TheDelphian

February 19, 2021

The Voice of the Students

Students Threatened on Social Media; What Will the University Do Next?

BY MARIA GIOVANNA JUMPER

In June 2020 a new Instagram account was created by an anonymous group of Adelphi students of color. The account, @blackatau, has been used to promote the voices of students who have experienced discrimination and sexual harassment on campus.

Within the past few weeks those stories have been publicized, including the names of aggressors students named. In response to these posts others became agitated and began spewing threats and hate speech directed at those that run the account and others involved. Later the account posted a screenshot where you can see someone commenting the "owner of the accounts address" (posted by an anonymous Instagram account) with the longitude and latitude of those they suspected ran the account.

Other accounts called for lynchings and other acts of violence. As the @ blackatau continued posting about these threats, the university began responding and calling for the students who were threatened to contact The Department of Public Safety and Transportation. However, many of these students expressed worry on the account about Public Safety's response stating that they didn't feel the department was protecting students on our campus, based on their past experiences.

Since these threats were posted, the university launched an investigation that now includes the Garden City Police Department and a private forensic investigation team to gain more information about the comments made. The administration hopes that the private forensic investigation team will be able to track these accounts and find out who is behind these threatening comments.

The Delphian did try to contact some students, but many said they were afraid to be quoted in the paper in light of *Continued on page 2*

The Unveiling of the New Ruth S. Harley University Center

BY RAVYN MALVINO

On January 18, 2021, the newly renovated and expanded Ruth S. Harley University Center (UC) reopened to the Adelphi community.

"While there were some construction delays due to the pandemic restrictions, our contractor partners worked closely with our project management team to keep it moving forward and we're pleased to open this major campus facility for this semester," said Todd Wilson, Adelphi's strategic communications director. "The expansive UC Dining Hall and a full-service Starbucks are up and running."

The University Center renovation features new event and meeting rooms with updated technology, lighting, seating and campus views. In the UC Dining Hall, outlets have also been included at as many tables and locations as possible as well as in seating areas throughout the building.

"I actually really like the new UC, especially how it has so many options for seating and charging your laptops and phones for classes," said Carson Bailey, a senior English major. "I feel like that makes it a really good usable space that wasn't always there."

Wilson added, "There are many great dining options in the UC, fantastic new stateof-the-art meeting and event spaces, and the new Adelphi Bookstore and spirit shop are open. The main floor has a mall-like feel with open space connecting the many offices and spaces."

Many offices are still operating remotely, however, due to the Covid-19 situation.

The renovation was done with sustainability as an important factor. "They did a really good job with additional seating and the modern concept," said Adelphi senior Gabriela Vidad. "I love that natural light floods most of the seating areas. It makes the space feel more open, and likely saves energy too."

The decision to renovate the old UC rather than tear down and rebuild was a recycling event in itself. Many of the materials used are environmentally friendly and reflect green building practices and an expansive exterior green space and overall reduction of waste all contribute to a more sustainable UC.

"I have also heard about an addition of recycling bins and plans to offer dish

services, rather than disposable containers, after the pandemic has passed," said Vidad. "Hopefully, they follow through with this and future students hold Adelphi accountable for making sure the UC remains as sustainable of a building as possible."

The logo of the @Blackatau account on Instagram

Editor's Note: If you have any informa-

tion that could help in the investigation

of these accounts, please contact the stu-

dent conduct office or Title IX if you feel

uncomfortable contacting Public Safety.

The administration would like to remind

help and protect students; however those other offices listed can also help students.

students that Public Safety is there to

"I never experienced the UC before this year so I am excited and loving the new views of campus," said Adelphi sophomore Julia Smith. "The windows and comfortable sitting spaces are wonderful and offer a much-needed relief and normalcy to living on campus."

James Perrino, executive vice president of finance and administration, said, "It is gratifying to see Adelphi community members enjoying the newly re-opened Ruth S. Harley University Center. We appreciate the patience of the Adelphi family during this major project and the creative partnerships that allowed us to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff in the interim."

Smith added, "Even though the remodeled UC opened during a rather unfortunate moment in time given Covid-19 restrictions, I'm glad our campus is celebrating our soonto-be bustling student hub."



Some of the new University Center spaces that have recently opened. *All photos from the UC progress page on the Adelphi website*

Volume 76, Issue 5

A Pandemic-Induced Spring Break Change Meets with Mixed Reactions

BY KATIE FARKAS & LIZZ PANCHYK

As the spring semester begins, students' thoughts and plans about spring break are also beginning. Though it's normally a time when students use their week-long vacation to relax and recharge or to travel with friends and classmates, spring break in 2021 will be looking a little different.

As stated on the university website under "Important Information: Preparing for Winter and Spring 2021," to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and keep students, faculty and their families safe, Adelphi has decided to "eliminate any extended breaks, including Spring Break in March, to discourage travel followed by a return to campus." Instead, there are five vacation days spread throughout the remainder of the semester. The five non-consecutive days off are: Wednesday, March 10, Thursday, April 1, Friday, April 16, Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 11.

In response to this change, students are experiencing mixed feelings. One first-year art student, Amanda Bremer, stated, "I don't think the five sporadic days of downtime that replace the break are going be that helpful. Five days out of the blue feels like a tease of free time to me. I enjoy breaks because they give me relief from the normal responsibilities from class. It's a nice breather for me to spend time doing things I like at my own pace, so without it, I may feel a bit suffocated in work."

Kenneth Dionisio, a first-year undergrad computer science major, said, "Though this newly constructed idea of Spring Break is a productive way to halt the spread of Covid-19, it does not serve as a conducive way for students to receive their deserved time off from their academics. The five nonconsecutive days appear to be scattered across the calendar arbitrarily. March 20 and March 21 are considered a part of our Spring Break, considering they are weekends? It would have been better if the days were planned in a more organized manner, for example, a day off every Wednesday."

First-year student Luid Merino added, "When I first found out, I was completely devastated because who doesn't love Spring Break? I understand that the precautions the school is taking are on our behalf. However, I do desire a week in spring to fully relax and immerse myself into that break so I can catch my breath."

A Word from the Editor

The propagation of hateful, racist and threatening comments have not been and will not be tolerated by *The Delphian*. As the Editor-in-Chief I pledge to do my part to promote the voices of students and help create lines of communication between the administration and the student body. As a staff, the editors and myself have been outraged and disheartened by recent events on social media.

