

# The Delphian

May 8, 2023

The Voice of the Students

Volume 78, Issue 11

## 20th Annual Scholarship and Creative Works Conference Features Record Number of Student Presentations

BY JUSTIN KRESSE &  
LIZZ PANCHYK

The 20th anniversary of the Scholarship and Creative Works Conference, also known as Research Day, took place on Tuesday, April 25 and aimed to give students the opportunity to represent their work and research, and allow for students, faculty and others to see the hard work showcased at Adelphi. The 2023 conference had the most presenters and visitors ever—684 total—and brought in 250 proposals—another record—including presentations in core four areas of focus: arts and humanities, STEM and social sciences, health and wellness, and the business and education professions.

Co-chairs Dr. Alexander Heyl and Dr. Wei Liu, said they were very happy with how it went.

Heyl said, “We are always striv-

ing to provide the best possible platform for students to present their work. The idea is to engage in a dialog with other

people working on topics that you might find interesting or related to your own work. In fact, there was a purposeful



Numerous e-poster presenters came to a sectioned-off part of the UC ballroom during their session to present their research, with plenty of students and faculty in attendance curious about their work. Photo by Justin Kresse

attempt not to break up presentations just into sections by the department they were associated with so as to allow this dialog between disciplines to happen.”

He also noted that they strive for everyone to get the conditions they need to present their work adequately. Three years ago they implemented starting the conference later in the day this year with presentations beginning around noon so that people could have more time to get to campus. Also, last year the program was moved entirely to the second floor of the Ruth S. Harley University Center so everyone could be closer together and attendees could better go between the different kinds of presentations.

New this year, the conference started with a complimentary breakfast and energy panel discussion while the presenters for the first session were getting

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## Annual Giving Day Yields Highly Successful Results

BY JOSEPH D’ANDREA

Adelphi held their sixth annual fundraising event, Giving Day, beginning on the morning of April 19 and ending at noon the following day—1,896 minutes, honoring the university’s founding year. Donors, volunteers, ambassadors and others worked together with a number of campaigns to raise \$481,430 from a record-breaking 1,902 donors.

This year’s Giving Day saw an increase of 9 percent in the number of

donors from 2022, and the funds will be contributing to scholarships, high-impact learning experiences and life-changing student-centered programs.

“Giving Day provides an opportunity for our entire community to come together in a spirit of philanthropy to support the causes that matter most to them,” said Thomas Kline, vice president of University Advancement and External Relations in an email to the Adelphi community. “The impact of Giving Day is tremendous; it provides resources to ensure our students

continue to receive exceptional and transformative learning experiences.”

Through the contributions of alumni, current campus leaders, trustees and parents, the funds amounted to a 68 percent increase over last year. Leading all campaigns in donations was the Athletics Department, which received \$176,955 from 885 donors.

“The commitment and support of the Adelphi Panther community was on display during the Giving Day 2023 campaign,” said Danny McCabe, director of Athletics and Campus Recreation.

“Our alumni, friends and Adelphi families gave at record levels in support of our Panthers. The funds raised from this campaign will go towards helping us provide the best possible experience for our studentathletes. We appreciate our dedicated alumni, families and friends.”

The baseball team raised the most funds with \$27,290 and the track and field programs had the most donors, at 171.

Adelphi’s School of Business raised \$78,039 from 105 donors,

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## Reflecting a National Trend Adelphi’s Enrollment Has Decreased Since 2018

BY LILYEN MCCARTHY

Classes are getting smaller, if not canceled, and university officials are concerned.

Adelphi University, like universities across the country, has seen an overall decrease in undergraduate enrollment in the last five years. According to Kristen Capezza, vice president of enrollment management and university communications, AU undergraduate enrollment has dropped 6 percent since 2018.

The university continues to follow nationwide trends and compare those national numbers to its own. The Covid-19 pandemic caused a large decline in college enrollment, but university officials also account for other

explanations for enrollment decline.

“Overall counts and demographics of high school graduates are declining and shifting,” said Capezza. “Annual

Table 1. Annual Births by Mother’s Race/Ethnicity (U.S., Thousands)

	Total	Hispanic	White	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	American Indian/Alaska Native
1990	4,158	604	2,705	138	674	38
1995	3,900	680	2,435	157	593	35
2000	4,059	816	2,400	196	607	39
2005	4,138	986	2,303	221	587	41
2010	3,999	945	2,180	238	596	41
2015	3,978	924	2,152	271	594	37
2018	3,792	886	2,017	270	584	34
2019	3,746	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Annual birth rates have declined in all areas since the 2000s, contributing to the nationwide college enrollment crisis.**

births of college-bound students have been declining for some time, meaning there are fewer students in the pool to be recruited to colleges 17 years later.”

According to Capezza, first-

year enrollment nationwide has declined by 7.9 percent since fall 2020, but Adelphi has seen a 16.6 percent increase in the same period.

Two other important factors have affected enrollment on campus. Capezza reported that international enrollment has decreased due to unfavorable political legislation and Covid-19. She explained that the pandemic reduced access to the United States, making their enrollment recovery more difficult. Legislation during the Trump Administration looked to reduce Optional Practical Training, which is important for the university’s international students to continue their career after receiving their education.

The other factor comes from the declining nursing program numbers.

“We intentionally reduced the size of our incoming nursing class,” said Capezza. “To respond to shortages [in clinical placement sites] and these capacity limits, we had to maintain a smaller incoming nursing class.”

Adelphi’s nursing students accounted for 1,537 out of the 5,055 enrolled undergraduate students. An overall 7 percent decline in nursing enrollment over the last five years due to these intentional decreases greatly affects Adelphi’s overall numbers.

Humanities programs have taken the biggest enrollment decrease by percentage. Majors like English, drama and communications have decreased by 21, 42 and 29 percent, respectively.

Louise Geddes, English Depart-

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## A Word from the Editor

We've entered the final stretch of the semester, and I will say that it went by unexpectedly fast. Throughout all the ups and downs, we've made it to the end.

I'd first like to recognize two of our editorial board members who are graduating, Mylo Fisherman, our social media editor, and Bianca Viana, our features editor. Thank you so much for your consistent dedication to the paper and for all that you've done throughout your time at Adelphi. I wish you both nothing but success in your future. As they graduate, we also welcome our new editorial board members for 2023-'24. In addition to our remaining staff members, we welcome Hussein Ali Rifath as assistant news editor; Kurana Doobay and Kenneth Cervantes as co-features editors; Lilyen McCarthy as assistant sports editor; and Malika Burieva as social media editor. I'm so excited to have you all on board.

In this issue we have covered a range of topics, starting in News, including the coverage of the 20th annual Scholarship and Research Conference, the record-breaking results of Giving Day and insight on Adelphi's enrollment issues as of late.

In Features, you will find senior reflections from Mylo Fisherman and Bianca Viana, along with profile stories of students Reid Taub, Jade Dorely, Andrew Graziosa and many more who are doing great things! Read a review of the student production of "Men on Boats" and a student's journey representing Adelphi University at the United Nations.

Are you wondering if adding a minor is worth it? Or what artificial intelligence has planned next as it advances and upgrades? Flip on over to Opinions to find out more information.

And finally, Sports highlights graduate student Kyria Moore from track and field and senior Alec Maag from baseball, concluding with positive words from our softball team that has been exceeding this season.

To everyone graduating in May, congratulations and I wish you the best of luck on all your future endeavors.

Adelphi is lucky to have had you as students. To everyone else, good luck on all your final exams, projects and papers and don't forget to make the most of your summer!

Thank you all for your support towards *The Delphian*, and I look forward to being back in the fall semester, writing and editing once again. But goodbye for now, and I hope you enjoy our last issue of the spring semester.

**Lizz Panchyk '24**  
Editor-in-Chief



# TheDelphian

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## 20th Research Day Features a Wide Array of Projects

*The Delphian* and two AU students are finalists in the 2023 Press Club of Long Island Media Awards. In addition to the student newspaper being named in the best college newspaper category, news editor Joanna Reid and staff writer Lilyen McCarthy are also finalists in the best college reporter category and other categories as well. We'll learn whether they placed first, second or third at the annual awards banquet to take place in Woodbury on Thursday, June 15 at 6 pm. This is the twelfth consecutive year that *The Delphian* and reporters have won awards at this prestigious journalism event. Congratulations!

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started. At noon President Christine M. Riordan came onstage in the Ballroom for a brief opening address. She described the great variety of presentations there would be throughout the day and remarked on how this year's conference had the largest number of undergraduate and graduate proposal submissions. There were also 104

titled "Indian Non-Alignment and the Future of the BRICS." He examined the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. He concluded that although China is the only country of this group to have had extensive economic growth recently, they collectively are uniquely positioned to address issues facing our planet such as climate

After a short break to allow the next group of presenters to set up, it was time for another group as the day was split into four sessions. Presenting in this second section was Matthew Brophy, a junior who is also the president of Delta Chi. Brophy, who is majoring in psychology, described his research on the association between trauma and diagnosis of learning challenges. He said, "It was a wonderful experience, being able to not just go and discuss something that I was passionate about researching, but to also meet and discuss with others about their ideas and even their plans for future studies."

The conference is not solely e-poster presentations, though. In each of the time sessions, there were also oral presentations, computer science and game exhibitions, and either dance performances or visual arts performances. One of the computer science presentations was a group project by senior computer science majors Gabriel Sutton, Jazz Singh and Ruben Laureta called "JRG News." They created an online site that sorted through news sites and marked articles considered unbiased to be reposted on their website. When asked about the conference, Sutton said, "I thought that the conference went well."

Catherine Desiderio, a senior English major who is concentrating on creative writing, presented her senior honors thesis project about poetry and performed some she's written. She explained how poetry is free and unrestricted and acts as a type of therapy and that her writing really began



President Christine Riordan gave the opening talk where she commented that this year's conference had 250 submissions—the most ever. Photo by Justin Kresse

faculty advisers. After President Riordan's address, the actual presentations started.

Throughout the day, students were giving oral presentations with friends and advisors near. There were many students presenting their research in the poster section. Among them was senior international relations major Caio Gomes, whose research project was

change because of their lack of attachment to a global superpower like the U.S.

Caio said he was happy with his first time presenting at the conference. "I genuinely was not expecting so many people to show up, so it was a pleasant surprise to see a lot of people walk by the posters and attend other presentations throughout the day."

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## Artivism and the Criminal Justice Club Join to Show “Wearable Art for a Purpose”

BY JOANNA REID

The Artivism club combines activism and creativity, encouraging students to express their feelings on social issues through art. Some of their past events have been an open mic night with poetry, rap and spoken word, as well as a postcard making event that benefited AIDS research. On April 19, the Artivism club teamed up with the Criminal Justice Club to hold a fashion show in the University Center Ballroom. Including both in-person guests and Zoom guests a total of 100 people were in attendance.

At the event, students volunteered to make and model clothing, jewelry and posters. Some of the social justice issues that were reflected were reproductive rights, gun control, climate change and equal rights.

A big theme of the fashion show were the issues that come along with fast fashion such as poor working conditions and its contribution to global warming. The club members started a conversation that explained that fast fashion occurs when companies are constantly creating new clothing to keep up with the current trends. This causes many to throw away clothes to make room for new clothes. Not only does this contribute to a lot of waste, it also forces new garments to be manufactured. This production contributes to an excess amount of fossil fuels. On top of this, many companies who rely on fast fashion underpay workers and make them work in unsafe conditions. The club members’ comments were



Students displaying the posters that other students created and modeling clothing accessories designed to promote environmentally conscious fashion and other political statements about equality, gun violence and reproductive rights. Photos by Joanna Reid

supported by videos that displayed the hardships of sweatshop work-

ers. In one video, a sweatshop worker described his first-hand experiences.

The president of the Criminal Justice club, Kaylee Fong, said, “The Wearable Art for a Purpose event gave the Criminal Justice Club the opportunity to speak up on social justice issues in contemporary society and educate others.”

