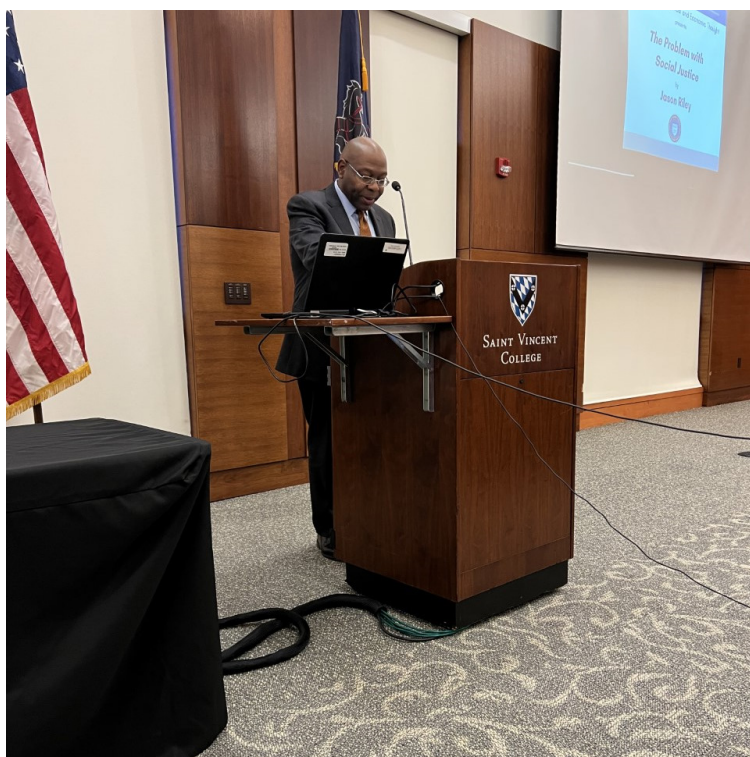


Conflicting Visions of Justice

By: Sean Callahan, News Editor



Jason Riley spoke on Tuesday, Mar. 21, as a part of the McKenna School Center for Political and Economic Thought lecture series. (SOURCE: CALLAHAN)

“Traditional justice is about ensuring an impartial process. It’s not about guaranteeing certain results. Social justice is the opposite of this. Rules and standards are set aside in hopes of achieving certain results,” Jason Riley said.

Riley spoke on Tuesday, March 21

at 7:30 p.m. at the Fred Rogers Center. His talk was a part of the McKenna School’s Center for Political and Economic Thought lecture.

Riley is a public speaker, a journalist, a member of the editorial board at the Wall Street Journal, and a senior

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Take Me Out to the Ball Park

By: John Syms, Part-Time Staff Writer

The Saint Vincent College (SVC) Department of Communication visited and got a behind-the-scenes tour at the Pittsburgh Pirates’ baseball stadium on March 21. The stadium, PNC Park, is consistently ranked by many news outlets as one of the best baseball stadiums in America. Samantha Sluger, a 2018 SVC graduate with a bachelor’s in communication, organized this event to happen. Sluger currently works for the Pirates as a manager for customer services and tours.

Fifteen students and two communication department professors got the chance to visit the entire stadium and saw the dugouts, press booth, clubhouses, and stadiums during their tour. Their tour guide, Ron, was very knowledgeable of the history and facts about the stadium and the team. He said he was around to see Jackie Robinson play baseball at the Pirates’ old stadium, Forbes Field, in the 1950s.

Dr. Farrington and Mr. Safin

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NEWS

McKenna Lecture Series Speaker Receives Much Student Engagement

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fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a public policy think tank. He has worked for USA Today and the Buffalo News. He received a bachelor's degree in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

He has also published multiple books, in which he argued for a free-market-oriented U.S. immigration system, discussed governmental efforts to help the black underclass, and touched on other perceived issues such as black economic progress prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and why black political success has supposedly not translated into more economic advancement.

