

Shady Side Academy News

May 2020

GOODBYE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

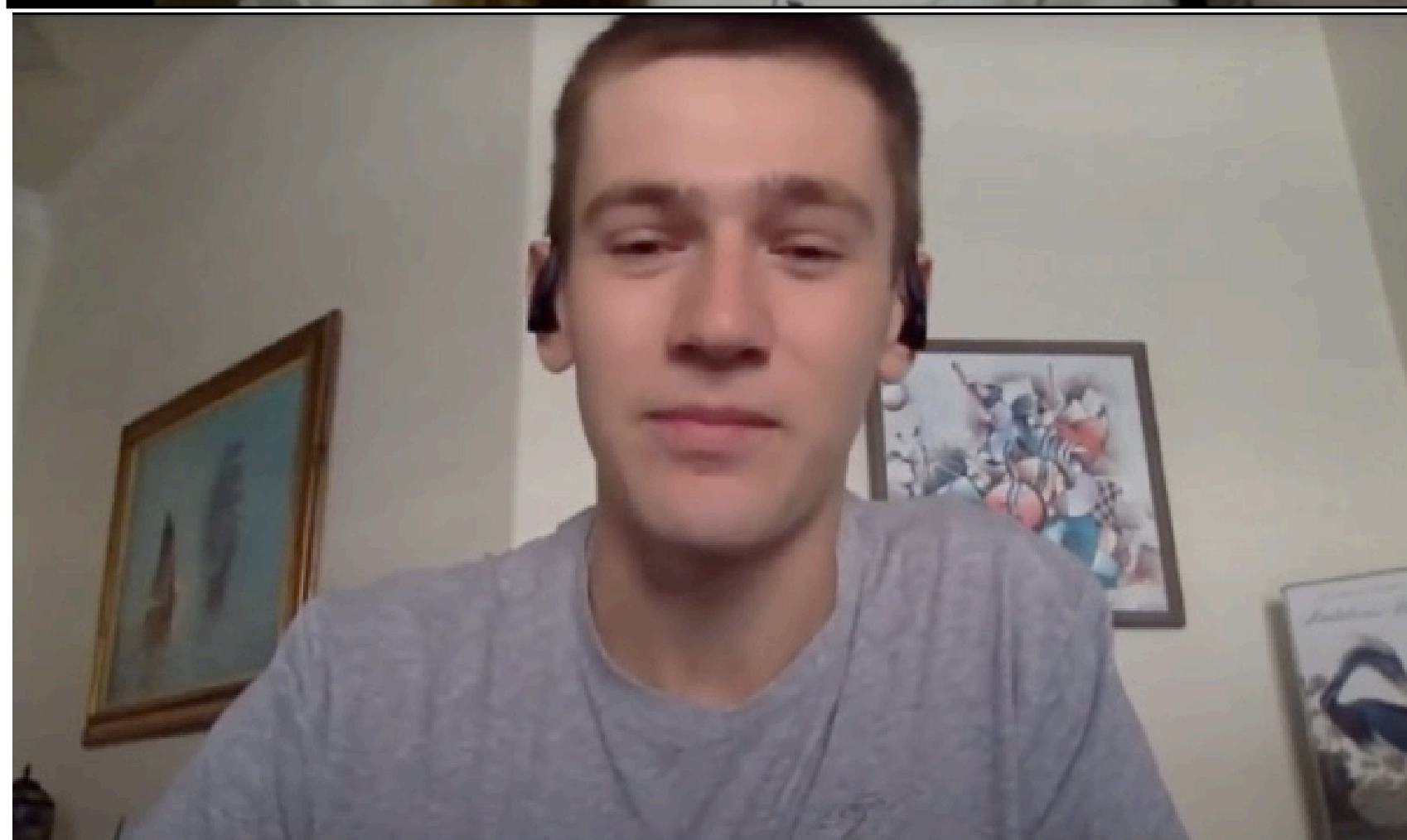
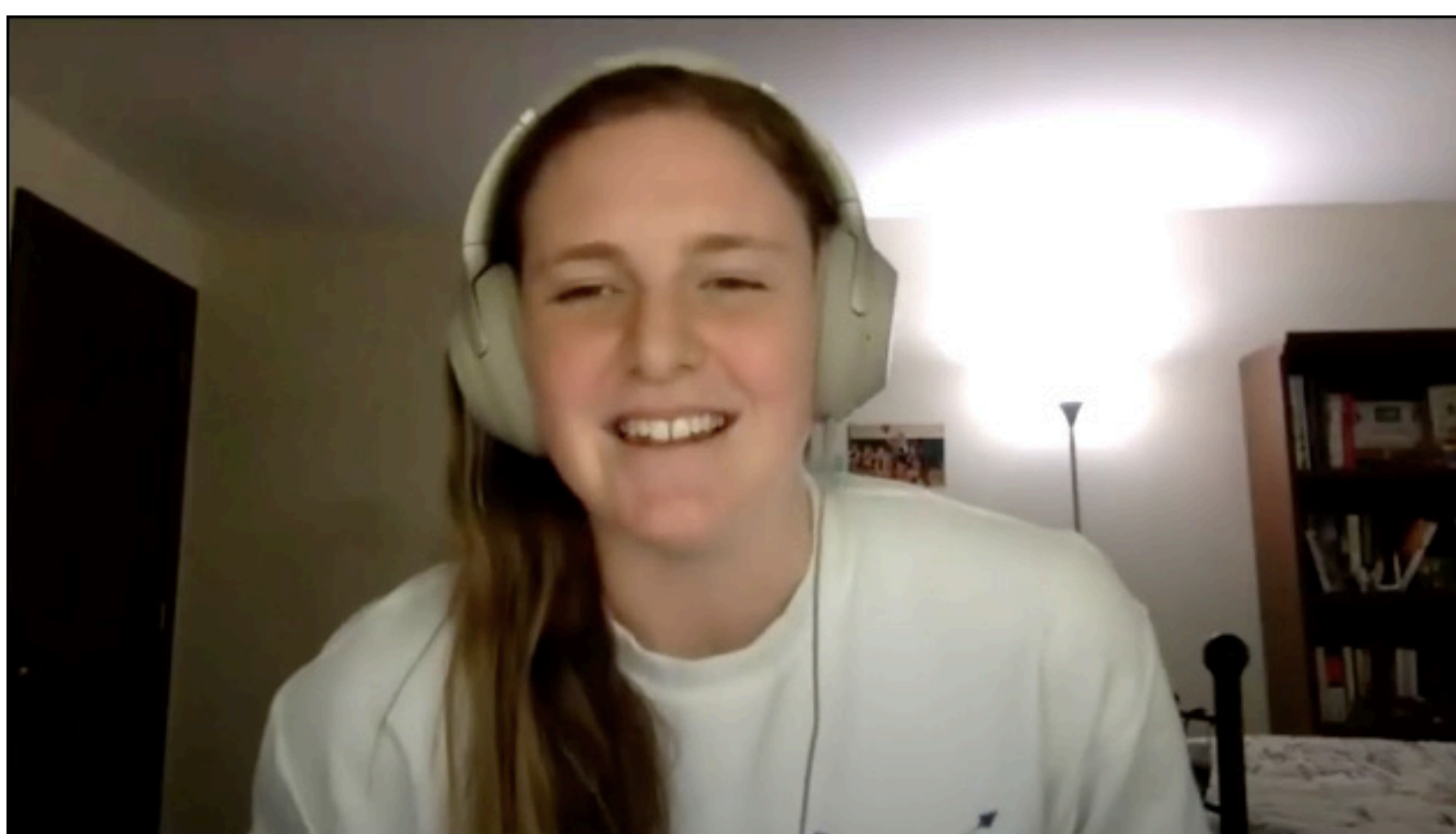
Letters From Sean and Molly

