

WELCOME BACK!



Interview with Dean of Students by Sam Kahn

This issue, I interviewed the new Dean of Students Ady Kayrouz to see what she does for the students at HTHMA.

Sam: Where did you grow up and where did you go to college?

Ady: I grew up in Venezuela, in South America, and I was born in Caracas. I immigrated to Rhode Island when I was seven-years-old and grew up there for most of my life. For my undergraduate, I went to Stonehill College, which is a private Catholic school just outside of Boston.

Sam: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Ady: When I first arrived in this country, I spoke only Spanish. I was born into a Lebanese Middle Eastern family, and so I was

essentially a Latino-born Arab. When I came to this country and was placed in a classroom just a week after arriving, I had no knowledge of any English. I looked like the people around me, but I was very much a foreigner. It was hard for them to determine what to do with me because they did not have many foreigners or much diversity and there really was no representation of other ethnicities in their community. So I was put by myself with my little sister in a trailer in the parking lot at the back of the school. And it was in the middle of winter, and I was given a set of headphones, a cassette player, and a built-in heater that kept us warm. Teachers would check in on us throughout the day, but for the most part, we were left alone for three months with just a cassette player. That was my first interaction with

American education. To this day, I had to take learning into my own hands, so I stole a dictionary from the classroom and began to read it from A-Z to teach myself the language. I have realized that education is important and needs to be accessible to every person in the country. Equity, education reform, and humanity are really why I am an educator today, and I am really committed to that purpose.

Sam: What is your role here as Dean of Students at high tech?

Ady: What I do is establish a culture where a student feels a sense of safety, is actually safe, feels a sense of belonging and trust, and to make sure that the staff and the students both have healthy relationships. A lot of what I do is not just discipline, although that is part of what I



**Ady Kayrouz, new
Dean of Students at
HTHMA**

do. I take care of things like emergency backpacks, fire drills, exit strategies, hard lockdowns, and things like that, and also policy concerns for the school. But the real purpose of my role as Dean is to make sure that every student is safe and healthy in their learning community.

(Continued Page 3)

TX-317 Instruction Guide

By Brenna Sweeny

Congratulations [insert name here]! You are the proud new owner of a Biologically Unanimous Time Travel System (BUTTS) Model TX-317. The following packet is a brief sixty two page overview of the safety information for your new machine. Your safety is a priority here at BUTTS, even as you rip the fabric of spacetime into shreds before tying it back into a knot for your sick pleasure. We all think you're a sadistic jerk.

Mechanics: Depending on which model you have purchased, the manipulation of your product will vary. In the TX-316, which are still being sold as the latest model in certain Target locations, there are forty six green buttons, twenty six blue buttons, twelve yellow buttons, eight levers, six pulleys, and one very large red button. Ninety six of these ninety seven objects of apparatus can and are likely to end your life, indirectly, painfully, and/or inexplicably.

The green buttons are all to dictate the direction (ie. future, past, present,) how far you want to go, and whether you do, or do not want fries with that. There is also a green button which will play jazz music, but it is not recommended to press this button, as those sweet jazzy tunes attracts interchondral time bees. The blue buttons are for spatial vectoral input, which we assume you have read about prior to deciding to ruin the course of history on a quick jaunt out for tea. No?

Well, too bad. Next, the yellow buttons control relative time zones. For your safety, let's not get into this, just don't press any yellow buttons. Finally the levers are what make this thing go. Remember how there are ninety six out of ninety seven objects of apparatus which you shouldn't touch? Well the one which you can touch is a lever, which turns the TX-316 on and off.

In both the TX-316 and the TX-317, the on/off lever is now a sleek, easy to use stick shift, not unlike those of a slot machine. Unfortunately, in the process of doing away with all those pesky buttons in the TX-317, the engineers also did away with those not-so-pesky safety features. This is unfortunate, but also not my problem. That's for Sharon in customer service to deal with.

Considering the easy to use nature of the stick shift, the editors of this safety packet have hurled the pages regarding the use of it into our office volcano. Good luck figuring out how to use it, you sicko.

