

ARCADIA

Spring/Summer 2022

MAGAZINE

WHY? BECAUSE, ARCADIA

ABRI AT ARCADIA: AN
ESSENTIAL, COMPLEX EFFORT
STUDY ABROAD REOPENS

LAURA MINERVA KORMAN
ETCHED IN CASTLE'S HISTORY



Above: Patrick Ensmenger '23, a blogger for Because Arcadia.

24 Perhaps nothing captures a university experience like stories told by students. And perhaps nothing captures the student story like [Because.Arcadia.edu](#).

Original artwork by Amir Campbell, Arcadia's 2022 Public Artist in Residence



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On cover: Students walk on Westminster Bridge in London during Preview, with Big Ben and the British Parliament offices in the background.



Dear Arcadia University Community,

How does one capture the story of Arcadia University or Beaver College? It depends on the perspective of the storyteller.

Today's Arcadia students carry on the legacy of our alumni — of you, our reader — and the connection between student and alum is inextricably linked. We invite you to connect directly with today's students through their stories and to follow them in their journeys, which you can learn more about on pg. 24. These students are, in many ways — some quite literal — following in your footsteps.

Our faculty perspectives are shaping our JEDI and ABRI initiatives on campus and within our University community. These initiatives are a complex yet essential mix that impact all members of the Arcadia community. This has been a campuswide effort, and we look forward to how they will expand and evolve. Dr. Christopher Varlack, assistant professor of English and associate director of the Center for anti-Racist Scholarship, Advocacy, and Action, shares his perspective on the University's efforts in an essay and in a dual interview with Dr. Doreen Loury, assistant professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice and founding director of CASAA.

In addition, a conversation with a Beaver College graduate, an Arcadia University graduate, and a current student reminds us how intertwined the experiences for students are at this great institution. While the decade may change and the world may look different, there are many similarities in the passions of our students.

Our stories help to define who we are — as individuals, as a community, as a University. We're so proud that you have helped to shape our history.

Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.
President
Arcadia University

POET SONIA SANCHEZ ADDRESSES CLASS OF 2022

Renowned poet, activist, and scholar **Sonia Sanchez '22H** received an honorary doctoral degree and addressed the Class of 2022 at the Arcadia University Commencement ceremonies on May 19-20.

"In many ways, our institution's values and mission align with themes found in Ms. Sanchez's storied poetry, teaching, and experiences," said **President Ajay Nair**. "Hearing directly from Philadelphia's first Poet Laureate and legendary 'Freedom Sister' was a fitting culmination for Arcadia's Class of 2022, many of whom have taken on leadership roles with our University's anti-Black Racism Initiatives and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts. Having Ms. Sanchez as part of our Commencement celebration will be a seminal moment in Arcadia's 169-year history."

Sanchez is considered one of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement, which aimed for a renewal of Black will, insight, energy, and awareness. She is a national and international lecturer on Black culture and literature, women's liberation, peace, and racial justice. She has read her poetry in Africa, the Caribbean, China, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, and Canada, in addition to her native country.

Sanchez was named Philadelphia's first Poet Laureate in 2011. She received the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award, among many other honors. The author of 16 books, Sanchez is among 20 African American women who are part of "Freedom's Sisters," a mobile exhibition initiated by the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Smithsonian Institution.

Arcadia's Commencement season also included University events such as the Lavender Ceremony and ALANA and International Student Recognition Ceremony.



Arcadia University also is proud to have awarded an honorary doctoral degree to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Arcadia joins at least 15 other institutions across the country that conferred degrees on President Zelensky this Commencement season.

"The leadership and resolve that President Zelensky has shown, especially throughout the spring in the face of the invasion by Russia, has been nothing short of historic," said Dr. Nair. "His leadership aligns closely with Arcadia's lived values of justice, integrity, and fearlessness. As a university with a global mission, Arcadia wishes safety and peace to all Ukrainian and Russian people who are suffering now." ❖

CLASS
OF 2022
BY the
NUMBERS

402
BACCALAUREATE
DEGREE CANDIDATES

235
MASTER'S DEGREE
CANDIDATES

218
DOCTORAL DEGREE
CANDIDATES

1
PHILADELPHIA POET
LAUREATE



NEWS+NOTES



FORMER BISHOP MCDEVITT PROPERTY NOW PART OF ARCADIA'S FUTURE

In February, Arcadia University and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced an agreement of sale for Arcadia to purchase the former Bishop McDevitt High School property in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County. The property includes a total of 18.21 acres, a four-story structure totaling 95,746 square feet, athletic fields, and a parking lot. Located at 125 Royal Way in Wyncote, the former Bishop McDevitt High School is within walking distance of Arcadia's existing campus footprint in Glenside.

"Arcadia will take a well-thought-out, measured approach to planning for this property at 125 Royal Avenue, which will

limit our risk and expand the possibilities for Arcadia to venture beyond what we ever thought possible," said **President Nair**.

In March, Arcadia administration and staff began meeting with dozens of neighbors in proximity to the property on 125 Royal Avenue to discuss the approach the University will take to the property.

The property will provide additional green space for Arcadia students, as well as space for educational endeavors, including impactful STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) opportunities. Athletics programs and teams will use the space at 125 Royal Avenue for practices, though games and competitions will be held on Arcadia's main campus.

Learn more at arcadia.edu/glenside-community.



Create Positive Change In The World IPCR fee waived for Arcadia Alumni

Arcadia's M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution will waive the application fee for our alumni.

Our two-year, flexible program offers dual degree options in counseling, international relations and diplomacy, and public health. Scholarships are available, and NO GRE is required. Apply now and start this fall. arcadia.edu/ipcr

ARCADIA AND MONTCO PARTNER TO ENHANCE PRO BONO PT CLINIC

In February, Arcadia University partnered with Montgomery County to enhance the Physical Therapy department's pro bono physical therapy clinic. In addition to providing physical therapy services, the clinic will now host navicates — skilled human service professionals — from the county Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Connections.

The Arcadia graduate students providing physical therapy will refer clients to the navicates to work through needs beyond physical therapy that impact their health. Navicates are knowledgeable about local, county, and state resources.

"Starting before the pandemic, Dr. Craik, members of her team, and I engaged the county in discussions about the benefits and opportunities of launching the pro bono

physical therapy clinic," says **Alison LaLond Wyant**, executive director of the Division of Civic & Global Engagement at Arcadia University. "Dr. Craik arranged for Commissioner **Dr. Val Arkoosh '19H** to come to campus for that early discussion. The PT faculty saw the potential in the partnership."

Any resident of Montgomery County — including Arcadia faculty, staff, students, and Stay Fit clients — may take advantage of navicate services. Program leaders also hope to employ undergraduates to support the work through Civic & Global Engagement's community-based work study program.

Learn more and make an appointment at arcadia.edu/probono.



Gordley, Bochard, and Dawson with their medals.



Dawson '22DPT



Gordley '24



Bochard '23MSFS

Dawson Blazes National Trails; Gordley, Bochard Are First All-Region Medalists

Tate Dawson '22DPT made history last fall by becoming the first individual student-athlete in school history to qualify for the NCAA National Championships in cross-country.

Dawson joined teammates **Micah Gordley '24** and **Kira Bochard '23MSFS** as the first all-region medalists in program history when the trio competed at the Metro Regional Championships in cross-country in November at Rowan University. Gordley, a Scientific Illustration/Pre-Med major, placed 26th overall, while Bochard, a student in the Forensic Science master's degree program, met all-region standards with a 33rd-place finish.

Dawson's 9th-place overall finish at regional championships earned her an automatic bid to nationals on Nov. 20 at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. After achieving a personal record of 22:40.4 at regionals, Dawson broke the 23-minute mark for the second time in her career. She crossed the finish line at 22:56.8 and remains the only female runner in program history to break 23 minutes in the 6K race.

Learn more at arcadiaknights.com.



Campbell working on "King Bee."

CAMPBELL SELECTED AS 2022 RESIDENT ARTIST

Visual artist **Amir Campbell** has been selected as Arcadia University's Public Art Resident Artist for 2022. Also known as Amiracle, Campbell will be the lead artist for this year's Arcadia Public Art Project. He also taught a cohort of students in the public art apprenticeship course this past spring. When Campbell received the 2021 Mural Arts Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists, the Mural Arts program noted that: "His work revolves around displaced identity and unity through the lens of integration and assimilation into American Culture as an African American. His ultimate vision is to blend the worlds of fine art with street art."

Last year, Professor of Visual and Performance Arts **Abbey Ryan '03**, Adjunct Professor of Visual and Performance Arts **David Guinn**, Adjunct Professor of Visual and Performance Arts **Maryann Worrell '05**, and Adjunct Professor of Visual and Performance Arts **Krista Profitt '11** earned the 2021 Dr. Finbarr O'Connor Prize for Shifting the Paradigm for their work on the Arcadia Public Art Project. The group, and all in the Public Art Project, collaborate closely with artists and students to make sure Arcadia and Glenside community connections are made and sustained over time.

Campbell contributed to this issue of the Arcadia Magazine story on anti-Black racism initiatives (see page 18). Learn more at arcadia.edu/publicart.com. ❖

ARCADIA COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO WAR IN UKRAINE

"At Arcadia University, we are deeply troubled by the news and images coming from Ukraine. As a global institution, our hearts are with our students, scholars, faculty, staff, and partners, as well as all those affected by these events in the region and around the world. War and conflict devastate lives and communities for generations, and we hope for peace and justice to prevail."

The above comes from a University statement from Feb. 28, after Russia invaded its neighboring country. Arcadia has students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends who are from, have family in, and have studied in Ukraine and Russia. After the invasion began, Arcadia community members came together for educational events and support groups, including a vigil for Ukraine, a panel discussion with faculty members at Arcadia and with the American Graduate School in Paris, and a teach-in on April 1 led by **Dr. Angela Kachuyevski**, an associate professor of Political Science in the Department of Historical and Political Studies.

Dr. Kachuyevski has taught, published, and presented widely on Ukraine, Russia, and Eastern-European conflict and identity. She researched and lived in Ukraine for many years, even meeting her husband there. Her areas of academic focus include conflict resolution, security studies, minority rights, and divided societies, with a particular focus on conflicts involving Russian-speaking minorities in Ukraine, the Baltic States, and Moldova.

"Putin has been backed into a corner by his own making and choosing," said Dr. Kachuyevski. "He's put everything on the line to conquer Ukraine, and I don't see how he's going to succeed in doing that. The Ukrainians will not put up with a kind of dictatorship governance, as we have seen."

Dr. Kachuyevski is finishing a book, based upon extensive field research, about the changing identities of Russian-speaking Ukrainians.

"Russian-speaking Ukrainians are Ukrainians," said Dr. Kachuyevski. "Even before the war began, Ukrainians didn't believe that Russians would invade them. Many of their identities have been changing since 2017, so on the one hand there was a push for a Ukrainian identity, and another that doesn't identify with the kind of conflict that you saw in Crimea and Donbas. Still, before the war began, I don't think people could believe it possible that the Russian military would invade them."

Vic Fedorko '22, a senior Psychology major and Public Health minor, is a first-generation American whose family is from Ukraine. While she was born and raised in Chicago, her parents and older sister were born in Ukraine, and she has several family members there.

"We Skype pretty regularly," she says, adding, "It's been difficult with their connectivity issues." She describes the situation her family faces in Ukraine:



Psychology major Vic Fedorko '22.