As you will see from the News section we have been, and will be, reporting on these events and will continue to provide truthful information to support the student body. We encourage our peers to continue to share their stories with us to allow for accurate and informative reporting.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that *The Delphian* is the voice of the students. This newspaper, run by your peers, is here to uplift the voices and stories of students at Adelphi University. As a staff we seek to promote the events, communications and worries of students across campus.

This past year our student body and country have faced many hardships. In the past we have shown our support of the Black Lives Matter movement and other recent social justice movements. We will not in this moment turn our back on our own peers. *The Delphian* will continue to support the students of Adelphi in any way that we can. If you have any concerns please contact us at **delphian@adelphi.edu**.

For the rest of my term as Editor-in-Chief, I will do my part to promote these stories and show support for those on campus who have felt silenced for years.



If you need support at this time, or any other time, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC). They can be contacted at scc@adelphi. edu or at 516-877-3646.

Also, in addition to reading this issue, note that you can get more articles, updated information and access to past articles at our website: **www.thedelphianau.com**.

> —Maria Giovanna Jumper Editor-in-Chief

The Delphian

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Students Threatened on Social Media; University Takes Next Steps

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these recent events.

Jennifer Ruvarashe Bynoe, a former student at Adelphi who experienced sexual harassment on campus, said ,"I have been threatened by white students and members of his [speaking about the student who harassed her] community. They posted my address online. And the addresses of other students, tracking our IP addresses. I notified faculty members who then took it further. Only now have they begun an investigation. Only now have they made half-hearted statements about our lives mattering."

Bynoe's experience was shared on the @blackatau instagram account.

In an interview with *The Delphian*, Dr. Sentwali Bakari, vice president of student affairs, stated, "These threats prompted an immediate investigation with Public Safety and the local Garden City Police Department. We do not currently have any substantiated claims of racially motivated violence or harm against Adelphi students, and there are no people whose names are known. The alleged complaints are on private websites, which makes it difficult to determine and identify who is involved."

Dr. Bakari has continued to state that he, as well as the rest of the administration, care about the students and their safety. Additionally, when Title IX and discrimination cases are brought to the attention of the administration, they are immediately investigated, he said. "Even if students do not publicly see the outcome of any investigation it does not mean there were not sanctions taken against perpetrators," Dr. Bakari said. "We don't want our students to have the perception that if they do not know the outcome of certain situations that nothing is being done

Since these threats were posted, the university launched an investigation that now includes the Garden City Police Department and a private forensic investigation team to gain more information about the comments made.

or that we are not taking it seriously." Yet, across the campus students

understand that sanctions may not be publicly known, they are however confused about the processes the university takes when investigating Title IX and discrimination cases. Others have expressed the fact that they have made complaints and received no response from the university.

Dr. Bakari stressed his understanding of the frustrations that students are experiencing and hopes to continue to have conversations with them to fully understand their point of view.

However, when the university asked for further evidence, students felt disheartened. On February 6, the @blackatau Instagram account posted this comment: "We are not surprised that those who claim to have the skills and will to protect Black students have once again chosen not to. But don't worry they'll have another zoom call for us to share our feelings about being threatened with lynchings while they gaslight us and tell us it never happened."

Other posts point to the comments made on social media by the university.

About this, Todd Wilson, strategic communications director, said, "It is very difficult responding on a public forum as the university and that it is not like having conversations."

Wilson wants to remind students that the Communications Department is not doing the investigating, but is trying to provide useful information as it becomes available to them.

Ultimately, tracking anonymous social media accounts on a public forum is not a simple task. The comments and accounts have since been removed, which warranted the need for the private forensic investigation team. The university hopes to have more answers soon, but as Wilson mentioned, it can be difficult to track down these accounts.

Until those that posted these comments are found and held accountable, the students at Adelphi University and those associated with @blackatau, will continue to be fearful of the possibility of violence. Students should look out for communications about the Baker Tilly Audit of Title IX and discrimination cases. For more information, check out the second and fourth issues of *The Delphian* from fall 2020. Additionally, Dr. Bakari will be reaching out to student organizations to talk with members and hear from them.

About this though, Bynoe stated, "I might add that Title IX suggested I get therapy to get used to the U.S. culture. Which is to say that they told me to go and become socialized in expecting and accepting racial violence and sexual aggression on their campus."

Overall, students are tired of the constant forums and conversations and want change and increased transparency.

Bomb Threat at Garden City Campus

On February 17, 2021 Adelphi University sent out a Rave alert about an anonymous email containing a bomb threat on campus that was sent to a department that evening. The university got the Garden City Police Department involved and closed all centers for the rest of the day. At around 8 pm another Rave alert was sent out stating that the police concluded that there was no credible threat. Conditions have returned to normal at the Garden City campus and all other centers.

—Maria Giovanna Jumper

NEWS

A Pandemic-Induced Spring Break Change Meets with Mixed Reactions

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But the overall benefits of the spring break decision for the Adelphi community are clear for some students as it may work out better with their busy schedules. Second-year student Alyssa Furman said, "I honestly prefer the changes. I like having mini breaks that let me rest while not disturbing my routine. I do feel bad for those who were looking forward to going away for the holiday."

Although this type of spring break might not be the perfect fit for all students and faculty, a lot of thought and consideration went into this decision.

"When we were planning for the spring semester, we realized that the calendar merited careful review by a broad group of constituents in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on our community," Chris Storm, senior associate provost, explained. "We first looked to the public health representatives for guidance on how to think about the pandemic and what the implications for the health and safety of our community would be for various tradeoffs."

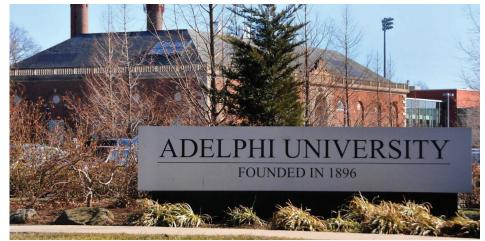
The five nonconsecutive day strategy was not the first option, but it was what they considered the best.

"We did discuss options such as starting the semester late or ending it earlier," Storm said. "However, we also recognized the demands of a full semester with no breaks and sought to find a way to provide some limited break opportunities for students going through the semester. This led us to the proposal that was adopted and communicated to the Adelphi community in the fall."

