Interview with Professor Adhia
A Year in Review and What’s Next from the Castle Scholars Program Director

Q: What do you enjoy the most about the Castle Scholars Program and working with Castle Scholars?
A: I enjoy the most taking the castle scholars on field trips. Because the scholars are so intellectually curious, it is wonderful to see them learn from the trip experiences.

Q: How do you believe current and future Castle Scholars will be able to change the world?
A: Castle scholars will be able to change the world by combining their drive to succeed with their passion for learning.

Q: What has been your favorite Castle Scholar memory so far?
A: My favorite memories have been all the field trips we have taken.

Q: What are you most proud of in the Castle Scholars program?
A: Castle scholars have the highest retention rate of any group of students in the college. More than 99%+ return for their sophomore year after their freshman year. It makes me very proud.

Q: What are your long-term goals for the program?
A: My long-term goals are to include more experiential learning and design thinking in the program.

Q: What can we expect for the Castle Scholars Program for the next academic year? What are you looking forward to about it?
A: We are changing some course requirements to make it easier for students to meet them. Stay tuned!

Welcome Back Lunch

After more than a year of being apart, the Castle Scholars were able to come together once again. Hosted by Professor Adhia and Professor Saleeby-Mulligan on the Reid Castle terrace, students helped themselves to salads, sandwiches, and drinks before sitting, where they could reconnect with their peers and meet new honors students for the first time.

The sunny and warm weather created the perfect setting for Castle Scholars to catch up, learn more about each other, and even introduce each other to different involvement opportunities on campus. Before the afternoon was over, Professor Adhia hinted at some of the upcoming plans and events specifically for the Honors program, including an October trip to the New York Botanical Gardens.

Overall, it was a delightful few hours spent on a beautiful day, and a wonderful way to welcome back our community. Welcome back, Castle Scholars!

Article by Toni Marie Perilli ’22 | Images Provided by Professor Nimish Adhia
Fall 2021
New York Botanical Gardens
Ryan Huch ‘25

It was a beautiful October day with amazing scenes of nature. The Kusama exhibitions stole the show, adding her iconic pops of color throughout the gardens. It the perfect trip to just walk around with your friends and enjoy the nice weather. My favorite part of the gardens HAS to be the conservatory- it was incredibly fancy with some of the most beautiful vegetation within the gardens. 10/10 trip.

Spring 2022
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Toni Marie Perilli ‘22

For the Spring 2022 Castle Scholars trip, Professor Adhia and Professor Saleeby-Mulligan had set up a Saturday in NYC at the famous Metropolitan Museum of Art; it was truly a perfect outing. Roughly half the group had never been on a Castle Scholars trip before, and a similar percentage had never been to the MET. It was certainly not my first trip to the MET, but it was my first time on a Castle Scholars field trip and I was most looking forward to learning more about a destination I loved to visit from a new perspective. The first half of the day was a guided highlights tour, led by Professor Saleeby-Mulligan. We were able to see the “best of” nearly every exhibit in the museum, as well as learn some fun facts from a true expert (not only is Professor Saleeby-Mulligan an art history professor, she also worked at the MET for six years!). One of my favorite things to learn was that the Temple of Dendur, one of the most popular items on display, was actually a gift from Egypt to President Lyndon B. Johnston and was rebuilt piece by piece to where it currently resides in New York. We also visited one of my personal favorite areas, the European Sculpture and Decorative Arts exhibit, which features period rooms in stunning Rococo style. In the Epic Abstraction exhibit, we were able to see more modern work, including a piece by an artist who visited Manhattanville for a workshop a few years ago. After making our way around the museum, we treated ourselves to a delicious lunch and lively discussion in The Eatery. The second half of the day was designated for us to enjoy the museum on our own time, but our group ended up staying together the entire time. We started with a quest to find the iconic blue hippo, William, before exploring the Greek and Roman wing, an Afrofuturist period room, the Arms and Armor exhibit, the Musical Instruments display, and a Native American art display. On our way to the exit, I also shared a “hidden” display of Late Antique Art located underneath the central staircase. Our group met up once again with our Professors before boarding our shuttle back to campus. While I’ve visited the MET several times before, this trip was easily my favorite. I loved being able to learn more, see more, and experience some of my favorite displays with a wonderful new group of people. As Professor Saleeby-Mulligan told us, the MET is truly a place that you can never see all of, let alone in a single day. I know I will visit this famous museum again soon, but this trip will remain one of my favorite memories from my time at Manhattanville.
**Questioning Incarceration and Therefore Ourselves**

