Profiles & Perspectives: The evolution of liberal arts for a changing world.
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.
Greetings from the Castle!

As I reflect on my first two years at Manhattanville, my mind is filled with thoughts of the many students and parents, faculty and staff, alumnae and alumni with whom I have become acquainted in my time at Manhattanville. As we continue on the journey of “Building Bridges, Making Connections, and Reaching Destinations” (Manhattanville’s strategic plan), I am uplifted at all the changes and forward momentum I see happening on campus. Each day, I listen to stories, observe quiet collaboration, and am presented with ideas on how to make the College even better. I can truly say Manhattanville remains a vibrant community committed to preserving our traditions of academic excellence, producing co-curricular programs that encourage the ethical and responsible development of our students, and providing an experience that prepares them for a meaningful and successful life. I am proud to report to you today that the interconnectedness of which I wrote last year and upon which our strategic plan is based, is not only alive and well, but thriving at Manhattanville.

I invite you now to join us on our journey. As you turn the pages to read our stories and view the images you will be walking down Manhattanville paths spanning more than fifty years. “Digitizing Olde Manhattanville” explains how faculty, students, and staff came together to produce a digital history of the College beginning with the campus in Harlem. It chronicles the people, places, and events from the earliest days of Manhattanville to its move to Purchase. A student project, the piece reminds us that our community today understands and appreciates the importance of the rich tradition and history that connects “old Manhattanville” with the cutting-edge College we know today.

You will learn how our faculty, staff, and students come together inside and outside the classroom, creating friendships and mentorships that have far-reaching effects. “The Art of Teaching Art” profiles Professor Randy Williams and the learning partnerships he creates with his students. You will read how collaboration in our MFA program helps inspire writers to hone their craft. We also provide a passing glimpse of new and innovative student life programs that provide students with the tools and support they need to be productive and responsible citizens in our diverse and ever-changing global society. “The Center Will Hold” reports on progress made this year in our Center for Inclusion, identified as a priority in the strategic plan and created just last year.

One of the highlights of my year was an event held on campus and recounted in the article “Designing Memory.” This unique experience, produced with cross-disciplinary collaboration, was presented through multiple components including performances, video, exhibits, and discussions. It explored how our memories are shaped and our identity defined by the erection and removal, placement and displacement of statues and monuments globally, nationally, and right here at the College. Manhattanville students, faculty, staff, and alumni, friends of the College, and educators from the region were among those who participated in the experience examining how we treat our historical symbols. It was a fascinating event bonding the Manhattanville community and reaching out to make connections with new friends in surrounding communities in Westchester and Fairfield counties.

Each day I encounter more alumni and friends of the College, and I am grateful for the encouragement, support, and even the occasional expression of displeasure—for every step we take is enhanced when we find solutions together. My sincere hope is that as you explore Manhattanville College through these great stories, it will make you feel a little more connected to us, pique your interest in the path we are on, strengthen your pride in your alma mater and your connection with all of us, and inspire you to continue your Manhattanville journey which is also our Manhattanville journey.

With appreciation, gratitude, and best regards,

Michael E. Geisler, Ph.D.
President
On the Making of Modern Masters
Joining the search for the great writers of tomorrow with Lori Soderlind, Director of Manhattanville’s MFA in Creative Writing Program

Creating the Vanguard
Seeing how the students of the Emerging Leaders Program are taking charge—on campus and in life

Designing Memory
Recapping the major spring event where Manhattanville confronted perceptions of its past to gain a better perspective on the present

Cover Story: The Art of Teaching Art
Sitting in on a discussion with Professor Randy Williams and students Katie DiBiccari ’19 and Christina Modica ’19 as they discuss their methods of teaching and learning visual arts

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DIGITIZING

Olde Manhattanville

GRANT-FUNDED INITIATIVE PROVIDES A GATEWAY TO THE COLLEGE’S EARLY YEARS

What happens when you combine nearly 800 archival quality photographs, six outstanding students, and more than 100 years of Manhattanville’s history? You get an honors course that teaches the value and use of primary research, an appreciation for academic evolution—and an innovative way of bringing the past into the present via the Internet.
The journey began in 2015 when Manhattanville archivist and special collections librarian Lauren Ziarko, MA ’13 and Collections Librarian Catherine Medeot learned of a grant offered by the Council of Independent Colleges with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant was aimed at institutions which had identified at least one collection that could be made more valuable and used more frequently if it were stored and shared via a networked solution.

“We immediately thought of our huge collection of historic photographs,” Lauren recalled. “It’s hundreds of pictures, stored in archival boxes, locked in our Special Collections. The only way anyone can see them is by appointment. Here was a way to make them available to anybody.” The photos capture the landscape, architecture, and people who populated the former campus, which was then in West Harlem on Convent Avenue between West 131st Street and West 135th Street.

Catherine Medeot, Collections Librarian

“Archivists are primarily concerned with preserving the past, while librarians are all about extending access to information. Through this grant, we saw an opportunity to do both.”

Catherine Medeot, Collections Librarian

The grant provided the opportunity to participate in the Consortium on Digital Resources for Teaching and Research and explore how a digitized collection could enhance research and teaching at the College. Lauren and Catherine joined with Manhattanville art history Professor Gillian Hannum to draft the grant proposal, including an outline for a class that could use the collection. “I was excited about the prospect of taking these images—a rich trove of history few were using—and putting them to work for our students,” Professor Hannum said.

Manhattanville was awarded the grant, along with 41 other institutions. “That’s when the real work began,” Lauren said. “Along with a student assistant, we scanned photos, cabinet cards, cartes de visite, and scrapbook pages. It took a year of intense work.” The repository for the newly digitized collection was “Shared Shelf”—a cloud-based asset management service designed to help institutions preserve and offer access to a wide range of materials. Catherine recalled, “While Lauren was busy uploading the images and creating metadata [information about each photo, including dates, places, and photographers, that makes the collection easier to search] I was customizing Shared Shelf to adapt it to our particular needs.”

The project team also attended annual workshops for grantee institutions in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges. The Manhattanville representatives learned best practices, reviewed work from other institutions, and heard expert perspectives on using archival materials in the classroom. “It was a great experience seeing how other institutions handle their collections,” Lauren said. Manhattanville College: Convent Avenue Campus, as the scanned collection is called, was one of the largest exhibits featured at the Consortium’s workshops.
Launching the Course

The honors course which emanated from the Consortium grant—“Picturing the Past: Exploring Manhattanville’s History Through the Archives”—was offered to Castle Scholar seniors during the 2017 fall semester and again in spring 2018. The six students who took the course were paired into three groups with the assignment to develop a curated exhibit using the archival photos on Shared Shelf.

“The course was designed to teach digital storytelling, original and primary source research, and how to stitch a narrative together using disparate pieces,” Professor Hannum explained. “The students were surprised by the number and variety of images, and they enjoyed learning about these early chapters of Manhattanville’s history.”

The three groups chose to explore, respectively, the architecture of the previous campus, student life, and the history of the 1888 fire. Throughout the semester, the students grappled with the often tricky aspects of working with primary sources. “We’re lucky that so much of Manhattanville’s history is preserved,” Lauren notes, “but there are gaps in our knowledge. We may not know who took a photo, or when, or who’s in it, or what topical event caused it to be taken. This ambiguity can be frustrating—especially in an age where everything is documented—but the students learned to handle it as part of the work.” The spring class focused on the history of the move to the Purchase campus. Nine students researched City College’s acquisition of the Convent Avenue campus, the construction of the Purchase campus, and events commemorating the move.

When asked what insights she had gained from the project, Lauren replied, “I had never seen all 700-plus images before individually. I got to spend time looking at and cataloguing each of them. It was very moving, seeing and holding this history in my hands.”

The librarians stress that even though the Manhattanville College: Convent Avenue Campus collection is now online for anyone to see, the work is never done. Sustaining a digital collection requires ongoing support and maintenance. Meanwhile, the original photographs are safely locked in their cabinets. “It’s wonderful we can have these ‘digital surrogates’ to expand access while keeping the originals safe,” Lauren said. “This digital collection allows anyone to explore an important part of Manhattanville’s history from anywhere.”

To see the “Olde Manhattanville” collection, visit https://mville.libguides.com/archives.
With the growing popularity of MFA programs, Manhattanville is making bold moves to keep its Master's in Creative Writing degree engaging and inviting to attract the best students. Program Director Lori Soderlind shared insight into the new energy and excitement being generated to engage today’s MFA candidates.
Q: Lori, you’ve been involved on the teaching side of the literary world for a little while now. What’s driving all this new interest in literature and writing MFAs?

A: I think a lot of it has to do with the utility of the degree. Before, most candidates for MFAs—or Master’s in Writing Arts, as it was called at Manhattanville until a few years ago—wanted to have a professional writing career or advance their publishing careers. That’s still true, but now the MFA degree will take them more places—entertainment, public relations, advertising, game creation…wherever a grasp of narrative is important.

Q: What obstacles are you facing in making the case for Manhattanville?

A: Several well-heeled competitors who want those same best and brightest students.

Q: But isn’t that always the case?

A: For most other degrees, yes, but Manhattanville’s competitive tuition gives us an edge. In the case of MFA programs, especially those in proximity to us, many of those institutions have fully funded programs. The best students naturally gravitate to those destinations. We’ve just had to be more creative, literally.

Q: How so?

A: Firstly, we’re able to use the Ruth Dowd/Eileen O’Gorman Scholarship to attract new applicants. It doesn’t go anywhere near fully funding the program, but it’s generating some interest. Secondly, we’re evolving our program to go where other programs aren’t—to provide learning and teaching students aren’t going to get anywhere else.

Q: Aren’t all MFA programs pretty much the same?

A: Not at all. I don’t know how this idea of MFA as commodity got out into the marketplace, but it’s an absurd misconception. No two MFA programs are alike. As I say, we need to make ours even more exceptional.

Q: So, what are these innovations you’re planning?

A: We’re making a huge push into teaching graphic narrative, and beefing up our classes on its close cousin, screenwriting.

Q: How do they differ?

A: The explosion of viewing and the seismic shifts in how, and where, consumers absorb visual content has had a disruptive effect, not just on the media but also how these messages are created. Before, we just taught how to write theatrical movies, or movies-of-the-week, or sitcoms or cop shows, things like that—screenwriting. And while those productions are still important, more and more people are seeking out content that’s smaller, more personal, more…real, for want of a better word. “Watching television” is in danger of becoming as much an idiom and anachronism as “dialing” a telephone, or “holding the line,” or “taping” something.

Q: Are your students interested in creating for YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, and Facebook?

A: Yes, because that’s where the audience is. And they don’t have to convince a studio or network to bet millions of dollars. They can create content, upload it for free, and if it doesn’t work, try something new. But graphic narrative isn’t just for online video: it’s for graphic novels and journalism. People have won Pulitzers, and yet few are teaching it. Manhattanville does.

Q: But many of your students aren’t interested in being YouTube stars. What advantages does the MFA program bring them?

A: Our program has always been for students who love to read, love to write, love to embrace and enhance and advance literary culture in all its forms. Because we’re a smaller program, we can give more personalized time and attention. We know all our students by name. If they’re having a problem, stuck somewhere, chances are we’ve seen it before and can direct them to the right person or resources that can help. Our program offers teaching by people who love narrative, and it’s designed for people who love narrative.

Q: There is also exceptional diversity within the program, both ethnically and in terms of age. Why is that?

A: Primarily, because we’re a place where voices can be heard, respected, and encouraged. We know every voice is unique and we want our students to explore all that they have to say. As for age, naturally we have students coming right out of undergrad or soon after, and that’s great. We also have many returning students, people who are at a confident place in their family and career life, and now find the time to come back and get the MFA they’ve always wanted. And everybody feels at home. The camaraderie and community you find in our classes, seminars, workshops, and readings is simply amazing.
Q: EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT INKWELL. WHAT CAN YOU SHARE?
A: Inkwell is Manhattanville’s relaunched literary journal. The debut redux edition, as we call it, has just come off the presses. It’s available by mail, in Barnes & Noble, and of course in the Manhattanville bookstore. We’re so proud to be able to relaunch the journal, and it’s packed with beautiful stories, poetry, and essays.

Q: BUT WHY A PRINT JOURNAL NOW, IN THIS DIGITAL ERA? IT SEEMS RATHER COUNTERINTUITIVE.
A: Again, it’s for people who love good writing and people who write well. They know that there is no purer connection between authors and audience—they are literally holding the work in their hands. They don’t need to log in or charge up or click on...they just need to read. And the printed journal has permanence no website can ever match.

Q: AND IT’S ONE MORE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MANHATTANVILLE’S MFA PROGRAM AND OTHERS.
A: Exactly. We want students to contribute and be a part of Inkwell. The journal will be better for it, and so will we.

