

# MMMC

**ADDY & UNO  
JUST NOMINATED**

for "Best Family Show" at the  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Off Broadway  
Alliance Awards



**MarymountManhattan**  
MAGAZINE | SPRING 2018



**6**

NEWS  
NEW YORK MINUTE  
Around Campus

**22**

FEATURE  
CELEBRATING  
THE BEAUTY OF  
DIFFERENCES

**30**

ALUMNI PROFILES  
BEN NEMZER '08,  
The Magician

Karla Castro '18, a double major in International Business and Marketing, and Griffy the Griffin cheer on their classmates in the annual flag football game on Roosevelt Island.

# CONTENTS

## columns

- 5 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 6 NEW YORK MINUTE  
Around Campus
- 18 FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- 20 IN THE NEWS

## feature

- 22 CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF DIFFERENCES  
Thanks to hard work from members across the MMC community, Dr. Nava Silton's production about children, disability, and understanding reaches audiences far and wide.

## departments

- 26 ALUMNI PROFILES
- 30 CLASS NOTES
- 33 IN MEMORIAM
- 34 A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## NEW STUDENT ON CAMPUS

After eight years of outstanding service to the campus community, MMC's beloved mascot, Gary the Griffin, graduated from the College at a special Commencement ceremony in October presided over by President Kerry Walk. Gary has passed the baton to his younger sibling, first-year mascot Griffy, whose preferred pronouns are "they/them/theirs." Welcome to MMC, Griffy! Learn more about Griffy's arrival on [page 12](#).

## in this issue



▲ Dr. Nava Silton with the current cast of *Addy & Uno* and the MMC alumni and Psychology students who have all contributed to making this production possible. More about this project on [pages 22-25](#).

# 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.

## Phase 4 of the Carson Match: Developing Creative Changemakers

The Annual Fund at Marymount Manhattan College supports every aspect of the student experience. This includes scholarships, campus improvements, technology updates, new academic programs, the appointment of distinguished faculty chairs, and other areas of greatest need. Simply put, your gift sustains our students, the heart of Marymount Manhattan.

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MarymountManhattan

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#### DESIGNER

Rose Creative Group

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Joshua Cuppek  
Melanie Einzig  
Jerry Speier

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#### Please send comments to:

Editor, MMC Magazine  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
221 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021  
[editor@mmm.edu](mailto:editor@mmm.edu)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Another year has passed, and another group of fearless, innovative, and imaginative Marymount Manhattan College graduates are now prepared to join the proud community of MMC alumni that extends around the globe. At MMC, we are **committed to graduating students who are creative changemakers**—well-informed adults who are able to adapt to a rapidly changing world and are committed to enhancing their communities through inventive and impactful action.

In this issue of the *MMC* magazine, you'll meet several MMC changemakers. You'll learn about the fascinating, interdisciplinary work of Associate Professor of Psychology Nava Silton, Ph.D., who created a successful comic book series about disability, strength, and friendship, *Realabilities*, which she then collaboratively adapted into a magical **Off-Broadway family musical that celebrates the beauty of differences**.

You'll also meet the inspiring Raghieb Allie-Brennan '13, who graduated with a degree in International Studies and is currently the **Democratic candidate for State Representative** in Connecticut's 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District. And get ready for Emani De'Andre Mack, a junior double-majoring in Dance and Digital Journalism who founded **Infamous Unit, MMC's wildly popular dance team**, specifically to promote inclusivity, collaboration, and creative expression on campus.

Creative changemaking is also at the core of the College's new strategic plan, **Contemporary and Compelling: Envisioning MMC's Future**. Launched after a highly participatory College-wide planning process, the new plan is being executed by a Strategic Plan Implementation Network (SPIN). Over a dozen SPIN teams are currently hard at work moving the Strategic Plan forward. Progress!

The cornerstone of the plan is the innovative **college-to-career initiative CityEdge**, which immerses students in the rich learning and career landscape of New York City. This issue of our magazine will introduce you to one of *CityEdge's* many exciting components: CareerLab, a set of online and interactive "labs" that prepare students for internships and employment. **In CareerLab, students learn their strengths**, build their "personal brand," get ready for the Big Interview, and explore compatible career options. CareerLab is just one way that MMC is helping to ensure that our alumni have the skills, abilities, and knowledge to pursue their passions with resilience and confidence.