By: Sean Kelley

As I have ended the last Zoom call of my high school career, I am sitting staring at the computer that has been my window back into normalcy. I end now with writing this final thank you and farewell to the school that has meant so much to me and the people that I will carry with me wherever I go. Firstly, thank you to Molly Skvorak. My partner in crime and a lifelong friend. We were so lucky to have had such complementary personalities, and I am truly going to miss her next year. Thank you also to Mr. Green, the advisor of our wonderful Student Council, and of course thank you to Tanner, Elizabeth, Arusha, Katie, Jack K, Porter, Jack H, Andy, Hailey, Elaine, Liam, and Logan. I could

spend the rest of the lines thanking every teacher and student at Shady Side that has helped form me into the man that I am today, but alas I am allotted a certain number of words.

My goal when I started this year as president was to humanize our group. I wanted to make sure that people did not think of us as individuals on a pedestal, but peers in the community, ready and eager to help with any problems. My favorite memory of this year was walking into the gym before Homecoming and seeing that my Student Council was hard at work along with help from our school mates. This meant the world to me that everyone was willing to help out. The days this year were long, but the year was far too short. I will carry Shady Side in my mind and my heart as I head to South Bend in August. I am humbled and blessed by this opportunity to lead our community. I look forward to coming back to see all of the amazing things that this school



Sean and Molly, Student Body President and Vice President, leading our last virtual assembly

and its individuals have accomplished. I will be a kid with ND on his chest, but SSA in his heart. Glory to Shady Side.

By: Molly Skvorak

While I was excited for much upon first moving to Fox Chapel from Canada three years ago, amidst the fresh starts and new opportunities, the prospect that I was most looking forward to was that of picking out my own desk. I had wanted one that an ostentatious lawyer would for a peculiar amount of time, and with the move, progress towards achieving such a dream was rapidly advancing. Inside the used furniture store I was immediately hit with the smell of fresh varnish and old men. It was in this cloud of cigar smoke from such gentlemen that I saw her. Almost six feet in length, and three wide, with multiple mug watermarks on its old ambered surface, I knew this was the

one. For most this would be a mundane purchase of little significance, but to me, this desk was a gift for the person I was committed to becoming at Shady Side, one who would be burdened enough to need the space of its surface, one who studied with persistence and would look at ease taking notes and reading upon such a beast. And it's in me cleaning out its innards in preparation for my family's move this July that memories are overflowing like that of the papers stuffed in her cabinets.

All the hastily written English exam notes, the problem-based math questions that were completed but not understood, the mascot presentations, the environmental club initiative announcements, the student-council

election speeches, and assembly notes, composed and practiced pacing in this now barren room, one by one were recalled with ease as I pulled them from these drawers. Yet during this parting hour, as the desk has little time before it is disassembled and presumably donated or discarded, I'm filled not with sadness. Our parting of ways serves as a much-needed reminder of how lucky I am to have gone to such a school and to have grown in the ways that I have. And I'm making way for the memories to come, such is the progression of life.

As the saying goes, time waits for no one, so don't allow that which you have left among friends, teachers, and members of the greater SSA community to slip from your grasp before you appreciate it for what it is: joyous and fleeting.

Thank you Shady Side, it's been real. And feel free to reach out if you are in need of a new desk or a conversation with an old friend.

AN ADDRESS FROM OUR NEW STUDENT BODY LEADERSHIP

By: Jack Keating and Katie Sparvero

As you probably gathered from our byline and the title of our article, we are Student Body President Jack Keating and Student Body Vice President Katie Sparvero. It's a little odd to be greeting all of you through a pdf newspaper rather than face to face at assembly, but we're still thrilled to be able to communicate with the student body. We're thrilled to have the chance to work for and with all of you in the next school year. In our two years on Student Council, we've learned how best to serve the many needs of our community. We know that, despite the uncertainty of this all, we can apply the lessons we've learned and be the leaders our communities need. We hope this article can help pull back the curtains on what we hope to achieve this next year. We all know that returning from distance learning to being on campus, whenever that may be, will be a difficult transition for us all. During our time learning over Zoom, we're all developing new habits and practices, which will be challenging to unlearn as we return to having three to six classes a day, as opposed to two. All of this is made harder by the fact that no one knows exactly when we will return. We feel the uncertainty we know you're feeling, and that's what makes a smooth and well-planned transition back to traditional learning so important. In order to achieve this, we'll start working with Mr. Green, Mrs. Sabundayo, and Mr. Griffith as soon as possible so that students and adults are all on the same

page for what our return should and will look like. It's hard to say whether our return to traditional learning will mean that all of our routines, habits, and practices will return too, since an important part of returning to traditional learning will also be taking lessons from our time on Zoom. We promise that the work we do on our transition back to "real school" will be informed by conversations with faculty and by research and facts. Most importantly, though, our work on the transition away from distance learning



and back to what we're all used to — sitting in classrooms with our friends — will be to help all of you, and that means that we will be consistently present and open to all of you. What's most important to us is making sure that you're getting the best experience possible, and that comes from good planning and better communication. Through the past three years at Shady Side, we have heard people complain about assembly. Some of the things we've heard is that it can be boring or

repetitive, but it is never easy getting a crowd's attention at 10AM and keeping it for 25 minutes. However, we believe that we can make improvements to hopefully attract everyone's attention as much as we can. To start, we believe we can make things more interactive. Having speakers who won't just lecture, but bring students up on stage and get us all to play along. Kahoots and online games of that nature can also make us as the student body listen and care about the message being delivered. CMOTW and jokes every Monday and Friday are fantastic, and they help us feel more connected to the people speaking. In addition, doing a highlight of the week in regards to a play during a sporting event or a solo at a concert would be a really cool way to share the exciting things our talented community is doing. These small things can add up to have us all enjoy Mondays and Fridays at 10:05 just a little bit more. If any student has an idea that they think would be fun, ask us, because we would love to hear it!

