



Photo courtesy of Jessica Parker

**Guten Tag.** German students and some of their hosts in Rowe. With them is Jessica Parker, Co-ordinator of International Programs.

## German students visit Shady Side

By Rachel Diehl

We, the hosts, eagerly awaited the arrival of our German exchange students at the Pittsburgh airport on Sunday, September 19. There was uncertainty among us as to what the next three weeks would entail.

As we saw the ten German students approaching us, we became nervous to find out what our partners were really like. Having only received a one-page biography and a picture of our partners, we were enthusiastic to learn what personal habits they would have, what foods they would be willing to try, and whether or not they would understand a word of English.

After about twenty-four hours of traveling, they were noticeably tired, but just as equally excited to meet us. When we were introduced to our partners, we took them home to spend their first night in America.

The German students' time here was filled with a variety of planned events as well as time spent with their host families. During their first week, they went to see multiple historical and educational sites in downtown Pittsburgh, including the Warhol Museum, Strip District, and Heinz History Museum. They were interested in the history behind each of these places.

After that, they were able to visit Washington, DC for two full days. All of the German students were thrilled to

visit our nation's capital, and when they returned from their trip, they only had good things to say about what they saw.

While at school, they got to see the finest of what Shady Side Academy had to offer. The second week they were here was Spirit Week, which meant that Homecoming was on that Saturday.

Most of them came to the day's sports events, including soccer, field hockey, and football. The German students undoubtedly enjoyed their first high school football game.

Korinna Lorenz, a German student, said, "The football was funny."

This was all new to them, especially the Homecoming dance. These students were surprised with our dance because of how different it was from theirs. At their school, they only have one dance a year and they dance nothing like we do. During their last week, they took a day to go to Fox Chapel High School to see the difference between private and public schooling.

The remainder of their week was spent making memories with their hosts until Saturday morning, October 9, when the students left their newfound homes to be reunited with their own families back in Germany.

After three weeks, we all learned valuable lessons about culture, acceptance, and friendship.

(Please see Germany, page 2)

## Homecoming week, never-ending spirit

By Katie Prochownik

Walking down the hallways of Shady Side during the week of September 27 to October 1, one could only see that the students are not in a normal frenzy. Pajamas, eye patches, black robes, Cinderella gowns, and blue and gold flashy goodness only add to the vivacious spirit of Shady Side Academy.

For the school, Homecoming is a time not only to show spirit in apparel, but it is also a time to celebrate Shady Side's 127 years of faithful service to its student and alumni community.

President of Student Council Broderick Kelley agrees. "With returning alumni, it is the perfect opportunity for Shady Side to exert new and old traditions and familiarize the current student body with the past. This year's Homecoming is bringing changes to the Shady Side Community by bringing forth the tenure of our new President, Mr. Tom Cangiano. His presence will facilitate a new era of the Shady Side community."



Photo courtesy of the Academian

**Slumber party!** SSA seniors enjoy an early reprieve from stress in their Monday PJs.

(See Homecoming Page 8)

## Meet President Tom Cangiano

By Marko Hudak

Thomas Cangiano, the new president of Shady Side Academy, kicked off the school year at Senior School Convocation September 2, by addressing the importance of forming an educated opinion and the dangers of commenting on issues one knows nothing about.

So let us learn something about our new president.

Besides being an articulate speaker, Mr. Cangiano also has an impressive résumé. He graduated from Middlebury College where he majored in American Literature and minored in American History. He then earned a Master of Arts in Teaching at Tufts University. Mr. Cangiano was later accepted into a doctoral program in history at Columbia University in 1994. After two years in the program, he received an M.A. in history. After an additional two years, he received a Master of Philosophy in History. He then taught and was a dormitory advisor at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey for nine years.

Mr. Cangiano finally accepted a position as head of the American School in Sofia, Bulgaria before coming to Shady Side. Mr. Cangiano is married to his wife Linda and has a son, George, at the Middle School, and two daughters, Grace and Celia, at the Junior School.

I had the special opportunity to sit down with the president and ask him several questions regarding his new life here at the Academy, starting with how he and his family are adjusting to life in Pittsburgh. He stated that everybody is adjusting well, and was grateful that many people at the Senior School have gone out of their way to make sure that he and his family are transitioning smoothly.

Asked to comment on the atmosphere here at Shady Side, Mr. Cangiano noted that Shady Side is very special in many ways. He has been spending time at each campus (Junior, Middle, and Senior) and interacting with students, teachers, and faculty members. The president particularly enjoys the assemblies every Monday and Friday.

He said, "What really impressed me the most were the community meetings. It is both positive and supportive energy." He loves that fact that both teachers and students can participate and work together on certain issues collectively to enhance the community. This is one area where he thinks Shady Side has excelled.

After talking about the Shady Side atmosphere, Mr. Cangiano talked more specifically about Pittsburgh and his interests here at the Senior School. The president has already been to both Steelers and Pirates games and toured



Photo by Lindsay Kovach

**We gather together.** President Cangiano opens Convocation 2010.

Mount Washington and the downtown area. He particularly enjoys running on the Senior School track before going to work before the sun rises. The president and his family collectively enjoy exploring new places and walking and hiking around Fox Chapel because it has great trails. Mr. Cangiano said, "It's been really, really enjoyable."

After learning a little about his personal and family life, I questioned Mr. Cangiano more specifically on his role as president at Shady Side Academy. He mentioned that his short-term goal would be to "understand the school and the community as best as I can." In order to do so, he will try to talk to as many people as possible in the Shady Side community. Thus far, he has spoken to many students, faculty members, employees, parents, and alumni. The president's long-term goal is to figure out how to make the school the best it can be. Mr. Cangiano would like to find the areas in which we as a community are not particularly strong and make them better. He also would like to contribute something "special" that could benefit Shady Side Academy.

Mr. Cangiano demonstrated his enthusiasm for the Academy by saying he "loves it here," and that "Shady Side is an incredible school with a great history." The president does not think that there are any areas in need of major fixing or transformation, but he would like to tweak certain things. The president approaches his position open-mindedly, optimistically, and he constantly looks for ways to improve the community.

When Mr. Cangiano was looking for a job, he narrowed his search by schools looking for heads, and geographic region. Residing in the United States was what the entire family wanted. He first found out about Shady Side Academy because he saw that it was on the list of schools

in need of a head. Mr. Cangiano immediately fell in love with the school when he was interviewing last August. He said that he "didn't get the same feeling at other schools," and felt that Shady Side "would be a good fit for my family and me."

When asked if there was anything he didn't like about Shady Side Academy, Mr. Cangiano laughed. It took him a moment to think, and the only thing he could pinpoint was the environmental issue. He thinks that there is a lot more work to be done in recycling and conserving energy. He noted that we are behind compared to other schools. He thinks that small changes will make a big overall difference. Mr. Cangiano was very happy about the renovations in Rowe, however.

When asked if he could change one thing about Shady Side Academy right this instant what it would be, Mr. Cangiano said that this was a hard question to answer simply because he is still adjusting to life here and learning about the community every day. However, he did mention that he would like the three campuses to interact with each other more. He stated, "It is great to find ways to bring the entire community together...it's difficult, but it means a lot."

Mr. Cangiano has previously taught History and English, and he would love to get back into the classroom. He ultimately would like to teach a history elective on the subject of Bulgaria or the Balkan region. He believes that the history of this area is fascinating. In the coming years, expect to see a history elective taught by the president himself.

In conclusion, Mr. Cangiano said that he truly feels satisfied, fulfilled, and happy here at Shady Side Academy. He and his family have a wonderful place to call home.

## 2 days to debate, 30 minutes to the gate

By Haley DeJulio

"It left without us!" These somber words met eleven out of the thirteen Speech and Debate chaperones and students as we ran up the stairs to our airplane departure gate. The plane had departed, leaving behind over thirteen of its expected passengers.

Fortunately for us, our competition over the weekend of September 24, 2010 went considerably better.

The annual Yale Speech and Debate Tournament in New Haven, Connecticut beckons eager students each fall from around the country to compete in a myriad of events ranging from prose to public forum.

This year, ten Shady Side Academy students and three chaperones (Mary Krauland, John Tumolo, and Mary Ellen Costa) took part in this forensics frenzy.

Sophomores Paul Steenkiste, Perry Cao, Shivum Barill, and Anthony Costa competed in Public Forum Debate along with Junior Rob Belles and Senior David Jimenez, and seniors Jemila Adoki, Haley DeJulio, Ann Tumolo, and Peter Donahue competed in Parliamentary Debate.



Photo by Mary Krauland

**We won!** Debaters attract the attention of airport passersby.

While the competition was tough, with over one hundred teams in public forum alone and nearly forty in parliamentary, Shady Side came out strong.

Anthony Costa and David Jimenez advanced to the double octo round of public forum, Haley DeJulio and Jemila Adoki advanced to the quarter finals of parliamentary, and Ann Tumolo and

Peter Donahue won first place in parliamentary.

Whether we won or not, we all learned a lot about debating at a high level of competition and traveling in large groups. We look forward to taking the knowledge we gained at the national level and applying it to local tournaments throughout the season.

## Back in the band

By Niteesh Sundaram

At the start of my junior year, I decided to drop out of band. I had already accumulated three art credits and by dropping band I could schedule a second science course. At first I felt that I had made a great decision. I mean, how was playing a saxophone - rather mediocrity might I add - going to help me at all in my life? We all hear the stories about the starving artist or the music major who is now flipping burgers at a fast food joint. And besides, I was good at science. Science is something that comes naturally to me, which is not the case with music, and I would have had to be a fool to choose band over science.



In band, however, I am constantly being challenged. Reading rhythms and notes is not something that ever came naturally to me. I must practice quite a bit if I am to play the easiest of arrangements that many of my classmates are able to sight read. At the start of my junior year I took this to mean that I was a bad musician and that I should probably stop playing the saxophone. Although it took me over a year to realize it, I wasn't a bad musician; I was just lazy. Because science came so naturally to me, for the longest time I was really only willing to pursue things that I was good at from the start.

However, in less than a year since I quit band, I am once again carrying my saxophone to and from school. Looking back on my decision to drop band, I realize that it was a mistake. It was rather arrogant of me to assume that music is less important than science. You see, band class has taught me a more valuable lesson than I have ever learned from a biology teacher or physics textbook. Band class taught me the importance of trying my hardest, while science class simply rewarded me for being lucky enough to be born with an aptitude for science.

My previous outlook was not only wrong, but also quite detrimental. It was the reason I had abandoned so many other activities that I might have grown to love, or with some practice found myself to be very good at. If you are to take away only one thing from my editorial let it be this: things in life worth pursuing are not always easy, because if they were, it really wouldn't be worth pursuing them.

