

# MMC



MarymountManhattan

MAGAZINE | SPRING/SUMMER 2016

2016 Honorary Degree Recipient

## Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

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ALUMNI PROFILES  
RACHEL KELLY MARTINEZ '08  
Interview



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Students volunteering with Marymount Muscle

# COMMENCEMENT

**Thursday, May 26, 2016 | David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center**

President Walk and the Marymount Manhattan College trustees, faculty, and staff wish all of our graduates the very best. We can't wait to see what you'll do next! More from commencement on page 17.



# The Carson Match



For every two dollars you give, longtime Marymount Manhattan College supporters Judith '03, H'13 and Russell Carson will give one dollar.

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MarymountManhattan

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#### CORRECTION

In the Fall/Winter 2015 issue, we noticed an important mistake: Margaret Brennan Glasser '74 was mistakenly marked as deceased in the In Memoriam section. We sincerely apologize for this error.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Geraldine Ferraro '56, H'82 campaigning for Congress.

In this presidential election year, I reflect with pride on the accomplishments of our alumni in public service. Among the most distinguished is a woman who has inspired generations of Americans from all walks of life: Geraldine Ferraro '56, H'82, the trailblazing politician and legislator who became the first female vice presidential candidate representing a major political party.

On the day before the 1984 presidential election, Ferraro returned to 71<sup>st</sup> Street to pay tribute to the college where, in her words, she “first learned to make serious choices.” “I have come back to Marymount Manhattan,” she said, “for the last stop of this campaign, because I wouldn’t be my party’s candidate for vice president if it hadn’t been for the education that I received here.”

Two other notable Marymount Manhattan degree recipients in public service are currently front and center on the world stage: Hillary Clinton, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the College in 2005, and Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who received an honorary doctorate this spring.

A strong commitment to contribute to the betterment of society was woven into the fabric of Marymount Manhattan by the College’s founders, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM), and enshrined in the College mission. A Marymount Manhattan education has always been, and continues to be, concerned with preparing students for active community participation and engaged citizenship, from the local level to the global.

In this issue of *MMC* magazine, we recognize a few of the exceptional individuals and educational programs at Marymount Manhattan that carry this founding commitment forward. We also applaud the Class of 2016—proud and feisty MMC graduates who are poised to make a positive and lasting difference in the world. Finally, we share the outstanding accomplishments and life milestones of several members of our college community.

In accepting his honorary degree in May, the U.N. Secretary-General exhorted graduating students: “We must not lose sight of the opportunities that are in our hands, today, that can set the world on a better course.” As MMC celebrates 80 years of educational excellence, these words can serve as a reminder of the long Marymount tradition of educating students not only to see but also to *seize* opportunities to improve the lives of others and society at large.

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
President



## Urban Revitalization Expert Joins Honors Day 2016

### LECTURE SERIES

Marymount Manhattan College's 39<sup>th</sup> annual Honors Day, held on March 15, 2016, recognized the achievements of talented, hard-working students through presentations and awards.

The busy day also included the 2016 Barry Commoner Lecture on the Environment. The lecture series, named after prominent environmental scientist Barry Commoner, was established at MMC through the generosity of Richard S. Berry and Lucy A. Commoner, who also created The Commoner Fund for Environmental Studies at the College.

This year, urban revitalization expert and Peabody Award-winning broadcaster Majora Carter delivered a presentation titled "Home(town) Security" to a packed house of students, alumni, and friends of the College. Carter discussed numerous green infrastructure projects, policies, and job training and placement services.

*Left: Majora Carter presents "Home(town) Security" in The Theresa Lang Theatre on March 15, 2016.*



### ROOM WITH A VIEW

## SALON 220 WITH PRESIDENT WALK

In spring 2016, President Kerry Walk held a series of "salons" in her apartment above the Nugent Building. Dubbed Salon 220 in a nod to President Walk's address, 220 East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, the gatherings featured student-led discussions and performances. In total, more than 100 members of the MMC community attended. Conversation touched on an assortment of topics, including student poetry, the economy, fear-mongering in the modern world, and the potential of digital media.

"Salon 220 has given me opportunities for meaningful dialogue with students and faculty, and has enriched campus life in unexpected ways," President Walk observed. "I'm excited to host more salons in the coming year."



Above: President Walk chats with students at a Salon 220 gathering.

### DREAM JOB

## Be Yourself and You Just Might Meet Your Idol

Creative media student Donovan Sanders '16 moved closer to his dream to work in television with his senior capstone project, which took place on January 27, 2016.

While many students create short films or documentaries for their capstone, Sanders went in a different direction—devising and filming a "pilot episode" of his own talk show, "Talkin' Back." Adding to the excitement of live entertainment was one very special guest: mega-media personality Regis Philbin. How did Sanders gain the attention of

the legendary host and entertainer? Rewind years ago when he attended a taping of Philbin's show "Live with Regis and Kelly" with a close friend. The producers polled the audience prior to taping, asking for volunteers to try out for a small dancing role on the show. When his friend encouraged him to do the mini-audition, he went for it.

Thanks to his outgoing personality, outstanding dance skills, and impeccable timing, Sanders earned an enviable recurring gig as a dancer on the ABC daytime staple. He even won a Relly Award (a blend of

Regis and Kelly, get it?) for Favorite Go-Go Dancer. Sanders's multiple appearances on "Live" gave him in-person access to Philbin, whom he considers a mentor—which is why Philbin attended the "Talkin' Back" taping and even answered questions from an appreciative audience.

Much as he did on Philbin's show, Sanders pulled out all the moves on this project, and MMC wishes this fresh young talent many successful years to come!

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

## PI SIGMA CONFERENCE

### POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS PRESENT SCHOLARLY RESEARCH IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Jacqueline Manuel '16, a double major in political science and philosophy and religious studies, and Alec Lafavore '16, a double major in political science and theatre, presented their scholarly research at the 2016 Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference on February 13, 2016, at George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.

The conference welcomed more than 100 students and faculty and included 65 presentations. The students representing Marymount Manhattan shared their research findings in a professional setting, with the welcome bonus of engaging in conversation with a diverse group of people from differing political positions.

Manuel presented "Pais Petit: An Analysis of Catalan Nationalist Ideology from the Renaiçença to Current Events," while Lafavore presented "Architects of Language: How Narrative Framing Shapes Politics." When describing his experience at the conference, Lafavore said, "The paper was well received, and I received invaluable feedback from my peers, as well as doctoral candidates and professionals working in politics. Presenting at the conference was one of the highlights of my academic career."



## NEW YORK MINUTE



## GIVE BACK

### Flexing Our Marymount Muscles

Marymount Muscle is lifting the MMC community to new heights. Now entering its second year, the program encourages students to give back to the city through volunteerism. To date, more than 100 student participants have completed 2,000 collective service hours over two semesters—no easy feat.

Throughout the 2015-16 academic year, Marymount Muscle partnered with Good Shepherd Services to plan events with foster children, contributed to meal service programs for City Harvest and the Food Bank NYC, and volunteered with New York Cares.

“Marymount Muscle has been more successful than I could have imagined,” said Zakkiyya Taylor, coordinator of student engagement and community service. “It shows the commitment our students have to giving back to the community, and I’m looking forward to seeing how the program will grow.”

The annual Alternative Spring Break trip presented a week-long opportunity for students to dedicate themselves to service outside of New York City. In April, 11 students traveled to Baltimore to work with the homeless and hungry population at shelters and food banks.



In May, a special “day of action” focused on supporting individuals with HIV/AIDS. A team of 60 students, faculty, and staff also participated in the AIDS Walk New York.

Marymount Muscle has already changed attitudes and perspectives on campus, and there are plans to expand the initiative in 2016-17.

“Working with Marymount Muscle brings me excitement and inspires me, and the students give their all at each volunteer opportunity,” said participant Eneida Hernandez ’19. “It warms my heart to know that people love making a positive impact.”

## NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Adult returning students of the '70s, '80s, and '90s—we'd love to hear your stories!

Reconnect with the Marymount Manhattan College community and each other. Please join us Homecoming Weekend, October 21-23, 2016, for a meet-and-greet and networking event (exact time and location TBD). Contact Rita Murray at 212-517-0416 or [rmurray@mmm.edu](mailto:rmurray@mmm.edu) for more information.

## MMC STUDENT AWARD

### MMC Takes Home 2015 Scarpetta Award

Marymount Manhattan College students earned The Scarpetta Award for “Best Undergraduate Paper” at the 27th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research.

The November 2015 conference, at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, welcomed more than 200 students and faculty researchers from across the country. The seminar included 14 scientific presentations selected by a review committee of faculty from area colleges with the aim of encouraging excellence in behavioral research.

