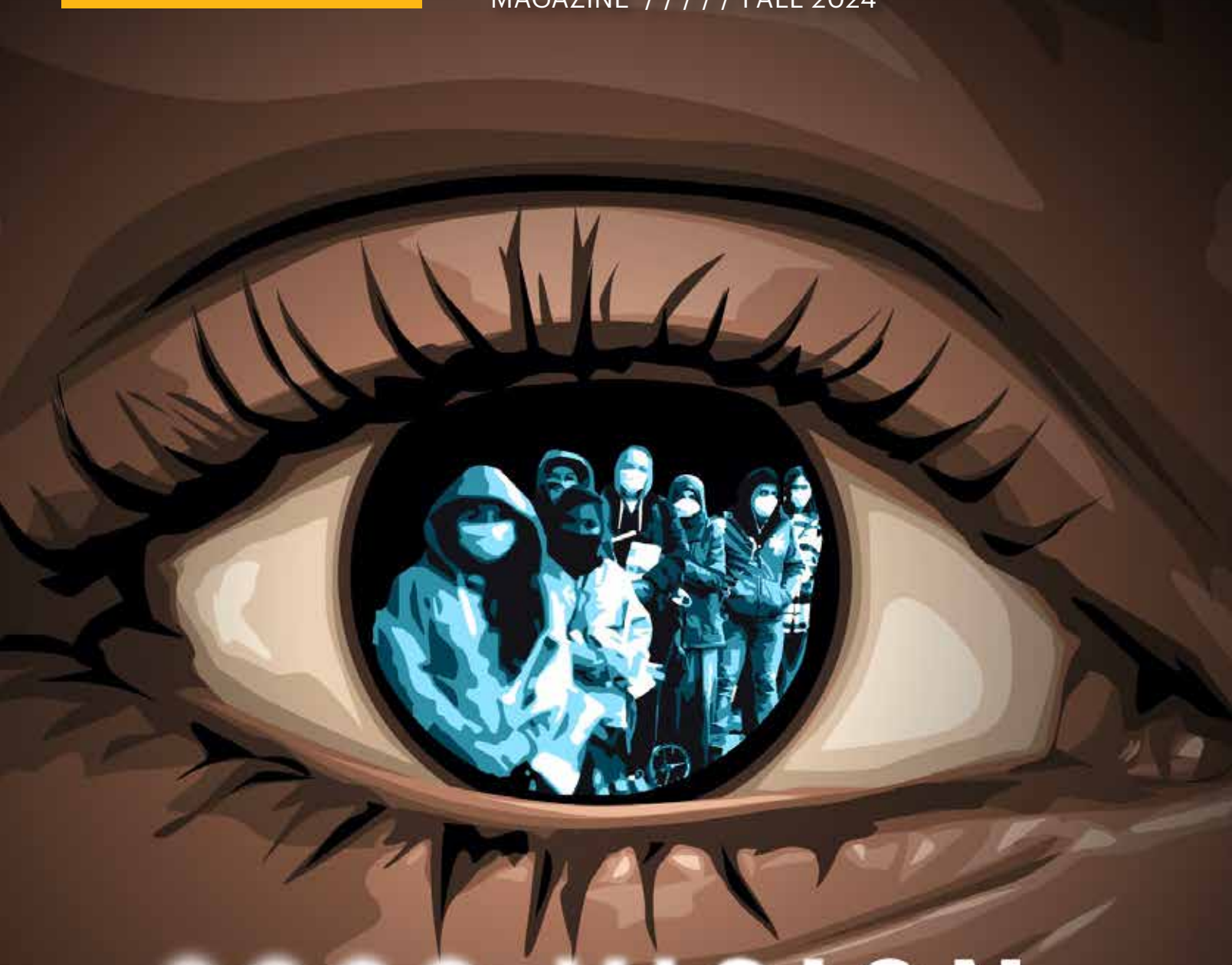


ADELPHI
UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

ACADEMIC & CREATIVE
RESEARCH

MAGAZINE // // // FALL 2024



2020 VISION:

A Deeper Understanding of Our Shared Pandemic Experience



2020 VISION

Thankfully, it seems that the COVID-19 pandemic is predominately behind us. Though we can now look at it in the rear view, this monumental worldwide crisis has made an indelible mark on us as a people. In addition to the tragic human toll of the virus, in its wake lies a collection of personal and ubiquitous experiences colored by this unique time in our history.

Around the globe, we shared many commonalities—whether it was a sudden switch to working and learning remotely, or changes in our relationships with loved ones, or a yearning to garden or bake. Despite being more isolated than ever before, the feelings and experiences so many of us shared are evidence that we are more alike than we might have thought.

The pandemic provided an opportunity—some would say a responsibility—for scholars to conduct research on its widespread effects. Across the breadth of Adelphi’s academic disciplines, our faculty researchers got to work exploring the ways that COVID-19 was impacting our lives. Their published research is enlightening, and there is no doubt that each reader will find something from their own pandemic experience to relate to in the featured stories grounded in this work.

We also widen our lens to highlight faculty inquiries on a number of other intriguing and groundbreaking topics, and celebrate their academic accomplishments in the form of mentorship of our students, grants that fund new programs and research, and the publication of books on subjects from psychology to suspense fiction.

I’m proud to share our faculty’s extraordinary work with you, and I hope you thoroughly enjoy learning about it.

Sincerely,

Christopher Storm, PhD
Provost and Executive Vice President

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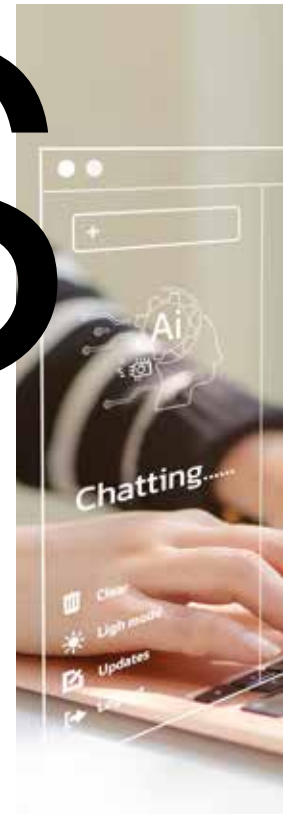


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2020 VISION

You and the Pandemic:

Understanding Its Impact on Our Lives Through the Lens of Faculty Research

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Adelphi faculty immediately got to work. They designed studies, monitored ongoing data collections and held interviews to capture people's lived experiences. Now their research is bearing fruit. Four years after the height of the pandemic, new publications offer the opportunity to reflect on a crucial question: How did your life change during the pandemic?

Our faculty studied the highs and lows, from viral food trends to familial tension, drinking and smoking habits, cancer treatment, and remote learning. While their results paint a vivid picture of disruption and even devastation, the work also seeks to answer another, perhaps even more important question: What can we do differently next time?

Did your relationships with family change?

Using predictive measures to assess familial tension during lockdown

The first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic were a roller coaster of emotion. Our collective hopes were high when the initial viral spread subsided and vaccines became widely available, but new strains felt like a return to the starting line. Katherine Fiori, PhD, professor and associate dean for foundational psychology and faculty involvement in the Adelphi University Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, wanted to know how people were adjusting to those ups and downs.

In the summer of 2021, during a period of relatively positive feelings among the public about COVID-19, Dr. Fiori and a team of Adelphi colleagues and graduate students began collecting data for what they thought would be work on post-lockdown social reintegration by older Americans. However, the subsequent data collection times—fall of 2021 and winter of 2022—coincided with the emergence of the Delta and Omicron variants, respectively. This meant that the data more accurately captured shifts in people's perceptions of an

ongoing phenomenon, rather than their experience of an "aftermath."

Dr. Fiori's resulting work, "Who Became Closer to Family During the Pandemic?: The Roles of Optimism and Social Exchanges"¹ (presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in November 2023) examines participants' changing attitudes toward family life as the pandemic wore on. She and her team measured dispositional optimism, a trait usually associated with good mental health, and positive and negative social exchanges (e.g., how often do others "cheer me up when I'm down," or "interfere in my personal matters") as possible predictors for familial closeness or familial strain.

Although early in the pandemic optimism positively predicted familial closeness and negatively predicted familial strain, as new variants surfaced, the team found that negative social exchanges became the strongest predictor of family strain. "This disruption in normal

social interactions made it much harder for people to maintain healthy family ties," Dr. Fiori said. "The benefits of dispositional optimism are limited in the face of such a chronic stressor"—an important reminder when reflecting on our own "failures to adjust" to the pandemic. ■



Katherine Fiori, PhD, is associate dean for foundational psychology and faculty involvement in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, as well as professor of undergraduate psychology. Her research focuses on the mental and physical health of young, middle-aged and older adults, especially as a function of social relations and social networks.

¹ Fiori, K., Rauer, A., & Marini, C. (2023). Who Became Closer to Family After the Pandemic?: The Roles of Optimism and Social Exchanges. *Innovation in Aging*, 7(Supplement_1), 74-74. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igad104.0239>



Do some 2020 memories feel clear but others fleeting?

New research explores how COVID-19 shaped our memory processes

When we undergo difficult experiences, our minds hold on to the negative memories to help us better adapt to similar situations in the future. Even now, years later, most of us can recall key scenes and sensations from the earliest days of the pandemic. But how did the shared experience of COVID-19 shape how we all individually remember it?

Damian Stanley, PhD, assistant professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, and colleagues Nina Rouhani, PhD, and Ralph Adolphs, PhD, of the California Institute of Technology, wanted to find out. They pulled data from the COVID-Dynamic project—a groundbreaking effort Dr. Stanley co-led that collected psychological and behavioral information from 1,000 subjects nationwide—to understand how people's experiences of lockdown influenced the makeup of their long-term memory. The team analyzed three years' worth of memory data for the study "Collective events and individual affect shape autobiographical memory"¹ (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, July 2023).

Dr. Stanley and his co-researchers found that participants' autobiographical memories from March 2020 were particularly

sharp, even across the three years of measurement. However, high-impact mass events like COVID-19 often recalibrate our sense of time, which in turn reshape the processes that form our personal memories. During lockdown, the authors note, restrictions in movements and access potentially hindered "the formation of new and distinct memories, leading to smaller or compressed estimates of time for events spanning it."

Participants' experiences of emotion further amplified their memories. The more negative the emotion, the more easily they were able to recall it. Unsurprisingly, their memories prioritized "the surprising and stressful events of the pandemic in our autobiographies."

For Dr. Stanley, the power of the study comes not from its conclusions, but from the scale of its source. "While these results fit with what we know about psychological theories of memory formation under stress, as well as anecdotal evidence about compressed estimates of time during lockdown, they probably could not have been easily demonstrated with data collected in the lab," he said. "The data we gathered for COVID-Dynamic is extraordinary in breadth. It will generate many different studies for years to come." ■

¹ Rouhani, N., Stanley, D., The COVID-Dynamic Team, & Adolphs, R., (2023). Collective events and individual affect shape autobiographical memory. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 120(29) e2221919120. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2221919120>



Did you have a baby?

