



## ILS Silent Demonstration at Faculty Meeting Leads to Dialogue with President Riordan

*Focus Is DACA and LGBTQIA+ Students and Improved Communication*



The ILS staged a silent demonstration in the UC that coincided with the release of their second letter to the administration and overarching Adelphi community explaining their motives. You can read the letter at: <https://www.facebook.com/innerlightsociety>. Photos provided by Bryan Grilli

BY BRYAN GRILLI & DANIELLE MCDOUGALL

On Monday, March 27 at 1 pm, as administrators and faculty arrived for the second faculty meeting of the semester in the Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom of the University Center, 20 students from the Inner Light Society (ILS), an emerging activist group at Adelphi, began to organize and prepare for a silent demonstration, their first official action since the group's formation this semester. Some students wore pieces of paper over their mouths with the phrase "Silence is Violence." At 1:30, President Christine Riordan left the faculty meeting to thank each of the students for being there and to invite them to convene in room 210 at 2:30.

As a collective, members of the ILS agreed to meet with the president and members of the administration and faculty who also wished to engage with the students, including Perry Greene, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Esther Goodcuff, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Winston Waters, associate professor of the School of Business. The 50-minute meeting covered a broad range of student concerns, from the protection of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students to LGBTQIA+ students to the need for improved communication.

### Leading Up to the Demonstration

The ILS emerged as an activist group on campus following the presidential election. On Monday, they released a letter signed by 60 students to the Adelphi administration and the university community at large lamenting what they feel is insufficient action on the part of the Adel-



phi administration to ensure the safety and well-being of its most vulnerable students: students of color, the economically disadvantaged, LGBTQIA+ people, immigrants and Muslims, among others.

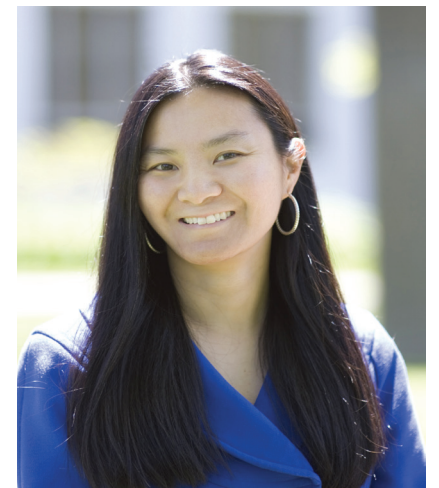
The vulnerability has only intensified in the wake of the election of a U.S. President who recently proposed a second ban on immigration and travel to the United States from six predominantly Muslim countries. Decisions such as these have, as a recent campus Immigration Forum in February revealed, dramatically impacted the well-being of international students at Adelphi.

Thus, in the midst of what is unfolding at the national and local level, students across campus have anticipated that Adelphi, a university that is attempting to dedicate itself to inclusivity, would more ardently work to denounce these happenings. Some students have been disappointed with the actions of the administration and believe more should be done to reaffirm their beliefs that the university is looking out for them and assure them that they are safe on campus.

It was in this context that ILS staged their silent protest Monday. The ILS has been led by a core group of students, including Brian Stanley, Jennifer Krol and Kindeya Chiaro. Stanley, a sophomore political science major, was mainly responsible for the faculty meeting

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## Adelphi Wins Seven Best of Long Island Awards in Bethpage Competition



**Kali Chan: Best Publicist Winner**  
Photo provided by Kali Chan

BY GABRIELLE DEONATH

Adelphi University broke its record win by sweeping seven categories in the Bethpage Best of Long Island Competition. These included Best College or University, Best College President, Best Concert Venue, Best Live Local Theater, Best Publicist, Best Public Garden and Best College Sports Coach.

The Bethpage Best of Long Island competition was created to recognize outstanding services, businesses and institutions on Long Island. The categories include arts and entertainment, clothing, education, nightlife, sports, shopping, restaurants and more. In the 2017 competition, there were 58,499 nominations made and a total of 780,243 votes cast. The competition is sponsored by the Bethpage Federal Credit Union, which describes itself as a supporter of local businesses and important causes, as well an organization focused on giving back to the people of Long Island.

The Performing Arts Center was awarded the title of both Best Concert Venue and Best Live Local Theater. The Best of Long Island site highlights the "eclectic mix of shows" put on throughout the year and Adelphi's commitment and support of the performing arts.

Kali Chan, director of Media Relations at Adelphi, was named Best

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## A Word from the Editor

Hello everyone! I hope you had a nice, relaxing break. We are currently in the home stretch of the 2016-'17 school year and I can't believe how quickly time is flying by before my very eyes. For me personally, as well as my fellow members of the Class of 2017, I'm practically in a sense of denial that in just a few days we will be at 50 days before graduation. The end might be near, but I fully intend on enjoying every last moment of my undergraduate experience while I still have the chance.