I'm not saying I don't work at all in science class (in fact I probably work more in science class than I do in band), but it is rare that I find myself outside of my comfort zone in a science class. That is, I may do a lot of work in science class, but it is not difficult work, for me at least.

## IT'S JUST A HOUSE OF WORSHIP, EVERYBODY RELAX

# Mosque at Ground Zero

By Perry Cao

It's been a while since the plan for constructing a Muslim community center and mosque near Ground Zero was unveiled (also known as "Park 51" and the "Cordoba House"), but the opposition to the idea is staying strong. In a recent poll by Fox News, 64% of Americans were against the idea of building the mosque (more Republicans were against it than Democrats). Simply put, they believed that it was inappropriate. Americans aren't comfortable with the mosque being so close to the site of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

However, there are a lot of things that some people don't understand. First off, the mosque isn't right next to Ground Zero, it's two blocks away. It's pretty much like any other mosque in the urban sprawl of New York City (which currently has about 100 some mosques already).

Second, we have to remember that the mosque is also a recreational center which will house a pool, a gym, a library, an auditorium and more. It will be a social gathering place for the people of Manhattan. According to Time Magazine, it's time for Americans to ditch their tendency to exaggerate Islamic extremism. Islamophobia must end.

The Muslims who are constructing the mosque are a more liberal sect; more "peace-loving" than the more radical groups. The man behind the project, Feisal Abdul Rauf, is a respectable imam who pursues harmony between Muslims and Americans. In fact, he denied funding for the project

from places such as the Iranian government and other organizations with un-American values. He denounces violence, and is seen as a pro-American within the Islamic world.

Since 9/11, he has supported and lectured on the idea that being a Muslim and being an American is not a contradiction. He helped name the mosque, originally supposed to be the "Cordoba House," representing the 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century city of Córdoba, Spain. This was meant to symbolize the peaceful coexistence between Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, but also met controversy, as many people saw it as a link to the Islamic conquest of the Christian Spaniards in Córdoba.

This idea of religious unity takes me to my next point: America is a melting pot where cultures from around the world mingle and prosper. After all, this country was founded on the basis of religious freedom. By opposing the construction of the mosque, we are becoming dangerously narrow-minded.

The citizens of the United States do not have the authority to deny individuals' religious freedom (neither does the government; that's illegal). Sam Swarts, a senior, says, "It's in the constitution that there should be a separation between church and state. So they should definitely build the mosque."

The extremists who organized and executed the 9/11 attacks were indeed Muslim, but that does not justify the categorizing of all Muslims as terrorists. Therefore we cannot immediately jump to the conclusion that

constructing the mosque is a bad idea.

When asked about his take on the anti-mosque behavior, Roy Frye, an atheist Unitarian Universalist of Pittsburgh calls it "mean-spirited and un-American." We must consider the impact that this decision is having on our image—the American image.

We also have to remember that Christianity and Judaism (two of the top ten largest faiths in the world, Islam being the second largest) have had some extremism as well (not very recent extremism, but extremism all the same), but do you see people protesting the construction of a church or a synagogue with such relentless determination? Of course not.

Sadly, the majority of Americans are still skeptical of the mosque proposal. Sophomore President Paul Steenkiste believes that the construction of Park 51 is an "unwise endeavor because it touches on an issue that is close to many Americans' hearts."

Paul thinks that it's reasonable to consider moving the mosque to a different location; preferably farther away from Ground Zero. I disagree, even though his view is one shared by countless American citizens.

But in order for the United States to move forward, we need to stop dwelling on the past. We need to accept Islam and respect it, and resisting the construction of the Ground Zero mosque is a step in the wrong direction. We live in a democratic country as a united people; a melting pot of faiths, cultures, and individuals. That's what we stand for, and that's what we believe in.

## Beck and Tea Party distort King

By David Jimenez

August 28 remains one of the most solemn and important dates on our nation's calendar: the anniversary of Martin Luther King's March on Washington and "I Have a Dream" speech. On this prophetic summer day, King and the followers of his movement outlined a radical call for social and racial justice that was deeply rooted in the American experience.

Rush Limbaugh becoming America's ethical and religious gurus.

In his shows, Beck does not view liberal and progressive leaders as legitimate political partners but as sinister radicals bent on destroying America. Beck has accused Obama (and his extended family) of having a "deep-seated hatred for white people and white culture" (whatever that is). He compared the Democratic health care plan to Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and Obama's plan for increased national service programs (Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) to the "brownshirts and then the SS [in Nazi Germany]."

Unfortunately, this year Glenn Beck and the rising Tea Party were willing to launch their "Restore Honor" movement at the same date and place at the Lincoln Memorial, manipulating and twisting King's message for their reactionary agenda. It was not a day of honor, but a day of shame and distortion of one of our greatest American heroes.

Both Beck and Palin have emerged as members of a radical form of conservatism that rejects any room for compromise and dialogue and twists the legitimate fears of Tea Party members for irrational ends. Frankly, these extreme partisan leaders are in no position to restore moral "honor" to this country.

Glenn Beck has insisted that the date was a coincidence and that he did not intend to hijack King's message. But anyone observing the march and its buildup can see that the Tea Party (and Beck) sought (ironically) to position themselves as the successors to the Civil Rights Movement. Beck originally claimed that the coincidence of the dates was a planning accident, but then presented it as "divine providence."

Glen Beck is right about one thing: it is vital to study history. However, when we look at the past objectively we can see that Martin Luther King's message for social change stands in sharp contrast to the Tea Party's ideology of hands-off government and uncontrolled capitalism.

Despite fierce criticism from civil rights leaders, Beck claims *he* is seeking to "reclaim the civil rights movement." The rally was filled with images of King. Sarah Palin, a keynote speaker, proclaimed that the mass of primarily Tea Party activists held the same "spine and moral courage . . . [of] Martin Luther King." After the rally, Beck even tearfully revealed his need to wear a bullet-proof vest at the event and the perceived threat of assassination. Beck, of course, could become a martyr like King.

Beck has compared "social justice," the Judeo-Christian doctrine of social and government commitment to serving the poor and building an equitable society, to Nazism and Communism. "Social justice," however, is not a fringe belief but a central part of King's philosophy and all leading Christian churches (including Beck's Mormon denomination).

The Restore Honor Rally would appear to some as nonpartisan: the rally sought to restore moral values and benefit veterans' families (even liberals and "evil" progressives could support that). The question, of course, is who was organizing and leading this rally, composed almost entirely of Tea Party members. Frankly, it is hard to believe that our nation's moral and spiritual revival should be led by a divisive talk show host, infamous for offensive comments, blind ideological thinking, conspiracy theories, and an "us vs. them" view of the world.

For Beck, government has virtually no role in building social and economic equality or advancing human dignity: community development or social programs are pointless "hand outs." King, of course, had far higher faith in less fortunate Americans and believed that government had a *moral responsibility* to combat poverty and unjust economic structures.

It would be like Louis Farrakhan or

During the last months of his life, Martin Luther King worked to organize sanitation workers and the Poor People's March on Washington. While King recognized the importance of personal responsibility, he also stressed the role of society to place "responsibility on its

“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. - MLK”

system . . . [if it] guarantees secure employment or guaranteed income, dignity will come within the reach of all."

Glenn Beck's emphasis on Charity is wise, but limiting; as King points out, "true compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that [a society] which produces beggars needs restructuring." Although Beck despises socialism, King's views in reality are closely aligned to many leftist goals and principles. Historian Michael Eric Dyson notes that King described himself as a "democratic socialist." The Tea Party seems willing to use Martin Luther King, but they fail to fully grasp his values and message.

Beck refuses to take King at his true words and life for obvious reasons. For Beck, social democracy is not just incorrect but part of a dangerous tradition of absolute government power and the destruction of freedom. King's commitment to social change, however, reveals that progressivism is not inherently bad but has legitimate value and is part of a rich intellectual tradition. King's vision for America was broader than basic civil rights; he fought with equal passion against subtle forms of racism, poverty, the Vietnam War, American imperialism, and untamed capitalism.

For Americans trying to survive in a system of failing schools, collapsing families, poverty, gang violence, and police brutality, King's message remains more relevant than ever. Americans of all races, classes, and parties must reject Beck's divisive ideology and instead embrace King's "revolution of values" to transform our nation. Only then can we truly "restore honor" in this country and reach King's "Promised Land."

## Germans visit SSA

(Continued from page 1)

We learned that a smile goes a long way, and that laughter is always understood. We learned how to cry from the separation of a friend. We learned that memories can last a lifetime.

But, most importantly, we learned the importance of friendship, whether it be local or from halfway around the world. After a mere three weeks in America, the German students all wanted to come back to visit.

Merle Haarbrücker said, "Hopefully I can see you again this summer!" Every-

one had the same high hopes of returning

Even though we will be seeing our partners in a few months, it was still so hard to give them that last goodbye hug. Every partner's relationship went from "who is he/she?" to crying that he/she is gone.

Thora Hoffmann's host, Lexie Scozio, said, "Thora about cried. But I couldn't or I was going to break down."

The hosts were able to bond so well with their exchange students in those three weeks that saying goodbye was, by far, the hardest part.



Designed with Adobe Pagemaker 7.0 on an IBM

# SHADY SIDE NEWS

All the news that fits, we print

Published by Shady Side Academy

423 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 TEL: 412-968-3000

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## The Internet: Pittsburgh loses race to gain speed

By Adi Krupski

Things happen when we least expect them. This September, the internet business witnessed a new feat. One would presume this would take place in an area such as the Silicon Valley or New York City, but no, it took place in a little (and now very well known town) called Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Chattanooga began to offer the fastest internet speed in the United States with one-gigabit-per-second internet upload and download speeds. While Pennsylvania as a state is roughly in the middle spectrum of the averages of states with a rate of 9 Mbps speed (if you're not familiar, 1 gigabyte=1024 megabit-per-second or Mbps), Pittsburgh was actually rated as the third top U.S. city in May, 2010, with an average speed of 14.18 Mbps.

However, no matter how proud we are of this speed, Chattanooga soon boasted that they are 250 times faster than the average internet speed in the nation; and Pittsburgh was left in the dust.

But no matter; Google, the savior of the United States, announced a project earlier in the year that will provide faster internet connections around the nation. This tremendous journey must start somewhere, so Google asked mayors

around the U.S. to send in applications from which Google would later choose a location to begin its project to provide faster internet. Well, of course Pittsburgh sent in an application.

