The Manhattanville College community came together in O’Bryne Chapel to usher in a new era at the College, with the Inauguration of Dr. Michael E. Geisler as its 13th President. In the inaugural address, Dr. Geisler outlined the five destinations he charged the College to achieve. The ceremony, presided over by Provost Lisa Dolling, also included greetings from different members of the College community, in addition to salutations from Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY 17th District), Dr. Ann Jabolonski, trustee, on behalf of the Religious of the Sacred Heart; Judith Johnson, New York State Board of Regents; Dr. Marsha Gordon, the Business Council of Westchester, and Dr. Rosemary Feal, the Modern Language Association. Dr. Driss Ouaouicha, president of Al Akhawayn University introduced President Geisler, and Marcia Pearce DeWitt, chair of the Board of Trustees, gave the Investiture of the President. Laurel Peterson, M.A. ’95, M.F.A. ’14 read W.H. Auden’s “Musée des Beaux Arts,” and the Manhattanville Chorus performed several movements of “Carmina Burana.” The ceremony culminated an entire weekend of events showcasing student and faculty collaboration, athletic games, music, dance and theater performances, art gallery exhibits, a sculpt conference, alumni activities, and more.

Special thanks to Heather Krannich ’18, Cristian Ramirez ’17, and Lucas Ruderman ’17 for their time spent videotaping and editing all of the footage from Inauguration Weekend, and compiling it into this wonderful highlights video.
Community Conversations Held to Build Stronger Manhattanville Community

In the wake of the recent presidential election, Manhattanville College held two “Community Conversations” to give the campus community opportunities to discuss how to make Manhattanville more inclusive and accepting of all differences. Both events were highly attended by students, staff, and faculty, and served as a good starting point in unifying the College community. The first discussion was held November 10 in the Ophir Room and was moderated by Dr. James Jones, professor of World Religions and African Studies, and the second discussion held on November 30 in the East Room was moderated by Dr. Gillian Hannum, professor of Art History.

Barat House Rededication Ceremony

Manhattanville College’s M.F.A. in Creative Writing Program celebrated its return to Barat House and welcomed the undergraduate writing program into the building with a rededication ceremony on November 9 that included readings from M.F.A. alumni Celeste Kim and Shane Cashman, and student David Albano. A performance from Manhattanville Sound was also featured. About 50 people, including students, alumni, faculty, and staff attended the event in the freshly renovated building, which was entirely funded through a gift from Trustee Dwight Hilson, M.A.W. ’09 whose support will also help the program market and expand enrollment.

Barat House had been home to the Dowd-O’Gorman Center for Creative Writing and the graduate writing program until the building was repurposed for several years as graduate student housing. Lori Soderlind, director of the M.F.A. program, currently has her office there, and Jeff Bens, director of the undergraduate program, will move there for the spring semester, and is thrilled that there is now a beautiful dedicated space for undergraduate and graduate students, and the community to celebrate creative expression. It will also be home to the “Mville Review,” an online literary journal; “Graffiti,” the undergraduate literary journal; and the literary journal “Inkwell,” which was published for more than a decade by the graduate program, will be revived and housed in the space as well. Read more about the ceremony and the renovated Barat House here.
Manhattanville College Celebrates Human Rights Awareness Day

The Castle Scholars Program presented the tenth annual Human Rights Awareness Day (HRAD) event, to generate awareness about past and present issues related to social justice, as well as to community outreach. The activities included a poster session featuring student, faculty and community organizations; a performance by award winning spoken word artist Gabriel Ramirez; a film screening of “No Letting Go,” followed by a question and answer session with one of the filmmakers, Randi Silverman; a discussion on Islamophobia featuring Iman Boukadoum, director of Community Engagement at the Interfaith Center of New York; and Holocaust survivor Esther Geizhals sharing her story of surviving and escaping an extermination camp and eventually making it to the United States. The evening concluded with a lecture by the curator of socially responsible design at the Cooper Hewitt Museum, Cynthia Smith. Overall, HRAD was a way for Manhattanville students to keep ties with the College’s roots in social justice and encourage passion for equality within the community.

New York State Commissioner MaryEllen Elia Serves as School of Education Distinguished Lecturer

MaryEllen Elia, commissioner of Education and president of the University of the State of New York, (pictured third from left) visited Manhattanville for the School of Education’s annual Distinguished Lecturer program. Held November 9, Commissioner Elia presented “On Our Way to Stronger Schools: Progress Made and The Work Ahead.” The program was co-sponsored by the Teacher Center of Central Westchester and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. The Fall Changing Suburbs Institute® Professional Development School Advisory Board Meeting, held November 16, focused on “What Do Principals Look Like Who Have Exemplary PDSs?” The keynote speakers who addressed this topic were from Belmont Elementary PDS in North Babylon School District, Long Island and included Valerie F. Jackson, principal; and faculty members Gina Marie Petraglia, and Joan Carlino.

Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast Hosted at Manhattanville College

More than 30 Manhattanville College students went to the American Jewish Community of Westchester/Fairfield’s annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast held once again at the College and co-sponsored by the Duchesne Center for Religion and Social Justice. President Michael E. Geisler provided a welcome address to the more than 350 attendees representing more than 75 religious and secular institutions, agencies, and organizations, as well as local politicians and representatives. Dr. Geisler discussed the Tower of Babel from the biblical book of Genesis, which sheds light on elements of diversity and inclusion. This year’s breakfast honored Dr. Mahjabeen Hassan of the American Muslim Women Association, Stephen C. Holton of St. James Episcopal Church of Ossining, and Dr. Carl Procario-Foley of Iona College's Mission & Ministry Office.
**Director of Women’s Leadership Institute Receives Business Award**

Kathy Meany was recognized as one of the county’s most accomplished women at Westchester Magazine’s 914Inc Women in Business Awards luncheon at the Doubletree in Tarrytown. She was one of 18 to be honored this year. Meany, director of the School of Business’ Women’s Leadership Institute, was also featured in the magazine along with the 17 other women executives, entrepreneurs, government, and non-profit leaders to receive the award this year. Katrina Adams, chairman, CEO and president of the USTA, was the luncheon’s keynote speaker. [Learn more about the Women in Business Awards here.](#)

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**Men’s Soccer’s Robin Schaufele Named CoSIDA Academic All-American**

Robin Schaufele ’18 of the Manhattanville men’s soccer team was recognized as one of the top student-athletes in the country when he was named the ninth CoSIDA Academic All-American in the college’s history, making him one of only nine midfielders among the 410 Division III soccer teams to earn the prestigious honor. He was named to the All-MAC Freedom first team after scoring eight goals with 10 assists for a total of 26 points as a junior, while also boasting a 3.86 cumulative GPA as a finance major and accounting minor. Schaufele’s honor is the seventh national recognition for Manhattanville in the last seven years after previously earning only two such honors in 1978 and 1984. In October, Schaufele and teammate Christoffer Staahl were both named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District teams, marking the third time in school history that teammates earned the honor in the same season.

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**Picture Book Exhibit Honors Alumna Patricia Lee Gauch**

In celebration of Picture Book Month, the Manhattanville College Library created an exhibit in honor of alumna Dr. Patricia Lee Gauch M.A.T. ’70. As editor-in-chief at Philomel Books for twenty four years, she edited major writers including novelists Brian Jacques, Andrew Clements, Jane Yolen, Joy Cowley, T.A. Barron as well as artists Eric Carle, Ed Young, Barbara Berger, David Small, Loren Long, and Robert Blake among others. For fifteen years she was a visiting faculty member at the Chautauqua Highlights Writers’ Week. In 2010, Dr. Gauch donated over 100 books from her personal library to be added to the collection of children’s literature in the Education Resource Center (ERC). A public space located on the second floor of the library. The ERC allows School of Education staff and students to access books and other educational materials integral to their studies. In October of 2013, Dr. Gauch shared her publishing experience with the Manhattanville community in a special library event, “The Magic of Making a Caldecott-winning Picture Book,” featuring a panel discussion with her, art editor Nanette Stevenson, and renowned illustrator Ed Young. She continues to be an ardent supporter of the library, offering input on programming and outreach initiatives. The exhibit will run through December 16.
Prospective Students Visit Manhattanville for Fall Open House

Following a series of themed-Saturdays, the Undergraduate Admissions Department concluded its prospective student events for the fall with its annual Open House. Warm greetings from President Michael E. Geisler were delivered to more than 300 students and their families. Many of the guests took advantage of campus tours and were able to view spaces that are not normally shown during the week as a result of classes being in session, such as the science labs, the green screen room, the costume and stage room, and the recording studio. As a result, additional volunteers were available to answer specific questions within these spaces.

Manhattanville Receives Over $18,000 on Giving Tuesday

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni donated more than $18,000 to the Fund for Manhattanville as part of the annual Giving Tuesday celebration. There were two events organized for alumni to reunite and participate in giving to Manhattanville, and current students were able to do so without leaving the residence halls. Giving Tuesday falls on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and encourages all to give back to nonprofit organizations after the weekend of indulging.

Castle Conversations with Danny Meyer

Restaurateur and CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group Danny Meyer (pictured left) came to Manhattanville for the final talk in the 2016 Castle Conversation Series. For this event, Meyer was interviewed by Dan Pashman, host of the WNYC podcast, “The Sporkful.” The pair talked about everything from the “perfect burger” from Meyer’s chain, Shake Shack, to the importance of hospitality and eliminating tipping in his restaurants. Meyer later answered questions from the audience with humor and insight from his experiences.

Music Students Perform Informal Recital

The Music Department presented an informal recital in Pius X Hall in the Music Building, which included performances by 17 students. The student performers included soprano Samantha Smith ’20 (pictured) singing Jerry Bock’s “Far from the Home I Love,” from “Fiddler on the Roof.” Smith was accompanied by Beverly Meyer.
MEDIA MENTIONS

- Restaurateur Danny Meyer to Speak at Manhattanville College on November 29
- Q&A: Danny Meyer to Shake Up Manhattanville
- Manhattanville Professor Publishes Book of Poems
- Manhattanville Doctoral Program New Cohort Featured on the Daily Voice
- Manhattanville’s Kathryn Meany to Receive Women in Business Award
- School of Education Alumnus Shares Tips for Parents on WTNH
- Annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast Promotes Unity at Manhattanville College

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 12/6: Cabaret Class Concert, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., West Room, Reid Castle
- 12/7: Freshman Project Performances, 7 p.m., Little Theatre, Brownson Hall
- 12/8: Women’s Basketball vs. Oneonta, 6 p.m., Kennedy Gym
- 12/8: Jump Start Information Sessions, 6:30 p.m., Ophir Room
- 12/8: Languages, Cultures, and Music Performance, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., West Room, Reid Castle
- 12/10: Men’s Hockey vs. Curry, 7 p.m., Rye Playland
- 12/10: Manhattanville Community Jazz and Wind Ensembles Concert 7:30 p.m. Berman Center Theater
- 12/11: Manhattanville College Chorus Concert, 4 p.m., O’Byrne Chapel
- 12/11: Late Night Brunch, 10 p.m., Benziger Dining Hall