

ARCADIA

Winter 2023

MAGAZINE

WICKED TALENTED

**HOMECOMING LIGHTS
UP CAMPUS**

**ALUMNI SOCCER
SHOOTING STARS**



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Dear Arcadia University Community,


At its core, Arcadia University is a legacy institution.

Legacy at Arcadia is personified in so many ways. It is seen directly through family members who continue in the footsteps of a grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle, or sibling — such as Tom DeGeorge '04 and Maria DeGeorge-Kosmin '06. The siblings, who starred on the Arcadia men's and women's soccer teams, respectively, are now both extraordinarily successful as coaches — Tom at Archbishop Wood, and Maria at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy.

Legacy is also brought to life through mentorships or interactions with alumni and students. Alumni Association President Maya Basu Johnson '97 captures this eloquently in her letter on page 15, writing on the importance of meaningful engagement. I am reminded of a conversation that an alumna, film producer Rosalie Swedlin '68, had with student Gavin Meyers '24, who'd expressed interest in movie production. Rosalie provided career advice and encouragement, which Gavin so greatly appreciated. This is indeed meaningful engagement.

Legacy also is seen in our institution's long history in embracing the arts. Bryanna Martinez-Jimenez '22, this issue's cover story, is continuing that legacy. Bryanna found a place and a purpose at Arcadia with the Theater Arts department — and they're excelling after graduation in the Philadelphia theater scene.

At this year's Homecoming and Family Weekend, more than 1,000 alumni, family, and friends returned to campus to help Arcadia usher in 170 years of history, which the University celebrates this academic year. On behalf of all of us at Arcadia University, I thank you for contributing to and being a part of this great legacy.

Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.
President
Arcadia University



President Nair with students during move-in day 2022.

FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT SPIKES



Arcadia's first-year students gather for a photo on Haber Green during Welcome Week.

Enrollment of new first-year students at Arcadia for the 2022-2023 academic year increased 24 percent compared to last year.

Arcadia welcomed a total of 483 first-year students in Fall 2022. Arcadia's newest Knights come from 28 states, an increase from 24 a year ago, and several countries (China, Canada, India, Kyrgyzstan, and others).

According to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, this increase is among the highest for first-year enrollment among colleges and universities in the Philadelphia area.

“Our Adaptive Strategy has at its heart the goal of keeping students at the center of all of our efforts,” said **Rakin “Rock” Hall**, Vice President for Enrollment Management at Arcadia. “A large aspect of that is our recruitment, retention, and targeted marketing efforts. Not only did we want to ‘reintroduce’ ourselves to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but we also were intentional and strategic with parent and student engagement, as well as increasing our outreach to local counselors and the heads of schools.” ❖

TAKE THE ARCADIA MAGAZINE SURVEY

Be part of the new Arcadia magazine redesign. Tell us what you like, what you'd want to see more of, and how the magazine can better engage with alumni and readers.

To be proper stewards of conservation, we want to know which readers would like to continue receiving the print version of Arcadia magazine. Please visit the survey to choose which version of Arcadia magazine you'd prefer to receive and enjoy.

Visit www.arcadia.edu/magazine/survey or scan this QR code to share your thoughts; those who complete the survey will be eligible to win an Amazon gift card!



Scan Me!

CLASS OF 2026 BY the NUMBERS

- 483
NUMBER OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR THE FALL 2022 SEMESTER
- 38
PERCENTAGE OF NEWLY ENROLLED WHO SELF-REPORT AS FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
- 38
PERCENTAGE OF NEWLY ENROLLED WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS STUDENTS OF COLOR
- 34
PERCENTAGE OF NEWLY ENROLLED WHO ARE RECRUITED STUDENT-ATHLETES
- 28
NUMBER OF STATES THE NEWEST KNIGHTS REPRESENT
- 11
PERCENTAGE OF NEWLY ENROLLED WHO HAVE A PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH



NEWS+NOTES

ROCKING THE KNIGHT IN DOWNTOWN GLENSIDE

The Arcadia University community showed its collective spirit and celebrated with local Glenside residents during the September annual Rock the Knight and Downtown Glenside Food Truck Festival. Students, faculty, and staff gathered on Haber Green for the Activities Fair, which included information about how to get involved on campus, supplies for making posters, food, drinks, and music.

After gathering on the Green, more than 400 University community members joined **President Ajay Nair**, **Mrs. Paayal Nair**, and other alumni, faculty, and staff as well as Archie the Knight, to process along Easton Road to the Downtown Glenside

Food Truck Festival, where local businesses and more than 40 food truck vendors served the crowds.

After the festival, students returned to Haber Green for ice cream and live entertainment from the band Pure Jerry. “I like the campus, and I hadn’t been in downtown Glenside until tonight; it’s nice and cute,” said **Gretchen DeBoer ’26**. “This is a good event because it helps new students get to know each other and the area around campus.” The event was sponsored in part by Arcadia, The Ribbon in the Sky Fund, and the Downtown Glenside Foundation (DGF).

Learn more at arcadia.edu/glenside-community. ❖



Knights Code of Honor Debuts

Students this semester found new literature decorating the walls — The Knight Code of Honor, which illustrates how Knights demonstrate the Lived Values:

“Arcadia Knights are adaptable, fearless, respectful, and responsible. Arcadia Knights embrace excellence, integrity, justice, and intellectual freedom.”

Students present metal bracelets, each bearing the name of one of the Lived Values, to their peers who embody the Code of Honor. These students are then encouraged to present the bracelet to another Knight who embodies the values. ❖

\$1 MILLION GIFT TO SUPPORT SINGLE-PARENT STUDENTS

A generational, \$1 million gift from Michael F. Young, the husband of the late **Sue E. Young ’63**, has established the Sue Ellen Young ’63 Endowed Scholarship, which will provide financial aid for Arcadia students who are single parents.

“On behalf of everyone at Arcadia University, I offer my deepest gratitude and personal thanks to Michael F. Young and his family for this transformative \$1 million gift,” said President **Ajay Nair**. “Sue was an indelible member of this University community for more than 60 years, and the support she and her family have provided Arcadia and its students has been and continues to be transformative for our institution and to our students.”

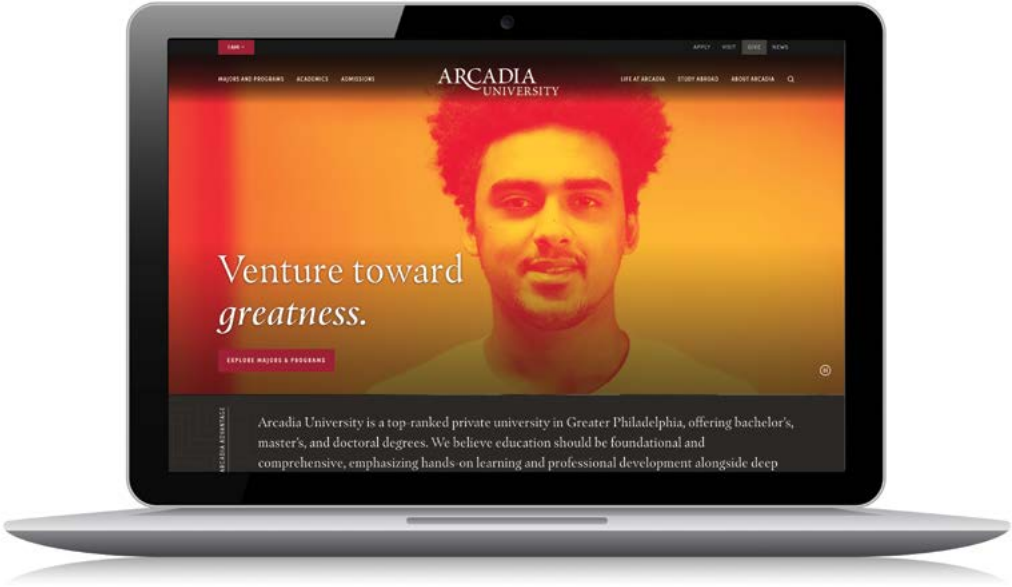
Sue Ellen Young graduated from Beaver College in 1963 and went on to have two careers: first as an elementary school teacher and later as an entrepreneur in real estate, establishing one of the first women-owned real estate companies in Pennsylvania. As a

philanthropist with her husband, she supported the arts and education, which included the establishment of the Geraldine and John Yerger Endowed Scholarship at Arcadia in 2006. With this scholarship, she intended to lessen the financial hurdles single parents face once enrolled in college.

Her desire to aid single mothers was born out of her own experience. At the age of 28, after the loss of her first husband, Sue Ellen became a single parent to five boys. She named the endowed scholarship after her parents, Geraldine and John Yerger, to honor them while creating a pathway for single parents to pursue degrees.

Through the Sue Ellen Young ’63 Endowed Scholarship, special preference will be given for single-parent students who maintain sole custody of their child or children, and who receive no external financial support for the care of the child or children. ❖

BOLD, NEW ARCADIA.EDU LAUNCHES



The new Arcadia.edu launched on October 3. The website was designed to be a powerful, vibrant, and relevant representation of Arcadia’s brand. The redesign focused on the journey of our visitors, aiding them through the site to find the information they seek quickly and easily. And it was designed to tell our story with

clarity, pride, and precision. This large-scale project ensured our content was search engine optimized and a smooth, accessible experience for our users. The University highlighted Arcadia’s global advantages and benefits in real time, expanding our reach among prospective undergraduate and graduate students. ❖



Yes, that is a real photo! Arcadia and Beaver were both high above campus during Homecoming's Saturday extravaganza.

ARCADIA LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT A HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND OF FIRSTS FOR ARCADIA



Alumni and friends holding their plush Archie knights.

The Arcadia community came together for a spectacular weekend of school spirit, games, a block party, a theater production of *Into the Woods*, music and dancing, athletic events, a Commencement tribute to the Class of 2020, a new mural unveiling and, as a first, a drone show that lit up the Knight sky. The new mural is in the green space next to the pit parking lot off Church Road. It's painted by **Amir Campbell**, the recipient of the 2021 Mural Arts Philadelphia Fellowship for Black Artists and this year's Public Artist-in-Residence at Arcadia.



