

# MMC



MarymountManhattan  
MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2020

## ONWARD, MMC!

*Prepared for today's  
challenges and  
tomorrow's successes*



**16**

FEATURE

**WEATHERING A  
GLOBAL PANDEMIC**

MMC's Response to COVID-19

**22**

SPECIAL SECTION

**VIRTUAL  
REALITY**

Scenes from the Cloud

**28**

FEATURE

**INTERNSHIPS TO  
CAREERS**

In the Knowledge Economy

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

A sign at a June 2020 Black Lives Matter rally organized by Educators for Justice in New York City, as photographed by Tessie Tokash '21, Digital Media and Video Production major and Griffin Guide for MMC's Office of Admission.

"As much as I love to record moving images and creating films, the feeling of freezing time in such beautiful moments is even more powerful to me," says Tokash.



## CONTENTS

### columns

- [5](#) MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- [6](#) CAMPUS NEWS
- [34](#) SPOTLIGHT ON PRISON EDUCATION
- [44](#) FACULTY PROFILES
- [46](#) IN THE NEWS

### features

- [16](#) WEATHERING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC
- [22](#) VIRTUAL REALITY  
Scenes from the Cloud
- [28](#) INTERNSHIPS TO CAREERS  
Entering the Knowledge Economy

### departments

- [50](#) ALUMNI PROFILES
- [56](#) CLASS NOTES
- [61](#) IN MEMORIAM
- [62](#) A MOMENT IN TIME



# DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

*Join the MMC Together Challenge today!*

Scattered though we are around the world, the MMC family remains strong in spirit, our bonds to each other strengthened by adversity, and our determination to prepare students for global leadership more deeply felt than ever before.

## CREATIVE, RESILIENT, UNITED—WE ARE MMC TOGETHER.

During this time of great need, we invite you to join the **MMC Together Challenge**. Lucille Zanghi, MMC Trustee Emeritus, and her husband, James Dow, have generously pledged to match all donations to MMC, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000. Please **make a gift today** and **double the impact** for students who will have double the impact on the world.

### MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY:



**Call**  
212.517.0460  
to donate by phone



**Visit**  
[www.mmm.edu/donate](http://www.mmm.edu/donate)  
to donate online



**Mail**  
a check using the  
enclosed envelope

Visit [www.mmm.edu/giving](http://www.mmm.edu/giving) for additional ways to make your impact, including planned giving options.

**EVERY GIFT COUNTS!**



MarymountManhattan

SUMMER 2020

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Carly Lynch, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Carly Schneider '12, *Senior Editor*  
Hunter DeSimone, *Senior Editor*  
Fanny He  
Todd Heilman,  
Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.  
Barbara Lynch Loughlin '70  
Valerie Marchesi  
Peter Naccarato, Ph.D.  
Tatiana Serafin, MFA  
Emmalyn Yamrick

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Brown, Ph.D.  
Hallie Cohen, MFA  
Kevin Croke  
Martha Eddy, RSMT, CMA, DEP, Ed.D.  
Matt Land  
Drew Leder, MD, Ph.D.  
Rebecca Mattis-Pinard  
Zakkiyya Taylor

#### DESIGN

Rose Creative Group | [www.rosecreative.net](http://www.rosecreative.net)

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Melanie Einzig  
Denis Gostev  
Island Photography  
Carly Schneider '12

#### SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
*President*  
Bree Bullingham  
*Associate Vice President for Human Resources*

Graham Ciraulo  
*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

Todd Heilman  
*Vice President for Student Success and Engagement*

Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.  
*Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives*

Rebecca Mattis-Pinard  
*Chief Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer*  
Peter Naccarato, Ph.D.  
*Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*

Maisha Williams, CPA, MBA  
*Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer*

Emmalyn Yamrick  
*Dean of Students*

*MMC Magazine* is published for alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of Marymount Manhattan College by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

We want to hear your feedback! Please complete our survey at [www.mmm.edu/summer2020-survey](http://www.mmm.edu/summer2020-survey) or contact us at [editor@mmm.edu](mailto:editor@mmm.edu).

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the MMC Family:

To say that Marymount Manhattan has taken resourcefulness and resilience to a whole new level over the past six months is a colossal understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a human, economic, and social crisis that has deeply affected local and global communities. At the same time, our nation is on a historic path to racial justice and equity, begun during the Civil Rights movement and reinvigorated by the current national movement. MMC students, faculty, and staff have shown their bold spirit in meeting the needs and demands of our time.

In response to the pandemic, the College pivoted in mid-March to a fully virtual learning environment. As you will read in this issue, the success of this shift was due in large part to a new and robust Emergency Operations Plan, which was implemented in fall 2019. Uncannily, our Emergency Response Team had just practiced responding to a simulated infectious disease outbreak when we were confronted with the real thing.

The shift to a virtual environment was successful also due to the impressive adaptability of MMC's students, faculty, and staff. Wherever our students were living, they continued to astound and delight us, as reflected in this issue's article "Virtual Reality: Scenes from the Cloud." A wide variety of capstone presentations, projects, and productions kept the College's virtual campus abuzz as MMC celebrated the highest achievements of the year.

Still available online are dance pieces specially choreographed for a virtual environment by internationally acclaimed choreographer Sidra Bell, [BellxMarymount2020.org](http://BellxMarymount2020.org), as well as work by MMC's emerging filmmakers, on topics ranging from professional wrestling to magical realism to hospice care [vimeopro.com/mmcCommArts/Showcase2020](http://vimeopro.com/mmcCommArts/Showcase2020). You can also watch a moving tribute to the 446 students who graduated in 2019-20. The video—"A Message to the MMC Class of 2020," available on [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com)—opens with a stunning Zoom performance of the College's alma mater, "Hail, Marymount Manhattan!" by our talented Musical Theatre students.

Creative inquiry and the eager pursuit of knowledge are not the only hallmarks of the MMC experience. This issue features New York's boundless opportunities for internships—including virtual internships—as part of *CityEdge*, the College's signature college-to-career initiative. *CityEdge* uniquely connects MMC to a bustling professional landscape, whether in-person or online.

The accomplishments of the MMC community at this pivotal moment in history have been awe-inspiring—and we have built on our momentum heading into the fall by adopting a best-of-both-worlds Virtual Classes/Open Campus model. This unusual education model features online coursework combined with an open physical campus, including open residence halls at reduced occupancy to promote health and safety. A unique Final Stretch period between Thanksgiving and Winter Break will allow for intensified individual instruction and greater flexibility in teaching and learning.

As we can all attest, the environment in which we now live is far different from the one we knew just a few months ago. But the creativity that the MMC community has expressed throughout this challenging time is an unstoppable force. I feel enormous Griffin Pride to be a part of a college that's passionately dedicated to a unique, life-altering experience—a Marymount Manhattan education.

Best wishes,

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
*President*





## MARYMOUNT MUSCLE TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR ALTERNATIVE WINTER BREAK

Marymount Muscle, the College's community engagement organization, has long organized an annual Alternative Spring Break service trip, intended to challenge students to reflect critically on their roles in their communities through service, activism, inquiry, and leadership. This year, thanks to a Great Hostel Give Back Grant by Hosting International, which provided free housing for the team, the group was able to launch a second annual service trip during the January winter break.

Led by Zakkiyya Taylor, Associate Director of Community Engagement, a group of four MMC students traveled to Washington, D.C., for a unique immersion experience to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal MLK Day of Service. MMC's volunteers worked with three local organizations—Capital Area Food Bank, D.C. Central Kitchen, and Food and Friends—to gain a firsthand understanding of the internal structures and operations of the charitable food preparation industry.

In addition to their volunteer work, the group enjoyed educational and historical sightseeing activities, including a tour of Capitol Hill, a self-led MLK walking tour, and a visit to the National Museum of American History. "Getting to volunteer earlier in the day and explore the wider community later in the day really gave us a deeper understanding of the impact we could have," Megan Bros '22, a sophomore double majoring in Public Relations and Strategic Communication and Theatre Arts, said of the trip.



## AMERICAN IDIOT

Last fall, MMC's Musical Theatre Association (MTA) produced a sold-out run of the rock musical *American Idiot*, based on the 2004 album of the same name by punk rock band Green Day. An entirely student-led production, from directing and acting all the way through to lighting and musical accompaniment, the show was a highlight of the College's Friends and Family Homecoming Weekend.

"Our team was able to craft something that truly showcased our vision for the piece, all while working around the challenges of performing in the Great Hall," said the production's director, Kalen Hughes '20, a Theatre Arts major with a double concentration in Directing, as well as Producing and Management. "The cast and crew worked vigorously throughout the project to make our dream a reality. We hope we were able to inspire students to think outside the box for years to come."



## SCIENCE SOCIETY BRINGS BIOLOGY ALUMNI BACK TO 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET

MMC's Science Society, a student-run campus organization, and the Department of Natural Sciences frequently collaborate on events to showcase all the ways in which MMC students take advantage of the scientific opportunities New York City has to offer and to actively establish networking relationships between current students and alumni.

In December, more than 35 current students attended a packed panel discussion featuring Emma Kamen '18, Jennifer Lentine '10, Kevin Mora '19, and Elevit Perez '16, all recent Biology alumni working in the NYC metro area. The group shared their experiences with applying to graduate school and working at premier biomedical research institutions in New York City, including Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Weill Cornell Medical Center.

"This event underscored the deep relationships that were established between faculty and students pursuing Biology or Environmental Science degrees at MMC," explains Ann Aguanno, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences. "The array of science outcomes that these alumni represent exemplifies the breadth and depth of preparation the students in our programs are receiving from both the science curriculum and the liberal arts curriculum at Marymount Manhattan."

The panel provided important guidance on post-graduate opportunities for graduating Biology senior Julia Furnari '20, current president of the Science Society and the event's organizer. "Hearing the stories and experiences of these alumni assured me that there will always be a place for me in science, no matter which path I take," she says.



Biology Alumni Kevin Mora '19, Elevit Perez '16, Jennifer Lentine '10, and Emma Kamen '18

## MMC MAKES STRIDES IN CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Convened by President Kerry Walk in the spring of 2019, Marymount Manhattan College's Environmental Sustainability Team is charged with the development and implementation of several major initiatives to improve the College's environmental impacts and operational efficiency. Throughout the year, the committee—composed of students, faculty, staff, and administration—met monthly to review and evaluate the College's existing sustainability goals, as well as to implement new sustainability programs.

Among its numerous initiatives, the team led the charge for the College's conversion from an offsite to an onsite sorting and recycling program. "Sorting recyclables ourselves reinforces the importance of each person taking responsibility for making us a more sustainable campus," explains Lucy Wells, Capital Project Manager and a member of the committee.

In addition, the group has collaborated with Bright Power, an energy and water management consulting company that advises on efficient and environmentally friendly solutions to campus issues and processes.



Environmental Sustainability team members Katie LeBesco, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives; Lucy Wells, Capital Project Manager; Matthew Lundquist, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology; Julia Furnari '20, and Madison Weisend '20

This partnership has produced several important results, including the installation of a new building management system, crucial facilities repairs, a switch to organic, pesticide-free landscaping tools, and a waste-reduction program for campus dining facilities, to name just a few.

Perhaps the most exciting and impressive recent development is that MMC now purchases 100 percent of its power from renewable sources. Team member Madison Weisend '20, a senior double majoring in Environmental Studies and Politics and Human Rights, says she's proud to attend a college that is powered solely by renewable sources.

"Few colleges and universities have achieved this remarkable goal," she says. "In my four years of education here, I've witnessed a significant change in both students and faculty who are now prioritizing environmental sustainability in their personal and professional lives. I'm looking forward to crafting a vision of MMC that continues to limit energy use and incorporate sustainable thinking in every academic department."

Read more about MMC's sustainability efforts at [www.mmm.edu/sustainability](http://www.mmm.edu/sustainability).

## GO FIGURE: THE FEMALE GAZE

In November, Hallie Cohen, MFA, Professor of Art and Director of the Hewitt Gallery of Art, curated *Go Figure: The Female Gaze*, an exhibition of work by eleven women artists who embrace feminism and ecofeminism in order to challenge the traditions of male hegemony in art.

"My initial idea for *Go Figure: The Female Gaze* was to reframe the classic film theory of the 'male gaze,'" explains Professor Cohen. "I searched for a diverse lineup of women artists whose work embodies a more current feminist reading of a 'female gaze.'"

An opening reception for the exhibition filled the Hewitt Gallery with family and friends of the artists, alongside MMC students and faculty eager to examine the variety of mediums. Stunning, intimate portraits by Grace Graupe-Pillard were the first to draw attention as viewers entered the space, while a row of clocks by Alexandra Rubinstein, all bearing nude male buttocks, added a striking and amusing visual to the College's first floor gallery. The exhibition also featured *#Mood Exercises*, the work of conceptual artist and Art History alum E. Jane '12.

"I wanted to have some fun and sexy work in the Hewitt Gallery," shares Professor Cohen. "The opening reception brought together the MMC community and a sassy, smart, and sophisticated group of artists, celebrating their success and paving the way for future connections."

Top Left: Professor Hallie Cohen and President Kerry Walk  
Bottom Right: Artists Sophia Dawson and E. Jane '12



## Native American Heritage Month

Each November, MMC celebrates Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) with a series of campus events and discussions designed to promote and honor the legacies of indigenous communities across the country. In 2019, MMC paid tribute to the Delaware tribe, also known as the Lenape tribe, who were the original inhabitants of New Jersey, Delaware, and parts of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and southern New York, including what is, today, Manhattan.

The Office of Student Development and Activities invited Oleana Whispering Dove, a valued Lenape community advocate, to serve as the keynote speaker at the NAHM reception. A Tsalagi-Algonquian descendant, Oleana is a member of the American Indian Community House and serves as a museum guide, educator, curator, and Native American outreach liaison.

During the reception, Oleana shared an oral historical account of the Lenape on New York City land, discussed current issues and priorities facing the Ramapough-Lenape tribe, and dispelled common misconceptions. She asked students, faculty, and staff to participate in a silent activity, meant to parallel the language barriers that existed between indigenous peoples and European colonizers. Following her presentation and talk-back conversation, participants enjoyed a fresh farm-to-table meal provided by Green Top Farms.



## COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS STUDENTS HOST LINGUISTICS POP-UP EXHIBIT

MMC's College Honors Program (CHP) students enrolled in *SPCH 318: Language and Culture* debuted an interactive campus exhibit featuring five research projects on a variety of speech-related stereotypes.

The course was taught by Susan Behrens, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, who regularly requires students in the class to complete field work. "For the Honors section, I felt we should kick it up a notch and present to the MMC community," explains Dr. Behrens. "These students have been working on their projects since the beginning of the semester, learning about linguistic stereotypes and the social implications they have. In pairs, students worked on finding a stereotype near and dear to their hearts that they wanted to challenge."

According to Behrens, the groups approached their projects through three avenues: library research, field work and surveying, and designing an interactive presentation. The final projects evaluated the following:

- authority and perception levels between male and female voices;
- perceptions and misconceptions of New York City accents;
- the use of "baby talk" and its effects on language development in children;
- American perceptions to the sound of Arabic; and
- profanity and regional differences between the American North and South.



Maisha Williams, CPA, MBA

## MMC WELCOMES NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The College is delighted to welcome Maisha Williams, CPA, as Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer. Williams joined the College community in February and brings nearly two decades of experience in financial strategy, budget planning, and institutional transformation to MMC, having previously served in a variety of roles, most recently as Interim Associate Vice President for Financial Management at The George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C.

“I’m thrilled that Maisha has chosen to join us at MMC, where she is making an immediate impact,” says President Kerry Walk. “She is that rare person who combines the entrepreneurial spirit it takes to innovate with the disciplined approach required to operate a college.”

At GW, Williams was responsible for strategic financial planning for all administrative units at the University, leading cross-divisional teams in developing multi-year budgets and financial models. Through partnerships with colleagues across GW, Williams also gained significant experience with fundraising operations, endowment oversight, enrollment and financial aid strategy, and compliance and auditing.

“I can’t imagine a more exciting time to be joining Marymount Manhattan College,” said Williams. “I have been involved with many institutions throughout my career, but what solidified my decision about joining MMC was its mission, its commitment to serving a diverse and creative student body, and its dynamic leadership team. Its size provides a unique ability to remain nimble where larger institutions often struggle. As MMC strategically repositions itself for a more sustainable future, I appreciate that the College is also making history, and I am thrilled to be a part of it.”

Before joining GW in 2014, Williams served as the Assistant Controller at Howard University, also in Washington, D.C. She began her career in the private sector, at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the “Big Four” accounting firms. Williams received her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Accounting from Syracuse University and her MBA at GW, with concentrations in Human Capital, Leadership, and Financial Management.

“All of us at MMC welcome Maisha Williams to our campus community,” says President Walk. “With her extensive experience in finance and administration, and her strong track record of fostering highly effective teams, I have tremendous confidence in Maisha’s ability to help take MMC to the next level.”

## PSYCH DEPARTMENT WINS TOP STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Patrick Riley ’20, Psychology and Public Health double major, and Amanda Anzovino ’19, a recent Psychology alumna, participated in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research hosted by Fordham University in November.

More than 140 student and faculty researchers from over 20 institutions participated in this annual conference that highlights the research of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, and encourages excellence in the behavioral sciences, including psychology, social work, urban studies, international studies, and related fields.

Riley and Anzovino received the Scarpetta Award for best undergraduate research alongside faculty mentor and collaborator Nava Siltan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, for their work on *Realabilities* and *Addy & Uno*, a comic book series and off-Broadway musical about disability, bullying, and friendship.

In addition, Anzovino received the Hanson Award for best behavioral research on social justice for her work on women in the police force. Her research was supported by mentors Linda Solomon, Ph.D., and Cheryl Paradis, Ph.D., Professors of Psychology at MMC.



