

## Students Take the Lead on AU Academic Integrity

BY KATELYN SCHWAB

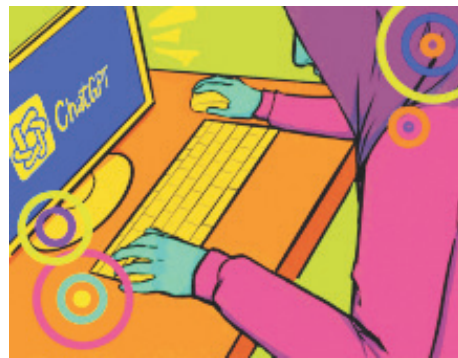
In a time when artificial intelligence (AI) technology can generate essays, discussion posts and even exam answers in seconds, the line between academic honesty and misconduct among students is becoming increasingly blurred. Adelphi's Undergraduate Honor Council is working to take on that challenge by advocating for the student body, ensuring that every student can have a voice in shaping the academic policies that affect them.

"The mission is to help build a culture of academic integrity at Adelphi," said Michael LaCombe, associate professor of history and the university's integrity officer. "Students deserve a voice in this, and this [the Undergraduate Honor Council] is where they have it."

The Council was established last summer by LaCombe as a student-centered extension of the Provost's Committee on Academic Integrity, which is responsible for spreading awareness of the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Members of the Council are selected through a nomination process started by their respective school's dean. This recognition is generally granted to students who have demonstrated academic integrity and

leadership in their respective fields of study.

Although Gabrielle Stafford, a sophomore accounting major in the Honors College program, said she was honored to be nominated, it was the mission of the council that ultimately convinced her to



**First-year Mars Mahinay created this original artwork for this article to showcase a student using ChatGPT.**

get involved. "It's about preventing the need to lack integrity in the first place," she said. "If we understand why students struggle, we can work on fixing those issues before they turn into something bigger."

Emily Ledesma, a senior psychology major in the STEP program, said she joined

the Council because she wanted to help clarify the expectations between students and faculty. "I realized how important it was that students have a say in syllabi," Ledesma said. "There's a lot of confusion about AI right now, and we discussed putting a new policy in place for professors to clearly state when AI is acceptable and when it isn't."

The ongoing impact of AI on the classroom is one of the biggest issues facing students today. Mary O'Connor, a senior majoring in psychology, said she finds that students have changed how they approach their work. "AI is taking away students' confidence in themselves," she said. "The ability to create and express something of themselves is being lost."

O'Connor emphasized that academic misconduct is not always intentional. "It's not necessarily about trying to cheat," she said. "It's about students feeling overwhelmed, thinking they can't do it on their own, and AI is just sitting there, an easy option. A lot of students don't even realize when they've crossed the line."

LaCombe witnessed that shift firsthand. "I've talked to students who use AI as a study tool and I think that's great. But I've also seen

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## Trump's DEI Executive Orders Cause Concern at Adelphi

BY CAROLINE PYCHYNSKI

From the Civil Rights Movement onwards, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies have promoted the participation of minority groups in every part of our society so that we as a country can turn the page on discrimination based on race, identity or disability and instead embrace our collective diversity.

Diversity celebrates the differences in race, age, gender, ethnicity and other aspects of identity that exist in a vibrant society. Equity ensures fair treatment and equal opportunities for all societal members. Inclusion fosters respect and encourages people from all backgrounds to contribute.

On Jan. 21, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the executive order titled, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," nullifying previous executive orders issued in support of affirmative action and DEI programs and policies.

Under this new executive order, federal contractors and grant recipients are obligated to confirm that they are not running any DEI programs that break anti-discrimination laws. Noncompliance can lead to the withdrawal of federal funding. President Trump has also called for compliance investigations to be held at higher education institutions with endowments at or above \$1 billion. Colleges that run DEI programs could face changes in federal funding, especially if such DEI requirements are tied to research grants, contracts or other financial resources. Institutions that depend on federal support may need to carefully assess how removing these policies could impact their eligibility for government funding.

That has raised enough alarm at Adelphi that faculty, staff and students have been reaching out to the administrators prompting a Feb. 6 emailed statement to the AU community from the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. In it Sentwali Bakari, vice president of Student Affairs and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, wrote: "Recent executive orders may raise understandable concerns and questions among our students, faculty and staff—particularly regarding federal funding, immigration policies and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. In moments of uncertainty, it is important to reaffirm who we are and what we stand for. Adelphi University believes diversity benefits our community, enriches learning and our academic environment, and improves student outcomes and lives."

Bakari's statement also assured the

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## Office of Undergraduate and Research Renamed the SPARK Center

BY ARPAN JOSAN

At the start of the Spring 2025 semester, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works was renamed the SPARK (Scholars Pursuing Arts, Research and Knowledge) Center for Undergraduates. The new name was inaugurated on Jan. 29 in the Innovation Center in Swirbul Library. The change was designed to help increase visibility and to better attract undergraduate students to scholarly work, said the SPARK Center's director, Justyna Widera-Kalinowska.

"[The previous name] is a nice, professional name, but it's not really representing what we want students to get out of that name," said Widera-Kalinowska, a chemistry professor. "In order to fully represent what my office is supposed to do, we wanted to come up with a better acronym and SPARK was the best one we could come up with because it really matches the mission of the center."

The SPARK Center is designed to support undergraduate students in launching creative scholarly endeavors. For students to start on their work, they must first find a faculty member who will become their advisor throughout their research. Research and creative works can also be done as a course, but with this choice, a student's advisor would

have to fill out an independent study contract. The research would be within their advisor's current research. Faculty pages on Adelphi's website often mention professors' areas of research along with a list of publications.

According to the Adelphi University website, students who engage in research benefit from this as it helps prepare them for graduate school, improve public speaking skills and writing skills, and get their names published in academic journals.



**SPARK Center director, Prof. Dr. Justyna Widera-Kalinowska**  
Photo by Adelphi University

When asked if there is enough engagement with undergraduate students and academic research, Widera-Kalinowska said: "Right now, yes, there is a certain level of interested students that are involved, but we want to expand this. This is why my Center is not only involving undergraduate students in different activities but also involving faculty."

Students can also take advantage of the seminars that the SPARK Center provides. In the past, it hosted abstract writing clinics to help students craft their thesis statements with the aid of faculty members of the English Department and the Honors College. Professors, as well as Widera-Kalinowska, oversee the whole writing process from start to finish.

Widera-Kalinowska said that the Center plans to hold more of these workshops for students to improve not only their writing skills, but their oral presentations as well. She also highlighted that sometimes students don't have time to conduct a full research project due to how busy they are. She mentioned that having a course that includes undergraduate research can still be valuable to students because it would expose them to some type of experience.

Katelyn Schwab, a senior psychology major who is a student who does research

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## A Word from the Editor

Happy February, Panthers!

With this new issue, our staff has continued to put an emphasis on the political and cultural shakeups that have been felt in the United States since the new administration took charge. (And no matter what you think about the new or altered policies, you have to admit it's pretty astounding how quickly changes are actually being made in the Capitol for a change.) Although the voices reported in the articles you will come across in this new edition may feel one-sided, we fully encourage all political perspectives to take up real estate in our paper. Speak your mind. It's understood that even though our paper represents the views of many students, it doesn't cover everyone's point of view, so I welcome any ideas that you, as a fellow Adelphi student, have to offer. After all, this newspaper serves as the voice of the students, as we say in our tagline.

