SSA ATHLETICS
For student-athletes, it’s a win-win experience
Shady Side Academy Magazine is published twice a year for Shady Side Academy alumni, parents and friends. Letters to the editor should be sent to Lindsay Kovach, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Address corrections should be sent to the Alumni & Development Office, Shady Side Academy, 423 Fox Chapel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

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Photo: The girls prep ice hockey team defeated Armstrong U-19 on Jan. 9, 2019, with a final score of 4-2.
DEAR SHADY SIDE ACADEMY COMMUNITY:

Pittsburgh is a tough town. Modern-day Pittsburgh was built on steel, and although 21st-century Pittsburgh has reinvented itself as a high-tech town, we have never forgotten our roots. Steely resolve but also tender care and outreach is what we witnessed here in Pittsburgh after the horrific shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in October. We saw much the same on all of our campuses here at Shady Side.

I have long felt that one can best understand the true character of an individual or group of individuals in times of stress and need, and what we saw in Pittsburgh and here at Shady Side that week was nothing short of beautiful. Everywhere we saw love, compassion and the complete rejection of hate and intolerance. At school we had assemblies in which students and adults spoke in passionate and meaningful voices, advisory groups where there were important conversations about acceptance, and outward signals of love and support.

Schools have many different jobs to perform in our complicated society. Of course, we primarily educate students in the various academic disciplines throughout their PK-12 experience here. What we also do is help mold good citizens. This notion can seem somewhat outdated, but it has never been more important. Students need a solid understanding about the world around them, as well as grounding in all of our Guiding Principles, but in this case especially Respect and Kindness. We help students move through childhood and young adulthood based on these principles in the hopes that they will carry them for the rest of their lives. Everything we have seen indicates that the Shady Side Academy community as a whole is living up to that mission.

Sincerely,

Amy B. Nixon
Interim Academy President
New Fitness Center Opens on Senior School Campus

On Dec. 18, Shady Side Academy celebrated the opening of a new Fitness Center on the Senior School campus. The 3,500-square-foot facility is part of SSA’s Athletic Department and housed on the ground floor of the Mellon Gymnasium building.

The Fitness Center features new and updated cardio equipment, speed and agility equipment, athletic performance-enhancing equipment, and athletic training and rehabilitation equipment, as well as flat-screen TVs, surround-sound stereo and WiFi. (See full equipment list below.) The Fitness Center is staffed and open for walk-in use by Senior School students from 2:30-6 p.m. on school days and 2:30-4:30 p.m. on weekends, or at other times by appointment with a coach or trainer. Senior and Middle School athletic teams may use the facility with their coaches during scheduled practice times. Strength and Conditioning Coordinator Chuck DiNardo ’00, whose office is adjacent to the Fitness Center, will work with coaches and student-athletes to develop customized workout plans. The Fitness Center is also open for use by SSA faculty and staff from 5 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

The new facility is a significant upgrade to the old weight room, known as “The Pit” – a 2,400-square-foot room in the basement of the gym with limited equipment.

The Fitness Center was created through a renovation of the former wrestling room by SSA’s Facilities Department. The renovation included new rubber flooring, glass doors, an acoustic suspended ceiling, a new HVAC system, dimmable LED lighting with occupancy sensors, security cameras, access-controlled entrance via fob and, of course, the equipment.

The cost of the renovation and equipment was approximately $200,000, which is being funded in part by donations from members of the SSA community. Contact Director of Alumni & Development Dr. Allison Saras at 412-968-3077 or asaras@shadysideacademy.org for more information or if you are interested in supporting the project.

**FIND CENTER EQUIPMENT**

**New Fitness Equipment**

- 6 Hammer Strength HD Elite Custom Power Racks
- 3 LifeFitness Treadmills
- 3 LifeFitness Upright Bikes
- 2 LifeFitness Ellipticals
- 3 Hammer Strength Glute-Ham Trainers
- Troy Dumbbells
- SKLZ Speed and Agility Training Equipment

**New Athletic Training & Rehabilitation Equipment**

- Shuttle MVP Rehab Trainer
- Medco Rebounder
- Woodway Treadmill
- Gronk Fit Stretch Trainer
- Theraband Station
- Med Balls
- BOSU/Half BOSU Balance Equipment

**Equipment Relocated From “The Pit”**

- Hammer Strength Jammer Press
- Strive Leg Press
- Strive Leg Extension
- Strive Multi-Function Trainer

**Technology**

- Two 75” Vizio Flat-Screen Televisions
- Surround-Sound Stereo System
- Wireless Internet
Students Win Second Straight Congressional App Challenge

A team of Senior School students won the Congressional App Challenge for Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District for the second straight year. Sophomores Alexander Biglan, Nick Zana and Jason Vasko won the 2018 competition for creating an app that consolidates weather information to help with rocket launches. The app provides current air conditions and the necessary information to adjust launch angles, engine configuration and rocket size to improve the launch. On behalf of his app team, Zana attended an awards reception hosted by U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle (PA-14) on Nov. 19 at the University of Pittsburgh.

Anna Sekine Named Director of SSA Farms

Shady Side Academy appointed Anna Sekine as director of SSA farms, effective Oct. 22. In her full-time role, Sekine will oversee the operations, maintenance, educational activities, and ongoing improvement and expansion of the SSA Farm program on all four Shady Side campuses; work collaboratively with faculty and staff to further integrate the farm into the PK-12 curriculum and link it with Academy events and programs; and manage the weekly Fox Chapel Farmers Market on the Senior School campus each summer and fall. She’ll supervise a team of student interns and volunteers in managing the farm and farmers market.

Sekine comes to SSA after three years at Chatham University’s Eden Hall Farm. There she served as a farm production apprentice and graduate teaching assistant from 2015-2017 while pursuing her M.A. in food studies at Chatham. Upon receiving her master’s degree in August 2017, she was promoted to assistant operations manager of Eden Hall Farm. Sekine was involved in all aspects of managing and maintaining Eden Hall’s organic, year-round vegetable farm, which includes a greenhouse, three high tunnels and 30 acres of farmland. During the past year, she also served as a project assistant for the Center for Regional Agriculture, Food and Transformation (CRAFT) in Pittsburgh. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, she was an educator, serving as a Title I interventionist and K-12 substitute teacher in Lafayette, Ind. She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Indiana University in Bloomington.

“The collaborative and interactive nature of the school and community is what drew me in initially. There is so much potential for the program – whether it be creating a farm-to-table dinner series, allocating community garden spaces for SSA families, or discussing historical or cultural connections to food through the culinary world. My goal is to not only provide hands-on experiential curricula for students, but also to foster an environment that encourages students to be reflective, ask questions and, yes, get a little dirt on their hands,” said Sekine.

Cohen and History Prizes Awarded

Prizes were awarded to four Senior School students on Sept. 7 for their achievements in the 2017-2018 academic 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 Cayden Leavy, junior Zoe Conomikes and senior Eliseo Salazar. The Instructor’s Prize in American History is a book prize awarded to the student who completed 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 Hank Lin.

SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM WINS NSDA LEADING CHAPTER AWARD

The Senior School Speech and Debate Team was awarded the 2017-2018 Leading Chapter Award for the Pittsburgh District by the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA). This coveted honor is the highest recognition a chapter can earn from the NSDA. SSA won the Leading Chapter Award one other time in 2012-2013. The SSA team is led by faculty coaches Mary Krauland, Linda McDonald and Jacki Weaver.
Country Day School Holiday Show
On Dec. 20, Country Day School third grade students were featured in starring roles in the annual Holiday Show, called Our KIND of Holiday. CDS music teacher Tami Fire wrote a show for the students inspired by one of our Guiding Principles, Kindness. Third grade students are the featured performers in every holiday show, with dramatic parts as well as musical solos, while students in other grades shared holiday songs from around the world.

Senior School Fall Play: Oedipus Rex
The Senior School staged four performances of Oedipus Rex as its fall student drama on Nov. 1-4. The cast and crew consisted of nearly 30 students. Junior Clay Patterson played the title role of Oedipus, faculty member Dana Hardy-Bingham directed the production, and senior Ariel Rockman was assistant director.

Middle School Fall Play: Young Sherlock
The Middle School presented the fall play Young Sherlock for parents and guests on Nov. 9. The cast and crew included more than 20 students in grades 6-8, and was directed by English teacher Camille MacRae, and produced by music teacher Randy Broker and art teacher Stefanie Vorrasi.

Junior School Gathering of Warmth and Light
On Dec. 21, the Junior School community came together to celebrate the holiday season at A Gathering of Warmth and Light. Sitting on the floor of the gymnasium in a circle, students led a community sing-a-long by candlelight. Support staff including cafeteria workers, office staff and the security guard were invited to light candles in the center of the sing-a-long.
SSA President, Administrators Visit Partners in China

In late October, Interim Academy President Amy Nixon, Director of Enrollment Management Katie Mihm ‘83 and Director of Alumni and Development Dr. Allison Saras spent a week in China, visiting several schools and talking to Chinese families about American education, including the value of a Shady Side Academy education. The trip was coordinated by SSA’s partners in China, the China-US Leading Schools Association (CULSA).

The Shady Side delegation visited two cities – Beijing and Changsha. In Beijing, Nixon and Mihm participated in a forum at Kaiwen Academy, where the two schools’ programs and approaches were compared and discussed. (Kaiwen Academy is a high school exchange partner with SSA; in January, seven Kaiwen students visited SSA and were hosted by Senior School students who traveled to China last spring.) A Q&A session followed the forum, and families interested in Shady Side had the opportunity to interview for admission.

Saras and Nixon hosted a dinner for SSA’s current Chinese parents. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with them about initiatives at Shady Side and their children, and to hear suggestions of how SSA can continue to support Chinese families despite the distance. SSA currently enrolls 16 boarding students from China.

Shady Side also visited another exchange partner, Beijing No. 4 High School, and the high school affiliated with the University of International Business and Economics, where an agreement was signed to aid their students in attending SSA’s summer programs.

On the final day of the trip, Nixon and Mihm traveled to the city of Changsha to meet with a middle school, Xiangyi Lixin Experimental School, and an elementary school, Gaoxin Bocai School. The goal was to increase SSA’s exposure and name recognition to schools outside of Beijing and to share thoughts and ideas about education in both schools and countries.

Five Senior School Students Attend World Affairs Institute

On Nov. 30, seniors Walter Navid, Leo Liu and Matteo Secomandi and juniors Albert Hoe and Giridhar Viswanathan joined Senior School History Department Chair Kyle Smith in attending the 48th 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. The topic for this year’s institute was “Exploring the New Space Age” and included a guided tour of the new Destination Moon exhibit, which includes artifacts from SSA alum Jay Apt ‘67.
NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shady Side Academy named five new members to the SSA Board of Trustees for the 2018-2019 school year. Robert Glimcher is a current parent and president of Glimcher Group, Inc. Dr. Joseph Kelley is a past parent and works as a gynecologic oncologist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Mollie Hanna Lang ’99 is a current parent, president of the SSA Alumni Council and a community leader and volunteer. Sara Scaife is a current parent and actively involved in numerous nonprofits throughout the community. Jeffrey Todd ’85 is a current parent and partner at Guyasuta Investment Advisors.

Diversity Leadership Conference

Six Senior School students and five faculty members attended the National Association of Independent Schools’ (NAIS) 25th annual Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) and People of Color Conference (PoCC) in Nashville, Tenn., from Nov. 28-Dec. 1. This year’s conferences, which run concurrently, focused on exploring “equitable schools and inclusive communities: harmony, discord and the notes in between.” Among the 1,600 students in attendance were SSA seniors Lucie Green and Daeja Sanders, and sophomores Gabi Jegasothy, Charlotte McDaniel, Eliyah Roberts and Paige Shea. The students were accompanied by faculty members Pam Boehm, Karen DiFiore, Tami Fire and Creighton Runnette, and Director of Equity, Inclusion and Community Relations Lillian Grate.

Junior Named to Board of Beckwith Institute

Junior Nicole Caputo was named to a two-year term as a student member of the board of the Beckwith Institute, a health care institute dedicated to improving patient care. She joins senior Djibril Branche on the board. Shady Side alumnus and trustee emeritus G. Nicholas Beckwith III ’63 is the co-founder of the Beckwith Institute along with his wife, Dottie.

Former Israeli Spy Speaks at Senior School

Former Israeli spy Avner Avraham spoke at Senior School assembly on Oct. 19. Avraham was a Mossad agent for 28 years, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel and serving as an intelligence advisor to a succession of Israeli prime ministers. Today, Avraham is the world’s premier expert in operations for spy museums and serves as a consultant for spy movies, including Operation Finale. Avraham spoke to the students about his career, sharing some “insider tips” about spy life and movie consulting. He also shared slides of some of the artifacts he collected, and how they were used to make the movie as accurate as possible.
Artificial Intelligence Panel Draws 200 Attendees

On Oct. 9, Shady Side Academy hosted the community event The Impact of Artificial Intelligence in Pittsburgh and Beyond, featuring a panel of experts exploring the promise of artificial intelligence and how it is shaping business, education and economics in Pittsburgh and around the world. Nearly 200 guests attended the event, which was moderated by author and Science Magazine correspondent Ann Gibbons Scherlis, who is also an SSA trustee and past parent. The panelists included several members of the Shady Side Academy community working in the AI field: current parent Dr. Tuomas Sandholm, professor of computer science, Carnegie Mellon University; alumnus Dr. Shiv Rao ’97, executive vice president, UPMC Enterprises; alumnus and current parent Eben Adams ’89, vice president, growth and partnerships, LegalSifter; and Dr. Katerina Fragkiadaki, assistant professor of machine learning, Carnegie Mellon University.

SSA Collaborates with Leading Anxiety Expert

This fall, SSA collaborated with Dr. Suniya Luthar, a nationally recognized expert on anxiety in youth in high-achieving schools, to conduct an assessment of SSA students. Dr. Luthar presented her preliminary findings and recommendations specific to the SSA community, based on an anonymous online survey of Senior School students, to faculty, students and parents on Nov. 26-27.

Senior School Pre-Med Club Observes Robotic Surgery

On Nov. 5, more than 20 students in the Senior School Pre-Med Club traveled to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital to observe SSA parent Dr. Inderpal Sarkaria coordinate a team of surgeons and nurses in completing a robotic-assisted lobectomy (removal of a portion of the lung). Students also had the opportunity to test their robotic surgery skills on training simulators and learned a lot about pulmonary anatomy by examining the removed lung.
SSA Responds to Tree of Life Tragedy

The tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday, Oct. 27, impacted the Shady Side Academy community deeply. In the aftermath, faculty, staff and students at all four divisions came together to support each other and respond in age-appropriate ways.