But some cities seem downright desperate for this project to begin in their territory. On March 1, 2010, the mayor of Topeka, Kansas chose to change the name of the state capital from Topeka, Kansas to Google, Kansas for a month. Yes, Google, Kansas. Signs were switched and billboards changed. And in response, Google changed its name to "Topeka" on April 1, 2010, for a day. Is this a little too much child's play for the technological and political leaders of America?

One day the U.S. might attain a national average greater than that of countries such as Japan and South Korea — as for now we are left behind the curve. Yet we have hope. It is the small, unexpected occurrences that cities like Chattanooga provide for our nation every day that give us hope. Let us never underestimate the power of the small. As Mohandas Gandhi once said, "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." Let us hold that faith.

## Movie review

By Manasa Reddy

Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps

Acting: 8.5/10

Plot: 6.5/10

Cinematography: 8/10

Let's start by being honest. As much as movie legend Michael Douglas and promising new kid on the block Carrie Mulligan protect the credibility of a production, no one expected Disney Channel drop-out Shia LaBeouf to carry any weight in this risky addition to the 1987 production. However, I was both surprised and delighted to admit that this movie truly delivers the punch, living up to the dramatic advertising and the quality of the original. The acting was largely authentic, the plot line clean, and the twists satisfying.

The story follows Jacob Moore (LaBeouf), a young man playing with the big dogs in the New York Stock Exchange. This parallels with the release from jail of defunct Wall Street Executive Gordon Gekko (Douglas), whose years of cheating the system cost him eight years of life.

Douglas plays a man whose time for reflection has reformed his belief that "greed is good." Jacob is dating Gekko's daughter, Winnie (Mulligan), a high end model of an earthy crunchy hippie environmental activist who incidentally has an embittered opinion of Wall Street executives since her father abandoned their family during his prison stint.

Early tensions on "the street," incited by falsified rumors circulated by rising executive (Josh Brolin), lead to the death of Jacob's mentor Louis Zabel (played by Frank Langella). With Zabel

dies the old blue collar Wall Street attitude, which gives way to the rise of the money-hungry, never-rich-enough drive of the young business unsavvy generation.

Jacob ultimately unites with Gordon in order to bring to fruition his dreams of independent success in his new world, but as the story unfolds, old tricks come out, spirits are crushed, and basic human dignity sacrificed. We see a young man claw his way to the top of the mountain only to realize that when he was at the bottom was when he was closest to his essence.

Overall, I found the acting to be appropriate, although sloppy at times. Shia LaBeouf really managed to dig himself out of the 7 ft. by 7 ft. hole of his, and this holds promise for his future roles. Titans Frank Langella and Michael Douglas really managed to deliver with an air of wisdom that no one else possessed.

Lastly, Josh Brolin was greasy, sinister, and all the while tame, the perfect portrayal of a man with no real boundaries. Ultimately, Carrie Mulligan came short of my expectations, but, to her credit, her role was underwritten and she did well with what she had.

Rather than seeing this as a successful reprise of the 1987 predecessor, look at this as a movie that can stand on its own for the modern generation and the prevailing mindset.

But perhaps you will save your \$11.50 in the bank for some distant occasion; because "you can never be too rich."



## Avid Alec's Alaskan Adventure

By Alec Brown

This summer, I had the good fortune to be given a full scholarship to a program run by the Student Conservation Association in Alaska. The SCA is a government funded group that provides students in high school the opportunity to learn about the environment as well as first hand opportunities to work on conserving the environment.

I got involved with the SCA by volunteering and then becoming a part of the Conservation Leadership Corps. The CLC is a program where students from around the Pittsburgh area learn to conserve the environment and to lead others in that direction. They do this by working on a local crew in state parks in Western Pennsylvania.

I was then selected from these students to work on a national crew working in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. We were assigned to clear and build 1000 feet of trail. This required chopping down trees, cutting into the tundra, dealing with permafrost, and hauling rocks. This was hard work, especially because it took twenty five minutes to hike up the mountain to our section of the trail.

Although we worked eight hours a day, we had lots of fun playing games and then going on a four day rec trip into Denali National Park. There, we saw bears, wolves, caribou, moose, eagles, foxes, and the tallest mountain in North America, Mt. McKinley.



Alec's forestry brigade. Building trails in Alaska's White Mts.

My eight person crew consisted of boys and girls from California, New York, Boston, Connecticut, Washington D.C. and myself. At first it was awkward and uncomfortable because nobody knew each other. But

after four weeks, I would consider us all great friends. If anyone wants to get involved with the SCA or just become involved in the conservation of the environment, just email me at 12brown@shadysideacademy.org.

## A Frenchman in Lawrenceville

By Haley DeJulio

While in Boston over the summer, I discovered a wonderful bakery called Flour that I found irresistible. It had three locations and basically kept me alive for eight weeks, but I was suffering severe Flour withdrawal symptoms after returning to Pittsburgh. In desperation, I searched the Internet for new local bakeries and happily stumbled upon a real gem, La Gourmandine in Lawrenceville.

La Gourmandine (from the French "gourmand", meaning someone who likes to eat) had apparently opened at the end of June. The location at 4605 Butler Street didn't surprise me — high quality restaurants and bakeries have been popping up all over Lawrenceville in recent months — but the promise of an authentic French bakery was a novel concept in Pittsburgh.

"What about Jean-Marc Chatellier's French Bakery in Millvale?" you say, but Jean-Marc has not remained true to his very French roots. He makes some fine pastries to be sure, but has Americanized his product to the extent that it is no longer always recognizable as authentically French. Fabien and Lisanne Moreau, on the other hand, opened their bakery with the express intent of pro-



viding Pittsburgh with the high quality patisserie and boulangerie found in every Parisian street. Needless to say I made my way to La Gourmandine with all possible haste.

As soon as you open the bakery door your senses are assaulted with the irresistible aromas of fine quality butter, sugar and yeast, conjuring up images of puff pastry in all its glory. Baskets of croissants, brioche, and chouquettes overflow on the counter, and perfect rows of fruit tarts, parfaits, and paris-

breast line the cases. Everything looked and sounded amazing, so I decided to try a wide variety. The plain croissant and pan au chocolat were buttery, light and crispy, and the vanilla bavarois was like a fluffy vanilla mousse with a spongy vanilla genoise on the bottom for some contrast in texture. Everything I tasted was obviously fresh and made from scratch the old-fashioned way that morn-

ing. I've returned six times since then and every time I find something new to enjoy. It took me three visits to try their croissant aux amandes (almond croissant), which is crisp and sweet on the outside and soft with a creamy texture on the inside, tasting of vanilla and almond in just the right amounts. This delectable almond pastry has become my new favorite.

La Gourmandine also offers savory options, including turkey sandwiches, tuna sandwiches, and ham sandwiches on freshly made and sliced baguette. Quiches, pizzas, and savory tarts are also always in stock along with a unique selection of freshly made artisanal French bread. Get to this new bakery early and often, because if you arrive after 11:00 A.M., you may miss out on some of your favorites.

## Summer Reading: Why we need it

By Josh Lawrence

I am sure that I was not the only one to grumble a little when it came time to fulfill my summer reading requirements. But, like everyone else, I looked only at the work that was necessary, and not the reason that we do the work. The reason why SSA does summer reading is quite simple: to get people to READ.

As English teacher Elizabeth Garvey puts it, "Summer reading gives students

who do not read as much a chance to read when they would not normally do so."

If you ask the average student whether or not they like to read on a daily basis, chances are you're going to hear "no." So summer reading gives the non-readers a chance to lose themselves in literature in a way that they would not normally do on their own. "Also," continues Ms. Garvey, "it allows regular readers to

read books that they would not normally choose on their own."

And then there are all the other benefits from reading, such as expanding your vocabulary, sparking interests, and bestowing knowledge.

So yes, summer reading may be an annoying thing to do right at the end of summer, but it is also one thing that can never hurt you.

## What's Hot/What's Not

By Sam Goodman and Maggie Leech

### WHAT'S HOT

Glee  
Sperry's  
German & French Students  
Arnold Palmers  
Girls playing field hockey  
Eco  
Shirtdresses & jean jackets  
Hoop Earrings  
Concussions  
Charlie Batch  
Super Heroes  
Stories and Appreciations  
Lady Gaga  
Consol Energy Center

### WHAT'S NOT

American Idol  
Converse  
Regular Students  
Gatorade  
Boys playing field hockey  
Ego  
Jeggings  
Dangle Earrings  
Swine '09  
Ben Roethlisberger  
The Wild Wild West  
The Assembly Show  
Taylor Swift  
The Mellon Arena

## Military chic: must-have for fall

By Alex Levy

If there's one thing that you can't go without this fall season it's a military inspired wardrobe. Military inspired jackets, pants, and boots can be found everywhere: Vogue magazine, store windows, and even on Shady Side's campus.

One advantage of this trend is that it even fits within the guidelines of Shady Side's dress code. Junior Shamika Dighe says, "I love army pants, they go with almost anything and you can wear them year round." A bit of army green is a great way to spice up a favorite fall outfit.

Junior Tess Rosenbloom has also been enjoying this military trend. She recently wore her military boots with a white lace dress, giving an edge to an otherwise girly outfit.

Another great way to display this trend would be to keep warm with an army green jacket before the cold winter months require something heavier. Junior Lindsay Cozen, who caught

on to the army trend early on, found that her army jacket became essential once November came around last fall. So, if you have a pair of army pants sitting in your closet, or you are looking for a unique pair of shoes, you can rock the military look, and even at school!

Junior Camara Copeland, a bold fashionista, advises, "If you've got it, flaunt it." Don't be afraid to try a new look, because this fall, utilitarian is in so you'll be comfortable and runway chic in no time. This dress code appropriate trend is a great way to keep up to date on the latest style, without having to avoid the dean's office. So do yourself, and Mrs. Skinner, a favor, and add some military inspired flare to your wardrobe.



## Man oh man, it's Stewart O'Nan

By Anthony Costa

Visiting author Stewart O'Nan met with Angela Irvine and Judith Sanders' English classes before his assembly in Rauh discussing *Last Night at the Lobster*, September 20. Mr. O'Nan was kind enough to stay the whole period and answer all questions that students asked, including the following:

Q#1: Manny's memories of his Abuelita (grandmother) usually happen when he is acting, once again, in a "responsible way" - how do you view his thoughts about his Abuelita?

A#1: Manny feels that he has to live up to the example of his Abuelita, who was hardworking and uncomplaining, even though her life was very tough. However, there is still a self pitying side of Manny when he thinks of his Abuelita, where he feels he has lost everything, including Jackie and the Lobster. So there is a double edge when he thinks of his Abuelita because he knows he has to work hard, but at the same time Manny's woes incline him to question what the impact and meaning of his work are.

