

Allerderdice Alumni Foreword

Vol. III, No. 1

The Official Newspaper of the Alumni and Friends of Allerderdice

June 2019

Allerderdice Celebrates Five Hall of Fame Inductees



Honorees Jeffrey Ballou ('85), Patrick Ball ('83), Daniel Borzutzky ('92), Marsha Lillie-Blanton ('71) and Edgar Snyder ('59) take part in a panel discussion following their induction into the Allerderdice Hall of Fame on March 28. The panel was hosted by Allerderdice principal James McCoy. //Abigail Segel

BY ABIGAIL SEGEL & CHLOE WERNER

On March 28, 2019, the Alumni and Friends of Allerderdice (AFA) introduced five alumni to the school's legacy in its annual Hall of Fame event.

Before the evening ceremony, the inductees—Daniel Borzutzky (MFA) ('92), Patrick Ball, PhD ('83), Marsha Lillie-Blanton, DrPH ('71), Edgar Snyder, JD ('59), and Jeffrey Ballou, MA ('85)—were invited to a question-and-answer panel in the Dice auditorium. Students could come and ask some of their questions to the honorees.

When asked what things they hoped had not changed about the school, the panel recalled inspirational teachers, academics, counselors, and beloved principal William Fisher. Borzutzky, a poet, professor, and translator, attributed the wide range of people he came across during his time at

Allerderdice, something he felt to be indispensable to the school. "I think for me, it was the first time I was around such a wide mix of people," he said. "That to me was a really life-changing moment, something I've always thought was very important and essential to what the school is."

The panel also had some wise words to share with the gathered students about some of the challenges they had faced over their lifetimes.

Posed with the question, "Thinking back on your education and career, how have setbacks or mistakes shaped your perspectives?" Ballou, a prominent journalist, answered, "It makes you stronger. It makes you sharper. It makes you more resilient."

Overall, every answer held the same recurring theme—without their struggles, these highly successful people would not have learned how to take

on the world in the ways that they now know how to do.

Lillie-Blanton, a public health professional, spoke on her initial rejection from John Hopkins graduate school, and explained how the setback had forced her to figure out how to keep working and think of what to do differently in the future. "It was systematically reviewing my approach to the application process," she said. "It was my review of what I had done before and how I could do it differently that made the difference in moving me forward."

Snyder, a personal injury attorney, answered the question by reassuring students that grades were not the make-or-break of life. "I'll match my low GPA against anybody in here," he laughed. "Academics is not how it was."

He encouraged not being thrown off by how other people spoke about you, taking chances, and being brave. "I think the les-

son for all of you is you don't have to be a great student, but as you go through life, you don't have to look down on yourself," he said.

To finish the panel, the alumni reflected on some of their favorite classes from back in high school, and the new ways of looking at the world they had obtained from taking those classes.

That night, after the students went home, friends and family of the inductees and other members of the Allerderdice community filed into the building for the official 10th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The Allerderdice Jazz Band, led by music director Mr. Brian Lee, played as people made their way to their seats, visiting with old friends.

The musical attractions continued as the Allerderdice drumline took the stage, invigorating the room with echoes of the rhythm. Soon Dr. Rika Maeshiro ('81), President of the

AFA Board, officially welcomed everyone to the event. "At last year's Hall of Fame ceremony we started a great tradition by focusing on the most important part of Allerderdice: the students."

In that spirit, the following speaker was Senior Class Vice President and captain of the cheer team Tamia Jordan ('19). She filled the audience in on different goings-on at Allerderdice. Most importantly, she mentioned, "You still cannot get from the first floor main entrance to the first floor annex. Some things just don't change."

Following Jordan's address, twenty-one members of the chorus, led by Choir Director John Erik Schreiber, performed the Allerderdice Alma Mater, as well as a powerfully haunting rendition of "City Called Heaven."

Principal Dr. James McCoy then took the stage. "This night is
Article continued on page 3

Alumni and Friends of Allerderdice Update

BY AFA OFFICERS

Welcome to the Spring 2019 issue of the Alumni Foreword! We are in our third year of this publication, and we are continuing our tradition of focusing our Spring Edition on the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The March 28 ceremony was a celebration of Allerderdice, highlighting the inspiring accomplishments of Patrick Ball, PhD ('83); Jeffrey Ballou, MA ('85); Daniel Borzutzky, MFA ('92); Marsha Lillie-Blanton, DrPH ('71); and Edgar Snyder, JD ('59). The audience also enjoyed the talents of current students through their instrumental and vocal performances. A big thanks to Hall of Fame Committee members for all of their work and to alumni business owners Bob Wasserman ('76) [Food for Thought] and Marc Hourvitz ('87) [Walnut Grill] for providing excellent food at the event!

The Alumni and Friends of Allerderdice (AFA) also has the following exciting updates to share:

Organizational status: The biggest accomplishment of the last 12 months for the AFA was receiving its official 501(c)(3) status in September, 2018! The AFA board also established standard policies and procedures to help assure smooth operations. The founding board of the AFA will be forever grateful for the time and expertise donated by these generous alumni and friends to help establish our organization:

Raymond Baum, JD ('62)
Clark Hill PLC

Meagan Truong, JD [Friend of Allerderdice]

Associate Attorney, Blumling & Gusky, LLP

Elizabeth "Betsy" Krisher (Kearns) ('81)
President, Maher Duessel

Richard Brean, JD, MPA ('66)
(Ret.) General Counsel,

United Steel Workers

James Rosenberg, JD ('81)
Marcus & Shapira

Funded projects: This year, contributions supported costs required to maintain the AFA and to fund the Hall of Fame and these additional projects:

Enhanced participation in summer band camp: Thanks to a very generous donation, more Allerderdice musicians will be able to attend summer band camp for the next three summers!