This issue includes one of my favorite articles I've had to date. Not so much because of how well I believe the article turned out, but because of the honor and privilege I had to be able to cover the topic. That demonstration outside of the March 27 faculty meeting was one of my proudest moments as a Panther. I was proud of both the students of the Inner Light Society and the administration. The students not only proved their commitment and dedication to standing up for what they believe and desire to help improve Adelphi and make it a more inclusive, safe campus, but that there is something to be gained by protest and that it should be among our most cherished rights as students and American citizens. I was also delighted by the response of President Riordan and her willingness to meet with the students directly after the faculty gathering. The entirety of the administration and faculty should also be commended for striving to understand where the students' concerns are coming from and open a dialogue with them.

A major topic of discussion at the meeting between the students and President Riordan was transgender rights and protections, and this is something *The Delphian* has been particularly concerned with over the course of this year. We were fortunate enough in this issue to have Monroe Marshall return and write another editorial explaining some of the common errors made in journalism when it comes to referring to the transgender population. This is especially worth noting because the Associated Press Stylebook publicly embraced the usage of the pronoun "they" when referring to a single person. It is comforting seeing the evolution of journalism in regards to these important issues and see the field recognizing the importance of pronouns, something that might sound trivial to people who are unaware, but every bit as critical to the trans community as being able to legally change their name and gender.

The university certainly has many other things to be proud of at this time. The Bethpage Best of Long Island Competition honored Adelphi with seven prestigious awards including Best College or University, President Riordan as Best College President, Kali Chan as Best Publicist and Dominic Scala as Best College Sports Coach. The Athletics Department also can now boast about their Women's Basketball and Bowling teams, that won the 2017 NE-10 championship for the second time in three years and defended their East Coast Conference Championships for the second consecutive year respectively.

*The Delphian* is also pleased to announce that we have submitted for the 2017 Press Club of Long Island Media Awards and look forward to the release of those results. Our student journalists are up for awards that range from Best College Reporter to Best Feature and Sports Reporting. And of course, we also announced our candidacy for Best Collegiate Newspaper, an honor we were able to earn in 2016.

Also, be sure to check out the next issue of *The Defiler*, which is set to come out next week!

-Bryan Grilli  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Adelphi Wins Seven Best of Long Island Awards in Bethpage Competition



President Christine Riordan and Coach Dominic Scala were also recognized by the Best of Long Island Competition for Best College President and Coach respectively.

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Publicist on Long Island. In addition to her job on campus, Chan is also the president of Public Relations Professionals of Long Island. She was recognized for her skills in the Communications field, and was also

said to be "an inspiration to others in the field."

"It meant a great deal to me to be named Best Publicist," Chan said. "I know unbelievably talented PR practitioners and it was a competitive category to earn first

place."

According to Chan, her job is fulfilling for many reasons, one of the main ones being the activities she has had a hand in creating on campus that address matters such as bullying, autism and mental health, among others. However, she said she also finds it hard to step away from her work because of the never-ending news cycle packed with substantial topics and issues of various forms.

Another member of the university faculty recognized by the competition is head baseball coach Dominic Scala. When announced as a winner online on the Bethpage Best of LI Competition page, he was described as "a force to be reckoned with." He has been a coach at Adelphi for almost 13 years and has been noted as one of the reasons for the success of the university's baseball team, as well as the 10 alumni baseball players who have been shifted into the professional athletic field since Scala became a coach in 2004. Scala

is also a former bullpen coach of the New York Yankees.

In addition to Adelphi taking the title of the best college or university on Long Island, Dr. Christine Riordan, president of Adelphi since July 2015, was recognized in the competition for her role in increasing enrollment and revenue, engaging the campus community, and creating a more diverse and inclusive environment on campus.

All winners can be viewed at bestof.longislandpress.com, and nominations can now be made online for the 2018 contest.

**Coming Soon:**  
**Our special edition of**  
**The Defiler**

## ILS Silent Demonstration Leads to Dialogue with President Riordan

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demonstration and reiterated the sentiments behind the demonstration and letter.

“I had a number of conversations with friends across the university, and came to understand that the university could be doing more, at least overtly, to protect its vulnerable population,” he said. “To validate this assertion, 60 people read, considered, agreed and signed the letter that I helped draft. The letter, in both an implicit and explicit way, makes clear that we, as both an institution and a community, have a great deal of work to do.”

