Growing in the Right Direction

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

COMMENCEMENT 2013 • ZACHARY KAUFMAN ’96 • MELENA RYZIK ’94
The following icons denote stories related to key goals of SSA’s strategic plan, entitled Challenging Students to Think Expansively, Act Ethically and Lead Responsibly.

For more information, visit shadysideacademy.org/strategicplan.
DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:

In the first week of March, Shady Side did something it hasn’t done in many years: We announced that our incoming pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes for 2013-2014 were full. These days, especially in smaller metropolitan areas like Pittsburgh, the independent school admissions season runs well into the summer. We’re happy to admit qualified students in June, July or even August if there is space in a given class. Therefore, the fact that our PK and K classes were full at such an early time is indeed something to cheer.

The improvement in Junior School admissions has not happened by accident. Over the past few years, we’ve been investing in our Junior School buildings and grounds to make them more inviting to students and families. Ellen McConnell, in just one year as head of school, has made important changes to our academic program (most notably the introduction of Singapore Math), implemented a new character education program and increased our student support staff. We also adjusted our Junior School tuition rates, particularly at the entry-level grades, based on an analysis of competitor schools. Learn more about the great things happening at the Junior School on page 10.

It has become axiomatic that everything we do at any grade level or division must be intentional; if we can’t explain compellingly why or how we are doing something, we should probably look to change it. With that said, the work being done at the Junior School is simultaneously happening at the Middle and Senior Schools. Heads of School Amy Nixon and Kate Vavpetic are looking closely at all aspects of their curricula to ensure we are teaching the skills, content, modes of thinking and behaviors that will enable our students to be successful. They’re collaborating with their faculties to ensure the classroom experience is consistent from teacher to teacher – at once preserving the teacher autonomy that makes the independent school experience unique while limiting variability in teacher expectations, assessments and student workload.

Student feedback is also vitally important to us. This year we’ve formalized a process that allows Middle and Senior School students to offer anonymous, constructive feedback about their classes and teachers. As president, I have monthly lunches with student government representatives to better understand the Shady Side student experience. Collectively, these students have been an effective sounding board for me, and their thoughtfulness and insight have been especially helpful.

Most of the work being done internally is driven by the initiatives of our Strategic Plan. It also reflects a cultural shift at the Academy, one in which feedback from teachers, administrators, students and parents is used to refine and enhance our programs. Change, I know, can be inherently unsettling, and we are doing our best to allay fears and provide a compelling case for any significant changes. While our long-term goals may be ambitious, we are moving at a very deliberate pace – a bit faster than the proverbial turtle, but not quite as fast as the hare.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Cangiano
Academy President
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM WINS STATE TITLE

The Middle School Science Olympiad Team placed 11th of 60 teams at the 2013 Science Olympiad National Tournament on May 17-18, in Dayton, Ohio. Eighth grader Sameer Annamraju and ninth grader Noah McDaniel placed first in the Road Scholar event, becoming SSA’s first-ever national champions in an individual event. SSA advanced to the national tournament after winning the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad Tournament in April. It marked the team’s fourth state title and its eighth trip to nationals in the past 11 years. The national tournament is the pinnacle of achievement for 120 of the country’s best Science Olympiad teams, representing more than 2,000 students.

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY INDUCTS 22

Twenty-two seniors were recognized for academic excellence by being inducted into the Cum Laude Society on April 17, 2013. Inductees were Blake Beckemeyer, Mia Borelli, Maclean Calihan, Perry Cao, Anthony Costa, Ollie Dowd, Harrison Gottlieb, Joseph Klein, Tara Lee, Maggie Leech, Paul McCullough, Mary McLaughlin, Alok Nimgaonkar, Danielle Perelman, Athena Petredis, Danielle Plung, Michael Pohl, Madison Pollock, Hibiki Sakai, Christopher Sawicki, Ayesha Shah, Paul Steenkiste, Felicia Tissenbaum and Lia Winter. The keynote address was given by international reporter Carmen Gentile ’92.

THREE SENIORS WIN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Three seniors were awarded scholarships in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program, thus earning the distinguished title of National Merit Scholar. Tara Lee and Paul Steenkiste won National Merit $2500 Scholarships, while Christopher Sawicki won a National Merit H.J. Heinz Company Foundation Scholarship of $2,500 per year for four years.
SENIOR WINS NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

Senior Blake Beckemeyer won a national essay contest, in which the prize was a scholarship to attend a weeklong congressional seminar in Washington, D.C. The contest, sponsored by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, invited high school applicants to submit an essay on the topic “How does the Monroe Doctrine determine our past and present dominance as a world power?” Beckemeyer’s essay was selected as a winner after being judged locally, regionally and nationally. Beckemeyer and the other scholarship winners attended the Washington Workshops Congressional Seminar from June 22-28.

SEVENTH GRADER WINS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARD

Seventh grader Chelsea Carver was selected as a winner of the Young Naturalist Award for 2013, presented by the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Her essay A Study of the Effectiveness of Deer Repellents on the Eating Habits of White-Tailed Deer was one of two national winners for seventh grade. The nationwide science-based research competition for kids in grades 7-12 was developed by the museum to promote young people’s active participation in the sciences.

JUNIOR FINISHES 17TH AT SPEECH & DEBATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior Shaun Gohel earned an overall ranking of 17th at the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships, held in Durban, South Africa, in early April. Gohel and sophomore Tyler Demchak attended the international competition, along with Speech and Debate Coach Mary Krauland and Senior School Head Kate Vavpetic. The event featured 108 students from 13 countries. Gohel reached the Grand Finals and finished second in Interpretive Reading, and also placed 12th in Impromptu Speaking and 11th in After Dinner Speaking. His 17th place overall finish is a tremendous accomplishment for a first-timer at this competition.

JUNIOR RECEIVES NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARD

Junior Sydney Ayers won a Silver Medal in digital art for her artwork “Somnambulatory Abstraction” at the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, held May 31 at Carnegie Music Hall in New York City. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker delivered the keynote address, and awards were presented by designer Zac Posen and entertainer Usher.

JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER’S ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN NCTM JOURNAL

Fourth grade teacher Lisa Budd co-authored an article that was published in the May 2013 issue of Teaching Children Mathematics, the official journal of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). Budd co-wrote the article with two Chatham University professors. The article, titled “Let’s Take a Road Trip,” describes a set of interactive, hands-on classroom activities for elementary math teachers that use license plates and local scenes to sharpen students’ math skills.
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

ARTBEAT
From May 3-24, Shady Side Academy hosted ArtBeat, a professional art exhibition featuring 19 top emerging and established Pittsburgh-based visual artists. On May 3, more than 100 guests mingled with the artists at the opening reception and viewed artwork on display in the Benedum Visual Arts Center and Hillman Center for Performing Arts.

FARMERS MARKET
Now in its third year, the Fox Chapel Farmers Market at Shady Side Academy opened for the 2013 season on June 12, and will run weekly through Oct. 23. The market is open to the public on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., and features locally sourced seasonal produce, food and specialty items. The Farmers Market was started by Shady Side Academy in 2011 as a part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and promoting healthy eating habits.

CAREER CONNECTIONS EVENT FEATURES ALUMNI, PARENT SPEAKERS
Shady Side Academy hosted its first Career Connections event on May 2 on the Senior School campus. The event gave juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn about different careers from 15 successful alumni, parents and trustees in a variety of fields including accounting, engineering, journalism, medicine and business. The event was sponsored by the SSA Community Connections Committee, a group that was formed as a result of the Strategic Plan.

NOTES FROM THE PLAYGROUND
The Junior School campus served as the backdrop for a new free outdoor concert series this summer, sponsored by the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. Notes From the Playground featured three family-friendly shows on the playground on Thursday evenings. The 2013 series included the Josh & Gab Show on June 20, the Sidewalk String Band on July 18 and the Calvin Stemley Jazz Quartet on Aug. 1.

SSA FARM EXPANSION
The SSA Farm officially expanded to the Junior School in April, thanks to 55 volunteers who transformed a patch of grass near the PK building into a keyhole-shaped garden bed. The basis for the design came from permaculture techniques and from garden designs created by Tekla Hilton’s '77 fifth grade math students. The garden was planted with a variety of vegetables chosen by the student body. The SSA Farm also expanded to the Middle School, where a small raised garden bed behind the school provided space for outdoor classes, as well as fresh herbs, tomatoes and zucchini.
STUDENT PERFORMANCES

ORIGINAL THEATRE WORKS FESTIVAL FEATURES STUDENT PLAYS
The second annual Original Theatre Works Festival was held May 15-16, showcasing a collection of 10-minute plays and monologues written and performed by Senior School students. The plays ranged from drama to comedy, and touched on many themes relevant to young people today.

WEST SIDE STORY
The Senior School winter musical, West Side Story, was held Feb. 8-10, in the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. More than 75 students participated in the cast, crew and pit of the musical, which was directed by Dana Hardy-Bingham. Feature roles included seniors Noah Sprock as Tony and Carianne Lee as Maria. The student orchestra, directed by Dr. Dan Brill, was nominated for a Gene Kelly Award for Excellence in High School Musical Theater by the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera. SSA was one of five schools nominated in the Best All-Student Orchestra category.

KINDERGARTEN PLAY
The kindergarten class performed its underwater-themed play May 15-16. The students shared fun facts about the ocean and its inhabitants in between songs and dances. The play was based on the book The Rainbow Fish.

THE KING AND I
Middle School students presented the winter musical The King and I for parents and guests on March 1. A total of 37 students appeared in the cast, with lead roles going to eighth grader Dante King as the King and eighth grader Felicia Reuter as Anna Leonowens.
1ST GRADE PLAY
On May 7, the first grade performed its annual play. The students shared what they had learned about the Polar Regions through an entertaining Hollywood Squares-style game show. And of course, it wouldn’t be a first grade play without a show-stopping dance number. This year, the students showed off their disco moves to “We Are Family.”

4TH GRADE GREEK MUSEUM
On April 24, the fourth grade held its 15th annual Greek Museum. The students assumed the roles of Greek mythological or historical figures and became living statues in the second floor hallway, upstairs computer lab and fourth grade classrooms. Students researched and wrote their own speeches, designed their costumes and created a “pedestal” on which to stand.

3RD GRADE STATE FAIR
The third grade class held its annual State Fair on March 5. Each student was assigned a state to research. Students performed at assembly, singing American-themed songs, sharing facts about their states and playing instruments. Family and friends viewed the state projects on display in the classrooms, including dioramas, books, postcards, biography riddles and biography videos.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PLAY
The pre-kindergarten students performed for their families on May 24, showing off their creative and singing skills. Students performed a number of songs about transportation, with students taking turns performing in cardboard vehicles.
SSA students participate in community service throughout the year, demonstrating respect, responsibility and kindness, three of the Academy’s guiding principles. Here are some of the projects they organized during winter and spring 2013:

- Nearly 325 volunteers from Shady Side Academy participated in hands-on community service projects at eight locations around Pittsburgh on the Academy’s third annual MLK Day of Service on Jan. 21, 2013. The volunteers, which included 218 students in grades PK-12 and 105 parents, faculty and staff, completed projects for Operation Walk Pittsburgh, Bethlehem Haven Shelter, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, HealthSouth Harmarville Rehabilitation Hospital, Kingsley Center of East Liberty, Woodlands Foundation, Braddock Carnegie Library and H.J. Heinz Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

- A group of Senior School students went to the Apache reservation in San Carlos, Ariz., as part of alternative spring break. They worked with the CDC and the Army to help control the spread of ticks within the dog population. The ticks were jumping from dogs to Apache children and causing sickness and death from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.


- A No Soap Left Behind drive at the Senior School collected more than 150 items to Light of Life Rescue Mission, which provides shelter and food for the homeless.

- Twenty Senior School students spent time volunteering at the Children’s Institute in Pittsburgh, where they had a great time playing games with the residents.
• Varsity tennis players Emma Perelman, Amanda Murphy and Madison Mordoh raised more than $10,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation through the sixth annual Swing for a Cure event, held March 3 at the CitiParks Mellon Tennis Bubble. It marked the highest amount raised in the event’s history. Swing for a Cure is a tennis clinic for children ages 4-14, taught by SSA varsity coach Tom Mercer along with Perelman, a USTA nationally ranked junior player, and her SSA teammates. Emma’s older sister, SSA alumna Sara Perelman ’11, created Swing for a Cure six years ago to raise money for JDRF. To date, the event has raised more than $45,000 for this worthwhile cause.

• Seniors Evan Benza, Joe Klein and Nico Fedusa were recognized by the Allegheny Heart Institute for captaining a team that raised more than $1,500 at the 10th Annual Hearts in the Park Walk, held May 11. The students were also acknowledged by Pittsburgh City Council President Darlene Harris for their efforts.

• The freshman class held a Paper Products Drive for North Hills Community Outreach, collecting approximately $250 worth of paper products.

• Middle School students raised $730.92 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by competing in the “Pennies for Patients” contest. Each grade was given a bucket outside the library, and students were encouraged to fill it with coins and paper bills.

• The third grade participated in the third annual Jump Rope for Heart, earning a record $3,493.25 for the American Heart Association. On April 18, the third graders held the “jump off” event by teaching their kindergarten buddies some jump rope skills and enjoyed a full afternoon of friendly jumping competition.

• Middle School students held a raffle on Jan. 31 and a bake sale on Feb. 14 to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Students raised a total of $587.16.

• The Junior School held a “Hearts for Haiti” fundraiser to support schoolchildren in Haiti, raising $350 the week of Feb. 11-15. Fifth grade students sold paper hearts before school for $1 apiece, which students decorated and displayed in the main lobby.

• Two service projects at the Middle and Junior Schools benefited Bethlehem Haven Women’s Shelter. Middle School students launched a collection drive for blankets and winter coats, while Junior School students enjoyed Pajama Day as a fundraiser for Bethlehem Haven. The effort resulted in more than 30 coats being donated and a total of $334.36 for the shelter.

• Kindergarten students raised $1,647 for Project Bundle-Up by participating in “Bounce for Bundle-Up,” an annual service project. During February, the kindergarteners worked with their third grade buddies to practice dribbling basketballs. On “bounce day,” the third graders counted how many times their kindergarten buddies bounced a basketball for three minutes – averaging 300 bounces apiece. The students collected pledges from family and friends to support their efforts.

• Fourth graders collected 528 shelter-friendly and animal-friendly items to benefit the Animal Rescue League through the annual Furry Friends Project in May.
The second floor of the Shady Side Academy Junior School has been transformed into a museum lined with statues of the gods and heroes of Greek mythology. In one corner stands the valiant monster-slayer Perseus. Nearby is Hera, supreme goddess of women and marriage.

