

ARCADIA

Summer 2025

MAGAZINE

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The Physical Sciences,
Then and Now





22 Arcadia Abroad's Better-Than-Before, Post-Pandemic Comeback

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On cover: Arcadia Abroad students take in the view of Sydney Opera House from across Sydney Harbour.



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President Ajay Nair with the new co-chairs of the Board of Trustees, J. Lynne Cannon '68 (left) and Kevin Shollenberger '88 (far right), along with outgoing Board Chair John Rollins.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Beaver College and Arcadia University Alumni and Friends,

Maya Angelou wrote, “I can be changed by what happens to me, but I refuse to be reduced by it.” Arcadia University faced challenges this year that were new to many of us. Yet in the true spirit of our institution’s history and legacy, we banded together to keep students at the center of all that we do.

The new co-chairs of the Board of Trustees, **J. Lynne Cannon '68** and **Kevin Shollenberger '88**, are committed to continuing this important work. As Beaver College alumni, they know firsthand how a values-based learning community prepares students for life after Arcadia. They share their own Beaver memories and aspirations for Arcadia’s future on page 17.

When reflecting on major disruptions that have changed us but not reduced us, I think of COVID and its impact on Arcadia Abroad (The College of Global Studies). Today’s Arcadia Abroad is different from what it was prior to March 2020, in a future-ready way. Read how the unit’s dynamism, nimbleness, and innovation allowed it to emerge from the pandemic visionary, student-centric, and as a strong revenue generator for the institution beginning on page 22.

Hands-on, integrative learning is a staple of an Arcadia education. This summer, Arcadia students are getting on-the-job training through internships at major organizations ranging from Comcast to the Philadelphia Phillies. Some of you have placed fellow Knights in internships at your workplaces, recognizing the drive, innovation, and talent within students from your Alma Mater. **Ryan Hiemenz '23** chronicles how Arcadia students find a vast array of experiential learning opportunities in all corners of the globe (page 30).

A values-based education; dedicated and engaged alumni; adaptability as a leading global institution; integrative and transformative career preparation opportunities -- we continue along a similar path set forth so many years ago. We are able to do so, in many ways, because of you.

Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, PhD
President
Arcadia University



BY the NUMBERS

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15+

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PLACES ARCADIA
STUDENTS CALL HOME

40+

STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS
FOR ARCADIA STUDENTS

75+

INTERNATIONAL
FLAGS ON CAMPUS

REFRESHING INTERNATIONAL FLAGS ON CAMPUS

Armed with fabric, scissors, and sewing machines, members of Arcadia's Model United Nations club met during the spring semester to sew new international flags to hang on campus and refresh several others that were damaged.

The club worked on new flags for countries such as Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and Syria—each requested by a current student—and spruced up worn flags for countries such as Armenia, Austria, and Lebanon.

Flags on campus represent countries or places where students and community members hail from and where Arcadia students have studied. In addition, there are flags to represent students from other colleges and universities that have studied abroad with Arcadia.

“Having these flags from all over the world is a

very visible, tangible illustration of the fact that we are a welcoming community; Arcadia is global, and we welcome the globe,” said **Angela Kachuyevski, PhD**, professor of Political Science and faculty advisor for the Model U.N. club. ✨

Nelly Tyncherova '26 sewing the flag of Kyrgyzstan, her home country.



NEWS + NOTES



More than 800 students earned doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degrees during Arcadia University's Commencement ceremonies May 15-16.

Wet and stormy weather could not dampen the spirits of graduating students, who processed into Kuch Alumni Gymnasium led by University Relations' **Dan Brumbach** on bagpipes and the Positive Movement Entertainment drumline.

For the seventh year in a row, President **Ajay Nair** framed his Commencement address around music chosen by students from the graduating class. In his remarks, President Nair reflected on finding home at Arcadia, and being able to "carry home forward."

"You don't go back, you go forward—never forgetting where you came from," Dr. Nair explained. "All of your experiences at Arcadia are experiences you will carry with you forever. And if you are lucky like me, you can grow even closer to your roots, and help shape your home to make space for others, moving it forward."

The underlying message from student speaker **Nicole Burgon '25** was to always be open to connections. "Once we get comfortable in our circles, we lose the confidence to reach out to someone new," she said. "But think about all the 'someone news' who turned out to be someone special in your life."

Honorary degrees were awarded to Marissa Boyers Bluestine, assistant director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania

Carey Law School, and Michele Pistone, Villanova law professor and immigration advocate, who addressed the graduate and undergraduate Class of 2025, respectively.

Arcadia's School of Education conferred a posthumous bachelor's degree to **Samantha Szafran**, who passed away in January while studying PK-4 Early Elementary Education through the Working Early Childhood Professionals Program. ✦

FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARDS:

Professor of the Year Award

Dr. Laretta Bushar, Professor of Biology

Lloyd M. Abernethy Faculty Award for Outstanding Service

Dr. Marty Eastlack, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

Senior Golden Disc Award

Nicole Burgon

Ira R. Kraybill Award for Full-Time Study

Julianna Reidell and Campbell Torrey

Ira R. Kraybill Award for Part-Time Study

Alexis Anderson, Dr. Laretta Bushar, and Grace McGinnis

Class of 2025 Knights to Know

Here are a few remarkable graduates who, with an Arcadia degree (or two) in hand, are on their way to creating lasting, positive change in the world.



Allyson Velez
BS in Biology

Earning her degree in just three years, Allyson Velez left her mark on campus and beyond, serving as president of the Latine Society, a peer mentor, an AmeriCorps Next Steps mentor, and a student worker in the Office of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. A

first-generation college graduate, Velez is now working full-time as a behavioral health technician at Aspire and plans to pursue a master's in human genetics and genomics.



Robert Lewcun
BA in Business Administration

Robert Lewcun spent his time at Arcadia fostering a sense of belonging among commuter students. As founding president of Arcadia's commuter club, he helped relocate the commuter lounge and held

regular meetings and social events. Lewcun was also a campus ambassador, a member of the track and field and ultimate frisbee teams, and a peer mentor for the Raising Expectations for Academic Learning (REAL) Certificate Program. He plans to earn his human resources certification.



Hollie Byars
BFA in Studio Art: Ceramics

Hollie Byars was part of the team of Arcadia students that created ceramic dishware for the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Stir Restaurant to accompany the Mary Cassatt at Work (2024) and Boom: Art and Design in the 1940s

(2025) exhibits. Inspired by her collaborative experiences and dedicated mentors, Byars hopes to teach ceramics and foster community-focused creativity. She was awarded a scholarship to the Maryland Institute College of Art Mount Royal School of Art, a multidisciplinary MFA program.



Nakyyia Douglas
MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution

Nakyyia Douglas is now a two-time Arcadia alumna, having earned her BS in Public Health in 2023. This spring, she partnered with Facilities to install two Little Free Libraries on campus, creating spaces for connection,

comfort, and community through books. Douglas is continuing her impact-driven work this summer as an intern in the Mayor's Office in Philadelphia.



Torrence Rothmiller
EdD in Educational Leadership

When Torrence Rothmiller considered entering a doctoral program, his mentors encouraged him to return to Arcadia, where he'd already earned his Master of Education. While in the EdD program, Rothmiller, principal

of Andrew Hamilton Middle School in Philadelphia, was honored with the Lindback Award for Distinguished Principals. He hopes to one day become an adjunct professor to mentor future K-12 educators.



Lacey Roche
Dual Degree MPH/MMS, Public Health and Physician Assistant Studies

Lacey Roche has combined clinical training with impactful research. As a graduate assistant in the Department of Public Health, she contributed to a national report on Parkinson's

disease caregiving supported by The Michael J. Fox Foundation and the National Alliance for Caregiving. Roche plans to work in a community hospital, using her research and public health background to enhance patient care and education.

See more Knights to Know at arcadia.edu/news.

OUR MISSION, OUR VALUES

PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM FIGHTER VISITS CAMPUS



At left: Kenneth “Freedom Smitty” Salaam (right) answers a question from Shaughn Williams ’26, who moderated the conversation.

Kenneth “Freedom Smitty” Salaam’s life experiences have run the gamut. In the mid-1960s, along with Cecil B. Moore and others, he helped desegregate Girard College, a boarding school in North Philadelphia known for admitting white male orphans only. This earned him and the group the title of Philadelphia Freedom Fighters.

In addition, Salaam worked with Fannie Lou Hamer in Mississippi to fight for the rights of African Americans to vote, and participated in a demonstration with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during James Meredith’s March Against Fear. He also had the honor of serving as a pallbearer at Dr. King’s funeral.

Salaam visited Arcadia to speak to a room full of students and members of the wider community. The Office of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AEDI); Center for Antiracist Scholarship, Advocacy, and Action (CASAA); and the Combating Anti-Black Racism’s (CABR) Community Education Working Group co-sponsored the event, which was part of a weeklong series to honor the legacy of Dr. King.

“One thing I always tell young people—and I’m speaking for Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and others—we loved you before we knew you,” Salaam told the audience. “I knew that I would not benefit from what we were doing, but it was all for the future.”

Salaam took part in a conversation with **Shaughn Williams ’26**, a Media and Communication major. Williams posed several questions around the themes of nonviolence and nonviolent protesting, to which Salaam kept the audience on the edge of their seats as he weaved in his stories and life experiences.

“The movement is in all of us, which is what Dr. King tried to bring out,” he explained. “You don’t need to try to outdo your neighbor. Try to find what you can do to help the cause. If we’re going to continue moving forward, we have to have the best of humanity.”

After Salaam finished speaking, he joined the audience for a student panel discussion moderated by Williams. **DB Baxter ’26**,

Collin Gazella ’25, **Callum Otieno ’27**, and **Fatoumata Sidibe ’28** shared their thoughts on nonviolence as a way of protest, what needs to be done in 2025 to make the world better, and the changes they hope to see in their future.

As the evening ended, Salaam had one last thing to say to the crowd. “Make Dr. King proud, don’t turn his dream into a nightmare,” he implored. “He saw this day at Arcadia – Blacks and whites sitting together. It was a dream back in 1963, but he saw what he saw, and this event is what he saw.” ❖



Association of Beaver College Blacks Honored with Public Art Display on Campus

Several founding and early members of the Association of Beaver College Blacks (ABCB), a student group that advocated for a more equitable Beaver College, came together with students, faculty, and staff for a discussion about their time on campus and the unveiling of a public art project honoring ABCB’s legacy.

Ruth Baronda ’72, **Dr. Priscilla Hambrick-Dixon ’71**, **Vernell Beamon-Grant ’71**, **Thelma Harris ’71**, and **Nora Johnson-Price ’71** were in attendance; **Dr. Blanche Staton ’73** joined virtually.

“**We decided that we weren’t going to wait for something to happen; we were going to make it happen.**”

— Vernell Beamon-Grant ’71

First Responders: Arcadia Students, Staff on the Front Lines



Left: Glenside Fire Company responds to SPS Technologies. **Below:** Dave Washington, Glenside Fire Company captain and maintenance lead for Arcadia's Facilities Operations.



On Feb. 17, when a four-alarm fire broke out at SPS Technologies, a manufacturing company less than two miles from Arcadia's Glenside campus, members of nearly 80 fire companies responded over the course of five days. Several volunteer firefighters who attend or work at Arcadia University got the call.

Dave Washington is a captain of Glenside Fire Company. He's also the maintenance lead for Arcadia's Facilities Operations. The night of the fire, the 40-year volunteer was manning the crew from the firehouse to other fire emergencies in the area, considering the number of local fire companies that were at the scene.

Washington, whose father and two brothers were also firemen, expressed gratitude for being able to heed the call. "I would like to thank Arcadia and **Tom Macchi** and **Michelle [Jaisir-Peters]** for allowing me to leave work to respond to fire calls."

Like Washington, **Kyle Stump '25**, a Criminal Justice major, is a volunteer member of the Glenside Fire Company. He's also a lieutenant at the Fire Department of Montgomery Township in Montgomeryville, Pa., and works part-time as a firefighter/EMT with several public safety organizations in Montgomery and Bucks counties.

"While I was not directly involved with the SPS scene," Stump said, "we responded to numerous other emergency incidents in the Willow Grove/Abington/Cheltenham area while crews were committed to the fire." Stump's fire service days pre-date his time as a Knight. He's been doing it for almost six years now and got involved from a young age because of his father's 10+ years of volunteering.

