The Doers and Thinkers of the New CENTER FOR DESIGN THINKING

PG. 20
A GRAND REUNION

Nineteen years after Valiant sweethearts Aimee Bouchard ’02 and Michelle Driscoll ’01 performed in Manhattanville’s A Grand Night for Singing, they returned to campus—this time as a married couple with three children—to watch their former directors, Mark Cherry and Beverly Meyer, reprise the production. Left to right: Aimee Bouchard, Mark Cherry, Beverly Meyer, and Michelle Driscoll.

VALENT PERFORMANCES
Dear Alumni and Friends of Manhattanville,

As I prepare for my fourth year at Manhattanville College, I reflect with great pride on the ambitious goals we laid out in our Strategic Plan as well as the persistence and teamwork that brought many of these ideas into reality. I am pleased to share that in September we officially opened the Center for Design Thinking on campus. Housed in the former President’s Cottage, it is one of few such centers in the nation located on a liberal arts college campus, and it is the first of its kind in Westchester County. See the multiple features on pages 20-27 to learn about the concept of Design Thinking and the role Manhattanville’s Center will play in preparing our students for the workplace of tomorrow.

The Strategic Plan also furthers the mission of the College by outlining key initiatives that leverage its rich history and roots in social justice. As you know, the diversification of the student body began more than 80 years ago in 1938 by former President Mother Grace Dammann, who affirmed the right of the first African American student to be admitted to Manhattanville in an address that made national headlines. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Brownson Takeover, a student protest that took place in December of 1969. The desire of the students to see more diversity on campus was supported by then President Elizabeth McCormack.

While much has changed since 1969, one commitment remains the same: Manhattanville continues to be a nurturing community of engaged scholars and teachers producing independent and creative thinkers. Our pride in the current diversity of the institution is reflected in multiple articles, including one about first generation alumni and the Center for Inclusion’s pilot program called, “Manhattanville First” (pages 18 and 19); another showcasing writers Elijah Fulton ’12 (page 8) and Tiffany Fuller ’12 (page 10); a piece highlighting Diane Fisher ’72 (page 12), a filmmaker of Native American heritage who filmed scenes from her upcoming feature on campus this year; and a special feature commemorating the retirement and lifetime achievements of Professor Jimmy Jones (pages 16 and 17).

As we take pride in our past, we also look to the future. In the spring, we hope to receive approval from New York State to launch our new School of Nursing and Health Sciences. And I am pleased to announce the relaunch of Castle Conversations, our series of public forums in Reid Castle; the inaugural event in September featuring novelist Richard North Patterson and political columnist Bret Stephens was a rousing success (see pages 14 and 15). The evening was a perfect example of Manhattanville’s liberal arts ethos offering a public space to cultivate critical thinking through civil, bipartisan dialogue.

As always, I recognize that we would not be able to carry on the great tradition of Manhattanville and forge a path for the future without all of you. Please be sure to see our latest Honor Roll (pages 41-57), which stands as a wonderful testament to the generosity of our alumni and friends and their continued belief in our mission. All of you make all of this possible and I thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Geisler
President
A LOOK BACK

AT THE BROWNSON TAKEOVER

n November 13, Manhattanville hosted its 50th annual Human Rights Awareness Day in the Berman Center. This year’s theme was Youth Activism, which dovetailed with an evening event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Brownson Takeover. The events were organized by students and Manhattanville professors Anna Yeung-Cheung, PhD, and Binita Mehta, PhD.

The daytime program began with 23-year-old keynote speaker, Nathan Law, Hong Kong’s youngest legislator who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018. In his presentation, Law narrated video footage from the recent clashes in Hong Kong, recounting the harrowing violence and his own arrest by the police.

Law then joined a panel discussion with American youth activists Sarah Clements, Nazira Cisse, and Noely Jimenez. Clements became a nationally recognized gun violence prevention activist after her mother survived the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. Cisse

Human Rights Awareness Day

is part of the Teen Activist Project, which advocates for racial justice and LGBTQ+ rights; and Jimenez is a theatre major at Manhattanville who works as a coordinator, teaching artist, and actor in the People’s Theatre Project in Manhattan.

In the evening, the spotlight turned to 1969 and the Brownson Takeover, a notable campus protest by 18 African American students who barricaded themselves in Brownson Hall to demand greater diversity on campus. The night’s event, held in Reid Castle, featured a video interview with Elizabeth McCormack ’44, RCSJ, PhD, the president of Manhattanville in 1969, as well as remarks by Cheryl Hill ’73, one of the Brownson protesters who is now a film producer and a co-founding partner of the Harlem Film Company.

President Michael Geisler, PhD, opened the forum by framing the events from 50 years ago within Manhattanville’s long history of addressing inequality. “Right here on this campus, students have repeatedly and consistently held the Manhattanville community—the board, the faculty, the staff, and yes, the administration—accountable for living up to the ideals of this great institution as enshrined in our mission.” He cited the example set by Mother Grace Dammann, RSCJ, in 1938, “The main concern was ‘these are our students, these are not some group from somewhere else, these are Manhattanville students,’” said McCormack. “So the very first day that this happened, I phoned the chief of police in Purchase and said, ‘No police are welcome on this campus. If anyone phones asking you to send police, it isn’t [me].’”

McCormack recalled that, in order to meet with the protesters, she had to climb through a window in what is now the faculty area in Brownson. “I was nervous. But as I stepped into the room, they were all at the table. I heard one student say to the rest, ‘Don’t let her fall.’” She recalled thinking, “If they don’t want me to fall, they don’t want to hurt me. So I relaxed and we had three evenings of talking to one another. I had to go in the window each time.”

From the start of the takeover, McCormack made it her priority that the students not get into any legal trouble. “My main concern was ‘these are our students, these are not some group from somewhere else, these are Manhattanville students,’” said McCormack. “So the very first day that this happened, I phoned the chief of police in Purchase and said, ‘No police are welcome on this campus. If anyone phones asking you to send police, it isn’t [me].’”

“I loved the students and I knew them very well,” said McCormack.

In hindsight, the protest did more than amplify student demands. It showed how a community committed to social justice could use empathy and constructive dialogue to resolve conflict and move forward together. As McCormack noted, “It was a hard time, but it was also a great time.”

While then President Elizabeth McCormack barred outside law enforcement agencies from intervening, the takeover still captured public attention and became a news item beyond the pages of the campus paper, The Touchstone. After the Brownson Takeover, many students at Manhattanville College were inspired to participate in movements that would establish positive change. Right students in 1973 sit in front of Reid Castle to protest the U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

African American students looking out the window of Brownson during their occupation.

One of the demands from the 18 African American students was that 10 percent of the total student population consist of non-white students. Today Manhattanville is 38 percent non-white students.

President McCormack released a letter to the Manhattanville community during the Brownson Takeover stating that she would look over the demands of both the protesters as well as the petition from students who were opposed to the protesters’ tactic. McCormack promised that she would continue to fight against racial injustice and also for the well-being of Manhattanville community.

Showing solidarity with the Brownson activists, students slept in Reid Castle during the last night of the protest.

Eighteen African American student protesters occupied Brownson Hall, December 8–13, 1969. Doors and windows of the building were barred with chairs and other objects. The activists refused to leave until the administration pledged to make changes to improve diversity on campus.

American students looking out the window of Brownson during their occupation.
Having completed his undergraduate studies in biology at Manhattanville College, Elijah Fulton ‘19 is now pursuing a degree in communication studies at New York University. Fulton spent his junior year at NYU, where he used his writing skills to work on the NYU Department of Journalism and Media Studies. He has since returned to Manhattanville College to work on his senior project, a feature screenplay titled “Doing the Write Thing.”

“Doing the Write Thing” is a story about a young black boy who is struggling to find his place in the world. The screenplay was inspired by Fulton’s own experience growing up in a mixed-race family in New York City. Fulton said that the story is a way for him to explore his own identity and to share his experiences with others.

The screenplay has been well-received, and Fulton is now looking to bring it to the screen. He has already had several meetings with producers and directors, and he hopes to bring “Doing the Write Thing” to the big screen within the next few years.

Fulton is grateful for the support he has received from the Manhattanville College community. “I am so grateful for the support I have received from my professors and peers at Manhattanville College,” he said. “They have been instrumental in helping me to develop my writing skills and to bring my story to life.”

Fulton is also looking forward to the future. “I am excited to see what comes next for me,” he said. “I am grateful to be a part of the Manhattanville College community and to have the opportunity to pursue my passion for writing.”

Fulton is the first student to receive the Margaret L. McFarlane Award for Excellence in Screenwriting at Manhattanville College. The award is given annually to the student who demonstrates the greatest promise in the field of screenwriting.

Fulton is hopeful that his story will inspire others to pursue their dreams. “I hope that my story will inspire others to follow their own passions,” he said. “I am grateful to be a part of the Manhattanville College community and to have the opportunity to pursue my passion for writing.”
**IN THEIR OWN WORDS...**

**Tiffany Fuller ’12**

I was born and raised in San Francisco. Not quite “the hood,” but close enough to know the drug dealers by name. I didn’t want to sell or swing, so instead, I used the slang and happenings of my hood as the bones for my script ideas.

My writing was my path, taking me through the high school creative writing program at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts to Manhattanville College, where I majored in communication studies and minored in English, to my graduation with a master’s degree in screenwriting from the University of Southern California (USC).

Prior to taking my first screenwriting class with Professor Jeff Bens at Manhattanville, I had no intention of applying to film school or pursuing a career in screenwriting. But Professor Bens did such a great job of explaining the various elements that make up a script and what makes a good scene, that his class really started my journey to becoming a professional screenwriter. So, while USC is the thought of as the number one film school in the world, it was Jeff Bens’ screenwriting class that got me there!

I used to go back and forth on whether or not my purpose in life was to be a screenwriter, but I know now that I have a responsibility to tell stories; my own experiences are also the experiences of others who may not have the opportunity to articulate their thoughts and feelings. It can be very healing for someone to see themselves in characters and know they are not alone.

I often write stories about abandonment, mental illness, the need for love, redemption, and forgiveness. I love the idea that my words can impact someone’s life simply by being said out loud. At least, that is the hope.

Tiffany Fuller ’12 holds a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from USC, where she was awarded the Jack Nicholson Scholarship in writing. She has worked as a development intern at Will Smith’s production company, Overbrook Entertainment, and was a finalist in the American Black Film Festival and a semifinalist for a fellowship at the Sundance Institute’s American Black Film Festival and a finalist for a filmmaker fellowship at Manhattanville.

**School of Education Distinguished Lecturer Series : Author Jane Yolen**

Jane Yolen, author of the 1988 Caldecott Medal winning children’s book Ow! Moon, came to Reid Castle in October to discuss the collaborative process that brought this beloved picture book into being. Joining her for the panel discussion was the original book team: Nanette Stevenson, art director; Judy Schoenher; wife of the late Caldecott Medal-winning artist, John Schoenher; Heid Seiple, Yolen’s daughter; and Patricia Lee Gauch, the editor of Ow! Moon. This is the team’s first reunion since the awards dinner more than 30 years ago, and the first time they have discussed the topic together. The event was co-sponsored by Manhattanville’s School of Education and the Teacher Center of Central Westchester.

**Valiants to the Rescue**

Manhattanville’s biology department is a tight-knit community of students, professors, and alumni—and one lucky sea turtle named Chili.

