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We want the Arcadia magazine to capture the essence of Arcadia while providing the updates our readers want from the University. We want to hear from you!

Be part of the upcoming Arcadia magazine redesign by sharing your feedback, insight, and ideas. We also want to know how you prefer to receive the issue. If you want to continue to receive the print version of the Arcadia magazine, or if you'd prefer the digital version, share your thoughts at [arcadia.edu/magazine/survey](https://arcadia.edu/magazine/survey).

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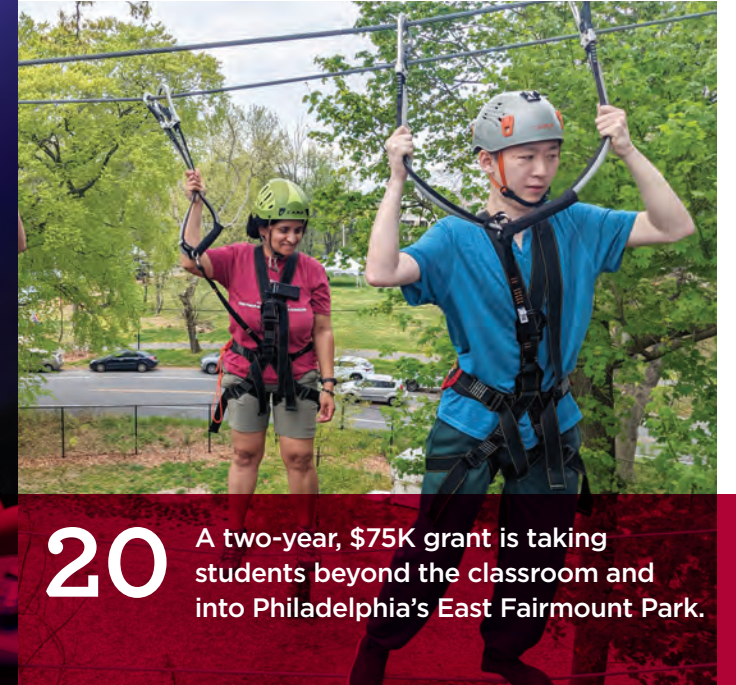




**24** From safe spaces to dedicated coaches, Arcadia is finding new ways to meet the growing demand for student mental health support.



**30** Students get in the game with esports at Arcadia.



**20** A two-year, \$75K grant is taking students beyond the classroom and into Philadelphia's East Fairmount Park.



Read the student blog [because.arcadia.edu](https://because.arcadia.edu)



Share your stories [alumni@arcadia.edu](mailto:alumni@arcadia.edu)



Read Arcadia News [arcadia.edu/news](https://arcadia.edu/news)

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Arcadia magazine is published by the Division of University Advancement and the Office of Marketing and Communications. The opinions and views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily express the official policies of Arcadia University.

Arcadia is mailed free of charge to Arcadia University alumni, trustees, friends, graduate students, and families of undergraduate students. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of published information.

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450 S. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038  
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[arcadia.edu/magazine](https://arcadia.edu/magazine)

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Dear Arcadia University Community,

Earlier this year, a columnist at the Rutland Herald in Vermont wrote a piece on university mission statements. He noted that mission statements should include “inspiring ideals” that “[stress] human development and well-being; a sense of purpose; improve the human condition; help students realize their highest potential; and improve quality of life for all.” The columnist noted two mission statements that capture these ideals — one of which was the Arcadia University mission statement.

While that kudos provides a bit of positive affirmation in which we can all take pride, what makes it even more special is that the columnist is **David Mook**, a 2000 graduate of Beaver College. David’s pride in his alma mater is a shining example of the impact that this University community can have on students and alumni, even decades after graduation.

When we look at “human development and well-being,” we are of course reminded of how important physical, mental, and emotional health are to college students these days. Many of us undoubtedly remember the pressures and stresses of our own university experiences — today’s students face perhaps even more. It is for this reason that Arcadia has increased the number and variety of mental health support resources available to our students, which you can read about on page 24.

And when we talk about improving the human condition and helping students to realize their highest potential, one needs only to look at **Eleanor Workman ’54** and **Elizabeth Weiss ’60**, who have made an impact on Beaver College and Arcadia students for nearly 90 years combined (pg. 15); **Anne Westerfield ’62** and the inaugural Beaver College Foundation trustees; and esteemed alumnae such as **Hiroko Otani Kiiffner ’62**, **Dr. Barbara Favazza ’62**, and those at our Women Who Lead event (pg. 18). These individuals have displayed an extraordinary commitment to their alma mater while making a monumental difference in their professions.

In April of this year, I celebrated my five-year anniversary as president of Arcadia University. I can say without equivocation that this has been the most rewarding experience of my professional career. Much of that fulfillment stems from witnessing the impact that Arcadia affords us to make on our students, our alumni, and on our local and global communities. I want to offer my personal thanks to each of you who helps to play a role in these efforts to fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.  
President  
Arcadia University

## PREVIEW THE WORLD



Brendan Dicker '26 (far right) earned a grand prize in the 2023 Preview Photo and Video Contest for this image taken in London.

Two hundred and thirty-four first-year and transfer students, along with faculty and staff, traveled to cities around the world from March 10-18 for Arcadia’s annual Preview program. Preview is a two-credit course in the spring semester with a weeklong international experience over spring break. This year, 11 cities in 10 countries were represented: Athens, Greece; Brussels, Belgium; Barcelona, Spain; Dublin, Ireland; Edinburgh, Scotland; Florence, Italy; London, England; Paris, France; San José, Costa Rica; Seoul, South Korea; and Siracusa, Sicily.

On April 14, these global experiences were on display at Global Expo. Students, faculty, and staff who returned from Preview and Global Field Studies showcased what they learned during a cultural celebration in the Commons. **Brendan Dicker ’26**, **Ava Gallelli ’26**, and **Jocelynn Gober ’26** walked away with \$500 flight vouchers for their grand prize-winning submissions to the Preview Photo Contest.

Since its inception in 1994, Preview has sent more than 7,500 students to study in 30 different countries. ❖

## PREVIEW BY the NUMBERS

234

FIRST-YEAR AND TRANSFER STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PREVIEW 2023

135

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE PREVIEW PHOTO AND VIDEO CONTEST

41

POUNDS OF PASTA CONSUMED BY STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF ATTENDING PREVIEW IN ITALY

13

PREVIEW COURSES OFFERED THIS YEAR

10

COUNTRIES VISITED AS PART OF PREVIEW THIS YEAR

## School of Education Alumni Discount

We want you back! Return to Arcadia for your advanced degree or certification and receive an alumni discount. Work with expert faculty in a flexible learning environment that fits in your professional and personal life. Contact Enrollment Management at [admiss@arcadia.edu](mailto:admiss@arcadia.edu) for details.



# NEWS + NOTES



## COMMENCEMENT 2023

More than 800 students earned doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degrees and certifications in front of community members, families, and friends during Arcadia University's Commencement ceremonies on May 18-19.

Addressing the Class of 2023 on sun-splashed days on Haber Green, Arcadia Board Chair **John Rollins** and President **Ajay Nair** told graduates to take the time to appreciate all they have achieved in their time at Arcadia and challenged them to reach as high as possible in their future careers and endeavors.

President Nair's remarks highlighted members of the class who embody the University's values. Each year since joining Arcadia in 2018, President Nair has incorporated lyrics from various musical artists into his Commencement addresses. This year, he worked with students to identify songs by Taylor Swift that captured the themes and experiences of members of the Class of 2023.

"I'm proud to announce that I'm the first president in Arcadia history to become a Swiftie," President Nair said. "But really, all of you have helped me craft this speech today. I see many heroes in our audience today. Heroes show concern for the well-being of others, they demonstrate cultural humility, they want to understand the views of others, they have a strong moral compass, and they aren't afraid to face fear. And our Class of 2023 embodies these traits and attributes."

**Allannah Giles '23** was selected as the student speaker for the baccalaureate ceremony. During her speech, Giles talked about how the Class of 2023 adjusted to a new life at college and then had to adjust again to "Zoom University."

The University conferred honorary degrees on astrophysicist **Neil deGrasse Tyson** and Arcadia trustee **Sara M. Lomax**, president and CEO of WURD Radio in Philadelphia. Lomax also addressed the graduates at Friday's ceremony.

Trustee **Nancy Glass**, a six-time Emmy Award-winning producer, writer, and journalist who is CEO and executive producer for Glass Entertainment Group, served as Commencement speaker at the Thursday ceremony, telling graduates to continue to keep working until they find what they love doing.

Arcadia also presented special awards to faculty and students:

- **Lloyd M. Abernethy Faculty Outstanding Service Award: Christopher Varlack, Ph.D.**
- **Professor of the Year Award: Steven Robbins, Ph.D.**
- **Senior Golden Disc Award: Hannah Cropper '23**
- **The Ira R. Kraybill Award for Full-Time Study: Julia Maurer '23 and Brikel Remper '23**
- **The Ira R. Kraybill Award for Part-Time Study: Emily Campanelli '23 and Atia Rahman '23** ❖

## CLASS OF 2023 KNIGHTS TO KNOW

These are just a few of the outstanding graduates who are ready to use their Arcadia experience to make meaningful differences on the world.



**Iliana Correa**

*BS in Chemistry*

Iliana Correa is already an award-winning STEM educator, having received a Student STEM Educator Recognition Prize from the Philadelphia Regional Institute for STEM Educators in March. The recognition stemmed from

her teaching fellowship at Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia, teaching science, puzzles, and math to seventh graders. Correa will teach for the next two years and then pursue a Ph.D. in chemical or science education.



**Daniel Mack**

*MA in Counseling*

With two Arcadia degrees now to his name (the first being a BA in Cultural Studies earned in 2018), Mack hopes to work within Black, brown, and queer underserved communities focusing on affordability, accessibility, and representation. Like

Brewer, he recently discovered the medium of ceramics and is interested in a possible art residency or fellowship.



**Fatima Rogers**

*EdD in Educational Leadership*

A first-generation college student, Fatima Rogers is a prime example of a lifelong learner. In addition to her doctorate in Educational Leadership, she has her Superintendent Letter of Eligibility and Master of Education. Rogers has taught first, second,

third, and sixth grade, served as a principal in the School District of Philadelphia, and is now principal at Copper Beech Elementary in Glenside.



**Jeremy Harman**

*BS in Actuarial Science*

Jeremy Harman graduated with minors in Computer Science and Data Analytics and passed two actuarial exams prior to graduation. He served as student president of the Honors Program and in other campus leadership positions.

Harman's part-time role with the actuarial consulting firm Aon gave way to a full-time job; he is now an actuarial student in their retirement consulting group.

