from GLENSIDE to GLACIERS

Also: Teaching Media and Comms Today, pg. 20
Arcadia adapts innovative teaching models on communication and media in a fast-changing digital environment.

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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On cover: Aoife Samuelson ’24 in Antarctica.
Dear Beaver College and Arcadia University Alumni and Friends,

Our University community has always been one of ambition, adventure, and adaptability. Many of you have helped to shape this legacy, both during and after your time as students, and the stories in this issue bring to life examples of this shared spirit.

With technology and the modes of communication evolving on a continuous track, teaching today requires innovation and flexibility. Teaching methods should also adhere to the foundational principles that have existed at this institution since its inception — faculty mentorship, collaboration, and experiential learning. In his story, "Just Like Punk Rock: Teaching and Learning Media and Communication in the Digital Age," Ryan Hiemenz ’23 explores how faculty in the Media and Communication department teach and connect with students today, and shows how the department grew from a closed-door office to one with 77 current students, who are managing lifestyle magazines and public relations efforts, recording podcasts, filming and editing short films, and much more.

Arcadia students continue to embrace a sense of adventure, which has led them all over the globe. Over this past winter break, Aoife Samuelson ’24 ventured to Antarctica, making her one of the first Knights — if not the first — to record a trip to the seventh continent. I always enjoy hearing firsthand accounts of Arcadia students chronicling their experiences — after all, they know the Arcadia experience better than anyone — and Aoife’s words, and the extraordinary images she captured, advance that pioneering spirit inherent in Arcadia students for generations.

Each year, I am humbled by the generosity of our donors and alumni supporters. Since 2018, our philanthropic achievement is up 163 percent. That’s not a misprint. This remarkable achievement is because of your belief in this institution, in our students, and in a future that carries on our storied legacy that you helped to shape. I want to thank donors such as Carolyn Hodges ’69 for their support and encouragement. Each year, I am humbled by the generosity of our donors and alumni supporters. Since 2018, our philanthropic achievement is up 163 percent. That’s not a misprint. This remarkable achievement is because of your belief in this institution, in our students, and in a future that carries on our storied legacy that you helped to shape. I want to thank donors such as Carolyn Hodges ’69 for their support and encouragement.

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In January, civil rights activist Margaret Howard Taylor visited Arcadia University and shared her story during a series of events to honor the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., organized and hosted by the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Committee of the Office of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. While a student at Shaw University in the 1960s, Taylor was arrested and jailed for sitting in a “white-only” restaurant. Upon her release, she earned her degree and went on to teach for 32 years. Here is an excerpt from our sit-down interview with her.

Q: What happened when you sat down in the restaurant?
A: Well, I didn’t get to sit down. I was told standing up in the line that I had two minutes to leave because “we don’t serve n—.” After two minutes, they handcuffed us and walked us down to the jail cell.

Where I was locked up at that time was only about four doors down from the restaurant. It was terrible. I wouldn’t want to repeat it. But we knew we were doing it for a good cause. We had been spoken to by Dr. King to participate in the committees. So we knew what to expect if we stood in that line after we were told we had two minutes to leave the restaurant. We knew we were going to jail.

Q: How do you view the United States today and what still needs to be done?
A: I view the U.S. today as a place where everyone should be given an opportunity to do their best, to be in the workforce, to treat people as they should be treated. This is not only Dr. King, this is some of God’s promises to us. I believe that the students of today are better, especially the students, both white and Black, Asian, or whoever because they are leaning on the things that we brought to them by way of sit-ins and jail time. I do believe that they would be nonviolent. They will continue the struggle for equality for all people.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST VISITS CAMPUS DURING MLK JR. WEEK OF SERVICE

Dr. Angela McNiel, assistant vice president of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, asks Margaret Howard Taylor about her lived experiences as a student activist.

I believe that the students of today are better... because they are leaning on the things that we brought to them by way of sit-ins and jail time.

Read our full interview with Taylor at arcadia.edu/news/margaret-howard-taylor.
STUDENT WORK GOES TO THE MOVIES...

In October, redesigned classic movie posters created by Graphic Design students were prominently displayed in the historic Ambler Theater and Hiway Theater in Jenkintown.

“Both of these theaters have been an inspiration to students for over 50 years,” said Patchell. “The opportunity for students to get some work published outside the classroom is one of the most rewarding aspects.”

“Seeing your work in print for any young designer is really fun,” said Patchell. “It helps them think about their work and their place in design outside of the classroom.”

Creating prototypes and plate selection
Brewer, DiRienzo, and Mack created more than 100 prototypes, including plates, bowls, and cups for sauces. Rhee meticulously compared pieces looking at elevation, diameter, curvature, and most importantly, how they would relate to the other dishes on the table. In his la carte menu, all the plates work together in harmony. This is not dissimilar to Korean culture today, he said. The societal pressure to "not stick out too much" is reflected in the exhibition.

Rhee selected a combination of prototype plateware that he wanted to see for the designs. Brewer, DiRienzo, and Mack then created 80 of the desired sets that were used for guests at Stir while the exhibit was open.

“The project has been a unique experience,” said DiRienzo. “It’s more particular and specific than anything I’ve ever done in ceramics. It’s forced me to be more intentional and focused than I’ve ever been before while doing ceramics. I’ve had to push myself because we need one specific outcome.”

He said that the feet on the plates, for example, were a lot of work because they must all be the exact shape and size. If they aren't, the plates will sit at different heights or lean certain ways, which could disrupt the meal and serving the food, he added.

Majors and non-majors
Angelina Brewer started her studies at Arcadia as an Art History major. After returning to campus after the COVID disruption, she decided to take a Ceramics class to fulfill an elective.

It was a decision that changed her educational journey and her future goals.

Brewer changed her major to Studio Art, with a Ceramics concentration. With her degree now in hand, she plans to pursue a master's degree at the Institute of American Indian Art in New Mexico and ultimately return home to the Ojibwe Native American reservation in Wisconsin — where she grew up — to teach ceramics to people living there.

Brewer, however, is the only one of the three students who majored in Art.

Mack transferred to Arcadia as an undergraduate in 2018 to finish his degree and now works as a therapist. He returned to Arcadia to get his master's degree, and in the fall of 2022, took his first Ceramics class. One thing he tells his clients is to find ways to stay calm and physically do things that make them happy. For Mack, he found his way in ceramics.

DiRienzo took his first Ceramics class as an elective during his junior year because it was always something that piqued his interest. As a Psychology major, ceramics wasn't something he expected to really enjoy because he didn't see much of a connection between the two.

Now, however, he almost finds the routine therapeutic and is ecstatic that he and his former classmates' work was displayed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

“During the class, we always had freedom to work on what we wanted, so I mostly worked on mugs on mugs,” said DiRienzo. “As the chef has come in, it’s gotten more and more specific. It’s been really challenging but really unique and fun.”

...AND TO THE ART MUSEUM

From left to right: Michael DiRienzo ’23, Daniel Mack ’18, ’23M, Executive Chef Hoon Rhee, Professor Gregg Moore, and Angelina Brewer ’23.
Arcadia is proud to announce the launch of a local chapter of the Alpha Alpha Alpha Society on campus. The Alpha Alpha Alpha Society, also known as Tri-Alpha, is a national honors society for first-generation college students that offers members a variety of benefits including mentoring sessions, networking opportunities with employers and other members, outward recognition of personal achievement, and more. First-generation college students share a unique bond on campus at Arcadia as the first in their family to attend college. At Arcadia, 26 percent of first-year students are first-generation college students. The new Tri-Alpha chapter on campus will assist these students and connect them with peers to share their stories and experience. Arcadia President Ajay Nair and Donavan McCargo, Vice President for Campus Life and Dean of Students, are both first-generation college graduates.

“During my college experience, I wished there were more organizations that supported first-generation college students," said Dr. McCargo. "As a young Black man attending a predominantly white institution, being connected to an organization like Tri-Alpha could have made my experience more transformational through its mentorship and networking opportunities. I am excited to be a part of bringing this opportunity to Arcadia.”