The MMC team consisted of psychology majors Carol Wagner '16, Alicia Ferris '16, Michael Corning '16, A. Kristina Keyser '16, and Michael Rojas '15, who worked under the guidance of associate professor of psychology Nava R. Siltan, Ph.D. Their research paper analyzed studies of children who participated in the “Realabilities” intervention. “Realabilities” is a television

show and comic book series developed by Dr. Siltan and featuring five children with disabilities who harness their special talents to save their school from bullies. The research measured changes in young people’s attitudes toward children with disabilities as a result of watching the show and/or reading the comic book series.

“I am beyond thrilled to share this award with my incredible, hardworking MMC psychology research students,” says Dr. Siltan. “Each student contributed their talents, creativity, and knowledge to this exciting pursuit, and we are highly encouraged by the results. We can’t wait to continue to expand upon our ‘Realabilities’ materials and research methodology in the upcoming year.”



## SCHOLARSHIPS/STUDENT PROJECTS

Emily Garcia '17 has been awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. A Brooklyn native and 2014 Watson Fellow, Garcia is pursuing a double major in international studies and business management at Marymount Manhattan College. She participates in the Emerging Leaders Program and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and is on the Dean’s List. With the help of the Gilman Scholarship, she spent the spring 2016 semester in Thailand working with women and children.

## COURSE SPOTLIGHT

# NEW YAWK TAWK

## New York City Seminar Fall 2015

### CLASS

Marymount Manhattan College offers entering students exciting seminar sections as an introduction to life in New York City. The seminars are part of the College’s recently unveiled *CityEdge*—a four-year college-to-career program that pairs a personalized liberal arts education with exciting professional development opportunities.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The playfully titled “New Yawk Tawk” invited first-year students to explore the New York dialect from several angles, including working with The Oral History Project at the New York Public Library (NYPL). Alexandra Kelly, outreach services and adult programming manager, arranged for students to hear archived interviews with native New Yorkers from such neighborhoods as Greenwich Village and Harlem.

### ABOUT THE PROFESSORS

Sections were taught by Ann D. Jablon, Ph.D., chair and professor of communication sciences and disorders, and Susan J. Behrens, Ph.D., professor of communication sciences and disorders.



# CHANGING THE WORLD STARTS HERE

## The 2016 Annual Scholarship Benefit



The grand ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, New York, offers a sweeping view across Central Park, showcasing the beauty, size, and bustle of the city below. This was the perfect venue for an evening celebrating the power of a Marymount Manhattan College education and the impact MMC students and alumni make in the world.

Trustees, faculty, alumni, parents, and friends of the College gathered at this special event on May 5 to raise money for need-based scholarships. As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Hope Knight '85 told those in attendance, "Your generosity transforms lives and provides students the opportunity to succeed."

At the event, President Kerry Walk, Ph.D., presented entrepreneur, environmentalist, and philanthropist Paul Polizzotto with the Marymount Manhattan College Visionary Award, calling Polizzotto "an 'extreme innovator,' someone who thinks divergently and disruptively, and who has spent his life effecting socially responsible change through innovative business practices." Polizzotto also received a special video message from CBS President Leslie Moonves and Senior Executive Vice President Tony Ambrosio, commending him for his inspirational work.

Polizzotto is the inspiring founder and president of CBS EcoMedia, which harnesses the power of advertising and channels it into tangible social change. A month before the benefit, Polizzotto visited MMC to share his experiences as a social entrepreneur with several hundred students and other members of the campus community. The California native was honored to receive the Visionary

Award and pleased to have a "home on the East Coast."

Anthony Mason of CBS News hosted the event, which also featured guest performances under the direction of bandleader William Foster McDaniel. Jenna Ushkowitz '07, of the television hit "Glee" and the nonprofit Kindred: The Foundation for Adoption, sang Adele's "Turning Tables." Chris Pinnella '08 teamed up with talented young performers from the nonprofit Little Kids Rock for a rendition of "New York State of Mind." Finally, the legendary singer and actress Vivian Reed soared in her performance of "Believe in Yourself" from *The Wiz*.

MMC's Joseph Maybloom, a theatre arts major and the valedictorian of the Class of 2016, thanked the donors who have made possible his education and that of so many others. His remarks followed a special "thank you" video, which featured many current scholarship recipients articulating the dreams that their Marymount Manhattan scholarships help them realize.

Thanks to the generosity of those gathered, the event raised over \$615,000 to support student scholarships. MMC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Marilyn Wilkie said, "This was a huge success, and we attribute that success to so many people, especially Paul Polizzotto. I have nothing more to say than thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every person involved—for recognizing the value of a liberal arts education at Marymount Manhattan College and for continuing to create impact through your support of the Annual Fund."



- 1 | Paul Polizzotto with MMC student volunteers and performers
- 2 | President Walk and Paul Polizzotto
- 3 | Scholarship Benefit Committee Chair Alice Materasso P'14 and Michael J. Materasso P'14, standing left of center, with guests
- 4 | August Hoerrner and board member Linda Basilice-Hoerrner '71 with Patricia Weekes Mascari '56
- 5 | Paul Polizzotto with host Anthony Mason of "CBS This Morning: Saturday"
- 6 | Paul Polizzotto and Anthony Mason with the sisters of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- 7 | The Visionary Award
- 8 | Madelyn Baillio '18 sings "America the Beautiful"
- 9 | MMC Musical Theatre Students perform the Alma Mater, led by soloist Hayley Lampart '16
- 10 | Chris Pinnella '08 performs with Little Kids Rock
- 11 | Jenna Ushkowitz '07
- 12 | President Walk honors Paul Polizzotto with the Visionary Award
- 13 | Paul Polizzotto with MMC Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Hope Knight '85





# Alumni Reunion Weekend

June 3-4, 2016

This year the College saw the return of many alumni from decades past, with special recognition of the classes of 1966 and 1991 for their 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, respectively. Attendees enjoyed an alumni art exhibition, a cabaret with recent musical theatre graduates, academic presentations from Honors Day 2016, and plenty of opportunities to visit with fellow alumni and see all the ways Marymount Manhattan College has (and hasn't!) changed since their time here.



- 1 | Alumni Cabaret in The Theresa Lang Theatre
- 2 | Amy Pekal '15 and Ellie Imperato '68 at the Alumni Art Exhibition in The Hewitt Gallery of Art
- 3 | Alumni Soirée in The Regina Peruggi Room
- 4 | Award Luncheon performance by recent musical theatre graduates in The Great Hall.
- 5 | Alumnae reunite and reminisce at the Award Luncheon
- 6 | President Kerry Walk with honorees Amber Adams '11, Susan McKeon '66, Rosaleen Knoepfel '01, and Sarah Galli '06
- 7 | Class of 1961 enjoying a good laugh with old friends on The Lowerre Family Terrace



**Edna Aizenberg, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus of Hispanic studies, recently authored "On the Edge of the Holocaust: The Shoah in Latin American Literature and Culture." The book refutes the assumption that the whole of Latin America served as a Nazi refuge during and after World War II. Dr. Aizenberg demonstrates how Latin American authors, journalists, and activists opposed and fought fascism, and her analysis of individual texts confronts clichés about Latin American writing and literature.



After years of coordinating and hosting study abroad programs in Italy, **Peter Naccarato, Ph.D.**, professor of English and world literatures, secured a rare direct partnership with the Umbra Institute and the International Studies Institute in 2015. The partnership allows MMC students to attend one of the institutes for a fall or spring semester, a full academic year, or a summer semester. Participants will enroll in a full range of courses,

with a particular focus on Italian history, society, politics, art, and culture. Dr. Naccarato, who serves as the faculty liaison for the program, works closely with MMC staff member and study abroad coordinator Cindy Sittler to recruit students for the program, guide them through the application process, and coordinate their study abroad experience.



**Erin Greenwell, MFA**, assistant professor of communication and media arts, has been named a 2015-16 Fellow for the Queer/Art/Mentorship Program. Founded by Ira Sachs, the multidisciplinary, intergenerational arts program pairs LGBTQI artists in New York City for a year-long mentorship. One of eleven accepted artists, Professor Greenwell will work with her mentor, director and screenwriter Stacie Passon, to develop her narrative feature-length script, "The Flight Deck," which is inspired by the butch/femme lesbian bar scene in Buffalo, New York, during the 1950s.



Professor of theatre arts **Kevin Connell, MFA**, received a BroadwayWorld.com/Columbus Award for Best Direction of a Play for "One Man, Two Guvnors," which he directed at the Weathervane Playhouse in Ohio in June 2015. The play is an update of the 1743 comedy "Servant of Two Masters," by Carlo Goldoni. Professor Connell won the same award for his direction of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at the Weathervane Playhouse in July 2014.



**Hallie Cohen, MFA**, professor of art, chair of the Department of Art and Art History, and director of the The Hewitt Gallery, was accepted as a visiting artist to the American Academy in Rome for two weeks in January 2016. Her project, "Psychogeography and Hydrography," continued her exploration of director Pier Paolo Pasolini's "Mamma Roma" (1962), one of the

masterpieces of postwar Italian neo-realist cinema. While abroad, professor Cohen completed several paintings, including a 12-foot-long by 5-foot-high watercolor.



**Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of international studies and chair of the Department of International Studies, won the Best Environmental Film Award at the 2015 Mexico International Film Festival, and the Merit Award of Awareness at the Awareness Film Festival, for his recent documentary "Soil, Struggle and Justice: Agroecology in the Brazilian Landless Movement." The film examines a cooperative of the Brazilian Landless Movement that transitioned to ecological agriculture, or agroecology, and subsequently serves as a thriving model for alternative farming. The documentary has become a tool for groups around the world to transition to agroecology; it is currently being used by a coalition of dairy farmers in Ecuador, a women's cooperative in Nicaragua, and a nongovernmental organization in Andhra Pradesh, India. To date, the film has appeared at more than 30 film festivals globally.



# Interview

MARCH 21, 2016

## Melissa Rauch and Small Town Celebrity

“Raised in New Jersey, Rauch ’02 studied acting and musical theater (“something sturdy to fall back on,” she jokes) at Marymount Manhattan College. Now 35, she is most widely known for her role as Bernadette on the CBS sitcom “The Big Bang Theory” but has been writing with her husband Winston Rauch ’02 since college.”



Photo credit: Brian Higbee



## “One to One” with Sheryl McCarthy DECEMBER 21, 2015

“Marymount Manhattan College’s new president, Dr. Kerry Walk, describes the school’s approach to their students as personal, warm—a small college atmosphere in one of the world’s largest cities. Its strong liberal arts foundation includes 30 majors and many minors from Acting and Biology to Marketing and Theatre Arts.”

*At the end of the interview, Sheryl McCarthy said, “You’ve got about a minute left to tell me your five-year plan for the college.” Laughing, the president replied, “Well, I can tell you it’s building on what the college has been doing—and that is combining a fantastic, high-quality liberal arts education with professional preparation.”*



Photo credit: Dewey Nicks

# VANITY FAIR

DECEMBER 8, 2015

## Why Supergirl Star Melissa Benoist is the “Annie Hall of Superheroes”

“Born in Houston and raised in Denver, Benoist acted in community and dinner theater throughout high school and then moved east to study musical theater at Marymount Manhattan College. Sophomore year she switched to straight theater. “I fell in love with 19th-century Russian plays. I fell in love with Shakespeare, with Shaw and Coward.” Since graduation, in 2011, however, television and movies have claimed the actress, and no wonder—this woman puts her heart in her eyes. She was the love interest in the surprise hit “Whiplash” and joined the cast of “Glee” in Season 4, playing adorable Marley Rose.”



Photo Credit: Joe Vericker, PhotoBureau, Inc.

## AVENUE Magazine & BroadwayWorld.com MAY 17, 2016

*Coverage from the 2016 Annual Scholarship Benefit, which honored philanthropist, entrepreneur, and environmentalist Paul Polizzotto, president and founder of CBS EcoMedia, Inc. The grand ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental was filled with scholars, students, parents, alumni and friends of Marymount Manhattan College on the evening of May 5. The celebration toasted to the institution’s Annual Scholarship Benefit, a fundraising event with no shortage of fun.*

# THE HUFFINGTON POST

## The Women at Bedford Prison Writing Their Own History

MAY 12, 2016

“President Barack Obama’s prison reform efforts rank among his most important initiatives. I was privileged to take part in a recent conference highlighting significant work being done at the Bedford Prison for Women in New York, “The Crossing Borders VI Conference,” organized by Marymount Manhattan College at Bedford, the maximum security prison for women in New York State.”

—Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan



## Chris Mosier: The Definition of an Athlete OCTOBER 29, 2015

“Mosier, assistant director of residential life at Marymount Manhattan College... [is] the first known out transgender athlete to qualify for any U.S. national team. ...[H]is event is the sprint duathlon, a run-cycle-run race.”



Photo credit: Benedict Evans for ESPN

*Mosier was also recently featured in ESPN The Magazine’s Body Issue, becoming the first transgender athlete to pose. The eighth annual Body Issue hit newsstands July 8 and is available at [espn.com/bodyissue](http://espn.com/bodyissue).*

## STAGE DIRECTIONS MAGAZINE

### What My Favorite Theatre Teach Taught Me: Backstage Edition OCTOBER 2015

“Marymount Manhattan College in New York City is highly respected for its commitment to exposing design students to get-your-hands-dirty experience and access to world-class mentors; many of the school’s



faculty members concurrently work on Broadway.

George Gountas, New York City-based lighting director for Comedy Central’s “The Larry Wilmore Show” and a veteran theatrical lighting designer, appreciates the total hands-on immersion he was afforded by the program. He credits Ray Recht, the... current Associate Professor of Theatre Arts and Coordinator of the Design/Technical Theatre Program, for uniquely shaping his work ethic.

Ido Levran, a well-respected sound and projection designer whose New York credits include work at the Manhattan Theatre Club and La Mama, worked hands-on with Robert Dutiell, current Professor of Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan; he considers Dutiell to be a great friend to this day. Levran especially appreciates the intellectual and spiritual perspective Dutiell provides his students. “Rob taught me never to take anything for granted when designing,” Levran says.”



Photo Credit: Krissa Schlueter for The New York Times

## THE NEW YORK TIMES

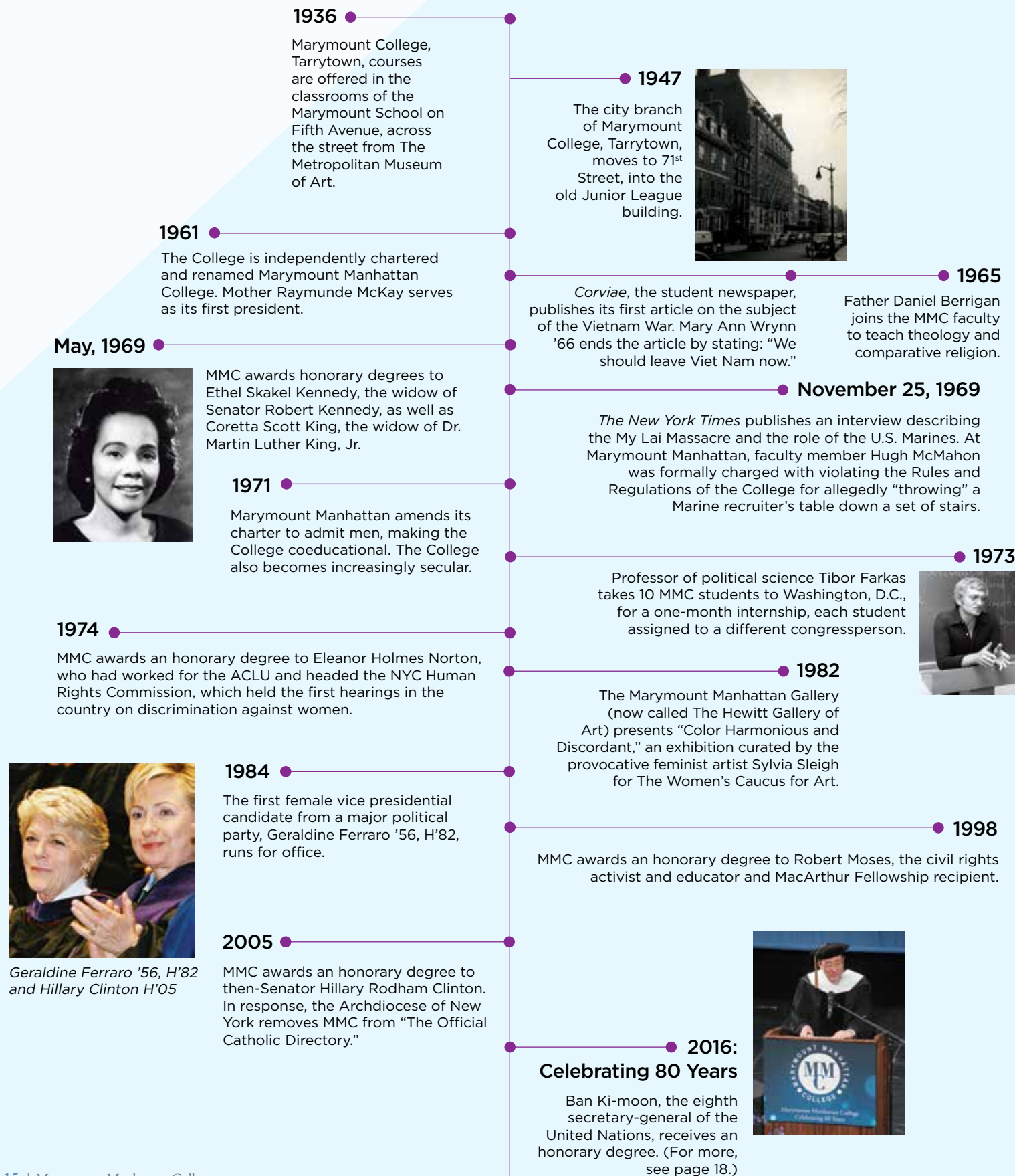
### After “Girls,” Lil Freckles Raps About Life as a Brooklyn Millennial APRIL 20, 2016

“Lil Freckles (her real name is Emma Carroll) is a pixie-faced rapper whose unapologetic and raunchy lyrics betray the high-low melodrama of millennial life. Ms. Carroll graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2010 and was a production assistant on “Girls” when she began to take rap more seriously. “Everyone was very cool about the music, and Lena wrote me into a scene,” she said, referring to Lena Dunham, the show’s creator. Lil Freckles made her debut TV performance in the show’s third season as the musical act that preceded Marnie and Desi in a scene filmed at Grasslands in Brooklyn.”



