



## Holi Festival Provides Splashes of Color and a Popular Event



(Top) Navindra Tajeshwar and (Below) Professor Rakesh Gupta partake in the Holi festival by participating in the coloring and eating some cultural foods.

*Photo provided by Tony Halsteindal*

### BY TONY HALSTEINDAL

On May 4 Adelphi's Office of International Student Services, in association with AU Bhangra, AU Sapna Bollywood Fusion Dance Team, the Interfaith Center Muslim Students Association, Newman Club and Sikhs United held a Holi Festival on the Levermore Lawn. The Holi Festival, also known as the festival of colors, is an ancient Hindu festival that celebrates the arrival of spring, and it has grown to be popular with many non-Hindus in many parts of South Asia as well as with people of other communities outside of Asia.

The festival itself started with a few opening remarks from Prof. Rakesh Gupta, which informed the attendees of the origins of this festival that dates back over a thousand years and occurs every spring. However, the notion of celebrating the arrival of spring is a tradition that can be found all around the world. The



Egyptians had a harvest festival, the Incas and the Aztec both had similar traditions, and even in Swaziland there is a tradition known as Umhlanga. They all revolve around spring and there are also common themes that can be found in all of them; they all usually take place around the equinox. It tends to happen during a full moon, they tend to be celebrated with a

fire ceremony in the evening and also music, dance and colors. In India the colors are celebrated by people splashing themselves and others with colored dry powder.

"I have not had the chance to celebrate Holi publicly in the 50 years since I left India," Prof. Gupta said. "So I have been looking forward to this a lot."

After Prof. Gupta's opening remarks the attendees had the pleasure of viewing an Indian styled dance performance, which was quickly followed by the ancient tradition of splashing one and another with colored powder in which both many students and professors cheerfully participated. All through the festival, the attendees had the opportunity to have a taste of traditional Indian food, such as kebabs.

"Now that we are post-event, I see that, since we ran out of powder only

after 30 minutes, it was very well received by the Adelphi community and I think we can do it bigger," said junior, Navindra Tajeshwar, who is also of Indian decent. "It also shows that we are all open to different cultural ideas since they were just amazed by this new experience as opposed to experiencing culture shock."

In previous years Holi has been celebrated on a much smaller scale by individual clubs such as the International Student Society and the South Asian Student Association. This year the wish to make a bigger Holi festival was brought to the attention of Wendy Badala, the Director of International Student Services, who then reached out to the International Mentors and several other clubs and offices. In the end the festival ended up as a big collaboration between these organizations.

"And it went really well, so hopefully we will keep on doing it," Badala said.



## A Word from the Editor

It's crazy to believe the semester is nearing its conclusion and summer will soon be upon us. It's been an amazing year and serving as editor-in-chief has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I'm excited to say I will be back next year for a second term at the helm. Although there are some wonderful people on our staff that could fill in the position, they will have one more year to hone their skills even further. It's also my hope that you won't mind putting up with me for an additional year!

Although it's that time of year when we're all just running on pure adrenaline and burning our last reserves to get through it all, *The Delphian* staff wanted to deliver one final issue to inform and entertain during the last couple of weeks. The campus has certainly kept busy in the recent weeks and we wanted to make sure to keep up.

In the last issue, I was thrilled to announce the Press Club of Long Island named *The Delphian* as the Best Collegiate Newspaper. I'd also like to report the Press Club also announced the individual award finalists, and majority of our editorial staff was listed, including: Alexandra Wurglics, Danielle McDougall, Fallon McCarthy and myself. These honors only prove the hard work put into this newspaper over the past year.

I feel conflicting emotions transitioning to the next portion of this note because although I'm excited to see what two of my editors will accomplish after graduation, they will be sorely missed. Our features editor, Alexandra Wurglics, has served on the editorial staff of *The Delphian* for longer than even I have. As a freshman and new staff writer to paper, I often found myself sending my features to Alex for review. In the subsequent years, I worked closely with her and she has always proven to be invaluable, and I'm disappointed to see her go, but I'm sure she'll be met with nothing but success in her career. We will also be losing Jonathan Sclar, our editorials editor, who stepped right into the mix this year and delivered quality editorials and proved to be extremely reliable. He got the job done time in and time out and I'll miss him as well.

As disappointing as it is that Alex and Jon are moving on, I am still very optimistic and have every bit of faith their replacements will rise to the occasion and fill the void thoroughly. First, I'd like to congratulate Brian Jennings on being selected as the new editorials editor. He's been a consistent contributor to the paper throughout his time at Adelphi and his interest in on- and off-campus issues will surely maintain the quality of the section. Brian is actually the only newcomer, but there will be some section shifts. Gabrielle Deonath will be transitioning from co-entertainment editor to news editor. Also, the beloved "feature-tainment" section will be revived and under the care of Jessica Cooper and Danielle McDougall. Finally, rounding out our staff, Fallon McCarthy will return as the sports editor for next year.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the seniors graduating in the coming weeks. You've truly earned it and best of luck with your future endeavors.

Hang in there, we're almost there!

-Bryan Grilli  
Editor-in-Chief

## The Delphian

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## Outdoor Class During a Warm April Day



On a warm spring afternoon in April, many Adelphi classes were held outside, including this stage combat class led by Professor Ray Rodriguez (foreground) from the Performing Arts Department.

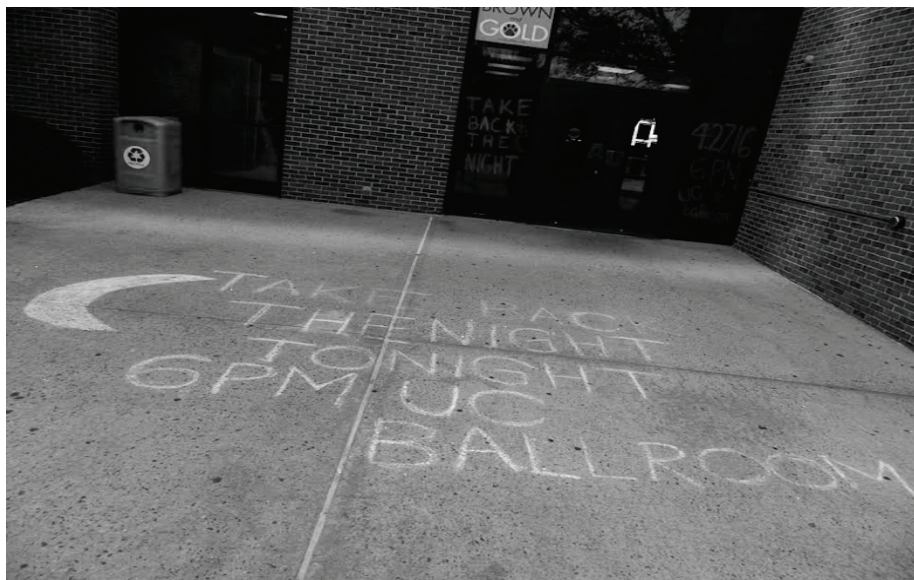
*photo provided by Liza Burby*

**Did you  
want to  
join our  
staff, but  
didn't get  
the chance?  
There's  
always next  
year!**



## Adelphi Unites, Fights: Taking a Stand Against Sexual Violence

BY JESS COOPER



Students could see chalk drawing messages around campus.

