

## Powerful and Encouraging Conversations: Adelphi hosts 9th annual Women's Leadership Conference

BY CIARA SALINAS AND  
KENNEDY NASHE

Adelphi held its 9th annual Women's Leadership Conference in March with co-chairs Leean Black '83 and Humera Qazi '93 and invited keynote speakers Nataly Kogan, best-selling author and creator of the

Intended to allow for discussion about purpose, work and how women can support one another, the event began with a networking brunch followed by a kickoff session, The Reinvent-able Mindset: A Framework to Grow and Thrive During Change and Uncertainty with Nataly Kogan. Using her "loving agitation," Kogan worked

networking opportunities. One of the first breakout sessions, The Power of Patience: Leading with Your Values included panelists and Adelphi University alumnae Renee McLeod-Sordjan Ph.D. '23, Israa Nasir M.A. '13 and Molly Dyson-Schwery M.S.W. '14. Entrepreneur Nancy Engelhardt moderated the discussion which focused on managing the mental load that can lead to stress and irritability. Panelists shared strategies about how to maintain patience, set boundaries and lead effectively, and they answered questions from the audience.

Business management student Jasmine Vargas experienced an important takeaway about the self. She said, "One thing I feel stood out to me was being present with yourself because I think if you're present with yourself, you can be present for other people that need you."

Biology student Deijah Barrios said that she was truly inspired by the words spoken in one of the breakout room sessions about financial literacy. She said, "As someone who is currently trying to figure out how to split their savings up, they gave a lot of good advice on what to do and how to start investing."

To end the night, participants were invited to attend the keynote dinner, where Coleman served as

the keynote speaker. Moderating the conversation was Irene Quarshie '98. The two discussed Coleman's time with Disney and her ventures as an activist afterwards. The dinner was filled with laughs, valuable insight and the sharing of accomplishments. 🐾



Keynote speaker Monique Coleman (right) shares her experience as an actress and activist and what has helped her through hardships. Photo by The Delphian Staff

REINVENT•ABILITY™ framework and Monique Coleman, an activist and actress best known for her role in "High School Musical."

with the audience to challenge their limiting beliefs and adapt to change.

The conference consisted of numerous breakout sessions and



Keynote speaker Nataly Kogan guides the audience through the process of overcoming adversity in life changes. Photo by The Delphian Staff

## Adelphi's Third Annual Writers & Readers Festival Speaks Truth

BY BRIAN REICH

"Sometimes when people think you are telling a story, you are actually telling the truth," said Jodi Picoult during her keynote conversation with fellow author Alice Hoffman at the Writers & Readers Festival. This discussion felt like a thesis statement for the entire event, each panel further bringing light to the power and responsibility that all writers have.

The Writers & Readers Festival took place from April 15 to April 17, 2026 and over the three days, participants attended workshops featuring Adelphi professors, alumni and guest speakers discussing all aspects of the creative process. From panels discussing how writing and poetry are themselves revolutionary acts, to the differences in the traditional publishing route and self-publishing, there was always a different and engaging conversation happening.

Alice Hoffman spoke about her experiences writing and editing a creative non-fiction essay collection about dogs. Tim Weil discussed his experience

making the musical "Rent" in relation to his newest autobiography coming

champion, along with English professors Emily Lee Luan and Jan-Henry Grey



Adelphi University's Associate Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives Louise Geddes (far right) introduces Alice Hoffman (seated right) and Jodi Picoult at the Keynote Conversation on April 16, 2026. Photo by Brian Reich

out, and Adelphi's very own MFA student Ed Mabrey, who is currently the Individual World Poetry Slam

discussed the evolution of their poetry along with the reasons they write.

As it has been in the previous two

years, the event was a massive success gaining a lot of attention not only from Adelphi students and alumni, but also from high school students across Long Island. Garden City High School senior Isabella Fuertes attended the Writers & Readers Festival with her class. She was an enthusiastic participant. "It was absolutely lovely. This was our second time coming and each year seems to get better. We are so happy to be here," she said.

Adelphi leadership positively agrees with Fuertes's view on the event. Associate Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives Louise Geddes said, "This has been a wonderful event and we are thrilled to see so many writers here talking about their craft including some of our brilliant writers representing Adelphi."

It seems guaranteed that next year we will be getting a fourth annual Writers & Readers Festival. From conversations about the publishing world to discussions of time in fiction, students can expect insights from more accomplished individuals that will inspire their own writing journeys. 🐾

## A Word from the Editor

Welcome to the home stretch, Panthers!

The spring semester is almost coming to a close and finals week is just around the corner. Even with all the chaos that is happening from constantly studying to assignment deadlines quickly approaching, this is a bittersweet time. For seniors, it's time for them to move on with life beyond Adelphi and try to forge their own path with the skills and knowledge they have gained over these past four years.

This farewell also means saying goodbye to our three graduating editors: Troy Cofie, Sophia Sewpersad, and Kyle Arjoonsingh. These three have been exceptional in their roles and I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to do late night editing with. As you read on, you can view their farewell letters as they discuss their growth during their time at Adelphi.

And before things get too sappy, I would like to introduce the e-board for next semester! Please welcome: Ava Geaniotis, managing and features editor; Manjot Kaur, sports editor and secretary; Ciara Salinas, opinions and social media editor; Jazlyn Baptiste, arts & entertainment editor and production assistant; Kennedy Nashe, web content editor; and Urayah Graham as treasurer.

And of course, I will be returning as the editor-in-chief while Gabrielle Jaipersaud will continue to be our production editor.

Now, enjoy this issue amidst your cramming and we will see you next year, Panthers! Have a great summer and good luck on finals!

