

Campus Task Force Responds to Trump's Decision to Phase Out DACA

BY GABRIELLE DEONATH & GESELLE MALDONADO

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, President Trump made good on his campaign promise that he would end Barack Obama's DACA and DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) programs. And immediately, the Adelphi DACA, International and Immigration Task Force responded by creating programs and reaching out to impacted students.

DACA— short for Deferred Action for Childhood arrivals — is a program created by Obama through an executive order in 2012, allowing people who entered the country illegally before the age of 16 to work in the U.S. lawfully without the chance of immediate deportation. The program doesn't grant legal citizenship, but operates through a status of deferred action that can be renewed after its two-year pe-

riod comes to an end. DREAMers — the name deriving from the DREAM Act to describe people who entered the country illegally as children — under the DACA program, in addition to working legally and therefore paying income taxes, have been able to receive higher education and authorized driver's licenses.

According to a March 31, 2017 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services report, 787,580 DREAMers have been approved and supported by DACA. These people are now left vulnerable in the wake of Trump's phase out of the program. Trump has said that he encourages Congress to approve an alternative for these people. However, many remain worried as Congress has a history of not approving proposals like the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would allow temporary residency for minors who do not have citizenship. Those under the DACA program could be affected as soon as March 2018.

The Trump Administration's rescinding of the program has a drastic ripple affect across communities inclusive to students who rely on the bill to remain in the United States without legal repercussions. The Adelphi community is not excluded from the effects of this major decision, with many concerned about the safety of the university's students that rely on DACA to remain on campus and in the country.

"My first thought was for our affected students and the anxiety and fear this decision must mean for them," said Adelphi University president Christine M. Riordan, PhD. "It threatens our most basic promise to provide a safe and welcoming place to live and study."

DACA only has six months left as an active program, but while waiting for a response from or action by Congress, campus administrators, including the DACA Task Force, are working to protect those Adelphi students directly affected by the

decision as much as possible.

On Sept. 5, following Trump's official announcement, Adelphi's administration sent a letter through a campus-wide email, signed by Riordan and Perry Greene, PhD, vice president for Diversity and Inclusion, expressing the university's commitment to protecting the privacy and rights of all of its students and emphasizing the values of "fairness and inclusivity for all members of [the] community." The letter also included ways that the administration would be of help to vulnerable students, such as providing personal support for those affected and not volunteering information about the immigration status of students to government agencies.

However, the university's preparation for this matter, as well as Trump's various other immigration decisions, began as early as December 2017. During that time, a group of concerned students and faculty met with Riordan and other ad-

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Performing Arts Center Celebrated 10th Anniversary with Tribute to Famous Alum

BY GABRIELLE DEONATH

The first ever college production of "RENT" was performed on Sept. 27, 2008 at Adelphi's Performing Arts Center to celebrate its grand opening. With the tenth anniversary of the PAC approaching, it only seemed appropriate, according to PAC executive director Blyth Daylong, to pay tribute to that opening performance and its playwright, composer and Adelphi alumnus, Jonathan Larson.

As the kick-off to the tenth anniversary festivities, the PAC hosted two presentations of "RENT in Concert" on Saturday, Sept. 16 and Sunday, Sept. 17. The production was directed by T. Oliver Reed and featured Broadway performers, including Felicia Boswell, Danielle L. Greaves, Douglas Lyons, MJ Rodrigues, Lilli Cooper, Matt Bogart and Sydney James Harcourt (former Aaron Burr in the musical "Hamilton"). In addition, Fredi Walker-Browne, an original cast member from the musical "Rent," was invited to sing "Seasons of Love."

She first met Larson at the auditions for the musical back in the mid-90s and said she remembers him as always in "observation and writer mode." Walker-Browne said that she has and would always remain thankful to Larson.

"He was the one who championed me for the role of Joanne," she said.

After almost three years as Joanne, Walker-Browne went on to write



Broadway performers Matt Bogart and Felicia Boswell rehearse in the PAC.

Photo provided by University Communications

her own material, get married and take up the role of Rafiki in the Broadway production of "The Lion King." However, she said that it is the philosophy of "RENT" that she has guided her through the difficult moments of her life.

Nicholas Petron, chair of the Theatre Department, was a young professor at Adelphi when Larson attended the university as an undergraduate.

"We all knew he was special, but I'm not sure we knew how special," he said.

As a student, Larson was never late or missed class, according to Petron, and he was truly dedicated to the arts. The two became close friends and collaborators, once creating a cabaret in entirety in two weeks — Petron writing the book and lyrics and Larson, who graduated in 1982, composing the music. That piece, titled both "The Steak Tartare Caper" and "Behind Every Moan is a Woman," will be performed in the spring by students of the Theatre Department as another installment of the PAC's tenth anniversary

celebrations. Petron described the piece as a "satirical, political and sexual cabaret that skewed the constant at the time."

In addition to the cabaret, this year the PAC will continue the Larson Legacy concerts, at which certain up-and-coming composers who have been presented with The Jonathan Larson Grants are given the platform to showcase some of their original work. Michael R. Jackson, a 2017 recipient of the grant, presented the concert version of his musical "White Girl in Danger" on Sunday, Sept. 24.

According to Daylong, planning for the tenth anniversary started a couple of years ago in anticipation of the milestone, but much of the details were finalized between January and April of this year. One of the goals determined during planning was to bring back many of the guest stars that have performed in the PAC over the last decade, since many of them rarely have had repeat performances.

