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.
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DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:

Ten years ago, the Hillman Center for Performing Arts opened on our Senior School campus. The impact that the Hillman Center has had on performing arts programming at Shady Side has been nothing short of transformative. With teaching masters such as Dan Brill, Stan Nevola and Dana Hardy-Bingham, our students have continued to achieve new artistic heights. And the artistic bug has been contagious: this winter, more than 80 Shady Side students participated in the musical production of *Grease.*

But the Hillman Center has played another vital role as well: it has connected Shady Side to the artistic and intellectual world beyond our campus. With internationally recognized performance troupes, musicians, comedians and thought leaders filling the bill of the Hillman Performing Arts Series each year, the Hillman Center has become an important venue in its own right. We are proud to be able to bring such impressive programming to the Shady Side community, to residents of Fox Chapel and surrounding towns, and, really, to the people of Pittsburgh.

As many of you already know, Shady Side is about to embark on another building project that will be as impactful and transformative as the Hillman Center: the construction of a new science and technology center on the Senior School campus.

For the past four years, we’ve been taking a close look at our science program on all three campuses, and we’ve made tremendous progress in revising our curricula and tweaking our teaching approach. Although much has been accomplished, there is still a good deal to be done. What we also have learned, however, is that the inadequacy of our science facilities on all three campuses has made it difficult to do all of the things our students and faculty would like to do. Improving our science facilities at the Junior and Middle Schools and building a new science and technology center at the Senior School will help us to become a regional – and hopefully a national – leader in science and technology instruction.

As we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of a building that has helped to elevate the arts at Shady Side, it seems appropriate that we should be thinking about elevating the sciences as well. In fact, the complementary connection of scientific and artistic thinking is more common than we might think. Albert Einstein played the piano and violin throughout his life, and Louis Pasteur was an accomplished portrait artist. Alexander Borodin, one of Russia’s most significant 19th century composers, was also a famous chemist. Like these scientists, some of Shady Side’s best science students are artistically inclined.

In this issue of the magazine, we’ve decided to shine the spotlight on science at Shady Side. I hope you enjoy reading about the kinds of things that are happening in our science classrooms and labs, on the SSA Farm, and with our Science Olympiad teams.

Please let me know if you might be interested in supporting any of our science and technology initiatives. I’m always happy to talk about what we’re doing and to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Cangiano
Academy President
SSA Expands Pre-Kindergarten Facility and Program

Due to increased interest in its pre-kindergarten program, Shady Side Academy is expanding its pre-kindergarten building on the Junior School campus to accommodate more students in the program and to allow for programmatic enhancements.

The expansion will add approximately 1,200 square feet of space to the existing 2,450-square-foot building, including a third classroom and additional bathrooms. The addition is being constructed at the front of the building, and the main entrance relocated to the side. Construction began in June and will be completed by August, in time for the 2014-2015 school year. The project will cost approximately $240,000 and be funded by the additional revenue gained from enrolling more PK students. The expansion claimed a patch of land in front of the building previously occupied by the Junior School’s SSA Farm extension, a garden maintained by students and volunteers, which has been relocated.

The expansion increases the maximum capacity of the PK program from 30 to 40 students, and enrollment for 2014-2015 is at capacity. The Academy has hired two additional PK teachers to maintain the program’s low student-to-teacher ratio.

"Interest in our pre-kindergarten program is at an all-time high, thanks to the efforts of Junior School Head Ellen McConnell and our talented faculty," said Academy President Tom Cangiano. "This expansion will allow us not only to welcome more students to our Junior School at a younger age, but also to provide the best possible classroom experience for our PK students."

Shady Side’s pre-kindergarten program has seen a sharp increase in interest over the past two years. For the 2013-2014 school year, the PK program was filled with a waitlist by March 2013. Enrollment projections for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 forecasted a similar scenario without the expansion.

The facility opened in fall 2007, when Shady Side launched its pre-kindergarten program, and is specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of young children. Outside the building, PK students have access to their own age-appropriate playground and garden, as well as the school’s full-size athletic field. PK students also utilize the library, gymnasium and music room in the main Junior School building, which houses grades K-5.

“This expansion will allow us...to provide the best possible classroom experience for our PK students.”

– President Tom Cangiano
Middle School Students Launch New Digital Literary Magazine

Middle School students, with the support of the English faculty, launched their first digital literary magazine, *The Spiral Staircase*, in May. The 55-page magazine, which is available for download via iBooks to an iPad or Mac, features more than 100 pieces of original student writing, photography, artwork and music. *The Spiral Staircase* was created by an editorial staff of nine seventh and eighth grade students under the guidance of faculty advisor Dr. Sara Kajder. Students learned the app iBooks Author to create the digital publication. The name *The Spiral Staircase* was voted on by the student body and is a nod to the signature architectural feature of the Middle School building.

Seventh Grader Wins Young Naturalist Award

Seventh grader Walter Navid was selected as a winner of a 2014 Young Naturalist Award by the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. His essay, *What Produces Nutrient-Rich Soil?*, was one of two national winners for seventh grade. Navid was flown to NYC for an awards ceremony on May 30. The nationwide science-based research competition for grades 7-12 was developed by the museum to promote young people’s active participation in the sciences and to recognize excellence in biology, ecology, Earth science and astronomy.

Middle School Science Olympiad Team Wins State Title

For the third straight year, the Middle School Science Olympiad Team won the Pennsylvania State Tournament, held at Juniata College on May 2. The team placed first in Division B (grades 6-9) out of 36 teams and advanced to the National Science Olympiad Tournament on May 16-17 in Orlando, where SSA placed 14th out of 60 teams. It marked the Middle School’s fifth state title in the past 11 years and its ninth trip to nationals in the past 12 years. SSA students won first-place awards in eight events at the state tournament and earned top five finishes in three events at nationals. (*Read more on page 14*)
Three SSA seniors were awarded scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Senior Shaun Gohel was awarded a National Merit $2500 Scholarship, earning the distinguished title of National Merit Scholar. Gohel plans to attend Harvard University in the fall. Seniors Tevin Mickens and Tarah Wright were selected as winners of National Achievement $2500 Scholarships. Mickens plans to attend Yale University, while Wright plans to attend Columbia University.

Junior Wins National History Essay Contest

Junior Zachary Kosbie won the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America 2014 Essay Contest, in which the prize was an all-expense-paid trip to a weeklong seminar in Washington, D.C. The national contest invited high school students to submit an essay on the topic “To what degree can it be said that the decisions of John Marshall’s Supreme Court laid the essential groundwork for establishing a strong federal government?” Kosbie and other winners from across the country attended the Washington Workshops Congressional Seminar from June 21-27.

National Scholarship Winners

Three SSA seniors were awarded scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Senior Shaun Gohel was awarded a National Merit $2500 Scholarship, earning the distinguished title of National Merit Scholar. Gohel plans to attend Harvard University in the fall. Seniors Tevin Mickens and Tarah Wright were selected as winners of National Achievement $2500 Scholarships. Mickens plans to attend Yale University, while Wright plans to attend Columbia University.

Alumnus Gives $1 Million to SSA to Endow Two Scholarships

Shady Side Academy alumnus Philip Rouse ’64 will donate a total of $1 million to Shady Side Academy over the next five years to endow two scholarship funds in memory of his parents. Rouse’s gift will establish the Edgar H. Rouse Scholarship Fund for one male Senior School student in the amount of $500,000 and the Margaret W. Rouse Scholarship Fund for one female Senior School student in the amount of $500,000.

“Attending Shady Side Academy opened doors for me that otherwise would have remained closed,” said Rouse. “I want to help other students whose families have limited financial means get access to the educational benefits of Shady Side.”

Rouse attended the Senior School for four years (grades 9-12) as a boarding student. He received a partial scholarship, but his parents had to sacrifice to fund the balance of his SSA education. His gift honors the sacrifice of his late parents. “My parents were great believers in education,” said Rouse. “They were grateful for the assistance Shady Side provided and encouraged me to ‘pay it back’ whenever I was able.”

After graduating in 1964, Rouse earned a B.A. from Antioch College and an M.B.A. from George Mason University, and became a certified public accountant. He worked for 32 years at ViON Corporation, an IT company that designs and maintains storage and server solutions for the government, public and commercial sectors. Rouse served as ViON’s chief financial officer and vice president of finance and administration before retiring in 2011. He and his wife, Fran, currently reside in Virginia.

Rouse credits much of his success in college, career and life to the intense preparation he received at Shady Side, and to the mentorship of SSA’s dedicated faculty. “Shady Side provided the discipline and opportunity to discover how to buckle down, take responsibility and get the job done,” he said. “Perhaps Shady Side’s instructors should not be called teachers but rather life mentors. What they provide goes beyond teaching and beyond graduation. I imagine there is very little they would not do to help a student to succeed.”

“We are extremely grateful to Phil Rouse for his very generous gift to Shady Side Academy,” said Academy President Tom Cangiano. “His gift will have a life-changing impact on future recipients of the Rouse Scholarships by giving them access to educational opportunities they could not otherwise afford. It is our hope that his generosity and leadership will inspire others to support our financial aid endowment.”

Growing the financial aid endowment is a major goal of Shady Side Academy’s Strategic Vision. The Academy currently grants $3 million a year in financial aid to 18 percent of its PK-12 student body, but each year many qualified applicants are left in the financial aid wait pool due to lack of sufficient funds. “It is our goal to ensure that a Shady Side education is accessible to all qualified students, no matter their socioeconomic background,” said Cangiano.

Shady Side expects to award the first Edgar H. Rouse and Margaret W. Rouse Scholarships for the 2015-2016 school year. The four-year scholarships will be awarded to incoming freshmen and continue to support the recipients through their senior year.
MLK Day of Service

More than 300 volunteers from Shady Side Academy participated in hands-on community service projects at eight locations around Pittsburgh on the Academy’s fourth annual MLK Day of Service on Jan. 20. The volunteers, which included approximately 200 students in grades PK-12 and nearly 100 parents, faculty and staff, completed service projects for the Homeless Children’s Education Fund, Bethlehem Haven Women’s Shelter, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, HealthSouth Harmarville Rehabilitation Hospital, the Kingsley Center of East Liberty, the Woodlands Foundation, the Braddock Carnegie Library, and the H.J. Heinz Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Lacrosse Teams Raise $7,000 for Childhood Cancer Research

The boys and girls lacrosse programs raised $7,000 for childhood cancer research at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC on April 25-26. The main event was Lax Out Cancer, a full day of lacrosse games at Farrell Stadium on April 26, with proceeds from ticket sales, raffles, concession sales, T-shirt sales and a silent auction supporting the cause. On April 25, the Middle School held a Blue & Gold Childhood Cancer Awareness Dress-Down Day and the Senior School held Wear a Hat for Cancer Day.

GIRLS BASKETBALL RAISES $5,000 FOR BREAST CANCER

The girls varsity basketball team raised more than $5,000 by hosting the first Shady Side Academy Breast Cancer Awareness Classic on Feb. 8. The day featured 12 area girls’ teams facing off throughout the day in Mellon Gym, as well as raffles and prizes.
Russell Crowe Movie Filmed on Senior, Middle School Campuses

Shady Side Academy got a taste of Hollywood in April as the Russell Crowe movie Fathers and Daughters filmed several scenes on the Middle and Senior School campuses. The movie brought more than just excitement and celebrities, however; it also gave several Shady Side students an educational behind-the-scenes look at the business of filmmaking.

Directed by Gabriele Muccino, Fathers and Daughters tells the story of a woman (Amanda Seyfried) struggling with relationship issues who reflects on growing up with her famous novelist father (Crowe).

The scenes shot at SSA are flashbacks to the 1980s. The Senior School library serves as a bookstore where Crowe’s character has a book signing. The Middle School serves as the interior of Copen Academy, the fictional private school attended by Crowe’s daughter. One scene there was shot in a classroom with Crowe and actress Kylie Rogers, who plays Seyfried’s character as a child. Other Middle School scenes were shot on the spiral staircase and in the school head’s office with Crowe.

Several Senior School students had the opportunity to learn about the movie business first-hand, either in a class or on the actual movie set. On April 10, Fathers and Daughters producers Richard Middleton, Sherryl Clark and Craig Flores visited Jeff Miller’s English class to talk to students about the business of filmmaking and their career experiences. On April 24, art director Greg Weimerskirch spoke to Scott Aiken’s and Cari Batchelar’s art classes about the esthetics of set production, technical and design elements, and his movie career.

Behind the scenes, 12 seniors had the opportunity to work as film set interns and to see how a movie scene really comes together from start to finish. Also, 17 Junior and Middle School students were cast as extras in the movie, playing Copen Academy students.

