



ADELPHI UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

Oswaldo Luciano '12: **PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST**

By Jeffrey Weisbord

A career in public health inspired Oswaldo Luciano '12 to become a nurse. He was serving as the director of male health education and clinic supervisor at New York-Presbyterian Hospital when he realized that a career in nursing would allow him to both move up and stay in patient care. "The natural progression of working in public health meant that I was dedicating more time to management and less time [to] patients," Mr. Luciano said. "I realized that if I became a nurse I could continue to advance my career while still having significant amounts of time with patients."

Mr. Luciano needed a program that accommodated his full-time job, and Adelphi was a great fit. "Adelphi was the only school to offer a B.S.N. program that catered to working professionals," he said. "I was able to keep my full-time job while also being a full-time student."

Mr. Luciano said his Adelphi professors taught

him "how to think like a nurse." He explained: "It was not just about memorization. It was about understanding the very basics to make an informed decision." He said that they "taught me to be responsible, adaptable, to think quickly, to be hardworking and to have good judgment." Perhaps most importantly, he said he learned from them to "be professional, empathetic and to always put patients first."

Throughout his time at Adelphi, Mr. Luciano served as the New York and New Jersey AIDS Education and Training Center training coordinator and the coordinator of its Minority AIDS Initiative. Just three months after earning his bachelor's degree from Adelphi, Mr. Luciano accepted an offer from North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital to join the staff as a registered nurse. Having an Adelphi degree, he said, gave him an advantage. "Most hospitals are trying to obtain magnet status," he explained. "For that to happen, all of their nurses need to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree."

"My short-term and long-term goal [is] the same: to be the best nurse that I can be," Mr. Luciano said. "After I have gained more practical experience, I hope to become an educator. I would like to pass on my enthusiasm...to future nurses."

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THE MANHATTAN CENTER OFFERS PROGRAMS IN SOCIAL WORK, NURSING AND EDUCATION

The Adelphi University School of Social Work at the Manhattan Center offers a warm, welcoming community where students benefit from the expertise and support of a professional, caring faculty and administration. Evening and Saturday classes, as well as part-time and full-time programs, offer choices to students pursuing B.S.W. and M.S.W. degrees. The diverse backgrounds and life experiences of our students and professors enrich the learning to create a lively environment.

The Adelphi University School of Nursing at the Manhattan Center offers an innovative, evening bachelor's program that enables nurses to meet the challenges of today's healthcare environment. Dedicated to the highest professional standards, the program focuses on patient-centered care and instills an appreciation for cultural diversity. Graduates are prepared to play a variety of roles in different healthcare settings, such as long-term care, research, teaching and management.

At the Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, educators are prepared to teach and lead in a complex, multicultural society. The Ammon School at the Manhattan Center offers a range of programs that allow teachers and administrators to meet the requirements for New York State licensure. Classes, designed for both career changers and experienced educators, are conveniently scheduled in the evening and on weekends and are led by caring, knowledgeable and experienced faculty.

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

An Appetizing Approach to Health and Nutrition: Professor Diane Dembicki

By Jeffrey Weisbord

Before becoming an expert in nutrition, Adelphi School of Nursing Assistant Professor Diane Dembicki, Ph.D., was, of all things, an anthropologist. It was while working as a museum curator analyzing skeletal remains that she became intrigued by the repeated evidence of the effects of diet and disease on bones. Now, as a professor with a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition, Dr. Dembicki enjoys sharing her broad knowledge of health and nutrition in novel ways.

Dr. Dembicki teaches a variety of courses, including Nutrition in Nursing and Healing and the Arts. She hopes that her classes instill in her students the importance of staying active

and applying moderation to their diets. Dr. Dembicki's far-reaching experiences allow her to bring a unique perspective to the classroom. She shows slides of her travels to help her students connect to the material, and many of her classes are experiential, as she affirms that "students learn best by doing." When teaching Healing and the Arts, for example, Dr. Dembicki brings therapy dogs to campus so that students can experience how the dogs relieve patients' stress.

A resident of Dutchess County, New York, Dr. Dembicki commutes more than two hours to teach at Adelphi's Manhattan Center. She is also the only professor to teach at three different



Adelphi locations, including the Garden City campus and the Hudson Valley Center. Fittingly, the former anthropologist takes great joy in teaching so many students at such varied locations. "It's a bit of a challenge," she said, "but I appreciate the cultural diversity and the unique experiences from students on different campuses."

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Meet *Dia T. Bacon*



I CHOSE A CAREER IN NURSING BECAUSE

when I was young, a lot of my immediate family members were ill, so I visited the hospital often. My grandfather had an exemplary nurse. I've never forgotten the care she gave him and the kindness she showed my family. ...Years later, my twin sister and I were diagnosed with breast cancer. The nursing care we received, coupled with my sister's encouragement, inspired me to become a nurse. I want to be a ray of light in the lives of my patients and their families, just as our medical team was for us.

