When Lauren Sustad felt homesick during her first year of college, she texted her friend Geena Bruno from back home on Long Island. Bruno had recently transferred to Adelphi University to study communication sciences and disorders—the same field Sustad was interested in pursuing.

With Bruno’s encouragement, Sustad decided to transfer to Adelphi too because it was close to home, it offered her major and she already felt connected. Bruno continued to mentor Sustad, encouraging her to join the Tau Sigma Transfer Honor Society. Sustad transferred from Hartford University; Bruno from SUNY Cortland.

Tau Sigma is the only honors group created exclusively for transfer students. Unlike other honor societies that focus on passion and excellence in a particular subject, Tau Sigma acknowledges the successes of students who all share one common experience.

Story continues on page 4.
GAINING MOMENTUM

It has been a very exciting start to the fall semester at Adelphi! The weather has been beautiful and the Garden City campus is bursting with energy as we welcome our returning students, as well as 600+ new transfer students—our largest transfer class since 2007!

This on the heels of welcoming our largest first-year student class ever. Our Nexus Building is now open and full of activity. Keep your eyes peeled for an invitation to come visit campus and experience our brand new, state-of-the-art simulation labs for yourself.

I am impressed with the caliber of transfer students we have here at the University. They strive to learn more, to do more, to be more—to become the best possible versions of themselves. Our Tau Sigma chapter is just one avenue for transfers to be recognized for their academic achievements as transfer students.

In this edition, you will read about our strategic plan, get to know our new dean in the Robert B. Willumstad School of Business and, most importantly, see the success of our outstanding transfer students.

Adelphi is filled with momentum and we look forward to the semester ahead.

Regards,

Christina Koromi

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Transfer Student Newsletter is published twice a year by the Office of University Communications and Marketing.

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events.adelphi.edu/transfernews
Get ready, Adelphi students: New degree options, internships and activities are coming your way.

Momentum: The Strategic Plan for Adelphi University 2015–2021 plots a bold set of objectives for the coming years. President Christine M. Riordan is spearheading the initiative, which uses objective data, in-person feedback and higher education studies to strengthen the quality of education for current and future students.

Though Adelphi has deep roots on Long Island, it has grown into a large metropolitan University with multiple locations. The strategic plan builds on those roots—maintaining the same world-class education, dedication to student success and commitment to diversity it’s always had—while implementing important new initiatives that will cement Adelphi’s global connections.

The result is a wide range of new opportunities for students, from additional program funding to new degree options, Manhattan-based internships and activities, special residence hall communities, test preparation workshops, gap-year programs, diversity training and additional scholarships.

There’s good news specifically for transfer students too: The plan aims to assure preparation and readiness for all future students, including hands-on workshops, online preparation courses and other valuable resources, as well as strengthened partnerships with neighboring community colleges to promote transfers.

As members of an expanding global system of universities, students will be able to pursue professional opportunities in the city and life-changing experiences around the world—all with the University’s support.

With new building plans, programs and initiatives at the forefront of the strategic plan, there’s a new energy in the air—making this a uniquely exciting time to be part of the Adelphi community.

**ADELPHI’S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Emphasizing Student Success**

By Olivia Rubino-Finn

There’s never been a better time to become a teacher, according to Patrice Armstrong-Leach, assistant dean at Adelphi’s Ruth S. Ammon School of Education.

In the wake of mass retirements among teachers in New York City school districts—caused by the ratification of a new contract in 2014 by the United Federation of Teachers union, which offered better incentives to teachers on the cusp of retirement—there will be significant vacancies in coming years, she explained.

For incoming and transfer students, the benefit of pursuing teacher training at Adelphi is especially strong. The University’s relationship with the city’s Department of Education (NYCDOE) is closer than ever, and recent graduates receive prime placements in every borough, often leading to permanent hires. Corinne Donovan, Ph.D., the Ammon School’s assistant dean of research evaluation, added that surveys of Adelphi alumni show that 80 percent of graduates are hired within six months of graduation; similarly, a report prepared by the Department of Education revealed that more than half of recent Ammon School graduates were immediately hired into the NYCDOE system in 2015.

Long story short, Armstrong-Leach said, “Not only do our teachers get hired at a higher rate, but they’re also retained at a higher rate.”

Adelphi’s Ammon School of Education provides students with quality training that gives them a leg up in this competitive arena. In addition to classroom practice and field placement in diverse settings, students receive hands-on instruction from expert faculty. “Our graduates have the requisite skills to fill the shortage need areas [in the public school system],” Dr. Donovan said.

Professional teacher education at Adelphi is a smart move for transfer students in particular.

