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Assistant Professor Stephen Shore presenting at the Manhattan Center

### ADELPHI UNIVERSITY RUTH S. AMMON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

## Professor Stephen Shore: Special Insight on Special Education

**W**hen Ruth S. Ammon School of Education Assistant Professor Stephen Shore was 18 months old, he stopped talking and started having tantrums. A doctor diagnosed him as having autism—a developmental disorder that affects a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others—and recommended he be institutionalized. It was the mid-1960s, and the medical establishment considered autism to be a severe psychiatric-based disorder caused by poor parenting. Dr. Shore’s parents

ignored the doctor’s suggestion, and instead tried to revive his communication skills using music and movement. His mother imitated him to capture his attention. By age four, he’d regained his ability to speak and was able to enroll in a regular kindergarten.

As scientists now know, autism is a spectrum of disorders, ranging from the severe to the mild. On the severe end, a child may have no speech and make no eye contact. On the mild end, where Asperger Syndrome falls, a child

**AT THE RUTH S. AMMON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**, educators are prepared to teach and lead in a complex, multicultural society. The Ammon School at the Manhattan Center offers a range of programs that help teachers and administrators meet the requirements for New York State licensure. You can:

- **Change your career** by completing the requirements for teacher certification
- **Increase your marketability** by extending your base certification to other areas
- **Enhance your educational opportunities** by getting an educational leadership certificate
- **Study for dual certification**

The Manhattan Center allows you to:

- Earn your master's degree at an accelerated rate
- Take conveniently scheduled weekend classes

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Through Adelphi's new Advanced Certificate in Adolescent Education, licensed secondary school educators can earn special education certification.

For details, visit [academics.adelphi.edu/education-programs/ci/cert-adolescent-education-study.php](http://academics.adelphi.edu/education-programs/ci/cert-adolescent-education-study.php)



## Darren Westlund

### *On Pursuing a Master's in Elementary Education*

**I CHOSE A CAREER IN EDUCATION BECAUSE:** *It is something I have always wanted to do. I love being around children and being part of a school.*

**I AM SO PROUD THAT:** *Someone from a small ski town in Colorado can make it in NYC. My friends thought I would be back in Colorado within a month.*

**MY ADVICE:** *It's never too late to start a new career.*

**A TAKEAWAY FROM MY DEGREE:** *Although some children learn differently or have more difficulty learning, they still deserve the same chance as the next child. Don't give up on any child.*



**Dr. Shore continued**

may talk a lot, but still have difficulty understanding nonverbal cues, like facial expressions.

And, as Dr. Shore's parents discovered, autism is not a static diagnosis. With the right interventions, particularly at a young age, people can move towards the milder end of the spectrum.

Indeed, Dr. Shore went on to earn a Doctorate of Education degree in special education, married his college girlfriend, and wrote several books on autism, including *Understanding Autism for Dummies* (with coauthor Linda Rastelli) and a personal account of growing up with autism called *Beyond the Wall*, before joining the Adelphi faculty in 2009. A member of the Autism Society of America's Board of Directors and the National Institute of Mental Health's Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, Dr. Shore is regularly interviewed by major media, including CNN and public radio, about living with autism and current research.

Dr. Shore was filmed at the Manhattan Center last February for a segment of the Public Broadcasting Service series *NOVA scienceNOW* on "Magic and the Brain." He gave an interview on the implications of using magic to diagnose and treat children with autism. "One aspect of magic is the misdirection of joint attention of the magician and the audience to a place the performer does not want them to look," says Dr. Shore. "Lack of this joint attention is a common characteristic of autism, suggesting that people with autism, such as myself, may be harder to fool

with magic. During the interview, I talked about how I immediately saw through a magic trick during a Cub Scout meeting when I was about eight years of age. I remember approaching the magician, telling him, 'so it works like this' and reproduced his trick on the spot. Needless to say, he was not amused."

At the Adelphi Manhattan Center, Dr. Shore teaches courses on special

find them to engage in good classroom discussion and to be hard working. The students also tend to have a lot of life experiences that enrich the courses for everyone."

He hopes to impart to fellow educators he teaches that: "All students are individuals and part of our jobs as educators is to determine their learning styles; all the techniques and procedures learned in special education

**"All students are individuals and part of our jobs as educators is to determine their learning styles."**

education and autism, including the popular "Introduction to Special Education" and "Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders" classes.

Dr. Shore says he is impressed by how eager students in his courses are to learn the material. "The Adelphi Manhattan Center students tend to be very focused and desire to eke out every bit of knowledge," he says. "I

courses are really just extensions of good teaching practice; and with the technology and know-how we have today, the potential for people having special needs leading productive and fulfilling lives can become the rule rather than the exception."

