

# ARCADIA

Fall 2025

MAGAZINE



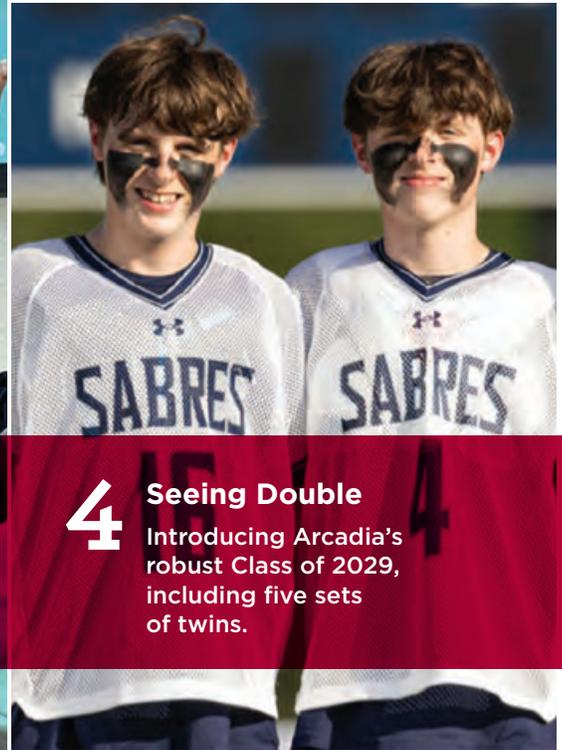


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40 Under 40

In our third edition of Arcadia's 40 under 40, we highlight a sampling of the talented and successful alumni who have built upon the global mindset, social impact, and hands-on opportunities they first developed at Arcadia.

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Seeing Double

Introducing Arcadia's robust Class of 2029, including five sets of twins.

ARCADIA UNIVERSITY

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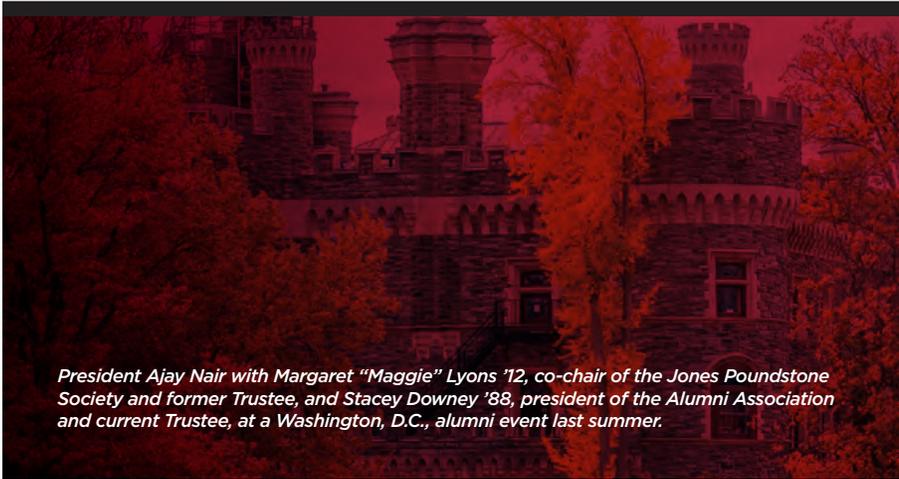
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*President Ajay Nair with Margaret “Maggie” Lyons ’12, co-chair of the Jones Poundstone Society and former Trustee, and Stacey Downey ’88, president of the Alumni Association and current Trustee, at a Washington, D.C., alumni event last summer.*



Dear Beaver College and Arcadia University Alumni and Friends,

This summer, I had the pleasure of visiting with alumni from coast to coast. It is always delightful to hear alumni share fond memories of their alma mater and of the fulfillment they’re finding in their careers or advocacy work; what makes spending time with our alumni even more special to me is how it underscores just how many in our University community care deeply for this institution.

As Arcadia prepares to embark on its next five-year adaptive strategy, Arcadia2030, we look to remain innovative in how the University prepares today’s and tomorrow’s students to be work ready, world ready, and future ready. We balance this innovation with our longstanding commitment to providing a values-based education—the same one that so many alumni have cited as impacting their lives and careers.

In this issue of *Arcadia* magazine, you will find 40 alumni (plus a bonus, if you look closely) who are exemplars of the ideals we espouse. First, they left their mark on Arcadia, and now they’re leaving their mark on the world. They are teachers and researchers and artists and communicators—all using their talents to improve the lives of others and make meaningful contributions in their fields.

You’ll also read about Arcadia’s newest students; their reasons for coming here vary—academics, campus, study abroad, athletics—but they all chose Arcadia because they saw it as someplace that would prepare them for their next steps.

As we approach the 175th anniversary of the institution’s founding, I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of this community and pushing it forward. I hope to see you at alumni gatherings on campus or off.

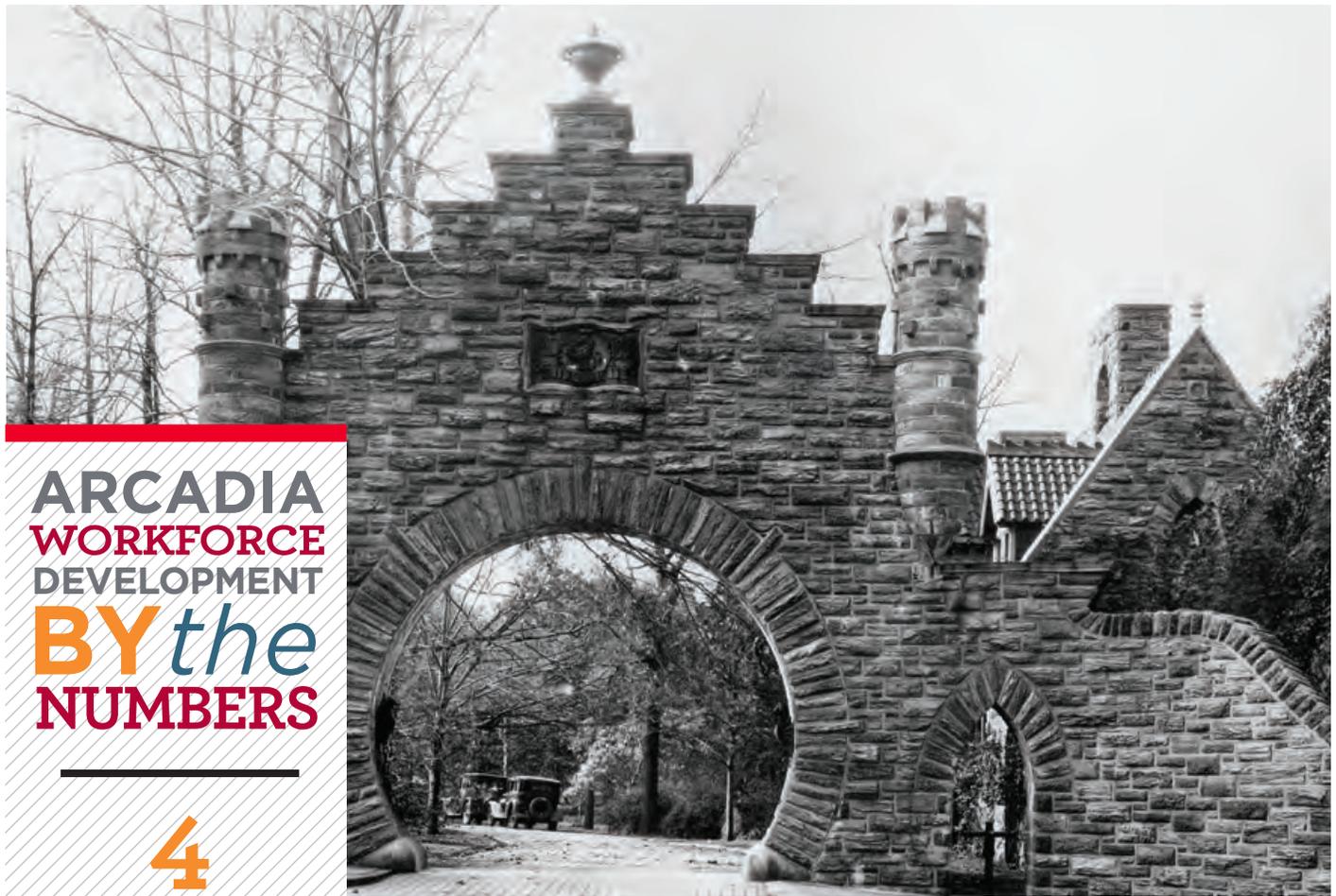
Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, PhD  
 President  
 Arcadia University

“**First, they left their mark on Arcadia, and now they’re leaving their mark on the world.**”

— Ajay Nair, PhD

FROM THE PRESIDENT



**ARCADIA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
BY the  
NUMBERS**

**4**

AREAS OF STUDY

**250+**

AVAILABLE CERTIFICATES

**100%**

ONLINE

**100%**

ON-DEMAND



**LEARN  
MORE**

## REBUILDING HISTORY

The Gatehouse Arch has been part of Arcadia's grounds since the construction of the Harrison Estate in the 1890s. Having graced campus for 129 years, it was removed in 2020 due to concerns regarding structural instability. Arcadia University obtained the necessary authorization to dismantle the Arch, hoping to restore it. Unfortunately, the projected restoration expenditure is approximately \$1M. In accordance with preservation principles, Arcadia has salvaged the components of the arch with plans to repurpose as much of the original materials as is feasible, thereby safeguarding the architectural integrity and historical weight of the monument.

The Gatehouse Arch has a significant iconic place at the University. It served as an entry point for students of Beaver College and Arcadia University. It remains an important part of the legacy of Beaver College and had been a visual symbol of our community identity—a landmark for Glenside and the surrounding communities. The Alumni House at Blankley Hall, which originally served as a welcome point for visitors, will be complete with the return of The Gatehouse Arch.

You're invited to participate as we rebuild history stone by stone! Each stone (2,500 in total) will be \$400 for us to raise \$1M to restore this iconic symbol of our University. Please help us to restore Arcadia's Gatehouse Arch. ❖

*To make a gift to this project, please contact Nicole Steiner at [steinern@arcadia.edu](mailto:steinern@arcadia.edu) or 610-742-1235.*

## SELECTED MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS, SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS



Art Events and Marketing Coordinator **David Guinn** appeared on WHYY’s “Albie’s Elevator” in the episode “Pepperoni Sam,” sharing his passion for murals and community art. He spotlighted the Percy Street Project in Philadelphia, where neighbors are transforming an alley into an art walk with murals, mosaics, and sculptures.

“Rethinking Lower Extremity Limb Dominance: A Comparison of Performance-Based and Self-Selected Measures,” led by **Anne Leung ’19DPT, ’26PhD**, was published in *Sports Health: A Multidisciplinary Approach*.

Co-authored by Associate Professor of Physical Therapy **Elliot Greenburg ’03DPT**, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy **Dr. Ryan Zarzycki**, and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s **Julie Dyke ’04DPT**, Dr. J. Todd Lawrence, and Dr. Theodore Ganley, the study helps understand the importance of restoring strength symmetrically in athletes’ dominant and uninjured legs.

