



Night of Remembrance

Honoring the lives of Penn State students

Old Main 6:30pm

April 29, 2021

<https://www.watch.psu.edu/nightofremembrance/>






Night of Remembrance

Messages from the community

Honoring the life of Trey Taylor

Trey Taylor was a passionate and earnest young man with a bright future ahead of him. He often stopped by my office to share how things were going in his life and to talk through his hopes. I often told him how much I looked forward to having him walk across the stage at commencement to receive the degree he worked so hard to earn. That would have happened in May 2021. I miss him very much and I am sad that he is no longer with us.



*- Jacqueline
Edmondson*

Honoring the life of Anthony J. Glusko


Anthony Glusko gave his life so that others may live. In his passing, he donated his Heart, his lung, his kidneys, his liver, his pancreas, his tissue and bone marrow, and skin so that others could live. In his life, he lived joyously- from the time he was a baby to the time of his passing, he gave to others- in support, in knowledge, and in love. Anthony always had a passion to attend Penn State, and he received his undergraduate degree and continued on to earn his masters degree. He aspired to be an Aerospace engineer, and was well on his way. Anthony inspired his friends, his family, and others to be their best. His favorite motto wasWE ARE !!!!!



*- Priscilla Glusko,
parent*

Honoring the life of Fredrick Ryans, James Shilling, Andrej Vasik, Brennen Westover


The students, faculty and staff of the College of Information Sciences and Technology stand with the University in honoring and remembering the lives of Penn Staters who have recently passed away. We especially remember those from the IST community, including students Jamey Petty, Frederick Ryans, Andrej Vasik, James Shilling, and Brennen Westover; and young alumna Caroline Lonigro. The individuals being honored tonight will each be remembered for the impact they've made at Penn State. We find comfort in joining with the University community for support, comfort, and strength while we collectively mourn the loss of lives ended far too soon.



- Dean Andrew
Sears

Honoring the life of Daniel Santamarina

Daniel was studying business at Penn State when he died. He had a curious, adventurous spirit and he was always challenging people to defend their ideas at the dinner table. He loved to discuss movies, both in terms of their broader themes as well as the technical aspects of cinematography. Although he didn't like most amusement park rides he did love the old fashioned wooden roller coasters. He had an infectious sense of humor and he brought joy into the lives of those who knew him best. He will live forever in our hearts.



- Leo and Pam
Santamarina, parents

**Honoring the life of Trevor Thomas, Jonathan Eby, Zachary Hoover, Joshua Ridge,
Matthew Gottschling, Anthony Glusko, Scott Black, Ashley Scurry, Bryan Furlan,
Dean Feldbauer, Brigette Barrow, Tabitha Youells, Rex Stengele, Brandon Peterson,
Trey Taylor, Alyssa Austin, Taylor Miller, Robert Shoop**

In the past two years our Commonwealth campuses lost 18 students. We honor each of their memories this evening with the following message: A life lost at a young age is tragic. Thoughts of what could have been or what will never be for the 18 students lost to us in the last two years bring sadness beyond measure. We grieve with the families and loved ones left behind. We mourn for the adventures unexplored, for the possibilities unrealized, and hopes and dreams unfulfilled. We cherish their memories.

*- Dr. Madlyn L. Hanes, Senior Vice
President for Commonwealth
Campus and Executive Chancellor*



Honoring the life of Danny Santamarina

Dearest Danny, you are a part of our hearts, like family. Boyhood antics, laughing eyes, never the conformist, a true one-of-a-kind. We miss you, Danny. You are gone too soon, but you live on in our hearts, always.

*- Jean Loggia,
lifelong neighbor*



Honoring the life of Daniel Santamarina

Dan was a great guy with a kind heart and an outstanding sense of humor. Dan was loved by our family and will always be missed.

Amy



Honoring the life of Daniel Santamarina

Danny will always be missed by his family and friends. He was a gifted young man who was intelligent, quick-witted, humorous, and friendly. During our family gatherings, he would say the funniest things making everyone laugh and smile. I am very thankful and proud that he was my nephew.

