Administeror Explains Positive Progression Toward ILS Safe Zone Protest Procedures

Panelists spoke to a crowd of Adelphi students at an immigration forum discussion. (L-R: Navpreet Gill Esq, Amir Byatt Esq, Marsha J. Tyson Darling, Ph.D, Omar Ghetrify, Muhammed Ali and Wendy Badala)

© Claudia Papapetrou

“Even as you read this, our na-
tion moves not only into its next great civil
rights struggle, but into a battle for our fu-
ture existence.” These are the initial words
of a letter released to the Adelphi public
via social media, then addressed personal-
ly to multiple administrators and President
Christine Riordan by an emerging social
justice group on campus, the Inner Light
Society (ILS). The purpose of the letter is
a demand for the establishment of “protest
zones” in three heavily-populated loca-
tions on our Garden City campus.

Broadly speaking, this demand is for the sake of expanding the protected spaces in which our students can passion-
ately advocate for their beliefs. Specifi-
cally speaking, these zones would serve as a space wherein, as the letter explains, students would be allowed to protest with-
out having to notify Adelphi staff before-
hand or anticipate the possibility of being shut down if the size of the demonstration proved obstructive. The second caveat stems from the fact that there is currently no formal protocol for protests that, even when followed, can prevent the dispersion of a demonstration if it disrupts foot traffic in its location. Neither can it prevent the dispersion of a demonstration if it disrupts foot traffic in its location. Neither can it prevent the dispersion of a demonstration if it disrupts foot traffic in its location. Neither can it prevent the dispersion of a demonstration if it disrupts foot traffic in its location. Neither can it prevent the dispersion of a demonstration if it disrupts foot traffic in its location.

ILS, assert, spaces for political discourse play an instrumental role in the personal development of students, the advancement of Adelphi’s own mission to become a “great, modern, metropolitan university,” and have historically been a pillar upon which functioning democratic communi-
dies rest.

The ILS is not alone in holding this belief. There have been a slew of demon-
strations across campus in recent years that have propelled conversations about racial justice, women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights and intersecting civil rights forward. If any of these actions were unable to hap-
pen, what would become of this discourse? Would it stagnate? If so, how then could students achieve our university’s mission of becoming a “model” for a socially just and inclusive school?

With these questions in mind, The Delphian spoke with the Perry Greene, Ph.D., Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, one of the administrators ad-
ressed in the letter, for his insight.

Delphian: Over 50 students in this letter have united under the banner of “justice, liberation, human rights and dis-
sent.” This mission appears to coincide with the interests of multiple existing or-
izations on campus, and this goal only seems to become more common each day. Of what significance is this movement for social change to you as an administrator?

Dr. Greene: If people cannot dis-
sent in a university, cannot share ideas, cannot test their ideas against others, I think it’s fair to say, where else could they do that? The university is a unique place for that to occur. In some ways, our stu-
dents are finding their voices, and what better place for their voices to be heard but at a university? We not only share the goals and objectives, but we think the university is the very place where it’s part of the educational mission for students to voice whatever views that they have.

Delphian: What phrase or con-
cept in the letter has struck you as an ad-
ministrator most viscerally?

Dr. Greene: The ILS says that having the freedom to stand up for what they believe is an element critical to our development as “life-long learners.” That’s something that I think everybody can agree to. This is important and some-
times—all the time—the students have a right to express themselves. For many stu-
dents, this is their home. So they have a right to do this, and this will have an influ-
ence on them for the rest of their lives and guide many of the decisions they make. In fact, you cannot have a democratic society unless you have avenues for people to ex-
press themselves. And that’s what this is all about. I’m personally proud of our stu-
dents. I’m proud of these 52 students who have decided to have their voices heard. It’s not only their right, it’s their responsi-
bility.

Delphian: What is the current procedure a student must go through in order to demonstrate on campus, if they decide to?

Dr. Greene: In the past, the pro-
cess has been informal. What has usually happened is that the people who were inter-
ested in demonstrating reached out to Public Safety and [the Office of] Student Affairs and informed them that they were interested in doing so. The response from Public Safety and Student Affairs was to find ways that they could do it in a way that was safe, and in a ways that did not obstruct the activities of others.

Right now, we are in the middle of conversations with students about how to make those arrangements more formal in the sense that everybody knows what needs to happen. Our overall policy is to support student demonstrations and to al-
low them when they want them—if possible—where they want them. Because of safety issues, they can’t always be in cer-
tain places; the case is the same if they’re disrupting classes from functioning. But we believe that in a vibrant university, students have the absolute right to demon-
strate.