Arcadia University’s Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), advised by Assistant Professor of Media and Communication **Dr. Chris Mullin**, received the 2025 Star Chapter Award at the PRSSA 2025-26 International Committee and National Headquarters. The award honors leadership, programming, and dedication to professional development, highlighting chapters that excel in engagement, serving their communities, and pushing PRSSA’s missions.



**Julianna Reidell ’25** received the 2025 Women in French Undergraduate Essay Award for an essay spotlighting 18th-century playwright Olympe de Gouges. Reidell is beginning her career this fall with the Teaching Assistant Program in France and as an English teaching assistant in Ribeauvillé.



Arcadia University announced this fall a new partnership with Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL) in Surrey, England. Arcadia students studying Theater Arts, Acting, or Musical Theater can complete their four-year undergraduate degree at Arcadia, then continue to a one-year postgraduate program at RHUL.



CBS3’s Wakisha Bailey reported live from Arcadia’s Glenside campus on move-in day. She spoke with **President Nair** and interviewed several student-athletes. She also conducted a Zoom interview with Associate Professor **Dr. Kim Dean** about how Arcadia’s School of Education is preparing students for the workforce.

Arcadia swimmer **Owen Foley ’27** was featured on FOX29 for his belly flop, for which he is the reigning champ in the unofficial competition at the Middle Atlantic Conference Swimming Championships. Jenn Frederick interviewed Foley and Head Swimming Coach **Casmera Wick** at Arcadia’s Lenox Pool.



Adjunct Professor of History **Dr. Ariel Arnau** spoke to PHL-17 on Labor Day about the holiday’s origins, modern-day significance, and impact of American workers over time. ❖



# SEEING DOUBLE

**J**ada and **James Northern** of Clifton Heights, Pa., are first-year students at Arcadia—twins whose approaches to choosing a college could not have been more different. James applied to 20 different schools, including several historically Black colleges and universities, and was accepted to 18 of them. Jada applied to two schools and was accepted to both. However, their final decision turned out to be the same: attend Arcadia and be part of the five sets of twins to join the Class of 2029.

“I was trying to go on my own to college, I can’t lie,” said James, a Business Administration major. “I wanted a fresh start with all new people and a chance to be my own person. I can admit, though, going to the same college as my twin is not as bad as I thought it would’ve been.”

“We’ve been together our whole lives,” added Jada, who is currently in the Exploratory Studies program for students who have not yet selected a major. “It really wasn’t that

important to go to the same school, but I don’t regret it.”

For **Rian** and **Nishay Nettles**, their interest in art brought them to Arcadia, albeit heading in two different directions.

“Nishay and I applied to schools together,” Rian explained. “However,

I’ll be an Art Therapy major while Nishay is studying Art and Technology. It was important for us to stay together; I’ve always enjoyed not being alone and having someone to explore the world, and now Arcadia, with.”

“When we were younger, we would catch the 22 [SEPTA bus] with our grandmother,” Nishay said. “When I asked, ‘MomMom, is that a castle? Do princesses and princes live there?’ She said it was a school, so it’s so cool that I ended up attending here. I genuinely loved the school when I first applied, and when I received the aid, I knew it was the right university for me.”

Athletics played a role in the decision to come to Arcadia for several of the twins. The men’s hockey, lacrosse, and wrestling teams will each feature a set this upcoming season.

The hockey program drew **Michael** and **Christopher Benkovitz** to Arcadia. Not only do the twins from Jersey City, N.J., support each other on the ice, but they also have all the same classes for their major in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, and live together with another teammate.

“It was important for us to attend the same university, as playing hockey together was always a certainty,” Michael said. “We rely on each other in a lot of ways, and he knows I’ve got his back and I know he’s got mine.”

Arcadia’s nationally recognized study abroad program was also too good to pass up for the Benkovitzes.

“I’ve always been so excited about the idea of studying abroad, especially in Korea, where my mother was born,” Christopher said. “So, when I found out that on top of good academics, Arcadia’s Korean connection is strong, I had to apply.”

**Layne** and **Peyton Williams** came to Arcadia from Cambridge, Md., on the Eastern Shore, a location typically known as a hotbed for lacrosse talent. The Williams brothers bring their talents to the University to help the men’s lacrosse team build on last season’s success.

“I learned about Arcadia before Peyton,” said Layne, who is majoring in Business Administration. “Our goal was to find a place where we could both be together and play lacrosse. We also factored in distance from home and a smaller school size.”

*“He knows I’ve got his back and I know he’s got mine.”*

— Michael Benkovitz



The Northern twins, Jada and James, at Arcadia and as children.



Rian and Nishay Nettles



Even as children, it was hard to keep the Benkovitz twins apart, let alone tell them apart.

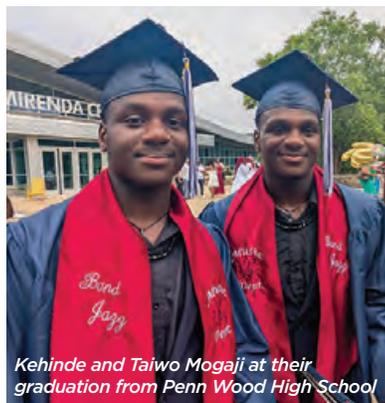
During his junior year of high school, Peyton, a Biology major, suffered a hip injury that required him to have surgery. Arcadia still wanted him to be part of the team with his brother.

“After Arcadia contacted Layne regarding lacrosse, they offered me the chance to keep playing too,” he explained. “I looked into the school and found that it was an ideal fit for me too.”



Layne and Peyton Williams

**Kehinde and Taiwo Mogaji** will make history as part of the first men’s wrestling team at Arcadia.



Kehinde and Taiwo Mogaji at their graduation from Penn Wood High School

“There are a lot of reasons why I chose Arcadia,” stated Taiwo, who is in the Exploratory Studies program. “I loved the campus; it is about a 40-minute drive from home in Darby, Pa. But the top reason why I came to Arcadia is the new wrestling program. It came down to this and another institution, and that really made a difference.”

**Nelly and Ameliia Tyncherova ’26** (below) know well the feeling of getting used to being a twin at Arcadia. Now in their senior year, the twins from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, have advice for the twins in the class of 2029.



“Don’t feel like you have to do everything side by side,” they advise. “You are both unique individuals, and that’s something to celebrate. At the same time, lean on each other, support each other, and enjoy the fun little things only twins can understand.”

“If one of you ever struggles with making friends, be there for each other. Remember, your twin is the one person who truly has your back. Yes, you might argue sometimes, which is totally normal, but always share resources, go to events together, and encourage each other to get involved in clubs. Trust us, being twins at the same university is such an amazing experience!”

Of course, being an identical twin comes with unique quirks. Some of the siblings mentioned being mistaken for each other, even in the brief time since they started at Arcadia.

“New people we’ve met mistake him for me, and me for him, and they get confused on why I don’t remember them or how I changed my clothes so fast after they ‘saw me’ 10 minutes ago,” said Kehinde, who is studying Criminal Justice with a concentration in Social Justice. “The typical questions start after I say, ‘I’m his twin brother.’”

“To my new friend in the commuter lounge, I’m sorry!” Nishay made sure to say to the person who confused her and her sister recently.

For the Benkovitz twins, there’s an added layer because even professors have the tall task of figuring out which twin is which.

“I think that being a twin at Arcadia is pretty cool. So many people come up to us and ask us who’s who,” Christopher said. “With my brother and I having the same classes, the teachers all get a kick out of noticing us and telling us apart too.”

“People on campus are starting to realize we’re twins and not actually in two places at once,” Michael added.

There is no doubt these students will be making their marks on Arcadia in no time, and then it will be easy to distinguish them from one another. ❖

Arcadia welcomed more than **700 first-year and transfer students** this fall, for the second year in a row. Members of the **Class of 2029 hail from 30+ states** and **six non-U.S. countries:** Canada, China, Jamaica, Poland, Portugal, and South Korea. Arcadia also welcomed **more than 300 new graduate students from 30+ states.** This is the third straight year of increased total enrollment.

The 2026 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings note that Arcadia remains **#1 in Pennsylvania for study abroad** for the seventh consecutive year and within the top 10 nationally. *The Princeton Review* placed Arcadia among the region’s best colleges for the 11th year in a row. ❖

# HITTING THE MATS

The stage is set for Arcadia men's and women's wrestling as their inaugural seasons of competition get underway. Talented student-athletes fill the rosters, a state-of-the-art facility is ready for action, and stiff competition is scheduled. All that is left is to put their preparation to the test.

"We're confident in already saying that we have a very good program; we have really good wrestlers, the buy-in is huge," **David Stevens**, head coach of the men's team, said even before the first practice this fall.

"For us, the term that comes to mind is scrappy," **Michael Childs**, head coach of the women's team, said. "We're looking to have academic weapons in the classroom, and hammers on the wrestling mat."

The process began with recruiting the right student-athletes. While Stevens and Childs approached the endeavor differently, they had similar traits they were looking for.

"You're always selling education first; that will always be a top priority for our program," Childs said. "There can be a balance between high-level athletics and high-level academics. What happens if you break your leg and can never compete again? You want to be at a place that will sustain you and prepare you for your future, and Arcadia has a wonderful reputation for that."

Stevens agreed, mentioning that Arcadia makes selling academics first easy.



"The truth is, the school sells itself," he said. "We've got top-ranked programs, we're ranked highly in study abroad. So when it came time to talk about the school, I think it was the easiest part."

The coaches were also looking for wrestling talent in order to make an immediate splash.

"Pennsylvania is synonymous with wrestling," Childs said. "Women's wrestling was sanctioned for the first time at the high school level in Pennsylvania two years ago, with New Jersey and New York being even further ahead of that curve, so we're in a great location for recruiting. This year, we have 15 women on the roster from four different states."

"I started with a big funnel, reaching out to as many athletes as possible at different meets and tournaments," Stevens explained. "We began narrowing it down from there, bringing them onto campus, learning about them, and explaining our vision for the program. A really big part of recruiting was not just telling them what we want to accomplish, but how we're going to accomplish it. Through this, we were able to pare down our numbers to the 35 athletes we have on our roster." The goal for Stevens was to have 20 wrestlers on the roster the first year, adding five wrestlers each year for a total of 30 by the third year.



As they were traveling around the region to recruit, the coaches were also keeping a close eye on the renovations at 125 Royal Avenue. Approximately 20,000 square feet of space at the former site of Bishop McDevitt High School was transformed into cutting-edge facilities for Arcadia wrestling and training space for Arcadia golf.

“There are a lot of Division I schools within our area that do not have a wrestling facility even close to what we have,” Stevens said. “It’s definitely a blessing for us.”

The facility features three full-size wrestling mats, allowing the teams to work through a variety of scenarios at the same time during practice. There is also a weight room—which will be utilized by all 28 Arcadia athletic programs—as well as numerous bikes, treadmills, and pull-up bars scattered throughout to help the athletes stay strong. An athletic training facility right down the hall gives the teams a sense of security, knowing athletes will be taken care of if something ever goes wrong.

“If you look, it’s Penn State, Lehigh, and Arcadia with the top facilities around,” Childs added. “It’s just more affirmation that clearly the University has put a lot of thought and resources behind this to build successful programs for generations.”

The women’s team faces different challenges during their regular season meets. Currently, women’s college wrestling is not broken down by division, meaning Division III Arcadia might go up against the likes of the DI University of Iowa and Lehigh University.

