Spring is a joyful time. It’s a season that brings renewed energy and on a college campus, it’s a time for reflection and celebration. For many, this year has flown by quickly. Certainly for the Class of ’16 these last few weeks of writing papers and taking exams may have felt like the longest of your entire college career. But you’ve made it! Congratulations on all of your hard work and we celebrate your accomplishments!

In the spirit of reflection and celebration, I am happy to share with you the exciting things going on in our Department these days. In this newsletter you will read about the numerous campus events and activities that members of our department were involved in during Spring 2016. These events include the student production of the Vagina Monologues, the Undergrad Research Fair, and Ella Baker Day. We also showcase the variety of topics the seniors researched for their senior theses. You will find updates from department alumni in this issue as well. We learn what they have been doing since graduating from Mville and what classes made the biggest impact on their lives.

Before signing off, I’d like to acknowledge two people: Prof Kristin Hedges and our student worker Calía Borden ’16. Visiting Assistant Professor Kristin Hedges brought enthusiasm and greatly contributed to our department this year. We wish Prof Hedges all the very best in her new job in Michigan! We in the Department would be remiss if we did not highlight our wonderful student worker Calía. She has helped bring to life our newsletters this year and has set the bar high for future issues! Congratulations Calía on your graduation. We know you are destined for great things in the future!

Happy Spring!
Prof. Beth Williford

Manhattanville College’s 6th Annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievement Fair took place April 6th. The following Soc-Anth students presented their work, from their Senior Theses and papers from their Classical Social Theory course to fellow students and faculty at the fair:

Joanna Perez, Cassia Fletcher, Chi Hoang, and Calía Borden
Congratulations, Class of 2016!

Senior Theses

The Digital Arising: The Emerging Role of Social Media in Activism  Khalea Baker

Cross-Cultural Explorations of Colorism: The Case of the US, Brazil and India  Calia Borden

Women on the Front Line: How Civilians and Military Personnel Perceive Women in Combat Roles  Carmela Cautillo

Reproductive Injustice  Quanah Coburn

Women’s Reproductive Rights  Lauren Connolly

Gender Gap Amongst Educators: A Study of Men and Women in the Elementary Work Force and its Effects on Students  Kayla DeMarco

The Sex Education Level of Students at Manhattanville  Danielle DiNapoli

Dress Coded: Gender-Specific School Dress Codes  Briana Fioretti

Black Beauty and Social Media  Cassia Fletcher

Cellphone Affect on Face to Face Interactions Between College Students  Leslie Grande

The Social Lives of Asian Male College Students in the US: Gender Stereotypes and Strategies  Chi Hoang

Race and Ethnicity: African American College Experience  Djenne Naki Jean-Louis

Tech Companies Change Parental Leave Policy  Amanda Liguori

The Evolution of Dating  Jenny Marchesani

Torn Between Two Worlds: Understanding Puerto Rican Identity in the US  Karissa Payero

Service Providers and Support Services for Young Adults With Developmental Disabilities  Joanna Perez

College Education: Is it Worth the Debt?  Christine Pfeiffer

Gender and Race in Video Game Culture  Nichole Ramos-Mora

Female Firefighters’ Perspectives in a Male Dominated Profession  Heather Stone
ELLA BAKER DAY

On April 13th the Soc–Anth department celebrated Mvillle’s first annual Ella Baker Day. Prof Strmic–Pawl’s History of Social Action class (SOC 2076) kicked off the day with poster presentations in the cafeteria during lunch. The posters covered topics ranging from voter suppression, redistricting, restoring voter rights, participatory democracy, campaign finance, and race, gender, and the vote. Kevin Powell, author and activist, gave a truly inspiring keynote speech that evening in the West Room. Mr. Powell spoke about Ella Baker’s influence, noting her lasting impact on organizing and our understanding of leadership. He also reflected on the ways that everyday people are contributing to progressive social movements today. He encouraged everyone in attendance to be involved in the fight for social justice.

WHO WAS ELLA BAKER?

Ella Baker, who lived much of her life in Harlem, was an educator, an activist, and a leader. She collaborated with notable organizations including the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Baker was known for her sincere belief in the potential and dignity of every individual and has been recognized by many as the mother of the Civil Rights Movement. Ella Baker Day is a campaign to create a holiday in honor of Ella Baker in New York; the petition can be found at bit.ly/EBD–NY. Ella Baker Day, the event, highlights the ongoing value of community organizing and the pivotal roles that women and people of color have played in creating a more just society.
"I felt that he [Kevin Powell] really wanted the students in the audience to understand that we do have many opportunities to advocate, inspire, and demand change, as we saw with Baker and the activists of SNCC."

