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DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:

At the heart of any great school is a talented and dedicated faculty. While programs and facilities are indeed important, education is fundamentally a people business. And at Shady Side Academy, we’ve been fortunate to attract talented men and women who understand that teaching is as much about relationships as it is about knowledge of the teaching craft or one’s particular subject area. Our faculty members have committed themselves to creating a learning environment that is supportive and challenging, partnering with our students to ensure that they excel in the classroom, on the playing field, on the stage and as members of a community. Their job is to inspire and encourage students, and it is a job they do exceedingly well.

As I continue to speak with alumni from across the generations, I am often struck by how many of them immediately rattle off the names of four or five teachers who made their Shady Side experience memorable and impactful. They talk about people who really made them think, or write effectively, or speak eloquently. They talk about teachers who were interesting and compelling characters in their own right, some with quirky personalities or eccentricities that made being a student at Shady Side so memorable. They also talk about the people who just made them laugh.

In this issue of the magazine, we are proud to shine the spotlight on our faculty. We’ve profiled a handful of our teachers, who represent a small portion of the remarkable faculty here at Shady Side. We’ve also profiled two Shady Side alumni who have pursued careers in education.

As we embark on a campaign to improve science facilities at all three campuses, we are also endeavoring to raise endowment dollars to ensure that Shady Side continues to attract and retain outstanding teaching faculty. I hope that you’ll consider supporting this very important endowment initiative.

Sincerely,

Tom Cangiano
Academy President
Pre-Kindergarten Building and Middle School Science Lab Renovations Complete

Summer renovations to the pre-kindergarten building at the Junior School and to the sixth and eighth grade science labs at the Middle School were completed for the opening of the 2014-2015 school year.

The pre-kindergarten building expansion added approximately 1,200 square feet to the original facility. An addition constructed at the front of the building includes a spacious third classroom plus additional bathrooms. The entrance was relocated to the side of the building. The facility expansion increased the maximum capacity of the PK program from 30 to 40 students, and PK enrollment for the 2014-2015 is full at 40 students. The Academy hired two additional faculty members to maintain the program’s low student-teacher ratio.

Similarly, renovations to the two Middle School science labs were completed between June and August 2014. The renovations, which cost $215,000, were made possible in part by a generous gift from past parents and current grandparents Sharon and Jim Rohr. The upgrades to both labs have created more flexible spaces that better support the school’s interactive, collaborative and project-oriented approach to teaching science. Stationary tables were replaced with moveable workstations and chairs, and the rooms got all new casework, sinks, flooring, ceilings, paint and LED lighting. iPad storage units were added in both labs to support the integration of technology into the classroom through the school’s 1:1 iPad program. The eighth grade lab also has iPad docking stations on the lab tables, plus a new kitchenette and a renovated storage area.

The upgraded labs not only support the teaching of science during the academic day, but also the school’s robotics, rocketry and state championship Science Olympiad teams, which use the labs at the end of the school day and on weekends.
Cohen, History Prizes Awarded

Prizes were awarded at Senior School Convocation to four students for their achievements in the 2013-2014 school year. The John H. Cohen Family Award is a book prize given for general improvement in scholarship, physical vigor, citizenship and character. The winners for 2013-2014 were current sophomore Christopher Ferree, junior Isabella Borrero and senior Kara Tippins. The Instructors’ Prize in American History is a book prize awarded to the student who, while enrolled in the U.S. History course, has completed the research paper that best displays the qualities of scholarship essential for developing competence in the study of history. The winner was current senior Julian Schwartz.

National Merit Honors

Nine seniors were named semifinalists in the 60th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented students will continue in the competition for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about $33 million that will be offered this spring. There are approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide. The Shady Side semifinalists are Courtney Clark, Tyler Demchak, Adam Hart, Sylvie Lee, Brendan Leech, Shea Minter, Krishna Patel, Arya Reddy and Kevin Vellanki.

Senior Caris Gagnon is among the more than 1,600 outstanding African American high school seniors who were named semifinalists in the 51st annual National Achievement Scholarship Program, which awards approximately 800 scholarships worth about $2.5 million in the spring.

PMEA Honors

Sophomore Kerry Broker was selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors String Orchestra Festival held in November. Broker placed in the first violin section, sitting eighth chair. In December, sophomore AnnaElaine Rosengart was selected to perform at the PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Festival hosted by Shady Side Academy. She achieved second section, fourth chair, and was one of 24 trombone players selected.
Two New Financial Assistance Programs Introduced

As part of an ongoing effort to make a Shady Side Academy education accessible to more families, two new financial assistance programs have been introduced for 2015-2016. One expands SSA’s merit scholarship offerings beyond boarding, while the other was created for children of alumni.

The Shady Side Academy Scholars Program offers merit-based scholarships to students with proven records of high academic achievement and potential, as demonstrated by performance in the classroom and on standardized tests. A successful candidate will also exhibit leadership potential and exemplary personal qualities consistent with the mission of the Academy. To be eligible, a student must be a new applicant for grades 6-10 and complete all components of the admissions application process, plus an additional essay. Families are not required to fill out the financial aid application but are strongly encouraged to do so. This will enable SSA to craft the most advantageous combination of need- and/or merit-based financial assistance. Up to 10 scholarships of $2,500 and above may be awarded each year. Scholarships are renewable annually through grade 12, contingent upon the student remaining in good standing.

The Alumni Legacy Award Program is made possible by the dedicated and loyal support of SSA alumni. The program offers grants to academically talented children of alumni whose income exceeds the financial aid threshold but who do not believe they can afford full tuition. The program is open to alumni families with a household income between $150,000-$300,000. To be eligible, a student must be a new applicant for grades PK-6 and complete all components of the admissions application process. Families must participate in a qualification assessment, including a review of income and assets. Families accepted into the program will receive annual awards of between 10-25% of tuition. Awards are granted for only one year of PK. Grants are renewable annually through grade 12, contingent upon the student remaining in good standing and the family’s income remaining in the eligibility range.

To learn more about these programs, visit www.shadysideacademy.org/AffordingSSA.

ALUMNUS GIVES $500,000 TO ESTABLISH WILLIAM DETILLO SCHOLARSHIP

Nick Coslov ‘92 has committed to donating $500,000 to Shady Side Academy to establish and seed the William DeTillo Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the former SSA Middle School English teacher who passed away Aug. 1, 2014. The purpose of the scholarship is to fully fund tuition for qualified students who otherwise could not afford to attend Shady Side Academy.

Coslov, who attended Shady Side from kindergarten to grade 12, had Mr. DeTillo as a seventh grade English teacher and a homeroom teacher. He recalls DeTillo’s classroom being a respite of calm in an intense academic atmosphere. “I always found Mr. DeTillo to be a compassionate teacher and human being,” said Coslov. “He really connected with his students and had a way of making every student feel like they were his favorite. The rapport he still had with his former students is quite extraordinary. I thought this scholarship was the perfect way to honor him.”

Coslov holds a bachelor’s degree from Duke University and is currently the chief executive officer and partner at Storage Deluxe, a Manhattan-based owner, developer and manager of self-storage properties. Previously, he was the founder and CEO of AutoBody America and worked as an investment banker. Nick and his wife, Nicole, reside in New York City with their twin boys, Drew and Cameron.

“Shady Side really prepared me well for college, and I made some of my closest friends in life there,” said Coslov. “I felt this was a great way to give back to Shady Side, to Pittsburgh and to kids. Through this scholarship, I’m hopeful we’ll be able to identify students who have a lot of untapped ability and give them the opportunity to achieve their full potential.”

To make a gift to the William DeTillo Scholarship Fund, visit www.supportssa.org and enter “William DeTillo Scholarship Fund” in the comments box. Or send a check payable to Shady Side Academy with “William DeTillo Scholarship Fund” in the memo line to: Alumni & Development Office, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

Read the full obituary for William DeTillo on page 56.
Hour of Code
Students in grades 1-12 celebrated Computer Science Education Week Dec. 8-12 by participating in “Hour of Code” programming activities and by learning about careers in technology. Junior and Middle School students joined nearly 70 million students worldwide in participating in the Hour of Code, which is a one-hour introduction to computer science designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. At the Senior School, the Computer Science Department welcomed two technology professionals as guest speakers, Dr. Nathan Stone of the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center and John Feghali, CEO of the mobile app company Walking Thumbs.

After School Students Get Creative
Students in the After School Explorers program at the Junior School collaborated with two community organizations and a local artist to create a collection of original art which was on display throughout October at the East End Co-Op Café. Local artist Lauren Whitehead worked with students individually and in groups, teaching them techniques such as painting, drawing, collaging using mixed media, and weaving using unusual objects, which they selected from the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. The student artists and their families celebrated their work with a grand opening on Oct. 1 at the East End Food Co-Op Café.

Parent Education Programs
Shady Side launched a new Parent Education Programs Committee in 2014–2015, which presented three programs in fall 2014. In September, Dr. Michael Rich, founder and director of the Center on Media and Child Health, spoke at a Parents Association Lunch & Learn about children’s media usage and cyber-bullying. In October, David Streight, executive director of the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, discussed five parenting practices to maximize the chances of raising “good kids.” Finally, in November, the founder of End Distracted Driving, Joel Feldman, spoke to parents about the dangers of distracted driving. Feldman also talked to Senior School students at assembly the next day.
Junior School Welcomes Two Chickens

Junior School students were excited to welcome two egg-laying hens to the school community this fall. The hens, which SSA is renting, were guests on the school’s campus for seven weeks in October and November, and will return again from April through June. Students in grades PK-5 have the opportunity to help care for the chickens, and to observe and learn from them.

The chickens join the Junior School as an extension of the Academy’s SSA Farm initiative. Director of SSA Farms and K-2 science teacher Tina Nussbaum Wagler is coordinating the chickens’ stay and care. The guests are residing in a mobile chicken coop, and each grade is assigned a week of chicken care. During their assigned week, interested students help Nussbaum Wagler with feeding, watering, egg collection and coop relocation. Volunteers care for the chickens on weekends.

Not only are the chickens fun to watch, they provide nutrients for the yard and garden, lay fresh eggs, help with pest control and provide unique learning opportunities. Teachers are incorporating the chickens into the curriculum in a variety of disciplines, including science, math, language arts, library and writing workshop.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Shady Side got yet another taste of Hollywood as the movie Southpaw, starring Jake Gyllenhall and directed by Pittsburgh native Antoine Fuqua, shot several scenes at the Middle School campus in August. The Middle School stands in for the fictional private school St. Alexander in the movie, which is attended by Gyllenhaal’s daughter. Several SSA students got cast as extras in the film, playing St. Alexander students. Junior School PE teacher Karen DiFiore was also cast as an extra and plays a St. Alexander teacher and coach. Then, in November, the Senior School parking lot served as basecamp for the major motion picture Concussion, starring Will Smith. Smith stars as Dr. Bennet Omalu, the first pathologist to detect a brain injury called chronic traumatic encephalopathy in football players.

Haunted Walk Raises Hairs and $750 for SSA Farm

The woods and backfields of the Senior School campus came alive on Oct. 29, 2014, during the fifth annual Haunted Walk. Following the walk, which was “haunted” by older SSA students, parents, faculty and staff in costume, Junior School families enjoyed treats by a bonfire. About 75 families participated, donating $10 per family to the SSA Farm.
Middle School Global Action Conference Day

Students at the Middle School participated in a comprehensive day of service learning at the school’s second annual Global Action Conference Day in December. Students spent the day learning about complex social issues from local nonprofit organizations and engaging in hands-on service activities. The goal of the day was to raise awareness and educate students about social issues while coming together as a school community to impact local and global change. Guest speakers included representatives from Haitian Families First, Team Tassy, Cameroon Football Development Program, Operation Walk, North Hills Community Outreach, The Open Door and Operation Safety Net.

Miracle League Baseball Clinic

On Sept. 28, 2014, 17 members of the SSA community conducted the third annual baseball clinic for special needs players at Pirates Charities Miracle League Field in Cranberry Township, Pa. The clinic was led by junior Andrew Scherbarth and members of the SSA Baseball Club, which was founded by Shady Side baseball players who hope to combine their love of the sport with community service. Scherbarth has been a consistent volunteer with the Miracle League and was the driving force behind the clinic. There were 14 Miracle League players who participated.

SECOND GRADE FOOD DRIVE

The second grade participated in its annual community service project of collecting canned goods in November. This year marked the 16th anniversary of the project, which provides donated items to the food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. Second graders are partnered with Junior School classrooms, where they collect items each day until Nov. 21. This year students collected a school-record 2,619 canned goods. The drive is led by second grade teachers Kristin Litster and Jennifer Riscili.
SEVEN-DAY BOARDING IS BACK!

In October 2014, the Shady Side Academy Board of Trustees approved a proposal to reinstate a seven-day boarding option at the Senior School beginning in 2015-2016. Designed to complement the existing five-day boarding program, this option will allow SSA to broaden its admissions reach, bolster its boarding student population and diversify its student body with applicants from around the nation and world.