Although some are worried that they will not actually receive any break from assignments and work, Storm said that throughout the spring semester, "we will continue to remind all members of the community to deliberately respect the intention of the scheduled break days to allow everyone the chance to enjoy a break."

Erin Furey, outreach, training and mental health promotion coordinator in the Student Counseling Center, also weighed in. "At the Counseling Center we are looking at it as this is a loss for students and the Center is ready and willing to help in figuring out how students are going to move through this and teach skills and techniques to manage the stress and anxiety that might come with these unexpected changes. There is nothing we can do about this so let's see how we can build some resilience for students around this. Think about how 10 years from now you're going to be able to manage decisions on the fly because you moved through this in college."

Furey advised students not to squander the days off. She recommends planning ahead and trying to unplug. "Alternatively, some students those days are going to feel like they have to study all day so they are not falling behind in terms of course work. I think it's also important to remind ourselves that while this is really rough, we are helping save lives," she said.



Spring Break is looking very different this year as Adelphi University announced that students will now have five non-consecutive days throughout the semester instead of one whole week. Administration hopes to limit all non-essential travel that usually occurs with the break.

The Bright Side of the New Vacation Schedule

BY LOREN NEGOVAN

While Spring Break 2021 will look different, there are some reasons to consider a positive approach. For some students, a week-long break can be stressful. Some may not have the luxury of being able to go back home during a week-long break, and so they might find themselves alone on campus. This might lead to them having the desire to go back to studying and doing work, rather than taking some time to sit back and unwind.

Having just one day off during a week can really allow for students to take some time for themselves and set their studies aside. Additionally, with this new change, now we will have more breaks throughout the semester, which can actually be really beneficial in allowing for students to take mental health breaks.

Students can really utilize these days off to catch up on things they may have fallen behind on. Sophomore Valery Vasquez said, "I'll probably be doing homework or relaxing on my days off."

Many students can take advantage of these individual days and use them to take a well-deserved rest or catch up on their favorite Netflix show.

These days can also be used for self-care; it is especially important that students do not forget to take care of themselves during this time. Sophie Muhlbauer, a sophomore, said, "I would probably do what I normally do on the weekends. I would exercise, do homework, meet with friends on Zoom and do chores."

Following Muhlbauer's example, if you've been putting off an errand such as cleaning your room, you may use the day off from classes to catch up. For exercise, you do not have to do anything complex; your form of exercise may be just getting up and dancing to your favorite music. Dancing in particular is a good way to loosen up, so this is one way you can take care of yourself on the days off.

To help themselves get less stressed over what to do on their days off,

students can make a list of things they want to do. Of course, they should not pressure themselves to make a schedule, and only do so if they want to. For example, they may plan to catch up with chores and homework in the first half of the day and exercise in the second half.

Students can spend these days off by simply going for a walk outside and working on their hobbies. Sometimes we all just need that one day off so we can take a moment to just breathe and enjoy life in the moment. We have all been through a lot in this pandemic, and it is only fair that we try and make the most of these days off.



Although spring break looks different this year, it doesn't mean that you still can't enjoy those days off. Take some time to relax and focus on yourself.

Covid Update for the Spring 2021 Semester

BY RAVYN MALVINO

As we begin the spring 2021 semester, the Covid-19 pandemic is still an issue impacting Adelphi's operations and the university community. Nicole Gaudino MS, AGNP-C, Adelphi's director of health services, said that Covid health and safety protocols remain in place.

"This has enabled us to report a current infection rate (as of January 29) of less than one percent," she said. "Daily health screening on the AU2GO app will continue to be required for students, faculty and staff who come to campus, and essential visitors must check in with the Department of Public Safety and Transportation."

In addition to daily health screenings, masks must be worn at all times and social distance must be maintained. Individuals are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene and are also asked to stay home if they are not feeling well. Class capacities remain reduced per state guidance and are based on individual room capacities and non-class group gatherings are limited to no more than 10 individuals, per New York state mandates.

In addition to daily health screenings, masks must be worn at all times and social distance must be maintained. Individuals are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene and are also asked to stay home if they are not feeling well.

Gaudino noted that even if you have been vaccinated, masks and social distancing are still required.

"Adelphi University will continue to conduct randomized surveillance testing of our on-campus community to help contain the spread of the virus," said Gaudino. "All results, positive and negative, are factored into the calculation of our positivity rate, which is shared on our Covid-19 Dashboard."

Community members selected for testing will receive an email and AU2GO alert instructing them to complete a Vault Health surveillance test for Covid-19. Individuals must comply with the instructions provided or will otherwise not be permitted to access campus.

Additionally, residential students on campus will continue to be tested every two weeks and student athletes will be tested in accordance with the testing guidelines in place at the time, as published by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the New York State Department of Health.

"To get tested voluntarily, or to use a method other than the Vault Health homebased saliva test, please consult the New York State Covid-19 Testing website for information about nearby testing locations," said Gaudino.

Zoom Fatigue is Impacting Student Productivity and Our Overall Health

BY BIANCA VIANA

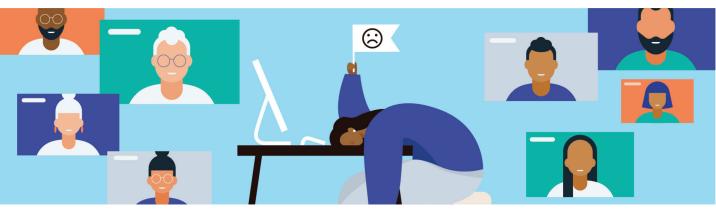
Megan Masilungan, a sophomore nursing student, is done with Zoom.

"Between online classes, homework and studying, there is no break from the screen," she said. "Whenever I am on Zoom for a long time, my laptop starts overheating because of how hard it's working. After almost a year of constantly using Zoom, I feel just like my laptop sometimes. It has affected me on a physical and emotional level. I've been developing headaches from being on my computer for too long. I've been getting tired very easily because staying on my laptop is draining."

What Masilungan is experiencing is Zoom fatigue, a new phenomenon that has emerged from the pandemic that people report experiencing after being connected on Zoom for long periods of time.

