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Putting the Pan in Pan-American

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As a professor of flute and chamber music at Adelphi University since 1994, Ms. [Linda Wetherill] has been able to pursue both passions. One of the highlights of her career — as both musician and teacher — came in early December when she went to Buenos Aires to perform three flute concerts of classical and contemporary music and teach a master class of accomplished flutists at the University of Moron.

Ms. Wetherill started to play the flute when she was 7 years old and living in Milwaukee. But it wasn't until seventh grade, when she was selected to play first chair in the all-state orchestra, that she realized she had a special talent. She received a full scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, and attended Stony Brook University for graduate work.

Since moving to Long Island 11 years ago, Ms. Wetherill has commuted from her home in Ridge, in the midst of the Pine Barrens, to Adelphi in Garden City. She has enhanced the university's music program with additions like Flute Week, a music department event that includes master classes and guest appearances.

Full Text (659 words)

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THERE is nothing Linda Wetherill enjoys as much as playing the flute -- except cultivating young talent when she teaches students to master the instrument that has brought her international recognition.

As a professor of flute and chamber music at Adelphi University since 1994, Ms. Wetherill has been able to pursue both passions. One of the highlights of her career -- as both musician and teacher -- came in early December when she went to Buenos Aires to perform three flute concerts of classical and contemporary music and teach a master class of accomplished flutists at the University of Moron.

During her four days in Buenos Aires, hundreds of Argentine music fans attended her concerts and thousands more heard her music on a national radio station. Ms. Wetherill also taught a class to students, ranging from 12-year-olds to adult professional musicians, on works of music from around the world and contemporary techniques.

"It was so important to bring music to a country that has no money and doesn't give music the attention it deserves," she said. "When I saw people's faces after a concert, I knew that they were being renewed. That's what music does -- it feeds the soul and is very healing."

But her first visit to South America almost did not materialize, because of the high air fare. A \$600 grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts helped Ms. Wetherill pay for her plane ticket.

The foundation provides more than \$1 million a year in fellowships for artists to develop their work. It also distributes mini-