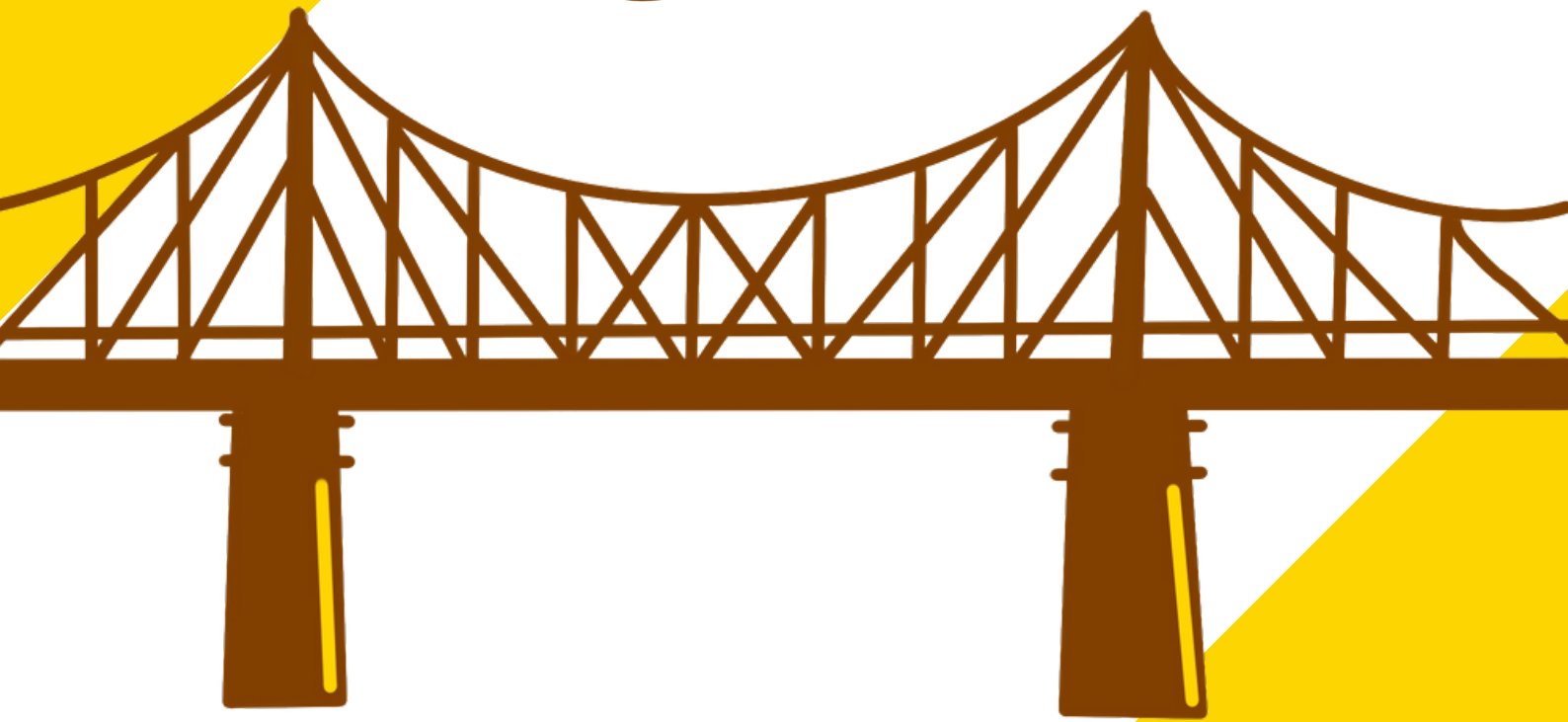


BRIDGING THE GAP



Welcome to
the inaugural issue of

Bridging the Gap

We are so glad you are taking a moment to enjoy
this creative publication which was
written, designed, and published by
the students and alumni
of the *Bridges to Adelphi* Program
at Adelphi University

- Spring 2021 -

Want to learn more about Bridges? Check out our
Website: <https://www.adelphi.edu/bridges/>

