Protecting the Pangolin and the Planet
Operation Homecoming
Teaching in the City

Randee Heller ’69
ON SHOW BUSINESS
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EVERYONE WHO COMES BACK FROM WAR IS CHANGED.

– Alice Psirakis Diascosavvas ’98 on coming home

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“There’s no secret. I go, I do the best I can, and if I get [the role], that’s great, and if I don’t, well, that’s the way it goes. That’s show business.”

– Randee Heller ’69
UNIVERSITY NEWS

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A LOOK BACK

“I am very glad that in a time of war we can dedicate a building which will continue to be of service to this college and this community after the war is over.”

— First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt
at the dedication of Adelphi’s East Hall and West Halls in 1944
As its name implies, the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps initiative—sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—is a comprehensive, comparative assessment of the health of every county in our country. The report makes a strong case that various factors beyond those we typically associate with health—smoking, air quality, access to care, etc.—impact well-being. In fact, the rankings give twice as much weight to a county’s social and economic factors—education, employment, community safety—than to the caliber of clinical care.

This broad view of public health is embraced by Elizabeth Gross Cohn, Ph.D., who, in July 2014, was appointed the director of Adelphi’s Center for Health Innovation (CHI). CHI was launched in 2010 to foster collaborative and innovative research and connect Adelphi’s expertise in health and healthcare with the needs of Long Island communities.

A former member of the faculty of Adelphi’s College of Nursing and Public Health, Dr. Cohn has returned to the University with a diverse research portfolio, which she developed during her time at Columbia University, where she was an assistant professor of nursing. In 2012, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation named Dr. Cohn a Nurse Faculty Scholar for her work to alleviate bias in genetic and genomic research.

While at Columbia, she partnered with the Abyssinian Baptist Church to address health disparities in cardiovascular disease among women of color, and she was named a co-investigator on a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote a diverse workforce across the health professions. Dr. Cohn was also the associate chair of research of Hip Hop Public Health, which, among other initiatives, involved hip-hop artists promoting greater health literacy.

Already, under Dr. Cohn’s leadership, CHI has taken the initiative to promote health research on campus by sponsoring 15 faculty members as CHI scholars. CHI also launched its Long Island Resilient Communities Grant program, which provides emergency preparedness training and consultation for municipal leaders and first responders in the region.

Having seen the impact of public health research and outreach in an urban environment, Dr. Cohn is interested in identifying the specific needs of Long Island’s diverse cities and towns.

BY BONNIE EISSNER
We also are fortunate to have faculty who engage students in their research, such as Beth Christensen, Ph.D., and Anagnostis Agelarakis, Ph.D. We have faculty who are world-renowned yet care about each undergraduate student, such as Pulitzer Prize-winner Paul Moravec, and others who go out of their way to advise student clubs, such as K.C. Rondello, M.D., the faculty adviser of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and winner of the 2014 Faculty Excellence Award for Service. These and many more make Adelphi a challenging but caring place.

“People” also include the community. I recall moments—when appearing before the Garden City Village board of trustees, at Property Owners Association meetings and at teas I have hosted for neighbors—when I have heard plaudits and complaints, but eventually the complaints turned to compliments. We have worked hard to be good citizens, and we want our neighbors to be enthusiastic about all aspects of Adelphi.

A college president’s job can be the best there is. He or she has the opportunity to connect ideas based on a purpose, people willing to be engaged and serve, and resources which can advance teaching and learning. I have been fortunate to be able to combine these three variables in numerous ways, bringing together students and faculty with those I have met in the local and larger community and creating opportunities to serve citizens beyond our campus.

This is My Adelphi.

ROBERT A. SCOTT, PH.D.
Some of you have heard me talk about Adelphi in these terms at various alumni receptions around the country.

I begin with purpose because any institution worthy of recognition has a clear mission, a defined philosophy. In our case, I have believed from the beginning that we must respect our heritage and history, vibrant as they were, as palpable as they continue to be. In fact, the soon-to-be-published history of Adelphi recounts the reasons for the founding, the aspirations of the founders and the stories that followed from their enthusiasm to provide a first-rate collegiate education to those in Brooklyn and beyond.

In fulfilling our purpose, we are as concerned about character and citizenship as we are about careers and commerce. Yes, careers and commerce are essential so that our graduates will be employed in meaningful ways and so that they and we can add to society through the economy. But we also want to advance society by preparing people of good character who are engaged in their local and larger communities through active citizenship. We talk about Adelphi as the engaged university, bringing people to campus, including them in our cultural life and supporting the larger community through the voluntarism of students, faculty and staff.

We believe that we can make a difference by being active in our community and region even as we prepare our students to serve the nation and the world. Some of the ways in which we accomplish these goals are through the Freshman Community Action Program, the Community Fellows Program, the Adelphi Prize for Leadership, voluntarism in various communities in the United States and abroad and countless other ways.

A university is all about people, and Adelphi is no exception. I learned from our people: during my first semester as president, when I enrolled in a freshman seminar class to learn about life for new students as well as through the eyes of the new students whom I help move into residence halls each fall, and through the countless breakfasts, lunches and dinners I host in the President’s House and on campus when I ask, “What is going well?” and “What do you wish we had changed last week?” In each case, I learn.

Alumni assist us by hosting events, networking for students, helping in admissions, and becoming members of our C.O.A.C.H. (Count on Alumni for Career Help) program that introduces students to careers, mentoring and employment. Alumni are the backbone of the University, representing the past and assuring the future. One of my joys is in supporting the expansion of alumni involvement in general and the expanded involvement of alumni in particular groups, such as the Multicultural Chapter under the initiative of Grady Faulkner ’75; select fraternity events, such as the Chi Sigma Scholarship activity; advisory boards, such as the President’s Advisory Group co-chaired by Steven Wolfe ’59; and the Panther Club chaired by Dennis Lind ’88 (after being brought back to life by Stephen Wirth ’70), among others.

If students are the heart of the institution who infuse life into every corner of the campus, faculty are the soul who give it character. We have hired more than two-thirds of the faculty in the last dozen years, and I have enjoyed watching them grow as teachers, scholars and members of the community.
We also are fortunate to have faculty who engage students in their research, such as Beth Christensen, Ph.D., and Anagnostis Agelarakis, Ph.D. We have faculty who are world-renowned yet care about each undergraduate student, such as Pulitzer Prize–winner Paul Moravec, and others who go out of their way to advise student clubs, such as K.C. Rondello, M.D., the faculty adviser of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and winner of the 2014 Faculty Excellence Award for Service. These and many more make Adelphi a challenging but caring place.

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ROBERT A. SCOTT, PH.D.
The mortarboard—a staple of fashion in academia since the Middle Ages—has been getting a makeover. A Google search for “graduation cap decoration” yields more than 300,000 results—from Pinterest posts to YouTube how-to videos. That slightly awkward square that graduates from middle school through graduate school don as part of their commencement regalia has become a canvas for self-expression.

Here, we share with you a few caps that caught our eye at Adelphi’s 118th Commencement as well as some of the wisdom shared with the Class of 2014 by the day’s speakers.

“Life is too short to hate waking up. Hold your passion close to your heart and you will know your purpose in life.”

— Prasanna Kumar ’13, M.A. ’14, G.C. ’14
Graduate Student Representative
“You have a tremendous amount to look forward to. Go forward, dare to dream and never accept any limitations.”

– Jeh Charles Johnson ’14 (Hon.)  U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security

“Your path to meaning and happiness is yours to make and to find. Adelphi will be here to support you.”

– Robert A. Scott, Ph.D.  Adelphi University President

“The unexpected will happen, so take that risk, and open yourself up to diverse and rich ideas and act.”

– Heena Arora ’14  President of the Class of 2014
REMEMBERING

JONATHAN LARSON

Jonathan Larson ’82, the Pulitzer Prize–winning writer and composer of Rent tragically lost his life to Marfan syndrome at age 35, the night before Rent had its off-Broadway debut at the New York Theatre Workshop. Larson lives on, though, in the memories of those who taught him and befriended him, through his art and even in the bits of memorabilia that have been gathered over the years.

Here, as a tribute, we look at the items now at Adelphi.

BY BONNIE EISSNER
Larson "cut his teeth in the cabarets" he wrote and directed while at Adelphi, according to Petron, who estimates that Larson contributed to at least 12 shows either as a musical director or writer of the music and sometimes the lyrics. Petron recalled, "He came in with very strong musical skills...he played the piano like crazy." He was also passionate about his work. "There were times, we'd be doing a show together and he would call me at two o'clock in the morning and say, 'Nick, is it OK if I change this word?'...So, he was very into it," Petron said.

FOR 13 YEARS, EVERY ACTRESS WHO PLAYED MIMI IN RENT ON BROADWAY USED HIS CHAIR AT HER DRESSING TABLE.

The chair was where Larson wrote when he was at home. Larson’s close friend Victoria Leacock, who attended Adelphi, brought the chair to the Nederlander Theatre shortly after he died. “We...just felt that it was OK to have some beloved part of him there," she said. "He used it, he wrote on it, he spilled on it, and it’s precious." Leacock intends for the chair to go to an archival collection at the Library of Congress. In the meantime, she asked Nicholas Petron, M.A. ’70, professor and chair of the Adelphi Department of Theatre, to look after it and, perhaps, use it to inspire a new generation of composers and playwrights.

The Life Café is immortalized in Rent. It’s where the characters stand on tables to belt out “La Vie Boheme.” Larson was a regular at the real Life Café on New York’s Lower East Side and, inspired by the setting, wrote much of his play there, sitting on this very bench. Adelphi received the bench and other memorabilia when the café closed in 2011. Original Rent cast members Adam Pascal (left) and Anthony Rapp sat on the bench to sign programs after their 2013 Adelphi concert.

Larson wrote tick, tick... Boom! as a rock monologue and performed it off-Broadway in 1990. After his death in 1996, his friend Victoria Leacock co-produced an updated version that premiered in 2001. Clocks like these were designed as gifts for the show’s investors.

Larson ‘82 performed in Adelphi’s mainstage production of Lady Windermere’s Fan by Oscar Wilde.
The New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW) played an instrumental role in bringing Rent—the celebrated rock musical by Jonathan Larson ’82—from concept to stage. Nearly two decades later, Adelphi and NYTW are again linked.

For the past three summers, Adelphi has hosted one of NYTW’s summer residencies with emerging and established playwrights, actors and directors. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sam L Grogg, Ph.D., who forged the new connection, sees the retreat as an opportunity for Adelphi faculty and students to interact with and be inspired by fellow theatre professionals.

“My time working with the New York Theatre Workshop was phenomenal,” said James Weippert ’14. “Getting the chance to work with both established and rising artists while I’m at the very beginning of my artistic career is so incredible.”

Heather Kramer ’15, a theatre major who has worked with NYTW at two retreats, said, “Both times I was lucky enough to be paired with a group who really valued my opinion and input.”

“There is a necessary connection between the academic and the professional that must inform the future of the performing arts,” Dr. Grogg said. “The NYTW at Adelphi residency provides all involved with this vital connection.”

BY ERIN DONOHUE
A LASTING TRIBUTE

Since May, Adelphi has had a new and prominent campus icon. An eight-foot-tall panther, cast in bronze, stands on the plaza at the northwest corner of the Center for Recreation and Sports. Former longtime athletic director Robert E. Hartwell, who passed away suddenly earlier this year, led the charge to erect the panther statue as a tribute to Adelphi’s student-athletes. This past October, the University dedicated the statue in his memory.

The panther was funded by philanthropic gifts from alumni and friends, including leadership-level donations from Winthrop University Hospital, Carol and John P. Finnerty, M.S. ’77, and James Campbell, as well as from the Panther Club.

For more information about the Panther Club and Adelphi athletics, visit AUPANTHERS.COM.

SWIRBUL LIBRARY

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Enter Swirbul Library, and you are struck by its open, light-infused interior. Its famed architect, Richard Neutra—an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright—intended that. Neutra “was truly a visionary,” said Brian Lym, dean of University Libraries at Adelphi. Lym has channeled Neutra in leading a renovation of Swirbul that harkens to Neutra’s original vision while simultaneously addressing the changing demands on library space.

“My vision for the growth of the Adelphi libraries—as a digital resource—is that we’ll be acquiring more and more online,” Lym said. “That’s just the way of the present and of the future.”

To make way for the digital revolution and the interconnectivity and collaboration that it has inspired, the library has replaced the familiar periodicals shelves on the first floor with open areas, which echo Neutra’s original plan and are equipped to meet the power demands of contemporary devices. New to the floor plan are 10 collaboration studios. Enclosed with glass, the studios contain whiteboard walls and wheeled worktables to foster collaborative learning and study.

Library users will be able to enter the library directly from the north side—the one that will face the new Nexus Building and Welcome Center.

Also on the first floor is a new 3D printing studio. The studio—in place of the old copy center—contains four Makerbot 3D printers; a Filabot, which recycles plastic to make new filament (the ink of 3D printers); and two Next Engine 3D laser scanners, which create digital images of three-dimensional objects.

The second-floor Gallagher Laboratory—a classroom outfitted with computer terminals—has been transformed with wireless connectivity and mobile workspaces that encourage interaction and group work. The multiple display screens lining the walls accommodate simultaneous presentations.

