

The Front Page

The Newsletter for the Communications Department

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ADELPHI
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Communications

Blodgett's best spread love, entertainment to students, staff

Creating signs for essential workers. Screening movies for students to enjoy. Providing weekly words of encouragement. These are just some of the ways faculty and students in the department have been spreading a positive message throughout Adelphi's closure during the global pandemic.

Students in Professor Kimberly Lavery's Communication Theory course took photos of themselves with messages for essential workers. This was created into a slideshow to celebrate those risking their health to help others.

"It makes us feel better to make others feel better," Lavery says.

Lavery created a slideshow filled with students holding up messages for those helping out during the coronavirus pandemic.

Faculty and students have also done their part by creating video messages that are sent to the entire department through a weekly email. .



Co-presidents of Lambda Pi Eta Alyssa Striano and Sofia Fazal have been running the department's Instagram account. Their posts have garnered attention from both the Adelphi University account and President Christine Riordan.

It wouldn't be a Communications department without movies. Fortunately, there were lots to go around. Professor Terrence Ross and senior Christopher Alvarez screened their film "El Padrino" on YouTube. Anyone was invited to watch and take part in the chat during the film. Meanwhile, Technical Director Jack Furtado used Zoom to host "Tech Cafes" for those who needed help on technically projects. He also used Kast to screen movies.

"I hope it brings a sense of community and a bit of normalcy," Furtado says.

To stay tuned for everything the department has to offer, follow us at @aucommdept.

Congrats to the new inductees of Lambda Pi Eta!

*National
Communications
Honor Society*

*Kathleen Beatty
Lianna Driscoll
Emily Farrell
Nolin Geraldo
Akua Mireku-Baabu
Brianna Spinella
Daniel Suarez*



**Stay Safe,
Stay Well**

**We're all in this
together**

Blodgett professors learn to teach classes online

Adelphi was forced to move classes online during the university's closure.

Professor Terrence Ross says that teaching online is much easier than it has been because of programs like Zoom. During his class, movies are also screened with Kast and students watch on their own.

"You can have discussions between students, not just professors and students," Ross says. "Chat rooms are really helpful for them [students] to get more involved with each other."

Production classes like Professor Brenda Laux's Television Production I class have found a way to ensure projects are being made.

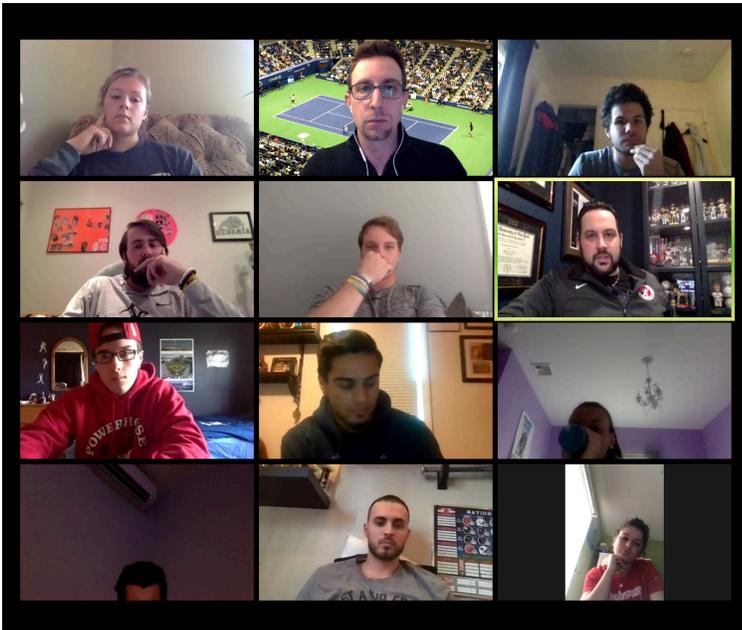
She says that she spent much of her spring break taking advantage of Adelphi tutorials to prepare for online learning.

Laux says the class is using Zoom to help create their TV shows that are normally done in Studio 108. "We have almost 100% attendance," Laux says. "It's great to have students there in real time."

She says students are working on individual and group projects and doing the same things they would do in the class if it was in-person.

Laux even opens her Zoom classes early so college students have a chance to talk with each other before class and have a chance to feel like college students. She says while her students may feel stifled without their normal setting and equipment, they are actually able to add another thing to their resume.

Both Ross and Laux say Adelphi did a great job having Zoom ready to go with training from the IT department.



Congrats to our May 2020 graduates!

Christopher Alvarez

Alexa Annese

Chyasia Blake

Darniece Brandon

Quira Butler

Stephanie Cardinal

Kyle Carpenter

Donato Devito

Qiyang Di

Emily Farrell

Sofia Fazal

Gabrielle Fischetti

Nicole Garcia

Nolin Geraldo

Alessia Giliberti

Eric Graves

Kerri Hayman

Anna Ingrilli

Christina Kennedy

David King

Veronica Lusterino

Alicia Massey

Maxwell Matrogiacom

Alexis Molina

Bianca Porto

Sebastiano Ricci

Philip Rusnack

Valencia Saint Louis

Davina Saltos

Ashley Sapricono

Corrada Spatola

Claude-James Sprinkle

Alyssa Striano

Taya Thomas

Morgan Thweatt

William Tomasi

Jaclyn Tracy

Lila Woodbridge

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‘She was this ray of light:’ Mejia ‘10 loses mother to coronavirus

Cindy Mejia ‘10 is one of thousands of New Yorkers grieving the loss of a loved one due to the global pandemic. Her mother passed away from complications due to COVID-19 on April 10.

