



We honor the people  
who inspire us  
every day.

UPMC is proud to support LUMINARI.

**UPMC**  
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE



This summer, thankfully, we are emerging from the darkness, isolation, and uncertainty of 2020. Last year we confronted the worst public health crisis in over one hundred years and collectively suffered indescribable grief, dislocation, and loneliness. As if the Pandemic was not trying enough, 2020 also was a year of historic racial, political, and personal challenges that turned our world upside down.

As we surface into the sunlight this summer, we are finding a world that is simultaneously familiar and fundamentally different. As a participant in this year's **I Want to be an Ambassador!** camp you had the unique opportunity to explore and better understand some of the origins of painful fractures in our society that occurred during COVID-19. More importantly, you learned how diplomacy is critical to addressing antagonism, discrimination and even violence, be it internationally, nationally, and even personally.

Like physical recovery, a societal rebalancing will require time, for sure, but it also will require us to redouble our efforts to separate the truth from untruths. This is at the core of effective diplomacy. The Chinese have an oft-repeated idiomatic expression, whose Chinese characters are these: 实事求是 pronounced "Shi Shi Qiu Shi," and translated "Seek Truth from Facts."

Now we can gather again to seek out old and new friends to connect in the safe and enriching places that were out of reach in 2020. In its second decade, Luminari is one of those places where the strengths of our diversity and humanity are discovered and reinforced. We are delighted that your **I Want to be an Ambassador!** experience was fun, enriching and memorable! Welcome to our special group of "Ambassador" alumni. We are proud to report that some tell us they are pursuing careers in the field of diplomacy while many are using what they have learned to make it a better world. Keep us posted!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilda Pang Fu". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hilda Pang Fu  
Founder and President, Luminari



**Adrionna**

"I am smart, resourceful  
and compassionate."

**Heleyna**

"Working hard is all I do."



**Anna**

"My values must  
motivate my action."



**Isaiah**

"I laughed, I cried.  
Nature brings joy."



**Cate**

"Greatest disservice to a  
cause: superficiality."



**Jemal**

"Strings, sound, melody,  
music, harmony, peace..."



**Eli**

"Important knowlege is  
heard not spoken."



**Lucy**

"Inside chaos,  
she lives with passion"





**Maya**

"This girl will change the world."

**Melissa**

"Happy being protective to my siblings."



**Nyasha**

"I shoot, I score, strive for more."



**Nyeisha**

"Turn your trauma, into something good."



**Quinton**

"I will be a college student."



**Sasha**

"Peace and harmony start with empathy."



**Shenne**

"The rough environment built her character."



**Zohaib**

"His leadership comes from open ears."



# Thank You 2021 Guests:

**Leadership, Diplomacy and Character:** Travis Manion Foundation members and military veterans Joel Loudenslager & Matt Darwin lead interactive exercises to engage the students about character and leadership.



**Conflict Resolution:** Gina DeMarco Wall, K-12 ESL and Title III Coordinator, Allegheny Intermediate Unit - Session features a series of interactive exercises and scenarios to teach teens new tools to help them resolve conflicts at many different levels.



**Cultural Competence & Cultural Humility Simulation:** Kathleen Newell, Director of Youth Programming and Digital Engagement and Education for the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, and Shawn Reming, Jr., Youth Programming Coordinator



for Digital Engagement and Education for the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh - encourages the acknowledgement and acceptance of differences in appearance, behavior and culture.



**Gisele Fetterman** is a Brazilian-American activist, philanthropist, and non-profit executive. She is our Second Lady of Pennsylvania - her husband, John Fetterman is the Lt Governor of PA. She is the founder of the non-profit Freestone 15104 in Braddock and the Freestone in Wilkinsburg and a co-founder of the non-profits For Good Pgh and 412 Food Rescue. She was born in Brazil, and is a former undocumented immigrant who became a US citizen and has used her platform to help all manner of Pennsylvanians. She is also the mom of 3 beautiful children.



**World History and U.S./Foreign Government Crisis Simulation:** Kyle Smith, History Department Chair at Shadyside Academy - presented an interactive, 90-minute simulation that involves the United States and a foreign government.

**Chinese Culture & Languages:** Olivia Wu and Louis Schwartz - offered a fully immersive experience for teens to learn how to listen, speak and also write in Chinese languages. This session encouraged teens to explore other cultures and promoted the many personal benefits and career opportunities that come with being bilingual or multilingual.

# Speakers and Presenters



**Senator John Heinz History Center:** Students had the opportunity to tour the "American Democracy" exhibit on display at the Heinz History Center:



**The Art of Negotiating:** Mark Barash, Former WPXI-TV Program Director & PCNC Station Manager - From a media expert.

**Disability and Inclusion in Society:** Katie Smith, Independent Living Coordinator from The Disability Option Network - provided an opportunity for teens to hear directly from a leading disability advocate about the importance of promoting inclusion and having respectful conversations about disability in society. The session looks back at Disability Legislation in U.S. history and examines where we are as a nation today.