Immediately following the tragedy, the school heads, counselors and Interim Academy President Amy Nixon focused on ensuring students and faculty were fully supported, communicating with parents and faculty in each division to share support resources. On Monday, each campus provided students with quiet times for reflection and prayer, and spaces for age-appropriate discussion and conversation.

The Senior School held a memorial assembly for the Tree of Life victims on Oct. 31. Teachers and students, some of whom knew victims personally, spoke about each victim’s life and lit a candle in their honor, and the Chamber Choir performed. A dress-down day was also held to benefit the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh’s Victims of Terror Fund. On Dec. 7, the Cabaret Club presented A Night of Healing to bring the SSA community together to show love, unity and hope. The benefit concert of songs and poetry raised $505 for the Tree of Life synagogue.

The Middle School reflected on the Tree of Life tragedy at an assembly, talking about ways everyone can help build tolerance and contribute to a healthy community. In advisory groups, students wrote promises on green cards that were posted on a mural in the hallway leading to the cafeteria. Each day, as students walk by the “Tree of Promises,” they can remember the ways they promised to make a difference in the world.

Together, the Senior School Social Justice class and Middle School students collected money for the University of Pittsburgh’s Child Development Center to purchase books on diversity and tolerance for area schools. Junior School students worked in Shady Side Way Teams at an assembly to create a project that brought the community together. School Head Ellen McConnell Sanderson spoke about coming together to provide light in times of darkness, and students wrote messages of peace, love and happiness on ribbons in their team colors. The ribbons were tied to the fence outside, surrounding a heart, to show strength, happiness and love.

Country Day School students discussed forgiveness at assembly the week after the tragedy. A large heart was broken into five pieces, and on the back of each was a step toward forgiveness: acknowledge, experience, communicate, forgive and release. The CDS faculty also sent children’s books about inclusion and solidarity to Community Day School the week of Hanukkah.

Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Anjali Sachdeva

The Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series brought local author Anjali Sachdeva to the Senior School campus on Oct. 22. Sachdeva spoke with seniors in Mr. Nathan Hogan’s Fiction Workshop class, spoke to the student body at assembly, and met with interested student writers over lunch.

Anjali Sachdeva’s fiction has appeared in The Iowa Review, Gulf Coast, Yale Review, Alaska Quarterly Review, The Literary Review and Best American Nonrequired Reading. Her first book, All the Names They Used for God, was published in 2018 and is a collection of stories that explores the mysterious, often dangerous forces that shape our lives – from censorship and terrorism to technology and online dating. Sachdeva is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and has taught writing at the University of Iowa, Augustana College, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. She also worked for six years at the Creative Nonfiction Foundation, where she was director of educational programs.

The Richard F. Gregory Visiting Writers Series is named in memory of the late Richard F. “Dick” Gregory, who taught English at Shady Side for 36 years (1953-1989) and passed away in 2014. The idea for the series came from an anonymous donor, who provided initial funding in the hope that others who were also impacted by Gregory will contribute to keep his memory alive.

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Middle School Global Action Day

Middle School students devoted an entire school day to service learning on the sixth annual Global Action Day, held Dec. 13. Approximately 210 students in grades 6-8 spent the day learning about complex social issues and engaging in hands-on service activities. The theme this year was health, with each grade focusing on a particular aspect of this larger topic and partnering with a different nonprofit organization. Sixth graders partnered with Water for South Sudan, discussing issues surrounding access to clean water. The seventh grade focused on air quality, partnering with the local nonprofit Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP). Eighth graders partnered with 412 Food Rescue, exploring the issues of food access and waste. The goal of Global Action Day is to raise awareness and educate students about key issues while empowering them to impact change in their local community. The annual service day was organized by social studies teacher Molly Braver ’94 in cooperation with Interim School Head Brian Johnston and the Middle School faculty.

Junior School Second Grade Food Drive

The second grade collected a record-setting total of nearly 3,500 non-perishable food items in the annual Food Drive, which ran from Oct. 29-Nov. 15. On Nov. 19, the class delivered the busload of donations to the food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, in time to be distributed to needy families for Thanksgiving. The Junior School has partnered with the church on the annual food drive for more than 20 years.

Junior School Third Grade Toy Drive

As part of an annual class service project, Junior School third graders spearheaded a two-week drive, collecting a total of 455 new and gently used kids’ toys and books to be donated to the Play it Forward Pittsburgh Toy Drive. The students delivered the donations to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and spent the morning volunteering with Play It Forward Pittsburgh by sorting and organizing donated items. The drive was done in conjunction with The Little Fox – Toby’s Foundation, which is run by Junior School third grade teacher Dan Stern and his wife, Katie.
On Nov. 26, Interim Academy President Amy Nixon announced the permanent appointment of Dr. Jennifer Asmonga as the head of Shady Side Academy Country Day School. Dr. Asmonga has been serving as the interim head of Country Day since July 1, 2018.

As head of school, Dr. Asmonga is responsible for the educational experience of 118 Country Day students in grades PK-5 and oversees approximately 25 faculty and staff members.

“Since taking over as interim head of Country Day School, Dr. Asmonga has moved into the leadership role as seamlessly as imaginable and has gained the support of faculty and parents alike,” said Nixon. “Her professional experiences in a number of elementary school settings give her a wealth of understanding about the needs of young children socially, emotionally and academically. She has a clarity of thought that is particularly well-balanced with the empathy and kindness that have been the hallmarks of Country Day for so very long. In a school that has undergone transitions over the last few years, Dr. Asmonga has proven herself a superb listener and a great advocate for students and teachers. She is gentle but firm, clear and kind. She is a leader who understands the nuances of both people and institutions and is mindful of competing needs and interests, but is not afraid to lead. We are enormously fortunate to have her at this moment in time.”

“From the moment I assumed the role as interim head of school, the warmth of the Country Day School community has been there to greet me each day,” said Dr. Asmonga. “When I walk around the beautiful campus, the school’s distinguished history is ever present in my mind. It is an honor to become a more permanent member of the Country Day community, and I am very hopeful as I think about its future.”

Dr. Asmonga joined Shady Side in 2009 and has served in a variety of roles over the years. She was director of Camp Ren, the middle school summer day camp, from 2009-2011. At the Junior School, she served as a kindergarten long-term substitute before joining the faculty full-time as a fifth-grade teacher in 2011-2012 and as a learning specialist from 2012-2018. Prior to Shady Side, Dr. Asmonga was a special education teacher for grades 5-7 at Propel Montour Charter School from 2007-2009 and a fifth-grade teacher at the Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter School in 2006-2007. She holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary and special education from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, a master’s degree in social and comparative analysis in education from the University of Pittsburgh, and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Johns Hopkins University.
Shady Side Academy announced the appointment of alumnus Bartley P. "Bart" Griffi th Jr. ‘93 as the next president of the Academy, effective July 1, 2019. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved Griffi th’s appointment in a vote on Sept. 21. Griffi th will succeed Thomas Cangiano, who concluded his eight-year term as president in July 2018, and Amy Nixon, the head of SSA’s Middle School who is serving as interim president for the 2018-2019 school year.

“Bart was the leading candidate at every stage of the presidential search process,” said Jonathan Kamin ’91, chair of the Board of Trustees. “We were impressed by his thoughtfulness, integrity, track record of innovation, ability to answer tough questions, and, most of all, by his heart. In addition, as an alumnus and long-term member of the Academy’s Board of Visitors, Bart has the incredible intangible attribute of a deep love of Shady Side Academy and Pittsburgh.”

“I am excited to be returning home to the Shady Side community at this particular moment, with all the possibilities it presents,” said Griffi th. “The opportunity to help steer my alma mater into its promising future is not only a tremendous honor and responsibility, but it’s also a dream come true. Shady Side continues to embrace its role as a leading institution in our great, evolving city. It has the unique capacity to help shape and inspire Pittsburgh’s continued transformation and to prepare our young people for the remarkable future it signals.”

Griffi th has been the assistant head of Gilman School, an independent K-12 day school enrolling 1,000 boys in Baltimore, Md., since 2015. There, he oversees academic affairs, assists with the overall operations of the school, and works closely with the headmaster, board of trustees and senior leadership team to fulfill the school’s mission in the areas of strategic planning, institutional advancement, board engagement, enrollment and financial aid, program innovation, professional development, recruitment and hiring, and global experience. Griffi th established Gilman’s 2018 Strategic Plan as part of a six-member Board Strategic Planning Committee and chaired their 2018 Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS) self-study and accreditation.

Griffi th is a dean and faculty member of the Penn Independent School Teaching Residency, providing programmatic leadership for a collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education and 10 of the country’s leading independent day schools, including Gilman. The program supports early-career educators through theory and practice, enabling them to receive a master’s degree in education from Penn, complete a two-year fellowship at a partner school, and develop as future program leaders in independent schools. He is also a member of the advisory board of The Glasgow Group, which provides professional development for educators in the areas of leadership, cultural competency and strategic initiatives.

Previously, Griffi th held a variety of positions over 15 years at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Ga., including K-12 English Department chair, dean of students, and varsity football and girls’ lacrosse coach. From 2013 to 2015, he designed and directed Atlanta 2.0: The Urban Design Fellowship, a three-week summer collaborative between Westminster and the Lovett School that challenged students to consider the impact of land use, public space and urban design on Atlanta’s community and economy. The program won a Stephen P. Robinson Collaboration Grant from the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) in 2015.
Griffith was named a STAR Teacher by the Professional Association for Georgia Educators in 2000, received a Merrill Award for Teaching Excellence from the Westminster Schools in 2002, named Assistant Lacrosse Coach of the Year by the Georgia High School Association in 2004, and recognized by the Stanford University Teacher Tribute Initiative for “Excellence in Teaching” in 2011. The students at Westminster dedicated the school’s yearbook to him in 2004.

Griffith holds a bachelor’s degree in English and history from Bucknell University, where he played football, a master’s degree in teaching of English from Columbia University and a master’s degree in English from Middlebury College, with coursework at Lincoln College, Oxford University (U.K.).

Griffith is a native of the Pittsburgh area, having grown up in Fox Chapel, and attended Shady Side Academy for grades 6-12, graduating in 1993. During his time at Shady Side, he was varsity football captain, an editor of the Shady Side News and recipient of the President’s Prize. As an alumnus, he has been a member of the SSA Board of Visitors since 2007. He and his wife, Danica, have two children: a 9-year-old daughter, Colette, and a 7-year-old son, Cannon.

The search for Shady Side Academy’s next president began in November 2017, when Cangiano announced his intention to depart SSA at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. The Board of Trustees then convened a Search Committee of 16 trustees, co-chaired by alumni Jeffrey McDaniel ’88 and Robert Mullin ’93, and selected the consulting firm of Research Group 175 (RG175) to launch a comprehensive national and international search. The Search Committee and RG175 reviewed the credentials of more than 200 applicants, eventually narrowing the field to 20, then to six, then to three, before ultimately choosing Griffith.

Griffith and his family will reside at Eastover, beginning in late June.
A full weekend of activities kicked off Friday morning with a Senior School community assembly in the Richard E. Rauh Theater in the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. Alumni Council President and current parent Mollie Hanna Lang ’99 enthusiastically led the assembly that featured a student trivia game and reflections from Doug Campbell ’68 and Tom Vilsack ’68. A friendship that has spanned almost their entire lives, Campbell and Vilsack spoke to the students about the importance of learning from failure, persevering through challenging times, and pursuing a career that you are passionate about. After the assembly, alumni visited with faculty, had lunch in McCune Dining Hall and attended classes throughout the day. In the afternoon, some members of the Class of 1968 visited the Junior School to meet their fourth grade pen pals, with whom they had been corresponding for a few months. The program was started last year as a way to connect current students with alumni from across the country.

Hundreds of alumni and their families returned to Shady Side on Sept. 28-29 to renew friendships, create lifelong memories and celebrate their role as members of the SSA alumni community. A timeless tradition, Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2018 was an opportunity for alumni, faculty, parents and students to come together and show their Shady Side pride. Reunion classes honored this year were those ending in 3s and 8s, with the Class of 1968 celebrating its milestone 50th reunion and the Class of 1993 celebrating its 25th reunion.
On Friday evening, a Memorial Service was held to honor the lives of SSA community members who passed away during the past year. The Rev. Tom Johnson Jr. ’73 presided over the service, which included a Senior School Chamber Choir performance. Afterward, attendees made their way over to the newly-constructed McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation for the Alumni & Faculty Mixer. One of the favorite events of the weekend, the mixer provides an opportunity for faculty and alumni to reconnect over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, and a time to recognize the recipients of SSA’s annual alumni awards. Interim Academy President Amy Nixon gave a brief welcome and then presented the Paul R. Pigman ’52 Prize to Alison Mears ’09, who humbly expressed her gratitude for the continued guidance and support of her family and the SSA community. Mears is the owner and an instructor at Steel Revolution and coaches field hockey and lacrosse at SSA. Directly following, Nixon and Board Chair Jon Kamin ’91 announced the two recipients of the Robert E. Walker Award, Jeff McDaniel ’88 and Rob Mullin ’93. McDaniel, who was celebrating his 30th reunion, is a current parent and trustee who serves as vice chair of the Community Life Committee and co-chaired the Presidential Search Committee. In addition to his involvement at SSA, McDaniel works as an executive-in-residence at Innovation Works, Inc., and currently serves on the board of Manchester Bidwell Corporation, FAME, Green Building Alliance and several local technology companies. Mullin, who was celebrating his 25th reunion, is a current parent and trustee who serves as co-chair of the Campaign for Shady Side, vice chair of the Finance Committee and co-chaired the Presidential Search Committee. He is the founder and managing member of Penrose Advisors. Both recipients gave inspiring, heartfelt acceptance speeches that reminded all who were gathered the importance of being a member of the SSA community. The evening concluded as the faculty led the crowd in the singing of the alma mater.
Saturday morning kicked off bright and early with plenty to see and do. Unfortunately, the annual Al Stewart Memorial Shady Stride was canceled due to adverse cross-country course conditions resulting from the week’s rainy weather. But, as the sunshine spread across the Senior School campus, the Board of Visitors gathered in Scott Commons for its first meeting of the year. Meanwhile, alumni and their families met at the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation to participate in campus tours led by Senior School student ambassadors Rose Genstein ’20, Ariana Goitz ’19, Shreya Gulati ’19 and Emmie Lau ’19.