Mothers who gave birth during the COVID-19 pandemic share stories of unexpected isolation

Ordinarily, welcoming a new baby is one of life's most joyous occasions. But for those who gave birth during the COVID-19 pandemic, the experience was characterized by fear, loneliness and even long-term trauma. "Some new mothers had to undergo treatment for depression and PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]," reported Ani Jacob, DNP, clinical associate professor in the Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health, who spoke

to a number of pandemic-era mothers as part of the study "Perceptions of Postpartum Mothers of Their Experiences as a Patient During COVID-19 Crisis: A Phenomenological Study" (*Journal of Patient Experience*, 2022).¹ Her colleague Karen Mancini, PhD '16, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Nursing Specialties in the College of Nursing and Public Health, heard similar stories while conducting her own study, "Becoming a Mother During the

COVID-19 Pandemic: A Time of Resilience and Reflection" (*Journal of the American Nurses Association-New York*, August 2022).² Together, these two pieces of research illuminate the difficulties—and lingering effects—of giving birth amid an unprecedented burden on America's healthcare system.

"I've always been interested in how people react in childbirth during times of stress," said Dr. Mancini, who previously

These women had been planning celebrations with friends and family for nine months, and instead they had to introduce their babies through a window.

studied perinatal nurses' experiences during Hurricane Sandy. "But there hasn't been anything like COVID in a hundred years. No one has written about what these mothers were actually going through." She interviewed 10 women who gave birth during the earliest months of the pandemic. Dr. Jacob, whose interest was piqued specifically by mothers' isolation in the L&D (labor and delivery) department, interviewed 13 women with delivery dates between March 2020 and May 2020. "The previous studies on this topic were all surveys," she said. "I wanted to have an actual conversation with the patients." Both studies utilized a phenomenological approach, which seeks to describe an event from the point of view of the subject. "It was important to get to the heart of what this experience was really like for mothers," Dr. Mancini added.

According to the participants in Dr. Jacob's study, social distancing and COVID-19 infection prevention protocols had an adverse effect on their well-being. "These women had been planning celebrations with friends and family for nine months, and instead they had to introduce their babies through a window," she said. Partners were also banned from the room after delivery, resulting in heightened levels of stress, anxiety and unhappiness among new mothers. "I talked to a mother who said she initially wanted more children, but the trauma of this experience totally upended that," Dr. Jacob remembered.

Dr. Mancini's study produced comparable themes, with a particular

focus on gaps in care. Although hospitals' COVID-19 precautions "offered a source of reassurance that the facilities were safe," which relieved mothers' fears of contagion, feelings of abandonment prevailed. Once admitted, participants were subject to rigorous restrictions, including no visitors, masking during delivery, an abbreviated hospital stay and limited contact with staff. "Most were not visited by a lactation consultant," the paper notes, leaving mothers with minimal breastfeeding support. "Some mothers were told to fill out questionnaires on postpartum depression without any ensuing psychological care," Dr. Mancini said. "They felt that the hospitals were just trying to protect themselves and didn't actually care about their recovery."

Predicting the next global health emergency may be impossible, but Dr. Mancini believes preparation is the best medicine. "People were completely caught off guard here, just like Hurricane Sandy," she says. "We need to make sure we have standards of care and education in place for next time, which should continue once mothers have checked out of the hospital. A lot of that fell by the wayside during COVID-19." Yet, as one mother shared with Dr. Mancini, the stress of giving birth during a pandemic still left room for resiliency: "I'm proud of our family for weathering a crazy, unprecedented storm, and I'm proud of myself for giving birth and then feeding this tiny human and taking care of the rest of my family as best I could." ■



Ani Jacob, DNP, is a clinical associate professor in the College of Nursing and Public Health and a nurse scientist in the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive, Department of Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice, at Northwell Health. She is board certified in Nursing Professional Development.



Karen Mancini, PhD '16, is assistant professor and chair of the Department of Nursing Specialties in the College of Nursing and Public Health. Her research focuses on maternal and child health, with previously published research examining the lived experience of perinatal nurses who cared for patients during Hurricane Sandy. She teaches Nursing Care of Childbearing Women and Nursing Care of Children.

¹ Jacob, A., Thomas, T., & Antretter, J. (2022). Perceptions of Postpartum Mothers of Their Experiences as a Patient During COVID-19 Crisis: A Phenomenological Study. *Journal of Patient Experience*, 9, 23743735221147761. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23743735221147761>

² Mancini, K. (2022). Becoming a Mother During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Time of Resilience and Reflection. *Journal of the American Nurses Association - New York*, 2(2), 5–11. <https://doi.org/10.47988/janany.89232823.2.2>

Did you take up pandemic food trends inspired by social media?

Why we cooked and ate as an antidote to fear and loneliness

During the height of the pandemic, many of us spent our newfound free time cooking and eating. We revolutionized pantry staples, revived retro foods, poured hours into sourdough starters and hopped on the latest trends. According to Priya Wadhera, PhD, professor and chair of Adelphi's Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, this heightened relationship to food was more than just a symptom of boredom.

The recipes we made, she writes in a recent article, "Ferguson's 'Food Fears' in the Era of Covid-19"¹ (*Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*, July 2022), "[led] us down the path of comfort and to a place of nostalgia, ultimately to a site of creativity and nourishment of a higher order." Drawing on the work of the late French scholar and sociologist Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson, PhD, Dr. Wadhera explores food's ability to conjure "abundance, pleasure and memories" in response to "danger and death."

Our pandemic culinary choices reflect the "nourishment for the soul that food can provide," Dr. Wadhera maintains. Faced with ongoing lockdown and social distancing measures, people turned to recipes that allowed them to exert control over their lives while escaping into "carb-laden" nostalgia. She points to the focaccia garden—homemade focaccia topped with artful arrangements of herbs and vegetables—as a particularly salient metaphor. "A garden is outdoors, in the open air; it is safe, idyllic, Edenic. A focaccia garden is a place to go to escape the everyday hell of the pandemic."

In the end, Dr. Wadhera believes, the pandemic stands to teach us an important lesson about "how food connects us, one food fear and one comfort food at a time ... each is a way for us to cook together, apart." ■

¹ Wadhera, P. (2022). Ferguson's 'Food Fears' in the Era of COVID-19. *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*, 26(3), 287-294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17409292.2022.2076407>



Priya Wadhera, PhD, is professor and chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Her first book, *Original Copies in Georges Perec and Andy Warhol*, was published in 2017, and her focus shifts from art to food in her next book project, a study of how Proust's madeleine episode has been rewritten in literary works during the past century. Dr. Wadhera is the immediate past chair of the Executive Committee of the Languages, Literatures and Cultures 20th- and 21st-Century French Forum for the Modern Language Association.



Did your drinking or smoking habits change?

Levels of substance use reflect the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our daily lives

For many, a glass of wine after work or a cigarette with friends is merely a way to unwind. But under the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, our use of substances became uniquely charged—and sometimes escalated beyond our control.

Using data collected as part of the multi-institutional COVID-Dynamic project he co-led, Damian Stanley, PhD, assistant professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, and his colleagues examined links between substance use and people's emotional, economic and social experiences during the pandemic. Their analysis of the longitudinal data, "Alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine use have distinct associations with COVID-19 pandemic-related experiences: An exploratory Bayesian network analysis across two timepoints"¹ (*Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, July 2023), suggests "specific and nuanced relationships" that merit additional study.

The team found that nicotine use had a negative association with the

pandemic's social impacts, meaning that the more isolated people were, the less they smoked. According to Dr. Stanley, participants simply could have been "social smokers" who had fewer opportunities to smoke in lockdown. Conversely, alcohol consumption had a positive association with people's social experiences, demonstrating an increase in drinking during pandemic isolation. Cannabis use also had a positive association with the emotional impact of the pandemic, which indicated that people tended to use it as a coping mechanism. Surprisingly, these associations remained stable at two time points seven months apart, long after the first waves of COVID-19 peaked.

While these associations may seem logical, Dr. Stanley notes that the study only examined "measurable behaviors." One potential future avenue of research is to further dissect the team's findings, incorporating a range of other psychological variables, to illuminate not just the what of pandemic-era substance use, but the why. ■

¹ Papini, S., López-Castro, T., Swarbrick, M., Paul, L. K., Stanley, D., Bauer, A., & Hien, D. A. (2023). Alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine use have distinct associations with COVID-19 pandemic-related experiences: An exploratory Bayesian network analysis across two timepoints. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 248, 109929. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2023.109929



Damian Stanley, PhD, assistant professor of psychology, initiated and co-led the multi-institutional COVID-Dynamic project (covidynamic.caltech.edu), which followed the same >1000 U.S. residents for more than a year (April 2020–June 2021) with the goal of capturing their personal experiences related to the pandemic as well as their psychological, emotional, attitudinal and behavioral changes as COVID-19 reverberated across the United States. This publicly available dataset is a resource for researchers interested in COVID-19-specific questions and basic psychological phenomena, as well as clinicians and policymakers looking to mitigate the effects of future calamities.





Were you an auditor responsible for accounting for the effects of the pandemic?

How accountants navigated market unknowns

COVID-19 marked a watershed moment for the accounting and auditing professions. Markets around the globe became increasingly volatile, creating an unpredictable financial landscape. Faced with unprecedented levels of risk and uncertainty, accountants and auditors had to fulfill a seemingly impossible task: forecasting an unknown future.

"In accounting, we've always had to make estimates, such as the probable useful life of a piece of equipment," said Charles Richard Baker, PhD, professor in the Adelphi University Robert B. Willumstad School of Business. His recent paper, "Making Accounting Estimates Under Conditions of Risk and Uncertainty" (*Internal Auditing*, July/August 2022),¹ explores the limits of technical accounting—a practice that "seeks to represent past economic events as they happened in a factual manner"—under COVID-19. "During the pandemic, accountants did the best they could in coming up with probabilities for potential losses, but ultimately followed a familiar path.

¹ Baker, C. R. (2022). Making Accounting Estimates Under Conditions of Risk and Uncertainty. *Internal Auditing*, July/August 2022, 21-30.

They concentrated on 'getting the numbers right' in a technical sense."

Under international accounting standards, auditors must use a decision-making framework to highlight items of particular significance, called key audit matters (KAMs). Dr. Baker's article examines the 2020 financial and audit reports published by Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) and its auditor, KPMG. "Once the company and its bank had disclosed certain financial challenges, the auditor had to exercise judgment in identifying KAMs and estimating future credit losses," he said. "All they could do was follow existing standards, even though no one could actually measure what was to come."

In the end, Dr. Baker concludes, COVID-19 pressed accountants and auditors to make difficult judgment calls—to "determine when unusual items become usual" and make "forward-looking estimates about highly uncertain future events." ■



Charles Richard Baker, PhD, is a professor of accounting and law in the Robert B. Willumstad School of Business. His teaching and research is focused on the regulation, disciplinary practices, ethics and legal liability of the public accounting profession. He has published more than 100 articles in academic and professional journals, as well as chapters in various academic books and six books dealing with professional accounting topics.

“All they could do was follow existing standards, even though no one could actually measure what was to come.”

—Charles Richard Baker, PhD



Did you or someone you know undergo breast cancer treatment?

Patients reveal the emotional burden of treatment during lockdown

Living with breast cancer is daunting at the best of times. But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, people undergoing treatment fought more than just the disease. Fear, stress and isolation were constant companions. "It was a really lonely experience," said Beth Counselman-Carpenter, PhD '14, associate professor of social work. "In addition to serious interruptions in healthcare delivery, patients suffered the loss of vital support systems."

Dr. Counselman-Carpenter recently authored "The Lived Experience of Breast Cancer Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic" (*Health & Social Work*, November 2023)¹ along with Joyce Williams, the founder of Keepers of the Flame® Foundation, a breast cancer advocacy organization. The article is part of a larger project investigating why breast cancer patients are so infrequently referred to psychotherapy by their physicians.