**Human Rights Awareness Day Fall 2021**

Crystina Coppola '23

Images by Daniel Freel and from event presentation

My participation in Human Rights Awareness Day (HRAD) for the Fall 2021 semester stemmed from the Castle Scholars program requirement, but it evolved into an amazing, educational, and overall enjoyable experience.

This was not my first course with Professor Proctor, so seeing him as the Fall Service instructor was the first ‘green’ flag, if you will. He always had a very distinguished and sophisticated way of addressing his students while also ensuring he understood his point. We were very lucky to have him as our instructor for this service class; his real, hands-on experience regarding our prison system is what ended up being our Human Rights Awareness Day theme: “Questioning Incarceration.” Professor Proctor brought a unique, first-hand perspective which led to a class where we not only learned necessary event planning and logistical skills through the curriculum’s requirements, but to a classroom environment that filled us with a new passion and empathy for prison reform. I believe Professor Proctor is the reason that the class was so successful in respect to both the event itself and what my classmates and I were able to take away.

The planning began after everyone signed up for the tasks they’d be responsible for leading up to the event. Completing this right at the beginning is what made the class run so smoothly and efficiently. By doing so on an excel sheet, everyone had access to add their ideas, provide updates on their progress, and ask questions. It was a very nonjudgmental, safe, and easy space to exist in.

I was in charge of designing and ordering the t-shirts and promotional products, as well as creating a Creative Writing workshop for people to participate in on the day of the event based around experiences with our justice system. This was a new component that we all had a hand in completing. Luckily, Professor Proctor was able to put me in contact with people who had already written about their experiences with the system through Re/Creation, an organization focusing on writing workshops for “justice-affected people” that he created:

> “The roots of Re/Creation go back to the spring of 2017, when writer and justice reform activist John Proctor began facilitating a creative writing workshop for older men detained at the Robert N. Davoren Center (RNDC) on Rikers Island. Sensing both the creative talent and the need for support in their respective journeys through the New York carceral apparatus, John decided to maintain communication with many of those workshop members even as they moved on from Rikers.”

I spoke to three authors that would have their works featured in HRAD 2021: Carolina Soto with “Her Tool,” Marvin Wade with “Gangster Effect,” and K. Michael Williams “Hard Day’s Work for the Poleeseman.” I highly recommend reading these three works and signing the petition at the end of “Her Tool,” a story about Roberta Bell, a victim of “rape and rape culture” as well as our justice system.

All of the stories I read through were exploding with details that should make anyone and everyone realize a change within our system needs to occur. Without this class, I would have never spoken to or met these individuals, or even read their stories, that opened my mind drastically and began a new passion of continuing to learn more about prison reform.

Unfortunately, with planning so many things at once in such a short time frame, advertising had fallen a bit behind. Fortunately, that is the only thing I would change so we could be able to educate and open the minds of a greater audience.

Despite our lack of advertising, it was a great day. After a light lunch, several people joined our hybrid Zoom call to hear our incredible group of speakers: Kandra Clark, VP of Policy & Strategy at Exodus Transitional Community; Jamie Maleszka, Creative Arts Director at the Fortune Society; Angelina Cavallo-Nunez, student speaker with the Valiant Mentoring Program in partnership with the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester and the Westchester Jail Tutoring Program; Molly Meredith, student speaker with the Westchester Jail Tutoring Program.