Personal Safety: Once in flight, keep all hands and feet, and other assorted limbs (especially those severed from passengers) inside the vehicle. Nobody wants to hit Leonardo Da Vinci in the face with a severed toe again. Once was enough, Frank. We know you don't like the Mona Lisa because she looks like your ex wife, but that's no reason to hate Mr. Da Vinci. Shooting Hitler with a potato gun is also

not advised, as tempting as it may be. In general, try to avoid intentionally or unintentionally maiming historical figures with limbs and/or vegetables.

Beverages are to be admitted only when in a sealed container, and there is no food permitted unless you have enough to share. The fries offered with the green buttons should be confiscated at the door by a slightly overweight retired TSA agent with tired eyes and weirdly soft hands. Any other attempts to confiscate these items by anyone other than an individual fitting that exact description will result in the pressing of a yellow button and being reported to the authorities.

The safety features of the TX-317 are wide and varied, supplementing much needed

care into this hazardous endeavor. Please note the Superlock Titanium Extrahold® seatbelts, and the child safety lock. All other safety features have been stripped. As for the actual safety of you and your passengers once you have arrived at your destination, well, that's not my problem. That's not even Sharon in customer service's problem. You wanted to travel through time, you should have read some supplementary material beforehand.

Thank you for purchasing the TX-317. We know you have a choice in time machines, and we're so glad you made the ill-advised decision to get ours.



Ady Kayrouz interview (continued from page 1)

Sam: What is something that someone might be surprised to learn about you?

Ady: A lot of people look at me and form a judgement pretty quickly, and I am not sure of what that judgement is but I can see it happening. I think that people are most surprised by the fact that I speak four languages. It usually shocks people, especially when I start speaking in them.

Sam: What do you hope to achieve this year?

Ady: I hope to achieve an intended purpose to establish a school setting that is stable, that has structures and systems in place so that all students feel that they are empowered to learn without distractions. Also to come out going into next year where hopefully every student and every staff member really has an appreciation for their own growth.

Sam: What do you think your biggest challenges will be?

Ady: My biggest challenges will be time management, and that's the truth. Every time I try to sit down to do a task, a distraction pops up, and so I think the biggest challenge is having enough time in the day to really serve 450 people in the community and still get the things done that I have to do behind closed doors in an office setting.

Sam: What do you love about your job?

Ady: I love engaging with the community, I love being able to connect with all students, and I love the opportunity to learn about our community and think about strategies of improvement.

Sam: What is some advice you would give to someone starting as a teacher?

Ady: Always ask the students a lot of questions about how they want to learn and develop a personal connection that allows for deeper learning.

Sam: What's on your playlist?

Ady: I have quite the playlist. I have everything from Kendrick Lamar, to Tupac, to Dr. Dre. I have stuff like Buddha Bar, yoga and meditation music, and I have international music. I got Buena Vista Social Club, I got Grant Green, I got Prince. I've got a little bit of everything.

Sam: If you could meet anyone in the world who would it be?