"It's heartbreaking. My grandmother talked about how the grocery stores have been raided; dietary staples have been hard to get. It's also interesting, to say the least, to see the difference between what news organizations are reporting and what my family says."

The possibility of fleeing has been discussed, Fedorko says, "but my grandparents are quite old, so that journey is not feasible." She notes that she has male cousins within an age range such that they are required to stay in the country. "I'm still trying to process and understand everything."

Fedorko hopes to work in a university lab in the Chicago area for a couple of years, learning protocols and beefing up her resume. Research is familiar territory for Fedorko; she conducted COVID 19-related studies with three Arcadia professors, investigating the impact of Zoom use on mental health and body image. ❖



JONES '23 FINDS CONNECTION WHILE STUDYING IN LONDON

Harper Jones '23 knew she'd enjoy the theater scene in London. An Acting major with a Musical Theater concentration, Jones was in one of the globe's theater capitals almost the entire spring semester on a study abroad program with Arcadia London Center and Goldsmith University. What she may not have expected, though, was to discover a passion for theatrical activism.

After attending the exhibit, "Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 1950s-Now" at Tate Britain, Jones reflected on her experience in *"What Does It Mean To be Black in a White Dominated World?"*, exploring how her identity as a Black woman relates to all Black people across the globe.

"Afro-Caribbean and Black people all over the world all basically kind of live a similar struggle," she says. "Hopefully I'll be able to explore that through artistic or theatrical activism in the near future to expand my exploration of identity."

Jones believes in the power of art and theater, and how they can go much further than entertainment and alter an audience's perception of identity and experience.

"If done properly, theatrical activism can lead an audience, even if they don't understand the production, to leave the

theater with a different mindset or perspective than they had coming in," said Jones. "I believe that theater and art can change the world."

Jones hails from near Dallas, Texas; she decided to attend college at Arcadia University after theater faculty traveled there to view a high school performance. Two faculty, Mark Wade and Aaron McAllister, made such an impression on Jones that she committed to Arcadia on the spot.

Jones has worked with summer enrichment programs as a mentor to Black youth in Texas, introducing every aspect of theater — acting, dancing, singing, filmmaking, stage lighting, and more — to help creative avenues for young people to express themselves. She was bitten by the musical theater bug at an early age, and counts "Aida," "On the Town," and "Funny Girl" as among her favorites.

Jones hopes to graduate summa cum laude next year, intern at a theater company in Philadelphia, and continue her theatrical activism and exploration of identity.

"I want to create a network and establish relationships with people who have the same passions as me," Jones said. "I have a lot of dreams." ❖



THE ENDURING LEGACY OF LAURA MINERVA KORMAN '89, '95MED

Grey Towers Castle has long stood as a beloved symbol of Arcadia University. Now, one of its rooms that has epitomized elegance for generations bears the name of one of the University's most dedicated alumni and trustees, **Laura Minerva Korman '89, '95MED** (1967-2017).

Formerly the Castle Mirror Room, the Laura Minerva Korman Mirror Room commemorates her love of the Castle, passion for Arcadia, and deep commitment to our students. To honor his wife, **James Korman P'24, P'24** not only established the Laura M. Korman Fund to support the room's restoration in perpetuity, but also permanently associated her name with her alma mater in a place she loved the most. On November 1, 2021, in the presence of Korman family, friends, and University leaders, the Laura Minerva Korman Mirror Room was dedicated during an intimate celebration of Laura's life and enduring bond with Arcadia.

As a student and proud alumna, Laura's leadership and support inspired the University community. Laura served on the Alumni Board of Directors, co-chaired the Class President's Committee, engaged with prospective students as an alumni admissions representative, and organized Alumni Reunion events as co-president of her graduating class. She expanded scholarship opportunities,

enhanced campus facilities, and strengthened the Preview program for Arcadia students. Korman received both the 2005 Golden Disc for Meritorious Service and the 2007 Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award for her efforts. Lastly, Laura served as Trustee of her beloved alma mater from 2008 to 2016.

As family and friends gathered, Arcadia President

Dr. Ajay Nair, with Korman at his side, unveiled the new signage. "On college campuses, names abound," said Nair. "Buildings and spaces tell powerful stories through their names. But this naming is particularly unique. This space and this Castle beautifully represent Arcadia and the legacy of Laura Korman."

Grey Towers Castle holds poignant memories for the Korman family. Married in the Castle on January 16, 1994, Laura and James had their first dance to Stevie Wonder's "Ribbon in the Sky" steps from where the sign that bears her name now hangs. Nearly 28 years later, their love

story continues as James is a proud Arcadia parent.

In admiration of the Laura Minerva Korman Mirror Room sign, Korman shared, "Mirrors are a means by which you can reflect upon yourself and see how you add to society, lifting people up. To me, the Laura Minerva Korman Mirror Room is such a nice fit for Laura because it was so important to her. I am thrilled to know that this room and her sign will be there forever." ❖



Watch a video
of the dedication.



Because the Arcadia student experience meant a great deal to Laura, Korman also established Ribbon in the Sky, an annual event for students who follow in Laura's footsteps. This year, Ribbon in the Sky offered students the opportunity to gather with their classmates as they enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies and made their wish for 2022.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS IMPACT ARCADIA AND BEYOND

Alumni volunteers demonstrate their love and belief in their alma mater by helping to develop lasting relationships, strengthen the alumni network and experience, and contribute to the University's thriving future. Each has their own story and reason for volunteering.



Ken Samen '92

*Communications, 1992
Compliance Manager at Prudential Arcadia
Volunteer Roles: Chair, Professional Development
and Mentorship Committee, Advisory Council
for the Alumni Association*

"Something about this place made me feel immediately at home," said **Samen '92** of his first time on campus.

As a transfer student, Samen's move-in day didn't include a big family sendoff or an orientation week to commemorate the occasion.

"I kept my dorm room door open," said Samen. "Before I knew it, **Kerry Costello Leraris '92** was in the doorway, introduced herself and others to me, and we are still very good friends to this day."

Samen found his place. He thrived in classes, gained independence, and built life-long friendships. He even met his future wife, **Melissa Martin Samen '93**, on the first day of their English 101 class. "If I hadn't gone to Beaver College, my life would have been much different, but it took time to realize that," said Samen.

Despite a successful student experience, he lost his connection to the College. Following graduation, he had started a fulfilling career but felt out of touch with the institution when Beaver College became Arcadia University. When he returned to campus for Melissa's 10-year reunion, though, his perspective changed.

"It was like my first experience on campus again. I reconnected with my home that I'd missed for so long."

Samen began volunteering with the Alumni Association, where he could "be the alumni mentor that I could have benefited from as a student and recent graduate."

"You can make a difference. You do have something to offer."



Lauren Trager '07, '11MS

*Print Communications, 2007;
Master of Science in Health Education
and Community Awareness, 2011
Director of Event Production
for The Multiple Sclerosis Society
Arcadia Volunteer Roles: Representative-at-Large,
Advisory Council for Alumni Association*

For **Lauren Trager '07, '11M**, a simple act of kindness had a life-changing impact. In high school, Trager visited Arcadia to see the production of "The Taming of the Shrew." On campus, she asked students for directions to the theater.

"They not only gave directions, but walked us to the theater," said Trager. "They were journalism majors, and since I wanted to be a journalist, I felt the stars aligning."

As a student, she served as a member of the Student Programming Board and as editor-in-chief of the Gargoyle literary magazine. She found passion in organizing programs and event planning.

Thirteen years later, she has chaired the Events and Outreach Committee on the Advisory Council for the Alumni Association, served as an alumni mentor, is active in the Take a Knight to Work program, and supports fundraising efforts as a UKnightedTuesday Ambassador.

Her affinity for the Arcadia community goes back to the kindness she received from those students. "I want to make a difference and allow the spirit of this wonderful community to shine."

"Be boisterous, step up, and be part of something bigger."



Sonya Gaskins '02

*Political Science, 2002
Administrative Services Manager,
City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services
Arcadia Volunteer Roles: Co-President,
Black Alumni Association*

Sonya Gaskins '02 has an undeniable affinity for Arcadia. In middle school, Gaskins was a member of the former Beaver Leads Mentorship program, where Black Beaver College students served as mentors for future scholars such as Gaskins.

"I was blessed to have a mentor as an example," said Gaskins. "I saw people who looked like me, who worked hard to graduate high school, and were attending college and thriving. Not many Black students at Beaver had someone to look up to."

Gaskins was a dedicated member of the Black Awareness Society and was nominated to be the organization's Student Government liaison. This was a pivotal moment in realizing that she had a voice and was a welcomed contributor.

Gaskins is a friendly face at alumni events, served as a UKnightedTuesday Ambassador, and has been an active member of the BAAAU since its founding.

"I know that not all Black alumni have had a great experience with Arcadia," said Gaskins, BAAAU co-president.

"I want to create a community of fellowship and support for both Black alumni and students."

"Find what you are passionate about and what is the best opportunity for you."



Alishah Powell '03

*Communications, 2003
Fellowship Programs Coordinator, Penn Medicine
Arcadia Volunteer Roles: Events Committee
Co-Chair, Advisory Council for the Alumni Association*

As a first-generation college student standing on the shoulders of her ancestors, **Alishah Powell '03** was determined to make her family proud. At Arcadia, she fell in love with courses that challenged her to think critically and analyze the world and her role in it.

"I went to a conference for Black students with the beloved professor, **Dr. Doreen Loury**," said Powell. "It was mind-blowing. I learned that, on average, white households

read one book a month, while Black households read one book per year." That statistic transformed Powell.

"As a first-generation student, it made my appreciation for Arcadia that much deeper; I connected with the campus community and felt an overwhelming sense of pride to be there."

Upon graduation, Powell wanted to pay her experience forward. "It's in my core to help people. Arcadia taught me to reflect on how I see myself in the world, and how I can be a better contributor and make a better world."

"I live by a proverb I learned in my pluralism and justice course: To whom much is given much is required."



David Euwings '06

*Computer Science, 2006
Manager, Engineering at Comcast
Arcadia Volunteer Roles: Co-President, Black Alumni
Association of Arcadia University and Nominations
Chair, Advisory Council for the Alumni Association*

David Euwings '06 began his service as BAAAU co-president to help elevate the extraordinary foundation the inaugural president set forth. In the midst of COVID, BAAAU hosted a school supplies drive, hosted Welcome Black, a community event in which Black alumni, University leaders, faculty, and staff welcomed new and returning Black students to campus. Euwings strives for success by believing that there is good in everyone, the world is a beautiful place, and that he can help in every situation.

"It comes from when I was a kid," Euwings explains. "In high school, I was lucky to have a mentor who became like my second mother. She introduced me to another mentor, and I continue to connect with both of them."

As a student, Euwings had a non-traditional experience. Taking classes at night while working a full-time job during the day was challenging, but he credits Arcadia for growth during that time. "Arcadia is a big part of my life and something I want to continue to be a part of, and the best way is to give back."