Our pens were a hit, t-shirts were for sale, and the Creative Writing stand was a focal point in the room. I absolutely loved how many people I was able to personally talk to about the featured art and stories behind them. I think that that was the most important part of what was put together for the Creative Writing workshop. While only one person had participated in the “workshop” part of it, I was able to spread the stories of justice-affected people (and get people to take action by signing Roberta Bell’s petition for clemency as well!). Making a difference was far more important to me than a long attendance sheet.

After we wrapped up HRAD 2021 and finished the final reflection paper for the class, Professor Proctor left his teaching position at Manhattanville College to pursue a full-time job with an organization fighting for prison reform and helping form a new NYC after the closing of Rikers Island. My classmates and I were incredibly proud of him. I, personally, cannot help but believe we’d be able to have an impact that stretches far beyond the constraints of our semester together.

*Visit reslashcreation.com to read more about Professor Proctor's organization. **Under Dispatches at reslashcreation.com, you can read the three aforementioned stories by Soto, Wade, and Williams.
The Castle Scholar Spring Service Course is a class where you have the opportunity to plan the Undergraduate Research Fair. The class is split up into smaller groups in order to complete all the tasks required to put on the fair. Every class, Professor Manning does a lecture on a different aspect of working in a group and then the groups split up and discuss what they need to complete to put on the event. At the end of class, each group stands up and presents to the whole class about what they have accomplished and what they plan to do next week. This “stand up” time allows all groups to connect so that the whole class is on the same page. This class has been a great experience because you not only get to be part of an event, but you also get to learn valuable information about groupwork. The lectures break down valuable information on how to work in a team that will be useful for many of us going forward in our professional careers. The cool part is that we do not just listen to the lectures, but we get to apply the lessons learned into real life immediately when we split up into our smaller groups during class. The event has been stressful at time but overall a lot of fun to plan and we look forward to completing the semester!

Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievement Fair
Planned and hosted by the Spring Service Course
Alex Rowella '22
Presentation information provided by Mijgona Toiriyon '23
Image provided by Daniel Freeland

Presentations
Lana Modad '23
Leptospirosis: Leptospira interrogans
Ke-Yara Greene '22
Leptospira morphology research
Renae Barrett '22
Research Poster on Leptospira and Morphology
Stephanie Charlton '22 & Crislauryrs Torres-Alacant-ra '22
The rehabilitation of cold stunned sea turtles and the connection between blood gas values and survivability after five days
Hiba Ahmed '22
A biology study on leptospira, which is a waterborne pathogen that cause the disease known as leptospirosis
Miguel Rivas '22
History Senior Thesis, about intersectional identity in the work of muckraker Jacob Riis
Toni Marie Perilli '22
Photo essay on the art of escapism through the lens of the performers who bring live entertainment experiences to life
Jacqueline Fry '24
Accessibility statement for Manhattanville College's Andrew Bodenrader Center for Academic Writing and Composition
Jensen Price '23
Presenting for 4020 psychology class on Autism in children
Brigid Sullivan '22
The problems surrounding free speech in the media due to “big tech” and other large corporations that run news outlets
Kaellei Lewis '23
Data Visualization Modeling for Faculty and Staff at Manhattanville College
Emma Baer '22
Study into different personal variables and COVID-19 compliance among college-aged students
Alyssa Cavarretta '24
The Writing Center and ARC
Catherine Lyons '22
Research regarding congenital heart disease and associated brain deficits
Leah Horn '23
Graffiti, the literary magazine, featuring club members and contributors
Alioune Mamour Diop '22
Discrimination Data, Economic Story telling
Francis Zhinin '25
Why Market Fails: A Case Study in Economics
Current & Upcoming Courses

Student Reviews & Course Descriptions
Catalog information & program update provided by Professor Nimish Adhia

America Through Musical Theatre (CSCH 3050, Fall 2021)

Out of all the courses I have taken or that have been offered for the Castle Scholar students, American Society through Musical Theater has by far been my favorite. Taught by Professor Beth Burrier, the course was structured so that students would listen to anywhere between one and even five musical soundtracks a week. Despite the daunting amount of new media that was consumed each week however, the course never once felt tedious or overwhelming.