Other Arcadia students who serve their communities as volunteer firefighters include **Crystal Gori '26**, a Law & Public Policy major, and **Jake McGuriman**, who earned a Raising Expectations for Academic Learning Certificate from Arcadia in May and has worked for the Fire Department of Montgomery Township for five years.

Gori joined the Glenside Fire Company last year in an effort to cater to the local deaf community; she recently taught the firefighters emergency signs in American Sign Language. Gori is also a member of the Tafton Fire Company, near her hometown of Tafton, Pa., which she first joined at age 15. A year later, she obtained her Exterior Firefighting Certificate and her Hazardous Materials Operations Certificate. On occasion, she puts her Spanish minor to good use by translating accident and fire scenes from Spanish to English. ❖

SERVICE TO PATIENTS AND COUNTRY

Faculty in Arcadia's Physician Assistant (PA) program include veterans or those currently serving in the U.S. military. Here's a brief look at three PA service-members.

Kaitlyn Gamber '11, PA-C

Assistant Professor Kaitlyn Gamber '11 is busy, but she wouldn't have it any other way. Along with educating the next generation of physician assistants and seeing patients in Newark, Del., Gamber is a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

"I love being in the military because it's fun and I meet great people," she said. "But it's also really cool to be able to tie everything together—experiences and cool stories—that helps students remember why we do what we do in the PA profession."

Gamber joined the military after completing her undergraduate degree in Biology at Arcadia and her master's at Lock Haven University. She was stationed at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska, before moving back to the Philadelphia area and joining the faculty at Arcadia in 2019. During this time, Gamber moved to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard to continue her service.

At Arcadia, Gamber serves as the assistant director of didactic education, helping to coordinate most of the first-year curriculum. She also runs labs and oversees various skills days, where students are given the chance to put into action what they've learned and receive real-time feedback.

"The University has been great to me and my family," Gamber said. "They are so veteran-friendly. I'm able to attend to all of my obligations, and they are just super flexible with everything."

Gamber sees patients a couple of times a week at ChristianaCare-GoHealth Urgent Care, where she gets to team up with some of her students to provide care.

Zachary Weik, DSc, MHS, PA-C

Zachary Weik, an associate professor, is a medical provider in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Weik has provided trainings on patient safety, bloodborne pathogens, infection control, and more to Air Force medical personnel at the Biddle Air National Guard Base in Horsham, Pa.

"Although my position is technically a 'deployable position,' I see my job as more taking care of the other 1,000+ Air Force members on the base, making sure they're healthy

Dr. Kevin Basile (left), an assistant professor in the Physician Assistant program, with Zach Weik, DSc, and Kaitlyn Gamber '11, PA-C, at Biddle Air National Guard Base.

and ready to deploy worldwide," he explained. "Being part civilian, part military is very helpful. I think one informs the other and gives you more of a broad perspective."

Weik joined the Arcadia PA program as a full-time faculty member in 2017. As interim director of clinical education, he supports students through their seven required clinical rotations and three elective rotations.

In service to the wider community, Weik works at Bucks County's Grandview Hospital in the general surgery unit. He has experience in all surgical specialties, with a focus on vascular, trauma, and renal transplant surgery.

"I tell my students and advisees that I'm so blessed to have the roles that I do. I work clinically in the hospital, I teach here at Arcadia, and I have my military position. I could do any of those things full-time and be happy. But they are all so different, and that's what I love."

Jaime Shaffer, MPAS, PA-C

A third member of the PA faculty, Jaime Shaffer, an assistant professor, is a military veteran. Shaffer has worked as a PA for more than 10 years in family medicine, urgent care, and emergency medicine. Prior to becoming a PA, she served in the Army as a military intelligence officer, including two deployments to Iraq. ❖



FROM THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS

COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY ON CAMPUS

Assistant Director of Campus Life **Staci-Jo Palek** received a \$40,000 Hunger Free Campus Grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Education to support The Pantry, formerly known as the Knights Resource Pantry. The funding will help combat food insecurity by providing food, hygiene items, and toiletries to students in need.

The grant allows Palek to keep the Knight Hall and Oak Summit pantry locations stocked with items, including shelf-sustainable food, hair care products, and cleaning products. Pantry hours have also been updated to better meet the needs of students.

This is the second year the University has been granted the Hunger Free Campus Grant. This year, The Pantry partnered with the Garden of Health food bank in North Wales, Pa., to receive donated food items to stock shelves monthly. ❖



PARKINSON COUNCIL GRANT TO BENEFIT DAN AARON STAY FIT PROGRAM

Janet L. Readinger '07DPT, PT, associate professor of practice in the Department of Physical Therapy, secured a grant of \$20,000 from The Parkinson Council to support the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program. The funding will help provide a high-quality exercise program for individuals with Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis at a low cost. In addition, the funding will allow the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program to provide a caregiver support group.

The Parkinson Council has supported the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Exercise Program since 2011. ❖

Dr. Janet Readinger and Professor Emerita Dr. Carol Leiper, founder of the Dan Aaron Stay Fit Clinic, at the 2022 rededication of the clinic.



In recognition of their many years of distinguished teaching, research, and leadership, **Laretta Bushar, PhD** (*top*), professor of Biology; **Marianne Miserandino, PhD** (*center*), professor of Psychology; and **Naomi Phillips, PhD** (*bottom*), associate professor of Biology, have each been named Professor Emerita.



Dr. Bushar, who joined Arcadia in 1993, served as chair and co-chair of the Biology Department for 12 years. Her research focused on the ecology and population genetics of snakes, including endangered species like the Aruba Island Rattlesnake. She received the Professor of the Year Award this year, the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award in 2018, and was an early recipient of the Stacy Anne Vitetta '82 Professorship.



Dr. Miserandino, who began teaching at Arcadia in 1992, focused on motivation and innovative pedagogy. She taught a range of courses including Social Psychology and Senior Seminar, where she directed internships. Her textbook, "Personality Psychology: Foundations and Findings," has been used nationally. She was named Professor of the Year in 2009 and earned multiple national teaching awards.

Dr. Phillips joined Arcadia in 2005 and specializes in evolutionary relationships in marine algae. She also conducted research on endangered primates and hemp genetics. In 2007, she received both the Stacy Anne Vitetta '82 Professorship and the Dr. Thomas P. Dougherty Endowed Faculty-Student Research Award.

Kathleen Mangione, PT, PhD, FAPTA, professor of Physical Therapy, received the Carole B. Lewis Lecture Award at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) National Combined Sections Meeting in Houston, Texas. The award honors leaders in geriatric physical therapy. Her lecture, "I Get Great Results with My Patients – What's Wrong with the Research?" explored how exercise physiology, psychology, and international practices can reframe approaches to care and improve the interpretation of research for older adults.



Raghu Kurthakoti, PhD, associate professor and chair of the School of Global Business, was recognized as an Association for Business Simulations & Experiential Learning (ABSEL) Fellow at the 2025 ABSEL Conference in Orlando, Fla. Kurthakoti is only the third member of Arcadia's School of Global Business to receive this honor. Kurthakoti has served in multiple roles for ABSEL, including several positions on the Board of Directors and a year as president in 2023.



Dylan Fedell '19MEd, a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher at Palisades High School and graduate of Arcadia University's Master of Education (Science) program, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching—the nation's highest honor for K–12 STEM educators. Recognized for his innovative, inquiry-based approach and commitment to equity, Fedell also develops culturally responsive strategies to broaden access and connect STEM education to real-world and social justice issues as a teacher leader in Arcadia's National Science Foundation-funded USTRIVE program. Fedell was honored at the USTRIVE Year-End Conference on May 3. ❖

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TEACHING ENGLISH IN BOTSWANA, OVER ZOOM

A collaboration between Arcadia University and Naledi Senior Secondary School in Botswana is bridging cultural and educational gaps through a virtual exchange program that fosters global learning and mutual understanding.

The Arcadia and Naledi Cultural and Study Exchange gives Arcadia students the opportunity to tutor Naledi students in reading strategies for their English exams. In turn, Naledi students teach Arcadia students some Setswana, the primary language spoken in Botswana, and share insights into their culture in Southern Africa. The program was created by Adjunct Professor of Education **Courtney Knowlton '10, '12MEd**, and Professor of Education **Ellen Skilton, PhD**, with support from Arcadia's School of Education.

"We have a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate at Arcadia and want to be able to provide meaningful international teaching experiences for our students," said Dr. Skilton. "This virtual experience with Naledi Senior Secondary School is a wonderful opportunity for understanding English language teaching in other parts of the world."

Arcadia students in courses such as ED299: Understanding Language Learning and ED300: Teaching English Learners lead small breakout groups during Zoom sessions to practice specific reading skills. These sessions also fulfill their course fieldwork requirements.

"At the beginning of the Zoom, we facilitate an activity to help the students get to know each other and introduce the reading skill," said Knowlton. "Then, the Arcadia students lead the small groups, and Ellen and I visit the breakout rooms to offer support when needed."

Knowlton fosters a growth mindset in both groups. "For example, I try to model this mindset during our whole group time as I work on my pronunciation of words in Setswana and ask for guidance from the native speakers," she said. "I hope the Arcadia students

continue to reflect on ways that they can use a growth mindset to encourage open communication in multicultural environments."

The program has left a lasting impact on participants.

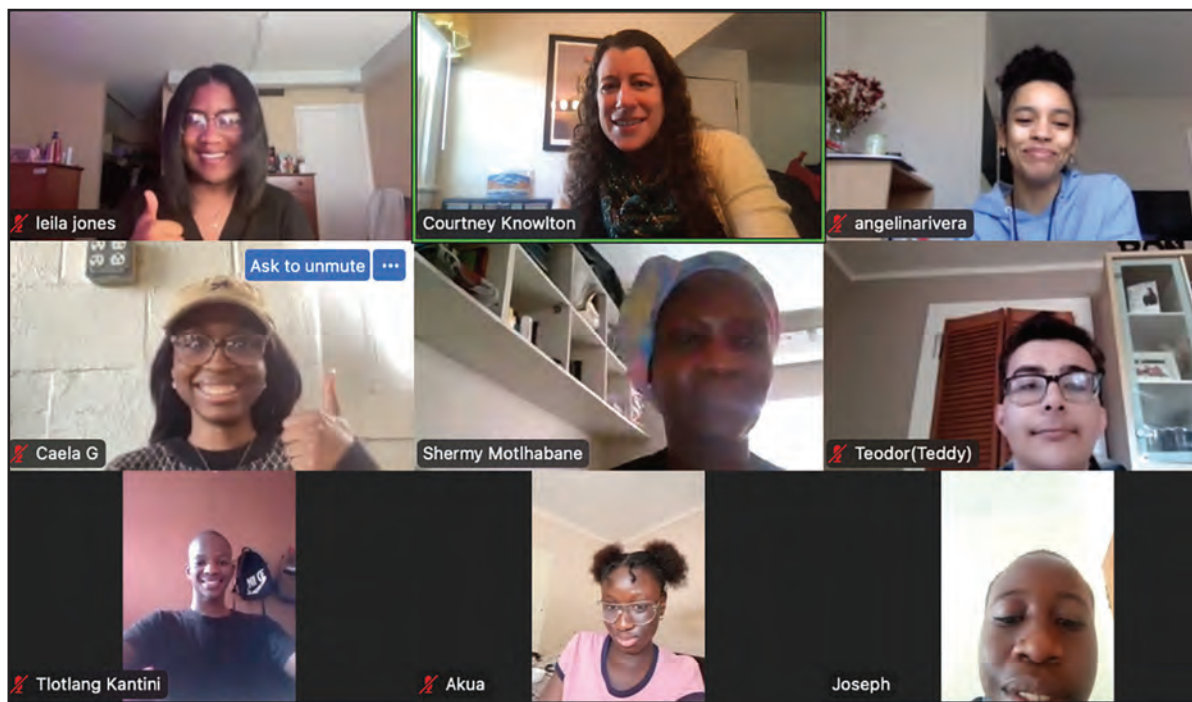
"This experience gave me the opportunity to connect with others from across the world to learn their language as they learn ours," said **Leila Jones '27**, a Social Studies Education and Political Science double major. "For my post-grad teacher and public advocate plans, this has helped me work better with language barriers and with connecting with students of different curriculums and cultures."