Q#2: The "Marlin" seems to be an overarching symbol - "Somewhere under the dust and shellac there must have been a real fish once. How long ago?"

Does this represent Manny and his unhappiness with always living his life in a responsible manner?

A#2: Yes, and he is not happy with the falseness of his feelings. Since it is the last day, his feelings are tensed up; he thinks he feels more for Jacquie than



Photo by Nick Gasbarro

**Rock the Lobster.** Stewart O'Nan shares character insights with an audience of English students in the remodeled Memorial Hall.

Deena. He knows he should not feel more for Jacquie, but what the reader has to decide is if his feelings for Jacquie are more than that of Deena or can his feelings be attributed to the anticipation of the Lobster's closing. He does see himself as the Marlin. It's funny because in the movie, Hollywood wanted Manny to steal the Marlin, and I knew that was a big stupid gesture. The stealing of the Marlin is the first impulse as an author you have to crush because you have to ask yourself, "Would Manny ever steal the Marlin?" Hell no.

Q#3: Does Manny see his fate in the delicate ancient Christmas ornament that breaks on the last night? And is the

breaking of the Christmas ornament after all this time symbolic because it foreshadows that the last night at the Lobster might affect all of the employees more than they know?

A#3: Wow, that's pretty good. Well to me when I was writing it, it made Manny think what a waste it was for the ornament to break. The delicateness of the ornament kind of represented the delicateness of the family of employees at the Lobster, and although they never say, "Nicolette, you're my family member," in many ways she is. The breaking of the ornament as a waste, kind of symbolizes that the closing of the Lobster is a waste too.

## Book Review: Last Night at the Lobster

By Anthony Costa

As I closed the book after finishing the last page of Stewart O'Nan's novel, *Last Night at the Lobster*, my action seemed to merge into that of Manny's locking of the restaurant door for the final time. O'Nan's detailed description of the multi-layered tasks done by line cooks, waitresses, dishwashers, and janitors made me feel for the first time that I just finished a busy eight hour shift.

Manny's careful routine and dedicated work ethic carries the theme that regardless of the nature of a person's job, there is value and reward in doing a job well, even when the long term goals disappear.

Manny knows that this is the final night for his restaurant, but continues to show the same vigilance, even in the face of Shakespearean weather conditions echoing his fears for his own future. But he is not the only one who continues to show loyalty to the cause, and he is surprised when staff members come to work even when they have not been offered a new position at the Olive Garden. The book highlights teamwork and trying one's personal best; there is a comfort and an affection that develops within that team, even for strong and somewhat disruptive personalities.

Manny plans to marry his pregnant girlfriend and dutifully steals time to slip to the Mall and buy her a last minute



jewelry gift for Christmas. However, he still has feelings for his old girlfriend, waitress Jacquie, and is often distracted by thoughts of an ideal life where they would run off to be together. He wishes that she held the same dreams. She seems to represent a flash of excitement in a life dominated by daily routine.

What is best about the book and what really satisfies Manny are those people that he serves and who appreciate what he does for them. Coach is one of his regular customers, and Manny makes the extra effort not only to serve him but help get his car out of a snow bank, leaving "his tie ruined," and his clothes wet and freezing. The final irony comes when they stay open to service a bus only to find that the passengers already ate at another restaurant that made them sick and now they need to use the bathrooms. He even offers up glasses of water as he wishes he had cleaned the bathrooms prior to their arrival. Every restaurant should be so lucky to have an employee like this manager, Manny.

## Find time for clubs

By Ava Lazor

Get up. Dressed. First period. Free. Advisee meeting. Last period. Locker. Sports. Home. Facebook. Homework. Repeat.

Considering the nonstop talk about how frantic and strenuous high school can be, it seems like the days run together into a lull right around November. Besides that, there is hardly any time between the items on our to-do lists to break the cycle for a dose of relaxation, socializing, and free-flowing energy.

Luckily, contrary to all of our claims of having "no time to spare," a small amount of sanity lies just beyond 8<sup>th</sup> period - its name is Club Time.

Within each of our overcrowded schedules, there is opportunity for relaxation, creativity, challenges, and time with friends, all centralized around our interests. Do you like making people smile as you strum on a guitar? Join Kords for Kids! Are you into making people fall in love with you? Sign up for Italian Club! None of the DOZENS of available clubs strike your fancy? Find a space, teacher advisor, interest, and create one!

"The best thing about clubs in this school is that students can create a club depending on their interests. There has been the Family Guy club, the Grumpy Old Man's club, and the Personal Finance club. "If there's an interest in it, there's a club for it!" commented Christine Czaplinski.

Junior Betsy Vuchinich also had something to say about club subjects. "We have such a wide variety of clubs here. There is something everyone can do! I'm really looking forward to being a part of all of the clubs I joined because every single one interests me."

Aside from a break from the pressures of school work, clubs at Shady Side also give students a chance to engage in activities of astounding influence and merit. "Legitimate clubs allow students to apply what they

learn in the classroom to real-life situations, one such club being Mock Trial," jokes Dan Coyne. The experiences in clubs build traits such as cooperation, leadership, and initiative, driving both friends and strangers toward a common goal.

"What's the best part about clubs?" asks junior Jenna Rosenbloom. "Having the opportunity to be part of a group and meet new friends!" Sharing a common interest is undoubtedly a catalyst for friend making, so why not risk talking to someone new for a change?

Within every fun-filled meeting and free snack, success can also take precedence. As skills are built from practice after practice for clubs such as Model UN and the Egerian, teams often attend competitions to acknowledge their hard work in hopes of having something to show for it. For instance, after the team's phenomenal year, the Speech and Debate club had two members, Frankie Costa, graduating class 2010, and senior David Jimenez, finish fifth in the nation, proving that persistence in even a non-academic program has major payoffs.

All things considered, there are no downsides to joining clubs; they provide relief to an increasingly monotonous school life, potential for even more friends to be made at Shady Side, and enlightenment on topics of an already fostered interest, strengthening an entire spectrum of abilities.

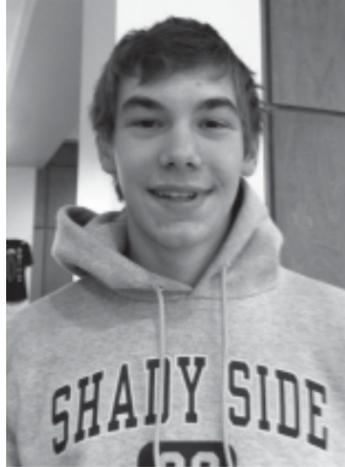
Mrs. Greene touched upon one of these abilities. "Legitimate clubs provide means for students to develop their leadership skills."

And abilities you can gain! Considering the nonstop talk about how frantic and strenuous high school can be, you have the chance to avoid the November lull when the days begin to run together and follow any activity you desire. Clubs can offer all this and more, and opportunity waits every day after school; you just have to reach out and grab it!

## Man on the Street wants to know...

by Tierney Weitz

If you could spend a day with a cast member from "The Jersey Shore," who would it be and why?



"Ronnie, because he's down to have fun and likes to smooch." - Marc Malloy



"Snooki. Even though she's a grenade, she seems like the most fun, and I'm actually taller than her." - Chloe Gulati



"DJ Pauly D, because he is DTS." - Mackenzie Stevens

## Visiting Haiti, eight months later

By Tess Rosenbloom

As news of the earthquake that hit Haiti eight months ago wanes, the country remains devastated. As cameras turn toward other world matters, its relevance seems to fade as well. In order to maintain awareness, I have interviewed men whom I met in Haiti after the quake.

**Marc-junior Lormis is a 24-year-old interpreter for Project Medishare Hospital.** When the earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, he was watching television at home.

"It was the first time I felt a feeling so different and destructive, I was so afraid of dying that I saw death in front of me and I've raced like crazy when I went outside, it was as if I was in a dream: houses destroyed or damaged, people (friends) died or breakage of the arms and legs, it was the total disaster. In a few words, the earthquake is the most hurtful thing ever happens to me since I was born," he says.

Asked about Haiti's government, Marc voiced his disdain. "[Americans] should know that Haiti is a very poor country because our leaders are more sensitive for their pockets than they should be for the people, so we never have good leaders. In Haiti, it's completely different in the sense that the government is like a business profit and beneficiaries fill their pockets fighting almost daily in order to keep the palace as their own homes. The president and his henchmen ... are the most immoral people in the country, and they still intend to bully people disadvantaged. This does not affect their conscience that people don't have access to

school, health, food, drinking water, recreation, that people die in subhuman conditions."

Haiti's weak government was severely damaged by this recent earthquake. Its leaders have been slow at making decisions and have been "overwhelmed by the logistical complexities of issues like removal of debris and identification of safe relocation sites," writes Deborah Sontag of The New York Times.

There has also been skepticism concerning the monetary pledges that countries have promised Haiti. As of three months ago, only ten percent of the \$5.3 billion pledged by governments at a United Nations conference has been distributed to the Haitian government. Haitians have become increasingly impatient as they live packed together in tent cities.

"My hopes for Haiti are to have good leaders, so we can have a better future where everybody in Haiti can go to school, go to see a doctor every month, find a job, have a house, have food, etcetera," says Marc. "Haiti can be changed, but we need help. All my family depends on me, so I'd like to find the chance go to the States to study and then come back to work down here, help my family and change the way that things are doing in Haiti."

**Samuel Bastien is 21 years old and is also working at Project Medishare, as a pharmacy assistant for ten dollars a day.**

"When the earthquake happen I was home. I didn't go to school that day because I had a head pain, everything of this day is always in my head like a scare movie every time I close my eyes." Samuel

was one of the ten students who did not go to school the day of the quake, and therefore is one of the ten out of 150 who survived.

According to the National Public Radio, 2.5 million Haitian children do not have access to schools, and the earthquake damaged or destroyed 5,000 schools. Additionally, a large number of Haiti's ministries and civil servants were killed, an additional set back for their struggling government.

**Another man who remembers the earthquake is Claudy Pierre, an interpreter as well as transporter for the hospital.** "I remember I was talking with my friends inside of a car next to my house and then the car started to shake. I thought someone was trying to sit in the back of the car, but it wasn't that. But when I took a look at the mountain I saw a lot of house collapsed and then I told everybody that's an earthquake. When I got off the car I saw a lot of people on the ground bleeding with their legs broken, head injured. There were so many people on the ground I didn't know what to do."

Claudly lost his house, his car, and many of his friends from the quake.

His hopes are to come to the U.S. with his son and continue school here, as he has stopped attending his school in Haiti. Afterwards, he would like to return to his country to help other Haitians.

