

Allerdice Alumni Foreword

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The Official Newspaper of the Allerdice Alumni Association

December 2016

Allerdice Alumni Association Reorganizes

By JON PARKER

We are pleased to deliver to you the first ever electronic edition of The Allerdice Alumni Foreword. This e-newspaper is produced by current Allerdice students and distributed to alumni and friends of Allerdice. Our hope is to highlight current Allerdice events as well as alumni causes and reunions throughout both the fall and spring semesters at the school.

As many of you know, the Allerdice Alumni Association

has undergone a reorganization throughout the last year and a half. A new group of alumni leadership has been working together since October of 2015, in the hopes of building a partnership with the Allerdice Parent Teacher Organization that would be for the benefit of the entire Allerdice community. The new group has worked diligently throughout the process to build structures of communication and accountability that would ensure alumni engagement. The group is currently conducting regular

meetings about specific projects, many of which you can read about in this e-newspaper.

Andee Lowenstein (1976) and Melanie Weisbord (1987) are co-chairs of the current committee. They are conducting monthly meetings to plan events like the annual Alumni Hall of Fame. If you are interested in participating in these meetings or connecting with them for another cause, please feel free to contact Melanie and Andee at allderdice1927@gmail.com.

Allerdice Class Reunions

By KAZUMA PARKINSON

When you graduate from Allerdice, you say goodbye to many things: teachers, friends, and a community. But every once and awhile, these things reunite, as class reunions are organized and held. As 1981 committee chair Alfonso Washington of Atlanta, Georgia said, "Reunions are important to rekindle bonds with old friends and classmates...I have many friendships that will last a lifetime."

The Allerdice class of '81 reunion occurred on November 25th, 2016 at Bella Frutteto Restaurant in Wexford, owned by Allerdice class of '81 graduate Sandy Barnes Rook and her husband. Close to 80 alumni gathered on the Friday after Thanksgiving to catch up and to enjoy a buffet of heavy appetizers and desserts. Door prizes were awarded, and the entire group took time to honor the alumni who had passed away. The event lasted far into the night.

Mr. Washington, along with eight other committee members, put a tremendous amount of work into organizing the event. Preparation for the event began a year in advance, but according

to him, "It is a very rewarding and fulfilling experience to see it all come to fruition." He added that the average attendance for class reunions is 26%, and a few faculty from the graduating year have attended.

The next day, a school tour was provided for the alumni. Allerdice spiritwear was sold so they could retain their Allerdice pride. Later that day, an Allerdice all-class reunion was held at The Club Bar and Grill in Monroeville. The event served as a scholarship fundraiser and as a way for classmates to rekindle and for others to meet.

However, the class of '81 reunion was not the only recent reunion of Allerdice alumni. The class of '71 reunion was held on the weekend of July 8th through July 10th. On the 8th, alumni met at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel Bar, and the next day the official reunion was held at the Green Oaks Country Club in Verona, PA. On Sunday the 10th, alumni went to the Pittsburgh Pirates vs Detroit Tigers game together.

The classes of '46, '47, and '48 also held a reunion on August 27, 2016. Mr. Ronald Schmeiser, class of '47 helped to

organize the reunion, which was planned 15 months in advance. A luncheon for alumni was held in which 152 alumni attended, and among the other attendees was current principal Ms. Friez. Mr. Schmeiser, former captain of the Allerdice basketball team, said that he values reunions because he "can see old friends that he hasn't seen." When reflecting on his time at Allerdice, Mr. Schmeiser said, "I had a positive experience, a wonderful time, met lots of good people, and had a good education." Like many alumni, Mr. Schmeiser has kept in touch with the school, and followed the remarkable run of the Allerdice 2015-16 boys basketball team.

Upcoming Allerdice reunions include the class of '67 reunion, to be held September 1st and 2nd of 2017. This will be their 50 year anniversary, and venues include the 20th Century Club and the Rivers Club. Reunions continue to be a great way for former Allerdice classmates to come together. They are a fun, rewarding experience for all, and no doubt many more will continue to be held in the future.