“Neutra envisioned Swirbul as a ‘living library’—full of activity,” Lym said. “With the collaboration studios... and more room for group work, this vision is coincidentally being further realized.”

BY ERIN DONOHUE

BY THE NUMBERS

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UNIVERSITY NEWS
There are many foreign students studying in Taiwan, and I’ve never seen one that is quite like him,” Chen said. He explained that most Taiwanese rarely venture into the country’s rugged southeastern region, thinking of it as “just mountains and animals.” He added: “I have never seen a foreigner who cares about the environment in Taiwan that much...Also, he really just make(s) friends with the local people. He really cares about those folks in the mountains.”

Pursner hopes to stay on in Taiwan to conduct research and, further in the future, pursue a Ph.D.

His advice to aspiring conservationists is: “You have to will yourself to continue along your path. To work in this field, one needs to have passion and persistence—never forgetting why you are doing what you’re doing. Focus on building upon your previous experiences and never give in to those who try to deter you.”

Scott Pursner ’05 has been working with Taiwan’s indigenous groups to save endangered species, such as the pangolin. He is pictured with members of the Amis tribe.

“...interested in the conservation work being done by the professors there.”

In the States, going green is all the rage. Recycling bins and energy-saving initiatives are now standard in most organizations and many homes. Yet, while many may casually toss their soda can into the recycling bin, most of us have yet to go far out of our way for the planet. The few who are really green are passionately, exuberantly so, doing all that they can to express their love for the environment and their excitement to save it.

Take Camille Pajor ’09, for example. Pajor, who spent 27 months in the Ukraine as a Peace Corps volunteer, is now back at her alma mater as a residence hall director. Currently the director of New Hall B, she has embraced her role in residential life, and after serving as director of Chapman Hall, home to Adelphi’s Green Community and Green Council, she wants to bring a new band of students into the green movement.

A hallmark of Pajor’s efforts is the Green and Local Alternative Spring Break that she launched last March. She had heard that students were looking for an affordable and service-oriented way to spend their spring break and seized the opportunity to plan a week of projects, events and discussions focused on going green. The result: 19 students spent five days working at and experiencing different service sites. From a visit to Crossroads Farm just down the road from Adelphi to a cleanup in Central Park, the group covered Long Island and three of the city’s five boroughs.

Biodiversity, conservation, food sources and sustainability were among the topics students touched on. Pajor distributed podcasts, articles and other supplemental materials to spark discussion on the rides to and from service sites. The effect on students is apparent. One student declared an environmental studies minor; another found ways to incorporate what she learned into her elementary education studies; and another discovered her future internship.
Enter Scott Pursner ‘05, who, from 2012 to 2014 pursued a Master of Science in Wildlife Conservation at the university. Long interested in international wildlife conservation, Pursner has traveled on a long trajectory from his home in New Jersey to Adelphi, where he earned a B.A. in International Studies, to Taiwan. Along the way, he taught English in Japan, worked to revitalize endangered waterfowl populations in Alaska, studied the mating habits of satin bowerbirds in Australia and aided in the rehabilitation of raptors in Oregon. Although he had known from the age of 4 or 5 that he wanted to work with wildlife, he took seriously the guidance he received from mentors at Adelphi, including President Robert A. Scott, Ph.D., Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Lester Baltimore, Ph.D., and Professor Marsha Darling, Ph.D., to spend time honing his passion before committing to graduate school.

The diverse experiences ultimately gave Pursner a distinct sense of his goal: to devote his career to international wildlife conservation. “To me, wildlife conservation isn’t something that knows political boundaries because wild animals don’t know political boundaries,” he said.

He chose Asia as the focal point of his efforts. First, though, he needed to learn one of the continent’s major languages. He chose Mandarin, and with a scholarship from Taiwan’s Ministry of Education, headed to Taipei to study the language. He then decided to stay and pursue his master’s degree at a university in southern Taiwan. “It felt like the right time,” Pursner said. “I took a keen interest in the conservation work being done by the professors there.”

That research involved living and working with two indigenous groups—the Bunun and the Amis—in their respective villages to establish stronger ties and find new ways to collaborate in efforts to save endangered species, such as the pangolin. Pursner pointed out that the Bunun people in Luanshan, who are largely agriculturalists or working in manual labor and struggling to provide for themselves in a region with little economic opportunity, care little about pangolin. Conservation is far from a primary concern.

Prior to Pursner’s arrival, the village had minimal influence in the conservation efforts. “It’s actually much better conservation if you have the village itself involved,” said Pursner. And he devoted his time to making that happen.

Ethan Chen, an English teacher in Taipei, is a friend of Pursner’s. This past summer, he traveled with Pursner to the States to see the university that had shaped him.
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MEGAN OSSMANN  GREEN IS IN HER GENES

That third student is Megan Ossmann, a junior majoring in environmental studies with a minor in biology. During Pajor’s green spring break, Ossmann volunteered at Seatuck Environmental Association. She was subsequently selected to be a member of Adelphi’s Community Fellows Program for summer 2014. Upon seeing Seatuck on the list of nonprofits she could intern at, she seized the opportunity to return.

For Ossmann, conservation has been a lifelong interest. “As a kid, I was obsessed with nature documentaries, and it always saddened me to hear about endangered species,” she said. At Adelphi, she has delved even further into her passion.

Introduced to the Garden City Bird Sanctuary through Adelphi’s Freshman Community Action Program, Ossmann began volunteering there in June 2013 and has since been named a student director—a role that allows her to broaden awareness of and support for the sanctuary.

Part of Ossmann’s work at the sanctuary involved a research project in which she examined Long Island’s climate and precipitation records through the lens of water demand to look for patterns of climate change. The project complemented work she and a fellow student, Joanna Wells, conducted this past year with Beth Christensen, Ph.D., professor and director of Adelphi’s Environmental Studies program.

Ossmann and Wells analyzed post-Hurricane Sandy sediment samples collected by Dr. Christensen from offshore sites at Long Beach and Fire Island. By comparing the post-Sandy samples to a study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey prior to Hurricane Sandy, Ossmann helped determine the effect storms like Sandy have had on Long Island beaches and may continue to have should such weather return in the future.

What environmentalists like Pursner, Pajor and Ossmann have in common is a devotion to the future and an optimism, if a cautious one, that, collectively, we can heal our planet.
There are unique challenges to being a teacher in New York City. Parental involvement and student motivation are not always as high as in other school districts. Teachers and those who aspire to teach may not view certain neighborhoods as desirable places in which to work. And then there is the fairly recent issue of public schools and charter schools battling each other for space, equipment and financial resources—often within the same building—with the children sometimes caught in the middle.

Yet, despite the struggles, many teachers not only thrive in New York City schools but also would not want to teach anywhere else. “I know a lot of graduates who still don’t have full-time teaching positions—that’s because they’re only considering schools on Long Island,” said Irene (Demille) Pizzo ’03, M.A. ’04, who teaches in Brooklyn. “New York City has such an amazing group of kids who need good teachers.”

Here are three such teachers, all graduates of the Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, who bring talent, passion, compassion, a fierce intelligence and a tireless commitment to their jobs in the city that never sleeps.
Irene Pizzo knew she didn’t have a typical teaching job when, after a holiday break, she returned to the classroom only to hear her students exclaim, “You came back! None of the other science teachers came back!”

Since 2009, Pizzo has taught biology, chemistry and physical science at Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy (a.k.a. KAPPA 5), a public school for Grades 6–8 in Brownsville, a hardscrabble neighborhood in Brooklyn. How hardscrabble? One student told Pizzo she was happy that her family would be moving to a fifth-floor apartment in the same building. Why? “We won’t have bullets going through our windows anymore,” the student said.

Building the self-esteem of her students is as fundamental to Pizzo’s job as teaching them science. “So many of us who graduate from Adelphi come from the suburbs and we don’t know what it’s like to be a kid from the inner city,” said Pizzo, who lives on Long Island, in the town of Centerreach. “You need to learn from them to be able to teach them.”

Pizzo, who is married and the mother of four, had planned to attend medical school after graduating from Adelphi. Her plans changed after she worked one summer as a volunteer tutor for disadvantaged kids in Hempstead, New York. The satisfaction from helping students master a subject they once considered too difficult and seeing their confidence grow convinced her to become a teacher. She enrolled in Adelphi’s Scholar Teacher Education Program (STEP), which allows a candidate to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years while gaining invaluable experience as a student-teacher.

After an internship in the Bellmore-Merrick school district on Long Island, Pizzo taught at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, a highly regarded school in West Islip, New York. But the desire to teach inner-city kids proved stronger. She drives more than 100 miles round trip each day to teach at KAPPA 5.

In the 2013–2014 academic year, Pizzo helped organize trips for KAPPA 5 students to visit Georgetown University and Yale University. “Many of the kids we took to Georgetown and Yale had never left Brownsville before,” she said. “We’ve taken them snow tubing in the Poconos, and next year we want to take them to a farm. You have to expose these kids to as many different experiences as possible.”

While teaching inner-city kids has been a joy for Pizzo, she finds it frustrating to have to explain to her students why a better-funded charter school in the same building gets new desks and chairs while KAPPA 5 does not. And some of the charter school teachers, assuming the worst about KAPPA 5, have told their students, ‘Don’t be like those kids.’ Pizzo, however, believes in “those kids” and tells them, “You are not just passing through school. You are going to college.”
Hardly a melting pot, New York City is more of a patchwork quilt of ethnicities that forms a unique and sometimes beautiful mosaic. In perhaps no other neighborhood is that mosaic more enthusiastically displayed than in the Jackson Heights section of Queens, where Nellyzita Nwosu—the first to earn the Ph.D. in speech-language pathology in the Ammon School of Education’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders—works with speech- and hearing-impaired children at P.S. 69.

Some 20 different languages are represented in the student body at P.S. 69, said Dr. Nwosu, listing among them Polish, Mandarin, Japanese, Vietnamese, Bengali, Urdu, Spanish, Portuguese, English and “black English.” In 15 years in the profession, including the past 10 years at P.S. 69, she has acquired a working knowledge of multiple languages and dialects. The Floral Park, New York, resident is fluent in English and Igbo, languages spoken in her native country, Nigeria.

“I saw a statistic that only six percent of speech-language pathologists are linguistically diverse,” she said. “ASHA [the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association] knows that there is a great need for more speech-language pathologists who are bilingual and multicultural. More students need to become interested in this field so multicultural children can be better served.

“A lot of children who are bilingual or from cultures that teachers are not familiar with are sent to special education, and then they’re stigmatized as special-ed kids. There are standardized tests that those kids do poorly on, but in fact the child is bilingual and may be just mixing up words. As an educator, I intentionally went to P.S. 69 because it is so ethnically diverse. That’s the community I wanted to serve because there are so many different puzzles to solve.”

After earning degrees at Binghamton University and Syracuse University, she pursued a doctoral degree at Adelphi because the part-time program enabled the married mother of two sons to continue working full time. (The Ph.D. program at the City University of New York requires students to enroll full time.)

“Adelphi’s program has a clinical focus, and I realized the importance of doing research to prove there was a need for more bilingual and multicultural educators in our field,” said Dr. Nwosu, who worked with faculty advisers Elaine Sands, Ph.D., and Reem Khamis-Dakwar, Ph.D., on her dissertation: “The Effect of Specific Training for Preparing Speech and Language Providers Who Service Children from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds.”

P.S. 69 is one public school in one building, unburdened by any public school vs. charter school turf wars. Instead, the ongoing challenge for Dr. Nwosu is in finding more practitioners like herself to work with multicultural children at a time when overreliance on standardized test scores can lead to misdiagnosing a child’s capacity to learn.
LEONARD BRUNO ‘11, PHYSICAL EDUCATION; M.S. ‘14 | SPORT MANAGEMENT

Teaches at Urban Dove TEAM Charter School in Brooklyn

Urban Dove occupies two floors above a Pentecostal church in Brooklyn’s Bedford-Stuyvesant section. Students attend single-gender classes—2 to 3 hours of sports and fitness in the morning and academic classes afterward. Founder and executive director Jai Nanda (a former New York City teacher and college professor) believes at-risk students learn more effectively in a single-gender setting. Urban Dove opened in 2012 with 92 students. It now has 230.

"Every morning, we start with a huddle—the coach-mentor and the students," said Bruno. "Each student talks about how he’s feeling and describes his goal for the day. My job is to give him the help he needs to achieve that goal."

For Bruno, that means being in the classroom with his male students. If Johnny is struggling in math, then Bruno is at a desk nearby to offer encouragement.

"It’s been amazing to share my experiences with the students to help them reach their potential and give them a brighter future," said Bruno, who also became the coordinator of youth sports programs at Urban Dove after earning his master’s degree from Adelphi’s Department of Exercise Science, Health Studies, Physical Education and Sport Management. "The students are looking for role models to help them navigate the challenges they face and attain their high school diplomas so they can go to college."

For being the most outstanding student in Adelphi’s sport management program in 2014, Bruno received the Jack Foley Award.

"Leonard is a strong representative of Adelphi University—an engaged learner who actively seeks out knowledge and skills that are applicable to his career," said Assistant Professor Meredith Whitley, Ph.D., whose specialization is sport-based youth development.

