

# Athletics



*"As we were becoming aware of our past, we realized he meant so much to the University."*

— Director of Athletics and Associate Dean Robert Hartwell



Coach Irwin at the 1972 Nationals in Virginia



Coach Irwin at his induction into the Adelphi University Athletic Hall of Fame

## Coach Bill Irwin Immortalized by Hall of Fame

Former men's and women's swimming coach Bill Irwin was inducted into the Adelphi University Athletic Hall of Fame in April 2007. Alumni and current swim team members gathered to honor the coach whose 12 years at the University, from 1966 to 1978, resulted in many successes. Coach Irwin's dedication and talent brought the athletes together to memorialize his time at Adelphi.

During his tenure, Coach Irwin trained several national championship qualifiers, All-Americans, and U.S. Olympic Trial participants. "Some swimmers weren't

great, but he made them feel like they were as important as anyone else," says Sue Tandy '70, a 2006 Hall of Fame inductee. "He let us know that we were all equally important to him; the proof lies in the fact that he keeps in touch with all of us even to this day."

"Alums were adamant about what a wonderful teacher and coach he was," says Director of Athletics and Associate Dean Robert Hartwell. "As we were becoming aware of our past, we realized he meant so much to the University."

A \$35,000 scholarship fund has been established by several alumni, including Dr. Tandy, in Coach Irwin's honor and will be awarded to qualified applicants based on academic and athletic ability and/or accomplishments. The first scholarship was given to a student for the 2007–2008 academic year. The organizing committee hopes to increase the scholarship's endowment to \$500,000. [A](#)

—By Farrah Mohsin '07



Alumni, friends, faculty, and staff gather to wish Stiles Field a fond farewell.

## Stiles Field

### UNEARTHED

On Saturday, May 12, 2007, Adelphi hosted a Farewell to Stiles Field Celebration. Roughly 60 alumni, students, faculty, administrators, and friends enjoyed a last picnic on the grass field, before digging up portions to take home as mementos.

The day marked the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the field's dedication to James E. Stiles, former Adelphi Trustee and Chairman of the Board from 1938 to 1949, on May 12, 1956.

Since that time, eight varsity teams have taken to the field, producing countless victories and lasting memories. The field was also used for graduation ceremonies from the mid-1980s through 2004, and has been the site of Adelphi's annual homecoming festivities.



Soccer team alumnae and their families take home a piece of Stiles Field.



Dig In: Dr. Scott and Vice President for Administration and Student Services Bill Proto M.B.A. '70 with current and future Adelphi students unearth Stiles Field keepsakes.

Immediately following the celebration, Stiles was closed for renovation. It will be reincarnated as a new outdoor sports stadium that will abut the new Recreation and Sports Center and feature all-weather turf and lights for night games. [A](#)

—By Suzette McQueen

## A Fond Farewell to Lacrosse Coaches

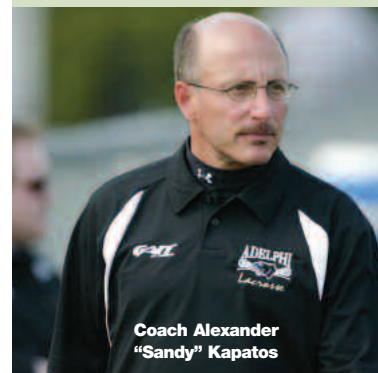
The men's and women's lacrosse teams have undergone major changes as they embark upon a new season with new coaches. In May 2007, Jill Lessne-Solomon and Alexander "Sandy" Kapatos resigned from their positions as head coach of the women's and men's lacrosse teams, respectively.

Both coaches have impressive records and left a lasting impact on Adelphi. Coach Kapatos spent 13 of his 14 years at Adelphi as head coach. He brought the men's lacrosse team to four National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II national titles and four East Coast Conference regular season crowns. "Coach Kapatos was a fixture at Adelphi," says Director of Athletics and Associate Dean Robert Hartwell. "He carried on a tradition of excellence. We wish him the very best."

Coach Lessne-Solomon led the women's lacrosse team to two national championships and three NCAA Final Four appearances. An integral aspect of Coach Lessne-Solomon's legacy was building the women's lacrosse team, as she helped launch the program in 2001. In 2004, Coach Lessne-Solomon guided her team to an NCAA title, the first for a female sport at Adelphi. "By winning two national championships, she brought a new sport to prominence," says Mr. Hartwell.

Many of Coach Lessne-Solomon's players looked up to her not just as a coach, but as a friend. "She was always a person you could go to," says Lauren Lopez '07. "She will be missed." [A](#)

—By Farrah Mohsin '07



Coach Alexander "Sandy" Kapatos



Coach Jill Lessne-Solomon