"How people define Zoom fatigue might vary from person to person, and research on the topic is still very scarce and limited," said Fernando Krause, an adjunct professor in Adelphi's Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology. "Some people report feeling tired, burnout and more distracted than usual while connected, but a list of official symptoms still doesn't exist."

When the pandemic first began back in March of 2020 many of us saw Zoom as a somewhat positive change for



As students embark on their second semester of mainly virtual education, many are starting to suffer from the adverse effects of Zoom fatigue. *Image courtesy of Google*

school. After all, we're all used to being online for social and entertainment purposes. But this semester as many of us continue our college careers via Zoom, we can benefit from advice about how to handle the symptoms that Masilungan described.

Michael Moore, an associate professor in the Psychology Department, added that it's not just students who are experiencing fatigue. Professors are also saying that they're experiencing it.

"It comes down to being able to pay attention and stay engaged for less time in Zoom classes or meeting," Moore said. "Students and faculty alike have noticed that three hours of in-person classes seemed more or less do-able, yet it is almost impossible to stay engaged for three hours in a Zoom class."



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And most of us far exceed that screen time on a daily basis due to our course load and schedules.

Krause said that age may affect how one experiences Zoom fatigue.

"In fact, it is possible that symptoms might even vary between different generations. For example, it is well established that people from Gen Z are more well-versed with technology and naturally spend more time connected than other generations," he said. "That may mean that for most college students Zoom fatigue might be less of an issue and might present differently from other generations. However, it is important to note that this is still all speculation."

Krause added that there are various ways in which symptoms can present. "Various hypotheses are being considered at the moment, from biological aspects (like possible differences in heart rate or levels of hormones), to neuropsychological ones (like differences in the brain's reward system, problems with facial recognition and even millisecond delays that affect communication)," he said.

But it may not just be the actual screen time that's the issue, Moore said. One thing that is key is understanding that students—and faculty—may be having a tough time with the isolation and demands of online education.

"It doesn't help that the uncertain nature of our times and the threat of Covid may mean that you are fearful and worried about sensations related to your physical body (`Am I getting sick?') and the behaviors of others with whom you live (`Did my dad just leave the house without a mask?')," he said. "All of these experiences are going to be taxing to your ability to pay attention and both faculty and students need to be mindful of this."

Masilungan can relate. As a nursing student, she is in one of the most rigorous and dense course loads a student can experience in their undergrad years. She said the difficulties of the pandemic have affected her aside from just online school. "It's been difficult not being able to see family and friends as often as I usually do," she added.

This is true for many of college students. In-person classes allowed for us to have social interaction daily. Many students rely upon family and friends as a support system and sometimes you just cannot get that same support through a screen. Constantly being isolated from others and attached to a screen can have a severe impact on one's mental health. Nationwide surveys are showing a major increase in symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression for elementary school kids learning at home and U.S. workers who are working from home since the pandemic started. So, it's not surprising that many college students are also experiencing these issues as a direct result of this pandemic.

"It feels like a never-ending cycle of stress where there's no separation between school and home because I use my laptop for school, homework, studying and even enjoyable activities like watching Netflix," Masilungan said.

Moore said in times where we are often overworked and stressed it is important that we remember to take care of ourselves. To combat the effects of Zoom fatigue, Krause recommended: Step away from the screen. Get up and stretch, walk around, go outside for a few minutes for air. "We need to undo the damage of sitting in front of our screens for eight-plus hours a day," he said.

He also suggested using virtual reality headsets to project ourselves as full body avatars so our interpersonal interactions feel more interactive and more social, as opposed to just seeing each other in 2D on a screen. "You can simulate physical touch through virtual hugs, handshakes, high fives and fist bumps," he said.

However, Krause said there is no real solution for combating Zoom fatigue because "we are just avoiding the actual question of 'how do we feel normal again?' To address that, people need support. They need consistent, affordable access to mental health resources."

He recommends contacting mental health resources such as therapists. "Therapists are doing essential work by guiding people through this situation and containing their feelings of anxiety, depression, isolation and grief, and helping them find ways to cope with this new reality."

At Adelphi, the Student Counseling Center (SCC) is a resource that is always available to students and is free of charge. In times like these it is important to seek help if you or others around you notice that your mental health is declining. The Long Island Crisis Center is another resource available to all and can be reached at 516-679-1111.

As we continue into this semester, prioritize yourself and seek help if you need it. As a community we must continue to support each other. Remember to check in with your friends and family as well.

EDITORIALS

Antivaxxers and Their Impact on Successful Herd Immunity for Coronavirus

BY MOLLY AMICK

After a grueling 10 months of coronavirus maintaining its pandemic status, the Covid vaccine offers hope by route of herd immunity. When the Pfizer vaccine was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) I, like many others, received the news in amazement: We can finally succeed where our country's inconsistently followed social distancing and mask-wearing mandates failed. We can vaccinate the people to immunize those at risk, stop the spread and wrangle the coronavirus. One problem: the anti-vaccine movement persists and many Americans will not accept a vaccine.

CNBC reports that 70-85 percent of the population needs to be vaccinated in order for us to overcome the virus and to return to our pre-Covid-19 lifestyles. In the latest CDC poll surveying the percentage of people intending to receive the vaccine, it was found that only around half of the population (49.1 percent, to be specific) indicated they were likely to get a vaccine. Because this poll was conducted in December, there is a possibility that this number has grown. The poll also shows that 32.1 percent of people reported specific non-intent to get the vaccine, leaving about 68 percent of the population who may get it. If this number has grown since the statistics were taken, we could have

enough people willing to get their shots to reach the number we need for successful herd immunity.

It is true there are many people not only willing, but enthusiastically wanting to take a vaccine. This still doesn't subtract from the fact that there is noticeable skepticism and unwillingness to get vaccinated amongst Americans.

"We were getting 30% or 40% or 50% of those eligible who were passing on it," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said regarding those eligible to get their vaccine.

Why, in a developed country which has been fortunate enough to have safe and advanced medical technology, is it so common to see anti-vaccination (antivax) beliefs and such a lack of acceptance of the scientific community (who are repeatedly insisting vaccines are safe and important)? Unfortunately, the anti-vax movement is not unique to the coronavirus vaccine or this time period. Many of the beliefs that today's antivaxxers hold come from a 1995 British study that claimed the measles vaccine could cause autism in kids. This study has been disproven for quite some time, but many still reference it as a reason to avoid all vaccines.

