FEATURE STORY

Stand By Me
Four Latina Alumnae on the Friendship that has Sustained Them Through Ambitious Careers, Parenthood, Love and Loss

Touchdown!
Chevy Ad by Adelphi Alumni Hits the Super Bowl

Remembering
when NFL Legend Al Davis Coached at Adelphi

INTRODUCING THE

Robert B. Willumstad

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
The collective generosity of campaign supporters has transformed the campus, made college more affordable for our students with newly endowed scholarships and enhanced faculty excellence through endowed support of teaching and scholarship.

With this historic gift, Adelphi has surpassed its $56 million campaign goal. Together, 16,000 alumni, friends, parents, faculty members, administrators and students have participated in the campaign for Adelphi University.

We welcome your thoughts and comments. Please address letters to: Bonnie Eissner, editor-in-chief, Adelphi University Magazine, Two Times a Year, One South Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530, or email EISSNER@ADELPHI.EDU. Letters may be edited for publication.

Adelphi University thanks Board of Trustees Chairman Robert B. Willumstad ’05 (Hon.) for his generous and transformational gift to the campaign for Adelphi University.

Adelphi University Board of Trustees Chairman Robert B. Willumstad ’05 (Hon.) in the new Trading Room of the Robert B. Willumstad School of Business.

The Robert B. Willumstad School of Business was officially dedicated on February 27, 2012.

At the dedication, Adelphi University thanks Board of Trustees Chairman Robert B. Willumstad ’05 (Hon.) for his generous and transformational gift to the campaign for Adelphi University. Alumni, friends, parents, faculty members, administrators and students have participated in the campaign for Adelphi University.

Adelphi University has surpassed its $56 million campaign goal. Together, 16,000 alumni, friends, parents, faculty members, administrators and students have participated in the University’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, raising more than $58 million to date. The collective generosity of campaign supporters has transformed the campus, made college more affordable for our students with newly endowed scholarships and enhanced faculty excellence through endowed support of teaching and scholarship.

The campaign officially concludes on August 31, 2012. It’s not too late to be part of institutional history. Make your gift today at GIVING.ADELPHI.EDU.
It is the collective funds contributed by many and the sheer number of donors that make an impact.

WHY ALUMNI SUPPORT MATTERS

Adelphi has a proud history of opening doors of opportunity for its students. Alumni are a major help. Many among you recruit talented students, encourage them to attend, host accepted students and their parents and speak on campus. Adelphi alumni serve on advisory boards, including the Board of Trustees, assist in events such as the annual Golf Classic and President’s Gala for student scholarships, attend cultural events and keep up to date by checking the website and reading this magazine. Thousands of you invest not only your time and talent, but also your treasure as donors and patrons.

In this issue’s feature story, you will meet several alumni who benefited from scholarship support and their parents and speak on campus. Adelphi alumni who give annually is an important measure of institutional vitality.

People often assume that when we talk about alumni involvement, we are talking only about money. Time and talents are also important. Our students and young alumni benefit from the opportunities created by all alumni, whether it is through speaking on campus or welcoming students to an office, serving on an academic advisory board or a committee planning an event, loaning art for an exhibit or adding to the University Archives.

On behalf of the students and faculty of Adelphi, I thank you for your interest, involvement and investments in all forms.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Scott
President

Donor support at every level is what enables us to ensure that Adelphi remains a place of opportunity. It is the collective funds contributed by many and the sheer number of donors that make an impact. Gifts to the Adelphi Annual Fund—the foundation of all philanthropic activity at the University—help make the student experience as good as it is.

Giving, or investing, comes in many forms, and gifts made at all levels are crucial, whether they are Charles H. Leavensore Society gifts, planned gifts or that first-ever modest yet personally meaningful gift. While big gifts are transformational, the percentage of alumni who give annually is an important measure of institutional vitality.

It is the collective funds contributed by many and the sheer number of donors that make an impact.
In an age when the wired telephone was the height of communications technology, long before Facebook coined the word friend as a verb, people still formed social networks. Only, they didn’t use that now ubiquitous term. Rather, they would simply say friends, or fraternity brothers, or sorority sisters, or teammates, etc. It is easy to be lulled into the fantasy that our new social media tools have made us more social. Rather, they’re just a new way for us to express our innate need to connect with others.

In this issue of Adelphi University Magazine, we bring you a variety of stories about Adelphi alumni who have thrived through their ability to connect. When he wanted to make an impact on the Occupy Wall Street movement, Hari Simran Khalsa ’11 reached out via Facebook and texting. His first posts and messages brought Mr. Khalsa into an impassioned Occupy Yoga movement.

Mr. Khalsa’s story illustrates the power of new social media tools to unite individuals and ignite shared passions and interests. Another story—that of seven African American women who graduated from Adelphi in the early 1970s and have remained tight—shows that traditional means of making and keeping friends can be equally powerful. The alumnae fondly recall gab sessions in the dining hall, and since leaving Adelphi, they have reunited regularly, despite their disparate locations and busy lives.

As the title, “Stand By Me,” implies, our feature story is about friendship and its role in the lives of four alumnae—all Latinas from the Bronx—who bonded when they were at Adelphi in the late 1970s and have remained close since. They have individually excelled at careers in law, business and higher education, but, at Adelphi, they were simply ambitious young women with big dreams who found comfort and support in each other.

College is for learning and growing. It’s also one of the best places to make friends and find the people who will sustain you and allow you to make your mark in the world. The stories in this issue are but a few of thousands. Let us know yours. You can, of course, reach us via Facebook and Twitter as well as email and mail.

Happy reading.

Bonnie Eissner
Editor-in-Chief

NO MONKEY BUSINESS: PRIMATOLOGIST
Jane Goodall
Draws more than Fifteen Hundred to her Adelphi Lecture

Angela John, Pierce Brosnan and Dave Matthews are among her friends, and Jane Goodall, the 78-year-old primatologist, or “chimp lady” as she calls herself, has become a celebrity herself. In April, she drew an audience of more than 1,500 to Adelphi’s Center for Recreation and Sports for her lecture, “Making a Difference.” Dr. Goodall described her lifelong love of animals and her breakthrough experiences studying chimpanzees in Africa’s Gombe National Forest. “The most exciting aspect is how much like us they are,” she said of the chimps she has spent more than 50 years observing and rescuing from poaching and habitat loss. “I am ashamed of what our species has done to our planet,” she told the crowd. Dr. Goodall drew applause when she said, “Of course we need money to live, but what’s gone wrong is that we’re living for money… It makes me think that we’ve lost wisdom.” Still, Dr. Goodall said the “indomitable human spirit” and the “resilience of nature” gave her hope for the future. And, she said, “My greatest reason for hope is the critical mass of young people who understand the value of money and the value of living.”

By Bonnie Eissner

Catch the highlights of Dr. Goodall’s talk in a short video on YouTube at BIT.LY/JSuJno.
In February, Mr. Willumstad gave $9.5 million to support the Adelphi University School of Business.

Robert B. Willumstad ’05 (Hon.) GIVES GENTEROUSLY TO ADELPHI

The School of Business is named in his honor.

Robert B. Willumstad ’05 (Hon.) has been at the forefront of some of the most dramatic changes in the financial services industry. As president and chief operating officer of Citigroup Inc., then CEO of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), he witnessed up close the rise and fall of some of the world’s biggest financial firms. Now a senior advisor at Brysam Global Partners, a private equity firm he co-founded in 2007, he regularly travels to Mexico, Egypt and other countries to help build banking systems in emerging economies. But the longtime Long Island resident has never forgotten where he started.

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A New Home in the Hudson Valley

Nearly 38 years after initiating its social work programs in the Hudson Valley region in 1974, Adelphi has opened a new Hudson Valley Center at the St. Francis Medical Arts Pavilion in Poughkeepsie, New York. Almost double the size of Adelphi’s former stand-alone center, which also was in Poughkeepsie, the new center can accommodate more students and features greater amenities. Adelphi will offer a B.S. in Nursing, an M.S. in Nursing Administration and an M.S. in Nursing Education, in addition to its Master of Social Work degree, at the center.

Adelphi has invested in creating a new full-service library and classrooms equipped with interactive white boards, or SMART Boards, and the new center can accommodate up to 280 students—a jump from 150 at the previous location.

“The new center gives Adelphi the opportunity to expand our services, programming and outreach to the community,” Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Gayle D. Insler, Ph.D., says. “We’re proud to enhance learning opportunities in our longstanding social work program and to add new programs, beginning with the R.N. to B.S. in Nursing, that support our commitment to training a highly prepared workforce.”

By Michelle Consorte ’12

In an interview recorded at Adelphi in 2009, Adelphi Professor Nicholas Petron, M.A. ’70, performing arts department chair, told a compelling story about the loss of his grandfather’s apartment building and the subsequent breakup of his family. The StoryCorps interview has been broadcast nationally on National Public Radio’s Morning Edition, and the PBS show, “POV,” is creating a short animation of the story to air this summer.

Sponsored by the Jerry March Memorial Lecture and the Joseph J. Napolitano Memorial lecture

PBS to Air Interview with Professor Nicholas Petron, M.A. ’70

“In Their Own Words
Excerpts from Adelphi Lecture Series
“We need to see ourselves as being a part of nature, not above nature. We must look to the needs of more than just our species, thereby creating a revolution in living restoratively and sustainably, a revolution that will reverse what we do that lays waste to the world, a revolution that may just save our species from ourselves. This new revolution is already underway—in industry, architecture, health, transportation, education, agriculture and new forms of energy.”

Roger Payne
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF OCEAN ALLIANCE

“SeaChange: Reversing the Tide,” November 9, 2011

In Their Own Words
Excerpts from Adelphi Lecture Series

“The Happy Grad” ad created by Zachary Borst ’07 in collaboration with cinematographer Michael Ilkiw ’07 was chosen by Chevrolet for airing during the 2012 Super Bowl.

Mr. Borst and Mr. Ilkiw were among a number of Adelphi alumni involved in making Super Bowl ads. Read about Peter Friedman ’72, who produced the Super Bowl spot for Samsung, on page 50.

Chevy Ad by Adelphi Alumni Hits the Super Bowl

Zachary Borst ’07 has wanted to be a filmmaker for as long as he can remember.

Originally intent on going to New York University, Mr. Borst chose Adelphi instead, studying in the Honors College and majoring in communications. He says it was the right decision.

“All the professors were incredible,” Mr. Borst says. “Everyone was so supportive, like a little family. At other schools, everything can become cutthroat, but at Adelphi, it was more like: What can we collaborate on? How can we work on each other’s projects?”