(Continued on page 2)
Positive Progression Toward ILS Safe Zone Protest Procedures

(Continued from page 1)

Delphian: What can you tell the Adelphi community about any developments that are occurring regarding the demand in the letter—the one for “protect zones”?

Dr. Greene: One of the main concerns of the ILS is that there be at least a place, if not multiple places, where students would be allowed to peacefully demonstrate. I think it’s fair to say that the university supports that request. We will make available spaces that the society wants to protest at. We understand that the demonstrators want a space that is visible and we’re happy to provide that. We’re also happy to provide safety for the demonstrators, and so far the conversations have been in agreement as to those issues.

Let me just review them: 1) The university will make available acceptable spaces for the demonstrators to demonstrate, and 2) with notice, we will provide whatever resources we can to help our community. The second is to protect our community. The second is to provide whatever resources we can to help our community. The second is to protect our community.

Let me just review them: 1) The university will make available acceptable spaces for the demonstrators to demonstrate, and 2) with notice, we will provide whatever resources we can to help our community. The second is to protect our community.

Delphian: This letter invokes the words of Adelphi’s own mission statement regarding diversity. What initiatives are being taken by the administration in order to ensure that Adelphi is “a model for a socially just and inclusive institution”?

Dr. Greene: One of the things that Adelphi is trying to do every day is meet the goals, objectives, mission statements in the strategic plan, and we take the parts regarding diversity very seriously. In the recent national events, we find that members of our community feel vulnerable; they feel a great deal of anxiety. So we’ve worked very hard to reduce that feeling. In light of trying to make the lives of immigrants and DACA students free of anxiety and the feeling that their permanence in the community is jeopardized, we worked to inform the Adelphi community with the Immigration Forum held on Feb. 15. Additionally, we’re reaching out to such places as Hofstra University’s Center for Children, Families and the Law to see what kind of support might be available to students.

The Immigration Forum took place in the University Center Ballroom and was partly organized by the DACA, International and Immigration Task Force. The Task Force came about because there were faculty and students who expressed concerns about the immigrant and DACA community on campus. The administration met with those faculty and students, and out of that discussion came the decision to form the group.

The Adelphi administration has three principles that guide it during events such as these: The first is to support and protect our community. The second is to inform our community; and the third is to provide whatever resources we can to help people navigate these difficult times. As soon as the executive order came out, in fact, soon after President Trump was elected, we reached out to all students, faculty and staff who we thought might feel anxiety and might feel vulnerable.

On this note, our discussion with Dr. Greene concluded. Only time will reveal what Adelphi’s demonstration spaces will look like, but until then, keep in mind the abolitionist notion from which the Inner Light Society derives its name: everyone has within them a “divine light” and is thus equal. Further, there’s the right to be left alone by each of us as our own Adelphi student Bill of Rights. It states that each of us reserves the right to exercise our civil rights without “interference” by the investigatory, criminal justice or disciplinary proceedings of the University.
Political Tension: State of the Adelphi Campus

BY GESELLLE MALDONADO

From the growing social movements in the form of rallies and protests to the heightened awareness of both national and global politics amongst Americans, social and political tension has hit new heights ever since the 45th U.S. Presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. The increasing social unease has hit countless communities nationwide, especially those on college campuses.

Adelphi is no exception. There have been packed events such as the Feb. 15 Immigration Forum organized by the DACA, International Immigration Task Force, and the Center for Student Involvement, held mere weeks after Trump’s travel ban was put into action, and similar events like the Undocumented Refugees Advocacy workshop. Many Adelphi students participated in the Women’s March on Jan. 20 and numerous other marches since then.

Senior anthropology and CMIS major Tiani Moore is one of those students currently participating in such movements, such as the LGBTQ Rally, and is planning to attend the Climate March and the May Day march later this spring. As a woman of both Indonesian and Jamaican descent, Moore commented about how her friends now fear for their lives. “All of my friends from diverse backgrounds are scared whether they are on campus, off campus or simply trying to get to [Adelphi],” she said.

Brian Stanley, a sophomore political science major, said that some of his friends, many of whom have various cultural and racial backgrounds, who share the same liberal view as he does, “spent their time reading and researching a variety of issues.”