*- Jay Schmid,
Uncle*



Honoring the life of Rodney Jones

Rodney was one of the most intelligent and diligent people I have had the privilege of knowing. His never-give-up attitude was truly admirable and set him on a path to greatness. Rodney was loved and is missed by many, but his legacy will live on through the impact he has had on others.

*- Brian Reid,
roommate*



Honoring the life of Daniel Santamarina

Dan Santamarina was the epitome of kindness and joy, and we had 22 wonderful years with him. Words cannot describe the sadness he leaves us with. But he will always be with us in our memories and in our hearts. Your family loves you Dan and misses you dearly. Rest in peace.

*- Stephen Schmid,
cousin*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

May memories of Kayla and the love of family's surround you and give you strength in the days ahead. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. We dearly love and miss you sweet angel.

*- Muthu,
Friend*



Honoring the life of Dan Santamarina

Danny was like a little brother to me (and the rest of my family) who always brought vibrant energy and his own quiriness to everything he did. Whether jumping off a staircase in a cape, wearing a tie to play football, doing Lord of the Rings impressions, or rapping and making his own music, I'll always remember Danny as being unapologetically himself and the kind of guy that always put a smile on my face no matter the times. We'll miss him forever, but know he is always watching from up above.

*- Chris Loggia
Friend*



Honoring the life of Daniel Santamarina


Danny was not only an amazing little brother but he was an extraordinary person! Anytime Danny was in the room or around, he would light up everyone's face. He knew how to tell the best jokes and make everyone smile and he was so very thoughtful. Danny always tried to make everyone else feel better and loved and went out of his way to brighten our days-no matter what. There are so many things we miss about him being here with us. We miss his smile, his laugh, his hugs and his presence every single day and words can't truly express the hole we have in our hearts because of his absence. But it seems like every day we remember something new about Danny and what he did in an effort to please others and make us smile. He was truly a selfless and loving person, and we will never forget how he has touched our lives. We will continue to honor Danny's love for cheesy horror movies and chicken tenders.

*- Kelly Desantis and
Dylan Santamarina,
siblings*



Honoring the life of Rodney David Jones Jr.


Thank you for this opportunity to share in This “Night of Remembrance” to recognize the loss of our son Rodney David Jones Jr. and all other Penn State university students who passed away over the last couple of years. Our heartfelt sorrow to the families, friends, loved ones and colleagues of these students. Rodney passed away on October 21st, 2020. He was 26 years old and our only child. There is not a moment in our lives that we do not feel blessed for his life. He is a joy to have as our son, and he continues to be loved every day. Rodney was a great student, he loved learning and was a hard worker. For this he was recognized by the schools he attended winning awards at every graduation, Primary, & Middle School at the Haverford School, Radnor High School & Dickinson College. During high school Rodney was part of a global Leadership program L.E.A.D. that traveled to University of Cape Town South Africa to share a learning experience with high school students there. The experience allowed him to become more keenly aware of the health care inequities that exist for people of color. This led to his pursuit of a goal to better understand and eliminate healthcare disparities. His study abroad in Australia during his junior year of college added to his awareness of healthcare inequities as he was able to observe the continuing efforts of the aboriginal community negotiate for more equitable treatment on every level. He was also aware of these inequities in his “own backyard” and took action through his independent research and White Paper titled “Neural and Physiologic Correlates of Health-Related Social Identity Threat”. Rodney was honored at Dickinson College for his independent research by the Departments of Psychology and Neuroscience. He furthered this goal of being a voice for those have none and became an advocate for further examination in the Penn State Biobehavioral Health Graduate Program, working under Dr. Buxton, where he studied healthcare disparities related to Sleep. Rodney’s work was published in the Journal of the National Sleep Foundation with his colleague’s Dr Buxton, PhD, Dr. Chang PhD, Dr Jackson PhD, fellow doctoral students Jackson, and Mazzei on their national representative survey substantiating their findings and documenting a major behavioral health disparity of short sleep durations among African American, Asian and Latino Students compared to White students, with Asians experiencing nonrestorative sleep. (Accepted October 8th 2019). Rodney’s dream was to contribute all that he could to make a better world for everyone and Medicine was the path he chose. He saw a need for more African American doctors and decided to pursue the opportunity at the Howard University College of Medicine. He planned on serving in his community in a hands-on manner and touch those who needed help. He also planned to continue research around healthcare inequities. Rodney “worked hard” but he also “played hard”. He was a musician moving from piano to guitar. His genre was “Heavy Metal” and he played in a local band with a group of friends during high school. Playing his guitar was a favorite past time as well as video games, He loved to travel! He traveled to many US states including Alaska, US Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico. His international travels included France, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Norway, Sweden, Singapore, and Russia. Rodney was confirmed at the United Methodist Church of West Chester. He was kind, loving, compassionate, quiet with a good sense of humor. His passion for the ‘Elimination of Healthcare Disparities’ is being continued in a memorial fund and foundation in his memory. Thanks to all of you who made a difference in his life. We thank God and Rodney every day for his wonderful life.