Q: THERE WAS ALSO A GREAT DEAL OF EXCITEMENT ABOUT SUMMER WRITER’S WEEK. WHAT ABOUT THAT?
A: Summer Writer’s Week is one of the great leaps forward of our MFA program. This year it ran from June 18 through June 22. It’s a week of intensive training in every type of writing: commercial fiction, humor, poetry, genre fiction...you name it. And every night we have a different reading.

Q: WHO ARE THE INSTRUCTORS?
A: We have a brilliant lineup of talented, accomplished authors, people like Dani Shapiro, Carl Potts, Sharbari Ahmed, Melissa Tuckey, Mike McGregor...these are folks who are all about craft, about revision, who know how to make work strong.

Q: AND HELP MAKE THE MFA PROGRAM EVEN STRONGER. YOU SEEM TO BE MAKING ALL THE RIGHT MOVES, BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU’RE DOING, WHAT ARE YOU NOT DOING? WHAT STEPS AREN’T YOU TAKING?
A: We’re not changing our standards, for one. Our Writer’s Week instructors were chosen for a reason: because our program is built on craft and revision. We’re not moving away from that just because we live in an extemporaneous world, where every thought, every utterance, every lunch menu is thrown up on the Internet.

Q: ANYTHING ELSE?
A: Well, a lot of MFA and Ph.D. programs have moved away from writing and more heavily toward theory. Of course, while writers—and readers!—can and should have a clear grasp of theory, we don’t want it to be the destination. We want our writers to write. We hear all this talk about the novel after theory. Well, unless someone writes the novel, there is no theory.

Q: FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU’D LIKE TO SAY TO PEOPLE CONSIDERING AN MFA PROGRAM?
A: Two words: thank you.

Q: “THANK YOU”?
A: Yes. MFA programs and their students are doing more than any part of society or academia to keep our literary culture alive and vibrant. I’m heartened by the number of applicants to MFA programs. Obviously, I want people to choose ours, but wherever they attend, I say, “Go there to love the words.” You can master them and weave them and wield them as fiercely or as delicately as you like. Whether we’re sitting around a fire or a television or an iPhone, we’re there for the story. My job is to help make the best storytellers even better. Their success in the world is what makes us a strong program.
2018 Poetry Slam
MFA Creative Workshop

Top: Steve Willis (Manhattanville’s 2018 African Studies and BSU Distinguished Alumni Award).
Bottom, left to right: Professor James E. Jones, Steve Willis ’15, Diamond T. Brown ’18, President of the BSU, Nick Vincent Barbera ’17, and Terelina Cruz ’18.
Since its inception, Manhattanville College has been an incubator and training ground for leaders. Even a cursory look at its roster of prestigious alumni shows the great range of high-level positions they have attained. Understanding and embracing its role, Manhattanville actively seeks to prepare students for positions of leadership and influence through its Emerging Leaders program.

“How well today’s students learn to lead will have a direct impact on all of us as decision-making and resources are passed on to them,” said Benjamin Grant, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life. “Even though most of our students may not immediately assume managerial roles upon graduation, we want them to have those tools and experience as they build their careers. Also, they learn that it is possible, and often necessary, to be able to influence without direct authority.”

The Emerging Leaders program is an ever-evolving Living-Learning Community initiative that is regularly assessed and honed to fully meet student needs. Starting its fifth year, this latest iteration is open to first-year students, 40 of whom are chosen through a competitive application process. “Applicants submit a 1,000-word essay on their personal and academic goals and the leadership skills they most want to build,” Mr. Grant explained. “The selected students live together on the same floor of Spellman Hall, with other noted scholars, and collaborate with their faculty and staff outside of the classroom.”

The program is framed around the Social Change Model of Leadership Development centering on consciousness of self, congruence, commitment, collaboration, common purpose, controversy with civility, and citizenship—“the seven C’s.” In addition to applying their first-year academic course material...
outside of the classroom, Emerging Leaders also contribute at least 15 hours of community service and, after establishing social action project groups, work to solve a real-world problem affecting Manhattanville. Solutions for each problem are then discussed and, if applicable, implemented within the Residence Life community the next term.

For example, a previous year’s solution was directed at preventing vandalism. Research shows that vandals are less likely to destroy property that resembles a human face, so the students recommended putting cartoon-like “googly” eyes on signage and other traditionally targeted public-facing property.

“Vandalism in areas where the solution was implemented dropped to nearly nil,” Mr. Grant said. “We were frankly astonished that the tactic worked so well. But we’ve come to expect the exceptional from all our leadership groups.”

Anecdotally and through surveys, students have expressed overwhelming support and appreciation for the program, as it gives them access to shared expertise, skills, experience, and knowledge, as well as important connections.

Nicole Van Der Linde ’18 was one of the first students to be a part of the new Emerging Leaders program. “It was an extraordinary experience,” she recalled. “I knew that I wanted to do more during my college career, contribute more, have a greater impact, so I jumped at the chance to apply. Today, I am a Resident Advisor, and I can trace that achievement directly to my work with program.”

Samantha Sivolella ’20 also credits being an Emerging Leader with dramatically shaping her perspective. “I can’t overemphasize how great it is living and working with like-minded people. The culture of achievement is infectious and empowering,” she said. “I’m much more focused, and even my mom has told me that she thinks I’m much more confident and comfortable making decisions.”

Like Samantha, many other participants say that the leadership training has had a positive impact on other aspects of their collegiate work and off-campus life. They report being able to adapt their leadership styles to different situations and audiences, and perform better under pressure. Students also say they have learned to “see the bigger picture,” and understand the implications that their behavior and decisions have for present and future outcomes.

Manhattanville has found that enhancing the leadership skills of talented, motivated students not only directly contributes to their success, but strengthens the College itself. “These students are carrying forward a clear example of empowerment,” Mr. Grant said. “They wield highly developed interpersonal communication skills and they know how to deliver feedback. They can relate to peers, parents, faculty, and staff. They often go on to positions of greater responsibility, such as being classroom assistants or RAs. Across every class year, you have people who are raising the bar, leading by example, and creating a better environment throughout the College.”

Samantha is sanguine about the future of the program in relation to the changing dynamics of the student population. “What’s great about Emerging Leaders is that it’s flexible and it encourages independent thought and action. The program was slightly different when Nicole took it than when I was involved. I’m sure it’ll be different for incoming first-years when I’m a senior—the problems will be different, as will the tools and solutions that overcome them. That’s the great beauty of it—each successive class helps make the program better.”

“Our leaders get to see, and live with, the direct results of the solutions they’ve created.”

BENJAMIN GRANT, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life

Mr. Grant agrees. “We’re teaching, but we’re also learning. We’re discovering what’s important to students and seeing how to adapt the program to the ways they live and communicate now. A lot of students have left Facebook for Instagram, so we’re engaging people on that platform. Video is very important to this population, so many of our groups look for solutions in that realm. The core principles may remain the same, but we’re adapting the message to the medium.”

Of course, the most important impact of the Emerging Leaders program will most surely be felt in places and times far removed from Manhattanville. As though to emphasize the point, Nicole Van Der Linde credits the Emerging Leaders program with helping her be better prepared for post-collegiate life. “I’m looking forward to what the future holds, and how I can shape it. I think I am ready to communicate my value to prospective employers and continue to add to it. I owe that to the program along with the realization that, eventually, you need to stop emerging and start leading. Period.”
During the 2017–2018 academic year, Manhattanville awarded its first Valiant Grants for Innovative Student Engagement. The initiative provides awards of up to $1,000 to faculty, staff, and student working groups to execute projects. To receive a grant, each group must show how the project increases student engagement in and out of the classroom, supports the College’s Strategic Plan, and has a clear benefit to the College community.

“We were awed by the number and quality of proposals received,” said Cindy Porter, VP of Student Affairs. “The grantees’ work spans the spectrum of Manhattanville life. I think everyone has been pleased with the outcomes.”
Exploring Better Ways to Be Well

The Valiant Wellness Program

“The earlier we can get students practicing activities that promote health and wellbeing, the better off they will be in the classroom and in life,” said Melissa Boston ’00, Ph.D., Manhattanville’s Associate Dean of Health and Counseling.

That was the goal of the Valiant Wellness Program, a pilot initiative offering an intense focus on the emotional, nutritional, psychological, physical, and social dimensions of wellness. Enrolled students attended a series of workshops which demonstrated a wide range of best practices and health habits, as well as an assessment of the obstacles and choices that may be detracting from the students’ overall wellness.

Participants completed a pre- and post-assessment of wellness, as well as quizzes to evaluate their knowledge after each workshop. At the end of the program, successful students earned a Valiant Wellness Certificate.

“There’s a lot more information and emphasis on wellness than ever before,” Ms. Boston noted, “but there are also so many more distractions from it—from fast food, to soda, to the culture, to the screens we all seem fixated on. Our program shows that wellness isn’t just about finding better way to eat—it’s about finding a better way to live.”

Drawing a Better Circle

A cross-functional approach to Design Thinking

“Design Thinking is embedded in the strategic plan, but the real challenge is infusing the method so it becomes ingrained in how we teach and learn,” remarked Loren McDermott, Special Assistant to the President at Manhattanville. “We saw the Valiant Grant as a way to create greater understanding around the foundation and framework of Design Thinking.” As many already know, the College’s emphasis on Design Thinking is a direct reflection of the speed of innovation, technological advancement, and the need for more creative solutions in the larger society.

Led by Loren McDermott and Jim Frank, Professor of Communication and Media, the initiative incorporated an entirely new teaching and learning circle consisting of four groups of five members each. The groups each had a faculty, staff, and student member and they met for three sessions throughout the Spring 2018 semester. At each session, group members collaborated on real issues at the College, presented work, discussed readings, and revised work using Design Thinking. The project concluded with a group presentation at the annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Fair, which was held at the end of the spring semester.

“We were especially gratified by the results of the teaching and learning circles,” said Professor Frank. “By focusing on streamlined processes and collaborative outcomes, we were able to create a community of practice from across the major roles at the campus. This structure proved to be adaptable and scalable in using Design Thinking to understand the importance of multiple perspectives.”

Learning to Make a Fresh Start

The Valiant Mentoring Program

Sometimes the only thing more frightening than a troubled past is an uncertain future. Just ask the men of the Youth Shelter, there because of bad circumstances, bad choices, or both. However, the goal of Manhattanville’s Valiant Mentoring Program was to inspire these men to take control of their futures in positive ways. Run by Academic Writing and Composition Lecturer John Proctor and Father Wil Tyrrell, the program engages participants in a collegial environment, helping them understand their options for education, employment, and reentry into the larger community.

“One of the most deeply rooted problems in our society is that it’s seen as easier to throw people away than to show them how to become valuable contributors,” Mr. Proctor remarked. “Especially with minority and disadvantaged populations. We emphasize that where these young men can go is so much better than where they are. Most of them have never been on a college campus before. Here, we can show them college is better than jail, employment is better than broke, and that keeping their freedom is by choice, not by chance.”

In addition to instruction, guidance, and counseling, meetings often included guest speakers, such as Alexandra Espinal ’16, who was the development associate at the Greyston Foundation, which operates a noted bakery dedicated to workforce development and open hiring.

(continued on page 14)
A key part of the mentoring sessions was sharing a meal with Manhattanville students in the cafeteria, where the breaking of bread in the communal setting sparked open dialogues. “It was as important a learning experience for our students as it was for the shelter residents,” said Father Wil. “When you spend most of your time on campus and your window to the rest of the world is an LED screen, it’s easy to become desensitized to the struggles of others. The Valiant Mentoring Program gave students a chance to empathize and exemplify what’s possible.”

Surveying the Course

New smartphone app makes it easy to evaluate courses

Getting end-of-semester course feedback from students has always been a speculative proposition, even in the digital era. However, by making it easy for students to rate classes, the College can gain richer data from a larger pool of respondents. That’s the grant-winning thinking behind the development of a course survey app.

Coordinated by Jonathan Munson, Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, and Jim Russell, Chief Information Officer, the project has extraordinary implications for gauging not only the effectiveness of individual courses, but also in gathering information on student interests, preferences, and pain points across the curricula and the College. “The design and implementation of this kind of application fills a real need,” said Professor Munson. “We can get the answers we need and also discover what it is we don’t know.” The specification process includes gathering input from faculty and students about what questions should be asked and how the app should be used.

The Dotcom Club is also involved with coding the app, in conjunction with the College’s IT department. “This is the best way to develop this app, or any app with its kind of far-reaching potential,” noted Mr. Russell. “The stakeholders, managers, and programmers are all working together to create a product that’s practical, easy-to-use, and that delivers exceptional value for everyone.”

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Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Learn about our graduate creative writing program, open houses, and more at mvilleMFA.com
Good Fences Make Better Gardens

Improving the Manhattanville Organic Community Garden

The Manhattanville Organic Community Garden supports multiple aspects of college life. Classes such as Plant Biology, Horticultural Therapy, Nutrition, and Environmental Sociology use the garden as an active learning environment platform. It also supports outreach initiatives such as community tending by students from Purchase Elementary school. In addition, the garden provides vegetable and herb donations to Don Bosco Center in Port Chester as part of the College’s social justice outreach.