photo provided by Jess Cooper

Adelphi's community banded together to take a stand against all forms of sexual and domestic violence on April 27 in the UC Ballroom. The primary mission of Take Back the Night was to raise awareness about the issue of sexual violence and to assert we will not tolerate violence of any kind. The event began with a Speak Out, where members of the university community took to the podium during this time to talk about their experiences as survivors of violence. Over 600 were reported to have attended this event to rise up against an issue that colleges often overlook.

Tatesh Sookdeo, a sophomore double major in management and economics, said he has been a member of the Take Back the Night committee for two years. "One of the things that makes us so unique at Adelphi is that we have a sense of family and togetherness," he said. "And family tends to look out for each other. That's what makes us different. We all are a bunch of educated, very socially aware people and we know what's going on. And I think that's because of education due to committees, due to student leaders who are very much involved in creating a safe place for all the Panthers

here on campus."

After the Speak Out, attendees were given chant pamphlets and glow-sticks and led out onto the campus for a march in the name of fighting back and taking a stand against sexual violence.

"We have the power/we have the right/the streets are ours/take back the night!"

"Join together/free our lives/we will not be victimized!"

"Adelphi unite/take back the night!"

These were some of the compelling chants that rang through Adelphi's campus that night, at least 100 voices strong. The Speak Out was about honoring, listening and learning; but the march at the end of the night was purely united empowerment. In Sookdeo's opinion, getting out there and making some noise was the best way to end the night and close the event.

"I tend to think, and this is my mindset: The more noise you create, the more people are going to become aware," Sookdeo said, "the more they're going to want to know what's happening. So after listening to everyone's story, it doesn't stop there. We have so much work to do and one of the most important things as victims, as people who stand with victims, is to tell people that the end is the end."

Our school's community banded together to prove that while sexual violence is an epidemic in colleges across the country, Adelphi refuses to tolerate it, and is always eager to stand up and fight.

People currently struggling with a history of sexual harassment or violence are urged to contact the Safe Center LI 24-hour hotline at 516-542-0404, or Adelphi's Student Counseling Center at 516-877-3646 (UC Room 310).



Clothesline Project shirts decorated with anti-violence messages.

photo provided by Jess Cooper

## PCLI Offers Career Advice and Resume Review



More than 75 students attended the April 19 communications career advice and resume review session offered by the Press Club of Long Island (PCLI). The panelists were (from left to right) Bridget Shirvell, Kevin Maher and Bill Bleyer. Adjunct professor, Liza Burby, organized the event with *The Delphian* and the Communications Department.

photos provided by Thomas Campbell



## Brazilian Program's Future Is Uncertain, But Students' Experiences Will Live On

BY BRYAN GRILLI



(L-R: Bruno Hidalgo Lemergas, Cassio Henkin Pilla, Joao Vitor Almeida De Lima, Mariana Moura da Silva  
Photo provided by Center for International Education

In 2012, the Brazilian government unveiled the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP), which sought to send many of their top students in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields to global institutions of learning. The goal then being to bring back all the cultural, educational and linguistic perspectives and skills they absorbed throughout the world.

Shannon Harrison, the director of international education at Adelphi helped to establish a connection with the BSMP over the last year. "A country willing to send its best students around the world to study at globally renowned institutions so they can bring the knowledge and experience back with them is very powerful and demonstrates how dedicated they are to improving themselves, especially in the STEM areas."

The students participating in the BSMP have to face their share of challenges acclimating themselves to their new environment. However, the Institute of International Education's statistics on behalf of the BSMP boasts 90 percent of students participating in the program are happy with their experience at its conclusion. This certainly seems to be true for Bruno Hidalgo Lemergas, a computer science major, who was one of the first four Brazilians to participate in the program at Adelphi.

"I'm so glad I decided to participate in this program," Hidalgo said, whose experience concludes at the end of this semester. "I've learned a lot about the cultural differences between the countries and having classes in English is helpful because not only am I able to improve my English, but also learn new things in my field of study."

Hidalgo also mentioned his first impression of Adelphi, referring to how he first noticed how the campus was "beautiful and the people so friendly and invit-

ing." When trying to adjust to living in a new country with a different language and culture, being able to enter into a comfortable environment was beneficial to him.

"I'm sure when I go back to Brazil, I'll have a lot of great experiences to share with my campus," he said.

"I think the main benefit to studying at Adelphi is the specialized courses we have to offer, which complements what they've already learned," said Lee Stemkoski, associate professor for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and one of Hidalgo's mentors Hidalgo. "Since he is particularly interested in video game development, which is my area of specialty, Bruno has taken courses in game programming and related topics each semester, participated in the 2016 Game Jam and his work was featured in a video game exposition that was part of Adelphi University's annual research conference in April. I hope that these experiences have helped him grow as a game developer, and we at Adelphi have helped to provide a foundation of skills that will serve him well in his chosen career path in the future."

Some of the students had to overcome some difficulties during their experiences here, but in the end, the experience proved to be worth the challenges for nursing major Mariana Moura.

"Since the beginning of the process to apply for this program, I was faced with many challenges. The selection and the tests, but the hardest part was all the bureaucracy. After arriving on US soil, the culture shock of course was a huge struggle, but as a nursing student the clinical terminology can be a difficulty factor," Moura explained. "Overall it's been an amazing experience of a first world education system, along with personal growth and self knowledge."

Harrison also thinks it's not only

the Brazilian students who are benefitting from the program. "Having these students on campus is a benefit to the campus as well," she explained. "The Latin American international student population at Adelphi is one of the smaller ones, so having the Brazilian students here has brought a new perspective to classroom dialogue. They have a different cultural perspective that can lead to enriching discussions and help create a global campus for our students that might not be able to go abroad themselves."