I LIKE ADELPHI'S PROGRAM BECAUSE

I'm able to work during the day while pursuing my degree at night. I see my classmates more than I see my family. We're together every day of the week and have developed a remarkable closeness.

I'M MOST PROUD OF

pursuing my second degree and finally fulfilling my calling. It feels amazing to realize my life's purpose and to work toward living it.

GO FROM R.N. TO B.S. WITH ADELPHI

Having a bachelor's degree in nursing is an edge in today's tight job market. Starting in Fall 2013, registered nurses will be able to participate in Adelphi's R.N. to B.S. in Nursing program at its Manhattan Center. Classes are conveniently scheduled one day a week so that students can enroll while still working. For more information, please contact Director of Manhattan Center Nursing Irene Auteri Ferguson '79 at **212.965.8340, ext. 8366** or ferguson@adelphi.edu.

ALUMNA TONIA PERCY NAMED A TOP NYC TEACHER

By Jeffrey Weisbord



Photo credit: © Rey Santiago

Tonia Percy, winner of a 2012 Blackboard Award, understands the value of a well-rounded education. The second-grade teacher at P.S. 290 (Manhattan New School) has dedicated her life to instilling a love of learning in her students, and she certainly practices what she preaches. Despite already being certified in general education (grades one to six) and gifted education, Ms. Percy began to notice a pattern among her students. “Over the years, the trend

of mainstreaming more children with a variety of special needs and learning disabilities left me feeling a bit unprepared to teach this population,” she said. The Adelphi Manhattan Center’s advanced certificate in special education, with its night and weekend courses, proved to be what Ms. Percy described as a “perfect fit” that allowed her to further her education while continuing to teach full time.

Even though Ms. Percy finished Adelphi’s program in less than a year, she counts her Adelphi professors among her strongest influences. “Adelphi has given me tools to assess, engage and instruct students with a variety of special needs,” she said. She admitted that teaching while attending graduate school was a marathon, but said the experience was “well worth it.”

Ms. Percy believes that “children learn best by doing,” so she takes full advantage of the rich New York City culture to go on field trips and host guest speakers. In fact, many parents visit her class to discuss their areas of expertise, an activity that Ms. Percy said the students love. Seeing her pupils smile is among Ms. Percy’s greatest joys and one of the reasons she loves her profession.

Winning a 2012 Blackboard Award from Manhattan Media was further acknowledgment of Ms. Percy’s talent and dedication. According to Ms. Percy, the award, which honors top educators in New York City, is based on the recommendations of colleagues as well as former and current students and their parents. “[It] meant a lot to be recognized by everyone,” Ms. Percy said.

PROFESSOR VALERIE KARR: A SPECIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST

By Jeffrey Weisbord

Special education in New York City is in the midst of dramatic growth and change. About 15 percent of the city’s 1.1 million public school students qualify for special education services—a huge population. Today, with new regulations, more of these students are being mainstreamed into general education classrooms rather than being segregated in special education settings. “Disability is...seen as less stigmatizing than it was in the past and [services] can be provided in much more inclusive settings,” said Adelphi University Assistant Professor Valerie Karr, who has worked in numerous special education settings and now teaches fellow educators at Adelphi’s Manhattan Center.

“The field of special education has become highly adaptive to the needs of students and can provide services on a continuum of placement options that range from full inclusion to separate special education settings,” Dr. Karr said. She cited examples ranging from dedicated schools for students with disabilities to contained special education classrooms to general education classrooms that include students with special education needs. Dr. Karr noted that students at Adelphi’s Manhattan Center experience working in these different settings through diverse field work placements.

A staunch advocate for protecting the rights of people with disabilities, Dr. Karr said: “I teach my [Adelphi] students to value each student as if they were their own, and to be open to collaborative teamwork, to empathize

with families and to keep an open-minded, can-do attitude.”

Dr. Karr’s own special education research has taken her to multiple countries, and she was recently awarded a grant for her research project, “It’s About Ability: Youth Empowerment Study in Cambodia and Indonesia, the Australian Government’s Overseas Aid Program.”

Dr. Karr appreciates that her Adelphi students face competing demands and pressures and sees Adelphi’s flexible schedules as a valuable asset, especially for the career changers in the program. “In this economy, being able to work and continue your education is key,” Dr. Karr said. “We want to encourage students to follow their passion for teaching, and our program fully supports them.”



Assistant Professor Valerie Karr traveled to Damascus, Syria, in 2010 to participate in the Youth Ability Summit, a cross-cultural exchange to promote the rights of youth with disabilities.

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SOCIAL WORK IS HER CALLING: LORIN KAY, M.S.W. '12

By Jeffrey Weisbord



Lorin Kay, M.S.W. '12, (left) with School of Social Work Assistant Dean Lois Stein, M.S.W. '78, D.S.W. '05. Ms. Kay won the Student of the Year Award from the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Lorin Kay, M.S.W. '12, the winner of the Student of the Year Award from the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), has dreamed of being a social worker since childhood. “Since I was a little girl—6 to be precise—I have wanted to be in social work,” Ms. Kay said. “I was struggling in my own personal life at a young age, and I was fortunate enough to have parents who believe in therapy. They took me to see a social worker...I remember feeling comfortable, safe and incredibly understood by this person. I knew then that I found what I was looking for.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in sociology from SUNY New Paltz, Ms. Kay decided to pursue an M.S.W. at Adelphi’s Manhattan Center. The breadth of Adelphi’s curriculum impressed her. “Had I not tried it all, I would not feel so good about entering the workforce,” Ms. Kay said of her Adelphi experience.