RAI-YA WILSON '17

"I was really moved by the amount of people that attended both the poster session in the cafeteria as well as the talk by Kevin Powell on Ella Baker Day. I was given the opportunity to strike up some really powerful conversations with fellow classmates, professors, and even a parent at the poster session. Many students were astonished to learn about these issues that affect voting rights and were passionate about how problematic all of this really is."

DANIELLE DINAPOLI '16

The Soc-Anth Department would like to thank all of the co-sponsors that enthusiastically supported this event.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We were able to catch up with a few former Sociology-Anthropology students and asked some questions about what life has been like for them since graduating from Manhattanville College.

What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

I currently work full time in Product Development at Penn Plax Inc. in Hauppauge, NY and part time as a Life Coach for mentally handicapped women through Independent Support Services of New York. Being in Product Development I have had the opportunity to work with major licensing companies such as Disney, Nickelodeon, and Bravado and major retailers such as PetSmart, Petco, and Meijer. I have also been on two 3 week long business trips to China where I visited with company vendors, toured factories, and attended an international trade show in Shanghai. Although in college I never envisioned myself working in Product Development, the experience and knowledge I have gained has been great! You never know what work you like and will excel at until you try it!

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

Professor Cherry was one of my favorite professors at Manhattanville. I took almost all of my sociology classes with her and she was my advisor! Some of my favorite classes with Professor Cherry were Sociology of Food and Sociology of Youth Subcultures.

Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?

Take in everything you learn in your Sociology classes at Manhattanville, even if

What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

After graduation, I worked with Possible (formerly called Nyaya Health) in rural Nepal for almost two years. I am now a David Satcher Scholar at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where I was offered full tuition support to pursue a Master of Public Health degree in the Global Health track. I also just returned from Liberia, where I spent 5 months working on post-Ebola health system strengthening projects with an organization called Partners In Health. I graduate from Vanderbilt this May.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

I really value the mentorship that I received from Prof. John Murray and Prof. Carolee Berg during my time at Manhattanville. I appreciate it because they encouraged me to explore my interest in health services delivery in low-resource settings as a Sociology/Finance student, and helped me address issues related to it through my senior thesis. The organization that I went on to work for after graduation was actually a big part of my thesis, so without their constant support, I would not have pursued a career in global health right away!

MEGAN MILLAN ’13

BHINNATA PIYA ’12
What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

After graduating from Manhattanville College, I took a few months and worked a desk security job on a different college campus. While attending graduate school at Queens College for Library Science, I worked as an office assistant at the CUNY Graduate Center in their Human Resources office. Currently, I am a full-time Children’s Librarian at the DC Public Library which is great for working within a community in a way that is both autonomous and devoted to its support.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

Most faculty that I studied with and learned from have since retired, but the camaraderie that was felt from the faculty in the department (particularly Professor Slater, Professor Berg, and Professor Harris) was something that I remember and I think it was unique to have people ideologically compatible teaching what they are passionate about, despite variations of subject expertise. Part of the reason I chose Sociology as my major was the impact that the Connie Hogarth Center had on solidifying my social world—view so that’s also something very meaningful and important to me.

Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?

The best advice I would give is consider the degree as a framework, and try to think on how you can use that framework to pursue career interests in a socially–responsible way. Unless you plan to teach Sociology, keep a hobby or passion in mind that can complement your degree as you work your way into a career.

What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

After graduating I moved to Washington, DC. I initially worked for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, a mental health non-profit. For the last two years I have worked for The Moss Group, a criminal justice consulting firm that contracts with state and federal prisons, jails and juvenile facilities. We specialize in sexual safety in confinement settings, but also conduct trainings in subjects such as LGBTI, gender–responsive, and camera management, assist in facility mission changes, perform staffing analysis among other things. Aside from my beloved job, I play intramural volleyball and try to take advantage of all the great opportunities the nations capitol has to offer.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

Prof. Williford and Prof. Harris shaped much of my Sociology experience at Manhattanville. I loved Sociology of Sports with Harris, though the class was notoriously full of athletes and she occasionally had to throw chalk at some students to wake them up. Her aim was always spot on. I took virtually all of Williford’s courses but what sticks out in my mind is the WGS 1040 Women and Society course. Our class project was to address on campus sexual assault. I hope it was helpful to our small campus community.
What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

Upon graduating, I moved to NYC and began a two year master’s program for Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education at Columbia University’s School of Education, Teacher’s College. Teachers College is a school dedicated to challenging the current education system to meet the needs of the socially diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences of children within it.