Twenty-seven patients participated in interviews with Williams, a breast cancer survivor. She and Dr. Counselman-Carpenter identified a number of recurring themes: diagnosis and

¹ Counselman-Carpenter, E., & Williams, J. (2023). The lived experience of breast cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Health & Social Work*, 48(4), 251-259. doi:10.1093/hsw/hlad025

treatment delays, uncertainty about the vaccine's effect on chemotherapy, difficulties getting to treatment centers while minimizing exposure to COVID-19. Patients also noted their frustration with ongoing isolation, both physical and emotional. "For almost three years, you couldn't bring anyone with you to chemo," said Dr. Counselman-Carpenter. "And when you turned to your doctor with questions, they often couldn't give you answers, which was scary."

Even with the pandemic largely behind us, Dr. Counselman-Carpenter and Williams are intent on strengthening support services for breast cancer patients, from educational resources to psychotherapy referrals. Training healthcare providers to offer individualized support, they believe, is crucial. "Not all patients want the same thing," Dr. Counselman-Carpenter said. "Some women we spoke to wanted asynchronous digital information they could access on their own time. Some wanted one-on-one telehealth. Some wanted in-person support groups. Providers need to understand the nuances of being a person with breast cancer." ■



Beth Counselman-Carpenter, PhD '14, associate professor in the School of Social work, focuses her research on post-traumatic growth, decreasing barriers to service provision in social work and medical settings, particularly with the LGBTQIA+ community, and online learning pedagogy. Dr. Counselman-Carpenter co-edited the social work textbook *Multidimensional Human Behavior in the Complex Social Environment* (Cognella, 2023), which discusses marginalized populations and human development within a geopolitical context.

Was the mental health of young people in your life impacted?

Longitudinal study shows a link between students' mental wellness and risk perception



Laura E. Brumariu, PhD, is associate dean for professional programs and student advancement in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology and associate professor of psychology. Her research interests reflect a developmental psychopathology perspective and explore how and why children's relationships with attachment figures influence their social and emotional development. She also examines best ways to assess attachment in middle childhood and developmental models of childhood anxiety and related disorders. Dr. Brumariu is the director of the Derner Child and Adolescent Research (CARE) Lab, which investigates transactional models of how developmental processes, parental behavior and parent-child relationships relate to child adjustment.

COVID-19 took a crushing toll not only on our day-to-day practical functioning, but on our mental health and well-being. To Laura Brumariu, PhD, associate professor and associate dean for professional programs and student advancement in the Adelphi University Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, its psychological effects on young adults seemed particularly complex.

In a recent paper, "Mental Health Among Young Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Two-Wave Longitudinal Investigation" (*The Journal of Psychology*, February 2023),¹ Dr. Brumariu and collaborators at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iași, Romania, surveyed nearly 300 students across a six-month post-lockdown period. "We were interested to see changes in mental health indicators," Dr. Brumariu noted—specifically, whether COVID-19-related experiences "would increase or decrease the quality of students' mental health over time."

Between May and November 2020, the team tracked general changes in students' positive mental health and psychological distress. They also measured pandemic-related factors, such as students' sense of risk, knowledge of the virus and opinions on the efficacy of preventive behaviors.

¹ Măirean, C., Zancu, S. A., Diaconu-Gherasim, L. R., & Brumariu, L. E. (2023). Mental Health Among Young Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Two-Wave Longitudinal Investigation. *The Journal of Psychology*, 157(3), 192–211. doi:10.1080/00223980.2023.2169230

The results "touched on a plethora of psychological phenomena," including young people's perception of disease transmission, their government's response, individual preventive measures and even their sense of the future beyond the pandemic. While participants' knowledge of COVID-19 did not change across the six months of study, they eventually became less confident that preventive behaviors such as isolation and social distancing would protect them, matching a decline in positive mental health levels.

"Overall, we learned that an accurate perception of risk and proper levels of prevention may limit the pandemic's adverse effects on mental health," Dr. Brumariu said. In the future, public health strategies should draw on this knowledge to provide everyone—not just young adults—with a clear picture of the risks they face, for all our sakes. ■



How well did remote learning work for your family?

Taking a closer look at the playing field of pandemic education



Education during COVID-19 often felt like a minefield, whether you were teaching a class, continuing your own learning or shepherding children through Google Classroom. But on top of the logistical headaches we experienced, according to Clara Vaz Bauler, PhD, associate professor in the Adelphi University School of Education, Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, our collective sense of remote learning was indelibly influenced by public discourse.

In her paper "Have We Learned Anything? Raciolinguistic Ideologies in Remote Learning Public Discourses," (*Journal of Critical Study of Communication and Disability*, May 2023),¹ Dr. Bauler analyzes various text resources—from social media posts to remote learning materials and traditional new media—to discover how they might have upheld "normative ways of being, knowing, and doing based on the idealized linguistic practices of whiteness." Assumptions about what constituted a "good learning environment" remained highly traditional—and highly racialized—in public discourse, she found, even amid social turmoil and a global public health crisis.

¹ Bauler, C. (2023). Have We Learned Anything? Raciolinguistic Ideologies in Remote Learning Public Discourses. *Journal of Critical Study of Communication and Disability*, 1(1), 48–68. https://doi.org/10.48516/jcsd_2023vol1iss1.7

"Lecturing, class periods and testing were rarely questioned at a deeper level," Dr. Bauler noted. Everyday routines such as camera-on expectations, synchronous learning modules and parent-child activities created environments that benefited white, socioeconomically stable students and families.

Dr. Bauler's paper also highlights the intersection between remote learning technology and traditional power structures. While Black, Hispanic and lower-income households were disproportionately impacted by a lack of internet access, the media tended to frame accessibility issues from a deficit-based perspective. "Access should be understood in a broader sense to include social inclusion," the paper explains, as this framing "renders traditionally marginalized students deficient unless they adhere to norms of language use of white monolingual elites."

Equitable technology integration is one pathway to reimagining diverse and creative education in the future. As Dr. Bauler put it, "We should continue to question assumptions about remote learning if we ever want to learn from

our participation in the pandemic classroom and make educational experiences in general more meaningful and inclusive." ■



Clara Vaz Bauler, PhD, is an associate professor in the School of Education. Her research interests are threefold: examining how digital media technology can be used to benefit minoritized multilingual students; identifying ways to better prepare pre-service and in-service K–12 teachers to unveil pervasive and harmful raciolinguistic ideologies; and looking at ways translanguaging practices can be affirmed and validated in science and STEM. Dr. Bauler co-authored *Reimagining Dialogue on Identity, Language and Power*, published in 2023 by Multilingual Matters.

How could the world have handled COVID-19 better?

Two faculty members propose solutions to health inequality among underserved communities



Maria-Pilar Martin, MD, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Public Health, focuses her research on health inequalities among minorities, specifically in Hispanic and Haitian populations; migration and health; global health; and the teaching of public health in medical professions. Dr. Martin was named to the *Long Island Business News* 2022 Healthcare Power List and is the founder and executive director of International Health Connection, a nonprofit devoted to public health and health education.

As COVID-19 spread across the globe, its ravages revealed another, hidden pandemic: one of health inequality. Even in the earliest days of lockdown, disease burden and death rates disproportionately affected underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities, rural inhabitants, indigenous communities, and low-resource nations.

Faced with these systemic disparities, two Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health faculty members, Associate Professor Maria-Pilar Martin, MD, and Assistant Professor Sabena Thomas, PhD, wondered what we could do to better prepare for the next global public health crisis.

Dr. Martin decided to study the failure of government messaging in urban

and rural communities in Ecuador. The misinformation that ran unchecked, she writes in “An assessment of the impact of formal and informal messages about COVID-19 on the knowledge and practices for prevention and control among rural and urban communities in Ecuador” (*International Journal of Population Studies*, 2023),¹ “promoted dangerous, unsanitary, and ineffective home practices that may have ... resulted in worse physical and mental health outcomes.”

During the height of the pandemic, Dr. Martin and her colleagues conducted focus groups over Zoom using a qualitative approach. “Qualitative studies provide information about participant experiences that quantitative data does not,” she said. “They answer the hows and whys instead of how many.”

Taken together, the focus group interviews reveal a striking absence of culturally congruent communications. While government campaigns promoted frequent handwashing with soap and water, for example, both commodities are in short supply in rural Ecuador. In response, Dr. Martin’s team calls for policymakers to listen more closely to local community members—specifically, about their “perceptions, motivators and barriers”—when developing communications. “I hope governments and health leaders can design tailored culture-sensitive strategies to provide effective communication and better health outcomes next time,” she said.

Dr. Thomas tackled the problem through a broader lens. Her recent co-authored paper, “Global COVID-19 case fatality rates influenced by inequalities in human

development and vaccination rates” (*Discover Social Science and Health*, November 2022),² investigated the effect of different social factors on COVID-19 incidence and case fatality rates (CFRs) country by country.

According to Dr. Thomas, CFR provides a useful frame for determining resource allocation for healthcare infrastructure. The higher the CFR, in other words, the more resources a country will need to mitigate fatalities. “We know that resource-rich countries have a greater capacity to handle the effect of COVID-19 in terms of public health infrastructure and associated resources,” she said. “In resource-limited countries, that’s not the case.”

A cross-sectional study and regional analysis demonstrated that variables such as age, vaccination rates and inequalities

in human development could predict COVID-19 CFRs. While improvements in these areas pose a sweeping challenge for public health officials, researchers and policymakers, Dr. Thomas has a clear view of the path forward. She recommends “building and maintaining efficient public health systems that can accommodate at-risk populations in times of crises,” with an emphasis on proper training for healthcare staff.

Like Dr. Martin, Dr. Thomas is also a champion of grassroots community engagement and education, which have a proven track record of success in low-resourced countries. These efforts can empower community members to develop preventive techniques and contribute to crisis management solutions if—or when—another pandemic strikes. ■



Sabena Thomas, PhD, is an assistant professor of public health in the College of Nursing and Public Health. Her research focuses on health disparities, immigrant health, minority health and cardiovascular health among Black immigrants. Having lived and worked in developing countries, Dr. Thomas’ public health expertise spans local and international spheres. She is passionate about improving the health of marginalized populations, specifically immigrants and racial/ethnic minority groups.

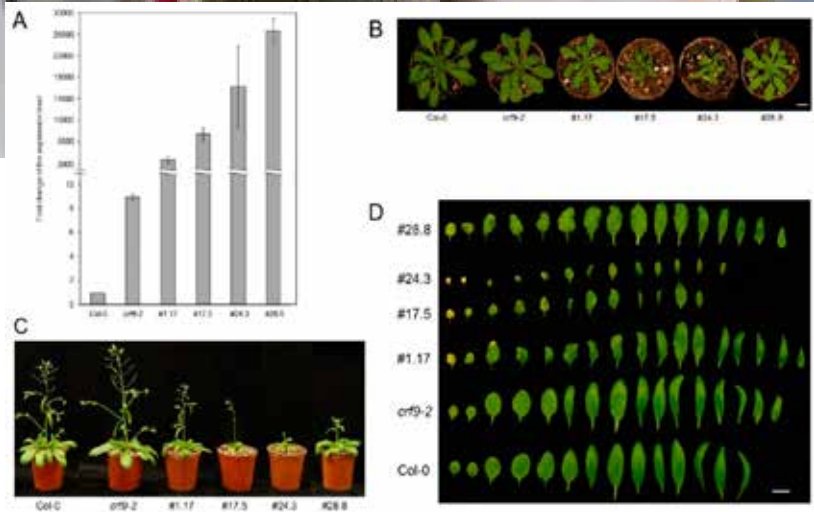
¹ Pisco, K., Ortega, F., Martin, P., Obioha, C., & Curtis, D. (2023). An assessment of the impact of formal and informal messages about COVID-19 on the knowledge and practices for prevention and control among rural and urban communities in Ecuador. *International Journal of Population Studies*, 9(1). doi:10.36922/ijps.406

² Nuhu, K., Humagain, K., Alorbi, G., Thomas, S., Blavos, A., & Placide, V. (2022). Global COVID-19 case fatality rates influenced by inequalities in human development and vaccination rates. *Discover Social Science and Health*, 2(1). doi:10.1007/s44155-022-00022-0



How does your garden grow?