There were many on campus who are absolutely devastated by the final electoral decision in November. Moore, Stanley and a few of their friends were among the students that expressed their dissatisfaction with the result. Even Adelphi faculty, such as sociology professor Dr. Stephanie Lake, said she “felt frankly stunned and disoriented, but also that the outcome was partly a result of frustration of a system so obviously rigged and corrupt, and of economic frustration emphasized by politicians throughout last year’s Presidential campaign.”

Dr. Lake explained that this specific type of tension on campus is only increasing due to broken expectations of what was the norm. “The frustration I feel is further fueled by the failure of social institutions we thought had evolved to serve as a buffer for false information, false populism,” she said.

No matter the students’ political views, gender or race, the sudden shift in the political game has been causing a transition amongst Adelphi students. Dr. Lake believes that because hope for justice is no longer guaranteed in the rest of the government, people are now realizing “they have to rely on themselves; hence the marches, spontaneous gatherings, the petitions and the calls and letters to their representatives.”

This growing interest in taking action is what Moore thinks is absolutely important for communities on campus. “Even the smallest contribution makes a difference in bridging the gaps that rift us apart,” she said. “With tensions sky high, and protesters’ signs even higher, I feel that it is important to voice your opinion.”

Moore said: “Attending the BSU, LSA, Mosaic, NAACP or other diversity clubs on campus, in addition to the Immigration Forums and The Inner Light Society, campus-wide protest group, will allow you to grow and challenge one another in this atmosphere.”

Added Stanley: “Participating in the protests and marches has been a tremendous release. No matter which side of the political spectrum you’re on, attending a protest will allow you to grow as we learn from and challenge one another in this atmosphere.”

“Academia has a long storied history of being the cornerstone of protest,” says Dr. Lake about the effectiveness of protests, “which remains, incidentally, the most patriotic thing anyone can do.”

Looking ahead, Dr. Lake believes that because hope for justice is no longer guaranteed in the rest of the government, people are now realizing “they have to rely on themselves; hence the marches, spontaneous gatherings, the petitions and the calls and letters to their representatives.”

This growing interest in taking action is what Moore thinks is absolutely important for communities on campus. “Even the smallest contribution makes a difference in bridging the gaps that rift us apart,” she said. “With tensions sky high, and protesters’ signs even higher, I feel that it is important to voice your opinion.”

Moore said: “Attending the BSU, LSA, Mosaic, NAACP or other diversity clubs on campus, in addition to the Immigration Forums and The Inner Light Society, campus-wide protest group, will allow you to grow and challenge one another in this atmosphere.”

Added Stanley: “Participating in the protests and marches has been a tremendous release. No matter which side of the political spectrum you’re on, attending a protest will allow you to grow as we learn from and challenge one another in this atmosphere.”

“Academia has a long storied history of being the cornerstone of protest,” says Dr. Lake about the effectiveness of protests, “which remains, incidentally, the most patriotic thing anyone can do.”
Changes to Executive Budget May Affect University Student Scholarships

BY GABRIELLE DEONATH

If the new executive budget proposed by Governor Andrew Cuomo is approved, several changes to university scholarships and tuition could take place due to his Excelsior Scholarship Program. “This action would affect the portability of aid and add an additional unintended complication for students in the college selection process,” said Sheryl Mihopulos, Assistant Vice President of Adelphi’s Student Financial Services. “In short, it might discourage students from selecting their ‘best fit’ college.”

According to Mihopulos, there are other measures that could be taken that would be more beneficial for university and college students. These proposals include increasing the maximum and minimum of the Tuition Assistant Programs, pushing the New York State net taxable income ceiling to $125,000, forming a program for Graduate Tuition Assistance, and further promoting existing New York State aid programs.

Mihopulos scheduled a meeting for Monday, Feb. 27 with the Student Government Association Executive Board to brainstorm ways for students to help fight the executive budget proposal. The Delphian will report on the outcome of this meeting in an upcoming issue.

The Excelsior Scholarship is set to be approved around April 1. In order to prevent this proposal from negatively affecting students, Mihopulos urges students to take action as soon as possible. At LimitlessLearningNY.org, students will be able to find a video of students from Adelphi and other New York universities discussing the effects of the proposal and the problems it presents. Also on the site, students will have the resources to find the names of New York State policymakers and obtain a template for emails that can be sent to them to voice concerns about the new proposal.