Literature from several organizations was also available to those who wanted to learn more about sweatshop labor and how to take action against fast fashion. The organizations included Global Exchange, Global Goods Partners, Co-Op America and more.

Rowan McKiernan, president of the Artivism club, finds art to be universal and a way to spread a message for a cause. Artivism provides people with the platform and the courage to spread a message that may be important to them through any form of art they choose.

“Artivism is a way to use our voices in an unconventional way. When people think of using one’s voice, they think of protests, sit-ins, writing letters or social media posts. They very rarely think of art as a way to use one’s voice,” McKiernan said.

Towards the end of the show, student Brendan Lake performed his original rap songs alongside the models. His songs confronted the topics of police brutality and his own personal hardships in school.

“At the fashion show we spoke out against multiple issues, in multiple different ways and that is the beauty of art and this club,” said McKiernan. “Artivism provided me with a voice and the courage to use my voice.”

## 20th Annual Scholarship and Creative Works Conference

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to bloom from the pandemic. She read three of her own poems, “Born Before the World Turned Digital,” “To Make the Ocean Sing to Me Again” and “In the Room With All of My Past Selves.” [Editor’s Note: Read this poem on page 8.]

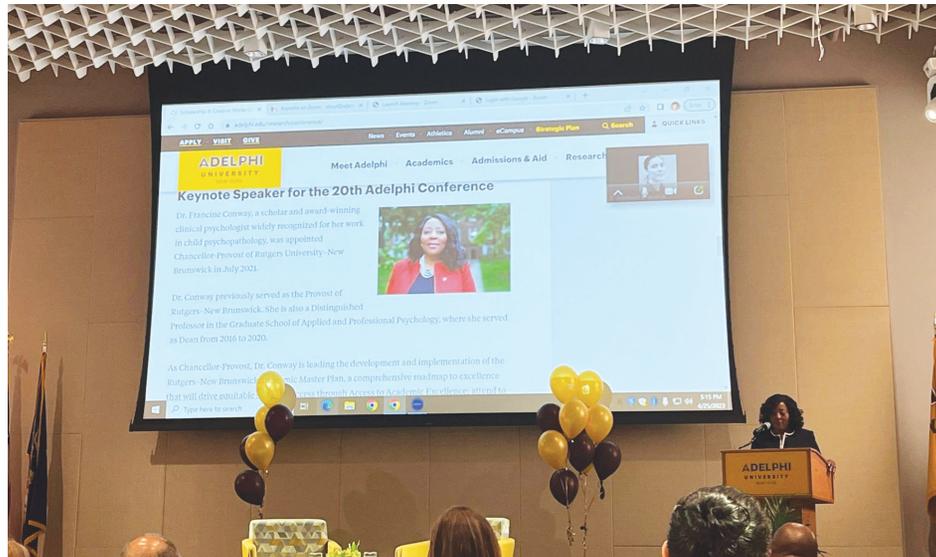
“Each time I share my writing with the world, I become less scared,” Desiderio said. “I have turned my anxiety into appreciation for the opportunity to speak in a space where people listen and support me. I am looking forward to reading more poems, whether to my family, friends, peers or at future readings.”

As part of the new format for the conference, students from the Communications Department were able to present their short films for the first time as well. There were five total: “Significant Bother” by Nina Berntzen and Nicole Cecere; “A World For All of Us” by Nina Berntzen and Alyssa Krell; “Driving Over Bridges” by Jacob Rosenfeld and Ethan Bloch; “Take Two: Reclaiming Queer Adolescence in Adulthood” by Olivia Reid and Bethany Goodwin and “Artemis Why?” by Jade McClinton-Dorley.

Reid, a sophomore communications major with a concentration in digital media and cinema studies, said, “I was

asked by the department chair Peggy Cassidy to show my film at the Viewfinders Film Festival hosted by the Department of Equity and Inclusion and following that

She added that presenting at both events has been empowering to talk about the queer experience so openly and freely, “and it’s reminded



Francine Conway, PhD ‘99, who created Research Day, shares her research and inspiring words at the keynote. Photo by Lizz Panchyk

festival she encouraged those of us who participated to also submit our films to the Research Day Conference. Several people have spoken to me about the impact my film had had on them, which I didn’t expect when I made it, and I welcomed the opportunity to talk about it again.”

me of why I enjoy making films.”

The keynote was given by Dr. Francine Conway, PhD ‘99, a psychologist and Adelphi alum and current chancellor-provost of Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is the person who created the Research Day Conference 20 years

ago, so Dr. Liu and Dr. Heyl said they saw it only fitting for her to return as the keynote speaker for this special anniversary conference. Here, she shared her research as to why grandparents are so important in a child’s life and the impact they leave, adding that her grandmother raised her and was her inspiration. She explained how research starts with curiosity (the building block), which leads you to ask questions to further your research. A good researcher is willing to tell a story, and the next frontier for research is interdisciplinary collaboration, she said.

Conway also shared some of the most important parts of research, which include but are not limited to connection, collaboration, communication and serving the common good. She ended by saying how much artificial intelligence (AI) is intertwined within our lives and is our reality now. Whether this could hurt or help with research is up to the beholders’ eye. But for now, Conway sees beauty in watching students blossom at Adelphi, just like she did during her time here.

“Sharing your work with others takes courage, and many Adelphi students took on the role as researchers, presenting their impressive work with everyone who came,” she said.

## Jeff Smulyan, Founder of Sports Talk Radio, Speaks at Campus Series

BY ANDREW SMITH

Sports talk radio is often very divisive. Disgruntled fans call into their favorite programs every day expressing their disdain with their favorite team. On Wednesday, April 12, over 100 Adelphi students and faculty got to hear what that's like as the father of sports talk radio, Jeff Smulyan, was the featured industry professional in the next installment of the Great Minds, Great Conversations series. Throughout the calendar year, Adelphi has invited accomplished individuals from all different backgrounds and fields to speak to the Adelphi community and share their knowledge and experiences. Steve Jones '89, a current member of Adelphi Board of Trustees, served as the moderator during this evening's discussion.

Smulyan was a pioneer in the sports radio industry and wrote about his experiences in his memoir, "Never Ride a Roller Coaster Upside Down." One of the most important moments in his life was creating WFAN, the first 24/7 sports radio channel.

Smulyan reflected on what sports radio brought to the industry. "Before sports talk radio, sports fans were not given an avenue to call and complain about their favorite teams. Back in the day, the newspaper would have negative comments but all you could do was read it and put it down."

The process of building WFAN was very challenging. Smulyan mentioned the concept of creating an all-sports talk radio station came to him in a college class. He said that people are very passionate about sports, especially on the East Coast. When he first launched the program in New York it faced several difficulties. He said the programming was centered around national sports, when it should have just been all local and there was not enough interaction with the fans and listeners. Once Smulyan saw the writing on the wall, he enacted several changes which transformed the outlook of sports radio for decades to come. A key turning point for the station was put-

ting Mike Francesa and Chris "Mad Dog" Russo together in the afternoon drive slot. This show became so popular that sports fans all across the country would tune into a New York show just to hear these two hosts yell and argue with each other and the fans. Smulyan said "the process of founding and evolving WFAN was idiot to genius."

As a result of sports radio, fans can



**Jeff Smulyan, founder of WFAN, was welcomed at a recent Adelphi Great Minds, Great Conversations series.**

call into their favorite local programs and express their frustration or excitement about their teams. There is nothing more important to New York sports fans than baseball during the hot summer. Every day Yankees and Mets fans will call into their favorite shows demanding that either a player should be cut, or a front office member should be fired after one game out of 162.

Smulyan also played a major role in the creation of the other radio stations that still exist today. Smulyan with the help of his own company, Emmis Communications, launched Hot 97 in New York and Power 106 in Los Angeles, two of the most

popular hip hop stations in the country.

In addition, Smulyan commented on current issues and topics that are prevalent in the sports media world. He's not only known as the father of sports talk radio but was also very involved in professional baseball. In fact, Smulyan was the lead of a group that purchased the Seattle Mariners in 1989. He also reflected on the new changes to the rules that were implemented this past offseason by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Union. Some of the highlights of these rule changes were the modifications to the defensive shift, and more importantly the addition of a pitch clock. This is another example of how Major League Baseball understood what was at stake and saw the importance and need to increase the pace of play and increase the offense.

"By implementing a pitch clock, and lowering the average run times of games, Major League Baseball has begun to make the game more attractable to the younger generation," Smulyan argued.

Changes have already begun to greatly affect the state of play throughout the first month of play this season. Batting average and stolen base success rate are up and average time of game are down compared to the past decade. MLB has made positive strides to regain viewership that they have begun to lose due to a slow pace of play.

Lastly, Smulyan addressed the rise in streaming in the sports broadcasting world. Almost every major professional league in the United States has begun to form partnerships with streaming services to begin to showcase their product to a larger audience. The National Football League airs Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime, Major League Soccer has an exclusive broadcasting agreement with Apple, Major League Baseball has an exclusive "Friday Night Baseball" weekly spot on Apple+, and the National Hockey League shows exclusive weekly games on ESPN+. In addition, certain professional teams have begun to offer their entire game catalog on a streaming service. The New

York Yankees recently launched a streaming service for their "YES" network. As a result, Yankee fans may not feel the need to not renew their cable bill since they can just pay for access to their Yankee games through a streaming service.

Smulyan reflected that many local sports networks might have to change their programming to keep their audience because if they do not, people will continue to cut their cable bill and just rely on their sports entertainment through streaming.

Moderator Jones, who as a longtime associate invited Smulyan to speak, emphasized the speaker's candor throughout the evening. "He's had this fascinating and celebrated career, been a public figure and yet he's very forthcoming about errors he's made in business judgment. He could have been a billionaire many times over had he pursued opportunities to own NFL or NBA teams," Jones said. "When he reflects on those decisions, he's not bitter. Instead, he emerges with increased self-awareness that guides his judgment going forward."

Sport management graduate program director Daniel Bedard also shared his thoughts about the event. "It is never a bad idea to sit and listen to a millionaire share his knowledge and wisdom on the road to success."

Bedard said there was an underlying message throughout the evening's event. "It was clear about how he cares for his employees like family and surrounds himself with the best people for the task at hand."

Bedard continued, "Trust, honesty and loyalty are all family traits that he looks for in quality staff and goes on to say 'nobody comes to work saying I am going to do the worst job I can.' People will make mistakes that we all learn from."

Be sure to keep an eye out for the next installment of Great Minds, Great Conversations. These events are wonderful opportunities for Adelphi students to learn something from very accomplished individuals.

## Events Support Neurodivergent Students During Autism Acceptance Month

BY TROY COFIE

On April 24, the Bridges to Adelphi program held a yard sale to raise money for RVC Blue Speaks, a coalition of community members, local businesses and local government officials that focuses on helping neurodivergent students, providing scholarships to those who are part of the Adelphi program.

The yard sale had items like sensory bubble poppers, crossword puzzles, word searches and fuzzy socks all available for a donation. Students could also donate money or any items that can support Bridges to Adelphi. They were able to raise \$150 for RVC Blue Speaks. This was part of an array of events sponsored by Bridges celebrating neurodivergent students throughout campus in recognition of Autism Acceptance Month.

"The mission of this national April

event is to foster more acceptance and educate the populace," said Amanda Ashe, social coordinator of the Bridges to Adelphi program. "It's a time where the world is paying attention to autism."

Many of the events that took place on campus were coordinated by Ashe, who oversees all social events, groups and services. She organized the Silent Disco, Bridges got Talent, and a neurodiversity panel on April 17 with Kerry Magro, EdD, an autistic adult, speaker, author and disability advocate.

"I think the events were very successful and overall had good attendance," said Ashe, adding that the overall mission of the Bridges program provides academic, social and vocational support services to Adelphi's neurodivergent students.

"Bridges to Adelphi helps neurodivergent students transition from high school to college; to college to

the real world," she said. "It also provides neurodivergent training with



**Amanda Ashe (left), social coordinator of the Bridges to Adelphi Program, with Femist Alliance president Allysa Furline. On April 26, they hosted an educational neurodiversity table in the UC lobby as part of a series of events for Autism Acceptance Month. Photo by Troy Cofie**

RAs and different organizations on campus to enhance understanding of neurodivergent students."