Showing the Garden’s importance to the campus, a plan by the Behavioral Health Center and the Biology Department received a Valiant Grant to make important upgrades to the acreage. These improvements included installation of new fencing to resist deer and rabbits, as well as the planting of blueberry bushes behind the garden. The project was developed and executed by an ad hoc committee of faculty, staff, and students.

“These enhancements will really help us make the most of the garden,” said Dr. Christopher Pappas, an associate professor in the Biology Department and member of the planning group. “We’ll have a more stable vegetable crop and blueberries to offer to help advance our outreach programs.”

“...The grantees’ work spans the spectrum of Manhattanville life. I think everyone has been pleased with the outcomes.”

CINDY PORTER, VP of Student Affairs
DESIGNING MEMORY

Throughout human history, we have shared our identities, hopes, and beliefs, and commemorated our past through creative acts that record and embody our aspirations and memories—from dance to music, sculptural monuments to buildings, from cuneiform tablets to the Internet. But what happens to these markers and monuments when our sense of who we are changes? What happens to our collective identity—our sense of who we are—when these markers and monuments are intentionally or unintentionally destroyed? Inspired by recent debates about the removal of Confederate monuments from public spaces nationwide, Manhattanville College faculty, staff, students, alumni, and guests came together on a glorious afternoon in April to participate in a series of multimedia experiences designed to encourage an exploration of the College’s rich history, while inviting the entire community to contemplate how shaping shared spaces contributes to the creation, preservation, and destruction of memory.

That was the goal of Manhattanville College’s “Designing Memory” event, which took place April 17, 2018. The immersive, multimedia event included a tour—the Performance Caravan—across the Manhattanville campus, stopping at key locations for performances and discussions about the College’s history, the relocation of religious monuments, and the processes of the creation, preservation, and destruction of memory.

Participants were also able to participate in an “Augmented Reality Walking Tour,” powered by the HP Reveal app. By scanning clues posted in designated locations on campus and in the Castle, visitors were able to view historical images of the spaces and monuments—viewing history through a modern lens.
Remembering the Underground.

A MARCH ACROSS TIME
The Performance Caravan began at Reid Castle, a building rich in history. Chair of the Visual Studies and Art History department and the curator of the day’s events, Professor Megan Cifarelli, provided an introduction to the day’s events and an overview of how civilizations have created and destroyed architectural environments and monuments as a means of manipulating memory and identity.

Visual Studies and Art History Professor Lisa Rafanelli discussed an instance of memory erasure that took place on the Manhattanville campus in 2005 when religious sculptures that came from the Convent Avenue campus were moved to the cemetery in the back of the campus. “Objects, like people, have stories to tell. They have biographies,” said Professor Rafanelli. “Their original meaning is determined at a specific time and place, but when that context is changed, the meaning of the object changes. In this case, religious sculptures were moved from the main Quad in 2005 and relocated to the nun’s cemetery.” She added, “While these actions were driven by a desire to make the College appear non-denominational, the move altered the communal space of the Campus, removing a monument that had shaped collective identity, and potentially erasing the memory of the past.”

Proceeding to Barat House, the caravan featured the debut of the Barat House Project, led by Lori Soderlind, Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing. The exhibition featured a film which explored the decisions that go into the creation of monuments. Soderlind explained, “The process by which any given community arrives at these decisions is fascinating and reveals a lot about who we are and how we want to view ourselves as a society.”

HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED
The tour advanced to Lady Chapel for a performance of Remembering the Underground, in which the rich and complex history of the site was depicted through dance, dialogue, breath, and meditation. In paying homage to the chapel, choreographer and Assistant Professor of Dance and Theatre Shawn Bible was deeply inspired by its powerful symbolism and meaning. “There are many concentric centers of influence at Manhattanville,” Professor Bible stated, “but Lady Chapel is the most spiritual. It once had the graves of seven adolescents beneath its floor. It’s a place of meditation and reflection, and our piece aimed to capture that.”

At Sacred Heart Cemetery, Lauren Ziarko, MA ’13, archivist and special collections librarian, Manhattanville College Library, discussed the history of the land as a working farm and country home before it became the new location of Manhattanville College. The cemetery was created as a religious space, and Professor Rafanelli discussed how it became the home for the relocated statues.

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Following up on her earlier commentary about the movement of various sculptures to the burial ground, Professor Rafanelli gave a brief history of the sculptures: Our Lady of Victory, given by the Classes of 1902–1903 in honor of Mother Errington; the Calvary Crucifix, given by the Class of 1911 and constructed from a tree from the Convent Avenue Campus; the statue of Saint Joseph, donated in 1944; and the statue of Jesus of the Sacred Heart, given to what was then the Academy of the Sacred Heart in 1897 to honor its 50th Jubilee. Professor Rafanelli asked participants to consider our collective obligation as a community to maintain the grounds and the sculptures, and to preserve the history and memories that they embody.

A PLACE FOR SCENES AND STORIES
The Performance Caravan proceeded to Reid Hall, where attendees were treated to a revue of dramatic monologues and scenes written and performed by a number of talented students. The performances, led by Visiting Assistant Professor Clista Townsend, showcased the students’ sense of place in and at Manhattanville, with regard to the physical campus and the College’s place in their lives. Commenting on this exploration, Professor Cifarelli said, “What is sometimes difficult for students to realize is that while the place changes them—they also change the College. I think it’s wonderful that these performers are expressing both aspects of that reality.”

COLINE JENKINS ELECTRIFIES THE PUBLIC SPACE
Designing Memory closed with an exciting keynote presentation—“Public Spaces: Women Take Their Places”—by Coline Jenkins, the noted activist, author, and legislator. Ms. Jenkins spoke passionately about the need for greater recognition and memorialization of female leaders in the public square, the important contributions of women to the collective memory and consciousness, and the need for the next generation of women to continue the momentum.

Through the years, Ms. Jenkins has been a passionate advocate, inspiring both awareness and pride in women’s history. She works to ensure the placement of monuments to women in Central Park, including Susan B. Anthony and her great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who is known as a leading figure in the early women’s rights movement. Immediately following her talk, Ms. Jenkins led a panel discussion featuring Manhattanville faculty, alumni, and current students.

The Memory Museum
Aligning the past with the present, several special projects were unveiled which explore various aspects of Manhattanville’s history. A number of these exhibitions were stops along the event’s Performance Caravan.

CASTLE TRANSFORMATIONS
Michelle Pings-Gaines ’12, now Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, presented a panel exhibit on the history of Reid Hall.

PICTURING THE PAST
Castle Scholars Honors students shared digital exhibitions of photographs and documents from the College archives, exploring Manhattanville’s past and current campuses.

RE:LOCATIONS
Tara Murphy ’18 and alumnus Justin Capalbo ’10 (CAM) presented an exhibition of photographs that explored the relocation of religious statues on campus.

TOUCHSTONE—O JESUS, WHERE ARE THOU?
Reproduction of articles written in the Manhattanville student newspaper in 2005 regarding the removal of the religious sculptures from the quad.

THE PRESERVATION OF MEMORY: JOSEPH SIBBEL’S JESUS OF THE SACRED HEART
The film was written, narrated, and produced by Michael Castaldo, video technician/adjunct professor of communications and media, Lauren Ziarko, and Lisa Rafanelli.

THE BARAT HOUSE MONUMENT PROJECT
Screening of the film exploring the decision-making and consensus-building that contribute to the creation of monuments.
PRESIDENT GEISLER SEES CAMPUS ROLE IN COMMUNITY

President Geisler described the “Designing Memory” event as “coming out of the present debate over monuments. We are an academic institution, and one of the principal purposes of an academic institution is beyond just educating young minds. It's to serve as a place for discussion, a catalyst for discussion for the community.”

DESIGNING MEMORY, TRANSFORMING MINDS

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the public agreed that the entire Designing Memory event was an ambitious undertaking—and a huge success. From the site-specific dances choreographed for the occasion, to the bagpipe music, dramatic performances, panel discussions, and multimedia exhibits in the Memory Museum, the entire day was jubilant and thought-provoking. All agreed that Manhattanville had done something rather extraordinary by taking questions about collective identity, monuments, and memory—questions that can become contentious in the public sphere—and using them instead to explore the richness of its own history, embracing where it has been, and charting a path for where it wants to go.

“Manhattanville College is amazing—that they have taken up ideas of memory and monuments over history, time, and tied it to their college. It’s a phenomenal invitation to learn and to dialogue.”

COLINE JENKINS, Keynote Speaker

THE PRESERVATION OF MEMORY: JOSEPH SIBBEL’S JESUS OF THE SACRED HEART, MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE

This brief film, directed by Michael Castaldo, Video Technician/Adjunct, Communications and Media, reconstructs the history and original context of the Manhattanville Sacred Heart of Jesus monument, carved in 1897 by renowned ecclesiastical sculptor Joseph Sibbel. The monument was presented to the Academy of the Sacred Heart, then located on Convent Avenue in upper Manhattan, as part of its 50th Jubilee celebrations, and it quickly became an important symbol of institutional identity, memory, and hope for the future. The monument was so important to Manhattanville's identity that it was among the first things to be moved when the college relocated to Purchase in 1952, and it was installed in a location that replicated as closely as possible its placement at Convent Ave. The monument remained on the Quad through the tumultuous decades that followed, until its removal in 2005 to the nun's cemetery. The film asks viewers to reflect upon the responsibility of community members to preserve and honor the history and memories of those who came before—memories that are often embodied in monuments.
The Center Will Hold

How the Center for Inclusion is celebrating diversity at Manhattanville one year on
The Center for Inclusion was established at Manhattanville a year ago, and its need and utility are more apparent than ever in today’s climate. The Center for Inclusion provides educational cultural and social programming, training, comprehensive resources, and materials to facilitate and support the development and enhanced understanding of different cultures, ethnicities, backgrounds, and experiences. It was built from the students’ desire to have a place on campus to have brave conversations around social issues. The Center supports students’ academic, social, cultural, and personal well-being, and allows students the opportunity to empower and educate themselves, their peers, and their community.

One year on, the editors of Manhattanville Magazine (MM) caught up with Sarah Napoli (SN), the director of the Center, for a progress report.

**MM:** What's been the best part of the last year?

**SN:** I think watching the Center for Inclusion evolve and add value. As its first director, I’ve had the great privilege of building the office from its foundation up. It’s a rare opportunity to tailor the work and outreach to what the students themselves most want and need. Through our programs and classroom visits, we have engaged with over 500 different students. We engage with students through unique programs, collaboration with departments across campus and, as well, office and classroom visits.

**MM:** And you’ve made some great progress.

**SN:** Yes, one of the first things we did was establish an advisory board comprised of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. It has really been a successful way to bring a variety of voices to the conversation. The introduction of the Manhattanville College Intercultural Competency Program (ICCP) where 60 faculty, staff, and students participated, was incredibly well received, with workshops designed to invite participants to challenge both themselves and the society we live in through a series of workshops exploring all facets of culture, from race to sexuality.

**MM:** What have been some inspiring moments?

**SN:** Some of the best moments occurred around the students working in the office. Building on the student worker base helps represent our diverse student population and provides opportunities for expression and movement.

One example comes to mind: Maricruz Herrera ’19 took over the programming of Nacho Average Monday for a dance therapy event and the turnout was great. It inspired other students to bring fresh ideas to the mix.

**MM:** Tell us about some of this programming.

**SN:** We’ve made great strides with seminars and workshops and meetings and happenings to promote inclusion. We instituted Nacho Average Monday—a regular film series on Monday nights, showing films that highlight diversity and the challenges of being perceived as different. While I selected the first couple of movies, the remainder of the films shown were student selections.

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**MM:** You actually serve nachos?

**SN:** Yes, all kinds! The programming includes not just films, but also workshops and dialogues. Some of the films we’ve screened are *Reel Injun, I Am Not Your Negro, Get Out,* and *Frida.* We bring in dynamic speakers and activists to provide commentary and perspective on diversity and inclusion, and we partner with outside organizations and groups to provide students with high-level training and insight on social justice.

**MM:** So it’s also a resource center for inclusion?

**SN:** Absolutely! The Center provides space for students, staff, and faculty to discuss major issues affecting our community. We also offer books, videos, and other resources to help foster communication.

**MM:** Tell us about your use of hip-hop to effect transformational change. Why this medium?

**SN:** I am a long-time hip-hop educator and I also create curricula for high school students at the Schomburg Center in Harlem. Most people know hip-hop only as a music genre, but there are four elements of hip-hop: dance, DJ-ing, graffiti, and rap. Through this medium, Manhattanville College students got to connect with veterans/pioneers/practitioners in the hip-hop industry and learn the culture, history, and skills that earned the respect and influence they have today. Hip-hop is an entire culture which originated just a few miles from Manhattanville in New York City in the 1970s, and a global phenomenon transcending demography and ethnography, giving power and voice to youth worldwide. As such, it offers an extraordinary opportunity to spread a message of inclusion and awareness throughout the Manhattanville population. These events have been well received by individuals from across the demographic spectrum.