“Seven-day boarding was a significant part of Shady Side Academy’s history until the 1970s, and in recent years we’ve seen a demand for that program resurface,” said Academy President Tom Cangiano. “As we travel the country each year visiting our alumni in other cities, we’ve heard many express the desire to send their children to SSA if we had seven-day boarding. Our admissions office receives several inquiries each year from domestic and international families looking for seven-day boarding. A recent survey of our five-day boarding families showed that while some found the five-day option to be ‘the perfect ratio,’ others wanted and/or needed a seven-day option. Finally, over the past few years we have seen our campus enriched by the enrollment of several international students, who have made the five-day boarding program work by staying with host families each weekend, but would prefer to board full-time.”

Much work is being done this year to develop the structure that will allow the seven-day program to thrive, including staffing and weekend programming. Both the Croft and Morewood House dormitories will undergo renovations this summer to support the program’s expansion. The school’s goal is to open in fall 2015 with a modest but not insubstantial number of seven-day boarders who will reside alongside five-day boarders in the two residence halls.

To learn more about the seven-day boarding program, contact Senior School Admission Director Bob Grandizio ’91 at rgrandizio@shadysideacademy.org or 412-968-3080.

Walking for a Cure

In August, 20 members of the SSA football and cheerleading squads participated in the 2014 Pittsburgh CureSearch Walk for Children’s Cancer in Schenley Park, raising more than $1,500. The CureSearch Walk celebrates and honors children whose lives have been affected by childhood cancer, while raising funds for lifesaving research. Seniors Skyler Blaxter and Isabella Veneziano led the way by encouraging their fellow teammates to participate in the walk and donate to the cause.
The Misanthrope

The Senior School Gargoyle Society performed a modern adaptation of Molière’s *The Misanthrope* as its fall student drama production on Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 2014. A team of 10 student writers updated the text to modern times, while maintaining Molière’s strict rhyming couplets scheme. The play starred senior Julian Schwartz as Alex, senior Shea Minter as Celina, senior Kate Van Horn as El, senior Andy Brill as Adam, sophomore Peter Foster as Phil and sophomore Dante King as Ollie. The cast consisted of 25 students and was directed by faculty member Dana Hardy-Bingham.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

The Middle School Drama Dragons presented *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* on Nov. 6-7, 2014. The Middle School cafetorium was transformed into the lively town of Sleepy Hollow, and eighth grader Connor Caputo started as Ichabod Crane in the tale of love, intrigue and revenge. The cast included more than 20 students and was directed by faculty members Jeff Gross and Randy Broker.
ARCHITECTS SELECTED FOR SENIOR SCHOOL CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Shady Side Academy has announced the selection of award-winning architectural firm Frederick Fisher and Partners (FFP) to design the new center for science and innovation on its Senior School campus in Fox Chapel.

FFP will design plans for an innovative building to house the Senior School Science Department, including classrooms and labs for physics, biology and chemistry, collaboration and maker spaces for student research and the Science Olympiad team, and faculty offices. The building will be roughly 20,000 square feet and sit along the campus entrance drive, just before McCune Library. Detailed architectural drawings are expected in spring 2015. The building’s construction schedule will be dependent on fundraising efforts, which are currently underway.

“We like Fred Fisher’s group because they pay so much attention to the campus and institutional contexts when designing buildings,” said Academy President Tom Cangiano. “Our hope is that this new center for science and innovation will capture the great history and tradition of Shady Side, while at the same time making it clear that the Academy is stepping quite boldly into the 21st century.”

Based in Los Angeles, FFP is an internationally recognized firm with an extensive portfolio. Principal Fred Fisher is an award-winning architect with more than 30 years of experience – and the husband of SSA alumna Jennifer Prebor ’81. FFP’s educational clients include the University of Virginia, Princeton University, Colby College, Caltech and Oberlin College. One of their most recent projects is the science education and research facility at the Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences in Santa Monica, Calif., which is currently under construction.

FFP was one of two architectural firms invited to bid on the science facility. Both conducted an extensive discovery process that included meetings and discussions with a steering committee of teachers, students, administrators and trustees in spring 2014. In September both firms made excellent presentations to the committee, and in November the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the board voted to select FFP as project architects.

“Fred’s desire to do something really special for the Academy, particularly because of his wife’s status as an alumna, was evident from day one,” said Jonathan Kamin ’91, vice chair of the board for buildings and grounds and chair of the science center steering committee.

“We were impressed by Frederick Fisher and Partners’ thoughtful design, commitment to the steering committee and to the campus. We look forward to a great collaborative effort.”

SSA Adopts New Mission and Philosophy Statements

This fall Shady Side Academy officially adopted new mission and philosophy statements, which were approved by the Board of Trustees in October. The new statements are the result of thorough process of self-discovery and internal discussion that took more than a year and involved multiple groups and voices.

“During our recent re-accreditation process, it was strongly recommended that we revamp our mission and philosophy statements,” said Academy President Tom Cangiano. “Using what we learned during the strategic vision process as a launching pad, we wrote, reviewed and revised multiple iterations over the past year with input from our board, administration and faculty. Ultimately we concluded that our recently adopted Strategic Vision statement best captured the mission of our school in short, easy-to-recall language. We decided to adopt this as our new mission statement, while carefully crafting a longer, complementary philosophy statement that outlines the distinctive elements of an SSA education.”

The new statements are as follows:

MISSION

Shady Side Academy’s mission is to challenge students to think expansively, act ethically and lead responsibly.

PHILOSOPHY

Shady Side Academy is a vibrant learning community that values intellectual curiosity, personal integrity and diverse perspectives. Through a rigorous and balanced curriculum of academics, arts and athletics, our students are challenged to explore their passions and excel beyond expectations. Supported by active alumni and parents, our unique culture of faculty-student mentorship inspires students to become lifelong learners and engaged, thoughtful citizens of their communities.
On Oct. 10-11, Shady Side Academy welcomed alumni, faculty, students and parents to the Senior School campus for Homecoming 2014. It was a picture-perfect fall weekend full of alumni reunions, athletic contests and community gatherings.

The festivities got underway Friday morning when teams of alumni hit the links for the Alumni Golf Outing at Longue Vue Club, hosted by Keefe Ellis ’74. Meanwhile, at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts, Paul R. Pigman ’52 Prize recipient Becky Tisherman ’09 spoke to Senior School students at assembly about her work in Chengdu, China, on a Fulbright Research Scholarship, and the value of studying Chinese while at SSA. Rounding out the Friday morning activities was a new alumni event, the Pittsburgh Trolley Tour and Lunch. A group of alums and their families boarded a Molly’s Trolley in front of Rowe Hall and departed on a guided tour of Pittsburgh, which included stops downtown, the North Shore, Station Square, Mt. Washington and even a ride on the Duquesne Incline. The group enjoyed lunch at Atria’s in PNC Park before returning to SSA.
Friday evening opened with a Memorial Service to remember alumni and faculty we have lost over the past year. The presider was Senior School music teacher Stanley Nevola. Following the service, guests were encouraged to visit the Alumni Art Show in the Benedum Visual Arts Center featuring the photography of alumni artist Gordon Fisher ’79.

The Alumni and Faculty Mixer got underway with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and great company in McCune Dining Hall. The evening included a brief welcome from Academy President Tom Cangiano and the presentation of the Robert E. Walker Award and the Paul R. Pigman ’52 Prize. This year’s recipient of the Walker Award was Mike Hannon ’74 for his dedication, commitment and service to the Academy as an alumnus and parent. As present board chairman and community leader, Hannon spoke of the exciting advancements on Shady Side’s horizon. The Pigman Prize was awarded to Becky Tisherman ’09. Her family and friends were there as she humbly thanked the SSA community and faculty for their continued support and guidance.

The fun continued bright and early on Saturday morning with the Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride. Will Stewart ’17, grandson of Al Stewart, officially started the 5K race with a bang, and Sean Hannon ’09 was the first to cross the finish line.

A beautiful fall day was the picturesque backdrop for the heartfelt dedication of the newly constructed J. Michael Grzymkowski ’90 Terrace. The space was created in honor of Grzymkowski by his parents, Ronald and Betsy Grzymkowski, son Nicholas Grzymkowski ’26 and wife Veronica Corpuz ’92. Family, friends, faculty and coaches gathered together on the terrace to honor Mike’s life and legacy. The stunning terrace, which is nestled between McCune Dining Hall and Morewood House, features a large stone fireplace and seating areas to host outdoor classrooms and campus events.
The President’s Coffee and Campus Walking Tours were well attended by alumni interested in seeing the many changes occurring around the Senior School campus. The campus tours were led by student admissions ambassadors Caroline Colville ’16, Maria Jovin ’16, Shea Minter ’15 and Alison Thai ’15.

As the festivities continued, many families enjoyed the Kids Karnival with a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, a balloon artist and an inflatable obstacle course. The Blue & Gold Community Tailgate also offered a space to share a meal and memories with classmates and faculty.

Athletic contests were a big attraction throughout Homecoming weekend. Former football team captain and current Stanford professor John Taylor ’64, who was on campus celebrating his 50th Reunion, visited Friday’s football practice. He spoke to the team about the importance of tradition, legacy and hard work. On Friday, the girls field hockey team won 3-0 against Mt. Lebanon, and girls soccer won 2-0 versus Allderdice. On Saturday, boys soccer fell to Deer Lakes 2-1, but the football team capped off the weekend with a 28-14 win against West Shamokin. During halftime, athletic team captains from reunion class years were recognized.

On Saturday evening, alumni classes ending in 4s and 9s gathered in various venues around Pittsburgh and on campus to reminisce, reconnect with former classmates and celebrate their time at SSA.

Classes ending in 5s and 0s will be celebrating their reunion in 2015. The date of Homecoming Weekend is still to be determined. If you are interested in helping with your class reunion, it’s not too early to contact Jamie (Brush) Scott ’98 at 412-968-3032 or jscott@shadysideacademy.org.
Above: The football team takes the field
Below: Will Stewart ’17 starts the Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride with a bang

Top right: Football coach Dave Havern looks on while John Taylor ’64 speaks to the team. To see what Taylor had to say, visit youtube.com/shadysideacademy.

Three at right: Kids Karnival
1. Class of 1954: Peter Crane
2. Class of 1964: Mike Maloney, Bob Maloney, Dick Chalfant, Craig Ramsey, John Taylor
3. Class of 1974: Ken Jones, Ed Kay, Tony Ross, Keefe Ellis
4. Class of 1979: Peter Mathieson, Grant Scott, Mary (Donnelly) Benckart, Scott Aiken
6. Class of 1989: Julie (Lovett) Quaid, Chrissy Astorino
Class of 1974, 40th Reunion
Goal: $740,000
Gifts to Date: $544,063
(new all-time reunion giving record!)
Initiatives: New Center for Science and Innovation; Endowment for Financial Aid and Faculty Support; EITC program; Blue & Gold Fund

Class of 1964, 50th Reunion
Goal: $250,000
Gifts to Date: $252,950
Initiatives: Samuel H. Elkin ’64 Scholarship Fund; Endowment for Science Faculty Award; Blue & Gold Fund

Class of 1961, 50th Reunion
Goal: $100,000
Gifts to Date: $146,000
Initiatives: Endowment for Class of ’61 Faculty Award for Excellence; Blue & Gold Fund

Class of 1963, 50th Reunion
More than tripled their support for the 2013-2014 Blue & Gold Fund