The Blue & Gold Fund Community Tailgate offered a space to share a meal and recall memories with former classmates and faculty. Alums with young children and grandchildren, along with Country Day and Junior School families, enjoyed the Kids Carnival, which featured a petting zoo, games, inflatables, a balloon artist and face painter.

The varsity athletic games are always one of the biggest attractions of Homecoming weekend. Girls field hockey defeated Western Reserve Academy, 3-2, girls soccer defeated Freeport, 3-2, boys soccer fell to Seton LaSalle, 0-2, and the football team defeated Apollo Ridge, 63-21. During halftime of the football game, athletic team captains from the reunion classes were recognized on the field.

To conclude the fun-filled weekend, individual class reunion celebrations were held at various venues around Pittsburgh.

Classes ending in 4s and 9s will be celebrating their reunions in 2019. If you are interested in helping to coordinate your class reunion for next year, please contact Lisa Page at 412-447-2252 or lpage@shadysideacademy.org.
HOMECOMING 2018

CLASS CAPTAINS

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8
9 10 11

1 1953 4 1958 7 1968
2 1978 5 1983 8 1988
4 1978 5 1983 6 1988
7 1993 8 1998
9 2003 10 2008 11 2013
1. Class of 1953 — Sam Robb and John Flannery
2. Class of 1958 — Jim Wechsler
3. Class of 1968 — Don Stefl and Joe Tritschler
5. Class of 1983 — David Todd and David Eddy
6. Class of 1988 — Matt Streiff, Michael Zappone, Jeff McDaniel
7. Class of 1993 — Jeremy Smerd, Lauren (Shuman) Floyd, Rob Mullin, Jennifer (Daily) Gress, Bart Griffith, Kristen Pfirrmann
8. Class of 1998 — Rick Siger, Brannon Williams, Angela (Giorgianni) Adams, Ernie Hartner, Andres Ross, Mike Cindrich, Susie (Sauers) Skowronska, Ganesh Muthappan, Brad Harrison, Ed Levicoff
11. Class of 2013 — First Row: Holly Stewart, Maclean Calihan, Samantha Goodman, Georgia Scott, Rebecca Roman, Maggie Leech
   Second Row: Josh Loper, Cody Boyer, Stephanie Betts, Aaron Horne, Teddy Ross, Destin Groff, Ali Sarner, Alex Smith
   Back Row (L to R): John Clever, Jim Roberts, Bill Phillips, James Guttman, Don Stefl, Larry Gilberti, Gregg Hillman, Andy Hanson, Doug Campbell, Ted Cmarada
13. Class of 1993 — Front (L to R): Rahul Singh, Neal Harrison
   Middle Row (L to R): Dan Olds, Kristen Pfirrmann, Bradley Cohen, Allison (Bellows) Tiernan, Andy Gerber, Bart Griffith, Jeremy Smerd, Lauren (Shuman) Floyd
   Back Row (L to R): Jeff Green, Andy Sphar, Tom Henny, Bart Brush, Greg Guttman, Elizabeth Patterson, Graham Westerberg, Chris Williams, Jennifer (Daily) Gress, Rob Mullin
14. Class of 2013 — Front (L to R, starting in the center): Stephanie Betts, Samantha Goodman, Destin Groff, Maggie Leech, Rebecca Roman, Alex Smith, Holly Stewart
   Back Row (L to R): Shivum Bharill, Georgia Scott, Parker Bennett, Coleman Strohm, Justin Berk, Brian Hanlon, Aaron Horne, Cody Boyer, John Bodkin, Maclean Calihan, Jack Schwalter, Josh Loper, Noah Sprock, Ali Sarner, Dani Plung

To see more reunion photos, visit www.shadysideacademy.org/homecoming
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. During summer 2018, eight SSA students were awarded Parkin Fellowships. To read the Parkin Fellows travel blogs, visit www.shadysideacademy.org/parkin.

Here is a glimpse into each fellow’s journey via excerpts from their individual blog posts:
AKSHAY AMESUR ’20 traveled to Jaipur, India, to volunteer with the Jaipur Foot Organization, which provides medical aid and social and vocational rehabilitation to poverty-stricken, disabled patients. He also taught public speaking and presentation skills to students in Vidyawadi and Sumerpur.

Upon my arrival at the Jaipur Foot Organization, I was surprised at how simple and modest the headquarters were, despite the institution’s renowned status. Everything was done as frugally as possible, so as to increase the efficiency of spending in order to create the most significant impact possible. Despite Jaipur’s scorching summer temperatures, the center had no central air conditioning system, but rather used funds to help feed and shelter their patients who had traveled from far off lands and could not afford accommodations in the touristy city. The organization’s tireless work ethic and altruistic procedures are reflected not only in the simplicity of the center itself but also in the way its staff treats the patients themselves. Many of the individuals who actually fit and sculpt the Jaipur Limb appliances are beneficiaries of the institution’s treatment themselves, and their powerful example of tenacity and selflessness not only inspire average people around the world but also help to reshape the worldview of the patients themselves. By seeing someone like themselves who has risen above their circumstances to create a life of meaning and impact, the patients are given hope to live in self-improvement rather than self-pity. Often times, in all of our lives, we tend to take our “awful” situations and make them worse by simply pitying ourselves rather than being constructive, but these patients and staff, with their limitless kindness, optimism and solidarity with one another, truly showed me what was possible when we see the silver lining.

ARIANA GOITZ ’19 taught basketball at the Allen V.R. Stanley Secondary School in Uganda. By learning the plays and fundamentals, the students were able to play a more organized game.

Each day, I woke up at 7:30 a.m., ate breakfast then prepared my plan and got set up before teaching basketball to my first group at 10 a.m. The students were well awake by 4 a.m. for their morning prep to get ready for the day. This includes taking a shower, putting on their school uniform, studying for their classes, and eating breakfast at 6 a.m. before starting class at 7 a.m. The older students have class until 10 a.m. then play sports for 2 hours, whereas the younger students have classes until noon. At noon, I would head to lunch with the students which was outside under a pavilion looking out over the beautiful and luscious valley. Lunch was typically rice, plantains and sometimes a small amount of beef which was made in three huge cooking pots over an open fire and stirred with a 3-foot wooden spoon. From 1-3 p.m., I worked with the younger group while the older students went to class. Many of the younger students would often stay at the court and the older students would come after classes ended to work on the skills I had taught that day. This was very rewarding to see the immediate impact of my teaching on their desire for learning basketball. The students became so interested and enthusiastic about basketball that even on the days when it rained, they were determined to not let it stop them.

SANJNA NARAYAN ’20 traveled to the Philippines to introduce a method of tutoring involving chatbots to high school students and to work with the Project Pearls foundation to assist in the care of underprivileged children.

For Project Pearls, I would head out to Tondo from roughly 6 a.m. to noon, almost every morning to prepare and serve food and drinks, entertain, hand out clothes and interact with underprivileged kids and their mothers in neighboring areas. The number of kids ranged from 150 to 2,000 depending on the day, and the age ranged from nursery school to 12th grade… After Project Pearls I would head over to San Rafael, where I taught my poster-making class from 2-5 p.m.… The final project I worked on while I was there was school supply donations, in which we donated more than 2,000 school supplies to two local public schools, both coincidentally with the same name: J. Zamora Elementary School. The focus was notebooks, handing out 3-4 per student, for grades 1-5. These school supplies were funded by a nearby university, and focused on encouraging the kids to stay in school, as the dropout and drug rate of children
HANNAH PRICE ’19 traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to care for hundreds of children with learning and physical disabilities at La Comunidad Terapeutica.

When I finally arrived home for lunch, I was welcomed by my host family with a delicious meal of potatoes, chicken, an assortment of vegetables, and one of my host family’s favorites: Coca-Cola. Lunch is the biggest meal of the day in Bolivia, so it is customary that the family return to eat together and then go back to work. When I arrived back at the orphanage, I realized that I was not scheduled to do a specific activity for another two hours. Since I had extra time, I took it upon myself to give some individualized attention to the children living in the 5-20 PS (physical support) building. When I entered, I saw the kids in the same positions as the morning, but this time, some of the kids in the chairs had their arms and hands restrained. I asked one of the caretakers why, and she replied that the children often try to gnaw on their hands or sometimes hit things involuntarily. When I heard this, I felt overwhelmed with emotion, knowing that these incidents were likely a result of a lack of physical and emotional stimulation for these children who sat with transfixed eyes staring into nothingness: a symptom of the understaffing of the orphanage... Only two days into my experiences in Bolivia, it was readily apparent to me that I could make a difference in many small ways but also that the challenges I would face would be much larger than I had imagined. I had been adamant that I did not want to volunteer in an orphanage, yet, here I was in an orphanage where more than a hundred children were fed, clothed, and loved, but also where many of those same children seemed in need of more attention than they were receiving. I was energized, I was overwhelmed. I was hopeful. I was inspired.

GIRI VISWANATHAN ’20 traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica, to work with the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC), which provides critical health services to underserved populations.

Santa Ana was nestled in the foothills of a large mountainous range, where the temperature was balmy and the weather prone to sudden change. The quaint environment of street-side residences contrasted with a Westernized retail facility approximately one mile up the road, but the ambience remained surreal. Santa Ana’s natural beauty and small-town charm, however, starkly differed from Alajuelita, the impoverished, densely-populated region where I served... The inhabitants of Alajuelita, alongside the districts of neighboring San Felipe, San Josecito, and Concepción, grapple with obesity, hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and other illnesses. The prevalence of these diseases is exacerbated, oftentimes, by lack of knowledge, financial constraints, and cultural norms. For instance, diabetes and hypertension in the region are associated with copious quantities of salt, oil, butter, and sugar; these ingredients are traditional in Costa Rican cuisine, and due to their affordability and accessibility, alternatives are not often realistic. Moreover, lack of understanding of these illness makes lifestyle modifications difficult and leaves patients reluctant to take medication. As I rapidly learned, FIMRC’s Project Alajuelita works tirelessly to change misconceptions and provide free medical and psychological services to local populations. Working with FIMRC exposed me to a different culture, allowing me to meet a diverse group of individuals who opened my eyes and broadened my perspective.

NICHOLAS LAUER ’19 traveled to Chile to assist students at the Colegio de San Jose in reading, writing and speaking the English language.

When I walked into my first class, I received lots of quizzical looks from students who could immediately tell that I was a foreigner. When I introduced myself in Spanish, a few hushed laughs came from the class, most likely at my poor pronunciation. I began my presentation and answered...
many questions about my life, my school and the United States in general. Since it was rare for the students to have someone from the U.S. in their classroom, they were all eager to hear more about my life as a high school student at Shady Side. Throughout my first day, I went to three different classes, gave my presentation, and talked with students. I was impressed with how well some of the older students were able to speak English and found that the immersion style of class used by the English Department seemed to work well. The students appeared genuinely interested in listening to my English and trying to emulate it. They also taught me a lot about Chilean school life and the similarities and differences to the U.S. … A seemingly universal problem was that there was too much homework for students. One difference from America was that my school had 90-minute classes with 15-minute breaks in between, and students remained in one classroom for all of their subjects. Students also must choose what area they want to focus on by grade 11 and start taking more classes in that specific area. Overall, my first day was quite fun, and I got to present to the students and teach them about my life, while also learning about their lives.

DJIBRIL BRANCHE ’19 traveled to Rabat, Morocco, to work with Au Grain de Sesame, an organization with the mission of empowering women through art.

My first few days in Rabat were interesting to say the least. It was my first time traveling to both Africa and to a majority Muslim nation, and I would be lying if I didn’t say that American conceptions or rather misconceptions about both of these things didn’t affect my expectations at all when coming off my flight. Something to note about Morocco is that women’s civic and social equality to men weren’t given until the constitutional referendums of 2011, and while those reforms are objectively good, women in Morocco still face many obstacles to gender equality. The organization routinely holds training workshops for local women, many who did not complete high school and cannot read, to create different and unique works of art using a special technique involving recycled paper. These women, armed with the skills gained at the workshop have now a means of selling and making a living off their art. After contacting the founder of the organization, Asmaa Benachir, I received a list of strengths and weaknesses of the business. The one that stood out to me was the lack of overseas marketplaces due to (I suspect) the language barrier between Morocco and America. I thought my proficiency in English would be useful in achieving overseas sales, and immediately started drafting a list of potential free trade marketplaces to contact.

SONYA HAMMER ’19 traveled to Mianyang, China, to work as a teaching assistant at Fule Middle School. She learned the values of education were drastically different in China.

While on my trip, I met some members of the Qiang ethnicity who were still in touch with their heritage, and they allowed me to record their powerful voices. With me were a group of government officials, all of whom I could not understand because they did not speak standard Mandarin. Instead, they spoke their local dialect which was significantly different from the standard dialect… Because so many locals had never heard of the Qiang traditions, I wanted to find some way to preserve it and promote it. I translated signs, transcribed their polyphonic music into the Chinese music notation (jianpu), and had conversations with my students about how to preserve culture and promote understanding. Just outside of Mianyang, the city which I lived in, there was the small city of Beichuan, one totally obliterated by the earthquake. Beichuan had a museum dedicated to preserving the culture of the Qiang ethnicity. Within the museum, there were already translated signs, but many of them were poorly translated. I worked with some locals to try to maintain the essence of the original Chinese writing in the English translation. In addition to the Qiang cultural museum, there was a former nuclear research center in the area. Though many foreigners are not allowed access to it, my host father made arrangements for me to be given a tour of the facilities. Through the tour, I encountered many signs which were not translated well. Although my translations will likely not be seen by many foreigners, I still tried to translate the signs in the nuclear research center to the best of my ability. These signs were harder to translate because the Chinese was rather poetic and there were no exact English translations.
ATHLETICS
AT SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

FOR SSA STUDENT-ATHLETES, IT’S A WIN-WIN EXPERIENCE

BY VALENTINE BRKICH
Senior Abby Todd is an expert at time management. She has to be. As a four-year starter for the Shady Side Academy’s girls lacrosse, prep ice hockey and field hockey teams, as well as a member of the Pittsburgh Premier Lacrosse Club, the budding metallurgist still has to find time to focus on complex subjects like organic and inorganic chemistry.

“Being in season and working with teachers to get stuff done, you have to understand how to prioritize things and focus on the task at hand,” says Todd. “It’s helped me excel both on the field and in the classroom.”

