

The Delphian

April 20, 2021

The Voice of the Students

Volume 76, Issue 7

Plans for 2020 and 2021 Commencement Announced

BY RAVYN MALVINO

After months of contemplation, the Adelphi administration has finally made a decision regarding this year's Commencement ceremony for the classes of 2020 and 2021. Executive leadership has approved a hybrid plan for commencement, combining an optional in-person "Grad Walk" with virtual versions of traditional commencement ceremonies and the conferral of academic degrees.



Although not fully in person, graduating seniors from the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be celebrated this year via virtual events and an in-person Grad Walk. That gives students the chance to be photographed, though not quite like these graduates were before Covid-19 changed all commencement plans. *Photo from Adelphi University*

Students seem relieved to have an answer. "I have made peace with the version of graduation we're having now," said senior Samantha Napoli. "I feel closure because I was constantly thinking about it and holding out hope that things would be closer to normal by now."

A survey was conducted earlier this year to hear from students what they wanted and felt comfortable with for this year's Commencement.

"What we heard is that our students want to celebrate in a meaningful and familiar way with loved ones and their Adelphi community," said members of Adelphi's Commencement Committee. "We also heard from health experts and New York state that, despite progress, it is still not safe or approved to have the kind of large gathering we traditionally hold for Commencement."

Senior Tina Tudisco said, "When stating my preferences on the Commencement survey, I indicated that I would have preferred smaller in-person graduation ceremonies by school or major, so I can't say that I'm thrilled about having my

graduation on Zoom. But I understand that it's a good option to keep everyone as safe as possible and still honor the graduates."

Many students have expressed that walking across the stage at Commencement was important to them. The Adelphi Grad Walk will allow students the opportunity to walk across a decorated Commencement-style stage. The Grad Walk will take place by appointment from April 26-29 during Senior Week, as well as from May 20-22 in the Ruth S. Harley

University Center's Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom. Appointments will be every 15 minutes.

Graduates will be allowed to have two guests attend their scheduled Grad Walk. All individuals on campus must comply with Adelphi's health and safety protocols by maintaining social distance, wearing a mask and completing the health screening on the AU2GO app or on a provided paper copy.

Additionally, there will be a professional photographer in attendance to capture the moment and each Grad Walk participant will be given a free photo.

"I appreciate that we're going to have the photo opportunity as well," said Tudisco. "It's not the real thing, but at least I'll get a nice picture in my cap and gown."

Students have the option to wear their cap and gown, but do not have to. Each student will also receive a cap and tassel from the university, as well as a diploma cover at Grad Walk. Graduates will be allowed to remove their mask when being photographed onstage. Students who already purchased their cap and tassel can

be reimbursed by contacting the Adelphi bookstore.

Adelphi schools and colleges will also each hold virtual Commencement ceremonies to recognize graduates and officially confer degrees. These virtual ceremonies will air Monday, May 24 for the Class of 2021 and Tuesday, May 25 for the Class of 2020. The ceremonies will also be recorded and posted online for the Adelphi community to view and share. Plans for in-person 2020 and 2021 Doctoral Hooding ceremonies, also allowing two guests for each candidate are being worked out and will soon be announced.

"My parents were really disappointed because they were hoping that having a year to think about graduation would lead to it being in person with them there and safe," said Napoli.

Despite some letdown about not having a traditional, in-person graduation, she's looking at the situation from a positive perspective. "I feel like in this version of graduation, we will get to celebrate how we like," Napoli said. "My parents, grandparents, aunt and cousins will be there for my broadcasted graduation when they are all fully vaccinated. The Grad Walk isn't ideal, but it gives us an opportunity to commemorate the moment of us graduating with our families on stage."

For additional specific school, college or department activities and graduation celebrations, stay tuned for communications from those areas.

All Class of 2020 and 2021 graduates are also invited to attend a future in-person Commencement ceremony when it is safe to host one.

"I am in a unique position among my peers since I am definitely attending Adelphi for my graduate degree as part of the STEP program, so I know I'll be having another graduation next year, which has lifted my spirits a bit in reaction to not having one this year," said Tudisco. "I'm hopeful, especially since I was just vaccinated and I know many of my peers who are as well, that we'll be able to have a fully in-person graduation next year."

Candidates for 2021 graduation should review required steps and deadlines necessary to formally graduate.

Visit the Commencement website www.adelphi.edu/commencement and Commencement FAQs www.adelphi.edu/commencement/faqs/ for details, important next steps and deadlines. Also, reach out to commencement@adelphi.edu via email for any questions.

Pass/No Credit Option Revoked, What Now for Students?

BY MARIA GIOVANNA JUMPER

On April 2, 2021 the student body received an email from the Adelphi University Provost that explained the change in grading policy for the spring semester and updated the class withdrawal date, with the reminder that it has been a year of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the spring 2020 semester, there were concerns about how dealing with the sudden myriad physical, emotional and logistical complications would impact student grades and their ability to produce their best work. As a result, on March 27, 2020 the administration sent out an email explaining the decision to adopt a pass/no credit (P/NC) grading system.

The new email this month changed what was explained in 2020. Last year, Steve Everett, the Provost and Executive Vice President, had written, "This approach supports you in working to your highest potential, but does not penalize you with an 'F' if the sudden conversion to remote learning results in unexpected challenges and a lower-than-expected grade in any courses."

The original email did describe some exceptions depending on major and specific classes, but the decision ultimately came as a result of the "extremely unusual circumstances surrounding this [spring 2020] semester due to the Covid-19 public health crisis, and the stress and anxiety this has caused for many of you."

Flash forward to the spring 2021 semester and this option is no longer seen as necessary. The first main change in the email was the change of the withdrawal date. The new deadline to withdraw from a class is now April 26 rather than March 30. This change will only apply to this semester.

In an interview with *The Delphian*, Provost Everett stated, "The Faculty Senate recommended extending the period during which students may withdraw from a course to give both faculty and students more time to assess student progress and to determine whether it is in the students' best interests to stay in a course which they might fail, or to withdraw."

Gabriella Cisneros, a senior, said, "This change is very harmful to students. Adelphi made the decision to take away spring break as precaution. I understand and agree with this decision, but the impact has been difficult to handle. Many students are struggling with mental health and motivation as a result, and the university is taking away the little support we had."

For Cisneros the change in withdrawal date is not helpful. "As a second semester senior, the extension of the withdrawal period does nothing to help me. My options are to destroy my GPA or to push back my graduation date in order to retake classes and to spend more money in the process."

The second bullet point states, "the

Continued on page 2

A Word from the Editor

We are officially approaching the end of April, which means finals and summer are right around the corner. This time last year was filled with much uncertainty about what the next few months would look like. While this year we are still in a similar place, the promise of more people being vaccinated is opening up doors toward normalcy. By continuing to practice social distancing, wearing our masks and making vaccination appointments there is a chance for a closer to normal summer and fall semester next academic year.

For seniors, this means that we can at least do a “Grad Walk,” even if we do not have a fully in-person ceremony. This is something that was not possible last year. Find out more about commencement plans in our page one news article. For admitted students, this means a chance to see campus before arriving next fall (see page 3).

Recently policies and guidelines have been changing rapidly. At times it has been overwhelming to keep up with all the news to report. But these changes are, at times, pointing towards an end to this pandemic, or at least adjustments that can be made as more people get vaccinated. Although the pause since last week on the Johnson & Johnson vaccination was disheartening, New York has now reached 41.7 percent of the population with at least one dose already. As more updates about vaccines at Adelphi—which were stopped when the J&J vaccine was halted—become available, we will be sharing that information on our website.

As a graduating senior, I am grateful for the opportunity to partake in a grad walk as it will give my parents an opportunity to watch me walk across a graduation stage. I am also grateful for the virtual commencement ceremonies. Even though they are not in person, I will at least have some closure for my Adelphi experience. I hope that the class of 2022 will get an in-person normal graduation ceremony.