Campus Climate Crusade Makes an Impact Despite Low Attendance

BY JAMI GLATTER

The Campus Climate Crusade, a program organized by sociology professor Deborah Little to inform students about climate change and what they can do to affect it, took place in the University Center ballroom on Feb. 7. The Crusade was divided into three sections: a room for panels and presentations; a room for various organizations and groups to promote information about climate change, possible solutions and the services they provide in order to mitigate and take action against climate change; and a room where the climate change documentary “Before the Flood” was screened.

Though attendance was low, bringing in a little over 100 people, groups that were represented in the second room included Prof. Margaret Gray’s American Congress class, which hosted a panel that featured six students’ individual research on different aspects of climate change and how it is affecting our lives. Some of these topics included the Dakota Access Pipeline and the endangerment of bees. The softball team talked about their effort to raise awareness about the University’s approach to recycling. The 16 teammates went to each building on campus to see if there was a sufficient amount of recycling bins. Their conclusion was that campus needed more recycling bins and more labels and advertising where and how one can recycle.

The student organization, the Environmental Action Coalition, presented their collaboration with the Community Oyster Reef Enhancement (C.O.R.E.), a program that collects donated oyster shells from restaurants and uses them to make beds for oyster growth affected by overfishing.

Crossroads Farm, represented by Steph Kane, Leanne Russell and Professor Mary Jean McCarthy, stressed the importance of growing food untouched by chemicals and pesticides. It is the last farm on the south shore of Nassau County. “Having this last remnant of open space is important,” McCarthy says. They rely mainly on volunteers and host volunteer training sessions, two of which are coming up on April 8 and April 22.

Operation SPLASH, a nonprofit reducing water pollution, hosted a panel. Beth Christensen, director of Environmental Studies, talked on a panel about climate change. There was also a panel about veganism.

Christensen brought to light the realities of making effective change. “Marching is good, but it’s not going to fix anything,” Christensen said, in reference to the planned Climate March on Washington D.C., on April 22. She advised audience members to “get involved at a governmental level.”

It was the poor attendance at the veganism panel that prompted Little to make a statement on the lack of response to the event. “One hundred faculty were personally invited or asked to give extra credit to their students and only four got back to me,” Little said. “People are denying reality. We live on an island!”

However, Little refuses to let this be the last the campus hears from her on the issue of climate change. She plans to bring “No Impact Man” by Colin Beaven on as the book for the 2017-18 Adelphi Community Reads program.

A Glimpse Into the Annual Sorority Spring Recruitment Process

BY JESSICA WINANS

Morgan Luibrand, a freshman at Adelphi University and a member of the sorority Delta Gamma, was one of the 207 young women at Adelphi University who went through Panhellenic recruitment this semester. Currently, there are six sororities on campus: Tri Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon, Phi Sigma Sigma, Delta Gamma, Sigma Delta Tau and Alpha Epsilon Phi.

“I decided to go through sorority recruitment because my older sister, who attended St. John’s University, was in a sorority and I saw the bond that she shares with her sisters,” Luibrand said. “The bond that the girls in my organization share is something that is definitely unbreakable and is the main reason I wanted to join this specific organization.”

Potential new members sign up for formal recruitment during the spring semester, usually around the time of winter break. The first day of recruitment was held on Feb. 4. During the event, Round Robin, the potential new members were split up into groups and given two rho-gammas. A rho-gamma is a sorority woman who gives up her letters (hides her affiliation) and assists Adelphi students in the recruitment process. During the first round the potential new members spent about 40 minutes with each sorority to attempt get to know them on a personal level.

The following day was the Panhellenic Round. During this round, the potential new members spend around 40 minutes with four out of the six organizations.
Roaming Reporter: What Are You Doing for Spring Break?

BY LAUREN REDFORD

Spring break is stereotyped as the time that college students travel and party, but those at Adelphi are breaking this stereotype with their various plans for the vacation. For many, it is a chance to go home, visit friends and family, but for all of us, it’s some much-needed free time away from our rigorous studies. We asked five students what their plans are for spring break. This is what they had to say:

Priya Patel
Freshman
Biology Major

“I’m just going into the city to explore.”

Lynne Rader
Senior
Biology Major

“I’m going to be on duty as an RA and I’ll be celebrating St. Patrick’s Day with my family.”

