Sept. Student of the Month: Gabi Briseno

Year: Senior
Concentration: Digital Production

Q: What is your favorite memory in the Communications Department?
A: “When I received the Principato Filmmaking Scholarship. I was in Joan’s class and they surprised me. It was such an honor that they felt like I deserved it.”

Q: What has been your favorite class?
A: “Advanced Production where I got to work on Joan’s film. I was the props master, which meant I had to find props to reset, dress the set and take notes during takes.”

Q: What are your future career ambitions?
A: “An art director, set designer or story boarder. I’m taking a class this semester on that [story boarding] so I’m really excited about that.”

Q: What will you take away from your time in the department?
A: “It gave me a lot of connections. I didn’t come in as a film major so I became really well-versed on how to shoot. I feel like I need that experience that I can’t find just online. It made it all worthwhile.”

Q: What advice would you give students to make the most of their time in the department?
A: “Have good relationships with your professors. I had great experiences making friends and not just going to class. What makes it worth it are the people you meet.”

Gary Dell’Abate ’83 aka Baba Booey returns to Blodgett

On the first day of the fall semester, a famed alumnus made his return to the hallways of Blodgett.

Gary ‘Baba Booey’ Dell’Abate dropped in on a few classes and met with students. He also visited with Paws Web Radio officers to ask them questions and offer some advice.

Dell’Abate is the executive producer of The Howard Stern Show. In his role, he is responsible for booking the show’s guests. Throughout his time he has drawn well-known names like current President Donald Trump, Chris Rock, and Sting.

During his time at Adelphi, Dell’Abate was actively involved with WBAU and interned at WLIR. He was given the Richard F. Clemo Award at the end of his senior year. The award is presented to a student who has made significant contributions to the communications department.
Chiesa ’15 earns new role as Sports Information Director

She is a former editor-in-chief of The Delphian. She has previously been honored as the Communications Department student of the month. And now, Victoria Chiesa is Adelphi’s new Sports Information Director.

After receiving her undergraduate degree at Adelphi in May 2015, Chiesa stayed at Adelphi to pursue her Master’s. During this time she worked as the Sports Information Graduate Assistant.

Once Emily Dorko ( ’13, MBA ’15) was hired as the Associate Athletic Director and Director of External Relations, Chiesa was moved in to her current position as a permanent member of the team.

“It was a really nice feeling to know that the senior athletic administration recognized and respected the work that I did,” Chiesa said. “I’m really excited for the next chapter.”

In her new position, Chiesa is partially responsible for the day-to-day operations surrounding media, statistics, coverage and promotion for all of Adelphi’s 23 Division II varsity sports. She says this includes in-game statistics, writing post-game recaps, feature stories and all content seen on aupanthers.com.

Her job also involves creating live-game home webcasts, social media strategy and promotional guides for all sports at the university.

In addition to Chiesa’s job on campus, she also freelances for the Women’s Tennis Association network. She writes match recaps, feature stories and produces social media content and photo galleries that can be found at wtatennis.com.

Chiesa also works with the digital team at the US Open in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. She attributes her work in the tennis field to her portfolio of work at Adelphi and her and her friend’s website, The Tennis Island.

While her success has taken her to new places both on and off Adelphi’s campus, Chiesa says her time in the Communications Department and as editor-in-chief of The Delphian has helped shape her current positions.

“I think I definitely learned a lot about myself over my four years, in the sense that I was challenged academically and professionally,” Chiesa said. “And that forced me to really nail down what it was I wanted to do and figure out how I was going to chase after that dream.”

Finally, Chiesa has some advice for those looking to get into the Communications field.

“There’s going to be a seat at the table in your chosen industry if you’re passionate, articulate and have something unique to say,” Chiesa said. “Find a way to make your voice stand out and rise above the noise that’s already out there.”

Chiesa also says that her office is always looking for student workers to help with live webcasts, video editing, social media, photography, press releases and office work. For more information, contact her at vchiesa@adelphi.edu.

Alumni 5 Under 5

Welcome to the Communications Dept. “5 Under 5” section.

Here we check back on five alumni who graduated in the past five years and see what they are up to.

- Christopher Hart ’12, now Production Coordinator/Cutter for MLB Advanced Media
- Danielle Tasca ’12, now Booking Producer for MSNBC
- Vinny Messana ’13, now President of Axcess Baseball
- Mara Bush ’14, now Associate Producer for ABC News
- Alexandra Coscia ’17, now Media Coordinator for Fox News
Communications Department Winner of 7 Awards at PCLI 2017 Media Awards

When the Press Club of Long Island (PCLI) honored hundreds of top journalists on Long Island at its annual media awards dinner on June 7, Adelphi’s Communications Department took home seven awards.

