One of the highlights of the Department of World Languages and Literatures (WLL) during academic year 2017-2018 was the retirement party for Professor of German Gabriele Wickert that was held on October 17, 2017 (page 4). Another highlight was the introduction of Modern Standard Arabic courses into our curriculum. We offered two classes of Introductory Arabic, ARB 1001 in the fall 2017 and ARB 1002 in spring 2018. We hope that interest in Arabic continues so that we can offer classes into the second year.

We continue to engage our students outside the classroom through fieldtrips and other activities that make languages and cultures come alive for them. In fall 2017, Professor Luján took students in her “Spanish Women Writers” class to the Repertorio Español in Manhattan to watch a play by the Spanish playwright Ana Caro Mallén de Soto (page 2). Also in fall 2017, Professor Mehta took students in her French classes as well as some from her Freshman seminar on “Food and Fashion in French Culture” on the culinary tour of Le District, an area in the financial district of Manhattan that serves a wide-range of French foods from crêpes to the Franco-Canadian poutine (page 2).

Students in World Languages and Literatures study abroad in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and in various countries in Latin America. Our exchange program at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France remains robust. This year, we had four Manhattanville students spend a semester in Montpellier, two in fall 2017 and two in spring 2018. You can read an account by one these students in the newsletter (page 10). Two students from Montpellier studied at Manhattanville College this year. One of them, Guylaine Payen, was here during fall 2017 and the second, Lucie Godefroy, stayed the entire academic year. They shared their experiences about student life in France and their impressions of life in the US with students in different French classes. Lucie Godefroy is also the subject of a videotaped interview project of native French speakers that Professor Mehta assigned her Intermediate French II students this semester.

In spring 2018, French student, Lia A. Garcia, worked as an intern at the Alliance Française of Greenwich, helping with their annual Focus on French Cinema film festival that took place from April 27-May 2, 2018. Another French student, Khoudia Diop, will work as a intern helping out with the Alliance Française’s summer school.

Under the mentorship of Professor Luján, the Spanish and Latin American Studies program produced the 2017-2018 issue of the Spanish literary magazine TintaExtinta with Spanish major Fernanda Moscoso ’18 as the editor.

Finally, we would like to thank WLL student assistant and graduating senior Isabella Brascetta Guerra ’18, who coordinated this newsletter. I will miss her competence and can-do attitude and wish her well as she moves on to bigger and better things.

Binita Mehta
Professor of French, Chair, WLL
Un Viaje al Repertorio Español

By Isabella Brascetta Guerra ‘18

Professor María José Luján and students in her “Spanish Women Writers” class took a trip to El Repertorio Español on October 29, 2017 to watch the play, Valor, Agravio y Mujer by Spanish playwright Ana Caro Mallén de Soto. The dramatist “criticizes the customs of her era and the position of women in the social order while ridiculing through parody the erotic myth of Don Juan.” In the play, we saw how the main character, Leonor, dresses up as a man to avenge her honor after Don Juan makes her a false promise of marriage. During the semester, the class read the works of several Spanish women writers, and, like the character of Leonor in the play, some shared the common theme of rebellious women seeking freedom.

Trip to Le District

By Terissa Simental ‘19

Le District is a French-inspired food hall located in the heart of the financial district in lower Manhattan and offers many restaurants, cafés, and markets serving French food and products. Touting itself as “French savoir-faire in the heart of the Financial District,” Le District is a large indoor complex established in 2015 and is separated into three main districts: the market district, garden district, and café district. On a warm autumn Saturday, October 21, 2017, a small group of Manhattanville students from Professor Mehta’s first year seminar and her French classes went to visit this French food paradise. Professor Mehta organized the trip and led the students on this cultural and gastronomical field trip in New York City. The most luring was the Pâtisserie filled with classic French desserts like colorful macaroons, savory and sweet crêpes, and chocolate eclairs. The students dispersed throughout the market and café districts to explore and buy food. Even vegans were able to enjoy French cuisine at Le District. The market district had a station for French cheese, seafood, bread, desserts, and several cafés. Everyone found something to enjoy from seasoned French fries - poutine, a staple of Québec - and ratatouille to crêpes and flaky pastries. The market was filled with many colors, sights, and delicious French products. Le District was very picturesque and bustling with the same energy as the city outside. Even the regular grocery store section of Le District was impressive with unique French products on display. The students spent a couple of hours at Le District enjoying various French foods and made plans to return very soon.
Sixth Annual International Film Festival 2018

