

Allderdice Alumni Foreword

Vol. I, No. 2

The Official Newspaper of the Allderdice Alumni Association

May 2017

Allderdice Inducts 6 Members into Hall of Fame

By KAZUMA PARKINSON
AND SARA LIANG

On April 27, 2017 at the 8th annual Allderdice Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Taylor Allderdice inducted six new members into its Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held in the school's auditorium, with the Allderdice string quartet, drumline, chorus, and the cast of this year's school musical *Pippin* providing entertainment. Mr. Askin, a physical education teacher, served as the master of ceremonies in place of principal Mrs. Friez, who was out of town.

Attorney Sheldon Elsen ('46), was the first inductee to speak, describing his impactful career as a lawyer. Elsen grew up in Squirrel Hill and attended Allderdice before going to Princeton, and then Harvard, on scholarships. In the U.S Supreme Court, Elsen won the case of *Bronston v. United States* 9-0, which has since become the leading case on perjury. From his time at Allderdice, Elsen remembers regularly writing editorials for the school newspaper, the Foreword.

Following Elsen, journalist Indira Lakshmanan ('84) spoke. Lakshmanan has been a correspondent and columnist for newspapers, radio, TV, and magazines. She has interviewed political leaders such as Hillary Clinton and Fidel Castro, and been the Boston Globe's Asia Bureau Chief and Latin America Bureau Chief. In her speech, Lakshmanan credited her principal, Mr. Fisher, for "expecting excellence from all" and setting the tone for all other teachers and students. "He patrolled the hallways and tolerated no nonsense, but had affection for all students," she said. Along with Mr. Fisher, Lakshmanan also thanked her cross-country coach Flynn (still the Allderdice cross-country coach to this day), for helping her become successful.

Tony Award winning director and choreographer Kathleen Marshall ('80) took to the stand next, and discussed the impact the city of Pittsburgh had on her growing up. "Pittsburgh was such a great city to grow up in", she said. She went on to speak about her experiences at Allderdice, specifically in the choir and mu-



The 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees with their plaques (from left): Edna Campbell, Kathleen Marshall, Indira Lakshmanan, Robert Smith (on behalf of Virginia Lewis), Eddie Rosenstein, Sheldon Elsen//

sicals. After graduating, Marshall won 3 Tony Awards for Best Choreography for the Broadway revivals of *Wonderful Town*, *The Pajama Game*, and *Anything Goes*. She ended her speech by thanking her husband and parents, before addressing her 7-year-old twins in the audience, Ella and Nathaniel, and blowing them each a kiss.

Edna Campbell ('86) is a retired WNBA player and an inspiration to women battling breast cancer. Campbell, a breast cancer survivor herself, had continued to play basketball during her treatments and since retiring from the game, continues to work as an advocate for cancer patients with her program *Breathe and Stretch*. In her time at Allderdice, Campbell brought the Lady Dragons to the city championships, and was named the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Female Athlete of the Year in 1986. In her speech, she thanked Allderdice for giving her confidence and passion, and her teachers for seeing something in her. "I'm beyond proud to be a Dragon" she said. After graduating from Allderdice, Campbell went on to a lengthy WNBA career and won a gold medal with the USA at the FIBA

World Championships in 1998. Although she has won many previous awards and honors, she explained that "There's something special about coming back home", and that "this Allderdice induction is different because my classmates knew me from the beginning." She closed her speech with some inspirational words for the students in the audience: "Grab yourself a dream. Go out and become what you want to be."