Arpan Josan '27  
Editor-in-Chief 🐾



## The Delphian

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## The Delphian Hosts First Blackout Poetry Party in Celebration of National Poetry Month

BY AVA GEANIOTIS

The art of writing requires selecting the best words to use to tell a story, and so does blackout poetry – just in an innovative and unexpected way.

On Friday, April 10, The Delphian hosted its first ever Blackout Poetry Party in celebration of National Poetry Month. Blackout poetry is a style of writing poems by selecting words of a pre-existing writing piece before using markers to black out the unused surrounding text.

At The Delphian's event, hosted in the newsroom on the lower level of Earle Hall, students gathered to create their own blackout poetry using leftover copies of The Delphian's newspapers from the 2025-2026 academic year. Students bonded over writing, poetry and the Italian buffet and pizzas catered for the event.

After finishing their blackout poems, attendees were encouraged to glue their work onto colorful construction paper. Many students used their creativity by cutting relevant photographs out of the newspapers and pasting them around their poems. Some created shapes out of the construction paper, as well, or used the black markers and pens to draw around their poems.

Senior English major Justin Schweickert said, "I had a lot of fun. Everyone had a lot of great poems. I had a great time."

Schweickert's blackout poem, 'Mr. Adelphi,' is about a man named 'Adelphi' who in his fiction runs the university. Schweickert said he was inspired by the

prevalence of the word 'Adelphi' in one of The Delphian's articles, and thought it would be humorous if he made his poem about someone with that as their name.

Delphian Editor-in-chief Arpan Josan agreed with Schweickert's feelings about the evening. "The event went so well," Josan said. "We had an amazing night of laughter and food."

The Delphian team hopes that this event is the first Blackout Poetry Party of many to come. 🐾



**Students eat, chat and celebrate National Poetry Month.**  
Photo by The Delphian Staff

## Mayor Mamdani and Adelphi University collaborate in the Undergraduate Scholarship Program For Municipal Workers

BY THEO UY

It's official, Panthers! Adelphi is participating in the New York City Mayor's Scholarship Program to give full time New York City government employees the opportunity to pursue undergraduate and advanced degrees.

According to Chief Enrollment Officer Shawana Singletary Adelphi is an enthusiastic partner of this initiative. She said, "Adelphi University is honored to serve New York City through the Mayor's Scholarship Program, creating meaningful pathways for city employees to advance their education and careers."

Singletary mentioned how, with its multiple locations, city employees can conveniently take advantage of Adelphi offerings. She said, "With a beautiful Garden City campus on Long Island just 45 minutes from New York City and a new Manhattan Center located at Fifth Avenue and 44th Street in Midtown, Adelphi offers students both accessibility and excellence."

Singletary added, "Our programs in social work, education, healthcare, psychology and business are designed to strengthen the workforce and support the communities that make New York thrive."

City employees must meet Adelphi's admission requirements and apply through their agency personnel offices. The first undergraduate cohort

will be available for application from March 30 to April 27. Selected participants will be expected to begin their studies in Fall 2026. 🐾

**The Delphian  
is online and  
very social.  
Use this QR  
code to access  
all our links**



## Learning Not to Constantly Fear What's Next

BY JOSEPHINE SCALIA

I don't particularly like change. I never have, and I likely never will. At the same time, it is inevitable, leaving me in a bit of a predicament.

Recently, I woke up in a sheer panic realizing that graduation was only a few weeks away. While I obviously knew about this event looming



Josephine Scalia

over my head as it is effectively what I have worked tirelessly for, I was struck with an overwhelming sense of clarity.

This in-between period taking place from now until graduation has left me hyper fixating on the "What's next?" chapter of my life. At times, I still feel like the confused and nervous freshman I was on my first day of college in August of 2022. I must admit I'm not totally sure where the last four years have gone.

Many people in my life have asked the standard question, "How does it feel to graduate?"

I am left stricken with anxiety and apprehension for what's to come. I knew Adelphi wouldn't be my forever home, but rather serve as a stepping stone prepping me for the real world.

Often times, I deal with bouts of insomnia that leave me grappling with some of my biggest fears which recently are shockingly tied to my future. Where will I end up? Who will be by my side? And the most frightening: Will I be happy? I don't know. And I won't be granted

the answer until I actually go find out for myself. These past four years have been instrumental in my self-development. It's so easy to be self-critical and hold onto meaningless regrets, but if I take a few moments to truly look back on the person I was four years ago compared to now, I've come pretty far. I've honed in on my interests, declared a major, made friends, lost friends and learned so many incredible things.

I must thank the many kind professors I have encountered during my time as an English major as well as being part of the STEP program. Your guidance has been invaluable and I can never thank you all enough. Additionally, I must acknowledge that my on-campus employment in the Office of External Relations and Special Events has been pivotal in my self-growth and confidence. This job has given me the opportunity to meet and work with so many incredible people, and taught me the importance of organization, collaboration and problem solving which will absolutely help me in my future career as an elementary school teacher.

I didn't want to waste my final moments of undergrad, so I went into my senior year not wanting to miss out on any experiences that I had previously not participated in, whether it be by making excuses or not feeling confident enough. One of the first things I did was sign up to join The Delphian at the fall club fair. I have been an avid reader since freshman year and dreamed of playing some role in producing the newspaper.

Being part of The Delphian has directly shown me the importance of empathy, persistence and collaboration in an increasingly apathetic and isolated world. I am also profoundly grateful to work alongside some of the most creative and intelligent people Adelphi has to offer. It was truly a privilege to write for The Delphian under the supervision of our wonderful editors as well as Professor Valenza who truly believes in the voice of the students.