Dressed in togas and standing on pedestals (decorated desks), the statues are actually fourth graders taking part in what has become an annual ritual known as the Greek Museum, now in its 15th year.
Right now the feedback and energy is so positive that I am just going to keep riding that train.

– Junior School Head
Ellen McConnell

The students stand frozen until someone pushes the “buttons” on their pedestals. Then, these mythological characters come alive to tell their personal stories of adventure and intrigue, bravery and human frailty. It’s an interdisciplinary project that blends literature, writing, history, costume design and public speaking.

Among the statues is Greek mathematician Archimedes – actually 10-year-old Katie Sparvero, who wears an ivy crown, sandals and a handmade pin shaped into the number pi. “I like math,” explains Sparvero, when asked why she chose this character. “It’s just always been easy for me.”

While not all of Sparvero’s classmates find math as easy as “pi,” more and more Junior School students are feeling confident with their mathematical skills thanks to a powerful curriculum commonly called “Singapore Math.” The name refers to a style of learning used in Singapore where math test scores rank among the world’s best.

New Junior School Head Ellen McConnell rolled out the program in K–5 classrooms after seeing student learning and test scores soar from using the Math in Focus: A Singapore Math Approach curriculum at her previous school, Isidore Newman School in New Orleans. Teachers at the Junior School underwent extensive training in these methods last summer and are already seeing the results of their hard work.

“I have students who had been struggling with math who are now making tremendous progress,” fourth grade teacher Lisa Budd says. “They aren’t just memorizing facts, but learning problem-solving strategies.”

“Singapore Math” is just one of the many exciting changes underway since McConnell took over the helm of the Junior School this past fall. Beloved traditions like the Greek Museum are, of course, being upheld. But McConnell has brought her fresh vision and innovative ideas to make what was already an excellent school even better.

In addition to overhauling the math curriculum, she has helped to implement a new humanities course in the fifth grade. A character education program now encourages students to live “The Shady Side Way,” abiding by the Academy’s Guiding Principles. More time is being devoted to arts instruction. An enriched reading and writing curriculum is in the works. An expanded After School Explorers program with bus transportation to the Senior School campus has kids begging their parents not to pick them up early. Fourth-graders are learning the basics of financial literacy, and all students have access to more support from school counselors and learning specialists.

McConnell’s energy for all of these undertakings comes from the students at the Junior School, who make sure their head of school is the first to know about every tooth they’ve lost, so she can post their grinning pictures on her “milestones” bulletin board. They make themselves at home with the basket of picture books in her office – where the door is almost always open – and update her regularly about their pets and siblings.

“I’m like a cell phone, and my bars get recharged by hugs – the two weeks of spring break were brutal!” she says. “But I also wouldn’t
be doing all of this if I didn’t get the sense from the faculty that they are jazzed by it.”

“I am very mindful that this was a great school before I got here, and we are just enhancing what I’ve inherited,” she continues. “So I am constantly checking in with teachers and parents to make sure they are in good shape and to see if there is a need to slow down. Right now the feedback and energy is so positive that I am just going to keep riding that train.”

Indeed, since McConnell’s arrival, there’s been a renewed sense of vitality and enthusiasm at the Junior School. It’s not just the flashy events, like the cotton candy machine during Homecoming week or the Mardi Gras celebration in February. You can feel the positive energy even in the quieter moments, like each morning in the carpool line, where McConnell or another faculty member greets students as they arrive. It’s a small thing, but a palpable one that sets the tone for the whole school day, according to Shady Side parent Kim Myers, whose daughter, Kira, is entering fourth grade, and son, Andrew, will start sixth grade at the Middle School this fall.

“Seeing Ms. McConnell out there with her smile and enthusiasm is contagious,” Myers says. “My kids are laughing, and it helps create a great morning for the kids and me.”

April Park, whose daughter, Madeleine, just completed kindergarten at the Junior School, agrees.

“Shady Side has always had a wonderful academic reputation, but with Ellen’s arrival, people are looking at the school a little differently,” Park says. “There is a new electricity and vibrancy here. And it’s still very caring. My daughter feels safe and comfortable. On weekends she wants to know why she can’t go to school, and she has zero interest in taking a summer break.”

Inside the Junior School, classrooms are “noisy” with active learning and inquiry, and children aren’t told to walk quietly in a straight line if they feel like skipping down the bright hallways, eager to get to their next period.

“My personal philosophy is ‘Nothing without joy’ or ‘Niente senza gioia’ from the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education,” McConnell says. “If we can’t get the kids to come to the Junior School with a smile every day, then the next 12 years of their lives are going to be pretty tough. If the children are skipping happily down the halls from time to time, that’s okay. Of course we are making sure they are respectful of one another’s classrooms, but we are allowing a little bit more free flow.”

Parents felt the difference early on when asked to attend “Hopes and Dreams” conferences with teachers in the fall to share their own thoughts about their child’s social, emotional and intellectual journey. They’ve also seen positive changes at home from a new character education program designed to foster development of a strong moral compass.

Students are rewarded with special handwritten postcards and recognized by teachers at weekly all-school assemblies if they are caught living “The Shady Side Way” – that is, being honest, kind, responsible, respectful and safe. Blue wristbands serve as reminders to the students of these expectations for their behavior.

“Kids are used to adults telling them what they’ve done wrong,” McConnell says. “But reframing discipline to catch and point out which students are doing the right thing has helped to reframe our culture here.”

Buzz about the Junior School is spreading throughout the Pittsburgh area and beyond.
“People just love it so much that you can’t help when you go out into the community to talk about it because of the positive energy,” Myers says.

As a result, inquiries about the Junior School from potential Shady Side families are at an all-time high. And for the first time in more than a decade, the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes are filled for the upcoming fall, with a waiting list started by early March.

“That was huge news for us, and it’s a tribute to the change that Ellen and the Junior School faculty have been able to achieve in a very short time,” Academy President Tom Cangiano says. “It’s clear the community is responding to all of the things going well at the Junior School.”

Also helping to attract more students is a board-supported decision to reduce tuition at every level at the Junior School, but most significantly for PK and K students. “Our goal was to take price off the table for families considering Shady Side among other private school options,” Cangiano says.

The changes at the Junior School are reflected in the ongoing campus upgrades to make the school more inviting, including beautiful renovations to the gymnasium, cafeteria, common areas and the library at the heart of the building. Teachers are also taking advantage of the school’s unique location adjacent to Frick Park, which serves as an outdoor classroom for science and other disciplines, as does a new extension of the SSA Farm that includes a sustainable permaculture garden. Learning is further enhanced by a mobile iPad cart and a one-to-one iPad program in the fifth grade.

McConnell’s passion for leadership stems from her own experience as a kindergarten teacher. “I’m not so far out of the classroom that I don’t remember what it was like,” she says. “I want to make sure that I am the leader that me as a classroom teacher would’ve wanted.”

That support has been strongly felt among the faculty at the Junior School, according to fifth grade teacher Tekla Hilton, who has been instrumental in launching the “Singapore Math” program.

“The commitment of Ellen and the administration to our training has really been the most important part in making this curriculum successful,” Hilton says. “We are given the opportunity to try new things and grow our own brains, and we learn as much every day as the kids.”

“Continued critical examination of what we are doing is part of our culture,” Cangiano adds. “What I love about the Junior School is that we have a leader and faculty who are willing to engage in that kind of analysis and then take the time and effort to make curricular changes where opportunities exist.”

Fifth grade humanities teacher Lisa Anselmo took on McConnell’s challenge to redesign her class by combining language arts and social studies into a 100-minute humanities class focusing on the Middle Ages in three geographic locations. To do so, Anselmo had to teach herself the history of medieval Europe, Imperial China and the Golden Age of Islam – and teachers in earlier grades had to make adjustments to their social studies lessons to make them flow into the new course.

We are given the opportunity to try new things and grow our own brains, and we learn as much every day as the kids.

– Tekla Hilton ’77, Fifth Grade Teacher
“It was a bit of a Herculean task to create this curriculum – there were no textbooks or models to use,” Anselmo says. “But Ellen was confident in my abilities and let me run with it without micromanaging after presenting me with the idea. To have the opportunity to teach something fresh and new and this challenging is very motivating.”

Students in Anselmo’s class are asked to make connections between history and literature – for instance, reading a novel set in 13th century China while studying the Mongol Empire. “I saw growth in my students as learners – they aren’t just able to spit back facts, but rather make connections in a much more meaningful way,” Anselmo says. “I think they will be more prepared for the Middle School.”

They also developed increased global awareness, trying to use their growing historical knowledge to better understand world events today.

“What’s happening is you have these kids chatting about how they don’t understand what all the fighting is about in the Middle East because the Five Pillars of Islam and the Ten Commandments are really similar,” McConnell says. “If we can have a whole generation of children having these kind of conversations – I mean, wow!”

In the fourth grade, students participated in a new financial literacy program under teachers Lisa Budd and Marci Anderson, who taught the basics of fiscal responsibility and real-life money lessons. Students were given a “salary” of 10 fictional dollars a week and had to budget for items like desk rental and health insurance, which cut down on frequent fliers to the nurses’ office. They could boost their earnings through positive behavior, such as remembering to turn in all of their homework on time, but could lose wages for unruly behavior. The program’s capstone was a marketplace, where the children created, advertised and sold homemade products, ranging from fuzzy pencil toppers to baked goods.

This summer, McConnell is turning her attention to implementing a new literacy program in PK through first grade. Over the past year, she has invested time visiting feeder preschools throughout the community to find out what incoming students will be hungry to learn when they arrive at Shady Side. The “signature balanced literacy program” she has developed will make sure each child in these younger grades has tools needed to build on their early reading and writing skills. Assessments that follow children from grade to grade will help tailor instruction to challenge and support each student individually.

Also this summer, six teachers from the Junior School attended an intensive summer institute at Columbia Teachers College in New York City, taught by Lucy M. Calkins, who is world-renowned in the field of the teaching of writing.

“This is our next big focus,” McConnell says. “It’s unheard of to send six teachers to this institute, but we want them to bring what they learn back to the whole school and start a new culture of writing here, so the children can really have the tools they need to express themselves.”

As she looks to the years ahead, McConnell’s broader vision is to keep the Shady Side Junior School “laughing and full.”

“We have really great momentum going that we just need to build on, which is very exciting,” she says. “And as we build, we can bring on new ideas and continue to make a school that has always been wonderful even better.”

That means no rest for McConnell, but fortunately, school is back in session soon, so there’ll be no shortage of youthful energy to jump-start her batteries.

“I worked with a teacher in New Orleans who was 82 years old, and when I asked her how she did it, she told me that when she works with children, she is gathering youth around her,” McConnell says. “And that is exactly right. That’s what keeps me going.”
2013

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES KNOX

Perry Cao
gave the
Senior Speech
SENIOR SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT
The Commencement Address was given by Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Corbett.

“Lifers”

2013 SENIOR SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT PRIZE WINNERS

FIRST HONOR STUDENT IN SENIOR CLASS ........................................... Paul William Steenkiste
SECOND HONOR STUDENT IN SENIOR CLASS ................................. Tara Ai Lee
RAYMOND F. ARNHEIM MEMORIAL AWARD ................................. Mary Margaret Leech
RICHARD S. AND KENNETH L. SIMON AWARD ................................. Michela Vargas Jaffe
PRINCETON ALUMNI AWARDS
FIFTH FORM ................................................................................... Hayley Wyeth
FOURTH FORM ............................................................................. Krishna H. Patel
THIRD FORM .................................................................................. Christopher Nicholas Muracca
ALFRED C. DICKEY MEMORIAL PRIZE ........................................ Krishna H. Patel
JOSEPH BOLE HARE STEFFEY MEMORIAL AWARD ................. Hibiki Sakai
EDWARD ERNEST EBBERT MEMORIAL AWARD .......................... Ayesha Shah
ALL-ROUND CUP ............................................................................... Lia Lynn Winter
TODD DRELLES MEMORIAL PRIZE ............................................. Danielle Leah Plung
LOWELL INNES AWARD ................................................................. Georgia Louise Scott
PRESIDENT’S PRIZE ........................................................................ Michael David Pohl
COLLEGE CHOICES

Miriam Marie Adams
Allegheny College

Aya Agha
University of Pittsburgh

Mohsin Ahmad
Wake Forest University

Isabel Augusta Aiken
Elon University

Bernard Andrews
Indiana University at Bloomington

Kevin Louis Antosz
Miami University, Oxford

Justin Frederic Barnes
DePauw University

Cristina Lynn Bartolacci
Bucknell University

Blake Christian Beckemeyer
DePauw University

Parker Chapple Bennett
College of the Holy Cross

William Sells Bensur
Pennsylvania State University

Evan Benza
University of Pittsburgh

Troy Richard Berglund
United States Air Force Academy

Justin Lewis Berk
Muhlenberg College

Stephanie Jackson Betts
Furman University

Shivum Bharill
University of Michigan

John Bodkin
Lehigh University

Mia Borelli
Carnegie Mellon University

Cody Michael Boyer
Xavier University

Danielle Anna Bozzone
Boston University

Joseph William Bray
Boston University

Eric David Brill
Allegheny College

Kelsey Leigh Broker
Baldwin Wallace University

Max Evan Brouman
The Ohio State University

Christopher McKim Bush
Georgia Institute of Technology

Maclean Jean Calihan
Dartmouth College

Perry R. Cao
Georgetown University

Anthony J. Costa
University of Pennsylvania

James Oliver Dowd
Denison University

Taylor Danielle Duncan

Peter Eisenbrandt
Sewanee: The University of the South

Evans

Pennsylvania State University

Margaret Anne Elias
Trinity College

Thaddeus Stephen Ellis
The University of Texas, Austin

James Lindsay Farrell
Pennsylvania State University

Nicholas John Fedusa
University of Pittsburgh

Matthew Roy Ferree
Berklee College of Music

Abigail Shaw Fisher
Indiana University at Bloomington

Julia Anne Gasbarro
Georgia Institute of Technology

Samantha Hale Goodman
Emory University

Harrison Brett Gottlieb
Colgate University

Shannon Margaret Gramley
University of Louisville

Matthew E. Granato
Hamilton College

Destin Groff
Amherst College

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY / SUMMER 2013 / 19
PColleGE CHOICES (CONTINUED)

