shop class; its kitchens where people had labored for endless hours and still did; its broken fountain fighting off the encroaching vines.

But nowhere was more evocative of the mansion’s ghosts than the abandoned swimming pool. During recess on the back lawn, I would frequently walk to the end of the long allée where one could peer over the stone railing down into the crumbled ruins of the changing rooms and swimming pool.

Here, the spirits of those long gone came vividly alive, clothed in the elegant swimwear of their time, martinis



44 girls attended the Middle School in the late '50s and early '60s.

in their hands. I hadn’t read “The Great Gatsby” at the time, but I didn’t have to in order to see the scene. I longed to get nearer to the empty weed-racked pool, but

it was wisely out of bounds to curious youngsters. Nonetheless, it served its purpose, bringing Benedum Hall alive in my mind’s eye with all the characters, whoever they might be, who had once called it a gracious retreat, workplace, or simply home.

Soon enough, of course, I was pulled back into the present with all the liveliness, chatter, and revelation that a school proffers and that generations who came after me no doubt experienced within those handsome walls. I’m sure the space has been radically altered since I was there, but the shadowy lessons from those early days still instruct me.

Over the past sixty-five years, I have visited hundreds of historic homes worldwide. I am drawn to them not so much for their decoration or design or even for their historical significance. For me, I’m drawn to what they tell us about life’s fragility.

But at the heart of why I’m drawn to these places is because they embody the distinction between *creations* that stay and *creatures* that go. If a historic home is still standing, it has managed not to disappear while the people who lived in it, shaped it, took its solidity for granted, have all dissolved into air. Their “stuff” remains while their “self” departs.

We all know this but spend a great deal of energy trying to forget it, often by investing ourselves in things like houses. Whenever I enter the home of someone from the past—homes often preserved, the curators tell us, as if the owner had just walked out the door—I think of my mortality. And that’s not a bad thing or a sad thing. Indeed, it’s one of the reasons I chose the ministry as a profession. It’s not a bad thing at all to be reminded of the fleetingness of our days. In fact, it’s a gift, a piece of wisdom, a blessing that Benedum Hall bestowed upon me the day I first stepped off that bus and into its venerable arms. 🌀



Lunchtime at the Middle School



Moving Beyond Her Comfort Zone

How Shady Side's inclusive environment forged an alumna's confidence to try.



If you encountered Susan Kim '92 during her career, it could have been when she oversaw staff at eBay, led consumer-related operations at Google, or took command of the room as CEO at a number of blossoming tech companies. Imagine, then, how surprised you'd be to learn that Kim wasn't always a confident, outspoken leader.

"In middle school, where I was one of the only Asian American students, I wanted to make myself invisible. I just didn't want to stick out. When I came to Shady Side, that all changed," she says.

Kim credits Shady Side's supportive and engaging community for uncovering her hidden confidence. "At Shady Side, I started to come out of my shell and really believe in myself. That's because of Shady Side and its incredible faculty," she says.

Kim and her parents emigrated to the United States from Daegu, South Korea, when she was just one year old. Growing up in New Castle, Pennsylvania, Kim often felt targeted for her ethnicity rather than embraced. Shady Side's diverse community offered a welcome respite from "sticking out like a sore thumb," she says. "At Shady Side, everyone had an equal place at the table."

Kim recalls how watching older students shine in academics and athletics encouraged her. "I learned that I needed to come out of my shell, and take some risks," she says. "Shady Side gave me a safe place to do that."



“These teachers built up my confidence daily, and I will remember them for the rest of my life.”

Kim credits incredibly supportive faculty for their encouragement and lasting impressions, including Richard Gable, her advisor for two years, Bill McConnel, her cross country coach, and Angela Irvine, her English teacher and faculty advisor for the student newspaper. “These teachers built up my confidence daily, and I will remember them for the rest of my life,” Kim says.

Indeed, Ms. Irvine’s classes had a lasting effect on Kim’s future endeavors. When Kim attended Harvard University after high school, she expected to follow in her father’s footsteps in the medical field. “But I wasn’t enjoying any of my classes,” Kim recalls. “So I started thinking about what I love, and honestly, I thought back to Ms. Irvine’s classes and some of the amazing discussions we had in high school.” So Kim stepped away from the pre-med track and instead majored in English. “I walked away from high school with a confidence that allowed me to try new things,” she says.