Cindy says her mother, Gilma Mejia, began getting sick around the second week of March. It started out with cold-like symptoms, followed by a fever and then a cough.

The Blodgett alumna stepped in and got a video appointment with her mother’s physician. Gilma was prescribed some medication for her coughing and was told she looked fine.

“By early April it changed completely,” Cindy says.

She says her mother began struggling to breathe. When paramedics arrived, they told Cindy that her mother’s oxygen was at 40% and took her to the hospital.

Doctors called Cindy and her father an hour later to get consent to have her mother intubated.

Cindy called the hospital back to ask to speak to her mother for what would be the final time.

“I told her she was a fighter and I just wanted to tell her I loved her,” Cindy says. “I heard her faintly tell me that she loved me too.”

Throughout the next few days, doctors were able to keep Cindy’s mother stabilized and provide a glimmer of hope.



They tried to tone down the ventilator but too much damage had already been done.

Cindy received a phone call saying that her mother only had about half an hour or an hour to live so she asked if she could go. The hospital informed her she would be taking a risk but allowed her and her father to visit.

Unfortunately Cindy and her father were too late. They had to go in separately with protective gear to say their final goodbyes.

“It was a completely surreal experience,” Cindy says.

Afterward Cindy’s father was told he had to self-isolate and to only seek urgent care if his symptoms returned.

Cindy says it was a “complete nightmare” and is still waiting to get back her mother’s wedding band from the hospital.

Once they were allowed to bury her, Cindy and her father had to travel in separate cars and couldn’t be near the plot until her mother was laid down. Even then they had to take turns getting closer to pay their respects.

“She was this ray of light and positivity,” Cindy says. “In order to honor her--I have to be strong for my father. Given everything that is going on, it is easy to go into that depression.”

Cindy says it’s important to have feelings take over during a time where you’re not always able to see your loved ones.

“If you want to cry, cry--if you want to yell, yell,” Cindy says.

Cindy, who works in higher education at New York University, now takes time to cook for her father. She also does boxing workouts to release the anger and emptiness she is feeling.

“My mom was my best friend--she always gave me the best life advice and I’ll always carry that with me,” Cindy says. “Whenever I do become a mom I hope to instill the same in them.”

Cindy says she remembers being in Junior High School during 9/11 and watching everyone come together and she is seeing some of that kindness now from her mother’s friends.

“Everyone loved her and how could they not,” Cindy says. “I grew up around that. I hope to live up to her legacy.”

Students struggling with what's missing from their senior years

Seniors at Adelphi are dealing with the stresses of graduating at a time where they thought would be celebrating.

“As a first generation college student, graduation along with the other senior experiences was so important to me and something I’ve been looking forward to since my freshman year,” says Alyssa Striano.

Sofia Fazal also is discouraged about missing out on things like senior formal and award ceremonies. She says she understands that people need to stay home so that future celebrations won’t have to be cancelled .

Graduating seniors are also facing another big anxiety--finding a job.

Alexa Annese is trying to deal with the unknown because there will not be a lot of places looking to hire at this time. She is trying to think outside the box and start a YouTube channel for high school and college students.



Fazal says it has been difficult finding positions that are open, which makes it harder for those who are graduating.

“Ultimately I plan to still continue to try applying even if I don’t find something by the time graduation comes around,,” Fazal says.

Striano says she never has felt so unmotivated in her life and the situation is taking a toll on her mentally.

Fazal says her and her immediate family are in three different countries and experiencing the pandemic in completely different ways.

“It’s been hard being apart as it is but because it is Ramadan and we often try to be together during this time I know this month will be particularly difficult,” Fazal says.

Despite these struggles, seniors are still finding ways to make the most out of their situation by focusing on new hobbies.

Annese says she has been spending her free time cooking, reaching out to people and working on her own workout and nutrition guides.

“I believe in any situation you can create your own opportunity,” Annese says. “We shouldn’t be defined by our own circumstances.”

Annese admits that having classes online has been a mixed bag but says communication is very key when people are not meeting in person. She says it is the best option.

Fazal, meanwhile says she is happy to have classes because she is able to stay busy and feel more productive.



Striano also says online classes are helping her deal with quarantine because it provides some sort of social interaction.

“I actually really appreciate the few classes I’m in that are holding class through Zoom so that I can at least pretend we’re all together,” Striano says.

Striano, Fazal and Annese are all grateful that they and their families have remained healthy and are searching for the best ways to handle the situation.

“Encourage people to look for any positive perspective they can find,” Annese says. “Knowing that we’re all in this together. How you respond to this situation reflects a lot about your character.”