These next few weeks are a time for us seniors to enjoy our final moments as undergraduates. We never know where our journeys will take us, we may even end up back at Adelphi as a guest at an event. Recently, Scott James, a previous *Delphian* features editor, came back to Adelphi to speak about his book. You can read about it on page 5. With so many new opportunities coming our way, this is our time to enjoy being with our friends and prepare for the exciting journey to come.

—*Maria Giovanna Jumper*
Editor-in-Chief



TheDelphian

Editor-in-Chief
Maria Giovanna Jumper

News Editor
Maria Giovanna Jumper

Editorials Editor
Molly Amick

Features Editor
Bianca Viana

Sports Editor
Maxmillian Robinson

Production Editor
Justin Kresse

Production Artist
Cunhui Meng

Writers
Jamal Talal A Abualkhair
Melitta Deljanin
Katie Farkas
Justin Kresse
Ravyn Malvino
Lizz Panchyk
Claire Tsanatelis
AmberWilkins

Delphian Advisor
Liza N. Burby

If you want to join the paper as a writer, photographer, designer, advertising manager or social media contributor, contact us at delphian@adelphi.edu.

Volume 76, Issue 7

Earle Hall Media Center
One South Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530

HOW TO REACH US

Main Office: 516-877-6935
E-mail: delphian@adelphi.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be less than 400 words and include the author's name and affiliation to Adelphi. Letters may be edited for the purposes of space and clarity. Send to delphian@adelphi.edu

ORIGINAL ART

Original drawings, photographs and political cartoons can be sent to delphian@adelphi.edu. Please attach name and affiliation to Adelphi.

ADVERTISING

For advertising rates, email us at delphian@adelphi.edu.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: www.thedelphianau.com
Twitter: @the_Delphian
Facebook: The Delphian
adelphi-delphian.blogspot.com
Instagram: @the_delphian

Pass/No Credit Option Revoked

Continued from page 1

Faculty Senate has made the decision not to extend the Pass/No Credit (P/NC) grading option into the current (spring 2021) semester. Traditional grading policies will remain in effect.”

The rationale following this decision was that “For spring 2021... the Senate Executive Committee, its committees and its senators believed that the hard work of faculty to improve their online instruction... together with students’ increased familiarity with the new modalities, have mitigated the need for such an extreme accommodation.”

Professor Sarah Eltabib, chair of the Faculty Senate, stated, “The faculty at Adelphi value the integrity of an Adelphi degree, which is why required general education classes and major classes have traditionally disallowed the Pass/Fail option. To continue the Pass/No Credit option indefinitely would devalue an Adelphi degree when compared with those of other schools that ended their P/NC options this term.”

However some students still feel the struggles of this transition. Cisneros stated, “The reality is that many professors have not perfected online instruction. The university has essentially placed responsibility on the students to perform at pre-pandemic capacity without pre-pandemic resources available.”

This is particularly concerning since, as reported in the last issues of this newspaper, “Student Mental Health Issues on the Rise Due to the Ongoing Impact of the Pandemic,” not all students have had the ability to adjust to online learning modalities. Many students have been facing mental health issues, with college campuses, including Adelphi, having higher instances of depression and other

mental illnesses.

Another student from the class of 2023, who asked not to be named, agreed. “Mental health is declining from Zoom/computer fatigue. I personally am on my computer working from morning till night. I feel like I haven’t seen the light of day in months other than on the weekends.”

The student continued, “I was outraged that Adelphi alerted us of this change a little over a month before the semester ends, and on a holiday weekend. Students should have had the policy change disclosed to them earlier so that if they had an issue there would be enough time to refute the decision.”

Provost Everett explained the reasoning behind the grade change. “The use of the Pass grade in lieu of a traditional letter grade has the potential to impact certification requirements, NCAA eligibility, graduate school applications, joint program articulation agreements, Latin Honors eligibility, Dean’s List eligibility, and other GPA dependent matters.”

As to the extension of the withdrawal date, the Provost’s office explained in the same email from April 2 that they understand the ongoing pandemic has been affecting students. They wrote, “To allow students to avoid unnecessary failing grades, the Faculty Senate recommended to the Provost’s office extending the withdrawal deadline to give both faculty and students more time to assess student progress and to determine whether it is in the students’ best interests to stay in a course which they might fail, or to withdraw.”

While the later withdrawal date might allow some students to remove a possible failing grade from their record, others may fall behind in credits because they need to withdraw from a class.

On-Campus One-Dose Vaccinations Paused Due to Revised CDC Guidelines

BY MARIA GIOVANNA JUMPER

On April 12, *The Delphian* reported on the availability of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccinations on campus for current Adelphi students. Unfortunately, because of new CDC guidelines, on Tuesday, April 13 the CDC suspended the administration of the vaccines.

Adelphi began administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which only requires one dose, on Friday, April 9, and had nearly completely dispensing all 400 available doses when the CDC announcement was made. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was paused due to concerns of a rare blood clot. After 6.8 million doses were administered nationwide, six women in the United States were found to have a rare blood clot, which led to the death of one and hospitalization of the others. The suspension is temporary while they try to figure out why this blood clot is happening. Although these clots have occurred in women who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, it is currently unclear if the vaccine caused the clot.

In an email on April 13, Nicole Gaudino, the executive director of University Health and Wellness, wrote, “Based on the recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York state, we have suspended our on-campus administration of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to our students.”

If you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the last three weeks, be on the look-out for the following symptoms:

severe headaches, abdominal pain, leg pain and shortness of breath. If you experience any of these symptoms it is recommended that you contact your healthcare provider or the Health Services Center immediately. The Health Services Center can be contacted at healthservicescenter@adelphi.edu or 516-877-6002.

While the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been temporarily suspended, health experts have been vocal about the effectiveness and safety of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which use a different technology (mRNA). Keep in mind that as of April 6 anyone over the age of 16 years old is eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine in New York. In a recent email, Gene Palma, the vice president of Wellness, Safety and Administration, shared information about New York State vaccination guidelines, as well as links to the New York State Covid-19 Vaccine website, the Centers for Disease Control Vaccination website and Adelphi’s vaccination FAQ page.

The pause on administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine could last only a few days while they attempt to find the cause of the clots. While this might cause hesitation in some, getting vaccinated is a great way to protect from Covid-19 and it is recommended that community members get vaccinated. The pause shows that safety measures are effective to address issues that come up.

Gaudino stated, “On-campus vaccination appointments for students will resume when and if it is deemed safe to do so.”

A Virtual Experience for Admitted Students

BY KATIE FARKAS

Although things are looking up in terms of the pandemic, the majority of major events are still happening virtually. This includes experiences like campus tours and admitted student days. Events like this are extremely important for potential students and families, as well as the Adelphi community, where they learn valuable information about academics, clubs, housing and the university. It also gives the faculty the opportunity to meet and interact with potential students.

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged college admissions globally and forced them to rethink the way they welcome prospective students and families to campus, according to Nicole Levy, associate director of events in University Admissions.

“Here at Adelphi, we’ve developed a comprehensive visitor plan that has been in place since August 2020,” she said. “While we previously offered tours to multiple students and families twice daily, we shifted to offering one-on-one personalized tours throughout the day. In addition, we introduced a self-guided tour of campus, allowing students and families to follow our traditional tour route at their

own pace. Alongside a downloadable mobile app, visitors can read about and explore all the sights and sounds our beautiful campus has to offer. Both types of tours are extremely popular and fill within hours of being available on our website. We’re proud of how we adapted and our ability to keep the campus, our amazing student ambassadors and our guests safe.”