# A TRADITION OF ENGAGEMENT

## Investigating the Social and Political History of MMC



**K**iley Griffith '15 was in class with international studies professor Andreas Hernandez when something he said caught her attention.

"He mentioned Father Daniel Berrigan of the FBI's Most Wanted List and how Marymount nuns sheltered him for a period of time in the 1970s," she recalls. "My ears perked up and I realized that I knew little about the history of Marymount."

This gripping story compelled Griffith to undertake a research project that would unearth some of the rich, fascinating, and little-known history of Marymount Manhattan College, especially in the areas of advocacy, volunteerism, and political engagement.

For instance, Father Berrigan—who passed away in April 2016—was a prominent figure in Vietnam War protests. He preached pacifism, and his protest activities, such as burning draft cards, led to multiple arrests. In the mid-1960s, MMC president Sister Jogues Egan hired Father Berrigan to teach Buddhism, much to the chagrin of the priests teaching traditional theology. And it's true, the sisters of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) and possibly some MMC faculty helped Berrigan go "underground" to avoid the FBI. That said, the radical history of Marymount Manhattan goes back much further.

**A TRADITION OF ENGAGEMENT**  
Marymount Manhattan has always had a rebellious streak, dating to its founding by the RSHM, a community of women religious. David Linton, professor emeritus of communications, describes the RSHM at MMC as "tough and radical." When Henry Blanke, a reference librarian, joined the staff in 1988, he expected the sisters to be extremely conservative, but says instead: "They were the most radical people that I have ever met!"

*The New York Times* reported in 1965 that a collage hanging inside the double-doors on 71<sup>st</sup> Street read: "Youth is a time of rebellion. Rather than squelch the rebellion, one might better enlist the rebels to join the greatest rebel of all time—Christ Himself."

The leadership and example of the RSHM have always been an important part of the College's identity. Though MMC was never tied to the church in a legal sense, nor was the student body ever exclusively Catholic, the RSHM's commitment to promoting peace and justice established an atmosphere of public awareness and civic engagement.

**POLITICAL AWAKENING IN THE 1960s**  
The 1960s was an especially politicized time period, at MMC and across the nation. As former MMC sociology professor Mona Cutolo puts it: "At this time, you couldn't not be politically aware." A 1969 poll indicated that 90% of MMC students and 77% of faculty supported closing the campus on October 15 as part of a national movement to end the war in Vietnam. Classes were suspended on that day, and students and faculty held a peace Mass on campus, as well as lectures, seminar discussions, prayer services, and memorials for those killed in the war.

**"Marymount is an invitation to be different, to really learn rather than be taught, to have the right to disagree, to know the world situation firsthand."  
— Mother Raymunde McKay, RSHM, First President of Marymount Manhattan College**

Portions of this article adapted by Karl Hinze from "Rebel College: A Radical History of Marymount Manhattan College" by Kiley Griffith '15. Additional research and interviews contributed by Carly Schneider '12. Kiley Griffith '15 spent nine months after graduation traveling through Southeast Asia and South America. She now works as an assistant at The Blackstone Group in New York City.

**ON-CAMPUS POLITICS**  
As the MMC student body became more politically engaged, they desired a more active role in administrative decisions within the College.

For instance, some students became upset when the administration formed the Academic Policy Committee, which failed to include student representatives—leaving the student body voiceless regarding curricular changes. These students rallied together in protest, publishing blistering satires and critiques in the school paper.

And they were heard: the College did away with contested academic requirements. Thereafter students could design their own curriculum with a faculty advisor, and only 120 credits were required to graduate. (After a sharp decline in enrollment in history, math, science, and language classes, Marymount Manhattan returned to its previous system four years later.)

**THE TRADITION CONTINUES**  
In subsequent decades, Marymount Manhattan College maintained its commitment to civic responsibility and political engagement.

Today, the tradition is carried on at the College through a new major in politics and human rights, a recently launched internship program with the United Nations, expanded community engagement opportunities through Marymount Muscle, academic and co-curricular initiatives focused on diversity and inclusion, several lecture series dedicated to social justice issues, and many other programs and activities.

The College also boasts several alumni who have led lives of public service, including recent alumni Julietta Lopez '12, Constituent Liaison in the Office of U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, and Vladimir Martinez '14, Director of Budget and Capital Projects for Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

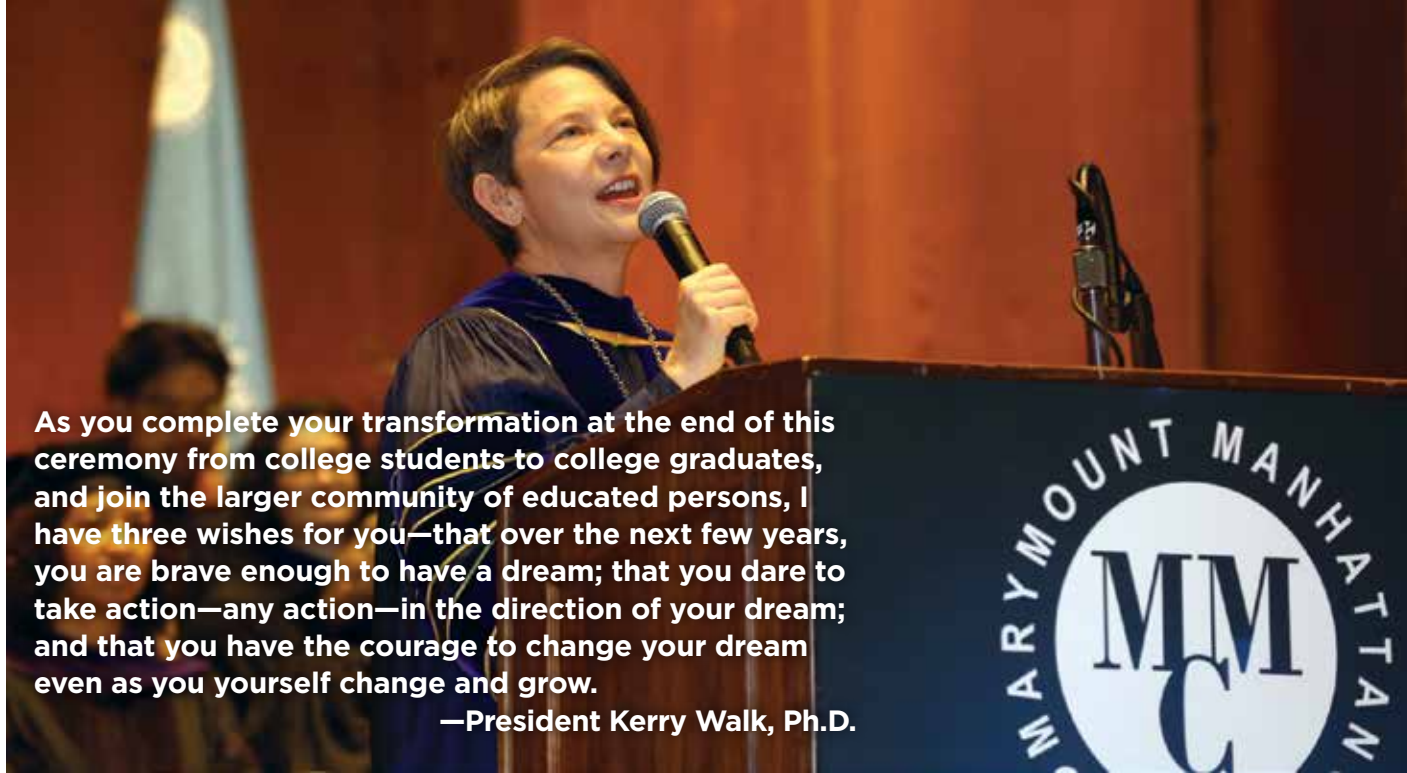
Several MMC alumni were trailblazers for women in politics. A few who come to mind are the Honorable Sallie Manzanet-Daniels '85, the first Latina justice to serve in the First Judicial Department of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court; Joan Fitz-Gerald '70, the first woman to serve as President of the Colorado State Senate; and Geraldine Ferraro '56, H'82, the first female vice presidential candidate from a major political party.