"There are so many opportunities to get involved and volunteer at Arcadia. Find what it is that you are passionate about and reach out to find the best opportunity for you."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OR GET INVOLVED
WITH ARCADIA ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
ARCADIA.EDU/ALUMNI



*Letter from the Advisory Council President
for the Arcadia University Alumni Association*

MAYA BASU JOHNSON '97

Dear Alumni,

As I reflect on the work we have done together in the first year of my term as president of the Arcadia University Alumni Association, I think back to a virtual celebration I attended on Martin Luther King Jr. Day this past January. During the event, we read a letter Dr. King wrote from Birmingham jail in which he stated, “constructive tension is necessary for growth” and “change takes work.” Those statements continue to resonate with me deeply as an excellent descriptor of what the Advisory Council and the Arcadia community is actively demonstrating in the efforts guided by the Arcadia 2025 strategic plan.

The Advisory Council for the Arcadia University Alumni Association and our expanded committees have made great strides in empowering alumni to contribute to the betterment of the University through focus group meetings, feedback surveys, and the introduction of new programs such as Homecoming & Family Weekend, the Women Who Lead Forum, alumni focus groups, and more. As our environmental conditions improve, alumni have expressed a desire to revitalize our sense of community, guide current students, and support our ongoing professional development. I hope you reflect on the personal impact that you have made on our alma mater and overtly demonstrate your commitment to the success of Arcadia University.

I am encouraged by our progress and cannot wait to see all that we will accomplish together. Representing you—and now our newest graduates of the Class of 2022—continues to be an incredible honor.

Sincerely,

Maya Basu Johnson '97
President, Arcadia University Alumni Association

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at arcadia.edu/volunteer.

Honoring Women Who Lead

Since 1853, generations of Beaver College and Arcadia University women have taken charge of their futures and pursued their dreams. On March 26, Arcadia's second annual Women Who Lead Forum provided special recognition to three women who have profoundly shaped Arcadia to be the dynamic institution that it is today.

DR. BETTE LANDMAN '04H

President Emerita **Dr. Bette Landman**, who began her 19-year tenure as president in 1985, is the first woman to lead the institution and the only president to lead under the institutional names of Beaver College and Arcadia University.

Through her extraordinary vision and unwavering commitment to access and inclusion, she touched the lives of all students, faculty, staff, and friends of the community. Dr. Landman reinvigorated the University, doubling enrollment and leading transformative projects such as the construction of seven new buildings and a nationally recognized study abroad program. Dr. Landman also led the community through the historic transition to Arcadia University.

Dr. Landman's involvement in the higher education community also is legendary. Among her many roles, she served as chair of the higher education committee of the American Red Cross, chair of the Presidents Committee and a leader of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference, and served on the NCAA's Presidents Council.

DR. ELAINE MAIMON

A thought leader in education reform, **Dr. Maimon** for decades has striven to make higher education effective and equitable. At Arcadia, she organized the faculty to participate in one of the nation's first writing-across-the-curriculum programs, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Maimon's commitment to new ways of understanding, writing, and thinking led her to serve as associate dean of the College at Brown University and as dean of Experimental Programs and tenured professor of English at Queens College (CUNY), where she worked with corporate and journalism advisory boards to provide opportunities for high potential/low-income students. As president at Governors State University, she instituted systemic shifts that significantly improved student outcomes.

In 2020, Dr. Maimon redirected her energies from the day-to-day running of universities to national thought leadership in higher education. She serves as an advisor at the American Council on Education, is a regular columnist for the Philadelphia Citizen, and participates frequently in media discussions of educational reform.



Dr. Elaine Maimon, Dr. Barbara Nodine, and President Emerita Bette Landman at The Women Who Lead forum.

DR. BARBARA F. NODINE

Professor Emerita at Arcadia University, **Dr. Barbara Nodine** specialized in cognitive psychology and its applied aspects. She is co-author of *Writing in the Arts and Sciences*; *Reading in the Arts and Sciences*; *Thinking, Reading and Writing*; and author of *Study Guide for students to accompany the psychology text by Benjamin, Hopkins, and Nation*.

Dr. Nodine is former president of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology of the American Psychological Association (APA) and former president of the Eastern Psychological Association. She is a Fellow of both the APA and the American Psychology Society.

Dr. Nodine, who has helped to evaluate several psychology departments and curricula, has also consulted extensively on incorporating writing into disciplinary courses at colleges across the country. Her accomplishments as a teacher have received national recognition.

In 1996, she was awarded the Robert Daniels Teaching Excellence Award by the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, and in 1999, the American Psychological Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award.

To learn more about The Women Who Lead forum, visit alumni.arcadia.edu/WWLF. ❖

CELEBRATING THE 2022 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



Ashley Knueppel '12, '20M
Faculty and Staff Impact Award

Ashley's life-changing semester abroad as a student helped set her sights on a career where she could guide others to have such a transformative experience. Now, Ashley does that as an associate director for the Division of Civic & Global Engagement.

In helping to recraft the new Office of Study Away (OSA), Ashley found innovative ways to connect with students, including through OSA's instagram, @arcadiaknightsabroad.

Ashley also has transformed the Study Abroad Mentorship Program (STAMP) into a supportive community for students. STAMP has become one of the largest student groups and helps students build leadership and mentorship skills while educating and guiding mentees through Arcadia's Study Away programs.

The Faculty & Staff Impact Award recognizes a graduate who is a current, retired, or emeritus member of the Arcadia faculty or staff who has nurtured future alumni leaders, advanced the University's mission, and greatly enhanced the prestige of the University.



Nathan Hayward '06, '09MBA
Golden Disc for Meritorious Service

A devoted alumni volunteer, Nathan embodies the care, fortitude, and pride to serve as role model to all Arcadia graduates. He has selflessly shared his time, talent, and treasure to strengthen the Arcadia Alumni Association and the connection between his fellow alumni and their alma mater.

Nathan is also an active alumni volunteer, serving as chair of the Arcadia Alumni Business Network, which he looks to grow through his leadership.

A loyal donor to his alma mater, Nathan became one of the youngest annual donors of the Jones Poundstone Society.

The Golden Disc for Meritorious Service is awarded in recognition of outstanding volunteer leadership service to Arcadia University through its Alumni Association.



Alice Schlesinger '61
Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement

Alice is most prominently known for her 16-year service on the New York County Supreme Court in the First Judicial District of New York. Launching her career, she joined the Legal Aid Society, serving as a criminal defense attorney in both Manhattan and the Bronx. Alice became known as a passionate defense attorney and social justice advocate, applying her purpose and expertise to teach a Criminal Law Clinic at New York University School of Law.

She began her judicial career as a judge for the Civil Court of the City of New York in 1984 and was appointed acting justice of the New York County Supreme Court in 1991. In 2000, Alice was elected to the Supreme Court, serving until her retirement in 2016.

The Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement is awarded to an individual in recognition of their significant accomplishments and outstanding achievements in their profession or community.



Jessica Tilli '08MED
Outstanding Achievement Award

Jessica has been an educator for more than 13 years and is a math curriculum specialist for the Philadelphia School District. She writes curriculum, provides professional learning for teachers and leaders, and is leading the charge to prioritize early mathematics in her district.

Jessica believes deeply that every child, regardless of zip code, deserves the opportunity to develop a strong foundation in mathematics. She is a fierce advocate for creating access for students in Philadelphia.

In 2022, Jessica was recognized by the U.S. government with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented to a class member in a reunion year for leadership, dedication, and service to Arcadia University on behalf of their class.



Lauren Trager '07, '11MS
Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award

Lauren has been part of the Alumni Association as an active Advisory Council committee chair, committee member, mentor, and volunteer. Lauren brings a thoughtful energy to all she does for Arcadia and is always willing to raise her hand to take on a new role to serve her alma mater. Lauren brings life to new programs and ideas to strengthen the Alumni Association's existing ones.

Outside of Arcadia, Lauren brings her talents and commitment to engaging events and instilling pride to her role at the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Lauren coordinates events across the country to leave a lasting impact on others, and strengthen their resolve that their philanthropy and actions can make a difference in the search for a cure for MS.

This award recognizes outstanding volunteer service to Arcadia University through Alumni Association committee work and/or work as a class agent. This award is presented annually in memory of Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf '36, who dedicated herself to both the University and her community.



Reverend Victor J. Gimenez '93
Sankofa Award for Distinguished Achievement

Reverend Victor J. Gimenez has served the Philadelphia community through social service for more than 20 years. Known for his passion for social justice, he has become a mentor to many young men, empowering them to rise above adversity. His passion has also led to his work with Covenant House PA, serving homeless and displaced youth get back on their feet towards their brighter future.

Most recently, Victor has assisted his community through the COVID pandemic, helping to feed more than 2,000 people during the economic downfall and assisting Black doctors at COVID testing sites. He also committed his time to encouraging young people to vote, working with Delaware County Congresswoman Mary Gay to encourage residents to complete the census.

Victor helps to support philanthropic initiatives as a UKnightedTuesday Ambassador and presented and volunteered during Arcadia's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations.

Presented by the Black Alumni Association of Arcadia University (BAAAU), this award is presented to an individual of African-American/African diaspora descent in recognition of their significant professional accomplishments, as well the contributions they have made in mentoring and social justice activism in the African American/African diaspora community.



Alyssa Ramos Reynoso-Morris '12
Young Alumni Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement

Alyssa is a motivational speaker, accomplished children's author, and entrepreneur. Currently, she works as a Chief of Staff for local State Representative Jared Solomon. She has organized COVID-19 vaccination clinics, community clean ups, and many more events to serve the community. For her dedication and service, she was recognized on the 2021 Al Día 40 Under 40 list.

In August 2013, Alyssa founded Schools for Sustainability, Inc., a nonprofit organization with the mission to teach vocational-technical high schools about organic farming, water remediation, renewable energy and waste management in an effort to alleviate poverty and improve the environment.

Alyssa's life calling is to cultivate community and solidarity to make the world a better place.

This award is presented to an individual who has graduated within the last decade, in recognition of significant accomplishments and outstanding achievements in their profession or community.



Daniel Rivera '17
Harry G. Kuch Award for Young Alumni in Reunion

As a student, Dan immersed himself in the many student activities on campus. Through the many extracurricular programs, he quickly found that he enjoyed all the opportunities in which he could enhance the Arcadia student experience.

As an alumnus, he contributes to both the Arcadia student and alumni experience. Since graduating, he has participated in the University's Presidential Search Committee, Young Alumni & Students Committee, and served in the prestigious role of Recent Graduate Trustee. As chair of the Hispanic Latinx Alumni Association, Dan leads with the goal of creating a sense of community and fellowship for Hispanic/ Latinx alumni.

This award honors an individual who has graduated within the last decade and is currently in reunion year, in recognition of significant accomplishments, dedication, and outstanding achievements in their profession or community while simultaneously supporting their class reunion efforts.

READ MORE ABOUT ALUMNI WEEKEND
CELEBRATIONS AT ALUMNI.ARCADIA.EDU/REUNION

TRANSCENDING GENERATIONS

Arcadia magazine recently sat down with a Beaver College graduate, Arcadia University graduate, and current Arcadia student to discuss how the student experience has changed through the years.

As these conversations demonstrate, Arcadia, true to its legacy as Beaver College, continues to be a University built on the strength and character of a personal, caring community. For generations, the institution has been home to students who have discovered their passions, experienced deep personal growth and pride, and learned about the value of friendship, advocacy, and leadership.



STACEY DOWNEY '88

Beaver College Graduate

Major: English, Philosophy & Sociology Minor

Current Career: Program Analyst

Q. What was your path after graduation?

A. As a student, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after graduation, but I knew I wanted to do something with education or editorial work. Today, I work for the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) in the field of education, specifically adult literacy. Because of my Beaver College experience, I come to this work from a social justice standpoint. At Beaver, everything we learned and experienced was for the greater good of our world.