Changes haven't only been made in our country but on our campus as well. When we found out that dozens of Adelphi employees were affected by a downsizing measure (page 3), it felt important to highlight such a change. Even if it didn't directly impact you as a student, it may say more about the university's current direction and how your tuition dollars are being managed. We report the news, yes, but we also want to bring matters to your attention that may have otherwise been swept to the wayside — big or small, national or personal.

If you're interested in bringing anything you care about to the forefront, shoot us an email at [delphian@adelphi.edu](mailto:delphian@adelphi.edu) and we'll work with you to express what's on your mind — whether it's a full-fledged article or general feedback. You are not only our audience but contributors, too.

As always, a big thanks goes out to our writers and editorial staff for making our paper informative and creative. And thank you, fellow Panthers, for continuing to pick up copies of *The Delphian* across campus. Make sure to follow our Instagram, @the\_delphian, for updates about the paper.

Joseph D'Andrea '25  
Editor-in-Chief



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Earle Hall Media Center  
One South Avenue  
Garden City, NY 11530

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Main Office: 516-877-6935  
E-mail: [delphian@adelphi.edu](mailto:delphian@adelphi.edu)

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## At Hagedorn Hall, Adelphi Breaks the Mold

BY HUSSEIN ALI RIFATH

Several classes and offices at Hagedorn Hall were temporarily relocated last October immediately after routine building inspections discovered an excessive accumulation of moisture and elevated mold levels. Shortly thereafter, the university recruited licensed contractors to begin the work of remediating the affected areas and conduct repairs as necessary. Joseph Battaglia '05, MS '14, assistant vice president and project management officer, explained in an email that this project was a joint effort led by Adelphi's Facilities Management and Project Management offices.

Battaglia noted that a total of 11 classrooms were affected: 109, 111, 113, 119, 204, 206, 209, 210, 214, 215 and 217. They housed classes for various subjects, including English, business and finance. Most of these classes returned to their original locations at Hagedorn in early December after their classrooms passed environmental tests conducted once all necessary work was completed. Battaglia explained that classroom 208, however, was forced to remain off-limits for the rest of the semester due to a leaky pipe requiring extensive repairs; its classes remained at their temporary locations for the rest of the semester. During the January intersession, the pipe repairs were completed along with a refurbishment of the glass stairwell located at the southern wing of Hagedorn Hall, which was refreshed with new paint, handrails and ceiling panels.

Battaglia collaborated with university

partners Carol Ann Boyle, MBA '17, vice president of Facilities and Information Technology and Robert Shipley '05, assistant vice president for Facilities Management, to coordinate the project to restore all the affected areas to a safe and satisfactory condition.

"The remediation work included cleaning HVAC systems, repairing leaks, treating mold in affected areas, and extensively improving air circulation," Battaglia



**After mold issues temporarily displaced classes, Hagedorn Hall has been restored with enhanced HVAC systems, repairs and other safeguards, returning students to comfortable and safe learning spaces.** Photo by Adelphi University

said. "The university removed and replaced HVAC unit insulation, undertook some minor construction to remove and replace or repair ceilings, walls and wood affected by moisture and cleaned carpets. Roof repairs were also made after an inspection found a leak."

Battaglia explained that due to the unpredictable nature of plumbing repairs, identifying hidden leaks and addressing the root causes of mois-

ture issues proved to be a challenge.

"For example, one significant challenge was a previously undetected leak in Room 111, which required opening the wall, addressing the leak, and repairing the damage to the wall," he said. "A broken valve caused a leak in Rooms 308 and 329, necessitating repairs and carpet cleaning."

This was not the first time Hagedorn Hall has undergone renovations in recent

years. According to Battaglia, Hagedorn Hall has undergone significant maintenance and updates over the past decade. He explained: "In summer 2024, the building's floors were refinished, and the trading room was renovated as part of broader building improvements. [...] In 2019, the first and second-floor restrooms were renovated to new standards. [...] In 2017, classrooms 102, 105, 106 and 107 were renovated to accommodate new tablet

armchairs, 11 rooms were painted and recarpeted, and Suite 201 was updated for Robert B. Willumstad School of Business offices."

Battaglia said that the repairs at Hagedorn came as the university was in the process of implementing a new mold policy designed to introduce preventive measures to protect HVAC systems across campus, as well as routine environmental testing during peak moisture times done in hopes of catching problems as soon as possible. To support this strategy, Battaglia said, "Facilities are installing moisture sensor alarms in buildings to detect leaks early and ensure a quick response, and employees have been trained to detect and report potential issues promptly."

Facilities Management plans to do further work across campus so that it can make steady improvements. "Adelphi is committed to ongoing improvements to ensure a safe and welcoming academic environment," said Battaglia. "Our long-term Facilities improvement plan is focused on continually modernizing our learning spaces, enhancing the overall campus environment, and continuously ensuring accessibility, sustainability, and energy efficiency while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Our capital projects are carefully planned and executed to support the evolving needs of our students, faculty and staff. We prioritize sustainable practices and energy-efficient solutions in all renovations and new constructions, ensuring that our campus remains a forward-thinking, environmentally-conscious place to learn and work. All major capital projects are reviewed and approved by our Board of Trustees." 🐾



## 42 University Staff Members Laid Off Due to Budget Cuts

BY ARPAN JOSAN

The day before this semester began, 42 full-time, non-union Adelphi employees were laid off from several departments including the Division of Student Affairs, the Center for Student and Community Engagement and Admissions. Some had been with the university for over 20 years. In an email sent to faculty on Jan. 23, Michael Rhattigan, vice president of finance, said the decision resulted from a budget cut that executive leadership had to make due to struggles that stem from reduced student enrollment. In the Jan. 24 Provost's Weekly Update, Provost and Executive Vice President Christopher Storm wrote that these struggles in part reflect the post-COVID financial forces that have affected many institutions across the country and that they were needed to address both revenue declines and unexpectedly high medical expenses.

Rhattigan said in his statement: "This has been a challenging week for the Adelphi community. After much thoughtful deliberation and given our fiduciary responsibility to balance the budget, executive leadership has made the difficult decision to eliminate the positions of 42 full-time Adelphi employees. We recognize the important contributions of our colleagues, and we are providing them with resources and support."

He further stated that "our institutional priority continues to be ensuring Adelphi's long-term stability so that we can serve students and the community for years to come despite the current challenges of rising operational costs, economic uncertainty and demographic changes that are impacting many institutions of higher education like Adelphi. This action will provide us with the necessary agility to refocus our efforts on Adelphi's long-term viability and rising academic excellence. Adelphi now has an opportunity to redouble its commitment to our mission

and the strategic goals of *Momentum 2*."

Taylor Damian, the director of media relations, said in an email to *The Delphian* that *Momentum 2* is the university's current five-year strategic plan, also referred to as *M2*. It prioritizes Adelphi's mission, people and resources with three goals: academic distinction, an inclusive and connected community, and smart growth and infrastructure. (Learn more about *M2* at <https://www.adelphi.edu/strategic-plan/>.)

Damian also explained that the faculty who were let go have received support from



**Despite layoffs, the Freedom of Expression Symposium, which requires faculty and administrative coordination, is expected to continue.** Photo by Joe DeGears

the university, which included severance packages; they are eligible to apply for unemployment benefits. Some are even working with Adelphi to move into a part-time position rather than staying as a full-time member.