I also teach preschool at TriBeCa Community School. TCS focuses on the interests of the children in the classroom, delving into active explorations of things that the children are curious and passionate about. We have studied sound, subways, shapes, and have recently begun story-telling. I have been passionately working with these 16 two–year olds to learn the power of a story, and more importantly, their story, and understanding how important it is that people listen to, and value their story and their words. I LOVE going to work every day.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

Hands down, SOC 3186 Indigenous Peoples taught by Prof. Williford was the most memorable course experience for me as a Sociology major. The knowledge I attained in that class has sparked a passion and awareness in me that has completely changed how I view many, many things in this world. I have created many lesson plans and curriculum designs around teaching the story of Christopher Columbus in a socially responsible, sensitive way, and focus on bringing a voice and current standing to the Indigenous people when working with young children.

Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?

Find your passion within the field, and find a way to make it what you do every day. I always found ways to make my passion for education meet with what I was studying at Mville, and continue to do that with my masters work and with my job as a preschool teacher. And if at all possible, continue your education. There are so many different ways to approach Soc-Anth topics, and without the hassle of Liberal Arts requirements, grad school can give you the outlet to fully immerse yourself in what YOU are passionate about.
What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

My major was Psychology, and I did two minors in Sociology and French. Right after graduating from Mvile, I went home to Puerto Rico for an internship with a local nonprofit that led youth leadership workshops and mobilized for education reform.

In January 2013, I moved to Boston for a Fellowship at the non-profit United Teen Equality Center. As the Boston Regional Fellow, I coordinated the local chapter of a statewide coalition called Teens Leading the Way, which seeks to "empower youth to create lasting change through policymaking". I worked with young people from five different cities across Massachusetts to create, campaign for, and file a bill to make it possible for young people with a criminal record to be able to receive expungement, to give them the chance to have their record completely destroyed after completing their sentence.

Currently, I work as a College Success Coach for another non-profit called Freedom House. We are part of a bigger initiative called Success Boston, that aims to increase the college graduation rate of Boston Public Schools graduates. We focus on socio-emotional development, civic engagement, academics, leadership, and college affordability, among others, and support students to overcome any potential barrier that could get in the way of their educational goals.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

Definitely! Social Problems with Prof. Williford was one of those courses that I will never forget. It gave me such a sense of how so many problems and inequities in society are interconnected and helped me understand the bigger picture so much better. I wish I would’ve taken the class earlier in my college career, as it made me wish I had Sociology as a second major instead of a minor. I also loved Cultural Anthropology with Prof. Carolee Berg – the first class she did an exercise with us on the different concepts of personal space that I still bring up and keep in my toolbox when planning different workshops!

Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?

Take time to earn hands-on experience in the field before going to graduate school! I feel like my experiences with nonprofit work have taught me so much and given me a more clear lens of which route I want to go in this field! Take advantage of this amazing program at Mvile! Connect with your professors and seek to apply what you learn inside and outside the classroom.

What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?

After taking a year off to apply to graduate schools, in the fall of 2014 I enrolled in a Sociology Ph.D. program at Stony Brook University. After that I plan to take a tenure-track job as a professor at a small liberal arts college just like Mvile because from my own experiences, I think places like this make for an optimal learning environment.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

I loved every single Sociology class I took while at Mvile! Although over half of them were with Prof. Cherry, who not only has some of the best pedagogical skills I’ve ever experienced (even compared to graduate professors at my research universities), but she’s also just such a cool person and her classes always reflected this! I remember really fun assignments from her classes, such as a norm-violation experiment in her intro class, where she had everyone perform an act of legal deviance and write it up. I wish I could take undergrad Soc classes at Mvile again.
Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?

If it is possible, take statistics classes! Seriously, take them and learn some basic statistical software like Stata or SPSS. Two reasons to do this: first, you will be much more employable with a BA in Soc if you have some quantitative data analysis skills, second, if you go on to graduate school for Soc, they will make you learn this stuff so it’s always great to have some background. Also, enjoy your time at Mville! It’s a fantastic department with awesome professors so make the best of it.

MAKANA GOMES '12

What have you done since your time at Manhattanville? What are you currently up to?