The Arcadia University Theater Arts program performed “The Laramie Project” this fall in the Little Theater at Spruance Art Center. In preparation for the opening, students got a surprise from one of the creators and original cast members of the show: Barbara Pitts. Pitts, a member of the Tectonic Theater Project and motivational speaker, visited campus on Nov. 4 and gave students tips on how to best produce and perform the show. “We had no idea she was coming, and everyone freaked out,” said Julia Sharkey ’24, a Theater Arts major. “She was so cool, and it was amazing to be in the presence of someone who wrote the show.”

“The Laramie Project” depicts the aftermath of the 1998 death of Matthew Shepard, who was severely beaten and ultimately died in the town of Laramie, Wyoming, because he was gay. Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project, including Pitts, made six trips to Laramie over the course of a year and a half, in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men now serving life sentences for killing Shepard.

They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. Some were directly connected to the case, while others were citizens of Laramie. The play is a recreation and reciting of these interviews and the creators’ own experiences in Laramie. Pitts told students that this production is different from many others. Instead of a traditional breakdown of scenes, the show relies more on “moments.”

“The most important advice she gave us is that the show doesn’t end once every scene stops,” Sharkey, who is playing eight different roles on stage throughout the show, said. “This is not a standard play; the moments are very short and roll into each other. Just because one moment ends, doesn’t mean you start over.”

Rosa Nardo ’24, a Theater Arts major, performed on stage for the first time in the Arcadia program. Previously, she worked on costumes and other important projects behind the scenes. Now, she will be center stage. “Like other actors in the production, Nardo played several roles including a university professor, doctor, and prosecuting attorney. “It’s an honor to be a part of this play,” Nardo said. “As soon as I saw ‘The Laramie Project’ was going to be part of our season, I jumped out of my body. The play is so important and crucial to how we look at the world. Just getting to work with this and the characters has just been very delightful.”

Nardo and Sharkey added that the whole company worked day and night to make sure they put on the best show possible and to honor Shepard’s memory. “This was a very difficult process compared to other productions we have done,” Sharkey said. “It’s completely different from ‘The Wolves,’ which we did last. ‘The Wolves’ was physically intense, but the lines weren’t as hard because it was modern speech. For Laramie, the accent and lines were very challenging.”

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“It was an honor to do this show, especially because it’s the 25th anniversary of Matthew Shepard’s death,” she added. “We had rehearsal on the day he passed so he’s been very much with us and we’ve tried our best to keep his spirit alive.”

MEDIEVAL-STYLE MURAL DISCOVERED IN CASTLE

A medieval-style heraldic coat of arms mural, possibly from the 19th century, was discovered behind a drop ceiling in a women’s bathroom on the first floor of Grey Towers Castle. The mural, believed to date back to between 1898 and 1929, depicts two lions and a lily flower centerpiece against a tan background. Surface Experts of Northeast Philadelphia’s Andrea Marino handled the restoration.

“This looks like painted tile, but really it’s done in pencil. I had to sand everything down because there was exposed spackle, holes, and a lot of other general problems that came up over time. Overall, it took me a little bit more than two hours,” said Macchi. This is not the first time workers have uncovered a historic piece of Grey Towers Castle behind decades-old renovations. In 2016, a fireplace was found on the Admissions side of the castle behind a wall. That fireplace has since been restored and reinstalled around the castle. “We really want to keep everything as original as possible,” said Macchi. “We’ve had to modernize a few things out of necessity, like putting in an elevator, but overall, we try to keep the castle as original as possible.”

“When we removed the ceiling and put a light on it, we were astonished,” said Macchi. “The mural was in much better condition than expected.”

With gloved hands, Andrea Marino of Surface Experts of Northeast Philadelphia examines the mural.
Arcadia University received a $25,000 grant from the Society of Family Planning to conduct a mixed-method study on contraceptive side effects, specifically for people of color, and how best to address these issues. The study, led by Comfort Z. Olonuaniye, Ph.D., assistant professor of Public Health, and Dejana Gordon, MPH, assistant professor of Public Health, will consist of a cross-sectional survey with 305 women of color and people with other marginalized identities in Greater Philadelphia. In-depth interviews will be conducted with about 30 people who experienced contraceptive side effects in the last year and 10 clinicians providing contraceptive services in community health centers. The goal is to gather information on contraceptive side effects and generate evidence on how to support people experiencing these side effects through tailored clinical support.

Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania, which provides sexual and reproductive health services in Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, and Chester Counties, will help with enrollment of patients for this study. Patients will also be recruited from other federally qualified health centers in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Contraception allows individuals to plan their families and maintain bodily autonomy. However, Black, Brown, and other marginalized people have historically been subjected to racist and unethical origins of gynecology practices. This underlies the current disparities in reproductive health care in the United States and the distrust between medical providers and people of color.

Slightly more than one-half of births to Black women between 2006 and 2010 were unintended compared with one-third of births to non-Hispanic white women during the same period. Although contraceptive methods can be an important tool for family planning, many people discontinue using them or switch to less effective methods because of side effects.

Knowing potential side effects of contraceptives and having a clear and accessible process to address them can help with contraceptive decision-making and advance reproductive justice, especially in the wake of abortion restrictions and bans in the country.

**NSF GRANT LEADING TO CYBERSECURITY WORKSHOPS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

Arcadia University, in partnership with Elmhurst University, received a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation to create cybersecurity workshops with the aim of educating and recruiting more students into the practice of cybersecurity. Arcadia University was awarded $160,710 to implement its project activities out of $499,620 of the total NSF funding received by Elmhurst University.

Vitaly Ford, Ph.D., associate professor of Computer Science at Arcadia and co-principal investigator on the grant, will work with faculty at Elmhurst to create workshops for high school faculty in an effort to bridge the gap between high school education and college-level cybersecurity programs.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number and scale of cyberattacks. Many of these attacks have affected government agencies, businesses, schools, and individuals. This fact, combined with society’s pervasive dependence on technology, has highlighted the critical need for more cybersecurity professionals.

Unfortunately, there is a widening gap between the number of available positions and the number of college graduates able to fill those positions.

This project will focus on conducting faculty development workshops aimed at improving cybersecurity education for high school teachers. By empowering high school teachers with cybersecurity knowledge, they can help inspire and guide students toward considering cybersecurity degrees and careers.

“The workshops will become a pivotal bridge for the Philadelphia metropolitan high school teachers,” said Ford. “It will assist them in guiding their students towards a future in cybersecurity and addressing the pressing demand for skilled professionals in the face of escalating cyber threats.”

**ARCADIA RECEIVES $25K GRANT TO STUDY CONTRACEPTIVE SIDE EFFECTS IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**

**DR. CASCINELLI PUBLISHES ON VIRTUAL EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE, INTERNSHIPS**

2024 marks the 20th year of Arcadia’s signature First-Year Study Abroad Experience (FYSAE). Forty first-year students are spending the spring semester in London, taking courses that bring them into the city’s streets and neighborhoods for hands-on learning experiences. The FYSAE program attracts highly motivated students, and about 10% of each incoming class participates.

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ARCADIA HOSTS INAUGURAL LENAPE CULTURAL HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

On October 12, Arcadia hosted the inaugural Lenape Cultural Heritage Symposium in front of a packed crowd in the Commons Great Room.

The symposium, sponsored by the Center for Antiracist Cultural Heritage, Advocacy, and Action (CASAA), the CASAA Indigenous Working Group, the Office of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and the Social Justice Society, included a ceremonial drumming session, a history lesson of the Lenape tribe, a saging ceremony, artwork, and artifacts displayed from the tribe, and more.

“Our collaboration with the Lenape nation started about three years ago with the idea of drafting a Land Acknowledgement Statement, and since then it has grown into a great partnership,” said Favian Martin, Ph.D., associate professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and associate director of CASAA. “The symposium is the largest event we’ve done to date with indigenous programming. In the future, we plan on building an art collection featuring the history and culture of the Lenape people that will be in the library.”

The Lenape’s historical territory included present-day northeastern Delaware, New Jersey, and large portions of eastern Pennsylvania and western New York state. As such, they were the original caretakers of the land where Arcadia University now sits.