In his email, Rhattigan concluded that no additional layoffs are planned at this time. "As we continue to move forward in a rapidly changing higher education environment, it is important that we aim to collectively understand the landscape and Adelphi's long-term vision," he said.

At a Feb. 5 full faculty meeting, leadership discussed the workforce decision and the university's long-term vision in detail and addressed faculty questions and concerns. Rhattigan emphasized that the employees were not let go for cause and that decisions were made to minimize the impact on others.

Though she wasn't able to attend the faculty meeting, Peggy Cassidy, a communications professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, shared her concerns via an email interview with *The Delphian* about how the layoffs might affect the quality of services offered at Adelphi. She said that cuts in offices that directly serve students could cause "remaining staff to be stretched too thin to give students the kind of support that we take pride in pointing to as a great strength of Adelphi."

Cassidy said she is also concerned that the layoffs have put in jeopardy the future of the fall semester Freedom of Expression Symposium for which she was working in active collaboration with one of the deans affected.

"A symposium like this is a lot of work to organize and I am not aware of anyone else taking on this project," Cassidy said. "I launched a new course in fall 2024 called 'Let's Talk About It: Free Speech, Interpersonal Communication, and Campus Conversations,' which was tied to the Symposium. The plan was for me and [the former dean] to team teach the course in fall 2025 and to develop additional programming related to campus expression and civil dialogue. But now all of those plans have been cancelled. This was exciting and important work, so it's disappointing to have it come to a halt."

At press time, Anna Zinko, the assistant vice president for student affairs, confirmed that this event will indeed be continuing. No further details were available.

Cassidy acknowledged that Adelphi is hardly alone in experiencing financial challenges as other US colleges and universi-

ties are also grappling with a complex set of factors that are hitting us all at once.

"COVID is one of those factors. So are the declining enrollments due to lower birth rates around 20 years ago that have resulted in fewer people of traditional college age now (the so-called 'enrollment cliff')," she said. "College is unaffordable for too many American families, international students are exploring options in countries other than the US, and some US political leaders are portraying universities as the 'enemy.' It's a very complicated and unstable time for higher education, so what we are experiencing is by no means unique. Almost everyone I know at other institutions in the Tri-State area (and beyond) is going through something very similar."

*The Delphian's* Instagram story conducted a poll to better understand how this has impacted Adelphi students. Club eBoard members said they were not made aware of these developments and received no advance communication on these budget cuts, in one case finding out that their liaison for the Center for Student and Community Engagement was gone only when emails weren't being answered and he followed up with their boss. These budget cuts also have affected on-campus student jobs as 67% voted yes to the cuts affecting their workplaces in that their bosses were among those laid off.

A student worker at the Office of University Admissions, who requested to remain anonymous, shared their experience having abruptly lost a colleague. "As a student worker, it is disheartening to see colleagues and even bosses leaving Adelphi," they said. "It's very upsetting to find out without warning that someone you worked closely with will no longer be working with you. These actions not only affect student workers, but every Adelphi student as we see tuition increasing for no real reason. It makes me question the value of the education I'm receiving if academic departments have been hit with cuts." 🍀

## Students Take the Lead on AU Academic Integrity

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it strip away the process of thinking. When a student submits something AI-generated, they're not giving me their own ideas."

When asked about the university's current guidelines, LaCombe said, "I wrote them and the CAI (Committee on Academic Integrity) approved them last year. There is a separate committee of the Senate that's overlapping a bit. Their subject is how to use GenAI ethically, mostly in faculty research, though they sometimes comment on the work of the CAI as well."

The policy offers four approaches for incorporating generative AI into coursework, ranging from strict prohibition to unrestricted use, depending on the instructor's preference.

Ledesma pointed out that some professors provide exact policies about AI usage in their classes. "At other times, the rules appear more flexible or uncertain regarding its usage and the first step to fixing the problem is getting everyone on the same page," she said.

Beyond concerns related to AI, the Council hopes to reshape how academic integrity is viewed on campus. "People think of academic integrity as something that only

the faculty care about, and that students either don't care or are trying to cheat," LaCombe



**Michael LaCombe, the university's integrity officer, established Adelphi's Undergraduate Honor Council to give students a voice in issues like the ethics of AI.** Photo by Adelphi University

said. "We need to change that assumption."

That perspective is exactly what council members hope to promote to the student body. "I hope we create more of a presence on campus," Stafford said. "A lot of students don't

want to talk about integrity because they don't want to 'rat someone out.' But if we don't understand why and how misconduct happens, we can't come up with real solutions."

O'Connor agreed, saying that academic integrity policies shouldn't feel like they exist solely to punish students. "It's not about catching people doing something wrong," she said. "It's about creating an environment where students don't feel like they need to rely on things like AI to succeed."

LaCombe envisions a future where the council operates more democratically, with students taking a leading role in discussions and even holding roundtable events with faculty. "Building a culture of integrity happens through conversation," he said. "That's what we're trying to do."

Part of that conversation includes ensuring faculty are involved as well. "I'd like to do some sort of roundtable discussions at Integrity Awareness Week," LaCombe said. "We could have conversations where faculty listen to students, ask for their thoughts and hear directly from them. It's one thing to create a policy and another to understand how students actually feel about it."

Through such discussions and feedback, Ledesma believes that the Council will bridge the gap between students and faculty when it comes to academic policies.

"I think students and faculty should continue to strive to work together on finding common views when it comes to academic success," she said. "I see policies as guidelines meant to support students, instead of set rules. Having real conversations about academic integrity could change that."

As the council moves forward, its members hope to expand their presence on campus and encourage more students to get involved. "We could use more members," LaCombe said. "If students are interested, they can always reach out to me. The more voices we have, the stronger our work will be."

For now, members are focused on making sure that academic integrity isn't just a rule students follow but a conversation they are actively part of.

"We're not just looking to get rid of cheating," Stafford said. "We want to figure out why students feel like they need to cheat in the first place and find ways to help them feel successful without it." 🍀



## Where Have All the Koi Gone?

BY JOSEPH D'ANDREA

They've left their usual home in front of Swirbul Library but are still on campus in their winter quarters — with two turtle friends — thanks to the care of our Facilities Management team.

Adelphi's Garden City campus — which is maintained organically as part of our sustainability initiatives and is a registered arboretum — offers a home to many species of flora and fauna. While the bunnies tend to steal the spotlight, students and others heading into Swirbul Library enjoy watching the colorful koi fish, which joined Adelphi more than 15 years ago.

But now the pond is empty. So where are the koi?

Bob Conaghan, associate director of Facilities Management and grounds manager, has been caring for the 75 acres on the Garden City campus for more than 45 years. He's assisted by a team that includes mechanics and plumbers like Bruce Brine. Initially, Conaghan and his team purchased 24 koi and goldfish from a nursery nearby in the Town of Hempstead as part of their ongoing mission to beautify the campus. Today, there are more than 500 koi.

Conaghan and Brine explained that the pools are drained for winter and the majority of the koi are relocated. Most of them are now swimming about in one of two holding tanks in the Nexus Building. They've been joined by two turtles who were formerly owned by an Adelphi

employee but needed a new home.

Others are in a 50-gallon tank in the basement of Swirbul Library. They're cared for by Brine and his colleagues, who brought in additional fish, such as carp and goldfish, to join their more exotic counterparts.