And excel she has. Last spring Todd was one of three SSA girls lacrosse players to be named to the Class 3A All-WPIAL and All-Section teams. She helped the field hockey team win the WPIAL Class 1A Championship this fall and the girls prep ice hockey team win the Women’s Interscholastic Hockey League of the Mid-Atlantic (WIHLMA) Championship in 2016 and 2017.
Off the field, Todd has been working toward a fulfilling career in materials science. As a junior she took SSA’s Summer Science Research Seminar course, which placed her in a research internship at Carnegie Mellon University this past summer. There she worked on a type of high-strength steel that Toyota is planning on using in the 2022 Camry.

Todd is the perfect example of the type of well-rounded student-athlete SSA hopes to foster through its focus on a balanced educational experience that includes athletics and physical activity.

“Athletics and physical activity is one of our signature programs, along with academics and the arts,” says Academy Interim President Amy Nixon. “We want our students to move, from the elementary level all the way up and through high school.”

Shady Side believes that athletics adds an important dimension to the educational journey and has a value that extends far beyond the playing field. Participation in athletics not only builds important character traits and life skills such as teamwork, self-discipline, perseverance and sportsmanship, it also teaches students how to work together toward a common goal, how to overcome adversity, how to win and lose with grace, and how to make healthy choices — all lessons they can apply to everyday life.

Nixon believes this philosophy serves students well. “Children of all ages who move around are better able to focus on other things. It simply promotes a healthy outlook altogether.”

It all starts at the elementary level (PK-5), where in addition to regular physical education (PE) classes each week, Country Day School and Junior School students enjoy recess outside year-round, including sledding in the snow. Morning Walk n’ Talks and Brain Boosts get the blood flowing to kids’ brains during the day, while optional after-school offerings include athletic lessons in various sports, a Girls on the Run program, and a cross-country team.

“We introduce them to a wide range of fitness activities and sports,” says Karen DiFiore, who co-teaches PE with Kim Disbrow at the Junior School. “The goal is to help them find something they enjoy and will continue as they develop a lifetime habit and love of fitness.”

For younger kids (PK-1), the focus is on skill practice, starting with basic skills and working up from there. They learn how to aim and accurately gauge distance through things like The First-Tee golf program or even just rolling a ball at a target. In grades 3-5, the focus shifts to both team and lifetime sports.

The Junior School PE program also regularly makes use of the trails in Frick Park, which is adjacent to campus. “In PK-2, we call it an adventure,” says DiFiore. “We hike on the single-track trails where the mountain bikers have placed obstacles along the way, things they have to go under and around. We use it as a metaphor for how to approach obstacles in life, looking for help and finding ways to get around things.” The older kids in grades 3-5 use the trails to run the mile or do lap running.

Country Day students enjoy recess twice a day — once in the morning and again after lunch. They also have PE for 45 minutes, three times a week. “We’re a very active school,” says Country Day School PE teacher David Geyer. “We’re on the move pretty much every day, weather notwithstanding.”

“With the younger kids, it’s all about trying to get them to love being physically active,” says Geyer. “We have fewer opportunities to be active when we get older,” Geyer adds. “For me, it’s about helping our students understand that being healthy is important for a long life, but it can also be fun.”

Geyer says the focus on athletics and movement in general is different than it was when he was a kid. “Back then it was all about the team sports. If you weren’t any good at those, that was it. It wasn’t as fun. But with these kids, you don’t have to be a superstar athlete to be active and play sports and have fun. We just want them
to get excited about something now, so they’ll continue to be active as an adult.”

At the Middle School, in addition to taking PE and health classes, students participate in a required athletics/ activities period at the end of each school day. Choices include 17 competitive athletic teams, non-competitive group sports and non-athletic options such as drama or working in the school garden. Students choose a different activity each term, with at least one physically active option per year.

“Our kids are great,” says Betsy Gorse, who serves as the Middle School’s athletic coordinator and physical education teacher. “They really want to try things and have a chance to make a connection with something new.”

Gorse, who has coached lacrosse, swimming and field hockey, says Shady Side is unique in that it doesn’t cut players at the Middle School level; every student has the opportunity to play, and the emphasis is on participation and skill development. “It encourages them to try as many different things as possible,” she says. “They learn so many great lessons and crossover skills when they play multiple sports.”

Over the years Gorse has spoken with a number of alumni who tell her how SSA taught them to better manage their time. “Kids come to realize that, as they go through college, there was a lot of value in learning to budget their time between academics and athletics, to be able to juggle everything effectively.”

Once they reach the Senior School, students have the opportunity to play on one or more of 30 highly competitive varsity/prep sports teams in 17 sports, as well as on junior varsity teams. Freshmen and sophomores are required to play on two athletic teams, and juniors on one. Juniors and seniors not participating on an athletic team must take physical education, which includes options like yoga, fitness, and working on the SSA Farm.

Over the years SSA’s varsity and prep teams have enjoyed tremendous success. Since 1993, Shady Side has won 61 WPIAL titles (including two this fall), three WIHLMA titles, and 15 PIAA state championships in 17 different sports. In addition, each year approximately 13 percent of SSA graduates go on to play athletics in college, more than double the national average of 6 percent.

It’s a level of success that comes as no surprise to Gene Deal, who has served as SSA’s athletic director for the past 29 years. “Our kids are very talented,” he says. “They also have some great coaches and amazing parent support. When you have that combination, you’re going to win more than you lose.”

Deal thinks it’s important for all kids to compete in athletics. “It teaches you skills that you’ll use in whatever career path you choose. Athletics teaches you how to work as a team and how to support others as you work toward a common goal.”

One such student-athlete is senior Ronan O’Connor. At 6 feet 3 inches tall and 195 lbs., O’Connor is an imposing figure, whether he’s playing defense on the varsity lacrosse and football teams or taking it to the hoop for the basketball team.

“Kids come to realize that, as they go through college, there was a lot of value in learning to budget their time between academics and athletics...”

– Betsy Gorse, Middle School Athletic Coordinator and PE Teacher
This fall, he helped the SSA football team to a perfect 9-0 regular-season record and an Allegheny Conference title while playing on both sides of the ball, earning first-team all-conference honors as an offensive tackle and second-team honors as a linebacker.

O’Connor also serves as president of the Senior School’s Chiapas Club, a student group that, under the leadership of Spanish teacher Dr. Carol-Jean McGreevy-Morales, does volunteer work to help underprivileged kids in the Mexican state bearing the same name. “We raise money through fundraisers to help them get an education,” says O’Connor. “It really makes you feel good knowing you’re helping these kids better themselves.”

Another three-sport athlete who’s excelling in and out of the classroom is senior Nick Lauer. This fall Lauer helped the boys soccer team bring home its second straight WPIAL Championship. He qualified for the PIAA Swimming Championships in both 2017 and 2018, and won a WPIAL gold medal as part of the 200-meter freestyle relay team last winter. He also competes in track & field.

Beyond athletics, Lauer serves as a Scribe (peer writing tutor), plays violin for the string orchestra, and his photography has earned him accolades in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards. He was named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist this fall.

As a junior, Lauer was one of 501 students nationwide to be named a 2018 Carson Scholar – a recognition awarded to students who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities. In addition to organizing a winter coat drive to benefit North Hills Community Outreach, Lauer volunteers at his church and is an active member of Chiapas Club. Last summer he received SSA’s prestigious Parkin Fellowship and traveled to Chile to teach English.

“Our kids are very talented. They also have some great coaches and amazing parent support. When you have that combination, you’re going to win more than you lose.”

– Gene Deal, SSA Athletic Director
“The experience was life-changing,” says Lauer. “You learn that communication transcends country boundaries. I expected to just go and teach, but I got so much more out of it.”

Likewise, senior Chayla Edwards, a seven-day boarder from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, has found success in the classroom and on the field (actually, on the ice). Edwards, who plays defense for the girls prep ice hockey team, scored the game-winning goal in the semifinals of the WIHLMA Championship last February. She’s also a member of Pittsburgh Penguins Elite Hockey, was on the crew team her first two years, and has been a member of the softball team for the past two. In November, Edwards signed a National Letter of Intent to play NCAA Division I ice hockey at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

When she’s not swinging a bat, stick, or paddle, Edwards is either practicing violin or focusing on the sciences, particularly biology and chemistry. “I hope to study psychology in college,” she says, “maybe become a therapist.”

Last fall she was chosen to be a part of the Diversity Leadership Council and attended the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif. “I met a lot of people from different independent schools, and we shared our stories and experiences as people of color. It was a really good experience.”

One of the reasons SSA athletes excel is because they have access to a full complement of athletic facilities on campus, making it easy for them to incorporate athletics into their daily schedule. Both Middle and Senior School students utilize the Robert J. Grandizio Athletic Complex at the Senior School, which includes a multipurpose turf stadium with lights, five grass athletic fields, two gymnasiums, a hockey arena, a pool, three squash courts and 10 tennis courts. The Middle School has two grass fields and a gymnasium as well.

This past summer, several upgrades were made to the Senior School facilities, including a new turf field and eight-lane track in the stadium. A new fitness center opened in the gym this winter (see story page 3), and the locker rooms are being upgraded one by one. These improvements and future ones are part of a long-term athletics master plan for the Academy, which is exploring the future construction of a new field house and renovations to the existing gyms.

Nixon says the upgrades are probably a little overdue, but first the Academy wanted to focus on improvements to its science and technology facilities. “First we needed to complete the McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation,” she says. “Now we’re working on the new Glimcher Tech and Design Hub. After that, we’ll refocus on athletics. It’s just time. What we have is adequate for now, but we can do better.”

Going forward, Nixon says Shady Side Academy will continue to put great emphasis on the student-athlete model. “Our kids aren’t just here for athletics. They take their studies very seriously, too. Learning how to balance commitment and priorities is a lifelong skill, and we want to make sure every one of them leaves here with that skill.”
Gab Harchelroad ’15
Inspires SSA Students
Alumna and United States Naval Academy midshipman Gab Harchelroad ’15 returned to SSA to give an inspiring speech at Senior and Middle School assemblies on Nov. 19–20. A senior and four-year member of Navy’s NCAA Division I women’s lacrosse team, Harchelroad spoke about her leadership philosophy and how it has roots in her days as a student-athlete at Shady Side.

“Even though the battalion that I lead at the Naval Academy has very little to do with athletics, I have found how important it is to have a ‘teammate’ mentality to accomplish tasks on a larger scale,” said Harchelroad. “As I learned during my time as an athlete at Shady Side, a teammate serves a very interesting role. Good teammates are able to keep each other accountable in order to ensure that standards are being met, and understand that when they drop the standard, they are hurting not only themselves, but the team as a whole. The teammate mentality that you are cultivating right now will undoubtedly lead you to a greater understanding of organizational success in environments where individual accomplishment is meaningless.”

“Empowering others is the most important trait of a leader and on constant display here at SSA by your teammates, your coaches, and the faculty and staff that surround you,” she continued. “The first time I even picked up a lacrosse stick was during my freshman year at Shady Side, when the team needed a goalie... I got here because those around me empowered me to have the confidence and support necessary to accomplish something I didn’t think was possible.”

“I assure you, the lessons that you are learning on the field – of chasing greatness, being a teammate and empowering others – will shape your life and expose you to people and experiences that you will never forget.”

Seven Seniors Sign NCAA National Letters of Intent
This fall, seven Shady Side seniors signed National Letters of Intent (NLIs) to play NCAA Division I college athletics next year. On Nov. 14, girls’ ice hockey players Chayla Edwards (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Gwyneth Philips (Northeastern University) and Hannah Price (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), field hockey player Clara McCormick (Bucknell University) and girls’ soccer player Krystyna Rytel (University of Pittsburgh) signed NLIs, while football players Skyy Moore (Western Michigan University) and Dino Tomlin (University of Maryland) signed NLIs on Dec. 19.

Edwards (defense), Philips (goalie) and Price (forward/defense) have been a critical part of the girls’ ice hockey program’s success, helping SSA to WIHLMA titles in 2016 and 2017 and a runner-up finish in 2018. All three earned All-WIHLMA honors in 2018 and also play for Pittsburgh Penguins Elite Hockey.

McCormick (goalie) helped the field hockey team to a 2018 WPIAL title, earning WPIAL All-Star honors. She is also a member of the 2018-2019 Junior U.S. Women’s National Indoor Field Hockey Team. Rytel (midfielder) helped the girls’ soccer team to a WPIAL title in 2016 and a first-ever PIAA title in 2017. She earned WPIAL All-Star, all-region and all-state honors in 2018.

Moore (quarterback/defensive back) and Tomlin (wide receiver/defensive back/kick returner) formed one of the WPIALs most dangerous big-play passing tandems in 2018, leading SSA to an Allegheny Conference title and earning all-conference honors.
Field Hockey – WPIAL CHAMPIONS
by Abby Todd ’19

The girls field hockey team had its most successful season in five years. The team finished first in its section with an undefeated regular-season record and earned the WPIAL Class A Championship title over Ellis, after finishing as runner-up for the past four years. Annabel Kuhn and Zoe Conomikes were the leading scorers, and the team was led by captains Ella Benec, Clara McCormick, Bella Faiello and Abby Todd. The team acted as a cohesive unit and seamlessly integrated new freshman and sophomores into the starting lineup. Coaches Betsy Gorse, Alison Mears ’09 and Jenna Schwenk challenged the team throughout the season. The 2018 season has begun a winning legacy for the field hockey team that will hopefully continue for years to come.
Boys Soccer – WPIAL CHAMPIONS
by Max Farner ’19

The boys soccer team had another incredibly successful year. After earning the 2017 WPIAL title (the first in school history!), the boys were ready to defend the title this season. After losing just three starters, the team came into the year with a strong, senior-laden lineup. After a successful regular season, the team entered the WPIAL playoffs ranked 11th. With the loss of senior captain Danny Palmer due to injury, SSA relied on captains Walter Navid, Kenny Shergill and Max Farner to lead the team throughout the playoff matches. SSA won its second straight WPIAL Class 2A title with a 2-1 victory over Quaker Valley at Highmark Stadium. In the PIAA Tournament, the team advanced to the semifinals before losing to Deer Lakes, 2-1. This season marks the first group of seniors to go through the program under Head Coach Ed Ellsworth, who began in 2015. A special thanks to Coach Ellsworth for all that he has done for the program.