Going into the class with a relatively deep knowledge of American musical theater, I was rather excited to jump into this course, but I knew not everyone would have that same prior knowledge. Professor Burrier taught the class in a very communicative way, so that students with either extensive or minimal knowledge would have an enjoyable experience. Those without prior knowledge on the subject were never left behind in discussions on the theatrical basics, but it never felt like Musical Theater 101 for those of us majoring or minoring in the subject.

Due to the discussion-based nature of the course, I was able to gain new insight on musicals that I had been listening to for upwards of seven years. Having so many classmates coming at these stories from different backgrounds, everyone had a different perspective. Someone’s favorite musical would be another’s most hated piece. Some days would be allocated to discuss multiple shows, but the students would feel so passionately about a certain song that we would only be able to get through one. The fluidity of the class schedule allowed for this.

For this course, we were also required to go see the Musical Theater Department’s fall production of Brigadoon. After so long of only listening to musicals and reading their plots, being able to go to a theater and watch classmates perform in a live production was a wonderful experience. American Society through Musical Theater was an absolute pleasure to take and I hope that future students are also able to take this wonderful course.

Tara Healy ’23

History of Geometry (CSCH 3070, Fall 2021)

This class was successful in breaking down a large amount of rules of geometry and we worked our way up from the basics. This was extremely helpful considering there were non-math majors who were enrolled in the course and had no previous knowledge on the subject. I left this class with a true understanding of all of the geometry we covered and it taught me different scales and ways of thinking. I would definitely recommend this class to not only Castle Scholars, but for anyone who has an interest in learning math in an unconventional way.

Alyssa Cavarretta ’24

Empathy (CSCH 3300, Spring 2022)

Course Spotlight by Bailey Murphy ’23 on pages 14 and 15

Violence/Resistance 20C Latin America (CSCH 3021, Spring 2022)

This honors course examines the nature and purposes of state-directed violence and methods of resistance to it in twentieth century Latin America. Through the close reading of texts and interpretation of film, the course explores what has constituted violence in Latin America, the public versus private nature of violence, its intersections with ethnicity and gender, and the ways in which victimization, accountability, and human agency have changed over time.

Saints and Sinners (CSCH 3110, Spring 2022)

This class will explore the true and often scandalous history of this period, when Popes ruled like Kings, engaged in warfare, diplomacy and murderous conspiracies. The excesses of this period moved German priest Martin Luther to call for reform, forever changing the course of religious history. When Rome was invaded by French and German troops in 1527 and Pope Clement VII imprisoned, all hope seemed lost. But like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the papacy of Paul III (Farnese) promised a rebirth of Rome, and a period of renewal and reform was ushered in.

Museum in Victorian Literature (CSCH 3018, Fall 2022)

This seminar focuses on 19th-century English and American writings about art, museum culture, and gallery spaces. Students will read and write on two types of texts: works of art history and aesthetic criticism—which theorize the role of art in culture—as well as literary works which prominently feature personal encounters with art. In addition to studying the rise of the museum in Victorian culture, students will visit spaces where art is consumed (the Frick museum and an NYC auction house).

Professor Meghan Freeman, Thursday 4:15 pm to 6:55 pm

Music and Politics (CSCH 3060, Fall 2022)

Classical music composers have often expressed their political views through their musical outputs. The purpose of this seminar is to identify such music and better understand the historical and socio-political context of each studied musical work.