Purchase of two wireless microphones for the Allerderdice Theater: Together with the Allerderdice PTO, the AFA purchased two wireless microphones as part of the multi-year plan to upgrade the Allerderdice sound system. The new microphones were available to performers for this year's spring musical Leader of the Pack, and fewer students needed to rely on rental equipment that can be of variable quality! Collection and display of

alumni publications: When historian Howard Spodek, PhD ('59) toured the school and when poet Daniel Borzutzky MFA ('92) was inducted into the Hall of Fame this year, we were reminded of how many alumni have published important works in their field. A display of alumni publications will be constructed to highlight their work.

Membership reminder: As announced previously, to join the AFA, please register by completing your profile, following the instructions under the "Join the website" tab in the upper menu. Please encourage other Allerderdice alumni and friends to join as well.

AFA members will have the opportunity to vote for AFA officers. No dues are required for AFA membership.

Individuals who would like to become AFA members but who would prefer not to register on the website are asked to contact the AFA at allderdice1927@gmail.com

Website reminder: The AFA website (<http://www.allderdicealumni.com/>) features information about the AFA, updates on school and alumni events, and an option to communicate with other alumni through the website. The "Allerderdice Today" section includes current information about the school and links to coverage of recent achievements and performances. Please check back regularly for updates, including reunion events, and opportunities to support the Allerderdice community.

Please contact us if you would like to become more involved in the AFA or if you have ideas for the group to pursue. We are planning to have a portfolio of activities targeting current Allerderdice students, future Allerderdice students, and Allerderdice alumni. Official communications from the AFA are delivered through the AFA website. If you are not yet receiving updates from the AFA website, please register at <http://www.allderdicealumni.com/>.

Marsha Lillie-Blanton Making Strides in Public Health

By CHLOE WERNER

Dr. Marsha Lillie-Blanton is both an Allderdice graduate and esteemed public health professional. With her induction to the school's Hall of Fame, she took a trip back to her roots at Allderdice high school to share her story.

After earning her doctorate from John Hopkins University, Lillie-Blanton has gone on to achieve success in government, teaching, and research. Among her many past accomplishments are developing measurement and reporting programs for CMS Center For Medicaid and CHIP Services, as well as her high-level position for the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

In an interview, Blanton spoke on being a woman of color in government, and how it both impacted and targeted her work. "The community I represent is both the challenges that women face and the challenges that people of color face," she said. "Both of those are key for me, trying to make sure that women are not put on the backburner. . . trying to be focused on the struggles across groups is still a concern for me."

She also spoke on the constant fight to prove herself in her work. "I would say the challenge with being a woman of color in the professional world is there's always a perception that you made it where you are because of your color," she said.

Though her work has carried her to many different job paths,

her most fulfilling career has been her work in government, especially during such a time where a shadow of invalidity is being cast on politics. "Working and trying to make a difference in people's lives, and seeing changes, seeing that we can do it once we put our mind to it," has been very meaningful, she explained. "For the communities that I'm part of, communities of color, communities of many low-income women, government becomes the pathway to which lives can be improved."

Lillie-Blanton currently serves on the boards of Northern Virginia Health Foundation and of D.C. Primary Care Association. She has dedicated much work to advancing marginalized communities, and her high school is proud to welcome her to its Hall of Fame.



Dr. Marsha Lillie-Blanton // George Washington University

Prolific Writer and Professor Daniel Borzutzky

By JACKSON BALUFELD & CHLOE WERNER

Daniel Borzutzky graduated from Allderdice in 1992, and now resides in Chicago where he teaches at the University of Illinois. The child of Chilean immigrants, Borzutzky graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in philosophy, and went on to work as a professor, Spanish language poetry translator, and writer. His work focuses on individuals and how they navigate through life and the dilemmas and hardships that come along the way. There is an emphasis on immigration, corruption, and poverty. His poems criticize capitalism and political violence.

Borzutzky uses his writing as a platform to speak on social or political conflicts in the Americas. "I come at this from the position of someone who loves language. . . reading, especially novels and poetry, was something that changed my life," he explained. "I think that literary writing has a way of taking really big problems and centering them in the lives of individuals."

"Without diminishing other people's difficult experiences, I think there's something powerful about taking difficult things in our society and turning them into works of art that are difficult, that



Daniel Borzutzky // Pacific Standard

are scary, that are beautiful, that affect people in personal ways," he said.

Though Borzutzky has now attained status as a highly acclaimed author, he explains that initially, the road to this position had been a rocky one, involving many rejections. "In many ways, I think it was a sense of persistence to keep going. . . I think I really learned to write after I finished my studies," he said. "I kept going at it even when no one was paying attention."

Borzutzky has been an immensely successful translator as well as an author, and sees positive ties between these two careers. "I came of age as a writer and a translator at the same time," he said. "That was hugely important for me, and has been, because it gave me access to the ways that people think about literature in other countries, the way they see it in relation to their own public societies, and it allowed for me to have all these really wonderful relationships with writers from other countries, which has led to me being invited to those countries and having a kind of international dialogue."