Girls Soccer
by Krystyna Rytel ’19

Led by captains Krystyna Rytel, Sophia McMahon and Gabby White, the 2018 girls soccer team had a successful season, with long runs in both the WPIAL and PIAA playoffs. The team’s overall record was 14-5, including important wins against rival Greensburg Central Catholic, and SSA finished third in the WPIAL Class A tournament. Rytel and Melissa Riggins received All-WPIAL honors, and McMahon and Callie Davis earned all-section honors. The season ended with a tough loss in double overtime in the PIAA semifinals against Freedom Area High School. The team is looking forward to a promising 2019 season.
Football
by Ronan O’Connor ’19
The football team ran out of the gates with some serious energy and didn’t stop to blink once. The 24-man team, led by senior captains Skyy Moore, Ronan O’Connor, Dino Tomlin and Ivor Wood, achieved an undefeated 9-0 regular-season record. Victories included wins over playoff teams Steel Valley, Avonworth and East Allegheny, and SSA outscored opponents 453-126 on its way to winning the Allegheny Conference title. Unfortunately, after suffering some major injuries during the WPIAL Class 2A playoffs, the team fell in the quarterfinals to South Side Beaver, concluding a historic and memorable season.

Girls Cross Country
by Emmie Lau ’19
The girls cross country team had a very strong season. Not only were all of the girls committed to the team’s success, every individual was also committed to creating a positive and fun team atmosphere. SSA ended the season with a 9-2 record and earned a seventh-place finish at the WPIAL Class A Championship meet. Senior Emmie Lau placed fifth overall at the WPIAL meet. While six seniors were instrumental in this season’s great outcome, the team has a promising future; five of the seven runners who competed in October’s WPIAL meet will be returning next year. Overall, the 2018 season was one to remember, and the team is looking forward to continuing to improve next season.

Boys Cross Country
by Brendan McLaughlin ’19
The boys cross country team had another successful fall, finishing with a regular-season record of 9-2. At the Tri-State Coaches Invitational, the boys finished second in Class A. In the WPIAL Class A Championships, the team arguably ran its best race of the season, finishing fifth and coming within a point of qualifying for the PIAA Championships. Despite narrowly missing team qualification, they had two individual runners advance to the state meet. Leo Liu, 14th at the WPIAL meet, and Adam Lauer, 20th at the WPIAL meet, both ran well at the PIAA meet. The 2018 captains, Connor Caputo and Brendan McLaughlin, will be handing over the reins to Alex Reuter and Aniket Kumta for the 2019 season. With a promising group of returning runners, the boys are looking forward to next season.
Girls Golf
by Catherine Jewart ’19 and Charlotte Repp ’20
The girls golf team had a tough but successful 2018 season. With the loss of two competitive seniors and a small number of players, the team went into the season unsure of what the outcome would be. But led by co-captains Catherine Jewart and Charlotte Repp, the team finished with a 5-5 overall record. While the team did not qualify for WPIALs, Repp and Helena Wang played in the section championship, finishing eighth and 11th, respectively. With a solid core of returning players, the team is looking forward to next season.

Girls Tennis
by Aya Youssef ’19
The girls tennis team had a riveting and successful 2018 season, led by coach Jeff Miller and captains Aya Youssef, Isha Reddy, Paige Golden and Arianna Goitz. The team had an amazing undefeated regular season with a record of 9-0, beating longtime rival Fox Chapel and earning the section title. The team advanced to the WPIAL Class 3A finals, but suffered a 3-2 loss to North Allegheny to place second overall, then advanced as far as the PIAA quarterfinals. Apart from the team’s success, the top two singles players, Youssef and Elle Santora, teamed up to win the WPIAL Class 3A Doubles Championship. The duo advanced to the PIAA tournament in Hershey, where they finished fourth overall.

Boys Golf
by Adam Lauer ’21
The boys varsity golf team had a tremendous season, led by captains Jas Fuhrer and Adam Lauer. The team finished undefeated in the section (12-0), placed third in the WPIAL Class 3A Team Championship and won the annual IPSL Tournament. Contributions by seniors Fuhrer and Johnny Andreos, juniors Brice Delaney, Grady Munroe and Patrick Walsh, sophomores Lauer, Charlie Troutman and Garrett Fuhrer, and freshman Wes Warden, were key to the team’s success. Three golfers advanced to the WPIAL Individual Championship (J. Fuhrer, G. Fuhrer and Delaney), with Delaney advancing to the PIAA Championships at Heritage Hills Golf Course, where he tied for 19th place.
The Hillman Center Continues to Focus on Community Outreach

BY CHRISTA BURNEFF, HILLMAN CENTER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This fall, the Hillman Performing Arts Series kicked off its 13th season of professional artistic programming. With the addition of three shows in the Peter J. Kountz Black Box Theater this season, there are now seven opportunities for the community to see a professional show at the Hillman Center. That also means there are seven opportunities for the Shady Side and Pittsburgh communities to benefit from the Hillman’s outreach efforts. Service to the community remains a focus of the Hillman, and we strive to have as many Hillman Series performers as possible visit our SSA campuses or out in the Pittsburgh community.

In September, musical artist Shana Tucker spent time in Middle School music classes with faculty members Jeff Gross, Randy Broker and Ian Hughes. The students spent time with Shana and her piano player, Amy Kay Bormet, working through pieces of music as if they were in a recording session. The students rose to the occasion, stepping out of their comfort zones and showcasing improvisation skills. It seemed to be as much fun for Tucker as it was for the students.

In November, Lynn Trefzger continued the Hillman’s longstanding partnership with UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) with a stop by CHP to perform for patients, families and hospital visitors. Lynn arrived with her trunk full of colorful characters in tow and filled the CHP atrium with laughter and smiles. The Amazing Max, scheduled to perform at the Hillman in March 2019, is also planning to bring his child-empowering magic to connect with patients at CHP.

We are grateful for the continued support of The Hillman Foundation, without which these visits would not be possible. For ticket information, or more information on community outreach opportunities, please visit www.thehillman.org.

HILLMAN Performing Arts SERIES

www.TheHillman.org
412-968-3040
All Shows Saturdays At 7:30pm

THE AMAZING MAX • MAR. 16
THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS • APR. 13

POOR MAN’S GAMBIT • MAR. 9

THE HILLMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
Shady Side Academy | 423 Fox Chapel Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15238
alumni profile

SCOTT BOOKER ’99

A 20-YEAR DRIVE TO COACHING SUCCESS

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY SCOTT BOOKER ’99
Scott Booker ’99 was thrilled to get the offer—a full football scholarship to Kent State University.

His best friend, Adam Frederick ’99, received the same offer, and so did three other Shady Side Academy players considered to be the heart of the 1998 WPIAL championship football team. It was rare for a Division I school to recruit so many players from one high school. Rarer still, all five said yes. USA Today even wrote an article about the guys as they headed off to Kent State together.

Booker, a safety and defensive back, and Frederick, a quarterback, were not only teammates but roommates too. The two friends talked about their lives after college. Frederick wanted to become a football coach, while Booker planned to study business and go into pharmaceutical sales. He had several interviews lined up as he neared graduation.

But fast forward 20 years, and Booker is the one who became a football coach, reaching the National Football League as a defensive coach for the Tennessee Titans. Frederick made his career in business as a master financial planner.

During a 2018 preseason football game at Heinz Field against the Steelers, Booker was up in the booth with a headset on, communicating with the head and defensive coaches on the field. “It was a special moment, coming back home,” he said.

“I never thought I would be here in the NFL. It’s nice to be at the top of your profession, but with it comes the pressures of winning and losing. There are 70,000 screaming fans at the game, and you have to see things clearly. But the field is still 100 yards long and 53 yards wide, whether it’s in the NFL or Shady Side Academy.”
Booker's first football coach was his father, Ed, the first African-American captain of the University of New Hampshire football team. Father and son were always outside playing sports together, everything from Little League baseball to soccer to football.

As Ed put it, “I was an only child. My son was the playmate I never had. We were always playing sports together. I didn't push him towards football. It’s such a violent sport, and you have to be ready for that. You have to have a desire to do it.”

While Booker loved all sports, he especially loved football. He grew up waving his Terrible Towel while cheering on the Steelers. But his parents’ priority was his education. So they enrolled him at Shady Side starting in kindergarten, and he made the commute from his home in Penn Hills all the way through high school. “Coming out of Shady Side, I felt like I could compete academically with anyone,” he said. “It was very demanding. They taught you time management. I was very blessed to go there.”

He also liked the requirement that everyone participate in sports. “They didn’t just want a school filled with brainiacs. They wanted well-rounded people.”

A natural at football, Booker improved dramatically because of the guidance of two new coaches. Shady Side had just hired Art Walker, a legendary coach who led the Mt. Lebanon High School team to five WPIAL titles, as well as the young and fiery Jacque DeMatteo.

Their styles complemented each other. “Coach Walker was very steady and even-keeled,” Booker said. “He would put his arm around you and teach you the game of football and also the game of life. Then Coach DeMatteo provided a spark and really challenged us, whether it was in the weight room or the field. He did a great job instilling toughness.”

Booker entered the program as a freshman, and by his sophomore year, he was starting. “The kid had a good heart and a good work ethic, and he was mature beyond his age,” DeMatteo said. “You don’t find that often in a high school kid. You could tell him something once and he would retain it.”

He was so versatile that he was nicknamed Slash – the nickname given to then-Steeler Kordell Stewart, who played so many positions, they had to be separated by slashes when they were listed. In addition to playing the defensive positions of safety, defensive back and linebacker, Booker was also the backup quarterback. “When Adam got banged up, Scotty stepped in during a playoff game and did a fabulous job,” Walker said.

The move from a championship high school team to Division I football at Kent State was an adjustment for all five: Booker, Frederick, fullback James Ruggiero ’99, wideout Maurio Medley ’99 and defensive back Jarius Acie ’99.

They had to juggle academics with grueling football practices. There was increased pressure to perform and competition for playing time against gifted athletes from other schools. “Out of all of us, Scotty did the best. He was able to pick things up quickly,” Frederick said. “He wasn’t the best athlete, but he was a really smart player. He anticipated well.”

He studied hard too, graduating cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in marketing and a minor in biology – an ideal combination for a future pharmaceutical rep.

As graduation approached, after doing a few phone interviews with pharmaceutical companies, Booker decided to pursue an M.B.A.

Coaching wasn’t even on his radar until 2002, when Kent State football coach Dean Pees offered him a graduate assistantship as a football coach.

Booker told him no thanks.

But Pees told him the job would pay for his M.B.A.

On second thought, he said yes.

To his surprise, Booker loved coaching. “I enjoyed the preparation, the thematics of trying to figure out a plan on how to beat the other team. I enjoyed the relationships with the players, helping them and watching them grow.”

As coach, he could no longer socialize with his former teammates. He spent more time with his girlfriend, Jennifer, a Kent State graduate he would later marry. Instead of an M.B.A., he earned a master’s degree in sports studies.

After two years as an assistant, he was promoted to defensive backs coach, a job he held until 2008.

The next year, he landed a job as defensive backs coach for Western Kentucky University. He wanted a change so he could gain experience recruiting in southern states. When the team
finished the season with a 0-12 record, the head coach was fired. In the unforgiving world of college athletics, it was a tumultuous time. “It taught me a lot about perseverance and being able to handle not-great circumstances.”

In 2010, he accepted a job as an offensive assistant at Notre Dame University – a step down in the coaching hierarchy but several steps up as far as prestige. After all, this was the Fighting Irish, a legendary football program.

But Booker’s risk paid off. He was promoted to tight ends coach/special teams coach in 2012 and was coaching from the sidelines.

It was a demanding job, working with the team that went to the national championship that year and played in the Fiesta Bowl in 2015. Booker and his wife had a daughter, Morgan, and settled into South Bend.

He also traveled around the country to recruit talented high school players – a task that requires an ability to build good rapport with young athletes. Coach Walker said, “To be a good coach, you have to be able to handle people. You have to recruit. Scotty is extremely likeable.”

While living in South Bend, Booker also met one of his favorite Steelers, Jerome Bettis, nicknamed “the Bus.” He was a Notre Dame alumnus and would stop by the program. Booker also received a visit from his former SSA coach, DeMatteo, who brought his teenage son. “He showed my son around the Notre Dame program,” DeMatteo said.

Belying the stereotype of a football coach screaming from the sidelines, Booker considers himself an enthusiastic teacher with an even-keeled coaching style. “I try to develop and inspire the players. I make sure they understand the details.” Frederick said his good friend always admired Tony Dungy, the soft-spoken coach for the Indianapolis Colts who could command a room with a light touch.

And Booker’s seen no shortage of success among the many players he has coached, including two from Notre Dame – Tyler Eifert, a tight end for the Cincinnati Bengals, and Stephon Tuitt, a defensive end for the Steelers.

In 2017, Booker accepted a job as the safety and special teams coach for the University of Nebraska. A year later, he accepted his current position with the Tennessee Titans.

As the current defensive coordinator for the Titans, Dean Pees recommended Booker for the job based on their working relationship from their time at Kent State. After all, it was Pees who first trained Booker to be a good defensive coach.

By taking the career leap from D1 to the NFL, Booker is no longer responsible for recruitment, allowing him to focus on his players. The new position also meant a significantly smaller team roster – 53 professional players per team versus 120 Division I student-athletes. “I no longer worry about guys missing class. They are fully focused on football.”

It’s a common assumption that once players start raking in big money, they turn into “spoiled divas” both on and off the field, Booker said. But in his experience, “Nothing could be further from the truth. Sure, they make millions of dollars to play football, but as they interact with me and other players, the vast majority are committed to their craft. Off the field, they’re just trying to have a regular life.”

And the window of time for those multi-million-dollar salaries is limited. “You can be a banker 30 or 40 years, but the average time in the NFL is 3.2 years.”

Though he loves the challenge of being an NFL coach and helping players develop, the constant job changes can be hard on his family. “There have been ups and downs. I’m not proud to say it, but my daughter is in second grade and she has gone to three different schools in three different states. My wife has to find new friends and doctors every time we move. But there are advantages, too. We played in London recently, and my wife and daughter came, too.”

Booker said it was a thrill to come home and get back up in the coaching box for the preseason exhibition game against the Steelers at Heinz Field. “I’m 38. For 36 years, I was a Steelers fan. Obviously, I’m a huge Titans fan now.”

Walker, his former coach at Shady Side, anticipates that Booker will continue to rise through the coaching ranks. “He has the experience on the pro level, the work ethic and the personality. I predict someday Scotty will become the head coach of a professional team or college football team. He has everything it takes.”
WITH AN UNMATCHED PASSION FOR SPORTS, LAW AND FAMILY, THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED
BY JOYCE FU ’99
Fu, who works in marketing and international business development for Major League Baseball, had worked 100-plus hour weeks to make sure this historic game on March 22, 2016, came together. High-energy and scrupulously organized, she firmed up hotel reservations and arranged charter flights for players, staff and guests. She made sure the details were in order for the welcoming gala, where Buffett performed. “Logistically it was kind of crazy, but it was such an amazing experience,” she said.