For more information and specific reunion highlights, visit shadysideacademy.org/supportssa
2. Class of 1949 – L to R: Bob Kramer and Lee O’Nan
3. Class of 1954 – L to R: Scott Baton, Tom Succop, Barry Leonard, Bill Sutherland, Peter Crane
   2nd Row L to R: Carl Srodes, George Cass, Brian Mullins, Bing Beeson, Jay Carson, Ed Byrnes
5. Class of 1964 – 1st Row L to R: Bob Maloney, John Wolf Jr., Craig Ramsey, Tom Nary, Mark McMonigle, Mike Maloney, Bill Gray, Aubrey Gladstone, John Taylor
   2nd Row L to R: Carl Srodes, George Cass, Brian Mullins, Bing Beeson, Jay Carson, Ed Byrnes
   3rd Row L to R: John McGowan, Bill Rial, Dick Chalfant
6. Class of 1969 – 1st Row L to R: Ed Diamond and David Cannon
   2nd Row L to R: Jim Silverman and Jonathan Glick
   2nd Row L to R: Craig Murphy, Andy Mathieson, Eric Mendelson, Harry Donnelly, Tony Ross, Mike Hannon, Clarke Ewart, Kevin Warren, Keefe Ellis, Bruce Silverblatt, Hamish Adam, Hugh McGough, John Chesley
   3rd Row L to R: Rick Gitomer, Ed Kay, David Egan, Scott Vey, Ken Jones, Fred Harchelroad, Dusty Mercer, Chris Teese, Arlen Li
8. Class of 1979 – L to R: Andy Stewart, Gordon Fisher, Peter Mathieson, Matt Kamins, Grant Scott, Craig Charie, Marc Mendelson, Ed Wilson, Jim Hiles, Joe Natoli
   3rd Row L to R: Wally Jenkins, Chris Robinson, Sean Su, Lloyd Fales, Rick Munroe, Dan Kennedy, Paul Molingowski, Ish McLaughlin, Kerry (McMahon) Izard, Gary Morton, Jim Herrington, Jim Musgrave
10. Class of 1989 – 1st Row L to R: Jason Greenwald, David Nothmann, Julie (Wolff) Rost, Wendy (Fruhauf) Fogg, Erica (Merkow) Strauss, Paul Ejzak, Joel Rubin, Jason Kushner and Todd Green
   2nd Row L to R: Creighton Runnette, Russell Westerberg, Matt Ferrari, Nick Stupakis
11. Class of 1994 – L to R: Jose Amayo, Nikitas Menotiades, Michael Weisberg, Avinash Linganna, Molly (Davis) Braver, Rev (Kaur) Siegel, Amby Bauer, Julie (Kunsmann) Bell, Jennifer (Dick) Braham, Michelle (Myer) Cohen, Drew Morrow, Tia (Grzymkowski) Whitney, Janie (Fogel) Shanafiel, Neal Wadhwa, Jeff Ritter, Alejandra Piacchi, Anne Gailliot, Steve Bruno, Kwame Williams, Michael Castillo, Mallary Swartz, Amy (Meyer) Freeman, Andy Braham, Terence Parham, Staci (Glasser) Bush, Amy (Gross) Annovitz
   Not Pictured: Sophie (Nassif) Elias, Jake Stilley, Greg Nussbaum, Eugene Baker
12. Class of 1999 – L to R: Matt Mallet, Mike Guttman, Courtney (Kunsmann) Smith, Beth (Goldstein) Goldman, Richard Greer, Ryan Rich, Mike Parker
   2nd Row L to R: Jed Rosenberg, George Pilsfas, Mandi (DeLuca) DeVito, Elizabeth Yates, Stacy Blecher, Andy Malia
   3rd Row L to R: Jason Antin, Dan Stafura, Geoff Abraham, Kevin Rich, Benjamin Wilson, Trey Balston
14. Class of 2009 – 1st Row L to R: Ali Mears, Andrew Ellis, Meredith Crimmins, Marina Soffer, Eva Raimondi, Becky Fisher, Amanda Saenz, Alice Curry
   2nd Row L to R: Ethan Schneider, Kelly Grote, Jon Chu, Alex Dowd, Anthony Balouris, Basyf Stoyvesant, Luke Racek
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS DON’T JUST GROW ON TREES – THEY’RE MADE.
In fact, study after study shows that the single most important factor in the quality of a student’s education is the quality of her teachers.

And at Shady Side Academy, it’s our faculty is that truly sets us apart.

Shady Side’s teachers are enthusiastic and caring. They set high expectations for their students, pushing and challenging them to reach their full potential. They serve as coaches and advisors, building strong, authentic relationships with their students that last a lifetime. They teach them to be independent thinkers, too. As a result, our graduates leave as learned, compassionate and productive citizens of the world.

The following faculty profiles spotlight just six of the many amazing teachers that currently walk our halls. This small sampling represents what has enabled us to be a leader in independent school education in Western Pennsylvania for more than 130 years now: OUR PEOPLE.
Marci Anderson always knew she wanted to be an educator. After all, her grandfather was a teacher at Rankin High School, her mother taught for 30 years at Norwin, and her sister teaches special education in Georgia.

“I guess it’s just in my blood,” says Anderson, who is a fourth grade teacher at the Junior School.

Currently in her ninth year at Shady Side, Anderson has also taught second and third grade, as well as computer. Her husband, David, a 1976 graduate of SSA, was the one who first encouraged her to teach in a private setting.

“They really give you the freedom to teach here,” she says. “You’re not limited, and you’re able to teach real-life lessons.”

“Marci’s class is one of thoughtful teaching,” says Junior School Head Ellen McConnell. “She works hard to be consistent and to build a rapport with her students. She does everything in her power to find that unique connection with each student.”

Back in 2012, Anderson, along with fellow teacher Lisa Budd, started the Fourth Grade Financial Literacy Program, upon the recommendation of McConnell, who first saw it in action at the Isidore Newman School in New Orleans. Through the program, students get a pretend weekly salary and pay weekly expenses such as desk rental, health insurance and taxes. They earn credits for things like turning in homework on time and doing good deeds, and are charged debits for things like late homework and being unprepared for class. At the end of each week, they total up all the debits and credits to calculate their net pay, which is then deposited into a fictional savings account.

Twice a year they hold a fourth grade marketplace in the gymnasium, where students create and sell handmade items. They pay all expenses from their savings account – supplies, table rental, advertising, etc. – and then decide on a competitive per-item cost that will cover expenses and earn a profit. Teachers and students from other grades then use fun money to shop at the marketplace.

“The kids love it,” says Anderson, “We talk about advertising and setting a selling price, how to handle competition and how to make a profit.”

Anderson is also president of Steel City Greyhounds, a nonprofit that rescues and finds good homes for greyhounds after their racing careers have ended. She and her husband founded the organization in 2002. In addition to the hundreds they’ve rescued through their organization, Anderson and her husband have personally adopted seven of the former racing dogs.

Since 2001, Anderson has also served as a UPMC Children’s Hospital Volunteer with her dogs through their Pet Friends program. In 2012 she was recognized for her efforts by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette with a Jefferson Award for Public Service.

Occasionally Anderson will bring her dogs into the classroom to visit with her students. Through the Fourth Grade Furry Friends Project, a community service project that helps to raise awareness about how animals can enhance your life, she’s been able to share her love of animals with her students.

“The kids absolutely love the dogs,” she says, “and it gives me a chance to share one of my passions with them. It helps us connect on a more personal level, which I think makes for a more effective, more positive teaching environment.”
Waiting outside sixth grade social studies teacher Molly (Davis) Braver’s classroom, I could hear her talking about Machiavelli with her students. When she came out to meet me, she was wearing a Goofy hat. What else would you expect from someone who, as a freshman at Shady Side Academy, played first base on the boys baseball team?

“I guess I’ve always been one to go against the grain,” she says.

A Churchill native and member of the Class of 1994, Braver is now in her third year at the Middle School, where she also coaches girls basketball and softball and serves as community service coordinator.

Braver tries to engage and challenge her students whenever she can. “If my students are yawning, then I’m not doing my job,” she says.

Last year Braver updated a course called World Studies, combining geography, culture, philosophy, social studies and comparative religions. She also takes her kids on a field trip to Hindu temples, where they get a hands-on look at the culture.

Middle School Head Amy Nixon says Braver is the kind of teacher that’s always looking for ideas “that will captivate the students and help them grow as thinkers.”

“She introduces her students to large ideas,” says Nixon, “but ones that they can certainly grasp when presented in a way that makes sense on their level. Molly does this with joy and, as a result, stretches our kids in amazing ways.”

Braver believes a teacher’s role is to connect to her students and to understand their stresses while still holding them to certain expectations.

“You have to include the students in the learning process,” says Braver. “It’s not a sage on a stage model anymore. You have to get them to think and then to effectively express their ideas.”

In December 2013 Braver organized the Middle School’s first Global Action Conference (GAC) Day, a comprehensive school-wide day of service learning. Students spent the day learning about complex social issues from local nonprofit organizations, engaging in hands-on service activities and planning future service efforts.

Braver says the goal was to raise awareness, educate students about social issues and encourage the school community to bring about local and global change.

“Shady Side respects and fosters creative approaches to learning,” says Braver. “They encourage teachers to think outside of the box so we can enrich the learning environment, which is what made GAC Day possible.”

The theme of this year’s GAC Day, which took place December 12, was children’s health.

“Not everyone in the world has what they need to survive,” says Braver. “GAC Day really got the kids interested in helping other people, both at home and around the world, and gave them a way to get involved. They’re learning how, through their actions, individuals really can make a difference. It’s our responsibility to do what we can to better not just our own communities but the world community as well.”
Dana Hardy-Bingham knows how to get the most out of her students.

Over the last four summers, the Senior School theatre director has advised a team of student writers in adapting centuries-old scripts into modern-day versions for the school’s fall play. The results have been, in her words, incredible.

“You would not believe the writing that comes out of these kids,” she says. “I mean, taking rhyming couplets and updating them into modern language – they blow me away.”

When Hardy-Bingham took on the job, the department was suffering from lack of interest. Take the 2011 production of Romeo & Juliet, for example, in which then-freshman Julian Schwartz played the part of Romeo. Hardy-Bingham only had four people come to tryouts that year, so she decided to take matters into her own hands.

“I just saw Julian on campus and asked him to try out,” she says. “He had never even acted before. Since then he’s been my lead every year, and now he’s going on to acting school.”

“She is one of the most creative people I’ve ever met,” says Schwartz, now a senior. “She channels her boundless creative energy both into the classroom and the theater.”

Since her arrival at SSA, Hardy-Bingham has injected a whole new energy into the Senior School theatre program. In addition to directing the fall play, winter musical and spring Original Theatre Works Festival, she teaches classes in acting and also playwriting, which often attracts students not necessarily interested in theatre.

The one-act plays that come out of Hardy-Bingham’s playwriting class are produced and performed by students in the Original Theatre Works Festival, which she founded in 2012. One of her student’s plays was even selected for the 2013 Young Playwrights Festival, where it was professionally staged by Pittsburgh’s City Theatre Company.

“You don’t have to be pursuing acting professionally to be involved,” she says. “You can just dip your toe in and have some fun.”

Hardy-Bingham is also an actor herself. A native of Bainbridge Island near Seattle, she earned a B.A. from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., before going on to earn an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa, where she met her husband and fellow actor, Tony. The two of them moved to New York City in 2003 to try to hit the big stage, but competition was stiff.

In 2005, she and Tony moved to Pittsburgh, where she started looking for an acting/teaching job while working at a law firm during the day. When she finally got the job at SSA, it was a turning point in her life.

“I had always dreamt of being an actor, and I gave it an honest shot for nearly 20 years. Now I still get to act in the summers while working here with an incredible music director and a bunch of amazing kids.”

Hardy-Bingham’s students love working with her, too, as was recognized in 2014 when she won a Michael J. Farrell Award for Innovative Educators. And of course, she has a passion for acting that translates to her students.

“My favorite time of the day is rehearsal,” she says. “The students inspire me. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and their youthfulness keeps me young.”
In the 26 years she’s been teaching at the Junior School, beloved first grade teacher Carol Hendershot has seen a lot of changes.

“It was actually an all-boys school when I started here,” says Hendershot, whose husband, Buddy, has been teaching English at the Senior School since 1974. Now she is teaching the children of her husband’s former students. “I look forward to coming to work every day. There’s hardly been a day that I’m not excited about it.”

It’s this kind of enthusiasm that won Hendershot a 2014 Michael J. Farrell Award for Exceptional Interactions With Students.

“What makes Carol such a great teacher is her willingness to always learn and grow,” says Jennifer Keller, Hendershot’s first grade teaching partner of 15 years. “She’s always open to try something new and exciting, especially if it is in the best interests of her students.”

Junior School Head Ellen McConnell agrees. “Carol cultivates and grows learners. Not only does she have a delightful way of listening to her students and working with them, but she also truly enjoys their company.”

Hendershot’s efforts go well beyond the classroom, too. Along with Keller, she spearheads the school’s Hearts for Haiti and Change for Haiti fundraisers, both of which benefit impoverished schoolchildren and schools in Haiti.

Each February, students cut out and sell paper hearts for $1. They also place jars in each classroom around the school to collect loose change throughout the year. All funds raised are used to purchase school supplies and help pay tuition for needy Haitian children.

“The kids really care about this cause,” says Hendershot. “When I show them the living conditions – no running water, no electricity – they’re empathetic and compassionate; they really want to help and be a part of it.”

Hendershot’s involvement with Haiti came about after her son, Paul, a combat medic who served two tours in Iraq, went to the country following the devastating 2010 earthquake. Seeing that there were so many children who didn’t have access to education, he wanted to raise money to help.

Sharing her son’s concern for the Haitian people, Hendershot traveled to Deschapelles for two weeks in summer 2011 on one of SSA’s Paul G. Benedum Teaching Fellowships. There she personally delivered supplies purchased with the funds raised by her first graders. She also volunteered at the school and visited the Albert Schweitzer Hospital where her son was working.

Over the past four years, Hendershot’s students have raised more than $8,000 for the Haitian school – funds that were used to purchase a water tank, generator and playground equipment. Some of the money also goes towards paying tuition, and enrollment has grown so much now that they’re building a second floor.

“We have a generous community here at the school,” says Hendershot. “Kids donate their birthday money; they have lemonade stands. It’s pretty awesome what the kids will do – the parents and teachers, too.”
When you first meet Rhett Jenkins, you can’t help but notice his handlebar mustache. And that’s just fine with him. “I’m well aware that it provokes a response,” says Jenkins, who serves as a Middle School Latin instructor and head Form I advisor. “Socrates is famous for his layers of irony; I want there to be an immediate reaction, and then I can reveal my different layers as you get to know me.”