In 2016, he was awarded the National Book Award. His collection, "The Performance of Becoming Human," was his third full length collection of poetry, and the third time was surely a charm. This piece draws connections between the United States and Latin America.

When accepting this award, Borzutzky told the Pittsburgh Post Gazette that, "Literature and poetry serve as a means of producing a social and historical memory." Now, Borzutzky has five full length publications as well as more poetry and chapbooks published.

Journalist Jeffrey Ballou is in the Front Lines of the Battle for the Freedom of the Press

By ABIGAIL SEGEL

Jeffrey Ballou ('85) was not expecting to be inducted into the Allderdice Hall of Fame. At the induction ceremony on March 28, he said, "I'm honestly blown away, humbled, and a number of other words that equate to surprised and humility."

The news editor for the Americas at Al Jazeera Media Network English Language Channel has degrees from Penn State University, American University, and Howard University. He is the immediate past president of the National Press Club. In fact, he was the first African-American male to hold the position and was the first ever President of the organization to serve during the Trump administration which often calls the press the "enemy of the people."

"I join my colleagues in journalism in defending the Constitution [against] threats thinly and not-so-thinly veiled, in a world that needs truth to navigate," Ballou declared. "Yes, truth: that in-

disputable thing that remains so stubborn when you try to go the other way. And they say facts are a stubborn thing? Yeah. They are. We as journalists... we shine light in dark places."

Surprisingly, when he was a student at Allderdice, Ballou didn't actually want to be a journalist. "I wanted to be an astronaut," he said. His future career path might have shown itself a little even during that time, because, "I could have cared less about doing well in science and math." Through encounters with Senator John Heinz and a minority internship program at Penn State called Inroads, Ballou discovered his love for writing and the news. "Now remember I never wrote a single word for The Foreword or participated in the yearbook, but that experience [Inroads] was a game-changer."

A game-changer that would dictate the course of his life. In his remarks, however, he paid tribute after tribute to how his alma mater shaped his journey. "I'm also



Jeffrey Ballou // Columbia Journalism Review

the proud product of Pittsburgh Public Schools. We don't say that enough."

He also credited past Principal William Fisher for much of his success. "He worked so hard to instill in us the true meaning of this motto: Know Something, Do Something, Be Something. He took over this school at a time of very challenging racial strife. And he made sure that Allderdice's focus, primarily, was academic excellence."

In an interview, he said, "I

Article continued on page 3

Attorney Edgar Snyder Heavily Involved in Squirrel Hill Community

By JACKSON BALUFELD

Recently, Edgar Snyder, a graduate of Allderdice in 1959, was inducted into the schools' hall of fame. Snyder visited the school to speak to current Allderdice students about his journey to where he is now. Snyder told the audience he was consistently a poor student throughout his time at not only Allderdice, but also Penn State University and Pitt Law school.

He began his law career as a public defender for Allegheny County. Then, Snyder opened his first law office where he represented high profile clients in high profile cases. This is why it is no surprise that in 2009, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette called him "Pittsburgh's best known personal injury attorney." However, a big reason for that is Snyder's famous television advertisements. He told students, "Probably for the last twenty-four years I have been on television every day. At the time it was not considered professional,

but I thought it was appropriate to market legal service."

Outside of his professional success, Snyder has been a staple in the community for many years. He explained, "The one thing about success that I have always felt is. . . you've got a responsibility if you're fortunate enough to do well, to impact your community. For the past 25 or 30 years, I've given a lot of time and effort to the community." For years he has assisted children with disabilities

in the Jewish community as well as serving as a general philanthropist. In terms of Allderdice, Snyder emphasized the rich tradition of the school and how to this day many friends and colleagues were former classmates.

Snyder is just one example of many great success stories to come out of Allderdice high school. He exemplifies what it means to have an impact in the professional world, but also make a difference in the community.



Edgar Snyder // Pittsburgh Quarterly

Patrick Ball Uses Statistics to Convict Human Rights Offenders

By JACKSON BALUFELD & ABIGAIL SEGEL

At the Hall of Fame induction ceremony on March 28, Dr. Patrick Ball ('83), a statistician working to protect human rights, offered a stark mandate regarding the post-truth world in which we find ourselves living in. It is imperative, he said, "to organize not only the facts — because yes, we must have the facts and they must be correct — we must also bring moral authority of those who have suffered into our voices."

Ball credits Allderdice with showing him this spirit of empathy and inclusion. "I did that work in large part because I grew up in Squirrel Hill." He admitted, "I was not an exceptionally good student in high school, and yet I learned so much," which he attributes to the people he met and the experiences he had. The diversity of his peers at Allderdice has allowed him to navigate the complexity of the world more thoughtfully than had he gone to a school where everyone lived like him.



Dr. Patrick Ball // Human Rights Data Analysis Group

The historical awareness of Allderdice greatly influenced the way he thinks about the world. The Holocaust was a topic of daily conversation, so, "Never forget so we never repeat," was a fundamental aspect of the culture that we were living in. And that commitment to historical memory is why I do what I have done for the last thirty years."

In those last thirty years, he received his bachelor of arts from Columbia University before his doctorate at the University of Michigan. He founded the Hu-

Article continued on page 3

Jeffrey Ballou

Article continued from page 2

value the entire Allderdice experience, both the pluses and the minuses because I think both made me what I am."