“Since this is the first year that the NCAA is sanctioning women’s wrestling, it’s a different landscape right now than the men,” Childs said. “We won’t see Iowa in a dual meet, but we will see them at some point later in the season. The next few years will be interesting to see how things shake out.”

Win or lose, the coaches believe they’ve laid the foundation for success now and in the future.

“Wrestling is a wonderful sport,” Childs said. “It’s a really hard sport—it allows you to figure out things about yourself that you typically wouldn’t—but it’s wonderful. You get comfortable with being uncomfortable, and that’s a good recipe for life too.” ❖



## SAMMONS '23 RETURNS AS FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH

This field hockey season is the first with **Regan Sammons '23** as head coach, but she’s no stranger to Jean Lenox West Field. Sammons spent the 2023 and 2024 seasons as the team’s first-ever full-time assistant coach, right on the heels of her graduation from Arcadia with a degree in Psychology and a decorated career on the field.

“My time as a student-athlete very much prepared me to be in this role and have the confidence to do so at such a young age,” she said.

In her senior season, Sammons earned Second Team All-Region IV honors from the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, was named First Team All-MAC Freedom, and was recognized on the Academic All-MAC team. She holds the program record for points in a game (9), ranks fourth in career goals (31), fifth in career points (72), and is tied for 10th in game-winning goals (5).

As an assistant, Sammons helped guide the team to a semifinal appearance in 2023 and a championship game in 2024, as well as three players, then four, earning All-Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (MAC Freedom) honors.

“I feel that it is my responsibility to teach and grow these student-athletes as well-rounded people who are equipped to move on into the real world and be great coworkers, friends, and leaders in whatever path they take past college,” said Sammons. In that same spirit, Sammons is currently pursuing a Master of Education in Early Childhood Education, which she’s on track to earn in December. ❖



Scan to read about Sammons’ quick journey from student-athlete to head coach, including how a chronic illness has impacted her life on and off the field.

A large graphic featuring the number '40' in a stylized font. The '4' is orange and the '0' is teal. A yellow circle is positioned behind the '0'. Inside the yellow circle, the words 'under 40' are written in a smaller, teal, sans-serif font. The '4' and '0' are positioned around the circle, with the '4' on the left and the '0' on the right.

# 40 under 40

A decorative graphic consisting of a grid of small orange dots, arranged in a roughly rectangular shape on the left side of the page.

*In this third edition of Arcadia's 40 under 40, we highlight a sampling of the talented and successful alumni who have built upon the global mindset, social impact, and hands-on opportunities they developed at Arcadia.*

# Kelly Stevenson, Esq.

## Decorated Alumna

This year I was recognized by the National Trial Lawyers as a Top 40 Under 40 Trial Lawyer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, received the Harry G. Kuch Award, an Arcadia University Alumni award, and was inducted into the Knights of the Round Table.

## Defining Four Years

Arcadia shaped me in some of the most defining ways—academically, personally, and emotionally. It was where I discovered my voice and curiosity as a researcher, developing five independent psychological studies, including a thesis on juror decision-making. It was where I learned discipline and teamwork as an NCAA Division III swimmer. It was where I found the courage to shift my path from International Studies to Psychology, and where I was given the opportunity to study abroad in Scotland and Chile, expanding my worldview in unforgettable ways.

## Service to Community

I hope to leave behind a legacy of service, compassion, and impact rooted in showing up for others. Whether through my work in public defense, my mentorship of students and young professionals, or simply how I carry myself in my community, I want to be remembered as someone who made people feel supported, valued, and capable.



2015  
Age 32

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Assistant Chief, Special Litigation Division  
at the Defender Association of Philadelphia

DONOR

# Ahmad Tamim “Tom” Hasani, MA



## Finding Common Ground

My career has focused on advancing justice through dialogue, policy, and direct service. Through my roles, I've helped communities navigate some of their most difficult moments—transforming conflict into cooperation. I've also helped build diverse coalitions, advocated for language access, and created public safety programming for vulnerable groups like immigrants and religious minorities. Navigating federal service as a young Afghan-American—often the only person of color, person of my perceived religion, or first-generation immigrant in the room—has required a great deal of self-advocacy and resilience. Rather than assimilate, I've worked to transform systems from within.

## Healing-Centered Engagement

I envision a justice system where conflict prevention, community-based problem-solving, and cultural competence are embedded, not afterthoughts. In my industry, we must go beyond compliance and work toward healing-centered systems.

## A Difference-Making Degree

Arcadia didn't just educate me—it empowered me. Their emphasis on international justice, experiential learning, and applied conflict resolution helped shape the foundation of my career. I left Arcadia equipped to advocate for inclusive policy and to mediate across differences. I continue to support Arcadia by mentoring students and speaking on panels, and I've been back to teach conflict studies.

2015 • Age 39

Philadelphia, Pa.

Master of Arts in International  
Peace and Conflict Resolution

Conflict Mediation Specialist

DONOR

# Mackenzie “Kenzie” Myer, MA

2021  
Age 26

Newark, Del.

Bachelor of Arts in  
Global Media

Health Communication PhD  
student and instructor at the  
University of Delaware

DONOR



## Teaching Media Literacy

My research directly informs health messaging and media literacy efforts targeting LGBTQ+ emerging adults. Additionally, my teaching encourages students to think critically about the media products they interact with. I aim to empower the next generation of communicators to approach their work with empathy and cultural competence.

## More Than Research

I hope to leave a legacy of compassionate scholarship and mentorship. I want to be known not just for the research I produced, but for the people I supported and the spaces I helped transform.

## Confidence Booster

Arcadia University laid the foundation for my academic and professional journey. I developed leadership skills, built lasting relationships, and found the confidence to pursue my graduate studies. The mentorship I received, particularly from **Dr. Michael Dwyer**, will always influence the way I teach, research, and lead my day-to-day life. I choose to support Arcadia because I want current and future students to have the same opportunities for growth and discovery that I had.

# Steve Bross

2008  
Age 39

Jenkintown, Pa.

Bachelor of  
Arts in Business  
Administration

Water treatment  
equipment salesperson  
in the power, oil, and  
gas industry

DONOR

## A Day in the Life

It's my role to be the face and voice of the company, visiting our customers who are engineering companies, introducing our products, and reviewing open quotations. Other responsibilities include attending trade shows to promote our products and find new customers and creating all marketing and promotion materials, including website content, brochures, and technical papers.

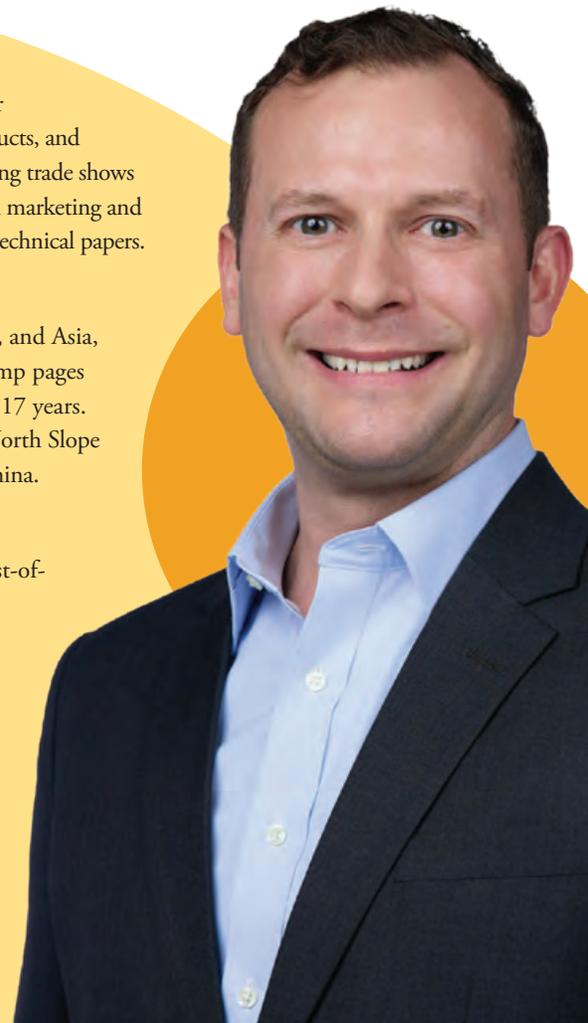
## Traveling Salesman

Business travel has taken me across the USA, Canada, Europe, and Asia, so much so that I actually need to get passports with extra stamp pages in them, and I've stamped through three passports in the past 17 years. Some of my notable sales have been to the oil fields up in the North Slope of Alaska with challenging weather conditions and sales into China.

## Unforgettable Experience

I'm really proud that I was able to sell our equipment for a first-of-its-kind floating LNG ship, which is essentially an ocean-traveling gas refinery the size of a large cruise ship. These multi-billion-dollar projects take years of design reviews and fabrication. Getting to visit the shipyard in Singapore and ascend the vessel to inspect our equipment installation was a once-in-a-lifetime memory.

*Steve turned 40 by the time of publication, but was 39 when the interview took place.*



# Alyssa Reynoso-Morris

2012 • Age 35

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Queer, Afro-Latine/x, Dominican and Puerto Rican award-winning author of “Plátanos Are Love” / “Los Plátanos Son Amor,” “The Bronx is My Home,” and other books

DONOR

## Career of Service

Before becoming an author, I served my community as the chief of staff for my local state representative, working to bring funds to the district, pass legislation, and organize events to ensure the needs of constituents were met. Before this, I interned for Parvati Swayamrojgar, a microfinance organization working to break the poverty cycle in the slums of India, taught English at an orphanage in Tanzania, and facilitated the establishment of the Women’s Witness Protection Program for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. I also assembled a team of 70 volunteers to build an aquaponic unit (a system that grows fish and crops without waste) and a water purification system in an under-resourced community in the Dominican Republic. My team fundraised, wrote grants, and developed lesson plans focused on sustainable development.

## Representation Matters

I want kids all over the world who read my books to know they are LOVED and ENOUGH. My vision for traditional publishing is for it to strive for diversity, equity, and inclusion regardless of whether it is trending or not. I want publishers to make diverse books because everyone needs to see themselves represented in literature. I work with students, teachers, and nonprofits to tell compelling stories that inspire readers and writers through interactive author visits, encouraging manuscript critique services, and knowledgeable author development consultation.

## Arcadia’s Impact

So much of my success can be traced back to the mentorship, education, and encouragement I received at Arcadia. From thoughtful professors who challenged me to write with clarity and power, to the opportunities I had to study global perspectives and engage in community work, Arcadia helped shape me into a bold storyteller and advocate. Giving back is my way of paying it forward to the next generation of Arcadia students.





# Stephanie Feinberg Riordan

2016 • Age 31

Frederick, Md.

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Senior Director of Patient Programs at the  
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases

DONOR

## You're Not Alone

My goal is to help people feel less alone. After being diagnosed with a rare neurological disease that mimics a brain tumor, I dedicated my career to ensuring no one in the rare disease community feels voiceless or invisible. One of the most meaningful parts of my work is running Rare Artist, a program that empowers people with rare diseases to share their story and advocate through art. An artist once told me I was her superhero because it gave her the words to speak and find meaning in her life, while another said meeting me gave her renewed energy and her fighting spirit back. Moments like these remind me why I do this work: to show people they are seen, heard, and never alone.