So far in the 2020-’21 academic year, 719 prospective students have attended a weekday virtual tour. As for events, Adelphi Admissions hosts quite a range of virtual opportunities, but the largest events for prospective undergraduate students were the Virtual Fall Open Houses. These two events alone welcomed 723 prospective students.

Other experiences for admitted students come from the Honors College, where Dean Susan Dinan said applicants are given the opportunity to be interviewed by faculty. “Interested applicants are interviewed and learn quite a bit about the Honors College through this process,” she said.

Once admitted, Dinan said students are sent a letter of acceptance and invited to attend a large Admitted Student Day event. While this was traditionally done in-person and on-campus, in 2020

and 2021 it was a Zoom meeting.

“During this event, we assembled groups of Honors College faculty, alumni and students to address certain questions, such as how does the Honors College help prepare a student for medical school, dental school, law school or a career in education, technology or healthcare,” Dinan explained. “Other sessions addressed the overall benefits of the Honors College, managing honors and joint-degree programs, honors housing and study abroad. The feedback I received was very positive. Prospective students learned a great deal from the alums, students and faculty.”

Levy and the Admissions Office have also taken advantage of the new virtual platform for admitted student events as well. “All activities that you can find at an in-person event are still available virtually. We think it has actually enhanced the visitor experience,” Levy said.

“In addition to our events, our virtual offerings include live virtual tours with our student ambassadors, live class visits, enrollment counselor appointments and faculty appointments,” she continued. “This allows us to reach students who may not have been able to come to campus, accommodate national and interna-



Admitted students events this year look very different than this one from 2018 where President Riordan's dog, Georgia, took center stage. Photo from @applyadelphi on Instagram

tional time zones, and even provide flexibility to our local students. Although we look forward to the day we can resume traditional in-person visits, our virtual offerings will be an amazing compliment that is here to stay. This would not be possible without the collaboration and adaptation of the entire Adelphi community who participates. We’d like to give a big shoutout to our Web Team who helped create a visually fun and easy to navigate event website.”

Some Panthers Travel Despite University’s Spring Break Decision to Split Up the Days

BY BIANCA VIANA

Last month, spring break during a pandemic made headlines when authorities in Miami Beach had to impose a curfew as U.S. college students flocked to the area in defiance of Covid-19-related guidelines. Among them were many Adelphi students as evidenced by their social media posts where numerous photos showed them on the beach, going to indoor venues where social distancing was not observed, and with no masks in sight. It seems the flexibility of virtual instruction led a number of students to take their classes on vacation with them.

Spring-break-related travel was exactly what the University’s administration was trying to prevent when last semester they announced we wouldn’t be having our expected week-long spring break in March and would instead be getting six days as a part of mini-spring break: March 10, 20 and 21, April 1 and 16 and May 3. The original decision upset many students who felt that having random days off wouldn’t be enough of a break from doing work and stressing about school. However, we tried to remain optimistic because none of us knew if maybe this would be beneficial to us after all.

Which is why many remain upset about what they saw from their peers on social media. Noah Moss, a sophomore, said, “Seeing students traveling during this time has been pretty frustrating. I’m disappointed with how many students have no sympathy for others and only take themselves into account when making these decisions to travel. I’m managing to find ways to have fun in a safe manner and I wish others would do the same. We have to continue following guidelines in order for all of us to be healthy and have life return back to the way it used to be.”

The Delphian asked Sentwali Bakari, the vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, what he thought of the decision some students made to travel.

“While we obviously can’t stop students from traveling altogether, the spread-out days off provided much-needed breaks and discouraged more significant numbers of our community gathering with others on ill-advised spring-break gatherings,” he said, adding that there was a slight uptick in the number of Covid cases in March. “However, we believe it would have been worse with a traditional spring break. Adelphi’s current positivity rate is 0.6 percent with only one student in campus quarantine. I give thanks to our students for their commitment to keeping our campus community safe.”

That doesn’t change the way students like Moss feel about not having a spring break. Many are already coping with Zoom fatigue, but having to essentially go an entire semester with no real break has just led to burnout for many.

Serena Gin, a sophomore said, “I felt cheated out of a break. There was no break whatsoever. On days where we had ‘off’ I would catch up on my school work and just pick up more hours at my job.”

Most students have spent these days off doing the same. Students need a break, a real break. A regular semester is hard enough, but completing a whole semester via Zoom is a far more difficult task. Senior Jacquelyn Smiley agreed. “This spring break was a joke. I didn’t even feel like we had a break since there were still assignments due on our days off and the days off were not consistent.”

She said she was even more upset that during the SGA Feedback forum held on December 3, many students told the administration students were already planning to travel regardless of health and safety guide-

lines, and others said this concerned them.

Bakari said of the students who followed University policy, “We appreciate that nearly everyone in the Adelphi community has acted this academic year responsibly, and we haven’t had to go back to all remote instruction.”

He added, “We all need to recognize that following medical and public health guidance protects ourselves and our friends, family and colleagues. While we see the light at the end of the tunnel, it’s important not to try to go back to pre-pandemic behaviors too soon.”

Spring break is designated to be a much needed mid-semester break for students; it is not solely there for the purpose of traveling or vacationing. Most students also look forward to spring break to go back home and visit family. Some students also use spring break to pick up more hours at work. It is understandable that the university had hoped to limit travel, but many students agree there could have been a way to still allow a week-long spring break.

A junior, who asked their name to be withheld, said, “For example, the administration could have given students their week-long spring break and then followed up with a two-week strictly remote mode of instruction afterwards. Another option would have been that students who returned to campus after traveling be required to take a negative Covid test upon arrival.”

The Adelphi community has been lucky that Covid-19 numbers did not spike too much after the amount of students who still chose to travel for spring break. It is important that we continue to follow safety guidelines and do our part in stopping the spread.

THE DELPHIAN

Meet the Editors

Come meet the Delphian Editors and learn what it is like to be part of a newspaper

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!
JOIN US APRIL 21, 2021 @6PM

This event will be held on zoom.

<https://adelphiuniversity.zoom.us/j/6294255152>
Meeting ID: 629 425 5152

How the Performing Arts at Adelphi Have Changed and Adapted to the Pandemic Shutdown

BY JUSTIN KRESSE

When the pandemic shutdown began more than a year ago, one industry hit especially hard was the performing arts. At Adelphi, the Dance, Music and Theatre Departments were given no choice other than to stop all live performances for the safety and wellbeing of the community. However, this abrupt change did not necessarily mean that the performing arts at Adelphi had to stop altogether. In fact, all three of these departments worked swiftly and carefully to ensure students would at least have modified opportunities to express their creativity and enjoy the performing arts while staying safe.

One of the places hit especially hard by the pandemic was music. Music Department chair Sidney Boquiren said that singing is considered to be a “super-spreader” event, as is playing instruments such as woodwinds and brass that require the musician to blow into it. Because of the potential danger associated with these activities, the Music Department acted

so that we can make music with other classmates is challenging. But we just try to stick to the course objectives in terms of helping students grow as musicians and performers.”

The Dance Department has also had to adapt to the pandemic by wearing masks—even during their performances—as well as limiting close contact. Orion Duckstein, the department chair, said, “When the pandemic began, students and faculty tried to look on the bright side, saying that ‘at least we were able to perform for each other last spring.’”

He is referring to the virtual, video-recorded dances that students had to make during the spring semester of 2020.

In the fall and during this current semester, most students were able to perform live with cameras recording the dances to be live-streamed. However, Duckstein said, “Dance and the camera have never been that friendly. There is something about it that delays and softens something.”

To look at the situation more optimistically, the pandemic has forced the



From dance performance “White Stars Tell Your Praise” directed by Adelheid B. Strelick with video of Yu-Chieh Kao in Taipei projected in the background. Photo credit of Adelphi University/Peter Frutkoff

quickly and was able to adapt most of their performances to a virtual setting.