## NEW ‘SOCIAL JUSTICE AMBASSADOR’ PROGRAM FLOURISHES ON CAMPUS

The College’s new Social Justice Ambassador Program is a five-session development opportunity for students to investigate and assess the ways in which societal structures perpetuate privilege and oppression on both the institutional and individual levels.

The first cohort of ambassadors included Manuela Arap ’22, Dominique Cagliuso ’20, Olivia Louis-Charles ’23, and Dorian Provenchar ’22, who took part in group discussions, interactive activities, presentations, and reflections during weekly meetings throughout the fall semester. MMC faculty members, including Bradley Herling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Marnie Brady, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Politics and Human Rights, led discussions on topics ranging from religion and sexuality to power, privilege, and oppression. At the conclusion of the program, each of the ambassadors discussed their experiences in the program at the first annual Social Justice Talk Back, open to all members of the community.

The program was developed to draw together student leaders with different backgrounds, different experiences, and different identities to discuss and develop strategies to propel themselves, and the College community, toward a more inclusive future.

The experience was eye-opening for Cagliuso, a senior double majoring in International Studies and Politics and Human Rights and minoring in Law and Ethics. “The program provided a way for us each to open a dialogue and dig deeper within ourselves to look at how our individual stories melted into one. Then we had to think about how we’re going to take our stories, put them together, and mobilize for the future,” she says.



## ALUMNA AND PROFESSOR PUBLISH ARTICLE ON STEM LEARNING IN NEW YORK CITY

Emma Kamen ’18, Biology alumna, and Alessandra Leri, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, published an article describing a unique application of place-based learning in undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in the *Journal of College Science Teaching*.

Their paper, “Promoting STEM Persistence through an Innovative Field Trip-Based First-Year Experience Course,” describes the first-year seminar that Dr. Leri developed for students majoring in the natural sciences at MMC. The course, *Urban Ecosystem*, implements an experiential learning approach with a curriculum based on visits and experimentation at various NYC sites relevant to the local ecological landscape.

Field trips in the course include visits to aqueducts and reservoirs to learn about the challenges of urban water supply, a local recycling facility to learn about urban waste management, a wastewater treatment plant to learn about water quality issues, a green roof to learn about green infrastructure, and repeated visits to Central Park to study biodiversity and to measure water chemistry.

The interactive learning environment in the *Urban Ecosystem* seminar contextualizes science and technology in NYC while catering to the learning style of this generation of college students. It also addresses the low peer interaction reported nationwide among STEM students, as the field trips spark interpersonal connections while giving students real-world context for learning scientific concepts.

First author on the article, Kamen served for two years as a peer mentor for *Urban Ecosystem* and carried out a learning assessment of the course as part of her senior honors thesis in Biology. Kamen has continued her work at MMC post-graduation, traveling all over the world for student recruitment as an Admission Counselor.





## MMC TRAVELS TO NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Observed each February, Black History Month is a celebration of African American achievement, and the College's Office of Student Development and Activities (SDA) organized a robust calendar of programming to pay tribute to Black history, culture, and experience. Events included a film screening about the inspirational life of American icon Harriet Tubman; a trap karaoke night; the College's Annual Drag Show; a lecture and food tasting called *Storytelling Through Soul Food* featuring Jacqueline Orange, the owner of Taste Harlem Food & Cultural Tours; and *The Black Experience: Idolized and Stigmatized*, a trailblazing showcase of Black culture through the eyes of some of the media's most prolific and iconic Black TV hosts.

In addition, the calendar of events featured a day trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the country's only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, society, and heritage.

For Carli Christian '22, a Business major with a concentration in Entrepreneurship, the trip was the opportunity of a lifetime. "I had never been to Washington, D.C., or ridden MegaBus before, so I knew that this trip would be full of new experiences," she says. On an early Saturday morning, Christian and 25 of her peers boarded the bus from New York

City with Student Development and Activities (SDA) staff, and arrived in D.C. in the early afternoon to explore the museum, learning about the richness and diversity of the African American experience and how it has shaped this nation.

"Every section of the museum was exciting, but the music and fashion exhibits were the best," says Christian. "I loved seeing my favorite artists on the wall, including Michael Jackson, Beyonce, Rihanna, and so many others. It was such a different museum—not solely full of paintings and statues, but also incorporating interactive features. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to go and have one of the most memorable experiences of my college career. This trip taught me so much about my past, which now enlightens my future."

Kevin Croke, Assistant Director of SDA, was thrilled to participate in the trip as well. "The Museum offered a staggering amount of detail and historical evidence," Croke says. "The experience is mind-blowing and truly opens your eyes to how woefully inadequately the American education system covers the African American experience. Our hope—something the SDA team strives to do—is to incorporate Black and African American history and experience into our events throughout the year. We're representing all MMC students, all year long."



## ALUMNAE PRESENT REACHING OUR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AT PEDAGOGY LUNCHEON

Founded in 2011, MMC's Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence (C-TIE) is an intellectual and community space where faculty members can exchange ideas, seek advice and resources, stay up-to-date on the latest developments in pedagogy, and continually grow as teachers and mentors. One of the Center's recurring initiatives is the C-TIE Pedagogy Luncheon, offered three to four times each semester, that features different speakers and interactive workshops.

At one recent Luncheon, speech-language pathologists and MMC alumnae Christina Castronovo '13 and Kelly Ann Peña '13 were invited as speakers to share important lessons for working with college students on the autism spectrum, as well as those with visual disabilities and other unique learning challenges, and for managing challenging behaviors in the college classroom.

"Christina and I shared multi-modal teaching strategies with a focus on how to engage students, as well as how to find optimal ways of teaching in a variety of subject matters and course formats," explains Peña. "Professors raised specific examples of challenges they have had in their classes for the group to discuss—it was a very productive and enlightening session."

Other Pedagogy Luncheons have featured topics such as tools and teaching methods to ensure accessibility, high-impact teaching practices, and using mindfulness in the classroom, among others.



The new C-TIE logo created in 2020 during a student graphic design competition. The winning design is by Lavie Rakover '20, a Digital Media and Video Production major and Graphic Design minor.

## MMC INTRODUCES NEW 'FIRST GENERATION' INITIATIVE AND MENTOR PROGRAM



Left: Mwaka Bristol '23 with President Kerry Walk  
Above: Bel Mehaffy '23 and Caleigh Tyson '23 with mentor Carly Schneider '12, Assistant Director of Communications

The fall 2019 semester saw the launch of MMC's new First Gen Program, a campus-wide initiative aimed at supporting students who are first in their families to attend college. The program provides additional opportunities for students to build community with one another, receive academic support, gain access to resources, and work towards their professional development.

Central to this initiative is the First Generation Mentor Program, designed to provide social support by building strong relationships between students and faculty and staff across campus.

The year-long program matched incoming first-generation students with faculty and staff mentors, some of whom were first-generation students themselves, and all of whom are fully invested in student success at the College. Throughout the academic year, mentees met one-on-one with their mentors and the program's coordinators, as well as attended workshops on professional development, academic success, and personal wellness.

In its first year, the First Generation Mentor Program engaged 52 students and 40 faculty and staff members. "The connections developed through these mentorship experiences proved to be valuable not only to students, but also to the faculty and staff mentors," says Rebecca Mattis-Pinard, Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator. "The First Gen Program coordinators are thrilled about all the positive feedback received this year, and we look forward to continuing to grow the program and support this population of students."

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK AT MMC

International Education Week, celebrated each November, is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to laud the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. On campus, multiple departments and student organizations—including the Office of Student Development and Activities, the Office of Study Abroad, the Cultural Peer Mentors, Campus Activities Board, and Student Government Association—come together to arrange events that expand global awareness and promote education abroad.

MMC students, faculty, and staff participated in a wide range of events and discussions, including a traditional Japanese tea ceremony led by licensed tea instructors; a potluck-style international food festival, in which participants shared their favorite home-cooked dishes; *Ice Cream Around the World*, a showcase and tasting of ice cream desserts from a variety of countries; a performance by Brazilian guitarist Thalys Peterson; and a World Hunger Banquet, an interactive simulation of the global food system and poverty around the world.



Students and staff mingle and enjoy home-cooked dishes at MMC's International Food Festival

## 108 HOURS OF PEACE

Amit Bhattacharyya, Ph.D., Visiting Fellow and Adjunct Professor of International Studies, and Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of International Studies, were plenary speakers at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual 108 Horas de Paz (108 Hours of Peace), a social change event held in Vaimão, Brazil, on a 17-hectare Buddhist ecovillage. The yearly event brings together policymakers, activists, and leaders from social movements, universities, indigenous groups, non-governmental organizations, and faith groups, for four days of what Dr. Hernandez calls “a Buddhist-inspired, intellectual, activist Woodstock.”

Talks and workshops were held all day for each of the four days of the conference, with music and theatre performances each night. Dr. Bhattacharyya spoke on the role of compassion in the United Nations system, and Dr. Hernandez gave two presentations—the first a screening and discussion on his current in-progress film, *Pathways to Sustainability*, and the second, *Mesa: Cities and Environment*, a panel presentation on best practices for urban sustainable development policy. The conference concluded with a Tibetan Buddhist celebration of the new year on December 31.

Fourteen MMC students were due to have traveled back to the same ecovillage with Dr. Hernandez and Jessica Blatt, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, in May for an intensive course called *Brazil: Sustainability, Worldviews and Networks*; however, the trip unfortunately had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN HEOP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH JUBILEE CELEBRATION AND NEW INITIATIVES

MMC celebrated 50 years of the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) in 2019, welcoming students, alumni, faculty, staff, and proud families to campus for a formal Golden Jubilee Celebration in honor of this milestone anniversary. The event—held as part of Family and Friends Homecoming Weekend—featured a keynote address from City Councilor Adrienne E. Adams of Jamaica, Queens, who praised MMC’s commitment to equal educational access.

**HEOP has opened opportunities for students who otherwise would not have had the support that they need to be successful. The program has helped to address the inequities in our society—those based on race, gender, and income. Higher education should not be a luxury, or a roll of the dice. It is an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to attain.**

—Adrienne E. Adams, City Councilor

Eilene Bertsch, former academic dean and grant writer at MMC, was presented with an award of appreciation for her work to establish the Community Leadership Program (HEOP’s precursor) at the College in 1969. In the five decades since, MMC has proudly graduated more than 200 HEOP students at a rate of 90 percent—a testament to student persistence and excellence at MMC when compared to the 10 percent statewide average graduation rate for HEOP students.

Looking toward the future of this pivotal program, HEOP at MMC has established several new professional and leadership development opportunities, including the re-launch of the Young Men’s Initiative (YMI), which aims to increase the recruitment and success of self-identified men in HEOP. The YMI cohort meets on a regular basis to discuss topics of academic progress, social justice, and the experience of higher education, and is led by Michael Salmon, Assistant Vice President and Dean of the Center for Academic Excellence. “Today, young men of color are an endangered species across college campuses in America,” says Dean Salmon. “Here at MMC, of the 50 students in HEOP, only nine are men—fewer than 20 percent! We started the YMI with the explicit goal of seeing how we can better recruit, engage, retain, and graduate men of color within our program. This is a critical enterprise to which I am totally committed.”

The HEOP Office has also established a team of para-professional student staff and has appointed a Leadership Council, both aimed at encouraging career-readiness by providing students with opportunities to gain practical experience and transferrable skills.



From Top: HEOP students celebrate the Golden Jubilee. Harmony Cross, Michael Salmon, Eilene Bertsch, Kerry Walk, Ph.D., and Rebecca Mattis-Pinard. The HEOP Young Men’s Initiative with Dean Michael Salmon. HEOP students with President Kerry Walk and Councilor Adrienne E. Adams



# WEATHERING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Last spring, colleges and universities across the country and around the world faced an unprecedented crisis: a global pandemic rapidly spreading illness and fear, and an urgent need to evacuate students from the campus, their residence halls, and, in many cases, their cities, in a matter of days.

The extraordinary scale and pace of the pandemic's spread made it difficult to fully anticipate its impacts or trajectory; however, Marymount Manhattan was in a position to respond swiftly and systematically, thanks to two years of strategic institutional focus on emergency preparedness and response.

## WHEN NOT WHETHER: PREPAREDNESS AND MMC

In the fall of 2017, the College conducted an institutional risk assessment, examining areas of potential concern, such as cyber and informational technology breaches, reputational damage, and life and safety threats. The result was a comprehensive overview of risks in terms of likelihood and severity of impact.

"Every college and university assumes a certain amount of risk. There could be a major fire in a campus building, an extreme weather emergency that impacts community safety or structural integrity, a cyber-attack, or an infectious disease outbreak," says Abby Fiorella '83, MasterCard's Chief Technology Risk Officer and the Chair of the MMC Board of Trustees' Audit and Risk Committee. "Although it can be unsettling to confront all of the things that *could* go wrong, it's better to look our fears in the face and be prepared than to be caught off guard."

## A PLAN MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN THE MAKING

The next step was to turn institutional recognition and understanding of potential risks and harms into risk management strategies and actionable plans. Working with Katie Belfi, Esq., an emergency management expert, the College undertook the monumental task of overhauling MMC's Emergency Operations Plan and establishing a new framework to facilitate more nimble and effective emergency response and planning.

Having previously served as regional counsel for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and as an emergency manager for NYU Langone Health, one of the nation's premier medical centers, Belfi brought a wealth of experience and knowledge about best practices for emergency management to MMC.

"We recognized that it was crucial to invest time and resources into overhauling our emergency preparedness initiatives at

the College to define a more holistic approach," says Diana Zambrotta Sheetz, MMC's Executive Director for Business Operations and Real Estate, who serves as the College's primary representative working with Belfi and as a leader on the emergency response team. "The structure and terminology were new to us, but Katie helped us implement a program that is truly first-class and puts MMC well ahead of many comparable institutions in terms of emergency preparedness."

In October 2019, after nearly two years of research and development, the College rolled out a robust Emergency Operations Plan. The plan defines clear emergency response roles and communication flows, and outlines core step-by-step response procedures in the event of a range of emergency situations.

Central to the new plan is a focus on practice. The College has established a Risk and Emergency Preparedness (REP) team, chaired by Emmalyn Yamrick, Associate Vice President for Student Success & Engagement/Dean of Students, that meets weekly to discuss, define, and implement strategic institutional priorities around health, safety, and emergency response. The team is also spearheading a robust calendar of drills and trainings to engage the campus-wide community in continuous





efforts to practice and prepare for emergency scenarios throughout the semester.

In addition, College leadership, and all those assigned a particular response role in the event of an emergency, now participate in tabletop exercises at least once per semester. These training sessions allow participants to practice communication and cooperation during crises.

“Tabletops are discussion-based exercises that allow us to test response capabilities for any incident that could feasibly happen on the MMC campus,” explains Belfi. “Preparing for emergencies can be uncomfortable and often a little frightening. These exercises help the response team practice their roles in an emergency and strengthen their muscle memory by working through challenges in an imaginary scenario. That way, when the scenario is real, people know exactly what to do.”

Scenarios for tabletop exercises have included a citywide, extended power outage, a major winter weather storm, and—planned well in advance of the COVID-19 pandemic—an infectious disease outbreak.

“Practice helps reduce the fear and paralysis many people feel when faced with an emergency and enables us to analyze any gaps in our response mechanisms,” says Zambrotta Sheetz. “It’s also critical that the entire community become familiar with the Emergency Operations Plan to develop a sense of trust that when something goes wrong, the College will be able to spring into action.”

## PUTTING PREPARATION INTO PRACTICE

When the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 spread faster than anyone expected, MMC’s response team was primed to address the situation. Staff who were members of the emergency response team began tracking the outbreak in January and discussing potential impacts for campus, meeting regularly and setting up a clear line of communication.

“We collected reliable information from the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control, and our leaders here in the state of New York and made considered recommendations to the President with everyone at the table,” says Zambrotta Sheetz, who served as Incident Commander, directing the College’s response to the pandemic from mid-January through most of March. “All of this planning allowed the College to respond in a strategic, organized fashion.”

As the novel coronavirus spread overseas, MMC issued health advisories and began educating the community on self-monitoring for symptoms and best practices for maintaining personal health and hygiene. Students who were studying abroad were encouraged, and eventually required, to return to home in advance of nationwide travel restrictions.

## INTO THE UNKNOWN

As the virus began to take hold in the U.S., MMC’s response team shifted into high gear, closely monitoring the environment, activating health and safety protocols, and planning for multiple scenarios. On March 10, President Kerry Walk announced the College’s intention to convert to remote instruction following a brief transition period dedicated to faculty and staff virtual education training. The College restricted access to campus, including labs and studios, and ultimately required students to vacate the residence halls before New York City instigated lockdown measures.

“The decision to transition to remote learning was a huge one, but when we made that call, everyone understood the part they had to play in helping to ensure that our students would be supported,” says President Walk. “Moving so adeptly to a virtual learning and working environment would not have been possible without our revamped Emergency Operations Plan in place and the months of practice we had in implementing it.”

Meg Masseron ’21, a double major in Digital Journalism and Theatre Arts with a concentration in Theatre History, had been tracking the trajectory of the pandemic with apprehension, and with a particular fear given her immunocompromised upper respiratory system. “Watching the pandemic unfold in NYC was nothing short of a nightmare for me,” she recalls. “While other students were understandably frustrated with the abrupt transition to remote instruction, I was incredibly relieved to know that I no longer had to be in a classroom environment where, at the time, no one was wearing masks and everyone was traveling on public transportation two or more times a day. I was happy with the College’s decision, but I noticed that even those that were displeased with it eventually understood the necessity by the time the virus peaked in NYC in mid-April.”