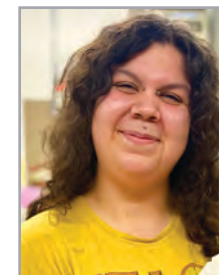


**LaBreshia Taylor**

*MPH*

During her time as an MPH student, LaBreshia Taylor has expanded her interests in environmental justice, social-emotional learning/behavioral health, and women's health. She is involved in various civic projects in Atlanta and in her hometown

of Memphis and serves as co-chair of the Philadelphia chapter of Sisters of Public Health. LaBreshia is not leaving Arcadia just yet; she will continue the full-time program support specialist role she's held in the Department of Physical Therapy while working toward publishing her final manuscript in a pediatric or psych-based journal. ❖



**Angelina Brewer**

*BFA in Studio Art: Ceramics*

A member of the Ojibwe tribe, Angelina Brewer incorporates rich Native American tradition into her ceramics. For her senior Capstone project, she mixed in four different sacred medicines — tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweet grass — which she

says each has a deeper meaning. Brewer plans to attend the Institute of American Indian Art in New Mexico for a master's degree in ceramics before returning to teach at the reservation in Wisconsin where she grew up.

**Keep up-to-date — sign up for news and updates!**

Sign up at [news@arcadia.edu](mailto:news@arcadia.edu) to stay abreast of news and updates from Arcadia University.

# ARCADIA UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES MBA PROGRAM ONLINE

## REDESIGNED PROGRAM TO LAUNCH SPRING 2024

The Arcadia University School of Global Business is excited to announce the launch of its redesigned MBA program in a fully online format. The program will begin in January 2024.

The MBA program will consist of a business core, with students selecting a specialization in one of three concentrations of Healthcare Finance, Financial Analysis, or Organizational Leadership. A fully asynchronous mode of delivery allows students the flexibility to pursue each course at their own pace during the week. Information regarding tuition remission for Arcadia employees will be coming in a separate announcement.

The Arcadia MBA is designed to develop ethical business leaders who apply critical and creative thinking to solve business problems in a sustainable manner. Students will graduate with a set of skills that will help them assume leadership positions and be able to perform their business duties with an emphasis on making ethical decisions in a world that is ever changing, globally interconnected, and diverse.

“The landscape of the MBA program has significantly changed; employers no longer see a generalist MBA to be a

value addition to their employees,” said **Raghu Kurthakoti, Ph.D., MBA**, chair of the School of Global Business at Arcadia University. “Through the Arcadia online MBA, students will take one course at a time, in an accelerated, eight-week course period, a model that we have found that working professionals particularly value.”

Learning outcomes of the Arcadia online MBA program have been developed to align closely with employer expectations (skills related to leadership, critical thinking, communication, and decision-making). Students completing the online MBA program can find employment in various managerial roles that project growth rates through 2030, including within business development, project management, or analysis.

The School of Global Business at Arcadia is accredited by ACBSP. For more information on the Arcadia University online MBA program, or to learn how to apply, scan the QR code to the right. ❖



# U.S. REP. DEAN '20H HOSTS CHANGEMAKERS ROUNDTABLE FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In March, U.S. Rep. **Madeleine Dean '20H** visited campus to lead a panel discussion that featured women leading the way across the region. Other panelists included Lori Shapiro, First Lady of Pennsylvania; Jamila Winder, Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for Montgomery County; and Dr. Ala Stanford, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 3 Director.

Rep. Dean was born and raised in Glenside. She served as an Abington Township Commissioner and as a State Representative in the Pennsylvania House. She was elected to represent Pennsylvania's fourth Congressional district in 2018.

“We're increasingly seeing that women in leadership positions is a natural look,” Rep. Dean said during the roundtable. “We want to continue that and see even more women leaders coming from both Arcadia University and the community as a whole.” ❖



Dr. Angela McNeil (second from left), assistant vice president of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, poses with changemakers Jamila Winder, Lori Shapiro, U.S. Rep. Madeleine Dean '20H, and Dr. Ala Stanford.

# INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS, SPONSORED FUNDING, AND DONATIONS

Arcadia University received grants from various funding agencies during the spring semester that will help to enhance the student experience on campus, the Dan Aaron Clinic, and global programs in Nigeria.

## Going Sky High

A new, state-of-the-art telescope was installed in the Boyer Hall Observatory at Arcadia University that will be used by both classes and the “Sky High” astronomy club on campus. The purchase of the telescope, a Celestron Edge 11” SCT (*at right*), was made possible by an \$8,000 Instructional Technology Committee grant awarded by the University. Faculty directors of the grant proposal were **Dr. Tatjana Miletic**, associate professor of Physics, and **Kimberly Small**, an adjunct professor at Arcadia who also serves as faculty adviser for Sky High.

“With this new equipment, we are able to connect the telescope and its mount to a laptop and tell it where exactly to point in the sky,” said **Paul Broccardi '24**, president of Sky High. “The telescope can also track the object it's pointed at through the sky accurately up to a 3600th of a single degree.” Broccardi added that his Capstone project, which he will start in the fall, will be to make the observatory fully remote functional.



The Celestron Edge 11” telescope.

## Study on HPV Vaccination Efforts in Nigeria

A \$17,744 subaward from Adelphi University, with Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp as a sponsor, allows Arcadia to collaborate on a research project studying parents' desire to have their children vaccinated against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in Kano State, Nigeria.

The project's official title is “Assessment of Parents' Intent to Vaccinate Adolescents Against HPV in Kano State, Nigeria: A Mixed-Methods Study.” **Comfort Olorunsaiye, Ph.D., MPH**, assistant professor of Public Health at Arcadia, is responsible for the subaward and is leading the qualitative aim of the project. Dr. Olorunsaiye is developing interview guides for focus group discussions with community members and leaders, as well as in-depth interviews with health care providers and primary health care system leaders.

## Grant From The Parkinson Council to Support Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program

A grant of \$30,056 from The Parkinson Council helps to support staffing needs to operate the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program. The Parkinson Council funds research, education, and programs in the Greater Philadelphia area that work to improve the quality of life for people with Parkinson's disease. It has supported the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program with grants since 2010. This year's grant is the largest to date.

## Addressing Food Insecurity

Arcadia achieved a PA Hunger-Free campus+ designation and received \$40,000 from the PA Department of Education for the 2022-2023 PA Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program to help prevent hunger on campus.

The money focuses on equitably serving Arcadia community members who are at the highest risk for hunger.

Specifically, it is being used to: Open a satellite Knights for Nutrition Food Pantry in the Oak Summit apartments; update the storage for the main campus pantry; provide opportunities for students to mingle and share meals; stock both pantries; distribute food-and nutrition-related education brochures and recipes to a wide audience in multiple languages.

## Philadelphia Actuaries Club Recognizes, Donates to Actuarial Science Program

The Actuaries Club of Philadelphia donated \$500 in support of Arcadia's Actuarial Science program during the organization's meeting on February 23. Three students from the program attended the meeting with **Dr. Weihong Ni** and **Irina Pogrebivsky**, assistant professors of Actuarial Science. At the meeting, they attended an actuarial professionalism session and had the opportunity to network with local actuaries. ❖

## STEM PANEL FEATURING ALUMNI EXPOSES STUDENTS TO POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS



Attendees stand behind panelists (from left) Kelsey Gray '19, Nikunj Shah '08, Caroline Toner '20, Alyssa Wittle '12, Long Nguyen '21, and Sarah Putterman '97.

Arcadia University's Math and Computer Science clubs hosted a STEM professional panel on April 4 featuring seven alumni. The alumni panelists joined students to discuss their paths to STEM careers in fields such as actuarial science, engineering, statistics, data analytics, teaching, and computer science. They also offered advice to current students pursuing STEM degrees.

**Katherine Pastva '25**, an Actuarial Science major, commented, "I thought it was super educational and loved hearing everyone's stories about how they got to where they are today."

Panelists included **Alyssa Wittle '12, Nikunj Shah '08, Caroline Toner '20, Long Nguyen '21, Kelsey Gray '19, Sarah Putterman '97, and Yang Tan '18**, who joined by Zoom. ❖

## ARCADIA PARTNERS WITH A STEP UP ACADEMY

ASUA WILL USE THE FIRST TWO FLOORS OF ROYAL AVE. PROPERTY (FORMER BISHOP MCDEVITT HIGH SCHOOL) BEGINNING JANUARY 2024

Arcadia University announced in March that it has entered into an innovative partnership with A Step Up Academy (ASUA) in Jenkintown. ASUA prepares students with autism to become engaged participants in society by delivering innovative programming and support from preschool through 12th grade.

The cornerstone of this partnership involves ASUA opening a new location on Arcadia's campus in Glenside using the first two floors of the property at 125 Royal Avenue (formerly Bishop McDevitt High School) beginning January 2024. This partnership expands our mutual ambitions to deliver leading-edge experiential and inclusive learning opportunities across Arcadia's Colleges and Schools. Arcadia's partnership with ASUA will also provide other significant synergies and opportunities for collaboration, including:

- Student teacher placements for Arcadia's School of Education (SOE) students
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 fieldwork experiences for SOE's first-year and sophomore students
- Internships for Special Education graduate and undergraduate students
- Internships and research opportunities for Applied Behavioral Analysis MEd students
- ASUA summer programming on Arcadia's campus, allowing SOE students to gain valuable experience supporting autistic teens and young adults
- Development of a Post 21 Center on post-education life management and planning for families, drawing on programs from across Arcadia's Colleges and Schools. ❖

## ARCADIA/JIANGSU UNIVERSITY'S 2023 COHORT BOASTS 100% GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS



The 2023 graduates of Arcadia's joint education program with Jiangsu University.

In the 11 years that Arcadia University has had a joint education program with China's Jiangsu University, more than 96 percent of the program's graduates have been admitted by top graduate schools. All 12 of the Class of 2023 graduates have received admissions from the world's top 70 universities.

**Yujie Fan '23** will continue her education this fall at Columbia University by pursuing a master's degree in statistics. She selected Columbia "because of its good reputation, the level of teaching, and its location, which I was happy with."

**Yuping Luo '23** will join Fan in the Columbia master's program, noting not just the university's prime location but also its "many opportunities for internships and jobs." Luo was also admitted to graduate programs at the University of Washington and Boston University.

Students in the joint program typically complete two or three years at Jiangsu, then finish their degrees at Arcadia, earning bachelor's degrees from both institutions. ❖

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS, ALUMNI RETURN TO PERU FOR MEDICAL SERVICE TRIP



Participants in the PA Program's medical service trip to Peru treated more than 400 patients in the mobile clinics.

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Physician Assistant Program's annual medical service trip to Lima, Peru, resumed this May. PA students, faculty, and alumni participated in three mobile clinic days, providing medical and dental care to more than 400 patients in underserved communities and helping to rejuvenate a community children's playground. The trip also included two days of sightseeing and excursions in Ica and Paracas. ❖



The medical service trip is provided through MedLife, a non-profit organization that partners with low-income communities in Latin America and Africa to improve their access to medicine, education, and community development projects.

## CABR UPDATE

Combating anti-Black racism (CABR) remains an integral part of the Arcadia experience and of the University community's mission and vision. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni continued to make significant, meaningful contributions to the dozens of University-wide initiatives, with Arcadia's efforts garnering more recognition

from the community, increased engagement, and expansion of potential funding opportunities. Some of the highlights of the year include the inaugural CASAA Social Justice Symposium, LOVE bias events, and the Black Affinity Living and Learning Community. ❖

## CASAA SYMPOSIUM

The Center for Antiracist Scholarship, Advocacy, and Action (CASAA) hosted its inaugural Antiracism and Social Justice Symposium at Arcadia University on April 10 and 11, featuring faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the surrounding community. The symposium, supported by a \$300,000 grant by the W.W. Kellogg Foundation, provided a space for open dialogue about the ways in which racism, obstacles to racial equity, and other impediments to social justice have impacted and continue to impact the local, national, and global community.