Dancing the day away on Haber Green.



The women's soccer team scored a victory against Lycoming College.



Artist Amir Campbell in front of his mural, Arcadia: Birthed Out of Love

Homecoming and Family Weekend featured inductions into the Athletic Hall of Fame and a 3-2 victory for women's soccer against Lycoming College and a 4-1 win for field hockey over FDU-Florham.

The weekend highlight was the first-ever drone show over Grey Towers Castle and Haber Green. Drones lit up the night sky and celebrated the elements central to the University throughout its history, including the liberal arts, the health sciences, innovation, ambition, global connections, and community. ❖

CLASS OF 2020 RETURNS HOME FOR GRADUATION CEREMONY



On Saturday, Oct. 8, alumni of the Class of 2020 returned to campus to reconnect with classmates and enjoy a ceremony acknowledging their resilience and accomplishments. More than 40 alumni, many of whom volunteered to bring this memorable class experience to life, were joined by friends and family for a homecoming celebration to remember.

The Class of 2020 was led to Haber Green by a lively procession by the Arcadia Knight and the Positive Movement drumline of Philadelphia. Provost **Jeff Rutenbeck**, **Brett Fenstermacher '20**, and Associate Director of Young Alumni and Student Engagement **Margo Maas** addressed the Class of 2020. "It felt like coming home," said **Kate Knab '20**. "I had so much fun celebrating with my peers."

As part of the celebration, each member of the Class of 2020 had the opportunity to walk across the stage and be recognized. "It was a life-changing event that captured everything I had hoped it would," said **Sarah Meredith '18 '20M**. "I got to experience a celebration that a graduation would not have been able to capture because all the hardship was recognized, the community was enjoyed, and I was welcomed home again."

As Fenstermacher '20 addressed the Class of 2020, he closed with: "In all my travels, I made it a point to drive around this campus every time my car would take me near Glenside. To admire the architecture of the Castle? Sure. But more importantly, to remind me where I came from. For the three years I studied here, Arcadia was home." ❖



Adjunct Professor of English and CASAA Administrative Assistant Deja Edwards '18, 21MFA, MA leads trustees and senior leadership on a tour of CASAA, which promotes antiracist research and pedagogical innovation at Arcadia.

COMBATING ANTI-BLACK RACISM

CASAA AWARDED \$300K GRANT, ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

Arcadia received a one-year \$300K grant for the 2022-23 academic year to support the Center for Antiracist Scholarship, Advocacy, and Action (CASAA) in its efforts to promote antiracist research and pedagogical innovation.

The grant, from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will enable Center leaders to implement key initiatives such as the CASAA Scholar-Advocates Program and expand the CASAA Microgrants Program for faculty and staff scholarship. In addition, grant funds will be used to develop and implement the collaborative Praxis for Teaching Race program, led by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring.

“CASAA is poised to be a national leader in antiracism scholarship and advocacy,” said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Jeff Rutenbeck**. “The Kellogg Foundation’s support of these efforts will be transformational.”

In addition, with the retirement of founding Executive Director **Dr. Doreen Loury**, CASAA announced new leadership. Previous Associate Director **Dr. Christopher Allen Varlack**, assistant professor of English, was elevated to Executive Director, and **Dr. Favian Guertin-Martin**, associate professor of of Criminology and Criminal Justice, was named Associate Director.

Learn more at arcadia.edu/CASAA. ❖

TRUSTEES ENDORSE CABR CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

At the October Board of Trustees meeting, Trustees toured the CASAA space (see photo above) and spoke with faculty and staff. The Board also enthusiastically endorsed the requirement for incoming students to take two CABR-designated courses as part of their Arcadia Undergraduate Curriculum requirements beginning in fall 2023. ❖

UNIVERSITY PUBLISHES CABR REPORT

This year, Arcadia published the inaugural Combating Anti-Black Racism (CABR) report, which showcases the major achievements of focused, dedicated progress our University community has made over the past two years in these vital efforts. Community members are invited to view the report in its entirety and learn more about Arcadia’s CABR efforts at 2022cabrannualreportarcadia.university. ❖

UNIVERSITY REAFFIRMS LENAPE PARTNERSHIP WITH TREATY SIGNING



Dr. Martin signs the treaty of renewed friendship with the Lenape People.

In summer and fall 2021, a group of Arcadians worked with the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania to draft a land acknowledgement statement recognizing that the Lenape People were the first caretakers of the land where the University now sits. The statement notes that Arcadia honors the Lenape’s “historical legacy and vibrant culture” and is “committed to collaborating with the Lenape, as neighbors and friends.”

Arcadia has put action behind its words. As part of the Lenape’s Rising Nation River Journey, a quadrennial trek down the Delaware River via kayak and canoe to raise awareness of their legacy, culture, and beliefs, the University joined colleges, environmental groups, churches, historical societies, and individuals over the summer in signing a treaty of renewed friendship.

“I saw this as a chance to further our partnership with the Lenape,” says **Dr. Favian Guertin-Martin**, associate professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and director of the Criminal Justice Program, who signed the treaty on Arcadia’s behalf. “It’s a way to acknowledge that we’re actually trying to further understand their history, culture, and people.” ❖

ARCADIA RECEIVES \$299K GRANT FROM DOJ FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER VIOLENCE PREVENTION



In October 2022, Arcadia University received a grant of \$299,999 from the United States Department of Justice to create the Arcadia Community Sexual and Gender Violence Prevention, Education, and Response (ASVPER) program.

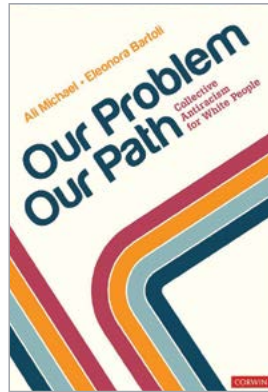
This is the second DOJ grant Arcadia has received in three years; the previous grant was \$300,000 and led to the hiring of a full-time prevention specialist, **Alison Berk**, and created the Office of Sexual and Gender-based Violence Prevention and Education.

ASVPER will help to develop and strengthen prevention education and awareness programs, strengthen victim services, and expand effective security and investigation strategies to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking for Arcadia students, faculty, and staff, their families, and those living in communities surrounding Arcadia’s Glenside and Christiana campuses and global centers and facilities. ❖

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Peter Appelbaum, professor of Education and director of Education Studies and Art Education Programs, exhibited “*We’re Where? Hear Here: Que’re Queer?*” in Queer Ecologies, an indoor and outdoor art exhibition at two sites in Philadelphia.

Dr. Eleonora Bartoli, former director of the graduate program in Counseling, and **Dr. Ali Michael**, adjunct professor in Psychology, published *Our Problem, Our Path: Collective Antiracism for White People* (Corwin).



Dr. Bruce Campbell, associate professor of Education and director of the Educational Leadership Masters and Supervisory Certification programs, presented “*Dust + Dignity: The Sights and Sounds of Resistance in Black Music*” at the Newark Public Library’s James Brown African-American Room. He was also part of a panel discussion of Black music’s sonic and visual response to social injustice throughout the years.



Dr. Evan Cohen, associate professor of Physical Therapy, presented at the 22nd Annual Patricia Leahy Memorial Lecture on the use of blood flow restriction training to improve muscle strength and functional mobility in those with multiple sclerosis. The lecture took place at St. Joseph’s University.

Dr. Margaret Longacre, associate professor and chair of Public Health; **Mary Sweeney**, vice president for Human Resources and Employee Experience; and **Michele Cygan**, director of Compensation and Benefits, spoke at a webinar about oncology caregiving.

Profound experiences with nature are shown to facilitate pro-environmental behavior later in life, according to research co-authored by **Dr. Becky Mathers-Lowery, Ph.D.**, post-doctoral researcher in the USTRIVE program, who co-published “*The Power of a Profound Experience With Nature: Living With Meaning*” in *Frontiers in Psychology*.

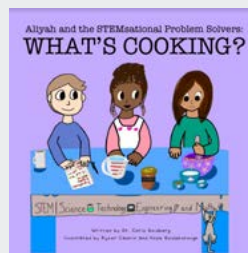


Dr. Heather McClintock, assistant professor of Public Health, and **Brittany Imel ’23MPH**, MMS published “*Food insecurity and medication restricting behavior among persons with diabetes in the United States*” in *Nutrition and Health*, an online, international, peer-reviewed journal.

Dr. Fabio Oldoni, assistant professor of Forensic Science, and **Yoon Jung Yang ’20, ’21MSFS** published “*American Forensic DNA Practitioners’ Opinion on Activity Level Evaluative Reporting*” in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, the official journal of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. ❖



Christopher Goldberg ’05EdD, a graduate of the first Special Education Doctoral cohort in 2005, released his first children’s book, *Aliyah and the STEMsational Problem Solvers: What’s Cooking?*



The book, for children aged 6 to 11, advocates for STEM education for all, a major push in education. The book addresses the idea of inspiring young girls and students of color, who are vastly

underrepresented in the STEM- and STEAM-related fields. The book features an inspiring foreword by Dr. Gladys West, a “Hidden Figure” who was responsible for leading the teams that developed the calculations for what is now the Global Positioning System.

The book is illustrated by two of Dr. Goldberg’s former students he taught in the Interboro (PA) School District. Dr. Goldberg is now an adjunct professor at Temple University, serving as coordinator for Student Teaching in Special Education. ❖

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP NEWS

The University elected three new members to its Board of Trustees: **Nancy Glass**, CEO and executive producer for Glass Entertainment Group, an award-winning television production company; **Peri Wallace Higgins**, president and founder of Evolve Advisors; and **Aliyah Abraham ’17**, management and program analyst for the U.S. Department of Commerce and a 2017 graduate of Arcadia.