- Carol & Rodney Jones Sr.

Honoring the life of Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich

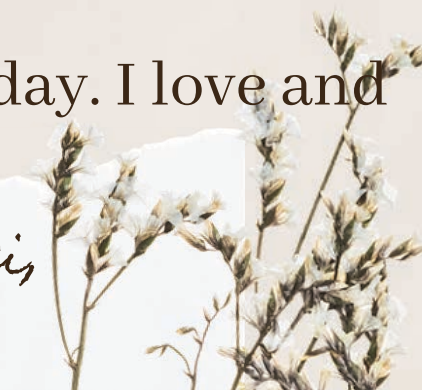
Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich – a bright ray of sunshine with an infectious laugh and smile that lit up the room. She had such great passion for music, dance, surfing, and loved her dogs, friends and family with all of her heart and soul. She was so proud to be part of the Penn State family and cherished her time there, with all of the great experiences she had and the amazing friendships she formed along her journey. Penn State was more than a college to her. It was a part of her heart, where she learned and grew and gained new friendships that ran so deep they became part of our family. Kayla made us all so proud, graduating a semester early through her strong will and determination. It was beyond heart-warming to see her beaming smile as she received her diploma and acknowledged all of her great accomplishments in such a short amount of time. While the 21 years she physically spent with us here was not nearly enough, we are all truly blessed to have shared in her love and kindness. It was a life well-lived, and she touched everyone she encountered with such care, leaving a lasting positive impression on all. She was and always will be light in the darkness, as her energy is so strong and present. She will always be loved, never be forgotten and will forever be missed. We love you Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich.



*- Kathleen &
Gregory Ullrich,
parents*

Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Kayla was the most selfless person I ever met. She always put others needs before herself. Although my time with her was short she left an impression that will last a lifetime. She was by my side on our graduation day at penn state, I'll never forget that day. I love and miss you Kayla ♥



*- Chad Grzesnikowski,
friend*

Honoring the life of Callan Jacobs

How do you describe the gift of Callan Jacobs? The humor, the brilliant orange hair, the bright smile, the clever, quick jokes. Callan often had an interesting and provocative view of the world, whether you were discussing politics, history, pop culture or science. He appreciated Monty Python, Calvin and Hobbes, Beethoven, Joseph Heller, Ray Bradbury and Isaac Asimov. And like many of his generation spent countless hours building Legos and playing video games. We will remember his sharp intelligence, his thoughtfulness and his beautiful curly red hair. You are at peace now Callan and we will see you on the other side of the infinite oceans.

*- Jerry and Daniel
Jacobs, parents*



Honoring the life of Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich

Kayla Elizabeth, I want you to know how perfect God made you. As an baby you were so happy ,as a toddler you had the best smile, as a young lady you were like a princess, as an adult you were just perfect! You will always have a piece of my heart with you in heaven. May God keep you in his loving care. We miss and love you!!

*- Theresa, your
Godmother*



Honoring the life of Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich

You were the light of my life! I will always remember your kind and caring ways! You left this world far too soon, but your loving memory will never leave my heart!

*-Margaret Counihan,
granddaughter*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Seeing Kayla smile always was special to me. It was my goal to achieve that. I surmise there is a donning smile in heaven as we speak.