Kim jumped into management consulting after college, eventually returned to Harvard to earn her M.B.A., then moved to California to begin her defining roles at eBay, where she rose to Chief of Staff for eBay

Marketplaces in North America, Google, as Head of Consumer Apps User Operations and Head of Global Commerce Operations, and as CEO of several growing tech companies, such as Plum District, Eatwith, and Edmodo.

Kim says while taking the helm at smaller tech companies, she strove to embody “servant leadership,” a term she first heard during a speech by former Shady Side Academy President Peter J. Kountz.

“That’s the type of leader I wanted to be,” she says. “When you’re serving others, you create a culture and an environment where people can bring their whole selves to work and perform beyond what they could have expected.”

Following a recent self-imposed sabbatical focused on raising her two teenage daughters, Kim doesn’t know exactly what’s next. “I’m looking into how I want to spend the back half of my life, but I’m always guided by the fact that I want to leave this world a better place than when I arrived,” she says.

When asked to offer advice gleaned from her years of experience as a professional, Kim returns to the primary lesson she learned at Shady Side: Step outside of your comfort zone. “Seek diversity. Seek different opinions,” she suggests. “Go to places that challenge you and where your standards keep getting raised, because when you surround yourself with excellence, it becomes the muscle memory that sticks.”



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Trailblazing as a Student and Educator

How one of Shady Side's first female graduates is teaching a new generation.



When Virginia (Franke) Kleist '74 stood on stage to shake the hands of Wayne State University's latest crop of Mike Ilitch School of Business graduates, she took notice of each student's visual excitement. "What fun it was to see these students standing there at 21 or 22 years old, realizing that they did it—they earned their degree, and they each just smiled," Kleist says.

Kleist is currently the Dean of the Mike Ilitch School of Business and Professor of Technology, Information Systems, and Analytics, but 50 years ago, she was a smiling young woman receiving a high school diploma at Shady Side Academy—one of the first three women in history to do so.

Kleist entered her senior year at Shady Side in 1973, the first year women were accepted as Senior School students. Although she was just one of three women in the entire senior class, Kleist says her sex was simply a non-issue. "Everyone went above and beyond to make the transition to coeducation go smoothly," she says. "I was very comfortable and had a great experience."

In that one year, Shady Side's teachers had a profound impact on Kleist's life and future endeavors. "I took Dr. Bernard J. Sauers's Economics class my entire senior year, and I loved it. I worked really hard in that class," she recalls. "I went on to get a master's degree in economics and my research and the work I did for my Ph.D. dissertation are very much centered in economics. A lot of the work I've done has a lens that looks back to that Shady Side class."



After majoring in economics and history at Duke University, Kleist worked in telecommunications network management for major companies, including PNC Corporation and GTE (now Verizon). She earned an M.B.A. from Marquette University, as well as a master's in economics and a Ph.D. and master's in information systems management from the University of Pittsburgh.

"I'm really interested in complex technologies," Kleist says, particularly information goods, which are goods that aren't used up when consumed, and can be copied or resold (e.g., computer software or music). "Intellectually, I'm often thinking about the intersection of economics and technology, and that goes right back to the ideas I first studied in Dr. Sauers's economics class," she says.

Following a decade in the technology-related corporate world where she was often the only woman in the room, Kleist shifted to education, first as director of the M.B.A./M.S. in management information systems dual degree program at the University of Pittsburgh. She then spent 23 years at West Virginia University—in a number of roles related to management information systems and graduate studies—before going to Wayne State University's Mike Ilitch School of Business, a tier-one research-level business school where, as Dean, she oversees 4,200 students seeking bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, M.B.A.s, and Ph.D.s.

Kleist points out that her program has a diverse student body, with many first-generation students attempting to earn the first degree in their family line. "It's an interesting space to be in, helping facilitate education to help families achieve prosperity. These students have the ability to drive success not just for their lives, but for their children, and their children's children," Kleist says. "I think what I do has an impact. I like the work of

"Intellectually, I'm often thinking about the intersection of economics and technology, and that goes right back to the ideas I first studied in Dr. Sauers's economics class."

education centered on those for whom it's a little harder to obtain an education."