Haiti needs assistance, and will continue to for years to come. So, inform yourself. Join Paul Hendershot's Edu-Haiti club. Learn about Haiti's history. Form opinions. And above all, maintain your awareness.



Juniors give up a Sunday afternoon to raise money for prom. Surprise VFD visit helps earn big bucks washing a Firetruck.

## Gaga's meat dress

By Delaney Fischer

At the 2010 Video Music Award's this September, Lady Gaga was spotted wearing what has been named 'the meat dress.' She claimed on the Ellen DeGeneres Show that she wore the dress because she "wanted to illustrate that humans can be treated like pieces of meat, as she feels gays are, thanks to laws like the 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' policy."

The dress was made with real meat by designer **Franc Fernandez's** family butcher as revealed by MTV Style. The dress seems to have sparked an opinion from most. While on the Ellen DeGeneres Show, Ellen explained to Gaga that she understands she is trying to make a huge statement but expressed that there are other ways. She then presented Lady Gaga with a dress made of vegetables.

Shady Side Academy seniors were eager to share their thoughts on her fashion statement. Kate Rosenzweig stated, "As a vegetarian, I kinda thought it was disgusting. I am a strong believer in fashion and making a statement, but that wasn't the way."

Fellow student Adam Petraglia also gave negative feedback on the dress stating, "I thought it was hypocritical because I have seen her as an animal activist, and clearly wearing meat is not supporting the values on which PETA stands." While Gaga is a known animal activist, there is no public connection of

her endorsing the PETA movement. Jessica Gurrentz gave Gaga negative feedback by saying, "I think it was a very loud statement from her, but she may be taking it a little too far. I know that's she's weird but that's like ew. It went from weird to gross [after finding out the meat was real and not fake]." Madi Sheerer claims that Gaga just wanted attention, and Ellen Boyle said she was straight up annoyed by the meat dress.

Other students, like Max Rosen and Toran Spence, have no real opinion. Rosen doesn't even like Gaga. "I didn't even see the meat dress. 99% of the time I will change the station when she comes on the radio. I could care less about Lady Gaga," he said. The only senior that seemed to have a positive opinion on the dress was Chelsea Begg. "I thought it was an interesting way to make a statement. I mean, I would never wear it, but Gaga can pull that stuff off," she said.

Throughout the night at the VMAs, Gaga was constantly discussing the DADT policy. She brought soldiers to the awards show with her, and after the VMAs, she posted on twitter "All hands on deck Lil Monsters: Key senate vote this Tues. on DADT repeal. We need 60 senators. Call your senator now."

Since the Awards show, Gaga has been having a 'twitter war' with Senator John McCain and has posted videos on YouTube trying to rally for the cause.



**Facebook additions.** Kyle Smith, Dana Burgard, Austin Davidheiser, Leah Powers, and Kegan Borland line up for a photo. Missing are Chris Rose and Chuck Shafer.

## New faculty settles in at SSA

By Jeremie Kim

This year, Shady Side welcomes into the community six new faculty members in a variety of departments. Last spring saw a significant number of departing faculty, for reasons ranging from maternity leave to graduate school to a new job as department head. However, with the new faculty members' diversity of experiences and knowledge, we are confident in their ability to fill this large gap.

**Kyle Smith**, one of the new additions to the history department, teaches two U.S. History classes and one Patterns of Western Thought class. As well as having a role in the classroom, he coaches basketball and Model U.N. Prior to joining us at the Academy, Mr. Smith "taught history at the college level for the past four years at Grand Valley State University in Michigan." Despite his status as a college professor, Mr. Smith "was looking for a transition to a prep school and was really attracted to Shady Side for its residential life." He also thinks that Pittsburgh is a fantastic city.

Mr. Smith commented on the transition from university to high school, saying, "The transition has been smooth. I was helped out by many of the generous people at Shady Side and the students have been great, even if I have suffered four Pirates losses of the five times I have been there." Mr. Smith's hobbies include golfing, listening to country and jazz on his old record player, and when he can, travelling.

Also joining us this year is **Dana Burgard** who teaches all levels of German as well as helping out with PE Fitness and Untucked this year. When asked why she decided to come teach at Shady Side, Ms. Burgard replied, "I actually worked with a Shady Side alum recently and so when I heard of a position opening, he said it's a great place, he loved working there, and that I had to see what it was all about." Previous to Shady Side, Ms. Burgard taught German and coached soccer and rowing at the Philips Andover Academy.

She comments on the transition, "The transition went well. It is a lot different coming from a seven-day boarding school, but I really like it a lot here." Ms. Burgard enjoys playing soccer, singing, and travelling.

**Charles Shafer** is among the new science faculty and teaches four sections of Concepts of Chemistry, his mission statement being: "I try to teach how to act and think like a chemist." Before his career started at the Academy, Mr. Shafer attended Williams College, studying chemistry, poetry, architecture, and art history.

A Shady Side alumnus, class of '06, when asked why he decided to come to SSA, Mr. Shafer responded, "It just felt good. I have the burden of figuring out how to be a teacher at Shady Side, but I don't have the burden of figuring out the school. I think my being an alum helped those in charge of hiring feel comfortable giving me this opportunity." According to Mr. Shafer, his transition from Williams College to teaching at his alma mater went great and he loves what he is doing and says he is at home here. He adds, "It's also hard, but it's a good kind of hard."



When asked about his hobbies, Mr. Shafer replied, "Too many! The important ones... I like to ride my bike. I'm an avid amateur bicyclist. I try to write poetry myself. Writing in general is important to me, I feel, and especially important to life. Music as well - I play the guitar and sing. My hobbies are not professional, because for me they are more spiritually refreshing, and because I'm not that good at them; haha right!"

**Kegan Borland**, one of this year's new additions to the history department, teaches World History I and coaches swimming. Mr. Borland recently graduated from Kenyon College, majoring in history and minoring in humanities, before he joined the Academy. "I knew I wanted to get into teaching and I'm from Pittsburgh, so I know people here. Also I shadowed here last year," said Mr. Borland when asked why he decided to come to the Academy. He goes on to say that his transition to teaching at a high school has been pretty smooth so far and that he enjoys being in the classroom. Mr. Borland's hobbies include participating in triathlons, golfing, rock climbing, and playing poker.

Joining us this year as Head Athletic Trainer, **Chris Rose's** responsibilities include injury recognition, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation for athletes. Along with these responsibilities, Mr. Rose also shares his knowledge with underclassmen in Health I and II. For the past five years, Mr. Rose was the athletic trainer at

Carnegie Mellon University and when asked why he decided to come to Shady Side, he replied, "I wanted the change. At college level, there wasn't enough time for family and that's what it boils down to. I also wanted to bring what knowledge I've acquired at the college level to high school students and athletes." He also said the transition has been flawless so far, and students, parents, and staff were very welcoming. Mr. Rose tries to remain physically active, playing sports of all kinds. He also enjoys camping, the outdoors, and travelling.

**Leah Powers**, one of the new additions to the science department, teaches chemistry as well as environmental science. She also coaches girls' soccer and is a part of environmental club. Ms. Powers has been teaching for about seven years at public and private schools, but last year she stayed at home with her newborn. When asked why she decided to teach at Shady Side, she replied, "Well, there was a job available. I guess it was close to home, an easy commute, and I want to be teaching again. It seemed like a nice place to work." She goes on to talk about the transition and says "It's been great. I really like it. It doesn't feel like I'm new as much as it did in other schools. I think soccer really helped because of its pre-season, where everyone met even before school started." When asked about her hobbies, Ms. Powers responded, "I play soccer. I like to sew. But I spend most of my time with the kids. We hike and camp... walk dogs."

**Austin Davidheiser** joins us this year at the Hillman as the technical coordinator of SSA Theater. He runs all of the events that come to our school and is currently designing the fall play along with student technicians. Before the Academy, Mr. Davidheiser worked at Kurtztown University as the technical director and scene shop supervisor.

Before Kurtztown, he worked with high school students at Penn Governors' School of Arts. Mr. Davidheiser decided to come to Shady Side because it was an interesting opportunity to work with high school students again as well as work in a new facility.

Asked about the transition to SSA, he replied, "It's going pretty well. It's a busy environment here. Unlike most faculty, I don't have a daily schedule. I am dealing with lots of outside events such as the Hillman series as well as day to day assemblies, advisees, and upcoming concerts." Mr. Davidheiser is a hockey fan, though he roots for the Flyers, and he enjoys spending time with his kids when he can.

## Lady Gaga concert

By Samantha Goodman

Lady Gaga made her Pittsburgh debut with her magical Monster Ball Tour at the Consol Energy Center, September 5. From the moment the curtain dropped, she impressed the audience with her lavish costumes and sets, but most definitely with her voice. She took the stage by storm, bringing each of her "little monsters" deeper into the spectacle as every song went by.

She wore everything from a purple leopard corset to a latex nun suit, rocking number one hits and spectacular ballads alike. Whether electrifying the audience with upbeat hits or toning it down with jazzy piano numbers, Lady Gaga never stopped shining. She was the perfect choice for first female performer at the Consol.

I was lucky enough to attend this concert, and my friends and I all agree that it was magnificent. Sophomore Joe McMahon could not have stated it better when he said, "As Gaga's biggest fan, I thought the Monster Ball was glorious. The stage, outfits, and her performance all held up to her unique image. The show was beautifully strange, morbid,



Photo by Tierney Weitz

liberating, and full of Gaga's little monsters!"

As the show came to an end, it was clear that Lady Gaga had left everyone amazed and wanting more. That's just what her biggest fans will get if they choose to attend her next Pittsburgh concert February 26, 2011.

## Interactive assemblies

By Maggie Leech

Every school year is marked by its leader. Last year, Ben Ross kept assemblies funny and entertaining with his Assembly Show. This year, Student Council President Brody Kelley is making some changes of his own. While Monday assemblies still remain the same, Friday assemblies have received an extreme makeover.

They contain three sections: *Appreciations*, *Concerns and Suggestions*, and *Stories for the Good of the Community*. *Appreciations* recognize the little things Shady Side community members do around campus when they think no one is looking. *Concerns and Suggestions* give students and faculty the chance to express their concerns about any aspect of the community and follow with their idea of how to fix or improve it. *Stories for the Good of the Community* can either be a parable or simply something funny a student did that week. In addition, all assemblies end with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Brody says, "The idea behind the new assembly format was to make the assembly period a more community-based time-frame." Many students are enjoying the new system because they feel more connected to the people on stage.

Brody mentioned another goal of the change was to "give the student body the ability to become more actively involved in the Academy's life, as well as give it the opportunity to give their input in a public and accountable setting." All in all, the new assembly schedule seems to be a success and enjoyed by the student body.