### The Meeting with President Riordan

In response to the ILS demonstration on Monday, President Riordan met with the students immediately after the faculty meeting concluded. About 15 remaining demonstrators and 24 administrators and faculty met in room 210.

President Riordan started by thanking the demonstrators. “I think it’s important for you to share your voices and for us to hear, especially when it comes to issues that are most important to you,” she said. She also made it clear how important it was to not only have the sentiments behind the demonstration explained, but also to inquire what the demonstrators want to see being done at the university.

Stanley responded by reading the open ILS letter outlining the action. One of the most critical issues the letter sought to address was the protection of DACA students.

President Riordan addressed these concerns. “I asked Perry Greene and Esther Goodcuff to chair a task force back in December that was a result of dialogue with faculty members and students about what we should be doing to protect our DACA students. That task force meets weekly and all of them are open and certainly anyone can attend, as well as help provide the task force with ideas.”

President Riordan also mentioned there would be an update in regards to the DACA task force that had just been approved by their attorney and assured the students that she, as well as the majority of the people at the meeting, shares the concerns of the demonstrators and strives to create a safe, inclusive environment for students.

“It takes a lot of smart people to come up with ideas and actions that keep our communities safe,” she said. “I know through the forums and dialogues that there is a lot of work for us to do, and what I’d ask in return is that you help us to determine what can further be done.”

The president also spoke extensively on the topic and hesitance to declare Adelphi a “sanctuary campus.” “I did take the term to our board of trustees in December and thought a lot about it. I did research and met with attorneys on the issue,” she said. “I completely understand the idea that the word is symbolic, but want to focus on what it means to be a sanctuary campus and the implications of that title.”



She referenced the origin of term: It goes back to the 1980s when churches and other institutions declared themselves sanctuary sites and were resolved in their decision to break the law. They were determined to do everything within their power to protect the people in those sites at any cost. However, she stated that for her, as the president of a university, she would be treading onto immoral and unethical grounds if she were to move forward with the declaration on two counts.

“I cannot mandate that people here at the university break the law. If someone came in with a valid subpoena or warrant, I can’t ask a student, faculty or staff member to break the law,” she explained. “I can see how it would provide a lot of comfort for people, it is also, in my opinion, immoral and unethical for me to say that this is a sanctuary campus and give you the idea that we can protect you no matter what, because we can’t.”

Greene echoed Riordan’s sentiment by discussing his own research. “When the concept of sanctuary campus came up, initially I was for it, but as the university’s diversity officer, I had the responsibility to research it and to figure out what it means and how to best be one. As I researched it, I realized that people aren’t coming to us to prevent themselves from being killed. The people in the late 1980s came to those churches because they knew under no circumstances, even if someone came with a warrant, would those sanctuaries give them up,” Greene said. “I would like to be a person who would stand in front of a door, arms length, and if they’re coming to take someone, that I, acting as an individual, would be willing to do that. And I suspect that all of you [ILS demonstrators] would be willing to do that, given the fact you’re all sitting in this room. As a university though, that’s a very different thing.”

Greene alluded to how current an issue deportation is and how it is happening every day in real-time. He also called attention to which cities are being targeted first: sanctuary cities.

“It’s a cruel thing to do, but it’s happening,” Greene said. “If I’m asked my advice on the matter, I’d say, please do not put a target on your back. You’re not going to help yourself and you’re not going to help the people you’re trying to protect.”

Riordan explained to the ILS

students that the decision the administration concluded was to avoid declaring itself a sanctuary campus, but to make all possible attempts to be as sanctuary-like by implementing policies, procedures and safeguards to assure as much protection and security as possible. This includes the university not collecting records that show any student’s status saying whether they’re documented or undocumented; not releasing any student records without a warrant; and not requiring any type of immigration status regarding housing or merit aid.

“As of right now with our policies in place, if someone came to our campus, they would have to go to our Executive Vice President with a warrant or subpoena that would then have to go to an attorney to be validated and the come back and make sure it’s official before we would release any kind of records,” Riordan stated. “On top of that, Gene Palma, Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Campus Transportation, and I will be meeting with the Nassau County Police Commissioner and the Garden City Police Commissioner to make sure that they’re aware of our protocols and stance on the issues because we do know that some local police forces are being asked to act as ICE [US Immigration Customs Enforcement] agents.”

After listening to the comments made by Riordan and Greene, a student demonstrator attending the meeting said: “It’s one thing to say this campus is safe and that students should feel safe, but does that really actually make us safe? This is my home and many other people live here. We want to know and feel like there is action being put in place so that we’re not dragged from our homes if we were to be immigrants or illegal.”

Riordan said her goal is not to tell students they are safe, but for students to genuinely feel it. She invited members of the ILS to continue the dialogue in regards to DACA and to help contribute to the administration’s knowledge and perspective by contributing ways they can improve.