Chloe Christine Gulati
Wake Forest University

Brian Robert Hannon
College of the Holy Cross

Noah Adam Harchelroad
University of South Carolina

Alexander Robert Hardman

Olivia Jane Heckbert
University of British Columbia

Clayton J. Hirsh
The George Washington University

Aaron Anthony Horne
Boston College

Michela Vargas Jaffe
College of Charleston

Alexandra Katherine Maya Janczewska
Pennsylvania State University

Rohit Deoras Joshi
Lehigh University

Christiana Maria Jueng
Furman University

Anisa Marie Khalouf
Syracuse University

Joseph Alexander Klein
University of Pittsburgh

Audrey Lucia Koi
University of Michigan

Ryan Koul
New York University

Eric Anthony Larkin
Syracuse University

Carianne Eleri Lee
Washington University in St. Louis

Tara Ai Lee
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Maggie Leech
Dartmouth College

Joshua Aaron Loper
University of Rochester

Christopher Alan Majesky
Pennsylvania State University

Maria Cristina Marcos
University of Pittsburgh

Kristin Leigh Markitell
Mercyhurst University

Michael D. Mathieson
Wake Forest University

Ian McCague
Mercersburg Academy

Paul Jacob McCullough
Northwestern University

Mary Elizabeth McLaughlin
University of Pittsburgh

Joseph Eamon McMahon
Pennsylvania State University

Ethan Misour
Lake Forest College

Abby Mizak
Duquesne University

Sydney Lynn Mordoh
Furman University

Anne Mosites
University of Colorado at Boulder

Alok Uday Nimgaoonkar
Cornell University

Elisa Nicole Ogot
University of Pittsburgh

Dominic Jerome Oliver
Northeastern University

Ryan Jacob Oliver
University of Colorado at Boulder

Danielle Perelman
Brown University

Rev. Thomas Johnson ’73
Athena Irene Petredis
Elon University

Guy C. Philips
Pennsylvania State University

Danielle Leah Plung
University of Chicago

Michael David Pohl
University of Notre Dame

Sara Policastro
The George Washington University

Madison Pollock
Columbia University

Virat R. Reddy

Evan Mckean Reineman
Virginia Military Institute

Rebecca Elaine Roman
University of Vermont

Theodore Jacob Ross
University of Pennsylvania

Gabriel Rubio
The George Washington University

Hibiki Sakai
University of Pittsburgh

Micaela Anne Saperstein
Saint Joseph’s University

Alexandra Elizabeth Sarner
High Point University

Antonio Davide Satryan
Indiana University at Bloomington

Christopher Vincent Sawicki
Washington University in St. Louis

Jonathan Stallard Schowalter
Allegheny College

Georgia Scott
University of Richmond

Ayesha Shah
New York University

Alexandra Claire Smith
Georgetown University

Noah W. Sprock
Wagner College

Paul William Steenkiste
Stanford University

Mackenzie Nicole Stevens
North Carolina State University

Hollis Hartman Stewart
Furman University

Robert Coleman Strohm
Lafayette College

Maegan Christine Stump
Allegheny College

Felicia Erin Tissenbaum
Stanford University

William Kirk Vincett
University of Vermont

Chad K. Wallace
Lehigh University

Dylan Nathan Wecht
The George Washington University

Quaishawn Whitlock

Elijah Lee Williams

Lia Lynn Winter
University of Pittsburgh

Alexander Young
Furman University

Maxwell Young
The George Washington University

Michael John Zidansek
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Visit www.shadysideacademy.org/commencement for complete coverage of Commencement Week, including videos, legacy family photos, event write-ups and more!
2013

Form II
Class Speaker
Felicia Reuter
MIDDLE SCHOOL CLOSING EXERCISES
2013 MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION PRIZE WINNERS

SIXTH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARD ........................................... Caitlin Mulvihill

BETTY C. LABUN AWARD .................................................. Aya R. Youssef

AUDREY ASHWORTH SIXTH GRADE AWARD .......................... Samuel E. Kaplan

BLANCHE C. WICK MATH AWARD ........................................... Marie Kim

ERWIN W. COLE AWARD .................................................. Maxwell R. Kurke

FORM I IMPROVEMENT AWARD .......................................... Megan L. Stafford

DAVID MCNAUGHER MARSH MEMORIAL AWARD ................. Christian C. Taylor

ILDRA H. ELLER AWARD .................................................. Ananya Satyawadi

WILLARD E. MEAD ENGLISH AWARD ..................................... William A. Lehman

CHARLES P. SHRIVER MATH AWARD ....................................... Azizjon Yuldoshev

ROBERT B. STIFFLER ATHLETIC AWARD ................................. Mac Ference and Alexa C. Conomikes

BETSY H. WATKINS FORM II IMPROVEMENT AWARD ............. Russell M. Faigen

E. BRUCE HILL MEMORIAL AWARD ....................................... Dante G. King

DAVID A. MANCOSH AWARD ............................................... Felicia L. Reuter

DRAMATIC CLUB BEST ACTOR .......................................... Dante G. King

DRAMATIC CLUB BEST ACTRESS ....................................... Felicia L. Reuter

DRAMATIC CLUB ACHIEVEMENT .......................................... Caldwell G. Holden

KENNETH M. VASKO MEMORIAL AWARD .............................. Ms. Lucy Turner
Class of 2020

JUNIOR SCHOOL
CLOSING EXERCISES
JUNIOR SCHOOL
MOVING UP DAY
**MATT WEISS**  
**SENIOR SCHOOL HISTORY TEACHER**

Matt Weiss has been teaching history at Shady Side Academy Senior School since 2000. Weiss’ selection as a Posner Award winner was based on multiple nominations from students, alumni and colleagues. The letters described Weiss as “thoughtful and dedicated,” “inspiring and kind,” and as “a serious historian with a not-so-serious sense of humor.”

A former colleague said, “He’s a rigorous teacher, but he knows how to enliven his subject with laughter, unique points of view and student-centered instruction.” A former student agreed by stating, “There is never a dull moment in Mr. Weiss’ U.S. history class, as he truly goes above and beyond to keep the class engaged. This includes impersonations of presidents and songs on his guitar.”

One common theme found in all of the nominations was Weiss’ dedication to his students both in and out of the classroom. Weiss currently serves as program director of SSA’s Day Camp Discovery in the summer, and is head coach of the boys and girls ultimate Frisbee teams. Weiss’ ability to keep in touch with former students was described in one nomination, stating that he is often invited to alumni gatherings, weddings and even has more than 1,000 Facebook friends, many of which are alumni.

One former student detailed Weiss’ lifelong impact by saying, “Mr. Weiss taught me two vital lessons that I still remind myself of every day. One is to value the process, because it is often more rewarding than the end result. The second is that failure is OK; giving up is not.”

**JOHN MATIA**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER**

John Matia has worked at Shady Side Academy Middle School since 1984 in a variety of positions within the science, mathematics and computer departments. He also has been the recipient of two Benedum Fellowships, where he spent time on a historical dig with an archaeologist at Colonial Williamsburg, and in the Finger Lakes region in upstate New York. Matia’s selection as a 2013 Posner Award winner was based on several nominations from students and parents. They included examples of his dedication, persistence and patience. One student stated, “Mr. Matia has helped me to thoroughly understand the material while making the experience enjoyable.”

One nomination described his dedication to the Science Olympiad program, of which he has been a coach for 18 years. A former parent stated, “The Science Olympiad program is of great benefit to both the intellectual and social skills of all of the students involved. However, it continues to exist only because of the many, many hours of efforts contributed by the coaches.”

Matia is also well known for his efforts to get MathCounts started at the Middle School, as well as serving as a wrestling coach for 20 years, baseball coach for 15 years and a soccer coach for 10 years.

One nomination stated, “Anyone who knows John Matia knows that in whatever he does, he gives more than 100 percent. Throughout his career at Shady Side, Mr. Matia has always said ‘yes’ – to teaching an extra class, serving on a committee, leading a department, coaching a team or whatever else the school has needed. But to him, this is nothing out of the ordinary, it is just who he is.”

**FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS**

A number of awards are presented annually during Commencement Week to recognize excellence, dedication and service by faculty and staff.

The Ruth and F. Walter Jones Service Prize is awarded to a member of the SSA community who, by willing and selfless service, has contributed to the quality of the Academy and enriched it by example. This year’s recipient was Facilities staff member Tim Flanders.

The Michel J. Farrell Chair for Support of Faculty Compensation and Professional Growth in Honor of Thomas N. Southard, President (2001-2010) funds seven annual awards for outstanding faculty. This year’s Going Above and Beyond Awards went to Senior School teacher John Landreth and Middle School teacher Lauren Messner; Innovative Educator Awards went to Junior School teacher Tekla Hilton ’77 and Senior School teacher John Wizzard; and Exceptional Interactions With Students Awards went to Junior School learning specialist Jennifer Asmonga, and Senior School teachers Cari Batchelar and John Sutula.

The Class of ’61 Faculty Award for Excellence recognizes an exemplary and dedicated Senior School teacher in his or her first or second year who shows the promise of an extended career and has made significant contributions to students and colleagues. This year’s winner was Dan Proulx.

The President’s Award for Distinguished Staff Service honors an individual who has exemplified excellence on a day-to-day basis through their actions, job performance, work ethic and positive relationships with colleagues. This year’s recipient was Network Engineer Bruce Newmaster of the Technology Office.

The 25 Years of Service awards went to Senior School teacher Cari Batchelar, Middle School head custodian Barry Breitenbach, Senior School custodian Susan Czerwien, Junior School substitute teacher Theresa Crisanti, Middle School teacher and coach Elizabeth Gorse and development assistant Betty Herrington.
On a warm, balmy May evening, close to 1,000 Shady Side parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered at the McKnight Hockey Center for the 11th annual Untucked Festival. The student-run benefit carnival and concert on May 18, 2013, was sponsored by the Constellation Senior Players Open and Chip Ganassi Racing. All proceeds went to the Homeless Children’s Education Fund, a local nonprofit that supports the education of youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County.

The evening began with a family carnival at 4 p.m., where kids enjoyed inflatables, a dunk tank, crafts, face painting and more. Making sure no one went hungry, Shady Side once again welcomed several food trucks from Pittsburgh’s growing mobile food scene, including The Franktuary, Holy Smokes Cafe, Bella Christie and PGH Taco Truck. While everyone played and ate, seniors Justin Barnes, Matt Ferree, Joe Bray, Kelsey Broker, Bruce Morrison and alumnus Tori Santucci ’12, performed on one of two music stages.

The main attraction of the night was the concert headlined by Carolina Liar. Fronted by Chad Wolf, Carolina Liar burst onto the music scene in 2008 with hits “Show Me What I’m Looking For” and “I’m Not Over,” both of which they played for a sea of glow-in-the-dark bracelet-clad students and community members. Over the course of the one-hour set, students joined the band on stage, tossed beach balls and enjoyed a safe and family-friendly concert. After the concert, students enjoyed an after-party on the McKnight Hockey Center patio, where they danced, ate free food and took pictures with the band.

Untucked is a student organization at Shady Side Academy Senior School that has donated more than $100,000 to local nonprofits since its founding in 2002. The committee, comprised of 13 students and two faculty members, raises money to support local organizations while providing a fun-filled community event. Over the course of the year, the students on the Untucked committee volunteered at Sojourner’s House (under the auspices of the Homeless Children’s Education Fund) twice a week, tutoring children that were experiencing homelessness in some way.
The lobby of the Hillman Center for Performing Arts is a place of joyful noise. At any moment, on any day, the halls are filled with music and dancing. Sometimes it’s Shady Side Academy students, rehearsing for an impromptu performance or concert. Over the summer, it might be Camp Jam, a rock band camp, or the Balmoral bagpiping camp. Or it might be a community group, like the Chinese American Association, putting on a cultural festival.

Since its inception in 2004, the Hillman Center for Performing Arts has evolved into a warm and bustling community gathering space. One of its flagship programs, the Hillman Performing Arts Series, has really come into its own in the past few years. The eclectic lineup always draws a diverse, interesting audience, ranging from families with small children, to 20 somethings, to seniors. By embracing intelligent, family-friendly programming, the Hillman Series has something for every type of personality or interest.

In the 2012-2013 season, the Richard E. Rauh Theater stage hosted some fantastic talent, both local and national. In October, the audience was charmed with Bradley Fields’ Out of Thin Air, an old-fashioned magic show. The Duquesne University Tamburitzans put everybody in the holiday spirit in November, as 36 gifted young people brought Eastern European culture to life in a kaleidoscope of sight and sound. The stage became a garden in January, with Enchantment Theatre Company’s lavish production of Margery Williams’ classic The Velveteen Rabbit, with 15-foot tall puppets and bunraku masks. Local Pittsburgh celebrities Attack Theatre and Cello Fury rocked the stage in February, and The Glenn Miller Orchestra performed with a special swinging tribute to veterans in March.

The last event of the Hillman’s professional season was one of the most special. Ira Glass, acclaimed producer and host of National Public Radio’s This American Life, delivered an engaging talk at the Hillman in April. Glass’ radio program focuses on the idiosyncrasies of everyday American culture, investigating the top-secret Coca-Cola recipe, deconstructing the cause of the financial crisis and explaining why State College, Pa., has fewer stop signs than most cities. Currently, This American Life is heard on more than 500 public radio stations each week by more than 1.7 million listeners. Most weeks, the podcast of the program is the most popular podcast in America. The show also airs each week on the CBC in Canada and on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s radio network.

The Hillman Center was especially excited to partner with public radio stations WESA 90.5, a member of Pittsburgh’s Essential Public Media group, and its subsidiary, WYEP 91.3. Glass worked with WESA to do two interviews promoting the performance at the Hillman, and he also recorded legal identifications and Hillman underwriting spots with them. Deanne Hamilton, general manager of WESA, introduced Glass to the audience and referred to him as an “inspiration for all of public radio.”

A VIP reception was held before the lecture, and it was a big hit. It featured Shady Side Academy Jazz Combo students playing live on the catwalk, and local purveyors Legume, Pasqualino’s Italian, The Supper Club at the Greensburg Train Station and Dozen Bake Shop donated and served delicious appetizers and desserts. Wigle Whiskey donated locally-produced gin and whiskey, and Pittsburgh Winery brought some of their finest local wines.
ATTACK THEATRE AND CELLO FURY

In addition, there was a special radio exhibit at the Hillman throughout the month of April. Mel Check, owner of a private radio museum in Karns City, Pa., graciously permitted the Hillman to display more than 50 antique and vintage radios in the lower lobby. Glass was so impressed that he even brought one on stage to incorporate into his presentation. Glass, who was originally planning to speak for only an hour, became so engaged with the audience that he remained on stage for almost three hours.