"I’ve had good preparation from Adelphi, and that helps me work very well with students," said Bruno, who intends to pursue a Ph.D. and become an athletic director. "The students here are predominantly African-American and Hispanic, and I’m from Howard Beach [a predominantly white neighborhood in Queens, New York]. But I have a humorous and charismatic teaching style. Something I’ve always been able to do is relate well to people."

As an Adelphi undergraduate, Leonard Bruno began chart- ing a career path that combines sports, teaching and leadership. He was president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Physical Education Club and a member of the honor societies Kappa Delta Phi and Phi Epsilon Kappa. He also played varsity tennis for four years before becoming the team’s assistant coach.

Since 2012, Bruno has been a coach and mentor at Urban Dove TEAM Charter School, an alternative high school that uses a sports- and fitness-based curriculum to motivate at-risk students. TEAM stands for Teamwork, Effort, Achievement and Mindfulness.
Adelphi and Brooklyn College were tied for having the highest percentage of teachers (12 percent) considered highly effective in student improvement on standardized math and English tests between the fourth and eighth grades.

Adelphi graduates teaching in New York City schools have a higher retention rate (83 percent) after three years compared to the NYCDOE average (80 percent).

Adelphi graduates teaching in New York City schools have a higher rate of tenure approval at the first tenure decision (67 percent) than the NYCDOE average (60 percent).

Adelphi graduates teaching in New York City schools have fewer unsatisfactory ratings in their first year of teaching (2.3 percent) than the NYCDOE average (3.1 percent).

Seventy-five percent of Adelphi teachers hired in New York City schools teach in subject-shortage areas compared to 69 percent of all NYCDOE hires.

Source: New York City Department of Education

Marguerite Izzo, M.S. ’84, with President Barack Obama. She was one of five teachers inducted into The National Teachers Hall of Fame last spring.
Dr. Jane Ashdown recently shared with us her views on some hot-button issues in K-12 education. A longer excerpt of the conversation is online at ADELPHI.EDU/MAGAZINE.

Q | Do you see Common Core State Standards as a positive development?

I do. I’m concerned that much of the criticism about the standards is coming from people who have not actually read them. I was just looking at the language arts standards, and there’s nothing here that we aren’t teaching or that schools should not be doing. A lot of it reflects good teaching practice. A lot of it emphasizes good reading and writing and achieving literacy across all areas. It’s a bit baffling to me that there has been such concern about the Common Core Standards. However, the Common Core Standards are associated with new tests. Teachers understandably are concerned about whether they are preparing their students adequately. The schools may need help updating or revamping the curriculum or getting new materials. The Common Core Standards do not establish policy concerning pedagogy, timing or pacing or which textbooks to use. There is a lot of leeway.

Q | In The Robert and Augusta P. Finkelstein Memorial Lecture last year, education reformer Dr. Sean Feeney said New York schools are “test crazy.” Do you believe there is too much testing?

My firm belief is we do too much testing of students. Compared to other school systems internationally—Canada, Europe, Hong Kong—we do way too much testing of students. Teacher and principal assessments based on testing are a problem. The New York State DOE has looked at that as well and is trying to make some changes. Whether these tests that assess student knowledge are the best way to assess teachers’ effectiveness is very questionable. Certainly, student gains in learning should be part of a teacher’s assessment. But there are other ways to assess the effectiveness of a teacher. Students themselves could be surveyed about their experiences with a teacher, we could look at ways teachers mentor student teachers or less experienced colleagues, we could look at the role the teacher plays in that particular school. Ultimately, the teacher can only be as good as the school in which he or she teaches. It’s very difficult to be an outstanding teacher in a dysfunctional school.

Q | Where do you stand on the issue of charter schools versus public schools?

I served on the board of trustees of a charter network in Central Brooklyn for seven years, the Explorer Network, and it’s still going strong. Several of our graduates got positions in the network and have done very well. One of the concerns about New York City charter schools is if you divert funds into the smaller network, it takes away from the larger pool of money that the traditional public schools can use. There has been concern that the charter schools don’t take students with special learning needs, or they take space away from public schools. The space issue has been a problem. Chancellor [Carmen] Fariña is right to try to defuse the issue by reexamining the space criteria to make sure that neither the charter school nor the public school sharing the same space is shortchanged.

BY CECIL HARRIS
As long as there has been war, there have been returning veterans, piecing their futures back together after interrupting their lives to confront hostile situations in dangerous places. Unfortunately, for many modern soldiers, the struggles don’t end when they return home.

Veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan have higher unemployment rates and are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol than the general population. At least 22 veterans commit suicide every day due to combat stress and other issues, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.).

Veterans of current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan also face a much different homecoming than veterans of previous wars. The U.S. ended conscription in 1973 and, these days, less than 1 percent of the U.S. population serves in the military (active duty, National Guard, Air National Guard, and reserves), compared with more than 12 percent during World War II. Unless a relative is deployed, Americans can easily ignore overseas conflicts and most have little understanding of returning soldiers’ experiences and needs.

These issues hit close to home for the Adelphi community. Long Island has the second-highest percentage of veterans in the nation, after San Diego. The number of veterans studying at Adelphi has quadrupled in the past six years as soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan take advantage of their G.I. Bill tuition benefits to earn college degrees. There are veterans among faculty and administration, including President Robert A. Scott, Ph.D., who served in the U.S. Navy. Helping veterans move forward is a focus for many professors and alumni from the School of Social Work, the College of Nursing and Public Health and the Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies.

Alice Psirakis Diascosavvas '98, a social worker who counsels combat veterans on readjustment issues at the Nassau Vet Center in Hicksville, New York, says such work is needed. “We have a responsibility as a society,” she said. “If you’re going to send someone to war, then you have to help them when they come back.”
FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN LIFE

The transition home has never been easy. It was particularly bumpy for Paul Goldman, a first-year M.S.W. student at Adelphi who served in the Marines from 1966 to 1970, spending a year driving an AMTRAC (amphibious tractor) at the D.M.Z. from 1966 to 1967.

“There are so many ways you can die in war,” Goldman said at a “Conversations with Veterans” panel discussion held at Adelphi earlier this year. “The enemy shelled us constantly… There was just so much danger. You had to be hyperalert.” When he returned to the U.S., where the public’s anti-war sentiment was growing, he felt alienated. “I felt like by doing my duty I was just declared guilty,” he said. “It made me not speak about it. I didn’t tell people who I was.”

When he first returned, Goldman lived with his parents in the Long Island area, but hearing planes approaching the airport would wake him up at night.

“I thought, ‘It’s not good for me to live here,’” Goldman recalled. “I became a long-distance truck driver, because it was unsupervised and I could live at hotels. I was very nervous, so I took heavy drugs—any that was illegal that I could get I took. I drove this truck for two years. It was a liquor truck, so I could drink too.” Eventually, he decided to get his life back on track, went to college and got married, which he said, “calmed me down.” But he continued to feel jumpy. So, finally, 40 years after he returned from war, he went for mental health counseling. Now, he said, he’s excited to be starting a new chapter in his life with his social work studies.

Even soldiers who feel relatively positive about what they accomplished during their service admit to feeling lost when they return home. Keith Grant, a former U.S. Army captain and current New York Army National Guardsman working toward a Master of Science in Emergency Management at Adelphi, spent two tours in Iraq in 2007 and 2009.

In 2007, in particular, Iraq was in bad shape, and as a scout patrol leader based just north of Baghdad, he led a team that patrolled Iraqi neighborhoods to keep them safe and pursued enemy leaders believed to be hiding out in certain areas.

“We had lost one soldier in the platoon just before I got there, but everyone else in the platoon with me came back together, and we had patrolled anywhere from two, three times a day for most of that year,” Grant said. “At the beginning of the year, we’d go into a village, and the folks would ask us if we could escort them to the market so they could get food. Several months later those same people would tell us, ‘Could you not come around here so much anymore? You’re backing up traffic, and we don’t really need you here.’ Those villages were safe, and we were able to come back feeling we had served a good purpose.”

After nine years on active duty, Grant decided to leave the Army in 2012 and start the next chapter of his life. Since he’d had a civilian career as a journalist before he joined the military and had left the Army with a sense of accomplishment, he was surprised to find that he felt a void in his life after he got out. That changed when he heard about the Tucson, Arizona-based Veterans Fire Corps, which...
trains and deploys veterans to fight wildfires, and joined the group. “I realized that what I’d needed was that next mission,” Grant said.

Now back in his hometown of Long Beach, New York, Grant is training for a career in disaster management and response and volunteers with Team Rubicon, a group of veterans that help communities clean up after disasters. Grant joined other Team Rubicon volunteers in Moore, Oklahoma, in 2013 to demolish several homes that had been damaged by a tornado, saving the homeowners the cost of hiring a demolition crew. “Being physically active and doing something positive for a community in need has such benefits for veterans as well as the community,” he said.

Kathleen Rickard ’14, a U.S. Army Reservist for 19 years, spent a year on active duty in Kuwait and Iraq in 2004. She worked 14-hour days supervising the loading and unloading of military vehicles and equipment from cargo ships at ports in the two countries. Even though she was stationed in a relatively safe area in Iraq, she’d hear gunshots and stray rockets at night. “I wasn’t a hero, I was just a piece of a much greater puzzle,” Rickard said. “But I can say I took pride in being as thorough as I could with my aspect of the mission, which was to ensure that the equipment was accounted for and handled properly. The military is a big machine, and if one screw falls out of this machine, it won’t work properly.”

Rickard, like Grant, went through a readjustment period when she returned to New York and her job as a sergeant in the New York City Police Department. She was edgy and forgetful and had a hard time getting back into the rhythm of being at work. “I was accustomed to getting on the bus at a certain time, eating at a certain time, doing my laundry on a certain day,” she said. “I felt rigid, and I wasn’t appreciating change.”

Rickard reacclimatized, but she remains sympathetic to the adjustment issues of her fellow veterans. After retiring from the N.Y.P.D. and enrolling at the College of Nursing and Public Health, she volunteered to serve as president of the Student Veterans of America chapter at Adelphi because she wanted to be a voice for veterans. “If there were people who had questions, I wanted to be there because not everybody gets it,” she said. “If you don’t have a family member who is a veteran or even a crusty grandfather who served in World War II, and you meet a veteran for the first time, you may think, ‘This guy’s kind of nuts,’” she said. “There’s a different way about a veteran. They come to class early, sit in the front, and if the teacher’s late, they’ve got an issue with that. They think, ‘I have a mission here: I’ve got to do well in my classes and take care of my family.’ Whereas, sometimes the younger students don’t appreciate the value of the education they’re getting.”
CHALLENGES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS

“I think the biggest thing that makes a lot of our transitions difficult is that there isn’t one,” said Dennis Higgins, a first-year student in the clinical psychology doctorate program at the Derner Institute, at the “Conversations with Veterans” event. Higgins served in the Army from 2001 to 2010, deploying to Iraq five times and Afghanistan twice.

“I got back from Afghanistan September 15, 2010, and November 1 I was a civilian,” he said. “I basically packed up my stuff and I was out. No real transition, so I had to do it myself.

“Coming into the military, they do an amazing job of preparing you for what’s ahead,” he observed. “They remove the attachments that civilians have and replace them with self-identification as a member of the military, whether it’s soldier, sailor, marine, airman. Then with a lot of the combat training, they sensitize you to what you need to do, and that changes you. And then going from training to actual practice changes you even more.

“But despite all of the initiatives they have to get you ready for life on the outside—teaching you how to write a resume—it doesn’t, because they never change your self-identification. The friction I felt when I got out of the military and went back to school to finish my undergrad came from not knowing who I was anymore, because I wasn’t a soldier. I didn’t have missions, lives did not depend on what I did. It didn’t have that same sense of urgency, it didn’t have that same sense of direction."

Misunderstandings and misinformation can make reentry into civilian life even more challenging for veterans. “The biggest misconception is that everyone who comes back from war has posttraumatic stress disorder. That’s not true,” said the Nassau Vet Center’s Diacoscasavvas. In fact, experts say, only a minority of soldiers suffer from PTSD, a psychological disorder with four clusters of symptoms—re-experiencing trauma through flashbacks, feeling detached from people and activities, negative thoughts, and hypervigilance.

That doesn’t mean veterans don’t have to go through a readjustment process upon their return, but the issues most of them face—perhaps psychological injuries like anxiety or depression as a result of being exposed to traumatic events or difficulties finding their place in civilian life—are usually less dramatic and threatening than what is typically covered by the media.

“Everyone who comes back from war is changed,” said Diacoscasavvas, who served in the U.S. Army Reserves for nine years herself, including three years on active duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey, after 9/11. “I don’t have to label that change as positive or negative, things are just going to be different. There’s this idea that, ‘I changed,’ without necessarily meaning to or wanting to. There’s a grieving and a loss that takes place with that.”

For those veterans who do struggle with PTSD, there is another set of misunderstandings to confront. “One of the biggest misconceptions is that people are able to shake it off, that it’s something that will go away with time,” said Kate Szymanski, Ph.D., an associate professor at the Derner Institute who studies trauma. “PTSD doesn’t work like that. There are neurological changes as a result of trauma, and it needs to be treated.”

Support from family and friends is insufficient to help a veteran overcome PTSD, and often, lack of awareness about the condition makes life with family difficult, she noted. “On the surface, somebody with PTSD can seem like a normal person, but internally they’re in constant turmoil,” she said.