He also encouraged alumni to, "keep investing in Allderdice." Alumni, "have a responsibility as an Allderdice community to be strong for the community that surrounds us. And not strong, literally in the Squirrel Hill sense, but wherever we are, we are representatives of this school."

Ballou closed out his remarks at the ceremony by acknowledging that he is, "simply an ordinary man with an extraordinary amount of blessings."

Patrick Ball

Article continued from page 2

ory of his high school years. In an interview, he said that he vividly remembers Allderdice's floor tiles and, "the little weird flat brick things on the wall," but noted that the building no longer smells like cigarettes. "This building reeked! Everything was just a film of nicotine in 1982 and [1983]."

Ball is incredibly honored to be a member of his alma mater's hall of fame. "There's a saying from classical Greece that the greatest pleasure that anyone can ever experience is the respect and honor of their peers, and I am feeling that pleasure very deeply through this experience."

Board of the Alumni and Friends of Allderdice

Rika Maeshiro, MD MPH ('81)
President

Martina Wells, Ph.D.
Vice President

Judith Kadosh, RN, BSN ('83)
Treasurer

Kristen Mertz, MD, MPH ('78)
Recording Secretary

Melanie Fall Weisbord ('87)
Immediate Past President

Andee (Mann) Lowenstein ('76)
Immediate Past Vice President

James McCoy, EdD
Pittsburgh Allderdice Principal

Dana Fowler ('81)
Board Member

In Memorium: Mac Miller



Mac Miller (10), the beloved rapper who made Blue Slide Park and Taylor Allderdice famous in the music world, died on September 7th, 2018. Pittsburgh mourns his loss. // Pittsburgh Quarterly

REGISTER FOR UPDATES FROM THE AFA

<http://www.allderdicealumni.com/>

CONTACT THE AFA

allderdice1927@gmail.com

Hall of Fame Ceremony

Article continued from page 1

extremely humbling for me and it's an honor to witness the Allderdice community gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of these outstanding individuals," he said. He also mentioned that it's been a rollercoaster ride of a year for Allderdice students. From the deaths of musician Mac Miller ('10) and current students Jonathan Freeman and Sumari Dixon-Smith, to the Tree of Life massacre, to Dr. Frances Arnold's ('74) Nobel Prize in Chemistry, to the verdict of the Antwon Rose II trial, the Allderdice community has had to support each other in remarkable ways.

Next up were Evan DeWitt ('19) and Caroline Yu ('19), who introduced Borzutzky. In his acceptance speech, Borzutzky discussed his experience within the American education system, as a high schooler and as a professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where many graduate students were on strike for three weeks in March due to lack of a living wage. "I say this now as both a statement of solidarity and so that we can take a moment and acknowledge the difficult, important, and life-changing work that the teachers at Allderdice did when myself and the other inductees were students, and the amazing, challenging, and life-changing work they continue to do today." He finished by reading a short excerpt from his 2018 book *Lake Michigan* which talked about police violence "which takes place in Chicago but which [in-able] applies to Pittsburgh as well," ostensibly referring to the recent acquittal of police officer Michael Rosfeld in the killing of Antwon Rose II. Borzutzky didn't mince words and spoke with poise and conviction, leaving the audience moved and empowered.

Audrey Leong ('20) and Kazuma Parkinson ('19) introduced the next inductee, Ball, as someone who, "also sheds light on human tragedies, but uses the language of numbers instead of words." Ball is a human rights statistician. At the start of his talk, he conceded, "I'm an unreconstructed academic and I'm unable to talk without some kind of imagery. I promise it won't just be an endless stream of words and bullet points; there will be graphs," to much laughter from the audience. He proceeded with his slideshow and discussed his work as a statistician making strides to take down human-rights-violating dictators in courtrooms around the world. "This is the point of statistics. This is the point of our use of quantitative reasoning, in human rights, I argue, is to push back against the grotesque and easily disproven lies of dictators and those who apologize for them. And sometimes it works," he said. He credited his career trajectory to growing up in Squirrel Hill and at Allderdice, within a diverse community of socially and politically aware people.

Then, Samy Arunkumar ('19) and Jakobi Deslouches ('19) welcomed Lillie-Blanton to the stage, telling the audience how the researcher, teacher, academic, and government policy maker, "has worked on some of the most urgent and challenging issues of our time." Lillie-Blanton filled the audience in on her background at Allderdice during a heavy time for the country stirring with social change, and how her school experience helped her grow into herself and her perspective. "Be prepared for a journey. Be prepared to reinvent yourself over and over again," she advised her audience. She recommended looking into new passions and

perspectives throughout life, talking about her work ranging from hospitals to private sector to government, her gesticulations and contemplative train of thought engaging the audience.

Following Dr. Lillie Blanton's words of wisdom, the stage curtains opened up to reveal 8 members of the cast of Allderdice's spring musical, *Leader of the Pack*. They performed the upbeat "Hanky Panky," energizing the captivated onlookers.

