

Student Life



Asked about their fondest college memories, many alumni will likely reminisce about spinning records for the campus radio station, canvassing flyers for a political action club, or planning social events with a fraternity or sorority.

Making Sure There's Life Beyond THE CLASSROOM

Student activities play a crucial role in the college experience. No one knows this better than the staff of Adelphi's Center for Student Leadership and Activities (CSLA). CSLA director Ray Flook, assistant directors Melissa Lopez and Nathalie Waite, and administrative assistant Judy Greiner have made it their mission to ensure that Adelphi is meeting the needs of the student body outside of the classroom, just as faculty members are entrusted with meeting students' needs within.

"I think the goal for CSLA is to make sure that when students come in, they feel that they are being heard," says Mr. Flook. "Not necessarily that they are being spoon-fed but that they realize that if they have a problem or an issue, that we're going to work with them on it. Not do it for them, but help them so that when this issue comes up when they've graduated and moved on, they've developed the skills and the tools necessary to really be able to survive."

Mr. Flook says that although many factors have remained constant since his college days, one of the most profound changes is the weight now given to co-curricular activities.

"I think there has been a more serious approach to understanding that life outside the classroom is as important as life inside the classroom," he says,

adding that students are now looking for more diversity in programming.

"They're looking for cultural nights; they're looking for guest speakers on hot topics that are important to them, or trips to get to know the surrounding area or to get to know the city," Mr. Flook says. "And I think that, as the cost of higher education goes up, they're looking for a little more bang-for-their-buck from a student activities standpoint."

Adelphi offers more than seventy student clubs and organizations, including the Student Government Association and Student Activities Board; academic clubs and honor societies such as the Physics Club, Pre-law Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society; community service and social action clubs such as Amnesty International, Circle K International, and C.A.L.I.B.E.R. (Cause to Achieve Leadership, Intelligence, Brotherhood, Excellence, and Respect); and cultural, special interest, and religious organizations such as Latino Students United, Horror Film Club, and Muslim Students' Association.

Students may also join membership-based organizations such as Greek fraternities and sororities and social fellowships organizations, which are based in an Afro-centric foundation and have names based on



Melissa Lopez, Nathalie Waite, and Ray Flook pictured with students on Move-In Day

an ancient Kemet language with an emphasis on formal bonding. The two social fellowships at Adelphi are Groove Phi Groove for men and Swing Phi Swing for women.

Membership in Greek organizations at Adelphi has surged recently.

About five percent of Adelphi's undergraduate student body belongs to a Greek organization, says Ms. Waite, who serves as the advisor to both Greek and social fellowship organizations at Adelphi. There are six sororities, two fraternities, and two social fellowship organizations at Adelphi.

Greek life offers students a different perspective with a greater emphasis on fellowship and philanthropy, she says, noting that Greek organizations are becoming much more appealing to commuter students.

"Their brotherhood and sisterhood activities, which are designed for bonding, allow for the opportunity for commuters and residents to

feel a greater sense of belonging," she says. "Not that the other organizations don't have elements [that foster] feelings of inclusion, but by design, the Greek organizations do have a more structured process for that to happen."

No matter what activity students are involved with, CSLA staff members agree that leading a full life outside the classroom allows for a well-rounded college experience.

"(Being involved) helps you create an identity in an institution and it gives you a sense of pride in where you attend and what you do and who you're involved with," says Ms. Lopez. "But I think also that being involved with different student organizations, whether Greek organizations or student government or the horror film club, also expands your knowledge and how you interact socially with other people, and I think that experience enhances your overall education."

REMEMBER WHEN



1963

President Paul Dawson Eddy proudly displays charter from Albany giving Adelphi permission to call itself a university.

Vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro rocks the Adelphi vote. "I want [the students] to take a close look at this year's election. This election is a referendum on the economy. It's a referendum on the arms race. Nobody has a bigger stake in the future than the young people, the students, of this country."

1984

