Osbert Hood ’86 came to Adelphi’s University College—then called the Adult Baccalaureate Learning Experience (ABLE)—knowing that to attain his dream of becoming a chief financial officer, he first needed a college degree.

After emigrating from Grenada to Canada at age 20, Mr. Hood began working for American Express. He relocated to the firm’s Great Neck, New York office, and enrolled at Adelphi a few years later. “Adelphi worked for me at a time when I needed it to,” he said.

At the time, he could scarcely imagine the day-to-day life of a chief executive officer overseeing several hundred employees, while keeping a keen eye on fiscal performance and emerging opportunities. MacKay Shields, LLC, where he finished his career in finance, is an investment advisory firm that manages more than $45 billion in assets across all capital markets. Mr. Hood recently retired as its chairman/CEO.

Earlier, he had served as chief operating officer and then CEO of Pioneer Investment Management, as well as CEO of John Hancock Advisers.

His management philosophy comes through in his advice to younger employees and jobseekers: “You’ve got to understand business. I would rather work with a good listener than a good speaker. If you are talking too much, you’re not learning.”

After receiving his B.S. cum laude from Adelphi, Mr. Hood completed an M.B.A. at New York University and the advanced management program at the Wharton School of Business.

In March 2010, Mr. Hood was elected to the Adelphi Board of Trustees.

In addition to his corporate achievements, he has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including the Boston Ballet, the Boston Museum project, the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston. He has focused his philanthropy on children’s services because he remembers the challenges his own family faced.

In his leisure time, Mr. Hood is passionate about reading, and routinely chooses a book or magazine over television, which he finds too slow. The New York Times and The Economist are included on his reading list because he feels strongly that no one can afford to ignore what is going on in China, Italy and Japan. An avid tennis player, he has recently taken up golf.

Looking back, he fondly recalled Professor Saul Myers, who taught Intermediate Accounting. “He was in his 60s when he taught my class,” he said, “and what a joy to listen to. He brought real life to the subject matter and had a great sense of humor.”
New Programs:

Master of Science in Health Information Technology
Advanced Certificate in Health Information Technology

The M.S. in Health Information Technology offers health-focused course work on American healthcare systems, management theory and organizational behavior, information systems, databases, system security, data analysis and clinical decision support, along with applied field experience and a capstone research project course to synthesize all course work. The healthcare information sector is projected to be one of the fastest growing fields for computer and information systems managers. A survey of IT professionals and experts, conducted by the American Society of Health Informatics Managers, forecasts the healthcare information technology sector will create 50,000 to 200,000 new jobs between February 2010 and 2015. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 17 percent employment growth from 2008 to 2018 for computer and information systems managers, faster than the average for all occupations. Electronic medical records and exchange of patient information and patient privacy mandates have created an increased demand for healthcare IT professionals.

The curriculum was developed from the model curriculum of the International Medical Informatics Association and aligns well with the criteria of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. It helps the student use information technology to support efficient, accurate healthcare delivery and management. This master’s degree is a 42-credit program that includes a field experience course and culminates in a health information technology capstone research course. This program is for working professionals who need to fit course work around their busy life and career responsibilities. Students who study part time in the evenings can complete the program in three calendar years by taking two courses each semester and one course each summer. Students complete the 27-credit core program requirements through coursework in University College. The course work includes curriculum involving information systems, management, data communications, healthcare systems and quantitative analysis. Students who complete the 21-credit Advanced Certificate in Health Information Technology can apply those credits toward the completion of the M.S. degree.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

The B.A. in Liberal Studies is a degree completion program for adult students who have earned a minimum of 60 hours of transferable credits at other institutions. For students who have no practical way of completing their degree via traditional, full-time, on-campus study, the liberal studies program does not have a traditional major. Rather than having a single area of focus, BLS students choose courses in two of seven possible concentrations: literature, psychology, social science, business, emergency services administration, criminal justice and natural sciences. Courses in the program will be available on a variety of schedules and use different delivery modalities. Students work with an academic advisor to determine what path to degree completion is right for them.