A key component of the revamped Emergency Operations Plan is to establish a decision-making process that holds up in the face of ambiguity. “People might not understand how difficult it was to make these decisions under such pressure and with so much uncertainty,” says Belfi. “But MMC made decisions quickly, and before a lot of other schools in the region, and their choices were absolutely right given the unfolding circumstances.”

The spring 2020 semester was completed virtually and largely with great success, despite the harrowing global circumstances.





Daily Dance instructor Rommy Sandhu correcting *developpe a la seconde*, one student screen at a time

“Faculty developed innovative means of engaging students and continuing the learning process, ensuring that course objectives were met and required skills were taught,” says Peter Naccarato, Ph.D., Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. “Students and faculty together found impressive ways to be creative remotely, and many experienced adaptability as one of the most crucial learning outcomes of our spring semester.” (See pages 22-27 for more about virtual education during the spring semester).

MMC’s response team continues to be active and future-oriented, planning for contingencies around the continued spread of the virus and the upcoming semester.

“At the moment, we remain in an ongoing active response mode as the situation changes every day,” says Zambrotta Sheetz. “All of the departments on campus have developed Continuity of Operations Plans based on what we’ve learned in the last few months, and we’re charting different emergency scenarios so we can act on them accordingly.”

“Our goal is to make sure people know we have an effective Emergency Operations Plan, we trust in it, and we’re following it carefully,” says Yamrick. “We know that our future will look much different from what we’ve previously known in higher education, and we’re taking proactive steps to make sure we remain flexible and ready to respond.”

“Coming from the outside as a consultant, I have a lot of admiration for what MMC has done as a small school,” says Belfi. “There is a culture of resilience within Marymount Manhattan’s community that helps them stand apart from their peers.”

## *The Fall Restart Plan: A Virtual Classes/ Open Campus Model*

**In July, President Kerry Walk announced the College’s Board-approved Fall 2020 Restart Plan, which adopts a Virtual Classes/Open Campus model for the fall semester.**

Based on recommendations made by the Presidential Task Force to Restart MMC, the Virtual Classes/Open Campus model offers the best of both worlds: nearly all courses will take place in an online format to help ensure that instruction will proceed uninterrupted, while the physical facilities—both the main campus and the residence halls—will be open, health and safety permitting. As a perk, on-campus studios, performance spaces, study spaces, and equipment will be available for students and faculty to reserve.

The semester will conclude with a flexible “Final Stretch” period between Thanksgiving Break and the last day of the semester for intensified individual instruction, final papers and exams, and virtual and open-campus showcases of student work.

“I couldn’t fathom how it could possibly be safe to bring students into a classroom during the pandemic, or how it would be realistic to trust students to wear masks throughout long days of classes, some of which span 10 or more hours,” says Meg Masseron ’21. “The Restart Plan is better than I ever could have imagined. It perfectly incorporates all the diverse visions students had of what next semester should look like. I deeply appreciate that the plan prioritized the health of the student body, while still granting students their personal freedom to come and go from campus as they please, or live in the Residence Halls if they choose to be in the city.”



**For the most up-to-date information about the College’s Restart Plan, visit [www.mmm.edu/restart](http://www.mmm.edu/restart).**

# VIRTUAL REALITY: SCENES FROM THE CLOUD

As the world grapples with COVID-19, institutions of higher education across the country have had to develop, implement, and adapt to methods of virtual teaching, learning, and working. Marymount Manhattan College is no exception, and students, faculty, and staff have worked and continue to work tirelessly to adjust to this new normal.

“In the face of a pandemic that has swiftly changed our world, our community has understood that higher education is the only way forward—that educated leaders and global citizens with a commitment to the safety and dignity of all human beings must lead the way into the future. I stand in true awe of our students, who quickly adapted to a virtual learning environment and demonstrated creativity, compassion, and indescribable perseverance throughout a challenging year, and I cannot fully express my gratitude to our faculty and staff, who transformed MMC overnight and consistently demonstrated their care for our students and unwavering commitment to the College’s educational mission.

— MMC President Kerry Walk

President Walk Joins Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright for a Virtual Town Hall

MMC President Kerry Walk was featured on the panel of special guest speakers during a Virtual Town Hall on COVID-19 Response and Higher Education, hosted by Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, who represents the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island in New York’s 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

Other guest speakers included Kristina Johnson, State University of New York Chancellor; Felix Matos Rodriguez, City University of New York Chancellor; and Guillermo Linares, President of the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation.

President Walk shared insight into how MMC was able to creatively transition to a remote campus in March and spoke on the particular responsibility that institutions of higher education have during the COVID-19 crisis.

“What we’re understanding very clearly through this emergency is that we need to do as much as we can for our students. Their families are facing mass unemployment. They themselves are dealing with unemployment, with food insecurity, with transportation difficulty. We are doubling down, in all the ways that we can, to make an education at a private non-profit college affordable,” President Walk said.

“We are ready to find our way forward with as much certainty as we can” continued President Walk, “and be ready to help restart the state, restart the city, and restart college education, which is vital to the future of our world. Marymount Manhattan College and all institutes of higher education have so much to contribute to that effort of educating a global citizenry.”

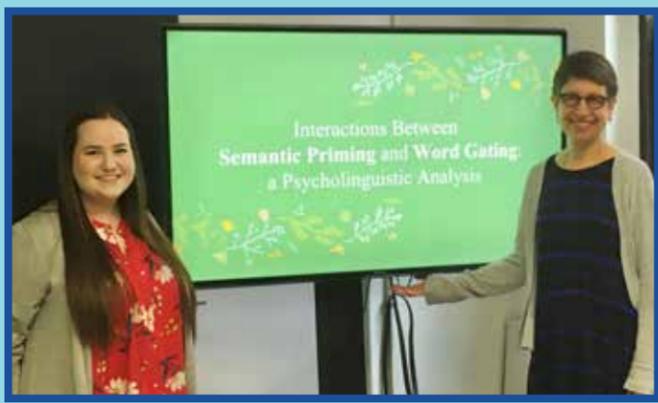


CSD Students and Faculty Present at Virtual Research Conference

Sue Behrens, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), and her student research team presented their work virtually for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Westchester Undergraduate Research Conference. Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology juniors Laura Morini '21 and Mel Braccia '21, as well as Tony Burger, a senior at Bergen County Academies in New Jersey completing his senior internship year with Dr. Behrens and Denise Cruz, MMC's Director of Clinical Services, presented *Building a More Integrated Team: Linguistics and Interprofessionalism*.

The team researched ways that the field of Speech-Language Pathology could benefit from more linguistics courses in the higher education curriculum and through continuing educational training for practitioners. They surveyed both linguists and speech-language pathologists, gathering workplace examples of the need for more interprofessionalism and an enhanced treatment team for patients. Their outreach was supplemented by a thorough literature review of innovative ways that linguistic thinking has improved diagnosis and treatment.

The conference, which moved to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, featured poster and platform presentations hosted and delivered through a conference webpage. In addition, dozens of student authors presented their research virtually during the conference, with interaction and discussion related to the presentations continuing online for several days following the event.



Biology Seniors Zoom in on Coronavirus

*BIOL 490: Senior Seminar in Biology*, taught by Alessandra Leri, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, is a capstone experience course for Biology and Biomedical Sciences majors that immerses students in the process of reading and understanding primary scientific literature. When the spring semester was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Leri quickly transitioned the course to focus exclusively on the latest research regarding the novel coronavirus. In remote sessions opened to the entire MMC community, students presented peer-reviewed articles on topics ranging from sequencing the genome of the virus and the clinical manifestations of COVID-19 to the latest vaccine and treatment research.

Throughout the semester, the class hosted undergraduate and post-bac students, alumni, faculty members, and parents who were interested in hearing the seminar students discuss emergent research on the virus. In one session, Biology alumna Laura Anthony '11, a pediatric surgical technologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, joined and shared her perspective from the front lines of COVID-19 patient care.

"Continuing our presentations in Senior Seminar has allowed us to keep developing our scientific communication skills," says Julia Furnari '20, a student in the course. "It has been empowering to learn about COVID-19 while it evolves around us. I'm proud to be focusing my education on something that matters so much right now."

Award-Winning Filmmaker Joy E. Reed Leads Workshop on Assistant Editing



Assistant editor is often a first job for graduating seniors interested in media production, like those in MMC's *COMM 405: Production and Distribution* course. To give his students a firsthand introduction to the industry, Dan Hunt, MFA, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Arts, invited esteemed filmmaker Joy E. Reed (they/them) to join the course on Zoom and lead a workshop on the role of assistant editors on film and documentary projects, sharing their vast experience in technical and creative editing. Reed, whose documentary work has screened at Sundance, DocNYC, and Tribeca film festivals, and has been shown on HBO and PBS, also co-directed the documentary film *Little Miss Westie* with Professor Hunt.

"During these challenging times for students, we have to come up with ways to add dimension to the virtual classroom," says Professor Hunt. "With everyone sheltered in place, there are unique opportunities to connect with industry folks who may have some down time and a desire to share wisdom with emerging film and media makers. Joy is an incredible talent and on the frontline of documentary editing, and they shared info and experience with these students that could help catapult their careers."



Pulitzer Prize Winner David Auburn Discusses Work with MMC Theatre Class

*Proof*—David Auburn's 2000 play that earned the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2001 Tony Award for Best Play—was the subject of study throughout the spring semester for students in *THTR 212: Beginning Scene Study*, a lab course for Acting majors taught by Ellen Orenstein, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts.

In May, students had the rare opportunity to engage with the playwright himself over Zoom as David Auburn joined the online class and shared his insight.

"I'm so proud of my students," says Professor Orenstein. "They asked David very insightful questions and engaged in thought-provoking conversation about his work, creating art, and how theatre can survive after this pandemic."

Auburn is a playwright, screenwriter, and theatre director based in New York City. He has authored twelve plays, including *Skyscraper*, *What Do You Believe About the Future?*, and *The Columnist*, as well as five screenplays, including the 2005 adaption of *Proof* starring Gwyneth Paltrow.

**MMC Class "Attends" Brooklyn Academy of Music's 2020 Virtual Gala**

Students in *ART 392: Fundraising and Marketing for the Arts*, taught by adjunct instructor Jaynie Saunders Tiller, had the unique opportunity to "attend" the popular annual fundraiser for the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), a multi-arts center in Brooklyn well-known as a center for progressive and avant-garde performance.

This year's fundraiser, reimagined in an open virtual format, honored actress Cate Blanchett, Broadway producer Jeanne Donovan Fisher, and novelist Zadie Smith and featured performances by Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch's Julie Anne Stanzak, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Hope Boykin, and St. Vincent.

When Professor Tiller realized the event was scheduled for the exact time of her Wednesday evening course, she jumped on the opportunity for her class to see one of the world's leading arts organizations produce a mission-driven online event.

"It was the culmination of everything we've been working on this semester," explains Professor Tiller. "Without the ability to physically share space, arts organizations want to provide comfort and support to their communities of artists, staff members, donors, and audiences. It was an amazing chance to witness BAM strengthen those relationships. Plus, when will I ever have the opportunity to take 19 students to an event like this again?!"



Photo credit: Hearst Digital Media

**Pop/Rock Performance Students Participate in Virtual Midterm Showcase with Expert Panel**

**In *THTR 356: Pop/Rock Performance*, taught by adjunct instructor and alumna MaryAnne Piccolo '05 with Music Director Elliot Roth, students examine the history and progression of pop, rock, and R&B music and artists ranging from the 1950s through today, exploring how current events, social status, and cultural acceptances actively affect storytelling through song.**

**For their midterm assignment, each student submitted a two-minute long self-tape audition performing a favorite pop/rock piece. The class was then joined via Zoom by a panel of industry professionals to view each performance and received professional feedback on their virtual auditions. An interactive Q&A session followed to equip students with information and tips about preparing for careers in the industry.**

**The panel of guest experts featured Katie Proctor, Casting Director at RWS Casting; headshot and self-tape experts Rex Lott and Shawn McLaughlin of Rex Lott Photography; Randy Blair, actor and writer whose credits include Broadway's *Amelie* and *Gigantic* (The Vineyard); and Justin Gregory Lopez, actor and vocalist whose credits include NBC's *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Octet* (The Signature Theatre).**



**Psych Students Meet Guest Speakers on Zoom**



Students in *PSYCH 362: Ethical Issues Concerning the Developing Child*, taught by Nava Sifton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, spend the semester exploring the moral, social, biological, and cognitive aspects of development in order to facilitate an understanding and analysis of ethical dilemmas. In the spring semester, students had the exciting opportunity to hear from two expert guest speakers during their class discussions on Zoom.

Drew Leder, M.D., Ph.D., MMC's Ferraro Fellow on Prison Education and Public Philosophy, joined the class to speak about the impact of incarceration on incarcerated mothers and their children. The class discussed shocking statistics regarding incarceration, the hope for more "enlightened prisons," and the challenges of incarceration for children growing up without a mother during their key developmental years. Dr. Leder helped advance students' understanding of child development through the provocative exploration of ethical issues related to vulnerable child populations. Read more about Dr. Leder on page 42.

Students were also treated to a guest appearance by Eustacia Cutler, the mother of renowned autism and animal husbandry researcher Temple Grandin. Cutler offered students a personal perspective on raising a child with autism during a time when very little was known about the disability and discussed the biographical drama film *Temple Grandin*, which the students had viewed as part of the course.

"Having this opportunity was something I may have dreamed of, but never expected to happen," said Amanda (Pand) Milo '22, a Psychology major in the course. "Eustacia Cutler and Temple Grandin mean a lot to my family and me for all they've done for individuals with autism."

Cutler also relayed how lonely it can be to be on the spectrum and connected with students over the deep sense of loneliness many are feeling in the current climate. "The group connected and was particularly responsive to the loneliness that hits families where there's autism," Cutler said. "In these strange weeks of social isolation, we've all learned first-hand just how lonely that loneliness feels."



# INTERNSHIPS TO CAREERS:

# ENTERING THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Internships are widely recognized as key to future professional success for college students. From providing opportunities to gain practical skills and “real-life” experience to introducing students to new industries and professional networks, internships lay a crucial foundation during formative years and equip students to secure employment after graduation.

At MMC, students have the added benefit of being immersed in the rich cultural and professional environment of New York City as they seek and obtain internship experiences—whether in person or virtually. The wide variety of competitive and higher-level internships prepares students to enter the knowledge economy, in which critical and creative thinking, advanced communication skills, information filtering, and facility with technology are paramount.

**Sofia Pipolo '20**, a Digital Media and Film Production major with a minor in Sociology, interned as the script supervisor on *Life After You*, an independent feature film, in January 2020. She worked 10- to 15-hour days, six days a week, alongside the director to ensure visual and narrative continuity in the film.

*“I was creatively contributing to every take for every scene,”* says Pipolo. *“The communication skills I developed helped me learn to trust my work and my voice. I found that I loved working closely with the director, while having a strong voice of my own on set. Now, I want to continue to work on more shorts and features as a script supervisor after graduation.”*

Pipolo’s internship led to a job offer, and she will continue to work with the same director on upcoming films throughout the next year. “I made some great connections with people who I know I can reach out to, either when I need someone on my own project or when they need me,” she notes.



Sofia Pipolo '20

*“Marymount Manhattan’s location within the heart of New York City’s professional and cultural environment enables students to garner the intellectual capital and connections they need to thrive in today’s knowledge economy,”* says MMC President Kerry Walk. *“Our graduates know how to analyze and synthesize information, and they’re committed to continuous learning in order to disrupt and innovate in their chosen professional careers.”*

## THE MMC CITYEDGE: BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITY AND CAREER PREPARATION IN NEW YORK CITY

At Marymount Manhattan, internships are baked into the educational experience across each major and program of study. *CityEdge*, MMC’s signature college-to-career initiative, combines a rigorous place-based and knowledge-focused curriculum with abundant professional opportunities and services to position students to compete and excel in a constantly evolving professional domain—and in the heart of the greatest city in the world.

“Being connected to New York City is a fundamental part of attending Marymount Manhattan,” says Robin E. Nackman, Esq., Executive Director of the Office of Career Services. “Through our *CityEdge* initiative, the city becomes our students’ classroom. Plus, we have a wealth of alumni here in New York in every field you can think of—students really benefit from those connections.”



Students are immersed in the rich cultural and professional environment of New York City from the start of their college careers.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### SHELBY REILLY '18



**MAJOR:**  
Theatre Arts with a concentration in Theatre and New Media

**INTERNSHIP:**  
HERE Art Center

Reilly interned at HERE Art Center, one of the city’s most prolific arts organizations, where she assisted on production-related projects within the theatre department. Since graduating in December 2018, Reilly served as the Assistant Video Designer on the award-winning interactive family show *Pip’s Island* with MMC adjunct instructor Rocco DiSanti, and was selected to design her first equity show in New York, produced by RippleEffects Artists, an organization dedicated to produce works driven by social issues. She currently works as a stage manager for *Future Proof*, an NYC- and online-based multi-month interactive transmedia project.

*“My internship at HERE Art Center kickstarted the beginning of my professional career. The connections I made through that internship resulted in long-lasting friendships and contacts. HERE Arts really became my home base, an experience that I am still so grateful for.”*

### MARTINE FAUSTIN '19



**MAJOR:**  
Behavioral Neuroscience

**INTERNSHIP:**  
Nestler Lab at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

The rigorous internship program helped Faustin develop critical study habits and presentation skills, and ultimately turned into a full-time neuroscience research associate position, in which Faustin now aids in research on the molecular mechanisms of addiction and depression.