**MM:** What are the goals for the 2018–19 year?

**SN:** Our office is looking forward to creating more programs that focus on engaging first generation students. Beginning summer 2018, the scope of the Center will expand beyond programming. The Center for Inclusion will offer direct, targeted support for historically underserved students, including those who are the first in their family to attend college, as well as to the Manhattanville Advancement Program (MAP). MAP will continue to provide the same high standard of excellence in student support for academic success, transition to college, and personal growth.

This fall we will be expanding the responsibilities of our student workers. They will take part in a leadership program that will allow them to practice facilitating and developing their own programs for the Center.

Our goal is more awareness and support for our programs and outreach, and also more participation, reaching a wider audience so that Manhattanville will be known as a campus where our differences are celebrated and make us stronger.
Manhattanville College, a renowned destination for scholarly and academic excellence, is committed to being a vibrant and inclusive community of lifelong learners. The School of Business (MSB) has enhanced this commitment by developing and showcasing a broad array of exceptional programs in our newly launched Professional Development Workshop Series.

MSB created the Professional Development Workshop Series as an opportunity to provide valuable continuing education training opportunities to our current Manhattanville students, faculty, and alumni along with those in the surrounding community. Neighboring businesses will also find opportunities for MSB to be their education partner for lifelong learning with our noncredit, credit, and certificate programs.

This spring we offered nearly two dozen workshops in the areas of entrepreneurship, human resources, leadership, Microsoft Office applications, and nonprofit management, along with networking events and programs through the Women’s Leadership Institute and Risk Management Institute. Several workshops provide Professional Development Credits for Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) professionals. A few of the workshops are also being taught by Manhattanville College and School of Business alums looking for opportunities to give back to the school.

The Professional Development Workshop series is explained in detail at www.mville.edu/business. MSB has deeply discounted its workshops and degree programs for all Manhattanville alumni. Attend their next event or call 914.323.5150 to learn more.
The Art of Teaching Art

Randy Williams & His Students

Collaborate to Create Better Art and Education
Over more than 30 years of teaching Studio Art and other arts-related disciplines at Manhattanville, Professor Randy Williams has been credited with a unique and personal style of collaboration with his students. Many of these students have, in turn, embraced his methods when teaching their own classes.

To understand what makes Randy’s methods so successful, Manhattanville Magazine spoke with the professor and three of his former students who are also teachers: Bracken Feldman, MFA ’09, Jessica Jordan, MFA ’17, and Christopher Manning, BFA ’05. Bracken and Jessica teach in the Westchester County school system, and Chris teaches at Manhattanville.

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“Being able to work with Randy has been one of the greatest experiences—he allows his students to freely express themselves through their artwork and is always willing to help them achieve their goals.”

CHRISTINA MODICA ’19, Student

Left to right: Katie DiBiccari ’19, Christina Modica ’19, and Professor Randy Williams.
Manhattanville Magazine (MM): Let’s start with the obvious: Randy, how do you go about collaborating with your students?

Randy: Am I collaborating, or am I just asking the right questions? I can demonstrate technique; I can share my experience as an artist and why I’ve made some of the choices I’ve made. But a large part of my method, for want of a better word, is just getting them to see where they’re coming from.

Bracken: He’s being modest…

Chris: Which is a rare trait in an artist…

Bracken: (laughs) Very. I was advanced in ceramics at a young age. When I went to Randy to discuss entering the graduate program for art education, we made a deal: I could take all the classes I wanted as long as they did not involve creating three-dimensional work.

Randy: You mastered ceramics at 17, certainly one of the most gifted ceramicists I’d come across at such a young age.

Bracken: Thank you. So that was the deal—Randy insisted I strengthen my two-dimensional skills to make me a better artist and art teacher.

Jessica: Randy understood where I was as an artist and where I wanted to be. He’s patient and kind and dedicated to helping students find their individual style.

Randy: You showed a passion for printmaking that I had not seen before. Jessica would come in early, she would stay late. She’d run out and get leaves and grass and other materials to use in her prints; she had all sorts of ideas.

Jessica: And Randy would say, “run with it!” I think maybe that’s the most important part of an art teacher’s—or any teacher’s—job. Just give the student the freedom to go off and do it. Even now, it’s the same spirit he brought when he helped me with my solo show at the Manhattanville Gallery in October of 2017.

Chris: Randy will just let you go for it, which is great. When I came to Manhattanville, it was not to be an artist. My mother, who is an art teacher, had taken a class with Randy in the 1970s and she said he was fabulous, take a class with this guy.

Randy: Thank her, but I don’t know that I want to own up to teaching in the ’70s.

Chris: We won’t tell. I know it’s a cliché, but I was lost when I came here. Studying with Randy helped me understand that I could be myself and express myself in a different way. I eventually switched my major to painting.

Randy: You demonstrated a great conviction to go your own way. You weren’t interested in doing what Picasso did or what Matisse did. You showed me what you could do. I want students to create work that matters to them and is from them—because that’s all that matters.

Bracken: That’s true. Randy won’t allow reverence or appreciation to turn into emulation. He explains that unless you have something to say, the tendency is to copy, to emulate, to do what’s been done before.

Randy: Look, the history of art is the history of the individual. I want my students to dig deep into their own souls and express what they feel. Art isn’t about art—it’s about life and experience.

Jessica: That’s the hard part!
Randy: But that’s the part that makes all the difference. All three of these students came into my classes when they were at a crossroads in their lives. I listened to what they had to say. Then I said, “put it in your work.” Together we were able to take something personal and devastating and have powerful, moving art emerge from it.

MM: Tell us more about the nature of the collaboration with Randy, the nuts and bolts.

Bracken: First, Randy is fanatical about preparation—the space, the tools, the medium. When you are working, he wants you 100% focused on the act of creation. You shouldn’t have to hunt for a brush or a tube of paint. He’s just as insistent on clean-up. The workspace should be pristine for the next use or user. Every day, I insist on this discipline from my students. They’re a little younger so it takes a little longer, but I am making sure they understand artists really aren’t supposed to be messy.

Jessica: I like that. I also apply Randy’s immediacy. He’ll demonstrate how to do something, and then we go off and do it. It’s liberating, which I guess is the point of the exercise.

Randy: I’m learning too, and the real trick is to be clever enough to learn from 14 people at once. A student may be having a problem with a particular skill on the one side of the room, and by the time I get over there, I may have seen two or three people doing that activity better than me, so I can bring that knowledge with me as I move across the studio.

Chris: I worked with Randy as an undergrad, but I took my MFA at SUNY New Paltz. Randy was instrumental in guiding me, coaching me, coming up to the studio to see my work, even though I wasn’t formally his student. He’s very giving of his time and insight.

Bracken: For all Randy’s gifts as an artist and a teacher, I think his greatest one may be his ability to understand his students. Artists in his graduate classes are usually already working at a high level, so technical proficiency isn’t an issue. Randy helped me develop confidence in my own abilities to take on more complex work, to think strategically about what I wanted to say and do.

Jessica: Randy is excited when he works with students who don’t just want to create, but to transform—whether it’s attitudes, points of view, or even themselves. He’s always asking, how can you make this better? How can you bring more focus to this or that aspect of a work? His most powerful guidance usually isn’t prescriptive—do this, do that—but starts with “What if….”

Randy: Mostly, I try to help students get clarity on where they are trying to go with their work. They are the only ones who can create those experiences.

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**MM:** How do the three of you feel about the future of student/teacher collaboration, the future of the art of teaching art?

**Randy:** I understand that parents writing a check may wonder about the value of a liberal arts education or an art education. That’s a conversation I am always happy to have because a BFA, an MFA can be useful across a wide range of professions.

**Bracken:** Exactly. The training itself is adaptable. Art helps my students learn to consider various solutions, to have faith in their ideas, understand that the real skill may not be thinking inside or outside the box, but to design a better box in the first place.

**Chris:** Yes, art and artistry provide so many different perspectives. I think the rest of the world is catching up to that through this new emphasis on “design thinking.”

**Randy:** Finally!

**Jessica:** Also, art teachers need to help students understand that all of this technology they take for granted is no substitute for that artistry you spoke of. It’s a tool, a medium.

**Chris:** That’s true. I’ve been shooting Polaroids since I was a kid. I love the tactile pictures. I think that’s real photography—

**Bracken:** As opposed to “shot on iPhone.”

**Randy:** People will ask me to look at their portfolio and whip out their iPhone. I say, “that’s not your portfolio.” The Internet and digital media, for all their obvious advantages, have taken away some of the intellectual rigor that an artist needs to have. We can’t let the Internet become the lowest common denominator of our aesthetic experience.

**MM:** So, if we visit your classrooms, where will we see the influence of Randy Williams?

**Chris:** I see students with potential and I try to nurture it the way Randy did for me. I share the learnings that come from working with him: don’t copy, don’t waste time looking for some sort of objective truth to create by. I want my students to learn to trust in the validity of their own viewpoints.

**Jessica:** With my classes, I am much more patient. Before, I would want my students to rush to understand a concept or technique. After working with Randy, I understood it was okay to let them work it out. Also, I know how to get them to ask questions, to inquire of me, so they can get the most out of the class.

**Bracken:** Randy helped me understand that being an artist is a gift, and that the teaching of art is a great privilege. That perspective keeps me grounded and centered as I work with my own students. I explain that art is organic, and its expression evolves. Not every work has to be awesome, but it does have to say something.

**Randy:** If I’ve done something that helps my students better teach their students, then I am happy. When I can look at a kid’s work and think, “I taught his teacher that,” then I know I’ve done all right.

**MM:** One last question: how do you hope Randy Williams will be remembered?

**Chris:** I hope they say, “he changed the way art is taught.”

**Jessica:** I hope they say, “he changed the way art is seen.”

**Bracken:** I hope they say, “he changed me.” Because he did.
After hearing the State of the College address by President Michael Geisler, they decided to re-invest in the College, embarking on a fundraising effort to establish the Manhattanville Class of 1967 President’s Fund for Excellence. Created to “transform the lives of students now and in the future, consistent with how the College prepared us,” the endowed fund will provide income for the President and Board of Trustees to renew Manhattanville College’s rigor in academics and values in perpetuity.

The Class chose to create the Fund to honor the academic excellence, development of high moral standards, and empowerment that were part of the fabric of its Manhattanville College experience and set a challenging $2 million goal. They are making strides in formally establishing the fund and beginning their fundraising efforts, which will include current and outright gifts along with bequests and life income plans. President Geisler is committed to helping the class succeed, meeting with individuals and groups from the class to help them better understand the priorities of the College and the significant impact this gift will have for future Manhattanville presidents. Geisler said, “The fundraising is of course important, but for me a real benefit has been in the deeper understanding and appreciation I have gained, for what was at the heart of Manhattanville College fifty years ago and is vital to renew. I have learned so much in my conversations—and I have shared many laughs with alumnae at their stories!”

The initiative for a class gift of this size is a first at Manhattanville—or at least the first on record. The goal is ambitious, but to quote President Geisler, “If any group can make it happen, it’s the class of ’67! I am grateful that these alumnae care so deeply about leaving a legacy and building a strong future for Manhattanville College, and truly appreciate their sense of purpose.”
Now called the Welcome Desk, the large desk situated to the right of Reid Castle’s reception area was previously bought for Whitelaw Reid’s personal use. The desk was built in the 1890s and has since been cut to half of its original size, although it is nearly impossible to tell where the cut was made. The Welcome Desk is the only piece of furniture that remains in the Castle from the Reid Era.
Even more important than the Welcome Desk itself are its two operators: Kathleen “Kay” DeLuca and Rosalie Sarno. Both women are Westchester natives and have worked with Manhattanville College for nearly two decades each. Both women are switchboard operators; they spend their shifts directing the many phone calls the College receives throughout the day, as well as answering any questions people have about the campus.

As a young girl, Kay had wanted to attend Julliard School of Music for Voice, and as time passed, Manhattanville College became part of that dream. “I’d always heard of...Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, and I said, ‘wouldn’t it be wonderful if I ever could go there?’ but my parents didn’t have the money,” remembers Kay. So, she decided to work.

After working with the New York Telephone Company for 35 years, Kay thought she was ready for retirement. But in the months that followed her retirement, she found she was restless. Around that time, Manhattanville College was looking for a phone operator. Kay, looking for a way out of retirement, got the job. “Work will never hurt you,” said Kay. She has worked at the College for 27 years.

ROSALIE SARNO

“I always have a story to tell somebody,” Rosalie said. “There’s a lot of people who come in to deliver something or pick something up and say ‘I didn’t know this place was here. I didn’t know it was a castle.’ And they’re amazed by it.”

The job comes with its perks. When asked what their favorite campus memories are, both women cited instances of movies being filmed on campus.

“‘Oh, I look forward to May. To see how hard the students have all worked.’”