A major change in this year's Student Council is the reformation of a Constitution. Brody, along with Mr. LaCasse, has been working throughout the summer to propose the Student Council's mission and the qualifications and duties of officers.

Brody explained, "Years ago there was an official Student Council constitution that was passed down from class to class. Unfortunately, at some point in the Academy's history, it disappeared. The new constitution was established to resurrect this tradition, and give the student government a more definitive lay out."

The constitution was also designed to legitimize the Student Council and "allow for accountability on both the government and student sides." It is great to see the democratic process is alive and well at Shady Side Academy!



Senior Rob Stokes

Photo courtesy of the Academian

## Scribes change it up for new school year

By Haley DeJulio

A new school year brings new history essays, English papers, and college supplements. What better way to ease yourself into the workload or crystallize your writing than to visit a scribe and get another opinion!

This year, the system has changed a bit. For those of you who were with us last year, you remember the email based appointment system. Well, this year, it can all be done at school without the use of electronic communication.

You may have noticed the large, navy blue schedule that mysteriously ap-

peared to the right of the Writing Center, as well as the poster displaying all of the scribes' pictures (for easy identification). Pretty soon, this new schedule will be in full use.

The idea is simple. There will be Post-It Notes available next to the "Master Schedule," which lists all of the periods that scribes are available and displays the names of those available during each period.

Find a free in your schedule that matches a scribe-filled period on the master schedule, write your name on a sticky note, post it in the blank space in

that block, and you are good to go! If you don't have time to sign up and would rather show-up unannounced, then drop period scribing is for you!

During these eight periods every cycle, walk-ins are welcome, no signing up necessary.

Listen for our announcement at assembly and watch for the grand opening of the Writing Center in the coming weeks for more information!

Everyone, from freshmen to seniors, is welcome to stop by for writing help and suggestions. We hope to see you in the Writing Center soon!

## Cross Country stays on course

By Shamika Dighe and Jack Bagamery

Both boys' and girls' cross country teams are off to a great start this fall. With a current record of 7-0, the undefeated girls' team, led by head coach Sue Whitney and assistant coach Eileen Cunningham, has a very good shot at claiming the section title this year. This is especially due to their incredible key victory at Greensburg Central Catholic, where a 6<sup>th</sup> place tiebreaker won the meet after the score was tied at 28-28. Despite the loss of some key senior runners, the team is very optimistic.

Coach Whitney says, "This year's team has a solid core of returning runners in Jennifer Nguyen, Christina Policastro, and Emily Lamm as captains, and returning runners Elizabeth Roll, Shamika Dighe, Kristen Olander, Christiana Jueng and Sara Policastro. What makes this year so interesting is that more than half of the team has never participated in cross country before — a testament to the hard work the returning runners did encouraging their friends from other sports to participate!"

Senior captain Jenn Nguyen is also very positive and agrees that, "This year we surpassed all expectations for the team and we're looking forward to the end of the season and to continue our success in WPIALs."

The boys' team is also off to an impressive start this season, with a record of 6-1, losing only to Southmoreland. After the loss of three top seniors from the varsity squad last year, the boys' team, led by head coach Paul Ejzak and assistant coach Tom Colt, is definitely rebuilding this year due to the contribution of incoming freshmen and the progression of return-



Photo courtesy of junior Shamika Dighe

**Go, girls.** The Girls' Cross Country Team poses for a picture.

ing runners.

Top returning runners include senior Christian Harchelroad, juniors Jack Bagamery, Adi Krupski, David Lembursky, and sophomore Max Young. Adding to these returners, freshman Adam D'Angelo has been a valuable contributor. The strength of this year's team is depth, as there is a strong pack of runners competing for the final two varsity spots. This depth has allowed the boys to be very competitive in the section.

With substantial drops in time as the season continues, the boys' team is on the up and up.

As senior captain Christian Harchelroad puts it, "SSA Boys' Cross Country is being relentless this year."

Several things this year are different for both teams. Along with losing many valuable runners, both teams are also running a new home course. Although

new to all current runners, this course, which has a modified start from the previous course, was actually the home course between 2002 and 2005.

This September, junior Jack Bagamery set the boys' school and course record with a time of 18:15. The girls' course and school record, which was set in 2002, is currently held by alumna Katie Roll, with a time of 21:26.

Whether forced to climb mountain-like hills, navigate treacherous terrain, or run across seemingly never-ending fields in the middle of nowhere in a little more than underwear, both boys' and girls' teams have put forth tremendous effort throughout this season.

In a few weeks the hard work of all these runners will be put to the test at the WPIAL meet, annually held at Coopers Lake. Both teams will run against other AA teams in the WPIAL and fight to place in the top four to make it to states.

## Boys' Golf swings away

By Rob Belles

A long-standing tradition at Shady Side Academy, the Boys' Golf team has gotten off to a good start this season.

Junior Ryan Mengel said that the team is "doing well, [having] suffered two tough losses but we are working hard to get to the postseason. Troy Berglund and Brendan Gramley remain in individuals and are heading to WPIAL finals. We have team WPIALs in two weeks and, hopefully, we put together a good round."

Even though the team has suffered two losses so far, junior Brendan Gramley said, "We did beat our rival, Mars, both times that we played them."

Gramley, who is also the team's captain, continued by saying, "We have had an up and down year. We are just inconsistent. Which is not in any way to say that the team has not won some rounds; we certainly have."

Both head varsity coach Brett Bergman and JV coaches Dan Kriebel and John Uriah were unavailable for comments at this time.

## Girls' Golf hits it off

By Michelle Bucklew

The two time state-champion Girls' Golf team is off to a great start this year under the leadership of its two junior captains, Kendall Allen and Michelle Bucklew.

Although they lost a few extremely valuable seniors, including last season's captains, Elizabeth Diggs and Lauren Laufe, the team still looks promising, young, and encouraged.

Kendall Allen comments, "We have some new girls on the team, including Molly Lowery and Sam Goodman, who are making tremendous progress and have great potential. They are great additions to the team!"

The team has moved into a new section and has continued its success, achieving a record of 10-0 with only two regular matches left in the season.

Sophomore Shannon Gramley adds, "I love everything about golf season: the competition, the game, making friends with the girls in our section, and of course, I love our team!"

Recently, five of the players, Kendall Allen, Michelle Bucklew, Shannon Gramley, Molly Lowery, and Maclean

Callihan, competed at Murrysville Golf Course to each advance from Sectional Individuals to WPIAL Individuals.

Out of the five, Kendall, Michelle, and Shannon moved on to the next round that took place Tuesday, October 5.

Coach Helene Gosse says, "All five of the girls played their game, and I am very proud of all of them."

The closest match of the season thus far has been the team's match against its fiercest competition, Fox Chapel High School.

As junior Molly Lowery lined up her putt on the ninth green, the rest of the team sat in suspense, knowing that if the putt were made, the team would pull out a victory by a mere two strokes.

Coming through for the team, Molly finished her round with a bang, sinking the putt and helping the team sustain its undefeated record.

The team will soon play in WPIAL semi-finals taking place at Ritzwood Golf Course and hopes to secure a spot in WPIAL finals, giving the team another chance at the state title.

## What happened to Volleyball, anyway?

By Sara Policastro and Carianne Lee

Most people, when they hear the word "volleyball", think of beach, sand, and a colorful blown up beach ball. However, more schools are bringing it in as a sport during the academic year.

This year, sophomore Georgia Scott proposed the possibility of having a volleyball team for the fall season. When asked why she wanted to start a team, Georgia said, "I played volleyball at my old school, and there wasn't a team here, so I thought I'd give it a try."

Unfortunately, the plans did not work out, and it had to be cancelled. Is it because volleyball is a fun summer sport that people are not willing to join during the intense fall term?

So, let's get to know volleyball a bit better. The purpose, which most people know from elementary gym classes, is to hit the ball over the net and have it hit the ground on the opposing team's side. However, a team has three hits to return it to the other side. On each team there are six players on the court. So with only six players and a simple goal, what went wrong for volleyball at Shady Side?

Like all sports, someone wanted to have a go at it, but for some reason volleyball didn't work out. Georgia says, "I don't know... We were close to having enough girls. We had seven and we needed twelve."

Volleyball was going to be worth PE, rather than team sport, credit. Choosing volleyball would make it difficult for underclassmen to fulfill all of their sports requirements. But volleyball is not the only sport that has had a difficult time building a team. When the girls' cross country team first started, it only had three girls on the team. Luckily, the next year a larger number of girls joined, which saved the team.

Next year, Georgia hopes that volleyball will pull a cross-country move and come through. So, for anyone who was interested this fall, next year can be your time to shine on the courts.

## Tennis' road to States

By Kelly Marous

After facing a devastating loss in WPIAL semifinals last season, the Girls' Varsity tennis team has been working really hard attempting to capture the state title once again.

This year's singles lineup includes Sara Perelman at #1, followed by Kelly Mengel and Alexa Miller at #2 and #3. The #1 doubles team consists of Lisha Gu and Rachel Diehl, while Lindsay Cozen and Haley Mears make up the #2 doubles team.

The other varsity members include Kelly Marous, Anita Jain, Liza Plakseychuck, Ashley Ferree, and Rachel Kann.

Co-captain Sara Perelman says, "The singles players are very strong with three top ranked USTA middle states players. With Kelly and Alexa playing #2 and #3, our singles lineup is stacked and no other team goes that deep."

Lisha has been playing #1 doubles since she came to Shady Side her sophomore year and is very experienced. Both Rachel and Lisha are very aggressive and they make a great team. Lindsay and

Haley are very solid, as well."

Another key aspect of this year's success is the team's overall close relationship.

Coach Jeff Miller says, "Once we start competing together and not against each other, then I believe that we will be one of the best teams in the state."

Not only has the lineup changed, but the coaching staff has slightly shifted, as well. In addition to Mr. Miller, Tom Mercer, an experienced tennis player, having experience in ten grand slams, is the new co-head coach.

Tom says, "The team is optimistic about going to states and they have a chance to win. I have confidence in this team that they will play under pressure to the best of their ability."

The entire team is excited about the fast approaching playoffs.

As Sara puts it, "We work hard and we know that no match will be easy coming down the road. We take one match at a time. I feel as though there will be very good things to come, which hopefully includes a state championship."



Photo by Kimberly Flit

**Pull!** Teachers and students use all their strength to reign supreme.

## 'Tis the season for Badminton

By Ayesha Shah

Badminton is off to an amazing beginning this year, with plenty of new faces, but some old faces as well.