*“I could not be where I am now without the supportive MMC faculty members who were pillars of my experience and steered me toward my internship.”*

One component of *CityEdge* is CareerLab, an online and interactive career development “boot camp” that introduces students to foundational concepts in career preparation and planning. In CareerLab, students learn their strengths, build their personal brand, and explore compatible career options. All students completing for-credit internships are required to complete the “Shape Your Experience” module of CareerLab, which walks them through the internship search and application process, offers interview preparation with a digital mock interview platform, and provides tips for making the most of the internship experience, both professionally and personally.

*“From the very beginning of their college careers, we offer all students information about the value of internships and encourage them to explore,”* says Nackman. *“For a lot of students, internships are their first immersion in a work environment. The experience takes away an unknown and helps them feel better prepared for life after graduation. It exposes students to a work environment in a supported way and helps them figure out the rules on their own.”*

### MAKING INTERNSHIPS POSSIBLE

Making internships available to every student is key to MMC’s goal of providing incomparable professional preparation.

The *CityEdge* Internship Stipend helps make unpaid internship experiences at nonprofits and government organizations possible by offering qualifying students \$1,000 stipends to make these internship opportunities affordable.

MMC’s Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) launched new initiatives this year to encourage career readiness and provide students with opportunities to gain practical experience and transferrable skills. The HEOP Leadership Council, a unit of student interns led by Program Director Harmony Cross, manages special projects on campus and advocates on behalf of their peers.

In addition to the Leadership Council positions, HEOP also employs students in office manager and HEOP intern roles, which allow interested students to learn basic managerial, operational, and leadership skills, while collaborating with the HEOP Leadership Council on specific projects.



Leana Jannetty '18



Skylar Woodhouse '21

*“Career and job readiness is such an important component of the college experience,”* explains Cross. *“It is vitally important for students, especially those who may lack social capital, like family and network connections, to learn how to leverage their talents, interests, and strengths into professional skills.”*

### A DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY

MMC’s academic and experiential opportunities help ensure that alumni have the skills, abilities, and knowledge to pursue their passions with resilience and confidence, and to be positioned not only for success, but also for satisfaction, in their careers.

As a student, **Leana Jannetty '18**, a Finance and Entrepreneurship double major with minors in Accounting, Economics, and Dance, worked as an operations management intern at Merrill Lynch, one of the largest wealth management businesses in the world. After graduating, Jannetty secured a full-time position with the company’s Northeast Division Office Management Team.

“Career Services opened this door to me in the fall of my senior year by helping me earn my internship with Merrill Lynch,” Jannetty reflects. “MMC’s diverse academic environment allowed me to integrate my dance background with my interest in the business world.”

Even the COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped MMC students from seeking valuable experiences in the workforce. With characteristic determination and adaptability, many students have continued to pursue fulfilling professional experiences remotely.

**Skylar Woodhouse '21**, a rising senior double majoring in Digital Journalism and Cinema, Television, and Emerging Media, completed a virtual internship with Bloomberg News this spring and summer, working on the company’s U.S government team with a specific focus on congressional news. In June, she published “U.S. Must Prepare Now for Next Pandemic, Senators Are Told,” a Bloomberg News article detailing the Senate’s Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on June 23, 2020.

## LAUREN GARAFANO '19



### MAJORS:

Digital Journalism and Cinema, Television, and Emerging Media

### INTERNSHIPS:

Buzzfeed; Decider; TV Guide Magazine

Garafano was hired as an Editorial Fellow at BuzzFeed, after spending four years as a Community Contributor at the leading media company while a student MMC. In addition to her long-term involvement with BuzzFeed, she also completed several internships: two at Decider during her junior and senior years, and another at TV Guide Magazine during her senior year.

*“I’m excited to finally get to work at the place I’ve been dreaming of since high school. The media world is constantly changing and I’m learning more every single day.”*

## MADISON AREND '19



### MAJOR:

Business with a concentration in Fashion Marketing

### INTERNSHIPS:

Love Sam; COED Media Group

Arend interned with the brand Love Sam, assisting designers with a range of projects, from organizing the showroom to buying pieces for upcoming collections. She also completed a social media internship at COED Media Group, creating timely, engaging content for multiple digital platforms. Today, Arend continues her career in public relations as an intern for PR Consulting, a firm based in New York City specializing in fashion, beauty, and lifestyle industries.

*“These experiences launched me into new networks and gave me connections to enhance my career.”*

## ADRIANA



*“Bloomberg has really invested in their virtual internship program,” says Woodhouse. “They are making sure that we as interns are prepared and able to walk away and say ‘I was able to learn and grow despite not being able to be in the office and experience a traditional internship.’ Everyone is super helpful and accessible, so even though I am not in the office, I still feel like I am there and a contributing part of the team.”*

To facilitate internships in a virtual environment, Marymount Manhattan has quickly adapted in order to provide the education, networking, and creative innovations that push students towards the professional outcomes they seek.

### SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Students all want to know: Where will my degree get me, and is it worth it? At MMC, professional opportunities and connections abound, both on campus and throughout the city—and both in-person and remotely. Regardless of academic program, students find myriad ways to put their interests and studies to active use.

“Students take their classes, they get inspired, and they are encouraged to seek out internships,” says Nackman. “That gives them an idea of what type of work experience they want to have—and don’t want to have.”

And when they graduate, they are often more prepared than their peers around the country.

*“Marymount Manhattan students are tapped into New York’s vast professional network as early as their first semester,” says President Walk. “Our aim is for students’ college experience to be intertwined with professional preparation, making their transition to careers in the knowledge economy as seamless as possible and giving them an unrivaled launchpad for post-graduate success.”*

Career Services welcomes alumni involvement at any level. Email us at [careerservices@mmm.edu](mailto:careerservices@mmm.edu) to learn more about getting involved with the following, or pitch an idea of your own!

- Post an internship or job opportunity for current students
- Set up an on-campus recruitment table for you/your company
- Host a small group of students for a site/class visit at your organization
- Come to campus to speak to a class about your work/industry
- Join our Annual Career Summit, a networking and professional development day for students, featuring a keynote speaker, employer/industry breakout sessions, and a networking lunch

## ALUMNI: GET INVOLVED



## Where We've Interned

Check out a sampling of just a few of the thousands of sites and organizations that have hosted MMC interns to work, learn, grow, and create as they transition from college students to industry professionals.

- American Ballet Theatre
- The Audio Engineering Society
- Giorgio Armani
- Goldman Sachs
- Harper's Bazaar
- HBO
- JPMorgan Chase
- Madison Square Garden
- The Martha Graham Dance Company and School
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- NBC
- New York Shakespeare Festival
- PBS
- Saturday Night Live
- Tribeca Film Festival
- United Nations

### KUNSTENAAR '19

#### MAJOR:

Art with a concentration in Studio Art and minor in Communication and Media Arts

#### INTERNSHIP:

Mouse Ceramic Studio

Kunstenaar interned at Mouse Ceramic Studio in Brooklyn, a full-service ceramics facility offering classes to children and adults, while she was a student. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Early Childhood Education at the Bank Street Graduate School of Education, while serving as a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher at The Birch Wathen Lenox School.

*“MMC has opened doors for me—my summer internship at Mouse Ceramic Studio showed me how much I loved teaching children. The guidance I received from my professors helped me get into Bank Street Graduate School of Education, my top choice graduate school.”*



### ALEXANDRA MANDELL '19

#### MAJOR:

Business with a concentration in Advertising and Promotion

#### INTERNSHIP:

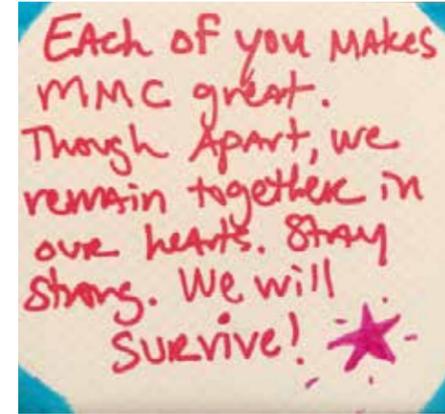
Jazz Power Initiative

After interning with Jazz Power Initiative, Mandell is now a Media and Production Assistant at the organization, working on the media team to create digital content for social media campaigns. Her responsibilities are both hands-on and administrative, executing everything from event setup and breakdown to overseeing monetary transactions and archived footage.

*“Public relations wasn’t something I thought I would be focusing on or something I thought I would be particularly good at. But after interning with Jazz Power Initiative, I now have a portfolio of promotional videos I created that I can show future employers, in addition to having promotional experience for a small nonprofit under my belt. This hands-on experience can be transferred anywhere I go next.”*



**SPOTLIGHT  
PRISON  
EDUCATION**



Messages of support delivered to MMC's Bedford Hills College Program and Taconic College Program students each week

# MMC PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAMS PERSEVERE DESPITE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



## WHEN THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

resulted in the suspension of all visitations to New York State correctional facilities, students, faculty, and administrators of Marymount Manhattan College's Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) and Taconic College Program (TCP) worked diligently to maintain academic operations.

Program administrators and faculty were able to provide revised syllabi and work materials to their students before the facilities shut down, and then worked out a system for continuously exchanging materials between the students inside the facility and the faculty on the outside.

"Each Friday, student work is handed to me at the gate and I drop off about 120 packets that include more paper and pens, corrected papers and exams, copies of articles professors want students to read, and new assignments," says Aileen Baumgartner, Director of the BHCP.

"I am so proud of our students and awed by their dedication," says Lisette Bamenga, Academic Coordinator for the TCP, who also facilitates the exchange of student and faculty materials with the help of a deputy in the correctional facility parking lot each week. "All our students are doing well, and all are appreciative of our sticking by them—there are many notes from the students thanking us profusely for not giving up on them and for continuing the semester."

MMC's prison education programs are among the few that successfully maintained academic operations in spite of the widespread isolation and social distancing policies necessitated by the outbreak. "Many other programs simply had to shut down, with negative effects for those incarcerated," explains Drew Leder, Ph.D., MMC's Ferraro Fellow for Prison Education and Public Philosophy. "It took a lot of work and foresight from many people on the inside

and out, but MMC found a way to keep things going, to keep students learning, and to keep work being transmitted between students and faculty."

In another effort to keep the prison community connected and supported through the isolation wrought by the pandemic, main campus students, faculty, and staff made it a weekly tradition to send a compilation of well-wishes to BHCP and TCP students. Erin Greenwell, MFA, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Arts, initiated the project and now solicits drawings, messages, and quotes from the MMC community each week. She arranges six messages onto a single letter-sized sheet of paper and sends the document over to Baumgartner and Bamenga, who print copies and put them into envelopes to include with each student's homework package for the week.

"I remember the relief we felt in our online 71<sup>st</sup> Street classes when we were finally able to see each other through video conferencing after closing campus," says Professor Greenwell. "It made me want to find a way to connect to the Bedford and Taconic students that didn't overload the logistics of what the teachers and administration were already doing to keep education moving."

"The notes are such a morale booster," says Baumgartner.

## "THIS SMALL GESTURE IS OF TREMENDOUS HELP TO THESE STUDENTS."



**@carlie.wenzel**  
Every day is a gift. Take nothing for granted. These people and this place forever have my heart. Be kind to one another and wash your hands. We will be back stronger than ever with a hungry mind ready to learn. NYC I love you, I'll be back soon. ❤️❤️



**@victor\_tdk**  
To the class that made New York feel like home, to the class that gave me a family, to the class that's shown me the value of friendship and hard work, to the class that deserves so much more than it's been given, to the class nearest and dearest to my heart: Congratulations. I wish with all my heart that I could snap my fingers and be able to give you all the ceremony you deserve. Hopefully someday soon. For now, I send you all my love and thank you for being the best. Thank you for your work. Happy Graduation 🎓❤️ #ClassOf2020



**@dominic\_crisonino**  
Senioritis ❤️



**@itssydneybell**  
Just like that my college experience has come to an abrupt end. The past 4 years have taught me so much about myself and what I want in life. Thank you Marymount for bringing these people (and more that aren't pictured) into my life. I will forever be grateful for the experiences and opportunities this school has brought me. Although senior year has come to an abrupt end, I feel truly lucky that I could go to college at all. One door is closing but so many are about to open. To my fellow seniors, we are strong and this isn't the end! I love you all, see you soon stay safe and don't ever take anything for granted ❤️



**@kaylakantakusin**  
sophomore semester photo dump because I am too sad to think about it all ending so soon. 🥰 love to all



**@bellafatigati**  
Goodbye for now 1402! Love you all to bits. See you soon ❤️



**@saraiquinice**  
"The only thing you can truly depend on are the words on the script" ~ Acting Coach John Basil ❤️❤️❤️

## Khiarra Xaire Johnston '22

When Virginia native **Khiarra Johnston '22** began her college search as a high schooler, she was struck by the opportunities MMC offered for creative expression: numerous dance studios, state-of-the-art computer labs with photo and video editing programs, and a wide variety of campus organizations. During Accepted Students Day the spring before she officially became an MMC student, Johnston watched a performance by The Throne—MMC's wildly popular student dance group—and she knew she had to come dance with them.

Now a sophomore, Johnston is busier than ever. In addition to working towards a double major in Cinema, Television, and Emerging Media and Public Relations and Strategic Communication, as well as a double minor in Dance and Law and Ethics, she indeed became a member of The Throne and serves on the Royal Cabinet, the group's leadership team. She has also started her own off-campus dance group with dancers from across New York City, performing original choreography and covers.

In the short time Johnston has been at MMC, she has already seen a dream project come to life in a course with Cyrille Phipps, MFA, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts. "Taking *Video Field Production* with Professor Phipps gave me the opportunity to make a music video that I've been wanting to make since high school," explains Johnston. "Seeing the result after so many years of dreaming about it pushed me to chase my visions more rigorously. If I want something or see myself doing something, I go after it like it's already mine."

And go after it, she has. Johnston was awarded a scholarship through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program to study abroad at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea, during the spring 2020 semester. While her trip was unfortunately postponed due to the global outbreak of the novel coronavirus, Johnston plans to study abroad in Seoul for the spring 2021 semester instead. She also hopes to return to Sogang as a graduate student in the school's international law program. "I would like to have my own practice in entertainment law, or work as the creative director for an entertainment media outlet," she says.

In the meantime, Johnston is studying hard in her classes and building her YouTube channel to highlight what she's been doing during quarantine.



## Camille LaGrua '20

For as long as she can remember, **Camille LaGrua '20** had always wanted to move to New York City. So naturally when she began her college search, her sights were focused first on location. She ultimately chose MMC, not just for the Manhattan location, but also for the College's well-rounded liberal arts curriculum and small class sizes.

A Business major with concentrations in Fashion Marketing and Media and Arts Management, LaGrua has pursued outside internships and volunteer opportunities in several fields and industries during her time at MMC. She volunteers with New Sanctuary Coalition, an organization that assigns volunteers to accompany immigrants to their immigration hearings. "New Sanctuary is an amazing organization and really teaches you so much about what migrants have to go through when coming to America and about all the massive flaws in the immigration process," she explains.

LaGrua also spent the fall semester with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) working as a fundraising events intern. She was invited to return for the spring semester, and for an additional term during summer 2020. "I am so proud to work for such an inspiring organization dedicated to medical support and care for people around the world," says LaGrua. "After graduation, I hope to continue working at a non-profit or charity and see where life takes me!"



## Ethan Giroux '22

**Ethan Giroux '22**, a sophomore Business major with a concentration in Social Entrepreneurship, was one of just fifteen fellows selected citywide for the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, a competitive program that provides three years of personal, professional, and cultural immersion experiences in the United States and abroad. In addition, the fellowship offers ongoing mentorship and funded summer internships with leading organizations in New York City and around the world.

"I feel elated and relieved that I've been accepted," says Giroux. "The application process was lengthy and intense, but it was worth it—even if only for the enriching interview and resume-building experience it provided."

According to Pielah Kim, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing and advisor on the application process, Giroux inspired the Citywide Selection Panel for the fellowship with "visionary solutions" to climate change, including proposals for innovative renewable energy sources and sustainable farming methods and technologies to support underserved communities. "Ethan truly demonstrated his stance as a social entrepreneur with the vision to deliver civic engagement," says Dr. Kim. "We are so proud of his remarkable achievement."

Nearly 300 Jeannette K. Watson Fellows have been named since the fellowship's inception in 1999. Watson Fellows are represented in America's top graduate programs and go on to become leaders in their fields, including law, medicine, public policy, business, and the arts.

"What I'm most excited for about the Fellowship is that I'll be able to learn and work with a group of peers and business-minded people with unique ideas and vision," says Giroux. "The hands-on work I'll do during my summer internships is also extremely exciting. I look forward to an invaluable experience!"



## Asma Rathod '20

During her years at MMC, **Asma Rathod '20** didn't stick to just one path. She was thrilled to have space for academic exploration and enjoyed working with a variety of engaging and knowledgeable professors. "The faculty in my different courses helped me figure out the fields that I would like to work in," Rathod says. "I had a blast in my production classes and my art history courses opened up a whole new world to me."

This new world expanded enormously for the Communication and Media Arts major in 2019 when she was awarded a Gilman Scholarship through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. With that funding, Rathod spent four months studying at the American College of Thessaloniki, located in Greece's second-largest city, during the fall semester. "I was ecstatic to have been given such an opportunity," says Rathod. "Greece is home to many archaeological treasures and has such a rich history. It was the ultimate study abroad experience."

Outside of class, Rathod is interested in photography, languages, cooking, and music. She hopes to work in communications after graduation—and looks forward to having some time to relax.



## Alan Mckenzie '22

In his second semester at MMC, **Alan Mckenzie '22** was enrolled in *Writing 102*, a research-based writing course taught by Diana Epelbaum, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Academic Writing, in which he honed a passion for writing and an understanding of the discipline, research, and work ethic required to become a great writer.

