

# ARCADIA

Fall/Winter 2021

MAGAZINE

## EMERGENT RESEARCH

Student & Faculty Research on Breast Cancer Drugs,  
Primate Conservation, & Agribusiness



**24** On campus, students are researching alongside faculty on several important societal issues, including breast cancer drugs, global conservation efforts, and the potential of the University's hemp partnership.



**20** The Gateway to Success program continues to assist students with the transition to college.



**18** Walter Weber '91 on his time at Beaver College, pistachios, and the Walter and Bonita Weber Endowed Scholarship.



Read the student blog [because.arcadia.edu](https://because.arcadia.edu)



Watch the videos [arcadia.edu/videos](https://arcadia.edu/videos)



Share your stories [alumni@arcadia.edu](mailto:alumni@arcadia.edu)



Read Arcadia News [arcadia.edu/news](https://arcadia.edu/news)

**ARCADIA**  
UNIVERSITY

**Editor**  
Dan DiPrinzio

**Creative Director**  
Rachana Sheth

**Designers**  
Joan Cocozza  
Anton Klusener

**Photographer**  
Brandon Hodnett

**Class Notes and Alumni News Editor**  
Erin McLaughlin

**Contributors**  
John Fallon  
Durice White Galloway  
Drew Taylor  
Katherine Haines '22  
Rikki Rosenthal '21  
Gabrielle Thomas '22  
Aaron Uscinowicz '22

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President**  
Ajay Nair, Ph.D.

**Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement**  
Brigette A. Bryant

**Vice President for Marketing and Communications**  
Laura Baldwin '12MBA

Arcadia magazine is published by the Division of University Advancement and the Office of Marketing and Communications. The opinions and views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily express the official policies of Arcadia University.

Arcadia is mailed free of charge to Arcadia University alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of published information.

Arcadia University  
450 S. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038  
215-572-2160  
[arcadia.edu/Magazine](https://arcadia.edu/Magazine)

- 2** From the President
- 3** Leading Off
- 4** Arcadia News
- 10** Athletics News

- 12** Alumni Award Recipients
- 14** Welcome Back Events
- 30** Class Notes
- 36** Q&A

On cover: Katelin Decker '22 works in the Tissue Culture Lab on research for breast cancer drugs, which she conducts under the guidance of Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Maria Theodoraki (above, at left).



View the online version:  
[arcadia.edu/magazine](https://arcadia.edu/magazine)



Dear Arcadia University Community,

Out of everything that a university can offer its students, the most important is opportunity.

This begins with accessibility. A university must be accessible to its students, and it must provide a path—a gateway—for students to succeed. It must provide a support network strong enough to bolster achievement, so students can realize the potential they bring with them to Arcadia.

As incubators of learning, universities must also provide their students and faculty with ample opportunities for academic and scholastic exploration and discovery. This is perhaps most clearly seen through collaborative research, especially on issues and topics of global import.

Universities must also provide opportunities for students to develop skills that lead to rewarding careers and professional lives. Successful alumni outcomes are one way to capture the effectiveness of a college experience—in some ways, they can show a return on a student’s time and money invested in a university.

This issue of *Arcadia* magazine includes three examples of such opportunities in the Gateway to Success program; the student-faculty research on breast cancer drugs, global conservation, and the innovation of our hemp partnership; and a conversation with the Class of 1991’s Walter Weber, who talks about his time at Beaver College and the career chance of a lifetime he took.

In our research labs on campus, in the classrooms in the Philadelphia School District, even on pistachio farms in California, our students, faculty, and graduates are making a profound impact on our communities. Each day provides so many astonishing developments and discoveries on our campus—at times, the discoveries are learning about what is happening on campus. These discoveries can be the most rewarding of all, as they help to most clearly define the innovation that we know is necessary to remain at the forefront of higher education.

Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.  
President  
Arcadia University



## Arcadia Ranked Highly for 2022 by U.S. NEWS, PRINCETON REVIEW

In the 2022 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, released in September, Arcadia is ranked among the top Regional Universities in the North category. Arcadia is ranked 44th, among the top 34 percent of schools in this category and third among colleges and universities in the Philadelphia area in this category. The University also ranked 8th nationally in the Programs to Look For: Study Abroad and is listed as a Top Performer in Social Mobility.

In the Report’s 2022 rankings for Graduate Schools, released earlier this year, Arcadia’s graduate programs also ranked highly: Education placed in the top programs nationally (the report listed 277 unranked programs), remaining a top program for the second consecutive year, while Public Health ranked among the top programs nationally (188 schools), increasing by six percent from the previous rankings.



**Arcadia students responded in the Princeton Review survey that:**

“Lots of colleges claim to give their students a ‘global perspective,’ but Arcadia really delivers.”

“What really brings people here is the study abroad program. What keeps them here are the people.”

For the seventh straight year, the Princeton Review ranked Arcadia among the “Best Northeastern” schools in its “2022 Best Colleges: Region by Region.” The prestigious list ranks Arcadia among the 655 colleges and universities in the country that are “academically outstanding and well worth consideration.”

Universities and colleges are evaluated on academics, admissions selectivity, safety, quality of life, environmental efforts, and the accessibility of professors; another critical factor is the amount of financial aid a university can offer to its students. The Review considers data from its survey of administrators at several hundred colleges in each region, information from staff visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of college counselors and advisors whose perspectives the company solicits. Students also are surveyed about their campus experiences and asked to rate their school on dozens of issues. ❖

**NEW  
KNIGHTS  
BY the  
NUMBERS**

**3.4**  
AVERAGE GPA

**18%**  
PROFICIENT IN  
A LANGUAGE OTHER  
THAN ENGLISH

**23**  
STATES REPRESENTED

**70%**  
REPORT ARCADIA  
AS THEIR 1ST  
CHOICE SCHOOL\*

\*According to the Cooperative Institutional Research Program survey.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

# NEWS+NOTES



Featured in:  
 The New York Times  
 THE NEW YORKER  
 metro  
 BOMB  
 The Philadelphia Inquirer

[arcadia.edu/sun-sea](http://arcadia.edu/sun-sea)

## SUN & SEA

Arcadia Exhibitions Brings Golden Lion Winner to Philadelphia

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, the acclaimed opera-performance *Sun & Sea* settled into Philadelphia's Budd building in Nicetown, courtesy of **Arcadia Exhibitions**. Once a monument of industrial production, The Budd was filled with more than 30 tons of sand and dozens of beachgoers—transforming it into a stage for viewers to explore and reflect on their relationship to a warming planet.

This contemporary Lithuanian opera-performance by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, and Lina Lapelytė, and curated by Lucia Pietrousti, is set on an artificial “beach” viewed from a four-sided mezzanine above as a crowd of swimsuit-clad performers conveys anxieties that

range from sunburn to environmental catastrophe. The 60-minute piece, which loops for a duration of five hours, received the Golden Lion for best national presentation at the 2019 Venice Biennale. The Philadelphia presentation of the work featured the original cast, including 13 soloists who were joined by non-singing extras sourced from the community.

*Sun & Sea* was made possible through a grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and additional support from Arcadia University. Since being hosted by the Venice Biennale, *Sun & Sea* has traveled across Europe. The U.S. tour also included stops in Brooklyn, N.Y., Bentonville, Ark., and Los Angeles, Calif. ❖

## FACULTY AWARDED GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

In addition to the \$2.1 million National Science Foundation grant that Arcadia University Associate Professor of Education Dr. Augusto Macalalag was awarded (see pg. 36), faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy and School of Education earned nearly \$250,000 in grant funding for innovative programs and research.

**A**ssistant Professor of Physical Therapy **Dr. Ryan Zarzycki** earned a \$37,092 National Center of Neuromodulation for Rehabilitation subaward with the Medical University of South Carolina through a National Institutes of Health award. He'll study how transcranial direct current stimulation (TDCS) can improve nervous system pathways to the quadriceps muscle following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction surgery.

“TDCS is an intervention, so it's trying to change the excitability in the brain in order to have a positive effect on getting your quadriceps to work again,” said Dr. Zarzycki. “This work that we're doing is innovative because we're bringing it to a sports and orthopedic population. These modalities are more popular for patients with injury to the neurological system, such as a patient recovering from a stroke, but now we're examining if and how TDCS may help athletes with sports injuries.”

Associate Professor of Education and Director of the

Early Childhood Education Program **Dr. Foram Bhukhanwala** has been awarded a PAsmart grant to expand apprenticeship opportunities at Arcadia from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Administration.

The \$212,500 grant supports Arcadia's undergraduate PreK-4 Program for Early Childhood Education Working Professionals, an online bachelor's degree program designed to support students who are working full time in early childhood care and education centers.

“The early childhood apprenticeship program design provides a unique opportunity for students to connect teacher practice with theory—that is, to combine on-the-job learning with their university classroom learning,” said Dr. Bhukhanwala. “With meaningful partnerships, it creates career pathways and can help address the racial, economic, and linguistic inequities which continue to divide and stratify the early education workforce.” ❖



Dr. Zarzycki with a student volunteer.



Dr. Foram Bhukhanwala, associate professor of Education.

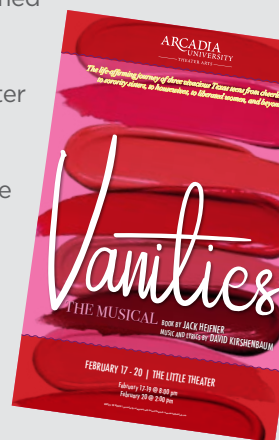
## THEATER NAMED BEST OF GLENSIDE

Arcadia University Theater earned the 2021 Best of Glenside Award in the Performing Arts Theatre category. Arcadia Theater adapted to the COVID pandemic by producing virtual performances and other mediums of innovative storytelling.

“We strive to produce engaging, thought-provoking, entertaining performances that appeal beyond our campus, and we can't wait to welcome audiences back to campus for the Arcadia Theater 2021-22 season.”

—Dr. Jonathan Shandell, associate professor of Theater Arts

Arcadia University Theater completed two productions during the 2021 semester, both formatted to an online platform. The first, *Click*, used live Zoom and breakout rooms to tell a story about a hacktivist on a collision course with the man who stole her life. The final performance of the academic year was a rendition of Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well*. The play was originally set to be performed in-person, but the Arcadia University Media and Communication and Theater departments partnered to make a recorded movie-like version available instead. Throughout the year, the department also continued to host virtual workshops, online voice recitals, and senior Capstone presentations over Zoom. ❖



## NEW APPOINTEES TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Arcadia University elected to its Board of Trustees **Ashish Parmar** (top left), senior vice president and chief information officer of Tapestry, Inc., a New York-based house of global modern luxury lifestyle brands whose portfolio includes Coach, Kate Spade, and Stuart Weitzman; and **Margaret Lyons '12** (bottom left), Continuous Certification program manager for the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.



Parmar has more than two decades of leadership and technology experience in luxury retail, logistics, and consumer electronics. In this role, he leads the technology strategy, information security, and technology operations globally. Parmar's experience at Tapestry includes supporting the company's digital transformation and multi-year

growth agenda. He has a breadth of international experience in both technology and supply chain.

Lyons, who serves as a Recent Graduate Trustee, oversees Continuous Certification operations at the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS), ensuring goals are met and critical policies are communicated to senior-level management, the Board of Directors, and external stakeholders. Prior to working for ABFAS, Lyons was a Certification Product Specialist at the Project Management Institute.

Since graduating from Arcadia in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Business and Culture, Lyons has mentored Arcadia students for the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition and has served as a class agent for the Class of 2012 five-year reunion in 2017 and for the 10-year reunion in 2022. ❖



### Four Receive Dr. Finbarr O'Connor Prize for Shifting the Paradigm for Public Art Project

The University is pleased to announce that Professor of Visual and Performing Arts **Abbey Ryan '03**, Adjunct Professor of Visual and Performing Arts **David Guinn**, Adjunct Professor of Visual and Performing Arts **Maryann Worrell '05**, and Adjunct Professor of Visual and Performing Arts **Krista Proffitt '11** have been named winners of the 2021 Dr. Finbarr O'Connor Prize for Shifting the Paradigm for their work on the Arcadia Public Art Project (APAP).

Established in July 2019 by **Dr. Sunee P. Chauhan '79, '18H** to honor his beloved professor, **Dr. Barry O'Connor**, who retired in 2018 after 50 years of service to Beaver College and Arcadia University, and to encourage greater innovative thinking among the Arcadia community, The Finbarr O'Connor Prize for Shifting the Paradigm seeks to recognize novelty in solution-based problem solving and reward people who shift the paradigm through the programs or projects they lead. ❖



By Katherine Haines '21, '22

# COVID & CLIMATE CHANGE

The shift to remote work and school in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic led to significant changes in most people's everyday routines. There were shortages at grocery stores, cancellations of trips and events, and an influx of information from the scientific community about illness symptoms and deaths. What may not have been as apparent was the effect the pandemic had on the use of fossil fuels.

Fossil fuel usage has increased by eight times since 1950 and doubled since 1980. Without major changes, the global temperature is estimated to rise up to 8 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100.

"Fossil fuel use and carbon dioxide emissions were all going up around the world, but in 2020, when the world basically shut down, fossil fuel use in transportation was reduced," said Adjunct Professor of Biology **Dr. Richard Kaplan**. "Industry was also reducing its output and people weren't driving, and so fossil fuel emissions went down about 6.2 percent, which is rather significant. But of course, this year they're back up to the rate of rise that they were before."

The pandemic also demonstrated the direct effects climate change can have on human health; Dr. Kaplan points to a number of studies that show that air pollution and warming have made COVID death and illness rates higher.

"We need to find ways to heal some of the divisions between people to bring those opposed to economic and environmental ideas back together," said Dr. Kaplan. "Climate change is real and it's damaging and it's our fault, and therefore we need to take steps to mitigate against all those things rather dramatically."

Dr. Kaplan teaches Biology and University Seminars at Arcadia University focusing on the environment. Courses such as Environmental Science and Policy and Climate Change: Science and Policy highlight how his previous work in the pharmaceutical industry opened his eyes to the importance of effective environmental policies and combating climate change. ❖

### DR. PEDERSON ON LEONARDO DA VINCI

**Dr. Jill Pederson**, associate professor of Art History, published "*Leonardo, Bramante, and the Accademia: Art and Friendship in Fifteenth-Century Milan*" (2021, Harvey



Miller/ Brepols), the first study to provide a comprehensive historical and theoretical account of the long-debated, Renaissance academy known as the Accademia Leonardi Vinci. The publisher notes that "Pederson brings together literary sources to offer a new interpretation of the academy not as one singular entity, but as a collection of academic modalities in Renaissance Milan. Eventually these various modalities converged around their namesake Leonardo da Vinci."