Q. Why did you choose to attend Beaver College?

A. I wanted to attend a small liberal arts college. Beaver College not only valued but was also intentional about the liberal arts. My college experience was academically enriching and enlightening. We learned about the world, what's happening, and our role and our sense of agency in it all. I was exposed to so many writers, books, theories, and thoughts in an analytical way that I had not had experienced ever before.

Q. What are some of your favorite student memories?

A. I interviewed Dr. Bette Landman for the student newspaper. She was very accessible to us and is still an extraordinarily inspiring woman. I was so nervous to interview her, but she was so gracious. It was incredible to see her grace, hear about her vision for the College, and relate it to my experience and future. She encouraged me to join the Peace Corps, travel abroad, and to see the world. It was very special.

Q. Did you face any challenges and how did you overcome them?

A. As a first-generation college student with a single parent, paying tuition was a struggle. Every semester, I visited the Financial Aid Office and a woman would work with me to understand the financial literacy of it all. We always figured out a solution. With her help, I was able to persist.

Q. How has Beaver College changed since your days as a student?

A. Of course there are physical changes on campus, but what is most profound, under the leadership of President Nair, is the University's ability to be nimble and forward focused on what the world needs from Arcadia students and graduates. This includes Arcadia's lived values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. I am incredibly proud that my alma mater continues to uplift students to be flexible, innovative, and collaborative while still providing them with the academic and technical skills that they need to make an impact on Arcadia and the world.



MAYA STEWART '09

Arcadia University graduate

Major: Print

Communications

Current Career:

Middle School Principal

Q. What was your path after graduation?

A. Well, my plans of becoming the next Oprah Winfrey didn't come to fruition, but I did discover an equally rewarding career.

After graduation, I was working for City Year Philadelphia when I had the opportunity to judge senior projects at a local high school. I'll never forget one student in particular, who at such a young age had overcome so much adversity. Against all odds, with the support and encouragement of his teachers, he presented his senior project and was set to graduate high school—an incredible achievement for him and his teachers. Inspired, I applied for teaching fellowships the following week. I started as a classroom teacher, became an assistant principal, and now I'm a middle school principal.

Q. Why did you choose to attend Arcadia?

A. I knew I wouldn't just be a number. I had the opportunity to make a name for myself and get involved in the campus community. I'll admit that I was hesitant to attend a predominantly white institution. I had attended an all-Black high school, and I feared discrimination and isolation, but Arcadia was life-changing in the best possible way. It allowed me to flourish, to be resilient, and forced me to question a lot of what I thought I understood and knew about the world.

Q. What are some of your favorite Arcadia memories?

A. I loved Homecoming and Mr. Beaver. During Homecoming, the Alumni Walk of Pride was lined with student programs and free activities. It was exactly like what you see on television and how I had imagined my college experience. As a Black girl who grew up in poverty, it was surreal. I remember thinking, "this is college."

I recognize now why I loved Mr. Beaver. As a principal, I see the complexities of gender presentation and the pressure kids feel. I am proud that my alma mater broke down those barriers. As I look at my students each day, I can only hope that they one day attend a university where they are exposed to meaningful experiences that transcend race and challenge the status quo.

Q. Highlight a particular challenge you faced at Arcadia and how you overcame it.

A. I enrolled in Arcadia to participate in the First Year Study Abroad Experience (FYSAE), but after the 2005 London bombings, my mom feared for my safety and canceled my study

abroad. In an instant, instead of pursuing my dream of studying in London, I was starting my first semester on campus. Those first few weeks were hard. All I wanted was to go home.

By the end of the first semester, my mentality changed. Through the Black Awareness Society, I met other Black students and we started eating meals together. Soon, I found my role models and my little village of people who could look out for me. It was the validation and confidence that I needed to thrive at Arcadia.



VINCENT SERGIACOMI '22

Arcadia University Student

Major: English

Future aspiration: Editor

Q. Why did you choose Arcadia?

A. At my Scarlet & Grey Day, I talked to English and Composition Instructor Dan Schall about the Creative Writing program. I could tell that he had a genuine connection with his students,

and a small, engaging environment is exactly what I wanted.

Q. What have you been involved in during your time at Arcadia?

A. I helped to establish Arcadia's creative writers club, The Writer's Bloc. We meet weekly, write, and host creative writing events. We start off each meeting with some private journaling and then follow two-to-three writing prompts. It's an opportunity to share and get feedback from other writers.

Q. What do you cherish most about your college experience?

A. I was very shy when I first arrived at Arcadia my first year, but as I got to know the people in my classes I eventually became more social, got involved, and found my people.

The best memories are the little moments with friends. I thought all colleges were the same. I now know Arcadia is much more than going to class, studying, and obtaining a degree. It is a community and a network of people that I will always be connected to going forward.

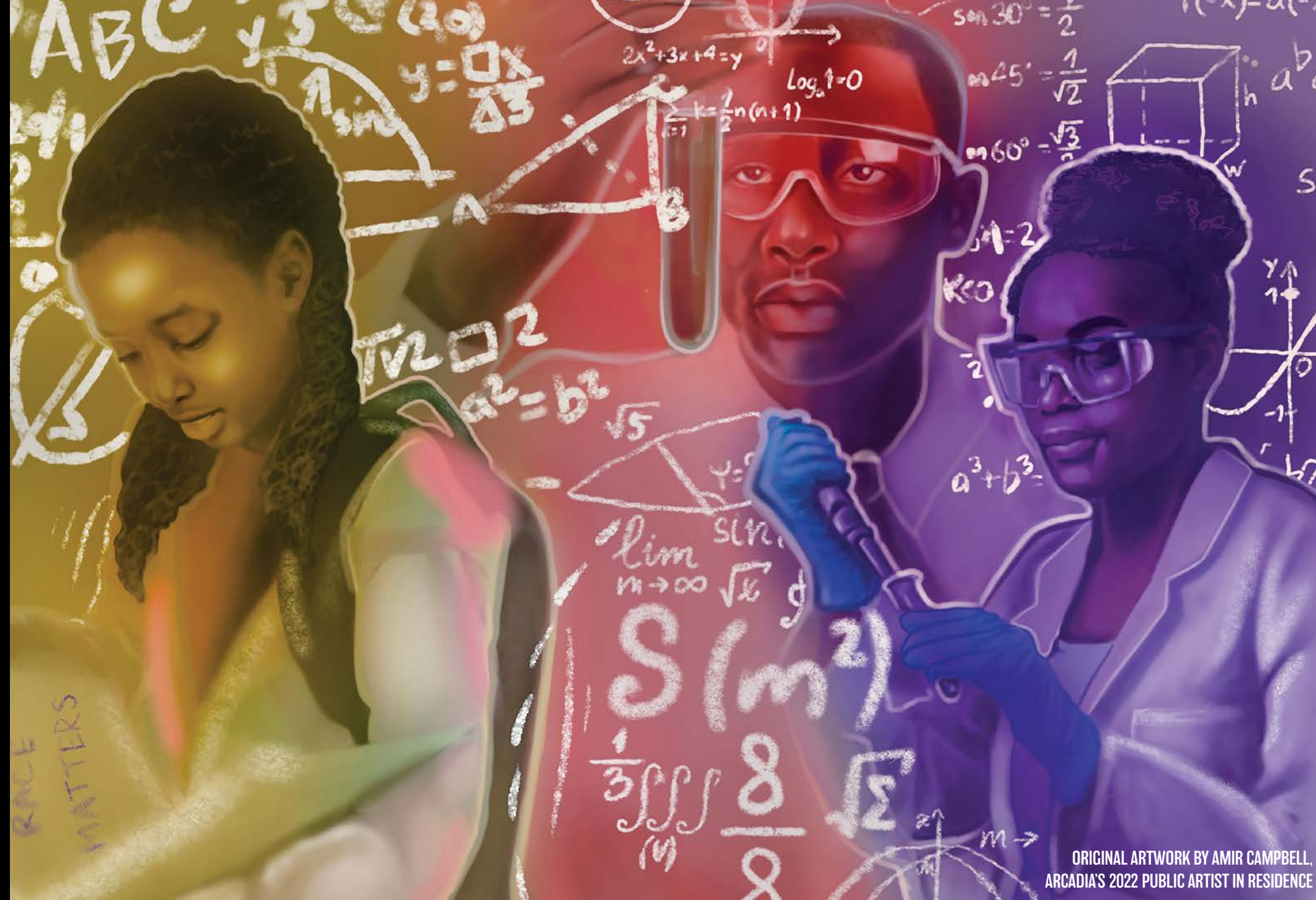
Q. Highlight a particular challenge you faced at Arcadia and how you overcame it.

A. The COVID pandemic was one of my biggest challenges. Part of what I really enjoy about Arcadia is the community connection, and it was frustrating to lose that when we transitioned to remote learning. We all struggled as we dealt with a pandemic, tried to finish the semester, and mourned the loss of our social lives. In the end, I grew from the challenge, becoming more resilient and appreciative of my college experience. ✨

“How will we mobilize around these issues even more profoundly than we already are on a local, national, and global scale? How will we live up to our mission and vision as an institution that strives to be socially just?”

In June 2020, President Ajay Nair challenged the Arcadia community to reimagine with him the University in six domains: academics; training, learning, and development; campus climate and culture; justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; local, national, and global impact; and policies and procedures.

Nearly two years later, the fruits of these endeavors are becoming more apparent each day.



ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY AMIR CAMPBELL,
ARCADIA'S 2022 PUBLIC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

ABRI AT ARCADIA:

AN ESSENTIAL, COMPLEX, UNITED EFFORT

PART I IN A SERIES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE INITIATIVES

The dozens of anti-Black Racism Initiatives, with nearly 200 established milestones, represent an essential and complex mix of efforts that will require sustained focus, collaboration, and courage. They impact all members of our University community — from prospective and current students, to faculty and staff, alumni to leadership, and to donors, friends, and neighbors. Along with the vision laid out by the JEDI Commission, the ABRI work is anchored in the vision and aspirations embodied in the Arcadia 2025 Adaptive Strategy.

Faculty and staff shared their perspectives on how far we have come, how far we still need to go, how they see their role, and why this work remains so important to all of us.