CASAA was created in November 2021 under the CABR initiative launched by the University in the wake of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since then, CABR and CASAA have worked to implement justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the campus community. Some of that work was on display during the symposium.

One particular focus of the symposium, led by **Dr. Rachel Collins**, director of First-Year Writing at Arcadia, and **Dr. Willow DiPasquale**, adjunct professor of English at Arcadia, outlined the redesigned first-year English course, called EN101: Thought, Expression, and Advocacy. The course will explore contract grading between students and instructors to place emphasis on learning instead of focusing on a grade. The course will also work to shift the campus culture towards antiracism by implementing linguistic racial justice and preparing students to use writing as a form of advocacy.

The CASAA Antiracism and Social Justice Symposium was led by CASAA and co-sponsored by more than 20 departments and



Dr. Varlack speaks at the Antiracism and Social Justice Symposium.

groups across campus. Arcadia offers a special thanks to **Dr. Christopher Allen Varlack**, CASAA executive director; **Dr. Favian Martin**, CASAA associate director; **Ms. Deja Edwards**, CASAA administrative assistant; and **Dr. Doreen Loury**, CASAA founding executive director (retired) and CASAA Community Council coordinator, for their efforts in organizing the Antiracism and Social Justice Symposium. ❖

## BLACK AFFINITY LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY (BALLC)

This past year, the first Black Affinity Living and Learning Community (BALLC) at Arcadia University was created, in response to the CABR initiative to create a residential space that allows students to explore their multiple identities and affinities. Located in Knight Hall, the BALLC was led by **Dr. Angela McNeil**, assistant vice president of Access, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (AEDI); **Shaliyah Braxton**, associate director of Admissions for AEDI; and **Inioluwa Ogunsemowo '23DPT**. Other members of the working group that helped to create the BALLC include **Bridget Miller**, from Institutional Research and Effectiveness; **Susanne Ferrin**, **Lindsay Hepler**, and **Ashley Beam**, from Residence and Campus Life; **Dr. Annette Halpin**,

from the School of Global Business; and **Ebony Richardson**, from Information Technology.

The BALLC provides a sense of belonging through structured formal mentoring, talkback sessions, lectures, and various campus engagements. The program's learning outcomes include identifying campus resources that support and enhance the social, cultural, and academic needs of students, developing a strong, positive sense of belonging at Arcadia, being introduced to historic Black Philadelphia, and expanding knowledge of varying identities in the Black community. Students noted that the community helps them feel "a great sense of community" and "comfortable in the space that we share." ❖

## CTLM, LOVE EXPLORE POLICING AND PROSECUTION

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring (CTLM), in conjunction with student participants of the Living Our Values Experience (LOVE) Program, hosted a panel discussion on policing and prosecution on April 19 featuring Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, Cheltenham Police Chief John Slavin, Executive Assistant to the VP for Development and Alumni Engagement **Yolonda S. Neal**, a former Philadelphia Police Department civilian employee, and Sergio Hyland, a public speaker and human rights activist. The panel was live-broadcast on WURD radio.

This panel discussion served as a culmination of students' work in the LOVE Program's anti-bias programming. This included the development of an on-campus Bias [Un]Installed exhibit about bias in policing, engagement with the Mural Arts Program's Restorative Justice Women's Re-Entry Pilot Program, and a visit to the People Advancing Reintegration Recycle Works Program. The panel itself, moderated by **Emily Doorbejal '25**, a CTLM student fellow studying Criminal Justice, and **Ahmad Tom Hasani '15M**, a CTLM faculty fellow and adjunct faculty member, covered topics such as police training, community policing, the American justice system, mass incarceration, harm reduction versus punishment, the war on drugs, and more allowing for attendees to hear multiple perspectives that are often not shared in the same room.

"Just punishing someone for a crime is not a deterrent, because if it was, we'd be the safest country in the world," said Hyland, who was incarcerated for over 20 years, studied politics and criminal justice in prison, and now advocates for human rights and social justice. "There is punishment and there is accountability, and those two are not interchangeable. Everybody is redeemable, but they need to understand the impact of what they did. Just putting them in prison doesn't do that."



From left to right: D.A. Larry Krasner, Sergio Hyland, Yolonda S. Neal, and Chief John Slavin participated in the panel discussion on campus.

Krasner encouraged students to take action in their communities. "People ask me how they can get involved beyond jury duty, and my response is always to make sure that you vote," Krasner said. "Voting is important because, in certain places, sheriffs have a lot of power. In other places, the mayor appoints the police chief. So, it's really important to know the process in your town and to vote."

Neal said that voting is important, but being active goes beyond that. "The people hold the power," said Neal. "You can't just vote and then forget about it. You have to hold the people you voted for accountable. You have to call, you have to show up, you have to express your opinions."

CTLM is led by **Dr. Ellen Skilton**. LOVE's co-leads are **Monica Day** and **Gail Lankford**. ❖

## DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT: DIVISION OF STUDENT SUCCESS

This academic year, Arcadia's Division of Student Success completed the Intercultural Development Inventory, a theory-based assessment used to build intercultural competence and assist individuals in recognizing how they engage cultural differences to how they can more effectively engage in diverse environments. It serves as a personal growth tool as

well as a means for units and organizations to increase their overall cultural competence. The Division engaged in a group to understand their collective scores, and 97 percent of the team participated in the optional individual debrief with **Dr. Angela McNeil**, Assistant Vice President of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AEDI). ❖

# MEN'S BASKETBALL DANCES IN NCAA TOURNEY

The men's basketball team went dancing this spring in the Division III NCAA Tournament after capturing the MAC Freedom Championship.

The road to the championship included defeating second-seeded Lycoming College, 74-73, and a 74-61 upset of top-seeded DeSales University, who had lost just two conference games all season.

The title was Arcadia's first conference crown in men's basketball since 2019.

The Knights gave a valiant effort against Case Western Reserve in the first round of the national tournament, which included a furious 21-10 run in the last five minutes of the game, but fell 82-76.

The Scarlet & Grey thrived behind forward **Jalen Watkins '23**, who was the MAC Freedom Player of the Year and an All-Region selection by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and D3Hoops.com. Watkins was also named MAC Freedom Tournament's MVP. ❖



Jalen Watkins goes for a contested layup against FDU-Florham. Credit: Hunter Martin Photography

## BASEBALL WINS SECOND STRAIGHT MAC FREEDOM CHAMPIONSHIP

The baseball team successfully defended its title as MAC Freedom Champions by capturing the conference crown with a three-game series win over Misericordia University.

This was the fourth time in the last seven years that the Knights captured the conference championship.

Starting pitcher **Carson Denham '22** was named the Tournament Most Valuable Player after his performance in game one of the series. In that game, he pitched seven innings while giving up just one run.

The Knights were selected to host the NCAA Division III regional tournament, but were eliminated in two games following losses to Susquehanna University and SUNY Brockport.

Outside of the men's basketball and baseball conference championships, numerous Arcadia athletic teams had successful seasons during the 2022-2023 school year. ❖



Baseball celebrates second-straight MAC Freedom Championship against Misericordia. Credit: Hunter Martin Photography

## REACHING THE CHAMPIONSHIP



Field hockey prepares to face Rowan. Credit: Hunter Martin Photography

The field hockey team (*above*) and women's volleyball team both reached the conference championship this season. For field hockey, it was the first appearance since 2018. Forward **Regan Sammons '23** and midfielder **Morgan McEntire '25** earned National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-Region honors, as well as being All-MAC Freedom First Team selections.

For women's volleyball (*below*), the championship appearance marked the first time the Knights had advanced that far since the 2019 season. Head coach **Emily Poole** was named the MAC Freedom Co-Coach of the Year in her first year in charge of the Knights. Setter **Estefanía Martínez-Solá '24** was named the MAC Freedom Player of the Year as well as an American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Region selection and an AVCA All-American.

The men's golf team finished in second place at the MAC Championships with a team score of 642 (+66).

**Arturo Hernandez '23** finished tied for fourth place, landing him on the first team All-MAC list. ❖



Women's volleyball celebrates a point against Misericordia. Credit: Hunter Martin Photography

## FAST RESULTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS

The women's ice hockey program, in its second year of existence, once again qualified for the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) Tournament. Forward **Morganne Dee '25** was named the MAC Offensive Player of the Year. Defender **Abbi Komrofske '26** was named the MAC Rookie of the Year.

In just its second year, the men's ice hockey program reached the UCHC tournament. Forward **Drew Iannucci '26** was named MAC Rookie of the Year, making him the first major conference award winner in program history. He was also an All-MAC First Team selection and a UCHC All-Rookie Team selection.

The men's and women's swimming teams won a combined eight individual medals and six relay medals at the 2023 MAC Swimming Championships. Overall, the men finished second in the conference and the women finished fourth. ❖

## QUICK HITS

**Myles Sams '24** became the men's track program's first qualifier in the triple jump at the MAC Championship and finished in second place (14.36m). He also made the podium in high jump with a height of 1.86m and in long jump with a distance of 6.65m. Overall, he finished 19th in the nation.

The 4x100m group of **Masai Pines-Elliott '25**, **Robert Carter '24**, **John Storti '26** and Sams finished in fourth place and set a new school record of 43.15 seconds.

Guard **Delaney Bell '26**, of the women's basketball team, was named Second-Team All-MAC Freedom.

Women's golfer **Joyce Jung '23** set a new 36-hole program record at the Cardinal Classic with a 166. She finished tied for ninth in the tournament.

The women's lacrosse team earned five selections on the MAC Freedom All-Conference Teams:

**Ashley Starkey '23** was named First Team All-MAC Freedom, **Emily Griffith '24** was named Second Team All-MAC Freedom and **Morganne Dee '25**, **Campbell Torrey '25**, and **Karina Maksym '25** were all named to the All-MAC Freedom Honorable Mention.

The men's lacrosse team has placed six players on the All-MAC Freedom Teams:

**Kyle McLaughlin '25** was named to the All-MAC Freedom First Team, **Billy Burton '24**, **Maxwell Henry '24** and **Brett Sciascia '23** earned All-MAC Freedom Second Team honors, and **Brian Albertsen '23** and **Landan Hajek '25** were named to the All-MAC Freedom Honorable Mention. ❖



## BEAVER COLLEGE FOUNDATION FORMED UNIVERSITY APPOINTS FOUNDATION'S FIRST TRUSTEES



Brigette A. Bryant, Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement, explains the genesis and mission of the Beaver College Foundation at a presentation during Alumni Reunion Weekend on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Following two years of institutional planning, legal guidance, committee support, trustee approvals, and input from constituents across the Arcadia University community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved the articles of incorporation for Beaver College Foundation on April 17, 2023. The Foundation has received its first gift of \$250,000 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Foundation will serve as a separate but affiliated nonprofit entity, whose mission is to support the brightest possible future for Arcadia University through either transformative gifts or support for transformative projects.