The next inductee was Eddie Rosenstein ('81), a documentary film maker whose films have won dozens of international awards. He was introduced by his fellow Allderdice Hall of Fame member Evan Wolfson, who reflected on his relationship with Rosenstein, both as friends and colleagues. "I knew him as a good son and kid," he said. "Now I know him as an extraordinary storyteller, husband, and friend." Stepping to the podium, Rosenstein emphasized the importance of the Pittsburgh and Allderdice values he carries, even though he lives in New York. When asked about the importance of the ceremony, he said, "I wouldn't have missed this for the world. Being honored in my hometown, by the school

I went to, and people I've known my whole life was one of the most important honors I've ever received...Being a part of this sort of pulled together a million memories and moments of my life, and reconnected them. This was special in that it pushed me to think a lot about my Pittsburgh roots and how much our high school shaped my life." Rosenstein also spoke about how proud he was to be able to make movies and showcase the amazing people who work hard without getting any attention. His most recent film, *Freedom To Marry*, is a documentation of the decades-long battle to win rights for LGBT+ people and has garnered

widespread success.

The final inductee of the night was Virginia Lewis, a former Allderdice choir teacher from 1955 to 1979 who passed away in 2000. Her cousin, Dr. Robert Smith, accepted the award on her behalf. Members of the current Allderdice choir were joined by alumni members to sing *Emitte Spiritum*, the choir's "signature song" under Mrs. Lewis. Fellow inductee Kathleen Marshall mentioned the power Lewis possessed, the respect she had for her, and the legacy she left at Allderdice.

Carey Knapp ('93), Practice Manager at Greenfield Veterinary Hospital and Co-Founder of A Little Bit of Snuggles Dog Rescue, Inc. and Jamy Rankin ('81), Retired President and CEO of Ford Component Sales LLC, led the HOF organizing committee. They said that planning for the Hall of Fame began in September 2016, and that the Hall of Fame Committee put deliberate care into choosing inductees from a variety of disciplines. Both were pleased with this year's events, which attracted more than 100 alumni, students, and teachers.

After the ceremony, light refreshments were served in the school's cafeteria, and Allderdice students and teachers then and now mingled together. For current Allderdice students, this year's inductees serve as great examples, and for all their stories and accomplishments were incredible and inspiring. The Allderdice Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony showcased the best that Allderdice has taught and raised, and prompted thoughts of the many more wonderful alumni that are to be added in years to come.

Allderdice Alumni and Friends Association

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
Alumni Parent	Betsy Levine Brown
Member	Melissa Friez, 1997
Member	Rochelle Sufirin, 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

HOF Inductee Profiles

5 of this year's inductees visited Allderdice as a part of the HOF speaker series. Read more about their stories.

Alumni, page 2, 3

On the Rise

The Allderdice Lady Dragons basketball team are young, motivated, and primed for success.

Sports, page 3



Pippin Original Logo//Google Images

Center Stage

Alumni Foreword writer Leo Sweeney reviews Allderdice's spring musical *Pippin*

Happenings, page 4

Allderdice Global Minds

New club aims to bring students together across cultures, and gets nationally recognized for it.

Happenings, page 4



Global Minds//Peyton Klein

Edna Campbell: Basketball Star

By NAYDAEJIA LOVE

On April 27, 2017, a large group of basketball enthusiasts congregated in rm. 342 to meet WNBA star, cancer survivor, and Allderdice alum Edna Campbell.

Campbell was born in Philadelphia PA, on November 26, 1968. She graduated from Allderdice in 1986, where she led the girl's basketball team to the city championships and was the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Female Athlete of the Year. She went on to college, first at University of Maryland, College Park, and then on to the University of Texas, where she made a huge impact on the women's basketball team, the Lady Longhorns. During her college years she also played on Team USA for the William Jones Cup competition, and won two medals, a gold and a silver.

After college she went on to play in the American Basketball League for the Colorado Xplosion, before getting drafted 10th overall in the 1999 WNBA draft by the Phoenix Mercury.