by Isabella Brascetta Guerra ‘18

The sixth annual International Film Festival, with Social Change as its theme, was held in the Berman Center Theater at Manhattanville College from March 20-April 12, 2018. The films, selected by an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students, hailed from around the world, including France (Persepolis), China (Coming Home), Chile (No), Germany (The Nasty Girl), Israel (Lemon Tree), and Mauritania (Timbuktu). The subject matter and the diverse languages and cultures that were represented in the films resulted in lively and engaging post-screening discussions led by faculty and students from Manhattanville College as well as faculty members from The College of New Rochelle. For an added element of cultural immersion, region-specific delicacies were served with each screening.

An Evening of Languages, Cultures and Music

By Isabella Brascetta Guerra ‘18

On Thursday, December 7, 2017, the World Languages and Literatures Department came together for its annual holiday party. Students studying Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish performed songs, dances and recited poetry. Performances included the following: a group of students from Professor Shamma’s beginning Arabic class gave us the weather forecast in Arabic, students in Professor Tarumoto’s Japanese class performed “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” in Japanese, and students in Professors Hollis and Mehta’s French classes sang Italian arias. Finally, The Latin Fusion club performed a Latin-American dance. This year’s festivities also included a Japanese food demonstration by Mayuko Tahara an exchange student from Keio University in Japan who is at Manhattanville College for the academic year. The food, made by Mayuko and other students studying Japanese, was served along with other international delicacies.
On Thursday, October 19, 2017, the World Languages and Literatures Department organized a celebration of Professor Emerita of German and International Studies Gabriele Wickert’s 41 years of service to Manhattanville College. Current students from Manhattanville College and SUNY Purchase, Manhattanville alumni and colleagues, and family and friends paid tribute to Professor Wickert through speeches, songs, music, and poetry. One of the highlights of this music-filled evening was a video tribute in word and music by Professor Wickert’s daughter, Eve Wickert, a violist and Manhattanville alumna, who lives in Berlin Germany.

Undergraduate Award Ceremony on April 25th, 2018

Japanese
Ruijie Jin
Alex Maignan-Thompson
Auraria Putri
Susana Jaramillo

Spanish
Halpaa M. Duarte

French
Ivette M. Nouel
Tamara Bogoljubskij

Italian
Lizza M. Gonzalez
Mauro F. Guerrero-Melo

Excellence in French Language Studies Award Ceremony

Alliance Française of Greenwich’s annual Excellence in French Language Studies award recipients - French and CAM Major Nasir Fleming ’18 and Psychology major and French minor Maria Ponomarev ‘18
On November 14, 2017, Manhattanville College organized its annual Human Rights Awareness Day (HRAD). In addition to panel discussions and invited speakers who discussed human rights issues from around the world, different clubs and organizations at Manhattanville College presented posters on their work and topics related to human rights. Organizations like the UNICEF club, Latin Fusion, and some first-year writing programs presented posters, information, and poems in the East Room.

I presented a poster on the refugee situation in France on behalf of the Department of World Languages and Literatures. I focused on the refugee camp called “The Jungle” in Calais in Northern France and used a media slide show and a traditional poster to show the struggles of refugees in Calais.

In 2016, the French government ordered an evacuation of “The Jungle” and began dismantling the structures. This caused protests and riots within the refugee camp. Some people were forcibly removed and fires were started most likely by protestors. I had a slideshow of the conflict beginning with the march to remove “The Jungle,” then the ensuing counter protests before showing the violence of the actual evacuation and dismantling. The poster itself held facts on refugee statistics and the aftermath of the evacuation. Most of the refugees who gathered in Calais were hoping to cross the English Channel and were not seeking French asylum. This was one of the main concerns for removing the refugee camp. The estimated 8,000-10,000 evacuated refugees were sent to various processing centers around France but many returned to Calais for various reasons and others ended up on the streets of Paris. On my poster, I included current information on stricter policies toward refugees, French president Emmanuel Macron’s future policy plans, and recorded police brutality from the Human Rights Watch.