Since graduating I have worked with potential Foster Families with Hui Ho’omalu a program through Partners In Development. I also started coaching high school volleyball and club volleyball. I sought out community events such as restoring Native Hawaiian fish ponds and taro or kalo fields or loi. I made it a point to try and attend as many conferences that were offered to the Native Hawaiian community. Often times, because I expressed my interest and gave a detailed explanation that I had just graduated from college, the conferences would waive or lower the fee to attend. This was a perfect way to get reacquainted with the needs of my community. After, leaving my on-call job with Partners in Development and transitioning to working full-time at the State Legislature in the House of Representatives, as a legislative aide to the Representative of District 13: East Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, and Molokini. After the legislative session was over I was a Summer Intern for a non-profit called KUA-(KuaAina Ulu ‘Auamo) an innovative, community-based initiative for protecting, restoring and caring for Hawai’i. After, that internship concluded I became a Program Associate for Blue Startups a Venture Capital Organization helping to create cohorts of teams looking to do start-up scalable applications to promote job opportunities in Hawai’i. Again, I returned for a second session at the State Legislature House of Representatives for the same representative, Rep. Mele Carroll–District 13 and was promoted to the Committee Clerk of Human Services.

After, finishing two sessions at the State Legislature I decided to get into my next potential field of study, Law. Which takes me to my current position as an AmeriCorps Member at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii as a Family Law and Intake paralegal. I am currently serving in my second term as an AmeriCorps member. In my first term I continued to coach high school volleyball, now as a head coach at Kaimuki High School. I continued to do outreach events around the island of Oahu to remain in touch with the needs, struggles, and successes of my community. I still remain true to my indigenous feminine self and continue to be active in protests for social justice and advocating for policy reformation. I also enjoy spending time with my loved ones and friends, living the kickback Hawaiian lifestyle. Often times, you’ll find me enjoying the beach and other natural cultural beauties of our island home. All in all I am so blessed and thankful for my journey. I credit my time at Manhattanville for shaping the journey thus far and preparing me for what is to come.

Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?

If I had to pin point a couple classes in Soc–Anth it would be the Environmental Sociology class and writing my thesis– an auto ethnography. I recall writing my senior thesis as such a fond experience. I enjoyed meeting up with my fellow peers in the department to discuss our ideas and theories. It was always so refreshing and inspiring to hear everyone’s ideas. I truly enjoyed watching everyone on their journey to completion and self success. That will always be one of the most rewarding and heart warming experiences of my Sociology/Anthropology major.
Overall, I would have to say all the courses I took were memorable. I can’t express the gratitude I have for those courses and all the professors in the department. I would’ve never been the socially conscious and active person I am today without the knowledge I gained. So many of the theories and practices come up in my daily life. Prof. Cherry, Berg, and Harris made learning almost like a high for me. They were so supportive in my research for my thesis. Every time I asked to write about Hawaii or how the theories or social constructs affected the Native Hawaiian people I received nothing but their support and encouragement. These women inspired and empowered me to be a strong, educated, active, indigenous woman. Their passion for their field of teaching, education, and students is seen every day in the way they live their lives. I can’t thank them enough. I hope to continue my education with the thoughts and ideas of their teachings acting as solid foundation.

**Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?**

Stay connected with people who have continuously invested in you and invest back in them. I can’t express the importance of relationships and I don’t mean “networking”. In fact, I hate that word. Build meaningful relationships not just connections and nurture them. That’s not just a big part of life but it’s a big part of your future in the working world. Whatever you do and wherever you go, you’ll be able to find some type of connection if you’re open and looking for one. It’s just a matter of you assessing whether the connection is deep and true enough to allow it to transition and grow into a relationship. Go after your dreams; your dreams are valid and meaningful. Fight for what you believe in. Take ownership of your life. If you want to do something, DO IT! If you think it’s out of your comfort zone and will perhaps scare or challenge you, do it and take it up a notch. If you need help, ask for it. There’s more strength in being vulnerable and open than there is in shutting down and closing the world out. Even if you think you’re protecting yourself from ALL the bad, if you never let anything in you’ll miss ALL the GOOD. Most importantly, find your passion. Find what sets your soul on fire and run after it. Everything else will come into place if you do so.

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**What have you done since your time at Manhattanville?**

After graduating from Manhattanville with a major in History and a minor in Sociology, I attended St. John’s University and completed my MA degree in Sociology. Shortly after completing my Masters I began teaching at Mville in the Soc-Anth Dept. Now I’m a PhD student at the New School for Social Research.

**Are there any Soc-Anth courses, professors, or experiences that were especially memorable?**

I arrived in the Sociology Dept. fairly late in my undergraduate career, having spent the majority of my time in the History Dept. working with Professors Whelan, Swedberg, Bowling and my advisor Professor Morris. However, I ended up taking three classes with Professor Slater. I would say the most memorable of these was World Cities where Professor Slater’s dry humor made learning about globalization that much more enjoyable. The most memorable experience was a class trip to a Turkish restaurant in White Plains in which we “experienced” globalization first-hand – a memory I fondly recall every time I eat Turkish food.