Eric Vonczerniewicz
Freshman
Biology Major

“One of my friends has a house upstate, so for spring break my friends from high school and I decided that we should spend a week in rural New York. We plan on doing everything from fishing and swimming in the nearby lake, to spending a day hiking through the forest.”

David King
Freshman
Psychology Major

“Over spring break I’m going to be spending time back at home with family and friends, doing as little work as possible, and spending time with my roommate who can’t travel back to his country for the week.”

Lila Woodbridge
Freshman
Psychology Major

“I’m going home to Massachusetts to spend time with my friends and family. In the springtime we spend a lot of time walking to the beach, and I’m looking forward to visiting my favorite spots in my town.”
BY BRIAN JENNINGS

Just over a month into his ghastly administration, the wheels of the President’s golden elevator are flying off the tracks. The Trump team has made common practice out of lying to the American public about everything from the size of the inauguration day crowd, a Bowling Green Massacre that never happened, and a diabolical raid of Yemen orchestrated over dinner by the President’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon and the Donald himself. These works of fiction were all prize-worthy both in their ability to dull the senses of the public and their terrific irony considering the tenor of the campaign run against Hillary Clinton, one which deemed her as an untrustworthy, lying crook.

But the past few weeks have given birth to an even uglier love-child of deceit that has duped even the most gifted ministers of propaganda currently masquerading as the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. News broke that Michael Flynn, Trump’s National Security Adviser, was resigning after reports leaked that the General and his haircut had not been forthcoming to Vice President Mike Pence and others in the Trump administration regarding phone calls with Russian Ambassador to the United States, Sergey I. Kislyak. The first of these conversations is reported to have taken place on Dec. 29, 2016, nearly a month before Trump was sworn in as President. Flynn reported to the Vice President that none of these conversations were in regards to sanctions levied on Russia by then-President Obama as a response to tampering in the American election. The phone calls were recorded and intelligence has since shown Flynn’s assertions to be a complete and utter fallacy.

This is all old news and housekeeping. Reports state that Flynn was forced to resign because Trump’s trust in him had been permanently compromised, a most believable story if it were coming from an administration that wasn’t built from the top-down by pathological liars and comic book-esque super villains. But these exceptional weasels cannot be taken at face value any longer if we the people are to salvage any semblance of rational truth. The very idea of a “fact,” to them is an object to be perverted and molded into whatever it needs to be in order to blend the line between legitimate news and fictitious garbage.

The Trump administration has made it clear to the media that the press is now the target of a witch-hunt that hopes to see all competent reporting terminated with extreme prejudice. Venerable news outlets like “The New York Times” and CNN were barred from attending certain White House Press briefings on Feb. 24, while organizations like Breitbart and other pro-Trump conglomerates are being busied into positions of political power because of their favorable narrative towards the President. This, after all, is a President who is consumed by the narratives surrounding his every move, who constantly places his needs regarding his press coverage far above the needs of the average American taxpayer.

Yet, what Trump doesn’t seem to grasp is that any self-respecting journalist who gathers an inkling of suspicion is going to sift through the smokescreen billowing out of our President’s paranoid mouth sooner rather than later. It won’t be long until the most gifted reporters start asking what does the President know about Russia when did he know it? So, the question now becomes what do we, the American people, have at our disposal that might help us learn the non-alternative facts about what’s going on inside the belly of this brutal beast? What clues has this administration left in its trail that might help us bring down this unholy union we entered in with a greasy con man and his merry band of looters?

Perhaps most damning of all clues is a tweet straight from Trump himself. On Dec. 30, a day after the first phone call between Russia and Flynn took place, Trump tweeted his applause for Vladimir Putin’s decision to delay repercussions against the United States regarding then-President Obama’s sanctions.

If Donald Trump knew on Dec. 30 that Putin had decided to delay retaliation against the United States a day after Michael Flynn’s first conversation with the Russian ambassador, then it gradually becomes fair to assume that Flynn was not acting as a rogue agent attempting to breech a peace with a foreign agitator. Putting this tweet in context, it becomes uncomfortably clear that it could very well have been Donald Trump who ordered Flynn to try to calm the seas with Russia. If this were to be the case, it would open up a new line of questioning regarding the Trump administration’s continuous collusion with the Russian empire that saw to the take-down of Hillary Clinton and his eventual election to the office he now holds.