In the words of the College mission, a Marymount Manhattan education is intended "to develop an awareness of social, political, cultural, and ethical issues in the belief that this awareness will lead to concern for, participation in, and improvement of society."

This was certainly the case for Kiley Griffith '15. "My professors at Marymount pressed me to think more critically about past and current events," Griffith says. "And given its history, it's fair to say that Marymount will carry on its legacy of being progressive and socially conscious."







As you complete your transformation at the end of this ceremony from college students to college graduates, and join the larger community of educated persons, I have three wishes for you—that over the next few years, you are brave enough to have a dream; that you dare to take action—any action—in the direction of your dream; and that you have the courage to change your dream even as you yourself change and grow.

—President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.

On Thursday, May 26, 2016, Marymount Manhattan College held commencement exercises at David Geffen Hall in Lincoln Center. The room buzzed with excitement as proud parents, grandparents, and friends of the College cheered on their graduates.

The ceremony included performances of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and the alma mater, “Hail Marymount Manhattan,” by musical theatre graduates. Featured speakers included Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Hope Knight '85; President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.; 2016 valedictorian Joseph Maybloom; 2016 senior class speaker Genesys Grullon; and honorary degree recipients Rabbi Philip Hiat, MMC campus minister, and Louise Mirrer, Ph.D., president and CEO of the New-York Historical Society. The packed auditorium also heard a recorded excerpt from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s honorary degree acceptance speech. His degree was awarded at a special ceremony one week earlier.

The celebration of academic achievement offered heartfelt words, touching tributes, and moments of pure joy as members of the Class of 2016 marched, danced, waved, and cheered their way across the stage to accept their degrees and special awards of distinction. Congratulations, graduates!

▼ MMC has been our home, our rock, and our family as we journeyed through its hallowed halls. Together we witnessed the opening of the new Cooper Square Residence Hall, the unveiling of the first multi-person all-gender bathroom, the re-orchestration of our Alma Mater, and the inauguration of a new President and a new era of Marymount Manhattan College’s history. As MMC looks back on eighty years of excellence, it is clear we are also moving forward.

—Valedictorian Joseph Maybloom '16

▼ To my peers, thank you for being friends I consider family. At one point or another, we may have felt like we struggled alone, but today we stand here because of the help we received from our family, faculty, staff, and friends. We did it together....Now let’s go show this world what Marymount can do!

—Senior Class Speaker Genesys Grullon '16

## By the Numbers THE CLASS OF 2016

Graduates:  
**350**

Average Age: **22**  
Oldest: **65**  
Youngest: **20**

From 30 states and 22 different countries  
Farthest is from Australia,  
closest is from 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, across  
the street from the Nugent Building

## BAN KI-MOON URGES GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN HONORARY DEGREE KEYNOTE

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon received an honorary doctorate from Marymount Manhattan College on Thursday, May 19, 2016, at a special ceremony in The Theresa Lang Theatre.

“As I’m sitting here with so many young people who are graduating from this great college, I’d like to say just one word. The world may be big, but I tell you that the world is now small. Very small. We are living in a very small family. Everything is interconnected. Whatever I’m saying now has already been communicated to the end of the world within a fraction of a second.

So whatever you do is important, should be important, and should be beneficial to other people. Particularly to those students and young people who are living in an affluent society like the United States, you are apt to forget or lose sight of others, and what is happening in other places in the world.

“Therefore, at this time, the national boundaries do not mean much to all of us. Forget about all these national boundaries and have a greater global vision. Be a global citizen. ...I thank you very much for this honor and I will continue to respect and to honor the spirit of the Marymount Manhattan community.”



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- 1 | Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Hope Knight '85; honorary degree recipient and president and CEO of the New-York Historical Society Louise Mirrer, Ph.D.; honorary degree recipient and campus minister Rabbi Philip Hiat; President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.
- 2 | Valedictorian Joseph Maybloom '16
- 3 | Senior Class Speaker Genesys Grullon '16
- 4 | United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



# A COLLEGE IN THE CITY, OF THE CITY

## Marymount Manhattan College and the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program

by Dominic Siri '16

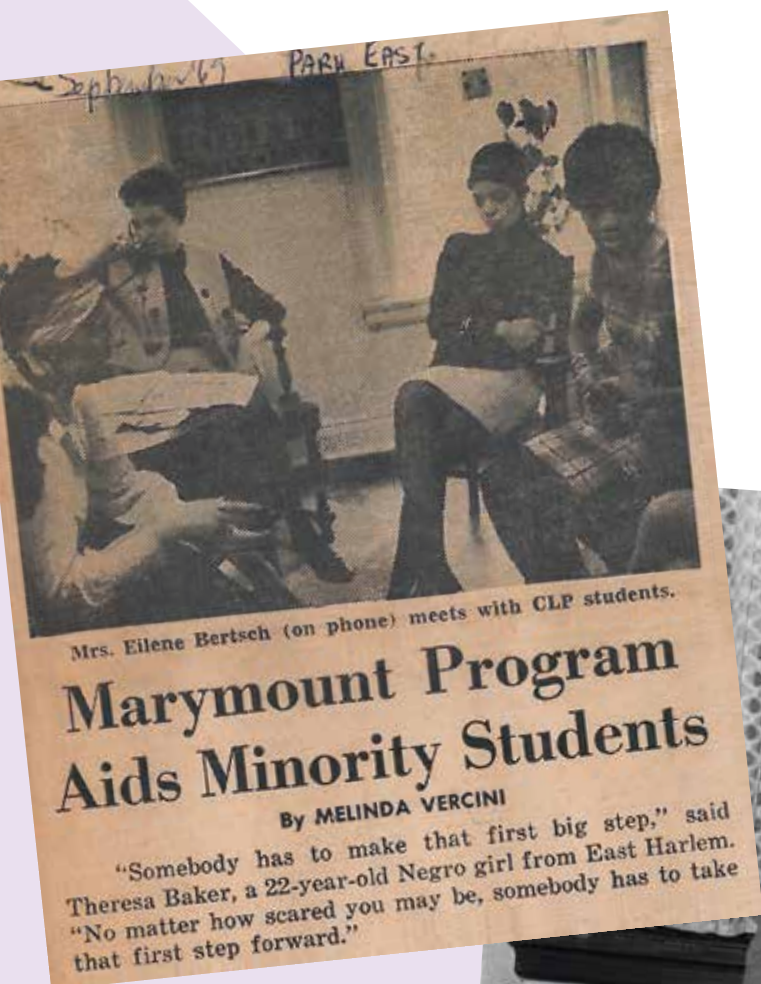
**This page:**

*Left: The Park East, 1967*

*Bottom: HEOP Staff, 1983.*

**Opposite page:**

*Front row, left to right: Shirley Rosado '01 and Sandra Garcia '02. Back row, left to right: Javier Morgales, Aamantha Varn, Anwar Zandani '00, Jocelyn Clement, Allen Francis '99 and Debbit Carmichael at the statue of Carl Schurz overlooking Morningside Park at 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, July 22, 1998.*



In the tumultuous 1960s, people on every block of every borough were confronting the issue of diversity, and the newly independent Marymount Manhattan College was asking itself the same question: What is the value of diversity, and how do we promote it within our college and community?

In June of 1967, Marymount Manhattan College started the Community Leadership Program in collaboration with Sister Thomas Marie—a program that would eventually become part of the state-wide Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). The mission of the Community Leadership Program was to recruit local students who might not otherwise attend a private college, and to provide those students with the community, academic, and financial support they needed to succeed at MMC.

The first students admitted to the program—20 women, six from East Harlem and 14 from Fort Greene, Brooklyn—were selected in a similar fashion to today's HEOP students. The program leaders and the director of admissions performed a rigorous review and interview process. Then, the summer before enrolling, the selected students completed six weeks of intensive tutoring to prepare them for their first semester.

Rebecca Pinard, current director of HEOP, offers insight as to why HEOP is still important 50 years after its inception. "The program's financial and educational support assists students from low-income backgrounds in breaking the cycle of poverty that they are often born into," Pinard notes. "Along with the program support, students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in higher education are able to create a sense of community among one another."

Community has always been at the core of HEOP; many students refer to the program as their second home. Ingrid Sotelo, a 2010 HEOP graduate who is now the director of the Community Action Center in the New York City Comptroller's Office, commented: "If Marymount didn't have HEOP, it wouldn't have flavor, it wouldn't be representative of New York. We wouldn't have students from the Bronx or small pocket areas. It wouldn't be what it is now. We really are the cherry on top of the sundae to Marymount."

Emil Lendof, a 2014 graduate and photo editor at *The Daily Beast*, also spoke highly of the program. "HEOP provided me with a platform and an environment to harvest and grow the skills necessary to succeed in the academic environment and

eventually in the professional world. HEOP provides a tight-knit network of students who can relate to where you're coming from and understand whatever hurdles you may face in your career. They actively try to help you, be it through tutoring or just letting you know, hey, you're running late for class. The support that HEOP provides is priceless."

