Making It Official
Fox Chapel Country Day School Joins Shady Side Academy
The following icons denote stories related to key goals of SSA’s strategic vision, entitled Challenging Students to Think Expansively, Act Ethically and Lead Responsibly.

For more information, visit shadysideacademy.org/strategicvision.
WINTER 2016–2017

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DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:

From its source in Columbia, the Rio Negro meanders its way 1,400 miles through Venezuela and on to Brazil. When it reaches Manaus, the black waters of the Rio Negro converge with the brown muddy waters of the Amazon and begin their long journey to the Atlantic. Interestingly, the rivers don’t immediately integrate; rather, they travel side by side, almost as two distinct rivers, for nearly six miles (it’s actually quite striking!) before they truly blend and become one.

The feature article in this issue of Shady Side Academy Magazine celebrates another kind of convergence: the merger of Fox Chapel Country Day School and Shady Side Academy. This was not a new idea. In fact, at different points over the past 30 years, a small number of people in both school communities always believed that joining forces was a good idea. So why now? One important reason is that the schools have evolved in a way that has brought us closer together. It’s not so much the black waters of the Rio Negro versus the muddy brown waters of the Amazon, but two schools that are now much more similar than they were in terms of the feel of each place and the overall program.

There are, of course, differences between the schools, and our goal is to honor and respect the unique characteristics of each. The reasons that parents chose Country Day School or the Junior School will still exist. For the near future, the two schools will flow on a parallel course with small and rather organic mixing. One of the great benefits of the merger to both schools is that both faculties will be meeting together and sharing ideas and best practices. Ultimately, this will make both programs stronger, but any changes will be evolutionary and incremental.

The best part of all of this is that prospective parents now have two excellent elementary school choices under the Shady Side Academy umbrella: the Country Day School in Fox Chapel and the Junior School in Point Breeze. With an increased geographic reach into the North Hills as a result of the merger, we expect Country Day to see incremental gains in enrollment. With the favorable demographics of neighborhoods in the East End, we expect the same at the Junior School. Our goal is to provide a consistent stream of well-prepared students from both campuses to our Middle School, adding to the overall strength of the Academy. It’s a great strategic decision for Shady Side.

Sincerely,

Tom Cangiano
Academy President

Read more about the merger on page 28.
AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Cohen and History Prizes Awarded

Prizes were awarded to four Senior School students at a community assembly on Sept. 2 for their achievements in the 2015-2016 school year. The John H. Cohen Family Award is a book prize given for general improvement in scholarship, vigor, citizenship and character. The recipients were current sophomore Brendan Gaffney, junior Madeleine Condron and senior Carter Ayers. The Instructors Prize in American History is a book prize awarded to the student with the U.S. History research paper that best displays the qualities of scholarship essential for developing competence in the study of history. The winner was senior Peter Foster.

NEWS AND NOTES
around the academy

Shady Side Academy Announces EQT Scholars Program

In the fall, Shady Side Academy and the EQT Foundation announced the creation of the EQT Scholars Program at Shady Side, which provides full scholarships for two SSA students from pre-kindergarten or kindergarten through grade 12. SSA's inaugural EQT Scholars are pre-kindergarten student Kellan Kight and kindergarten student Adrianna Ballard, who enrolled at SSA this past fall.

The program is funded by an endowment from the EQT Foundation, the charitable arm of natural gas producer EQT Corporation. It covers full tuition for two students who already have been accepted to SSA’s pre-k or kindergarten program and have demonstrated financial need. The selected students will remain EQT Scholars for the entirety of their SSA career, as long as they continue to qualify for financial assistance and remain in good academic standing. Over 13 or 14 years at SSA, the scholarship is worth more than $300,000. When each of the current scholars graduates from SSA, a new EQT Scholar will be selected. “The EQT Scholars Program illustrates the Foundation’s mission by providing meaningful educational experiences to children in the region who may not otherwise have the opportunity,” said EQT Foundation President Charlene Petrelli.

“We are honored to be selected by the EQT Foundation as a partner in this program and deeply grateful for their commitment to providing Pittsburgh children with greater access to life-changing educational opportunities,” said SSA President Tom Cangiano. “One of the goals of our Strategic Vision is to enhance our financial aid offerings to make a Shady Side education accessible to more families, and this program helps us to strengthen our commitment to socioeconomic diversity.”
## Diversity Leadership Conference

From Dec. 7-10, six students and four faculty members from the Senior School attended the National Association of Independent Schools People of Color Conference (PoCC) and Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) in Atlanta. The conferences, which ran concurrently, explored the theme “Advancing Human and Civil Rights: Fulfilling the Dream Together.” Students attending were seniors Angel Andrews and Zac Coughlin, junior Connor Gable, and sophomores Riya Agrawal, Ella Benec and Emmie Lau. At the SDLC, students were actively engaged in open discussions pertaining to the eight cultural identifiers: race, family structure, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion and ability. The conference empowers students to bring about change in their individual and collective lives, as well as in their school environment. Faculty members attending the PoCC were Pam Boehm, Adam Janosko, Creighton Runnette and Michael Solomon. The PoCC equips educators with knowledge and skills to improve the interracial, inter-ethnic, and intercultural climate in schools.

## Princeton Symposium

Senior Peter Foster was one of approximately 90 high school seniors nationwide selected to participate in Princeton University’s 17th annual Creative Arts and Humanities Symposium. The program, which took place Oct. 14-16, on Princeton’s campus, allows talented students to get a taste of studying the creative arts and humanities at the university level.

## AP Scholar Award

Nineteen current students and recent graduates earned 2016 AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Recipients included: Class of 2016 graduates Yuting (Elena) Xiong, Nicholas Bodkin, Michael Kann, Dipak Krishnan, Ishan Muzumdar and Arya Prasad; current seniors Yumeng (Rain) Du, Chirag Kulkarni, Rakesh Ravi, Ananya Satyawadi, Haoran Fei, Thomas Scherlis, XinQuan (Jerry) Wang, Sameer Annamraju, Ian Holland, William Lu, Jesse Plung and Emily Winterhalter; and current junior Henry Friedlander.

## World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders

On Nov. 15, seniors Carter Ayers and Jesse Plung and sophomore Nick Sawicki joined Senior School History Department Chair Kyle Smith in attending the 46th Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. The institute, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and Rotary International, engages high school student leaders in a discussion of key issues in international affairs so that they can understand and think critically about their world. Approximately 350 students are selected to attend each year.
Students Test Pearl Harbor App

Shady Side Academy is one of four schools in the nation whose students had the opportunity to test a new virtual reality application developed in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. James McConnell, brother of Junior School Head Ellen McConnell and senior vice president of the architecture firm HDR, visited SSA on Nov. 21 to share the application with students and get their feedback. He visited three Senior School history classes and one eighth grade social studies class, where students “test-drove” the virtual tours using Google cardboard viewers while McConnell recorded their feedback. The other three schools whose students tested the app included two schools in Hawaii and one in California. The virtual reality tours were unveiled at a private reception for Pearl Harbor survivors and guests on Dec. 4 at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

Attack of the Zombies

The Middle School presented the fall play Attack of the Zombies for parents and guests on Nov. 11. The cast included 21 students in grades 6-8, and was co-directed by English teacher Camille MacRae and music teacher Randy Broker.

Macbeth

The Senior School presented William Shakespeare’s Macbeth as its fall student drama production on Nov. 3-6. The cast consisted of nearly 20 students ranging from seniors to freshmen. In the lead roles were senior Peter Foster as Macbeth and sophomore Caitlin Mulvihill as Lady Macbeth. The play was directed by faculty member Dana Hardy-Bingham.
Middle School Hosts Fourth Annual Global Action Conference Day

For the fourth straight year, Middle School students devoted an entire school day to service learning at Global Action Conference Day, held Dec. 9. This year’s theme for the day was sustainability. The day kicked off with a keynote presentation by Director of SSA Farms Gianna Fazioli, then students broke into grade-level groups to explore a specific sub-theme related to sustainability. Sixth graders learned about waste and its impact on our environment. After creating PSA posters about recycling and a bottle cap mural, students met with Israeli artist Telma Schulz, who helped them create artwork using recycled plastic bags. Seventh graders learned about pollinators. Students created seed balls that attract native pollinators and scouted locations on campus where they will plant them in the spring. SSA ninth grader Parker Maivald gave a presentation on pollinators, and beekeeper Christina Neumann of Apoidea Apiary spoke about the role of honeybees in our ecosystem. Eighth graders focused on food insecurity. Working in small groups, students were asked to plan a day’s meals based on a fictional family’s dietary needs and budget. Students went shopping for their family at Giant Eagle, where they received a tour from a dietician, then heard from Jennifer England of 412 Food Rescue about her organization’s work repurposing food in the Pittsburgh community. The food the students purchased at Giant Eagle was donated to 412 Food Rescue.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOLIDAY PROJECT

The Senior School collected more than 125 gifts for local children through the Holiday Project organized by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. As members of the Service Learning Club, juniors Rachel Winterhalter and Hannah Steffey, and sophomores Gabby White and Izzi Scragg organized the distribution of children’s names and collection of gifts. The Holiday Project provides gifts to children who receive in-home care, community-based services and out-of-home services such as foster care.
Freshmen Beautify Community Park

On Oct. 19, the freshman class performed community service at nearby Aspinwall Riverfront Park. A total of 90 students spent the morning helping to beautify the park by weeding garden beds, planting bulbs, painting, raking leaves and stringing up holiday lights.

Record-Breaking Second Grade Food Drive

The second grade participated in its annual community service project of collecting canned goods for the food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. This year the goal was to collect 2,500 items, and with the community’s kindness, they were able to donate 3,890 items, which students delivered on Nov. 21. The donation set a school record for the annual event.

Middle School Thanksgiving Food Drive

Middle School students and families generously donated 399 food items and $450 in Giant Eagle gift cards to the 2016 Thanksgiving Food Drive, benefiting Heritage Community Initiatives in Braddock, Pa. Students on the Community Service Committee, including Emmie Jordan, Ishika Arora, Hailey Flaherty, Franki Scragg and Smrithi Shyam, spearheaded the drive.

Wear a Hat for Cancer

The Shady Side community joined the fight against childhood cancer by participating in Wear a Hat for Cancer Day on Oct. 7, raising a total of $1,282 to benefit Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. For a $2 donation, students, faculty and staff at all three campuses were permitted to wear a hat to school. SSA alumna Samantha Goodman ’13, a childhood cancer survivor, helped to establish the first Wear a Hat for Cancer Day in 2011, which has grown into an annual event across the Western Pennsylvania region.
Journalist and Author Andrew Nagorski Visits Senior School

Andrew Nagorski, an award-winning journalist and author, spoke at the Senior School community assembly on Sept. 15. Nagorski spent more than three decades as a foreign correspondent and editor for Newsweek, serving as bureau chief in Hong Kong, Berlin, Moscow and Warsaw, and as senior editor for Newsweek International. He spoke about his career and illustrated the importance of understanding history and its significance in reporting. Nagorski is the author of five nonfiction books about the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and World War II, including his most recent work, *The Nazi Hunters*.

Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Cristin O’Keefe Aptowicz

*Rochester Times* best-selling nonfiction writer and poet Cristin O’Keefe Aptowicz spent two days at the Senior School on Dec. 8-9 as part of SSA’s Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series, which brings a different author to campus each year to work with students as part of the English curriculum.

Aptowicz has been described as “something of a legend in NYC’s slam poetry scene” and is the author of six books of poetry and two nonfiction books. Her nonfiction book, *Dr. Mutter’s Marvels: A True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the Dawn of Modern Medicine*, made seven national “Best Books of 2014” lists and was assigned summer reading for all Senior School students in preparation for her visit.

Aptowicz engaged with students in classes all day Thursday and Friday, conducted a poetry workshop for students Thursday afternoon, spoke at an all-school assembly Friday morning, and held a poetry slam with students on Friday afternoon.

The Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series is named in memory of Dick Gregory, who taught English at Shady Side from 1953-1989 and passed away in 2014. An anonymous donor provided initial funding for the series in the hope that others who were impacted by Gregory would contribute to keep his memory alive. The series launched in 2015 with a visit from best-selling Pittsburgh author Stewart O’Nan. Anyone interested in supporting the series should contact Director of Development Rick Munroe ’84 at rmunroe@shadysideacademy.org or 412-968-3044.

Parent Education Program

On Nov. 9, Shady Side welcomed clinical psychologist Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair for a free parent education program, *The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age*. Dr. Steiner-Adair discussed the impact of technology on families and strategies for managing its use. The event was free and open to the public.
SSA Hosts French Rap Concert

Québécois rapper and activist Webster performed a free concert in French for Pittsburgh-area high school students and teachers on Oct. 20, at SSA’s Hillman Center for Performing Arts. French students from seven area high schools enjoyed Webster’s energetic performance, which featured complex, edgy and challenging texts. Webster performed the following day at the Senior School community assembly, and rounded out his trip to Pittsburgh by presenting a French Immersion Workshop for high school French teachers at the University of Pittsburgh on Oct. 22.

Tel Aviv Photographer Visits Middle School

The Middle School welcomed photographer Erez Kaganovitz on Sept. 21 to speak to Molly Braver ’94’s sixth grade social studies class about his photography blog, Humans of Tel Aviv. Inspired by the social media phenom Humans of New York, Kaganovitz set out to show the diversity, tolerance, freedom and love that exists in modern-day Israel. He displayed his photographs on the classroom SMART Board while discussing Israeli culture and beliefs. Kaganovitz started the project in 2012 on Facebook, Tumblr and Instagram, and currently has more than 40,000 followers.