The Shirley Kruman Fisher Purposeful Travel Fund

By JORDAN CRIVELLA

The Roman philosopher Seneca once said, "Travel and change of place impart new vigour to the mind." This is a statement that Shirley Kruman Fisher would have wholeheartedly agreed with. Fisher was an Allerdice alum and graduated from Taylor Allerdice in 1942. After high school she went on to study and graduate from Penn State University and work as a researcher at West Penn Hospital. She was a lifelong learner with a passion for science, math, literature, languages, and travel. For many years Shirley and her husband Bernard were able to travel frequently for Bernard's work. After Shirley's death in July, 2016, her family established *The Shirley Kruman Fisher Purposeful Travel Fund*.

This fund was named in honor of Shirley Kruman Fisher, and represents both her love for Allerdice and her passion for travel. The goal of this fund is to give students at Allerdice an opportunity to experience the world from new places outside of Pittsburgh. Fisher believed that travel was vital in helping people to become well-rounded individuals and that it was very important that less fortunate students have an opportunity to see different parts of the world. It is her family's goal that her legacy will live on through this fund for many years. Since the fund was set up donations have been made, and collectively the fund will be able to grant scholarships for students attending the trip to Peru in the summer of 2017.

The trip to Peru will be the first Allerdice school trip to be sponsored by the travel fund.

Ms. Donnelly has worked hard to help set up the fund and offer this unique opportunity to many students that she thought this could be a meaningful experience for. Students who wanted to receive a scholarship had to fill out an application. The application asked questions about what they hoped to get out of the trip, how this trip could help their learning and be a meaningful experience, and an essay about why they wanted to travel to Peru. Fisher believed that the travel should be purposeful and another aspect in students' learning. The goal of this application was to ensure that the students who received a scholarship got the most out of this opportunity. A couple Allerdice teachers decided which students would be given the scholarships based on the quality of their application and their essay.

On this trip students will get opportunities to see Machu Picchu and other Inca remains and help with community service. In the future, the travel fund will be offering scholarships to students traveling to Italy, Spain, and Puerto Rico. These trips are set to occur in 2018. On these trips students will get opportunities to see historic places and learn more about the cultures in these areas.

The Shirley Kruman Fisher Purposeful Travel Fund will have a lasting impact on any student who get a scholarship through this program. Travel has the ability to put the world as you know it into a completely different perspective which is a unique experience. Lifelong memories and important experiences will be gained by many Allerdice students, all due to one Allerdice alum's passion for travel.

Allerdice Alumni and Friends Committee

Co-Chair	Melanie Weisbord, 1987
Co-Chair	Andee Lowenstein, 1976
PTO President	Martina Wells
Member	Mina Levenson, 1970
Member	Jay Gefsky, 1948
Member	Carey Knapp, 1993
Member	Marcia Solomon, 1961
Member	Eric Rogalsky, 1984
Member	Sherry Mayer, 1985
Member	Jo Kleppick, 2005
Friend	Betsy Levine Brown
Member	Melissa Friez, 1997
Member	Rochelle Sufrin, 1974
Member	Judith Kadosh, 1983
Member	Rika Maeshiro, 1981
Member	Evan Rosenberg, 1987
Member	Stan Goldman, 1962
Member	Ronald Schmeiser, 1948
Member	Julie Hirshman, 1982
Member	Paula Fingeret, 1981
Member	Jamy Rankin, 1981
Member	Robert Rankin, 1981



Class of 1981 reunion planning committee at the 35th reunion: [Left to right: 1st row: Adele Stein Sufrin, Judy Rulin Mahan, Tracy Williamson; 2nd row: Garret Moore, Sandy Barnes Rook, Paula Fingeret Rulin, Rika Maeshiro, Alfonso Washington (Chair)] Not pictured: Brian Beerman

Allderdice Hall of Fame 2017

By Austin Davis

Almost every year since 2009, the Allderdice Alumni Association has hosted an event commemorating other alumni for their actions and lives. This year is one such, and will be the eighth official "Hall of Fame", which will be hosted on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at Allderdice.