Stemkoski said: "Working with the Brazilian students has been a great experience. They are all very talented, motivated and excited individuals. Each has brought a fresh perspective to the classes here at Adelphi, since they have a different background than our students. It has been a pleasure teach each of them."

Although the program has clearly demonstrated their government's investment in their country's future, the BSMP is more than likely coming to its conclusion.

"Brazil is facing a delicate moment economically and politically speaking," Moura stated. "The main reason to why the program was frozen is lack of financial resources and strong increase of the exchange rates between American dollars and Brazilian reals. For now, both undergraduate and post-graduate parts of the program are not opening new opportunities."

Despite the program's probable end, the connections, experiences and learning built by the program will carry on into the future and bring about improvements as the participating students reach the top of their fields. For the four students studying at Adelphi this past year, they also always know they have a place to call home in Garden City, New York.

## Sleeping Out for a Good Cause

BY MIKE PARCHINSKY



Kappa Sigma Fraternity  
photo provided by Jake Lapidus

On Tuesday, April 26, the Kappa Sigma Fraternity here at Adelphi hosted their biggest philanthropy event of the year. Sleep Out for Soldiers is an annual event put on by the fraternity that puts a spotlight on our military veterans and helps us all learn more about their harrowing experience when at war. The event is aimed at supporting the fraternity's national philanthropy organization, the Military Heroes Campaign, the international philanthropy organization of the fraternity. Its main mission is to provide support to wounded veterans and their families when they return home from their various tours of service.

"It is important to promote awareness for the United States soldiers and the conditions they go through when they return and assimilate to civilian life," said Steve Petrario, president of Kappa Sigma.

The event began at 4 pm on Tuesday with brothers of the fraternity pitching tents all over Levermore Lawn to make a sort of tent city. After the tent construction, the brothers, along with others, spent the next few hours playing games like volleyball and football all while listening to music and chatting about the great event itself.

As night came, and guests left, the brothers began preparing for bed. As per tradition, they slept out in the tent city that they had built earlier in the day, to recognize the struggle that our country's bravest soldiers must endure when they are on the front lines, defending our freedom.

"Sleep Out for the Soldiers symbolizes how much these men and women have sacrificed for us," said JJ Ferrigno, Kappa Sigma's vice president.

Although the weather did not fully cooperate and it was a bit rainy at times, the brothers were all happy with the event and excited that the event had as much success as it did.

"Even though the weather wasn't in our favor, our brothers stuck it out in the rain," Petrario explained.

In the end, the fraternity was able to raise over \$900 that will go towards supporting wounded veterans and their families. Additionally, this event was able to raise awareness for their cause and demonstrated their dedication to the entire campus community.



## Local Filmmaker Makes Award-Winning Film While Battling Cancer

BY FRANCESCA  
GIAMMANCO

Like his recovery from cancer, Terrence Ross's latest film is somewhat miraculous. The longtime Adelphi University film professor recently produced an internationally acclaimed film while simultaneously battling bladder cancer. Although both the convalescence period and the film-editing process were difficult, Ross grew as a person and cinematographer as a result.

"The whole experience has made me appreciate life so much more, I feel the finiteness of everything and want to enjoy what I have for as long as possible," said Ross, who's an associate professor in the Communications Department.

Ross's award-winning new film, "When the Sun Came for Them," about marginalized tribes living in the western part of the Sahara desert, will screen at the International New York City Film Festival in November.

There was a time when Ross would have never fathomed such film accomplishments, considering he had a degree in screenwriting and mainly wrote fiction narratives. He worked as an adjunct professor at Adelphi for nearly 17 years before he was offered a job teaching Media Literacy with the aid of technical support. This point marked the beginning of his successful journey into filmmaking. The act of teaching media inspired him to make his own films by taking his knowledge gained from the material and applying it to projects of his own.

Years later, Ross now sits confidently behind his desk as a recent winner of the third place Silver Human Rights Award in the Human Rights Festival and an Award of Merit winner in both the World Documentary Festival and International New York Film Festival for his new film.



**Terrence Ross**

photo provided by Francesca Giammanco

"My goal is to make movies without any money and without any crew, basically to make movies from nothing," said Ross. "The more money you have to spend to make a movie, the less you can tell the truth."

Ross stayed true to this objective as he sent three recent Adelphi alumni, Bec Everett, Enas Elmohands and Lara Halzdo to the Western Sahara with very limited supplies. In their journey, which was financed one-third by Ross and the rest themselves, they were provided with a couple of microphones, solar chargers and two outdated iPads lent by the university. This shoestring budget implemented by Ross allowed the documentary to have an aura of pureness that would earn it such prestigious awards.

Sifting through nine hours' worth of footage is draining enough. But in addition to this, Ross was undergoing treatment for bladder cancer. With no pain or symptoms experienced before, his diagno-

sis came as a surprise. However, the severity of it was possibly even more shocking. In January 2015, Ross was informed that if the bladder was not extracted immediately he probably would not live more than seven months.

A month later, Ross underwent surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in the Upper East Side, but was forced to take a medical leave from Adelphi midway through the spring semester.

Although his time spent in the hospital and the two-month recovery period was brutal, he tried multiple times to go back and look at the film, but found it too hard to conceptualize everything.

"I'm a real worker, so it was sad to have to step away a while," said Ross, who next plans to produce a memoir about his struggle with cancer and how Buddhism allowed him to make peace with it. "But eventually it became a good project to work on because it was a nice segue to do spaced out work, allowing me to be more focused and get back into editing it."

During his leave of absence, Ross organized the film and translated the Arabic dialect. He was surprised to find how difficult this task was, but after many meetings with a translator and a lot of persistence, Ross completed the work accurately. He then crafted in the film's traditional Arabic instrumental music and opening narration. Elmohands, one of the film's cameramen, witnessed the piece transform from multiple unstructured fragments to a wonderfully executed film, all after being placed in the hands of Ross.

"Considering the amount of footage we had, Terrence put in a lot of effort making the connections that we may have missed on the field," said Elmohands. "Before he edited, I attempted to do it myself, but found it overwhelming and difficult, and felt I didn't have the artistic eye at the time to make a film out of what we had, but luckily Terrence did."