Poet James Ragan Visits Senior School

Internationally recognized poet Dr. James Ragan visited Senior School English classes on Oct. 11, screening an award-winning documentary about his life in the arts. The documentary, Flowers and Roots: Ambassador of the Arts, centers on Ragan’s Pittsburgh upbringing as one of 13 children born of immigrant parents, and how it shaped him to engage the world. Ragan has authored nine books of poetry that have been translated into 12 languages, and was a screenwriter for Paramount Pictures.
Seventh Grade Science Lab Renovation Complete

The Middle School seventh grade science lab renovation was completed over the summer of 2016, expanding the footprint of the space by more than 50 percent, from 512 to 776 square feet. A wall between the classroom and an adjacent hallway was removed to capture additional square footage, and part of an atrium on the other side of the hall was captured to create a new greenhouse space. The lab has all new furniture, including moveable lab tables and chairs, a teacher podium with demonstration table and sink, and new casework with four student sinks, as well as new flooring, ceiling, paint and LED lighting. The room includes built-in spaces for the cages and tanks that are home to many class animals, including chinchillas, rabbits, guinea pigs, a lizard and fish.

“The new renovations allow for more demonstration and hands-on activities,” said seventh grade science teacher Bonnie Maxwell. “The addition of the greenhouse space provides an area to grow plants from seed and to watch the plants develop. We are coordinating activities with the plants we grow with the SSA Farm and native pollinator garden on campus. We will also be starting two worm bins, which can be useful for composting as well as class activities.”

The renovations cost approximately $165,000 and were made possible by the generous support of several Shady Side families.

The seventh grade lab renovation completes the first phase of a comprehensive, long-term plan to upgrade the science facilities at all three SSA campuses, which is one of the goals outlined in the Academy’s Strategic Vision. In summer 2014, the sixth and eighth grade labs at the Middle School were renovated, and in summer 2015, the Junior School science classroom/lab was renovated and expanded into a suite of five new labs. The final phase of the plan is the construction of a new Center for Science and Innovation at the Senior School, for which fundraising is currently underway.

“The new renovations allow for more demonstration and hands-on activities. The addition of the greenhouse space provides an area to grow plants from seed and to watch the plants develop. We are coordinating activities with the plants we grow with the SSA Farm and native pollinator garden on campus.”

– Bonnie Maxwell, SSA Seventh Grade Science Teacher
McIlroy Gift Names the Center for Science and Innovation

In September 2016, Shady Side Academy President Tom Cangiano announced a significant leadership gift from a longtime SSA family to name the new Center for Science and Innovation at the Senior School. This generous gift came from alumnus, past parent and current grandparent Peter McIlroy ’61 and his wife, Pam. The new building will be named The McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation in their honor.

The McIlroy family has been immersed in SSA for three generations and includes Jeff ’86 and Erica McIlroy (parents of Ashley ’15, Peter ’18 and Brandon ’21), and Rob ’88 and Shelley McIlroy. Jeff is also a member of the SSA Board of Trustees. The McIlroy family has owned Robroy Industries, which manufactures electrical and oilfield products, for more than 111 years, spanning four generations.

“It was very clear from my early conversations with the McIlroy family that they fully understood the tremendous impact the Center for Science and Innovation would have on our science program and the experience of our students and science faculty,” said Cangiano. “Like the Hillman Center for Performing Arts, the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation will be a transformative project for Shady Side. Please join me in extending our sincere gratitude to the McIlroy family for their generosity and longstanding commitment to Shady Side Academy.”

“I began my Shady Side Academy career at the Junior School in 1956,” said Peter McIlroy ’61. “Since that time, three generations of McIlroys have graduated from Shady Side. The Academy prepared me well for college and for life, and Pam and I have been waiting for the right opportunity to give back. The Center for Science and Innovation is the perfect vehicle for that purpose. We are proud to be part of the significant enhancement the center will provide to the school’s science program for many years to come.”

While fundraising efforts for the new building are still ongoing, the McIlroys’ gift, together with other leadership gifts, brought SSA to the financial threshold required by the Board of Trustees to approve a spring 2017 construction start date. Details about the groundbreaking event will be announced later in the spring.

If you are interested in making a leadership gift in support of the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation, please contact Director of Development Rick Munroe ‘84 at rmunroe@shadysideacademy.org.

“The Academy prepared me well for college and for life, and Pam and I have been waiting for the right opportunity to give back. We are proud to be part of the significant enhancement the center will provide to the school’s science program for many years to come.”

– Peter McIlroy ’61
In December, Shady Side Academy President Tom Cangiano announced the permanent appointment of Sophie Lau as the head of the Senior School. Lau has been serving as the interim head of the Senior School since July 2016, after having served two years as assistant head and dean of faculty. She succeeds Katharine Vavpetic, who departed in July to join the administrative team of GEMS Education in Dubai.

At Shady Side, Lau is responsible for the educational and extracurricular experience of approximately 485 students in grades 9-12 (including 65 boarders) on the 130-acre Senior School campus in Fox Chapel. She manages a team of approximately 90 teachers, administrators and support staff.

“I have been very impressed with all aspects of Sophie’s leadership,” said Cangiano. “I have spoken with people from many different school constituencies – faculty, parents, students, trustees and administrative staff – and the overwhelming response has been that she is doing an excellent job and has the potential to be an exceptional school leader. Typically, we would conduct a full national search for this position. However, based on Sophie’s performance as assistant head and dean of faculty, and her seamless transition to the interim head’s role, I believe we would not find a better, more qualified candidate externally.”

Lau joined SSA in 2014 as dean of faculty and assistant head of the Senior School after 12 years at the Wheeler School, where she was head of the History Department as well as an academic advisor, faculty advisor to the Student Senate, faculty representative to the Disciplinary Committee and technology integrationist. Prior to Wheeler, she spent five years as a history teacher, dean and coach at the Pingry School, two years as a history teacher and dorm parent at Tabor Academy, and a year as a History Department intern at Groton School. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Princeton University and a master’s degree in history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

“I am thrilled to serve in the role of head of the Senior School at Shady Side,” said Lau. “I was first drawn to the Academy by its rich tradition of excellence and its unique approach to inquiry-based learning across the curriculum. I am excited to build on these strengths as we embark on exciting new initiatives, including the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation and the growth of our boarding program. I feel privileged to be part of the Shady Side community and to lead a talented faculty dedicated to helping young people reach their fullest potential as we fulfill our mission to challenge students to think expansively, act ethically and lead responsibly.”
NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kara Salvitti Conomikes ’87
Kara Salvitti Conomikes is the co-owner and operator of SBTV-Pittsburgh, SBTV-Boston and OutOfTheBoxSales.com. She graduated from George Washington University, where she majored in marketing and minored in finance. Conomikes previously served on the SSA Board of Trustees from 2008-2014, and has twice chaired the Blue & Gold Fund. She and her husband, Dean, have three children, who attend SSA: Alexa ’17, Zoe ’20 and Thea ’23.

Roland J. Coston-Criswell ’95
Roland Coston-Criswell is CEO of Coston-Criswell Enterprise, where he serves as managing partner of Kimbo Realty LLC, co-host of The Coston Show and president of Coston Funeral Homes, Inc. Criswell is a third-generation family funeral director and focuses on providing premier family care to the community. He earned a diploma from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and received a B.S. from Geneva College. He and his wife, Bethany, have two children, who attend SSA: Roland ’25 and Brandon ’28.

Bryan P. Gentile ’92
Bryan Gentile serves a president and CEO of VAMCO International, Inc. He started his career with VAMCO in 1996 and currently oversees design, manufacturing and operations for its manufacturing headquarters in Pittsburgh along with its manufacturing subsidiary in China, and sales/service offices in India, South Korea and Japan. Gentile earned his degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University, where he played soccer. He and his wife, Amie, have two sons, who attend Fox Chapel Country Day School: Brady ’24 and Markus ’27.

Cheryl L. Little
Cheryl Little spent most of her career in education at Shady Side Academy working in a variety of positions, including science teacher and curriculum coordinator. In 2004, she became head of the Junior School, retiring in 2012. Little is a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a B.S. in elementary education and of Penn State University, where she earned her teaching certification. She is currently on the board of directors of the YMCA and volunteers at Jeremiah’s Place, a crisis nursery. She and her husband, Bob, have three children, Tamara, Justin ’92 and Brandon ’93, and five grandchildren.

Thomas Karet
Thomas Karet is the founder and chief executive officer of ECHO Realty, a privately held developer, owner and operator of grocery-anchored shopping centers. He is a graduate of Amherst College and Georgetown University Law Center. Karet currently serves on the boards of the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children and the Pittsburgh Children’s Museum. He is also a council member of Fox Chapel Borough. He and his wife, Laura (Shapira) ’86, have three children: Will ’21 and Charlie ’22, who attend SSA Middle School, and Alexa ’24, who attends Fox Chapel Country Day School.

P. Jefferson McIlroy ’86
Jeff McIlroy is chairman of Robroy Industries, an electrical manufacturing company headquartered in Pittsburgh. He is also an active partner in a local private equity firm and recently founded a real estate development company, APB Properties. McIlroy received his B.S. from Hamilton College and his M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. He recently served on the board of Phipps Conservatory and Network of Hope. He and his wife, Erica, have three children: SSA alumna Ashley ’15, and current students Peter ’18 and Brandon ’21.

Vance M. Smith IV ’98
Vance Smith is vice president and treasurer of Butler Eagle Media Corporation, the parent company of the Butler Eagle, Butler Color Press, Pittsburgh City Paper and other affiliated companies. He is a graduate of Furman University and the Crummer School of Business at Rollins College. Smith served on the board of Fox Chapel Country Day School for three years, and on the executive committee for one year. He is currently a director of the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board and a past director of the Butler County United Way. He and his wife, Courtney (Kunsman) ’99, have four children: Caroline ’26, Lily Claire ’29 and Eliza ’31, who attend Fox Chapel Country Day School, and Wells.

George L. Stewart, II ’81
George Stewart is an alumnus, as well as a current and past parent, of Shady Side Academy. He is a partner with the international law firm of Reed Smith LLP and served 7½ years as the managing partner of Reed Smith’s Pittsburgh Office. Stewart previously served for seven years as a trustee of the Academy, during which time he held the offices of board secretary and vice chair for development. He also has served on the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (Western Pennsylvania Chapter), where he likewise held several leadership positions. Stewart currently sits on the boards of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Tickets for Kids Charities and the Weiner Family Foundation. A graduate of Shady Side Academy (Class of 1981), Stewart received his B.A. from Vanderbilt University in 1985 and his J.D. from the Pennsylvania State University in 1989. He and his wife, Sue, have five children: Bo (SSA ’09), Emily (Ellis ’10), Holly (SSA ’13), Will (SSA ’17) and Carolyn (SSA ’18).
Thanks to the foresight and generosity of alumnus Fred H. Parkin ’59, the Parkin Fellowships for Global Service Endowment Fund was established June 15, 2006. Parkin Fellowships award travel grant money each summer to assist students in completing service or environmental projects around the globe. These experiences make an impact not only through the direct service or environmental improvements that students engage in, but also through the stories students share upon their return, stories that enrich the Shady Side community while inspiring others to make a difference in the world.

To date, Parkin Fellows have traveled to 44 countries, spanning six continents, each leaving his or her unique footprint across the globe. The following excerpts from SSA’s Global Learning Blog provide a glimpse into what the 2016 Parkin Fellows experienced during their service learning journeys, in their own words. Read all of the posts at www.shadysideacademy.org/globallearningblog.
ANANYA SATYAWADI ’18 spent three weeks in Belize aiding in the conservation of marine and tropical ecosystems and helping to improve the literacy of local children.

One of my favorite times of the entire day was recess, and not because we got to play around and take a break from teaching. Recess was a time that each of the teachers got to interact with kids from other classes. There was also a snack shack that would have candies, chips, and cool soda for anyone to buy. The shack even had a recycling system where they would give you a shilling if you returned your empty soda bottle. The family that owned the shack had six kids, and all of us teachers got to know their kids extremely well. We noticed an issue in Belize, while teaching at St. Matthew’s, is affording school – not just college but high school as well. Paying for high school is a large burden for a lot of families, and it prevents a lot of people in Belize from becoming completely literate and getting better jobs. I was so inspired by two siblings, whose parents ran the snack shop and who happened to be in my class, that I talked to my mentor about creating a scholarship fund for kids at St. Matthew’s. One of the best parts of my entire trip was when she said yes! So, even though I am back from Belize and in Pittsburgh, I have not left behind the students of St. Matthew’s.

ARIJAY MEHTA ’17 volunteered in India to organize a camp, mentor children and teach basketball.

Most of the kids who came to the camp wore the same shirt every day, did not have shoes, lived in a space with their whole family in a space much smaller than my room, and never played basketball in their life. All of them either were enrolled in the Teach For India program or one of the poorest schools in the city. Yet, despite these difficulties, they were still extremely thankful and enthusiastic for camp. The goal of the camp was not to create the next Indian basketball superstar, but was to instill values that would inspire the students to become future leaders in society.