Chili was one of a handful of “cold-stunned” sea turtles rescued from a Long Island beach by the New York Marine Rescue Center in Riverhead, New York, which is run by Manhattanville alumna Maxine Montello ’08. Montello, along with her biology professor from when she was a student at Manhattanville, Wendy McFarlane, PhD, work to rescue, rehab, and release injured turtles and recently started investigating turtles who are cold-stunned. As McFarlane explained, sea turtles are in the Northeast feeding, and naturally migrate south following warmer water. However, if they are caught in the plunging fall temperatures “they get hypothermic and their bodies may stop functioning. Many of them will float on the surface, which is when they can get hit by boats or stranded on beaches.” At the Rescue Center, the turtles are rehabilitated over the winter and then released in the spring when water temperatures rise.

This summer, Montello and McFarlane released five rehabilitated, cold-stunned turtles with satellite tags, one of which was purchased by Manhattanville and attached to Chili. “The College has been extremely supportive,” said McFarlane. “You know, [the tags] are wicked expensive—$1,500 apiece.” So far, the investment seems to be paying off: Chili is currently making its way down along the Atlantic Coast. “It’s connected to a live link that Professor McFarlane can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.

This trail of dots moving south does more than keep track of Chili; it can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.

This trail of dots moving south does more than keep track of Chili; it can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.

Chili is currently making its way down along the Atlantic Coast. It’s connected to a live link that Professor McFarlane can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.

Chili is currently making its way down along the Atlantic Coast. It’s connected to a live link that Professor McFarlane can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.

Chili is currently making its way down along the Atlantic Coast. It’s connected to a live link that Professor McFarlane can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.

Chili is currently making its way down along the Atlantic Coast. It’s connected to a live link that Professor McFarlane can track. “Every time it pings we can see where it is.” As of October 28, it was past Atlantic City.
The Heart Stays at Manhattanville

Scenes from The Heart Stays, a film by director Diane Fraher ’72, were shot on campus in August. Fraher is of Osage and Cherokee heritage. She was a member of the last all-women’s class at Manhattanville before the College went co-ed and is the only tribally-ennrolled Native American known to have attended Manhattanville.

Fraher was awarded a grant from the NYC Women’s Fund for Media, Music and Theatre, an initiative of the New York Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (OMME) to address the underrepresentation of those who identify as women in film, music, television, and theatre. The film is being produced by the community-based non-profit organization, American Indian Artists, Inc. (Amenida), with grant awards and fellowships Fraher has received.

The Heart Stays tells the story of two Native American sisters who leave the traditions and safety of the reservation to follow their own long-held dreams—the older sister to attend a distinguished college and the younger to become a rock star. Soon after leaving their beloved land and community, their life journeys collide into racism, drugs, and violence, forcing the older teen to choose between her life’s work and saving her sister’s life.

Scenes were filmed in the Castle, on the quad, in Tenney Hall, and in the bookstore. The production offered a chance for Manhattanville students to see a film crew in action. One student, Hannah Ray ’21, was hired as an intern on the project and got to work alongside the cast and crew. He and Fraher, as well as the producer, Yvonne Russo, were interviewed by local TV news about the filming. The film is set to premiere at film festivals next year.

New Programs

New School of Nursing and Health Sciences

In the spring, the Manhattanville College Board of Trustees approved the launch of a new School of Nursing and Health Sciences. The school’s curriculum plan has been proposed to the New York State Department of Education for approval for two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for traditional four-year and transfer students, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for second degree students.

MS in Health Education

The School of Education at Manhattanville College will now offer a Health Education master’s degree. This 45-credit graduate program is designed to prepare master’s level candidates for careers as K–12 health educators. This program provides a comprehensive understanding of individual, school, community, and global health, while emphasizing best teaching practices in a K–12 classroom.

EdD Dissertation Completion Pathway

The School of Education is launching a new online offering for the school’s EdD Dissertation Completion Pathway. Students who are All But Dissertation (ABD) can earn their doctorate in Educational Leadership in only 2 years with this structured and credit pathway. The first cohort will start in July.

MS in Biomedical Sciences

The MS in Biomedical Sciences will provide an advanced background for students who are interested in the medical field and who will ultimately apply for admission to medical, dental, veterinary, physician’s assistant, or physical therapy professional programs, as well as medical research. The core curriculum will provide an overview of the basic medical sciences, with more focused study on specific topics such as global health, bioethics, and biotechnology.

Newsmakers

Dwight Hilson MAW ’09, was featured in Greenwich Time upon his appointment as chair of Manhattanville’s Board of Trustees.

President Michael Geisler, PhD, published an op-ed in The Hill: “Free education for all would widen the gap between rich and poor.”

President Geisler and Associate Provost for Academic Innovation and Design Thinking Alison Carson, PhD, published a column on design thinking in the Westchester County Business Journal: “Making humans more attractive to employers in the age of AI.”

The opening of the Center for Design Thinking received coverage in the Daily Voice, Patch.com, the Westchester County Business Journal, and the newsletter of the Business Council of Westchester.

The appointment of Alison Carson as associate provost for academic innovation and design thinking was listed in The Chronicle of Higher Education and in Inside Higher Ed.

President Geisler and School of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean Debra Simons, PhD, were featured in “Manhattanville looks to open nursing school in wake of College of New Rochelle’s closing” in The Journal News and in “Manhattanville College seeks approval for nursing school” in the Westchester County Business Journal.

The casting of the movie

The appointment of Julene Caulfield MAT ’11 as athletic director was featured in local media, including News 12 and the Daily Voice. Caulfield earned her Master of Arts in Teaching, with a specialty in physical education and sport pedagogy.

Inside Higher Ed ran a story, “Growing number of colleges let students pick their names,” that highlighted Manhattanville as one of the first colleges to allow the use of preferred names on ID cards. The article quoted Robyn Schlesinger, a doctoral student in the School of Education.

“Transgender representation is central for Elite Desautels ’17, star of ‘Orange Julius,’ opening at CSPS” on TheGazette.com. Desautels studied theater at Manhattanville.

Alumnus Michael C. Fina ’18, who earned a bachelor’s degree in sports studies, was featured in an article on Patch.com about a new role for his alma mater, the Greenwich High School in Greenwich Free Press and on Patch.com.

Jennifer Castellano ’04, who graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in music performance, was featured in an article in Folks, a PillPack magazine on her musical accomplishments despite visual and hearing impairments.

An article appeared in the Associated Press (AP) about a new role for Don Callahan ’78, P ’14, with Bridge Growth Partners: “Former Global Head of Technology for Gilä to Serve as Executive Partner.” Callahan holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Manhattanville and serves as trustee chair emeritus.

“Barbara Garcia: A first-generation college student spends summer doing research at PPPL” ran on Energy.gov. Barbara Garcia ’19 is now a senior majoring in physics and mathematics, participated in the Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) program at the U.S. Department of Energy’s DOE Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), where she spent 10 weeks doing hands-on research on an advanced liquid centrifuge.

Nancy Todd, PhD, professor of biology and chair of the environmental studies program, offered tips on “How to Be More Eco-Friendly This Holiday Season,” for an article in Reader’s Digest in the United States and Canada. The article also appeared on MSN.com.

Brian Sondey, director of graduate admissions, is now also upon his expertise for The New Grad-School Recruitment Playbook, a special publication of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Melissa Boston PsyD ’00, associate dean of student health and counseling, discussed the need for increased mental health services in higher education in an article titled “Overburdened Mental-Health Counselors: Look After Students, But Who Looks After the Counselors?” in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

“DataKeys Leads Design Thinking Program at Manhattanville College,” featuring Alison Carson was included in the newsletter of the Business Council of Westchester.

The launch of the “Dinner and Dialogue” event series was featured in the Westchester County Business Journal and Westchester Magazine and quoted Laura Persky, associate dean of the School of Professional Studies.

A book talk with Associate Professor of History David E. Gutman, PhD, was highlighted in Medford. Gutman presented his newly published book, The Politics of Armenian Migration to North America, 1885–1915.
Politics Today: When Reality is Stranger Than Fiction

AT A TIME WHEN “TALKING POLITICS” CAN KILL a conversation before it begins, award-winning novelist and political commentator Richard North Patterson, JD, delivered a master class in the art of constructive communication during this fall’s edition of Castle Conversations. As the featured speaker for the event, entitled “Politics Today: When Reality Is Stranger Than Fiction,” Patterson discussed his writing, his political views, and how to engage in today’s polarized media landscape. To demonstrate how it is done, Patterson was joined on stage by the evening’s moderator, Bret Stephens, a columnist for The New York Times and MSNBC commentator who is Patterson’s longtime friend, if not political ally.

In his welcoming remarks, Manhattanville President Michael Geisler, PhD, noted that although Patterson and Stephens occupy different spots on the political spectrum, they maintain a strong connection through empathetic dialogue. “They continue speaking with each other to reach across the gulf that is threatening to split this society down the middle,” said Geisler. Stephens acknowledged that he and Patterson often disagree, but explained that their friendship has flourished because of their differing opinions, not in spite of them. By continually challenging his arguments, Stephens said, Patterson has required him to think more deeply about what he believes, sharpening his understanding of political topics. “And that is what you want.”

Looking at Patterson’s career, it’s easy to understand how he developed into such a formidable sparring partner. A former trial lawyer, Patterson was a US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) liaison to the Watergate special prosecutor, the assistant attorney general for the State of Ohio, and he has penned 22 best-selling novels tackling complex legal and political issues, from gun control (Balance of Power) to the plight of US veterans (In the Name of Honor) to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict (Exile). Although Patterson’s books are works of fiction, Stephens noted that the plots and characters maintain relevance today.

As the event drew to a close, Patterson and Stephens thanked the audience for their thoughtful questions and Manhattanville College for offering the community a forum for constructive dialogue. “The business of a great college like this one is cultivating the quality of critical thinking,” said Stephens. “You can’t think clearly unless you can speak freely.”

As the event drew to a close, Patterson and Stephens thanked the audience for their thoughtful questions and Manhattanville College for offering the community a forum for constructive dialogue. “The business of a great college like this one is cultivating the quality of critical thinking,” said Stephens. “You can’t think clearly unless you can speak freely.”

Castle Conversations are open to the public. Check Mville.edu for upcoming events.
When James “Jimmy” Jones, DMin, was growing up in the segregated South, in Bracken, Virginia, he never dreamed that he would one day be a college professor. “It was never my intention to pursue a career in higher education,” said Jones, whose campus office is a testament to a lifetime of learning, with books stacked floor to ceiling.

Neither of his parents graduated high school, so higher education was not something he thought he was capable of. But even when he was young, Jones always loved reading and said that, as a child, his goal was to read every book in his local library. He’d take five at a time and might have accomplished his goal if it weren’t for new acquisitions.

After Jones’ parents separated when he was a boy, he was sent to live with a second cousin, Mary Armstead Johnson, a college-educated woman who encouraged him to pursue his education. In 1964, Jones enrolled in Hampton University, a historically black college in Virginia, and it cracked open a whole new world of learning.

“I had never questioned the notion that whites were superior until I attended Hampton University,” he said. “I was introduced to black intellectuals and activists, such as Paul Robeson and Marcus Garvey.” He also encountered civil rights activists such as Stokely Carmichael, whose phrase “black power” would become a rallying cry for civil rights activists.

When asked what book had the biggest influence on him, Jones did not hesitate: “The Autobiography of Malcolm X.” He said, “If I had a profound impact on my life, it caused me to reassess race relations in the country and introduced me to the religion of Islam. Malcolm X was a lifelong learner, very observant, and wasn’t afraid to question and change behavior based on this questioning.”