**PREPARE YOUR RESUME & ACE YOUR INTERVIEW WITH VIRTUAL TOOLS**

Big Interview is an online system that combines training and practice to help improve your interview techniques and build your confidence. Alumni can now use Big Interview for free. Register at [arcadiaalumni.biginterview.com](http://arcadiaalumni.biginterview.com) with the registration code "1853Arcadia".

Big Interview offers a variety of helpful tools including:

- Challenging, virtual mock interviews for all experience levels and hundreds of industries
- A database of thousands of interview questions with tips on how to answer them
- The ability to rate and share your interview answers for feedback
- A comprehensive video training curriculum covering all aspects of landing a job
- A step-by-step interview answer builder for crafting answers to behavioral questions
- A resume builder and resume curriculum

Contact [careerhelp@arcadia.edu](mailto:careerhelp@arcadia.edu) with questions.

## ARCADIA LAUNCHES CAREERS WITH NEW CAREER LAUNCHPAD

The Office of Career Education is excited to introduce the Arcadia Career Launchpad, a custom online career portal for alumni to explore career opportunities, connect with employers, and engage with career resources. Through Career Launchpad, alumni will be able to explore career opportunities, sign up for career events, and receive tailored, expert advice on resume writing, job searching, and interviewing. Create your Career Launchpad

account at [careerlaunchpad.arcadia.edu](http://careerlaunchpad.arcadia.edu) and set up your identity. Select "Alumni" as your role, enter basic information, and set up your email alerts.

Customized job opportunities, career events, and career resources will be sent to you on a regular basis. You can change your preferences or unsubscribe at any time. For questions regarding Career Launchpad, contact [careerhelp@arcadia.edu](mailto:careerhelp@arcadia.edu). ❖

## ARCADIA NAMED TOP PRODUCER OF GILMAN SCHOLARS



In October, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs named Arcadia University a top producer of Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholars over the past 20 years. Arcadia is among 20 institutions nationwide in the "Small Institution, 20-year Gilman Top Producer" category.

Since 2001, 64 students from Arcadia have received Gilman awards. Gilman scholarships broaden the student population that participates in education abroad by supporting undergraduates who have been traditionally underrepresented and

those who might not study or intern abroad due to financial constraints.

"Expanding access to education and to transformative global experiences is central to our mission at Arcadia University," said Dr. Jeff Rutenbeck, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Arcadia University. "The Gilman Program has helped Arcadia realize this with dozens of students over the past 20 years, and we thank them for their support in helping us in these efforts." ❖

## NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH ISI: FLORENCE

Arcadia's innovative new partnership with International Studies Institute (ISI) Florence features programs in STEM, architecture, studio art, Italian language and culture, and more. Situated in two historic palazzi in the heart of the city, ISI Florence is affiliated with Arcadia Abroad's partner ISI Perugia: The Umbra Institute, and promises to be a dynamic program option for students wishing to immerse themselves in the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. ❖



## ARCADIA RECEIVES TITLE III GRANT FOR



*Funding to support retention of students through our work in whole-life advising, inclusive excellence, the career ecosystem, and digital transformation.*

Arcadia University is proud to announce that it is the recipient of a U.S. Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Program Grant for the amount of \$2.25 million over five years for work designed to increase student achievement, persistence, and retention.

"Advancing Retention through Career Development, Advising, Data Infrastructure, and Inclusive Excellence at Arcadia University (ARCADIA) is an initiative designed to address significant institutional challenges that impact academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability and create support infrastructure to allow the University's students to thrive at Arcadia and beyond," said **President Ajay Nair**. "On behalf of Arcadia, I would like to thank all who were integral in securing this funding, in particular project leaders **Dr. Sandra Crenshaw**, associate provost, and **Dr. Rebecca Kohn**, vice provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences."

In its grant proposal, Arcadia developed a multi-year initiative comprising four high-priority activities: Whole-Life Advising, Inclusive Excellence Inside and Outside the Classroom, the Career Ecosystem, and Digital Transformation. In particular, the initiative will work to



enhance the student experience by promoting student retention, degree completion, and post-graduation outcomes; building on existing work such as the Arcadia 2025 Adaptive Strategy and the University's anti-Black racism initiatives; enhancing curriculum and pedagogy; supporting the implementation of inclusive excellence;

developing advising networks for students; maximizing campus employment impact through professional development; and strengthening the University's data infrastructure to support students' advising and mentoring.

These initiatives will be interconnected through the pivotal fourth activity, Digital Transformation, in which a data warehouse will be developed and implemented to house all student-related information received from and fed into the newly implemented customer relationship management system. Outcomes of all of these initiatives will be sustained by the University after the grant ends.

The U.S. Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant program is to help institutions "become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and financial stability." ❖

## Five Inducted to ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

On Oct. 9, the Athletic Hall of Fame inducted five extraordinary former student-athletes for their contributions to the Arcadia Athletics program.

### Kimberly Canfield '15, '17

A women's soccer standout, Canfield was Arcadia's first CoSIDA Academic All-American, earning Second-Team honors in 2014 and Academic All-District honors twice. She was a two-time, Second-Team NSCAA All-Region selection and a two-time NSCAA Division II/III Scholar All-Region selection, a three-time All-MAC Commonwealth selection, an ECAC First-team All-Star, and Arcadia's 2013 Female Athlete of the Year. She was the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Academic All-Area Performer of the Year after her junior year. Canfield is an Orthopaedic Trauma Physician Assistant for First State Orthopaedics in Newark, Del.

### Kate Allen Duncheskie '98, '00

Allen was a four-time, first-team All-Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) selection at midfield in women's lacrosse and earned two second-team All-PAC honors in field hockey. Allen graduated second all-time in career points (172), points per game (3.37), goals (145), and goals per game (2.84) for women's lacrosse. A teacher in the Upper Dublin School District, Allen and her husband, Steve, have three children: Grace, Stephen, and Patrick.

### Justin Loomis '05

Loomis led the baseball program to its first PAC Championship and NCAA Division III Tournament appearance in 2004. Loomis was a three-time All-PAC honoree and was twice named an ABCA All-Region selection. Following a conference

title run in 2004, Loomis was named to the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional All-Tournament Team and, in 2005, was Arcadia's Male Senior Athlete of the Year. He was also named to the PAC/CSAC Baseball 25th Anniversary Team in 2018. Loomis teaches at and coaches baseball,



President Ajay Nair, Justin Loomis, Kate Allen Duncheskie, Kimberly Canfield, Cindia Lukomski, and Brian Granata, director of Athletics and Recreation.

basketball, and football at Pinelands Regional High School in Tuckerton, N.J. He and his wife, Kathryn, have two daughters, Kaylee and Jordyn.

### Cindia Lukomski '05

Lukomski was a softball All-PAC selection for four years and earned PAC Rookie of the Year honors in 2002. She was a National Fastpitch Coaches Association First-Team All-East Region selection and Arcadia's Co-Female Senior Athlete of the Year in 2005 and was one of three Arcadia graduates to be named to the PAC/CSAC Softball 25th Anniversary Team. Lukomski graduated as program leader in hits with 222 and ranks in the top-five in

several career categories, including batting average (.437), on-base percentage (.466), runs (135), doubles (51), RBIs (122), and total bases (298). A former softball coach at Council Rock South, she and her husband, Kevin, have two children, Hazel and Harvest.

### Rebecca Soda Thomson '05, '07

Thomson was a two-time, First-Team All-PAC forward and the first player in women's basketball program history to earn All-Mid Atlantic Region honors. In 2003-04, Thomson became Arcadia's first 1,000-point scorer and set single-season program records in points (498), scoring average (19.9 PPG), field goals (182), and three-point field goals (61). Thomson graduated as program leader in career points (1,233), field goals (467), and rebounds (699). Thomson and her husband, Timothy, have three sons: Timothy Jr., Jaxson, and Julius. ❖

## ATHLETICS RETURNS *in* FULL FORCE

Arcadia University's 26 varsity athletics programs and more than 500 student athletes were eager to return to full competition in the 2021-22 academic year. The puck dropped for inaugural seasons of the men's and women's ice hockey programs in late October at Hatfield Ice Arena in Colmar, Pa.; the arena recently completed 3,200-square-foot of facility renovations within Gray Rink including locker rooms, coaching offices, players' lounges, and athletic training space.



### ESPORTS SCORES

Arcadia esports found success in its second season as a varsity athletics program. **Mason Cole '23** earned the program's first-ever conference title with a victory in the New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) Hearthstone Champions Division Bracket. At season's end, Director of Arcadia esports **Bill Rodgers** was named the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) Hearthstone Coach of the Year.

### Conference and academic honors

Last semester, 288 student-athletes earned placement on the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Honor Roll, while 12 student-athletes were named to their respective Academic All-MAC teams.

Additionally, the women's basketball team was named a Women's Basketball Coaches Association Academic Top-25 honoree for the first time in program history.

**Brianna Williams '21** capped off her career with MAC Women's Soccer Senior Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors, and she and **Alex DeStefano '21** were named College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District selections.

**Samantha Katsikas '21** was named a Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar for the third-straight season, while **Chris D'Alessandro '21** (left, below) earned his second-consecutive Golf Coaches Association of America All-American Scholar distinction.

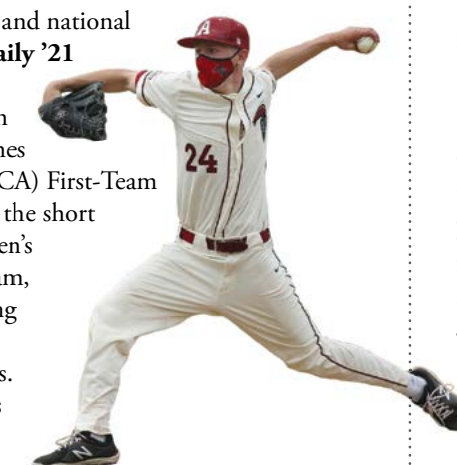
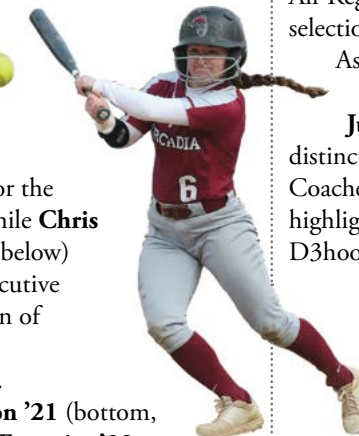
**Trevor Mattson '21** (bottom, right) and **Luke Fournier '22** (top, right) swept the MAC Freedom baseball awards with Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year, respectively.

**Marisa Krauss '24** became the first David B. Eavenson Award winner in the women's swimming program history, honoring the MAC's Swimmer of the Year. **Brian Albertsen '23** (men's lacrosse) and **Megan Sooy '23** (softball) both earned MAC Freedom Rookie of the Year honors. ❖

### Regional and national prestige

On the regional and national levels, **Quinn Baily '21** became the second American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) First-Team All-American in the short history of the men's volleyball program, while also earning AVCA All-East Region accolades. **Mattson '21** was named an All-Region selection by both the American Baseball Coaches Association and D3baseball.com, while

**DeStefano '21**, **Sooy '23**, and **Juliana Presto '24** earned All-Region distinctions from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. **Da'Kquan Davis '22** highlighted the men's basketball season with D3hoops.com First-Team All-Region honors. ❖



# ALUMNI AWARDS

## 2021

Each year, Arcadia University alumni are recognized for outstanding achievements and contributions in their profession, their community, their classes, and their alma mater. The Alumni Association presents its annual awards each year during Alumni Reunion Week.



**Phyllis Brody Taylor '63**  
*Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement*

Phyllis has committed her life to fighting injustices around the world, working as a justice leader for over 60 years and making significant contributions to every community she has touched. As a Beaver College student in the early 1960s, Phyllis organized Freedom Rides, facing danger and uncertainty to advocate for Civil Rights. She has worked as a community organizer, a hospice nurse, a bereavement facilitator, and an advocate in correctional settings. Drawing from her own experiences as an inmate after peacefully protesting and as a survivor of assault, she became a correctional chaplain and a victim support specialist. Her justice work has taken her to Nicaragua as a founding member of Witness for Peace, the Soviet Union as part of a Journey of Compassions delegation, and across the U.S. as a Board Member of Amnesty International USA.



**Susan Smyth Shenker '69**  
*Golden Disc for Meritorious Service*

Susan is committed to ensuring equity in the student experience so that every qualified student receives the transformative experience that Arcadia provides. She has volunteered and served her alma mater in many capacities as a former Trustee and as a member of the Arcadia University Alumni Association. With more than four decades of consecutive giving, she is also a dedicated philanthropist with a personal commitment to supporting the students of Arcadia. Most recently, Susan served as the inaugural chair of the Jones Poundstone Society in 2019 and serves as the society's co-chair. With Susan's leadership, Arcadia has seen substantial increase in both annual giving and participation.



**Lashanna Bryant '21**  
*Senior Golden Disc Award*

As a student, Lashanna pursued diverse leadership opportunities and served as Chancellor of Arcadia's student government. Her talent for writing was evident as a *Because Arcadia* blogger, a reader for the student literary magazine *Quiddity*, and as a Career Peer Advisor. As an Enrollment Management Ambassador, she shared her experiences with students and families to encourage the next generation of students to choose Arcadia.

An English and Media and Communication major, Lashanna's leadership and academic excellence ventured beyond campus. As a Comcast NBC Editorial Production intern, Lashanna earned the Emma Bowen Foundation's Storytelling Award for her video project, "Realizing What's Wrong: Mental Health in the Early 2000s."



**Lindsey Gingrich Mauldin '17M**  
*Young Alumni Golden Disc for Distinguished Achievement*

Lindsey Gingrich Mauldin earned her master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution in 2017, and has dedicated her career to public service and improving the lives of Pennsylvanians. As the senior advisor to the secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Lindsey oversaw the contact tracing unit for the state's COVID-19 response. Since May 2020, Lindsey and her team have recruited, hired, and trained over 1,000 new public health professionals to be part of the COVID response.