I've spent a lot of time in my short existence waiting for opportunities of all kinds to magically trip and fall into my lap. Let this be my plea to you: Do not wait. Go out and seize the day! 🌟

## To The Delphian: Thank You

BY TROY COFIE

Strange to think that almost a year ago I was asked by our previous Editor-in-Chief, Joseph D'Andrea, to be the next Opinions Editor for the Delphian. I technically was supposed to be deputy Opinions Editor, but, unexpectedly, that wasn't the case. I had to step into the role with no training, but I was

ready to take on the new challenge. I'll admit, it was a lot more challenging than I expected.

The unexpected changes to our e-board, the development of our new website and recruiting new writers were all experiences that we confronted as a team. And honestly, I think we did pretty well for ourselves considering some of our setbacks and stressful nights editing articles

at the last minute. In a strange way all those experiences are fond memories for me.

I have to thank our advisor, Professor Valenza, and everyone on the e-board for being amazing, diligent and hardworking individuals despite our tight schedules. And, I have to thank all the writers for the opinions section. I'm content with the progress that many of our new writers experienced

and the friendships that they made along the way. I think one thing that surprised me about this experience is how The Delphian feels like a community. Our meetings never had been this packed nor lively. It warms my heart. Thank you, everyone, for allowing me to be your Opinions Editor for this academic year, and I can't wait to see what The Delphian does in the near future. 🌟

## Where to Go from Here?

BY SOPHIA SEWPERSAD

This year has been a year of change, to say the slightest. Looking back, The Delphian has been the part of my academic journey that has been a place of creativity and growth. Managing the features section with Kyle, and handling the shift to a revamped version of our social media page was a challenge at first (change isn't always the easiest), but growing with a team of amazing people allowed me to get more involved in the creative aspect and helped me develop a love of Canva I didn't know I could possess, truly.

Being a part of The Delphian's e-board has allowed me to get a better glimpse of what it takes to build a newspaper – the late nights, the back and forth of editing and figuring out what picture is best for a published article's layout. Going through this experience and getting the physical copies of print made me respect the process so much more than I did before, and I hope that the future editorial staff go in with as much respect and care for the development process as we have this year.

Where to next? I'll be joining the next cohort of graduate business students right here at Adelphi for the Accelerated MBA program, and then after that (hopefully) heading into law school! Being part of the editorial process and working with the rest of the e-board truly solidified my decision to stay in the arts and humanities, assisting to protect

the work of writers, readers and creators in their respective fields. If it isn't obvious from before, my admiration for the creative process has grown and I want to continue being part of it for as long as I can in any form, especially when it comes to publishing and getting work out into the world.

With graduation approaching in a little less than 15 days from this publication, it feels bittersweet to step into the true home stretch of my undergraduate years. From the assignments to the research projects and my senior thesis project in the Honors College, it doesn't feel real that I can't come back in the fall and continue as is. But as someone who has had the late night crash outs and the inevitable questioning of her career path, I can safely tell you that it's okay to follow your heart and make those big decisions. It's so much more worth it when everything pays off than if you made a choice you wouldn't be happy with.

Special thank you to The Delphian's e-board – Arpan, Troy, Kyle and Gabby – and of course our amazing advisor Professor Valenza for driving all of the publications this year and getting the stories of Adelphi out for the campus to read. More thanks to my faculty advisors and professors from the English and business departments as well as the Honors College faculty for encouraging me on this pathway of my academic life here at Adelphi! All the best to the future writers of The Delphian! 🌟

## Still Figuring It Out

BY KYLE ARJOONSINGH

I don't think I fully appreciated Adelphi while I was here, and maybe that's the most honest way to say goodbye. Leaving high school in 2022 felt strange because I've never been a fan of change. It's not that change is bad, it just doesn't feel comfortable in the moment. Now, as I reach the end of my final semester, I can say with confidence that I wouldn't change a single thing about my undergraduate experience.

I remember my first day at Adelphi



My last picture with my grandmother taken in December 2025 when my sister and I surprised her for Christmas.

Photo by Karen Maharaj

as if it were yesterday. It began with an 8 a.m. class, "Exploration in Mathematics," taught by Professor Alvin Estrada. Whose idea was it for my first college class to be math? I'm still trying to figure that out. Still, I walked in extremely nervous and left realizing that college was not as scary as I had anticipated.

Nervousness is something I know well. I have always been reserved because of my fear of being judged. It took time to find my footing here, and at times it still feels like I am, but I have grown more than I ever expected. I am the child of two immigrant parents who came to this country in search of a better life. They were not perfect, but they did the best they could with what they had. One lesson they always instilled in me was independence. Growing up meant figuring things out. For them, it meant learning how to stand on my own, even when I didn't know exactly what I was doing.

Writing became the space where I could do that for myself. I have been writing for The Delphian since my sophomore year. I have always loved writing, so when I learned there was an opportunity to contribute to the school paper, I took it right away. What started as a role as a staff writer eventually grew into co-features editor, and I am

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## Let's Talk Water: Adelphi's Circle K Hosts Thirst Gala 2026

BY CIARA SALINAS AND  
JAZLYN BAPTISTE

On April 22, 2026 Adelphi's Circle K International club hosted their third annual Thirst Gala. This was coordinated by president Hazel Agicha and vice president Tiana Tirbaniesingh. The event included a dinner, speeches, raffle baskets and a performance by Adelphi's AU Evolution dance team.

Club president Agicha has always been interested in being part of an organization that seeks to help others. She joined Circle K because of her drive to bring people together through organizations like The Thirst Project which is the largest youth-led water organization seeking to aid countries in need of water. Sponsored in part by Kiwanis, they provide infrastructures like wells to these countries. Circle K's goal is to raise \$25,000 for this cause.

Agicha informed the audience about how much water people in the U.S. use on a daily basis compared to those in other countries such as Uganda, El Salvador and India. Most U.S.

citizens use 90 gallons a day compared to 1 gallon used in these countries.