Jones earned his bachelor’s degree in history in 1968, graduating magna cum laude. He had never heard of Yale before he attended a summer program there for talented students from historically black colleges, but when it came time to apply to law schools, he only applied to two: Harvard and Yale.

“I guess that was confidence,” said Jones. Well-placed confidence, it turned out, because he was accepted to both, Jones chose Yale Law School because he was already familiar with New Haven, Connecticut, from his time in the summer program, and he thought Boston would be full of distractions. He settled in New Haven and has spent most of his years there ever since. During what Jones calls the black nationalist phase in his life, he was pursuing a joint law degree and master’s degree in American studies (African American history) at Yale. After two years, he took a leave of absence and never returned. The Vietnam War was happening in my face, and all too often, there were exemptions for those attending graduate school, they were done away with while he was still in law school.

Jones became a Muslim in 1979 and subsequently went back to school, but this time to earn his Master of Arts in Religion, which he received in 1983 from Yale Divinity School. In 1989, he earned a Doctor of Ministry from the Hartford Seminary in Christian-Muslim Relations.

From there, his interest in social justice expanded and ultimately led him toward a vocation in teaching. “I just wanted to change the world,” said Jones. “But I didn’t want to change it and just do. I wanted to change the world and think about it. Being a professor would force me to think about it.” Even during the span of years that he was primarily an activist, Jones taught as an adjunct professor and he often met with students to talk about the community work they do. “Anything to keep me active in the world of ideas,” he said.

Jones knows that he could have chosen many different career paths and recalled a job offer from a phone company that would have paid him $50,000 a year more than what he would have made as a professor at the time. It was no contest, adding, “I have no regrets. I am happy I came to Manhattanville.”

“I love it when people tell me I did something that sparked their interest in the world of ideas.”

—Jimmy Jones

Professor James “Jimmy” Jones is retiring after 29 years of service as a professor of world religions and African studies at Manhattanville. At Manhattanville and has been Chair of his department, World Religions, three times. And he’s happy to offer his opinion and to teach in a way that he can improve. “I tend to say what I think,” said Jones. “Never sacrifice your hackles for a bit of partisanship, but it was a part of my job as a member of the team to try and what I think in a respectful way.”

What Jones is really passionate about is teaching, mentoring, and counseling. He enjoys the process of figuring out where a student is at the beginning of a semester and where they’d like to go. “I like to help students discover a thirst for knowledge that was in them, not something poured into them,” said Jones. “I love it when people tell me I did something that sparked their interest in the world of ideas.”

All first-year Manhattanville students were once required to take a year-long, seminar-style course, the Preceptorial, which was intended to foster the intellectual development. As part of this, Jones worked as a mentor for all students, including those with special needs who he said often made his job more fulfilling. “American Africans are a marginalized group, so I am drawn to students with disabilities because I can relate to their marginalization,” said Jones. “People make unfounded assumptions about African Americans and people with special needs. I can relate to their experiences, and they are a marginalized group, so I am drawn to people with disabilities.”

Jones is committed to empowering young people to think in a respectful way.”

One such student had a speech impediment and had difficulty presenting in his class. But she met with Jones regularly throughout the course of the year as is required of all preceptorial students. “One of the profound moments of my life was when she wrote and presented the best first-year essay I have seen during my tenure at Manhattanville,” he said. “As the course was about religion, a topic she would not have been able to articulate her thoughts on prior to the course,” said Jones.

Reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the takeover of Brownson at Manhattanville, Jones said that the campus culture is very different now than it was then. “The outrage is not there and the culture is very different now than it was then. “The outrage is not there and the agency is not there now.”

“Some lament as I retire is that students seem less and less aware of their ability to change their situation,” said Jones. “Higher education in general has lost this message. Either being exposed to something new and changing lives and social injustices, and I think that’s sad. The media is dumbing us down and doing us a disservice. It’s too partisan and not encouraging us to be engaged citizens.”

Jones feels the ethos of Manhattanville is a perfect antidote, one that is worth fighting for. “This is an existential moment for higher ed and for institutions like Manhattanville that are not heavily endowed.”

“Manhattanville can be an institution where we roll up our sleeves and develop curriculum that motivates and empowers the mission,” said Jones. “The liberal arts is about teaching students to think critically, write cogently, and read analytically. This institution has a rich history of encouraging young people to think outside the box. It is important for everyone to have a voice.”

It was that philosophy that led Jones to help bring the Daughters for Life Foundation, a nonprofit that supports education in the Middle East, to Manhattanville. It provides critical scholarships and awards to make education a possibility for young women. “I am committed to empowering women and believes that if we had more women in leadership positions, we would be better off.”

“Better education in general has lost its ability to engage and think critically and engage with the student,” he said. “It’s part of my job to think critically and engage with the student.”

In the wake of this tragedy, Jones and his wife started a foundation in Malik’s memory and will be devoting more time to this endeavor during his retirement.

In the meantime, Jones has more than 30 grandchildren who he said will keep him and his wife very busy. He is on the board of several nonprofits and is serving as interim manager of the Islamic Seminary of America, and he is committed to helping the organization get on its feet. He has been a chaplain at

“Higher education in general has lost this message. Either being exposed to something new and changing lives and social injustices, and I think that’s sad. The media is dumbing us down and doing us a disservice. It’s too partisan and not encouraging us to be engaged citizens.”

Jones feels the ethos of Manhattanville is a perfect antidote, one that is worth fighting for. “This is an existential moment for higher ed and for institutions like Manhattanville that are not heavily endowed.”

“Manhattanville can be an institution where we roll up our sleeves and develop curriculum that motivates and empowers the mission,” said Jones. “The liberal arts is about teaching students to think critically, write cogently, and read analytically. This institution has a rich history of encouraging young people to think outside the box. It is important for everyone to have a voice.”

It was that philosophy that led Jones to help bring the Daughters for Life Foundation, a nonprofit that supports education in the Middle East, to Manhattanville. It provides critical scholarships and awards to make education a possibility for young women. “I am committed to empowering women and believes that if we had more women in leadership positions, we would be better off.”

“Better education in general has lost its ability to engage and think critically and engage with the student,” he said. “It’s part of my job to think critically and engage with the student.”

In the wake of this tragedy, Jones and his wife started a foundation in Malik’s memory and will be devoting more time to this endeavor during his retirement.

In the meantime, Jones has more than 30 grandchildren who he said will keep him and his wife very busy. He is on the board of several nonprofits and is serving as interim manager of the Islamic Seminary of America, and he is committed to helping the organization get on its feet. He has been a chaplain at

“Higher education in general has lost its ability to engage and think critically and engage with the student,” he said. “It’s part of my job to think critically and engage with the student.”

In the wake of this tragedy, Jones and his wife started a foundation in Malik’s memory and will be devoting more time to this endeavor during his retirement.

In the meantime, Jones has more than 30 grandchildren who he said will keep him and his wife very busy. He is on the board of several nonprofits and is serving as interim manager of the Islamic Seminary of America, and he is committed to helping the organization get on its feet. He has been a chaplain at

“Higher education in general has lost its ability to engage and think critically and engage with the student,” he said. “It’s part of my job to think critically and engage with the student.”

In the wake of this tragedy, Jones and his wife started a foundation in Malik’s memory and will be devoting more time to this endeavor during his retirement.

In the meantime, Jones has more than 30 grandchildren who he said will keep him and his wife very busy. He is on the board of several nonprofits and is serving as interim manager of the Islamic Seminary of America, and he is committed to helping the organization get on its feet. He has been a chaplain at

“Higher education in general has lost its ability to engage and think critically and engage with the student,” he said. “It’s part of my job to think critically and engage with the student.”

In the wake of this tragedy, Jones and his wife started a foundation in Malik’s memory and will be devoting more time to this endeavor during his retirement.

In the meantime, Jones has more than 30 grandchildren who he said will keep him and his wife very busy. He is on the board of several nonprofits and is serving as interim manager of the Islamic Seminary of America, and he is committed to helping the organization get on its feet. He has been a chaplain at
Carol Scafati ’63 and Nasir Fleming ’18 don’t seem to have much in common, aside from being Manhattanville alumni with bachelor’s degrees in French. Yet these two strangers from different generations and backgrounds share the bond of being first-generation college students—experiences they recalled fostering both grit and gratitude.

Carol Scafati ’63
“It was a big deal!” Scafati said about her acceptance to Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. “My grandparents came over in the early 1900s during the Italian diaspora. They were illiterate and had very little. They settled in the Bronx and started a printing business, while her mother left high school early to work and later to raise her family.

Scafati had limited resources for her education, so she earned two scholarships and worked after classes at the checkout and later as bookkeeper in the local Grand Union supermarket. She learned about Manhattanville College for the Sacred Heart purely by chance: A neighbor who was working construction on the new campus buildings took her along with his daughter to view the site. The visit inspired her to apply to Manhattanville and she was accepted. “It was an overwhelming experience,” said Scafati. “There was no one in my family that I could turn to when I got bogged down with schoolwork and work. The intense family work ethic to succeed was, ‘You’re going to college. Keep working at it.’” The saving grace, according to Scafati, was Mother Ruth Dowd and the Sacred Heart Sisters on campus who encouraged and supported her. “On the first day of school, Mother Dowd was at the front door of the Castle and, as I climbed the stairs to those imposing doors to enter, she greeted each one of us: ‘Hello, Carol. Welcome!’” she recalled. “I found out later that the nuns had memorized all of the pictures submitted by the new students from their high school yearbooks so they could greet them by name.”

Looking back, Scafati is endlessly grateful she attended Manhattanville, which she said helped her believe in herself and her abilities. She pursued various careers, including in finance (“I was always good with numbers”), before taking over her family’s printing business when her father fell ill and passed away. Her successful experience as a first-generation student at Manhattanville, she said, “inspired and enabled me to trust my ability to tackle just about anything.”

Nasir Fleming ’18
“After I graduated high school, my family was like, ‘Cool! You did it!’ You’re doing big things,’” said Fleming, who grew up in Danbury, Connecticut, originally considered applying to colleges on the west coast, but he realized that the cost of flying home every break was not practical. Then Fleming found out about the Manhattanville Advancement Program (MAP), offered by the Center for Student Success (MAP is now within the Center for Inclusion). This program tenders financial assistance and hands-on academic as well as social or transitional support to qualified applicants. Fleming interviewed and knew he wanted to be part of the College. “I felt like I fit in,” he said.

“Fortunately, while in the MAP program I was introduced to other first-generation students two weeks before our freshman semester started so that was a nice base,” explained Fleming, who noted how grateful he was for his mentors along the way. He and other first-gen students felt that they could identify with each other, which helped them feel connected to college life.

Today Fleming feels very fortunate that he chose Manhattanville; it offered him the support he needed and allowed him to see his family, intern in New York City, and use any extra time or money from his part-time jobs to travel. He ended up landing a job as a travel writer and contributing blogger for the Huffington Post while he was still an undergraduate, and today he is a content manager and writer for the online travel site, Shut Up and Go! No matter how far Fleming travels, however, he will always feel at home at Manhattanville.

MANHATTANVILLE FIRST

This year, Manhattanville College’s Center for Inclusion launched a pilot program called Manhattanville First in conjunction with Let’s Get Ready, a New York City-based nonprofit organization. Let’s Get Ready provides high school students from historically underserved communities and first-generation college students with free SAT preparation, admission counseling, and other support services needed to gain admission to and graduate from college. “They have deep expertise in getting first-gen students to college and are piloting innovative methods to improve retention and graduation rates,” said Cindy Porter, EdD, vice president of student affairs.