Student-faculty collaboration uncovers the roles of proteins and hormones in flower development



In order for a flower to bloom, a series of complicated biological processes must first take place. The plant needs to know how much to grow, when to stop growing and when to reproduce. Only once a plant has reached its reproductive stage, preparing to spread its seeds far and wide, will a flower finally emerge.

Alexander Heyl, PhD, associate professor of biology, is an expert in the mechanisms that drive this growth—specifically, the role of cytokinin, one of the 10 hormones a plant depends on to regulate cell division in roots and shoots. In “Cytokinin Response Factor 9 Represses Cytokinin Responses in Flower Development,” published in *Fruit and Seed Development*, the February 2023 special issue of the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*,¹ Dr. Heyl and colleagues from Auburn University and the Free University of Berlin established the role of a specific protein in carrying out the work of cytokinins.

The research builds on Dr. Heyl’s prior work at the Free University of Berlin, where he was part of a team identifying proteins that affected the response of plant cells to cytokinins. One of those proteins, CRF9, is the focus of his recent paper. “CRF9 is very involved in the switch between growing the plant and then making the flower,” Dr. Heyl said.

Although he knew CRF9 could control the expression of genetic information, further research was needed to understand its impact on the life cycle of a flower.

When designing the experiment, Dr. Heyl and his colleagues had two options: They could remove the gene (or “knock it out”), or they could amplify it in a process known as overexpression. Knocking it out had no effect, which Dr. Heyl anticipated. “Plants have many proteins that do similar things. If you knock out one, the others will just take over,” he explained.

Next, they focused on inducing the plant to overexpress CRF9, which would yield plenty of protein product to study. All they had to do was modify the gene, introduce that gene to a plant-infecting bacteria and then dip the whole plant in what Dr. Heyl calls the “sauce.” “What we do is quite funny,” he said. “You can just dip the whole plant in with the flowers and everything. It’s called floral dip.” This elevated quantity of CRF9, they found, delayed the plant’s reproductive cycle—and therefore its ability to produce flowers.

Collaboration with Adelphi undergraduates, according to Dr. Heyl, was instrumental to both this research

and another recent paper, “Cytokinin Response of the Streptophyte Alga *Coleochaete scutata* provides a clue to the evolution of cytokinin signaling” (*Frontiers in Plant Physiology*, December 2023).

For this latter paper, Navindra Tajeshwar ’17, MD, Sandra Pinto ’21, and Kyana Gordon ’24 joined Adelphi faculty to conduct hands-on lab experiments to see how algal growth responded to a variety of chemicals. Ultimately, they determined that the cytokinin signaling path could respond to a broader base of chemicals than expected. “We suspected that the cytokinin signaling path recognized a lot of different components. It then specialized the more plants evolved,” Dr. Heyl said.

Ramya Banda ’22, a biology student using bioinformatics in Dr. Heyl’s lab, contributed to the CRF9 paper alongside his former students from Germany. Seeing their work finally come to fruition in the form of a published paper was “very satisfying for me and obviously for the students, too,” Dr. Heyl said. Though many of his undergraduates plan to eventually leave biology behind as they pursue medical and dentistry careers, they are as essential to the work of biological research as growth factors are to the blooming of flowers. ■

¹ Swinka, C., Hellmann, E., Zwack, P., Banda, R., Rashotte, A. M., & Heyl, A. (2023). Cytokinin response factor 9 represses cytokinin responses in flower development. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 24(5), 4380. doi:10.3390/ijms24054380

Alexander Heyl, PhD, associate professor of biology, works on the evolution and function of signaling pathways. In particular, he is interested in the origin and the molecular mechanisms of the signal transduction pathway of a class of plant hormones called cytokinins. Dr. Heyl is faculty co-chair of Adelphi’s Scholarship and Creative Works Conference.



To quote Hamlet, “The play’s the thing”

Making the case that Shakespeare’s works are celebrities in their own right

When you buy tickets to see a Shakespeare play, especially one of his more famous works such as *Hamlet* or *Romeo and Juliet*, there are certain beats you expect to see: Hamlet holding the skull, Juliet appearing on her balcony. They are moments of recognition,

continuations of tradition, an echo of hundreds of past productions. But when those iconic beats fail to appear, outrage among the audience can ensue. In fact, directors who deviate from the script when staging Shakespeare are often seen as committing sacrilege.

Louise Geddes, PhD, professor of English and associate dean for student success strategic initiatives in the Adelphi University College of Arts and Sciences, investigates this phenomenon in her new paper, “Celebrity Plays and Embodied Fidelity” (*Shakespeare*, February 2023),¹

¹ Geddes, L. (2023). *Celebrity Plays and Embodied Fidelity*. *Shakespeare*, 1–19. doi:10.1080/17450918.2023.2176719

The joy of live theater is the potential for the unexpected to happen.

which posits that Shakespeare’s plays have become, themselves, celebrities in their own right. “The assumption of what constitutes the canon expands to accommodate not only the work’s staged history, but the staging practices that have become attached to it, and the speculative futures that it is imagined to hold,” she argues.

In this way, Shakespeare’s plays exert a kind of pressure that Dr. Geddes terms “embodied fidelity,” or a restrictive influence based on a “rich and often hegemonic cultural mythology that is embedded in the collective understanding of a particular play,” according to the paper. The plays’ “celebrity encompasses both the actual contents of the play and the mythology that accrues from its repeated circulation.”

Past stagings have also become part of the source text itself. As Dr. Geddes puts it, this transforms the play into its own archive, which different viewers will have different relationships to. “Some people want a replication of the thing that they know and love. Other fans want the work broken out of its confines, or a character broken out of what they consider to be an oppressive or unfortunate text.”

Audience expectations of fidelity are, Dr. Geddes acknowledges, a departure from earlier uses of Shakespeare. In the 18th and 19th centuries, when Shakespeare was known by name alone, impresarios went to great lengths to sell tickets, including overhauling the plays’ endings and adding new characters. In recent years, however, a growing culture of “Bardolatry” among theater fans and practitioners has lent the “canon” of the Folio itself a powerful weight.

Today, new stagings of Shakespeare, and Shakespeare adaptations like *West Side Story*, are most often judged based on notions of what a Shakespeare play should look like. “When we talk about whether a production is good, or whether it’s faithful or successful,” Dr. Geddes said, “we’re thinking about the idea that it is faithful to this kind of preconceived notion.” Preconceived notions of *Hamlet* include not only the famous skull scene, for instance, but the idea that Hamlet is a young white man.

This raises the stakes even higher. As the paper notes, “theatre’s capacity as memory machine means that lineages develop that can actively dictate performance and casting strategies, making implicit decisions about who is granted access to ‘authentic’ Shakespeare—and who is not.” In other words, embodied fidelity can insist upon “conditions of performance along lines of race and gender, ability, and class.”

How, then, might these expectations be countered? Acting against the pressure of past productions can be revelatory, Dr. Geddes believes. An awareness of the concept of embodied fidelity will, she hopes, allow more directors and performers to take risks when staging Shakespeare, no matter how intimidating the fame of the plays themselves.

“The joy of live theater is the potential for the unexpected happening,” she said. “The fact that you won’t see the same thing every single night—it’s not a movie, it’s not permanent. Certain things were done in a particular way because that’s how people got into a groove. People hopped on the train track and traveled down a particular line, but it’s not the only path. It’s very exciting to think about how liberating that can be.” ■



Louise Geddes, PhD, is associate dean for student success strategic initiatives and professor of English in the Adelphi University College of Arts and Sciences. Her research interests include Shakespeare in performance, theater and popular culture, 20th-century British theater, digital theater, and fan studies. Dr. Geddes is the co-author of *The Shakespeare Multiverse: Fandom as Literary Praxis*, published by Routledge in 2022, and a general editor of the journal *Borrowers and Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation*.



Who is overusing their smartphones—and why?



New research illuminates the patterns that drive excessive digital usage

These days, we depend so heavily on our smartphones that they can sometimes feel like a part of us—or at least like a significant other. Robert Bornstein, PhD, University Professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, has spent the past 40 years studying the dynamics of interpersonal dependency. He was curious about the genesis of this intense emotional bond with our devices.

While there has been no shortage of research on excessive smartphone and Social Network Sites (SNS) usage, most studies utilize an addiction model framework, which overlooks the psychological processes that actually trigger usage. Dr. Bornstein partnered with two international colleagues, Emanuela S. Gritti, PhD, of Italy's Milano-Bicocca University, and Baptiste Barbot, PhD, of Belgium's Université catholique de Louvain, to pilot a project that would, for the first time, evaluate usage from an interpersonal perspective. The results of their study, published as "The smartphone as a 'significant other': interpersonal dependency and attachment in maladaptive

smartphone and social networks use" in *BMC Psychology* (2023),¹ reveal important links between an individual's psychological makeup and their style of digital connection.

The authors used three key concepts, borrowed from various psychoanalytic schools of thought, to frame the study. First, they theorized, any given individual's attachment style (such as anxious, avoidant or insecure) would likely parallel their reliance on digital devices. These attachment styles can be further shaped by other psychological factors, including interpersonal dependency—the tendency to rely on other people for nurturance, guidance and support. "We know that dependent people are anxious when they believe a close relationship is at risk, which leads them to do all kinds of things to draw the relationship in closer," Dr. Bornstein said. "In the digital world, these behaviors can involve obsessively texting someone or monitoring their activity on social media. We call it the 'excessive reassurance pathway.' You send a text out, and you get one back. It's instant relief."

Moreover, recent evidence suggests that smartphones themselves can become an attachment target. The term "transitional object," coined by a researcher in the 1950s to describe blankets, stuffed animals and other articles that infants turn to for comfort, can also be applied to any inanimate object that performs a transitional function in adulthood. "For people with heightened psychological vulnerability, the phone is a self-soothing tool," Dr. Bornstein noted. "It can compensate for those feelings of abandonment or the perceived unavailability of attachment figures."

The study's final sample pool included 341 individuals, all based in Italy, of varying ages and genders. They were given a battery of six questionnaires to complete: the Attachment Style Questionnaire, the Relationship Profile



Robert F. Bornstein, PhD, is University Professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology. He has published numerous articles, book chapters and books on personality dynamics, assessment, diagnosis and treatment, including *Elements of Personality: Discovering Connections*, published in 2024 by the American Psychological Association. Dr. Bornstein's research is focused on personality disorders, personality assessment, unconscious processes and interpersonal dependency.

Test, the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the Toronto Alexithymia Scale, the Young Adult Attachment to Phone Scale, and the Social Network Intensity and Social Network Access via Mobile Phone Applications.

