

SPRING 2017

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# THE DORNSIFE CENTER CONNECTOR

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# PASSPORT



**TO  
THE  
FUTURE**

*Anique Ingalls*

## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Warm greetings, friends and neighbors,

The spring season, as we feel reinvigorated by the suddenly warm weather, the wonderful aroma of flower blossoms, and the intense green of new leaves, is a time when we naturally think about potential and possibilities. The neighborhoods we serve are home to children, teens, and young adults who are dreaming of their own futures: who they will become and what they will contribute.

In this issue we meet a few of our neighborhood's talented young people. With their passion for learning, their dedication to their communities, and their ambitions for the future, they inspire all of us to feel hopeful and optimistic. They are emerging as our community's new artists, teachers, and leaders.

The Dornsife Center is proud to provide a place, and a set of programming, for these and other young people to find inspiration - and in turn to inspire us with their insights and accomplishments. We hope you will enjoy reading their stories.

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## PARTNER PROFILE

<i>Name:</i>	Valerie Ifill
<i>Job:</i>	Drexel's Dance Program Director and Director of Dance at the Dornsife Center
<i>Hometown:</i>	Youngstown, Ohio
<i>Current Residence:</i>	Powelton Village/Mantua
<i>Favorite food:</i>	Chocolate
<i>Favorite book:</i>	<i>Daily Rituals: How Artists Work</i> by Mason Currey
<i>Favorite sport:</i>	Volleyball

*What is your role at the Dornsife Center?*

As the Director of Dance, I mentor the teachers, develop the curriculum, and keep everything running smoothly.

*Where can we find you at the Dornsife Center?*

I'm usually in the "dance studio" on the second floor of the Carriage House.

*What is your favorite thing about the Dornsife Center?*

The friendships I am developing with the Dornsife Center staff, partner programs, parents, and dancers. I have been able to build authentic relationships with colleagues and neighbors over the last two years at the Dornsife Center which has been a true privilege.

*What do you do when you're not at the Dornsife Center?*

Teach and learn from my dance students at Drexel. Build choreography for my company Ifilldance or the TRANSForm Collective. Perform with MB Dance. Explore the city with my camera. Hike in the Wissahickon Park.

## FROM WRITERS ROOM JORDAN MCCULLOUGH

Jordan McCullough resides in Mantua with his mother and his sister, within walking distance of the Dornsife Center, where he often can be found working on the computers in the KEYSPOt. He is an avid movie fan who also enjoys writing and drawing every day.

He splashes vivid colors on walls around his community and all over the city with Mural Arts Philadelphia whenever opportunity arises. Just last summer he apprenticed with Brad Carney on the mural which graced the grounds at The Oval (Eakins Oval on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway). Prior to that, he assisted Phillip Adams in muraling the office building front of SPIN, Frankford Campus. Jordan has also worked with social activist artist Michelle Ortiz on her transnational mural project "Aqui y Alla." He contributed to the "Herman Wrice" mural within this neighborhood, as well as the colorful one covering our Charles Durham Library right up the street from the Dornsife Center. These are just to mention a few. When the upcoming "Gateway to Mantua" mural goes up this spring on both sides of the Spring Garden Street Bridge, rest assured that Jordan will have had a hand - or more specifically, a brush - in its completion.



In addition, Jordan frequently sits in on workshops and writing events sponsored by Writers Room at the Dornsife Center. He was published in Anthology I, a collection of participant pieces generated throughout the year. Creativity is key to his world. These are two of his works developed with Writers Room.