Of the utmost importance now



“ABRI work is significant in the continued efforts of making Arcadia not just a welcoming but also an inclusive place for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is of the utmost importance now due to the current local, national, and international adversities that affect members of the Arcadia community that are from marginalized groups. Technology has served to keep us more connected and has also allowed us to be aware of the ongoing issues related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and belonging.”
—Jessie Guinn, Ph.D.
Assistant Academic Dean of STEM,
The College of Global Studies

Not passive players



“Many students form their social consciousness in their college years. The groundswell of support for the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020 didn’t just affect young people. They weren’t passive players. Young people took on leadership in a renewed commitment to ending anti-Black racism. It was inspiring to watch on the news, but it was even more inspiring to witness right here at work. Arcadia students and young alumni amplified messages for Arcadia’s Black community with courage and vigor.”
—Alison LaLond Wyant, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Civic and Global Engagement

Curricula infusion

“The work related to the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff members of color will be ongoing, as there are many opportunities for change. While we can address specific milestones and create change in the short



term, we should maintain work in this space into the future so that we fully explore what is needed to create an environment that is inviting to faculty and staff members and that supports their inclusion and professional growth so that they remain at Arcadia. I’ve been working with the chairs of departments in the College of Arts and Sciences on infusing anti-Black racism into their curricula. Each department is starting at a different place and will likely take different paths during this process. I expect that curricular infusion will be ongoing and that we will be adjusting content, pedagogy, and creation of inclusive environments in important ways into the future.”
—Rebecca Kohn, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

A rising tide



“The significance of ABRI is the collaborative approach to ensuring that policies, practices, and procedures are inclusive to create an environment of belonging where everyone can thrive. The project-management structure and strategic approach will ensure systemic change that will enhance the experience and meet the needs of Black and other marginalized students while enhancing the educational experiences of all students. The hiring of the first full-time African American therapist in the counseling center, assistant director of Counseling/Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives, more diverse vendors, the embedding of anti-racism pedagogy in the curriculum, as well as the establishment of the OAEDI. It is my hope that we continue to advance equity and anti-racism strategies at Arcadia in creating the world in which we want to live.”
—Angela McNeil, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We owe it to the students



“Athletics has developed staff and student-athletes on key topics centered around JEDI, hazing prevention, sexual harassment education, and overall leadership development. No matter how many quality programs, educational trainings, or active work we did this year, Arcadia Athletics must continue to focus on the importance of ABRI and JEDI in the years to come. We owe it to the faculty, staff, and students at Arcadia to renew and refocus our work, and to challenge ourselves to go deeper each year to make a lasting impact on the generations to come.”
—Brian Granata
Director, Arcadia Athletics and Recreation

REPRESENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

ABRI IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE VISION FOR ARCADIA

By Dr. Christopher Allen Varlack, assistant professor of English

Much of my formative education in English studies and creative writing, as far as I can remember, offered very little exposure to the literature of the African diaspora. As a result, the classroom was largely shaped by stories whose characters never looked or sounded exactly like me and who participated in histories removed from the world I had come to understand as the son of Caribbean-born parents with cocoa-colored skin and a culture defined by calypso, sugar cane, and steaming hot pots of callaloo. Like Chimamanda Adichie, in her TED Talk “The Danger of a Single Story,” “I had become convinced that books, by their very nature, had to be about things with which I could not personally identify,” even if I did not have the tools or the words then to articulate the dilemma I faced.

Of course, there would be small glimmers of Blackness from time to time in readings my teachers would assign like images of the enslaved, beaten and bruised, in Frederick Douglass’ 1845 *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* or the heartrending stories of African warriors trying to preserve their cultural traditions in the face of colonial intrusion depicted in Chinua Achebe’s 1958 *Things Fall Apart*. And yet, these images of Blackness—often steeped in stories of struggle and oppression—were only part of my history, so while others I felt could look into books like mirrors and see themselves represented, I was offered only fragments until I entered my doctoral studies at an HBCU and was exposed to a more ethnically diverse literary world.

Coming to Arcadia University in Fall 2020 as an assistant professor in the Department of English was then an

opportunity to change that dynamic for students under my care, elevating the voices of BIPOC writers and increasing access to the diversity of literature reflective of this constantly evolving world. After all, the Department offered African-American literature courses each year—a reflection of its commitment to promoting Black voices, histories, and tales that even preceded the anti-Black racism initiatives (ABRI) first vocalized by President Nair with the resurgent anti-Blackness and the May 2020 murder of George Floyd. For me, however, Arcadia’s ABRI still represented a significant milestone in the history of the University, for it shed a much needed spotlight on the reality that efforts university-wide toward diversity and inclusion may not be nearly enough.

For instance, in the field of English studies, ABRI, at least on the surface, declared that a small handful of courses on BIPOC literature and culture within a curriculum predominantly comprised of the study of white authors was far from representative, that the curriculum may have failed to create the kinds of opportunities our students of color needed to be both heard and seen, and that the fragmentation continued. ABRI therefore signaled the need to revisit our curriculum and the concept of the canon with an eye toward diversity and social justice if we were truly interested in creating an educational climate that could “cultivate intellectual and social responsibility” and “bring our individual and collective resources to bear



to seek positive transformation in our community and the world,” as Arcadia’s lived values demanded.

And so we gathered and got to work, revising our programs amidst conversations quite reminiscent of the canon wars of the 1980s and 90s: debating and debating and debating still the value of historical coverage versus the

importance of including more intentional study of marginalized and underrepresented communities—all while considering both individually and collectively how far we were willing to go to decenter traditional areas of study to meet the goal of a truly transformative education. We created new courses, participated in a host of summer

workshops on inclusive excellence and decolonizing the curriculum, developed new committees and task forces with faculty from diverse backgrounds and fields, and constructed a framework for ABRI curricular infusion to guide faculty and community efforts in combating anti-Black racism and providing students the tools to understand both its historic nature and its prevalence in the modern day. And we began delving deeper into dialogues about our pedagogy and our values, actively reconsidering not just what an Arcadia education would entail (as evidenced by ongoing conversations about transforming the undergraduate general education curriculum) but also about what it means to be an Arcadia educator today and in the coming years.

But our ABRI was not just about curricular infusion. The collegiate experience is defined in large part by the sense of community and culture that we create. Therefore, in our desire to construct that welcoming and inclusive learning community where future leaders could thrive, we needed to reflect openly and intentionally on the practices and policies at the University that might perpetuate inequity. Were we creating opportunities to (continued on pg. 22.)

elevate BIPOC student voices and to listen to their concerns? Were there programs in place to recruit and support Black and Brown students, staff, and faculty and to make the campus more ethnically/culturally diverse? Were we connecting our understandings of anti-Black racism in the United States to traditions of anti-Blackness prominent around the world? And what mechanisms for evaluation were we envisioning to ensure that the steps we were taking and planning to take were not performative but rather the stepping stones for what President Nair called “radical change?”

Some of these questions remain unanswered, and perhaps there are other questions too with which we should be concerned—all of which we will hopefully grapple as long as Arcadia’s commitment to ABRI does not waver, as efforts toward justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion so often do. After all, what we have accomplished thus far is just a starting place in this lifelong journey of curricular and institutional reform as we work to meet new challenges, reevaluate our approach, and apply the wisdom of future Arcadia visionaries who strive to blaze new trails in progressive education. What, then, is my hope for Arcadia fueled by our ABRI efforts? I would like to one day walk onto Haber Green and see a campus teeming with multicultural life—a campus where diversity is not just part of the mission but a reality among our students, staff, faculty, and administrators, bringing voices historically marginalized to the table to co-construct models of continued change. I would like to walk into those classrooms that have traditionally privileged white authors and thinkers but now create space for students to actively engage with Black writers and practitioners, histories and stories not defined by the white gaze. I would like to see myself in Arcadia like a mirror—a space where I can be my authentic, unapologetic, and unfragmented Black self, where Black and Brown peoples can, in the words of Langston Hughes, “build our temples for [today and] tomorrow, strong as we know how, and...stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves.” ❖

THE CENTER FOR ANTIRACIST SCHOLARSHIP, ADVOCACY, AND ACTION AT ARCADIA

In November 2021, the ABRI Project Team and the Provost’s Office announced the establishment of the Center for Antiracist Scholarship, Advocacy, and Action (CASAA). The Center has three core goals that it aims to achieve in its efforts to become a leading advocate of antiracist thought and to act toward ensuring racial justice and equity.

In spring 2022, CASAA’s founding director and associate director, Dr. Doreen Loury and Dr. Varlack, respectively, shared their thoughts about the importance of CASAA, how the Center plans to engage with the community, and how it plans to shape the thinking and mindset about racism across the globe.



WHY IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CASAA IMPORTANT AT ARCADIA?

Dr. Doreen Loury: For me, as a 30-year veteran of Arcadia, CASAA has been both a professional and personal dream for more than 15 years that has finally been realized. To finally have some type of formalized Center that addresses and researches the need for equity and the ills of racism shows me the progress that Arcadia is working toward in the world of DEI. It has been difficult throughout the

years as a faculty/staff person to deal with the injustices that so many of our Black and brown students and faculty of color have had to endure at a place where they should have felt safe and secure and able to focus on building a sense of intellectual prowess but instead had to manage or survive so many imposed indignities.

I have watched Arcadia grow and was genuinely impressed when President Nair did not mince words or play verbal gymnastics or a game of intellectual jeopardy with the initiation of our ABRI. For me this meant that we were going



DR. LOURY (CENTER) AND DR. VARLACK WITH STUDENTS IN CASAA.

beyond playing at diversity and were willing to confront the elephant in the room — white supremacy. We were actually getting down to the weeds of the problem and tackling the real meaning, intent, and impact behind the concepts with a committed Arcadia team. This team worked to develop real time strategies that not only assisted our Arcadia community (to go beyond awareness) but to provide a formalized research structure that would intentionally reach out locally, nationally, and globally. CASAA’s vision and mission clearly provides the roadmap for us to facilitate this work with a focus of developing promising practices that will bring about “societal reform.”

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY AT ARCADIA AND BEYOND?

CV: Community engagement has always been a core part of the Center’s mission to support existing and future scholarship from members of the Arcadia community and to engage with the broader public on grassroots initiatives aimed at racial justice and systemic change. Much of the work over the first few years in the Center will be devoted to providing that network of support for faculty, staff, and students. This includes securing funding for microgrants for research projects, offering publication workshops and peer-review sessions as our scholars prepare to share their research with the wider world, arranging an annual research symposium centered on antiracism, and more. At the same time, we plan to strengthen existing partnerships with community leaders and to foster new relationships with community members whose voices can offer much-needed guidance to support our advocacy efforts. As we continue to develop a multi-year plan in alignment with the Center’s vision, we invite community feedback (reach out to us at casaa@arcadia.edu) and will keep the community abreast of our work via the Center website (arcadia.edu/casaa) and at [@globalcasaa](https://twitter.com/globalcasaa) on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

WHAT ARE SOME KEY INITIATIVES THAT YOU ENVISION FOR CASAA?

DL: In keeping with the Center’s goals of collaboration and partnership, we have established various groups that will assist the Center in fulfilling its mission/vision:

- **The CASAA-Arcadia Advisory Council** will focus on stimulating research, programming, and promotion of faculty of scholarship and will help shape the CASAA Scholars Program (at all three levels: faculty, community, and students).
- **The Programs and Initiatives Committee** will focus on collaborative partnerships between programs and initiatives on Arcadia’s campus, as consistent with CASAA’s mission, so that we can co-organize events, pool resources, and be better informed about ongoing work.
- **The CASAA-Community Advisory Council** will focus on establishing community partnerships, developing outreach initiatives, and connecting CASAA to external funding opportunities and donors.

PART OF THE STATED GOAL OF CASAA IS TO “TO SHAPE THE THINKING AND MINDSET ABOUT RACISM ACROSS THE GLOBE.” HOW DO CASAA MEMBERS PLAN TO MEET THIS AMBITIOUS GOAL?

DL: We will encourage the creation of curricula for understanding racism and antiracism and begin to develop, implement, and evaluate best practices for antiracist advocacy and action. This is the agenda for CASAA as we change our conversations and paradigms from being focused on supporting and celebrating diversity to one focused on dismantling the systems that dehumanize others. We intend to answer the charge set by President Nair by illustrating how we can reimagine our University and inspire radical change. As an institution, Arcadia has a responsibility to develop and advance an antiracism agenda that is pertinent to all of us individually and the University broadly; CASAA will play a major role in designing transformative, meaningful, and measurable ways toward meeting those responsibilities. ❖

DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT: BIOLOGY


In June 2020, mere weeks after President Nair challenged the University to think innovatively on ways to embrace ABRI and JEDI efforts, the Department of Biology established the first of its milestones, which have grown to nearly 30 at time of this writing. The milestones range from dedicating a research award to students underrepresented in Biology, to increasing retention and the number of students in the Biology major, to undergoing training on revised hiring practices within the department.