The resulting data substantiated the authors' theories about the relationship between attachment style and other mediators. "As expected, anxious and avoidant attachment were related consistently and coherently to all interpersonal dependency variables, as well as to emotional deficit and self-esteem with effects of moderate to large magnitude," they write. Participants with higher levels of interpersonal dependency reported a stronger emotional bond with their smartphone and more intense usage of SNS. Participants at the other end of the dependency spectrum, however, expressed relief when their device was out of reach. "Interestingly, we found that unhealthy dependent people described their phone as a 'refuge,'

while healthy dependent people described it as a 'burden,'" Dr. Bornstein said.

According to the authors, these findings are not just abstract research data—they stand to substantively reshape treatment of digital addiction. If indicators of anxious attachment and/or unhealthy interpersonal dependency are present, mental health providers can preemptively plan to address the increased risk of maladaptive smartphone and SNS usage.

"It's hard to alter someone's dependency levels in adulthood, but therapists can make sure patients are equipped to cope more effectively and panic less when those abandonment fears are triggered," Dr. Bornstein said. "Now that we know what psychological processes are prompting overuse, we can help people to express dependency in less problematic, more adaptive ways. That's where our team's model improves on what's already out there." ■

1 Gritti, E. S., Bornstein, R. F., & Barbot, B. (2023). The smartphone as a "significant other": Interpersonal dependency and attachment in maladaptive smartphone and social networks use. *BMC Psychology*, 11(1). doi:10.1186/s40359-023-01339-4



Who gets to access a “good death”?

Socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods have fewer home hospice agencies, study shows

The number of Medicare beneficiaries receiving home hospice care has more than doubled since 2000. With the American population aging at a historically unrivaled rate, that number only stands to increase in the years to come. Yet hospice care in the United States is not distributed or accessed equally. Around half of all patients with severe illnesses—many concentrated in underserved neighborhoods—do not use hospice services.

“We know that poorer neighborhoods have continued to lag behind in utilization of hospice care. For decades, scientists have attributed it to cultural values or preferences about care,” said Zainab Toteh Osakwe ’06, PhD, associate

professor in the Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health and an expert in home healthcare. “We also tend to think of hospice care as something that’s delivered only in the field, not related to the hospice agency’s home base. But after COVID, I started to wonder if where the hospice offices are located has an impact on the delivery of care.”

Dr. Osakwe partnered with a geospatial analyst at the University of North Dakota to uncover patterns in the locations of hospice offices. Drawing on information made publicly available by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, they culled data related to 3,447 hospice providers and 4,584 Medicare-certified

hospices nationwide. Next, they geocoded hospice agency addresses to the social vulnerability index (SVI), a measure developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that geographically ranks at-risk communities.

The resulting study, with co-authors including Jennifer McIntosh, PhD ’21, adjunct professor of public health, and undergraduate student Kaydeen Pierre, was published as “Association of Hospice Agency Location and Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage in the U.S.” (*American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 2023),¹ funded in part by the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

¹ Osakwe, Z. T., Calixte, R., Peterson, M.-L., Young, S. G., Ikhapoh, I., Pierre, K., ... Girardin, J.-L. (2023). Association of Hospice Agency Location and Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage in the U.S. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 41(3), 309–317. doi:10.1177/10499091231195319



Zainab Osakwe ’06, PhD, and undergraduate student Kaydeen Pierre

The article highlights the association between hospice agency location and neighborhood social vulnerability.

Dr. Osakwe and her team found that hospice agency offices were far more likely to be clustered in neighborhoods with greater socioeconomic advantage. Predominantly Black and Hispanic neighborhoods also contained significantly fewer hospice agency offices. While the results align with prior studies on hospice supply and community-level wealth, theirs is one of the first to investigate hospice agency availability by neighborhood. This finding is important as policymakers and researchers invest in enhancing community awareness of hospice, particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods. According to the authors, the study “expands the existing body of research by addressing social vulnerability ... and provides new evidence that greater neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage is independently associated with lower availability of hospice agencies at the census tract level.”

However, this work is “not reflective of utilization,” Dr. Osakwe noted. “It doesn’t tell us that these neighborhoods received less care. What it does tell us is that disparities in access may also stem from a lack of awareness, as well as a limited presence of hospice agencies in neighborhoods with greater disadvantage.” When a service is located within a community, members of that community will inevitably engage with

it. “If the central office of Home Depot is built in my neighborhood, for instance, my neighbors will be working for, relating to Home Depot employees and shopping at Home Depot. Similar principles may be at play with hospice care.”

For communities that fail to use—or perhaps even fear—hospice care, Dr. Osakwe’s work can begin to make up the difference. “We know that presence bolsters community awareness, so the more hospice offices we can set up in disadvantaged neighborhoods, the more likely those communities are to better understand hospice care, which remains a largely misunderstood Medicare benefit.” As state governments and federal programs like Medicare/Medicaid invest more time and funds into healthcare equity, this outreach has never been more critical. “Neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage is an independent factor that potentially contributes to disparities in hospice availability in the U.S.,” the paper explains. “Policymakers should be aware of these associations and take steps to mitigate disparities in access to hospice at the neighborhood level.”

According to Dr. Osakwe, it’s an effort that requires participation across the board—not just from policymakers and government agencies, but from the entire community. “Once agencies exist in more disadvantaged communities, they can begin to serve as real business partners, which will send out a strong message to community members as well as local clinicians. That will move the needle forward.” ■



Zainab Toteh Osakwe ’06, PhD, is an associate professor in the College of Nursing and Public Health. Her research focuses on the quality and disparities of care received by homebound adults, as well as nurse practitioner home-based primary care and dementia care, with a goal of developing interventions and informing policies that expand access to home-based care. Dr. Osakwe is a 2022 Health Care Systems Scholars Program grant awardee from the National Institute on Aging IMPACT Collaboratory.



Jennifer McIntosh, PhD ’21, is an adjunct professor in the College of Nursing and Public Health as well as a lecturer at Yale School of Nursing. A former emergency nurse, Dr. McIntosh’s recent research has focused on emergency nurses’ perceptions of attribution and individualized care toward people with mental illness and on “VIP care”: providing enhanced care to people deemed more important than others, and the clinical and ethical implications of that for nurses and care recipients.



Don't let that sink in

Rethinking our approach to rooting out organizational corruption

It's tempting to think of corruption as the fault of individual bad actors. A few rotten apples spoiling the bunch would make for an easy solution—just remove the troublemakers and an end to corruption will follow.

But according to James Hazy, EdD, professor of management in the Robert B. Willumstad School of Business, the problem is not that simple. His latest co-authored paper, "Value Sinks: A Process Theory of Corruption Risk During Complex Organizing," published in *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences* (July 2023),¹ is a detailed application of complexity theory to the tangled maze of organizational corruption. While most studies of corruption typically scrutinize agency and ethics at the individual level, the paper presents a "process theory that describes how corruption risk emerges from conditions of uncertainty that are intrinsic in social systems and social interactions."

Complexity science, which forms the basis for much of Dr. Hazy's work in business management, examines the properties of physical systems and human systems, including human social networks. Applying it to corruption led Dr. Hazy to develop the concept of a "value sink." Inspired by the physics term "heat sink" into which excess heat is dissipated from a system, a "value sink" refers to the idea of a value being captured by an actor or actors within a system, then removed permanently so that it cannot continue to benefit the system as a whole.

A system is at the greatest risk for corruption when it contains unstable dynamics, Dr. Hazy and his co-authors maintain. These dynamics are likely to emerge during a time of large- or small-scale disruption, called "disequilibrium conditions," in the paper's terms. Under

disequilibrium, "agents in a system [can] take actions that exploit ... conditions of uncertainty and ethical ambiguity," the authors write. "Further, systemic corruption emerges when agent interactions are amplified locally in ways that create a hidden value sink, which we define as a structure that extracts, or 'drains,' resources from the system for the exclusive use of certain agents." Such conditions can also prevent individuals from recognizing when they are contributing to corruption. "You sometimes don't really realize when you're in a value sink because you think you're helping the organization, but you're really getting sucked into a value sink," Dr. Hazy said.

Value sinks aren't always a net-negative. In fact, as Dr. Hazy explains, they are the same organizational property that leads to the development of new innovative technologies and new ways of making art. But, in the context of corruption, these value sinks remove value from an organization solely for the benefit of an individual or set of individuals, with no accompanying positive benefit for the system or the world at large. This constitutes ethical harm.

Dr. Hazy's paper aims to identify the risks for value sinks in order to help organizations avert potential harm. He and his co-authors lay out 16 different elements of corruption risk, or indicators that value extraction might be occurring somewhere in an organization. Arranged on two axes, organizational scale and risk type, the elements cover the bases of the stages of corruption up and down the level of organizing, from the individual, early "Local Opportunities to 'Defect'" to the late-stage, global "Institutions With Embedded, Dynamically Stable Value Sinks" in the broader economy.

Now, Dr. Hazy is organizing an upcoming symposium on corruption at the



James Hazy, EdD, professor of management, focuses his teaching both on how leadership creates value for organizational stakeholders and on helping students appreciate the importance of the human aspects of business value creation. His research interests range from organizational leadership and leadership effectiveness metrics to computational organization theory, organizational capabilities and corruption. Dr. Hazy is the founder and CEO of Leadership Science, LLC, a management consulting firm in human resource development.

Academy of Management's Annual Meeting, a global gathering that is open to representatives from business academia and international business and consulting organizations like McKinsey & Company. He hopes his work on value sinks will empower individuals within these systems to not only recognize corruption risks, but work to actively counter them. Despite the resistance these hard science concepts may face from the soft skills-centric business world, he believes they are a vital component of successful organizational management. After all, "When corrupt acts are occurring, how do we move forward?" Complexity science can help answer that question. ■

¹ Hazy, J., Lichtenstein, B., Demetis, D., Backstrom, T. & Dooley, K. (2023). Value Sinks: A Process Theory of Corruption Risk During Complex Organizing. *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences*, 27, 319-350.

Learning to paint without the paint

Adelphi neurolinguist looks at how healthy and impaired brains process words with multiple meanings



Have you ever watched an aging loved one stop in the middle of a sentence and reach for a word that simply isn't coming to them? This is called a deficit in lexical retrieval—and it's on the rise as the American population continues to grow older. While strokes, dementia and other neurological disorders can impede the brain's ability to retrieve the word on the tip of the tongue, Sladjana Lukic, PhD, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders in the Adelphi University Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, suspected the construction of the English language itself might play a role, too.

In an effort to shed light on impaired lexical retrieval, Dr. Lukic and collaborators from Northwestern University and the University of Maryland conducted two experiments testing the brain's ability to correctly process and then utilize categorically

ambiguous words. The team's findings were published as "The role of category ambiguity in normal and impaired lexical processing: Can you paint without the paint?" (*Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, May 2023).¹

Categorically ambiguous words, which comprise 80 percent of everyday English vocabulary, are words that can be used as either verbs (to paint) or as nouns (the paint). Critically, these words can offer a peek into the structure of neural pathways that our brains use to store, process and retrieve words. "Despite their high productivity, categorically ambiguous words have received little attention as part of the research into normal and impaired lexical processing," Dr. Lukic said. "We wanted to know if these two different uses of paint are processed in the same way."

The two experiments considered the base and derivative forms of

categorically ambiguous nouns and verbs. The base form is the linguistic use of a word which likely formed first—for instance, something must initially constitute paint before someone can paint with it. As Dr. Lukic puts it, base forms are closer to the front of our mental filing cabinets. Derivative forms, on the other hand, are likely built online. They require greater processing costs to be retrieved by even healthy brains—an action even more difficult for people with non-fluent aphasia and other neurological conditions.