Campbell speaking to students about her journey to the WNBA//Jeremy Askin

She would go on to a seven-year career with four teams—Phoenix, Seattle, Sacramento, and San Antonio. However, in 2002, Campbell was diagnosed with breast cancer, but continued to play despite receiving treatment. She soon became an inspiration to many battling the disease, and was named the WNBA spokesperson on anti-cancer efforts. When she retired from the WNBA in 2006 she had left a lasting mark and was nominated as Most Inspirational by fans for her triumph and return to basketball after cancer. Since then, she has founded Stretch and Breathe, a health restoration program for breast cancer survivors.

Coming back to Allderdice as an alumni she told the students about her trials and tribulations, the importance of making mistakes, having failed relationships, and how essential teamwork, a strong set of supporters, and friends are. She shared how she faced and overcame her crisis of finding out she had breast cancer. During her speech at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, she said that there "is something special about coming back home... this is where my foundation was laid." She spoke about how grateful she was to be around tough, demanding people who accepted nothing but her best and believed in her. Campbell is a strong woman and says her biggest accomplishment was having her son. Young athletes should look up to her and at her struggles overcoming abundant obstacles. She is an inspiration to a lot of young female basketball players and women with breast cancer as well as an accomplished woman who generously gives back.

Mob Cases, Drug Smugglers, and the Supreme Court: Lawyer Sheldon Elsen

By SARA LIANG

April 27, 2017, a group of around a dozen Allderdice students attended a talk with 2017 Allderdice Hall of Fame Inductee Sheldon Elsen. Elsen reflected upon his lengthy career in law, as well as with the United States military.

Elsen was one of two valedictorians in the Allderdice 1946 graduating class. After graduation he served in the military, working military intelligence. He told the students his firsthand account of getting posted in Berlin after the Berlin airlift and having "no fuel, [and] no food."

After his military career, Elsen went on full scholarship to Princeton University for his undergraduate degree, and then headed to Harvard for his master's degree and juris doctor degree (J.D.). After receiving his law degree in 1958, he got what he called, his "big break"—a job at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan. "We were kids prosecuting incredible cases", he reflected. "We took leading cases in the country." He recounted stories of taking mob cases that seemed "straight out of the Godfather movies", and a particularly enthralling account of working with the U.S. Secret Service on a case that involved safes being cracked around New York City.

After 4 years working with the Justice Department, Elsen went into private practice. One of his clients was a film producer

named Samuel Bronston, who filed for bankruptcy in 1964. Two years later, when being questioned under oath about his company's overseas assets, Bronston answered a question concerning if he had had an account in Switzerland saying "The company had an account there for about six months, in Zürich." It was later discovered that Bronston did in fact have an active personal bank account in Switzerland. "This is when I got a call from [Bronston] asking for me to represent him in his prosecution," said Elsen.

However, Bronston was convicted of perjury by federal prosecutors, which was then upheld by the 2nd circuit court of appeals. But Elsen refused to let the case drop: "Let's take a shot at the Supreme Court," he remembers saying. He filed for certiorari from the Supreme Court, and got granted it in 1971. "I can't tell you what it was like, to know that the Supreme Court took your case," Elsen said with a faint smile on his face. "It was the most exciting experience of my life. And we won." Bronston v. United States was won by the defense with a unanimous vote from the Court, and has since become the controlling legal standard of perjury in the American legal system.

Students who attended Elsen's talk were amazed by his accomplishments, which also included writing an article that was one of the bases of the landmark Miranda decision. They were fascinated by his stories of chas-

3 Time Tony-Award Winning Choreographer Kathleen Marshall

By SYDNE SAMUELS-ROTTENBERG

On the 27th of April 2017, a small group of eager Allderdice students, specifically "thesbians", or theater enthusiasts, gathered for the honor to meet Kathleen Marshall, a three-time Tony winning director and choreographer. When she entered the room, the first word that came to mind was awestruck. This was someone who had walked down the very same hallowed hallways of Allderdice and was now walking across stages on Broadway itself.