Crowe and Rogers seemed to enjoy their time at Shady Side, sharing kind words about the school on Twitter. In response to a Shady Side tweet welcoming him to campus on April 10, Crowe replied “@shady_side thank you. What a beautiful school you have.” On April 26, Rogers tweeted “@shady_side is the prettiest school I’ve ever seen! Had fun shooting there this week :) everyone was super-nice! #thanks”

Be sure to catch Fathers and Daughters in 2015 to see Shady Side Academy on the big screen!

12 seniors had the opportunity to work as film set interns and to see how a movie scene really comes together.
around the academy

STUDENT PERFORMANCES

1. Pre-Kindergarten Play
2. Kindergarten Play
3. 1st Grade Play
4. 3rd Grade State Fair
5. 4th Grade Greek Museum
6. 5th Grade Wonder Picnic
7. Middle School Musical
   The Wizard of Oz
8. Senior School Musical Grease
Middle School Welcomes Chinese Exchange Students

Eight Chinese exchange students from Beijing arrived at Shady Side Academy Middle School on Jan. 21 and spent two weeks attending classes, learning about American culture and celebrating Chinese New Year with their SSA hosts. While the Senior School hosts Chinese students every two years through a reciprocal exchange program, it marked the first time the Middle School has done so.

The students from Beijing No. 4 School in China were fluent in English and stayed in the homes of SSA “buddy” families. The Chinese students attended classes with their buddies except during conference period, when they attended a course on American culture and history designed just for them by social studies teacher Michael Williams. On Jan. 30, the Middle School hosted a special Chinese New Year celebration in honor of its visitors, featuring student performances, traditional Chinese games and food. “We were thrilled to welcome our new Chinese friends to the Middle School,” said Middle School Head Amy Nixon. “It was a tremendous learning experience for our students as well as our visitors. The opportunity to live and learn alongside a child your own age from another culture can be a life-changing experience.”

Middle School Wins Garden Grant From Whole Kids Foundation

The Middle School was awarded a $2,000 school garden grant from the Whole Kids Foundation to fund enhancements to its one-year-old campus garden. The grant will be used to purchase gutters for the garden sheds, which will enable the use of rain barrels as a primary water supply, and cold frames to keep the garden growing throughout the winter months. Whole Foods Market Pittsburgh has been an important community partner in establishing the garden, donating a rain barrel and cover crop seed, as well as providing expert advice and troubleshooting throughout the year. The garden is overseen by English teacher Tim McGuigan.

With a focus on sustainable systems and native plants, the garden serves as a classroom, laboratory and salad bar for the school. In addition to providing fresh produce for the cafeteria and the Fox Chapel Farmers Market, the garden is being integrated into the curriculum across a number of disciplines. In science, eighth graders analyzed soil samples, seventh graders planted perennials to attract butterflies, and sixth graders planted bulbs and discussed the different parts of the flowers that bloomed. Social studies classes used beets from the garden to make homemade borscht as part of a world cultures lesson, and Latin classes used the garden to illustrate lessons on the Latin names of plants and derivations. “The garden is a wonderful educational tool for our students and teachers,” said Middle School Head Amy Nixon. “In just one short year we’ve found lots of exciting ways to integrate it into our curriculum. Every seed planted in the garden sprouts a new opportunity for our kids to learn.”
SENIOR SCHOOL
SCIENCE PROGRAM

Changing the Way
Students Think
About Their World

BY AMANDA LEFF RITCHIE
Graduating senior Hayley Wyeth has always enjoyed learning science, but it wasn’t until she began attending Shady Side Academy her sophomore year that she saw a future in science for herself.

“Wagler says some students struggle when they come to the Senior School with the belief that science should be taught through reading, lectures, experiments and tests.

“They can be frustrated, because we often don’t tell them the right answer,” he says. “In science, there’s not always a right answer.”

The mission of the science faculty includes a strong focus on facilitating collaboration within the sub-disciplines - physics, chemistry and biology.

“One place where this environment of supportive collaboration has begun to show itself is that teachers within the department are sitting in on one another’s classes,” says Wagler.

Head of Senior School Kate Vavpetic says that since Wagler became Science Department chair, the school has implemented a variety of pedagogical best practices.

“The pedagogical methods vary from course to course, depending on the content and style of the teacher,” says Vavpetic. “Everyone uses primarily an inquiry-based approach that requires students to ask ‘Why?’ or ‘How?’”

“The days of ‘stand and deliver’ teaching have passed us. We try to be as student-centered as possible,” says Wagler.

At the Senior School, students typically encounter a new concept through experimentation in a lab-based setting and then use their current...
When done properly, students leave the class with an enduring understanding of science,” says Wagler. “This process has our students behaving more like scientists instead of students of the history of science.”

To keep up with the interests of students, a rotation of interesting electives is offered. For example, this year, a one-term elective titled Research and Study of the Amazon Rainforest was added. The curriculum prepared students for a summer expedition to the Amazon. Next year, the physics courses will be reorganized – offering two different sections of the ninth grade Introduction to Physics class based on math skills. “These two courses will cover the same concepts but allow students with differing math skills to have the appropriately challenging experience,” says Wagler.

The Advanced Topics in Physics course also will be modified next year to allow greater in-depth coverage of modern physics. In addition, a new calculus-based Physics II course will be offered in addition to the algebra-based Physics II course.

The changes in teaching methods and expanded course offerings stem from SSA’s strategic vision, which was developed based on feedback from students, parents, faculty and alumni. In addition, a subcommittee evaluated science programming Academy-wide and benchmarked SSA’s program against peer and aspirational schools.

As a result, during the 2012-2013 academic year, the Senior School implemented a schedule change that added a second double lab period for science per eight-day-cycle, increasing instructional minutes from 345 to 425 minutes per cycle.

“The philosophy of the Science Department then – and now – was that students need to be spending time acting like scientists by working in the laboratory setting as much as possible,” says Wagler.

“The schedule change allowed us to continue to stick to our laboratory/inquiry-based approach while still covering more content.”
It’s only natural that as technology advances, science facilities have the tendency to become outdated. Middle School Head Amy Nixon says the school’s current needs for science facility upgrades are much-needed. “Our Form II lab has not changed since the 1970s, and needless to say, much has changed in the teaching of science since then.”

“STEM education continues to move ahead at a rapid pace, and our facilities need to catch up with our methods and pedagogy,” Nixon says. “Facilities can support great teaching, which we already have, and allow the students and faculty to move ahead more confidently and efficiently.”

Thanks to a generous gift from past parents and grandparents Sharon and Jim Rohr, two Middle School science labs are getting a much-needed makeover this summer. “Sharon and I are pleased to support this important science initiative at Shady Side Academy,” said Jim Rohr.
“We look forward to our grandchildren learning in the new Middle School labs this fall.”

The upgrades include the replacement of stationary tables in the sixth grade lab with moveable tables and chairs. Lab stations in the Form II lab will be replaced with new stations that feature gas, sinks, electrical outlets and storage spaces.

“We need to streamline the spaces of both labs, update the equipment and provide more storage for things like the robotics equipment, ongoing experiments and Science Olympiad work,” says Nixon. “We also need to have spaces for tablets and computers, so that students can record data as they work, as well as more flexible spaces for the different kinds of experiments.”

Matthew Brunner, sixth grade earth science teacher and coach of the robotics and rocketry team, agrees with Nixon about the importance of a hands-on experimental approach in the sciences.

“The flexible design of the sixth grade science lab will support the shift to a more interactive, collaborative and project-oriented approach to teaching science,” he says.

“These new facilities will allow our students to really feel like scientists and engineers, and give them the great start in their academic careers necessary to move ahead into the Senior School with a love and appreciation of scientific inquiry and science in general,” says Nixon.

At the Junior School, renovations tentatively slated for the summer of 2015 will bring the science facilities into the future and allow for greater flexibility as well.

“We have a responsibility to expose our students to the best science experiences available now, and plan for an unforeseen future,” says Junior School science teacher Jeff McCarroll.

The new facilities will include lab tables that can be moved, paired or even removed if a larger open space is needed. In addition, preliminary plans include a green house lab, an eco-system lab and a robotics room.

Ellen McConnell, head of the Junior School, says the science program is already incredibly dynamic, no matter what the space looks like. “It’s just time to make our facility match that dynamism,” she says.

“For our Junior School farm getting more established, it will be amazing to have the opportunity to grow year-round,” says McCarroll. “I envision the students growing hydroponic fruits and vegetables and then eating them at lunch.”

At the Senior School, through the generosity of a number of significant donors, the Hillman Center for Performing Arts was built 10 years ago, transforming arts programming and becoming a community asset.

President Tom Cangiano hopes that a new science and technology center will have a similar transformative effect on science and technology programming at SSA. A new science facility at the Senior School will address a shortage of classrooms, outdated open-concept labs, and a need for greater flexibility.

“We want to make sure that all lab/classroom space is as flexible as it can possibly be as the teaching of science continues to evolve,” Cangiano says.
Science Department Chair Derek Nussbaum Wagler would also like the new facility to provide space for students to do independent research, the opportunity for which is currently limited. “My hope is that the new facility will allow our students to work on unique, ongoing scientific research on campus,” he says.

Cangiano says consideration is also being given to programming that doesn’t currently have dedicated space, such as applied sciences, robotics and Science Olympiad.

SSA is currently working with two architecture firms to identify space and facility needs and site locations. The new facility will be as “green” as possible, which may have some bearing on its location.

“We’d like the new science and technology center to be designed in such a way that it exerts a magnetic pull on students and faculty,” says Cangiano.

“The science and technology center should be a welcoming, inviting space with room for students to gather in small study groups, meet with teachers, socialize and relax,” says Kate Vavpetic, head of the Senior School.

A timeline for the construction of the new facility is not yet in place.

“We’d like to begin as soon as we possibly can, but we’ll need to raise the money for the project first,” says Cangiano.

“We should have a good estimate of project costs this summer, and then we’ll be approaching people and institutions to see if there is interest in funding a portion of the project.”

In the world of Science Olympiad, Shady Side Academy Middle School is a dynasty — earning the title of state champions for three straight years, and five times in the past 11 years. The team has advanced to nationals nine times in the past 12 years. While trophies and medals are nice, it’s the new friendships, rising self-confidence and satisfaction of being immersed in a subject they truly love that stands out to the team.

Science Olympiad is a national program that promotes improving the quality of K-12 science education by emphasizing problem solving and hands-on, minds-on constructivist learning practices.

So how did SSA become reigning champions in this highly respected national competition? Science teachers John Matia and Bonnie Maxwell, along with former teacher Chris Erler, started the Science Olympiad team, or “SciOly,” at the Middle School 17 years ago. The team completes in SciOly Division B (grades 6-9).

The program has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1997, when neither the coaches nor the students knew much about the competition. Since then, they learn more each year about what it means to be a successful team, and pass that wisdom down to each year’s new crop of students.

The team’s success can also be attributed to the dedication of its members. The team practices from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday from September until May, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during winter and spring breaks, and for one period a day during the winter term.

Adam Bozzone, a seventh grade student who has been on the team for two years, enjoys the team’s camaraderie.

“I like that you meet people who you might not have met otherwise, and people often make friends they might not have made otherwise. Science Olympiad is a family in a way.”

While the teammates form close bonds, one constant in SciOly is change. Each year brings a new mix of students with different interests.

“If we are lucky enough to have some returning veterans and the events have not changed too drastically, then we can have some consistency in performance,” says Maxwell. “But more often than not, the kids and the events do change, so we have to find kids that match up well with the different events. Fortunately, they tend to gravitate to their own interests. Some are stronger math students while others like to build things, and others may favor the biological sciences.”

Participation in the Science Olympiad program exposes students to far more science and math topics than they could ever get in any middle school curriculum.

“As one example, an event called ‘The Sounds of Music,’ requires students to build two musical instruments, tune and play a duet,” says Maxwell. “They are also required to be able to
discuss the physics behind the science of the sound and musical theory.”

Science Olympiad doesn’t just strengthen students’ performance in science classrooms and labs.

Ninth grader Sameer Annamraju has been on the team for four years. His interests include environmental sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, water quality and petrochemical engineering. Not surprisingly, his areas of interest greatly overlap with his Science Olympiad events — Water Quality, Meteorology, Dynamic Planet (glaciers), Road Scholar (map reading and cartography), and Rocks and Minerals.

“SciOly affects my classroom performance in all disciplines in the sense that it has built a lot of good study habits, and it has given me the confidence that enables me to flourish in the classroom,” says Annamraju.

The team has traveled to a number of states for the National Tournament, including Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Georgia, Wisconsin and Florida. With so much travel, there are bound to be some trips that stand out.