“Beaver College Foundation is the manifestation of Arcadia’s deep commitment to Beaver College’s legacy, and is a concrete way to provide a tangible anchor for dramatic institutional transformation,” said **Brigette A. Bryant**, vice president for Development and Alumni Engagement, who shepherded the Foundation to its approval.

The Foundation will focus on the enhancement of Arcadia’s student experience, ensure financial aid, encourage academic vibrancy throughout the University, position Arcadia as an academic innovator, and anchor the University as a social mobility engine for students.

The genesis for the Foundation was an aspirational idea from **Ann Westerfield ’62** presented in January 2020. Since then, the Foundation appointed three inaugural Foundation Board of Trustees members: **Susan Smyth Shenker ’69** (Chair), University Trustee **Jacqueline Lynne Petrollo Cannon ’68** (Vice Chair), and **Alison Aaron Madsen ’85** (Secretary).

While Cannon serves to provide continuity between current University Trustees and Beaver College Foundation, Shenker and Madsen are both former University Board Trustees in excellent standing, who have a deep and intimate knowledge of Arcadia’s potential through their former Board and current volunteer service.

“Creating opportunities to be transformational in young lives isn’t a need that lessens over time,” said Madsen. “In fact, the expectation today is that higher education should have even more value added. The Foundation will help Arcadia match motivated donors with those opportunities for real change.”

“It’s been our tradition to attempt and succeed at bold new endeavors,” said Shenker. “We were among the earliest institutions to educate women and one of the first to have students study abroad. The Beaver College Foundation is an inspired idea and it is my honor to serve as an Inaugural Trustee with two other women who have for decades served the University with distinction.”

Madsen added, “Once you get involved at Arcadia, it’s hard to walk away. There are the wonderful relationships, the common purpose of improving lives and minds, and the chance to keep working with President Nair and his awesome leadership team.”

More updates about the Foundation will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead, including a celebratory Foundation event next year.

“Our University has a storied past as Beaver College and a bright future as Arcadia University, and I look forward to expanding our team and beginning the important work we have before us,” Shenker said. “Beaver College is the strong foundation upon which Arcadia University has been built. Let us never forget our roots. I support Arcadia University because it is Beaver College as it has evolved in the 21st century. I believe Beaver College Foundation will be a major, positive addition to the University and I feel fortunate to be a part of it.” ❖



## WORKMAN AND WEISS: 89 EXTRAORDINARY YEARS OF SUPPORT

**Eleanor Workman ’54** and **Elizabeth “Betty” Weiss ’60** don’t know one another, though they have much in common. Both are Beaver College graduates and former Trustees. Both were active in the Beaver/Arcadia Alumni Association. Both were career educators.

In addition, both Eleanor and Betty have been making donations to their alma mater year-after-year consistently for a combined 89 years of support.

Weiss made her first yearly donation to Beaver College on Aug. 1, 1960, the year she earned her degree in Health and Physical Education. She gave \$5.

“Five dollars was worth a bit more back then,” Betty said with a grin. “That’s what I could do at the time.” She has since accumulated 64 years of consecutive giving.

Workman made her first donation of \$1 in 1957, three years after earning a degree in Elementary Education. Since then, she has had decades of consistent, loyal giving to her alma mater.

“I’m pretty certain I made a donation every year since graduatio,” she said through her infectious laugh.

Weiss spent a career teaching physical education and health and was a longtime coach of Beaver/Arcadia tennis teams. The University surprised her by raising money in her honor for new tennis courts on campus that now bear her name.

“It was a shock to me when I arrived for the dedication of the new courts and my family and friends and former student-athletes were there because they had named the courts for me,” Weiss said. “Very unexpected.”

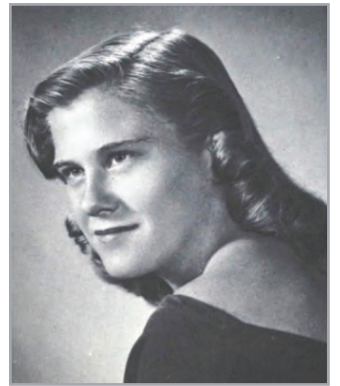
Workman was an elementary school teacher for two years and was then an active volunteer in the community. After obtaining a master’s degree, she worked for child and youth services until she started a private practice as a child custody evaluator for the court system. “My Beaver education was very instrumental in my wonderful career,” she notes.

Both agree that leaning in to giving, whatever the amount, is a demonstration of one’s belief in the value of the institution. Yet, as the years went on, their yearly giving continued unimpeded while the amount they gave increased. Workman has a simple explanation for her incremental increase: “Over the years, my appreciation for Beaver grew, so my giving grew. While I moved on further in life, my Beaver College education kept meaning more and more to me because I was using it every day. It made me more appreciative of what I received. I want to give back.”

Weiss echoes those sentiments. “I value the education I received,” she said. “When you value something, it means it is important to you. So you show you care.”



Eleanor Murphy Workman '54



Elizabeth “Betty” Holton Weiss '60

Workman would get miffed when she encountered alumni who valued their education like she did, but who weren’t making any contributions. She is unabashed in her belief in giving. “I would stand up at local Alumni Association meetings and remind my fellow alumni to give. And I would tell them if you’re still giving just \$5 a year, maybe it is time to step it up.”

Both former educators are quick to point that supporting the next generation of future Arcadia alumni — today’s students — isn’t solely a financial endeavor.

“I got active in the local alumni association chapter right away after graduation,” said Weiss. “They were just excited that a young person got active.”

“I stayed active in the University while I could,” Workman agreed. “Being a part of the Board and the Alumni Association was a fun part of my life. It was great.”

Weiss adds that staying engaged with Arcadia is also about the human connection. “About 10 years after graduation, a group of us friends from our Beaver College days were talking. We wondered if we’d still be friends in another 10 years. What happened was we were all friends until they passed away not long ago. We were close our entire lives. That was our Beaver College connection.”

Weiss feels a historic connection to Beaver’s transformation throughout the decades. “I was there when Beaver College went co-ed, allowing men to attend. I was there during the name change to Arcadia. It was thrilling. It was history.”

A history made possible because of donors like Eleanor Workman and Betty Weiss.

Consider your own support to Arcadia through The Fund for Arcadia and visit [alumni.arcadia.edu/supportus](http://alumni.arcadia.edu/supportus). ❖



*Letter from the President of the  
Arcadia University Alumni Association*

## MAYA BASU JOHNSON '97

Dear Beaver College and Arcadia University Community,

In May, hundreds of Arcadia students walked across the stage in formal recognition of their earned degrees at the University's 167th Commencement. Both undergraduate and graduate students alike celebrated this milestone with smiles, cheers, and tears of joy. They became Arcadia alumni with automatic admission into the Alumni Association.

Over the past few months my own nostalgic reflections have taken me back to my own undergraduate ceremony on what would later become Haber Green, and all the accompanying pride and excitement that filled my soul. I remember being worried that I'd miss my friends, lose my connection to this special place, and never experience the feeling of being part of this campus community. Then I discovered the Alumni Association, and my Arcadia experience began anew.

In fact, for many like me, Commencement marked a new phase of my lifelong journey with my beloved alma mater. The Alumni Association exists for exactly that purpose – to engage Arcadians throughout their lives by offering rewarding opportunities to participate in the Arcadia experience in a variety of formal and informal ways. Even better, we can support and enhance the experience of the next generation of Arcadia students in the process.

As my three-year term as President of Arcadia University's Alumni Association is coming to an end, I want to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and friendship. Also, I am grateful for the leadership and staff in the Division of University Advancement for their tireless efforts at engaging alumni and supporting students.

Soon I will pass the leadership baton to a trusted alumna and friend, **Stacey Downey '88**. She will lead the Alumni Association into its next chapter, focused on connecting alumni to one another and the campus, while supporting the University's students. Be assured that my Arcadia experience is not over as my presidential term ends. I will continue to remain active in the Alumni Association and will continue to see you on campus.

My final words here as the Alumni Association President should and must be about Arcadia's students. When we were students we benefited from the time, talent, and treasure of the Beaver and Arcadia alumni who came before us. It is my belief that we owe that same commitment to current and future students. I hope you will consider supporting our students by attending events, volunteering your time, mentoring a student in your professional field, or making a financial gift.

Together, let's keep the Scarlet and Grey flying high!

With gratitude,

**Maya Basu Johnson '97**  
President, Arcadia University Alumni Association

*Learn more about volunteer opportunities at [arcadia.edu/volunteer](https://arcadia.edu/volunteer).*

## MENTORING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: ALUMNI AND STUDENTS CONNECT

*By Rachel Fox '15M*

Since 2019, *Take a Knight to Work* has enabled alumni volunteers to host students "on the job" to provide them with a glimpse into their aspirational profession. This year, hosted March 6-9, alumni had the opportunity to Take a Knight to Work for a full day, half day, lunch or coffee, via phone, zoom, or in-person. This allowed alumni and students a chance to get to know one another, for alumni mentors to share career insight and advice, and for students to leverage Arcadia University's vast professional network.

Alumni volunteers and students were matched by the Office of Alumni Engagement based on industry, interest, and schedule. A total of 74 unique matches were made between students and alumni, who represented a variety of industries.

Alumni mentor **Julianne (Scibetta) Messia '03** was grateful to connect with students.

"Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the Take A Knight to Work event," said Messia, who works in software operations. "I do not live locally, so it means a lot that I could participate virtually. My student match, Andy, was very well prepared for the event, and I felt supported as a mentor as well. I look forward to participating in another alumni event in the future!"

*Take a Knight to Work* allows students to glean more than workplace knowledge; it also helps to form lasting relationships with the alumni as a mentor. Each year, Arcadia looks forward to connecting our graduates with the current generation of students. As the social and economic climates continue to change from year to year, it's important that Arcadia University students seize real-life feedback and guidance.



*Alumna Kerry Leraris '92, '94MEd with student Jeannie Stunich '24.*

**Alexandra Eitelberg '25** echoed that sentiment.

"My alumni match was great!" said Eitelberg. "She was super nice and she even researched companies in my field for me to look at without me asking her. She gave me really good advice on applying to jobs and what to expect in most entry level positions."

**Tramaine El-Amin '02**, who works in nonprofit social enterprise/mental health, followed-up her digital meeting with mentee **Raine Robinson '24** with a list of resources to get her started. She even offered Robinson greater confirmation of her support by offering to "send a note to the CEO on your behalf" and to do "a shadow opportunity for Raine in the future."

If you want to offer your professional experience and engage with current Arcadia students, send an email to [alumni@arcadia.edu](mailto:alumni@arcadia.edu). ✨

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming & Family Weekend: October 6-7, 2023

UKnighted Tuesday: November 28-29, 2023

Fourth Annual Women Who Lead Forum: March 23, 2024

Alumni Reunion Weekend: April 26-27, 2024

# Celebrating Beaver/Arcadia Women



Attendees listen to a student panel discussion with Ashley McDougall '23 and Michelle Frank '23, moderated by Patricia Cornet '91.