Ms. Marshall attended Falk Laboratory School for middle school before moving on to Allderdice for high school. She recounted walking down Forbes and Murray after school, and asked if that was something students still did. This was met with a timid laugh from the crowd. She continued by saying that it was not too long ago that she performed on the Dice stage just as the Pippin cast members had done. This very stage opened the doors, or in theater terms, the curtains for Ms. Marshall to perform on much larger ones.

Speaking to her was truly an invaluable opportunity. Ms. Marshall is currently working on Broadway's first ever cappella musical, In Transit alongside the lyricist responsible for Disney's hit "Let it Go" and the music director and vocal arranger of

the Pitch Perfect movies. She has worked in the midst of esteemed actors such as Sutton Foster and directed Broadway classics.

Yet, perhaps the most remarkable thing about Ms. Marshall was that she still

found a way to relate to us. Something everyone can relate to is encountering people who don't understand your passion or find it to be unimportant. Ms. Marshall chuckled as she said that she can't even remember the number of times that someone scoffed at how seriously she takes her craft, for theater is "not brain surgery." Theater is indeed not brain surgery, but it was Ms. Marshall's and it was our brain surgery. Theater is so important to Ms. Marshall because it is a form of art that plays off of and

stems from raw human emotions and in many cases evokes powerful revelations in audiences.

Further showing her Pittsburgh roots, Ms. Marshall's latest project In Transit depicts a theme Pittsburghers know all too well. The play follows numerous regulars on the New York City subway with very different backgrounds and stories. Their lives intertwine in strange, yet beautiful ways and in one way or another characters are influenced by each other. The subway makes the enormous city of New York feel like a more intimate community, similar to the feeling of Pittsburgh.

Ms. Marshall rendered the students in awe for she truly is a depiction of Allderdice's motto: "Know Something. Do Something. Be Something."



Marshall (middle), with Allderdice students in the school auditorium//

Reporting Around the World: Journalist Indira Lakshmanan

By JON PARKER

On Friday April 28th, journalism students attended a presentation by Indira Lakshmanan as part of the Allderdice Alumni Hall of Fame speaker series. Approximately thirty students attended, and Ms. Lakshmanan reflected on her experiences as a journalist from middle school through adulthood.

Among other experiences, Ms. Lakshmanan discussed covering the Pittsburgh music scene as a high school writer for the Squirrel Hill News and Post-Gazette. She talked about her incredible experiences as a foreign correspondent visiting over 80 countries and covering everything from the fall of dictatorships to the end of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

She encouraged students to take advantage of the opportunity to write for high school and college newspapers and to widen their skill sets to include print, digital, social media, and television so that they would be valuable contributors in an ever-changing journalistic environment.

For about half of the sessions Ms. Lakshmanan fielded questions from students about her experiences and journalism in general. She noted that journalism is a challenging field to enter, but that it is one that can be incredibly fulfilling and engaging.

She recounted a story about being embedded with pirates for a short period of time, only later to discover that the pirates had discussed kidnapping her. When asked about

whether she was afraid of that prospect she remarked that she felt her ability to tell their story outweighed the negative publicity they would have encountered had they kidnapped her. Later in her career she covered the beheading of journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002, which she said was incredibly challenging for her and other journalists in the area at the time. She noted that as a mother now, her willingness to take the risks she took early in her career has waned.

Students learned a great deal from Ms. Lakshmanan's presentation, and she enjoyed recounting her own experiences for students. For those considering journalism as a career it was both motivating and sobering, and for all students her stories were engaging and incredible.

ing criminals in New York City and drug smugglers from Chile. Most of all, they were inspired by his words and advice. As Elsen reminded the students, "I started on my path through Taylor Allderdice."



Elsen talks to Allderdice students about his career//Courtesy of Jeremy Askin



Lakshmanan (center) speaking to the staff of the Allderdice student newspaper, the Foreword. //Jeremy Askin

Allderdice Quiz Bowl Finding Success

By AUSTIN DAVIS AND SHANNON CAVACINO-STEAD

Even though Quiz Bowl is too young for most alumni to remember, it has come to be one of our school's more successful and popular extracurricular activities, besides sports. It's a great way for students to bond with other people with their shared interests in knowledge and academics and to learn new information.