**Brian Ekenrode '97, '99M**  
*Faculty and Staff Alumni Impact Award*

Brian is an associate professor of Physical Therapy at Arcadia University. He is the Hybrid DPT Program Director and director of the Arcadia University Running Injury Clinic, and previously served as the coordinator of the Arcadia Orthopaedic Residency Program. Brian has published peer-reviewed research articles, written book chapters, and presented at national and international physical therapy professional meetings. He is serving on the Education Committee of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy of the APTA, having previously served on the Nominating Committee (2017-2020) for the Academy.

Brian is a model alumnus as an active leader in the Physical Therapy Alumni Association, a consistent philanthropist to the university, and a two-time member of the Knights of the Round Table for his engagement as a volunteer, attendee, and donor.



**Margaret Lyons '12**  
*Mary Louise Armstrong Wolf Award*

Margaret, recently appointed to the Board of Trustees, is an active Alumni Association committee member, mentor, class agent, and volunteer. She brings thoughtful energy to all she does, always considering student needs, long-term impact, institutional health, and the opportunity for the University community to grow stronger. Margaret made her first gift to Arcadia in 2013 and has been a loyal donor since. A lifelong Girl Scout who serves as a troop leader, Margaret is dedicated to the education of girls and women. She was chosen among Girl Scout leaders worldwide to attend a summit abroad and fulfill a special project focused on providing education programs to girls and young women.



**Aliyah Abraham '17**  
*Sankofa Award*

Aliyah has contributed significantly to Arcadia as a recent graduate, including the visioning and founding of the Black Alumni Association, bringing to life the Black Alumni Association's Preview Travel Support Program, which philanthropically supports Black student participation in one of Arcadia's signature study away programs, and working to launch Knights for Nutrition food pantry. Aliyah serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of the Alumni Association Advisory Council and advocates for students and alumni alike on the JEDI Commission.



**Linda Vandegrift '90, '07MED**  
*Class Agent Award*

Linda has served on the Alumni Association and the Arcadia Board of Trustees and supported young alumni engagement initiatives during her tenure in those capacities. Most recently, she was a 2020 UKnightedTuesday Ambassador and took on the role of Class Agent to lead the Class of 1990 engagement efforts in celebration of their 30th reunion. As Class Agent, she developed meaningful touchpoints through newsletters and 1:1 engagement to help elevate the profile of reunion and class programming.



**Gianna Lozzi Wolf '16**  
*Harry G. Kuch Award for Young Alumni in Reunion*

Gianna is founder and owner of a South Philly theater company, Rawstreet Productions. While writing and producing numerous plays, she founded a children's theater program and received a master's degree in Education. In addition to developing leadership skills and achieving recognition for her business methods, Gianna has been praised by colleagues for her ability to balance success and selflessness. As a business leader, Gianna is passionate about the journey and enjoys what it takes to get there. In 2020, Gianni was recognized as one of Arcadia University's 40 Under 40.



**Susan C. Saxer '71**  
*Outstanding Achievement Award*

A loyal and dedicated alumna known for her leadership, dedication, and service to Arcadia, Susan has served the Alumni Association and her classmates in many capacities, recently leading the Class of 1971's 50th Golden Reunion celebration. Susan's classmates recognize the creativity required to celebrate the 50th reunion virtually and appreciate her ability to galvanize the Class, implement programming, and spearhead philanthropic opportunities in support of Arcadia and its students.

### NOMINATIONS FOR 2022 ALUMNI AWARDS ARE NOW OPEN!

Arcadia University Alumni Association Advisory Council's Awards and Honors Committee is accepting nominations for the Alumni Association's 2021 awards. Nominate outstanding alumni for this prestigious recognition at [arcadia.edu/AlumniAwards](http://arcadia.edu/AlumniAwards).





Letter from the President of the Advisory Council  
and The Arcadia University Alumni Association

## MAYA BASU JOHNSON '97

Dear Alumni,

It's been nearly six months since I began my term as president of the Arcadia University Alumni Association, and my love and pride for the Arcadia community only continues to grow. To represent you—the 35,000 proud alumni of Beaver College and Arcadia University—is an incredible honor.

In beginning my work with the Alumni Association's Advisory Council, it was inspiring to see that we share so many common traits. We're motivated, helpful, connected, encouraging, and determined. Among us are philanthropists, experts, visionaries, mentors, and leaders. Above all, we all share a love for Arcadia and are committed to serving our fellow alumni and alma mater.

Since stepping into this role, I am constantly reminded of why Arcadia is a community unlike any other. We are all connected by our shared experience, our unique ability to think critically, and our desire to change the world around us. I encourage you to find the time to reach out to a former classmate, deepen your connections with one another, and recognize all that this incredible University has brought to you.

The Alumni Association offers so many opportunities for us to get involved and make a difference for the current students and the future of our beloved University. Let us all reflect on our engagement with our alma mater and make sure that we hold one another accountable to show up and overtly demonstrate our commitment to the success of Arcadia University.

Arcadia, it is an honor to serve alongside you.

Sincerely,

**Maya Basu Johnson '97**

President, Arcadia University Alumni Association

*Learn more about volunteer opportunities at [arcadia.edu/volunteer](https://arcadia.edu/volunteer).*



## ARCADIA WELCOMES BACK STUDENTS!

From Aug. 25 through Aug. 29, Arcadia welcomed all first-year and transfer students to campus, as well as all returning students, for the 2021 fall semester. The University offered a full slate of fun events that helped ingratiate students into the Arcadia community and showcased its mission and values, including the Venture Welcome Picnic; a glow in the dark roller rink event; a Rise Against Hunger event in the Great Room, where thousands of meals were packaged; and LatinX, LGBTQ, Asian Arcadians, and other affinity groups.

### Welcome Black

Hosted by the Black Alumni Association of Arcadia University (BAAAU) on Aug. 28, the inaugural Welcome Black event shined a light at the undeniable fellowship and pride within the University's Black community. More than 100 alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and families gathered beneath the Blankley Alumni House Tent to offer a warm welcome to Arcadia's new and returning Black students. Attendees noted a shared sense of fellowship, purpose, and joy.

"For Black students to witness their future possibilities while mingling with alumni, the Welcome Black event was one for Arcadia's history books," said Assistant Vice President of Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion **Dr. Angela McNeil '01**. "I was proud to be a major part of such a momentous occasion."

"I promise that you will feel this kind of love, this kind of support, this kind of positive energy, and this kind of family feel," said **President Ajay Nair**, adding: "We will not stop until you feel that sense of belonging and that you can leave your footprint on this campus and the world."

Other University leadership in attendance included faculty and staff mentors, teachers, and advocates like **Dr. Doreen Loury**; Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement **Brigette A. Bryant**; BAAAU co-presidents **David Euwings '06** and **Sonya Gaskins '02**; former BAAAU President **Aliyah Abraham '17**; former BAAAU Vice President **Steve Tyson '13M**;

Provost **Jeff Rutenbeck**; Dean of Students **Andrew Goretsky**; Associate Dean of Students **Dian Taylor-Alleyne**; and Athletics Director **Brian Granata**.

With a special pinning ceremony, guests transitioned from a community into a family with an unbroken bond that will remain supported during and beyond their time on campus.

"Community and tradition was created today with our pinning ceremony," said **Rakin Hall**, vice president for Enrollment Management. "Young people want to feel attached to 'something.' This group will have a sense of identity and purpose as they persist toward graduation."

Euwings explained that the Black Alumni Association is proud of the work that they do and are committed to work that still needs to be done. "The success of the Welcome Black event represents the positive change occurring at Arcadia—more diversity, more inclusion, and more representation."

"Welcome Black to me signifies not only the welcoming of new Black students to the Arcadia family as they embark on this important chapter of their lives, but more importantly it's the calling for Black alumni, who have been away from Arcadia, to return home," said Abraham. "The energy encompassed everything I hoped the event would bring: The spirit of family ties and the continuance of Black excellence and culture." ❖

“  
The energy encompassed everything I hoped the event would bring: The spirit of family ties and the continuance of Black excellence and culture.”



# HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

Making our own traditions—Arcadia style

On Oct. 8 and 9, more than 1,000 Arcadia alumni, students, families, and friends gathered on campus and virtually for Arcadia's new Homecoming & Family Weekend experience. For one of the first times in over a year, the entire community had the opportunity to return home and celebrate the unrivaled educational experiences of Arcadia University.

Featuring a weekend full of festivities, from Grey Towers Castle Ghost Tours, Bingo Knight, and Karaoke at Fired Up! to Movie Knight, fireworks on Haber Green, and so much more, campus was bustling with pride for the Scarlet and Grey.

The signature event of the weekend, ArcadiaFest, commemorated the 20th anniversary of Arcadia University and our 168 years of excellence. Alumni representatives from the past 20 years of Arcadia University processed to the ArcadiaFest stage for special remarks and to kick off the anniversary festivities. After an evening of decadent tastings, lawn games, entertainment, and more, Homecoming & Family Weekend went out with a bang as fireworks lit up the sky above Grey Towers Castle. ❖

## SAVE THE DATES

# 2021-22 SIGNATURE EVENTS

WITH THE ARCADIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**UKnightedTuesday**  
Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2021  
[uknightedtuesday.arcadia.edu](http://uknightedtuesday.arcadia.edu)

**WinterFest**  
Feb. 12, 2022—Cheer on the Arcadia Knights for their final home game of the inaugural season of Arcadia Women's Ice Hockey!

**Women Who Lead Forum & JEDI Institute**  
March 26, 2022—Celebrating the power of women and taking on the University's commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

**Alumni Reunion Week and Alumni Awards**  
April 25 - May 1, 2022—Reunite and remember all things Beaver College/Arcadia University and commemorate the alumni classes of 2s and 7s.

**Professional Development & Lifelong Learning**, Arcadia-style, with Learn in One Knight—exclusively for graduates of the last decade—and Round Table Talks series.

To learn more, visit:  
[alumni.arcadia.edu/events](http://alumni.arcadia.edu/events)

# We saved you a seat at the table.

The Knights of the Round Table is a distinguished group of Arcadia's most proud and loyal alumni



who are honored on an annual basis for giving, engagement, volunteerism, and pride.

## Four Steps to Knighthood

Each year, alumni who complete the four steps to Knighthood are admitted into the commemorative Knights of the Round Table.

- ①.....Stay Connected
- ②.....Participate
- ③.....Make a Gift
- ④.....Show Knight Pride