For his final research project in the course, Mckenzie analyzed the ways in which hip hop has become an effective tool for educating and connecting with students of color. "Hip hop pedagogy is being used more prominently in various fields of academia," explains Mckenzie. "My research seeks to uncover how the implementation of hip hop as a teaching tool has forced educators and academic institutions to reevaluate not only the methods by which they teach the next generation of students, but also the traditional curriculum they've adhered to for so long," he says.

By the end of that course, Mckenzie was accepted into the summer Naylor Workshop, a three-day conference hosted annually by York College of Pennsylvania and made possible through The Naylor Endowment in Writing Studies. The conference provides participants one-on-one sessions with writing researchers in the fields of composition, rhetoric, or writing center studies to discuss research goals and methodologies.

Now in his sophomore year, Mckenzie, a double major in Digital Media and Video Production and Cinema, Television, and Emerging Media, is constantly writing and developing his own creative ideas. A self-described film and television fanatic and massive music enthusiast, his long-term goal is to master his craft of filmmaking and become one of the best writers of his generation.

"I want to use my art and platform to tell honest and nuanced stories about the Black experience," he says. "I hope to fuse my passion for helping others with my love of art and storytelling to bring Black culture to the forefront of mainstream cinema, as well as create a film/television and multimedia company for and founded by people of color and other minorities."

Most recently, Mckenzie was invited to join the Democratic County Committee in his neighborhood of East New York in Brooklyn. As the youngest member ever accepted, he hopes to represent members of his community by ensuring that both their voices and problems are heard at a higher level.



## Jacqueline Leon '22

A passionate poet and playwright, **Jacqueline Leon '22** takes pride in her writing because, as she explains, it blends her love for language and expression. And her talent does not go unnoticed. As a first-year student, the Musical Theatre major was invited to New York City Hall to perform her poetry at a Womxn's History Month event.

Now as a sophomore, Leon is dedicated to continuing to develop her writing skills while pursuing her acting career, hoping the skills she acquires at MMC will help her to expand her craft. "My classes at MMC go beyond the required readings and classroom discussions," she says. "I learn from the passion my professors and peers put into their work, and I can feel myself becoming a better version of myself every day."

In addition, Leon has become an enthusiastic and dedicated student leader. She is a member of The Throne, MMC's activist dance team, as well as the Magick Circle, a club "demystifying the mystic," and the Student Activities Advisory Board (SAAB), an organization that develops campus-wide programs to promote cultural diversity, highlight minorities, and celebrate heritage months.

"I have learned so much from my peers and mentors at MMC," Leon shares. "They have taught me to believe in my own work and my talent. I have great love for the relationships I have built here and I would never trade them in for anything."



## Allie McInerney '20

After two years at the University of Missouri, **Allie McInerney '20** was ready to explore new places. Captivated by New York City and ambitious to encounter new perspectives, she fell in love with Marymount Manhattan College and made her way to the East Coast as a transfer student double majoring in Politics and Human Rights and Philosophy and Religious Studies.

In her first semester at MMC, McInerney competed with two other teammates at Yale University's International Policy Competition in New Haven, Connecticut, crafting policy interventions to promote economic and military sovereignty of U.S. allies in East and Southeast Asia. The trio earned top ranks for their proposal's creativity and originality, as well as for their presentation.

As part of her Philosophy and Religious Studies major, McInerney and a classmate enrolled in a custom-designed independent study course taught by Carrie-Ann Biondi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. "We would meet in her office once a week and discuss philosophical readings we had been assigned," explains McInerney. "We then had to decide on a topic and which way to argue it—I chose the concept of self-sovereignty. That has been my favorite class of my college career thus far."

Though she does not like to admit it, McInerney absolutely loves politics. Before transferring to MMC, she worked on Capitol Hill for Missouri senator Claire McCaskill, gaining invaluable knowledge of D.C. politics. Her experience fueled her latest project, a new political action site called United We Post. The organization, founded by McInerney in 2019, allows constituents to mail physical postcards directly to their senate representatives. While working on Capitol Hill, she learned that physical mail (often called "snail mail" for its slower delivery) stands out more prominently than online complaints or message submissions.

"I built the site more out of frustration than hope," McInerney explains. "Phone calls can go unanswered and unrecorded, but every piece of mail gets scanned and entered into a database called VOICE, which they have to look at and engage with." She hopes United We Post will promote political engagement and increase tactile communication with elected officials.

In addition to her interest in politics, McInerney is always traveling somewhere new, often visiting friends across the country. She is an avid Kansas City sports fan, and enjoys advocacy work on behalf of women and the LGBTQ+ community. Though her sights are set on law school after MMC, McInerney just might make a return to Capitol Hill or, perhaps, hit the campaign trail.



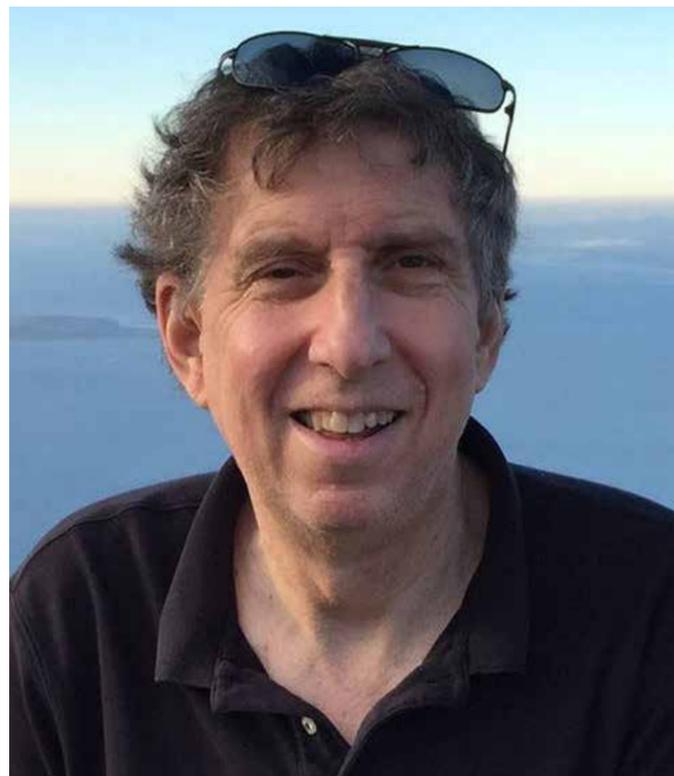
## Christine Mitchell '20

For **Christine Mitchell '20**, attending Marymount Manhattan College was the family way. She learned of her acceptance into MMC's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at her High school McAuley Residence Hall while on the phone with her older sister, alumna Christel Mitchell '18, and they celebrated together. "I remember at first not wanting to apply to the same school as my sister, but I ended up doing it anyway," she says. Now, four years later and with countless distinctions, leadership roles, and awards to her name, Mitchell knows she made the right choice. "The more involved I got, the more I loved MMC," she says. "I have made amazing friends and built incredible relationships with faculty and staff."

Mitchell has served as a Senior Marshal, as Vice President of SocAttack, MMC's Caribbean dance club, as the Special Projects and Programming Manager for HEOP, and as a work study student for the Information Technology office.

As a Business major with a concentration in Economics and a minor in Studio Art, Mitchell has taken a wide array of classes across disciplines. She credits her business courses, including *Organizational Behavior* and *International Business*, for helping her learn that business is not just numbers and probabilities. "Business can be used to help develop, change, and better neighborhoods and the economy," she says. Putting that theory into practice, Mitchell has served as an accounting intern and assistant teacher with Catholic Charities' Head Start program. "I would love to develop new programs to help the youth in my community."

Outside of MMC, Mitchell enjoys singing in her church choir, dancing, organizing events and parties, and crafting. After graduation, she plans to take time to explore more of her creative and artistic side and learn new skills, while applying to master's programs in higher education.



## Meet the Ferraro Fellows

Named in honor of one of the College's best-known graduates, MMC's Geraldine A. Ferraro Institute for Breakthrough Civic Leadership ("The Ferraro Institute") is a multidisciplinary platform that draws on MMC's rich history in civic activism and leadership to promote social justice. The work of the Ferraro Institute is catalyzed by its fellows—appointed scholar-practitioners crossing disciplinary boundaries—who spearhead MMC curriculum development, teach courses across departments, and develop public programs that highlight the mission of the Ferraro Institute.

We sat down with Marymount Manhattan's first two Ferraro Fellows—**Martha Eddy, RSMT, CMA, DEP, EdD**, Ferraro Fellow on Social Justice and Movement and Visiting Artist-in-Residence, and **Drew Leder, MD, Ph.D.**, Visiting Ferraro Fellow on Prison Education and Public Philosophy—to learn more about their work at the College.

### What kind of interdisciplinary work are you doing with the Ferraro Institute?

**Martha Eddy (ME):** As a mentor for the Body, Science, and Motion program in the Department of Dance, I'm looking to highlight where dance, health, and social justice come together, and I'm excited to be developing a wellness program for MMC's dancers. As a Ferraro Fellow, I'm also helping members of the MMC community to examine how micro- and macro-aggressions can lead to physical injury, as well as to identify the impact of micro-aggressions (whether due to intentional bullying or unconscious racism) and their systemic relationship to "single" highly traumatic racist, homophobic, or "othering" events. Classes and workshops in embodiment help people recognize the bodily signs of what they're feeling about injustice. This motivates me to offer short versions of my *Socially Conscious Body* course, which I developed with my co-founder of the Moving On Center, a non-profit in Oakland, California, with the mission of bridging somatic awareness with social change.

**Drew Leder (DL):** My work is in prison education and public philosophy, bringing scholarly work into the larger community. With funding from a Mellon Foundation Grant, I am focusing on expanding and promoting MMC's BRIDGE (Building Relationships for Inclusion, Diversity, Globalism, and Equity) model of prison education programs.

### How does your work overlap?

**DL:** We both love working together on the interface of body and social justice issues, and I'll be participating in Martha's (*re*) *Learning to Move: Experiential Neuromotor Development* course this summer. We also planned panels together for both the Bedford Hills College Program and the main campus, working with Catherine Cabeen, MFA, Associate Professor of Dance.

**ME:** Beyond our shared interest in

educational programming for the incarcerated, we also believe that the whole body is a primary vehicle for learning, as well as for processing joy and stress. This mindset is called 'somatic education.'

### What exactly is somatic education?

**ME:** In my book, *Mindful Movement: The Evolution of the Somatic Arts and Conscious Action*, I explain somatic education as experiencing the body from within to gain access to its capacity to heal itself. Somatic psychology seeks to bridge the mind-body dichotomy, and through somatic movement and/or touch practices, we can move out trauma caused by any disruptor, from poor physical alignment to past abuses.

**DL:** My background is in the philosophy of the body, and with my medical degree, I have a particular interest in how the body deals with illness and pain. This is a focus of a recent book of mine, *The Distressed Body: Rethinking Illness, Imprisonment, and Healing*. Also, in a recent article, I explore the similarities between people who experience chronic illness and chronic incarceration—they both involve alienation, constriction, and a disruption between one's self and one's body. Some of the strategies for healing used by prisoners and those chronically ill are also similar and have much to say to the general public—for example, at this moment, when so many are forced to stay at home and are feeling isolated.

### How does your work at Marymount Manhattan expand upon your practice?

**DL:** I've been in prison education since the 1990s, and while it's always been supported by my college administration, the projects have generally been a bit of a sideline, such as mini-courses or non-credit classes. MMC has wonderful prison education programs for women that are some of the largest, best, and most developed in the country. I'm being given the opportunity to be a positive

changemaker in programs that are already established and only have more potential; I feel very privileged.

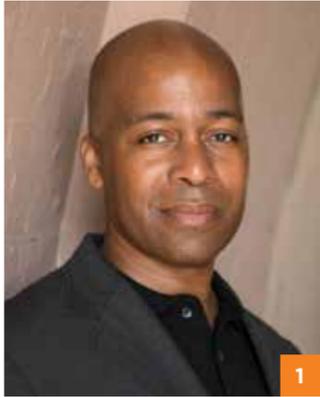
**ME:** When I first learned about this role, I was thrilled that my background aligned so well with what MMC was looking for—decades of dance scholarship with a doctorate in movement sciences, and a strong somatic perspective. The one piece that was missing was my interest in social justice, so I lit up when prison education was mentioned as a crucial element of the MMC philosophy and mission.

### What does the future hold for you?

**DL:** My one-semester fellowship lasts through July 1, at which point I will be returning to Loyola University Maryland, where I have taught for the past 35 years. Though I may continue as an MMC consultant, I'll be passing the baton to Hannah Bacon, who coincidentally studied at the same university as me, doing her dissertation with the same advisor I had! I know she will be a great partner to Martha and Marymount Manhattan.

**ME:** I am thrilled to be working with one of the biggest and most sophisticated dance departments in the country, and I'm excited to see how I can continue to grow the social justice element here. In addition, I'm deeply motivated by the combination of rigorous academics and creativity that threads through the Marymount Manhattan experience; there are very few places where undergraduates can so fully study the intersection of the two, and prepare for a myriad of careers (e.g., performers who are also scientists active in the allied medical or psychological fields). I'm also excited for more of the student body and faculty—from the performing artists to the scientists to the psychologists and human rights activists—to have greater access to diverse somatic perspectives to enhance their own scholarship in a holistic way.

## FACULTY PROFILES



1



3



2



4

**2 |** As a media professional, **Cyrille Phipps, MA**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, has over 20 years of production experience working for diverse media platforms, from public access TV and New York City-based media nonprofits to film and new media organizations like Sesame Workshop, TVLand, and Interactive One.

In addition to teaching *TV Studio Production*, *Video Field Production*, and *Directing Video* at MMC, Professor Phipps stays active in the industry on a personal level. She recently edited a trailer for a developing documentary on mental illness in the Black community, as well as a short transmedia piece connected to a longer documentary on the education system in Newark, New Jersey. She has also self-produced and directed a short about Black women and AIDS. “Transferring my experience and knowledge to the classroom has been a great accomplishment and joy,” says Professor Phipps.

**3 | Mark Ringer, Ph.D.**, Professor of Theatre Arts, took full advantage of his senior fellowship leave during the fall semester. He spent several months in Krakow, Poland, where he completed the copyediting for his fifth book, *Bach’s Operas of the Soul: A Listener’s Guide to the Sacred Cantatas* (published by Amadeus Press in May 2020), and collaborated with literary scholar and medievalist Dr. Wladyslaw Witalisz on an English translation of the Polish play *Gould*. Scripted and performed at the National Stary Theatre in Krakow by Krzysztof Stawowy, *Gould* is a one-man show that revolves around the lives of Johann Sebastian Bach and the great Canadian pianist Glenn Gould.

While in Poland, Dr. Ringer also taught a course called *Shakespeare’s Rivals* at the renowned Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest surviving universities in the world. The course, offered through the University’s Philology Department, served as an exploration of the Renaissance dramas of Marlowe, Webster, Jonson, and Middleton. Dr. Ringer plans to expand *Shakespeare’s Rivals* into a course at MMC, and the subject matter also serves as the focus of his next book, *Shakespeare’s Rivals: Ambition, Blood and Lust*.

**4 |** This spring, **Erin Greenwell, MFA**, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Arts, introduced a brand-new course to MMC students: *Fiction Video Activism*. The first of its kind for MMC’s Communication and Media Arts program, the course brings together MMC students and New York City social justice organizations in a blend of research, personal storytelling, and production. Students create fiction films inspired by stories they have either experienced or researched and which illustrate the change they want to see in the world. At the end of the semester, students partner with a social justice organization to strategize on and launch an initiative—like a book drive, fundraising event, or letter-writing effort—to complement the final screening of their films. This spring, plans for the final project had to be altered in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and students ultimately presented research on organizations that promote civic engagement and produced a digital portfolio showcasing video projects they created around a social justice theme.

Now in her sixth year at MMC, Professor Greenwell says every year feels like a new opportunity to grow as a professor. “The topics my students explore—inspired by what they are learning in their other academic classes, their experiences in NYC, and their reflections on their own lives through new lenses—expand the creative diversity of content in ways I haven’t seen in my 15-plus years of teaching.”

**1 |** At the start of 2020, **Timothy Johnson, MFA**, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, celebrated the publication of his original acting exercise “Our Town” in *How to Teach A Play: Essential Exercises for Popular Plays*, a practical teaching guide published by Bloomsbury Press. Another acting exercise of his, “Structured Improvised Scenes,” was published in December 2019 in the book *Objectives, Obstacles, Tactics: Activating the Actor* (Routledge Press). He most recently directed the June 2020 production of *Compromise* at the Metropolitan Virtual Playhouse.

Previously, Professor Johnson was selected through a competitive application process, along with an international group of early career directors from 23 countries, to become a member of the 2018 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. In addition, his Off-Broadway production of *On Strivers Row* earned him four 2017 AUDELCO Award nominations—which recognize excellence in Black Theatre—including one for Director of a Dramatic Production and one for Best Revival. A *New York Times* review of the production praised Johnson’s directing ability, noting that, “Timothy Johnson has shaped 16 striking performances.”

## FACULTY SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORK



1



2



3



4



5



6

**1 | Sue Behrens, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, received MMC’s 2019 Full-Time Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition of her innovative teaching strategies that stimulate intellectual curiosity and encourage independent and informed thinking. Dr. Behrens is the author of seven books, 29 academic chapters, and 18 editorially reviewed articles. She has presented research at 28 conferences, and, in addition to her role as department chair, also serves as Director of the Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence (C-TIE).

**2 | Jennifer Dixon, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Communication and Media Arts, presented “US Presidential Debates 1948-2016: An Issue of Formality and Respect” on the Top Paper panel in the Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Dixon’s project analyzed 210 presidential debates, with a focus on address terms (e.g., “Hillary” vs. “Secretary of State Clinton;” “Senator Ted Cruz vs. “Lyn’ Ted”), to map out trends in formality and civility.