The 2013-2014 Hillman lineup looks to be just as fantastic. In September, Grammy-winning jazz guitarist Bill Frisell will play John Lennon adaptations with his band. In October, Nelson Illusions will bring a Ferrari helicopter and 4,000-pound drill to perform incredibly daring feats. In November, Aquila Theatre presents a modern adaption of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, a swashbuckling comedy replete with romance, shipwrecks and mistaken identity. In February 2014, Cirque Zuma Zuma (as seen on *America’s Got Talent*) will represent African-style Cirque du Soleil, combining the mysticism and magic of the African continent with the excitement of cirque. March 2014 will feature *Broadway’s Next Hit Musical*, starring one of New York City’s funniest improv troupes performing a musical made entirely from audience suggestions. In honor of Earth Day in April 2014, the Hillman will host Erth’s Dinosaur Zoo, a paleontologist-guided voyage through history with life-like dinosaur puppets. Award-winning and best-selling author Michael Pollan will conclude the season in May 2013, with a live interview and locavore reception. Be sure to visit www.thehillman.org for more information.
BOYS SWIMMING

By Tyrel Hill '14

The boys swimming team again proved that it was a force to be reckoned with in the water, going undefeated in the section. Keeping the tradition of excellence rolling were seniors Troy Berglund, Thad Ellis, Ryan Koul, Gabe Rubio and Jon Schowalter. At the WPIAL championships, the seniors led the team to a fifth-place finish. The meet was highlighted by the relay team of Ellis, Brendan Leech, Andrew Lehman and Koul claiming gold in the 200 free and capturing a second-place finish in the 400 free. The 400 free relay team also medaled at the PIAAs, placing seventh.

BOYS BASKETBALL

By Jake Farrell '13

The boys basketball team started out slow this year but managed to find its rhythm near the end of the season, finishing with an overall record of 9-15. The team rallied at the end of the year to pull off a big upset against Serra Catholic, earning a coveted WPIAL playoff spot. The team won in the first round of playoffs, but the season came to a close after a second-round loss to Brentwood. Senior captain Cody Boyer said, “This year was a journey with many ups and downs, but we overcame the adversity and had a successful, fun season.”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

By Lia Winter '13

The girls basketball team enjoyed a spirited season on the court. Led by sole senior Audrey Koi, the girls gave an outstanding effort every time they stepped on the floor. The team compiled a 7-14 record, narrowly missing the WPIAL playoffs. With freshmen Rori Cain and Emily Natoli seeing valuable minutes this season, the team should be primed to return to the top of the section in the seasons to come.
BOYS ICE HOCKEY

By Lia Winter ‘13

The boys prep hockey team finished with a record of 22-19-1. The team was led by captain Dom Oliver and assistant captains Ethan Misour and Mike Zidanek. Misour was named to the MPHL All-Star team. Oliver led the team in goals followed by Elijah Williams, Mitch Campbell and Jake Kleindl. The team welcomed 10 new players to the roster of 22. The boys quickly learned how to work together and, despite having the toughest schedule in years, were one win shy of the school record for number of wins. Despite playing one of its best games all year, SSA lost in the quarterfinal round of the MPHL playoffs. Highlights of the season included the team’s first-ever Homecoming game and a 3-1 win over Gilmour Academy in an outdoor game on the new Penguins Pond.

GIRLS SWIMMING

By Tyrel Hill ‘14

The girls swimming team kicked and backstroked its way to a fantastic season. SSA finished with an overall 8-4 record, while maintaining a perfect 6-0 section record. At the WPIAL championships, the team placed fifth and medaled in six events. Senior captains Destin Groff and Maggie Leech led the girls, while fellow seniors Maria Marcos, Abby Mizak, Rebecca Roman, Ali Sarner and Holly Stewart turned in very solid times to contribute to the success of the team.

2012-2013 WINTER SPORTS RECORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varsity Teams</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>PCT.</th>
<th>Team Accomplishments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>WPIAL Second Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>0.333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Swimming</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.583</td>
<td>Section Champions, 5th Place WPIAL</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.667</td>
<td>Section Champions, 5th Place WPIAL</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.537</td>
<td>MPHL Quarterfinals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Prep Ice Hockey</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.389</td>
<td>5th Place WIHLMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Var. Ice Hockey</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.313</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Squash</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>1st Place Pittsburgh Squash League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Junior Varsity Teams

| JV Boys’ Basketball        | 14| 6 | 0 |          |
| FR Boys’ Basketball        | 17| 4 | 0 |          |
| Totals                     | 31| 10| 0 |          |

Overall Totals

|               | 97| 98| 2 | 0.497    |

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

By Lia Winter ‘13

Senior captains Lia Winter and Maegan Stump led the girls ice hockey team to an exciting year, finishing the season with a record of 7-11. The team made a successful run in playoffs and won the WIHLMA B bracket. The team will miss graduating seniors Alex Janczewska, Mary McLaughlin, Mackenzie Stevens, Stump and Winter. However, SSA has a lot of young, talented players who will continue to improve and grow in the years to come.
In 1994, 15-year-old Zachary Kaufman ’96 was deeply troubled by the appalling images trickling out of Rwanda. Shootings on the street. Mass graves. A caravan of people fleeing their homes, their belongings balanced precariously on their heads.

It’s happening again, he thought. Genocide. The 100-day massacre in East Africa harkened back to the Holocaust and his own relatives’ torment at the hands of Nazi Storm Troopers.

Kaufman, then a sophomore at Shady Side Academy, wondered why no one was intervening to stop the violence in Rwanda. He wanted to speak out against the crimes, but he was just a teenager in Pittsburgh, halfway around the world. What could he possibly do?

Much and more, as things turned out. Nineteen years later, Kaufman has worked at the international tribunal prosecuting war criminals in Rwanda, written or edited three books concerning genocide, and given lectures on the conflict at universities and embassies around the world. Kaufman also worked tirelessly to open the first public library in Rwanda.

“He is very, very compassionate,” said James Kimonyo, the Rwandan ambassador to the United States. “He has been very vocal in getting the issue of genocide out. He has been a very strong voice on behalf of the survivors of genocide. He has researched the issue of how genocide is committed and why people would hurt each other in such terrible ways. He is an outspoken professional to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

Despite all of his accomplishments, Kaufman still looks back with regret at 1994, when he stood by helplessly, watching the slaughter unfold on television. “I wish I could talk to my younger self back then,” he said. “I could have lobbied our representatives to intervene. I could have launched a public awareness campaign because there was so little news coverage of the genocide. I could have fundraised for humanitarian aid organizations. I wish I could tell that high school version of myself that everyone has an obligation to stop genocide. That is one of the lessons I share in my writing and speaking today.”

* * *

Kaufman is tireless in spreading that message. In fact, when people look at his resumé, they ask, “Do you sleep?” (Answer: Yes. Just less than the rest of us.) How else to explain all the accomplishments he’s fit into 34 years? He’s a fellow at Yale Law School, Yale’s Genocide Studies Program, and the Yale School of Management’s Program on Social Enterprise. He’s a
visiting faculty member at New York University. He’s on an international book tour for the second of his three books, *Social Entrepreneurship in the Age of Atrocities: Changing Our World*. He’s a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and on the Board of Directors of the Association of Marshall Scholars. He’s an attorney and a regular Voice of America commentator. The list goes on and on.

“As impressive as his résumé is, that’s just the tip,” said Jim Mitre ’96, his longtime friend. “If there is a modern Renaissance man, it would be Zach. For most people, you have to pick one thing in life and go with it. Zach has overcome that problem by doing everything well. He was always into a million things.”

Kaufman grew up in Morgantown, W.Va., an inquisitive kid who excelled in math and science. He knew early on he would not become a doctor like his father. Dr. Howard Kaufman, a brain surgeon, sometimes invited his sons Zach and Zeke ’95 into the operating room. As inspiring as the surgery was, it turned Zach’s stomach.

Kaufman was always a small kid, and skipping kindergarten only served to spotlight his naturally slight build. When he announced his intentions to play the bass drum in the middle school marching band, his mother was doubtful. “Zach, this is too heavy,” she said, holding up an instrument nearly as large as her seventh-grade son. Undeterred, he slung it over his shoulder and marched.

In some ways, it was an idyllic childhood filled with friends and hiking and rock climbing in the nearby woods. But being a Jewish minority wasn’t always easy. One day during second grade, another boy yelled anti-Semitic taunts at him on the playground. The bully picked up Kaufman and banged his head against a rock until it bled, he recalled.

Kaufman was so bewildered, he didn’t tell anyone for years. Why would someone who didn’t even know him hate him just because of his religion? “It was the first time I had encountered discrimination and hate,” he said. The bullying was a defining moment, one that later led him to research the fate of his relatives in Eastern Europe — both the survivors and those who died in the Holocaust.

But while these incidents may have sensitized him to cruelty and injustice, he maintained an optimistic outlook. His mother encouraged him to take risks, inspiring him with her own adventurous spirit. A native of South Africa who had grown up in Australia, she moved to New York City at age 22 without knowing a soul there. “You can’t sit home and look at four walls, she taught her sons. “You need to get out and work and explore.”

She taught Zach how to sew and cook so he could be self-sufficient. “You can be very good at books but not adept at life,” she said. “I wanted him to be well-rounded.”

Those skills came in handy when Kaufman transferred to Shady Side Academy in high school.

“Boarding at such a stimulating, diverse private school in a major city shaped me in more ways than I will ever know,” he said. From the chemistry taught by the late David Weill to the history lessons imparted by Susan Rhodes to the Chinese poetry recited by Mei-Wang...
Shao, his world opened up.

But he didn’t tie himself to his desk. He joined in on pranks in the dorm and rigged up a pirate radio station with a transmitter and antenna. To his classmates’ delight, he even invented his own call-in show complete with humorous characters. “From a small frame came a big personality,” said his classmate and regular listener Arvind Grover ’96. “Zach was so outgoing and so confident without being arrogant. He was always laughing and telling a story, making you feel like you were special in that moment.”

Kaufman (who’d grown into his drum) was president of the concert band and percussion section leader. He wrote for the Academian, served as an admissions tour guide, and tutored in writing and math.

He even blossomed into an athlete at SSA. During a game of pickup basketball his freshman year, he was no one’s idea of a jock. The players towering over him swatted his shots away like flies. Someone walked up to Kaufman and suggested that perhaps he might be better suited for another sport. What about wrestling?

So he joined the team, wrestling in the 103-pound weight class. At first, he lost all of his matches. But one day, he shocked his teammates and himself with a victory. He went on to pin numerous opponents, including one in just 14 seconds and became co-captain of the team. He credits Coach Tim Giel with changing him from “a scrawny, shy little kid into a stronger, more confident — okay, still little — young man.”

When the cum laude graduate was accepted on early admission to Yale, Grover joked that he was a “FPA — Future President of America. We knew he was going places.” But they did not realize that he would take the road less traveled — the humanitarian route.

At Yale, Kaufman was not only an academic standout, but also student body president, a freshman residential counselor, co-captain of the wrestling team, and an All-American and Runner-up National Champion in the National Collegiate Wrestling Association. You name it, he was doing it. But in the back of his mind was Rwanda.

The country became front and center when he read about the war crimes tribunal the United Nations set up for it, and he decided to do his senior independent study on the court’s mistakes and problems.

After graduating from Yale with a bachelor’s degree in political science, he would go on to get a Ph.D. in international relations at Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar and a JD at Yale Law School. But before he distinguished himself in graduate work, he applied for government posts. After submitting his report on Rwanda to the U.S. Department of Justice, he was hired to work on its post-genocide justice initiative.

In February 2001, he landed in the country that had haunted him since his adolescence. The moment the plane touched down, he thought of West Virginia — hilly terrain, lush farmland, and friendly people.

But there was one thing he had never seen before — genocide sites. He felt obligated to visit as many as he could, taking in the skeletal remains, torn clothes, and blood stains from the atrocities in 1994 that he calls “100 days of hell.”

“Unless you see the actual evidence, you don’t understand the enormity, the cruelty of it,” he said.

“He is a humble guy. He is never talking about him getting credit or reading his bio. Every time you meet him, it’s ‘What can we do to improve the lives of people in Rwanda?’ ”
“If there is a modern Renaissance man, it would be Zach. For most people, you have to pick one thing in life and go with it. Zach has overcome that problem by doing everything well.”

“There are blood stains on walls where babies were thrown. It is one thing to read or hear about it. It’s another to see it in front of your face.”

On that first trip, a Foreign Service officer took him to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga. The Rotarians were discussing how Rwanda did not have a public library. They wanted to build the first one. Kaufman, who had always loved libraries, was shocked that a country in the 21st century lacked such a fundamental civic institution. He knew that access to information was especially important in Rwanda. Hutu hardliners used the newspaper and radio stations to incite genocide against the Tutsi, even orchestrating the slaughter by publicizing the whereabouts of individuals. Without any outside information, he said, the drumbeat of hate was even louder.

He immediately contributed his own money to the project. Back in Washington, he started the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library. He had no idea how daunting the task would turn out to be.

For starters, he was rebuffed by potential donors, who believed Rwanda was not stable or literate enough for such a big undertaking. A few even insinuated that Rwandans would use books as weapons against each other.

Once money began trickling in, Kaufman and other leaders struggled with training volunteers, who were often enthusiastic at first, but sometimes failed to follow through with work. Kaufman and other leaders finally had to tell these volunteers that they would have to fulfill their responsibilities if they wanted to continue working on the project.

Then there were the books themselves. Many were donated by well-meaning people who cleaned out attics and bookshelves. But too often they were out-of-date textbooks or dusty tomes that had to be transported at great expense to East Africa.

The library organizers wanted to fill the limited shelves with a collection specializing in Rwandan and African history and literature, great works of fiction and nonfiction, children’s books, and humanities, science, and reference books. Rejecting most piecemeal donations, they partnered with two nonprofits that helped them collect the books, catalog them, and transport them to Rwanda.

Kaufman did much of his fundraising back in Washington, D.C., working alongside Rwandan Grace Nkubana, treasurer and board member of the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library.

One day Nkubana hosted a birthday party for Kaufman and was stunned when all of the guests showed up bearing not gifts but donations to the library at his request. “It takes a special person to give up his birthday,” she said. “He has a humongous heart.”

She had seen so many other relief workers in Rwanda come and go through a revolving door of high hopes and then disillusionment. “Other people would say of the Rwandans, ‘They are lazy. They are not working hard enough.’ But Zach never judged. He understood the people in Rwanda had gone through so much. He encouraged them and understood their culture. And he never ever gave up on the library.”

Ambassador Kimonyo agrees. “He is a humble guy. You don’t call him doctor or professor. He is never talking
about him getting credit or reading his bio. Every time you meet him, it’s “What can we do to improve the lives of people in Rwanda?”

The gleaming library – complete with 70 computers, wireless Internet, and 25,000 books – opened last year. Kaufman brought his father over for the October inauguration ceremony, in which he was surrounded by Rwandans who hugged him and expressed gratitude.