What exactly is the Hall of Fame? As mentioned before, the Hall of Fame is an event in which the some of Allderdice's alumni honor some of their own, looking back on their lives and achievements. All potential inductees are nominated by alumni themselves, and five of those nominees are selected to be new members of Allderdice's Hall of Fame this coming April.

The Association puts a lot

of work into the nomination process. A nomination committee is formed, who picks the five inductees from the the nominees sent to them that year. Any alumnus can nominate someone by emailing allderdice1927@gmail.com the name, graduation year, and short biography of the person in question. The deadline for nominations was Thursday, December 15. Past inductees have included some Allderdice luminaries such as Oscar-nominated film director Robert Marshall, NFL running back Curtis Martin, sports broadcaster Myron Cope, and NBC correspondent Sharon Epperson

The Alumni Association holds an event where the new members are finally inducted into the Hall of Fame. The event in the past has featured up to 200

people, features a band, string quartet, and a reception afterwards. The alumni present all sing the alma mater, and the new members are officially inducted into the Hall of Fame. Some of these members may come to Allderdice during the school day to converse with interested students, who can ask for whatever advice they want, such as career advice.

Along with the Hall of Fame ceremony, a teacher is presented with Fisher Award, commemorating their service to the school and teaching skills. The award is named after former Allderdice principal William A.G Fisher, who himself was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011.

Now, we wait for this coming spring, when will see just who has been bestowed with such honors.

Columbia Scholarship

By Emily Pressman

In 2003, Mark Yecies decided to give back to the Allderdice community, as it had given so much to him. Yecies graduated Allderdice high school in 1967 and from there went to Columbia University. Yecies stated that Columbia University was an amazing experience for himself and he wanted other Allderdice students be able to have a similar experience to him. To give them that opportunity, he started the Mark L. Yecies Scholarship. The goal of this scholarship was to give people who did not have the finances, especially Taylor Allderdice students, a chance to attend Columbia. The scholarship is need-based, and gives first priority to any Allderdice students, and second priority to any students from Pittsburgh.

Mark Yecies was in charge of the Mergers and Acquisitions tax practice in the National Office of the accounting firm of Ernst & Young in Washington, DC, but retired in 2005. When many retire they decide to rent an apartment in Florida or buy an expensive car, but Yecies put time and effort into his scholarship. He wanted it to succeed, as it signified that the best of the best could attend

Colombia. It was no longer just for the brightest and richest. With this scholarship and many others like it the school would have more diversity and thrive.

Robert Kennedy once said "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better." This quote describes Mark Yecies perfectly. He has a passion for helping even when it is not asked of him. Yecies is one of the few that will go above and beyond not because he was asked but because he knows it is the right thing to do. He could have used this scholarship money for himself but he chose to give back to the Pittsburgh community.

As the years pass, some very lucky students are now able to thrive from the opportunity they were given with this scholarship. These lucky students are able to have such an amazing college experience and probably somewhere along the line made an everlasting positive impact on somebody's life. That person will make a positive impact on another's life, causing a never ending ripple effect. One action putting a scholarship in place affected so many lives for the better. We can hope that there will be more scholarships like this for Allderdice High School, to help our school ecel even higher.

Photos from the Class of '81 Reunion



Soccer Season Review

By JACKSON BLAUFELD

Even though Allderdice is a city school, the boys soccer team entered the WPIAL in 2012. Many may have been skeptical of the Dragons ability to compete on this stage, surely a larger one. Facing fierce competition, they have adjusted just fine. Under Head Coach Sam Bellin, his teams are always praised for their unselfishness. Also, Coach Bellin is known for his ability to lead each team differently, according to his players on that specific team. These traits, and more, has led the Allderdice Dragons boys soccer team to become section champions in the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

However, the transition into the WPIAL wasn't easy. Coach Bellin made the transition with the team into a new reality. Coach Bellin said, "It was a complete shock to me, the speed and physicality of the WPIAL caught us completely by surprise" (Mike White/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette). He added, "It took us some time to adjust." A few years later, the Dragon's rest at the top.

