Making connections and building bridges: the stories that bring the Manhattanville community together.
Manhattanville College’s mission is to educate students to be ethical and socially responsible leaders in a global community.

We are committed to: ensuring the intellectual, ethical, and social development of each student within a community of engaged scholars and teachers; encouraging each student to develop as an independent and creative thinker in pursuing career and personal goals; and providing a diverse, inclusive, and nurturing environment that develops in each student a commitment to service and leadership within a global community.
Dear Alumnae and Alumni, Parents,
Students, Faculty, and Staff,

From the moment I stepped foot on Manhattanville’s campus, I was taken with the rich and complex history of our College and the possibilities before us. At each turn, I encountered students, faculty, staff, and alumnae/i who strengthened my impression that Manhattanville is an institution that is committed to educating the whole person, one student at a time. From the close, mentoring relationships between faculty and students, to the mission-driven annual events we hold, such as the International Bazaar and Human Rights Awareness Day, to our athletics program which puts an emphasis on scholar-athletes and integrates a focus on community service, Manhattanville consistently delivers on this commitment to holistic education.

My understanding of the College has been shaped by the stories of the people who make up our community. As the legendary anthropologist Clifford Geertz once said, “Culture is an ensemble of stories we tell about ourselves.” In this issue of Manhattanville magazine, we share with you the stories of the students, faculty, and staff who define Manhattanville today, while providing a glimpse into the future of the College. As we continue to add stories to this narrative, we will over time weave a fabric that shows us off to others for who we are, a culture that is unique to Manhattanville College.

“Freeing the Past in Newburgh” and “Quantifying Beauty,” our feature stories, take us behind the scenes of the faculty-student collaboration. The initiative and innovation of Tashae Smith ’17 and the support of her professor, Dr. Colin Morris, exemplify the type of student Manhattanville attracts and what becomes possible when those students receive personalized support from faculty. And Panashe Fundira ’17 and Dr. Austin Purves are conducting research that beautifully melds Panashe's liberal arts education and Dr. Purves’ scientific inquiry. These collaborations abound and serve as a hallmark of the Manhattanville education.

You’ll read in this issue several stories driven by our mission and values. “Building a Community without Barriers or Borders” introduces our new Center for Inclusion and explores what it means to develop a truly inclusive campus. “For the Greener Good” explores the College’s commitment to sustainability and the environment. “Preparing for Life’s Curriculum” highlights the important role community service plays in enhancing our academic program. Finally, “Helping Students Navigate Tomorrow” emphasizes the impact alumnae and alumni can have on students when they volunteer as mentors.

In these pages you will also find an article on our new strategic plan entitled “Building Bridges, Making Connections, Reaching Destinations.” The theme of interconnectedness is woven throughout the strategic plan, bringing us back to stories. It is the sharing of stories that builds bridges and makes connections, helping us to form an awareness and understanding of where we have been and where we are going, who we are and who we hope to be, and what we have accomplished and what is yet to come. The future is bright for Manhattanville College, and I invite, and encourage, you to join me in shaping our next chapter.

With appreciation,

Michael E. Geisler
President
features

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DR. LISA DOLLING ’84
Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor of Philosophy
A PORTRAIT OF EDDIE

How a Manhattenville institution helps create a better campus every day

Spend any amount of time on the Manhattenville campus and you’re sure to run into Eddie. In fact, if you want to spend any amount of time with him, run is what you’ll need to do. He is a torrent of perpetual motion, moving effortlessly from the spotless floors of the Castle to the equally spotless kitchen of the cafeteria—and seemingly everywhere in between.
Eduardo Castillo works for the cleaning and cafeteria services at the College—"Eddie" by his insistence to everyone he meets. An institution within one, Eddie knows every room, every pathway and, it appears, everybody on campus. His responsibilities include year-round maintenance and cleaning of the main building and he is the Cook Supervisor in the kitchen. He laughs at a comparison to the glue that holds everything together. "Glue is sticky," he notes. "I like to keep things running smoothly."

Walk across campus with Eddie and he will explain the history and evolution of various places and structures with something approaching Rotarian ardor. "I fell in love with Manhattanville the minute I set foot on the grounds," he recalls. "It is a place at peace with its energy and pace. I think of it as home."

A PLACE OF COMMUNITY

Twelve years ago, Eddie called Lima, Peru home. He recalls his decision to come to the United States. "I was living with my abuela—grandmother—and I wanted to do more, to change my life. Everyone was telling me 'It's so far, such a long way.' But I'm glad I took the chance—just like the students, I'm pursuing my dream here, too."

When Eddie first arrived in New York, he spoke no English. Living with family in Westchester, he found work at Manhattanville in the cafeteria as a dishwasher. "Think of every fish-out-of-water story you've ever read or saw, that was me," he remembers. "I was through the looking glass, a stranger in a strange land, no one could understand a word I was saying. So, I started studying. I learned to read and write English at Westchester Community College. I also worked to understand the overlapping cultures here. I'm greatly indebted to the Latina-Latino faculty, staff and students who helped me and let me borrow their interpretations until I could form my own."

Four years ago, Eddie took on additional duties, working as the supervisor and cook in the cafeteria in the afternoons. "The word 'cafeteria' is a Spanish word," he points out. "A coffee house. But moreover, a place of community. That's the type of atmosphere I hope I help to bring to the College's cafeteria. It's great when students introduce me to their parents and tell them 'Eddie made me a special meal. I know how hard the students are working and it makes me feel very proud to be a part of their lives."

"It's like a homecoming, complete with new friends to be made. Manhattanville really is a community and it's so uplifting to be a part of it."

A NEW OUTLOOK ON LEARNING

Ask Eddie about his family in Peru and he invokes another Spanish word, nostalgia. "It's not homesickness in the traditional sense of the word, in any language. It's more of an imagining of the way things are here and there simultaneously. I often wonder if I am the bridge between two worlds, or am I the traveler? This may be purely a function of age—my 21-year-old son has studied in Europe and now he's back studying in Peru, and to him this is just the way of the world. We talk almost every day, and I'd like to think spending my days around young people his age gives me insight—if not proximity—into his journey."

When asked if he ever thinks about returning to Peru, he replies, "The trouble with nostalgia is that it can blind you to the possibilities of the here and now. I'm far from done here in the U.S. Working at a college has given me a totally new outlook on learning. Now I am taking courses in electrical and plumbing systems, and I'll soon have my license for HVAC repair. The more I can increase and enhance my skills, the more I can give back to Manhattanville, which has given me so much."

Eddie is also wistful as spring ends, the quiet sets in, the energy ebbs...and another class of seniors moves on. "They come here as teenagers—though they may balk at the term," he says with a smile, "and they leave as young men and women. They are as uncertain of what the world holds for them as I was when I left Lima, but I know they are certainly better prepared."

During the summer, Eddie works on repairs in each building, careful of every detail "as though it were my own home." He likes the fall, when the students and staff return, purposeful, ready for another term. "It's like a homecoming, complete with new friends to be made. Manhattanville really is a community and it's so uplifting to be a part of it."

But now he must go on his way, because there are fixes to be made and places to be cleaned and equipment to be maintained. And if you're Eddie Castillo, you want to make sure everything is just right. ■
How a physics professor and a math major are teaming up to define a standard for the naturalness of physical theories.

It's easy—perhaps even comforting—to think of theoretical physics in terms of exacting equations that are designed to make sense of everything from the smallest particle to the largest star. So it may come as a surprise that concepts such as elegance, simplicity, and naturalness—expressed as "beauty"—have been guiding physicists' work all the way back to Aristotle.

Beginning in late 2015, Professor Austin Purves, chair of Manhattanville's physics department, sought out an undergraduate researcher to help validate that the natural elegance or beauty of a physics theory is actually in accordance with Bayes' Theorem, used in calculating probability.

"I had mulled over the idea for some time," Dr. Purves recalled. "When I was in graduate school, a lot of the work I was doing was motivated by the elusive concept of naturalness. I felt a little uncomfortable with the vagueness of the concept, considering what a large role it was playing in physics, including my own research. I read a lot of the literature surrounding naturalness and became intimately familiar with the different conceptions of it." By looking at how his own work using probability paralleled naturalness, he sought out Bayes' theorem as a common denominator.

To assist him, Dr. Purves chose Panashe Fundira '17, a senior triple-majoring in economics, mathematics, and computer science. "He was interested and his academic qualifications are impeccable. I knew he could be counted on."

For his part, Panashe was attracted to the philosophical implications of the research. "I love to learn new things across varied problem domains. I've been exposed to so much knowledge on the philosophy of science while working on this project. It has not only been challenging, but incredibly rewarding as well."

COLLABORATING IN THE PATH OF BAYES

The painstaking research ran into numerous dead ends, stalled, seemingly regressed, and eventually made breakthroughs. It is a path well known to those seeking to expand the boundaries of scientific knowledge. While central to the collaborators' work on the naturalness of physical theories, Bayes' theorem, at its core, is used to determine the probability of an event given some prior knowledge of another condition related to that event. The theorem is named for its initial discoverer, Thomas Bayes (c. 1701–1761), an English statistician and minister. Something of an enigma in higher
mathematics, Bayes did not publish his research in his lifetime. Instead, his groundbreaking work was edited and published posthumously by fellow mathematician Richard Price.

During the centuries, many other philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians have refined and expanded an entire philosophy of science known as Bayesianism. At Manhattanville, Dr. Purves and Panashe are further expanding the frontier of Bayesian thought. As Panashe explained, “Our tool is for the comparison of competing and compelling physical theories and models that explain some aspect of the physical universe, but have not been verified to the extent they can. The Bayesian evidence is some measure of a theory’s beauty, or elegance, or simplicity—and it tells us why to prefer one theory over another.”

CONTINUING A RICH TRADITION OF INNOVATION

The work of Dr. Purves and Panashe is just the latest in a long line of faculty/student collaborations that make Manhattanville one of the foremost institutions for innovative teaching and learning. For Panashe, the research has offered insight beyond the immediate project. “I’ve been looking a lot at how science is conducted. Our work is ultimately about deciding which theories are true, and the process of arriving at that choice,” he said. “Over the course of this project, I’ve sought out other scientific conventions and attempted to understand why they are useful or, if not, how we could do better.”

By creating an environment where collaboration is not just a pedagogical exercise but a true joining of forces to explore new outcomes, the College continues to raise academic standards…and enthusiasm. “I love that I’ve been given the opportunity to contribute—in whatever small way—something original to humanity’s collective knowledge,” said Panashe.

Dr. Purves and Panashe ’17 are looking forward to getting their work published. Panashe graduated in May and went right into a job at Dropbox as a software engineer.
Freeing the Past
IN NEWBURGH

A history major teamed up with her professor to research the evolution of slavery and the African-American community in Newburgh—and share her findings with the world.

Professor Colin Morris and Tshae Smith '17.
On a late August day in 2016, more than 100 people took a walking tour of Newburgh, New York—exploring the evolution of its slaveholding past and the development of the town’s black community. The tour was researched and designed by Manhattanville senior Tashae Smith ’17 with the guidance of her history professor, Colin Morris, and in collaboration with local nonprofit Sound & Story of the Hudson Valley.

As they collaborated, Ms. Smith’s findings took her deep inside the complex dynamics that shaped the Hudson Valley’s burgeoning slave trade—and the equally robust traffic along the Underground Railroad, of which Newburgh was a key station. A pivotal turning point was her decision to share her research not as a published paper, but as a walking tour—a communal embodiment of her work.

The two spoke candidly about the nature of the research, its highs and lows…and what has come out of the experience.

Dr. Colin Morris: So now looking back, is there anything you would have done differently in your research?

Tashae Smith: Yes, started earlier—like grade school. (laughs) I’m only half-joking, because growing up in Newburgh I was surrounded by so much rich history, and elders no longer with us who held such immense knowledge of the struggles of not just the African-American community, but of the larger community as well. You don’t think about these things when you’re a kid.