A native of Carlisle, Pa., Jenkins earned both a bachelor of philosophy and a master’s in classics from the University of Pittsburgh. Now in his fifth year at SSA, he has taught English and study of language courses, and he also coaches boys’ basketball and the robotics team. He dedicates most of his time, however, to Latin, which he says is a great thing to teach young people.

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Parents appreciate him, too. “His energy, enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile have a profound effect on the students,” said one parent. “The inspiration Mr. Jenkins provides to our son has made an extraordinary impact on [his] experience at Shady Side.”

In addition to teaching, Jenkins also advises the Middle School philosophy club, The Fatal Crust, which he founded three years ago as a way to engage his students in sharing and talking about ideas. “This is the perfect age to introduce them to philosophical ideas,” he says. “They don’t have a lot of life experience yet, but they don’t have any preconceptions, either, which is a good thing. They’re able to disagree with one another, but in a way that’s respectful. It’s probably the most personally rewarding part of my job.”
John Landreth isn’t ashamed to admit he wasn’t always a great teacher.

“My first class was terrible,” he says. “I was all over the place, and the students were asking me things I didn’t know. It was a disaster.”

But Dr. Sarah Eldridge, then head of school, disagreed. She liked how Landreth was willing to admit it when he didn’t know something, and she also knew that great teachers grow over time. And in Landreth’s case, that’s exactly what happened.

“It’s really been a joy to learn how to teach and have the kids help me become the teacher I am today,” says Landreth, who’s now in his 23rd year teaching chemistry at the Senior School.

Landreth first got interested in chemistry when he was attending high school back in Cincinnati.

“I had a fantastic teacher named Marv Collins,” he says. “I absolutely loved it. My mom thought I was an alien; she hated chemistry. But to me it was fun. Everything just clicked.”

He went on to earn a B.A. in chemistry at Kenyon College. There his first-year chemistry professor, Dr. Gordon Johnson, let Landreth work at his own pace, which is something he now tries to do with his own students.

“I used to just stand at the front of the room and try to give the kids as much information as possible,” he says. “But that doesn’t work very well. It’s too me-centric. Chemistry is hands-on. There’s a certain wow factor involved. My job is to explain why that wow factor happens and to facilitate it in a way that makes the most sense to my students.”

Landreth, who in 2013 received a Michael J. Farrell Award for Going Above and Beyond, believes that truly great teachers allow their students to grow.

“You have to make it about the kids,” he says. “I encourage my students to want to learn on their own and with each other. It’s a much more effective strategy.”

In addition to teaching science, Landreth is the Form V dean, where he’s in charge of the well being of the junior class.

“There’s a certain wow factor involved. My job is to explain why that wow factor happens and to facilitate it in a way that makes the most sense to my students.”

He’s also served as head coach of SSA’s tremendously successful boys and girls swimming teams since 1992. The boys’ team has won 10 WPIAL Championships and two PIAA (state) titles during his tenure. His swimmers have also won more than 100 WPIAL and PIAA titles in individual and relay events.

“I think part of what makes him such a remarkable coach is his passion and drive for seeing his students and athletes succeed in all aspects of their lives,” says junior swimmer Caroline Colville. “When you see your coach cry at the end of your race, it gives you an sense of how much he really cares.”

“If you want to be the best – whether it’s swimming or teaching or whatever – you have to put in the time, the energy and the commitment,” says Landreth. “I’m just as committed to getting the most out of people in the pool and in chemistry class. Once they’ve stated what their goals are, I do my best to hold them accountable.”
Over the past 30 years, more than 200 SSA faculty members have been given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of professional development programs over the summer utilizing a Paul G. Benedum Teaching Fellowship. The fellowships were established in 1985 to memorialize the life and ideals of Paul Gregory Benedum ’50, an internationally known independent oil producer and president of the Pittsburgh-based Benedum-Trees Oil Co. A great humanitarian and philanthropist, Benedum had a particular concern for the intellectual and personal growth of young people. He wanted students at Shady Side to achieve character traits that would enable them to serve the needs of society and their fellow citizens. The goals of the Benedum Teaching Fellowships are to aid in maintaining the Academy’s excellence and to stimulate and assist Shady Side in the fulfillment of its commitment to employ and retain superior teachers, so that they may impact the young people of Pittsburgh.
In 2014, six faculty members traveled the globe on Benedum Teaching Fellowships to grow professionally and enhance their teaching in the classroom.

Senior School Spanish teacher Sally Abramson spent 15 days touring parts of Mexico, studying the history, art and culture of the country for her Benedum Fellowship. She visited the Frida Khalo Museum in Mexico City and stopped in San Cristobal de las Casas, where she investigated the Zapatista rebellion and interacted with the Mexican students that the SSA Chiapas Connection Club sponsored during the academic years.

Back in the United States, Middle School science teacher Matt Brunner traveled to Mammoth Cave National Park, where he filmed video lectures on the formation of limestone caves to use in his sixth grade science class. He also investigated sedimentary and metamorphic rock formations in the Grand Canyon. He finished his trip at Yosemite National Park, where he attended ranger-led programs to assist him in finding resources for students in the research of geological formations.

“On my trip, I found moments of both expected and unexpected beauty. Overarching it all was a sense of amazement at the forces of nature that have shaped the American West,” said Brunner. “Now that I am back in the classroom, I hope to better share the wonder of geology with my students and inspire them to explore the world around us.”

Exploring the world of Charles Dickens and the Victorian Age was the purpose of Senior School English teacher Liz Garvey’s Benedum Fellowship. She took part in the Dickens Project at the University of California at Santa Clara, which is made up of faculty and graduate students from more than 40 American and international universities. The project lasted a week and created opportunities for collaborative research.

“The most exciting thing about my Benedum was being with a variety of people – professors, students, retirees and people from all walks of life, from an army vet to an insurance salesman – who took a week of their summer to talk about and learn about Charles Dickens,” said Garvey. The project provided ample material for Garvey’s upper-form elective course, Austen and Dickens.

Another Senior School English teacher, Harold “Buddy” Hendershot, attended the Oxford University teaching seminar on “Shakespeare in History,” which was held for one week in England. Hendershot teaches Shakespeare to sophomores in his Foundations course and also teaches an elective course on Shakespeare for juniors and seniors. The Oxbridge program is internationally renowned, and attendees come from all parts of the world.

Also inspired by a literary work, Middle School English teacher Timothy McGuigan visited the Netherlands to trace the footsteps of Anne Frank around Amsterdam. McGuigan has found that The Diary of Anne Frank resonates with and challenges teenage readers in many ways. He went to the Westerbork camp and collected artifacts for use in his Form II English classes, and collected audio recordings and transcripts of oral history from Jewish and other Dutch survivors of World War II.
This past summer, six students were awarded Parkin Fellowships: seniors Mara Barron, Krishna Patel and Alison Thai, and juniors Nico Bodkin, Shaan Fye, Armaan Jethmalani and CJ Keim. The students traveled to a variety of locations, including New Zealand, Argentina and Greece, and completed a number of service projects, from working in an orphanage to planting gardens to collecting data on sea turtles.

Two recipients traveled to Greece to complete their fellowships. Junior CJ Keim traveled to Athens, where he worked with the nonprofit organization Boroume (“We Can” in Greek) to collect and distribute food. Keim learned about food waste and homelessness, and has since joined a local organization to address these issues. On the beaches of Kyparissia Bay in Giannistochori, junior Nico Bodkin monitored the Mediterranean Sea’s second-largest nest of sea turtles. He learned first-hand about the effects of pollution on the natural world. Bodkin said, “This project has really put everything into perspective and made me think more about conservation, because the little things we do every day really do count.”

Returning to her birth land of China, senior Mara Barron volunteered at the China Little Flower organization in Beijing. She cared for and played with children with and without medical problems, worked in a shop that benefits China Little Flower and learned about Chinese culture first-hand. Senior Alison Thai also dedicated her Parkin Fellowship...
“I find within myself more **empathy, enthusiasm** and willingness to immerse myself in foreign situations than ever before. In essence, **Argentina has given much more to me than I have given to her.**”

to volunteer work at an orphanage. In her father’s homeland of Vietnam, Thai cared for children, serving as a teacher, playmate and caregiver.

Also volunteering to help youth was junior **Shaan Fye**, who built a functional, organic garden in the backyard of a youth care center in Cordoba, Argentina. Although it was winter in Argentina, Fye created raised beds and planted crops and flowers from weed-laden ground in order to provide fresh vegetables for the center. Reflecting, he said, “I find within myself more empathy, enthusiasm and willingness to immerse myself in foreign situations than ever before. In essence, Argentina has given much more to me than I have given to her.”

Junior **Armaan Jethmalani** spent his Parkin Fellowship at the Umang School for students with special needs in Jaipur, India. Jethmalani introduced the Best Buddies program to local high schools – a program that pairs students with special needs students to enjoy simple things like the mall, museums or sports. He said, “I am not sure if I made the greatest difference, but I know that Umang has made the greatest difference to me.”

Hoping to make a difference in a tight-knit community, senior **Krishna Patel** volunteered at the East Takai Health Care Practice in Auckland, New Zealand, where he helped to provide screenings and counseling to individuals and families without health care. While there, he learned about the indigenous Maori and Polynesian populations. He marveled, “This experience was truly enriching, as there is nowhere else where I would have been able to learn so much about this particular group of amazing people.”

The Parkin Fellows shared their personal experiences in their own words on the SSA Global Learning Blog. To read about the impact of their travels, visit www.shadysideacademy.org/GlobalLearningBlog.
New Members of the Board of Trustees

Annie Hanna Engel is president and COO of Howard Hanna Insurance Services Inc. and chief legal counsel of Howard Hanna Company. Howard Hanna is a family-owned, full-service real estate company, providing real estate brokerage, commercial, mortgage, insurance, closing, appraisal, relocation and survey services in eight states. Engel is a board advisor to St. Lucy’s Auxiliary to the Blind, a member of the Cultural Trust Corporate Circles Board and secretary of the Howard Hanna Children’s Free Care Foundation. She is also active in the International Women’s Forum, Carnegie Museum Women’s Committee and is a member of YPO Pittsburgh.

After receiving her B.A. from Dickinson College, Engel received a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and an L.L.M. in insurance law from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Engel and her husband, Gus, live in Fox Chapel with their three children, Will ’19, Rory ’21 and Jack ’24.

Amit Grover ’01 currently serves as first vice president, financial advisor and branch manager for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Sewickley, Pa. He joined Morgan Stanley in 2005 shortly after graduating from Hamilton College with a B.A in mathematics and a minor in economics. Grover’s primary responsibilities include advising physicians, business owners and other professionals throughout the country on their wealth management needs. In addition, he oversees the day-to-day operations of approximately 30 employees in the Sewickley office.

A “lifer” of SSA, Grover currently serves as president of the Alumni Council. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Maher) ’01, reside in Fox Chapel and are avid supporters of multiple charities, including Girls Hope, Partners for Quality and the Silk Screen Festival.

Michele Jegasothy is corporate secretary and associate counsel for UPMC. She serves primarily as corporate secretary of the UPMC Board of Directors, managing the board’s activities and assisting it to effectively discharge its governance responsibilities. She also provides legal services concerning a variety of subject matters, including corporate transactions, compliance-related initiatives, tax exemption, charitable solicitation and marketing communications.

Jegasothy received her B.A. from Allegheny College and her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She and her husband, Manoj ’90, have two children, Catalina (Cat) ’19 and Gabriela (Gabi) ’21.

Karen Dunn Kelley is the senior managing director of investments for Invesco Ltd. She is responsible for Invesco’s fixed income business, global asset allocation, quantitative strategies, global equities investment teams, equity trading and investment administration. She participates on numerous Invesco committees, including serving as co-chair of the Investors Forum and as a member of the Worldwide Institutional Strategy Committee.

Dunn Kelley received a B.S. from the Villanova University College of Commerce and Finance. She and her husband, Joe, live in Fox Chapel. They have two sons, Broderick ’11 and Sean ’20.

Gregg Perelman is founder and CEO of Walnut Capital, one of Pittsburgh’s largest and fastest growing real estate management and development companies. In the last five years, Walnut Capital has invested $500 million in new construction and historic renovation at properties in high-impact neighborhoods – most notably the $300 million nationally recognized Bakery Square mixed-use developments. The LEED-Silver certified historic rehabilitation of the former Nabisco Bakery is now home to prominent business tenants such as Google, UPMC and University of Pittsburgh.

Perelman and his wife, Susie, reside in Squirrel Hill and have three daughters, Sara ’11, Danielle ’13 and Emma ’16.

Ann Gibbons Scherlis is an award-winning correspondent for Science magazine and the author of The First Human: The Race to Discover Our Earliest Ancestors, which was a finalist for the LA Times best science and technology book. She has taught science writing at Carnegie Mellon University and written about human evolution for National Geographic, SLATE, Smithsonian magazine and other publications.

Scherlis currently serves on the board of directors of Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures and the Friends of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti, and is a member of COOT, a citizens’ advisory committee for the Center for Organ Recovery and Education in Pittsburgh.

