

Newsletter

Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and
Health Sciences

Faculty and students take
part in an international
course in Jamaica



Inside the issue

- International Courses
- Student Experience
- Alumni Spotlight
- Faculty Presentations
- New Faculty and Staff
- Looking Ahead

Message from the Dean

The Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences is off to a fantastic start in 2023!

We are thrilled to share some of our latest accomplishments and upcoming events in this spring edition of our newsletter.



Xiao-lei Wang, PhD
Dean

International Courses

At the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, we believe in nurturing global-minded future professionals. In January of this year, students had the opportunity to participate in travel courses in Italy, Jamaica and Kenya, where they immersed themselves in diverse cultures, deepening their understanding of the world around them.



Italy

Dean Xiao-lei Wang led students on the Italy trip, noting "in the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, we extend the classroom to the world."

With stops in Rome, Naples, Pompeii, Florence, Tuscany, Viterbo, Pisa and Venice — students on the Italy trip did just that.

"In the 21st century, it is vitally important to educate globally minded professionals," Dean Wang said. "In this Italy trip, we explore all aspects of Italian culture. For example, historical relics, education, food, fashion, local customs and nonverbal communication."

The impact of this travel course trip abroad was reflected in one student's comment: "I can't tell you papers I wrote freshman year, and a lecture I sat through, but this is something you will remember for life."



See highlights from the Ammon School international course in Italy [here](#).

International Courses

Jamaica

Adelphi Study Abroad to Jamaica: Speech-Language Pathology

Students and faculty traveled to Jamaica to gain a global perspective on the field of Speech-Language Pathology.



As a group, students and faculty traveled to Kingston for one week to provide services to residents of Mustard Seed Communities, a home for children with disabilities. The group also experienced the island's rich culture and local cuisine, and took in Jamaica's tropical landscape.



International Courses

Kenya



This January, students traveled to Kenya, led by Esther Kogan, EdD and Anne Mungai, PhD. This course combined a service-learning experience with a total immersion into Kenya's culture, traditions, food and scenery.



Students designed and implemented service-learning projects for the Caroline School, a K–8 school in Wangige, Kenya. All projects were implemented as part of a “Learning Camp” for all children. It provided a hands-on and authentic learning experience for the students while meeting the needs of the school and community. Projects ranged from health issues, art, movement, games people play and socio-emotional learning.



Student Experience

LOVING TO TEACH, TEACHING TO LOVE EVENT



Participants wrote messages of appreciation to a teacher, took part in a yoga session and browsed through a Scholastic Book Fair.

This February, alumni, graduate and STEP students were welcome to engage in conversation about the importance of creating an engaging and loving environment for students.



Dr. Michael O'Loughlin and Dr. Suzy Lederer presented to the participants and the Scholastic Book Fair was a great hit!

Student Experience

ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES



From January 4 to January 6, our sport management program hosted nonprofit Athletes Helping Athletes (AHA, Inc.) and its Student Athlete Leadership Program's second of three training conferences for high school student athletes for this academic year 2022-2023. Sport Management students served as volunteers during the conference.

Around 500 high school athletes from districts across Nassau and Suffolk gathered in the Ruth S. Harley University Center's main ballroom and adjacent breakout rooms to be trained on the subjects of sportsmanship and civility. Thanks to Dan Bedard, who facilitated AHA's coming back to Adelphi and to Greg Bouris for getting our students involved!



The training sessions were conducted by teaching professionals and former professional and elite amateur athletes, including former professional tennis players and barrier breakers Leslie Allen and Kyle Copeland-Muse and former NY Giants running back Billy Taylor. Online sport management grad student and former NFL player Lamont Burns participated as a conference trainer, working alongside ESPN NY radio personality Larry Hardesty.

Alumni Spotlight: Gabriella Gizzo

Gabriella Gizzo is a speech therapist and published author. Gabriella graduated from the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences in May 2020 with a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She has worked with preschool through middle school students, treating a variety of speech language needs.

Gabrielle recently published a children's book, called *Sophie's Special Story*, using inspiration from her dog Sophie to target speech goals.



"During my master's studies, I learned firsthand that speech therapists in schools have varied and large caseloads, so it would be beneficial to have resources that could target many speech and language goals," Gabriella explained. "This was around the time frame of when I got my dog, Sophie. I also observed that many children struggle with /s/ sounds. Therefore, I got the idea to combine my two passions into one book: speech therapy and Sophie."

Gabriella grew up in Westchester County with younger siblings, and was always surrounded by children. She knew from a young age that she wanted to be a speech therapist and help other children communicate. "It's a very rewarding field. Everyone deserves the right to communicate," she said.

This unique book can be found online at Amazon or Barnes & Noble. You can follow along with Gabriella's work at [@speechsolutions_](#) on Instagram.

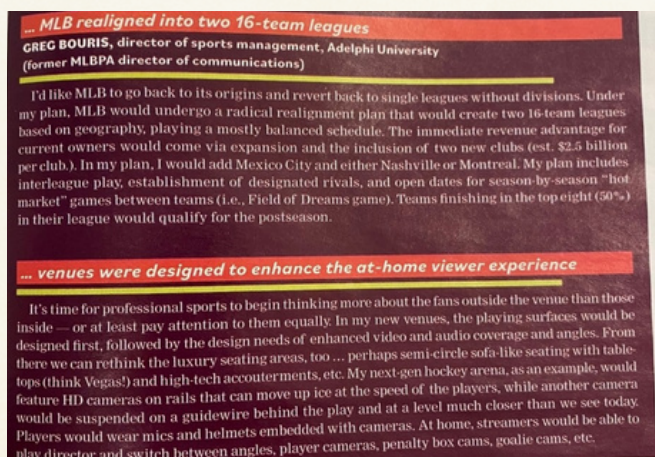


Grant News

Elizabeth de Freitas, PhD, professor in the School of Education, has been awarded a Spencer Large Grant along with colleagues Matthew Curinga, EdD, associate professor in the School of Education, and Laura Kurgan for their project titled "Mapping school buildings using sensory ethnographic methods: A district-wide study of school architecture and spatial justice." The grant amount is \$246,051, and began January 1, with an end date of December 31 2025. This is an incredible accomplishment and an honor for Adelphi University and everyone involved.