The program currently assists about 130 students. It has been presented with a NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) award in the equity, inclusion, and social justice category for its innovative services for neurodivergent students and effective administration. Ashe said the Bridges to Adelphi program is one of the first in the country that provides support to neurodivergent students-providing social groups and first-year assistance for neurodivergent students.

"Many of our neurodivergent students are able to get the help they need and be part of Adelphi's community because of the work of the Bridges program," she said.

## Annual Giving Day Yields Record-Breaking Results

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another new record for the school. Other campaigns that benefitted include the Adelphi Fund, which supports the University's strategic priorities and builds the foundation for student success and received \$40,891 from 187 donors, as well as the Women's Giving Circle, an organization that aims to promote female leaders of creative projects by and for the Adelphi community, which exceeded its goal, earning \$24,783.

"We are tremendously grateful to our Giving Day supporters," said MaryAnne Hyland, dean of the Robert B. Willumstad School of Business. "We exceeded our goal of \$75,000 in donations and had several successful matching challenges. We also had 100 percent participation from the Dean's Advisory Board and over 60 percent participation from our faculty.

We are delighted to have this support to provide life changing co-curricular

experiences for our students."

Among other donations were the



Panthers both past and present showed support during the 1,896 minutes of Adelphi's annual Giving Day, donating \$481,430. Photo by Adelphi News

\$18,332 received by the Honors College and the Alice Brown Early Learning Center, which earned \$20,410.

Kline said, "Giving Day is a team effort. My entire staff and I—as well as a number of volunteers from across the community—were working in the Command Center, located in the University Center, to send solicitations to donors, thank donors, and impart a philanthropic spirit to the campus community."

Kline said he is "very pleased" with the outcome of the event, and explained that the donations will be used to support 21 causes and programs on campus, ranging from academics and research to athletics and specialized programs to a general Adelphi Fund.

While the campaign ended on April 20, contributions are still being accepted.

## Adelphi Enrollment Has Decreased Since 2018

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ment chair and professor, attributes her department's enrollment decline to university cost and employment insecurity.

"I think that we, especially post-pandemic, live in a world where people aren't necessarily as adept at going out and finding their own kind of jobs or their career path," Geddes said. "And when college is this expensive, I think it's difficult to think 'I will graduate with a rough sense of the field that I will go into, and I will try a job in that field... and if it doesn't work out, I'll try something else.'"

Geddes offered the example that a business degree seems to offer a more direct correlation to the workplace, as it teaches a specific skill set. Business, however, locks a student into a particular career path. The assumed certainty of employment after college makes business seem like the safer option, she said.

"We have a decent level of transfers," Geddes said about the English program's enrollment. "They came to school to do business because that's what they agreed with their parents, and then they get to a point they do want to transfer over."

The Communications Department sees the same kind of transfer trend, also not having a high first-year rate

but a higher enrollment after students' first year at school. Department chair Peggy Cassidy commented on the amount of transfer forms she signs during the spring semester, but she added the enrollment issue for her department differs from the English Department.

Cassidy notes that in the 1990s and early 2000s, communications was a popular major. While the degree continues to be popular and offers a variety of opportunities, there's a lot of competition from other institutions.

"It just happens I would say in the past 10 years or so some of these other programs that are big competitors with us have been prioritizing, in some way, their communication programs, whether it's fancy new facilities or new programming with different degrees," Cassidy said.

As a smaller program, 88 enrolled students as of fall 2022, new facilities for the department are not the top priority. The issue for the Communications Department is not that they do not know how to be more competitive.

"It's not that our facilities are limited; it's that we have what we need, but we need to be really good," said Cassidy. "We happen to be asking [for facility updates] at a point when budgets are so tight, that it's not for a lack of knowing."

Cassidy also attributes enrollment struggles to the direct competition with the university's Psychology Department. With the mental health crisis and a huge interest shift to psychology, the younger generation is moving to that degree, she said. Psychology enrollment has increased by 27 percent in

***"I think that we, especially post-pandemic, live in a world where people aren't necessarily as adept at going out and finding their own kind of jobs or their career path," Geddes said.***

the last five years, seeing a 398 undergraduate enrollment in fall 2022.

"You can't just assume anymore in the Communications Department that you're just going to get people no matter what you do or don't do," Cassidy said.

Another department experiencing growth is the Computer Science Department, which has seen a 55 percent increase in undergraduate enrollment; 212 undergraduates enrolled in the program as of fall 2022.

Adelphi is working to mitigate these factors by various actions. Capezza said the university is expanding to new geographic markets, recruiting students from more than 40 states and 70 countries, launching new programs at the undergraduate and graduate level such as health sciences and computer science, respectively, and growing online programs to meet demands for online modality.

Outside of program demand, the university continues to expand tools to support retention and progression like targeting underserved populations with the mentoring program.

Senior film student Noah Moss has been a part of the Communications Department for four years. He started his college career before the Covid-19 pandemic and will graduate in December, having made it through school during the pandemic. For him, enrollment hasn't been an issue.

"Being a part of a small department has its ups and downs, but I enjoy the close relationships it allows me to make with my professors," Moss said. "Especially in communications, having a smaller class leads to better discussion."

## How the "Voice of the Students," *The Delphian*, Gets Made

BY LIZZ PANCHYK

Have you ever wondered how our newspaper gets made? As far as you know, issues come about every three weeks, and students deliver them all around campus. But how do we get to that point?

*The Delphian* goes to the printer on a Thursday and gets delivered the following Monday (of the scheduled time period).

Before that time, article ideas are thought up by our editors. This occurs during the time that *The Delphian* is being

printed, so ideas can be presented at the meeting that Monday. Meetings take place every three weeks (when the paper comes out) in the Earle Hall basement, room 007. During the meeting and even days after, articles are claimed and written over the next week. Then student writers interview students and staff on campus to report and then write their articles.

As the articles trickle in from editors and staff writers, they are being reviewed and edited by the designated section editor, the faculty advisor and editor-in-chief.

We organize all the articles and photos through Google Drive in folders, section by section, and they get shared with the production team to establish the best way to present the articles in our paper.

We have about a week and a half of editing, layout and proofreading to accomplish before we send a finalized PDF copy to be uploaded to Richner Communications where they prepare it to print. They're a newspaper company right here in Garden City, founded in 1964.

After the issue goes to the printer, we

then upload all the articles to our website, [www.thedelphianau.com](http://www.thedelphianau.com), where they live permanently. This academic year, we published 11 issues, and you can find them all on our site. You can also always find a print copy in the racks around campus.

And if you want to join us in the fall, contact us at [delphian@adelphi.edu](mailto:delphian@adelphi.edu). You'll get hands-on professional experience and the chance to join a club that provides the entire Adelphi community with the voice of the students.

*Editor's Note: The Delphian has an annual tradition of publishing first-person essays by senior staff members so they can talk about what their experiences were like leading the school newspaper, as well as their time as Adelphi students. Here our current features editor Bianca Viana and social media editor Mylo Fisherman share their thoughts.*

## Adelphi: Where Chosen Family Is Found

BY MYLO FISHERMAN

If you told me when I graduated high school that I would be where I am today, I wouldn't believe you. In my senior year of high school, I was beginning to come to terms with my bisexual identity. At that time I could count the people I was out to on one hand. I was the secretary of my high school's GSA and my advisor, Mr. Zagare was only the third person I had come out to. When I committed to Adelphi, I promised I would live my best gay life in college. I am happy to say that I did that here at Adelphi.

During my orientation, I was shocked that there was an LGBTQIA+ mixer for students that had a drag show. It was there that I signed up for the LGBTQIA+ First Year Experience (FYE), which was formative for my growth. The FYE took place during one of my classes but I put in the effort to go to the 30 minutes of it I was able to attend. It was there I met people who were non-binary, trans-masculine. I was already questioning my gender in high school and experimenting with my expression in a more masculine way, having conversations with these people made me realize this may be what I am. That night, I looked up names on baby name websites and wrote up a little poem about my identity. The next day, on Sept. 19, 2019, I showed the poem to my friends and came out as non-binary with my name, Mylo, and pronouns, they/them. While this no longer speaks to who I am, it was a big, scary step into becoming me. Over the next few months, I started experimenting with he/him pronouns and in December I came out again as a trans man.

During this time, I did my best to be as active in the GSA as I could. As happy as I was to be a member of GSA, I strived

to be on the eBoard as I had been when I was in high school. When I was elected the president of the GSA it was a surreal experience. While this was a natural next step in my journey, I didn't immediately realize the full impact it would have on me. I have had the opportunity to work alongside some of the most amazing individuals. Together, we organized events and meetings that celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community, raised awareness about the issues we face, and advocated for our rights. It was not always



Mylo (second from left, first row) couldn't be prouder of the family he has created with his club Students Beyond the Binary.

easy, but seeing the impact we made on campus made all the hard work worthwhile.

During my last semester on the GSA eBoard, there was a lack of space to speak about everything we had initially set out to discuss. There was a need for a club whose mission and goals were tailored to the needs of the transgender and gender non-conforming population on campus. This realization sparked Students Beyond the Binary (SBB). As the founder and outgoing president, I couldn't be more proud to see SBB thrive

for three semesters. We have made immense strides since the formation, and I know that many amazing accomplishments lay ahead.

Adelphi provided me with a safe space when I didn't have one anywhere else in my life. Here was the place where I felt the freedom to fully be myself. Friends and faculty members here at Adelphi provided me with the strength and support I needed to come out to my parents on Dec. 2, 2021. While their response was less than desirable, the support I received from the faculty members

I look up to most meant the most to me as someone who doesn't have a supportive family to share in my queer joy. Each of these people has carved a place into my heart as a part of my chosen family. Although I often feel vulnerable being visible and transitioning at the age of 21, if my visibility helps one person then I am happy. If younger Mylo could see me now he would be so proud of the person we have turned ourselves into.

Lastly, I can't forget to mention my time I spent with *The Delphian*. I joined

this newspaper my first semester here at Adelphi. I didn't plan to at first, but my friend was leaving to join a meeting and I didn't want to be left alone so I went with them. The rest is history. While I had major imposter syndrome joining this club at first because I wasn't a communications major and I never considered English or writing to be my strong suit, I slowly became comfortable writing for the paper. *The Delphian* provided me with two unique experiences as a queer person. It allowed me to freely discuss and write articles on current news impacting or related to the LGBTQIA+ community. Plus, at a time I wasn't out to many, it allowed me to see my name in print on a monthly basis. Additionally, I chose to take on a leadership role in *The Delphian* because of the amazing leadership that has come before me. I love everyone on staff past and present. It has been so nice being able to work along these hardworking humans.

Coming out on campus and my roles in GSA, SBB and *The Delphian* have been some of the most empowering experiences of my life. They have taught me that authenticity and vulnerability are not weaknesses. Rather, they are strengths that make us human. They have also taught me that we are stronger when we stand together. In a time when our community is in need of support, our solidarity and resolve can make all the difference.

I encourage you all to be true to yourselves. Embrace your identities and fight for what you believe in. Remember that we are all here to support each other and that we are stronger when we stand together. Congratulations, graduates, and thank you for being part of my journey.

## Thank You for the Last Four Years

BY BIANCA VIANA

Here we are four years later and it almost feels surreal to be writing about my time here on *The Delphian*. I'm Bianca Viana and I am a nursing major graduating this May. I started with *The Delphian* in my freshman year, and four years later here I am as the Features Editor. Who would have ever thought!

I remember attending my first *Delphian* meeting in the basement of Earle Hall being extremely scared, not knowing a single person in the room and feeling intimidated to raise my hand and claim a story. Writing features was an area I had keen interest in as I was able to write about campus happenings, and highlight a variety of people and organizations on campus. In my sophomore year I was first asked to come on as an Assistant Features Editor and I eventually transitioned into the role of Features Editor within that year.