Morris: Of course—every historian has that revelation. But I’m curious about how the exploration of this research changed you. How are you different than when you started?

Smith: Well, this journey has left deep impressions on me. I have such profound appreciation for what the slaves and the free people trying to help them were going through. More profoundly, I’ve come to understand that these are people who were living—by the standards of the time—ordinary lives. What we think of as horrific was, to them, the everyday. I’m sure people 200 years from now will look back on us and our issues the same way. It reminds me of that great quote by L. P. Hartley—

Morris: “The past is a foreign country—”

Smith: “—they do things differently there.” Yet, even for a history major, it’s easy to look at past events as abstractions, especially when they’re nearly 200 years removed. But this was deeply personal, uncovering happenings by those that had gone before me on the very streets I grew up on. I had to be careful not to romanticise their struggle, but I did make their story my own—and I had to share it with present-day Newburgh.

Morris: I remember when you first came up with the idea of a walking tour. I said “this is different, let’s find a way to make that happen.”

Smith: And I appreciate that, because other aspects of Newburgh’s history get much more attention, especially [George] Washington’s headquarters, which is why I called my tour “In Washington’s Shadow.”
The slaveholding past of the region has been largely forgotten. Most people don’t know that New York State had more slaves than any other state in the early 1800s.

**Morris:** More people knew it then—your tour had a great turnout, more than 100 people, plus the press.

**Smith:** That’s very gratifying. I’ll admit that as the tour was coming together, I was nervous about how the public would respond to the facts I was determined to present. But when all those people showed up, I knew it was the right time for the story to be told.

**Morris:** Also, I think the present-day community appreciated the work you were doing.

**Smith:** Absolutely! I couldn’t have done the work without the backing of Manhattanville and so many people in Newburgh, from the city government, to the churches, to the local historical societies and foundations. And of course, the grant from the Open Space Institute.

**Morris:** What do you hope people get out of the research, the tour…beyond a retelling of what happened and who was involved?

**Smith:** I hope people get a deeper perspective on how the community got to where it is today. You can draw a line—more like a twisting road cutting through the canyons of time—from the slaves of pre-Civil War Newburgh to the African-Americans of today. I was fascinated by why such a large number of black people chose—and continue—to call Newburgh home.

**Morris:** And why is that?

**Smith:** During boom times, such as World War II, you could point to simple economics, jobs. But it’s more than that, because the town has had its share of down times and the black community is just as robust and active. I believe it’s because there has always been an undercurrent of quiet strength, pride, and resilience in Newburgh, even 200 years ago.

**Morris:** What about just a few weeks from now, when you graduate? How do you think this project has helped you as you pursue your goal of becoming a museum curator?

**Smith:** It’s certainly taught me to be more collaborative and to be creative in seeking out resources and information. I see that there are many different facets to the same story. Whether I’m curating an exhibition or creating a historical tour, I know that the past has a vibrancy and complexity all its own. Like music…you need to listen closely to hear the full story.

**Morris:** I’m sure the past, and the future, and all of us will be bearing a lot more from you in the years to come.

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4. The “In Washington’s Shadow” tour was conducted in person by Tashae Smith to promote the inaugural event in August 2016. It is permanently installed as a self-guided audio walking tour. 5. The best way to find out about the self-guided five-site walking audio tour is on the website of Sound and Story of the Hudson Valley: soundandstory.org/directories/inwashingtonsshadow.html 6. Learn more about figures in African-American History, like Frederick Douglass, from the tour’s audio recordings, accessible via cellphone access codes that are displayed on the permanent Sound & Story markers, installed at each of the tour’s five sites. 7. Professor Morris and Tashae Smith share a moment before final exams.
Evolving the Soul of a Modern, 21st Century Academic Institution

Manhattanville's new strategic plan aims to enhance the learning experience, and forge stronger connections between faculty, students, businesses, and the community.

BUILDING BRIDGES

MAKING CONNECTIONS

REACHING DESTINATIONS
Academia, like many other longstanding institutions, often finds itself torn between tradition and transformation, between the surety of the past and possibilities of tomorrow. Manhattanville College has embarked on an ambitious new plan to bridge its heritage and mission with the demands of 21st century students and the world they will eventually change.

This new strategic foundation—Building Bridges, Making Connections, Reaching Destinations—was developed with input from a broad range of constituencies, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and trustees. The plan’s aim is to shape, guide, and drive the College’s goals, activities, and resource allocations. “The development process was extremely collaborative,” said board of trustees chair Marcia Pearce DeWitt ’69, who served on the strategic planning committee. “We all believe that one of the core values of a liberal arts education is giving students the tools to solve problems and engage in experiential learning. We believe this plan is preparing leaders for the future.”

The Need for a New Way of Looking at Academic Excellence

Rapidly evolving technology, shifting demographics, and the changing needs of business in an interconnected and competitive global economy require today’s graduates to have different skills, mindsets, and methodologies than past generations. The new strategic plan looks beyond the College’s pioneering “Centennial Plan” to pursue excellence across a sweeping array of interdisciplinary imperatives. These include honing a distinctive curriculum, providing exceptional first-year experiences, enhancing “high-impact” learning activities, offering greater faculty support, and much more.

The plan was also shaped by the “five destinations” highlighted by College president Michael E. Geisler in his October 2016 inaugural address. In those remarks, he shared a far-reaching vision for the future of Manhattanville College exemplified by its identity, project-based and interdisciplinary learning, connection to the community and the world, and a re-engagement with the founders’ legacy.

“President Geisler is a visionary leader who has knowledge about running a first-rate academic institution, and there’s been tremendous support for the idea of taking a holistic approach to learning,” said Ms. DeWitt.

The new strategic plan will be implemented in stages over the next four years, and progress is already underway. For example, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation last year awarded Manhattanville $100,000 to enhance its portfolio program known as ATLAS.

(continued on page 14)
Building a World of Possibilities: The Pillars of the New Strategic Plan

While sweeping in its purpose and practice, the plan strives for just five key transformational outcomes.

At fulfillment, Manhattanville College will be:

1. At the forefront of liberal arts and professional education. Students will be equipped with the skills to be effective and collaborative contributors in the global community.

2. Widely recognized as a destination for scholarly and academic excellence. By increasing the recruitment of high-quality faculty and motivated students, coupled with curricula that seek new dimensions in academic challenge and rigor, the College will define an entirely new level of undergraduate and graduate teaching and learning in the next decade.

3. Manhattanville will enable students to make connections and build bridges: within the College, beyond its walls, and to the world. Learning, doing, and progress knows no borders today. A Manhattanville education extends beyond the campus, bringing students face-to-face with real world challenges, and solutions.

"President Geisler is a visionary leader who has knowledge about running a first-rate academic institution, and there’s been tremendous support for the idea of taking a holistic approach to learning."

MARCIA PEARCE DEWITT ‘69
Board Chair
A vibrant and inclusive community of life-long learners. Tomorrow's solutions will come from people of diverse backgrounds and skills working together in new and different ways. Manhattanville graduates will continue to learn, grow, and use ethical and responsible behavior to make a positive difference on campus and in the world.

An exemplar of prudent financial management. In addition to responsible stewardship of existing resources in an economically challenged environment, the College will also seek to grow revenue from new programs and increased fundraising.

“The new plan is really a way to galvanize our community and expand on what we do best,” said Dr. Lisa Dolling ’84, Manhattanville College’s provost, vice president for academic affairs, and professor of philosophy. “We’d love for alumni to get involved—perhaps by joining a task force to implement different parts of the strategic plan, sponsoring named scholarships, or coming back to teach in partnership with our professors.”

What’s next?

To bring the plan’s goals to fruition as effectively, efficiently, and transparently as possible, the strategic planning committee is engaging the entire community in implementing the plan. Each initiative is assigned an “owner” who has a taskforce to oversee completion and implementation of the goal, and measure progress.

“The board looks forward to helping support the plan’s implementation by spreading the word and raising the funds we need to invest in the future,” board chair DeWitt said. “Manhattanville has always made it a priority to educate people who may not previously have had the opportunity for higher education. I truly believe that Manhattanville prepared me to succeed in my life, both in my professional capacity as an attorney and as a mother of five children. I feel very fortunate to be able to give back now.”

As an evolutionary platform, as a rallying cry, and as an exercise to strengthen and enhance the soul of the institution, the new strategic plan is gaining wide acceptance and anticipation from stakeholders throughout the College and the community. The consensus is that, for the plan to succeed, it will need the empathy, communication, openness, and innovation of everyone involved—traits for which Manhattanville is already well known. As Provost Dolling notes, “We want to build bridges for our students. That’s how we see Manhattanville truly transforming—and improving on its great legacy for future generations.”
building a community

WITHOUT BARRIERS OR BORDERS

Introducing Manhattanville’s Center for Inclusion

Manhattanville College is well-known for attracting a diverse, international student body. However, within this academic global village, silos can form, of students associating with others of similar backgrounds and interests. In response, the College’s plan for a Center for Inclusion supports the development and understanding of different cultures, ethnicities, backgrounds, and experiences. The Center is itself a tangible manifestation of the College’s commitment to valuing and respecting all Manhattanville students, faculty, and staff, regardless of race, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, religion, or belief.

“How do we raise the awareness of cultural differences, and how do we become more confident in our efforts to respect and embrace those who are not like us?” asks Donna M. Eddleman, Ed.D., vice president of student affairs, who will be overseeing the Center for Inclusion. “That question is what our new Center will address.”

A national search for the Center’s director is being led by a committee of students, faculty, and staff. According to Dr. Eddleman, Manhattanville is looking for a passionate dreamer and ambitious doer—someone who believes in social justice advocacy and has experience collaborating with faculty and students on a college campus. In addition to creating the Center’s mission statement and running its operations, some of the director’s key responsibilities will be to build bridges of increased cultural awareness and the celebration of those cultures, and to promote positive, meaningful relationships across groups both inside and outside the classroom.

“I believe that the Center’s director will be one of the most important positions Manhattanville fills in the next several years,” Dr. Eddleman said. “I also believe that, in general, centers of inclusion are needed on college campuses today more than ever in the past 30 years. This is a critical time for us to join together and leverage the strength that comes from our diverse backgrounds.”
A diverse student body is a hallmark of a Manhattanville education. 55 countries are represented on campus, providing a rich cultural exchange.

Manhattanville's Center for Inclusion, located in the Founder's Gallery, will include a library and other resources, and offer a robust academic program, learning opportunities through social events, and a network for students, faculty, and staff. Future plans under consideration include cultural competency trainings, mentoring, and career services. Through initiatives like these, the center will support students' academic, social, cultural, and personal well-being, and allow them to empower and educate themselves, their peers, and their community. Alumnae and alumni, as well as other community members, are invited and encouraged to take advantage of the Center and participate in its programs.

“We’ll organize meaningful conversations with students and faculty around important topics,” Dr. Eddleman said. “And we’ll bring in experts to speak and lead panel discussions. Maybe we’ll host poetry readings and film screenings. If we have a play on campus, for example, that centers around a topic of inclusion, we’d love to host related talks before or after a performance.”

Of course, events around inclusion are already regular occurrences on Manhattanville’s campus. In February, Professor Jimmy Jones and others organized a series of discussions related to Black History Month. And more recently, the school hosted a roundtable conversation related to immigration issues, providing knowledge, acknowledging feelings, and offering support. Dr. Eddleman expects these types of programs to expand as the Center provides more opportunities and resources for similar programming.

“When you look at Manhattanville College’s heritage,” Dr. Eddleman explained, “it’s quite clear that the new Center will play an important role in our story. I’m confident it will help students understand the importance of inclusion in Manhattanville’s history and its future.”
from the ideal to the actual:
MAKING INCLUSION REAL ON CAMPUS
A Conversation with Asma Alirahi '19

Manhattanville students and student groups are welcoming the opening of the College's new Center for Inclusion. One of the Center's leading champions is Asma Alirahi, a sophomore who is president of the Muslim Student Association and works in the Office of Disability Services. She recently spoke about her efforts toward enhancing cultural awareness and inclusion on campus and her hopes for the Center and its mission.