As for me, I see HEOP as an embodiment of the Marymount Manhattan College mission "to educate a socially and economically diverse student body" that is politically, culturally, and ethically aware. On a personal level, HEOP helped me take full advantage of all that MMC offers, particularly an independent study of French literature with professor Julie Huntington. I can't imagine having these kinds of opportunities anywhere else. It's heartening to see HEOP entering its 50<sup>th</sup> year at MMC and continuing to promote diversity and opportunity for new generations of students.

Dominic Siri '16 graduated from MMC with a double major in religious studies and studio art and a French minor. He plans to travel and pursue a career in media.



## RACHEL KELLY MARTINEZ '08

**Marymount Manhattan College alumna Rachel Kelly Martinez '08 has served her country and worked for peace across the globe—from Senegal and Afghanistan to Washington, DC.**

Rachel recently shared her memories of MMC and what ultimately led her to a position in the State Department.

### What led you to New York City and MMC?

I knew only one person when I moved to NYC—I didn't even know there were different boroughs! I came with \$1,000 in my pocket and the goal of attending Columbia University. Although I wasn't accepted, Columbia was nice enough to provide me with an exit interview, telling me why I wasn't selected. I was devastated and left in tears. As I rode the train home, I saw a sign for an open house at MMC. I went, I applied, and I got in. I am so happy I went to Marymount Manhattan College. It was the perfect college for me to complete my bachelor's degree.

### What is your fondest Marymount Manhattan memory?

I'm most fond of the faculty I met, including Dr. Singh, Dr. Shabaneh, Dr. Gandolfo, and Sister Virginia, plus the lifelong friends I made. Also, I really enjoyed the location and the size of the school.

### What did you do after graduation?

While at MMC, I attended a study abroad trip to El Salvador. I fell in love with El Salvador, so after college I moved there. The plan was to stay for a year, but I ran out of money and returned home after only five months. Looking back, it was the best five months of my life. I was considering joining the military, and the time in El Salvador helped me make the decision. I joined the National Guard for my home state of Maryland.

### What's it like working for Maryland's 290<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company?

I've been in the 290<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company for six years. I traveled with them to Senegal and we spent nine months in Afghanistan. Our unit responded to the Baltimore riots, and most recently we were activated to assist first responders on a snow mission. The job is extremely rewarding. Being a soldier pushes me out of my comfort zone, tests my patience, and helps me become a better leader.

### What do you do when you're not being called in for the National Guard?

I completed an eight-month internship with the Executive Office of the President of the United States in the fall of 2015. Shortly after that, I was accepted into George Washington University, and I am now a full-time student pursuing a master's degree in international policy and practice. I also started a full-time job with the State Department and am currently an outreach specialist with the Office of Emergency Management.

### What advice would you give to fellow Marymount Manhattan alumni looking to make a difference in their communities?

Don't give up! It didn't happen overnight, but I can finally say I see the hard work from my bachelor's degree paying off. Everyone is on their own timeline, but as long as you continue to do work in what you love, things will work out. I strongly believe that loving what you do is an important part of not only a successful career, but also a happy life.



▲ 2016 has been quite a year for **Amber Adams '11**, who produced a full-length ballet titled "Carolina" and a feature film called "Finding Home" in honor of National Adoption Day. She was also the production manager for NBC's television special "A Roundabout Road to Broadway."

"Some little girls played with Barbies," Amber observes. "I was making dance and films since I can remember. When I was a child, dance and film were playtime for me and they have always been a part of my life."

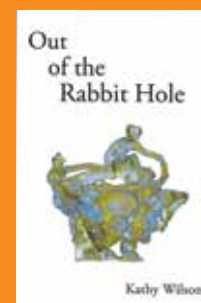
She polished her creative skills while studying dance at Marymount Manhattan College, an experience she recalls as nurturing and warm. In particular, she remembers professor Pat Catterson saying, "Amber, if no dance company wants you or you're not interested in dancing with a company, then make your own." And that's exactly what she did, founding the Cape Fear Dance Theatre in 2013.

Adams is also writing a children's book about ballet and ran her first marathon in spring 2016.

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▶ **Zachary Barbati '10**  
After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, Zachary Barbati '10 received the Copenhagen Master of Excellence Scholarship Award, enabling him to study at the University of

## GRIFFIN BOOKSHELF

**Eleanor (Ellie) Imperato '68** recently published "Doors of Memory/ Porte della Memoria," a memoir in prose and poetry of her early years in Avella, Italy. The publication includes a photographic essay of old doors and windows from the area. The last photograph depicts trees growing above a locked door. Imperato suggests, "Life springs anew from ancient secrets buried under the earth. They may seem locked away forever, but through my camera lens, I found the key, opened the doors of memory, and stepped into a treasure trove." Imperato's second collection of poems, "Purple Sins," is underway. In addition, she is collaborating with her sisters, Patrizia Maiella, translator of "Doors of Memory/ Porte della Memoria," and Tonia Maiella on a book about their Italian-American immigrant experience during the late 1950s and 1960s in New York City.



**Emma Eden Ramos '15** published "Still, At Your Door: A Fictional Memoir," a novel about three young sisters in less-than-desirable circumstances with a mentally ill mother and her abusive husband. The San Francisco Book Review raved: "'Still, At Your Door' becomes one of those unique stories where less is more. It provides readers with a deeper understanding of the physical and emotional effects of mental illness on the family as a whole and the need for broader awareness to allow children to maintain their childhood in innocence."

**Kathy Wilson '87** published a memoir, "Out of the Rabbit Hole." The book focuses on her childhood managing to survive an environment of alcoholism and violence, and finding escape through movies and records. Wilson was a nontraditional student at MMC, and discovered her talent for writing while pursuing a degree in communications arts. She later taught numerous writing courses at MMC for adults.

Copenhagen from 2010-12, where he spent two years conducting research and pursuing other academic work. Now a graduate student at Harvard Medical School (HMS), he is focusing his work on immunology.

Looking back on his time at MMC, Barbati said he can still remember test questions on the exams he took in classes like biochemistry



and physiology. He credits Dr. Judith Hanks and Dr. Benedetta Sampoli-Benitez with challenging him to think holistically about approaching scientific problems and thinking creatively about solving research problems.

**"I started college with little background in the natural sciences. But within a few short years, faculty from the Division of Sciences at MMC provided me with the skills necessary for success in both my graduate and professional endeavors. Coursework in social science, philosophy, and religious studies have uniquely prepared me to consider the impact that research, in both the basic sciences and biomedicine, has on individuals and communities at large."**  
—Zachary Barbati '10



## ALUMNI PROFILES

Currently living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Barbati considers himself a food enthusiast. He also spends time in the gym and focuses on his personal health. In the fall of 2016, he will start medical school, where he is excited about transitioning away from research and engaging in clinical efforts.



### ▲ Holly Ringhauser '08

Holly Ringhauser's criteria for selecting a college was pretty simple: Go to school in a big city, but find a college that offers a close-knit science program. Enter Marymount Manhattan College. Enrolling in the Department of Natural Sciences, Ringhauser received remarkable hands-on experience in her field. Whether it was taking an independent study course in parasitology, conducting neuroscience research, or working as a teaching assistant in chemistry, organic chemistry, and physiology, Ringhauser sought out extraordinary career-building opportunities. Ringhauser graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, with a minor in neuroscience. Now a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.), Ringhauser completed an emergency medicine residency program at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, New York, in June 2016. The year prior, she put her skills

to the test by traveling with a team to Hue, Vietnam, to teach emergency medicine. She worked in both an urban and a rural emergency department where she delivered lectures and gave demonstrations to medical and dental students, as well as residents.

**"I owe a lot to professors Dr. Benedetta Sampoli-Benitez and Dr. Judith Hanks, who served as my mentors during undergrad and beyond. They were so helpful in writing me letters of recommendation for hospital volunteer opportunities, outside research jobs, summer internship programs, and medical school applications."**

—Holly Ringhauser '08

In July 2016, Ringhauser headed to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to start a surgical critical care fellowship at St. Luke's University Hospital.



### ▲ Matthew Rodrigues '04

Graduating with a bachelor's degree in theatre arts in 2004, Rodrigues made the move to Los Angeles to pursue his dreams but quickly realized it wouldn't be as easy as planned.

After living in Los Angeles for some time, he was ready to pack his bags and head back to New York City because he "just wasn't getting a break in his hosting career."

As fate would have it, a close friend mentioned that an up-and-coming company called POPSUGAR that created online video content needed on-camera hosts. After acquiring a ticket to the opening of POPSUGAR's

new studio, Rodrigues walked up to the founder of the company, Lisa Sugar, and said, "I love your company and what you do, and I think it's time you have a male host." Two weeks and three auditions later, he had the job.