## Building Community

I am passionate about creating spaces where people feel truly seen and understood. That has always been my superpower. At Arcadia, I was honored with the Community Builder Award as an RA my senior year because I devoted myself to making people feel like they belonged. Whether I am mentoring a Rare Artist, supporting a student advocate, or welcoming a family to a new program, I want people to feel like they matter. I believe that storytelling, creative expression, and human connection are powerful tools for healing and advocacy.

## A Paradigm of Resilience

When I was diagnosed, I was often told “no” and “you can’t do that.” My resilience and determination kept me from listening to that—I built a thriving career in the rare disease space and started my own business, which earned all five-star reviews. A highlight of my career is leading the #RAREis Scholarship Fund for students with rare diseases, which I grew to more than 100 annual \$5,000 awards, awarding over \$2 million to date. This work is especially meaningful since I was diagnosed in college, and each scholarship represents a life and dream supported.



*I want people  
to feel like  
they matter.*

*– Stephanie Feinberg  
Riordan '16*

## On Coaching at Alma Mater

It's nice to be able to connect with the future generation to watch them grow and progress as tennis players and adults. For the students to have an alum to talk with and learn from is something that I wish I had as a member of the Arcadia tennis team. I enjoy the challenge of coaching students not only with tennis, but with life skills. Being back at the University is a daily reminder of the great experiences I had as a student myself. I believe it is beneficial for the University to have an alumni coach for recruiting new student-athletes, and I hope the program continues to grow.

## Proudest Professional Accomplishment

The complete interior and exterior graphics and signage installation at Dick's Sporting Goods' flagship store at Ross Park Mall in Pittsburgh. It involved collaborating with and managing a dozen people, including various construction personnel to unload, organize, build, and install several truckloads of all necessary architectural elements for graphics and signage.

## Future Vision

For my industry, I hope for more straightforwardness, honesty, and generosity between trades. For my organization, I hope for growth, additional areas of specialization, and the ability to provide internship opportunities for students in the community.

# Pedro Leal, MBA

2013  
and 2020  
Age 35

Horsham, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts in International Business and Culture, Master of Business Administration

Senior Project Manager at Urban Sign Group and assistant men's and women's tennis coach at Arcadia



# Mary Murray, MA

2020 • Age 27

Bellmawr, N.J.

Bachelor of Arts in Global Media

Assistant softball coach at Rowan University

DONOR

## Plethora of Passions

I'm passionate about mentoring young adults and empowering the next generation of women in sport. I want to help them grow and achieve great things. I'm also passionate about global experiences and traveling abroad, which Arcadia had a big part in.

## Athletic Achievements

Over the past three seasons, Rowan softball has finished as one of the top five teams in NCAA Division III each season, which is something I'm extremely proud of. This past season, we earned the NCAA Statistical Award for Earned Run Average (ERA), as we had the lowest ERA in all of Division III with a 1.04. I've also mentored four National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American pitchers in my career so far.

## Supportive and Transformative

From being able to explore multiple cultures and areas of the world, to learning from some of the best professors and mentors, Arcadia gave me a supportive environment that encouraged learning outside of your comfort zone. I hope that my support will help others have a transformative experience like I had.



# Aliyah M. Abraham, MS

2017 • Age 37

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

A rising public service leader who currently oversees Workforce Management Operations at the U.S. Department of Commerce

Director of Basketball Operations for Youth Sports Organization

DONOR

## Active Alumna

I founded the Black Alumni Association of Arcadia University (BAAAU), where I served as inaugural president. I also created the BAAAU Travel Program Fund, which led to an increase in participation of Black students studying abroad. I was instrumental in the creation of the Knights for Nutrition Program.

I was nominated for the Senior Golden Disc Award in 2017, received the Student Impact Award in 2018, and was awarded the Sankofa Award for Distinguished Achievement in 2021. In 2022, I was named a Recent Graduate Trustee for a two-year term, and in April 2024 I started as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Alumni Association, as well as an advisory board member for the Act 101/Gateway to Success program.



## Mentorship Matters

Retired Professor **Dr. Doreen Loury** served as one of my notable mentors, later becoming a dear friend. I only attended Arcadia for one and a half years, but I knew I found a community that wrapped their arms around me. I aim to be a mentor for those who need it most.

## Creating Access

I believe innovation is at its best when we remove limits and push beyond our comfort zones. I am passionate about creating change to ensure everyone has the same opportunities and ability to succeed. I strive to evoke transformation and accessibility for others, while setting an example for generations to come.

# Kristy Leone, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC

2017 • Age 31

Baltimore, Md.

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed art therapist, and artist

## Creative Self-Expression

I work with kids, teens, and families who often feel like they don't fit the mold—overthinkers, neurodivergent folks, LGBTQIA+ youth—and I help them reclaim their voice through creative, trauma-informed approaches: art, movement, nature, and storytelling. I provide compassionate, affirming therapy to transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming clients. I believe in breaking binaries, unlearning shame, and making room for messy, creative, radically honest self-expression. Whether through therapeutic work, community-building, or simply holding space for what's real, I'm driven by the belief that healing is not just personal—it's political, creative, and deeply collective.



# Michael Zlotnick, DPT

2022 and 2024 • Age 28

Elkins Park, Pa.

Doctor of Physical Therapy, Sports Physical Therapy certificate

Board-certified sports clinical specialist; 50% co-owner and sole provider at 3 Dimensional Physical Therapy's Jenkintown branch



*I am passionate about providing my patients with honest, quality care rooted in evidence and compassion.*

*—Michael Zlotnick, DPT*

## Proudest Accomplishments

I'm most proud of founding Labyrinth Art and Wellness, a private practice in Maryland that centers on creativity, identity affirmation, and trauma-informed care. It's been incredibly rewarding to build a space where transgender, nonbinary, and neurodivergent clients feel truly seen and supported as they navigate their journeys. I am so honored to do the work that I do.

Other highlights include studying abroad in New Zealand's capital Wellington, facilitating a therapeutic arts workshop at Towson University's Transgender Day of Visibility event, participating in the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore's Pride celebration, and publishing two psychology research papers with **Dr. Steve Robbins**, Arcadia professor of Psychology.



## Compassionate Care

I am passionate about providing my patients with honest, quality care rooted in evidence and compassion. I hope to continue to grow my business and mentor new physical therapists and students along the way. I want to create a climate that views PTs as a vital component of the healthcare system: reducing pain, improving quality of life/health, while reducing overspending in the healthcare industry. While sports physical therapy is a huge part of what I enjoy, I also enjoy working with older adults, preparing them for life ahead and ensuring they have the physical capacity to enjoy the activities they love.

## Community Contributions

As a physical therapist, I participate in local events such as 5Ks and giving talks to senior communities and private medical practices to help educate on what good PT is. As a company, we also donate all patient cancel fees to a local charity. Personally, I donate to the Movember campaign and have raised around \$10K in the last three years for mental health initiatives. One of our core principles at 3DPT is community, and that resonates deeply with me; I'm honored to contribute meaningfully to the health and wellness of Jenkintown and the surrounding neighborhoods.

## Special Shout-outs

I am lucky to maintain a close connection to Arcadia through **Linda Ruth Paskell '81, '96MEd**, an adjunct professor, who I still talk to weekly and lean on for support. She helped me feel truly affirmed in both my identity and artistic voice while I was a student. I also deeply appreciate **David Guinn**, art event and marketing coordinator and muralist, who I met during the Mural Arts Apprenticeship Program at Arcadia. He introduced me to the transformative power of mural making. Additionally, I'm grateful for the close friends I made at Arcadia who continue to inspire me!

# Katherine “Katie” Wilson, MPP

2019 • Age 28

Washington, D.C.

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

Director of Community Engagement  
at George Mason University's  
College of Public Health

DONOR



## Support for Those in Need

I lead antipoverty and public health initiatives for low-income populations across Virginia, with a special focus on systems change in immigrant and refugee communities. My work includes shaping state and local policy, building and directing large coalitions, forging creative public-private partnerships, conducting research, and designing innovative models to bridge gaps in the social safety net. I connect government, nonprofits, faith communities, businesses, and grassroots groups with residents to craft solutions that meet people where they are. Outside of work, I serve as Board Chair of Virginia's first and only Recovery Café and as a member of the Board of Directors for Fairfax Families for Safe Streets.

## Equal Partnership

Language barriers and a lack of cultural competency in traditional engagement processes often make it difficult to include immigrant and refugee residents as true partners in shaping community initiatives. To overcome this, we hired community members themselves to help design the Culmore Community Health and Wellness Hub and lead outreach efforts. Their lived experience and deep community ties allowed us to build trust and ensure the Hub was not something that was built for the community, but with them in equal partnership.

## Distinguished Achievement

I received the Young Alumni Golden Disc Award for Distinguished Achievement from Arcadia University in 2025. I was also awarded the 2024-2025 Citizen of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads.

# Alexis (Roach) Doming, MA

2019 • Age 28

Connecticut

Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies

Learning Communities Student Engagement and  
Leadership Coordinator at the University of Connecticut

DONOR

## Engaged Alumna

Being chair of the Student Engagement and Experience Committee for the Arcadia Alumni Association has been really meaningful for me because it ties together my professional interests and the opportunity to give back to my Alma Mater. As a committee, we work on projects that engage current Arcadia students, for example, building a virtual book of advice from alumni and favorite traditions. In my professional role, I also help coordinate the promotion of giving to First Year Programs and Learning Community funds during UConn's annual day of giving. Lastly, in my personal life, I have done some fundraising work as part of running marathons and half marathons; when I ran the Chicago marathon last year, I raised \$2,000 for St. Jude.

## Accessible Futures

I hope that higher education continues to become more accessible and welcoming for students from all backgrounds, identities, and experiences. I think that colleges have gotten much better at opening the door, but the priority now needs to become offering the programs, services, and resources that help all students to succeed in college.



# Krista Haig, MBA, CPC

2008 • Age 39

Denver, Colo.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design

Director of revenue integrity for multiple hospitals;  
serves on the 2025–2027 National Advisory Board of  
the American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC)

**DONOR**

## Cross-Cultural Collaboration

One of the most defining moments of my career so far was the time I spent in Doha, Qatar, where I helped build and implement an American-based hospital coding system. That experience not only challenged me professionally but also deepened my belief in the power of cross-cultural collaboration in healthcare. Seeing firsthand how global systems approach access, equity, and operational efficiency changed the way I lead back here in the States. I am equally proud of my appointment to the AAPC's National Advisory Board, where I advocate for members at both a national and international level.

## Lifting Others

I hope to leave a legacy defined by integrity, purpose, and meaningful impact. I want to be remembered not only for advancing the financial and ethical standards of healthcare systems but also for creating opportunities for others to rise, especially those who may not have seen a path forward. Whether through mentorship, advocacy, or systemic change, my goal is to leave the industry stronger, more equitable, and more human-centered. If I've helped even one person lead with greater confidence and clarity, then I consider that a lasting success.

## What Arcadia Taught Me

Arcadia fostered my drive to ask meaningful questions and find actionable solutions, which are qualities that have both defined my career and guided me during the difficult transition from the design industry into healthcare. It also taught me the value of global thinking and ethical leadership, which have remained central to my personal and professional path. I am proud to give back and stay connected to the Arcadia community that helped launch my career.

