

ADELPHI
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ACADEMIC & CREATIVE **RESEARCH**

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COMMON THREADS UNCOMMON IMPACT

From Healthcare to Humanities,
Exploring the Interconnected Topics of Our World



COMMON THREADS, UNCOMMON IMPACT

At Adelphi University, we are committed to innovation, discovery and the exploration of groundbreaking ideas. We recognize that the challenges our world confronts do not have simple solutions. Rather, they require nuanced approaches and a commitment to investigating through many lenses and perspectives.

Adelphi University's faculty is actively engaged in research and creative work that contributes to our appreciation of important topics from all angles. The scholarly work highlighted in this issue of our *Academic and Creative Research Magazine* was selected to show the full range of our faculty's scholarship, and to demonstrate how these perspectives inform critical issues in society.

We share how climate change is being studied from the perspectives of art, environmental studies, biology and data science, and show the different ways our nursing, psychology and social work faculty are examining the complexities of addiction. We highlight how immigration is being explored and celebrated by professors of sociology, education, communications, music and art, and look at politics not only through the lens of political science, but also of philosophy and business. Also featured are fascinating looks at how members of our anthropology and history faculty are digging into the past.

I'm also pleased to share with you some terrific collaborations our faculty members have had with our students to expand the impact of an Adelphi education through research and hands-on projects. By engaging students as creators of knowledge, we exemplify the mission and power of a university.

I hope you enjoy this exploration of the extraordinary work of Adelphi's faculty. The work you read about here has impacted our students. And our world.

Sincerely,

Christopher Storm, PhD
Provost and Executive Vice President

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Bringing Oysters—and Kelp—Back to Oyster Bay

Adelphi scientists work to restore biodiversity to local coastlines

Over the past century, human activity has brought devastation to the once-flourishing ecosystems of Long Island Sound. As recently as the 1980s, kelp populations grew abundantly along the shores, but all kelp forests have since vanished, likely due to rising water temperatures. Now, where kelp used to grow, harmful algae bloom, often choking out other life. Clam and oyster populations have also been hit hard, hurting both the local ecology and those who depended on shellfish to make a living.

Since 2012, however, two Adelphi scientists have been working hard to turn the tide of destruction. Ryan Wallace, PhD, assistant professor of environmental studies and sciences, and Aaren Freeman, PhD, professor and acting chair of biology, have teamed up to help preserve what remains of Long Island Sound's ecosystems—and even restore some of its former biodiversity.

Dr. Wallace began by focusing his efforts on the depleted bivalve populations of Shinnecock Bay, which had suffered a 95 percent reduction in harvest. "Bivalves like oysters and clams are what are known as 'keystone species' because they provide many ecological services," he said. "They're filter feeders, actively pumping water into their bodies and sorting particles out to feed on. The more bivalves you have, the fewer harmful algal blooms you have."

To rebuild the populations, Dr. Wallace, as part of a multi-institutional research team, acquired more than 3 million hard clams, a popular species among fishermen, and stocked them in "spawner sanctuaries"—no-harvest zones created in collaboration with the local community in Shinnecock Bay. There, the creatures were free to grow to maturity without threat of harvesting. "Thanks to their presence, we saw an improvement in water quality and seagrass abundance, a



decrease in brown tide blooms and, surprisingly, an increase in the commercial harvest in other areas of the bay,” Dr. Wallace said. He and his team published their work in “Rebuilding a Collapsed Bivalve Population, Restoring Seagrass Meadows, and Eradicating Harmful Algal Blooms in a Temperate Lagoon Using Spawner Sanctuaries” (*Frontiers in Marine Science*, August 2022), finding that spawner sanctuaries “may be promising for recovering hard clam and other bivalve populations in estuaries around the globe.”¹

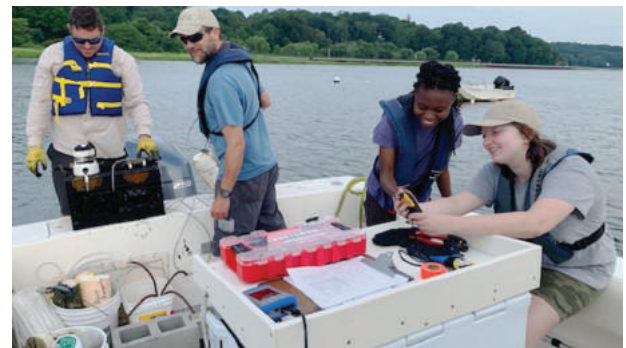
At the same time, Dr. Freeman sought to address the root of this ecological chain reaction by preventing nutrient pollution itself. “One of the main problems contributing to ecological damage is the use of industrial fertilizers on land in the form of nitrates or ammonia,” he explained. “When people use these fertilizers on crops or grass, the excess nitrogen flows into the sea, leading to what’s known as eutrophication, or the excessive accumulation of a nutrient in the water that can throw an ecosystem out of balance.”

Dr. Freeman has spent the past several years exploring an organic alternative to industrial fertilizers: kelp, which does not require fresh water and can be grown even in the winter. With assistance from a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant, he and his team planted kelp at multiple sites along Long

Island Sound, then provided the kelp to local towns, which spread the harvested crops on golf course fairways in place of industrial fertilizer. “Normally, the kelp would degrade and the nitrogen would go back into the ecosystem, but by removing it and putting it on the golf course, it basically closes the nitrogen loop,” Dr. Freeman said. If the project continues to yield improvements in water quality, Nassau County officials plan to implement the same treatment regimen for town parks.

The NFWF is also funding another project co-led by Drs. Wallace and Freeman, which draws on lessons learned from their prior successes. By monitoring the evolution of oyster larvae in an existing spawning sanctuary, they aim to collect enough data to identify the best potential sites for other sanctuaries along the coast. The team will also track water quality data to generate hydrodynamic and habitat suitability models for future sanctuaries—the first time this kind of modeling has been applied to the Oyster Bay area.

While the project’s outlook is auspicious, Dr. Freeman is hesitant to promise any magic bullets for a decimated ecosystem. “We still need to drastically reduce nitrogen pollution, even with all the kelp we’re growing and the oysters we’re raising,” he said. “All the same, I’m very hopeful that some of these efforts will have a positive impact on restoring these local habitats.” ■



Aaren Freeman, PhD, is professor and acting chair of the Department of Biology and a marine evolutionary ecologist. He has studied predator-prey interactions involving invasive crabs and native mussels and snails, trophic interactions between sea urchins and kelp, and assisted with global seagrass monitoring. His current projects focus on estuarine nutrient extraction involving kelp aquaculture and sustainability of local oyster populations.

Ryan Wallace, PhD, assistant professor of environmental studies and sciences, studies a range of climate change and environmental issues, from Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and anthropogenic eutrophication to ocean acidification and sea level rise. He has undertaken several grant-funded projects aimed at restoring marine ecosystems.

1 Wallace, Ryan B., et al. “Rebuilding a Collapsed Bivalve Population, Restoring Seagrass Meadows, and Eradicating Harmful Algal Blooms in a Temperate Lagoon Using Spawner Sanctuaries.” *Frontiers in Marine Science*, vol. 9, August 2022, p. 30.



Confronting Climate Change on Canvas

One painter finds beauty—and despair—in our world’s changing landscape



Kellyann Monaghan, professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History, uses landscapes to explore the drama of light, air and movement. She is intrigued by the way the play of light and atmosphere energizes a landscape, adding otherworldly qualities to structured forms. The stormy weather and powerful climate conditions permeating the landscape have become a natural and more recent trajectory in her painting.

For many of us, the anxiety around climate change can be crushing, numbing or even paralyzing. But for Kellyann Monaghan, professor and chair of Adelphi’s Department of Art and Art History, it’s an engine of artistic expression—and ultimately catharsis.

For nearly a decade, Monaghan has been creating landscape paintings that document our changing world. “I started obsessing over the weather because we were being barraged with constant news about it, and that led me to discover these videos of extreme weather events, like tornadoes and hurricanes,” she said. “I had such a strong gut reaction to the winds, all that chaos, and I wanted to paint what I saw. It’s about letting my feelings explode onto the page.”

While climate change as we know it is a uniquely modern phenomenon, Monaghan—a trained plein air painter who has captured vistas around the globe, from the coasts of Ireland to the rolling hills of rural France—sees her work as the latest chapter in a historical tradition. “English painters like Turner and Constable were documenting changes in their environments in the 1800s with the industrial revolution,” she noted. “I’m far from the first painter to be illustrating the destructive qualities of nature.”

Monaghan has exhibited her climate change pieces at a number of shows over the years, including a solo exhibition, *Developing Conditions: Recent Landscape Paintings and Prints*, at the Azarian McCullough Art Gallery at St. Thomas Aquinas College in February 2023. Now, however, she’s considering a shift in perspective. “I’m starting to focus on painting the sublime in the landscape—that moment at the beginning or end of a weather event where you feel fear but you’re also awed by its beauty,” she explained. “I’ve been listening to a climatologist who says it’s possible we can begin to control climate change, so I’m feeling some cautious optimism at the moment.” ■



Calculating the Cost of Green Manufacturing

A new approach to cost-benefit analysis helps corporations reduce their carbon emissions

“To halt anthropogenic climate change, it is essential to start controlling emissions at minimum cost and maximal efficiency.”

—Zhimin Huang, PhD

Though it is clear that humanity must curtail its carbon emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change, there is no “one size fits all” solution. Every industry has different production methods, and most lack the tools to determine which emission reduction targets and policies would best meet their needs. While a cost-benefit analysis would help corporations neatly evaluate the efficacy of potential strategies, such an analysis has been challenging to develop and apply accurately—until now.

Zhimin Huang, PhD, professor of decision sciences and marketing, and several colleagues have created an innovative approach to cost-benefit analysis that will empower industrial enterprises to reduce emissions at minimal expense. Their work, which was published as “Capturing the least costly measure of CO₂ emission abatement: Evidence from the iron and steel industry in China” in the journal *Energy Economics* (February 2022), hinges on a new way of measuring the marginal abatement cost (MAC) of any proposed carbon reduction strategy.¹ “MAC tells us what the entire economy needs to pay to decrease one additional unit of carbon dioxide emission,” Dr. Huang explained. In other words, given all the characteristics of a particular industry, what is the cheapest way to remove an additional unit of carbon?

Historically, researchers have estimated the MAC of a given policy by using a production-possibilities frontier. These frontiers are economic models, plotted as a curve on a graph, that show the trade-off between any two outputs an economy might produce considering the available resources. For instance, the more resources an economy devotes to iron, the less steel it will be able to make. If resources are scarce, the graph can generate an opportunity cost that

indicates the optimal combination of those two outputs.

According to Dr. Huang, however, the contours of this curve have always been problematically imprecise. Researchers have had to deploy one of two different methods to estimate it. The first, parametric, which takes existing data about production to estimate a policy’s MAC, is only as good as its initial modeling—any bias present in the model will be present in the results. The second method, nonparametric, does not base its findings on a model susceptible to bias, but it does assume that any deviation results from inefficiency and therefore cannot accommodate normal statistical variation. The approach pioneered by Dr. Huang and his team, which they call the “stochastic nonparametric method,” corrects those shortcomings. “In combining the key advantages of the parametric and nonparametric methods, our method is able to produce results that are far more reasonable and accurate,” he said.