**Gastro Diplomacy:** Toni Simpson, Master's in Food Studies at Chatham University - offered a demonstration in Caribbean cooking and culture from Barbados for students to taste and learn through food.



**Non-Verbal Communication & Cultural Etiquette:** Lani Cataldi, Founder of Gemini Children's Theater and Joe Jasek, teacher and Technical Director - gave a lively, interactive session with role playing to demonstrate the importance of cultural awareness and how we communicate to others without speaking.



**Public Speaking:** Tad Wissel and Ben Rutkowski from the Saturday Light Brigade - offered a hands-on, interactive, public speaking and recording session to help teens think, compose copy and perform their own speeches in front of their peers.





## Business Round Table



**EMMAI ALIQUIVA**, Filmmaker/Producer: Mr. Aliquiva is an Emmy-award winning film director, composer and mentor who is known for his impact across mix-media art platforms. He is considered one of the most distinct trailblazers in the creative arts. His passion is to mentor youth, and he was recognized by President Barack Obama as a national BME community leader. Mr. Aliquiva was appointed by Gov. Tom Wolf to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.



**ANDY MASICH**, President and CEO of the Senator John Heinz History Center: Mr. Masich is a commissioner of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The History Center is the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Under Mr. Masich's leadership, the History Center has been recognized for its award-winning exhibitions and innovative educational programs. He has also authored and co-authored many award-winning books on a variety of subjects.



**SONYA TOLER**, Senior Director of Strategic Communications and Enrollment, Propel Schools. Ms. Toler works to position Propel as an innovative leader in public education and oversees enrollment efforts. Before Propel, Ms. Toler was spokesperson for the City of Pittsburgh Public Safety Department, the Communication Director for the successful campaign of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, Executive Director of Governor Ed Rendell's African American Advisory Commission, and Communications Director for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Ms. Toler has numerous awards from her time as a Pittsburgh-based journalist.



## Successful Young Professionals

Successful Young Professionals Discussion Group: Panel discussion featuring young 20 to 30 year olds who are making their mark in the business world here in Pittsburgh.

**ALLY AYOUB**, Marketing Specialist, PantherX Rare has lead the effort to share the company's image for both internal as well as external prospects. Her creativity was the result of the company's recent rebrand, new website, physician campaigns and patient materials. She was recognized as Pittsburgh Times' "30 Under 30."

**YANG CHENG**, formerly of the Pittsburgh StartUp Ready AI, was also named Pittsburgh Business Times' "30 Under 30." She was instrumental in the success of Ready AI, which is a K-12 artificial intelligence learning platform that provides online classes and camps for students. She will study human computer interaction in the graduate program at Carnegie Mellon University.

**ARMANI DAVIS**, PhD, Chief talent recruitment, Shadyside Academy, served in leadership roles at Robert Morris University, Urban Innovation21, and The Pittsburgh Promise. In 2020, Pittsburgh Magazine named Dr. Davis to its annual "40 Under 40" list and in 2021 was named the Pittsburgh Business Times and Leadership "30 Under 30" list.

**GRANT VANDENBUSSCHE**, Marketing Director for Fifth Seasons, a robotics and indoor farming pioneer based in Pittsburgh. In his role on the executive team at Fifth Season, Grant is passionately and tirelessly focused on building a company that sets a new standard for agricultural sustainability, food safety and supply chain issues by building commercial scale sources of fresh food in food deserts. He holds an MBA from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

## Q&A with Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

County Executive **RICH FITZGERALD** took office on January 3, 2012, and he's currently in his third term. After more than 19 years in public service, he still relishes his role working with others to make the county a great place to live, work and play. Under Mr. Fitzgerald's leadership, the county has concentrated on economic development and job creation to great effect. It boasts an abundance of high-quality jobs, a diverse and growing economy, low cost of living, and an excellent quality of life.



# WASHINGTON, D.C.

Special thanks to the public officials and diplomats during our trip!