And to top off the day, the Tampa Bay Rays won 4-1.

“The game was very emotional for everyone. It signified a bridge between two countries and showed how the power of sport can make people forget about their differences and come together.”

Fu has promoted baseball all over the world, traveling to places like Australia, China and Latin America. The outreach work is just one way she has combined her legal and business background with her love of sports – a passion that was nurtured during her years as a standout athlete at Shady Side Academy.
“Sports have always been a big part of my life. Going into law school, I thought maybe I could marry my two interests. It’s hard to break into the business.”

But then again, Fu has never backed away from a challenge – especially not an athletic one.

As the daughter of an orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine pioneer, Fu spent her childhood immersed in all things athletic. Dr. Freddie Fu treated athletes ranging from professional football players to recreational marathon runners, helping them recover from their injuries and get back in the game. In recognition of his life’s work, UPMC renamed the medical building within its Rooney Sports Complex as the Freddie Fu Sports Medicine Center.

Fu inherited her father’s hard-driving and razor-focused personality, and it made her a force in field hockey and lacrosse. “She’s scrappy,” her father said. “She always goes for it.”

Hilda Pang Fu, Joyce’s mother, remembers when her daughter was a young lacrosse player, and her team was facing a brick wall of a goalie. Some of the girls were intimidated, but not Joyce. “She hasn’t seen me yet,” she told her mother. (“That’s so embarrassing,” Fu said as her mother recounted the memory.)

“Joyce was Joyce from day one. She was very assertive. I love that in a girl,” her mother said. “We never had to push her.”

Once she enrolled at Shady Side in high school, Fu flourished both athletically and academically. As a left wing on the field hockey team, she was one of the high scorers on a team that won WPIAL Championships several consecutive years. Her brother, Gordon Fu ’95, who was captain of the boys ice hockey and lacrosse teams, encouraged her to try lacrosse. It became her favorite sport, and she played it with the same gusto.

“I loved team sports. I was really close with my teammates, and we had great coaching. I felt lucky to be part of a school that valued playing three sports. Kids today are so specialized in one sport.”

Team sports came naturally to her, but swimming was more of a struggle, and she found the meets nerve-wracking. Still, under the guidance of coach John Landreth, she threw herself into the challenge of improving her times.

“I was always in the slow lane during swim practice but was weirdly decent at the backstroke,” she said. She improved so much that she became part of a 200-medley relay at team at states along with Liz Daniels Grossman ’00, McKenzie Craig ’01 and Gretchen Benford Harrison ’99.

“She was unbelievable. She started swimming new in high school, and she just crushed it,” said friend and former classmate Jen Portland ’99. “It’s hard to come into a sport late and make an impact.”

A natural leader, Fu was named captain of the field hockey, lacrosse and swimming teams her senior year. By graduation, she had 10 varsity letters – one from track her freshman year, and letters in all three sports every year after that.

Fu wasn’t only athletic. She was artistic, too, developing as a photographer with the help of teacher Tony Goodwin. “She would always come up with ideas like, ‘Let’s go to Zelienople and take pictures,’” said her friend Andrew Seguin ’99. “She appreciated the randomness of life and was up for anything.” She immersed herself in portraiture, capturing unexpected moments.

As a senior, she began dating her future husband, Chad Martin ’98, who had graduated the year before. He said he was captivated by her energy. “She was the captain of everything. She was super well-rounded and high-energy. Everything needs to be done yesterday. She cannot sit through a movie.”

Fu went on to Dartmouth College, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art and sociology. As a lark, she played rugby as a club sport. Of course, she didn’t play the rough-and-tumble game halfheartedly.

Before law school, she landed an internship with the Pittsburgh Steelers. She spent the summer rotating through different departments, working in the ticketing office and briefly filling in for then-owner Dan Rooney’s assistant. “He was so nice,” she said.
His son, Art Rooney II, then a partner at a law firm, invited Fu to spend a day in his office so she could learn about the legal side of sports. “Sometimes people say, ‘I’m interested in law and sports’, but it’s not so glamorous. It’s really about business. It’s not like you are hanging out with the players all day.”

As a law student, she gained further experience as a legal intern with the National Football League. Upon graduation from Columbia Law School, she landed a coveted job as in-house counsel with the New York Mets. She did everything from negotiate contracts with ticket takers and cleaners to legal work for an academy in the Dominican Republic. When Billy Joel played Shea Stadium, she worked on the legal agreement with Live Nation. During that period, she and Chad got married and started a family, and she took two years off to be at home with her children.

In 2013, she returned to Major League Baseball, this time in a non-legal capacity. MLB brought her on as part of a diversity task force to study the decline of African-American participation in baseball. After that, she developed a league-wide domestic violence and sexual assault policy.

Two years later, she was offered a job in marketing and international business development. Now the mother of three children, she negotiated for a part-time schedule that lets her leave the office early three days a week. “I want to be with my three kids. Family is very important to me.”

Fu has found the marketing aspect of the sports business a refreshing change from the more cut-and-dried legal work. As part of a study on school-based baseball programs in China, MLB sent her there to observe students as they were introduced to the game. “We partner with some schools, providing curriculum and coaches.” That, in turn, builds a broader audience for baseball, because people tend to watch the sports they know how to play.

She also traveled to Sydney, Australia, for the World Baseball Classic Qualifier. In 2017, she went to Seoul, Korea, to see the main tournament. “It’s humbling. In the United States, the MLB brand goes a long way. But in other countries, sometimes it is popular and sometimes it is not.”

Her trips to baseball stadiums around the world have showed her the different ways fans react to the game. “In the United States, fans are quiet. In Korea, Taiwan, Japan, there are noisy cheering sections. People beat foam sticks together. It is a lot of fun in the crowds.”

Fu and her husband now live in New York City, not far from many of their former classmates. When they get together, old friends marvel at Fu’s energy, still as robust as it was during her high school days. Seguin said, “You can always count on Joyce doing 800 things at once. But it’s never in a frantic way. It’s a determined way to get things done. She is the most dynamic person I know.”

But for all of her determination to check things off her to-do list, she is always kind and open to other people, her husband said. “She is a natural networker. She will talk to a waiter, and by the time the meal is done, she is trying to connect him to someone so their kid can get an internship.”

These days she spends much of her time chauffeuring her three athletic children to hockey, diving and other practices. On occasion, she jumps in to play with them.

One evening after work, dressed in business casual clothes, Fu brought her 9-year-old daughter to diving practice. As the kids were warming up on a trampoline, Fu hopped up and did a backflip, to the astonishment of the coaches. They were impressed by her skill but nervous about liability. As Chad recalls, they didn’t encourage her to do it again.

“She does stuff all the time that no one would expect from a mom in New York City,” he said. One sports risk she isn’t keen on is skateboarding, but she has been known to try it rather than miss out on a fun outing with her husband and kids.

But the fearless athlete came back in time for surf lessons, another activity the adventurous family has taken up together. “I am a beginner, but I love it. It’s never too late to learn something new.”
ALUMNI RECEPTION – LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles event held Oct. 25, 2018, at Above SIXTY Rooftop in Beverly Hills

KILLIAN CAVANAUGH MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK

Killian Cavanaugh ’16 was an athlete and avid scholar who was taken too soon while a sophomore at the University of Chicago. Killian’s family organized a Memorial 5K Run/Walk that took place on Nov. 24, 2018, at the Robert Grandizio Athletic Complex on the Senior School campus. Proceeds benefited the Killian Patrick Cavanaugh Memorial Scholarship Fund at Shady Side. The event raised more than $50,000, with scholarship funds annually honoring an SSA student-athlete who best exemplifies Killian’s qualities and spirit, helping to keep his legacy alive.

ALUMNI ICE HOCKEY AND LACROSSE GAMES

Over Thanksgiving weekend, alumni gathered for the annual ice hockey and lacrosse games. Family and friends cheered on the alumni who enjoyed some friendly competition on the ice and field. Both events were a great success, well-attended and a lot of fun.
Local Pittsburgh alumni gathered on Dec. 12, 2018, at Alloy 26 at Nova Place to kick off the holiday season.

Will Simpson ’07, Sean Gray ’97 and Ryan Indovina ’99

Ariel Raj ’14, Haley Myer ’14, Madison Taylor ’14, Amber Shergill ’14 and Josh Tobin ’14

Jordan Strassburger ’97, Ashley Cephas and Floyd Cephas Jr. ’97

Tiffany Shento ’05, Patrick Lemon ’05, Kathryn Egan ’05, Laura Lemon, Tim Howard and Julia Liang Howard ’05

Harry Fleishman, John Salvitti ’84, Andy Rummel ’90 and Leslie Donovan

Roland Criswell ’95 and Interim Academy President Amy Nixon
Included in this section are news items received through Nov. 1, 2018.

1953

Ned Boshell writes: “I hosted the post-graduation party at our home in Pittsburgh, an all-night affair that concluded with breakfast. By then all the beer was gone. I do believe that almost everyone in the class attended. I invited classmates to join me for lunch prior to the 65th reunion gathering and no one came.”

1961

Jim Hackett writes: “Jacqui Lazo ’99 and Aaron Fernstrom ’00 recently moved in up the street from us. Small world.”

1962

Louis Martone writes: “I have been enjoying my first year of retirement. I go to the gym three days a week, and am getting sleeker and stronger. I traveled to the Balkans in June 2018 and am planning a trip to Lake Como in May 2019. I cut back on Corvette racing due to old guy motion sickness from pulling too many ‘g’s’ on the turns. I hope to stay healthy for the 60th reunion.”

Tom Benghauser writes: “I’m completing a book entitled Spook McClintock, Fritz Crisler, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and The Kiski Kids for publication in January 2019. It deals with the 1933, 1934 and 1935 Princeton football teams that, on the way to a national championship in 1935, lost only one game – to (redacted) Yale. It was all made possible by Charles Arbuthnot McClintock – a Patrician Princetonian from Pittsburgh and one-time SSAer who surreptitiously recruited five outstanding high school players from industrial towns in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, paid their fees at Kiski two post-cadet years, and then supported them at Princeton for four years.” Learn more about the book at thekiskikids.org.

Tom Celli writes: “Many changes this year. Jeannie and I had a wonderful 50th anniversary celebration in June. My beautiful wife of 50 years, Jeannie, ascended into heaven Sept. 17, 2018. I sold my 66-year-old architectural firm, Celli-Flynn Brennan to Buchart Horn Architects. Now I have a boss for the first time in 42 years. For the last 30 years my practice has been based in higher ed and historic preservation. Home email is tcelli@celli-flynn.com. If anyone is in the Greensburg area please stop by. No appointment required.”

1966

Scott Becker writes: “I will share with you all that my 93-year-old dad is alive and reasonably well. He still lives in the house I lived in (at least on weekends) while I attended Shady Side. Dad attributes his longevity to resisting all forms of exercise while eating red meat daily, consuming two to three pies a week (usually chocolate cream) and maintaining a BMI comfortably above 30 ever since such a calculation became part of our medical lexicon. If he and I are both still around for our 55th reunion, I will bring him with me to serve as our honorary mascot. My role in all of this is to ferry him to his various doctor appointments wherein he is invariably advised to return in six months. (Fortunately for those who drive in Pittsburgh, dad no longer does. His hearing is mostly absent although his vision remains excellent). During WWII he served as an aerographer’s mate on the U.S.S. Block Island, an aircraft carrier on U-boat patrol in the North Atlantic from 1943-44, until he was assigned to officer’s training. Unfortunately not many of his peers remain. My having the good fortune to have my dad in my life at age 70 is newsworthy. Here–here!

David Paterson writes: “In the first week of June this year, my wife Maryanne and I traveled to Alaska, for our first time. We visited a good friend of ours who was born in Alaska, has lived his entire life in Alaska, has successfully climbed Mount McKinley (now Mount Denali), and also painted a great tour plan for us. We toured 26 glaciers, hired a ski plane which flew us to the top of Denali, and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day strolling around the little town of Denali. Many visitors to Alaska have often stated they were disappointed, since Mount Denali is very often covered with fog. However, Maryanne and I were blessed with three perfectly clear sunny days and a delightful tour. Alaskan statistics state that three clear days in a row at Denali only occur once in a thousand days. Life is great - enjoy it!”

1968

Tom Rea is poet laureate of Wyoming and the author of a book, Bone Wars, about the dinosaur bone wars between Carnegie and Morgan.

Ed Strauss writes: “My daughter, Ellie, graduated from Johns Hopkins in May 2018, as did my older daughter, Louisa, in 2012.”

Joe Safier writes: “Living in Los Angeles, I don’t expect to see many fellow Shady Side alums. However, wearing one of my collection of SSA baseball caps has resulted in two recent unexpected encounters. Standing in the checkout line of one local Trader Joe’s, I was approached by a young man who asked whether the SSA on my cap was Shady Side Academy. Turns out it was Gregor (Rory) Cosgrove ’07, who is a writer and actor in the area. We had an enjoyable
conversations about our alma mater and, of course the Steelers, and exchanged contact information. When I received an invitation for the recent Los Angeles alumni reception from Interim President Amy Nixon, I passed it on to Rory, who was able to attend. During another outing, my wife, Fern, ‘encouraged’ me to get a new pair of shoes at Nordstrom. While there she stopped a young man wearing a Pittsburgh T-shirt and said, ‘You need to meet my husband.’ When I showed up wearing my SSA baseball cap, the connection with Arvind Krishnan ’99 was immediate, and he was able to join us all for the Los Angeles alumni reception as well. It’s remarkable who you meet wearing your SSA gear!”

1971

Richard Katz, founder and principal of Richard N. Katz and Associates, was the 2018 recipient of the EDUCAUSE Leadership Award, which recognizes extraordinary leadership and contributions to the IT profession and to the greater higher education community. The award is the highest recognition given to those who work in IT in higher education. In his early career, Katz advanced through the ranks at the University of California’s Office of the President, culminating in his appointment as the executive director of business planning and practices. His broad experience in the management of financial, IT, and administrative services laid the groundwork for the future work he would do as a strategic thinker and leader for both CAUSE and EDUCAUSE. While he was widely known throughout the University of California and through his many speeches and publications as a volunteer with CAUSE, Educom and NACUBO, many in the IT community got to know him best as vice president of CAUSE, the organization that merged with Educom in 1998 to form EDUCAUSE. Among his most significant contributions to EDUCAUSE was his founding of the EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR), the research arm for the association to study the management, use and impact of information technology on higher education and to provide colleges and universities with practical information to support their decision-making. Katz is the second Shady Side alumnus to receive this prestigious award. Dr. Jack (John W.) McCredie ’58, chief information officer emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, received the award in 1998.