First-year health science student Jade Nabavian felt inspired to join Circle K because of its goal to help others. She encourages students to edu-



**President Hazel Agicha '28 and Vice President Tiana Tirbaniesingh '27 are driven by their passion to help others, especially those in need.**

Photo by Ciara Salinas

cate themselves about water use. She said, "I want them to be more aware about the water and where it goes."

After the dinner and speech, the AU Evolution dance team performed. Following the dance, gala participants mingled together trying to complete the gala's find the guest bingo activity.

Secretary for the Kiwanis Club of East Meadow Matt Kamper was pleased with the event and its sponsors. He said, "Thirst Gala is an amazing organization."

His father Kevin Kamper, who is also actively involved in Kiwanis, believes in the importance of his organization for young people and was excited to see so many students attend. He said, "Kids need Kiwanis."

President Agicha hoped to make the Gala motivational for students who feel called to

help others in need. She also encouraged those who need service hours and want to attend Circle K conventions to join because of the community formed through one common goal: to help those in need. She said, "I want people to feel inspired and motivated to get up and

make a difference. This gala, although it had many parts to it, it's very satisfying seeing it come all together. One person can make the difference." 🐾



**Adelphi's AU Evolution performed for the Thirst Gala of 2026.**

Photo by Jazlyn Baptiste

## The Delphian's Student Media Advisor Set to Teach a New, Hands-On, Real-World Course: Social Media Lab

BY AVA GEANIOTIS

The rise of new technologies, including social media, has altered the way that people receive information and communicate. It's become more essential than ever that educational institutions are adapting to this trend, and Adelphi's communications department is becoming a part of this movement.

Among multiple new communications courses set to begin next semester on emerging media, Professor Suzanne Valenza, an adjunct professor in the communications department currently teaching Web Journalism and serving as the Student Media Advisor for The Delphian, is set to teach Social Media Lab (COM-367-007).

In this course, students will gain hands-on experience making content for different Adelphi departments, producing posts, videos and graphics. Students will also learn about account management, content strategy, digital marketing and audience engagement.

"Students will gain hands-on experience working with real clients, while the university benefits from increased visibility," said Communications Department Chair Mark Grabowski. "Everyone comes out ahead."

Valenza hopes that students will appreciate that the course is less lecture-based and more like an internship. "I want students to get the opportunity to meet with clients, determine their needs and then produce content for the client's desired social media platforms that exceed the intended goals," she said.

Valenza intends that this class

will allow students to develop meaningful professional connections and produce campaigns that they can include in their professional portfolios. She said that she believes in education that encourages individual growth while developing a sense of community.

Chair Grabowski said that Valenza has "extensive experience supervising student media and has won awards for that work."

As a result, she knows how to manage a class where students create real content for real clients. Grabowski added, "Professor Valenza is the ideal person to run [Social Media Lab]."

Prospective students are looking forward to a class that allows them to develop this real experience. One enrolled student, sophomore communications major Christabel Tediato, said, "I'm just hoping to get more experience with video editing—more short-form content, more experience running social media—what to post, learning algorithms more."

She added, "And it's always a nice thing to put on my resume."

Looking forward to the new class next semester, Valenza said, "Adelphi students are such a pleasure—they are fun, caring, hard-working and so interesting. I'm proud of what we've accomplished so far, and look forward to what more we can do next year when being new isn't such a major constraint."

She added, "I encourage interested students to register for the class."

There are still seats available in this course in the Fall 2026 semester registration page on CLASS. 🐾

## Still Figuring It Out

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forever grateful for my time on the e-board.

My experience with The Delphian opened the door to so many more writing opportunities across campus. I completed an internship with UCOMM where my byline appeared in Adelphi's official headlines, and worked with the communications department to publish pieces in its newsletter, all while maintaining a spot on the dean's list for my eight semesters.

As much as I value those accomplishments, they are only a small part of my experience here. It would not feel right to reflect on my wins without also acknowledging the losses. My time at Adelphi is dedicated to my late grandmother, Judy Khan Maharaj, who passed away during spring break. Everyone called her Judy,



**My entire family in March 2026—they make grief less overwhelming and remain the foundation of everything I've achieved.** Photo by Leo Parris

even her children and grandchildren. It was never out of disrespect, it was simply who she was. We never questioned it, and she never felt the need to correct us.

Judy was not the most outwardly expressive grandmother, but her love was unlike any other. She was a no-nonsense woman who would cook as if there were no tomorrow. Growing up, when my parents had to work during the summer, my mom would take us to Trinidad to stay with her for the two-month break. For those months she became our mother, and I often wish I could relive those days. Wherever she may be, I hope she knows she is still a part of everything I do.

I can confidently say that the past four years have not been easy, but I am so proud of who I have become and everything I have accomplished along the way. I credit my family and close friends for supporting me through it all and helping me stay grounded.

With that, I leave this chapter behind with gratitude. To the future e-board members, contributors and students, continue to support The Delphian and help it grow as a space for your voices. As much as it hurts to say goodbye, I leave knowing the future of the paper is in good hands, and for that I am incredibly grateful.

To everyone I met at Adelphi — Skylar Dorr, my former co-features editor, thank you for your guidance; Professor Liza Burby, our former faculty advisor, thank you for helping me discover my love for journalism; and Professor Suzanne Valenza, our current faculty advisor, thank you for pushing me to refine my skills. To Arpan, Gabby, Troy and Sophia, thank you for being such an incredible, collaborative team. Thank you all for shaping me in ways I will always carry with me, for the lessons I expected and even more for the ones I didn't. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for welcoming me into a space where my voice matters, even as I'm still figuring it out. 🐾

# From Typewriters to PCs: Three Delphian Alumni Share Their Experiences with Publishing

BY AVA GEANIOTIS, KENNEDY NASHE AND CIARA SALINAS

Since its founding in 1951, The Delphian has evolved from late nights spent manually editing the weekly paper by hand on the third floor of the University Center to meetings in Earle Hall focused primarily on posting articles online. For 75 years, Adelphi's student-run news organization has created a space for students to express their voices regardless of their background or major, creating lasting memories with friends and producing newspaper issues with varied technologies.