Q: WHAT'S YOUR WISH LIST FOR THE CENTER FOR INCLUSION?
A: That Manhattanville has established the Center is itself a tremendously positive step, and it validates all the work that our [Muslim Student] Association and so many other groups have been doing to create a stronger campus community. I want the Center to create true connection and understanding between diverse segments and inculcate an open-mindedness that will stay with students long after they graduate.

Q: WHAT ABOUT STUDENTS WHO SAY, "I HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS; I'M NOT A PERSON WHO CARRIES PREJUDICE FOR ANY GROUP"?
A: Association by itself is not inclusion. Lack of disdain is not respect. Simply because I hang out with Latinas, or gays, or blacks doesn't mean that I understand their challenges or the possibilities of their contributions. In my work with disabled students, I see tremendous capabilities and skills that are often dismissed at first glance. Inclusion means taking the time to look deeper and know more.

Q: DO YOU ENCOUNTER THESE SAME KINDS OF PRECONCEPTIONS TOWARD MUSLIM STUDENTS AND THE MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION?
A: Because Manhattanville is such a nurturing and ideologically open environment, I believe Muslims here have been largely spared some of the uncomfortableness that may be prevalent in the larger society. But I do believe there is a misconception that our Association is insular. Not at all. Our activities are open to everyone and we actively encourage participation and engagement by all students. If we see opportunities for improvement on any issue, we speak up. We don't say, "Oh, that's not a Muslim issue so we're not interested."

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CENTER FOR INCLUSION CAN DO IMMEDIATELY TO ADVANCE ITS MISSION?
A: Be the change that it seeks. The fact that we strain to be inclusive is a problem. Inclusion should be a natural part of life—we should know it, think it, live it automatically. The Center needs to set the tone that inclusion—in all its various forms—is the new normal. That's how we can turn aspiration into reality.
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For the Greener Good

MANHATTANVILLE WORKS TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

For almost a decade, Manhattanville has been a leader in sustainability, announcing in 2009 its aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2025. Each year, the College implements new innovative measures—for example, LED retrofitting and solar carports—to reduce Manhattanville’s impact on the Earth. By the end of 2017, the College will boast one of the largest solar arrays in Westchester County and is expected to reduce its electricity consumption by 20 percent.
“Our core mission,” says Greg Palmer, vice president of operations, “is to educate ethical and socially responsible leaders for the global community. By building a greener campus, we’re demonstrating to our students the link between sustainability and responsible citizenship.”

Investing in green technologies is also fiscally responsible. “Addressing sustainability,” Mr. Palmer acknowledges, “has helped the College operate more efficiently and more effectively. It’s allowed us to generate cost savings and stabilize our long-term operating costs, and created a more attractive and more productive campus. The new solar carports, for instance, will save Manhattanville more than $3 million over 25 years, which can then be reinvested into things like scholarships for students.”

With 3,600 solar panels on both carports and ground mounts, Manhattanville’s buildout will supply approximately 1.2 megawatts of emission-free electricity per year. The project has been approved by the Harrison Planning Board and the College has entered into a 25-year power purchase and service agreement with partners Energy in the Bank, RBI Solar, Cenergy Power, and General Energy Solutions. Directly sourcing solar power for 20 percent of the electricity on campus will eliminate approximately 800 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year.

In addition to the solar carports, Manhattanville has installed throughout its campus LED replacement lighting, building temperature monitoring systems, new windows, new water fountains with bottle filler spigots, tray-less dining, and more efficient toilets, showers, and sinks. It has also reduced solid waste production, increased recycling, and built energy efficient buildings such as the LEED gold-rated Berman Student Center and the Ohnell Environmental Center, a Maya Lin-designed classroom building that heats and cools itself. The Environmental Center also features an organic water purifier.

Manhattanville has won numerous awards for its sustainability efforts and recently joined the Westchester Green Business Challenge (WGBC) program, which is a collaborative group of more than 50 local organizations from diverse industries that are recognized as leaders in sustainability. As a member of this program, the College is engaging its constituencies—students, faculty, and staff—in reducing climate impact. Through the WGBC, Manhattanville’s collaboration with local businesses increases its own capacity for greenhouse gas reduction, but also its ability to share scholarly research on climate change and climate action.

(continued on page 22)
Summer Institutes on Campus

Each summer, Manhattanville partners with the Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation, a local nonprofit organization, to co-host institutes for K-12 teachers on education for sustainability. Graduates of this program are now transforming food systems within their schools and communities and leading local educational technology companies toward corporate social responsibility. High school students invented an award-winning “pay it forward” mobile app. Graduates also collaborate with faculty to conduct, publish, and present research on the effects of education for sustainability on climate action.

Other Ways to Get Involved: Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action

The Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action, which hosts an annual climate action lecture series that is open to all and well attended by community activists, recently created a campus sustainability committee made up of faculty, students, and staff. The committee’s work included promoting, mentoring, and sponsoring students to attend a conference led by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education that was recently held in the New York area. These students have gone on to become leaders in climate activism in education and communications.

Doing Good with Better Food

Did you know that Manhattanville College has its own organic community garden, which produces food for the cafeteria and the local Food Bank of Westchester? It also serves as a demonstration area for students on how sustainable, organic farming works.

Managed by Christopher Pappas, professor of biology, the garden offers students a chance to grow their own crops, while contributing community service hours to their Duchesne scholarship (see page 31). More than 40 volunteers work together each year to help with mulching, planting, and picking vegetables.

For Patrick Seabaugh ’14, it opened his eyes to what he wants to do with his future. “After working in the garden weekly one summer,” he said, “I decided to be an environmental studies major.”

In addition to the community garden initiative, Manhattanville recently launched a new food justice project, sponsored by the biology and MFA programs. Together, they will host a daylong event this fall to raise awareness about the role of food justice in sustainability.

“People in a creative writing program should be focused on important social justice issues that they can engage with in their work,” said Professor Lori Soderland, director of the MFA in creative writing program and an award-winning writer herself. “The farm-to-table movement, eating locally, is one example of that idea. It’s an important way we can all reduce our carbon footprint. Having even a small space to grow food can have a huge impact. And, of course, another benefit of eating locally is that, very simply, the food tastes better and is healthier.”
Students Prepare for the Future: Sustainability in the Classroom

In addition to operational improvements, Manhattanville's overarching commitment to sustainability and reducing emissions extends to its classrooms. The College offers an advanced certificate in education for sustainability, which includes five courses and a final sustainability-action project. Manhattanville also offers sustainability courses as part of a masters in education studies.

Faculty in the biology, physics, and sociology departments also engage students in research related to environmental protection, environmental justice, and social action. From monitoring marine conditions in Barbuda to investigating the effects of social media on social change, students are developing the knowledge and skills necessary for taking action and competing in the new green economy.

To learn more about Manhattanville's academic focus on sustainability and environmental studies, please contact Sherie McClam, assistant professor of science education/education for sustainability, at 914-323-5137 or sherie.mcclam@mville.edu.

Dr. McClam has worked at Manhattanville for nearly a decade, promoting a view of learning grounded in interdependence, shared responsibility, and civic engagement. She is committed to developing an education for sustainability focused within the school of education and for the broader College community.

Manhattanville Student Speaks Out at Local Sustainability Event

On March 4, 2017, at the Bedford 20/20 Food Forum, which included more than 2,000 participants, Lori Fontanes, a student in Manhattanville's MFA in creative writing program and an expert on edible gardening, led a workshop about how to grow your own food and the many benefits of eating super local—meaning from your own backyard.

"By taking control of the food we put on our tables, we can also begin to take control of our future."

LORI FONTANES
Student, MFA in creative writing

SAVE THE DATE

The first Food Justice Conference, cosponsored by the MFA in creative writing and the biology department, is coming to Manhattanville on September 16, 2017. The all-day event will include a keynote address by author and chef Dan Barber, as well as a farmer's market, food demos, panels, roundtables, and writing workshops. The event will be open to the public. For more information, contact Lori Soderlind, director of the MFA in creative writing program, lori.soderlind@mville.edu.
College where he remained for the majority of his career, most recently serving as vice president for risk and compliance and as vice president for language schools, schools abroad, and graduate programs. He and his wife of 27 years, Alice, have a daughter, Julia, who recently graduated from Pace University.

In 2016, Geisler joined Manhattanville as its 13th president. During a recent conversation, he shared his passion for making connections.

Q: HOW DIFFICULT WAS THE TRANSITION FROM GERMANY TO THE UNITED STATES AS A YOUNG MAN?

A: I came to the United States determined to fit in, to acclimate, to make friends with Americans. That didn’t happen right away, but from the beginning when I moved here, I yearned to connect with people who were different from me.

I loved the sound of the English language. I was inspired by the words and music of Pete Seeger. I grew up on American and British pop and rock. I loved reading E.M. Forster’s Passage to India, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Last Tycoon, and, of course, The Great Gatsby. So when I came to the United States, I thought I knew everything about this country. I had studied its history. I had read newspaper reports about life here. But within a few years, I realized that I had to throw out most of my assumptions and start from scratch. That’s a story I share with people when they are interacting with groups that they don’t know; be ready to throw out your preconceived notions and start from scratch. For me, it’s a continuous process of learning and understanding, reaching across borders, more than may be typical, to connect with people and ideas that may be different than mine.

Making connections is something I still think about a great deal. Here at Manhattanville, it’s the core of our new strategic plan. I believe we need to narrow the deep political divide that was created by the last election. And we need to find ways to connect the dots among different racial and ethnic constituencies. When I walk around campus, I notice that not only do international students stick to themselves, but they often stick to themselves by groups. For instance, our Ukrainian students may stick together and our students from the Dominican Republic may stick together and our students from Sweden may stick together. On top of that, our athletes stick together. Our theater students stick together.
“I’d like Manhattanville to be the place where the brightest minds congregate.”
I want to reiterate what I said in my convocation address to all the students. I gave them an assignment, which was to find a friend from a background as unlike their own as possible. I really would like to continue developing this idea of connecting the dots between our various constituencies to create more of a sense of community than we have now.

**Q:** HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO FACILITATE MAKING CONNECTIONS?

**A:** I'd like Manhattanville to become well-known in Westchester and the greater New York area as a place where the brightest minds congregate, to talk about the most important issues facing this country and the world. And of course, we always invite our alumnae and alumni to come back and share their professional experiences with our students, drawing connections between what we teach in the classroom and what happens after graduation.

**Q:** IN YOUR INAUGURAL REMARKS, YOU TALKED ABOUT A LIBERAL-ARTS-PLUS EDUCATION. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

**A:** I believe that to be ready for the 21st century job market, today's students need to look beyond their particular disciplines. After all, in the business world, the greatest innovations result from a mix of people with different backgrounds. Also, our students will likely change jobs at least five times in their careers, so we want them to be prepared for that reality with skills that can be easily adapted to a changing working environment.

With this in mind, we're bolstering the way we teach design thinking with an e-portfolio program called ATLAS, and we're hoping to eventually build a specialized center for design thinking on campus. We're also reaching out to business leaders to increase internships for our students. One day soon, I imagine working with companies to form partnerships that put extraordinary students on a glide path, with certain classes and training programs in place leading up to graduation.

I'd also like to start a program for lifelong learning. You're not done with your education when you're 22 or 25 or 28. People's life spans and intellectual ability to engage with problems have actually expanded tremendously, and I think the educational community has an obligation and an opportunity to provide an arena for people to continue their learning and engagement after retirement.