*Krista turned 40 by the time of publication,  
but was 39 when the interview took place.*



# Taylor Raymond, MA

2016 • Age 31

Chicago, Ill.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science: International Relations

Senior Marketing Manager for the Center for Disaster Philanthropy



What I'm most proud of isn't a title—it's betting on myself when the future feels uncertain.

—Taylor Raymond, MA



## From Door-Knocking to a Presidential Campaign

I got my start knocking doors in Northeast Philly, running field operations for a grassroots candidate while writing my senior thesis. We won and I was hooked. When I moved to Chicago around the 2016 election, I threw myself into civic life, from Resistance Fairs to leading the Special Olympics' 50th Anniversary campaign, which raised \$10 million and built the Eternal Flame of Hope. That work led me to Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Transition Team and eventually her Scheduling and Advance office, where I traveled across all 77 neighborhoods and witnessed history in the making.

In 2020, I left City Hall for the presidential campaign trail. When the world shut down, I pursued a master's at the University of Chicago while helping launch a civic tech startup. That path took me to Namati, where I led global digital strategy and worked across Africa. Most recently, I've handled logistics for high-level events featuring First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, from Chicago to Mexico City and battleground states nationwide.

## Embracing Uncertainty

What I'm most proud of isn't a title—it's betting on myself when the future feels uncertain. In 2020, I left a stable role to pursue a presidential campaign job, only to end up unemployed as the world shut down. I rebuilt by earning a master's with honors while working full-time, which set the stage for everything that followed. Those experiences gave me grit, clarity, and persistence—proof that even in uncertainty, we can rise and create change.

## Gateway to Opportunity

As a first-generation college student, Arcadia was more than just a place to earn a degree; it was a gateway to opportunity, a community that believed in me before I fully believed in myself. The support I received there gave me the confidence to explore, whether that was studying abroad in Dublin, engaging in global fieldwork, or stepping into grassroots political work.

# Ryan Hammer

Shrewsbury, N.J.

Bachelor of Arts in Management

Basketball Analyst and Content Creator

2019 • Age 28

DONOR



## Impact Through Authenticity

I am all about positivity and authenticity with my more than 360K followers across social media platforms. Everything I do is real and exactly me, never a character or a facade, even if it sometimes comes at the expense of fewer views or unengaging content. I am open about my mental health journey with my audience as well as my opinions on creating a positive world around me.

## Vision for the Future

The sports media world is changing, and I want to continue to try new things and add value in a whole new way. I aim to be innovative as I compete with the college basketball media. The next generation of fans represents the highest volume in content consumerism—I aspire to elevate the content these fans are viewing and to be relatable to basketball fans everywhere.

## Arcadia's Support

Arcadia is the place where I grew socially and matured more than ever: Living on my own, finding out what I like and don't like, meeting lifelong friends, and starting to come into the person I am today. Without going to a school like Arcadia, I would not have the understanding and appreciation for athletics that I do today.

## The Ins and Outs of Instructional Design

I've worked as an instructional systems designer for CACI, designing technical training materials for the U.S. Navy, and I recently transitioned within CACI to a Technical Writer supporting U.S. Air Force programs. In this role I translate complex, mission-critical information into clear procedures, user guides, and reference materials; partner closely with engineers and SMEs; and maintain consistency with federal/DoD documentation and accessibility standards.

## Teaching and Writing

I designed and taught engaging online courses at Old Dominion University and Tidewater Community College. As Director of Youth Programs at The Muse Writers Center in Norfolk, Va., I created writing-based programming for teens—helping them gain confidence and a voice—and increased participation by 20%. My early career included published writing, editing, and facilitating community literary events.

## Published and Proud

I'm proud of developing innovative instructional materials with real-world impact—specifically, technical training for U.S. Navy engineers that enhances learning and retention. I'm also proud of my literary work, including my published book, "Falling," and contributions to anthologies and literary magazines that spotlight underrepresented voices.

# Rebekah M. Coxwell, MFA

2019 • Age 34

Chesapeake, Va.

Master of Fine Arts in  
Creative Writing

Impactful instructional  
designer, teacher, and  
published author



# Helen Armstrong, MFA

2018  
Age 29

Louisville, Colo.

Bachelor of Arts in  
Communications

Professional writer and editor at  
Helen Armstrong Editorial  
and academic advisor at the  
University of Colorado Boulder

## Pass it On

Toni Morrison told her students, “When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else. This is not just a grab-bag candy game.” I’ve held this mentality close ever since graduating from Arcadia. While I was a student, there were so many alumni who were generous with their time, energy, and advice. I do the same for those who have come after me.

## Art Imitates Life

I hope to inspire others to write the stories they believe in and that are true to themselves. I believe that everyone benefits when literature is true, real, and reflective of our lived experiences. I want to uplift every voice and in any room I’m in, I will make space for others to join.

## Awards and Accolades

I earned the John Hawkes Prize in Fiction at Brown University, which was the highest honor given to a student in the Literary Arts department. I also received a summer scholar position at Tin House in 2022, which provided a competitive, fully funded slot at one of the top writing workshops in the country.

## Real World Experience

At Arcadia, I worked at the Writing Center and was also the editor-in-chief of *Loco Mag*, both of which gave me immensely valuable experience with editing, assisting writers, and mentoring younger students. My classes expanded my understanding of the world, and my time abroad doubled that. The encouragement from my professors was invaluable for me to believe in myself and pursue writing in multiple areas.



Marissa Morrow Photography

## Distinguished Achievement

My primary responsibilities include analyzing blood samples for alcohol and impairing drugs, performing method validations, and providing expert testimony on alcohol and drug physiology and pharmacology. Outside of the lab, I am an active member of the National Safety Council Alcohol, Drugs and Impairment Division, Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Council of Forensic Science Educators, and the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, where I serve on the Board of Directors. I received the Golden Disc Award for Distinguished Achievement from Arcadia University in 2025.

## The Future of Forensics

My vision is to help advance the field of toxicology by integrating state-of-the-art drug testing technology and fostering greater national and international collaboration. I'd like to see a system where toxicologists across the United States not only have access to real-time domestic drug trend data but also maintain open channels of communication with colleagues worldwide, enabling us to share knowledge, address emerging challenges, and develop innovative solutions together.

## Giving Back

I volunteer at my local animal shelter, where I spend time caring for and supporting animals in need. It's something I genuinely love! Being around animals brings me joy, and giving back in this way allows me to contribute to a cause I deeply care about.



# Anisha Paul,

## MSFS

Richmond, Vt.

Master of Science in Forensic Science

2013 • Age 35

Forensic Toxicologist for the Vermont Forensic Laboratory and Adjunct Professor at Champlain College

# Courtney (Schoff) Clyburn, PhD

2015 • Age 32

York, Maine

Bachelor of Arts  
in Biology,  
Bachelor of Arts  
in Chemistry

Scientist in  
pre-clinical  
drug discovery



## Mind on Metabolism

I am deeply passionate about advancing our understanding of the nervous system's role in metabolism and obesity, particularly through groundbreaking RNA interference (RNAi)-based therapeutics. My research has focused on the intersection of metabolism, physiology, and neuroscience, where I aim to uncover novel mechanisms that can lead to impactful therapeutic developments. I am also passionate about mentoring and giving back to the scientific community.

## Spreading the Word

I am dedicated to educational outreach and mentoring, offering career talks and graduate school preparation seminars at universities. In my academic career, I have actively worked to increase awareness of biomedical research through academic talks and community-centric initiatives. Additionally, I mentor aspiring undergraduate researchers to contribute to workforce equity and diversity in science.

## Foundational Faculty

Arcadia was instrumental in shaping my academic and research trajectory. Faculty guidance, particularly during my undergraduate work with **Dr. Brie Paddock**, imbued me with the analytical skills and scientific rigor that define my research today. Furthermore, my work studying the effects of copper on larval learning in Alzheimer's disease models served as an early stepping stone to developing my passion for translational neuroscience research. The university's culture of mentoring and research excellence set a strong foundation for my future accomplishments.

# Akosua A. Ako-Addo, MA

**2018  
Age 29**

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts  
in History

Assistant  
Director of  
Undergraduate  
Admissions at  
the University of  
Pennsylvania

Arcadia University  
Recent Graduate  
Trustee

**DONOR**

## Easing Application Anxiety

I evaluate applications from Central Asia and West/Central Africa, lead sessions for students and families about the college application process, and coordinate the arrival of fully funded undergraduate international students to my institution. The college application process can cause anxiety for students and families. My role as an admissions professional is to quell those worries. When I lead information sessions, my goal is to have students and families leave with tools that will help them during their college search process.

## International Education

Completing my master's in international education development challenged me and broadened my worldview in areas such as refugee education and internationalization of higher education. Through my program, I developed a project focused on how institutions instruct international students about race/racism in the United States and presented it at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference.

## Service and Giving

I volunteer at The Woodlands, a national historic landmark located in West Philadelphia, and the National Book Festival run by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Additionally, I've gotten into the practice of donating to causes such as Doctors Without Borders and World Central Kitchen for my birthday.

# Anna Spaschak, MEd

**2021 • Age 26**

## Foundations for Success

In my role, I'm committed to creating a welcoming and supportive community for new students and their families as they begin their journey at UF. By overseeing our online orientation, teaching first-year seminar courses, and helping develop and implement our in-person orientation sessions I help students build a strong foundation for success, connect with resources, and feel confident navigating college life. I'm especially proud to advocate for students from underrepresented backgrounds to ensure they feel seen, heard, and supported during their transition.

## Rookie of the Year

One of the things I'm most proud of is being recognized with the 2025 Superior Accomplishment University Gold Award for Rookie of the Year at the University of Florida. This means so much to me because it reflects the positive impact I've been able to make so early on in my role, by building programs, supporting students, and creating welcoming experiences that help them feel at home at UF. I also received the 2025 Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award from Arcadia.

## Compassion in Action

I hope to leave a legacy of impact, compassion, and possibility. I want to be remembered as someone who lifted others up, created spaces where people felt seen and valued, and worked to make systems more equitable and accessible.

Gainesville, Fla.

Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies

Program Coordinator for Special  
Populations in the Center for New Student and  
Family Programs at the University of Florida

Arcadia University Recent Graduate Trustee

**DONOR**



A portrait of Rich Baker, a man with short brown hair and a beard, smiling. He is wearing a grey zip-up sweater over a black t-shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

# Rich Baker, MPH

2014 • Age 33

Boston, Mass.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Public health strategist focusing in HIV, infectious disease, and immunization

## Peace Corps and Beyond

I began my career in community-based public health as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Fiji Islands. There, I focused on capacity building and health education, supporting a local hospital outreach team in delivering prevention education on chronic and infectious diseases to surrounding communities. I also collaborated with the Environmental Health Team from Rakiraki, a district in Fiji, to secure a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Small Project Assistance grant, which funded the development of a clean water system for a school district grappling with endemic typhoid fever.

Following my two years of service in Fiji, I moved to Boston to lead an infectious disease prevention initiative at Victory Programs, a community-based nonprofit. Over the next eight years, I served in various leadership roles, overseeing HIV prevention and testing, harm reduction services, and community outreach. Most recently, I joined the John Snow Inc. Research and Training Institute as a senior associate, providing public health planning and technical assistance for HIV and infectious disease programs at both local and national levels.