The strength and power of Beaver College and Arcadia University women were on full display in the Commons Great Room on Saturday, March 25, at Arcadia's third annual Women Who Lead Forum (WWLF). Hosted by Arcadia Ambassador **Mrs. Paayal Nair** and organized by the Division of University Advancement, WWLF honors the pursuits and influence of women's leadership through the lens of the University's own women. This year's WWLF focused on wellness and well-being.

Throughout the morning and early afternoon, nearly 130 alumni and guests attended a student panel, participated in one of seven breakout sessions, enjoyed a live student theatrical performance, and listened to a conversation with featured guest **Hiroko Otani Kiiffner '62**, founder and publisher of Lake Isle Press. Lake Isle earned worldwide renown in 1998 by introducing cookbooks from a then-unknown Rachael Ray, sparking a global culinary franchise. The day concluded with Women Who Lead Awards and the singing of Arcadia's Alma Mater, along with some planned surprises.

Greeted to a continental breakfast and a welcome from **Brigitte A. Bryant**, vice president for Development and Alumni Engagement, and from **Maya B. Johnson '97**, president of the Arcadia Alumni Association, attendees were treated to a student panel moderated by Trustee and 2021 Women Who Lead Speaker **Patricia Cornet '91**.

Biology majors **Ashley McDougall '23** and **Michelle Frank '23** wowed the crowd with details of their research, their appreciation for the University's commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and the mentorship they've received from Arcadia faculty. Both are now pursuing doctoral degrees.

When welcoming McDougall and Frank to the stage, Cornet noted how "STEM is a priority focus at Arcadia University. We have a long distinguished history of women excelling in science at Beaver College and Arcadia University." Breakout sessions, led



Featured guest, Hiroko Otani Kiiffner '62, the founder and publisher of Lake Isle Press.

by esteemed women of the Arcadia community, covered topics ranging from financial wellness to the therapeutic benefits of knitting and crocheting.

Attendees enjoyed a performance by Theater students **Harper Jones '23**, **Sophia Flint '23**, **Molly Grubert '23**, and **Raven Jane Adilene '23** of Stephen Sondheim's *Ladies Who Lunch*.

Trustee **Peri Higgins** moderated the lunch conversation with Kiiffner, who after earning a degree in Biology from Beaver College assisted in medical research before moving into the world of publishing with Academic Press. In 1990, Kiiffner started Lake Isle Press, which published Ray's first nine books.

Kiiffner said that in her career, she found the connection between her education in science and publishing cookbooks. "Being able to get involved in publishing and further specializing in cookbooks, you begin to realize that food as nutrition, food as science, is a continuum. That's how it happened. Where it went for the next 30 years is hard to account for. Driven by curiosity, I think."



Arcadia Theater students Harper Jones '23, Sophia Flint '23, Molly Grubert '23, and Raven Jane Adilene '23 performed Stephen Sondheim's famed theatrical song, *Ladies Who Lunch*.



Breakout session leaders with Arcadia Ambassador and WWLF Host, Mrs. Paayal Nair, and President Nair.

Kiiffner was presented with a Women Who Lead (WWL) Honoree award, moderated by Recent Graduate Trustee **Margaret Lyons '12**. A surprise video tribute by Ray was played, during which the chef said: "Hiroko is the first person that ever published me! She is a one-woman workforce, a force of nature. She is petite, but this woman is mighty! Hiroko, I send you all of my love in the world. You are a visionary. You are one of very few reasons I'm still here today after all these decades later. I love you very much, and my congratulations to you. You're an inspiration to all. Well done!"

Kiiffner's classmate and lifelong friend, **Dr. Barbara Starks Favazza '62**, was surprised when presented with a WWL Honoree Award. Lyons introduced the award for Favazza: "I am also proud to announce that our second Women Who Lead Forum Honoree is Dr. Barbara Starks Favazza, who came here all the way from Missouri to support her friend and classmate [Hiroko Otani Kiiffner '62]. She had absolutely no idea we were going to do this. In addition to being among the first Black women to



Break-out Session: Health & Therapeutic Benefits of Knitting and Crocheting by Ellen Rubin, *The Knitting Scientist*.

matriculate at Beaver College in the late 50s, a tremendous feat in and of itself, she is also the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Virginia Medical School. She dedicated herself to serve the mental health needs of children and adolescents in the field of psychiatry, and for the last 52 years, she has been a philanthropic supporter of Arcadia University. We're so glad she is able to be here with us today and are pleased to honor her today."

For her service to the Alumni Association, Arcadia, and its students, Johnson received a surprise WWL Honoree Award.

Lyons noted the generational divide bridged by WWLF and the shared connection of Beaver/Arcadia: "I want to call special attention to our alumnae from the Class of 1962, Hiroko and Barbara. I graduated in 2012 and it is amazing for me to realize that our graduating years are exactly 50 years apart."

When I graduated, they were celebrating their 50th year reunion along with the other women of their class. I hope that when I celebrate my own Golden Reunion in 2062 I can look back on a life well lived and a career as impressive as the two of you. Barbara, Hiroko, you are my Arcadia role models. Thank you for your leadership. I walk in your footsteps."

Alumni and guests alike were treated to copies of cookbooks from Lake Isle Press and professional, branded totes. However, what many took away from the event was the understanding of how Beaver College was trailblazing in promoting women's leadership, and how Arcadia honors that legacy by its commitment to women today. Attendee **Rachel Fox '15M** said of the event, "It was truly a magical afternoon being gathered with so many impressive and inspiring women. I am certainly looking forward to next year's forum!"

Arcadia will again host WWLF in March 2024 during Women's History Month. Scan the QR code to watch a 90-second video of the Women Who Lead Forum, 2023, and be sure to save the date of March 23, 2024. ❖





Arcadia's LIFT Program students learn leadership and teamwork at Philadelphia's Outward Bound School (above and right).

# Arcadia LIFT Program Gets Outward Bound

## University Awarded \$75K Grant for Student Leadership Development Across Lines of Difference

Arcadia students can venture into nature and perhaps beyond their comfort zone following receipt of a two-year grant of \$75,000 to create a partnership with Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS). The partnership is part of a new University leadership program called Learning in Fearless Teams, or LIFT.

POBS is a nonprofit experiential education organization that since 1992 has “delivered challenging outdoor learning programs that embrace Outward Bound’s mission of changing lives through challenge and discovery.” Participation in POBS means overcoming outdoor trials to grow in problem solving, teamwork, and leadership development. POBS states that, “By conquering their own challenges, participants discover their true potential and realize they are capable of more than they ever imagined.”

The funding foundation wishes to remain anonymous but has a strong philanthropic advocate at Arcadia, which led to this support. Through this relationship, the foundation expressed an interest in seeing Arcadia student participation in POBS. Arcadia’s Office of Civic and Global Engagement was the best choice to oversee the program.



Jaylene O’Farill ’26

**Alison LaLond Wyant, Ed.D.**, executive director of Civic and Global Engagement, is always looking for ways to expand student access to opportunities outside of the classroom. “In this department, we want students to explore the off-campus world and to bring their own lived experiences to bear on their education at Arcadia.”



LIFT Program students and staff from Arcadia’s Office of Civic and Global Engagement.

Arcadia piloted LIFT April 14-16, when 10 students were transported to POBS in Philadelphia’s East Fairmount Park on the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir. Students experienced a combination of low and high ropes courses and canoeing on the reservoir.

“The crux of LIFT is to have students learn beyond Arcadia’s campus, in teams, and across lines of difference,” **Scott Terry**, Arcadia’s director of Global Engagement, said. “We know that where you learn and who you learn with is just as important as what you learn.”

The 10 students piloting LIFT this spring were a mixture of Civic Scholars, First-Year Study Abroad Experience (FYSAE) students, and international

students, full of, in Terry’s words “big thinkers and curiosity.”

“The best part was stepping out of my comfort zone and finishing the rope course, even though I was terrified,” **Getlyne L. Jn-Baptiste ’26**, who encourages future students to take advantage of LIFT, said. “The support I got from my classmates was phenomenal; their cheers boosted my confidence. Go in with an open mind and listen to understand, and you will be just fine.”

The foundation that awarded the grant to Arcadia was also interested in students building relationships across lines of difference that would influence their development as leaders, which is what Arcadia seeks to provide to students.

“Per the grant, LIFT this spring was still in the pilot phase,” Terry said. “For next academic year, we will leverage the grant funding to provide a fall and spring LIFT experience. START, our pre-orientation program that also includes off-campus learning in Glenside and Philadelphia, will serve an entry-point for experiential learning and as a primer for future LIFT participation.”

Jn-Baptiste noted, when referring to the leadership component, that nobody can do it all.

“You need to be able to trust that others are also capable of accomplishing tasks and that everything does not have to fall on your back. Being a leader sometimes means letting others handle things.”

For more information on Arcadia’s Office of Civic and Global Engagement, visit [arcadia.edu/life-arcadia/get-involved/global-engagement](http://arcadia.edu/life-arcadia/get-involved/global-engagement).

For more information on Philadelphia Outward Bound, visit [outwardboundphiladelphia.org](http://outwardboundphiladelphia.org). ❖

# ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2023



Marcia Sorber Kavanagh '63 receiving her Scarlet & Grey recognition medal from Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement, Brigette A. Bryant.



President Ajay Nair speaking to members of the Scarlet & Grey Society during the celebratory luncheon.



Members of the Class of 1988 reminisce over their University Yearbook photos.

More than 180 reunion celebrants, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and guests attended the 2023 Alumni Reunion Weekend festivities on Friday, April 28, and Saturday, April 29, in Glenside. Celebrating milestone classes ending in '3 and '8, reunion alumni were treated to a number of events, including cocktail receptions, a theater dedication, the annual senior thesis art exhibition, faculty presentations, the Scarlet & Grey Society luncheon, and more.

All alumni were welcomed to attend the Concert at the Castle, featuring the cover band Flannel, beer tasting, food trucks, and tons of swag. Guests were also invited to an information session on the new Beaver College Foundation (see pg. 14), the President's State of the University address, the annual Alumni Awards and Honors Celebration Reception, and guided tours of campus.

**Fling High the Scarlet and the Grey!** ❖

## ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES 2023

Marie Duke '73  
 Monique M. Miller '73  
 Helene S. Klein '10M  
 Jane M. Fedorczyk '86MSPT  
 Jacqueline Lynne Petrolle Cannon '68\*  
 Devon K. Miller '18  
 Kenneth Samen '92  
 Kevin G. Shollenberger '88\*  
 Carolyn R. Hodges '69  
 Kyle Kammerle '18, '20DPT\*\*  
 Hannah Marie Xiu Cropper '23

Class Agent Award  
 Class Agent Award  
 Faculty & Staff Impact Award  
 Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement  
 Golden Disc for Meritorious Service  
 Harry G. Kuch Award for Young Alumni in Reunion  
 Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award  
 Outstanding Achievement in Reunion  
 Sankofa Award for Distinguished Achievement  
 Young Alumni Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement  
 Senior Golden Disc Award

\* Current Arcadia University Trustee

\*\* Former Recent Graduate Trustee

# COUNTING DOWN TO COMMENCEMENT

## CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS AS THEY NEARED THE FINISH LINE

By Rachel Fox '15M

The Class of 2023 gathered in the Great Room of the University Commons on March 27 to celebrate their upcoming graduation and to learn from alumni about the benefits of remaining connected through the Arcadia University Alumni Association. Named for Beaver College's 1853 founding, 53 Knights to Commencement attendees enjoyed a carnival theme with prizes, balloon animals, delicious food, and lots of shared laughter. Students networked with peers and alumni alike as they heard firsthand from leaders of the Alumni Association.