*- Pat Counihan,
uncle*



Honoring the life of Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich

December 21, 2018, your graduation day, was a very special day for you and for all of us. Your departure from this world was so sudden and far too soon. Each day we think of you and miss you, and you will be present in our minds and in our hearts forever. With Love, Pop Pop and Ellen Counihan

*- Jack and Ellen
Counihan, grandfather
and his wife*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Kayla had a way of brightening up any room she entered. She put a smile on everyone's face that she encountered, even if it was a stranger she spoke to for a minute. Kayla was the definition of a true friend. She showed loyalty, love, trustworthiness, kindness, and always put others before she put herself. Kayla changed my life in so many ways and I wish I had the opportunity to truly express that to her. Kayla is the person who you'd call to share your best news, or call when you when you had a bad day because she'd always be there for you through the highs and the lows. I know that she is still with all of us, and I hope that each person does something in an act of kindness everyday to honor her life and memory. This world needs more people like Kayla in it. I love you and miss you more than words can describe Kayla, watch over your family, friends, and especially your parents. Love you twin.

*- Jamie Doyle,
Best Friend*



Honoring the life of Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich

Kayla was my only Grandchild and I was lucky to be able to bring her to and from the campus some weekends. Now all I have are those memories.

*-Walter Ullrich,
Grandfather*



Honoring the life of Daniel Santamarina

Daniel has been and always will be sorely missed. He was kind, gentle and loved his family very much. His playfulness and sense of humor were memorable qualities. And, he would brighten up any room he entered, regardless of the situation; a light now sadly darkened forever way too soon. He will always be with us though, even in that darkness.

*Gil
Santamarina,
uncle*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Kayla's light still shines with us. There is no one like her and that made every memory special. We love you Kayla.

*Samantha Bauer,
friend*



Honoring the life of Dean Feldbauer

Dean took great pride in furthering his education with the university. He was eager to finish his degree. Besides this, he had a love for the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved to play golf on weekends and ride ATVs. He was always up for a game of pool or darts with his friends, and he even played on local teams. He served in the US Army for two terms in the 101st Airborne, and he was so proud. He loved helping people and sharing words of wisdom. He loved his family and would give anything for them and his dachshund puppies. His illness was short and fast, but he was surrounded by family.

-AJ, child



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

May your light shine on forever. You are missed dearly by all. I love you and miss you so much. Until I see you again..

*- Samantha,
friend*



Honoring the life of Nicholas Papadopoulos

When Nicholas was young, he liked to build things. From skyscrapers made of blocks to patented 3-D printed can openers, his teachers were impressed and said he'd be an engineer someday. His senior year, he applied to the best engineering schools. As Penn State's engineering school was among the top 10, Nicholas threw in his hat the night of the application deadline and shortly thereafter was accepted into the College of Engineering. As a proud Penn State alum, I was thrilled but tried not to influence his decision. We participated in the campus walking tour for prospective students on an unusual snowy April morning. I was sure the snow was a game changer as he applied to schools with varsity sailing teams, many located in California. At the end of our tour, in front of Old Main, to my surprise, Nicholas declared "Mom, I want to go here." What a thrill it was to know that my son would become a Penn Stater and he alone made his decision. I'll never forget moving him into Porter Halls--a moment that was bittersweet. He quickly acclimated to campus life, making friends and enjoying the social life--football games, club sailing and parties. Growing up, he observed his mom go crazy watching televised football games as a die-hard Penn State fan. He now could relate to my fanatical enthusiasm while attending his first white out and sharing video footage from the stadium with me as I watched from home. He excelled in his school and was accepted into Industrial Engineering, having made Dean's list 3 consecutive semesters and being recognized with the People's Choice Award for the SEDTAPP Engineering Design competition. Of course, the pandemic disrupted spring semester of his Sophomore year but he persevered, adjusting to on-line classes from home with his beloved dog Moose by his side. He challenged himself with a summer internship at Catalent designing a productivity model for the company's international division and at the conclusion of his presentation was offered a full-time job. His accomplishments were many and continue to amaze me but sadly there was so much more he would do. One of his good friends told me, "Nicholas was the sweetest boy I've ever known." No doubt his kindness and selflessness were among his greatest strengths. And he feared letting people down. In Nicholas's memory, I ask you all to be kind to one another and support each other as fellow Penn Staters during these most challenging times. Finally, as I speak to you all of my heartbreaking loss, Nicholas surely would think I be remiss, If I didn't end my tribute, as two fanatical kindred spirits, with our beloved chant and Nittany Lion pride, all for the glory, "We Are!"