In his talk, Riley challenged so-called 'social justice' views on racial inequality and criticized several policy beliefs, such as ending standardized testing and promoting the welfare system. He structured his talk through the ideas and observations of Thomas Sowell, an economist, social theorist, and senior fellow of the Hoover Institute, a public policy think tank. Riley mostly referenced Sowell's book "The Quest for Cosmic Justice" as he made his remarks.

Riley began with a different book written by Sowell, "A Conflict of Visions". Sowell believes there are two visions of human nature that drive people's ideological views on ideas such as freedom, equality, and justice. There is the constrained view of human nature, which Sowell regards as tragic. This view holds that mankind is flawed. Since we can't truly solve large scale issues

such as poverty, racism, and war, we need to create institutions and processes that help us deal with these problems. The second view is an unconstrained, utopian view of human nature, which rejects the idea that there is a limit to what humans can achieve.

Riley claimed that social justice adds emphasis from the unconstrained view of human nature, where there are no limits to human betterment and no tradeoffs to address human inequality.

He claimed 'social justice advocates' find the outcome important, not the process used to get there, and that advocates think "the process should be rigged if necessary, to get the desired results, even if that means discriminating against certain groups to get that outcome." Riley used the selection of racial minority students for universities as an example of what he referred to.

"The social justice advocate's assumption is that equal outcomes are the norm in society, and that where we don't find it, something nefarious is going on," Riley said.

He challenged this premise, claiming that inequalities are natural, widespread, and exist everywhere. He feels that discrimination and exploitation don't explain the outcomes of these inequalities.

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Jason Riley Lecture

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Instead, Riley pointed to different groups, cultures, and habits as indicators of existing inequalities, both present and historical. He used Japan as an example, citing their current wealth that now exceeds countries of Western Europe, and poor wealth status “a few generations ago”. He also mentioned inequalities within countries, such as people on the coast versus those in mountainous regions having advantages or disadvantages over others.

Riley said that he does not feel slave labor made America rich, because, he claimed, it benefited some slave owners, not the country as a whole. He also said that historically, Africa was poor before western colonists came to it. He also claimed that North Africa, The Middle East, and Brazil imported more slaves than America, yet they were not as prosperous as America. These are rationales for why Riley feels reparations for slave labor in America are unnecessary.

Referring to the present day, Riley claimed it made sense that there were racial inequalities in school disciplinary rates and hiring practices, citing “a black subculture that rejects attitudes and behaviors that are conducive to academic success”. He mentioned a study that claimed children with poorer parents heard less words than those that had professional or working-class parents. He extended this to black children, who he says, “read half as many books and watch twice as much television as their white counterparts.”

To demonstrate his belief, he presented an anecdote in which his younger niece asked him why he “talked white” and “sounded so smart”.

“Here was a young black girl that already linked speech patterns to intelligence and race,” Riley said. “She already had a sophisticated awareness that as a black person, white sounding speech was to be avoided in her own speech.”

Riley said that 80% of black students in his home-

town, New York City, are performing below grade level. He compared black students with Asian students, who he claimed watched less television and read more books than black students, had the highest standardized test scores, and made up over half of all admitted spots in the most selective NYC high schools, despite taking up only 16% of the NYC student population. He used the achievements of Asian students, racial minorities in NYC, as opposed to black students – a majority race in NYC underperforming – to support his claim of a black subculture that is not conducive to learning.

Riley also expressed disapproval for the welfare system, claiming that systems such as this are “multi-generational traps” since they supposedly harm black people by promoting dependency rather than prosperity.

He ended his talk by maintaining that while he is not denying that racism exists or claiming that it does not have an impact on progress, he wants people to consider what impact it has on society compared to other factors. He feels many policymakers and politicians are pretending there are no other factors to racial inequalities beyond discrimination, which will not address the actual causes of inequality.

“To talk about what drives inequality today, we need a discussion about behavior differences. Social justice advocates don’t want to have that discussion,” Riley said. “Values, habits, attitudes, and behaviors that facilitate economic advancement are all a part of this.”