Members of Lenape Nation welcomed students, faculty, staff, and outside guests to the symposium with a ceremonial smudging, helping to set the tone for a fun, educational day.

“The smudging we do is something we do every time we come together,” said Adam ‘Waterbear’ DePaul, a chief of Lenape Nation and director of education, as well as an adjunct professor at Arcadia. “The point of the smudging is to come together in a good way. As the smoke goes over you, and you breathe it, you leave negative energy behind and it goes up with that smoke.”

“I work with 40 colleges, and Arcadia is absolutely at the top when it comes to embracing its Indigenous people and culture,” said DePaul. “Over the last few years, Arcadia has maintained constant contact, and they offered me a scholarship residency to help ‘decolonize’ the curriculum at the school. This will include the curriculum across the university, a reading section on Lenape history at the library, programs like this to spread the culture—it’s just been incredible.”

Members of the Lenape Nation lead a ceremony for the symposium.

GREY TOWERS WELCOME CENTER DEBUTS

Grey Towers Castle debuted a new Welcome Center on the second floor that captures the history, legacy, and dynamism of Arcadia. This is part of a multi-phase effort to revitalize the east side of the second floor of the Castle. The room next to the Welcome Center, previously used for storage, is now a presentation room for students, faculty, and visitors.

INTERFAITH SPACE OPENS

An interfaith space on campus has opened to allow community members to pray, worship, and meditate.

Located in 103A Dilworth Hall, the space is open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is available for every religious and non-religious person(s) seeking an area for quiet reflection.

“Spirituality is an important aspect of many students’, faculty, and staff’s lives and an Interfaith Space demonstrates alignment with the lived values of Arcadia University and supports religious diversity on campus,” said Dr. Angela McNeil, assistant vice president of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AEDI).

“The room is a collaboration between the AEDI office and Campus Life; the idea came about when several students, specifically of the Islamic faith, approached Dr. McNeil and Dr. Donavan McCargo, vice president of Campus Life, about the need for a spot on campus to pray. Over the past few months, Taylor Wheatley ’22, an AEDI Liaison, and Alannah Giles ’23, graduate assistant for Student Engagement, led the effort to clean, lightly furnish, and paint the room, which previously housed University equipment.

“The room is nicely decorated and does not reflect any particular denomination. It can accommodate small groups of up to eight people and is furnished with chairs, floor pillows, a table lamp, a shoe rack, and a bookcase.

“I have found it invaluable to my overall well-being to regularly engage in prayer, meditation, and reading sacred texts,” Dr. McCargo said. “These practices help me better understand who I am and provide me with encouragement, perspective, and guidance.”

Keep up-to-date — sign up for news and updates! Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3SAiU0U
WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY SCORES CONFERENCE TITLE

In just its third year of existence, the Arcadia women’s ice hockey team captured a share of the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Title when it defeated King’s 4-1, on Feb. 7 at Hatfield Ice Arena. The Knights are led by head coach and former professional women’s ice hockey player Kelsey Koelzer, the first Black head coach in NCAA ice hockey history.

Four different goal scorers found the back of the net for the Knights as Ariel Williamson ’25, Karahkwenhawe White ’25, Abbi Komrofske ’26, and Morganne Dee ’25 all found themselves on the scoresheet in the win. Komrofske and White also added assists to lead the team with two points. Hannah Bergeron ’25 picked up her eighth win of the season in goal for Arcadia, making 20 saves.

Photo by Joe Kraus ’24

ATHLETICS NEWS

QUICK HITS

At press time, Arcadia’s men’s and women’s basketball teams had both secured spots in the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom Tournaments. The women’s team, led by top scorers Delaney Bell ’26 and Hanna Rhoades ’26, had tied the program record for conference wins in a season and had a 20-3 overall record.

Micah Gordley ’24 was named 2023 Women’s Cross Country Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Senior Scholar-Athlete. Gordley is the first cross country runner and only the eighth Arcadia athlete to receive this title. She is a three-time All-Region recipient and was named to the Philly-SIDA Academic All-Area team. She finished fourth at the 2023 NCAA Regional meet, the highest finish in program history, and is only the second cross country runner to qualify and compete at the NCAA National Meet. She holds the program 6K record of 22:03.3.

For the men’s team, guard Jalen Watkins ’24 carried a double-double average (17 points, 11.5 rebounds) into the playoffs.

Gordley ’24 (middle) with Coaches Kirsten O’Malley (left) and Ben Bumgarner (right).

Follow along for all the scores and highlights at arcadiaknights.com, and come cheer on the Knights on campus.

ATHLETICS NEWS

FINKELDEY TRAVELS FROM NAMIBIA, AFRICA, TO ATTEND, PLAY HOCKEY AT ARCADIA

Max Finkeldey ’26 came to the U.S. with a few bags and no idea who was going to pick him up at the Philadelphia International Airport. The Namibia native came looking to play ice hockey, a rarity for someone from the sub-saharan African country that prides itself on its prowess in inline hockey. A year and a half later, Finkeldey is now a member of the Arcadia men’s ice hockey team.

A Later Start

Just a few years after beginning his inline hockey career, Finkeldey was invited to be part of the Namibia national team in 2017. After traveling around the world playing inline hockey, Finkeldey decided he wanted a new challenge – one that would require him to trade in his roller skates for ice skates.

At first, Finkeldey struggled with the shift to different rules – five players for each team instead of four, offsides and icing penalties, and checking – and skating on ice instead of roller blading on a dry surface.

Commitment to Arcadia

Finkeldey arrived on campus in Glenside for the fall 2023 semester. Since then, he’s been playing hockey with the team and working to get adjusted to college life.

“The ice hockey season is the toughest season in college sports,” Finkeldey said. “You get to school for two weeks and then you start preseason practices, then you get into the season and you have practice every day and games every weekend… that goes until about March.”

The daily schedule is rigorous – practice at 6 a.m., classes beginning at 9:45 a.m., lunch at 1:30 p.m., a team workout at 2 p.m., schoolwork until 7 or 8 p.m., and then bed. Still, there’s nothing else Finkeldey would rather be doing. The early start time allows him to talk to his family before they go to bed on the other side of the world, and being on the team has led to friendships and opportunities here at Arcadia.

“You really have to love hockey and enjoy everything about this experience to be successful at the collegiate level,” Finkeldey said. “Getting back into the rhythm of school has been tough because I graduated high school three years ago. The transition to college hockey, however, has been one of the most fun things I’ve ever done in my life. It’s been a great experience and I’m so happy to be here.”

For the men’s team, guard Jalen Watkins ’24 carried a double-double average (17 points, 11.5 rebounds) into the playoffs.

Gordley ’24 (middle) with Coaches Kirsten O’Malley (left) and Ben Bumgarner (right).

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A former member of Namibia’s national inline hockey team, Finkeldey ’26 says the transition to Arcadia has been a great experience.
Lynda Spielman ’64, Ph.D. and Carolyn Hodges ’69, Ph.D. do not know one another well, but they agree: Arcadia education remains a good investment for future generations. That’s why both recently endowed scholarships at Arcadia, for History majors and international travel experiences, respectively. And if that weren’t remarkable enough, unrelated to their scholarships, Dr. Spielman celebrates her 60th Beaver College/ Arcadia University reunion this year, and Dr. Hodges ’69, is celebrating her 55th.

“Observing the accomplishments of its students and faculty, inspired me to secure the future of Arcadia,” said Dr. Hodges, a retired Professor Emerita of German and Vice Provost and Dean Emerita at the Graduate School of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she still lives.

Dr. Spielman, a retired historian living in Albany, NY, echoes those sentiments. “It makes sense to invest in what I believe to be the Arcadia experience still encourages civic involvement, collaboration, and interdependence among its students, and those are qualities that society needs.”

The Lynda Spielman ’64 Endowed Scholarship supports undergraduate students majoring in history. “As a historian,” Dr. Spielman said, “I hope students will enjoy studying history while being committed to its relevance for today and the future. A good education in its broadest sense is one of the most important avenues for securing a better future for our world.”