Shermy Motlhabane, a Naledi teacher, saw benefits for both students and educators.

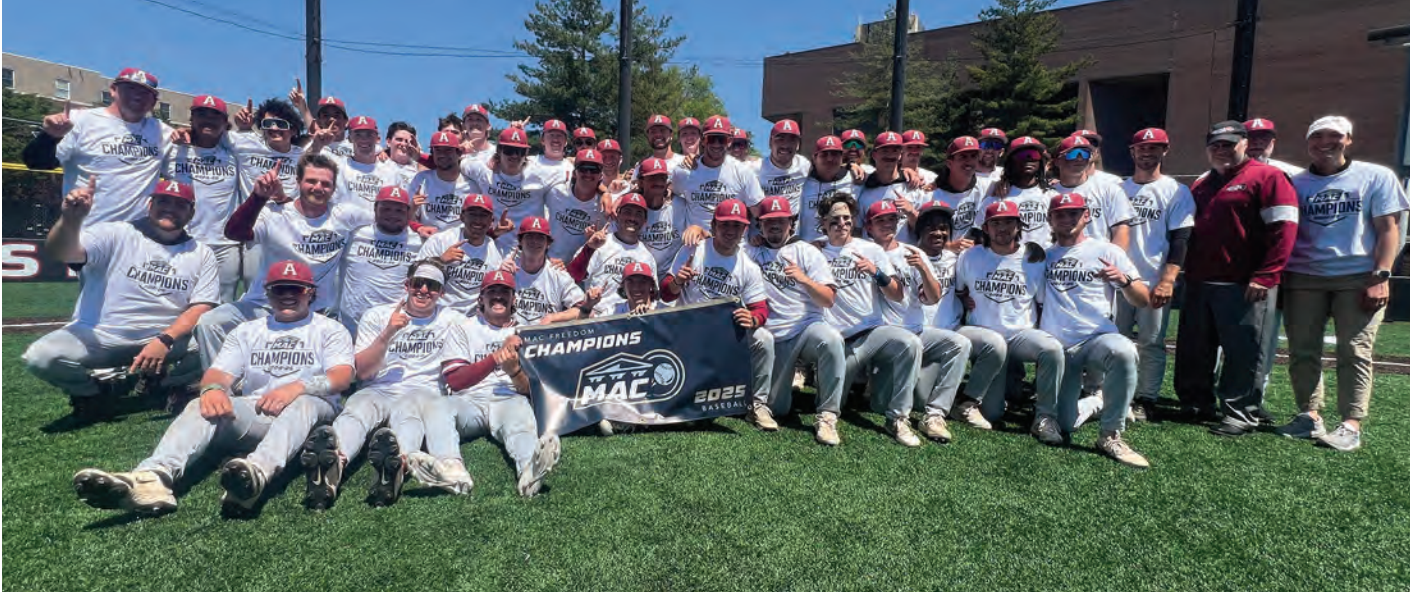
"Our time together has immensely enhanced my understanding of making reading or any type of work accessible to learners," said Motlhabane. "Secondly, spending time every Saturday afternoon with Arcadia staff and students during their Saturday mornings has shown me that nothing is impossible to achieve. I just got my results for the English language test from last year, and 90% of my class scored passing on the examination."

For Knowlton, the partnership promotes a deeper understanding of African countries and combats reductive narratives.

"As my students and I interact with the teacher and students from Botswana," said Knowlton, "we are learning many more stories about their lives instead of being limited to the ones we were told before." ❖



A Zoom session with Courtney Knowlton '10, '12MEd, Arcadia and Naledi students.



BASEBALL CAPTURES 2025 MAC FREEDOM CHAMPIONSHIP

The Arcadia University baseball team captured the 2025 MAC Freedom Championship on May 11. Trailing 5-0 after two innings, the No. 3 seed Arcadia rallied for a 7-6 win over No. 1 Stevens. The Knights opened the 2025 Cleveland Regional of the NCAA Division III Tournament with an 11-3 win over Centre College, then fell 14-13 to Case Western Reserve before a 12-9 elimination loss to Centre. This was the team’s fourth consecutive NCAA tournament bid. ❖

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HISTORY MADE

Delaney Bell '26 (*below*) made history for the Arcadia women’s basketball program, earning the team’s first Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (MAC Freedom) Player of the Year award. Bell became the program’s first conference Player of the Year, as

well as the fourth player to earn multiple first-team All-Conference awards after averaging 15.4 points, 8.1 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 1.5 steals, and 1.5 blocks per game this season.

Bell finished with a season-high 27 points on Feb. 8 against King’s College and surpassed the 1,000-point mark on Feb. 15 against Delaware Valley University.

Bell was also named first-team All-MAC Freedom along with teammate **Hanna Rhoades '26**, and **Scarlett Glasser-Nehls '24** earned Honorable Mention recognition. This is

the first season the Knights have had multiple first-team selections since the 1992-93 season, when they totaled four first-team All-Pennsylvania Athletic Conference selections.

Rhoades earned her first first-team nod after she averaged a team-high 17.4 points with 2.5 rebounds and 1.5 rebounds while shooting 36 percent (91-256) from three-point range. Throughout all of Division III, Rhoades made the third-most three-pointers and the fourth-most three-pointers per game. Rhoades hit her season-high with 27 points at Gwynedd Mercy University on Nov. 13 and reached 1,000 points on Jan. 18 at Delaware Valley University.

Glasser-Nehls earned her first All-Conference selection after averaging 12.3 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.4 assists, and 1.2 steals while shooting 35 percent (41-116) from three and 47 percent (124-262) from the field. Glasser-Nehls finished with a season-high 23 points on Feb. 1 at DeSales University and got her 1,000th point on Jan. 11 at King’s College. ❖



Get the latest Athletics news at arcadiaknights.com.

THREE-SPORT ATHLETE EARNS CONFERENCE ACCOLADES

Field hockey's **Morganne Dee '25** (*below*) was named the 2024 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Field Hockey Senior Scholar-Athlete. Dee, a Business Administration major with a 3.92 cumulative GPA, was named Academic All-MAC three times, Philly-SIDA Academic All-Area three times, including Co-Performer of the Year last season, and to the MAC Academic Honor Roll all four years.

Dee capped off an illustrious career at Arcadia by being named MAC Freedom Co-Offensive Player of the Year. Dee was named All-MAC Freedom all four seasons, the last two as a First Team selection. After her junior and senior seasons, Dee was named All-Region IV by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, earning First Team last season and Second Team the previous year. Dee rewrote the program's record book during her time on campus, setting career-marks for points and goals, while setting multiple season marks.

In addition to her field hockey success, Dee was a key member of both the women's ice hockey and women's lacrosse teams. For ice hockey, Dee was named MAC Offensive Player of the Year honors and First Team All-MAC in 2022-23 and Second Team All-MAC in 2021-22, and is a two-time Academic All-MAC selection. In lacrosse, Dee was named Honorable Mention All-MAC Freedom after the 2023 season. ❖



ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

Jey Brown '28 was named the men's indoor track and field Rookie of the Year, the first "of the year" award in program history. Brown also earned the program's first gold medal.

The team finished in eighth place at the 2025 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Indoor Track and Field Championships with six podium finishes and broke one program record. Brown earned a gold medal in the heptathlon with a total of 4541 points. On day two of MACs he finished first in the 60m hurdles (8.84), third in pole vault (3.50m), and 12th in the 1000m (3:34.43).

Men's basketball first-year **Jamison Lynam** (*right*) was named the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (MAC Freedom) Rookie of the Year. He and **Joshua Okocha '26** also earned Honorable Mention All-MAC Freedom. Lynam is the fifth Rookie of the Year in program history. ❖



Jey Brown '28 with Head Coach Kirsten O'Malley being recognized as Rookie of the Year.



TWO FIRSTS FOR WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Karahkwenhawe "Karah" White '25 (*right*) of the women's ice hockey team was named a CCM Hockey Division III Women's Third Team East All-American by the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA), becoming the first All-American in program history.

White was also named the 2024-25 Winter Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Women's Ice Hockey Senior Scholar-Athlete for her work off the ice. She served as the president of the Knights of Color Leadership Council and completed her degree in Biology with a 3.38 GPA.

White earned All-American status after being named First Team All-MAC, ranking second in the conference in points with 34, third in goals with 19, and seventh in assists with 15.

Nationally, White ranked 11th in points and goals and was top 50 in assists. White recorded a hat trick on Jan. 17 against Alvernia, and had five multi-goal games, ten multi-point games, seven power-play goals, and three game-winning goals.

In the final game of her career, White also became the first player in program history to surpass the 100-point mark. ❖





Letter from the President of the Arcadia University Alumni Association

Dear Arcadia Alumni,

As a proud first-generation college graduate, I am forever grateful for the transformative education and mentorship I received at Beaver College. The commitment of the faculty, staff, and administrative leadership to foster a culture of teaching and learning continues to impress me, and I wholeheartedly believe in the power of an Arcadia education. In gratitude for the opportunities I have been afforded, which profoundly shaped my life, I have made it my mission to remain active in our alumni community, dedicating time and resources to ensure current students can excel in their academic journeys.

I find myself continuously inspired by the leadership of President Ajay Nair and Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement Brigette A. Bryant. The vision that they share for the University is something that paves the way for me to lead as the President of the Arcadia University Alumni Association. I choose to donate to *The Fund for Arcadia* because I have seen it directly impact the lives of Arcadia students as they engage in experiential learning to apply their knowledge and skills as they study and travel abroad, and research on and off campus.

Together, let us continue to uplift the Scarlet and Grey spirit and pave the way for future generations. We can ensure that every student has the chance to experience the incredible potential of an Arcadia education. Like we had.

Our diverse and knowledgeable alumni can contribute to the University's growth through their personal and professional experiences – we will be greater, have more reach, and be more responsive to students and their needs when we UKnight together as one empowered community. I am looking forward to continuing to harness the voices of our valued alumni, and hope to connect with you at an upcoming alumni event!

Warm regards,

Stacey Downey '88

President, Arcadia University Alumni Association

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

“**Together, let us continue to uplift the Scarlet and Grey spirit and pave the way for future generations.**

— Stacey Downey '88

UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming and Family Weekend, October 3–4, 2025

Philadelphia Marathon, November 21–23, 2025

UKnightedTuesday, December 2–3, 2025

Women Who Lead Forum, Saturday, March 21, 2026

Alumni Reunion Weekend, April 24–25, 2026

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN HONORARY DEGREE: THE ARCADIA PERSPECTIVE

By Rachel Fox '15M

The University's first Honorary Degree distinction was awarded to four individuals in 1933: **Editha Carpenter Trevorrow** (Education); **Rev. Dr. Burleigh Cruikshank** (Religion); **Allan Sutherland** (Philanthropy); **Dr. C. Waldo Cherry** (Religion). Almost a century later, the purpose of granting an Honorary Degree remains the same: It allows the University to recognize outstanding people and promote the expression of its Lived Values. Arcadia Knights are adaptable, fearless, respectful, and responsible, and embrace excellence, integrity, justice, and intellectual freedom.

Nominees express these values through proven acceleration in their industry and their life achievements. "An Honorary Degree acts as both an honor to the person being recognized, but also to the University," said **Barbara Nodine, PhD**, Professor Emerita and former University provost (2014-2016). Nodine generously made a gift to the University that granted the purchase of a digital, interactive kiosk in Grey Towers Castle (*at right*). The kiosk displays Honorary Degree recipients for viewing by all visitors, including prospective students and their families, to inspire viewers and foster a sense of pride and belonging.

The former provost understands the needs of Arcadia and its students, and recognizes an Arcadia education is unique; she expresses that she enjoys championing the University that supported so much of her career. "It seems to me that Arcadia deserves some publicity around the notoriety of those who have received an Honorary Degree," said Dr. Nodine. "People like **Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson '23H**, **Hon. George H.W. Bush '72H**, and **Rev. Leon H. Sullivan '67H**, who are not alumni in the normal sense, or would not necessarily be talked about to or among students. It's important to display these names prominently. I think we've always had this nice mix of external University community members that reflect important goals and concepts that are relevant to Arcadia, and I would love to see us get out of our traditional bubble and nominate more internal candidates, like alumni."