## Reducing Harm

I'm most proud of helping launch the Victory Connector, a first-of-its-kind program designed to support women and transgender individuals experiencing homelessness and using drugs. It was created in direct response to a need for low-barrier, trauma-informed support—and in a matter of months, it became a lifeline for hundreds of people each week.

## Lasting Impact

My undergraduate career at Arcadia University helped me develop the skills and perspectives that led to a career aimed at empowering and uplifting communities toward safer and healthier livelihoods. I hope I'm remembered, professionally and personally, as someone that leads with kindness, openness, and a conviction to make navigating a world rife with challenges a little bit easier for the communities I interact with.



# Nikita Patel, PE, MBA

2018 • Age 32

Philadelphia, Pa.

Master of Business Administration

Sales Engineer at Sherman Engineering Co., ASSE 6060  
Medical Gas Designer

DONOR

## An Engineer Influencer

Whenever I explain my role to someone unfamiliar with this industry, I often describe myself as an influencer. I am responsible for influencing engineers at mechanical, electrical, and plumbing firms to specify the products I represent by informing them of their value above competitors' products. I influence owners, with the help of our service and compliance divisions, to trust our customer service more than our competitors'. I influence contractors to purchase the products I sell because they meet specification requirements, satisfy the owners' needs, and are backed by exceptional support from our team for a stress-free project from start to finish.

## Many Forms of Mentorship

In my opinion, growth is impossible without education, and I try to constantly broaden mine by staying up-to-date on current events, being well read, and generally keeping an open mind. I also don't believe in stepping on others to get ahead. Whenever possible, I enjoy mentoring others to achieve their version of success. This mentoring takes many different forms, but over the last decade, I've had the opportunity to mentor high school students, undergrads, and young professionals. It's incredibly rewarding!

## Donating Time

My preferred method of philanthropy is donating my most valuable resource—time. I've been an industry partner with Pathful Connect for over five years and have reached 1,851 students from 141 classes across the country! It's a program I would encourage any industry professional to volunteer with because it's simple to do. I am a member of the Women's Center of Montgomery County, serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and attending board meetings as time permits. I am also a member of the Industry Advisory Council at Wilkes University, where I can bring industry practices directly to the College of Business and Engineering and help to incorporate these into their curriculum.

Gina Vecchione Photography

# Christine (Friis) Patschak

2012 • Age 35

Frederick, Md.

Bachelor of Arts  
in History

Seasoned leader  
in corporate  
philanthropy  
and strategic  
partnerships

DONOR

## Professional Philanthropy

My professional role allows me to raise money for EveryMind's mental health and social determinants of health—such as housing and food security, financial stability, and physical health—programs in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. It brings together a close-knit community behind a common mission and allows individuals who most need our services to access support and care.

## Overcoming a Personal Challenge

Nothing has been more of a challenge than the transition to being a parent. It's a whole identity shift. Everything changes: priorities, purpose, habits, hobbies. Everything. I'm still settling into the role, and Ozzie will be three soon. I would hope that the United States continues to modernize parental leave to ensure all parents have resources, safety nets, support, and time to cope and adjust. Therapy has been instrumental for me as well.

## Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporations and businesses are an integral part of a thriving society, and I think they have a responsibility to better the world in which they prosper. Many companies have invested in corporate social responsibility strategies or launched a foundation, and that is a tremendous start. I'd love to see a world where that continues, grows, and evolves to meet the needs of society.

# Claire Weisner

2020 • Age 27

Washington, D.C.

Bachelor of Arts in  
International Studies

Advocacy professional  
with previous roles in  
protection programming  
and humanitarian efforts

DONOR

## Mind on Migrants

I am most passionate about protecting the rights of all migrants including refugees, and working to create a world in which people have the freedom to choose whether to stay or to migrate. Migration is integral to life and development. We need a system that focuses on reducing forced displacement, respects the dignity of each person who migrates, and considers the needs of host and sending communities.

## Master's Degree Loading

In my current role as a philanthropy officer at the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), I am responsible for donor relations and gift tracking, researching, relationship building with private foundations, and helping ICMC share the story and impact of its work. This August, I also began a master's degree program in International Migration and Refugees, with a concentration in Migration Analytics, at Georgetown University.

## Believe in Yourself

A major change from undergraduate studies to the workforce is the fact that you are no longer only working alongside peers with similar education levels and experience. Rather, you are in the room with experts who may have decades of experience, which can be intimidating. To build my confidence, I like to remind myself of how far I've come and how quickly I've learned in each of my roles. Instead of being hard on myself, I try to listen and learn from those around me.



# Lt. Megan Dorris, MMS, MPH

2018 • Age 35

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Master of Medical Science–Physician Assistant and Master of Public Health

Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**DONOR**

## *Health as a Human Right*

No matter where you are born, your level of education, or your socioeconomic status, everyone deserves to have the opportunity to live a healthy life. This requires access to food, water, shelter, sanitation, and health care. There are far too many people who become ill every day from disease that could be prevented by providing even the most basic resources. My work developing a course on cholera case management has reinforced just how lucky I am to have consistent access to clean drinking water in my home.

## *Epidemiology Around the World*

My work has allowed me to impact communities far beyond the one I currently live in. I have helped train over 500 clinical staff across Zambia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Angola to recognize and treat cholera during outbreaks, hopefully improving patient outcomes. This past winter, I had the opportunity to share my epidemiology experience and training with a group of about 15 students involved in a truly amazing non-profit organization called Project Scientist that hosts after-school clubs for young girls interested in STEM careers. I also volunteer with Mayanza, which provides health education to women and children in Mayan communities in the mountains of Guatemala and was founded by one of Arcadia's previous faculty members.

## *Public Health Honoree*

I recently received the Paul C. Schnitker International Health Award, which recognizes EIS officers who have made substantial contributions to the field of international public health. The award is named after Dr. Schnitker, an EIS officer who died in a plane crash in Nigeria in 1969 while en route to serve as a public health officer in response to famine and other public health problems resulting from the Biafra Civil War. I received this award for my international contributions to cholera prevention and outbreak response work.

# Michael “Shady” McCoy

2022 • Age 25

Delaware County, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Experienced researcher working  
to treat leukemia and pursuing  
a PhD in Neuroscience from  
Rowan University

## Space to Grow

I run mouse studies to test the efficacy of different Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell therapies for treating leukemia. I attribute all of my success to Arcadia. The university gave me a space to grow, experiment, make mistakes, and learn. It was the sandbox where I developed my academic skills and curiosity—and where I learned how to learn.

## Grateful for Life

I’m proud of being alive. It sounds simple, but many people take it for granted; I even did. My best friend was murdered in a carjacking at Temple during our senior year. I know it’s a morbid thing to share—but it’s the truth, and truth has its place. Not every poem rhymes. Not every story ends happily. Ever since that event, I continually put life into perspective. I’m proud to still be alive because in this world, anything can happen to your life.



## Quietly Impactful

I am a baseball umpire, and the best umpires are the ones you don’t remember. That’s the kind of legacy I want: quietly impactful. I don’t want fame or credit—I want to help make the world better simply because it should be. Let my work speak without needing to be attached to my name.

# Jessica Braun, DPT

2017 and 2020 • Age 31

Stanhope, N.J.

Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Administration, Doctor of Physical Therapy

“Your friendly neighborhood physical therapist,” engaged to a fellow Arcadia DPT graduate

**DONOR**

## Hometown Connections

I am proud to say that I opened a new clinic for my company in my hometown. This has allowed me to improve access to physical therapy for my neighbors and other acquaintances, and I often get to enjoy working with individuals I have connections with already through local schools or organizations.

## Long-term Relationships

I feel strongly that part of our vision is to deliver a personal, individualized, and local familiar type of interaction to each client. I strive to set the standard in my PT clinic that each patient who begins their PT becomes established with us as their ongoing providers. I foresee our clients continuing to return to us as they would with primary care providers as their most trusted and knowledgeable movement specialists. I think it should be standard for every individual to have a dedicated physical therapist in their life and for those relationships to be fostered and grown over decades while striving for optimal mobility and health.



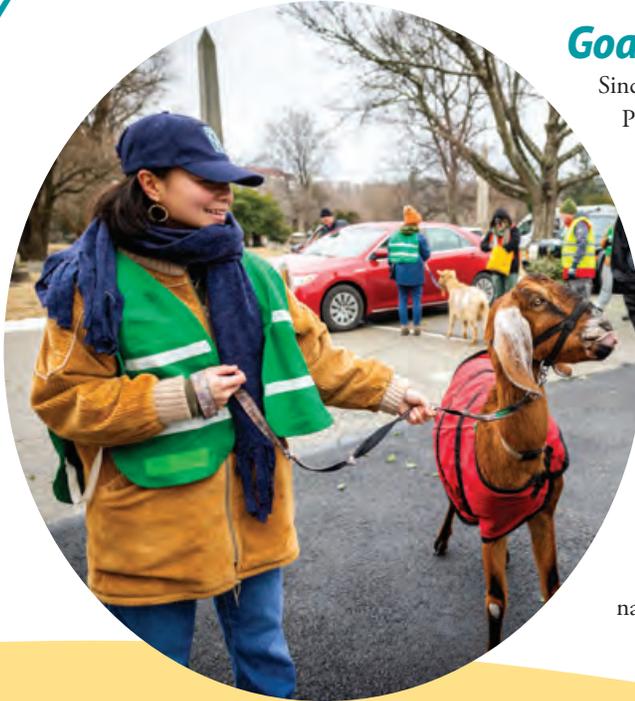
# Evangeline Wang

2020 • Age 27

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Public health professional focused on equity, community engagement, and workforce development



## Looking to the Future

My vision for the healthcare sector is one where systemic change is normalized. I imagine a landscape where community health workers are valued, funded, and fully integrated into care models. I hope to see Jefferson Health's Community Health Worker Collective become a national model for how institutions can invest in people, not just as employees, but as important care team members significantly impacting patient care and outcomes.

## Goats for Engagement

Since February 2024, I have served on the board of Philly Goat Project, a small nonprofit based in Philadelphia. Their mission is to bring engaging, educational, and accessible opportunities to people throughout our region by providing education, therapy, job training, wellness, and community engagement activities in partnership with the dynamic and delightful capacities of goats.

## Support for Arcadia

Arcadia laid the foundation for my professional and personal growth. Its global emphasis and proximity to Philadelphia gave me the perspectives and opportunities, like study abroad and internships, I needed to thrive. It seems natural to support an institution that shaped my journey professionally.

## Always Advancing

My passion lies in serving and caring for others, whether that be through my career choice or personal relationships: I am passionate about advancing myself in my career as a PICU nurse through new skill sets and my pursuit of a doctoral degree, about physical fitness playing an important role in lifelong physical and mental health, and about the relationships in my life.

## Health Care Changemaker

Through my professional role, I believe I impact the Delaware community and the surrounding area by providing hands-on care through critical thinking and critical care skills, caring for critically ill children. I am responsible for being a role model for newer nurses and building a supportive community within my hospital and unit. I am impacting my community by choosing to advance my education and keep up-to-date with evidence-based research in order to better serve those around me.

## Arcadia's Influence

My work ethic, astute time management, organizational skills, and self-motivation are attributed to my early foundations built at Arcadia. Arcadia provided me with my most influential mentors, whom I am inspired by to this day.