**3 | Cecilia Feilla, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English and World Literatures, was selected as the winner of the 2020 Innovative Course Design Competition through the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS). She was selected for her Fall 2018 “Coffeehouse Pop-up Museum,” an interactive showcase of student research on the introduction of coffee into London in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the rapid spread of coffeehouse cultures in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**4 | Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.**, Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, presented *Nostalgia, Privilege, and Resistance: Hipster Food in Digital Culture*, at the University of Melbourne in Australia last summer. Her talk, based on work co-authored with Peter Naccarato, Ph.D., Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, analyzed the relationship between old media and new media, the idea of food as a prop for social identity, and the complicated relationship of all things “hipster” to nostalgia and authenticity. She also served as a visiting scholar with the Food Matters Research Group at the University.

**5 | Lia Leon Margolin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, presented *Constructing Wave Functions for Few-Body Systems in a Hyperspherical Basis Using Parentage Scheme of Symmetrization*, at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Meson-Nucleon Physics and the Structure of the Nucleon (MENU-2019), held at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her research findings will be published in the peer-reviewed *AIP Conference Proceedings*, which reports the findings presented at scientific meetings from large international conferences and advances the knowledge of physical science and its applications.

**6 | Jason Rosenfeld, Ph.D.**, Professor of Art History, curated *Thresholds of Perceptibility: The Color Field Paintings of Leon Berkowitz* at Hollis Taggart Gallery in Chelsea. The show’s twelve featured pieces were accompanied by an essay written by Dr. Rosenfeld examining the development of Berkowitz’s distinct style and approach. Rosenfeld also moderated a panel discussion with artists Stephen Hannock and Tom McGlynn on Berkowitz during the exhibition. Pictured left is Leon Berkowitz’s *Transition* (Oil on canvas, 1979), one of the paintings in the exhibit.



TATIANA SERAFIN, MFA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA ARTS, FEATURED ON *GLOBAL ETHICS WEEKLY* PODCAST BY CARNEGIE COUNCIL FOR ETHICS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

*GenZ, Climate Change Activism, & Foreign Policy with Tatiana Serafin*

October 15, 2019

"I think change has not been manifested in the policy realm, but I think that we're at this cusp where change has to come because the voting bloc is growing. In 2016, 4 percent of Gen Zers were able to vote; in 2020, 10 percent will be able to vote. So, one in 10 eligible voters will be Gen Zers. I think that increase is significant. It's similar for Millennials. You put those two voting blocs together when they are focused on a particular issue, and I think that will lead policymakers to notice and to make changes."

## The Washington Post

ART HISTORY ALUMNUS MICHAEL QUITUISACA '17, QUOTED ON CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE IN A WASHINGTON POST FEATURE

*Art from the Corcoran reestablishes its place in D.C. with exhibition at AU*

September 6, 2019

"American University graduate student Michael Quituisaca didn't know what to expect when he began rooting through the paintings, prints and photographs newly arrived at the university museum's storage facility, the first of 9,000 works given to American by the now-defunct Corcoran Gallery of Art. Then he stumbled upon a work by 19<sup>th</sup>-century American painter Thomas Prichard Rossiter, the 1852 oil painting, *Rebecca at the Well*. ... 'To work with one of the first major museum collections in the country, an institution with a name behind it—as a student, I jumped at the chance,' said Quituisaca. 'When you see it in person, you get to see the cracks, how the light hits it in different ways, you get to walk around it. It's exactly what you want as a student.'"

ONSTAGE BLOG'S COMMITTEE OF THEATRE EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND PARENTS NAMES MMC A TOP MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM

*The Top 30 College Musical Theatre Programs for 2019-2020*

November 7, 2019

"Why we love Marymount Manhattan College: Taking advantage of our New York City location, master classes and lectures have been and continue to be offered by Broadway's finest such as Betty Buckley, Jeff Calhoun, Donna McKechnie, Lonny Price, Frank Wildhorn, Chita Rivera, Stephen Sondheim, Adam Guettel and Tommy Tune."

ACTING AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES ALUMNA KILEY REID '10 PROFILED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW FOR DEBUT NOVEL, *SUCH A FUN AGE*

*Kiley Reid Has Done Her Share of Soul-Searching in Coffee Shops*

January 9, 2020

"You arrive at a certain age where you are in awe of younger people who are succeeding at something you wouldn't have had the guts to attempt at their age. Take Kiley Reid, whose debut novel, *Such a Fun Age*, lands at No. 3 on this week's hardcover fiction list. Reid had already sold the book when she graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop last spring. Lena Waithe bought the screen rights; Reese Witherspoon selected it as a pick for her book club; and now Reid is in the midst of a multicity author tour."

BUSINESS ALUM DAN LANGAN '12 INTERVIEWED IN *DISTRACTIFY*

*Everything You Wanted to Know About Food Network Cake Expert Dan Langan*

May 19, 2020

"Dan Langan is a definite inspiration for home bakers with dreams of leveling up to be Food Network stars. The 30-year-old is currently doling out advice as a "camp counselor" on Martha Stewart's *Bakeaway Camp*, but just a few years ago, he was baking in his kitchen at home like the competitors he's coaching."

In the *Spotlight*

ADRIENNE WARREN '09

Adrienne Warren '09, Theatre Arts alumna and star of *TINA: The Tina Turner Musical!*, has had a banner year after the show moved from London's West End and debuted on Broadway in November 2019.



Interviewed in *Vanity Fair*

*Broadway Star Adrienne Warren Is Still Simply the Best*

April 29, 2020

"As the daughter of two high school coaches in Virginia, Warren found her confidence on the basketball court and her voice in the church choir. Now the triple-threat entertainer, who was channeling Tina Turner in a career-catapulting performance before Broadway went dark, has brought Hollywood, Oprah, and the fashion world to their feet."

continued on page 49

ENGLISH AND WORLD LITERATURES ALUM XOAI PHAM '16 PUBLISHES  
ARTICLE ON WOMANHOOD FOR *TEEN VOGUE*



*Rediscovering What Being a Transgender Woman Means to Me*

November 15, 2019

"...transgender women are women with a different relationship to womanhood. Transgender women and cisgender women may not share the same experiences, but that is just an indication of how vast our womanhood is. We have all kinds of bodies. Some of us are lactose intolerant. Some of us can't live without cheese. Some of us menstruate; some of us don't. We've been given all kinds of vessels to hold our limitless spirits. But while many cisgender women (mostly thin, non-disabled white women) have grown up with womanhood given to them like an advance ticket, trans girls like me have had to work to be recognized as who we say we are."



PRESIDENT KERRY WALK HONORED WITH 2020 OTTY (OUR TOWN THANKS YOU) AWARD AND PROFILE IN *OUR TOWN*

*OTTY Honoree 2020 Kerry Walk: The City is the Campus*

March 2, 2020

For more than 20 years, the OTTY Awards have recognized the unique contributions of Upper East Siders.

"Since taking the helm at Marymount Manhattan, Dr. Walk said she and her administration have taken down 'the fourth wall' between the college and the city, making connections across Manhattan as part of an initiative called *CityEdge*. 'The idea of *CityEdge* is for us to leverage this great location and for our students to have experiences across the city that are deliberately educational, to prepare them for the professional world,' said Walk. "Unless you really see through the walls of your college, you can remain very insular. Instead, we are spreading out. The city is our campus."

In the *Spotlight*  
*Adrienne Warren '09*

continued from page 47



Featured on cover of *IN New York Magazine*

*Simply the Best: Adrienne Warren channels Tina Turner on Broadway*

November 15, 2019

"In just a decade onstage, 32-year-old actress Adrienne Warren has already made a major splash in the pool of musical theater. She first caught audiences' attention portraying the role of sassy Lorrell Robinson in the 2009 touring production of *Dreamgirls*, took Broadway by storm in 2012 as high school cheerleader Danielle in the joyful *Bring It On*, and stole the spotlight in 2016's star-studded *Shuffle Along*, earning a Tony Award nomination for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her dual roles of divalicious actress Gertrude Saunders and the more demure Florence Mills. But Warren's slow-if-steady rise to the top shot up like a rocket the second she stepped on the stage of London's Aldwych Theatre in the spring of 2018 as the legendary rock goddess Tina Turner in the biomusical *TINA*. She received raves from the critics, who used words such as "astonishing" and "star-making" to describe her work—and she earned a coveted Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical."

Profiled in *The New York Times*

*From Annie to Tina Turner, and Trained to Go the Distance*

October 30, 2019

"One crucial element differentiates *TINA* from the jukebox shows about female stars that never fully caught on in the last two Broadway seasons. Both *The Cher Show* and *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* split diva duty among three performers. There is only one Adrienne Warren."



## Eugenia Carvalho '91

As a teenager living in Portugal, **Dr. Eugenia Carvalho '91** first learned of Marymount Manhattan College in the summer of 1984, when she spent some time with her cousin, Sister Barbara Carvalho, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM), MMC's founding order, who was from the same village and had returned home for vacation. A pillar of the Marymount legacy, Sister Barbara was a member of the support staff for the Marymount schools in Tarrytown and New York City, as well as for Marymount College in Tarrytown, before moving to MMC in 1960 and carrying out a 40-year ministry with students, faculty, and administrators. In 1985, Sister Barbara sent young Eugenia a ticket to visit her in New York, and it was settled—she would study at MMC.

Dr. Carvalho began her studies at the College knowing very little English and took almost two years to decide on a specific major. "I was not certain of what I was going to do until I took some science classes and met my science teacher, Dr. Anne Mazelis, former Professor of Biology," she explains. "I was able to take an internship at Mount Sinai researching Type I diabetes. It was fun. I liked it and I wanted to do further research on diabetes and obesity. And I have been doing this ever since."

After graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, Dr. Carvalho spent ten years completing her master's and Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the University of Gothenburg's Lundberg Laboratory for Diabetes Research in Sweden. She then moved to Boston for her post-doctoral work, which she completed at Harvard Medical School and, in 2006, returned to Portugal to start her own laboratory at the Center for Neurosciences and Cell Biology in Coimbra.

Over the years, Dr. Carvalho has studied the role of adipocytes, or fat cells, in insulin resistance, diabetes and its complications, and obesity. She has also worked to evaluate wound healing and tissue regeneration of the skin, in the context of insulin resistance, with the goal of enhancing early diagnosis of subjects at risk for chronic complications in order to improve and personalize treatment. She has published over 70 peer-reviewed publications and has managed to secure over €3.5 million and about \$500,000 in funding from national and international foundations, including the Foundation for Science and Technology, Portuguese Diabetes Foundation, European Diabetes Foundation, Diabetes UK, and the U.S. National Institutes of Health (U.S.). She currently splits her time between Portugal, where she is a principal investigator at the Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology at the University of Coimbra, and Little Rock, Arkansas, where she is an Instructor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

She serves as Senior Editor for the *Journal of Endocrinology* and the *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* and a board member of the European Tissue Regeneration Society. In addition, she participates in a wide variety of public science and health outreach initiatives for adults and children in Portugal, Guinea-Bissau, and the United States, in order to promote public awareness and understanding of science and health issues, particularly diabetes education. Students or alumni interested in contacting Dr. Carvalho or working in her lab should contact her here.



**"MMC was a special place, and it will always remain so. It's a place where people matter."**



**"Manhattan was truly our campus. We were inculcated with the goals of striving for excellence, of recognizing our worth as women, and of learning how to participate at any level of society."**

## Joan Parlapiano Macellaro '59

Having graduated over 60 years ago with an English major and Comparative Literature minor, Joan Macellaro '59 remains an engaged member of the Marymount Manhattan community. "My relationship with MMC is still important to me, and I very much enjoy keeping in touch with college classmates and participating in events at the college when possible," says Macellaro. "I have been able to attend every five-year reunion since graduation, and more recently, I helped to organize a yearly mini-reunion luncheon at the College for local '59 alumnae."

Despite being a commuter, Macellaro was very involved as a student. She remembers participating in SING, a competitive inter-class musical production, and took part in a variety of extracurricular activities, including the debate society, school newspaper, and the MMC yearbook, *Avalon*. "I imagine that many of us who attended MMC in the late 50s, early 60s will also fondly remember Teahouse and the hours that we spent there, having lunch or not, studying, and, if we were lucky, sitting in on a hand of bridge with Father Manning, our revered chaplain, and a friend and advisor to many," she says.

Two of her literature professors, Dr. Joseph P. Clancy and Professor DeThierry, were especially influential. The professors ran seminars that encouraged her to expand her horizons and engage in the world around her, bringing her and other students to museums, plays, concerts, and other events that embodied the culture of New York City.

After graduating, Macellaro served as president of the Alumnae Association for several years and helped produce an alumni magazine in the 1960s. This experience proved to be invaluable and prepared her for work she later did for organizations such as the Yonkers Lawyers' Association, where she edited and helped produce a variety of newsletters.

Since 1983, Macellaro has worked as a paralegal and office manager at her family's firm, Macellaro Law Firm. She credits her success in the field of law to her background in writing and critical analysis. "I am a firm believer in the value of a comprehensive liberal arts education and the one that I received at MMC was outstanding," she says.

Macellaro currently lives in Tarrytown, New York, a place she has called home for the past 46 years. When she isn't spending time with her children and grandchildren, Macellaro continues to practice her love of literature by reading, participating in book clubs, and attending lectures by prominent authors.

## Robert Taylor, Jr. '02

Coney Island native **Robert Taylor, Jr. '02** learned to "open his mind, expand his horizons, and hustle for his dreams" as a BA Dance major and Musical Theatre minor at MMC. His love for music and dance was fostered at a young age by his father Robert "Bobby T-Boy" Taylor, and has only continued to grow throughout his career. Under the guidance of Mary Fleischer, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts; Pat Simon, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts; and Katie Langan '92, Professor and Chair of the Dance Department, Taylor grew holistically as an artist through exposure to the multidisciplinary performing arts curriculum and diverse performance opportunities.

From performing with student groups like the MMC Choir and Soldiers of Hip Hop, to participating in mainstage theatre productions and the Dancers at Work student choreography showcase, Taylor's experiences at MMC broadened his knowledge of the spectrum of performing arts and gave him hands-on experience navigating the industry.

In the more than a decade since, Robert has accumulated an impressive roster of professional credits that includes the 2008 national tour of *Hairspray*, *Spongebob Squarepants: The Broadway Musical*, and multiple seasons of competitive television shows including *Say What? Karaoke*, *America's Got Talent*, *American Idol*, and *So You Think You Can Dance*, for which he made it to the top 16 contestants in Season 8. He has worked with recording artists Kat Deluna and L.L. Cool J, and recently performed in a Budweiser commercial with Rihanna. A recording artist and producer himself, Taylor's pop and R&B music has earned him multiple titles at underground music industry showcases.

Still living in Brooklyn, Taylor is currently on faculty at both Broadway Dance Center and The Joffrey Ballet Program, and teaches additional workshops at major dance conventions like RISE Talent and Sheer Elite International, which often take him abroad. In his spare time, he enjoys wrestling and kickboxing and aspires to combine these hobbies with his acting practice as a referee for the WWE.



**"I learned so much about who I was as a person and a performer. I gained experience with the logistics and etiquette I would need to be successful in the industry, and so much of this has stuck with me throughout my entire career."**



## Alex Kane '11

Growing up in the suburbs of New York, **Alex Kane '13** always knew he wanted to go to school in New York City. When he visited Marymount Manhattan College, Kane saw that our Upper East Side college could combine the excitement of city living with the intimacy of a small college. Now a well-known political journalist, Kane says he was right about MMC. Kane didn't originally intend to pursue journalism, but his desire to get involved in activist efforts in the city landed him there accidentally. During his time as a student, he called up New York's storied grassroots newspaper, *The Independent*, and asked if they had any internships available. Though they didn't have a fully developed internship program, the organization welcomed him into their volunteer network and he started distributing free newspapers to New Yorkers on the subway. "Soon enough,

**"I learned how to read critically, research smartly, and write compellingly, thanks to the help of my professors at MMC. All of these skills are key to being a good journalist."**

I started writing articles about activism, homelessness, and housing in New York. And then I started writing articles about U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. The rest is history," he says.

As a student of the social sciences, Kane learned to read political theory, apply that theory to the contemporary era, and then "poke holes" in those theories. With support and encouragement from Professor Manolo Estavillo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Politics and Human Rights, Kane applied for and ultimately earned a coveted Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship. This program enables students to intern and study abroad during their undergraduate careers. With the fellowship, Kane interned at *Gotham Gazette*, a New York City news outlet, and traveled to Jordan to intern with educational nonprofit AMIDEAST. The chance to live in and experience the cultures of the Middle East was formative for Kane, and the region is now a major focus of his journalism career.

After graduating from MMC, Kane was accepted to New York University, where he earned a master's degree in Journalism and Near East Studies in 2016. Now an independent journalist, he contributes to publications such as *The Intercept*, *The Nation*, and *VICE News*, and others, often on the politics of Israel-Palestine in the U.S. This past February, Kane traveled to Malaysia to present as a Middle East Expert in a United Nations conference on Palestine convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.



**"Being a dancer is more than performing; it's about the responsibility of existing in the world as an artist."**

## Mia DeWeese '13

When she was just 16 years old, Ohio native **Mia DeWeese '13** made up her mind that she wanted to move to New York City to dance professionally. Though she never toured MMC before enrolling, her instincts told her it was the place she wanted to be, and in 2013, she graduated from Marymount Manhattan with her BFA in Dance and a minor in Business Management.

Today, DeWeese is a professional dancer at Freemove Dance and is associate choreographer for *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, a show she has worked on for nearly three years and which opened on Broadway in July 2019. She was also an assistant choreographer and member of the dance ensemble for Fox's *Rent Live!* television special in January 2019.