ASHVIN DHAWAH ’18 spent time in Peru working to improve public health by building a greenhouse at a school, creating a fish farm and repainting school classrooms and buildings.

My service project was building a fish farm for an agricultural community outside of Cusco, Peru, to help supplement and complete their diets. Because of how extensive the project was, it could not be completed by one group in three weeks. In fact, our group was the first of three groups to travel to Peru to work on the fish farms. Thus, our task was to break ground on the project by digging the terraced 6-7 foot pools that would serve as ponds for the fish to grow and reproduce. The second and third groups will fortify the ponds with a rock wall and plaster and get water channeled and running through each pond. We ended up being pretty productive, and more or less finished digging all three holes, shown from the top of the hill on which they were dug in the picture to the right. I love that our service project was something permanent and fixed, as it will continue to serve the community long after we’ve left. Additionally, I’ll always be able to look back on my time in Peru and the fish farm and say ‘I made this.’
JAMES DOLLARD ’17 spent three weeks in Yamasá, Dominican Republic, working to improve the community.

After being awarded a Parkin Fellowship, I started collecting supplies … I raised the majority of the supplies I brought to Yamasá with the help of my neighbors and of Mr. Gene Deal, SSA’s athletic director. Mr. Deal gave me baseball mitts, soccer balls, cleats and tennis shoes for my trip. I also sent a letter to my 90-some neighbors explaining my project, and within hours I received one package of supplies after another at my doorstep. Thanks mostly to Mr. Deal and to my neighbors, I obtained thousands of writing utensils (pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils), dozens of notebooks, and hundreds of sheets of loose-leaf paper. I also collected 10 baseball bats, 15 baseball mitts, more than 30 baseballs, 20 soccer balls and clothes.

JULIA JOHNSON ’17 went to Thailand for a month, where she taught English to adult and youth Burmese refugees living in Thailand.

I am having a great time exploring Chiang Mai! From the Sunday Night Market, to taking a mud bath with the elephants, eating street food, visiting temples and learning about Buddhism, Chiang Mai is an amazing place to be. This morning, I took a “Songthaew,” or a Red Truck Taxi to the base of Doi Suthep, a sacred mountain, and hiked the rest of the way. To be respectful of Buddhist culture, we had to cover our shoulders and knees, as well as take off our shoes before stepping onto the sacred ground.

MEHR JALIL ’18 created an arts and crafts curriculum for elementary students in Pakistan.

At times, life can feel a bit like a checklist. Go to sports practice, complete your homework, be a leader, play an instrument, take the SAT and perform your best. That’s how I approached my life before my service trip to Pakistan. Spending about five weeks there taught me a lot about other philosophies of life, such as how one can always give more, help more and improve more. In learning these ways of life from my students and peers in Pakistan, I was able to apply them to my own life and I am ever more happy for this change.

“I obtained thousands of writing utensils, dozens of notebooks, and hundreds of sheets of loose-leaf paper.”

“Spending about five weeks there taught me a lot about other philosophies of life, such as how one can always give more, help more and improve more.”
RAKESH RAVI ’17 worked at a secondary school in Chengalpet, Tamil Nadu, India, and visited a leper colony.

I headed off to the eleventh standard chemistry class, still distracted by the confusing reactions in the morning, expecting to just observe the lesson. However, after the teacher taught about one week’s worth of intro chemistry in 15 minutes, I was charged with the task of re-teaching the entire chapter in the way I learned it at Shady Side. Slightly terrified after having just been thrown into the fire, I tried to go ahead and start teaching them the tricks of limiting reactions and balancing equations, but I quickly noticed a problem. The students didn’t have an issue with learning the concepts in a different way, but the manner in which they had to solve the problems put limitations on my teaching. I learned that since the students don’t have calculators, they have to make all their calculations using log tables. No normal multiplication or division or anything of the sorts. Everything must be calculated by looking through the indices of the logbook. This made it nearly impossible to teach them various methods to attack the same problem because they did not align with the structural limitations of their education. Although it was frustrating, figuring out how to adjust the method and my teaching to fit their capabilities was an extremely useful exercise in communication and problem solving.

SHELBY LATTERMAN ’17 created and supported a summer program for one month in Nicaragua.

Why send groups of unqualified, undoubtedly privileged teenagers out to small, often underdeveloped communities across Latin America? The answer is simple: to influence youth. It is an Amigos initiative to involve youth leaders by teaching them to facilitate campamentos and to carry out a Community Based Initiative or CBI. By involving youth and teaching them how to work collectively on a project or how to facilitate fun and educational activities, we are providing a strong basis of youth leadership within a community as well as the fundamentals for strong communication skills with students from other countries. The idea here is that youth itself is a universal concept. There are certain ways of behaving, speaking and communicating with others that are attributed to youth no matter the cultural background or identity. I can connect well with my classroom of students simply because I am younger than the majority of teachers. My age allows me to form a special bond with and inspire young adults to become leaders in their communities, just as in many ways, I have during my time spent in Nicaragua.
STRENGTHENING TIES WITH CHINA

BY LINDSAY KOVACH

BUILDING ON THE existing collaborative relationships with partner schools in China, Shady Side sent three Junior School faculty members, along with Head of School Ellen McConnell, to Beijing, China, for two weeks in June 2016. As part of the Benedum Teaching Fellowships, McConnell, fifth grade teacher Lisa Anselmo, and science teachers Jeff McCarroll and Tina Nussbaum-Wagler shared their teaching knowledge with students at The Branch of Beijing No. 5 Middle School, a new school that, at the time of the visit, only offered grades 1, 2 and 7. The Junior School faculty members taught reading and writing workshops, led math and science discussions, and had time to observe classes. They also met with the faculty of the school to discuss pedagogy and classroom experiences.

Upon arrival, the group attended an all-school welcome assembly, which showcased students singing, dancing and demonstrating Kung Fu expertise. In the classrooms, the younger children were challenged to read poems and share photo books, while older students were taught how to write essays. Also, students of all ages came together to learn how to program robots, which seemed to be the highlight for many of the children.

McConnell was impressed by the commitment of the Chinese students and their willingness to try new things. She said, “When we returned to the Junior School, we shared something that we heard over and over while we were at The Branch of Beijing No. 5 School: ‘We’ll have a try!’ It actually became our motto throughout the trip. Whenever we were presented with a different type of food or a unique experience, we would say, ‘We’ll have a try!’ When we returned to the Junior School, we shared this philosophy with the students by telling them if something is different and you’re not certain about it, just say to yourself, ‘We’ll have a try!’”

In addition to their work in the classroom, the group also had time to visit local attractions, including the Forbidden City, Emperor’s Summer Palace, Beijing Zoo, the Olympic Village and the Great Wall of China. They also enjoyed amazing meals, company and hospitality.

“Our favorite part of the trip was certainly working with the children,” said McConnell. “No matter what language we spoke, children are children and we were able to work and play alongside them. They were able to share their knowledge and culture with us… and we were able to share our favorite things about the Junior School in return.”

This visit was an example of our partnership and continued collaboration with The Branch of Beijing School No.5,” said Academy President Tom Cangiano. “We are looking forward to continued dialogue and discussion of pedagogy that will bring additional benefits to both schools.”
WHEN I LEARNED that SSA had been nominated to attend the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) in Edinburgh, Scotland, I was over the moon. After spending five years building a drama program I could be very proud of here at SSA, I was so happy to learn that we had earned two nominations from local college professors, who wanted us to be recognized for the wonderful things we’ve been doing. I happily spent time on the extensive and rigorous application process that was required to even be considered for this international stage. I was thrilled when I found out we’d been selected, along with 44 other high schools, to perform in August 2016 at the AHSTF at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

When thinking about what to perform, I thought immediately about the original work that had been written by our students over the years. In 2012, I created the Original Works Theater Festival (OWTF) where students stage and perform plays they’ve written. That inspired a playwriting (PW) class that I’ve been lucky enough to teach in the years since. From OWTF and my PW class, I found three amazing student plays that, in combination, worked perfectly. We titled our three-play performance Inside Us: Original Work From Shady Side Academy.

Our performance headlined with Flicker, a play written by Shea Minter ’15 as a freshman for the 2012 OWTF that won a professional production at the Pittsburgh City Theatre Company’s 2013 Young Playwrights Festival. The other plays were written in my PW class: Queer Thoughts, by Vinay Umapathy ’15, who attends NYU for dramatic writing and used this play in his application portfolio; and Til Death Do Us Part, by Sarah Scheid ’16, which earned an honorable mention at the 2015 Young Playwrights Festival.

The plays were performed by a company of 11 student actors and supported by one student technician. Students making the trip included recent graduates Rori Cain ’16 and Connor Colombo ’16; current seniors Rylee Hickey, Caldwell Holden, Jacob Lokay, Leonard McAllister and Shrvani Ragoor; juniors Felicia Devorris, Emily Weiss, Rachel Winterhalter and Julia Zoratto; and sophomore Brooklynne Lowry.

Our shows were a huge success and quite unique at AHSTF, because we were the only school presenting original, student-generated work. Audiences were invited to stay for a talk-back session following our performance and asked questions about the plays, playwriting and Shady Side Academy. Some educators inquired about our curriculum, hoping to create something like OWTF at their schools. The 12 students were so proud of their production and did a terrific job promoting our show throughout Edinburgh, which was teaming with artists, musicians and eager theater-lovers arriving from all over the world for the oldest theatre festival on the planet.

Our 14-day adventure included a stop in London, where we visited Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and took in the sights and sounds of the city. We then spent five days in Scotland rehearsing and preparing for our four performances, and we squeezed in lots of shows at the Festival Fringe. After our show opened, we had another seven days to visit castles and the Scottish Highlands, and to watch the Royal Military Tattoo on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

One of the best compliments I received as leader of this awesome adventure was from one of our bus drivers who transported us to each performance. He told me that our students were the most polite, mature, amiable students he’d met (of all 45 schools). He was so impressed that he supported us by coming to see our final performance and was blown away by the depth and breadth of the work we presented. From addressing mental health issues in Flicker, to the struggle for sexual identity in Queer Thoughts, to the deterioration of a marriage over 25 years in Til Death Do Us Part, he couldn’t believe our students were capable of such profound, mature, thought-provoking work. It encompassed all of the feelings we have about why we do theatre: to inspire audiences to think deeply about the world in which they live, and maybe, just maybe, to help make a better world for all of us.

As an actor for more than 30 years, it was the most gratifying, artistic experience I’ve ever had, and I have the Academy and my students to thank. I hope I can continue to offer this trip to future SSA students as we’ve now earned AHSTF “alumni” status and have been invited back to participate every other year!
Homecoming at Shady Side Academy is a time-honored tradition that brings hundreds of alumni and their families “back home.” This year the celebration took place on Oct. 14-15, 2016. The weather was unseasonably warm for a fall weekend, which only added to the excitement of the highly anticipated festivities. Reunion classes included those ending in 1s and 6s, with the Class of 1966 celebrating its milestone 50th reunion and the Class of 1991 celebrating its 25th reunion.
s the fog was lifting on the morning of Friday, Oct. 14, alumni, family and friends hit the links at the Pittsburgh Field Club for the annual Alumni Golf Outing. At the same time, a Molly’s Trolley was departing the Senior School campus with an eager group ready to tour the city of Pittsburgh, ride the Duquesne Incline and enjoy lunch at Jerome Bettis’ Grille 36. Throughout the day, alumni arrived on campus to attend classes, visit with faculty and dine in McCune Dining Hall. Alumni Council President Roland Criswell ’95 enthusiastically led the weekly Senior School community assembly and welcomed Rich LaMagna ’66 and Jeff Varadi ’66. LaMagna and Varadi reflected on how Shady Side profoundly impacted their lives and how incredibly grateful they were for the opportunity to attend as scholarship students. After the assembly, advanced language students stayed for a presentation by Joe McClinton ’66, who discussed the importance of studying foreign languages and the opportunities available in the field.

On Friday evening, alumni, faculty and guests gathered together for a Memorial Service to commemorate the lives of alumni who passed away during the year. The Rev. Alex Shuttleworth from Christ Church in Fox Chapel presided over the service, which included a Senior School Chamber Choir performance of *If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis. Following the service, alumni artist Jeff Swensen ’82 showcased his photography at the Benedum Visual Arts Center and in the lobby of the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. Swensen is an accomplished photojournalist whose work has been published in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Time* and *Newsweek*. A short time later, the Alumni & Faculty Mixer got underway at McCune Dining Hall for an evening of great food, cocktails and reminiscing with former classmates.
and teachers. Academy President Tom Cangiano presented the 2016 Robert E. Walker Award to alumnus, trustee and current parent Jon Kamin ‘91. Kamin, who was celebrating his 25th reunion, is an SSA lifer, a former Alumni Council member, a lifetime Founders Society member, a member of the Audit Committee and the Enrollment and Financial Aid Committee, and the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation Committee. Kamin credited SSA for making him a good thinker, a persuasive writer and an excellent public speaker. The Paul R. Pigman ’52 Prize was awarded to Rachel Tobin ’11. At age 12, Tobin created a social enterprise jewelry business, Rachel’s Cure by Design, to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; to date, she has donated more than $100,000. Unable to attend due to her clinical rotations at Duke University School of Medicine, Tobin sent a video expressing her appreciation for SSA and how it prepared her for her business venture and continued education.