Some antivaxxers are also conspiracy theorists, sharing their beliefs online in community forums such as Reddit. Apps like Instagram and Twitter also hold many anti-vax accounts and posts.



Covid-19 vaccine image from reuters.com

The social media conspiracy theorists share beliefs that the Covid vaccines contain a secret implant to track those injected with it, and that Bill Gates is behind these tracker-vaccines. Another common conspiracy theory says that the vaccine is capable of altering human DNA, which it is not. These public forums become dangerous because individuals who might otherwise turn to scientists and professionals for vaccine information are now looking to posters (who often have little to no qualification to be speaking authoritatively on the topic) for their information. In these forums, conspiracy theorists and antivaxxers affirm one another while most of the general public would disagree with antivaxxers in ordinary communication. This causes them to maintain and defend unfounded beliefs.

While the increased rollout of Covid vaccinations is letting us imagine a post-pandemic society, those refusing vaccines may make this an unattainable reality. Most people, luckily, do accept vaccines. But it's still important we fight the stubborn misinformation about vaccines for everyone's sake so that maybe this year life can return to normal.

What Does the Black Lives Matter Movement and the NBA Have to Do with Our Morals?

BY KEVIN HARINARINE

What did you see when you looked out of your window last summer? Did you see the protesters marching down the street? Maybe you got a glimpse of the unrest that the media kept playing on TV? Or maybe you heard the National Basketball Association (NBA) was canceling some of its games? All these things were happening to get one message across: Something must change for us to remain intact as a community.

This all started with police violence against the Black community. It kept happening as the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement spread across U.S. cities. So many of us reacted to some simple fact: During 2020 alone, African Americans were targets of police violence. According to Mapping Police Violence, a research collaborative that collects statistics about police killings, Black people were 28 percent of those killed by police in 2020 despite being only 13 percent of the population. There were only 18 days in 2020 when police didn't kill a person of color.

Even more horrific is when you put a face to those numbers or when you see police violence on video. In the August 2020 shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, we saw a man gunned down by police in front of his children. We saw a trust broken between police and the people they swore to protect. We weren't the only ones watching. That night, NBA players removed themselves from playing their game. It wasn't just because they wanted to send a message, but rather they saw what many Americans saw. Blake could have easily been them; any one of them could have been a name showing up on the news that night. You, me and especially those in the Black community could have been killed by police last year. What happens when those sworn to protect you become the greatest threat?

Kyle Goon, a journalist for "The Orange County Register," quoted Lebron James, a notable player leading this charge: "It's fortunate that we had the George Floyd video to see it. ... Is that what we need — to see a video of Breonna being killed for people to realize how bad the situation is?"

Sports players speaking up for racial justice isn't a new phenomenon. In 2016, Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem. Before Kaepernick, there were protests within the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) where players like Tina Charles wore black T-shirts during their games causing players to be fined. The difference today is public support for BLM and many more have seen these videos of inhumane acts. Yet there has still been some backlash and outrage in response to these protests.

There are some who believe that "politics" should be left off the court. Former President Donald Trump stated to Fox News that the NBA had lost him as a viewer due to its players taking a knee. Other proponents against this criticize players for "taking the night off" as they wouldn't be facing financial burdens. Some people even say that NBA players aren't paid to have a political outlook. While this is true, what many forget is that the wealth these players have was never "simply handed to them." And let's not forget these players are entitled to have human reactions to the loss of another life due to senseless violence.

There's no denying that the actions of WNBA and NBA players have raised awareness. You're probably wondering whether their protests will affect the nation, if any long-term impact is being achieved. Well, we need to take into account that throughout the history of sports, people have learned to respect these players and listen to what they have to say. We sometimes see ourselves in these players. We want them to succeed because to us these players are role models. Some might even go as far as to call these players our moral heroes because they teach us to be the best that we can on and off the court while treating everyone with fairness and value. So why should we expect a moral hero to stand on the sidelines when they could move so many people into doing the right thing in making a fair and just society?

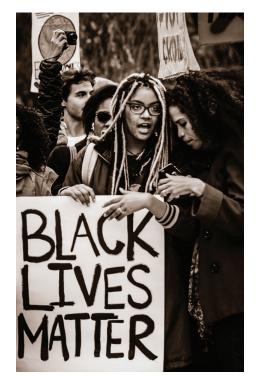


Photo from a 2020 Black Lives Matter Protest Image from Flickr.com

EDITORIALS

The Value of Recent Movements to Revive the Arts the Pandemic Interrupted

BY NAVEED SHAH

When I decided to take a painting class last year as opposed to another biology class, I was truly humbled. We learned the contrast between light and dark and studied the nuances of each unique shade as one goes from white to black. My professor had tasked us with painting an object while accentuating its shadows when presented under light. We were presented with simple cans, vases, pots and other items. I picked up the 20-pound sculpture of a head with intricate facial features and I brought it to my table. As I looked at the head and then back down at my empty canvas I gained a newfound appreciation for the arts.

With the Covid-19 outbreak, many people have lost their jobs, especially those in the art industry. According to NPR, the pandemic has caused, "hundreds of millions of dollars in ticket-sales losses, billions in falling music-industry stock prices and generating an unprecedented level of financial anxiety for artists, event organizers and other behind-the-scenes workers who rely on live events to make their ends meet."

In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo recently announced his plans to revive the arts. According to the Governor, bringing back the arts is indispensable, not only to bring back jobs to struggling artists, but also to bring back the excitement and energy that is unique to New York state. Governor Cuomo said, "What is a city without social, cultural and creative synergies? New York City is not New York without Broadway."

According to the "New York Times," the state will offer pop-up concerts featuring artists such as Hugh Jackman, Chris Rock, Amy Schumer and Renée Fleming. New York state will partner the Mellon Foundation to provide grants to create work and resources to the struggling artist communities. In addition, a pilot program will be put in place to determine ways in which social-distance performances can be held in a safe way in these venues, where seating is dynamic.

Governor Cuomo also highlighted his plan to use pop-up sites to test individuals for Covid, so people could be tested before entering venues. In this way, we can continue to reduce the spread of Covid, while also returning to normalcy.