For all that we've said so far, we by no means can know for certain what the next school year will bring for us. We don't know if we'll be back on campus, getting to see you all in person, or if we'll still be in virtual classrooms. Regardless, we couldn't be more excited to build off of what Sean and Molly have done this year. The coming school year brings with it immense possibility, and we hope to be the best leaders we can be. If you ever have an idea or simply want to reach out to us, never hesitate to do so! Until next year, this is Jack and Katie signing off.

Jack's Plan

Personally, I have some ideas that I think would bring us together as a student body. Many of the things I think we can change have to do with assembly, which I have covered in another paragraph. Other than that, I believe my biggest emphasis on the year will be supporting each other's passions and endeavors. Every one of us at this school has something we are passionate about that we work so hard on. Whether that be your favorite sport, the club that you are the president of or just love in general, your part in the play or musical, or your instrument or voice in a concert, it is so important that we bring people out to see you demonstrate your efforts. So that may mean pep rallies can be brought back, videos played in assembly previewing the upcoming event, or even more people getting up and rallying the students in support! Whatever it may be, let's make this year one that makes us all feel included and excited for one another. It is amazing being in a school that has so many options and freedoms, so let's embrace that and go support one another.

Katie's Plan

I completely agree with all of Jack's ideas regarding increasing school spirit and making sure our community is a supportive and welcoming place, and I think that having all of us having as much of an input in the goings on at school as possible will help our community grow stronger. One way to do that is to make the Student Council process more transparent. I'm sure you've all seen the emails, every Wednesday, telling you what Student Council discussed in a given week, but emails can only tell so much. As such, I believe that having at least one Student Council meeting a month be open to every member of the student body would give everyone that first-hand look at how the sausage gets made. But, in all seriousness, being able to communicate openly and frequently with student leaders can help to effect important and necessary change, and opening the doors to all of you and welcoming you in means that we also get to hear all of your great ideas from you in a setting specifically designed for the sharing of ideas. Additionally, I want to work with Mr. Green to establish a constitution of sorts surrounding Student Council. By putting into clear words what we do (and don't do!), how we're elected, and other important ideas, Student Council can become a more accessible and more equitable service for all of you. Leadership works better when everyone has a voice, and making sure that we hear your voices is incredibly important to us.

MEET MS. SABUNDAYO

The New Senior School Head

By: Gabi Jegasothy

As many of you know, Ms. Trixie Sabundayo will be our new head of the Senior School for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Sabundayo, was kind enough to sit down with me for a virtual interview earlier this month. Ms. Sabundayo said she knew she wanted to be an educator from a young age. In high school and college she acted as a coach during summers, which she said lit a passion for teaching inside of her. “I saw education as an opportunity to cultivate the whole person,” she explained. “To me being a teacher was not just about the life of the mind, but it was also about the life of the heart and of the community... it was important for me to think about how I could help young people feel good, be good and do good. [Teaching] felt like the right sort of life calling to be looking at how we can create stronger, ethical, critically thinking, kind communities.”

She began teaching right after graduating from college at Johns Hopkins. She first interned at the Gilman School in Baltimore, at which Mr. Griffith also taught after her departure, and then taught at schools in the Bay Area and New Orleans. She took a break from teaching to pursue art in Manhattan, then moved back to San Francisco and taught at Marin Academy. Ms. Sabundayo decided to move to India for a year in order to study yoga, but returned to the US to finish her masters degree. She resumed teaching in Los Angeles

before returning to Marin Academy, where she taught for nearly 15 years, serving as dean of the sophomore class, chair of the English department, and then dean of equity and inclusion. She finally moved to New Jersey to be the head of the upper school at Princeton Day School before taking the job as the head of the SSA Senior School.

Ms. Sabundayo’s love of travelling

I was a student in art or a student studying in India or a teacher teaching in India that all of these experiences have really kept me learning and alive in those particular ways.”

She credited her decision to move to Pittsburgh and take the job as the Senior School head to this love of travel and experience new things. She also said that she was drawn to Shady Side’s

values and community, as well as its focus on equity and inclusion.

Her excitement to interact with and encourage her students was immediately apparent to me: despite running a school, navigating remote learning and taking care of two young children all day, she responded to my initial emailed request for an interview in less than 15 minutes. Her willingness to speak with me and answer my silly questions about who her celebrity crushes are (for the record, she likes Brad Pitt, Idris Elba, Daniel Craig and Jack Johnson) shows a true desire to engage and build relationships with the community.

Outside of school, Ms. Sabundayo most enjoys activities in which she can make something with her hands. She enjoys painting, cooking, knitting, and gardening, and told me she has a secret dream of being

a woodworker after having successfully built a 6 x 3 x 3 compost bin that she built with her friend at her last house.

Her kids Teaghan, 9, and Quinnie, 4, will be attending Country Day in the fall. We look forward to welcoming Ms. Sabundayo, her children, and her husband to the Shady Side Academy community!



A collection of some of Ms. Sabundayo’s paintings

An Interview with President Griffith

By: Katie Sparvero

When Bart Griffith first introduced himself as president at the beginning of this school year, it was in a bright yellow suit, standing on stage, not on the senior quad, but in the Rauh theater. It was an unexpected beginning to a first year unlike any other. On that morning, no one could possibly have predicted that Mr. Griffith's first year would conclude with students, faculty, and administration alike only being visible to each other through computer and phone screens. Still, in reflecting back on his first year as president, Mr. Griffith sees the future with optimism.