- Spring 2021 -

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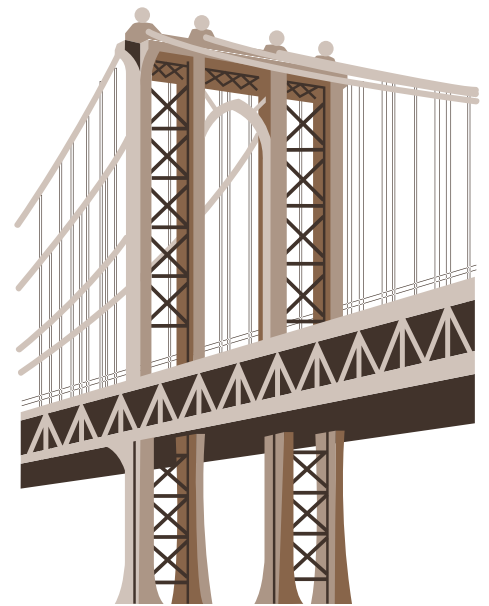


Table of Contents

Life After College - 03

Creating a World - 04

Poetry Corner - 05

Color - 06

The Ethics of Water

Privatization - 07

Celebrating Inclusion and
Ability at NYFC - 07

The Spread of Indo-
European - 08

Reflections on Bridges - 09

20% Seating Capacity - 10

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LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

By Sunayna Prasad,
Adelphi BFA 2017

I graduated from Adelphi University in the spring of 2017 with a BFA in Fine Arts. That fall, I thought to myself, for the first time in 20 years I no longer have to go to school. It felt great. In fact, I wanted to relax before looking for a job... which was no easy task.

The trouble with finding a job

I applied for many art and design positions but, sadly, they rejected me. So I considered going back to school to earn a certificate in graphic design. That did not work out. The amount of work required overwhelmed me.

After years of trying other artistic skills such as animation, product design, 3D-modeling, and illustration, I had no luck in obtaining a job. Recently, I have discovered another interest, not related to art.

Change of interests

About a year ago, I realized that art might not be the right career path for me, not because of how hard it was to get a job in that field, but because a different path was calling me: writing.

I have been writing for years. I have about 10 years of creative writing experience and three years' blogging experience. These days, I find myself doing more writing than art. So I feel that I want a new career move involving writing. I still enjoy art, but as a hobby.

The type of writing I would like to do is web content and SEO writing. I am currently taking an online course in content writing and SEO, and really enjoy it. I am hoping to obtain a job in that field by this summer.

Increased social life and number of friends

Ironically, the number of friends I've made and the amount of times I hung out with them has drastically increased after college graduation.

A lot of people, including experts, say that it is usually harder to make friends after college. I was worried about that, too. However, the opposite happened. A year before graduating, I went to a birthday party and met a couple of people there. We exchanged numbers, and that is when my new active social life was born.

Between college graduation and the pandemic, I had a very active social life - with one or two social plans each week. I also made more friends after college who I could relate to (and vice versa) far more than the friends I had made in school. What I discovered is that people who can relate to you are more likely to become loyal friends for a long time.

Although my life after college may differ from yours, you never know what is going to happen. Our interests and paths vary. What happened to me may not necessarily happen to you. But remember, you can choose your path, friends, and much more, even after college.

Creating a world:

How one student writes her stories

By: Nicolas Rontanini



Creative storytelling is a difficult task in itself, but some Bridges students are taking that challenge head-on. Accounting student Deanna Javier has recently written a fanfiction piece* in the style of the Disney show "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse." According to Javier, the story for the piece came to her in a dream.

"It's kind of fuzzy, but what I was able to catch from it was Toodles being sick and Quoodles being in the Mousekedoer trying to help," she said. "I was able to build upon that, and thus 'Mickey Mouse Clubhouse: Helping a Helper' was born."

This piece* is not the first that Javier has written about the show. She had previously written another in 2013 about the Mousekedoer needing repairs. She had sent it to Disney but it was not accepted due to copyright law.

Javier said she added to the story after it was finished, which initially took her about a day to complete. She separated the story into two parts, as it was intended to be a special episode, running longer than the traditional twenty-two minutes. She also added more content to the piece including a comparison to the Coronavirus.