*This article was adapted from the cover story of the Spring 2010 issue of Adelphi University Magazine, written by Samantha Stainburn.*



# Academic Excellence with a Personal Touch

The Adelphi University School of Social Work at the Manhattan Center offers a warm, welcoming community where students benefit from the expertise and support of a professional, caring faculty and administration. Evening and Saturday classes, as well as flexible part-time and full-time programs, offer choices to students in their pursuit of B.S.W. and M.S.W. degrees. Students will find a “one-stop shopping” experience where they can interact with fellow classmates, consult with their academic adviser, meet with a tutor or financial aid counselor, and attend classes while working towards becoming a professional, licensed social worker. The field education experience includes extensive supervision and instruction in a variety of settings, including health and mental health clinics, schools, community residences, and hospitals. The diverse backgrounds and life experiences of our students and professors enrich the learning to create a lively environment.

## Adelphi Welcomes PROGRAM DIRECTOR SANDRA NICAISSE

This fall, the Adelphi School of Social Work Manhattan Center welcomed its new director, Sandra Nicaisse. In addition to overseeing the social work program at the Manhattan Center, Ms. Nicaisse personally advises new and returning students. Prior to joining Adelphi, Ms. Nicaisse was a program director of COBRA Case Management at Housing Works, the largest community-based AIDS service organization in the United

States, where she supervised 15 clinical and administrative staff members and coordinated client services. She has also worked as a social work supervisor at Good Shepherd Services, Safe Horizon, and St. Vincent's Services in Brooklyn, New York. She has an M.S.W. from Columbia University and a B.A. in psychology and black studies from City College of the City University of New York.



## Donaree Peart M.S.W. '10

**I'M CURRENTLY:** *A case manager with the New York City Human Resources Administration, where I primarily provide services to clients who are living with HIV/ AIDS, such as social support and financial, medical, and housing assistance.*

**I'M A SOCIAL WORKER BECAUSE:** *I enjoy assisting and helping people who are disadvantaged.*

**MY FONDEST ADELPHI MEMORY:** *Receiving the 2010 National Association of Social Workers Student of the Year award and the friendly atmosphere among professors, students, and staff.*

**MOST IMPORTANT LESSON I LEARNED AT ADELPHI:** *Treat clients with the utmost respect and care despite their current situation.*

**I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT:** *Being in a position where I can empower people to change their lives for the better.*

**I WOULD LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED AS:** *A kind, loving person who believed in the good of all humankind.*



## Amy Telsey M.S.W. '10

**I'M A SOCIAL WORKER BECAUSE:** *I have always felt a strong desire to help other people, especially in their most personal struggles and when they are at their most vulnerable. I have had a successful, profitable pet care business for over a decade, and I wanted to do something for a living that gave me a sense of purpose.*

**MY ADELPHI EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN:** *Empowering, challenging, expanding, supportive, and one I am very happy I chose to do.*

**MY FONDEST ADELPHI MEMORY:** *The wonderful fellow students I met on the journey to my degree.*

**MY ADVICE FOR STUDENTS:** *Take a deep breath, take advantage of how supportive the faculty is, believe in yourself, and you will be proud of yourself at the end.*

**MY ROLE MODEL:** *My stepfather. He taught me that I never need to panic (although I still sometimes do). Everything can be handled one step at a time.*

**I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT:** *Social justice, therapy, and animal rights advocacy.*

**IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN THE WORLD IT WOULD BE:** *People's apathy to others' suffering.*

**I'D LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR:** *Being sensitive, funny, and brave.*



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## THE ADELPHI UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AT THE MANHATTAN CENTER

offers an innovative, evening bachelor's program that enables aspiring nurses to meet the challenges and demands of today's healthcare environment. This undergraduate program combines the study of nursing theory with research, clinical practice, and community service. Dedicated to the highest professional standards, the program focuses on patient-centered care and instills an appreciation for cultural diversity. Our program fosters an understanding of the different nursing roles in a variety of healthcare settings, emphasizing the nurse's role in health promotion, long-term care, research, advocacy, teaching, change, and management.

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## Meet Barbara Concepcion B.S. '10

**You already have a master's degree in school psychology. How did pursuing your bachelor's degree in nursing at Adelphi's Manhattan Center compare?**

I liked studying under dedicated, compassionate, and knowledgeable professors. I also liked the racial, religious, and ethnic diversity of the student body. There is an interesting balance of first-time college attendees and second-degree B.S. students who have fascinating backgrounds and



Barbara Concepcion B.S. '10 (left) tutored fellow students as a Learning Center volunteer. Here, she's meeting with nursing student Elsa Buggs.

accomplishments in other fields of study and work experiences.