Boquiren noted that the virtual rehearsals were especially difficult, as being able to hear everyone’s parts at once is not feasible through Zoom. However, through the use of technology such as Soundtrap, students have been able to individually record their parts while listening to other students’ performances and then adding their performances to the overall show.

Currently, there are a limited number of musical performances. For the junior and senior recitals, these performances are recorded as if it were a performance, Boquiren said.

“The junior recitals are only a half hour, which is great because we made the decision that recording sessions and rehearsals can only be a half hour in duration. Then you have to clear the space for air exchange,” Boquiren noted. “The senior recitals are a full hour in duration so they do two sessions of recording.”

Boquiren was upfront about the downsides to making music during the pandemic. “How we join ensembles

dancers to find new ways to be artistic and even utilize the digital medium. Duckstein spoke about a performance choreographed by Adelheid B. Strelick, one of the dance professors, which involved a student who was joining in virtually from Taiwan. The student was assigned to take videos of themselves around Taipei in different settings and then the edited videos were projected behind a dance performance for the piece, with the dancers interacting with the video.

Duckstein noted, “It presented us the opportunity to finally try some of those things like integrating film.” He saw it as students and faculty making the best of pandemic limitations.

The Theatre Department is yet another area that had to undergo changes because of the effects of the pandemic, but these have also served as a catalyst for new technology and new ideas. Megan Lohne ‘04 is an Adelphi alum, adjunct theatre professor, and has been at the forefront of some of the recent virtual Adelphi theatre productions. She wrote Adelphi’s first official virtual show, “This Odd Geometry of Time,” working with



SO Percussion playing a work of student composer Kevin Lubin. Photo credit of Adelphi University/Peter Frutkoff

the company that she and Shoshanah Tarkow ‘06 started, Like Fresh Skin, to create virtual theatre shows that talk about untold feminist stories.

Lohne has also recently started the Adelphi Alumni Playwrights group, which has an upcoming show titled “Spring Fever” from April 16 to May 2. Visit their website www.adelphialumnp playwrightsgroup.com to learn more.

Nicholas Petron, her former professor and the Theatre Department chair, emphasized his appreciation for everyone involved in these modified productions. “Everyone who has been involved in the productions since we got back has risen to the occasion under incredibly difficult circumstances,” he said. “It’s been quite a journey. I’m really proud of everyone in the department. Each performance has been adjusting to the one before it.”

Brian Donoghue is an Adelphi junior and was the production stage manager for the department’s second virtual performance in March of “Almost, Maine,” as well as the assistant stage manager for “This Odd Geometry of Time.” Donoghue said that “Almost, Maine” was approached like a normal theatre production, except for the fact that everything needed to be adapted for television.

“Once we got into the last few

dress rehearsals where we used audio and visual technology, then we started adapting things for the camera. It was a lot of trial and error,” Donoghue said, adding he had a positive outlook on the changes necessitated by Covid-19. He saw screen tests and working with new technology as experience that could help his career.

The next Adelphi Theatre performance, “Talking With...” by Jane Martin, will take place May 6-8, so watch the Theatre website to learn more when it is available.

As a result of the pandemic, the performing arts at Adelphi have been forced to undergo abrupt changes, but they seem to have adapted to this new normal quite well. The performing arts departments have crafted a great balance between maintaining safety and allowing individuals to create and express themselves freely. While we all long for the day when we can take off our masks and hug our friends, the hard truth is that we may be waiting a while. In the meantime, it’s a good thing that we can still create meaningful art.

As Lohne put it, “The pandemic has made us have to reevaluate how we’re creating art, how we’re communicating, how we want to interact with each other past this moment in history.”



Scene from “Almost, Maine” with actors, Nicholas Amodio ‘23 and Gabriela Villeda ‘22. Photo credit of Adelphi University/Peter Frutkoff

At GMGC Event Scott James '84 Discusses New Book, the Writing Process and Where He Got His Start

BY MAXMILLIAN ROBINSON

A blast from the past virtually visited the Adelphi community on April 7 as Scott James '84, an Emmy Award-winning journalist, author and former *Delphian* features editor, spoke at the Great Minds, Great Conversations (GMGC) event about his new book "Trial By Fire: A Devastating Tragedy, 100 Lives Lost, and a 15-Year Search for Truth." He was joined by President Christine M. Riordan and moderator Liza Burby, adjunct professor and faculty advisor to this newspaper, for a spirited discussion about the controversial story behind his book, the writing process and his time as an Adelphi student.

After an introduction, about 40 participants viewed a short film clip about the event that inspired the 384-page book, which recounts the February night in 2003 when about 400 people gathered inside The Station, a nightclub in Providence, Rhode Island, for a Great White concert. A pyrotechnic display ignited into a fire that killed 100 and injured hundreds more. While a federal investigation took place, James said justice wasn't served for the survivors and the families of those who were killed. The brothers who owned the nightclub, Jeffrey and Michael Derderian, who were criminally charged, had never before been interviewed to tell their side of the story. James decided to take matters into his own hands, conducting countless interviews, telling the story from the perspective of people who experienced the tragedy to document what occurred on that fiery night.

The first question Burby asked during the event is what inspired James to



Author Scott James is an Adelphi graduate from the class of 1982

write the book. "I grew up in a suburb of Providence," James said. "I would return there and run a TV news room for many years. Long after, now living in California, I returned home one day to see family, but questions would often arise in the area about the incident and people not receiving justice. That prompted me to go out and search for the answers."

Covering a story of this magnitude would require countless hours of research while James lived on the opposite side of the country. "The process took about 10 years, going back and forth from California, just to talk with people," he

explained. "One of the things I found out was that three mock trials had occurred for the case, yet no one was convicted for the crime. The public felt that the case was basically over for the accused, but that happened to not be true. I went through thousands of documents, talked to many people and conducted interviews."

James explained that while the Derderians did not appreciate the way citizens viewed them after the fire or how the media treated them, Jeffrey had once worked for him as a reporter at the news station where he was news director. He approached the brothers to tell their side of the story.

"I figured he [Jeffrey] would be willing to speak to me over anyone else considering the connection we had," James said. "Due to the disrespect by the press, he refused to talk to me. One defense attorney was also the brothers' biggest nemesis and he worked for me as well. Luckily, this event was filmed on camera because another reporter in the room was filming for another story when the fire erupted. That person also worked for me and in the end, everyone spoke up to tell their side of the story. The world is a small place."

He was also asked about his writing process, which included letting the people he interviewed preview his chapters. "Usually, I would first break down a scene or event that would happen in the story and then make that a chapter in itself," he said. "I also did kitchen table reads, where I'd put the draft on the table and we [the subjects] would read if the story matched how the subject really felt."

When Burby pointed out that this prepublication review is not the preferred process for journalists, James agreed, but said that since he was writing narrative nonfiction, sitting down with his subjects as they reviewed his notes was transformative. It led to conversations that revealed more information than they had shared with him before, and is one of the reasons he thinks the book reads like a novel. James is also the author of two bestselling novels, "SoMa" and "The Sower," written under the pen name Kemble Scott.

James, who was a communications major at Adelphi in the 80s, also spoke about where he got his early experience as a journalist. He said though he came to the university to major in filmmaking, it was his journalism classes and working on this newspaper that inspired him to be a journalist.

"I would not have written this book if it weren't for Adelphi," he said during a pre-event interview. "But I joined *The Delphian* and then I was smitten with journalism."

James started writing about films for the paper and then became the features editor. "I was able to do stories, interviewing Lucille Ball, who may have been the most famous woman in the world at the time. Dr. Ruth Westheimer came to Adelphi and gave us interviews about 'this new talk show she was experimenting with.' We were meeting with people before they

even became famous." She went on to be a cultural phenomenon known as sex therapist Dr. Ruth.