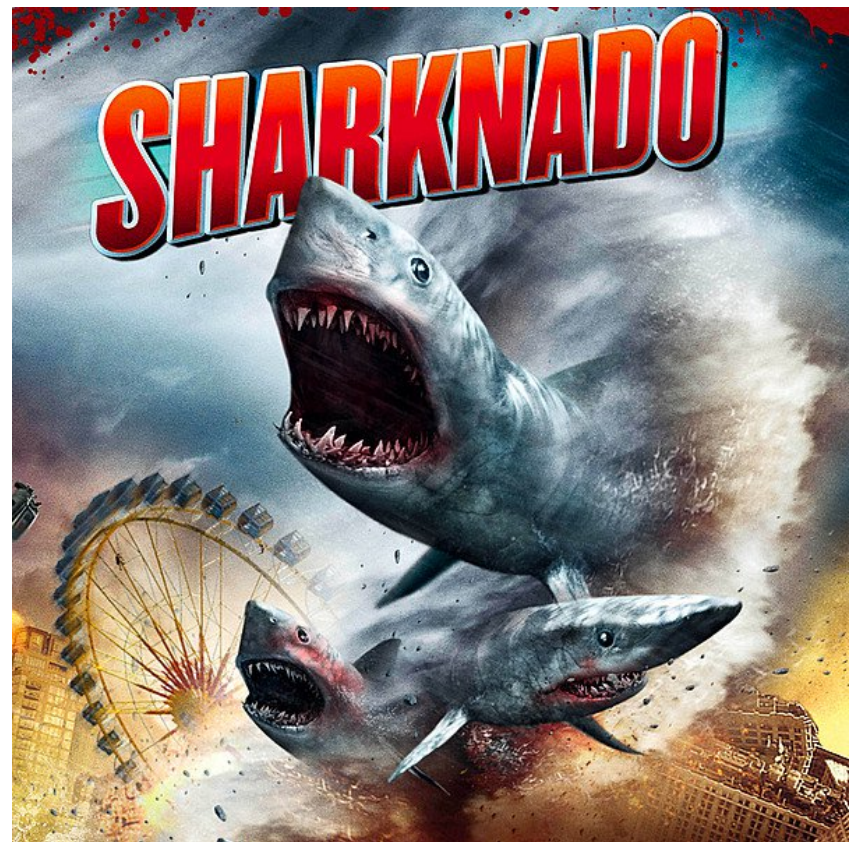
Ady: President Obama.

Sam: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Ady: I love spending time with my daughter and going to the beach.

Sam: What is your favorite book?

Ady: The Four Agreements by Miguel Ruiz.