The Scholar Teacher Education Program (STEP) for those preparing to teach at the childhood or adolescent grade levels—or in K–12 Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) programs—allows students to complete their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in record time. Dr. Donovan noted that transfers in STEP can even emerge with two certifications, for example, one in childhood education and another in special education, which qualifies them to teach a wider range of classes.

Transfer students can also expect a learning environment that caters to their unique needs, said Daryl Gordon, Ph.D., the Ammon School’s associate dean. “It’s intimate enough that it provides transfer students with a lot of support in all the parts of becoming a teacher, from small class sizes to comprehensive support in the certification process, which can be really confusing.”
That experience produces strong bonds among the chapter’s members. “Tau Sigma has enabled me to connect with other transfer students,” said Genna Giordano ’16, a graduate of Adelphi’s Accelerated B.S. in Nursing program who came from Fordham University. “I loved talking to other transfer students about their experience and the stories that led them here.”

To be eligible for Tau Sigma membership, transfers must be full-time students with a 3.5 GPA after their first semester at Adelphi. Once inducted, members become eligible for both national and University-level scholarships.

Bruno, a senior who will serve as Tau Sigma’s 2016–2017 president, hopes to replicate her positive transfer experience for newcomers. “Tau Sigma gave me confidence by providing a smooth transition,” she said. “I met so many new friends and gained leadership skills, which created a positive transfer experience.”

As president, Bruno plans to continue the informal mentoring program the previous executive board established. Giordano, who had been treasurer, said, “Our e-board connected transfer mentors to incoming students, allowing opportunities for students to ask questions about the process and talk about how they’re adjusting.”

Tau Sigma’s benefits stretch beyond Adelphi’s campus. Leaders in Adelphi’s chapter have the opportunity to attend the annual national conference, where they meet with other transfer students from around the country to develop leadership and social skills and build strategies for their local chapter.

Kathleen Rickard ’14 represented Adelphi at the 2013 national convention, where she met members of all ages and backgrounds from across the country. She transferred to Adelphi from St. Joseph’s College to complete a second bachelor’s degree (in nursing) after 20 years in the New York City Police Department. Her experience in Adelphi’s chapter and at the national conference helped her connect with others who shared her experience and point of view. “I learned that many successful members of society transferred during their college careers,” she said.

Leslie Fazin ’10, now a creative digital content specialist for Canon USA, still reaps the benefits of Tau Sigma membership. “Honor societies like Tau Sigma show prospective employers that you’re a dedicated student—academically and personally,” she noted.

Membership in Tau Sigma is “a great résumé builder,” Bruno said. For one thing, she pointed out, it “helped me get a Jaggar Community Fellows internship” in the summer of 2016.

Kerry Sweeney, due to graduate in Spring 2017 as a nursing major, also feels that her membership will have a positive impact on future bosses. “It shows employers the hard work and dedication put into your studies,” said Sweeney, who came from Nassau Community College.

Fazin, who switched from Suffolk County Community College, said that, besides its appeal to future bosses, her time in Tau Sigma helps her look back at her Adelphi experience with pride and affection. “It’s an incredibly supportive organization that helps transfer students not only feel welcomed by their new campus but also be surrounded by other students making the same transition,” she said. “Being part of Tau Sigma helped me feel important—and recognized—as a transfer student.”

Programs of Study at Adelphi

For information on undergraduate programs of study offered through Adelphi University’s various schools, visit catalog.adelphi.edu.

Go to prepare.adelphi.edu for details about Adelphi’s pre-professional tracks as well as joint degree programs in engineering, medicine, optometry, physical therapy, podiatry and veterinary medicine.
In Summer 2015, Rajib N. Sanyal, Ph.D., began his appointment as dean of Adelphi’s Robert B. Willumstad School of Business. An expert in industrial and labor relations who was previously dean of the Miller College of Business at Ball State University in Indiana, he discussed his plans for the School. (Miller had 3,000 students and 92 faculty, versus the Willumstad School’s 1,000 students and 42 full-time faculty.)

Would you say Adelphi’s smaller size drew you here?

Adelphi is located in a very dynamic, high-energy place—the New York metropolitan region. It’s probably one of the most dynamic places in the world. Adelphi is located in the heart of that region, which means there are a lot of people, a lot of businesses, a lot of new ideas, a lot of resources.

Plus, the faculty and administration of a smaller school can provide the sort of attention that students need and can benefit from, on a personalized basis, [more so] than in a larger university. It’s simply the difference in volume.

When I visited Adelphi, I was impressed by what came across as genuine enthusiasm. All presented a very welcoming attitude.