The team decided to put their method to the test against Chinese iron and steel manufacturing—an industry chosen for its national importance and enormous carbon footprint. “About 80 percent of the industry’s energy consumption is coal-related,” Dr. Huang said. “It also accounts for about 17 percent of China’s energy consumption and about 13.5 percent of its annual total CO₂ emissions.”

Dr. Huang and his colleagues examined the MAC of several different approaches to emissions reduction for Chinese iron and steel enterprises, including downscaling production activity and increasing inputs such as carbon abatement instruments and technologies. Though they found a




Zhimin Huang, PhD, is professor and chair of decision sciences and marketing. His research interests include supply chain management and distribution channels, productivity benchmark analysis, data envelopment and financial portfolio analyses, multi-criteria decision-making, and game theory.

substantial range in the average MAC for the industry (from 2.07 to 2,395 yuan per ton of manufactured steel), expanding the workforce proved to be the least-cost measure for most enterprises. “On average,” he said, “the cost of increasing the number of employees dedicated to energy conservation and emission reduction is lower for China’s steel industry than the costs of alternative approaches.”

Now Dr. Huang is looking to help other polluting enterprises reduce their emissions. “We plan to apply this new method to other industries with high carbon emissions to calculate their abatement cost and identify the least-cost measure for reducing CO₂,” he said. “To halt anthropogenic climate change, it is essential to start controlling emissions at minimum cost and maximal efficiency.” ■

¹ Huang, Zhimin, et al. “Capturing the least costly measure of CO₂ emission abatement: Evidence from the iron and steel industry in China.” *Energy Economics*, vol. 106, February 2022.

A young boy with dark hair is sitting on a large, weathered log in a wooded area. He is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with blue trim on the sleeves and collar, and bright yellow shorts. He is also wearing a black digital watch on his left wrist and green flip-flops. He has a thoughtful expression, with his hand resting on his chin. The background is filled with green foliage and trees.

What Happens to the Children Left Behind?

The fraught relationship between Central American immigrant mothers and their reunified children

For the 100,000-plus immigrants from Central America's Northern Triangle—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—who call Long Island home, long-term separation between parents and children is a fact of life. Emigration first boomed as civil war in the region took hold in the late 1970s, then continued as poverty, violence and corruption became endemic.

Today, approximately 2.5 million of the 6 million natives of El Salvador reside in the United States—most of them members of fractured families due to migration and separation caused by violence and economic need. “The majority of children grow up with the expectation that they will one day come here to be reunited with their parents,” said Sandra Castro, PhD, associate dean of undergraduate programs in the College of Professional and Continuing Studies, herself a Salvadoran native, who studies transnational Central American mothers and their children. “Nearly everyone in El Salvador has at least one nuclear family member who has migrated. Mothers leave to pursue a better life for their families, then kids follow later due to violence and looking to reunify with their parents in the U.S. It’s a rite of passage.”

Dr. Castro’s recent study, “Central American Mothers’ Perspectives on Their Recently Arrived Children’s New Sibling Relationships” (*Doing, Undoing, and Redoing ‘Family’ in Uncertain Times: Kinship as a Site of Struggle, Resistance, and Hope*, special issue, *NEOS*, Fall 2022), examines how mothers from the Northern Triangle perceive their children’s attempts to assimilate into American life.¹ Dr. Castro interviewed 25 Long Island-based mothers who migrated at various points in the past several decades—from the late 1970s through 2019—and left at least one child behind. “None of them expected the separation to last so long,” she said. Fortunate families were able to reunite in as little as

two years, but some had to wait as many as 17, leaving ample time for mothers to establish new families stateside.

When their older children eventually arrived, the initial joy of reunion devolved into disappointment on both sides.

“These kids have just undertaken a journey with severe physical hardships, and now they’re entering this unfamiliar home where they might have new siblings and a new stepparent,” Dr. Castro explained. But while mothers may have understood the complications of blended family relationships and sought to soothe tensions, few of them were able to mitigate their older children’s experience of “ambiguous reunification,” a term coined by social worker Geoffrey L. Greif, PhD, who expanded on family and child studies expert Pauline Boss, PhD’s pioneering concept of ambiguous loss to describe separation and loss without closure. “Children shared that they would rather have lived in dire poverty in El Salvador than have their mom migrate and be separated from them for so long, and there is no way to undo that,” Dr. Castro said. “It’s something mothers just have to live with.”

Recently arrived children are also subject to cultural, linguistic and legal barriers that prevent them from enjoying the same success as their U.S.-born stepsiblings—a difficult reality for mothers to contend with. Many of them struggle at home, at school and in the community due to social marginalization and racial profiling in schools, which neglect to offer them support for academic success—and as a result, in extreme cases, some are lured in by violent gangs and become entangled in the criminal justice system. One woman from Honduras told Dr. Castro that her U.S.-born daughter “is incredible. I am so proud of the young woman she’s become. She was the first of my children to graduate from college. ... She’s my greatest inspiration.” Her older daughter,

who migrated to the United States as a teen, however, “got with someone right away [after she got here] and got pregnant very quickly. She moved in with him and is now raising her son. She didn’t want to go to school.”

“Sociologists say that inequality begins in the home, and here you have these immigrant kids who are unable to accomplish the same markers of success as their U.S.-born siblings in their mothers’ eyes,” Dr. Castro said.

While there is no quick fix for these institutional disparities, Dr. Castro is confident that her research can lead to meaningful improvements in policy as well as culturally informed assistance for recently arrived children. “I want this work to have an impact not just on the local government, but also with key community actors like teachers, psychologists and social workers so they can guide kids who are having trouble adjusting,” she said. “With migration showing no signs of slowing down, it’s in everyone’s best interest to help blended families deal with problems at home before they spiral into bigger ones.” ■



Sandra Castro, PhD, is associate dean for undergraduate programs in the College of Professional and Continuing Studies. Her research focuses on immigrant mothers from Central America and their experiences of reunification with their children after years of separation and post-traumatic growth. She also explores the experiences of unaccompanied minors, Latinx second-generation youth and immigrant transnational families.

¹ Castro, Sandra. “Central American Mothers’ Perspectives on Their Recently Arrived Children’s New Sibling Relationships. *Doing, Undoing, and Redoing ‘Family’ in Uncertain Times: Kinship as a Site of Struggle, Resistance, and Hope*, special issue. *NEOS*, vol. 14, iss. 2, Fall 2022, pp. 44-49



Who Are America's Immigrants?

Adelphi faculty explore a century of American immigration through art, music and film

Photo credit: Brian Hatton

Since the early 20th century, foreign-born people have accounted for anywhere between 5 and 15 percent of the total American population, but individual names and faces have rarely featured in the national conversation about immigration. This erasure inspired Adelphi faculty members to find creative ways of bringing the immigrant experience to life.

A Day on Ellis Island

In November 2022, Carnegie Hall presented the world premiere of a new oratorio,

A Nation of Others, by Paul Moravec, DMA, University Professor of music, that dramatizes the stories of immigrants passing through Ellis Island on a single day in 1921. While Dr. Moravec and librettist Mark Campbell based their characters on real figures from the historical record, Dr. Moravec calls the piece “a work of imagination that offers a musically dramatic way of experiencing history.”

Dr. Moravec chose the oratorio form, which features an exceptionally large chorus and orchestra, because it has

traditionally been used to tell epic stories of timeless themes (think Handel’s *Messiah*). “The story of American immigration is a big saga,” he said. “It’s the story of most Americans at one point or another, but I also think of it as timeless and universal.”

The piece, Dr. Moravec’s fifth at Carnegie Hall, is part of his series of American historical oratorios, all of which spotlight the experiences of ordinary Americans involved in extraordinary events and circumstances.



Paul Moravec, DMA, is the recipient of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Music, a Grammy Award nominee and one of only three faculty members at Adelphi honored as a University Professor. He has composed more than 200 orchestral, opera, chamber, choral and lyric compositions.



Terrence Ross, professor of communications, is a longtime downtown New York City filmmaker. His focus is on no-budget films, feeling they afford him the best opportunity to tell the truth as he sees it. He believes art is about truth and beauty. Ross’ movies have won numerous awards on the international film festival circuit.

Life as a Syrian Refugee

In 2015, Joan Stein Schimke, professor of communications, and her colleague John Drew, assistant professor of communications, were planning to make a film about migrants. “When we saw the image of the 2-year-old Syrian boy who washed ashore in Turkey, a boy who was trying to escape war-torn Syria with his mother and brother,” Schimke said, “we asked ourselves: Why aren’t we making a film about what’s happening with Syrian refugees?”

The result is *Saeed*, a short film that Schimke reports would not have been possible without the dedicated group of Adelphi students who helped with production. *Saeed* tells the story of a family separated by the Syrian civil war and the lengths to which they must go to be reunited on Long Island. Since its release in 2019, it has screened in more than a dozen festivals around the world.

“I think people get so caught up in the terminology of immigration that they don’t see immigrants as people anymore,” Schimke said. “But seeing their stories in a film like *Saeed* will help people remember to humanize immigrants and hopefully lead to changes in immigration policy.”

The Promised Land No More

The film *El Padrino*, written and directed by Terrence Ross, professor of communications, captures the experience of immigrants being hunted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents—and shatters the myth of the American dream.

Ross turned to Adelphi alumnus Christopher Alvarez ‘20, a bilingual disability activist, reporter and filmmaker who was born with a rare form of

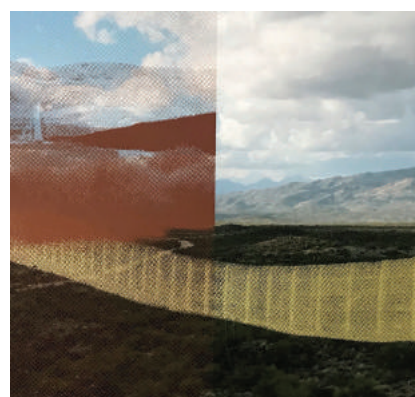
thanatophoric dysplasia, to lead the cast. Alvarez plays Eduardo, a young disabled man who, after his parents are deported, helps a young woman evade ICE and flee to Canada for safety.

Faced with his own physical limitations as well as the lurking horror of immigration enforcement, Eduardo decides he is going to become “El Padrino,” “the Godfather.” Although he eventually wins the day, the moral of *El Padrino* is clear. “This movie shows that even though America used to take pride in being a nation of immigrants, we are no longer a refuge for them,” Ross said.

The Border: Reimagined

In her multimedia art installation, *Borderlands*, Hannah Allen, associate professor of art and art history, combines inkjet and screen prints, video captures, and sculpture form to reimagine the U.S.-Mexico border. “This photographic landscape project depicts the border as a site that exists as both a symbol and as a physical place,” Allen said. “The work invites audiences to question the nature of our borders and, in our increasingly digital and virtual reality, consider their relevance.”

When the national debate on immigration exploded during the 2016 presidential election, Allen began studying the California-Mexico border wall on Google Earth. After several physical trips to the border, she merged the photographs she took there with Google’s virtual images. This approach allows viewers to simultaneously confront the physicality and the abstraction of the border—and invites them to consider how it might look and function in the future. “It’s just a fact that more populations will migrate and, as a result, the United States will continue to change,” she said. “I hope viewers will embrace these changes.” ■



Hannah Allen, associate professor of art and art history, has focused on ideas of history and nationhood in her artwork for the past decade. Through her photography, Allen examines how images of conflict and contested lands shape the American psyche and history.