Nancy Glass



Peri Wallace Higgins

Glass is a six-time Emmy Award-winning producer and writer. She started Glass Entertainment Group in 2003, and since then the company has produced more than 3,000 hours of cable television shows, documentaries, digital programming, and podcasts.

Higgins is president and founder of Evolve Advisors, a minority- and woman-owned management consulting firm that assists clients in developing innovative strategies for growth. Prior to founding Evolve, Higgins was a founder and managing partner of two real estate investment funds and managed the private equity portfolio of a diversified holding company.



Aliyah Abraham '17

Elected as a Recent Graduate Trustee, Abraham works in the U.S. Department of Commerce as a Management & Program Analyst/Human Capital Business Partner. Her contributions include the development of several data visualization personnel reporting systems that assist agency leadership with strategic

planning and personnel oversight, the creation of new organizational tools for tracking of congressionally funded positions, and most recently spearheading transformational recruitment efforts to obtain potential candidates from diverse backgrounds.

In other Trustee news, **Maggie Lyons ’12** was named director of Certification Development of the Casualty Actuarial Society. In this role, Lyons will envision, lead, plan, and manage the credential development lifecycle that contributes to enhancing the value of the examinations in the CAS admissions program.

Also, Trustee **Ashish Parmar** joined the National Association of Corporate Directors in Times Square on Aug. 25 to ring the Nasdaq closing bell. The ceremony celebrated the association’s milestone of reaching 1,000 certified directors. Parmar is senior vice president and chief information officer of Tapestry, Inc., a New York-based house of global modern luxury lifestyle brands. ❖

Considering Graduate School?

Come back to Arcadia for your advanced degree or certification.

Programs from Educational Leadership to Healthcare Management.

Contact admiss@arcadia.edu or scan this QR code to see a full list of graduate programs.



FIVE INDUCTED INTO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The University inducted five new members into its Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony held during Homecoming Weekend. The new class is the 11th to be inducted since the Hall of Fame's inception in 2008. The Arcadia Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2022 comprises **John Bellis '06** (Baseball), **Jackie Law '13** (Women's Soccer), **Amy (Barone) McLane '00** (Women's Lacrosse), **Andrea (Reynolds) Pizzuti '96** (Softball), and **Scott Wimsey '14** (Men's Soccer).

Bellis, a Psychology major, has the third-most hits (215), second-most RBIs (138), second-most runs (166), third-most triples (9), fifth-most doubles (42), second-most stolen bases (63), and third-most games played (160) in program history. Following graduation, Bellis played with the New Jersey Jackals, and served as the Knights' Head Coach in 2008.

Law, an English major, was a goalkeeper for the Knights. She holds program records in wins (48), saves (363), and shutouts (33), and is fourth in both save percentage (.848) and goals-against average (.840). Also a three-year member of the Women's Basketball team, Law is the head women's soccer coach at Union County College in New Jersey.

McLane, an Early Elementary Education major with a concentration in Special Education, was a goalkeeper on the Women's Lacrosse team. She posted two of the top-12 season save percentages in NCAA history and is third all-time in saves per game, at 16.76. McLane's .675 save percentage in 1998 was best in the country. She works at the Quality Early Education System, which she helped to found and provides hands-on coaching and training to teachers throughout Hillsborough County, Florida.

Pizzuti, a Psychology major, was a three-time first-team all-conference selection, and an academic all-conference pick as



a senior. Her .532 batting average in 1995 remains the highest in program history, and she ranks in the top 10 in career batting average, triples, and stolen bases. Pizzuti is the vice president of home dialysis at Davita.

Wimsey holds program records for penalty kicks made (8) and games played (86), and is sixth in points (67), fifth in goals (29), and tied for second in game-winning goals (9). He was just the second Knight to be named an All-American, making the second team in 2005. Wimsey played professionally for the Philadelphia KiXX after his Arcadia playing career ended in 2006, and earned his bachelor's degree in History in 2014. ❖

Veteran Winner Named Head Women's Basketball Coach

Jackie Hartzell (at right) was named head coach of the Women's Basketball team at Arcadia at the start of the fall semester. Hartzell had spent eight successful seasons at University of the Sciences, whose athletics programs were dissolved when it merged with Saint Joseph's University.

"Coach Hartzell is a demonstrated leader with deep ties to the local region," Executive Director of Athletics **Brian Granata** said. "She has a burning desire to win but also does a tremendous job establishing relationships with student-athletes and supporting their progress academically."

Hartzell's USciences teams produced a 186-57 record (.765) and earned five trips to the NCAA Division II Tournament, including a Sweet 16 appearance in 2018. In the Central Athletic Collegiate



Conference, the Devils were even more dominant, producing a 123-28 record (.815), winning three conference championships, and earning a berth into the CACC Tournament every season. USciences also found success in the classroom under Hartzell, earning six straight WBCA Academic Top 25 rankings. The Devils were one of only two Division II programs to earn a spot in both the WBCA Coaches Poll and Academic Top 25 from 2018 to 2020.

"I am extremely grateful to be the next women's basketball coach at Arcadia University," Hartzell said. "I would like to thank Brian for believing in me and giving me this opportunity. I look forward to this new and exciting challenge and can't wait to begin our foundation of success." ❖

STUDENTS TAKE ON 'HIDDEN OPPONENT'



Arcadia students addressed a "hidden opponent" — mental health awareness in college and university student-athletes — in the fall semester.

Led by **Jackie Skalski '24**, president of Arcadia's chapter of The Hidden Opponent, a nonprofit organization focused on mental health awareness in student athletes, and chapter vice president **Abbey Finkill '23**, the University hosted a 5K walk/run for suicide prevention on Haber Green. About 160 people participated, raising more than \$2,000. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Morgan's Message, an organization founded in memory of women's lacrosse player Morgan Rodgers that strives to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health within the student-athlete community and equalize the treatment of physical and mental health in athletics.

"Being president of The Hidden Opponent at Arcadia has not only helped heal others around me, but it has also helped my healing process," said Skalski, who struggled after suffering an injury that kept her off the women's basketball team for two years. "While getting through my own struggles has been a great accomplishment, helping others through their own struggles is something that means so much more to me." ❖

BASEBALL, SOFTBALL FIELD WINNERS IN 2022

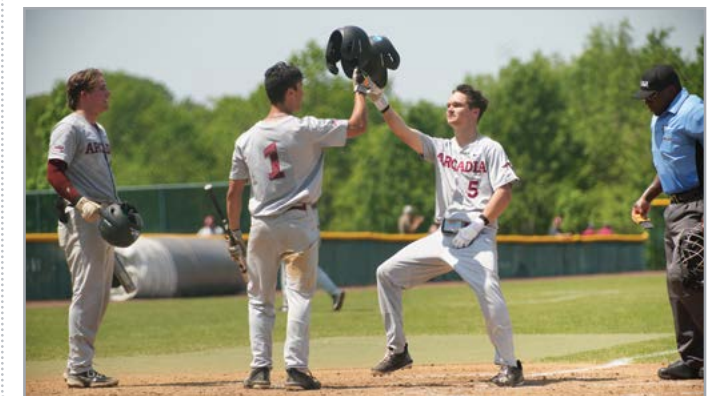
Baseball and Softball enjoyed banner seasons in 2022, with each squad notching numerous team and individual achievements.

For the first time in program history, Softball hosted an NCAA Division III Regional. After beating Johnson & Wales in the opener, the Knights fell to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), 6-2, in the regional final. Arcadia finished the season 32-11; the 32 wins were the program's third-most ever.

Pitcher **Juliana Presto** set new program records for wins and strikeouts in a season. She and infielder **Megan Sooy** were named to the All-Region IV team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Baseball achieved several program firsts, winning 40 games, hosting an NCAA Regional game, and advancing to the regional championship. The team was ranked in the top 10 during the season, and **Owen Margolis** was the program's first-ever consensus All-American.

Additionally, infielder **Alex Madera** set a new program record for hits in a season, finishing the year with 83. Five Baseball Knights were named to All-Region teams, and **Bryan Torresani** earned Regional Coach of the Year honors. ❖



Learn more



Access additional stories, stats, and information about Arcadia's sports teams and programs at **ARCADIAKNIGHTS.COM**.

ARCADIA HOSTS EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS FOR DISCUSSION WITH STUDENTS ON U.S.-EU RELATIONS

On Oct. 3, Arcadia hosted three European Union ambassadors for a discussion with students on the current U.S.-EU relationship: Auriele Bonal, Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Ambassador of the French Republic to the U.S.; Jean-Arthur Régibeau, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the U.S.; and Kristjan Prikk, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the U.S.

The three took questions from students and discussed pertinent topics including climate change, the war in Ukraine, trade, and global security.

“The relationship between the United States and the European Union is one of the most important for trade and security in the world,” said Prikk. “We share information about technology and innovation, share values about what is right and what is wrong, and have a shared understanding of safety and stability.”

The ambassadors explained that coming together as a union in Europe helps them negotiate directly with the United States in ways they otherwise would not be able to. ❖



Dr. Angela Kachuyevski, associate professor of Political Science and the event's organizer; Jean-Arthur Régibeau; Kristjan Prikk (middle); and Auriele Bonal (right).

ARCADIA SIGNS MOU TO RELAUNCH NYERERE CENTRE FOR PEACE RESEARCH IN TANZANIA FOR IPCR STUDENTS

Arcadia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sept. 28 with the East African Community (EAC) and the American Graduate School (AGS) in Paris to relaunch the Nyerere Center for Peace Research (NCPR) in the United Republic of Tanzania. NCPR was originally co-founded by Arcadia and the EAC in 2006 following a grant approved by the University. In celebration of this partnership, Arcadia welcomed Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, Secretary General of the EAC, to campus for a formal signing ceremony.

NCPR is a joint effort that promotes a peaceful and prosperous East Africa and provides an academic resource to member states of the EAC: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republics of Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Burundi. As part of the MOU, the EAC has donated “the Princess Margaret House,” a culturally historic building located at the site of the EAC headquarters in Arusha, as well as provided academic

framework/coordination for graduate students to establish the Centre, which will focus on field research and professional internships that support EAC initiatives.