Years later, Mr. Borst still collaborates with a handful of classmates, including Michael Ilkiw ’07, whom he describes as “all-around phenomenal.”

Their most recent project? A television commercial that aired during the first quarter of Super Bowl XLVI. Yes, the Super Bowl.

Mr. Borst’s ad was chosen out of 200 submissions to Chevrolet’s Route 66 Super Bowl Ad Competition. He won $25,000, but the real prize was airing his work for 111 million viewers.

Entitled “Happy Grad,” Mr. Borst’s commercial shows a high school graduate, still in cap and gown, being presented a new mini-fridge by his parents. The grad, however, sees only a yellow Chevrolet parked just behind it. Thinking the car is his, the grad celebrates with fellow graduates and a passing jogger chanting, “Best gift ever!”

When his neighbor, the car’s real owner, drives away, the confused grad blurts out, “Hey! Mr. Johnson just stole my car!”

Mr. Borst’s inspiration for the “Happy Grad” commercial is close to home. Mr. Borst lost his mother in 1999. His father, a New York City police officer, managed to give his three children their own used cars when they graduated from high school. The gift meant a great deal to Mr. Borst, but, he says, “Looking at the Chevy line-up, I realized I would never have gotten a Camaro. That’s where the joke started, and it evolved from that.” He adds, “I also wanted it to be tongue in cheek about the high energy of our generation and how our expectations are really high before reality sets in.”

Mr. Borst, who founded his own production company, Goat Farm Films, describes himself as a “one-man show” explaining that he is in charge of his films from conception to delivery. His career goal is to create feature films.

Joan Stein, an award-winning filmmaker and an assistant professor of communications at Adelphi, says Mr. Borst’s ambition was evident when she taught him. “Zach came in very focused with a real goal as to what he wanted to do,” she says. “We gave him guidance: how you tell a story and make it more compelling for the audience. He was always pushing himself and set the bar high for his peers. I respected that about him. He was hardworking and committed, but humble and respectful.”

The ad’s cinematographer, Mr. Ilkiw, whom Ms. Stein describes as a “prolific editor,” is also passionate about filmmaking. “The best part about film is that you can take what you know from writing, music, art and then put it all together,” he says. “You have a palate of ways of expressing your ideas.”

What’s really nice is that they started working together as undergrads and are still pushing and inspiring each other and having fun,” Ms. Stein adds. “They’re both idea generators.”

By Michelle Consorte ’12

If you missed the ad on Super Bowl Sunday, you can catch it at YOUTUBE.COM/CHEVROLET.
Hari Simran Khalsa ’11 began his activist career the way many do these days: he sent out a Facebook message.

A certified Kundalini yoga instructor for the past five years, Mr. Khalsa visited the Occupy Wall Street encampment in early October 2011. After his first day of meditating at Zuccotti Park, an action that led to him being photographed for Time magazine’s October 24, 2011 cover story, he decided he could further contribute to the movement by offering yoga and meditation classes at the park. He sent out the word on Facebook and via text message, and on October 11, 15 or so friends gathered for the first class. Within minutes, they were joined by another 70 people—some protestors, others just passersby.

After that, the yoga and meditation classes became an almost nightly event in Zuccotti Park, with anywhere between 20 and 50 students at each gathering, according to Mr. Khalsa. “It was kind of infectious,” Mr. Khalsa says. “We’d be sitting and chanting something and people would stand, and you’d see them put their hands into the mudra, and then they’d start chanting, too.” While Mr. Khalsa and other instructors from around the city—including Mr. Khalsa’s father, Sat Jagat Singh Khalsa—taught most of the classes, yoga teachers came from as far away as New Mexico and California to lead sessions.

“My main experience was that I was drawn to the encampment just to serve. I felt like a lot of people were,” Mr. Khalsa says. In fact, he says he encountered a surprisingly yogic outlook among many of the protestors. “There was this really powerful attitude. If you focus on your goals and set intentions to serve, you will be provided for. It was the perfect environment to teach.”

Even after the police cleared the park in November, Mr. Khalsa’s contribution to the Occupy Wall Street Movement continued, albeit in a new form. He and other like-minded protestors formed a wellness working group and have taken an active role leading marches, as well as moments of silence, reflection and focused breathing during Occupy Wall Street general assembly meetings. For future yoga and meditation classes, Mr. Khalsa and the other members of the wellness working group are looking into indoor spaces at yoga centers around Wall Street.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khalsa continues teaching yoga at Jai Yoga Arts in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and works alongside his parents at Kundalini Yoga, their studio in Park Slope, Brooklyn, as well as part-time in his father’s home renovation business. For the future, he is considering graduate school in his field of study, environmental studies.

By Charity Shumway
DID YOU KNOW

Toe to Toe
Adelphi’s Sixth Outdoor Sculpture Biennial (running 2010–2012) integrates an array of pieces by 10 local artists into Adelphi’s bucolic Garden City campus. One of the most talked-about works is Maggy Buck’s sculpture, 12 Toe, which depicts a dozen detached, cement toes, each one about two feet long, arrayed in a circle—morphing the familiar into the unexpected.

Popular New Repast at Post
Post Hall has become a campus dining hot spot. The renovated cafeteria offers an all-you-care-to-eat dining experience with an array of menu options—from pizza and pasta to salad and made-to-order grill items. Fall 2011 cafeteria traffic nearly doubled over the prior spring semester: 72,435 meals were purchased in the fall versus 37,025 in the spring.

Shine On
One hundred eighty-seven solar panels now adorn Swirbul Library’s roof. The silicon panels, part of the Adelphi Goes Green initiative, have generated more than 74,000 kilowatt hours and offset more than 93,000 pounds of carbon dioxide since their installation in November 2010. For a live update on the panels’ output, visit http://bit.ly/WTIFpX.

Adelphi’s Glee Debut
On the hit television show, Glee, members of a high school glee club convey their trials and triumphs through song and dance. Adelphi got a prominent mention in the February 7, 2012 episode when two characters discussed the University as a likely college choice because of its strong performing arts program.

Adelphi Lauded for “Success” Train
In April 2011, Adelphi acted on its “Change is Good” slogan when it converted one of the New York City Subway Shuttle or ‘S’ trains into the Success train. Art from the University’s Success advertising campaign transformed the typically gritty exterior and interior of each car. The bold move sparked the attention of commuters, especially alumni, and garnered a Silver Accolade Award from District II of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Maggie Lally ’82
Adelphi has grown and changed quite a bit since I was an eager undergraduate theatre major. No longer do we perform shows in the stairwell of Olmsted Theatre or in a classroom above Post Hall cafeteria.

We have the beautiful, state-of-the-art Adelphi University Performing Arts Center. Yet, in my 25 years of association with the Adelphi Department of Theatre, some things have remained constant, such as the dedication to helping students discover and hone their unique voices.

As a professor, I encourage my students to find their artistic voices or their callings by breaking out of their comfort zones. Initially, students want to be actors or technicians because they know these roles from prior experience, and familiar pursuits are comfortable ones. The exploration of things that are unknown, whether they are courses, exercises, study abroad, community outreach or the investment in a difficult moment is where we grow as artists and individuals. After such new experiences, students make more informed choices. A student who intended to be an actor may choose to be a director, designer, playwright, stage manager, producer or teacher, among other wonderful pursuits.

‘Get comfortable with the uncomfortable’ is my challenge to students because theatre, like life, is full of uncomfortable moments—moments that need to be experienced and embraced for an actor to have any effect. I urge my students to explore what makes them uncomfortable. Sometimes it is eye contact, or a connection to their body or their instinct. Often, what makes young actors uncomfortable is vulnerability. They feel naked with their clothes on. These moments have had a stirring impact in the classroom. One actor’s vulnerability revealed becomes a moment of grace seen by others. Actors soon understand that vulnerability is a priceless commodity. Comfort is overrated. Curiosity is essential.

When my students wonder if they will ever be successful, or they question the relevance of a life in the arts, I remind them of Bertolt Brecht’s charge to artists: “Seek nothing less than to change the world.” Many of them take up this challenge. They explore and uncover their passions and follow them in a way that connects them to a larger community.

Many of my students are actively involved in efforts related to social awareness and issues of peace and justice. Theatre students have created and performed original theatre pieces to honor female Nobel Prize winners and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. They have created guerilla theatre pieces encouraging students to vote. Students have developed original pieces about women being sold into slavery around the world (and in this country), urgent global labor issues, LGBT issues, eating disorders, identity issues and current politics. Even after graduation, some students continue to create art around these themes in professional theatrical venues, in classrooms, on street corners and in refugee camps around the world. These artists are making a difference by sharing their passion.

They are my heroes.
A Poet in Motion

When Adelphi freshman Justin Long-Moton performs, it is hard to imagine him as anything other than a slam poet. His voice and gestures bring an irresistible dynamism to his words, and his poetry and personal charisma seem like two halves of a whole.

In fact, his prowess as a slam poet has already taken him far. In 2010, Mr. Long-Moton won both the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam and the 2010 New York Knicks Poetry Slam. A Bronx, New York, native, Mr. Long-Moton was also named the 2010–2011 New York City Youth Poet Laureate and was awarded the 2011 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Gold Key award.

But this past fall, with the release of his first book of poems, Manual (Penmanship Publishing Group, 2011), Mr. Long-Moton has taken on a new challenge: written poetry.

“There’s a big difference between stage poetry and page poetry,” Mr. Long-Moton says. “On the stage, they’re just hearing you, and it doesn’t matter in terms of line breaks or structure. When there is no voice, just the words on the page, it’s a whole different piece. You have to chisel at it. It’s made me a stronger writer.”

In connection with the publication of Manual, Mr. Long-Moton has read selected poems at The Cooper Union, New York University, the TED Youth Conference and Adelphi, among other venues.

While Mr. Long-Moton continues to perform his work, the publication process has changed his outlook. “I have a lot of series poems,” he says. “I have poems that coincide with each other. I didn’t realize it until I started getting feedback on the book, but it’s creative storytelling.”

With that in mind, Mr. Long-Moton plans to try his hand at other genres. He says, “I want to try to get into playwriting and screenwriting and see how that goes. If I’m already working on creative storytelling, why not dabble in that?”

He signed up for the Introduction to Creative Writing course in his spring semester so that he could expand his repertoire.

“I think I could create some good stories,” says Mr. Long-Moton, with a mix of excitement and humility. “It’s worth a try.”