**Q:** WHEN AND WHERE DO YOU FIND YOURSELF HAPPIEST?

**A:** It's probably no surprise, but I love getting lost in a good book, whether it's literature or something scholarly trying to push the boundaries of my research, which focuses on nationalism and identity. Watching movies, particularly older movies, is something I love to do with my family. I also like bowling, and I love walking around New York City. I'll make plans to go to the Strand Bookstore, or watch a movie at the Angelika Film Center or Film Forum or some place in the Village, but before that I just love walking the streets of the city and seeing what kind of people I run into, what kinds of stores come up, what kinds of cultural institutions I may not have visited before. I recently visited the New York Historical Society and found that absolutely fascinating. Finally, I love a good political discussion with friends, face to face, a discussion that is a give and take, and one that can get heated, but that ends in respect for each other.

**Q:** WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT MANHATTANVILLE SO FAR?

**A:** Meeting the students and talking with the faculty. I go to the cafeteria at least once a week to sit down with students and ask what they're doing, what issues they're facing, how I might be able to help. We have such good conversations and I learn something from each of these interactions.

**Q:** What’s your favorite quote?

**A:** "Gatsby paid a high price for living too long with a single dream." I think I remember this particular quote from *The Great Gatsby* because we all have to adjust our dreams at some point. It's a poignant line.
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Preparing for Life's Curriculum

ENRICING ACADEMIC VISION THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

By giving back and getting involved—on campus, around the region, and in other countries—Manhattanville students show their passion for making the world a better place.

One of the most striking aspects of Manhattanville, especially for new students and faculty, is that what are today called "social responsibility" and "community involvement" are founding and constant aspects of the College’s culture. In 1841, the founders understood that for the College to thrive, evolve, and influence, it had to be an integral part of its local community and contribute to the greater society.

"We are informed by our Roman Catholic history and legacy from the women of the Sacred Heart," said Father Wil Tyrrell, an ordained Roman Catholic chaplain who coordinates the interfaith programs on campus. "But we’re an independent nonsectarian school, with a rabbi and a Muslim chaplain in our center. Above all else, we’re informed by the practical philosophies of life. We’re always looking out for questions of injustice and trying to address inequalities in society, working in underprivileged and underserved communities. Our students are extremely engaged."

Father Tyrrell is also a lecturer in the world religions department and coordinates the College's study abroad program. Over the past several years, he has led community service trips to places such as New Orleans, where he and students worked to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Manhattanville students have provided aid in locales as far away as El Salvador, Poland, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. Closer to home College volunteers conduct “Midnight Runs”—weekly trips to New York City to deliver much-needed food and clothing for the homeless.

"We often have more than 70 people sign up for Midnight Run trips each week," said Craig Donnelly, a College community service coordinator, "but we can only take about 25 at a time. Our students are very engaged and their dedication to social justice is extremely high. One student, for example, traveled with us to New Orleans three times. By the end of that last trip, she decided to focus her career on being an advocate for young people in underserved communities."

(continued on page 30)
“We can involve students from all different areas of the school to share their experiences and offer a broad range of courses.”

STEPHANIE CAMBARERI ’17, Student Coordinator, Dream Catchers

“We often have more than 70 people sign up for Midnight Run trips each week, but we can only take about 25 at a time. Our students are very engaged and their dedication to social justice is extremely high.”

CRAIG DONNELLY, Community Service Coordinator

“In so many ways, our community service program brings together academic and experiential learning. It allows students to reflect on what they’re doing. Then they start to look more critically at the issues facing the community they’re serving, and they start to see how they can make changes in the world.”

FATHER WIL TYRRELL, Ducheene Center Director
**CHANGING SUBURBS INSTITUTE**

For the past 12 years, Manhattanville’s Changing Suburbs Institute (CSI) has served the local community, improving educational opportunities for diverse students and helping schools adjust to shifting demographics in student populations in order to improve educational opportunities. Manhattanville College defines a “changing suburb” as one where the diversity of the population has significantly increased. The CSI focuses on four major areas: teacher development and school leadership development, collaboration, parent education, and dissemination of information.

Its consortium includes administrators, teachers, and community leaders interested in collaborating on serving the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students. CSI also maintains an online clean-up house, which provides access to research, presentations, and other information pertaining to educational topics in the changing suburbs.

The CSI currently partners with 13 Westchester County schools, where Manhattanville students tutor young people throughout the spring and summer semesters. In the spring, the CSI hosts an annual forum where leaders in education share the latest research with teachers, school administrators and others, and where workshops are presented by local experts. The CSI also provides information for Hispanic parents on how to be strong advocates for their children’s education.

Conferences also provide information on the U.S. educational system and guidance on collaborating with schools. For example, in March 2017, the parent leadership committee of the CSI hosted its eighth annual Hispanic Parents Leadership Conference on Special Education, featuring keynote speaker Angelica Infante Green, the deputy commissioner for P–12 instructional support with the New York State Education Department. The five-hour event at Reid Castle on Manhattanville College’s campus included informative presentations and workshops in Spanish for parents of children with special needs.

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**Catching the Dream**

**Bringing Community Service to the Campus**

Each Wednesday afternoon, a group of young adults with developmental disabilities, including Down Syndrome, come to Manhattanville from Greenwich, Connecticut to participate in a two-hour college immersion program, “Dream Catchers.” Through this innovative initiative, students who may not be able to manage a full undergraduate program because of their challenges have an opportunity to take classes.

Simultaneously, the program gives Manhattanville students an opportunity to serve as community stewards, gain academic skills, build course curricula, and lead classes on a range of topics including arts and crafts, sports, dance, and IT skills.

“Manhattanville is such a great place for this program,” said Stephanie Cambarelli ’17, the student coordinator working toward her master’s degree in special education. “We can involve students from all different areas of the school to share their experiences and offer a broad range of courses. The visiting students love being on campus and learning something new each week, while Manhattanville students receive hands-on training and the opportunity to meet young adults who are having different life experiences. We learn from each other.”

After class, Manhattanville students and their “Dream Catchers” come together for lunch at the cafeteria and enjoy an authentic social experience.

1. NOLA 2017, St. Bernard Project building homes
2. NOLA 2016, Camp Restore environmental trail cleanup
3. NOLA 2017, Camp Restore community garden beautification
4. NOLA 2017, Camp Restore with ARC/NOLA friends with special needs
5. Preparations for Midnight Run 2016
6. NOLA 2017, Grow Dat Youth Farm organic teaching farm
7. Midnight Run 2016 food preparation
8. Volunteering on Midnight Run with guests in NYC

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Where Community & Service Meet

The Duchesne Center

Much of the community service activity and programming originates at the Duchesne Center for Religion and Social Justice, which facilitates, educates, and encourages student outreach as well as advances cultural, leadership, and spiritual initiatives across the Manhattanville campus and beyond. The service experiences and programs are closely linked to the academic curriculum to ensure students are building the intellectual framework and acquiring the skills to make them effective and responsible members of their communities.

“This is learning outside the classroom,” said Father Tyrrell, who is also director of the Duchesne Center. “It’s problem solving. That’s the beauty of this small liberal arts college. Our students get a very comprehensive education. In so many ways, our community service program brings together academic and experiential learning. It allows students to reflect on what they’re doing. Then they start to look more critically at the issues facing the community they’re serving, and they start to see how they can make changes in the world.”

Students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and dedication to serving the community with leadership and resourcefulness can apply for a Duchesne Scholarship. “We have increased the number of partnering organizations and opportunities for students outside the college,” said Father Tyrrell, “which makes our reach much more impactful each year. But with increased programming, funding is an ongoing challenge. It’s an incredible gift when Manhattanville’s supporters allocate gifts specifically to the Duchesne Center. Last year, 60 percent of our operating budget came from designated donations. We’re so grateful because that money, literally, makes a world of difference—to our students and to the greater good. Engaging in society as volunteers really allows the students to develop their leadership skills and to find their passion.”

The Duchesne Center for Religion and Social Justice, by the numbers

- **70+** Local nonprofit partners the Duchesne Center works with each year
- **1,000+** Students the Duchesne Center works with each year
- **400+** Duchesne scholarships the Office of Financial Aid provided during the 2016–17 academic year
- **45 hours** The number of community service hours all Duchesne Scholars must complete each semester
- **$1,700** Average amount per award during the 2016–17 academic year

In the past, students have interned at:

- Clinton Foundation
- United Nations
- Westchester County Human Rights Commission

Institutional and academic credit options

Available to students, giving them extra academic credit for performing service in conjunction with a class.
American Civil Religion & Manhattanville

By Peter Gardella, Ph.D.

At Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, an American story is reappearing: the bedroom of Sally Hemings, the slave who bore seven children to Jefferson, is being restored in its original location, next to Jefferson's own bedroom. For decades, Hemings' room was a lavatory for visitors. Now the tiles have been stripped away, the floor brought down to dirt level, and the original brick chimney and fireplace exposed. The room will be recreated to reveal the relationship of Jefferson and Hemings.

Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings shared the same world, despite the gulf between them, and the United States has a network of common narratives, despite the inequities of power and the divisiveness of our political discourse. During my scholarly career, beginning with a college honors essay on preachers and theologians who celebrated English monarchy in the American colonies, I have highlighted the common narratives that run together through our history. Usually, these narratives go unnoticed, or are noted in negative terms, as the stories of oppressors. But our common narratives have also promoted individual freedom, political democracy, world peace, and cultural tolerance, now growing into acceptance. Even Martin Luther King, whose statue confronts the Jefferson Memorial across the Tidal Basin, praised the "wells of liberty dug deep by the Founding Fathers." However hypocritically, Jefferson wrote "all men are created equal" into our national creed. At Manhattanville, we have taught that creed.

To speak of a "creed" evokes religion. Alongside our common narratives stands a growing set of commitments—commitments to values like freedom, but also to symbols, rituals, monuments, images, places, holidays, songs, and documents—that amount to a religion. Fifty years ago, Robert Bellah pointed this out in an article, "Civil Religion in America." Bellah noted the use of "God" in presidential addresses. But since then, American civil religion has developed expressions that have nothing to do with God. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial (ordinarily called the Wall) was dedicated next to the Lincoln Memorial. Emotions released by the Wall led to an explosion of new, broadly inclusive sites in American civil religion.

In New York, the Statue of Liberty was renovated in 1986, and the Ellis Island Museum opened in 1990. On the Mall, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum opened in 1993, the Korean Veterans' Memorial in 1995, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in 1997, the World War II Memorial and the National Museum of the American Indian in 2004. Meanwhile in Philadelphia, work to create a new setting for the Liberty Bell revealed the former home of presidents George Washington and John Adams, including quarters for slaves (Oney Judge, a ladies' maid, and Hercules, a great cook, escaped). A memorial for those slaves opened in 2010.

At sites in the West and the Pacific, more radical broadenings took place. At the Alamo, where the garrison died fighting Mexico, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas began to celebrate both sides of the battle in 1994. In the Black Hills, the Custer Battlefield National Monument became the Little Bighorn National Monument in 1991, and a memorial for the Indians who fought Custer opened in 2003. In December of 2008, the monument for American dead at Pearl Harbor was integrated into a larger entity, the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. That monument integrated nine sites, from the Aleutian Islands of Alaska to the...
Tule Lake Segregation Center in California, where Japanese-Americans were imprisoned during the war. National Park Service interpreters at Pearl Harbor began to present Admiral Yamamoto’s opposition to the attack, and the website of the Pacific Monument included the American occupation of Japan.

In 2007, to mark the four hundredth anniversary of the first English colony at Jamestown, Virginia, the Park Service opened a Visitor Center presenting Jamestown as a place of meeting between Native American, English, and African cultures. Back in the District of Columbia, African-American history gained two sites. The Martin Luther King National Monument opened in 2011, and 2016 saw the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, in a strikingly modern, dark and honeycombed metal building across the street from the shining white obelisk of the Washington Monument.

Rulers and rebels have coexisted in the history of the United States. The same could be said of Manhattanville, where I have taught for 34 years, more than a third of Manhattanville’s life as a college.