As a student James then had a chance to write an investigation for *The Delphian* about the misuse of student funds. As a result of that article, he was named student journalist of the year for the New York City area. "All of a sudden journalism wasn't just frivolous and talking to celebrities. It was actually about weighty issues you can do something about," he said.

James also credited his success to the class size of Adelphi, with professors going out of their way to make sure he was in the best position to succeed. "That individualized attention as a writer, that the professor was actually going to read what I wrote, was important to me to get that feedback, which I think was unique."

In addition to the fascinating details about "Trial by Fire," and the challenges of promoting a book during the pandemic, the conversation included a discussion about the book President Riordan is currently writing, "Shift Happens: How to Adapt and Thrive in a Rapidly Changing World of Work," which she described as a research-based book that teaches people to be their own career and job coach so they learn how to adapt to any change that may come their way at work. "It's really a self-help business book for people at all stages of their career," she said.

The two authors also discussed the challenges of writing a book while working full-time jobs. James said he separates the days that he's writing and researching. "When I'm in a really good writing groove I write fresh material in the afternoon and sleep on it and rewrite in the morning," he said.

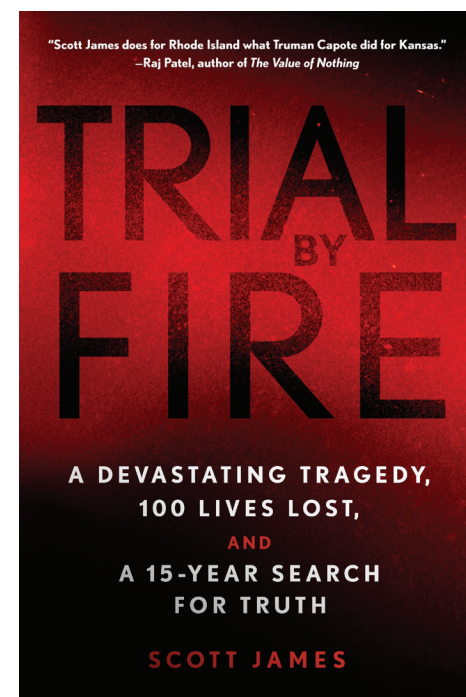
President Riordan said she was spending time writing every morning until the pandemic changed her schedule. Even so, she does make some time every day. "It's harder when I have to stop and dust off the cobwebs after a few weeks of not writing," she said.

"I would not have written this book if it weren't for Adelphi," author Scott James said. "But I joined *The Delphian* and then I was smitten with journalism."

During the Q&A portion of the event, James answered questions from the audience, including students. One came from Bianca Viana, who currently holds James' old role at *The Delphian*. She asked him what he feels is the ultimate goal for this book to accomplish.

"My goal is to raise awareness," James said. "This is what journalists do. We raise questions and our hope is that we get a response and in this case revisit these inadequate fire codes. There's no reason that a building in 2021 that has people in it shouldn't have sprinklers. We need to do a better job of protecting the public."

This editor asked if he had enjoyed writing before college. He said that



"Trial By Fire" tells the story of the tragic 2003 nightclub fire in Rhode Island and the mishandled criminal case.

even as an eight-year-old he kept a clip file of articles that interested him like the Watergate case. Worried about what her young son was reading, his mom got rid of it, but his grandmother bought him a red child's typewriter that he started writing on at 10 years old.

During a subsequent interview with *The Delphian*, James said that journalists are essential workers.

"Without news, people aren't informed," James said. "As a journalist, our job is to cover a story, no matter the circumstances. Going to a crime scene, dangerous neighborhoods and other places no average person would have access to. Our lives are at stake, especially in countries where governments don't allow freedom of speech."

Also in that interview, James touched on the adversity he faced upon the release of his book. While there were many good reviews, the opposing views left a lasting impact.

"I receive hundreds of positive reviews, but when I get two [critical] reviews, I never forget them."

He also shared some writing advice for college writers who would like to pursue a career. "Drop your ego, become a good reader and never be afraid of rejection," he advised.

Dr. Riordan said of the event: "It was a fascinating conversation we had with Scott. As a fellow writer, I enjoyed hearing about his process from the perspective of an investigative journalist and a storyteller. I'm thrilled about Scott's success. 'Trial by Fire' was a great read; each chapter was emotional, compelling and powerful."

This event, Great Minds, Great Conversations, was the sixth in the series begun November 5, 2020 to showcase alumni industry leaders, original thinkers, artists, authors and athletes. Topics center on the economy, politics, the arts, ethics and even our own mortality.

All NY Adults Receive the All-Clear for Vaccination

BY LIZZ PANCHYK

Throughout this lengthy pandemic, we have been waiting and hoping for the Covid vaccine to come out. It initially came out during December, and we started seeing more eligibility in early 2021. It started with elderly people and people with underlying health conditions, as well as essential workers and those who



All New York adults will now be able to sign up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Photo from CBS 21

work in schools. It was very satisfying to see the continuation of the vaccine being given out, and in more recent weeks, the eligibility has expanded to ages 50, then 30, and as of April 6, to those as young as 16. We hope to see this process continue as we hit the summer months.

As someone who works in a high school, I was eligible beginning in January. However, it is hard to get an appointment as they are taken extremely fast. There are sometimes waitlists, so you have to jump in as soon as you can, especially now that more people are eligible. I received my first vaccine in late March and a majority of my family is fully vaccinated. It's great progress to not only watch my family and friends receive the vaccine, but also to overhear the teachers talk about it with high hopes. For once, the future is a little bit brighter as more and more people get vaccinated. It is a personal choice, of course, but I do

see more positives to come out of this than negatives.

With more locations opening up to administer vaccines, there are more options for those who are eligible. Adelphi was administering the Johnson & Johnson

It's great progress to not only watch my family and friends receive the vaccine, but also to overhear the teachers talk about it with high hopes. For once, the future is a little brighter. . .

vaccine, which is one shot, but had to stop because of new CDC guidelines. However, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are still being offered across the state. Now that eligibility has expanded, anyone at Adelphi can get it by making an appointment if they haven't gotten it yet.

You can ask your local drugstore

if they're administering and who they are administering to, as well as make an appointment through the New York State website, which will offer locations where you can receive the vaccine. Jones Beach is a very popular administration spot, and it's a drive-up process that's fast and simple.

With roughly 150 million vaccines administered in the United States as of this writing, we're hoping that this keeps going in the right direction in order to flatten the curve and be able to live (somewhat) normally once again. President Joe Biden is even hoping for this return to normalcy to begin sometime in July, just a mere three months away. New Yorkers and Americans in general are hoping for the light at the end of the tunnel and for the sense of normalcy to return once again. Now that would be a great summer surprise.

Will Chauvin's Fate Emphasize America's Indifference Toward Black Lives?

BY AMBER WILKINS

Hope is all there is. It is only with hope that the American criminal justice system will not fail humanity.

In 2020, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was charged with second-degree unintentional murder and second-degree manslaughter after restraining George Floyd by grinding his knee into Floyd's neck and applying pressure to the point of Floyd's death. Chauvin was later charged with third-degree murder in early 2021. Since March 29, Chauvin has been on trial for his barbarity.

The prosecution team is led by Keith Wilson, the Attorney General of Minnesota, and includes assistant attorneys general Mathew Frank and Erin Eldridge, as well as outside lawyers, Jerry Blackwell and Steve Schleicher. The defense attorney, who is representing Chauvin, is Eric Nelson.