By Charity Shumway

In the beginning

there was me. Face chiseled marble and an earthen screech that peeled paint from walls. My arrival mysterious as the Big Bang was sudden. An unexpected surge of gust, cracking windows into runways of light and we flew in. Skies cargo, a nine month delivery made right on schedule. Touched down on the most miserable day of the week—Monday, hates its reflection. It is the 1st work day, rush hour traffic, a migraine lingering from Friday night’s cocktails and shimmy. A stoic July rendered me intrusive. Held in the burrows of my mother’s arms, I imagine her gazing down in reverie, eyes wide in awe that this life had blossomed inside her, believing her body was unworthy of such miracles. This is all speculation, the mind’s theory on origin. Another un-photographed genesis—no one wanted memories. When envisioning my first breath I see: pale infant citizen to two realms, this one and the ghostly, he is crying with a wrench clutched in his fist.

From Justin Long-Moton’s Manual (Penmanship Publishing Group, 2011)

In Their Own Words

“Having financial success alone is not enough. How you achieve that success is just as important. It has to be done with honor. It has to be done through fair and just treatment of our people, and it has to be done with consideration to all of the social responsibilities as a company.”

Kenneth Chenault
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

“Corporate Social Responsibility,” October 24, 2011

Sponsored by the Hagedorn Lecture Series on Corporate Social Responsibility
Students choose colleges based on academic programs, the look of the campus or even the success of their sports teams. But a factor that can truly have a lasting impact on an individual’s life is the other students they meet while they are there.

That certainly was the case for a small group of Latina women who met at Adelphi University in the mid-1970s.

With so much in common, it’s no wonder that they gravitated toward each other in Garden City. “Most of us were the first in our families to go to college, so we had nobody at home to check in with as far as the experiences we were having at the time,” Ms. Melendez says. “The only ones we had were each other. Because we were able to identify with each other so easily, we didn’t feel alienated on campus, and that made it easier for us to make the transition.”

What’s remarkable is, nearly 40 years later, they’re still close with one another and with fellow Latina friends from Adelphi, such as Miriam Gonzalez ’76 and Rose Guille ’78. Adelphi University Magazine talked to the women about how their friendship has endured even as they’ve pursued ambitious careers, had children, moved to different cities and experienced life’s ups and downs.
As U.S. attorney for Massachusetts, Carmen Milagros Ortiz has helped send corrupt state lawmakers to jail and increased prosecutions of white-collar crime. Currently, Ms. Ortiz, the first female and the first Hispanic U.S. attorney in Massachusetts, is overseeing the criminal case against former Boston mob boss James “Whitey” Bulger, who was captured last June after 16 years on the run.

Ms. Ortiz says she loves the variety of her job, for which President Barack Obama nominated her in 2009. “No two days are alike,” she says. “One day I may come in and be engaged in some high-profile significant case strategy where I need to make certain decisions. Do we immunize these witnesses? Do we agree to a certain kind of plea negotiation? What direction should an investigation take? Other days, I meet with lawyers on priorities. Or I give a talk about what the U.S. Attorney’s Office does, or healthcare fraud, or national security.”

It’s the kind of work she dreamed of doing as early as high school, when Perry Mason movies made her think it would be rewarding to have a legal career where she helped people who’d gone through terrible things. “As an attorney, you can help people solve problems, make sure defendants’ rights are protected, pursue justice,” she says. “It was a way of giving back.” Attending Adelphi on a partial scholarship put her on the path to achieving her ambition of becoming a lawyer, says Ms. Ortiz, who spent her early years in public housing in the Bronx before her parents moved the family to Long Island. “Adelphi provided me with social and academic opportunities that I took advantage of,” she says. “That opened the door to law school and enabled me to be successful in law school.”

Among the opportunities: Living in Earle Hall, where Ms. Ortiz served as a resident assistant (R.A.) in her junior and senior years on campus; a work-study job in admissions; activities like La Union Latina, Adelphi’s Latino student organization, and volunteering on an advice hotline for students. In many of these activities, Ms. Ortiz was joined by Ms. Alicka-Velez, Ms. Perdomo-Ayala and Ms. Melendez, which was how the initial bonds formed among the friends. “We all felt we had come from very humble beginnings and we saw college as our key to success,” Ms. Ortiz says. “It was going to be the path to have a better life than our parents had.”

After earning a J.D. at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., Ms. Ortiz worked for the U.S. Justice Department, then moved to Boston to be an assistant district attorney in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, where she oversaw the District Court and prosecuted homicides, sexual assaults and robberies. She later was a senior trial attorney at a private law firm and then an assistant U.S. attorney in the Economic Crimes Unit of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Massachusetts.

Over the years, her Adelphi friends have shared in the high and low points of her life, attending events honoring her and going on vacations together, but also supporting her when her first husband, Michael V. Morisi, was ill and then died of pancreatic cancer at age 42 in 2000.

As someone who’s broken barriers, Ms. Ortiz is often called on to give talks to students about how to achieve big goals. One piece of advice she always shares: Surround yourself with individuals who are going to motivate and encourage you, not naysayers who will drag you down. “Even when I was at Adelphi, I’d say, ‘I’m going to go to law school,’ and there were some kids who would say, ‘Why are you doing that? Aren’t you tired of school? Isn’t four years of college enough?’ ‘It’s expensive.’ ‘Aren’t you going to get married?’” she recalls. Friends like Ms. Alicka-Velez and Ms. Perdomo-Ayala, she notes, were the people who said, “Wow, that’s great!” All these years later, she says, she can still count on them for encouragement.

Ms. Ortiz is about to join Adelphi’s Class of 2012 as an honorary member. She will be the commencement speaker and receive an honorary doctorate.
Liz Alicea-Velez ’78

THEN Psychology major from the Bronx
NOW Florida-based businesswoman

In key management positions at Univision and Western Union, Liz Alicea-Velez built departments and grew new businesses, achievements which earned her a place on Hispanic Business magazine’s Top 50 Hispanic Women in Business list in 2001 and its 100 Most Influential U.S. Hispanics list in 2007.

But in 1974, she was just a high school student from the South Bronx who chose to study at Adelphi because the school offered her a full scholarship and the chance to live away from home, and Adelphi’s leafy campus in Garden City was different from what she knew. At Adelphi, Ms. Alicea-Velez majored in psychology, served as an R.A. in Eddy Hall, gave campus tours, helped with new student orientation, heard the political activist Angela Davis speak and joined other members of La Union Latina in protesting changes to scholarship funding. “We were active because we just liked to do things,” she says. “The on-campus student body was pretty small back then, so we had to create our own activities.”

Ms. Alicea-Velez worked a lot of different jobs to make ends meet. Money was tight when she graduated, so she put aside her dream of becoming a psychologist to go to work in Manhattan right away—first as an assistant buyer at Abraham & Straus, then in sales positions at Avon and AT&T. In 1985, she moved to Boston with her husband so he could attend Harvard University’s M.B.A. program. She decided to apply to the program, too, and was accepted a year later. After Harvard, Ms. Alicea-Velez joined Univision, then a new Spanish-language television network, where she helped start the marketing department. As she climbed the corporate ladder and had children, she and Ms. Ortiz would plan joint vacations for their families, which had grown close when they overlapped in Boston. “We’d invite one of our nannies to come with us, or both of them, to take care of the children, so we actually had a vacation,” Ms. Alicea-Velez remembers. She regularly chatted over the phone with Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Perdomo-Ayala, who also had children, about balancing career and motherhood. “We talked about the tradeoffs and finding what’s going to work for you,” she says.

One choice Ms. Alicea-Velez made was to take a year off and stay home when she had her son. And when she did return to work, she decided to look for a job at a company in New Jersey that was close to her son’s school. That fortunately led her to financial services company Western Union in 1992. At the time, Western Union was in Chapter 11 bankruptcy; it was later acquired by First Data Corp. and then spun off into its own company.

Ms. Alicea-Velez was flexible enough to thrive in a firm going through big changes, and she rose through the ranks. In 2006, she became executive vice president of Latin America and the Caribbean for Western Union, in charge of sales, service, marketing and operations in the largest remittance-receiving region in the world. “I love building a business, and when I started, the international business was small, so growing that was very exciting,” she says.

Now a business consultant based in Florida, Ms. Alicea-Velez still checks in frequently with her Adelphi friends. “They knew me in college, so it’s not like a friend you just meet,” she says. “You spend a lot of time together when you live on campus... We’ve seen each other at our best and our worst.”

“You spend a lot of time together when you live on campus... We’ve seen each other at our best and our worst.”

The fact that we’ve kept in touch has added a lot to my life.” Ms. Alicea-Velez says. “Next up is our kids getting married and then becoming grandparents! It’s not something you think about when you’re meeting someone at freshman orientation, but that’s the beauty of growing with other people.”

“You spend a lot of time together when you live on campus... We’ve seen each other at our best and our worst.”

Liz Alicea-Velez ’78 right reunites on campus with Carmen Milagros Ortiz ’78.
Lynda Perdomo-Ayala ’78

THEN Psychology major from the Bronx
NOW Academic administrator at Stony Brook University

Among the many hats worn by Lynda Perdomo-Ayala—the departmental administrator for pharmacological sciences at the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University Medical Center—is adviser to the university’s Latin-American Student Organization. Ms. Perdomo-Ayala strives to be a university official that Latino students—who make up just 8 percent of the Stony Brook University student body—can be themselves around. “I was and still am very Latina,” she says. “I wear that on my sleeve. My job here is all about being involved with them at their level.”

Ms. Perdomo-Ayala knows how important it is to help minority students feel comfortable in the new and often overwhelming environment of college. An only child, she grew up in a close extended Puerto Rican family in the Bronx; cousins lived upstairs in the same brownstone and down the block. Part of the first generation in her family to go to college, she was the first to leave home and live on a college campus. “I wanted to try a different environment and living on my own,” she says. But it was a more difficult transition than she anticipated. “I really missed that collective of people who were my support system,” she says. “You go home and no matter what you do, and how you act out, they still love you.”