### Additional ILS Concerns Addressed

Another student voiced a concern about the communication between the administration and students, specifically asking for more detailed letters on these topics from the administration so that students can have a better understanding of the discus-

sions taking place at that level. Riordan said she will do her best to be conscious of the content she includes in her emails. She also asked for the students to remember that she can always be reached via email and takes pride in responding within as short a period of time as possible.

Stanley also addressed another issue of concern in the ILS letter, that of Adelphi’s trans community. “It leads me to think to myself, am I doing everything I can to make sure that I’m helping and reaching out to communities?” Stanley said. “I think that the collective of people who signed the letter represents every community out there and we’re all working for the benefit of all students.”

Greene, who is an integral component of the LGBTQIA+ task force, spoke specifically to the point about trans issues and assuring the protections and comfort of the overarching community on campus.

“The LGBTQIA+ task force, headed by Adam Visconti, is actively working to make the campus as inclusive as possible. You might have seen the pride banner on-campus, you might have known that you can now change your name and preferred pronouns through Adelphi documents and all of that is after a short time. We still have a long way to go and we’re not yet satisfied, but you should know that we have that hard-working task force that won’t be satisfied.”

During the dialogue between the president and the student demonstrators, Waters commending both parties. “I’m very impressed with the actions taken by the students. It shows leadership and it’s something to be proud of that we have students who are willing to stand up for their beliefs,” Waters said. “I’ve been here for 31 years and I’ve seen four or five presidents. Bob Scott was a good president, but I feel as though our current president is even better. She’s done a few things that I think are commendable. For instance, she had a meeting with the black faculty when she first arrived and the fact she did that said a lot about her concern with diversity. She has expressed an openness with the students as well, her willingness to speak with them speaks to her commitment.”

Although there’s still much to be done to help bridge the gap between the administration and demonstrators, President Riordan made sure to mention the common ground shared between them. “At the end of the day, we all share a very common goal, and that’s to make this campus as safe and inclusive as possible for all of our students.”

Stanley said he was also optimistic about how the protest and subsequent meeting with the president turned out and looks forward to the future. “I think that the students came together in an incredible way to channel their concerns and resistance,” he said. “Even more so, I was heartened by everyone’s, the faculty and students’ alike, unyielding support and participation. There is no other community I’d rather be a part of and fight alongside for.”

## American Sign Language Club Holds First Annual Gala



The American Sign Language Club held their first gala on March 3. They were celebrating deaf culture, deaf talent and American Sign Language. There was complimentary food and wax hands, as well as a magician and much more. There was a raffle and prizes, and all proceeds went to Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW). ASL is a visual language that is typically used by people of the deaf population as well as people within deaf culture. The club meets on Wednesdays from 5-6 pm in UC 211/212.

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## Peer Educators Aim to Inspire Healthy Living at Adelphi

# 30 DAY CHALLENGE

BY OLIVIA FRANKS

If you've been receiving follow requests by Instagram accounts that are affiliated with Adelphi and Peer Educators, you probably have been exposed to the 30-Day Challenge happening on campus. The 30-Day Challenge is sponsored by the Adelphi Health and Wellness Peer Educators in an effort to promote healthy living. It is open not only to students, but also faculty, staff and administrators. This year there are over 200 participants.

"Some [participants] say they wanted to make healthier decisions, but didn't know where to start," said Lauren Dolinski, Adelphi's health educator advisor. "When this program came about it was a great outlet to allow students the chance to make a small healthy change in their lives for 30 days and have the opportunity to win prizes."

Students were able to sign up in the University Center Lobby late February and early March. The rules of the challenge are to post at least 25 pictures on Instagram using the hashtag #AU30Day and to follow @PeerEducatorsAU on Instagram. Many people have posted pic-

tures of healthy foods or drinks they are consuming, pictures of themselves being active, and even cleaning so that they may do work in a healthier environment.

Freshman Amanda Considine, who is participating, said, "I wanted to do this challenge because it would inspire me to choose healthy options for the entire month of March. Also, there are fun prizes involved."

Two Grand Prize winners will win a Fitbit Charge. The winners will be announced on March 31 at noon on the Peer Educators Instagram account @PeerEducatorsAU. In addition, there are weekly prizes that include stress-relief coloring books and more.

Considine found out about the challenge from friend and freshman Peer Educator Sammi Montalbano. "A lot of students registered, but they are actually following through with the challenge," said Montalbano. "It's a great way to promote healthy choices and it has done just that."

Added Dolinski, "Every year, we continue to modify the program based on student feedback and come back stronger each year."