The questions and answers session following Riley’s talk lasted over a half hour. Students, visiting alumni, and a professor participated. Questions touched on Riley’s opinions on organizations focusing on black success and development, challenged his critical views on the welfare system and standardized testing, and inquired about solutions he would implement to the problems he listed in his talk.

ARTS & CULTURE

Students Visit the Pirates' Baseball Stadium

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thought about letting students from the communication department have the opportunity to take a visit to PNC Park.

"Me and Mr. Safin both knew that Samantha Sluger worked at the Pirates' Stadium, and last fall Safin said we should think about doing a tour or having her (Sluger) do a tour," Dr. Farrington said. "So, I contacted Samantha and we found a date that would work, and she set up the tour on her end and I helped figure out the rides to the stadium." While some individuals got a ride from Dr. Farrington, others had to drive to Pittsburgh from SVC (or hitch a ride from another student).

The students and professors had a great time visiting the stadium, according to Dr. Farrington.

"What I heard from students is that people had a really good time, and it was interesting to learn about PNC Park, and it was also interesting to hear information from Samantha," she said.

Dwight Collins, senior business management and communication major, said that he loved the visit to PNC Park, along with the rest of the students who had the opportunity to go and see Pirates Stadium.

"The trip was great! I was really excited to see the behind-the-scenes of PNC Park. I really enjoyed listening to Ron. He was really passionate about the history of the Pirates organization, and I felt like a true Pirates fan, since the behind-the-scenes tour," Collins said.

This was not Dwight's first time he ever visited the stadium, as he attended a Pirates game last May. He plans on coming back to SVC to get his master's degree and plans on



SVC Communication Department tours the Pirates' home dugout. (SOURCE: JOHN SYMS)

playing a fifth year of football.

"After my masters, it would be a dream to be a part of a management staff in the NFL or NBA. I'm not against the MLB, but their season is always during the summertime, and I want to have kids one day. So, that would be a conflict."

The communication department does plan on doing more trips similar to the PNC Park tour. "There are a lot of opportunities to connect our students, whether it's a PR (Public Relations) person or somebody that works for a sports team, I think that there is an opportunity," Dr. Farrington said.

More trips and activities are to be announced. Students who went on the tour will never forget the time they toured one of the best stadiums.

SPORTS

Bearcats Take Second at AMCC Championships

By: Jacob Rzempoluch, *Sports Editor*

“Maintaining consistency year after year is no easy feat. It requires a combination of factors such as a dedicated coaching staff, consistent practice, and a team culture that emphasizes hard work and perseverance.” Sabine Strickland, sophomore digital design major, put into words just how impressive the Bearcat women’s bowling team’s recent performance has been.

For the third straight season, the Bearcats made the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) championship finals. For most of the season, Saint Vincent had the highest winning percentage in the entire NCAA; their final winning percentage of .850 ranked second behind a different squad of Bearcats: the defending national champions and National Ten-pin Coaches Association (NTCA) poll #1 from McKendree University.

Even with a history of success, this season was outstanding for SVC bowling. The team was ranked 13th in the NTCA Division II/DIII February poll, the first time the Bearcats were ranked by the NTCA. In March, Saint Vincent received votes in the NTCA coaches poll but fell just outside of the top 25. However, this still shows that Bearcat bowling is being recognized as a threat across the country. To back up these voter-determined polls statistically, the Bearcats were ranked 24th in the NCAA with a Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) of .557 and 26th with a Power Index of 0.55811.

The only thing standing in the way of an AMCC title for the Bearcats was the Medaille University Mavericks. The Mavericks were ranked slightly higher than the Bearcats in all of the previously listed statistical

measures and polls, and have won the last five AMCC championships. On the line was an automatic bid to the NCAA bowling championships; an at-large bid to qualify for the 17-team tournament was unlikely for the loser of the matchup.

Qualifying matches for the AMCC tournament were set to begin in November, but a brutal snowstorm in New York led to the cancellation of the initial round robin weekend. This led to the AMCC tournament #1 occurring after tournament #2. Each competition allowed the Bearcats to face the other ten teams in the conference once per weekend.