With a serious boyfriend back in the Bronx (they married a year after she graduated), Ms. Perdomo-Ayala found reasons to go back home nearly every weekend, which meant she was not as connected to campus as she could have been. The friends she made at Adelphi, however—including Ms. Melendez, who was her roommate, Rose Guilbe ’78, now a physician at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Alicea-Velez—kept her engaged with the University, she says. She served as president of La Union Latina in her senior year and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Ms. Perdomo-Ayala joined Stony Brook University in 1986 as administrator of the Department of Economics, where she helped manage a $2 million feasibility study on hospitals in Latin America and the Caribbean and was assistant to the director of the Institute for Decision Sciences in addition to day-to-day management of the second largest major on campus. In 1992, she moved to the medical school, where she helped establish the department’s undergraduate pharmacology program and manages strategic program planning, finances and staff development for the $14 million department. Along the way, she earned a master’s degree in social welfare from Stony Brook and certification in conflict resolution from Cornell University.

Ms. Perdomo-Ayala is a connector, someone who can bring diverse groups of people together to have conversations, a talent that’s benefited the many community organizations at which she’s volunteered since her family moved to Suffolk County in the 1980s. Ms. Perdomo-Ayala serves on the Suffolk County Women’s Advisory Commission and is a past president of the Long Island chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, among many other board and committee memberships. When she joined the board of the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk County (VIBS), an organization that assists survivors of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, in 1999, she looked for ways for VIBS to combine forces with Stony Brook University to improve care for victims of sexual assault. That resulted in the establishment of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Center at the medical center, which treats sexual assault victims and offers forensics training to nurses, and a joint grant to prevent sexual assault on college campuses. In March, VIBS presented Ms. Perdomo-Ayala with a Lifetime Service Award for her accomplishments.

The conversations about work and life that Ms. Perdomo-Ayala and her friends started at Adelphi continue to this day, she says. “I talk to them constantly,” she says. “These are women I still have a strong relationship with. They’re like the sisters I didn’t have.”
Norma Melendez ’76

**THEN Social work major from the Bronx**

**NOW An attorney for New York State**

Coming from the South Bronx, where she exasperated the teachers at her Catholic high school with her incessant questioning, Norma Melendez was clear about what she wanted out of Adelphi University. “I wanted to learn,” she says. “I was like a sponge.”

While she was at Adelphi to expand her horizons, La Union Latina and friends like Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Perdomo-Ayala and Miriam Gonzalez ’76 made college a more comfortable place to be. “It wasn’t as if we only hung out with each other, but the fact that we all were stepping out of our familiar surroundings contributed to a bond,” she says.

Ms. Melendez also found a way to bring a little home with her. She started a choir at Adelphi called El Coro Caribe that performed traditional Puerto Rican songs. Her father, a musician, would drive from the Bronx to Garden City with his guitar to teach them the music. Her Latina friends responded to her call for choir members, and El Coro Caribe had non-Hispanic participants, too.

At Adelphi, Ms. Melendez majored in social work but decided to go to law school. “I wanted to help disenfranchised people who didn’t have the wherewithal to help themselves,” she says. “I knew that social work could help people individually, but I wanted to have more of a macro impact.” Her time as a social work student wasn’t wasted, however. “Much of what you do in the legal field is listening, and listening for what is not being said, which is what you get trained in as a social worker,” she notes.

Ms. Melendez graduated from Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, New Jersey, in 1982 and became an assistant district attorney for the Manhattan District Attorney’s office. Based in its consumer protection bureau, she prosecuted people who preyed on the poor, such as goons hired by landlords to terrorize tenants out of their apartments. Robert Johnson, the first African American district attorney in the state of New York, then hired her to develop the community affairs initiative at the Bronx D.A.’s office. After some years in private practice, Ms. Melendez became a program director and staff attorney for Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, which represents low-income people who can’t afford attorneys in housing, bankruptcy and consumer cases. “There is so much pain, and we were just scratching the surface,” Ms. Melendez says. “I had to learn how to balance empathy and compassion with a certain distance so I could be effective.”

These days, she’s a principal court attorney for New York State, working for its Appellate Division First Department Departmental Disciplinary Committee, which investigates and prosecutes charges of unethical conduct committed by attorneys in the Bronx and Manhattan.

Ms. Melendez still keeps in touch with her college friends. Her explanation for why they continue to be in each other’s lives, even though they’ve pursued different paths and live in different cities, is: “We’ve gone through so many years since we graduated from Adelphi, yet when we talk to one another, that core person is still there, and we can still connect.”

“We’ve gone through so many years since we graduated from Adelphi, yet when we talk to one another, that core person is still there, and we can still connect.”
While the recent recession has presented a stiff challenge to job seekers, a number of enterprising individuals have circumvented the corporate route by becoming entrepreneurs and small business owners.

If you’re thinking of launching your own venture, here are some rules to follow that will aid in your success.

Choose a product or service that interests you.

Often, the most successful start-ups are those created from a labor of love. It helps to be truly passionate about your product, idea or service to make up for the unlimited and unexpected hours and sacrifices needed to get your business off the ground.

Know your market.

Targeting the right buyer with the right product or service is crucial. Nothing in business happens until someone sells something, and with so much competition today, marketing expertise is essential. Always know your customers, what they buy and how and why they buy it.

Educate yourself.

Running a business is complex. You need to understand principles of accounting, marketing and management. You can read about these and take business courses. Look into programs offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration and your local Chamber of Commerce. If possible, work part time in a company or industry that manufactures or sells similar products or services as those you wish to introduce.

Write a business plan.

A formal plan not only validates your ideas, but also serves as a road map to follow while building your business. The plan is also a critical component for creating buy-in and raising capital, even if you’re just borrowing from family and friends. Commercial bankers and investors rely heavily on a business plan when making their decision to lend monies or partake in equity financing.

Assemble a team.

Creating a board of advisers, including an accountant, an attorney, business professors and a banker, will provide you with people to bounce ideas off of and will add credibility to your new venture. Investors like to see that you’ve had your ideas reviewed by professionals, and the team becomes a tremendous resource for assisting in regulations, taxes, contracts and all other matters pertinent to small businesses. Seek experts in your alumni and social networks.

Be nimble.

Prepare to make the necessary adjustments to make your business fly. Some of the most successful entrepreneurs have learned from what they initially did wrong to do it right the next time.

Thomas W. Shinick, M.B.A. ’92
Visiting Professor, School of Business

Mr. Shinick is president and CEO of Corporate Development Partners, LLC, a nationwide management advisory firm specializing in forensic business assessments, strategic profit and growth planning, marketing analysis and promotion, mergers and acquisitions, organizational change and turnaround strategies for small, mid-cap and Fortune 1000 companies. He is also the chairman of US China Partners, Inc., an international business facilitation firm.

Associate Professor Jacqueline Jones LaMon’s book of poetry, Last Seen, was nominated for a 2011 NAACP Image Award.

Recognition for Professor’s Poems of Loss

The Felix Pollak Prize-winning book of poetry, Last Seen (University of Wisconsin Press, 2011) by Associate Professor Jacqueline Jones LaMon, J.D., M.F.A., was inspired by case histories of long-term missing African American children. But the poems are not about the children. The book depicts the world the children and others who’ve disappeared have left behind.

Last Seen received an NAACP Image Award nomination this year, and, with it, Mr. Jones LaMon hopes to push readers to contemplate the ways they might be missing in their own lives—in relationships, for example, or by the way they cut off parts of themselves to fit into different categories or situations. “The work was inspired by missing children, but it became larger,” Mr. Jones LaMon says.

More than half a million people are reported missing each year in the United States, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center. They’re abducted by strangers or family members or they run or drift away. In 2010, about 77 percent of the people reported missing were children under age 18 and about 33 percent were African American.

Excerpted from “Healing Through Art” By Samantha Stainburn, published in Adelphi’s 2012 Erudition magazine.

Want to meet an Adelphi entrepreneur?

See page 52 for a profile of Paul Lovegreen ’87, founder of Tunnel City Coffee.
Through two new grant-funded programs, Adelphi will prepare science and technology teachers for high-needs high schools.

With $2 Million in Grants, Adelphi Teams Up with High-Needs Schools to Improve Science Teaching

High school leaders in Long Island’s Westbury and Roosevelt school districts and at Queens High School of Teaching, Liberal Arts and the Sciences, like leaders in other high-needs districts, have been facing some pressing challenges: attracting well-prepared science teachers and addressing the learning needs of an influx of English-language learners.

Nearby, at Adelphi’s Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, professors have been searching for new ways to immerse their science education students in experiential-learning opportunities.

“Beginning this summer, about two dozen Adelphi education students will participate in either Project BEST: Bilingual Educators in Science and Technology, funded by a New York State Education Department grant totaling $816,016, or the Science Education Advancement (SEA) Program/NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program sponsored by a $1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Project BEST and the SEA Program address “the much-needed effort to increase the quantity of highly qualified science teachers,” providing important resources for “high-needs school districts both on Long Island and across the state of New York,” says Tracy Hogan, assistant professor in Adelphi’s Ruth S. Ammon School of Education and the principal investigator for both grants.

Dr. Hogan secured the two grants with the help of a number of Adelphi colleagues. Beth Christensen, associate professor and director of Adelphi’s Environmental Studies Program, was the co-principal investigator for the SEA Program grant. Faculty who helped obtain the BEST Program funding include Daryl Gordon, assistant professor in the Ammon School of Education; Diana Schwinge, associate professor in the Ammon School of Education, and Eva Roca, director of Adelphi’s Teaching English as a Second Language/Bilingual Program.

Selected students will learn the latest science teaching strategies hands-on while working toward adolescent science education certification in their discipline (biology, chemistry, physics or earth science). Project BEST also allows for a bilingual extension. Both programs provide students with consistent mentoring by partner teachers and University faculty.

“This is where education really begins,” says Reginald Warren, assistant principal at Westbury High School. “You practice [concepts] as you’re learning them so there’s no disconnect between learning and doing.”

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Adelphi students will put education theories into practice and hone their skills through unique experiences in and beyond the classroom, including, for SEA Scholars, field experiences on Long Island and in Australia, and paid summer internships. Participants will also have much of their tuition and expenses covered by generous yearly stipends of $15,000 to $40,000.

As for the partner high schools, the programs bring “increased opportunity for more group activities and individualized instruction and an extra knowledgeable person in the classroom,” Mr. Warren says. “Anytime you have the opportunity to decrease the teacher-student ratio, it’s always a plus.”

Another benefit is “having young people in the classroom as role models,” says Brumsic Brandon, Westbury’s district-wide science chairperson.

“Exposing our students to college kids will hopefully inspire some of them to continue their education,” Seth Brechtel, ESL chairperson at Westbury High School, adds.

Best and SEA scholars are expected to seek employment in high-needs school districts upon program completion.

By Michelle Consorte ’12

THE STORY CONTINUES...