Expanding research opportunities and



discussing the importance of research begins during new student orientation for the Department. Praise Joel, recipient of a R. Wesley Rose Student Research award, was a participant in the Department’s summer program for underrepresented students in STEM and Biotechnology. The Department noted that Joel has “become an invaluable member of the Dr. Christina Swanson lab, where he studies intestinal stem cells.”

Examples of pedagogical changes and inclusive pedagogy has been implemented in Biology courses from BI101: General Biology to 300-level courses on histology, bioinformatics, and ecology. Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Swanson and Professor and Chair of Biology Dr. Sheryl Smith also were awarded an Innovation Grant to develop the Biotechnology Training Programs, developed to help prepare underrepresented students for a career in biotechnology, science, or healthcare. ❖



BY NIC GIESELMAN '19

Because, ARCADIA

Students personify a university. Through its students — their experiences, actions, and growth — a university becomes a living, breathing entity. And perhaps nothing captures the student story more than their first-person perspectives.

The ability to share their challenges, successes, and everything in between brings people along on their journeys. The human connection that develops through storytelling inspires, motivates, and unites across communities.

“Storytelling is universal and goes back to the beginning of time,” explains **Dr. Bruce Campbell**, associate professor of Education at Arcadia University. “Stories are emotional, experiential, and creative. Our brains process information almost as if we were actually there instead of just turning words into little factoids that will soon disappear. They connect us to universal truths about ourselves and our world.”

Each week, Arcadia students bring these connections to life as they share their stories through a national award-winning blog. Its title, with an added comma, answers the question, “Why?” **Because, Arcadia.**

READ OUR STUDENT STORIES AT [BECAUSE.ARCADIA.EDU](https://because.arcadia.edu).



EMPOWERING MENTORSHIP

Last January, I received an email from **Dr. Marc Brasof** inquiring if I and a couple other students in our Secondary Education program would be interested in being part of a leadership team — The Social Action & Justice Education (SAJE) Fellowship was a call to action to bring more students of color into the education field and to educate more students in our communities about the fulfillment of being an educator.

We sent the information to our campus partners and high schools in the tristate area before the pandemic turned our world upside down, and we were fortunate enough to accept nine fellows into our first cohort!

I am mentoring three of our fellows: **Amani Harris '24**, **Jakya Barnhill '24**, and **Emily Rodriguez '24** — I am so humbled to get to know these empowering women of color because it reminds me of the impact that they are going to have on their communities as educators someday.

DAIJAH PATTON '22



So writes **DAIJAH PATTON '22** in *What Diversifying Education Means to Me*, which she published on *Because Arcadia*, a virtual library of blog posts, podcasts, and more that brings to life the experiences of Arcadia's students.

Any undergraduate student, regardless of major, background, or writing experience can apply to the blog. **JEN RETTER '16**, the blog's curator, helped create the platform as a student to offer a well-rounded, professional writing experience for budding authors from all majors and academic disciplines.

Established in 2014, *Because Arcadia* started with 15 bloggers in its first year. To date, nearly five dozen writers

have shared hundreds of experiences. Retter now mentors student writers to help them develop their narratives and discover the power of their voice.

"I love seeing students go from 'I got lost trying to find this class' to becoming researchers, advocates, and activists," shares Retter. "For many students, the first step in this journey is simply believing that they have a story to tell."

Global Media major **DANITA MAPES '23**, a first-generation college student from central Pennsylvania, shares her campus experiences as someone who lives with cerebral palsy and brittle bone disease. In her blog post, *Being Disabled on Campus and*

Striving for Change, Mapes shares how she hopes to create change for people with disabilities by participating in Arcadia's Accessibility Committee, a group of students and faculty that work to address and resolve accessibility issues on campus.

Honest reflections from students like Mapes offer a snapshot of the diverse community that calls the University home.

Through her role as managing editor of *Because Arcadia*, career journalist **SANDRA CLARK '14 MBA** is one of the first to catch these glimpses of the Arcadia experience. With an impressive career that spans outlets such as WHYY

and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Clark is now the CEO of StoryCorps. She believes there's something special about working with student authors.

"I get to see life through the eyes of an artist, athlete, or someone studying science, literature, or physical therapy," she says. "I love watching

them challenge themselves to play with words, helping us visualize and experience what they're writing about."

Student Before Athlete author **PATRICK ENSMINGER '23** is a Long Island native pursuing Arcadia's Pre-Physician's Assistant track. He aimed to address misconceptions that

some may have about the student-athlete experience. "Some people think that you get to skip classes and goof off in sports, but through these stories I can show that it's definitely academics first and athletics second," says Ensmenger.



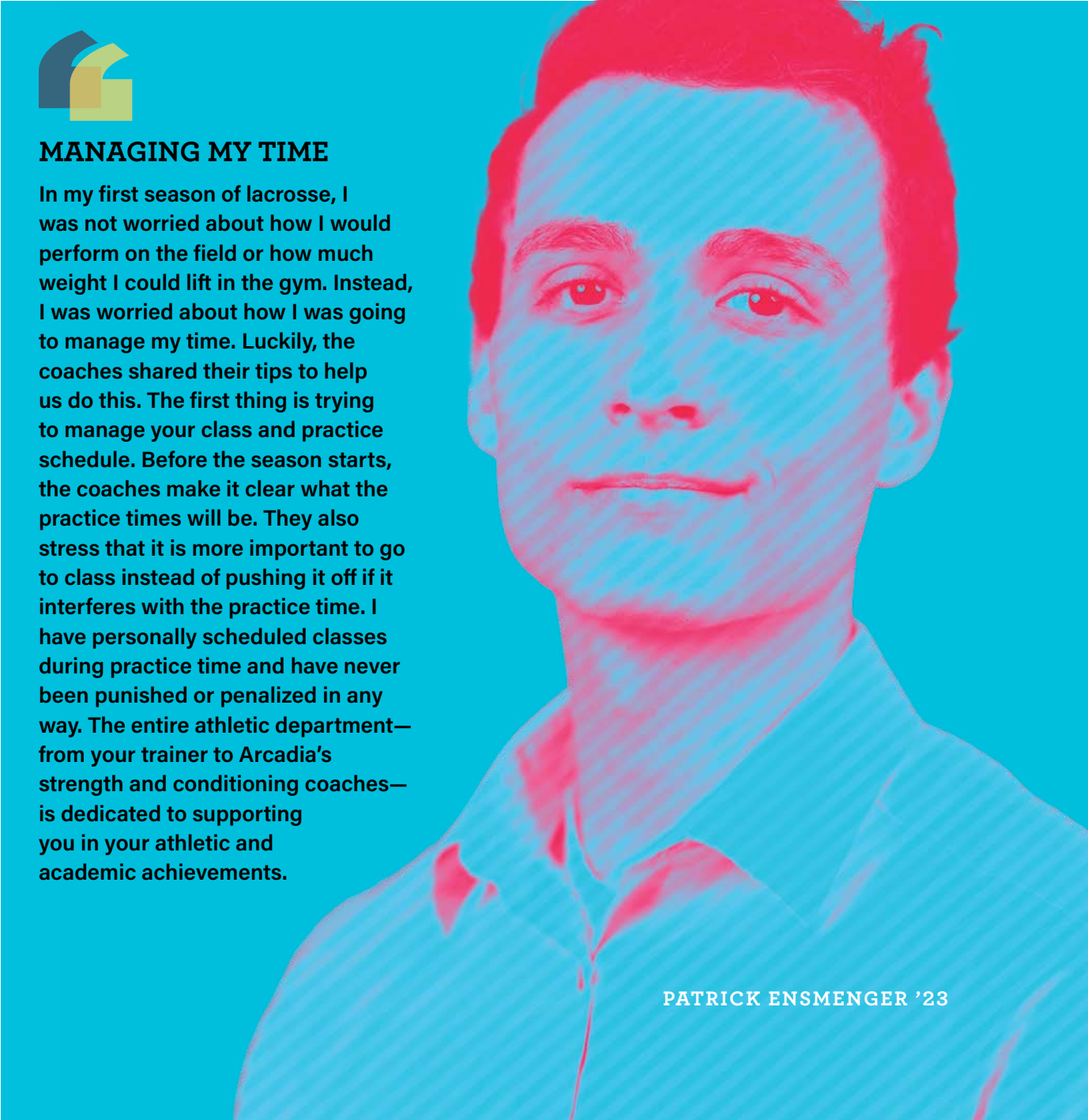
DANITA MAPES '23

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Coming to Arcadia in 2019, I knew it would be daunting as a disabled person.

I hadn't been to a brick-and-mortar school in years, and when I was, my needs weren't met. Elevators were out of service or far from where I needed to be. I had to leave class early to avoid the bustling, narrow hallways. I missed field trips and was, every day, reminded of my "otherness." When I did something for myself, I was revered for "overcoming" my disability, when really, it wasn't my disability I was overcoming; it was the landscape built for everyone except me in mind, with no tools to ease my burden.

One part of Arcadia that makes my life so much easier on campus is Disability Support Services... I'd never received support like I do at DSS... Through them, I've been able to access online textbooks, utilize handicap-accessible bathrooms, get extra time on tests, arrange accessible housing, and more.



PATRICK ENSMINGER '23

MANAGING MY TIME

In my first season of lacrosse, I was not worried about how I would perform on the field or how much weight I could lift in the gym. Instead, I was worried about how I was going to manage my time. Luckily, the coaches shared their tips to help us do this. The first thing is trying to manage your class and practice schedule. Before the season starts, the coaches make it clear what the practice times will be. They also stress that it is more important to go to class instead of pushing it off if it interferes with the practice time. I have personally scheduled classes during practice time and have never been punished or penalized in any way. The entire athletic department—from your trainer to Arcadia's strength and conditioning coaches—is dedicated to supporting you in your athletic and academic achievements.

Based on the introduction of *Summer STEM Research: Creating Opportunity During COVID*, you might think that the pandemic completely derailed the student experience for Chemistry major **ALEX CHIN '22**. Instead, he turned these challenges on their head.

Chin found a new opportunity through the Dublin research program, which involved work with E. coli antigens for a potential vaccine. He was excited to “interact with so many bright and talented Ph.D. students.”

“My project itself had inspired me to consider research as a potential career. The Summer STEM program was an

entirely unpredictable and memorable experience that I will continue to treasure, not only for the people I met, but for the obstacles I encountered and overcame thousands of miles from home.”

As posts like Chin's show, the past two years have offered no shortage of experiences for bloggers to explore. And yet, unfailingly, Arcadia students have risen to the challenges in their paths.

“These stories really reveal how events such as the pandemic or protests after the murder of George Floyd affected the student body,” Clark says, as she reflected on what it's been like

to work on the blog throughout these difficult times.