With Manhattanville First, students are trained by Let’s Get Ready to work as “nurture-peer” mentors for a caseload of first-generation students and are paid a stipend by the College. As Jordan Wesley, managing director for Let’s Get Ready explained, the mentors are tasked with touching base with their mentees a certain number of times each week, getting students connected to opportunities on campus, and helping them navigate any complexities that may hinder their progress. They also help guide them toward the emotional and social support systems. “As we know, students who are the first ones of their family going to college oftentimes think what they may need,” said Wesley.

Meet the Mentors
Sophomore Ali Mounkary and senior Jasmine Colon are Manhattanville’s student-coaches. Mounkary completed online training from his home in Boston and has a weekly check-in with his supervisor at Let’s Get Ready. “I think this job really helped me discover my passion for mentorship,” said Mounkary. “Being able to have people walk away with a sense of feeling better about something, especially things that are stressful makes me feel good.”

Colon first heard about Let’s Get Ready at her high school in the Bronx, New York, where the organization offered free SAT prep. She received training through a one-day intensive at Manhattanville and, like Mounkary, is responsible for 22 first-generation students. “I love working with these students,” she said. “I feel like the only challenging part has been juggling my own life along with this job, but I love it.”

FALL 2019 18
19 MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE
“The workforce of tomorrow needs to be flexible and capable of adapting to changing environments quickly: a human workforce that can compete successfully against AI and machine learning-based programs that threaten to eliminate 40 percent of existing jobs.” When Manhattanville President Michael Geisler, PhD, addressed leaders in business, government, and education on the morning of September 10, he wasn’t speaking empty words. He was there to provide solutions: a brand-new Center for Design Thinking that would change the way we solve problems.

Preparing today’s students for the workplace of tomorrow has always been a priority at Manhattanville and this new center reinforces the College’s commitment to students’ success. In a rapidly changing business landscape, hiring managers are looking for qualified candidates who know the methods and mindsets of design thinking, including the skills of problem-solving, adaptability, and empathy. Businesses around the world are using design thinking, as are businesses in our backyard such as IBM, PepsiCo, and Mastercard. IBM has donated access to their proprietary online IBM Design Thinking training to all Manhattanville students.

“Design thinking is a systematic and creative approach that supports the development of solutions to complex problems,” said Alison Carson, PhD, associate provost for academic innovation and design thinking at Manhattanville and the director of the new center. “There is an emphasis on process that encourages the development of several mindsets including curiosity and discovery, empathy, a growth mindset, grit, willingness to take risks, collaboration, creativity, a recognition of learning from failure, and many other characteristics that we know are beneficial outcomes for career preparedness and life in general.”

And President Geisler wants to ensure this exciting work benefits the local community, encouraging businesses and nonprofit organizations to use the Center as a resource. “Bring us your challenges, your customer experience gaps, your infrastructure conundrums, your processes in need of improvement,” he said. “We will put our teams of trained design thinking faculty and students to work.”

“Design thinking is the key to merging the traditional strengths of a liberal arts curriculum with the practical requirements of training a human workforce for tomorrow’s job market.”

—President Geisler

About The Center
One of just a few such centers at a liberal arts college in the country and the first in Westchester County, New York, the Manhattanville College Center for Design Thinking combines the power of creativity with critical thinking and empirical research. The Center is a resource for students, community members, business leaders, and organizations looking to learn about design thinking, as well as those seeking innovative solutions for projects and challenges.

Opening Celebration, Center for Design Thinking, September 10. L to R: Manhattanville Interim Provost Louise Feroe; President/CEO of the Business Council of Westchester Marsha Gordon; Director of Economic Development for Westchester County Bridget Gibbons; Manhattanville President Michael Geisler; Manhattanville Board Chair Dwight Hilton; Associate Provost for Academic Innovation and Design Thinking at Manhattanville Alison Carson; New York State Assemblymember David Buchwald.
**Recent Events**

Recent Events this fall introduced the resources of the center to the business community.

The School of Professional Studies Lead with Distinction certificate program held an all-day session on design thinking on **November 6**.

On **November 14**, DataKey Consulting brought its 9th Annual CEO Summit, “Moving the Needle with Design Thinking,” to the Center, drawing leaders of small to midsize businesses with workshops run by Manhattanville faculty and staff.

On the evening of **November 14**, a collaborative event on moving ideas into action in criminal justice reform using the design thinking process was held with lecturer of academic writing and composition, John Proctor, the Petey Greene Program, the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, the Fortune Society, and Emily Herrick of the New York City Mayor’s Office.

A panel discussion for business professionals, “From Ideas to Action: Design Thinking for Business,” was held on **November 20**. The event was organized by the School of Professional Studies in partnership with the Center for Design Thinking.

**DECEMBER 4** A panel discussion entitled “Designing for the Greater Good” showcased some of the current design thinking classes and students shared projects that demonstrated how design thinking can be used to make a social impact.

**Design for America**

There’s a brand-new idea incubator on campus: A Design for America studio. One of 40 such studios in the entire country, this exciting space for students will help them learn and apply design thinking to mission-focused issues.

Design for America is an award-winning nationwide network of colleges and communities using design to create impact in the areas of health, education, economy, and the environment.

There are 22 students who have been involved with Design for America on campus. The students learn about design thinking in a course in the fall, and apply what they’ve learned to a project in the spring, when the students must work with a community partner. This year’s project is focused on improving the accessibility of travel for all people.

**How Might We**

In design thinking, as taught by IDEO, every problem is an opportunity for design. By framing challenges as “How Might We” questions, the stage is set for discovering innovative solutions. At the opening of the Center for Design Thinking on campus, Professors Jim Frank and Justin Capalbo facilitated a photo session with students, faculty, staff, and administration that encouraged them to ask “How Might We” questions to explore improvements on campus.

PICTURED HERE ARE NICHOLAS PADOVANI ’23 AND SIARRA PSIAJ ’20, IN PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE OPENING OF THE CENTER.
“The goal of the Center is to provide students opportunities co-curricular opportunities. In order to learn, you have to experience,” said Carson.

"How do we use design thinking to make a social impact?"

A recent panel in December entitled, “Designing for the Greater Good,” highlighted classes on campus that are using design thinking for social problems. Students in introductory classes are identifying problems and challenges on campus and using the design thinking process to develop and prototype solutions. In a new course to begin this spring called Designing with Community Partners, students work with a local organization or business using design thinking to solve a problem they are experiencing. One possible partnership includes working with a school district to redesign elementary school traditions. Other organizations that have reached out to Carson to partner with faculty and students include a local library, as well as a mental health provider that is looking to redesign waiting rooms using a design thinking approach. Many members of the Business Council of Westchester are also interested in partnership opportunities.

Alumni are benefitting as well. Carson worked with alumni relations to facilitate an alumni volunteer workshop in which alumni and staff employed the process of design thinking to explore ways of increasing participation in alumni events. There will be an alumni reception at the Center on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

Alison Carson, PhD
In her new position as Associate Provost for Academic Innovation and Design Thinking, Alison Carson is helping to bring President Michael Greisler’s vision to life at the new Center for Design Thinking.

Carson, who has been a psychology professor at Manhattanville since 2003, is a cultural psychologist by trade and is enjoying seeing how psychology and design intersect in her new role directing the Center. The fit is perfect: both design and cultural psychology use qualitative research to learn about and better understand human behavior.

Carson first heard Greisler speak about design thinking in a “Cottage Conversation” in what is now the Center. Soon after, Carson stepped up to be a part of a group of faculty who were looking at learning spaces on campus, and was involved in designing the new space to best support experiential learning.

“In order to learn, you have to experience,” said Carson. Her goal for the Center is to foster design thinking through real world challenges in the form of class curriculum, on-campus internships, workshops, events, and co-curricular opportunities.

“Students are good thinkers and doers,” said Carson. “The goal of the Center is to provide students opportunities to practice design thinking, ultimately helping them get internships and jobs because employers value design thinking skills.”

Carson is working with the Center for Career Development and the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership on campus—helping students to recognize that design thinking skills are needed in the workplace. These skills include the ability to problem solve, collaborate, develop research skills, and empathize.

Carson was part of a large group of faculty members who worked on a proposal that went to IDEO, a global design consulting agency that uses design thinking. The IDEO Cambridge team came to Manhattanville for seven weeks in summer 2018 to train 19 faculty and staff members, taking the group through all the steps of one specific design challenge. “How might we better support commuter students on campus?” The group was divided into teams looking at potential solutions. One colorful result was the addition of Adirondack chairs around campus in response to issues of lack of community that were expressed by commuter students. The Henry Ford Learning Institute facilitated another design thinking workshop for faculty and staff in December 2019.

In keeping with the mission of the College, one question that is always on Carson’s mind is, “What courses can be transformed into design thinking experiments?”

“Design thinking is applicable across a wide range of departments and I have found that when one reflects on their current teaching methods, they are often able to recognize hints of design thinking,” said Capalbo. “My courses often combine the technical aspects of production with the storytelling nature of the arts. Having a scientific method for creative practices has allowed me to provide students with a workflow that produces results and is natural to follow.”

“Students are problem solvers,” said Capalbo. “Whether it is a client or a superior at their firm, they need to be able to recognize a problem, empathize with the user, and produce iterations of their work to solve the problem. After graduating from Manhattanville with a BFA in Graphic Design with a minor in sociology, Capalbo went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts from LIU Post in 2015. He was a working artist when the Communications and Media (CAM) department brought him on as an adjunct. In fall 2019, he was hired in a full-time role. “I owe everything to my colleagues in CAM, especially those I worked with during my undergraduate studies,” said Capalbo.

“Manhattanville expedited my transition into adulthood and allowed for lifelong networking connections to be made,” said Capalbo. “I was challenged by new ideas and introduced to a world where scholarship and activism could intertwine.”

Catherine DiRosa ‘21
A junior studying music technology and minoring in digital media studies, Catherine DiRosa ‘21 hopes to get a job in the music or film industry after she graduates. For now, she’s getting exciting hands-on experience as a student worker at the Center for Design Thinking. In addition to some off-campus internships.

At the center, DiRosa works closely with Associate Provost for Academic Innovation and Design Thinking Alison Carson, PhD, as well as Visiting Assistant Professor of Communications and Media alum Justin Capalbo ’10. “Working here, I am able to put myself outside my own comfort zone,” she said. “Never did I think I would be running 3D printing workshops, but here I am! And I enjoy it a lot. Alison gives me a lot of freedom and we are always conversing and sharing new ideas.”

DiRosa says Capalbo is the expert on all the equipment in the “Fab Lab,” the room at the center that houses the 3D printers and laser cutters. “He has been teaching me everything I need to know about all the cool technology in there, and we organize and run workshops together,” said DiRosa. DiRosa assists Capalbo with Pop-Up Skills workshops for students and helps run events at the center, such as the recent CEO Summit for leaders of area businesses.

“I love getting to interact with people and be a helping hand to Alison with launching this new center,” said DiRosa. “I learn something new every time I come to work, and it doesn’t even feel like work or a job. It’s such an awesome environment to be in.”