Tournament #2 took place the weekend of Feb. 3 at Hillview Lanes in Greensburg, Pa. It consisted of traditional games, with each bowler playing a full game against their opponent. The Bearcats went 9-1 over the weekend, with the team losing only to Medaille in head-to-head competition. The Bearcats triumphed over the also 9-1 Mavericks in the final standings, with an average pins per game of 178.2 over Medaille’s 177.5.

The rescheduled Tournament #1 was played at Classic Lanes in Kenmore, N.Y. on the weekend of Feb 18-19. The Bearcats went undefeated, averaging 181.4 pins per game. This tournament was played using the Baker format, with five teammates sharing the lanes and swapping out each frame. Saint Vincent’s 19-1 record in the combined tournaments would earn them the top seed for the AMCC championships. This strong result was powered by the balanced team play of the Bearcats.

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AMCC Championships

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“Really we won and lost as a team,” Head Coach Jeff Zidek said. “Everyone contributed all season to the success... everyone on the team contributed all the way to the end.”

Three different Bearcats were named AMCC Bowler of the Week during the 2022-23 season: Olivia Emmonds, senior biology major; Monique Koehler, junior communication major; and Abby Justice, freshman early childhood education major. An additional four Bearcats averaged over 170 pins per game: Jackie Koehler, junior communication major; Mercedes Belch, graduate student; Kaitlyn Morrison, senior history major; and Strickland.

The Bearcats brought their A-game to the AMCC championships. The tournament took place over three days, from March 24-26, at Pine Plaza Lanes in Pittsburgh. SVC was given a first-round bye as the top seed and faced the fifth seeded New Jersey City Gothic Knights in the quarterfinals. The Bearcats won both games, taking the traditional match 873-865 and winning the Baker match 878-846. Emmonds bowled a 230 with five strikes in the traditional round, a team-high for the whole tournament.

A match against Medaille was up next for the Bearcats. SVC won the traditional match 998-959 after a strong rally in the last two frames. Medaille responded with a 925-852 Baker victory. This set up a best of 7 Baker series to advance to the championship. The Bearcats fell behind 2-1 after the first three matches, but responded with 3 straight wins (203-182, 224-180, 180-164). Medaille was sent to the “losers” bracket of the double elimination tournament. They then triumphed over New Jersey City to set up yet another contest with Saint Vincent.

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The Bearcats took home second in a very competitive championship (SOURCE: @svc_bowling, SVC Bowling Instagram)

SVC Bowling

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The Mavericks came into the championship strong, beating the Bearcats 964-948 in the traditional match and 963-916 in the Baker match. This put both programs on even ground with one loss each. The champion would be decided in a winner-takes-all best of seven Baker match.

The Bearcats won the first game 188-166. Medaille took the next three games before a strong SVC performance brought them to 3-2. Unfortunately, the Bearcats would fall 245-201 to an explosive Mavericks performance.

“We’ve gotten better every year and gotten closer every year, but Medaille keeps getting better, too,” Zidek said. “In my mind, we didn’t lose anything. We got beaten by a higher score. There’s a difference between that and performing badly and giving it away. This team didn’t give anything away.”

Strickland and Emmonds were named to the All-Tournament Team; the only other school with two bowlers recognized was Medaille. Emmonds was also named Bearcat of the Week for performing at her best when it counted most. She averaged an impressive 200 pins per game.

When asked about being honored at the end of the season, Emmonds said, “It honestly meant the world! As athletes we are always striving to improve and get better at what we do and for all the hard work to really show in my last collegiate competition was the best way to leave it on the lanes!”

The Koehler twins, Emmonds, and Justice were all named to the end-of-season All-Conference Team.

The Bearcats hope to keep growing stronger each year. “Getting our freshmen up to speed in a hurry will be a big challenge,” Zidek said. “We are losing four bowlers that have a combined 17 years of college bowling experience - one was a grad student this year. We are bringing back four of our starters and I have no concerns with them, but we were able to use our entire roster this year and not miss a beat.”