A native of Berkeley, Calif., Scherlis received a B.S. in English and a B.S. in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, and was a Knight Science Journalism fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She and her husband, Bill, have three children, Sophia ’17, Tom ’17 and Lily, who is a freshman at Harvard University.
**New Faculty and Staff**

Pam Boehm is a history teacher at the Senior School. She was previously the dean of students at North Shore Country Day School near Chicago and taught history at Friends Seminary in New York City and Phillips Academy Andover. She holds a B.A. from Bowling Green State University and an M.A. from SUNY Albany.

Christa Burneff is the Hillman Center manager at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. She studied musical theatre at the American Musical & Dramatic Academy, earned her B.A. in theatre arts from California State University and her M.F.A. in performing arts management from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Sarah Casey '03 is the purchasing coordinator and bookstore manager at the Senior School. She previously worked as marketing coordinator and manager at The Barre Code fitness center in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Casey has a B.A. in communications and psychology from Villanova University.

Ben Driver joined the world languages faculty at the Senior School. Prior to SSA, he was a teaching intern at the Fessenden School in Newton, Mass. He has his B.A. in classics from Dartmouth College.

Kristen Fisher is the Middle School receptionist/office assistant. She has a B.F.A from Shenandoah University and an M.A. from New York University. She previously spent five years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Dr. John Hoffman joined the mathematics department at the Senior School. He has his B.A. from Youngstown State University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Kent State University. He previously taught math at Kent State University during his graduate work.

Brian Johnston is a social studies teacher at the Middle School. He previously taught at Currey Ingram Academy in Brentwood, Tenn., as well as at middle schools in Ohio and New Jersey. He has his B.A. from the College of Wooster and his M.Ed. from Rutgers.

Danielle Kiefer is a pre-kindergarten teacher. She previously taught first grade in Baltimore, Md., and first and second grade in Brooklyn, N.Y. She has a B.A. from California University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. from Miami University of Ohio, and is a 2009 Teach For America alumna.

Patricia Monticello Kievlan is the Senior School learning support specialist. She earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.Ed. from Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Previously, she founded the academic support program at Convent of the Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco and served as coordinator of a professional community of school learning specialists in the Bay Area.

Natalie Larsen joined the Middle School as an art teacher. A practicing artist, she previously taught at Governor's Honor Academy in West Virginia, St. Mary's School in North Carolina and Marshall University. She has her B.F.A. from Maine College of Art and her M.F.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sophie Lau is the assistant head of school and dean of faculty at the Senior School. She previously spent 12 years at The Wheeler School in Providence, R.I., serving as History Department chair and Upper School technology integrationist. She also has taught at a number of independent schools throughout the country. She has an A.B. from Princeton University and an M.A. from the University of Massachusetts.

Sandy Leavy joined the Junior School as a first grade assistant teacher. She previously served as a learning support teacher in the Fox Chapel Area School District and the Amherst Exempted Village School District in Ohio. She has a B.A. from Gannon University and an M.S. from Duquesne University.

Ryan Logue joined the mathematics faculty at the Senior School. He has a B.S. from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.A.T. from the University of Pittsburgh. Previously he taught math at Hillbel Academy of Pittsburgh and coached wrestling at Upper Saint Clair High School.

Kait Long is the assistant to the college counselors at the Senior School. She began her career teaching English at Quaker Valley High School and then worked in career services at Boston College and Boston University. She has a B.S. from Slippery Rock University and an M.A. from Boston College.

Dr. Joe Martens is a science teacher at the Senior School. He previously was an assistant professor of biology at the University of Pittsburgh and Hamilton College, where he taught genetics and directed an active genetics research program. He has a B.S. from the University of Waterloo and a Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario.

Jazmine Scales joined the Junior School faculty as a pre-kindergarten assistant teacher. She previously taught kindergarten at Harnett County Schools in North Carolina and also has taught zoo camp at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. She has a B.S. from Slippery Rock University.

Gil Schneider is chief financial officer. Previously he spent a decade with H.J. Heinz Co., serving as group vice president and chief financial officer of Heinz North America for six years. Prior to Heinz, he spent 21 years with Seagram Company. He holds a B.A. from Clark University and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School.

Camille MacRae joined the Middle School English faculty. She previously taught English at Franklin Regional Middle School and Fox Chapel Area High School. She has a B.F.A. from New York University and an M.A.T. from the University of Pittsburgh.

Joe Vavpetic joined the Technology Department as database administrator. He has an A.B. from Harvard College. He previously worked in the technology department for the Hotchkiss School and started a company that specialized in web-based database systems for schools and nonprofits.

Xiaoxia Xu joined the Senior School world languages faculty. She previously taught at Winchester Thurston School as an exchange scholar and taught Chinese as a second language to international students at Wuhan University in China. Xu has a B.A. from Wuhan University and an M.Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh.

Bethany Yeager is a pre-kindergarten teacher at the Junior School. She previously taught at the Reggio Emilia-inspired Cyert Center for Early Education on Carnegie Mellon University’s campus. She has a B.S. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
The Hillman Center for Performing Arts Celebrates 10th Anniversary

BY SARAH YORK RUBIN / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES KNOX

The Hillman Center for Performing Arts celebrated its 10th anniversary with a showcase event attended by more than 200 guests on a sunny afternoon on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014. The program featured SSA students, professional performers and community representatives and was followed by an ice cream social on the Mary Hillman Jennings Plaza. Guests attending the event included SSA alumnus, businessman and philanthropist Henry Hillman ’37 and his wife, Elsie, for whom the building is named, and SSA alumnus, actor and educator Richard E. Rauh ’58, for whom the building’s main theater is named. Other attendees included representatives from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, SSA trustees, donors, parents, alumni, faculty and students.

The program was designed to reflect the diversity of the Hillman Center for Performing Arts as a year-round arts venue. Students from each campus performed in the anniversary program. From the Junior School, students in grades 3-5 sang a groovy version of the SSA alma mater with bongo drums and rain sticks, led by Junior School music teacher Kim Price. Middle School music teacher Jeffrey Gross led the Middle School Select String Ensemble in a performance of Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake. Senior School theatre teacher Dana Hardy-Bingham introduced senior Julian Schwartz ’16, who took the stage for a captivating monologue from Shakespeare’s The Two Gentleman of Verona. The Senior School Chamber Choir sang a beautiful rendition of Gershwin’s Love Is Here to Stay, directed by music teacher Dr. Dan Brill. Junior Brad Steiner also played jazz hits on the keyboard to create lovely ambient music for the reception on the plaza.

From the Pittsburgh community, the Afro American Music Institute represented one of the many talented performances from past Hillman Series lineups. The Hill Dance Academy Theatre also took the stage and performed for a captivated audience. Mikhail Istimin, Marylene Gingras-Roy, Dennis O’Boyle and Jennifer Orchard from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra rounded out the afternoon as they played the American String Quartet, 4th Movement. George Balderose from the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming played a bagpipe prelude in front of the Hillman Center before the anniversary commenced. Richard E. Rauh ’58 was the featured speaker for the program, and he noted that his inspiration continues to be the passion of Shady Side students for arts and creation.

The Hillman Center for the Performing Arts is Shady Side Academy’s primary performing arts classroom. Senior School students convene biweekly in the Rauh Theater for all-school assemblies, which are an open forum for discussion, performance and celebration. Drama, choir, string ensemble and band students attend daily classes in the Hillman and perform year-round in the Rauh Theater as well as the Kountz Theater. Middle School students also perform their biannual concerts on the Rauh Theater stage. Junior School students take field trips to attend professional performances at the Hillman Center.

This fall marks the ninth season of the annual Hillman Performing Arts Series, which is generously underwritten by the Henry L. Hillman Foundation. The series is open to the community and patrons from all over the region, and has presented music, dance, comedy, lectures, cirque, illusionists, live animals and exhibits.
The Hillman Center for Performing Arts houses the Richard E. Rauh Theater, the Peter J. Kountz Black Box Theater, the Mary Hillman Jennings Plaza, the Wean Conference Room, the David McCullough ’51 Archival Gallery, the Casey Green Room, a recording studio named in memory of Larry J. Papinchak, the Howard Practice Room, a box office named in memory of Allen H. and Selma W. Berkman, rehearsal and practice rooms and more.

The 34,000-square foot facility was endowed and built at a cost of $12.3 million and held its grand opening Sept. 30, 2004.

**Above, left to right:**

Junior School students in grades 3–5

Front: Henry ’37 and Elsie Hillman

Back: Sarah York Rubin, Richard Rauh ’58 and Tom Cangiano

Middle School Select String Ensemble

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**Hillman Center for Performing Arts**

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- **MAR 7, 2015**
  - Rhythm of the Dance

- **APR 11, 2015**
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Jim Berkman has never been one to take homework lightly. Not at Shady Side Academy. Not at Harvard College. Not at Oxford University.

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY JAMES BERKMAN
As the head of school of Boston University Academy, Berkman assigns himself homework for the first two weeks of each fall term. He learns the name of every incoming student at the small private high school located on the BU campus.

The first day of class in the fall of 2014, he warned the 55 new students, “I am going to be incredibly rude. I am going to ask you your names. I am going to make mistakes, so please help me.”

After confusing a Jessica with an Erica a time or two and getting stumped by identical twins, he soon commits all the names to memory. Homework completed. But like any good overachiever, Berkman doesn’t stop there. He learns about his students’ siblings, parents, pets and academic passions in a school where the students proudly wear buttons that say, “Embrace your inner geek.”

In his 31 years as an educator at five independent schools, Berkman has always worked extra hard to get to know his students. His aim always is to create a close-knit community on his campus — the same kind of collegiality that helped him flourish at both Shady Side Academy and Harvard.

Berkman has graduated more than 1,300 kids in 17 years as a head of school — first at Hawken School in Cleveland, Ohio, and now at Boston University Academy. This spring will be his last graduating class. He’ll be retiring from academia to write books and do other projects, but he still expects to hear from his former students.

As in previous years, he’s forged a bond with many of them. They often come to his office to chat, tell him about their families or career plans, or play with his golden retriever, Olive. “You always see him around,” says BUA junior Joy Blanchard. “His office door is always open. He is very dynamic.”

Berkman’s overarching mission as head of school is to develop the entire person at Boston University Academy, a hybrid institution where students take classes at both the self-enclosed high school and the university. They can select from 2,000 university electives and 24 modern languages.

“There is nothing like us, a full high school embedded in a major research university,” he said. “On any given day, in any given week, 80 of our 170 students take two to four college courses. They often graduate with a year and a half of college credit. Most of our alumni graduate from college in three years or they get their master’s and bachelor’s degrees simultaneously in four years.”

“They work very hard, and they giggle and laugh in the hallways. They are safe to be themselves. There is no stigma for being intellectually curious.”

For all of their academic gifts, Berkman wants to make sure that his kids don’t just rush through college years Doogie Howser-style, shortchanging their social growth. “If you accelerate it too much, they are not well rounded. So this is also a four-year high school with sports and clubs, as well as proms and yearbooks.”

Berkman believes it’s important that students at the academy are free to “geek out” on any subject without encountering social backlash from their peers. “They are delighted to be here. They work very hard, and they giggle and laugh in the hallways. They are safe to be themselves. There is no stigma for being intellectually curious.”
When Berkman looks at some of his students, he sometimes remembers how he arrived at Shady Side Academy's Middle School nearly five decades ago. He was a good student – and a self-proclaimed nerd. Becoming a five-day-a-week boarder at the Senior School campus, however, allowed him to develop not only academically but also socially and athletically. He played on the soccer, squash and tennis teams. “In public school, I would have been cut from all of those teams,” he said.

He was the youngest of five kids and the son of Allen, an attorney, and Selma, a homemaker, both civic leaders. He enjoyed hanging out with friends at the dorm during the week and then going home on weekends to visit his parents at their Squirrel Hill home, and later Oakland home. “I loved the boarding life,” he said. Graduating from Shady Side in 1973, Berkman spent his senior year in Paris studying in a program made up mostly of college juniors, along with SSA classmate Billy Cook ’73. He realized it was a valuable experience for him.

At Harvard, Berkman majored in history and literature of England and America. During his sophomore year, he moved into Lowell House, one of 12 student residential houses on campus that are small communities headed by a resident master. “I jokingly said if Disney ever made an ‘Ivy World,’ Lowell House would be its facade – with its bell tower, two courtyards, eight squash courts and a two-story library.”

It wasn't just that Lowell House was movie-set stately. “It was a community, with a family-oriented living arrangement,” Berkman said. The sense of community was fostered by the housemasters, Zeph Stewart, a classics professor, and his wife, Diana. “Zeph had a mind like a steel trap,” he said. Diana was a lovely hostess who’d prepare food and serve tea on Thursday afternoons for hundreds of undergraduates, graduate students and professors.

Berkman made an impression on his housemates, winning the Lowell House Korean War Memorial Award for responsibility and strength of character. He graduated in 1977 from Harvard magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. After Harvard, Berkman traveled to England to study early modern European history for two years at Oxford University. It was like an extended honeymoon and an academic adventure for him and his wife, McKey, a Smith College religion major he met in freshman year of college and married in 1977.

