

# The Front Page

Issue No. 15

The Newsletter for the Communications Department at Adelphi University

Spring 2019

## March Student of the Month Kerri Hayman, Junior Concentration: Media Studies



**Q: Why did you choose Communications as your major?**

*A: "It is such a broad major. A common misconception about Communications is that there are no jobs. Not only do I disagree with this but find [it] to be an important skill to have in any job in any field."*

**Q: Are there any professors who have made a significant impact on you?**

*A: "Prof. Thaler has been the most influential professor I have had during my time here at Adelphi. His enthusiasm and passion for each course he teaches provides a warm atmosphere for discussion and learning for all students."*

**Q: What is your favorite memory here?**

*A: "Being published for the first time in The Delphian. It was a great feeling to see my name and my article in print in an award-winning newspaper."*

**Q: What will you take away from your time here?**

*A: "An appreciation for intimate, class discussions. Each course facilitated for in-depth discussions about crucial topics we grapple with on a daily basis--from different opinions to different perspectives, all are welcome in the classroom and enhance our learning and understanding of each other."*

**Q: What advice would you give to students here?**

*A: "If you are feeling anxious or stressed during the semester, do not hesitate to reach out to your professors at any time. Our professors are here to help us succeed and to make the most out of our learning experience."*

## April Student of the Month Alyssa Striano, Junior Concentration: Journalism/PR



**Q: Why did you choose Communications as your major?**

*A: "I was an originally an environmental studies major. It scared me to be undecided, I thought I was an education major [and didn't realize I needed another major.] Now I'm here and I love it."*

**Q: Are there any professors who have made a significant impact on you?**

*A: "Professor Grabowski has been really helpful in my career track so far. He's the one who helped me get published and now I'm his writing assistant."*

**Q: What is your favorite memory here?**

*A: "During my freshman year, being published in the Queens Courier. It encouraged me to stay in the program. I found something I'm really good at and passionate about."*

**Q: What will you take away from your time in the department?**

*A: "If a class interests you, go for it. You never know what you'll find along the way. Take it, go for it because you might find a new passion."*

**Q: What advice would you give to students here?**

*A: "The number one thing is if you work hard, you can accomplish things you never thought you would. If you just push yourself, you'll be able to accomplish more than you ever expect."*

## Weinstein '06 reaches great heights in TV and film

Since graduating in 2006, Michael Weinstein has become an award-winning filmmaker and a director at the most-watched network on cable television.

When it came time to choose a path for his career, it wasn't a matter of if he was going to study film but where it would be.

"I wanted to make films since I was eight years old," Weinstein says.

He says he eventually chose Adelphi because of their accessibility to equipment.

Weinstein credits Professor Joan Stein-Schimke for helping really understand the professional aspects of filmmaking.

He also thanks Professor Terrence Ross for teaching him how to write screenplays and Helen Stritzler, who was chair of the department at the time. Stritzler even gave Weinstein a talent scholarship for his Showtime short film, "Runaway Wallet."

Even though he takes a lot of what he learned from college to his work now, Weinstein is his own biggest critic when it comes to the films he made at Adelphi.

"I can't watch a lot of the stuff I made in school," he says. "I actually burned some of the projects."

The one film that Weinstein is proud of is called "Heart at War," which he made in his Video I and II class. Focusing on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the college filmmaker shot the piece on 16 millimeter film and used a combination of narration, sound effects and sync sound. The movie was only seven minutes, but Weinstein says it took more than 100 hours to edit.

The film eventually won 2nd Best Film at the Spring Film Festival that year.



Weinstein Then.

Finding a job after college wasn't easy for Weinstein. He worked at Best Buy before freelancing for a company called the Meredith Corporation, where he worked on a show called Better TV. It was there where he worked as a floor manager and camera operator before getting his big break at Fox News, where he started as a stage manager.

Weinstein now is a director for Fox News, working on shows like Justice with Judge Jeanine and the Greg Gutfeld Show.

He says he's happy to have a job where he can also concentrate on making movies.

