

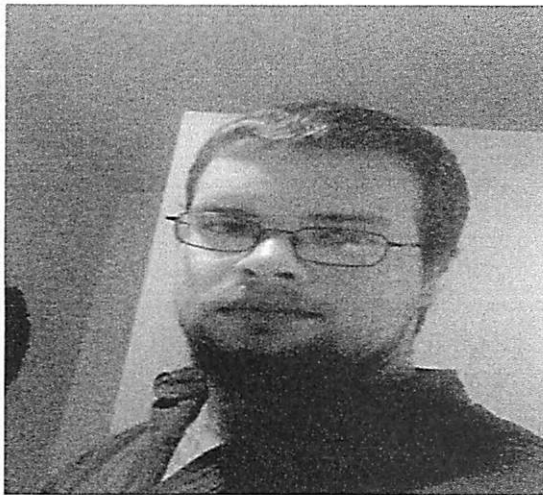
MURDER AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA!

Tuesday, September 17:

Campus and local police responded to reports of a fight that escalated into a fatal shooting early this morning.

Students waiting for class to start in a small classroom on the second floor of Keith Hall were surprised, according to one witness, when a young woman stepped through the door and pointed toward Allen Layton. "That's him," witnesses say she told a tall, slender male behind her. There was a brief verbal confrontation and then Layton, according to one witness, rose from his seat to further confront the male. At that point, witness stories become more confused. "It's a complex case," said a member of the investigating team. "While it may seem like a simple assault, there are several people involved and we are sorting it out."

Allen Layton. Photo submitted by Genevieve Johnson



Another male stepped into the room, swinging a weapon of some type. In the melee that followed, one student received a leg injury and Layton was shot and killed. All witnesses agree that the shot was fired by the female, now identified as Victoria Mosca. Layton's girlfriend, Christlynn Dornevil, received a minor head injury as she rose to break up the fight.

According to Layton's Aunt, Genevieve Johnson, Layton was not currently enrolled at IUP but had recently begun dating Dornevil and had broken off a relationship with Mosca. "He's a good kid," she told reporters. "He lost his dad at 15, and he lost his mom and sister two years ago. I'm all he has. He's been through a lot and had found his way back. He wanted to enroll and continue his studies in mechanical engineering." Layton, 24, had previously attended a university in North Carolina and had worked locally as an auto mechanic. While police confirm that he had a criminal record, "it was for stupid stuff that kids do when they're 17 or 18—drink when they shouldn't and get in a fight. He had

long outgrown that stuff," according to Johnson. She learned of her nephew's death via a call from Dornevil, who was, Johnson said, "heartbroken. The two of them seemed incredibly happy together."

Police confirmed that they had arrested three suspects, including Mosca. There are no cameras in the immediate vicinity of the classroom where the assault took place, and "amazingly, no witness thought to use their phones for photos until after the event," according to police.

One victim, who did not want to be identified in case those arrested are released, said it was the most terrifying experience of his life.

Police are continuing their investigation. IUP administrators expressed their sympathy for Layton and the other victims. "The young man who unfortunately lost his life was not a student at IUP. He probably shouldn't have been in the classroom. We're saddened that at least one of the alleged perpetrators was a student at our university, but we are confident that the police will resolve this." IUP is offering counseling for any person affected by this event.



ENGL 265: Law and Literature

My goals:

- to help students understand how literature and law overlap in the telling of a story
- to practice storytelling
- to understand how every story, whether a police “report” or a long piece of “literary journalism” is fictional
- to understand what makes stories powerful

Project:

Volunteers from class took on roles and created background stories:

- Three “perps” who will commit a murder
- Two investigators
- A grieving family member
- Four witnesses
- A girlfriend of the murder victim who was with him when he was killed
- Prosecutor/Defense Attorneys

An outside IUP student played the murder victim.

Process:

- Gather initial “backstories” from participants
- Divide remaining class members into reporting/writing teams
- Practice the murder
- Stage and film the murder with only the witnesses, victim and his girlfriend, and perps present
- Keep all the actors separated and schedule class periods for “rounds” of interviewing
- Students start writing and discover that “just the facts” won’t work for literature, thus schedule more rounds of interviewing
- Quick mock trial with deliberation and decisions
- Final stories (up to 25 pages in length) come in
- Play video for writers and discuss decisions on how to focus and what they left out

Final Possible “Products”:

- Reflections by actors
- Stories by interviewers
- “Memoirs” by perps/girlfriend (staying in character)