What value do you see in a business degree—at the undergraduate and graduate levels?

The world today is a very economics-driven society. Studying business gives you the understanding and the skills to plug into this very real world we live in.

Many business concepts are built on, or strongly integrated with, liberal arts and ideas. Buying and selling is as much about a product as understanding the psychology of the buyers and sellers. If we’re trying to design and sell a product to the Japanese, or vice versa, it’s about understanding anthropology, their culture and sociology to be successful.

It’s a discipline that reflects the realities of today’s world in economic relationships, and a lot of suppliers are looking for men and women with training in what one might call business disciplines.

With talk of suppliers, big data and today’s trend in vocational learning, does the Willumstad School’s recently added M.S. in Supply Chain Management indicate a new direction for the School?

That degree really reflects that the Willumstad School is very much in tune with the needs of employers in our society. It’s a growing area, and there’s a large demand for skilled workers.

Long Island has a large healthcare industry. I believe there will be opportunities for us to build on our existing partnerships in that area. Hospitals are also businesses; they must be run in an efficient manner. Even a not-for-profit must conduct strategic planning, human resource management, accounting, financial management and supply chain operations. All those industries will grow. Logistics, big data, the healthcare industry—those jump out at me.

—Q-and-A by Jordan Chapman, M.F.A. ’15, and Bonnie Eissner, condensed from Adelphi’s Fall 2015 AU VU magazine

Business Internships Abound

Exemplary grades and book smarts are necessary in your professional field after you’re hired for your first job. But it’s the networking and attainment of worthwhile internships as an undergraduate that can really get your foot in the door.

The Robert B. Willumstad School of Business has set a new standard for internship placement at Adelphi, with the March 2014 launch of its Internship and Mentoring Program—led by Senior Adjunct Professor Neil Halloran.

Visit business.adelphi.edu/internships for details, or see the story in our Spring 2015 issue at news.adelphi.edu/transfer-archive.
The 100,000-square-foot Nexus Building offers bright lounge areas in the main lobby and upstairs where students gather to chat and study.

The first floor includes the Office of University Admissions and much more. The upper floors feature enhanced classrooms and meeting rooms, as well as the College of Nursing and Public Health’s state-of-the-art simulation labs and faculty offices.
Starting with the Fall 2016 semester, undergraduate students can take advantage of a new academic option: a minor in public health—open to all undergrads regardless of their major discipline. The goal of this new offering is to expose students majoring in nursing or other health-focused areas to the complementary curriculum of public health.

“It’s a wonderful way for students to explore it and get a taste of it even if they don’t continue to the graduate level,” explains M. Pilar Martin, M.D., assistant professor of public health and director of the Master of Public Health program at Adelphi’s College of Nursing and Public Health.

“It’s a natural extension of the curriculum since we already have a graduate program in public health. In the future, we plan to open an undergraduate major in public health as well,” she pointed out.

The course work for the public health minor is designed to introduce students to prevention issues, community health practices and the local, state, national and international agencies providing public health services. The minor consists of three required courses covering a range of subjects including basic biology, human anatomy, foundations of public health, social and behavioral aspects of health, and health and human rights. Those selecting this minor will also choose two electives from six options, which will include classes on disaster preparedness and human sexuality.

“So many students are interested in the public health minor,” Dr. Martin said. “Plus, it’s the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine that medical professionals all have some exposure to public health.”

For more information, visit nursing.adelphi.edu/academics/public-health-programs.

—Adapted from a story by Sally Wadyka in the College of Nursing and Public Health’s Fall 2016 Illuminations
Sierra Clark apparently has taken to heart a piece of advice attributed to Confucius: “Choose a job you love and you’ll never have to work a day in your life.”

Clark, a communications major who transferred to Adelphi last fall after finishing her freshman year at Saint Francis University in Pennsylvania, is now a senior communications major (specializing in journalism) and a marketing minor. She is also the top scorer on the Panthers women’s basketball team.

She was drawn by Adelphi’s strong communications program, she said, adding that the small class sizes were also important since “the intimate classroom settings allow for teacher-student interaction. And, of course, basketball was a big factor in my choosing Adelphi. Playing basketball is my passion, so I wanted to go to a school that had a great basketball program.”

Clark said both her parents played basketball while in college—Charmayne and Arthur played Division I basketball at Drexel University and Radford University, respectively—“so I followed them in that respect. But,” she pointed out, “when it comes to my career, I’m branching out from them. My mom is a lawyer and teaches on the side, and my dad works in IT and is also a pastor. What inspired me to get into public relations was the ability to help enhance a company or a team’s image. I also saw this as a great way to be able to have a career related to something I am passionate about.”