Connecting with seniors at 53 Knights to Commencement, and again at 18 Knights to Commencement on May 1, epitomized why alumni volunteer their time, treasure, and talent at their alma mater.

In these celebratory gatherings, alumni enlighten senior students on resources that Arcadia can provide post-graduation. From creating experiences which promote connectivity to volunteerism and career enhancement opportunities, there are several ways to remain connected. Support of this strategic effort helps Arcadia fulfill its mission to provide a distinctively global, integrative, and personal learning experience to every student during their four years and beyond.

**Lauren Trager '07, '11M** serves as the University's Representative-at-Large, Arcadia University Advisory Council and committee member of Events Outreach Committee. Her work to bring alumni volunteers together is exemplified through her 'why': "I fell in love with Arcadia the moment I stepped onto campus. I owe my career, how I view the world, and life experiences to my time at Arcadia. I continue to give back through volunteering as well as philanthropically, understanding the impact my support will have for future students and alumni."

She was joined by our other impressive Advisory Council Committee members: **Ken Samen '92**, Representative-at-Large, Arcadia University Advisory Council and committee member of Professional Development & Mentorship Committee, **Margaret Lyons '12**, Recent Graduate Trustee, Interim Chair Professional Development & Mentorship Committee, **Rachel Fox '15M**, Alumni Association volunteer and past Chair Professional Development & Mentorship Committee, **David Euwings '06**, Co-President of the Black Alumni Association of Arcadia University (BAAAU), **Katie Duncan '07, '11MEd**, Chair of Events



The Class of 2023 with their signed class banner.

Outreach Committee, **Jeff Frazier '14MBA**, Chair of Awards and Honors Committee and member of the Arcadia Business Network, **Stacey Herrid-Halstead '16M**, member of the Recruitment and Retention Committee, **Kerry Leraris '92, '94MEd**, past Alumni Association President and current volunteer.

Dozens of students were in attendance for the 53 Knight event. As alumni introduced themselves, students settled into seats among round tables. At each table, there was one spot reserved for alumni. After every thirty minutes, alumni switched to the next round table to interact with a new group of seniors, enabling them to network with everyone in attendance.

Following this event, senior students had the pleasure of connecting with alumni during their 18 Knights to Commencement: Senior Soirée. The gala affair welcomed the Class of 2023 into their lifelong relationship with Arcadia University as proud alumni. President **Ajay Nair, Ph.D.** was there to share words of welcome to students with a champagne toast.

This celebratory event encouraged the Class of 2023 graduates-to-be to invite influential faculty and staff to attend as their guests, to commemorate the impact that faculty and staff had in the students' lives. 18 Knights provided an opportunity to recognize the 2023 Senior Golden Disc nominees and those that had already made their Senior Class Gift. Honoring the new inductees as Arcadia University Alumni is a symbolic tradition that allows recent graduates to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments. ❖



ReDUciNg thE

STigmA aRouND

BY SYDNEY KERELO

MeNTaL

HeALth



Now more than ever — with students facing an untold amount of mental and emotional stress — mental health resources are a top priority for students, faculty, staff, and senior leadership.



For the Culture provides a space for Black students to connect and check in with each other once a week.

As a junior transfer student, **Praise Joel '23** felt lost during his first year at Arcadia University. Forming connections with other students was hard until he discovered a space solely intended for Black students to connect, the For the Culture group.

Joel wasn't the only college student experiencing loneliness, loss, confusion, anxiety, depression, isolation, or feelings of being overwhelmed. **Jackie Skalski '24**, a Criminal Justice major and member of the women's basketball team, recalls feeling lost and wanting to give up after tearing her ACL her first year and going through a grueling recovery period.

"There were moments where I just wanted to quit," says Skalski. "I started having periods where I was depressed and anxious because getting injured was completely out of my control."

A University of Minnesota survey of nearly 45,000 college students shows increased stress, anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in students 15 months after the COVID pandemic began.

"You can't escape the fact that students are struggling," says **Amy Henning**, director of Counseling Services and the Alcohol and Other Drug Program. "And Arcadia is noticing that and offering some unique ways to help support students' mental health."

One way is by realizing that prevention and intervention services are critical when helping a student with mental stress or mental health issues. Arcadia looks at the student as a whole person and recognizes that their emotional health is just as important as their GPA.

"If you're not well emotionally, it's tough to succeed academically," says Henning.

Arcadia is helping students achieve emotional and academic success by destigmatizing mental health, discovering new ways to prioritize

students' mental health, and promoting ways to continue advancing in social and emotional well-being when they transition to alumni.

### DESTIGMATIZING MENTAL HEALTH

Going to college is a transformative experience for young adults; they leave behind childhood days and start a self-explorative journey of adulthood. But, while extraordinarily fulfilling, these years can be one of the most stressful developmental times for young adults.

Arcadia has several groups dedicated to destigmatizing mental health in college students, whether for student-athletes, those looking for a personalized community, or people not interested in any one particular area. Arcadia has various groups for students, so no one needs to struggle in silence.

"Mental health is a huge topic to discuss, and it's often not portrayed in a good way," says **Hannah Craig '24**, a leader of Arcadia's Active Minds chapter. "My main goal is to let my peers know that I'm here for them, and if they need someone to listen to them, we're there for them."

Craig helped to reactivate the Active Minds chapter in 2022 to advance the mental health conversation at Arcadia. The club, which had a presence on campus for years, had lapsed into inactivity in 2020.

Arcadia's Active Minds chapter is part of a national nonprofit organization founded in 2003 by Alison Malmon, whose brother Brian died by suicide as a student at Columbia University. The organization has worked to destigmatize mental health on more than 1,000 campuses and communities, reaching nearly 2 million people each year.

"I think having this club on campus is very important because I know that mental health is a huge topic to talk about, and we need to establish that it's okay not to be okay," says Craig.

**Donavan McCargo**, who joined Arcadia as vice president of Campus Life and Dean of Students in 2023, has seen how students, faculty, staff, and others have worked together to build a community of care.

"What makes Arcadia University a special place is that we have remained committed to facilitating an environment and atmosphere where our students can thrive," McCargo said. "If we can equip our students with the tools and confidence to seek help when life circumstances disrupt their being, these same students can be mental well-being ambassadors for others well beyond their college years."



**If you're not well emotionally, it's tough to succeed academically.**

— **Amy Henning**

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the University entered into a contract with TimelyCare, an online mental and physical health on-demand and scheduled service for Arcadia students. The service gives students 24/7 access to therapy services and resources to supplement the University's Counseling Services department, which has increased its emergency crisis efforts on campus.

Alongside TimelyCare and the Active Minds Club, Arcadia recently partnered with the JED Foundation, a nonprofit focusing on suicide prevention and building emotional health within teens and young adults.

The nonprofit started in 2000, two years after the founder's youngest son, Jed, died by suicide, one of the leading causes of death among young adults. His parents wanted to help other students navigate the emotional challenges of high school and college by preparing them for adulthood through increased student connection, preventative services, and mental health resources.

"College is not meant to be easy — it's meant to challenge you, and it's meant to be a time for growing," says **Dr. Kim Dean**, a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity in Special Education, and associate professor of Education at Arcadia. "We shouldn't be surprised that students struggle; we need to embrace that. But we need to expand opportunities to build students' coping skills and develop a sense of connection and belonging on campus. These are things that help students lean into challenge, bounce back from adversity, and more effectively manage critical feedback."

Arcadia is one of seven universities participating in a regional JED Foundation cohort this fall. After the initial assessment, Arcadia's JED team will develop and implement responsive programming over three years alongside other universities nationwide that have already undergone the JED process and developed programs, strategies, resources, and training.

The goal of the JED Foundation is to find the best ways to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and expand the network of people promoting those initiatives, including For the Culture, which supports JED Foundation resources within its group.

### FOR AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE

For the Culture, headed by **Maya Johnson**, assistant director of Counseling and Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives at Arcadia, works with Black students on campus to provide a space for students to connect, check in with each other emotionally, and talk about different topics, like stress management or what it's like to be Black at a predominately white institution.

"For me, it's essential to create a community with Black students on campus and address mental health issues and needs," says Johnson. "I think it's important too that students see me as a human being; I'm a therapist, but I'm also relatable, and I hope it helps them see that I am easy to reach."

Every Monday, For the Culture meets in the Heinz Conference Hall across from Counseling Services. With a white noise maker set outside the door and an array of chairs placed around the room, a handful of students gather to discuss everything from job interviews to mental health wellness check-ins.

This isn't the only group dedicated to destigmatizing students' mental health; Arcadia's Hidden Opponent chapter helps student-athletes battling mental health challenges like depression and anxiety and is part of a larger nonprofit organization founded in 2019 by Victoria Garrick Browne, a former Division I athlete and PAC-12 champion who battled depression and anxiety as a student-athlete.

The Hidden Opponent chapter was started in 2020 by **Anna Intartaglia '22** and **Abbey Finkill '23**, who, like Skalski (the current president), had been sidelined from playing basketball due to a torn



**If you are struggling,  
you do not need to hide it;  
it is not something you should  
be ashamed of or feel guilty  
about. It is something  
you should be comfortable  
coming forward because  
you are not alone.**

— Laynie Callo

getting injured was completely out of my control. Losing my sport, I also lost my outlet, and I had to relearn how to cope in other ways.”

“It was like an identity crisis,” adds Finkill, the chapter’s vice president. “I didn’t know myself as a person during that time; I went from working out every day, playing a sport I loved, to not being able to do that, and it was detrimental to my mental health, and then I started therapy.”

Finkill remembers feeling lost, like she didn’t know herself anymore or what interested her without basketball. She fell into a depression that she couldn’t pull herself out of alone. Therapy helped both Finkill and Skalski realize how critical taking care of one’s mental health is, especially for athletes.

This year, The Hidden Opponent has dedicated more than 10 games to the cause and partnered with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee to co-host Mental Health Awareness Week. The group also offers opportunities for coaches to become involved with raising awareness for their athletes.

All of Arcadia’s groups, including Active Minds, The Hidden Opponent, For the Culture, and the JED Foundation, are in place to help destigmatize mental health and prioritize students and ensure that they receive the proper resources they need to succeed.

### PRIORITIZING MENTAL HEALTH

**Samantha Rock ’20M**, a teen therapist at Creative Healing, experienced first-hand how much the University prioritizes its students’ mental health. While earning her Master’s in Counseling from Arcadia, she was strongly encouraged to undergo therapy through Counseling Services or outside support. This later became part of the curriculum for the Counseling program.