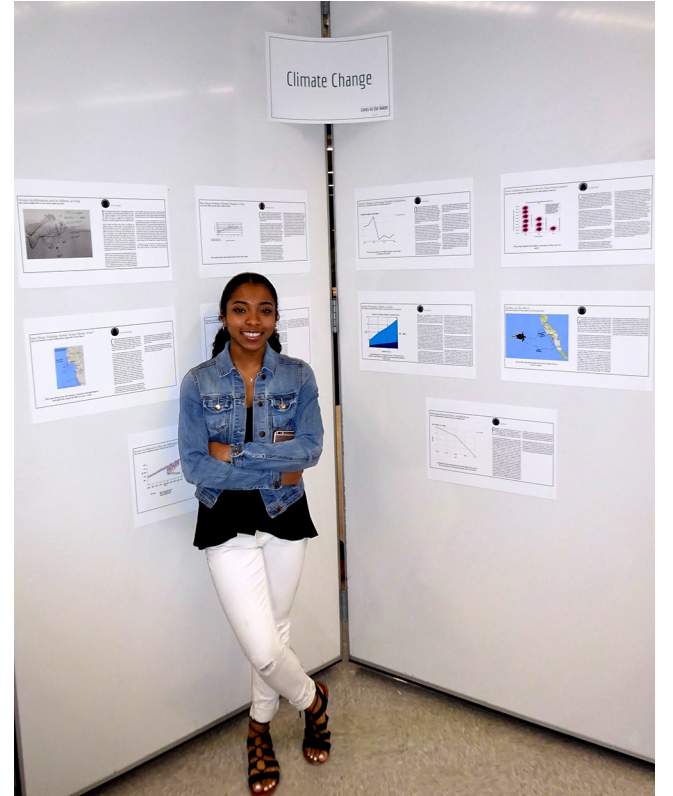


The B Movie Review Guy Sharknado

by Jackson Ducksworth

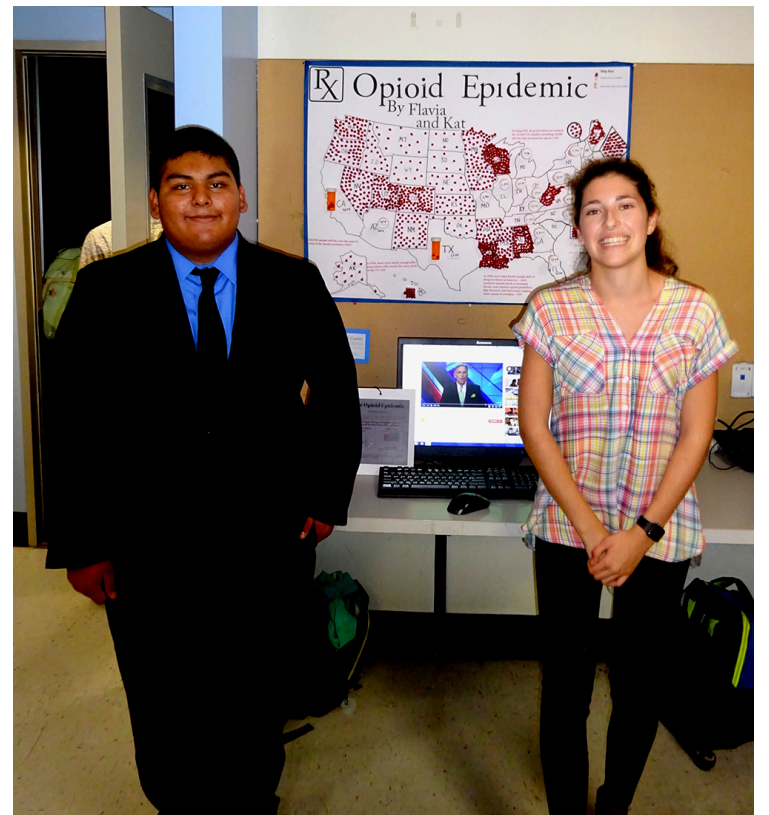
The movie Sharknado is one of the few movies that is aware that its insanely bad. With its sub-par special effects and mediocre acting this movie is sure to leave you confused and disappointed. The basis of this entire movie is in its name. It's a movie about sharks and tornados. The movie Sharknado perfectly captures a fear that no one in their right mind should have. It attempts to combine the suspense of Jaws with the destructive power of the tornado from the Wizard of Oz and fails spectacularly. There are a plethora of reasons why this is a horrible movie. For one there are NO TORNADOS in the movie. If anything the movie should be called Sharkicane, but unfortunately that doesn't roll off the tongue like Sharknado. The second reason this is a horrible movie is because there is no character development whatsoever. They toss you into a world you know nothing about and expect you to develop some sort of relationship with several extremely undeveloped characters. A lot of stuff in this movie sucks but there are a few parts that are so incredibly stupid that you just can't help but smile. For example, there's a part in the beginning of the movie where a man shoves an oxygen cylinder into a shark's mouth and makes its head explode. There's also a somewhat senile old man that rarely makes sense and is honestly one of the best parts of the movie. In conclusion, only watch this movie if you're ready to watch people running away from possibly the least terrifying storm in existence. Or maybe just don't watch this movie at all. It's up to you.

HTHMA Exhibition 2017



Students from our school showcased their work all around campus.

More Exhibition Photos



A host of topics were covered by the students.

The Importance Of Children

By Maya Jimenez

Two months ago, I was loitering around Westfield mall in Plaza Bonita with my dad and my sister. It wasn't quite cold enough to be called fall yet even though it was in the dead center of October. We were bored and had no idea what to do before we went home. Across the parking lot, spotlights shone like silver suns and illuminated a small section called the "Pumpkin Patch." Maybe you've heard of it: a temporary installment for the Halloween season complete with mechanical rides that have probably been active longer than you have, miniature fair games with inflatable swords as prizes, and a four square sized petting zoo? Maybe you haven't. But for me, I was instantly transported to my childhood, as if just looking at it was a time traveling device. My favorite rides were the Bumble Bee ride, where I would always sit in the queen bee, and the train ride, where I longed to sit in the front so I could ring the bell, as is any little kid's goal. We strolled through the entrance, shuffling through a carpet of dull hay, and I breathed in the aura. It was smaller than I had remembered, but that's how it is when you grow up. I sauntered over to where stacks of hay were piled on top of each other. From there, I had a solid view of the complete area. I watched as a man pushed a tiny girl in a stroller, weaving in and out of