Kleist's borderless approach to education has taken her into classrooms around the world. As a three-time Fulbright Specialist awardee, Kleist taught cybersecurity courses in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, and Ufa, Russia for two of those awards—places she chose due to a longstanding interest in Russian history spurred by a Russian literature class she took under teacher Angela Irvine at Shady Side.

Though her studies and her work have taken her to many academic institutions around the world, Kleist's senior year at Shady Side remains a pivotal marker in a life spent trailblazing for future generations. "When I won the International Conference on Information Systems Outstanding Dissertation Award, I wrote a letter to Dr. Sauers. My dissertation was heavily economically flavored, and I wanted to let him know that I had taken his class, and here I was at 43 receiving my Ph.D.," she says. "That was the outcome, many years later, of taking that class."



It's an interesting space to be in, helping facilitate education to help families achieve prosperity. These students have the ability to drive success not just for their lives, but for their children, and their children's children.



Shady Side Academy is eager to welcome you back to campus for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend:

September 20 – 21, 2024

This year Shady Side is celebrating:

- The 50th anniversary of coeducation
- The Class of 1974's 50th Reunion
- The Class of 1999's 25th Reunion
- Reunions for all classes ending in 4s and 9s

The weekend promises to be a remarkable opportunity for alumni to reconnect with the Academy and each other, celebrating shared histories and creating new memories.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Herrington at 412-968-3011 or bherrington@shadysideacademy.org.

We can't wait to welcome you home again!



Visit shadysideacademy.org/homecoming for additional details regarding the schedule of events and to register.

HOME
COMING
WEEKEND



FOREVER

Class Notes // Milestones // In Memoriam

SHADY SIDE

CLASS NOTES



SUBMISSIONS

Class notes can be submitted online at shadysideacademy.org/alumni/class-notes.

Shady Side Academy was informed of the following class notes by May 1, 2024. Full class note content is distributed monthly in the Beyond the Quad newsletter. You can update your contact information and subscribe to the Beyond the Quad newsletter at shadysideacademy.org/alumni/update-your-contact-information.



1. Alison Linares Mendoza '20 delivered an inspiring student address at the University of Pittsburgh's undergraduate commencement on April 28. Her words resonated with graduates and guests alike, marking a memorable moment in their academic journey. Expressing gratitude and excitement for the future, she shared plans to work on NASA's Artemis V mission in Colorado.

2. Timothy Sayles, M.D. '85, Capt. United States Navy Medical Corp-Ret., was named an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on the faculty of Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. Tim and his wife, Barbara, reside in Norfolk.

3. In March, members of the Class of 2000 met up in Snowbird, Utah, for their annual ski trip. Pictured left to right: **Ashley Bower, Zak Weidner, Henry Martone, and James Antoniono.**

4. Molly (Loughney) Melius, J.D. '01 is committed to helping provide environmental startups with the legal advice they need to be successful. A 2010 Stanford University Law School graduate, Molly is now a lawyer and

lecturer at the School of Law, helps run the Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy Program, and directs Stanford's Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy pro-bono initiative. Last year, alongside fellow Stanford law graduate Sam McClure (both pictured here), Molly co-founded a new small-group, experiential course called Startup Law: Sustainability. The course is unique among other top-tier law schools.

Blake Lynch, J.D. '03 is currently the editor for the Media Research team at OTR Global/BWG Strategy, an equity research firm. His third book of poetry, *Hanging the Angels*, will be published by Finishing Line Press on May 23, 2025. Advance copies/pre-publication sales will be from January 21–March 28, 2025. He lives in the Charlottesville, Virginia area with his wife, Jessie, and daughter, Charlie.

5. Jataro McGee '11 returned to Shady Side on April 22 to deliver the address at the 2024 Cum Laude Society Induction Ceremony. Jataro is an award-winning news anchor and investigative reporter at WPXI in Pittsburgh.