Upon their return to the United States, the Berkmans went back to Boston to attend Harvard Law School together. It was then that Berkman had a chance encounter in Harvard Square that would have a lasting effect on his career. He and his wife were strolling through Harvard Square when they bumped into his former Lowell housemaster, Professor Stewart.

When Berkman reintroduced McKey to the professor, he said, “This is my wife, McKey. You met her when I was dating her five years ago.” A glint of recognition flickered on the professor’s face. “Weren’t you a religion major at Smith?” Stewart asked her. Berkman was amazed. “Five years later, he knew my girlfriend’s major. It was phenomenal.” That brief encounter stuck with Berkman and would ultimately influence the way he acted as an independent school educator. “I want to know my students that well,” he told himself.

Berkman graduated cum laude from Harvard Law, the ninth member of his immediate family to become a lawyer. He worked two years at a boutique firm in Philadelphia, but he realized he wasn’t meant to be a lawyer. “They trained me well,” he said, “but I wasn’t attuned to the spirit of the law. It takes a human problem and splits it into two extremes and an adversarial process. The end result might look nothing like the human problem you began with.”

He considered becoming a college professor for a while. But after realizing university research would not provide enough social interaction for him, in the mid–1980s he began a new career in secondary education. At Germantown Academy in Philadelphia,
he was an English teacher and soccer coach before becoming director of middle and upper school admissions in 1988. Over the next decade, he worked in administrative positions at two other Quaker schools, Friends Academy in Locust Valley, N.Y., and Abington Friends School in Jenkintown, Pa.

In 1998, Berkman became head of school at Hawken School in Ohio soon after he joined the board of Shady Side Academy. The two schools had many similarities as far as size and budget and endowment. “We didn’t compete with each other for students – just in sports! – so we benchmarked each other. It made both schools stronger.”

Younger students occasionally can face awkward moments in a college classroom, Berkman said. For instance, students will feel uncomfortable about divulging their age in a college class. Sometimes they’ll say they are older to blend in. Other times they’ll admit they’re only 14 and 15. And when they do, the 18-year-old college student seated next to them typically will just say, “Cool.”

In addition to his administrative and counseling duties, Berkman frequently teaches an English class. “He is a master teacher,” said his wife. “He knows how to engage kids. He makes them think and understand the poem and novel by asking great questions and letting them do the thinking instead of lecturing at them.” She said her husband also knows how to have fun. During lock-in, a sleepover at the school, he holds a Lord of the Rings marathon in his room. “Kids drift in and out all night,” she said.

In his retirement, Berkman plans to take a break from the world of education. He’s going to look for some civic commitment, as well as concentrate on writing another novel. He’s already written a sequel to the Henry James dark comedy The Ambassadors, following the lead character, Strether, into the next stage of his life. “It almost wrote itself,” he said. “The characters had voices of their own.”

Berkman’s next book will be based on a poem he adores and must have taught 150 times in the last 30 years – Samuel Coleridge’s poem “Frost at Midnight.” His historical fiction book will explore Coleridge’s complex relationship with his son Hartley. He’ll begin writing his new book soon after he sends his last class of students out into the world.

“He is a master teacher. He knows how to engage kids.”
– McKey Berkman
Some college deans spend all day holed up in their offices.
Not Margaret Hazlett.

On any given day, she’s out on the lush campus of Franklin & Marshall (F&M) College in Lancaster, Pa., hashing out party guidelines with fraternities, cheering on the field hockey team and nudging student government leaders toward a smoke-free campus.
For Hazlett, dean of the college, the classroom and campus life of a private institution are intertwined, helping a student grow both academically and socially. “I think students who have gone through the process of getting into college have had so much pressure,” she said. “It’s real pressure, but it is also the pressure high performers put on themselves.”

She reminds high-achieving students to take time out to enjoy themselves. “Find the fun in living,” she will tell them. “Are you hanging out with the group of friends you want to be with? Are you joining the finance club just to get an internship at Morgan Stanley, or are you doing what you really enjoy?”

“College is all about taking risks,” she said, but then added with a laugh, “But not too crazy of a risk.”

Hazlett discovered the importance of a well-rounded campus experience at Shady Side Academy, where she attended the Senior School. Not only did she excel academically, she became captain of the field hockey team and a student government leader. Her teachers nurtured her both inside and outside the classroom. She remembers feeling intimidated during the biology class of Bill Sayles, who would call on students after drawing names from a box of index cards. Please don’t pick me, she would think, squirming. Biology wasn’t her best subject. But come Monday, the demanding teacher would compliment her on her play during the weekend field hockey game. She would beam. “It was so supportive. That made such a difference for me.”

Hazlett fosters that same sense of community as dean of F&M, a small liberal arts college. “I love the full community – the curricular and co-curricular and how they intertwine so students experience them seamlessly. It blurs the lines of what a classroom is.”

As dean, Hazlett oversees everything from discipline and Greek life to athletics and mental health issues. She works in student life at a time when college students nationwide are reporting increased levels of depression and anxiety. “There are waiting lists at many college counseling centers,” she said. “You have more and more
students on antidepressants and anxiety medication. Ten or 15 years ago, they wouldn’t be able to be in residence halls. That puts extra pressure on health and counseling services.”

Rather than just reacting to crises, Hazlett tries to prevent problems. She recently met with a group of fraternity brothers about hosting safe parties and reducing their legal liability. “These are young men with significant leadership roles and a lot of responsibility on their shoulders,” she said. “In the media, they are reading about sexual assaults at fraternities, Amherst College getting rid of their fraternities. Our goal is to have a healthy fraternity system.”

She also met with student leaders of the college housing system and asked them to consider different party options. “Our campus is more diverse,” she said. “There are a lot of cultures that don’t socialize with alcohol.”

Wellness is another priority of Hazlett’s. With a growing number of campuses going smoke-free, she presented the idea to Mark Harmon-Vaught, student government president, so that he could bring it to the next student forum. “She could have done it with a snap of her fingers. But she engages with students and shares responsibilities,” he said. “It’s not the top-down approach you find at some schools.”

Though she has only been at F&M one year, Hazlett is a familiar face on campus. “I see her in the morning for bagel breakfast at 8 a.m. and in the evenings for basketball games,” Harmon-Vaught said.

“Not all deans are so visible on college campuses. “She could easily lock herself in her office and supervise her department heads,” said J. Samuel Houser, vice president for strategic initiatives and chief of staff at F&M. “It would be easy to do that, but she is among the students.”

When it comes to discipline, she is a rare mix of compassionate and no-nonsense pragmatism. “Some people are good disciplinarians,” Houser said. “Other people are good therapists. Very few can do both. She can be very empathetic to students’ needs. But she has no problem disciplining the students and referring them to help so the community as a whole remains strong. She is very ethical.”

Those ethics were instilled in her as the youngest of three daughters in a lively family in Fox Chapel. Her father, Bob Hazlett ’42, was an Ivy-League-educated lawyer with a great sense of humor. He delighted in his daughters’ achievements. Hazlett found a compassionate role model in her mother, Ann, a social worker at the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. “She was a leader in the understanding of domestic violence, pre-O.J. Simpson,” Hazlett said. She also was one of the few mothers Hazlett knew working outside the home back then.

The Hazletts raised their daughters to be individuals. “All three of them went to different high schools,” said Lisa Fisher ’84, Hazlett’s classmate and director of database and donor services at Shady Side Academy. Hazlett transferred to Shady Side Academy in high school and instantly felt a sense of community. “The faculty would come to your bake sale and your school plays,” she said. “That is what got me interested in student life.”

Hazlett was a standout in athletics and always gravitated toward the positions no one else would play. In field hockey, she was goalie. In swimming, she did endurance events. In softball, she played catcher, a position she didn’t like. “She was never one for immediate gratification,” said friend and classmate Sandra Sauereisen ’84. “She always went the distance.”

On campus, she was so respected that she was voted to the three-person student government board both her junior and senior years. “She wasn’t the most popular student, but everyone

“If you were to ask anyone who is the fairest person, they would say, ‘Margaret Hazlett.’”

– Sandra Sauereisen ’84
thought they could trust her. She was kind, accepting and open to everybody," Sauereisen said. "If you were to ask anyone who is the fairest person, they would say, ‘Margaret Hazlett.’"

As a student leader, she served a stint on the admissions committee, reading applications and making recommendations in confidence. She developed close relationships with administrators, including Walter Jones, the late director of admissions. "I could see myself doing this type of work," she thought.

Her athletic, leadership and academic abilities were honored during Prize Day, when Hazlett took the stage for award after award. "We were jokingly rolling our eyes, ‘Of course, it is Margaret,’” Fisher said. “But no one was jealous. Everyone knew she deserved every single award.”

After graduation, Hazlett attended Princeton University, an intimidating transition at first. But she said Shady Side Academy gave her the confidence to speak up in class and see professors during office hours. After graduating with a B.A. in art history, she taught English in Thailand. The 23-year-old stepped off the plane in Bangkok without speaking a word of Thai or knowing a soul. She had no idea where to live. But always resourceful, she made her way to the U.S. Embassy and found real estate resources so she could find an apartment.

Teaching overseas broadened her world view. "It was the best experience," she said. She also taught in Japan for a year through the Princeton in Asia program. Upon returning to the United States, she worked in residential life at Princeton, overseeing a resident assistant program, and then served as executive director of Princeton in Asia. As much as she liked that work, she knew her ultimate goal was to be director of a private secondary school or a college dean. So she earned a master’s in education from Harvard University. "To be at Harvard was phenomenal," she said. "I soaked it up.”

In the mid-1990s, she taught for two years at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, Va., a private school that reminded her of Shady Side. "I was director of the summer program, taught 10th grade medieval history, coached the swim team – the whole nine yards of being at an independent school," she said. "I loved the community.”

But she also missed working with college students. In 1997, she moved to Bowdoin College in Maine, where she became senior associate dean of student affairs. She liked the challenge of working with a small liberal arts school that was going through a challenge. When Hazlett arrived, Bowdoin had just eliminated its fraternity system and was transitioning from a traditional New England college to a much more diverse school where 30 percent of the students are of color. “It was an exciting change,” she said.

She stayed there until 2013, then moved back to Pennsylvania to take the job at F&M. She also plans to help F&M become more diverse racially and to expand geographically beyond the Mid-Atlantic states.

She loves helping students develop as people during this critical juncture in their lives, pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones. "You watch someone come in and think they are going to be a computer science major, and then they leave with a Teach for America internship.”

At a time when students can expect multiple career changes, she believes a liberal arts education provides a solid foundation for success. “Gone are the days when you are going to work for McGraw-Hill for 26 years,” she said. “I was an art history major. Look at what I am doing. I was taught excellent writing skills and quantitative reasoning skills at Shady Side. Those are the skills that allow students to be nimble.”

She brings her children (ages 9 and 11) to F&M football games and other events. “My kids love to go. It is a great place to raise kids. I have a babysitting list of 2,400 students.”

Hazlett is always thinking about campus life. Sauereisen remembers how she talked her into coming to Central Pennsylvania to run the Bird-in-Hand Half Marathon in September. The weather was steamy hot, and immediately after crossing the finishing line, Sauereisen wanted to rest.

Not Hazlett. “I have to run to a college event,” she told her friend, before rushing from the finish line, taking a quick shower and heading back to campus to check in on a football game and an outdoor concert.
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

By Head Coach Sue Whitney

The girls cross country team enjoyed a tremendously successful season, led by eight senior runners and buoyed by a lot of freshman runners. Led by seniors Elizabeth Ejzak, Angie Kim, AineMarie Policastro, Yasmine Islam, Sarah Small, Michelle Wolf, Alia Yossef and Ashley McIroy, this team captured its first section title since 2009, running undefeated in section meets, 8-0. The team finished fourth in the WPIAL Championships, just missing taking the team to the state championships in Hershey. However, outstanding performances by sophomore Lindsey Stauber and freshman Jeanne Lauer led to both qualifying to race at states as individuals, where they placed 44th and 118th, respectively. The team is looking forward to an even brighter future next season.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

By Naveen Jain ’15

After losing three seniors to graduation, the boys cross country team entered the season with numerous spots to be filled in the varsity lineup. Some fresh faces took this opportunity in full stride and helped the varsity team to finish with a 6-2 section record. Led by captains Connor Colombo, Harper Dowd and Naveen Jain, the team placed sixth out of 27 teams at the WPIAL Championships, with Colombo and sophomore Gannon Leech qualifying for the PIAA state meet. Leech and Colombo placed 21st and 62nd, respectively, out of 228 runners at the meet. The team will now enjoy the luxury of having all but one varsity runner returning next season.
BOYS SOCCER
By Matt Rytel ’15
With only five returning starters, the boys varsity soccer team had to rebuild this season. Under the leadership of seniors Phil King, Russell Hunt and captain Conan Smith, along with new Head Coach Graeme Dunlap ’00, the team finished the regular season 11-5 overall. SSA defeated Mt. Pleasant in an exciting first round of the WPIAL Championships, winning by a penalty kick. The boys closed out the season with a 1-0 loss to Quaker Valley in the WPIAL quarterfinals to finish 12-6 overall. With a solid set of returning players next season, the team is looking to advance further in WPIAL play.