*- Heather East,
Mother*



Honoring the life of Kayla Elizabeth Ullrich

Kayla and the Ullrichs have been friends with my family and I for many years. Kayla will always be like family to us. We went up to the Penn State football games several seasons to visit her and enjoy the activities and we all had a great time of comradery and bonding. It meant so much to her that we shared her college experience with her, and she told us that each time we were there. The Penn State culture fit Kayla perfectly. She lived the life, loved her friends and felt loved back by them. Her bond with this institution and the people who she met here enriched her. Wherever Kayla's soul may be, she carries with her her happy memories of her Penn State years.

*- Hayne Goldstein,
family friend*



Honoring the life of Danny Santamarina

Dan was a wonderful nephew with a kind heart and an infectious smile. His irreplaceable sense of humor is missed.

Aunt Eileen



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Kayla was an amazing person that made friends no matter who they were. I met Kayla at Berks when we were picked to be roommates. During that entire semester, she would always make me laugh. We would always go to lunch together and make time to hang out everyday no matter our schedules. She was my first friend on campus and she made that semester memorable. Kayla was the kindest person around campus and I'm so honored to have been her friend. Kayla was a beach girl and invited me to her lifestyle through her stories. She only spoke kindly about her friends, family, and animals. She put good vibes out in the world and we all need to continue being kind to others in honor of her.

*- Ashlee Harry,
Roommate*



Honoring the life of Rodney Jones

Rodney was the kind of graduate student we dream of....smart and passionate and determined, with a unique perspective. He was wonderful. He needed guidance -- like ALL students do -- but he was also so capable and so inspiring. Our lives are diminished without his light and engagement in our program. However, we are benefitted from having had him with us for a short time. We hope his light -- which is still visible to many -- is inspiring to our current students. Our thoughts are with him and his family and friends at this time.

*- Jennifer Graham-
Engeland, professor
at Penn State*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Kayla was always a bright light for others. A ray of sunshine on even the darkest of days. Her love for her family, friends, the Jersey shore and Penn State also shown brightly. I can still see her smile and upbeat personality as she sits in my office for an advising appointment. After discussing here academics we quickly moved to talking about our love for the Jersey Shore and namely Cape May. Kayla was 3 credits away from earning her degree and I was honored to be a part of awarding her parents a posthumous degree for Kayla. She is missed and loved by so many of us touched by knowing her.

- Jamey Perry



Honoring the life of Rodney David Jones Jr.