Philadelphia native **ISABELA SECANECHIA '17**, author of the heartfelt *Au Revoir and Willkommen*, wrote for *Because Arcadia* from 2015 to 2017 while pursuing a double major in Italian and International Studies. During her time at Arcadia, she studied abroad in London, England as well as in Rome and Perugia in Italy. While Secanechia loved the global perspectives she gained, she also experienced homesickness — emotions she coped with through storytelling.



CREATING OPPORTUNITY DURING COVID

I was bound for the Gold Coast in Australia, slated to spend my Spring 2021 semester abroad. That plan was almost immediately extinguished by the time my third year of undergrad came around, as COVID had resulted in stringent travel restrictions (and rightfully so).

Besides the cancellation of my study abroad program, COVID enforced additional limitations. In-person classes were a memory of the past, and instead, many STEM students had to learn lab procedures virtually. Internships and research opportunities foundered during the pandemic, leaving many STEM students, including me, with fewer ways to gain professional experience. Thankfully, I was accepted into the Dublin research program and received my preferred project, which involved work with E. coli antigens for a potential vaccine.

ALEX CHIN '22



AU REVIOR AND WILLKOMMEN

As I look out at the vibrant Green and majestic Grey Towers, I wonder: How do I even begin to consolidate four years of growth, adventure, and emotion into a succinct, good-bye letter? From Day One, I knew I wasn't going to get an average experience with you. You've given me the world, and I loved it...

And to the incoming Class of 2021:

Get ready to embark on what could be the most fun, dynamic, exciting, and challenging years your young lives have seen yet. If there is a trip, take it. If there is an event, go. To the person sitting next to you in class, say hello. Explore Philadelphia. Stay up late laughing with friends. Engage with professors and peers who are different than you. Take advantage of each opportunity you will be offered during your years here. Thrive!

ISABELA SECANECHIA '17



“The blog was a way for me to stay engaged with the community at home while showing students the community abroad,” Secanechia shares.

When she returned to campus, storytelling helped Secanechia cope with her post-study abroad blues. She remembers how many of her pieces in 2017 explored “How do you find the elements of being ‘abroad’ in your own backyard?”

For Secanechia, this meant volunteering with the International Peer Associates Mentors (IPals) program and introducing her Philadelphia home to Arcadia's international students. Today, Secanechia continues to build bridges across cultures and languages as co-founder of ELNOR, a language learning nonprofit that supports people living as refugees and draws from her international experiences during her time at Arcadia.

Secanechia also looks back fondly on the connections she built through *Because Arcadia*, such as her friendship with former blogger **CLIFF LONG '17**. Arcadia's first Fulbright scholar, Long also took advantage of Arcadia's many international opportunities by studying abroad in Seoul, South Korea. Much like Secanechia, his global adventures didn't stop after college. He returned to South Korea to teach English in public and private schools in Busan and Seoul.

Now pursuing a career in social work, Long shares how interviewing fellow students for the blog was invaluable.

“Conducting those interviews and empathizing with others’ stories was an important experience to have as I move into a career where I plan to be doing direct and intimate work with people.”

Scientific Illustration major **MICAH GORDLEY ’24** had to give up her dreams of joining the London First-Year Study Abroad Experience (FYSAE) in 2020

due to the pandemic. This news could have soured Gordley’s first year at Arcadia, but it instead gave her time to explore Arcadia’s unique traditions.

Gordley’s *Celebrating Halloween the Arcadia Way* is one of the many articles on *Because Arcadia* that shares numerous on-campus traditions, such as the haunted castle tour, annual Mr. Beaver pageant, and midnight bingo.

Dr. Campbell notes that storytelling plays a large role in helping a community

celebrate its traditions, legacies, and culture, while maintaining an authenticity that cannot be replicated by someone who has not lived these very experiences.

“When ‘others’ share or re-write stories, originality and cultural identity gets lost and sometimes even erased,” said Dr. Campbell. “Hence the importance of appropriate cultural representation of stories and what I refer to as, cultural citation. This is when



FRANCES DUMLAO '15



IMPACT ON MY CAREER PATH

New Jersey native **FRANCES DUMLAO '15**, who has managed social media for such publications as *Self*, Mashable, and Bustle, used her *Because Arcadia* posts as writing samples when interviewing; these helped land her first internship and, ultimately, launched her career.

“Working for *Because Arcadia* made how I tell stories much better,” Dumlao shares.

The opportunity to work with a content manager, not a professor, was a key advantage when she entered the marketing and communications world. Now an associate director of audience at Vox, Dumlao uses her skills to hone *Eater* magazine’s user experience.

“I don’t think it’s a coincidence that so many *Because Arcadia* student bloggers end up capturing the essence of Arcadia by going into global, impact-oriented careers,” says Retter.



KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

One of the coolest things about Arcadia is the Castle, and Halloween is the perfect time to showcase it. For example, ghost tours highlight the Castle’s historic roots and leave you wondering about the lives of those who lived here before.

One of the most anticipated events is the Rocky Horror Picture Show performance hosted by the Honors program. From the late hours of the night into the next morning, the Honors program went all out to put on a show that’s an Arcadia classic. The fall experience at Arcadia is like no other, and I’ll be counting down the days until next year.



MICAH GORDLEY '24

a story is shared from an individual that is embedded in that culture — or better yet, present for the story they are sharing.

He explains how stories preserve culture and pass on cultural knowledge from one generation to the next. “At the heart, stories keep cultures alive. Moreover, they also connect us to universal truths about ourselves and our world.”

Above all, *Because Arcadia* allows students a platform to connect directly

with readers, both on and off campus, in addition to underscoring how the student experience is — and has always been — the bedrock foundation of our institution’s legacy.

“*Because Arcadia* has truly allowed me to spread awareness about issues, share some of my favorite places in the area, and, more importantly, highlight some of the best parts of this university,” says Patton. “Everyone has a story to share.”

Nic Gieselman '19 (they/them) is a Kansas native who graduated from Arcadia University in 2019 with a BA in Global Media. Now based in Washington, D.C., they support community-led nonprofits through multimedia storytelling and campaign management at GlobalGiving, the world’s first and largest nonprofit crowdfunding platform. Outside of work hours, you’ll most likely find Nic backpacking through the woods, teaching a yoga class, or pestering their friends with unsolicited fun facts.



CLASSNOTES

1957

Freda Friz Schopfer, Edie Neal, Emma Jane Burns, Pene Riggs, and Eleanor Cox worked to commemorate the Class of 1957's 65th Reunion this past April! What a way to remember how we all started together 65 years ago.

1961

Suzanne Decker Fenimore: Frank and I are enjoying being able to travel a little more. We visited his sister and her family in California at Christmas. We went to Palm Springs, CA, at the end of February, again with his sister. Frank keeps busy hiking; Sue is involved with a knitting group and the Friends of the Snohomish Library where she is chairman of a committee which awards a \$2000 scholarship to a graduating senior.

Sue is in contact with **Eva Oehrle Fronk** and **Karen Moore Alterman**. Karen lives in the Seattle area also, and we plan to meet for lunch sometime soon. Covid has prevented that so far, but when things calm down a bit, we look forward to meeting.

1962

Judith Nagy: It's been 60 years since graduation. My life has been a long and fulfilling journey with family, careers, and community service and volunteer work. At this time, with reasonably good health, I am able to be living on my own, traveling, and enjoying seven grandchildren (the oldest will graduate from high school in May). I am also able to do volunteer work. Arcadia has certainly had a remarkable journey. I am proud to be a graduate.

1963

Jean Cassel Campbell: May marked six years of Bruce and I living at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA. We continue to hike as much as we can (which is a lot less than, say, a decade ago!), and are fortunate that this area has a wonderful variety of parks and nature preserves, so we don't have to travel very far away. Though, we are eager for the time when we can travel again to see old friends in the UK.

1964

Marguerite Kearns' book, *An Unfinished Revolution: Edna Buckman Kearns and the Struggle for Women's Rights*, was recently published by SUNY Press (State University of New York). The work was published on June 1, 2021. The Historical Society of Woodstock, NY featured Kearns, a former Woodstock, NY resident of 20 years, on October 24, 2021, as part of a year-long celebration of women's rights.

1966

Joan Reifsnyder Sears writes that everyone in her family is healthy and thriving. Her seven grandchildren are back in school: three are in sixth grade, two in eighth grade, one in tenth grade, and one in college at Cal Berkely. She and Al are lucky enough to attend most of their sports events because they all live in the San Francisco Bay area. They hope to travel in 2022 without too much worry.

Holly Ludwig Pfeifer continues to love skiing so much that she bought a townhouse in the Poconos. Along with weekend skiing, she has enjoyed repainting and upgrading this newest addition. Her granddaughters, Saige and Autumn love it, too. She bought her cat, Jake, a "thunder shirt" for the ride north and it works great! In the summer she lives at the beach and enjoys hosting family and friends. In her spare time, she still enjoys square dancing and volunteering at a local museum.

Diane Duffy Hoch and **Miki Waldman DeBaise** still talk daily. A major topic is granddaughters.

Judy King took the plunge, got on a plane, and visited Margie Wolpert Rutkowski this winter. She shares, "I usually go in February for her birthday, but missed it in 2021 thanks to Covid. We had a grand reunion. We talked about our aches and pains, shared grandchildren stories and photos, went to favorite restaurants, and added a few new ones to our list. We visited friends and laughed, laughed, and laughed."

Judy Applegate Jervis and her husband Al are regular participants and proud contributors to Masonic and Shrinner's activities. Whenever Judy King and Judy Applegate meet at one of these events, they always make time for a catch-up chat.

Julianne Boyd, who co-founded Barrington Stage Company in 1995 and spearheaded its growth into a powerhouse regional theater that produced 41 world premieres and sent productions like "On the Town" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" to Broadway, will step down as artistic director at the end of next season. Boyd, who will turn 77 in December, was interviewed by the Boston Globe, sharing, "Other than my children, my family, and my husband, it's been the greatest joy in my life. Now is the time to pass it on to someone who has a new vision for the theater."

1967

Zandra Maffett: I'm serving as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia for 2022. It's a challenging role, but I am honored and humbled to have been considered. This August I will again house sit and care for the cat of a friend and former colleague who lives in a small village of less than 2000 people in SW France. I did the same last summer and had one of the best experiences of my life.



1973

Mary C. Scotton Bing (above) shares, "My husband, Sam, and I

recently spent 22 days in Southern Italy, including Sicily. This was not our first trip to Italy, since I have developed a love affair with this country. I retired as a public school administrator in 2013. We have been able to visit Europe a few times since then. Sam and I have been married 48 years. We have two sons, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. We make our home in Delaware.

1974

Peggy Schwalm Grow: I have been elected to join The Seeing Eye Board of Trustees. The Seeing Eye, located in Morristown, NJ, is the oldest guide dog school in North America. Founded in 1929, they breed, train and educate blind and visually impaired students to become independent through the use of a Seeing Eye guide dog. My husband and I have raised 12 puppies and I continue to volunteer in many other capacities. Please check out their website at seeingeye.org.

1977

Carol Stevick Williamson: I am happily retired and living in Swarthmore, PA with my husband Randy. Prior to the pandemic I was very involved in a volunteer role at Philabundance. I also did a bit of substitute teaching at the preschool where I worked for many years. Medical concerns (Randy) are keeping us very cautious so my pandemic activities have shifted to the outdoors: lots of walks, some bike rides. We have four grandchildren ages 2 -10, and with vaccines came a return to indoor visits.