Ross's end goal was for the Sahrawi people's forgotten history to be acknowledged and make their wisdom and plight better known to the world through the film.

The Sahrawi, a collection of nomadic tribes, were colonized by the Spanish and had their land annexed by Morocco in 1976. Ever since, the Sahrawi have fled to refugee camps and yearn for independence and remembrance from the rest of the world. Their struggles and sense of community are highlighted through the stories of the many brave people interviewed within the film.

In addition to being screened at film festivals locally and overseas, "When the Sun Came for Them" can be viewed free on the website <http://SharedRoots.net>, which Ross created. It was launched in 2013 to be a social network for ancestors and has even been incorporated into some of Adelphi's curriculum.

Ross is not only an award-winning filmmaker, but also an award-winning teacher. His well-liked persona has secured him the title professor of the year not once, but two times by faculty and students.

"He enlightens us a great deal and points out things I would have never seen or noticed," said Kedene McLeod, a senior in Adelphi's cinema studies program. "He helps me to identify things within myself as a filmmaker and artist."

Thomas W. Campbell, the Communications Department technical director, agrees. "He [Ross] has a keen and sharp mind, he is extremely motivational to his students and incredibly supportive," said Campbell. "I've seen this not only in his classes but in the hallways as well, talking with him about his students, and interactions with students. He brings enthusiasm, a deep knowledge of film history and a love of production -- that's what Terrence brings to our school, that's his unique contribution."

## Not Goodbye, Only So Long

BY ALEX WURGLICS

May 2016 has already come. As I am sure all of the seniors are asking, "Where did the time go?! Yesterday was the end of freshman year, right?" Throughout this last semester of my undergraduate year, I have been reminded more and more of the incredible opportunities Adelphi has given me and of my personal growth throughout my time here. Of course, one of the most significant and major highlights has been my participation on The Delphian staff.

As a freshman, I came in as a prospective high school history teacher with no desire for a career in communications or journalism. I just loved the paper and bringing news and perspectives to other people. This was how I could leave my mark at Adelphi. I went from mainly writing sports articles to becoming features editor as a sophomore and then again as a junior. Senior year was a bit of a curve ball

as I became the features and entertainment editors (or as I was more fondly referred to: "featuretainment" editor) for the fall semester and then back to only features.

I have witnessed the ups and downs of the paper, three editor-in-chiefs, fluctuating editors, editing mishaps, holes in the ceiling of our office (literally), celebrations at the Press Club of Long Island Awards Dinner, and most importantly, the dedication that our writers and editors have showed over the past four years. Each year taught me new lessons, gave me new acquaintances, and allowed me to bring Adelphi, with all of its greatness and also its flaws, to light for the community to read about.

The end of this particular adventure is extremely bittersweet not only because of its end, but because I cannot put into words how integral The Delphian has been in my growth as a person and as a writer. It goes without saying that my writing has greatly improved and I can better

articulate my perspective on matters. Personally, the paper showed me how to be a leader, how to handle situations with poise and introduced me to a plethora of people. I was able to cover President Riordan's Inauguration and meet Kris Allen this year alone. I learned how to speak with people and ask them poignant, thoughtful questions. For this growth, I am eternally grateful.

**"Where did the time go?!"**

I would be remiss to say farewell without wholeheartedly thanking the many people that allow The Delphian to be the best college newspaper on Long Island this year. To all of the staff writers, it has been great to meet you. Keep writing! You never know what will come of it or who you will meet along the way. To my fellow editors, it has been a pleasure to collaborate with all of you and write alongside very talented

students. To Bryan, this paper would absolutely not be where it is today without all of your hard work and dedication this year. I cannot count how many times you have saved the paper while still making the print deadline. I am thankful for our friendship and the incredible projects we were able to work on together. You helped my writing to grow in more ways than one. And last, but not least, Professor Burby, thank you not only for the immense amount of time that you dedicate to the paper, but for pushing me to be a better writer with each and every issue. Your reassurance and faith kept me going and I will carry it with me as I move forward to graduate school.

My time at Adelphi has helped me discover and appreciate Adelphi in a unique and special way. If I could do it all again, I most certainly would, and I would not change a thing. As I will be back for one year of graduate school in the STEP program, this is not goodbye, only so long. Who knows, there may be a guest article or



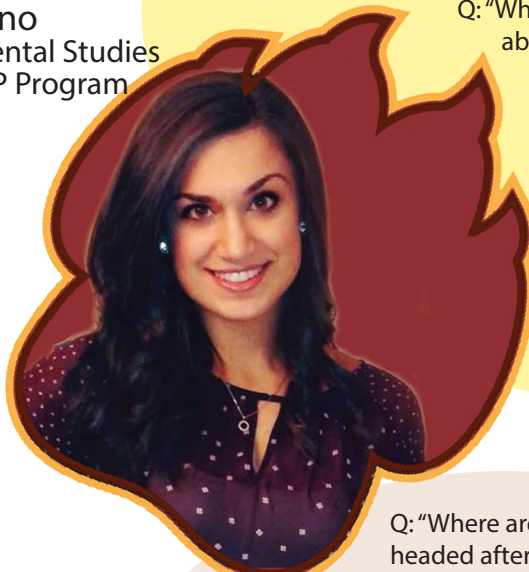
# Roving Reporter

## Graduating Seniors

BY ALEXANDRA WURGLICS

As the semester is coming to a close and another academic year is ending at Adelphi, there are several graduates planning their futures and reflecting on their time spent at Adelphi. We asked five seniors where they are headed after graduation and what they will miss most about Adelphi. Here is what they had to say:

**Lisa Marino**  
Environmental Studies  
in the STEP Program



Q: "Where are you headed after graduation?"

A: "Next year, I will be student teaching and completing my Master's Degree in Adolescent Education here at Adelphi."

Q: "What will you miss most about Adelphi?"

A: "Luckily as a part of the STEP Program, I will be at Adelphi for my Master's. However, I will miss the amazing people who I have grown close with during my undergrad."

Q: "Where are you headed after graduation?"

A: "I intend to pursue a career in renewable energy, in particular solar energy."

Q: "What will you miss most about Adelphi?"

A: "As I move on, I will miss the supportive network of professors and staff at Adelphi that have continually supported me during my time here."

**Victoria Grover**  
Mathematics Major in  
the STEP Program



Q: "Where are you headed after graduation?"

A: "As a student in the STEP program, I am excited to begin my graduate year in the Fall at Adelphi."

Q: "What will you miss most about Adelphi?"

