

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Welcome back to campus! There are a number of exciting announcements and campus enhancements that I am happy to share with you.

Many of you heard this past spring about our plans for adding new healthcare programs to our academic offerings. The new School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Manhattanville has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Dean Debra Simons and her administrative team have been quite busy over the summer, designing program spaces and preparing the required documentation for the first new program offerings which have been submitted to the State of New York for approval. We have plans to update facilities and build partnerships with local healthcare institutions in preparation for the launch of the new School next year. Starting next academic year, this will bring a significant number of additional students to the Manhattanville campus to address an urgent need to fill 641,000 open nursing positions in the tristate area alone, not to mention other health science programs we plan to add in the future. Trained nurses combine good salaries with much higher than average job security and have consistently ranked among the most respected professions in American society. So, as you are thinking about your job options, I encourage Manhattanville students to consider this new and exciting opportunity provided by your college!

This fall is the official opening ceremony of our new Center for Design Thinking, located in the Cottage near Kennedy Gym. There will be collaborative Design Thinking classes and projects taking place in addition to a variety of programs by our dedicated faculty and Associate Provost for Academic Innovation and Design Thinking, Alison Carson. I was delighted to be able to sit in on some final project presentations for the “Designing for Change” classes last spring and, as a result, I am funding the idea submitted by one of the student teams to add an outdoor kiosk that will highlight important community information and happenings around campus. We expect this kiosk to be installed in the fall near Berman Center.

Over the past year, we had many conversations with various student groups on how we might improve our campus and I am happy to share with you the following improvements which have been made in direct response to those conversations!

Enhancements to the Berman Center lobby are underway including new flooring and furnishings intended to make the space more student-friendly. We have also filed plans with the Town of Harrison to renovate and expand our commuter lounge and Chartwells eatery in Brownson Hall. We expect the renovated lounge to be ready later on this fall.

Residential students will notice improvements to our residence halls. Our laundry vendor is implementing a new mobile laundry application which will allow students to check the status of their laundry from their phones. We have painted all laundry areas and Spellman Hall has new machines. We were able to provide more singles and cut back on triples and quads. Renovation of showers in Tenney Hall is continuing.

We are continuing to improve One-Stop services combining student accounts, financial aid, the registrar, and academic advising on the third floor of Reid Castle. We have updated our Castle Scholars Honors Scholarship and are delighted with the excitement from students who qualify.

Our Athletics department, which has been renamed “Athletics and Recreation,” (to better reflect Manhattanville’s commitment to provide access to athletic facilities and services to our entire student body) is rejoining the NCAA Skyline Conference this year as well as increasing intramural offerings. Next year we will be welcoming Women’s Rugby to varsity status. I hope to see you all cheering on our teams and exploring our wellness offerings in between or after classes!

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership is expanding use of *The ‘Ville* online app to highlight important events and all the wonderful activities student clubs and departments work so hard to put on throughout the year. Event information posted to *The ‘Ville* will automatically be shared on the Manhattanville website. New closed-circuit TVs on campus will also provide a forum for event promotion.

In the spring, our office for Campus Safety rolled out the new Rave Guardian app, a two-way communications tool for safety and emergency services. I strongly encourage every member of the Manhattanville community to download the app so that they will be connected with Campus Safety to receive and send important communications.

With everything going on, 2019-2020 should be an exciting year to come for all. I am available to meet by appointment to discuss your ideas, questions, and concerns. I have open office hours on Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 pm in my office in Reid Castle and I eat regularly in Benziger Dining Hall. I encourage you to stop by and say hello and share with me your experiences on campus.

I wish you all a successful academic year. Go Valiants!

Michael E. Geisler, Ph.D.

President