**"Studying theatre helped me to discover and explore all the different parts of my personality and gave me confidence to make bold choices. The actor in me loves to bring a lot of energy, physicality, and humor to my hosting work."**

—Matthew Rodrigues '04

As a host, Rodrigues has interviewed an array of big names in entertainment, including Viola Davis, Jason Bateman, and Hugh Jackman. Rodrigues credits his time at MMC for making him the multifaceted industry personality he is today.



▲ Alicia Williams '14 always knew she wanted to attend college, but her life took a left turn when she was arrested and incarcerated at a young age. However, through the Bedford Hills College Program, she was able to get a Marymount Manhattan education in sociology while in prison. She says, "Studying sociology helped me to understand myself more, as well as learn about diverse cultures and communities. This, in turn, led me to discover that I



love helping and working with people."

Alicia now lives in Brooklyn and is taking nursing prerequisites while working as a student coordinator at a medical school. She recently completed a patient care technician program at Medgar Evers College and looks forward to a career in healthcare. She enjoys playing sports, shopping, and spending time with family.

▲ Leigh Williams '01 knew he wanted to attend Marymount Manhattan College ever since he first visited. He says, "I got

a sense that the students who attended MMC truly enjoyed being there." He earned a bachelor's degree in English and credits MMC for fostering his lifelong curiosity, questioning everything he encounters in his studies and his work. Leigh currently lives in Brandon, Florida, a suburb of Tampa, and works as the associate director of program support for PACE Center for Girls, which offers academic programming and counseling services for girls ages 11 to 17 across Florida. In addition to doing this life-changing work, Leigh is a long-distance runner and works on music production in his spare time.

## MY MMC STORY

### Kathleen Ryan O'Grady '77

I am the first woman in my family to earn a college degree. I grew up in Queens and was working as a secretary when I became interested in Marymount Manhattan College. The College had this great ad campaign in the '70s about returning to school and getting your degree, and I jumped at the opportunity. I majored in business and political science and after MMC went on to business school, later working as a brand manager for Quaker Oats and eventually ending up in cable television.

When I went back to school I knew the importance of an education, and the intellectual rigor and resources it provided. That's why, years later, I helped to start a scholarship for first-generation students at MMC. When you are the first in your family to go to college, you need a lot of support—not just financial support, though that's important, but also support at every step of the process. All of the things many people take for granted may be a little more challenging for others. But it's worth it: going to college changes not only your life, but the life of everybody around you. It can change the dynamic of a whole family.

I am also a big supporter of the arts—I took a survey course at MMC in art history that really opened my eyes. Nowadays everyone is talking about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math education), but I say if you don't add an "A" for arts to make STEAM, it's not worth anything.

### WHY GIVE BACK?

It's important for people to understand how fortunate they are to receive this education.

Giving back financially doesn't mean you have to write a million dollar check. If you start small and work with a bunch of your friends, you can put something together that is impactful. And a gift doesn't have to be tuition-based; it can be used for books for the library, art equipment, or something else that the school needs in a field that is significant to you.

Giving back makes you feel that you are part of something important. And for alumni especially, it's honoring that which you have received. And again, it does not have to be a lot of money!



## NEW TRUSTEES

Marymount Manhattan College is pleased to announce the election of six new members to the Board of Trustees. The Board oversees the mission, fiscal integrity, and educational quality of the College.



**PATRICIA AGNELLO '83** is currently the chief human resources officer and employment counsel for Insight Portfolio Group LLC (formerly Icahn Sourcing LLC), an entity formed and controlled by Carl C. Icahn. Agnello previously held senior human resources positions at several other high-profile organizations, including Integro Insurance Brokers, North Fork Bank (now Capital One), PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and Exxon. She serves on the board of directors of Trump Entertainment Resorts, Inc. and PSC Metals, Inc., is on the Group Advisory Board of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, and has served as an arbitrator for the Civil Court of the City of New York. Agnello is an associate adjunct professor of professional responsibility at NYU's Stern School of Business. She holds a JD from St. John's University School of Law, an MBA in human resources management from Adelphi University, and a BA in liberal arts from Marymount Manhattan College.



**HELEN DEMETRIOS '73** received a BA in mathematics and economics, magna cum laude, from Marymount Manhattan College and an MA in mathematics from SUNY-Stony Brook before embarking on a distinguished career in business and entrepreneurship. After holding positions in the Olivetti Corporation and JP Morgan early in her career, Demetrios launched one start-up company and then another, which sold international banking software to major banks throughout the world, including Citigroup, JP Morgan, Barclays, HSBC, and many more. After selling her second start-up in a bidding war to Misys, a billion-dollar British software company, Demetrios worked for Misys for several years as chief operating officer and board member of its new banking division. A Marymount Manhattan trustee from 2006 to 2007, she currently serves as a board member of Big Arts, a cultural center in Sanibel, Florida.



**ABBY FIORELLA '83** is general auditor of MasterCard, where she is responsible for providing independent and objective assurance on the design and effectiveness of the company's risk management, internal controls, and governance processes. Fiorella also sits on the company's Risk Management Committee and is a member of its Global Diversity and Inclusion Council. Prior to her current role, Fiorella was responsible for MasterCard's global compliance programs, including ethics, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, trade sanctions, and privacy and data protection. Before joining MasterCard, Fiorella served as a director in KPMG's forensic services practice and was an assistant district attorney in New York County. Fiorella earned a JD, magna cum laude, from New York Law School. She received a bachelor's degree in fine arts, magna cum laude, from Marymount Manhattan College.



**MICHAEL G. STEWART, MD, MPH** is a renowned otolaryngologist who serves as professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and otolaryngologist-in-chief at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He also serves as vice dean of the Medical College and the E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., MD senior associate dean for clinical affairs. Dr. Stewart leads the Center for the Performing Artist at NYP/Weill Cornell. The author of more than a hundred publications, he is currently editor-in-chief of *The Laryngoscope* journal. He is a director of the American Board of Otolaryngology and the American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS, where he has received a Presidential Citation and two Distinguished Service Awards, along with induction into the Academy of Distinguished Educators at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Stewart earned his bachelor's degree in engineering, summa cum laude, at Vanderbilt University, his MD at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and his MPH at the University of Texas School of Public Health.



**EDWARD VAN SADERS '95** is the chief strategy officer of Regional News Network (RNN), the nation's fast-growing premium news content producer, where he is responsible for creating, communicating, executing, and sustaining the company's strategic initiatives. RNN programs and manages news channels across linear, online, and OTT platforms, reaching more than seven million homes throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Previously, Van Sadere served as chief financial officer of AccuWeather, following six years at RNN in the CFO role. He has also served in senior leadership positions at the entertainment brand Heavy.com and the environmental media company EcoMedia (now a part of CBS). Earlier in his career, he held positions at NBC-Universal, Fox News Network, and the Jim Henson Company. He earned a BFA in acting, cum laude, with a minor in musical theatre and a certificate in nonprofit management from Marymount Manhattan College.



**CATHERINE VINCIE '73** is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) and became a provincial councilor of the Eastern American Province in August 2015. She received a BA in piano performance from Marymount Manhattan College (certified by the Mannes College of Music), an MDiv from Yale Divinity School/Institute of Sacred Music, and a PhD in liturgical theology from the Catholic University of America. Sr. Catherine has taught liturgical theology in several graduate schools while also working as a church musician. From 1995 to 2015, she served as professor of liturgical and sacramental theology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology and Ministry in St. Louis. Sr. Catherine served as vice president/president of the North American Academy of Liturgy in 2011-12. A frequent lecturer, she has written more than 45 publications and is currently editing a book on Catholic preaching.



## CLASS NOTES

### FLORENCE PERELLA HAYES '57

passed away in 1996 following a courageous struggle with ALS (commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease). Her son, Jeremiah Hayes, an award-winning filmmaker, created a memorial film titled "God Comes as a Child," which was released on YouTube in March 2013. The film takes place primarily in a palliative care clinic in Montreal, Canada, the city where Hayes lived in her later years and where she was also a Catholic chaplain and theology instructor at McGill University.

### EILEEN SULLIVAN, PH.D. '63

is having her book, "The Shamrock and the Cross: Irish American Novelists Shape American Catholicism," published by the University of Notre Dame Press. It is available on Amazon as well as the university's website.

### CONNIE LA GRATTA '66

lives in Danbury, Connecticut, where her husband practiced orthopedics for 37 years. She has four children and seven grandchildren, four of whom live in New York City. La Gratta and her husband are both involved in Catholic charities, and she is a trustee of St. Joseph Church in Danbury.

### ROSE TERRANOVA CIRIGLIANO '71

recently began a small independent publishing company called Rose Book Publishers.