Developing an early warning system to help the EAC identify potential regional conflicts is an example of the integration of curriculum and field placements in Arcadia’s Master’s Program in International Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR).

“We are discussing additional projects that relate closely to the objectives identified by the EAC that bridge classroom training and the IPCR curriculum with hands-on learning,” said **Dr. Warren Haffar**, director of the University’s IPCR program. “IPCR and Arcadia look forward to the continuation of this collaborative endeavor.”

In February 2023, Dr. Haffar and **Allyson McCreery**, associate director of IPCR at Arcadia, will visit the Centre for the official re-opening. ❖



Letter from the President of the Arcadia University Alumni Association

MAYA BASU JOHNSON '97

Dear Arcadia University and Beaver College Community,

Campus is alive with students; they are back from winter break and eager for the spring semester. I remember my own experiences – as I am sure you do yours. What I hope for our students — our future alumni — is what I hope for you: meaningful engagement with our alma mater.

As alumni, we have an incredible opportunity to be examples for current students as well as inspirations to each other. As seniors graduate in May and join the ranks of alumni, those of us in the Alumni Association should not only welcome them but also encourage them to serve Arcadia as proud alumni.

Service can be driven through four major channels: communication, experiential, volunteerism, and philanthropy. Our deep care of our Alma Mater is best demonstrated when we share with one another, attend events, loan our expertise, and give. However, giving — or Impact Philanthropy — allows Arcadia to address critical priorities and strengthen its institutional capacity, which, in turn, helps to raise our institutional self-esteem (and our own pride in Arcadia) by driving positive transformation of Arcadia. This raises awareness, attracts potential students, encourages funders to support us through grant-making, and makes Arcadia stronger.

Arcadia has taken daily steps to that positive transformation. It can be seen in many ways around campus, across the student experience, and alumni population. But they need us. As we recognize this progress through our individual lenses, it is a good reminder for each of us to think about what motivates our support of Arcadia. It is all wonderfully cyclical — the Classes of the 1940s paved the way for the Classes of the 1960s, while the Classes of the 1950s offered opportunity to the Classes of the 1970s, and so on. I hope that each of you will consider the active part you can play in the future of Arcadia University by paying it forward.

A special congratulations to all the classes experiencing a reunion in 2023, from the Class of 1953 to the Class of 2018!

On behalf of the Alumni Association and the Advisory Council, I’d like to thank the alumni of Beaver College and Arcadia University; the staff and faculty who work tirelessly every day; and to the University Advancement team, whose efforts are critical to the Alumni Association for achieving our alumni goals. Fling high the Scarlet and the Grey!

Sincerely,

Maya Basu Johnson '97

President, Arcadia University Alumni Association

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



DAN AARON STAY FIT CLINIC RE-DEDICATED

Arcadia re-dedicated the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Clinic last spring. Joined by members of the Madsen and Aaron families, University leaders, trustees, Physical Therapy faculty and staff, students, patients, and caregivers honored the cherished legacy of the late **Geraldine “Gerri” P ’85 ’14H** and **Daniel “Dan” P ’85 Aaron**



and their transformational philanthropic support and dedication to the University and to the health sciences.

Following Dan’s passing from Parkinson disease in 2003, Gerri and her family founded the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Clinic, which led to the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program at Arcadia. For nearly two decades, the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program has improved the lives of countless patients and caregivers. The program also gives Physical Therapy students the opportunity to experience extended learning, under supervision, with people who are actively managing Parkinson disease.

To commemorate the Aaron family’s philanthropy and service, Arcadia President **Ajay Nair** announced the unveiling of a new sign for the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Clinic, which serves as a main vessel for the growing Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program.

Inspired by the example of her parents, former chair of the Board of Trustees **Alison Aaron Madsen ’85**, in a surprise announcement to those present, contributed \$20,000 to the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program. To date, the Aaron Family has committed over \$1 million to the Clinic for its programming since its founding in 2004. ❖

At left, Dr. Janet Readinger, associate professor of Physical Therapy and director of the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program, speaks at the re-dedication.

ARCADIA COMMUNITY RAISES \$500,000+ ON UKNIGHTED TUESDAY

The Arcadia community came together to show united support for students by hitting its ambitious goal for UKnighted Tuesday, raising \$510,066 from 589 donors during the nearly 31-hour effort. The gifts made will support a variety of student-focused initiatives.

“We are so proud of our student-centered focus, especially on UKnighted Tuesday,” President **Ajay Nair** said during a Thank-a-Thon event in the Commons Great Room. “We keep students at the center of all we do, and UKnighted Tuesday is yet another way when our community shows just how much that means to them.”

This year’s challenge donors, who encouraged others to give by using their own contributions as an incentive, were:

- **Susan C. Saxer ’71**, a former Trustee and Scarlet and Grey Chair — Young Alumni Challenge
- **Rosemary Blankley ’57, ’06H**, a Life Trustee — First-Time Donor Challenge
- **Dr. Theresa Rollins** and **Mr. John Rollins**, Chair of the Board — The Rollins Rally Challenge



Student Volunteers at the UKnightedTuesday Thank-a-Thon event.

- **Alison Aaron Madsen, Esq. ’85**, former Chair of the Board — Back-to-Back Donor Challenge
- Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees **Gretchen Santamour** and Trustee **Nancy Glass** — Undergraduate Research Partnership Challenge. ❖

ALUMNA ACCEPTED INTO NSF GRAD RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Leslie Remache ’19 (at left) was accepted into the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The GRFP recognizes outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees. The five-year fellowship provides three years of financial support.

As a Psychology major at Arcadia, Remache was a member of Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology and served as an undergraduate research assistant, career peer advisor, and human resources intern. Remache recently was accepted to Stanford University’s Ph.D. program in social psychology.

As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their academic and professional careers. To date, 42 fellows have gone on to become Nobel laureates. ❖

CONVERSATION WITH COMMON READ AUTHOR KAREEM ROSSER

Arcadia University welcomed author Kareem Rosser to campus during Homecoming & Family Weekend on Oct. 6 for a discussion on his book and Common Read selection for first-year students, *Crossing the Line: A Fearless Team of Brothers and the Sport that Changed their Lives Forever*.

Rosser and his brother Daymar were part of the Work to Ride team, the first all-Black Polo team to win the United States Polo Association's High School National Championship in 2011. They repeated as champions the following year. Rosser then went to Colorado State and won the National Championship in 2015 and was named the U.S. Polo Association's Intercollegiate Player of the Year.

While Rosser's accomplishments in polo have been widely featured, including on ESPN and 60 Minutes, he wanted the whole story to be told — about his family, his upbringing at the “bottom” in Philadelphia, and what life is like for people living in poverty, where things can seem hopeless.

Q: *Did you ever think you'd be here when you were living at the “bottom” in Philadelphia?*

A: No. Many kids at the bottom are lucky to make it to the age of 18. A lot of them get lost in the system, whether it's jail, dropping out of school, getting in trouble. I was just a child, and growing up there was really tough. My mother battled addiction and dealt with abusive men that she was with. I lost one of my best friends to gun violence.

For many years, I thought I had asthma because I would have attacks where it was hard to breathe. After having my lungs checked, I learned that they were panic attacks. I suffered from those panic attacks for a long time because of how tough it was growing up and what I experienced. It was essentially PTSD. Therapy has helped a lot with it.

Q: *Who do you hope to connect with?*

A: The book is for everyone, but I really hope it connects with other people who grew up the way I did and young people who are growing up that way now. There's challenges for everyone, everywhere. I want to show that you can overcome those.

Q: *Was polo an outlet for you?*

A: Polo and sports in general were definitely an outlet for me. It helps to remove yourself from stressful and toxic situations, as well as toxic people.



Rosser speaks at Arcadia with Dr. Rachel Collins, assistant professor of English and director of the First-Year Academic Experience, at right.

Polo isn't exactly common in Philadelphia. And being a Black man in polo is not common — it's basically all white. The social part was difficult at first because no one except my siblings and I looked like me or talked like me. I was always aware of race, but I felt like hating someone or being resentful of someone just because they don't look like you is a waste of time and energy.

It was more about our background and being poor compared to being Black or white.



Rosser speaks with an Arcadia community member at his book signing on campus.

All the equipment my brother and I had were hand-me-downs, and we didn't really have places to ride and practice in the city like other kids. But then conversations got easier because you're talking to your teammates about the sport and situations that come up during the games or matches.

This has really expanded into my life now. I work in finance, and there aren't a lot of Black people in that field. It's some of the same dynamics.

Q: *Speaking about the bottom and having an outlet, could you give your opinion on the gun violence issue in Philadelphia?*

A: It's awful. I wish I had a solution. It needs to be a priority for everyone who works for or with the City, as well as everyone living there.

I hate to say that I don't know what the solution is, but I really don't think there is one thing that's going to solve it. It's a huge problem that needs more attention and needs to be addressed.

Q: *Could you talk a little bit about Work to Ride, and what your role there is now?*

A: Work to Ride is a nonprofit run by Lezlie Hiner that gives young people living in the inner-city the opportunity to ride and engage with horses and nature. I serve on the Board as the treasurer and help them raise money and expand.

We have camps and riding programs; the summer camp is sold out every year, and we're getting involved with more schools. Our long-term goal is to double our enrollment within the next five years. Publishing the book has helped with our capital campaign. We've raised about \$10 million over the last year and a half.

Q: *Do you have another book in the works?*

A: I have a second book that just went to the publisher. My first book is also being made into a film, but that is still in the early stages. I'm really excited about both and am just really thankful for everyone who helped me get to where I am. ❖

“
There's
different
challenges
for everyone,
everywhere.
I want to show
that you can
overcome
those
challenges.
”



BRIGHT PATH

FROM A

by JOHN DEROSIER

DARK REALITY

Bryanna Martinez-Jimenez '22 (they/them) suffered from years of abuse as a child but was determined to succeed. After earning a BFA in Acting from Arcadia, they captured the first Graham Smith Fellowship at People's Light theater in Malvern, Pa.