“One of the most memorable events was when Noah McDaniel and Sameer Annamraju won a first-place medal in the Road Scholar event at the Wright State national tournament in 2013,” says Maxwell. “That was our team’s first time winning a first-place medal at a national tournament.”

Every year, Matia and Maxwell encourage students to continue their participation at the Senior School and invite them back to coach the younger students and fine-tune their own high school events. And they do.

The Senior School’s Science Olympiad team has recently been seen a boost thanks to a schedule change implemented this year allowing students to request a one-term athletics exemption to devote time to SciOly instead of participating in a sport.

The Senior School team competes in SciOly Division C (grades 9-12). In 2014, the team won the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Tournament and placed sixth in the state tournament.

“Coaching SciOly at Shady Side is an incredible opportunity as an educator,” says science teacher and SciOly coach Emily Hayes-Rowan. “I am constantly impressed by the intellect and passion of our Olympians. They love science and constantly push themselves to be better, understand more and improve their skills. I am so excited to build this team and see where the students take us.”

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**PA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**


**NATIONAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES**

For the first time since 2003, Shady Side Academy’s annual Untucked concert was held outdoors on the lower field at the Senior School. Although the day was abnormally cool for mid-May, more than 1,000 community members gathered for inflatables, interactive art activities and a great concert. The event, held May 17, marked the 12th consecutive year that the student-run Untucked organization has produced a benefit festival for the community. Proceeds from ticket sales, totaling more than $20,000, went to Family House, which provides a special “home away from home” for patients and/or their families who are in Pittsburgh for treatment of serious or life-threatening illnesses.

The evening began with a family carnival at 4 p.m. Families enjoyed the largest collection of activities that Untucked has ever assembled, including six inflatables, a petting zoo, henna tattoos and fortune tellers. Making sure no one went hungry, Shady Side once again welcomed several food trucks from Pittsburgh’s growing “mobile food scene.” The Franktuary, Lomito, Bella Christie Cupcakes, Steer and Wheel and the Oh My Grill all parked their vehicles to serve hungry concert attendees.

The concert portion of the evening kicked off around 5 p.m. with local band Donora. The music continued with Brandon and Leah, who wowed the student crowd with their folksy, acoustic set. The event headliners, the Spin Doctors, played a raucous set including their acclaimed hits Two Princes and Little Miss Can’t Be Wrong. After the concert, students enjoyed an after-party complete with food and music from seniors Abigail Spear, Sam Toshok and Zoe Schoen.

Untucked is a student organization at Shady Side Academy Senior School that has donated more than $130,000 to local nonprofits since its founding in 2002. The committee, comprised of 14 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 Family House, where they organized occasional evening events for the residents. Several residents also were able to attend the concert for free.
2014 PRIZE WINNERS

First Honor Student in Senior Class - Daniel R. Marous
Second Honor Student in Senior Class - Joshua Aaron Levy
Raymond F. Arnheim Memorial Award - Sara Ann Eismont
Richard S. and Kenneth L. Simon Award - Elisa Lynn Elias
Princeton Alumni Awards
  Fifth Form - Gabrielle Katarina Harchelroad
  Fourth Form - Dylan Heberle
  Third Form - Emily Jordyn Winterhalter
Alfred C. Dickey Memorial Prize - Dylan Heberle
Joseph Bole Hare Steffey Memorial Prize - Rebkah Lilla Tesfamariam
Edward Ernest Ebbert Memorial Award - Daniel R. Marous
All-Round Cup - Daniel R. Marous
Todd Drelles Memorial Prize - Akul Mitra, D. Francesca Pellegrini
Lowell Inness Award - Claudia Mansfield Mihm, Joshua Max Tobin
President’s Prize - Shaun Vijay Gohel

Christian Borle ’91 gave the commencement address.

Senior Speaker Tarah Wright

Lifers
The Class of 2014 by the Numbers

126 graduates
100% will attend a FOUR-YEAR college or university

Were admitted to
169 colleges and universities

9% will attend an Ivy League school

64% will attend college out of state

11% will attend a US News & World Report Top 10 national university or liberal arts college

Were offered more than $3.4 MILLION in merit scholarship money

40% completed an independent study or senior project

25% were recognized by the National Merit or National Achievement Scholarship program

12% participated in the Senior School’s five-day boarding program

40% participated in a theatre production or musical performance group

21 are “lifers” who attended SSA from grades K-12

82% lettered in at least one varsity sport

40% lettered in two or more

19% participated in an international exchange or off-campus semester program
CLASS OF 2014 COLLEGE CHOICES

Allegheny College
Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College
Bates College
Beloit College
Boston College (2)
Boston University (2)
Bowdoin College
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University (5)
Carnegie Mellon University (8)
Case Western Reserve University (2)
Clark University
Colgate University
Colgate University
College of Charleston (2)
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Columbia University
Cornell University
Davidson College
Denison University (4)
Dickinson College (2)
Duke University
Duquesne University (2)
Elon University (2)
Emory University (3)
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University (3)
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grove City College
Harvard University (2)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (2)
Indiana University Bloomington (3)
Lehigh University
Miami University, Oxford (6)
New York University
Northwestern University
Notre Dame College of Ohio
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pennsylvania State University (4)
Pennsylvania State University Erie (2)
Pennsylvania State University
Schreyer Honors College (2)
Princeton University (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Anselm College
Sewanee: The University of the South
Smith College
St. Lawrence University
Syracuse University
Tufts University (3)
Tulane University
University of Alabama
University of California, Berkeley
University of Kentucky
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania (4)
University of Pittsburgh (7)
University of Richmond
University of South Carolina
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis (6)
Williams College
Yale University
2014 PRIZE WINNERS

Erwin W. Cole Award — Andrew Sveda
Form I Improvement Award — Wesley G. Fravel
David McNaugher Marsh Award — Connor Leehmuis
Willard E. Mead English Award — Emma P. Thai
Charles P. Shriver Mathematics Award — Sydney E. W. Cleveland
Robert B. Stiffler Athletic Award — Molly J. Katarincic
Robert B. Stiffler Athletic Award — Francis B. Fuhrer IV
Betsy Watkins Form I Improvement Award — Owen U. Fyncko
E. Bruce Hill Memorial Award — Francis B. Fuhrer IV
David A. Mancosh Award — John C. Demchak
JUNIOR SCHOOL CLOSING EXERCISES
POSNER AWARD WINNERS

The Posner Award for Meritorious Faculty Performance is presented annually to a Shady Side teacher who has a “gift for teaching” and who has had a significant impact on the learning, development and lives of the students. The 2014 recipients were Middle School science teacher Bonnie Maxwell and Senior School mathematics and philosophy teacher Dr. John Sutula.

Bonnie Maxwell
Maxwell has been a science teacher at the Middle School since 1996. She also coaches the state champion Middle School Science Olympiad Team and the MATHCOUNTS team. Letters of recommendation from parents and alumni described how Maxwell excites the disimpassioned student, and inspires renewed vigor and joy in those who are already predisposed to the study of science.

“My senior year at Shady Side was a time of excitement, as well as anxiety about the future. During our many walks around the quad, Dr. Sutula served as a listener, confidante and trusted source of advice,” said a former student. “Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Sutula imparted me with a sense of confidence that no other teacher had before. Not only did he continually reaffirm my academic talents, but he created an environment in which they were able to flourish.”

Dr. John Sutula
Sutula has been teaching mathematics and philosophy at the Senior School since 1979. His selection as a Posner Award winner was based on numerous letters of recommendation from students, alumni and colleagues. Many alumni remember Sutula for his walking-talking philosophy final exams, as well as his willingness to engage in both serious and not-so-serious conversations, in and out of the classroom.

“My senior year at Shady Side was a time of excitement, as well as anxiety about the future. During our many walks around the quad, Dr. Sutula served as a listener, confidante and trusted source of advice,” said a former student. “Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Sutula imparted me with a sense of confidence that no other teacher had before. Not only did he continually reaffirm my academic talents, but he created an environment in which they were able to flourish.”

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 Eric Zentgraf.

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 math teacher Chad Fularz and Middle School social studies teacher Molly Braver; Innovative Educator Awards went to Junior School PE teacher Karen DiFiore and Senior School theatre teacher Dana Hardy-Bingham; and Exceptional Interactions With Students Awards went to Junior School first grade teacher Carol Hendershot, Middle School music teacher Randal Broker and Senior School music teacher Dan Brill.

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 history teacher A. Wesley Ballantyne.

The President’s Award for Distinguished Staff Service is awarded to an individual who has exemplified the heights of excellence on a day-to-day basis through their actions, job performance, work ethic and positive relationships with colleagues. This year’s recipient was Facilities staff member Charles Scott.

25 Years of Service awards went to Junior School faculty members Francine Gardiner, Carol Hendershot and Mary Modoono.

Senior School science teacher Derek Wagler was appointed to the George and Ann Magovern Chair in Science for a five-year term.
BOYS PREP ICE HOCKEY
By Peter McDonagh ’14

The boys prep ice hockey team got off to a slow start this season and finished with an overall record of 14-24. In the MPHL, however, SSA had one of its best finishes, coming in second in the division and sweeping a divisional weekend, 4-0. In the MPHL playoffs, the team suffered a first-round loss to Ridley College. The team was led in scoring by Jake Kleindl and Keaton Baum, while Peter McDonagh was named an MPHL All-Star. The returning squad next year, which consists of all of the defensemen, as well as both goalies and a core of offensive players, are looking forward to a solid season.

GIRLS PREP ICE HOCKEY
By Tori Winter ’15

The girls prep ice hockey team had a record-breaking season this year. The team was undefeated in its first 13 games and finished the season 15-4-3. Leadership from the coaches and the three seniors, Sam Green, Elisa Elias and Liza Plakseychuk, carried the girls through the outstanding season. The team competed in the A bracket of the WIHLMA playoffs and, after a hard-fought weekend, finished third overall. It marked a wonderful end to the season, knowing the team made history as the most successful SSA girls hockey team to date.

BOYS BASKETBALL
By Kyle Olander ’15

After a 0-5 start to the season, the boys basketball team battled back, winning 13 of the last 17 games to finish tied for second in the section with a 14-9 record. After a win in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs, the team was eliminated in the second round. It was a successful season for the boys under first-year head coach David Vadnais. Despite losing seven seniors, the team brings back a lot of talent and is excited for next season.

2013-14 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.609</td>
<td>WPIAL Second Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Swimming</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.833</td>
<td>7th Place WPIAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Swimming</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.833</td>
<td>7th Place WPIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.368</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Prep Ice Hockey</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.789</td>
<td>3rd Place WIHLMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Var. Ice Hockey</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.231</td>
<td>4th Place IPSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Squash</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.503</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BOYS VARSITY ICE HOCKEY
By Rob Marsico ’14

The boys varsity ice hockey team showed plenty of heart this year, finishing the season at 6-20 overall. The team started off with an impressive win against St. Johns, then traveled to West Virginia, Ohio and throughout Western Pennsylvania, earning big wins along the way. However, the team was plagued by injuries. The season ended on a positive note though, as SSA upset Fox Chapel 6-5 on senior night. SSA hosted the IPSL playoffs, but fell in the second round to No. 1-seeded Linsly School. Overall, the team finished fourth in the IPSL and is looking forward to progress in the coming years as a strong core of underclassmen skaters return.

GIRLS SWIMMING
By Rachael Roman ’14

Since the first meet of the season, the girls swim team dominated the waters in its section. The last meet against Springdale earned SSA the section championship and gave many swimmers the opportunity to move on to WPIALs and PIAAs. At the WPIAL Championships the team placed seventh, earning medals in six events and advancing to the PIAAs in five. Caroline Colville won gold in the 200 free, while Ashley Azzarello won silver in the 50 free and placed sixth in the 100 back. The 200 medley relay team of Colville, Azzarello, Lindsey Miller and Emily Jaffe placed fourth, and the 400 free relay team of Colville, Azzarello, Jaffe and Rachel Roman placed eighth. At the PIAA Championships, SSA finished 27th. It was a great year and the girls are looking forward to another competitive season next year.