"This [story] is basically an adaptation of the COVID-19 virus and all the helpers who played their role," she said. "It all relates back to COVID-19, the feelings everybody's feeling, the symptoms Toodles has, and how the virus is doing harm to the body."

She realized the connection to COVID as she dreamt, and added it because she felt the connection would give children an understanding of the pandemic, and show it in a new light, even if they haven't understood what exactly has happened. Even though the show has not aired a new episode since 2016, she felt this would be a good way to bring the show back and be a positive episode for children.

Javier has had some experience with writing creative content through fanfiction and making videos. While she hasn't previously posted her material, she would like to pitch her ideas to companies like Disney and make her writing a reality.

*You can read Deanna's fanfiction piece here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ti0mYGmWPnB9fS-xiN2pCo6ziwSebQEg/view>

poetry Corner

Winter Branches

by Lena Maffei

Winter branches on winter trees,
Like brittle, wooden daggers
Reaching upwards, cutting into
The gloomy winter skies.

Winter branches without their leaves,
Skeletal fingers without flesh
Waiting for springtime's first buds
To make their bodies whole.

Winter branches in the wind,
Bending, breaking, sometimes falling,
The ground covered in lonely twigs,
Too feeble to survive.

Winter branches in the dark,
A frightening shape to see at night.
Waiting in the shadows
Like an undead sentry.

Winter branches in the sun,
Casting shadows on new grass,
Praying it won't be too long
'Till they're wearing pink and green.

What Bridges means to me

by Skylar Reiner

It means changing myself for the better without
changing who I am

It means being happy when you get a nat 20* but
being sad when it's a nat 1

It means knowing you had the tools all along but
you just needed someone to help you.

It means meeting people like you and knowing you
are not alone.

** A natural 20 is Dungeons and Dragons rule term for rolling a 20 on
a 20-sided dice (the maximum possible value).*

Spring

by Jacob Rosenfeld

Spring is when the world wakes up. Spring looks like
fields of flowers encircling the Earth with a
kaleidoscope of poly-chromatic blossoms
enhancing the landscape. Spring looks like green
foliage cushioning tree branches. Spring sounds
like songbirds in a harmonious chorus filling the air
with symphony. Spring sounds like wasps buzzing in
their apiaries preparing for Summer and bobcats
screeching on mountaintops. Spring has the
fragrant aroma of honey produced by honeybees
after they collect sweet nectar. In the Spring, I
frolic through grasslands extending my arms to
embrace the sunbeams and try to grasp my Utopia
after a long span of Winter.





C O L O R

But what is color,
But a mere
Illusion
of the eye?

For
Everyone sees color
In their own
special way.
Changing from
person to person

For everyone is
different.
For everyone is
unique.

This is true
For everything,
In this
Wonderful
Wonderful
World of ours.
People too
Are part
of this
Splendor.

For
No two people
See the world
In
The same way.

For
No two people
See the world
In
The same light.

Just like
The colors
of the Rainbow,
Some see Pretty,
Some see Life.

But what in Life
Do they see?

All those colors,
Shining in unison.
All United, All in
Harmony.

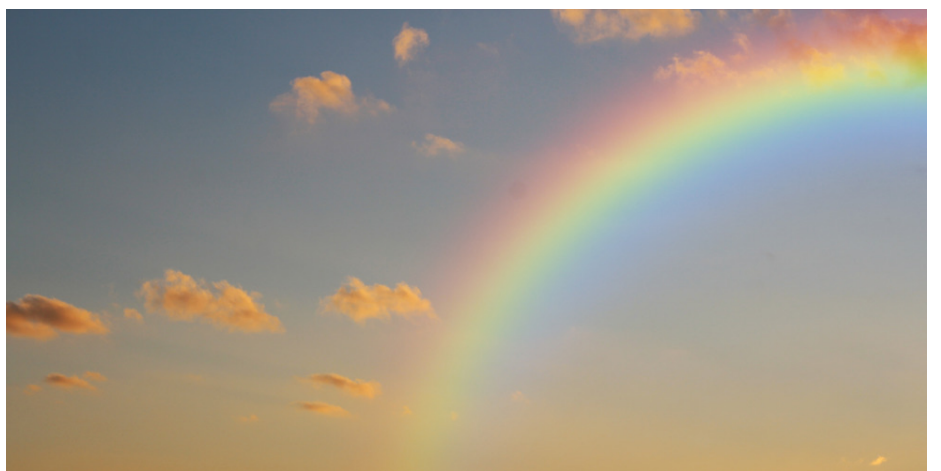
But
What about us?
For everyone is
different,
In their own
Special way.