Professor Olivier Fluchaire, Wednesday 4:15 pm to 6:55 pm

Update to the Castle Scholars Program Requirements:

Capstone and Service Learning courses will no longer be offered. If you have not taken one or both courses, the requirements to take these courses will be automatically waived for you. The only requirements that remain for the current Castle Scholars are (i) CSCH freshman seminar (ii) two 3000-level castle scholars seminars.
Empathy

Bailey Murphy ’23

Empathy. According to Google, empathy is “the ability to understand and share the feelings of another,” yet in this Castle Scholars class, we have come to understand it is much more involved than the given definition. Over the last thirteen weeks, our class has taken a deep dive into dozens of definitions, measurements, and discussions of what empathy is and the need for it in this modern, ever-changing world.

Most recently, our understanding has come from exploring nearly every avenue of empathy; from technology and social media to education, the dangers of empathy, cultural differences, marketing, healthcare, literature, and beyond. Student-led weekly discussions have opened our eyes to the varying components of empathy including motivation, deterrence, and how we can increase our empathic skills and engagements with others.

While our understanding and embodiment of empathy are far from complete, we have learned that one of the most valiant ways of learning these elements comes from listening and doing. For one of our course sessions, we were joined by Professor Clista Towne and Professor Jeffrey Kaplan, who are well acquainted with empathic processes on the performance front.

Our session first began with recognizing the common connection between performance and empathy, as students partake in numerous exercises that aid their understanding of the role they must embody. We quickly learned that “empathy is not about placing yourself in another’s shoes but rather understanding what it is like to be them in their shoes.” To embrace this concept a step further, we gathered around the room in pairs and stared into each other’s eyes for a full sixty seconds. After nervous giggling passed, the action became natural. We then progressed into mirroring fluid-like movements, and finally shifting the leader in control of these movements back and forth without discussion. Though they seem simple, these exercises forced us to engage in discomfort and begin to understand the unspoken language occurring between us and our partners. The next part of our session involved recreating historic images without context. Through reading body language, facial expressions, setting surroundings, and envisioning what might be occurring, we successfully transformed into these images momentarily. This is what performers do each day, and more of what the rest of us should make efforts toward, to consciously strive to understand and envision what those who may be completely unconnected from us experience.

Though difficult to comprehend at first, the beauty in empathy is that opportunity it gives us as human beings to connect, learn from, and engage with individuals everywhere. We are not born empathetic, but rather, develop this skill that is not often discussed but highly coveted as a means to build communities where differences will always exist, further the web of social connectedness, debunk false stereotypes, and come to gain greater insight about ourselves and others.

Images

Below, left
Students participating in a session of the empathy course

Below, right
Some of the images students were asked to recreate without context.

This was part of the session with Professor Clista Towne and Professor Jeffrey Kaplan from the Theatre program.

Right, top to bottom
Professor Alison Carson
Professor Clista Towne
Professor Jeffrey Kaplan
1. Do you hold an internship or job on or off campus?

- Yes: 23
- No: 13

2. What's the best place to hang out on campus?

- The Quad: 15
- The Library: 5
- Berman Lobby: 2
- The Pub: 8
- Commuter Lounge: 4
- Spellman Lounge: 0
- Center for Design Thinking: 1
- Honors Lounge: 1

3. What's the best time of day to eat at the dining hall?

- Breakfast: 10
- Lunch: 7
- Dinner: 14
- I don't eat at the dining hall: 5

4. What clubs are you a part of?

- Academic / Honor Societies: 18
- Media: 7
- Performing Arts: 5
- Cultural: 2
- Civic Engagement: 3
- Campus Traditions + Student Affairs: 4
- Leisure + Social Interests: 8
- Other: 13

5. What other programs are you involved in?

- Clark Scholar: 28
- MAP Scholar: 1
- Study Abroad / International Studies: 1
- Athletics: 8
- Journey Mentors, Orientation & Events: 10

6. What's your favorite streaming service?

- Netflix: 23
- Hulu: 3
- Disney+: 4
- Peacock: 0
- HBO Max: 5
- Amazon Prime: 1
Castle Scholars work incredibly hard during their undergraduate years to go above and beyond what's expected of them. Coming from all programs and academic areas, these individuals demonstrate what it means to be ethical and socially-responsible leaders in a global community, as well as act as the models for the entire Valiant community. The Castle Voices Newsletter celebrates this incredible group, as well as all they've been able to accomplish!