the pumpkins that dwarfed her in size. She had wavy pigtails and an oversized puffy jacket. Her face glowed with excitement and adrenaline. I stood and, as slowly as possible, walked through. The Bumble Bee ride was nowhere to found. The seats on the train wouldn't even fit my leg, and the track took less than a minute to complete. I headed towards the car ride at the edge of the area right next to the petting zoo, my family close behind. The stench of bland excrement subtly wafted over, and I turned away from it. I looked on as a tiny boy hopped into a car grinning non-stop, as if it were permanently plastered on his face. He was just so happy, genuinely happy.

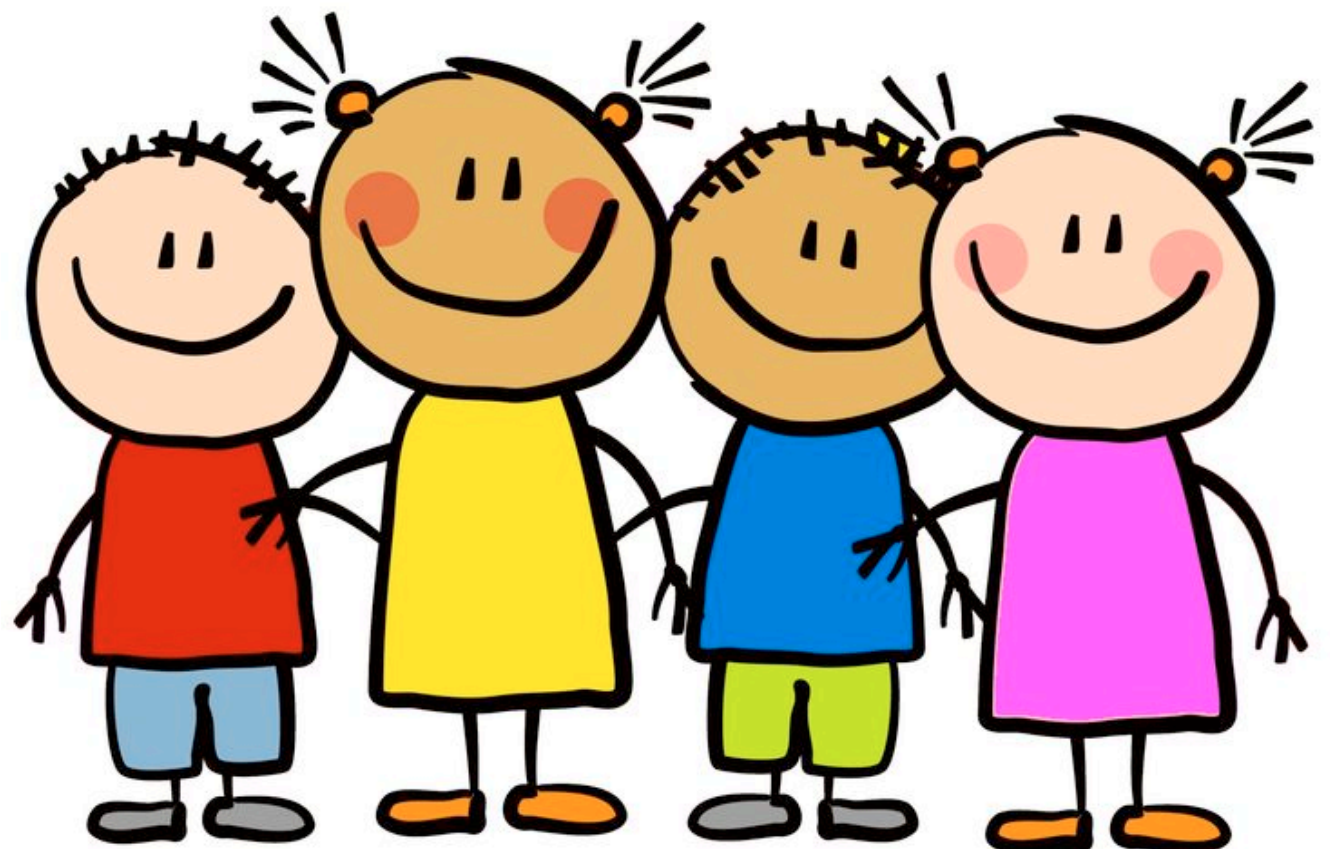
The thing about little kids is they treat the smallest joys in