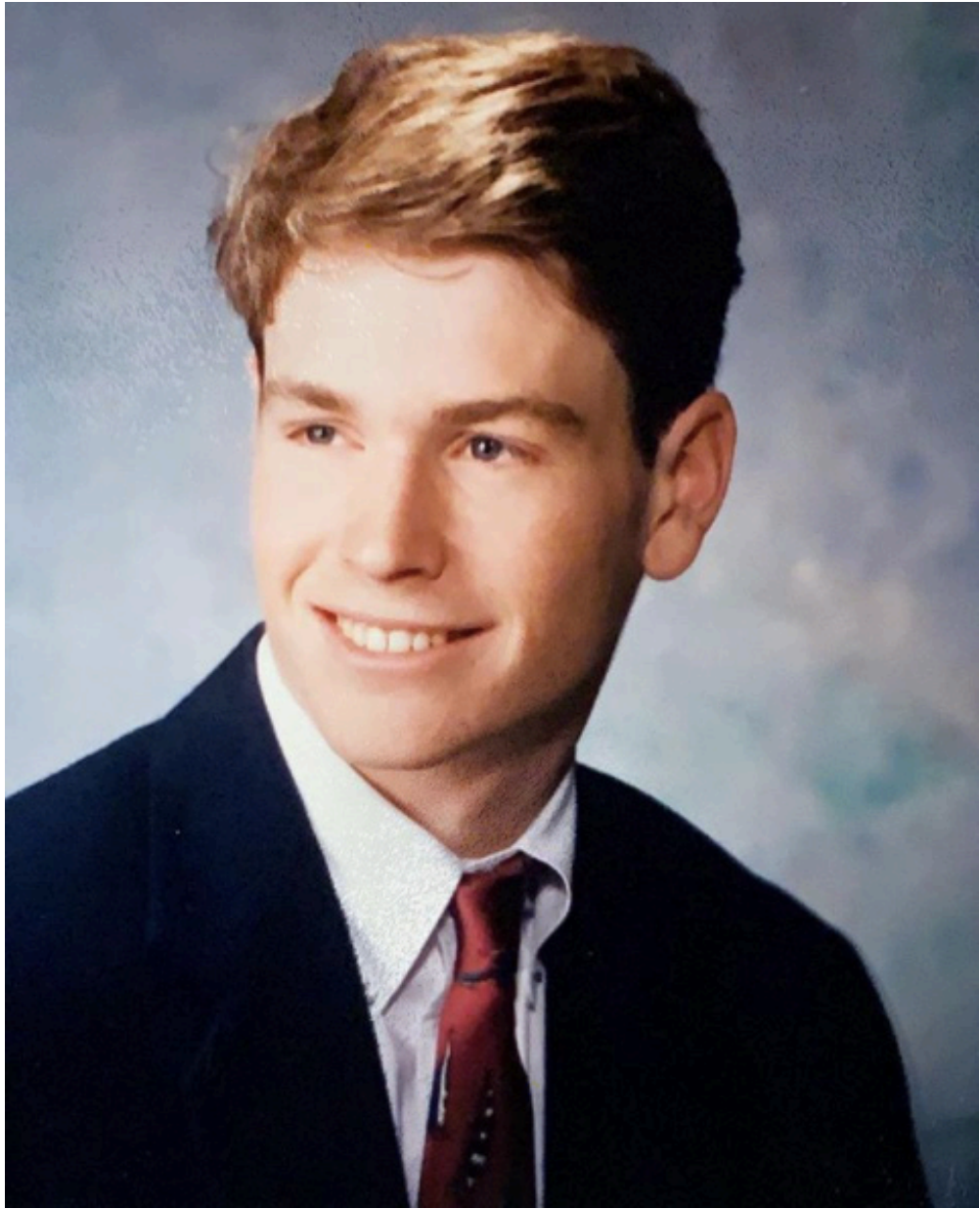
Unlike many other presidents of schools, Mr. Griffith returned to his alma mater, which reminded him that "there's no place like home." He never felt that he had to "[figure] out what planet [he had] landed on," but rather that Shady Side provided him with "the support of a network of relationships and histories that helped [him] to right away have trust in others and [his] place in the community." In returning to his home, Mr. Griffith came to Shady Side with a sense of confidence that allowed him to effectively lead the community, through normal and abnormal days. Beyond managing the school through a pandemic, Mr. Griffith has also had to build effective communication with students, faculty, and staff at all four campuses. In addition to frequent

visits to the other three campuses, Mr. Griffith has been highly visible at the Senior School, where students can often find him when walking to class or eating in the dining hall.

"Confidence, a willingness to make decisions that are uncomfortable and unpopular, and the ability to listen and trust in others."
- Mr. Griffith on how he makes decisions

mascot, Mr. Griffith spent much of the year working with a small student-led group on conversations surrounding the mascot and its future. Still, it is "connecting meaningfully with a range of people at SSA and doing [his] part to keep the community together and learning through the COVID-19 crisis" that Mr. Griffith is proudest of in a first year that he calls simply "inspiring."

As spring turns to summer and the 2019-20 school year comes to a close, Mr. Griffith is turning his attention to the next one. His main goal is to "continue to promote SSA's growth and development in an uncertain time for all of us." It's hardly an easy goal, but he will rely on the example of his father, a



Mr. Griffith , SSA class of 1993

His introduction of an assembly segment entitled "Ask the Prez," where Senior School students could submit questions as banal as "what is your favorite food" to "what are your plans surrounding the mascot" and have the chance to hear the answers at assembly, allowed for a look into the governing processes in a more relaxed setting. And, on questions surrounding the

surgeon and physician who serves as a model of "leadership as a kind of service that spans decades." He says that his decisions will all be made with "confidence, a willingness to make decisions that are uncomfortable and unpopular, and the ability to listen and trust in others." To the class of 2020 as they depart for their next endeavors, he reminds them to stay in touch with the Shady Side

community, and to the returning students, he asks them to look to the example set by the graduating class, both inside and outside the four walls of a classroom (and four sides of a computer).

Thank you to Mr. Griffith for taking the time out of your day to do this interview!



A *Final* Look at DISTANCE LEARNING



By: Paige Shea

As we approach the end of an unconventional (to say the least) school year, we are left with many new experiences that reflect these unprecedented times. One of the biggest adjustments to our everyday life has been online school, remote learning, or “Zoom University” as the internet has dubbed it. Without the face to face conversations, being able to sit around SSA’s round, wooden tables and have insightful discussions, and having the ability to stop by a teacher’s office and ask a quick question, are we really getting the same experience out of online school? The short answer is no, we are not, but there is still something to be said for distance learning.