The moral quandary of a U.S. President becoming a subservient to Russia’s every whim is obvious, and if proven true would render Trump compromised beyond the point of no return. But it also digs deeper into the lies that the Trump team is concocting in order to stay in power. Take for example Sally Yates, the acting-Attorney General who was fired by Trump in January amidst reports that she would not follow dutifully along with the President’s immigration ban. Recently, “The Washington Post” reported that Yates informed the administration that Flynn had indeed put himself in a compromising position regarding Russia. Under the Logan Act, it is illegal for any private citizen (regardless of whether or not they are part of an incoming administration) to negotiate with any foreign government having a dispute with the United States. If Yates did in fact inform the Trump administration that Flynn might have been in violation of the Logan Act, then it is absolutely possible that Trump would have sought her removal in order to preserve Flynn, a longtime supporter and confidant of the President.

While these are reasonable assumptions, it is also important to note that it has been historically difficult to convict anyone of a crime under the Logan Act. The President has long been deemed fiercely loyal to those who are undamaged politically, and given the aforementioned technicality, it begs the question as to why the President might be so paranoid? It was Flynn, not Yates, who exemplified horrific judgement and put himself in a compromised position with a foreign enemy. Yet, Trump chose to protect Flynn.

Some are beginning to wonder whether or not it was Trump who ordered Flynn to normalize relations with Russia prior to him taking office. It is indeed possible, if not probable, that the President saw this as an opportunity to silence the truth that might lead the American people, or a theoretical impeachment committee, to find that Trump is indeed a compromised President who was gifted his position by a foreign agitator. None of these assertions are provable, yet the methodology of this decision seems simply moronic if the President himself had nothing to hide from the jump.

Now we are dealing with two separate, but equally as troubling possibilities. Either the U.S. President is a clinical moron who exemplifies terrible judgement when tasked with a difficult decision, or he is the center cog in a larger conspiracy that saw to his election as a means of turning the USA into a puppet serving the desires of the Russian government.

In response to these charges, the President held a most-bizarre press conference where he deemed the leaking of this information by the U.S. Intelligence Community to be real, but the news media’s take on the matter to be "false." While it is easy to be skeptical of big-box news corporations after this most recent election-cycle, it is clear that Trump feels far less beholden to the truth than any cable news program. It is even more apparent that Trump has shaken the confidence of our intelligence agents to the point where they would feel more comfortable leaking damaging information about a sitting President than sitting idly by and trusting the judgement of the mad man holding this nation’s highest office. Whatever charges come next, it is clear that the President will not take them lying down. Whether or not this is clear is why the President is so afraid to stand under the microscope of the people who, for better or worse, elected him to be our leader.
Transgendered Students Face the Removal of Guidelines That Protected Them

What does this really mean going forward?

BY MONROE MARSHALL

Throughout Donald Trump’s campaign and the first weeks as presiden
cy, he made statements vowing to protect the LGBTQ community, as recently as the
day he was inaugurated. Trump and his administration announced that schools were
required to follow federal guidelines that said public schools
were required to allow students to use school bath-
rooms that correspond with their gender
identity (rather than their sex assigned at
birth), it was announced that schools were
to disregard these rules.

As a transgender person myself, I cannot emphasize enough how much
being able to feel comfortable to use the
bathroom matters not only to the mental
health, but the physical health of transgen-
der people. Picture this: a transgender boy
is in a school where he is prevented from
using the boys’ bathroom because he was
“assigned female at birth.” He refuses to
go into the girls’ bathroom because (1) he
is not a girl and (2) he experiences severe
gender dysphoria (distress caused by one’s
assigned sex not matching to their gender,
how they feel on the inside) to the point
where he has panic attacks. But he also
does not use the boys’ bathroom because
he has been written up and sent to the
principal’s office for it. He is told to just
use the bathroom in the nurse’s office, but
when he usually has to go to the bathroom
the nurse happens to be on lunch and the
office is locked, and other times his class-
es are far away from the office (while the
other bathrooms are close). So he usually
ends up not going to the bathroom, but his
parents are unaware of this and therefore
are very confused as to why he gets fre-
quent urinary tract infections, which if left
untreated, can lead to kidney infections.

Although the situation above is
hypothetical, what is not hypothetical are
the 31 percent of over 27,000 transgender
people who did not eat or drink in order
to avoid having to use the bathroom or the
8 percent who reported having a kidney-
related issue due to avoiding bathrooms
out of fear or discomfort (according to the

And then you have the people
who say transgender people are safer in the
bathroom corresponding to their assigned
sex, because they may be attacked in the
bathroom of the opposite sex.