Besides building for the future, Kaufman also exhumed the past by working at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (one of three international tribunals at which he has served).

He interviewed survivors of the genocide who inevitably asked, “Why didn’t anyone help?” One person even told him how he envied the silverback gorillas that lived in Rwanda’s forested highlands. “When one of those gorillas is killed,” he told Kaufman, “everyone cares. But when a million of my people were killed, no one cared.”

Kaufman also interviewed people who committed the atrocities. While some were defiant, others struck him as disturbingly ordinary — hardly the monsters he expected to find. “Some even looked pathetic,” he said. “What we really need to understand is: Why do ordinary people perpetrate extraordinary acts of cruelty?”

* * *

When Kaufman is not staring into the eyes of mass murderers or investigating crimes against humanity, he is actually a fun guy with almost 4,000 friends on Facebook. He loves an action movie and appreciates a good pun. “He is funny, but in a very benign way — very playful and borderline cheesy,” Mitre said. “He doesn’t take himself so seriously.”

He bungee jumped off Victoria Falls and has gone skydiving a few times — not because he is a daredevil, but because he likes to work hard and play hard.

His fiancée, Elizabeth Katz, said she loves his entertaining stories. Like the time he was in an airplane in Africa, looked out the window, saw water, and realized he was going to the wrong destination. When he asked the flight attendant, she told him that more people wanted to go to the other place. When he protested, she told him he could give a speech and try to convince the other passengers to change course.

So midair, he stood up in the aisle and made his plea to reroute the plane. For once his oratory skills let him down. The other passengers voted no. When he convinced the flight crew to return him to the point of origin, they dropped him off out in the middle of nowhere, forcing him to hitchhike back to civilization.

His ill-fated flight not only gave him a good story to tell, it taught him the kind of lesson you don’t learn in a college classroom. “I learn so much from going out and doing things. Now I understand not all your transportation is always going to work out. Leave a little extra time. And you have to stay cool and be flexible.”

For someone so driven, he is surprisingly laid back when things go wrong, Katz said. “He has spent so much time studying genocide and other atrocities that it puts things in perspective. When things don’t go exactly as planned, he realizes it is not such a big deal.”

Despite his outsized work ethic, he never thinks twice about dropping what he is doing and mentoring or advising someone, especially those who want to do human rights work. “It might be a friend’s girlfriend’s younger brother’s roommate,” Katz said. “He will speak to anyone who has questions about traveling or conducting research in Africa, wants advice about starting a nonprofit abroad, or seeks personal or professional mentoring more generally.”

For Kaufman, losing a little sleep is worth it to help people and prevent the terrible images that have haunted him since age 15. As Nkubana puts it, “He is a very educated person. He could walk anywhere and be a rich young man. But that is not Zach. He thinks about other people rather than himself. He has an unusual calling.”

“He has spent so much time with Rwandans thinking about genocide that it puts things in perspective. When things don’t go right, he realizes it is not such a big deal.”
BOYS TENNIS – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

By Christopher Bush ’13

The boys tennis team yet again showed they are the team to beat in Western Pennsylvania. Under the leadership of coaches Tom Mercer and Jeff Miller, the team rolled to another perfect regular season at 14-0. The top seed in the WPIAL tournament, the team defeated North Allegheny to claim yet another league title. SSA also collected a WPIAL doubles championship with the team of Alok Nimgoankar and Chris Grubbs. The team continued its winning streak as they rolled all the way to the PIAA finals, where they dropped a close contest to Conestoga.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

By Dennis Briggs ’14

The spring season was a fast one for the boys track & field team. With talented runners and a core group of participants in field events, the team made a strong showing in a deep section. Hosting the WPIAL qualifiers for the first time, the boys placed many individuals in the WPIAL championships. Individual highlights include a third-place finish by Shawn Berry in the triple jump, a third-place finish by Max Prizant in the pole vault, and a sixth-place finish by Louis Berry in the 100-meter dash. Prizant and Berry both qualified for PIAAs, where they placed sixth and 13th, respectively.

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Girls track & field showed that hard work translates into success. Led by seniors Cristina Bartolacci, Mia Borelli and Carianne Lee, the team had a very exciting spring. The girls competed in a tight race for the section crown, coming in fourth place in a very talented group. Season highlights include a bronze medal in the high jump by Hayley Wyeth at the WPIAL Championships. Wyeth also placed 16th at the PIAAs.
**2013 SPRING SPORTS RECORDS**

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**BOYS LACROSSE**

By Jake Farrell ’13

The boys lacrosse team had yet another exciting spring. Led by seniors Chris Bush and Jake Farrell on the defensive side of the field, the team had an aggressive set of long poles that made goals hard to come by for opponents. Offensively, seniors Peter Eisenbrandt, Ian McCague and Alex Young anchored an efficient and fast-paced scoring attack. The team rode the leadership of the senior class to the WPIAL semifinals, losing to North Allegheny. Junior goalie Tucker Gillman earned All-America, All-WPIAL and WPIAL Player of the Year honors.

**GIRLS LACROSSE**

By Jake Farrell ’13

The 2013 season again proved to be a banner year for the girls lacrosse team. Behind the outstanding goaltending of sophomore Gabby Harchelroad, the team compiled a 15-1 regular-season record and earned the top seed in the WPIAL playoffs. The team pushed this streak to the championship game, losing a closely decided contest to Peters Township. The season was highlighted by individual performances from returning All-American Lia Winter, as well as Stanford recruit Felicia Tissenbaum. Tissenbaum broke the Shady Side career goals mark set by Bentley Weiner in 1992.
**SOFTBALL**

By Georgia Scott ’13

The girls softball team had a hard-fought season under first-year head coach Abby Bodenlos ’04, finishing with a 3-11 record. The girls showed great dedication as they developed their fundamentals on the diamond. Seniors Stephanie Betts and Georgia Scott provided valuable leadership in the dugout. With a wealth of underclassmen talent returning next year, the team looks to build upon their successful spring campaign.

**BASEBALL**

By Eric Larkin ’13

The baseball team had another top-flight year between the base paths. Head coach Bob Grandizio’s team had a young lineup, but was able to put all of the pieces together to create a solid squad. The team got better as the season progressed, leading to an outstanding playoff run which included two huge wins on the way to the WPIAL semifinals. With strong pitching performances by Coleman Strohm and Paul McCullough, the team earned playoff wins over Riverside, Chartiers-Houston and Blairsville. The team closed out the season with a 7-3 loss to Quaker Valley in the PIAA quarterfinals.
“You’re Welcome”

New Admissions Marketing Campaign Features Interactive Viewbook

BY JEN ROUPE AND KATIE MIHM ’83

This fall, Shady Side Academy is launching a new admissions marketing campaign with a message that is relevant, meaningful and uniquely Shady Side. The goal of the campaign is to boldly and distinctively express the unique aspects of the SSA brand to prospective families in the context of the successful outcomes that arise from an SSA education. Playing upon the theme of gratitude with the phrases “Thank You” and “You’re Welcome,” the campaign’s creative direction captures attention and weaves in outcomes as it illustrates the SSA experience. The centerpiece of the campaign is a new interactive viewbook, designed for both mobile devices (especially tablets) and desktop computers. The viewbook is supported by new print materials as well as advertising and direct mail efforts.

Smart independent schools make marketing decisions that are research-based in order to compete in an increasingly competitive admissions market. Armed with data from the strategic plan surveys, Shady Side undertook several additional research efforts in spring 2012, including focus groups and online surveys with prospective and current families, a competitive advertising analysis and a digital media audit. The focus groups, conducted by local research firm Campos Inc., provided candid insight into how prospective families prefer to seek and receive information about schools, their perceptions of local private schools, and their reactions to different schools’ marketing materials and messages.

Shady Side selected a new creative agency in Creosote Affects, which brought to the table a strong educational focus, national experience with independent schools and innovative ideas around technology. Creosote conducted additional surveys and discussion groups in fall 2012 to fill in any gaps in the existing research.

Out of the research, a theme of gratitude clearly arose to inspire the campaign’s creative direction. Over and over, alumni, parents and students shared stories of how grateful they were to Shady Side – for the academic choices and rigor, the relationships with teachers and coaches, the development of leadership skills, the encouragement to explore new things, the beauty of our campuses and more. Essentially, our community was thanking us for their Shady Side Academy experience.

Prospective families clearly shared that they wanted an authentic view into daily school life. One parent in a focus group wished he could see streaming video of a child’s daily experience at school – a student with a “head cam,” so to speak. These families also confirmed what SSA already knew to be true – that today’s parents and students actively seek information about schools online before ever making a formal admissions inquiry. Together, these ideas solidified the tactical approach of harnessing technology to allow families to connect with the SSA experience online. The interactive viewbook does this by providing an authentic glimpse into life at SSA through videos, slideshows and more.

The new interactive viewbook is expected to be available in mid to late August at www.ThankYouShadySide.org. Please feel free to share your feedback with SSA via email to admissions@shadysideacademy.org.
MELENA
RYZIK ’94

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY MELENA RYZIK

SHE WALKS THE
RED CARPET
SO YOU DON’T
HAVE TO
Melena Ryzik had never taken an acting lesson, but there she was doing a cold reading opposite famed leading man Michael Caine. In his distinctive British accent, the star of *Alphie*, *Educating Rita*, *The Cider House Rules* and dozens of other movies flawlessly delivered his lines, utterly upstaging *The New York Times* cultural reporter.

Ryzik, 36, was humbled by the acting legend and quipped that the experience was like “a meerkat attempting to slay a dragon,” repeating a friend’s line. No matter. Her reportage resulted in a captivating video segment for *The Times* entertainment blog, *The Carpetbagger*. “It was an out-of-body experience,” she would later say about acting across from Caine.

That Dec. 6, 2012, interview was the kind of coverage fans of the brainy red carpet blog have come to expect. Not only did Ryzik ask the legend to read lines opposite her, she had him demonstrate his acting technique of keeping one eye on the subject and the other on the camera. Then Ryzik, who used her easy laugh to establish an immediate rapport, peppered him with questions about his role as Batman’s butler Alfred in *The Dark Knight Rises*.

During the Hollywood awards season, which stretches from the fall to the week after the Oscars, Ryzik gives *Times* readers insights that go beyond the glamour and gossip found in supermarket tabloids. For her, it’s all about finding a novel angle.

“Covering the Oscar trail is like covering a political campaign, except there are much more attractive people,” she said. “It is the same story, season after season. Who is going to win the horse race? It is figuring out new angles on an old story that has been told year after year.”

Just as Hollywood goes into overdrive for the awards season, so does *The Carpetbagger*’s lead writer. She works 20-hour days, churning out five blog posts daily as well as a weekly print column and video segment on the movie industry. “I drop off the face of the earth,” she said. “I don’t see friends.” But she doesn’t complain, because she loves her work. Besides, who’d want to commiserate about a job where you get to chat up Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence?

But don’t expect her to swoon or namedrop. “I am not a fanboy,” she said. “I talk to people about their work. I am not interested in what they had for lunch. People appreciate that.”

Amy Wolf, her friend in New York, has watched her in action at many movie premieres. “She doesn’t fawn over celebrities,” Wolf said. “She doesn’t mistake their friendliness and think they are besties with her. She is aware that they are networking to try to get the best press possible.”

Ryzik, who just wrapped up her fourth
season with The Carpetbagger, gets celebrities to open up by doing her homework. She has a flair for probing questions, said Wolf, a communications officer at the New York Community Trust.

Though Ryzik works many celebrity parties, she doesn’t travel in a stretch limo. Instead, she puts on her dress and heels, then pedals her 10-speed bicycle through the streets of New York to premier parties in all weather. “I always tell her to wear more clothes, but she is pretty tough,” Wolf said. “She can bike in the February air in heels.”

Heels are her constant companion. “I am Russian,” she said. “That is just how I was built. I am more comfortable in heels.”

Wolf said Ryzik is known for her fashion flair, for finding a great piece in a vintage store or boutique or department store clearance rack. She is always asked if the Times gives her a clothing allowance. It doesn’t. “I shop sample sales,” Ryzik said.

One of her favorite parts of her job is covering directors and actors who are experiencing the rush of the Oscar spotlight for the first time. This year, the excited newbies included the cast and crew of Beasts of the Southern Wild, a fantasy about Hushpuppy, an intrepid 6-year-old girl who lives with her father, Wink, in a poor Gulf Coast island community. Ryzik covered the nomination of the 9-year-old actress Quvenzhané Wallis. She also flew to New Orleans to learn how to make donuts with Dwight Henry, the New Orleans bakery owner and first-time actor who played Wink.

Ryzik also enjoys writing about the less glamorous crew members who aren’t in the tabloids. “The coolest thing is I get to go behind the scenes and visit with the sound guy, the production design guy, the people who do the nuts and bolts,” she said. “In Hollywood terminology, they are called ‘below the line.’”

When she is not writing about the Oscars or Golden Globes, she is a cultural reporter who uncovers offbeat attractions and creative scenes in New York and around the country. She wrote about a pool party held in a dumpster in industrial Brooklyn (yep, she took a dip). She also authored a feature on an “eco-art barge,” which she described as a “3,000-square-foot experiment in community living and artistry.” As Wolf puts it, “She goes off-off-off the beaten path.”

One less-traveled route took her to the Boggsville Boatel and Boat-in Theater, a floating hotel in Rockaway, Queens. “She spent the night there,” Wolf said. “She became friends with the woman who ran it, who connected her with another story. “She doesn’t just do her reporting and go home and read a book. She might hit five things a night and stay up until 4 a.m. She is impossible to keep up with.”

Her knack for unexpected detours allows her to discover stories others would miss. On a recent day, she was riding her bike in Bedford-Stuyvesant and stopped to watch a 70-year-old man dancing to salsa music. “The man invited her and her friends to join in,” Wolf said. “She lets life happen.”

Ryzik was born in Russia but came to the United States at age 2. Quiet and bookish, she observed the world around her – good
training for her future career. “She has a secret, shy side,” Wolf said. “She has worked hard to counteract it.”

At age 12, during a family trip to Russia, she told her mother she wanted to work for The New York Times. Attending Shady Side Academy in high school sharpened her writing skills. Teachers such as Elizabeth Garvey inspired her, as did the creative spirit fostered at the school. “There was a lot of liberty to create there,” she said. “During my junior year, I directed a one-act play while making unusual casting choices. No one said, ‘You shouldn’t do this.’”

Upon graduation, she studied English at John Hopkins University and worked as a fact-checker at Baltimore City Paper, which published her first bylined article. She then moved to New York City, where she became editor of Internet World, a now-defunct online publication. Then she was hired at The New York Times as a news clerk. The 24-year-old walked through the newsroom door filled with reverence as she peered up at the long wall of Pulitzer Prize winners.