## The Leadership Race: An Act of Unity or Further Division?

BY MATTHEW SCHROH

Reince Priebus was tapped by Donald Trump to serve as the Chief of Staff and this meant he had to vacate the position of Chair of the Republican Party, selected by the upper GOP to serve as a mostly symbolic party leader. On January 19, Ronna Romney McDaniel, a Michigan politician and the niece of prominent Republican Mitt Romney, was voted to replace Priebus, with little fanfare.

Many flustered Democrats wish it could have been that simple for themselves.

The Democratic Party is a party rocked not just by leadership issues, but also by the key issue of party platform. Many long-time Democrats feel that the party should take a more moderate stance so as to appeal to independents, third party voters, and moderate Republicans, while other Democrats, notably younger, argue that the Democratic party should be incredibly liberal to have a firm location on the ideological spectrum and fully oppose President Trump.

This battle of ideology may have been fueled by the victory of Trump, but it did not start in November. Both sides of the debate were represented by the two major candidates of the 2016 Democratic Primary – Hillary Clinton representing the more centrist, moderate choice, and Bernie Sanders representing the more progressive, leftist option.

In the end, Hillary Clinton defeated Sanders. Polling showed that, although many Sanders supporters bemoaned the failure of their candidate, they would begrudgingly support Clinton.

Then a series of emails were leaked by hackers, revealing that the DNC, led by Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, had treated Clinton's nomination as an inevitable coronation since the beginning, and had not retracted their stance to one of neutrality once Sanders gained traction. Schultz resigned from her spot as DNC Chair, leaving Democratic campaign strategist Donna Brazile as a temporary replacement until a proper leadership election could be held.

The revelation that the Democratic Party had not been neutral infuriated many Sanders supporters, and their anger only grew once Clinton suffered her devastating electoral loss, in states Democrats had solidly held for years. These Sanders supporters argued that their candidate would have crushed Trump in Rust Belt states, voters largely annoyed at the centrist, stagnant establishment Democratic party represented by Hillary Clinton. Voters in those states, they claimed, either took a bargain with something new in Trump, or stayed home on Election Day.

But the election had come and gone, and new leadership was necessary. For the Republicans, leadership was easy to find – President Donald Trump in the White House, Vice President Mike Pence as his main connector to the Capitol Hill



New DNC chair Tom Perez (left) and Deputy Chair Keith Ellison (right)

Photos provided by www.wsj.com



establishment, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in Congress. The Democrats did not have such a luxury. Hillary Clinton had suffered a widely unexpected loss, Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned in controversy, and Barack Obama and Joe Biden became private citizens in January. For these reasons, none of them seemed appropriate for new leadership.

With Republican majorities in most of America's government, Democratic leadership seemed hard to come by, which placed an unprecedented amount of interest on the Democratic National Committee's upcoming Chair election. Shortly after the election, Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison threw his hat in the ring for the position. A liberal Democrat, early Sanders supporter, and the first Muslim-American elected into Congress, Ellison was largely viewed as a frontrunner with no real competition. He was endorsed by two of the largest progressive icons, Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, as well as the Senate Minority Leader, New York Senator Chuck Schumer.

Schumer's endorsement seemed to represent the unity of the Democratic party – the Clinton ally was largely viewed as a moderate, establishment politician, and if he supported Ellison, perhaps the party was not as divided as was thought.

This changed when Tom Perez, Secretary of Labor under Barack Obama, announced his candidacy for the position in a field overwhelmingly dominated by Ellison over smaller names. Perez had backed Clinton in the 2016 Democratic Primary, in contrast to Ellison, and his spot in the Obama White House caused most to view him as the moderate, establishment figure in the race.

The race changed significantly when exiting Vice President Joe Biden offered his endorsement for Perez. Several Obama White House secretaries, such as Eric Holder and Tom Vilsack, a former Attorney General and a former Secretary of Agriculture, respectively, offered Perez their support as well, setting the stage for the race to come down to a centrist party platform against a progressive party platform, in the eyes of many. Liberals prayed

25. The two rounds of voting ended with Perez claiming the position, only winning over Ellison by a margin of 54% to 46%. To many Ellison supporters, it was a slap in the face. To them, it seemed the Democratic Party turned their back on Bernie Sanders and was now doing the same to Keith Ellison.

And even though Perez bestowed the position of Deputy Chair to Ellison shortly after his election, regardless of the fact that Perez is the party's first Hispanic Chair, and in the face of the statement both men put out urging party unity, a large group of Democrats present at the Chair election jeered and booed at the outcome, rallying with a shout of "party for the people, not big money!"