As I complete my third year as the College's President, I feel honored to join with the entire MMC family to advance our shared vision of the College—an educational community of **creative changemakers** who have the motivation and know-how to turn ideas into reality, and hope into action.

Best wishes,

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
*President*



## Congratulations to the Division of Sciences



Seven faculty members in the Division of the Sciences received a shared \$20,900 grant from the Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust to support six faculty-student research projects in the 2017-18 academic year. Through this generous grant, MMC students will gain hands-on lab experience in different areas, giving them a competitive edge when they begin to pursue graduate studies and careers.

### THE FACULTY AND THEIR PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ **Ann Aguanno, Ph.D.**, Professor of Biology, for her project titled “The role of cyclin dependent kinase 5 (CDK5) in the development of mammalian tissues: A continuing project in an undergraduate biology research training program”;
- ▶ **Alessandra Leri, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, for her project titled “Biological Sources of Marine Organochlorine”;
- ▶ **Benedetta Sampoli Benitez, Ph.D.**, Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences, for her project titled “Molecular dynamics studies of Y-family DNA polymerases in trans-lesion synthesis”;
- ▶ **Nava Silton, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology, for her project titled “Realabilities: A Transmedia Approach Towards Fostering Empathy, Kindness and Understanding of Typical Middle and High School Students Towards Students with Special Needs & Promoting a ‘Stop Bullying’ Platform in the Schools”;
- ▶ **Linda Solomon, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department of Psychology, and **Sarah Weinberger-Litman, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology, for their project titled “Variables Affecting Statistics and Research Methods in Anxiety and Study Behaviors”;
- ▶ **Margaret T. Kamowski-Shakibai, Ph.D.**, CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, for her project titled “Integration of yoga practice with speech and language intervention for children and adults with communication disorders”.

## Summer 2018 at MMC: Explore the Possibilities

School may be just about out for summer, but MMC’s Institute for Precollege and Advanced Study is just getting started! This summer, high school students aged 16 and older have the chance to participate in a variety of one- to two-week intensives at MMC designed to increase knowledge in areas they may be interested in studying at the college level.

The **Autobiographical Comics** program will immerse students in the arts of graphic storytelling and autobiography. Participants will be introduced to a variety of contemporary works of graphic literature while creating their own autobiographical comic strips and projects, meeting with professional contemporary autobiographical cartoonists, and visiting relevant New York City-based arts locations.

For students interested in performing arts, the **Musical Theatre** summer intensive offers training in dance, voice, and acting, as well as college audition preparation and access to Broadway shows. Students will focus on the fundamentals and process of their craft and will have the opportunity to share their work with friends and family at the end of the program.

Finally, for students interested in trying their hand at politics, business, or international relations, MMC offers a **United Nations (UN)** intensive, with classes and workshops that are held at United Nations organizations in addition to on the MMC campus. Students are given the opportunity to visit the UN, learning directly from officials of UN Programs, Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) accredited to the UN, and Permanent Missions of Member States.

Visit [www.mmm.edu/summer-intensives](http://www.mmm.edu/summer-intensives) to sign up and learn more!

## An Impactful New Major

Since its inception in 1997, the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) has offered only one major in both the Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts programs: Sociology. This fall, the program announced a second major option: Politics and Human Rights.

The Politics and Human Rights major supports both student interests and post-release career paths, and is already amplifying the depth of the academic program. The curriculum prepares students for a wide range of careers in the nonprofit, government, and business sectors. It also provides an excellent foundation for graduate study in law, journalism, business, management, and the social sciences. For students with longer prison sentences, the Politics and Human Rights major also offers an understanding of the broader political dynamics that influence all communities, even within the prison system itself.

On May 24, 2018, Elizabeth A. Sackler, Ph.D., will deliver the Commencement Address at the 21<sup>st</sup> Bedford Hills College Program Commencement at the women’s correctional facility. Dr. Sackler is a public historian, social activist, and American Indian advocate. She is Founder of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, and in 2014 she launched *States of Denial: The Illegal Incarceration of Women, Children, and People of Color*, an ongoing series providing a forum for activists, organizers, and post-incarcerated persons.