Her third day of work was Sept. 11, 2001, and within hours, she heard the police call come in. Something horrible was going on at the World Trade Center. She was quickly transferred to work on the story, interviewing firefighters and police officers who responded to the terrorist attack that downed the twin towers. She also wrote about 50 of the “Portraits of Grief,” the Times’ highly acclaimed profiles of the victims. “It was a pretty unusual way to start a daily newspaper career,” she said. “I was still very low on the totem pole. I worked on one story for a year.”

Ryzik, who had already freelanced articles for the Times, was hired as a writer in 2006. At a time of layoffs and retrenchment in journalism, she has carved out a niche that gives her the freedom to pursue her own ideas and find little pockets of creativity in the never-dull streets of New York and beyond. “I have a really rare gig,” she said. “It’s pretty cool. I also get to do fun profiles.”

One of the recent highlights was her profile of pop icon Cyndi Lauper, who was every bit as cool as her image. She talked about writing the score for Kinky Boots, the Tony Award–nominated musical. Then Ryzik even received some head-turning advice from the star. “She told me what color I should dye my hair—a particular shade of Manic Panic orange.”

“She doesn’t just do her reporting and go home and read a book. She might hit five things a night and stay up until 4 a.m. She is impossible to keep up with.”
SSA NAMES BASKETBALL COURT FOR PETER SAUER ’95

Shady Side Academy officially named its basketball court Peter Sauer ’95 Court in honor of the late alumnus and former Stanford basketball star. A dedication and naming ceremony was held Dec. 27, 2012, before the tip-off of the boys’ basketball game. The words “Peter Sauer ’95 Court” are emblazoned on the baselines of the court, which is located in Mellon Gymnasium on the Senior School campus. The brief ceremony included remarks from Athletic Director Gene Deal, former Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Dean Kartsonas ’83 (who coached Sauer), and Sauer’s widow, Amanda.

Sauer passed away unexpectedly on July 8, 2012. He was best known during his days at Shady Side for his athletic abilities, leading the boys’ basketball team to its first PIAA Championship in his senior year. Sauer attended Stanford University, where he continued his basketball success as captain of the Cardinal, leading the team to four NCAA Tournament appearances and a PAC-10 title in 1999. An active member of the Shady Side community, he served on the Board of Visitors from 2003 until his death. Sauer is survived by wife Amanda, three daughters, parents Mark and Georgia, and brother Alex ’97.

PAUL R. JENKINS HISTORY DEPARTMENT

On April 17, members of the Semper Society, along with friends and family of Paul R. Jenkins ’50, gathered at Eastover to dedicate the History Department Office in Rowe Hall in Jenkin’s memory. A plaque expressively describes Jenkin’s commitment to the Academy as a loyal alumnus, proud parent and devoted trustee.
SPRING DOWNTOWN LUNCHEON

This year’s Spring Downtown Luncheon was held at the HYP Club in Pittsburgh on April 24. The featured speakers were Founder of LoyalTree Brock Bergman ’03, and his leadership team, COO Jake Klinvex ’05 and Director of Business Development Jim Ambrose ’05. LoyalTree provides businesses nationwide with a customer loyalty program that fits the needs of many companies through mobile phone applications. The event brought a large crowd of young alums to share in food, networking and memories of SSA.

IN-COLLEGE BRUNCH

The annual In-College Brunch was held at McCune Dining Hall on Jan. 3. Alumni, current students and faculty discussed the college experience and what to expect after graduation. More than 50 alumni were in attendance and greeted by numerous faculty and staff.

REDD UP PITTSBURGH

Each year, members of the SSA community step off campus to help the local community. On April 20, a group of students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff took part in Redd Up Pittsburgh, where they helped to clean up the Homewood area of Pittsburgh. The group of volunteers, alongside members of the Homewood community, helped clean up sidewalks and abandoned lots.

RACE FOR THE CURE

For the last six years, Shady Side Academy has participated in the Race for the Cure walk or run in support of the fight against breast cancer. This year, the SSA community raised more than $2,500 for the cause. The two top fundraisers were fifth-grader Elizabeth Grossman, who raised $1,830, and eighth-grader Felicia Reuter, who raised $725.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTER CARMEN GENTILE ’92

International reporter Carmen Gentile ’92 spoke to parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students at a special on-campus lecture the evening of April 17. Gentile spoke about his time reporting while embedded with troops during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also shared how he finds a story to tell among the people he meets during his time overseas. Gentile has written for the world’s leading news publications, including The New York Times, TIME, Newsweek and USA Today. His work has also taken him to Nigeria, Brazil and Egypt. In 2010, Gentile was shot by a rocket-propelled grenade while reporting on U.S. and Afghan forces in eastern Afghanistan. Following a lengthy recovery, he returned to Afghanistan and resumed embedded reporting for USA Today and other publications. In addition to his reporting duties, Gentile frequently lectures at universities both in the United States and abroad. To learn more about Gentile, visit carmengentile.com.
ALUMNI REGIONAL RECEPTIONS

This has been a busy year of travel for the Alumni & Development Office, including 11 events over the last several months.

To kick off the new year, the Alumni & Development Office hosted an event on Jan. 15, at P.J. Clarke’s Sidecar Dining Room in Washington, D.C. More than 40 alumni were in attendance that evening to network over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

An event at CORE: club in New York City, co-hosted by David Puth ’74 and Bill Wallace ’66, drew more 75 alumni and friends on Feb. 7. The exclusive location was the perfect place to reminisce about all things Shady Side.

The month of February was a great time of year for SSA to head south to Florida and visit with alumni. Past parents Barbara and Bruce ’65 Wiegand hosted 26 members of the Shady Side community at Port Royal Club in Naples, Fla. The next evening, the Alumni & Development team headed east to Palm Beach, where they met with alumni at The Colony. Trustee emerita and past parent Susie Wean welcomed more than 30 guests to the elegant cocktail reception.

The Academy headed back to eastern Pennsylvania in mid-March to meet with alumni at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. The event brought more than 25 alumni and friends together to remember the good times at SSA.

Then, in hopes to get back out to some nice weather, the team visited California, with stops in San Francisco, Menlo Park and Santa Monica. The trip began in San Francisco at Presidio Social Club, where 19 alumni and friends mingled over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. The next day, Kathleen Liston ’87 and her husband, Alex, hosted a group of alumni at their home in Menlo Park. The group of 10 enjoyed their time at the Liston residence where they shared memories of the Academy. The Alumni & Development Office headed south the following day to Santa Monica, where Dan Fawcet ’80 and Jennie Prebor ’81 hosted 20 alumni. Fawcet opened the doors of his home to the fun crowd, as they mingled and enjoyed the beautiful California sunset.

In May, the team met with young alumni at Dave Kassling’s ’02 Tri Tip Grill in New York City. More than 35 young alumni attended the event to network and reconnect.

The regional event season concluded in Pittsburgh at Luke Wholey’s ’02 Wild Alaskan Grille in the Strip District on May 29. The last event of the academic year had more than 65 people attend to network over fresh oysters and cocktails.

To check out the future travel plans of the Alumni & Development team, be sure to visit shadysideacademy.org/alumni.
Palm Beach, Fla.

Menlo Park, Calif.

Philadelphia

Santa Monica, Calif.

San Francisco

Chicago
BOARD OF VISITORS HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

On the afternoon of May 3, 2013, 16 distinguished alumni arrived on Shady Side’s Senior School campus for the annual Board of Visitors meeting. Coming from as far as California, the members of the BOV used their annual meeting to discuss current initiatives at Shady Side, in particular the progress on implementing the Strategic Vision. This year, as part of the Community Connections initiative of the Strategic Vision, five BOV members, John Duff ’59, Bart Griffith ’93, Kerry Hannon ’78, Andy Mathieson ’74 and Ron Davenport ’81, participated in a career discussion at Senior School assembly, sharing valuable information about career choices and options. But the day was not all business, as the members made time to attend the opening reception for ArtBeat, tour all three campuses and have lunch with faculty and students. In attendance were Davenport, Duff, George Egan ’78, Griffith, Hannon, Alex Howson ’82, John Kramer ’57, Doug Mancosh ’76, Mathieson, Abhishek Mehta ’01, Rob Mullin ’93, Jim Morris ’59, Fred Parkin ’59, Betsy Watkins, Annie (Mulock) Westbrook ’96 and Tom Worrall ’87.

The Board of Visitors was founded 12 years ago by Kramer and Ed Grefenstette ’85 and serves as a tremendous asset to the Academy.

THANK YOU

for another record-breaking year of the Blue & Gold Fund.

The faculty, staff and students of Shady Side Academy thank you for being a part of our success story:

We surpassed this year’s goal, raising a total of $1,217,499.

More than 1,500 alumni, parents, grandparents, corporations and friends contributed this year.

Our dedicated team of volunteers launched a successful Blue & Gold Parent Challenge, increasing dollars and participation levels through all three schools.
Included in this section are news items received through May 1, 2013.

1933

Don Kerr writes: “After being a student at Shady Side for 12 years and being now the oldest alumnus, I look back in memory to those exciting early years where ‘King’ Cole was headmaster of the lower school and Mr. Nomer was head of the Senior School. Now at age 97, soon to be 98, I have lived in Sarasota, Fla., for 33 years and have been president of our Princeton and Ivy League Clubs, plus president and secretary of our 1937 class, as well as chaplain at Plymouth Harbor, the Caledonian Club and St. Andrew’s Society. My wife, Nora, and I have been married for more than 70 years.”

1951

David McCullough was honored for his lifetime achievements in literature at the 34th Annual Common Wealth Awards of Distinguished Service. The preeminent author and historian received the 2013 Common Wealth Award for Literature on April 20 at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Del., in a ceremony hosted by the PNC Financial Services Group. McCullough was joined by three other cultural luminaries in receiving a 2013 Common Wealth Award - Alan Alda, Jane Pauley and Martin Sheen. Past recipients of the award have included Sidney Poitier, Meryl Streep, Buzz Aldrin and Jane Goodall.

1952

George Forker notes: “I am sad to report that my beloved wife, Kathleen, died a few months ago. Life goes on here on my little farm but it will never be the same.”

Fraser Lewis reports: “Alive and doing well. I seldom get back to Pittsburgh.”

1953

Hall Warren writes: “I recently moved to the New Jersey shore. I avoided Hurricane Sandy.”

1954

Jim Benford notes: “My 10th grandchild was born in August 2012 to Gretchen (Benford) Harrison ’99 and Brad Harrison ’98.”

1959


1961

Dr. Jim Haber presented “How Cells Repair Their Broken Chromosomes” to Senior School students in Derek Wagler’s advanced biology and biology classes on April 22, 2013. The open-ended presentation was detailed and revealing, and full of questions from students and faculty alike. Haber received his B.A. in biochemical sciences from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a leading researcher in the fields of DNA repair and DNA damage checkpoints for more than 30 years. In 2011, he received the Genetics Society of America’s Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal for Lifetime Achievement in genetics.

1963

Bill Berger, co-founder and principal of Berger-Epstein Associates Inc., a commercial and industrial real estate development and management company based in Allentown, Pa., since 1984, has been appointed to the Board of Governors of the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority. After practicing law in Pittsburgh for a few years, Berger settled in Allentown where he resides with his wife, Peggy. They have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

Peter Bair reports: “We are retired in Boise, Idaho, and are enjoying our grandkids.”

1964

John Wolf writes: “I am loving Sanibel, Fla.”

John McGowan notes: “I am still ‘semi-retired’ in Silicon Valley, Calif., working as a consultant with a firm that specializes in sales negotiation training.”
1966

Chris Abernethy reports that he and his brother, Sam, returned to Augusta National for The Masters weekend. “To commemorate my recent 65th birthday, my son and daughter scored weekend passes for me to attend The Masters. Once again I was a ‘patron.’ My second trip, but hopefully not my last.”

John Harrison writes: “I spent most of 2012 developing several new projects which, hopefully, will go forward this year. I am working with actor/producer Michael Douglas and his company writing a new version of the classic Cornell Woolrich story Rear Window, and an adaptation of his novel Black Angel, for director Paul Verhoeven. Matador Pictures, which produced my last film, Book of Blood, has optioned a new supernatural suspense thriller I’ve written called Residue. I hope to be in production on that this summer. Unfortunately, the TNT show Leverage, for which I’ve directed episodes these past three years, was not renewed for a sixth season. It still has life in re-runs though. Leslie and I are getting used to our life as empty nesters. Our son, Ian, is with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C., and our daughter, Sidney, is finishing up her sophomore year at NYU at their campus in Prague. She is 20 years old and footloose in Europe. What could be better? Wondering if she ever attends school, though? Les and I are still plotting our escape from Los Angeles.”

Esther Palmer writes: “If anyone would like to communicate with Barclay Palmer, his email is bachlyp@gwi.net. You’d think we would have time in our retirement, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. We are both taking very good courses at Senior College. They are ‘Mature Mind’ and ‘Social Conquest of the Earth’ according to EO Wilson, and an excellent teacher.”

1966 classmates submitted their fondest memories of Mr. Andrew Latta, former faculty member who passed away in April 2013:

Bart Griffith writes: “Still think you men can win one ball game this year?” We freshmen footballers did just that. RIP Andrew.”

Rich LaMagna notes: “If you’ve heard this story many times, my apologies, but I can’t resist this moment of fond recollection. Being the hopeless student that I was in Andy’s freshman math class, I was a permanent guest of his DS period, along with a few others. One winter day when the classroom was filled with math-challenged students like Steffey, Hirschberg, Lieberman, etc.

Bole Steffey was sitting on the radiator and rocking it, causing an annoying bumping sound. As usual, a chalk-covered Andy was energetically smashing pieces of chalk on the board in an attempt to emphasize a mathematical principle. Suddenly he stops and turns, the room grows silent, and he says, ‘Steffey, you break them radiators and we are all gonna be in hot water!’ The room burst out in laughter, and with a puzzled look Andy adds, ‘Now men, I don’t see anything funny about that. Now let’s get back to work.’ My freshman year I had the distinction of sitting up for freshman, JV and varsity football games each week. (Unlike my roomies Paul Zugates and John Sikina, I didn’t get much playing time in the varsity games but enjoyed playing in the freshman and JV games. We gave the Morningside Bulldogs a pretty good run for their money too.) I’ve always had bad feet that had to be taped by the pipe-smoking Mr. Smith, so I was often 10-15 minutes late for practice with Andy, who was visibly annoyed and would invariably announce my entry by saying, ‘Oh, LaMagna has finally arrived. Men, we don’t need no primadonnas around here.’ Andy was one of a kind and we are all richer for having known him. May he rest in peace.”