On a brisk Saturday morning, runners and walkers arrived early at the Senior School campus for the annual Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride. Al Stewart’s grandchildren, Holly ‘13, Will ‘17 and Carolyn ‘18 Stewart officially got the race underway. The first runner across the finish line was Ashley Dalton Forsyth ’99 followed by student Jonathan Hung ’19. Simultaneously, a group of alumni were playing a friendly game of ice hockey in the Roy McKnight Hockey Center, while the SSA athletic teams began taking the field for their Homecoming matchups.

The J. Michael Grzymkowski ’90 Terrace provided a picturesque location for the President’s Coffee and Walking Tours. Several alumni and parents gathered to meet President Cangiano and hear updates about the Academy, and Senior School student admissions ambassadors led tours for those interested in seeing how the campus has changed over the years. Down at the Grandizio Athletic Complex, the Kids Carnival was in full swing by the afternoon, with families enjoying a petting zoo, inflatables, face painting, a balloon artist and a performance by the Josh & Gab Show. The Blue & Gold Community Tailgate provided a casual gathering place for alumni and families to have lunch while catching up with former classmates and teachers. Once the football game got underway, the Class of 1966 assembled in the F. Walter Jones Press Box to enjoy the festivities from high above the stands. Finally, during halftime, the well-known tradition of recognizing athletic team captains from reunion class years took place on the field.

Later in the evening, reunion classes ending in 1s and 6s held individual class celebrations on campus and throughout various venues in Pittsburgh.

Reunions will be held next year for classes ending in 2s and 7s. The date for Homecoming is yet to be determined, but if you are interested in helping to coordinate your reunion, please contact Director of Alumni Relations Jamie Scott ’98 at 412-968-3032 or jscott@shadysideacademy.org.
1. Led by quarterback Clayton Krol, the SSA football team takes the field.
2. Junior School students cheer alongside the varsity cheerleaders.
3. Junior School students performed the alma mater.
4. Abhishek Mehta ’01, member of the Board of Visitors, performed the National Anthem.
5. Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride winner Dalton Forsyth ’99 flanked by Holly ’13, Carolyn ’18, and Will ’17 Stewart.
6. The Kids Carnival featured a petting zoo.
1. Class of 1951 – Norman Nedde
2. Class of 1956 – Ed Seifert
3. Class of 1961 – Gene Chwerchak, Jim Hackett, Tim Lynch
4. Class of 1966 – Dusty Nelson, Jan Rovelli, John Sikina, Paul Zugates
5. Class of 1971 – George Panzak
6. Class of 1976 – Dave Fawcett, Mike Vogan, Dave Anderson, James Silverblatt
7. Class of 1986 – Steve Frank, Megan (Messner) Warren, Ingrid Wecht, Brendan McLaughlin, Jeff McIlroy, Peter Katz, Jack Powell, Cam Altmar
8. Class of 1991 – Bob Grandizio
9. Class of 1996 – Tom Pohl, Laura Felder, Mark Herleman, Jessica (Green) Olfsøn, Cheryl (Berger) Krentzmann, Lara Grandizio, Ashi Toor, Chris Randall, Andy Allen, Courtney (Chesin) Vadnais, Mark Kramer
10. Class of 2001 – Mac Lynch, Andrea (Sucop) Tigno
11. Class of 2011 – Erika Maruca, Hanna Brouman, Grant Foley
CLASS REUNIONS

1. Class of 1946 – L to R: Ed Jew, Scotti Mulert
2. Class of 1951 – Front Row L to R: David McCullough and Joe Reineman
   Back Row L to R: Norman Nedde, Bill Hill, Pete McCance
3. Class of 1956 – Front Row L to R: Bill Houston and Ed Seifert
   Back Row L to R: Bob Rost, Bill Markus, Jay Crane
   Back Row L to R: Bill Schenck, Buzz Hutchison, Jack Singer, Gene Chwerchak,
   Jim Hackett, Jim McCague, Jay Ferguson, Bill Clarkson
5. Class of 1966 – Front Row L to R: George Wilcox, Barry Berardino
   John Harrison, Paul Zugates, Don McCormick, Jan Rovelli, Scott Becker,
   Jay Reich, John Sikina
   Back Row L to R: Joel Phillips, Bill Wallace, Dave Patterson, Chuck Whitehill,
   Jeff Varadi, Don Lynn, Dusty Nelson, Tom Tyson, Bill Hughes, David Gay, David
   Arnheim, Joe McClinton
1. Class of 1971 — Front Row L to R: Marty Moffat, Tron McConnell
   Back Row L to R: Tom McGough, Bill Sturgeon, George Panzak, Frank Morgan, Gus Succop, Dan Smiley

2. Class of 1976 — Front Row L to R: Mark Wholey, Rick Wentley, James Edson, Mark Vey, James Silverblatt, Michael Vogan, Maury Burgwin
   Second Row L to R: Martha Morgan, Lisa Austin, Sallie Belle Davis, Stacy Anderson, Bahira (McConyet) Fisher, Joy Mallick, Betsy (Wertheimer) Franklin, Mary Helen (Joyce) Ryan
   Back Row L to R: Michael Salz, David Fawcett, Abigail (Perlman) Williams, Mark Baughman, Tim Mullins ’74, Andrew Rosencrans, Ken Behrend, Bob Risoleo, Tom Drelles, Dave Anderson, Kurt Pankopf, Bill Knepper, Ted Vasser, Marc Kennedy, Robert Beyer, Doug Mancosh

3. Class of 1981 — L to R: George Thompson, John Goldblum, Gary Middleton, John Tadler, Nan Coil, Paul Mazeski, Sam Kinter, Nelson Person, Jim Crisanti, Gregg Franklin, Eric Sauereisen

   Second Row L to R: Matt Lech, Paul Henderson, David Roscow, Dori Charlson, Laura Karet, Peter Katz, Brendan McLaughlin, Mary Krauland (faculty)
   Third Row L to R: Megan (Messner) Warren, David Yaccino, Jeff McLroy, Sonny Corpuz, Tara Harper O’Connor, Charles Ascher-Walsh, Reem Hanna, Andrew Thompson, Pete Smith
   Fourth Row L to R: Peter Taylor, Lee Rosenthal, Louis Catalano, Jeff Gerlach, Steve Frank, Ken Sissingh, Cam Altmar, Nick Beckwith, Lance Ruttenberg, Stuart Rattner
   Back Row L to R: Rob Marsh, Jack Powell, Michele Lieber, Ingrid Wecht, Jay Alexander, Hunter Smith, John Kyriacopoulos, Scott Kerschbaumer

5. Class of 1991 — Front Row L to R: David Mallin, Jen (Senan) Laman, John Babson, Doug DeLuca
   Back Row L to R: Matt Laman, Constantine Davides, Mark Filstrup, Aaron Strauss, Mike Chase, Bob Grandizio, Sharon (Brentley) Jefferson, Kelly (Hendershot) DeLuca, Doug Spear

   Second Row L to R: Peter Hurh, Brendan Lupetin, Lauren (Piniskr) Kushner, Jessica (Green) Olifson, Chetan Mehta, Lisa (Bhadavile) Dharwadkar, Courtney (Chesin) Vadamis, Craig Hamburg, Nick Hartner
   Third Row L to R: Lara Grandizio, Laura Felder, Jimil Wilson, Blake Stanton, Cheryl (Berger) Krrentzman, Drew Sokol, Tejwant Datta, Tom Pohl, Fran Wymard
   Back Row L to R: Mark Kramer, Andy Allen, Mark Herleman, Damian McGill, Chris Ward, Ashhad Toor, Josh Hammerstein
   Missing from photo: Jumoke Adebimpe and Saloni Sharma

7. Class of 2001 — Farah Tejpar, Esen Bankaci, Laura Buchanan, Annie (Succop) Tigano and husband, Frank, Mac Lynch and wife, Mary, Abhishek Mehta and wife, Nilza

8. Class of 2011 — Front Row L to R: Frank Rocks, Jenn Nguyen, Jamie Kurke, Hanna Brourman
   Back Row L to R: Pat Stanny, Ahono Gildersleeve, Haley Olivia Mears, David Franklin, Lea Brown, Ann Tomulo, Lauren Williams, Ellen Boyle, Erika Maruca
Making It Official

FOX CHAPEL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL Joins SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

BY VAL BRKICH / PHOTOS BY JAMES KNOX
Standing in Fox Chapel Country Day School’s library courtyard, just off in the distance you can see the Hillman Center for Performing Arts and other buildings on Shady Side Academy’s Senior School campus. It’s a vista that brings a smile to the face of Sharon Smith, Country Day’s head of school.

“Whenever I run into our former students who are now at Shady Side,” says Smith, “I always tell them, ‘I can see you!’”

Historically, more than 90 percent of Country Day’s graduates continue their education at SSA, first at the Middle School and then the Senior School. It’s just one of the reasons that the boards of trustees of Country Day and SSA decided the time was right for the two private schools to merge.

“It’s been such a wonderful relationship over the years,” says Smith. “We are looking forward to joining together as one community.”

SSA President Tom Cangiano agrees. “Strategically for both, the time is right for this partnership. It’s truly a win-win for both schools.”

The merger officially went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, after integration committees comprised of representatives of both schools spent months working through the details to ensure a seamless transition. Beginning in the 2017–2018 school year, the four campuses under the Shady Side Academy umbrella will be called the Senior School, the Middle School, the Junior School in Point Breeze and Country Day School in Fox Chapel.

“We all agreed it was very important to preserve the historic name of each elementary school and to include a geographic indicator in the campus name as well,” says Cangiano.

“We are really excited about the merger,” says Ellen McConnell, head of the Junior School. “We’ve opened our doors to each other’s faculty for in-class observation and to widen our professional learning community. The grade-level teachers are enjoying the opportunity to reach out to colleagues who are experiencing similar successes and challenges, and our specialist teachers in particular are excited to double their colleague base.”

McConnell says she is particularly looking forward to partnering with Smith. “Sharon has such a wisdom and a depth of knowledge. And thanks to this merger, she and I have had many chances to collaborate over ideas and have conversations that are unique to an elementary school setting.”

Through the merger prospective families now have a choice of two PK-5 campuses, each with its own unique learning environment, while sharing the common values and mission of Shady Side Academy. The Junior School has two classes per grade and is in the heart of a bustling city neighborhood. Country Day, on the other hand, has one class per grade and is nestled in the woods of a quiet suburb. Parents can choose the atmosphere that best suits their child.

“Strategically for both, the time is right for this partnership. It’s truly a win-win for both schools.”

- Tom Cangiano, Shady Side Academy President

Country Day’s teachers meet each student’s unique needs with patience, support and encouragement.
While Country Day and the Junior School have different learning environments, both are equally alive with engaged and curious learners who are prepared well for the transition to SSA’s Middle School. Both elementary schools encourage a joy in learning and discovery, emphasizing engaged, hands-on learning and outdoor exploration. And both have dedicated teachers who understand that each child’s educational journey is unique and requires individual attention. Now that the two schools and their faculties can collaborate and share best practices, it will ultimately make both stronger.

“By combining the strengths of each institution,” Cangiano says, “we can ensure that students continue to receive the premier educational experience in the region.”

Country Day Board President Tom Karet believes the merger provides a unique opportunity for their school to become part of an exceptional educational organization in Shady Side Academy. “Everyone in Fox Chapel already knows what a wonderful school Country Day is. This merger enables us to get the word out to a much larger community; it’s an opportunity for faculty to get together, share best practices, compare curriculum, and determine which methods will best prepare our kids for the future.”

Karet’s sons — Will, eighth grade, and Charles, sixth grade — are alumni of Country Day and currently attend SSA Middle School; his daughter Alexa is currently in fifth grade at Country Day. He says his kids’ time at Country Day has been fantastic for all.

“The school has a warm, nurturing, caring atmosphere,” he says, “and it all starts with the passionate, dedicated, well-trained teachers, who custom-tailor the educational experience for each student.”

Karet says the students’ exposure to technology is particularly valuable. “My kids can use an iPad in ways that I can’t,” he says. “They’ve done book reports online, were taught Internet safety at a young age, and have access to so many valuable resources.”

Country Day currently enrolls around 110 students in junior pre-kindergarten (age 3) through fifth grade. Cangiano hopes that, through the merger, the school will reach its true capacity — around 16 to 18 students at each grade level — and SSA will realize its goal of having around 75 in its sixth-grade class.

Country Day operates under the motto that “Childhood is a journey, not a race.” The result is a positive, patient learning atmosphere that encourages inquiry, discovery and creativity among its students. The school’s flexible curriculum emphasizes thinking and learning abilities in order to promote academic success and personal self-confidence.
“WE REALLY BELIEVE IN A hands-on TYPE OF EDUCATION. GETTING CHILDREN OUTSIDE AND LETTING THEM PLAY, DISCOVER AND EXPLORE KEEPS THEM happy AND energized ABOUT LEARNING.”

Sharon Smith, Country Day’s Head of School

Says Smith, “We really try to pay attention to the individual talents and needs of each student.”

Science is a big part of the Country Day curriculum, thanks in part to a spacious science lab and the surrounding natural resources, where students are encouraged to question, explore, observe and experiment.

The school’s hallmark, however, is its emphasis on active learning, and its location on 17 secluded, wooded acres within the Fox Chapel parkland goes a long way in supporting this philosophy.

“We really believe in a hands-on type of education,” says Smith.