## A Gothic Haunted House

On October 25, Cecilia Feilla, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and World Literatures, and her senior seminar students hosted a one-day pop-up haunted museum showcasing student research and multimedia presentations on Gothic literature from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Those brave enough to venture in navigated through a variety of exhibits, including famous literary monsters and Gothic costume and wardrobe, among other ghastly and ghoulish projects.

The pop-up museum was the culmination of the students’ seminar on Gothic literature, theory, and culture. During the course, students explored the idea of “Gothic” both as a literary genre and as a form of cultural expression, from its origins in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

The class read and analyzed representative works of Gothic fiction by Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, and Toni Morrison, as well as key selections of criticism and theory representing a wide range of methodological approaches. Throughout the semester, Dr. Feilla asked her students to consider whether the notion of “the Gothic”—in addition to being a complex and evolving aesthetic form—might also be useful in illuminating practices in cultural genres and media ranging from architecture and journalism to cinema and computer games.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Madison Arend '19

Fashion comes first for **Madison Arend '19**. The Business major with a concentration in Fashion Marketing takes full advantage of the many internship experiences available in New York, getting first-hand insight into what's required to create and produce a clothing line.

"This past summer I interned with the brand *Love Sam*. I assisted the designers with a range of projects, from organizing the showroom to buying pieces for upcoming collections," Arend says. She also completed a social media internship at COED Media Group, creating timely, engaging content for multiple digital platforms.

Most recently, Arend participated in market weeks for Victoria Beckham's fashion line. (Market weeks are a time in which clothing buyers travel to a particular location to plan their purchases for the season.)

Of these diverse yet industry-specific experiences, Arend says, "they have launched me into networks and connections to enhance my career."



Emani De'Andre Mack '20

Any admirer of the arts knows that dance should be more than just movement. At its best, dance is an expression of culture, community, and change.

For evidence, look no further than Marymount Manhattan's own (and only) dance team: Infamous Unit. Consisting of nearly 20 dancers from diverse backgrounds, Infamous Unit has proved to be a crowd favorite at the *MMC's Got Talent* competition during Homecoming Weekend and at other campus events.

**Emani De'Andre Mack '20** had multiple goals in mind when he founded the dance team during his first year at MMC.

"I created this club to provide my peers with an opportunity to express themselves wholeheartedly, promote diversity in our community, choreograph in a collaborative environment, and build a family amongst the unit," Mack says.

Mack, a Peer Leader double-majoring in Dance and Digital Journalism, takes pride in the group's annual {ME}LANIN FEST. In addition to showcasing Infamous Unit, the event includes multiple forms of artistic expression, such as poetry, spoken word, and song.

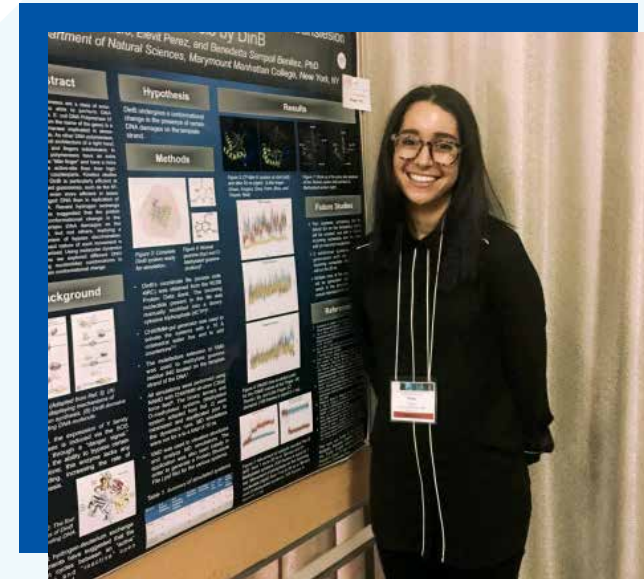
Inclusion is of great importance to Mack, who says, "I plan on changing my community by being a role model, mentor, and a symbol of strength—to show that anyone can accomplish their dreams no matter their skin color, sexual orientation, or life circumstances."

Amne Madi '19

International Studies student **Amne Madi '19** presented her research paper, "The Ethics of Chemical Warfare," at the annual conferences of two respected professional organizations.