“This skill set that comes with learning the design thinking process is one that is going to be desired in the workforce in the coming years,” added DiRosa. “No matter what field you are going into, everything is applicable in some way.”
MEET THE DESIGN THINKERS

**Cristina Masi ’20**

Cristina Masi ’20, who was part of a group of students in spring 2019 who worked on a design project that they presented to the Board of Trustees, shared how design thinking is helping her prepare for the future. “Brian Snee’s Communication and Media Theory course was my first exposure to the process of design thinking. Design thinking focuses on group work and truly making sure everyone in the group understands the problem prior to jumping to a solution. While this step may seem very basic, it is a step that is often overlooked when working with a group, and it will definitely be something that I use in my future jobs,” said Masi. “Presenting to the Board was such a good experience—being able to share my ideas with people who have the power to turn them from thoughts to physical objects. I loved being truly heard and receiving immediate feedback from Board members. One thing I love about design thinking is that no answer is wrong when it comes to brainstorming. I approach group projects differently now. I am more inclined to learn about all group members’ ideas and find that this can spark new ideas.”

“Design thinking is helping her prepare for the future. The Board was such a good experience—being able to share my ideas with people who have the power to turn them from thoughts to physical objects. I loved being truly heard and receiving immediate feedback from Board members. One thing I love about design thinking is that no answer is wrong when it comes to brainstorming. I approach group projects differently now. I am more inclined to learn about all group members’ ideas and find that this can spark new ideas.”

**Olím Toiriyon ’20**

For Olím Toiriyon ’20, a senior economics major and finance minor, the idea of having the Center for Design Thinking on campus was very appealing, especially as a student who had seen such initiatives in Fortune 500 companies.

“The Center offers various types of working spaces and it’s a pleasure to work on the projects,” said Toiriyon, who now works at the center. “The CEO Summit that took place at the Center was a great event at which I had a chance to make some contributions. I am really happy that, as the student body president, I was given an opportunity to invite students to this event and have our students involved.”

Though he doesn’t graduate until May, Toiriyon has already accepted an offer from Mastercard to start a full-time position as a member of their portfolio and business development team in the North American Markets in August.

Toiriyon is confident that his experience at the Center for Design Thinking will be very beneficial to his future career plans. “Especially considering Mastercard, my future employer, is one of the top supporters of design thinking, I believe that knowledge gained here will help me during my time there,” he said.

**Inger Stapleton ’05**

Fourteen years after graduating from Manhattanville, Inger Stapleton ’05 has returned home as an adjunct faculty member and member of the alumni board.

After graduating college, she landed her dream job at Essence magazine. She then became interested in private equity and began working in the field before deciding it was time to pursue her goal of starting her own business. Stapleton went back to school to get her master’s degree and began a series of entrepreneurial ventures.

At an alumni program in 2018, Stapleton reconnected with faculty and staff at Manhattanville. They were looking to start a new course using design thinking. Stapleton submitted a proposal and the business start-up course was born.

Stapleton taught the course in fall 2019 and her students participated in a design thinking workshop at the opening of the new space. Her students ran their businesses through the five steps of design thinking in class and with their potential customers, conducting interviews, creating prototypes, and adjusting their businesses as needed.

In response to the success of the course, Stapleton will teach a new design thinking course with Alison Carson, PhD, in spring 2020.

**A big believer in taking risks and following one’s dreams, Stapleton lives by the quote, “Everybody dies but not everybody lives,” made popular in a song by Canadian musician, Drake. Stapleton was excited to come back to Manhattanville to teach as a way of giving back to the community that helped her so much in her career. She feels a connection to the students, having been in their shoes, and believes she can make a positive impact on their educational experience and their career goals. Stapleton travels to various schools to speak about her book, More Than Majors, to help teach students how to find meaningful and solid careers of their own. She explains how she successfully used her time at Manhattanville to network and land her dream job.**

**Professor Jim Frank**

Q. What inspired you to become involved with teaching design thinking as a component of what you do at Manhattanville?

A. I became aware of design thinking in grad school at Cranbrook Academy of Art, where I learned about the work of Charles and Ray Eames and the idea of function being a key to design. Their concept that design serves as a solution has now become known, more or less, as design thinking. Earlier involvement with ePortfolio at Manhattanville introduced me to work that colleagues from Stanford and Georgetown were doing in design thinking. This greatly influenced my thinking about pedagogy, including a better understanding of how teaching and learning are often stronger outside of the classroom, as well as how to facilitate collaboration among students and faculty.

Q. What is the benefit of using a design approach to teaching and learning?

A. Like creating a piece of art, I see design thinking as a process where major parts of the process are failure and iteration. The design thinking approach is very similar to a studio art critique, where work is presented to an audience for feedback, as opposed to the more traditional vertical approach of feedback, which is often top down from teacher to student. Additionally, design thinking’s bias towards action echoes a philosophy of John Dewey—give them something to do and they will learn. I always tell students that you become a photographer by making photographs, not by discussing photography.

Q. What do you hope students take away from the experience?

A. Students are often worried about grades and not necessarily learning for learning’s sake. Design thinking offers an opportunity to change the learning experience by giving students the opportunity to enquire, collaborate, and actively listen to different points of view while focusing on answering the question of possible solutions to a question for which they are designing. Design thinking gives students permission to fail with a solution and still move forward, an experience that they may never have had in their education.

Q. Tell us about your experience with Design for America.

A. I appreciate the support system and team-building opportunities that Design For America (DFA) brings to the table. DFA is a 10-year-old national network of 40 colleges and universities that started at Northwestern University with the goal of using design thinking to empower students to develop “responsible design solutions.” Their strong network provides support for students, faculty, and staff, which for me has facilitated working with students and colleagues in using design thinking on a project that echoes the College’s mission of developing socially responsible leaders. I believe that the energy that students involved in our DFA Studio launch in the Center for Design Thinking will help to firmly situate design thinking at Manhattanville.
Hall of Fame

MANHATTANVILLE ATHLETICS INDUCTS SIXTH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME CLASS

More than 130 guests gathered in Reid Castle this October for the sixth annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony, honoring athletes and coaches whose winning spirit—and winning records—continue to inspire the Manhattanville community. The festive event drew nearly 50 alumni spanning 25 different class years, as well as six previous Hall of Fame inductees.

After welcoming remarks by Director of Athletics and Recreation Julene Caulfield MAT ’11, Manhattanville College President Michael Geisler, PhD, and Visiting Professor of Sports Studies Amy Bass, PhD, the four inductees heard personal tributes from friends and each received the traditional black blazer with a Hall of Fame patch.

First up was Anne Driesse Villanova ’81, who was introduced by her lifelong friend and former teammate, Nancy Dyer ’81, followed by the late Coach Larry Holten’s induction by fellow Hall of Fame athlete and Holten’s former assistant coach, Therese Carey ’82. In a particularly moving moment, Holten’s widow, Beth, accepted a framed jersey on his behalf before giving an emotional speech in his honor. The next inductee was Susan Horton Bowen ’03, who was introduced by her husband and Manhattanville alumnus, Sean Bowen ’03. And the final athlete to receive his jacket was Mike Prendergast ’87, who was introduced by his friends and former teammates, Gerard Nolan ’87 and Tommy Jones ’87.

Congratulations to all!

ANNE DRIESSE VILLANOVA ’81
Anne Driesse Villanova, a forward and two-time captain for the Valiant field hockey team, anchored the team’s front line, playing the role of facilitator on the field who set up scoring plays. In addition to field hockey, Driesse was a captain of the Manhattanville softball club, a team she helped to create. As a sophomore, Driesse’s pitching led the team to the NYSAW Tournament and earned All-Tournament Team honors. Driesse was also a student trainer and became the head student trainer for her teams.

SUSAN HORTON BOWEN ’03
Nearly 16 years after her last game on the women’s soccer team, Susan Horton Bowen remains the program’s all-time leader in points (174), goals (76) and match-winning goals (22), and is also fourth in assists (22). Horton earned the ECAC Metro Tournament bids, Prendergast also became the only two-time MBWA First Team All-Met selection (1984-85, 1985-86) in program history. He also holds two of the 10 highest single-game scoring totals, with 43 points (tied for fourth) versus Merchant Marine (Feb. 11, 1987) and 36 (tied for 10th) vs. Gaiaudet (Jan. 24, 1987).

LARRY HOLTEN
Larry Holten, who passed away in 2000, spent eight seasons coaching the Women’s Basketball team at Manhattanville College and garnered the most wins in program history. Holten’s standout 1981-82 team, led by fellow Hall of Famer Therese Carey (’82, HOF ’14), remains the only team to earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

In 1983-84, the Valiants continued their success by claiming the ECAC Metro Tournament Championship. Overall, Holten guided the Valiants to seven consecutive NYSAW Tournament berths from 1980-86. When Holten resigned in April of 1987, then- Director of Athletics and Recreation, Tom Wengertner said, “Larry will be impossible to replace. He put our women’s program on the map. We will miss his good humor, genuine concern for the college and most of all his abilities as a phenomenal basketball coach.” Holten responded, “As much as I’ve given to this program, it is impossible to measure what I have gotten back in enjoyment. Manhattanville will always be very special to me.”

MIKE PRENDERGAST ’87
In just three seasons on the men’s basketball team, Mike Prendergast finished his career as the second all-time leading scorer in program history, with 1,026 career points, and the all-time leader in steals, with 203, and free throws made, with 533. He is the only player in program history to average at least 20 points per game. While leading his teams to three straight ECAC Metro Tournament bids, Prendergast also became the only two-time MBWA First Team All-Met selection (1984-85, 1985-86) in program history. He also holds two of the 10 highest single-game scoring totals, with 43 points (tied for fourth) versus Merchant Marine (Feb. 11, 1987) and 36 (tied for 10th) vs. Gaiaudet (Jan. 24, 1987).

Julene Caulfield MAT ’11
APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

After nearly two decades of commitment to Manhattanville Athletics, Julene Caulfield was promoted to director of athletics and recreation in November 2019.

Caulfield, who earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Manhattanville in 2011, served as associate director of athletics for the past two years and was the senior woman administrator for the department. Prior to that, she served for 12 years as assistant director of athletics and the senior woman administrator. Caulfield served for two months as acting director of athletics and recreation prior to her permanent appointment.

“I am honored to be appointed to the position of director of athletics and recreation, and fully understand the responsibilities of upholding the Valiant tradition of excellence for our student-athletes on the playing surface and, more importantly, in the classroom,” said Caulfield. “Manhattanville Athletics has been a huge part of my life for the last 17 years and I look forward to leading the department to new heights.”

As the Director of Athletics and Recreation, Caulfield is responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the College’s 22-sport department, ensuring that all men’s and women’s programs are competitive and maintain high academic standards for all student-athletes. Caulfield also oversees the department’s compliance with NCAA standards, the Valiant coaches and staff members, and fundraising and partnership opportunities.

“Julene is an asset to Manhattanville College Athletics and has been a constant and reliable force here,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Cindy Porter, EdD. “This promotion is well deserved and I look forward to seeing her shine in her new role.”

Caulfield has accomplished much for the department during her tenure with the Valiants. Highlights include helping to oversee the completion of the Bubble, a seasonal structure created in partnership with the New York Soccer Club that covers Ophir Field in the winter months. Caulfield also played a major role in the creation of the Intramural and Recreation program over the last two years and assisted former Director of Athletics Keith Leventhal in the development of the Manhattanville Athletics Hall of Fame, which inducted its sixth class this past October.