A: "I will miss the friends I made at Adelphi the most. I have formed a real bond with many students I take classes with and it will be strange not to see them on a regular basis."

**Billy Moulder**  
Mathematics Major  
in the Step Program



Q: "Where are you headed after graduation?"

A: "I will be auditioning professionally full-time in Manhattan and working part-time at Starbucks."

Q: "What will you miss most about Adelphi?"

A: "I will miss the sense of community and my second homes that are the PAC and the Honors College."

**Jacky Bernard**  
Theatre Major



Q: "Where are you headed after graduation?"

A: "After graduation, I'll be working in the fashion industry and hopefully getting a chance to travel."

Q: "What will you miss most about Adelphi?"

A: "What I'll miss most about Adelphi is the people-- I've had so many wonderful professors and I've made amazing friends. Graduation is definitely going to be bittersweet."

**Sarah O'Connor**  
History Major





## Adelphi's Arboretum Is a Showcase of Life

BY LEEANN MELLO

You're rushing to class because you are running late. You're starving, but you don't have enough time to eat. Everything about your day is going wrong and you just can't seem to think positive. But have you ever stopped and just looked around you? Have you ever taken the time to realize how beautiful Adelphi's campus actually is? Did you know that our 75-acre campus became a registered member of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in May of 2002? Our arboretum is an entire showcase of nearly 70 different shrubs, trees and flowers that exist all over campus, and it's 100 percent organic. Robert Conaghan, Associate Director of the Department of Facilities Management, who is in charge of the arboretum, said that every plant on campus has its own unique history. For instance, there are azaleas by Adelphi's flagpole that were planted by the class of 1935.

"It would be extremely dif-

ficult to find azaleas older than these. So take a look at them, but be careful. One body falling into these plants can cause major damage," Conaghan said. "We also planted 100 elm trees many years ago, and there are now only three left. They were all destroyed by beetles with the Dutch elm disease. Students on campus also planted a blue apple cedar tree a while back, which got destroyed by lightning. Instead of getting rid of the tree, they pieced it back together. The oldest trees we have on this campus are the oak and maple trees."

Conaghan said that something unique about our arboretum is that pesticides or herbicides have not been used on campus for the arboretum's entire 14 years. He attends classes multiple times a year with organizations like American Public Gardens Associations and the Nassau Suffolk Landscaping Grounds Association to educate himself and his staff on how to take proper care of the grounds..

"They even provide a list of invasive plants that kill our native plants, bamboo being one of the worst," he said.



Adelphi University Campus

photo provided by [www.adelphi.edu](http://www.adelphi.edu)

"It is important for us to keep plants that are native to Long Island also, because the birds on campus are used to seeing them, and the birds are a beautiful addition to the arboretum. These organizations focus a lot on how harmful the use of pesticides really is."

Although the arboretum is a showcase of flowers this time of year, Conaghan said the animals on this campus contribute to the overall appearance. The shrubs attract birds, such as woodpeckers and cardinals, which make the campus even more attractive. There are also Italian Wall lizards all over campus that are not native to Long Island. They may have been released from a pet store that went out of business in the 60s or by a professor in the science building. Conaghan said we may never know, but these lizards are actually beneficial to the grounds because they eat insects.

Conaghan also releases around 50,000 ladybugs throughout the year in order to get rid of all the aphids, a small insect that destroys plants. "These releases are cheaper and a lot less harmful

than spraying poison onto our campus," he said.

We also have a large rabbit population on campus, which thrives on the organic plants. The only downside is that bunnies often get swooped up and eaten by hawks, which is a part of nature, but still shocking to see as you're walking to class.

Conaghan provides tours of the arboretum about six times a year. These tours are usually in the summer, and set up by the alumni association. However, if you give him a call, he is willing to tour the arboretum with you. There has been a hold on upgrading the arboretum due to the construction on the Nexus building and also the damage from Hurricane Sandy. However, there will soon be improvements to our beautiful showcase and the map will also be updated as well. You can find the map at <http://www.adelphi.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/731/files/2014/05/AUarboretum.pdf?t=1400775823-1101459>, as well as a list of 68 different plants.



Azaleas by the flagpole that were planted by the class of 1935.

photo provided by Bryan Grilli

## First-Year Student Award Winner: Noor Meer

BY KAITLYN RASIAK

Noor Meer

Freshman, Class of 2019

Major: Biology

Minor: Psychology

Levermore Global Scholar

Noor Meer is this year's Adelphi University's First-Year Student Award winner. Not only was she given this prestigious award, she received a \$250 Barnes and Noble gift card and gets to speak to the incoming freshmen at Matriculation Day.

Meer is a biology major and a psychology minor, as well as a Levermore Global Scholar. When asked how it felt to be awarded with such an honor she said, "It definitely makes me feel like all my hard work is paying off."

She is involved in chemistry club, is in charge of public relations for the Muslim Student Association club, is a freshman



Noor Meer

photo provided by Kaitlyn Rasiak

representative for the Levermore Global Scholar program, and a social media director, as well as a staff writer for Odyssey. She is also a commuter student, which she said is at times difficult, but she is able to make time on the train for her studies.

When asked about her favorite parts of Adelphi, Meer said she "likes the fact that every day is like an adventure" where one day she and some friends decided to explore the campus and get to know more about the building and those who work there.

She also appreciates the campus diversity. "[At Adelphi] you don't have to be of a certain race or origin. You can be welcomed by people no matter what their size or shape or color or religion or sexual orientation or identity is."

After Adelphi she plans to go into the medical field and become a doctor.



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ENSEMBLE**Monday, May 9 • 5:00 p.m.  
Recital Hall  
Free Event**ADELPHI VOCAL ENSEMBLE**Monday, May 9 • 7:30 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall  
Free Event**ADELPHI CONCERT BAND**Tuesday, May 10 • 7:30 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall  
Free Event**THE ME NOBODY KNOWS**Music by Gary William Friedman  
Lyrics by Will Holt  
Adapted by Robert Livingston and Herb Schapiro  
Based on the book *The Me Nobody Knows*  
Edited by Stephen M. Joseph  
Additional Lyrics by Herb Schapiro  
Direction by Kerry Prep  
Thursday, May 12–Sunday, May 15  
Various times  
Black Box Theatre  
AU Students: \$5**ADELPHI PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**Friday, May 13 • 8:00 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall  
Free Event**MELISSA MANCHESTER**Saturday, May 14 • 8:00 p.m.  
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Melissa Manchester

**From Soccer Field to Film Room,  
Nichols Finds Success**

Senior Ben Nichols is a man of many talents.

photo provided by Pietro Pisciotta

**BY PIETRO PISCIOTTA**

Senior Ben Nichols came to Adelphi with two things in mind: to play soccer and study to become a doctor. Today, he is preparing for a career in cinematography. His newfound passion has already brought him awards and taken him around the world to places such as Havana.