In February, Madi spoke at the 2018 Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Conference at George Washington University, in Washington, D.C. She also presented at the New York State Political Science Association's annual conference in Staten Island.

Jennifer Mueller, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of International Studies, oversaw Madi's research. Congratulations on this impressive achievement!



Tracy Tauro '18

On October 14, 2017, **Tracy Tauro '18** presented her research at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Conference in the Chemical and Biological Sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The competition included more than 250 students from 45 universities across 10 states.

Tauro earned first place honors in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology division for her poster presentation on DinB, a protein involved in DNA translesion synthesis. For the last year, Tauro has conducted research on DinB under the supervision of Benedetta Sampoli Benitez, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

A double major in Dance and Biomedical Sciences, Tauro will next present at the 2018 Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego, California.



Ashley LaCambria '18

When it came to her independent study, **Ashley LaCambria '18** focused on vocal pedagogy. Each week she led a micro-teaching session with a peer, providing coaching to reduce tension, expand vocal range, develop breath support, and improve language use.

"I have new-found respect for what it takes to be a teacher as I learn how to write lesson plans, create rubrics, and evaluate students," the BFA Acting major says. "As each week passes, not only do I see progress in my students, but my own skills are reinforced in the process."

## GRIFFINS GIVE: MMC's Inaugural Day of Giving



In an effort to increase funds for need-based student scholarships, faculty and academic initiatives, campus improvements, and other areas of greatest need, MMC held its inaugural day of giving—Griffins Give. In lieu of the traditional Phonathon program, this day of giving was created to forge a new connection between philanthropic giving and how it relates to the MMC community as a whole.

Griffins Give was the first time in Marymount Manhattan College's history where an entire day was focused on philanthropy. Throughout the day, students, faculty, and alumni volunteered to place phone calls to current and potential donors.

Griffins Give was so much more than a "calling day." As different members of the community worked together to support MMC, Griffins Give boosted school spirit and reinvigorated dedication to the College. MMC staff members managed prize wheels, photo booths, and giveaways, and organized a student flash mob that ended in performing MMC's alma mater, *Hail Marymount Manhattan*. Griffins Give brought together the community, increased the College's philanthropic spirit, and exceeded expectations.

Thanks to the generosity, support, and participation of the MMC community, Griffins Give raised \$32,733, surpassing the original goal of \$30,000. **Mark your calendars for October 10, 2018, the second annual Griffins Give Day!**

Many thanks to our Griffins Give volunteers!

## History Comes Alive at MMC

Made possible in part by a generous grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, experiential and place-based learning and cross-disciplinary collaboration continue to expand at MMC. At the center of this college-wide culture is an immersive pedagogy originally developed by Barnard College Professor Mark C. Carnes and known as "Reacting to the Past (RTTP)," which encourages immersion in subject matter through research and role play.

RTTP courses teach concepts in a different way: Students learn by adopting assigned roles in situations—called "games"—set in history, and are challenged to observe and embody the beliefs of the historical figures they have been assigned. Students must convey those ideas and find a strategy to "win" the game.

This teaching method was incorporated into a Politics and Human Rights course taught by Jennifer Mueller, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of International Studies, during the fall semester. In her *Ethics of War* course, students examined Rwanda's 1994 genocide through the lens of the peace negotiations and aid responses from the United Nations.



Each *Ethics of War* class was split into two segments. In the first segment, students participated in a United Nations (UN) Security Council debate about the

Rwandan genocide as 11 different countries. As in the UN's actual Security Council, students acting as journalists, Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) workers, and representatives of other nations could listen to what was happening in the gallery. In the second segment, students reenacted the follow-up to a Security Council debate: a nominated member of the Security Council informed the press about what happened during the debates, while representatives from NGOs and states hosted their own conferences. By assuming their assigned roles, students learned how to negotiate with those holding opposing views and agendas and gained a thorough understanding of a significant historical period.



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES MMC Makes Strides

On Sunday, October 15, the community engagement club, Marymount Muscle, collaborated with the Office of Student Development and Activities to participate in the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk in Central Park for the second year in a row.

This year, the club's team of 26 members raised over \$1,000 in online donations. Proceeds from *Making Strides* walks fund innovative research, free information and support for those touched by breast cancer, and initiatives both to promote early detection and to help people reduce their breast cancer risk.