John A. Noakes, PhD, associate provost and honorary degree committee chair, added, "Alums are really good people to nominate others because they open up connections for the University and can really get us to honor someone interesting."



Recent alumni recipients of Honorary Degrees include **Suneet P. Chauhan '79, '18H, MD**, **Julianne Mamana Boyd '66, '17H, PhD**, **Lois E. Haber '71, '16H**, **Dr. Ellen Schecter '66, '14H, WWL '25**, and **Kay WalkingStick '59, '11H, WWL '24**.

Dr. Noakes wants individuals to know that the process takes a bit of time to establish who will be granted an Honorary Degree. A Committee of about 10 individuals conducts a vetting process for each person nominated. Once the person is approved by the President's Cabinet, Faculty Senate, and the Board of Trustees, they are placed into a pool for up to three years. The president and provost make the final decision on who receives a degree at Commencement in May.

Read about this year's Honorary Degree recipients on page 4. ✦



Scan to nominate someone for an honorary degree.

“We will leverage our combined vision, integrity, and experiences to engage the entire Arcadia community for continued success.

— Kevin Shollenberger '88



INTRODUCING THE NEW CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Janene Geiss

Arcadia University has an esteemed history of accomplished, engaged, and dedicated alumni committed to their communities, their professions, and their Alma Mater. On June 1, two such alumni, **J. Lynne Cannon '68** and **Kevin Shollenberger '88**, began their tenures as co-chairs of the Board of Trustees.

Cannon and Shollenberger look forward to bringing double the leadership power while working closely with the University community to develop and enact the Arcadia2030 Adaptive Strategy.

“Kevin and I can capitalize on our strengths and differences,” Cannon says. “We will lead, and follow, with courage, loyalty, and trustworthiness.”

“Having co-chairs is a new approach, and I am excited to collaborate with my fellow co-chair, Lynne,” Shollenberger adds.

Cannon is a well-respected global pharmaceutical and healthcare senior executive and consultant. She has served as board chair of RWJ Barnabas Healthcare Corps. at Hamilton, trustee of the American Hospital Association Committee on Governance, trustee of 1st Constitution Bancorp, and vice chair of Mercer County Community College Foundation. She holds many awards for her leadership roles, most notably the New Jersey Hospital Association Trustee of the Year award. She joined Arcadia's Board of Trustees in 2016.

Shollenberger, who joined Arcadia's board in 2020, is Vice Provost for Student Health and Well-Being at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His professional experience includes leadership positions at several universities in roles that focused on student affairs, management of critical academic services, and other non-academic aspects of university life. Shollenberger is a frequent presenter at the national level on student success in higher education.

To ensure a smooth transition, Cannon and Shollenberger began meeting regularly last spring with their predecessor, **John Rollins**, and developed a collaborative cadence for sharing their points of view. The pair has read the book, “Co-Leaders: The Power of Great Partnerships,” by David A. Heenan and Warren G. Bennis, a book that Cannon gave to Shollenberger.

The co-chairs delight in listening to each other's perspectives. Their co-leadership will be based on celebrating Arcadia, fostering togetherness, balancing power, and building the board as a team.

This collaborative effort aligns with the University's values-based approach to decision-making. Arcadia emphasizes a shared

governance system that includes the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Student Government Organization (SGO), Board of Trustees, and University Administration, working together to develop and implement policies. This approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered across all aspects of university life.

Both Cannon and Shollenberger say they will lean on their own college experiences as they lead the board. They believe their generational differences also bring value to their co-chair roles.

Both attended Arcadia when the University was still named Beaver College. For Cannon, the college was not yet co-ed. That came a few years later, in 1972.

“The women of the Class of 1968 were amazing. Several of my classmates made a difference in my life, either directly or as inspirations,” Cannon shares.

Cannon also has fond memories of serving as vice president of the SGO.

Of his Arcadia experience, Shollenberger's favorite memories reflect the genuine care and dedication shown by the faculty. Shollenberger fondly recalls a professor who drove several hours to visit him in rural Pennsylvania, checking on a research project and staying to have lunch with his parents. Another professor helped him secure an internship at the London Zoo, a pivotal experience.

Like Cannon, Shollenberger served on the SGO and as a resident assistant and orientation leader.

“Arcadia prepared me not just academically, but personally and professionally,” Shollenberger says. “The skills I gained have fueled my 36-year career in higher education and continue to shape how I approach leadership today.”

Now, Cannon and Shollenberger will together lead the Board of Trustees, the University, its alumni and students.

“As alumni, we are looking forward to making an impact on the University community that we hold so dear,” Cannon says.

“We will leverage our combined vision, integrity, and experiences to engage the entire Arcadia community for continued success,” Shollenberger says. ❖

“As alumni, we are looking forward to making an impact on the University community that we hold so dear.”

— J. Lynne Cannon '68

Brigette A. Bryant on Representing Arcadia at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)

Brigette A. Bryant, Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement, has served on the CASE Commission for the last three years, though her contributions to the organization date back more than two and a half decades. She has received the District II Charles A. Wright Opportunity and Inclusion Leadership Award and has helped Arcadia University win five awards. As her time on the Commission comes to an end, Bryant shares how her experiences have elevated philanthropy and culture at the University: “For me, there is no greater joy. Whether the beneficiaries are students, faculty, donors, and/or institutions, the idea that meaningful philanthropic support can be manifested to make a distinct difference is important to me. I always wish I could do more because I believe at my core that the pursuit of excellence is within the grasp of every person and every institution. My job is to help an institution prepare for it, but it does not appear simply because it is wanted. There is work involved.”



Q: What are some of the responsibilities of being on the CASE Commission?

A: Being part of the Commission—I was invited to join in 2022—has been such a joy for me. Frankly, it has been my greatest service to date, and I was really honored by the invitation. It is a think tank where the trends in academia related to the advancement disciplines are discussed, giving the leaders in the room a sense of the headwinds on the horizon. But it also educates. I created and delivered a presentation about “Black Philanthropy” early in my tenure there, where the Philanthropy Committee deepened their understanding about authentic cultivation of Black wealth. Even my own perceptions were elevated. I was moved to amplify my own support of financial literacy in the communities where it is absent.

Q: What does it mean to receive the District II Charles A. Wright Opportunity and Inclusion Leadership Award?

A: I had the pleasure of working with Chuck Wright when I served on the District II Board at CASE. So, while I was part of the group that determined that the award should be named for him for his outstanding work on the Opportunity and Inclusion Committee, it floored me when I received it. I think that I was the second person to be a Wright awardee. The award itself made me reflect on my career lifting others, especially for those for whom the road is more difficult. The award was an unexpected but wonderful recognition of my professional (and personal) life not only reflecting my values, but also acknowledging the work I have done and the work I love.

Q: How long have you been a part of CASE?

A: I have been involved with CASE since the late 90s. As a volunteer-driven organization, I’ve always seen it as an important part of my professional responsibility to return to those entering the profession the support that I have received. That is the beauty of CASE—it is a professional organization to which academic institutions belong, but it is built to support the people in higher education and beyond.

Q: How has being a part of CASE benefitted Arcadia?

A: Visibility. Because of the length of my association with CASE, I have carried each and every institution where I have served with me on my CASE journey. And some of those institutions had built a sufficient reputation—for example, a City University of New York or a Tufts University, where an introduction is barely needed. Arcadia was less on the radar, but my representation of Arcadia meant that I would share the work we were doing at the highest level of our institution, like our work on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and CABR (which was widely applauded) or the creation of our Jones Poundstone Society, which became a model that could be replicated by institutions of our size and make. We have also won our fair share of awards from CASE, including a gold, two silver, and two bronze awards just for doing the work University Advancement loves! We were recognized by our professional association as we competed against other institutions and won! That says quite a bit about who Arcadia is! We are winners! ✨

INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF PATRICIA L. SQUIRE '62 ENDOWED LICENSURESHIP FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Beaver College Foundation was proud to announce the first four recipients of the **Patricia L. Squire '62** Endowed Licensureship for the School of Education, established in honor of the late Patricia Louise Squire, who passed away in January 2023. Squire was a devoted educator and passionate advocate for storytelling, education, and community service. A graduate of Beaver College and a 33-year teacher in Springfield Township, Montgomery County schools, Squire deeply valued education and had a lifelong commitment to service. Her impact lives on through this licensureship, which will support students who are pursuing their licensure in various fields of education.

Continuing Squire's legacy of helping others achieve their goals, the endowed fund provides invaluable assistance and critical financial support for our students as future professionals. The funds will help students complete the licensure process and advance their careers by providing financial assistance to offset the fees associated with pursuing their license to teach.

Financial support for this year's awards was made possible by the Estate of Patricia L. Squire and donors **Elizabeth Jean Walker '62**, **Ann Westerfield '62**, and her spouse, William Westerfield, a former member of the University Board of Trustees, through Beaver College Foundation. ❖



Victoria Brown '25

*BA in Secondary Education:
Social Studies/Certification
in Social Studies (7-12)*

- Social Action and Justice Education (SAJE) Fellow
- Involved in Model U.N.
- Participated in Preview the World (England)



Bunny Figueroa '25

*BA in History/Certification
in Social Studies (7-12)*

- Student Fellow for the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring
- SAJE Fellow
- Involved in Asian Pacific Islander American Alliance
- Participated in Preview the World (Scotland)



Joseph McGee '25

*BA in History/Certification
in Social Studies (7-12)*

- Named to the Dean's and Distinguished Dean's Lists almost every semester



Ryan Salmon '25

*BA in English/Certification
in English (7-12)*

- On the men's tennis team
- SAJE Fellow
- Participated in Preview the World (Ireland)

SENIOR GOLDEN DISC HONORS CAMPUS LEADERS WHO SHINE

By Janene Geiss

Each year at Commencement, the Senior Golden Disc Award is bestowed upon an outstanding member of the graduating class who exemplifies the highest standards of leadership in activities that enhance the quality of student life. The recipients carry on a tradition that began when **Lisa Wasser-Berlin** was presented the first Senior Golden Disc Award in 1978.

Winners are nominated by their peers, faculty, or administrative staff, and chosen by a committee of alumni who interview each nominee. **Margo Maas**, associate director of Young Alumni and Student Engagement, notes how many winners are outstanding members of the Arcadia community “from their first years on campus.”

Since 2024, thanks to the generosity of a donor who made a gift in honor of his wife, a Beaver College alumna, the award has included a financial stipend.

The Class of 2025 Senior Golden Disc Award winner is **Nicole Burgon**. Recipient of the Marilyn Sunners Cranin '54, '96H Endowed Scholarship, Burgon earned her bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Law and Public Policy. During her four years at Arcadia, the Honors student studied abroad in four countries, completed three internships including one with the Irish Parliament in Dublin, served as editor-in-chief of *The Compass*, and held roles as a managing member of Student Government's Student Engagement Board, a member of Honors Council, student ambassador, research assistant, Writing Center consultant, and tutor.

While all Senior Golden Disc nominees are recognized at *18 Knights in the Castle* and the Alumni Awards Ceremony, the winner is not revealed until graduation day, creating an element of surprise.

“I was in shock when it was announced, and I was so excited to receive an award at graduation,” says **Michael Johnson**, the 2024 recipient who is now pursuing a Master of Public Policy at George Washington University. “But in the hours and days that followed, I reflected on what the award stands for and I was overwhelmed with honor and gratitude. Receiving this award was the culmination of all the work I had done and the relationships



I cultivated on behalf of my peers to ensure Arcadia remained a beacon of inclusivity and social progression.”

Hannah Cropper, the 2023 Senior Golden Disc winner and an emergency department technician who plans to apply to medical school this fall.

“Our Senior Golden Disc winners are out in the world, still leaders, doing amazing things,” Maas says. “They are students who make Arcadia proud.” ❖



Above: Alumni Reunion Weekend Awards & Honors Ceremony in the University Commons Great Room. **Top right:** Sonya Gaskins '02 (right) presents Anna Spaschak '21 with the Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award. **Bottom right:** Devon Miller '18 (right) presents Kelly Stevenson, Esq. '15 with the Harry G. Kuch Award.

REUNION WEEKEND: CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

By Devon Miller '18

For the last year, I have had the privilege of being Chair of the Arcadia University Alumni Association's Awards and Honors Committee. Preceding this two-year term, I served as an active committee member for the last six years. Each year during Alumni Reunion Weekend, we come together for the Alumni Awards Celebration to recognize the incredible contributions of our alumni to both the University community and their professions. This event is the culmination of our committee's work and is always a special event for me personally.