"I just feel humbled and honored that I get to be a director and I get to do it for a living," Weinstein says. "I never take that for granted."

He uses his free time to work on short films like "White Knuckle," a 2010 comedy which won eight awards and "If the Trees Could Talk," a supernatural holocaust narrative that won over two dozen awards and was featured in the Cannes Short Corner.

Even though he graduated more than 10 years ago, Weinstein says the college experience is really what you make of it. He says to use school as a learning experience to let you know what you need to improve on in your professional career.

"The most important thing is don't compromise your vision," he says. "Don't compromise yourself ever."

Weinstein is currently working on his first feature film called "Stolen Minds." It is set to be released in 2020.

For more information on this film and Weinstein's other projects, visit [www.runawaytrainfilms.com](http://www.runawaytrainfilms.com).



Weinstein winning Best Short, Best Director for 'If The Trees Could Talk' at the Widescreen Film and Music Festival.

## Catching up with Messana '13

Since graduating more than five years ago, Vinny Messana has made a name for himself with his self-created website.

Messana started what would become Access Baseball as an assignment for his Web Journalism class with Professor Mark Grabowski.

He says Grabowski was also important in teaching him how to make a blog and ideas to grow the site.

Baseballontheisland, as it was originally called became incorporated in February 2015 and the name was changed to Access Baseball in January 2017.

Within the year, Messana got enough investors that he was able to quit his job and pursue his website full-time.

Messana, a former baseball player himself, faced some difficult times before starting the site.

"Having just lost my dad and my own baseball career, I needed a positive outlet in my life and something to feel good about," he says. "This was the positive I needed."

Messana also noticed that when Stony Brook reached the College World Series, it received very little media attention. He decided to make a central station for Long Island baseball news.

Access Baseball has expanded to other sports and received partnerships with the New York Baseball Academy and other organizations in the area.

His work on the site eventually led him to an opportunity to become a scout for the San Diego Padres baseball team in December 2017.

A blog that started with just himself has turned into a staff of seven writers and a photographer.

In 2018, the site received 2 million page views.

To check out Messana's work, search for Access Baseball on Google.



## Giving Day for the Film and Video Festival

# Be Part of Something **Big.**

The Communications Department took part in Giving Day for the first time this year.

Fourteen donors helped us raise more than \$1,000 for a financial reward to be given to winners of the upcoming Film and Video Festival.

### Special Thanks To:

- *Susan Briziarelli*
- *Natalie Camarda*
- *Thomas W. Campbell*
  - *David Harvey*
  - *Traci Levy*
  - *Gary Pipa*
- *President Christine Riordan*
  - *Terrence Ross*
  - *Megan Stewart*
  - *Mary Beth Graves*
  - *Mary Telehany*
  - *Michael Weinstein*
    - *Ryan Werner*
    - *Peter West*



## Student Reflections on the Past Semester and the Future



*“I’m very passionate about the professors here--how encouraging, welcoming and non-judgemental they are. There’s been a good energy since I’ve been here.”*  
--Alexa Annese, Junior



*“My years as a Communications major at Adelphi are something I’m very grateful for and will never forget. I have learned a lot about all different areas of this field from the knowledgeable professors in the department and developed a wide skill set that is sure to help me in my future career endeavors.”*  
--Danielle Sullivan, Senior



*“I enjoyed my year as a junior in the Communications department and I also took the chance to be creative and practice my writing skills.”*  
--Nicholas Troiano, Junior



*“I was nervous about starting in a new department and whether I would like the courses. I am so happy that that I was introduced into the department because the professors and students are so welcoming. I am thankful for the Communications department and excited to see where it takes me.”*  
--Nicole Garcia, Junior

**All current student photos  
taken by  
Thomas W. Campbell.**



*“So far my time in the department has been rewarding. I definitely feel like I’m in the right department. I’m looking forward to taking Documentary Production. There are so many classes I would like to take. I’m in no rush to graduate--I like the perks of being a student and the department has been good to me.”*  
Germaine Jeanty, Junior