Allderdice Alum and former standout goalie Jesse Goleman added, "it's better for the program and developing talent." Goleman helped lead the Dragons to a City League championship his Junior season, and said "after losing my sophomore year, to win it as a starter in my Junior season was the most memorable moment for me". On the better competition in the WPIAL, he remembers "winning 13 or 14 to nothing" in the City League. Soccer didn't stop for him after high school, as he attended Centenary University and was the starting goalie on a team that delivered the school its first ever conference championship. That accomplishment was his proudest moment in college. Overall, in his eyes the move to the WPIAL was "nothing but good" for the school

and program. Jesse just missed the transition but brought one of the final city championships to Allderdice.

Going into the 2015 season, there was a lot of buzz around this team. Everyone in Allderdice wanted to be a part of what became a special season. The boys soccer program had enough players to form a Freshman team. This is unheard of from a city school. By the first game, 70 players were suiting up for the Freshman, JV, or Varsity squads.

In a 4-1-4-1 formation, Coach Bellin had designed an offense around 6'10" midfielder, not goalie, Timothy Pugh. His footwork along with fellow senior Harrison Smith combined for many goals and assists. Some other notable players were seniors Mohammed Traore (Currently at WVU) and Ben Udler; Junior Albin Wells; and Sophomore goalie Dane Jacomen along with Jesse Weisbord. By the time state playoffs came around in 2015, Allderdice had reached the goal of conquering a section championship. This was the first ever WPIAL championship for Allderdice just four years after leaving the City League.

There was just one issue, the number six seed Dragons were the only higher seeded team to not receive a first round bye or a home game. Some may say this is the WPIAL not catering to a City school, after all, only an associate member of the WPIAL in this sport. Jesse Weisbord added "I love being a City League team in the WPIAL. As a team, it feels good to do so well even though we aren't thought of as a contender." The players stayed focused on the task at hand, and ultimately, the game site was switched to Cup-



varsityviews.com

ples Stadium on the South Side, the Dragons home field. Allderdice ended up winning the game in Overtime, the game winning goal came from a Pugh to Swaby connection that will never be forgotten. The dream season came to an end with a loss to Kiski Area.

After graduating four of its top players and Noah Swaby sitting out to focus on track, many thought this year would be more of a rebuilding one for Bellin and his team. That hasn't been the scenario, and the Dragons haven't missed a beat.

The team still had a plethora of talent and many players that stepped up significantly. After contributing in spurts during his sophomore season, Jesse Weisbord had come back for his Junior campaign with something to prove. He was inserted into the starting lineup, and, has stepped up to be the team's feature goal scorer. Weisbord finished the season with 12 goals.

Asked which was most memorable, he said "scoring the game winning goal against Bethel Park with 17 minutes left" was his favorite. A Junior tandem of Weisbord and Jacomen had the team

clicking on all cylinders. Along with those two; Seniors Wail Bichiba, Albin Wells, Charlie Axtman, and Elias Paolone have brought back their experience to push the team to its second section title in two years.

On top of that; Bichiba, Wells, Weisbord, and Jacomen received First-Team All-Section honors. In a section that includes Penn Hills, Central Catholic, Plum, Brashear, and Woodland Hills, and more, this is a major accomplishment.

Unfortunately, this year the same issue arose in the state playoffs. The higher seeded Dragons did not receive the home game that they deserved. This year, the WPIAL did not overturn the game site but the Dragons were not concerned.

Weisbord said, "I don't think about the game sites too much. There isn't much I can do other than play." That attitude exemplifies this team, and their Coach Sam Bellin. However, the season ended in the first round of the PIAA playoffs with a loss.