## Congratulations to the 342 Knights of the Round Table 2021

- |                                            |                                   |                                   |                                         |                                        |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Abbey Keppler '71                          | Catherine Delvecchio '11          | Grace Wainwright Taylor '10, '18M | Kathleen Finnegan '16                   | Mantana Kresge Pratt '56               | Ryan Bradwell '11                   |
| Abigail Ryan '03                           | Catherine McDonald Sheam '90      | Gregory Endy '10                  | Kathleen O'Connor O'Brien '00           | Marcia Sorber Kavanagh '63             | Sally Pearson '76                   |
| Ahmad Hasani '15M                          | Celina Gonzalez Alexander '04     | Gretel Swartz '17                 | Kathryn Willis '64                      | Marcie Dubrow Wechsler '01             | Samantha Hipe '18                   |
| Alexis Roach '19                           | Charles Lentz '03MED              | Haven Michael '19                 | Katie Duncan '07, '11MED                | Margaret Cottrell Gamwell '61          | Sandra Dym First '61                |
| Alice M. Brown '93                         | Chelsea Badeau '03                | Holly Green '17MED                | Katie Kelly '07MED                      | Margaret Keenan Hasani '14             | Sara Appleby '12                    |
| Alisa Kleckner '16M                        | Chelsea-Lee Maiese Becker '10     | Holly Kirkpatrick '08MED          | Katie Lehnert '18                       | Margaret Lyons '12                     | Sara Borden '04                     |
| Alishah Ammons Powell '03                  | Cheryl Capacchione '95            | Hope Halza '20                    | Keisha Robinson '18MED                  | Maria Briones '06                      | Sara Lewis-Wallace '07              |
| Alison Aaron Madsen, Esq. '85              | Christa Lane Hooper '12M, '12 MPH | Irene Naughton '13DPT             | Kelly Anne Cox '12                      | Marie-Louise Hirsch Brauch '64         | Sara Michelson Bloom '60            |
| Alyyah Abraham '17                         | Christina Kahmar McGinley '10M    | Isabelle Mohl Selikoff '64        | Kenneth Samen '92                       | Marlyn Sunners Cranin '54, '96H        | Sara Wenger '17M                    |
| Allinda Woll Dormer '76                    | Christine McCreary '13            | J. Sandi Richel Klein '61         | Kerry Ann Costello Leraris '92, '94 MED | Marlyn Yick Rosenbaum '68              | Sarah Pirelli '14                   |
| Alyson McCreery '13                        | Christine McCreary Krolik '79     | Jacqueline Petrolle Cannon '68    | Kevin Shollenberger '88                 | Marilyn Yick Rosenbaum '68             | Shelley Schwartz Meyers '71, '78MED |
| Alyssa D'Esposito '19                      | Corinne Devries Smith '55         | Jacqueline Seawright '85          | Kimberly Fitchett-Bazemore '92          | Mary Louise Brant Mees '59             | Shera Wack Goldstein '07            |
| Alyssa Reiner Wittle '12                   | Corinne Quinn '05MPH              | Jacquelyn Eckert McCarty '11      | Mary Meakim '05                         | Mary Louise Brant Mees '59             | Sherred Kugler Weidner '62          |
| Amanda Schorle Martino '01                 | Courtney Knowlton '10             | Jane Lewis Grove '59              | Mary Murphy Lee '79                     | Mary Louise Brant Mees '59             | Shirley Pegues '10                  |
| Amanda Zimmerman '16M                      | Crystal Guzzi '20                 | Janet Greenstreet '14             | Mary Pacioni Alderfer '73               | Mary Louise Brant Mees '59             | Sonya Gaskins '02                   |
| Amber LaJeunesse LaJeunesse Silverberg '06 | D. Aaron Cohen '14MBA             | Janet Kotsakis '92                | Matthew Pellegrini '05, '15MED          | Matthew Ross '16                       | Stacey Downey '88                   |
| Amy Beresnyak Nassif '91                   | Daniel Rivera '17                 | Jean Heathcote Burke '78          | Matthew Ross '16                        | Maureen Dyer Vesga '01                 | Stacy Lombardi Soricelli '96, '04M  |
| Amy Gabriel Kollmann '14                   | Daniel Safford '16DPT             | Jean Killam Trumbore '60          | Maureen Dyer Vesga '01                  | May Their Aye '12, '14M                | Stephanie McNerney '95              |
| Amy Miller '04DPT                          | Daniela Pinilla Angel '20         | Jean Stouck Ingraham '66          | Maya Basu Johnson '97                   | Megan Corcoran Patten '06              | Stephen Tyson '13M                  |
| Andrew Cawley '19                          | Danielle Frank '12                | Jean Stout Fletcher '57           | Meghan Corcoran Patten '06              | Meghan Figgis Carter '06               | Susan Ambrey Kelly '66              |
| Andrew Leschak '85                         | Danielle Maxson '16               | Jeff Frazier '14MBA               | Meghan Ryan-Posthumus '07               | Meghan Ryan-Posthumus '07              | Susan Frant '61                     |
| Angela Linder '05                          | David Euwings '06                 | Jeffrey Fratantaro '95            | Melissa Hough '73                       | Melissa Hough '73                      | Susan Ginsberg Berk '69             |
| Angela McGowan Klinger '12                 | David McCann '20                  | Jenna Gavaletz '03                | Michael Costigan '20                    | Michael Costigan '20                   | Susan Mantz Atiyeh '89              |
| Angela Robinson Brooks '98                 | David Paone '04, '09MED           | Jennifer Retter '16               | Michael Costigan '20                    | Michael Costigan '20                   | Susan Patt Mountz '64               |
| Angela S McNeil '01                        | Deborah Dancy Ingram '79          | Jessica Braun '17, '20DPT         | Michael Rounds '84M                     | Michael Rounds '84M                    | Susan Rodgers Fleming '69, '77MED   |
| Angela White Koenig '99                    | Deborah Ledewitz Farber '71       | Jessica Moffett '08               | Michele Lewis '12DPT                    | Michele Lewis '12DPT                   | Susan Saxer '71                     |
| Anita Elefant Renaud Martin '71            | Dennis Balyeat Greene '07         | Jillian Arenson '16               | Michelle Johnson Osavio '81             | Michelle Johnson Osavio '81            | Susan Smyth Shenker '69             |
| Annalise Christy '20                       | Devon Miller '18                  | Diane Levy Glubo '03              | Michelle Reale '96, '99M, '16M, '20EdD  | Michelle Reale '96, '99M, '16M, '20EdD | Susan Steiglitz Kohstam '61         |
| Anne Marie Wolfinger Mumper '05            | Dipesh Chauhan '97, '01M          | Dipesh Chauhan '97, '01M          | Molly Fretz Stevens '60                 | Molly Fretz Stevens '60                | Susan Walsh Vigilante-Williams '67  |
| Arlene Johnston '72                        | Donna Zach Spendley '91           | Donna Zach Spendley '91           | Monica J. Taylor, '15EdD                | Monica J. Taylor, '15EdD               | Suzanne Bartsch Casana '73          |
| Ashley Booth '14                           | Dorine Sanders '04, '08M          | Dorine Sanders '04, '08M          | Monique Miller '73                      | Monique Miller '73                     | Suzanne Decker Fenimore '61         |
| Ashley Knueppel '12, '20M                  | Dottie Johnson Foley '94          | Dottie Johnson Foley '94          | N. Sandy Brown Hoppel '71, '87M         | N. Sandy Brown Hoppel '71, '87M        | Tara Peterson '91                   |
| Ashley Wise Endy '10                       | Elaine Lemmerz Brown '61          | Elaine Lemmerz Brown '61          | Nancy Harris Porosky Frohlich '71       | Nancy Harris Porosky Frohlich '71      | Thelma Custis Reed '01              |
| Ashling Suppan '13, '17MED                 | Eleanor Mack '86                  | Eleanor Mack '86                  | Natalie Harris '08                      | Natalie Harris '08                     | Theresa Dewa '16                    |
| Babette Senker Krug '68, '81M              | Elizabeth Davis McGuire '71       | Elizabeth Davis McGuire '71       | Nathan Hayward '06, '09MBA              | Nathan Hayward '06, '09MBA             | Theresa Tobias '16                  |
| Barbara Belchier Kauffman '63              | Elizabeth Green Brunton '84       | Elizabeth Green Brunton '84       | Olushola Abayomi '16MBA                 | Olushola Abayomi '16MBA                | Thomas McCollum '83                 |
| Barbara Hoops Uhl '71                      | Elizabeth Holtz Weiss '60         | Elizabeth Holtz Weiss '60         | Patricia DeBow '02                      | Patricia DeBow '02                     | Tiffany Schmidt Bordi '91           |
| Barbara Larmon Failing '79                 | Elizabeth Mullin McCordle '09     | Elizabeth Mullin McCordle '09     | Patrick Wajda '12                       | Patrick Wajda '12                      | Timothy Belloff '09MED              |
| Barbara Reppert Million '83                | Elizabeth Pfeiffer '92            | Elizabeth Pfeiffer '92            | Phyllis Brody Taylor '63                | Phyllis Brody Taylor '63               | TJ Tweddle Trzaskawka '98           |
| Barry Hendler '09                          | Elsa Larsen Vernon '71            | Elsa Larsen Vernon '71            | Phyllis St. John Skok '69               | Phyllis St. John Skok '69              | Tomby Lundy '83                     |
| Beatrice Adigwe '07                        | Elsa-Lu Greenblatt Berkowitz '55  | Elsa-Lu Greenblatt Berkowitz '55  | Priscilla Hambrick-Dixon '71            | Priscilla Hambrick-Dixon '71           | Todd Hacker '00, '02M               |
| Bernita Mapp '83                           | Emily Finch Polk '08              | Emily Finch Polk '08              | Priscilla Jeter-Iles '09EdD             | Priscilla Jeter-Iles '09EdD            | Tracey Jeter-Jenner '91             |
| Bonnie Goldblum Fiorentino '87             | Erin Kardon '14M                  | Erin Kardon '14M                  | Renee Luckenbill Keller '91             | Renee Luckenbill Keller '91            | Valier Tragle Jenner '69            |
| Bonnie Tormey Milecki '07                  | Esther Love Grissom '79M          | Esther Love Grissom '79M          | Robb Reichard '86                       | Robb Reichard '86                      | Valerie Francesconi Wigginton '92   |
| Brandon Horvath '16                        | Eva Oehrle Fronk '61              | Eva Oehrle Fronk '61              | Robert Migliaccio '13                   | Robert Migliaccio '13                  | Victor Gimenez '93                  |
| Breann Donnelly '04, '19MBA                | Frances Chiodo-Gross '85MED       | Frances Chiodo-Gross '85MED       | Robert Petrillo '12                     | Robert Petrillo '12                    | Walter Weber '91                    |
| Brian Eckenrode '97, '99M                  | Frederick Jung '96                | Frederick Jung '96                | Rosalie Swedlin '68, '11H               | Rosalie Swedlin '68, '11H              | Whitney Rahm Weldon '98             |
| Bridget Evans Morak '03                    | Fredric Kirschbaum '92            | Fredric Kirschbaum '92            | Rosanne Bonaventura '94                 | Rosanne Bonaventura '94                | William Paxtz '13                   |
| Brittany Mitchell '10, '18MBA              | Gail Agerton '67                  | Gail Agerton '67                  | Rosemarie Bradley Koch '91, '13M        | Rosemarie Bradley Koch '91, '13M       | Wilma Maxwell Gray '62              |
| Caitlin Burns '13                          | Gail Booth Carter '78             | Gail Booth Carter '78             | Rosemarie Bradley Koch '91, '13M        | Rosemarie Bradley Koch '91, '13M       | Zachary Wynkoff, Esq. '12           |
| Carol Stevick Williamson '77               | Gaynelle Fleming '60              | Gaynelle Fleming '60              | Ruth Fireoved Marino '69                | Ruth Fireoved Marino '69               |                                     |
| Carol Toner Shane '65                      | George Cross '99                  | George Cross '99                  |                                         |                                        |                                     |
| Carol Weisgerber-Lidstrom '72              | Gianna Wolf '16                   | Gianna Wolf '16                   |                                         |                                        |                                     |
| Carole Cates Pennock '71                   | Gilda Battaglia Rorro '62         | Gilda Battaglia Rorro '62         |                                         |                                        |                                     |
| Carole Collins Surgent '91                 | Gladys Nieves '76                 | Gladys Nieves '76                 |                                         |                                        |                                     |
| Carole Witham Schmutzler '66               |                                   |                                   |                                         |                                        |                                     |
| Caroline Cervone McVitty '61               |                                   |                                   |                                         |                                        |                                     |
| Carolyn Baldwin Armstrong '61              |                                   |                                   |                                         |                                        |                                     |



Weber's pistachio orchard in Madera, Calif.



## Walter Weber '91: Gratitude in a Nutshell

As a high school student in the 1970s, Walter Weber knew Beaver College as nothing more than a local school with a castle—a common sight in the rearview mirror of his tow truck as he worked along Route 309. Fifty years later, that teenager is a proud Arcadia alumnus and is committed to paying forward educational opportunities for other non-traditional students at the University.

**W**eber grew up from humble beginnings. After moving around following his dad's US Air Force career, they settled in Hatfield, Pa. He was raised in a family where hard work, discipline, and dedication were keys to an honest living. Determined to be the first in his family to graduate from college, in 1973 he enrolled at Penn State University and a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program after high school, only to withdraw due to a series of financial setbacks. Instead, he began an entry-level sales position at Westinghouse Electric Corporation, eventually spending 16 years as an outside salesman for Westinghouse.

With time, it became more important to Weber to complete his degree. In a rather serendipitous coincidence, Weber discovered that Beaver College intersected directly with his daily sales route. He submitted his transcripts to enroll as a business student and was connected with Professor Emeritus

**Dr. William Biggs**, then chair of the School of Business.

"I was very fortunate that Westinghouse Corporation paid for my continuing education courses," said Weber. "I am eternally grateful to Dr. Biggs, who saw my situation and made my transition to becoming a college graduate easy, one or two classes at a time."

Following long work hours, sometimes up to 70 hours a week, Weber attended his Beaver College classes and returned home to complete course work, only to wake up early the next morning to begin again. It took discipline to work all day and attend class at night while balancing homework and family life.

"I was at Beaver to learn with purpose, and my priority was to finish school," said Weber. "I received a very meaningful education with real-world experiences. It was during my time at Beaver where I heard different perspectives, learned the realities of the business world, and developed critical thinking skills that changed the trajectory of my future."

In 1991, Weber earned his degree in Business Administration—a dream come true for him and his entire family. Weber notes that in earning his degree, he forever changed his family tree.

"My wife and I both grew up in very humble beginnings. We have a very similar mindset that we have to do things ourselves. We didn't have a safety net; there was no room for failure. It was up to us to change our family tree and to make sure that our children had the resources and opportunities to become successful."

Shortly after graduating from Beaver, Weber transitioned to a new company, where he established a substantive career in the electrical

wholesale industry. He retired in 2021 and continues to work as a consultant.

In 1997, Weber had an opportunity to invest in a partnership business—a pistachio orchard in Madera, California (above). The economics behind pistachio farming fascinated him.

Pistachios had been in high demand since the 1970s, when the U.S. placed an embargo on all products from Iran, including pistachios. At that time, agricultural land in California was also relatively cheap. However, pistachio farming was an expensive—and long—endeavor; the process from planting to harvesting would take seven years, equating to a nearly decade-long wait before the Webers would begin to see a return on their investment. Channeling the critical thinking and strategies he learned at Beaver College, both Walter and his wife Bonnie took a bold, calculated risk to invest their youngest children's college savings into the business.

"Low and behold, the pistachio business is booming," said Weber. "We now have about 12 partnerships with about 125 acres of pistachio orchards. By the time our youngest children were ready to go off to college, the return on investment covered their full tuition and living costs. We've been very blessed."

Twenty years after Weber's graduation from Beaver College, a long-awaited opportunity arose. With their children's college tuition covered and a financial surplus from the pistachio business, the Webers were ready to demonstrate their gratitude for Beaver College in a meaningfully charitable way.



In June 2021, the Webers added to their existing scholarship fund to strengthen the **Walter '91 and Bonita Weber Endowed Scholarship**, which is designed to provide financial support for non-traditional aged business students or graduates of North Penn High School with demonstrated financial need.

Following the mantra of one of his favorite financial gurus, Dave Ramsey, Weber's intent was to pay his experience forward with a hand up to others, not a hand out. The ultimate goal of the scholarship is to give someone else the opportunity to change their family tree—the very same priceless gift that he had received so many years ago.

"This scholarship is for the hardworking people who are pursuing their degrees the non-traditional way because they don't have another option, they can't take on more debt, or they have other responsibilities," said Weber. "I want them to experience an Arcadia education, despite their circumstances and without financial burden."

The Walter '91 and Bonita Weber Endowed Scholarship was supplemented through the Arcadia Financial Aid Initiative, through which the University provides a 1:1 match for their support, doubling the impact of a donor's gift.

"We both feel so blessed," said Weber. "It's a thrill to give back to others. It's very meaningful to us to be able to do that. In life, you have three things to share with the world: your time, your talent, and your treasure. It's just rewarding to know that we will one day leave the world in a better place. We try to be conscious of that every day."

Watch a personal interview with Walter Weber at [vimeo.com/arcadiauniversity](https://vimeo.com/arcadiauniversity).



**A**s the first person in her family to attend college, **Noriette Suarez '14** says she didn't know what to expect from university classes or campus life. She did come with three main goals: to succeed, to graduate, and to secure a career in business.

When she applied to Arcadia University, Suarez was invited to join Gateway to Success, a program providing college access and academic support to capable students who might not otherwise get such a chance. She also was chosen for Act 101, a state program under the Gateway umbrella that supports economically and educationally disadvantaged Pennsylvania residents.

"It seemed like a great opportunity," says Suarez, recalling her reaction as a nervous high school senior upon hearing about Gateway to Success/Act 101. "It was the extra help and guidance I needed because I had no idea what I was doing."

Gateway became integral to Suarez throughout her time at Arcadia, from its Summer Bridge program that helps first-year students prepare for college to sessions on learning strategies, tools to achieve academic and personal goals, advice and support from peer mentors, and regular counseling with program staff. Along the way, Gateway student scholars often build friendships that last beyond graduation.