From Jay Reich: “Mr. Latta’s corner classroom on the second floor of Rowe was always the center of some unintentional, but always appreciated, comic relief. One early spring afternoon the windows were partly open, and a bumblebee flew into the classroom, and of course pandemonium ensued as the insect touched down on several desks. Quincy Love and Ted McKean immediately used their jackets to start swatting everything in sight, except the bee. Classmates scrambled everywhere. Mr. Latta kept repeating in an increasing louder voice, ‘Take seat, men, take seat.’ (His usual rejoinder when class was about to start.) Finally, at the top of his lungs, Mr. Latta yelled, ‘Bee seated.’ To this day, I never figured out whether he was trying to make a joke or not. I don’t believe he was. Mr. Latta was a good teacher and a decent man. He is a part of SSA’s 60s lore and part of the reason the school was such a terrific place to be at that time. May he rest in peace.”

Scott Becker writes: “I had Mr. Latta for 10th grade geometry as a helpless/hopeless student of mathematics beyond the complexities of arithmetic. It was Nov. 22, 1963, and I was sitting there towards the end of Mr. Latta’s 11 a.m. class of ‘geometry for the bewildered’ when abruptly there is a lot of commotion out in the hallway. Everyone in the class, except of course Mr. Latta, was immediately distracted and wondering what all the fuss is about. Nevertheless, Mr. Latta continues on at the chalk board with respect to the finer points of the isosceles triangle, despite increasingly loud noises from people running and talking right outside the door. Finally, the bell sounds and we are released. As I walked out into the hallway, I vividly recall some student running by shouting, ‘The president’s been shot!’ I will always associate that moment with Mr. Latta’s story many times, my apologies, but I can’t resist this moment of fond recollection. Being the hopeless student that I was in Andy’s freshman math class, I was a permanent guest of his DS period, along with a few others. One winter day when the classroom was filled with math-challenged students like Steffey, Hirschberg, Lieberman, etc.

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ensuring that agriculturally relevant data is readily available to users around the world. By making our data accessible and encouraging others to do the same, we will enable collaborations that will spur innovation and increase economic growth around the world,” said Secretary Vilsack.

1970

Chris Frantz, a drummer for the bands Talking Heads and Tom Tom Club, helped the children of Newtown, Conn., record a song in memory of the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Frantz, together with his wife and former bandmate, Tina Weymouth, and singer, Ingrid Michaelson, helped current and former Sandy Hook students record a version of Somewhere Over the Rainbow as a way to raise money for the Newtown community. Frantz and Weymouth live in the area and invited the group to record the song in their home. Led by Sandy Hook music teacher Sabrina Post, students recorded the song to benefit the Newtown Youth Academy and the United Way of Western Connecticut. The song can be purchased on Amazon.com and iTunes.com.

Jim Thornton reports: “I managed to swim the fastest 100M freestyle long course in the United States, 60-64 age group, in 2012. Thanks Al Rose and SSA swimming!”

1976

Rick Wentley and his wife, Jodi, owners of P.B. Boys Club, P.B. Girls Club and Aristokids, in Palm Beach, Fla., were the recipients of the 2013 Quintessentially Palm Beach Award from the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce. In April 2013, the Wentley’s were presented with the award, which singles out a business or individual that best exemplifies what Palm Beach is all about.

Mike Vogan reports: “I’ve undergone another hip replacement surgery and rotator cuff surgery. Football and lacrosse is taking its toll.”

David Hart writes: “I have been appointed adjunct professor of music at Southeastern University in Florida. That, plus my church duties at First Presbyterian in Lakeland, Fla., and concertizing, I’ll have plenty to keep me busy. I now have 14 CDs and four DVDs circulating – mainly in Europe where the market for this sort of thing is quite good. I just performed at the Tampa Bay Bach Festival, but thus far the Tampa Bay Rays have not called me for a tryout. For all you sports fans, I do get to a game now and then. I just wish they’d leave that antiquated Tropicana. I had some surgeries in the past few years; one for a small benign brain tumor (removed at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville) and the other for cervical spine issues. I walk around with two titanium plates screwed into my spine. I’d probably look like Frankenstein if they were on the outside.”

Sallie Belle Davis writes: “I am glad to be getting all my aching body parts fixed. I had two surgeries last year and still feel twinges from time-to-time. I had my thyroid removed and a lump taken out of a finger. Neither required physical therapy but both caused some discomfort. It doesn’t seem possible that some of my classmates already have grandchildren.

Pam Germain Matt writes: “Effective March 1, 2012, I became the executive director of the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce. I am also president elect of the Utica Rotary Club.”

1980

Jeff Pollock was honored by ZOA with its 2012 Natalie Novick Community Service Leadership Award for his legal, religious, cultural and other charitable volunteer efforts to local nonprofit organizations.

1981

From John Mateer: “I have just finished the feature film, The Knife That Killed Me, for Universal Pictures UK, for which I was an executive producer (www.imdb.com/title/tt2087982/). It is to be released in the UK later in 2013 and internationally beginning next year.” One of Mateer’s early film jobs was serving as a production assistant on Silent Witness; a TV movie filmed in Pittsburgh and featuring Melissa Leo, who later won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in the 2010 film, The Fighter.

Adam Haus writes: “I’ve been working at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (educational publishing) since 1999, surviving many mergers, reorganizations and name changes. I’m not certain what my job actually is, but the title is senior manager, workflow. More importantly, I’ve played guitar and bass with various bands, mostly jazz and Brazilian music. The photo is me on New Year’s Eve 2012, playing with Chicago Samba, a longstanding group with samba dancers. In summer 2012, I visited Switzerland, staying with some friends I had met through our YouTube music videos. I’ve also traveled to Colombia several times, which despite its reputation, is a scenic country with a deep and varied culture. I recently moved back to Chicago after a decade in the suburbs, and am enjoying the proximity of bars, restaurants and music venues. The city has changed a lot in the 24 years I’ve lived in the area, but I’m never bored.”
Eric Sauereisen reports: “I want to salute those in our class who received an AARP application this year. Nothing says ‘You’re doing great!’ like a shiny faux AARP card in the mail. I’m likely cheap enough to explore membership on account of all those deep-dish discounts!”

From Dan Wecht: “My wife and I have three at SSA right now: Sarah ’18, Gabe ’16 and Sophie ’14. I’m busy as a clinical professor of neurosurgery at uPMC, treating patients with various brain, spine and peripheral nerve problems at Presby, Shadyside, St. Margaret and McKeensport. I recently became one of the team physicians for the Pittsburgh Penguins. My wife, Anna, is a critical care nurse, who presently spends most of her day maintaining a very busy household. Together, we enjoy a lot of cultural and outdoor activities that Pittsburgh affords, and spend a lot of time with the extended family, who also live in the area (including, among others, my brothers, David ’80, Ben ’83 and Ingrid ’85). Ben has two kids at Shady Side as well: Dylan ’13 and Zoe ’14.”

1984
Ken and Leigh Grandizio Boyer are pleased to announce the birth of Sofia Marie on May 8. Sofia was welcomed home by siblings Sonny, Cullen, Emma, Callie, Brianna, Dillon, Blaise and Tobin.

Margaret Hazlett was named the new dean of the college at Franklin & Marshall. She has more than 15 years of experience in leadership in student life and will begin her role in July 2013.

Dr. Michelle Clayton, a pediatrician with Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters Child Abuse Program, was recognized by Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell’s Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect for her exceptional work in prevention of child abuse and neglect. The award, which recognized Clayton for “truly outstanding work whose impact on patients is of major importance,” was presented at the 2012 Virginia Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Conference in Richmond, Va. Clayton also won the 2012 commissioner’s award presented by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families. The Commissioner’s Award recognizes exceptional contributions of child-abuse advocates in each state and was formally presented at the 18th annual National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C., on April 16-20.

Brendan McLaughlin and a colleague visited the SSA Middle School on April 5, 2013, speaking to seventh grade art students on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) design and certification. The students were beginning a project entitled “Dream Room: One Point Perspective Drawing,” in which they created and drew a room of their choice, incorporating elements of “green” architecture. The presentation introduced ideas such as storm water recycling and green rooftops. McLaughlin is employed by CDM Smith, a full-service consulting, engineering, construction and operations firm that provides integrated solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy and facilities to clients worldwide. McLaughlin was instrumental in the 2006 renovation of Rowe Hall on the SSA Senior School campus, which is Gold LEED certified.

1989
Ingrid Thoft’s first crime fiction novel, Loyalty, was published by G.P. Putnam’s Sons in June 2013. With a second book already in the works, the Fina Ludlow series is being positioned for yearly publication and received fantastic pre-publication praise from three New York Times best-selling authors. Thoft’s interest in private investigation and her desire to create a believable character led her to the certificate program in private investigation at the university of Washington. Set in Boston, Thoft’s protagonist, Fina Ludlow, tests her private investigator skills, physical stamina, offbeat sense of humor and even her sanity, investigating the disappearance of her sister-in-law.

1990
Tiffany (Lerch) Lewis visited the SSA campus in fall 2012 with her father, Orv Lerch, and son, Cooper.
1991

David Mallin notes: “I have just accepted a tenure track position as the film program director in the Department of Communications and Theatre Arts at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. I will begin in July 2013. This comes after a year as a visiting assistant professor at Virginia Tech.”

1992

International reporter Carmen Gentile spoke to parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students at a special on-campus lecture April 17. Gentile spoke about his time reporting while embedded with troops during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gentile has written for the world’s leading news publications, including The New York Times, TIME, Newsweek and USA Today. His work has also taken him to Nigeria, Brazil and Egypt. In 2010, Gentile was shot by a rocket-propelled grenade while reporting on U.S. and Afghan forces in eastern Afghanistan. Following a lengthy recovery, he returned to Afghanistan and resumed embedded reporting for USA Today and others. In addition to his reporting duties, Gentile frequently lectures at universities both in the United States and abroad.

1993

Thanya (Chinakarn) Lee writes: “Our family took our first RV camping trip to the Valley of Fire. Our sons, ages 4 and 5, had a great time hiking and relaxing by the campfire. Three rattlesnakes tried to attack our friends, but fortunately they survived. My husband, Frank (UC Irvine), the boys and I live in the suburbs of Las Vegas. We look forward to hearing from any fellow SSA alumni who live in the Vegas area.”

1994

Gagan Khera writes: “Many changes have occurred recently. I started a new phase of my career in the fall and became an associate professor at Rivier University in New Hampshire, teaching graduate students in the counseling and school psychology programs. I also got married in November 2012 to Daniel Martin of Springfield, Mass. We had a small wedding in Cambridge, Mass., near where we live.

1995

Tony Calandra reports: “My wife, Jamie, and I are excited to announce that Ava, 5, and Frank, 3, will be attending the Junior School this fall.”

1996

Zach Kaufman writes: “Kathy Malone recently surprised me at a party that George Washington University hosted on Nov. 27, 2012, to celebrate the release of my latest book, Social Entrepreneurship in the Age of Atrocities, as well as books published by other GW faculty members this year.”

We had a strong SSA presence with my brother, Davender Khera ’97, Sheela Joshi ’95 and Sunil Wadhwa ’96 all attending.

1997

As part of its coverage on leading women, CNN named Sloane Davidson one of “8 women on Twitter who will inspire, inform and amuse you.” Davidson is a proponent of living a cause-filled life and is a past recipient of SSA’s Paul Pigman ’52 Prize for alumni service to the community. She tweets about social causes, the digital world, travel and New York living. Davidson currently lives in New York City and blogs at The Causemopolitan.

1999

Scott Booker was on the sidelines when top-ranked Notre Dame met No. 2 Alabama in the Discover BCS Championship Game in January 2013 at Sun Life Stadium in Miami. A 2003 graduate of Kent State University, Booker is in his third season with the Notre Dame football coaching staff. In 2012, he became the team’s tight ends and special teams coordinator after two years as an intern for the offensive coaching staff.
2001

Cyrus Raji reports: “I’m doing my residency at UCLA Medical Center in diagnostic radiology and am still continuing my research on how lifestyle can contribute to a better brain. My research in this area on how burning calories can actually improve the physical structure of the brain was featured in *USA Today* and on NBC News.”

Colleen Koch Reed graduated with a M.B.A. and law degree from the University of Richmond. She is currently working as a commonwealth attorney for the city of Portsmouth, Va. She is married to U.S. Navy pilot Lt. Matthew Reed.

2004

Kevin Rich writes: “This past year, Jake Klinvex, Jim Ambrose, R.T. Tourek, Abby Bodenlos, Kate McCarthy and I were part of the most dominant co-ed softball team in Pittsburgh, finishing with a record of 29-1, including 22 games being called early due to the mercy rule.”

Allison Gockley reports: “I will be graduating medical school from Penn State Milton S. Hershey College of Medicine to pursue residency training in obstetrics and gynecology.”

2005

Renee Welker writes: “I graduated from New York Law School in May and began the arduous task of studying for the NY and NJ bar exams. I hope to pursue a career in criminal prosecution in NYC. On a personal note, I recently got engaged to Gregory Hassel, and we are looking forward to our Pittsburgh wedding in September 2014.”

From Reid Van Lehn: “I’m still in Cambridge, Mass., now in my fourth year of graduate school pursuing a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering. My thesis work focuses on developing novel pathways for nanoscale drug delivery using insight from soft matter physics. I’m hoping to get my degree next year and will be applying to post-doctoral positions studying the physics of cancer (if all goes according to plan).”

Kellen Dorsch notes: “I am still in Miami, Fla. This past March, my business partner and I teamed with local Miami talent to launch our second start-up, Quintessential Promotions. A high-end modeling agency, Quintessential staffs upscale events with lovely young ladies who are as charming and well-spoken as they are drop-dead gorgeous. Business aside, I am very much looking forward to kidnapping David Brodell from his wedding in June for a bachelor party in Key West. I am equally excited to enlist Tancredi Calabrese to defend me in the criminal proceedings that are sure to follow in early July. Wishing all of 2005 the very best.”

Evan Frye writes: “I support locally sourced produce and products manufactured to last. Shout out to the Class of 2005!”

From Bernard Balbot: “I am currently finishing a production of Tadeusz Slobodzianek’s play, *Our Class*, at Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. Doing a play in one’s hometown takes on certain significance, regardless of the genre or style of the piece. I hope this finds my ’05 classmates and fellow alumni well. I will be in Chicago for most of the summer, assistant directing for two new play festivals. Feel free to reach out should you find yourself in the Chicago area this summer. My next project takes me to San Francisco’s American Conservatory Theatre...”
in the fall, so if there are alums or friends in town, do say hello. Go Steelers."