Aside from the work being done by government officials, there are many ways that we can all get involved to help artists. According to NPR, the quickest way to support artists is to buy their work or to donate to their channels. However, it was also noted to be cautious in buying physical merchandise, since the outbreak has caused disruptions for most supply chains in the United States.

Another way to help is to tune in to artist's live virtual shows. Although artists will not be making nearly as much through these virtual shows, fans can tune in and donate through the payment options provided by the artists.



Image from pixabay.com

Money aside, these virtual shows allow artists to reconnect with their fans and allow these communities to remain intact. Streaming music is another great way to show your support to your favorite artists. Finally, emergency funds have been created for struggling artists and fans can donate through these ways as well.

Despite the hard times felt by all, especially by artists, I am hopeful that with increased testing and the distribution of the vaccine, New York will be able to revive its culture and the arts and normalcy will return.

Hopeful Lessons Learned from a Tumultuous Academic Year

BY NICOLAS RONTANINI



Image from pacollege.edu

With the new year and semester now well underway, it is easy to hope for a clean start. After the tumultuous year that we all experienced, it is easy to understand why people would want to move on. While last year was certainly frustrating, it's also worthwhile to remember the lessons that can be learned from this.

First of all, while none want to go through a pandemic again, going

through it once gives you the skills needed should a similar scenario arise. My professor told me this at the end of the spring semester last year, and it really helped me throughout the rest of the year.

The idea that being able to do this a second time, despite not wanting to at all, allowed me to perceive the situation from a different viewpoint. I was able to focus on what I needed to get done, rather than worry about something that is out of my control. More than that, I was able to realize the importance of keeping in touch with someone.

Having someone who you can talk to about what you're dealing with helped me to appreciate the people in my life and not take them for granted.

Another lesson I learned was the importance of keeping a task list. Last year was more stressful than I had anticipated it being and keeping track of what assignments I had to complete and when they were due became key. When something as stressful as a nationwide quarantine happens, it's easy to lose track of time and productivity.

I had some difficulty with finding the energy to keep going. By keeping track of what was happening with my work, I found it easier to find the energy I needed, because I had to channel that energy into something. I found my reason to get up in the morning and kept going.

But most important of all, my experiences during remote learning taught me the necessity of self-care. While self-care is always essential, Covid increases the need. If you try to do everything at once, you will just burn yourself out.

It's still a while until the pandemic is behind us, so pacing myself each day was something I learned I had to do. More than just taking care of myself, I had to be patient. The pandemic was not going to end in a month, and I needed to set a clear time frame so I could manage my time and expectations for the future.

Remote learning was difficult for everyone and presented no shortage of problems. Everyone was forced into an unprecedented situation and had to develop a whole new schedule and routine on short notice. But even though it was difficult, and many would rather not go through it again, it's important to keep in mind the lessons we learned during the pandemic.

Not only can they serve us for the remainder of the pandemic, but they can also serve us throughout our everyday lives long after Covid is behind us. We should remember these lessons because they offer us more awareness on how to better our lives, during or after the pandemic.

Australia Considers Law Requiring Sites Like Google and Facebook to Pay News Outlets for Their Content

BY JUSTIN KRESSE

In the modern age, the concept of just "Googling something" has become a predominant form of gaining knowledge. Say you don't know what an axolotl is? Just Google it! Google and other sites like Facebook have also become sources of news for many. For instance, when I first heard about the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, I Googled it, and was able to learn more by having access to a number of different articles from different media outlets. However, a new law being heavily debated in Australia would require Google and Facebook (and potentially other sites) to pay media outlets to show their news stories.

Google and Facebook are both

putting up a fight against this law. Facebook said that they would potentially have to remove all sharing of news stories on the site so as not to have to pay the news outlets. Google went even farther, declaring that they might block the entire search engine from users in Australia.

Australia responded, saying that they would not be stopped by these threats. For the moment, the law would only apply to those two companies, so if Google and Facebook did go through with their plans, Australians would be free to use other search engines such as Bing and Yahoo or use a virtual private network (VPN) to mask their location and use Google from a different country.

This proposed law is not the only one of its kind, but it is the harshest

one. Laws such as these create a dangerous precedent for forcing search engines to pay to show certain links. Sites like Google and Facebook are already helping bring people to the news sites. Shouldn't they be rewarded or at least left alone for bringing these news sites viewers?

Facebook said that they would potentially have to remove all sharing of news stories on the site so as not to have to pay the news outlets.

If Google has to pay to show users news stories, why shouldn't they pay Amazon to show users the newest phone or computer that they want to buy? It's a slippery slope and one that we may not want to go down as a society.

If Google ends up having to adapt to a system where they have to pay many websites to show their links, they will likely have to make up the funds with more ads, recording more of our data to sell, or some new and even more invasive way of selling our information.

The news media outlets appear to be scared of losing money, so they've lobbied for laws such as the proposed one in Australia. However, there must be a better way to maintain the open and free web while still supporting reliable journalism–which is undeniably an integral part of democracy.

Consistency in Quarantine: The Panther Pandemic Recipe to Athletic Success

BY MAXMILLIAN ROBINSON

When the Northeast-10 conference, which Adelphi competes in, suspended all competition for fall sports in July 2020, the future looked bleak for many athletes striving to improve their skills for the season. For others, professional aspirations were put in jeopardy. The resulting lack of practice and games and having multiple facilities getting shut down again due to the pandemic are ingredients that could easily leave many athletes with almost no resources to improve their game.

However, a few athletes remain unfazed by whatever stands in their way and have instead decided to use this time to create their own recipes for success.

"My love for lacrosse and sports in general has held me accountable to live a healthy and active lifestyle," said men's lacrosse player Gordon Purdie Jr. "Each day I feel obligated to wake up, eat healthy and exercise throughout my day."

Purdie Jr, a graduate student, feels confident that his same love for the sport will carry over into the next chapter of his life as well.

"I believe as a physical education teacher, it is important to practice what you preach," Purdie Jr. said. "It's my hope that I can lead future students in the right direction with their health and achievements through knowledge I have gained as a student athlete at Adelphi University."

Even undergraduate student athletes agree with him, that consistency is key.

"My sister has been my running buddy for the past few months," said track and field runner Isabel Marsh. "Since we're teammates, it's reassuring to know that I have someone to experience with. We both have our off days, but it just takes one brave soul to stay motivated and get each other going."