Country Day’s curriculum emphasizes outdoor exploration and hands-on learning, especially in science.
“Getting children outside and letting them play, discover and explore keeps them happy and energized about learning.”

Students have two recesses each day, year round. They also regularly take hikes in the woods, where they’re encouraged to explore, take photos, sketch or write poetry about what they find. Recently the school received funding for a new treehouse/outdoor classroom to provide yet another space for learning and discovery.

Art, music and performance are also essential parts of Country Day’s program. Beginning in junior pre-K, students enjoy weekly art classes, where they are exposed to the works of both classical and modern masters and given the opportunity to express themselves freely through their own creations. This creativity extends into other classes, where art is blended into other disciplines to further enhance learning.

Music is also a common sound throughout Country Day’s halls. Students take music classes twice a week and are encouraged to sing and play instruments in order to build confidence. Each class must also plan and perform a play on stage in the Great Hall in front of other students and parents.

“Kids are just naturally drawn to music,” says Smith. “By having them learn the lines to these songs, follow directions, and then perform on stage in front of their peers, it helps them build self-esteem and learn skills that will help them down the road, whatever career path they choose.”

“The focus on music was my favorite,” says Sean Kelley, who attended Country Day and Shady Side’s Middle School and is now a freshman at the Senior School. “Having to sing solos in front of lots of people really helped me become more self-confident.” Currently he sings in small a cappella group and is hoping to be in SSA’s choir next year.
Kelley also says he enjoyed Country Day's focus on active learning outside of the classroom. “We read Gary Paulsen’s *Hatchet* out in the woods, and it was like we were actually stranded in the woods too. It made it so much more real.”

Country Day Board member Carol Mathieson believes that the partnership is particularly beneficial to Country Day in what is a challenging academic market. “The merger gives us all the benefits of aligning with a strong, robust and highly regarded academic organization like Shady Side.”

Her husband, Peter Mathieson ’79, is an alum of both Country Day and Shady Side Academy. All three of their sons — Dan ’12, Mike ’13, and Jack ’16 — are alumni of both Country Day and SSA, and their daughter, Katie, attended Country Day as well.

Mathieson says that she and her husband see Country Day as a gift they were able to give to their children. “It allowed them to grow in a safe and nurturing environment, with a wonderful emphasis on the arts and the outdoors. As a result they moved on very prepared for a bigger world, with self-confidence and a great love for learning.”

Ahmad Ghaznavi ’89 is a Country Day and SSA alumnus. He and his wife, Jocie, have two children: Tess, who attended Country Day and is now at seventh grader at SSA; and Will, who is a fourth grader at Country Day.

Ghaznavi, a dyslexic, says Country Day helped him develop his problem-solving abilities. Today he serves as president of a real estate investment company. “Without the support of the Country Day staff at such a critical time in my early development,” he says, “I may not have continued with higher education or developed the thirst for knowledge that still drives me today.”

Jocie says that the faculty and leadership at Country Day helped to foster the development of their children’s academic, personal and social strengths. “Our children have learned to work toward and obtain mental and physical goals,” she says, “even when it involves stepping outside of their comfort zones. The school’s nurturing environment reinforces what we are trying to teach our children at home: fairness, honesty, kindness, inclusion, discipline and intellectual enquiry.”

Ghaznavi believes there is a lot to be gained by this partnership. “Each school has so much to offer,” he says. “They are similar enough to allow for combined growth, but different enough to learn from each other, making both campuses a better place to grow and learn.”

As for the community’s response to the merger, Cangiano says the overall response has been favorable, which doesn’t surprise him considering the mutual benefits of the agreement. “There’s really very little downside,” he says. “Country Day will maintain its identity and culture while at the same time partnering with a highly respected school. On our end, we’re further solidifying a partnership that’s been going on for decades. The future is bright for everyone involved, most importantly, our students.”
GIRLS GOLF – PIAA CHAMPIONS

by Casey Morrow ’17 and
Alexandra Muracca ’18

The girls golf team had another successful season, finishing as PIAA Class AAA Champions with an overall record of 7-2. Under the leadership of captains senior Casey Morrow and junior Alexandra Muracca, the team battled against rivals Fox Chapel and North Allegheny while combating injuries. With the help of senior Katie James, junior Elizabeth Walsh, sophomore Catherine Jewart and freshman Isabella Salvucci, the team advanced to the WPIAL finals, where the girls fell to North Allegheny by one stroke. Under the leadership of Head Coach Helene Gosse and Assistant Coach Courtney Smith, the team beat North Allegheny by eight strokes in the PIAA Championship to secure Shady Side’s fourth girls golf state title. Individually, Muracca, Morrow and Walsh qualified for WPIALs, placing eighth, 11th and 14th, respectively. With a strong group of returning players next year, the team hopes to successfully defend its title.

FIELD HOCKEY

by Alexa Conomikes ’17

The field hockey team had another fantastic season! Under the leadership of new Head Coach Brooke Kerschbaumer ’91 and captains Caroline Benec, Alexa Conomikes and Colby Poerio, the girls boasted a regular-season section record of 10-1-1, capturing the section title and a ticket as the No. 1 seed going into the WPIAL playoffs. The team advanced to the WPIAL finals with a 4-0 semifinal win against Aquinas Academy, but fell short in the WPIAL championship to The Ellis School, 3-1. Although the team did not capture the league title, the girls put in incredible work on and off the field, making it a season to remember. Only five seniors are graduating, and the returning players look to be in a great position to have another strong season next year.
### 2016 FALL SPORTS RECORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varsity Teams</th>
<th>W</th>
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### BOYS SOCCER

_by Brendan Brazinski ’17_

The boys soccer team had another very successful season, finishing as the WPIAL runner-up and PIAA semifinalist. Building off of a strong first season coaching at SSA in 2015, Head Coach Ed Ellsworth took the team to a new level in 2016. The team played and fought together, resulting in 12 shutouts throughout the season. The leadership of captains Patrick Hill-Junke and Brendan Brazinski, and a strong group of senior players, helped to push the team to its first appearance in the WPIAL Class AA finals at Highmark Stadium, where SSA fell to Quaker Valley, 2-1. The team won two games in the PIAA tournament to advance to the semifinals. The team’s overall record was 16-4-1.

### BOYS GOLF

_by Knox Coulter ’17_

The boys golf team earned an overall record of 10-3. The team competed in the WPIAL Class AAA Semifinals at Indian Run Golf Course, finishing sixth out of the nine teams, with a team score of 411. Freshman Brice Delaney qualified for the WPIAL Individual Championship, placing 22nd with an 85.

### GIRLS SOCCER – WPIAL CHAMPIONS

_by Sarah Hacke ’17_

The girls soccer team had a great season, finishing the year as the WPIAL Class A Champions and the PIAA runner-up. Led by Head Coach Mary Lynch and senior captains Allyson Eismont, Sarah Hacke and Elizabeth Harper, the talented group of girls defeated section rival Greensburg Central Catholic twice in the postseason: first to clinch the WPIAL title, then in the PIAA semifinals to advance to the finals for the first time in school history. With a tough 9-4 loss against Fairfield in the state finals, this team never gave up and fought until the end. The team finished the season with an overall 19-4 record. The camaraderie among the players contributed to the team’s great success and the returning players have much to look forward to going into next year.
FOOTBALL
by Leonard McAllister III ’17
The football squad experienced a tough season, finishing with an 0-9 record. With an unusually small roster and a large amount of injuries, the team persevered and remained competitive in many games. Through it all, the players show remarkable courage and grit. Whether it was an upperclassman or a freshman, everyone had to be ready to play at any given moment. Under the strong leadership of coaches Dave Havern and Dave Szlachetka, the team received emotional support and relentless enthusiasm throughout the hard-fought season. The team hopes to rebound next year to get back on track with the winning tradition of SSA football.

GIRLS TENNIS
by Annika Dhawan ’17
The girls tennis team had a tough yet rewarding season. Led by coaches Jeff Miller and Rachel McCool and captains Annika Dhawan, Devin Gramley and Lauren Davies, the team had an impressive regular-season record of 8-1, finishing as runners-up in the section. Unfortunately, in the first round of WPIALs, the girls had a tough loss to Upper St. Clair. The doubles team of Devin and Erin Gramley qualified for the PIAA tournament in Hershey, where they placed second in the state. In individual play, Devin Gramley also qualified for the WPIAL singles tournament, where she lost in the first round.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
by Gannon Leech ’17
With a strong core of returning runners and the addition of some new transfer students, the boys cross country team had a competitive group. Through the course of the season, the boys earned top spots in some very challenging meets. In the invitational portion of the season, the team finished third at the Red, White and Blue Invitational and the Altoona Invitational. The team ended the season with a 6-3 record and a 10th place finish in the WPIAL Championships.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
by Lindsey Stauber ’17
The girls cross country team had another successful season. Captains Anna Rosengart, Lindsey Stauber and Emily Winterhalter led the team to a record of 7-2. Under the guidance of coaches Sue Whitney and Pam Boehm, the team continued to get faster as the season progressed, finishing in eighth place at the WPIAL Championship. Junior Jeanne Lauer had an outstanding race at WPIALs, finishing in second place with a time of 19:30 and qualifying for the PIAA Championships, where she placed eighth overall out of 217 finishers. A solid group of returning juniors is sure to continue the spirit and leadership of the team next year.
The 11th season of the Hillman Performing Arts Series began with a special event on Sept. 17, 2016, when Tony Award-winner Ben Vereen and his three-piece band graced the stage in Steppin’ Out LIVE With Ben Vereen. Vereen began the evening with Magic to Do from his Tony Award-winning turn as the Lead Player in Pippin, and that was just the beginning. For an electrifying two hours, audience members were on the edge of their seats as they witnessed a master class from one of the entertainment industry’s consummate performers. VIP ticket holders were treated to an exclusive reception following the performance, where Vereen mingled with impressed patrons.

The regular season of the series officially kicked off Oct. 22 with Masters of the Mind. The four internationally acclaimed mentalists took the stage for an evening full of audience participation, laughter and amazement. From telekinesis to mind reading, it was an evening like no other in the Richard E. Rauh Theater. November welcomed Rhythmic Circus, a Minneapolis-based funk band with tap dancers. The international sensation presented its flagship production, Feet Don’t Fail Me Now!, featuring original music and top-notch dance that electrified and energized the audience from start to finish. The fun-filled group even threw in a few holiday favorites to get the crowd in the spirit of the season!

The Hillman Series is on hiatus through mid-February 2017 as the Senior School Gargoyle Society presents the winter musical, The Addams Family. Then, on Feb. 18, the Grammy-nominated a cappella group Committed is sure to hit a high note to kick off the second half of the series. March welcomes Playing By Air!, and the season concludes with The StepCrew in April.

This year, the Hillman has continued its efforts to expand local community outreach. Four of the six series performers are going out into the Pittsburgh community and sharing their expertise with youth. Ben Vereen held a master class at Pittsburgh CAPA, while Rhythmic Circus did a tap master class at Dance Mechanics in Allison Park; Committed will spend a day on the Senior School campus working with choral students in Dr. Dan Brill’s classroom, and Playing by Air! will perform at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. With the help of these giving performers, the Hillman continues to reach the Pittsburgh community more than ever.

If you would like additional information about upcoming shows, please visit the new Hillman website at thehillman.org.

BY CHRISTA BURNEFF

Hillman Series: A Season of Fun!
After graduation from Shady Side Academy – and before heading off to Princeton University – John Duff spent the summer of 1959 almost suspended in time. He and four good friends filled their days with tennis, warm memories from high school and anticipation of what was to come.

But the close friends made some of their best memories that summer in an unexpected place. Every Wednesday evening, they returned to Shady Side Academy to sit with English teacher John Hightower in the Senior School library, where they discussed the greats of literature – Animal Farm, The Great Gatsby, Hamlet…

It wasn’t like summer school – it was the opposite. John and his friends were so enthralled by Hightower’s senior literature class, they had asked their parents to pay for him to hold a weekly discussion class for them over the summer.

“A whole world had suddenly opened up to us – the world of literature,” Duff said of Hightower’s course during the school year. “We had just scratched the surface. We were leaving, but we wanted to keep it going. He was a marvellous teacher, and he ignited a spark in us.”

That spark followed Duff to Princeton, where he received a B.A. in history, and stayed with him through Yale Law School. That education was the springboard for a career as a partner at Reed Smith, a law firm based in Pittsburgh, and deputy general and senior vice president for the Export-Import Bank in Washington, D.C. Then he joined Bechtel Investments in San Francisco and nine years later helped to create a private equity and venture capital firm in the Bay Area.

Throughout each of his successful careers, he continues to draw on the passion he first felt in the library as he devotes himself to both learning and leadership, hoping to ignite a similar spark in youth today. He serves on the Shady Side Academy Board of Visitors, and he has endowed a chair at Yale Law School – occupied by Amy Chua, best known for her book, Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother, a book on tough parenting that has become a cultural touchstone. He also has helped inner-city children go to college by backing the KIPP DC public charter school program and done work on behalf of adoption.

“He is passionately interested in education,” said his classmate John Margolis ’59, professor emeritus of English and dean emeritus of Northwestern University in Qatar. “He has been an educator and supporter of education throughout his career, with commitments ranging from the Ivy League to inner-city schools.”

Duff explains this long-time commitment to quality education: his experience at Shady Side was “a great gift. I wanted to pay it back.”