Some of the larger koi have remained outside and can still be seen circling in the Swirbul south patio pool. Conaghan said the pool's close proximity to the library warms the water, thus preventing it from freezing.



**Bruce Brine, a plumber with Facilities Management, looks after the koi in their winter home.** Photo by Joseph D'Andrea

According to Conaghan, winter is the hibernation period for the fish: During this period they conserve their energy and barely swim.

When spring comes, it's time to return to their usual home at the Swirbul entrance. Conaghan said moving the koi

takes "them out of their hibernation state."

"That's when they start laying eggs almost immediately. The water temperature has to be a certain number when they're going to mate, usually around June," Brine added. "They lay the eggs sometimes twice a year."

The koi have 40- to 50-year life spans. Smaller koi are preyed upon by species like raccoons and egrets, but Conaghan said most of the koi have grown too large for these predators.

The pools outside Swirbul were originally simple reflecting pools, but "no matter how many hours we put into cleaning and vacuuming, they never looked crystal clear," Conaghan said. He decided to let water lilies and water irises and the koi act as natural filters. "We receive many

more compliments now than before."

A waterfall was added in May 2024, thanks to a donation from Nancy Rogner '75, which "turned out to be a really big hit," Conaghan said.

Facilities Management is currently looking into the possibility of adding UV lights and a filtration system to the pool.

Of course, Conaghan and his team are responsible for far more than the koi. The winter break may be a time for students to relax, but Conaghan, Brine and the team are still at Adelphi every day to ensure facilities are in top shape.

Conaghan said he enjoys being the grounds manager the most of his many responsibilities. In this role, he maintains the campus organically, without the use of pesticides. He also gives students and alumni tours, which can include the behind-the-scenes areas where he and the facilities team operate. He'll talk about anything from the "probably a couple thousand" Italian wall lizards that might be spotted running around on campus to the names of different trees students might see when walking to their next class.

"The students like hearing about these kinds of things," Conaghan said. "And we talk about many of the other things on campus that are out of sight, out of mind. So when the students leave our tour, they have a much better understanding of the nature around them." 🌿

*This article first appeared on Adelphi's news site.*

## Office of Undergraduate and Research Renamed

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with the help of the SPARK Center, said in an email that she benefited from the research experience she participated in.

"During my research with Dr. [Chana] Etengoff, I led a qualitative study on mental health experiences in marginalized communities, focusing on the LGBTQ+ population. Through the Emerging Scholars Program and a fellowship from SPARK, I developed the study, created the codebook, analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript."

Schwab said her mentor helped her throughout the entire process. Ultimately, her research was presented at Adelphi's Scholarship & Creative Works conference in April 2024. This year, Schwab will be representing Adelphi at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on April 7-9. The SPARK Center will be covering the costs associated with the trip.

"SPARK gave me the tools and resources to bring my research to this level, allowing me to present my work beyond the university and gain experience in professional academic settings," Schwab said. "Leading this study strengthened my ability to think critically about mental health research, collaborate with others, and communicate findings in a meaningful way."

Schwab added, "These are all skills that will help me as I work toward becoming a clinical psychologist."

Verena Faheem, a freshman biol-

ogy major, said in an email that the SPARK Center has given her valuable information on her future research.

"As a biology major and aspiring medical professional, I have realized the importance of becoming involved in research early to contribute to the future of medicine—and that journey starts here," Faheem said. "With the information provided, the research pathway has been simplified for me and many others, and I know that with the support the SPARK office will provide when I start research, I will be able to maximize my research experience during my undergraduate studies."

Hillary Htun, a freshman biology major also shared her experience with the SPARK Center through email. "They've given presentations on how to get started in undergraduate research, how to find a quality research mentor, how to apply for research funding, how to write abstracts, and many more topics," she said. "The fall semester mostly covered how to get started and apply to research while the spring semester mainly goes over what is actually done during research, and these latter discussions are still in progress."

Htun recommended the SPARK Center to anyone interested in research. "Whether you're in the sciences, humanities or another field, come to the seminars and join the office's Moodle," she said. "I strongly believe that through the Center there is nothing to lose and so much to gain. I promise you won't regret it." 🌿

## Trump's DEI Executive Orders Cause Concern at Adelphi

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AU community that the university is committed to providing an inclusive, welcoming and supportive environment for all students, faculty and staff. Through dedicated efforts, he said, the institution will continue to uphold the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. He added that developments are being closely monitored and the university will advocate for policies that align with the AU community to best support students.

"With President [Christine] Riordan, Provost [Christopher] Storm and our senior Adelphi leadership, I am committed to helping our community navigate the path ahead with confidence and resilience," Bakari concluded.

Professor Martin Haas of the History Department told *The Delphian*, "Right now it is unclear how it is going to affect us. There is the understanding of the university that is committed to the principles of DEI."

According to Inside Higher Ed, an online publication based in Washington, DC, university stakeholders said that Trump's main goal in removing these policies is to foster cultural conflicts by framing the issue as a choice between rewarding hard work or supporting diversity. Critics of the executive order contend that eliminating DEI policies in higher education would hinder colleges from offering programs that cater to underrepresented groups. They fear that this may, as a consequence, prevent universities from fostering a more inclusive environment for students from

diverse backgrounds. Some Adelphi students told *The Delphian* how they feel about this.

"In my opinion, I believe that it would take us 100 years back from what we have worked for," said first-year nursing major Serena Ashton. "As an African-American student, I could only see it impacting college students negatively. It could create an environment where certain groups fully benefit from resources, while others are left behind."

First-year health sciences major Nicole Garel said, "Since the executive order was so recently implemented, anything can happen on campus with these new policies."

In his e-mail statement, Bakari explained that the university is taking steps to stay true to its commitment to having a diverse and inclusive campus.

"The President's Office continues working with Adelphi's supporters, advocates and policy advisors in higher education to stay informed and prepared to navigate any impact on our community members and academic mission," he wrote. "The Provost's Office is actively monitoring executive orders regarding federal funding for research, grants, special projects and sponsored programs. [...] The Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging is actively monitoring executive orders on DEI programs and historically marginalized groups for potential impacts on our community, initiatives, and commitments while maintaining our support for an inclusive and welcoming environment." 🌿



# Improve Your Employment Potential as an International Student

BY CALLUM WALMSLEY

Jaydon Humphries '22, who earned his bachelor's degree in business management from St. Francis College, is now working full time at World 50 Group in New York City as a senior associate. But when he first arrived in the United States from Rotherham, a small town in England, this was the last thing that he expected.

"I'm 25 years old, and I came to the US as an international student athlete after my contract with an academy-level soccer club in England ended when I was 18," he said. "At that point, I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to pursue professionally, but I knew that I could leverage my soccer background to get a scholarship at a US college."

Many international students find the job hunting process to be daunting, stressful and almost impossible. This does not always have to be the case, and being proactive all the way through college can reduce the pressure as graduation approaches. Thomas J. Ward Jr, assistant vice president for career development and strategic partnerships at Adelphi, shared steps that international students can take now to reduce the burden of job hunting further down the line.

Ward said that there are many things that international students cannot control, such as requiring visa sponsorship to work after graduation, the 20-hour per-week international student work limit, or not being authorized to work and earn money off campus without applying for optional practical training (OPT). But he said they should take advantage of the things that they can.