Joan Stein Schimke, professor of film and video production, is an Academy Award-nominated film director and screenwriter whose work centers on how war, trauma and displacement affect families, communities and relationship dynamics.



Living History on Neighborhood Walls

Latinx street art illuminates the immigrant experience and history of labor in Texas, countering societal erasures

When Rob Linné, PhD, professor in the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, was 12, he spent a summer living in Guadalajara, Mexico, as part of a Boy Scout exchange. His host mother took him on a tour of the famous Orozco murals, a series of fiery political frescoes painted by left-wing artist José Clemente Orozco. “I felt I was walking through a spectacular, larger-than-life comic book,” he remembers. “The images were so powerful, and they told stirring stories of the people overcoming great oppression.” A decade later, just beginning his teaching career in Austin, Texas, at a predominantly Latinx school, Dr. Linné “had another epiphany sparked by murals.” The textbooks he was given for class did not reflect his students’ cultural heritage, so he turned to the murals adorning local neighborhood walls as inspiration. When asked to study these “texts,” he said, “students came to life, given the chance to talk seriously about these works in a way that validated their families, their life experiences and their histories.”

Now, Dr. Linné is revisiting the art form in a new article, “Latinx Murals of Texas: Memorials to Immigrant Experience, Working-Class History, and Solidarity,” part of the edited collection *Where Are the Workers? Labor’s Stories at Museums and Historic Sites* (University of Illinois Press, 2022), which makes a strong argument for its transformative potential.¹ Murals, he asserts, can “give voice to the underserved and underrepresented while facilitating community pride and inspiring activism.”

In recent years, politics has infiltrated American educational institutions. News reports detail the banning of texts by states and school boards, the omission of historical topics from curricula and the censoring of educators. Relying on museums, memorials and other historical sites for insight into what Dr. Linné calls the “sharp edges of history” is not a safe bet, either. Although these sites do “play a vital role in educating the public and enlivening civic discourse,” he writes, they often don’t tell certain stories for fear of ruffling influential feathers.

The history of labor in Texas suffers from similar representative distortions, chief among them the fallacy that there is no history of labor. In fact, the only labor memorials in the state are roadside historical markers. “Progressive politics in the region

has remained especially timid and apologetic in recent decades, in part because working-class people have been so successfully cut off from any history of resistance,” Dr. Linné notes in the article. Murals across Texas tell a different story, however.

Since the Mexican American muralism revival of the 1960s, Latinx street artists in big cities and small border towns alike have proclaimed their pride on the walls of grocery stores, community centers and schools. Their murals are a “creative bricolage” that mix imagery from ancient Mexican history with “slice-of-life images of farm life, soccer and home cooking,” effectively countering the “negative representations (or invisibility) offered up by mainstream media and educational institutions.” But these bold, colorful pieces do more than memorialize culture—they bring to life the hard-fought struggles of the Texas labor movement that have been erased from schools and museums. “By juxtaposing images of the barrio with great revolutionary heroes and labor leaders,” Dr. Linné writes, “the artists were encouraging the viewer to consider their material lives and pocketbook issues in the framework of a larger political past, present and future.”

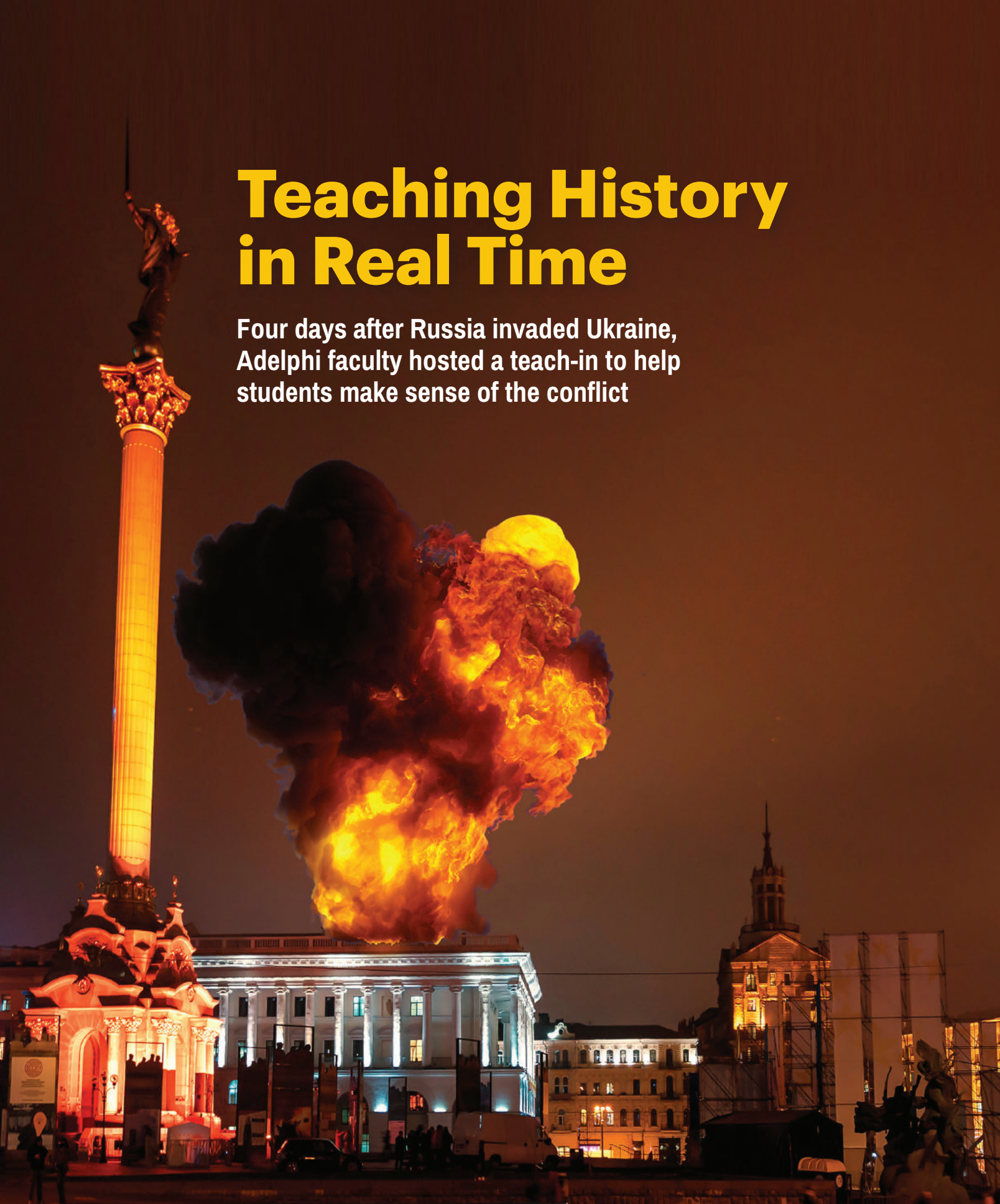
If marginalized voices are destined to be excluded from today’s institutional memory, “we can go to the streets and the local community to make sure our students get a full education that isn’t so whitewashed,” Dr. Linné says. But in order to keep these alternative sites of history alive, he believes, we must actively engage with them. Even as new generations of artists continue to conjure their own histories on neighborhood walls, the public can honor Latinx working-class culture by seeking out street art to absorb its messaging. Through this collaborative process, he concludes, marginalized communities are able to “tell their own stories, memorialize working-class histories written out of the ‘great men’ texts, and build the solidarity needed to take on the continuing fights for social and economic justice.” ■

Rob Linné, PhD, professor of education and cultural studies, explores public pedagogies and place-based learning through his teaching, research and activism. Currently, he is editing *The Triangle Factory Fire Memorial Dedication Book*, a project funded by Humanities New York in celebration of the memorial now rising in Lower Manhattan.

1 Linné, Robert. “Latinx Murals of Texas: Memorials to Immigrant Experience, Working-Class History, and Solidarity.” *Where Are the Workers? Labor’s Stories at Museums and Historic Sites*, edited by Robert Forrant and Mary Anne Trasciatti. University of Illinois Press, 2022.

Teaching History in Real Time

Four days after Russia invaded Ukraine,
Adelphi faculty hosted a teach-in to help
students make sense of the conflict



When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, unfolding events left the Ukrainian people fighting for their own survival—and the rest of us struggling to understand how the world had changed. From the capitals of Europe to the halls of Adelphi University, we all wondered: Why had Russia done such a thing? What would the war mean for global stability? Would other countries get dragged into the conflict?

Katie Laatikainen, PhD, professor of political science and director of the Levermore Global Scholars program, decided it was time to host a teach-in—an Adelphi tradition. “Professors quickly organize a public discussion to help students come to grips with an issue grabbing public attention, such as the attacks on September 11th or the murder of George Floyd,” she said.

Other Adelphi professors joined Dr. Laatikainen’s event, held on February 28, to provide full context for the invasion. Jonathan Cristol, PhD, adjunct faculty in the international studies department, discussed how it might upset the current geopolitical balance, while Michael Christofferson, PhD, professor of history, spoke about the history of Russia-Ukraine relations. “The Russian foreign policy establishment has felt, since the end of the Cold War, that NATO has expanded into Eastern Europe without concern for Russian security,” he said. “It is also the profound belief of this foreign policy elite that Ukraine is fundamentally a part of Russia and should at least retain close ties to it.”

Dr. Laatikainen drew on her expertise in the structure of international institutions—specifically, the United Nations and the European Union—to examine the war’s international legal implications. “The UN Charter offers three justifications

for force,” she told attendees. “Self-defense, fulfillment of collective security obligations, and if the action is authorized by the UN Security Council.” None of these conditions were met, “so Russia’s invasion was an egregious violation of the UN Charter and therefore of international law.”

The response from the student body was overwhelmingly positive. “The teach-in sparked a lot of conversation in Spring 2022, which was important because students had come with this urgent need to learn,” Dr. Laatikainen said. Dr. Christofferson concurred, stressing the value of finding ways to communicate with such a diverse student body. “Some who attended the teach-in knew next to nothing about the conflict or the parties to it,” he said. “Others were already well informed and had personal connections as immigrants or as the children of immigrants from the region. Both groups got something out of attending.”

More than a year later, Dr. Laatikainen is looking back on the teach-in with new insight. While she initially believed that the UN had failed in effectively responding to the war, she says its response over the past several months has been redemptive. “Though it’s very rare for a state to be ejected—given the UN’s Charter and structural constraints—the General Assembly has managed to oust Russia from the Human Rights Council. Additionally, the General Assembly has become much more active than it once had been on security issues.” While these censures from the General Assembly don’t carry any obligatory actions, they do help stymie Russia’s efforts to legitimize its war of aggression.

Now, according to Dr. Laatikainen, the stakes of the war are higher than ever. “It’s a fulcrum upon which the whole edifice of international law and organization balances,” she said.

“The big question is this: Is the liberal international order just a legacy of the West, or is it going to be universal? The United States will not be able to dominate the outcome of the war, so it will need to work hard to get the resolution of this conflict right. That will set the stage for how conflict is managed worldwide over the next century.” ■

Katie Laatikainen, PhD, is a professor of political science and the director of Adelphi’s Levermore Global Scholars program. Her research focuses on international institutions, multilateralism and European Union foreign policy. Dr. Laatikainen was named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar for 2023–2024.