In my opinion, Chauvin is undoubtedly a guilty man. After watching the infamous recording of George Floyd pleading for his life while suffocating from Chauvin's weight, this is an easy conclusion to draw. Additionally, more information brought forward by the trial proves Chauvin's eligibility for being convicted of all three charges. Yet, there is some uncertainty about whether Chauvin will actually be convicted, and it comes from one single factor—George Floyd was a Black man and Chauvin is a white man.

Immediately addressing one of the major questions about this case, it was clarified during weeks one and two that Chauvin was not trained to put his knee on an individual's neck in order to restrain them. On Monday April 5, Vanessa Romo of NPR news reported that Inspector Katie Blackwell, previous overseer of the Minneapolis Police Training Department, testified that "Chauvin went against authorized training when he used his knee on George Floyd's neck to pin him to the ground." Romo mentioned that inspector Blackwell "told jurors that officers are trained about the dangers of keeping a person in a position that can limit the person's ability to breathe," which Floyd

was visibly and unnecessarily in.

Chauvin's former supervisor, Retired Sgt. David Ploeger of the Minneapolis Police Department, and Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo, both testified that Chauvin's restraint "should have ended much sooner." Additionally, on April 6, Minneapolis Department use-of-force Instructor, Lt. Johnny Mercil, testified that "Minneapolis police are taught to restrain combative suspects with a knee on their back or shoulders if necessary, but are told to 'stay away from the neck when possible,'" said Amy Forliti, Steve Karnowski and Tammy Webber of the Associated Press. According to CBS contributor Erin Donaghue, after



Photo from a Black Lives Matter protest. Image from Nowadays.org.uk

evaluating the video of Floyd's killing, Mercil firmly concluded that Chauvin's kneeling on Floyd's neck was unauthorized.

Not only did Chauvin exceed the limits of his authority, but he did so inhumanely. As he pressed his knee into Floyd's neck, witnesses testified that Chauvin seemed not to care that Floyd was becoming increasingly unresponsive. First, Genevieve Hansen, a witness and a Minneapolis firefighter and EMT, told the officers about Floyd's deteriorating state. She offered medical assistance, as she became increasingly concerned about Floyd's condition, but the police refused to let her intervene. Furthermore, according to Hutchinson, Darnella Frazier, the now 18-year-old who recorded

one of the most widely seen videos of the petrifying interaction between Chauvin and Floyd, stated that as the crowd called for Floyd to be freed, Chauvin had a "cold, heartless look" and claimed that "Chauvin did not care." Donald Williams, a witness and mixed martial arts fighter, testified that Chauvin had Floyd in a position that would cut off blood flow to his brain.

According to Donaghue of CBS News, "in order to convict Chauvin of second-degree murder, prosecutors would need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Chauvin unintentionally caused Floyd's death while committing or attempting to commit a related felony—in this case third-

be surprising if in the end Chauvin is not convicted. It is more than painful and shameful to say, but the lack of accountability for law enforcement's maltreatment of Black people is nothing new to American society.

Eric Garner, a Black man who died from being in a chokehold by an NYPD police officer, received no justice, as the officer who murdered Garner was fired but never charged.

There's been little to no justice for Breonna Taylor, who was shot six times in her own apartment after police inaccurately associated her home with drug dealings. After she was shot, she received no medical assistance and thus died. No officers were charged for their recklessness.

Elijah McClain received no justice after being unlawfully detained for resembling a suspect that Aurora police officers were searching for at the time. McClain was met with threats, put into a position that disrupted the flow of blood to his brain, and was given a sedative dosage that was disproportionate to his body measurements. McClain died three days later, and the officers were never charged for their negligence of human life.

The common thread here is that nothing that these people did justified how they were treated—well of course nothing other than being Black.

Justice is present when there is accountability for one's wrongdoings. Justice is recognizing that a life was cruelly and unnecessarily ended. Disturbingly, the list of Black victims of police brutality goes on and on. But justice does not go on and on.

Along with Derek Chauvin, America is currently on trial for the murder of George Floyd. There is no pessimism. Only an acknowledgement of what has happened in the past and applying this acknowledgment to the present.

This awareness, however, does not mean that we, Black Americans, will surrender. This is what America is certainly wrong about. America continues to disregard our resolve, just as it continues to disregard Black lives.

As we await the trial verdict, all that is left is hope.

degree assault." Brad Parks, Aaron Cooper and Eric Levenson of CNN reported that in order for Chauvin to be charged with third-degree murder, prosecutors have to prove that Chauvin's actions endangered Floyd and that Chauvin acted with disregard for human life. When looking at the fact that Chauvin ignored Floyd when he told him that he could not breathe, it is indisputable to me that Chauvin meets the criteria for being convicted of both murder charges and the manslaughter charge. Chauvin's persistence of bearing down on Floyd after Floyd became fully unresponsive advances his guilt.

Nevertheless, after all revelations that illustrate Chauvin's guilt, it would not

Distinct Societal Laws Lead to Similar Outcomes

BY JAMAL TALAL A ABUALKHAIR

Maintaining order in any society can perhaps be argued to be a natural need. As we have the ability to observe around us, every society that has not been able to implement a structure of rules that are properly enforced dissolves into chaos. If a society is properly able to make its people act accordingly, to certain rules, it will be advantageous for everyone. While there is no question that a system of law and order that provides justice benefits everyone in society, we can see all around us that many different countries today have implemented different rules and laws.

While such laws are different in every country, they are able to suit the needs of people according to their own culture. For example, in a country like Saudi Arabia, there is often harsh criticism in the news for the extreme punishment that is given to criminals. Whereas in a country like the United States, most forms of capital punishment such as the death penalty are less common. But if we observe these two countries, we can argue that both are able to deliver justice and maintain social order according to the society around them. Here, we present an argument that while laws can be different in different societies, they can still work to achieve similar results.

From an outsider's perspective, the strict rules of a country like Saudi

Arabia seem as if they are unjust because they are too harsh on their own people. But if the actual evidence is observed, we can see that most of these punishments are given out to people who have committed serious crimes such as rape or murder. While the punishment for such laws draws upon from religious Islamic text, it is also based on the nature of the society. The reason I choose these countries is because I have lived in both of them. This has provided me with a perspective regarding how different two societies can be from one another especially in their everyday lives. To put it simply, from my observation, the mindset of a citizen from Saudi Arabia and an American is extremely different. This includes their dealings in everyday life, their mannerisms and other related things, even how they behave while driving. For example, the fines in Saudi Arabia for violating traffic rules are very high because a lot of cases in the past few years showed careless driving that resulted in accidents and deaths. I have seen myself how careless people in Saudi Arabia drive and that the only way to handle it was to have very strict traffic laws in place. However, in the U.S., people do not drive as rashly as someone would in Saudi Arabia so there was no need to be so strict with fines.

To say that a single law can thus be implemented successfully in both countries is not straightforward and does not take into account the society in practi-



The justice system that works in the U.S. may not work in Saudi Arabia, and vice versa. Photo from SnappyGoat.com

cal life. To really implement a system that implements justice, the law must take into account how effective the results will be given the nature of society and the mindset of the people. The system of justice in Saudi Arabia has naturally evolved according to the culture and mindset of the people. It is similarly the case with the United States. However, evidence shows that Saudi Arabia has been effective in keeping crime low as a result while the case in the United States has historically been different because it is having different problems. Because the United States has had to deal with maintaining order between people from all over the world, it has found its own unique way of delivering justice and solving its problems. Similarly, Saudi Arabia's justice system has evolved according to the needs of its own society.

But for a moment, let us also see the flaws in this argument. The issue arises that while Saudi Arabia has been effective in maintaining social order by delivering strict punishments, such laws can turn the people against the government. Most of this has to do with the open society we live in today, where the people of any country can observe how justice is delivered in another country and be influenced by it. If many people start disagreeing with their government in this way, it can result in chaos and unrest. This can happen in any society today, even in the USA, so maybe the time has passed when different kinds of laws could achieve similar positive results.