"Go to career fairs, meet and network with people, go to different alumni events, participate in leadership certificates, panel discussions, join clubs and organizations," he said. "These all hold professional value, but also social value too, and that is just as important."

Ward said that international students may

feel more urgency to state their intentions when networking, as they are limited by how long they can stay in the US due to visa regulations once graduating. But being too direct may not always be the best way in these situations.

"Students across the board, and especially international students, have a natural instinct of going to a networking event with the intention of asking for a job. This isn't always appropriate," he said. "You may introduce yourself, tell them a little about yourself, then always try to get the person's contact information and follow up that way and ask them if they want to take a look at your resume."

Ward suggested that this is a far better approach than going in there and immediately asking for a job, which may look desperate. "You want to go in there strategically, doing your research on the speaker, the purpose of the networking event, the audience, and going in there prepared to put your best foot forward," he said.

The importance of getting out there and speaking to people cannot be underestimated, and Thiago Negrao '24, who earned his bachelor's degree in finance at Adelphi, knows this all too well as an international student from Brazil. Negrao now works as a sales associate at Ninety One in Manhattan, a global asset management company. But without resilience after facing adversity, things might not have been so successful.

"If it wasn't for the connections that I was able to build consistently through my time as a student, I would not be in the job that I am in right now," he said. "I was lucky enough to eventually meet someone from the company that really liked me and was able to give me a chance. Before this, I had applied to hundreds of jobs and I was never able to pass the first phase because nobody was willing to sponsor me. But you have to keep going."

Although there are many challenges that come with navigating the job market as an international student, Humphries

believes that there are also many advantages to coming from a different environment than the other candidates.

"I often felt that I needed to blend in to secure a role, but during my first internship, I realized that my background actually set me apart in a valuable way. As an international, you bring a unique perspective and skill set that many candidates might not have," he said.

Humphries added, "Companies often see a similar profile of applicants, so standing out is natural. I leveraged this by highlighting skills that may not seem directly related to the job, like adapting to a new culture, living indepen-



**International students can boost employment chances by networking, leveraging unique skills and using campus resources for career success.**

Photo by RawPixel

dently, managing my own meals and maintaining organization. These experiences reflect hard work, discipline and adaptability—qualities that strongly resonate with employers."

While Humphries has a clear success story as an international student securing a job here in the states, he said there are still things that he would do differently if he could restart his college experience.

"If I could go back, I'd prioritize internships and career development sooner, rather than waiting until my senior year," he said. "Internships are critical, both for skill-building and expanding your network. I'd

also focus on taking part in more on-campus activities and career fairs to gain broader exposure and experience in different fields"

Humphries mentioned the importance of expanding his network. Negrao said that doesn't just have to be at career fairs or social events, but also by using the professors that you see every week while in college.

"Professors should be used as a resource for success, and many of them are willing to help you to find opportunities if you display the right attitude and willingness to work," said Negrao. "You never know who you might need in the future, but it is also important to leave the shyness behind, because you would regret it much more if you don't get out there and use every resource available to you in order to succeed."

There are countless resources that students can use to grow their network at college, but Ward said that many students don't realize that their peers can be just as useful as professors and alumni in some cases.

"We always tell students that your classmates are part of your network as well," he said. "Students don't always recognize that building relationships with their fellow students is probably the most authentic and sincere way to form connections that may be useful further down the line."

The goal for most students is to find work after graduation, but this can be a stressful time. The Career Center is there to help every step of the way. "I have a great group of teammates here, and we serve all undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni," Ward said. "That ranges from doing resumes and enhancing LinkedIn profiles, interview preparation, internship and job search, individual career counseling, leadership certificate program, digital badges and the list goes on."

There is no guarantee that getting the extra help will get somebody a job, but taking advantage of the resources that are available might make it that little bit easier. 🍀

## "The Great Gatsby" on Broadway: A Glittering Spectacle, But Was the Story Lost?

BY BRIANNA BIANCO

F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel "The Great Gatsby" is a timeless classic, read by highschoolers and adored by generations. Though soon to be a century old, the story does a masterful job of portraying still relevant topics, such as the blurred lines between individuals and ideas. The extravagant, glamorous and unrequited love of Gatsby's universe has influenced producers to take this story to the next level—a Broadway show.

This story follows a young Nick Carraway (Noah J. Ricketts), a bondsman who moves to West Egg, and is set during the summer of 1922. His modest cottage is located next to the extravagant mansion of Jay Gatsby (Jeremy Jordan), whose wild, over-the-top parties are famous across Long Island. When Nick finds himself in attendance at one of these parties, it is revealed that his meeting Gatsby was not a coincidence, but actually a carefully plotted plan to reunite Gatsby with his old love—and Nick's cousin—Daisy Buchanan (Eva Noblezada).

While the story is there, if you're not previously familiar with it, you might find yourself struggling to fully follow along with the plot of the play since scenes leaped around. If you are someone who adores the novel, you may be dissatisfied with the altering of several minor, yet impactful details. Gatsby's iconic line about not seeing Daisy for "five years next



**"The Great Gatsby," starring Jeremy Jordan and Eva Noblezada, continues to run on Broadway, bringing Fitzgerald's classic to life with dazzling visuals and modern twists, making it a worthwhile trip to the city. Photo by Flickr**

November" is inexplicably changed to "five years next October." In addition, Nick initially meets Gatsby in Gatsby's office in the musical, as opposed to in the gardens described in the book. Myrtle Wilson's (Chilina Kennedy) character becomes pregnant—another plot line that differs from the story's original narrative.

One of the most notable updates in this production is its modernization, primarily through the portrayal of Jordan Baker (Samantha Pauly). Her character is reimagined as a self-made, independent woman, who doesn't conform to the typical style that the rest of the women during this time do. This choice makes Jordan stand out more as a character, adding an interesting take and aligning her with more contemporary values, without necessarily altering the storyline.

Myrtle Wilson also got a chance to shine, predominantly through her solo number, "One Way Road," a powerful performance, highlighting the limitations and struggle often faced by women seeking security through marriage. This is a significant moment in the musical, especially due to its profound nature, as the

deeper meaning of this story was often lost.

Nick, with his familiar outsider's perspective, leads us through a world filled with breathtaking costumes, backdrops and scenery, capturing the true beauty of inevitable disillusionment. The lavish parties at Gatsby's mansion and the green light across the bay were fantastically portrayed. Those attending "The Great Gatsby" who are going more so for the experience, will surely enjoy this glitzy, glamorous and highly entertaining show.

While the story might be overshadowed by dazzling displays and grand showmanship, it's still worth a trip to the Broadway Theatre to experience this timeless classic in a fresh light. Directed by Marc Bruni, with a fantastic musical score by Jason Howland and Nathan Tysen, this play runs through September 2025.

It is truly incredible how Fitzgerald's novel is still relevant and enjoyed by millions today. The memory of "The Great Gatsby" lives on timelessly—in the movies, in this Broadway show, and in the radiant smiles of eternal reassurance from those who still believe in the possibility of true love. 🍀



# Immigration Policies Are Inhumane, Ineffective and Dangerous

BY TROY COFIE

Within the days of his second presidency Donald Trump made it clear that he's implementing stricter and more militarized actions against undocumented migrants. By empowering Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to make sweeping arrests across the country while taking a unilateral, rather belligerent approach to deportations in order to make the country "safe." President Trump is even going as far as to halt and suspend legal avenues for migrants coming in as refugees and asylum seekers.