Impacted by her lifelong love of international travel that was born from her time studying abroad as a Beaver College student, The Carolyn Richardson Hodges ’69 Study Abroad Scholarship aims to foster that same love of international travel for students with financial need. Dr. Hodges said, “I hope the scholarship will encourage more students to study abroad and engage in more intensive study of world languages and cultures as part of building their professional future. It is one way of replicating the University’s commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity by helping to build and sustain a global and inclusive academic community.”

Both Dr. Hodges and Dr. Spielman hope to attend Alumni Reunion Weekend at Arcadia on April 26 and 27. “The point of reunions,” Dr. Spielman said, “is to spark reflection on what one experienced and learned, in a shared way, and for alumni to catch up on what the future may hold for the University. I enjoyed past reunions for reconnecting with my classmates and catching up on Arcadia developments.”

Dr. Hodges, too, is excited for her reunion. “I am looking forward to my upcoming reunion year because of the wonderful camaraderie among my classmates that I have enjoyed at past reunions. Not only do we catch up on the momentous events during our student years, but also about our lives after leaving Arcadia. We can reflect on the positive impact of our time as students and how we have given back to others at Arcadia and elsewhere as mentors and benefactors.”

While it has been decades since either woman was a student, endowing scholarships and preparing for reunion is a good time to reflect on today’s Arcadia students and their experiences. Dr. Spielman said, “I would advise students to stay flexible, acknowledge that you are learning skills like organizing, researching, communicating, and are learning to learn. I think such an outlook or attitude is key to personal as well as career successes in the short and long term.”

Dr. Hodges too has advice for today’s students. “I would advise today’s Arcadia students to engage, in various academic areas of study on campus, making connections with surrounding communities, exploring international initiatives (both at home and abroad), and utilizing the multitude of advising and mentoring services available to them from faculty, staff, and peers.”

Both agree that becoming an active alumni in some capacity is important. “When becoming an alum, I would encourage others to stay connected anyway he or she can – even if it means making a small donation each year, to acknowledge thanks for their educational experience, and to offer stability to the University’s mission,” said Dr. Spielman.

Dr. Hodges agrees. “I believe that the accomplishments and dedication of each class of students become a mirror for the classes that follow and that the gifts we bestow connect that dedication across generations.”

Lynda Spielman ’64, Ph.D.

Carolyn Hodges ’69, Ph.D.

KAY WALKINGSTICK ’59 ’11H: A NATIONAL LEADER IN INDIGENOUS PAINTING

In October 2023, the discerning eyes of New York City’s artistic elites were set squarely on a new exhibit at the New York Historical Society of Cherokee artist and Beaver College alumna, Kay WalkingStick ’59 ’11H, who also received an Honorary Doctor of humane letters from Arcadia University at the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony in 2011. Aptly titled “Kay WalkingStick/Hudson River School” and featured in the Oct. 19 “New York Times.” WalkingStick’s 40 original paintings include two that are both in relation to, and in contrast with, the 19th-century Hudson River School’s majestic and often one-sided depictions of the American landscape. After all, the Hudson River School landscapes portrayed barren vistas, when, of course, WalkingStick’s ancestors populated the countryside with Indigenous life.

Born in Syracuse, NY, her Scottish-Irish mother divorced her Cherokee father when pregnant with WalkingStick, but her mother instilled in her a deep pride for her Indigenous heritage. WalkingStick worked as a Bell Telephone operator while studying art at Beaver College, and soon after graduating was married to her first husband and raising two children. Even before earning an MFA degree from the Pratt Institute in 1975, WalkingStick was always a perennial exhibitor in museums, galleries, and exhibitions across the country and around the world. In fact, it would take less space to list where she hasn’t been exhibited than where she has.

Starting out her professional life as a painter of self-portraits, WalkingStick soon moved into a period of abstract painting that often depicted deconstructed geological scenes. Spending time in the Colorado Rockies inspired her love of landscape painting, which soon became her focus, but with an Indigenous brush.

As the New York Historical Society says on its website of her current work: “The exhibition celebrates a shared reverence for nature while engaging crucial questions about land dispossession and its reclamation by Indigenous peoples and nations and exploring the relationship between Indigenous art and American art history.” The Society goes on to say that several of her most recent paintings, “…overlap geographically specific abstract Indigenous patterns onto representational landscapes in order to re-assert an Indigenous presence long erased in European settlers’ depictions of North America as a pristine and unpopulated wildness.”

It was announced in January that WalkingStick would be among artists and collectors included in The Venice Biennale in 2024, arguably the world’s most important recurring art exhibition, set to run from April 20 to November 24. From her home studio in Easton, Pa., WalkingStick filmed a welcome video for Arcadia’s fourth annual Women Who Lead Forum on March 23, which celebrates the power and strength of women, honors the pursuits and influence of women’s leadership, and empowers all women to lead within their communities. WalkingStick’s originality mends perfectly with the theme of this year’s Women Who Lead Forum: Being Your Authentic Self.

The Kay WalkingStick/Hudson River School exhibit runs until April 14, 2024. The New York Historical Society at 170 Central Park West, Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), New York, NY 10024.
Dear Arcadia University Alumni,

When each of us enrolled in Beaver College or Arcadia University, we benefited from the students, faculty, and staff that came before us and built this beloved institution. The same can be said for the Arcadia University Alumni Association (AUAA), and in my first letter to you as the new President of AUAA, I want to thank my predecessor, who also became my friend, Maya Basu Johnson ’97. Maya’s commitment to Arcadia and its alumni is inspirational, and her success as President was remarkable. She will continue to be active in her alma mater, and we will continue to be the beneficiaries of her participation. Thank you, Maya.

Decades ago, I enrolled at Arcadia as a first generation college student, and soon discovered many of my friends and peers held the same distinction. We succeeded because Arcadia provided the resources and support that students needed, both academic and social. The global viewpoint of the institution and its faculty launched my desire to live and work abroad, which I did for several years after graduate school in Poland (where I met my husband), Israel, and the Republic of Georgia. Arcadia’s focus on critical thinking, writing, problem-solving, and collaboration were transferable to all professional disciplines and continue to serve me today.

The Alumni Association serves you today, too, and vice-versa. The AUAA is enhancing its opportunities for professional development and networking, along with lifelong learning and leadership experiences. We continue to enhance the opportunities for you to mentor today’s students and become active in their professional lives and the social life of the campus.

My invitation to you is to seize these opportunities to benefit yourself and the alumni of tomorrow. Consider attending a University event like the Women Who Lead Forum or Alumni Reunion Weekend to reconnect with your peers, or attend an Athletics competition to cheer on your Knights. Perhaps you’d enjoy reconnecting with your classmates, friends, and peers held the same distinction. We succeeded because Arcadia provided the resources and support that students needed, both academic and social. The global viewpoint of the institution and its faculty launched my desire to live and work abroad, which I did for several years after graduate school in Poland (where I met my husband), Israel, and the Republic of Georgia. Arcadia’s focus on critical thinking, writing, problem-solving, and collaboration were transferable to all professional disciplines and continue to serve me today.

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My invitation to you is to seize these opportunities to benefit yourself and the alumni of tomorrow. Consider a RTG, a nominee must meet a number of criteria, and most importantly demonstrate a commitment and dedication to the University.

Camilo J. López Delgado ’15, Assistant Director at Princeton University’s Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, serves as an RTG on the Board alongside RTG Aliyah Abraham ’17. López Delgado said, “The Recent Graduate Trustee position allows me to contribute a unique perspective and add to the other expertise of the Board. I am able to lend my voice, drawn from my own experiences, and add to the wider conversation in regards to improving the value that Arcadia is providing to both its students and alumni.”

Abraham is also a highly active member of the Arcadia community, facilitating the creation of the Knights for Nutrition program, and being the first president of the Black Alumni Association of Arcadia University (BAAAU) where she launched the Preview Travel Fund to increase the participation rates of Black students studying abroad.