Quiz Bowl is a Jeopardy-style format "trivia" game. Questions come in almost all topics; from history to science to geography to mathematics. After answering a question correctly, the team that answered it is entitled to a bonus about a related topic. The team with the most points at the end of the competition wins. In order to cover all the categories, most of Allderdice's teams have created certain strategies. For example, some teams designate each individual in the club to study one of the five categories on their own. Then, they come together to form one team with each person a specialist for certain topics. With all of this hard work and knowledge under their belts, the teams are prepared for competition.

So how is Allderdice Quiz Bowl doing? In previous years, teams from Allderdice have won tournaments at both Pitt and CMU. Their most active team presently, headed by sophomore Leo Sweeney, has competed in multiple tournaments, often making the podium in first, second, or third place. They compete against other schools year round, with no true "off-season", and have also been able to host their own annual tournaments since 2014. They plan on hosting an additional annual fall tournament beginning next year.

As the club continues to expand their base and be more active in the league hosting tournaments, they are looking for people to help, participating as roles such

Girls Basketball Season In Review

By JACKSON BLAUFELD

There is an extremely bright future ahead for the Allderdice Girls Basketball team. After another subpar season, these girls are primed for success in the years to come. This past season, there were no surprises. The Lady Dragons struggled against non-conference opponents for the second season in a row. However, this team fared well against all league opponents except the dominant Obama Lady Eagles. The Eagles dropped the Dragons three times, twice in the regular season, and last in the title game at the Petersen Events Center. Obama Academy boasted their own star players—seniors Michaela Porter, Taylin Tyler, and Taylor Stewart were too much to handle. Those three are not only extremely skilled and experienced players on this level, but all three are 6 feet tall, or higher. That gave the Eagles a huge size advantage that proved too much for the Dragons down the stretch. After making it a game, the Eagles used 40 second half points and a dominant fourth quarter to come out on top, 64-53.

Digging deep, anyone who truly knows about this Allderdice Girls team knows that the future is very, very bright. Coach Ellen Guillard inserted three star Freshmen into the starting lineup, each of whom had solid seasons which show that this team is primed for a run in the next few years. However, before continuing on about the young players, the senior leaders deserve their recognition from this year's City League Girls runner-up.

as moderators or scorekeepers for tournaments. For more information, you can contact Austin Davis at austinldavis14@gmail.com.



NAQT Logo//Google Images

First off, senior point guard Markeya Killer accepted a "sixth-man" role this season. This shows the unselfishness of a true senior point guard for the betterment of the team. Not a scorer, Killer showcased her keen sense for distributing the ball among her teammates, which always turned into "easy buckets". In a pre-season interview, Killer expressed that she had no individual goals, only goals that were team oriented. This shows a lot about her character.

Also, there was Taylor Barlow, a 5'8" senior post player. Although only saw limited court-time this season, it is no secret how much she meant to this team and their success. Even though the team loses her to graduation, Barlow's legacy will forever live on. She will be remembered for breaking down the team huddle each time and her extreme passion for the game, her teammates, and her school.

Not to be forgotten, Lilly Saitz was a phenomenal inside-outside force this season. With a soft touch and great defense, Saitz was undoubtedly the most underrated player in the City League this year, girls or boys. There is no question that Saitz was the most important player to this team, which is backed up by the skyrocket in the win column after she returned from a torn ACL.

Finally, there is the All-City wing player Aujanee Givner. Givner received All-City honors for her third time, and this year came second in player votes, behind only City POY, Michaela Porter, a Cincinnati recruit. There is no question that Givner was the most talented player the Lady Dragons roster had to offer this year. Watch out for her on the next-level in the future.