The nervous high schooler from Puerto Rico wasn't sure a theater class was right for them.

A bit shy and more than a little timid, Bryanna Martinez-Jimenez followed a friend into the Drama I class at Trenton High School. Little did they know, it was the start of a journey that would lead to their major of choice at Arcadia University — filled with starring roles, awards, and accolades — and eventually to a career path, which includes being awarded the first Graham Smith Fellowship at People's Light theater in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Theater, it turned out, was an escape from a dark reality for Martinez-Jimenez.

Martinez-Jimenez came to Trenton, N.J. from Puerto Rico with their mother and their sister when they were four years old. Spanish was their first language, so their mother worked diligently to learn English. For Bryanna and their sister, picking up English on television and in the community was much easier than for their mother.

Coming to New Jersey seemed like a new adventure for Bryanna and their family at first, but things quickly changed when Bryanna's mother started a relationship with another woman.

For the next seven years, the woman abused Bryanna's mother, along with Bryanna and their sister. For the siblings, simply going home after school became a challenge.

"It was every form of abuse you can think of," said Bryanna. "She was bigger and stronger than all of us. I was always looking for an escape or a reason not to go home."

Their mother's relationship with this woman continued on and off, and Bryanna thought they were all past the nightmare when her mother started a relationship with a man and became



Martinez-Jimenez performing in *Marisol*; their character has just caught a pile of falling angel feathers, signifying the beginning of war and turmoil. Photo by Daniel Kontz.

“The theater was everything to me in high school. My best friends were the teachers, and [Christina] was my rock. I could stay after school and participate there or just spend time. It really helped.

— Bryanna Martinez-Jimenez '22

pregnant with a son — a new brother, a new relationship, a new start, they thought.

Unfortunately, things didn't improve. The man Bryanna's mother had a child with was also abusive. Bryanna's mother then struggled with addiction. The family struggled with food insecurity.

"I would say, overall, I had a really troubled childhood," said Bryanna. "I tried reading novels or I listened to music as a form of escape, but none of that really worked."

THE PLAY'S THE THING

Walking into that drama class at Trenton High School, though, was the start of what would change everything. That day, Bryanna found the escape they were looking for and also met the mentor who would become their rock when dealing with tragic situations at home or the stresses of school.

Christina (Forshey) Vincent, drama teacher at Trenton High School, still remembers the day she met Bryanna.

"On the first day of their sophomore year, one of Bryanna's friends brought [them] and said, 'This is my friend; she's kind of shy and not sure she wants to do this, but I told her to give it a chance,'" said Vincent. "I still remember Bryanna saying hello; I could tell they were nervous."

Drama I was an intro to theater class, while Drama II was an acting class. Juniors and seniors could continue the program in advanced drama classes, where Vincent and the students would plan, rehearse, and take a production on the road. Local theaters in the area partnered with Trenton High School and gave the students mock auditions in front of judges.

For Bryanna, the classes were everything they were looking for.

"I immediately knew I wanted to be part of it," said Bryanna. "The theater was everything to me in high school. My best friends were the teachers, and

[Christina] was my rock. I could stay after school and participate there or just spend time. It really helped."

"It was amazing to see them unfold in that Drama I class," said Vincent. "They bloomed in so many ways, and I'm so thankful they stuck around after that first day. Bryanna had this untapped voice and this truth. They could get to the heart of what actors train for for years. It's this truth and this incredible voice. The raw talent was unbelievable. I don't think Bryanna realizes the depth of their ability."

The drama program was so important — and so much fun — that Bryanna decided they would continue this journey in college. The only questions were where, and if they'd have enough support to get there.

Vincent stepped in and took Bryanna to college visits and helped them research the different theater programs in the tri-state area.

"When I started looking for schools, I was looking for something not in New Jersey," said Bryanna. "I love Trenton, but I had seen too much and wanted to get away. I looked in Pennsylvania and a bunch of other states. I was looking for something that had a theater department and a major in it."

When Bryanna and Vincent visited, they were instantly drawn to Arcadia's beautiful campus and sterling Theater program. Bryanna noted that getting accepted into the University and acing an audition were highlights of their life.

But the first year would not be easy. Bryanna was not cast in a role and thought a lot about what was happening back at home with their sister.

"I was away at college and I knew what was going on, but I wasn't there," said Bryanna. "My mom... I don't have much contact or a relationship with her. I don't think my mom is a bad person and I have a lot of love for my family even though they didn't support me much. I'm kind of thankful for it because it made me determined not to live like that. I knew I had to get out."

“It’s about what you are doing as an actor and what you are doing with the other person on stage. Bryanna was bold enough to take chances and open themselves up to that.

— Kathryn Petersen

THEIR BIG BREAK

Despite these challenges, Bryanna wanted to get involved in everything possible within the program and work their way up. That determination was not lost on the co-director of Arcadia's Theater program, Kathryn Petersen, who is also a long-time company member and playwright at People's Light.

"I noticed pretty quickly that Bryanna had the capacity to be present and responsive to others in the work that was quite advanced," said Petersen. "They never made excuses and never took the opportunity of education for granted. I always noticed an ease and a



Martinez-Jimenez '22 performing in *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Photo by Daniel Kontz.

Bryanna is a constant learner, is focused and very attentive about the craft, is optimistic, warm, hopeful, and just committed.

— Zak Berkman, People's Light

presence of deep attentiveness with Bryanna.

"A lot of people on stage may not listen; young actors may just be thinking about the next cross they need to make or line they have to say," said Petersen. "But the ability to be affected by what the other person gives you and to find your next impulse out of that -- that's deep listening. It's risky to drop your guard and to be truly available to your scene partners on stage. Bryanna was bold enough to take chances and open themselves up to that risk."

Bryanna worked for the program through office administration, on the tech side with lighting, and with social media. In February 2020, they got their big break — the starring role in a production called *Annie Jump and the Library of Heaven*.

But even the break would be delayed, as we are familiar with what happened the following month.

"We were literally a week away, and then we got shut down because of COVID," said Petersen. "That was heartbreaking, but Bryanna handled it with the grace and class that not many others would."

The program put on virtual shows, with Bryanna being cast, and classes continued online and eventually back in person.

Bryanna's final year at Arcadia would be their most accomplished. In the spring of 2022, they were cast as the title role in the production of *Marisol*.

It's a role they shined in.

"It's a really demanding role; a real tour-de-force for an actor," said Petersen. "I don't think the character ever leaves the stage. Not only

was Bryanna excellent, they were professional and determined."

Bryanna graduated from Arcadia in the spring of 2022 with a BFA in Acting and was awarded the Shakespeare Theater Award, which is given to a student who shows excellence and versatility in their work.

"WICKED TALENTED"

That was just the start of the accolades for them. This year, Bryanna took a summer internship at People's Light, where they worked on the administrative side and coordinated

outreach to the Latinx community in Chester County to come see shows.

Bryanna parlayed that into being awarded the first Graham Smith Fellowship at the theater. There, they will spend a year working with administration, refining their skills, performing in a holiday panto of *Alice in Wonderland*, and acting in a production of *Lettie*.

"Bryanna is wicked talented, and we got recommendations about the degree of [their] commitment and values — it all just matched what we do here at People's Light," said Zak Berkman, producing artistic director at People's Light, one of Pennsylvania's largest professional, nonprofit theaters. "Bryanna is a constant learner, is focused and very attentive about the craft, is optimistic, warm, hopeful, and just committed."

Petersen said she couldn't be more thrilled for Bryanna and is confident their presence at the theater will extend beyond their fellowship.

For Bryanna, living and working at the theater this year is daunting, but exciting. It's an opportunity they only imagined and hoped for, but wasn't sure would ever happen. Now, Bryanna wants to keep acting and help mentor other young people who are interested in theater.

"I want to be a part of productions — that's how I see myself in my career," said Bryanna. "But I'm also open to the teaching side of it. Anything related to the theater interests me. I'm getting



Martinez-Jimenez '22 searches through a variety of clothing fabrics at People's Light theater.

to do actual theater now, and anything related to that is where I want to be. I'm going to 100 percent give myself to People's Light when I'm there." ❖

BY JEN A. MILLER

SHOOTING STARS

“SOCCER IS A CULTURE MARIA AND I GREW UP INTO. WE’RE PASSING IT ON TO OUR KIDS.”

—TOM DEGEORGE '04



Tom DeGeorge (above, left) and Maria DeGeorge-Kosmin (above, right) were soccer standouts at Arcadia. Now they're training the next generation of elite players.

The match between the Archbishop Wood Vikings and the Springside Chestnut Hill Academy Blue Devils in September 2021 was a clash of the titans. Both girls' varsity soccer teams were conference leaders and champions. The match lived up to the hype, with Springside Chestnut edging out Archbishop Wood, 1-0.

The coaches of those squads were well familiar with their counterparts — they knew each other better than nearly anyone else did, with competitive memories that stretched back their entire lives. So familiar to each other were they that, the night before the match, they had dinner together.

That's because those coaches are Tom DeGeorge '04 and Maria DeGeorge-Kosmin '06, siblings and standout soccer stars at Arcadia.

“Our teams don't play in the same conference, so I think that takes away any part of it that would make it weird,” said DeGeorge-Kosmin. “It's really just a lot of fun.”



Tom and Maria on the Jean Lenox West Field at Arcadia.



Tom and Maria both wore number 7 at Arcadia.

GROWING UP IN A SOCCER FAMILY

Soccer has been in their lives for as long as they can remember. They lived “on a street where there were a lot of kids the same age always playing soccer,” said DeGeorge. Their father, also a soccer coach, helped the pair hone their skills. They went on to play for the Penn Academy club teams, then DeGeorge to Father Judge High School and DeGeorge-Kosmin to Archbishop Wood High School, where they also are members of their respective Halls of Fame.