1973

On Nov. 9, 2018, retired U.S. Navy captain Byron King spoke at the Senior School Veterans Day assembly about the importance of Veterans Day and of honoring those who have served our country. King, a lifer who attended SSA from grades K-12, served 30 years in the Navy, including nine years of active duty with several overseas deployments and 11 years in the reserves. He holds a bachelor’s degree in geological sciences from Harvard University, a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and a graduate diploma from the Naval War College. An expert on gold and mining who has advised the U.S. Department of Defense on national energy policy, he currently edits the Rickards Gold Speculator With Byron King newsletter for Agora Financial.

Rev. Tom Johnson returned to the Senior School for an “Alumni Fireside Chat” Q&A at all-school assembly on May 11, 2018. Rev. Johnson is the co-founder and head of school at The Neighborhood Academy in Pittsburgh, a faith-based, college-preparatory, independent school whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by empowering youth and preparing them for college and citizenship. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he has served as pastor to Allegheny United Church of Christ on the Northside and East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Rev. Johnson speaks to audiences across the Pittsburgh region on issues affecting education and low-income youth.

1978

Shawn Flaherty writes: “The reunion was well attended by the class of 1978. It was so good to see everyone. The cherry on the cake was my daughter, Linda Flaherty ’08, was there too.”

Lisa Scales, president and CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, was the 2018 winner of the Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award, which recognizes exceptional women who demonstrate excellence in their profession, contribute to their community and help other women succeed through mentorship. She was presented with the award at the
Jennie Prebor’s husband, Fred Fisher, served as design architect for Shady Side Academy’s McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation, which opened in 2018.

Dianne “Diza” Sauers writes: “I am spending a lot of time in Dubai running a program in leadership development for an executive education program where I serve as academic director. My consulting company, DizaSauers.com, continues to thrive. Currently, I am consulting with Robertet (Robertet.com), a French perfume company. When I am in Tucson, Ariz., I am running to keep up with the kids. My stepson Colin helps run a pop-up gallery in downtown Tucson, and my son Malcolm runs his film production company, MidWest, in Los Angeles, Calif. Tucson keeps getting more hip and more popular. I keep telling everyone who wants to move here it is a terrible place to live. It is too hot, dusty, violent and we are awful people. But no one listens to me – ever. I am in Los Angeles for New Year’s (if it hasn’t burned to the ground). Then on to Europe for the summer: Helsinki, Tallin, Davos and taking my nephew Owen to a human-centered design and leadership communication competition. I will spend time in Lyon with friends, then the rest of the summer in Budapest, hopefully with my mom. So, catch me if you can.”

John Tadler writes: “On May 18, 2018, we adopted our foster daughter, Alice. She joins our other adopted daughter Corrine, and our oldest, Molly. We’ve fostered Alice since she was three weeks old.”

Andrew Katz writes: “I am sorry to have missed our 35th reunion. It is hard to believe how quickly time passes. I am still coaching wrestling and teaching math at the Landon School in Bethesda, Md. I would love to hear from classmates who are in the D.C. area.”

William Vodrey was recently awarded the Oberlin College Alumni Medal, which recognizes “outstanding and sustained service” to the college. Vodrey is a 1987 Oberlin graduate. Since 2007, he has been a visiting professor as part of Oberlin’s Law Scholars program, teaching a course in legal advocacy every fall.

David Wentley writes: “On Feb. 17, 2018, my wife Kate and I celebrated the wedding of our oldest daughter, Katie Jane to John Kabot. Katie’s maid of honor was her sister, Ali Wentley. The wedding was held at St. Ann Catholic Church in West Palm Beach, Fla. The reception was held at the Hilton Hotel on Singer Island, Fla. Among those in attendance were Rick Wentley ’76 and Terry Jones.”

Jim Perry writes: “This summer Mara and I went to Germany – part vacation and part work. We traveled throughout southern and central Germany, eating, drinking and taking in the historical sights, as well as visiting Heidelberg University. The second week I worked football showcases for German teenagers who want to come to the U.S. and attend independent schools, play football and hopefully get the opportunity to stay here for college. I came home with two German boys and a great dane. I’m in my 10th year at Kiski. I’m coaching football, teaching math, working in college counseling, serving as head of Vlahos dorm and co-chairman of the honor and discipline council. My older son, Justice, is currently a senior at Duquesne University and living on the Southside (I don’t get invited over too much). My daughter, Morgan, is a junior at Hobart & William Smith and about to spend her spring semester in Rome. My youngest son, Xavier, is a sophomore at Fox Chapel Area High School and very active in the music and theater performances.”

Liz Dickson Marchionni writes: “Our elder son, John William Marchionni, is serving as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Services Corps. He’s stationed in Fort Drum, N.Y., and serving in Afghanistan. We’re very proud!”

28th annual ATHENA Awards luncheon, convened by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, on Oct. 5, 2018. Scales is a tireless advocate for the elimination of hunger and food insecurity and a catalyst for change inside and outside the food bank. She previously served as vice president of Hunger-Free Pennsylvania and is a board member of Adagio Health. Scales is a mentor for students at the University of Pittsburgh Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, and for fellow nonprofit leaders via advisory board positions at the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Management.

1981

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1983

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1991
Bejj Gefsky writes: “I was unable to make the SSA alumni reunion in Los Angeles and after seeing the note you posted from Joe Safier ’68, I thought I would share with you my ‘small world’ story. I graduated SSA in 1991 while my older brother, David Gefsky, and his close friend, David Dameshek, both graduated in 1987. Our families had grown up in Churchill, and we were and remain friends today. The two Davids were best friends growing up, attending elementary school in Churchill and then SSA for middle and high school. We also attended the same synagogue and carpooled everywhere together. Well, fast forward to 2018. My son is 9 and in fourth grade at the local Studio City, Calif., public school. His desk mate just happens to be a 9-year-old named Grady Dameshek (David’s son). So, yes, a few decades later and the next generation Gefsky-Dameshek legacy continues. What a small world!”

1993
Shady Side Academy named Bartley P. Griffith Jr. as the next president of the Academy. He will begin in July 2019. A full story can be found on page 12.

1994
Jose Amayo writes: “I still live in Pittsburgh (Ohio Township in the North Hills), working away on my startup. We have a national sales contract with The Princeton Review, which has tripled our sales year-over-year, but still working towards growing more quickly. I also work full-time at UPMC Enterprises, UPMC’s internal startup incubator. It’s a great time for the tech scene in Pittsburgh. My wife and I are dedicated towards the goal of starting a nonprofit funding and creating education and rec programs in underserved communities, like West View. I live in Ohio Township with my wife and three kids, Lydija, 13, Vanessa, 11, and Wyatt, 5, who just started kindergarten. My daughters both play competitive soccer with the Riverhounds Development Academy and my oldest also wrestles for the Avonworth Middle School – her coach and athletic director is Tim Giel. My youngest starts in the youth wrestling program this year. My wife is a teacher at West View Elementary in the North Hills School District and an all-around superstar person.

1983
Gathering for a long weekend in New Orleans were (from left) Steve Lasday, now a podiatrist in Sarasota, Fla.; Dan Schachter, a lawyer in Brooklyn, N.Y.; William Vodrey, a magistrate in Cleveland, Ohio; Neil Sandson, a psychiatrist in Timonium, Md.; George Childs, an entrepreneur (and budding pilot) in Pittsburgh; and Gary Taylor, head of Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans (and their gracious host). The photo was taken at the historic Napoleon House in the French Quarter.

1990
James Olsen, son of Randall and Megan Dardanell Olsen was awarded the Boy Scouts of America’s National Certificate of Merit for heroic deeds and life-saving actions for helping an adult suffering a medical emergency at his school in Marco Island, Fla. He was also presented with the United Methodist Church Good Samaritan Award.

1993
Vince Kondaveeti’s daughter, Lucia Kondaveeti, turned 1.5 years old on Nov. 15, 2018.

1994
Omer Farukhi and Lisa Han ’89 were married in 2014 in Pittsburgh after ironically meeting at an SSA alumni event in Washington, D.C., years before. They reside in the Washington area. Omer remains an avid skier since his days of running the SSA Ski Club and has been skiing around the globe, including five continents. He was recently featured on the 4FRNT Ski Company website and Instagram page from one of his recent ski excursions to Argentina in September 2017.
1995

Movie producer **Jesse Shapira** returned to the Senior School on Sept. 5, 2018, to speak to students in Jeff Miller’s film class, Modern Narratives. Shapira, a lifelong movie buff whose appreciation for film only grew while taking Mr. Miller’s film class himself, was in Pittsburgh for the local premiere of his latest film, *Kin*. Shapira was an executive producer of the 2016 Academy Award Best Picture nominee *Room* and also produced the Daniel Radcliffe romantic comedy *What If* and the hockey movie *Goon*. He is a founder and principal of the production company No Trace Camping. Shapira spoke to the students and answered questions about his career path to Hollywood, the movie industry and how it works, and the different ways that people consume media today.

1997

**Sloane (Berrent) Davidson** was named to the *Pittsburgh Magazine* 40 under 40 list in November 2018. Davidson is the founder and CEO of Hello Neighbor, which works to improve the lives of recently resettled refugee families by matching them with dedicated neighbors to guide and support them in their new lives.

2000

SSA Head Football Coach **Chuck DiNardo** was named the Steelers High School Coach of the Week for the team’s Week 3 victory over Steel Valley. The Coach of the Week award program recognizes the hard work and dedication of coaches and their staff to players in the Pittsburgh region on and off the field. DiNardo was honored Oct. 7 at Heinz Field, was featured on the *Mike Tomlin Show* and Steelers.com, and...

2003

**Dana Voelker** was one of six West Virginia University faculty members who were selected for the 2018 Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching, which honors exceptional professors who go above and beyond to inspire their students. Voelker is committed to enhancing the psychosocial well-being and performance of athletes and exercisers through the integration of evidence-based knowledge, leadership and pedagogy. She conducts community outreach and publishes in the area of leadership development. Her applied efforts include contributions to five student-athlete enrichment programs across three states. Voelker received a 2016 NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice grant to support a multi-site evaluation of Bodies in Motion, an educational program designed to promote positive body image in female college athletes. Each of the six honorees will receive a $5,000 honorarium from the WVU Foundation.

1996

**Nick Hartner** celebrated his 40th birthday at Narcisi Winery with family and friends, many of whom are SSA alums. Pictured (left to right): Ben Hartner ’95, Tim Giel (former SSA wrestling coach), Bill Semins ’89, Matt Giel ’10, David Petett, Blake Stanton, Chris Kane, Nick Hartner and Jimil Wilson.
received a framed certificate signed by Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. The SSA football program also received a $1,000 donation from the Pittsburgh Steelers and the NFL Foundation. DiNardo has been head football coach since 2017 and part of SSA athletics since 2005.

2000/2004

Brothers Ben Antin ’00 and Jason Antin ’04 graduated from the NYU School of Law Executive Program, each earning their LL.M. in taxation. Ben also holds an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, and is the general counsel of Polyconcept. Jason also holds an M.B.A. and J.D. from Emory University and practices in the real estate group at Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.

2004

Patrick Cendes married Orsi Molnár in Hungary on Sept. 15, 2018. Many Shady Side alumni were in attendance, including groomsman Sam Lemonick.

2009

Beau Bergman is the co-founder and COO of Tripcents. Tripcents helps travelers automate saving money for trips. After presenting a recommended budget, the app will tie a users’ savings to their travel goals - as their travel fund grows, the app will recommend flights and hotels. Tripcents facilitates a habit of budgeting and saving for travel ahead of time. Tripcents combines fintech saving innovations with travel insights to be the best app to save for travel. Users are able to automatically save for trips, receive predictive travel budgets and personalized booking recommendations. In the ecosystem, users will streamline the entire process – from dreaming, to saving, to budgeting, to booking.

2013

Mike Pohl proposed to Margaret Carswell on Aug. 31, 2018, on the campus of St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind. The couple is planning to marry in September 2019.

**2004**

Stacy Blecher married Josh Slavin in Charleston, S.C. The wedding was attended by fellow alumni and party animals Valerie Kamin ’03, Sophie Vandergrift, Sara (Miller) Strowd and Elizabeth (Yates) Nacey.

**2007**

Justin Samakow received his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in May 2018, and began a new job as a consultant at Bain and Company in September. He currently resides in New York City.

**2007**

Jen Lotze and Brian Stauber were married Aug. 18, 2018, at First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh with a reception following at the Ace Hotel in East Liberty. SSA alumni in the wedding party included Thomas Lotze ’97, Michael “Mac” Lotze ’02, Asra Hashmi (whose makeup was done by Jayme Satterwhite ’08), Valerie Vodrey Hendrickson and Priyanka Venkatesh. Also in attendance were alumni Daniel Guttman and Danny Siger. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

**2004**

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**2013**

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Jerome Barnes '10 and Justin Barnes '13, known as The Keymakers, performed in the WPXI-TV Pittsburgh Holiday Parade on Nov. 24, 2018. For more information, visit wearethekeymakers.com

Head of Senior School Sophie Lau writes: “I connected with three alums at Princeton while attending the She Roars conference held on campus. I visited with Emily Weiss '18, Brian Foster '17 and Shea Minter '15. It was so great to see these students, as they all seem to be thriving and engaged in University life.”

The College of Wooster’s department of theatre and dance presented William Shakespeare’s The Tempest on Oct. 25-27, 2018. Taylor Wood '16 played the part of Prospero and Dante King '17 played the part of Gonzalo. Taylor and Dante were actively involved in the plays and musicals at both the Middle and Senior Schools during their time at SSA.

University of Mount Union sophomore Tyler Gorse earned Academic All-Ohio Athletic Conference honors in baseball in 2018. Gorse plays baseball for Mount Union. To be Academic All-OAC a student athlete must have at least a 3.50 cumulative grade point average and maintain varsity status.