He transferred to Shady Side in high school, and on his first day, he made an impression for all the wrong reasons. Dressed in a sweater and tie, he missed a crucial part of the required dress code: the blazer. “I just wanted to slide in there and hope no one would notice me, but I was well-known to everyone by the first day,” he said with a laugh. “It’s a good lesson for life, right? Nothing builds character like a little embarrassment that breeds humility.”

His first test was also embarrassing. A good student at his former parochial school, he got a D+ on his first math quiz. “And that was a wake-up call big-time – painful but necessary. I had to up my game. The teachers were all rigorous. It was a high bar, and it was good.”

He soon made friends that have lasted a lifetime. One day his freshman year as he sat in study hall, Margolis jabbed him with a piece of paper that said, “Do you believe in capital punishment?”
Then he did a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, becoming a lance corporal before transferring to the Navy JAG Corps (lawyers).

He returned to Pittsburgh and became a partner at the Reed Smith law firm. He tested the waters of local politics, but ultimately decided not to run. “I dabbled but I never got very close,” he said.

Duff traded his dreams of politics for a successful career as a lawyer and teacher. The young lawyer became an adjunct professor at Duquesne University Law School, teaching a course on debtor’s rights and bankruptcy. “I was one page ahead of the students for the first year,” he said. “It was all-consuming. I really liked teaching. The students were great.”

And unlike other disciplines where the professor seeks one correct answer, a law professor can challenge his students by throwing questions back on them. He also was involved in the community by serving on the board of the Neighborhood Legal Services Corporation.

In 1977, Duff got the call that would change the course of his career. It was a friend from law school calling to tell him about an open position at the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), a government agency that facilitates the export of U.S. goods and services by providing loans and insurance with the mission of supporting American jobs. He started out as deputy general counsel and was promoted to senior vice president.

The new work fascinated him. Once again, the passionate teacher found an outlet as he stood in front of a classroom and imparted his knowledge – this time to the students of Georgetown Law School who took an international law and economics class he helped to teach.

“Capital punishment? Duff had no idea what it was, let alone whether he believed in it. (Margolis quips that his 75-year-old self is upset with his 15-year-old self for violating study hall rules.)

That broke the ice, and the two became fast friends. They worked together at the Shady Side News, where Margolis was editor and Duff was second-in-command. That first experience in publishing led Duff to become editor of The Egerian, the school literary journal. He still has copies of that issue. He also played basketball, his first athletic love, as well as tennis and soccer.

Once at Princeton, Duff started out as an English major, but he switched majors when he found himself fascinated by American history. He also penned some articles for The Daily Princetonian and the Princeton Alumni Weekly.

While he expanded his own mind, he was interested in teaching others, and in his senior year in college he served as an intern to an American history course at The Lawrenceville School, a private high school. It was his first of many teaching opportunities.

He contemplated further studies in history at graduate school, but the pull of law school ran strong in him, as it did in his family. His father, grandfather and uncles were lawyers.

But Duff had yet another reason to study law. Like so many young men of his generation, John F. Kennedy inspired him to go into politics. “Kennedy was electrifying,” he said. “Law school was a vehicle for politics. He attracted young people at the time much the way Obama did.”

In fact, when Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, Duff and two of his classmates traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend his funeral.

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The new work fascinated him. Once again, the passionate teacher found an outlet as he stood in front of a classroom and imparted his knowledge – this time to the students of Georgetown Law School who took an international law and economics class he helped to teach.

His work at EXIM made him realize that he preferred the business side of things to the legal side.

But when he left EXIM in 1982, he found resistance from employers who wanted to hire him only for his legal expertise. “When I went out to the marketplace to try to get hired as a business guy, it was pretty clear that the only person that saw me that way was me.”

When he went to work for Bechtel Investments, the investment subsidiary of a large San Francisco-based engineering and construction company, as its chief counsel, he told them he would like to focus on business, and they promised that if things worked out he could make the switch after spending several years on the legal side. After a few years he made the switch and started buying struggling companies and helping to restructure them into bigger and stronger companies as part of Bechtel’s newly formed private equity group.

He relished the career change. “When you’re a lawyer, you’re an agent for somebody
else. Somebody else is the principal. As a businessperson, you are the principal, or close to it. So, you have much more authority. You have much more control. You have much more ability to affect the outcome. I just loved it.”

In San Francisco, he did another teaching gig – a corporate finance class for students at Golden Gate University. In 1991, he and partners started Duff Ackerman & Goodrich, their own private equity firm. They bought companies, restructured them and sold them. For instance, they bought radio stations, put them under new leadership and sold them to a bigger radio company. They did the same for cable and broadcast TV stations, wireless companies and even a company that made motorcycle accessories.

For all of his success, Duff never forgot education – or the kids who seemed to be left behind by the system. Before deciding how to invest his time and resources, Duff did his research about the best inroads that make the biggest impact for these kids. In the end, he said, “All roads led to KIPP.” It’s the Knowledge Is Power Program, a nonprofit network of charter public schools that support educationally underserved students who aim to achieve in higher education.

Duff, who lives in D.C., works with KIPP DC as a board member and chairman of the finance committee. He finds great reward when he sees children, all of whom come from low-income families, often with a single parent, beat the odds and go to college. “For the boys, the alternative is often going out into the neighborhoods and getting into trouble, often leading to jail and having a short life span.”

“The DC KIPPsters have all gone on to college, community college or the military. When you see kids 3 feet tall saying they are the Class of 2025 – that builds expectations of college. It makes such a huge difference on what they can accomplish.”

An adoptive father, he also is very active with The Barker Adoption Foundation, a nonprofit adoption agency that provides services and counseling and helps place children into families. His enduring passion for quality education brings Duff back to where he first caught the spark – Shady Side Academy. In 2002, he was asked to become a founding member of the Board of Visitors. For alumni who no longer live in the Pittsburgh area, the Board of Visitors ensures they continue to be engaged with the school.

John Kramer ’57, the founder of the Board of Visitors, says he was always impressed by Duff, especially his prowess and teamwork on the basketball court. “Seniors don’t usually look at sophomores with admiration,” he said. “But there was something about him on the basketball court. He was a good team player.”

After crossing paths several times, in 2002 Kramer asked Duff to join the new advisory board, and from the start he has been a great asset. “He listens to other people’s thoughts before he expresses his own,” he said. “That’s an attribute that all of us can admire.” He also hosts SSA alumni events at his D.C. home.

On a personal level, Duff has kept friends from his high school days, and visits and vacations with them. “We are lifelong friends. We remain very close,” said Dr. Carl Srodes ’59, a member of that summertime book club.

Duff still recalls the summer evenings he spent in the library with his four pals. Time picked up and moved along, but after 57 years and four separate paths and lives, the bonds they formed over Fitzgerald, Shakespeare and their school remain.
Every weekday, millions of people sip coffee and tune in to Good Morning America, joining Robin Roberts, George Stephanopoulos and Michael Strahan for the latest headlines.

But the TV audience doesn’t see people like Nia Phillips, who spent much of the night gathering and producing the news. In the daily adrenaline rush that is TV journalism, Phillips, an associate producer on the ABC show, has worked on stories ranging from the devastation of Hurricane Matthew to the twists and turns of the presidential campaign. She has shaped features on Maddie Ziegler, the teen star on the reality show Dance Moms, and the new Lemonade album by Beyoncé. Whether she’s writing scripts or working with on-air correspondents, Phillips takes a story and makes it shine.

“All of the magic happens at night,” she said.

During some late-breaking stories, the 26-year-old has been known to pull an all-nighter, the deadline pressure mounting as the sun comes up. Even when it means coming home to her New York City apartment as her neighbors head to work, she’s thrilled to be in the thick of the news gathering.

“Sometimes your material comes in 5 a.m.,” she said. “It can be stressful, but when you see what you worked on in TV, all of the stress goes away.”
For Phillips, becoming a producer at *Good Morning America* is a dream job, and she got there by way of a surprisingly straight path – after graduating from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, she landed an internship at ABC. That internship led to a job as a production associate at *Good Morning America* in 2014. She was promoted to associate producer in August of 2016.

“Nia Phillips is an amazing example of how hard work and a creative mind can take you far. She hit the ground running as an intern – and now, she’s an associate producer. GMA is lucky to have her on the team,” said Seth Fenton, chief of tape content and production at *Good Morning America*.

As for success in the highly competitive news business, Phillips was a natural. The native of Penn Hills was an early, avid reader full of curiosity. “She was reading books at age 3,” said her mother, Kimberly. Throughout her 13 years at Shady Side Academy, her teachers helped her to refine these innate traits into research and writing talents. “She was very fortunate to have the opportunity to go to Shady Side, where they nurtured her from an early age,” Kimberly said.

Throughout her Shady Side Academy education, her writing skills improved under the guidance of English teachers such as Martha Banwell, Elizabeth Garvey and Sherri Hallgren. “The school produced really strong writers and stressed the importance of research,” Phillips said. She also played flute in the band, and competed on the cross country, basketball and softball teams – a love of athletics that carries over to her affinity for sports writing.
When asked about her goals, she already knew exactly what she wanted to do. “I want to work in morning news at *Good Morning America*.” Little did she know at the time that she would achieve such a lofty goal so quickly.

Studying in the broadcast track, she and her classmates balanced class work with the hands-on training of creating their own broadcasts. After graduating in 2013, she landed a job as editorial producer of Major League Baseball Advanced Media, writing content and posting videos of live baseball, football and basketball games. At the same time, she got her foot in the door at *Good Morning America* as an intern.

Phillips credits some of her growth as a producer to the mentoring and advice from other producers and on-air talent. “It’s a great place to learn,” she said. In particular, she has been thrilled to meet and talk to Robin Roberts, a GMA co-anchor. “Robin Roberts is a big inspiration for her,” said her brother Rashaad.

Usually behind the camera, Phillips had a more visible role during the dedication of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. In an elegant ceremony at the Kennedy Center, she walked the red carpet as she interviewed celebrities such as Jesse Williams, an actor on *Grey’s Anatomy*, and Janelle Monáe, a singer-songwriter. Then she mingled in a crowd that included President and Michelle Obama, and Oprah.

Being part of the celebration of the African American museum was deeply moving for her. “It was like I was part of history,” she said. “It was overwhelming. The piece will air in 2017.

Though she wouldn’t rule out more on-air work if the opportunity presents itself, she loves being behind the camera. “Producing is the area I love. A lot of it is storytelling.” Her journalism career also allows her to talk to a variety of people she would never encounter otherwise.

Instead of a routine job, she shows up at the ABC headquarters in Manhattan every evening to tackle a new challenge – a grisly police story one day, a light pop culture feature the next.

The first story she produced alone was on the death of Eric Garner, the African American man who died after police in New York City put him in a chokehold – an event that sparked widespread protests.

Her time at Shady Side also expanded her world view. As a junior, she was named a Parkin Fellow, an award that funds global service work. She traveled across the world to Fiji, to a poor village where she helped build houses, volunteered at a school and worked on environmental initiatives. “I was in a little dot in the middle of the Pacific Ocean,” she said. “It was an awesome opportunity.” When she came home, she organized a book drive and mailed them to the Fiji school where she had volunteered.

“She came back a changed woman. She wanted to make an impact on the world at large. She has always been a role model,” said her brother Rashaad ’12, who worked in Ghana as a Parkin Fellow four years later.

Her first taste of journalism came from her Senior School English papers and her work at *Shady Side News*. She always considered going into the field, but she took the opportunity to explore various disciplines at Wellesley, the prestigious women’s college located outside of Boston.

The minute she arrived on the picturesque campus outside of Boston, Phillips felt at home – the red brick buildings reminded her of Shady Side. She was inspired to be at the school that produced broadcast legends such as Diane Sawyer, an ABC co-worker, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Madeleine Albright, to name just a few. “Wellesley women are always part of leadership roles. That is a legacy I am part of.”

A political science and Spanish major, Phillips toyed with the idea of doing something in public service or politics such as a press secretary job. But she always came back to her passion for storytelling through journalism.

In summer 2011, while a student at Wellesley, she took an internship at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, where she worked on the multimedia desk. “It was awesome, being at my hometown paper, on the video side of the news, adapting to new media.”

After Wellesley, she went to the prestigious Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. On her first day, she introduced herself to her classmates. No one else in the room was from Pittsburgh.

When asked about her goals, she already knew exactly what she wanted to do. “I want to work in morning news at *Good Morning America*.” Little did she know at the time that she would achieve such a lofty goal so quickly.

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It was a baptism by fire, doing a package on this polarizing event. “Welcome to the news business,” she recalls thinking to herself. But she rose to the challenge.

She also works on softer news stories, such as the piece she produced on Michelle Obama’s fashion choices over the last eight years, including the rose-gold Versace gown she wore to her last state dinner.

Being a journalist allows Phillips to meet famous people as well as give a voice to people who are not usually heard. Her stories are broadcast across the nation and beyond. “With the Internet and social media, the whole world can read them,” she said.

Phillips has even had assignments that allow her to tap into her special interest in sports. When LeBron James brought home an NBA championship to an ecstatic Cleveland, she covered it. A series of stories came her way about ‘Deflategate,’ the football controversy and legal saga that centered on allegations that the New England Patriots had tampered with footballs.

When they pass her desk full of black and gold sports memorabilia, including a ‘Terrible Towel’ draped across it, her GMA co-workers take the chance to rib her about her Pittsburgh fanaticism.