This role has taught me a lot about effective communication and collaboration as I've worked closely with writers, other

editors and even designers to produce multiple physical and online issues to life. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to work with writers in developing and refining their ideas, providing them with feedback and guidance on their writing, along with editing their pieces before publication. I have met so many people through *The Delphian* and have covered events from clubs and Greek life, all the way to the Women's Leadership Conference.

The past four years have been nothing short of hard work and curating interesting and engaging content for the Adelphi community. Getting to firsthand see the impact my work has had on readers has really allowed me to have a sense of accomplishment, which has only served as a motivator and building my confidence. Being a nursing major while also being heavily involved in various leadership positions on campus served as a challenge these past four years, however there was never a time where I wanted to stop writing for *The Delphian*. It served as an outlet for me to express myself

and step outside of very long and intense class work. I have met so many talented people during my time at *The Delphian*, and was welcomed into a community of like-minded individuals, all of whom have supported me throughout this journey.

Looking forward, I hope to continue writing in some aspect in my future as it's something that I truly enjoy. My interest as of right now lies in critical care, and I hope to begin my career there. I have always had a passion for helping others and after two years of clinical experience at the bedside, I know that nursing is the right choice for me. There are no other nursing majors on *The Delphian* staff so I have really used this as an advantage in being able to engage the nursing community with the paper these past four years bringing a new perspective into the paper. I started an initiative to highlight different clubs on Adelphi's campus this past year as well, and I hope this continues on as it's a great way to highlight all the opportunities Adelphi holds.

Use your voice, speak up for

what you are passionate about, write about it! Good luck, Panthers!



Bianca enjoyed her time on *The Delphian* and cannot wait to see the work of future students while watching the paper grow.

## A Muppetational Blog: The Story of Reid Taub's Muppet Blog

BY MITCH COHEN

When it comes to fiction, one of its strongest aspects is the ability to create iconic characters. From Jack Sparrow to Darth Vader, these characters resonate with audiences because of their charming personalities, iconic catchphrases and their impact on pop culture as a whole. Some of the most iconic characters to embody all three traits are The Muppets. Created by Jim Henson, The Muppets are best known for “The Muppet Show,” a variety show that allowed each character to put their unique personalities on display. Over the years, they have garnered a strong following, spawning movies, video games and countless merchandise. Adelphi senior Reid Taub, a theater major, started his own blog in 2018 detailing how these legendary characters came to life.

Before a fictional character can resonate with someone, it's important to be introduced to them first. In Taub's case, he was first introduced to “The Muppets” through its sister series, “Sesame Street.”

“I started off with ‘Sesame Street’ before moving up to the ‘Muppets,’” said Taub.

For many children, “Sesame Street” was also their introduction to the Muppet characters, as it focused on educational elements like counting and the alphabet.

Count von Count was a rather popular character who taught children about numbers. What is particularly impressive about this series is that 54 years later, new episodes are still in production, meaning new generations will be exposed to these iconic characters who will impact them for years to come. As for why this franchise resonates with Taub, he liked the versatility of the puppeteers.

“I was always impressed with the way each performer performed their own character, not to mention how many they've done over the years,” he said, adding that watching these shows allowed him to create a blog documenting the creation of these characters.

Taub created this blog in September 2018 during his time at a transfer program in New London, Connecticut. In one class he had an assignment where he had to create a blog based on his interests.

“The first thing that came to mind was The Muppets, so I decided to make one about the people behind them,” he said.

With each blog post, Taub focuses on a different performer who worked with the Muppet characters. For example, his September 1, 2022 post focuses on puppeteer and voice actor Mona Marshall. While most people recognize her as the voice of Sheila Broflovski

from the adult cartoon “South Park,” she also voiced Mokey Fraggle in the



Senior theater major Reid Taub is the creator of “Reid's Muppet Blog.”

“Fraggle Rock” animated series.

In the past six years, Taub has researched and written about several performers and puppeteers. He currently has 366 viewers of his Muppet blog. A post that Taub is particularly proud of writing is of Matt Vogel, who is the current voice of characters like Big

Bird and The Count. “He is someone who gets their voices and accents and keeps them alive today,” Taub said.

Since “The Muppets” have been synonymous with pop culture, the voice actors and puppeteers have changed over the years. According to Taub's blog post, Vogel was responsible for revoicing characters played by late puppeteer Jerry Nelson. While it's unfortunate that Nelson passed away, replacing him with Vogel was a smart decision because he was familiar with the characters Nelson voiced. This meant he could easily portray the characters without messing up the characters' personalities or voices.

As for what the future holds, Taub plans to continue researching and writing about various performers on his Muppet blog. Later on, he plans on showing this blog to fans of “The Muppets” franchise.

“Hopefully I'll be able to show it to fans and use that knowledge to work up to my dream of being a puppeteer myself,” he said.

Ultimately, Reid's Muppet blog is a prime example of how fictional characters continue to resonate with audiences because by documenting various performers, it gives readers an idea of the creative process behind the Muppets franchise. Readers can visit Reid's Muppet blog, visit <http://reidsmuppets.blogspot.com>.

## Art Student Stands Out Among the Other Fish in the Sea

BY JOSEPH D'ANDREA

Adelphi University sophomore Gary Solorzano-Ruiz's art work is popping up all over Long Island—and winning recognition.

The art and design education major from Merrick has made paintings for local libraries, designed the logo for the East Meadow High School boy's lacrosse team, and had a few pieces displayed in the Art Guild of Port Washington, one of which was sold. Most recently, he won a contest offered by the Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead, New York to create a mural.

“The artwork that Gary submitted was very well received,” said Danielle Perillo, director of the New York Marine Rescue Center (NYMRC), which offered the contest. “We had received several submissions that were narrowed down to the top five by our board and senior staff members. Those four went on our website and were open to the community to vote.”

Solorzano-Ruiz was one of the two winners that were selected, winning over the judges with his painting that features marine life in a vibrant blue ocean. He created his mural in April, and a formal unveiling ceremony will be held this month at the NYMRC, located within the Long Island Aquarium.

He said that when the contest first got on his radar, he immediately got his supplies together and jumped on the opportunity.

“I was really excited when I found out about the contest,” Solorzano-Ruiz said. “Anything ocean-related is my

favorite to draw and paint, so this contest was right up my alley. What's most exciting is that this mural contest almost feels like a full-circle moment for me. I have been going to the aquarium for so many years, even painting my room to replicate one of their walls, and now I'm able to leave my mark with my own design.”

While in high school, the Merrick, New York native had even considered



Solorzano-Ruiz's entry, seen here, will soon be expanded into a full-sized mural to be on display at the Long Island Aquarium.

Photo by Gary Solorzano-Ruiz

studying marine biology when he'd enter college, so he felt that the premise of the contest could not have been better-suited to his interests. Roleplaying the idea of teaching the subject, he said that he'd even used to make binders filled with lesson plans about marine biology.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, his artistic influence comes from “Finding Nemo” and other Pixar films. The animated film about a father's search for his missing son—both being clownfish—is a great example of visual sto-

rytelling, said Solorzano-Ruiz, who is minoring in animation at Adelphi.

“What has always captured my attention was all of the hard work and dedication that went on behind the scenes [at Pixar] to bring these beautiful stories to life,” he said. “By watching these making-of videos, my appreciation for animation grew and I understood that it was a challenging medium, even at a young age.”

Beyond the big screen, Solorzano-Ruiz also received inspiration and encouragement from his teachers throughout his years in school. As a result, he said he envisions himself in front of a classroom in the future.

“I've always imagined myself teaching others,” he said “I want to help people learn about the things that I'm passionate about and hopefully inspire them. One time, my tenth grade art teacher allowed me to teach the rest of the class how to draw themselves as a cartoon. That was exciting for me because I was showing all of my friends and peers what I love doing and they were having fun doing it, too. I really got an insight as to what it's like to be a teacher—all of the planning that goes into it, and then seeing the lesson come to life.”

Solorzano-Ruiz said his instructors at Adelphi have also been very supportive. “The professors are really dedicated to making sure that we go out of our comfort zones and try out new mediums that maybe we never considered using.”

He continued: “What's nice about art is that I can always incorporate marine biology into my works. I'm always draw-

ing and painting ocean sceneries and animals anyway, so it feels like I'm mixing the two together. I've always imagined myself teaching others. I want to help people learn about the things that I'm passionate about and hopefully inspire them.”

Solorzano-Ruiz's teachers are likewise impressed by him.

“Gary is someone who works hard and brings a unique perspective to everything he does,” said Robyn Cooper, an adjunct faculty member in Adelphi's Art and Art History Department who taught four classes taken by Solorzano-Ruiz. “He is constantly making work outside of class projects which shows his dedication to his artistic career beyond his time here at Adelphi.”

In the years to come, Solorzano-Ruiz plans on involving himself in more contests, and hopes to publish a book with the characters he's created.

**The Delphian  
would like to  
congratulate our  
graduating staff  
members Mylo  
Fisherman and  
Bianca Viana.**

## Student Poetry Corner

The Delphian has introduced this poetry section so students may submit their original poems to be considered for publication. Submit poems up to 250 words to [delphian@adelphi.edu](mailto:delphian@adelphi.edu) and [elizabethpanchyk@mail.adelphi.edu](mailto:elizabethpanchyk@mail.adelphi.edu).

“In the Room With All of My Past Selves” is the titular poem in my poetry collection for my senior honors thesis project. This poem is the last in the collection, and I see it as a culmination of the lessons that I have learned in terms of conquering my fears—and ultimately, overcoming my fear of existing fully as myself. I wrote this poem while considering the concept of healing and what it means to me.

I was thinking about how I used to be afraid to catch fireflies, and then I created a metaphor about light: how difficult it is to capture your own light and share it with the world. In this poem, and many others, I am writing to younger versions of myself. Somewhere in history, there is the shy, insecure girl hiding away, afraid to share her voice and show her true colors.

To anyone who reads this poem, I hope that you find your inner light. This is a reminder never to dim yourself. In other words: Exist loudly.

### In the Room With All of My Past Selves

By Catherine Desiderio  
Senior English Major

I am the only body  
among the little bulbs of light.  
When I was small,  
I was scared to catch fireflies  
slowly crossing my  
field of vision at night.  
I think that I hated to see something  
light up in my hands, an insect  
with a life outside of my control.  
The fireflies blinking green and yellow,  
landing in the eight-o'clock evening.  
The workings of the  
Earth are fascinating.  
For once in my life, I am unafraid.  
The people that I used  
to be do not fight,  
just sit and wonder what  
strings them together.  
And how I used to fade  
for different faces and places,  
shrinking to fit a space  
unintended for me.  
I am learning the language  
that my past selves speak.  
I remind them that stars do not  
feel remorse for who they may blind.  
They simply stand and illumine.  
So it is in this room that I  
promise those younger girls:  
I will never dim myself  
for anybody again.

## A Student's Look Behind the Scenes of the United Nations

BY NINO BURJANADZE

Over the 2022-'23 winter break, while still in my home country Georgia in Eastern Europe, I received an email that would open a new door of opportunities for me. The news that as a sophomore I would be representing Adelphi University at the United Nations left me in disbelief. Having grown up being asked if the prominent Georgian politician whose name I shared meant I would also become a politician, I developed a keen interest in politics, international law and diplomacy from an early age.

As I was exposed to various political issues in my country, I realized that international law and diplomacy were the perfect fit. Thus, I got involved with the United Nations (UN), and at the age of 17, I was selected to be Georgia's Youth Representative to work with UNICEF and the Georgian Parliament to draft the Code of Child. Since then, my goal has been to work with an organization that strives to change the world for the better.

Upon coming to the United States almost two years ago, my goal was to be a good political science student and build a strong career. To achieve this, I joined the Levermore Global Scholars program, which became a bridge between me and the UN. Adelphi received approval as a non-governmental organization by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations in 2003. As a result, each year, Adelphi sends one or two students to represent



April 20, 2023, here I am meeting with the 77th President of the United Nations on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

our university at the United Nations civil society events and high-level conferences.