WAR AND PEACE THROUGH THE CENTURY

It was hoped to be the “war to end war,” but it obviously wasn’t. World War I broke out a century ago and ushered in new resentments and forms of mass murder—among them genocide and poisonous gas. Adelphi is honoring this momentous anniversary with a year-long examination titled the Changing Nature of War and Peace. Performances, conferences, lectures and shared readings—open to the Adelphi community and often the public—address issues such as modern conflict, treating war trauma and finding paths to peace.

As part of the initiative, Thank You for Your Service was selected as the 2014 Adelphi Community Reads book. Named an Amazon 2014 Best Nonfiction Book of the Year, Thank You for Your Service tells the poignant stories of Iraq war veterans and their families as they adjust to life in the aftermath of combat. The book has been hailed for its unflinching portrayal of the war’s lasting impact on soldiers, their loved ones and, ultimately, our society.

An annual program, Adelphi Community Reads brings all members of the Adelphi community together in a shared reading as well as through book discussions and activities. Alumni are welcome to share in the readings and affiliated events.

For more information, visit COLLABORATION-PROJECT.ADELPHI.EDU

BY BONNIE EISSNER
“Their symptoms alternate, so at one point, they’re hypervigilant and irritable, then at the next point they feel detached, and at another point they have an incredible sense of being a bad person who did bad things. The family members are baffled—what’s going on, and who is this person?”

All veterans are susceptible to PTSD, whether or not they fought on the front lines during their deployment, she added. “Just the idea that your life is threatened or realizing that your friends are being killed is sufficient to traumatize an individual,” Dr. Szymanski said.

Adelphi professors and alumni who work with veterans use a variety of techniques to help struggling soldiers.

Bonnie Owens, M.S.W. ’94, counsels veterans in her private practice and directs a trauma and recovery program for military service members at the Seafield Center, an addiction treatment facility in Westhampton Beach, Long Island. Foremost in her approach is spreading the word that trauma is a biological fight, flight or freeze response that doesn’t disengage. Learning that anxiety, depression and hypervigilance can be indicators of a stuck biological response rather than personal pathology gives veterans hope, she said, explaining, “Trauma-informed care changes the question from ‘What’s wrong with you?’ to ‘What happened to you?’”

Recently, Owens began leading kayaking excursions designed to help trauma suffers reregulate their brains. Owens, who started kayaking 15 years ago, said the sport helped her get through a bout with breast cancer at age 40. “Exercise releases neurotransmitters and brain chemicals that stabilize our mood, so you’re actually at your most optimal mode for learning and healing while you’re exercising,” she said.

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Adelphi has long welcomed veterans and military-service members to campus. The University established its School of Nursing after the United States’ entry into World War II to train members of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, young women who pledged to serve as nurses for the duration of the war (see A Look Back, page 64). After the war ended, Adelphi, a women’s college since 1912, opened its doors to veterans, who started kayaking 15 years ago, said the sport helped her get through a bout with breast cancer at age 40. “Exercise releases neurotransmitters and brain chemicals that stabilize our mood, so you’re actually at your most optimal mode for learning and healing while you’re exercising,” she said.

But G.I. Bill tuition assistance failed to keep pace with college expenses, and over the years, the veteran-student population dwindled. Then, in 2008, Congress signed a new G.I. Bill that provided greater tuition assistance, a books allowance and a housing stipend to veterans who’d served from September 11, 2001, onwards. (President Scott worked with elected officials, including then-New York State Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton ’68 (Hon.) to develop the improved Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.) The current version of the G.I. Bill, coupled with an Adelphi Yellow Ribbon scholarship for veterans and a matching grant from the V.A. department, covers about 75 percent of tuition, making an Adelphi education an affordable option for veterans once again. Veterans who qualify for Federal Pell grants and New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants may have a larger percentage of their tuition covered.

About 75 percent of Adelphi’s current veteran-students are undergraduates. Most are in their mid- to late-20s, although Adelphi also has students who are transitioning to civilian life after 20-year careers in the military. Veterans are enrolled in every school, studying all types of subjects, from history and psychology to emergency management and nursing.
no problem playing the role but worried about being typecast because of it. Friends like Judd Hirsch and Mary Lou Henner encouraged her to take the part. She did, without regret, but in a 2012 interview with a blogger at The Huffington Post, she recalled the challenges it involved: "It was so careful and delicate in those days that you really couldn’t do your thing. They wanted me to appear very straight and very middle of the road so that America could digest this and not be offended in any way."

Then came The Karate Kid. It’s hard to believe that when Heller read lines with Ralph Macchio he was a little-known actor. "The first time I met Ralph, I couldn’t believe he was 16 years old," Heller said. "I’m looking at him and I’m going, ‘Jeez, he’s so mature and later I found out he was 22.’ At just 35 herself, she played his loving, divorced single mother. "We had immediate chemistry," she said.

As impressive as she found the script and director—John Avildsen, who had directed Rocky—Heller had no idea that the film would become a classic. "In fact, Ralph and I, for the first couple of days, would say, ‘Oh, let’s try to think of another name for this. This is just such a cheesy name,’" Heller recalled.

After The Karate Kid, Heller largely returned to television, playing a string of smaller roles in well-known series. Asked if there’s a secret to sustaining a long career in Hollywood, she said, "There’s no secret. I go. I do the best I can, and if I get the role, that’s great and if I don’t, well, that’s the way it goes. That’s show business. You know, it’s frustrating, but, look, I’ve hung in this long, so I intend to go for the long run."

Heller is a survivor. In 1999, at age 51, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. She was still being treated with chemotherapy and radiation when her agent called her about an audition for a part he couldn’t reveal. "I’m bald and I’m pretty sick," she recalled thinking, but he urged her to go. The covert job turned out to be a role as Barbara Streisand’s mother in an onstage routine during the singer’s Timeless tour. Heller landed it and made do with wigs and berets. "It was like a gift from heaven," she said of the experience.

In 2002, Heller nearly left acting for good. She returned to school to earn a degree teaching English as a second language and for eight years taught in adult education schools. "I loved it, and I got so much gratification out of it, and I never thought I’d go back," she said.

Eventually, she did, and her Mad Men stint and Emmy nomination prove that she still has her comedic gifts. Of playing Miss Blankenship, Heller said, laughing, "She was, like, hiding out in me—this old lady—and it just kind of happened. I can’t explain it." Of course, strong writing, a superb cast and fantastic costumes and makeup helped, Heller admitted.

The producers were always careful to keep the Mad Men plot a secret—even from the actors, and Heller said she had "no idea that they were going to kill me off" in her sixth appearance on the show. She learned about it the week before from the show’s creator and executive producer Matthew Weiner, who reassured her, "It’s going to be one of the best deaths on television." Her exit was, in Heller’s words, "arduous." "They actually had a stunt guy there because to fall forward on your head is not an easy thing," she said.

Even more surprising for Heller was being nominated for an Emmy. "It was a dream. I had no idea that doing six episodes would lead to an Emmy nomination," she said.

When asked if she would change anything about her career, Heller first retorted, "Yeah, I’d make more money." Then she added more reflectively, "I think that sometimes I feel, not regret, but I wish that I had maybe stayed in theatre in New York a little longer. I still have dreams about doing stage because that’s my favorite. There’s nothing like it to me."

BY BONNIE EISSNER
In 2012, Cindy Maguire, a professor of art and art history at Adelphi, obtained a faculty grant to travel with a colleague to Suharekë/Theranda, Kosovo, to lead a collaborative art workshop for children and youth. The largely Albanian community was still recovering from the devastation of the 1998–1999 Kosovo War, during which more than 90 percent of the homes in the village were destroyed. Among the survivors, nearly all of them lost family members or close friends in the conflict. The war had capped a long history of economic and political oppression for Albanians in Kosovo, and Maguire and her partners hoped to promote healing and restore cultural pride and community connections through art. “I’ve always been interested in the role of the arts in personal and social transformation—the things that can happen, especially with conflict-affected communities,” said Maguire, who, before coming to Adelphi, taught art at high schools in East Los Angeles.

The first workshop, Building Bridges to Connect Los Angeles, New York City, and Suharekë, Kosovo, involved creating murals and bridge installations in the three communities—building figurative and physical connections among them.

From that experience, Maguire was hooked. She and her husband have since created a nonprofit to support their ongoing work in the community and have led collaborative projects there every year since 2012. More recently, the projects have involved animation and digital media with a distinct goal of giving the youth skills that can lead to employment—sorely needed in a region where more than half of the population is without work.

With support from a second Adelphi grant, Maguire has compiled a catalog of the art created since the workshop’s inception. Here, she shares some images of the work.

BY BONNIE EISSNER

1 YEAR I Mapping Suharekë! During the war, most of the buildings in Suharekë were destroyed. According to Maguire, the subsequent building boom has suffered from a lack of urban planning. Students explored the existing buildings and imagined new ones through mapping and design projects.

2 YEAR II Building Bridges to Connect Los Angeles, New York City, and Suharekë, Kosovo. The project involved self-portraits, mural painting and finally bridge building as a way for the communities to introduce themselves and get to know one another.

3 YEAR III Animating Our Worlds. Students learned to create stop-motion animations. Here, elementary school students make characters for a claymation.

4 YEAR III Animating Our Worlds. Robots used by a secondary school student in his stop-motion animation

5 YEAR V Open Talk. Students created visual narratives—using illustration and animation—from their interviews with adults who remembered the Kosovo war. A still from a stop-motion animation shows civilians being shot by a militia during the war.

6 YEAR V Open Talk. A view of Prizren, Kosovo, the home of the documentary film festival, Dokufest.

7 YEAR V Open Talk. One of several ‘body maps’ created by the students.
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As impressive as she found the script and director—John Avildsen, who had directed Rocky—Heller had no idea that the film would become a classic. “In fact, Ralph and I, for the first couple of days, would say, ‘Oh, let’s try to think of another name for this. This is just such a cheesy name,’” Heller recalled.

After The Karate Kid, Heller largely returned to television, playing a string of smaller roles in well-known series. Asked if there’s a secret to sustaining a long career in Hollywood, she said, “There’s no secret. I go. I do the best I can, and if I get the role, that’s great and if I don’t, well, that’s the way it goes. That’s show business. You know, it’s frustrating, but, look, I’ve hung in this long, so I intend to go for the long run.”

Heller is a survivor. In 1999, at age 51, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. She was still being treated with chemotherapy and radiation when her agent called her about an audition for a part he couldn’t reveal. “I’m bald and I’m pretty sick,” she recalled thinking, but he urged her to go. The covert job turned out to be a role as Barbara Streisand’s mother in an onstage routine during the singer’s Timeless tour. Heller landed it and made do with wigs and berets. “It was like a gift from heaven,” she said of the experience.

In 2002, Heller nearly left acting for good. She returned to school to earn a degree teaching English as a second language and for eight years taught in adult education schools. “I loved it, and I got so much gratification out of it, and I never thought I’d go back,” she said.

Eventually, she did, and her Mad Men stint and Emmy nomination prove that she still has her comedic gifts. Of playing Miss Blankenship, Heller said, laughing, “She was, like, hiding out in me—this old lady—and it just kind of happened. I can’t explain it.” Of course, strong writing, a superb cast and fantastic costumes and makeup helped, Heller admitted.

The producers were always careful to keep the Mad Men plot a secret—even from the actors, and Heller said she had “no idea that they were going to kill me off” in her sixth appearance on the show. She learned about it the week before from the show’s creator and executive producer Matthew Weiner, who reassured her, “It’s going to be one of the best deaths on television.” Her exit was, in Heller’s words, “arduous.” “They actually had a stunt guy there because to fall forward on your head is not an easy thing,” she said.

Even more surprising for Heller was being nominated for an Emmy. “It was a dream… I had no idea that doing six episodes would lead to an Emmy nomination,” she said.

When asked if she would change anything about her career, Heller first retorted, “Yeah, I’d make more money.” Then she added more reflectively, “I think that sometimes I feel, not regret, but I wish that I had maybe stayed in theatre in New York a little longer. I still have dreams about doing stage because that’s my favorite. There’s nothing like it to me.”

BY BONNIE EISSNER
In 2012, Cindy Maguire, a professor of art and art history at Adelphi, obtained a faculty grant to travel with a colleague to Suharekë/Theranda, Kosovo, to lead a collaborative art workshop for children and youth. The largely Albanian community was still recovering from the devastation of the 1998–1999 Kosovo War, during which more than 90 percent of the homes in the village were destroyed. Among the survivors, nearly all of them lost family members or close friends in the conflict. The war had capped a long history of economic and political oppression for Albanians in Kosovo, and Maguire and her partners hoped to promote healing and restore cultural pride and community connections through art. “I’ve always been interested in the role of the arts in personal and social transformation—the things that can happen, especially with conflict-affected communities,” said Maguire, who, before coming to Adelphi, taught art at high schools in East Los Angeles.

The first workshop, Building Bridges to Connect Los Angeles, New York City, and Suharekë, Kosovo, involved creating murals and bridge installations in the three communities—building figurative and physical connections among them.

From that experience, Maguire was hooked. She and her husband have since created a nonprofit to support their ongoing work in the community and have led collaborative projects there every year since 2012. More recently, the projects have involved animation and digital media with a distinct goal of giving the youth skills that can lead to employment—sorely needed in a region where more than half of the population is without work.