French major, Nasir Fleming ’18 presented his senior thesis, “Queer Morocco, the Explored Yet Forbidden: Gay Identity through History, Media, and Narratives” at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Fair, held on April 18, 2018.
The International Bazaar

The International ‘Buzzaar’ held on March 3th, 2018, was filled with performances, and activities that captivated each and every student in the room as it showcased the diversity of cultures that make up Manhattanville College. This popular annual event highlights cuisine, fashion, and music from around the world for the enjoyment of students and prospective students who are visiting the campus. The evening offered many different varieties of food, from delicious bitterballen to the crowd favorite churros. The students performances and audience-engaging activities such as limbo, raffles, and a bug-eating contest, filled the room with excitement and energy that echoed throughout the College. It was like being part of a gigantic birthday party, and students were able to relax and have a good time with their peers. Some were lucky enough to go home with the many prizes that they won in the raffle or from the different activities in which they participated. It was a night to remember as students took shelter from the raging blizzard outside to come together and immerse themselves in a variety of cultures without having to travel too far.

- Christa N. Pease
advanced Italian II

Introductory French II
Professor Katarzyna Hollis
Calligrammes

By Hannah Dymond
**Ma mère**

Inspirante, créative, empathique & intelligente.

Ce sont les mots qui décrivent ma mère.

Elle est belle et très intellectuelle.

Elle aime sa famille et sa famille l'aime aussi.

Auteur, archéologue, et la meilleure mère du monde.

Toujours la femme qui offre de l'inspiration.

 Toujours. Elle est digne de confiance.

Quand j'ai besoin de conseils, je parle avec ma mère.

Ma mère, ma meilleure amie—une et même personne.

 Je suis fière d'elle.

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**Le chat**

Le chat est beau, gentil, et sociable.

Il est mignon et il est sympathique.

Avec les yeux verts et les cheveux roux,

Le chat marche à côté du bureau et il m'observe.

Le chat.

Le chat s'appelle Tony.

Le chat aime manger, jouer, et passer du temps avec sa famille.

Très mignon.

Très doux.

Il n'est pas paresseux. Il est aventurieux.

C'est un chat. Il s'appelle Tony.
Ça me rend heureux

Je vais au cinéma
Je regarde un film intéressant

Je vais au centre commercial
Le coiffeur est sociable et gentil

Je vais dans mon restaurant préféré
Je mange un bon repas

Je vais chez mon ami
Nous jouons à des jeux vidéo

Je regarde une émission de télévision drôle

J'écoute de la musique relaxante

Je joue avec mon chien

Ce sont les choses qui me rendent heureux

Le lotus

Derrière la porte en bois, il y a un lac de lotus.

Les lotus sont debout sur la surface de lac, silencieux et parfumés.

Sur le lac, il y a un pont en bois.

Je vais être debout sur le pont et profite du parfum gracieux.

Le soleil étale sur le lac.

Les lotus deviennent des petits anges.

Les anges dansent et sont élégants.

Sous le lac, les poissons sourient et chantent.

Ils célèbrent la beauté du temps.