Associate Professor Mark Grabowski, J.D., who described Clark as a multitalented basketball player and journalist, mentioned that she’s the Panthers’ top scorer and was named last season to the Northeast-10 All-Rookie Team. She recently had stories published in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette and the Webster Times and was the Department of Communications Student of the Month in March 2016, he added.

Clark, who has also been named MetLife’s Legacy Advisors Player of the Week several times since 2015, downplays her sports honors. “Basketball is a team sport with individual accolades, but I think just being able to put on a Panther jersey and going out every night and leaving everything on the court is my greatest achievement,” she said.

In mid-2015, sports gave Clark the chance to travel outside the United States for the first time, as part of the Beyond Sports third annual Costa Rica Basketball Tour. “I had the opportunity to play against the Costa Rican national team, which was really cool,” she said. “We also put on a couple of sports clinics during our time there—one for the Special Olympics and the other for a local elementary school. I also got to go zip lining on a volcano and visit a rain forest.”

She “would have loved to go” on Adelphi’s Cuba trip in January 2016, she said, but that fell “right in the middle of my [basketball] season.”

Looking beyond graduation, Clark already has her sights set on a public relations career. “I want to work in public relations for a professional sports team,” she said. “I’m from southern Maryland so my dream would be to work for any of the Washington, D.C., pro teams”—preferably the Wizards, she added.

In a May 2016 story in The Delphian, Adelphi’s student newspaper, Clark said she’s also considering another option: “I hope to eventually get into color commenting.”
It’s not enough to simply counsel transfer students—you’ve got to think like a transfer student, according to Christina Koromi, Adelphi University’s director of transfer admissions.

Koromi—whom Esther Goodcuff, associate vice president for student affairs, calls “the face of transfer admissions at Adelphi”—works both on and off campus throughout the transfer process to make students feel at home. One of the best ways to do that, she believes, is to anticipate the challenges that transferring students may face.

“Students don’t always know what to ask,” Koromi pointed out. “They may want to know how many credits are going to be transferred. A better question is: How many are going to be applied to your degree?”

She added that Adelphi sends credit evaluations out with acceptance letters so students can get a head start on planning their degrees. “Most transfer students are very outcome-based,” she explained. “They need to know how long it will take.”

Koromi is particularly proud of the teamwork between Adelphi and local community colleges and two-year schools. One crowning glory is the Early Assurance Program, an initiative Adelphi created with Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) to allow high school students interested in nursing to take courses at SCCC and later transfer to Adelphi’s Sayville learning hub. The two years spent at SCCC can help students save on tuition. Moreover, as Koromi noted, the program “creates a seamless transition for students who know they ultimately want to be at Adelphi.”

Students transfer for a number of reasons. In order to give each student a personalized experience, Koromi understands, flexibility is key. She frequently visits other schools, from Nassau Community College to Kingsborough Community College, offering advice and information for students who may not be able to tour Adelphi. “Of course, we want potential transfers to see the beautiful campus, to meet with our advisers and have a one-on-one experience,” Koromi said. “But that’s not always doable, so we try to be as flexible and accommodating as possible.”

When it comes to transfer matters, Koromi is quite active on and off campus. She is on Adelphi’s Transfer Initiatives Committee, for instance, and is one of four private college representatives of the New York State Transfer and Articulation Association for 2016–2017.

Koromi’s transfer team also works with other entities within the University, from the Center for Student Involvement to the Office of Student Financial Services. From the moment students step on campus, a team of professionals will be on hand to make them feel welcome, from organizing events to providing support services.

“We have a day where students can bring in their gear from their old colleges—sweatshirts and T-shirts—and exchange it for Adelphi gear,” she said. “The old clothes get donated. It’s a great cause and it makes the students feel like they belong.”

With the opening of the Nexus Building, she also hopes to be involved in coordinating tours of the state-of-the-art facilities by prospective nursing students, community college students and the like.

For Koromi, whether it’s a trip to a community college in Brooklyn or a consultation over finances on Adelphi’s Garden City campus, it’s all part of helping students feel confident in their decision.

“The students make this place what it is,” she said. “And every staff member at this University is invested in these students. That’s the personalization that we offer.”

Reading about Adelphi is a great way to learn about us, but visiting our campus is the best way to experience Adelphi.

See for yourself. Stop in for a visit. Talk to an admissions counselor or just stroll around our picturesque Garden City campus, a 75-acre registered arboretum with outdoor sculptures, bustling with students and featuring our modern Performing Arts Center and Center for Recreation and Sports, as well as our newest residence hall and the brand-new Nexus Building.