Rodney was a wonderful, kind, absolutely brilliant man with a sly sense of humor and smile that we will always remember. Rodney was frequent presence in Kaufman Hall, the home of the Dickinson College Psychology Department. Rodney was usually hard at work wearing a heavy metal tee shirt and basketball shorts regardless of the weather. Rodney double majored in Psychology and Neuroscience and earned a Health Studies Certificate. He was the kind of student that will be remembered forever by any professor who worked closely with him. He dove into any subject that interested him and brought his knowledge and intellectual curiosity with him to every class. He studied abroad in Australia during his junior year where according to his peers the normally shy Rodney let loose and had a great time exploring his host country. During the summer of his junior year he worked with a Dickinson alumna and Bryn Mawr psychology professor Laural Peterson on health disparities research. As a senior at Dickinson Rodney completed his neuroscience senior project. He tested the impact of stereotype threat on physiological and psychological responses to health messages by African Americans. Rodney was committed to a career that would address health disparities experienced by African Americans. Rodney was granted honors in Neuroscience and won the Psychology Department's J.A. Skelton Prize for research as a result of his work. Rodney was an important member of the Dickinson Psychology Department and he is missed. Those of us who knew him will always remember him. The professors who worked closely with Rodney shared their personal memories: "I taught Rodney in two classes and helped supervise his senior project, helping him add a psychological dimension to his neuroscience project. Some of my favorite memories of teaching Rodney came during a senior seminar in Health Studies. The seminar focused on childhood obesity and during a discussion of childhood nutrition, Rodney shared his own experience as a child. He explained that his mom was a nurse and that when he was growing-up he remembers he and his father bringing junk food into the house through the front door and his mother immediately dispatching it to the trash in the back of the house. He acted out this process and told the story with his classic smile. His words and expression conveyed just how much he loved his family and how strongly he felt their love for him. Rodney's brilliance really shone in that particular class. He was always the student who was best able to bring insight to the class readings and the whole class, including me, his professor, learned from Rodney's ability to bring his knowledge of neuroscience to the material. I assigned a research paper to the students and told them they needed to read and reference at least 15 research articles in their papers. The top students in the class referenced 20 to 25 articles, except for Rodney who read and referenced 60. To put this in perspective, most research papers published in professional psychology journals reference around 30 papers. Rodney was the first and last student I have taught who ever put that much effort into a class paper. In retrospect, I shouldn't have been surprised, when Rodney was interested in something he didn't hold back, he brought all of his talent and energy to learning. Rodney was equally driven in his work on his Neuroscience senior project. He designed one of the most sophisticated studies I have seen from a student and executed it despite some setbacks that would have made many students scale back or even give up. Rodney brought so much more than intellectual talent and hard work to the project. He was determined to forge a career in medicine and research that would address the disparities and unequal treatment faced by African Americans in the American healthcare system. He talked often of his mother's healthcare career and of other family members who were physical therapists. I believe it was his family

*Dr. Sharon Kingston-Professor at
Dickinson College*



Honoring the life of Ryan Norfleet

Ryan had a wonderful spirit and demonstrated the true fight of a Nittany Lion as he battled cancer. His love for Penn State and journalism were always topics of discussion when we met. Two experiences are embedded in my heart forever. First, he and his parents were in a hard place making a decision whether Ryan should return for his studies one fall. Ryan really wanted to be at UPark and his parents were reluctant but then told me “he deserves a win” and Ryan came back for the fall semester while being ill. The second memory was on a Friday before the Ohio State Whiteout game. Ryan was in my office and was exhausted and in pain but his enthusiasm to experience a whiteout game in the student section was something high on his priority list. I asked him if he feels he can make it and he said, “Jamey, I figured out how to work around my pain. For tomorrow I plan on going right to my bed and resting for 24 hours straight before the game. He connected with me the next week and outside the loss, he said it was an incredible experience.

Ryan, YOU ARE PENN STATE!

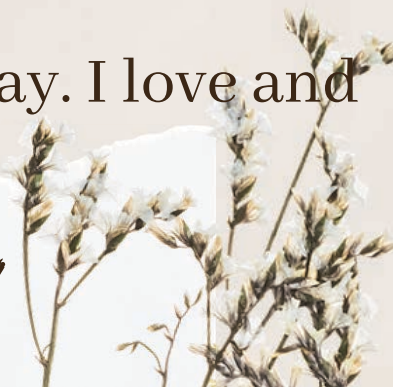
*- Jamey Perry,
adviser*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Kayla was the most selfless person I ever met. She always put others needs before herself. Although my time with her was short she left an impression that will last a lifetime. She was by my side on our graduation day at penn state, I'll never forget that day. I love and miss you Kayla ♥

*- Chad Grzesnikowski,
friend*



Honoring the life of Rodney David Jones Jr.