Ben Cummings ('19) and Mary Claire Rethage ('19) kept up the playful attitude as they introduced Snyder and pointed into the camera with him for a picture, imitating his signature advertisements. Wearing sneakers and using a booming voice, Snyder emphasized how humbled he was to be receiving the award among so many Allderdice legends. He also explained his rather unusual path to his profession and the remarkable traction he's gained as a lawyer in the region. He added, "you've got a responsibility if you're fortunate enough to do well, to impact your community. For the past twenty-five or thirty years, I've given a lot of time and effort to the community," referring to his generous philanthropy and social justice work. He was evidently very proud of his alma mater, closing the individual speeches portion of the night by noting, "The common thread through my life throughout the last seventy-five years is Taylor Allderdice, and what Taylor Allderdice has meant to me on a personal basis. . . this is a wonderful award and a wonderful thing to have happened."

Next, editors of The Foreword Sara Liang ('19) and Jake Allen ('20) introduced Jeffrey Ballou, the last inductee of the night. As Ballou notes at the beginning of his speech, the last time he was on the Allderdice auditorium stage was because was in the senior class musical. "I still have the signed cast and crew poster from that musical framed up on my wall at home in Washington," he added. He talked about many significant people in his life, including his hard-working parents, Principal Fisher, and his colleagues. "People have tried to cheerlead me, and some people, to be honest, were obstacles. But both worked, to sort of shape and mold me, to make sure I was on the right path." That path led him to great success as a journalist, shown through his term as President of the National Press Club. He was extremely humble, however, saying to his fellow inductees, "You are beacons in your fields and it still makes me wonder how I am listed among you. It's a head scratcher to be honest." He emphasized the importance of journalism, especially in these tumultuous times, saying, "it's the base of civics and history and other subjects. I learned the lessons of tyranny, some of which I learned right here at Taylor Allderdice."

Following an Allegheny County Council Honorary Proclamation presented by Councilmember Tom Baker, there was a panel with all five inductees, hosted by McCoy. As their collective knowledge burst from the stage, they showed lots of camaraderie as they answered questions about their careers, lives, and experiences at Allderdice.

To finish off the night, Maeshiro took the stage again to thank everyone who came and encourage them to continue the celebration in the reception. She also had all the students in attendance stand up for applause, nicely tying in the school's present and future with its remarkable past.

Trees Planted in Honor of Tree of Life Victims

By JACKSON BLAUFELD

Eleven Dawn Redwood trees were planted outside of Allderdice High School on May 7 in honor of the victims of the Tree of Life shooting. Seventy-five students participated in planting the trees, many of whom were wearing shirts that said, "Dice Stronger than Hate" with a Jewish star on it as well. These shirts were very popular due to the efforts of three men who were instrumental in bringing the community together: Brad Berger, Ken Haber, and Fred Rabner. In addition, Senior Emily Pressman was instrumental in organizing the event and reaching out to the student body so that everyone was included. Pressman was also a leader in the vigil on the day of the shooting months ago. She added, "No matter how much you do, we don't want this [the Tree of Life shooting] to be forgotten," she told the Tribune Review.

The specific type of tree was selected by Tree Pittsburgh, a non-profit organization which

was essential to the success of this event. They decided to go with dawn redwood trees because one day, the trees will grow together many feet in the air, and there will be a bench underneath them.

Joe Stavish, who led students in the process of planting the trees, said to the Tribune Review that, "They are a pretty quick-growing tree, they thrive in wet areas. This hillside they're on is really wet. They are going to be pretty significant-sized trees in a few years. They'll provide shade in the area and make a nice statement here on the lawn of the school."

Allderdice principal Dr. James McCoy was also present at the digging. Dr. McCoy emphasized his appreciation for the leadership of the student body in taking action to bring the school and community together after such a tragedy just around the corner. He illustrated the quality of people that Allderdice has in its building, and their heartwarming ability to rise together in difficult times.



Students and staff plant eleven trees in honor of Tree of Life Victims // Abigail Segel

Pittsburgh Protests Antwon Rose Verdict

By LUKE CHINMAN

On April 30, over 400 activists—students, educators, and legislators among them—gathered on the Capitol Rotunda steps in Harrisburg to advocate for stricter regulations in police brutality cases and to honor the memory of Antwon Rose II. This push for legislative action stemmed from the fatal shooting of Rose by an East Pittsburgh police officer last summer. The incident, which gained widespread attention on social media and from national press and celebrities, sparked outrage throughout Pittsburgh. Residents took to the streets, chanting, singing, and healing together.

"It hit close to home. Not just for me, but to all of us this time. And I feel like that's what compelled a lot of us to just take action and not just, you know, stand on the sidelines," said Paul Kim, an Allderdice junior and an organizer of the Justice for Antwon march on March 25.

After the announcement of the acquittal of officer Michael Rosfield, over a thousand students from around Pittsburgh left school, shutting down the city to march through the rainy streets of Downtown.

Student organizers like Kim had only three days to organize, using Instagram as the primary platform to spread their message. It began with a simple text between Kim and another local activist. "It started with, like, four of us in that group chat organizing, and then it expanded into, like, 25 people around the city—25 students." From this, a list of demands was developed, including to "convict killer cops" and to remove City of Pittsburgh police from Pittsburgh Public Schools.

The turnout surpassed the organizers' expectations. "I wasn't even expecting 1000 students. I said in the group chat the night before, 'You know guys, I'm expecting 500 people—500 students.' And they said, 'Yeah, yeah, maybe less.' And then we get there, and there are over 1000 of us," said Kim.