KATHLEEN DELUCA

“What made my day, really, [was] when we were shooting...Boardwalk Empire. When the director walked through the door, I almost fell off my chair,” Kay remembers. The director was Martin Scorsese. “To see him in one’s lifetime, in person, here...was the pièce de résistance.”

Rosalie fondly remembers the College preparing to shoot The Thomas Crown Affair with Pierce Brosnan. “At the end of the movie, they mention that the professor that was in charge of art history...was a professor at Manhattanville College. It wasn’t true, but they mention it. When people look at that movie I say to watch toward the end.”

Dante Pacicca, who passed on March 28, 2018, had an impact at the welcome desk during his four-decade-long commitment to the College. “While he was alive and still working here, he would come in to visit me when it was hot just to cool off and when it was cold to warm up a little bit,” Kay said. “Dante knew everybody on campus, and kept this place spectacularly well groomed. He’s going to be sorely missed.”

While these occasions hold a special place in their hearts, Kay looks forward to an event that happens every year: Commencement. “Oh, I look forward to May,” Kay says. “To see how hard the students have all worked. They pass right by this desk with their professors and get their diplomas, and go out into the world...You’ll never forget Manhattanville.”
“I think there are two types of legacy,” Kathy Brink explained, “the kind you are given and the kind you create. I was certainly fortunate to have been given a great one. I’ll leave it to others to judge how far I’ve taken it.” Ask those who know Dr. Brink and they can tell you that her wide-ranging career has scaled the heights of organizational management, technology, and higher education.

“The drive to excel was instilled in me by my mother, also named Katharin, who was in the Manhattanville class of 1935,” Dr. Brink recalled. “When I entered the College in 1964, the world was a vastly different place. The fight for civil rights was a societal flashpoint and women were realizing they could play a greater role in the society. When I was a sophomore, I read an article about computing and wanted to learn more, so when I graduated, I got a job working in systems. Very few women were in the field. Here, 50 years later, I’m still hearing about challenges women are facing in the tech world. It’s frustrating because I am proof that inclusion works.”

Building on her analytical training and experience, Dr. Brink forged a career in organizational management across the higher-ed administration and nonprofit communities, including 20 years at SUNY as Director of School–College Relations and at the United Way of the Central Carolinas as Vice President of Community Building. She continued to focus on nonprofit work throughout the remainder of her career, while also earning a Ph.D. at University at Albany.

As for her interest in nonprofit work, she said, “it’s not so much a matter of ‘giving back’ but of simply giving. Doing good shouldn’t be an obligation, but a joy. I’ve had a chance to help students excel in college, to help families put food on the table, to help clothe children. No resume can ever show that kind of fulfillment.”

Today, Dr. Brink is “officially” retired, but still giving—she is the chair of her Manhattanville class’s 50th reunion committee, keeps busy with her husband and 11 grandchildren, and is seeking to mentor foster children who have “aged out” of the system. “I cannot imagine being 18, pushed out into the world with no resources and just essentially ignored,” she said. “If I want somebody to do something about it, then I guess I’d better start with me.”

In addition, Dr. Brink also is a loyal supporter of Manhattanville. Her sister Mary Alice also graduated from the College in 1971. “I’m sure people are tired of hearing me go on about Manhattanville, but my mother, sister and I loved it. The sense of community and caring you find there is unparalleled—and I say that from the perspective of having been at campuses big and small. One of the things I emphasize is that the College is not the same as when Mary Alice and I were there—and God help us if it was. We must expect—and insist on—progress and change. From what I’ve seen, Manhattanville is headed in the right direction. We should be so proud of what’s going on there.”
“The beginning of my story is like too many others,” said Dr. Jason Rivera, in a recent interview. “I was raised in a neighborhood where poverty, violence, welfare, and homelessness were just facts of life. Education was my path to a better life, and I believe it’s the most valuable tool we have to improve our communities and our society.”

Jason Rivera ’97 helps students achieve success in higher education.

Clearly, his belief in education is yielding solid results—Dr. Rivera was recently appointed vice chancellor for student academic success at Rutgers University–Camden. In this position, he will lead the University’s efforts to promote successful academic outcomes for its undergraduate students.

After graduating from Manhattanville in 1997, Dr. Rivera pursued a master’s degree in elementary education at CUNY, and a Ph.D. in teaching and learning at the University of Maryland. He credits his interest in teaching to his undergraduate experience. “Manhattanville was a world away from where I had been. The instructors didn’t judge—they didn’t care where I came from, they cared about where I was going. They showed me that if you approach students from a place of caring, you can make a real difference in their lives. I knew that was the kind of impact I wanted to have.”

Prior to his appointment at Rutgers, Dr. Rivera held key positions at Montgomery College and Swarthmore College. Throughout his academic career, he’s seen students face many of the same issues regardless of their background. “I work with students from affluent homes and those, like me, who had no home. Every one of them asks the same question, ‘Where do I go from here with my education?’ It’s not a question with a single right answer. You can be an artist and accountant and an acrobat, but maybe not all at the same time. My goal is to help students excel in their academic careers. If they do that, it makes their work career a little easier to take on.”

Dr. Rivera is also sensitive to the unique challenges that minority and less privileged students may face as they embrace higher education, both at home and on campus. He has conducted well-regarded research on the intersection of social and cultural capital, community cultural wealth, and how students can successfully navigate higher education institutions.

“This is an area that is so critical for us to get right, especially for this generation. We need our high school students to strive for college no matter what and embrace the experience when they get there. When students step on campus, I want them to say, ‘My place is here.’”

JASON RIVERA ’97
Manhattanville Inducts Fourth Athletic Hall of Fame Class
Manhattanville Announces Return of Tennis, Finishes Brand New Courts
Ed Manetta Welcomed as Manhattanville’s Seventh Director of Athletics
Manhattanville Constructing Second Turf Field and Seasonal Bubble on Campus
Staahl Named CoSIDA Academic All-American
Manhattanville Athletics Featured Twice on ESPN
Manhattanville Athletics Announces the New ValiantsGear.com!
Manhattanville Inducts Fourth Athletics Hall of Fame Class

The Manhattanville Department of Athletics held its fourth annual Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet on October 1, as more than 150 people packed the West Room of Reid Castle to celebrate the inductions of John Collins, Bess (Graham) Latainer ’85, Oscar Mena ’81, and Ralph Tedesco.

The crowd included 60 Manhattanville alumni spanning an amazing 27 different class years and 14 sports among the attendees that took part in the festivities, which included a cocktail hour and dinner in addition to the induction ceremonies. Besides the many friends and staff of the College joining the inductees and their families and friends, the event also saw nine of the 13 previous Hall of Fame inductees and three of Manhattanville’s six national-champion swimmers making the trip back to campus for the event, as well as three Valiant professional baseball alumni and one three-time Olympic gold medalist.

“This year’s Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony was another overwhelming success,” said Associate Director of Athletics Julene Caulfield. “Every year, we are so excited to see how this dinner brings back alumni and friends from so many eras to reconnect and celebrate our inductees. The enthusiasm from the crowd and the pride of the honorees shows how much Manhattanville means to our alumni and showcases what a tight-knit community this event continues to build.”

Following dinner, the four 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 once again also presented with a proclamation signed by former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino celebrating their achievements and recognizing John Collins, Bess (Graham) Latainer, Oscar Mena, and Ralph Tedesco day throughout Westchester.

Latainer was inducted by her daughter, Emilie, and Tedesco was introduced by Valiant men’s basketball star Vic Scipioni ’92, one of his many former players in attendance for the event. After dinner, Collins was presented by former Manhattanville assistant swimming coach David Samuelson and Mena was inducted by former men’s soccer teammate Tim Maloney ’82.

To view the full biographies of the newest Hall of Fame inductees and all Athletics Hall of Fame members, visit http://www.govaliants.com/halloffame.

Also, make sure to save the date for the 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame induction, which is set for Saturday, October 6 in Reid Castle! To get on the mailing list for the 2018 Hall of Fame banquet, please email athletics@govaliants.com.

(continued on page 36)
Manhattanville Announces Return of Tennis, Finishes Brand New Courts

For the first time since 2012, tennis will be back at Manhattanville in 2018!

The Department of Athletics is readying for the return of men’s and women’s tennis to Manhattanville beginning in the fall of 2018, and former Division I player and coach Derek DiFazio has spent the 2017–18 school year on the recruiting trail as the Valiants get ready to usher in a new era of tennis at Manhattanville.

Before coming to Purchase, DiFazio spent two seasons as the assistant men’s and women’s tennis coach at Division I Marist University, assisting in all aspects of coaching, recruiting, and team operations for the team. With the Red Foxes, he helped the men’s team to a combined record of 31–9 and a 12–2 mark in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play during his tenure, while the women’s team went 10–4 in MAAC competition in two years.

As an undergraduate, DiFazio was a top singles and doubles player for Division I Clemson University from 2008–11, combining for more than 90 victories with the Tigers. He was ranked among the top-100 singles players and top-50 doubles tandems in Division I by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association during his time with the program, and also achieved a worldwide ranking from the ATP as a professional after finishing his collegiate career.

As part of the reinstitution of varsity tennis at Manhattanville, the College resurfaced its courts with a brand-new DecoTurf surface, the official tennis surface of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and the surface of all U.S. Open courts. Manhattanville also is partnering with the USTA to bring a Professional Tennis Management (PTM) degree program to Manhattanville, making the College one of only seven NCAA institutions to offer the program.

The first home match on the new tennis courts is set for September 5, one of four home matches tentatively set for the fall season. Check GoValiants.com to see the full men’s and women’s schedules, and make your plans to see the new teams in action!
Ed Manetta Welcomed as Manhattanville’s Seventh Director of Athletics

Ed Manetta began his tenure as the seventh Director of Athletics in Manhattanville history in November 2017.

Manetta brings many years of valuable experience in college athletics and sports marketing to the Valiant community. Most recently, Manetta served as the Director of Sports Programming at the Barclays Center and Nassau Coliseum. His career includes senior management positions at both Edelman Worldwide and Hill and Knowlton, both leading public relations agencies, where he directed all client services in sports-related campaigns including the Olympic Games, 1994 FIFA World Cup, and Chicago Marathon.

Manetta also brings years of experience in college athletics as well, most recently serving as Director of Athletics at St. John’s University from 1995–2001. During his time with the Red Storm, the program captured a pair of national championships in men’s soccer (1996) and men’s and women’s fencing (2001) as well as an Elite Eight berth for the men’s basketball team in 1998.

The New York native began his career in collegiate athletics as an Assistant Athletic Director at Fordham University and later served as Athletic Director at DePaul University before taking over at St. John’s.

In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Department of Athletics, Manetta also is responsible for fundraising and corporate sponsorships for the Athletics Department.

Manhattanville Constructing Second Turf Field and Seasonal Bubble on Campus

In a game-changing partnership that will affect all 22 varsity sports, Manhattanville partnered with the New York Soccer Club to construct a new outdoor and indoor turf facility on campus, giving Manhattanville students a premier on-campus facility that will put the College on par with the top facilities in Division III.

The facility sets Manhattanville apart as one of the few D-III schools in the region to boast an indoor turf facility. The project encompasses a full outdoor turf field available for most of the school year and a seasonal 90,000-square-foot bubble for the winter months that will house large turf training surfaces and fitness training areas, as well as basketball and volleyball courts.

“This partnership is an incredible opportunity for Manhattanville College to upgrade its athletic facilities and provide a greater experience for our student-athletes,” said Associate Director of Athletics Julene Caulfield. “The ability to have both a second turf field for our teams and an on-campus indoor turf facility will be a huge benefit for all our student-athletes throughout the year, and will also be an important venue as we look to increase Manhattanville’s intramural opportunities as well.”

The facility will greatly enhance the ability of Manhattanville student-athletes to train at preferred times, decreasing the potential for conflict with class schedules and allowing multiple teams to practice simultaneously. The indoor bubble will also significantly benefit Valiant winter and spring teams, allowing for more on-campus training sessions and decreasing the need for off-hour and off-campus practices.

The new turf field was completed in March and will remain an outdoor facility until the winter months, when a seasonal bubble will cover the entire surface.

(continued on page 38)
Staahl Named CoSIDA Academic All-American

Senior Christoffer Staahl ’18 of the Manhattanville men’s soccer team was recognized as one of the top student-athletes in the country with a spot on the 2017 CoSIDA Academic All-America Div. III Men’s Soccer Team, as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America on December 4.

Staahl was selected as an Academic All-America third-team selection, making him one of only 12 backs among the 409 men’s soccer teams in Division III to earn the prestigious national honor this year. The honor makes Staahl the 10th CoSIDA Academic All-American in Manhattanville history and marks the third straight season that the men’s soccer team has boasted a national honoree, joining classmate Robin Schaufele ’16 (2016) and Willie Silber ’16 (2015). It also is the eighth such recognition for Manhattanville in the last eight years after previously earning only two such honors in 1978 and 1984.