Jeffrey Schwartz '84 was the news editor and managing editor of The Delphian, writing for the paper from 1980 to 1984. Post graduation, he became a journalist who primarily covers technological topics.

Amy Newman '93 was the Editor-in-Chief of The Delphian and contributed to the paper from 1989 to 1993. She majored in English during her time at Adelphi, and since then has worked in marketing.

Victoria Grinthal '20 was an editorial editor of The Delphian, and was a member from 2017 to 2020. She contributed to the paper as a writer while studying in STEM as a computer science major.

## 1980–1984: Jeffrey Schwartz

Schwartz was a communications major during his time at Adelphi and today is a journalist specializing in information technology. Even before he entered Adelphi, Schwartz knew that he wanted to join the school's paper. He began as a reporter as a freshman and later held the positions of news editor and managing editor.

During Schwartz's time at The Delphian, the process of producing a paper was extremely hands-on. According to Schwartz, writers used typewriters and editors would make corrections and critiques in pencil since there were no computers yet.

To produce the layout of each issue, all the articles would be sent to a printer that would typeset them into galleys. From there, Delphian members needed to cut up the galleys and then paste them onto each page the way they wanted them laid out.

"It was a very arduous process," Schwartz said.

In the beginning of his junior year, Delphian members decided to update their equipment. "We spent – I don't remember the amount, but it was something on the order of \$50,000," Schwartz said.

In particular, they put in a system called Compugraphic, which were very large machines. "I wouldn't say they were like mainframe computers, but they weren't like PCs, either," Schwartz said. According to Schwartz, they had two big keyboards and used large floppy disks.

Still, members had to type their articles out before retyping them into the systems, which Schwartz described as "basic word processors." A separate device would then produce their galleys, which would come out on a special paper that needed to be trimmed and waxed. It was then that they could precisely cut them to be laid out.

"[The process] was still kind of manual, but a little less manual than it was," Schwartz said.

"But at the time, it was pretty advanced," he added.

While he didn't realize his passion for technology in school, Schwartz credits The Delphian with giving him experience in journalism that helped him land his first job and led him to report on the technology of recording, television broadcasting, video and telecommunications. During the '90s with the advent of the web and rapid development in new technologies, his career



**The process of producing a paper was extremely hands-on. According to Schwartz, writers used typewriters and editors would make corrections and critiques in pencil since there were no computers yet.** Photo by The Delphian Staff

in technological journalism expanded.

Schwartz made a lot of friends during his time at The Delphian who all shared his passion for writing and putting out a quality paper – even with the constraints of the technology at the time. Schwartz said that together, they "tried to make it as graphically appealing as possible and as informative as possible."

## 1989–1993: Amy Newman

In the early '90s, technology around the world and in The Delphian's newsroom began to advance, though it was still some time before the debut of Windows software. Newman was a member of the newspaper as a freshman and served as Editor-in-Chief from 1991 to 1993.

The spring before her first semester, The Delphian ordered its first set of computers, signaling a transition to use of technology known today.

During the late '80s, The Delphian writers used WordPerfect, a word-processing application, to type their articles. "I had a computer at home, which not everybody had," Newman said. "Some people came to college with a word processor."

Newman had no experience creating layouts and had never used a mouse. She said that learning how to lay out the newspaper consisted of taking the words from WordPerfect, saving it to a floppy disk – "a big floppy disk," she added, "not even the little ones that came in the mid '90s" – launching Ventura Publisher and importing the words into the layout to "play around with the fonts and get it so it was whatever the specs of The Delphian were."

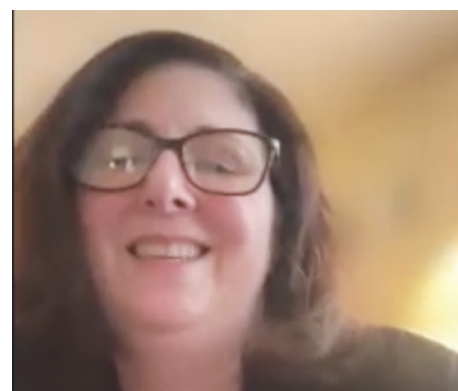
Newman described the next part

of the process as "arts and crafts." After laying out the newspaper on the computer, the pages were printed out, cut to fit on a flat, which Newman described as "a big piece of paper with grids," and lined up.

"If you put [the pages] in crooked, it would print crooked," she said. "At some point, I think it was my freshman year, the larger-sized font disappeared and we spent probably the remaining three and a half years, we couldn't figure out how to get the fonts back." Because of this situation, the new font eventually became the style of the newspaper.

Newman recalled that there were often late production nights. When everything was pasted and prepared, the flats were double-checked to ensure they lined up, then placed in a huge portfolio-like envelope and driven over to the printer in Westbury so it could be printed.

"Now that usually happened on average between 2:30 and 3:30 in the morning," she said. "There were some issues that were so intense and required



**During the late 80s, The Delphian used WordPerfect, a word-processing application, to type their articles. "I had a computer at home, which not everybody had," Newman said. "Some people came to college with a word processor."**

Photo by The Delphian Staff

so much work that we were dropping it off at the printer when [the employees] were coming in to work that day. So we were bringing them at 6:30, 7 a.m. – then everybody would go home, pass out and go to class on Wednesday."