These included the College Journalism Scholarship for Bryan Grilli, editor-in-chief of *The Delphian* from 2015-2017, who was named the best college journalist for Long Island. *The Delphian* took third place in the Best College Newspaper category.

In addition, Matthew Mikalonis won first place in the Student Journalism, Narrative-News category for his story, “U.S. College Students Learn About Cuba’s Healthcare-As Patients.” The department’s site, CubaStories.com, won third place in the Video-Feature category for “Adelphi Journalism Students Visit Cuba.”


The PCLI is a local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. They have many services that can benefit students, including ongoing training and monthly events that focus on advocacy and education about the communications industry. Learn more at www.pcli.org.

A Visit to CNN Studios in NYC

On Thursday, August 31 Phil Loccisano, who teaches one of the broadcasting classes at Adelphi and is Director of live and taped news programs at CNN, led an extensive tour of the CNN studios for students from the Adelphi and Hofstra TV production classes.

Joined by Professor Brenda Laux, Loccisano gave the students access to three sets, including the shooting locations for the programs *New Day*, *Anderson Cooper 360* and others.

The students also spoke with lighting designers, a set designer and control room operator Loccisano strongly recommended that students get experience working with smaller local market TV and news organizations if they want to get a job at CNN.

From left to right: Tom Campbell, Loccisano, Ben Feldman and Laux.

“’It’s the experience that CNN wants to see before they bring on interns,” Loccisano said. “And it is the most valuable experience you can give yourself just out of school.”

Loccisano shows students around the facilities.
The People Column

Mary’s Corner
You may have noticed our Administrative Assistant, Mary Telehany, in the corner of room 113. She is always providing a helping hand to students. But did you know that Mary is a woman of multiple trades?

In her spare time, Mary loves to knit, paint, quilt and make sculptures.

“Hobbies are a great way to relax the mind and create something beautiful,” Mary says.

Mary also is an Adelphi Alumni from the school’s MBA program. She also has a dual MS Degree from Touro College in Special Education and Elementary grades 1-8. Finally, Mary has a BA from Molloy College in Business Administration.

When Mary’s not at Adelphi keeping our department in order or at home making art, she enjoys riding her bike and fishing. You can visit Mary in room 113 of Blodgett Hall.

Director of Facilities, Jack Furtado
If you’ve taken out a camera in the past year you’ve likely bumped into our new Facilities Director, Jack Furtado.

Jack has been manning the helm of our department’s technical equipment since October of last year. Formerly, the department’s technical assistant, he now is responsible for purchasing new items for the department, helping students check out cameras, and much more.

As an alumnus of Hampshire College, Jack is also a freelance Videographer for Lena Dunham’s online publication Lenny Letter as well as other online outlets.

Campbell’s Screenings
Thomas W. Campbell, Technical Director of the Communications Department, screened a number of his short films about the artist Linus Coraggio at the Art on A gallery in the East Village on four evenings in August.

The filmmaker and artist have been collaborating since meeting in 2008 and the films reflect the artist’s long history (he has been creating found object and metal sculptures / landscapes since 1981) and also document his creative process. Their latest film, The Motorcycle Art of Linus Coraggio, is being submitted to film festivals across the country.

Campbell also took time off this summer to begin the edit of the feature film Prince Harming, written and directed by New York film maker Marianne Hettinger, and will do the sound design and color correction when the fine cut has been completed.

Chair’s Message
Welcome back to a new academic year! I am happy to be coming back to the role of Department Chair after many years away from the job. We have a lot going on in the department this year. Some highlights: We are introducing new courses in a variety of areas, including drone photography, internet law, and celebrity culture. We have two new minors, one in Cinema Studies and another in Video Game Design (in collaboration with the Art and Computer Science departments).

And we are very excited to be launching our second study abroad trip to Cuba this winter. Professors John Drew and Joan Stein Schimke will be leading “Global Perspectives: Foreign Correspondence from Cuba” in January. The work coming out of the first Cuba trip, Cubastories.com, won multiple awards from the Press Club of Long Island several months ago.

I am happy to welcome a number of new adjuncts: Adine Genn, Cory Poccia, Al Trautwig, Bradley Wilson, and Alexandra Zendria. Cory and Al are in familiar territory here; both are Adelphi alumni. They are at very different points in their professional lives in their respective media industries, but both bring a wealth of experience back to the classrooms they used to inhabit as students, and both serve as wonderful examples to our students of where their Adelphi education can lead them.

I wish everyone a wonderful new school year!

Peggy Cassidy