Although the Justice for Antwon march managed to channel the anger felt by Pittsburgh's students, it had no legislative promise, which was the ultimate goal. "I mean, yeah, we are angry and we are unhappy and that's why we are marching in the streets," Kim said. "But also, we're here to say

Article continued on page 5

A Successful Year for Dice's Black Student Union

By EMILY PRESSMAN

The Black Student Union (BSU) of Taylor Allderdice High School has always had a great impact on the Pittsburgh community through social and political advocacy. The student members and leadership of the Allderdice BSU went above and beyond in the 2018-2019 school year.

Allderdice high school student activism has many different layers, but through the year this important club helped shape issues that students and administration had to address and while doing this helped many. The legacy that Allderdice BSU left this year has helped to break down negative stereotypes attached to the black community, and helped many beyond Pittsburgh's reach.

They began the year by working with African American Center for Advanced Studies (AACAS) to throw an inclusive Halloween party for the school. The proceeds went to fund future programs for BSU.

They were also able to team up with Innovation Africa to bring water and electricity to a village in Tanzania, by raising money through a teachers vs. students basketball game, bake sales, and many other activities, coming to an impressive profit of 1,300 dol-

lars.

BSU was also able to enter the Pitt cultural holiday contest where one hard-working member won with the piece "Holiday Express" which included art that expressed each and every holiday.

The BSU made political strides as well. In the last year, some members campaigned with lawyer and community organizer Summer Lee, now the Democratic representative for the 34th district of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. They have continued to work with her and she connects with students regularly.

A few months ago a few BSU alumni came to talk to younger students about the importance of college. The guidance that they were able to share to the future leaders of the world was extremely inspiring, especially when it was mixed with a great dinner made by the students and staff.

Along with this, BSU has also continued the tradition of open mic night, where any student who wants to participate can try out and rap, dance, juggle, or perform any talent of their choosing. This takes place during ninth and tenth period, and any student who wants to attend can for a small fee that is again donated to BSU to fund future events.

Further, the students con-

ducted multiple Professional Development sessions with teachers to talk about what it's like to be a student of color in Allderdice and to share the history of redlining. These trainings have been impactful and enlightening for many teachers about what is going on around them, and have effected true change throughout the Allderdice hallways.

BSU also sent a group of black students with Teen Screen to see the movie *The Rape of Recy Taylor*, attended a three day racial justice summit, conducted talk and writing sessions in light of the Antwon Rose case (and have been working on coming up with solutions), and sent a group of black students to New York to experience predominantly white schools, to encourage them to apply.

Members of the Allderdice branch of BSU serve as educators and representatives of black culture and heritage. Although the main focus is the building of the black community, membership is by no means limited to just the black community.

As the BSU at Taylor Allderdice keeps on growing and evolving, it hopes to cultivate student leaders, to promote unity, and to continue to contribute to student success at Allderdice and beyond.

Dice Reacts to Frances Arnold's Nobel Prize

By ABIGAIL SEGEL

There's a stuffed doll of Marie Curie sitting on the edge of a cabinet in Allderdice chemistry teacher Sarah Mueller's classroom. The prolific scientist was the first person—woman or man—to win two Nobel prizes. The second of those was the Nobel prize in chemistry in 1911, for discovering the elements radium and polonium.

Before 2018, just three women after Curie had won the prize in chemistry. Then, Frances Arnold, Allderdice class of 1974, became a Nobel laureate "for the directed evolution of enzymes." Now that Arnold has won, there are five female honorees out of 180 in the award's history.

Allderdice principal Dr. James McCoy thinks the low number of female winners "highlights the point that we still have a lot of work to be done" in gender equality in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

The low number isn't just at the elite level that is the Nobel prize; only about one third of college students graduating in 2016 with STEM degrees were female.

For Mueller, this statistic hits home. "I went to Georgia Tech, where there the student population was approximately 25% female students," she said. "While working on my MS in chemistry, I was often one of only a few women in a room of other chemists and grad students."

Allderdice students contend that this disparity does not start in college. They already feel the effects of STEM being male dominated.

Junior Laura Brodkey said, "In many classes guys just assume that they are smarter than us and this leads to a lot of mansplaining," referring to the common phenomenon where males explain concepts to females in a condescending way, often without

Article continued on page 5

A Bittersweet Change for the Allderdice Basketball Team

By EMILY PRESSMAN

After twelve seasons as Taylor Allderdice's boys' basketball coach, Buddy Valinsky has announced his decision to retire from Allderdice's program, due to the need to move on. He's been a great program leader, gym teacher, game-changer, mentor, coach, and friend to the Allderdice program and community.

Now, the Taylor Allderdice alum is stepping down from his position, "It's been a good run, but it's time for me to move on. I will never forget what this school and these kids have taught me," said Valinsky. When asked what his favorite memory from this year was he responded, "This year when I took the team to Florida was amazing. We played in a three-game tournament and it was just a lot of fun. Two of the players even turned eighteen during the trip so being able to celebrate together was a memorable experience."

All who know Coach Valinsky knows that he is a charismatic and passionate guy. When asked what he brought to the team, he said he always brought a winning attitude, alumni sponsors, and whatever support the kids would need. Bobby Clifford, a player for the coach said, "This basketball program and Coach's hard work has been successful and has majorly paid off. He has certainly put Dice Boy's Basketball on the map, and not only because of winning, although we did plenty of that, because of how hard our team played and worked together, and we are forever grateful."