Now, back to those freshmen. Each one of the three bring a unique skill to the team, but



Allderdice Girls Basketball 2016-17 Team Photo Ms. Patella//Allderdice Yearbook

one doesn't have just one area of strength to her game, she's got 'em all. Primarily playing on the wing, 5'7" Sophia North was one of the most all around players in the league this year. North can handle the ball, shoot, pass, play defense, and most notably has a great basketball IQ. Look for North to increase her scoring next year and assume more ball-handling responsibility. North scored a team high 15 points in the championship loss to Obama.

Next up is 5'1" Freshman point guard Emma Waite. Most players aren't handed the "keys to the car" before appearing in their first varsity game, but Waite was up and ready for the challenge. In a semi-final win against Brashear, Waite poured in 14 points. In the championship loss, she notched 10 points, and added 5 assists along with 3 steals. Finishing the season with two strong post-season performances should help her go into the offseason with lots of confidence.

The last of the three is Freshman guard-forward Brooklyn Jones. Although North is the most all around player, Jones is with-

out question the most versatile. With the ability to make plays in the open court along with a knack for snatching rebounds on either end, Jones is a nightmare for opponents. If you attended a few games, you might have witnessed one of many dazzling "euro-step" moves on a fast break for a reverse layup of some sort. Jones has the ability to finish high with either hand. Her jumping ability is what sets her apart along with a level-headed mentality. Jones finished with 12 points in the championship loss, which made the three freshmen starters Allderdice's leading scorers in that contest. The season ended in a PIAA play-in game loss against McDowell at Carrick High School.

Those four seniors along with three star freshman was a great core for the team. Also rounding out the rotation was 6' shot blocker Nancy Jackson (Jr.) and 5'6" forward Emma Brown (Fr.). Coach Guillard used that nine man rotation and found plenty of success. Expect similar faces around next year, but expect their games to have matured, along with a boatload of experience.

Turning the Camera, Finding the Story: Documentary Filmmaker Eddie Rosenstein

By MAGGIE LINCOLN

Eddie Rosenstein graduated from Allderdice in 1981. Although he wasn't always the best student—his math and science skills lacked—he found his place in english and history class. As a high schooler he loved finding and listening to people's stories, jokingly considering himself "a professional stalker." He would ride around town on the bus or sit at the Monroeville Mall just watching and talking to people. When he went on to college he discovered that he could do this for a living, follow people around and make films about them, telling their stories.

Rosenstein has come a long way since then, becoming a successful documentary filmmaker. His most recent and notable film was released in 2016 titled *The Freedom to Marry*, following the civil rights movement to legalize same sex marriage and providing a behind-the-scenes look into the struggles and triumphs. It also takes a look at many of the key players behind the movement, namely Evan Wolfson, a fellow Allderdice graduate and Hall of Famer.

The day after the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Rosenstein came to Allderdice to speak to students about his work, sharing his inspirations, methods, and various fascinating anecdotes. Rosenstein's motiva-

tion for his work comes from his desire to tell people's stories in a way that journalism and other forms of media can't, showing the humanity and whole of a story, including all the shades of gray. One of the best pieces of advice he ever got came from actor and director Robert DeNiro, who said to him, "If you can understand why someone does something, you can love them." Rosenstein took this to heart, telling the students "The purpose of art is to create empathy, to help you understand something that you might've never understood before." While working on another one of his projects on drug addicts in New York, he purposefully looked for people whom you would probably hate if you just read an article about them. Rosenstein's philosophy is that if people can appreciate their journeys, then he can really make a difference and shine a light on the real problems, showing what he called, "the essential truth."