UC Current Student Profiles

Carmen Rojas, business major
In May 2010, Carmen Rojas returned to college after a long absence to pursue her lifelong dream of obtaining her bachelor’s degree. She is not only a University College student but also on the University College Student Advisory Board. A frequent business traveler to meet current and potential investors in the United States and abroad, she said the schedules at UC fit her busy lifestyle and her professors understand and accommodate her demanding duties as investor relations manager at GenNx360 Capital Partners. Carmen, who had arrived in New York City from the Dominican Republic in 1963 at age 7, struggled with the language barrier until high school, when she excelled in English and math, graduating as an honor student. Eager to help her family financially, she attended LaGuardia Community College, becoming an accounting major because of her math skills. While there, she completed three paid internships at TIAA-CREF and McGraw-Hill Companies. Armed with an associate degree (‘76), she worked four years as secretary and executive secretary to McGraw-Hill magazine editors. In her 20s, she took courses at Pace University and Baruch College but stopped in 1983 to get married. Carmen was executive secretary to the chairman of Mitchell & Titus for 20 years. She then joined Blaylock & Partners as executive assistant to Ronald E. Blaylock, chairman/CEO, from 2000 to 2007. In July 2007, when he launched GenNx360, she became his executive assistant and administrative director. In Fall 2009, she became investor relations manager at the private equity firm. Despite the demands of her career and being a single parent of four children (ages 17 and up), Carmen has a perfect 4.0 GPA and hopes to graduate in 2013.

Anthony Grant, undeclared major
In April 2010, Anthony Grant joined New York Partners (now Atlantic Partners Financial Group), a member of the John Hancock Financial Network, as the latest step in his 12-year career in the financial services field. He works with families and small business owners in the areas of business continuation, benefit plans (including health insurance) and 401(k) planning. Anthony commutes from Baldwin, New York, to Adelphi, where he said he is completing necessary courses to pursue his chartered financial planning designation. Earlier, he was a financial adviser with AXA Advisors, area manager at Citibank and Chase. Anthony said he chose UC “because of the dedicated faculty and the professors’ commitment to provide the highest quality education to adult learners.”

University College Unveils Costello Award

To make prospective students’ decision to invest in higher education a bit easier, Adelphi is pleased to announce the establishment of the Timothy Costello University College Award for UC students. Thirty years ago, Mr. Costello, then president of Adelphi University, supported the creation of the Adult Baccalaureate Learning Experience (ABLE) program, now University College, to help working adults to obtain their college degrees. Then, as now, the economic climate was uncertain and a college degree was a critical asset for career advancement and a tool to ensure flexibility in an unpredictable job market. These new awards—$3,200 per year for full-time students (12 or more credits) and $1,000 a year for part-time students (6 to11 credits)—are available to all students who begin as University College students paying the standard UC tuition rates starting in January 2012. With the introduction of this new award program, almost $1 million in federal, state and institutional grants, as well as Adelphi scholarships, will be awarded to undergraduate full- and part-time University College students.
 Spotlight: Faculty Teaching in University College

Adrian Oser, J.D.
Adrian Oser received a B.A. from Hunter College of the City University of New York, an M.A. in Political Science from the New School for Social Research and a Juris Doctorate from Hofstra Law School. While in law school, she clerked for two Nassau County Supreme Court justices in the Dedicated Matrimonial Division and wrote for the Family Law Review. She has been teaching at Adelphi’s University College for six years, as a criminal justice instructor. Her courses include Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties and the American Criminal Justice System. She believes strongly in the value of University College and the persistence of its students as they work full time while earning their college degrees. Professor Oser’s areas of specialization include civil liberties and the interaction of the American legal system and social institutions. She has also been teaching at Hofstra University for the past 10 years.

Salvatore Iacone, Ph.D.
Salvatore Iacone, a senior adjunct lecturer at University College since 1987, specializes in teaching film and literature courses. Dr. Iacone earned a B.A. from Hunter College, an M.A. from New York University, a Ph.D. from St. John’s University and a graduate diploma from Oxford. His publications include Write to the Point, Modern Business Report Writing, The Reading Connection, Business Writing: When English is a Second Language and The Pleasures of Book Collecting. Dr. Iacone has designed and taught many courses at Adelphi, including The Films of Alfred Hitchcock and Classic Film Noir: 1945-1958. In recent years, he has created several writing seminars for the American Management Association, designed for business professionals whose writing skills are essential to job performance and promotion. He has also presented writing seminars for international clients in Canada and Europe.