Caulfield joined Manhattanville as an administrative assistant in the College’s development office before moving over to Athletics in April 2003 to become an assistant to the director of athletics/assistant sports information director. Prior to earning her master’s degree at Manhattanville, she earned a dual bachelor’s degree in English and journalism from Marymount College of Fordham University in 2002. A native of Swartz Creek, Michigan, Caulfield resides in Putnam Valley, New York, with her husband, two young sons, and dog.

Winner, Winner
CHICKEN DINNER

Women’s volleyball topped the leaderboard to win the first-ever Valiant Challenge, a fundraising competition among all Manhattanville varsity athletic programs. The volleyball team hit the highest percentage of its donation goal. For all its hard work, the team earned bragging rights and a free dinner. Kudos to all Valiants who pushed each other toward the finish line and worked together to help raise nearly $26,000! All proceeds raised will go directly to each respective program.

Return TO SKYLINE

In July, Manhattanville College accepted an invitation to rejoin the Skyline Conference, making it the twelfth NCAA Division III member institution from the New York metropolitan area. Originally a charter Skyline member when the conference began 30 years ago, Manhattanville switched to the Middle Atlantic Conference in 2006. This year’s return to Skyline is a great fit for Manhattanville’s student-athletes, said Alex Falk, Manhattanville’s director of athletic communications, who explained that Skyline offers high-level competition and closer proximity to events. A win-win for students and families.

Note: In leaving the MAC, the Valiant field hockey team also became an associate member of the New England Collegiate Conference (NECC), women’s golf joined the Northeast-10 Conference, women’s dance in the Capital District and women’s hockey remains in the United States Hockey Conference (USCHC).
ATHLETICS

Men’s Basketball
WELCOMES NEW HEAD COACH CHRIS ALESI

This fall, Manhattanville welcomed Chris Alesi as its new head coach of Men’s Basketball. A native New Yorker, originally from Staten Island, Alesi brings a deep knowledge of the game from his experiences as both a player and coach. “I can’t think of a better choice to be the next head coach at Manhattanville,” said former NBA All-Star and head coach at St. John’s, Chris Mullin. “Chris comes from a great New York City basketball pedigree and was born and bred to be a basketball coach.”

More than fourteen years ago, Alesi was a sought-after point guard at both the Division II (Queens College) and Division III (Baruch College) levels; and even farther back in the day, he was a top player for Xaverian High School, where he is now enshrined in its Athletic Hall of Fame. Most recently, Alesi coached various Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams in New York, including the New Jersey Shoshots.

“It’s been a blast working with these guys. They are the biggest draw for us because they are great people first, great players second.”
— Chris Alesi

Once a standout player at Manhattanville, Alesi hopes to shape a future that builds on the winning principles of his predecessor, Pat Scanlon. “I’m stepping into a pretty mature situation,” said Alesi. “I’m having a blast working with the guys” he said. “They are the biggest draw for us because they are great people first, great players second.”

ADvantage
MANHATTANVILLE

It has only been two years since Manhattanville rebooted its tennis program with new courts, new coaches, and new academic classes, but in that short time, Valiant tennis has become a magnet for everyone who loves the sport. “We really started from scratch, so it’s pretty rewarding to see how it’s coming together,” said Derek DiFazio, the head coach of men’s and women’s tennis and director of the Professional Tennis Management (PTM) program.

One of the keys to its success, explained DiFazio, is Manhattanville’s location. “There’s a lot of tennis in the area. Just look at Google Maps and zoom out a little bit. You’ll see about 10 country clubs within five miles.” In addition, the College sits only minutes away from the offices of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), which is a vital partner of the Valiant tennis teams. In fact, the USTA has been generous in helping fund recruiting for the PTM, which has drawn attention to the program and brought all types of players to campus—from collegiate recruiting to recruit team players to summer camp kids. Moreover, the USTA has expanded the types of classes, internships, and scholarships now available to Manhattanville players through its PTM program. The program, which is funded through an annual grant from the USTA, offers a minor in tennis management for students pursuing a BA in Sports Management.

Manhattanville is one of only 10 NCAA institutions to offer the PTM program and, according to DiFazio, it has been a great recruiting tool for the College. Even students who remain undecided about pursuing a career in sports management may still find it useful to add a PTM track just “to have that degree in their back pocket,” said DiFazio.

Somedy, DiFazio said, he hopes the program will also include a graduate-level program for tennis management. But for now, between the courts, the classes, and the high-caliber of players coming to campus, Valiant tennis is already serving the college well.

CAROL SAUVION ’69
Recalling her time as an undergraduate, Carol Sauvion ’69 brought up a French motto that she had heard recited again and again at Manhattanville: noblesse oblige or “the responsibility to act with generosity.” “I didn’t fully understand it when I was young,” Sauvion said. “But I understand it now. It means that we are supposed to use our education for the greater good, caring for our community and improving lives if possible.” A recipient of Manhattanville’s 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award, Sauvion has certainly taken this belief to heart.

In 2004, Sauvion founded Craft in America, a nonprofit organization created to promote and advance original handmade work through programs in all media, which then sprouted the Peabody Award-winning Craft in America documentary series airing on PBS, and the Craft in America Center, a free exhibition and learning space in Los Angeles. The latest episodes on PBS are “Quilts” and “Identity,” which will air nationwide December 27, and feature works by diverse artists as well as an interview with filmmaker and quilt collector Ken Burns.

Sauvion strongly believes that the Craft in America series and its ancillary projects are valuable tools that have the potential to reach people of all ages. “The show offers people an entree into the world of craft,” she said, “and that world is accessible to everybody. There are millions of people who make things by hand.”

The biggest challenge in running a nonprofit organization, Sauvion said, is the funding. “Fundraising is a challenge for all nonprofits. Fortunately, there is support for our work by generous people who care deeply about craft and what we do.”

Current Manhattanville students, Sauvion advised, should search for exactly what they want in their careers. “A career should inspire some sort of passion. First and foremost what you want to do, and always be open to new ideas.” She stressed that we should stay rooted in the adage that has served her so well: “We are all citizens of the world; we need to contribute.”

MARCIA PEARCE DEWITT ’69
Marcia Pearce DeWitt ’69, JD, a Manhattanville alumna and Board of Trustees chair from 2016 to 2019, graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies. She later attended Johns Hopkins University; director of the Developmental Disabilities Law Project at the University of Maryland Law School; and has held faculty appointments at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (formerly the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health), University of Notre Dame, and University of Maryland Law School. She was also a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW)’s task force for workers’ compensation and disability, and the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

DeWitt credits unyielding support from her parents as guiding her toward her goals. “They taught me a very positive message of doing whatever you set your mind to and to choose what you wanted to do.” she said. And the choices DeWitt made throughout her life have consistently focused on service and giving others a voice. Today, Manhattanville has spoken up to say, “Thank you.”
Frances Gimber, RSCJ ’55, MA ’64 “In the spring of 2019, Carolyn Oseik, RSCJ, MAT ’66 and I published a two-volume edition in English entitled Philippine Duchesne, Pioneer on the American Frontier: Complete Works. The collection includes personal letters written by Mother Duchesne and journals of day-to-day activities in the convents.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 in the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”

Lucille “Lu” List Morris ’56 hosted members of the Class of ’56 at the Riverside Yacht Club in June 2019. Included in the visit were: Margaret Bermingham Cicogna, P ’90, Sally Greely McNally, Mary Casey O’Neil, Henrietta “Muffy” Holton-Thomas, P ’92, Virginia MacLellan Fettig, P ’84, Janet McKay Burke, Martha Murphy Rowland and Annabella “Boody” O’Connor Strife.

Joan Gannon, RSCJ ’57 “After a year and a half in Saint Charles, Missouri, where we celebrated the bicentennial of St. Philippine Duchesne’s arrival, bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the Americas, I happily returned to Albany where I live and work with my elder sisters, fast becoming an elder myself.”
District Hall of Fame as an academic honoree. Her career has taken her to many places, from the Weston Playhouse in Vermont to London after her graduation. She moved back to Amsterdam, New York, after spending a decade in London, where she founded and operated the Overground Theatre.

Diane Fraher '72 is a 2019 recipient of a $5,000 “Made in NY” Women’s Film, TV and Theater Fund grant in the fiction feature category for her film, The Heart Stays, which was featured, in part, on the Manhattanville campus in the summer of 2019. Fraher noted, “I make ‘community-based’ feature films where I partner with American Indian Nations and engage the community and surrounding non-natives in the production. This is my second feature film and I’m so excited because together with my fantastic cast and crew we just completed principal location photography of The Heart Stays on my own Osage Nation.”

Mary McCartan Konwinski ’72 told us that “my husband passed away in 2015. I relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina, in 2019 to be closer to my children and grandchildren. I have a small consulting business (writing and editing) and am active in Rotary. I am slowly adjusting to my new life in the South. Would love to hear from former classmates.”

Linda Pedro ’72 collaborated on the ebook, What Jane Austen Didn't Tell Us!, a thought-provoking look at Pride and Prejudice’s characters before they fell in love in the novel.

Susan A. Ross ’72, PhD, “We retired from teaching (at Loyola Chicago, Bill at Dominican) this past summer, but continue to write, volunteer, and travel. We took a wonderful cruise in Alaska in July, Bill published his book Mining Morally this fall, and I will be giving a lecture in Italy in December. I keep in touch with Rachelle Bouchard Hendele ’72, Alice Brach DiLaura ’72, and Chris Chao ’72, PhD.”

Kristin Kennedy ’74, PhD, “In catching up with all my classmates from 1974, I would like to say that I have had a great career as a university professor. I recently stepped down as chair of mathematics at Bryant University. About that time my husband passed away after a long illness, and I am learning how to live alone again. I plan to keep teaching for a few more years, and I hope to do as much traveling as I can. In June, I’ll be traveling to Israel and Jordan for the first time, to see the places of my childhood. Exciting! Wishing you all the best!”

Mary “Mimi” Baumgardner Bradley Shafey ’76 received the Do Unto Others Trust philanthropy award given by the American Red Cross as one of their Spectrum Awards for Women, honoring those who represent the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross, in Coconut Grove, Florida, in November 2018.

Maryanne DiMarzo, MAT 76, along with Amy Acker, wrote a book, Hidden Talents, Practice Tools and Inspirational Stories to Unleash Higher Levels of Leadership Performance, which serves as a roadmap, guide, and interactive experience; all based around leadership for life.

Cathy MacFarlane ’76 has been appointed as director of the office of public affairs at the Federal Trade Commission, returning to the position he held from 2001 to 2003.

Linda Greiner ’77 “I took early retirement from Princeton University’s School of Architecture and am now at TD Bank in the community relations department. In addition to my job, I provide foster care to Sheltland Sheepdog Placement Services of New Jersey. Each foster has a story to tell and I’ve turned to writing children’s books to help educate parents and children about rescue, fostering, and, of course, my beloved shelties. I am very happy that all three books have received a number of awards. Proceeds are donated to the rescue to help cover medical expenses, so these wonderful dogs are in their forever homes (sashitreshelle.com).”

Mary Beth O’Connor ’80 was named director of sales and marketing for the the five-star hotel, the Pierre New York, a Taj Hotel. An industry veteran with more than 25 years of experience, O’Connor will oversee all sales and marketing activities for the property.

Elizabeth “Liz” Williams Harrison ’81 recently completed a Master of Divinity. She was ordained as an interfaith minister in 2019 at the Universalist Church in New York City. She is working on a book about the spiritual tasks at the end of life.