With support from a second Adelphi grant, Maguire has compiled a catalog of the art created since the workshop’s inception. Here, she shares some images of the work.

BY BONNIE EISSNER

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YEAR I Mapping Suharekë! During the war, most of the buildings in Suharekë were destroyed. According to Maguire, the subsequent building boom has suffered from a lack of urban planning. Students explored the existing buildings and imagined new ones through mapping and design projects.

YEAR II Building Bridges to Connect Los Angeles, New York City, and Suharekë, Kosovo. The project involved self-portraits, mural painting and finally bridge building as a way for the communities to introduce themselves and get to know one another.

YEAR III Animating Our Worlds. Students learned to create stop-motion animations. Here, elementary school students make characters for a claymation.

YEAR V Open Talk. A view of Prizren, Kosovo, the home of the documentary film festival, Dokufest.

YEAR V Open Talk. One of several ‘body maps’ created by the students.
ULTRACOLD MOLECULES ARE COOL in physics
“THE CHILDREN ARE CONSTANTLY DESIGNING AND THE CLASSROOMS ARE CONSTANTLY TRANSFORMING.”

– LISA ARMENTANO, M.S. ’06

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PRESCHOOL

Finding a preschool that suits your child and your family can be a daunting process. Lisa Armentano, M.S. ’06, offers these tips.

Inquire about the school’s philosophy. Parents are the true experts on their children and will know whether a school’s philosophy will meet the child’s needs.

LOOK FOR:
- Open communication between teachers and parents
- Classrooms that are spacious enough to support active hands-on learning
- Learning centers within the classrooms that promote choice and rich play
- Artwork that is done by the children and not the teachers. Each piece should look unique
- Teachers who are nurturing and warm towards the children
- Age-appropriate classroom materials that engage the children
This fall, the large, bright classrooms of Brooklyn Treehouse Preschool will be bustling with 62 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds, and at the helm will be owner and director, Lisa Armentano, M.S. ’06, a graduate of the early childhood special education program.

For Armentano’s school, those large bright classrooms are neither incidental nor accidental. They are fundamental to the Brooklyn Treehouse Preschool learning experience, and Armentano spent the last two years designing and overseeing the buildout of the space so they would be just right.

“I wanted something that gave the children lots of room in the classrooms,” she said. “I want them to be up, up, active learners and to love the process of learning, not just the end result.”

Pink and green, orange and blue, the vivid rooms are full of learning centers—sand and water, art, dramatic play, writing and blocks, just to name a few. What’s more, they share windows and glass walls, spreading natural light and letting children and teachers alike feel a greater sense of community.

A multimedia room, an indoor playground “movement room” and a private outdoor space complete the space.

“I want to see organized chaos,” Armentano explained. “I want to see ten different activities going on. The children are constantly designing and the classrooms are constantly transforming. We’re set up for the children to succeed.”

Armentano’s approach stems in part from her Adelphi experience. “Adelphi’s program was so fantastic,” she said. “It helped me to understand that children have individual needs and to value the needs of families.”

Her office is positioned smack dab in the middle, with windows on all sides. “I want the teachers to know we’re a team. And I want to be where the fun is!” she said.

More than just fun, Armentano has been excited to see the impact her school has had on the lives of both children and adults. All of the teachers at Brooklyn Treehouse Preschool have master’s degrees in early childhood education, but many of the school’s teacher assistants are now working toward certificates as well.

“We with my teacher assistants, it’s been one amazing story after the next,” Armentano said, describing a gifted young nanny she was able to hire who is now taking college courses for the first time, and another, a recent immigrant and teacher back in her home country, who now, as a teacher assistant at Brooklyn Treehouse, has joyfully returned to a classroom.

While Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Pre-K education push is the talk of New York these days, Armentano’s early childhood education experience stretches back to the Koch Administration, when she was one of a few teachers chosen to be part of Project Giant Step, a pilot program that then, as now, brought 4-year-olds into the public schools.

Now that New York City is returning a focus to Pre-K, Armentano has invited Mayor de Blasio, who has a home just around the corner from her school, to come for a visit. “We hope he’ll pop in,” she said. “I want him to see what a rich environment for 4-year-olds looks like in terms of materials and space.”

New York City’s Universal Pre-K initiative presents opportunities for families, children and Pre-K teachers as well as for schools like Brooklyn Treehouse. As part of the initiative, some community organizations will be given funding to offer preschool spaces in their schools, and Brooklyn Treehouse Preschool will be applying to be among them for 2015. “We’d be really thrilled to be able to offer parents that option,” Armentano said.

BY CHARITY SHUMWAY

Adelphi’s master’s degree programs in early childhood education give students unique hands-on experiences in infant, toddler and preschool education settings, including Adelphi’s own Alice Brown Early Learning Center. Learn more at EDUCATION.ADELPHI.EDU
“THE CHILDREN ARE CONSTANTLY DESIGNING AND THE CLASSROOMS ARE CONSTANTLY TRANSFORMING.”

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Kim Barnes Arico—the head coach of the University of Michigan women’s basketball team—has traveled far since her days coaching at Adelphi. Yet, when she returned to campus last April to accept the Panther Legendary Team Award on behalf of Adelphi’s 2001–2002 women’s basketball team at the Adelphi Athletic Hall of Fame dinner, the miles and years melted away for her and her former players—11 of whom returned for the event.

“I’ve coached at every level—from high school to the big-time now at Michigan,” Barnes Arico said. “Everybody always asks me, ‘What’s the difference between high school and Adelphi and Michigan?’ I always say, ‘Basketball is basketball.’ The kids now might be bigger, stronger and quicker, but the team I had at Adelphi was probably my most special team of all time because of what we were able to do.”

Barnes Arico’s rise to the highest echelon of college athletic coaching has been as meteoric as that of her 2001–2002 team. Led by Alexis Seeley ’03, M.A. ’13 (who was inducted into the Adelphi Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011) and Jessica Dlabola, that team smashed University records, winning 28 games, advancing to the NCAA Division II Tournament Sweet 16 and earning the program’s first national ranking. The next season, Barnes Arico embarked on a successful decade as the head coach of the women’s basketball team at St. John’s University and, in 2012, started at the University of Michigan. Even with such a storied career, Barnes Arico relishes her time at Adelphi.

A favorite moment of her coaching career came after Adelphi’s Sweet 16 defeat—57 to 61. “Everyone was devastated,” she said. She walked with dread up the stairs that led out of the locker room to where the Adelphi parents were waiting. As she got to the top, they clapped.

“Nowadays, you always hear about parents griping or complaining” Barnes Arico said. “But this team was not like that...The parents were completely supportive, and the kids were completely supportive. It didn’t matter if they were playing one minute a game or twenty-five minutes per game.”

At Adelphi, Barnes Arico learned the value of relationships from her players and from mentors such as the late Robert Hartwell, Adelphi’s former longtime athletic director. By her own admission, she is a high-energy coach with extremely high expectations. But she will also go to bat for her players—whether they’re facing issues in school or at home. “I think if people know how much you care about them as individuals... they are willing to run through the wall for you,” she said.

Seeley, who is now the associate dean for teaching, research and technology at Barnard College, said that playing for Barnes Arico was a pleasure, describing her not just as a great coach but as a mentor and now a friend whose opinions Seeley values. “She is incredibly intense and has very high expectations of all of her players—everyone that’s on the team, from the manager to the person running the scoreboard during practice,” Seeley said. You knew that you needed to be at your best at all times. Something that I find to be particularly special about her is that she’s also very understanding, so even though the expectations were very high, she’s not unreasonable.”

Adelphi was Barnes Arico’s springboard, but it’s also her touchstone. When she came back for the Hall of Fame dinner, she drew a crowd—not just her former players, but their parents and some of their grandparents came too. After the dinner, she pulled an all-nighter, staying up until 6:30 the next morning swapping stories with her former players about their season together and all that has happened since. Barnes Arico said, “To see that they’ve grown up and become really special and really successful and exceptional people was just a joy.”

BY BONNIE EISSNER
“Hoisting the championship trophy after winning 7–5 was the most rewarding feeling of my entire life. It was the true definition of how hard work pays off.”

— DEGAN CRIMI ’14, CO-CAPTAIN (CENTER)

“I just scored the goal that put us ahead in the Northeast-10 Championship. The feeling that I had here was just amazing; words can’t describe it. But I knew that we needed to keep on playing.”

— SALVATORE TUTTLE

“Being announced the national champions—which we were just soaking in and celebrating—was honestly one of the best moments of my life and a perfect end to my college career.”

— JACQUELINE WILLIAMS ’14, CO-CAPTAIN

In February 2014, she became the program’s all-time leading scorer. Jackson, a 5’8” guard also from New Jersey, routinely approached triple doubles—double-digit number totals in three of the major statistical categories (points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocked shots)—proving her versatility. She set school records for career assists and single-season assists in 2012 and became the 21st player in Adelphi history to surpass 1,000 points in January of 2014.

“Both of them have grown as basketball players but especially as leaders,” said Jacobs. “They both wanted to win...and that trickled down to everybody else, and with that, you have a few more victories than you had before.”

BY JEFFREY WEISBORD
A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Last spring was a stellar one for Adelphi men’s and women’s lacrosse. The men’s team captured their second Northeast-10 Tournament championship in four years and advanced to the NCAA Division II semifinals. The women compiled an unblemished 22–0 record—a school best—on their way to winning the Northeast-10 regular season and tournament championships and the NCAA Division II national championship.

Here, the players reflect on picture-perfect moments in a memorable season.

“We were celebrating Tim Daly’s first quarter goal in the national semifinal game. It was a very important goal because our opponents came out firing and went up early on us. This goal definitely gave the team some confidence.” – SEAN MCCANN (#2)

THEY CAN PLAY

Walk into the office of Head Women’s Basketball Coach Heather Jacobs and you can’t help but notice the team photos lining the walls. They’re far from the typical, staid portraits you see in official publications. Rather, they look like the outtakes. The players are hamming it up for the camera, clearly enjoying each other’s company. This camaraderie, which Jacobs has cultivated during her four years as head coach, has helped fuel the team’s turnaround.

Last season, the Panthers were on fire. They won their first 12 games and finished with a 23–8 overall record. They were the Northeast-10 Southwest Division champions and NCAA Division II semifinalists, and returned to the NCAA Division II East Regional tournament for the first time since 2001.

In 2009, by comparison, Adelphi women’s basketball posted a 4–23 record. The squad that Jacobs inherited had six freshmen and one senior. Still, the team managed eight wins in 2010, nine in 2011 and a 15–13 campaign in 2012—the program’s first winning record in five years.

“We always use the phrase of getting the right people into the right seats,” Jacobs said. “They are a good group of girls that made a commitment to be selfless and to put the success of the team over their own personal stats, and when you do that, the numbers come anyway but the wins come first.”

Still, the personal stats were impressive, particularly for two of the players: Jessica Kitrys ’14 and Sade Jackson ’14, both of whom played for Jacobs throughout their four years at Adelphi. Kitrys, a six-foot forward from New Jersey, racked up points at a historic pace. She tied the school single-game record for points with 36 in February of 2013, notching her 1,000th career point in the same game.
“I just scored the goal that put us ahead in the Northeast-10 Championship. The feeling that I had here was just amazing; words can’t describe it. But I knew that we needed to keep on playing.”

– SALVATORE TUTTLE

“I hoisting the championship trophy after winning 7–5 was the most rewarding feeling of my entire life. It was the true definition of how hard work pays off.”

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– JACQUELINE WILLIAMS ’14, CO-CAPTAIN

BY JEFFREY WEISBORD
ALUMNI EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
REUNION
2015
JUNE 12–13
ADELPHI.EDU/REUNION
MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE 1979

A cup of coffee and a movie are still a good go-to bet.

However, electronic accessories have taken on a whole new meaning.

And today, thanks to the PC, you’re more likely to find a typewriter in a museum than in an office.
Each year, more than 4,700 Adelphi alumni contribute gifts to support current students. The average class year of these generous donors is 1979. Much has changed in 35 years—from the pervasiveness of technology to the cost of a cup of coffee to the price of a movie ticket—as you can see here.

Adelphi, though, has remained constant in its efforts to keep its tuition affordable. In fact, our annual tuition is one of the lowest for a private university in the region. That’s one of the reasons that Adelphi has earned its ranking as a Best Buy by the Fiske Guide to Colleges for nine consecutive years. In addition to reasonable tuition, Adelphi, thanks to the generous support of alumni, offers extensive scholarship funding.

Since 2000, with President Robert A. Scott’s leadership, more than 142 donor-funded scholarship endowments have been established. Thank you to all who have supported this massive effort. Adelphi is strong because of you, and through your continued generosity and that of others, it will remain so.

For more details, visit: GIVING.ADELPHI.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS.

1979

$0.86

GAS

PRICE PER GALLON

$3.58

AVERAGING

$50K

THE NUMBER OF ADELPHI DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

35

2014

$0.86

AVERAGING

$100K

THE NUMBER OF ADELPHI DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

205

9

10

9

10
Alumni and friends gathered at the Garden City Hotel last March for the Fourteenth Annual President’s Gala, raising more than $433,000 for student scholarships.