With this in mind, this is a cruel and dubious approach to dealing with the increased flow of migrants. Undocumented and documented migrants play important roles in our economy and provide service to our communities. Many people who come here, whether legally or not, only want a better life for themselves and their families. To dehumanize these people and treat them as criminals only seeks to reinforce the political power of Donald Trump. Fear and over-policing don't make us safe and these deportations can have long-term consequences.

Let's cut to the chase: According to the Tax Policy Center, undocumented migrants

have "paid nearly \$100 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2022." Undocumented migrants pay sales, excise, business income and property taxes in their communities and the states in which they reside. To further this point, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that undocumented across 40 states pay more in state and local taxes than the top one percent of households in those respective states.



**Intensified immigration policies have garnered criticism for their harsh enforcement tactics and restrictions.**

Undocumented migrants also contribute to federal taxes by paying income tax.

Based on information from the Tax Policy Center, migrants without any form of legal documentation file their income taxes on an "individual taxpayer identification number" (ITIN). However, undocumented migrants can't even take Social Security or Medicare benefits or any form of federal benefits. These undocumented migrants pay \$96.7 billion in Social Security, Medicare and unemployment insurance combined, yet they don't have access since they don't have a valid Social Security number. The narrative that migrants are leeches who exploit our system is not only factually wrong but incisively dangerous.

"To further this point, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that undocumented across 40 states pay more in state and local taxes than the top 1 percent of households in those respective states."

Besides taxation, migrants play a dynamic and critical role in our economy. Undocumented migrants are important in sectors like agriculture, construction, maintenance, services, production, material moving and transportation, according to the Industrial and Labor Relations School (ILR) of Cornell University and the Council of Foreign Relations. Many of these undocumented migrants

work in unsafe conditions and work long hours, which allows these sectors to be as productive as they are. Furthermore, a meta-analysis done by Dr. Giovanni Peri found that there's no correlation between immigrants depressing the wages of native-born workers.

Rather, immigrants can boost the productivity of firms, and migrants can take jobs that native-born don't want. Actually, according to this research, immigrants can increase business investment in the long run, which leads to increased employment and wages. The importance of migrants isn't just limited to the American labor force but also plays a key role in entrepreneurship. Since 2022, 55% of companies that have been founded and had over \$1 billion in value were founded by migrants, as stated by the Council of Foreign Relations. To further this point, two-thirds of billion-dollar companies are "founded or cofounded" by children of migrants, according to the Council of Foreign Relations. Migrants, regardless of legal status, help keep our economy robust and help communities prosper.

Immigrants bring economic benefits to various communities around the United States. Unfortunately, they have been demonized to

*Continued on page 7*

## The Social Media Obsession with Luigi Mangione's Case Shows a Generational Divide

BY CELESTE ARBELAEZ

UnitedHealthcare's CEO Brian Thompson was shot outside of the Hilton Hotel in New York City on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, as he was heading to an investor conference meeting. It was reported and captured in the footage later released to the public that Thompson was shot from behind with three shots fired. Tragically, he did not survive the attack. The suspect was wearing a green jacket and a mask that concealed his identity.

A reward was offered by the FBI and NYPD of up to \$60,000 for whoever found or knew anything about the suspected shooter. The shooter was found in the McDonald's of Altoona, Pennsylvania after a five-day man hunt when a worker tipped 911. The captured suspect was identified as Luigi Mangione, a 26-year-old Italian American male. His profile stood out since he came from a wealthy family with ties to the healthcare system, owning Lorien Health Service. The Mangione family is well known for their philanthropy work, donating to medical centers such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

On Dec. 19 he was extradited to NYC by helicopter from a Pennsylvania prison. Many took to social media how law enforcement tried to make Mangione look scary but instead many saw him as a national hero. Some have even called him Robinhood while others have called him a murderer.

Once people heard about Mangione and what he had done, instead of being distraught by his alleged act of murder, most on social media praised him. Many young people started to make memes and he became the media's next obsession. Mangione garnered a lot of support from social media users and influencers in big

platforms such as Instagram, X and TikTok.

Many people regardless of their political affiliation have voiced their frustrations towards corporate America's exploitation of the working class, specifically the healthcare system profiting while denying coverage on many life saving treatments. The demographics that have supported Mangione are young people (college students). There was a nationwide poll conducted by Generation Lab that surveyed over 1,000 college students and found that 45% sympathized with Mangione while 17% sympathized with Thompson, and 37% did not support them.

Though many young people have sympathized with Mangione and supported his actions, others have had an opposite view on the whole situation. Some people have been upset with other people condoning the actions of the alleged murderer and believe that murder is still illegal and wrong and that he should still be held accountable.

Those in social media are mostly in support of Mangione and they have even started a Gofundme and fundraisers for his case. The media has been obsessed with him, many contributing his looks playing a significant role in making him viral. Since many young people are making edits of him for being good looking. There was even a Luigi Mangione cake that a mother made for her daughter's birthday that was shown on Instagram. There was even a Luigi Mangione cake that a mother made for her daughter's birthday that was shown on Instagram. There was also a legal defense fundraiser on his behalf to pay for his legal fees in court with his upcoming trials just around the corner. It has raised \$447,378.

When asked about how social media was handling the case, Tiffany Wong, an Adelphi junior with an early childhood education major, said, "Social media likes to spin

the story and come up with crazy conspiracies and tell people inaccurate information."

Many people are upset that the NYPD made the case such a big deal due to the fact that they believe that if it were an ordinary person instead of a wealthy CEO then the police would not put in as much effort. In addition many supporters believe that any other person would not get this much coverage and instead it would be ignored if they weren't rich.

Amidst the public's interest with the case, the internet has noticed a pattern between Mangione and the number 286. Conspiracy theorists have made several connections. For



**Luigi Mangione is seen being escorted to a police car in Pennsylvania.**

*Photo by Pinterest*

instance, the number 286 is the denial code used in health care to appeal time limits for a claim that has not been met. This number is also associated with the bible verse Proverbs 28:6, "Better is the poor who walks in his integrity. Than he who is crooked though he be rich" as an interpretation on Mangione's actions. Amplifying the fascination with the number, he was found 286 miles away from the crime scene. And even more peculiar his favorite Pokémon is, which coincidentally has the number 286, tying this number to

case and adding to the puzzling connection.

Mangione faces both state and federal charges. In New York, he has been charged with murder as an act of terrorism, first degree murder, and 11 additional criminal counts. While federally he has been charged with using a firearm to commit a murder (related to evidence being found of a 3D gun with a silencer) and interstate stalking resulting in death. If convicted of state charges he could face life in prison but if convicted of federal charges he could face the death penalty. Due to this he will be tried in two separate courts, with his state court appearance scheduled for Feb. 21.

Mangione has received a lot of support through the form of letters as well. Several of these letters were sent to him at the Metropolitan Detention Center. He made a public statement of how grateful he was to everyone that supported him across the country and around the world. His legal defense team has made a website that keeps the general public updated on the case.