We often celebrate 1938, when Manhattanville accepted the first African-American at a Catholic women’s college in the United States, and 1963, when faculty and students joined Martin Luther King’s march on Washington. But we should also recall the conservative roots of Manhattanville. The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded to educate female aristocrats. Mother Dammann’s speech, “Principles Versus Prejudice,” urged alumnae to accept African-Americans by arguing that people worthy of elite education may appear among all races. In recent decades, the Board of Trustees has been headed by the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, a liberal pastor of Riverside Church, and also by Scott Pierce, brother of Barbara Bush and uncle of George W. Bush. William Simon, President Nixon’s treasury secretary and an advocate for Christian capitalism, funded the Duchesne Center. In the 1990s, both radical Episcopal bishop Paul Moore and Father Richard Neuhaus, a convert to Catholicism who founded the conservative journal First Things, spoke at Manhattanville. So did former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In 2017, American civil religion stands at a crossroads. We have not absorbed September 11, 2001, nor the elections of 2008 or 2016. The memorial at Ground Zero succeeds in recalling the Twin Towers and the dead, but the museum does not address the causes or consequences of the attack. At Plymouth Rock, where the Pilgrims landed in 1620, no adequate symbol or visitor center yet represents that event and its results, as we approach its four hundredth anniversary.

“Rulers and rebels have coexisted in the history of the United States. The same could be said of Manhattanville.”

Manhattanville also awaits another step. The Heritage Hall was a great advance, but more needs to be done. Both Manhattanville College and the United States represent unions of liberal and conservative, populist and elitist streams in religious discourse, and both need to recognize their whole heritage in order to flourish.
Helping Students Navigate Tomorrow

Alanna Nolan ’06 Gives Back Through Volunteer Mentoring.

“If you’re a student, the future can be a scary place,” said Alanna Nolan ’06, an alumna mentor for Manhattanville’s ATLAS program. “That’s why it’s so important for graduates to come back and help today’s students move forward with confidence.”

For Alanna, the choice to mentor is a natural extension of her own career path during and after her undergraduate and graduate work at Manhattanville. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Political Science at the College, she took up graduate studies in Education while working as Director of Student Activities, as well as serving as Women’s Head Cheerleading Coach.

“The art and science of academic and career development have always fascinated me,” Alanna shared. “I’m passionate about developing and applying strategies that can help individuals overcome barriers that may be holding them back. That’s true whether we’re talking about the classroom, the laboratory, the athletic field, the cubicle, or the corner office.”

Mapping the Future with ATLAS

During her undergraduate years, Alanna participated in the Portfolio, an award-winning program that was a hallmark of a Manhattanville education beginning in 1971. Today, students can elect to participate in the Portfolio’s successor, ATLAS. This totally redesigned program offers undergraduates the opportunity to:

- Acquaint themselves with the history and mission of Manhattanville
- Examine their strengths and weaknesses
- Evaluate and document the skills and capabilities they are gaining
- Explore various programs of study
- Plan effectively for graduation and beyond
- Create professional portfolios that integrate their learning and showcase their skills

Like other ATLAS volunteers, Alanna is part of a support team for the small seminar group, under the guidance of a dedicated instructor, helping students make the most of the Center for Career Development, the Duchess Center for Religion and Social Justice, student peer mentors, professional and faculty advisors, and other College resources.

“We’re fortunate to have a volunteer mentor as well versed in the program as Alanna,” said Gillian Greenhill Hannum, Professor of Art History and...
“If you’re a student, the future can be a scary place.”

A member of the committee that designed the new ATLAS approach, “She’s seen its evolution as student, as staff, and as alumna.”

When asked how ATLAS has changed the student/mentor relationship, Alanna was positive about the enhanced program. “The very word ‘mentor’ is lofty sounding, and it’s easy to fall into the trap of wanting to dispense portentous advice. But ATLAS provides a foundation for dialogue and collaboration, year by year. Of course, every student experience is different, but from getting oriented as a freshman to developing an exit strategy as a senior, there’s a clear framework and milestones that everyone involved is aware of and working toward.”

Even as Alanna advanced in her career, she continued to use the lessons from her earlier portfolio experience. “When I became the Associate Dean for Student Leadership and Community Development at Fordham University, I saw an opportunity to apply what I had learned to understand and shape the student experience then,” she recalls. “I was probably the youngest dean at Fordham, so I think there was a bit of a relatability factor that helped me build trust early on.”

Alanna said, “But most of life isn’t lived on the macro level, especially for a student with a demanding major, who is active on many boards and an RA. So I’m happy to discuss whatever’s on her mind and share similar experiences I may have had.”

CONTINUING THE ACADEMIC JOURNEY

In early 2016, Alanna moved to the private sector as Senior University Relations and Programs Specialist for Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. She finds that mentoring keeps her connected to academic life and the issues most important to today’s students. “Obviously, in my work, it helps to understand the experiences and expectations of students—and faculty—at every level. But on a personal level, it’s a great joy to volunteer at Manhattanville and participate in other alumni activities. I’m still learning and seeking new dimensions, and the College remains a big part of that.”

Asked what advice they would give to alumni considering volunteer mentorship, both Alanna and Jacqueline agree that a sense of empathy is necessary. “The times, tools, and techniques will always be changing,” Jacqueline noted, “but the essence of the academic experience and what students feel during that time is pretty universal. It’s immensely valuable to be able to talk with someone who has walked that same walk, often literally down the same halls.”

In conversations with other alumni and students, Alanna encourages greater involvement with the College, and she is optimistic about Manhattanville’s new strategic plan. “The plan puts students first, as it should. A college can have the best faculty, the best libraries, the best laboratories, the best whatever, but the only way you can have a great college is by having great students. That’s what Manhattanville is striving for, and I’m proud to be a part of that.”
Investing in the Future

Ron Smith ’13—Journey from Manhattanville to Wall Street…and Sometimes Back Again.

While you can find plenty of economics majors on Wall Street, philosophy majors are a bit scarcer. As though the ghosts of Keynes and Hayek and Friedman stand in otherwise rare agreement to stare down the spirits of Kant and Kierkegaard and Nietzsche as if to say, “What are you doing here?” But since they would say the same to Marx, I think the philosophers shouldn’t feel too put out.

Having majored in both economics and philosophy at Manhattanville, I can safely say that viewing markets and their makers as metaphysical abstractions rather than as the difference between “bid” and “ask” has helped me greatly in my work as a private wealth manager. In working with clients with significant assets, oftentimes understanding the “why” of their wishes is more important than the “what” or “how much?”

But I didn’t come to Manhattanville in hopes of one day working with affluent families, or economists, or philosophers. I came there to skate.

A RUSH ON THE ABSOLUTE

I’m originally from Vancouver and, before college, I had never been to New York. I was attracted to Manhattanville because of its proximity to the metropolis, its solid academics, and the College’s strong hockey program.

Now here I must pause for some irony—many people assume that my career choice is an extension of my love of hockey. It’s true the two disciplines have much in common—players in both need to be competitive, tough, agile, swift...you get the idea—but my academic and professional destiny was altered sophomore year when I walked into my first Metaphysics class. (Full disclosure: I had no idea what it was about.) Its professor—Siobhan Nash-Marshall—was sitting not behind the desk but cross-legged on top of it. She opened the class by asking, “I want one person in the room to tell me one thing that they ‘know for sure.’” The Professor took all the literally and figuratively sophomoric absolutes thrown at her and made them twist and turn and spin and soar and fall to Earth, flattened.

I was hooked on an entirely new way of thinking and looking at the world. I immediately switched my major to Philosophy and Professor Nash-Marshall became my faculty advisor. I eventually found a renewed appreciation of finance and decided to double major. By senior year, I was considering—quite naturally, I think—law school to reconcile my disparate majors into a vocation.

Finances and philosophy were on my mind on a much more personal and practical level that semester. I applied for—and won!—the Class of 1944 Scholarship, for a student majoring in religion or philosophy, to help me get through the year. That award helped not only in terms of resources, but it was also a tremendous validation of my choice of major and the work I had done.

(SEEN AND) HEARD ON THE STREET

While I was pleased with my academic progress, I continued to be unsure of what I wanted to do upon graduation. By chance, I had mentioned this
to an alumnus acquaintance, who suggested I look at Wall Street. On his recommendation, Spartan Capital Securities—where I remain today—brought me on as its first intern ever. Because of my heavy academic and athletics load, I could only work one day week. I was immediately enthralled with the pace, the energy and, yes, the competitive nature of the business.

I decided I wanted to work there after graduation, but simply deciding wasn't going to make it so. I did the work, learned all I could about the business and the people in it, and made sure I was wherever I needed to be even before the need arose.

It took some persistence, but eventually my bosses offered me a position—a great vote of confidence on their part as I needed to be sponsored for a visa and sit for the required licensing exams. I was extremely grateful for the opportunity—and to the alumnus who referred me—not only because I was thrilled to have found work that I enjoyed, but also because many of my international classmates had difficulty attracting offers from firms willing to take on the visa process.

A PHILOSOPHY OF GIVING BACK

The best way I can honor the alumni who have helped me throughout my academic and professional career—from literally the Class of 1944 to the present day—is by doing what I can to help other Manhattanville students. I accepted an invitation to join the committee that selects future Class of 1944 Scholarship students. I'm always happy to return to the campus to meet with the other committee members and interview candidates. Year after year, I have been consistently impressed with the depth and range of the applicants, and it's great to see Manhattanville's high academic standards continuing to produce such outstanding students.

Also, these days, I'm looking to make the trip from Purchase Street to Wall Street a little easier for interested and deserving students. As the "original intern" at my firm, I've been able to broaden the program. Over the last four years, I've worked with 20 Manhattanville interns, including six this semester. It's been extraordinary to help these students gain investment industry experience the same way I did, though I hope I help them steer clear of some of the missteps. I'm also happy to use my network to help newly minted graduates find opportunities.

"I was hooked on an entirely new way of thinking and looking at the world.”

Now to most people “Senior Private Wealth Manager” may seem like a long way from "philosopher," but I know that I would be neither without Manhattanville. And because the College has helped me find my place in the world, it will always have a place in mine.
Manhattanville Athletics

#GoValiants

GoValiants
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Manhattanville Inducts
Third Athletics Hall of Fame Class

The Manhattanville College Athletics Department held its third annual Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet on October 1, 2016, as more than 170 people packed the West Room of Reid Castle to celebrate the inductions of Tammy McGurk Comstock ’97, Bill Lahart ’81, Bob Lasbury ’96, Judy Murphy ’45 and Anthony Persico ’93.

The record-setting, sell-out crowd included more than 50 Manhattanville alumni spanning 20 different class years and six decades. Attendees enjoyed a lively cocktail hour and dinner in addition to the induction ceremonies. The event also saw six of the eight previous Hall of Fame inductees in attendance, as well as many friends and staff of the College joining the inductees and their families and friends.

“I was thrilled with the great success of our third Athletics Hall of Fame dinner,” Director of Athletics Keith Levinthal said. “I was very happy to see so many alumni from so many different eras coming back to campus to recognize our inductees, as we continue to build this into one of the most anticipated annual events at Manhattanville.”

Following dinner, the five honorees were formally inducted, receiving their Hall of Fame jackets following a speech by the inductor of their choosing. Thanks to the generous work of Adam Rodriguez ’02, each inductee was also presented with a proclamation signed by Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino celebrating their achievements and recognizing Tammy McGurk Comstock, Bill Lahart, Bob Lasbury, Judy Murphy and Anthony Persico Day throughout Westchester County.