### ROSA COLON SANCHEZ '71

is enjoying retirement, healthy living, and travel after a 36-year teaching career. She and her husband of 43 years, Freddie, are snowbirds, spending time in Dover, New Jersey, and Cocoa Beach, Florida. They have traveled abroad and gone on cruises. In between their travels, they spend time with their two children and three grandchildren.

### GLORIA COHEN '79

wrote a children's book titled "Gubby's Gift."

### SHARON THOMAS LETALON '86

graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. She says that the best years of her academic life were at MMC—the friendships and wisdom she received were beyond measure. Sharon recently created a new web-based company named Equitas Network Partners LLC that focuses on providing working adults with a living wage and "clear compensation."

### CATIA OJEDA '02

graduated with a bachelor's degree in acting and is now a series regular on a new family television show called "Just Add Magic" from Amazon Studios. She plays Terri Quinn, the mom of the family. The show became available for streaming on Amazon on January 15, 2015.



### NICK SANCHEZ '03

married Sam Kiernan on October 10, 2015, in Naples, New York. They met on the First National Tour of "Mary Poppins." Kiernan attended MMC for a semester, and the two learned later on that Sanchez must have auditioned him at some point as Sanchez worked in the theatre recruitment office during his time at MMC.



### JESSE ALLOWAY BARTON '06

married Stephen Alexander Wall on May 1, 2016, in Jersey City, New Jersey. Jesse graduated with a BA in theatre arts and a minor in philosophy.



### SUPREET KESAR MCGRATH '08 AND STEPHEN MCGRATH '09

married on October 10, 2015, in Roslyn Harbour, New York. They have been dating nonstop since they met at Marymount Manhattan.

### LEILA JARMAN '09

premiered her film "A Dream of Paper Flowers on The Creators Project," a platform that features the works of artists from different disciplines that celebrate creativity, arts, and technology.



### KAILA GIOVANNIELLO '11 AND CHRISTOPHER STOKES '10

married on September 12, 2015, at the Garrison Inn in Garrison, New York. Professor of theatre arts Kevin Connell officiated.



### THOMAS HETTRICK '12

married Natalie Errthum on October 10, 2015, in Charleston, South Carolina.

### KATIE HAY '14

is currently working at the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

## IN MEMORIAM

Adrienne Pfeifer '50

Dorren Morris '63

Mary E. Lee '65

Maureen O'Dea Caragliano '67

Marie Antoinette Heller '76

Joan Susan Clement '77

Rochelle Klass '85

Mary Twomey Geason '86

Alexa McAllister '05

Meredith Noel Cummings '13

Marvelle S. Colby, Ph.D.

Angelo Dispenzieri

Elizabeth A. Dombroski

Vannie L. Kinard

Guy Mayers

It is with great sadness that we share the news that **Sascha Pinczowski '15** and her brother, **Alexander**, who also attended Marymount Manhattan College, lost their lives in the recent terror attacks in Brussels, Belgium. The many faculty, students, and staff who knew Sascha and Alexander remember them as joyful spirits with a passion for life.

### SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE!

We want to hear about your recent job changes, marriages, births, publications, awards, other noteworthy accomplishments, or the passing of a loved one. Submit a class note to [classnotes@mmm.edu](mailto:classnotes@mmm.edu) or call 212-517-0460.



## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

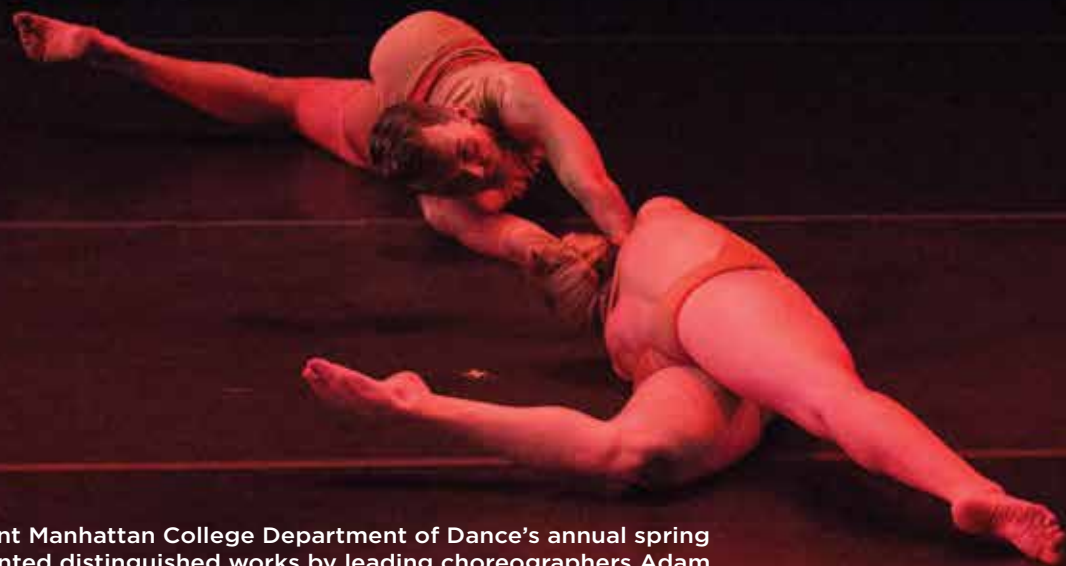
Over the years, numerous political hopefuls walked the halls of Marymount Manhattan College to connect with young, passionate voters. In this photo from 1965, Andrea Hyde '67 stands beside then-Congressional Representative John Vliet Lindsay in the College's Black and White Lobby (now known as The Hewitt Gallery of Art). At the time, Lindsay was campaigning to become mayor of New York City, a position he ultimately held from January 1966 to December 1973.

Photography by Christina Krupka '68



# LAST LOOK

Spring 2016  
Repertoire  
Concert



The Marymount Manhattan College Department of Dance's annual spring concert presented distinguished works by leading choreographers Adam Barruch, Robert Battle, Norbert De La Cruz III, Bill T. Jones, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. Held in The Theresa Lang Theatre, the performances offered a spectacular variety of styles for all audiences, with a focus on new and contemporary works.

Above: Elijah Jones '18, Max Erickson '19, and Lily Duarte '17 | Photography by Rosalie O'Connor

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Donor Appreciation Reception

September 28, 2016

To thank supporters  
of The Fund for  
Marymount  
Manhattan College

### Our Country's Good

by Timberlake  
Wertebaker, based  
upon the novel "The  
Playmaker" by Thomas  
Keneally

October 13: 8 p.m.  
October 14: 8 p.m.  
October 15: 2 p.m.  
8 p.m.

October 16: 2 p.m.

The Theresa Lang  
Theatre

### Family, Friends, and Alumni Homecoming Weekend

October 21-23, 2016

We can't wait to see  
you on campus! More  
details to come at  
[www.mmm.edu](http://www.mmm.edu).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alumni, Parents, and Friends Reception in Los Angeles, California

November 18, 2016

Contact Katherine  
Dunford at [kdunford@mmm.edu](mailto:kdunford@mmm.edu)  
for more  
information.

### Dancers at Work

November 11: 8 p.m.  
November 12: 2 p.m.  
8 p.m.

November 18: 8 p.m.  
November 19: 2 p.m.  
8 p.m.

BA dance majors  
investigate the  
parameters of  
choreographic  
perception in this  
student choreography  
showcase, which  
also includes new  
work choreographed  
by MMC faculty  
members.

The Great Hall

### Annual Trustee Donor Dinner

December 6, 2016

In recognition of our  
most generous donors

The Lotos Club, NYC

Except where noted,  
all events happening  
at Marymount Manhattan  
College, 221 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street,  
New York, NY.



HAIRSPRAY LIVE! — Season 2016 — Pictured: Maddie Baillio as Tracy Turnblad — (Photo by Virginia Sherwood/NBC) — NBCUniversal Media Village

Mark your calendars for  
**DECEMBER 7, 2016!**

MMC's very own **MADDIE BAILLIO '18** will  
be starring as Tracy Turnblad in NBC's next  
big musical event "Hairspray Live" alongside  
Harvey Fierstein, Martin Short, Jennifer  
Hudson, and more!

### STAY CONNECTED!

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### Black Friday. Cyber Monday. #GIVINGTUESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2016

A global day of celebration dedicated to giving back.

Last year #GivingTuesday was a record-breaking success. The MMC community showed extraordinary generosity, donating over \$18,000! Plus, your gifts have more impact than ever thanks to the Carson Match.

Gifts to The Fund for Marymount Manhattan College will help support student scholarships, faculty initiatives, and campus improvements.

Every gift makes a difference!  
Visit [www.mmm.edu/donatenow](http://www.mmm.edu/donatenow) to get started.  
For more information on #GivingTuesday visit  
[www.mmm.edu/givingtuesday](http://www.mmm.edu/givingtuesday).

# #GIVING TUESDAY™





MarymountManhattan

221 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021

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The Hewitt Gallery of Art  
Paintings by Florence Alva '89