Rosenstein believes that everyone has a place where they rise up to greatness and become extraordinary. He found this in the miners who work under New York City, 800 feet below the hustle and bustle on the street. While in their everyday lives they get into bar fights and get in trouble with the law, "in the tunnels, they're brilliant." People and events we overlook can many times be the most interest-

ing, and that is what Rosenstein hopes to show through his work. For the 10th anniversary of 9/11 he was commissioned to do a piece commemorating it. The focus, however, was not on the terror of the day, but how it brought the best out of people. So instead of looking towards the two towers, he looked the other way, at the ship captains breaking laws to rescue people off the island, leading to the largest sea evacuation of all time. All these people came to help others as they fled, not knowing what would happen next or if the city was truly under attack. As Rosenstein emphasized to students, "The point is to always turn the camera onto things people forget to notice."



Rosenstein discussing his job as a filmmaker //Jeremy Askin

The Allderdice Alumni Foreword

Est. 1927
Taylor Allderdice High School
2409 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Phone: (412) 529-4800

Co-Editor Sara Liang
Co-Editor Maggie Lincoln
Writer Jackson Blaufeld
Writer Shannon Cavacino-Stead
Writer Jordan Crivella
Writer Austin Davis
Writer Gianna Griffin
Writer Naydaejia Love
Writer Kazuma Parkinson
Writer Emily Pressman
Writer Leo Sweeney

Thank you for your support of the Allderdice Alumni Association

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

Allerdice Global Minds Club Gains National Attention

By JORDAN CRIVELLA
AND GIANNA GRIFFIN

The student body of Taylor Allerdice consists of people originating from 25 different countries, with 16 different native languages. Anyone who has ever transferred schools knows the terror that comes with navigating the new hallways and making new friends. For the students from foreign countries, the challenges of learning a new language and adapting to a new culture can make the process seem almost impossible. When Peyton Klein, an Allerdice freshman, saw a fellow student struggling to communicate with a teacher, having language barrier difficulties, she decided to take action and help with this process.

In the past few months there has been little but hatred directed at the refugees and immigrants from the White House. This is a problem that many students at Allerdice strongly opposed, but what could they do to make a dif-

ference? Although she and the majority of students at Allerdice cannot vote, Klein found a different way to take action. Earlier this year she founded Global Minds Initiative, a club that strives to bridge the gaps between ESL (English as a Second Language) and native students at Allerdice by creating new bonds and friendships. With all the problems in the world it is becoming increasingly important that the ESL students feel safe, welcome, and have the resources they need to succeed. The club consists of around 30 kids, about half from America and the other half from countries all over the world. Every Tuesday the club meets after school for activities and discussions centered around social justice and diversity. Not only does this club help to create friendships and make Allerdice a more inclusive place for many students, it also helps ESL students learn English.

Recently, Global Minds teamed up with Pittsburgh Cares to create a mural that depicts im-

migration, unity, and diversity in Pittsburgh. For one day, the members of Global Minds spent the day painting, eating, and laughing while creating lasting artwork that will hopefully help to end some of the negative stereotypes associated with immigrants.

Since the creation of Global Minds in the late fall of 2016, the club has gained national attention. Articles about the club and its goal of creating a safe and inclusive school setting have appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Teen Vogue, and the Today Show. Global Minds has also been awarded grants from the Sprout Fund, the Awesome Pittsburgh foundation, and the Vert Charitable Trust. Money from these grants will be used to pay for field trips, tutoring from ESL students, school supplies, and speakers for the club. In the future Peyton Klein hopes to expand the program beyond Allerdice to other Pittsburgh Public Schools.



Students participate in a Global Minds event//Courtesy of Peyton Klein

Allerdice's Black Student Union

By EMILY PRESSMAN
AND NAYDAEJIA LOVE

The Black Student Union (BSU) is an organization dedicated to help further explain and discuss the issues, racial concerns, and heritage of the black community and affairs presented by Allerdice students and others. BSU was re-started at Taylor Allerdice High School in 2016 after having abruptly stopped and gone quiet years earlier when the seniors running it graduated. It is lead by senior officers and sponsored by social studies teacher Michele Halloran. The club has meetings on Thursdays and is open to minorities, as well as anyone who wants to be a part of this enhancing and educating experience.