Engaging G.O.L.D. is also about engaging today’s students, even in the simplest of ways. For example, these alumni write handwritten cards to welcome incoming students to the Arcadia community. One such letter-writer is Danita Mapes ’23, who attended online school for most of her pre-collegiate education until she arrived in-person at Glendale. “I found a community at Arcadia where I could be myself. I want to continue fostering the sort of environment I love and miss,” Mapes said. “I met friends in orientation I’m still close with today, met the love of my life in Honors, and forged connections with my professors.”

Both Spaschak and Mapes recognize the importance of young alumni/student connections, and through professional networking events like Take a Knight to Work, they are helping students transition into the workplace. “This program allows current students to virtually connect and visit with alumni to explore their aspirational career paths without the pressure of a grade or full-time internship commitment. Experiences vary from conversations over coffee or lunch, to even a full or half-day experience at a workplace,” said Maas.

Spaschak said, “I want to continue to give back to the institution that has given so much to me. Supporting and working within the AUAA has also allowed me to connect with G.O.L.D. Knights who share that common spark. If it was not for those who believed in me during my time at Arcadia, I would not be where I am today, in a career path that truly fills my cup and one I can’t imagine life without.”

To learn more or to participate in G.O.L.D. activities, contact Margo Maas at maasm@arcadia.edu.
Beyond Travel: Life-Changing Heinz Program

Inspired by Arcadia’s national renown in study abroad, Nyla Russell ’23 (at right) had her sights set on an international experience in Cape Town, South Africa, to be both inspirational and educational. “In making this decision I prioritized a journey of self that included a better understanding of the origin of the transatlantic slave trade,” Russell said. “Additionally, I wanted to not just learn about, but experience, a post-apartheid South Africa and analyze it from a policy-making standpoint.”

Traveling to another hemisphere is a financial hurdle for many. Russell had heard about Arcadia’s participation in the Vira I. Heinz (VIH) Program for Women, Non-Binary, and Transgender Global Leaders, a scholarship of at least $5,000 for a summer global experience participation in the Vira I. Heinz Program for Women, Non-Binary, and Transgender Global Leaders, a scholarship of at least $5,000 for a summer global experience of the student’s choosing.

Arcadia is among 14 colleges and universities across Pennsylvania participating in VIH, hosted through the University of the student’s choosing. Each year, three Arcadia students (in 2023, four students) are awarded the $5,000 scholarship after a competitive application process conducted by an Arcadia-based selection committee, headed by Kay Greene, MS, assistant dean of Undergraduate Success. Greene has overseen Arcadia’s VIH participation for 17 years. In fact, Arcadia has been participating in VIH (under differing names) since 1954.

Russell was selected, and her dream of a Cape Town experience was a reality. But VIH isn’t a typical study abroad experience. The VIH Program has four components: the summer global experience (travel), the Community Engagement Experience (CEE), and two weekend-long intensive leadership development conferences in Pittsburgh, Pa. The CEE centers on the concept “Think Globally, Act Locally,” and VIH awarders are charged with forming a team and using their new found skills, knowledge, and passions from travel to impact their local communities in a positive, innovative way.

“This year’s Arcadian VIH recipients had a CEE panel discussion on December 7, on Gender Inequalities: A Global Crisis, that “aimed to create an inclusive and transformative dialogue that transcends borders and deepens our understanding of gender inequalities through the lens of their experiences in South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom.”

According to Greene, “The VIH is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Arcadia scholars to not only have an amazing international experience but seeks to empower those from marginalized communities, and to sharpen and amplify their leadership skills, engage in discussions around intersectionality of gender and leadership, and discover their voice and purpose. This program goes above and beyond a simple study abroad opportunity. For many this is life-changing.”

Russell agrees. “I decided to apply for the Vira I. Heinz scholarship because this grant came with more than just the promise of an international experience. It also came with a cohort, a network in which every participant can depend on for inspiration, community, and likeminded global perspective.”

Community was a big factor in Russell’s praise of VIH. “My favorite experience during the fall conference was hearing every participant speak on the lessons learned while abroad. In this moment, I felt most connected to everyone in that room as I resonated with so many of the statements shared. It gave me a sense of contentment to know that there was a space to reflect and speak on the complexities, joys, and life-altering aspects of my time abroad.”

In South Africa, Russell was inspired by the selflessness she witnessed. “The most inspirational memories were my time spent as an intern at Meals On Wheels in Langa Township. It was inspiring for me to meet fellow volunteers at this organization who willingly spend six or seven days of the week for 52 weeks a year to give 10-plus hours a day towards addressing hunger. I was amazed by the humility within some of these individuals who were in need of resources themselves, and yet be a shelter and resource for others.”

Another perspective Russell gained was gratitude for VIH. “Thank you for affording me and many other participants the opportunity to expand our horizons. What you have done for us is an investment in each and every one of our futures. Therefore it is an investment into a brighter future for our world. The gift of global perspective is invaluable beyond estimation.”

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Russell was inspired to lend a helping hand.

Since 2001, Arcadia University Enthymion has been the official name of the University’s yearbook. From 1945–2001, the Beaver College yearbook was called The Log of Beaver College. From 1937–1942 it was called The Beaver Log.

From 2017–2023, the Beaver College yearbook was named what? Hint: “Log” is not in the title.
from GLENSIDE to GLACIERS

HOW ARCADIA PROPELLED ME TO ANTARCTICA

Story and Photography by Aoife Samuelson ’24

Four years ago I chose Arcadia University because a global experience was a top priority.

It’s a decision for which I will be forever grateful.
My first taste of studying abroad came during my sophomore year in 2021-2022. While I was only in Edinburgh, Scotland, for one week, the trip had a lasting impact. The minute I stepped foot back on campus, I was in the Study Abroad office figuring out how to maximize time abroad while staying on track with my major and minor requirements to graduate on time. The next semester I took a Global Field Study course that took me to Central Europe. I loved my time there. It made me realize how lucky I was to attend a university with such an established program.

My junior year, I studied abroad in Australia for the fall semester. This is when I began solo traveling. Since then, I have been to 39 countries and all seven continents. All of them have been solo trips.

My first solo trip was to Tasmania, and I ended the spring 2023 semester with a trip to South East Asia. Earlier that spring, I was lucky enough to go to Ireland where the majority of my family lives full-time. Being immersed in the Irish educational system was an incredible way to learn about my history exactly where it took place. That semester, I took many weekend trips to mainland Europe when I was not with family. At the end of the semester, I planned an in-depth multi-country solo trip before finally coming home. For that trip, I began in Iceland, spent a week in Greece experiencing life on the islands, went to Egypt for a chance to scuba dive the Red Sea, and finished in Maldives for another dive trip.

Thanks to Arcadia and their support while on their programs abroad, I had the skills to plan, budget, and execute solo travel safely while learning how to navigate things when they did not go as planned, like transportation. After returning home and working full-time for a few weeks, my aunt expressed interest in going on safari – a childhood dream of hers. With my newfound confidence traveling solo and the skills I learned through Arcadia, I was able to plan our trip to make her dream come true. We began in South Africa in summer 2023 before heading up to Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana. The week we got home I put my passport down for a bit to come back to Glenside and focus on my senior year. Traveling was never far from my mind, however, and I soon realized I was itching for another adventure.
I began working extra shifts – I work at Access Behavioral Health, Positive Behavioral support, Staples, and as a freelance photographer, student ambassador, alumni ambassador, and student photographer – to save up and started looking to see if I could pull off my dream trip: Antarctica!

Spoiler alert: I did. I was almost positive Antarctica would be financially out of reach, but I was determined to try. I used the tips Arcadia provided for booking semester flights for this trip. This not only saved a bit of money, but also ensured some flexibility in case I was delayed.

I quickly learned when solo traveling to never pay full price for any expeditions – dive or otherwise – because there are always deals if you know where to look. After about a week of extensive searching, I was able to find an expedition that was both in my price range and aligned with my timeframe of winter break 2023. I was lucky enough to spend a few days exploring Buenos Aires and Ushuaia in Argentina before disembarking due to the most cost-effective layover choices. When I boarded the boat that would take me from Argentina to Antarctica, I realized that not only did I pull off my dream trip, but I had solo traveled to all seven continents within the past two years!