BOYS SWIMMING
By Jason Weis ’14

The boys swim team had another exciting season this year, rounding out an impressive 10-2 regular season. Led by Head Coach John Landreth, the team possessed a strong core that was tough to beat. Captains Jason Weis, Frank Benckart and Andrew Lehman, along with Zac Coughlin, Luke Pellegrini, Brendan Leech, Ben Skinner and Ethan Forgas all qualified for the WPIAL Championship meet. At the WPIAL Championships the team placed seventh, earning medals and advancing to the PIAAs in five events. Leech placed third in the 200 free and 100 back, while Lehman was third in the 50 free. The team of Leech, Lehman, Benckart and Weis placed fourth in both the 200 and 400 free relay. At the PIAA Championships, SSA finished 12th and took eighth place in the 400 free relay.
BOYS PREP SQUASH
By Tucker Gillman ’14
Entering the season, the boys prep squash team was unsure of how it would fare after the graduation of its top three players. Through quality leadership and a positive attitude, senior captains Morgan Dively, Tucker Gillman and Harris Samad were able to fill that void and lead the team to success. The team finished with a record of 4-8, placing second at the Mercersburg Tournament, and beating crosstown rival Sewickley Academy twice. The team received great effort from freshman Gannon Leech, who competed at the No. 1 spot, facing some of the most talented squashers in the division. Next season the team will look to reload and take the program to the next level.

GIRLS PREP SQUASH
By Gigi Ruppel ’14
The girls squash team began the season with a positive outlook. With nine seniors, the girls were able to earn wins at Mercersburg as well as on their trip to Buffalo, where they played Nardin, Nichols and Buffalo Seminary. With the new coaching staff and the returning girls, the seniors know they’re leaving the team in good hands.

BASEBALL
By Morgan Dively ’14
After a memorable trip to Florida for spring training, the baseball team came home ready to compete. SSA went 7-3 in the conference, including back-to-back wins over rival Greensburg Central Catholic and a doubleheader sweep of East Allegheny. Senior captain Chuckie Scales led the team in stolen bases, while senior Charles Calabrese led the team in home runs. Juniors Andrew Scherbarth and Alex Hartz and senior Morgan Dively had stellar seasons pitching, helped by senior Cam Dively’s strong season as catcher. SSA fell to South Side Beaver, 6-0, in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs, closing out the season with a 10-8 overall record.

WRESTLING
By Maxwell Prizant ’14
The wrestling team had a great season this year, despite the program seeing the second smallest team in the history of the sport at Shady Side. Because of the team’s size, competition opportunities for the athletes were limited strictly to tournament and postseason individual wrestling bouts. Highlights included junior Logan Platt’s sixth place finishes at the Chartiers Houston and sectional tournaments, as well as senior Maxwell Prizant’s third and eighth place finishes in the sectional and WPIAL tournaments, respectively. With the loss of Prizant next year, Pratt, sophomore Noah Goldstein and freshman Leonard McAllister will serve as a sturdy foundation for the program.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
By Jane Sheerer ’14
The girls basketball team learned that hard work yields success. Led by captains Gabrielle Harchelroad and Jane Sheerer, the team finished the season 10-13. Natalie Palmer and Sheerer were named to the all-tournament team in West Shamokin’s Christmas Tournament. At the end of the season, the girls came together to host a Breast Cancer Awareness Classic, which raised more than $5,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

GIRLS PREP SQUASH
By Gigi Ruppel ’14
The girls squash team began the season with a positive outlook. With nine seniors, the girls were able to earn wins at Mercersburg as well as on their trip to Buffalo, where they played Nardin, Nichols and Buffalo Seminary. With the new coaching staff and the returning girls, the seniors know they’re leaving the team in good hands.
BOYS TRACK & FIELD

By Zac Prizant ’14

The 2014 season proved to be another successful one for the boys track and field team. Under the leadership of new Head Coach Adam Janosko, the team placed third in the section and 13 boys qualified for the WPIAL Individual Championships in 10 events. SSA came home with two WPIAL champions – junior Louis Berry in the 100-meter dash and senior Max Prizant in the pole vault – and six berths in the PIAA Championships. At the PIAAs, Berry and Prizant both took third place in those events, and Prizant’s jump of 14’6” tied a school record he set earlier in the season. In the triple jump, senior Tyrel Hill placed fifth and senior Shaun Berry placed sixth at the PIAAs.

GIRLS LACROSSE

By Tori Winter ’15

The girls lacrosse team closed out the 2014 season with a close 8-7 loss to top-ranked and undefeated Mt. Lebanon in the semifinals of the WPIAL Championship. Senior Taylor Valenta and senior captains Gigi Ruppel and Caroline Ellis provided strong leadership and motivation to the team throughout the season. The team finished with an 8-6 overall record.

BOYS LACROSSE – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

By Skyler Blaxter ’15

After a shaky start, the boys lacrosse team finished strong, earning a regular-season record of 11-4 and winning the league title. Led by captains Dan Marous, Tucker Gillman and Matt O’Connor, the team defeated Mt. Lebanon 7-2 at Highmark Stadium to win the program’s first-ever WPIAL Championship. In the PIAA tournament, SSA advanced to the quarterfinals, where it lost a rematch to Mt. Lebanon, 7-6. SSA finished the year with a 15-5 overall record.
GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
By Rachel Slaugenhaupt ’15
The girls track and field team finished with a 6-2 record, including impressive wins over Burrell and Ford City. Ten girls and two relay teams advanced to WPIAL Individual Championships after the qualifying meet at Shady Side. Despite terrible weather conditions, the team was able to finish on a strong note. Although no girls advanced to the PIAA Championships, senior Mackenzie Klinvex placed seventh in the 3200 meters. With a talented core returning next season, the girls are looking forward to a successful season.

BOYS TENNIS — WPIAL & PIAA CHAMPIONS
By Henry Cohen ’14
The boys tennis team finished the season as the 2014 WPIAL and PIAA Champions. The team beat three-time defending state champion Conestoga to capture its second-ever PIAA title. The team entered the postseason with a regular season record of 19-0. Sophomore Cooper Kann had an impressive season at No. 1 singles with a record of 15-4. Junior Derek Chen made solid contributions at No. 2 singles with a 16-3 record, and junior Eric Grubbs was undefeated at No. 3 singles at 19-0. Both doubles teams, senior co-captain Chris Grubbs and sophomore Michael Kann, and senior co-captain Henry Cohen and junior Naveen Jain, were undefeated at 19-0 as well. The team is looking forward to defending its state title next season.

2014 SPRING 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Baseball</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.555</td>
<td>WPIAL First Round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Softball</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.352</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Tennis</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>WPIAL Champions PIAA Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.625</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.751</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Lacrosse</td>
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<td>0.571</td>
<td>WPIAL Semifinals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.676</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOFTBALL
By Erin Frohlich ’16
The girls softball team worked hard this year, managing to make some improvement on the field. Led by junior captains Emily Curry and Jackie Yencik, the girls finished the season 6-11. Overall, the softball team looks to continue that progress and use its newfound drive to carry them to further success next year.
The Hillman Goes Global

BY ANNA ALBI / PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF PERFORMERS

This fall, the Hillman Center for Performing Arts is gearing up to present another exciting season. In the Hillman Center’s 10th year, and the Hillman Series’ ninth season, the programming has a global theme – every act hails from a different country. A variety of entertainers, ranging from rhythmic Irish dancers to acrobatic pets, will grace the Richard E. Rauh Theater stage.

The season begins in October with the Hillman Halloween spooktacular! The Hillman welcomes Outerbridge – Clockwork Mysteries illusionists Ted and Marion Outerbridge as they guide the audience through a bizarre and fascinating journey through time, with the help of a Victorian time machine. Often hailed as the “most successful magic act in Canada,” the Outerbridges’ stunt spectators with their magical race against time.

In November, the Hillman looks forward to the Cirk La Putyka contemporary circus from Prague in the Czech Republic. Founded in 2009, Cirk La Putyka blurs the lines between acrobatics, contemporary dance, puppetry, concert and sport with its award-winning show. The performance, described as “forceful and funny, powerful and poetic,” is grounded in Czech culture and features an ensemble of 20 actors, musicians, acrobats, puppeteers and dancers.

In December, author Robert D. Kaplan takes the stage. For nearly three decades, Kaplan has served as a national correspondent for The Atlantic magazine. Named by Foreign Policy Magazine as one of the world’s “top 100 global thinkers,” Kaplan has written 15 books on foreign policy and travel. He serves as chief geopolitical strategist for Stratfor, a global intelligence firm, and a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, D.C.

In February, audiences should prepare to fortify themselves for the most electric rock band ever. Literally, they will electrocute the stage and specific members of the audience! ArcAttack, a four-man performance group, plays classic hits with homemade, high-tech instruments, as well as more traditional instruments such as guitar and bass. ArcAttack is best known for its breakout appearance on America’s Got Talent, where the group shocked everyone by using Tesla coils to perform a collection of rock songs.

The Hillman will dust off its dancing shoes in March when The National Dance Company of Ireland presents Rhythm of the Dance. This epic extravaganza combines traditional dance and music with up-to-date stage technology, marrying the contemporary with the ancient. Recognized as one of the most popular and busiest Irish step dance shows in the world, Rhythm of the Dance features a live band, three tenors and 22 dancers.

The 2014-2015 season will conclude in the cutest way possible – with performing animals! In April, Gregory Popovich and members of the Moscow Circus present The World Famous Popovich Comedy Pet Theater. Popovich combines comedy with fantastic acrobatic feats and the extraordinary talents of his performing pets. He leads a troupe of 15 cats and 10 dogs as they perform a variety of stunts and skits, while the stage brims with European-style clowns and various juggling and balancing acts.

Three continents and five countries will be represented in the six shows of the ninth Hillman Performing Arts Series. During the 10th anniversary of the Hillman Center building, the space will be more robust than ever with its myriad of shows, as well as exhibits and performances from community partners throughout the Pittsburgh region.
Hillman Center for Performing Arts

All shows Saturdays at 7:30 pm
To order tickets: www.thehillman.org or 412-968-3040

OCT 18, 2014
Outerbridge – Clockwork Mysteries

NOV 15, 2014
Cirk La Putyka: Slapstick Sonata

DEC 6, 2014
Author Robert D. Kaplan

FEB 28, 2015
ArcAttack: Tesla Coil Music

MAR 7, 2015
Rhythm of the Dance

APR 11, 2015
Popovich Comedy Pet Theater

Shady Side Academy | 423 Fox Chapel Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15238
From mountain peaks

TO THE OCEAN FLOOR.

ZOOLOGIST CHRIS MEYER

DIVES INTO THE UNKNOWN

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID LIITTSCHWAGER

AND CHRIS MEYER
Meyer, after all, is a research zoologist at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. Despite the groundbreaking research he conducts at one of the most famous museums in the world, he knows how to laugh at himself. So he hasn’t had the heart to change his Siri greeting, even though it sometimes shows up in the signature line of his work emails.

Meyer has a passion for finding new species, especially in marine habitats, and for conducting research that educates the public about biodiversity. The fact that he does what he loves at the second-most-visited museum in the world, behind only the Louvre in Paris, makes it even sweeter. “It’s the best job in the world,” he said.

He appreciates the history of the museum every morning during his 20-minute morning walk from his home in downtown D.C., past the U.S. Supreme Court, by the U.S. Capitol rotunda and across the Washington Mall before entering the back door of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Here, he passes a giant squid and a famous early human skeleton named Lucy before entering his office, which overlooks the Washington Monument. “It’s pretty spectacular,” he said.

His field research trips are pretty spectacular too. He travels for weeks at a time to dive at exotic overseas locations, such as Moorea, a postcard-pretty French Polynesian island, located just a few miles from Tahiti.
Since 2007, he has been director of the Moorea Biocode Project, the first scientific inquiry attempting to characterize all species for an entire tropical ecosystem. That means he and about 300 scientists representing 37 countries have been on a race to catalog every living thing on Moorea (and beneath its coastal waters) that’s big enough to be picked up with tweezers.

If that sounds like a gargantuan and super-intense scavenger hunt, that’s because it is. From 2006 to 2012, researchers climbed up craggy peaks, tromped through lush forests and dove into blue water on this 52-square-mile island to find samples of plants, algae, insects, fungi and animals.

The project, funded by a $5.2 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, is an international collaboration between the Smithsonian, University of California-Berkeley, the French Polynesian Research Department and other partners.

Each day in the field was an adventure. “You’re excited because you know you’re going to find something that you haven’t seen before,” Meyer said. One day while digging through rubble, he found a rare alien-like sea urchin. Knowing he was in interesting territory, his eyes widened when he saw a spectacular live children’s cowrie, a type of marine snail.

Though he had done his doctoral thesis at the University of California-Berkeley on their polished shells, he had never collected one himself before.