"We first became involved in this walk because a student wanted a way to support her mother, a breast cancer survivor. It's great to see that involvement has now developed into a charitable initiative that so many MMC students support and love," said Zakkiyya Taylor, Assistant Director for Student and Community Engagement. Marymount Muscle will be back in Central Park in October 2018 to continue making strides until there is a cure!

# CITYEDGE

## CAREERLAB SPOTLIGHT

*CityEdge* makes career readiness a College-wide commitment that faculty and staff share. MMC faculty provide deeply immersive educational experiences for students that connect academic learning to real-world challenges in ways that ultimately produce profession-ready graduates.

MMC's Career Services staff has developed a range of career development programs, including CareerLab—an online and interactive career development "boot camp" that introduces students to foundational concepts in career preparation and planning. Students explore the transition from college student to career professional through self-assessment, personal branding, and guided experiences with professionals in NYC.

### CAREERLAB MODULES

- **Lab 1: Learn Your Strengths.** Students use the online assessment tool StrengthsQuest to develop a deeper understanding of their natural strengths and talents. The results of the online assessment are reviewed with each student in the first weeks of school to establish a basic awareness and understanding of their abilities and the core reasons behind their consistent success in key areas. Students are then advised to use this information to inform academic pursuits and career choices during their years at MMC. CareerLab 1 is required of all first-year students.
- **Lab 2: Build Your Brand.** Students learn to build a personal brand, create an online presence, avoid social media pitfalls, and engage in reputational risk management by using BrandYourself software.
- **Lab 3: Shape Your Experience.** Students learn how to take advantage of job opportunities while at MMC and practice interviewing skills through the training module Big Interview. This module also has resources to help students leverage their internships once they have secured a position. Lab 3 is required for all students who wish to enroll in for-credit internships.
- **Lab 4: Find Your Path.** As part of Lab 4, MMC has partnered with pymetrics, an artificial intelligence tool that uses neuroscience games to pair people with jobs for which they have a natural aptitude. In just 20 minutes of game play, pymetrics assesses students' innate characteristics based on their inherent cognitive and emotional make-up and shows compatible career options. Lab 4 is intended for seniors who have completed their field experience and are contemplating their future beyond MMC.

## MMC Students Come Together After Hurricanes

In the aftermath of the devastation that hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria caused in Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), respectively, MMC students mobilized to organize supply drives for those in need.

In September, MMC's National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA—also known as "Speech Club") collected and donated therapy materials to Family First Speech Therapy, a clinic in Houston that lost everything in Hurricane Harvey. Students worked to replace the clinic's therapy materials, including activity books, headphones, stuffed toys, sensory items, and more.

**Jennifer Blake '18**, the club's Vice President, described the motivation behind the project: "After surviving and rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy, we were touched and inspired to help

those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Philanthropic activities are crucial not only to self-development, but for professional development as well. MMC's NSSLHA would like to extend a huge THANK YOU! to our program chair Ann Jablon, Ph.D., and advisor Professor Denise Cruz, who stood behind our idea the entire time."

In the spirit of "Se levanta"—the slogan Puerto Rico is using post-hurricanes, meaning "rise up"—MMC students from Puerto Rico and Saint Thomas rose up in February to organize and promote a school supply drive for those in need back home. With the guidance of Alexandra Berry, Assistant Director of International Admission, and support from the Cultural Peer Mentor group, students collected more than 200 pounds of materials, including pens, pencils, markers, rulers, backpacks, notebooks, and more. Berry then



headed to three designated schools to deliver suitcases filled to the brim with supplies: Colegio Nuestra Señora de la Providencia (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico), San Juan Head Start Program (San Juan, Puerto Rico), and Charlotte Amalie High School (Saint Thomas, USVI). Several current MMC students are alumni of these schools, making the initiative even more impactful and personal.

Thanks to all those in the community who participated and donated, both drives were major successes and are testament to the compassion and activism of MMC students.

## Homecoming Weekend and Special Graduation

On October 20–22, Marymount Manhattan College hosted its annual Homecoming Weekend. MMC students, faculty, and staff gathered and mingled with alumni, family, and friends for three packed days of activities, both on- and off-campus.