The first experiment asked 30 healthy older adults and 12 individuals with aphasia to identify when the base form of a word was a noun or a verb in both ambiguous and unambiguous words. Dr. Lukic and her team found that all healthy participants, as well as those with fluent aphasia, were able to recognize correct base forms, although they did experience longer reaction times when

working with categorically ambiguous words. However, participants with more serious, non-fluent aphasia were only able to consistently recognize nouns as base forms.

The second eye-tracking experiment tracked the accurate differentiation of a derivative word form from its base by 66 healthy-brained young adults. This time, all participants experienced a reading-time slowdown for derivative forms versus their bases.

Together, results from the two experiments suggest that categorically ambiguous word forms are likely created from an existing word without any change in form, which means that access to base words will directly impact retrieval of corresponding derivatives. For people with varying degrees of aphasia, this could mean impaired access to a significant portion of their lexicon.

According to Dr. Lukic, her team's findings hold major significance for improving assessment and treatment protocols for neurological conditions. "For patients with brain damage, we have to think about ways to turn around language loss. How can we implement something that improves someone's ability to find a word?" Understanding how our brains store and retrieve words—and how difficult it is to access bases and their derivatives—can lead to therapies for repairing or enhancing impaired lexicons, which ultimately increases the brain's recall efficiency.

The need for such therapies could not be more urgent, Dr. Lukic maintains. "Language is essential for human communication and for establishing social relations and human interactions. We need to show better care for our aging population and improve their quality of life. We need to give them back their lexicon." ■



Sladjana Lukic, PhD, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, leads the Neurobiology of Language and Behavior Lab with a focus on two lines of research: the neurocognitive correlates of the lexical system and its relation with emotions and other cognitive systems. She also explores linguistic processes in the context of degeneration and development, investigating how language shapes cognition and emotions.

¹ Lukic, S., Krauska, A., Yoshida, M., & Thompson, C. K. (2023). The role of category ambiguity in normal and impaired lexical processing: Can you paint without the paint? *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 17. doi:10.3389/fnhum.2023.1028378

Winning Isn't Everything

Lessons learned from two high school band directors who said no to competition



Since public schools first began to integrate band into high school curricula nearly a century ago, student musicians have performed at school, civic and athletic events. More recently, high school bands have also begun to go toe to toe in adjudicated festivals and competitions, fueled by the promise of glory. However, research has shown that competition can actually intensify existing structural inequalities among students. Although scholars have called on music teachers and band directors to resist competitive performance norms, the complex public school ecosystem often makes such resistance impossible.

When Robert C. Jordan, EdDCT, assistant professor of music and coordinator of music education at Adelphi University, heard about two high school band directors who had successfully resisted competition, he was intrigued. Along with two colleagues, Olivia G. Tucker, PhD, assistant professor at the University of New Mexico, and Christopher Hathaway, DMA, professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Dr. Jordan dove into the story of Dave and Darin, who taught in neighboring Michigan school districts. As colleagues and friends, the two routinely discussed their dissatisfaction with the state's school music association. During the 2003–2004 school year, Dave withdrew his bands from all forms of competition and turned the marching band into a pep band. Darin simplified his marching band's programming and minimized competitive involvement. Then, together, they founded a noncompetitive festival for other high school bands in the area.

"We don't have many accounts of instrumental music teachers taking ownership of competitions and festivals the way Dave and Darin did," Dr. Jordan and his colleagues said. "Their mitigation of competition in music education represents one story of how two teachers came together to create a solution." What led these band directors to divest from

competition, the team wanted to know, and how did they do it?

They began by conducting an oral history of students, parents and staff who had been connected to Dave's and Darin's bands in 2003–2004. Because participants were asked to speak at length about events that had occurred 20 years prior, Dr. Jordan and his colleagues used a theoretical framework that reflected the evolution of meaning-making over time. Their work was later

FINDING WAYS TO CIRCUMVENT STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS AND CREATE NEW, INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IS KEY.

published as "Two Music Educators' Resistance to Competition" (*Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, 2023).¹

Building on prior scholarly research, the team conceived of teacher agency as "an emergent phenomenon rather than an action, personal trait, fixed variable, or opposite of structure." In other words, agency is a live process that takes into account a teacher's past, present and future experiences and relationships. "When agency is framed as emanating from an individual, we risk putting too much emphasis on the individual in both positive and negative ways," co-author Dr. Tucker explained. Dr. Jordan and his colleagues said that understanding agency as the product of multiple actors' interactions with each other, however, can provide a more holistic perspective.

After reviewing the interview transcripts, the team concluded that Dave and Darin's agency emanated from several unique factors, including their "disillusionment with state organization contests, their personality traits, and the trust that students, parents and colleagues had in them from years of quality music instruction and positive rapport." While this perfect storm may not be replicable, Dr. Jordan and his colleagues believe educators have much to learn from Dave and Darin.

Finding ways to circumvent structural constraints and create new, inclusive practices is key. "Rich theoretical frameworks, such as a dialogical view of agency, will help us discover patterns and factors that support progressive curricular change within and beyond Western forms," Dr. Tucker said. Even when educators act alone, the sum of their collective actions can make a long-lasting impact. "Sharing stories like this may give teachers the courage to come up with their own solutions. The power of Dave and Darin's story is that, yes, what they did was unusual, but it doesn't have to be." ■



Robert C. Jordan, EdDCT, assistant professor of music, focuses his research on music teacher education and pedagogical approaches to teaching undergraduate courses in vocal and instrumental methods. He is interested in music teacher agency as well as democratic, student-centered and culturally responsive approaches to music education that are both academically rigorous and practical with the potential to undergird a lifelong engagement with music.

¹ Tucker, O. G., Jordan, R. C., & Hathaway, C. (2023). Two Music Educators' Resistance to Competition. *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, (235), 30–45. doi:10.5406/21627223.235.02



Love on the Rocks

Tracing the long-term impact of daily arguments between spouses

For people dealing with depression, even the smallest disagreement can become a difficult setback. But for marriages in which one or both spouses are prone to depression, everyday tension can have deep, far-reaching implications.

As relationship researchers, Christina Marini '11, PhD, assistant professor of psychology in the Gordon F. Derner

School of Psychology, and her collaborator Stephanie Wilson, PhD, assistant professor of psychology at Southern Methodist University, spend a lot of time thinking about how our social interactions impact our health and well-being. “We know that negative marital dynamics undermine mental health, but we know surprisingly little about what daily social exchanges,

patterns and behaviors actually account for these longer-term associations,” Dr. Marini explained.

Their recent article, “The days add up: Daily marital discord and depressive reactivity linked to past-month depressed mood and marital risk across 10 years” (*Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, April 2023), analyzed data

from the Midlife in the United States: A National Longitudinal Study of Health & Well-Being (MIDUS) project to unearth the dynamics that create—and even sustain—depression in marriages.¹

Together, Drs. Marini and Wilson reviewed self-reporting questionnaires and narratives gathered in two waves by the MIDUS project, covering a period of 10 years. Their work is the first study to link relationship habits to both ongoing and potential shifts in depression over time. “This type of multi-timescale research design is becoming more and more common within the social sciences,” Dr. Marini said. “It is a really rich way of digging deeper to see how daily patterns map onto longer-term patterns of change or stability across many contexts. In this study, we were able to identify the connection between those daily patterns and more entrenched feelings of how people perceive their relationships.”

Nightly telephone interviews conducted by MIDUS asked participants to rate how often they had felt “so sad nothing could cheer you up,” “hopeless,” “that everything was an effort” and “worthless.” Participants also reported on seven types of stressors from the day, including arguments they had both had and avoided with their spouse. From this data, Drs. Marini and Wilson devised a monthly measurement that aggregated daily interpersonal stress between spouses.

On average, the pair found that participants’ depressed mood rose on days when they had an argument or tension with their spouse (defined as depressive reactivity to marital discord). The frequency of these occurrences indicated higher levels of depression for the month overall. Additionally, individuals with greater depressive reactivity to their daily marital issues showed a greater increase in depressed mood over 10 years—a finding that held true even when controlled for the



Christina Marini '11, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology. The overarching focus of her research is how intimate partners influence each other's health and well-being, exploring subjects such as couple relationships, stress and coping, adulthood and aging, caregiving, and military and veteran families. Dr. Marini co-authored the book *Serving Military and Veteran Families: Theories, Research, and Application*, published by Routledge in 2024.

amount of discord. Overall, these findings support the previously untested idea that everyday marital discord and corresponding reactivity may “mobilize slower-moving shifts in depression across an entire decade.”

While prior research on depression in partnerships has generated similar results, this study demonstrates the impact of “discord-related daily depressive reactivity” beyond existing chronic depression or general stress. The cognitive biases associated with depression can negatively skew a person’s interpretation—and memory—of their partner’s emotional expressions and actions, which can prolong symptoms of depression. In turn,

according to the authors, this can “exacerbate marital problems and encourage more fatalistic thinking about the relationship.”

Dr. Marini’s interest in understanding the ways relationships can both support and drain us guides her interpretation of the study’s results. The impact of heightened depressive reactivity was “astonishing,” she reports, and should point the way toward new developments in therapeutic interventions. “Even if we can’t reduce the amount of conflict that couples experience, we can help them become less reactive when it does occur,” she said. “This might be protective for their mental health and well-being in the long run.” ■

1 Wilson, S. J., & Marini, C. M. (2022). The Days Add Up: Daily Marital Discord and Depressive Reactivity Linked to Past-Month Depressed Mood and Marital Risk across 10 Years. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 40(4), 1172–1193. doi:10.1177/02654075221116277



Does AI have a place in the classroom?

How Adelphi's unique AI task force is preparing for the future of education

Higher education has historically contended with a number of disruptors, from recessions to the COVID-19 pandemic, for example. Now there's a new existential challenge on the block: generative AI (artificial intelligence),¹ a phenomenon that's poised to reshape the future of learning, for better or orse. For students, AI offers an irresistible cheat code. For faculty, it could invite

the nightmare scenario of large-scale plagiarism.

But there's no turning back the tide on this new technology. A. Hasan Sapci, MD, associate professor and program director of health informatics, is leading the charge to ensure that Adelphi can stay ahead of the latest advances in generative AI technology. As the chair

of Adelphi's multidisciplinary Artificial Intelligence Committee, Dr. Sapci is working with faculty to integrate AI into the curriculum and research, enhance teaching methods across disciplines, and promote ethical use of AI. While the sudden release of powerful AI text-generation tools powered by LLMs (large language models) took most universities by surprise, Adelphi's task force, now a

¹ Sapci, A. H. (2022) The Development of AI-Proof Teaching Strategies for Health Informatics Education [Conference presentation]. CAHIIM 2023 Summit on Higher Education, Virtual. https://www.cahiim.org/docs/default-source/resources/events/cahiim-summit-on-higher-education-2023/2023-cahiim-summit-on-higher-education.pdf?sfvrsn=316e9078_6

“I can proudly say that Adelphi was one of the first academic institutions that recognized the transformative potential of technology.”

committee, met the challenge head-on, quickly instituting a plan to navigate the impending changes. “I can proudly say that Adelphi was one of the first academic institutions that recognized the transformative potential of technology,” Dr. Sapci noted.

Previously a task force, it is now a committee that includes representatives from the Academic Standards Committee, the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Information and Technology (SCAIT), and the Committee on Academic Integrity. It conducted a variety of University-wide surveys, then incorporated feedback into an evolving set of standards and best practices.