6. Members of the Class of 2021 met in Dublin for St. Patrick's Day. Pictured left to right: (Bottom Row) **Paige Shea and Gabi Jegasothy;** (Middle Row) **Noah Strauss, Will Karet, Grace Uhlman, Jaya Patel, and Max Wolfanger;** (Top Row) **Bennett Marsh, Makenna Wolfanger, Gabbie Bernier, and Hugh Cochran.**

7. Louis Leff, M.D. '77 was inducted as a Master of the American College of Physicians, recognizing his remarkable contributions to internal medicine, surrounded by family members Grace and **Sam Leff '09**, Susan Leff, **Mara (Leff) Koperwas '07**, and Matt Koperwas. Additionally, Louis and his daughter, Mara, co-published an article titled, "Calculated Medicine: Seven Decades of Accelerating Growth" in the *American Journal of Medicine*, providing a thorough review of the field's evolution, from historical origins to modern applications like machine learning and AI, and its potential impact on health care disparities.

8. Members of the Class of 1968 enjoyed a "mini-reunion" when **Andy Hanson** was in Los Angeles visiting his son. He stopped by **Fred Kaplan's** house in Beverly Hills to reconnect with him and **Joe Safier.**

MILESTONES

Shady Side Academy was informed of the following community milestones and passings by May 1, 2024. You can read full obituaries and submit milestones and memorials online at shadysideacademy.org/alumni/class-notes.

Births

Patrick Gallagher '05 and wife, Jaclyn, welcomed Willa Eileen Gallagher on December 19, 2023.

Sarah (Schiavoni) Catmur '07 and husband, John, welcomed Audrey Grace Catmur on January 6, 2024.

Grant Foley '11 and wife, Erin, welcomed Owen Daniel Foley on October 14, 2023.

Marriages

Caris (Gagnon) Cleveland '15 married Chandler Cleveland on August 7, 2022, in Pittsburgh. Shady Side alumni in attendance included maid of honor, **Eliana Gagnon '19**, **Anna Matia '14**, and retired Senior School teachers **Mr. Stanley Nevola** and **Ms. Michele Ament**.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

John Lee O'Nan II '49 passed away April 14, 2024.

Kenneth Barnard '50 passed away December 27, 2023.

William F. "Bill" Hill II '51 passed away February 25, 2024.

Frederick "Carl" Reinhardt '55 passed away April 7, 2024.

Henry "Jary" Wallace, Jr. '61 passed away December 11, 2023.

Paul B. Woodruff '61 passed away September 23, 2023.

Randal E. "Randy" McCamey '62 passed away November 19, 2020.

Richard L. McMillen, Jr. '62 passed away October 29, 2022.

Wade B. Stoughton '63 passed away April 4, 2024.

John L. "Jay" Pottenger, Jr. '67 passed away February 23, 2023.

Michael B. Weissman '69 passed away March 24, 2024.

Rev. Thomas E. Johnson Jr. '73 passed away April 13, 2024.

Janet Hardie Harvey '76 passed away April 13, 2024. Daughter of the late **James Hardie '47**, sister of **James Hardie '74**, **Andrew Hardie '78**, **Michael Hardie '80**, and the late **Rachel (Hardie) Share '84**.

Nathan Robert Diehl '95 passed away April 24, 2024. Brother of **Sarah Diehl '93**.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Robert J. Foglia, Former History Faculty Member from 1966–1970.

Allen (Al) Curtis Johnston, father of Middle School Assistant Head Brian Johnston.

Dr. Dick Katzin & Loretta Pollick Katzin, parents of **Ricky Katzin '78**, **Jamie Katzin '80**, and **Gene Katzin '90**.

Nicholas Lane, father of **Adam Lane '89**.

Carley L. MacDonald, Former SSA Junior School Faculty Member, and Faculty Emerita; mother of **Amy MacDonald '79** and sister of **Barry Leonard '54**.

Frank Joseph Pattera, father of Middle School Learning Specialist, Matthew Pattera.

James "Jim" Peebles, Ph.D., Former SSA Middle School Faculty Member and Faculty Emeritus; father of **Catherine "Cate" Peebles '97**.

Kristin Ifft Wells, SSA Trustee and mother of **Chloe Wells '23**.



Students studying in the former McCune Library in the early 1940s.



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HISTORY OF COEDUCATION

1973

Senior School
adopts coeducation

1994

Junior School
adopts coeducation

1997

Middle School
adopts coeducation

1999

Female students
graduated from all
three divisions

2007

The first K-12 female
"Lifers" graduate from
Shady Side Academy