life like the biggest. The experiences they encounter are a hundred times more elating than ours. Life is simpler. Things like the "Pumpkin Patch" give them the thrill of their short lives. They may not know it yet, but there is so much ahead of them. Finishing the first book they'll be able to read on their own, discovering what their favorite food is, losing all their baby teeth, finding out why the sky is blue...and of course the truths as they grow up. Finding out that movies aren't actually real, wondering why those people are holding signs and asking for money, having to constantly answer the question, What do you want to be when you grow up? as its urgency increases with age.

What do little kids want to be?

They want to be happy.

We spend a vast majority of our time doing things that may or may not mean little to our happiness. There are many things in life that are difficult, complex, disheartening, and it feels as if reality is the darkness of night that envelops you and it is omnipotent. But do you know what else is omnipotent? Happiness. Happiness is everywhere. From the weather report saying there is a high chance for rain to someone complimenting you shirt. Seeing the joy on kids' faces as they whizz by on a battered old machine going slower than slow or skidding down a 12 feet high slide or ringing the train's bell with all their strength and feeling like a champion made me appreciate little kids. They want to be happy.



The Name Of The Wind - Book Review

By Sam Kahn

Over winter break I read a book that was recommended by Colby Young, a teacher at HTHMA. He thought it was amazing, and was adamant that I read it.

The book is called The Name of the Wind by the author Patrick Rothfuss. At first I had my doubts, but my fears were groundless. More than groundless, they could even be called vaguely offensive to Rothfuss, who proved his writing ability to be nothing short of genius.

The Name of the Wind, Book One of the Kingkiller Chronicles, quickly made its way into my top fantasy series list. The book, which is essentially a fictional autobiography of a once famous but now reclusive musician, arcanist and adventurer named Kvothe, is revolutionary – to my eyes at least – in its storytelling method. Kvothe, the main character, relates the story of his life to The Chronicler, a man who searched for him and found him keeping an inn in a small village. Most of the action is the narrative telling of the interview that Kvothe gives, though it occasionally reverts to the present time.

The story wraps around Kvothe's life just as you would want, exploring his journey from childhood into adolescence, and a little of the way into maturity. The

universe in which this story is set is beautifully created. It includes everything from a more academic style of magic than is normally employed in fantasy novels to making storytelling and music a large part of the story.

Storytelling, in fact, seems to be a thread that will soon be picked up in the sequel, The Wise Man's Fear. Kvothe is not only relating his life story in a tale to the Chronicler, but spent his early life as an Eduma Ruh; a travelling and performing group of people, gypsy-like in their lifestyles but with much more focus on their literary and musical talents.

There are a few tropes found in The Name of the Wind, but none are exploited to the point where you are remembering other stories. Kvothe is left as an orphan after his father's study into the Chandrian (an evil, mysterious entity) unwittingly brings their attention down upon his family. From there Kvothe must make his way as a street urchin, before he manages – miraculously – to gain entry into the University in order to study magic and learn to be an arcanist. He also wants to learn more about the Chandrian, who killed his family.