Murphy was inducted by Board of Trustees member Sheila Finnerty ’87 and received her jacket from longtime friend Terri Arnold; Persico was introduced by former teammate Matt Feingold ’96; Comstock was inducted by former Manhattanville assistant women's basketball coach Arthur Smith; Lasbury was presented by Manhattanville History Professor and Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Lawson Bowling; and Lahart was introduced by former Manhattanville head men's basketball coach Tim Cohane HOF ’15.
Manhattanville Athletics
Earns Top National Honor for Community Service

The Manhattanville Department of Athletics received the highest level of national recognition for its community service efforts from the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIIIAA), as Manhattanville was named the Winner in the “One-Time Project” category as part of the annual NADIIIAA/Jostens Community Service Awards.

The honor marks the third straight year and the sixth time in the last 10 years that Manhattanville has earned national plaudits for its wide-ranging community service efforts, but the first time that Manhattanville (or any MAC Freedom institution) has earned a top honor. In addition to presenting a commemorative trophy to Manhattanville at the NCAA Convention, NADIIIAA and Jostens made a $1,000 contribution to the general scholarship fund.

Manhattanville earned the prestigious honor for its work with The Sharing Shelf’s annual Teen Boutique, a Family Services of Westchester program that helps to provide less fortunate girls in the Westchester County area with warm and clean school clothes that they otherwise would not be able to afford. Members of the Manhattanville women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse teams sorted and arranged the donated clothing before the event, and then served as individual mentors to the teenagers as tandems picked out outfits and accessories together for the girls to take home.

“I am thrilled to accept this award on behalf of our women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse student-athletes,” Director of Athletics Keith Levinthal said. “It always gives me great pleasure to see our athletes making a difference, but even more so to see our students having a direct and personal impact on the lives of young people in our area. To be recognized on a national level once again for this work is a tremendous honor and reflects all that our 300-plus student-athletes do in the community.”

With its sixth honor since 2007, Manhattanville has earned more NADIIIAA/Jostens Community Service Awards than all but four Division III institutions over that span. The department previously earned an Award of Merit in the “One-Time Project” category for the 2006–07 school year, and has also has earned four honors in the “Array of Projects” category: one Award of Merit (2007–08) and three honorable mentions (2006–07, 2013–14, and 2014–15).
Manhattanville Dedicates New GoValiants.com Field

On Saturday, September 17 the Manhattanville College Athletics Department officially opened the newly renovated GoValiants.com Field. Special guests included Manhattanville College President Dr. Michael E. Geisler, Middle Atlantic Conference Executive Director Ken Andrews, and Manhattanville College Director of Athletics Keith Levinthal. The trio formally opened the turf field with a ceremonial ribbon cutting at midfield prior to the women’s soccer match against SUNY New Paltz.

“I could not have been more pleased with the turnout for the GoValiants.com Field dedication ceremony,” said Levinthal. “The enthusiasm of our students and fans was absolutely incredible. I’m confident with our new facility that many other teams will also have a similar experience and that GoValiants.com Field will continue to be a great host for our intercollegiate teams.”

GoValiants.com Field was completely renovated before the start of the 2016 season. Along with a brand-new turf surface, the facility was fully enclosed with new fencing, ball-stop netting and a new 500-seat capacity bleacher complex.

The new facility continues to emphasize Manhattanville’s strong commitment to athletics as part of a well-rounded college experience as well as helping student-athletes achieve their goals both on and off the field.

Men’s Hockey Knocks Off No. 1 Team in the Country

The Manhattanville men’s hockey team authored one of the biggest wins in program history on November 26, when the Valiants knocked off USCHO.com and D3hockey.com #1 Saint Norbert College, 3–2, at Playland Ice Casino.

Sophomore Cory Anderson scored the game-winning goal on the power play with 2:35 left in regulation, while junior Kevin Loppatto and sophomore Matt Lippa both scored for the Valiants and sophomore Tyler Feaver turned aside 19 shots.

The win was Manhattanville’s first in four all-time tries against the top team in the nation and marked the fourth time in department history that the #1 team in Division III went down, with the women’s hockey team doing the honors three times previously.
Manhattanville Softball Starts 2017 Ranked #9 in Division III

Fresh off a 41-5 season and the program’s first NCAA Tournament Super Regional appearance in 2016, the Manhattanville softball team was picked ninth in the country in the NFCA Division III Top 25 Preseason Poll.

The team returns all four NFCA All-Region selections and all eight All-MAC Freedom honorees from last season’s team, which peaked at #19 in the final national poll of the 2016 season. Three Valiants were named preseason All-Americans by Fastpitch News in January, led by sophomore first-team selection Desiree Bubol, who earned NFCA All-Region first team and MAC Freedom Rookie of the Year honors as a freshman after hitting .464 with 14 home runs and 52 runs batted in. Senior Alicia Marino and sophomore Aarin Hartenstein, both of whom were named NFCA All-Region first-team selections as well last year, also were tabbed as preseason All-American honorable mentions after knocking in 55 and 54 runs in 2016, respectively.

Head coach Dale Martin put together a very competitive schedule for his team in 2017, featuring a pair of preseason nationally ranked teams, three more games against teams receiving votes in the initial national poll, and a total of nine games against NCAA Tournament teams from a year ago.

Schaufele Named CoSIDA Academic All-American

Junior Robin Schaufele of the Manhattanville men’s soccer team was recognized as one of the top student-athletes in the country with a spot on the 2016 CoSIDA Academic All-America Division III Men’s Soccer Team, as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America on November 18.

Schaufele was selected as an Academic All-America third-team selection, making him one of only nine midfielders among the 410 men’s soccer teams in Division III to earn the prestigious national honor this year. The honor makes Schaufele the ninth CoSIDA Academic All-American in Manhattanville history and marks the second straight season that the men’s soccer team has boasted a national honoree, joining 2015 second-team selection Willie Silber ’16. It also is the seventh such recognition for Manhattanville in the last seven years after previously earning only two such honors in 1978 and 1984.

Schaufele has continued to excel in the classroom at Manhattanville, boasting a 3.86 cumulative grade-point average through his first four semesters as a finance major and accounting minor. He also picked up a third straight All-MAC Freedom honor on the field this season, earning a spot on the first team after setting new career highs in all offensive categories with eight goals and 10 assists for 26 points as a junior. The midfielder led the MAC Freedom and ranked 22nd nationally in assists at the end of the regular season, and also finished up eighth on the school’s single-season assists list.

Schaufele was one of two Valiants named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Teams this year alongside junior back Christoffer Staahl, who picked up his second straight MAC Freedom Defensive Player of the Year award and earned the program’s first NSCAA Scholar All-America selection as well.
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1950s
Sheila Flynn DeCenso ’57
Last April gave me the chance to go to Paris with a group that made the hotel arrangements and offered tours—mostly of them all walking tours. Loved it, found my way around and even with language struggles enjoyed it so much. In downtime, continue to develop my writing skills, have finally finished part of a Volkswagen and now marketing. Any ideas? A few visits with fellow alums, Maria Luisa Ovalle thru NYC briefly and Cathy Longwell Lewis and I enjoyed her lunch. Stay in touch with Anne Dennis Rupple ’57, still busy with her real estate and while with her had the chance to visit with Sue Robertson ’57. Also talk to Sue Steers Lyons ’57 and Robin Williams Loughman ’57 quite frequently. We may share a trip to Savannah this spring. Occasionally, I see Marcia Fennelly Gowen ’57 in the city and on Long Island. My best wishes to all classmates. God be with you in the coming year. Peace.
Mary Jo Punziogno Nastasi ’59
So much to report—so little space. Still breathing—but more importantly guessed the exact number of jelly beans in a three-gallon jug! Excel! Who knew I had such talent? Also of great import I am happily living in Spain and as to the reproaches who make up my tribe: my grandson, a Yale straight A soprano, took a year off to help found a corporation called Helena, stay tuned. Also daughter and granddaughter won a nationwide contest and became a commercial/parental service—stay tuned for the six VW episodes. This family drives cross-country to fulfill dead Grandpa’s wish that his ashes be scattered at meaningful spots. Note: The gorgeous ones are Nastasi offspring. By the way—VW also included a grandpa.

1960s
Luisa Alvarado ’60
After 25 years of teaching in higher education in Cambodia, I will now be based in Maryland in Quinon, NY, setting up an education office for our seniors. Some young sisters are working to get international credentials and some of our mid-career sisters need support with new directions. Big change for me, and I am grateful for prayers. (As of this writing, Luisa is back from Cambodia, but returned “bowed with amoeba” and is now being treated with strong antibiotics, which are slowing her down. Her new address is: Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll NY 10545-0311; alvarado.luisa@yahoo.com)

Virginia Karsteng Antalik ’60
So glad Elaine keeps us united for so many years. This is an annual tradition—and that we hold dear in our hearts having been educated in the Sacred Heart tradition. I’m still deeply involved in the Academy of Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, having served nine years on the Board of Trustees, co-chaired its successful first capital campaign, and now serve on the Advisory Board. This year I will celebrate 60 years in the Child of Mary community, receiving my medal 12/8/57. Sacred Heart has always been an anchor in my life, spiritually, mentally, and socially. I’m still active in our family business with my husband and two sons and looking forward to retirement. I enjoy eating breakfast each morning with my husband, in the nook overlooking our “back 40,” as we observe our friendly visits of deer, fox, and a variety of birds. I am blessed with four children and nine grandchildren.

Beth Sullivan Brink ’60
We are downsizing from our big house to a condo, probably back to our former home in Westport, CT. I have enjoyed revisiting the ninteenth century house this winter in my new hermitage and visited our current home. I’ve been away more than the current one. Favorites rediscovered (for 99 cents on my Kindle) are Middlemarch, Return of the Native, The Age of Innocence, and Two Years Before the Mast—Delightful.

Gini Calvo ’60
Besides being quite involved in a coordinating prayer group and annual fair at my parish, I am happily busy as show coordinator for the York. An Association. More dublier than artist, sometimes I have my original stuffed pigs and mice in their gift shop but more seriously share the work of helping to plan, hang, and host monthly gallery exhibits. We maintain “a great place to hang” as well as providing workshops. Our art and music summer camp for kids looks to be an ongoing success. Life begins over and over again! My involvement at YAA was something of a happy accident at the start. The older I get, am not sure about returning? Yes, the more in awe I become of this phenomenal bond we have as YMAV alumni, and Sacred Heart alumns.

R.B. I love what I do.
Delynn Doyle Faust ’60
For Christmas up in McHenry we had two grandchildren John Zander’s second birthday on the 22nd—and just the grandparents and a few cousins and friends, but now we are ready to be back to normal without toys—only to be eclipsed by Christmas morning by Santa! But later, at the other grandchildren—mother Shannon’s mom, and stepfather Jim, perfectly reasonable gifts under the tree, but a driveable toy Corvette to usurp the drivable Thomas the Tank Engine from last year.