The thing is, bullying and harassment
of transgender people has never been about
bathrooms, but about hatred towards and
fear of trans people. We face discrimina-
tion every day and having to worry about
being punished for just using the bathroom
immensely intensifies our daily struggles
of being ourselves.

Repealing Obamacare: The Past, Present and Future

BY MATTHEW SCHROH

In a nation of protests, it is time
to face the facts: Barack H. Obama is no
longer the American president. However,
it can be called into question how his pres-
idency will be remembered. History will
obviously remember Obama as the first
African-American president, but which of
his policy decisions will become historic?

Many wager it will be Obam-
acare, and it isn’t hard to see why. The
former president touted his plan for easy
electricity access from before he was
president to his last day in office. The Af-
fordable Care Act has been bemoaned by
the Republicans in Congress since it first
became a popular idea, but with the help
of Obama’s party allies on Capitol Hill, it
became law in 2010. From that day forth,
the Republicans in Congress — popular
ones including former House Speaker
John Boehner, current House Speaker
Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader
Mitch McConnell — vowed they would see
Obamacare, which they viewed as an ex-
pensive attack on the American freedom
to choose one’s own healthcare plan, de-
stroyed.

As the 2012 election came and
gone, Obama handily winning reelection,
it began to become evident to both parties
that Obamacare was spreading. Millions
of people signed up, and the number of
Americans uninsured plummeted. Still,
Republicans felt their complaints about
the system remained unanswered and con-
tinued to work to dismantle Obamacare.

That may not be willing
to admit it for fear of seeming weak,
plenty of Republicans soon found that
Repealing Obamacare would be incredibly
difficult. Matt Bevin, current governor
of Kentucky, ran on the promise to end this
perceived “nightmare.” He won the elec-
tion, but found he could not adequately
mam the Affordable Care Act coverage
in a way that would not simply replace
the state coverage with federal govern-
ment coverage. Even worse for Bevin,
the new governor found that his approval
ratings suffered when he messed with the
Kentuckians’ healthcare, so he eventually
backed off. This is why though 33 states
have Republican governors, no news has
been heard about the repeal of Obamacare
coverage by these men and women — it
is virtually impossible.

Downtrodden Republicans got
a bit of a boost when Obamacare premi-
ums rose in autumn 2016, on the eve of a
presidential election where an Obamacare
critic and Obamacare advocate would face
off. This aided the right’s argument that
the Affordable Care Act was more harm
than good — and, in fact, many have specu-
lated that this premium rise was a factor in
the election of Donald J. Trump.

But Donald Trump was not a
typical Republican candidate. During the
primary season, the billionaire was at
odds with his rivals, such as Senators Ted
Cruz and Marco Rubio, on the subject, be-
cause he did not call for the total repeal
of Obamacare. He brought up replacing
the healthcare plan to help as many unin-
insured Americans as possible. Around
the same time, House Speaker Paul Ryan got
#A Better Way trending on social media, to
tlet Republicans nationwide know that the
party’s focus remained intent on helping
them find a better healthcare plan, not dis-
regarding free healthcare completely.

Now the country is at an impasse.
Donald Trump is president, and agrees
with Republicans on Capitol Hill, who
now have the majority in both legislatures,
that Obamacare shall be repealed. But the
Republicans have expressed unease, even
meeting behind closed doors to voice their
concerns. Worrisome questions plague
them. How can Obamacare be repealed?
Can it be repealed at all? How long will a
replacement plan take?

Trump has made the Republican
party a populist party for the time being.
He focused his entire inauguration address
on unity and helping the people. The abil-
ity of Trump and the Republicans to ease
people out of fear or discomfort (according to the

Although the situation above is
hypothetical, what is not hypothetical are
the 31 percent of over 27,000 transgender
people who did not eat or drink in order
to avoid having to use the bathroom or the
8 percent who reported having a kidney-
related issue due to avoiding bathrooms
out of fear or discomfort (according to the

And then you have the people
who say transgender people are safer in the
bathroom corresponding to their assigned
sex, because they may be attacked in the
bathroom of the opposite sex.

The thing is, bullying and harassment
of transgender people has never been about
bathrooms, but about hatred towards and
fear of trans people. We face discrimina-
tion every day and having to worry about
being punished for just using the bathroom
immensely intensifies our daily struggles
of being ourselves.
California Dreamin’ With the AU Softball Team

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

Waking up at 3:30 am isn’t usually easy, but on the morning of Feb. 18 the Adelphi University women’s softball (AUSB) team was as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as 16 girls can be at that hour of the morning.