For the first week or two, distance learning was definitely an adjustment. Even though we had two weeks of spring break to clear our minds and become accustomed to the quarantine lifestyle before distance learning began, it was still a sudden change. Meeting times and technical difficulties had to be figured out, and students and teachers alike were getting used to the newfound awkwardness of conducting class over

the computer. For many of us, remote learning meant more homework than before, as homework was assigned whenever class did not meet. Obviously, watching long videos and completing worksheets and packets is a lot less engaging and interesting than having class discussions, and becoming exhausted and having a headache from the computer screen by the end of the day were unavoidable occurrences. Normally impromptu meetings with teachers had to be pre-arranged, and

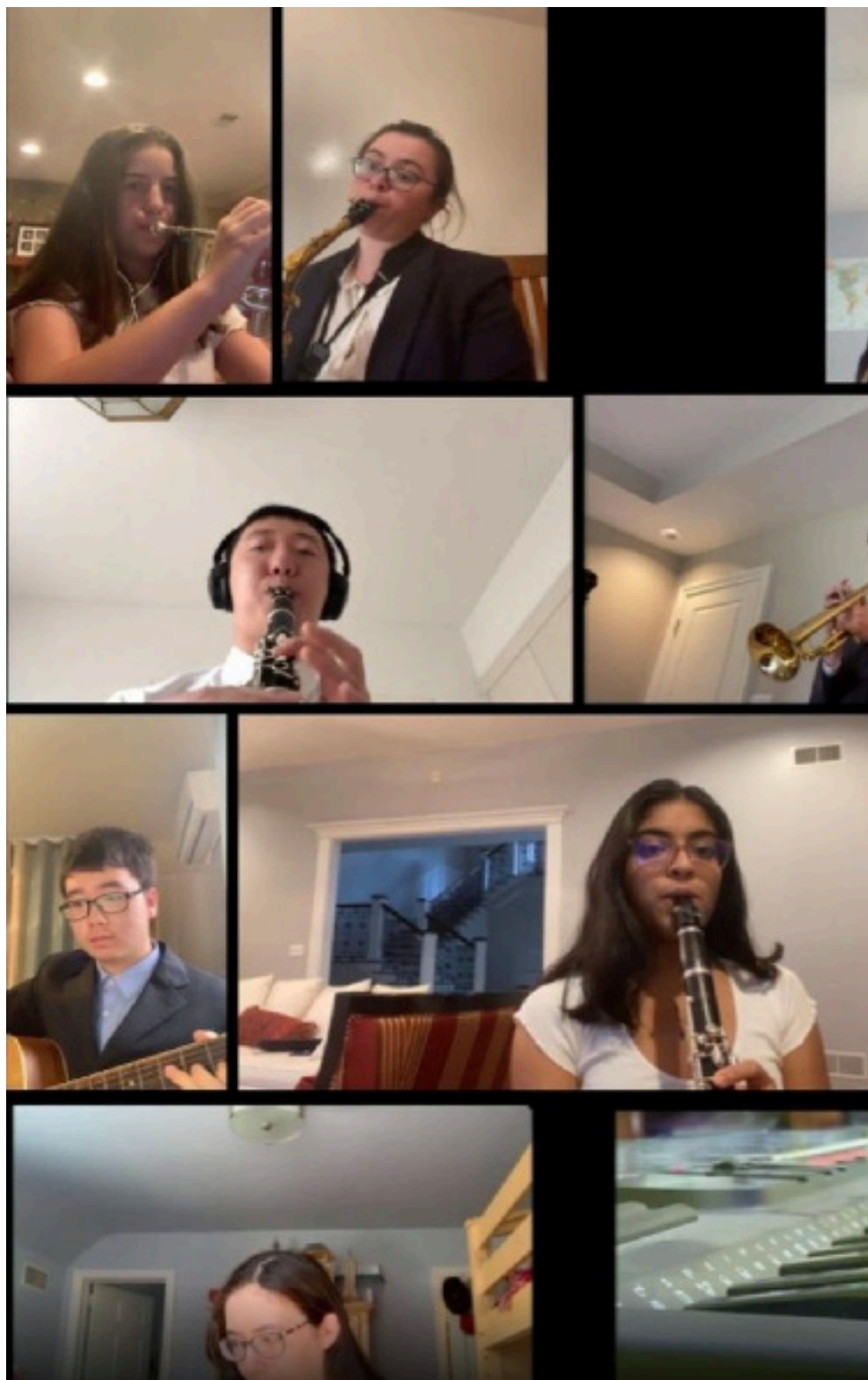
“I found that the lack of spontaneity was something that I took for granted, both in the classroom and the social aspect of school.”

many of us found that class discussions were far less relaxed than usual. I found that the lack of spontaneity was something that I took for granted, both in the classroom and the social aspect of school. We all got used to our new reality as the weeks went on, and our distance learning schedules began to become our normal routine. However, it was almost impossible to get through everything as planned because class did

not meet as often and the interruptions of working from home proved to be very distracting. The pass / fail grading system and lack of final exams certainly made the process much easier, but that in itself was another large adjustment.

However, moving things online wasn’t all bad. Many clubs kept doing activities as they had been before, and our usual school-wide assemblies simply moved to online videos. Advisory groups and clubs still met once a week, and SSA’s social media accounts became more active than ever. Even though Zoom class cannot replicate real class, it was still refreshing and enjoyable to see people’s faces, even if it was through the computer screen. Being able to converse with classmates and teachers gave a sense of

normalcy in a situation that has been very difficult and unexpected for all of us. The effort that SSA has put into keeping the sense of community and inclusion has certainly been comforting for all of us, especially in a difficult situation like this one, and having a tight-knit community makes this all much better. On the chance that this continues into next school year, we will definitely all be well equipped to handle it again.



COVID-19 and the College Process

By: Caroline Green

It's right there in SSA's Wikipedia entry: Shady Side Academy is a college preparatory school. Especially at the senior school, college admission drives much of what happens on and off campus. So, as COVID-19 changes the college process, SSA students will certainly be affected.

As for the senior class, college applications had already been submitted by the time the pandemic made significant landfall in the US, with most regular decision deadlines being in early to mid-January. However, this is not at all to say that the college process finished up as usual for these students. Acceptances and rejections were received from living rooms, and as colleges have shifted to online instruction for the spring and have closed their campuses,

plethora of colleges have become test-optional for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle in response to the cancellation of standardized testing dates, and no school in the country will require SAT subject tests, although a few ultra-selective schools will be recommending them.

While SATs and ACTs have been canceled through the beginning of June, Advanced Placement exams will still take place - at home. The College Board has designed 45-minute open-note, free response tests that students will view and upload online, as well as hours of video content reviewing for these exams. The tests, which begin May 11th and continue through May 22nd, will be very different in format than past years, but the College Board is confident that scores will accurately represent the level of student knowledge. The College Board has also assured students that colleges

and the SSA college counselors have been holding true to this belief with weekly emails (with themes like "it's going to be okay!" and "webinars of the week") and frequent activity on the college counseling Instagram page. For seniors, a May 1st virtual college decision celebration was held.