Staahl has been a standout on and off the field for Manhattanville over his four seasons. On the field, he earned his second straight United Soccer Coaches All-Region honor and a third straight MAC Freedom Defensive Player of the Year award in 2017, while also becoming only the ninth player in school history (all sports) to earn four All-Conference first-team honors. Off the field, the finance major boasts a stellar 3.93 cumulative GPA and is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-District pick and a 2016 NSCAA Scholar All-American.

Manhattanville Athletics Featured on ESPN

Manhattanville teams made a pair of appearances on the Worldwide Leader in Sports during the fall 2017 semester.

On September 19, the Manhattanville volleyball team made SportsCenter’s Top 10 Plays of the night after an incredible diving save by freshman Monica Lopez ’22 led to a kill from senior Kerry Mackey ’18. The play, which was viewed more than 25,000 times on Manhattanville social media outlets, also was named the MAC Play of the Week, the ESPNW Play of the Week, and earned the #5 spot in the NCAA’s Top 10 Plays of the Week. Following the season, Lopez was named Manhattanville’s first-ever AVCA All-Region selection after setting a new school single-season digs record and finishing third in Division III in digs per set.

The year also ended with another Valiant excelling on the Kennedy Gym floor, as freshman Sean Smith’s highlight-reel reverse dunk landed on the ESPN Top 10 Neighborhood Top Plays of December and also earned the #6 spot in the NCAA Top 10 Plays of the Week.

You can check out both highlight-reel plays by heading to www.GoValiants.com/ESPN!
Manhattanville Athletics Announces the New ValiantsGear.com!

Are you looking for that special gift to give your favorite Manhattanville fan? Do you want to find more ways to show your Valiant pride? Head to the all-new ValiantsGear.com to pick up all the best Manhattanville Valiant merchandise!

Launched in partnership with Advanced Online, the new site offers hundreds of officially licensed Manhattanville Athletics products, ranging from t-shirts, hats, and other apparel to drinkware, phone and laptop skins, and jewelry.

In addition to generic Manhattanville Athletics logos, fans can choose team-specific logos for all 22 Manhattanville varsity sports or showcase their family pride with Valiant mom, dad, grandparent, or alumni apparel as well. A portion of all proceeds directly benefits the Manhattanville Department of Athletics, so each sale helps to support Manhattanville’s 300-plus student-athletes.

Are you looking to Jump Start a career in education?

Manhattanville College has a unique accelerated master’s degree and teaching certification program that could make that dream a reality.

For more information contact edschool@mville.edu | 914.323.5142 mville.edu/soe
1950s

Elisabeth Flynn-Chapman '55, Ph.D. writes: “In early 2018, I had an exhibit at Art Works in Richmond, VA, of 45 photographs. This opened to an attendance of over 200 people. On opening night I gave a gallery talk to another exhibit which I had juried. People were very kind in their response to both my exhibit and talk. I still maintain my studio and am planning more trips and shooting. I am on Facebook and have a website: www.elisabethflynn-chapman.com. Would love to hear from my classmates.”

Margaret B. Cicogna ’56, P’89 has been recognized as a Professional of the Year for 2017 by Strathmore’s Who’s Who Worldwide for her outstanding contributions and achievements for over 25 years in the field of food consulting. Margaret is a self-employed consultant in the food industry. She serves as a liaison between cheese farmers, producers, and the wholesale retail market on an international basis. She specializes in Italian cheeses. She liaises with the official consortium in Italy. Ms. Cicogna is a volunteer with the Italian Trade Commission.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 writes: “This is the 200th year since St. Philippine Duchesne arrived in the U.S., and I have moved from Albany, NY to St. Charles, MO, site of the first Sacred Heart school and of the shrine that houses her remains. I am happy to reconnect with Harriet Switzer ’57, Louise McKeen Belt ’57, and Sr. Julia Huiskamp ’57, DC.”

Mary Page Fuger Hickey ’58 writes that she is “81 and not done yet!” Hardly! She reports lots of family travel, tennis, yoga, and, especially, botanical painting, which keeps her grounded and cerebrally exercised. Last spring, she had a painting in an exhibition at the Garden Museum in London for four months. “Very exciting.”

Claire Miller McGowan ’58 is still busy, after more than 20 years, with the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, which plays a major role in discovering promising opera singers and developing their careers. The program is run by volunteers in 12 regions, and singers compete for cash prizes and a place on the Met stage for the Auditions Concert.

Mary Ellen (Mel) Mechon Oldenburg ’58 is the only owner of Mechon Military Posters and now has an agent working on her behalf in London. A major highlight of her business was the recent exhibition, “World War I and the Visual Arts,” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which featured a few of her posters (with owner credits!) and a 1917 gas mask she found at a flea market in France.

1960s

Mickey Bourgeois Randazza ’60 had a great vacation in Costa Rica for a week in January. She and Polly enjoyed having 12 members of their families join them.

Clayle Dalferes ’60 flew to Louisiana in October for Mater’s Feast at the Academy in Grand Coteau and her sister’s 70th class reunion. She writes: “It can be done!”

Gini Calvo ’60, MA ’66 continues to be active in her parish, sharing and promoting Centering Prayer and working to ensure the continuance of an all laity-maintained Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel in Saco, Maine. The chapel serves all of southern Maine and has been in continuous existence for almost 15 years! Gini says, “The best gift of my education is my faith.”

Carolyn Sullivan Savage ’60 is so glad Elaine keeps us connected via email, stating, “Our college years and the friends we made are all so special and her hard work means so much to all of us.”

Stephanie Cooper Payson ’60 announces the birth of grandchild #11, “with the birth in May 2016 of Milla Payson, our second son’s fifth child—no more little bundles expected in the near future, but with two grandchildren in their 20s anything is possible! We continue our routine of Maine seven months, Florida five months.”

Alice O’Neil ’58 not only still engages in sports, she was recently honored for her prowess and love of tennis when the Beacon Hill Times printed a long article, “Alice O’Neil: A Star Athlete Continues to Shine,” celebrating the awarding of her of honorary membership at the Badminton & Tennis Club.

Ceci Sullivan Murray ’60 is looking forward to a romantic Rhine River cruise in June with her hubby Jack and will miss our annual luncheon get-together at the College.

Mary Regan Clinton ’60 sends word that she survived the recent hurricane and devastation to her Puerto Rico home. She writes, “I was here for 10 days after—no water, electric, phone or elevator—and I am on the 21st floor, so 284 stairs up and down—kept me thin and well organized! Then flew home to friends and family for two months until I was comfortable returning to assess damage. It has been a struggle, but makes one evaluate priorities and deal appropriately with ‘stuff.’ Bottom line: The people are resilient and although full restoration of services is not expected for many months, smiles and charity make the sun shine brighter on this lovely island. I am happy to call home.”

Rose Marie Oliva-Guzzo ’60 writes, “My lecture presentations have been flourishing. My 2018 schedule includes: ‘Celebrating the Music of the Harlem Renaissance’ in February, and ‘The Parisian Jazz Violinist, Stephane Grappelli’ in March. We do analytical listening and cover the music history of the time. God bless Dr. Lyder and Mother Morgan! They were so ‘instrumental’ in my music career.”

Debby Doyle Faust ’60 announces, “My move back to northern IL is working out well. Great fun to spend time with Courtney (12) and John Zander (just turned 3). I had lunch with Lani Gross ‘60, a few weeks ago, and hope to reconnect with some of our other classmates in the area as time goes on. Keeping busy in a wonderful parish.”

Elaine Edden Stillwell ’60 is thrilled that her husband Joe came through with flying colors from October 25th TAVR heart surgery which added a very happy note to their Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. This followed the Oct. 8th celebration of the 30th birthday of the Compassionate Friends of Rockville Centre, a support group for parents who have lost a child, where Elaine and Joe were honored for founding the group and continuing as Chapter Leaders all these years, welcoming 50 bereaved parents each month. As Elaine says, “We found our purpose!”

Esther Kando Odescalchi ’60, Ph.D. writes: “I am still teaching at both colleges, Marist and Dutchess. The subjects include Grant Writing and Grant Research, Inventions and Patents, Successful Fundraising Techniques and believe it or not in the spring I have a course on Love for Sale, The History of the World’s Oldest Profession. In addition, I teach dancing, more than 10 hours a week in different venues, and never had as many students as I do now.”

Marcelline Roerkohl Thomson ’61 has published Dreaming of Oranges, An Unreliable Memoir. The action begins when two young women in a college many may recognize as Manhattanville read Lawrence Durrell’s Alexandria Quartet. It inspires a search for adventure in Cyprus and the Middle East where they get a lot more than they bargained for in a fast-moving, engrossing tale of love, intrigue and the trials of friendship.

Phyllis Grissim Theroux ’61 writes: “At 78, I am grateful for many things that make my life richer than I deserve. Health, meaningful work, and, most importantly, people to love. I wake up almost every morning eager to begin the day. Every so often I accomplish something. The rest of the time something is accomplished in me.”

Dr. Elizabeth McLoughlin ’63 writes: “My husband, Thomas Livingston Hall, died May 20, 2017 after 2.5 years of AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia). I miss him, but am essentially fine. Since I live in San Francisco, I’m not coming to the CSH-Ninety-First Street reunion this year, and everything else is up in the air. Be well, classmates!”

Susan Maxwell, RSCJ ’63, MA ’68 and former trustee, received the annual Goal Award in November 2017, the most prestigious honor given by the Sheridan Road School of the Sacred Heart in Chicago. The award was bestowed in recognition of her leadership as director from 1997–2009, during which time Susan established the school’s service to the Edgewater community where the school is located, ensuring that community service was woven effectively into the school’s curriculum. Susan has also written Times Change: A History of the Sacred Heart Schools since the Second Vatican Council. A memoir of the turbulence and the triumphs of this period of educational history, she traces the development of the current vision statement of Sacred Heart education.

Mary Clarke ’64 writes: “At 75, I’m still guiding students how to improve their test scores, pick appropriate colleges, and write honest application essays. I’ve also thought about writing a book, What Did You Think You’d Be When You Grew Up.”

Nedra Headen Ewart ’64 writes: “My husband Allan, who recently retired, was an adoptee and I have been intensively searching for his birth family. With the help of ‘search’ angels, Facebook, insurance records, graveyards, and newspaper clippings, I have found his younger sister, two half-brothers, nieces and cousins who are still alive. On Valentine’s Day this year, we also found Allan’s remaining lost family, a brother’s family and uncle’s family in England. On the same day, Allan had cataract surgery and the other will be done in March. Back on the farm, one of our dogs sustained a tick bite in PA and had to have his left eye removed the end of January. ‘I’m a New York City girl living in rural eastern TN, raising cattle. I am the admin of my church’s Facebook page and co-webmaster of our website. My church is St. Teresa of Kolkata, in Maynardville, TN, in the heart of rural Appalachia, and we are about to start construction of the very first Catholic Church in Union County.”

Elizabeth Phillips ’65 has been named Provincial of the United States—Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart for a three-year term beginning in August 2018.

Elizabeth Brown Phillips ’65 helped the Office of Alumni Relations distribute Manhattanville College t-shirts to hurricane victims in Houston. Elizabeth facilitated a donation to a local agency, SEARCH, a nondenominational organization for the homeless. Other alumni who helped with the effort include Marisa Ruderman Alwon ’05, MPS ’07, Carol Ann Casseh Anderson ’63, Patricia Duffy Doyle ’49, James Fox ’11, Ann Driscoll Hoar ’67, Janelle Little ’11, Jennifer Newcomb-Fernandez ’94, Cheryl Woolf ’11.

Elizabeth Schneider Kitamura ’56 writes: “Warm greetings to all my classmates. Teaching English and doing intercultural activities still keep Taro and me busy. We are doting grandparents (mainly via Skype) to Frederic (5) and Nancy (1). Mother still going strong at 99 (100 in August). Hope all are well. Come visit if you or family are in the area. Love to all.”

Sheila Hammond, RSCJ ’65, has been named Provincial of the United States-Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart for a three-year term beginning in August 2018.

Sheila McConville Fane ’67, MA ’68 writes: “I am still enjoying teaching in the Studio Art department and have joined the list of happy grandmothers last April. Enjoyed the 50th reunion and would recommend that everyone think of going to the Library Advisory Committee. Great job everyone!”

Dorothée Didden Riederer ’66 writes: “In October, fourteen of us 66ers gathered for a mini-reunion. Two years ago, during our 50th, many of us commented on the ‘aura’ of love for one another and happiness that lasted for weeks afterward the reunion, and how desperately we wanted to keep it going. Well, I’m glad to report it came right back on that October afternoon in Malino’s party room. At the end of our delicious lunch, someone said, ‘Oh no! I forgot to take pictures,’ but then she added, ‘Oh, well, it wouldn’t have been possible to capture all the love and happiness in this room today anyway.’ It’s true! We do have something very special when we are together. It’s a rare bond, and I’m thrilled to report, it seems to be easily rekindled. We’ve decided that we will make the Sunday of Columbus Day Weekend, at midday, our regular day and time to get together every year. The place will be in New York City. The particular venue is yet to be determined; we will gladly accept suggestions. I hope we can aim for 30 or 40 ‘66ers in October, 2018. Please save that date and time! Just writing this has made me miss all of you ferociously. Please take very good care of yourselves.”