BOYS GOLF
By Patrick Bush ’15
The 2014 boys golf season was filled with a great deal of success. The team came out of the gate hot with a 3-0 start but encountered some tough losses. Despite the close defeats, the team worked hard, defeating tough opponents such as Mars and Central Catholic to finish with a 7-3 record. The team closed out the season at the WPIAL Class AAA semifinals, finishing with a team score of 419 to place sixth out of nine teams. Junior Will McMahon shot a 78 to place third at the WPIAL Section 8 Qualifier, while seniors Pat Bush and Sean Gramley both shot 79s to tie for fourth place. All three advanced to the WPIAL Semifinal Qualifiers. McMahon went on to the WPIAL Individual Championship, where he shot an 89 to tie for 22nd place. The level of mastery showcased by future returning players portrays a bright road ahead for SSA boys golf.

GIRLS GOLF
By Tessa Ganassi ’15
The girls varsity golf team had a great season, finishing 7-1 in the regular season, winning the section and advancing to the WPIAL Championships. At the WPIAL Championships, the girls finished fifth out of nine teams, compiling an overall team score of 390. Sophomore Casey Morrow qualified for individual WPIALs, as did freshman Alexandra Muraccia, who earned the team’s No. 2 spot — a great achievement for a freshman. Captains Tessa Ganassi, Angela Fazio and Morrow worked hard to make it a successful season. With a strong returning team, the girls are looking forward to next year.
GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
By Gab Harchelroad ’15

The field hockey team entered the season as defending WPIAL champions. Led by senior captains Marjorie Crimmins, Gab Harchelroad and Erica Concordia, the team ended the regular season in third place. The team’s success in conference play was grounded in motivation and hard work on both ends of the field. Under the leadership of Head Coach Erin Weir, the team upset Winchester Thurston in the WPIAL semifinals in a 3-2 overtime thriller, before falling to Ellis 1-0 in the championship to finish the season 9-6-2 overall. The Indians will be back next year with a strong core of returning starters in a quest to regain the WPIAL Championship.

2014 FALL SPORTS RECORDS

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GIRLS TENNIS
By Maria Jovin ’16

Led by coaches Jeff Miller and Rachel McCool, the girls tennis team had a regular-season record of 10-2, losing only to North Allegheny and Mt. Lebanon. However, when playing Mt. Lebanon for the second time at the WPIAL semifinals, the team pulled through with a 3-2 victory, continuing on to the WPIAL finals, where they lost 4-1 to NA. The team also competed in the PIAA Tournament, where they beat Philadelphia teams West Chester Henderson and Conestoga by scores of 3-2. The team finished as PIAA runner-up with an 18-4 overall record. Junior Ananya Dua won both the WPIAL and PIAA Championship singles title. Overall it was a great season, and the team is very excited for next fall.
CREW
By Sarah Scheid '16
This season SSA crew participated in three races in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Virginia. The team had great success, winning a total of five gold, one silver and two bronze medals over the course of all three races. Two rowers from the varsity girls team won gold at the Head of the Ohio Regatta. Despite the less than ideal water conditions and cold weather, sophomores Julia Johnson and Sabrina Gulati competed in a Steel City Rowing Club composite quad that finished in first place. Junior Sarah Scheid also competed in a composite quad and finished in fifth place. On the boys’ team, freshmen Brycen Gray and Michael DeGregorio finished in 12th place in their composite quad.

FOOTBALL
By Skyler Blaxter ’15
The football team had another solid season. With an overall record of 6-4, the Indians finished third in the Allegheny Conference and made the playoffs yet again. Led by senior captains Skyler Blaxter, Louis Berry, Jackson Fitzgerald and Patrick Loughran, the team started and finished the season strong. Head Coach Dave Havern, in his 11th year, guided the Indians to their sixth consecutive playoff berth. The team closed out the season with a tough loss to a strong Mt. Pleasant team in the first round of the WPIAL Class AA Championship. The boys are looking forward to returning with a strong squad in 2015.

GIRLS SOCCER
By Tori Winter ’15
The girls soccer team had another exciting year. The guidance from Head Coach Mary Lynch complemented the team’s talent and made for another successful season. Some season highlights included defeating longtime rival Springdale twice, as well as winning both homecoming and senior night matches. The girls earned playoff berths in both the WPIAL and PIAA tournaments. The team fell to two-time defending state champion Greensburg Central Catholic, 4-0, in the quarterfinals of the PIAA Championship, closing out the season 18-5.
FALL DOWNTOWN LUNCH

On Nov. 12, 2014, alumni gathered for the Fall Downtown Luncheon at the Allegheny HYP Club of Pittsburgh. The luncheon featured a welcome by Academy President Tom Cangiano and speaker Veronica Corpuz ’92, director of festival management and special projects for The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Corpuz spoke about her role and responsibilities overseeing the Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival and enjoyed mingling with faculty members and classmates.

IN-COLLEGE BRUNCH

Graduates from the classes of 2011-2014 were welcomed back to campus to reunite with former classmates and faculty members during the annual In-College Brunch, hosted by the Alumni & Development Office on Dec. 23, 2014, in McCune Dining Hall. More than 65 alumni attended the event and enjoyed the opportunity to catch up over winter break.
RECONNECTING ON ICE AND COURT

Over Thanksgiving weekend, the annual alumni ice hockey and basketball games were held on campus. Families and friends were there to cheer on the alumni who enjoyed some friendly competition on the ice and court. Fourteen turned out to play hoops, while 24 took the ice.

DC ALUMNI RECEPTION

On Oct. 23, 2014, the Alumni and Development team traveled to Washington, D.C. for its annual alumni reception. More than 50 alumni enjoyed food, drinks and mingling at The Dupont Circle Hotel. President Tom Cangiano provided updates on the state of the Academy and the strategic plan.

Left to right: Margaret Crimmins ’11, Joey Hoffman ’10, Elizabeth Rosenberger ’09, Addy Mistick ’08 and Meredith Crimmins ’09

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Fred Half writes: “My spouse Cherie and I have been travelling around the United States visiting our children and grandchildren, celebrating our 70th birthdays and our 45th wedding anniversary. Along the way, we visited many classmates. In April we visited Gil Sanes and his spouse, Flora, in Nashville, Tenn. In May we saw Kirk Baird and his spouse, Sandra, in New Haven, Conn., as well as Tom Benghauser in Denver, Colo. Kirk and Sandra reciprocated by visiting us in Palo Alto, Calif., in September. We are still in Palo Alto and welcome visitors anytime.”

Walter Dean Burnham reports: “Having reached age 84, I thought I might fill in some blanks to give a very brief account of my doings. Before doing so, I’d like to express my joy at seeing how the Academy has grown in every dimension since those long-ago days during World War II. It should be said that, while I’ve lived long enough now to compile quite a few distinctive lives, I’ve never forgotten my stay at the Academy and the very large impression which a 12-year-old experienced by living there. My career was that of an academic social scientist, with college/university positions in political science and government extending from 1958-2004, when I retired. The last two positions were endowed chairs at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1971-1988) and The University of Texas at Austin (1988-2004). My latest book is entitled Voting in American Elections: The Shaping of the American Political Universe Since 1788. It represents one of a number of lines of work which I have been engaged over the decades. Naturally, a whole life is much more than one’s professional being. I have been happily married to my wife Patricia for 56 years and we have two children, John Burnham and Anne Garcia-Burnham, and four grandchildren. Shady Side has made an incredible impression on me, and in various ways acted as a kind of pointer as to the future direction of my life. May it continue to flourish in every respect.”

William Curtis reports: “I am now enjoying life at Fairhaven, a retirement home in Sykesville, Md.”

Lou Friedman writes: “I am serving as chairman of the board of Beyond Nuclear, headquartered in Tahoma Park, Md. Beyond Nuclear is a national non-government organization that aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons, and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.”

Ned Boshell writes: “I finished the documentary film Soldiers’ Stories, along with Oscar-winning producer Nick Reed. I have submitted the film for the Academy Awards 2015.”

John Gordon writes: “I am co-owner of Sinistra, a thoroughbred who recently won a stakes race at Saratoga Race Track.”

Bill Hughes was in the Mount Lebanon neighborhood of Pittsburgh in May to celebrate his mom’s 90th birthday. “She has a little trouble seeing and hearing, but still enjoys going to Atria’s for dinner and a couple nips of white wine,” he reported.

Casey Wolff writes: “Twenty-five years ago, my wife and I decided it’s time for a change. We sold everything and moved from Pittsburgh to Naples, Fla. No job and no plans, other than ‘change.’ Twenty-five years later I decided to merge my small-town law firm, Paulich, Slack & Wolff PA, with one of Florida’s largest, Gray/Robinson PA, and to continue practicing immigration law in paradise, which is Naples. Time for
now I’m doing it for me.”

This since 2001 and it’s still a blast. But I’ve been doing just fine. I use qualitative research tools to solve big brand problems. I’ve been doing this for more than two years, my younger son, Robbie at the Warhol Museum in July.

Michael Selz writes: “I started my own business last spring, Hummingbird Strategy, and it seems to be working out just fine. I use qualitative research tools to solve big brand problems. I’ve been doing this since 2001 and it’s still a blast. But now I’m doing it for me.”

David McCreery writes: “As an alumnus of the SSA Junior and Middle Schools, I am thrilled to receive the alumni magazine. To open my first mailing and see my dad sitting on a polo pony was quite an experience! God bless, Mr. Mancosh.”

With a 31-year history of dancing and assisting Merce Cunningham, Robert Swinston is uniquely qualified to carry on the Cunningham legacy. French-based Compagnie CNDC-Angers makes its U.S. debut March 10–15 at the Joyce Theater in New York with a remarkable work that Swinston created by assembling excerpts from pieces choreographed by Cunningham from 1965-1990. Featuring scene design by renowned French artist Jackie Matisse, Event: Choreography by Merce Cunningham is performed by eight dancers whose technical prowess pays tribute to the master choreographer who created the original work and to Swinston, who by capturing what makes Cunningham’s work interesting and beautiful, allows audiences to experience it in its most current form.

Lisa Austin writes: “After being together for more than two years, my younger son, Robbie Henderson, is engaged to his partner, Marquis Clancy. Marquis proposed to Robbie at the Warhol Museum in July. They met while going to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, where they both were in the fashion discipline. They will be married Nov. 21, 2015. We couldn’t be happier for them!”

Robert Swinston and his partner, Marquis Clancy. Marquis proposed to Robbie at the Warhol Museum in July. They met while going to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, where they both were in the fashion discipline. They will be married Nov. 21, 2015. We couldn’t be happier for them!”

Jeff Pollock writes: “This year aged me as I attended one classmate’s son’s bar mitzvah and another’s daughter’s wedding, all while coming back strong from a quintuple bypass.”

Amy Berk Erbaum and her husband Steve are the founders of the Minding Your Mind Foundation, a mental health education foundation near Philadelphia. She also serves as the foundation’s president. The website is MindingYourMind.org.

Patricia Foxen writes: “I’ve been working for the past few years as research director for a national Latino advocacy organization in D.C., focusing mostly on issues having to do with children and at-risk youth. I am also serving as board president of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission. I had an amazing time going back to Guatemala on a human rights delegation last year, revisiting my old stomping grounds in the Mayan highlands, and visiting with my goddaughter and family. I’d be really happy to see any old SSA classmates who are coming through D.C.”

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1981

John Mateer writes: “I was one of the executive producers and the visual effects producer for a new movie, The Knife That Killed Me, which premiered in July. It’s on limited United Kingdom release and has now been released by Universal on DVD/Blu-Ray. It’s an official selection in the Alice Nella Citta competition, which is during the Rome Film Festival each autumn. For information about film, see TheKnifeThatKilledMeMovie.com. See www.imdb.com/title/tt2087982 for all crew and cast information. My wife and I have lived in the United Kingdom for 22 years now.”

1981

David Porter writes: “I just celebrated my 19th anniversary and 22nd year in Kansas City, Mo. Carol, the kids and I live within five miles of my parents, sisters and their families. I remain a partner in one of the fastest growing companies within the promotional products industry. We welcome anyone who visits Kansas City to our home.”

1983

Craig McTurk writes: “A recent visit to Pittsburgh gave me the chance to reconnect with retired French teacher William McConnel after more than 30 years. He still calls me by my French name, Gaston, and it was wonderful to recall past times and our shared love of music. I also saw current teachers Angela Irvine and Buddy Hendershot, who are still inspiring students after many years of service. I teach television production to students in Singapore, and I credit SSA’s outstanding teachers with fueling my passion in the classroom. My hardcover coffee table book, Parting Glances: Singapore’s Evolving Spaces, was published in 2013 and is available on Amazon.”

1989

William Generett Jr. has been appointed to the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE). Generett joins 27 NACIE members who will advise U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker on issues related to accelerating innovation, expanding entrepreneurship and developing a globally competitive workforce.