In my current Arcadia role, I am fortunate to work on Glenside's campus as part of the undergraduate admissions team. I spend a lot of my time discussing the University with prospective students to help them find their unique connection to campus and help them discover how Arcadia can support them to achieve their goals. I see the Alumni Awards Celebration as a bridge between the two worlds: my connections with students and my role as an alumnus.

I look around the room as we honor and celebrate the outstanding Beaver College and Arcadia alumni and recognize that these people, these stories, these successes, are all possible for the high school juniors and seniors I'm working with every day. They, too, can attain success with an Arcadia education.

These alumni inspire us as a University community, and their achievements have the power to motivate a prospective Knight who is just starting out. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients! I look forward to all the future Knights who will be honored in the coming years. ❖

2025 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS:

Harry G. Kuch Award

Kelly Stevenson, Esq. '15

Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award

Anna Spaschak '21

Sankofa Award for Distinguished Achievement

Gene Bazemore '00

Golden Disc for Meritorious Service

Ken Samen '92

Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement

Velpula Grace Anisha Paul '13MSFS

Outstanding Achievement Award

Todd Hacker '00, '02M

Class Agent Award

Tierra Tobin '20

Young Alumni Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement

Katherine Wilson '19

Faculty & Staff Impact Award

Adam Planamento '12

Sustained Global Excellence

Arcadia Abroad's
Better-Than-Before,
Post-Pandemic Comeback

By Lini S. Kadaba





Dr. Hamish Thompson leads students through a tour of the National Museum of Scotland.

Photo courtesy of Marina Rios '26



The Umbra Institute students swapped Perugia's hills for the awe-inspiring Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel while on a visit to Rome in 2021.

Arcadia Abroad's director of Scotland programs **Hamish Thompson** got the call at 3 a.m. local time in Edinburgh.

Given COVID-19's spread and impending travel restrictions, Thompson was told on that March morning in 2020, all 138 study abroad students under his watch had to head home right away.

"It was clear this was going to have a massive impact on society," he says. "It was very uncertain what the mortality rate was going to be. We had to evacuate."

Stateside, study abroad staffer **Lisa Donatelli** juggled getting students home, keeping their academics on track, and undertaking myriad other tasks even as she weighed the end of her long, beloved career.

"The stress was immense," says the program's now chief of operations, global programs and engagement. "Arcadia University could have easily chosen to simply eliminate our unit, as other universities were doing. Knowing this, I refinanced my mortgage and cashed out money in preparation for losing my job."

The study abroad unit, housed at The College of Global Studies (TCGS) and branded as Arcadia Abroad, had long operated as a mostly stand-alone entity that contributed substantial revenue to the University's budget. The pandemic shut off that stream of income practically overnight, threatening Arcadia Abroad's viability.

The unit shuttered centers in Rome, Athens, and Barcelona and reduced domestic staffing by almost half. "It became a white-knuckle nine months," says **Jeff Rutenbeck**, who served as Arcadia provost and senior vice president for academic affairs from 2019 until his retirement in 2025.

That bleak time could have been the beginning of the end for Arcadia's storied international education program that dates to the post-World War II era. According to a September 2020 survey by Washington, D.C., nonprofit NAFSA: Association of International Educators, nearly 90% of 131 mostly higher-ed respondents didn't send any students on foreign trips in fall 2020, resulting in losses of nearly \$35 million. In addition, 38% said that staff positions would be impacted by canceled programs. For some outfits, COVID-19 would prove the last nail in their coffin, says Caroline Donovan White, NAFSA's senior director of education abroad and volunteer engagement.

But not for Arcadia Abroad. In the five years since the pandemic, the study abroad organization has not only rebounded but in many ways prospered. "We took the opportunity to reimagine ourselves as a consulting partner working with institutions to offer solutions," says **Andrew D. Law**, Arcadia Abroad's chief executive officer. "We transitioned from a fairly traditional higher-education organization to an enterprise unit."

CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE

According to White, organizations that “did well” despite the pandemic “had great stakeholder relationships, good communication within the office and with groups abroad. You have to be creative and innovative.”

Certainly, by many measures, Arcadia Abroad was that and then some. “Arcadia sustained excellence,” says Carolyn North, recently retired assistant dean for global learning at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. “We haven’t seen that everywhere.”

The organization, by all accounts, has helped a growing list of domestic colleges and universities return to study abroad in ways that address their challenges and advance their recruitment and retention priorities in a difficult environment. That means collaborations around new courses and internships, wrap-around support services, and rich experiences—all focused on keeping students at the center.

From the helm, Law set the tone. He approached the crisis with an optimist’s outlook: There will be a point when COVID ends, and Arcadia Abroad will be ready, he told staff. It was a can-do attitude that has delivered hefty dividends.

Enrollment, which dropped from the low thousands to practically zero at the pandemic’s apex, rebounded three short years later—and now exceeds pre-pandemic numbers by about 20%, Law says. Net revenue has nearly doubled from its pandemic bottom, he adds.

A reorganization along C-suite lines and elimination of redundancies between Arcadia Abroad and the University (such as two health and safety officers or separate finance teams) has led to a smaller domestic staff—about 80% of pre-COVID, Law notes. But it also encouraged closer connections to the University’s global mission and strategic plan, he says. At the same time, the early decision to invest in overseas staff proved crucial to Arcadia Abroad’s success and subsequent expansion, Law says.

“Dynamism, nimbleness, and innovation were what allowed us to survive COVID,” he says. “Overlaying that was a commitment to chart a new course.”

CAN WE? SHOULD WE?

Even as students returned home from country after country, from Italy, the United Kingdom and Western Europe, then South Africa, and finally Australia and New Zealand, Arcadia Abroad was determined to ensure continuity, that courses were completed and credits earned.

“That’s no easy feat,” says **John P. Fallon**, the program’s chief of enrollment strategy and business development. “We had to invent how that would happen. It was a lot of all-day and late nights on Zoom calls.”

“Dynamism, nimbleness, and innovation were what allowed us to survive COVID.”

— Andrew D. Law

Decolonizing the Mind: Racial and Environmental Justice students greet the day from Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa.

LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WHERE ARCADIA ABROAD HAS A PRESENCE

Arcadia worked with its local directors to figure out coursework and exam schedules as education shifted online. By the summer [2020], Arcadia Abroad went virtual, allowing it to stay open, and 27 students participated. “Our goal,” Law says, “was to recreate the kind of engagement we offered in country.”

“Arcadia: Virtual Europe” was built. Program faculty throughout Europe taught an online community of students, explains **Paola Cascinelli**, the Naples-based director of Arcadia Abroad Italy and Arcadia Abroad Online, who helped design the program. Participants got a taste of local culture through virtual excursions to museums and landmarks, Zoom guest lectures by host country experts, and live event streaming. Arcadia also launched virtual internships, where students worked remotely for employers on web content creation, business development, communications, and more, Cascinelli says. A digital resume workshop was included.

While in-person internships have returned, Arcadia has continued the virtual option—a silver lining of the pandemic, she says. “Currently, a student studying in Perugia is virtually in Florence,” Cascinelli says. “A student studying in Ireland is virtually in the United Kingdom.”

Transparency was the watchword. Student safety, of course, was foremost, but ethical considerations also mattered. At the time, **Hannah Leidich**, director of global health, safety and student affairs for Arcadia Abroad, was not even a year as the assistant director. “It was surreal to have crisis on such a global scale,” she says, recalling a colleague remarking that a site hadn’t been evacuated since the Gulf War in 1990.

In an October 2020 blog post, Leidich asked two questions—“Can we?” and, perhaps more important, “Should we?”—as Arcadia weighed sending students overseas again. “How can we avoid contributing to over-burdened medical systems abroad?” she wrote. “How will our students impact their host community?”

“We also threw in a bit of tenacity and ambition and a belief that we could achieve the impossible by rebounding in three years.”

— Lisa Donatelli

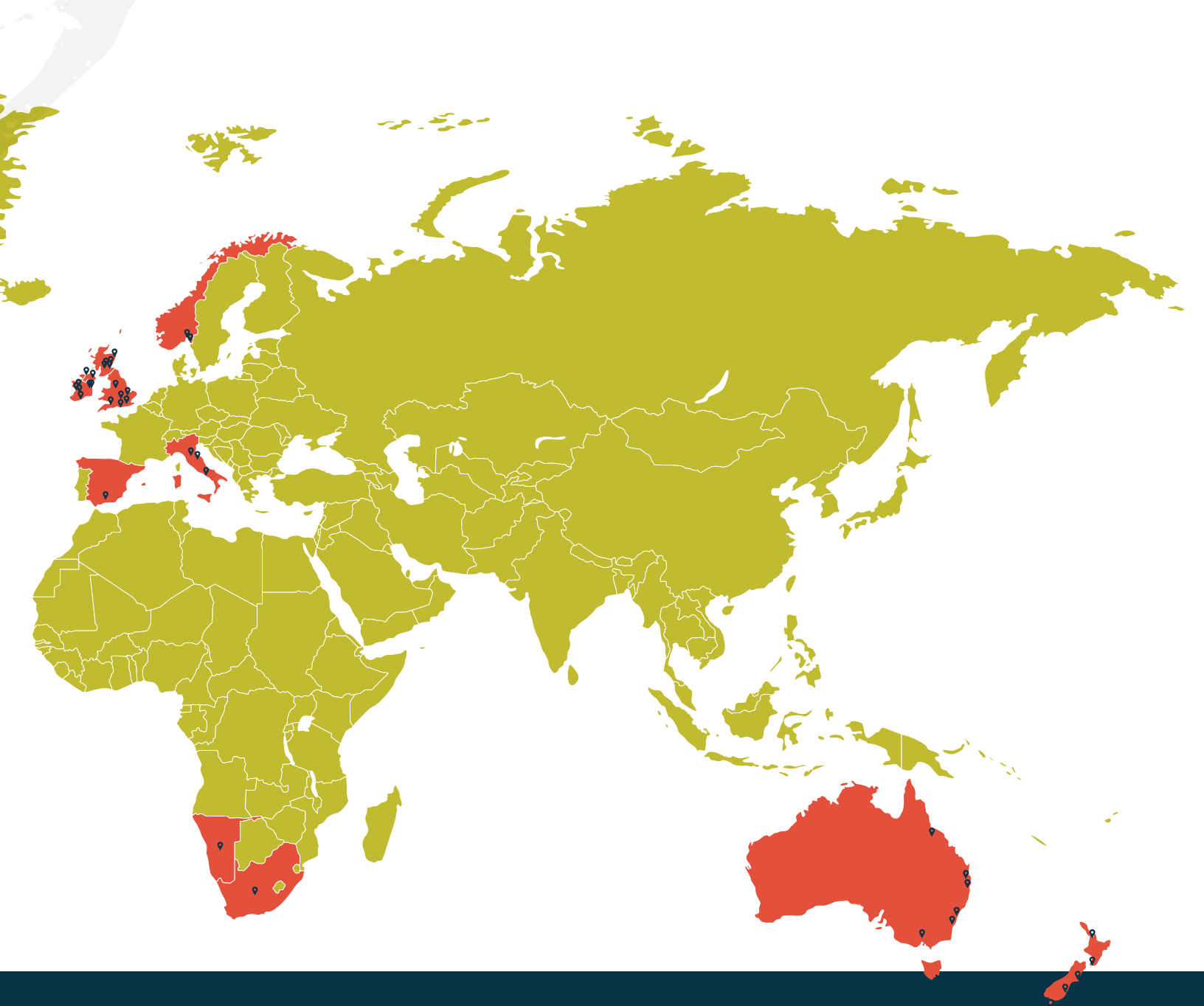
“We didn’t want to be that bullish American organization,” Leidich says.

Meanwhile, staff had to remain flexible. The internship coordinator in Australia became the social media coordinator; the U.S. academic records manager took on marketing content. A “Swiss-army-knife approach,” was adopted, Donatelli says. “We strove to find efficient and effective ways to work, and we collaborated like never before. We also threw in a bit of tenacity and ambition and a belief that we could achieve the impossible by rebounding in three years.”

