

Standing for Sanders

Senior Rachel Backer brings national Democratic campaign efforts to Grosse Pointe

By Gowri Yerramalli
BUSINESS MANAGER

Dante Alighieri once stated, “The secret of getting things done is to act.” Senior Rachel Backer is recently learning the meaning of this phrase with the upcoming presidential elections. Backer is an avid supporter of Democratic candidate, Bernie Sanders.

“He is the most authentic candidate there is. He is not taking money from billionaire donors, nor is he coordinating with any super PACs (Political Action Committees). He is building a true grassroots people’s campaign,” Backer said. “He shows that he cares about the well-being of the ordinary citizens of this country — college students, union laborers and minorities — and he has the track record to prove it.”

The unique nature of Sanders’ campaign and views motivated Backer to form an interest in his actions. Backer agrees with Sanders’ views on “pretty much every major issue,” from campaign finance reform to racial justice and economic inequality.

To show her support, Backer started a volunteer organization for Sanders with her boyfriend, North alumnus Colton Dale, called “Grosse Pointe for Bernie.” They held their first meeting on Sept. 12.

“Since Bernie’s official campaign isn’t in Michigan yet, because Michigan isn’t an early primary state, all efforts in the state are completely volunteer-created and led,” Backer said. “We wanted to get a volunteer group started in the Grosse Pointe area to canvas and campaign for Bernie, so that’s what we did.”

Since its creation in early September, the group walked in a Labor Day Parade with another volunteer organization called “Southeast Michigan Berners” to assist in the campaign efforts.

“We plan on volunteering and doing more campaigning with our newly formed group,” Backer said.

She considers Sanders her inspiration,

due to his perseverance and progressive ideals in fighting for political issues.

“He is a role model to me in that, even at his old age, he still has a very progressive mind, and continues to fight for change on the most important issues that are facing the nation,” Backer said.

Dale feels that her main contribution to the organization has been conveying news to her fellow high-schoolers.

“She’s been very helpful in getting the word out, specifically around Grosse Pointe North, and also coordinating with the group ‘Grosse Pointe Students for Bernie,’ which was started by a student at South,” Dale said. “She’s been very helpful in organizing the high school crowd.”

Although she doesn’t plan on pursuing a career in politics beyond high school, Backer’s participation in the organization has broadened her perception of American diplomacy.

“I think she’s come to know the feel of a political activist and what it’s like organizing people and planning events,” Dale said. “I also think it’s helped her become more knowledgeable about American politics as a whole. Following Bernie and Bernie’s campaign — it’s given her an opportunity to get to know some of the issues that are at stake in this campaign and in the 2016 elections. It’s been an experience for her on a few different levels.”

As for Backer and the group, they will continue to keep rallying for Sanders as long as he is in the running for president.

“If he wins the Democratic nomination next summer, the work certainly won’t stop. We have to keep campaigning to help make sure he wins the general election in November,” Backer said. “If he goes on to win the general election, we’ll celebrate for sure.”



Top: Senior Rachel Backer and boyfriend Colton Dale walk downtown at a Bernie Sanders Labor Day parade.
Middle: Backer and the rest of the “Grosse Pointe for Bernie” group walks in the parade in downtown Detroit.
Bottom: The first group meeting was held on Sept. 12.



SARAH WIETecha

McCarroll makes every moment count

By Emma Brock & Sarah Wietecha
ASSISTANT EDITORS

Even the busiest of students couldn’t survive on three hours of sleep a night. But for social studies teacher Sean McCarroll, three hours is the norm. Along with being a teacher and class adviser, McCarroll is involved in a multitude of activities that keep him on his toes all week.

“I usually get home most nights around 10 or 10:30, and then I go home, and I have to do work,” McCarroll said. “I try to be in bed by midnight if I can. Sometimes it’s a little bit later than that. A good night of sleep is about five hours. A normal night’s about like three and a half.”

If McCarroll isn’t trying to catch up on sleep, he’s spending his time promoting new ideas for the school’s Innovation Lab. He is currently

working on a proposal that he will present to the school board on Oct. 23.

“I’ve been doing research. I’ve got stacks of books everywhere because we’re trying to launch three new classes,” he said. “We’re basically trying to launch a department around Digital Eminent.”

McCarroll also owns, runs and renovates four apartments in addition to having remodeled his own house. As a teacher, he finds it hard to find free time but manages to do so during the weekends.

“I don’t really have time to go to the gym or anything like that, so it’s either that or I’m hanging out with people on like a Friday or Saturday night, cause usually by Friday, all teachers are exhausted,” McCarroll said.



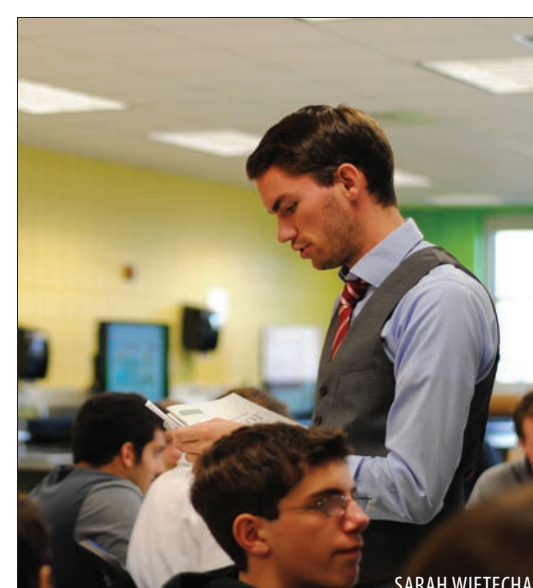
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TOP: Social studies teacher Sean McCarroll moves between room B201 and innovation lab, depending on the class he’s teaching.

ABOVE: On the sight of Class of 2018’s float construction, McCarroll helps with the hands-on work.

RIGHT: McCarroll teaches his fifth hour World History class.

FAR RIGHT: McCarroll teaches Digital Seminar class in the Innovation Lab.



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