1989/1996

Lauren (Pinsker) Kushner ’96 and Jason Kushner ’89 write: “We would like to announce the birth of our son, Logan Eric Kushner. He was born Jan. 11, 2014. Dylan is very excited to be a big brother.”

1993

Ilisabeth (Smith) Bornstein writes: “To celebrate my 40th, I ran the Napa Valley Ragnar Relay in September with 11 friends, new and old. It was an amazing experience! Who knew I could run more than eight miles, up a mountain, in the dark, after two hours of sleep and running 10 miles the day before?”

1995

Jesse Shapira was one of the executive producers of the new Daniel Radcliffe romantic comedy What If, which opened in theaters in August 2014. Directed by Michael Dowse, What If is the story of medical school dropout Wallace (Radcliffe, of Harry Potter fame), a hopeless romantic who has been repeatedly burned by bad relationships. Wallace strikes up a friendship with animator Chantry (Zoe Kazan), who lives with her longtime boyfriend. Together, they puzzle out what it means if your best friend is also the love of your life.

Left to right: Michael Dowse, Jesse Shapira, Zoe Kazan, David Gross, Daniel Radcliffe and Jeff Arkuss attend the What If screening on Aug. 4, 2014, in New York City.
Dr. Zachary Kaufman, an associate research scholar and visiting fellow at Yale Law School, a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Yale University and a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School, was selected as the 2014-2015 Supreme Court Fellow assigned to the administrative office of the United States Courts. Kaufman also writes, “I am ecstatic to report that my third book, tentatively titled From Nuremberg to The Hague: United States Policy on Transitional Justice will be published by Oxford University Press, the world’s top academic press. My manuscript was due mid-October and the book will be released around May 2015.

Kaufman spoke to SSA Senior School students on Nov. 3, presenting “From Rowe to Rwanda” to a group of more than 50 students.

Geoffrey Melada has been named editor-in-chief of Washington Jewish Week.

In October, Courtney (Chesin) Vadnais ’96 and Alison Mears ’09 opened Steel Revolution, Pittsburgh’s newest elite spin studio. Located in Shadyside, Steel Revolution combines indoor cycling with weight training, high-energy music and motivating instructors. Mears writes: “Being from such a close-knit community that SSA promotes has given Courtney and I more support than we could have imagined. Alumni from all ages have helped from day one and were seen all opening weekend in so many of the classes.” Find more information at steelrevolutionpgh.com.

Max Hoffman plans to get married May 9, 2015.

Sharan Kumar writes: “I just started my first year as an M.B.A. candidate at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. I’m looking forward to (re-) connecting with any SSA alums in Ann Arbor!”

SSA Director of Alumni Relations Jamie (Brush) Scott and her husband Jim are happy to introduce Blair Margaret Scott, who arrived in August 2014.


Doug Ray recently began a course of study in museum anthropology at Columbia University.

Anastasia Rygle is the co-editor with Dagon James for the book, Billy Name: The Silver Age, Black & White Photographs from Andy Warhol’s Factory, a collection of more than 400 black and white photographs and a glimpse into Warhol’s world. In addition to the book release in December 2014, Rygle also worked closely with James and Milk Gallery Director Song Chong to curate an exhibition of the photography by the same name at Milk Studios’ Milk Gallery in New York City, which ran from Nov. 12–Dec. 7.
2003

Ben Portman, founder/chef of PorKman’s Table supper club, was named one of Atlanta’s 30 Under 30 of food and beverage up-and-comers in the city by Zagat.

2005

Meghan (Rooney) Foley writes: “Our wedding was July 12, 2014, and I married Jonathan Foley of Montauk, N.Y. We now reside in the West Village in New York City.” Mary Greta Rooney ’10 and Annie Rooney ’11 were maids of honor, and brother Dan Rooney ’08 was a groomsman. Noelle DiGioia, Hannah Levinson and Ali Rudolph were bridesmaids in the wedding party. A host of other alums were also in attendance including Max Quinlin, Annie Quinlin ’04, Tom Wechsler, Luke Mindlin, Mike Guthrie ’04, Maria DiGioia ’07, Angela DiGioia ’02, Ben Kander ’08, Phil Soeder ’08, Jake Cohen ’08, Michael Hoffman ’07 and Joey Hoffman ’10.

2004

Daniel Cephas and Maureen were married Dec. 21, 2013, in Erie, Pa. Dan’s brother Chip Cephas ’97 was the best man and his sister Cynthia was a bridesmaid. Groomsmen included Jason Antin.

2009

Elizabeth Anne Rosenberger earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy on June 1, 2014. She was the recipient of the School of Pharmacy American Institute of History certificate of recognition, given to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated achievement in pharmacological studies and activities. She is also a member of the Phi Lambda Sigma leadership society, a former vice president of the Student Government Association, and was an active volunteer and member of various student organizations. Rosenberger received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. She has accepted a position as a retail pharmacist in Annapolis, Md.

2010

Olivia Seecof writes: “I will be attending Jefferson Medical College as a member of the Class of 2018.”

2011

Jatara McGee is now a news anchor and reporter for Capital News Service TV.
in memoriam

The Academy expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the following Shady Side Academy alumni and friends. Although we are unable to include remembrances of all, we sincerely value the special involvement in and contributions to the Shady Side Academy community during their lives. These listings include all information received by Nov. 10, 2014.

HENRY L. MCGRATH JR. ’42
Henry L. McGrath Jr. passed away April 15, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army for six years and graduated from Lehigh University in 1948. He was employed by H.H. Robertson Co. for 38 years and was directly involved in the construction of many notable buildings, including the World Trade Towers, ATT Headquarters and World Financial Center. He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy McGrath, and is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

WILLIAM D. PETTIT ’42
William D. Pettit passed away Sept. 3, 2014. He was a lifelong member of Shadyside Presbyterian Church and an active member of the Pittsburgh Symphony and Opera.

RUSSELL CLARKSON JR. ’49
Russell Clarkson passed away April 20, 2014. He was a graduate of Allegheny College. During the Korean War, Clarkson served as a U.S. Army medic. Upon returning to Pittsburgh, he worked his entire career in the Pittsburgh steel industry, founding AMO Industries Inc. in 1971. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Katherine Staley Clarkson; daughter, Christina (Edward) Gentilcore; son, Andrew (Devi Ana) Clarkson ’84; and three grandchildren.

CHARLES NELSON GILMORE ’49

ROBERT C. TODD JR. ’50
Robert Charles Todd Jr. passed away Sept. 15, 2014. He graduated from Yale University in 1954, served in the Navy from 1954-1957 and graduated from Harvard Business School in 1959. Todd worked for PNC Bank for 28 years where he retired as a senior vice president. In 1987, he became president of Merchants National Bank and later became president of Farmers National Bank. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara Scheetz Todd; daughters, Lisa Todd (Roman Kyshakevich) and Barrie (Kent) Dahl; sons, David Todd ’83 and Jeffrey (Ann) Todd ’85; and six grandchildren, Melissa, Hilary and Caroline Dahl, and Chester ’18, Adeline ’20 and Wilson Todd.

ALAN R. CANTOR ’53
Alan Robert Cantor passed away Oct. 5, 2013. He was predeceased by his wife, Evon Schor Cantor. He is survived by his children, Jill (Michael) Nord, Peter Cantor, Stephanie Ratner and Carol (Todd) Levitt, and 11 grandchildren.

PETER R. Loxterman ’59
Peter Russell Loxterman passed away April 21, 2014. He was a graduate of Lehigh University. He was a sales executive in the steel industry until he retired in 2010. He is survived by his wife, Betsy Bullock Loxterman; his three children, Janet Loxterman (Ernest Keeley), Lynn Loxterman and John (Jill) Loxterman; and three grandchildren.

MARC R. WEDNER ’56
Marc R. Wedner passed away June 19, 2014. He attended Haverford College. He lived in the San Fernando Valley for 53 years and worked at several aerospace, technology and telecommunications firms around Southern California. Wedner was predeceased by his wife, Pamela Gordon Wedner. He is survived by his children, Melissa (Gil) Roeder and Marcus (Anne) Wedner, and four grandchildren.

EUGENE C. Batchelar III ’65
Eugene “Gene” Batchelar III passed away Aug. 20, 2014. He was a graduate of Cornell University and served in the U.S. Army for two years, stationed in South Korea. He worked for Chubb Insurance Company and American Appraisal Company. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, and son, Brandon.

GORDON A. STEELE ’79
Gordon Allen Steele passed away in October 2014. He was a graduate of Kenyon College, Dartmouth College and the University of Pittsburgh. For the past six years, Steele was a trustee of the Elks and served as the scholarship liaison for the Elks National Foundation. He is survived by two siblings, nieces and nephews.
FAMILY & FRIENDS

Andrew B. Campbell, son of Douglas Campbell '68

Jacob Cappa, father of Senior School faculty member John Cappa

Dr. Brian Caputo, father of Christopher '17, Connor '19, Nicole '20, and husband of Dr. Reem Hanna '86

Frank Dickson, father of Elizabeth Marchionni '81, Frank Dickson III '82, David Dickson '82, Mary Lee Citrino '83, the late Jennifer Barnfather '87, Sonia Dickson '90 and Andrew Dickson '99; father-in-law of Eric Barnfather Sr. '87, and grandfather of Eric Barnfather Jr. '16.

Rev. Morgan James Reynolds, father of Senior School faculty member Michele Greene

Thelma G. Novak, mother of Dr. Victor Novak '72 and Albert Novak '79

Jane McGough, mother of W. Thomas McGough '71 and Hugh McGough '74, and grandmother of Walt McGough '02

Mary Ann Middleton, mother of Gary Middleton '81

William Portman, father of Benjamin Portman '03

Janet Reiland, wife of former Senior School faculty member Robert Reiland

Helen Fries Thurner, mother of Junior School faculty member Karen Sandora

Katherine Toig, wife of Jeffrey Toig '91

WILLIAM W. DETILLO (1942-2014)

Former Middle School English Teacher

William “Bill” DeTillo was an English teacher at Shady Side Academy Middle School for 24 years (1971-1995). He was beloved by his students and remembered as a fun, caring and compassionate teacher. He passed away Aug. 1, 2014, at the age of 72.

Former students fondly recall Mr. DeTillo’s “Aardvark Club,” in which he nicknamed each student for a different animal. Faculty colleagues remember DeTillo as a fine teacher, writer and grammarian who had high standards for his students. DeTillo also founded and developed the Middle School drama program, which continues to thrive today.

DeTillo also taught in the Armstrong County School District for 11 years. The impact of his passing was felt by many decades of students. Alumnus Nick Coslov '92 committed $500,000 to Shady Side Academy to establish and seed the William DeTillo Scholarship Fund in his honor. (See story on page 5)

DeTillo is survived by his wife, Dawn Eaton DeTillo, children, Jeffrey (Courtney) Blood, Laine (Joseph) Bruce and Leah (Josh) Kremer, as well as two grandchildren.

To make a gift to the William DeTillo Scholarship Fund, visit www.supportssa.org and enter “William DeTillo Scholarship Fund” in the comments box, send a check payable to Shady Side Academy with “William DeTillo Scholarship Fund” in the memo line to: Alumni & Development Office, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, or call 412-968-3011.
The legacy of former Academy Athletics Director Arnold “Cap” Palmer extends well beyond the gates of Shady Side. For the SSA icon, who passed away 35 years ago this March, his biggest legacy was the impact he had on student-athletes and the positive values of courage, loyalty and respect he instilled in them. Within the gates of Shady Side, Palmer left a legacy and laid the foundation for SSA’s robust and highly successful athletics program, which continues today.

A former three-sport athlete, World War I veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Palmer began his career at SSA after being discharged from the U.S. Army in 1919. Palmer was initially offered a coaching position for $1,800 per year at Mercersburg Academy, where he was employed for five years prior to entering the Army. Disappointed that he was not offered a director position, he began his new career as director of athletics at Shady Side Academy at $1,850 per year.

With only three varsity sports at SSA at the time of his arrival, Palmer immediately began developing a junior varsity program that allowed younger students to participate and develop skills. By 1921, Palmer’s football team went 6-1 and outscored opponents 261-10, and the basketball team was WPIAL section champions. By the time Palmer retired in 1953, the Academy had 10 varsity sports and a fully coordinated junior varsity program.

In 1924, Palmer was the driving force behind the formation of a new athletic league that included the University School in Cleveland and the Nichols School in Buffalo. Known as the Tri-State Preparatory League, it was the forerunner of the Interstate Preparatory School League, in which SSA competed until joining the WPIAL in the 1990s. Palmer also is responsible for choosing the name Indians for SSA’s athletic teams, as a tribute to Chief Guyasuta and the Seneca Indians who previously inhabited the land in and around present-day Fox Chapel.

Personally, Palmer was known for his ability to spot athletic talent and direct students to the proper sport or position. He was a great motivator who left his mark on all that he touched.

If you have a personal story about Arnold “Cap” Palmer that you would like to share, please feel free to email Lindsay Kovach at lkovach@shadysideacademy.org.
www.shadysideacademy.org

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