# Alyssa D'Esposito, BSN, RN

2019 • Age 28

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Pediatric Intensive Care Registered Nurse at Nemours Children's Hospital

Doctorate of Nursing Practice candidate at The Catholic University of America

DONOR





# Kitty Rauth, MFA

2014 • Age 33

Chicago, Ill.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture

Artist and organizer serving as the artistic director of Comfort Station and as a lecturer in Contemporary Practices at School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## Fostering Connections

Comfort Station is an incredibly special cultural space in Chicago. With the support of a host of volunteer programmers, we activate a historic building with public, community-driven programs that foster vibrant connections at the intersection of art and life. Since 2011, we have operated out of a 1920s city-owned building that was once intended to be a space for travelers to stay warm while waiting for public transportation. That legacy fuels our mission to act as a porous and public gathering space for a variety of creative communities.

## Learning My Worth

By far, the hardest part of being an artist is sustaining your practice. Curating a lifestyle that allows enough flexibility to maintain time for the studio has been a huge balance, and often relies on the unglamorous challenge of figuring out how to get paid to do it. Ultimately, I've learned my worth. In 2024, I was honored alongside my Executive Director, Jordan Martins, in Newcity Art's Art 50 as one of Chicago's top directors and curators for our work at Comfort Station. In 2022, I was one of two graduating MFA students to receive the James Nelson Raymond Fellowship, a \$10,000 fellowship for students with exceptional promise.

## My Mentor

I absolutely became the artist I am today because of **Matt Borgen**, professor and director of Arcadia Exhibitions. In my junior and senior years, Matt recognized my curiosity and drive and illuminated what artists can be in the world—not just makers but visionaries. He taught me how to think more deeply, consider more broadly, and question more delicately. Our work together instilled a commitment to poetics and a nuanced understanding of how we can communicate complicated and enigmatic feelings through our work. I am a better artist, and maybe even an artist at all, because of Matt.

# Andrea Holz, MEd

2025 • Age 35

Abington, Pa.

Master of Education in Special Education

K-2 autistic support teacher at Fairwold Academy with more than a decade of experience in the criminal justice system

DONOR

## Support and Inspiration

I am most passionate about helping marginalized individuals and individuals with disabilities. I want to help inspire them to believe that anything is possible and encourage them to keep working hard to take the next step. I want to help them gain equal access to opportunities, to guide them to the resources they need and want, to help them find and create a plan based on their passions and goals, to support their independence, and to help them have a voice.

## Major Change

The thing I am most proud of accomplishing is switching careers from probation officer to teacher. Being a mom of three children, it is hard to make such a drastic decision to follow your dreams. I always knew that I would regret it if I didn't try. It was scary and a lot of work, but I was able to successfully start teaching and complete a second master's program with distinction. It is so hard to do, but I want to be able to encourage others to follow their dreams. Take the chance.

## Practicing What We Preach

Switching careers while beginning a new master's program, raising three children, and losing my mother to cancer all at the same time was very challenging for me. I remember taking it one day at a time, one project at a time. Life will always bring you challenges. It's important to keep pushing forward, to keep working toward your goals and your responsibilities, to lean on your support systems, and to practice mindfulness and use the coping skills we teach our students.





# Kishia Nixon

2015 • Age 35

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting

Actor in the Wilma HotHouse Company, “Freedom Rising” performer at the National Constitution Center, and standardized (simulated) patient at the University of Pennsylvania

## Taking the Stage

One of my first performances was with EgoPo Classic Theater in 2015, and since then, I’ve been blessed to perform in a show every year. I’ve worked with numerous theaters in Philadelphia, including the Arden Theatre Company, Azuka Theatre, The Wilma Theater, Simpatico, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and InterAct. I worked with Delaware Theatre Company and PlayPenn on new works. I’ve received awards and worked on world premiere plays, where I had the pleasure of collaborating with playwrights, and am a part of the artist collective called Die-Cast.

## An Actor’s Research and Development

I believe that I am responsible for bringing characters to life and making them as comprehensive, clear, and entertaining as possible. That comes from doing research, making backstories, and having a character presented as a real, full-bodied being. And also keeping my body and vocal health maintained and intact because this is my instrument.

## Theater, Theater Everywhere

The vision I have is that theater will be able to be any and everywhere. I want theater to be inside someone’s living room, outside, and to be more accessible so that everyone can see it. If you don’t know you have access to it, then you can’t be a part of it, and what is theater without a community?

# Benjamin “Ben” Robbins

2020 • Age 27

Lakewood Ranch, Fla.

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

Licensed real estate consultant and founder of Ram Consulting

DONOR

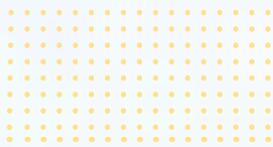
## A Dream Realized

I had many dreams and aspirations as a kid, but I remember that running a company of my own and growing it was always top of mind. The intricacies of building a business is a mountain I did not anticipate when I took on this adventure in 2020. It’s the wildest roller coaster ride of my life, with many lows and highs along the way, but I would not give it up for anything.

## Accessibility in Real Estate

I would like to see real estate become more accessible to everyone. I would also like to see more engagement with property owners and the communities that they service. This would bring a lot more clarity to the world of ownership and hopefully debunk the negative connotations of landlords throughout the country.





# Justin Lewis

2020 • Age 27

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bachelor of Science  
in Computer Science,  
Bachelor of Arts in Italian

Senior Engineer  
at Expana

DONOR

## Building Culture

I lead technical projects, mentor more junior software engineers, and collaborate with non-technical coworkers on requirements and planning. Most importantly, I like to think that I help build a work culture where everyone feels accepted and appreciated.

## In the Community

I try to give time when I can, such as volunteering with the South Philly Voter Project. I also make regular donations to WHYY, Planned Parenthood, The Nature Conservancy, The Philadelphia Film Society, and sponsor a child through Children International.

## Challenge Accepted

One accomplishment that comes to mind is studying abroad in an intensive language program in Perugia, Italy, during my junior year at Arcadia. I had spent the previous year and a half teaching myself as much Italian as I could through podcasts, books, and videos. I spent most of my time studying and practicing throughout the semester in Italy and was able to reach the B2 level by the time I came home. Proving to myself that I could do something like that gave me the confidence to take on other challenges, like setting a school record in the 100-yard breaststroke and getting on the podium at the MAC conference swim meet.



## Leading With Empathy

In my career, I am most passionate about helping students who may not think that it is going to be financially possible to access college. I want to be the person who guides them through a complicated process with kindness, patience, and empathy. In my personal life, I am a mother of two daughters and I am passionate about empowering girls through my work with Girl Scouts and through showing my girls an example of being an engaged and informed citizen. I try to advocate and donate to causes that matter to me like LGBTQ rights, college access, civic engagement, and arts education. When I took on my role at Moore, I was able to find something that helped me pursue my passions in my daily work.

## Giving Back

As a first-generation college student, my scholarship from Arcadia made it possible for me to attend. As a higher education professional, I know how costly it is to keep a college funded and doing anything I can do, though small, to help keep Arcadia going also motivates me because I cherish the college and what it provides to its students and the community. Arcadia's mission aligns with my values, and I hope to continue to support my Alma Mater and its students throughout my life.

# Grace Taylor, MA

2010 and 2018 • Age 37

Glenside, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts in History, Secondary Education Certification, Master of Arts in Humanities

Director of Financial Aid at Moore College of Art & Design

Married to a fellow Arcadia alumnus, Andrew Taylor, whom she met during Orientation Week

DONOR



# Marcella Haddad, MFA

2017 • Age 29

New York, N.Y.

Bachelor of Arts in Language Learning and Teaching

Writer, teacher, and author of multiple books of fiction, essays, and poetry, which have received Best of the Net and Pushcart Prize nominations

DONOR

## Student Successes

It's been an honor to see several of my students finish drafts of their books! They go on to publish and submit their work, apply to MFA programs or fellowships, and continue to expand their genres and projects. It means the world to me that I can inspire other writers to keep going and push through the messy middle of writing a book.



## Building a Business

The challenges of running a business, setting up an LLC, dealing with taxes and logistics are not for the faint of heart! But, the length, content, and focus of my courses are so specialized that the best home for them is right here with me. I had to break out of some of the rigid class structures and schedules that I was used to, and create a space for writers that focused on process, community, and genuine progress.

## #1 for Study Abroad

It's important to help future students gain access to an education, particularly through study abroad. Arcadia has one of the best programs in the world, with multiple opportunities to learn abroad during one's college career. I took full advantage when I was a student. I hope that future Arcadia students continue to learn from other countries!



# Tamara White, MA

2020 • Age 29

Cambridge, Md.

Master of Arts in International Peace and Conflict Resolution

Project Delivery Specialist (Senior Consultant) at Deloitte Consulting

## International Focus

I believe that when we help others, we also heal parts of ourselves. When we look to understand the world beyond us, we come to better understand the world within. My early career was centered around international development and research based on the Sub-Saharan Africa region. I worked at a variety of institutions including The Brookings Institution and USAID.

## Powering Defense Strategy

I now work as a contractor in the defense space, where I am mainly responsible for analysis of microelectronic supply chains—parts like semiconductors, printed circuit boards, etc. I also answer congressional requirements, letters from representatives, and requests for information from senior leadership, and work with agencies such as the Department of Commerce and the White House on reports. I participated on an industrial base strategy team that wrote the first ever National Defense Industrial Strategy.

## No Place Like Arcadia

Through Arcadia I discovered my passion for traveling and immersing myself in a culture. I met lifelong friends and professors who pushed me to my fullest potential. I genuinely believe that there is no place like Arcadia, at least from an IPCR perspective. **Dr. Warren Haffar** and **Professor Allyson McCreery's** dedication to our cohort showed me and others what the community truly looks like.

## Proudest Accomplishments

After Arcadia, I earned my master's degree from St. Joseph's University and began my career working with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, and over time, shifted my focus to prevention education, health and wellness, and mentorship for youth and families in schools and community spaces. Stepping into a leadership role within a nonprofit agency has been both an honor and a significant responsibility. Being recognized for my leadership and entrusted with that level of influence is something I consider a major professional achievement. Another accomplishment I'm very proud of is writing and self-publishing several novels. Turning a personal passion into something I could share with others was a major milestone for me, and it's an area I hope to return to and continue developing.

## A Lasting Legacy

Having dedicated my life's work to nonprofit service, I strive to uplift youth, families, and communities. My participation in committees at Arcadia University reflects my commitment to supporting and inspiring students to reach their potential. Ultimately, I want to be remembered for helping others, sharing ideas, and influencing positive change—knowing that the work I've done will be carried forward by those I've mentored and inspired. ❖

# Ashli Servis, MA

2009 • Age 37

Sellersville, Pa.

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Director of Youth and Family Services at YWCA Bucks County

DONOR



**1961**

**Suzanne Decker Fenimore '61:** I moved into a senior residence in Mill Creek, Washington, in late February. My husband, Frank, went into the hospital that same day. He came home for a couple of days in March but went back to the hospital for the final time on March 21st and died on April 6th. He had been ill for much of the previous year. We were married for sixty-two years.

I have a lovely two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment and like it very much. The food is good; the people are friendly; and there are plenty of activities available. I'm getting our house ready to sell—that's quite a job, as I'm sure many of you know. Downsizing is tough! Too many things "spark joy."

I keep in touch with **Karen Moore Alterman '61** who lives only a few miles away. It's amazing how difficult it is to plan get-togethers, but I hope to see her and Norman soon. I hope all of my classmates are doing well.