Of course, scuba diving in a popular honeymoon destination hardly seems like hard labor. His friends ribbed him about going on a boondoggle. But out in the field at Moorea, Meyer
As a kid growing up in Fox Chapel, Meyer was a natural collector. Baseball cards, grains of sand, other trinkets – he would stash it all into unlabeled cardboard boxes in his closet. When he retrieved them decades later, he was surprised by the volume of his childhood acquisitions. “I had a hyperactive collecting gene,” he said. He loved to tinker, building model airplanes and taking apart broken appliances. He pored through National Geographic books. Still, he was a well-rounded kid, said his mother, Penny. “If the kids were out riding their bikes, he would go out with them. He once went over the handlebars. We had to go to the emergency room to have his chin sewn up.”

That accident convinced Meyer he didn’t want to use his science acumen in medicine. “I couldn’t stand looking at blood.”

One of his favorite pastimes was splashing around in creeks, his hands muddy, and his spirit exuberant as he hunted tadpoles, crayfish and other creatures under rocks. Even as an 8-year-old, he played with the eye of a scientist.

typically operated on four hours of sleep after collecting specimens, and testing and analyzing them late into the night. Though it’s tough to get out of bed the next morning, he said, jumping into water quickly woke him up.

Neil Davies, director of the UC Berkeley Gump South Pacific Research Station, was amazed at Meyer’s stamina. “Chris works all day in the field, and he works all night,” Davies said. “He doesn’t need to sleep. He is very passionate, even compared to other researchers who are passionate. He leads by example.”

In a pressure-cooker environment where scientists tire and tempers sometimes flare, Meyer was a steadying presence and a motivator, Davies said. “He herds the cats, and some of the cats are lions.”

His Siri moniker notwithstanding, “he’s very easygoing, always joking, very amusing,” Davies said. “He is a good person to head the project. He’s also a good communicator with the public.”

Davies said Meyer is adept at using new technology to study biodiversity. Inside the laboratory, researchers studied specimens and created a genetic tag that isolates a fragment of DNA. Though that doesn’t identify the particular individual, it does narrow it down to the species level.

Meyer is writing reports on the team’s findings, including the 40,000 specimens they logged and the 7,500 distinct species they identified. Most of the unidentified species are microscopic organisms, which represent the majority of the diversity on earth.

“You kind of have to check your ego and say, ‘Look, there is a lot we don’t know.’ That’s why we’re doing it,” Meyer said. “We’re supposed to be the world’s experts on biodiversity, but 60 percent of this stuff is still undescribed.”

A library of genetic markers and physical identifiers for every form of life found on the island is being formulated so ecologists and biologists around the globe can use it as a reference.

Meyer and other researchers hope to create a simulated model ecosystem so they can help policymakers reach informed decisions about land use. For example, they might warn them that if they develop to watershed a certain way, it will affect certain species. Or they could tell them that if the climate changes and the sea level rises over the next 50 years, it might jeopardize other species.

Those are the issues that keep Meyer working around the clock on a tropical island, a place others go to slather on the sunscreen and chill.
“He would look at the current and say, ‘The water is going this way,’ and he would know what stone to pick up,” said his childhood friend, Jeffrey Todd ’85, vice president of Guyasuta Investment Advisors in Pittsburgh.

Meyer’s curiosity also was stoked by many trips to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Carnegie Library. For a fun afternoon, he would head to Alan’s Pet Shop, where he would watch the fish in the giant aquariums.

Like their grandfather and father before them, Meyer and his two younger siblings attended Shady Side Academy. He liked science, but what sparked his interest in zoology was a spring break trip to St. John in the Virgin Islands, led by former Senior School science teacher Bill Diehl. His uncle had been generous enough to lend him a good camera. Taking underwater photographs forced him to focus on the incredible marine life teeming within that intricate, fragile ecosystem. Something clicked.

“Shady Side built your confidence to pursue your passions,” he said.

The school also made him well-rounded. He played baseball and soccer, and after a late growth spurt during senior year, became a talented left-handed pitcher. “I couldn’t throw straight, and that is an advantage for a pitcher,” he said.

He continued to play baseball at Colgate University (another family tradition), but his real passion became science. He took geology and biology and ended up majoring in both disciplines. He was particularly drawn to paleontology, and its evolutionary emphasis changed the way he thought about the world. “It’s pretty incredible to think that this amount of animal diversity on the planet is derived 600 million years ago from one common ancestor.”

His paleontology professors took him under their collective wing, and he loved joining them on their field expeditions. His research dreams came true when he was awarded a prestigious Watson Fellowship, which supports a year of international travel and research to kindle “resourcefulness, imagination, openness, and leadership and to foster their humane and effective participation in the world community.” After his 1988 graduation from Colgate, he was free to travel and conduct research wherever he wanted for nine months. The world was his oyster. The only rules were that he got one flight out of the United States and a return flight.

“IT’S PRETTY INCREDIBLE TO THINK THAT THIS AMOUNT OF ANIMAL DIVERSITY ON THE PLANET IS DERIVED 600 MILLION YEARS AGO FROM ONE COMMON ANCESTOR.”

He decided to study cowries, whose beautifully patterned shells are collected for trade and revered as status and fertility symbols in many cultures around the world. As he traveled from Hawaii to Australia and on to Africa, he conducted his own investigations about the living animals.

Many of the people he encountered in his travels were dumbfounded that this American researcher had traveled so far to study snail shells. But he was
fascinated by cowries, both from a biological perspective and a cultural one. It gave him an international perspective, something that the fellowship nurtured and that helps him today in his job at the Smithsonian.

He expanded his research from that memorable trip into a master's degree in paleontology at UC Berkeley, where he also earned his doctorate.

In 2007, Meyer began working at the Smithsonian, where he loves both the research and educational aspects of his job. His latest focus is the BioCube project, a collaboration between the Smithsonian, National Geographic Magazine and the Encyclopedia of Life.

If the goal of the BioCode project was to make an inventory of an entire ecosystem, BioCube zooms in on one cubic foot of space. Scientists lay down square frames in different locales. This gives educators and their students the chance to study biodiversity over time or to compare environments. For example, they might study a BioCube one foot from a busy hiking trip versus 30 feet away.

For Meyer, the project allows him to look at diversity from a close-up vantage point. “The amazing thing about diving is, if you’re 10 feet away, you see one thing, and if you’re five feet away, you see something else. If you’re a foot away, you see something else.”

Meyer explained that the cubic-foot scope was chosen to promote learning. Any smaller, and findings wouldn’t be meaningful. Any larger, and they would be overwhelming. “One square foot is the Goldilocks of what you can handle,” he said.

Students get excited about how much life is inside a cubic foot of space. “It’s amazing the impact you have on students,” he said. “They are astounded how much you fit in a cubic foot. No one ever says, ‘I thought I would have found more.’”

Exposing kids to BioCubes helps Meyer share his joy of exploring rich and diverse habitats. It helps make what seems ordinary extraordinary. In fact, it reminds him of what he used to do on his own as a boy, when he and Todd would splash around the creeks in Fox Chapel and Ligonier together, looking for tadpoles.

The two friends, who have adjacent vacation homes near Ligonier, have stayed close and still hang out together along the creek.

On a recent day, as Todd watched his longtime friend stepping over rocks in the creek, he asked Meyer what he was doing. The Smithsonian scientist smiled and said, “Just playing.”

That’s why, said Todd, the Smithsonian gig is perfect for Meyer: It lets him keep playing in the water. “Chris is a big kid,” Todd said. “He always had that sparkle in his eye.”
Matthew McKeown ’03
Making Aerospace History

BY CHRISTINA ROUVALIS
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY SPACEX
Inside Mission Control at SpaceX headquarters, Matthew McKeown stares up at three computer screens that are monitoring a spacecraft about to blast toward the heavens.

Taking deep breaths, he monitors the pressure, temperature and engine readings coming from the Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft, which sits on a launch pad thousands of miles away in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

At the count of zero, the two-stage launch vehicle lifts into the air, moving slowly before accelerating to the speed of sound, a plume of smoke in its wake as it lifts the space transportation company’s spacecraft high above the Atlantic Ocean. It’s a picture-perfect takeoff on Dec. 8, 2010. Whoops of joy can be heard by the crowds who are watching a giant projection screen outside the SpaceX building in Hawthorne, Calif.

But it’s too early to celebrate for McKeown and some 20 other engineers at SpaceX, a private company that is under contract for NASA for this mission. During the next two days, the engineers are on edge as they monitor the unmanned spacecraft around the clock as it zooms toward the International Space Station. Even when McKeown goes home after a long shift, he can barely sleep, preoccupied with the fate of Dragon.

It’s not until Dragon reaches the space station safely with its cargo of food, clothes and science experiments that McKeown and other engineers high-five and hug each other.

McKeown, manager of the in-space propulsion engine development group at SpaceX, is elated at the successful mission. “It’s your baby. It’s so nice when you know it’s there and it’s safe.”

In many ways, McKeown and his co-workers inside Mission Control could slide into the set of the movie *Apollo 13* – minus the short-sleeve shirts and two-inch-thick Coke bottle glasses and plus the addition of a few female engineers. “It’s amazing how similar it is,” says McKeown, adding that a few of his coworkers put on a retro tie or vest for rocket launches.

SpaceX, started by visionary investor and entrepreneur Elon Musk, made history in 2012 when the Dragon attached itself to the International Space Station, exchanged cargo payloads and returned safely to earth – a feat previously accomplished only by governmental agencies. McKeown has been on the front lines of private aerospace history, doing testing of the Dragon and collaborating with designers who built it.

But Musk, who also started the Tesla electric car company, has much bigger plans for SpaceX. His goal is to send reusable rockets into space for interplanetary travel and transport people from Earth to Mars.
“The ultimate goal is to make the human species interplanetary and have people go to Mars,” McKeown says. “We are not going to do that in the next six months. But that vision drives people and attracts great people. It’s the best and the brightest. It gets me out of bed every morning, and I want to go to work.”

When McKeown was hired in 2008 at the age of 22 as a development engineer, he was one of the first few hundred people to work for the company. Today SpaceX has grown to more than 3,000 employees. McKeown, 28, is already a veteran of the private space race, having received several promotions and impressing his coworkers with his skills and his manner.

“There are obviously many intelligent people at this company,” says Robin Titus, manager of in-space propulsion at SpaceX. “What really makes Matt stand out is he is incredibly humble as well. I don’t know anyone else who’s so smart and so humble simultaneously.”

McKeown also shows wisdom beyond his years, Titus says. “He’s an old soul. He has a maturity about him that you don’t see in many people who are the same age.”

Even as a kid, McKeown had a precocious talent for building rockets.

Sure, lots of little boys delight in setting rockets off in their backyards. But McKeown kept building bigger and more sophisticated ones that required bigger launching pads and more room.

He started out small, in the backyard of his Squirrel Hill home, before moving to a field behind a school and finally to Schenley Park.

One day, when he was around 10, his rocket malfunctioned and the return parachute didn’t deploy. The nosecone of the rocket came crashing back to the ground at high speed, landing between startled sunbathers. “It was a wake-up call,” says his father, Dave, who did some quick research and discovered the Pittsburgh chapter of Tripoli Rocketry Association. McKeown became one of only two kids in a group that launched intricate rockets on remote farms in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and upstate New York.

McKeown picked up tips from the adults, who were happy to impart their knowledge of rocketry and aerodynamics to the eager boy. “It was a very cool, friendly environment,” he says. “It wasn’t competitive. People didn’t have secret technologies. You went out and launched. They treated me as an equal even though most of them were 20 years older.”

His father recalls how he spent the entire summer when he was around 16 building a scale model of a Bomarc supersonic rocket made by Boeing in the ’50s and ’60s. McKeown spent months making sure he built the 52-pound scale model with five engines.

His methodical building paid off: The rocket climbed 3,500 feet. And it didn’t scare anyone when it returned to Earth.

In high school, he transferred to Shady Side Academy. “It was a really great experience,” he says.

A natural science student, he took many math classes and an advanced placement computer science class. His father, a research computer scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, says his son had a natural talent for computers and could have followed in his footsteps. “But I think in his heart of hearts he wanted to build things,” Dave says.
McKeown also honed his writing and public speaking skills at Shady Side, something that is invaluable today. “You can be super brilliant and smart, but if you cannot communicate it, it’s not very useful. That is why it is so useful to have a well-rounded, liberal arts education. The public speaking and writing classes at Shady Side definitely helped me develop those skills. I write test reports to the customer, which is NASA, on what is going on and what is good and what is bad.”

He also played tennis for four years at Shady Side, and when he and his father weren’t traveling for rocket club launches, they traveled around the country to tennis tournaments. At a tournament in Atlanta, following his high school graduation, he was ranked 300th in the nation—good enough to play at a Division III school.

I don’t know anyone else who’s so smart and so humble simultaneously.

– Robin Titus, SpaceX manager

But he chose instead to put his energy into learning as much as he could about rockets at the University of Michigan. He graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering and a master’s degree in aerospace engineering.