It was hard not to be aware of the DeGeorges if you were involved in soccer in Northeast Philadelphia, said Richard Brownell, women’s soccer coach at Arcadia. “I knew of Tom and some of the guys on the junior college team,” he said. That junior college is Manor College, a Jenkintown, Pa. community college where DeGeorge played soccer after high school. He then transferred to Arcadia University, joining the men’s soccer program in the Fall 2001.

He immediately made an impact: The team was undefeated that year (and the next), with DeGeorge playing a key role as a high-scoring midfielder. He was named team captain, notching 19 goals with two assists in the 2001-2002 season. In his two years playing, the team won back-to-back conference championships and advanced to the NCAA regional. The 2001-2002 squad ascended to be the 7th-ranked team in the country.

DeGeorge racked up the kudos beyond Arcadia — he was named Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) player of the year and was first team All-PAC for both years he played for Arcadia, as well as twice being named All-American (Arcadia’s first male athlete to receive this honor). In 2012, he was inducted into the Arcadia Athletic Hall of Fame.

“What we did on the field as a team was something really special,” DeGeorge said. “We went from a team that tried to compete in the conference to one that went to the NCAA tournament.” Those team performances also made a difference

for Arcadia, he said, because with such success, local high school students took a closer look at Arcadia for both academics and sports rather than moving out of the region to play college soccer.

“Our men’s program became nationally recognized in Tom’s first year, which meant coaches saw the talent we had,” said Shirley Liddle, former Arcadia athletic director. “It was a special time in the sport. We were just in it.”

DeGeorge, she said, was a natural leader, and transferred into the program with more maturity than most college students. She also noted that at over six feet tall, he had a size advantage over many competitors. He wasn’t a brash or boisterous player, but “when the team needed him to be, he was exceptional,” she said.

When it was time for DeGeorge-Kosmin to start looking at colleges, Arcadia was of course in her sightline. “It’s a big decision,” she said. “I had the opportunity to play at some Division 1 schools, but I was always at Tommy’s games, and loved the atmosphere. I wanted to be around good soccer. When I watched the women’s games, there was something about it that I wanted to be a part of.”

DeGeorge-Kosmin joined Arcadia right after high school and quickly made an impact. She was a four-year starting midfielder from 2002 to 2005, and the second player in program history to be named four-time First-Team All-Conference. In her 2002 freshman year, she scored 10 goals and netted 15 assists, which led to her being named the PAC Rookie of the Year.

From 2002 to 2004, the team qualified for the PAC Championship; in 2005, the Knights capture the PAC Championship. The following season, she received Arcadia’s Most Valuable Senior Award.

DeGeorge-Kosmin held the record for total points in a season until 2013, and her single season assist record stood until 2014. All told, the women’s team had an overall record of 40-30-7 during her time and went to the postseason every year she was on the field. She was inducted into the Arcadia Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

“They both made a name for themselves as midfielders,” Brownell said of the siblings. “They weren’t lightning fast off the dribble but very strong on the ball, and you couldn’t get the ball off their feet. They could also hit rockets from anywhere.”

DeGeorge-Kosmin, whom he coached directly, was a “very smart player. She has this very quiet confidence about her,” he said.

That led to what he considers one of the greatest performances he’s ever seen near the end of her collegiate career. Arcadia was down 2-1 with about 12 minutes to go. She was fouled from 35 yards out from the goal and, in her free kick, “hit a missile” for a goal and tied the game. She was fouled again with four minutes left, this time 40 yards from the goal. She scored again, and the team went on to win the game, which put them in the championship game, which they won.

**“THEY BOTH
MADE A NAME FOR
THEMSELVES AS
MIDFIELDERS...”**

**—RICHARD BROWNELL,
HEAD WOMEN’S SOCCER COACH**



DeGeorge-Kosmin still holds the career records for points (123) and assists (37) at Arcadia.

“She was a senior and could have just faded away, but she pulled us into the championship,” he said.

BUILDING A LIFE IN SOCCER

After graduating, the DeGeorges stayed close (they live two minutes from each other now). DeGeorge started his own general contracting business, which he still runs. DeGeorge-Kosmin went into a corporate job. But soccer still pulled.

“When you compete your whole life at a good level, it feels like you’re done and it’s time to go to work,” said DeGeorge. He continued to play soccer, but “you still get that void. There’s something missing here.”

DeGeorge-Kosmin felt it too. “I remember driving on the highway and seeing a bus full of high school or college girls going to some sort of athlete game,” she said. “All of the sudden, I realized part of my life was gone.”

DeGeorge started coaching boys’ soccer, then girls as he began coaching his daughters. DeGeorge-Kosmin took on an assistant coaching role at Arcadia on the women’s team, a role she served from 2010 to 2015 with Brownell. DeGeorge-Kosmin and Brownell also coached the Flemington Flames, a club team in New Jersey, from 2013 to 2015. In 2014, they ended up being number one in the country.

These coaching experiences have led the siblings to their respective roles today at Archbishop Wood Vikings and Springside Chestnut Hill Academy — and more success.

In 2019, the Archbishop Wood girls’ varsity soccer team

was a semifinalist in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District 3 class AAA tournament. In 2020, they were PIAA District 2 class AA quarterfinalists, and in 2021, they were both PIAA 2 class AA quarterfinalists and Philadelphia Catholic League champions. DeGeorge won coach of the year from the Southeastern PA Soccer Hall of Fame, and daughter Alyssa was player of the year. Archbishop Wood’s 2022-2023 girls’ soccer varsity team won the Catholic League for the second year in a row; DeGeorge’s younger daughter Ava plays for the team.

In 2019, the Springside Chestnut Hill Academy girls varsity soccer team had a perfect 12-0 record in the Inter-Academic League, which is made up of private schools in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs, and won the conference championship with a school record 18 consecutive wins. Their 2020 season was disrupted by COVID, but they came back in 2021 to notch another undefeated 12-0 season. Springside Chestnut Hill Academy won the Inter-AC title for the third straight year and the PAISAA State Title for the second straight season.

They both said there’s something special about coaching girls, and not just because they have daughters.

“When you see them compete and you see when they grow, not just on the field with talent, but when they learn something in terms of how to be a better teammate, it really hits you,” said DeGeorge-Kosmin. “These young girls are going to be going off to college, and we try to prepare them



DeGeorge-Kosmin reached 100 wins this year, in her seventh season as head coach.



Tom DeGeorge instructs his players at Archbishop Wood.



Maria DeGeorge-Kosmin on the sidelines at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy.

to deal with adversity or a teammate they don’t like. It’s a little bit more rewarding than the wins.”

The DeGeorges as coaches are exactly what young athletes need to compete in a healthy way, said Brownell, because they are coaching them in a way that lets them play to the best of their abilities while also remembering that they’re still adolescents. “How do you get kids to compete at a very high level and still let them be kids and not have them be bullies?” he said. The siblings are “affecting an entire region of kids in a super positive way and getting tremendous athletics at the same time.”

And if their teams do play again, they look forward to the challenge. “Her team is very good. Mine is too,” DeGeorge said with a laugh. “They’re very hard to beat. We haven’t done it yet, but maybe next year.” ❖

“ THESE YOUNG GIRLS ARE GOING TO BE GOING OFF TO COLLEGE, AND WE TRY TO PREPARE THEM TO DEAL WITH ADVERSITY OR A TEAMMATE THEY DON’T LIKE. IT’S A LITTLE BIT MORE REWARDING THAN THE WINS.”

—MARIA DEGEORGE-KOSMIN ’06



CLASSNOTES

1950

Barbara Klein Fraser shared: “I’m still active volunteering for Granite State Adaptive Program cleaning horse buckets and sweeping barn for the Equine Program. Was Djembe drumming until Covid and hope to return soon. I’m in touch with **Else Holm ‘50** and **Peg Callaway Avison ‘49**. Independent in own home in Wolfeboro, NH. Resort town on Lake Winnepesaukee. Love to hear from colleagues.”

1952

Nancy Brown Duvall shared: “Had myself a posh birthday party. I hit 90 and thought I deserved it. My five grandkids are all gainfully employed or in grad school. They are truly “grand”. Life is still good for me. I am lucky.”

1954

Carol Young shared: “A big Hello! to my friends. I am living in Rydal Park, a retirement community in Jenkintown where my husband and I moved 14 years ago. He was with me for 3 years before he moved to the Medical Center and he is now gone. My 3 children, my 5 grandchildren and my 1 great grand daughter are living nearby. Well, sort of. One son lives in Zion Grove, which is in black bear and bald eagle country. I participate in all sorts of activities both at Rydal Park and in Philadelphia, but I no longer sing since my voice is not what it used to be. I started when I was 5, so 83 years is a pretty good run! I now write regularly for the newsletter at Rydal.”

1956

Joan Sweiger Toth shared: “Took my granddaughter, Taylor, on a trip to Amsterdam and Reykjavik in June. Recently, on a visit to family in CT, met with my former college

roommate, Barbara Daugherty Jenkins. It’s been 66 years since graduation from Beaver, and we’re still going strong!”

1957

Emma Jane Burns shares: “On Friday, April 22nd, our class celebrated its 65th reunion. Thanks to our reunion chairs **Edie Hall Neal** and **Ellie Perrine Cox** we got together via Zoom with the help of **Andrea Reeds**, Director of Class Reunion Programs. Five of us tried, sometimes unsuccessfully,



to reach all the members of our class from a list supplied to us by the University. Twenty of us took part in our “get-together” including **Jean Bankson Hearst**, **Marti Bergland Curtiss**, **Pat Carthage**, **Dotti Chapman Carney**, **Marci Clist Hardy**, **Freda Friz Schopfer**, **Barbara Gordon Cooke**, **Edie and Ellie, Cindy Howard Hermanson**, **Lois MacElroy Wells**, **Nancy Maresca Piper**, **Bernie Markin Garber**, **Emma Jane Murphy Burns**, **Jean Stout Fletcher**, **Lois Wrigley Caldwell**, **Nancy Williams Galluccio**, **Gail Leonard Williams**, and **Pene Zack Riggs**. **Helen Viniarski Crisp** sent greetings from the UK.