For each
Can only live
In the way
That
They were
Made to live.

All shaped
By the People
That they
Have met.
All shaped
By the Friends
That they
Have made.

How do you see
The Rainbow,
When you look
Up to the Sky?

by
Ben
Ray



The Ethics of Water Privatization

By Laura Madtes



When discussing matters of environmental sustainability and resistance to environmental injustice, one issue often addressed is whether or not it is ethical to claim ownership of vital natural resources. What I am referring to here is corporations privatizing local reservoirs in poorer nations, making it more difficult for individuals to access the fresh water that they need to survive. This, in turn, has caused intense debate on how natural resources should be managed, as many have argued that since water is needed for survival, it should be treated as a basic human right and not something that can be possessed and controlled by a single entity.

When these companies claim ownership of local water reservoirs, the nearby citizens who have before relied on these reservoirs are not able to access the water that they need to survive. What is especially unethical are the behaviors of bottled water companies, as they will often monopolize the water reservoirs found in less developed nations. This is even more harmful when you take into account how these reservoirs are the only source of fresh water available to these communities.

As such, when these corporations try to sell this water back to the community, it is often far too expensive for many of the residents. This has been shown to leave the women of these communities more vulnerable, as poorer women who cannot afford to purchase water are unable to access resources for their household needs. The inability to purchase water forces mothers and older daughters to travel long distances to find often less potable water, which in turn limits their ability to obtain better jobs or attend school.

Celebrating Inclusion and Ability at NYFC

by Hannah Schultz

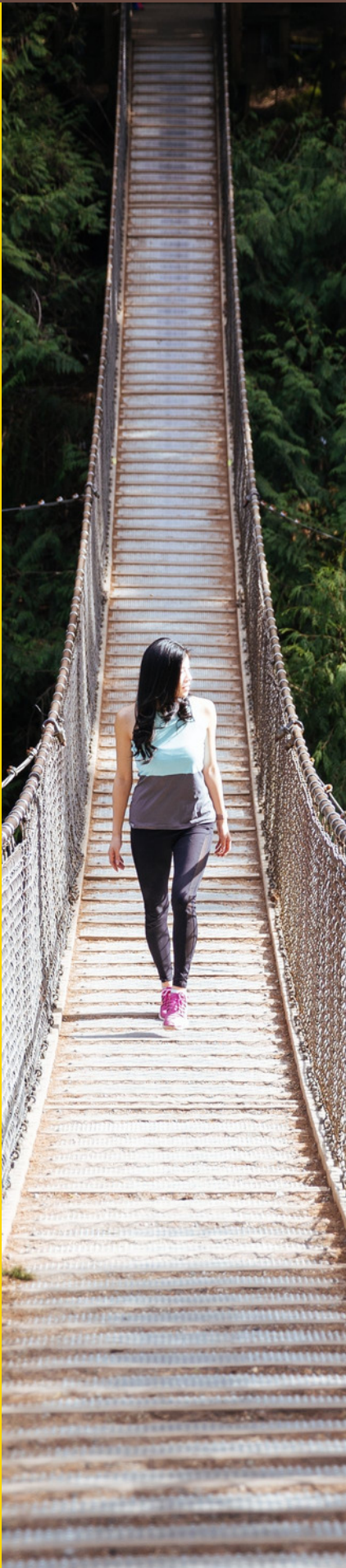
The New York Friendship Circle (NYFC) supports people with all abilities to reach their full potential. As an Intern/Volunteer, I have promoted New York Friendship Circle to Facebook groups as well as my personal network so that others get involved in this community. For spring break, I planned spring pop-up programs by collaborating with other team members, and made canvas flyers to promote a dance class and other exciting events for the organization.