I think what Mangione did was wrong, because murder is illegal and wrong. He shouldn't have murdered the CEO since he broke the law and now is facing the consequences. I believe that the punishment he is facing can deter others from committing crimes like this one. This case can be seen from many angles, which adds to the intrigue. Since Mangione has pleaded not guilty for the state charges of murder and terrorism this will take an interesting turn to see what the defense has to say. Now it is up for the courts to either declare Mangione guilty of murder as an act of terrorism or will he be declared innocent? We won't find out until a verdict is given in the three court dates scheduled on Feb. 21 and 24, which are both state cases for NY and Pennsylvania then on March 19 for his Federal case. 🍀

## Anti-LGBTQ+ Policies Don't Just Hurt Students Like Me

BY SAYEM AHMED

Only one person can choose who you want to be and it's not President Donald Trump or some large group of people. It's you. It's okay for you to choose your gender and be who you want to be. Nobody likes being labeled something they're not. Choosing what you want to wear or your sexual identity does not mean you're broken. Despite everyone having different characteristics, we're all equal together and should let others be themselves, and not have a say in what other people should be.

What I think about the LGBTQ+ community is that it's a community for not just those who identify themselves as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, queer or any other identity, but a place for straight people as well. I'm a trans female who is currently a freshman at Adelphi University. I am a member of the Gay Straight Alliance and Students Beyond Binary clubs. While these clubs are safe spaces, I do wish there could be protection for the community. Whenever I crossdress at Adelphi, nobody has a problem with it, but I know that's not always the case. Some people within the LGBTQ+ community experience hate, so I feel that Trump

shouldn't ban protections for such individuals.

We shouldn't expand the discrimination against trans students or any other students, but instead give sturdy and safe protection to all our students, straight or not.

The LGBTQ+ community should be a safe community for everyone to be them-



selves and identify themselves however they like. Some might be shy, some might be super extroverted and some might be in the middle—and that's okay. The definition of gender is the sexual identity of a person. What I do think about is equality. Gender doesn't define your best and your flaws. There is nothing wrong with who you are or what you're like because we all have our best moments and we all have our flawed moments. Anyone can do anything, such as make our own deci-

sions, do what we think is right, help other people with problems, stay quiet, right our wrongs and/or let bygones be bygones.

When Trump first returned to the presidency last month, he immediately signed an order declaring there were only two genders: male and female. I think this is uncool because not everyone identifies as either male or female, and if I'm being honest, I don't see how someone not being male nor female can hurt anyone. Nor do I see how a man wearing a dress and a woman wearing a suit can be the worst thing to ever happen. In reality, I'd probably be jealous because of how cool everyone's appearance is, no matter what. I always wanted to meet lesbians, non-binaries and other trans people and now I have. But if Trump only recognizes the males and females as the two only genders, then that would take away some others' comfort who feel safe while not being a man or a woman. Some people identify themselves as both male and female while others identify themselves as another gender.

While I was still unaware of what "LGBTQ+" was during freshman year of high school, I learned quickly that Pride Month is a time when anyone can be themselves. I then began to notice representation in television

shows like "Clarence," in which one character has two moms that no one found any problems with. Hell, if it weren't for the fan fictions on Wattpad and my school's Gay-Straight Alliance, who knows if I would still be alive right now. During my sophomore year, I fell into a depression because I had trouble socializing. It was also during that time where I developed isolation and anthropophobia. When I first joined the GSA, I barely spoke to people. I still don't, but everyone made me feel welcomed, showing how they care for me. By the time I graduated from high school, I ended up being myself and also being friends with most of the kids in GSA.

There are actually more than two genders and we should respect that because accepting that there are those beyond the binary can do more comfort than harm. The best we can do is not mind the choices of other people. Now, I'm not saying we should ignore someone who's willing to be violent. I'm saying no harm can be done by being yourself. Whether we have a gender or not, we're all on equal ground. Who we are does not define advantage or disadvantage. We all have a choice to do what we choose to do. No matter what gender you are, we're all the same and equal person. No inequality. 🌸

## TikTok Here to Stay—For Now

BY TOMMASO VACCARO

The TikTok ban has finally been settled, well at least for now. Back in October 2024, the potential ban of TikTok had caused panic throughout the United States. Students at Adelphi and throughout the nation were concerned.

Months before, in April 2024, Congress passed a bipartisan bill forcing TikTok to find a new owner within months or be banned in the US. Then President Biden signed it on April 24, 2024. There were rumors and misinformation swirling on social media such as TikTok would not be allowed for people under 14 in some states, for people under 18 in America, and some people claimed it should be banned because China steals information from American users.

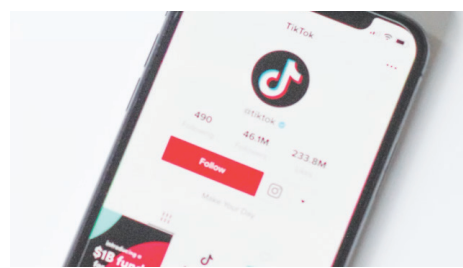
On Jan. 17, 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the decision requiring ByteDance (TikTok's Chinese parent company) to sell its interest in TikTok (sell it to a non-Chinese owner) or be banned. A few days before it happened, there was talk that TikTok would be shut down in the United States. People who relied on the app for marketing and promoting their businesses panicked. In fact, research shows that over 7 million small businesses use TikTok to drive growth for their businesses, according to a joint report from Oxford Economics and TikTok released in March 2024.

On Jan. 19, TikTok went dark. Anybody in America who opened up the app couldn't get in and would be confronted with a message: saying "We regret that a US law banning TikTok will take effect on January 19 and force us to make our services temporarily unavailable."

Once that happened, Americans started accepting the reality that TikTok was likely done for good. However, the next day, Monday, Jan. 20, was Inauguration Day and President Donald Trump took over the office. The legal battle and ultimately the ban was planned to happen when the last US president Joe Biden

was in office, but Jan. 19 was his last full day.

Trump then made a statement that he would bring TikTok back for American citizens and signed an executive order granting TikTok a 75-day extension to comply with the law banning the app if it is not sold. It was very surprising. Trump's executive order directs the attorney general to not impose fines against app stores and service providers that continue to help TikTok. When Americans were able to open up TikTok without having that message pop up to kick them out of the app, American TikTok users were able to rejoice.



**TikTok's future remains uncertain, but with a temporary extension, its fate hinges on a change in ownership or law.** Photo by Plann

Still, TikTok is not in the clear as the ruling that ByteDance must sell to a non-Chinese investor is still applicable. The clock is ticking. This is a short-term fix. In order for TikTok to become permanently safe, one of two things must happen.

One option is for the law to change. A bill would have to be passed in order to repeal the law. It's unlikely that Congress will reverse a law that received bipartisan approval just last year.

Another option is for ByteDance to divest and get a new, non-Chinese owner. People are guessing who the new owner may be — Elon Musk? Kevin O'Leary? Microsoft? Oracle? The verdict is still pending on who will save the social media giant, but for now, TikTok is safe 🌸.

## Trump's Immigration Policies

*Continued from page 6*

be the opposite. The President believes that the increased flow of migrants is increasing the crime rate in the United States. On the contrary, this is not the case at all. Now, is there an issue with criminal organizations trafficking drugs through the southern border? Yes. Should we deal with migrants who are criminals from their respective countries or commit heinous crimes in the US? Yes. However, this narrative dehumanizes migrants and seeks to criminalize them, which is extremely problematic. Based on the report of the American Immigration Council, multiple research results have shown that there's no correlation between the increased immigrant population and an increase in crime.