Michael Christofferson, PhD, is a professor of history whose research focuses on 20th-century French history and, more recently, photography and its relationship with history. He is authoring the book *François Furet and the Politics of History*, which will be published by Verso Books in 2024.





Who Bears the Blame When Protests Turn Violent?

Adelphi professor's ethical framework offers a new way of thinking about culpability and provocation

Throughout history, nonviolent protesters have been met with disproportionately violent reactions from the state—in fact, the threat of violence is so predictable that some protesters preemptively practice keeping their cool during interactions with the police or military. But for Shawn Kaplan, PhD, associate professor of philosophy and director of Adelphi's ethics and public policy program, this inevitability poses an ethical quandary: If protesters are so confident that their actions will be met with violence, do they also bear

some moral responsibility for the harm ultimately sustained?

Unfortunately, this question is one of increasing urgency. "More and more, protests are being condemned for the responses they elicit and labeled as provocations to violence," Dr. Kaplan said. As he writes in a recent paper, "Nonviolent Protesters and Provocations to Violence," which appeared in *The Philosophy of War and Violence*, a special edition of the *Washington University Review of Philosophy*, "provocation is a

thorny concept" that can "unfairly shift culpability for the violent response."¹

The paper lays out an ethical framework for examining the ethics of nonviolent protest that ends in violence, beginning with an assessment of culpability. According to Dr. Kaplan, protesters sometimes bear some blame for violence they inspire: "While it in no way negates the culpability of those who respond violently or command a violent response to the nonviolent protest, partial culpability can be assigned to the

¹ Kaplan, Shawn. "Nonviolent Protesters and Provocations to Violence." *The Philosophy of War and Violence*, special issue. *Washington University Review of Philosophy*, vol. 2, 2022, pp. 170-187.

The person who stands up to a bully might foresee a violent response, but we don't believe they have provoked the bully in a morally important way, and we certainly don't believe they are partially culpable for the bully's violence. This would be victim blaming.

organizers or protesters if the risk of violence they create is unjustified," he explained.

For a risk of a violent reaction to be justified, the injustice being opposed by the protesters must be grave enough to justify the risk of a violent response, and the likely benefits of the protest must outweigh the likely harms of the violent response. If protesters are facing a significant risk of harm, then only state-ordained violations of their most basic rights may provide justification for imposing such a significant risk of violence. Yet the risk of a violent response, however likely, is not by itself sufficient to establish moral culpability. "The person who stands up to a bully might foresee a violent response," Dr. Kaplan said, "but we don't believe they have provoked the bully in a morally important way, and we certainly don't believe they are partially culpable for the bully's violence. This would be victim blaming."

Dr. Kaplan addresses another ethical question that emerges from this phenomenon: Is it morally permissible to publicize acts of disproportionate violence against protesters and bystanders in the hopes of influencing public opinion? Ordinarily, a person should not be morally permitted to take advantage of a response they have manipulated or provoked in another

party. "Following this reasoning, some critics argue that, when protesters have already foreseen a violent reaction, it's morally impermissible for them to then use images and videos of the response in a public relations or social media campaign."

But categorically denying people's right to disseminate such documentation is too simplistic, especially since the way a regime responds to protest can illuminate its brutality or criminality. "Protesters who create either justified or unjustified risks of violence are permitted to publicize disproportionate violent responses from their opposition, so long as this campaign has a likelihood of success for shaping public opinion," Dr. Kaplan said.

This framework for analyzing the ethics of nonviolent protest intersects with Dr. Kaplan's work on the incorporation of facial recognition capabilities into our video surveillance systems. In another new paper, "To be a face in the crowd: Surveillance, facial recognition, and a right to obscurity" (*Everyday Life in the Culture of Surveillance*, 2023), Dr. Kaplan identifies a new threat for nonviolent protesters: the loss of safety through anonymity.² To make sure new surveillance technologies do not have a chilling effect on public protest, he argues that a new "right to obscurity" should be enshrined that prohibits



Shawn Kaplan, PhD, is an associate professor of philosophy and director of the ethics and public policy program. His research interests include terrorism, the ethics of war and counterterrorism, just war theory, and Kantian Ethical theory.

the cataloging of protesters. The loss of our anonymity while in public due to facial recognition surveillance makes us "vulnerable to psychological manipulation" and undermines "the interest of liberal democracies to neither deter expressions of political dissent or conviction nor limit the diverse expressions of citizens' diverse faith or ways of life." ■

2 Kaplan, Shawn. "To be a face in the crowd: Surveillance, facial recognition, and a right to obscurity." *Everyday Life in the Culture of Surveillance*, edited by Lars Samuelsson, Copp  lie Cocq, Stefan Gelfgren, Jesper Enbom. Nordicom, 2023.



When Bank Loans Get Political

Probing the correlation between a company's political ideology and its loan terms

When a bank lends money to a company, it determines the terms of the loan by predicting how likely the business is to repay its debt on time. To make that assessment, the bank considers the value of the company's assets, how much it owes to other creditors and the odds that business conditions will remain favorable

to the enterprise. These factors all play into the size, maturity and fees of the loan contract the bank will ultimately offer.

However, as shown in new research from Jason Na, PhD, assistant professor of finance and economics, banks also consider another surprising factor when

assessing creditworthiness: political ideology. His recent paper, "Does corporate political party ideology matter? Evidence from bank loan contracts" (*Review of Accounting and Finance*, 2021), fills an important gap in the literature by exploring the perception of this issue from the lender side.¹ "Despite

1 Na, HyunJun. "Does corporate political party ideology matter? Evidence from bank loan contracts." *Review of Accounting and Finance*, vol. 20, iss. 2, 9 September 2021.

the fact that top managers' political party ideologies can affect the corporate financial policies, and bank loan contracting is one of the most frequent funding channels," the paper notes, "it is yet to be studied how banks view the specific political party ideologies of the borrowing companies for bank loan contracts."

Dr. Na started with a simple hypothesis. "I wondered if corporations with a Republican culture would be less likely to have loan failures or violate loan contracts because they would be more likely to espouse conservative ideologies and policies than Democratic-oriented managers," he recalls. "If so, you would expect to see banks charging those companies lower loan fees in the bank loan contracts they offer."

To test his hypothesis, Dr. Na first surveyed the political views of a pool of companies' top executives. "These are the people who impact the corporation's ethical culture; provide guidance for employee behavior; and shape business operations that affect capital structure, investment decisions and risk management," he explained, "all of which can influence a company's ability to pay its debt." Next, he calculated the difference between companies' financial contributions to the Republican and Democratic parties, divided by the total contributions to both parties during an election cycle. He then combined this figure with the political preferences of the residents in the state of the company's corporate headquarters to produce a Political Culture Index (PCI) score on a scale of zero to six, with six being the most Republican.

When he compared the PCI scores of various companies to the terms of their bank loan contracts, Dr. Na found a strong correlation. "I saw that banks favor Republican-leaning corporate policies by allowing such borrowers to pay lower fees for bank loans," he said. "This implies that banks perceive these corporations to be high-quality borrowers with less risky projects, resulting in a low rate of loan violations. Banks

are recognizing the stability of these companies' cash flows and lower equity volatility, leading to more favorable loan conditions."

These findings, Dr. Na argues, have important implications for investors and other stakeholders, particularly if the company has a high level of debt in its capital structure. A more liberal-leaning company may have a much harder time raising capital while in debt because banks will perceive its existing debt as high risk. The findings also reveal the motivations behind some companies'

contributions to political parties: Executives may be looking to increase their ability to secure future loans on optimal terms.

This research continues Dr. Na's long-standing interest in analyzing corporate finance, banking and financial institutions, and corporate innovation. He is now looking into the link between political ideology and other aspects of business operations. "For my next project," he said, "I am exploring how political views may impact a company's commitment to innovation." ■

This research continues Dr. Na's long-standing interest in analyzing corporate finance, banking and financial institutions, and corporate innovation.

Jason Na, PhD, is an assistant professor of finance and economics whose research focuses on corporate finance, investment analysis and innovation.





The Dimensions of ADDICTION

**Examining factors precipitating substance abuse, from
America's rural to urban communities**

There are numerous external factors that affect an individual's drug use habits, such as employment rates, current drugs on the market, and the quality and accessibility of local healthcare. But many people who use drugs (PWUD) perceive their addiction as a personal failing—and, if they seek help, all too often encounter a healthcare system that reinforces their perception. To fight this stigma and offer better care, more clinicians are seeking ways to tailor addiction treatment to each community they serve.

Marissa Abram '08, PhD '17, assistant professor in Adelphi's College of Nursing and Public Health, wanted to understand how local conditions can shape addiction, so she decided to look to a singularly controlled setting: Alaska. "The state has small, diverse populations within an expansive geographic region, as well as a climate that's very different from the rest of the country," she explained. "That makes it a great place to think about different community needs."

Access to healthcare and financial resources are important social determinants of health. In an effort to understand addiction's relationship with unemployment and median income in Alaska, Dr. Abram teamed up with

epidemiologist David Parker, PhD, professor, and Lauren Lessard, PhD, and Jennifer Meyer, PhD, assistant professors, all at the University of Alaska Anchorage, to compare results from national and

local surveys on drug use. Their findings were published in the paper "Twenty Years of Addiction and Mental Illness in Alaska: Using the National Survey on Drug Use and Health to Understand

Marissa Abram '08, PhD '17, is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Public Health, a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner, and a credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselor. Her research focuses on substance abuse disorders.



Addiction in a Low Population and Rural State” in the *Journal of Community Health* (May 2022).¹

Ultimately, they found that median income was more frequently linked to addiction than unemployment. Still, Dr. Abram stresses that this finding should only be treated as a baseline and researchers must partner with communities to truly gain an understanding of what is needed. “We

“It’s not only [fentanyl] that kills, though. It’s also stigma. That’s usually more of a problem than access.”

Adelya Urmanche, PhD ’22

need to always remember that there’s really no one-size-fits-all intervention and treatment strategy,” she said.

Dr. Abram’s colleague Adelya Urmanche, PhD ’22, adjunct professor in the Master’s in Psychology Program, has also been investigating ways to design community-specific addiction treatment. For her paper “Fentanyl preference among people who use opioids in New York City” (*Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, August 2022),² she and her co-authors



Adelya Urmanche, PhD ’22, is a postdoctoral research fellow at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center and adjunct faculty at the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology whose clinical and research work focuses on substance use and substance use disorders. Specifically, she is interested in psychotherapy processes and provider training that could improve treatment outcome and retention.

interviewed 22 PWUD in New York City who said they prefer to use non-pharmaceutical fentanyl (NPF), an analgesic that can be a hundred times stronger than morphine. Dr. Urmanche then analyzed what PWUD had to say about their own experiences with NPF, particularly how they navigated its benefits and risks.

Within this sample group, Dr. Urmanche found that PWUD preferred NPF for a variety of reasons, including individual needs, drug use patterns and previous experiences with drugs. “Many commented on NPF’s superior analgesic effects, perceived longer effects and

lower cost,” she said. “For others, it was not so much a consideration of ‘benefits,’ but of what they could get on the market. Still other participants suggested that NPF resulted in an increased tolerance to opioids, thus ‘locking’ them into continued use of NPF.”