C'est le lac de mon secrétaire.
El tiroteo en la Escuela de Parkland, Florida

Nikolas Cruz, el tirador de la escuela de Parkland, Florida, ha sido acusado de 17 cargos de asesinato premeditado. La familia que adoptó a Nikolas Cruz dijo que sabía que estaba solo, deprimido y que era un poco extraño pero no notaron señales de que pudiera cometer una masacre. La familia le dio a Cruz un hogar, lo inscribió en las clases de educación para adultos y lo ayudó a conseguir un trabajo en la tienda local “Dollar Tree.” Cuando Cruz se mudó a su casa tuvieron que enseñarle las necesidades básicas incluyendo cómo cocinar, cómo usar el microondas, cómo lavar la ropa y a recoger lo que desordenaba. La familia dijo que Cruz no era cruel con los animales y parecía amar a los dos perros y seis gatos que tenían. La “huella digital” de Cruz incluye insultos contra los negros y los musulmanes, y también declara su deseo de disparar a la gente. En una charla privada en un grupo en Instagram, Cruz habló de matar a mexicanos, de mantener a los negros encadenados y de cortarles el cuello. En un momento en el chat, escribió ”Creo que voy a matar a la gente.” Es asombroso y triste ver cómo en el siglo XXI hay tanta discriminación contra personas de diferentes razas y culturas. Es preocupante que él odie a estos grupos de personas tanto que está dispuesto a matarlos o herirlos gravemente. Además, Laurel Holland, un maestro retirado que tuvo a Cruz en su clase de inglés en el primer año en 2016, dijo a CNN que Cruz la maldijo durante los exámenes de mitad de período y fue suspendido. Ella dijo que este comportamiento preocupante la hizo sentir incómoda, añadiendo incluso que una vez fue agarrado en la escuela con un objeto relacionado con armas guardado en su mochila. En una nota más positiva, JetBlue Airways está ofreciendo vuelos gratuitos a los miembros de la familia de las víctimas de la masacre que necesiten viajar a Parkland, Florida. Por último, el 9 de marzo de 2018 la Asociación Nacional del Rifle (ANR) está demandando a Florida después de que aprobara una ley de control de armas tras el tiroteo de la escuela. Uno de los argumentos de la ANR es que la legislación viola los derechos de las mujeres jóvenes, ya que es poco probable que cometan delitos violentos. Este argumento, simplemente, no es cierto. Yo creo que la ANR es muy hipócrita y egoísta. La asociación está tratando de prevenir las leyes de control de armas, porque si las leyes son aprobadas, la ANR dejará de ganar tanto dinero. Desde el tiroteo, en las redes sociales he visto muchos intentos de los educadores en diferentes estados tratando de asegurar que sus estudiantes están a salvo. Por ejemplo, el distrito escolar de Blue Mountain en Pennsylvania estaba dando a sus estudiantes piedras para defenderse y apedrear a un tirador en la escuela. Bajo mi punto de vista, es muy triste cómo los niños pequeños tienen que luchar por sus derechos cuando los adultos elegidos para posiciones políticas específicas no están haciendo esto por ellos.

- Tayler Sinclair

Spanish Intermediate II
Personally, studying abroad had little to do with my major or my future career path. For me it was more of a personal journey. I had finished most of my undergraduate requirements pretty quickly, done everything I could at college, and was left with my senior year sort of…empty. The one thing I had not done that I thought would be a big step for me, was studying abroad. As someone who was bilingual in Russian and English, and having studied French for many years, I decided to grab the opportunity to study in France, through Manhattanville College’s exchange program in Montpellier, France, to travel, and really put myself out into the world and get out of my comfort zone. It was scary and hard.

I ended up having many more challenges to overcome than I had expected, but I did it. I grew and I learned from everything. It was both terrifying and exhilarating. But, I am definitely a stronger person than I was when I had left.

Studying abroad was, I have to admit, less about studying per se, but about learning, both inside and outside the classroom. I took a few integrated French classes at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier and was able to take Chinese and Italian classes along with my French classes. I took those courses more for my own enjoyment and curiosity, and less for a specific academic purpose. With courses that were less rigorous than what I am normally used to, I had more free time and used that time to travel as much as I could. Overall I was able to visit 7 countries and over 15 cities while studying abroad. I visited several cities in France outside of Montpellier naturally, such as Paris, Grenoble, and Nice. I visited Monte Carlo in Monaco, Milan in Italy, Barcelona in Spain (now Catalonia), London in the UK, Budapest in Hungary, and Prague in the Czech Republic. Through those travels, I was able to indulge in cultural immersion but also felt an overwhelming sense of independence and freedom that comes with studying abroad. With my childhood and upbringing I was always independent and had to fend for myself from an early age, but while abroad, for the first time in my life, I was completely by myself, completely removed from everything I know and have grown accustomed to. It was both more disorienting and more thrilling than I could have ever expected.

Although I had not planned for this experience to have anything to do with my major, I did, however, end up becoming inspired for future work. One of my research interests is the study of stress and I have written much on the subject. While abroad, I had unexpected personal challenges arise that I had to deal with and which made the entire experience that much more difficult. But it was also a learning experience for me. I witnessed fellow students and friends struggle through similarly unexpected life turmoils while abroad, which as painful as it was, built emotional endurance.