1982

Elizabeth Derrickson Kossmann shares, “My essay, Churn, appeared in the Nashville Review in December, 2020 and was included in Memoir Monday’s weekly roundup of best essays. It is adapted from my recently completed book, *What We Hold On To*, which is looking for an agent/publisher. In addition to writing, I have a full time private psychology practice (since COVID via telehealth).



1984

Alison Heller-Ono shares, “**Chawewan Ponlakon McLaughlin** (above) passed on June 6, 2021 after her long battle with lung cancer. My Dear Friend Cha was a fiercely passionate and driven woman. Cha immigrated from Thailand as a teen. She attended Beaver College from 1980 to 1984 and graduated with her degree in Biology. Cha went on to become a US citizen so she could join the Air Force. Cha worked her way up to becoming a Major. She married her pilot, John McLaughlin and then had 3 beautiful children, who have grown to smart, healthy, adults. For those who never knew Cha, she was a beautiful soul...kind to all, sincere, determined, polite, always thoughtful to others, a huge heart, funny with a sense of humor, loved nature, flowers, and cooking. She was a fantastic Thai food cook. She loved entertaining and having parties with her friends and family. She was the queen of potlucks. Cha loved music and dancing. She had a strong faith in her Lord. Cha was athletic, had a beautiful figure and dressed sharp everyday. She was competitive and loved to try new things. Best of all, Cha was my best friend for 41 years. We would visit often and travel to places we loved whenever possible. Many of our class members might remember Cha for the International Buffets she would put together for the

International Club. Cha will be missed terribly by friends and family and all those she touched.”



1987

Bonnie Goldblum Fiorentino: My 16 year-old-son (above) successfully underwent open heart surgery and received 2 mechanical heart valves! This picture was his homecoming from the hospital!



1991

Shira Yacker Lipton (above) is currently living in the Lehigh Valley and teaching Special Education. My daughter just graduated from Columbia University and is in Law School. I spend as much time traveling as possible. Life is good.



Amy Beresnyak Nassif (above) has been working as a physical therapist since 1995. During the pandemic, I decided to make a change in my career and

pursue a Master’s in Healthcare Administration. I will finish in April and graduate with honors. I am actively seeking a new position with nonprofits who serve the geriatric population. I enjoyed my recent visit during Homecoming Weekend in 2021. The campus is amazing and I am proud to be an alum.

1994

Irene Kruszewski Bargar: I married my soulmate, Dale Bargar, on June 25, 2020. We were finally able to have a reception with all of our family & friends on September 11, 2021. In attendance were: **Lori Erdman Campbell, Lisa Splitt Cassellberry, and Lori Cohen.**

Roseann McGrath Brooks ’94M published *Wonderfully Made*, the second book of her inspirational romance series, available on Kindle and in print on Amazon.

1999

George Cross ’99MED retired from teaching English and Literature after 25 years in Philadelphia and Camden. He is now an Education Consultant at COOLPOSING LLC in Philadelphia specializing in strategies to service the “too cool for school” student.



2002

Christina Keller-Schick (above): I married my kindergarten boyfriend, George C. Schick Sr., on Feb. 14, 2020. The mayor of our hometown performed the ceremony.



2004

Deborah Servetnick (above), Transformational Psychedelic Preparation and Integration Coach, was a featured speaker at the Rising Consciousness Community Conference in Salt Lake City, UT in March 2022. Deborah’s experience as a participant in the groundbreaking Johns Hopkins University Psilocybin Cancer Research Study in 2012 reset her life, and her story is in the best-selling book *Short, Sweet and Sacred*. “Grateful Deb” is a Certified Life Coach specializing in psychedelic guiding with sustainable results, and she is recognized as an international leader and teacher and has been heard on Trauma Survivors Thrivers podcast, has presented at The Psilocybin Summit, and has moderated the Tam Integration Jam. She has worked with Unlimited Sciences, a Colorado research organization partnering with JHU, working with veterans and professional athletes in psychedelic assisted therapies. Her mountain retreats for women with breast cancer resume in Summer 2022 and offer scholarships. For more information visit psychedelicoach.com

2005

Lisa Marie Lee made a career change and graduated from Manor College in December of 2019 with a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Paralegal Studies. She currently works as a paralegal specializing in estate planning, trust, and estate administration.

2007

Lauren Trager: In November I was promoted to a Director of Event Production at the National MS Society and now oversee a team of nine across NY, PA, NJ, Delaware, & Florida. This spring I will celebrate my 13th year working at MS and am excited to be back to in-person events.

2008

After her undergraduate time at Arcadia, **Shannon McMullen Sullivan** began teaching in Upper Moreland School District and continued her graduate studies at Arcadia in Educational Leadership. After teaching for 14 years in Kindergarten and second grade, Shannon has stepped into the role of House Principal in Upper Moreland overseeing grades K-2. Shannon is married to Dan Sullivan and they have two children, Noah and Molly, and two cats, Jax and Jasmine.

2009

As of January 2022, **Barry Hendler** accepted a new position and is now a Project Manager at Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC).

Lisa Robinson graduated with her Doctorate from St. John’s University in May 2022! Dr. Robinson’s dissertation was on Shakespeare’s tragedies and Queer Ecosexuality.

2010

Christa Greagori has transitioned from the role of Special Education Teacher to the role of Director of Educational Support Services for the Arts Academy Charter Middle School in Allentown. Christa looks forward to continuing to be a positive role model and advocate for her students.

2011

Virginia Buechel was recently selected as one of New Jersey’s Under 40 marketers by NJADCLUB. Selected by her peers she is entering her 10th year as the marketing director for Rockaway Recycling and the iScrap App.



The February edition of the newspaper industry publication Editor & Publisher featured **Felicia Zegler** (above) as one of its “25 Under 35 for 2022. Zegler is Special Publications Manager and Associate Editor for the Bucks County Herald in Lahaska, Pa.



2012

Alex Keene (above) is excited to announce his marriage to Lynn, his partner of more than five years. The Keenes moved to Charlotte, NC in 2019.



2013

Drew Hurchick and Nicole Sowinski Hurchick ’14 (above) have welcomed their first child. Baby girl and mom are both healthy and enjoying being home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



2014

Ashling Suppan O’Conor ’14, ’17MED (above) and her husband, Dan, married on November 13, 2021.

2015

Willeena Booker shares, “In honor of Black History Month, I wrote a poem entitled One Voice, and collaborated with renowned composer Dr. Rollo Dilworth, who created the music for my lyrics. The song was performed by the Hatboro-Horsham School District Chorus on Wednesday February 16, 2022.”

2019

Lawrence Mullen was the recipient of the Women’s History Institute at the Historic Hudson Valley’s 2022 Summer Fellowship.



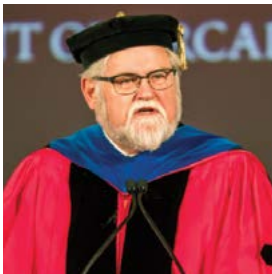
CLASS NOTES

All class note information may be submitted online at

arcadia.edu/classnotes.

In Memoriam

Remembering Jerry Greiner



2022
Jerry Greiner
Former President of Arcadia University

Jerry Greiner, who served as president of Arcadia University from 2004 to 2011, passed away on March 12. Greiner’s presidency was marked by growth in student applicants, faculty, and academic programs, and earned its first landmark distinction as the number-one ranked university for study abroad by the Institute of International Education. Greiner also made it a priority to construct a student center befitting the 21st century student experience, and groundwork was laid and construction started on what would become the 62,000-square-foot University Commons.

Prior to joining Arcadia, Greiner spent nearly three decades at Hamline University in a variety of positions, including as provost and as a member of the faculty. After his tenure as president of Arcadia, Greiner served as interim provost and associate provost at Widener University, and as interim provost at Alvernia University.

In Memoriam

- 1948**
Dorothy Grosz Parsons

1949
Margaret Houk

1952
June Hirsch Jones

1956
Patricia Kotraschek Pierce

1960
Ann Hartley Meeker
- 1963**
Elaine English Spiller

Marilyn Showler Wuestefeld

Sue Ellen Young

1964
Barbara Ann Weathers

Patty Albert Schmidt

1978
Richard Atkinson
- 1984**
Chaweewan Ponlakon
McLaughlin

1993
Gail Williamson

1995
Marian Nelson

2001
Peter Lai



By Dr. Favian Guertin-Martin, Associate Professor
of Criminology and Criminal Justice

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT RECOGNIZES LENAPE PEOPLES

American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/NA) experience the highest rates of poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, suicide, and victimization. In fact, this group is twice as likely to be victims of a violent crime than any other racial/ethnic group in the United States. These social problems can be traced to colonialism and white supremacy, which continues to impact these individuals.

Nearly half of the AI/NA population live on an Indian Reservation, and in many of these communities, residents do not have access to water, adequate sewage, or electricity. Due to the sheer geographical isolation and small population size (AI/NA account for a little over 2 percent of the population), their social problems remain out of public discourse. However, at Arcadia University, there are efforts to recognize the historical legacy of AI/NA’s and their resilience of white supremacy.

Last summer, a group of Arcadia faculty and staff participated at the annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, where many of the speakers recited a land acknowledgement statement honoring an indigenous community that once resided on the land of their institution prior to their lecture or presentation. **Dr. Doreen Loury** and I felt that Arcadia should recognize the Lenape People who lived on the land that the University sits upon. As a scholar on AI/NA social problems, I felt compelled that this is the right step on recognizing the rich history of the Lenape People. We organized a working group of faculty and staff and agreed to contact the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania for guidance on our efforts to create a land acknowledgement statement.

Adam DePaul, Tribal Council Member of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania and chief Storykeeper for the tribe, provided



Task force members Allyson McCreery MA, program coordinator for IPCR; Dr. Loury; DePaul; Dr. Guertin-Martin; Dr. Angela McNeil, assistant vice president of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Monica Day, adjunct professor and liaison for the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring.

feedback on earlier drafts of the statement and visited campus for a working lunch to finalize the statement.

On Sept. 30, 2021, DePaul, the working group, faculty, staff, and students discussed the statement; DePaul also took questions from students to further their understanding of the historical legacy of the Lenape People.

Dr. Loury noted that that was a “historic day” for Arcadia. After, faculty voted to include the land acknowledgement statement in their handbook. Currently, we are in the process of creating a teaching and learning community, which will start in the Fall 2022. Additionally, we will be creating programming on educating the University community on the Lenape People and other indigenous groups.

THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Lenape, whose name means “the original people,” are the first caretakers of the land upon which Arcadia University/Beaver College currently sits, and we continue to occupy. The Lenape people are victims of colonialism, genocide, and forced relocation. Therefore, we recognize the continued perseverance of the Lenape people through their adversity; and we honor their historical legacy and vibrant culture which continues to thrive today. We are committed to collaborating with the Lenape, as neighbors, partners, and friends in caretaking this land.

Save the Date

2022 Summer and Fall Alumni Events

Arcadia Alumni Knights @ the Phillies **Sunday, June 12 | Citizens Bank Park**

Enjoy a pregame gathering featuring tailgate food favorites followed by cheering on the Philadelphia Phillies as they take on the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Homecoming & Family Weekend **October 7 & 8**

Come home to Arcadia and celebrate your pride for the Scarlet and Grey during a weekend full of festivities.

UKnighted Tuesday **November 29**

UKnight in support of students during Arcadia's annual day of giving.

Learn more: alumni.arcadia.edu/events



@ArcadiaAlumni