Joseph Petito ’81, owner and CEO of O’Connor Petito, LLC, was selected as Top Business Innovator of the Year for 2018 and as Top CEO of the Year in Land Surveying by the International Association of Top Professionals (IATP) for his Riverview leadership and commitment to the field.

Linda Greiner ’77 “I took early retirement from Princeton University’s School of Architecture and am now at TD Bank in the community relations department. In addition to my job, I provide foster care to Sheltland Sheepdog Placement Services of New Jersey. Each foster has a story to tell and I’ve turned to writing children’s books to help educate parents and children about rescue, fostering, and, of course, my beloved shelties. I am very happy that all three books have received a number of awards. Proceeds are donated to the rescue to help cover medical expenses, so these wonderful dogs are in their forever homes (sashitreshelle.com).”

Michael Romei ’81 joined Faena Hotel Miami Beach with more than 25 years of concierge experience. He is founding president of the Southern Florida Concierge Association, as well as an honorary member of the Concierge Chefs of D’Or IUTCH International.

Mary Jean Watson Avery, BFA ’87, director of the Connected Beginnings Training Institute, recently relocated the program, becoming a part of the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMDI). In her work at UMDI, Avery is also coordinating the early childhood professional development for central Massachusetts as part of the statewide StrongStart Initiative.

Christina Manos Bocek ’88 “After 15 years living in Atlanta, I love living in a little country home with many flowering trees. I’ve moved back to the Northeast and have to face winter again! Bucks County is historic and beautiful, plus much closer to my beloved New York. And I’ve signed on as a cook and bakeware consultant for Pampered Chef, which is working my marketing skills again at long last; plus I’ve become a lead on the Buckingham Elementary School Secret Shoppe event—a gift to the students from the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), which allows them to shop for their families at cost. This lets me get back to my buyer roots by giving me a heartwarming reason to shop the gift shows.”

Sasha E. Butler ’89 received the Mulan Award by The Mulan Foundation. She also received The Mulan Capitalization Award by The Alger Foundation. Amy is a Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager who joined Alger in 2015. Amy manages the Alger Small Cap Focus Fund, a focused portfolio of approximately 50 high-conviction small capitalization stocks. Amy also received The Alban Award by The Alban Club, a New York-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting, enabling and inspiring successful Asian women.

Michael Romei ’81 joined Faena Hotel Miami Beach with more than 25 years of concierge experience. He is founding president of the Southern Florida Concierge Association, as well as an honorary member of the Concierge Chefs of D’Or IUTCH International.

Timothy “Tim” Maloney ’82 has been named the head coach of boys’ basketball at Dunbar High School in Ft. Myers, Florida, “I love everything about the game of basketball and hope to do as much traveling as I can. In June, I’ll be traveling to Israel and Jordan for the first time, to see the places of my childhood. Exciting! Wishing you all the best!”

William “Bill” Howard ’83 published a new book, The Battle of Ball’s Bluff: All the Drowned Soldiers, with the History Press in October 2018. The book tells the story of one of the Civil War’s earliest battles that took place near Leesburg, Virginia, in the fall of 1861.

Maryjean Watson Avery, BFA ’87, director of the Connected Beginnings Training Institute, recently relocated the program, becoming a part of the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMDI). In her work at UMDI, Avery is also coordinating the early childhood professional development for central Massachusetts as part of the statewide StrongStart Initiative.

Christina Manos Bocek ’88 “After 15 years living in Atlanta, I love living in a little country home with many flowering trees. I’ve moved back to the Northeast and have to face winter again! Bucks County is historic and beautiful, plus much closer to my beloved New York. And I’ve signed on as a cook and bakeware consultant for Pampered Chef, which is working my marketing skills again at long last; plus I’ve become a lead on the Buckingham Elementary School Secret Shoppe event—a gift to the students from the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), which allows them to shop for their families at cost. This lets me get back to my buyer roots by giving me a heartwarming reason to shop the gift shows.”

Sasha E. Butler ’89 received the Mulan Award by The Mulan Foundation. She also received The Mulan Capitalization Award by The Alger Foundation. Amy is a Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager who joined Alger in 2015. Amy manages the Alger Small Cap Focus Fund, a focused portfolio of approximately 50 high-conviction small capitalization stocks. Amy also received The Alban Award by The Alban Club, a New York-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting, enabling and inspiring successful Asian women.

Michael Romei ’81 joined Faena Hotel Miami Beach with more than 25 years of concierge experience. He is founding president of the Southern Florida Concierge Association, as well as an honorary member of the Concierge Chefs of D’Or IUTCH International.

Timothy “Tim” Maloney ’82 has been named the head coach of boys’ basketball at Dunbar High School in Ft. Myers, Florida, “I love everything about the game of basketball and hope to do as much traveling as I can. In June, I’ll be traveling to Israel and Jordan for the first time, to see the places of my childhood. Exciting! Wishing you all the best!”

William “Bill” Howard ’83 published a new book, The Battle of Ball’s Bluff: All the Drowned Soldiers, with the History Press in October 2018. The book tells the story of one of the Civil War’s earliest battles that took place near Leesburg, Virginia, in the fall of 1861.
and Netflix and has recently filmed a couple of guest roles, including a part on the next season of Fuller House on Netflix, along with some projects that are in development.

Alfred “Fred” Camillo ’96, MAT ’02 was elected first selectman for the town of Greenwich, Connecticut. Camillo is a native son who has represented the town in the state General Assembly for the past 11 years.

Dianalee Veille, MAW ’98 is the Poet Laureate of Newbury, New Hampshire, where she lives and writes. She is the author of five books of poetry including the most recent, Ever After, and a collection of short stories, Soul Proprietorship: Women in Search of Their Souls.

Carrie Fisher Amos ’01 is one of our four health, wellness and health experts selected for a community conversation at Newtown Connecticut’s Edmond Town Hall, on how to improve health through relationships. Amos has spent the better part of her career leading not-for-profit organizations and working with clients in private clinical practice.

Kamesha-Sylvia G. Colom ’02, JD, is a new partner in fall’s real estate practice group and focuses her practice in the areas of real estate transactions. She was recognized by the Indianapolis Business Journal among its “40 Under 40” in 2018.

Joseph “Joe” Delamater ’04 and Kamesha-Sylvia G. Colom ’02 were featured on All-In on National Public Radio, where they discussed their efforts to create awarness of problems in Indiana’s child welfare system and what remains to be done. They became foster parents in 2018.


Michael DeLucia ’04, MAT ’05, an English teacher and author, recently wrote a YA historical fiction novel, Madness: The Man Who Changed Basketball.

Loren Mayshark ’04 published Inside the Chinese Wine Industry: The Past, Present, and Future of Wine in China. The wine business is one of the world’s most compelling industries and China is considered the rising star. Keep up with him at twitter.com/LorenMayshark and lorenmayshark.com.

Dana Perez ’05 has been chosen for the position of assistant principal at Rogers Park Middle School. Perez began her career as a school counselor at Rogers Park for five years before joining the newly-opened Westside Middle School Academy, where she is currently a school counselor.

Kristina Tocco, MFA ’06, MFA ’13 was nominated for The Pushcart Prize, an award that honors prose and poetry authors from around the world. Her story “That Boy’s a Catch” was nominated by Dujuan Stamo, an Italian-American online literary journal.

Jennifer Paoneosa ’08 is a senior account executive with Georgia Tech IMG Sports Marketing.

Lindsay Guerra Wyman, MPS ’08 is the new director of programming at the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF).

Victoria Mingham ’09 founded a new event planning company, Victoria Opera House (VOH). A private operatic service-learning group based in New York, VOH is providing singers from around the world an opportunity to expand their reach through intimate affairs that are personalized with an experiential format for the new generation.

Rachel Bartunek ’11 reopened her gift shop, Almost Local, at a new location at 18 W. Park Row in Clinton, New York, in November. She classifies her store as a home-good style gift shop.

Jacqueline Solomito ’12 and Mallory Watts are now entrepreneurs operating Milkweed Farm on Martha’s Vineyard. They met at Manhattanville College, as members of the ice hockey team.


Julia Callo ’13, MAT ’15 “I just returned last May from a teacher workshop/service-learning experience in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The school I work at is part of an organization called Round Square that brings schools from all of the world together based upon a shared list of ideals we want to teach in our schools. I spent two days in workshops learning about these ideals, as well as how to incorporate service-learning into our school in an authentic way.”

Gina Wright ’13 joined Terakete as a digital outreach specialist.

Joseph Dincocco, MS ’14 has been named the new head coach for men’s soccer at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

Alexandra “Alli” Hoyt ’14 has a chapter about her study abroad experiences in Africa in a new book published in May by Brill titled Inter cultural Mirrors: Dynamic Reconstruction of Identity. Hoyt is a full-time event coordinator specializing in entertainment and academia. She works at Loyola Marymount University in university advancement special events.

David Jones ’14 was an honoree at the 2019 Millennial Awards, presented by the Westchester County Business Journal and the Fairfield County Business Journal in Stamford, Connecticut, in November.

Sarah Perry ’14 “Although I majored in psychology while attending Manhattanville, I ended up in nursing school. I used my love of psychology in nursing and pursued psychiatric nursing at Penn Medicine Princeton Health. I am currently pursuing a master’s degree to become a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. I recently got engaged in Disney World to my now fiancée Amanda. We live in Neptune, New Jersey, together with our three fur babies.”

Samantha Grimm Fleming ’15 is the director of a thriving ministry for a multi-site church in Upstate New York with more than 2,500 people in its congregation. Samantha recently celebrated her two-year anniversary with her husband. They have four children (ages 10, 10, 9, 4). In addition to balancing work and family, she is also a successful market partner with a botanically based, anti-aging hair care line.

Constance “Katie” Parr ’17 is attending Boston University School of Dental Medicine and recently attended a Boston alumni reception with President Gesler and Joe Calabrese ’97, associate dean of students at the dental school. Parr is a dental student. Prior to dental school, Parr worked with trusted dental care professional, Helaine Smith ’88 in her dental practice.
In Memoriam

Jean Bautz, RSCJ ’74 | 1922–2018

A native of Rushing, New York, Jean Bautz graduated from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in 1944, pronounced her first vows in 1947, and made her final profession in Rome in 1952. She exercised her educational and administrative gifts at Sacred Heart schools at Greenwich and Noroton, Connecticut, at Lawrence Avenue and Bloomfield Hills in Detroit; at Kenwood in Albany; at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York; and at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, New Jersey. She served as the director for career development at Manhattanville in the early 1970s. From 1994 to 1997, Sister Bautz served as a Trustee of Manhattanville and was actively involved in the Class of 1944 Scholarship Committee.

Eleanor Mulqueen Carr, RSCJ ’44, PhD 1922–2019

Eleanor Mulqueen Carr, affectionately known as “Elly,” was born in Brooklyn, New York. In 1944, she graduated from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, where she earned a BA in Fine Arts and English. She made her first vows in 1952 and her final profession in Rome in 1957. Sister Carr was a Religious for 67 years and taught on the secondary level at schools in Albany, New York, and Greenwich, Connecticut, before accepting a position at Manhattanville College in 1964.

Sister Carr received her PhD at New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts in 1969. At Manhattanville, she was a professor of art history and taught in the master’s in humanities program. She was also chaired the department of art history for more than 20 years.