*MEMBERS OF  
THE GATEWAY TO  
SUCCESS PROGRAM  
MYLES GAYDEN '25,  
AUTUMN BRUNETT '25,  
DA'JOUR CHALMERS '25,  
AON ALRABEEAH '25,  
ISAIAH HEARD '25, AND  
JUSTIN STEERMAN '25.*

# GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

*Arcadia's Commitment  
to a Historic Legacy*

**BY ROBIN WARSHAW**



Suarez majored in International Business and Culture and was a Gateway peer mentor for several years. After graduating, she landed a position with Pond Lehocky, LLP, and today works as an account manager for FreedomPay, a financial technology company and data-driven commerce platform.

“I credit Gateway with my success,” Suarez says. “It was the first big community that helped me do something I was proud of.”

Hundreds of Gateway participants have traveled a similar path at Arcadia—making the transition from unsure student to confident college graduate—since the program began 30 years ago. **Cristina Cintrón-Marsh**, who was appointed director of Act 101/Gateway in 2021, notes how Gateway’s key role in guiding and supporting its student scholars was tested in 2020 due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Program staff stayed in touch with participants, helped a few who lacked internet access or computers, and transformed the residential Summer Bridge program into an online experience.



**“[Gateway] was the first big community that helped me do something I was proud of.”**

— **NORIETTE SUAREZ '14**



**WILFREDO AMILL '18**

### A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Gateway participants may come from less rigorous schools or disenfranchised communities, or they may have lower test scores than needed to meet admission criteria. Some might never have studied science in a well-equipped school laboratory or written a research paper. Act 101 students have limited family incomes.

Over the past 11 years, Gateway has had nearly 500 participants from varying socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups. “We all came from different backgrounds. We were told, ‘When you go on campus, most of your classes are not going to be as diverse as this,’” says **Mercy Joseph '22**. “Everybody bonded really well.”

About half of those in Gateway are first-generation college students, as are some of the program’s faculty.

“I didn’t think I had the capabilities to live up to college standards, but they eased me into it [with the Summer Bridge program],” said **Alassane Sow '24**, who is the first in his family to attend college. “As soon as my freshman year began, I just started going. I believe the program is the reason why I made the Dean’s List in fall 2020.”

**Sarah Bretz Pirelli '14**, an engineer at Fres-co System USA, says she had good academics but her family struggled financially. The Act 101 program covered some expenses for textbooks and a Preview trip to Mexico. “It opened up a

door for me,” she says. “The assistance and support made the transition of being in college a little bit easier.”

For many, Gateway is, first and foremost, a community of supportive friends and advisers. **Blessing Dousuah '22** suffered a significant family loss in 2019 and took a month off from school. When she returned to campus, program staff were there “if I needed somewhere to go for a cry. Their door was always open,” she says. “I think about the Gateway program as a family.”

### A SUMMER BRIDGE

Before most Gateway students start at Arcadia, they attend the five-week Summer Bridge program, so named because it strengthens the transition to college. This residential session helps them acclimate to campus, experience coursework and on-campus housing, and familiarize themselves with resources such as the Writing Center and Learning Resource Network. There are social and cultural activities as well.

All of that was new to actor **Wilfredo Amill '18**. To him, the summer program was “a big gift” that helped him make friends, meet faculty and staff, and get a better idea of the academic demands ahead. Summer Bridge participants take three courses in five weeks: Writing for College (4 credits), Becoming a Lifelong Learner (1 credit), and an elective (4 credits). Facing that schedule, Amill remembers thinking, “This program’s intense; we have a lot of work to do and we don’t have a lot of time. If I can do this and do it well, I can graduate from this school.” And he did.

Each student has a peer mentor. “I talked about my anxieties and stress about college,” says **Jacob Stone McCrea '21**. When he worried about a Summer Bridge course final paper, he discussed it with his mentor. “They’re a sounding board for where you’re at.” In turn, he became a program mentor. “It’s really rewarding to be on the other side, helping incoming freshmen succeed,” says McCrea, who was president of Arcadia’s Class of 2021 and now works in Arcadia’s Office of Civic and Global Engagement via Americorps.

Summer Bridge attendees are either recommended or required to take the session and must successfully complete it to enroll for fall. Joseph admits she wasn’t thrilled about going but soon realized what there was to gain. She learned how to write a paper, talk with professors and students, find her way around campus, manage time, and be independent. Plus, she earned course credits.

“Without it, I would have struggled freshman year,” she says. “In a way, the program helped me find the college student version of myself.”

Summer Bridge went virtual in 2020 due to the pandemic. That disappointed Sow, who worried about making friends and taking classes online. Those fears



**CRISTINA CINTRON-MARSH, DIRECTOR OF ACT 101 / GATEWAY.**

disappeared after the first week. “I figured out my rhythm and what I needed to do,” he says. “The program gave me guidance and a peer mentor. It made things easier.” Chatting on Zoom before classes, playing games online together, and taking part in virtual activities all made a positive impact on Sow as he embarked on his college experience at Arcadia.

Before the online program began, Gateway staff visited many of the

participants in person, using pandemic protections. They brought welcome baskets of Arcadia gift items, snacks and an Arcadia rental iPad. Says Sow, “It made me feel like they cared.”

### STAYING ON TRACK

Gateway’s student scholars enter Arcadia as undeclared majors. They take the second half of the learning strategies course that begins in Summer Bridge (even if they don’t attend that session). The fall class focuses on identifying their strengths, areas to improve, techniques for reading textbooks, taking notes, studying, and succeeding at tests.

Scholars meet regularly with staff to talk about their interests and goals. Those conversations, says Amill, helped him decide to be an actor and guided him on how to achieve that. Gateway also connected him with a scholarship to study abroad in South Africa.

Act 101 funds a lending library from which students may borrow textbooks or have one book purchased per student each semester. The program also lends laptops, calculators, and audio recorders. A grant from the Joseph Alexander Foundation helps

support study abroad travel and the lending library.

Gateway’s services keep participants on track. McCrea has a learning disability, and the program helped with academic support and advocacy. Dousuah developed better study habits.

When Joseph realized the major she chose wasn’t right for her, she consulted **Dr. Angela McNeil '01**, former Gateway director and now assistant vice president



**“The assistance and support made the transition of being in college a little bit easier.”**

— **SARAH BRETZ PIRELLI '14**

of Access and Equity, and Cintrón-Marsh. They talked about options and reassured her that changing her major was okay. She’s happy now as an Education Studies major and taught English in South Korea in spring 2021. “They were always there to cheer me on,” she says.

Alumni continue to reflect on how Gateway’s approach enabled their growth and achievement, and how the program’s structure, mission, and focus on its students help to learn more about the students, and more importantly, helps the students learn more about themselves.

“The program took the time to ask us who we were. Knowing that we are capable, that we are enough, that really got me through my whole time at Arcadia,” says Amill. “They were constantly saying things like, ‘You’re worthy. Just because you’re from a certain area doesn’t mean that you don’t deserve good. You deserve good and you can make it happen.’” ❖

To learn more, visit [arcadia.edu/gateway](http://arcadia.edu/gateway). You can support the Gateway to Success program at [alumni.arcadia.edu/givenow](http://alumni.arcadia.edu/givenow).

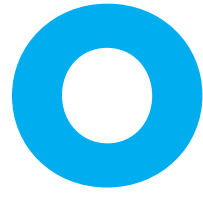


Katelin Decker '22 loads total protein from breast cancer cells on a polyacrylamide gel for analysis while Michelle Frank '23 carefully observes the process.

# FROM Curiosity TO Discovery TO Impact

Student-faculty research at Arcadia is exploring several important issues, including the efficacy of breast cancer drugs, global conservation, and the potential of hemp.

BY LINI S. KADABA



On the second floor of Arcadia University's Boyer Hall, **Katelin Decker '22** and **Michelle Frank '23** pull on rubber gloves and huddle at the biosafety hood in the compact Tissue Culture Lab. The Biology majors are growing cancer cells to test a promising compound—an early step on the road to identifying a drug to treat aggressive forms of breast cancer, including triple negative and inflammatory breast cancer.

"My students are really the driving force for my lab," says Associate Professor of Biology **Maria Theodoraki**, who has run a robust undergraduate research program at Arcadia for several years. "A lot of them like the skills that they use in the process of doing research: The ability to ask the correct question, find the correct experiment to answer a specific question, try to figure out what your result means, try to figure out the next question. This is the cycle that people who are interested in research find very exciting."

For much of the summer, Decker and Frank spent up to 12 hours a day sometimes working in Dr. Theodoraki's lab, testing the synthesized compound DAP-19 for its potential as an anti-cancer drug. On this bright August afternoon, the fall 2021 semester just underway, the students continue to jam their days with what has become their passion: research.

"It's a fast moving, critical thinking, trial-and-error environment," says Decker, who planned a career in industry until this summer. "I was coming into the lab, and two hours became four hours, became eight hours, became 12 hours. I knew I wanted to get a Ph.D. and continue research forever."

Adds Frank: "We are incredibly curious people. We feed off it."

That these undergraduates are working on groundbreaking research is a testament to Arcadia's commitment to providing hands-on, in-the-lab, or in-the-field experiences for its students. Across the University, first-year to graduate students are practicing the scientific process and honing skills in critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. Perhaps most important, they are building confidence to take on new challenges, whether in the lab or in life.

"It is very common for undergraduate students to pursue research projects in collaboration with faculty across all our programs," says **Dr. Rebecca Kohn**, vice provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "It enhances their education and better prepares them for what they're doing next."

Adds **Dr. Naomi Phillips**, an associate professor of Biology, "It's remarkable for this size of university to have those research opportunities." She credits Arcadia with seeking out, over the last decade in particular, faculty hires interested in building research programs. "It's a priority of Arcadia and the Biology department."

## INNOVATION IN THE STUDIES

Across majors, students are working on innovative studies. While the pandemic halted much lab work, faculty and students proved resilient, connecting on Zoom and using time away from campus to dive deep into literature searches, analyze data, and write procedures. When restrictions eased in the late spring and summer of 2021, labs once again were abuzz as student researchers played catch-up and met challenges.

A sampling of other investigations underway includes:

In Phillips's lab, Biology majors **Maddie Goral '22**, **Taylor Wheatly '22**, and **Samantha Gilbert '22**, are conducting growth and harvest studies on hemp. In a select partnership the medical cannabis grower/processor Agri-Kind is collaborating with Arcadia, helping to grow the plants and providing the marijuana chemical cannabidiol (CBD) for projects—all of which exposes students to an emerging agribusiness gaining a sizable footprint in the region and creating jobs. Begun in 2019, the interdisciplinary program involves Biology, Forensic Science, and Psychology students. A new minor in Agribusiness, bringing together Biology and the School of Global Business, has been established.

The research faced a setback when about 100 mother plants in the campus greenhouse (which Agri-Kind helped renovate) were lost to an infestation of mites during the pandemic. In summer 2021, students tended to new plants, learning the basics of horticulture. They also are experimenting with the best soil and nutrients for different lines of hemp and the impact on

## Students are the driving force.

— DR. MARIA THEODORAKI

THC, the main compound in cannabis that produces the high sensation, and CBD levels. In addition, Goral is genotyping plants for her senior thesis to evaluate hemp lines for consistency.

Former students **Monica Marcuse '21**, a Biology major, and **Kylie Candela '20, '21M**, who earned a master's in Forensic Science, have worked with Dr. Phillips on conservation genetics, which studies the genetic health of a population. They used next-generation equipment to sequence the whole genome of five of the 11 endangered primates on Bioko, an Equatorial Guinea island off Africa's west coast. The work, slated to be published in three papers this fall, will help address conservation issues with these species, even as it has honed skills in

genetics, essential not only for biologists but forensic scientists trying to solve a whodunit.

Originally, the primate project was the brainchild of former Arcadia Professor of Biology **Gail Hearn**, who started the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program in 1998. Arcadia students have conducted counts of the columbines, guenons, and other primates as part of the University's study abroad program. (Hearn and the program moved to Drexel University in 2007; she retired in 2014.)

Biology major **Mary Matos '22** is conducting a series of rat experiments under Assistant Professors of Psychology **Dr. Logan**

with grapheme-color synesthesia, a neurological condition where a person involuntarily experiences colors when thinking about letters, numbers, or words. Grapheme-color synesthetes are known to have better verbal memory than those without synesthesia, and Dr. Moore and her students are investigating why that is.

In another study with Dr. Moore, as well as Professor of Psychology **Dr. Steve Robbins**, Sar and Psychology majors **Jillian Brennan '22** and **Emily Brown '22** are investigating aphantasia, which is the inability to create a mental image in one's mind. They are investigating whether people with aphantasia have developed a unique compensatory

skill set that leads to superior cognitive performance on some tasks. One goal is to re-examine whether current self-report measures for diagnosing aphantasia might be improved with a more objective behavioral measure.

"They will have stronger resumes," Dr. Kohn says, "[and] when students are in those research labs with peers and with a faculty mentor they get to know very well, it builds a sense of community."

Students with Dr. Maria Theodoraki, associate professor of Biology, conducting research on breast cancer drugs in the Tissue Culture Lab.



## COCOA PEBBLES WITH CBD

In Dr. Phillips's lab in Boyer Hall, Goral is extracting DNA from several samples of hemp plants, which will be amplified and sequenced. She plans to compare the chemical signatures, or chemovars, of three or four lines of hemp cultivars from four different growers across the country "to figure out if it is genetically the same species," the pre-med student says.

Such research has only become viable in recent years, as states have legalized cannabis use. "There's all this mythology that came in from the illicit growers," Dr. Phillips says. "There's a better process."

For Agri-Kind, Arcadia's multi-faceted approach to its hemp program, as well as the Agribusiness minor, is proving a win-win.

"Educating the future workforce in cannabis and the plethora of opportunities within this industry is imperative to create

a successful foundation for the industry," says Chad DiFrancesco, vice president of operations for Agronomed Pharmaceuticals and Agri-Kind. "This partnership allows us to pursue various research objectives while allowing students to work closely with the plant and its constituents."

In her sophomore year, Matos began working in Arcadia's Research on Altruism & PsychoPharmacology (RAPP) rat lab as a caretaker of the rodents. Soon, her role morphed into much more. "I never really considered animal research until I started working with Dr. Fields and Dr. Duque," she says. "Once I started, I realized I very much enjoyed it."