Last year the primary proj-

ect of BSU was going into classrooms to give students a lesson on the history of slavery and segregation in the United States and how systemic racism still affects people today. This year they organized a very successful open mic event to raise money to go toward a trip to Washington D.C to see the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Throughout the year, they also promote and raise money through t-shirt sales, black out days, and displays of artwork around the school. By actively taking initiative to educate students and teachers alike about what it's like to be a kid of color, BSU is one of the most successful and well-known clubs at Allerdice. We can't wait for it to grow and see what it does next.

Second Annual DragonSpirit Party a Success

By JON PARKER

Allerdice supporters, families, and staff gathered on May 13 for the second annual DragonSpirit party. The night was filled with music and fun for all attendees. The Pittsburgh Allerdice jazz band and the cast from the musical *Pippin* provided wonderful entertainment. Attendees participated in silent auctions and a number of raffles for fabulous prizes, all in support of Allerdice students. The project chosen by the DragonSpirit committee for fundraising this year is an updated sign on Forward and Shady

Avenues. While fundraising was a large part of the event, partygoers enjoyed the live entertainment and company. From parents to alumni to current and former staff, the event was a full fledged success. Special guest Dr. William Fisher, former Allerdice principal, made an appearance and enjoyed reminiscing about his many years serving the Allerdice community. Alumni who could not attend the event are certainly welcomed and encouraged to support this year's project. Please feel free to contact the DragonSpirit Party Committee at dragonspirit2016@gmail.com.



The current Allerdice sign on the corner of Shady and Forward Avenues.//Google Images

Pippin Musical Review

By LEO SWEENEY

From March 30–April 2, Allerdice put on their annual spring musical with a strong performance of *Pippin*. After a sneak preview a couple days prior, everyone was anticipating the full-length performance. It certainly did not disappoint. One thing that any audience member would agree upon after having watched the students act was that there was no shortages of surprises. But perhaps the biggest surprise was the number of Allerdice students with such talent. Led by a Gene Kelly-worthy female duo of Campbell Kurlander and Sydne Samuels, and with Sean Whitney playing the lead man, *Pippin* himself, the whole cast put on a show Allerdice will use as a benchmark for future musicals.

From the moment the show began, one fantastic song came on after the other. With senior Campbell Kurlander taking the lead in the first act with the song "Simple Joys", and sophomore Sydne Samuels taking control of the stage with the song "Kind of Woman" in the second act, the

show was one not easily forgotten. Other important characters that seized the stage were *Pippin's* grandmother, played by Ashley Kier, and *Pippin's* step mother, Fastrada played by Franny Lilien. However, there was one major flaw that this esteemed critic thought was clear. The problem was nothing that can be blamed on Allerdice, but it was that the overall plot of the play was not clear. In a way, I still have no clue what actually happened. Trying to follow the plotlines of the theater troupe, *Pippin* not being able to figure out what is up and what is down, and the question, Was this all a play within a play? which I simply can't answer.

However, the music was amazing and the acting, effort, teamwork were excellent. Despite a low budget, the cast was able to pull off good effects with a very simplistic stage design. Several extras, most notably Ben Cummings, helped ensure everything was running smoothly. Another special shoutout belongs to the pit. They brought the music to life with their instrumentals and providing the background that,

when combined with stellar vocals, showed what the Allerdice theater program can really do. The show really merits a great review for its strong vocals, dancing, acting, personalities, but most of all for the overwhelming passion displayed by the entire cast.

Note from the Alumni Foreword:

In our first edition of the Allerdice Alumni Foreword, we provided inaccurate information about a scholarship available for Allerdice alumni attending Columbia University. While our edition stated that the scholarship was available to any alumni attending Columbia, we failed to specify that the scholarship is for alumni attending Columbia Law School.



The Cast of Pippin//Courtesy of Teresa Maddon-Harroll