## EMBASSY OF IRELAND:

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## EMBASSY OF SWEDEN:

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for Public Diplomacy, Press,  
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2900 K Street, NW  
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[www.swedenabroad.se/washington](http://www.swedenabroad.se/washington)



## OTHER SITES VISITED:

- International Spy Museum: 700 L'enfant Plaza, SW, Washington DC 2002
- Swahili Village (African Cuisine) 1990 M Street, NW, Washington DC 20036
- Nighttime tour of Washington, D.C. and Monuments



## EMBASSY OF LUXEMBOURG:

Gaston Stronck  
Ambassador of Luxembourg  
to the United States  
2200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
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## EMBASSY OF ALBANIA:

Floreta Faber, Ambassador  
of Albania to the United States  
2100 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008  
[www.ambasadat.gov.al/usa](http://www.ambasadat.gov.al/usa)



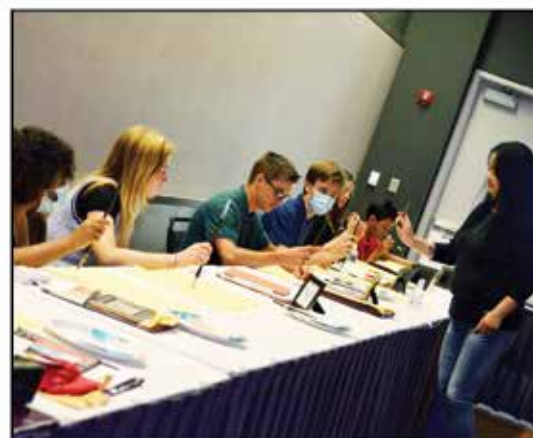
# Reflections and Quotes from



“ Project Noah was my favorite because it was interactive and allowed me to use my skills.”

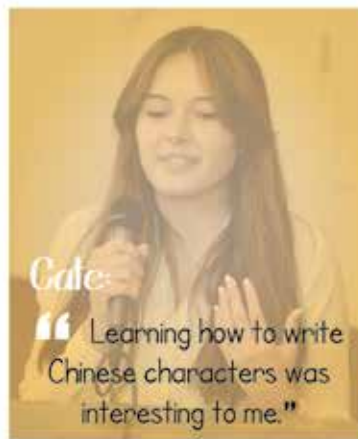


Eli  
“ It's surprising how much we can communicate without knowing each other's language.”



“ It was good to actually speak with someone who used to be an undocumented immigrant.”

# our 2021 Teen Ambassadors!



Cate  
“ Learning how to write Chinese characters was interesting to me.”



Anna  
“ I honestly had the most fun during the recording session. I had fun learning about my friends' stories.”



Melissa  
“ Getting out of my comfort zone and speaking in front of people.”





"Reach for the stars  
and ignore the scars" - Emma Alaquiva



"I learned to believe in my dreams and to always keep working on them."



Lucy  
"My favorite session was learning how to make traditional food from Barbados."



"The skill I think is most important is the ability to understand other cultures."



Front to back: Camille Traczek, Michael Reed, Hilda Pange Fu, Deb Casini Klein, Sheila Hyland and Jacqueline Napier

## Camp Leadership Team

**Deb Casini Klein** (Camp Director) grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended John Carroll University with triple majors of psychology, sociology and journalism. She has worked as an Executive Producer and Producer in the television and radio industry for three decades in both Cleveland and Pittsburgh, with national credits including PBS, ESPN, ABC News, Good Morning America and The Food Network. She has also worked as a media trainer, special events coordinator, food tour guide and travel agent.

**Michael Reed** (Assistant Director) currently teaches English as a Second/Other Language to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Previously he taught high school social studies and English. Michael earned his Bachelors of Arts in Film Studies and Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh and Masters of the Art of Teaching from Chatham University. When he is not teaching, Michael enjoys running, camping, reading, watching films and cooking.

**Camille Traczek** (Teaching Assistant) is a senior at Gettysburg College studying political science and public policy. She recently returned from a semester in Berlin, where she continued her study of German language and culture. She is also passionate about advocacy, and works to improve her school's sexual misconduct policies through her role as president of Students Against Sexual Assault. Camille is pursuing her love for writing by assisting her professor in the writing and editing of *Bold Women of the Eisenhower Era: Feminism, Leadership, and the 1950s*. Camille previously served as Operations Intern and Teaching Assistant in 2019, and is excited to be back this summer.

**Jacqueline Napier** (Operations Intern) is a rising college senior from upstate New York who is pursuing a degree in Communication Rhetoric and Legal Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and has experience in public speaking, writing and politics (she was an intern for a State Senate candidate in NY and a for a judicial clerk). Jacqueline is a recipient of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's Triple 'C' Award and the George Eastman Young Leaders Award. She is also an Executive Board member with Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Society.



LUMINARI™

**Mission:** Luminari is a Pittsburgh-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to foster activities that broaden minds, inspire innovations & promote community engagement.

**Core Values:** We value knowledge, education and open-mindedness. We advocate that our actions be guided by compassion and kindness toward each other.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hilda Pang Fu, President  
Joyce Fu, Vice President  
Gordon Fu, Secretary  
Ilene Hurwitz Schwartz, Treasurer

### TEAMMEMBERS

Sheila Hyland, Operations Manager  
Pilar Brown, Graphics & Photography  
Kirk Peters, Web Admin/Developer  
Brittany Barricott, Social Media Admin

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