Will Meehan of Concord, Mass., was one of 68 intrepid travelers to go to Arcadia Abroad’s reopened United Kingdom programs in fall 2020. The then-junior business and economics double major at St. Michael’s College in Vermont had written off traveling to Scotland when Arcadia notified him that the Edinburgh program was on.

Meehan had to quarantine initially and then suffered two more quarantines as COVID spread through his dorm. Classes were online, and popular overnight weekend tours gave way to day trips and outdoor activities, such as scavenger hunts, bicycling, and kayaking. Participants wore masks and practiced social distancing.

“The quarantine was terrible,” says the 25-year-old who works as a senior financial analyst for the TJX Companies that include TJ Maxx. “Even with that, I would do it again because of how amazing the rest of it was. Arcadia did everything it could to make the experience as good as it possibly could be.”



STICKING AROUND AFTER STUDYING ABROAD

Unlike many other institutions that push study abroad experiences to junior year, Arcadia offers a unique First-Year Study Abroad Experience (FYSAE) in the spring semester of a student's first year, and Preview the World, which occurs over spring break of a student's first year.

These early opportunities help Arcadia students build confidence, develop adaptability and flexibility, and practice their communication skills and cultural competency early in their higher education careers.

This is just one reason why, on average, fall-to-fall, first and second year retention rates are historically 15-20% higher among students who participate in FYSAE or Preview the World.

"The relationships created by their shared experiences while studying abroad help propel our students toward success," **Scott Terry**, director of Global Engagement at Arcadia, said. "While studying abroad, students have the opportunity to explore new ways of thinking and experience

new environments alongside fellow students and faculty. That connection is what helps them find belonging."

Arcadia routinely takes the number one spot for undergraduate study abroad participation in The Institute of International Education's Open Doors report.

"Part of our success is that we manage and operate our own study abroad programs," said Terry. "This means the relationships students develop are with their Arcadia peers and the Arcadia faculty and staff." ❖

VALUES AND AUTHENTICITY

Through 2021, interest in going overseas, despite restrictions, began to climb. Fallon credits Arcadia's reputation for health and safety, essential to managing the varied travel protocols of sending institutions.

The secret sauce, both the organization's leadership and its partners say, was the experienced in-country staff that had relationships with local governments, police, and universities. "That's where the magic happens," Fallon says. "We're working as solutionaries for students."

Jeannie Simmons, director of global education at Ohio State University, has long appreciated Arcadia's deep bench. "It's not just, here are some classes," she says. "It's everything from A to Z, dealing with academics, finances, health and safety, student development."

It's also meeting student demand for work experience through internships or summer research projects.

"I think this is where they were ahead of the curve."

Since 2019, enrollment in Arcadia's rigorous STEM Summer Research has exploded, growing 70% as of last year, says **Rob Hallworth**, associate dean of academic engagement at Arcadia Abroad. This year's numbers are on target to be even higher, he adds. "It's a unique experience," Hallworth says, one that attracts students from places as diverse as Yale University, the University of Michigan, and Hamilton and offers projects around the globe. "You can get a glimpse of what your career in a lab might be. You might discover this is not what you want to do, which is just as important."

Tara Chatty a biomedical engineering junior at Case Western University from the Austin area, was eager to experience life in another country. But finding classes that met the requirements of her demanding major proved difficult. The solution? Summer research with Arcadia Abroad. Last year, Chatty spent several weeks at King's College London on a project that examined a robotic procedure for cardiac valve replacement.

Besides offering first-class services, Arcadia Abroad also innovated as it emerged from the pandemic. In a venture capital-fueled consolidating industry, it no longer made sense to depend solely on recruiting students to go abroad to its centers and programs, according to Law. "The business plan was that the higher-education sector is changing," he says. "We were ripe for being vulnerable. The fact that we operated through COVID with clear values and authenticity was key."



Students studying Migration & Social Change in Mexico explore urban sustainability practices through vermicomposting during their field study in Mexico City.

In 2022, Arcadia partnered with Augsburg University. For more than 45 years, the small school in Minneapolis has offered U.S. partner schools international education focused on human rights, democracy, and justice through its Center for Global Education and Experience (CGEE). The revenue-sharing collaboration was a way forward in an increasingly cutthroat environment, Law says, one that has enriched Arcadia's portfolio and provided greater financial stability to Augsburg CGEE.

Take the school's social justice and post-Apartheid program in Namibia and South Africa. Arcadia gets a presence on the continent despite closing its South Africa center, and Augsburg has a bigger pool of students to support its program both semesters. "We need each other," says Patrick Mulvihill, the school's assistant provost for global education and experience. "We get access to audiences we would never have reached, whole new cohorts of students who are more diverse, socio-economically, racially and ethnically, and geographically."

Arcadia Abroad has also found additional creative ways to grow. It provides infrastructure support (health-and-safety, pre-departure orientation, housing) to ensure a smooth transition for Dartmouth College students enrolled at Queen Mary University of London. For LaSalle University, it serves as an off-the-shelf study abroad office. With Hamilton, Arcadia helped develop over more than a year the Trudeau Institute bioscience pilot in New York. Importantly, Arcadia has landed since the pandemic more than 125 new partner institutions that proved elusive in the past.

The program's staff "rose to the challenge to take advantage of footholds in the market," Law says.

You're not only building a program with partners, you're building trust.

— Jacki Daddona

In addition, Arcadia's strategic decision to work with clients to address specific challenges has led to a doubling in collaborative programs, says associate director **Jacki Daddona**, who heads the effort. Projects include curating lists of study abroad courses that meet specific requirements and price points, tailoring required classes to take advantage of overseas locations with local guest speakers and field trips, and identifying international universities that offer teaching practicum placements.

"You're not only building a program with partners," Daddona says, "you're building trust."

Arcadia Abroad's better-than-before comeback, though, wasn't only about the outstanding work of that team and continuity and innovation. It was rooted in what Dr. Rutenbeck calls adaptive change. "It's a mindset and culture of doing more with less," he says, "having a sharper focus on strategy and better execution in a highly competitive and unstable environment, and coming out on top."

Finally, by 2023, "it was a return to normalcy," Law says. You can almost hear him exhale. Enrollment jumped, and Arcadia Abroad had achieved the improbable—remaking itself in a short three years. This academic year [2024-2025], the program has exceeded pre-pandemic revenue numbers.

According to Law, three principles have guided the arc of the rebound: Use the London Center as a network hub for new ideas, such as providing internships to students enrolled at local universities; lean into facilitating direct enrollment while offering wrap-around services; and stay committed to access to study abroad for all students.

This last, he says, reflects a business model grounded in the values of the University, ensuring access for all students to study abroad and building inclusive communities. To that end, Arcadia has invested in a portfolio of programs (discounted to be priced at or below \$15,750 a semester, about the same as on-campus costs) available to its Inclusive Excellence Coalition (IEC), made up of schools with endowments below \$100 million and a student population of at least 35% Pell grant recipients.

Ohio Wesleyan University joined IEC in 2022, after a long relationship with Arcadia Abroad. "We've seen a notable increase in our need-based student population," says Lisa Ho, the school's associate director of international and off-campus programs. "We're seeing seismic shifts in federal and state funding models. This is going to have lasting impact on students' access to international education." IEC, she says, was the impetus to create a study abroad affordable catalogue. Now zoology majors can access affordably a marine biology program in Australia, she says. "That was never the case before."

AT THE CORE OF OUR MISSION

In 1948, seventeen Beaver College women traveled with an economics instructor and his wife to war-torn Europe and cycled through England, Belgium, and France to witness rebuilding efforts firsthand. It was one of the first study abroad experiences by a U.S. institution.

Since then, international education has become central to the University's mission. In 1965, David Gray, an entrepreneurial English faculty member, started the Center for Education Abroad—an unusual relationship for a university. "Arcadia embraced it," Law says. "Study abroad became a defining element of an Arcadia education."

Now, Arcadia Abroad brings that same enthusiasm for studying around the world to other institutions.

Last fall, Washington University in St. Louis junior Avery Porter attended Queen Mary and, like those Beaver undergraduates, experienced an adventure. In the leadup, Arcadia Abroad, in its consultant role, helped refine her application, down to proofreading it, and pick classes that aligned with the English language and literature major's goals. "Arcadia gave that personal, one-on-one advice," says Porter, a native of St. Louis.

In London, local staff took students on tours and offered tips. "All those practical things I wouldn't have ever known," Porter says. Center staff checked in on her studies, and excursions—a Wales weekend of cliff climbing and jumping, for one—pushed her outside her comfort zone. "I would have never done that if I hadn't signed up with Arcadia," she says.

Arcadia Global Media Studies **Caleigh Sechler '27**, of Allentown, Pa., spent last fall at the Arcadia London Center studying British media as preparation for her junior year at the University of Westminster. "My first study abroad showed me I could get to know people and make friends and it wouldn't be just me, alone, in a whole


country," she says. "I'm much more confident." She also broadened her cultural horizons, she says, by going to "SIX," the musical about Henry VIII's wives. "I found out I love theater."

Clearly, Arcadia Abroad—and its essential value first espoused 77 years ago—is thriving.

"Study abroad is committed to a global education, to seeking different perspectives and, we hope, having a transformative impact on students," says Thompson of the Scottish programs. "It is at the core of our mission. That is our strength. That is our history and our values." ❖



HANDSHAKES *to* HIRED



Launching Careers Through
Real-World Learning

by Ryan Hiemenz '23

Left: Maria Davis '25 held multiple internship positions while an Arcadia student, including one that led to full-time employment. **Right:** Charli Rissmiller '25 with her supervisor at the International Ethics, Cosmetics, and Spa Conference in New York City.



Dried leaves crunch under the eager steps of **Khanye Jamison '26** as he heads to his first event as an Arcadia University alumni ambassador. In the University Commons Great Room, his eyes dart around the room to the successful alumni in attendance before settling on a 2003 graduate who's about to alter his career trajectory with three words: "You should apply."

Jamison has always believed that networking opportunities are available at all times; you just need to be open to them: "If you're not talking, you're not networking."

The Media and Communication major put that mindset into practice when he met Comcast's Vice President of Editorial Platform Merchandising **Chelsea Badeau '03** at the Salute to Excellence scholarship dinner in early October.

She told Jamison about an internship with Comcast that aligned with his interests, which he went back to his residence hall and applied for that night.

"It's funny because we were learning about resume building in my Build Your Career class with [Associate Director of Career Education] **Cynthia Nichols**, and [Assistant Professor of Media and Communication] **Chris Mullin** was teaching us about interviews, specifically for jobs and internships," Jamison said. "A week later, I had to do the same thing that she made us do, but for real."

This background helped him stand out in a candidate pool of more than 700 and receive an offer early in the spring 2025 semester. In his internship this summer, Jamison is analyzing Xfinity users' watch history to optimize TV recommendations.

Experiential learning opportunities like this are a staple of an Arcadia University education, getting students out of the classroom and ready for life and careers. Arcadia's Office of Career Education (OCE) assists students in preparing for internships

by providing individualized support, like in-person or AI-driven resume reviews and mock interviews. The office creates spaces for students to put what they've learned into action by inviting employers to campus for the annual Career and Internship Fair and Tabling Tuesdays, casual networking opportunities in The Chat. The OCE also encourages students to seek internships and job positions through Handshake, an online platform that connects students with employers.

Networking is key

While searching for internships, students like Jamison learn to market themselves and form connections. The OCE helps by offering learning sessions where students can understand what networking is before inviting employers to campus, so students can hone these skills with authentic experiences.

"We love to dig in when we find employers who are like, 'I love Arcadia students,' and we think, 'Come on through, meet more of them!' and 'How can we put you in front of students as many times as possible?'" said OCE Executive Director **Alison LaLond Wyant**, who also serves as executive director of Civic and Global Engagement. "When we see that those employers take us up on the opportunity to come to campus, we really want to latch on to them."

Maria Davis '25, an Actuarial Science major, found her first internship with the consulting services firm Illumifin through her advisor, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics **Irina Pogrebivsky**. Then, at Arcadia's annual Actuarial Interview Day, Davis landed a second internship with the professional services firm Aon.

"I interviewed with around 10 companies and received four different offers, and felt

like I had the best connection with the people at Aon," she said. "[The internship] gave me opportunities to network and learn about company resources and values. This, combined with my in-office experience, helped me feel welcomed and appreciated." Davis has accepted a full-time position with Aon after graduating.