It takes place in Curry Gym every day starting at 4:00 P.M. Full participation requires intense playing, laughter, and a good time. According to Coach Graham Ashworth, "All those silly little varsity sports pale in comparison to the great courage and athleticism displayed in badminton, and everyone who is not in this fine sport is missing out on the best time of the day." He says this with a smile and the entire team laughing.

Dr. Ashworth is a brilliant coach, who loves giving pointers to his students. Anyone can play a game against him, but one has to be daring enough to do it. Both teachers and students have played against him, and it is pretty much guaranteed that he will win every time.

"Badminton is awesome! No, it's beyond the description of awesome-



Photo by junior Kelly Remo

**Sophomores strike intense poses.**

ness!" cheers junior Amy Zhang, and everyone chimes in. "It may not seem competitive, but it really is. That shuttlecock just flies right by like *Swoosh!* We train for the badminton Olympics here.

It's hard work. I'm going to be in the badminton Olympics!" senior Kimberly Flit says.

Dr. Ashworth smiles and says, "The shuttle travels over 200 miles per hour in international competition. We're barely doing 20 mph."

Sophomore Dani Plung says, "It's a very dangerous contact sport." "When not played properly," adds Dr. Ashworth.

The entire team has spirit. More than just playing the sport, they can sing and dance. They compete among one another, and the sport does get a little rough at times. So, occasionally, the team takes a break and talks music from the sixties (with Dr. Ashworth) to Lady Gaga (with everyone else). Witty comments make for great discussion, and the laughter rings throughout the building.

Visitors frequently stop by the badminton courts, and everyone is welcome. Just be ready to have fun!

## SSA kicks off CUP!

By Tierney Weitz

Although the rain threatened to dampen this year's Cup Day Kick Off festivities, the whole school still came out to participate in the activities planned by Student Council.

The four teams, creating a sea of intense colors in the gym, battled through intense tug-of-war, cheer-offs, and dance-offs.

Senior Ally Ross remarked on the original values that CUP represents saying, "despite the rain, the academy still found a way to create community, unity, and pride in the gym."

People from all four grades worked together to help their team dance their way to the top, making any necessary sacrifices along the way.

Senior Philip Elias said, "As co-captain of Bayard with Hillary, we have created a rigorous workout program for our team members. Part of my duty as captain was to cross dress for the dance competition and dance to 'Milkshake.'"

"I took hours of intense lessons to perfect my booty shake. It was a necessary risk to really wow the judges. But our team as a whole works really well together to create a strong family unit that will work together to beat Morewood."

No matter what strategies each team utilized, as one of the biggest CUP events of the year, the kick off definitely brought out the competitive sides of Shady Side's students, all fighting for one common goal: the coveted CUP.

## Girls' Soccer is gellin'

By Katie Prochownik

As the Springdale game ended, the Shady Side Girls' Soccer team walked quietly off of Springdale's brightly lit soccer field. There was nothing else to be done than reflect on the hard fought game that ended just moments ago, with Springdale scoring the winning goal in the last 30 seconds of the first section game of the season. As the girls hung their heads in despair, Coach Caswell Nilsen's voice sounded softly over the cool night: "Heads up, Shady Side."

Although the 2-1 loss against Springdale still hangs in the back of the girls' heads, there is no question that the team has made significant improvement from losing 10-0 to Springdale three years ago.

According to senior Makenna Krebs, the team has made substantial improvement over the past several years. "In the past we've had trouble connecting on the field but this season it feels like we've bonded more on and off the field, which makes it easier for us to stay focused during stressful games."

Junior Annie Pooley also believes that working together is essential to succeed this season and into the next. "I think we have a great group of girls with a ton of potential that could not only make this season great, but also carry over to next year."

Others also agree that the team has worked better as a unit than in previous years.

Sophomore Felicia Tissenbaum comments, "From last year to this year, the whole attitude of the team is much more positive and I think our relationship as a team is also reflected upon that."

Even with this newfound cohesiveness, the girls must be conscious not to lose sight of their ultimate goal, making playoffs by maintaining a positive attitude.

Senior captain Aubrey Jaicks agrees with this concept. "We have a lot of talent this year, but we also have a

challenging schedule. It is very important for the team as a whole to always put their best foot forward, play with energy, and communicate."

So far, the team has responded well to its new players. When asked about initially joining the team, freshman Zoe Schoen said, "We motivate each other in different ways on the soccer field, and I think our drive to succeed is something that will take the team far this year. So far, it has been AMAZING." Rebecca Donahue, a freshman goalie, concurs that the season so far has been productive, despite its challenges. "As a goalie it's hard to have composure and continue to focus on the game that's still going on, even after being scored on."

With playoffs in the distance, the girls hope to once again make a run for it. Returning coaches Caswell Nilsen, Marney Egan, and Gerald Hare have already experienced a playoff season last year.

Coach Nilsen reflects on the improvements from last season. "I'm excited by the level of talent and expertise we have to draw on. The addition of the two new coaches this year has allowed us to focus more on the fundamentals in both teams." The girls are excited to welcome two new coaches to the team this year, Mary Bushnell and Leah Powers.

As senior captain Katie Prochownik said, "I think the team has finally found its niche. We are right where we should be with coaching and working together on and off the field. It's taken some time, but I think this is definitely the year where we can make it happen."

As the girls regain their composure from the Springdale loss, they look to their five victories so far this season as encouragement and motivation. Perhaps they could not hold onto that one victory against last year's PIAA winner. But there is no question: the girls will face Springdale for a final match in the playoffs.

## Boys' Soccer on its way

By Christopher Miller

The 2009-2010 Shady Side Academy Boys' Varsity team had a good year making it to the playoffs and dominating all that they faced. Sadly, they lost a close one to Seton LaSalle, ending their season.

The 2010-2011 team, which brought back most of their starters from last year, has a chance to do as well if not better than the team of last year, despite the fact that the team chose to play against better competition this year, moving up from A to AA.

The team started the regular season on September 5, 2010 with the annual Ambridge Tournament. This year, the tournament consisted of West Allegheny, Burrell, Ambridge, and Shady Side.

The team started the pre-season in late August, putting together a record of 1-0-1, beating North Hills and tying Burrell 0-0.

The team's first game was a memorable one against West Allegheny. They did not play their best in the first half, and as a result they went into halftime trailing by a score of 1-0.

In the second half, however, the team looked unstoppable. Within the first eight minutes of the second half, the team found the net four times, giving them a commanding lead with just above thirty minutes left to play. They finished strong with a 5-2 victory, and a spot in the finals against the winner of Burrell and Ambridge.

Despite the fact that there was a tie between Burrell and Ambridge, Shady Side played Ambridge in the finals. Once here, the team did not disappoint, shutting out the host team Ambridge by a score of 4-0, thus defending their title and winning the tournament for the second year in a row.

From there, it was off to Highlands, where the team played their most physical game to date. The team escaped unscathed and picked up a 4-0 win.

After that, the team played their first home game against section opponent

Kittanning. It was a historic game. The team went out and delivered a solid performance beating their opponent 9-1, and earning Head Coach Harry Fleishman his 400<sup>th</sup> career win.

From here, the team traveled to face a very tough Mars team. This game was definitely the best of the season so far. Mars scored early in the first half, and they took that lead into halftime. The second half proved to be very defensive.

With twenty-six seconds left, Shady Side was still down one and had a corner kick. Once the play was set up, and the ball was ready to be kicked, there were about fifteen seconds left. With eleven seconds left, Shady Side was able to use the corner kick to their advantage and score the game-tying goal. The team carried that momentum into overtime and scored the game winner with about seven minutes left. This 2-0 overtime win improved their record to 5-0.

In the next game the Indians faced their toughest opponent yet, a very talented Hampton team. The team played well, but that just wasn't good enough.

They lost a close one 2-0 to a section opponent in Hampton, their only loss of the season so far, but the team hopes to get revenge when the two teams play again later this season. The tough loss didn't seem to faze the team. They bounced back quickly and made short work of Freeport, beating them 5-1.

After Freeport, they played a close one against Knock. The team was able to escape with a 1-0 win despite many valiant efforts by Knock to tie it up late in the game. Then, they went on to beat Deer Lakes at home by a wide margin of 4-0.

At this point, the season is half over and Shady Side has an overall record of 8-1. They are currently in second place in the section, and ranked fifth in AA. The team has truly dominated through the first half of the season. Now, all that is left to do is wait and see how the rest of the season unfolds.



Photo by senior Nick Gasbarro

In the action: Senior football captain Nick Loyacona protects the ball from the opposition.

## The Young and the Relentless

By Nick Loyacona

The identity of the 2010 Shady Side Academy Football team can be portrayed by one simple digit, five. Not five as in the number of playoff berths by SSA in the last 10 seasons. Not five as in the number of shutouts credited to the SSA defense over the last 14 games. But five as in the number of seniors on this year's team, which is only one third of the previous 15 seniors on last year's squad.

Head Coach Dave Havern knows it's not the quantity but the quality that matters. "We only have five [seniors], but they're five great ones. These seniors have great leadership and good character; they have a sense of ownership of this team. Though I would love to have more [seniors], these were the cards we were dealt and you know what, it's still going to be a winning hand."

Grant Foley, Frank Rocks, Harrison Hirsh (captain), Anthony Loyacona (captain), and Nick Loyacona (captain) provide the much-needed leadership and experience essential for making an underclassmen-dominated team excel in the cutthroat world of WPIAL football.

SSA was able to throttle the Oliver Brown Bears of the Pittsburgh city-league 35-0 in their opening contest.

The offensive scoring was spread throughout the team as three different players reached pay dirt for the blue and gold. Senior running back Anthony Loyacona scored on a 21 yard run, senior wide receiver Nick Loyacona scored on a 41 yard scamper, and freshman Jarred Brevard invited the whole "Tribe" to his

coming out party as the SSA newcomer scored twice on runs of 4 yards and 24 yards.

Szlachetka's Squadron picked up right where they left off last year by recording a shutout victory for the fifth time in their last fourteen games played.

The Shady Side defense not only denied all of Oliver's scoring chances but also manufactured some of their own scoring opportunities. Senior strong safety Anthony Loyacona returned an interception 31 yards for six while freshman nose guard Pete McDonagh added his contribution by sacking the opposing quarterback for a safety.

However, the celebration proved to be ephemeral for the team as their next three games were against squads ranked in the WPIAL top ten. SSA lost 49-12 to a highly talented Seton-LaSalle team on September 10.

The following week the blue and gold lost a heartbreaker 13-10 to heated rival Freeport. And most recently the team was defeated in a hard fought battle by Ford City 26-3.