Carolyn Feleppa Balducci ’67 Giovanni the Fearless, a commedia dell’arte musical (book and lyric by Carolyn Balducci ’67, music by Mira J. Spetor) was performed in May 2017 at the Theater for the New City. Always interested in more productions! (We could do an abridged concert version as a benefit.) A story of mine, “Strega,” was published, in the Winter 2017 issues of VLA—Voices in Italian Americana (Bordighera Press).

Noel Colaneri ’67 completed another leg of El Camino de Santiago, Northern route, in fall 2017 from Llanes to Ribadeo, Spain.

Mary McNally Valder ’67 writes: “I retired after 16 years at the Trilateral Commission. Great job and wonderful experiences. I spent the summer and fall getting ready for and recovering from open heart surgery. But I made it to a cruise in early October, all healed and ready for fun! And I’m having no trouble staying busy now! I still smile when I think about our reunion. What joy!!!”

Carolyn Look-Dougherty, we have a three-year term beginning in August 2018. We are awaiting matching funds including some large and small from classmatess and we are working with the works from the America Nicaragua Foundation to complete the project this year! Over the moon to finally be a grandmother of Xavier Look-Dougherty born January 23rd! At our 50th Reunion in 2016, I cited my lack of grandchildren as my one regret so could not be happier!!!”

Mary McNally Valder ’67 writes: “I retired after 16 years at the Trilateral Commission. Great job and wonderful experiences. I spent the summer and fall getting ready for and recovering from open heart surgery. But I made it to a cruise in early October, all healed and ready for fun! And I’m having no trouble staying busy now! I still smile when I think about our reunion. What joy!!!”

Elizabeth Roberts Baer ’68, Ph.D. writes: “I have been invited to serve as a docent at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in DC and have been appointed to the Library Advisory Committee in my new home in Silver Spring, Maryland. I am hoping to see lots of classmates at our 50th reunion in June!”

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Evelyn Soen Lee ’69
Since graduation from Manhattanville and Yale University School of Music, Evelyn Soen has been teaching piano and music theory at a Twin Cities school of music. In the past ten years she had two articles published. An article on yoga in a piano studio was published in the American Music Teacher, the official journal of the Music Teachers National Association. The second, entitled “Having Fun with Scales” was published in the September/October 2017 issue of Clavier Companion, The Piano Magazine. Many of her students have won in Minnesota student competitions as well as in her school’s honor competition. She has three children and four grandchildren.

Christine Spangler ’69 writes: “I just wanted to share with you the publication of a new book upon which I collaborated, Embroidery and Sacred Text by Rachel Braun, 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. Her pieces relate to passages from the Bible or Jewish religious scholarship. (Everyone needs worthwhile projects for retirement.)”

1970s
Mary Anne Dudac Geertmsa ’70 writes: “I inadvertently fell into a career that I thoroughly loved—hospital ministry—after graduating from Yale Divinity with a concentration in medical ethics back in 1984. Nineteen out of my 29 years in my profession were spent as director of pastoral care at Eastern CT Health Network. My work was a great preparation for this latter phase of my life, retirement. I am able to do those things that I’ve always loved: reading and more reading, hanging out with friends and family, visiting my children (Matthew and Meleah) and grandchildren (Erik, Kate, and Hiro), savoring peacefulness... and waiting for my husband, Alex, whom I met 50 years ago this past Jan. on a blind date arranged by Kathy Gallagher ’70, to retire, too. It’s been an interesting trip so far—more often wonderful than not, I feel blessed.”

Joan Benvenuto Skerry ’70 writes: “My beloved husband, Page L. Skerry, passed away in 2017 after a short (one month) but terrible bout with cancer.”

Anne Feldhaus ’71, Ph.D. has been elected Vice-President and incoming President of the Association for Asian Studies. She will assume the office of President at the end of March this year.

Natalie McSherry ’71, principal at the Maryland law firm Kramon & Graham, has been recognized by the Best Lawyers in America 2018 for her extensive experience in commercial litigation, health care law, medical malpractice—defendants, and mediation. She was named Baltimore Lawyer of the Year in Health Care Law. Natalie was also named in the Leaders in their Field category by 2017 Chambers USA. In addition, 2018 Benchmark Litigation recognized Natalie as a Local Litigation Star for her general commercial and securities practices. Benchmark named Natalie in its Top 250 Women in Litigation for 2018.

Anna Goodwin ’72 Built a custom house on three acres in the hill country of Texas after retirement. Career highlights—bioenvironmental engineer for Dept. of Defense, software engineer for Sabre Holdings—American Airlines, three children, five grandchildren. Traveled the world for business and pleasure.

Ladi Martinez ’72 writes: “After living in a few countries around the world I have retired in Bradenton, FL.”

Sarah Luick ’73 Sarah is proud to have served on the board of directors of the Animal Legal Defense Fund for many years and is currently board chair. ALDF has been responsible for the emergence and growth of the field of animal law within law schools, by aiding prosecutors with cruelty cases, and by filing cutting-edge litigation, all to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals.

José Cruz ’75 writes: “After seven and a half years as Principal of MAST High School I will be retiring effective January 31, 2018. My seven and half years at MAST have been the most rewarding of my career. I will miss the wonderful students who blossomed before my eyes and who inspired me daily.”

Hilda Chaski Adams ’73 and Courtney Fusz ’04 have been working in the field of high-end jewelry for the last 39 years, and the last 14 years have been with Reinstein Ross in NYC. I’m a single mom of a delightful 16-year-old daughter (Lizzy) and she is in the midst of the college process. Manhattanville is her first choice!”

Gretchen Hathaway ’79, Ph.D. has published an article on the Top 10 recommendations for inaugural CDOs in Insight into Diversity (July/August 2017), a premier publication on diversity, equity and inclusion issues. She also published her historical fiction book, A Bonded Friendship: Moses and Eliphalet. It can be found on Amazon.com. Gretchen writes, “I prefer small local bookstores—but one day it may be in B&N or a New York Times bestseller.”

1980s
Connie Johnston Hambley ’81 embraces the changes in the publishing world by being both traditionally and independently published. Her high-concept thrillers feature remarkable women entangled in modern-day crimes. After receiving her law degree, she moved to Boston and has written for major publications. Her short story, “Giving Voice” is featured in Level Best Books’ Best New England Crime Stories: Windward, and her suspense novels, The Charity and The Troubles, were joined by The Wake in 2017.

Sandra Bauer Miklave’81 has been named the new Executive Director of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. She continues to be the board chair at Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk, Connecticut.
Anne Driesse Villanova ’81 writes: “I was recently presented with a new Conservationist of Works of Art on Paper at the Harvard Art Museums and am now approaching my 30th year here. Besides working with an amazing collection from ancient to modern works of art I’m also involved with several important upcoming exhibitions. In 2019, the Harvard Art Museums will celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Bauhaus by launching an exhibition of material from our collection. Later that same year Harvard will launch an exhibition of Homer at Harvard where we will display a majority of our Homer watercolors alongside our two Homer paintings, as well as five prints that relate to a recently acquired Zouave drawing. Harvard has approximately 25 Homer watercolors and many have not been exhibited in years. I will participate in a technical examination of the watercolors looking at Homer’s technique and choice of materials. If anyone is ever in the area, I would be happy to give them a tour.”

Liz Williams Harrison ’81 received a Masters in Spiritual Guidance from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in 2016, and is currently completing her second year in seminary. She will be ordained as an Interfaith Minister in June at New York’s famed Riverside Church. She’s opened a private practice as a spiritual director in Montana, holding workshops, women’s spirituality groups, and seeing individual clients. Liz is starting her 18th year as a hospice patient-care volunteer, and hopes to be hired as a hospice Chaplain upon her ordination.

Richard F. Dieguez ’82, publicly known as XiaoMoro, had a solo exhibition at the museum at New Jersey’s Morristown National Historical Park from February to December, 2018 titled “George Washington’s Headquarters: Photographs by XiaoMoro.” A free eBook of his images is available at www.xiomaro.com where additional information about gallery talks and related events is posted.

Stephanie Kloos Donoghue ’82 of Ardsley, New York, celebrates the 30th anniversary of her company, S. Kloos Communications Inc., in 2018. Her award-winning firm designs print and web communications for small businesses, associations, and health care professionals. Stephanie is a member of Manhattanville’s President’s Advisory Council and is on the Executive Advisory Council of the college’s Women’s Leadership Institute.

Nancy Quinn Koba ’82 was elected to a third four-year term as Town Justice for the Town of Ossining on November 7, 2017.

Paige Pateracki Asawa ’84, Ph.D. Dr. Asawa is a licensed marriage and family therapist, registered art therapist, and full-time faculty and Director of the Helen B. Landgarten Art Therapy Center at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). She has been actively practicing art therapy for over 20 years and currently teaches the family art therapy courses at LMU. She mentors graduate student research projects and the clinical and research fellowships. Over the past decade, she has developed seven art therapy programs that provide services for a range of populations from pregnant and parenting teens to disaster and trauma response to providing art therapy for homeless women veterans. Dr. Asawa has authored many publications and provided presentations both nationally and internationally supporting the field of art therapy. She has twice received the distinguished clinician of the year from the American Art Therapy Association first in 2007 and again in 2017 for her work in family art therapy.

Nora Kanze Manuele ’84 writes: “My father, Edward J. Kanze died in August. He was also the husband of Joyce B. Kanze, MAT ’79 (RIP). I was their full-time caregiver.”

Marlene Sallo ’86 has been named the Executive Director of the Disability Law Center, the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. The agency is responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities. The Center also has the authority to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities receiving services in facilities, including juvenile detention facilities, jails and prisons.

Carmen Teresa Muñoz Alvarado ’88 writes: “I am a real estate broker and have been promoted to work for the Federal Government as a Realty Specialist in the GSA Department in Puerto Rico.”

Yolanda Sheffield Williams ’88 has had a professional change to Executive Vice President/Executive Officer at Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey.

1990s

Kyla Fishbeck Howell ’90 was one of 28 women selected for Emerge Tennessee’s Spring 2018 cohort. Emerge Tennessee is an essential step for Democratic women who want to run for public office in the state. Its six-month training provides Democratic women with the comprehensive knowledge they need to achieve their political aspirations. She is an attorney with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. Ms. Howell is a former U.S. Senate legislative assistant. She is the vice chair of the Signal Mountain Centennial Committee, an adult volunteer with Girl Scouts USA, and a member of the Signal Mountain Lions Club.

Jeffrey Bingham Mead, MAT ’90 was a keynote speaker to the leaders of Shanghai-based Yinuo Art Exchange (Yinu VIPcom) and the Yinuo Art Foundation and will launch of both its global art trading platform and its traveling One-Belt-One-Road New York City Exhibition and “Art for Peace” initiative in developing countries at the United Nations in November 2017. Mead is the host of the Marvels of China: Pathways to the Pacific Rim show on 1490 WGCH and anywhere at WGCH.com, Greenwich Connecticut, now in its third successful year on the air.

Joanne Piombino Browning ’90 has been elected to be the Vice President of the Children’s Librarian’s Association of Suffolk County.

Lorett Donovan, MAT ’91 continues to be actively involved in community affairs. As a commissioner of the Water Pollution Control Authority, and a member of the Senior Citizen Tax Abatement Committee, she is making a positive impact on Brookfield, CT.

Anne Haffner Sullivan ’92 writes: “I launched my own business, LifeStream Digital Innovations, LLC. If you know someone applying to high school, college, or for a job, they need to supplement their application with a LifeStream portfolio! Thanks to all Manhattanville alumni who have supported me in this new adventure!”

Lou (Louise) Clark ’92 writes: “Most recently I accepted a faculty position as the Assistant Dean of Clinical Skills Education & Innovation with the new medical school, which is a partnership between Texas Christian University (TCU) and University of North Texas (UNT), opening in Fort Worth in July of 2019. I am transitioning from being the Director of Clinical Simulation for a health sciences university in the DC area. In 2015 I graduated with a doctorate in Human Communication from Arizona State University. The year before, in 2014, my partner Julie Holston and I were married in Groton, Massachusetts. It’s been an action-packed few years!”

Lynn Nevin Cukaj ’94 is currently working as an art therapist and teacher in Somers, NY. She is married with three children (ages 15, 12, 11). In addition to working, she is also an active exhibitor of her artwork. Her latest shows are on display at the Mahopac Library in Mahopac, NY. She is also facilitating an after-school art therapy group and is in the planning phase of creating a mindful art therapy parent group at her local library. Her goal is to bring the healing power of creativity to the community. Art is a powerful tool for stress and anxiety management.