Charli Rissmiller '25 combined her major in Public Health with her minor in Marketing for her internship with the skincare therapy company MySkinBuddy.

"One of the best parts about this internship is the networking it has provided," she said. "I have been able to reach out to many different sales and marketing executives in the field, which could prove to help me down the road."

Like Davis, Rissmiller's internship led to a full-time job after graduation, kickstarting her goal of working in healthcare marketing or pharmaceutical sales.

"Even though this will be my first full-time job, I feel confident going into it with the knowledge of the field and company I gained from this internship," she added.

Michael Zlotnick '22DPT says that his clinical experiences as a student in Arcadia's College of Health Sciences helped him succeed in his recent transition from the 3 Dimensional Physical Therapy office in Haddon Township, N.J., to clinic director and co-owner of the office in Jenkintown, Pa. Zlotnick found value in working in a range of locations not only to network with other doctors but also to build recognition among local patients.

"I think sometimes it helps to have been able to not just be in the Philadelphia area, but also to go into South Jersey," he said. "It helped me kind of build that 'Oh, I know this area. I've worked in the hospital nearby,' and people appreciate that. It shows you've spent some time working in their community."

Learning outside the classroom

“Internships give students the option to test out different opportunities before they have to commit to a job,” said OCE’s Associate Director of Employer Relations **Sonia Blount**. “It gives them the first look of what it means to be in the workforce, whether that is professional attire, effective communication, just office norms, those types of things that you may not necessarily learn in school.”

Michaelangelo Gomez ’26, a Sport Management major, has interned six times with organizations such as Penn Athletics, the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, and the New York Red Bulls. He’s put Blount’s recommendations into practice, soaking in as much as possible before he graduates.

Public Health major **Alexandra Zolty ’25** took another approach to professional development by volunteering with Cradle of Hope, a nonprofit in Glenside that supports single mothers, for her Public Health Service Learning course.

“Cradle of Hope has allowed me to develop more empathy for others as well as practice my leadership skills,” she said. “I’ve also been able to work with and understand those from different backgrounds, which will help prepare me for the future working in the medical field.” Zolty will be entering



Internships give them the first look of what it means to be in the workforce, whether that is professional attire, effective communication, just office norms, those types of things that you may not necessarily learn in school.

—*Sonia Blount*

Arcadia’s Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program this fall.

Arcadia’s School of Education prepares students for teaching careers through student teaching placements at local schools. For Pre-K Early Education major **Tiani Young ’25**, it was a first-grade classroom at Glenside Elementary School.

“Pre-student teaching was a great way to start off working with that group because now that I’m returning for student teaching, the kids are already familiar with me,” she said. “When you’re doing student teaching,

you see a lot of things that you don’t see when you’re a student.”

Many of the courses Young took prior to student teaching helped inform her understanding of what goes into leading a classroom.

“I had a good number of classes that I feel were super beneficial,” she added. “Especially with the hands-on things that we did to get our feet wet and see how to teach a class for my future.”

Daijah Patton ’22, an English teacher at Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove, Pa., reveres the sense of community she felt in the student teaching seminar course.

“That seminar is just kind of a support room,” she said. “Everyone in there is at a different school, doing a different thing, but sometimes we would all connect just to check in and be like, ‘Are these kids crazy, or what?’”



Left: Michael Zlotnick ’22DPT demonstrating his approach to patient care with his PT aide Elliot Sykes; **Center:** Alexandra Zolty ’25 volunteers at Cradle of Hope; **Right:** Benjamin Lashbrook ’26 examining the exhibits at the Museum of Brands in London.

Left: Sydney Boudreau '25 standing in front of the Sydney Opera House while interning in Australia. **Right:** (from left to right) Leah Morton '25MMS, Patrick Ensmenger '23, '25MMS, Sarah Lentz '25MMS, and Alex McKennon '25MMS, MPH at Rob Ferreira Hospital in Mbombela, South Africa.

International experiences

Arcadia's Office of Civic and Global Engagement connects students interested in interning abroad with employers in their chosen destinations.

That's how Business Administration major **Sydney Boudreau '25** landed an internship with public relations firm The Mint Partners in Sydney, Australia, where she uncovered a knack for marketing.

"While I was there, I realized how much I enjoyed the creative side of brand strategy and communication," she said. "It felt natural and exciting, like something I could see myself doing."

She carried this clarity into her senior capstone project, where students simulated



running a business. "There was a finance and operations side, and a marketing side," she said. "I took on the marketing role, and it just confirmed everything for me. It came easily, it made sense, and it felt like the right fit."

Another benefit of getting on-the-job training in another country is exposure to different cultures, populations, and ways of doing things.

When **Alex McKennon '25MMS, MPH**, completed a clinical rotation at Rob Ferreira Hospital in Mbombela, South Africa, he noted the vast inequities that exist between the private hospitals that serve the affluent minority and the public hospitals like Rob Ferreira that most people rely on.

"I saw how badly this affects the patients who cannot afford private hospital care. Beds don't always have sheets, windows aren't always intact, medical supplies like sterile gloves are lacking, and certain medicines are not always available," he explained. "However, right down the road is a private hospital akin to what we see in the U.S. Although there remains an unmet need for quality care among this population, Rob Ferreira's resource limitations gave me a unique opportunity to learn hands-on skills that I may not have learned in the U.S., for which I am grateful."

History major **Benjamin Lashbrook '26** interned with London's Museum of

Brands, gaining hands-on experience as a museum administrator.

"Now I have experience in ad work. I have experience working with collections. I have experience in marketing a museum," Lashbrook explained. "So I understand a lot more about how a museum works and how they draw visitors, which is something I'll be able to take into a future job."

Motivated for the next step

At their core, internships teach skills that can't adequately be taught in a classroom. Such opportunities have motivated students like Jamison to push beyond what they thought they were capable of. Now, as he plans out his daily commute to Center City, Philadelphia, Jamison is eager to put all that he's prepared for into practice, greeting new faces as he goes.

"If I ever don't know how to do something, I'm going to make sure I learn," he said. "When you get involved and shake the right hands, talk to the right people, and just be yourself and be positive, it takes you a long way." ❖

“
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into a future job.

— Benjamin Lashbrook '26

1947

Betty Jane Rothenberger Hendricks Beifuss '47 celebrated her 100th birthday on February 1, 2025 with family and friends at her home at Christ's Home, Warminster, Pa. She has many fond memories of her time at then-Beaver College and still keeps up with the latest news reading Arcadia Magazine.

1958

Judith Sann Grenen '58: I moved to Waverly Heights in Gladwyne, PA and am loving it. Compare it to being on a small cruise ship without the sea. My two children are the travelling ones now. Jim and Mary still live in Pittsburgh and Seven Springs with a month in Colorado, Amy and Don for now still in Westport, CT and are looking in the Western USA for great skiing and a place to retire. My five grandchildren now have multiplied since two are married (one lives in London and expecting) two will be married: one in June and one in October. I also have a Great-Granddaughter who will have a baby in September named Ada Judith. The closest live in Baltimore. **Margie Aronoff Leonard '58** and I get together about every six weeks for brunch and a movie or show.

1967

Karen Fitzgerald '67: We have moved to the Kansas City area in what some people refer to as the "Grandchild Move." Both our children and our grandchildren live near us now, and that has been wonderful. We're ardent spectators at soccer, basketball, golf, gymnastics, and a variety of school events. I am in an Alzheimer's Disease study, the Trailblazer-Alz 3 study, taking either donanemab (Kisunla) or a placebo through an infusion. The study involves nine infusions over about nine months, then 3 years of "observation." I hope this will be effective in delaying the onset of Alzheimer's Disease, or slowing down the progression of the disease.

1991

Pat Saint Cyr-Hager '91: I am thrilled to progress to the doctoral candidate stage for my public

health degree. Over the spring of 2025, I will be advancing my research on the influence of social support on health-seeking behavior among adult Black women in the United States. I hope that this research will uncover insights to help public health practitioners improve health intervention programs for this community and potentially impact their health outcomes. The foundation of my bachelor's degree in biology and education at Beaver College (now Arcadia) set me on this path to do more for women and young girls in our society. I will be forever grateful for the resilience, scientific and health knowledge, and drive that Beaver College instilled in me both personally and professionally.

1998

Joanne E. Ey '98: I am currently the Vice President for Executive Administration and Governance for the American College of Physicians. I was recently honored with the 2025 Exceptional Mentor Award from the American Medical Women's Association.

2002

Scott Gehret '02: In 2019 at the age of 53, I was diagnosed with a rare and unique form of Dementia called Frontotemporal degeneration. FTD for short. I had to leave work shortly after due to behavioral issues, loss of executive functioning. FTD has no cure, no treatments, and is fatal. There are, however, meds that can help with symptoms as they are behavioral in nature. I do advocacy work to educate people that FTD is vastly different from Alzheimer's. I have a bio up on PAC Core team on teepasnow.com. Thankfully, my great education from Arcadia and others as well as tons of self education, I am cognizant of my changing brain. Please consider supporting my fundraiser for AFTD's With Love campaign. Together, we can show everyone that love is more powerful than this disease: classy.org/fundraiser/6030192

2004

Helen (Henderson) Graner '04 married David Graner on September 29, 2017. They welcomed a baby girl, Cora Jane, on October 3, 2024.

2007

Amy Strauss Falco '07 and her husband, Mathew Falco, welcomed their daughter, Luciana Vinetta, on November 11, 2024 in Philadelphia.

Delanté Keys '07 was hired as development coordinator for Outright Vermont as an active performer focused on utilizing theater to serve a more joyous and liberated community. He just co-starred with Natalie Jacobs in the play *Primary Trust*, which won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

2008

Krista Haig '08: The American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) is proud to announce the appointment of Krista Haig, CPC, to its National Advisory Board (NAB). Haig joins a distinguished group of industry leaders dedicated to providing critical insights into healthcare trends, member needs, and strategic initiatives to advance AAPC's mission and support the business of healthcare. Haig has 13 years of experience in hospital and insurance settings, specializing in revenue cycle optimization, billing, auditing, contract management, software implementation, and denials management. She recently spent six years at an acute care hospital in Doha, Qatar, assisting with CPT® coding system implementation.

2010

Brittany (Mitchell) Adom '10, '18MBA: Fifteen years after my time at Arcadia and eight years post-grad school, my career continues to evolve in exciting ways. At the University of Pennsylvania, I'm using my business and leadership skills to elevate my work environment—both inside and outside the finance department. At the same time, I'm growing my business, Novice Vegan Life, by developing mindfulness strategies for eating and de-stressing, with the goal of helping professionals like myself and my overall community find balance in demanding environments.

The most rewarding development in my life, however, has been welcoming my baby girl, Amelia.

Parenthood has brought a whole new dimension to my journey, alongside celebrating seven years of marriage with the boy who grew up just across the street from Arcadia. Life has a way of coming full circle, and while leading a team and navigating first-time parenting is exhausting, I'm reminded daily that life is meant to be savored.

2012

Kristina Gannotta '12 leads the marketing team at Niche, helping students through the college search process. She and her team created the Niche Direct Admissions program, making the college application process more accessible for students.

2015

Chad Towarnicki '15M: I am excited to share that my first novel, *Notes From a Deserter*, is now available for purchase through History Through Fiction Press. The novel started as a manuscript while I was in the Creative Writing Program, and it is blurred by Arcadia Adjunct Prof **Paul Elwork** and fellow Arcadia CW alum **Nick Gregorio**. It officially launched in April of '25.

Aashika Suseendran '15, DPT, RYT-500: It was a dream come true to bring a SKY Happiness Retreat to an incredible group of students, faculty, and staff at my alma mater university, Arcadia. The seed was planted in July of this year, during my Teacher Training at the Art of Living Retreat Center, when my inspiring trainer Annelies Richmond (director of SKY Campus Happiness) told us that SKY programs have now reached 107 campuses across the country, and even more around the world! I thought, "how about Arcadia?!"