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Karen Bender
Major: Mathematics, Computer Science
Minor: Psychology
Involvement: Clark Scholar
Notable Accomplishments: Getting my internship working in a middle school
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Thinking Overthinking
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Going to the Botanical Gardens
Post-Graduation Plans: Continue with the 5-year Masters Education Program here at Manhattanville
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Go on the field trips!

Petey Galgano
Major: Finance & Business Management
Involvement: Men's Basketball
Notable Accomplishments: Dean's List all 4 years, MAC Conference Winter Academic Honor Roll 2018-2019, Skyline Conference Winter Academic Honor Roll 2019-2020 and 2021-2022, Nominated for 2020-2021 Manhattanville Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, Rindlaub Award Scholarship Winner, Men's Basketball Team Captain
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: The Chemistry of Poisons
Post-Graduation Plans: Law School
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Take advantage of all the opportunities the Castle Scholars Program has to offer!

Brooke Banahan
Major: Psychology
Minor: Creative Writing
Involvement: Clark Scholar
Notable Accomplishments: I stayed on the Dean’s List for three semesters in a row!
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Thinking Overthinking
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: The Human Rights Awareness Day!
Post-Graduation Plans: I want to work with children to make a difference in the world
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Make sure you make the most out of your honors experience, and use the tools offered to your disposal!

Gabrielle Gardini
Major: Psychology
Minor: Pre-Health
Involvement: President of NSLS, Vice President of Tribeta and ACS, Clark service student coordinator, member of Psi Chi
Notable Accomplishments: Dean’s list every semester, graduating a year early, 3.9 gpa, Excellence in Social Processes Psychology Award, research with Professor Gerrity; 3 jobs including being an EMT in Mamaroneck, babysitting, and working at a daycare
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Chemistry of Poisons
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Luncheon at the castle
Post-Graduation Plans: NYU medical school!
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Time management is important! Stay connected with professors!

Jacob Bloom
Major: Business Management with a concentration in Accounting
Involvement: CSIL Peer/Journey Mentor, CCD Office Assistant & Data Analyst Intern, Mvillie in Focus Intern, National Society of Leadership and Success, Finance Society, SGA Senator, Co-Host of Sports Hour - MVL Radio
Notable Accomplishments: Dean’s List, Chairperson’s Award, NSLS Leadership and Advanced Certification, 32 page Business Senior Thesis, being in charge of collecting pledges for the planet from NSLS members for the NSLS 2021 Virtual Earth Week, Student Employee of the Year Nominee
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: The Art of Comedy
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: The MET Field Trip, connecting with peers
Post-Graduation Plans: Work as a tax intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) over the summer; receive my Master’s Degree in Accounting and my CPA License at the Gabelli School of Business of Fordham University over the next year; work full-time at PwC as a tax associate while living in the city
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Know that life is a journey and there will be many bumps on the long and winding road; Dream big and live life to the fullest!
Holly Meredith
Major: Sociology and Childhood Education
Minor: Philosophy
Involvement: Clark Scholar Student Coordinator for Rescue Right Volunteering, Member of National Society of Leadership and Success, President of Paws For A Cause and Women’s Ice Hockey
Notable Accomplishments: Dean’s List
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: America Through Musical Theatre
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Acting out Shakespeare with my classmates Freshman year
Post-Graduation Plans: Graduate School at Manhattanville for my Masters in Childhood Education
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Keep a planner, don’t procrastinate, make sure to have fun and live a life outside of school work (balance).