Clayelle Daftoles ’60
I’m still announcing at WQXR, weekend afternoon, are we? I’m online at WQXR.org, I see Peggy Donahue Leydel ’60 and Patsy McCann ’60 regularly. Some things, and people, never change. For me, not usual in Dec, and Jan, it’s time to read (junky novel); write—hence this correct address list—well, started to put Christmas things away but snow kept me from doing the family dinner until Jan 9, though I do like to get things done by Epiphany. Turning GED, health, tax forms, packing backpacks for children removed from their homes for various reasons, Meals on Wheels, St. Vincent de Paul—many ways I keep busy.
Delynn Doyle Faust ’60
I am still working as an independent director for the Prudential Amity Mutual Funds. Products complexes with 170 billion in assets and 112 mutual funds—love the work, but retirement is only a short time away—most likely at the end of 2017… no one works as 90’s. We spend six months...
in Florida, West Palm Beach (see Ethel Kennedy very often at St. Edwards, she is looking good). The rest of our time is spent between NYC, Southampton, and usually at least a month in Vermont (summer). I stay in touch with Peggy Baldes Cushman ’60 and Nancy Cushman Ostermeier ’60. Happily both are well and remain very active. My volunteer board days at the Art Memory and Comprehensive Aid Programs (now Found Care) are over and I have not tutored at the WPB Library in some time, but still keep busy here during the season. Along with three friends, I started a women’s discussion group, now in existence over 20 years, and still active. I enjoy a book club, the great Miami Ballet in WPB, and regular art lectures (still learning). My husband at 83 still plays singles tennis four or five times a week, and I stick to the gym...every day...to counter various health problems over the years...but really am just fine. Knock something, please! About 20 years ago, we became tennis groups, so have traveled all over the globe to watch tennis tournaments, and continue to do that with about five tournaments a year. We have met many of the players, befriended a few and marveled at their ability and youth. Enough, a lucky life, and I am painfully aware so many of us Suzy Sistix cannot say that. To all I wish good health and Goodspeed. In sadness, I remember my deceased roommates, Terry Pico ’60, Jerry Haaza ’60, and Peggy Burke ’60. Rose Marie Olivia Guzzo ’60 I’m still reveling in my career as music lecturer. Venues include community clubs, women’s clubs, libraries, church organizations, North Shore, AAUW, and JCCs of Nassau County, Long Island. Recently, I was invited by CWP/SoLIU to present my lecture on “The Music of the Harlem Renaissance” at an adjunct professor. My other topics include Celebrating the Music of the Beatles, Dave Brubeck, Richard Rodgers, Broadway Musicals, a Jewish Legacy, Latin Jazz, History, and Therapeutic Value of Gregorian Chant. Much to my delight, two of my neighbors in my Wyndham Condo in Garden City are Mville alumnus Elisa Milone Netz ’62 and Sandy Byrne Carew ’62. We share a wonderful legacy together. Kay Clark Heffernan ’60 Since I won the prize for the most grandchildren in August, I want you to know that I am expecting my 16th grandchild in August. (One three-year-old granddaughter is deceased.) No great yet.

Lucille McLoughlin Hornby ’60 To give my Beijing family a break (Lucy, a Financial Times journalist, and her husband, an astrophysicist at Peking University) during my week-long visit with them, I spent a week in Seoul. Ever since I roomed with Sue Choi ’62, I had been interested in Korea and found the city and the DMZ fascinating. Lot ofO business trip! Mary Anne Dutt Justice ’60 I am still working at the Philadelphia Museum where we are embarking on a major construction project. I have spent quite a bit of time during the past few months de-installing tiles and ceramics. I was in New York for the Winter Antiques Show and the Ceramics and Glass Fair and enjoyed having a good dinner with Mickey Bourgeois Randazzo. Hazel Kam Koike ’60 Sorry, there is something new going on in this household. I haven’t done any traveling. In March, though, I will be expecting my fourth great-grandchild.

Patsy McCann ’60 I joined the “Road Scholar” trip to Ireland to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Dublin Easter Rising, April 1916–2016 (this group used to be called “Elder Hostel” which steered folks away because of its name, but now this mixer attracts folks like me for adventure and learning). We attended lectures at Trinity College Dublin and Queens University Belfast. The name “Michael Collins” came up repeatedly, he being viewed today as hero for Ireland’s liberation. Later, recounting the trip to my cousins, I was asked; “Didn’t you know my dad’s middle name was..."
‘Collins,’ and his mother was Collins’ first cousin.” Then I realized Uncle Mike even had his chin! We traveled tostormont, the Northern Ireland power-sharing Assembly, where they still check the under chassis of cars for bombs, but no longer have a border between north and south—just a smooth highway. Still working like a few others of our classmates.

Ceci Sullivan Murray ’60

Life is good. Miss my Manhattanville classmates, doing more of same stuff.

Fran McIntyre ’80 and I are attending an Order of Malta weekend retreat near Tampa, Florida in March. Then Jack and I are visiting her for a week in Naples. Looking forward to sun and exercise on the beach. Love to all.

Martha Dadd Nelson ’60

I completed my six-year term on the alumni board in June. I found serving a very worthwhile way to support MValle, reflecting my history and participating in her growth in the 21st century. My oldest granddaughter, Samantha Salvo Villanova, 2015, is now in a master’s program at U. of Bridgeport, preparing to teach history and social studies in Norwalk, CT public schools. The school district is paying her tuition. My grandson, Sam Hamilton, will be graduating from Northwestern in May and his sister Elizabeth is now a freshman at NYU. I am still a student myself, studying classics at Villanova.

Esther Rand Odescalechi ’60

Being a Hungarian refugee, I devoted most of the year to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. During the fall semester, I taught a course at Marist College CLS entitled “A Teenage Freedom Fighter’s Account of the Hungarian Revolution 60 Years Ago, Living Under Communism, and a Dramatic Escape” gave two presentations at Manhattanville (June 11 and October 22) entitled: “The Hungarian Revolution 60 years ago, the daring and dramatic escape to freedom and life at Manhattanville as a Susy Sixty,” and gave presentations entitled “Sixty Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and My Escape to Freedom,” at libraries, private clubs and a variety of organizations. My revolution-related articles appeared in The Prague Monitor, Detroit Free Press, Daily Tribune Wisconsin Rapids, The Des Moines Register, and more. My interview with the Hungarian television Duna World (HBU)—live from Hungary was broadcast on December 3rd. I still dance, teach at two colleges, write, and play the piano and the accordion. I am a Library volunteer and a volunteer musical and dance entertainer. I enjoy theatre and opera with my husband and love Sunday lunches with my two sons and their families.

Nancy Cushing O’Dowd ’60

My husband and I are in Miami Beach. My sister and I went to New York City last weekend and the two of us met my son and his wife in New York. We had a wonderful time. They are the people who have been invited to our wedding next month. We are looking forward to their arrival. Our wedding will be held in New York City on October 12th. We are excited about our wedding and we are looking forward to the future.

Elaine Edeen Stillwell ’60

I’m in my 50th year helping bereaved parents as chapter leader of The Compassionate Friends of Rockville Centre, welcoming 45-55 each month, editing our 10-page monthly newsletter, and in my 14th year writing for Child’s Play magazine. I think I found “My Purpose.” In June, I chaired my 60th reunion from St. Agnes Academy campus, Rockville Centre, a well-attended two-day event with classmates coming from many states—all wondering how many more of us there will be! Besides keeping our MValle class united via email and annual June Luncheon, I do the same for my high school class and retired teachers’ association. In addition to planning 10 or more luncheons each year for these groups. Every Sunday I do the 9 o’clock mass at Manhattanville College.

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Helen Farrell Ryan ’68 | Helen has completed 20 years with the Connecticut Judicial Branch, a second career after 25 years in the practice of law.

Doris Flaherty ’69 | I’m retired but have a new “job” protesting and calling legislators to stop Donald Trump’s destruction of every aspect of our democracy.

Mary Beth Winsor ’69 | After retiring from many years in education doing lots of different things, I’m now happily travelling, mostly cruising, visiting family, and catching up with my sons, Edward, who is now 34. I hope to travel to Europe in the spring on a Baltic cruise and take four extra days in Hamburg, where I spent part of my freshman year in high school. Looking forward to our 50th!

Class of 1968 attended the Women’s March and want to share related photos. Jenny (Knoud) Nalenetz, SJ Avery (DC marchers), Margaret Poulevate, Anne Murphy, Barbara Milton, and Bernadette Fiscina (NYC marchers), who met informally on the Sunday after the march.

Christine Spangler ’69 | Collaborated on a book, Embroidery and Sacred Text by Rachel Braun which was published in January 2017. I worked with Rachel on the art direction, layout and editing of this book about Rachel’s 20 years of mathematical blackwork embroidery. All her pieces relate to passages from the Bible or Jewish religious scholarship. Everyone needs worthwhile projects for retirement.

Classmates from class of 1968
1970s

Pamela Smit Kerr ’70 has chaired the Health RAYS Digital X-ray Project for her Rotary District 6440 in NE Illinois since 2013. To date, eight digital x-ray systems have been installed in remote municipal clinics in Guatemala. No x-ray capability existed outside of Guatemalan city for the poor prior to this project. Pam received a certificate of merit from the Ministry of Health at the installation in Villa Canales in September, 2016.

Karen A. Polokon, Ph.D. ’72 Student and her husband, Dr. B. K. Polokon, was a full professor in the department of sociology at Old Dominion University, where she began teaching in 1983. Her publications on research championed the rights of abused women and children domestically and internationally. Karen was a fierce feminist, a gifted teacher, researcher, and an activist. She often credited her professors at Manhattanville for inspiring her career of scholarship and purpose.

A sociology scholarship in her name is the is in the works. Please contribute.

Joan Leahy Zink ’72 I am the practice administrator for my husband Bill’s pediatric orthopedic practice in Orlando, Florida. It gives me the opportunity to use my social work skills (MSW BU School of Social Work) with staff and patients. We have been in Orlando for 34 years, having raised both of our children in Florida. Nancy (32) is married, and she and Guy live in Greenville, SC, and are the proud parents of Georgia, 2½ years old. As a Clemson grad, they have continued to follow the Clemson Tigers. Joseph, 27, is interested in computers and lives in Orlando. We enjoy traveling, cooking as well as spending time with family and growing roses. Being a grandmother has been a great adventure.

Sheely Hamilton Bowes ’73 Regrets in informing class of the passing of husband. Oswald E. Bowes on July 13, 2016 and father John J. Wells on December 13, 2016.

Deborah Masucci ’73 is a full-time attorney and mediator. In January, she was elected chair elect of the New York State Bar Association’s Dispute Resolution Section, and inducted as a fellow to the American College of Civil Trial Mediators. She continues to serve as chair of the board of the International Mediation Institute.

Joseph Garland ’78 has opened his own law practice, concentrating on commercial litigation and bankruptcy, in Mount Vernon. He is also working on developing a band with a project with a pianist and guitarist, with him playing the banjo, chiefly of original songs.

Gretchen L. Hathaway ’79 has recently published a book, A Bonded Friendship: Mice and Elephants. It is a historical fiction and is based on the true story of an escaped slave, Moses Vining, and his relationship with the man who tried to buy his freedom, Elephante Nort, president of Union College.

1980s

Kenneth Cooper ’80 wrote Where Heaven and the Brunswick Meet, a novel that explores Catholic secondary education, personal conversion, the call to holiness, and the spiritual battle between forces of good and evil. He would like to thank Jerry Blattfield ’80 who encouraged it, Karen Hands ’90 who helped in editing, and Pete O’Connor ’78 who drew the cover.

Marie Therese Poland Miller ’80, MAW ’96 I earned my Ph.D. in English from St. John’s University in May of 2016. I offer a thank you to the dedicated professors at Manhattanville who wrote recommendations for the doctoral program. The title of my dissertation was “What’s so Funny? An Analysis of James Thurber’s Humorous Writing.” In addition to my professional writing, I now work as an adjunct English instructor at Marist College and the Culinary Institute of America, where I teach college writing. On a more personal note, John, my husband of 36 years, and I welcomed our first grandson, Greyson Vincent QUilte, last March.

Bruce D. Haynes ’82 is a sociologist at the University of Davidson, where he is the Director of the University’s Dispute Resolution Section. He has written a sociological book entitled, Down the Up Staircase: Three Generations of a Harlem Family (Columbia University Press April 7, 2017). In many ways, Haynes’ family defied the odds. All four of his grandparents on his father’s side worked in the South as early as 1880 and his grandfather, George Edmund Haynes, was the founder of the National Urban League. By these early advances and gains provided a little anchor to the succeeding generations. A sociological memoir, Down the Up Staircase is a stirring portrait of this family, each generation walking a tightrope, one misstep from fall.


Sherri White Tatum ’84 I am submitting this picture for inclusion in a Manhattanville publication. It was taken at the graduation party for my son, James T. Tatum III, Class of 2016.

JR Long-Ackland ’87 and Gary Ackland ’83 They said we were too young! The two will celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. They met at WNNL, her second day, freshman year, and have been go-getters ever since. They eventually settled in Michigan to raise their family. With two boys out of the house, they plan on doing more travel once son #2 gets married later this year.