Fast forward to November 2024, and with the retreat complete, our hearts (and lungs) are full of love and fresh energy. Every participant showed up with so much insight, openness, and kindness. It truly felt like a family. I couldn't feel more grateful to everyone who helped make this partnership happen. I am so happy to be able to continue

In Memoriam

Justine Fedan Wenger '52
September 22, 2024

Suzanne "Sue" Crane '54
March 14, 2025



Pat Croner '55
January 2024

Dr. Marjorie Love Roth '56
January 22, 2025

Barbara Nazzaro Cassidy '58
January 19, 2025



Corinda King Bassett '62
April 7, 2025

Constance Joy Breyer '65
February 1, 2024

Ruth Fireovid Marino '69
November 19, 2024

Barbara Grimes '79

Lesley (Katz) Edelstein '09M
April 5, 2025

Samantha Szafran '25
January 6, 2025

Trustee Emeritus Hugh G. Moulton
November 11, 2024



Moulton's commitment to Arcadia was exceptional. He served on the Board of Trustees from 1991 through 2016 and was Board Chair from 1998 to 2001, when Beaver College

became Arcadia University. During his tenure, Moulton served on committees that spanned nearly all aspects of University governance, including as Vice Chair of both the Finance and International Program committees and Chair of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee. He philanthropically supported the University both during and after his tenure as University Trustee.

giving back to Arcadia University and further my life mission of promoting health, harmony, and happiness. And if you're an Arcadia alumnus with an idea, reading this, just remember that if I can do it, you can too!

Kelly Stevenson, Esq., '15: The National Trial Lawyers proudly announces the selection of Kelly Stevenson, a distinguished member of The Joel Bieber Firm-Philadelphia, as an NTL - Civil Plaintiff - Top 40 under 40 Trial Lawyer in the state of Pennsylvania. The Top 40 Under 40 distinction is bestowed upon a select group of attorneys who exhibit superior qualifications, exemplary trial results, and exceptional leadership in the realms of criminal defense and/or civil plaintiff law.

2018

Denise Cirelli '18DPT: I graduated in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Class of 2018 and practiced in the acute rehab setting through December 2021 with MossRehab. In January of 2022, I transitioned to pharmaceutical sales with AbbVie selling in the psychiatry space over the last three years. I am happy to announce that I have now earned a promotion onto the medical team with AbbVie and am now a Medical Science Liaison.

Maureen Mason '18DPT: While studying for her DPT (Health Sciences, Physical Therapy 2018), Maureen Mason was researching and writing a foundational book on Pelvic Rehabilitation, The Manual Therapy and Exercise Guide across the Lifespan. Published in 2023, this has been an asset to global health education and empowerment for both patients and health care providers, and is being translated into several languages. Maureen credits her Arcadia education as the launchpad that facilitated her transition from clinician to also teaching and mentoring. Along with other professionals last fall, Maureen presented at the Arcadia Seminar: Interdisciplinary Case-Based Approach to Medical Screening for Physical Therapists. Pelvic rehabilitation can provide holistic care for bladder, bowel,

pain, prolapse and sexual health challenges. [@centralstationpt](http://centralstationwell.com)

2019

Theo Habarth-Morales '19 Graduated Jefferson Medical College and was matched into Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency at the University of Pennsylvania in a record-breaking application year in terms of competitiveness.

Olivia Karaman '19: After graduating from Arcadia with my BA in Psychology in 2019, I worked at Harvard University for three years as a research assistant studying emotions and decision-making. In the fall of 2022, I started a Psychology PhD program at the University of California, Riverside. In the spring of 2024, I received my Master's degree in Psychology, and in the fall of 2024 I passed my qualifying exams and became a PhD candidate. I am now gearing up to work on my dissertation! During my time at UCR I've been able to travel to several places in the US for conferences, and I was even able to travel to Switzerland in the summer of 2024 for a summer school program.

2021

Christopher D. Saxon '21: I recently expanded my original website that I created while attending Arcadia, now called journalistsaxontgdgreatness.com. Currently, I have been working part-time as a member of The United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) union local 152 or 108.

2023

Meaghan Airey '23: I was recently honored by the Philadelphia Public Relations Society of America's annual Pepperpot Awards. At the event, I was honored for my work with PRSA Philadelphia's PR Institute (PRI). During PRI, I worked alongside a mock agency team to create and pitch a strategic communications plan for a nonprofit client. Myself, as well as my teammates were announced as the winning team at the ceremony.

PRI is an accelerated talent development program for junior to mid-level communications professionals to strengthen existing skills, develop new talents to meet the changing demands in our industry, build relationships with peers across the Greater Philadelphia region, and provide greater value and leadership within their organizations.

2024

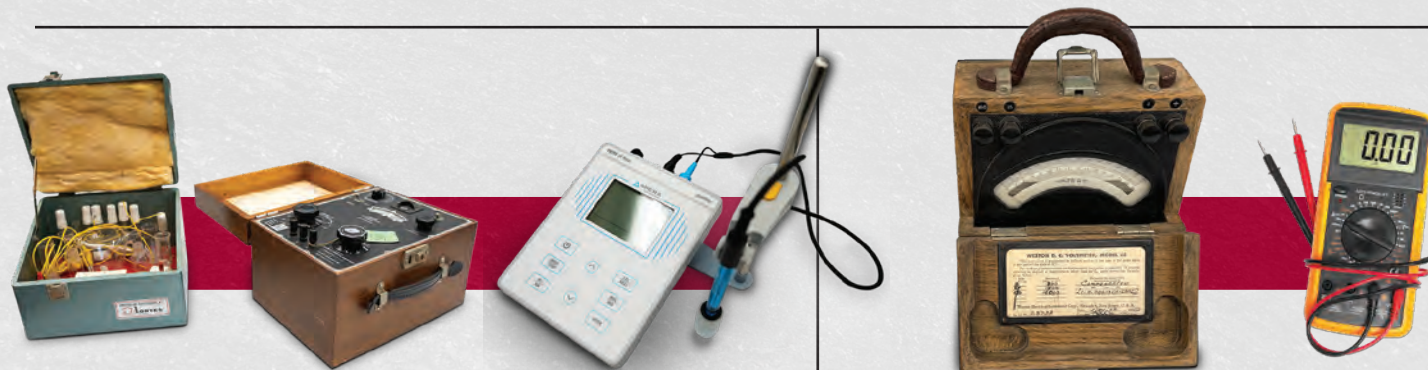
Michelle Harman '24DPT, graduate of the 2024 hybrid cohort, just completed AU DPT's first Virtual International Practicum with a community in Ghana, in collaboration with the department's long-standing international partner, Child Family and Health International. Michelle worked closely with Dr. Charles Nwobu, a Public Health Physician at Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital, to design the third phase of an existing project titled "Rehabilitating Children with Disabilities in Accra: Community Engagement and Sensitization." Michelle used recent literature on the perceptions of individuals with disabilities in Ghana, as well as literature on educational models, to design a 6 week course syllabus for School Health Nurses titled "Improving the Wellbeing of People with Disabilities: Empowering School Health Nurses as Disability Educators in Ghana." In addition to self-guided work, Michelle completed asynchronous and live session content related to Ghanaian culture, global and public health, and regular meetings with Dr. Nwobu and CFHI staff. Michelle says, "My [virtual] experience with CFHI in Ghana was incredibly meaningful and rewarding. I loved collaborating with Dr. Nwobu to create an impactful program, and I would highly recommend this opportunity to future students for the chance to grow personally and professionally while making a real difference." Michelle was a trailblazer for this new program collaboration between CFHI and AU DPT, and we cannot thank her enough for her work and integrity throughout the program!

THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES THEN AND NOW

Boyer Hall opened in 1971, but a visit to the academic building's third floor reveals artifacts belonging to the Department of Chemistry and Physics that date back even further. Here's a look at some pieces of department history no longer in use and their modern-day equivalents.



These are analytical balances from the 1940s and 50s, the 1970s and 80s, and the 2020s. While they all measure mass with a high degree of accuracy and precision, the balance used today is computer interfaceable and almost instantaneous.



In the 1960s and 70s, if you wanted to determine the acidity or alkalinity of a substance, expressed as pH, you'd need two devices to get the job done: a pH probe cell (*above left*) and the electronics that controlled it (*above center*). The digital pH meters of today aren't just smaller; they're also quicker, more accurate, and easier to read.

The multimeter (*above right*) may look familiar to anyone who's had electrical work done; it measures voltage—both AC and DC, current, and resistance. In prior decades, you'd use a voltmeter (*above left*) to measure DC voltage. This one dates back to 1953.

Spectrophotometers measure the absorbance (or transmittance) of solutions. The Spectronic 20™ (*left*) was used from the 1960s to the early 2000s and is no longer in production. The spectrophotometers of today (*right*) have the added capability of measuring fluorescence. They're also computer interfaceable through Bluetooth and USB.



Hey ChatGPT: Why Are We So Bad at Predicting the Future of Technology?

By Jeff Rutenbeck, PhD, Provost Emeritus; Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, 2019-2025

Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is generating a lot of noise and speculation, with the FOMOMeter cranked up to 11. Hundreds of billions of dollars are being spent to improve it, and countless institutions and individuals are using it. It's providing a lot of answers, but also a lot of questions: Has AI arrived, or is its true transformational power still emerging? What more could be in store?

And, how much do we really understand about AI's ultimate potential? The most historically informed answer: not much.

Humans have always been bad at predicting the impacts of technological progress, especially as technologies evolve. History shows us that we tend to understand early-stage technical progress by imposing short-term mindsets and present-day assumptions on emerging systems that haven't fully developed. Our short-term thinking lures us into believing that at each stage of development we've arrived at the destination when, in reality, we are merely taking a step toward a world-changing emergence in a future that we can't foresee. And because we don't fully embrace how consistently inaccurate our predictions have been, we are oftentimes blindsided by similar ill-informed imaginations going forward.

Take the advent of broadcast radio: Each stage of its innovation in the late 19th and early 20th century was marked by the same kind of short-sightedness that's apparent with AI today, setting up a radical "surprise" in the 1920s that altered the world forever.

The building blocks of broadcast radio's emergence came from an amazing historical "two-fer" that harnessed electricity for the first time and made possible almost instantaneous long-distance communication: the invention of the telegraph in the 1840s. Being developed by a handful of people and rolled out to serve highly specific needs...no one saw it coming.

By the 1870s, the dots-and-dashes of Morse Code pulsed across the planet, with corporations and governments scrambling to lay hundreds of thousands of miles of wire around the world. Within a couple of decades, new businesses like Western Union boomed, cities expanded, and the rhythms of daily life had been rearranged for millions.

However, wiring the world created an insatiable desire for greater coverage and speed, and this soon produced big surprise number two: the ability to remove the wires.

When Marconi successfully transmitted a "wireless" signal across the Atlantic Ocean, it seemed to many that the evolution was complete. Sending Morse-coded messages between previously unwired locations was unimaginable to most, and its utility—and transformative power—couldn't be ignored. But wait! Cue surprise number three.

Soon after, scientists merged telephony and wireless telegraphy, liberating communicators from dots and dashes and hand-delivered messages and ushering in an era of unbounded voice transmission. Say hello to "wireless telephony" (not at all like what we have today). For those focused on point-to-point, person-to-person communication it couldn't get any better, right? Wrong!

What happens when you combine new methods of mass production, new appetites for instantaneous communication, new money and capitalized businesses, and the thousands of "wireless telephony" receivers in one grand experiment?

Something previously unimaginable: broadcasting.

As the first successful commercial broadcasting experiments were proving fruitful in the early 1920s, within a handful of years there were more than 10 million radio receivers and hundreds of broadcasters, both growing at exponential rates. By the early 1930s commercial radio was in full swing and coming right into millions of people's living rooms.



New York City during the Great Blizzard of 1888, with a criss-cross of telegraph and telephone wires visible. FLHC 3/Alamy

What does this all have to do with AI? Generative AI feels like it's still in the "wireless telegraphy" stage of its evolution. The focus is still on humans, with AI mostly repackaging digitized information for our benefit—writing papers, reading X-rays, finding and summarizing data, and the like. Similar to how the emergence of broadcasting relied on the wired infrastructure of point-to-point thinking, it feels like AI's real surprises are still on the horizon, waiting for the right combination of conditions to emerge.

Just as many couldn't foresee the radical shift that broadcasting brought, we may not fully understand the impact AI will have. As media history shows, the first radio broadcast from KDKA in Pittsburgh marked a moment when everything changed. AI's biggest surprise will likely come when humans are no longer central to its processes, creating a new world of machine-to-machine interaction that generates transformations no one is capable of imagining. ❖

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