Kasey Molito
Major: Sports Studies
Minor: Psychology and Women and Gender Studies
Involvement: Captain of the women’s lacrosse team, Captain of the women’s rugby team, National Society of Leadership and Success member
Notable Accomplishments: MAC Spring Sportmanship Team in 2019, Skyline Academic Honor Roll for 2019-2020, Founders Award - Presented to a Sport Studies major who demonstrates excellent historical perspective in any major coursework for Sports Studies in 2021, All-Skyline 2nd Team in 2021, All-NIRA DIII honorable mention in 2022
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Beatles in their Context
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Presenting the history of the Beatles’ movie “A Hard Day’s Night” followed by watching the movie with my class.
Post-Graduation Plans: I plan to travel to Panama and volunteer for a non-profit organization that helps teach children valuable life lessons through the game of lacrosse.
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Utilize the school’s resources. Don’t be afraid to ask professors for help if you need it, they want to see you succeed.

Toni Marie Perilli
Major: Communications & Media Studies
Involvement: Co-Founder & Co-President (Mville in Focus), Vice President (Lambda Pi Eta), Student Photographer (Office of Communications & Marketing + Dance & Theatre), Office Assistant Coordinator (Center for Career Development), Peer Tutor, Student Coordinator (Sister Mary T. Clark Center for Religion & Social Justice), Editor-in-Chief (Castle Voices Newsletter)
Notable Accomplishments: Started Manhattanville’s first photo club, contributed to the development of the college TikTok page, graduating in 3 years, 4.0 GPA, Student Employee of the Year Nominee, Advanced Leadership Certification May 2021, Clark Student Coordinator Leadership Award May 2021, Communication & Media Outstanding Student Production May 2021
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Chemistry of Cannabis
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: The MET Trip!
Post-Graduation Plans: Working towards becoming a photographer
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Say yes to as much as you can!

Tessa Rothwell
Major: Global and International Studies
Minor: Women’s and Gender Studies, Social Justice
Involvement: Clark Scholar Volunteer, VP of Student Affairs and Class Secretary - Student Government, VP and Co-Founder - Women’s Empowerment Club. Member of the Manhattanville Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Member of the Community Initiative (Cooperative Multi-Race National Transformative Youth Initiative), Student representative on Manhattanville DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) Task Force and Strategic Planning Committee. 2021 Virtual Orientation Leader at Manhattanville College. Library circulation supervisor.
Notable Accomplishments: Valiant Award: Antonio Morales Lupin Award for Excellence in Service and Academics, Co-Founder of the Women’s Empowerment Club, Helped plan numerous events on campus, including Human Rights Awareness Week 2020, SGA and Community Initiative Town Hall, Pie-A-Professor, Women’s Week 2021, NELLS member & Dean’s List.
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Human Rights Awareness Week 2020 - Fall Service
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Having conversations with a formerly incarcerated scholar and writer as part of Human Rights Awareness Week 2020. This was a transformative experience for me.
Post-Graduation Plans: I wish to continue my activism and grant work by working for grassroots organizations. I would like to work for United Nations one day, potentially through UN Women. I’d also like to travel the world.
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Ask tough questions, have uncomfortable conversations. One of the greatest lessons I’ve learned is that a comfort zone is a beautiful place but nothing ever grows there. Take every opportunity to engage in activism on campus and let your voice be heard!

Alex Rowella
Major: Accounting
Minor: Concentration in Finance and a Minor in Sport Studies
Involvement: Clark Scholar, Castle Scholar, Men’s hockey team member. SAAC rep for mens hockey
Notable Accomplishments: Four year men’s ice hockey team member, Three year Men’s Ice hockey captain, Junior Class President in 2020
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Chemistry of Poisons
Post-Graduation Plans: Accepted a job in White Plains at Danone North America in their Finance and Accounting Department
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Take advantage of the Castle Scholar events and the ability to take extra credits every semester.