The United Nations is the world's most significant global organization with various branches dealing with issues such as human rights, climate change and international security, among others. While we often hear about resolutions adopted in the General Assembly and statements made in the Security Council,

there are many aspects of the UN that do not receive enough coverage. One of the primary goals of the UN now is to accomplish and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were first introduced in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustain-



On April 26, 2023, volunteering at ECOSOC Youth Forum, a picture with Dr. Andrisse Bass, founder and UN SDGs Ambassador (left).

able Development in Brazil. The purpose was to create a set of global goals related to environmental, political and economic challenges faced by humanity. In 2015, all UN Member States adopted the 17 Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set out a 15-year plan to achieve them.

Through attending various meetings, I learned about the different ways the UN utilizes to achieve SDGs. On March 30, I attended the “Civil Society Briefing: Building a Better Future Through Music and Arts,” which focused on how arts contribute to achieving different SDGs. One of the panelists, Rolf Stahlhofen, an artist from Germany, founded the organization Water is Right (WIR) in 2011, which raises awareness about the right to clean water and sanitation. WIR has implemented 12 projects in 10 countries around the world, providing millions of people access to clean and affordable drinking water. This project aims to achieve the 6th Sustainable Development Goal that focuses on Clean Water and Sanitation.

Another memorable event was the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP). I was introduced to the Inter Campus project, which uses football as an educational tool and a social movement. The initiative of Inter Campus is to tackle climate change, promote gender equality and combat racial discrimination. One of the most heartening examples of the Inter Campus project was the construction of a football stadium between Israel and Palestine, which created open spaces for dialogue in contexts of violence that are a daily part of life. Through sports, socialization between Israeli and Palestinian children is promoted, which is a

beautiful way to achieve SDGs and peace.

The UN is truly an inclusive, diverse and unique organization that provides a platform for everyone to voice their opinions and experiences. While I may attend meetings with the President of the United Nations and be star-struck

by the Prime Minister of Canada, most importantly, the UN inspires me every day to become a better human being.

My internship has just begun, and I have already met many incredible and established individuals who devote their time to achieving the goals that undoubt-



February 17, 2023, UNA-USA Summit, my first time at the United Nations.

edly affect each and every one of us.

If you can take away only one thing from this reflection, I hope it is the fact that thousands of people are working behind the scenes to create a world filled with sustainability, equality, peace and unity, and that most of the action, negotiations, meetings and debates are happening at the United Nations here in New York.

## Adelphi's Own Scream Queen: Jade Dorely

BY BRIDIE RAUSTIALA

Jade Dorely likes to creep people out. "I love working with blood," said the Adelphi senior and award-winning filmmaker. Dorely enjoys all things creepy, which is why she is specializing in horror.

While she has only begun making films in college, Dorely has notoriety within the industry. The filmmaker recently won the audience choice award at the Adelphi University Fall Film Festival for her film "Huggies." She also has several projects she is working on, all of which are horror and drama.

Dorely was raised in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. She started at AU as a journalism and public relations major. Then she realized that path was not for her. When Professor Terrence Ross pushed her into filmmaking, Dorely learned, "I had this creativity and nowhere to put it." In her sophomore year, she took the plunge, immersing herself in the study of film.

Through her major in communications with a concentration on digital production and cinema studies, Dorely has worked with many individuals that have inspired and impacted her as a filmmaker. She had the opportunity to work with Ross, who has been quite influential in her work. Impressed by her work as his student Ross invited Dorely to work on his short movie. Her role on set was continuity. She had to ensure every shot was the same.

Ross said he admires her attention to detail and her ability to speak up. "Over the years, she evolved so much," he said. "I have confidence she'll end up in the film industry."

Despite her potential for success in the field, one glaring obstacle she finds is the lack of female directors, especially within the horror industry. One study spanning 1988-2017 reveals that only 5.9 percent of horror directors were female. Even with the odds against her, this doesn't seem to faze Dorely, whose

favorite director is Jordan Peele. "He is one of the best. I admire Peele's success and hope to emulate that in the future."



Dorely, center, who likes all things creepy, hopes to make her mark in the horror industry in spite of the lack of female directors.

Virginia Maloney, who works in the Communications office and graduated last year, doesn't doubt that she will. "She'll achieve big things for sure,"



Senior Jade Dorely is already an award-winning filmmaker.

she said. The two met through Ross and have been close ever since. They share a commitment to challenging themselves

and each other as innovators. Dorely describes Maloney as "such a rock." Dorely considers Maloney and Ross as the foundation of her support system of people who genuinely want her to succeed. Maloney said Dorely is "one of the best filmmakers in the department." The two collaborated on several of Dorely's films.

Maloney is currently helping her with some upcoming projects as well. "Her dedication to her craft is the strongest of anyone I know or have known in this department," said Maloney.

Dorely's dedication to filmmaking has paid off within her department. Her award-winning film "Huggies" brought well-timed fears to the big screen. Due to the pandemic physical touch became a real fear and Dorely exploited this fear in her art. Ross said her ability to incorporate her environment and issues of the day into her

work shows she's "in touch with reality."

Over the last few years, Dorely has made many films. Last semester, she participated in a movie-a-month challenge for which each month throughout the semester, she wrote and directed a new movie. When asked how many films she has created, she replied, "Too many to count." Similar to "Huggies," many of her films are rooted in her own experiences of the world. For example, her film "Wake Up" depicts one of the realities she endures. Dorely suffers from a condition known as sleep paralysis. She used this harsh reality and turned it into a movie. "Real life is scary," said Dorely.

The filmmaker is currently working on a few projects. One deals with the heavy topic of sexual assault. "It is really important to me," noted Dorely. About this project, she stated, "Everyone is going to feel something." She is grateful for her crew and believes the project will do well.

On top of her written projects, she collaborates with other artists' films. She'll be directing a movie while a friend writes it. "She's got a story and I am going to shoot it," said Dorely. She loves working with her peers and has worked with many people over the last few semesters.

"She is so knowledgeable and insightful about filmmaking, and it's impossible not to learn from her," said senior Alyssa Krell. So many people who work with Dorely have nothing but positive experiences. She is a well-informed filmmaker who strives to better herself as a creator. She constantly pushes herself.

When asked for her advice for those interested in the film industry, she said, "Just jump in headfirst and shit yourself afterward." She emphasizes that it is okay to be scared but to push through those fears. Dorely believes that you have to get through it no matter how scary it may be. Ultimately, she said, "You'll be creating something incredible."

## Torres Starts BIC to Help Slow Down Dementia Through Socialization

BY CAROLINA VICALE

What would happen if someone told you spending too much time alone as an older adult could cause dementia? During an internship at the Long Island Alzheimer's and Dementia Center in Westbury in August 2022, Adelphi University social work major Chloe Torres had two epiphanies: working with elderly adults is her passion and they require socialization to stay healthy.

"There's a strong correlation to older adults who are socially isolated leading to developing dementia," said the junior from Riverside, California who aspires to be a geriatric social worker, specializing in care for adults with dementia.

Torres is pushing to prevent older adults from developing dementia with the help of socialization. She saw an opportunity to make change in the older adult community and

wants to bring Adelphi's Garden City campus students with her.

Torres founded a campus club, Building Intergenerational Connections (BIC). This club enables college students to visit Plattduetsche Home Society in Franklin Square, New York, and form connections with older adults living at the center. This socialization, as Torres explained, helps decrease the feelings of loneliness, social isolation and stunt the development of dementia.

Torres believes students can learn a lot from older adults because they want to share their knowledge with the new generation. Though students aren't the only ones who benefit from this socializing experience, Torres said. The older adults also benefit from socializing and forming new relationships.

Torres used the idea of building new relationships to make a difference from her own experience. "I have loved the older adults in my family so

much. You'll make a relationship with this person and you'll know they'll



Bruce, resident of Plattduetsche Home Society, and Chloe Torres. Photo by Chloe Torres

eventually pass before you and it will give you that someone to remember."

Even though this club only officially started at the end of January, BIC is growing steadily with 10 consistent members and has already reached numerous people. Several members are consistently reaching out to older adults at Plattduetsche they were paired with and talk to them regularly over text messages and phone calls. With the growing number of students visiting Plattduetsche there are more activities taking place.

"One of their favorite games to play with the volunteers is horse racing," Torres said. "They roll a big dice that determines which horse moves until they reach the end of the finish line!"

Along with Torres, Tess Helgeson, a sophomore nursing student and BIC's vice president, saw firsthand why there was a need for such an organization.

Continued on page 10

## Nightmare Inspires Senior's "Gateway" into the Film Industry

BY NICOLE CECERE

Andrew Graziosa has turned his nightmare into a dream come true. The Adelphi University filmmaking student and Lynbrook resident's new horror short film has been selected to nearly a dozen film festivals nationwide and won several awards.

Due to its success, Graziosa and his production team are working to create a 90-minute feature film, which will be a continuation of the short.

His inspiration for the short film's script came from a nightmare.

"I always had the ambition to make stories out of my dreams," Graziosa said. "That's what Wes Craven was doing—all of his movies were nightmares. When I had this dream, I wrote it down as a script. It was the first time I ever did a script format. I let it sit... and when I went back home that same day, I got it to 20 pages. It has been in the works since 2019."

The six-minute horror short film, "Gateway Eyes," premiered first to an audience of 120 at the now-closed, Merrick Cinemas. It was then premiered at the Adelphi Spring Student film festival in 2022.

Since then, it's been selected for 11 film festivals and won six awards. "Gateway Eyes" won best first time director honorable mention and a bronze prize for best horror short at the Independent Shorts Award and audience choice and best cinematography at the Adelphi Spring Student Film Festival. It was also a semi-finalist at the Nyack International Film Festival.

Graziosa was able to travel to Los Angeles in September 2022 with two of his producers to attend the Independent Shorts Awards.

"It was a great experience being able to network with really great people in a city I've been dreaming of visiting since I was really young," he said.

Graziosa works hard to ensure

he has the necessary funds for the film. He does so by connecting with executive producers and angel investors. A recent fundraising event was a meet and greet with American actors Damian Maffei and Matthew Stannah. Graziosa's interest in horror



Filmmaker Andrew Graziosa, a senior, is inspired by his nightmares to create horror stories.

films goes back to his childhood when movies such as "Halloween" and "Scream" were released. Horror movies didn't scare him though. However, reading horror stories did because his imagination did most of the work.

"You only think of things the way they would scare you," Graziosa said. "I read this one [horror] story. I went to bed right after I read it and had a nightmare about it. A nightmare that someone came to my front door, knocked and my mom answered. My dad got killed, my mom got killed and I was sitting there just watching it."

This is essentially the plot of "Gateway Eyes"—with some extra gory details, of course.

With Graziosa's filmmaking passion, he took classes at Adel-

phi to aid his skills. In particular, he said Professor Terrence Ross's course "Writing the Screenplay" brought a new perspective to his project. Along with a new supporter.

"He's got a lot of talent as a screenwriter and as a filmmaker,"

said Ross. "I realized immediately how talented he was and encouraged him. I realized how serious he was because he wasn't talking about doing a 20-page script; he was talking about doing a 120-page script. That impressed me...that he did the script and backed it up."

With the "Gateway Eyes" feature in the works, Graziosa and his team keep busy by working on other production projects. "Disassociation," Graziosa's second short film, is one of these projects. The short is an over-exaggerated look at a 21-year-old girl's struggle with disassociation, depression and anxiety.

"I wanted it to be a more personal project," Graziosa said. "I've always wanted to help people..."

I'm a very big mental health advocate. As someone who suffered from depression and has ongoing anxiety issues, I love to create awareness."

This also happens to be his motivation for filmmaking.