Adelphi honored Trustee Loretta V. Cangialosi ’80, senior vice president and controller of Pfizer, Inc., as 2014 Outstanding Alumna; Bernard E. Clair ’73, partner, Cohen Clair Lans Greifer & Thorpe LLP, as 2014 Outstanding Alumnus; and Trustee Jeffrey R. Greene, global transaction leader, life sciences at Ernst & Young, LLP, as 2014 Outstanding Executive.

President Robert A. Scott, Ph.D., served as event co-chair, along with LeeAnn Black ’83, Mark W. Harris and Eileen C. McDonnell, M.B.A. ’88.

Save the date for next year’s President’s Gala on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the Garden City Hotel. For reservations or more information, please contact Jessica Foglietta, assistant director of special events, at 516.877.3155 or jfoglietta@adelphi.edu.
WHAT I DO  I am an accounting analyst at QVT Financial, LP.

WHAT I LOVE  I am from a very musical family in Jamaica so I was exposed to a wide variety of music growing up. I have an appreciation for all genres, but authentic reggae will always be my favorite.

WHAT I’D DO IF I WEREN’T AN ACCOUNTANT  Be a travel writer! I love experiencing new things, looking into the history of places and getting to know other cultures.

WHAT I GIVE MY TIME TO  Mentoring high school students from low-income communities through iMentor NYC.

RECENT GIVING  $25 to the 2013–2014 Annual Fund and $150 to buy a brick in Adelphi’s donor circle in front of the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center.

WHY I GIVE  I had such an amazing experience at Adelphi, I can’t imagine not giving back. I give so everyone can have the same opportunities and experience I had as an Adelphi student.
NOW
is the time to celebrate President Robert A. Scott’s leadership. Follow his lead. Help Adelphi grow.

Watch the video here: adelphi.edu/thisiswhere
1950s

PETER INCALCATERA, B.A. ’51, and his wife, Joan, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 1, 2014, at a small dinner party co-hosted by their son, Frank, and daughter, Lisa.

MARTY RUBIN, B.A. ’55, ran his 35th 6.2-mile Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 4, 2014. With 60,000 runners, the race is the world’s largest in terms of participants.

HAL WEINER, B.A. ’56, back in the 1970s, was founding general counsel of the Gay Activists Alliance, Inc., out of which grew the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (from the former Legal Committee). He closed his law practice almost 10 years ago. A brother of the Order of Urban Missioners, he has also been a licensed New York City sightseeing guide aboard the top of the bus, touring for the past nine years. A member of the National Press Photographers Association, he is the visual journalist to the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. He won a first prize in Soho Arthouse’s Pride photos in 2013. He has been married to P.J. Murray for 22 years. They live in New York City.

1960s

JACK DOWD, B.A. ’60, a former member of Stu Parks’ Adelphi College varsity track and field team from 1957 to 1960, set a new state record for the javelin in a recent Florida track and field senior games competition. He is also ranked number one nationally in discus and hammer in his age group of 75 years and wiser.

BILL JAKER, B.A. ’60, discussed his career in broadcasting in the March 14, 2014, issue of The Reporter, a weekly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, New York.

MARILYN (SCHACHTER) FORSTOT, B.A. ’63, has released her second novel, More Precious Than Rubies. The book, a historical family saga, is available on Amazon.com as an eBook for Kindle. A retired educator who now makes her home in southern Arizona, she has also published several short stories.

APRIL ADAMS, B.A. ’64, the owner of Desert Light Productions, produced The Purple Hat, a short film based on the short story by Pulitzer Prize–winner Eudora Welty, starring James Eckhouse (of Beverly Hills, 90210). The film won multiple awards and premiered in the Hollywood Film Festival.

LYN (GERSON) MENDELSON, B.A. ’64, M.A. ’68, received her degree in Spanish and went on to be the first at Adelphi to complete the master’s program in Spanish. Her adviser, Dr. Alva Ebersole, encouraged her to study in Spain the summer after receiving her B.A. It was a fabulous experience and really “polished” her Spanish, she said. Thanks to Dr. Ebersole, whom she recalls was a wonderful professor, Mendelsohn made many friends in Spain and now—50 years and 17 more trips later—those “friends” are like family.

JOHN MACKENZIE, B.A. ’65, took a road trip (his first ever since scenic South Vietnam) that ended with a visit to fraternity brother JOE SOMMER, B.B.A. ’67, in Greenville, South Carolina. MacKenize sent Sommer an Adelphi baseball hat as a thanks for his hospitality, and Sommer said he will wear it with pride and perhaps will find other alumni who will stop and introduce themselves.

JEFFREY KAY, B.A. ’66, recently retired as chief of the Economic Crimes Section, Fort Lauderdale Office, United States Attorneys’ Office, Southern District of Florida. He worked on the criminal investigation of the global financial company, UBS AG, that resulted in a $780 million payment to the federal government. In September 2013, the University of Toledo College of Law invited Kay to deliver a lecture on legal ethics for attorneys and white collar crime investigations.

PETE CLARKE, M.B.A. ’67, a Senior Olympics and USA Masters Track and Field events competitor, has accumulated hundreds of medals on the senior track and field circuit. A Houston Chronicle article, “Senior Runner Leaves the Youngsters in the Dust,” featured Clarke’s story. In 2013, Clarke was inducted in the Sewanhaka High School (Floral Park, New York) Hall of Fame.

TSOLTIN N. SHAKABPA, B.B.A. ’67, has published the books Voices of the Voiceless, Recollections of a Tibetan, Being Tibetan, I Imagine, and Odds and Ends, which are available at BARNESANDNOBLE.COM.

SHARE YOUR NEWS, ALUMNI!
Submit your class note today at ADELPHI.EDU/CLASSNOTES or via Twitter @AUALUMNEWSNOTES.
The Ruth S. Harley Society recognizes and thanks alumni and friends who have documented a bequest or planned gift to Adelphi. Define your legacy and create a lasting gift to the University.

For more information, please contact Adelphi at 516.877.3098 or PLANNEDGIVING@ADELPHI.EDU or visit ADELPHIEDU/PLANNEDGIVING.

“MY LATE HUSBAND, DICK KUSTER ’51, AND I MET AT ADELPHI, and our connection to the University only continued to grow through the years. I am proud to have invested in the university I care so deeply about by establishing a deferred gift. I know my husband would feel the same way.”

JOAN (MACLEER) KUSTER, B.A. ’51
Former Elementary School Teacher and Director of Development at the Waldorf School

DEFINE YOUR LEGACY

THE RUTH S. HARLEY SOCIETY

RUTH S. HARLEY SOCIETY MEMBER SINCE 2007
Zachary Brandt ’14 first fell in love with video games in middle school. Starcraft, Diablo II, World of Warcraft and Soldier of Fortune II were some of his favorites. With their intense plots and opportunities for role play, they offered a welcome creative outlet. Over time, he grew more intrigued by their overall artistry. Only when he was at Adelphi, though, did he realize he could design games himself.

For one thing, as much as he enjoyed creative pursuits—writing, music and fencing—expressing himself through visual art was a dream he had shelved. In school, he had yearned to imitate his friends’ elaborate doodles, but he could barely manage a stick figure.

As a student in Adelphi’s Honors College, Brandt decided to major in computer science after dabbling in a few other areas. A love of computers made the choice a sensible one. Yet, it was only when he took a class in video game design that he honed in on his true passion. “Computer graphics enabled me to draw in ways that I never thought possible,” Brandt wrote in his Adelphi Honors College thesis.

Brandt’s curiosity about three-dimensional graphic design and motion capture animation took him on an unusual journey during his senior year when, as part of his Honors College thesis, he created a short motion capture animation, and he accomplished it using just his Xbox Kinect, a home-made PC and open source software.

If you’ve seen movies such as Avatar or the Lord of the Rings trilogy, you’re familiar with Hollywood-style motion capture. For millions of dollars, Hollywood studios suit up actors in spandex suits infused with scores of infrared sensors. As the actors are filmed, the infrared sensors track their movements, which are then translated into animated characters—think Gollum in Lord of the Rings or the Na’vi creatures in Avatar.
When you’re playing a game on a Kinect, a webcam is taking an image of you and two infrared cameras on either side of it are tracking your movements. These images are combined to create an avatar of you. Your avatar is then shown on the Xbox in the activity or game you’re engaged in—whether it’s football, yoga or bowling.

By attaching the Kinect to a computer and integrating some programming, you can create and manipulate your avatar as part of your own animated game or scene. In essence, it’s low-budget, but high-quality motion capture animation.

To create his 10-second computer animation, Brandt taught himself Blender, an open source 3D animation software. He spent hundreds of hours on the animation, and found welcome inspiration and feedback from his Adelphi professors.

Lee Stemkoski, Ph.D., an associate professor of mathematics and computer science, who introduced Brandt to Blender during a game design class, offered guidance throughout the process. Brandt also appreciated the support of his thesis adviser, Terrence Ross, an associate professor of communications who has extensive experience making videos, and he found Gregory Mercurio, the Honors College academic adviser, “a huge help because he has a background in theatre and specifically set design.” Brandt described working on the project in the Honors College lounge in Earle Hall, adjacent to Mercurio’s office: “I would go in and show him something, and for one he’s incredibly interested and incredibly motivating and encouraging, and then he might say, ‘What if you tried adding a soft blue sidelight?’... It really helped bring out the lighting and the set design aspect of my animation.”

After all of the work and learning, Brandt said, “The coolest part is having a finished product that I can sit down and watch.” He added, “Anyone can do it if they have a passion and if they’re interested in it.”

BY BONNIE EISSNER

“ANYONE CAN DO IT IF THEY HAVE A PASSION AND IF THEY’RE INTERESTED IN IT.”

– ZACHARY BRANDT ’14

Catch Zachary Brandt’s motion capture animation film at ADELPHI.EDU/MAGAZINE.
This past April, Marc Sieben ’75, alumni board member and father of alumna Nicole Sieben, M.A. ’07, presented on team building as a part of the Leadership Certificate Program. The Adelphi community was deeply saddened by Mr. Sieben’s passing in July.

**1970s**

**JIM TUDAY, B.A. ’71.** recently retired from ExxonMobil after 31 years of service. He worked for the Medicine and Occupational Health Department as the industrial hygiene coordinator—Americas distributed sites.

**DONALD LEIDER, B.A. ’72, M.B.A ’76.** is the author of the Christmas story, "Tears Unleashed."

**SANDY OESTREICH, B.S. ’72, M.S. ’74,** the founder and president of the Equal Rights Alliance, is working hard for Equal Rights Amendment ratification in Florida. She is also mentoring colleagues in seven other states. Visit [WWW.2PASSERA.ORG](http://WWW.2PASSERA.ORG) to learn more.

**AMY (BARNES) DIDONNA, B.S. ’73,** retired from the New York State Department of Health as associate health planner on May 21, 2014.

**ALICE HOFFMAN, B.A. ’73,** author of the 1998 Oprah’s Book Club pick, *Here on Earth*, and more recently, *The Dovekeepers*, published her 24th novel, *Tears Unleashed*. Additionally, she pursued training to become a Jungian analyst and has a private practice in psychodynamic psychotherapy as well as Jungian analysis. She is enrolled in a trauma studies program and will feature this aspect of care in her private practice as well as her work as a certified nurse coach.

**RICHARD SAVIOR, B.A. ’75,** received his doctorate from Fordham University and is an assistant professor of business, management and economics at SUNY Empire State College.

**LINDA HOLAHAN, M.S. ’74,** went to Columbia University School of Nursing to teach after graduating from Adelphi. She spent four years at Columbia in various programs before working as a clinical nurse specialist. She has worked at Peninsula Counseling Center, Bellevue Hospital Center, St. Luke’s Hospital Center, Visiting Nurse Service of New York, Isabella’s Home and Community Services and, currently, Hebrew Home’s Long Term Managed Home Care facility. Regardless of the setting, her focus has always been on behavioral health issues and helping staff to work with the difficult-to-serve population, as well as placing an emphasis on self-care of the caregiver. Additionally, she pursued training to become a Jungian analyst and has a private practice in psychodynamic psychotherapy as well as Jungian analysis. She is enrolled in a trauma studies program and will feature this aspect of care in her private practice as well as her work as a certified nurse coach.

**CAROLIDA STEINER, PH.D. ’77,** Post Doc. Cert. ’77, a practicing psychologist, is chairperson of the Derner Ph.D. Alumni Chapter. She writes the *Feeling Safe Again* blog [FEELINGSAFEAGAIN.COM](http://FEELINGSAFEAGAIN.COM), which deals with the emotional aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

**ELLEN W. BLAIR, B.S. ’78,** director of nursing for Hartford Hospital’s Institute of Living, has been chosen to receive the Excellence in Practice Award from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association for her significant contributions to psychiatric mental health nursing practice through practice and research throughout her career.

**GREGORY PALASKI, B.B.A. ’77,** received a mayoral appointment to New Jersey’s South River Library Board of Trustees on January 1, 2014, and was elected secretary at the reorganization meeting.

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**KENNETH BANKS, B.S. ’74,** a construction developer, was recruited by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to serve on a research team to design a system that will dramatically reduce indoor air pollution created from cooking inside thatched and adobe-style homes. In February 2014, he made his second site visit to the Puno region of Peru to provide constructional engineering expertise to the research team.
1980s

ANNAMARIE CANADEO, B.A. ’80, M.A. ’87
says Adelphi was a great school for her to advance her career. As a divorced mother of five, Adelphi offered her an opportunity to learn, explore and develop her life’s career. At Adelphi, she found opportunity and the assistance to seek out her dreams and grow.