Dr. Sapci presented the task force's AI road map at the CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education) 2023 Summit on Higher Education, which includes the important statement that Adelphi does not approve of stopping people from using generative AI. Instead of building restrictive policies, the task force strives to incorporate AI tools into teaching and research strategies. Though Dr. Sapci and his colleagues caution that unacknowledged use constitutes plagiarism (which instructors should communicate through a template provided by the task force), they ultimately embrace AI's value. “By incorporating AI tools into the curriculum, students can be exposed to cutting-edge technology and use [it] as

a research tool to enhance their learning experiences,” he told Adelphi last year. “This is an excellent strategy to equip them with valuable skills for the future.” Nevertheless, the possibility of academic dishonesty looms large. Because there is no foolproof way to detect AI-written student material, Dr. Sapci is taking inspiration from his background in the medical field to counter cheating and plagiarism. “Due to the complex nature of human health, there is no perfect treatment for several diseases,” he explained. “However, there are always best practices, such as early detection strategies, regular screenings and personalized treatment plans, combined with several methods to prevent complications. We need to adopt a similar approach.”

Under Dr. Sapci's guidance, the task force has developed digital resources for students and instructors, including a rubric designed to assist instructors in evaluating the AI content of student work alongside input from originality checking and plagiarism detection service Turnitin, LLC. The student rubric for AI use, available on the Adelphi website, aims to make students aware of the limitations of generative AI tools, such as its tendencies toward bias and misinformation. It also outlines a process for responsible use of AI in coursework, which entails obtaining permission, ensuring proper attribution and avoiding academic dishonesty.

Far from fearing or attempting to obstruct the oncoming changes wrought



A. Hasan Sapci, MD, associate professor and program director in the Department of Health Informatics, holds several certifications in artificial intelligence (AI) and AI in medicine. His research interests include AI in healthcare, connected health, telemedicine and remote patient monitoring, innovative clinical informatics and data analytics applications for patient care, clinical support systems, and modeling complex medical decision-making.

by AI, Dr. Sapci welcomes adaptation. As businesses around the globe have learned, it's a crucial survival mechanism in the face of disruption. “We need to stay current with changing trends, learn this technology's limitations and adapt our teaching practices as faculty members,” he said. “It is up to us to determine new skills, track the latest trends and provide future-proof skills to our students.” ■

Adelphi University Scholarship and Creative Works Conference

As the Adelphi University Scholarship and Creative Works Conference enters its third decade, organizing committee chairs Alexander Heyl, PhD, associate professor of biology, and Wei Liu, PhD, associate professor of nursing, are more committed than ever to spreading the spirit of discovery.

Two years ago, the conference began organizing around cross-disciplinary “super themes” in an effort to unite the corners of Adelphi’s vibrant academic and creative community. Student engagement immediately skyrocketed. “They always return from the conference so excited about what their neighbors are doing,” Dr. Heyl said. “It’s one thing to get feedback from your lab partners or adviser. It’s another to share your work with people who speak a different disciplinary language. Students really love it.”

Recognizing the Scholarship and Creative Works Conference as a powerful forum that reaches the entire University community, this year, the Bhisé Global Understanding Project at Adelphi established a link with the event, lending an increased global focus. Students who participated in the Spring 2024 Bhisé Global Learning Experience in India—a 10-day, fully funded and immersive study tour—each presented research they conducted during and after the trip. The Bhisé Global Understanding Project also sponsored the conference’s keynote event: “Facts vs. News: Navigating Truth in Today’s Media,” presented by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof, as well as the panel “Research and Creative Works on Colonialism in South Asia,” featuring faculty members who received 2023 Bhisé Faculty Research Grants—David Pierce, assistant professor of art and art history; Tandra Chakraborty, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Biology; and Benjamin Serby, PhD, assistant professor in the Honors College.

“Our students listen to scholars every day in their classes. We wanted to enlist someone who could give them something new to think about,” said Dr. Heyl. Past keynote speakers have included a creative director, a YouTuber, and a microbiologist and entrepreneur. “Kristof speaks on very timely topics, such as fake news, that should be on everyone’s agenda with the upcoming election.”

According to Dr. Heyl, Adelphi’s dedication to undergraduate research is a rarity among peer institutions. “Colleagues from other schools have told me they’re surprised by how strongly our administration supports the conference. We don’t even hold classes on the day. To me, that shows how much the University really cares.” Dr. Liu agrees. “It’s clear that Adelphi’s investment is coming from the top down,” she said.



“They always return from the conference so excited about what their neighbors are doing. It’s one thing to get feedback from your lab partners or adviser. It’s another to share your work with people who speak a different disciplinary language. Students really love it.”

—Alexander Heyl, PhD,
associate professor of biology



Save the Date for Next
Year’s Conference:
**Thursday,
April 24, 2025**

Enriching the Undergraduate Experience With Research and Creative Works

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works has a new vision for the future of undergraduate research at Adelphi. Under the leadership of Justyna Widera-Kalinowska, PhD, professor of chemistry, the office will make research and creative endeavors a cornerstone of every student's experience. In collaboration with stakeholders across the University, Dr. Widera-Kalinowska is developing strategies to connect students with potential scholarly opportunities—and elevate the profile of those who are already hard at work.

She and her colleagues hope to launch an undergraduate research journal, which will feature noteworthy, high-impact research across disciplines. "Our students do extraordinary work, but most of it is not yet at the level of professional peer review. This journal will give them a chance to present their work to the broader public," she said.

Increasing on-campus awareness is also a priority. Dr. Widera-Kalinowska plans to hold workshops that will prepare students for the research process while exposing them to faculty scholarship. "When students come to Adelphi, we promise an intimate learning environment with lots of hands-on experience. That's exactly what they receive when they engage in a research project," she said. "So many possibilities are open to our students. We want to ensure they understand how research can transform their lives." ■



“When students come to Adelphi, we promise an intimate learning environment with lots of hands-on experience. That’s exactly what they receive when they engage in a research project.”

Support Student Research and Creativity

A gift designated to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works will fund undergraduate student endeavors across Adelphi University. Your support will allow students to explore fascinating topics, expand on their work in the arts, and push the boundaries of knowledge in ways that are meaningful to their future pursuits.



Scan here to donate.



Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works: 2023 Summer Research Fellows

Each year, undergraduate students of any major can apply to this program, which awards a stipend and connects them with a faculty mentor to provide support in exploring their scholarly and creative goals.

Fellow: Nicholas Strada
Project: "Neurobiology of language deficit and language recovery in primary progressive aphasia"
Faculty mentor: Sladjana Lukic, PhD, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders

"I feel as though I am making a difference in the world through this experience. I am furthering our understanding of Primary Progressive Aphasia and ways we can treat it. I have also deepened my practical knowledge to help me further participate in research as I advance my academic career into medical school. I already know that I will be a stronger clinician than I would be without it."

—Nicholas Strada

Fellow: Shanya Morisseau
Project: "Breeding behaviours of invasive birds"
Faculty mentor: Shana Caro, DPhil, assistant professor of biology

"The project's goal was to determine whether the Anthropocene affected birds' foraging behavior. We specifically looked at whether food preference was altered in birds that are local to the area based on the amount of human contact they are exposed to. I believe this opportunity gave me the research experience needed to further my academic career and be more competitive when applying to graduate programs."

—Shanya Morisseau

"As a mentor, I felt very privileged to help Shanya develop her own research project, design an experiment, learn how to collect data (including learning to identify all the common bird species in the region!) and write up our findings as a manuscript. Watching Shanya grow into her independence as a confident and competent researcher was inspiring. Because of the support of Adelphi's Summer Fellowship, we completed a scientific study start to finish in just a few months, and even submitted it to the *Journal of Ornithology*."

—Dr. Caro

Fellow: Camila Restrepo
Project: "Clients' perception of non-native language in therapists"
Faculty mentor: Nathan George, PhD, assistant teaching professor of psychology

"As an aspiring clinical psychologist, Camila is interested in the weight that potential clients give to language background when making decisions about therapists. When a student has the forethought to get involved in research early, you're privileged as a mentor to see them transition from assisting to becoming the driving force behind the research agenda. This opportunity was a fantastic avenue for Camila to integrate her own career goals into her research and take full ownership of every step of the process."

—Dr. George

Fellow: Alena de Leon
Project: The film *Con Ganas! (With Desire!)*
Faculty mentor: Orion Duckstein, associate professor and chair of the Department of Dance

"When I met Alena outside Ballet Hispánico's studios in New York City, she shared how different and amazing it was to hear corrections in the ballet class given to her in Spanish. She enjoyed her time speaking with other dancers and experiencing dance from a Hispanic perspective. This experience is at the heart of her film."

—Orion Duckstein

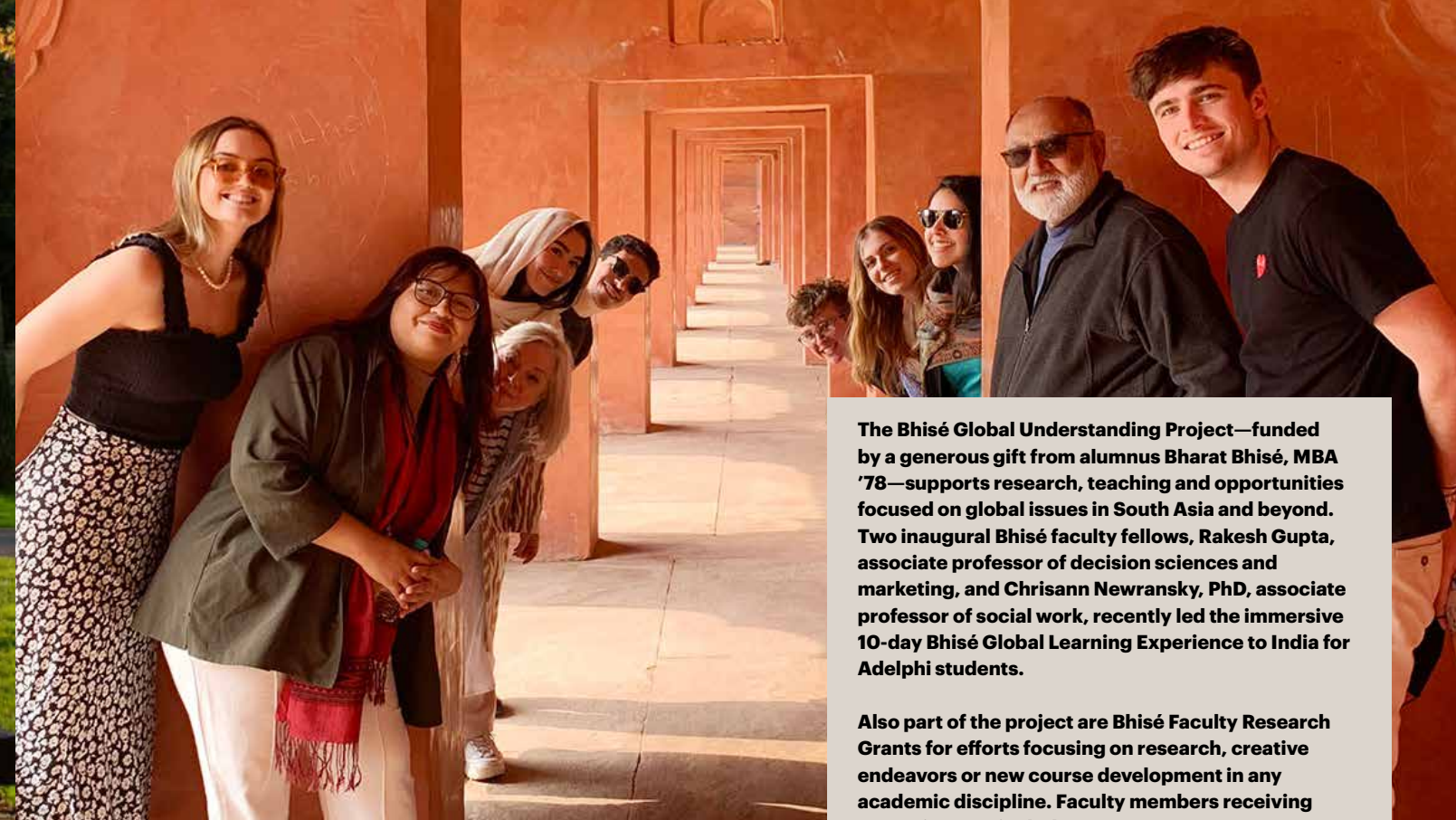
"'Todo esfuerzo da su fruto,' which translates to 'All efforts show their fruits.'"