I have also been taking pictures and engaging participants to be involved in the activities. NYFC celebrates kindness and inclusion. If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity to build your resume and make an impact on others, then I recommend volunteering for New York Friendship Circle. As a judgment-free environment, everyone is included no matter what. NYFC has volunteers to support those with disabilities so all feel welcomed!

kovrce a pod.
Hlavz skrutiek su
edraškami na

Reflections on Bridges

By Claire Tsanatelis



Autism Awareness Month is a good time to keep in mind that, when you meet one individual on the autism spectrum, you are meeting just one person on the autism spectrum. We see this tenet demonstrated by the Bridges to Adelphi Program where every student is encouraged to work at their own pace and to focus on distinct, individualized goals. Over the years, Bridges to Adelphi has expanded its array of services to address the diverse needs of students through five full-time staff members, 60 graduate student staff, and two part timers, overseen by the Director, Diana Damilatis.

Damilatis, who started with the Bridges to Adelphi Program in 2007 as a Peer Mentor, was recognized by Mitch Nagler, the Program's founder, for her passion about supporting this population. Damilatis was promoted to Assistant Director, then to Associate Director, then Senior Associate Director. As her role grew, she began to take a more holistic approach to supporting students by emphasizing their areas of strength. With feelings of negativity and inferiority so commonplace among individuals on the spectrum, a program that accepts people for who they are is crucial for those who may be beaten down and demoralized by mainstream society. Bridges became a place that fosters growth, aims for progress, and celebrates achievements.

The Bridges to Adelphi Program's goal of acclimating students on the autism spectrum into the unstructured and unpredictable environment that is college life is not just life-changing for the students who learn to be more independent, communicative, and involved. The Director herself has noted the magic of working with every one of these students over the past 14 years. "It is a beautiful experience to see each individual's perspective and see the world through their eyes. I have learned a lot from my students, and I look forward to learning and growing with them as the Bridges to Adelphi Program continues to develop," says Diana. This Autism Awareness Month, it is important to reflect on the progress that Bridges to Adelphi has made by innovating and expanding its services to accommodate all students as unique individuals with their own set of skills who exhibit limitless potential.



20% Seating Capacity!!

By Michael Schiro

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, professional sports teams have taken revenue losses due to the lack of the season's worth of attendance at their stadiums. To remedy the issues that arose from the pandemic, many sporting arenas have taken steps to implement safety protocols to ensure social distancing and the safety of their fans, and allow fans the opportunity to get out to enjoy and support their sports teams.

On March 17th, the Carton and Roberts radio program on WFAN 101.9 FM announced that New York sports arenas are increasing occupancy to 20%, 10% more than the original Covid-19 seating capacity! Both Craig Carton and Evan Roberts indicate that the 20% seating capacity would apply to New York sports arenas such as Citi Field, Yankee Stadium, Madison Square Garden, and Barclays Center. With arenas being able to have 20% seating capacity, it is predicted that this will increase attendance at sporting events.

Carton and Roberts stated that "20% at Yankee Stadium and Citi Field would be an approximate 8,300 - 10,900 fans." I believe that this increase in seating capacity will significantly improve the attendance rate in any stadium. Unfortunately, this is not the case in other parts of the nation, as sports fans in California are still waiting to have the chance to return to sporting arenas that have been closed to the public due to the pandemic. As restrictions at sporting arenas are progressively being lifted, people are once again being provided with opportunities to attend their favorite sporting events, celebrate the wins, and enthusiastically celebrate with their family and friends.

Reference: Carton & Roberts [Radio broadcast]. (2021, March 17). New York, NY: WFAN New York.



THANK YOU FOR READING OUR
STUDENTS CONTRIBUTIONS IN OUR
PUBLICATION

BRIDGING THE GAP

BE SURE TO TUNE IN FOR OUR
NEXT EDITION IN THE FALL
2021