MARTY LITT, B.B.A. ’80
has two children, Alex Litt, J.D., who recently graduated from the University of Miami School of Law, and Jared Litt, who also graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. in Sports Administration. Both are eager to start their respective careers.

PEARL MORGAN-BELL, M.S. ’80
lives in Morrow, Ohio, and recently wrote and published her third book, Reflections and Meditations: An Annual Devotional, through TEACH Services, Inc. In addition to writing, she has spent her career teaching English in the classroom and serving in various administrative roles in private and public institutions of learning, including working as a guidance counselor and principal. In her retirement, she provides Christian counseling and doctoral advice to those seeking her services.

MARK PECHENICK, B.A. ’80
the director of engagement and community outreach with the Alzheimer’s Association, was featured in the March 31, 2013, issue of Maine’s Portland Press Herald. He facilitates the Legacy Writers Group Workshop, a social engagement program intended to help individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease to stay active and engaged by remembering and sharing the details of their lives with others, while also helping their loved ones to process the journey.

MICHAEL BALBONI, B.S. ’81
a former state lawmaker and head of Homeland Security in New York State, has joined the Undioneal, New York-based law firm Rivkin Radler. He will serve as an “of counsel” role, providing expertise in the areas of cyber-, financial- and energy-related security, public safety, healthcare and government relations.

TOM BUDERWITZ, B.F.A. ’81
was the scenic designer for Noël Coward’s A Song at Twilight, which played from March 18 through April 13, 2014, at The Pasadena Playhouse in Pasadena, California.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, B.S. ’81
recently opened Precision Urgent Care medical treatment center with two other doctors. The treatment center, located in Mineola, New York, handles non-life-threatening medical problems. Kennedy specializes in sports medicine.

GORDON ROTHBARD, B.A. ’82
and his band, Pony Yup, had a show on March 14, 2014, at Sip This, a coffeehouse located in Valley Stream, New York, which is owned by STEPHANIE PONTILLO, B.A. ’08.

BERNICE RAMONA SIMS, M.S.W. ’82
made history in 1989 by becoming the first African American female trustee of Hempstead, New York—an office she held during the administration of former Hempstead mayor, the honorable JAMES A. GARNER, B.S. ’90.

Sims also served as an advisory board member for the Honorable Mario Cuomo, the former Governor of New York. In 2014, she achieved a lifelong dream when she published her first book, Detour Before Midnight: Freedom Summer Workers James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman Made an Unscheduled Stop. A native of Meridian, Mississippi, she participated in the Mississippi Freedom Summer 50th Commemoration held in several cities throughout the state in June 2014, including in speaking events, book talks, readings and television interviews.

SAMANTHA GILBERT, B.S. ’84
a global leader in the field of human resources, will serve as the Ford Foundation’s first-ever vice president for talent and human resources. Gilbert brings more than 20 years of expertise to the foundation. Her experience spans the government, nonprofit and private sectors and includes human resources work in Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe.

CARLTON DOUGLAS RIDENHOUR (“CHUCK D”), B.F.A. ’84, ’13 (HON.)
co-founder of Public Enemy, who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013, was picked by Record Store Day as its 2014 ambassador.

HARRY VANLEUVAN, B.S. ’84
is a cardiothoracic technologist and member of the open heart team, which was initiated in January 2014 at Good Samaritan Medical Center Hospital in West Islip, New York.

ALICE T. CROWE, B.A. ’85
and ALICIA M. CROWE, B.A. ’85
identical twins, were featured in, “African American Entrepreneurs in the Nyacks 1800-Present,” an exhibit at the Historical Society of the Nyacks, honoring men and women who have contributed to the local economy. This exhibition is the beginning of a three-year community-based initiative called the Nyack African American History Documentation Project, which is working to discover, survey, record and ultimately place under archival care materials that reflect the history of African Americans in Nyack and the surrounding areas of Rockland County, New York.

MARK PETRIZZI, B.S. ’85
went on to SUNY Downstate Medical Center to earn his medical degree in 1989. He married fellow Adelphi alum, AMY BARTOLDUS, B.S. ’86, and they now have six children. He finished his residency training in Richmond, Virginia, and has been in family practice there since 1992. In 1998, he achieved fellowship in family practice as well. He is a member of the faculty at the Medical College of Virginia.

Laraine Bautze ’76 with her daughter Alessandra Bautze at the annual Yankees game outing in June.
Nicole Chere’ Wood ’97 worked with families and children from a Brazilian favela (slum)—an experience she described as one of her most memorable, and meaningful, in a far-ranging career.
THE POWER OF HER PRESENCE

No one predicted Nicole Chere’ Wood ’97 would go far. Diagnosed with dyslexia in eighth grade, she received specialized education services but still struggled. At a meeting at her Baltimore, Maryland, high school, she and her parents were told that she “would be lucky to make it to community college,” she recalled. Little did they know that she would go a lot further than that—from the slums of Brazil to the halls of power in Washington, D.C.—in a career advocating for those who also fight to overcome adversity.

Undaunted by that high school meeting, her parents got to work researching universities with programs for students with learning disabilities. They decided on Adelphi.

This decision turned Wood’s life around. Thanks to the Learning Resource Program (formerly called the Learning Disabilities Program) and Dr. Matilda Stuckey, “I went from hardly being able to construct a complex sentence or write a paragraph without grammatical and spelling errors to graduating in three years magna cum laude,” she said.

Not that it was easy. Instructors in the Learning Resource Program spent long hours helping Wood analyze the structure of sentences and paragraphs. In addition to helping her succeed academically, they taught her about something called the “power of presence,” i.e., being there to support someone through difficult times. Case in point: “When I was challenged, I knew I could always go to the Learning Resource Center and get help, whether it was with writing or working with a teacher or communicating better. They were my advocates, and that to me is equally important. When you give someone tools of resilience and build their self-worth, you don’t just enable someone to graduate in three years; you create a leader.”

Overcoming her own obstacles endowed Wood with an affinity for others. She majored in anthropology and minored in environmental studies, “areas that allowed me to understand people and culture and how the environment affects these,” she explained. She then obtained master’s degrees in public health, divinity and urban ministry and went on a mission to the slums of Brazil, where she worked with impoverished families and abandoned children and youth. So far, she has held positions with the Department of Health and Human Services, World Hope International and other entities devoted to bettering underserved populations.

Today Wood is a program specialist for the Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, where she serves as lead subject-matter expert and operational lead on human trafficking, which she said is a major issue in the United States.

Contrary to public perception, trafficking is not just something that happens to people from other countries. “It can happen to anyone,” she said, but the most vulnerable are youth who have been traumatized or who have lost hope. “We take the approach that community and faith leaders play a role in preventing trafficking and supporting those who have been trafficked,” she said, which they do by providing a haven for those who seek help or recognizing “when someone’s head is hanging low or they’re acting out. Then we create a sense of self-worth and help them cope, because no matter what they may have experienced, if they have a supportive, connected environment, they can succeed. We can be part of turning the tide for vulnerable youth.”

Working to transform the lives of others has been transformative for Wood. “Is life about money, power or prestige, or is it about the lives you could serve, the individuals you can stand alongside and be a voice when they’re not able to speak?” she asked. “For me, the latter is by far the greater accomplishment.”

BY ELA SCHWARTZ

SHARE YOUR NEWS, ALUMNI!
Submit your class note today at ADEPHI.EDU/CLASSNOTES or via Twitter @AUALUMNEWSNOTES

PAULETTE (MOKRZYCKI) JOYCE, M.S.W. ’86, is a clinical social worker at South Oaks Hospital, where she works in the adult psychiatry division. She also has a private clinical practice in Rockville Centre, New York.

JANICE EMANUEL-BUNN, M.A. ’89, educator, author, researcher, community advocate and television and radio host, was profiled in Caribbean Life in February 2014.

DOUG FLYNN, B.B.A. ’89, is contributing to his fifth book on personal finance, due out later this year. With prior credited contributions to several best-selling personal finance books, this latest endeavor will be written specifically for millennials and will address their biggest challenges and greatest opportunities as a new generation of investors and savers. The new book will also detail life lessons from others who have previously come of age in a notoriously tough work environment and succeeded.

GREGORY A. GRECO, B.S. ’89, chairman of the Division of Plastic Surgery and director of the General Surgery Clerkship at Monmouth Medical Center and member of the Monmouth Medical Center Foundation’s board of trustees, was honored at the 19th Annual Power of Pink Luncheon, hosted by the Women’s Council for the benefit of the Leon Hess Cancer Center at Monmouth Medical Center.

JACQUELINE ROSE HOTT, G.C. ’89, former Adelphi professor and dean emerita, helped listeners with their love and relationship questions this past Valentine’s Day as a guest on the Sean Hannity Show. In April 2014, Dr. Hott was recognized by Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano as a Woman of Distinction.

PAUL TUSA, M.B.A. ’89, was appointed to the board of directors of Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services, a non-profit mental health and substance abuse assistance provider.

In what has become an Adelphi tradition, members of the Class of 1964—this year’s group—celebrated their 50th reunion with a luncheon, following their participation in Commencement.

1990s

LLATETRA (FERGUSON) BROWN, B.A. ’90, received her Ed.D. in Community College Leadership from Morgan State University in May 2014.

FRANCINE (HORNBERGER) LASALA, B.A. ’93, co-edited and published A Kind of Mad Courage: Short Stories About Mothers, (S)mothers & Others, featuring stories by 19 women’s fiction authors. All proceeds for the collection will benefit the Guthy-Jackson Foundation, dedicated to funding research into neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder, an incurable autoimmune disorder. For more information, visit: HTTP://AKINDOFMADCOURAGE.BLOGSPOT.COM.

IAN LASHER, B.A. ’93, has been named senior vice president of corporate sponsorships for the New York Jets. He joined the Jets after spending nearly 20 years in sales and marketing with ESPN and the NHL, most recently serving as ESPN's vice president of sports management and digital marketing.

LISA (BROWN) LOESCH, M.A. ’94, and her husband, Jim, have two children, Kelly and James.

MARYLOU YAM, PH.D. ’94, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Saint Peter’s University in Jersey City, New Jersey, was named president of Notre Dame of Maryland in March 2014 and began her new duties on July 1, 2014. She was the first woman to serve as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Business Administration at Saint Peter’s.

MICHELE (WELCH) CRAVEN, B.A. ’95, married her best friend and longtime partner, Steven Craven, in a small ceremony in December 2013. Additionally, she received a B.S.N. from the University of Texas at Arlington, graduating in May 2014. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society for nursing. She also recently became board certified in medical-surgical nursing. She is currently employed at Orange Regional Medical Center, in Middletown, New York, as a registered nurse, as well as at Hudson Valley Home Care, as a visiting nurse. She, her husband, and two children live in West Park, New York.
ANDY GONELL, M.S.W. ‘01, is a bilingual and bicultural (English and Spanish) psychotherapist in private practice. As executive director of Gonell Psychotherapy Services, LCSW-PC, she provides mental health services to children, adults and couples. She specializes in anxiety disorders and provides therapy in English and Spanish.

ERIC SCHLEIFER, M.A. ’01, PH.D. ’05, a child and adolescent psychologist, discussed the effects of video games on children and how to create a plan for managing game usage in a free talk, Video Games: Creating a Family Plan, at the Wilton (Connecticut) Public Library on February 5, 2014.

THOMAS WESTERMAN, B.A. ’03, earned a Ph.D in History from the University of Connecticut in July 2014, after defending his dissertation on humanitarianism during the World War I era. In August 2014, he was to start a new job as a history teacher at Porter-Gaud School in Charleston, South Carolina.

AUTUMN CLACK, B.F.A. ’04, founded a new theatre company, Boiling Point Players, whose inaugural season opening was held on May 22, 2014, in Houston, Texas. Clack has attended London Dramatic Academy, where she studied the works of Shakespeare along with the intricacies of stage combat.

She steadily involves herself in the theatre community and has previously served as house manager and board member for Phoenix Theatre Company. She is also part of an all-female improv group, Ophelia’s Rope.

ABHIJEEET MUZUMDAR, M.B.A. ’04, vice president of global venture capital firm Bessemer Venture Partners, has joined Amazon India as its head of corporate development and private investments. At Amazon, he is looking at acquisitions in India and Southeast Asia.

PAUL SAKS, M.A. ’04, PH.D. ’08, is on the faculty of the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. He also has a private practice in lower Manhattan.

DAVID RABINOWITZ, B.S. ’05, celebrated his one-year anniversary as the webmaster and social media coordinator for the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, New Jersey, in May 2014. He worked for the Madison Square Garden Company from May 2005 to May 2013, moving up from associate web programmer to web programmer (2006) and then webmaster-internal communications (2010). Currently, he lives in Milford, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Raven, whom he met at Adelphi, and their two sons, Benjamin (4) and Isaac (1).

LILLEEN FERRARO, B.S. ’06, M.A. ’07, has been working in the New York City public school system, teaching high school science in a high-needs district. She said she loves her job and students. Her daughter now attends Adelphi and she is so proud of her and all that she has achieved. Ferraro is thankful to Adelphi for giving her the much-needed Pathways to Teaching Scholarship.