Furthermore, sociological research has shown that undocumented migrants don't increase the crime rate at all. Lastly, according to the American Immigration Council, stricter immigration enforcement does not reduce crime, nor do sanctuary cities' policies of not collaborating with ICE increase the crime rate in those respective cities. The only thing that does stand on water is the exploitation of fear, distorting our perception of what's actually happening.

This fear-mongering about migrants only seems to benefit President Trump and his allies in regard to political power. Not only just that, but our President—who opines about fixing our broken immigration system—is actively suspending programs that would bring people into the US legally. Trump has ended the Temporary Protection status for many Venezuelan migrants, suspended the CBP phone app that allowed migrants to legally enter through the southern border, and halted refugee programs for many people from unstable countries.

"Lastly, according to the American Immigration Council, stricter immigration enforcement does not reduce crime, nor do sanctuary cities' policies of not collaborating with ICE increase the crime rate in those

respective cities. The only thing that does stand on water is the exploitation of fear, distorting our perception of what's actually happening."

Trump has even decided to freeze humanitarian aid to many countries who need it and they are feeling the immediate effects of such policy change, according to a recent New York Times article. This would actually exacerbate the problem of migration, not solve it. There hasn't even been any substantial push to reform our immigration to process applications faster and more streamlined. Instead, we're being constantly told of the supposed necessity of curbing programs that help other humans come to safer countries while demonizing them for not coming in the "right way." Immigration isn't just a political and legal problem but also a social problem. On Jan. 25, ICE agents raided Ocean Food Depot Restaurant to arrest undocumented workers, basing their info on a tip they received. According to Axios, the owner of the store mentioned that the ICE agents were only looking for specific groups of people, not interrogating any white workers. Even more problematic were the ICE agents interrogating a US military veteran who was Puerto Rican. This is only the beginning, where if you don't look or act or speak a certain way, then you probably "don't belong here."

Undocumented migrants who have done no harm are being ratted out by their fellow community members simply because they don't have legal documentation. Migrants are—nor should they be—defined by their legal status. They are human beings who simply want a better life in the United States. However, fear of the Other is running rampant in our nation, making us forget that these people are people. Over-criminalization won't make us safe in the end; we've done it time and time again.

What's important now is to be there for the migrants who toil for a better life. We shouldn't forget their humanity, nor should we lose our empathy for them. 🌸



## Senior Basketball Captain Leads By Example On and Off Court

BY ABDULLAH AHMED

Matthew Prince, a rising senior and sports management major, leads the Adelphi men's basketball team with skill and determination. As team captain, he not only dominates on the court but also sets an example for his teammates through his leadership and work ethic.

Originally from Boston, Prince honed his basketball skills in high school before bringing his talent and passion to Adelphi, where he has become a key player for the Panthers. Not only does he play, but he also has a role as a captain, which he said is both challenging and rewarding. As the leader on the court, the team relies on him to make smart decisions and guide them



**Matthew Prince contributes to Adelphi men's basketball team with both his skills and leadership.**

*Photo by AU Athletics*

through every play. Prince's leadership style is unique — he leads not just by action but by actively listening and adapting. He said he values feedback from both his coach and teammates, ensuring that every decision contributes to the team's success.

"Growing up, I had a deep love for sports, playing soccer, flag football and basketball. However, basketball was always my true passion and I was determined to be the best," Prince said. "One of my biggest inspirations was my father, a former athlete and lifelong sports enthusiast."

He continued: "My father always used to tell me, 'If you really like something, go after it,' which became a guiding principle in my journey to becoming a leader on the court."

During his time in Boston, Prince played for Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams and excelled. He had a strong relationship with his AAU coach, Coach Dave Duke, who later introduced him to Adelphi. That connection led Prince to join the Panthers and continue his basketball career at the collegiate level.

Prince's daily routine includes weightlifting and shooting practice, both of which help him improve his skills while keeping him energized and motivated to win every game, he said. However, being an athlete isn't just about performing on the court. Prince said his daily practice routine "requires intense work behind the scenes. From rigorous drills to strategic training sessions, every effort

off the court contributes to making me a stronger, more disciplined player."

As this is Prince's last year at Adelphi, he said he hopes to leave behind a message of positivity, believing that choosing optimism over negativity is essential — not just in sports, but in life.

"There may be negativity all around you, and sometimes it might seem easier



**As a leader, Prince said he values feedback from both his coach and his teammates, which adds to the team's success.** *Photo by AU Athletics*

to take that route," he said. "But surrounding yourself with positive people and making positive choices will ultimately help you grow into a better person."

His coaches and teammates agree that Prince's future is bright, shaped by his exemplary leadership skills and ability to engage and inspire those around

him. He said he believes in getting everyone involved, a quality that defines great leaders. Looking ahead, Prince envisions himself as a physical education teacher, dedicated to shaping the next generation of athletes and leaders.

He is also currently building his own business, Matt Prince Training, which focuses on developing young athletes' basketball skills while also instilling strong values. He said his goal is not just to help kids become great players but, more importantly, to guide them into becoming well-rounded individuals. With a passion for mentorship and leadership, he said he hopes to continue growing his vision and making a lasting impact.

One quote that Prince lives by every single day comes from the Bible. It's a verse so meaningful to him that he had it tattooed on his chest: "But the one who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13)." It was his first tattoo, and he said he deeply values the message behind it. For Prince, it serves as a constant reminder to persevere through challenges, never give up and trust that hard work and dedication will ultimately be rewarded.

Prince's journey to becoming a strong leader was shaped by years of hard work and four seasons of team-building experience. He said he believes his time at Adelphi has not only prepared him for future success, but also reinforced the university's tradition of cultivating passionate, driven individuals who go on to make a difference in the world. 🐾

## Panthers Start Spring Semester with Accolades

Since the beginning of the spring semester, Adelphi athletes have already proven that they deserve recognition. We've highlighted some of their achievements here. And be sure to follow the schedules for upcoming games as well.



▲ On Feb. 11, Adelphi lacrosse dominated Georgian Court 19-6, with 11 different goal scorers and standout performances from Noah Gibson and Luke Mackin, who each recorded a hat trick. Freshman William Greaves excelled at faceoffs, and goalkeepers Dylan Renner and Brandon Kessler combined for seven saves to secure the win. *Photo by Adelphi Athletics*

The men's lacrosse team's next match will be on March 1 against Mercy University in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Their next home game is on March 23 against Bentley University.

Adelphi volleyball senior Kambel Fiser was named the NE10 Volleyball Sport Excellence Award winner, recognizing her outstanding academic and athletic achievements. With a 3.7 GPA in exercise science, Fiser earned NE10 Setter of the Year honors, multiple All-Region selections, and AVCA All-American Honorable Mention, while also finishing her career with 2,805 assists. *Photo by Zachary Webster*



Adelphi University's first-year softball coach Katie Apostolopoulos announced the 2025 schedule, which starts on March 4 in Florida against Florida Southern College. The Panthers will host a series of home games, including NE10 matchups, and face Pace, Wilmington and Saint Anselm before heading into the NE10 Tournament on April 29.

*Photo by Adelphi Athletics*

▲ Ten Adelphi field hockey players were named to the NFCA National Academic Squad, with three earning the honor for the fourth time. Caroline Beakes, Sydney Flores and Daniella Lister were also recognized as Scholars of Distinction. *Photo by Willis Glassgow*