Learn more about the generous support Adelphi has received for its science programs on the Adelphi University Magazine Facebook page.
When people think of sports at Adelphi, or virtually any university, they usually think of NCAA-governed intercollegiate athletics, such as football, basketball and soccer. Less well-known but increasingly popular are Adelphi’s intramural and club sports. With the opening of Adelphi’s Center for Recreation and Sports in 2008, participation in intramural sports—recreational leagues and tournaments open to students, faculty and administrators—has skyrocketed, increasing by nearly 30 percent. Club sports, which are student-run and can compete with other schools, are also thriving. This year, students started an Equestrian Club and a popular Badminton Club. This was also the first year that Adelphi’s competitive Ultimate Frisbee Club won a tournament trophy.

Here’s what some club and intramural athletes had to say about their experiences.

By Vithusha Balachandran ’14

“Basketball is my passion. I want to join the Adelphi basketball team, so participating in intramurals and club basketball is a great place to start.”

Mathew Defrancisco ’15

“Playing flag football is the perfect way to connect with your fraternity brothers and make new friends with the other competitive students on campus.”

Alec Wishney ’12

“Dancing is a way to express myself better. I’m actually a shy person, so dancing is my way to let everything out.”

Estefania Jimenez ’13

“I’ve always wanted to step, and I finally found the opportunity when I joined Adelphi through the STEP sport club. Step makes you get rid of your emotions because you’re here, you’re doing it and this is your stage.”

Jennifer Abramowski ’12

“I play for almost every intramural and club sport, including soccer, football, dodgeball and flag football. It keeps me incredibly active. Badminton was just that one sport I had to knock off my list.”

Jon Paul Marcy ’14

“My friend back home in Levittown informed me about Adelphi’s (Ultimate) Frisbee team. I’m glad I joined. This is such a positive and happy team.”

Malcolm Webb ’14

“My basketball is my passion. I want to join the Adelphi basketball team, so participating in intramurals and club basketball is a great place to start.”

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“Playing flag football is the perfect way to connect with your fraternity brothers and make new friends with the other competitive students on campus.”

Alec Wishney ’12
Susan Tendy ’70, Ed.D., has seen scores of athletic injuries in her time as an associate professor and coach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This one, though, was the worst.

In Fall 2010, Andrew Avelino, a member of Army’s men’s gymnastics team, was practicing on the trampoline when he landed awkwardly, hyperextending his knee. Initially, the cadet didn’t think the injury was significant. But swelling in the artery behind his knee went unattended to and resulted in the amputation of the lower part of his leg.

Mr. Avelino received a prosthetic and returned to gymnastics at West Point in 2011. “It’s a great tragic example,” Dr. Tendy says. “If circulation is not restored in six to eight hours, there is an 86 percent amputation rate.”

Mr. Avelino’s experience is the classic case of why injury awareness has increased in sports today. One reason why head injuries, ACL tears and dehydration issues seem to be more prevalent is the increased awareness and reporting of injuries, combined with extensive testing procedures that have become more commonplace in many sports.

Recent headlines have demonstrated just how dangerous injuries to the head and other parts of the body are. In 2010, Rutgers football linebacker Eric LaGrande was paralyzed when attempting to tackle Army’s Malcolm Brown. Sidney Crosby, the star center for the NHL’s Pittsburgh Penguins, has missed chunks of the past two years with multiple concussions and their lingering effects. Just last fall, four-time NFL MVP Peyton Manning missed the entire season due to a neck injury that required four surgeries. And those are on the professional and collegiate level. Youth and high school sports can often present different challenges.

The National Federation of State High School Associations, the governing body for high school sports in the United States recently enacted a rule that requires an athlete who has sustained a head injury to be removed from play, and not return unless cleared by a physician. Dr. Kennedy, who is also the school sports physician for the East Williston and Valley Stream South School Districts on Long Island, says that the return and recovery time is where the most significant progress is needed.

“You can probably pass a baseline impact neurological test, but until you get that athlete out on the field, you won’t know if they are really cleared,” he says. “We need a process by which the athlete is at 85 to 90 percent of their max before they are actually ready to go back. Then if they are in a collision or contact sport, then they have to add that [component to practice].

“In sports like lacrosse, there is a need for medical coverage. I think there are a lot of injuries that are going underreported. Other sports are going to start to say ‘We need a physician for other sports besides football.’”

Stephen M. Wirth ’70, a physical therapist for New York Sports and Physical Therapy Institute, says vast improvements have been made since he graduated from Adelphi. First, he notes that immobilizing an injury sooner has become increasingly important, especially in ACL tears. “In the early days, they just casted them,” he says. “It really hindered rehabilitation.”

Second, Mr. Wirth says advancements in pathology and in technology and equipment have expedited recovery times. “Way back when, when somebody had a tear, they took out the meniscus and it started early arthritis,” Mr. Wirth says. “They learned over time that when you have a tear, maintain as much as you can.”

Ms. Tendy has certainly learned and adapted over her career. She notes an instance when she was coaching Army’s women’s swimming team, one swimmer suffered from exercise-induced anaphylactic shock, which was the result of arduous workouts. She said the swimmer began experiencing itchiness on her head and hands. She was treated, but a second occurrence happened while the team was at a meet in Puerto Rico.

“I look for it now,” she says. “The bottom line is, when something bizarre happens, you have to get help right away.”

By Chris Casielewski
Athletics Spring 2012

Men’s Soccer

The men’s soccer team had a solid season, with an undefeated record in conference play and an 8-9-2 overall record. The Panthers entered the Atlantic Soccer Conference Tournament seeded first, but lost to Longwood University in a tight final match, 5-4, with the winner determined by a penalty shootout.

Women’s Volleyball

The women’s volleyball team won its first Northeast-10 Conference Tournament Championship, beating College of Saint Rose, 3-0, in the final. The Panthers advanced to the NCAA East Regional Tournament for the fifth time. Seeded fourth, the team fell to top-ranked University of New Hampshire, with an undefeated record in conference play and an 8-9-2 overall record.

Cross Country

The men’s and women’s cross country teams set a quick pace in 2011, faring better in both their conference and regional meets. Andrew Coelho ‘13 capped the season by qualifying for a second straight NCAA Division II Championship appearance and earning All-American honors—the first for the Panthers in at least 30 years. Panetta ‘15 earned spots on the All-Rookie Team. Bianca Hernandez ‘12 was named Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament, and she and Ms. Overholt made the All-Tournament team.

Women’s Basketball

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Scoreboard

Men’s Soccer

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The men’s and women’s cross country teams set a quick pace in 2011, faring better in both their conference and regional meets. Andrew Coelho ‘13 capped the season by qualifying for a second straight NCAA Division II Championship appearance and earning All-American honors—the first for the Panthers in at least 30 years. Panetta ‘15 earned spots on the All-Rookie Team. Bianca Hernandez ‘12 was named Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament, and she and Ms. Overholt made the All-Tournament team.

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Reunions

In Fall 2011, Adelphi started a new tradition: celebrating reunions in a big way. Alumni spanning many decades gathered for reunion festivities. At 230 5th Rooftop Bar in Manhattan, the Classes of 2001 and 2006 caught up with fellow alumni over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, enjoyed panoramic views of the city skyline and captured new memories in the photos booth. The Classes of 1966, 1971, 1976 and 1981 took a tour of Long Island’s scenic Eastern End, sampling wine and visiting local farms. The celebration continued into the night, with a reception at Hotel Indigo in Riverhead.

Class reunions give alumni the opportunity to catch up with old friends, reminisce about their Adelphi days, visit campus and learn about how the University continues to grow. In celebration of their reunion, many alumni also choose to give back to the University—commemorating their years at Adelphi in a way that benefits current and future students.

By Kate Cartagena ’13

SEE YOU AT REUNION 2012

JUNE 1–3
Adelphi University, Garden City Campus

For more information and to register, visit ADELPHI.EDU/REUNION or call 516.877.3265.

Alumni Events

A Holiday Hit

Even without snow on the ground, the holiday spirit was alive among Adelphi alumni last December. Nearly 250 people attended Adelphi’s sold-out event at the Chelsea Piers Sky Rink and enjoyed an afternoon of skating, catching up with friends over hot cocoa and a three-course meal with a view of the Statue of Liberty on Chelsea Piers’ Sunset Terrace.

Check out pictures of event guests with the Adelphi Panther at ADELPHI.EDU/PHOTO GALLERY/ALUMNI.PHP, and look for information about next year’s alumni holiday celebration.

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Perfecting a pace of roughly nine minutes per mile, rigorously training up to 100 miles per week and carefully mapping out routes from Long Island to California, Adam Clark ’11 and Jeffrey Perez ’10, M.B.A. ’11, set their sights on a daring adventure of more than 3,000 miles last August.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Perez, former Adelphi cross country teammates, harnessed their love for running by traveling across the country to raise money for charities. Beginning at Jones Beach in Wantagh, New York, and ending in Huntington Beach, California, the running duo accomplished their feat, which they dubbed The Transcontinental Project, in about 14 weeks.

It’s a daring endeavor that, according to usaacrossers.com, only 236 documented individuals have completed since the early 1900s. For Mr. Perez, who had never traveled past New Jersey, the cross-country excursion was eye-opening. “When you’re traveling on foot, you really have the opportunity to digest every scene and every geographic detail,” he says. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The chance to attract funds and attention for two personally meaningful charities spurred the runners on. Mr. Clark ran for Shannon’s Fight, an organization founded in honor of his cousin, Shannon, his sister, Brianne, and others coping with rare forms of cancer.

Mr. Perez devoted his run to Global Kids, an organization dedicated to promoting academic excellence and leadership among urban youth in New York and Washington, D.C., which, he says, transformed his own life. “I knew that traveling cross country by foot would be monumental and that it would be a great story to tell,” Mr. Perez says. “And what better story to associate my journey with than through Global Kids, an organization that really motivated me and inspired me to be where I am today?”

To accomplish their goals, Mr. Clark and Mr. Perez followed a strict daily regimen: waking with the sun and running an average of 35 miles a day, relying on their own supplies, quick problem-solving skills and the hospitality of others along the way.

Day one proved the most challenging, both physically and mentally, Mr. Clark says. “After the first day, I had serious doubts about completing the trip.” Through the exhausting efforts of trial and error, he learned that preventing injuries and conserving energy would require early morning and late afternoon runs in order to avoid the heat of the day.