While at Ann Arbor, he was awarded a NASA Space Grant Fellowship for developing a novel hybrid rocket engine.

He rounded out his space resume with two prestigious summer internships—one at Lockheed Martin in Orlando, Fla. in 2006 and the following year at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., where he was a Mars Science Laboratory propulsion engineering intern.

After graduation, he was thrilled to get hired at SpaceX, where he has done testing of the Dragon. “The testing is both the exciting and nervous part,” he says. “If you don’t set it up perfectly, something could go wrong. But it is really satisfying when you set it up correctly and you see our hard work come to fruition.”

He sometimes sits in meetings with Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur who has an integral role in the design process. “He could have just lived on an island and called it quits, but he obviously had passion, not just for SpaceX and Tesla. He is really trying to make a difference.”

McKeown also took a lead role during one of the most stressful days at Mission Control at SpaceX—in March 2013, when a valve malfunctioned in the propulsion system of Dragon 4.

The tension mounted in Mission Control as the engineers sent commands to the capsule via the computer. They fixed the problem, enabling a successful mission, but not before hours of troubleshooting.

“It was incredibly stressful,” Titus says. “But Matt stayed cool as a cucumber throughout.”

McKeown loves the challenge of working at SpaceX. He envisions the day when he can help transport people between planets and send them to Mars. “When you talk about interplanetary travel, it sounds like a crazy idea at first,” McKeown says. “But there are all sorts of things that could make Earth fallible—weather or nuclear weapons. Having a backup is a good idea. It’s not something that is going to happen overnight. But it could definitely happen.”
SPRING DOWNTOWN LUNCHEON

A record crowd gathered at the HYP Club on April 30 for the 2014 Spring Downtown Luncheon featuring speaker Dan Gilman '00, Pittsburgh City Council member. Gilman spoke about his journey into politics and why he is so passionate about Pittsburgh. He was sworn into office on Jan. 6, 2014, and represents residents of Pittsburgh's 8th District. Prior to his election, he served 10 years as chief of staff to then-councilman and now-Mayor of Pittsburgh Bill Peduto.

RACE FOR THE CURE

For the past seven years, SSA has participated in the Race for the Cure walk or run in support of the fight against breast cancer. This year, more than 50 people came out in support of team Shady Side.

IN-COLLEGE BRUNCH

The Alumni and Development Office kicked off the new year with the annual In-College Brunch on Jan. 2, 2014. More than 50 alumni gathered in McCune Dining Hall to catch up with classmates and teachers before returning to college to finish the year.

1. Stanford: Craig Ramsey ’64, President Tom Cangiano, John Taylor ’64
2. San Francisco: Laura Daigneau ’07, Hal Thiessen ’90, Vijay Sekaran ’93
3. Beverly Hills: Host Fred Kaplan ’68, Gregg Hillman ’68, Joe Safier ’68
4. Philadelphia: Ashley (Dalton) Forsyth ’99, Craig Stiffler ’83, Chris Ward ’96, Forrest Patterson ’83
5. New York City: Jon Dane ’04, Jeremy Gordon ’04, Annie Quinlin ’04, Mahesh Madhavan ’04
6. Palm Beach: Tom Cangiano alongside the hosts, trustee emerita Susie Wean, Britton Wean ’02, John Wean
7. Naples: David Marshall, Margie Oliver ’84, Leslie (Marous) Davis ’81, Steve Davis ’79, Tom Cangiano
8. Chicago: Madison Byrnes, Ben Washburn ’05, Brendan Scott ’09, Alex Petredis ’09 and Sara Mangold ’09
The annual meeting of the Shady Side Academy Board of Visitors was held Friday, May 2, 2014, at the Senior School campus. The morning session agenda consisted of reports on the state of the Academy from President Tom Cangiano and the three school heads, as well as admissions and college counseling. Afterwards, seven members of the BOV participated in a career panel discussion at the Senior School community assembly, moderated by Cangiano. In the afternoon, the group discussed the strategic vision initiatives with the Board of Trustees, eliciting feedback and discussing the progress that has been made toward achieving the strategic vision goals. Attending the 2014 meeting were Ron Davenport '81, John Duff '59, George Egan '78, Bart Griffith '93, Margaret Hazlett '84, Alex Howson '82, John Kramer '57, Linda LaMagna '83, Doug Mancosh '76, Abhishek Mehta '01, Jim Morris '59, Rob Mullin '93, Fred Parkin '59, Ryan Ruskin '86, Betsy Watkins, Annie Westbrook '96, Tom Worrall '87 and David Yaccino '86. The Board of Visitors, founded 11 years ago by Kramer and Ed Grefenstette '85, serves as a tremendous asset to the Academy by providing perspective, feedback, suggestions and fresh insight.

Members of the Board of Visitors at Senior School assembly.
(L to R) Fred Parkin '59, Doug Mancosh '76, George Egan '78, David Yaccino '86, Ryan Ruskin '86, Annie Westbrook '96 and Abhishek Mehta '01

Thank you for another outstanding year!

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 by raising a total of $1,254,558
Increased Founders Society gifts at all levels comprised 83% of the total funds raised
Increased alumni participation to 7% higher than the national average
Parent participation increased by more than 10% from last year

Look for the online Report of Philanthropy coming this fall for more details on the outstanding support for Shady Side.

www.supportssa.org
Included in this section are news items received through May 1, 2014.

1940

Bob Thompson writes: “A total of 73 years after graduation, there are not many of us still living. Perhaps survivors could arrange a get-together. I am in good health. I take no medications and remain active.”

1946

Patrick McCurdy writes: “I am finishing my second year at Ann’s Choice Retirement Community just outside of Philadelphia.”

1951

Pittsburgh’s Irish community honored David McCullough with the 2014 American Ireland Fund Chairman’s Award. At the gala, held March 19, 2014, at Heinz Field, McCullough received a replica of his namesake 16th Street Bridge from Pittsburgh Steelers Chairman Dan Rooney Sr. and President Art Rooney II. The two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian is currently working on a book about the Wright Brothers.

1952

George Forker writes: “On Nov. 2, 2013, I married Donna Flugstadt. We are happy on our tiny farm.”

1953

Tony Wolk writes: “All is well. I am still teaching full-time and I have a new book out, The Parable of You (Propeller Press, 2013). It is a collection of short stories, mostly in a fantastic vein. It’s a pity that Mr. Innes isn’t around to scold me.”

1954

William Sutherland writes: “I am still actively singing in two choruses in Pittsburgh and one in Florida. I even sing in a barbershop quartet.”

1955

Jerry Fincke writes: “My wife and I still own and operate a somewhat unique business, The Depot Cigar & Candle, which also sells commuter bus ticket books.”

Walt Sickles completed a one-year term as the governor for Rotary District 7300, Greater Pittsburgh. Sickles joined Rotary in 1967 and belonged to the Downtown Pittsburgh club until moving to the Ambridge club in 1975. As district governor, he worked with the 48 Rotary Clubs in the Pittsburgh area to serve people locally, as well as on an international level.

1959

Foster Goldman reports: “I have joined Goldblum Sablowsky LLC as of counsel.”

1960

Bill Marks writes: “I have been retired for the past five years and am enjoying life.”

James Perrin writes: “I stepped down as chief of general pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital. I am still professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and will continue to serve as the 2014 president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.”

1961

Paul Woodruff writes: “My book, Reverence, is now in its second edition with three new chapters.”

1962

Kirk Baird is back to working full time at his real estate business, K. Baird Associates LLC (kbairdassociates.com), and is enjoying putting a team together to handle residential, commercial and investment real estate. In his spare time he volunteers at the VA and is active in Yale alumni matters. His grandchildren are 14, 12, 10 and 4 years old and a constant source of delight. Give him a call when you’re in the New Haven, Conn., area.

Harley Trice writes: “I retired from my law practice, and I am continuing my avocation as a dealer in antiques and fine art. I’m also writing a book about my family’s glass company, Bryce Brothers.”

1965

Jeff Lott writes: “I retired in December 2013 after 23 years at Swarthmore College as editor of the alumni magazine and director of publications. My final project was a 200-page book about the college, to be released during its 2014 sesquicentennial.”

1966

John Harrison writes: “I spent most of last year in the United Kingdom, writing and producing a new British TV series that I created called Residue. It’s a supernatural thriller, and I think it’s going to turn out nicely creepy. Leslie was able to join me for the production and we had a great time in Yorkshire and London visiting old friends and making new ones. Since the beginning of the year I’ve been in post-production on Residue, developing a new sci-fi series for producer Tim Kring (Heroes), and getting ready to return to Portland to direct an episode of producer Dean Devlin’s new TNT show, Librarians. Retirement still seems a long ways off. My son Ian is with the 82nd Airborne in Northern Afghanistan, and my daughter Sidney is just finishing her junior year at New York University.”
Don Lynn writes: “Jeff, Colleen and I should be finished building our home in Aspen, Colo., by June 1, 2014. If any of our classmates are in the Aspen area this summer, we would love to catch up.”

Jan Rovelli writes: “My daughter, Meredith, got married to her boyfriend/fiancé of seven years in December 2013 at the Rosewood resort in Riviera Maya, Mayakoba, Mexico, near Cancun. Meredith has her J.D. from Harvard University and her husband, Rob Bollman, has his M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They both received their undergraduate degrees from Colgate University. She is a second-year associate at Skadden, Arps, Flomm in Manhattan. They reside on the Upper East Side in NYC.”

Jeff Varadi and his wife, Laura, spent quality time with Jay Reich and his sister, Judy, for Judy’s birthday celebration at Caesars Palace in March 2014. The group truly enjoyed dining at Rao’s, noting, “Those of you from the New York City area know that it is impossible to get a table at the Rao’s there. In Las Vegas, money talks and nobody walks.”

1967

Jay Apt has been named to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows for his “distinguished contributions to observation of Earth from space, and to building a cleaner and more efficient energy future.” Apt is a professor of technology at Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business with an affiliated faculty appointment in the College of Engineering’s Engineering and Public Policy Department, and is the director of the Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center. A NASA astronaut from 1985 to 1997, Apt flew on four space missions aboard the U.S. Space Shuttles Atlantis and Endeavour, including two spacewalks.

Dave Edwards and his wife, Paula, received honorary degrees, Doctors of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, at the Colorado State University College of Liberal Arts.

1969

Bob Allen reports that he will be living overseas for the next few years. He will be completing seven months as a visiting scholar at the University of Tsukuba in Japan, then move to Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, as a visiting professor in February 2015.

1971

Frank Morgan writes: “I am in my seventh year as superintendent of the Kershaw County, S.C., school district. I have spent 39 years as a coach, principal and district administrator in Virginia and South Carolina.”

1973

Tom Davis writes: “I am sorry that I couldn’t get back for our reunion in the fall of 2013. I am still busy practicing hematology and oncology at Dartmouth Medical Center. My kids are grown and out of the nest, so I have lots of spare room for any SSAers needing a place to stay in Vermont.”

1976

Pamela (Germain) Matt writes: “I am executive director of Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce and president of Utica Rotary Club.”

1966

Bill Hughes celebrated his fourth year as co-owner of Mimi’s Child Development Center. He enjoyed serving as chair of the board of directors’ annual meeting.

1968

Ed Strauss published the translated memoirs of a World War I French infantryman entitled Poilu: The World War I Notebooks of Corporal Louis Barthas, Barrelmaker 1914-1918. This is a significant piece of history because the diary had been stowed away for many years and discovered later to the delight of historians. No translations into English had been published prior to this one. He dedicates the book to the four French teachers he had at Shady Side between 1964-1968: T.C. Adams, Miles Charest, Jack Cousins and Don Moisdon. Strauss hopes to visit the Academy and some classes in the future.

1967

Rick Wentley was featured in a February 2014 article in Palm Beach Daily News. He talks about how he manages to balance his love of surfing as well as the ownership of three specialty stores in Palm Beach, Fla. Rick, his wife Jodi, and her sister Jamie, have three stores: P.B. Boys Club, P.B. Girls Club and Aristokids Outpost. The stores feature surfboards, wet suits and items essential for the beach lifestyle.
Sam Tisherman is leading a “cool” new advancement in medicine that could help save victims who are experiencing severe bleeding. He is leading the research through UPMC, and the technique is to significantly lower the patient’s body temperature to chill the heart and brain for up to an hour, which would give surgeons more time to save the patient and stop the problem without causing stress on other parts of the body. The procedure is called “EPR,” or Emergency Preservation and Resuscitation. It is an attempt to prevent the onset of a cardiac arrest brought about by severe bleeding and trauma. The technique will be tested on eligible patients at UPMC Presbyterian emergency department.