BEN KENYON, B.S. ’06, is a sports performance specialist for the Portland Trail Blazers. He joined the Trail Blazers during the 2013–2014 season after leaving George Washington University, where he served as assistant athletic director for strength & conditioning and nutrition.

NICOLE LOCASHTRO-RIVERA, M.A. ’06, recently achieved the status of a National Board Certified Teacher, Exceptional Needs Specialist. She is currently a special education teacher in the Roosevelt Union Free School District, and this year she has also become a chairperson of the district’s special education and preschool special education committee.
“IT IS TRULY INSPIRING THAT ANYONE WITH ENOUGH DETERMINATION COULD PICK UP SOME TOOLS, LEARN A LANGUAGE AND DEVELOP A KILLER APPLICATION.”

– STANISLAV BOGDANOV ’09, M.B.A. ’12, M.A. ’14
Patrick Adams ’83, M.B.A. ’86, the former head of e-commerce/marketing and digital marketing strategy for Victoria’s Secret, spoke at an Adelphi Leadership Certificate Program event in March 2014.

IN MEMORIAM

Helen (Vittoria) Benson, B.A. ’41
Madeline Kloetzer, B.A. ’41
Anne (Milman) Slater, B.A. ’42
Dorothy Mohrman, B.S. ’45
Suzette (Eisenberg) Brenner, B.A. ’47
Corinne (Hirschfeld) Freeman ’47
Frances Jehle, B.S. ’47
Mary (Sipala) Kiely, B.S. ’48
Geraldine (Arizzo) Walsh, B.A. ’48
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Charles Wetterer, B.A. ’49
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Gregory Parisi, B.A. ’60
Richard Ranziinger, B.S. ’60
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Paul Olsen, B.B.A. ’61
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Joyce (Schamann) Arleth, B.S. ’63
Robert Atkinson, B.A. ’66
Douglas Harben, B.A. ’66
Elizabeth Passman, M.A. ’66
Michael Cain, B.A. ’67
Patrick James, B.A. ’67
Joann Morisse, M.A. ’67
William Ryan, Ph.D. ’68
Vera Gleason, B.S. ’69
John Lauro, M.B.A. ’69
Michael Vasiliopoulos, B.S. ’69
James McLaughlin, M.S. ’70
Emanuel Birnbaum, M.S.W. ’71
H. William Groht, M.B.A. ’71
Cynthia Rocchio, A.A. ’71
Blaine Zanat, B.A. ’71
Ann Polivka, M.S. ’73
Lee Weinstein, B.S. ’73
Carol (Brady) Herzog, M.S. ’74
William Kupec, B.S. ’74
Helen Steinberg, B.S. ’74
Michael Butler, B.B.A. ’75
Steven Jakatt, B.S. ’75
Marc Sieben, B.A. ’75
Joyce (Maloney) Barnett, B.S. ’76
Eleanor Buhrig, M.A. ’76
Alan Bluman, B.S. ’77
Joseph Mezzatesta, B.B.A. ’77
Joseph Ceriale, M.S. ’78
Steven Goad, M.B.A. ’78
Mary Waters, M.S.W. ’78
Carmine Allocco, M.B.A. ’79
Mohammad Basri, M.S. ’79
Robert Bethea, B.S. ’79
Marcella (Sauer) Casey, B.S. ’79, M.S.W. ’80
J. Duncan Badenius, M.S. ’80
Minnie Harris, B.A. ’80, M.A. ’87
Joan Hudson, M.S.W. ’81
Lois Jones, M.S. ’81
Ann McGuire, B.A. ’81
Jagdishwar Mohunlall, B.B.A. ’82
Betty (Morvan) Jacques, B.A. ’83
James Hallam, A.A. ’84
Joan Tummarello, M.S.W. ’84
Waverly Howard, M.S.W. ’85
Elizabeth Savino, B.S. ’85
Warren Smith, B.S. ’85
Elaine Hohmann, M.S.W. ’87
Fulvia Christie, B.S. ’90, M.A. ’93
Erica Robbins, M.S.W. ’90
Robert Dove, B.S.Ed. ’95
Gregory Russo, B.A. ’96
Barbara Kubota, M.A. ’97
Anne (Asdahl) Beaudreau, B.A. ’98
Melissa Mulhall, B.S. ’02

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Beth Tenser ’91
Ray Webb ’07
Joan Kuster ’51, Emerita
RYAN WERNER, B.A. ’06, is a production coordinator at the public relations firm Edelman. He is responsible for making sure all of Edelman’s video productions go according to plan and are of the highest quality possible. Obtaining a position like this has been a lifelong dream for Werner, and he thanks Adelphi and the great professors he had, such as Terrence Ross, for that. He hopes one day to return to Adelphi to share his experiences and industry knowledge with young filmmakers.

DONNA GONZALEZ-ZEE, B.S. ’07, M.A. ’08, is a secondary mathematics teacher in Uniondale, New York.

KELLY HARRIS, M.S.W. ’08, has joined Crystal Run Healthcare as a social worker in the practice’s psychiatry division. Her clinical interests include treating children, adolescents, families and young adults with anxiety, depression, mood disorders, behavioral issues, developmental disorders and self-esteem issues, as well as family and play therapy.

VINCENT TREGLIA, B.B.A. ’09, co-authored the article, World Cup: From Matches to Taxes, published on EISNERAMPER.COM.

## 2010s

**STEPHANIE COIRO, B.S.W. ’10, M.S.W. ’11** was mentioned in a Newsday article after auditioning and making it to the next round of American Idol at the Nassau Coliseum tryouts held on July 23, 2014.

**DIANA DAMILATIS, B.B.A. ’10, M.A. ’12** the assistant director of the Bridges to Adelphi Program, brings to her position a wealth of experience in administration and working with college students with autism spectrum disorder and other nonverbal learning disabilities.

**RADHA HETTIARACHCHI, B.A. ’10** is currently working as a clinical social worker, providing individual and family therapy to students at a Staten Island middle school. She became a licensed master of social work (L.M.S.W.) in September 2013 and is hoping to become a licensed clinical social worker (L.C.S.W.) in two more years.

**MARGOT FRIEDMAN, M.S. ’11** recently launched a business in accent modification called Accent Reduction Communication, which aims to bring the world a little closer through good old-fashioned conversation. She believes that successful professional and personal relationships demand the ability to convey a clear message through conversational exchange, and that her education and past experiences helped her realize the importance of effective communication that begins during early childhood.

**IAN LEAVITT, B.S. ’11** graduated from Northeastern University in May 2014 with an M.S. in Exercise Science. Now, as a research assistant in the division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus, he is looking at the interactions between exercise and type 2 diabetes.

**HANNAH DOTY, B.F.A. ’12** founded Very Important Patients Hospital Productions, whose mission is to create customized entertainment experiences and activities with and for hospitalized children in order to provide fun and laughter as well as foster positive relationships with their medical team. She recently wrote and published an activity book for hospitalized children, which she said wouldn’t exist without Adelphi. Learn more at VIPHOSPITALPRODUCTIONS.ORG.

**MAY YEUNG, B.A. ’12** is a New York-based curator and the associate director of Margaret Thatcher Projects in New York. Her article, On Seeing Music in Art, was published by galleryIntell, an online art information and advisory platform designed for art enthusiasts.

**REGINA BOWE, B.A. ’13** was hired in a full-time position as the annual giving officer in the advancement department at her alma mater, Lancaster Catholic High School.

**BRADLEY FLILLER, B.B.A. ’13** recently celebrated his one-year anniversary working for Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity International Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has changed titles from regional leadership coordinator to expansion and recruitment coordinator.

**JUSTIN MAGALDI, B.A. ’13** recently competed with the country’s best air guitarists at the 2014 U.S. Air Guitar Championship held in Kansas City, Missouri.

**KIM BRODSKY, M.S.W. ’14** passed the L.M.S.W. exam on May 9, 2014.

In April, alumni enjoyed a tour of the scenic campus of the United States Military Academy at West Point, hosted by retired West Point Professor Susan Tendy ’70, Ed.D.
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John Lauro, M.B.A. ’69
Michael Vasilopulos, B.S. ’69
James McLaughlin, M.S. ’70
Emanuel Birnbaum, M.S.W. ’71
H. William Groht, M.B.A. ’71
Cynthia Rocchio, A.A. ’71
Blaine Zanat, B.A. ’71
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Joyce (Maloney) Barnett, B.S. ’76
Eleanor Buhrig, M.A. ’76
Alan Bluman, B.S. ’77
Joseph Mezzatesta, B.B.A. ’77
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Joan Hudson, M.S.W. ’81
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James Hallam, A.A. ’84
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Waverly Howard, M.S.W. ’85
Elizabeth Savino, B.S. ’85
Warren Smith, B.S. ’85
Elaine Hohmann, M.S.W. ’87
Fulvia Christie, B.S. ’90, M.A. ’93
Erica Robbins, M.S.W. ’90
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Patrick Adams ’83, M.B.A. ’86, the former head of e-commerce/marketing and digital marketing strategy for Victoria’s Secret, spoke at an Adelphi Leadership Certificate Program event in March 2014.
Cadets Lived Here, Once Upon a Time

Today, Alumnae and Harvey halls are the bustling academic homes of the College of Nursing and Public Health and the Ruth S. Ammon School of Education. Just over 60 years ago, though, they were built for a very different purpose: as dormitories for the women enrolled in the Central Collegiate School of Nursing—a unit of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps and the predecessor to Adelphi’s College of Nursing and Public Health.

With World War II raging, the country faced a dearth of nurses to treat wounded soldiers at home and abroad. Hence, through the Bolton Act, Congress funded training for nurses who joined the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps at schools such as Adelphi. In February of 1943, Adelphi opened its nursing school with an enrollment of just under 30 women. By October of that year, 187 women were enrolled.

The need for proper housing was immediately apparent. First-year nursing cadets—as they were known—either commuted to campus or lived in the Adelphi gym—the building that is now Woodruff Hall. Former dean Ruth S. Harley ’24, ’30 (Hon.) recalled in 1979 interview that the 34 first-year cadets living in the gym referred to their quarters variously as Hopper-Haven, Bed-Side Manor and Grand Central.

Following the Depression, Adelphi was in debt, and paying for new student housing required creative financing. In her book, A History of Adelphi University (Boston: Pearson, 2014), Adelphi Professor of English Jennifer Fleischner, Ph.D., explains the scheme: Adelphi sold a plot of its mortgaged land to the Alumnae Association who then deeded it to the federal government for construction. Through the Lanham Act, administered by the Federal Works Administration, Adelphi secured two successive grants of $170,000 and $155,000 to build two residence halls to house 200 women. McKim, Mead & White—the renowned architectural firm that had designed Adelphi’s first three Garden City buildings (today’s Levermore, Blodgett and Woodruff halls)—designed the L-shaped dormitories with 50 rooms apiece as well as some administrative offices, recreation rooms and service rooms. East Hall, which was later renamed Alumnae Hall in honor of the Alumni Association, was completed first. West Hall, later dubbed Harvey Hall in honor of Anna E. Harvey, dean of Adelphi from 1922 to 1936, followed soon after.

On May 6, 1944, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt joined College leaders and other dignitaries, including the U.S. Surgeon General, to dedicate the buildings. She said prophetically, “I am very glad that in a time of war we can dedicate a building which, while it is dedicated to war service now, will continue to be of service to this college and this community after the war is over.”

Dr. Betty L. Forest ’47, ’10 (Hon.), who was among the 4,000 audience members that day, recalled that “We wore our cadet nurse uniforms, and we learned to march!” She and her friends, who had been living in the gym, were “just tickled” to have the new quarters. Once the dorms were open, groups of young women could be seen carrying entire dresser drawers full of clothing across campus to their new rooms.

In a 2004 interview for A History of the Adelphi University School of Nursing—by Ellen (Krawiecki) Florentine ’86, M.S. ’04—Ann (Callahan) Dick ’47 recalled, “I missed Eleanor Roosevelt’s visit, but I heard so much about it, that I felt like I was there.” Dick moved into the dorms in September 1944 and said, “A week later, on the twelfth, we had a hurricane and the new roof leaked like a sieve.”

Dick vividly remembered the housemother, Mrs. Davis, a survivor of the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, who strictly enforced the evening curfew. “She was a tough old, chain-smoking nurse, but we loved her anyway.”

The 1946 Oracle yearbook is the last one in which students are listed as living in either Alumnae or Harvey Hall. The 1948 Oracle reported that Adelphi’s Institute of Health, Education and Welfare had been established in Alumnae Hall. (As its name implies, the institute offered graduate programs in a range of health-related areas, including nursing, social work and psychology.)

In 2015, with the opening of the Nexus Building and Welcome Center—the new home of the College of Nursing and Public Health—Alumnae Hall will take on a new life as a faculty office building.

BY LARA HNIZDO ’14 AND BONNIE EISSNER
“We wore our cadet nurse uniforms, and we learned to march!”

— Dr. Betty L. Forest ’47, ’10 (Hon.)

1. Adelphi nursing cadets marching at the dedication of their new dormitories—today’s Alumnae and Harvey halls

2. Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at the dedication of East Hall and West Hall (today’s Alumnae and Harvey halls).

3. Alumnae Hall (previously East Hall) under construction.
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