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While observing how my fellow students and friends and I dealt with stress, I devised an independent research project about students studying abroad and their ability to deal with stress based on the support they receive. I was interested in studying whether or not programs were adequately preparing their students to deal with stress before sending them abroad. I realized that this was an important conversation and decided I would make it my goal to collect data and continue the conversation after returning home, hopefully benefiting many future study abroad students, while at the same time making sense of my own experience.

I would never say that I regret studying abroad, but I would never honestly be able to say it was easy. Looking through all of the beautiful photos I had taken, the places I had been able to visit, it is still hard to believe I had really did all that, and all on my own. But, while perusing those photos and reflecting on those exciting memories, I remember too the courage and strength I had to find within myself to bring those experiences to life. That strength and courage, along with the exhilarating memories, are what I will treasure for the rest of my life.
Why did you study languages? College was a continuation of my language studies from middle school and high school. I began studying Spanish in the 7th grade. Then, I began to listen to French pop music. After being obsessed with Yelle, a French pop group, I decided to study French in the 9th grade. So, it only seemed natural to continue my language-learning path! I am super thankful that I studied languages for almost 10 years.

Will you use your languages studies in your future career? Absolutely! I see myself living abroad. Being able to speak multiple languages will make this dream a reality. Even if I do not end up living abroad, I will travel frequently. It is always easier to communicate in the host country's language than in English. Also, in an increasingly "global" world, languages are always a plus (regardless of one’s career path).

Any highlights of your time at Mville? Studying abroad in France was a highlight! I had the opportunity to live and study in France. Although it came with its negatives, the pros absolutely outweighed the cons. Also, France's location was a huge plus. Since France is so central, I was able to travel to 10 other countries throughout Europe.

Christina Santini

Class of 2018

Major: Education Minor: Italian

Why did you study languages? I chose to minor in the Italian language as a continuation of my studies from middle and high school. I had spent 6 years learning the language and it was something I became very passionate about. It was important for me to continue my studies with aspirations of mastering the language. As a minor, not only did I continue learning the language, but broadened my knowledge of the Italian culture and everything came full circle. Finally, learning Italian has helped me appreciate my heritage and form an undeniable bond with my family.

Will you use your languages studies in your future career? There is no doubt that I will carry the wealth of knowledge I have acquired from studying Italian language and culture with me through life. Learning another language and culture provides you with a different way of thinking. While I am studying Childhood Education, I would love to combine my passion for teaching and languages by teaching Italian as well.

Any highlights of your time at Mville? My time at Manhattanville has been nothing short of amazing. Attending a small school enables the professors to truly get to know each and every one of their students, and allows students to receive an individualized education. My language classes were small enough where we all got to know one another well and form a bond, much like that of a family. At Manhattanville, when you study a language, you may be lucky enough to be instructed by native speakers, which adds to the depth of knowledge you are able to acquire and brings a personal touch to the learning experience. In addition to tutoring in Italian, I was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society of Education where I am currently serving as Vice-President. I am also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.
I am not the daughter of immigrants, nor did I arrive from Spain to the USA because I chose to. I came because that is what the circumstances at the time required. I did not know much English, if any at all. My native tongue was Spanish and my second language was French. I had lived in and traveled to both Spanish- and French-speaking countries; English always seemed like a distant language and hard work for me. However, here I am, in New York City, at a beautiful college, teaching and living in a country where the primary language is precisely that, English.

I landed at Manhattanville College in the fall of 1996. That was my first accomplished step. A series of eternally long and challenging, but not impossible, steps presented themselves to me. I was confused with everything; nothing was remotely similar to how things were in Spain, and no one could begin to explain them to me. My students learned Spanish, and, at the same time, I learned the difference between a sophomore and a senior, between baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies, and what made a major different from a minor. Above all, however, I realized that I lived in a community where colleagues were willing to help me.