After hearing from each of the participants, we reminisced about our professors, chapel, trips on the yellow buses, the library above the gym, the “Hugh” pool, and the fun times we had as a class including Song Contest which was mentioned several

times. We all agreed that we had the BEST class and that we had all been greatly influenced by the experiences we had had at Beaver College. We also agreed that we all look great!

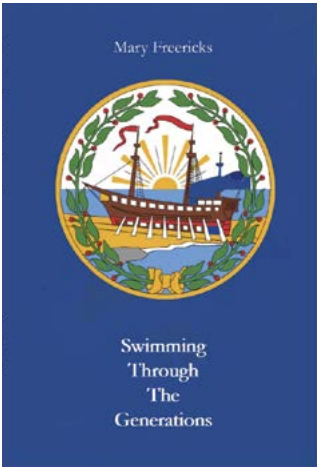
We decided that we have to get together more often than every five years and are planning to do so again next year...2023! Soupdate your address, phone number(s), and email address with the Arcadia. Get in touch with your classmates and prepare to be contacted early next year!

We can’t wait to see more of us at our 66th!

As class editors, **Freda Friz Schopfer** and I would like to add our

email addresses—fredaschopfer@gmail.com or emandphil@outlook.com—for anyone to use to get information into our class news. At approximately 86 years of age travel to the campus might have been difficult. BUT this way we were able to see everyone and even giggle a bit. Of course you can send any news to Arcadia directly, too.

Jean Stout Fletcher shared: “An unusual summer as I had a knee replacement in late June, so have spent time house and deck bound, icing my knee, exercising and doing PT. It paid off as I’ve made great progress, so much so that we’re able to go to England at the end of August to visit our son Bruce and family. They live in London but have a Cotswold home too, so we’ll have a lot to see and do. Otherwise all is well. Loved the idea of our Zoom reunion, but wished some other friends had joined in.”



Mary Avakian Freericks says: “My poetry memoirs begin with “Blue Watermelon” in Tabriz, Iran, where I was born, continue with “Cheer for Freedom” including our move to the United States followed up by “Furs for a Vegetarian” focusing on my Russian, artist, mother, then “Green Eyes” about my marriage and two sons. “Swimming Through the Generations” which goes back to Pilgrims and up to five grandchildren is about to be published. These memoirs are page turners on Amazon and available for purchase.”

1959

Jane Lewis Grove shared: “Granddaughter Abby Grove will start her freshman year at Brown University this fall. She was admitted under early decision -- only 7% of female applicants are admitted this way. She was valedictorian of her high school class. Grandson Nathan Grove will start his senior year at Amherst College.”

1960

Betty Holton Weiss shared: “Three grandchildren. All off to college, a Sr at Penn State, a freshman at Pace and Muhlenberg. Still playing tournament tennis and pickleball. For our 60-61

reunion we had a virtual Zoom meeting. It was good to chat with fellow clssmates. Molly Fretz Stevens was the reunion chair and I was class agent.”

1966

Katherine Gipe shared: “I moved in Sept 2021, not downsizing but going to a townhouse where I would not have to mow, shovel, etc. I am still in East Aurora; it was a good move. I wiped out in my garage and had a spiral fracture of my femur. I missed a wedding in Tampa in March because of it, but I can do all three flights of stairs in Barnegat Light as well as get over our big dunes to get to the beach.”

1968

Carla Chopigan Branyan shared: “I have retired as an ESL teacher, and I am continuing my singing in church as worship leader. I had a hip replacement last summer, so we are now going strong again on our day trips.”

Marion Yick Rosenbaum joined a Chamber music and Symphony orchestra at Settlement Music School, Willow Grove branch. She continues taking violin lessons and enjoys it immensely.

1969

Helene Rolfe Ham shared: “Happy 75 classmates. This June I threw caution to the wind and participated in my first Art Fair. I sold 19 paintings which surprised the heck out of me. I am delighted to be learning more everyday and that my days are awash with beautiful colors. My husband and family are well. So very grateful.

1973

Monique Miller shared: “It’s coming, our 50th year reunion! Co-chairing with Marie Duke.

Please let us know what you are interested in doing and what will motivate you to come back!”

Mary Hobler Hyson shared: “We welcomed our 6th grandchild at the end of February, George. We are planning on flying to Kansas to meet him. Since my husband, Eric, retired after 42 years as a Radiologist we are traveling more. I continue to benefit from twice-a-week sessions of Pilates; daily walks; watercolor class; playing piano & now trying to organize tons of photos. I still like making greeting cards using my photos. I am eager to see two of my Beaver friends (Mary Chomitz & Ella Straw) at our 50th reunion.”



1981

Linda Mattuci Schiavone shared: What a wonderful day, volunteering at Arcadia’s 2022 Commencement AND meeting up with fellow ‘81 grad, **Linda Pascal!** Despite 41 years passing, we recognized each instantly. Though graduating with a BA in Chemistry from Beaver College, I have had several career changes over the years, and now am a Licensed Professional Counselor, having received my MS in Spiritually-Integrated Counseling in 2013 and my Master of

Applied Positive Psychology from Penn in 2017. I work in private practice in Devon, PA. I will be married 40 years this September and together we raised two accomplished young adults, our son who graduated from Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, and our daughter who graduated from Fordham University, is continuing her education at Thomas Jefferson University, and will be applying to medical schools. I am forever grateful for the path Beaver College set for me, in education, in life and with long-lasting friendships. I would love to hear from other members of the Class of ‘81!”



1982

Deborah Derrickson Kossman shared: “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. I’m also very pleased to share that in June, 2022, The Woven Tale Press published chapter 3 from my memoir What We Hold On To. It can be found here: online.flipbuilder.com/eovs/rmnj/ and starts on page 52. I have transitioned my full time private psychology practice over to telehealth exclusively which also gives me more time for my writing.”

1988

Art Himmelstein shared: “December 31, 2021: The last day of the work week, the last day of the pay period, the last day of the month, and the last day of the year. That was also my last day as a member of the workforce, as I retired following 31.5 glorious years as a CPE (Computer Programmer Extraordinaire) with the State of New Jersey. In February of 2022, I received my first pension payment and Social Security payment, making it official. Also that month, I bowled my 2,000th consecutive league game, and on a different night, my 6th-best series ever, a 673. The Streak is now at 2,037 games, awaiting the new season in September. But not everything in retirement is all Social Security, pensions, senior citizen discounts, kitties, sunshine, lollipops, and rainbows. On July 21st of this year about 2:30 a.m., while trying to help my wife get Nani the tortie out of my wife’s bathroom, I slipped on a towel and crash-landed on the ridge of the shower where one climbs over to get in or out. As a result, I broke 4 ribs, which hurt big-time, and I had a partially collapsed lung. I was in the hospital for 6 days. As of this writing on 8/8, the lung is fine, I am limited to lifting 5 pounds, and the ribs hurt mainly when I sneeze, cough hard, or get into and out of bed. As broken ribs take 6 weeks on average to heal, I am hopeful of being able to bowl and continue The Streak when the season begins. Finally, to all alumni/alumnae who live in New Jersey, thank you for paying my pension, and salary before that. LOL”

1997

Colleen Anderson shared: “This past September, my son Bobby (who attended the Children’s Center at Arcadia), got married and he and his wife delivered my grandson, Hudson, in June.”



1998

Cynthia Wilson, class of 1998, published her first children’s book titled, “The Tooth Fairy Lost Her Way” to encourage children to use their imagination. Her daughter Harmony is the illustrator.

2004

Margaret Poteet shared: “I recently celebrated my second anniversary as a minister at a Presbyterian church (PCUSA), serving in Chattanooga, TN. After working at Arcadia for 12 years following graduation, I had the opportunity to attend Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 2020. I am loving my new hometown, and am grateful for this community that I am privileged to serve!”

2008

Derek Wager has been working as a physical therapist since graduating in 2008. Currently Derek is the supervisor of outpatient rehabilitation for Ocean University Medical Center. In 2022, Derek graduated with a master of science in management with a concentration in healthcare administration from Wilmington University.

2009

Amy Longo Sweeney shared: “My husband and I welcomed our first child, Callum, to the world on November 23, 2021.”

2010

Tera Yacobacci Hare shared: “In 2022 our family welcomed our third son, Elliott John Hare.”

Sarah Schwartz Hill says: “I’ve been recently promoted to Director of Content Strategy at BarkleyREI, a full-service digital agency located in Pittsburgh, PA. As part of the Experience Design team, I own the agency’s content practice and direct the

team that supports it--everything from defining content strategies on behalf of clients; building and directing an inhouse and external team of content strategists, migration specialists and copywriters; and serving as the lead on SEO engagements.”

2012

In November, 2021, **Kristina Gannotta** (class of 2012) became the Director of Lifecycle Marketing at Niche.com. In her new role she leads a team responsible for communicating with students throughout their college decision process.

Danielle Frank was elected to the Board of Directors for Little People of America in June of 2022, for a three year term.

2015

Rachel Fox shared: “Remember that throughout your studies and the craziness of the real-world, that YOU matter the most. Giving back to your needs and priorities is something you are capable and worthy of; you are special just because you’re you, and you’re here! Arcadia will allow you to learn about yourself, your peers, and what skills you want to move forward through life with. There are resources on campus to make sure you are supported and cared for—be your best advocate and ask for help; you are not alone!”

2016

Katie Bowles Sciamanna graduated from the University of Nebraska Kearney on August 5th with an M.S. in biology.

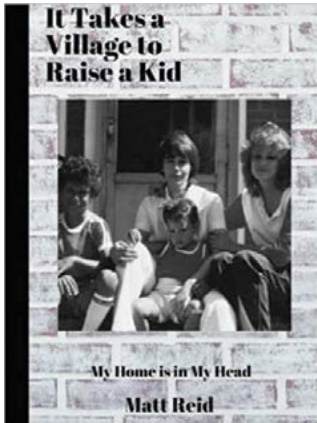
2019

Naya Brown shared: “I own and operate my online retail business called The Fine Auntie. The Fine Auntie brand is geared towards women that love and support their nieces and nephews! The website can be viewed at the-fine-auntie.myspreadshop.com”

2020

Tanner Pajakinas obtained his Masters in K-12 Counseling from Widener University where he also served as an Assistant Lacrosse coach for the Men’s Lacrosse

Team. He has accepted a position as a Guidance Counselor in the Muhlenberg, PA School District.