Without a doubt, this moment sums up the challenge the Democratic Party has faced and will continue to face, in an atmosphere with 2018 midterm elections on the political horizon and Republicans retaining power D.C. at least until then. It is up to Democrats to come together and settle these key ideological differences in a manner that will not significantly harm their already wounded party.

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## Under Pressure: FBI to Investigate Trump-Russia Collusion

BY BRIAN JENNINGS

On Monday March 21, FBI Director James Comey stated on Capitol Hill that the FBI would be investigating allegations of foul-play between the Russian Government and the Trump campaign during the 2016 Presidential election. The news came after weeks of intelligence community posturing and mouth-pollution from the President. While Comey could not assert at this time whether or not the allegations against the Trump campaign are founded, he did assert that his statement regarding this “counter-intelligence mission” was not a criminal investigation into the Trump campaign.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer continued to baffle reporters and infuriate those who value intelligent thought by stating, “There’s an assumption that just because there’s an investigation, that it would have to be about something.” In regards to these collusion charges, this statement seems simply ridiculous when factoring in the mounting evidence that supports the allegations in



FBI Director James Comey testified earlier this month that there is an investigation into President Trump’s ties to Russia.

Photo provided by www.nbcchicago.com

concert with the Trump administration’s cagey attitude towards the situation.

According to Comey, Spicer’s claims could in fact hold truth when talking about the President’s unfounded claims that the Obama administration wiretapped Trump Tower ahead of

the 2016 election. The truth, for whatever that’s worth in Trump’s America, is that this spastic episode was nothing more than an unfounded temper tantrum from the most powerful man in the world.

But, we could forgive President Trump, because after all, he’s had a difficult week. Paul Ryan has released his blood-soaked health care plan, which dismantles the Affordable Care Act, provides vouchers for “high-risk” individuals with allocations being doled out based on age not income, and cripples many welfare programs that many Americans (including Trump supporters) rely on in order to live. Under this plan, a billionaire with a heart condition would receive more federal funding for health care than a younger middle class man with the same condition. That’s good news for our President, as it seems he can still afford to enjoy KFC via a fork and knife aboard Air Force One whenever he pleases.

In a moral victory for Donald Trump, Rachel Maddow of MSNBC made something of a fool out of herself by hyping the fact that she was in possession of

Donald Trump’s tax returns. She followed through with very little enlightening information showing that the President is in fact, among other things, quite rich. Yet, her coverage did leave her viewers with one valuable history lesson.

When President Richard Nixon uttered the now infamous phrase “the American people need to know their President is not a crook. Well, I am not a crook,” he was not referring to the Watergate scandal that would eventually cause him to resign. He was talking about allegations that he cheated on his taxes. After it was found that the 37th President had repeatedly cheated on his returns, he was forced to pay nearly \$500,000 in back taxes to the IRS in 1974, which is a large reason why it has become precedent for presidential candidates to make their tax returns public during the election process.

The difference today is that Donald Trump doesn’t care whether or not the American people think the President is a crook. He keeps himself warm at night through the fiery sear of Twitter’s florescence as he babbles on about fake news like an unstable patient in the Charenton Asylum.

Hope remains that someone may in fact be fit to stop this man, but it is important to remind the public that this is not an act of liberal vengeance. There is no hope for a president who represents a radically different ideology than Trump’s, at least until the next election cycle. However, there is hope that we may in fact be able to restore the public’s faith in the integrity of our election process and insure that it can never be manipulated by foreign aggressors. It isn’t personal, Donald, this is strictly business.

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MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow made news of her own recently when she said she had Donald Trump’s tax return.

Photo provided by www.rawstory.com

## Transgender, not Transgendered: A Response to a Common Error in Journalism

BY MONROE MARSHALL

For the previous issue of *The Delphian*, I had written an article regarding the removal of federal protections for transgender students regarding bathroom usage. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to address such an important issue. Through the publication of this article though, another important issue was inadvertently brought up. The title of the article, instead of addressing transgender students, addressed transgendered students, and this use of the word can be very offensive to members of the transgender community.

To many people, the difference between the words transgender and transgendered seems so subtle, that they can be used interchangeably; but to transgender people themselves, there is an immense difference between the two words. Person-

ally, whenever I saw the word transgendered used in journalism, I knew it sounded off, but I was unable to realize why it is offensive. The following statement from K.J. Rawson, an assistant professor at The College of The Holy Cross, helped me understand the offensive nature of such usage of the word: “transgender is something you are, not something you do.”

Although there are quite a few adjectives that require the “ed” ending to be grammatically correct, such as tired and depressed, these adjectives tend to be feelings or emotional states, things that can come and go or change in intensity. A person who is transgender though is not going to be more or less transgender one day; they will always be transgender.