**Do you have any advice for future Soc-Anth graduates at Manhattanville?**

First, take advantage of what Manhattanville has to offer especially when they bring in guest lecturers who speak about social justice, human rights and inequality. Second, don’t hesitate to ask your professors for advice beyond Manhattanville. Third, if you are passionate about Sociology, there are many ways to bring what we learn in the department into the “real world”. The trick is to make the commitment to do that.
The Vagina Monologues

Social Justice major Danielle DiNapoli, ’16 performed in Manhattanville College's production of Eve Ensler’s The Vagina Monologues. The following is a reflection written by Danielle exploring her experience as a part of that production.

DANIELLE DINAPOLI ’16

This past February I had the opportunity to perform in the Vagina Monologues one last time, and for that I am so grateful. The Vagina Monologues is a play written by Eve Ensler that gathers the voices of many females all surrounding the same topic but on varying levels: vaginas. The show was directed by Amanda Sirakowski, and all proceeds were donated to Hope’s Door, a local organization working to assist victims and survivors of domestic violence.

This year I performed the monologue, “They Beat The Girl Out Of My Boy...Or So They Tried” alongside three other performers. It was the first time in a long time that this monologue had been performed at Manhattanville, and it was very moving to be a part of it. This monologue followed the journey of four people who were born a man and explored what it meant to be a trans woman. It recounted moments of ridicule, self-doubt, violence, transformation, and finally acceptance and love. It was both devastating and beautiful.

As a sociology student, the social construction of gender, violence against women, and various other women’s issues have been the topics of much of my learning, and through the Vagina Monologues I was able to hear the voices of many females who have lived through the effects of these social problems in varying degrees. The continuance of this play is so important because it allows the opportunity to give voices to so many females, who often do not have a voice because they are female and because they are discussing vaginas. But their voices are important, necessary, and must be heard.

When I performed in The Vagina Monologues in 2015, I was much more timid about being in the play and speaking openly about vaginas, and the personal transformation I have had over the last year has led me to feel very different, and I owe a lot of that growth to The Vagina Monologues. Thanks to this wonderful opportunity, I am much more confident about being a woman, much more educated about social problems, and am much more inspired to continue speaking out for women’s rights.
Congratulations to Professor Beth Williford!

Prof. Williford won the Faculty Member of the Year Award at the Student Government Association (SGA) Leadership Awards!

**SOC-ANTH DEPARTMENT EVENTS**

**Birdwatching and the Social Construction of Nature**

**Elizabeth Cherry, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor of Sociology

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016
4:30 p.m.
News & Events Room
The Library

Sociological research on wildlife issues tends to focus on hunting and poaching, and understanding symbolic boundaries between human culture and “the wild.” Hunters make up 6 percent of the U.S. population, whereas birdwatchers, or birders, comprise 20 percent of the U.S. population (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2011). In contrast to hunting and poaching, birdwatching attempts to create a more symbiotic, sympathetic, and productive relationship between humans and wildlife. In this presentation, Dr. Cherry will explore the relationships between humans and wild birds, and how birders understand birds as a part of nature, and as agents in their own right, based on the analyses of the social construction of nature through ethnography of birders, in-depth interviews with birders, and participant observation in three local birdwatching organizations.

**Reflections of a Sociologist on Writing Fiction**

**Eric Slater, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor of Sociology

Wednesday, March 30th, 2016
4:30 p.m.
News & Events Room
The Library

Professor Slater will discuss his writing projects, a loosely organized collection of campus fiction, to reflect on writing, creativity, and the life of the mind.

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**The Department of Sociology and Anthropology Hosts**

**Ella Baker Day**

Wednesday, April 13

**KERRY’S ORGANIZER:**

Kevin Powell
American political activist, poet, writer, and co-founder of the Institute for Non-Violent Action

6:30 p.m.
West Room, Reid Castle

Talk followed by a book signing of “The Education of Kevin Powell: A Book’s Journey into Manhood”

Light refreshments provided


For more information contact esa@manhattanville.edu

1 Dechasse hour

**THE WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS**

**no nids bebés**

TUESDAY APRIL 5TH
BERMAN CENTER THEATRE
7-9PM

**FILM RESPONSES BY:**

Prof. Maria Jose Lopez (Spanish - WCC)
Guinle Marinogui (NYCLU)
Prof. Kristin Hodges (Anthropology)

CO-SUPPORTED WITH:
The Sociology-Anthropology Department

The Connie Horgan Center

Contact Prof. Beth Williford for more information:
Beth Williford (williford@manhattanville.edu)

1 Dechasse hour