However, success didn't always come easy. The years immediately after graduating were a struggle for DeWeese, who had to work four separate side jobs to make ends meet while searching for dance work. "I had a remarkably difficult time getting work my first two years out of college," she says. "I was discouraged to the point I wanted to stop pursuing a career in the arts." Instead, she decided she would follow another interest, and scheduled a time to take the LSAT exam to apply to law school. While preparing for the exam, she attended a dance class taught by choreographer Sonya Tayeh, after which Tayeh asked her to be part of a piece she was choreographing. "It changed the trajectory of my career," she says. "I never made it to my LSAT test."

DeWeese has now worked with Tayeh on five incredible shows, including *Moulin Rouge*. She credits her time at MMC with preparing her for professional success. "January session as a member of the MMC Dance Company prepared me for the rigor of long rehearsal days. *Stagecraft* with Philip Trevino, Technical Director of Dance, provided me with endless knowledge about all of the technical elements that go into a show, which has helped a lot during *Moulin Rouge*," she reflects.

And it is her senior year with Katie Langan '92, Professor of Dance and Chair of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts, that stands out in her mind now. "The two years after graduation were a reminder of what Katie used to tell us all the time: 'Trust the process.' I learned to trust that the universe will deliver exactly what you need at exactly the right time."



**"I fell in love with MMC during the audition process; they treated us like an ensemble that was about to make art. It wasn't just another cutthroat audition."**

## Frank La Frazia '98

During his four years as a BFA Acting major, **Frank La Frazia '98** lived and breathed theatre. He acted, directed, and stage managed on College productions, as well as worked in the scene shop and spent hours sitting in the hallway outside the Theresa Lang Theatre, reading, writing, talking, and planning. Among the many Theatre Arts professors who shaped his time at MMC, he remembers the profound impact Mary Fleischer, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, had as his advisor. "Her constant guidance helped me navigate undergrad, as well as life," he says.

As a first-year student, La Frazia lost his mother. Upon returning to MMC, he was inspired by the guidance of MMC faculty and staff to write and perform his own solo piece about coming of age with a mentally ill mother and the experience of losing her. He later went on to tour with this piece, aiming to raise awareness about mental health issues. After graduating from MMC in 1998, La Frazia went on to

work as master electrician and technical director at Bennington College in Vermont. He was then appointed Director of the Playwright Mentoring Project (PMP) at Barrington Stage Company in Western Massachusetts, an intensive, after-school theatre program that uses theatre as a catalyst to help underserved youth learn valuable life skills and develop positive self-images. The program was awarded a 2007 Coming Up Taller Award, a national award presented by the President's Council on the Arts and Humanities recognizing exemplary arts and humanities programs that foster young people's intellectual and creative development. La Frazia attended the 2007 awards ceremony at the White House, accepting the award from then-First Lady Laura Bush.

Now, as a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 52 and Local 481, La Frazia has focused his professional life on film and television production. The Brooklyn resident has earned a long list of lighting, producing, and production credits, including work on *Shutter Island*, *The Good Fight*, *Daredevil*, *Jessica Jones*, and *New Amsterdam*, for which he currently serves as the light board operator.

When he's not on set, the proud father of two enjoys cycling and is currently running for a spot on the Democratic Committee of Brooklyn.

## Jeanne Hardy-Sloan '76

As an Art History major, **Jeanne Hardy-Sloan '76** was inspired by the late Sister Judith Savard, the beloved Chair of the Department of Art who led classes in art history, studio art, and graphic design during her 38-year teaching career at MMC. With Sister Judith's encouragement, Hardy-Sloan cultivated a lifelong passion for art and art history.

After graduation, Hardy-Sloan recalls having to turn down a job offer from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "After being offered a monthly salary of less than it would cost me to buy a monthly Long Island Railroad ticket, I realized it wasn't going to happen. I ended up in a completely different occupation," she says.

She went on to spend a successful two-decade career with management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where she served as manager of technical services, worked in the private equity department, and joined the research team at the firm's Latin American desk—a position she was able to fill because of experience she gained at MMC. "I am fluent in Spanish, thanks to my junior year abroad in Madrid with MMC's program," she explains.

**"Sometimes you have to zig and zag to get to where you want."**

Throughout her career, Hardy-Sloan never lost her fascination with art history. After undertaking post-graduate coursework in library and information science at Pratt Institute, she later continued to study art history at SOAS University of London, where she honed her interest in Islamic art. This passion for art history was eventually met with opportunity, as Hardy-Sloan was able to regularly participate in archaeological digs in the Middle East and Central Asia. Her career path ultimately led her full-circle to a fulfilling volunteer position in Islamic art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "This has been truly rewarding and something that I look forward to every day I'm here," she says.

## Nolin Wagner '19

A childhood dancer, **Nolin Wagner '19** was originally attracted to MMC's renowned performing arts programs, but was surprised to find her home at MMC in the Department of International Studies, quickly drawn to its compelling partnership and programs with the United Nations (UN) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the city.

Wagner interned with the American Iranian Council as a research development intern for the organization's women's initiative as a first-year student, and later interned at the UN with the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) NGO, attending and contributing to UN sessions to advocate against environmental degradation and on behalf of the rights and well-being of marginalized communities around the world. She also served as resident advisor in MMC's 55<sup>th</sup> Street Residence Hall, where she developed meaningful, supportive relationships with and among her first-year residents and found value fostering a socially conscious community.

As a student, Wagner was challenged and encouraged by her many professors-turned-mentors to combine her love of creative expression with her passion for global environmental and social justice. During her senior year, she and several other student activists organized a campus-wide demonstration calling for MMC to develop a transparent environmental sustainability policy aimed at reducing the College's carbon footprint. In response, President Kerry Walk convened the MMC Environmental Sustainability Team to evaluate the College's existing sustainability goals and implement new programs (read more on page 10).

After a four-year college career marked by professional immersion, advocacy, and self-described "deeply enriching failures," the International Studies major earned a highly competitive Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, the world's largest and most diverse international educational exchange program. Through this prestigious program, Wagner currently lives in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where she teaches English at the Uzbek Language and Literature University. When she is not teaching, she hosts book clubs, poetry workshops, and volunteers to teach yoga at a local organization for women who are victims of domestic violence.

**"With a heart for the arts, I combine my love for creative expression and my passion for global environmental and social justice. Whether it be through poetry or blog posts, articulating the lessons that come to me through life is what I find most fulfilling and meaningful."**



**"Although coursework may seem endless at times, and earning your degree may seem many miles away, enjoy the process of taking classes and gaining experience. You will not only grow in the subject areas you're studying, but you will grow as a person."**

## Anelise Feinstein '14

The 8<sup>th</sup> floor art studios at Marymount Manhattan College were home to **Anelise Feinstein '14** during her undergraduate career as an Art major with a concentration in Studio Art. She dedicated much of her time in those spaces to strengthening her drawing and painting skills and fondly remembers being featured in the program's 2014 Senior Exhibition in the Hewitt Gallery of Art. "The endless artwork opportunities are what truly drew me to MMC," she says.

In addition to her artistic training, Feinstein is a professional violinist and an experienced music teacher, having spent more than a decade as a music theory teacher at the Diller-Quaile School of Music, a community music school on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, before obtaining her degree at MMC.

Since graduation, Feinstein has completed her Master's of Education in Early Childhood Education at Hunter College, and she has written and illustrated a series of comics titled *A Fine Esilena*, which she is now working toward publishing as a graphic novel. She credits her artistic success to the guidance, inspiration, and expertise of her professors in the Studio Art program at MMC.

## Annabelle Royer '13

After graduating from Marymount Manhattan in 2013, **Annabelle Royer '13**, a double major in English and World Literatures and Education, moved to Kinmen, Taiwan, to teach English with the Fulbright Foundation for Scholarly Exchange. After two years, Royer returned to the United States and began a master's program in California at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, where she earned her degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

In 2019, Royer was one of only 200 U.S. citizens selected by the Department of State for a 10-month fellowship project to train teachers and teach English at the University of Montenegro in the capital city of Podgorica. As a fellow, her focus is to bring modern teaching methods, critical thinking, and digital awareness to the education system in Montenegro. She works with local teachers to train, encourage, and empower them to become leaders in their fields and within the region. She recently presented at the

EUR Fellow Conference in Tallinn, Estonia, on applying modern language educational theory in the classroom using platforms like Google Classroom.

Advice she would give to current students may seem a little unusual, she says, but Royer encourages fellow graduates to leave New York—even if it's only for a semester or a year. "I love New York and how much of the world I learned about while living there, but there is so much to be experienced around our diverse country and globe that not exploring it might feel like a missed opportunity one day," she explains. "Plus, even if you ultimately return to New York, you'll be more competitive in your career having explored and learned from other places that challenge you in very different ways."



**"MMC is a school dedicated to cultivating students both personally and academically. I remember being excited to be surrounded by dancers, actors, biology majors, and literature majors who all had a respect for each other's passions and talents, even while not necessarily sharing them."**



## Michele Maher '88

As a Theatre Arts major at MMC, **Michele Maher '88** kept busy with campus theatre productions, acting, directing, and working on production design. She remembers the opportunities she had to attend on- and off-Broadway theatre productions and explore art exhibits and museums with her classes, opening her eyes to all New York City has to offer. Along with her passion for theatre, it was a Communication and Media Arts course in video production, in which she made several short films with classmates who remain close friends, that sparked her professional interests.

Today, Maher is the owner of a production company based in Malibu, California where she not only produces pieces for film and television, but has been known to write and direct on some of them as well. Additionally, shortly before the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, Maher had re-entered the acting field.

While many of her film projects have been put on hold during the quarantine, Maher remains productive by writing and working on creative projects from home. "I'm still in the game," she says. But she does recognize the challenges that young professionals face.

"The entertainment industry has been a roller coaster ride," Maher admits. "Though there's a lot of disappointment on many fronts, you have to keep believing in yourself and finding ways to be creative to get your projects made and continue to source more material. If it were easy, everyone would be doing this."

Now living in the Los Angeles area, Maher spends her time outside of work enjoying tennis, cooking, music, dancing, and Pilates, and she is always on the lookout for new art exhibits.

## CLASS NOTES

The *MMC Magazine* staff compiles the Class Notes column from online and mail submissions from alumni. This edition of Class Notes contains information processed by March 15, 2020. To be included in the next issue, please submit a note online at [www.mmm.edu/class-note](http://www.mmm.edu/class-note) or email us at [classnotes@mmm.edu](mailto:classnotes@mmm.edu).



### ▲ JOAN MOREL BRAKMAN '53

has spent the last 20 years with The Guild of St. Francis Hospital, chairing events and serving as the Chance Book Chair for all yearly fundraisers, in addition to being a past president. She has been a lector over forty years in local parishes. Pictured above is a pillow with the MMC seal gifted to her by friend and classmate **Helen Flynn Calderone '53**, who works in a needlepoint shop in Vero Beach, Florida, three days a week and does custom needlepoint work.

### BARBARA MASCIOCCHI DE VANEY '53

enjoys not only her painting, but her latest grandchild, Charlotte, who turned three in March 2020. She spends a great deal of her time scanning the web.

### JOYCE GAUTNER FEDDEN '53

keeps active in community affairs and with her family. One of her grandchildren graduated in May 2020 from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, and her other grandchild is in her third year at Boston College.

### ANN MAURER '53

is an active participant in community affairs in the Yorkville area and enjoys continued friendship with many of her classmates.

### MARGARET POWER REILLY '53

maintains contact with her classmates, particularly her very dear friend from high school and MMC, Ann Maurer. She is proud of her granddaughter Maggie, who began her college career at Amherst College in September 2019.

### CHRISTINE FIORELLA RUSSO '53, PH.D.

celebrated her 65<sup>th</sup> year in teaching in June 2020, both as a classroom and an Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teacher. In August 2020, there will be a Mass at St. Ignatius Loyola Church and a reception at the Glen Island Harbour Club recognizing Christine and her husband's 60 years of marriage. She recently received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for her extensive teaching experience and notable accomplishments. Her husband has been recognized as an outstanding lawyer of North America by *Who's Who*, and received awards from the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for his successful efforts to secure medical and financial assistance for

Vietnam Veterans exposed to the Agent Orange defoliant. Her brother, (Ret.) Judge Anthony J. Fiorella, who taught landlord and tenant courses in the paralegal program for 26 years at MMC, is now mediating in Queens and Manhattan.

### PATRICIA CLAFFEY EVINS '56

is in the process of moving from her home in Virginia to an assisted living facility in Florida, near her twin daughters' homes in Palm Harbor.

### JOANNE O'CONNELL WHITNEY '59

continues to serve on the Board of Directors at the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and although she uses a mobility scooter, she still gives tours, too!

### JUDITH SHEA KENNEDY '61

has lived in her house on St. Pete Beach in Florida for 44 years, and has been retired for 22 years now. She enjoys her membership at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Department and time spent poolside. She is proud of her granddaughter, Katie, who is a freshman at the University of Southern Florida, and her grandson, Sean, who is a sophomore in high school and a first-time driver. She celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 2019 at a party organized by her daughter Jill, which was attended by family, friends, and even students from her 1970 class when she was a sixth grade teacher. Teaching has been her joy, and she has breakfast every month with a group of retired teachers.

### MARIA KURIA MONTGOMERY '60 AND '61

has been the full-time, primary caretaker of her spouse of nearly 53 years for the past ten years. She revels in the indescribable intellectual joys of taking online courses through Oxford University and enjoys lecturing at St. Patrick's Cathedral and at her local church to nourish a spiritual dimension amidst the challenges of terrestrial life. Given the unusual circumstances of her start at MMC in 1957, Montgomery was privileged to graduate with both the Class of 1960 and 1961, and she loves having two "homes" of classmates at the College. She sends all her best wishes for success and happy everything!

### MARY HEHIR O'DONNELL '61

was reappointed by the Town of Saugerties Town Board to serve as the coordinator of the Climate Smart Task Force. She was also re-elected as chair of the Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission.



### ▲ JOAN PRENDERGAST BURNS '62

and **Gail Matthews Waddell '62** visited **Helen McCormick Nerod '62** at her lovely home in Rockport, Texas, in January.

### KATHLEEN O'HEHIR CANNELLA '65

can't believe it's been 55 years since graduation. She is enjoying retirement in Tampa, Florida, where she found a wonderful, faith-filled church. She is very active with St. Vincent de Paul, the Columbiettes, and the Audio Visual Ministries. She has four wonderful grandchildren—all taller than their grandmother—one of whom is at the University of North Carolina.

### MARY LOUISE TALLENT CHUDD '65

is blessed to have a wonderful husband, two fantastic children, and four adorable grandchildren. She received an MS degree from Herbert Lehman College in 1971 and taught at P.S. 85 in the Bronx for 40 years, 8 months, and 21 days. She has now enjoyed every moment since her retirement on July 1, 2010. She and her husband, Richard, have enjoyed 15 major trips, visiting countries on six continents—Antarctica is the only continent on which they have not yet set foot.



### ▲ CONSTANCE KELSEY '66

traveled to the other side of the equator to southern Africa to escape the hottest summer on record in New York last summer. She participated in wonderful natural, educational, and cultural safaris in three countries, and visited the Lion Encounter in Zimbabwe, an active conservation program that is home to lions that are not tamed, but are habituated to humans. She is pictured above with a lion that is

not quite fully grown at 23 months—hence his somewhat scraggly mane.



### ▲ BARBARA CASOLARO SHIELDS '66

recently exhibited several of her paintings at the Rockville Centre Library on Long Island. She is pictured above with one of her pieces.

### RACHEL BLACK '69

would like to invite any and all of her classmates to come visit her in her new home in Palm Springs, California.

### ELISA FOGARTY COMERFORD '70

and her husband, Ken, are both retired and enjoying traveling and spending time with friends and family. They love being with their two grandchildren, who have given them great joy and laughter. She has stayed close with fellow classmates and friends **Ellen Hartigan Murphy '70**, **Carol Schmitt Mentasti '70**, and **Kay Fogarty Rosewall '70**.

### ▼ DIANE WILDEROTTER MAYER '70

published *Memories & Rhymes*, a collection of verses written through smiles and tears as she remembered all the joyful and heartbreaking times she shared with Jim, her husband of forty-five years, who lost his fight with cancer in 2017.



### ▲ THERESA WESSNER DOHERTY '71, PH.D.

retired to Lewes, Delaware, after 40 years of working in children's mental health services for New York State. She loves the beach, her pets, and traveling, but most of all being relatively near her three-year-old granddaughter, Serena, who is the delight of her life. She continues to advocate for children in Delaware as an active Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and as a board member for Friends of Sussex CASA, fundraising for children in foster care.

### HARRIET FALLON '72

is enjoying her third semester as a senior auditor at CUNY/Hunter College, taking a fantastic array of interesting courses with amazing professors and students. She will soon be visiting good friend and classmate **Diane Gamba Satriano '72** and Diane's husband, Kevin Whalen, in their new home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In September 2018, she and Diane celebrated 50 years (!!!) of friendship at Chez Panisse in Berkeley, California

### BARBARA HAYWARD '72

left New York a few years ago and relocated full-time to her second home in Litchfield County, Connecticut. After starting as a volunteer a few days a week, she was asked to join the staff at Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD), an organization that breeds and trains service dogs for people with physical disabilities. Now as the Client Care and Capital Campaign Coordinator,

she manages all aspects of ECAD's client care support process, from the initial application for a service dog through the placement of the dog and follow-up care, and oversees ECAD's \$3 million building expansion project in Torrington, Connecticut. A graduate of the Department of Theatre Arts, Hayward has chaired two MMC Annual Dance Galas since she became a member of MMC's Dance Advisory Board in 2007, and she currently serves as an Honorary Member of the Dance Board.