As for the fall, much is still unknown. Current juniors will be applying to colleges, some submitting standardized test scores, and some not, and colleges will be evaluating the applications in a new and different light. But for current seniors looking towards their freshman fall, more is arguably up in the air. College will certainly look different in the fall, but it is still unknown how exactly it will. A May NPR article outlined six possibilities, ranging from completely virtual learning to partial virtual learning to either limited groups or



accepted students could not visit campuses in order to make their final college decision. May 1st, the typical decision day, quickly approached as seniors were tasked with making the already difficult choice, determining where to spend their next four years, while hunkering down at home. Consequently, some colleges have adapted. A fairly long list of schools extended their decision deadlines, most for an additional month, including George Mason University, Macalester University, and Williams College.

Colleges have shifted to online communication with students in the form of information sessions and admissions interviews on Zoom, virtual college tours, and amplified resources to "chat" with current students or admissions officers. Helpful in the research of both prospective juniors and accepted seniors, these online resources have been useful in bridging the physical divide between college and home.

For juniors, spring is notoriously a time of standardized testing and academic stress. However, this too has been affected by the coronavirus. A

will award credit for high scores, as usual, on this year's exam. In an AP information presentation, Vanderbilt University, Brandeis University, and Boston College are just a few of the schools quoted saying they will award credit, and NYU has also posted on their website that they will grant credit.

Colleges have also issued statements to reassure students, parents, and counselors that they will be accommodating and understanding of academic and extracurricular changes occurring during this time. Haverford College recently announced via email that they "will be fully supportive of students with pass/fail grades, whose curricula are changed or disrupted,...who are experiencing fewer opportunities to pursue their non-academic interests" as well as facing additional difficult circumstances.

At Shady Side, the college counseling office has also adapted to the changing atmosphere. College counseling meetings now take place over Zoom, and daily office hours are also being held on the platform. Communication is proving to be key during this time,

limited interactions on campus. It also mentioned the possibility of a delayed start or a switch to "block" classes, where colleges would have more flexibility with constantly changing schedules. With financial concerns looming, most schools are hoping to safely open - at least partially - in the fall. The University of Pennsylvania's website explains that science will drive the school's decision about the fall, but they hope to be open with significant health and safety measures taken, like a system for isolating COVID-19 positive individuals and a way to maximize single bedroom dorms. They also mention that they "are planning for a likely combination of in-class and virtual teaching" in the coming semester. But, as the message, posted on April 27th, closes out, it states that more information is needed and no decision can be made just yet.

As with most aspects of life nowadays, time will tell. For now, college applicants are told to be patient (and fill their time with virtual college info sessions on Zoom and virtual tours on the websites).

Please Join us in Saying Goodbye to our Departing Faculty

MRS. LAU

By: Maevis Rosengart

One of my favorite moments as an advisee of Mrs. Lau is the sheer amount of excitement that fills everyone in our DR when she brings in a pan of her famous s'mores bars. While these treats always outdid everyone else's snacks, they are not only emblematic of our Wednesday meetings at 10:05, but of Mrs. Lau as a person. The layers of marshmallow, chocolate, and graham cracker crumbs symbolize the kindness, humor, and support that she brings to the SSA community.

Mrs. Lau has always spread kindness throughout her time at Shady Side, whether showing it through greeting students at the front of Rowe as they shuffle hastily to their first period classes or during her speeches at assembly. As students arrived at school this past Halloween, they were greeted by some of the faculty dressed as characters from Sesame Street. Mrs. Lau's entrance as Big Bird is just one of the many examples of how she brings lightness and happiness to our community. Through her kind demeanor towards students and other faculty, Mrs. Lau embodies the warmth and sweetness of the layer of roasted marshmallows

in her beloved s'mores bars.

Many people may assume Mrs. Lau has a serious personality because of her role as the head of the entire senior school, but once you get to know her, you will realize quite the opposite. If you have ever walked by the academic office during DR and heard waves of laughter, it was most likely due to Mrs. Lau delivering another one of her jokes. Her commentary on popular television shows and movies is a recurring topic during our DR conversations. Though Mrs. Lau has said that her favorite memories from her time at SSA were being an advisor and helping to develop the McIlroy Center and Glimsher Tech and Design Hub, I hope that our advisory discussion on Matt Bomer and his acting in White Collar is on that list too. Her sense of humor undoubtedly motivates those students who are still tired from the "unreasonably early" start to the school day, as does the sugar in the chocolate layer of her s'mores bars.

It was daunting for me to enter our DR room on the first day of sophomore year. I perpetually feared that, by revealing my keen ability to procrastinate on homework assignments and projects, I could potentially get in trouble. Yet, I would soon realize just how lucky I was to

have her as my advisor. Her wisdom has not only helped me gradually develop better studying habits, but she was able to give me and the rest of our advisory advice on how to handle nearly any possible situation. Her continuous support has been the glue of the SSA community, the graham cracker crust that holds the bar together.

Although it is heartbreaking to see one of the core elements of Shady Side leave, everyone at Lincoln School is so lucky to have Mrs. Lau as their new leader. We wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors!