**Fields** and **Dr. Juan Duque**, investigating the potential of CBD as a new drug to treat, or ultimately prevent, depression, anxiety, and even psychosis—conditions without effective treatments.

Psychology major **Sophia Sar '21**, who plans to pursue a doctorate in cognitive and experimental psychology, is continuing research on synesthesia in the lab of Associate Professor of Psychology **Dr. Katherine Moore** as a research assistant. "I feel like I grew into my own as a scientist," says Sar, who now mentors younger students, of her undergraduate experience. Sar is testing memory skills in people

Now, Matos says she wants to pursue graduate studies in animal behavior or conservation. Currently, she is assisting with a CBD study in which juvenile rats are separated from their mothers, a condition that leads to stress. Then they are given a treat—Cocoa Pebbles laced with CBD. The hypothesis is that the CBD will calm them. Eventually, the rats will undergo behavioral tests—novel object recognition, for one—to assess their level of anxiety. (It is well documented that anxiety and depression affect memory, Matos says.)

“We’re going to see if the CBD helps or not,” she says.

Dr. Fields, who says he was recruited in 2018 because of his passion for research, praises

Arcadia and its administration for encouraging faculty and student collaboration—and providing the resources, including partnerships with industry—to explore important questions around CBD.

“The [student] research experience,” he adds, “is one of the best ways to immerse yourself in a field of study, even if you’re not going to be a researcher later on. It gives you a lot of life lessons in a short period of time.” One of the most important, he says, is the ability to think critically through acquiring, integrating, analyzing and presenting information—the essence of research. “If you can learn and excel at research, you will have the capacity to learn and excel in most fields.”

Of course, it can be time-consuming for faculty, especially getting research newbies up to speed. Dr. Fields notes that the fulfillment from the work extends beyond what is discovered in the labs.

“It inspires me to remember the times when I was an undergraduate and a faculty member reached out to me,” he says. “It always made me feel special. I think I see the same light in their eyes when they know a faculty member believes in them.”

### “I CAN DO THIS.”

Back in the cell culture lab, Frank uses a glass pipette to suck up the many triple-negative breast cancer cells, known as MDA-MB-231, now detached from the bottom of a flask, where they had adhered in a flat, two-dimensional layer as they grew. The cells are so small that the flask looks empty to the naked eye.

Frank deftly performs the process, known as passaging. Since her first year at Arcadia she has worked with Dr. Theodoraki, or Dr. T, as students call the professor. When Frank was looking at colleges, she checked for undergraduate research opportunities.

“Dr. T’s lab stood out,” she says. “It was a selling point.”

Once at Arcadia, the volleyball recruit happened to get Dr. Theodoraki for “Bio 101”. One day after class, she says, she had this conversation:

“What do you want to do with your life?” Dr.

Theodoraki asks.

“I just want to do research.”

“What in?”

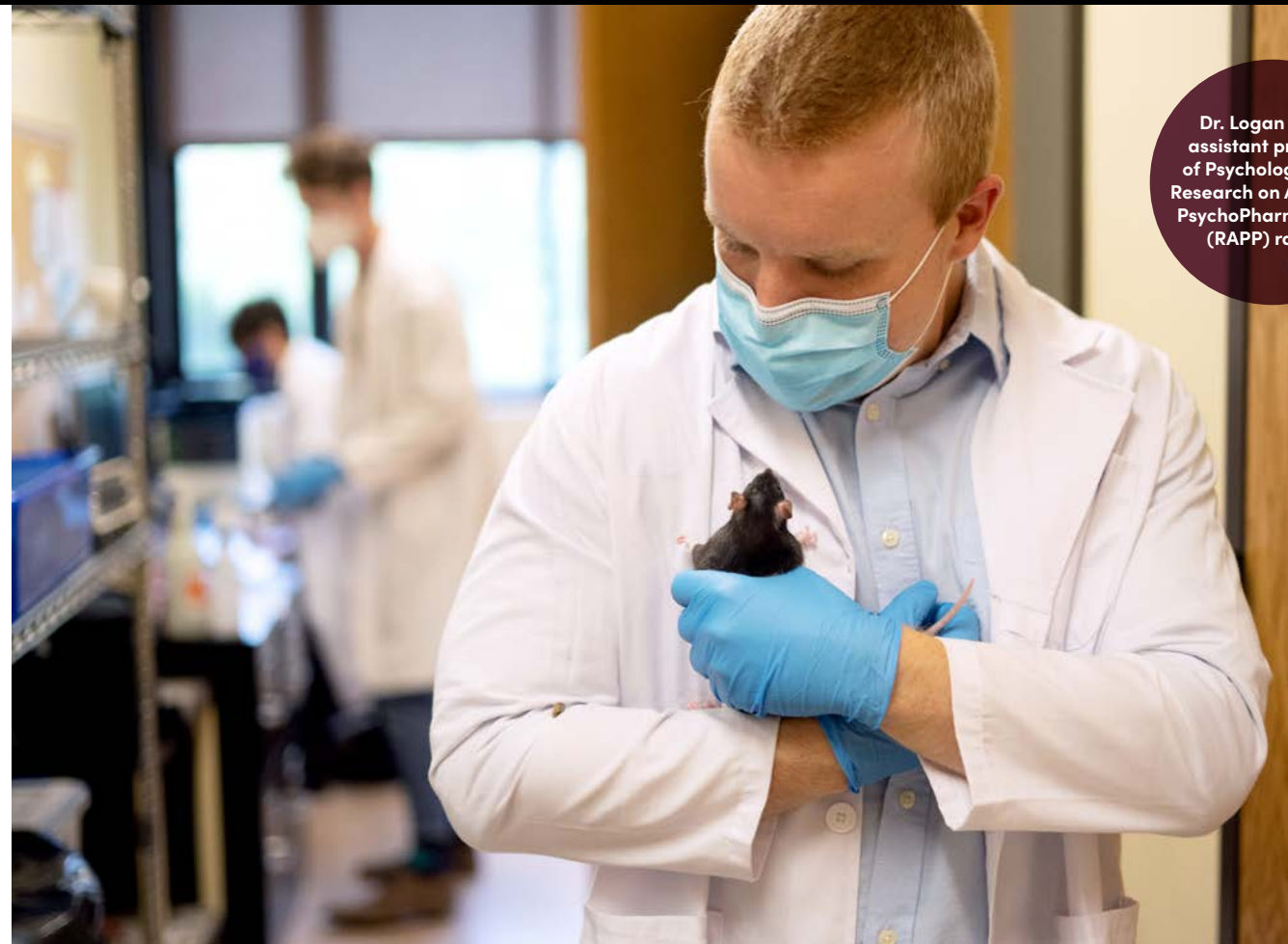
“Cells.”

Frank started shadowing Dr. T., whom she considers a mentor, absorbing the professor’s “see, do, teach” method of learning.

Frank, who wants to pursue a doctorate, remembers the first time she performed an experiment—a Western blot test to detect

Taylor Wheatly '22 and Maddie Goral '22 extracting the DNA of hemp plants.

Dr. Naomi Phillips, associate professor of Biology, in the hemp greenhouse.



Dr. Logan Fields, assistant professor of Psychology, in the Research on Altruism & PsychoPharmacology (RAPP) rat lab.

poor treatment options. The cutting-edge research has moved along, in part, because of collaborations with scientists at Rowan University and at the University of California,

San Diego—a partnership that also will help with the next phase: animal testing of DAP-19.

Like much of the research at Arcadia, Dr. Theodoraki’s projects are supported with funds from the department or the University. Often departments share equipment and labs. “If we had University funding, we could perform more elaborate assays and engage more students,” she says, adding that her wish list includes a flow cytometer instrument.

Still, what Arcadia faculty may lack in high-profile, outside grants is made up “with a lot of determination and time and dedication. I think students appreciate the opportunity.”

Aspen La-Riene Settle '19 certainly did. The 24-year-old

Biology graduate from Tucson, Ariz., says she has always wanted to become a veterinarian but was overwhelmed by the highly competitive process to get into vet school and faltered in “Bio 101” at first. “It set in this feeling of hopelessness, that I’m never going to be a vet,” she says.

Conversations with Dr. Theodoraki inspired confidence in herself. Soon Settle was working on experiments that generated two publications. The experience also made it easier to grasp techniques discussed in class because she had hands-on experience at the lab bench.

Now, she’s a second-year student in a doctoral program at Louisiana State University’s School of Veterinary Medicine in Baton Rouge.

“I still call her,” Settle says, crediting the good professor with opening the door to research and ultimately vet school. “I have no idea where I would be today if I hadn’t built a bond with Dr. Theodoraki.” ❖

Lini Kadaba is a former journalist with The Philadelphia Inquirer and a frequent contributor to Arcadia magazine.

specific protein molecules—solo. “It was, ‘Wow, I can do this.’ That reaffirmed for me that I really want to do this for the rest of my life.”

Frank continues the passaging process, releasing the cells into a new flask with fresh medium to allow them room to continue to grow.

Later Decker will introduce the cancer cells into a gel that allows them to move freely, and over time, the cells will communicate and clump together into three-dimensional structures. These spheroids reflect how actual tumors grow in people. That makes them ideal for testing compounds, and Decker’s senior thesis involves assays on DAP-19, an exciting gambogic acid derivative, testing its effectiveness at killing triple-negative cancer cells. (Gambogic acid is found in the resin of a tree common to Southeast Asia and known for its anti-inflammatory properties.)

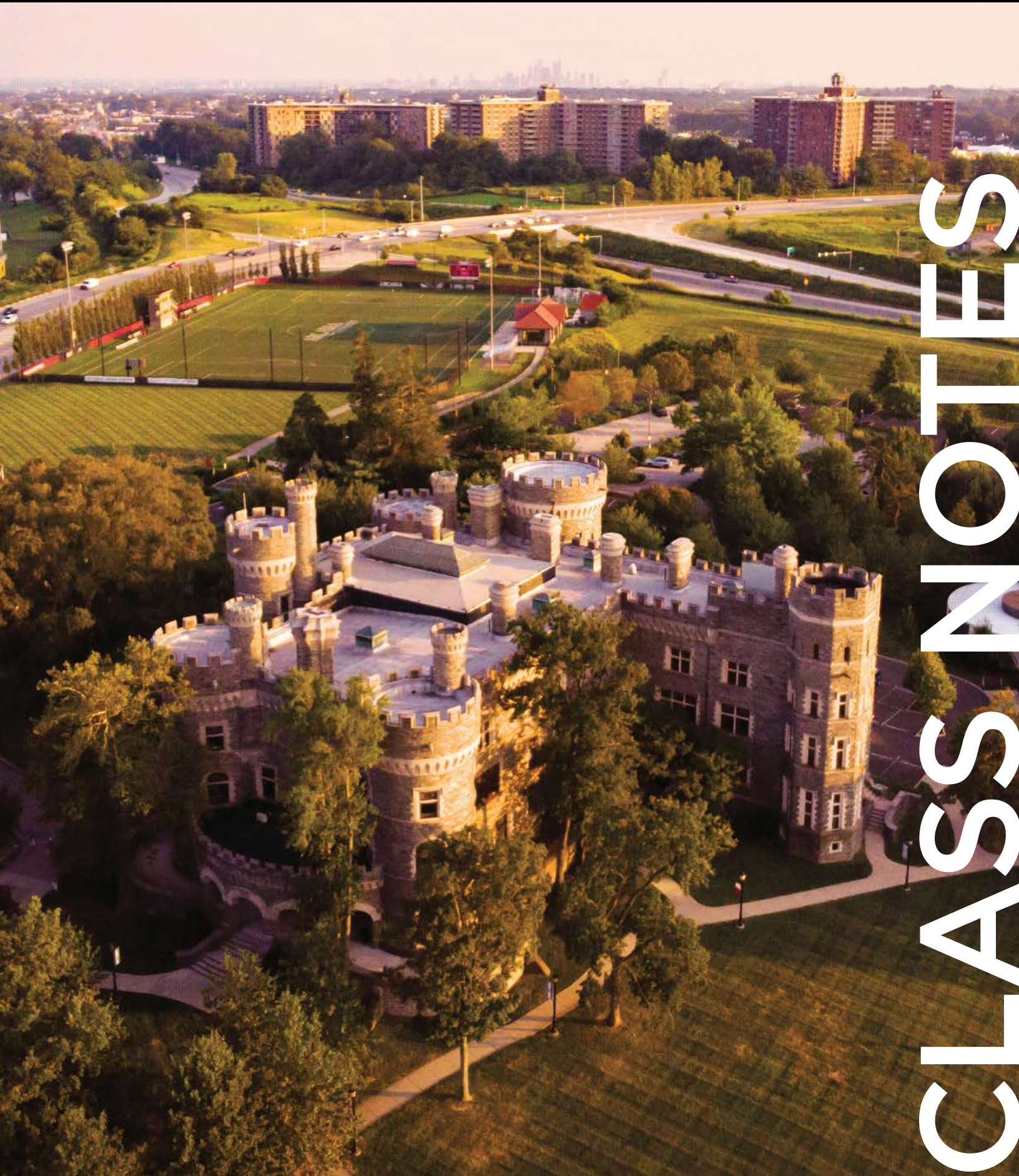
“I never thought I would have as much independence as I do,” Decker says, noting that friends at other colleges are often assistants to graduate students, rather than central conductors of the experiments. “Every time I’m in the lab, I can feel it preparing me for my career.”

So far, promising results have confirmed DAP-19’s potential as a therapeutic for inflammatory breast cancer, which currently has

I came into my own as a scientist.

— SOPHIA SAR '21





CLASSNOTES

**1954**

**Carol Young:** A big hello to my friends. I am living in Rydal Park, a retirement community in Jenkintown where my husband and I moved 14 years ago. He was there with me for three years before he moved to the Medical Center and he is now gone. My three children, my five grandchildren, and my one great-granddaughter are living nearby. Well, sort of. One son lives in Zion Grove, which is in black bear and bald eagle country. I participate in all sorts of activities both at Rydal Park and in Philadelphia, but I no longer sing since my voice is not what it used to be. I started when I was five, so 83 years is a pretty good run! I now write regularly for the newsletter at Rydal.

**1957**

**Cassandra Helder Hollifield** and her husband and friends are planning to cruise down the Danube river in November and are looking forward to traveling.