As for Larson, he was never able to see the first official off-Broadway preview of his award-winning musical, suddenly passing away the night before from an aneurysm caused by undiagnosed Marfan syndrome at the age of 35. The bench in Life Café on which he sat while writing "RENT"— also a famous setting of one scene in the play — now sits in the lobby of the PAC. However, so much more of Larson seems to live on within the university walls of Adelphi and in the magical world of Broadway.

A Word from the Editor

Since the semester began, the world has been a busy place. In the midst of our classes and homework assignments, Hurricane Harvey flooded the streets of Texas, devastating its residents and their neighborhoods. In the following weeks, a string of natural disasters has brought more suffering in its wake, the most recent of them being Hurricane Maria, which has left 100 percent of Puerto Rico without power, and a 7.1 magnitude earthquake that brought down numerous structures around Mexico City. While it may seem like the world is coming to an end, our features editor, Danielle, has written a feature with all things you need to know about why these disasters are occurring.

In addition, earlier this month President Trump announced his decision to end the DACA program, which allowed many young people who entered the country illegally to remain in the country legally through renewable deferred action. This has caused concern for many across the U.S., as well as a few students, closer to home, on our campus. The university's DACA, International and Immigration Task Force has been developing numerous efforts to support aid for our vulnerable students or students whose families are affected by Trump's decision.

Speaking of infringing on the rights of individuals, in honor of the 230th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, James Miskiewicz, a former assistant U.S. attorney and special counsel for ethics, risk and compliance at Long Island Power Authority, was a guest lecturer at Adelphi on Sept. 14 to discuss the constitutionality of surveillance in our digital world, sparking debate about whether the U.S. is still truly a republic.

Even with all of that heaviness to process, our mission at The Delphian has remained the same – to continue to bring together the larger Adelphi community. We are happy to have an editorial from the Committee of Academic Honesty as they address a racial matter brought to their attention related to their lawn sign campaign last spring meant to encourage and promote academic integrity.

And we want you to participate too! Nicoletta, our sports editor and a student athlete, came up with an idea to incorporate an athletics-themed crossword puzzle in each issue. If you can complete the crossword correctly and email your answers to delphian@adelphi.edu, you can win a prize for your efforts.

As a dedicated athlete, Nicoletta knows the adrenaline rush that comes along with sports events, for those on the field and in the stands. However, there are not a large percentage of students that attend games, and she thinks you're missing out on all the fun.

It's all a lot to digest and process. My hope is that through this issue, we not only think about the obstacles affecting our own lives, but those around us on campus and those affected around the country and the world. Showing unity and support can be as simple as asking someone who looks like they are having a tough day if they are okay or attending an event that shed light on important issues. Despite what Trump thinks, being inclusive and kind is not that hard.

-Gabrielle Deonath
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The Delphian

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ministrators, as anxieties were high about Trump's policies and proposed executive orders, according to Greene.

After the meeting, Greene said it was recommended that a task force should be made, and with the agreement and authorization of Riordan, the Adelphi DACA, International and Immigration Task Force, made up of staff, faculty and students, was created. A full list of those involved in the task force can be found on the task force's website <http://global.adelphi.edu/daca-immigration-and-international-support/>.

Greene became chair of the task force and invited music professor Sidney Boquiren to join him as co-chair, effective the beginning of this semester.

"On a personal level, I feel very strongly about supporting our students, in particular, students who at no fault of their own find themselves in a marginalized situation," said Greene, about why he was attracted to being a part of the task force. "As a professional, there's some-

thing about a university that should go beyond teaching in a classroom, and that's upholding the values of what higher education implies. The need to have an open door to anyone who wants to learn regardless of who they are or where they come from should be a basic tenant of what we do as an institution."

As a non-citizen himself and a very involved participant in conversations about immigration and other related issues, Boquiren said that he has a deeper appreciation for what the task force does now being able to see it from a closer perspective.

Since it began in January, the task force has tried to combat misunderstandings or lack of understanding about immigration issues through education and outreach, the first of which was an immigration forum where people spoke to immigration lawyers to shed light on the situation at hand and answer questions. Over the summer, they provided necessary housing and campus employments for particularly vulnerable students. Through crowd funding and with help from the university, the task force also provides emer-

gency financial assistance to students who are impacted not only by DACA, but also Trump's immigration ban and other immigration policies and issues. A new program is currently being developed through which interested staff and faculty would be trained as "confidential allies" to help guide and be a resource to students affected by the phasing out of the DACA program.

There are currently fewer than 10 students on Adelphi's campus who have identified themselves as DACA recipients. However, protecting their identities is top priority, according to Greene. For this reason, no self-identified DACA students have been interviewed by The Delphian.

"We would not want to do anything that would put our students at risk," he said. "It is not just students who are vulnerable, but also their parents and families."

On Sept. 27, the Center for Student Involvement and the taskforce are sponsoring a DACA and immigration reform town hall in the University Center ballroom from 6-7:30 p.m. Greene will be present, along with Assemblyman Charles

Lavine, immigration lawyer Roberto Martinez, CARECEN Program Director and Hofstra University Immigration Law Special Professor Patrick Young and DACA recipient and founder of the Northshore Hispanic Association, Nelson Melgar for an in-depth and informative conversation about the implications of Trump's decision and the issue at large.

**COME TO THE
DELPHIAN'S NEXT
MEETING!**

**OCT. 16 AT 1 PM
Earle Hall (lower level)**