Newman chose to attend Adelphi

with the intention of pursuing a career in journalism, although she said there weren't any journalism classes when she got here. The Delphian was the only outlet that allowed her to practice writing as a journalist and it provided her with a space to pursue her interests and then some. "It was pretty clear it was a fantastic group of editors and writers, and people just really engaged with the Adelphi community. Everyone was warm and friendly," she said.

Newman added, "I came for the writing and stayed for the friendships."

## 2017–2020: Victoria Grinthal

Due to the rapid technological advancements of the 2010s, the world of journalism changed forever. Editorials editor and staff writer Victoria Grinthal shared her experience with the digitization of journalism and its impact on The Delphian.

Ever since high school, Grinthal has always loved to write. As a budding computer scientist, this made it even more exhilarating to do what most people in her major did not: take out a pen and paper and voice her opinion. She acknowledged that her contrasting interests – computer science and The Delphian – gave her the ability to explore different perspectives and create diverse editorial pages.

With her computer science focus and a graphic design minor, Grinthal helped with the digital layout process. She said that being able to research and look up how pieces should be edited was one of the many benefits of modern technology. She also stated that having digital access to other writers as an editorials editor made communication during the writing and editing process easier.

Grinthal reflected on how the rise of social media and advancing technology changed the content of The Delphian, and a few of her articles were even about social media. According to Grinthal, referencing sources, accessing other people's opinions online and gaining new topics became easier due to the digitization of journalism.

Grinthal said, "Those were the days when Instagram was crazy, and Twitter and Tumblr, and all these different things. So, there was always a place to find a person's opinion, and always a place to reference from it. And I think that was a really good resource, and a really good tell for the time."

Grinthal said that the ability to ask others about their thoughts and opinions fascinated her because of how personalized each individual's feed became.

"Being with the technological standpoint and everything, I felt like it made sense to me – it felt like it made sense. To also ask other people, 'Hey, how are you dealing with your world, and how are you dealing with what you see on your feed?' Because that in itself is kind of so specific to every single person. Just because everybody's feed is so personalized, it's really cool to find common ground."

However, Grinthal admitted that modern technology has as many drawbacks as it does advantages. She had to learn how to be patient and give herself grace

Continued on page 6

## From Fan to Field: Adelphi Student Works Behind the Scenes in Professional New York Sports

BY KATIE BROKES

On a breezy summer evening, as the crowd's attention shifts to an elementary school child racing the bases for a Dunkin' gift card, Adelphi senior and mathematics major Daniella Speranza is quietly making it all happen behind the scenes.

Daniella Speranza works in game-day operations for multiple New York sports teams. She works to expand the in-game experiences for fans in the stands. She focuses on coordinating promotions and ensures that engaging activities catered to fans run seamlessly during live events.

Speranza never imagined she would be working alongside some of the most respected athletes in the world. After spotting an ad for Blue Crew members, the New York Rangers' game-day operations team, she nearly skipped the audition due to nerves and self-doubt. Instead, she took the chance and ultimately landed a role that opened doors she never thought possible.

Speranza works part-time across multiple organizations including the New York Rangers, New York Knicks and New York Mets. Each team presents unique challenges, timelines and fan expectations that require her to constantly adapt. "It's a lot to balance, but I love the fast pace and being part of so many different environments," Speranza said.

Her responsibilities vary depending



Photo by Michelle Farsi

on the venue, but one of her primary roles involves organizing contestants for in-game promotions. This includes selecting fans, gathering their information and ensuring they are ready to step onto the field, court or ice at precisely the right moment.

"We have to make sure everything happens right on time," Speranza said. "If someone is going on the ice or the court during a break, they have to be ready immediately."

Promotions must fit perfectly between gameplay, television broadcasts and arena entertainment. Whether it's coordinating the seventh-inning stretch or preparing a tightly timed Knicks segment lasting just over a minute, Speranza must plan every second.

In addition to contest coordination, Speranza plays a key role in mascot appearances and fan interactions. She helps organize meet-and-greets, and guides mascots to performance locations

including leading them onto the dugout for crowd-engaging dances. Occasionally she even becomes a mascot, too.

At times, she stands on top of the dugout holding "Let's Go Mets" signs to energize the crowd. On other nights,



Photo by Michelle Farsi

she takes the field, stepping into mascot duties and participating in races with other mascots to entertain fans between innings.

Speranza said she also assists with special events like exclusive fan experiences and media opportunities, ensuring each element runs smoothly and aligns with the team's schedule.

Working across ice, turf and court has strengthened her ability to think quickly and adapt. "Every event is different," Speranza said. "You never know exactly what's going to happen, so you have to be ready to adjust."

Speranza collaborates closely with athletes, performers, fans and event staff to ensure each game-day experience runs without disruption.

A colleague with the Rangers organization Emma Rossi is impressed with Speranza's work ethic. "Her unwavering dedication to everything she commits herself to is a true testament to the kind of person she is," Rossi said.

Speranza's passion for sports began long before her career. Growing up, she admired athletes like David Wright of the Mets and Henrik Lundqvist of the Rangers. "As a kid, I was a huge fan of all the teams that I work for, so being able to work alongside these athletes is crazy to me," she said.

Despite the excitement, the job comes with challenges. Long hours, late nights, weekend schedules and demanding commutes are all part of the routine. The spring season is especially busy, as the Mets begin play while both the Knicks and Rangers often enter playoff contention.

Still, for Speranza, the vitality of live sports makes it all worthwhile. "I love being part of the energy," she said. "Seeing fans excited and knowing you helped create that experience is really rewarding."

As a smiling face on Jumbotrons she once only dreamed of being on, Speranza encourages others. She said, "Take chances because you'll never know where you'll end up." 🐾

## Adelphi's English Department Welcomes Eric Dean Wilson

BY KAYLA MURILLO

After months of heavy interviewing and processing, Adelphi's English department has hired Dr. Eric Dean Wilson as a new professor.