Unfortunately, Dr. Urmanche added, some people assume PWUD turn to NPF because they want the “hard stuff.” This assumption is not only inaccurate, but also further stigmatizes a vulnerable population already working hard to stay safe in an increasingly dangerous environment. In 2020, New York City registered more than 2,000 overdose

1 Abram, M.D., et al. “Twenty Years of Addiction and Mental Illness in Alaska: Using the National Survey on Drug Use and Health to Understand Addiction in a Low Population and Rural State.” *Journal of Community Health*, vol. 47, August 2022, pp. 680-686.

2 Urmanche, Adelya A., et al. “Fentanyl preference among people who use opioids in New York City.” *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, vol. 237, 1 August 2022.

deaths. NPF was implicated in 77 percent of them—a number only set to rise as NPF appears in more and more counterfeit opiate pills, cocaine and benzodiazepines.

“It’s not only NPF that kills, though,” Dr. Urmanche said. “It’s also stigma. That’s usually more of a problem than access.” Many participants in the study reported difficulty finding other people who could help keep them safe while they used NPF, for instance.

According to Dr. Urmanche, these findings reinforce the importance of offering client-centered care to PWUD. “People who use drugs are quite thoughtful and deliberate about their behaviors and, as many of us do, value product consistency and physiological comfort,” she said. “They use drugs for different reasons, in different contexts, with different resources, and have different thresholds for risk. Providers sometimes forget to stay curious about those things. But we must be better at understanding and incorporating PWUD’s experiences to create a treatment system that meets their individual needs.” ■



A Safer Way to Use Drugs

In the 1990s, clinicians began experimenting with a new way of treating PWUD. Rather than treat drug use as a behavior that must be stopped, they instead created spaces where drugs could be used in relative safety: supervised drug consumption sites.

“A supervised drug consumption site is a safe, nonjudgmental space where an individual experiencing addiction can use their substances,” Dr. Abram explained. “When people hear that, sometimes they have a visceral reaction, but there’s actually a lot of evidence that supervised consumption sites save lives.”

In “Supervised drug consumption sites: A health-based approach or enabling drug use?” (*Journal of Clinical Nursing*, December 2022), co-authored with colleagues from the Nursing School of Lisbon in Portugal and Deakin University in Australia, Dr. Abram calls for an

expansion of these spaces to encourage more people to use drugs safely.¹

“The thing to keep in mind is that these sites provide medical and psychiatric care,” she said. “If people don’t get care until they’re in the emergency room, they’re much more likely to be stigmatized, including by healthcare professionals.”

“Healthcare professionals need to look past our own perceptions and our own biases. If we’re more open to the experiences of others, then we can expand treatment access, increase bridges to care and ensure better patient outcomes.”

Marissa Abram '08, PhD '17

There’s also evidence that these sites can help PWUD improve their overall health. Once they’ve been able to access healthcare without judgment and ostracization, they may feel safer pursuing medical treatment, substance rehabilitation and psychiatric care they might otherwise avoid. “Healthcare professionals need to look past our own perceptions and our own biases,” Dr. Abram concludes. “If we’re more open to the experiences of others, then we can expand treatment access, increase bridges to care and ensure better patient outcomes.” ■

1 Abram, Marissa D., et al. “Supervised drug consumption sites: A health-based approach or enabling drug use?” *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, vol. 32, iss. 7-8, April 2023, pp. e6-e8.

Capturing Nuances in Marijuana Use Among Transgender Adults

Different subsets of the transgender population have different rates of marijuana use when medically transitioning, new research finds

Transgender and gender-expansive individuals experience significant health disparities in multiple areas, including poor outcomes, barriers to access and lack of culturally informed care. “For trans*identified and nonbinary folx, who have a history of being pathologized in terms of diagnosis and treatment, it can be frightening—and even downright traumatizing—to reach out for any kind of healthcare,” said Beth Counselman Carpenter, PhD ’14, associate professor in the School of Social Work.

Her most recent project, undertaken with colleagues Alex Redcay, PhD, of Millersville University, and Kevin Lally, DSW, of Bloomsburg University, strives to help behavioral health clinicians to develop more inclusive therapeutic strategies for non-cisgender clients. “The Impact of Gender Identity, Medical Transition, and Other Substances on Marijuana Use for Transgender Adults” (*Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences*, 2022) explores the interplay of gender identity, age, medical transition and the use of marijuana within the transgender community. As the authors write, “A deeper understanding of the relationship of these variables will ... [allow] for more thorough and accurate assessment protocols for individuals seeking medical transition.”

Most prior studies on the subject have treated the transgender community as a monolith, so Dr. Counselman Carpenter and her colleagues knew they had to

proceed with far more care. They asked participants to self-report as one of four possible gender identities—transgender woman, transgender man, genderqueer/nonbinary assigned male at birth or genderqueer/nonbinary assigned female at birth—and to note if they had transitioned medically (through hormones) or surgically.

This approach yielded some novel results. “We saw that medical transition moderated marijuana use, but we were surprised to find that taking hormones and having had surgical transition was a factor in reported rates of heavier use,” she noted. “We were also surprised by both the intersection of identities and the age group (30 to 40) that presented with higher use, as this was a unique finding when compared to other studies.” Based on these findings, clinicians should be able to apply far more specificity in their assessment and treatment, particularly when evaluating how a client may be using substances before, during and after their transition.

Going forward, Dr. Counselman Carpenter hopes to see more research like hers: dedicated to filling gaps in education, attuned to variations in gender identity, and sensitive to the difficult reality of accessing lifesaving services. “There are so many roadblocks for folx, particularly with marginalized identities, in receiving quality behavioral healthcare, but we need affirmative and effective care now more than ever,” she said. ■



Beth Counselman Carpenter, PhD ’14, is an associate professor in the School of Social Work whose research includes a focus on LGBTQ+ affirmative education and healthcare and post-traumatic growth in the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized populations.

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We need affirmative and effective care now more than ever.”

—Beth Counselman Carpenter, PhD ’14

1 Counselman Carpenter, Elizabeth, et al. “The Impact of Gender Identity, Medical Transition, and Other Substances on Marijuana Use for Transgender Adults.” *Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences*, vol. 16, iss. 1, 2022, pp. 252-264.



Can Human Connection Prevent Addiction?

A grant-funded study investigates the cognitive processes that allow us to form healthy social bonds and resist maladaptive behaviors

What effect do relationships—and their absence—have on behavioral health? A new research project led by Dominic Fareri, PhD, associate professor of psychology and director of the neuroscience program, is trying to find out.

Funded by a five-year, \$2.5 million R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the project explores how the formation of healthy social connections can either promote or prevent maladaptive behaviors. “A strong body of literature suggests that stable, close social connections can have positive physical, emotional and mental health benefits throughout a person’s life,” Dr. Fareri explained. “Conversely, a lack of close connections and social integration is associated with internalizing illness, loneliness and substance use.”

In collaboration with Mauricio Delgado, PhD, of Rutgers University and Luke Chang, PhD, of Dartmouth College, Dr. Fareri specifically seeks to understand how these social connections develop at the psychological and neural levels. Using data collected from several behavioral and neuroimaging experiments conducted at Dartmouth

and Rutgers, they are attempting to prove three working hypotheses. First, social rewards, such as another person’s approval, may signal a shared preference that facilitates a social connection. Second, the chance to communicate in the middle of a shared experience may increase the engagement of the brain’s reward circuit in ways that can predict social connection. Third, decisions to seek out social rewards from other substance users may incorporate unhealthy shared preferences that reinforce certain maladaptive habits.

Dr. Fareri believes this project will lay the groundwork for future research on the links between social connection and substance abuse. “Social isolation is a critical factor in the development of mental health conditions, including depression and substance use disorders, leading to significant public health crises,” he noted. “If we understand the psychological and neural dynamics behind socially rewarding experiences that foster the development of healthy social connections, we may be able to provide more targeted interventions that can promote social resilience in the face of stress and social isolation.” ■



Dominic Fareri, PhD, associate professor of psychology and director of the neuroscience program, studies the way social contexts shape decisions and subjective experiences of incentives, combining behavioral, physiological and multimodal neuroimaging methods with approaches and theory from neuroscience and neuroeconomics.



DIGGING INTO THE PAST

The Case for Collaborative Archaeology

New discoveries connect Indigenous Alaskans to their ancestors



For more than two decades, Professor Brian Wygal, PhD, and Assistant Professor Kathryn Krasinski, PhD, of the Department of Anthropology have conducted collaborative research on past peoples and cultures of Alaska. Their work has resulted in numerous publications and trained more than 100 students from around the world in archaeological field methods. Some of their discoveries have made national and international headlines, including a 2016 discovery of a virtually complete 14,000-year-old woolly mammoth tusk.

Since then, Drs. Krasinski and Wygal have continued to discover and excavate sites across Alaska in the hopes of unearthing artifacts and animal remains that could further expand our understanding of the human past. “We want to know where the First Alaskans came from and what they left behind,” Dr. Wygal said. Their publications on recent findings at the Holzman site—one of the oldest in the Americas, about 70 miles from Fairbanks—prove that even the smallest fragments of evidence can be culturally significant.

“Archaeological Recovery of Late Pleistocene Hair and Environmental DNA from Interior Alaska” (*Environmental Archaeology: The Journal of Human Palaeoecology*, January 2022) tracks their recovery and identification of ancient bison hair specimens and environmental DNA from sediments dating back to the end of the last Ice Age, approximately 12,000 years ago.¹ When compared to existing data, reconstructions of these specimens can bring to life the hyperlocal environmental transformations that occurred during a time of dramatic climate change.

“Mammoth Ivory Rods in Eastern Beringia: Earliest in North America” (*American Antiquity*, January 2022) reports on the recovery of two mammoth ivory tools “in the broader context of late Pleistocene bone and ivory technology,” yielding insight into ancient Alaskans’ acquisition and use of mammoth ivory.²

While these findings have been met with tremendous excitement from the scientific community, Drs. Wygal and Krasinski have another audience in mind when digging. “We’re thinking of how Alaska Indigenous communities want to see these projects progress, and the questions they have about their own ancestors. The age of helicopter science is over,” Dr. Wygal said. They have initiated community-based archaeology—an Indigenous-centered approach that is swiftly gaining momentum in the field—to ensure digs are conducted fairly, respectfully and inclusively. “Euro-American colonization has resulted in significant loss of land access for Indigenous peoples across the country,” Dr. Krasinski noted. “Now, instead of taking the lead in archaeological investigations, we are working to support and empower Indigenous communities to

care for their heritage as they consider appropriate, like their ancestors did before them.”

This philosophy is one Drs. Wygal and Krasinski are careful to impart to their students. “The narratives we’re uncovering with this research are far richer and more complex than what we typically see reflected in popular culture because of collaboration,” Dr. Krasinski said. “I hope students who work with us are gaining appreciation for Indigenous peoples and the importance of preserving these sites for future generations. Ultimately, it’s about creating reciprocal relationships with people and the environment—learning to steward the land rather than exploit it.”

Their discoveries provide many opportunities for student research in Adelphi’s on-campus archaeology lab, which Dr. Wygal describes as a “bustling hub where undergraduates get to do graduate-level work.” Students learn to catalog, photograph and analyze the specimens recovered from the field. Drs. Wygal and Krasinski invite a handful of promising scholars to accompany them on trips to dig sites in Alaska, while some students attend field programs at other institutions.