“Winning the tournament will require a lot of hard work, dedication, and focus,” Strickland said. “We will need to continue to work on improving our skills, both as individual bowlers and as a team. We will also need to maintain a positive mindset and stay motivated throughout the season.”

The Bearcat women’s bowling team has been on a tear the last few seasons; a conference championship is certainly within their view.

Team Standings

Men's Lacrosse

Team	W	L	Streak
Saint Vincent	7	2	L2
Franciscan	4	2	L2
Bethany	5	3	L1
Allegheny	5	4	W3
Westminster	5	4	W4
W&J	4	5	W1
Chatham	3	6	L2
Thiel	3	7	W1
Grove City	2	6	L3

Schedule: @Westminster 4/12 7:30 p.m., @Allegheny 4/15 7 p.m., @Bethany 4/18 4 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse

Team	W	L	Streak
Chatham	5	1	W2
Allegheny	7	2	W2
Saint Vincent	5	3	L2
W&J	4	3	W3
Thiel	4	4	L2
Bethany	4	5	L3
Franciscan	2	3	W1
Grove City	3	6	W2
Waynesburg	2	5	L2
Westminster	2	6	L1

Schedule: Waynesburg 4/5 4 p.m., @Westminster 4/11 7 p.m., @Allegheny 4/15 4 p.m.

Men's Volleyball

Team	W	L	Streak
PSU-Behrend	15	6	W3
Geneva	15	13	W3
Saint Vincent	9	8	W2
Thiel	12	12	L2
Hilbert	8	13	W2
Hiram	7	15	W1
Medaille	7	15	W1
Mount Aloysius	4	14	L7
PSU-Altoona	4	18	W1
Wells	3	17	L6

Schedule: Mount Aloysius 4/5 7 p.m.

Baseball

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	14	5	L1
W&J	13	5	W4
Bethany	11	7	L5
Chatham	10	8	L1
Westminster	7	10	W2
Geneva	8	12	L1
Allegheny	6	10	L2
Saint Vincent	7	12	L3
Waynesburg	6	12	W1
Franciscan	4	11	W1
Thiel	4	12	W2

Schedule: @LaRoche 4/4 3 p.m., Franciscan 4/5 1 p.m., @Chatham 4/12 1 p.m.

Softball

Team	W	L	Streak
Waynesburg	11	3	W5
Westminster	10	4	W5
Allegheny	9	5	L1
Saint Vincent	10	6	W3
W&J	6	6	L1
Grove City	7	7	W1
Geneva	6	10	L1
Thiel	4	10	W1
Chatham	4	12	L1
Bethany	1	12	L1
Franciscan	0	12	L12

Schedule: @W&J 4/4 3:30 p.m., @Pitt-Greensburg 4/5 3 p.m., Thiel 4/12 3:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Team	W	L	Streak
Allegheny	8	3	W4
Grove City	5	3	W1
Saint Vincent	3	3	W1
Geneva	2	3	W1
Westminster	1	4	L3
Franciscan	2	9	W1
W&J	1	5	L1
Thiel	0	3	L3
Waynesburg	0	4	L4

Schedule: @Grove City 4/4 4 p.m., Thiel 4/6 4 p.m., @Juniata 4/12 3 p.m.

Men's Track & Field

Past Result: 3rd at Bethany Invitational

Schedule: @Grove City 4/5 TBD, @Thiel 4/15 10 a.m., @Bucknell 4/16 1 p.m.

Women's Track & Field

Past Result: 9th at Bethany Invitational

Schedule: @Grove City 4/5 TBD, @Thiel 4/15 10 a.m., @Bucknell

4/16 1 p.m.

Men's Golf

Past Result: 5th at Marietta, 1st at Geneva

Schedule: @Moravian 4/5 12 p.m., @Westminster 4/10

12 p.m., @W&J 4/17 12 p.m.

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*as of 3/29/23