I had the trip of a lifetime in Antarctica, full of like-minded new friends, penguins, kayaking, and even camping out on the peninsula for a night.

Each day we had four excursions – two zodiac cruises where we took a small boat in groups of eight to cruise around the area and see what we could in the water. We always saw penguins and amazing ice structures. Sometimes, we were lucky enough to find a seal or even a humpback whale!

During our time on land it was all about the penguins – seeing their colonies and studying the way they use “penguin highways,” and their affinity for stealing pebbles from each other’s nests. Each night, a team member would lecture about their animal or topic of expertise. This helped us get an even better understanding and appreciation for what we were experiencing every day. We learned about penguin species, documented differences in local whales over time, and documented glacial movements. I loved every minute of that journey – a journey that would not have been possible without Arcadia.

Aoife Samuelson ’24 is a Psychology major with a minor in Criminal Justice. After graduation, Samuelson hopes to pursue a doctorate in Psychology.

“I realized that not only did I pull off my dream trip, but I accidentally solo traveled to all 7 continents within the past two years!”

Clockwise from top: Samuelson on Danco Island; penguins on Paradise Bay; Samuelson in her sleeping bag on the Antarctic Peninsula mainland; the ice continent.
In 1988, Dr. Shekhar Deshpande started a communications segment of the Beaver College English department program called English, Theater, and Communication with a single camera and VCR in a room on the second floor of Murphy Hall. To assist students in their future careers, he would invite artists and filmmakers from places as far as Hungary, India, and Hong Kong through his networks to visit campus and speak to students.

Dr. Deshpande held screenings in Stiteler Auditorium for students and the community. These events drew in new attendees each week and gained notoriety through The Philadelphia Inquirer’s weekend section. Three years later, Dr. Deshpande planned a screening of David Lynch’s Twin Peaks, leading to the release of the show’s finale. With no DVR and no streaming, Dr. Deshpande taped the broadcasts of each episode on VHS. Stiteler Auditorium was one of the only places on campus where fans could watch the show in a theater-like setting.

“The Inquirer sends one of their top reporters,” he said, recounting the night of the screening. “But what we didn’t anticipate was that my wife was giving birth that evening. So, we were in a hospital, and the reporter was on campus describing everything for her story. The auditorium was full. We got massive publicity because of it.”

In addition to arranging screenings, Dr. Deshpande’s personal and professional efforts helped to forge an entire department out of that budding English, Theater, and Communication program. As founding chair, he increased enrollment and recruited faculty to kickstart the Global Media program. This made the program more distinctive, setting an example of what a modern Media and Communication department can be.

Today, 77 students are enrolled in the Department of Media and Communication’s two undergraduate major programs, Media and Communication, and Global Media (see sidebar on pg. 30), each of which offers unique concentrations to best suit students’ desired areas of study. The department also offers minors in World Cinema and Cinema Studies. Each program works to provide students with a balance of both theory and practice, allowing them to fully understand the ideological systems of media and communication as well as the work that goes into those systems.

Mass Consumption of Media

In most disciplines, the specifics of what students learn vary and evolve; this dynamic is amplified in media. The rapid nature of social media forces trends to rise and fall in popularity within a week — at times within a day. In film and music, the sheer amount of content that is released regularly segments audiences into genres that are also branching out and splintering.

In addition, the number of methods by which students receive information and communicate has increased exponentially. Students absorb new information at nearly every waking moment, whether that be by passively scrolling through Instagram and TikTok or by actively seeking out specific content. Mass amounts of content being published daily have forced audiences to grow segmented, where...
consumers may enjoy little beyond their preferred tastes. This has to be factored in when teaching. “But 15 years ago, I felt like I could use examples in class that most people had heard of,” said Dr. Chris Mullin ’20Ed.D., associate professor of Media and Communication. “While that is still true, the audiences have become so fragmented and segmented that it’s hard sometimes to relate a lot of media things to everybody in the room.”

Dr. Michael Dwyer, associate professor of Media and Communication and program director of Global Media, agreed that background information students bring into the major before they begin their studies is vastly different than it was in the past. “In my 101 [Intro to Media Studies] class right now, I find myself needing to explain what a television network looks like, how a magazine is structured online and in print, how to use Adobe Premiere on one of the Macs in the department’s video lab.”

These adjustments to the core curriculum may not be seen by students directly, but there are glimpses of their learning’s practicality in their daily lives. “I’ve learned so much in the classroom, all of which I still use in some way today,” he said. “Between the topics discussed in class or the methods used for my assignments, they have maintained relevance and an ability to apply to the things I do and conversations I have.”

Each professor has their way of staying on top of the daily happenings in media. From Dr. Mullin’s use of the daily Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) newsletter to Dr. Deshpande’s use of TikTok to view one-minute short films from the Cannes Film Festival. Ultimately though, the best way for them to keep in touch with expanding media is to remain connected with students.

The final project in Intro to Media Studies asks students to write about a new media service and compare it to one of the past. Dr. Dwyer credits this as an aid to his understanding of current media. He discusses connections between older and newer media services with students, connecting with them while sharing new interpretations of media.

Funk Rock Ethics

From team podcasting to individual essays, the Media and Communication department continues to widen the modalities by which students can complete assignments. This not only gives them experience producing various types of media, but also helps them develop confidence in their ability to try new things.

“Honestly, that comes from our ethic of, ‘we can do this,’” Dr. Dwyer said. “For me, that’s just punk rock. It’s the same for if you were a band, or if you wanted to start a ‘zine, you can do this. I’m a big believer in, ‘fail early, fail better.’”

“I think that communication is a field that requires a lot of ‘just doing it,’” said Jewel Miller ’20, a Media and Communication major with a concentration in Multimedia Publishing who also serves as the co-editor-in-chief of the online lifestyle magazine Loco Mag. “After practicing in the classroom it’s nice to be able to get hands-on experience to prepare you for a career.”

This professional preparation that Miller references complements the two practicum courses that the department offers: one in publications, where students collaborate on building content and marketing Loco Mag; and the other in public relations, where students work together as members of the 1853 Communications PR Firm. “I think that communication is a field that requires the ability to work together as members of the 1853 Communications PR Firm, collaborating with nonprofit organizations from around the area and compete in the annual Donate Life College Challenge. Both courses are entirely student-led, allowing students to develop the skills they learn in their respective concentrations and gain experience working in real-world settings.”

“As a member of Loco Mag, I honed my proofreading skills as well as general communication and project management skills,” said Media and Communication graduate Julie Slater ’22, editor with Loco Publishing Group. “We also had regular pitch meetings where we shared ideas for book themes, and I don’t think I’d be nearly as comfortable coming up with lists of ideas and sharing them with an entire team if I hadn’t had three years of practice in college.”

Dr. Holderman (left) showing students how to use Adobe Premiere on one of the Macs in the department’s video lab. Dr. Dwyer (right) teaching students using VHS tapes and rudimentary editing equipment found in the “Control Room”Portrait by Dr. Holderman 2024, via Arcadia University.”

Dakota Lewis ’26, a double major in English literature and Media and Communication with a Multimedia Publishing concentration, is the print edition director for Loco Mag. They lead their team in laying out articles, photos, and other media into a print format using Adobe InDesign before working with a printing service to produce a full-length print magazine each semester.

“Aside from the classroom, I’ve learned how to read different forms of media and the protocols that lead to the product,” Lewis explained. “Outside of the classroom though, specifically in Loco, I’ve learned a lot about what goes into making media — what editing a podcast looks like, how a magazine is structured online and in a physical copy, and the filming and editing process for videos.”

Beyond the adaptations to various technologies and new modes of consuming information, the Media and Communication department faculty continues to help students learn what Dr. Mullin calls “soft skills.”

“That ability of teamwork, to be able to get along with people,” said Dr. Mullin. “I think that you learn some of those super important skills through life and other experiences, not just through your schooling.”

The chair of the department, Dr. Lisa Holderman, encourages students to take a wide range of courses in the major. The major requires students to take Writing in Communications and Visual Cultures, but there is a menu of courses for students to learn other skills they won’t find anywhere else.