### THE END OF THE ROAD

I remember St. Joe's University and Bala Cynwyd Library  
I remember Blockbuster, Dunkin Donuts, Rite Aid, KFC and McDonald's  
I remember Sunoco, Olive Garden, Acme, Wells Fargo and Chili's  
I remember Target, T.G.I. Fridays, the Marriot and Houlihan's.  
I remember Penn Wynne Library, Taco Bell, Eye Encounters, CVS  
I remember TJ Maxx, Baskin Robins and Rita's water ice  
I remember Kohl's, Pizza Hut, Burger King, AMC Theatre  
I remember Boscov's, JC Penny and Ruby Tuesdays

I remember Borders, Old Navy and Superfresh  
I remember Five Below, Rite Aid and Panera Bread  
I remember McDonald's, Rite Aid, Blockbuster and Baskin Robbins  
I remember Ardmore Library, Barnes & Nobles and Ludington Library

I remember Save-A-Lot, Hess Express  
I remember Checkers and Forman Mills  
I remember Cobbs Creek Children's Hospital  
I remember a mural of a giant green-eyed monster

### ANATOMICAL CITY

The CVS Pharmacy is my left foot  
The Eye Encounters is my right foot  
The Library is my left hand  
The Taco Bell is my right hand  
The Rite Aid is my right eye  
The Panera Bread is my left eye  
The Blockbuster is my right ear  
The Baskin Robins is my left ear  
The Borders is my left arm  
The Barnes and Noble is my right arm  
The Boscov's is my left leg  
The JC Penny is my right leg  
The Super Fresh is my nose  
The Ruby Tuesdays is my mouth  
The Rita's water ice is my skin  
The AMC theatre is my mind

## DESMOND FRIERSON

### ON BECOMING AN ALLY TO OTHERS

I am 19 years old in my senior year at KIPP DuBois Collegiate Academy at 52nd and Parkside. My journey at the Dornsife Center started in October of 2015 when I became an intern for Triskeles Urban Sustainability Leadership Academy (USLA), a program which was recommended to me by a close teacher of mine. From my participation in the Triskeles USLA program I had the honor to be invited to the Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity.

My interest in community building and my good relationship with the Dornsife staff led to a WorkReady internship where I worked closely with Andrew Issa, Assistant Director of Programming, at the Dornsife Center. After my time with WorkReady,

I came back to the Dornsife Center as a volunteer, contributing 30+ hours of community service to support the Dornsife Center's staff.

Identified as an individual who has potential to spark change in the community, I was nominated to the Triskeles Youth Council, where we focused on the positive aspects of the community to inspire more unity. From this work, we created the art expo, Experience Inspires, which has moved me to start developing my own painting art class.

Through these experiences, I met a remarkable number of extraordinary people, people like my great friend and mentor, Andrew Issa, along with my program directors, Mr. Marcin and Ms. Janine. They are some of the key people who gave me advice and guidance that pushed me to get in many doors and to take advantage of multiple great opportunities. Meeting these three, along with other staff members and guests at the Dornsife Center, is what I am most grateful for. The things I learned and saw accomplished at the Dornsife Center greatly contributed to forging me into a more optimistic and determined self.

Moving on from the Dornsife Center, I will always strive to give positive contributions for my community, talents, and relationships. Because I learned that having people behind you will open opportunities for you, I want to be an ally to others as a source of motivation and stability, aspects I see every time I visit the Dornsife Center. In the upcoming Fall I'm going to college, and on campus I will stand for true inspiration and grit, focusing on the things that matter and keeping in mind all I learned at Drexel's Dornsife Center.



## WISDOM GOSSETT

### DATA SCIENTIST

Future scientist Wisdom Gossett was part of Camp Open Data, a program of Drexel's College of Computing and Informatics' Metadata Research Center. Girls who attended this camp learned about data science, data visualization, data management, and had an opportunity to play with a number of data sources. They also got to work alongside data scientists who provided information about careers working with data.



## TYKEEM BOND PART OF SOMETHING BIG

After his first meeting at the Dornsife Center, 25-year-old Mantua resident Tykeem Bond, knew he wanted to be involved. His commitment has not wavered. “I said I’m being a part of it, and that’s what I did, and I’m still a part of it.”

### *Community Work*

Tykeem has been a part of DB4 (Da Bottom for Community Inc.), a neighborhood organization that supports community engagement and raises awareness of issues that affect urban communities. “All of my life I wanted to be a part of something big, something that’s gonna help people,” he says about getting involved. He also has volunteered with a number of local holiday and after-school programs, and serving as Balloon Captain at the Thanksgiving Day Parade still makes him smile. Carrying on the tradition of his late grandmother, Tykeem also runs his own bible study.