The research team is currently supervising several independent student projects that build on their findings from the Holzman site. Anthropology major MacKenzie Pina, a junior, is running geochemical analyses on sediment samples to understand Ice Age dietary and cooking habits as well as migration patterns. This summer, Pina will be traveling to Koobi Fora in Africa for her field training. Anthropology major Lillian Barber, a sophomore, is reconstructing and analyzing a set of stone tools, which promises to shed light on ancient toolmakers’ methods. Barber will be an intern at the American Museum of Natural History this summer. And Casey Greenbaum, a fourth-year anthropology student, is analyzing the importance of waterfowl at the Holzman site and will be attending an archaeological field school in Bulgaria this summer. Taken together, their work offers a holistic perspective that Dr. Krasinski believes is key to understanding humanity. “I want students to think about the world in terms of interwoven themes,” she said. “The knowledge and skills we are gaining provides important contexts for living in an interconnected world.” ■

Brian Wygal, PhD, is a professor of anthropology who is chiefly interested in Alaska archaeology, environmental archaeology, deglaciation and human colonization, human ecology, technological organization, and issues surrounding First Americans.

Kathryn Krasinski, PhD, assistant professor of anthropology, focuses her research around hunter-gatherer subsistence, zooarchaeology, vertebrate taphonomy and peopling of the Americas, sub-Arctic Alaska and southern Africa.

1 Wygal, Brian T., Krasinski, Kathryn E., et al. “Archaeological Recovery of Late Pleistocene Hair and Environmental DNA from Interior Alaska.” *Environmental Archaeology: The Journal of Human Palaeoecology*, published online: 31 January 2022.

2 Wygal, Brian T., Krasinski, Kathryn E., et al. “Mammoth Ivory Rods in Eastern Beringia: Earliest in North America.” *American Antiquity*, vol. 87, iss. 1, January 2022, pp. 59-79.



Ancient DNA Samples Bring the Past to Life

A sweeping genetic study unravels mysteries of the “cradle of Western civilization”

For Anagnostis Agelarakis, PhD, professor in Adelphi’s history department, archaeology is an endlessly generative practice. “Every project leads to so many others,” he said. “You keep uncovering things that invite you to go deeper, to go further, to not just stop at the surface

level. And from there, you see that everything you find is connected.” In fact, the seeds of discovery planted during Dr. Agelarakis’ doctoral research in the 1980s, a study of *Homo sapiens* skeletal remains from the Shanidar Cave in Iraq, have continued to bear valuable fruit

throughout the past several decades. Most recently, several Shanidar samples he contributed to a new project analyzing genomic data from the Southern Arc—a region bridging Southeastern Europe with Western Asia, often referred to as the “cradle of Western civilization”—

Genetically speaking, our differences are minuscule; it's only in our upbringing and our education that we create difference.

proved to be the oldest out of 727 total samples spanning the past 11,000 years, providing the research team with a vital analytic foundation.

Led by Iosif Lazaridis, PhD, and David Reich, PhD, at Harvard University, the project was a cross-disciplinary initiative dedicated to developing the first-ever comprehensive archaeogenetic history of the Southern Arc during the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages, dating back about 7,000 to 3,000 years. Along with more than 200 co-authors from around the globe, Drs. Lazaridis and Reich turned their findings into a trio of studies published in *Science* in August 2022: “The genetic history of the Southern Arc: A bridge between West Asia and Europe,”¹ “A genetic probe into the ancient and medieval history of Southern Europe and West Asia”² and “Ancient DNA from Mesopotamia suggests distinct Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic migrations into Anatolia.”³ The research used a data set of unprecedented scope and size to close “major gaps in sampling in time, space and cultural context” (“The genetic history of the Southern Arc”), in the process decoding some long-standing mysteries about migration patterns, cultural diffusion and linguistic evolution among early Indo-European peoples.

Dr. Agelarakis’ Shanidar Cave sample, which dates back to the ninth millennium B.C., established a prehistoric baseline for project researchers working on later periods. Armed with information about Shanidarians’ age ranges, genders, diets, anatomy, travel patterns and

survival ratios, they were able to identify connections between different groups that traversed the Southern Arc, as well as the cultural practices, skills and technologies they brought with them. According to Dr. Agelarakis, the project’s novelty cannot be overstated. “This is something I’m excited to tell my grandchildren about, how we’re able to complete a massive worldwide project that relies solely on ancient genomic samples,” he noted. “We’re the first to be able to substantiate these kinds of conclusions through molecular tracking.”

The project also lays important groundwork for other research. A recent study Dr. Agelarakis co-authored with another team, “Ancient DNA reveals admixture history and endogamy in the prehistoric Aegean” (*Nature, Ecology & Evolution*, 2023), builds on work completed by the Lazaridis-Reich project to illuminate connectedness in an entirely different region.⁴ In analyzing the flow of genetic signatures in Crete, the Greek mainland and the Aegean Islands between the seventh and first millennia B.C., the authors were able to confirm the biological dimensions of certain cultural transitions that had never before been mapped. Ultimately, they write, “Our results highlight the potential of archaeogenomic approaches in the Aegean for unraveling the interplay of genetic admixture, marital and other cultural practices.”

While Dr. Agelarakis looks forward to continuing his work on the Shanidarian samples, he is most excited about



Anagnostis Agelarakis, PhD, professor of anthropology in the Department of History, is renowned for his archaeological work leading to discoveries that have shed light on life in ancient Aegean civilizations. His research has been widely published in scholarly journals and featured in mainstream media outlets throughout the world.

sharing the broader lessons of archaeogenetics with his students. “In some ways, these perspectives appear to be new, but really they’re just strengthening what we’ve been saying all along, that we are all siblings,” he explains. “Genetically speaking, our differences are minuscule; it’s only in our upbringing and our education that we create difference. We all began as hunters and gatherers in prehistoric times. I always tell my students that we have to use this data to fulfill our responsibility as custodians to the Earth—that we have to look to our common past in order to ensure a common future.” ■

1 Agelarakis, Anagnostis, et al. “The genetic history of the Southern Arc: A bridge between West Asia and Europe.” *Science*, vol. 377, iss. 6609, 26 August 2022.

2 Agelarakis, Anagnostis, et al. “A genetic probe into the ancient and medieval history of Southern Europe and West Asia.” *Science*, vol. 377, iss. 6609, 25 August 2022, pp. 940-951.

3 Agelarakis, Anagnostis, et al. “Ancient DNA from Mesopotamia suggests distinct Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic migrations into Anatolia.” *Science*, vol. 377, iss. 6609, 25 August 2022, pp. 982-987.

4 Agelarakis, Anagnostis, et al. “Ancient DNA reveals admixture history and endogamy in the prehistoric Aegean.” *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, vol. 7, 2023, pp. 290-303.

Grant Funding Powers Faculty Impact

Thanks to a wide range of grants and other funding opportunities, Adelphi faculty are engaged in advanced research projects, from the lab to the classroom to the field.

Highlights of grants funding faculty work and programs at Adelphi:

Identifying pathways and obstacles to success

Meredith Whitley, PhD, professor of health and sport sciences, secured a \$50,000 grant from the William E. Simon Foundation to assess pathways to college and careers for immigrant and first-generation youth through evaluations of South Bronx United, an organization using soccer as a tool for social change.

Clara Vaz Bauler, PhD, associate professor of education, was awarded a \$58,976 grant from the Spencer Foundation for the project “Challenging Raciolinguistic Ideologies in Transatlantic Teacher Education and Policy.” She and a colleague in the United Kingdom will examine the impact of raciolinguistic ideology on education policy, practice and teacher preparation.

Diversifying employment pipelines

The College of Nursing and Public Health, through the efforts of **Mary T. Hickey, MS '93, EdD**, associate dean and project director of the Nurse Faculty Loan Program, and **Patricia Donohue-Porter, MS '78, PhD '87**, professor of nursing and director of the PhD program, secured a \$423,989 award to continue Adelphi's Nursing Faculty Loan Program, which supports doctoral nursing students through loans that can eventually be forgiven. The College was also selected as a pilot school for an American Association of Colleges of Nursing leadership initiative funded by Johnson & Johnson, a project led by **Marilyn Klainberg '63, MS '77, EdD**, professor, **Deborah Ambrosio-Mawhirter '81, MS '95, EdD**, clinical associate professor, and **Deborah Hunt, PhD '12**, dean.



In January, **Kirsten Ziomek, PhD**, associate professor of history, was selected for the 2023–2024 Fellowship for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities (JUSFC-NEH). This prestigious honor was awarded to just three scholars nationwide. Dr. Ziomek will use the \$60,000 in funding to continue work on her current book project, tentatively titled *The Disorder of Killing: Colonial Soldiers, Forced Laborers, and the Local Peoples at the Japanese Empire's Edge*, which corrects traditional one-dimensional narratives about the Japanese military who fought in World War II. “My hope is that my research will not just transform our understanding of Japanese history or military history,” she said, “but will also help contribute to a changed view of global transimperial military interactions.”



In addition to a \$100,000 grant renewal from the Dyson Foundation to fund scholarships for local MSW students, **Manoj Pardasani, PhD**, former dean, **Dan Kaplan, PhD**, associate professor, **Ohio Oni-Eseleh, MSW '93, PhD '21**, assistant dean, and **Livia Polise**, director of field education, successfully applied for \$700,000 in grant funding for School of Social Work recruitment of Black, Indigenous and other students of color, both directly from The New York Trust and through the School's partner CAMBA.

Identifying barriers to mental health and well-being

Bernadine Waller, MA '10, PhD '21, senior adjunct professor of social work, received a New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) Policy Scholars Award and was named an NYS OMH Policy Scholars Fellow. She will serve as principal investigator for a project focusing on the mental health needs of African American women survivors of intimate partner violence.

Dominic Fareri, PhD, associate professor of psychology, will serve as a co-investigator on an R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse with colleagues from Rutgers University and Dartmouth College. The five-year, \$2.5 million project will explore how healthy social connections can promote or prevent maladaptive behaviors such as substance use. Read more about it on page 29.

Excavating the past and preserving the future

Michael D'Emic, PhD, associate professor of biology, secured a \$38,555 National Landscape Conservation System grant from the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management to support fossil fieldwork in Wyoming, including funding for Adelphi student assistants to travel out West each summer for the next four years.

Ryan Wallace, PhD, assistant professor of environmental studies and sciences, received \$30,000 from The Research Foundation for the State University of New York (part of a grant totaling \$240,000) to support expansion of Stony Brook University's water quality monitoring array in an effort to restore Long Island's coastal ecosystems, and \$105,000 from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (part of a more than \$1 million grant) to study how climate change will affect harmful algae blooms. With **Aaren Freeman, PhD**, professor and acting chair of biology, Dr. Wallace also received a \$64,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to rebuild oyster reefs in Long Island Sound. Read about it on page 6.



Zainab Toteh Osakwe '06, PhD, assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Public Health, was selected for a \$120,000 2022 Health Care Systems Scholars Program grant, awarded by the National Institute on Aging IMPACT Collaboratory. As a Health Care Systems Scholar, Dr. Osakwe is expanding on her extensive scholarship in the area of home healthcare by exploring culturally tailored interventions designed to address the values and beliefs of Black and Hispanic people living with dementia at the end of life in home healthcare settings. She is leading a team of interdisciplinary experts from the areas of nursing informatics, home healthcare practice and research, stakeholder engagement, and dementia care to establish a community advisory board and best practices for transitioning from home healthcare to hospice at the largest independent nonprofit provider of home healthcare and hospice in New Jersey.