Christopher Zhang just sold his first startup company, Asaii, to Apple and joined Apple as one of the youngest employees in his division. Asaii is a San Francisco-based music analytics startup specializing in using algorithmic data to spot up-and-coming artists before they hit the charts. Launched two years ago, the startup developed tools to help labels, managers and artists aggregate and analyze music data from sources across music and social, including Spotify, SoundCloud and Instagram.

Louis Berry, a senior defensive back for the No. 1-ranked University of Mount Union football team, made the ESPN SportsCenter Top 10 on Sept. 22, 2018, for his strip-sack fumble return TD that sealed the Purple Raiders’ 23-10 victory over John Carroll. Berry earned AFCA All-America and All-Ohio Athletic Conference honors, helping Mount Union to a national championship appearance.
ALUMNI TUITION GRANT PROGRAM

Pass the legacy of a Shady Side education on to your children

The Alumni Tuition Grant program, established in 2014, offers grants to academically talented children of alumni who may not qualify for financial aid but find the cost of full tuition a challenge. The program is open to applicants in grades PK-6 and grade 9, and qualified families may receive annual awards of 10-25% of tuition. After four years, the program has made an SSA education possible for 17 alumni families.

Learn more about the program and other tuition assistance options at ShadySideAcademy.org/AffordingSSA.

REPORT of PHILANTHROPY 2017-2018

The 2017-2018 Report of Philanthropy is available exclusively online at SHADYSIDEACADEMY.ORG/REPORTOFPHILANTHROPY

The Blue & Gold Fund
Cornerstone Giving Challenge

DAY OF GIVING

MAY 2, 2019

On May 2, 1922, the cornerstone for Rowe Hall was laid and a new era for Shady Side Academy began. This year, honor your school’s remarkable history by making a gift on this transformational day.

One Day. One Gift.
ONE SHADY SIDE.
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, 2018.

WILLIAM ORR '39
William Orr passed away Oct. 11, 2018. Orr attended Princeton University before serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. He was the retired CEO of the William M. Orr Co. Inc. and Orrweld Inc. He was predeceased by his first wife, Rae Cheatham. He is survived by his wife, Audrey McKee Orr; sons, William “Duke” (Janet) Orr '65, Raymond (Connie) Orr, John Orr and Gregg (Rebecca) Orr; stepdaughter, Renee (Scott) Logan; three grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and three great-step-grandchildren.

ALEXANDER P. JANSSEN '41

T. WILLIAM COOK JR. '46
Dr. Thomas William Cook passed away Aug. 2, 2016. During his career, he served as president of Rockford Memorial Hospital, Crusader Clinic, and State of Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Susan Carrick. He is survived by his wife, Wendy (James) Correll; son, Bradford (Marcia) Cook; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

PATRICK P. MCCURDY ’46
Patrick Pierre McCurdy passed away March 1, 2018. He received a B.S. in chemical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and served honorably until his discharge as a first lieutenant, later achieving the rank of captain in the reserves. After leaving the Army, he went on to a career in publishing, serving as editor-in-chief for several trade magazines, including Chemical Week and Chemical and Engineering News, which are the chief publications for the chemical industry. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Eiko Y. McCurdy. He is survived by his children, Alan (Sheila) McCurdy, Wendy McCurdy, Alec (Karen) McCurdy and Jeffrey (Barbara) McCurdy; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

JAMES D. McCLISTER ’46
James David McClister passed away June 24, 2018. He attended Trinity College and the University of Virginia School of Law, and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Early in his law career, he worked as the Armstrong County assistant district attorney. He retired from Heilman and McClister in 2016 after practicing law for 59 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Joey. He is survived by his son, Chase (Mindy) McClister; his daughter, Nell McClister (Philip); and six grandsons.

J. PAUL SHROADS ’47
John Paul Shroads passed away May 3, 2018. He attended the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. His career in banking began in New York and later took him to several countries in South America, Europe and Africa. After retirement, he moved to Pompano Beach, Fla., and worked at The Pelican Newspaper in the sales department. He was predeceased by a daughter, Diana. He is survived by his wife, Sara Lee; children, Karen, John Paul, Patrick (Amy) and Christopher; and numerous grandchildren.

CARL W. HERRMANN III ’48
Carl W. Herrmann III passed away July 12, 2018. He was a graduate of Allegheny College and served stateside in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. After college, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates, but instead chose to become the third-generation proprietor of Carl W. Herrmann Furs, which became his passion for the rest of his life. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Melita “Pi” Jacobs Herrmann. He is survived by his children, Melissa (John) Herrmann Eason, Victoria (Richard) Herrmann Jenkinson and Carl Herrmann IV ’78; and six grandchildren.
GORDON FISHER III ‘49
Gordon Fisher III passed away on June 19, 2018. He began his education at Shady Side Academy, graduated from The Lawrenceville School and earned a degree in business from Washington & Lee University. After graduating from college, he joined the U.S. Army, where he was a member of the Army Security Agency attaining the rank of specialist 2nd class. After an honorable discharge, he began working for the Babcock Lumber Company, which was founded by his maternal grandfather, E.V. Babcock, former mayor of the City of Pittsburgh. He left the lumber business as president, acquiring Chapel Flowers and Gifts. He was predeceased by his wife, Julie Fisher. He is survived by his children, Katherine Fisher, Leslie Fisher and Gordon ‘79 (Lisa ‘84) Fisher IV; and grandchildren, Abigail Fisher ‘13 and Eliza Fisher ‘18.

WILLIAM M. HUTCHINSON JR. ‘49
William Martin Hutchinson Jr. passed away Aug. 11, 2018. He was a graduate of Yale University and Carnegie Mellon University. He spent his career working for consulting firms, eventually launching his own firm and working with companies including ITT and Worlds of Wonder. He also served for seven years as the chairman of Connecticut’s Southwest Regional Planning Agency, retiring in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Joan; children, Susan Hutchison, Bill (Stephanie) Hutchison III and Katie Hutchison (Chris Hufstader); and three grandchildren.

JOHN C. REICHENBACH JR. ‘51
John C. Reichenbach Jr. passed away May 16, 2018. He graduated from Yale University and served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a career employee of PPG, serving as director of marketing, glass group; director of competitor intelligence, glass group; and corporate director of government affairs, retiring in 2000 after 42 years. He is survived by his wife, Jean Reichenbach; daughter, Dr. Julie R. Ohrman; sons, Eric (Mary) Reichenbach and Charles (Carolyn) Reichenbach; stepsons, Andrew Konzen and Christopher Konzen; and nine grandchildren.

RICHARD FISHER ’52
Richard “Dick” Fisher passed away Sept. 11, 2018. He was a graduate of Harvard University and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He worked as a financial advisor for more than 50 years, retiring as a vice president at UBS Paine-Webber at age 78. He was predeceased by his first wife, Sheila Atkinson Fisher, and second wife, Dr. Nancy Nieland-Fisher. He is survived by his children and stepchildren, Eric Fisher, Sally Fisher Schoemann, Alexandra Fisher, Richard Fisher ’85, Brita Boyd, Sarah Davis, Jennie Niedelman, Nathaniel Nieland ’99 and Ariel Nieland Forbes; and 10 grandchildren.

WILLIAM B. AMES ’53
William Barry Ames passed away Sept. 4, 2018. After a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, he attended Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania, earning a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He was the past president of the Western Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association; co-founder of Allegheny Veterinary Emergency Clinic; and director of the Rainbow Pet Care Center in Natrona Heights, which he founded in March 1968. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Katrina (Stroup) Ames; his children, William Ames II, Robert Ames, Amber (Steven) Lee, Eric Hanna, Christopher Ames and Morgan Ames; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A. RICHARD MARCUS ’53
Alan Richard “Dick” Marcus passed away Aug. 9, 2018. He was a graduate of Brown University and received a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He pursued a business career and for 46 years operated General Materials Terminals, a trans-loading facility built by his father. During the 1970s, he turned his passion for U.S. history into an adjunct professor position at the University of Pittsburgh in the Administration of Justice Department, where he taught courses on U.S. constitutional law. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda Marcus. Survivors include his children, Susan Jacobson and Joel Marcus ’81; and three grandchildren.

GEORGE R. GRAHAM JR. ’55
George R. Graham Jr. passed away Sept. 4, 2018. He attended Trinity College and served as an aviator in the U.S. Naval Air Forces. After being honorably discharged, he worked for Chemical Leaman Tank Lines and served as a supervisor of West Bradford Township in Downingtown, Pa., for many years. He later acquired Apparel Business Systems and served as CEO until his death. He is survived by his wife of almost 55 years, Sally Niness Graham; children, Kathryn (John) Duggan and George (Kristen) Graham III; and three grandchildren.

WILLIAM R. EMERY ’57
William Reaney Emery passed away Feb. 17, 2018. He was a graduate of Bucknell University and worked as an engineer for Duquesne Light for 38 years. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Claire (Hartner) Emery; his children, William (Pamela) Emery, Janis Feron and Jill Emery; and two grandchildren.

DAVID S. LOTT ’61
David Stuart Lott passed away June 19, 2018. He received a bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University, an M.A. in history from the University of Michigan, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia. He was a partner in the firm Foley & Lardner and practiced law in both Milwaukee and Chicago. He is survived by his wife, Susan Helena Bonnebakker Appleton; his children, John Lott, Katherine Lott, Sarah (Peter Mervis) Lott and Edward Lott; his first wife and mother of his children, Margaret Sturgis Lott; brother, Jeff Lott ’66; stepchildren, Lindy Fishburne, Nathan Appleton, Amy Appleton and Sarah Appleton; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his second wife, Sally Morris Lott, and his parents, Carolyn Prann Lott and John Lott ’38.
GIL SANES ‘62
Gil Sanes passed away Oct. 13, 2018. He was a graduate of Cornell University, Belmont University and University of Pittsburgh Medical School. He completed an internship in OB/GYN in the U.S. Army at Letterman Army Hospital and later settled in Goodlettsville, Tenn., where he practiced OB/GYN until retirement in 1995. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Flora; sons, Joseph (Stephanie) Sanes and Jeffrey (Rachel) Sanes; and two grandchildren.

JAMES J. DECHTER ’66
James J. Dechter passed away Feb. 24, 2018. He received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from UCLA. He completed his post-doctoral studies at Michigan State University and at Florida State University before joining the faculty at the University of Alabama in 1979. He also taught at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) and chaired the Department of Chemistry from 2000 to 2004. He retired from UCO in May 2016 and was active in the Emeritus Faculty Association. He is survived by his brother, Sam (Kathy); sister, Nancy; and several cousins and their families.

ROBERT D. SCOTT ’75
Robert “Bob” Donald Scott passed away Oct. 15, 2018. He earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Ohio University and an M.B.A. from the University of Houston. He began his career at Columbia Gas of Ohio, moving on to Johnson Controls and, most recently, Energy Solutions Group. His career focus was on improving energy efficiency for commercial enterprises and government. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Cynthia; and two daughters, Olivia and Malinda Scott.

RONALD E. COLOSIMO ’78
Ronald Evan Colosimo passed away Oct. 2, 2017. He is survived by his mother, Fayanne (Belansky) Colosimo, and wife, Samantha (Mutersbaugh) Colosimo, as well as numerous siblings and relatives.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Marjorie Allon, mother of Harvey ’67, Eric ’69 and David ’72 Allon
Carol Casey, wife of Ray Celli ’67
Jeannie Celli, wife of Tom Celli ’62 and mother of Michelangelo Celli ’91
Ralph Fiorita, father of Academy groundskeeper Robert Fiorita
Richard B. Fisher, father of Grace Fisher ’84, grandfather of Patrick ’03, George ’04, J.R. ’08 and Mike ’09 Fisher, and father-in-law of trustee emerita Diane Fisher
Anne T. Harrison, mother of John Harrison ’66
Joanne Hayes, mother of Middle School faculty member Randy Broker, and grandmother of Kelsey ’13 and Kerry ’17 Broker
Herbert Malin, father of Elizabeth Malin Rouse ’80
Elinor Reel, mother-in-law of trustee emeritus Stephen Halpern ’74, and grandmother of Jonathan ’10 and Allison ’14 Halpern
Norma Prantl Walsh, mother of Larry Walsh ’89 and Charles Ascher-Walsh ’86, and grandmother of Henry ’16, Sam ’18 and Molly ’22 Walsh
Ann Watson, wife of James Watson ’57

Note: All obituaries appearing in Shady Side Academy Magazine are edited to a consistent size and format.

Correction
In the summer 2018 issue, Dr. Paul Hohler ’99 was omitted from the In Memoriam listing of his father, who should have read: Dr. Thomas Paul Hohler, father of Dr. Paul Hohler ’99 and Andrea (Hohler) Karkso ’00, and husband of former Senior School faculty member Christine Czapleski.
As Shady Side continues to modernize, rebuild and restructure, it is always fun to take a look back at the original structures and layout of the Senior School campus. You may know that Bayard House, which currently houses the Academy administrative offices, was once a dorm. But did you know that it was originally a gymnasium when the campus first opened in the early 1920s?

The gymnasium was 80' x 42', and was typically divided in half so that two gym classes could be held simultaneously. The main floor had 120 lockers and six showers, while the second floor contained athletics administration offices and a “powerhouse” exercise room designated for boxing and wrestling, and the basement was used for sports equipment storage. A balcony was constructed around the entire main floor, which was designated for lower form students to watch varsity athletic games. Upper-form students and faculty members were permitted access to the main level during games. All students and visitors were required to enter the gymnasium through the front porch entrance in order to not track mud on the highly polished floors.

During the latter part of 1928, the Board of Trustees decided to relieve congestion in the three existing dormitories (Morewood, Ellsworth and Aiken) by remodeling the gym into a fourth dormitory called Bayard House. The dormitory would house first- and second-form students, leaving the other dorms for older students.

The $70,000 renovation was funded by donations from Academy parents, and the new dorm was named for Bayard Street, paying tribute to the East End location of an earlier campus of SSA. The renovation added second and third floors, stairwells, divisions for rooms, and the necessary plumbing. The new living quarters also featured two side porches, a common room in the center of the building, and touted “bigger and better rooms” (**SSA News**, Oct. 5, 1929).

On Oct. 22, 1929, boys from Morewood and Ellsworth were relocated to their new housing in Bayard.

In the meantime, construction was underway on the new Curry Gymnasium, which is still in use today. The new gymnasium building was a gift from the family of Henry M. Curry, one of Andrew Carnegie’s first business partners and father of three SSA alumni.

If you have any additional information on the history of SSA, please contact Lindsay Kovach at **lkovach@shadysideacademy.org**.
www.shadysideacademy.org

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