As another season awaits, the team again loses a formidable group of seniors. As a junior looking forward to his final sea-

son next year, Jesse Weisbord will remember this year's Senior class for their "unbelievable attitude." He continued to say that "all season long they were excited to practice, play, and win. They never wanted to lose."

This is something that every coach wants their veterans to bring to a team. Weisbord concluded by saying "this season would not have been as successful as it was without that group."

Next year, the star tandem of Weisbord and Jacomen will return for their last season. There are promising young players coming up through the ranks in the program, such as Sophomores Jacob Lichtenstein and Brian Woolley, and Freshman Angelo Gold- man. These players and more should help contribute in hopes to defend their section title.

In recent years, this team has made the school and their community proud. This was accomplished not only by the wins and section titles, but through the team's togetherness, unselfishness, humility, and passion.

The Allderdice Alumni Foreword

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Thank you for your support of the Allderdice Alumni Association

Questions, comments, or suggestions can be emailed to allderdice1927@gmail.com

Boys Tennis Team

By NAYDAEJIA LOVE

The Allderdice Boys Tennis Team has experienced lots of success the last few years. After winning the City League every year since Jimmy Carter was President, the Allderdice team switched to WPIAL competition 6 years ago. Since then, the team has qualified for the WPIAL playoffs each year, which is far better than what anyone would have expected.

This year, expectations are to keep improving on the previous success. Coach Keith Goldman, an Allderdice gym and health teacher, who has coached the team for 12 years, expects the team to surpass what they have achieved in previous years. "We are the only team of any sport in the city league that has joined the WPIAL and has made it to the playoffs each year. My expectations are to keep that streak alive."

Another aspect which makes that streak remarkable is the tough competition in the team's division. With schools who have played in the WPIAL level competition longer and are tennis



powerhouses, such as Fox Chapel, Central Catholic, and Shady Side Academy in the same division, qualifying for the playoffs is not a simple task. Last year, for the first time since entering the WPIALs, Allderdice defeated Central Catholic. With first and third singles winning, combined with a victory from the first doubles team, Allderdice pulled off the major upset.

That victory allowed Allderdice to earn the three seed in the playoffs, the highest it has ever received. Other bright spots from last year's team include an undefeated non-section record and only two losses during the section's regular season. But, last year's success is just the begin-

ning. With the majority of last year's team being underclassmen, including five of the seven starters, the expectations for this year are higher.

After a disappointing loss to Franklin Regional in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs, this team is hungry to win this year.

But what Coach Goldman's expectations ultimately boil down to are, "It is not always about the wins or losses though, it is about the effort and the drive towards a common goal that I consider a successful year. I have had some amazing groups of student athletes past and present and I am looking forward to another great season."

Allerdice Fall Play



By SHANNON CAVACINO-STEAD

Courtesy of Carly Chotiner

Taylor Allerdice is the home of dozens of sports, clubs, and extra-curricular activities. One of these that Dice has to offer is the theater program, which is a huge hit with students, parents, and faculty. Allerdice's last play, *The Dining Room*, was put on this fall. This comedic play was written by A. R. Gurney Jr. in 1981, and first performed on January 31, 1982. The story, told through a course of 18 scenes, is that of a dining room set and the lives of the many different families who owned it. Overall, it tells the story of the relatively short-lived culture of the White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs), upper and middle class Americans, and the transition of America into a much more efficient society that places less value on tradition and is more diverse and accepting. There is also a genuine longing for the sense of stability, comfort and togetherness that the culture provides that is expressed in the play. Although this play was written over 20 years ago, the message is ver ouchig and relatable.

Teresa Madden Harrold, an english teacher at Allerdice, has been the director of many of Allerdice's productions and continued her streak with this play. Although the cast had only 12 rehearsals of hard work over the course of less than a month and a half, they managed put it together spectacularly. There were a total of 3 showings that took place at Allerdice on November 18 and 19 at 7pm and on November 20 at 2 pm. As usual, they had a large turn out each day.