"The most important thing in staying consistent while playing basketball is to work on your skills every day," said women's basketball player Maeve MacNeill. "Teammates and coaches notice when you go a long period of time, like the summer and you don't touch a basketball. It's important to dedicate time every day."

But then again, how are these athletes able to develop new skills and apply them to their life outside of the sport?

"I believe what I have achieved as a student athlete will translate to the next chapter in my life," Marsh said. "One major thing I've learned is time management. With better time management skills, I have been able to balance my academics, work and training. Additionally, I have become more goaloriented."

Marsh isn't alone when saying her dedication to the craft opens up new skills away from just the sport.

"Every major life lesson I have learned has been because of sports," MacNeill said. "I have learned time management, dedication and teamwork, among many other things. Anything I or my teammates have achieved has been because of these values and they translate to everyday life. Wherever I end up I know I will be able to succeed because of the lessons I have learned on the court."

No matter where these athletes go in life, the passion to be better at what they do resonates with them.

"Knowing that I have the opportunity to better myself on the field, in the classroom, and to compete to win a national championship inspires me every day," Purdie Jr. said.



Isabel Marsh relies on her sister as a running mate to train.

Maeve MacNeill (right) is contantly focused on basketball, even in the offseason.

All photos from AU Athletics



Gordon Purdie Jr. eats, sleeps and breathes lacrosse into his everyday routine.



Panther Spotlight: Madison Graham Powers Through the Unexpected

BY SIMONE WALKER

Although this year brought about many challenges and a great deal of adversity, Madison Graham, a freshman member of the Adelphi women's basketball team, remains optimistic about what the future holds.

Graham, like many first-year student athletes, had a hard time adjusting to her new college life. Yet, this year brought more than the average struggle of acclimating to a new team and new school. She had to do it during a global pandemic. Arriving on campus in August, Graham had high expectations for her college experience.

"This year is definitely not what I expected, but that's okay," Graham said. "I think that these challenges I have faced this year have made me stronger as a person, mentally. Your first year of college is hard in general and then throw a global pandemic into the mix, it's not easy."

Graham and her teammates worked vigorously from September until members of the Northeast-10 (NE-10) division announced winter sports would not compete during the 2020- '21 season due to the ongoing coronavirus epidemic.

The news was tough on the defending NE-10 Regular Season

Champions, who had their NCAA tournament run cut short the previous year.

Despite not being able to compete this season, Graham is thankful for the time she has gotten to spend with the team and coaching staff.

After news broke of the cancellation of the basketball season, the team headed home for the remainder of the intercession ahead of the second semester.

And for the first time in a little over a decade, Madie Graham would not be playing competitive basketball in the winter. This rare free time gave Graham the opportunity to connect with old friends at home, as well as spend time with her family. It also allowed her to reflect on how grateful she was during this tumultuous period.

"I am most thankful for my family and friends. I wouldn't be the person I am without all of them," said Graham.

More specifically, the athlete lauded the impact her mother, Melanie Graham, has had on keeping her level-headed and motivated.

"My mom has definitely helped me push through this year. She's always there to talk to whenever I need it. I will always be thankful for her," she said.

While not spending time with

family, Graham expressed interest in wake surfing, a skill she had picked up over the summer.

Though the first semester tested her in many ways, Graham, a sports management major, did not let it affect her grades. The first year finished the semester with an impressive 3.9 GPA. Working hard in the classroom is very important to Graham, as she would like to work as a sports attorney for professional athletes someday. As for the future, Graham is optimistic for what is to come.

Being a part of a sports team here at Adelphi, Graham recognizes how thankful she is to have her teammates.

"They're always there to lean on if you need the support," she said. "There is always someone to talk to if you have a question about school, basketball or just life in general. Knowing that someone is always going to have your back is just a great feeling."

The Panthers returned to campus in late January and resumed on-court workouts February 4.

"Hopefully next season you will finally see us on court playing games," Graham said.



Graham, center, pictured with her family after scoring her 1000th point at a February 2020 high school game.

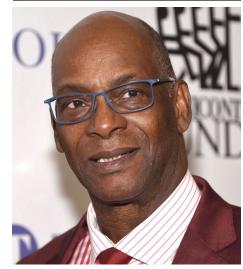


Graham posing at media day for the 2020-'21 season. *Photo from AU Athletics*

SPORTS

Adelphi Athletics Presents a Giant Leap with Olympic Champion Bob Beamon '72

BY MAXMILLIAN ROBINSON



Bob Beamon spoke to the Adelphi students, faculty and staff about his athletic success.

A meeting between great minds and great conversations took place Thursday, February 4, as Ron Lee '67, chair of the University's Board of Trustees, interviewed Bob Beamon '72, '00 (Hon.), Olympic Gold Medalist and World Record Holder, about his record-shattering long jump, the Black Power Movement and his remembrances of Adelphi. The event, titled "A Giant Leap in a Time of Struggle: A Discussion with Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Beamon," was sponsored by Adelphi Athletics as part of its 19th Annual Black History Month Celebration in conjunction with Great Minds, Great Conversations.

Beamon shocked the world during the 1968 Olympic games held in Mexico City, when at 22, he completed the world's best long jump, 29 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. At the time, it was one of the greatest feats and the record and the mark still stands to this day.

Beamon, an African American, had to compete for many things throughout his life outside of the sport he loved. In some cases, jeopardizing his career in the process. During the two-hour Zoom event, the explained his journey in numerous ways.

"Going to Jamaica High School in Queens [New York] was a great awakening," Beamon said. "I lived in a Black community all my life but I eventually was faced in a multicultural society. However, I was able to blend."

He had early success in sports as well. "As far as it goes for athletics, I

was starting to understand what they were about," Beamon said. "Coach Ellis [Larry Ellis, a renowned track coach] and Hilty Shapiro believed I could become a professional basketball player. I was an All-City player in basketball, an All-American in track and field, also setting city records in events [long jump 25'6" and triple jump 50 ft]."

Beamon became proficient in both events, the triple jump and long jump; however, he chose the long jump instead, despite excelling more with triple jump at the time.

Beamon had to fight for a spot to qualify on the Olympic roster in 1968. However, he was challenged with a bigger problem off the track.

"One of the worst experiences that happened was that the entire country was getting ready to burn," Beamon said. "Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, same as Robert Kennedy, and the Vietnam War occurred."