“It is just a word,” many people will say. But with all of the discrimination and other hardships faced by the transgender community, one word

really can make a difference. In the case of the last issue of this paper, the use of the word transgendered was indeed just an honest mistake. There were no transphobic intentions; in fact, the staff at The Delphian are working to be better supporters and allies of the transgender community as shown by their eagerness for me to write an article addressing the previous mistake.

**“It is just a word,” many people will say. But with all of the discrimination and other hardships faced by the transgender community, one word really can make a difference.”**

I have seen many newspapers and journals make similar mistakes regarding

the proper usage of words related to the transgender community, many of which have also been nothing more than a mistake due to being unaware of the offensive nature of such words. People may be attempting to reach out as allies to the transgender community, only to be called out as being offensive and having no idea why. It is important to address this issue so that allies of the transgender community know words that are offensive to transgender people and why such words are offensive.

Mistakes happen and it is important to address them rather than letting them slide, or automatically making assumptions of people based on their mistakes. Those who are true allies to transgender people will be appreciative of those who call them out for giving them the chance to learn from their mistakes and avoid making them in the future.

## Final Ride Series: Staiano Calls Softball Game That Taught Her Life Lessons

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

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

Stephanie Staiano is a four-year letter winner for softball, having played two years at Dowling College and two years with Adelphi. She's also an outfielder, known for both her personality and frequent use of eye black. She is a physical education major and hopes to coach and teach one day.

**Q:** How many years have you been playing softball?

**A:** I've been playing softball for as long as I can remember. My dad played softball, so right off the bat I was throwing and catching with him in the front yard for hours. I started Little League around age six, and the rest is history.

**Q:** What does it mean to you?

**A:** Softball means the world to me. It has been a huge part of my life. I owe a lot to softball. It helped me in all aspects of my life and I have grown so much as a person because I played softball. It has taught me some of the greatest life lessons I could have possibly learned over the years. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to play the game I love with some of the most incredible people I have ever encountered.

**Q:** What is one piece of advice that you would give athletes entering collegiate athletics in your sport?

**A:** Enjoy every single day. Do not take one day, one practice, one game, one at bat, one moment, for granted. You never want to look back and say, "I shoulda, woulda, coulda." Pour your heart into all that you do. Leave a lasting impact on your program so when people look back on your career they have something and someone to be proud of. Be someone people look up to, someone that others aspire to be. You never know whose watching. In all that you do, be genuine, keep it real and be yourself. Four years fly by in a blink of an eye, and man, I would do it all over again if I could. Appreciate all that you have while you have it from people, to equipment, to time on the field, to the jersey you put on before you take the field. Play for the people who have helped you along your journey thus far, play for the people who you are on the journey with now, and play for the girl who decided to start the journey a while back.

**Q:** What is one thing you're going to miss about being a college athlete?

**A:** I'm going to miss the grind. I'm going to miss waking up to lift, then rushing to grab a bite to eat, getting to class on time, handing in that paper I



**Outfielder Stephanie Staiano**  
Photo provided by Adelphi Athletics

wrote, heading out to practice or to a game, then doing it all over again the next day. I'm going to miss doing those things alongside the people who inspire me daily: my teammates and my coaches. Of course, I am going to miss putting on my uniform, my eye black, my Oakleys, and getting my hair braided for game day. And of course, I am going to miss grabbing my helmet and bat, strutting up to the plate to my walk-up song, smiling back at the dugout at the best coaches and teammates I could ask for. But when it comes down to it, above all, I am going to miss the day-to-day grind of being a college athlete and the many opportunities and responsibilities that come with being a part of a special unit.

**Q:** In the many years you've been playing, what have you learned? About yourself? About others?

**A:** I've learned to never take anything for granted and to view every day as an opportunity to do something great. I learned that all good things come to an end, but it is all about the legacy you leave behind when it is all said and done. I learned how to get along and work well with so many different personalities and team dynamics. I learned that it is okay to make physical errors and mistakes and losing is just part of the game because at the end of the day, win or lose, it was an opportunity to be a part of something bigger, something that will last a lifetime. I learned to appreciate the grind; actually, I fell in love with the grind. I learned that the only way to get better is pure hard work and that nothing worth it ever comes easy. I learned to cherish every moment spent with the people who take the field by my side; the people who share my passion and my goals. I learned leadership skills and listening skills necessary to contribute to a positive team atmosphere. Everything that I learned while playing are things that I apply to my everyday life in the classroom, with my family, with my friends, in relationships and soon in a career. Softball has shaped me as a person and taught me to be the best me I can be for the benefit of the people around me.