Dr. Wilson is an essayist and creative writer with a number of degrees. He earned a bachelor's from Northwestern University, a master's in creative writing from The New School and a doctorate in English with a certificate in American Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, for his work in environmental literature.

His dissertation titled, "The Personal and the Planetary: Essaying the Ecological" dives into how contemporary American essays from an ecological perspective can help people understand the boundaries of the self in literary nonfiction. It won the English Program's Alumni and Doctoral Faculty Prize for the Most Distinguished Dissertation of the Year. Dr. Wilson fell into writing a book about air conditioning titled "After Cooling: On Freon, Global Warming, and the Terrible Cost of Comfort." Through writing this book, he was taught about environmental theory and explored that aspect in literature. It explores the history of air-conditioning, climate science, road trips and philosophy to tell the life story of freon, the refrigerant that helped create a hole in the ozone layer larger than the United States of America.

Currently, Dr. Wilson is increasingly writing more about queer literature and theory with an upcoming book titled, "Queer Woods: On the Nature of Cruising." He described his vision for the novel as "exploring the idea of public sex in parks and looking at public spaces through queer ecological lenses to better understand

how to share space with others."

Previously, he was a teaching fellow in the Mellon seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research through the Center for Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center. He also taught at Queens College, FIT, The New School, and Ramapo College. Dr. Wilson is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and American Literature at Wagner College located in Staten Island, and now a Professor of Creative Writing at Adelphi University.

Wilson's writing has appeared in numerous publications such as TIME, Esquire, and the Los Angeles Review of Books among others. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, he now resides in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

Dr. Wilson will be teaching two courses this upcoming fall. Creative nonfiction in the MFA writing program (ENG 647) and Literature and Other Arts (ENG 267) for undergraduates. He imagines that the undergraduate course will be eco-themed and tied into environmental humanities. Students will read texts that are examples of obvious and not so obvious ecological issues in literature while also exploring other forms of art and how ecological literature is adapted in that way.

Dr. Wilson is looking forward to joining the Adelphi community because of its vibrance and openness to new ideas. Teaching on Long Island for the first time, he's eager to learn new perspectives from a new set of students. He's also eager to introduce students to ecological and queer literature and writing, and discuss why it's an important topic. He said, "Through learning about these topics, you gain the power to change the narrative." 🐾

## From Typewriters to PCs

*Continued from page 5*

when dealing with the technology, especially when it got challenging.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Grinthal and her fellow Delphian staff had to get creative when writing articles and working on other Delphian projects. She recalled creating a piece with other writers on how they each entertained themselves during quarantine, her hobby being playing the guitar. Although there were numerous challenges, she stated that she couldn't imagine her last semester at Adelphi any other way.

Grinthal expressed that her fondest memories of being at The Delphian were seeing new members and students who were usually shy or quiet try new things and write for the paper.

**Advice**

All three Delphian alumni have advice for aspiring journalists.

Schwartz said, "Always be curious, be skeptical. Try to create your own style of reporting and writing."

Newman's advice is similar. She said, "Journalism has changed so much in the last 30 years, and if that's the path

you're looking to go down, I think it's also important to feel comfortable with more than just the written medium."

She encourages younger reporters to remain open to possibilities and the ability to tell stories in various ways with all media. She added, "Be curious, because when you stop being curious, it's when [journalism] stops being interesting."

Grinthal's advice for students is to "take the step" and see where that path leads you. She acknowledged that if she hadn't done so, she would have never made so many memories she now treasures. She also encouraged young journalists to keep writing and get their voices out there, even if they think nobody is going to read it. Ultimately, their opinions matter and are important to the community. 🐾

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## To Read or Not to Read?

BY SYEDA ERRAH BINT FAWAD

That is the question rattling bibliophiles and students with deadlines awake at night (I am both). Peering at my bedside table, I see Ocean Vuong's "Emperor of Gladness" and "The Selected Poetry of Rainer Marie Rilke" stacked between neuroscience research articles and assigned texts on anthropological theory.

These readings typically range from high-priority to leisurely, but the categories become irrelevant when the clock turns and the books remain unturned. Students often find themselves in a routine predicament of deciding what to read first before retreating to the comfort of their predictable algorithms.

A 2017 study found that only 37% of incoming freshmen are proficient in 12th-grade reading standards. Scientists and scholars often point to digital culture and the rise of AI as the potential culprits. A frequent complaint I hear from professors is that students are too focused on their screens and lack attention spans for class. Although this critique holds some truth, it doesn't get to the root cause. The truth is our focus has never really progressed and only gotten more distracted with time. And, contrary to popular belief, the screens are not entirely to blame.

In "Too Much to Know" historian Ann Blair traces the anxieties of "information overload" back to the Renaissance, particularly after the advent of the printing press. She traces this apprehension in various cultures. Ann Blair mentions the Roman philosopher Seneca, who would warn his peers of collecting excessive volumes as it would make them "discursive and unsteady." Even the Bible outlines the endless production of texts in Ecclesiastes 12:12: "Of making books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

Humans have always erred on the side of caution. But could it be possible we became too taken with our own warnings, and quietly transformed centuries of concern about over-reading into a culture of under-reading? As someone with a growing to-be-read list, I wonder if I will ever even scratch the surface.

The accumulation of reading materials is perhaps the greatest paradox of the modern age. We're told we have access to any information in the world but no guidebook on how to navigate it. From Twitter threads on environmental catastrophes to war strategies, the average student is drowning in an unreliable influx of information.