“Learn some video production, even if that’s not your thing,” said Dr. Holderman, an associate professor of Media and Communication teaching both sections of the senior seminar. “Take some Public Relations courses...
Students in the Global Media program get an educational experience that is unique because of Arcadia's global footprint. A distinguishing feature of the Global Media program is that students spend two semesters abroad at one of our partner institutions, in programs with specific strengths in their course of study. These programs are from top-tier universities in the world for whatever the field of media is. At the University of Westminster in London, our students are going to a media/journalism/art campus in the global media capital of the UK. Students will walk the hallways of buildings and everything involved is doing record producing, or they have a student concert venue to practice managing or filming live performances, or whatever the case may be. 

For the College of Media, Communication, and Information at the University of Colorado Boulder, looks back on as key pieces of her education. "The skills and awareness I gained in the Department of Media and Communication at Arcadia have informed every aspect of my life in very meaningful ways," she explained. "I've done freelance writing on top of my creative writing; I've taught writing to kids, college students, and adults; I've created writing programs for marginalized youth and adults in my community; I've used my communication skills to speak on important topics in my work and personal life. Some of this was facilitated by a job, but most important to me are the values and awareness that I gained as a Communications student which has allowed me to do important things in all areas of life, not just my 'career.'" 

Even if you're not in the PR concentration, doing this can help you learn more and get different skills, things that you could use in any job in any field," she added. These transferable skills are what Print Communications (now called Multimedia Publishing) alumni Helen Armstrong '18, professional academic advisor for the College of Media, Communication, and Information at the University of Colorado Boulder, looks back on as key pieces of her education.

"The skills and awareness I gained in the Department of Media and Communication at Arcadia have informed every aspect of my life in very meaningful ways," she explained. "I've done freelance writing on top of my creative writing; I've taught writing to kids, college students, and adults; I've created writing programs for marginalized youth and adults in my community; I've used my communication skills to speak on important topics in my work and personal life. Some of this was facilitated by a job, but most important to me are the values and awareness that I gained as a Communications student which has allowed me to do important things in all areas of life, not just my 'career.'" 

Skepticism, but Never Cynicism

The amount of information that individuals are subjected to daily makes it easy for misinformation to spread, whether through social media posts or mainstream media outlets. A key piece of the Media and Communication department's curriculum is the ability to deconstruct a message to understand not only what is happening, but also the background, intent, and interests of those who produced it. "In a world that is now so influenced by news, videos, and social media, having this solid basis of knowledge has made me constantly question the media that comes into my life, who made it, why, what it wants from me as a viewer," explained Miller '24. "I can't help but consciously think about these things all the time now."

Dr. Deyga taught students to be critical and analytical in their deconstruction, but not cynical. He pushed students to substantiate claims, explain ramifications, and engage with doubt not only in the content they consume and the work they create. Only then, through practice, can students fully recognize and navigate that complexity in their consumption of media.

"I try to model a willingness to not be certain, and try to build skills for distinguishing between skepticism and cynicism, whether it's in fake news or the Washington Post," he said. "It can't be either 'I just accept every story in the news' or 'nothing's real.' Both of those are extreme; they're not good for the world."

Dr. Deshpande emphasized that within the department, the classroom content is immediately relevant to the current world events that influence students' daily lives. The modalities may have changed from photography to simulated images like deepfakes or work created by artificial intelligence, but that does not alter their global significance. The department provides a media education encompassing both the modern world's students are a part of, and a basis for developing theoretical and historical knowledge within the field. The importance of this approach cannot be understated, as it provides a truly well-rounded experience for students to feel prepared when entering the workforce.

"It's a responsible way to provide a media education, where the next producers of media understand how it works in the world," said Armstrong '18. "You need to allow students to look toward the future but also teach them to look behind them as well, because most of the resources they need will be there. The department absolutely did that for me."
1951
Jacie Rittenhouse: My mother-in-law, Patricia Stevenson Rittenhouse formed the Norristown Beaver Alumni club sometime between 1951 and 1954. She believes it was right after she graduated, 1951. These ladies have been getting together for many, many years and at one time were very active with other alumni. Of course, the years have taken a toll on their attendance and new group. Today, I had the honor of being with some of the original members as they met for lunch.

From left to right: Patricia Stevenson Rittenhouse ’51, Health and Physical Education major, 93 years old, currently resides in Lansdale; Edie Halp Leipzig ’57, Elementary Education major, 89 years old, currently resides in Lansdale; Janet Zimmerman ’51M, 91 years old, currently resides in Plymouth Township; Mary Ellen Espinosa Tomaino ’76, Elementary Education major, 69 years old, currently resides in Boothwyn. They had a great time reminiscing and recalling their wonderful experiences at Beaver College.

1969
Mary Freericks ’57 read poetry from her books during a September 7 open mic event. Her poetry website is maryfreerickspoetryonline.com.

1962
Sue Morrissey Moore ’66 is happy she entered school in Jacksonville, Florida, but moved to New York before the deep south. She was born east coast friends and explores her wonderful experiences at Beaver College.

2005
Eric Brooker Gordon (Fage) ’94 and her husband, Jared Gordon, welcomed a baby girl named Harper Reeve Journi (pictured below) on August 2. Harper was born at Doylestown Hospital at 8:50pm, weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 18 1/2 inches long. Additionally, in October, Erica started a new position as an adjunct professor at Bucks County Community College. She teaches reading and college success courses in the College’s Department of Language and Literature.

2006
Bryan Baker ’90 shared, “For the past 8 years I have been teaching science at the Wastebury Arts Magnet School in Wastebury, CT. Four years ago I became the physics teacher at my school, and over the past year I trained to teach AP level physics. My wife, Kerri, and I recently celebrated our 16th wedding anniversary back in June and my children, Drew and Maggie, turned 10 and 8 respectively this July.

Tricia Kernsner Luddecke ’00, and husband, Kurt Luddecke ’98 (pictured below), held a small gathering on August 26 for their friends and classmates at their Hartbur, PA, home. Around 20 alumni and their families from classes 1998-2002 attended.

2007
Sue Morrissey Moore ’66 is happy she entered school in Jacksonville, Florida, but moved to New York before the deep south. She was born east coast friends and explores their wonderful experiences at Beaver College.

1982
Andrea Fedowitz Johnson ’82 went to Savannah and Charleston SC with many local folk on a six-day trip. She had a great time soaking in southern charm on carriage rides and tours while enjoying the many sights and sounds in September.

1986
Sue Morrissey Moore ’66 is moving to South Carolina after 49 years in California. She is hoping to reconnect with her east coast friends and explore the deep south. She was born in Jacksonville, Florida, but moved to New York before she entered school. She is excited for new adventures.

2003
Canek De la Paz Hellmer ’03 with other alumni. Of course, the years have taken a toll on their attendance and membership.

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2005
Corinne Quinn ’95 (pictured below) commencement exercises of Life Chiropractic College West in Hayward, CA, on June. She finished classes at the end of September and recently recently completed her clinicals. Currently, she is a part of an essay collection she is currently writing, Camps of Captivity.

2006
Abbey Ryan ’03 and her wife Legi want to share that Abbey gave birth to their son Simon Robert Ryan Hopkins (pictured below) on 11/30/23. He was born at 11 ounces, 21 inches. Everyone is healthy and very happy!

2007
Attorney Samuel A. Segal ’07 (pictured below) was elected Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bar Association for their 2023-24 year, which began on Sept. 1.

2008
Meg Auchenbach ’06 BFA: A 2006 Arcadia University graduate, Meg Auchenbach’s road to publication has been long, but worth the wait! While at Arcadia, Meg studied painting under the guidance of Betsy Battelch and Mike DeLaas. While creating the work for her senior thesis, Meg realized that she loved narrative art and creating stories with words and images. After Arcadia, Meg went on to get her K-12 art education certificate from Kutztown University, and then spent six years teaching art at third through fifth graders and serving as Department Chair in an art program within the Elco School District.