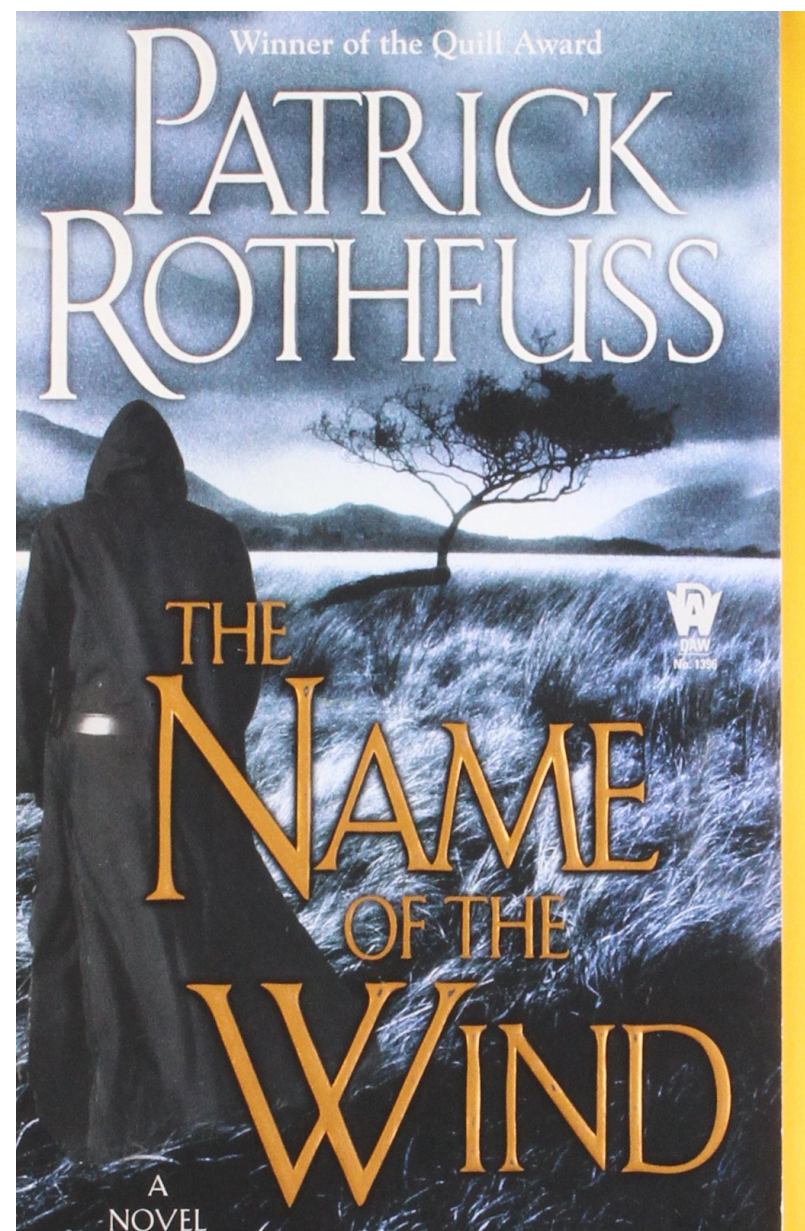
Kvothe's life is very much split into sections, and there is no doubt that this will continue in

subsequent books. The third section of Kvothe's life depicts his time at the University, and his re-entry into music. His love for the beautiful Denna is a heartbreaking yet funny story, while his deeds and misdeeds at the University make for compelling and sympathetic reading.

Throughout the novel we are given hints at the greater parts of Kvothe's life. The series is called the Kingkiller Chronicles, yet we don't know which king Kvothe killed or why. His talents are obviously

well known throughout the lands, but when we meet him he is a simple innkeeper. As he tells his story, we see him change and grow, and see hints of the great warrior, arcanist, musician, and adventurer that he will become.

Patrick Rothfuss is, in my opinion, one of the best storytellers I have read. I highly recommend this book, and would definitely read it again. I am now reading the sequel and so far it also excellent.



Editor's Video of the Month



The video is called "2017, in 7 minutes" and is by the YouTube channel Vox. Just a little bit of review for the revolutionary year of 2017. Go check it out.

The Media Storm Staff

Editor

Sam Kahn

Faculty Advisors

Jorge Cerna

Allison Lahl

Writers/Contributors

Jackson Ducksworth

Brenna Sweeny

Maya Jimenez

Katie Wiggins

Ryane Gonsalves-Allen

Jakota Ludwick

Avalon Ritchie

Trevor Tibbetts

Contact us at mediastorm2017@gmail.com