In addition to excelling in the classroom, Ms. Kay was selected as a research assistant to Associate Professor Philip Rozario. They examined and analyzed data from a qualitative study of Singapore’s Maintenance of Parents Act.

Ms. Kay said she was “incredibly flattered and humbled” to win the NASW honor. “The fact that I am being presented with an award for doing something that makes me feel emotionally fulfilled and whole is still something that I am trying to absorb,” she said. “I feel as though I am just doing what I was put here to do. I am following my personal path and loving every moment.”



ADELPHI WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR ANDREW J. PETERS

Andrew J. Peters began his appointment as the director of Adelphi’s Manhattan Center social work programs last summer. A graduate of Cornell University, Mr. Peters has an M.S.W. from Stony Brook University. He was previously the associate executive director of the Long Island Crisis Center (LICC), where he gained 18 years of community-based social work experience in program development, program and staff supervision, direct clinical services and community outreach and recruitment. He is a founder of the Pride for Youth program at LICC, which is now regarded as Long Island’s premier program for lesbian, gay, transgender and questioning youths. Mr. Peters is also an adjunct professor at Adelphi.

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STUDENT SERVICES



NEED AN
iPAD?

HEAD TO THE LIBRARY

Thanks to a new initiative, students and faculty can now borrow iPads from the Manhattan Center Library to read books, catch up on work and stay connected with colleagues, friends and family. A new iMac and six laptops are also available to be used at the library. "Our goal is to create a library that is both a comfortable, intimate study environment

and a technologically satisfying experience for its users," Library Coordinator Kristin Hart said. "We want to help our students stay abreast of the technological developments that are changing our lives so quickly." In addition, the computer labs across the hall from the library have 60 new desktops.

HERE TO HELP

In addition to accessible, caring faculty and administrators, Adelphi's Manhattan Center features numerous on-site support services.

Whether wrestling with writer's block or struggling to balance the demands of school and home, students will find expert guidance from knowledgeable staff and peer tutors in the following settings and centers.

Manhattan Center Library, where students can get research guidance from professionals who know the curricula intimately and can work with each student individually.

Adelphi Writing Center, where tutors assist students in organizing their material, developing concepts and producing grammatically correct writing assignments, reports, essays and letters.

Adelphi Learning Center, which offers individual and small group tutoring and holds workshops covering studying tips, time management and exam preparation.

Adelphi Student Counseling Center, which offers free, confidential counseling services for students.

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Federal Versus Private Student Loans

Federal student loans have several advantages over private loans and credit cards.

INTEREST RATES: The interest rates are lower than alternative and PLUS loans.

DEFERMENT: The government allows you to defer payments if you go back to school or join the military.

LOAN FORGIVENESS: Depending on the profession, federal loans can be forgiven for graduates who go into teaching, health or public service.

CONSOLIDATION: Once school is finished, it's easy to consolidate all federal student loans into one loan, which eases payment and bookkeeping. This sometimes lets you stretch out your repayment for as long as 30 years, which significantly reduces monthly payments.

EARLY REPAYMENT: Unlike some private lenders, the federal government won't charge you if you repay your loans ahead of schedule.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE TOP-RATED FEDERAL LOANS:

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN: Federally backed educational loans that are awarded only to students with the lowest incomes.

PLUS: Students who need more money after they have taken out their Stafford loans can borrow their full remaining costs from the PLUS loan program.

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

FAFSA on the Web	fafsa.ed.gov
Federal student aid processor	800.4.FED.AID (800.433.3243)
Financial aid and scholarship	fastweb.com collegeboard.com
AU Federal school code	002666
AU TAP code (undergraduate)	0010
AU TAP code (graduate)	5000
NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (for TAP inquiry)	888.NYSHESC (888.697.4372)
Tuition pay plan (AMS)	866.884.8466

FINANCIAL AID FAQs

The process of applying for financial aid can flummox even the savviest students. To guide you through what can be an unnerving process, the Adelphi Office of Student Financial Services has posted online a comprehensive list of 12 FAQs, conveniently available at ecampus.adelphi.edu/sfs/fast_facts.php.

The questions cover everything from how financial aid eligibility is determined to whether one needs to apply for financial assistance every year (yes!). Students and applicants who have even more questions are, of course, welcome to contact a Manhattan Center student services coordinator for assistance.

For more information about these programs and to schedule appointments, visit the Manhattan Center's newly revised website at adelphi.edu/manhattan.



MAKE YOUR MOVE

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY



ADELPHI.EDU/SUCCESS