Celebrating the Extraordinary Career of Dean Jacques Barber

After more than a decade of service to Adelphi University, Jacques Barber, PhD, dean of the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology—regarded as an authority in the field for his groundbreaking research and vast body of work—will be stepping down at the end of the 2022–2023 academic year.

As part of his decades-long career as an academic researcher, Dr. Barber has published more than 290 papers, chapters and books, including a revised psychodynamic therapy chapter in Bergin and Garfield's *Handbook of Psychotherapy and Behavior Change, 7th Edition* (Wiley, 2021), known as the “bible of psychotherapy.”

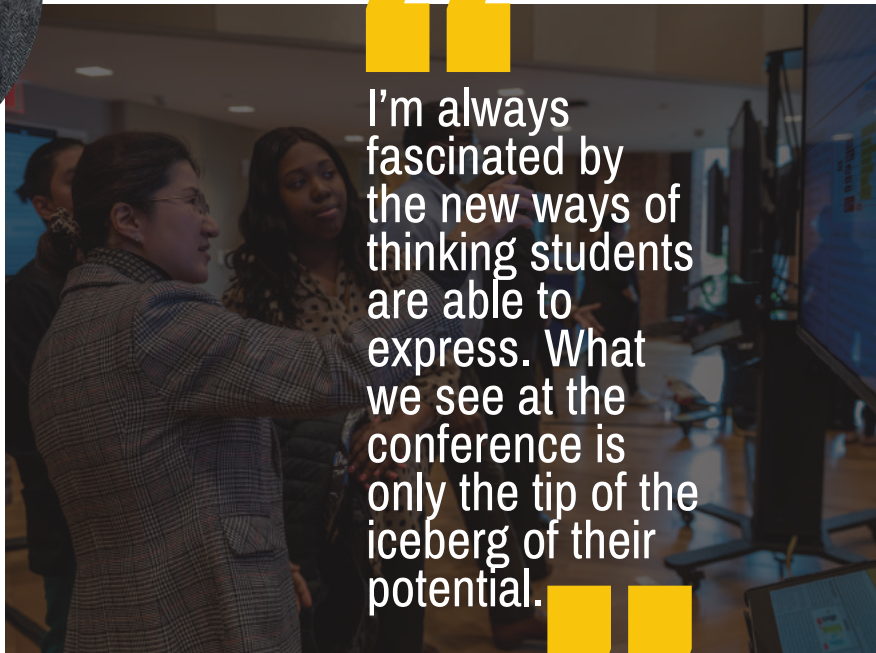
According to Professor J. Christopher Muran, PhD, who co-wrote the chapter, Dr. Barber's invitation to contribute represents a “significant tribute to him as a leader in the psychodynamic world.”

Dr. Barber's work on the efficacy of psychotherapy in treating a variety of issues—including depression, panic disorders, personality disorders, cocaine dependence and interpersonal problems—has earned him several prestigious awards. In addition to the Senior Distinguished Research Career Award from the Society for Psychotherapy Research and the Scholarship and Research Award from the Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology, Division 39 of the American Psychological Association (APA), he has received two honors from the Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, Division 29 of the APA: the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentorship Award and the Distinguished Psychologist Award for Contributions to Psychology and Psychotherapy.

Since joining Adelphi in 2011, Dr. Barber has charted a new and exciting course for the Derner School, which *U.S. News & World Report* ranks in the categories of Best Psychology School and Best Clinical Psychology Doctorate Program. Under his stewardship, the school has introduced a stronger emphasis on undergraduate education, launched new degree programs (including a BS in Neuroscience and a PsyD) and renewed its commitment to diversity.



I'm always fascinated by the new ways of thinking students are able to express. What we see at the conference is only the tip of the iceberg of their potential.



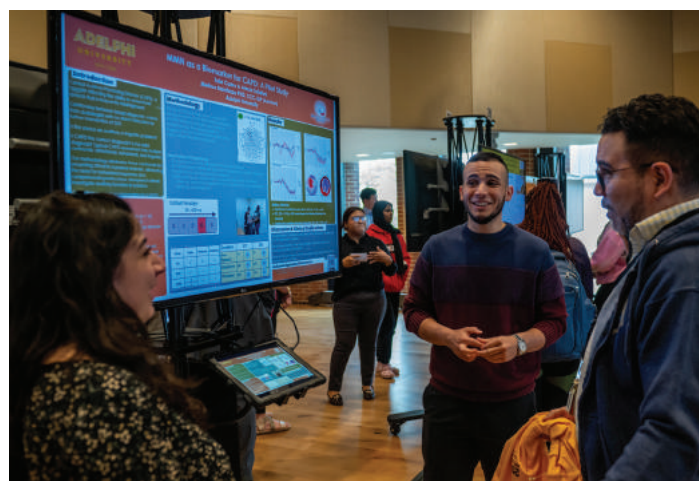
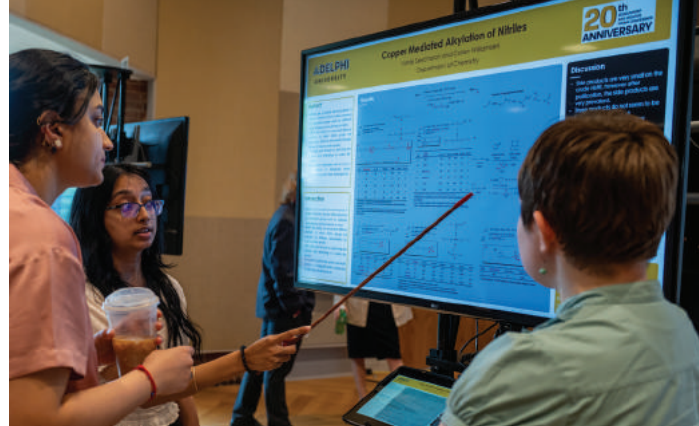
Adelphi's Scholarship and Creative Works Conference

When Francine Conway, PhD '99, chancellor-provost of Rutgers University–New Brunswick, launched Adelphi's Scholarship and Creative Works Conference, she never imagined just how much it would become an integral part of the University's intellectual life. "When I was asked to serve as the 20th-anniversary keynote speaker, I was actually surprised to hear the conference was still ongoing, because it started as a fairly small-scale initiative," she said. "But I was humbled, too, because that means Adelphi is still committed to a value I hold dear: using the exchange of ideas to build community."

At the Scholarship and Creative Works Conference, held every April, hundreds of Adelphi undergraduate and graduate students present their research to fellow students, faculty, family members, alumni and visitors. While the conference has always accepted work from virtually every academic discipline, organizing committee chairs Alexander Heyl, PhD, associate professor of biology, and Wei Liu, PhD, associate professor of nursing, are pushing the spirit of inclusivity even further—both within the Adelphi student body and beyond. Now, presentations are organized around "super themes" (such as sustainability) to break down disciplinary silos and foster a greater sense of belonging. Local high school counselors are also encouraged to invite any students to attend who might be interested in applying to the University. "It's a great way to integrate the entire Adelphi community: past, present and future," Dr. Heyl said.

For the students selected to present, conference day means "showtime," according to Dr. Liu. "They've spent so much time and energy on these projects, and now they get to share their discoveries and innovations," she said. "I'm always fascinated by the new ways of thinking students are able to express. What we see at the conference is only the tip of the iceberg of their potential."

As Dr. Conway reflects on the evolution of the conference, she's most struck by the sense of urgency that now drives it. "There have been many attacks on higher education and intellectualism in recent years, but events like the pandemic have shown us how important research is, how it can produce solutions to real-world problems," she said. "Adelphi holding an annual research conference sends a strong message in the face of those attacks. We're helping students think critically, both as scholars and citizens, and making sure they graduate knowing the value of scholarly inquiry." ■





Justyna Widera-Kalinowska, PhD, is a professor of chemistry whose research interests range from nanotechnology to novel semiconducting materials and their hybrid composites for various applications, including solar light harvesting, hydrogen fuel generation and photocatalytic degradation of hazardous waste present in water.

Brightening the Future of Solar Power

An international collaboration leads to the development of eco-friendly solar technologies

The world may be in the midst of a solar power revolution, but according to Justyna Widera-Kalinowska, PhD, professor of chemistry, the technologies that have enabled it are not sustainable. Silicon, the element most commonly used to manufacture photovoltaics (or solar panels), requires a prohibitive amount of energy to produce and often proves inefficient in harnessing solar energy.

As energy policy and industry leaders work to fortify the long-term security of our clean energy supply, Dr. Widera-Kalinowska has been busy investigating a better alternative to silicon. In collaboration with colleagues at the University of Warsaw, as well as former Adelphi undergraduates Stephanie Dulovic '20 and Sophia Casto '20 (who participated in this research as part of a National Science Foundation International Research Experiences for Students grant), she published her findings in the paper "Comparative studies of properties of CdSe/POMA

hybrid films electrodeposited on HOPG, Au and Pt substrates," which appeared in the journal *Surfaces and Interfaces* in July 2022.¹

The paper demonstrates that the choice of substrate material in the manufacturing process has a direct influence on the chemical structure and photoelectrochemical properties of the resulting semiconducting nanoparticles and polymers. Notably, Dr. Widera-Kalinowska and her team were able to establish that the combination of these semiconductors will yield the "most optimal hybrid materials for the most efficient conversion of solar energy into electrical energy"—a process that can be applied in everything from hazardous waste treatment to alternative energy sources and solar fuel production.

Dr. Widera-Kalinowska credits the project's success to the power of collaboration, both with her students and with fellow scientists around the globe. Adelphi students played a vital role in

shepherding the research to completion, gaining hands-on experience in advanced instrumentation and topics in photochemistry, material science and nanotechnology. They also spent several months in Poland working alongside experts in the lab. "My students were able to learn that science is an international language," she said. "No matter our nationalities, partnerships like this make it possible for people to help each other find solutions that alleviate global concerns."

In that spirit, Dr. Widera-Kalinowska is now planning a new research project with her U.S.-Polish team in the hope of developing additional hybrids that contain novel semiconducting materials. "We want to gain a better understanding of the basic working principles of these semiconducting nanohybrid materials," she said. "Our goal is to make these materials more effective in their potential applications as alternative energy sources, tools of environmental remediation and producers of solar fuel." ■

1 Widera-Kalinowska, Justyna, and Stephanie Dulovic, Sophia Casto, et al. "Comparative studies of properties of CdSe/POMA hybrid films electrodeposited on HOPG, Au and Pt substrates." *Surfaces and Interfaces*, vol. 22, October 2022.

Speaking Through the Camera

A student-led photovoice project empowers people in treatment to share their experiences and build community ties

People in treatment for mental health and substance abuse rely on relationships with friends, family and their community for support. But during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, forced isolation threatened to significantly weaken—and even sever—these ties.

Chrisann Newransky, PhD, associate professor, and Philip Rozario, PhD, interim dean, both of Adelphi's School of Social Work, who had already been partnering in New York City with Harlem's Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, saw an opportunity to engage local populations who were feeling the worst effects of social distancing. After recruiting several Adelphi students to help with study design and implementation, they launched Café Photovoice at the Bowen Center in 2021, where it still remains on permanent display.