Though all three games weren't exactly the outcomes the team had hoped for, one game in particular was a tough pill to swallow: the Saturday night showdown with Freeport. "We didn't play real well and still had a shot for the win. The younger guys have to realize one play can make a game," says Coach Havern about the game.

Much has been made this year about how young and inexperienced this year's squad really is. The demographics of the

team would lead a naive person to believe that youth and inexperience are the reasons for the losses, with only five seniors and a very large sophomore class.

But senior captain Harrison Hirsh has full faith in his younger peers, "Yea, we are young but we are also hard working. We haven't peaked yet and the underclassmen are going to get even better with time. Take Joe Bray [sophomore starting lineman] for example. Joe will turn out to be an all conference selection some point in his career, no doubt about it."

In addition to Joe, the contributing underclassmen for Shady Side are Jarred Brevard, Dennis Briggs, Pete McDonagh, Chuck Calabrese, Josh Loper, Matt Granato, Jake Farrell, and Mike Pohl.

Probably the most mentioned authority on "growing pains" as a football player is junior and starting center and defensive tackle Andy Geisler, who has started for Shady Side since he was a third former. "With experience the games get slower, the technique gets better, and your decision making improves," says Andy.

Andy is a crucial part of the team and a member of a scintillating junior class that is spearheaded by starting quarterback, starting cornerback, and captain Reggie Mitchell. Other vital juniors include Ryan Reynolds, Jake Ellis, Will Supowitz, Tyler Petrucelli, Ricky Villani, Will Ruppel, and Jon Laufe.

Though the number five may describe the look of the 2010 SSA Football team, the number one describes the soul. In order for the team to be successful they must be one unit with one heartbeat and goal.

## Ultimate Frisbee: I've got it!

By Porter Ladley

The Frisbee season has kicked off again this year with around 50 people participating in the sport. These Frisbeers gather on the quad every day after school except for Friday to toss the disc around and play some Ultimate Frisbee.

This year, Ultimate Frisbee coach Matt Weiss has implemented some changes. Jennifer Kacin, the coach of the girls' competitive spring Ultimate team, is now coming to fall practices to give the players who are more serious about Frisbee a chance to play a more competitive game on the lower fields.

Naveen Menon, a frequent player on the more competitive team, said, "It's nice to have the experience to play Frisbee with people that are more serious and more advanced rather than playing with people that are new to the sport or just starting to learn how to play."

While the more advanced players go down to the lower fields, Mr. Weiss stays up top with the new players to help with their throwing and catching. He offers Frisbee playing tips in a more relaxed environment, which is appreciated by many of the players.

Player Sam Campanella says, "You don't have to be competitive or experi-



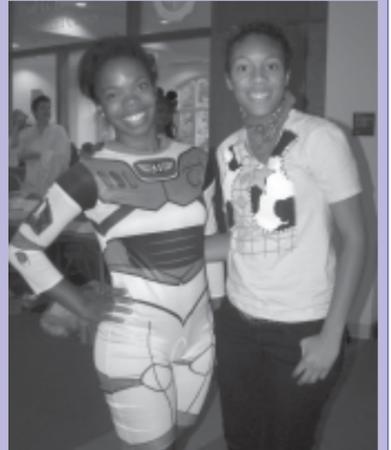
Photo by senior Nick Gasbarro

I've Got It! Rashaad Phillips blocks Sarthak Dighe's pass.

enced at Frisbee to play it."

Ultimate is a very simple game to learn. The objective is to score a touchdown by completing a pass into the end zone. This can be done by either a working of passes down the field, or a hail mary throw to the end zone. This offers some healthy competition but in a laid-back way.

The fall Ultimate Frisbee season lasts into mid-October, giving its players a chance to get a strong hold on the game and decide if they want to play more competitively in the spring. So if you have the time, come and check out the Frisbee squad. They will be on the quad Monday through Thursday, weather permitting of course.



Photos by Ally Bernstein, Frank Crisanti, Kimberly Flit, Allie Hull, Lindsay Kovach, and Anita Schuchardt



## Who are the Community Builders?

By Jenna Hebert

It's easy to get overwhelmed at a school where everyone excels at athletics, academics, music, the arts, et cetera. It can sometimes seem like everyone has everything under control, and it's hard to watch peers seamlessly juggle their personal and academic lives while you are struggling to keep up. It can be even harder when it feels like you have no one to talk to.

On Monday, September 27, seniors Katie Prochownik and Alex Koi gave a presentation at assembly introducing the "Community Builders" of Shady Side Academy. They explained how these students were selected through an application process and that their primary goal is to see students value each other's individuality while at the same time helping each other feel integrated and included, creating a diverse but cohesive community. "These student leaders are committed to being trustworthy, compassionate, creative, and innovative," says Michele Greene, the founder of the student group.

According to Ms. Greene, the Community Builders have several specific goals this year: "To highlight and celebrate accomplishments of members of the community, support other student

leaders and clubs, work one on one with Form III advisee groups, lead activities with the freshman class, facilitate discussions dealing with issues within the community through various means, and also avail themselves to students in all three forms by being Peer Listeners."

These student leaders want to emphasize the positive things the students in the community have done. By seeing their accomplishments celebrated and praised, hard-working students will feel like they are really contributing to the Shady Side community, allowing the student body as a whole to grow stronger.

The Community Builders also want to work with the freshmen. Coming into a brand new setting can be overwhelming. Even a student coming from the Middle School has to adjust to new teachers, rigorous academics, new peers, and an intense schedule. This student group wants to give the freshmen an opportunity to connect with upperclassmen.

This year, two older students will be assigned to each Form III advisee group—similar to a Big Brother/Big Sister program. These upperclassmen will act as confidants for freshmen, giving them wiser, more experienced students to talk

to about problems they might face as they make the transition into high school.

Finally, the Community Builders will always be available as liaisons for the student body, working to actively solve problems within the community.

Also, with the Peer Listeners program, students in any form will be able to talk to a Community Builder about any daily issues they are having or problems they feel are affecting the Shady Side community. Similar to the Scribe Office, these Peer Listeners have completed a leadership workshop and peer listener training. They will be available throughout the day to all students and at [peerlistensenior@gmail.com](mailto:peerlistensenior@gmail.com).

If you feel there is a problem negatively affecting the Shady Side community, know of a fellow student who should be recognized for an accomplishment, or are just having a bad day and need someone to talk to, contact a Community Builder who will be available to help.

Making sure that everyone feels like they are part of the community is crucial to building a strong, cohesive student body. The Community Builders are working hard to make the Shady Side community the best it can be.

## Homecoming spirit

(Continued from Page 1)

It is true that Shady Side has always maintained strong bonds with its alumni, with Homecoming being a large factor in keeping that close relationship.

English teacher Buddy Hendershot says, "I will be talking to some alumni for the first time since they graduated, and these alumni bring back wonderful memories, as well as taking me back to my first years of teaching. I actually taught Scott Aiken. Coming together at these parties keeps alive the great moments of the past."

Amidst the reunions, galas, and parties, current students, alumni, and faculty enjoy coming together to cheer on the numerous athletic teams for their annual Homecoming Week games.

Senior Peter Scott observes, "There are always epic sports events that are so much fun to watch."

Teams continue to carry out school pride, drawing in fans to come together and enjoy Shady Side spirit at its best.

Senior Jatara McGee agrees that spirit is the driving force during Homecoming week.

Jatara says, "School spirit plays a HUGE role in Homecoming week. The feeling on campus is happier, more energetic, and simply better. The vast majority of students are captivated in school spirit and pride, and that atmosphere makes you truly love and appreciate Shady Side at its best!"

Shady Side's spirit during Homecoming presents itself in numerous forms, from spirit week, to the athletic competitions, to, yes... the Homecoming Dance. It is a time when students, alumni, and faculty can once again come together to celebrate Shady Side's legacy and accomplished history.

As Senior School Head Jeremy LaCasse puts it, "Folks have an opportunity to connect with one another, friends, and former teachers, to hear about what is happening at school and to see what might be new. They get to have some fun and to share their life for a little bit."

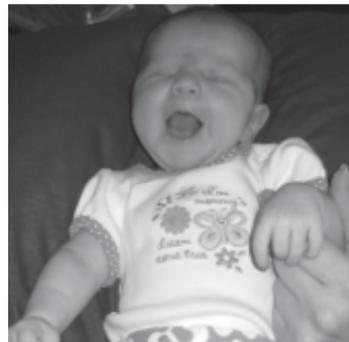
That's really what it's all about.



Max Langa Chottiner  
Born July 1  
8 lbs, 5 oz



Luke Charles Cudney  
Born August 22  
7 lbs, 9 oz



Lia Piper Fani  
Born June 21 (a Solstice baby!)  
8 lbs, 1 oz



Trevor Samuel Fularz  
Born September 21  
7 lbs, 8 oz



Gaetano (Guy) Edward Zheng  
Born September 25  
8 lbs, 14 oz

## Faculty baby boom: Class of 2028

By Yuvi Ben-David

When "the late" Molly Wilson told her World History I class that she had some good news for them, they reflexively congratulated her on her pregnancy. Almost, but no—pregnant with joy, you could say, she announced that she had gotten into grad school. John Landreth, now on sabbatical, strode into chemistry class last year to announce that he, too, was "preggo."

At the time, the statement seemed less parody than policy: over the course of a few weeks three science teachers had individually publicized their pregnancies. Pregnancy, it seemed, was the next stage in the science department's switch to the "modeling method." Instead of growing plants, Biology students would care for

pregnant ladies and measure the circumference of their ever-widening bellies.

Such jokes aside, let's also disregard for the moment all those conspiracy theories à la Synchronized Conception—and I've heard many, enough to convince me that Shady Side students should take four years of Health—there's something newsworthy (I hope!) about five almost simultaneous births amongst the faculty.

Two dads (David Chottiner and Chad Fularz) and three moms (Sarah Cudney, Heather Fani, and Elyse Zheng, who left most recently and was, by one account, the "nicest pregnant lady ever") are all parents for the future Shady Side class of 2028. Their varying absences have left a palpable dent in the faculty—especially in faculty size, considering that altogether

the babies added 24.5 pounds to faculty weight.

So who are these little 'uns? The case of Max Chottiner proves that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree: this little liberal menace has, by Mr. Chottiner's interpretation, already displayed a strong distaste for the likes of Glenn Beck (as well as fellow conservative figureheads, Napping and Hunger). I should commend Max for his nonpartisan flatulence. Rumor has it that during his naming ceremony Max nearly asphyxiated his left-wing rabbi. This being my own rabbi, I congratulate Max on a job well done.

Says Mr. Chottiner of Max, "He already has his mother's dashing good looks and witty sense of humor, coupled with his father's hairline."

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