What is really special to me is the congenial atmosphere at the Center. Program Director Patricia Garofalo was always available to mentor, advise, and encourage students. She has created

a very professional yet comfortable environment. Since the Center is contained on a single floor, all of the services, including the library, computer center, Learning Center, nursing labs, faculty offices, and student services, are easily accessible.

### Why did you choose Adelphi?

I selected Adelphi because of its long-standing reputation of being a top school of nursing. I was also attracted to the Manhattan Center because of the opportunity to pursue part-time study.

### What challenges have you overcome?

Entering the nursing profession as a mature student was quite challenging. Initially, the studying was difficult (as it should be for this profession), and while I thoroughly enjoyed all of my hospital clinical experiences, they were more physically demanding than I had anticipated. Gradually, I built up my strength and endurance in the clinical setting, and I learned early on how to organize and maximize my studying and how to avail myself to the plethora of resources accessible in the form of study guides, CDs, NCLEX reviewers, and Internet sites. I learned how to

study effectively very quickly because I wanted to perform well in the program.

### What is your advice for other students?

Try not to feel overwhelmed by the material. Instead, find effective ways to master it. Break large assignments

and flashcards. Students should also take advantage of library and Internet resources. Students can study with a partner or form or join a study group. In addition, all students should be aware of Adelphi's Learning Center that offers peer tutoring, and students should reach out for help if they need it or if they would like to improve their study skills.

“Most of all, I have had the honor of observing firsthand the professional growth of the finest nurses of the future.”

### You were a Learning Center tutor. What did you most enjoy about tutoring?

Overall, I enjoyed teaching and connecting with students. I have had the opportunity to help students study the nursing material, organize their

assignments, and manage their time more efficiently. Tutoring nursing also gave me the opportunity to review, reinforce, and update the nursing material that I learned in the program. Most of all, I have had the honor of observing firsthand the professional growth of the finest nurses of the future.

We invite you to learn more about our people and programs in this newsletter and online at [adelphi.edu/manhattan/nursing.php](http://adelphi.edu/manhattan/nursing.php)



## New Cyber Lounge Now Open

Students looking for a quiet but comfortable place to study will be delighted with the new Cyber Lounge at Adelphi's Manhattan Center. Opened in September 2010, it features three Dell desktop computers and one Mac. In addition, students will find eight oversized lounge chairs with attached folding tray tables that can be swiveled up from the arms of the chairs and opened to accommodate notebooks or laptop computers. Students may bring their own laptops or borrow one of the six new laptops from the Center's library. The Cyber Lounge is located across from the Center's entrance and, like the rest of the Center, it is a WiFi hotspot.



# ROOM TO WRITE AND STUDY

As of fall 2010, Manhattan Center students have full access to the Adelphi Writing and Learning Centers in the Learning and Writing Centers' Annex, which recently opened in Room 277 (near the library and nursing study area). There, they will find trained peer tutors ready to help them with all manner of academic and writing assignments. Students are encouraged to visit at the early stages of work and as needed, but well ahead of deadlines, throughout the semester.

**THE LEARNING CENTER** provides content tutoring for help on specific assignments, support with basic skills such as note- and test-taking, and specialized workshops and programs such as prep for graduate school or certification exams. It uses a web-based system on which students can schedule 30-minute to one-hour appointments during the week and on weekends, and which can be accessed from its website: [students.adelphi.edu/learningcenter](http://students.adelphi.edu/learningcenter). Live video-chat appointments will soon be available to link students to the Garden City campus when the Annex in Manhattan is closed.

**WRITING CENTER** appointments, which last 45 minutes to an hour, can be scheduled online at [students.adelphi.edu/writingcenter](http://students.adelphi.edu/writingcenter). (Click on "Schedule an Appointment.") Students often come in to brainstorm how to get started on an assignment or to continue working on an early, revised, or near final draft. The Writing Center is also piloting online services for Manhattan Center students. This service is available via Adelphi's virtual classroom environment, Moodle.

All services are free to any currently enrolled Adelphi student. Students may call either Center's main office on the Garden City campus to seek assistance scheduling an appointment or with any other questions.  
**The Writing Center** (516) 877-3296 **The Learning Center** (516) 877-3200

## Don't panic! The library will help you.

Returning to school can be daunting. Not only will you have to grapple with the challenges of academic work and juggling school, work, home, and internships or clinical placements, but you'll also have to embrace today's complex information and technological worlds.

Never used a database? Unsure what a "scholarly journal" and "APA format" are? Instructions to "post a thread on Moodle" sound like a foreign language to you?