Joseph A. Paletta Esq. and his wife, Carolyn E. Paletta Esq., recently welcomed a beautiful son into their lives, Gabriel Leonard Paletta. He was born Oct. 19, 2013.

Jeff Pollock writes: “It is hard to believe that my classmate and best friend, Grant Mason, just married off his beautiful little girl, Amanda. It was a phenomenally fun and festive event, with tears of joy as a bonus.”

Andrew Shenkan completed his M.B.A. from the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration, University of Louisiana - Lafayette on Dec. 20, 2013. In addition, Andrew, in his capacity as president and general manager of KATC Communications in Lafayette, was selected to receive the 2013 President’s Award, which is granted annually to one of Cordillera Communications TV group general managers for outstanding performance.

Bruce Burgett is dean of the School for Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington Bothell. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the UW campus in Seattle, where he teaches occasional graduate courses and supervises doctoral work.

Liz Gill writes: “My husband, Shayne, and I are still in Toronto. Our kids are now 7 and 9, and in the second and fourth grades. We are raising a competitive hockey player and competitive figure skater, so we are either at work, at home or at the rink. Such is the life of a Canadian working mom! It’s nice seeing the kids enjoy what they are doing.”

Amy Lloyd lives in Bedford, Mass., with her husband and son. She serves on the city’s planning board.

Jamie Petrolia works at 4i Insurance Group LLC, located in Carnegie, Pa. He and his wife, Athena, have two teenage sons, Anthony and John.

Rob Sanner is an associate professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Maryland’s A. James Clark School of Engineering. He also serves as director of undergraduate studies.

Jim Tennies is president and founder of InCap Group. He graduated from Franklin & Marshall College and Yale Law School, where he served as editor of the Yale Law Journal. He previously taught the mergers and acquisitions course at the University of Maryland School of Law. Jim and his wife, Christine, have two children.

Hilary (Harley) Spector writes: “Hello from Boston! I enjoyed SSA mini-reunions in April with Yong (Debbie) Kim Cedro and Owen Young, and another with Gary Middleton, Sarah, William and Catherine Vodrey at Catherine’s wedding in May. My daughters are now 17 and 19; Emma is a junior in high school, and Julia is a sophomore at Mount Holyoke College. Julia recently completed a Fulbright Summer Institute scholarship which brought her to Durham, England, for medieval studies, and she looks forward to returning to London next summer as a research assistant on a Mellon Foundation grant to digitize Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic. I’m busy writing and counseling astrological clients and can be reached at www.hilaryharley.com.”

Gary Taylor writes: ”After graduating from Yale in 1987, I married Karen Shipley Taylor. We have three wonderful kids, Charlie, 17, Wendy, 14, and Theo, 11. I worked for 20 years as a private school teacher and administrator in Maryland and

John Tadler writes: “I recently completed the FBI’s National Training Academy program for law enforcement leaders at the Quantico Marine Corps base. For 10 weeks, I studied leadership, forensics, psychosocial behavior, labor law and communications. The program incorporated strenuous physical conditioning along with academic work, and on Sept. 20, 2013, at age 51, I managed to finish a 6.2 mile run and obstacle course. While there, I met law enforcement professionals from 49 states and 16 foreign countries. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget.”

Above: Tadler and his daughter, Molly, at the 2014 Pittsburgh St. Patrick’s Day parade.
Connecticut, until 2008 when I answered ‘the call’ and went to seminary in Virginia. In 2012, I was ordained as an Episcopal priest and have served as a school chaplain in Delaware since that time. I recently was named head of school at Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans, La., and I begin July 1, 2014. I would love to connect with any SSA folks down there as Karen and I adapt to a new environment.”

1986
Sean Park returned to the United States in September 2013 after a year-long deployment as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. A major in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps, Park served as the senior defense counsel at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where he supervised a team of Army defense lawyers and personally represented soldiers at criminal trials and administrative hearings throughout Afghanistan and Kuwait. He and his team faced regular Taliban rocket and suicide attacks while performing their duties and logged hundreds of travel hours in hostile territory. For his efforts in protecting the legal rights of his military clients and ensuring the safety of his subordinates, Park was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. In his civilian capacity, Park is an attorney on the legal staff of the National Security Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He resides in Fairfax County, Va., with his wife, Jenny, and two children, Timothy and Gabrielle.

1987
Jonathan Zittrain, Harvard Law School professor and co-founder of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society, has been named chair of the Berkman Center’s board.

1988
DirectTV announced that it has ordered 10 episodes of the original comedy Things You Shouldn’t Say Past Midnight from award-winning writer Peter Ackerman. Production is set to begin in May 2014.

1989
Lenny McAllister hosted the PCNC TV show NightTalk: Get to the Point! in February

1991
Tony Award-winning Broadway and TV actor Christian Borle was the featured speaker at Senior School Commencement on June 6. In December 2013, he charmed TV audiences as Max Detweiler in NBC’s live television movie The Sound of Music Live! and in 2013-2014, he played a recurring guest role on the CBS TV show The Good Wife. He was most recently featured in a short film entitled Shutterflies, which is set to be released next year.

1993
Andy Gerber reports: “I started a new job last summer with residential developer/homebuilder City Ventures as director of development for the San Diego region. In April, my wife, Jill, and I welcomed our first child, Harper Kristine Gerber.”

Graham Westerberg, the varsity swim coach at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Md., was named the Washington Metropolitan Prep School Swimming and Diving League girls swimming coach of the year for the third consecutive year.

1994
Jonathan Herndon writes: “I have worked for Harvard Management Company, the investment company responsible for managing the Harvard Endowment, for the past 14 years. I have had multiple roles...”
within the company, and for the past five years have been a portfolio manager within the natural resources group. My wife and I have three boys, Bradley, 8, Wyatt, 6, and Ethan, 3. They keep us very active! We have lived outside Boston in a town called Franklin since 2002."

Lisa Levine is a licensed acupuncturist and the owner of a holistic healing center in Brooklyn, N.Y., Maha Rose. The business offers acupuncture, holistic healing services, drop-in classes, community events and workshops to nourish the body, mind and spirit.

Jon Daley starred in an episode of Comedy Central’s Kroll Show. The episode featured a skit called, “Welcome to Pawnsylvania,” which explored the world of pawn shop owners in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. The episode showcased Pittsburgh’s infamous “Yinzer” accent.


Nicole Petrosky is working for the Cheetah Conservation Fund as well as doing special events for the National Zoo.

Joshua Farber was elected to membership in the law firm of Clark Hill Thorp Reed. Farber’s practice focuses primarily in the areas of real estate and corporate law. He also works extensively with private real estate funds in their organization, capital raises and ongoing operations.

Candace (Otto) MacDonald writes: “We welcomed our third child, Peyton MacDonald, in April 2013."

2000

Holly (Fajt) Hoff writes: “We welcomed our first child, Eleanor Celia Hoff, on Sept. 12, 2013."

Peter Ritchie writes: “In May I graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Shortly thereafter, I moved back to Pittsburgh for a year, during which I will be a transitional year intern at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, before heading back to Denver in 2015 for an anesthesiology residency at the University of Colorado. Interestingly, both my grandmother and grandfather were interns together at the University of Pittsburgh after graduating medical school at Pitt in 1935. My grandmother was only 21 and one of only a few women in the field at the time, making this a unique family legacy."

Mac Lynch spoke to the SSA Senior School’s Personal Finance Club on Feb. 27 about various investment strategies and his career. Lynch is a graduate of Colby College who works as a financial advisor at Janney Montgomery Scott.

Christine Krauland graduated with a Ph.D. in applied physics from the University of Michigan in September 2013. Her dissertation, entitled “Radiative reverse shock experiments in high-energy-density plasmas,” involved collaborative work with scientists from the Commissariat à l’Énergie Atomique (Atomic Energy Commission) in Paris, France, and the Laboratory for Laser Energetics in Rochester, N.Y. She is currently working in the Center for Energy Research at the University of California, San Diego.

Ben Portman was a finalist on the Food Network series America’s Best Cook, a culinary competition in which the top home cooks from across the country competed for a $50,000 cash prize. Portman advanced to the final four before being eliminated in the final episode. A certified financial planner with Morgan Stanley by day, Portman is the founder and executive chef of the Atlanta underground supper club PorKman’s Table.

Chet Vincent has a new album coming out in conjunction with his band, Chet Vincent and the Big Bend. The band swung a record deal while playing at an event held by the Gateway Clipper Fleet. They currently have four albums, and opened the event with five songs off of the fourth album, Unconventional Dog.
2004
Jeremy Gordon and fellow Pittsburgh native Arielle Klepper tied the knot Labor Day weekend, celebrating their marriage at the historic William Penn Hotel.

2005
David Scott writes: “I married Emily Bergland on Dec. 31, 2012, and we moved to Pittsburgh, where I have started a new career in commercial real estate.”

2006
Hillary Busis was the 2014 Cum Laude speaker at SSA. Busis is a graduate of Columbia University and a writer and editor at Entertainment Weekly magazine.

Elizabeth Lackey was recently featured as a “Style Insider” on butterboom.com, a website that features the latest trends in art, fashion, beauty and lifestyles. The interview focused on her love of art and how living in Hong Kong has helped her live through her favorite types and styles of it. The article also discussed her fashion choices, as well as different art-related projects she is working on.

2007
Jamie Kessler and other members of OneVoice spoke to SSA Senior School history students on March 4 as part of the organization’s International Engagement Program. OneVoice is an international grassroots movement that amplifies the voice of mainstream Israelis and Palestinians, empowering them to propel their elected representatives toward the two-state solution.

2008
Alexandra Bodnarchuk, a dance artist and choreographer, premiered her newest work, CONNOTATIONS: unknown, at Pearl Arts Studios, Pittsburgh, in April 2014. Based on Bodnarchuk’s experience as an actor in Bricolage’s STRATA, this work explores the ways in which people interact and connect with each other.

2007-2011
Ensign Jordan Foley ’07, Katie Miller ’08, Midshipman Grant Foley ’11, Elizabeth Rosenberger ’09 and Tim Giel ’09 attended the All Service Academies Ball held at The Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., on Dec. 28, 2013.

2005

2010
Jerome Barnes has been writing, producing and recording music, and has released an album and several videos. His latest single, “Crush,” which Barnes composed himself, was released in November 2013. The song follows his 2012 album, Built in a Day, along with many additional successful singles that have gone on to make the Hot New Seller, Amazon’s Best Seller and Amazon’s Top Rated charts.

Kelsey Hickey, a senior at Northeastern University, works full time for Harvard Medical School’s Human Genome Lab.

2013
Joseph Klein was named the “Outstanding Freshman Student Leader” at the University of Pittsburgh. There are 3,800 students in the freshman class.
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, 2014.

DONALD C. KERR ’33
Donald C. Kerr passed away on June 5, 2013. He graduated from Princeton University in 1937, attended Emmanuel College in Toronto, then transferred to Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating in 1940. He earned his doctorate in theology at the University of Toronto in 1942. Kerr was associated with the First Presbyterian Church, and served as chaplain of Plymouth Harbor and St. Andrew Society. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Nora; two sons, Donald C. Kerr Jr. and H. Douglas Kerr; a daughter, Elizabeth Kerr Slagle; six granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren.

EDWARD P. HOBART ’34
Edward Painter Hobart passed away Nov. 1, 2013. He was a graduate of Yale University and University of Pittsburgh Law School. Hobart was an account executive for Merrill Lynch. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Joy Hobart. Survivors include daughter Carol Holbart, son Edward P. Holbart Jr., two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

JOHN M. WOLF ’38
John M. Wolf passed away Dec 30, 2013. Wolf was a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Business School. He had a long career as a project manager at Dravo Corp., as a merchandise manager at Kaufmann’s department store, and as the founder, CEO and chairman of the board at NAPCO Building Products. He is survived by his wife, Lee; three daughters, Tina (William) Greenberg, Wendy Wolf (Jack Behrle) and Amy (Greg) Winokur; three sons, John (Martha) Wolf ’64, Jim (Nancy) Wolf ’70 and Bill (Kay) Gurin; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM CARPENTER ’42
William Carpenter passed away May 1, 2013. He was a World War II veteran and worked for 35 years at PPG Industries. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia E. Carpenter. He is survived by two daughters, Susan Carpenter Priester and Jane Carpenter Valdes-Dapena, as well as two grandchildren.

RICHARD R. DECKER ’43
Richard Ryerson Decker passed away Dec. 6, 2013. He was preceded in death by son Richard Miles Decker, first wife Sally Miles Decker and second wife Ruth Mary Fricke. He is survived by daughter Linda (Larry) Barnes and two granddaughters.