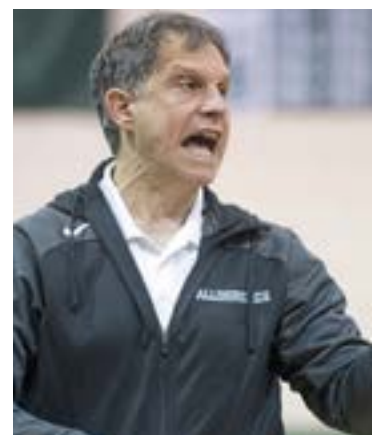
Valinsky says he will never forget the time a few years back when his team made it to the state championships in Hershey, Pennsylvania. "It wasn't so much about winning but about how we were in the top two schools in the state and worked our butts off. Also, it was pretty cool since no other sport at Dice has made it this far." The student body still remembers the riot all over Pittsburgh that Dice was making it to the state championships, and the busloads

of students piling into cramped school buses to witness a great game.

When asked who would be replacing him and what would they be bringing to the table he said, "Devin Crummie will be replacing me next season. He has been an assistant coach at Central Catholic for many years and he is my perfect replacement. He is a young and energetic guy who the students will respect. He has much to offer with different ideas and with his winning type of attitude, he will bring greatness onto Allderdice."

After asking the coach what his advice would be to Coach Crummie, Valinsky responded, "He just needs to know three things, one he needs to do his own thing, two have respect for the kids and people around you, and three make sure the parents stay in the stands."

Buddy Valinsky has left an amazing legacy with his hard work as a coach, helping his players get to college basketball, planning the Tree of Life memorial with the basketball team on the front lawn of Taylor Allderdice, and inspiring everyone whom he meets. Jackson Blaufeld, basketball player says "The last six years have been the best in Allderdice basketball history. Coach Valinsky has been the leader of that success." Thank you Buddy Valinsky for all that you have done for Taylor Allderdice. We wish you well for the future.



Outgoing Allderdice boy's basketball coach Buddy Valinsky // Steph Chambers

The Allderdice Alumni Foreword

Est. 1927
Taylor Allderdice High School
2409 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Phone: (412) 529-4801

Co-Editor Abigail Segel
Co-Editor Chloe Werner

Thank you for your support of the Alumni and Friends of Allderdice

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

Frances Arnold's Nobel Peace Prize

Article continued from page 4
being asked.

Perhaps this is partly because the large majority of scientists visible to students are male. "When it comes to chemistry, you only hear about men and their accomplishments, even when a woman or women had a part to play in it," explained sophomore Jasmine Talbert.

Allderdice has made some effort to encourage female students to explore STEM fields through programs like the Girls in Engineering Club and STEMinists, but it does not seem to be enough.

Sophomore Sage Arnold (of no relation to Frances Arnold), admitted, "as a male person, I definitely feel that I have been encouraged to pursue a STEM career over similarly interested girls I know."

Perhaps Frances Arnold's win can accelerate Allderdice in the direction towards more effectively supporting female students with interests in STEM.

Mueller explained, "I really believe that if people see others that look like they do in a variety of jobs, they can think of those jobs as real possibilities. For too long, science has seemed to exclude women and people of color. Science is for everyone, and everyone can participate!"

One solution, chemistry teacher John Milcic contends, is to try to "engage all students in STEM fields," regardless of gender. Also, there are efforts by Allderdice, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and the city of Pittsburgh to somehow honor Arnold's accomplishment.

The image of a female Allderdice graduate winning the most prestigious prize in chemistry in the world could be leveraged to encourage current students to aspire to similar heights.

"We are making a good start," said Mueller, "but we can always do more."

However far there is to go, Arnold's accomplishment is a victory for women in STEM. As Talbert remarked, it "shows us females can get the recognition we deserve."

Antwon Rose

Article continued from page 4
that the laws that are put in place are complete bullshit."

Christian Carter, another organizer of the Justice for Antwon march, led the effort to bring students to Harrisburg for a "Day of Action" on April 30. With a swarm of activists behind her, Representative Summer Lee (D-Swissvale) challenged the use-of-force law that currently allows police officers to use lethal force if someone flees or resists arrest. Together with Representative Ed Gainey (D-Lincoln-Lemington), Lee announced her plans for a bill that mandates de-escalation over force.

This press conference was seen as a glimmer of hope in the midst of the tragedy that has fallen upon the Pittsburgh community. "I think it's hard to say that something is beautiful coming out of this tragedy. But to see all of the community and all of the students that were there was the most beautiful thing," said Carter. "It was a refresher for why I do this work and why we must continue to do this work for the people."

Many of those involved agreed that these events were only the beginning of a much bigger movement.

The original organizers of the Justice for Antwon march still communicate in their group chat. Kim advised to keep an eye out for posts regarding further marches and protests. Carter discussed potential future trips to Harrisburg to maintain pressure on legislators.

Regardless, these activists have broken more ground than those before them. "I'm glad that the conversation has been started and I'm glad that lawmakers are actually starting to institute this change that is long overdue," said Kim.



Antwon Rose // Nickole Nesby

The Legacy of Jonathan Freeman

BY THE AACAS COUNCIL

In a silent gym, Jon Jon's mother wept for the life of her son.