She also suggests Pittsburgh stories and angles, such as the *Dance Moms* feature. “She is always pitching Pittsburgh,” her mother said. “She is always fighting for her hometown.”

With daily texts or phone calls, Phillips tells her mother what she is working on, and her devoted fan club of church members, friends and relatives back in Pittsburgh try to catch the segments on TV.

Phillips stays in touch with her brother Rashaad daily. Despite a four-year age gap, they are best friends — so close that people sometimes confuse them for twins. “We’ve never been in competition. She’s always willing to help, reading over my applications and essays,” he said. “She always wants to see the best in me.”

The emails and texts Rashaad gets in the middle of the night give him a sense of what his sister’s hectic schedule is like. Arriving at 6 p.m., she doesn’t get off until 2 or 4 a.m., or even later.

“Her job requires her to be up almost 24-7. I don’t think I could do that. She is always motivated to keep going. She sees the bigger picture of her goals. She sees the media as important for educating other people. That motivates her to push through, no matter how much work it involves.”

Phillips said she has gotten used to the sleep-deprived life of a broadcast journalist.

“You’re ‘on’ 24 hours a day, in a sense. You have to always be tuned in. You come early and you stay late.”

But that’s okay by her. Day or night, Nia Phillips is happy to be at her dream job.
DOWNTOWN LUNCHEON
The Fall Downtown Luncheon was held Nov. 30 at The Duquesne Club. Alumni and current parents were in attendance to hear featured speaker President Tom Cangiano discuss SSA’s new transformational science programs, current regional partnerships and sustainability plans for all campuses. The luncheon wrapped up with a Q&A session on SSA’s strategic initiatives.

IN-COLLEGE BRUNCH
Members from the classes of 2013-2016 returned to campus during winter break to visit with classmates and teachers during the annual In-College Brunch. The event took place on Dec. 28, and welcomed young alums back to campus for a casual gathering in McCune Dining Hall.

ALUMNI ATHLETIC EVENTS
Over Thanksgiving weekend, hockey alums reunited for some playing time on the ice. The annual game was held Friday, Nov. 25, and has been a tradition for many years, always with a great turnout and a fun crowd. After witnessing the success of the hockey game, the lacrosse team decided to begin a similar tradition on the field. So, on Saturday, Nov. 26, the first-ever alumni lacrosse game was held. The day proved to be a huge success on and off the field, and plans are already underway for next year. Thank you to all of the participants!
ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Washington, D.C.: Lisa Ratner ’90, Gene Katzin ’90, Brit Fleming ’90 and Mike Bolanis ’90

Pittsburgh: Amit Grover ’01, Kristi Moss, Kathryn Egan ’05 and Stewart West ’05


Pittsburgh: Mike Casey ’01, Mac Lynch ’01 and Bill Flannery ’98

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE! Access the report by visiting ShadySideAcademy.org/ReportOfPhilanthropy
Included in this section are news items received through Nov. 1, 2016.

1940
Ben Dangerfield writes: “I’m still in Wallingford, Pa., with my wife of 68 years, granddaughter and two great grandsons. I would be glad to hear from any SSAers that know me.”

1941
Albert R. Dismukes writes: “75 years and looking for more!”

1950
Reginald S. Koehler III writes: “I am retiring at year end after 57 years of law. Following Yale and Harvard Law School, I worked 25 years in New York City with two of the leading Wall Street firms, and then I moved to Seattle in 1984 to Perkins Coie LLP, which now has more than 1,000 lawyers and 18 branch offices from D.C. to Beijing. I am admitted to practice in New York, D.C., Florida, California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ann and I just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. We love Seattle. Come visit us! (rkoehler@perkinscoie.com).”

Tony Turner writes: “I have eight grandkids, all within 200 miles of my home. Life is still good.”

1951
David McCullough is working on his next book, The Pioneers, which will tell the story of the courageous first settlers of the Northwest Territory. The book is scheduled for publishing in 2019.

1954
Dave Adams writes: “All is well on ‘the island’ where I spend eight months, and in Arundel, Maine, where I am for the remaining months.”

1960
August Tarasi writes: “I have been retired for one year and am loving it. My son David, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy with the seventh fleet, works as a public affairs officer and also does officer recruiting. Anyone interested?”

1962
Mead Over reports: “I am a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C. Our mission is to improve the effectiveness of foreign assistance to developing countries, whether from an individual government or a multilateral aid agency. Recently, I participated in the annual meeting of an advisory group to the United Nations AIDS organization in Montreux, Switzerland. The group is called the UNAIDS/World Bank Economics Reference Group. It was a beautiful lakeside setting, but rainy weather frustrated attempts to take walks by the lake. I spent an extra night to visit my brother-in-law, who is Belgian and lives in Ornex, France. I have been co-teaching a course in Paris at Sciences-Po for the last few years, so I look forward to returning to Paris in the spring. I hope my wife, Beth King, will accompany me to Paris for two weeks as she did last year. I continue to stay in touch with my cohort of Peace Corps volunteers. We served in Burkina Faso from 1967-1969 and are members of a nonprofit group here in the United States called Friends of Burkina Faso. While the group was originally composed entirely of returned volunteers, in the last few years we have succeeded in recruiting four or five young Burkinabé to the group. They are recent immigrants to the U.S. who have become citizens or hold green cards. Several of them work in technology, while one is director of a small section at Voice of America. We collect dues from..."
our members and have a few thousand dollars to spend on projects every year. The past year or so I have been trying to help a group called Tigoung Nonma to succeed in meeting their modest fundraising goals on the Global Giving crowdsourcing site. I have one daughter at Columbia’s mechanical engineering school and another working at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, N.J. Beth and I are spending several weeks a year at our timeshare in New York City. We are also planning to spend spring vacation skiing with as many of our family as we can assemble in Park City, Utah. I don’t get back to Pittsburgh often, but I enjoy seeing references to the city in the news. I enjoyed seeing those of you who attended the 50th reunion.”

1966

Bill Hughes volunteered at the U.S. Open in Oakmont, Pa., where he was assigned to the merchandise check tent. He reported, “It’s a low volunteer life-form but was an easy job in Pittsburgh. How many last names start with Brzyk? We didn’t lose anything.” Hughes also reports fond memories of driving along the Allegheny River on “new” Route 28. “I kept watching for Mr. Reese to pull alongside in his yellow 421 Bonneville convertible and would have crushed him! Do they still have Saturday DS?”

Jack Smiley writes: “The drought may continue in California, but I celebrated 30 years as a Ventura County trial judge and 20 years in family law court. I am continuing in both only because I have a fabulous wife and the world’s perfect dog – a 2-year old labradoodle – to come home to. So very sorry I was unable to make our 50th reunion. The years tumble by.”

Rich LaMagna writes: “We had a really enjoyable dinner in August hosted by John Wolf ’64 and his wife, Martha, at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va. In attendance were Bella and Paul Zugates, Kathy and Bill Hughes, Sean McCarthy ’65 and his wife, Alma, and my wife, Yun Wha, and I. We are delighted to welcome John and Martha as part-time residents of the Washington, D.C., area. On a personal note, Yun Wha and I are proud of our son, Daniel, who was accepted to the Georgetown University Law Center, where he began evening classes in September and is also a full-time employee in the financial aid office. We are also pleased that our daughter, Rachel, started her freshman year this past September at the Academy of the Holy Cross in Bethesda, Md. I continue to grow my cyber security, intellectual property protection and online fraud consulting practice.”

Tom Celli writes: “I have just returned from nine days in Bulgaria, where I have been going regularly for seven years. Some years ago, at the request of a member of the royal family of Bulgaria, I became a trustee of the American University in Bulgaria. This institution just celebrated its 25th anniversary last week. It has continued to provide a liberal arts education in the American style to promote democracy in a country that is still recovering from communism. In addition, through the America for Bulgaria Foundation, we became the architects for an expansion of the American College of Sofia, which is a prep school not unlike SSA. The prep school of about 650 students has 13 grads currently at Oxford. That news will tell you that Bulgarians are focused on brains, not jump shots. Our architectural practice has continued to flourish in the ‘Burgh with projects for higher education and historic preservation. We are privileged to be working for wonderful institutions from Nebraska to Michigan to New York and Pennsylvania. My wife, Jeannie, and I celebrated 48 wonderful years together in June and our two children continue to amaze us. Our daughter, Delta, just took second place in the Women’s National Sporting Clays Shooting Championships, and our son, Michelangelo ’91, runs three marketing companies with many private clients. He is in Bulgaria recruiting more individuals for his call center, Smart Systems Inc., because they speak clearer and more complete English than American college grads and they work for less and on European time.”

1969

Composer, arranger and orchestrator Dave Slonaker ’69 met with Senior School jazz band students on Oct. 7 in the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. Slonaker offered advice to students interested in careers in music, jazz and film scoring, and shared a video of The Dave Slonaker Big Band performing It’s Only a Paper Moon from his latest album, Intrada. He also listened to the students perform and offered guidance on ways to fine-tune a performance.
**1971**

Jeff Botkin writes: “I am a professor of pediatrics and the associate vice president for research at the University of Utah. I teach and do research in medical ethics. We have lived in Utah for 25 years with a home in Park City.”

**1973**

Tom Davis writes: “I am still working at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in the medical oncology field. I also continue to work on our 200-year-old farmhouse, and I enjoy playing jazz in the few spare minutes in between.”

**1974**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh presented Steve Halpern with the Emanuel Spector Memorial Award at its annual meeting Aug. 30 at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh. The award, named for a prominent Jewish community leader, recognizes Halpern’s long history of service to the community.

**1977**

Andy Mallinger just moved to Louisville, Colo., and Jamie Mallinger ’82 is in Belmont, Mass. Both are still playing hockey.

**1981**

Tom Kurlander directed a documentary titled 21 Voices: Touched by Alzheimer’s.

**1990**

Brook Swinston writes: “I now work for Master Chemical Corporation, a leading metalworking fluids manufacturer and marketer. I am leading both turnaround and startup efforts as national commercial director, China. My wife Lin (Daisy) works as the children’s ministry director at Abundant Grace International Fellowship in Shanghai, where we have lived with our children, Baya and Hugh, for more than six years now.”

**1991**

Shawn Becket writes: “I accepted an offer from Learfield to join their Clemson Sports properties staff. While I enjoyed my time with Fox Sports managing their portfolio of rights with the Big East Conference, the travel back and forth to NYC took its toll and began to take the fun out of the job. So while I hate to leave Pittsburgh, I am happy to be back managing a property with big-time college football, and my wife and I have always enjoyed the south.”

Christian Borle starred as Marvin in Falsettos which played on Broadway from October to January. In January, Borle began rehearsals for the Broadway production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, in which he will play Willy Wonka.

**1993**

Alison Fragale writes: “I’ve had a chance to catch up with a few SSA classmates recently. I used the SSA app to find out that Greg Guttman and I live only a few blocks from each other in Chicago, and our families got together at a nearby park. I also had a recent visit from Erin (Mancuso) Smith, who was kind enough to fly from Charlotte, N.C., to stay with me for a few days. And, I just ran into Andy Gerber… at a Starbucks in Hawaii. We thought it was a good sign that we were both still recognizable to each other after 20+ years!”

**1994**

Reed Agnew co-created Fox’s Son of Zorn, a live-action/animation hybrid. Most recently, he directed episodes of Silicon Valley, New Girl and Brooklyn Nine-Nine.
1996
Geoffrey Melada and his wife, Natalie, welcomed a son, George Benjamin, on Sept. 16, 2016. The family resides in Washington, D.C.

1996
Dr. Tatum Renee Kutzer graduated from medical school on May 29, 2016. She earned her D.O. from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, and began her residency in psychiatry at SUNY Upstate University Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y., in June 2016.

1998
Jamie (Brush) Scott and her husband, Jim, welcomed a second daughter, Blythe Evans Scott, to their family in July 2016. Blythe joins big sister, Blair, age 2.

1998
David Brand married Kathleen Slavish on Oct. 1, 2016. In attendance were Eddie Watters, Bill Flannery, Blake Stanton ’96, Lacey Cass ’97 and Brendan Lupetin ’96.

1999
Charlie Cheever was featured in the August 2016 issue of Fortune Magazine discussing his new start-up business venture with Y Combinator.

2001
Dave Deal and his wife, Carly, have two sons and live in Columbus, Ohio. The couple got married six years ago in Folley Beach, S.C. At that wedding, Brian Deal ’04 met Christin Lawler from Atlanta, Ga. They were just married in Asheville, N.C., on May 21, 2016. Jed Rosenberg ’04, Geoff Abraham ’04, Dan Stafura ’04, R.J. Casey ’04 and Henry Kountz ’04 attended the wedding.”

2002
In August 2016, celebrity fitness trainer Noah Nieman led a total body workout on the “Workout Wednesdays” segment of Good Morning America.
2005

Jake Klinvex writes: “My wife Susannah and I added children two and three in October – Samson Stewart Klinvex and Mona Whitman Klinvex.”