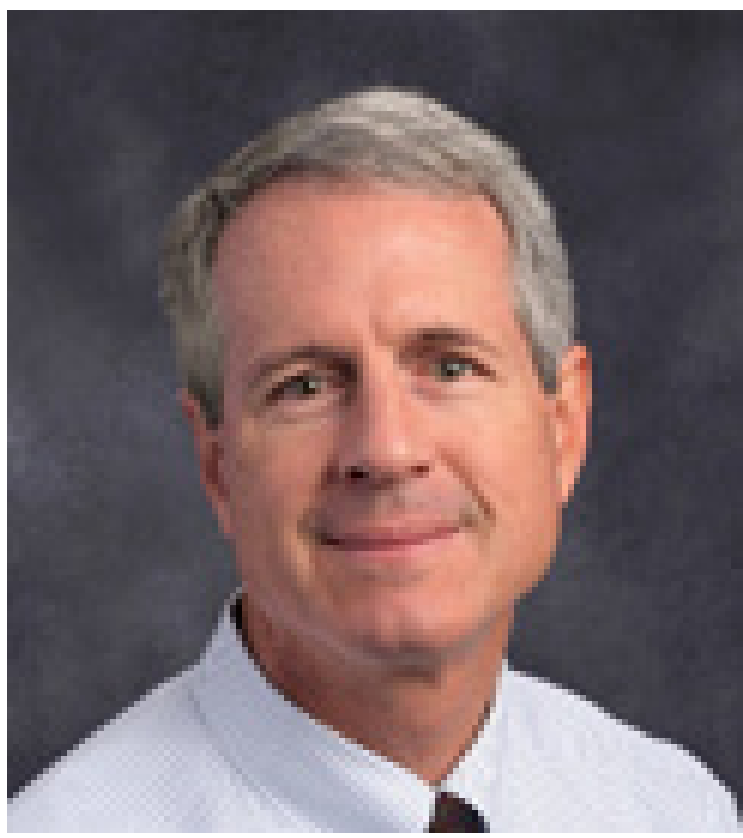
MS. SEWCHOK



By: Makenna Wolfanger

Ms. Sewchok departs Shady Side Academy after serving as our community's registrar. Always welcoming, she has helped students enroll for our classes, made any necessary changes, and kept our academics records in order. In addition to her primary duties, she also helped in the Glimcher Makers Space to teach students on the sewing machines. Ms. Sewchok also worked with Mrs. Lynch's advisory group, while she was on maternity leave.

Hired in 2017, she has always been impressed with how focused SSA students were on their academics. One of her major contributions she made while working as the registrar was to create an online process for advisors to help students track their graduation requirements. Each year, she has looked forward to hearing about the creativity and accomplishments that students made during their Senior projects. She plans to continue teaching and finding creative ways to engage with students in the future. We will miss you Ms. Sewchok!



MR. AIKEN

By: Julia Roupe

As a member of the class of 1979, Mr. Aiken has been a member of the Shady Side Academy community since he began his education here in kindergarten. After graduating from Shady Side, Mr. Aiken attended Denison University, and, just a few years after graduating in 1983, he returned to SSA as a member of the faculty. I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Aiken a few weeks ago to reflect on his time here at SSA.

When asked why he decided to come back to Shady Side after college, he answered, “I met with SSA President, Dr. A. Emerson Johnson III, who enthusiastically talked to me about the merits of pursuing a career in teaching at SSA... While I initially chose a different path, I soon found myself drawn back to Shady Side when I applied for the position of Alumni Coordinator. After interviewing, I was informally asked if I could commit to SSA for at least two years if I was offered the position. My answer was “yes,” and, needless to say, I kept my promise thirty-three years later!”

Though Mr. Aiken started out in the Alumni/Development Office, he was still able to express his passion for art by teaching a weekly pottery class. Five years later, he began co-teaching two more art classes with his former teacher, Mr. Phil Joyce. “I was honored to work with the legendary Mr. Joyce, and I could not have asked for a more talented or better mentor! The next year, Phil invited me to teach two of my own art classes ... This set the wheels in motion for a career change.”

In 1995, then current SSA President Dr. Peter J. Kountz and Senior School Head Dr. Sarah Eldridge both encouraged and helped Mr. Aiken to become a full-time art teacher. Reflecting on this decision, Mr. Aiken said, “While I thoroughly enjoyed working in the Alumni/Development Office and interacting with so many incredibly kind, generous, and dedicated alumni, choosing to teach art full time was the best career decision I ever made.”

In addition to being a member of the Alumni/Development Office and Art Department, Mr. Aiken has positively impacted Shady Side through his dedication to clubs and

sports. He has been an advisor for all forms and the faculty advisor to the Yearbook and Lifers Club while also serving on a number of committees. He has also coached 16 different athletic teams and PE programs, including soccer, golf, tennis, baseball, ice hockey, lacrosse and bowling.

The SSA community will be forever grateful to Mr. Aiken and all he has done in his years as a faculty member. Mr. Aiken has so many fond memories of working at Shady Side over the years, including “making numerous lifelong friendships, working with outstanding teachers, coaches, and mentors, ... making a grand entrance to a 1960’s-theme Scholarship Fund Dance in Curry Gym on a motorcycle, ... floating in a hot air balloon over campus during Homecoming, ... building up the 3D art program, being the SSA Homecoming Artist in

classes. Along with their fellow senior class Lifers, each daughter traveled with me to the junior school to help run the traditional Lynne Voelp Reed Day celebration. Of course, I will forever cherish my memory of each daughter walking across the Senior School graduation stage proudly holding a Shady Side Academy diploma!”

Finally, I asked him what it was that he would miss most about SSA. “Most of all, I will miss teaching and coaching all of the terrific students and athletes, and interacting with wonderful colleagues, staff, coaches, maintenance personnel, and Metz workers on a daily basis. I will also miss guiding my freshmen advisees in their transition to the Senior School, and of course, teaching in the BVAC every day alongside Mr. Goodwin and Ms. Batch. Although I am retiring, I don’t feel like I am saying “Goodbye” to

Shady Side at all. Instead, after spending nearly half a century at SSA as a student, administrator, teacher, coach and parent, Shady Side has become my second home, and I will still remain a familiar face on campus in the years ahead!”

I had the pleasure of taking Mr. Aiken’s ceramics class in the spring of 2019; though it was only a term class, his constant encouragement and positive attitude definitely impacted me. I know I am not alone in saying that I will miss seeing Mr. Aiken in the

dining hall, and waving to him when I walk into the BVAC. Mr. Aiken, you will be missed by the entire SSA community, and we all wish you the best of luck in your retirement!



2005, establishing and developing a highly popular glass fusing program, organizing and promoting student art shows, being the lead artist for two Carnegie Museum dinosaurs (one of which resides in Rowe Hall), receiving a Farrell teaching award, ... attending school events with my wife, Mary, who has worked in the SSA junior school library for the past fifteen years, [and] having the privilege of teaching and coaching literally thousands of incredible SSA art students!” However, Mr. Aiken says that his best memories of Shady Side are of his daughters. “I was always the happiest and proudest person on campus when my daughters stopped by to visit me in the Art Department, waved to me from across the quad or at an assembly, joined me for lunch in the dining hall, spent time with me at school dances when I was chaperoning, and enrolled in my glass

Mr. Aiken would like to give a special thanks to the following people:

Phil Joyce, Buddy Hendershot, Harry Fleishman, John Knepper, Bill Tadler, Angela Rumble/Irvine, Richard Gable, Bill Sayles, Carol-Jean McGreevy-Morales, Dennis Thimons, Ben Sauers, Bob Stiffler, David Gross, Walter Jones, Bob Kaelin, Joyce Evans, Alex Howsen, Stephen Davis, Carl Walzer, Bill McCabe, George Kasunich, and Richard Gregory

MR. LOGUE

And That's a (Turkey) Wrap! — Saying Goodbye to Mr. Logue

By: Amy Yu

When you first see him, you would think of Mr. Logue as the towering-over-everyone, scary-until-you-meet-him football coach. However, if you get familiar with him, you will be like most people to recognize Mr. Logue as the go-to guy for lunch decisions, math help, or just life advice. That's the process I went through with getting to know Mr. Logue.