Five weeks later, the excursion grew increasingly difficult when the pair decided to finish the run on separate terms. “There were disagreements,” Mr. Clark says of the split. “But we both completed the trip and we both raised money for charities, so that’s the most important aspect.”

Throughout the remainder of the journey, staying motivated was essential. “Remembering all of the people that were pulling for me; remembering who I was doing this trip for, Shannon and the struggles she’s going through; and my sister and her survival definitely kept me going,” Mr. Clark says.

The two agreed that reaching the final stretch of the journey, Huntington Beach, on November 19, 2011 for Mr. Perez, and two days later for Mr. Clark, solidified the lessons they learned about life and about themselves along the way. “This trip definitely confirmed that I’m a little crazy,” Mr. Perez says, laughing. “But the most important lesson that I’ve learned is that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to. And it taught me to value all of the little things in life, like seeing my family and having face-to-face conversations with them.”

By Leslie Fazin ’10

To learn more about the runners’ respective causes, visit shannonsfight.org and globalkids.org.
The 23rd annual Adelphi University Golf Classic, held last October at the Hempstead Golf and Country Club, drew nearly 200 alumni and friends and raised $190,000 for student athletic scholarships. A day of golf was followed by cocktails and an awards dinner at which event honoree Scott Treiber, of RPS Treiber Agency, received the 2011 President’s Award for Outstanding Achievement and Friendship.

The event was co-chaired by John P. Finnerty, M.S. ’77, of WJM Associates, Inc. and Stephen M. Wirth ’70 of New York Sports and Physical Therapy Institute.

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Golf Classic, to be held on Monday, October 1, at the Hempstead Golf and Country Club. For more information, please contact Jaime Farrell, associate director of leadership annual giving, at 516.877.4689 or Farrell@adelphi.edu.
Felicia Singh ’11, M.A. ’12

I AM ABOUT TO complete my master’s degree in education from Adelphi’s Scholar Teacher Education Program (S.T.E.P.).

I WANT TO go to Spain. It’s all I think about. I’m in love with the Spanish culture, the food and the music.

I AM A STRONG BELIEVER that if I haven’t laughed for the day, then my day is wasted.

THE BEST ADVICE I ever received was from my mom. She said education is power. And she is so right.

MY PERSONAL HEROES are Maya Angelou and Martin Luther King, Jr. They were wise enough to know that they could change themselves, others and the world through words—not fighting or going to war.

RECENT GIVING 2011 Senior Legacy Campaign, 2011–2012 Annual Fund

WHY I GIVE. Everything that you learn at Adelphi is represented in your diploma, so giving to the University is vital. I think when people donate money, they have a tendency to see it as something they are losing. You’re not losing anything. You’re giving back to students who are in the same position that you were when you were at Adelphi.

Norman Maron ’65

PROFESSION Retired Orthopedist, Deputy Medical Director, New York City Department of Sanitation

I AM MOTIVATED to improve the future of medicine and the economy, especially with four children and six grandchildren. I’m motivated to try to better their lives.

MANTRAS I LIVE BY. Never talk down to anybody, no matter what, and don’t go to sleep angry.

I LOVE talking to people—all place, at any time, for any reason.

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT was getting into medical school. It helped shape the whole direction of my life. But I’m most proud of seeing the birth of my kids, and having the chance to hold my grandchildren. I’m crazy about my grandkids.

RECENT GIVING $1,000 to the Annual Fund, member of The Charles H. Levermore Society

WHY I GIVE. I could not have gotten where I am today if it wasn’t for Adelphi and the medical school I attended. Adelphi was the best place for me, and I want to make sure it’s available for others.

The Charles H. Levermore Society recognizes those who lead in their unrestricted giving by making contributions of $1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. Learn more about the Levermore Society by visiting giving.adelphi.edu/leVerMore or calling 516.877.3257.
Friendships like these are rare.

Nearly five decades ago, seven African American women found each other at what was then a predominately white Adelphi University. “The fact that we were black in a small bubble played a part in picking each other out,” Renaye (Brown) Cuyler ’70 says. “But it’s not the thing that kept us together.”

Long before Facebook, Twitter and text messages, the students established a tight social network. They gathered in places like the dining hall—where they often stayed until closing—to share opinions and advice. “Whether we were talking about issues surrounding civil rights, professors, parents, emotional support or boyfriends, we found comfort in each other,” Diane (Hunter) Hazel ’69 says.

Before the seniors in the group graduated, the seven women—Renaye Cuyler, Diane Hazel, Lavida (Robinson) Allen ’72, Charlotte (Matthews) Harris ’69, Jacquelyn Lendsey ’71, Joyce (Barnett) Montague ’69 and Lorene Wilkerson ’69 (formerly Lawrene Street)—decided to reunite every five years. They met in New York City in 1974 for their first reunion. “We felt five years was too long to wait to see each other,” Lorene Wilkerson says. For the next 20 some-odd years, they continued to reunite every five years, with an additional gathering in between.

When the youngest of the group turned 50, it was unanimous: they would get together every year. When members started approaching 60, Joyce Montague proposed “six months to 60.” For each of the six months leading up to the birthday girl’s 60th, one of the friends was assigned to surprise her with a special gift. Now, each woman turning 65 gets to decide where the reunion for that year will be held.

They have decided to establish a permanent legacy at the place where their story began. “Endowing a scholarship at Adelphi is a way for what we have to live beyond us—so that even when we’re not here, the group will still be present,” Charlotte Harris says. “We want to support students at our alma mater who need financial help,” Lavida Allen says of the Adelphi Seven Sisters Endowed Scholarship. “It’s our chance to give back.”

The seven will travel from New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland to celebrate their 2012 reunion in June. “We’ve been there at every critical moment of each other’s lives over the last 46 years,” Jacquelyn Lendsey says. “We are friends until the end. And it all began at Adelphi.”

By Andrea Winters
1950s
Sarah Cifarelli Wellen, B.A. ’51, M.A. ’74, is now working for Glass journal.
Norma Riese, B.A. ’52, is chairperson of the Connecticut State Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC). She is the first woman to be chair. She was ap-
pointed to the FOIC in 1997 by Governor John G. Rowland and was appointed
chairperson in December 2010 by Governor M. Jodi Rell. She has been married
to Frank A. Ries for 52 years and has three daughters and five grandchildren.

1960s
Robert Achtel, B.A. ’63, is an associate clinical professor at the Lucille Packard
Children’s Hospital at Stanford University, as well as director of adults with
congenital heart disease at Sutter Hospitals. He is also a commercial pilot and
a speaker for FAA, EAA and AOPA.
Tsoltim Shakabpa, B.B.A. ’67, has a new book, Voices of the Vultures, which
poetically describes the experience of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule.
The book was published by Publish America.
Del Fidanque, M.A. ’68, presented “An Afternoon of Original Prose Readings”
at the Howland Public Library in Beacon, New York.

1970s
Darryl Weissman, B.A. ’70, has been selected for inclusion in the 2012 edition
of Best Lawyers in America, a highly respected peer review publication.
Edward Quinlan, B.S. ’71, reentered in 2007 from the Sewanhaka Central High
School District as the chairperson of health and physical education at H.F
Cary High School. Since 2007, he has served as an adjunct professor at
Nassau Community College in the Department of Health, Physical Education
and Recreation. Mr. Quinlan is currently the first vice president of the Nassau
Community College Alumni Association. On October 5, 2010, he was inducted
into the signature class of the Nassau Community College Athletic Hall Of Fame
for cross country and track and field. He resides in New Hyde Park, New York,
with wife Grace. He has five children: Michelle, Shane, Marc, Sean, and Courtney.
He has two beautiful grandchildren, Milan Jace and Elliott Reese.
Dianne (Ashton) Styler, B.A. ’71, has been named the first woman editor of the journal, American Jewish History. She is a professor at Rowan University
in Glassboro, New Jersey.
Bob Beamon, B.A. ’72, an Olympic gold medalist and record-breaking track
and field star, has been named chief executive officer for Art of the Olympians
Museum and Gallery at the Al Oerter Center for Excellence, home of Olympic
sports and arts. Mr. Beamon is best known for his longstanding world record in
the long jump at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico, which remained unchal-
 lenged for 23 years. He has since been elected into the USA Track & Field Hall
of Fame and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

This year, approximately 130,000 horses in the United States will be
sent to Canada or Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption
in other countries, according to Nanci Beyerl, M.S.W. ’07, founder of
Peaceful Acres Horses, Inc.

Peaceful Acres is a 156-acre farm in Pattersonville, New York—about 26 miles northwest of Albany—where 40
rescued and retired horses guide children and adults in healing psychologically and physically. Ms. Beyerl start-
ted the farm in 2007 to help people dealing with grief and trauma. She says she didn’t initially intend to rescue
horses, just people. The horses she worked with at first were healthy, and had simply retired from racing and
other pursuits.

Over time, though, Ms. Beyerl’s commitment to rescuing and rehabilitating abandoned and neglected horses drove
her to establish Peaceful Acres as an equine rescue san-
cuary. The rehabilitated horses also have a powerful ef-
tect on her human clients. “You can imagine what it’s like
for one of our clients who helps in the rehabilitative care
of one of these horses, it’s so incredibly empowering,”
says Ms. Beyerl. “When you match an abused, neglected
horse with an abused, neglected child and watch them
grow and become strong, and healthy and confident, and
together, they become best of friends...it’s beautiful.
There absolutely nothing like that.”

Her own experience with divorce and domestic abuse
compelled Ms. Beyerl to start Peaceful Acres. She had
recently moved to what was then a dilapidated 12-acre
farm with a few horses. She was anxious and suffered
from panic attacks. Yet, she says, “I was feeling a lot
better in the barn and with the horses.”

After significant research and soul-searching, Ms. Beyerl
became certified in equine assisted psychotherapy and
learning. She also decided to pursue a master’s degree
in social work at Adelphi, traveling an hour and a half
each way to take classes at the Fulton Valley Center in
Poughkeepsie, New York. The investment, she says, was
worthwhile “Adelphi made it possible for me to think that
my dream and my vision to open a not-for-profit organization was possible, and that wasn’t what I was hearing anywhere else,” Ms. Beyerl says.

Last year, according to Ms. Beyerl, Peaceful Acres served
about 125 children, many of whom were living in foster
care or residential treatment facilities. Peaceful Acres
also offers a variety of programs and retreats, including
support for breast cancer survivors and adults struggling
with addiction. “Horses are wonderful therapeutic part-
ers and healers,” Ms. Beyerl says. “Unlike people, they
do not pass judgment.”