Ruth Dowd, RSCJ ’40, ’04 (Hon.) PhD 1900–2019

A beloved presence at Manhattanville for many years, Ruth Dowd, ’40, ’04 (Hon.) PhD, was born in Rochester, New York, and was a graduate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Rochester. After earning her bachelor’s degree with a double major in philosophy and sociology at the Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, Sister Dowd entered the Society of the Sacred Heart on September 8, 1940, at Kenwood in Albany, New York, and made her first vows in 1943 before making her final profession in Rome in 1949. She earned a PhD in Philosophy from Fordham University. From 1949 to 1967, Sister Dowd was a professor of philosophy at Manhattanville. In 1967, she became a founding faculty member of Harlem Prep, a college preparatory school organized for high-risk, high-potential students from urban, low-income neighborhoods in New York City. For this work, Sister Dowd was recognized with the Woman of Conscience Award from the Manhattanville Class of 1963.

In 1983, Sister Dowd returned to Manhattanville as dean of adult and special programs and launched the School of Professional Studies with a flagship program in human resources. In addition, that year she started the Master of Arts in Writing (now the Master of Fine Arts) program and launched the annual Summer Writers’ Week.

In 2007, St. Dowd created the sports business management degree program, one of only two such programs in New York State at the time. In 2004, the Manhattanville Board of Trustees awarded her an honorary doctorate to Sister Dowd, and in 2009 conferred on her the title of Dean Emerita in recognition of her lifetime achievements and work. In honor of her 100th birthday this year, the Manhattanville Class of 1988 raised $13,000 for a one-time academic award in her name.

Mary Louise “Mamie” Jenkins, RSCJ ’66 1921–2019

Mary Louise “Mamie” Jenkins is remembered as a joyous woman who enriched the Manhattanville community throughout her life. Born in the Bronx, New York, Sister Jenkins came from a large family in which she was one of 10 children. While attending Walden High School in Manhattan, her principal, who was Catholic, told Sister Jenkins about a music scholarship at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. She took the entrance exam, passed with excellence, and was accepted. However, when finalizing the paperwork, college officials discovered a potential problem…she was not Catholic! Fortunately she was welcomed by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. In her sophomore year, she converted to Catholicism.

In 1946, Sister Jenkins became the first African American student to graduate from Manhattanville, earning a bachelor’s degree in voice and piano and soon after, she became the first African American to enter the Society of the Sacred Heart. In 1951, she pronounced her first vows at Kenwood in Albany, and four years later Sister Jenkins made her final profession in Rome. Sister Jenkins taught at the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Kenwood in Albany, New York; Sacred Heart Greenwich in Connecticut; and at the Convent of the Sacred Heart on 91st Street in New York City. She also taught music and other subjects at Villa Duchesne in St. Louis, Missouri, and at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, as well as 15 years at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland, where she served as campus minister. During that time, she also offered music therapy to Alzheimer’s patients at the Circle Manor Nursing Home and ministered to physically-handicapped children at Forest Knolls Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland. According to a former Manhattanville student, Sister Jenkins felt so drawn to singing because she said, “When you sing, you pray twice!”

In 2008, Sister Jenkins moved to Oakwood, a retirement community for the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Although Sister Jenkins was a tiny woman, standing barely five feet tall, her boundless positivity and faith made her a large presence at Manhattanville.

Also in our thoughts:

Catherine Roche, RSCJ ’56, EdD, 1922–2019

Esther Ann Whalen, RSCJ ’75, MA 1900, 1923–2018

Thank you!

As Manhattanville College Trustees and co-chairs of the Institutional Advancement Committee, we are sincerely grateful for the support, loyalty, and commitment you, our donors, have provided over the past two years. Every gift, large and small, has an impact on every corner of the entire Manhattanville community. Most importantly, it enhances the academic and co-curricular experiences of our students.

We and other trustees work alongside President Geisler and his administration to ensure that the College remains financially viable, boasts an outstanding academy, and offers personally valuable and transformational opportunities outside the classroom, all of which help our students become “ethical and socially-responsible leaders in a global community.” But we would not be able to fulfill our obligations as trustees if it weren’t for the support of the alumni and parents, friends, faculty, and staff.

Your annual-fund gifts support the operating budget, which allows us to hire faculty who are great teachers and scholars, provide a safe and beautiful campus in which our students live and learn, and support more than 50 clubs and organizations in which students participate. We depend on the annual fund to provide that all-important base of financial support.

Gifts designated to endowments provide funds that ensure an income stream in perpetuity and are vital to the long-term viability of Manhattanville. Restricted gifts support scholarships, enhance facilities, and elevate the quality priority projects and programs like the Sister Mary T. Clark RSCJ Center for Religion and Social Justice and the Center for Inclusion.

Be assured, all gifts make a difference and we are truly grateful to everyone of you who help us carry on the important Manhattanville traditions, fulfill our mission, and remain a college in which we can all take great pride! Thank you again for your generous support.

With warm wishes for a fabulous 2020,

Mary Foley Cooper ’69

Michael C. Dunn ’77
The Leadership Circle

Recognizing those who give $1,000 or more annually. The generosity of members allows
The Leadership Circle

ACKNOWLEDGING GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2019

ACKNOWLEDGING GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2019

All Donors

The Leadership Circle continued
Every effort has been made to list our donors accurately. Please accept our apologies and let us know if you discover an error.

ACKNOWLEDGING GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2019

ACKNOWLEDGING GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2019

Every effort has been made to list our donors accurately. Please accept our apologies and let us know if you discover an error.

*Leadership Circle
†Emeritus
Every effort has been made to list our donors accurately. Please accept our apologies and let us know if you discover an error.
Mary Jill Hanson ’67

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.

For Mary Jill Hanson ’67, Manhattanville College left her with more than cherished memories; it instilled an ethos of giving and growth that has informed her at every stage of her life. Much of the credit, Hanson said, goes to the religious of the Sacred Heart who cared so much for her and taught her to serve others, especially those who were less fortunate, as curiously as they shepherded her class through their undergraduate years. “They were truly amazing. I think we were fortunate to have that kind of community support,” Hanson said.
The Class of 1967 President’s Endowed Fund for Excellence

Patricia Rosemary Peeler Class of 1967 Endowed Scholarship for Excellence
The Class of 1967 President’s Endowed Fund for Excellence

The Class of 1968 Endowed Trustee’s Scholarship

Established to commemorate their 50th Class Reunion, the Class of 1968 has a goal of $500,000 to endow a student each year who could not otherwise attend the College, to benefit from a Manhattanville education.

The Class of 2018 Paves It Forward

Well before the Class of 2018 began its last year on campus, its members began soliciting donations for its Senior Class Gift. The fundraising drive offered members of the class as well as families the opportunity to contribute and, if they wished, to select commemorative engraved bricks that would be placed around the bench at the apex of the quad.

The idea of installing the bricks, said Class President Dylan Hayes, was to create a physical space where the Class would always be represented and people “could return to the community of our Class.” The Class of 2018 has always felt a strong connection to one another, said Hayes.

While Hayes was certain that his Class would step up for this fundraiser, he was truly gratified and amazed at the response. The Class blew past the benchmark goal of 20 percent with 50 percent of the class making a commitment. Parents also gave to contribute their school's community.

Not surprisingly, the success of the Senior Class Gift has inspired subsequent class years to claim their benches around the quad.

For more information on the Senior Class Gift/brick engraving, contact Megan Casey, director of annual giving, at (914) 341-322 or megan.casey@mv.edu.

The Class of 1969 Endowed President’s Scholarship

With a goal of $2 million, the Class of 1969 is committed to fully funding a President’s Scholarship to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The endowed fund will provide income to perpetuate innovative strategic priorities of the College. Established to commemorate their 50th Class Reunion, the Class of 1969 has a goal of $500,000 to endow a student each year who could not otherwise attend the College.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS GIVEN BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2019

Mary C. O’Donnell ’84
Shane A. O’Donnell ’84
Joyce O’Donnell ’84
Annie O’Donnell ’84
Kathleen O’Donnell ’84

dates

Martha McClelland ’69
Maureen T. C. McClelland ’69
Robert McClelland ’69

Margaret McCafferty ’68
Audrey McCafferty ’68
Theresa McCafferty ’68
Joan McCafferty ’68
William McCafferty ’68

Irene McCaffery ’68
Ann McCaffery ’68

Mary McCaffery ’68
Patricia McGowan ’68

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS GIVEN BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2019

Every effort has been made to list our donors accurately. Please accept our apologies and let us know if you discover an error. *LeaDership circLe Decease D*
Robert Gilmore

Five years ago, Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs Robert Gilmore opted for a new way to give back to Manhattanville: he would designate a percentage of every punch to the college. It was a choice he said, that was less an act of charity than an act of duty. Simply put, Gilmore felt it was the right thing to do.

He noted that he absolved his sense of obligation during his years in the United States Army, specifically while he was a trooper in the 1st Cavalry Division. “When you get indoctrinated in that, it gives you a sense of leadership,” he said.

It’s a noble idea, but one that also has an immediate impact on people’s lives. After 21 years in Manhattanville’s financial aid office, Gilmore has witnessed over and over the positive effect that contributions have on students, families, and the larger Manhattanville community. He recalled one instance early in his career when a student came into his office, dumped a bowl of individual financial donations that the student had gathered. “There were $50, $200, $500 amounts…and it ended up totaling almost $20,000,” he said. “The lesson from that encounter sticks with him to this day: no matter what the amount, every donation counts.

Once people start thinking of themselves as part of a group with a shared goal, the choice to contribute becomes a no-brainer, said Gilmore. “It takes the sting out of giving a little bit every month—because every little bit adds up to a lot in the end.”
**Every effort has been made to list our donors accurately. Please accept our apologies and let us know if you discover an error.**
Manhattanville Elects New Chair and Welcomes New Board Members

Amy Y. Zhang, '93, MBA, CFA, John Tolomer, and Brian M. Donaghy were elected to the Board this year.

“Manhattanville is a special College and soon after enrolled in the College, earning his master’s in 2009,” Manhattanville College is a special institution, one with students from underrepresented populations who intend to study science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). “I feel very excited about serving on the board, as I think about the major role that Manhattanville College has played in helping me achieve my dreams,” said Zhang. “I am grateful to be able to give back to the school and I look forward to adding value to the board.”

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.

Dwight Hilson, MAW ’09 was elected Chair of the Manhattanville Board of Trustees at the May 2019 meeting. He has been a Board member for seven years and presided over his first meeting as chair in October 2019. Before Hilson earned his master of arts in writing from the College, he had crafted a long and successful career in business. In 1981, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s in communication and entered the world of private equity in which he has maintained a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and management company with Tone Equities, LLC, chief executive officer of Structure Tone Equities, LLC, a real estate investment and management company with a diversified portfolio in retail, multi-family, office, industrial, and development properties that is located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Donaghy is involved in various local organizations including Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) and is on the MAW Real Estate Council. Donaghy and his wife Lauren are parents of a Manhattanville student who will be completing her degree this semester.
manhattanville.edu

Facebook.com/MvilleAlumni
Twitter.com/MvilleAlumni
Youtube.com/ManhattanvilleAlumni
Instagram.com/MvilleAlumni
#mvillealumni

The Fund for Manhattanville

30% of students at Manhattanville College are first generation

89% of 2018 graduates are employed or in grad school

50+ student run clubs and organizations

92% of students receive scholarships

“As a first generation student, my scholarship gives me an extra push to succeed. I know that people believe in me and are investing in my future.” — Piero Sahu

Make a gift in support of students like Piero
mville.edu/donate or call 914.323.5439