### REGINA CARFAGNO MCCAIRNS '73

retired from GlaxoSmithKline in September 2019 after 40 years. She spent her first 20 years in commercial manufacturing making sterile injectable drugs and her last 20 years in research and development supporting clinical trials for sterile injectable drugs.

### ▼ MAURA NEVIN GUSTAFSON '74

is proud to introduce a future member of the Class of 2040—her beautiful granddaughter Rose Maura wearing her Marymount Manhattan t-shirt!



### ▼ SYLVIA TOBIN HEYMAN '75

published her debut book, *Make it a HABIT! Creating Health and Happiness for your Body, Mind, and Spirit*, through Outskirts Press in 2017. She draws from her professional experiences to demystify how habits develop and offer strategies to squelch the



## CLASS NOTES

harmful ones, emphasizing the importance of awareness, action, and accountability.

### MARY LOU SOLLIDAY '75

graduated from MMC with a degree in Sociology and immediately applied to graduate school. She was accepted to the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, which was one of only 12 accredited MPH programs in the country at the time. She spent 52 years in nursing, 34 of which were in infection prevention. She was the Director of Infection Prevention at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, New York, for the last 20 years of her career. She was a member and President for several years of the New York State Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. Coordinating Council (NYSACC), a group of Infection Preventionists that met with the NYSDOH to exchange information and influence legislation, and she served as President of the Long Island APIC Chapter for two years. She happily retired in 2016 to spend more time with her son and his family, including two grandchildren. She will be forever grateful to MMC for laying the foundation for a fulfilling and exciting career.

### JOAN MISCIAGNA '77

is passionate about animal rescue and is working to launch a business editing for self-publishers. She also has a podcast in the works. After a 40-year marriage, she is now living single and ready for the second act.

### MICHAEL REDMOND '77

is proud to announce that her latest book, *Mastering Business Continuity Management*, was selected as one of the top 13 Business Continuity Management Books for 2020. It was also required reading in a graduate-level Disaster Management course at The John Jay College of Criminal Justice. It was published through BookLocker.com, Inc.

### GLORIA COHEN '78

is now living in beautiful Vence, France, which is in Provence, on the Riviera. She would love for any MMC grads out that way to drop in for a visit.

### GLENN SCHATELL '79

works on substance abuse and mental health legislation in U.S. Congress and in Virginia. Since September 11, 2019, he has visited 33 U.S. Senate offices and 24 House of Representatives offices. In March 2020, he traveled to Richmond, Virginia, for the last week of the 60-day Virginia General Assembly session, which considers substance abuse and mental health care legislation.

### JOAN REGEN RAMIREZ '82

spoke to an audience of high school students at the Harlem School on February 11 on themes of leadership and empowerment. Her talk cited examples from her recent book, *Let it Go, Let it Flow Leadership*, which is now available in 106 libraries worldwide.



### SYLVIE FALZON KUNSTENAAR '83

is so proud of her daughter, Adriana Kunstenaar '19, now an MMC alumna, and her son, Rick Kunstenaar, who transferred to MMC this year. Keeping it in the family!

### AIDA L. IRIZARRY-SANTA '84

is looking forward to publishing her novel, *By Reason of Passion*, this year under her maiden name. A romance novel with a paranormal twist, *By Reason of Passion* has been a long-term project for Irizarry-Santa, who will soon be launching a website and blog about the book as well.

### PEGGY RICHARDS '84

had some difficulty in the past year and a half physically being able to maintain her position as a massage therapist, but she is now doing make-up artistry as often as possible while she works to get back to her original state of strength. She is enjoying living in northern Arizona, for the time being, in a small community called Tonto Village. She would like to invite any alumni who are out that way to look her up, or to give her a buzz if they need a make-up artist.

### JERI KRASSNER '85

moved to Asheville, North Carolina, in April 2019 after spending over 25 years on the Upper West Side, where she raised her two kids. She has a master's degree in fundraising and works as a special events coordinator for the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association (RSDSA), a non-profit that supports people with complex regional pain syndrome.

### MARY ANN INCALCATERRA '87

has worked at NYU Winthrop Hospital for 25 years. She lives in Garden City Park.

### KATHERINE PERSICO WILSON '87

is a survivor of breast cancer. Her daughter, Christina Wilson, is also a survivor and wrote a must-read book about the experience, titled *Chest Confessions*.



### JENNIFER ALBERT MANN '88

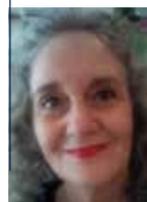


published *The Degenerates* through Simon & Schuster this year, an historical novel that takes on disability in the United States circa 1928. Told in the voices of four young women inside what was originally called The Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth, the novel explores the onset of eugenics in the U.S., the forced institutionalization of people with disabilities for life, and the harsh conditions inside institutions.

### DIANA KWIATKOWSKI RUBIN '88

continues to publish her poetry and haikus internationally, most recently in India and Japan. Her new short story will soon appear in *The Drury's Gazette*.

### CYNTHIA DE BEN '91



loves volunteering as a voiceover teacher/coach with the Screen Actors Guild

New York Conservatory, serving her fellow actor members. She is grateful for the chance to give back by passing on years of experience, knowledge, and skills.

### IRMA TORRES '92

is now retired from full-time work and busier than ever! After retiring from Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M) as a community advocate, she was appointed as a public member of CB8M's Parks & Waterfront Committee. The Committee works on park-related issues for the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island, and is currently collaborating with local elected officials, NYC Parks & Recreation, and Friends of the East River Esplanade to expand and beautify the East River waterfront. She also works as a community advocate for Carnegie Hill Neighbors, a neighborhood association committed to enhancing the quality of life in the Carnegie Hill community of the Upper East Side.

### LAURIE LAQUEY '93

is working as a licensed marriage family therapist in Fort Jones in northern California.

### KIM JONES '95



wrote a book chapter titled, "Transmission as Process and Power in Graham's Chronicle (1936)" in the book

*Transmissions in Dance: Contemporary Staging Practices* published by Palgrave Macmillan.



### NATALYA FEDOROVA MACWILLIAMS '97

took a Christmastide break from working on her next book and embarked on a several months-long trip with her husband, Ken, to Munich, Vienna, and finally to her hometown of St. Petersburg, Russia, to visit family and old friends. Pictured above is Natalya with her father, Vladimir Fedorov, a recently retired physician who has now returned to his tennis game with a vengeance.

### GERALD MAHONEY '97

moved to Florida a few years after graduating from MMC. He now works for the 15<sup>th</sup> District Court in Delray Beach, Florida, conducting mental health evaluations for guardianship cases.

### JENNIFER PALMER BARNES '00

and her husband sold their restaurants and food trucks and moved back to Chicago to be closer to family this past year. She recently joined Monat, a premium vegan hair and skincare company, helping people on their journey to healthier hair and skin. She loves the flexibility of the job, especially while tackling homeschooling her four children—10-year-old twins Franklin and Veronica, 7-year-old Sydney, and 5-year-old Levi.

### MAYRA LINARES-GARCIA '01

is currently the Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications for Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages, and also serves as a trustee for



the City University of New York (CUNY). She has three children: Ava (14), Dylan (6), and Abigail (3).

### JULIA KHVASECHKO '01

will be pacing this year for the London Marathon, the Chicago Marathon, and the NYC Marathon, which will be her 250th lifetime marathon. And if that wasn't enough, her documentary short, *Life as a Marathon*, will be showing at the expos of all three world marathon majors. *Life as a Marathon* premiered in New York City in January and will also have a premiere in Portland, where she resides. It will be available on Amazon Prime this summer.

### HELEN PICCA '01

never dreamed of being a writer, but one day had a compelling idea to write a book about the small town in which she lived. She has since published two books, one historical fiction and the other a memoir/self-help book: *The Last Frontier of the Fading West* and *From the Hamster Wheel to Happiness in 10 Easy Steps*. Check her out on [Facebook at facebook.com/HelenPiccaAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/HelenPiccaAuthor).



### MAYA SHIKHMAN '01

was honored to be included in Nature's Witness, the first photography exhibition organized by the National Wildlife Federation in conjunction with the American Association for



the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Her photo of a spotted salamander was one of 50 in the show, all selected from entries to the annual National Wildlife Photo Contest, meant to raise awareness of conservation goals and challenges. The exhibition was on display at AAAS in Washington, D.C., free to the public, through the end of April 2020. Check out the exhibit at <https://nwf.org/photocontestexhibit>.

### TRACY BULLOCK '02

is a career coach and would be pleased to offer alumni and current students free exploratory calls to start learning about the "whys and wherefores" of working in the professional world. Visit [www.simplicitydoyourdream.com](http://www.simplicitydoyourdream.com) for more information.

### CHRISTINA ROMERO CARROLL '02

started studying improv, sketch, and stand-up comedy after her husband, George Carroll, passed away in 2017. Now known as "Chrissy Carroll" in the NYC comedy scene, she has performed at The Peoples Improv Theater (PIT), Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB), and at The Armory Comedy as part of the sketch team Above Ground Pool.



## CLASS NOTES



### ▲ JOSHUA DUNN '02

is pursuing his graduate degree in mindfulness at Empire State College. He is currently known as Professor Dunn at Westchester Community College and offers his sports mindfulness program at Game On Golf Center in White Plains, New York.

### ▼ MICHELLE HOTALING '02

is transitioning from years of acting in commercials and on the road as a singer-songwriter, and recently founded [www.michellessanctuary.com](http://www.michellessanctuary.com) to help others find sleep through the use of guided meditations and sleep stories. Now partnered with apps like Slumber, Wysa, Insight Timer,



Brainwaves, and the Hoom Band, she found a niche way to use creativity as a writer, voice actor, and musician to help others and put that Comm Arts degree to use. It's time to dream away!

### ERIC KOCHMER '02

is Chief of Production of We Make Movies, Inc (WMM). WMM helps to develop and produce low-budget films in Los Angeles and nationwide, acting as a service company and an educational forum. In 2019, WMM served as Associate Producer on over 200 productions. For more information about their free workshops in Los Angeles, visit [wemakemovies.org](http://wemakemovies.org). Kochmer makes his own independent films as well and is in post-production on his fourth feature film, *Jack Made a Play About John*. His experimental feature film *About Strangers* won Best Picture at the 2019 Innuendo Film Festival in Milan.



### ▲ CATIA OJEDA '02

stars in *Closure*, an award-winning independent feature film. It is now available for rental or purchase on Amazon or can be streamed for free via Tubi TV.

### BELKIS CARDONA-RIVERA '04

is currently working on her master's in Communication, with a concentration in Digital Communication, at Johns Hopkins University. She has also been contracted to work as

a social media consultant with Nature's Logic, a natural pet food company whose mission is to avoid participating in the synthetic vitamin industry and to become a leader in renewable energy.



### ▲ THOMAS FABRICIO '05

is a candidate for the office of State Representative for District 103 in the Florida House of Representatives. District 103 includes sections of southwest Broward County and Northwest Miami-Dade County.

### ANGELA EASTWICK '06

opened Somewhere West, a hotel/restaurant and bar in Negril, Jamaica, a few years ago, which is now an active meeting place for tourists and locals. Check them out at [www.somewherewestnegril.com](http://www.somewherewestnegril.com).



### ▲ DAVID SERGI '07

and **Kelly McCormack '09** welcomed baby boy Enso into the world on January

18, 2020. Meet a future Marymounter!

### ▼ JASON BUFFER '08

married his Upper East Side rival companion, Hunter College alumna Megan Hagar, on January 11, 2020, on the north shore of Hawaii. MMC alumni and friends in attendance included **Mark Hodgman '07, Patrick Madigan '08, Jenna Driggers Lapushner '08, Christian Hess '09, Holly Dougherty Hess '09, Adam Church Lizzoli '09, Rachel Elmore '09, Anna Mosher Russell '08, Renee Tessier Nunley '07, Roland Trafton '08, Will Farrell '08, Hannah Huber '10, Skip Jones, Jamie-Lynn Argenta, and Jessica Garner '09.**



### ALEX ANDREJKO '09

celebrated his tenth year in real estate sales. In March 2019, he joined one of Douglas Elliman Real Estate's top teams, Eklund|Gomes, led by industry veterans John Gomes and Fredrik Eklund.

### KYLE MCGAHAN '09

joined CallisonRTKL, a global architecture, planning, and design practice, as Head of Lighting in February 2020. He will be located in the company's New York City office and will work with CRTKL offices globally.

### CLAIRE SELLERS '10

is a certified life and career coach. Leveraging nearly 10 years of experience in the global startup world, she specializes in helping people navigate transitions, especially around

career and relocation. The benefits of coaching include finding clarity about what you want in your life, reaching your goals faster through accountability, and improving confidence. Sellers is offering a complimentary sample session to all MMC alumni. For more information, visit her website at [www.claireseillers.com](http://www.claireseillers.com), or reach out directly via email at [claire@claireseillers.com](mailto:claire@claireseillers.com).

### CHRISSE GALIFIANAKIS '11

earned her master's degree in Real Estate Finance from Georgetown University in December 2019. She is an associate on the Investor Relations/Capital Raising team at FCP, a privately held national real estate private equity company that has invested in or financed more than \$6 billion in assets since its founding in 1999. She is newly engaged and is enjoying life with her fiancé in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

### OLGA KIRSHENBAUM '11

started Rags to Riches Consulting in 2016, a money coaching business to help individuals and creatives get comfortable with the money in their lives and businesses. Her clients have since dubbed her the "Money Whisperer." She is also the author of *Shmoney*

*Guide: Making Money Choices Doesn't Need to Be So Scary*, available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the iBookstore.



### ▲ STEPHANIE MAKOWSKI '12

was awarded the 2019 "Globility Award" from FXExpress Publications, the parent company of luxury travel publication *Global Traveler*, for her positive contributions to the organization's goals. She currently serves the company as an account executive and travels quite frequently, meeting clients and learning about new cultures.

### ERICA BRUNT LEFF '13

recently opened her own law practice, The Law Office of Erica T. Leff, PLLC, as part of the University of Connecticut School of Law's Connecticut Community Law Center.

### ALEXANDRA KAPRIELIAN '14

launched The Carbon Culture, a fine, handmade jewelry brand in NYC for those who love to wear diamonds. Check the company out at [www.thecarbonculture.com](http://www.thecarbonculture.com) or [@thecarbonculture](https://www.instagram.com/thecarbonculture).

### ANTHONY FRIEDMAN '15

started working at the high-end furniture showroom Jensen-Lewis in late January 2019. He enjoys the opportunity to work and grow alongside sales associates with more experience.

### ► EVAN MCGOVERN '15

works for Dennis Group, a food and beverage design-build engineering firm in Atlanta, Georgia, as a human resources generalist.



at Healthcare Consultancy

### ◀ NATALIE PICKETT '15

recently started a new role as an account manager

Group, a healthcare/pharmaceutical marketing agency.

### SHAUN LEONG '16

graduated in December 2019 with a master's degree in Education from Holy Names University in Oakland, California.

### ► CAN YASAR '18

is finishing the second year of his MFA in Acting at the University of South Carolina. As part of his thesis last semester, he wrote a one-man show and performed it for an invited audience. His play was submitted to festivals such as United Solo Show and The Pride Plays.



### SHUAI (MAGGIE) YUAN '20

graduated in February 2020 and was accepted into the Arts in the Summer program at Columbia University's School of Professional Studies, starting summer 2020. She also works as the Individual Giving and Special Events Intern at the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of the following members of the MMC community:

### ALUMNI

- Elizabeth A. Hayes '52
- Marguerite Brassel Heithaus '52
- Elizabeth Cullinan '54
- Jeanette Capatasto DeLuca '54
- Bernadette Tighe Dunne '56
- Marianne Githens '56
- Anne Wacewiz Martin '56
- Maureen Flynn Levinson '58
- Elaine Reiman Fenton '59
- Catherine O'Brien Barry '61
- Jeanne Russell Ferguson '61
- Mary Roberts McCormack '61
- Anne Murphy '62
- Joan Castel Conway '63
- Patricia Bommicino '64
- Jane Barrett Dargent '64
- Joan M. Kelleher Heaney '64
- Barbara Pearson Baez '66
- Moreen Cahill Carey '66
- Margaret Lynch Mayr '70
- Joan Donnellan '72
- Joan Weiss Mines '73
- Joan Walsh '77
- Adelaide Wenzel '77
- Mary Malet '81
- Claire Habermann '83
- Evelyn Ligon '87
- Iris Greenberg '88
- Carole Collins '92
- Susan Earl '96
- Jeannette Lopez '05
- Margaret Oswald '06
- Margarita Passione '08



# Show Your GRIFFIN PRIDE!

Share a photo of you  
in your Griffin Gear  
and use the hashtag  
**#MMCgriffins**

To check out awesome new  
Griffin Gear available for purchase,  
visit [www.mmm.edu/griffin-gear](http://www.mmm.edu/griffin-gear)

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube!



## A MOMENT IN TIME

*"I'll put a spell on you!"*

From the 1994 Marymount Manhattan College Yearbook:

*"MMC's Theatre department shines in The Grass Harp, a quirky, yet wholesome, musical revival of the Broadway show, which chilled audiences with the story of friendly outcasts who quit their lives and begin again in a giant treehouse."*

PHOTO BY SUSAN COOK



MarymountManhattan

221 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

White Plains, NY  
Permit #1782

## LAST LOOK

Desyre Collier '24, an incoming first-year student double majoring in Politics and Human Rights and Public Relations and Strategic Communication, organized a rally this June in her hometown of San Marcos, Texas, in support of racial equity and police reform.

Photo by Rebecca Harrell, *The University Star*.