Email tours@adelphi.edu to schedule a campus tour.
When Cliff Brantley Jr. transferred to Adelphi three years ago, he had two long-term goals: get drafted by a Major League Baseball (MLB) team and become a lawyer. With one semester left, the ambitious Staten Island native has had the opportunity to fulfill both those dreams thanks to the success he’s found at Adelphi.

Like many transfer students, Brantley was nervous about the transition to a new school, but the feeling didn’t last long. After earning a starting spot as a center fielder on Adelphi’s Division II Panthers baseball team, he quickly felt right at home among his new teammates and peers. “Adelphi accepted me with open arms and my teammates were happy to show me around,” he said. “There’s more of a family feeling at Adelphi, so you’re not just a number here.”

The close-knit and welcoming environment that Brantley, a political science major, has experienced at Adelphi extends beyond the baseball diamond. The accessibility of the professors also helped to make his transfer experience a smooth one. “The professors understand that it’s an adjustment to transfer in the middle of your college career, and they’ve always been there to help me,” he said.

Since Adelphi accepts up to 90 credits from accredited senior colleges, the transition from Staten Island’s Wagner College was virtually seamless for Brantley—he was able to transfer many of the credits he had already earned toward his degree.

Beyond his success in the classroom, Brantley quickly made a name for himself on the field as well. With high hopes of getting drafted, he practiced day in and day out to hone his abilities. Brantley’s hard work finally paid off in June 2014, when MLB scouts took notice and he was picked up by the Toronto Blue Jays.

(Baseball is in his blood: His father, Cliff Brantley, pitched for MLB’s Philadelphia Phillies in 1991 and 1992.)

After living out his childhood dream for two years, Brantley’s professional baseball career was unfortunately cut short due to injuries. However, his drive to succeed has only grown since then. He is now pursuing his second goal of becoming a lawyer and eventually a lobbyist. Upon graduating after the Fall 2016 semester, he will take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and move on to law school.

Brantley credits Adelphi’s political science program with giving him the tools to think critically and to understand the complexities of arguments, both of which are skills he’ll need as a lawyer. He hopes to one day represent those who have been wrongfully convicted and to make a lasting impact on the criminal justice system.

“My classes at Adelphi have broadened my understanding of different cultures, and the professors have helped me to look at the world from a new perspective,” he said. Brantley has always been certain of his future career path. At Adelphi, he found the confidence he needs to pave his own way.
When 11 Adelphi students traveled to Cuba during the January 2016 intersession, Thomas Gonzalez, a transfer from McDaniel College, was excited to be among them—because, “as Americans, we know so little of what Cuba is like.”

Gonzalez—a communications major with a focus in film who transferred from McDaniel in Fall 2013 and hopes to eventually become a producer and director—was also excited about the opportunity for field experience. After all, they were among the first Americans to visit the island nation after the Obama administration’s mid-2015 decision to reestablish diplomatic relations after five decades.

For Gonzalez, the highlight came on his last full day in Cuba, when “I spent an afternoon running through the streets of Havana with teenagers from the parkour community.” Parkour involves negotiating obstacles by climbing, jumping and acrobatics in an urban setting, similar to the daredevil foot chase that opened the James Bond film Casino Royale.

While on a bus headed for dinner on day one in Havana, they had seen the teens and Assistant Professor John Drew said they would make “an awesome story for our website, cubastories.com,” Gonzalez said. “Unfortunately, as the trip went on, we did not see them again,” he added, “and I accepted the fact that we weren’t going to be able to get the story.”

Then on that last evening, he again spotted the parkour kids. “Not wanting to miss this opportunity,” he said, “I went to Professor Drew and suggested we let the bus go…so we could get this story. He immediately agreed and we went off to get the footage. Once Drew explained to the teenagers what we were doing, they put on a show for us and brought us to some of their favorite spots.”

That student-faculty collaboration also “turned out to be an awesome learning experience since Professor Drew was right behind me the entire time, providing pointers on different types of shots I could get and how to make them better,” Gonzalez explained.

Formed in Spring 2013, Adelphi offers the Parkour and Freerunning Club among its 80-plus student clubs and organizations.

When asked what he gained from the total experience, he said, “It may be a cliché but I came back a different person. I learned a lot about myself and became proud of my Latino heritage. Also, for the first time, I felt like I was on the right career track and that working with cameras is what I want to do for the rest of my life.”

Gonzalez, who plans to earn his bachelor’s in Fall 2016, has applied to production internships “to get my foot in the door. My ultimate career goal is to become a director and produce my own television shows and/or movies.”
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*Panther Information Sessions will be offered at each Transfer Admission Day.