Writer Ria Chopra describes our current moment as a "permacrisis"—the permanent state of stress and instability that young people exist in. Between economic uncertainty, live-streamed genocides and the lingering effects of COVID-19, many students retreat to familiar distractions as a form of "default mode." In that light, a high screentime may be more of a coping mechanism than a discipline problem.

It's not that college students are suddenly getting dumber or losing their ability to read. They're simply fatigued by the choice of reading everything. Social Psychologist Roy F. Baumeister coined this phenomenon as 'decision fatigue'—the mental paralysis experienced after making too many exhaustive choices.

Amidst this fatigue, a byte-sized YouTube video is relatively less cognitively demanding compared to a 250-page novel. This superficial consumption of knowledge makes reading classical or philosophical texts feel less rewarding.

Former Google Ethicist, Tristan Harris, also compared scrolling to a "Vegas slot machine," where unpredictable reward reinforces compulsive behaviour. Scrolling becomes pleasurable, even if it makes us feel horrible later. Even Aza Raskin, the mind who created infinite scrolling, expresses regrets for making boredom,

being stuck in a loop of doomscrolling."

A 2025 study defines doomscrolling as a "state of hyper-vigilance" with negative, threatening, content that heightens anxiety and exacerbates cognitive processes. In today's digital reality, one would assume critical thinking to be a high-demand skill used to maneuver misinformation and manipulated content. Yet, it remains undervalued, overshadowed by the emergence of AI tools and human dependency upon them. When the Library of Alexandria resides at your fingertips, the focus shifts from thoughtful analysis to passive skimming.

So, how do we read thoughtfully when we're bombarded with deadlines and digital noise? Some scholars suggest the answer lies in cultivating conscious space for reading. Patty Krawec, an Indigenous writer, discusses "dawisijigem," an Ojibwe term centered on the intentional act of making physical and

Professor of Anthropology Kathryn Krasinski suggests that recontextualising non-Western texts could make them more engaging. She said, "I think fundamentally the kind of reading that I get to read and write on is part of a broader conversation. Maybe if we framed those works within their position, folks would be more interested in knowing a little bit more about them."

One way to revive that conversation is through book clubs.

Junior communications major and vice-president of Adelphi's Panthers for Progress club Natalie Ward co-founded a campus book club last fall that focuses on leftist books from international authors. She said, "Students at Adelphi often don't like to do things that don't benefit them tangibly, like getting a section on a resume or extra credit."

She added, "A book club is an antithesis to that mentality and relies on learning and community as the only motivation for going. Many of us have made friends through the book club, and we've learned a lot from each other about the world around us. Reading is slow, it is patient and it is an act of self-care to better oneself through it."

Reading has always been political. In an era of misinformation and AI-generated content, books offer something radical: uninterrupted focus. Reading, therefore, becomes the most potent remedy against propaganda. As Aldous Huxley wrote, "Everyone who knows how to read has it in their power to magnify themselves, to multiply the ways in which they exist, to make their life full, significant, and interesting."

As a child, the liberty of reading anything fueled my bouts of passion and curiosity towards books. I was never forced to finish a book series I did not enjoy or swap a young-adult novel for classical literature. That freedom mattered until academia complicated that relationship.

Academically assigned texts re-introduce the idea of quantity over quality. Reading becomes a metric of intelligence: the more you read, the more you know and the more participation points you earn. In these environments, readers and non-readers unknowingly form an intellectual hierarchy that rewards performative reading over genuine, critical discussions.

There will always be too much to read. But, instead of feeling overwhelmed by it, we can choose to be deliberate. Read books that meet you where you are and where you want to go. Move between yaoi fanfiction and Homer's metaphors without guilt. What you read matters less than how you read it. As academic Bekah Waalkes suggests, all it takes is "a willingness to dedicate a few minutes a day, and maybe a few new habits."

To read or not to read... William Shakespeare and I might agree that in a world overflowing with books, choosing to read something is better than nothing. To be is better than not to be. 🐾



A display of banned books in the children's section at Copperfield's Books in Petaluma, California. Photo by Errah Fawad

once a gateway to reading, inaccessible.

Without flashy engineered content, reading can feel like an indulgence. Mass material culture around reading is shifting rapidly and at the precipice of extinction. Just last year, publishing houses decided to cease production of the beloved mass-market paperbacks, once readily sold at gas stations and corner kiosks.

"The Atlantic" contributor Rose Horowitz states that the problem reflects "a shift in values rather than in skill sets." College students can read books, but only if they want to. With skyrocketing college tuition, many students would rather focus their time on working on their resumes and towards paying off their student debts. Adelphi junior biology major on the pre-dental track Aleeza Khurram said, "As competition for graduate schools increases, my peers and I focus more on experiences that will strengthen our applications instead of reading. It becomes a hobby that can easily be pushed to the side to make room for other obligations. After a long day of classes or work, it is easy to turn to our phones as a source of entertainment instead of books, as it is less mentally taxing [than]

mental space for reflection. She encourages readers to implement this principle into practice by engaging deeply with "books from a particular place or people."

To read books by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) authors, universities must also confront their curriculum which mostly comprises eurocentric texts with racist and colonial language. Growing up in Pakistan, British authors were often prioritized—an unfortunate product of colonialism. In 2021, The New York Times reported on Dan-el Padilla Peralta, a Dominican-immigrant historian at Princeton University, challenged to eradicate "whiteness" from the classics, even if it meant the death of the discipline itself.

Efforts to diversify texts are further complicated by widespread book bans. According to PEN America, nearly 23,000 books have been banned in public schools—the highest number in United States history. Limited exposure to diverse perspectives inevitably narrows how students engage and participate in discussions of non-Western cultures and belief systems.

To ameliorate this, Associate

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# BREAKING NEWS

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## CON “GRAD” ULATIONS!

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Writer

**Wishing you much love and joy as a new chapter in life begins.**