**Anne Willis Newman '61:** My husband, Walter, passed away during surgery June 7, 2023. I was grateful that he was in the hospital and had all the help that was possible at the time. His body was unable to stand any complications. We had been married for 22 days short of 60 years.

**1964**

**Linda Mann '64:**  
**Phyllis St. John Skok '64** and I visited **Janie Spence Kerr '64** in Wilmington, DE, this spring. We explored the Delaware (DuPont) countryside, the Nemours estate, and Longwood Gardens.

**1973**

**Mary C. Scotton Bing '73:** (right) At the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., for the Elizabeth Catlett Art Exhibition in June of this year.

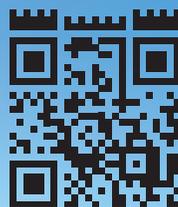
**1981**

**Linda Mattucci Schiavone '81:** I celebrated the year of my 65th birthday with a bucket-list adventure—walking 120 miles of the Camino Portugues, from Vigo to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. It was an incomparable experience—the scenery, the people, the food, the walk itself—was nothing that I could have imagined. Then threw in an unexpected twist—I lost all my identification and means to communicate and pay for things in a mishap on walking day eight. It had the makings for a disaster: my U.S. passport, cell phone, credit card, driver's license, euros, pretty much everything I needed to pay, check into a hotel, communicate and get home with, was floating down a river over which I had stopped to catch my breath and drink water. Through the kindness of fellow travelers, I was able to borrow cell phones, money for food and a passport application, and their apps for Uber rides to police stations and the U.S. Embassy, and I obtained an Emergency Passport (yes, there is such a thing!) two hours before my scheduled flight home. It was nothing short of a miracle. I would love to connect with any Beaver and Arcadia alums who have walked the Camino and share experiences. You can reach me at [lindaschiavone@pc@gmail.com](mailto:lindaschiavone@pc@gmail.com). Buen Camino!



**THE DR. FINBARR O'CONNOR PRIZE FOR SHIFTING THE PARADIGM**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Dr. Finbarr O'Connor Prize for Shifting the Paradigm. This is a \$15,000 award presented to members of the Arcadia community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and parents—who challenge conventional thinking, solve problems in their field, or address issues in their local and global communities. It recognizes change agents who have used innovation to create fundamental change, shifting the paradigm they faced. This is the final year the Prize will be awarded.



**LEARN MORE AND SUBMIT A NOMINATION**



**1991**

**Shira Lipton Yacker '91:** I've been teaching in the Lehigh Valley (special ed) since 2004. I taught in Philly for 10 years prior to that. I've been married for 27 years and we have one daughter who did undergraduate at Columbia University, then graduated law school last year, and is now an attorney for the Department of Justice.

**2002**

**Howard "Greg" Venzie '02DPT:** Owner of Unified Therapy LLC: Pediatric outpatient clinic in South Windsor, CT. We provide PT, OT, and Speech Therapy to children in the Greater Hartford area. Celebrating our 9th year in business. Thank you, Arcadia University!

**2007**

**Barbara Brooks Day '07, '14MEd:** I am currently teaching at a private school in Mexico. I believe that my education and international experience from Arcadia helped to make this transition possible.

**2010**

**Mayble Thomas '10:** Since graduating from Arcadia University in 2010 with a BA in Biology and a minor in psychology, Mayble has dedicated her career to blending science, aesthetics, and wellness. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from LaSalle University and completing her master's in Nursing at South University, she became a board-certified nurse practitioner in 2017.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, Mayble took a leap of faith and opened her own medical spa—now celebrating its fifth anniversary this October. As the founder and aesthetic nurse practitioner behind the growing wellness-focused practice, she leads a dynamic team that includes aestheticians and clinical staff, offering a range of treatments focused on prevention, confidence, and whole-body health.

Her mission goes beyond beauty. Mayble is passionate about educating the community and helping clients feel empowered in their own skin. She promotes a preventative, wellness-based approach to aesthetics, with personalized treatment plans and a membership model that supports long-term care and results.

She's a proud business owner, mentor, and healthcare provider who champions both innovation and compassion in the aesthetic space. She is a wife and mother to two boys, ages 7 and 2. She chose the entrepreneur route to give her the time and freedom to live her life just the way she wants. No regrets.

**2013**

**Greg Yerkes '13MBA:** Following my MBA, I've taught Organizational Development at Arcadia and Leadership Development for the University of Western Australia's MBA program. I am now a partner—Executive Coach and Leadership Development—with Tall Poppies Leadership. We empower leaders and teams to tap into their confidence and overcome doubts.

**Robert Migliaccio '13:** I'm happy to announce that I've recently achieved my master's degree in Information Systems from University of Phoenix in September. I'm looking forward to using my new degree in my field.

**2014**

**Ashley Booth '14:** Started a new job as Chief Operating Officer for the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay.

**2017**

**Chelsea Wilf '17 and Evan Cunha '16** met in fall of 2013 through a friend and kept in touch through classes and mutual friends. After their graduations, they reconnected in January 2020 and have been together since. Chelsea and Evan Cunha married in May 2025 and are so excited for their lives together! ❖

**In Memoriam**

Mary Krupp Williams '36

Linda Gabbe Bender '67

Betty Jane Rothenberger  
Hendricks Beifuss '47  
July 12, 2025

Maisie Hodes-Wood '68  
March 7, 2025

Sandra L. McCall '70

Annette Schaffer Eskind '49  
July 13, 2025

Raymond "Ray"  
John Zapf '79  
April 29, 2025

Barbara "Bobi" Kline  
Mentzer Eldridge '53  
July 22, 2025

Judith Woods Ross '79  
December 11, 2023

June Brunner Jakubowski '56  
February 6, 2025

Kathy Trainor '93MEd  
June 15, 2025

Helen Condodina  
Stockebrand '56  
July 14, 2025

Marie T.  
Gallagher '95, P'84, P'91  
September 11, 2024

Nancy Williams Galluccio '57  
May 27, 2025



*Former Employee of the University, served as Administrative Assistant to the Provost. When she retired in 2009, a scholarship was established in her*

Helen Brylawski Kelso '57  
January 9, 2025



*Helen and Don Kelso were married in the school chapel by the dean on the day after her graduation, June 10, 1957.*

*honor for History majors in need of financial assistance: Marie T. Gallagher Scholarship.*

Dr. Andrea L. Fuse '06,  
'09DPT  
August 3, 2025

Monifa McCoy '08  
May 19, 2025

Deborah Gable '59  
June 23, 2025

Riley Skapik '13  
March 21, 2023

Carole Feld Smyth '59  
July 4, 2025

Joshua Fisher '21  
November 2023

Rachel Smith Brandt '60  
July 5, 2025

Carol Daddazio Stevens  
July 19, 2025  
*Former Professor*

Carol Ann (Davis)  
McClenahan '64  
March 11, 2025

Dawne MacDonald  
September 29, 2025  
*Staff Member*

Dr. Joan E. Hurlock '65  
February 24, 2025

# FROM THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS

Associate Professor **Dr. Ryan Zarzycki** of the Department of Physical Therapy received a three-year, \$520,154 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study how non-invasive brain stimulation might improve quadriceps muscle function after anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction. The funding is part of an R15 grant, which supports research projects at universities that have



not received major NIH support in the past, while also providing students with quality research opportunities and strengthening the institution's research environment. The research team includes doctoral students **Anne Leung '19DPT, '26PhD, Alan Shoykhet '26DPT, and Emily Nervegna '27DPT**, and undergraduates **Alexa Barnett '26, Grace Curnow '26, Julia Eckert '27, Brylie Greene '28, Natalee Dragotta '28, and Irene Tulik '28**, all of whom are pre-Physical Therapy.

**Theresa Smith**, director of Student Health Services, and **Amy Henning**, director of Counseling Services, received a \$4,050 grant from Prevention Education Solutions, which serves as the pass-through entity for the Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol. This grant, which has now concluded, provided students with well-being journals to encourage gratitude, habit-

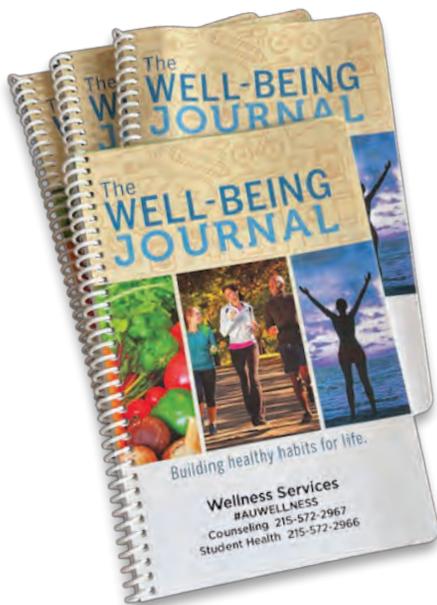
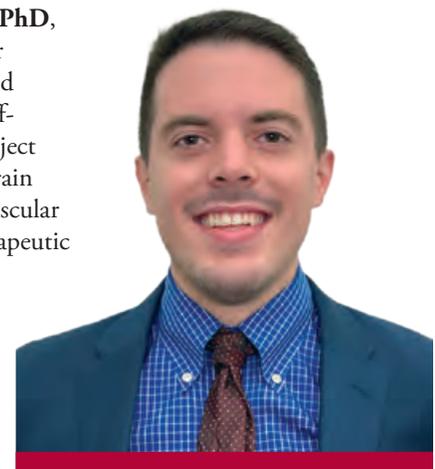
building, and emotional reflection, supporting efforts to destigmatize mental health disorders and treatment while promoting prevention of AOD abuse. Benefits included increased well-being and flourishing, lower stress, and improved mental and physical health, all aligning with Arcadia's mission of holistic student wellness, mental health awareness, and substance abuse prevention.

**Amy Henning** also received \$15,000 from the Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol, along with **Dr. Mary Alice DiFilippo**, assistant professor of practice in Public Health. The funds will be used to provide undergraduate students with programming to help destigmatize mental health disorders and treatment, and aid in the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse.

In addition, DiFilippo and colleagues purchased a mobile unit, named The Well Zone tent, to provide information on staying healthy to the Arcadia community.



**Jeffrey Paskewitz '27PhD**, a Doctorate in Movement Science student, received a \$30,000 New Investigator Grant from the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy of the American Physical Therapy Association. Working with faculty mentors **Phil McClure, PT, PhD, FAPTA, and Kshamata M. Shah, PT, PhD**, Paskewitz is researching motor excitability as a mechanism and treatment target in rotator cuff-related shoulder pain. The project examines how pain impacts brain activity and explores neuromuscular electrical stimulation as a therapeutic option. Funding will support participant recruitment, research assistants, and dissemination of findings through conference presentations and journal publications. ❖



# SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

## **UKnighted Tuesday** December 2-3, 2025

Join us as we UKnight for 1,853 minutes in our effort to achieve a record year of giving for Arcadia University and our students. Every donor makes a difference for our 3,611 students.

Whether near or far from the Glenside campus, you can display your pride in your Alma Mater.

## **Alumni Reunion Weekend** April 24-25, 2026

Commemorating the milestone reunions of the classes of the 1s and 6s.

[www.arcadia.edu/SupportUs](http://www.arcadia.edu/SupportUs)