**Lois Wrigley Caldwell** retired from her 35 years of counseling psychology private practice this year and is now completing the writing of her second book, a biblical fiction novel about James, the brother of Jesus. Her first book, *Journey to God's Heart*, the true story of how God amazingly led and provided for Lois and her family (husband and five children), was published in 2012. This year, Lois and Rev. Jim Caldwell celebrated 63 years of marriage. First as Army wife and then as co-leader with Jim of church mission trips, Lois has been in all 50 states and 35 countries!

**1958**

**Barbara Dilling Kaplan** is observing COVID rules and spending time at home, doing a lot of reading. Her family lives nearby and still comes to Sunday dinner.

**1960**

**Brenda Seery Fazekas:** it just can't be possible that 60 years have gone by. I haven't been very good about keeping in touch with anyone but think about those wonderful days at Beaver College

often. I'm widowed and currently living at my vacation home in Vermont, but will go back to my main residence in Chestertown, Md in November. I am the grandmother of nine children ranging in age from 7 to 19. Doing some clean out, I found a newspaper article from many years ago about a former Mayor of NY, Bill O'Dwyer, Eileen's uncle and would love to send it to her if I had an address. I'd love to hear from anyone in my class. Take care, all, and be safe.

**Judith Berson Goldberg:** Like all of us, I am trying to get through this difficult COVID time. I have been able to see good friends and classmates **Ilene Gartenberg Blitzer** and **Gail Lubets Schwartz** since we all live fairly close to one another. Major vacations have been put on hold (along with hefty deposits) and I wonder if they will ever happen. I'm still riding my bike but conditions in the city have become more dangerous and the body is becoming more fragile. I feel lucky to live in NYC where I can enjoy the many cultural activities that are available and safe to attend.

I continue to work as a volunteer tutor with ESL students and am hoping to teach some citizenship classes and also work with new refugees from Afghanistan if any of them eventually land in New York. Looking forward to sharing more interesting news next time!

**Betty Holton Weiss:** After 55 years as your Class Editor, the process of submitting Class Notes has changed. Going forward all Class Notes are to be submitted at [alumni.arcadia.edu/ClassNotes](mailto:alumni.arcadia.edu/ClassNotes). As for me, I have three grandchildren. All are off at college, a Senior at Penn State and two freshman at Pace and Muhlenberg. I still play tournament tennis and pickleball. For our 60-61 reunion we had a virtual Zoom meeting. It was good to chat with fellow classmates. **Molly Fretz Stevens** served as the reunion chair and I was Class Agent.

**1961**

**Rosemarri Sheer Roth:** shares, I was so pleased to find that my

dear friend and classmate, **Anna Liu Hom**, is living in Wisconsin near her family. Her children and grandchildren are all over the country, even in Hawaii. She was to be in our reunion but something prevented the Zoom meeting from working for her. I am doing well and still working! The Rockingham Meeting House, built in 1787, provides a wonderful depiction of life during that time period. It affords me the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who come and visit. A National Historic Site, I am always researching donations and grants available for its restoration and maintenance. It is a magnificent edifice and representation of a time gone by so important in our history. We love living in Vermont and are so fortunate to have been here during COVID. Now comes the best time of year, foliage colors. My husband Hans, 86, and I, 82, are well and busy. No retirement for us. Thanks to **Eva Frank** and **Karen Alterman** for a wonderful Reunion. Wish it had been longer. Best regards to all.

**1964**

**Isabelle Selikoff:** So, I took a chance and headed to Provence, France the last two weeks of August. I had my official French Passe Sanitaire (vaccination pass) in hand. It was a last-minute decision, but both David, my partner, and I desperately need a change.

**Nancy Roberts Reid:** Since George and I live at Seabrook Village CCRC, we feel very fortunate for the safety and care we received during COVID-19. We have curtailed most off-campus trips. Our hand chime choir began in September after two years of silence. I will, once again, be the director of this group. I also play for half of our Wednesday evening worship services which resumed in June. We were able to attend one granddaughter's high school graduation in June and are looking forward to another graduation next June and a 2022 September wedding for two other grands. We wish all of you a safe and healthy 2021/2022 and continue to pray for an end to this pandemic.

**1966**

**Virginia Clapper Brown:** Our daughter Tammie's daughter, Emily, graduated from Duquesne Law School on May 16, 2021, and is to be married to Stephen Worrall next year, on April 16, 2022.

**1967**

**Carla Chepigan Branan:** I have retired as an ESL teacher, and I am continuing my singing in Moorestown Singers and at church, but my big news is that I just had a hip replacement, so not going anywhere for a while, but hopefully it will all be for the best.

**1968**

**Holly Anglin Robinson:** My beloved husband George passed away suddenly in March. We were married for almost 54 years. My heart is broken. We had a wonderful marriage, so much happiness, love, and FUN. We had traveled extensively the past 10 years since retirement. I am grateful our son and family live close.



**1969**

**Barbara Woodruff Chase:** (above) In college as a fine arts major, I spent many happy hours painting and printmaking in the studio. I never felt confident enough when I graduated to do much with it. However, about 10 years ago, I started painting again and have not stopped. I love creating, the marketing aspect, and exhibiting both at outdoor shows as well as at indoor venues in Maine. My husband helps with shows and framing, and I feel that I have a purpose, which is a real gift at this age. Life is good.

**Barbara Howland:** Pandemic and ZOOM – A bonus for Kistler 3 Friends. We met as freshmen in 1965 and have remained

close friends ever since. At some point over the last two years, we started monthly Zoom meetings on Sunday afternoons. Updates on each other, politics, health issues, husbands, children, and grandchildren! Sharing books we've read and movies from the couch that we have seen.

Prior to the pandemic, we returned for Reunion every five years, with or without spouses, and always enjoyed the weekend together. Periodically when traveling near where a Kistler 3 '69er lived, we would stop to share a meal or visit for a few days. Now we are in routine contact.

Zoom keeps us connected and we will continue our monthly chats. Try it with your classmates!

What I shared over the recent months over ZOOM...I volunteer at Household Goods, a local non-profit that receives donated furniture and household items. Recently homeless referred families and individuals in need select everything they want free of charge. My two girls are fine and their families and the three grandchildren (girls, 7 & 4 and a boy, 2) are a bundle of energy and fun!

**Charlene Pulis McClain:** Dave and I attended my 50th reunion in May 2019. While I was at the college during the day on Saturday, he drove around the area, reminiscing about growing up there. He also reconnected with a couple of friends that day. After the reunion, we flew to Rome for a 10-day independent tour of the city. We especially liked our day at Ostia, Rome's first port and a huge, well-maintained archeological site. In August 2019 we gathered our entire family for a week on Long Beach Island, NJ to celebrate our 50th anniversary. It was a wonderful week.

In October and December 2019 Dave experienced some medical difficulties. He was recovering well and was cleared to drive by the doctor on Jan.30, 2020. But on the 31st he was placed on life support and passed on

Feb. 4. His death was a total shock to family, friends, and his doctors. Thankfully, we were able to have a memorial service and burial on March 7, before covid shut everything down.

After his death, I became very anxious about maintaining the house, so I moved to Village on the Isle, the continuing care community where my mother lived for her last eight years. I am still dealing with some boxes of memorabilia that I didn't have time to sort before moving. But, I am happy here. A wonderful dinner is prepared for the residents each day and we can now eat together in the dining room since almost all of us were vaccinated in January. VOTI even arranged for CVS to come here to give us our shots so I didn't have to get on the computer to make those arrangements. I also don't have to worry about the maintenance of the apartment or long-term medical care. If I should ever need assisted living or skilled nursing, I will be moved to the appropriate building here.

Although my family has not been able to come to Florida since the services for Dave, I did fly North for Christmas last year and have my tickets to fly again for Thanksgiving this year. I sold our RV and pickup truck last year because there were many reasons why I could not drive it alone. But I did drive north this summer in my minivan so that I could visit family and friends along the way, just as Dave and I did in the past with our RV. Although I still miss Dave terribly, I feel so blessed to have been married to a wonderful man for 50 years. I look forward to my pre-COVID activities which hopefully will resume in the fall. I also hope to see my Beaver friends at our 55th reunion in 2024.

**Emily Solomon Farrell:** I was very lucky during the Covid year, in that I was able to attend two classes on Zoom but was not chained to my computer. I have a dog who knew nothing about epidemics but required a daily walk, which got me out. I also visited friends outdoors. While I could not guide at the

Brandywine River Museum, I was able to pursue my new avocation as a mosaic artist. My friends are the beneficiaries of my work with the occasional sale. Who knew I would actually enjoy geometry? Finally, my husband, the dog, and I spent the winter in Florida. How lucky were we!

**Judy Allen Smith:** Happy to report that I and immediate family and friends are well. At this time (August), I remain deeply concerned for the effects of COVID in this country. Tom and I have experienced a few changes. We have sold the old Smith family property in Central Georgia - emotional, but all OK. Our son, Kevin (with Ana and Lucas) have moved near to us with hopes of work nearby for Kevin. Lucas has entered kindergarten here. Grandma loves having them close by. A trip to daughter, Lisa's, last month was good - nice to have cooler weather in MA. Home remains a comfortable, safe haven. Blessings to all who read this!

**Sheila Finkelman DeAnnuntis:** I retired from the School District of Philadelphia in 2012 where I taught kindergarten and Pre-K for 25 years. I fill my days playing Bridge, volunteering in theaters and concerts, and am an active adult education participant at synagogue. I knit, crochet, and entertain friends frequently in our Roxborough home. Happily married to a musician. I have two adult children out of town.

**Susan Francis Dodson:** Still in Fort Worth and granddaughters (10 and 12) in Dallas. We have been going to Colorado since retirement for much of the summer and this September we'll also go to Rockland, Maine for a week (while there, I plan to see Penelope Ray!) I have really enjoyed catching up with Kistler Hall pals on monthly Zoom calls.

**Susan Rodgers Fleming '69, '77MED:** Our Class Agent, **Chris Connell** kept our connections alive for over twenty years, and we are grateful for all the time and energy she expended on our behalf. Understandably, she is cutting back on some of her volunteer activities.

Chris was a delight to work with, mainly because she is reliable, forthright, and a lot of fun. Thank you, Chris.

I will be taking on the Class Agent responsibilities and hope you'll write and let Arcadia know your latest news. As for me, eight grandchildren (ages 2-17), who live near us in Philadelphia, and trips to Rob's family farm in Iowa are keeping me energized.

**Susan Schwartz Liberman:** My law practice has kept me very busy during the pandemic. I specialize in estate and probate work in Washington, DC. My husband also is a busy attorney. We raised two daughters who live in NYC and enjoy visiting with our four grandchildren.

**1971**  
**Barbara Ulrichsen** continues to practice family law in Pennington, NJ. Blessed with a granddaughter and grandson in October and November 2020. I continue to enjoy skiing and showing my horse. Have also taken up dog agility. My husband and I are fortunate to be very active.

**1973**  
**Pamela Martin Molina '73, '03M, Pat Brubaker, Mary Alderfer, Marie Duke '73, '08MED, Melissa Hough, and Monique Miller** met to kick off their 50th reunion year planning (2023). Anyone interested in contributing or submitting ideas please contact one of the above.

**1976**  
**Zita Adler Starka-Pongonis:** Retired in 2018 after working in the Petroleum and Chemical industry for 40 years.

**1977**  
**Ellen Maser Cassidy:** I have been a Realtor since 1983 and a Real Estate Instructor for 20 years. Married for 43 years to Joe Cassidy, who I started dating while at Beaver. We have one son who graduated with 2 degrees in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales and is a Chef at Parx. He is married with a beautiful 2 year old daughter. We all live in the same subdivision in Bensalem.



**1983**  
**Mary Stillman Sundra:** (above) I retired after teaching Art for 33 years at the end of the 2020-21 school year. I look forward to having more time to do my own artwork.



**1990**  
**Janet Tittelmayer Barber:** (above) I have been selected for the 2021 Grosvenor teaching fellowship with Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. I was 1 of 50 educators selected from across Canada and the United States. This professional development opportunity will allow me to embark on the Lindblad fleet and explore the natural world in a place like the Galapagos, Alaska, or the Arctic. This opportunity will allow me to bring geographic awareness to my high school students as well as the Springfield/Morton communities.

**1992**  
**Denise Bird McFadden** is an HR Analytics and Technology Manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.



**Sally Patterson Le Cras '92M** (above) is the Pediatric PT Residency Director at Cincinnati Children's and is the PT Core Faculty member at Cincinnati Children's and the University of Cincinnati LEND program (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities). She is a co-author on a current article in Pediatric Physical Therapy: Parent Perspectives Regarding Care Delivery for Children With Idiopathic Toe Walking to Inform an American Physical Therapy Association Clinical Practice Guideline. Sally is the leader of the APTA Clinical Practice Guideline on the PT Management of Idiopathic Toe Walking, which is currently in the critical appraisal phase. She is a proud 1992 graduate of the Beaver College MSPT program and 2013 graduate of the transitional DPT program.

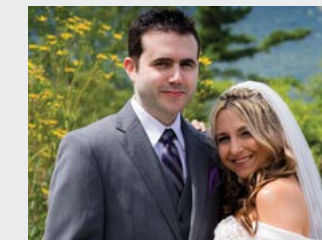
**1994**  
**Ana Sofie Santo Carr:** Some of my favorite memories are from Beaver College and time spent in the DSC lounge. I still remember a dance we had called the ultimate jam and a masquerade ball.

After 26 years of teaching, **Rosanne Bonaventura** moved back to Bucks County and is taking classes in Historic Preservation from Bucks County Community College.

**1999**  
**Amanda Kutz** continues to work at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Jersey as the Director of Outpatient Operations. She welcomed a healthy baby boy named Gavin in August 2021.

**Hope Fox Guyer,** Corporate Communications major, is delighted to marry Paul Hatcher of Morris, IL on Oct. 23, 2021 in a small outdoor ceremony.

Joining Hope will be her son Wesley, many family members and close friends. Hope works as a Senior Marketing Services Manager for MultiPlan Corp, located in Naperville, IL.



**2004**  
**Erica Fajge Gofdon:** (above) On August 11, 2018, I married my then-boyfriend of three years, Jared Gordon, at the beautiful Topnotch Resort in Stowe, VT, with a small group of family and friends. We recently celebrated our three-year wedding anniversary. In October 2019, we moved into our new home in Chalfont, PA. I'm a freelance writer and editor, currently working as a Feature Editor for The List, a news and lifestyle website for women. In 2020, I launched a wellness and lifestyle blog called Hot Mess on a Health Quest (hotmessahealthquest.com) to share my journey through infertility, anxiety, and a healthy lifestyle shift, and to share the stories of, and connect with, other women with similar struggles. If you can connect with this in any way, I'd love to hear from you! Drop me a line at hotmessahealthquest@gmail.com.