Peaceful Acres’ budget is supported through grants, donations and memberships. So far, Ms. Beyerl has
obtained funding from foundations such as the Charles R. Wood Foundation and Newman’s Own.

“I love what we do,” Ms. Beyerl says. “I wish we had
more funding to do what we do. It’s expensive. We need to keep our horses and our people comfortable.
We live on a shoestring.”

By Bonnie Eissner
Today, Peter Friedman ’72 is one of the leading veterans of the production world. Co-founder of F360, an integrated content studio, he has blazed a trail from the era of broadcast television to today’s multimedia universe, working with PGA Tour Productions, Nike first film. “It was dreadful,” he says, laughing. “But that was it, I was hooked on filmmaking.”

After graduation, he started his career as a runner for CBS, and quickly realized he loved advertising. In particular, he was intrigued by the role of producer. “I loved pitching ideas. I loved meeting face-to-face with clients,” Mr. Friedman says.

As a young person, it’s not just figuring out what you want to do, but what space you want to live in, where you’re most comfortable,” he says. “I loved pulling everything together. “Being a good producer is being able to anticipate everything before it happens. That’s still what I do now.”

By 24, Mr. Friedman was the head of a department, and after making a name for himself, more opportunities came his way. In the late 1980s, George Lucas recruited Mr. Friedman to create a commercial production company, and Mr. Friedman spent five years building that business. A few years later, he was recruited again this time by Nike to become the global head of commercial production. From there, he became the global head of broadcast production for the advertising agency network McCann Worldgroup.

In the early 2000s, before the Internet and mobile devices became the dominating force they are today, Mr. Friedman worked to push McCann beyond traditional broadcast TV advertising. “People looked at me like I was nuts,” he says, “but the world wasn’t going to exist in a 30-second format anymore. It was my crusade to get people to understand the potential of digital technology.”

His passion for multimedia production led him to another opportunity, this time as the general manager of PGA Tour Entertainment. “Rather than being a vendor, we wanted to be a leader, creating content that people would want rather than waiting for them to come to us.”

Now, as the head of his own company, F360, Mr. Friedman is still pushing into new territory, producing everything from flash mobs to interactive video. Among its many projects, the company consults on the Samsung Fanboy campaign, which included a commercial in this year’s Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl ratchets up everybody’s expectations,” Mr. Friedman says. “There were hundreds of people who worked on that—directors, agencies, editors, all the imaging, mixing, music. Hundreds of people for 60 seconds, but everyone was very happy with the results.”

Above all, Mr. Friedman says, it comes back to lessons he learned at Adelphi. “Paul Pitcoff taught me something,” he says. “The only way you’re going to be great at something is to do it and do it and do it. There are no gimmies. You do good work, and it begets more good work.”

With decades of good work behind him, Mr. Friedman is looking forward to the future. “Platforms are converging. Everything is going to be streaming,” he says. “But the fundamentals remain the same.”

Richard Lyvanyk, B.B.A. ’79, is exceedingly happy to announce his retirement at age 62 after 33 years of direct patient care nursing activity. He has been blessed to serve in a diverse variety of nursing care units, including the clinical care unit (CCU), the emergency room, surgical and medical intensive care units, 10 years in a burn center and, surprisingly, three years in labor and delivery, and in all kinds of positions such as staff nurse, team leader, supervisor, and all-around get-it-done guy. Six years in the U.S. military took him to Germany and Arizona. His career ended in a veteran’s affairs hospital in Richmond, Virginia. Before receiving the B.S.N. as well as during his years as an R.N., he was honored to give 21 years of service to the Long Island community as a volunteer firefighter and EMT and as a first aid and CPR instructor for the American Red Cross, both in the United States and Germany. Currently, he lives in Richmond, Virginia, in a retirement community where he remains active with his church, and continues an 11-year participation in the prison, senior and teaching ministries.

Anthony Fiorentino, M.B.A. ’79, was appointed chief executive officer by VERGO Interactive, a digital marketing company that connects institutions of higher learning with students exploring options for postsecondary education.
Most entrepreneurship courses and books advise aspiring business owners to develop detailed business and marketing plans before launching into a new enterprise. Paul Lovegreen ’87, owner of Tunnel City Coffee in Williamstown, Massachusetts, had a different approach. “I went on gut; that was my marketing approach,” says the former Adelphi School of Business accounting major, only half joking.

Mr. Lovegreen opened Tunnel City in 1992 before Starbucks brought the coffeehouse craze to the Northeast. For the residents of picturesque Williamstown, a rural community nestled in the Berkshire Mountains, drinking a cup of espresso was about as familiar as eating kimchi. “I’d have people coming in wanting, you know, eggs and bacon with toast,” Mr. Lovegreen says. “They really didn’t know what a coffee bar was or what a coffeehouse was.”

Williamstown, though, is hardly a backwater, and Mr. Lovegreen knew it. The town is home to the highly regarded Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, the celebrity-studded Williamstown Theatre Festival and, most important, Williams College. Besides having a strong desire to live in the Berkshires, Mr. Lovegreen says, “I knew I just wanted to be in a college community because I just felt like college kids need coffee.”

He was right. From the outset, the students kept his business afloat. “I had this core group of kids who went to Williams from California, and they really helped me stay in business for my first few years,” Mr. Lovegreen says.

Influenced by the book, Marketing Without Advertising, Mr. Lovegreen chose to market in the customer experience. “I built my business with an essentially minimal budget for advertising, it was all built on location and serving the customer,” he says. He also made sure to pay the bills on time. “That helped me build solid relationships with my suppliers and my landlords,” he says.

The first store, which Mr. Lovegreen opened by maxing out on three credit cards, consisted of a few tables stuffed into 300 square feet. “We would just cram as many people as we could into the place,” Mr. Lovegreen says.

In 1996, Mr. Lovegreen took out his first bank loan and tripled the size of the store. He hired a professional pastry chef in 2000—a pivotal move that, according to Mr. Lovegreen, changed the business. Four years later, Williams College constructed a building in town with retail space tailored for Tunnel City Coffee.

Today, Tunnel City has seven-seated fixtures. Mr. Lovegreen opened the store with one part-time employee. Now, he employs 24 people, including 10 full-time workers. His head pastry chef has four assistants.

Mr. Lovegreen even met his wife in the shop. She was a regular. He says, “She also works in the business.” While local residents and students are the store’s “bread and butter,” according to Mr. Lovegreen, it has benefited from the tourists and celebrities who come to town. A few who have been to Tunnel City include Gov. Edward G. Patbulkow, Bebe Neuwirth, Joan Woodward, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman (whose daughter attended Williams) and former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley.

For Mr. Lovegreen, running Tunnel City is a labor of love. A longtime coffee and coffeehouse connoisseur, he enjoys being able to select and roast his own coffee. A veteran of the retail business (he was a department store manager before he opened Tunnel City), he’s undaunted by the long hours, including weekend work, and the demands of the business. He likes that he has created a social space for his community. “If you have a passion for something, that’s what your worth is,” Mr. Lovegreen says. “I enjoy the work and what you do.”

By Ronnie Essner

Inspired to launch your own business? Get tips from Adelphi professors and visit Professor Thomas W. Shrock, M.B.A. ’92, on July 28.

Barry Davis, M.B.A. ’82, has been appointed vice president of business development for Egnyte, Inc.

Judith De Felice, D.S.W. ’82, is retired and volunteers as a member of the board of directors of Hugs Across America. She is the director of Hugs Chapter #1 in New York City.

Robert Silberman, B.A. ’82, was named DME automotive director of product and CRM strategy.

Ann Sochichin, B.A. ’81, joined the sales staff of Prudential Connecticut Realty’s New Canaan office.

Nancy Falls, M.B.A. ’83, has been promoted to national managing partner of Tatami’s Healthcare Practice. She is responsible for growing the healthcare practice and working across the firm to drive Tatami’s market penetration within the industry.

Marguerite Corda, M.S. ’84, has recently joined the staff of Beth Israel Medical Center as vice president for patient care services at the Kings Highway Division in Brooklyn.

Judith Levy, M.S.W. ’84, presented The Last Overdose, a solo exhibition in Kansas City, Missouri. The show features three faux documentary videos in which the living “descendants” of Huckleberry Finn, Hansel and Gretel and The Lone Ranger are interviewed.

Sharon (Cohen) Gathcr, B.S. ’85, received her master’s degree in 1990 at Columbia University and postmaster’s certificate at the University of Rhode Island. She is now working as a family nurse practitioner at a nephrology practice as well as a school psychologist. She recently completed a graduate certificate at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

Judey Calder-Spinnelli, B.F.A. ’86, has a certified woman and minority-owned business, Saratoga Flag, a Broadway Banner and Graphics Co. LLC in upstate New York.

Sharon Feeney, B.S. ’87, is currently NSG supervisor of the Medical Adult Day Care Program at Gorvin Jewish Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, where she has been since 1983. She is also an adjunct professor at Farmingdale State College in the Long Island Educational Opportunity Center’s certified nursing assistant program. She has been married since 1989 to Shawn Feeney. They have two children, one of whom attends Adelphi.

Glenn Molina, B.A. ’87, joined C3 Harvest mergers and acquisitions firm as its senior business intermediary.


Marc Adler, B.S. ’88, has been appointed director of the Value Based Purchasing Program at Winthrop-University Hospital. Dr. Adler serves in this capacity concurrent with his role as physician advisor to the case management department.

Shamir Ally, B.B.A. ’89, M.B.A. ’92, is a faculty member at DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania. Dr. Ally is president/CEO at International Consulting & Financial Services. He was also listed in the Almanac Who’s Who in Finance and Business in the USA 2010-2011, 58th edition.
As president and CEO of The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, Eileen McDonnell, M.B.A. ’87, spearheads a company with $18 billion in assets, 2,000 employees and 4,500 sales agents. She joined Penn Mutual as its executive vice president and chief marketing officer in 2008—at the start of the Great Recession. But since that time, revenue has doubled, and the company’s life insurance sales hit all-time highs in 2010 and 2011.

“I was only here for a couple of months and the bottom fell out of the economy,” Ms. McDonnell says, “and I came here with a mandate that we were going to grow the organization.” How did she pull it off? Her description of the company’s 2008 field leadership meeting is telling: “I got up and boldly told our associates and our sales force that Penn Mutual would not participate in the recession.” In Ms. McDonnell’s words, “We haven’t allowed the economic or market obstacles to take us off course or thwart our success.”