Jonathan "Jon Jon" Freeman was a young Black man who, like all Black men who have died at the hand of gun violence, deserved to live. Jon was a bright young man who was well-liked by all who knew him. He was a funny, smart, and kind person. He deserved to live a good life.

Many people said that Jon's death was an example of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. In the communities of color, which are systematically disadvantaged, being in the wrong place just means living while Black. The wrong time for Jon was 2019 America, where gun violence in inner-cities runs rampant at the expense of hundreds of children's lives each year. In the past year, the gun control debate reached amassed attention following the killing of 17 children in a school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School. Within the Black community, there is sympathy for those students. However, it is a struggle to watch the deaths of young Black men and women fade away in a fight that has continued for decades, while white students lead a movement against mass shootings.

African American children

face the highest rates of firearm mortality among all groups of people. In America, the fundamental elements of childhood are not extended to Black boys and girls. Black children are ten times more likely to be killed by guns than their white counterparts. Violence disproportionately kills young Black men. Not just in Pittsburgh, but nationwide. When a police officer kills a Black person, thousands flock to the streets, protesting police brutality and chanting Black Lives Matter. When a Black man is victimized by another Black person, the chants and protests fall silent. The most heartbreaking part of the popularized gun control movement is that it ignores inner-city and community violence. The violence that occurs in communities of color is caused by segregation and poverty.

At Allderdice, Jon's vigil was unique. The event was the first of its kind—vigils are not traditionally allowed in Pittsburgh Public Schools, but due to the efforts of the African American CAS Council and dedicated school counselor Mr. Hall, the event was able to take place. Hundreds of students gathered in the gym to hear the words of Jason Rivers, Joesy Bergstein, Ja'Von Younger, Giavanna Gibson, and others. In the center of the gym, Jon's family listened to students' stories about Jon, and how his legacy will never be forgotten.

Jon: we will not let your death be in vain. We will not let your name be forgotten. We will not silence our voices, until our people rise up to the system, and we end this cycle of violence in our community, in every community.



Jonathan Freeman, a well-loved Allderdice junior whose death this January rocked the student body // triblive.com

Girls Volleyball Wins Fifth Straight City Championship

BY JACKSON BALUFELD

The Allderdice Girls Volleyball team does not worry about what's on the other side of the net. Going into the tournament with hopes of leaving with their fifth straight championship, the girls stayed focused on themselves, and controlling what they can control. As Head Coach Richard 'Rich' O'Brien said, "We wanted to be smart. We knew we had a better team than our opponents, so we had no need to be fancy." Senior captain and middle player Trinity Johns agreed, explaining, "If you feel like you can't get a spike, then free it over."

This mindset describes the rising program really well, as these girls continue to fly under the radar while sticking to the basics. There's something to be said for a group that plays together and isn't concerned with being flashy. This formula has allowed the program to accumulate fifty-four straight wins against City-League competition, much to the credit of Coaches Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Anthony.

There's no disputing the greatness of this program, however, coming away with this year's championship was not easy. Although the squad shut out Brashear 3-0, the score doesn't illustrate the hard fought effort the Bulls gave the Dragons. Yet, the resilience of this team overcame

all else on way to victory. Led by Junior Emily Graham, the girls continued to give the ball back to Brashear, allowing them to make the mistakes. Graham was impressive all season long. In fact, she was selected to the All-League team her Freshman and Sophomore seasons, in which she was the only underclassmen given the honor. Also, the teams' outside hitters, the Rubenstein sisters, were a strong force, Coach O'Brien confirmed, "They played great."

Furthermore, Trinity Johns played very well down the stretch, as this was her last chance to show her talents and get one more championship. Johns explained, "This win was special for me because it's my last year. It was my chance to go out with a bang, and we did just that." According to Coach O'Brien, the Senior adjusted well to some stiff competition, which really set the tone for the rest of the team.

All the players were necessary for the championship win, but Coach Anthony was another instrumental part of the team. As O'Brien stated, "He was always there to help me make the right decisions. He told the girls exactly what they needed to hear, and I don't think we would have been able to win as smoothly as we did without him around." Finally, Riley Yapsuga playing through a severe foot injury was a key in-

redient to success. That type of toughness is what it takes to be great, especially as a team with a target on their backs such as this one.

In the end, this is just the beginning of what seems to be a dynasty brewing inside Taylor Allderdice High School. The Coaches have high expectations for the years to come, as the young talent on the way up is very promising. Some players to watch out for will be Ally Friedman, Elana Kolko, Maggie Loya, Sophia Baker, Matilda Reid, and others. Some could say that group could have won a City title of their own this year. As the program is only graduating one senior, and has so many young, talented, and hungry prospects coming up, the competition for playing time will be fierce.

However, those competitive practices will make for a battle-tested team in the coming years. The Coaches are committed to building this program, said O'Brien, "I think Coach Anthony and I are dedicated to continuing to build the program here. As you know, we have a great group of young players coming in, which will make for a great year."

When asked what to expect next year, the response was to expect more of the same. While this championship is special, the team is already looking forward to what it can accomplish next.



The football team defended its City League title in an 18-8 victory over Westinghouse in October // tribhssn.triblive.com

Coming Soon: The Foreword Online

The Foreword is creating a digital platform. Follow Dice's student newspaper on Instagram and Twitter for live updates (@theallderdiceforeword). Most importantly, find up-to-date articles on our new website launching soon!