—Alena de Leon





Faculty turn curiosity into innovation with grant funding



Advanced research projects are integral to the faculty’s role at Adelphi. Thanks to funding from grants, fellowships and other opportunities, our faculty have developed projects that continue to change lives, from Garden City to communities across the world.

Highlights of grants funding faculty work and programs at Adelphi:

Powering student success in STEM

Andrea Ward, PhD, associate provost for research and special projects, led a team of faculty in winning a \$2,499,816 grant from the National Science Foundation for “Ensuring STEM Student Success Through an Integrative Support Program,” which addresses the national need for well-educated scientists, mathematicians, engineers and technicians. The six-year program will fund 25-plus high-achieving Adelphi students from low-income groups pursuing an undergraduate STEM degree.

Mapping out new teaching tools

Suraj Uttamchandani, PhD, assistant professor of learning sciences; **Matthew Curinga, EdD**, associate professor of education; and **John Drew**, associate professor of communications, secured a \$150,000 grant from the Responsible Computing Challenge program, a partnership of Mozilla, Omidyar Network, Schmidt Futures, Craig Newmark Philanthropies and the Mellon Foundation for “Spatial Justice as a Bridge to Responsible Computing.” The project will create a set of interdisciplinary undergraduate courses at Adelphi that focus on the social, ethical and political impacts of computing through the making of digital maps.

Elizabeth de Freitas, PhD, professor of education; **Matthew Curinga, EdD**, associate professor of education; and a colleague from Columbia University received a \$246,051 grant from The Spencer Foundation for their project, “Mapping School Buildings Using Sensory

Ethnographic Methods: A District-wide Study of School Architecture and Spatial Justice.” This three-year interdisciplinary project uses practices from critical cartography and sense-hacking citizen science to explore the spatial practices and sensory dimensions of urban learning environments.

Restoring local biodiversity

Ryan Wallace, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, received a \$105,000 sub-award from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Ocean Acidification Program (part of a larger \$1 million grant) to study how climate change will affect harmful algae blooms.

Exploring the science behind decision-making

Karolina Lempert, PhD, assistant professor of psychology, was awarded a three-year, \$377,484 grant from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health for a project titled “Individual and Age Differences in Temporal Discounting: The Role of Memory for Time.” The study will investigate whether people who perceive the passage of time more quickly are more willing to delay gratification.

Training tomorrow’s educators

Emily Kang, PhD, associate dean for academic affairs in the Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences, collaborated with administrators from the West Hempstead School District on a successful application for a \$300,000 New York State Department of Labor Teacher Residency Program grant. The grant will fund 10 one-year residencies for Adelphi graduate students in the West Hempstead School District.

The Bhisé Global Understanding Project—funded by a generous gift from alumnus Bharat Bhisé, MBA ’78—supports research, teaching and opportunities focused on global issues in South Asia and beyond. Two inaugural Bhisé faculty fellows, **Rakesh Gupta**, associate professor of decision sciences and marketing, and **Chrisann Newransky, PhD**, associate professor of social work, recently led the immersive 10-day Bhisé Global Learning Experience to India for Adelphi students.

Also part of the project are Bhisé Faculty Research Grants for efforts focusing on research, creative endeavors or new course development in any academic discipline. Faculty members receiving grants in 2023 include:

Charles R. Baker, PhD, professor of accounting and law
Examining Colonial Control through Chartered Accounting

Melanie Bush, PhD, professor of sociology
Coloniality and Decoloniality in India: Lived Experiences in India

Tandra Chakraborty, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Biology
Investigation of Ayurvedic Medicine

Katie Laatikainen, PhD, professor of political science and international relations
A Comparative Analysis of Indian Multilateralism: From Non-Alignment to Multipolarity

David Pierce, assistant professor of art and art history
Branding of Vietnam Fine Arts Museum (holder of colonial artifacts)

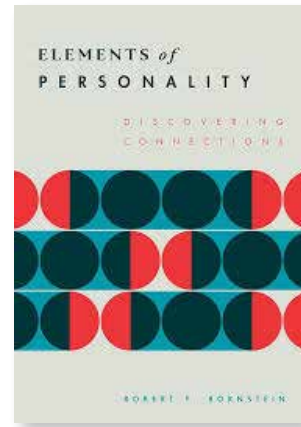
Benjamin Serby, PhD, assistant professor in the Honors College
Human Rights Violations During the U.S.-Vietnam War

Monica Yang, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Management
Corporate Social Responsibility in Pre- and Post-Colonial India

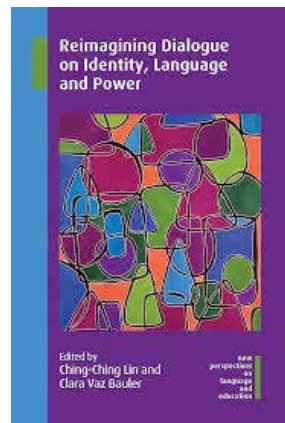
Kirsten Ziomek, PhD, associate professor of history
Korean comfort women “fighters” in WWII in India

Faculty books illuminate a rich intellectual life

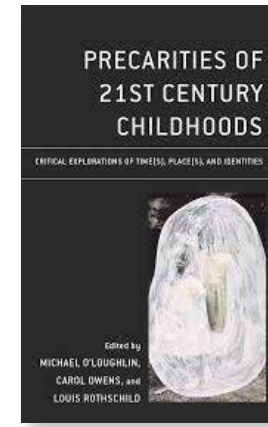
Every year, Adelphi faculty publish books that make powerful impacts in their fields. This year's collection encompasses work from a wide variety of disciplines, including social work, psychology, education, green technology, world literature and more. Some pull back the curtain on urgent topics, while others offer educational frameworks for students and professionals—but all provide vital contributions to our intellectual future.



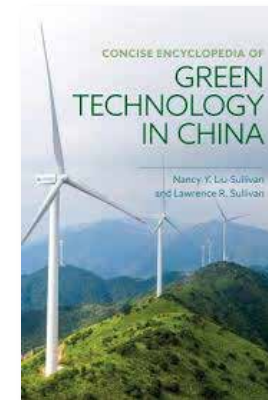
Elements of Personality: Discovering Connections (American Psychological Association, 2024), by Robert Bornstein, PhD, University Professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, refreshes the psychology field's understanding of personality theory, breaking down its major theoretical approaches—psychodynamic, behavioral and cognitive-behavioral, trait/interpersonal and humanistic/existential—in an accessible, student-friendly way.



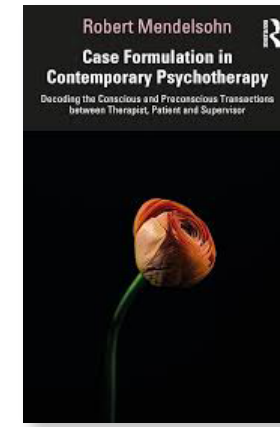
Reimagining Dialogue on Identity, Language and Power (Multilingual Matters, 2023), co-edited by Ching-Ching Lin, EdD, adjunct professor, and Clara Vaz Bauler, PhD, associate professor in the School of Education, explores public dialogue as a participatory research tool for knowledge sharing and community building. The chapters map a new, collaborative path forward for those seeking to understand their sense of self in the world.



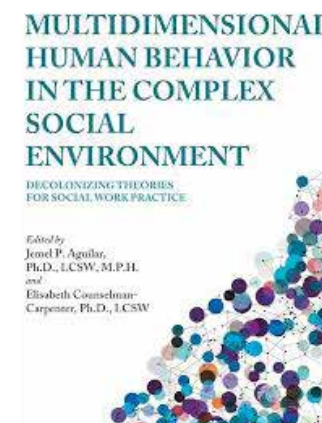
Precarities of 21st Century Childhoods: Critical Explorations of Time(s), Place(s), and Identities (Lexington Books, 2023), co-edited by Michael O'Loughlin, PhD, professor in the School of Education and the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, presents a range of critical perspectives on the social, political, emotional and mental growth of children today, with a particular emphasis on themes of "lostness" and "foundness."



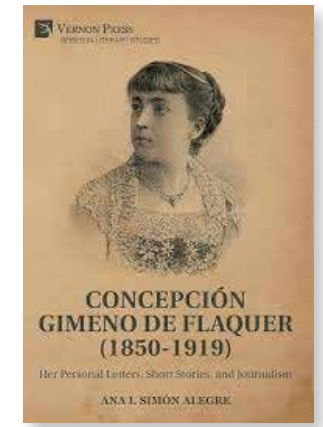
Concise Encyclopedia of Green Technology in China (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023), co-authored by Lawrence R. Sullivan, PhD, professor emeritus of political science, lays out the basics of green technology in the environmental and economic policies of the People's Republic of China, incorporating principles from green chemistry, material sciences and hydrology as well as renewable energy.



Case Formulation in Contemporary Psychotherapy: Decoding the Conscious and Preconscious Transactions between Therapist, Patient and Supervisor (Routledge, 2023), by Robert Mendelsohn, PhD, professor in the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology, offers a novel approach to case conceptualization and formulation. The book's strategies will help clinicians decode clinical interactions and translate data into actionable insights.



Multidimensional Human Behavior in the Complex Social Environment: Decolonizing Theories for Social Work Practice (Cognella, 2023), co-edited by Beth Counselman-Carpenter, PhD '14, associate professor in the School of Social Work, aims to decolonize the structure of human behavior in social environment textbooks and provide clinicians with a treatment framework that preserves the dignity and worth of clients with historically and socially marginalized identities.



Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer (1850-1919): Her Personal Letters, Short Stories, and Journalism (Vernon Press, 2023), by Ana Isabel Simón-Alegre, PhD, assistant professor of African, Black and Caribbean Studies, illuminates the enduring influence of Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer—a writer, journalist, editor and advocate for women's rights—who was a prominent figure within turn-of-the-20th-century Spanish literary circles. Simultaneously published in Spanish as *Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer (1850-1919): Cartas, cuentos cortos y artículos periodísticos*, the book provides a comprehensive examination of Gimeno de Flaquer's contributions to literature and her pivotal role in advancing social change.



The Maddening (Dark Ink, 2023), by Paul Thaler, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Communications, spins a chilling tale of a serial killer with an Edgar Allan Poe obsession, his surviving first victim, and a disgraced former New York Police Department detective.

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