I interviewed one actor in the play, 10th grader Russell Petro. Russell's role in the play was more than one character. Less than a dozen kids were selected for the play and the many roles were split up between them so he ended up playing nine characters. Theater comes easy to him because of his many past experiences. Petro says, "I did the JCC Fall Middle School musical for 2 years, Performing Arts Camp at the JCC for 3 years, the Colfax Middle School Spring Musical for 2 years, and the JCC Senior High Musical for 2

years, and I am looking forward to auditioning soon, going on my 3rd year". Also, he has participated in many bands and choirs along his theater career. He will be acting again soon at Allerdice in the spring musical *Pippin*.

There is a major excitement buzzing around Allerdice around the time of musical season. It brings out a sense of togetherness and theater with everybody. You will not be disappointed in the next Spring Musical, *Pippin*, so come and see for yourself what all the hype is about.

Lady Dragons



Allerdice vs. North Hills 2015

northhillsathletics.org

By NAYDAEJIA LOVE

Allerdices' girls' basketball team, The Lady Dragons, are coming this year ten times more focused and determined. Last year, with a record of 9 wins - 13 losses, the girls did not go to the championship, but with new coaching and an abundant amount of dedicated female athletes, they are for sure going places! They are coming into this season with fourteen new girls, making the team roster 23 strong. With new coach Ellen Guillard and managers like Allerdice's own Lovey Harris, everyone's excited about this year and eager to see their

biggest competition, Pittsburgh Obama.

Returning players like A.J. Givner and Markeya Keller are ready to help take the team to far places and big wins.

Although they lost their opening game of the 2016-2017 season at the Serra Catholic Tip-Off tournament against East Allegheny with a score of 56-38, they made a comeback against Serra Catholic, winning 64-50.

The girls are ready to beat the odds and thrive to win the city championship and compete in the state playoffs!

Come help us keep the DICE rolling!



Second Annual Dragon Spirit Party
The Pittsburgh Golf Club
Saturday, May 13th
7-11pm

SAVE THE DATE

Mingle with loyal alumni from across many decades, current families and community members as we celebrate Allerdice's past and together forge the path for the school's future.



The event will feature an update of our initial major targeted project, the Field Project, a spectacular Silent Auction to benefit our field efforts, heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a cash bar.

Jewelry Club

By GIANNA GRIFFIN

Inside Jewelry Room 428, Julie Farber teaches students in grades 9-12 how to make intricate works of art and a crucial lesson about giving. Five years ago, Ms. Farber created Jewelry Love, where students make custom pieces for women with cancer or survivors of the disease.

It all started nine years ago when students spent a day crafting handmade sterling silver jewelry that would be sold at a local store, donating the proceeds to charity.

"My students and I wanted to make our efforts more personal and use the skills of a jeweler to make women smile. A former student's mother died from a cancer and she co-created Cancer Be Glammed with another student's mother which helps women undergoing chemo cope with the harsh realities of what it does to a person's psyche. I called her and asked if she could share the names of her clients so we could personally make them jewelry."

"Participants were paired with my student jewelers to co-design jewelry that would be given to them. Jewelry Love was born," says Farber.

Every year, students get into groups of 1-4 and speak to each woman about their desired piece. "There's nothing like the happiness in their voice when they find out the pieces are 100% free, and that someone is putting time and effort into making them smile," says Sara Goldstein, an 11th grader involved in Jewelry Love.

The students spend months on these projects and put a lot of effort into making them beautiful. The project is sponsored by different organizations every year, and the class receives many anonymous donations. The Allerdice PTO is also very supportive of the program.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the event. Last year there were 37 recipients, 55 student jewelers, and 2 alumni jewelers who all worked to make Jewelry Love possible.

Julie Farber says, "It's an amazing program in so many ways...everyone benefits."

"I'm so glad to help these students learn that there is nothing more gratifying than helping others, and that these women know how much support they have in their communities."

You can donate at <https://www.crowdrise.com/jewelrylove/fundraiser/ourclubhouse>

Follow the class on instagram! @farberjewelry



Mrs. Farber at her home in Summerset

pittsburghpostgazette.com