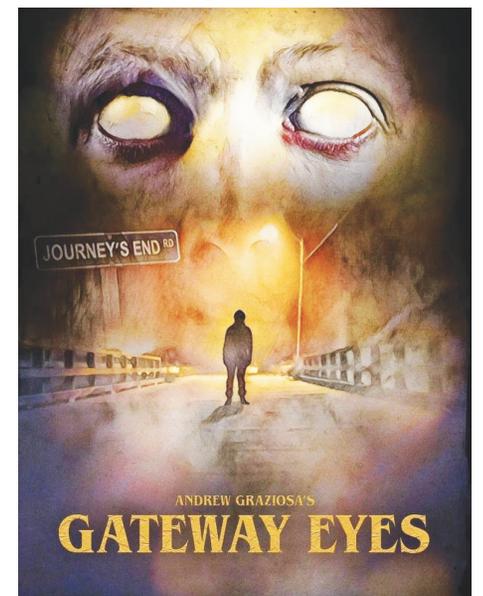
"I want to create a support system for people that need help or don't know where to get help... [I want] to be that helping hand in a sense for people that need it," he said.

Graziosa asked Jonathan Bauman, an Adelphi student, to work on this short with his team. Bauman worked as an audio technician.

"I never worked with such a coordinated team as much as his team is," Bauman said. "It was like a family."

"Disassociation" premieres at Adelphi's Spring Student Film Festival. Graziosa's work and student films will be shown in the Olmsted Theatre at 7 pm on May 9.

"If I had to summarize the way Andrew approaches work and how different it is to other people, I would say the pace, drive and coordination he has is on a whole other level," Bauman said. "I wouldn't consider him a student anymore. I would consider him beginning in his craft."



Artwork done for "Gateway Eyes"

## BIC Aims to Slow Down Dementia Through Socialization

Continued from page 9

As a child, she watched her grandmother battle and eventually succumb to Alzheimer's while her immediate family served as the primary caregivers.

But many older adults are forced to deal with their decline alone in nursing homes with no family or friends around to provide support, Helgeson said. As a result, she wants to make sure they have connections with younger generations and avoid social isolation.

"A lot of people, especially people our age, tend to take older people for granted," Helgeson said, "and a lot of people don't necessarily have the same compassion as they should and as these older adults have for us."

The club's advisor, Adelphi's School of Social Work professor Daniel Kaplan, agreed, saying participa-

tion in the club provides "fulfillment and personal growth that is derived through service to older adults."

The need for such a club has never been greater, he added. "There has been a 1,000 percent increase in the proportion of people aged 85 and older in the U.S. over the past 120 years. One out of every five Americans will be older adults in the year 2030."

The BIC club is looking for new members to either volunteer at the Plattduetsche Home Society in Franklin Square or to be paired with an older adult. That means going to see them in person at the center, texting, sending letters, calling or Face Timing them when available in your schedule. BIC has weekly meetings over Zoom on Thursday and Friday to accommodate members with busy schedules.



Junior Chloe Torres founded BIC.

In the future, Torres plans to make more of an impact by expanding the number of local centers visited and hosting events open to the Adelphi students and the general public. Torres also hopes that after she graduates, BIC will continue to grow and bring generations together.

BIC planned to host a Community Bingo event on campus on Friday, May 5. Seniors citizens, students and the general public were invited.

If you're interested in joining or learning more information, email Chloe Torres at [ctorres@mail.adelphi.edu](mailto:ctorres@mail.adelphi.edu). Students are also encouraged to follow their Instagram account for updates on meetings, events and eBoard member information, using the handle, @au.bic.

## Burieva Shows Why She's Not Afraid to Show Off Her Roots

BY CAITLIN MASTANDREA

You probably can't find Uzbekistan on a map, let alone name the Central Asia country's signature dish, but Malika Burieva hopes to change that. The 21-year-old Adelphi University junior and Brooklyn resident has quickly gained traction on social media educating others about her family's homeland.

During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Burieva channeled her time at home in quarantine into making videos for the popular social media platform. She was attracted to TikTok because of its format of short, yet creative videos.

Burieva posted a video on Nov. 10, 2020 using a popular song to show off her Central Asian heritage, which is a mix of Uzbek and Turkmen. That video gained a lot of attention with the help of using the viral sound and because there weren't many Central Asian creators on TikTok and now has over 119,000 views. She says that it was at that time that she felt it was her calling and what she was meant to do. In the past two years she's attracted nearly 38,000 followers and continues to develop her online presence every day.

Although she is comfortable expressing her culture online, this feeling didn't always come easy. When Burieva was seven she moved from Miami to South Brooklyn where she still resides. It didn't take long for her to realize the unfamiliarity people had with her culture. Burieva is ethnically Uzbek-Turkmen, with both sides of her

family mostly coming from Uzbekistan as well as both of her parents being born and raised there. Many people were curious where she was from, but when she answered Uzbekistan, they'd invariably follow up with, "What's that?" or "Where's that?"

Although this experience made her feel like an outsider, she said, it also helped her connect with her culture more. And it inspired her to educate others by sharing information about her culture online.

Originally Burieva made YouTube videos but found that it took too long to film and edit. "With TikTok, it doesn't require a thought for a video. You can just create. YouTube is more of a thoughtful process; TikTok was definitely what got my foot in the door in regards to content creation," she said.

When she started using TikTok in 2020, she said there weren't — and still aren't many — Central Asian social media creators. "It felt as though I was the spokesperson for Central Asia," Burieva said. She didn't come across many influencers who were knowledgeable about her culture and through the feedback and questions of her followers she found a way to educate others about her culture while also being creative.

Burieva feels that she is most known for her video essays where she teaches her followers Uzbek through a series called, "Teaching Basic Uzbek in 60 Seconds." Although she is also ethnically Turkmen, she chooses to focus on Uzbekistan in her content creation

because she feels more in touch and connected to that side of her culture.

While exploring her passion for her culture, she's connected with many other creators on different platforms who share the same passion. In May 2022, Burieva was featured on An Immigrant's Life Podcast, "All-American Uzbek: Malika Burieva" hosted by Aeron Dellosa. Dellosa's podcast is popular in the immigrant community because it highlights cultures from all over the world.



Junior Malika Burieva is showcasing her Central Asian heritage on TikTok.

"During the recording, I can tell how excited she was with the process

of podcasting. I appreciated how she was on time and prepared. She even had her own microphone for a better audio recording. Overall she was an amazing guest," said Dellosa, a popular, award-winning podcaster who chronicles immigrants and their immigration stories.

Others have also taken notice of Burieva's professionalism. Several merchants and brands now sponsor her videos, particularly Central Asian-owned small businesses such as "AsalChic," an Uzbek-owned female-owned business based in New Jersey that sells contemporary and modern Central Asian merchandise.

"As one of our ambassadors, she's always promoting our product as well as the non-profit we work with," said Layla Shatursun, an employee for AsalChic. "What I love most about our partnership is that she keeps her content authentic and showcases our items in a relatable way that brings customers to our page."

But for Burieva, the business she generates as a social media influencer is just a bonus. She said sharing her story and connecting with others is what motivates her to keep creating content.

"Getting comments that say, 'It was because of you that I started to become proud of my culture,' or getting direct messages asking for advice on Uzbek or Turkmen culture because they are in a relationship with an Uzbek or a Turkmen and don't know who to turn to, definitely makes it all worthwhile," Burieva said.

## Lights, Camera, Comedy, Buscemi

BY SKYLAR REINER

When you hear the name Buscemi, you probably think of the famous actor Steve Buscemi. However, there's another Buscemi who is a comedian and she works in Adelphi's Theatre Department. Lauren Buscemi is an adjunct professor who has been teaching stand-up comedy and beginning acting at the university since 2018.

Most professors ask you to call them by their last name, but Buscemi is different. She tells people to call her Lauren. "Right now I am like Madonna and I go by one name but eventually I want to be like Prince and go by a symbol," she said in response to why she prefers a first-name basis. "I think that being casual with the small things helps to build a bond that makes talking about the difficult things easier."

One of her colleagues, who has taught and worked with Buscemi, is Professor Terrance Ross in the Communications Department. He said, "A thing that impressed me the most was how smart and perceptive she is, and that even with that already being the case she continues to take courses outside her field. She is a lifelong learner which I admire."

Even with all she is doing outside the classroom "she always puts the

student first," said senior Ean Baker. "She really cares for her students inside and outside of the classroom. At the end of the semester all her students get the opportunity to perform at a professional comedy club in the city."

When asked who her comedy



Lauren with Honey, who she's training to be a certified therapy dog.

inspiration is, she said without hesitation Robin Williams. "He had a generous personality outside of stand-up. He did a lot of charity work."

Besides teaching at Adelphi, Buscemi also works in video production

for various events on campus. Adelphi, however, is not the only place she works. She is a camera operator at BRIC Arts (Brooklyn Information and Culture) in Brooklyn. She has also worked with Academy Award winning director Cynthia Wade on two different productions, including "Sproutland," which has won various awards and is loosely based on the real-life story of a widow living in her husband's shadow. Buscemi also worked on a documentary film called "The Flagmakers," which asks the very complex question: Who does the American flag truly belong to? It's a National Geographic documentary that is available to watch on Disney Plus. Buscemi also worked on another documentary project that also questioned American values. It was an episode of "The Weekly," which is a documentary show in collaboration with Hulu and "The New York Times."

"If you listen closely you can hear me slate right in the beginning of the episode," she said.

Outside of work Buscemi collects T-shirts. She has over 300 and has been collecting for over 15 years from concerts she attended. However, she has recently started downsizing in order to lead a more sustainable life.

She volunteers her time at North Shore Animal League, the largest no-

kill animal shelter and recently adopted a rescue dog named Honey who is a shepherd mix. She is currently training Honey to be a certified therapy dog.



Lauren at a New York comedy club.

Photo by Mike Bryk

## Meet Kennie Cervantes-Dionisio: President and Founder of ASIA

BY MALIKA BURIEVA

Kenneth Cervantes-Dionisio's journey from being mocked for his Asian identity in high school to being the founder of Asian Students Intercultural Alliance (ASIA), a new intercultural alliance club for Asian students at Adelphi University, is an inspiring tale of determination and resilience. Despite facing obstacles, he never gave up on his passion for promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity. Now, as president of ASIA, Cervantes-Dionisio is leading the change toward a brighter, more interconnected future for all.

ASIA, a club inclusive of all countries in the five regions of Asia, is known for its motto, "many cultures, one continent." Cervantes-Dionisio argues that the cultures and customs of East Asia are different from those of South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and so on. He believes that integrating Asian countries can bring harmony amongst the Asian students of Adelphi and differentiate cultures from others instead of stereotyping them.

Cervantes-Dionisio said, "We get to learn about each other and our different backgrounds. Just the idea of being integrated is what started this because you can't put a definition on being Asian."

At Adelphi, one of his first friends was from Indonesia—another country in Southeast Asia. They bonded over the limited representation that on-campus clubs have for Southeast Asians. That led to his creation of ASIA, which meets every Wednesday from 1 to 2 pm at Levermore Hall, Room 305.

Both of Cervantes-Dionisio's parents were born in the Philippines and they met in Woodside, Queens, known

as "Little Manila" for its large Filipino population. Cervantes-Dionisio was born in Forest Hills, NY and lived in Richmond Hill as a toddler. His family moved to Roosevelt, Long Island during his developmental years.



**As president of the new club ASIA, junior Cervantes-Dionisio promotes cultural diversity and inclusivity.**

Growing up, he tried to distance himself from his Filipino ethnicity due to constant teasing about his heritage from his schoolmates. As a result, his identity crisis and mental health were at a low. It grew worse when during the Covid pandemic the movement of #StopAsian-Hate began and he experienced racial slurs and stereotyping for his Asian identity.

Being a first-generation Filipino-American, Cervantes-Dionisio feels too Filipino to be American and too American to be Filipino. He said it was a gratifying experience to visit the Philippines in 2015. He experienced indefinite culture

shock, bringing him closer to his ties.

Now as a 21-year-old, Cervantes-Dionisio has learned to embrace his heritage. He enjoys visiting Filipino grills to feel connected with his ethnicity. He loves traditional Filipino food such as pancit (a rice noodle dish with shrimp sauce and boiled eggs), lumpia shanghai (egg rolls filled with pork) and sisig (sizzling pork on a hot plate).