But while this is a possibility, our current world shows that different societies have different problems, and the justice system in each society has to understand the mindset of the people. It is not entirely true that a law that works in the United States would achieve similar results in Saudi Arabia. Drawing from my own experiences, I can argue that Saudi Arabia has been very effective in maintaining social order because of its strict laws. But while such laws work in my country, they will never work in the US. A conclusive argument can thus be made that while the laws in each society are different, they can achieve similar results if they are based on the needs and mindset of their own society.

Nothing Significant is Being Done for the Environment

BY MELITTA DELJANIN

I recently turned 18 and was excited about finally being able to vote. Still, it was overwhelming to have to choose between two parties that have opposing views about whether we should do something to reverse the negative effects on the environment. If you're like me, you are worried about what people in positions of power will do or not do to protect the environment. You may even be wondering why a solution to ocean pollution still evades us and why our efforts to mend the

burden of the current ocean pollution state is so slow.

Ocean pollution is a problem because of plastic. In the last 10 years alone, humans have made more plastic than was made in the last century. This is an immobilizing fact, considering that by 2050 the pollution that has affected our fish will be outnumbered by plastic dumped in the ocean. Many of the effects of ocean pollution will soon be irreversible, if nothing significant is done about it. When it comes to regulating our use of plastic bags, many believe that banning plastic is dependent on whether we decide

to reuse and recycle. David Allaway, a senior policy analyst at DEQ's Materials Management Program, believes that the greatest harm plastic produces is when we fabricate the products we consume. In other words, plastic that goes into landfill or gets recycled is not the solution to the problem. Instead, reducing production of plastic items or even stopping production is more likely to reverse the damage created by plastic.

A second pollutant is plastic straws. Watch the 2019 video of a straw getting removed from a sea turtle's nose. It's heartbreaking! Almost overnight the video had reached every corner of the world, and plastic straws became a common enemy amongst many. Soon after, the video caught the attention of elected officials and a ban of plastic straws was put into place. We were encouraged to use paper straws. Unfortunately, banning plastic straws did not do much to prevent ocean pollution. "Plastic straws are only a tiny fraction of the problem – less than one percent," said Rob Jordan of Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. Marine life, as we know it, is still suffering irreparable damage because of other items in our oceans that haven't even been spoken of. In order to make any significant impact, people need to target the root of the problem.

Clearly banning plastic bags and plastic straws isn't enough to prevent

ocean pollution. However, there is something to be said for creating awareness. Once people find out what helps the most, that information spreads all over the world and people get together to try to do something for the greater good.

Despite the fact that some don't believe that ocean pollution is seriously harmful to the environment, it is a very prominent issue that will affect everyone in the future. Some may even say that this issue is already being combatted.

Regardless of these positive changes, there are still other dangerous pollutants in our oceans that have yet to be addressed. Consequently, there really hasn't been any significant change for the better. Most people can agree that although it is difficult to find a solution, it is common sense when it comes to fighting issues such as pollution. Officials in high positions of power must understand that the root of the cause needs to be attacked, in order to make any significant change. While people wait for these significant changes to happen, however, they can contribute by reducing the number of plastic products that they use, recycling bags and other items, and reusing them when possible. This will really make the world a cleaner, better place before the damage is irreversible.



Unfortunately, banning plastic straws has not yet done much to prevent this type of marine waste washing up on our shorelines. Photo from NDLA.no

Arkansas Ban on Gender-Affirming Care for Trans Youth Has Implications for the Conservative Culture War

BY CLAIRE TSANATELIS

On April 6, 2021, Arkansas became the first state to ban gender-affirming medical treatments for underaged Arkansans who identify as transgender. The Arkansas Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act also includes risks of civil litigation and stripping the license to practice from medical practitioners still offering these treatments to minors. It is only the first of what appears to be dozens of states proposing bills that would make puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy illegal for minors with gender dysphoria.

As one would have expected, LGBTQ lobbyists of the ACLU and the Human Rights Organization are already taking action against this bill and any future state bills by preparing litigation and using “every tool at their disposal to fight against the law.” Through the lens of these activists who are supported by major institutions such as the American Psychiatric Association (APA), American Medical Association (AMA) and the

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), depriving transgender youth of the decision to indefinitely or permanently prevent puberty through hormone blockers is a human right’s issue with devastating implications, potentially leading to death or despair. The argument for this is that the already existing high suicide rates amongst transgender youths will be accelerated if they’re forced to undergo their body’s natural puberty.

The stance from conservative politicians in the deep red state of Arkansas is that “chemical castration” of children is indisputable lunacy. Why should a physically healthy child be entrusted with the decision to alter the God-given function of human biological development just because the child “feels” a certain way? A minor isn’t allowed to get a tattoo, purchase alcohol or tobacco or even vote, but somehow sterilizing themselves through chemicals and other assigned drugs that will destroy their body’s endocrine system is fine and dandy because they’re finally going to be able to express



With his veto of the Arkansas SAFE Act, Governor Asa Hutchinson challenged conservative values that don't support the trans movement promoted by supporters like these pictured. Photo from rabble.ca

themselves. This is viewed as nothing more than demented child abuse that is antithetical to actual science and both parents and physicians are complicit.

It was assumed these views are universally understood by conservatives judging by the 20 other state bills that have been introduced this year that restrict these treatments and procedures for minors. After all, the hardcore conservative Arkansas passed this bill in a landslide through both the state’s Republican-controlled Senate and House with a 28-7 and 70-22 vote. But this bill almost didn’t pass when Governor Asa Hutchinson initially vetoed it on April 5, stating it was a “vast government overreach” and that the state legislature had gone too far. This didn’t stop the Republican-led legislature from overriding the Governor’s veto by a vote of 25-8, making this bill official Arkansas law.

Many on the left were surprised by Governor Hutchinson’s decision to deny an overt anti-trans bill, considering his track record of overriding trans protection through allowing recent bills that bar transgender women from competing in female sports. On the other hand, he’s under fire by some of the most influential people on the right, with former President Donald Trump ripping him in a statement calling him a “lightweight RINO” for softly endorsing the “chemical castration” of children.

Hutchinson has defended himself multiple times recently, with his notable appearance on “Tucker Carlson Tonight” on Fox News, where he and talk show host Carlson clashed on the topic of his rationale behind the veto.

According to Hutchinson, this is the most extreme law in the country due to its inflexibility of interrupting the current treatment being provided by physicians that both the parents and the kids have already consented to.

“The Republican Party I grew up with believed in a restrained government that did not jump in the middle of every issue,” he said, adding that the bill is a product of the culture war in America where he will participate in the battle when necessary. But one of the big prob-

lems in conservatives’ role in the culture war is that “sometimes we’re trying to address the fear of something that isn’t happening in reality.”

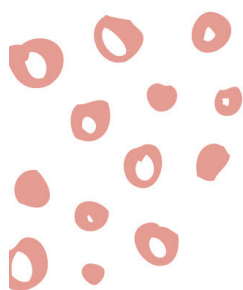
Hutchinson isn’t in favor of many trans rights himself, but his loyalty to the guise of individual rights and freedom led him to make the choice to capitulate on an issue the conservative base of the country finds immoral and evil: the use of experimentation drugs on children and sex-change treatments in general.

This doesn’t make Hutchinson an isolated Republican. This “culture war battle” he suggests conservatives not dwell on is the exact battle they’ve been losing over the past 50 years as every major institution in the country has shifted to the left.

The fact that medical institutions like the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the AAP and many more are in favor of gender-affirming treatments for children, stating the long-term physical and mental health benefits backed up by their studies from the U.S research team, that is funded by the National Institutes of Health, says a lot about our current cultural climate. There is very little corporate or organizational backing for conservative issues because outside of the government, the culture operates on a strictly liberal paradigm.