Faculty in the News

Greg Bouris, undergraduate sport management program director in the School of Health Sciences, was featured in the *Sports Business Journal* and shared some thoughts about the future of the sport industry and what he would do to improve it in some way.



Faculty Presentations



Elizabeth de Freitas, PhD, professor in the School of Education, is presenting four papers at AERA (American Education Research Association) in April, 2023: 1)"The spatial logic of epistemic imaginaries: Navigating curricular disputes with Édouard Glissant." (2) "Mapping the sensory-affective atmosphere in school buildings using digital ethnography." (3) "Arts-based video research: Teaching young people to mobilize the kino-eye of early experimental cinema." (4) "Post-foundational qualitative inquiry."



This March, **Kristie Lynch**, EdD, assistant professor in the the School of Health Sciences, is presenting at the Social and Emotional Learning in K-12 Health Education Conference: Nassau Zone Conference, New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, as well as Social and Emotional Learning Toolkit for K-6 Health Educators at the SHAPE America National Conference.



During the spring semester, **Michael O'Loughlin**, PhD, professor in the School of Education, is giving several presentations, including: "Addressing the searing emotional needs of children in schools post-Covid in a time of concerted backlash to social-emotional learning in U.S. schools: A call to action for psychoanalysts," presented to Schools Committee at Annual Meeting of American Psychoanalytic Association, New York in May. Dr. O'Loughlin is also presenting "The consequences of familial occlusions across generations: The case of Ireland's Great Hunger." Presented in the digital seminar series *Crisis and Transmission* convened by Psychoanalysis and Politics in May.



Stephen Shore, EdD, clinical associate professor in the School of Education, is presenting at several conferences this spring semester, including "The 4 A's of Autism: Awareness, Acceptance, Appreciation and Action as a Pathway to Leading a Fulfilling and Productive Life" at the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on January 10. Dr. Shore is also presenting "The 4 A's of Autism: Awareness, Acceptance, Appreciation and Action as a Pathway to Leading a Fulfilling and Productive Life," "Senses and Sensibilities: An Inside View on Recognizing and Supporting Individuals with Sensory Issues" and "Special Ways and Techniques (SWAT) for Achieving Meaningful Inclusion in Education for Students with Autism and Other Differences" at the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) Teachers' Conference in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, at the end of March.



Meredith Whitley, PhD, associate professor in the School of Health Sciences, is presenting a paper at the North American Society for Sport Management from May 31- June 3 in Montreal, entitled "Evaluating The Effectiveness Of Experiential Learning Collaborations From The Practitioner Perspective."



Dean and professor **Xiao-lei Wang**, PhD, will present a paper titled "Syncretic discourse: How multilingual children configure linguistic funds of knowledge in everyday communication" at the 13th Asian Conference on Psychology and the Behavioral Sciences April 2.

New Faculty

Dr. Erik Swartz

Dr. Swartz joined RSACEHS as Vice Dean of the School of Health Sciences in January. Previously, Dr. Swartz served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and Kinesiology at the University of Massachusetts Lowell from 2018-2022. Prior to that, he served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Swartz served for nearly 20 years on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Musculoskeletal Institute (NHMI). Dr. Swartz's research focuses on the prevention and acute care of head and neck injuries in football. He served on the NFL Head, Neck and Spine Committee's Subcommittee on Safety Equipment and Rules. He attended St. Bonaventure University where he earned a degree in Physical Education with a minor in Sports Medicine, and received his PhD in Applied Biomechanics at the University of Toledo. He and his wife, Renee, have two children, Évry and Caleb, and reside in southern New Hampshire.



New Staff

Grace Landers

Grace Landers has a bachelor's degree from Hofstra University and an MS in Literacy from Touro College. She worked as a reading specialist in secondary education for five years, coaching both students and teachers to support diverse reading strategies throughout all subject areas. Throughout her teaching career in both New York and Virginia, she has had opportunities to participate in both local and national reading conferences, and to work with teachers across the country. She is excited to join the team at Adelphi as a part-time fieldwork coordinator!



Sarah Sabatino

Sarah is an accomplished educator who is now transitioning from the elementary classroom to higher education. With over a decade of experience in developing engaging course content and creating effective training materials, as well as managing relationships and leading professional development, Sarah is thrilled to bring her skills to Adelphi's team as a part-time fieldwork coordinator. She is a hands-on team member with a keen focus on organization and communication.





Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences: Looking Ahead

April International Travel Course:

At the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, we strongly believe in exposing our students to the global experience. This April, students will take part in our successful Norway study abroad trip.

May 8th Pre-Commencement:

On May 8, we will celebrate the achievements of all our 2023 graduates of the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences. We hope you will join us.

July 5th-7th ICSE Conference:

The Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences is proud to be a joint sponsor of the International Conference on Special Education at the Different Art Centre in Thiruvananthapuram in India.