Nichols, 21, grew up in the rural Vermont town of Lyndonville and attended Lyndon Institute, where he set the Vermont state record for most saves in a game at 53 and earned First Team All-State honors. When he began to look at colleges, he knew he wanted to be in or around New York City. With parents from the area, New York was not completely new to him. After looking at many options, he chose Adelphi University.

In addition to making the varsity soccer team as a goalkeeper, Nichols declared a biology major in his first semester, as he was considering becoming a doctor. By his second semester, however, he had changed his major to international studies. Then in his junior year, he added a second major in economics. Changes like these are certainly not uncommon in college; it is the time to find oneself. For Nichols, however, this wouldn't be the last change.

The spring semester of his junior year was the turning point. That semester he took a communications class called Basic Media Production with professors Terrence Ross and John Drew. It was then that he realized his passion for cinematography. The film made for the final project in that class, "Guy," a nine-and-a-half-minute film about a radio DJ meeting some new people only to discover that they weren't real but just fabrications of his imagination, went on to place third and win best editing in Adelphi's Film Festival.

After that, he began to teach himself about cinematography: how to use a camera, watching instructional videos about the essentials of film making, and

making short ads for his father's advertising agency. He made a YouTube channel and began to make short films whenever he could. He says now he cannot even watch a movie without thinking about it from a cinematographer's perspective.

A truly life-changing experience for Nichols was the recent Communications Department study abroad trip to Cuba. On the trip, 11 Adelphi students interviewed, recorded video and produced stories about the historic transition Cuba is currently going through given the recent thawing of diplomatic relations with the United States. He says that this trip really finalized his decision to pursue cinematography as a career.

One of the professors who accompanied him on this trip was Professor Drew. "I enjoyed having Ben in class," said Drew. "He works very hard outside of the classroom, which of course is what media production requires. It takes time to learn how to master a particular camera and it takes time to learn how to compose shots, shoot scenes and later, edit everything together. Ben is one of the more diligent students I've had the privilege of teaching and his self-motivation is now paying off."

Currently, Nichols is editing the film from the Cuba trip into videos that will be published on CubaStories.com, a website the class is building. While no longer playing for the soccer team, he is still involved as the director of communications for the team. He is also helping Professor Joan Schimke of the Communications Department with a documentary about Holocaust survivors reuniting in Brooklyn.

He is also working on a film for the upcoming Adelphi Film Festival. It is currently still in the early production stages. Without revealing too much, Nichols said it will be about "how a very small change in our lives can put us on two different paths." The soccer played-turned-international filmmaker can certainly relate to that.



*The Delphian* ELEVENTH ISSUE WORD SEARCH

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CLUES

1. This women's sports team was awarded the Team Academic Award.
2. Four students from this country studied at Adelphi as part of a government-sponsored program.
3. Take Back the \_\_\_\_\_
4. This newspaper was named Best Collegiate Newspaper by the Press Club of Long Island.
5. An Adelphi student plays professional basketball in this country.
6. This fraternity hosts Sleep Out for the Soldiers.
7. This is Noor Meer's major.
8. This festival celebrates the arrival of spring.
9. This Adelphi professor produced an award-winning international film.
10. Adelphi's campus has status as a/an \_\_\_\_\_ and features almost 70 different kinds of shrubs, trees and flowers.



## Reflections of a Senior Who Found His Passions at Adelphi

BY JONATHAN SCLAR

It is an Adelphi tradition that graduating editors on The Delphian write a reflection piece on their time at Adelphi University. As I write and think about my four years here, I realize that this article will sound quite close to a thank you letter.

Coming out of high school I was not quite sure who I was. My moral code was not yet completed as I had not the experiences I have now. (Granted, I believe everyone's moral code can always grow.) I did not have the intellectual curiosity to know what I wanted to study, hence my changing my major several times during university, and my support system outside of my family and a few close friends was not complete.

I have met a lot of people, engaged in a lot of activities and learned a lot of things during my time at Adelphi; however due to a word count limit I must focus on just a few of the aforementioned. First up is debate. Debate, in many ways, was the harbinger of many things to come for me during my college years. It is here where I met the life-long friends and companions

that have impacted me, and will continue to impact me in a positive way throughout the rest of my life. It is here where I took an intellectual interest in universal social justice, something I will look to incorporate in my future career (whatever that may be). It is here where I fell in love with the study of politics, something I will continue to study well after my years as an undergraduate. As Adelphi Debate coach/professor/philosophical thinker/student motivator/friend to all (It is amazing he has any time to breathe), Matt Lavery, says: There is no better tool for student development, anywhere in university, than debate. Thank you for all of the long chats about debate, politics, sports, life, and anything else you can think of, Matt.

Next I must thank the best department (interpret my bias as you must) at Adelphi: the Political Science department. I joined the department in the first semester of my junior year (indecisiveness is my best trait), but it feels like it has been my home for my entire collegiate career. The students, faculty and professors have created an academic environment that is conducive to the success of any student. I think the most important aspect of that en-

vironment is the respect that everyone has for each other and the desire to learn that is so apparent in each class that I have taken. Dawn ensures that the department runs smoothly in every respect and the students have an ear to listen to them when picking classes, studying for finals or making plans for the future. Professor Levy invests a countless amount of time into her students, giving them a place to come to chat as well as a flood of opportunities for internships, employment and extra-curricular activities. Professor Gray is an example of how students can turn what they love into activism that has a positive influence on the lives of many individuals. Every course I take with Professor Laatikainen is my new favorite one and her classes have effectively guided my career path. Professor Axelrod once gave her class a piece of advice that I won't forget: "If you have an idea that you think is new and will make a difference, share it with as many people as possible." (Not a direct quote). Professor Kaufman, the practicing lawyer in the department, always challenges her students in a fun way; not to mention all of the law school advice. Even after all that they do, everyone in the department works tirelessly on their own

research, work and/or families. It has been a pleasure being a student and a worker in the Political Science Department.