Ms. McDonnell’s optimism, drive and ability to motivate others have allowed her to thrive in a competitive, male-dominated industry despite some long odds. The fourth of six children, she says she learned early on the power of diplomacy. Her parents also instilled in her the value of education. “My father, who was an elementary school principal, definitely set high standards for us,” Ms. McDonnell says. “I can recall coming home and getting a 99 on this test and him saying, ‘What happened to the other point?’”

Ms. McDonnell and her sisters were encouraged to become nurses or teachers. Although Ms. McDonnell initially enrolled at Molloy College as a nursing major, she decided, after her sophomore year, to major in math with a minor in computer science. Despite the disruptive switch and the need to work two jobs to cover a lost nursing scholarship, she completed her degree a semester early and with high honors.

She chose a job at Wang Laboratories over a more lucrative offer from J.B.M. because, she says, Wang, a smaller and more nimble company, offered her greater opportunities. The experience, she says, was a pivotal one. Working in the comptroller’s office piqued her interest in finance, and she decided to pursue an M.B.A. at Adelphi. She also saw what happens when a company fails to adapt to market forces. Wang bet against the personal computer, insisting that giant mainframes and dumb terminals were the future. Two years later, Wang was in a tailspin, and Ms. McDonnell left, taking her first job in the insurance industry, as a financial manager at The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States (now AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company). Once at Equitable, Ms. McDonnell says, “I started to dream about where I might go in the company.” She set a goal of being a vice president and homeowner by the time she was 30. She beat her deadline by three years, becoming, at 27, Equitable’s youngest vice president. The meteoric rise meant she was overseeing branch officers who were older than she and accustomed to being managed by men. There was pushback, but she remained undaunted.

After nine years at Equitable, Ms. McDonnell joined The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America as a vice president and quickly rose to become the company’s first female senior vice president in its 150-year history. She describes her eight years at Guardian as a time of great self-awareness. She developed a true passion for her industry, but she also came close to burning out. From that, she learned: “If you’re going to take it to the next level of leadership, it’s not all about you. It’s all about the people you surround yourself with.” And, she says, she chose wisely.

Ms. McDonnell’s zeal and her skill at building teams served her well in her next corporate position at MetLife. Six months after joining the company, while on a business trip, she got a phone call. One of MetLife’s subsidiaries, New England Financial, was about to be investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission for accounting fraud and the president was going to be removed. MetLife wanted to announce that she would be the new president. She took the job and turned the company around, an experience she describes as “baptism by fire.”

“People often ask me about the glass ceiling,” Ms. McDonnell says. “What I’ve always said is that I’ve never seen a ceiling, glass or otherwise. I just always had dreams and aspirations and well-laid plans.”

By Bonnie Eissner
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President of Adelphi University
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1990s

Laura Benson, B.S. ’90, M.S. ’92, CAGS ’96, has been appointed as vice-president of medical affairs of Novocure.

Annie Kontopoulos, B.B.A. ’90, M.B.A. ’93, has been promoted to the position of assistant vice president of finance by the New York State Catholic Health Plan, Fidelis Care.

Frederick Curry, B.S. ’93, has been named by Transparency International-USA (TI-USA) to its board of directors. Mr. Curry is a member of Deloitte’s anti-money laundering and economic trade sanctions practice in New York, New York. He specializes in advising senior executives and board members of global financial institutions on compliance programs and responses to regulatory enforcement actions and criminal investigations in the anti-money laundering, antiterrorism and OFAC of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) areas. In 2001, he founded The Sirius Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization that awards annual scholarships to high-achieving African American women aspiring to careers in business.

Karin DiMichele, B.B.A. ’93, was named the director of recruitment and enrollment coordinator at the University of Delaware.

Jill Yinarte, B.A. ’97, is an executive director at Morgan Stanley Investment Management.

Barbara Catalotto, M.B.A. ’99, has been appointed CEO of Business Dynamics Limited and was featured in Who’s Who in Adelphi University’s Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

2000s

Adam Winnistrick, B.S. ’02, is a mathematics teacher at Saint Demetrios High School and also teaches at least one course per year in Adelphi University’s Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Omar Grant, B.B.A. ’01, is Akk creative director at the Roc Nation music label.

Danielle Mebert, B.A. ’04, M.A. ’05, M.F.A. ’11, is an executive director at Copper Nickel and was nominated for the 2012 Pushcart Prize collection.

Rachel Sukerti, B.S. ’04, married Scott Urgola, B.S. ’05, on September 4, 2011. Both graduates met at the Adelphi Department of Music in 2002. They continue to write and perform music together across various venues in the New York City and Hudson Valley areas.

Aldo Esposito, M.B.A. ’06, recently launched his own company, Excellent Ones Consulting LLC, a business venture devoted to solving business problems using the countless tools available in Microsoft Excel. He uses Excel to automate processes, test business decisions and measure company performance. He was recently mentioned in The Wall Street Journal as one of the hopeful stories in the dismal economy.

Jennifer McNamara, M.S.W. ’06, is the new chair of the Wilton Domestic Violence Task Force.

Laura Benson, B.S.’90, M.S. ’92, CAGS ’96, has been appointed as vice-president of medical affairs of Novocure.

Jeffrey Pliefar, M.B.A. ’90, was appointed as CEO of MacKay Shields LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of New York Life Investments.

David Piskowski, M.B.A. ’91, was recognized as one of the Ones to Watch in Long Island Business News. He is president of DCP Marketing Services, based in Melville, New York. He runs his own full-service marketing firm, helping law, accounting and technology firms increase their revenue by developing awareness, driving relationships and generating business prospects.

Leonne James, B.B.A. ’92, M.B.A. ’94, is a senior merchandiser at Gap Inc.

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Jennifer McNamara, M.S.W. ’06, is the new chair of the Wilton Domestic Violence Task Force.

Mara Desutro, B.A. ’97, is now living in Newark, Delaware, where she works as the student engagement coordinator at the University of Delaware.

Gregory Estes, M.F.A. ’10, is living in triangle, Virginia, selling cars at Lindsay Chevrolet of Woodbridge. As a creative outlet, he has focused recently on music and illustration, mostly consisting of characters featured as skeletons.

Leslie Fuxin, B.A. ’10, is the communications associate for Whittens Culinary Group in Islandia, New York. She writes for and edits the company’s two in-house publications and lends support to the company’s sales, social media and public relations initiatives.

Steph Garrison, M.F.A. ’10, is back at her native mid-Hudson Valley land, teaching at both Marist College and SUNY New Paltz as an English adjunct professor.

Brian Doyle, B.A. ’10, M.A. ’11, is a third grade teacher in Prince William County, Virginia. He relocated to Occoquan, Virginia, in August of 2011 and is currently pursuing a certificate in administration.

Brian Sloo, M.F.A. ’10, is teaching English composition as an adjunct at Wood Teobob-Coburn School in Manhattan, while living on Long Island.

Christine Uitz, M.F.A. ’10, is living in Brooklyn and took a job as a personal assistant to an art attorney.

Devin Walsh, M.F.A. ’10, works at the French Broad Brewery in Asheville, North Carolina, where his wife and he just bought a house. He’s at work on the second complete revision of the young adult novel he started while attending Adelphi.

The Ruth S. Harley Society recognizes and thanks alumni and friends who have donated a bequest or planned gift to Adelphi. Define your legacy and create a lasting gift to the University.

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To find out more about our programs and alumni benefits, please call 516.877.3470.
When news of the passing of Al Davis broke on Saturday, October 8, 2011, memories and anecdotes quickly filled newspapers, blogs and television broadcasts in an attempt to personalize one of the most influential people in professional football history. He was a maverick, a man who repeatedly followed his own—often controversial—path to success.

Long before he donned his iconic gold-rimmed sunglasses and coined now-popular phrases like ‘Just win, baby!’ and ‘commitment to excellence,’ the Oakland Raiders owner’s legacy started at Adelphi. From 1950 to 1951, he was the football team’s offensive line coach, as well as the baseball coach. He may be remembered for winning three Super Bowl championships, or as a pioneer in progressive hiring practices or as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but Mr. Davis was never forgotten at Adelphi, and he never forgot the University.

“If you didn’t call him, there was an imaginary clock ticking, and he would call you,” says Lou Flego ’55, who played quarterback at Adelphi during Mr. Davis’s tenure. “That happened until he died.”

“He was elected into our Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992, and it was the most successful hall of fame induction that we ever had,” Mr. Flego says. “He was very humble, and he had a tremendously busy schedule. It was important to him.”

Mr. Flego and Mr. Davis had a close relationship—one that began when the coach approved Mr. Flego’s Adelphi football scholarship after an intense interview. Mr. Flego has many stories of his former coach, friend and mentor, and he often tells of when he brought Mr. Davis a framed photo of his first team, which Mr. Flego dubbed “the beginning.” The photo remained with Mr. Davis for decades.

“He took a liking to that,” Mr. Flego says of the picture. “When you looked behind his desk in Oakland, there was the silver and black, the Super Bowl rings—he had all kinds of memorabilia—and next to it all was the picture. Every time Sue [Mr. Flego’s wife] and I would go to Oakland, he would always show it off.”

Mr. Flego says Mr. Davis’s personality was contagious. Mr. Davis was a man of his word and certainly a person you wanted on your side. Despite his reputation for constantly combating the NFL and its administration, he was an effective advocate for his players and employees, someone who wanted to hear your honest opinion. He could also be self-effacing. During the holidays, Mr. Flego says, Mr. Davis and the Adelphi staff brought in gifts for needy children, but took a humble approach. “He wasn’t the kind of guy that wanted it to be known,” Mr. Flego says.

To the end, Mr. Davis enjoyed the camaraderie of his first football team. A while back, Mr. Davis charged Mr. Flego with keeping the Adelphi team connected, and the remaining members of that team have gotten together and attended a Raiders game each year. Last December marked the 19th gathering of the squad in Miami, but the first without Mr. Davis.

“Every time, Al would always set up a hospitality room, and we would spend a significant [amount of] time together,” Mr. Flego says. “He would let his hair down. The people who attended those things are much richer [for it].”

“It was always about friendship… but it was not always about him,” Mr. Flego says. “His comfort zone was ‘what can I do for you?’”

By Chris Gasiewski
Since 1998, alumni contributions to the Annual Fund have doubled. Because of the generosity of our alumni and friends, we have enhanced scholarship awards and community engagement and outreach initiatives, attracted accomplished faculty and introduced new, innovative programs.

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Adelphi’s Annual Fund closes on August 31.