2005


2006

Jay Mangold and his wife, Bonnie, are the founders and chairs of the Children’s Trust of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. Now at 150 members and growing, the trust engages emerging\n
2006

Camille Davidson and Lance Woods were married March 4, 2016, at Castillo San Cristobal in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. The reception was held at Antiguo Casino de Puerto Rico. Nathalie Lister Conte flew in from Rome, Italy, with her husband, Andrea Conte, in order to celebrate with the couple as a member of the bridal party. Camille is currently a law student at the University of Pittsburgh and her husband Lance Woods is an attorney with Meyer, Unkovic, and Scott. Pictured from left: Andrea Conte, Lance Woods, Nathalie Lister Conte, Camille Davidson Woods

2007/2011

Jordan Foley ’07 and Grant Foley ’11 have recently been promoted within the U.S. Navy. Jordan was promoted to lieutenant and is assigned to the LA Class attack submarine U.S.S. Annapolis. He and his wife Katie Miller ’08 reside in Portland, Maine. Grant was promoted to ensign upon his graduation from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and was accepted to the Naval Flight School located in Pensacola, Fla. Jordan and Grant are the sons of Jeff and Kathy Foley.
leaders in the Pittsburgh region through volunteerism and pooling funds to support talented, locally based researchers with annual research grants. In 2015, the trust awarded a $40,000 grant to Dr. Dennis Simon of the Pediatric Critical Care Department at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC for research into traumatic brain injuries. Jay and Bonnie were among the 12 “Pittsburgh’s Young Philanthropists” recognized by Pittsburgh Magazine in October 2016.

2007

Andrew Kleist began the fourth year of his M.D./Ph.D. program at the Medical College of Wisconsin and was just funded by the NIH for his project titled “Structural Basis of Chemokine Receptor Signaling in Tumor Progression.”

Barbara Amsler writes that her son, Phil Amsler, got married in November.

2008

Through her project, “Something Pretty,” Alexandra Bodnarchuk explored the topic of eating disorders through dance. The performances were held Aug. 18-19, 2016, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater in Pittsburgh.

2009

Alison Mears was selected as one of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest, which supports The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

2010

Named as one of Pittsburgh’s 50 Finest, Jessica Scalo broke local and national records by raising more than $60K for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She was honored as the top fundraiser at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Gala in August 2016.

2011

In May 2016, Chelsea Dickson graduated with honors from the Marianna Brown Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

Rachel Tobin was awarded the Paul R. Pigman Prize at SSA Homecoming 2016 and recognized as one of “Pittsburgh’s Young Philanthropists” by Pittsburgh Magazine in October 2016. She is currently a medical student at Duke University. A recent article on the Duke University website stated: “Two hundred bucks. That’s what Rachel Tobin hoped her handmade jewelry would raise for JDRF following her diagnosis with Type 1 diabetes at age 12. ‘I never dreamed that I would raise more than $85,000,’ she says. Her website, www.rachelscurebydesign.com, recently launched a new online fundraising program that will continue raising money for JDRF and 40 other organizations. For every online purchase at regular price, $10 per piece will be donated to the organization of the buyer’s choice. ‘We like to say that fundraising never looked so good,’ she says. ‘My hero is my mom. She has been such an inspiration to me and has helped me through difficult times in my life. Without her, I do not think that I would have been able to accomplish everything that I have.’”

2012

Denison University graduate Emily Lamm was awarded a president’s medal for academic success, and for creating a legacy at the university. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, tutor for biology and chemistry department and a teaching assistant. Lamm was a two-time winner of the track & field and cross-county coaches association award, four-time Denison Top 50 student-athlete honoree and two-time Ted Barclay Top 5 student-athlete award recipient.

Reggie Mitchell played his final season of NCAA Division I football at the University of Pittsburgh. Mitchell, who earned a degree in marketing last April, is currently enrolled in Pitt’s Katz School of Business, working toward his M.B.A.

Annie Pooley was one of seven Hamilton College women’s lacrosse players named to the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association Division III Academic Honor Roll for her work in the classroom during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Betsy Vuchinich writes: “Katie Natoli and I graduated from Dickinson College. We have been in Chinese class together for eight years.”

Erin Gorse, a pharmacy student at Duquesne University, beat out hundreds of individuals from across the country to compete in “Innovation In Action,” a competition sponsored by Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company. Gorse met her team in Denmark just one day prior to presenting their strategies to better manage diabetes in Shanghai, China. Gorse and her team won the competition, qualifying them to compete in the international finals in November. The group also visited Novo Nordisk international headquarters and met employees and executives.

2014

Dominique DeRubeis writes: “I enjoyed my summer in Medford, Mass.”

Cassie Dickson enrolled in the architecture studies program at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University. She maintained Deans List status in her sophomore year at Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, and participated in the design and context in Europe program in Rome and Paris during summer 2016.

2015

Louis Berry led the Mount Union football team last year with five interceptions, including one in the national title game. Berry’s speed enabled him to win Ohio Athletic Conference titles in the 100-meter dash and 400-relay in the spring. He also earned All-American honors for indoor track and field by placing sixth in the 60-meter dash at the National Championship meet.
Camille Davidson Woods ’06 and her nephew, Brandon Works, at SSA graduation on June 10, 2016. Works currently attends The Ohio State University.

FACULTY

Retired Junior School teachers and staff members, Luanna Jacobs, Bob Fink, Chris Holt, Cheryl Little, Theresa Crisanti, Carol Young, Sarah Eldridge and Janice Brozek, along with spouses and friends, kicked off the summer months by gathering for their fifth annual picnic. The group had a delightful time catching up on news and was pleased to have some additional SSA teachers join the fun.

1970 – 2017

Shady Side Academy alumni pose with the Stanley Cup at Fox Chapel Golf Club. Bill and Tricia Kassling, and their son, David Kassling ’02, hosted the evening.

Kneeling: Eric Hellberg ’05, Gary Morton ’84
Second row: Scott Royston ’09, Joe Weis ’78, Jay Royston ’07, Bill Houston ’83, David Kassling ’02, Sean Casey ’84, Steve McKnight ’70, David Todd ’83
Back row: Chris Rudolph ’17, James Walrath ’75, Michael Thompson ’85, Max Schneider ’04, Andrew Armstrong ’04, Elsa (Hellberg) Armstrong ’10, Lauren Williams ’11
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. 1, 2016.

WALTER CURLEY ’40
Walter J.P. Curley passed away June 2, 2016. He was a graduate of Yale University, Harvard Business School and the University of Oslo, and received an honorary doctorate in law from Trinity College, Dublin. In World War II, Curley, a Marine infantry combat officer, served in the Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guam and North China campaigns, and held decorations from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and The Republic of China. He later worked for the Caltex Oil Co. in India and Italy, eventually becoming a partner in J.H. Whitney & Co., a venture capital firm. He was commissioner of public events and chief of protocol of New York City in the Lindsay administration, and was appointed ambassador to Ireland by President Gerald Ford in 1975. He returned to the private sector to establish his own venture capital investment business in New York in 1977. He also served as ambassador to France under President George H.W. Bush. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Taylor Walton Curley; daughter, Margaret (Carter) Bacon; son, WJ Patrick III (Jane) Curley; and seven grandchildren. He was predeceased by two sons, John and James.

HARRY METZ JR. ’40
Dr. Harry Cameron Metz Jr. passed away June 28, 2016. He graduated from Franklin & Marshall College and the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry. He was captain of the dental corps in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1945-1947. Metz was an orthodontic doctor in Pittsburgh, and cofounder of the Pittsburgh Cleft Palate Diagnostic Group at the Falk Clinic, which later became the University of Pittsburgh Cleft Palate Clinic. He retired as a clinical professor of orthodontics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Elizabeth Metz; children, H. Cameron (Kathleen) Metz and Dr. R. Bruce (Eileen) Metz; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

DAVID BENNETT ’42
David P. Bennett Jr. passed away June 10, 2016. He was a graduate of Williams College and trained as a naval aviator during WWII. He was the founder of Bennett Supply Company, and volunteered for numerous business and civic organizations. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Charlotte Charde Chapple. He is survived by his children, Cary (Richard) Reed, Dave (Christine) Bennett, Becky Bennett, and Andy (Nan) Bennett; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

BIDDLE A. WHIGHAM ’43
Biddle A. Whigham passed away July 3, 2016. He received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University in 1948. Upon graduation, he started a 40-year career with Armstrong Cork Co. as a project engineer, highlighted by a two-year assignment in Germany. He was promoted to director of manufacturing in international operations and spent four years in London then retired as general manager, engineering design in 1988. Upon graduation from SSA, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in both World War II and the Korean War. Remaining in the Naval Reserve, he completed 20 years of Navy service, retiring as LCDR in 1963. At Shady Side Academy he served as a member of both the Alumni Council and the Board of Trustees. He was named “Alumnus of the Year” in 1970 and set up a scholarship in his name in 1996. He is survived by his wife, Patsy Ruth Whigham; son, John Whigham; daughter, Deborah Whigham (Gary Ratway); stepsons, Aubrey Furr and Randy Furr; stepdaughters, Cathey (Joseph) Hargrove and Kelly (James) Greene; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a brother, William Whigham III and his first wife, Patricia Whigham.

BRUCE HILL ’48
Bruce Urton Hill Jr. passed away June 21, 2016. He was a graduate of Lehigh University with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. Hill was chairman of Realty Growth Corporation, a merger of the three oldest real estate companies in Pittsburgh. He is survived by his wife, Jacquelyn Wilson Hill; children, Bruce (Julie) Hill III, Robert (Christina) Hill, Virginia (Steve) Gierl and Nancy (George) Beluk; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

N. BRUCE BROWN JR. ’53
N. Bruce Brown Jr. passed away May 30, 2016. He was a graduate of Duke University and the University of Pittsburgh. He also served in the U.S. Navy as an air intelligence officer for Attack Squadron 153, known as “Blue Tail Flies.” For many years he owned Bruce Browne Oldsmobile in McKeesport, Pa., later becoming Bruce Browne Toyota. After 20 years, he sold his business and became a financial advisor with Stifel Nicolaus & Co., as vice president of investments. He is survived by his wife, Anne Day Browne; daughter, Deborah (James) Walrath; and three grandchildren.
JOHN C.T. CONTE JR. ’53
John “Jay” Conte Jr. passed away Sept. 7, 2016. He worked extensively in the greater Seattle business community for 53 years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Louise; sons, John (Barbara) and Peter (Kathryn); and three grandsons.

STEPHEN B. ELLER ’58
Stephen Barrie Eller passed away Feb. 26, 2016. He attended Bowdoin College of Maine, where he was an All-American soccer player. He served as the mayor of Culloden, Ga., for the past 20 years. Survivors include his wife, Faye Elliott Eller; children, Jonathan Eller, Joseph (Cindy) Eller, David Eller, Michael Eller and Matthew (Anna) Eller; step-children, Richard (Sharon) Koon, Rita (Barry) Walker and Melinda (Tracy) Chesser; several grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

MICHAEL LATIMER ’72
Michael F. Latimer passed away Sept. 6, 2016. He graduated from Allegheny College in 1976, and earned an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago School of Business in 1978. Latimer was an accomplished CPA and CPE, teaching and authoring many financial strategy courses. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Latimer; daughter, Monica Latimer; and brother, William Latimer III ’66.

TAYLOR DUNCAN ’13
Taylor D. Duncan passed away June 6, 2016. She was the daughter of Rosalind Duncan, and sister of Sheyla, Derrick, Ciara, Brennan, Cannon and David. She is also survived by a host of other family members and friends.

FRIENDS & FAMILY
Marvin Brown, father of Patrick Brown ’10
James Bushmen, Facilities staff member, 1997-2014
Lisa Driver, mother of Senior School faculty member Benjamin Driver
Julian Eligator, father of David Eligator ’83
Marlene Fenner, wife of Metz food service employee Fritz Fenner
Irene Halasowski, mother of Facilities staff member Amie Adams
Emily Hayes, grandmother of Senior School faculty member Emily Hayes-Rowan
Mary Hohl, mother of Senior School faculty member Dana Hardy-Bingham and grandmother of Jack Bingham ’27
Blake Johns, son of Facilities staff member Patti Huston
Christopher Keim, father of CJ Keim ’16 and stepfather of Amanda Murphy ’14
James Keller, father of Junior School faculty member Jennifer Keller
James E. Lee, father of Steve Lee ’77
Walter Schwartz, father of Mark Schwartz ’71
Tobias Stern, son of Junior School faculty member Dan Stern
Lucy Tommarello, mother of Junior School faculty member Fran Gardiner

Note: All obituaries appearing in Shady Side Academy Magazine are edited to a consistent size and format.
In February 1922, trustees, teachers, parents and students broke ground in Fox Chapel on Shady Side Academy’s new “country school” campus (now the Senior School). By May 1922, the cornerstone of Rowe Hall was laid and construction was underway on the original buildings that framed the Quad: Rowe Hall, Ellsworth House (now Hunt Hall), Morewood House, a gymnasium (now Bayard House) and a dining hall.

Generous gifts helped to fund the buildings, and when the loyal John R. McCune (Class of 1888) passed away in 1923, his family gave the McCune Dining Hall as a memorial to him.

The original buildings were Pennsylvania Georgian Colonial-style architecture, designed by alumnus Edward Purcell Mellon (Class of 1894), the architect nephew of Andrew W. and Richard B. Mellon.

Interestingly, the main inspiration for the look of McCune Dining Hall was Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Independence Hall is also designed in the Georgian style, and was constructed between 1732-1748 by Edmund Woolley. A quick glance at the two buildings shows the striking similarities.

If you have any additional information on the history of McCune Dining Hall, please contact Lindsay Kovach at lkovach@shadysideacademy.org

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