When Rodney graduated from Dickinson in 2017, there was a hole in Kaufman and Rector (the psychology and neuroscience home buildings). Why? Because Rodney was always there. I would come in to work early in the morning. I am an early bird, always on campus by 7:30. I would go to my teaching laboratory (James 1206 in Rector) to set my things down before my daily coffee run. And Rodney would be there. Not only there, but eight books strewn around the table. Piles of papers. His computer open and running. James 1206 was his room. There were nicer places on campus. Nicer places in Rector. But this was his domain, where he could read, study, write, and work. This was not someone who just arrived. He'd been here for a while. He always greeted me with that wry smile, a nod, the occasional hello. He was always hard at work. I'd have to kick him out of the room eventually, but not for an hour or so. We'd say hi. Talk about how things were going. I'd leave to go get coffee. Always asked if he wanted one, he never took me up on the offer. When I came back, sipping the wonderful cup, Rodney would be gone. But not far. Just down the hall, by the windows as the early morning light would shine on his new study space. That is my memory of Rodney. Hard at work, with the sun on his back. He was mine. Not really. I was his advisor and his guide through his courses and academic life here at Dickinson. But he really didn't need me. Occasionally he would check with me on how his major was going, but not that often. He had his plans, and followed them through. And, this boy had plans! His first plan was to be the best student he could possibly be. Everyone, including me, noted that Rodney was the best student in class. He had done all the readings, had actually thought about them, and presented those ideas in class. He could synthesize amazing details. He would come up with creative interactions between disparate readings that would then initiate wonderful discussions in class. His writing was so good that I barely read his drafts. They were already finished and polished. He also had a plan to accomplish the most he could at Dickinson. First, he would double major in psychology and neuroscience. Two fields that require a fair number of courses for graduation. No problem, got it covered. Easy peasy. Oh yea, also some study abroad in Australia. Well, he did come to Dickinson with about 1000 credits in advanced placement classes, so I knew he'd be fine. This added work would be no problem. He was ready for it. He was. Then, in the fall of 2016, he implemented his second plan. Rodney came to me and talked about a possible honor's thesis on, what he termed, "The neural and physiologic correlates of health-related social identity threat". What? This young man wanted to study social identity threat in a doctor's office and measure various physiological changes in the levels of stress. My first conversations with Rodney were centered around the fact that an honor's project in college was not a dissertation in graduate school. Maybe we could pull this back into the realm of a typical college kid? Oh no, that was never going to happen. Rodney knew what he wanted to do. He put all of the skills and knowledge of his two majors into this project. There were times when I thought it was going to just fall apart. Rodney might have felt that as well. But, he pushed ahead, as he always did. And got this great project done. Honors in Neuroscience. That was our Rodney. Psychology wasn't going to lose Rodney to neuroscience. We had awards too! Rodney won the Skelton Prize, a prize for seniors that use their research as a method of changing the world. And that is how Rodney left Dickinson. Changed by his presence. There was a hole when he left. And now there is a hole in the world. The world will feel the loss, just as we now do.

*Jeressa Barber Professor
Dickinson College*



Honoring the life of Rodney D. Jones Jr.

Our earliest memory of you is your beaming smile greeting us so we - all young kids then - could play at Haverford while we waited for our mom to scoop us up. This open nature has defined how we now remember you: a warm person whose every word was kind and whom we could always count on to make us feel welcomed. As we all waded through our teenage years, we still joyously came together to watch you play in your band, catch up at family dinners, and see you come out of your shell when you were Kui's date to prom. Our mom was one of your biggest fans, transmitting around our dinner table your academic prowess and how proud she was of you for continuing to pursue and achieve your dreams beyond high school. You have left an imprint on our lives; every one of our intersections blessed by your gentle soul. We aim to honor you by remembering the small things, and imbuing every interaction - big or small - with warmth and kindness. We hope you are at peace, we will always love you, and you will always be our friend.

*-Chiru and Kui
Murage, childhood
friends*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich

Love you forever and always miss you so much my angel ♥ You are always with me and I can't wait till we meet again someday,

*-Brittany, bestie
friendsie*



Honoring the life of Rodney David Jones Jr.