2007
Brady Jacob writes: “I’m living currently in Miami. I have been producing music for a while now and deejaying for more than a year. Locally, I have been growing a very healthy following, and my first published interview went to print in Miami Alive. I graduated from University of Miami in 2011 with a degree in eEntrepreneurship and am putting it to use.” Hear Jacob’s music at https://soundcloud.com/skinny-hendrix

Brendan Jamison, captain of the Robert Morris University men’s hockey team, was chosen as one of the 10 finalists for the 2012-2013 Senior CLASS Award, which honors NCAA Division I student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition. Jamison has a 3.74 grade-point average while double majoring in finance and accounting. After a vote by his teammates, Jamison became the first captain of the RMU program to be a native of Pittsburgh.

2009
Tim Egan was named NCAC All-Conference for the second year in a row on the soccer team at Allegheny College. In addition, he made first team All-Region for the Great Lakes region. Egan just finished his senior year at Allegheny, where he played defenseman.

2011
Andrew Black has accepted a scholarship to play NCAA Division I ice hockey at Colgate University beginning in fall 2013. Black has been playing junior hockey with the Jersey Hitmen of the Eastern Junior Hockey League (EJHL), playing forward. He finished the 2011-2012 EJHL season with 20 goals and 22 assists and led the league in playoff scoring as the Hitmen advanced to the EJHL championship.

Chelsea Leigh Dickson has completed a one-year Rotary International Long Term Youth Exchange program assignment in Belgium and is now pursuing a B.A. in international development studies while attending McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

2012
Annie Pooley (Hamilton) and Alexis Concordia (Wesleyan) met on the collegiate lacrosse field this spring. The girls are pictured with their sisters, Kara Pooley and Erica Concordia, both current SSA students.
in memoriam

The Academy expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the following Shady Side Academy alumni and friends. Although we are unable to include remembrances of all, we sincerely value the special involvement in and contributions to the Shady Side Academy community during their lives. These listings include all information received by May 1, 2013.

JAMES ARMSTRONG ’35
James Armstrong, 95, passed away March 24, 2013. He was a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College. During WWll, he served in the Army Corps of Engineers, and was in Oahu during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He worked for Armour Meat Co., National Supply Co. and Joy Manufacturing Corp., Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Lodgegrass Farms. He was the husband of the late Betty Michel Armstrong; father of James (Janet) Armstrong, George Armstrong, Sandra (Lyle) Johnston and Peter (Christine) Armstrong; grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of five.

GIBSON BUCHANAN ’37
Gibson Buchanan passed away Feb. 2, 2013. He was 92. He was a graduate of Princeton University and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He was a WWII veteran, serving in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He established a private practice as a pediatrician in Pittsburgh, was on the staff of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and was a professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He was predeceased by his wife, Cathryn Grier Buchanan, and an infant son. He is survived by his wife, Alice Reed Buchanan; children, Margaret (Louis Golden) Buchanan, Cathryn (Jeffrey Pierce) Buchanan, David (Mary Horst) Buchanan, Thomas (Mary Beth) Buchanan; and six grandchildren.

JOHN REA ’42
Dr. John Rea passed away Nov. 17, 2012. He earned his Bachelor of Science in engineering from Princeton University, Bachelor of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary, Master of Arts in Biblical literature from Wheaton College, and both a Master of Theology and a Doctor of Theology in Old Testament languages and archeology from Grace Theological Seminary. He served as a professor of the Old Testament at Grace Theological Seminary, Moody Bible Institute, Anaheim School of Theology and Regent University. He authored Layman’s Commentary on the Holy Spirit, Charisma’s Bible Handbook on the Holy Spirit, and The Holy Spirit in the Bible. He was the manuscript editor of the Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia, and he helped to translate the New American Standard Version of the Bible. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Johnson, four daughters, 10 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

BURNETT BARTLEY ’43
Burnett Bartley, 88, passed away April 3, 2013. He graduated from Yale University and Harvard University Advanced Management Business School. He was chairman and CEO of Koppers Inc., as well as the Anegada Group, Inc. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, receiving a Presidential Citation, Combat Infantry Badge, two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star for five campaigns of Africa, Middle East, Normandy, Ardennes and Central Europe. He also received a Bronze Star, a Croix de Guerre with Palm and the French Legion of Honor, as well as the Infantryman’s Order of St. Maurice. He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Mary Lou Gilbert, and one grandson. He is survived by his wife, Wendy Bartley; seven children, Burnett (Patricia) Bartley III ’68, Davison (Suzanne) Bartley ’75, Richard Bartley, Parker (Donna) Bartley, Heather (Richard) Cullinan, Tiffany (J.P. ’84) Martha and Timothy Vogler; and 18 grandchildren.

THEODORE LEAMAN JR. ’45
Theodore Leaman Jr., 84, passed away Oct. 24, 2012. He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret Leaman. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Driscoll Leaman; children, Theodore (Sherry) Leaman III, Richard (Pam) Leaman and William Leaman; and six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

DAVID HUNTER JR. ’46
David Hunter Jr. passed away April 14, 2013. He was 84. He graduated from Amherst College and Harvard Business School, and served for the U.S. Army. Hunter served as chairman of NASDAQ, chairman of the National Association of Securities Dealers Inc. and chairman of the Securities Industry Association, and owned numerous businesses. He is survived by his wife, Mary “Lou” Hunter; children, Peter (Marcia) Hunter ’71, Sue Hunter and David “Crock” Hunter ’73; and four grandchildren.

WILLIAM MCMOIL ’49
William McMoil passed away Feb. 19, 2013. He served for many years overseas in several countries with USAID and the U.S. Department of State. He also served as director of finance for PAHO/WHO in Washington, D.C. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served in the Korean conflict. He is survived by his wife, Ruth McMoil; children, Melissa McMoil, William McMoil, Seana McMoil and Michael McMoil; and 11 grandchildren.
BROWNLAW SPEER ’56
Brownlow Main Speer passed away March 4, 2013, at the age of 74. Speer attended Haverford College and Oxford University, as a Fulbright Scholar. He served in the U.S. Army before proceeding to Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1970. He served as chief appellate attorney of the Massachusetts Defenders Committee from 1979 to 1984, and of the Committee for Public Counsel Services from 1984 to 2013. He is survived by his wife, Doris Pulver Speer, his son, James (Helene) Speer and three grandchildren.

ROBERT ROADMAN ’57
Robert Dwight Roadman passed away Feb. 5, 2013. He graduated from Yale University and George Washington University Law School. He practiced law in the District of Columbia and Virginia for 38 years. Upon his retirement, he enjoyed a second career teaching business law courses at Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Business. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Schwab Roadman; and children, Susan Roadman and Seth Roadman.

SAMUEL MOORE ’64

CRESTON BAUMUNK ’66
Creston Neal Baumunk passed away Jan. 31, 2013, in Nosara, Costa Rica. He was a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Rush Medical School. Baumunk practiced orthopedics in California, Wisconsin and Western Pennsylvania. He lived for many years in Fox Chapel, Pa., and is survived by his wife, Paula.

PETER KILIANI ’71
Peter Hicks Kiliani passed away Dec. 4, 2012, at the age of 59. He earned an M.B.A. in marketing from Drexel University, and was also a graduate of Trinity College. He most recently worked as project director of UAC’s Freedom Rings Partnership, a federally-funded initiative led by the Urban Affairs Coalition and the City of Philadelphia. He is survived by his wife, Linda Gdowik; sister, Katherine Bliss; as well as nieces and nephews.

BENJAMIN FOLLANSBEE ’99
Major Benjamin H. Follansbee passed away Dec. 10, 2012. He was a graduate of the University of Delaware. He served in the U.S. Army Special Forces, graduating from Airborne School and Ranger School. He was deployed to Iraq once and to Afghanistan four times. His commendations include two Bronze Stars, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, the NATO Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Award, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab and the Special Forces Tab. He is survived by his parents, Susan and Dr. William Follansbee ’65; siblings, Dr. Christopher Follansbee ’01 and Dr. Katherine Junger; and two nephews.

RACHEL HARDIE SHARE ’84
Rachel Hardie Share passed away April 8, 2013. She was a graduate of Harvard College and Cornell University Law School. She practiced law at Greene Rudovsky Maloney Share & Hennigh LLP before leaving to devote herself to her family. She is survived by her husband, Donald Share, and two children; her parents, James ’47 and Frances Hardie; siblings, James “Hiller” Hardie ’74, Janet Hardie Harvey ’76, Andrew Hardie ’78 and Michael Hardie ’80; and 10 nieces and nephews.

ALEXANDER ZUZAK ’07
Alexander Zuzak, 23, passed away March 11, 2013. He was the son of Chuck and Cindy Zuzak; brother of Chuck and Jonathan Zuzak; nephew of Arlene and Tom Carrola; grandson of the late Charles and Wanda Zuzak and Alex and Dolores Chrzanowski.

THOMAS O’CONNOR ’16
Thomas O’Connor passed away April 11, 2013. He was the son of Desmond and Frances ’79 O’Connor; brother of Matthew ’14, Colm and Ronan O’Connor; grandson of George J. Magovern, M.D., and the late Margaret Ann Magovern, and Elizabeth A. O’Connor and the late Joseph D. O’Connor.

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FORMER FACULTY MEMBERS
Anna Mae Anania, mother of Joe Anania, former Founders Society Co-Chair; grandmother of Sara ’16, Grace ’18 and Joseph ’22 Anania
Janet Amico, mother of Jon Spero ’06
Charlotte Bennett, wife of David Bennett ’42; mother of David Bennett ’73, Rebecca Bennett ’77 and Andrew Bennett ’77; grandmother of J. Bennett Reed ’00, Stewart Bennett ’05, John Bennett ’07 and Parker Bennett ’13; sister of Bennett Chapple III ’55
Terry Casey, father of Sean Casey ’89 and Tim Casey ’95
Thomas Cephias, brother of Trustee Emeriti Floyd Cephias and brother-in-law of Middle School receptionist/secretary Shirley Cephias
Charles Czerwien, husband of Facilities staff member Sue Riddell Czerwien
Edward Dardanell, father of Megan Dardanell Olsen ’90
Stephen Davis Sr., father of Stephen Davis Jr. ’71 and Sallie Belbel Davis ’76; grandfather of Stephen Davis III ’16 and William Davis ’18; father-in-law of Leslie Davis ’81
Jack Doherty, former Middle School English and Latin faculty member

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in memoriam

Joan Barnes Elliott, former Middle School mathematics faculty member; mother of Penny Elliott ’98 and Jen Elliott ’91

Bill Endres, former Senior School English faculty member

Madeline Frantz, mother of Betsy Watkins, former head of Middle School and director of development and current member of SSA Board of Visitors; grandmother of Carolyn Neimann ’85 and Katherine Whitten ’89

Nancy Gilkes, mother of Artie Gilkes ’93 and John Gilkes ’03

Stephen Gross, father of Jennifer Bails ’94 and Brian Gross ’10

Ann Greulich, wife of the late Louis Greulich ’44; mother of Peter Greulich ’75 and Geoffrey Greulich ’79

Alvin Holzer, father of Scott Holzer ’79

Donald Jones, father-in-law of Jay Katarincic ’83; grandfather of Dawn Teele ’01, Connor ’15, Leland ’12 and Sydney ’16 Jones and Charles ’21, Jack ’16 and Molly ’18 Katarincic

Betty Labun, former Middle School secretary; mother of Dr. Lance Labun ’66

David Langa, father-in-law of Academy Director of Programs David Chottiner ’98

Andrew Latta, former Senior School faculty member

Howard Maxwell, father of Middle School faculty member Bonnie Maxwell; grandfather of Scott Majesky ’09 and Chris Majesky ’13

William Monsour, father of Caroline Monsour ’14

Judith Mullin, mother of Rob Mullin ’93, Board of Trustees member and Board of Visitors co-chair

Susan Mullin, sister of Rob Mullin ’93, Board of Trustees member and Board of Visitors co-chair

Romulus Picciotti, grandfather of Douglas ’06, Joseph ’07 and Gregory ’13 Fletcher

Martin Sheerer, grandfather of Eddie ’09, Jane ’14, Joseph ’17, Katie ’07 and Madi ’11 Sheerer

Mildred Soss, mother-in-law of Athletics staff member Bruce Lowry

Suzanne Wolfe, former Junior School librarian; mother of Peter Wolfe ’71 and Thomas Wolfe ’75

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This year at Senior Night, which is held during commencement week, the class secretary/treasurer presented the "Ivy Speech." This speech uses the theme of ivy to reflect the growth of the graduating class over the past four years at SSA. But the roots of the Ivy Speech are planted much deeper in SSA history.

The first Ivy Speech was presented by James O. Flower during the commencement ceremony for the Class of 1923. At that time, a small sprig of ivy was plucked from the home of Wallace H. Rowe and replanted outside of Morewood House. The planting of the ivy was originally meant to signify strong and lasting friendship. This association is derived from ivy’s ability to stay attached to a rocky surface in even the most inhospitable conditions. It also symbolized SSA’s ties with Ivy League colleges.

Through the years, the tradition continued with ivy arriving at Shady Side from a variety of people and places, including George Washington’s Mount Vernon home, Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello home, Windsor Castle, Edgar Allen Poe’s Richmond home, and many Ivy League colleges, including Harvard, Princeton and Yale.

In 1939, senior E. Clark Stiles, a direct descendent of Yale’s seventh president, Reverend Ezra Stiles, presented Shady Side with ivy from Yale’s oldest building, Connecticut Hall, which was built in 1753. In 1961, General Matthew B. Ridgeway, who is best remembered for salvaging the United Nations’ effort during the Korean War, presented SSA with ivy from the fields of Gettysburg.

Beginning in 1967, the commencement ceremony was shortened and the Ivy Speech was moved to Class Day, which officially ended with the Class of 1989. In 1990, the Ivy Speech made its transition to Senior Night, where it currently remains.

In photos from the 1960s, ivy can be seen covering many of the buildings on the Senior School campus. It is believed that SSA began removing the ivy from the buildings beginning in 1969, because it was damaging the mortar and bricks. What became of the ivy appears to be lost in the history of SSA.

If you have more information on the Ivy Speech, or know what happened to the historic ivy, we would love to hear from you. Please email Lindsay Kovach at lkovach@shadysideacademy.org.
The classes of 1963 and 1988 will be celebrating their 50th and 25th reunions, respectively. Stay tuned for a detailed schedule of events available online at www.shadysideacademy.org/homecoming. For more information call Jamie Brush ’98 or Lisa Page in the Alumni Relations Office at 412-968-3032 or 412-447-2252.