Beamon's integrity faced a challenge before the Olympics, when he and 10 other Black track and field athletes decided to protest the collegiate event held at Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah. It was a relay meet between BYU and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where Beamon had received a track and field scholarship. BYU had religious laws that were seen as unfair towards minorities. If any athlete chose to sit out during the event, their scholarship would be revoked.

"We would lose our scholarship if we didn't go but we stayed with our decision," Beamon said. "Us 11 lost our scholarships. However, I competed individually from the school on a travel team to showcase my skills and I did well."

Beamon remained confident heading into the Olympic Trials to compete for a roster spot.

"During preparation, I felt I was the

best," Beamon said. "However, I was realistic about the competition on our team [Ralph Boston, another Olympic gold medalist]. Russia had another jumper who won before as well and came to compete."

Ralph Boston is a three-time Olympic champion and was the first long jumper ever to break the long jump mark of 27 feet. "Without Boston, I wouldn't have won the gold. He was a motivator," Beamon said. "One of the experiences I had was when Boston beat me in the Pan American games. The biggest piece of advice he gave was to always make your first jump, your best jump, so others would notice."

Beamon would use the advice from Boston while competing for gold at the event held in Mexico City.

The rest was history...

"I leaped and it was amazing," Beamon said. "I looked at my watch and thought I was flying. The crowd went crazy. The jump was beyond measurable."

After the events ended, players went to receive their medals. Beamon was reminded of an unfortunate time of his life.

"When [Tommy Smith] and [John Carlos] won gold and silver in the same event, both players raised their fists, exclaiming Black power," Beamon said. "I didn't know about it beforehand, but afterwards, all hell broke loose."

Those players were kicked off of the team and sent home, like Beamon when he protested against the BYU games.

"Now they were perceived as bad guys," he said. "That was a warning sign for the rest of us but they took the fall. We had to stay focused."

Beamon, who began his athletic career at UTEP, embarked on a great deal of success following being expelled for refusing to compete at BYU.

With a gold medal in hand, Beamon had everything going for him already. The Phoenix Suns selected him in the 15th round of the 1969 NBA draft. While he never suited up for the Suns, it's an incredible accomplishment, nonetheless.

"I was great at track, but basketball was my first true love," Beamon said.

"Sports have been good to me."

What made him decide to go back to school and choose Adelphi?

"Members from my inner circle told me I should graduate college," Beamon said. "After consideration, I was told about this university [Adelphi], how I was ambitious to keep in shape and play basketball again. Mike Gordon [coach], gave me an opportunity and I played there for one semester."

He graduated in 1972 with a degree in sociology.

Beamon is in the National Track & Field Hall of Fame, U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, New York Track & Field Hall of Fame, and ESPN's top 100 athletes among many other sports accolades. His worldrecord jump was named by "Sports Illustrated" magazine as one of the five greatest sports moments of the 20th century. Today he is on the Jessie Owens Foundation Board of Directors and is an ambassador for Special Olympics. He is also an exhibited artist, and a motivational speaker.

Beamon sees promise in the next generation.

"We're on our way to getting back to real life in the right way," Beamon said. "Adelphi students need to take notice and start creating new innovative things that we [the older generation] never had before."

When asked about what Adelphi students should do moving forward, Beamon kept it classy.

"Stay in school, and be cool," he said.



Beamon broke the world record for long jump at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. The record, which lasted for 23 years, stands at 29' 2 ½ inches.

Brown & Gold's Mali Klorczyk Ready to Work Off the Court

BY SIMONE WALKER

She went from being the show, to running the show.

Mali Klorczyk, a former Adelphi University women's basketball player, is back on campus for another year as a graduate assistant in the university's sports information office.

After her historical 2019- '20 basketball season came to an abrupt end, the 22-year-old sports management major from Sandy Hook, Connecticut, knew she wasn't ready to move on quite yet.

In March 2020, the Adelphi women's basketball team had finished atop of the Northeast-10 (NE-10) Conference with an impressive record of 27-3, giving them the number one seed in the Eastern bracket of the NCAA tournament. The team was looking forward to making a deep run before Covid-19 dashed their dreams. Klorcyzk believed the team had what it took to succeed.

"It was just a group that cliqued," she said. "We were so willing to listen. We knew that we had the potential to do it and it was just a matter of putting our heads together and doing it."

Klorcyzk was a key member as a starting guard, according to Adelphi women's basketball head coach Missy Traversi. "Every day she was one of our hardest workers for four years. She was a consummate teammate," she said.

Besides playing basketball, Klorczyk also assisted the Adelphi Athletics Department as a student worker throughout her four years as an undergrad. When it came time to say goodbye after earning her bachelor's degree in exercise science in May 2020, Klorcyzk decided she wanted to stay.

"I never thought New York City, let alone Long Island would be a place I would ever go to...As soon as I came to Adelphi, I knew this is where I wanted to be," she said. "I knew that Adelphi had two graduate programs that I was interested in, and I had worked in the athletics departments. I figured why not ask and see what my options are here."

Five months after her senior season was cancelled, Klorcyzk accepted the position as a graduate assistant and arrived for her fifth year back on campus. In her new role, she helps to keep the Adelphi Athletic Department running smoothly and efficiently. If not for Covid delaying sporting events, Klorcyzk's main responsibilities would be producing content for the AU website, such as tracking stats, writing biographies for new student athletes and writing cover stories. Instead, like just about everyone else, Klorcyzk and the rest of the Athletics staff have had to make adjustments to their work. During the pandemic, the department is focusing on updating the school's athletics page.

In addition to sticking around Adelphi, Klorcyzk plans to be around the game she loves. While the two-time NE-10 Regular Season Champion already coaches a team in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) based out of Hartford, she has interest in being a basketball trainer and would someday like to coach at the collegiate level.

"It's been a part of my life, and I feel like once you've built a relationship with something like that for so long, you can't just leave it," she said. Her former coach also believes Klorcyzk has what it takes to run a team. "I would love to see Mali coach. I can't wait to see what the future holds for her; she is an outstanding human being," Traversi said.

Klorcyzk plans on taking things one step at a time while keeping an open mind. "With the world we're growing up in, there are so many opportunities," she said.



Mali Klorczyk's team photo. Photo from AU Athletics