We were ready to be out of cold and snowy New York and heading to California to play ball on dirt for the first time of the 2017 season. When we hopped off the plane at the Los Angeles airport, it was raining, but we hardly cared because we could practically smell our season opener only a day away.

That first day we practiced at Concordia University at Irvine where we would be playing later in the week. Despite a little rainfall, the squad was happy to be outside, sans under armour.

Our first games had been scheduled for Feb. 19 against the University of California at San Diego, but due to some maintenance problems having to do with the uncharacteristic rain, the field was unplayable. After another switch and some calls made, our first games were to be against Azusa Pacific University on Feb. 20.

AUSB took the first game of the trip in an extra inning game, eventually winning 6-5 after 9. We dropped the second game and came away from our first double header 1-1.

The next two days we would play four games, two against California Baptist University and two against Concordia University at Irvine. Those four games, while being only our third, fourth, fifth and sixth games of the year, felt like post-season time to us all. Everyone’s energy, our performance, the stadiums we played in: those four games we learned our potential for the rest of the year. We set the bar high for the 2017 season.

From our games at Concordia, we hopped on a bus and drove five hours to Utah for the second leg of our trip, which was to be three games against Dixie State, a team we had played in the World Series in 2015. We pulled into Saint George at around 3 am.

A few very short hours later we road tripped to Zion National State Park on our off day for a good old team bonding hike. Four miles and two hours later, the squad had experienced some of the most beautiful mountain views and a very good workout.

The next two days consisted of our last three games. The first two were our first bad games of the year, but we learned we’re a stubborn bunch, and came back to take the last game of the trip from Dixie 9-6.

After a long, yes, but ridiculously satisfying week of softball AUSB is back home in the New York groove and ready to take on regional and conference play starting the second week of March.

Final Ride Series: Infielder Danielle Cutuli

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

In this new series, we’ll be interviewing seniors playing in their final year of eligibility in their respective sports. These Q & A’s will be a chance for athletes to say goodbye and to reflect on both their four years playing college athletics and on the sport they’ve dedicated so much time and effort to.

Danielle Cutuli is a four-year player for the Adelphi women’s softball team. The 5-foot, 3-inch infielder from East Meadow has been a member of the NE10 Commissioner’s Honor Roll every semester of her Adelphi career and started in 52 games during the 2016 spring season.

Q. How many years have you been playing softball?
A. I have been playing softball for 15 years. I started playing T-ball when I was seven years old.

Q. What does softball mean to you? Why?
A. Softball has been a passion of mine that I’ve developed from when I picked up my first glove. Over the last 15 years, it has been so much more than the game itself. The sport has taught me teamwork, camaraderie, competition and leadership, just to name a few. It has given me friendships that were born throughout and the ability to overcome obstacles on and off the field. Softball has brought me so much more that I will carry with me every day and will forever be thankful for.

Q. How have you been molded as a person by this sport? How will that help you in the future?
A. Softball has molded me into the person and player I am today. It has shown me the values I strive to work at every day. It has molded me into a disciplined student and athlete and has shown me what it takes to be a teammate and the ability to work together. In addition, it has given me time-management skills, a will to win, an ability to adapt to any adverse situation, a passion for the preparation and the ability to be a leader. These lessons have been learned and executed on the softball field but will be carried out into my career and life challenges.

Q. In the many years you’ve been playing, what have you learned? About yourself? About others?
A. No matter how physically challenging it was to overcome my chronic back injury, I always did whatever I could to be out on the field. The injury alone has forced me to test my limits both physically and mentally. This injury has enabled me to lead from anywhere on or off the field. Throughout each of the four times I’ve re-injured my back, I’ve had to face greater obstacles each time. I’ve learned there is strength inside of me, greater than I had known.

Q. How are you going to take these lessons and apply them once you’ve graduated?
A. Softball has taught me what it takes to succeed and I will carry that with me in whatever challenges I’m faced with throughout my life. I have exercised leadership on every team I’ve been apart of. In the business world, I know I’ll be able to succeed in any position because of the obstacles I’ve overcome throughout my life and the situations I’ve had to adapt to. The ability to react to circumstances, planned or not, will be implemented during my time in the business world.