Dory Lombardo Kurowski ’95 is now also a product ambassador for India Hicks, in addition to running her start up business, My Conscience, My Choice. India Hicks is a sophisticated lifestyle brand of the fashion icon with the same name (daughter of famous British Interior designer, David Hicks). In addition to jewelry, bags, accessories, home decor, and limited edition curated items, the brand just launched a skin care line with five product staples, all clean-ingredient and cruelty-free. For more information, visit: www.indahicks.com/rep/doryanne.

Jayne Schiff, MPS ’95 was inducted into the American College Financial Services Alumni Hall of Fame in recognition of her exceptional professionalism and dedication to the College and its educational mission.

(continued on page 44)
Jayne was the first woman to serve as president of the College's Alumni Association Advisory Board and continues to serve as an emeritus member. Jayne is an independent insurance agent with the Schiff Benefits Group, L.L.C.

Jason Rivera '97, Ph.D. (see Spotlight on Alumni article.)

Darlene D’Alliessi Gandolfi '98, Ph.D. writes: “I was recently promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor at Manhattanville and continue to Chair the Chemistry Department.”

Christine FitzPatrick, MAT '99 Christine FitzPatrick of FitzPatrick Design, Inc. is a proud recipient of the 2018 Houzz Design Award for Client Satisfaction in Kitchen Design and Cabinetry. This makes six years in a row she has won this honor.

Gillian Lynn Katz '99 writes: “I visited my homeland of South Africa after a 36-year absence. We had many adventures including walking with lions. I have pictures of me touching many animals including cheetahs and elephants. Cape Town is a magnificent city and the people were among the friendliest I have ever met in my entire life.”

2000s

Katherine Flannery Dering, MA '00, MFA '13 reports that Finishing Line Press has accepted her poetry chapbook, *Aftermath,* for publication later this year. Beginning with the shock of losing her nephew to a heroin overdose, then the loss of two close friends a few months later, the book moves through grief, recovery and finding new purpose. In 2014 the author published a memoir, titled *Shot in the Head, a Sister’s Memoir, a Brother’s Struggle,* about caring for her schizophrenic brother.

Phyllis Cicchetti Carito, MA '01, MFA '13 writes: “As of December 2017, I retired from my 22 years at SUNY Columbia-Greene Community College where I was the Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs. The Board of Trustees named me Dean Emeritus at the December meeting. The College Library dedicated a Poet’s Corner in my name in the library. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk-2wbkFulos. I can now concentrate on my writing career. My novel, published in October, 2016, *Worn Masks,* will be, hopefully, followed with a collection of short stories.”

Jeanine Soto Mendez '01 was named as director of development, and public and government relations in the Bronx. A Bronx native, Mendez will oversee and implement the non-profit’s fundraising strategies, build brand awareness and cultivate relationships with foundations, government agencies, and major donors in the region, to help advance the work of the Children’s Foundation of Avtor.

Quinn Doyle Luestner ’02 lives in Australia with her husband and three young children.

Adam Rodriguez ’02 has become Of Counsel to the firm Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP. Before joining Bleakley Platt, Mr. Rodriguez was the Director of Real Estate for Westchester County, where he negotiated complex commercial real estate transactions, including leases for office space throughout the county and multi-million dollar hangar leases at the Westchester County Airport.

Pia Fiorelli Son '02 writes: “I’ve been married for eight years. My daughter Olivia was born in 2013, and she started pre-K this year. I’ve been a teacher at the same school for 15 years. As of last year the school district has become authorized as an International Baccalaureate school.”

Kells Hetherington ’03 and Alison Devenny were married June, 2017 in Washington D.C. Kells is an independent trader and financial analyst, trading stocks, bonds, and options. Alison Devenny Hetherington is a director of Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance. They now reside in Pensacola, Florida.

Verderico Manganelli, MPS ‘03 is a special education and social studies teacher at Eastchester High School (for over 15 years) and an adjunct professor at Mercy and St. Thomas Aquinas College where he teaches graduate classes in methods of teaching social studies. Verderico recently published his first children's book, *Loud Zoo* (the title is based on a phonetic representation of the name Lao Tzu) is a whimsical story that highlights several animals found in a zoo, that exemplifies some of Lao Tzu’s teachings. Each narrative includes a reference to one of Lao Tzu’s teachings.

Jamie Geller ’04 has transitioned from female to male and is now James Geller ’04. Preference is male pronouns.

Casey Cummings, MAT ’05

Farid Johnson ‘04, MPS ’07 is the new principal at Stony Point Elementary.

Casey Cummings, MAT ’05 was named assistant principal, Springdale Elementary School effective August, 2017.

Lauren DeSilva-Hornung ’06 and husband Jeffrey Hornung welcomed their daughter Madison Riley Hornung in August, 2016.

Steven Schimmel ’06 and Alissa Chikeles Schimmel ’07 are enjoying living in Shrewsbury in Central Massachusetts.

Tina Tocco, MA ’06, MFA ’13 Tina’s flash fiction “That Boy’s a Catch” and “Necessaries,” previously published in the Spring, 2016 issue of *New Ohio Review,* have been nominated for the anthology *New Stories from the Midwest 2018.*

Sara Feiman ’07 welcomed son Sean in April, 2017.

Andrew Deacon ’08 is currently a K–5 Literacy Specialist for the Torrington Public Schools in Torrington, Connecticut. He completed his Sixth Year Degree in Reading and Language Arts in December, 2017.

Brian Fink ’08 married Jacqueline Titolo in September, 2017. Brian is a police officer in the emergency service unit, which is the rescue and tactical team, of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Ms. Titolo, 31, is the digital strategist for Think Public Relations in Manhattan. They met through mutual friends Matt Schimmel ’07 and Casey Cummings, MAT ’05.

2010s

Lauren DeSilva-Hornung ’06 and husband, Jeffrey Hornung

Steven is the Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Central MA and Alissa is a Director with the MetroWest YMCA. They enjoy meeting up on the Cape with old Manhattanville friends Matt Schimmel and Blythe Godwin and reminiscing about the good old days with the Whack Pack, going to political conventions with Michael A. Harris, planning the 14-year reunion of the Gem Association (a subsidiary of the Purchase Group), and Alissa’s hours of dancing in the Little Theater at Manhattanville.

Lauren DeSilva-Hornung ’06 and husband, Jeffrey Hornung
past January at George Washington's Mount Vernon; four films for the Museum of the American Revolution (a brand new national museum which opened April 2017), notably the “4D Battlefield Theater” and “Washington’s War Tent;” two films, “The Siege of Yorktown 4D Experience” and “Liberty Fever,” for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown opened October 2016. This past August saw him on Guadacanal in the Solomon Islands for the 75th anniversary of the WW2 battle. He looks forward to embarking on his next venture, taking groups of people on expeditions to some of history’s most remote battlefields in the Pacific and Asia.

Roderick Fludd, MEd ‘09 was appointed Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Shorecrest Preparatory School in Tampa, Florida. The Director of Diversity and Inclusion plans, implements, and measures the diversity initiatives of the school. The role also supports the recruitment and retention of families from diverse backgrounds, partners with faculty for curriculum planning, and serves as a school liaison to the greater Tampa Bay Area community.

Sebastian Granzo ‘09 writes: “I became a member of Shepard Kaplan LLC, a wealth management firm in Boston, MA and also was promoted to Chief Compliance Officer.”

Jennifer Schwartz-Crawford ‘09 is currently an LMSW and a Program Specialist (Aging Services) at the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

2010s

DeVon Barnett ‘10 writes: “I graduated from law school in May 2017 and passed the July 2017 New York State bar exam. I’m currently a first-year associate attorney at Schulte Roth & Zabel, LLP.”

Andrew Israel, MAT ‘10 Andrew Israel passed away in August 2016 after a 13-month battle with rectal cancer. He was a beloved math teacher at IS 77, in Ridgewood Queens. He is missed by his children, wife, many friends, and of course his students.

Craig Brendli, MPS ‘11 was elected to the Dutchess County Legislature, District 8, on November 7, 2017.

Dillon Geyselaers ‘11 recently joined SAG-AFTRA after booking a national network commercial and a small role in Amazon’s new series, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, which won a Golden Globe for best TV comedy.

Michelle Rojas ‘11 writes: “Since I graduated in 2011, I began my career in the field of human resources. I have been working diligently to ensure to become an expert in my field. In 2016, I became a Benefits Manager for Emigrant Bank, one of the oldest privately owned banks in NYC. The company has many ventures in capital markets, investment firms, golf companies, beverage industry with Boylan Bottling Inc, and real estate at Milestein Companies.

Recently, I was promoted to HR Operations manager where my focus is more HR compliance. I also recently was recruited and accepted to be a member of the HR Roundtable Club that houses over 100 hand-selected HR professionals in upper management roles within great companies—among these are Peloton, Dos Toros, and Planned Parenthood.”

Michael Adamovic’h12 has published Hudson Valley Reflections: Illustrated Travel and Field Guide which documents scenery, historic sites, architecture, and more within the 100-mile-long region along New York’s Hudson River Valley. A naturalist and photographer, he also spends his time working on ecological restoration projects across the Hudson Valley as part of the team at One Nature, LLC in Beacon, NY.

Charlotte Gerrish, MAT ‘12 and Simon Emilyn Koster were married in June, 2017 at the University Club in New York City. Charlotte is a second grade teacher at St. Bernard’s School in New York City.

Alexandra Clisham ‘13, MAT ‘17 graduated from Manhattanville College School of Education May, 2017.

Barbara Perez Marquez ’13, MFA ‘15 is one of the authors of an upcoming graphic novel, The Cardboard Revolution for Young Readers. Book comes out June, 2018.

Tina Marie Roode ‘13, MAT ‘14 directed and choreographed an original show for her middle school students called ‘A Trip Around the World: A Journey through Music, Art and Dance.” The show surveyed history from the beginning of time to the present. Scenes included dances, songs and skits about India, China, Greece, Africa, Peru, the American Revolution, the Civil War, WW2 and more! All of the dances were choreographed and taught by Tina. The songs and skits were written by students in Tina’s social studies classes. Students enthusiastically performed and both shows were a huge success. After the show, there was a museum and the exhibits featured Tina’s students’ essays, political cartoons, I-Movies, Google-Slides presentations, art-work, creative writing pieces and research projects. The show and museum exhibit truly took audiences on a Trip Around the World!

Cat Wilson ‘13 is now working in Chicago as a Content Marketing Manager for Bostrom.

Jack Norris’15 Analyst at Goldman Sachs in the Securities Division has recently changed career paths from Risk Management to Institutional Sales. For Jack’s first two years at the firm (2015–2017), he focused on operational risk within the Sales and Trading arm of the firm, but was recently extended an offer to join the Interest Rate Products Sales desk, focusing on Agency Mortgage Backed Securities Sales. Jack will join the IRP Sales team in March as a Senior Analyst.

Megan Duffy ‘15 writes: “I’m studying for a master’s degree in Library and Information Science at St. John’s University and I am interning at the library of St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.”

Meaghan Nagurney, ME ‘15, has been promoted to Director of the Therapy Center for Abilis, Inc., in Stamford, CT. Previously, she worked as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Special Education teacher.

Jessica Iodice ‘16 writes: “Post-grad life has been a very interesting adventure! As of now I’m an assistant manager at Swaroski. Just recently, I picked up a part-time temporary position at Bonhams Auction House. I’ll be joining a small group as an assistant for four months. There I’ll be working closely with specialists, and engaging with clients about the works displayed in the galleries. Not sure where it will lead me, but at least it’s something towards my profession! As for adventures, I’m looking forward to the summer where I’ll be visiting Prague with a few friends!”

Tashae Smith ‘17 has accepted a full-time position as Education Coordinator at the Hudson River Maritime Museum.
The entire Manhattanville community is saddened by the passing of Sandra Priest Rose on August 31, 2017. As a generous philanthropist and staunch advocate for high-quality reading education for all children, Sandy rose to the occasion so that we could be part of her extraordinary legacy.

As an alumna of what is now the School of Arts and Sciences of Manhattanville College, Sandy served on Manhattanville College’s Board of Trustees, helped to build the campus, and, with her husband Fred, donated the College mace that is carried at commencement.

The Rose Institute for Learning and Literacy at Manhattanville College is a teacher-training institute committed to advancing the foundational literacy skills of early readers by improving the instructional expertise of teachers in the teaching of reading.

The Institute provides year-long job-embedded training to enable teachers to become proficient in teaching reading, writing, spelling, and comprehension to all students. Teachers gain expertise in a multisensory approach to teaching reading skills explicitly and systematically.

Since the Rose Institute’s launch, it has trained teachers in districts in New York City, New Rochelle, and Mount Vernon. Assessments have shown that students in all classes have improved their reading and writing skills after their teachers used the Rose Institute’s techniques.

Sandy Rose was a force with strong beliefs about how to help children learn to read. She shared her many gifts with us at Manhattanville so that we could be part of her extraordinary legacy.
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