2021

Matt Reid, who obtained his Masters in Education and certification in Social Studies has just completed the 2021-22 school year at Wissahickon High School teaching Political Science, US History Honors, and African American studies as a long-term substitute. Matt has recently accepted a contracted position to teach history at Upper Merion High School. Matt has a children’s book titled ‘Who Are You?’ and a memoir titled ‘It Takes a Village to Raise a Kid: My Home is in My Head.’ Both are available on Amazon.

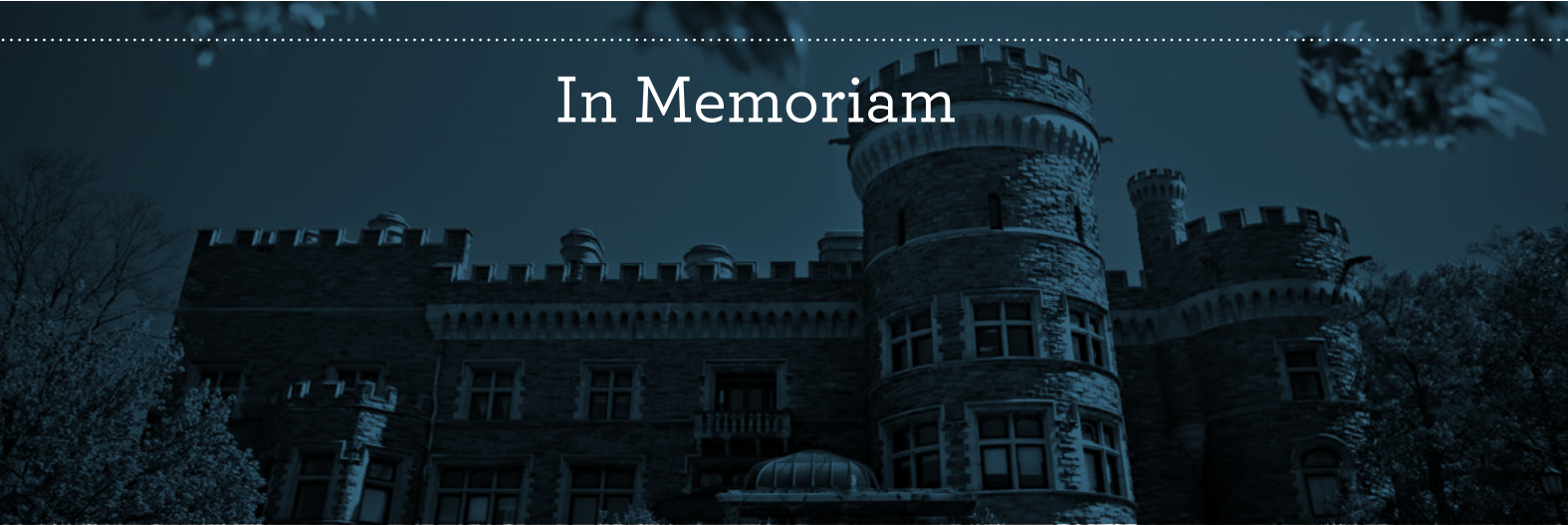
Christopher Saxon recently started a job at Rite Aid Pharmacy as a service associate. He also belongs to Nami Philadelphia and the Philly Transit Riders Union. Christopher recently created a website: www.journalistsaxon.wordpress.com.



CLASS NOTES

All class note information may be submitted online at

arcadia.edu/classnotes.



In Memoriam

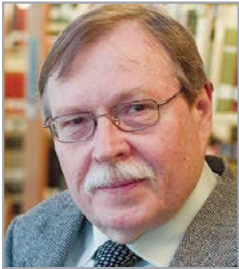
Corrina Gonzales '19



Arcadia University was deeply saddened to learn that Corrina Gonzales, a member of the Class of 2019, passed away on Nov. 17, 2022 after a medical emergency.

A member of the Honors Program at Arcadia, Corrina majored in Business Administration. She was a 2019 Senior Golden Disc nominee and a prominent and active member of the University community. Corrina helped to plan and organize several events at Arcadia, including the Murder Mystery Dinner Show and various campus beautification efforts. Corrina delivered an extraordinary TED talk at Arcadia, “Fear: Man’s Best Fiend.” Arcadia offers its most heartfelt condolences to Corrina’s family and friends.

Dr. Hugh Grady



Dr. Hugh Grady, professor emeritus at Arcadia and a respected colleague who was known for his dedication to teaching and extraordinary scholarship in the field of literature, died on May 8, 2022. A preeminent Shakespearean scholar, Dr. Grady taught English literature and writing at Arcadia for 27 years. He retired from the University following the 2013-14 academic year.

Dr. Grady taught undergraduate and graduate courses in writing, literature, and critical theory, and organized and instructed the senior Capstone course in English, familiarizing students with literary theory and helping them develop their undergraduate theses. In 1990 and 2004, Grady won the Ellington Beavers Faculty Award for Intellectual Inquiry at Arcadia, and he was named the 2001-02 Arcadia Professor of the Year.

Cruz Rivera



Cruz Rivera, a longtime and beloved friend, colleague, and member of the Public Safety department, passed away on May 28, 2022.

When Cruz knocked on your door or met you on campus, you felt the love and care he put into protecting our community. He was always ready to assist University community members with a warm smile and consideration. All who spoke with him felt better afterward -- Cruz simply improved our days by being on campus.

Cruz spent more than 25 years with Arcadia University and touched the lives of thousands of community members. We will miss him dearly.

TAKING HOLD OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC: IS THERE A FRIENDSHIP DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

Kim Dean, Ph.D., NCSP

When my youngest son was in Kindergarten, I was invited to be a guest reader in his classroom. He introduced me as “Dr. Dean, at work.” I admit to enjoying the slight boost of serotonin when one of the girls said, “Wow, a girl doctor!” This bump was quickly followed by deflation when my son responded, with his hand cupped to his mouth in a dramatic stage whisper, “Well... she’s a ‘friendship doctor’, she can’t help you if you’re sick or give shots or anything.” Taking my own advice to focus on the positive, I thought, “Well, I must be living my mission if this 5-year-old defines me as a ‘friendship doctor.’”

My first professional passion was coaching struggling children and families in developing social-emotional competencies. It brought me tremendous joy to see kids employ new coping tools in navigating challenging situations. Supporting parents, teachers, and even entire school districts as they embraced their role in encouraging students’ development of pro-social, problem-solving, and coping skills has been at the core of my clinical practice and my scholarship in Arcadia’s School of Education.



I am tremendously honored to have been awarded the Rosemary and Walter Blankley Endowed Chair in Education for 2022-2025. This opportunity brings my career full circle, as it pulls together a lifetime of reflection on the critical importance and potential of a system-wide focus on emotional wellness, social connection, and mental health literacy. After years of supporting the adoption of proactive and universal Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curricula in PreK-12 settings, I now turn to higher education to reimagine the way we engage our students at this developmental stage in this extraordinary, post-pandemic moment.

Arcadia’s faculty and staff have been remarkably creative in their focus on student wellbeing, and there is consensus that there is no “return to normal” as we face the twin crises in mental health and loneliness that were emerging before the

lockdown revealed the extent of this tear in our social fabric. Research confirms that the loneliness epidemic persists and social connection is a powerful buffer against stress, depression, and anxiety. It is time to expand the ongoing efforts of universities to build strong “crash landing pads” for college students in crisis and look creatively at integrating the skills and strategies related to mental wellness and meaningful social connection into our campus culture.

Arcadia became a Jed Foundation campus* this fall, and I am excited to collaborate on systemic capacity building in support of the social-emotional wellness and resiliency of all students on Arcadia’s campus. My hope is to use resources from the Blankley Endowed Chair to research preventative and curricular approaches used to effectively address SEL at other institutions, assess the various “touch-points” where Arcadia students have access to resilience and social connection programming and curricula, and pilot promising practices that leverage existing strengths of the Arcadia experience. Data collected on Arcadia’s campus in the spring of 2022 aligns with the National College Health Assessment data documenting that more than one-third of students’ academics

were negatively impacted by anxiety or stress. More than half of students surveyed cited social issues as a concern. This chairship offers me a chance to more deeply explore social emotional learning and strategies for optimizing social connection as a tool for prevention and intervention for our community members who are struggling. And we are all struggling.

So, is there a friendship doctor in the house? ❖

Dr. Kim Dean is the 2022-2025 Rosemary and Walter Blankley Endowed Chair in Education, associate professor of Education, and director of Equity, Inclusion & Opportunity in Special Education

*The Jed Foundation (JED) is the nation’s leading organization dedicated to young adult mental health.

Save the Date

2023 Spring Alumni Events

Take a Knight to Work

March 6–9, 2023

Calling all alumni volunteers to share their professional industry knowledge with Arcadia students. Whether virtual or in-person, this one-on-one career insight of real-world work experience is priceless. Sign-ups begin in February, and mentoring will take place the first full week of March.

Women Who Lead Forum

March 25, 2023

Celebrate the extraordinary women leaders of Beaver College and Arcadia University. Learn about the accomplishments of inspirational alumnae and members of the Arcadia community in our third annual Women Who Lead Forum. Engagement, empowerment, and encouragement abound as we uplift the legacy of Beaver College and move broadly into the future as Arcadia University.

Alumni Reunion Weekend & Alumni Recognition Award

April 28–29, 2023

Reunite with classmates, relive your favorite memories, and reconnect with your alma mater during the biggest alumni celebration and awards program of the year! Honor the very best of all things Beaver College and Arcadia University and commemorate the milestone reunions of the classes of the 3s and 8s.

Learn more: alumni.arcadia.edu/events



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