Last but not least I must thank this paper, The Delphian. What started out as a favor for a friend quickly turned into a hobby and then potentially a career path for me. I have loved working with the brilliant people who make up the staff at Adelphi's school newspaper, including Bryan Grilli and Professor Burby. Under their leadership it is no wonder The Delphian won the Press Club of Long Island award for best collegiate newspaper. This paper has given me a voice and an ability to project that voice into the future.

Adelphi has a slogan: It is the people that make the place. Not only does this sound clever, but it is true. At Adelphi, I have found a community of people that look out for each other under every circumstance. Not only will I be retaining a degree from this institution but, when I graduate, I will also have the confidence to meet the challenges that await me in the next stage of my life.

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The Hempstead Chamber of Commerce

&

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## Creating an Aware and Inclusive Campus

BY THE RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

The Racial Justice Alliance invites members of the Adelphi community to join the Universitywide efforts that will continue to engage the theme "Racial Justice Matters" through discussions, lectures and activities in the coming year.

We formed out of a belief that the Adelphi community can do better at being a racially aware and inclusive environment. Ongoing examples of where this has not been the case continuously arise. At issue is not intent. We trust that members of our community care about the experiences of all. However, without raised awareness and mindful action, no change can occur.

One recent example is the event, "Cinco de Lifo," organized by students. The title conveys a lack of understanding about a very important holiday celebrated by many people of Mexican descent. However unintentionally, the event caricatures Mexican culture, history and language. As a public advertisement, it is one of many that can be cited in our contemporary society that can reinforce perceptions and prejudices.

In this case, we contacted the organizers and they have been open to our concerns so hopefully the event will be differently named next year. Aside from this naming and the icon used in publicity, it's a great event. Thanks to the openness and understanding of the organization, we were able to raise our concerns towards a productive solution for all parties. This is

the open so that we can raise awareness and foster the welcoming community that we know is possible.

We believe that looking at the perceptions and messages conveyed in advertising, social media and interpersonal contact should matter to all of us. Staying quiet contributes to a discomforting environment, whether or not there is ill intent. We want a campus where all people and all groups feel included and affirmed so that we are truly a place of learning. Therefore, the goal is having a more mindful community, curious about and aware of the histories and experiences of all peoples.

There are 22 Member Groups in the RJA: student organizations, academic departments, and university committees. We hope you will join the efforts to build the environment we know is possible at Adelphi.

To contact the Racial Justice Alliance, or if you are interested in learning more about our initiatives, please email [RacialJusticeAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:RacialJusticeAlliance@gmail.com).

very important as we can cite examples of overt racism and bigotry in anonymous postings on social media that have been without such opportunity for what we feel is necessary: a courageous dialogue about discrimination within the Adelphi community.

This is the first step of many towards a larger campus dialogue in which students are empowered to engage in practical solutions for racial justice on campus. In the coming year, the campus will be engaged in bringing situations like this into



## Adelphi Alumna Is Pro Basketball Star in Germany

BY SIERRA CLARK

Adelphi University for the last three years has been known for its top 25 women's basketball team. Greatness is a tradition that Coach Heather Jacobs has taken pride in since her arrival in May 2010. Jacob's mindset to be great has in turn produced great players and, in the last two years, three players have continued their basketball careers overseas. Sade Jackson went on to play professionally in Germany, and is now back as an assistant coach for the Lady Panthers. Jessica Kitrys continued her basketball career in Spain, where she is still playing. This summer, Anh-Dao Tran continued the tradition.

A former AU point guard, Tran now plays professionally in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Tran was born and raised in Webster, Mass., where she began playing basketball at nine. She starred at Holy Name High School, scoring more than 1,000 points for her career and earned a scholarship to New Haven University where she played for three years, leading the team in scoring as a junior. But, following a coaching change, the 5-foot-5 guard decided to transfer to Adelphi University.

In her one year at Adelphi, she averaged 15.0 points per game and 4.7 assists per game and led the team in assists. She also earned a spots on WBCA All-America team Honorable Mention, All-Met First Team, and NE-10 Second



**Anh-Dao Tran leads her new team with an average of 16.7 points per game.**

*photo provided by Sierra Clark*

Team All-Conference.

A heartbreaking loss in the NCAA tournament in March 2015 was thought to have marked the end of Tran's extraordinary basketball career. But in reality it was only the beginning to her next chapter.

Tran quickly decided that she was not ready to give up on the game, which she has come to love over the past 14 years.

"After my collegiate season came to an end in March, I began working with my strength and conditioning coach to get stronger," Tran said. "I lifted four times a week. I got shots up four to

five times a week. I also did cardio such as spin class and the good ol' loop/half loop. I wanted to stay ready and be in the best shape as I could be in."

Tran's perseverance and hard work made her hard to resist, and the Karlsruhe Lions, in the second league of the Damen-Basketball-Bundesliga, signed her on July 23, 2015.

"I felt like it wasn't time to hang up my sneakers just yet," Tran explained. "The opportunity to play the game I love while exploring another part of the world simultaneously was an opportunity of a lifetime that I couldn't pass up."

Tran's transition from college to professional basketball has been a smooth one. She leads her new team in scoring with a 16.7 points per game average.

"My new team dynamic is good," Tran said. "These girls have been playing basketball with each other for years and I catch on to new things pretty quick so we'll see how this year goes."

Tran has also had to adapt to life after college. "It is different," she said. "Here, I just play basketball. In college, I played basketball, worked and had classes so I had to find a balance." To fill up her days, Tran said she enjoys exploring different parts of Germany and going to different countries in Europe.

Tran's success comes as no surprise to her former coaches.

Jacobs she knew Tran would be able to go abroad and have an immediate impact on the team. "She has a great shot with deep range and the ability to get to the rim," said Jacobs. "She is extremely crafty and can score the ball at will."

Jackson, who also played professionally in Germany, said: "Playing overseas, my biggest challenge was adapting to a different country, and to people who don't speak your language. I think Anh-Dao will do great in Germany. She is outgoing, she loves to explore; she has already explored way more of Europe than I did."

## Clark Excels Both On and Off the Basketball Court

BY MEGAN SAFINA

Not many students can say they've had their stories published or had stories published about them. But Sierra Clark has accomplished both. The Adelphi University junior is a star on and off the court.

By day, Clark studies communications and last semester published stories in the "Worcester Telegram-Gazette," a 71,000-circulation daily newspaper near Boston, and the "Webster Times," a small weekly newspaper in Massachusetts. Adelphi's Communications Department honored the aspiring sports journalist in March as its Student of the Month.