Judge Elizabeth A. Boffuto ’85 has been appointed by the chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, as the chief administrative judge of the Family Division for the State of Connecticut. Judge Boffuto has been a judge of the Superior Court since 2000 and was recently confirmed by the legislature to serve another eight-year term.

Frederick A. Cruickshank ’85 MD I have been appointed special advisor on HIV services and care to the ministry of health and the government of Grenada. I have joined the faculty of Duke University as a clinical instructor in HIV medicine.

Kristin Parolla ’85 BA Art History continues her passion for history and architecture in Newport, Rhode Island where she is a sales associate at Lila Delman Real Estate, Rhode Island’s exclusive Christie’s affiliate.

Susan Fiamma Russo ’85 I have been living in Italy since 1991. Both of my children, Flavia and Giampaolo, were born there. My husband, Giancarlo, and I have just become partners in a restaurant in NYC in Alphabet City. Please go and try it out! It’s called Flascheria Piscia located at 647 East 11th Street and Avenue E, tel. (212) 377-3355. Another exciting piece of news is that we have recently created a website which promotes professional cheese and wine tasting in Italy (especially Tuscany, where we live). Check out our new website, if you are planning a visit to Tuscany and would like to spend a day learning about wines, cheese, and salumi products, we would love to host a personalized tasting for you.

Melanie Johnson Oldeman ’87 recently co-founded The Prose Group, a boutique business writing service based in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts.

Kelly Kristan ’88, a Manhattanville alumnus, was recently promoted at Operations, Inc.

Erie Berthel ’89 was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly.

Kristin Parolla ’85

1990s

Suzette Plank-Bergonzini ’92 I have been busy starting a brand new career path. I am now a real estate salesperson working with William Raveis, out of our Shelton, CT office, so if anyone is buying or selling a house or a condo, please let me know. I can be reached at: suzette.plank.raveis.com. As well, I still have my photography business; I photograph weddings, events, real estate, portraits, models, and anything else you may need. Please view my website at suzetteplankphotography.com. I’m living in Shelton, CT with my husband Rod and our two beautiful children, Jason and Jolie.

He is pictured here with my fellow 1984 Manhattanville classmates: MaryAnn, Charlene Harris, Sherri White Tatum, Jennifer Ash, and Melissa Bush. The party was held at the Hyatt House in White Plains immediately following graduation. It was a beautiful day.

Susan E. Hayes ’92
Susan E. Hayes ’92 of Katonah, NY has joined Beacon Trust Company as managing director and fixed income portfolio manager. In this position, Hayes will be responsible for setting fixed income strategy and making investment decisions for both taxable and tax-exempt bond portfolios.

Jason Rivera ’92 was named the new director of the Intercultural Center at Swarthmore College. The Intercultural Center (IC) provides programs and services that support personal and intellectual development. In addition, the IC promotes systemic change toward a multicultural perspective across the institution, and fosters community-building and collaboration among diverse groups both within and outside of the college.

Danielle Thornton Gabriel ’93: I am the proud mom to twin girls, Helena Nicole Gabriel and Maria Anastasia Gabriel, born November 11, 2015. I currently still live in Manhattan Beach, CA and just left my job as chief registrar at Gagosian Gallery in Beverly Hills to be a stay-at-home mom. If you could include condolences on the death of my mother, Francine Thornton, who passed away last year.

Kristina Marie (Matranga) Howlett MPS ’94: In August 2016, I accepted a new position: assistant professor ofTESOL at The University of Arkansas.

2000s

Dianna Vagnanos Armiento’s (Miller) 01 memoir Walking the Labyrinth of My Heart: A Journey of Pregnancy, Grief and Newborn Death was published in May 2016.

Thomas Javery ’03: I married Nicole Graff on August 13th this past summer. We had a small ceremony on the shore of a lake in the woods where we live with just our immediate family in attendance. It was a fantastic day and it brought us much joy to share this with our families.

Allisa Schimmel (Chiakzes) ’07: I am working as a dance teacher at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, MA.

2010s

Katie Pojer ’07: MPH, LMSW finished up her masters in social work from Fordham with a specialty in psychiatric social work. She has been living in Port Chester with her boyfriend, Josh, and enjoying life. She is looking forward to what the future has to offer.

Jessica Caldwell ’08: I got engaged to John Hubbles (Princeton ’07). We’ll be married in November 2017 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. After completing my MFA degree at Columbia University in film and producing independent feature films for four years, I’ve embarked on a new career as a full-time screenwriter. My writing was published in the New York Times (“Fractured: A First Date”). After signing withCAA and Circle of Confusion, I’m writing two feature film screenplays and a television pilot.

Andrew D. Deacon ’08: was named Torrington Public Schools Teacher of the Year in August 2016 and was also named a semifinalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year. He was recognized by the Connecticut State Board of Education and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council at a ceremony held at the Bushnell in Hartford, Connecticut.

Katie Pojer ’07

November 2016. During this year, Deacon will join 15 other top district teachers of the year, including the 2017 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, to engage in teacher leadership professional development and to elevate the teaching profession across the state. In May 2016, Deacon was the recipient of the Lois A. Duggins Award in literary teaching and the Lauren Rousseau Passionate Educator Award in memory of Miss Rousseau who lost her life at Sandy Hook Elementary School. He believes that teachers who embody a growth mindset and continually work to develop their teaching practice effect the greatest student achievement. Deacon is quoted as saying, “There is no greater reward in teaching than knowing that my students are empowered to make the world a better place for all of us.”

Danielle Leigh DuBois ’08 married Michael Gerard Erer Jr. on October 8, 2016 in Ellenville, NY. The couple currently reside in Harts- on-Hudson, NY and weekend at their home in Ulster Park, NY.

Frank Furbacher ’09 recently joined Strativity Group, a customer experience consulting firm, as a consultant.

Marcia Ferreira ’09 and Christopher Del Gross ’09 were married on November 4, 2016 at the Green Tree Country Club in New Rochelle, New York.

Jessica Caldwell ’08

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Sean Harry ’09 I am currently the music/sound production teacher at Southern Westchester Boces “Center for Career Services.” It is a nonprofit high school offering courses and career-based learning to 11th and 12th graders from all over the Westchester school districts. It is the only music production program in NY for enrolled high school students, and I created the program with some help and advice from MtVille’s very own Music Department Chair Dr. Geoffrey Kofoid.

Damon Obijski ’09 and Lauren Schobel ’12 were engaged on December 13, 2016.

Matt Musumeci ’09 and Emile Walsh were engaged on November 12, 2016 and are planning for their wedding in November 2017.

2010s

Ashley Denver (Milansiewicz) ’10 I am going into my fourth year working at Prount Health Solutions in East Greenwich, RI, as a program manager of our health coaching department.

My husband, Matt, and I bought a house last May in Cranston, RI. Our son, Anthony, will be turning three this May. My husband and I are also celebrating our fifth anniversary this June.

Michelle Parker ’10 became Michelle Parker Curry on August 27, 2016. After five years of teaching seventh grade math, she returned to school at Colorado State University in pursuit of a MA in English Literature. She lives in Aurora, CO with husband, Sean, and their almost three-year-old mat, Lil’ Paps.

Jeanette Perk ’10 and Kevin Jacobson ’11 were married on August 5, 2016 at The Chapel of the Most Holy Rosary in Hudson Highlands River at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. A reception followed at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY, where they were surrounded by many Manhattanville Alumni.

Kevin (from Bethel, CT) and Jeanette (from New Windsor, NY) have wonderful memories from their time at Manhattanville. Now they both work at The Storm King School in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY. They always tell stories about their unforgettable time spent at MtVille, and some of their students currently attend! (2010)

Trent Anderson ’11 I am in my second year of a four-year joint master’s degree program at Yale—going for an MFA in theater management at the School of Drama and an MBA from the School of Management.

Last fall, I served as assistant managing director at Yale Repertory Theatre and as producer on a diverse slate of projects at the student-run Yale Cabaret. This spring, I am in California on a semester-long fellowship, working with the managing director at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Dan Fiorito ’12 and Elizabeth Martinez were engaged on February 4, 2017.

Lorenz Oberhauser ’15 I graduated from Manhattanville in 2015 with a masters degree in finance. I got married November 5, 2016 to my wife, Arielle.

Juan Expósito R ’16 Elected as member of the Instituto Dominicano de Genealogía (Dominican Institute of Genealogy).

Cuta Sofia Lopes Nunes ’17 Manhattanville has provided me with the most mind-opening and supportive years of my life. I have crossed paths with individuals whom I know will hold in my heart for the rest of my life. Studying psychology unveiled my true purpose, not only in external goals but in internal motivation. I graduated with three and a half years and I am working full-time in patient relations at Enve Health, a medical marijuana corporation in New York State. Post-Certainty is an intuitive, kind, and caring professor who watched me fall, get up, learn to be resilient and grow. I couldn’t thank her enough for the doors she opened and the potential she saw in me.

Manhattanville College is my home away from home.

CONGRATULATIONS & CONDOLENCES

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ENGAGEMENTS OF:

Jessica Caldwell ’08 and John Hubble

Damon Obijski ’09 and Lauren Schobel ’12

Matt Musumeci ’09 and Emile Walsh

Christopher Baldini ’11 and Katie McGilvray

Dan Fiorito ’12, M.A.T. ’16 and Elizabeth Martinez

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MARRIAGE OF:

Thomas Javery ’03 and Nicole Graf (Javery)

Steven Schimmel ’06 and Alissa Chiles ’07

Danielle Leigh DuBois ’08 and Michael Gerard Ferrer Jr.

Marcia Pereira ’09 and Christopher Del Gross ’09

Jeanette Perk ’10 and Kevin Jacobson ’11

Lorenz Oberhauser ’15 and Arielle Oberhauser

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH OF:

Stephanie Patterson, daughter of Stephanie Jacobson ’03 and Catherine M. Scanlon, N.S. ’12

Keith James and Cade Kelly, twin sons of Abbey Lombardo-Kumar ’04, M.Ed. ’08 and Nitish Kumar ’05, M.S. ’08

Nouria Shaya Ma’an, son of Shani Mano ’06 and husband Dylan James, son of Elizabeth Baldini Fiore ’09 and Paul Fiore Zoë Rachel, daughter of Heather Messer, M.Ed. ’14

Yvonne Costello Gould ’39 cousin of Mary J. Timmons ’59

Katherine Samson Kunz ’40 mother of Mary R. Modene ’68 and Christine K. Modene ’72, mother-in-law of Maureen F. Kunz ’68

Beatrice Brennan RSCJ ’41 sister of Margaret Mitchell ’49 (RIP) and Joan Armstrong ’55 (RIP), aunt of Ellen A. Brennan ’71 (RIP), Beatrice Wall ’77, Margaret Mitchell ’78, and Michael Brennan ’78, sister-in-law of Eileen M. Brennan ’46 (RIP), great-aunt of Mary O’Callaghan ’08

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Sara Ann Crickshank Loughman ’44 daughter of Helen Crickshank 1907 (RIP), mother of Marianne Watch 78

Alice Golden Maloy ’44 (RIP)

Margaret Corcoran Re ’44

Nancy Driscoll Dutton ’45

Kathleen Coligan Molloy ’45 sister of Eileen McVay ’44 (RIP)

Margaret Hartke O’Brien ’45

Eileen Fitzgerald Brennan ’46 mother of Eileen A. Brennan ’71 (RIP), Beatrice Wall ’77, Michael Brennan ’78, and grandmother of Mary B. O’Callaghan ’08, aunt of Margaret M. Mitchell ’78, sister-in-law of Beatrice V. Brennan, RSCJ ’41 (RIP), Margaret M. Mitchell ’49 (RIP), and Joan Armstrong ’55 (RIP)
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