Don't panic! The library will help you. The intimate size of Adelphi's Manhattan Center gives us the luxury to sit down with you at every stage of your research. We can help clarify your approach to your assignments, search the catalog and databases effectively, and choose sources that will help—not sources that will waste your time and confuse you even more.



We offer a quiet, friendly refuge that is open seven days a week, with more than 50 computers in the library and labs and an up-to-date collection geared to your assignments, as well as 24-hour access from home.



"I needed a quiet place to study and focus. It's harder to stay away from the TV and Internet at home, so the library was becoming like a second home. After a while, I was spending so much time here, I figured I might as well join the staff."

Rolando Flores, School of Nursing student

## STUDENT SERVICES

What are some of the things that I can do at Student Services?

- Pay my bill
- Register for classes
- Obtain information about tuition, fees, and financial aid
- Take my ID picture
- Obtain information about local student discounts

We invite you to learn more about our people and programs in this newsletter and online at [adelphi.edu/manhattan](http://adelphi.edu/manhattan)

## Office of Student Financial Services is the Best Source for Advice on Paying for College

As newly accepted and current University students prepare for the upcoming year, many are anxious about how to pay for college and where to turn for reliable loan information.

James C. Ross, college financial aid administrators are the people on the front line, staying on top of the current state of the industry and working hard to guide students through the financial aid maze.

The financial aid process is complex and can seem overwhelming, and students often find themselves at sea amid the vast number of financing options and sometimes contradictory sources of information.

At Adelphi, the Office of Student Financial Services in Garden City and the Office of Student Services at the Manhattan Center are committed to helping students fund their studies. The staff is experienced in guiding students through the application process and helping them to identify scholarships, grants, and loans. They offer personalized assistance with all aspects of college expenses, such as financial aid, tuition and fee charges, billing and payment options, student and parent loans, and student employment.

The New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC), the state agency that helps people pay for college, reminds students and families that the best source for college financial aid information is the college financial aid administrator. Financial aid administrators are highly trained advisers available to help students and families avoid confusion and succeed in paying for college. According to HESC President

Adelphi's Manhattan Center student services coordinators are here to help. Please call, email, or stop by during office hours.

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## THE BEST FEDERAL LOANS

Federal student loans have several advantages over private loans and credit cards.

- **Interest Rates:** The interest rates are lower than alternative and PLUS loans.
- **Deferment:** The government allows you to defer payments if you go back to school or join the military.
- **Loan Forgiveness:** Depending on some professions, federal loans can be forgiven for graduates who go into teaching, health, or public service.
- **Consolidation:** Once school is finished, it's easy to consolidate all federal student loans into one loan, which eases payment and bookkeeping. This sometimes lets you stretch out your repayment for as long as 30 years, which significantly reduces monthly payments.
- **Early Repayment:** Unlike some private lenders, the federal government won't charge you if you repay your loans ahead of schedule.

The following are some of the top-rated federal loans:

**Federal Perkins Loan:** Federally backed educational loans that are awarded only to students with the lowest incomes.

**Subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans:** Another federally backed loan where interest is not charged while the student is in school.

**Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans:** Awarded to almost every student who applies, regardless of income. The interest keeps building up while the student is in school. Students do not have to make payments while they are enrolled at least part-time. But when they do finish school, the total amount they owe will have increased.

**PLUS:** Students who need more money after they have taken out their Perkins and Stafford loans can borrow their full remaining costs from the PLUS loan program.

## IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

FAFSA on the Web	<a href="http://fafsa.ed.gov">fafsa.ed.gov</a>
Federal Student Aid Processor	1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
Financial Aid and Scholarship	<a href="http://fastweb.com">fastweb.com</a> <a href="http://collegeboard.com">collegeboard.com</a>
Federal School Code	002666
AU TAP Code Undergraduate	0010
AU TAP Code Graduate	5000
NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (for TAP and Stafford Loan Inquiry)	1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372)
Tuition Pay Plan (AMS)	1-866-884-8466

## FINANCIAL AID FAQs

The process of applying for financial aid can flummox even the savviest students. To guide you through what can be an unnerving process, the Adelphi Office of Student Financial Services has posted online a comprehensive list of 12 FAQs, conveniently available at [ecampus.adelphi.edu/sfs/fast\\_facts.php](http://ecampus.adelphi.edu/sfs/fast_facts.php)

The questions cover everything from how financial aid eligibility is determined to whether one needs to apply for financial assistance every year (Yes!). Students and applicants who have even more questions are, of course, welcome to contact a Manhattan Center student services coordinator for assistance.





AIM HIGH

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