During her teaching tenure, Meg received an MA in Illustration from Marywood University’s Get Your Masters with the Masters Program, and learned even more about children’s book illustration. Determined to break into publishing, Meg spent her teaching lunch breaks listening to podcasts, reading blogs and devouring information about the kid-lit industry. She joined critique groups, and learned from organizations such as SCBWI, and went to workshops through children’s illustration-focused events such as the Highlights Foundation. It was during this time that Meg put together an illustration portfolio and writing samples, and began querying (or applying for) agents. It took many years of persistence, but in 2021, Meg signed with a literary agent. Almost a year later, Meg was offered a book contract by Peter Pauper Press, for her debut picture book, IF YOU ARE AN ARTIST. Inspired by her two children and years of watching children create, IF YOU ARE AN ARTIST is an inspirational homage to trusting your own voice, believing in yourself, and cultivating your creativity and some of wonder to make this world a more beautiful place. When she is not creating, Meg loves hanging out with animals, cooking, reading and poking around antique shops and flea markets. Meg lives in Eastern PA with her husband, two young children, a deaf pitbull, and her husband, two young children, a deaf pitbull.

2023
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Ashley Filipowicz (Tafeloni) ‘07 and Joseph Filipowicz ‘07 (pictured below) met at Arcadia University at Knights Hall. Ashley received a master’s degree in 2018. She and Joe now have three beautiful children together. They were eager to show their children where they met, and revisited campus for a tour in September.

2009
Naolé Elena Montes, PhD ‘09 (pictured below), recently received her doctoral degree in Geography & Urban Studies from Temple University. She was excited to represent her undergraduate institution by donning an Arcadia University pin during her dissertation ceremony.

2012
Max Their Arc, ‘12, ‘14 MA, ‘20 MFA, currently works as an Administrative Assistant, Thomas Jefferson University Health System, and was recently welcomed onto the Board of the HealthSpark Foundation.

2013
Kate Sprandio Ells ‘13 is a graduate of the Creative Writing program. Her book is called Willerma Booker ‘15 MSeEd, interviewed award-winning author Nikki Grimes about writing A Walk In The Woods on October 17. The Harborn-F懂ham teacher will be featured with author Nikki Grimes on ‘The Write Time’ a production of the National Writing Project, a show that pairs incredible educators with outstanding children and young adult authors. The interview will also include Maryann Zurowski, Education Program Manager of the National Park Service.

2015
Dr. Patricia Anderson ‘15 is a thought-provoking leader with a doctoral in Transformational Leadership and is a certified change practitioner. She is an extraordinarily versatile and accomplished professional with a track record of successfully transforming the world one person at a time. She has maintained a solid connection to her alma mater and actively participates in alumni activities and events.

2018

Samatha Hips ‘18 (pictured below) shared, “I met my fiance, Stephen Merlan, online in February 2018. We chose to take our engagement photos at the Grey Towers Castles as a circle-back to our first big event together. Our venue is also a castle (not Grey Towers), so it was sweet to have a similar backdrop. We both love the architecture neat to have a similar backdrop. Our venue is also a lodge, and The Nightmare Ennis is a horror anthology with a focus on nightmares.”

2020
Caitlin Joyce ‘20 shared, “Kathlyn Jones ‘20 and I got married in early December! We’re still enjoying life in Glastonbury, and I’m in my second year of a PhD program in Sociology at Temple. When I was a student worker at University Relations (now University Marketing and Communications), I loved reading through the class notes, especially ones from different generations. It’s so sweet to hear life updates and the memories people share!”

2021
Omar Odom ‘21, a creative writing graduate, has started self-publishing some of his work. Much of what he is publishing was workshopped in Arcadia classrooms and collected into short ebooks. Falling Forward is a life adjustment story about a couple moving to a snow lodge, and The Nightmare Ennis is a horror anthology with a focus on nightmares.

2014
Deanna McDaniel, online in April 2011, shared, “I met my fiance, Samantha Hips, online in February 2018. We chose to take our engagement photos at the Grey Towers Castles as a circle-back to our first big event together. Our venue is also a castle (not Grey Towers), so it was sweet to have a similar backdrop. We both love the architecture neat to have a similar backdrop. Our venue is also a lodge, and The Nightmare Ennis is a horror anthology with a focus on nightmares.”

2019
Alyssa D’Esposito ‘19 shared, “I am a Pediatric ICU nurse. I have passed my Pediatric Critical Care Registered Nurse Certification. I have lived on the west coast doing nursing in San Diego. I will be starting a new position in the PSCU at Nemours, Delaware come September! Outside of work, I have been training for triathlons & half marathons!”

2022
Dr. Kathleen Burke ‘17 (they/them) (pictured above, right), has joined the Student Marketing Agency in Sherborn, Massachusetts, as an art director. In their new role, they will join the art department and support the account executive team in designing collateral and advertising projects for clients while implementing brand guidelines across all projects.

2023
Priscilla French Curry March 2023
Barbara G. Earle (Below, right) December 2021
Lillian E. Pagano (Below, left) March 2023
She and Earle were life-long friends. In fact, Lillian’s daughter is named Barbara after her best friend. Known as Aunt Bobbie, Barbara Earle was as much a part of Pagano family life as Lillian was a part of her classroom, Barbara’s life.

2024
Dr. Kathleen Burke ‘17 (they/them) (pictured above, right), has joined the Student Marketing Agency in Sherborn, Massachusetts, as an art director. In their new role, they will join the art department and support the account executive team in designing collateral and advertising projects for clients while implementing brand guidelines across all projects.
Memorabilia in Memorable Return Home
By Rachel Fox ‘15M

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

The last time Priscilla French Curry was on-campus was for her 65th Reunion six years ago. In 2017, her daughter, Susan Fullerwider, drove her 87-year-old mother to the Glenside campus to celebrate her milestone reunion to reconnect with classmates and the institution she loved. Nancy Parke ’52 and Priscilla French Curry ’52 were the only two ladies in attendance from their class, but Susan said her mother was excited to be there.

Susan recalls the fond stories her mother would tell about her days at Beaver College. It was only after Priscilla’s passing would tell about her days at Beaver College and classmates and the institution she loved.

Priscilla’s memory is honored every day through the lives of her daughter Susan, son Thomas, and her five grandchildren. Her warm smile, spirit, and heart were always on display, and her generosity knew no bounds.

Priscilla’s memorabilia included her freshmen beanie, examination booklets, celebratory letters, pennants, and Beaver College student newspaper articles.

In Priscilla’s honor, Susan had wanted to “bring her mother home” to Glenside. There had been no formal request in Priscilla’s estate for her treasures to be returned to the place she relished, but Susan knew that her mother’s collectibles needed to be shared. She was elated when the opportunity arose to meet with Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving Strategies, Nicole Steiner, at The Alumni House at Blankley Hall. The beloved Beaver College memorabilia very clearly told the story of Priscilla’s time on-campus studying and enjoying herself, while developing lifelong friends.

The partnership between CSD and Arcadia encompasses various layers of collaboration, including the involvement of Arcadia students within the schools.

In lieu of flowers during her memorial gathering on June 13, 2022, those who wish to celebrate Priscilla’s life were encouraged to make a gift in her honor to The Fund for Arcadia. Priscilla donated consistently since 1957 to The Fund for Arcadia, the University’s annual fund.

Arcadia University’s lived values make a difference for our campus community, but they’re at work in the local area, too. Thanks to relationships with many nonprofit organizations and schools, Arcadia students gain valuable work experience, preparing students for successful careers and civic life after graduation. Within walking distance of campus, three key partners provide opportunities for students through community engagement.

Cheltenham School District (CSD)
The partnership between CSD and Arcadia encompasses various layers of collaboration, including the involvement of Arcadia students within the schools.

In Priscilla’s memory, Arcadia University has a legacy that stretches back to 1853. With such a rich history, the institution is full of fun facts.
Academic Programs Added

Arcadia faculty have developed new undergraduate and graduate programs, majors, and certificates for today’s students.

New programs include:
- Applied Statistics
- Arts Administration
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Global Displacement and Human Rights Advocacy

and more

Discounts available for alumni and family of alumni.