At night, the 5-foot-11 forward led the women's basketball team to an 18-12 record and paced the squad in scoring, with 13.5 points per game, and rebounding, with 6.3 rebounds per game. She was named to the Northeast-10 All-Conference team and was a Second Team All-Met Division II selection.

Basketball and academics aren't her only talents. As a child, she learned how to play four instruments – alto saxo-



**Sierra Clark with the Adelphi panther**

*photo provided by Megan Safina*

phone, baritone saxophone, bassoon and flute – the latter of which she taught herself.

In her junior year of high school, her parents told her she had to make a choice between music and basketball, as she was equally dedicated to both. Her basketball team at Archbishop Spalding High School had made it into a post-season tournament and it ended up conflicting with one of her band's big concerts. She knew it was time to fully commit to one or the other and that's when she decided on basketball.

"I think I made the right choice for me," said the Hughesville, MD, native. Even though, she still plays her instruments every now and then, basketball ending up being what she wanted to explore further.

Adelphi's women's basketball coach Heather Jacobs said she believes Clark to be the perfect combination of competitive and coachable. "Sierra is a special player," Jacobs said. "When she is in her zone she can be unstoppable. She has the ability to elevate over her defender and score at will."

Her professors rave about her, too.

"I always enjoy having Sierra in class because I know I can count on her to set a good example for other students," said Mark Grabowski, a communications professor. "Sometimes I forget she's also a really good basketball player because I think of her as a scholar first. I think she'll have good options when she graduates – whether it's playing pro basketball in Europe or pursuing a career in the media."

Although Clark has already made her mark at Adelphi, she still has plenty of time left to do more. Because she transferred to Adelphi, after suffering an injury her freshman year that kept her off the court at Division I St. Francis University, she still has two years of athletic eligibility left.

"So even though I am a junior academically, I am a sophomore on the court," she explained. "And I plan to look into possibly playing overseas because I don't think I'll be ready for my basketball career to be done. When I eventually hang up my sneakers I will still be able to be close to the game. I hope to eventually get into color commentating."



## Homerun Records Are Meant to Be Smashed

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

When Brenna Martini steps into the batter's box, opposing teams know something bad is about to happen. The sophomore third baseman's offensive prowess has made a name for her, not only in the Northeast, but around the country.

On April 16, she cemented that name even further by breaking the Panther single season homerun record by blasting her 12th homerun of the season in Springfield, MA, against American International College.

"It felt pretty special to break the homerun record this season," said Martini. "I know the person who held it before me worked just as hard as I do." The infielder and her many bombs has helped her team to many a win and has been the driving force behind the Panther offense for the 2016 season.

Over the course of her first two years wearing the Brown and Gold of Adelphi, opposing teams have smartened up a bit and have begun to walk her if there is a base open. These walks, in addition to her many hits have accumulated in a .554 on base percentage for the 2016 season.

"I approach every at bat the same," said the third baseman. "I take it as a chal-



**Brenna Martini**

photo provided by adelphi.edu

lenge between the pitcher and myself. I say 'bring it' because I know the pitcher is going to bring her best so I know in order to beat her, I have to put my best swing on a pitch."

Despite the many teams trying to avoid pitching to her, Martini still boasts a .443 batting average and an .885 slugging percentage. Along with her 12 bombs, the sophomore has 16 extra base hits and 39 walks.

These staggering numbers have earned her a place on the nation's Top 25 list for Division II softball players.

In addition to the Top 25 list, Martini has earned many accolades in conference as well. She was named the Northeast 10 Player of the Year while also being named All-Conference First Team.

As a freshman, Martini owned a .400 batting average and a .710 slugging percentage with nine homeruns and 51 runs batted in. These numbers earned her the Northeast 10 Rookie of the Year award.

In addition to the conference nod, Martini was also ranked in the Top 50 of Division II softballs players in the nation.

Even though Martini had such a break out first year, her second year has arguably been even better. Not only has she busted homerun records, but she has also busted the myth of the sophomore slump.

## All Athletes Honored at End-of-the-Year Banquet



**Anthony Libroia**

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

The Athletic Department held an end-of-the-year banquet on Monday, May 2 to honor and celebrate athletes and their respective sports.

The student athletes were hardly recognizable in heels, dresses and suits compared to the usual sweatpants, shorts and uniforms.

The night was kicked off by Athletic Director Danny McCabe and Adelphi President Dr. Christine M. Riordan who both welcomed and congratulated everyone at the dinner.

Many awards were handed out Monday night, including MVPs from every team and individual excellence awards.

The Z. Paul Aiken Award, which is given to junior student athletes who excel in both the classroom and the court or field, was the first to be handed out. This year, the recipients were Rob Vani from the baseball team and Mandy Stanislovaitis from the volleyball team.

The Female and Male Scholar Athletes of the Year were Taylor Groth of women's soccer and Michael Coffey and John English from men's basketball and men's lacrosse respectively.

The last major awards to be handed out were the Male and Female Athletes of the Year, who each had two recipients a piece: for the women, Megan Manierski of volleyball and Taylor Hayes of women's

lacrosse, and for the men, Anthony Libroia of men's basketball and Salvatore Tuttle of men's lacrosse.

The softball team was awarded the Team Academic Award for their collective GPA in both the spring and fall semesters of 2015.

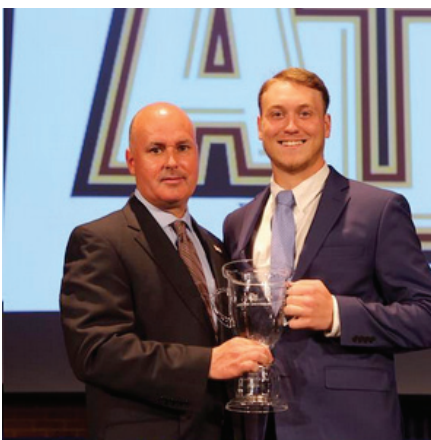
In addition to all of the awards, the new SAAC representatives were named and called to the stage and presented to the entire banquet.

All seniors were given parting gifts and congratulated on their years wearing the Brown and Gold.

To end the event, the department put together a highlight reel of pictures and videos of great plays, scoring plays and action shots.



**Taylor Hayes**



**Sal Tuttle**



**Shelby Stoner after delivering the Senior Address**

photos provided by aupanthers instagram



**Meg Manierski**