The passage of SAFE is a win for conservatives, but kind of sad when you remember that only a decade ago conservatives were fighting against the legalization of same-sex marriage, only to come to acceptance with their loss on the issue by agreeing to settle on a middle ground. How did we escalate to such a widely different issue in such a short period of time?

Hutchinson is just one name written in small print on a very long list of Republicans who have abandoned fighting for conservative principles that were espoused by the founders of this nation, by transforming conservatism into small-government classical liberalism that has facilitated the radical culture shift within the past 50 years.



THE DELPHIAN

Meet the Editors

Come meet the Delphian Editors and learn what it is like to be part of a newspaper

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!
JOIN US APRIL 21, 2021 @6PM

This event will be held on zoom.

<https://adelphiuniversity.zoom.us/j/6294255152>

Meeting ID: 629 425 5152



Significant Comebacks Overrun Senior Setbacks

BY MAXMILLIAN ROBINSON

Senior year is a time to look back and reflect on many of the positive experiences of being on campus. However, in the midst of a pandemic, it's rather cliché to fully comprehend the significance of one last ride, knowing that lives are at risk daily.

This semester our Brown and Gold athletes began their seasons after having off for almost an entire calendar year. Despite all of this, the fourth-year athletes appreciate the past, but have adapted to these new changes too.

"My life has changed a lot this season, in ways I never thought it would," said women's lacrosse player Kailey Broderick. "As a team, we hold each other more accountable, but we also have learned when we need to turn the page and move on, both on and off the field. I've also known how much the bond of a team truly means, but this year our bond has reached a new level."

Even though a season is being played, Covid 19 is still causing problems. Several people on the lacrosse team contracted the virus, leaving them to be separated at times. This would cause issues with consistency because players would have to quarantine for 14 days in order to complete the protocol requirements.

Broderick has not contracted the virus, but she and the team members who were in quarantine at the time stay in touch constantly trying to improve the situation.

"There was still never a day where a teammate didn't check in on me and see how I was doing," she said. "This season has taught me to never take anything for granted."

Other athletes, like baseball player Tyler Becker, picked up unique responsibilities upon the season resuming. "I had originally applied to graduate school just to finish my graduate degree," he said. "Now, I am going through graduate school while also

playing my final season of college baseball."

Being a grad student, Becker has accepted this as being his last season and has come to terms with moving on. "More than anything I am just happy to be playing," he said. "Last March when the season got canceled, I wasn't sure if I would get the chance to play out my final season. I wouldn't change anything because I have really enjoyed my four years of college baseball. I've come to learn a lot."

Softball player Lauren O'Neill also mentioned her feelings about this being the final season. "I have always practiced being grateful for all the opportunities I am given, but after having a season being taken away from me last year, I am able to understand why it is so important to make every moment matter," she said. "I am coming back for the 2022 season while I get my masters degree here in sports management."

Most players agree that time can and should not be taken for granted. Many have learned new skills that they have applied to their own lives that they will take into their future.

"I have learned to work extremely hard at all times, even if I don't feel at my best that day," O'Neill said. "Being a member of this program has given me way more than just an opportunity to play a sport."

"I have learned to be resilient and determined," Broderick said. "These two traits combined, on and off the field, will help anyone to be successful. Resiliency is a big word this year. If you're not resilient in times like this, then you have no chance of overcoming whatever challenges are thrown at you. Determination is something I've always had with myself individually, but having a team filled with 20-plus other girls who are determined towards the same goal with you is an unmatched feeling and experience."

All of these skills will help to better herself, as she is returning to study her

masters in physical education and to fully complete her four-year athletic career here.

All three Panther athletes said these have been interesting college years.

"The memories I reflect on the most are the good times I have with my teammates," Becker said. "Having fun on the field with them just playing the game of baseball are the things I will remember most."

These memories will last a lifetime for some athletes, even if it has nothing to do with the sport they've played.

"There isn't one specific memory that I would like to reflect on," O'Neill said. "My experience here has been something I will be able to reflect on for the rest of my life. Most of my reflection doesn't even have to do with actually playing or practicing. Being a member of this program has given me way more than just an opportunity to play a sport."



Lauren O'Neill said she's excited for another opportunity to play softball this year.



Kailey Broderick made the most of her opportunities playing lacrosse.



Tyler Becker took on the new challenges of playing baseball for the team this season.

Men's Lacrosse Team Lights Up the League

BY MAXMILLIAN ROBINSON

April showers have started to appear, but don't worry, spring sports are here. The Adelphi University Board of Trustees decided that it was okay for sports to return this semester, following safety precautions given by the state. And one team, in particular, has shown its dominance early on. The men's lacrosse team has been a near perfect, totaling four wins and one loss, through five games this season. Despite the world experiencing a tumultuous time, these Panthers continue to claw towards constant victory.

"It has been a unique time in college athletics," said coach Gordon Purdie. "Student athletes were given the opportunity to use the year of eligibility lost as a result of the cancellation of the lacrosse season last spring. As many of our seniors and fifth-year seniors decided to return. We have almost all of our team returning to play together for another season. This team has more experience together than almost any team in the NCAA. Having that chemistry playing together for the last six years has bonded this team and that is the major reason for the team's success."

Graduate player Gordon Purdie Jr. added, "Our team chemistry is our strength, we have been playing together for years and have confidence in each other."

Like father, like son, both parties are in agreement with each other about striving ahead. Their leadership has spread to the younger players as well.

"Momentum is something that comes with playing well throughout the season, and not just in games but in practices every day," said first-year Eamon Hall. "I think that if we just keep working

"We have almost all of our team returning to play together for another season. This team has more experience together than almost any team in the NCAA," said coach Gordon Purdie.

hard each and every day, we'll be able to keep up this momentum throughout the rest of the season and into the future."

While there has been much success so far, the lingering effects of this

pandemic have brought the team back to reality of the times we currently live in. Five games have been played, yet three have been either postponed or rescheduled to a later date.

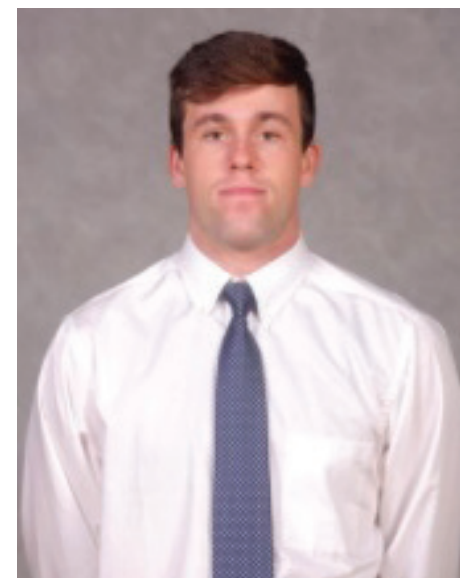
"This has been a difficult year with many disruptions as a result of Covid-19," coach Purdie said. "It is my hope that we can continue to trust the process and enjoy each opportunity to play and compete."

Already having last season canceled, there is urgency to finish this season and compete for a championship.

"We hope that we have put the restrictions and complications of Covid behind us and with more consistent practices we will continue to get better each day," Purdie Jr. said. "The opportunity to play and compete each day is exciting and feels like a gift to us."

But the hopes remain the same for all the players and staff. No Covid, no problems moving forward.

"I feel like having to deal with the Covid problems and everything that we have gone through is that the team has really brought us together," Hall said. "Also a lot of players have played with each other



First-year student Eamon Hall is fully on board with the agenda for this year's team. All photos on this page from AU Athletics

in the past and having those relationships I think is the reason why we have found success so early in the season."

This team will strive to change the game and the way of Adelphi lacrosse forever. Covid, stay away.