

# TALK ISN'T CHEAP

The New York State Department of Education has enlisted Adelphi's expertise to improve the preschool education of children with disabilities who are non-native speakers of English.



Eva Roca, director of Adelphi's TESOL/Bilingual Program, secured close to \$500,000 over five years to train bilingual/ESOL preschool professionals in New York City.

"These children need very special instruction that will help them with their needs and challenges as well as language development," says Eva Roca, director of Adelphi's Teaching English as a Second Language/Bilingual Program. Ms. Roca helped Adelphi secure a grant of \$478,939 over five years to operate a New York City Bilingual/English as a Second Language Preschool Technical Assistance Center at Adelphi's Manhattan Center.

Preschool teachers, paraprofessionals, speech pathologists, bilingual psychologists, social workers, and interpreters are being recruited from all five boroughs of New York City to participate in a series of six- to eight-day workshops. According to Ms. Roca, Adelphi will serve between 330 and 775 professionals annually.


The curriculum, designed by Adelphi faculty along with qualified alumni and professionals, covers strategies for bilingual education as well as those of the English as Second Language, or ESL, approach. ESL involves teaching English to students who typically speak different first languages. Bilingual education, by contrast, is instruction in both the student's first language and English, in which the development of one complements the other.

"We believe that a student's language and culture must be acknowledged in order for him or her to be successful in upper grade levels," says Ms. Roca.

"We will give all options to candidates, one of which is the advantage of reinforcing and developing the home language first as the preschooler transitions to the English language. If they don't have personnel who can do this in the child's language, then only ESL strategies will have to do," says Ms. Roca.

An important workshop component is helping education professionals understand what Ms. Roca calls "cultural and linguistic diversity"—different expectations that parents have for their children based on their own cultural backgrounds and experiences.

The program will also help educators distinguish between the normal challenges of foreign language acquisition and a true disability. "You see a lot of children misclassified in early childhood or elementary school [as disabled] because they don't have a solid foundation in the English language, not because they truly have a disability," Ms. Roca says.


The center will disseminate information to the participants about applicable certifications in their fields. Participating teachers may be eligible for New York State financial assistance to pursue ESL certification or a bilingual extension to their existing certification. 

By Hannah Groves '14




## Robert B. Willumstad '05 (Hon.) ELECTED BOARD CHAIRMAN

In June 2011, Robert B. Willumstad '05 (Hon.) (pictured left), cofounder and partner at Brysam Global Partners, was elected chairman of the Adelphi University Board of Trustees, succeeding Thomas F. Motamed '71. Mr. Willumstad has been an Adelphi Trustee since 2005 and was previously vice-chair of the Board. In 2008, he served as the chief executive officer at American International Group, Inc. He retired from his position as president and chief operating officer at Citigroup in 2005.

Adelphi Trustee Helene Sullivan '79, formerly the chief financial officer at Save the Children, was elected vice-chair of the Adelphi Board. She is a trustee of both Save the Children and Save the Children International. The Board's new secretary is Frank Angello '77, father of Peter Angello '11. Mr. Angello is the senior vice president and chief financial officer at Lighthouse International. Previously, he was chief financial officer of the Treasury and Securities Services Division of JPMorgan Chase. 

## Psychologist Grace C. Pilcer M.A. '79, Ph.D. '84 ELECTED AN ADELPHI TRUSTEE

In March, Adelphi elected alumna Grace C. Pilcer M.A. '79, Ph.D. '84 (pictured left) to its Board of Trustees. Dr. Pilcer has been a psychologist in private practice since 1984 and has been a consulting psychologist to several private schools in Manhattan. Since 2002, she has served on the board at Notre Dame School in Manhattan and as chair of the School Life Committee. She also served on the National Parents Committee at the Johns Hopkins University from 2005 to 2010 and was on the fundraising board of The Dalton School in Manhattan from 2002 to 2007.

Dr. Pilcer holds a master's degree and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Adelphi's Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies. She has been a member of Adelphi's President's Advisory Group and has supported the University's fundraising efforts since 1985. 




## DR. JACQUES P. BARBER A NEW DEAN FOR DERNER

In August, Jacques P. Barber, Ph.D., ABPP (pictured right), formerly a professor of psychology in psychiatry and the associate director of the Center for Psychotherapy Research in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, assumed his new role as dean of the Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies.

Dr. Barber has published more than 180 papers, chapters, and books in the field of psychotherapy and personality. He has collaborated on research examining the most pressing health issues to help patients with depression, panic disorders, personality disorders, substance dependence, and interpersonal problems. He recently began a research project on post-traumatic stress disorder with the

Department of Defense and Veterans Administration Medical Center.

A faculty member in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Psychiatry since 1989, Dr. Barber was involved in the clinical training of psychology graduate students, medical students, and residents in psychiatry, as well as post-doctoral trainees. He has mentored post-doctorate and junior faculty in the United States and abroad, and is a former president of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. He also is a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society. 

By Bradley Warshauer M.F.A. '11