“The reason, I think, is to help support our mental health, because it can be difficult at times supporting others through extremely challenging things, and you can forget to take care of yourself when in a helping profession,” says Rock. “But another part of that was to help us see what it’s like to be a client and on the other side of the therapy experience.”

Recently, the University added two new positions dedicated to prioritizing students’ mental health: one is an Assistant Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiative out of Counseling Services, the position that the aforementioned Johnson holds. Her role is to help Arcadia participate in anti-racism initiatives, identify counseling methods to reach minority groups on campus, and be reflective of specific populations of students. The other new addition is a volunteer position in Arcadia’s athletics department, the Mental Health and Performance Coach, solely designed to support student-athletes’ mental health, **Laynie Callo**.

Callo comes to campus twice a week to help student-athletes returning from an injury or overcoming performance anxiety. She works to implement mental performance, mental toughness, and sports psychology in all physical and mental aspects to the student-athletes at Arcadia.

“I approach this career from the point of view that I was a college athlete that got injured, and I had to come back to my sport, and it is mentally exhausting, especially if you don’t have the proper support system,” says Callo. “The athletic training staff and coaches here



Hannah Craig ’24 (second from left) and the rest of the Active Minds board.

are great, but it doesn’t necessarily have to always be on them. Any additional resources regarding mental health and mental performance can help relieve pressure from both the coach and the athlete.”

Callo doesn’t just help relieve athletic stress; if a student-athlete struggles with academics, she provides resources, stress management skills, and more. Most of Arcadia’s faculty and many staff are trained in Mental Health First Aid, an eight-hour training led by Montgomery County that comprehensively teaches mental health diagnoses.

The course goes over role-play scenarios of what to do if a student is in a crisis, how to begin a conversation related to mental health, how to be an excellent first responder, how to assess a particular situation, and how to get a student to the proper resources they need.

“We have offered this program twice a year for the last six years,” says Henning. “The certificate is good for three years; we have had various students, faculty, and staff who have completed it.”

Faculty and staff are trained to look for signs of chronic issues before it gets to a crisis, like changes in students’ behaviors, if they stopped attending classes, if their academic performance has changed, or not handing in assignments. Are the students looking withdrawn? Are they less responsive? Do they not look well, or are they not taking care of themselves?

Mental Health First Aid teaches faculty and staff to create space within their classrooms and offices to check in with students, to develop the skills to be good observers, and to learn how to ask questions.

“We also have a Student Care Team, which is made up of different constituents on campus,” says Henning. “I’m on it, and we have someone from Athletics on it, the Office of Student Success, Student Affairs, Resident Life, Public Safety, etc., so it’s a whole conglomerate of different staff and faculty members who reach out to students who are struggling and refer them to proper resources.”

Whether undergraduate or graduate, any student at Arcadia has access to the Counseling Services resources. And if a student is graduating, Arcadia works with them to bridge them with care to ensure they have the best resources before graduating.

“If you are struggling, you do not need to hide it; it is not something you should be ashamed of or feel guilty about,” says Callo. “It is something you should be comfortable coming forward because you are not alone.”

Joel, who graduated this past May, learned this by stepping out of his comfort zone, realizing the mental health benefits of camaraderie and group support.

“At first, I felt like I didn’t need anybody and that I could do everything by myself,” said Joel. “But after attending the For the Culture group, I realized how nice it was just to talk about things, and that many others may feel the same way.” ❖



**At first, I felt like I didn’t need  
anybody and that I could do  
everything by myself,” said Joel.  
“But after attending the For the  
Culture group, I realized how  
nice it was just to talk about  
things, and that many others  
may feel the same way.**

— Praise Joel ’23



# NOT YOUR PARENTS' VIDEO GAMES

by John DeRosier

Collegiate esports programs are as intense and serious as other athletics programs — and perhaps more inclusive.

The first time Patrick McCool '23 saw the esports arena on Arcadia University's campus, boxes of expensive equipment were spread across half of the room and a mere single row of computers had been set up.

McCool, who had just arrived on campus for his first year, had responded to a University-wide email encouraging students to join the fledgling Electronic Sports (esports) program. Four years later, the program has won several conference championships, has approximately 50 student-athletes, routinely entices top high school players to commit to Arcadia, and has an arena that's one of the finest in the region.

"This program has come a long way in the last four years," said McCool, who earned a degree in Computer Science. "You wonder, 'How do you create a video game-based team?' It's not like it's a swim team or a basketball team that has practiced together for a long time; everyone was coming from computers or consoles in their bedrooms."

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROGRAM

Esports are a form of video game playing in which teams compete in a variety of genres, including multiplayer online battle arenas, real-time strategy, sports, and more.

An esports program, however, isn't constructed like other collegiate athletic programs. Instead of all the student-athletes pulling in one direction to win a specific game, they are broken up into different teams that compete separately. Esports also is a program that encourages inclusivity, perhaps breaking a long-conceived notion that university athletics are relegated to the genetically or physically blessed.

Arcadia competes in the Appalachian and NECC conferences in Overwatch, Valorant, Rocket League, Hearthstone, Super Smash Bros, and more. Each game has its own Arcadia team. Each team has its own coach.

In its four years of existence, the program collectively has won the Spring 2021 NECC Division Championship for Hearthstone, the Spring 2022 NECC Division Championship for Siege, and the Appalachian Invitational Championship for Rocket League.

"We're many different teams, but we're all esports," said Karah Daniels '26, an Education major who was recruited to the program after playing on the esports team at her high school in Cape May County, New Jersey. "I was recruited for Overwatch and am part of that team, but I also have an interest in Smash Bros. We can switch teams or be a backup for another team, we just have to coordinate that with the coaches and the other players."

## THE BEGINNING

Tim Belloff, director of Information Technology Support Services at Arcadia, had long thought Arcadia should have an esports program. When he approached the University's Athletic Director, Brian Granata, Granata said he had already done some research on the sport.

Belloff became the first director of the program, a part-time position he held on top of his full-time job at Arcadia, and worked with an on-campus interest group in launching and advertising the program.

First, they solidified their space, coaches, and equipment. That was the

Maxwell Ryan '24 practices at the state-of-the-art esports arena on campus.



Students competing in Arcadia's esports arena in the Dining Hall complex.

“  
WE’RE MANY  
DIFFERENT  
TEAMS, BUT  
WE’RE ALL  
ESPORTS.

—KARAH DANIELS ’26

easy part. Forming teams — and quickly — promised to be trickier.

“At first, recruiting was difficult because none of us had ever recruited for an athletic program before,” Belloff said. “We initially were pulling students to fill out the roster, but knew that we had to recruit heavily to make it a viable program.”

The recruiting grew rapidly over four years. Now, the program consists of student-athletes of all genders who are on scholarship and those who walked onto the team once they arrived on campus.

Daniels was recruited by several esports programs around the country, including one as far as Texas. She said she chose Arcadia because of the arena, because they took the sport seriously, because there are scholarship opportunities, because of former director Bill Rodgers, and because it’s not too far from home.

“The director messaged me after a LAN (Local Area Network) competition where he saw me play,” said Daniels. “He talked to me about the program and the opportunities. I came here to visit and just loved the arena and the whole look of the campus. It’s so welcoming, and I feel like Arcadia takes their esports program more seriously than other schools that were recruiting me.”

On May 22, Arcadia named **Nick Alverson** the new director of the esports program. Alverson previously served as head esports coach at the University of Pikeville in Kentucky for the past three years.

**NOT YOUR TYPICAL STUDENT ATHLETE**

For some student-athletes, being a part of the esports team was something they strived for when choosing a college or university. Others didn’t think about being part of a college sports program until they arrived on campus.

“I think the big thing was getting into a routine and becoming competitive,” said McCool.

That competitiveness comes from a relentless routine of organized practice as well as individual practices. For example, Daniels said she spends five days a week playing Overwatch in the arena. Three of the days are for practice, two of the days are for competition. However, she watches the arena as part of a work-study program, so she plays while doing that, and practices at home as well.

The same thing is true for **Annaliese Williams ’26**, a Psychology major who participates on the Valorant team; **Cole Baugh ’24**, a Computer Science major and member of the Overwatch team; and **Diego McLendon ’26**, a Chemistry/Pre-PT major and member of the Super Smash Ultimate team.

“I’m here any time throughout the day that I don’t have class,”

“  
IT’S A LOT OF WORK  
AND TAKES A LOT OF  
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ESPORTS HERE.

—COLE BAUGH ’24



Diego McLendon ’26, a member of the Super Smash team, spends time practicing in the arena whenever he isn’t in class.

McLendon said. “I learned about the program when I visited on Scarlet & Grey Day and I was sold immediately. I love the arena, I love playing the games, I love getting better, and I just want to be here and keep working on my game.”

For Baugh, the training and conditioning is vital for him; as the tank commander on Overwatch, he is the in-game leader. This means he coordinates and directs the team’s strategy, alerting people when to strike, when to move in, and where they should be.

“It’s a lot of work and takes a lot of practice,” said Baugh. “I transferred here from Montgomery County Community College, and one of the big reasons is because of how seriously the players and university take esports here. I get in the arena as much as possible.

“The games can change or be updated, so we always have to be ready to adapt,” he added. “It’s not like other sports where the game always stays basically the same no matter what level you are on. Here, they can change or update everything about the games, so we always have to be practicing and preparing for it.”

For Williams, it’s all about the competition.

“I came to Arcadia knowing I wanted to join the team,” Williams said. “I was always interested in video games. I bought myself a gaming laptop in high school and got really competitive with it. I just love competing.”

**GROWING INTO CHAMPIONS**

This spring, the program captured the conference championship in Rocket League and finished as the conference runner-up in Overwatch.

That’s on top of several conference championships the program has captured since its inception four years ago.

McCool said he believes one of the reasons the program grew so quickly is because they stayed organized and together during the pandemic. He credits the program’s coaches and the cohesive nature of the student-athletes with keeping the teams together.

“We’re now all back together and the program is really strong,” McCool said. “I’m part of the first generation of students who started with the program and graduated playing all four years. I’ve loved my time here and am looking forward to seeing what the team accomplishes in the future.”

Belloff, who played a central role in helping esports take root at Arcadia, expects the sport to keep growing.

“On a collegiate level, this is definitely going to get bigger because it allows for more students to come to college and showcase their talents,” he said. “I’m really proud of what the program has accomplished and all the hard work that has been put into it. It’s turning out to be a great investment.” ❖

CLASSNOTES

1957

Alumnae of the Class of 1957 met for their third-annual Zoom meeting on April 14, 2023. For them, with many having lost spouses, siblings, etc. — friends from this special time mean everything!



1969

PBS documentary, *How Saba Kept Singing*, made by the son of our Beaver College alumna, **Judith Glassburg Wisnia '69**, premiered Tuesday, April 18 at 10pm. David "Saba" Wisnia never told his family the whole truth about how he survived the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. This new documentary traces a remarkable journey revealing a touching firsthand account of how David, a Polish Jewish teenager, survived nearly three years in the camp.