To Rodney's parents: Dear Carol and Rodney I was profoundly saddened yesterday morning to learn of Rodney's passing. Please accept my deepest condolences for this truly immeasurable loss. Though it's been seven years since he and I moved in to Adams our freshman year, it feels like just yesterday. I still recall how nervous everyone was that week. With so much going on and new faces at every turn, it was stressful. Rodney, however, seemed calm and collected through it all. From the moment we met he was nothing but kind and caring. Always eager to catch up with me about how our days were going or talk about whatever was going on around campus that day, Rodney's compassion made my transition to college easier. For that I have always been grateful to him. Rodney was destined for greatness, which is what makes his loss that much more difficult to comprehend. He was easily the most diligent person I have ever met. His work ethic was absolutely relentless and truly admirable. Rodney was the kind of person who just refused to give up until the job was complete, the assignment was finished, or he fully understood the concept. It was not uncommon for me to come home to our room at the end of a long night studying to find Rodney sitting upright at his desk with the light on, laptop open, books open, pen in hand, completely asleep. While it was actually quite humorous to discover him like this, it was also extremely admirable. Moments like that just go to show how dedicated he was. Obviously the characteristics I admired most about Rodney did not change after we graduated from Dickinson, as I know he was beginning medical school this year. Tackling that challenge is in itself remarkable. Like I said, he was destined for greatness. I know how proud you two were of him when he was accepted. While expressing my condolences via email will not replace a handwritten note, I wanted to make sure to get at least something to you before you hold services for Rodney. It would be my honor to attend them. I also wanted to thank the both of you for sharing this difficult news with Dickinson during your time of grieving so that I was able to get in touch. If there is anything that I can do for your family please let me know. I am happy and ready to assist. Yours with love, Brian Reid

*-Brian Reid, classmate and
roommate*



Honoring the life of Kayla Ullrich


You were the sweetest person I've ever met. It feels weird to go to bars or parties without you. I really miss you and love you<3

*- Claire Rys,
Friend*



Honoring the life of Rodney David Jones Jr.


What awful and sad news. I loved having Rodney in class his senior year. Rodney was so enthusiastic and engaged. In my class his close and critical perspective of the assigned readings elevated the whole class discussion. He also really helped his team by reading extensively and thinking broadly about varied topics in neuroscience, health psychology and diversity. He had so many ideas. He was a delight to be with and his enthusiasm for research and life was contagious.”



*- Marie Helwig-Larsen
Professor Dickinson College*

Honoring the life of Rodney David Jones Jr.

To Rodney's parents: My name is Laurel Peterson. I am a Dickinson graduate (2006) and a professor of psychology at Bryn Mawr College. I was blessed to meet Rodney when I came to Dickinson to give a talk about my research. My research interests dovetailed with some of Rodney's passions and I became the luckiest mentor ever when Rodney volunteered to work in my laboratory one summer (2016). Frankly, I think I learned as much from him as he did from me! I am devastated, devastated by this news. Rodney was such an extraordinary young person - visionary, a deep thinker, brilliant, and dedicated, but these exceptional qualities did not overshadow his kindness and generosity of spirit. He had such a beautiful smile and he lit up a room and made others smile as well. Please accept my deepest condolences with his passing. We have lost such an amazing soul. I am so deeply grateful that I was able to work with a student such as your son and hold it as one of the greatest joys of my career. Sincerely, Laurel



*- Chad Grzesnikowski,
friend*

Honoring the life of Brendan Clark

Brendan was one of the lights of our life, loved by us, his brother and sister, and numerous family and friends, and he returned that love to all. His school and his friends at Penn State meant so much to him and we are grateful for the time he got to spend there. God Bless Brendan and God Bless you all.

*Chris and Debbie
Clark*



Honoring the life of Rodney Jones

Rodney had so much to give, I hope the memories of all he wanted to accomplish inspire us to do a little more.

*- Tom Gould,
Department Head of
Biobehavioral Health*



Honoring the life of Brendan Clark

I am very impressed with your Night of Remembrance vigil. Brendan was very proud to be a member of the PSU Student Body. Thank you for his name being included in your program. I will pray for all those being honored on the 29 and for their families

*- Martin Gullen,
Grandfather*



Honoring the life of Rodney Jones

Rodney was such an extraordinary young person - visionary, a deep thinker, brilliant, and dedicated, but these exceptional qualities did not overshadow his kindness and generosity of spirit. He had such a beautiful smile and he lit up a room and made others smile as well.

*-Laurel Peterson -
academic research
mentor*



Honoring the life of Callan Jacobs

Callan was an intelligent and serious young man who loved his family. He tragically passed away at such a young age and he will be missed by his family, especially his mother Terry, father Danny and sister Ellie. We love and miss you Callan!

*-Jamie Hetteema,
Callan's Uncle*