In 2013 he participated in the Dornsife Center’s planning workshop, an intensive two-day process that created a shared vision for the project.

The Dornsife Community Advisory Council (DCAC) was created out of that workshop. DCAC is made up of neighborhood and partner representatives who ensure that stakeholder voices are incorporated into all aspects of the Dornsife Center. Tykeem has served on DCAC since it launched, and he sees himself as “a leader for the young people”. As a member of its Programming Committee, he tries to

find programs kids can relate to. “Being on DCAC made one of my goals come true...I kind of feel like I’m important to the community,” he says.

### *Family*

Tykeem’s work at the Dornsife Center is almost always a family affair, with his wife, Deniere Jones-Bond and their 6 month-old daughter Egypt, by his side. “I’m big on family; everything that I want to do or she wants to do – we try to do it as a family.” They often volunteer at the monthly Community Dinner together, for example. “Being a husband and first time dad, it’s the best thing in the world, best feeling in the world,” he says. They serve together on planning committees, working for months to bring events like the Annual Easter Festival to the neighborhood – all as a family.

A lot has changed in the last year. Grieving the loss of his dear grandmother and becoming a father,

Tykeem notes, “I had to step away. I had to take it easy, focus on my family.” But not for long! “Now that the baby is here, I’m trying to come back and finish what I started.” Fatherhood has also transformed the purpose of his work. “[Before] I just wanted to change my community, but now, since I got my daughter, I’m mainly doing it for her...I’m still doing it for the community ...I want [my kids] to come here when they grow up....I want to make a better community for my daughter.”

### *Education & Personal Growth*

Tykeem is also pursuing a college degree. “I never had the courage until my wife and grandmom pushed me,” he explains. Now in his second semester at Strayer University, Tykeem wants to eventually complete his college degree in Computer Science at Drexel, a goal that seems more attainable having been involved with the Dornsife Center. “My experience here has been awesome, one of the best feelings I ever had,” he says. “Drexel University is a big thing, and being a part of that...is just wonderful.” Deneire, interested in culinary studies, would also like to attend Drexel.



Tykeem especially values the personal growth he has cultivated at the Dornsife Center, and he participates in as much programming as he can. Although he claims he’s not a good cook, he has taken four culinary arts classes so far. “I loved it and I want to do it again. I don’t want to stop.” He has gained confidence in talking and collaborating in large groups. A self-professed former shy kid who used to be made fun of for how he talks, Tykeem uses his participation at

the Dornsife Center to improve his communication skills. “I still get nervous, but I’m still trying. I don’t want it to seem like I’m not being a part of it, the only one not talking. ...I want to talk because I know I’m going to be right because I’ve been listening or because we’ve been talking about something important that I can relate to.”

### *The Future*

Tykeem describes himself as “a hard-working man.” He wants people to see what he’s doing and know that they can do it, too. “That’s the stuff that makes me feel good about myself.” Aware that he sometimes relies on the help of others to accomplish his goals, he is passionate about helping others. “I know if I can help one person, then I can help a hundred more.” Ultimately, he aims to do something he loves that lets him provide for his family. But he has big plans for the future. After he earns his bachelor’s degree, he plans to go for a master’s as well as a PhD. When he turns 35, he plans to run for president of the United States. “I have big goals. I’m going for it. I had a dream about it.”

## ANIQUE | INGALLS

## INTERVIEW WITH A YOUNG TALENT

One of our greatest pleasures at the Dornsife Center is providing programming and space for talented young people to learn new skills and find their gifts. We recently caught up with Anique Ingalls, who is involved in just about all of the arts programs for kids that we have to offer, to find out more.

*How old are you?*

9 1/2

*Where do you go to school?*

Samuel Powel Elementary

*What neighborhood do you live in?*

Mantua

*What do you love the most?*

Dance

*Which programs are you doing at the Dornsife Center?*

Dance, voice, guitar, and theater

*Tell us about your lessons.*

When I go to voice we do warmups, then start working on a song. When I go to guitar, we go over the chords and then I like to practice chord switching. I like to play guitar and I like to get to learn to act because I want to be an actress.