1974

**Peggy Grow '74** and **Nancy Potter '74** met for lunch last week in Ridgewood, NJ. Peggy shared, "We had not seen each other in 11 yrs!!! Sooooo wonderful. We are going to come to our 50th reunion next year."

1987

**Lorine Barone '87**: I have recently relocated from North Jersey to Toms River, to downsize

and be closer to the beach. The woods are my hiking haven, but the ocean is my happy place. I divorced 10 years ago and have three grown children, **Kristina/26/ NYC**, **Nicole/23/NJ**, **Michael/22/ CA (Navy)**. I'm still working in graphic design and marketing and have started an art class in my 55+ community. I am starting to catch up on some traveling, and have plenty of room for visitors and wayward beach buddies. God has been faithful, even through the tough times, and I can count myself blessed to still be in touch with ALL my college roommates and some special friends—NO friends like OLD friends.



1988

Hats off to the Class of 1988's Reunion Planning Committee! (pictured): **Jan Baum '88**, **Stacey Downey '88**, incoming Alumni Association President-Elect, **Susan Gerhard '88**, '07DPT, **Kevin Shollenberger '88**, University Trustee, **Kira (Tibbetts) Popky '87**



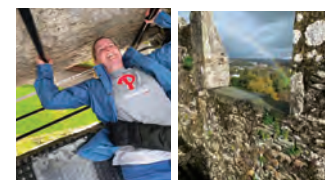
1992

**Lynne Podrat '92**, is an award winning author of a memoir and now children's book, *My Sister Wants an Elephant*. It launched January 10, 2023 from Atmosphere Press. *My Sister Wants an Elephant* is the perfect read-aloud book for

nursery school-aged children and, in the vein of books like *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds, explores sibling and family dynamics. This book has been 29 years in the making, through a change of careers receiving my Masters in Education, an Administrator Certification, and culminating in receiving my Career Technology Directorship.

1994

**Roseann McGrath '94M**, published "Midnight Clear at Christmas," which is book three of her inspirational romance series.



2000

**Katie (O'Connor) O'Brien '00**: I had the opportunity to spend two weeks exploring Ireland. The last time I was abroad was 25 years ago, as a freshman, on "London Preview!" I am so grateful to have had that experience abroad with my classmates and for all the wonderful memories. I was visiting Ireland during the Phillies playoff run, so I kissed the Blarney Stone with my Phillies shirt on to try to bring them some luck of the Irish! It was raining as we were kissing the stone, but then the sun came out quickly and this beautiful rainbow appeared.

2002

**Jennifer (Cannon) Bosco '02**: Hello Class of '02! I was sad to miss our reunion last year but have kept in contact with many of you on Facebook. I was blessed to catch up with my former roommate **Nancy Palmer '02** in Ocean City, New Jersey, last year

when I had to evacuate because of hurricane Ian. My husband and I have been living in Florida near Clearwater Beach for the past three years and we love it! We both work in education. I am working at a private K-12 school in which I teach Language Arts to kindergarten through third grade. Also, I am still teaching dance and theater during our Friday workshop programs. I am looking forward to being off this summer and doing some traveling up north. We will be staying for about 5-6 weeks at our OCNJ house. If you are there let me know and we can meet up!

2006

**Maria Briones '06**, In March 2023, I graduated from Capella University with my Masters degree in Social Work. I am currently the Foster Care Retention and Recruitment Specialist at Bethany Christian Services in Jenkintown, PA.

2008

**Jade (Mostyn) Bechelli '08** married **Chris Bechelli 2018**. Our daughter, **Matilda Rose Bechelli**, was born October 2019. In 2022, I started a new job as NJ Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

2013

**Robert Migliaccio '13**: Robert Migliaccio has recently been promoted to a new position at Temple University Health System as an EPIC Application Coordinator Technician. Along with the new position he has successfully been certified in EPIC Security as well as achieving his Data Courier Mover badge

from EPIC. He is grateful to have earned this promotion at TUHS and start a new adventure. He is very excited to continue his education in EPIC for more certifications and badges. He also hopes all of the fellow Class of 2013 friends are doing well.



2014

**Benjamin Hayward '14** and **Ashley (McIntyre) Hayward '14** were married on September 17, 2022, at the Free Library of Philadelphia after meeting at Arcadia University in 2014 and spending the last eight years together!

2015

Graduates of the Class of 2015, **Matthew Tocco '15** and **Ashlee Van Boening '15**, are excited to be tying the knot on September 23, 2023, in Newtown, PA.

Alexandra Mazzo '15:

As a graduate of Arcadia University Global Media & Communications program, I am proud to share that I am now a Social Media Specialist for AtlantiCare, southeastern New Jersey's largest healthcare system. Thanks to the well-rounded education I received at Arcadia through classes, internships and outreach opportunities, I use skills from my college years each and every day here in my workplace.

2018

**Olivia (Bates) Sanderson '18** and **Eric Sanderson '17** celebrated their love fostered through their Arcadia connection at their July 29, 2022 wedding. Olivia and Eric met in the

year following her graduation from Arcadia and bonded over their University memories and careers in education. The couple wed with many Arcadia friends by their side as they celebrated their special day.



1948

**Marcia Passon Landesberg**  
October 26, 2021

1955

**Barbara Jane "Bunny" Ludtke**  
December 10, 2022

1957

**Betty Lynn Tate Kirwan**  
May 31, 2023

1958

**Suzanne Skidmore**  
November 20, 2022

1960

**Judy Jackson**  
December 29, 2022

**Eileen O'Dwyer Hughes**  
July 3, 2021

1962

**Monica Berke**  
December 23, 2022

1969

**Karen L. Nissen**  
December 28, 2022

1977

**Regina (Miro) Hoover**  
*M.Ed.*  
October 9, 2022

1978

**Sarah J. Cooper**  
June 2, 2021

1983

**Mary E. Marvin**  
January, 2023

**Lenny Parker**  
March 30, 2023

Parker was inducted into the Arcadia University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010 for men's basketball.

1994

**Elizabeth "Betty" Stevenson**  
*Hogg M.Ed.*  
March 3, 2023

2007

**Miles Wilson M.Ed.**  
June 6, 2023

## JUST SAY YES—TO POSITIVE DRUG PEDAGOGY

Kevin Revier, assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice



What does a positive drug pedagogy look like? I have been exploring this question for the last seven years as a researcher, drug policy advocate, and teacher. I began in upstate New York, where I conducted fieldwork in a region hit hard by the opioid overdose crisis. I perused the local newspaper, analyzed criminal cases, and met with advocates, public officials, formerly

incarcerated people, and people who use and used drugs. In doing so, I accounted for racial disparity, for instance public officials' fixation on Black drug dealers, despite drug dealing being present across racial groups, and the more humanizing representations of white addiction in local reporting and by those same officials. I also recognized the increasing role of the jail in the low-income community, which acted as the primary healthcare provider despite numerous abuses and lawsuits. With fellow advocates, I protested, memorialized, and advocated for progressive drug policy.

I also felt the highs and lows of drug use, particularly alcohol. I began experimenting with drinking in high school, which continued into my college years. Despite my hopes to cut back in graduate school, beer kegs turned into wine-filled dinner parties and, well, more beer kegs. I also drank alone, sipping IPAs when reading social theory at a bar or consuming caffeine pills and pounders while writing my dissertation in my on-campus office. Once out of the field—shortly after I began working at Arcadia in 2019—I decided to quit long term.

These elements—of critical research, advocacy, and personal reflection—comprise a positive drug pedagogy and are at the heart of my Drugs & Society course.

For critical research, students and I examine the historical roots of the US drug war, of the imagined Black, Mexican, and Chinese cocaine and dope fiends warned of by reporters, scientists, and policymakers. This built into the contemporary War on Drugs, which has resulted in a staggering amount of Black and Latinx people in our jails and prisons, often sitting alongside low-income whites.

We talk advocacy, including, of criminal justice reform and harm reduction, the latter being a philosophy and set of policies aimed at reducing individual and societal harms related to drug use. This includes needle exchanges, safe consumption spaces, fentanyl strips, and distribution of opioid reversal Narcan. Last fall, New York nonprofit Truth Pharm offered a Narcan training for us, where students received kits obtained from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

Then there is personal reflection. Students come to the classroom with a range of drug-related experiences, whether it is family and friends struggling with addiction, their own concerns after a night of heavy drinking, or exposure to sensationalized media imagery. In one particularly heartwarming class, Arcadia's own **Margo Maas**, who is associate director of Young Alumni & Student Engagement, bravely shared her experience of addiction and recovery. To be sure, we also acknowledge the positive aspects of drug use, whether enjoying a drink with friends, smoking at a concert,

**THESE ELEMENTS—OF CRITICAL RESEARCH, ADVOCACY, AND PERSONAL REFLECTION—COMPRISE A POSITIVE DRUG PEDAGOGY AND ARE AT THE HEART OF MY DRUGS & SOCIETY COURSE.**

or taking prescribed medication. Personally, I take an SSRI for anxiety, so, even when “sober,” I rely on a drug daily—and caffeine is always a struggle.

When comfortable, students share their experiences while others listen and respond, turning personal reflection into collective engagement. We keep it confidential. Additionally, we recognize the significant impact that socioeconomic status has on one's experience with drugs, drug policy, and even recovery.

With these three elements, I say *yes* to a positive drug pedagogy that goes beyond the longstanding, ineffective, and dangerous “Just Say No” approach. I do so with a collective aim to save lives, support those struggling, and, yes, enjoy drugs while doing so.

*Professor Revier's research interests include drug policy, cultural criminology, the opioid crisis, addiction, critical race theory, media, and restorative and transformative justice. He is currently working on his book, Policing Pain: Opioids, Crisis, and a Shifting Drug War, which will be published with New York University Press.*

# Did You Know?

By Ryan Hiemenz '23



Many know that Arcadia University has a legacy that stretches back to 1853. With such a rich history, the institution is full of fun facts.

**Spoof news long before *The Onion*:** During the 1930s and 1940s, Beaver College students published spoof newspapers titled *Beaver's Nooze* and the *Beaver Bugle*.

**What's in a name?** While most may be familiar with the names Arcadia University and Beaver College, the institution has had **four names** in its history—Beaver Female Seminary (1853-1872), Beaver College and Musical Institute (1872-1907), Beaver College (1907-2001), and Arcadia University (2001-Present).

**Chatterbox to Chat:** The student snack bar on the Jenkintown Campus was called “The Chatterbox,” inspiring the name for our current snack bar, “The Chat.”



**Infants on loan:** As a part of Beaver College's senior Home Economics lab curriculum in the early 1930s, students were required to take care of a real infant for one week. (Yes, you read that correctly.) These infants lived in a nursery in Highland Hall on the Jenkintown Campus and were “on loan” from a local orphanage.



**Right on target:** From 1935 to 1953, the women's intercollegiate rifle team won the National Women's Intercollegiate Championships in 1948, 1950, and 1951. The team was so good that the U.S. Marine Corps challenged them to a match, which the Beaver College team won.

**When males were first admitted:** Male students—not beyond the age of 14—were admitted to Beaver College and Musical Institute between 1872 and 1907; that practice was discontinued, and it wasn't until 1972 that male undergraduate students were admitted.