## COMING SOON!

16-17  
SEASON

### THEATREWORKS USA'S THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Featuring Adelphi Alum Ani Djirdjirian '16

Sunday, April 2 • 3:00 p.m.

Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • Adelphi Students: \$5

### CILLA OWENS

Friday, April 7 • 7:30 p.m.

Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • Adelphi Students: \$5

### TAYLOR 2 DANCE COMPANY

Saturday, April 8 • 8:00 p.m.

Dance Theatre • Adelphi Students: \$5

### SPRING DANCE ADELPHI

Wednesday, April 19— Sunday, April 23

Olmsted Theatre • Adelphi Students: \$5

### BILLY PORTER: BROADWAY & SOUL

Friday, April 21 • 7:30 p.m.

Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • Adelphi Students: \$10

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Tuesday, April 25— Sunday, April 30

Black Box Theatre • Adelphi Students: \$5

### ADELPHI JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Friday, April 28 • 7:30 p.m.

Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • Adelphi Students: \$5

### ADELPHI CHORALE AND ADELPHI VOCAL ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT

Sunday, April 30 • 4:00 p.m.

Westermann Stage, Concert Hall

Adelphi Students: \$10

#### STUDENT RUSH TICKETS

One hour before all performances, including guest artists, full-time Adelphi students are eligible to get a Rush ticket at no cost. Arrive prior to the performance with your Adelphi ID, get in the Rush line and receive one remaining unsold ticket. Subject to availability, not available for every performance. Cannot be reserved in advance. Rush tickets will stop being distributed 10 minutes before the start of the show, so get your tickets early.



Billy Porter

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## Women's Basketball Makes Run for the Ages and Earns Second Northeast-10 Title



Photos provided by Adelphi Athletics

### BY FALLON MCCARTHY

With a new head coach and a lot of new faces added into the mix, no one knew what to expect from the Adelphi University Women's Basketball team this season. The squad, however, knew they had something special.

"Coach came in with this saying: defense, rebound, title," said junior guard Julia Gnesier. "So from the start she told us if we do the little things, play defense and rebound the basketball at the end of the season we would have a title."

Win a title they did. For the second time in three years, and only second

time ever, the Brown and Gold brought a Northeast-10 Championship home to Garden City. After going 18-2 in conference and 23-4 over all, the girls won the regular season title and also the conference title.

The conference tournament was hosted by Adelphi, supported by their impressive conference record. The squad blew past first Southern Connecticut and then Le Moyne 69-52 and 67-57 respectively to get to the championship game versus Bentley.

On March 5 the Panthers beat Bentley University 67-59 and were crowned NE-10 Champions.

"The key is to buy in to what the coach is telling you, so for us that was the

key, buy in, put in the work and the rest will come," said Gnesier. "I could tell from the beginning that Missy loved this game and she knew a lot about it. Everyday no matter if it was 5:45 in the morning or 6 at night she brought this energy that at times we all didn't understand where it was coming from. She was ready to go so that meant we were too."

Head Coach Melissa "Missy" Traversi came in with a bang, immediately reshaping and molding the already existing powerhouse that prior head coach Heather Jacobs had left behind.

Her team of 11 girls, a combination of six returners and five new faces,

bought in and would be the driving force behind a ridiculously successful season for Traversi and the Brown and Gold.

From the conference title, the girls set their sights on something bigger: NCAAs.

With their impressive regional record already in everyone's mind, they were given a bid to host the First Round of NCAAs.

The Brown and Gold's first match up was NYIT, one of the few teams Adelphi had lost to in the regular season. AU exacted their revenge, taking down the Bears with a decisive score of 64-47.

The squad's second round game came against Long Island rival Molloy. After a slow start to the game and going down by nine at half time, the Panthers came back in the second half to take a 58-57 lead with 11 seconds left to play.

Molloy called a time out and advanced the ball, and as time expired the Lions scored, ending Adelphi's season.

While the season didn't end the way the team wanted, they have much and more to be proud of. In addition to the team's success both in season and postseason, many individuals were recognized for their efforts.

Both seniors Calli Balfour and Sierra Clark joined the program's 1,000 point club, making sure they would forever be in the annals of the Adelphi record books.

The Panthers set a bar this year, one they will work and work to surpass next year.

Gnesier added, "This year we learned that we were capable of so much more than we even thought."

## Women's Bowling Successfully Defends East Coast Conference Crown



The Adelphi Women's Bowling team retained their title as East Coast Conference Championships after winning the inaugural distinction during the spring of 2016. They defeated Lincoln Memorial University on March 26 in Keene, NH, en route to securing their victory and bringing back the ECC crown. The team looks forward to next year and lucky number three.