KENNETH GOLDSMITH ’43
Kenneth Goldsmith passed away March 21, 2014. Goldsmith attended Kenyon College and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force. During World War II, he flew 30 missions over Germany as a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crewman. Later, he formed his own commercial and industrial real estate brokerage, K. Goldsmith & Co. He is survived by his wife, Lillian Hyman; children, Kenneth Douglas Goldsmith ’73, Mildred Baer (Simon) Palley, Malcolm Goldsmith II ’76 and Frederick Baer Goldsmith ’79; and three grandchildren.

FRANK R. BAILEY JR. ’44
Frank R. Bailey Jr. passed away Jan. 25, 2014. He graduated from Princeton University with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He served in the U.S. Army with the 32nd Infantry Division in the Philippines and participated in the occupation of Japan. He worked for 32 years for Pittsburgh Dravo Corp. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helena Vuyk Bailey. He is survived by two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, as well as his nephew, John L. Bailey Jr. ’75.

ERNEST BRAUN III ’45
Ernest “Chilly” Braun III passed away April 6, 2014. He attended Colgate University. Braun was predeceased by his wife, Susie (Thorn) Braun. He is survived by his sons, David (Jann) Braun, Peter ( fiancé Jennifer) Braun and Tom (Cris) Braun, and nine grandchildren.

JAMES M. ECKER ’48
James “Jim” Ecker passed away Dec. 25, 2013. Ecker attended Dickinson Law School and was one of Pittsburgh’s most prominent criminal defense attorneys for many years. He was also the unpaid attorney for the Syria Shriners for nearly 40 years, and a volunteer for Variety the Children’s Charity. He is survived by Barbara Ecker; his companion of 34 years, Donna Murtha; children Micki (Spencer) Mallison and Sharon Ecker; and three grandchildren.

WILLIAM L. MCQUILLAN ’55
William L. McQuillan passed away Feb. 23, 2013. He graduated from Amherst College, served in the U.S. Army and earned an M.B.A. from the Wharton School. He spent his career as a portfolio manager for Manufacturers Hanover Trust. He is survived by his sister, Nancy Bolanis, and nephews, George and Michael Bolanis.
W. KENNETH SQUIRES JR. ’57
W. Kenneth Squires passed away Nov. 10, 2013. He was a graduate of the College of Wooster. He spent his entire career as a sales and marketing executive in the steel industry. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Carol; his four children, Brad Squires ’88, Brian Squires ’89, Beth Squires and Brent Squires ’92; and two grandsons.

DAMON R. KANE ’76
Damon Royal Kane passed away Aug. 21, 2013. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a master’s degree in architecture. After working as an architect in the Philadelphia area for many years, he co-founded Godshall Kane Architects, now Godshall Kane O’Rourke Architects, in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Michele. He was preceded in death by his brother, Douglas Kane ’73.

NICHOLAS BARNES ’11
Nicholas Brastins Barnes passed away in February 2014 while in attendance at the University of Chicago. Barnes was a third-year Germanic studies and history major, and had previously studied abroad in Vienna, Austria. He is survived by his parents, Jay Barnes and Laura Maynes (formerly Linda Brastins Barnes); stepfather, Greg Maynes; sister, Clara Barnes; stepbrother, Bill Maynes; and grandmother, Emily Brastins.

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Eugene Bigi, brother of Diane Oshnock, Junior School staff member

Matthew Cullen, fiancé of Gary Middleton ’81

Marilyn Gilmore, wife of the late James Gilmore ’41, sister-in-law of George Gilmore ’42 and the late Samuel Gilmore ’44, and aunt of James Gilmore ’79

Amelia Hartner, grandmother of Ernest Hartner ’98, Nick Hartner ’96 and Ben Hartner ’95

Bernadette Kaelin, wife of faculty emeritus Robert Kaelin, mother of Mary Ellen Lederer ’82 and Roseanne Kaelin-Easler ’84, and mother-in-law of Richard Easler ’81

Michael Kuhn, stepfather of Natalie Maida ’01 and Ashley Maida ’01

Aloysius (Ish) McLaughlin Jr., husband of former trustee Mary Lou McLaughlin; father of Aloysius (Ish) McLaughlin III ’84, former trustee J. Brendan McLaughlin ’86 and current parent Mary Beth Leech; and grandfather of Chris Leech ’12, Maggie Leech ’13, Brendan Leech ’15, Gunnar Leech ’17 and Brendan McLaughlin ’19

Jenny Mercer, daughter of Fred Mercer ’63

Marilynn Cobb “Lynnie” Patterson, mother of Liz Patterson ’93

John Pippin, father of trustee Dr. Barbara Pippin Thai ’83, and grandfather of Alison Thai ’15 and Emma Thai ’18

Patricia Scott, wife of James Scott ’60 and mother-in-law of Director of Alumni Relations Jamie Scott ’98

Joel Spero, father of Jonathan Spero ’06

Kathleen Toole, wife of Walter Toole ’48 and mother of Shannon Satterfield ’86

Mary Turner, past president of the SSA Parents’ Association and mother of James Turner ’92 and David Turner ’97

Elizabeth “Betsy” Wiegand, former trustee; wife of Frank Wiegand III ’56; mother of Edward Wiegand ’82, Robert Wiegand ’86, past parent Maryanne Hermann and John Wiegand; grandmother of Tyler Edwards ’12; and sister-in-law of Phillips Wiegand ’58, Bruce Wiegand ’65, Andrew Wiegand ’69 and Jeffrey Wiegand ’72

Edward Wright, father of Tarah Wright ’14

Francis X. Wymard, father of Francis D. Wymard ’96, alumni council member
David A. Mancosh Sr. (1924-2014)
Former Middle School Headmaster

For 32 years, David Mancosh helped shape the character of hundreds of boys at Shady Side Academy Middle School, serving as a teacher, coach and headmaster. For Mancosh, education was about so much more than the grades a boy received; it was about the kind of man he would become and the life he would lead. As a salute to his legacy, the Middle School grants the David A. Mancosh Award each year at graduation to the second form student who most consistently exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding member of the school community. Mancosh passed away Feb. 7, 2014, at the age of 90.

“‘He did what men of his age did: sacrificed for others with no complaints or special expectation.’”

– Douglas Mancosh ’76

Mancosh was born in Braddock, Pa., the son of the late Michael J. and Anna C. Mancosh. He attended Scott High School until his sophomore year, when he transferred to Castle Heights Military Academy, graduating in 1942. He attended Vanderbilt University on a football scholarship, but was there less than one year before being drafted into the Army, serving 29 months with the 7th Armored Infantry Division, the final 19 months in the European Theater, stationed in Belgium and seeing final combat in the Battle of the Bulge.

“He lived in the open field for almost two years, through winter, rain, with just a few nights under roof. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, survived mortar attacks, gunfire and was hospitalized with trench foot, which played havoc with his legs later in life,” said his son, Douglas Mancosh ’76. “He did what men of his age did: sacrificed for others with no complaints or special expectation.”

Upon returning home from war, Mancosh graduated from Indiana State University in 1951 with an education degree and later obtained his master’s in education from the University of Pittsburgh. He taught at Butler High School and Plum Township High School before moving to Shady Side in 1954. He served as a seventh grade teacher, and became headmaster of the Middle School in 1966 until his retirement in 1986. Mancosh believed that education went beyond the classroom and required the lessons of respect and honesty. He regarded as special successes those students for whom he took a chance in admission, but by their own efforts and the work of the school, prospered as students and young men.

“Through his career he found humor and pride at how some of the most difficult children to teach or discipline returned as some of the most wonderful adults. The ones that required the most discipline became his best champions and great pride,” said Douglas Mancosh. “He didn’t need a lot of words to make his point. He mastered the art of saying the right words and making the right point, and not needing to repeat it.”

He was predeceased by his wife of more than 50 years, Rose Marie Mancosh. He is survived by his four sons, David (Bridget) Mancosh Jr. ’70, Daniel (Linda) Mancosh ’72, Donald (Mary Jo) Mancosh ’75 and current Board of Visitors member Douglas (Kathy) Mancosh ’76; as well as eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Contributions can be made in his memory to the David A. Mancosh Scholarship Fund, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.
Richard F. Gregory (1924-2014)
Former Senior School English Teacher

Richard “Dick” Gregory touched the lives of thousands of students during his 36-year career as a Senior School English teacher, tennis coach and dorm master from 1953-1989. On May 27, 2014, Gregory passed away at the age of 90.

No one who had Gregory for English will ever forget him or his vibrant classroom. Known for his outspoken nature and distinctive teaching style, he ensured that generations of students were masters of the English language and had impeccable grammar skills. His classroom was as distinctive as he was—and as colorful as his plaid pants. He covered the walls with hundreds of posters, cards, pictures and other knickknacks. “I don’t think a learning environment is enhanced by an antiseptic atmosphere,” he told the Academian yearbook in 1986.

The news of Gregory’s passing elicited an outpouring of memories and reflections from alumni via email and social media. Here are just a few:

“There are thousands of SSA alumni who still don’t dare to end a sentence with a preposition, split an infinitive, misplace a modifier, or choose an adequately informative phrase in lieu of a superbly descriptive one, all thanks to Mr. Gregory. His abiding insistence on excellence in the classroom and his quirky, jovial familiarity on the quad are among many indelible and cherished memories of SSA.”
– Stacy Anderson ’76

“Mr. Gregory was one-of-a-kind. He was the teacher who inspired me to become a writer. Years after I graduated from SSA, he was still reading my articles in national magazines such as Forbes, U.S. News & World Report and Money, editing the published story, and returning it to me via the USPS with his comments and corrections. He cared. He was passionate about his work and his students. Put simply, he made learning an adventure.”
– Kerry Hannon ’78

“Mr. Gregory made me the writer that I am today. No one before or after has had such a profound effect on my ability to use words … He tenaciously molded us into professional users of the English language. He was a GREAT English teacher. One thing I know for certain: whoever is with him now is about to be corrected.”
– Tom Peters ’68

“I don’t I think I’ve written a sentence since then, without hearing that voice, exhorting me to do better. Who would imagine that a teacher’s lessons could be so durable, so indelible, nearly fifty years on?”
– Ed Strauss ’68

Gregory was predeceased by his wife, Ruth. He is survived by daughter, Christine Gregory, son, Donald Gregory ’73; two grandsons, Sean and Kevin; and sister, Patricia O’Connell.
The history of polo at Shady Side Academy dates back to 1930 when a group of three Senior School students, Chuck Lynch, Bliss Flaccus and David McCahill, formed a small but mighty polo team. Under the direction of U.S. Army Major Truxes, the team had three players and three horses, and practiced daily on the landing field at Rodgers Airport, which is near the current location of Fox Chapel Area High School.

The historic Hunt Armory, located in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, served as the main auditorium for all of the matches. The highlight of the first season occurred on April 5, 1930, when Shady Side defeated the 107th artillery team, 5-2, in front of a crowd of approximately 500 fans. The team finished the year 7-2 overall.

By the next season, only one player, McCahill, returned to school, and the team. He recruited two new players, King McCreery and Art Aaron, and the small squad joined the Pittsburgh Polo League. The team competed against many military teams, as well as collegiate squads, including Yale University.

By the following year, due to a lack of players, the team of two undergraduates recruited two alumni in order to continue to compete in the Pittsburgh Indoor Polo League. The experienced team had a strong season and finished first place in the league. On April 29, 1932, the largest crowd to ever witness a polo game at Hunt Armory gathered to watch SSA take on Culver Academy for the Pittsburgh Indoor Polo League title. Shady Side managed to get the win, defeating Culver, 7-5-25, and earning the championship title. The next year, the team went on to defend the title, but lost in the championship game.

After 1933, the team seemed to disappear. It is not known if the squad disbanded due to lack of players or for other reasons. With the introduction of lacrosse at SSA in 1933, it is believed that the players may have moved on to the lacrosse field. If you have any information on the polo team, we would love to hear from you. Please email Lindsay Kovach at lkovach@shadysideacademy.org

Above: The 1932 Pittsburgh indoor polo league championship plaque hangs in the alumni room in Bayard House.
Right: The 1930 Shady Side Academy polo team
OCTOBER 10-11, 2014

HOMECOMING 2014

The classes of 1964 and 1989 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) Scott '88 or Lisa Page in the Alumni Relations Office at 412-968-3032 or 412-447-2252.

REUNION CLASSES:

1939 • 1944 • 1949 • 1954 • 1959
1964 • 1969 • 1974 • 1979 • 1984
1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004 • 2009

www.shadysideacademy.org