



June 22, 2008

Dear Senior School Parents,

I have discovered just how busy the end of May and beginning of June can be at Shady Side Academy. I apologize for not getting this letter out to you sooner. I want to share news of our newly hired faculty and share a bit about what they will bring to the Senior School next year. I believe they will nicely compliment the rest of the faculty and will do much to enhance the experience of your children. Below is a brief biography about each person.

In the History Department – **Molly Wilson**, Harvard class of 2006, Magna Cum Laude, is a skilled educational technologist along with being a historian. She will be living in Morewood as part of the residential program. Molly replaces Peter Hoffman.

Dan Reid, also Harvard class of 2006, is a scholar of history and a crew coach. He captained the Crimson lightweight crew. Dan replaces David Chottiner, who is our new Director of Programs. David will continue to teach one section of history.

Jonathan Johnson, Prep Hockey Coach and many other things, will teach three sections of World History.

In the World Languages Department – **Dan Kriebel** graduated from Davidson in 2005. He will teach French and Spanish and will be an assistant coach to the varsity soccer program. He also speaks Chinese and has lived in China. He will join the residential program, living in Croft. Dan replaces Bill McConnel.

In the Science Department – **Elyse Zheng** is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, class of 2005. She is currently completing a Masters in education from Drexel and served in a variety of capacities at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Elyse will teach biology and environmental science. She will join the residential program, living in Morewood. Elyse replaces Dudley Parr.

Mark Skinner, graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, will join the faculty as a part time Physics teacher. He has taught at a number of independent schools, including Exeter and Noble and Greenough School. Mark will also be part of the residential program with his family as his spouse, Wendy Skinner, will be the Director of Residence Life.

In the English Department – **Sherri Hallgren**, graduate of the University of Colorado and the University of California, Berkeley, has taught at Shady Side Academy Senior School in a part time capacity since 2005. She will be joining us in a full time capacity this coming year. Sherri has taught at the collegiate level and also worked as the Managing Director of the Napa Valley Writer's Conference.

Linda McDonald, graduate of St. Edward's University and the University of Pittsburgh, has been Chair of an English department at a gifted magnet school in Austin, Texas and has been teaching here this past year as a replacement for Tim Vincent. She will be teaching Foundations I along with an elective offering.

Dr. Judith Sanders, a graduate of Yale, Boston University, and Tufts University, has taught at the collegiate level and worked as a writing coach. Judith filled in this past year for Liz Garvey, who was on sabbatical for the second half of the year. She will teach three sections of Foundations I.

In College Counseling – **Tom Colt**, graduate of Colby College and the University of Vermont, will join us from Providence Day School and is a long time college counselor. He joins us by way of New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. Tom replaces Kristin Pardini.

Julie Heitzer, graduate of Pennsylvania State University, will also join us in the College Counseling Office. Julie currently is Assistant Director of Admissions at Carnegie Mellon University and is working towards a Masters degree in School Counseling through Duquesne University.

Nancy Blubaugh, long time College Office Secretary, will now be Assistant to the College Counselors.

In the Deans' Office – **Wendy Skinner**, graduate of Hobart and William Smith College and Boston University, will join us as Dean of Students/Director of Residence Life. Wendy joins us from Oldfields School, where she served as the Dean of Students and Dana Hall School, where she directed the School's international program. Wendy will also teach a section of French. Wendy replaces Jeff Suzik.

I am excited about our new arrivals and, at the same time, will miss those who are departing. As ever, we will work together to create a culture of learning and help your children and our students gain as much as possible from this experience. If you have questions or thoughts, please do pass them along, and I hope that your summer is off to a good start.

All the best,



Jeremy LaCasse

Head of Senior School

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Announcements and News from the Faculty and Students:

From Jeremy LaCasse:

Please remember to hold the date for Robert Brooks. He will be here to talk about resilience in children on the evening of Sunday, August 24, at 7:00 PM in the Hillman Center for the Performing Arts. An official invitation will go out in July. Please contact Jeremy if you have any questions.

From Donna Giel:

We are changing our yearly physical policy. From this year forward, we will require students to have a physical after June 1 and before the start of the school year. I recognize that this may be a hardship for some, as you may have a yearly physical that happens or has happened before June 1 and that your health insurance may not cover one at another point in the year. Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (PIAA) requires physicals after June 1, and we need to adjust to meet their requirements. If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact Donna Giel.