Cervantes-Dionisio is learning to write in the old Philippine script of the pre-Spanish colonization period known as Baybayin to further connect with the history of his culture. He stresses the importance of having a support system when someone is attempting to get in touch with their culture and the importance of a Filipino having two last names.

"It's a Filipino thing," Cervantes-Dionisio said, "because of Spanish colonization, Filipino culture adapts to many Spanish traditions. On my birth certificate, my last name is Dionisio. In the Philippines, we don't adhere to the American concept of middle names. My parents wanted my middle name to be my mother's maiden name which is Cervantes. They wanted to put Kenneth Cervantes-Dionisio. My mom has a hyphenated last name, but I don't. It was very confusing when I had to apply to schools."

Cervantes-Dionisio is a junior and first-generation American. Aside from being president of ASIA, he is part of the Society of East Asian Students (SEAS), Black Students United (BSU), Adelphi Math Organization (AMO), Commuter Student Organization (CSO) as a commuter assistant (CA) and is a Peer Assistant Leader (PAL).

"Kennie brought up the idea

of ASIA during the end of summer in PAL training," said Jenna Steinberg, a sophomore psychology major and public relations manager of ASIA, "I thought it was a phenomenal idea because I loved how he was inclusive of all the regions of Asia. I'm very excited to be a part of ASIA and see how this new club goes."

Tiffany Martino, assistant director at the Center for Student and Community Engagement, said, "In the time I've gotten to work with Kennie, I've learned just how passionate he is about Adelphi and his classmates. As the president of ASIA, Kennie's dedication to helping the community grow and thrive is apparent. He has shown a high level of self-motivation and determination for this organization, and I am excited to see the organization continue to thrive."

Cervantes-Dionisio believes being Asian is a unique experience, and he is passionate about growing the organization by creating a support system. He hopes that when he graduates that the club will continue to serve the needs of Adelphi students for years to come.

The club recently held a Nowruz Persian New Year Tabling Event in March, and they will sponsor Geography Trivia Night on Wednesday, April 19 from 7-8:30 pm. As a long-term goal for the club, he hopes to win a Brown and Gold Award in May to show how far the club has come.

Cervantes-Dionisio said, "It makes me feel more secure with who I am seeing my flag in the UC and seeing other Filipinos on campus. It's been a long uphill battle with learning how to love myself and love my culture."

## The Theme of Colonization Stars in Student Production "Men on Boats"

BY JOANNA REID

"Men on Boats" played in the Olmstead Theatre from April 11-16. Adelphi brought in New York City based director, Lauren Kiele DeLeon. She also directed the university's production of "A Rose Meant to Wither" and many productions throughout New York City such as, "Sarita" with the Roundabout Theatre Company and "Surely Goodness and Mercy" at the Clurman Theatre.

"Men on Boats" follows the story of several sailors navigating their way to the Colorado River. Their journey isn't easy; the men have difficulty finding a consistent source of food and they have difficulty managing the strength of the rapid river. This show is loosely based on a true story of an 1869 expedition.

It is fascinating that despite the name of the show, it had an entirely non-male cast. According to DeLeon the writer Jacklyn Backhaus, "insists everyone be [portrayed by] anyone other than cis men." This allows audience members to hone in on the fact that these men are flawed and unconcerned about anyone other than themselves. It's interesting to note that the pronoun "she" is only used

a couple of times to reference the boats. The cast included Nikki Colaitis, NayaJoy Dean-Colbert, Alexis Favia, Katie Goz,

of wood and handles, so the actors could pick the boats up and control them.

The acting was believable. The



**The student cast of "Men on Boats" performed in the Olmstead Theatre in April.**

Mie Marie A. Holand, Alyssa Infranco, Grace Lardner, Gianna Nicoletta, Tabirah Muhammad and Sarah Baileigh.

The lighting and scenic design complemented the show well. Wavy green and blue lights were projected onto the stage to represent the water. And white lights were used to highlight the canyon and the actors on stage. The canyon was made up of wood, cardboard and brown paper. The boats were made

performers pulled off being frustrated men from the 1800s. The costume design was also reminiscent of men's fashion from the mid-19th century with waistcoats, suspenders and fitted pants. Costume designer Lex Schlee, a senior theater tech and design major, discussed her process.

"It's kind of interesting doing a period piece because it's such a different style a lot of times than modern garments," she said. "So a lot of stock stuff

we have is just modern stuff or at least more modern, so you kind of have to figure out how to make things work."

Schlee said that she took inspiration from Western fashion as well, which makes sense for a show that took place in early America and highlighted the theme of colonization in the show.

The story brought out the issues of colonization by having the characters want to name the canyon after themselves. At one point, Captain Powell, portrayed by Grace Lardner, mentions that all of the land they were on had likely already been named by the Native people. This dialogue didn't feel natural to me because I doubt this is something that even crossed the minds of white men in the 1800s. I don't think this line was needed to point out the issues of colonization; the piece does that inherently.

Adelphi's production of "Men on Boats" was timely because Native American people are constantly under attack by the law and Americans are just beginning to realize this problem. Few plays have an entirely non-male cast; therefore it was nice to see many strong non-male actors of Adelphi's Theatre Department be presented in this work.

# Hide and Seek at Adelphi

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quad

squirrel

starbucks

sundial

***The Delphian staff wishes all seniors congratulations as you leave Adelphi for your next chapter.***

*And thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newspaper during your years here, including Mitchell Cohen, Mylo Fisherman and Bianca Viana. You'll all be missed.*

***Have a great summer, Panthers!***

## Has AI Gone too Far? New Challenges Impact Universities and Careers

BY LIZZ PANCHYK

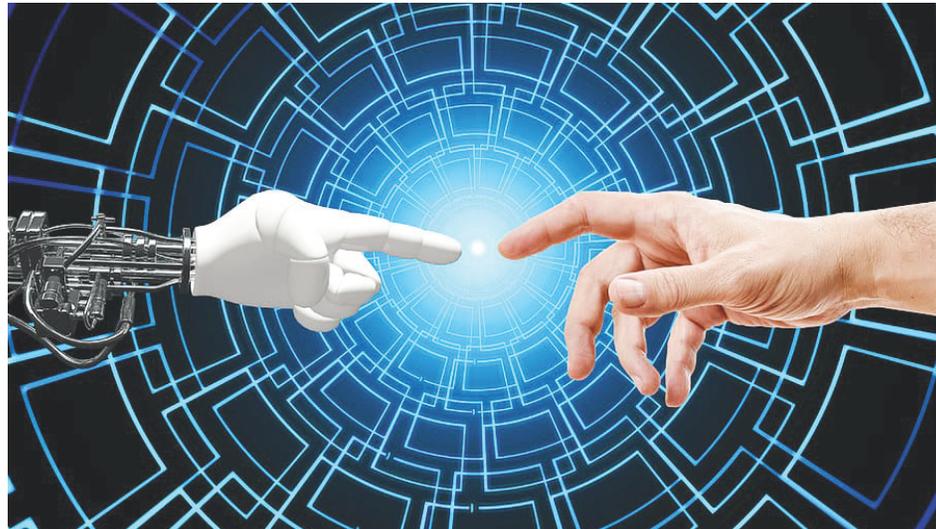
We've come a long way since flip-phones and disturbingly robotic toys. We are now in the midst of an artificial intelligence—or AI—epidemic.

ChatGPT has been out since the end of November, and has since been updated multiple times (now it's GPT-4 for paying users) to become better than before. Now, we're seeing AI popping up everywhere. Even Snapchat has its own AI to which you can ask questions and talk. BuzzFeed has AI-based quizzes where you can type in information and it will spit something out for you—like a break-up text or even a fairytale. There's an AI that generates instrumentals to go alongside your vocals. Even Slack is coming out with its own AI app. And now there are AI newscasters. AI is everywhere. Has it gone too far?

While what we see is really fascinating, there are AI-related problems coming into play already. A German magazine recently fired their editor-in-chief for using AI to write an article due to it being misleading to the audience. Schools are also preparing by blocking some of these websites and including it in their academic honor codes.

ChatGPT does have its own watermarking, thus assisting schools with detecting the true author of submitted assignments. According

to Search Engine Journal, "The trick that makes AI content watermarking undetectable is that the distribution of words still have a random appearance similar to normal AI generated text. This is referred to as a pseudorandom distribution of words. Pseudorandomness is a statistically



As AI and other technology advances, humans re-adapt to a new kind of world. Photo by PXFuel

random series of words or numbers that are not actually random." The inhumane pattern is what gets caught.

What is cool about AI is what it can bring to on-screen in movies and TV shows. But what's scary is how quickly it can begin

to take away people's jobs. Why pay someone to do something when a robot can do it for free?

The problem is, how do we stop AI? It'll just keep generating, updating and getting better. Imagine what AI will be able to do two years from now, or the way that it's

going, just two months from now?

"My biggest fear with respect to these advancements is the government's inability to regulate it fast enough or effectively, and unregulated AI and/or misaligned AI in today's polarized, geopolitical climate could invite nega-

tive consequences that we've never witnessed before as a species," said Associate Communications Professor John Drew. "AI will also push a lot of people out of work and render many professions obsolete, and this will happen faster than our educational institutions are equipped to mitigate."

This was definitely not something that was at all anticipated. If you asked someone 50 years ago what they thought 2023 would be like, surely they'd imagine some sort of technological world, but at this rate, starting with ChatGPT and everything that has closely followed, we are on the brink of a very fascinating but intimidating world.

It's hard to know how closely this will affect me or people like me but it is a scary thought with how real it's becoming. Plus, how do we trust them? With Snapchat's AI, from what I've seen, it responds quickly, gives advice and asks questions. The creepy aspect is that when you send a picture to it, it will respond. It is able to see or "scan" the photo and figure out a rough imagery of what it is. Then it will respond regarding something in your photo. It's a little concerning.

Now we see consistent generations, like Elon Musk's "TruthGPT" and "X.AI" followed by Google's PaLM API. So the question is, what comes next?

## Why You Should Consider Adding a Minor

BY ANDREW SMITH

College students are often faced with difficult decisions when registering for classes. What electives should I take within my major? Should I look for an internship? Maybe I should pursue a lighter load this semester? Do I look into the possibility of declaring a minor or even a double major?

Many of these questions are difficult to answer and students are often forced to make these decisions during the second half of the semester as finals week looms in the distance. These questions are important for all students to address but let's take a look at just one: Why should



By declaring a minor, a student has the opportunity to learn about another profession and lay the groundwork for a potential career. Photo by iStock

you consider adding a minor?

Adelphi suggests, "Students wanting to declare a minor should do so by the first semester of their junior year, but

by no later than the beginning of the first semester of their senior year."

By doing so, this will allow students to have time to be properly advised and take the required courses during their final semesters at Adelphi.

Many departments offer and suggest minor tracks for their students to gain other experiences in addition to their primary area of study.

Greg Bouris, undergraduate sport management director and academic advisor, explained the importance of broadening your horizon. "I believe a minor degree provides a few benefits to students," he said. "It allows students to strengthen their major degree by selecting a complementary area of study. For example, a marketing major may want to minor in psychology, which plays a vital role in marketing. Selecting a minor also allows students to strengthen their career options by having two areas to pursue."

Pyria Wadhra, chair of the Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department, also noted the importance of pursuing a minor. "It is a great way to explore a secondary area of study in a serious way, and reflect how diverse your interests are," she said. "By pursuing a minor, students gain insights on another field and widen their perspective on the world."

By taking classes in another area of study, you are not only learning the foundation of another subject, but also learning about career opportunities

that may exist in that field. I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in an internship that qualified as part of a minor in communications. During this internship, I was able to take what I have learned in the classroom and get my foot in the industry while receiving credit for a minor degree.



Professor Pyria Wadhra strongly suggests students minor in a language to boost their intercultural competence and soft skills that employers prize.

Academic advisors will also encourage their students to pursue minors that are related to their primary area of study to add more

tools in their respective tool belt.

"In sports management, specifically, we advise all of our majors to select a minor in the industry segment or discipline that interests them," Bouris noted. "Many of our students pursue communications, marketing or business minors."