**2005**  
**Francis Zaccaro** (above) has been coaching Olympic hopefuls in male and female freestyle wrestling, and started the Lehigh Valley's first all female wrestling club and regional training facility called Valley Girlz WC and helped form Lehigh University's first ever Female Wrestling team.

Adding Lehigh University to the growing number of Division I Universities forming a Female program. As a Team USA Wrestling coach and mentor. I have sent multiple wrestlers both male and female to Junior Nationals, Team Worlds, and have five wrestlers competing for Team USA's National team for U16 and U23. Currently I have seven girls wrestling in Colleges/Universities and have coached one top five wrestler at Fargo and three PA state champions as well as five PA state place winners and one Northeast Regional Champion in women's freestyle. Currently working on getting girls/women's wrestling sanctioned in Pennsylvania schools through the #SanctionPA movement.

**2006**  
**Christina Bonaccorsi** graduated from Montgomery County Community College in December 2019 with a Specialty Certificate in Web Development-Design Concentration.

**2007**  
**Kevin Hughes** has left American Airlines after 10 years to join Amazon Air as the new leader overseeing Aviation Security, Government, and Regulatory Affairs based out of the Fort Worth Air Hub. He has been coordinating COVID Vaccination events for the Amazon Team and Air Carrier Partners with their household partners as well for the last several months.

**Sarah Katz** co-authored a paper in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior titled, More Frequent Food Shopping May Promote Fruit and Vegetable Intake: A Systematic Review.

**Erica Blum Shmilovich** is currently working as a licensed psychotherapist at a group practice. This past year and continuing on have really brought light to the importance of mental health. I am proud to be part of this movement. I am still married to my high school sweetheart and we have 2 wonderful children ages 11 and 7.



**2008**

**Brittany Cerota Palman '08, '12M** and **Scott Palman '07** (above) welcomed their second son, Jack Evan Palman, on June 25, 2021. Proud Big Brother, Ryan, is excited to have a new buddy!

**Emily Finch Polk:** My husband, Terence, and I have had two children: daughter Isabelle in 2018 and daughter Alexandria in May 2021.

**Jacqueline Anderson** completed a teacher certification course through Moreland University this past June. She is currently teaching World Languages at Roman Catholic High School in Philadelphia.

**2010**

**Shirley Pegues:** As of March 10, 2020 I taught my first class as a substitute teacher employed by the Kelly Education Staffing. A brand new career for me. I am now as of January 2021 the building substitute teacher of an entire elementary school grades K-5.

**Claudia Tang** is currently working as a nurse and living in England with her spouse and two large dogs.

**2012**

**Raven Eckman** released her debut novel, *Shadowpeak*, on Feb. 23, 2021.



**Alyssa Reynoso-Morris**

(above) was honored as an Al Dia 40 Under 40 candidate for her work as an author and Chief of Staff. She has three picture books coming out in 2023 with Simon and Schuster and Little Brown Books that showcase an Afro-Latinx family and their community. As a Chief of Staff in the PA 202nd Legislative District, she organized COVID-19 clinics, career fairs, immigration information sessions, neighborhood clean-ups, and more to serve their constituents and address their needs.

**Kasey Lynch Thomas** lives in Kunkletown, Pa with her husband and their two year old son, Llewyn. Although Covid has changed her job duties, she is still working as a Case Manager for Lehigh County Jail. Recently Kasey has returned for school to study Paralegal work and hopes to advance her career in that field. She is also ordained and performs Marriage Ceremonies for her friends.



**2013**

**Gabrielle Bruno** (above) recently married fellow Arcadia alumnus **Christopher Baines** on April 17, 2021. The two are expecting their first child in late January 2022.

**Michaela Walsh** has just submitted her master's thesis at Dublin City University, and will graduate in February with a MA in Political Communication. Turns out it's actually pretty hard to do an entire degree over Zoom when all your professors and classmates are on a different continent!

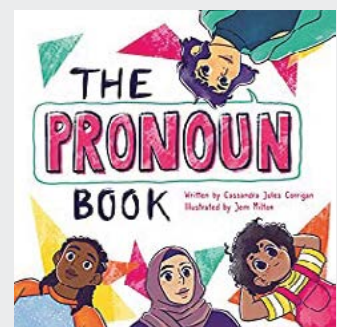
**2017**

**Samantha Wright** moved to Albany, NY, and is working for her grandfather's business, Nathan Office Interiors.



**2018**

**Akosua Ako-Addo** (above) graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University in the Spring of 2021 with a master's in International Educational Development with a focus on Higher Education, and recently began a position as an undergraduate admissions counselor at the University of Pennsylvania.



**Cassi Parnell '18, '19M** is proud to announce the publication of two new books. *The Pronoun Book: She, He, They, and Me* (above) is a picture book that explains pronouns and how they relate to gender identity and expression recommended for children ages 5-9 years old. *Spirals and Ladders* is a poetry chapbook exploring mental

health, relapse, and recovery. You can find these titles wherever books are sold, just search for the titles or for Cassi's pen name, Cassandra Jules Corrigan.

**Samantha Hipe** earned a MSc with Merit in Psychological and Psychiatric Anthropology in Dec. 2019 from Brunel University London. I moved to Las Cruces, NM where they are now the Studio Programs Coordinator at the Las Cruces Museum of Art and is going back to school at New Mexico State University for their Museum Studies Certificate.



**2019**

**Klarissa Hudson** (above) graduated from Temple University in May 2021 with a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, and is now working as a 4th-8th grade School Counselor at Edward T. Steel Elementary School in Philadelphia.

**2020**

**Erin Donoho '20M** is currently working in a contract role as an assistant nonfiction and fiction editor for Emerging Ink Solutions, which provides editing services for authors.

**Mary Murray** was named Assistant Softball Coach at Rowan University; graduates in December 2021 with a Masters of Arts in Communication from Johns Hopkins University.

**William Raab 2020MED** is working as an Art Teacher at North Penn High School, teaching Digital Photography, Graphic Design, and Animation. They are excited to be part of the team and believe they would not be there if it weren't for their time at Arcadia.

**REMEMBERING LYANNE LINDO WASSERMANN '61**



**Lyanne Lindo Wassermann '61**, a dear friend to Beaver College and Arcadia University for more than 50 years, passed away on Oct. 9, 2021.

Lyanne loved her alma mater and her classmates and had said that, "as a loyal alumna, and later as a Trustee, I have always been interested in the wellbeing and the potential of our students. If I found an area where I could make a difference with my support, I wasted no time becoming involved."

Lyanne, who celebrated her 50-year class reunion this year, supported Hillel at Arcadia, The Fund for Arcadia, the Career Mentoring Program, and the Day of Gratitude with the College of Global Studies, among many others. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Knights for Nutrition Food Pantry.

In 2015, Lyanne received the Golden Disc Award for Meritorious Service. As a Trustee Emerita, Lyanne served on several leadership committees, including the Executive, Enrollment Management, College of Global Studies, Student Life, University Advancement, and Arcadia 360 committees.

Lyanne married Dr. Barton (Barry) Wassermann, with whom she had two sons, Marc David and Richard John. She had a deep affinity for art and beauty, and her mellifluous soprano singing voice brought beauty to several synagogue choirs.

Born and raised in the Republic of Panama, Lyanne earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at Beaver College and a master's degree in public relations from American University. She worked for three decades for B'nai B'rith Women, American Cancer Society, Cuban American Nation Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation of the National Capital area, and the United Way Retirees Association.



A young Lyanne in her pollera, the national dress of Panama, with templeques in her hair.

**In Memoriam**

**1940**  
Kathryn McCutcheon Wilson

**1945**  
Helen Liacouras Lambros

**1947**  
Marilyn Yost Burhoe

**1951**  
Mary Ann Raulerson Smith

**1953**  
Marilyn Neuburger Blocklinger

**1954**  
Virginia Hopkins Hillegass

**1955**  
Phyllis Smerke Croke

**1956**  
Sarah Smith Heylmun

**1957**  
Helen Bock Cuddeback  
Carol Grandy Kunzmann  
Bernadine Spangenberg Loeser

**1960**  
Elaine Brogowski Rapacki

**1963**  
Pamela Winters Dorrance  
Anne Cramer Hoover  
Maryellen Finneran Morris

**1966**  
Nancy Harris Rose

**1968**  
Nancy Young Humick

**1971**  
Lois Padmore Robinson

**1975**  
Jessie Coleman '75M  
Sharlene Fein Goldfischer  
Susan LaBeur

**1978**  
Sarah White Cooper '78M

**1982**  
Roberta 'Bobbie' Lewis

**1983**  
George Duvak

**2009**  
Faith Avidon Wohl '09M

**2014**  
Donna Smith '14M



**CLASS NOTES**

All class notes information may be submitted online at [alumni.arcadia.edu/classnotes](http://alumni.arcadia.edu/classnotes).

Q



A

## DR. MACALALAG SECURES \$2 MILLION NSF GRANT TO HELP GUIDE STEM EDUCATORS

This fall began a collaborative research effort involving several Philadelphia-area universities, led by Associate Professor of Education Dr. Augusto Macalalag. The effort will explore how Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) interdisciplinary learning impacts 7th- through 12th-grade student understanding through an educator development program. This research is funded through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$2.8 million, of which \$2,031,108 is awarded to Arcadia.

The program is meant to help teachers prioritize critical thinking and real-world applications of STEM over procedural knowledge. “Collaborative Research: Understanding STEM Teaching through Integrated Contexts in Everyday Life” provides a series of professional development programs for STEM educators at the middle school and high school levels to encourage connections between curriculum topics.

Here, Dr. Macalalag answers questions about the research and grant funding.

**Q:** *How will funding help teachers and students?*

**A:** STEM teaching often neglects the interests, prior knowledge, and cultural and moral backgrounds of learners; when it does, it often focuses on content and practices, which often results in students’ inability to connect STEM disciplines to their own lives. The lack of access to high-quality STEM education for low-income students of color shows the importance of finding new ways to provide and engage students in STEM education. In contrast, by engaging and studying STEM content through socioscientific issues (SSI), students are encouraged to reflect on their own personal experiences, prior knowledge, cultural background, and belief system as they inquire about and engage with ill-structured problems and controversial issues.

**Q:** *How will this help communities and schools?*

**A:** The Understanding STEM Teaching Through Integrated Contexts in Everyday Life (USTRIVE) project aims to educate about 3,000 students in grades 7 to 12 in four years of the project to become STEM-literate citizens and to act as change agents in their communities. Using SSI and justice-centered pedagogy (SJSP) frameworks, we plan to design and implement professional development for teachers to support them in

developing units of study that incorporate cultural competence, sociopolitical consciousness, and STEM literacy as central themes. This project will support teachers in developing lessons based upon the Next Generation Science Standards, emphasizing STEM modeling and scientific skepticism.

**Q:** *How did the universities and schools involved come together in this project?*

**A:** The Philadelphia Regional Institute for STEM Educators (PRISE), formerly known as Philadelphia Regional Noyce Partnership, is a partnership of Arcadia, Bryn Mawr/Haverford, Community College of Philadelphia, Drexel, La Salle, Saint Joseph’s, Temple, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova, and West Chester universities and the Philadelphia Education Fund with schools in the greater Philadelphia region. The group’s mission is to build lasting synergies among partners to strengthen all aspects of the STEM teacher pipeline: recruitment, pre-service preparation, induction, and ongoing development throughout a teacher’s career, in ways that no individual institution could achieve alone. PRISE hopes to make Philadelphia a leader in STEM teacher education and to serve as a national model for partnerships in STEM teacher preparation and development.



Dr. Macalalag with educators at a STEM interdisciplinary event for teachers in September.

**Q:** *Why is Arcadia taking the lead on this?*

**A:** The USTRIVE project was developed based on my prior NSF research project, “Philadelphia Regional Pre- and In-Service Teacher Conference Series on Integrating STEM in Everyday Life.” Approximately 100 pre- and in-service secondary STEM teachers and other Philadelphia-area STEM teachers participated in structured activities to foster their understanding of and skills needed to integrate STEM in everyday life. In addition to aligning units with Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core State Standards, teachers were supported to place STEM teaching in socioscientific and cultural contexts. The project resulted in two publications (e.g. the SSI rubric, discussed above, which will be used in this work), and two conference presentations.

**Q:** *What is the timeline for the work?*

**A:** We are educating 25 teachers from each of our three cohorts (75 teachers total through 2025) who will participate in weekly workshops, take part in field trips, and receive classroom support visits. At the end of the two years, our PD hopes to support teachers in order for them to: (a) develop units of study using SSI elements, (b) incorporate community-based activities for students,

(c) utilize elements of SSI in their teaching practices (i.e. STEM modeling and argumentation/ evidence-based reasoning), and (d) share their units of study with other teachers in their school to make their practice public through workshops and websites. These teachers will become peer-collaborators and work with a second three-year cohort of 25 teachers who will progress through this same model.

**Q:** *After the grant’s funding has been used, what do you hope will have happened?*

**A:** The USTRIVE program will enable teachers to develop and implement SSI and SJSP in grades 7 through 12 classrooms efficiently and effectively. The project will provide teachers the instructional model, tools, and knowledge necessary to design standards-aligned lessons grounded in locally relevant SJ science issues. Students engaged in SJSP through SSI will be able to develop their cultural competence and contribute in meaningful ways to their communities while achieving academically. While developed primarily for a secondary audience, this instructional framework could be modified for use in elementary or undergraduate science and mathematics education. ❖



**PRISE hopes to make Philadelphia a leader in STEM teacher education and to serve as a national model for partnerships in STEM teacher preparation and development.**



**1,853**  
MINUTES



**ONE**  
UKNIGHTED COMMUNITY

# UKnighted Tuesday

Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 6 a.m. EST through  
Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 12:53 p.m. EST

Celebrating Arcadia University with  
1,853 minutes of collective philanthropy,  
benefiting students and the future  
of our institution.



@ArcadiaAlumni

For more information visit  
[uknightedtuesday.arcadia.edu](http://uknightedtuesday.arcadia.edu)