I first met Mr. Logue in my fearful freshman year when I had him for Math II. I was new to SSA at the time and mostly quiet, so having the intimidating Mr. Logue for math class didn't help my shyness. Mr. Logue did just the opposite. He helped bring me out of my shell by "encouraging" me to put my homework problems on the board under

the premise that my grade would suffer. Spoiler alert: it worked. I bet he regrets that considering how "disruptive" I am now in his Calculus class.

Mr. Logue isn't just changing students' lives in the academic aspect, but also other elements of the SSA community. In the fall, you can often catch Mr. Logue on the turf coaching football. In the spring, you can see him on the track instead, coaching throwing. After athletics, Mr. Logue heads up to his apartment in Croft and later, the dining hall. On Wednesdays, he can be found eating and talking to everyone around him at Community Dinner for boarders including me.

When I asked him to reflect on his past six years at SSA, Mr. Logue particularly finds pride in the football's



team growth and success over the years. He hilariously remembers the Dean of Students' reaction to the 2016 senior class prank with a smile. I assume that the SSA sandwich bar is an important landmark for Mr. Logue, where he has been getting the exact same wheat-turkey-lettuce-tomato-mayo wrap for lunch for four years.

In the past, when I heard other students praise how a teacher changed their lives, I never had a similar experience until I met Mr. Logue. My classmates and I were saddened to hear about his departure a couple months ago (some people even cried in class). His presence will truly be missed next year at the football field, Croft, the math office, the sandwich bar, and of course, by all SSA people.

On behalf of the entire SSA community, good luck in the Golden State, Mr. Logue!



MS. AMENT

By: Gabbie Bernier



One of the most beloved teachers at Shady Side, Ms. Ament, is retiring this year after 24 years of teaching at the Senior School.

Before teaching at Shady Side, Ms. Ament majored in chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University; however, she enjoyed her math classes much more than her chemistry classes. After college, Ms. Ament became a computer programmer at hospitals, helping them convert from typewriters to computers. Even while doing this, she was drawn back to her love of math. She decided to

take classes again to become a teacher. She then joined the Math Department at SSA. In addition to being a math teacher, Ms. Ament has been a student council advisor, head form advisor, led the Service Learning Club, coached badminton, served on the Admissions, Disciplinary, and Diversity Committee, and helped out with the Math Club.

When I asked Ms. Ament what some of her favorite memories at Shady Side were, she had a difficult time deciding on just one. Instead, she explained that it's not just one moment that makes Shady Side great; it's all the time spent with students. It's when a student is having a hard time and then they finally have that light bulb moment. It's when a student continues

to work hard even though they are having trouble with the material. It's when students are excited about learning new things. This is what Ms. Ament will miss the most, as she explained. While she will definitely miss spending time with her amazing

colleagues as well as preparing for her classes, Ms. Ament said she will immensely miss the special Shady Side students that make the school

so great. Ms. Ament has been an integral part of the Shady Side Academy community and we will all miss her next year.

Ms. Ament, We hope to see you around campus every once and a while and we wish you the best in your retirement!



SEÑORA ALVAREZ

By: Melody Yuan

Azucena Alvarez has been working at Shady Side Academy since 2012 as a Spanish teacher and dorm parent. She is moving to a Dubai American school where she will teach Spanish, to not only high schoolers, but also to 7th and 8th graders. There is not a boarding program at the school that she is going to, so Senora Alvarez will be a day teacher.

I was able to interview her last week and was able to gain insight into her thoughts on her time at Shady Side Academy. The greatest lesson that she learned from being at SSA was how high school isn't "... all about grades. Instead, it's about developing a good character." She explained that "I went to a public high school in Spain and I always thought that high school was just a place to learn information to do well on a standardized test. Here, I learned that it's not entirely about grades and an SAT score, instead it's a place to learn and grow."

Senora Alvarez is going to miss many aspects of Shady Side Academy, especially the connections with students. She said, "When students have an older sibling, I know the name of their sibling, I know their parents, I know where their older siblings are at college, I feel like a

part of their life. When I go to a new school, I will miss having that background with the students." She will also miss the extreme kindness of all of the students. She described all of the students as "wanting to learn and better themselves" and will miss the "sense of kindness just because it's the right thing to do." Since Senora Alvarez is also a dorm parent she fondly recalled, "I will also miss the girls in the dorm. This is something I'm already missing and it's the giggling. In the past I've been in my [third floor] apartment and I could hear girls giggling on the second floor from my desk and I would laugh. I would have no idea why they were laughing but it was contagious and I will miss that." She also said, "I understand now how seniors are feeling - that they don't have a proper graduation, they are not able to say goodbye to people. And I feel the same way - I can't believe that I can't say this stuff to people in person!"

Finally, I asked her what message she would like to say to the Shady Side community to say goodbye. This warranted a flurry of answers and a few tears. She expressed that "everything I have learned as an educator, I learned here at SSA. They have always supported me and been extremely kind." In addition, she learned that "you can always



learn from your students and my students have taught me more than I've taught them." She said, "I am so incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to become a better teacher. I have received so much love over the years and I went to work happy every day. It's very hard to say goodbye to a place that has given you everything. I'm so thankful to have worked here and for the administration, my colleagues, and the students." Finally, she stated that, "I will always think about Shady Side and have it in my heart. Wherever I go, if I ever see a SSA graduate, it will always be like family for me."

The entire Shady Side Academy community will miss you, Ms. Alvarez, and we all wish you the best of luck moving forward!

A FINAL LETTER FROM YOUR EDITORS

The editorial staff would like to thank everyone for a great year, even if it didn't end the way we expected! We fully intend on providing hard copies of the newspaper again next school year, given that the situation allows us to. If we are still doing distance learning, then we will continue to publish the newspaper online until we are back in school. We hope that regardless of the format you have all enjoyed reading the newspaper this year, and we can't wait to continue making more issues. Stay safe and have a wonderful summer!

Your editors,

Gabi Jegasothy, Paige Shea, Julia Roupe, Gabbie Bernier