Bouris also teased the new minor degree in coaching that will be available for students beginning in fall 2023. This is a great opportunity for students pursuing physical education, exercise science, management and even education if they hope to be a coach at school one day.

Wadhra also expressed her experience with advising students in the language department.

"I strongly advise minoring in a language since we live in a multilingual world, and it is a good way to show employers you are capable of working in other markets, with clients and customers whose native language is not English," Wadhra said. "What better way to learn about them, their interests and their needs and truly understand where they are coming from? In short, languages are a great way to boost intercultural competence, a soft skill employers prize."

A minor degree has the power to enhance a student's primary degree and give them opportunities they would not otherwise have if they only looked to take electives during their lighter semesters. Challenge yourself. Sometimes it may all just work out.

## Are Streaming Services Worth the Price?

BY TAYE JOHNSON

If you're anything like me, you are always looking for ways to get more bang for your buck, and due to inflation, more students are considering ways to do just that, especially when it comes to their entertainment.

Yet streaming services have been a consistent expense for students: on average, 83 percent of consumers in the U.S. are using a streaming service such as Netflix or Hulu, the former being the leading subscription provider in the country, with over 70 million users. Meanwhile, the costs keep going up.

Netflix's premium plan, for example, has increased from \$15.99 per month in January 2019 to \$19.99 per month in November 2022.

That's prompting consumers to take a hard look at the value. A recent study by Deloitte, featured in Business Insider, showed that 40 percent of respondents canceled a paid entertainment subscription within the past six months due to the increases. In that same survey, 24 percent of customers reactivated their plans within six months. So consumers see the value in streaming services even if they initially canceled their subscription. They return at some point.

That's because despite the price increases, students are still tuning into

Netflix to watch their favorite shows.

This begs the question: Is the Netflix library of content influencing students' decision to keep their subscription plans? In my opinion, the content library

watching historical YouTube channels in my spare time. However, as a

researcher, my passion for learning keeps me tied to any digital media that sparks my creativity. Therefore, I am



Streaming services are a recurring, but mostly necessary, bill for Adelphi students.

heavily influences why a person would purchase a paid subscription. For me, it was beneficial to preview multiple shows before purchasing, and this seems to have resonated with others as well.

Some say that TV programming is becoming obsolete. I personally enjoy

willing to invest in any platform with an extensive documentary archive.

With streaming services appealing to students with their always-on-demand content, some students may share a similar outlook. As on-demand videos have become more popular, the

price of subscription plans have risen to cover the cost of production. Popularity increases the price of goods and services, like supply and demand.

Michael Peters, a graduate educational technology major, uses streaming services to avoid spending money on cable. "I have never had cable since I moved out of my parent's house in 2010," he said. "I have used streaming services like Netflix and Hulu since then."

Peters also shared his thoughts on the price increases. "The increase in price for streaming plus the amount of content out there is not sustainable for one person," he said. "Bundles might be the way to go with streamers like my Hulu and Disney combo. My \$95 bill for the streamers I use most often is well worth it. However, these prices are up from around \$70 just a few years ago."

Ultimately, the decision to maintain a paid streaming service plan varies for each student. Some students may choose to keep a paid streaming service plan based on their personal preference and if they can afford it, but others may choose not to because of the cost or if they are already satisfied with free options.

## SPORTS

### Dreams of Competing Nationally Draw Moore to Adelphi

BY LILYEN MCCARTHY

Track and field team member Kyria Moore threw a new personal best of 59.24 meters in the College Women's Hammer Throw at the Penn Relays on April 27. With this new personal best, the graduate transfer from Stony Brook University also broke the school record and placed second.

Moore said she has dreamed of competing nationally for a long time and feels blessed to have an opportunity to do that multiple times this year.

"I have trusted in the work that was done all season and stayed con-

fident in my abilities while focusing and staying relaxed to achieve the results I want," said the childhood special education major.

The graduate student started throwing in middle school after not succeeding in hurdles and choosing shotput instead. She completed her undergraduate collegiate career at Stony Brook while pursuing a journalism and digital arts degree.

Moore has been making a name for herself not only at Adelphi, but in Division II as a whole. She has accumulated multiple Northeast-10 Field Athlete of the Week awards, First Team All-American and East Region Indoor



Moore credits her faith and coaches for her success. Photo by AU Athletics



Moore, a graduate student, has expressed that the ultimate goal is to play in the NCAA DII Outdoor Championship. Photo by AU Athletics

Field Athlete of the Year. At the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championship, she placed second overall.

She has high hopes for the rest of the season.

"I am working on building on the foundation and strength I have and putting it all together to become a national champion," Moore said.

The ultimate goal is the NCAA DII Outdoor Championships hosted by Colorado State University-Pueblo at the end of May.

"I always attribute all my success to my faith and trust in God," she said. "Another major factor in my success is definitely credited to my coaches. They

have put countless time and effort into making me the thrower I am today."

**If you're interested in joining *The Delphian* 2023-'24 team, contact Lizz Panchyk at [delphian@adelphi.edu](mailto:delphian@adelphi.edu) to learn more.**

## Senior Alec Maag Reflects on Past but Has Eyes on the Future

BY ANDREW SMITH

Sports have the power to inspire and teach valuable lessons. Current senior Alec Maag, who plays catcher on the men's baseball team, reflects on what he has learned during his time here at Adelphi and the individuals who inspired him to play collegiate sports.

Maag came from a big baseball family and was first exposed to the game at the age of four. Maag explained, "My dad, cousin, grandfather and uncle were all catchers, which is why I chose to be a catcher myself. I looked up to my dad and he helped me with everything in developing as a player."

The backstop also discussed how three-time Stanley Cup Champion Sidney Crosby, a professional hockey player, served as an inspirational figure. Crosby, who is currently captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins in the National Hockey League, will go down in history as one of the greatest players of all time, according to Maag, who sees him as an inspiration. He credited his work ethic and how he carries himself on and off the ice. "He's a winner, plays 110 percent and works harder than anyone and as a result has solidi-

fied himself as one of the best hockey players of all time," Maag said.

2023 marks Maag's second season on the baseball team. He



Alec Maag credited his father when reflecting on his athletic development. Photo by AU Athletics

intends to play another year when he is a graduate student and is "pretty confident it will all work out."

Maag reflected on his sports career at Adelphi and which experiences have had a lasting impact. "I've made a lot of great memories here at Adelphi and I'm proud of a lot of things

we accomplished last year. My favorite specific memory is probably the extra inning game we played against Saint Rose in the first playoff game

last year that we walked off and sent us to the conference tournament."

But this season has not been going as planned.

"We're not playing as well as we expected or to our true potential, in large part because of some big injuries," Maag said. "We still have a shot

to sneak into a playoff spot though and if we do, we can be dangerous. Overall we have the talent to make a run; we just need to get hot at the right time."

A struggling season or a slump at the plate cannot only help an athlete grow in the sport, but also in life. Maag explained, "Baseball is a game of failure and I've learned so many life lessons from it, including to never take things for granted. I've had my fair share of injuries that I've battled through here and it has really taught me the importance of not taking being healthy and playing a sport for granted."

"We're all here with the same goal, and we work hard to get the results we want. When we don't, it's tough to deal with, but we believe in ourselves to turn things around," Maag noted.

The backstop had a strong showing in the home series against the College of Saint Rose. During this four game set, Maag totaled a personal season high of three hits in one game, a homerun and a personal season high of two doubles in one game.

Be sure to come out and support our baseball team during the final stretch of the season! Go Panthers!

## Spirits Are High as Softball Continues to Dominate

BY ANDREW SMITH

Adelphi softball is once again on an incredible run. The Panthers are in the midst of an impressive stretch and are gaining steam as they head into the final innings of the season. They made an appearance in the College World Series last season and are looking to tap into postseason form.

Kendall Winn has been an essential component of the offense this season. The current junior has been a staple of the lineup this season with over 120 at bats with an impressive .308 batting average and 20 runs batted in at the time of writing. The sport management major expressed the importance of momentum during the course of a long season.

"Momentum is so important during our season," she said. "We have already played almost 40 games with so many more ahead, and it's important that we keep playing our best to keep the momentum going."

Winn reached her season high in total hits per game with three against Molloy on April 20. During this game, Winn finished with a strong stat-line with a perfect three-for-three with two runs and two runs batted in.

Redshirt sophomore Courtney Wengryn has been putting up strong numbers all season long. She leads the team with a .397 batting average, 35 runs batted in and four long balls as of this deadline. Wengryn added about the importance of momentum in relation to the postseason. "It's good to have momentum going into the postseason since that is what we play for. It gives us that extra push we need to keep us going through our season."

Both Winn and Wengryn said

the games against Saint Michael's College and Franklin Pierce University were turning points in the season. Winn stated, "We knew going up there it was going to be important to win all four games, and fortunately we played very well and won all four."



Kendall Winn has been a staple of the lineup and has had a batting average of over .300 all season. Photo by AU Athletics

Wengryn added, "Coach Carla Campagna always tells us to 'play Adelphi softball' and that is exactly what we did. We swept the weekend which placed us #1 in the Northeast-10 Conference."

Wengryn had an impressive day at the plate to cap off this four-game stretch with two hits and one run batted that led to a 6-3 win over Franklin Pierce University.

First-year Brianna Fischer also reflected on important moments the team has gone through during the season. She explained how the team chem-

istry was not affected by injuries.

"I think the turning point of the season so far has been the two big injuries. With the loss of Faith Camilleri [to a foot injury] and Brianna Pearson [who has a torn ACL] we had to quickly fill in two big roles. It's a group effort to teach new positions and figure out how to put all our pieces together. However it just shows how deep our team goes to be able to move around the lineup and field to still have a solid team. There are so many roles to fill on this team and we just are able to put everything together."

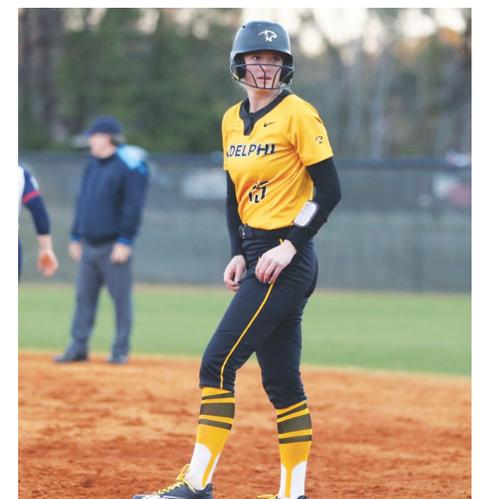
The sport has made bonds stronger between teammates on and off the field. Wengryn expressed the importance of taking it one game at a time despite a successful stretch of winning. "For us we definitely take it one game at a time. Of course winning always gives us confidence, but we really try to focus on the games we are about to play and stay even. Win streaks do give us momentum, but at the start of the day we know what we have to do."

However, as they approach the end of the season, the games become more important and as a result more pressure is put on the players. Winn stated, "This is the best part of the season and I look forward to the NE10 playoffs most. Getting the chance to play in the championship game my last two years was awesome, and I hope we make it there again this year."

The team has overcome so much this season and hopes to return to the championship once again. "I'm really proud of my team for grinding through the season so far and having the outcome we've been having. We have really come together as one and it shows when we play.

I think the fact that we play for each other and not ourselves is one of the reasons we are so successful," Wengryn said.

Winn added, "I am really proud of how my team has played so far this year and I am really excited to see how the rest of the season goes. We have had to deal with some obstacles this season related to injuries and I am extremely proud of



Brianna Fischer was named NE10 Rookie of the Week earlier this month. Photo by AU Athletics

how the younger girls have stepped up to fill the role of the injured players."

Fischer stated, "Being a freshman I am definitely looking forward to the post season game play. My teammates had such an amazing run last year, hearing stories about how hard they worked which led to how far they went sounds like so much fun. I am looking forward to contributing and helping the team however I can to help them reach the goal of having a far run like they did last season."