I continued climbing the steps of that ladder on which you learn all the things you can do that you had never before even imagined you could. I began to attend conferences, to present papers and to publish, and I discovered a diverse world where I formed great and long-lasting friendships. Manhattanville College demanded the maximum potential out of you, it "squeezed" you, and I realized this was something I liked, something that made me realize that I was worth a lot more than what I had thought. That is one of the main differences between Spain and the USA, and, the reason why I admire this country so much. It pushes you down the road of self-discovery and it values you; in exchange, you give it your everything. While all this is happening, you form friendships and bonds with colleagues; you discover that even though you now know almost everything you need to in order to get by, you still have close, very close, friends like Binita Mehta, Alessandro Daniele, Carolina Rodriguez, Julie Dolphin, Gillian Hannum, and many others whom you hold dear and who have a great deal of love for you.

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My interest in the literature and culture of Spanish-speaking countries is as great as my desire for Spanish to be spoken everywhere. Miguel de Cervantes would be honored to know that his language is being spoken in the twenty-first century in places where many centuries ago it was unimaginable. The richness provided by theater, culture, and literature give my language a very important role in our society. I have learned so much, so so so much, by teaching courses on Spanish literature, culture, and Latin-American film. I have discovered a fascinating world of the Afro-Latin American literature, rediscovered the "boom" of the Latin American narrative, and I have also encountered a captivating magic world full of images and prose in Latin American film.

I have also encountered a captivating magic world full of images and prose in Latin-American film. I have no regrets, although I must admit that, aside from challenges, I find myself exhausted because nothing is ever enough, especially for those of us who are somewhat perfectionists. I try to transmit to my students the message regarding the importance of teaching what you love. I try to have them appreciate my enthusiasm for each author, each poem, and each verse in each of my classes. I feel a sense of accomplishment when some students get the material being studied, although my enthusiasm does not diminish when others do not. The students are of the utmost importance to me. Now I can no longer live without them, and it is even better if our shared experience is at Manhattanville College.

I am getting closer to the final steps of that ladder, and when I reach the last step, I will feel proud of having been a part of the Manhattanville College community, which has opened my eyes and has taught me so much and, most importantly, has supported me during the most difficult moments of my life. An oak tree will symbolize the love and generosity of a lot of anonymous and not so anonymous friends whom I will never forget.

My final words are for TintaExtinta, our Spanish-language magazine, which is a result of the creativity of our bicultural students and some other students from different countries. To them I owe my respect for a job very well done of providing a world full of images and sensations that they attempt to convey to us through their words. Thank you!
Catherine Barrera received her undergraduate and master’s degree from Manhattanville in 2012. As an undergrad, she majored in Spanish and minored in History and Communications. Her master’s degree is in the Arts of Teaching Foreign Language Spanish. She currently works as a Spanish teacher in the White Plains City School District. During her time at Manhattanville she was fortunate enough to have professors that were passionate about the subject and encouraged her to think critically about the rich history and culture the Spanish language has to offer. Now as a Spanish teacher, she has the opportunity to enlighten her students and teach them the language, history, and literature of various Spanish-speaking countries. During all her lessons she strives to engage students in the language and teach them acceptance and tolerance of all cultures.

Karina Edouard graduated from Manhattanville College in 2015 with a major in International Studies and a double minor in Economics and French. Karina is currently a Masters in Public Affairs candidate at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. At WWS, Karina is concentrating on Domestic Politics and also pursuing a certificate in Urban Policy and Planning. She expects to graduate in June of 2018. During the summer between her first and second year of graduate school, she interned at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. At IOM, she served as a Data Management intern in both the Protection and Data Management divisions. During her three-month tenure working in this capacity, her principle assignments focused on collecting and analyzing data to support IOM’s anti-human trafficking and border monitoring initiatives. The French language skills she developed while at Manhattanville were an immense help throughout her internship. IOM was one of the most dynamic language environments in which she had ever worked. At any given moment, official meetings, colloquial conversations, and everything in between, oscillated between English, French, and Haitian Creole.

Maria G. Caram graduated in 2017 with a double major in History and English Literature, and a minor in Spanish. Since graduating, she has been working as an intern for the UNDP’s Global Programme on Nature for Development, specifically assisting in the writing and translation of case studies, assisting with MOOCs, and managing social media profiles. She also provides part-time tutoring services. Next year, she plans on going back to school for her Master’s degree.