Photovoice is a participatory research method that puts the tools of documentation in the hands of participants. People in treatment at the Bowen Center were given a camera to capture moments in their daily lives during the pandemic, including their use of mental health and substance use

services. In addition to offering service providers and policymakers firsthand insight into how people access their services, this methodology also enabled participants to connect with peers facing similar circumstances.

Julissa Adames-Torres, a doctoral candidate at the time who received her degree in 2021, and Master of Social Work student Shelita Birchett Benash, who received her degree in August 2022, led efforts to recruit participants, facilitate group discussion sessions and visually present data. "Julissa brought with her years of experience and training in group facilitation and clinical social work, which were essential in establishing rapport with all participants and engaging them in the process of photovoice," Dr. Newransky said. "Shelita, who is a trained photographer and artist, combined her creative skills and social work knowledge to highlight and amplify participants' voices using their images and words in the graphic presentation of their concerns."

For Dr. Adames-Torres, the experience was a deeply meaningful one. "I was able to connect with the participants' resilience," she said, "which meant engaging with them as they shared their lived experiences, understanding their present circumstances during a pandemic and processing moments of hope for the future." ■



Left to right: Philip Rozario, Shelita Birchett Benash, Chrisann Newransky, Julissa Adames-Torres, Photovoice Artist, Luis Laboy



Shelita Birchett Benash and Julissa Adames-Torres introducing Photovoice at the opening



Guests at the Photovoice Exhibition opening

Photos © Lauren Weissler Photography 2023



Chrisann Newransky, PhD, is an associate professor in the School of Social Work whose focus centers on health services utilization, health disparities, integrated health, vaccination, social inclusion and evaluation research.



Philip Rozario, PhD, is a professor in the School of Social Work. His research interests include the well-being of caregivers of frail older adults, finding meaning in later life, successful and productive aging, and the long-term care issues of frail older adults.



Questioning the Scientific Consensus on Carcinogenesis

Student-faculty team examines the foundational assumptions of carcinogenesis modeling

Carcinogenesis—or the formation of cancer through cellular transformation—is a largely undetectable process, which makes tracking its evolution difficult. “We can’t observe cancer’s emergence, so mathematical epidemiologists must model it instead,” according to Joshua Hiller, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at Adelphi.

In 1954, researchers Peter Armitage, PhD, and Richard Doll, MD, developed the first widely accepted model of carcinogenesis. “It is still, to a great degree, the foundational model we use today,” said Dr. Hiller. “You start with a healthy cell. Then the cell undergoes some number n discrete irreversible mutations, each with some waiting time. At the end of the series of mutations, you get your first cancerous cell.”

In the years since Drs. Armitage and Doll published their model, however, the mathematical and scientific standards for disease modeling have grown more rigorous. Dr. Hiller wanted to see how well their work had stood the test of time. In collaboration with Gabriella Smokovich ’21, MS ’22; Andrew Velasquez-Berroteran ’22; and Eleni Zamagias ’21, MS ’22, all Adelphi students at the time, he and colleagues at Western Carolina University scrutinized each part of the model, hoping to unpack the logic behind it. “We wanted to know which assumptions were necessary to make the model fit real-world data,” Dr. Hiller said.

Smokovich, Velasquez-Berroteran and Zamagias were responsible for re-proving the proofs in the model. They

also conducted historical research and examined the probability of various case scenarios. Eventually, the group identified a surprising result: No stochastic process—a mathematical technique for modeling random events, such as gene mutations—exists that can account for all of the assumptions at the same time. “Only by relaxing the assumptions could we create a stochastic model that fit the data,” Dr. Hiller said. “My students were able to prove original mathematical theorems no one else had proved before. It showed them that they could be successful as applied mathematicians.”

Their findings were published as “An Axiomatic and Contextual Review of the Armitage and Doll Model of Carcinogenesis” in the 2022 edition of *Spora: A Journal of Biomathematics*.¹

The students all agree that they gained invaluable experience. “Completing this research not only allowed me to dive further into a topic that I found interesting, but also helped me learn how to present myself in a professional environment,” said Zamagias.

Smokovich, who now teaches at a high school in Queens, New York, turns to the project for inspiration in her classroom. “When I teach the concepts of statistics, I challenge my own students to choose a question they have interest in and do a basic statistical analysis, as I share my own research journey,” she said. “Our work reminded me that I can do whatever I put my mind to.” ■

1 Hiller, Josh, and Gabriella Smokovich, Andrew Velasquez-Berroteran, Eleni Zamagias, et al. “An Axiomatic and Contextual Review of the Armitage and Doll Model of Carcinogenesis.” *Spora: A Journal of Biomathematics*, vol. 8, 2022, pp. 7-15.



Josh Hiller, PhD, is an assistant professor of mathematics and computer science. His research focuses on stochastic processes, mathematical biology (including mathematical epidemiology, models of deforestation and carcinogenesis), algebraic combinatorics and graph theory.

Johanna deLeyer-Tiarks, PhD, is an assistant professor in the School Psychology Program. Her research centers on the investigation of interventions to promote social-emotional, behavioral and academic success across populations, particularly LGBTQ+ students and individuals with disabilities.



Support for LGBTQ+ Students Making the College Transition

A new theoretical framework outlines best practices school psychologists can use to help LGBTQ+ youth prepare for college

Transitioning from high school to college is difficult for many adolescents, but those who belong to the LGBTQ+ community struggle more than most, resulting in disproportionately poor academic, behavioral, social and emotional outcomes. Yet, according to Johanna deLeyer-Tiarks, PhD, assistant professor of school psychology in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, no scholar has ever developed a theoretical framework to help correct the disparities faced by LGBTQ+ youth who are navigating the high school to college transition. As a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, Dr. deLeyer-Tiarks began evaluating the literature surrounding LGBTQ+ youth in the context of school psychology, her specialty, and noticed a startling omission. “People had been applying isolated solutions to the problem, but those were just Band-Aids,” she said. “There was no unified theory that considered all the specific challenges this population faces.” In collaboration with fellow student Hao-Jan Luh, PhD, now an assistant professor at Rowan University, Dr. deLeyer-Tiarks decided she needed to fill the gap.

Since 2017, the pair have worked to create a framework that school psychologists can use to set LGBTQ+ youth up for success in college. They invited Frances Mandracchia, MA ‘22, an Adelphi graduate student at the time, to present “Framework for Evaluating LGBTQ Students’ High School to College Transition” at the annual meeting of the National Association of School Psychologists in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. deLeyer-

Tiarks had previously worked with Mandracchia on the Adelphi Pride Committee. “His promise as an emerging scholar,” she said, made him the ideal candidate to serve as the face of the project on a national level.

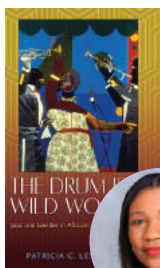
The framework relies on the integration of three theories: first, minority stress theory, which posits that LGBTQ+ people experience distinct stressors as a result of their minority identity; second, social capital theory, which asserts that social connections, such as support from family and a robust friend group, are necessary to function effectively in society; and third, college readiness, a composite of different behavioral variables that acknowledges the importance of motivation for students adjusting to college (a cognitive trait often lacking among LGBTQ+ youth). From there, Drs. deLeyer-Tiarks and Luh identified four areas—peer, family, school and individual characteristics—that school psychologists can target to design and implement culturally informed best practices.

The next step, Dr. deLeyer-Tiarks reports, is to put their framework to the test. “Before we run trainings or publish in practitioner-oriented materials, we want to be completely sure these interventions and assessments do what they’re supposed to do,” she said. “But it’s clear that LGBTQ+ students are much less well prepared for college than their cisgender, heterosexual counterparts, and we want to do something about that.” ■



New Faculty Books Offer Fresh Perspectives

In the past year, Adelphi faculty continued their tradition of publishing books that challenge existing assumptions and create new, vital knowledge. Their work spans a wide range of disciplines, from memoir to queer studies, psychotherapy, accounting and nursing. Some look inward for insight, while others look ahead to map uncharted scholarly terrain.



The Drum Is a Wild Woman: Jazz and Gender in African Diaspora Literature (University Press of Mississippi, 2022), by **Patricia G. Lespinasse, PhD**, associate professor of African, Black and Caribbean studies, probes the relationship between women and jazz music in recent African diaspora literature. The book uses the figure of the Wild Woman, the female blues vocalist, to reclaim a history that has

historically been told through a male-centered lens.

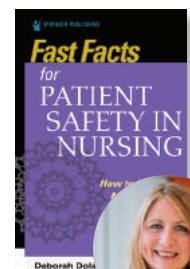
The LGBTQ+ Muslim Experience (Routledge, 2022), by **Chana Etengoff, PhD**, associate professor of psychology, presents an intersectional framework for conducting research, training and clinical practice related to LGBTQ+ Muslims.



The book aims to honor the population's lived experiences, articulating the unique stressors they face while asserting their capacity for resilience.

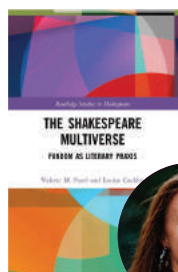
Fast Facts for Patient Safety in Nursing: How to Decrease Medical Errors and Improve Patient Outcomes

(Springer Publishing, 2022), by **Deborah Dolan Hunt, PhD '12**, dean of the College of





Nursing and Public Health, responds to an urgent need in the healthcare system by explaining the causes of common practitioner errors and outlining step-by-step guidance for correcting them.



The Shakespeare Multiverse: Fandom as Literary Praxis

(Routledge, 2022), by **Louise Geddes, PhD**,



professor and chair of the Department of English, and Valerie Fazel, PhD, of Arizona State University,

explores the evolution of Shakespeare fandom since the 1600s, offering a new approach to literary criticism that pushes the limits of traditional scholarship.

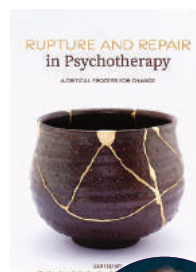
Kids Those Days: Children in Medieval Culture (Brill, 2022), co-edited by **Lahney Preston-Matto, PhD**, professor in the Department of English, and Mary Valante, PhD, of Appalachian State University, presents a selection

of essays on childhood throughout the Middle Ages. Contributors examine child abandonment and abuse, children's disabilities, fosterage, guardianship, burials, and criminal behavior, a boy bishop ceremony, children seeking miracles, and more.



Rupture and Repair in Psychotherapy: A Critical Process for Change

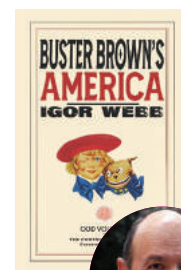
(American Psychological Association, 2022), co-edited by **Catherine Eubanks, PhD**, professor, and



J. Christopher Muran, PhD, associate dean, both in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, along with Lisa Wallner Samstag, PhD, of Long Island University, provides solutions for healing rifts between patients and therapists, drawing on real-life case studies from therapeutic experts.

Buster Brown's America: Recollections, Reveries, Reflections

(Odd Volumes, 2022), by **Igor Webb, PhD**, professor of English, is an essay collection that reflects on different periods in the author's life, from his childhood emigration from Slovakia



to his relationships with various literary luminaries (including Philip Roth) and his experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

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