Genesis M Pepe
Major: Chemistry
Involvement: TriBeta Biological Honor Society, American Chemical Society, Kappa Delta Pi
Notable Accomplishments: Being placed on the Dean’s list each semester
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Castle Scholars Fall Service Course
Post-Graduation Plans: Continuing at Manhattanville in the Master’s program for education
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Work hard, have fun and go to the events to meet new people!
Connor James Yetman
Major: Business Management - Finance
Minor: Sport Studies, Marketing
Involvement: Men’s Basketball Team Four Year Member. Castle Scholar. Dean’s List every year.
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Anarchy in the USA with Professor Morris
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Going on the Castle Scholars field trip to the Botanical Gardens to see the Kusama sculptures
Post-Graduation Plans: Pursue a job opportunity with Madison Square Garden or continue my studies at grad school pursuing an MBA.
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Take everything one step at a time. Be present in the moment and don’t be afraid to go outside your comfort zone. That is the only way we grow.

Shoshana Schwartz
Major: Political Science and History
Involvement: Kappa Delta Pi Fraternity, International Honor Society in Education | Honor’s Member December 2020- Present, Manhattanville College Human Rights Awareness Day | Organizer & Participant August 2019- December 2019, and a Manhattanville College Orientation Leader May 2020– August 2020
Notable Accomplishments: Summa Cum Laude Commencement Latin Honors • “Excellence in History Award - Junior” Award Recipient | Manhattanville College History Dept., 2021 • “Outstanding Achievement in Legal Studies” Award Recipient Manhattanville College Political Science Dept., 2020 and the following research experience Affective Read Aloud Lesson Plan For 2nd Graders, School of Education, Manhattanville College, 2021 Eleanor Roosevelt: Reinventing the Role of the First Lady Through her Journalism Involvement with Feminist Ideals, History Dept., Manhattanville College, 2021 Federal Disability Classification Presentation ED-Internalizing-Anxiety, School of Education, Manhattanville College, 2021
Favorite Castle Scholars Course: Music and Politics
Favorite Castle Scholars Memory: Going on the Castle Scholars field trip to the Botanical Gardens to see the Kusama sculptures
Post-Graduation Plans: I am currently in the master’s portion of my 5+1 year program to receive my Master of Arts in Teaching Early Childhood & Childhood Education. Also, during the day I am a full-time permanent building substitute teacher at an elementary school in a Westchester public school.
Advice to Future Castle Scholars: Make the most of every opportunity presented to you; it will help you find your passions and help you stand out to employers and universities down the line.

Castle Scholars Graduation Awards
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
Karen Bender
Outstanding Leadership Award
Toni Marie Perilli

My time at Manhattanville has been anything but ordinary. From graduating a year early to having the majority of my education consist of online classes and hybrid events, it seems as though nothing has gone as planned. However, I found a sense of community, stability, and normalcy in the Castle Scholars program despite the ever-changing state of the world. My professors and peers in this program have demonstrated on a daily basis how commitment and dedication can overcome all difficulty, and how we as a diverse community can come together to create truly incredible things.

I strived for this year’s newsletter to focus on the many positive moments that Castle Scholars have experienced over the course of the past academic year. As we have a glimmer of hope and start to return to some sort of normalcy, I’ve been witness to spectacular achievements inside the classroom and beyond. Whether it be another successful Human Rights Awareness Day, or a fun trip to the MET, this group of exceptional individuals has created a bright spot in the campus community. If one thing holds true, it’s that the Castle Scholars community will always continue to break boundaries and exceed expectations, both as individuals and as a group. Now more than ever, it’s crucial to continue to highlight what makes this community so special to so many of us.

I have worked on this newsletter since my very first year on campus and this is the first year I will be able to see it published in an in-person setting. I have so much to be thankful for, but I am extremely grateful for the support of Professor Adhia, as well as the rest of the Castle Scholars faculty, for allowing me the honor of acting as Editor-in-Chief this year. I’d also like to express my appreciation for all of the talented contributors for assisting me in creating this year’s newsletter. I would also have not been able to complete this without the incredible faculty in CAM, as well as the many administrators who have served as mentors in my journey here. This newsletter has not only fostered my own growth, but helped connect me to a community that has become an integral part of my Manhattanville experience. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything.

Toni Marie Perilli
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Special Thanks
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