Following tradition, events included a walking tour of the Upper East Side, the MMC's *Got Talent* competition (featuring both students and alumni for the first time!), and the annual flag football game on Roosevelt Island. The weekend also featured some exciting new events, including an off-campus BBQ at a neighborhood restaurant to kick off the weekend and an exclusive party bus for MMC alumni, who rode back to campus in style from Saturday's football game.

On a weekend when so many were being welcomed back to campus, MMC also bid a fond farewell to our beloved mascot, Gary the Griffin. After eight years of service, Gary graduated from the College with his Mascot Degree—and thanks to his preparation from the *CityEdge* program, he left with a secured job position, ready to take on the city in true MMC fashion: dedicated, determined, and poised for all that New York has in store for recent grads. The MMC community was delighted to welcome a bright new mascot: Gary's younger sibling, Griffy (they/them/theirs). **Welcome to MMC, Griffy!**



*President Walk and Michael Burt '11 take a break from the action at the annual flag football game at Homecoming. Another year, another victory for MMC!*

## New Trustees

Marymount Manhattan College is pleased to announce the election of two new members to the Board of Trustees. The Board oversees the mission, fiscal integrity, and educational quality of the College. Marymount Manhattan is proud to have these new trustees on board!

### VALERIE BROWN

Valerie Brown is the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Family Services of Westchester. Brown is a college and career counselor who has been in private practice for over 20 years. She worked at American Express before holding numerous volunteer leadership roles with focuses on youth counseling, mentoring, college, and career guidance. She is deeply committed to the BBBS program, having served for over 14 years on the Board of Trustees for BBBS New York City and most recently holding the position of Vice President of the Executive Committee. Brown was responsible for creating BBBS NYC's summer program for inner-city youth, which provides career and college guidance, as well as direction and skills preparation. She also conducted a three-year branding study for the group and chaired numerous fundraising events. In addition to her work with BBBS NYC, Brown currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Family Equality Council. In the past, she has served on the boards of the School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York, Young Audiences, the Ronald McDonald House, and other schools in California and Washington. Brown was elected to MMC's Board in October 2017 and serves on the Educational Planning Committee and the Facilities Committee.

Valerie Brown



Maureen Grant '60



### MAUREEN GRANT '60

Maureen Grant, Ph.D., has dedicated her career to higher education and served at MMC from 1999–2008 in a number of positions, including Senior Vice President and Interim President. In October 1997, Maureen received the MMC Alumni Tribute Award in recognition of her influential work in higher education. Grant earned a Ph.D. in Nineteenth Century Studies from Drew University and an MA in English from St. John's University. She was twice a scholar-in-residence as well as a member of the history faculty at Cambridge University. Prior to coming to MMC, Grant also served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Bloomfield College. There she was awarded the President's Medal at Bloomfield's 124<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony and honored by faculty and friends with an endowed scholarship in her name. She currently serves on the Bloomfield Board of Trustees. Prior to joining Bloomfield College, Grant held the positions of Associate Professor and Academic Dean at Felician College, and Assistant Dean at the College of Saint Elizabeth. Grant remains an active scholar, teaching courses ranging from 19<sup>th</sup> century British history and literature to contemporary culture and Women's Studies. Grant was elected to MMC's Board in December 2017 and serves on the Governance Committee and Educational Planning Committee.

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming 2018  
MMC's 2018 Family, Friends, and Alumni weekend will be  
Friday, October 19  
through Sunday, October 21.  
We hope to see you there!

## MMC Welcomes Accomplished Cabinet Members

Composed of the senior leadership of the College, the President's Cabinet is charged with framing policy and procedures at MMC, leading the strategic plan, and serving in an advisory role to the President. In January, MMC proudly welcomed two new members to the MMC community and to the Cabinet: **Todd Heilman**, Vice President for Enrollment Management, and **Vin Cipolla**, Chief Philanthropy Officer.

Previously Dean of Enrollment at Pace University, Todd Heilman brings more than 20 years of senior leadership experience to MMC. At Pace, Heilman was responsible for all facets of the University's admission offices, including undergraduate, graduate, transfer, and international enrollment. Prior to Pace, Heilman spent 12 years at St. John's University in Queens, where he was the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Operations and CRM (Customer Relationship Management). At St. John's, he oversaw strategic planning for admissions, enrollment services, and university-wide CRM functions. Heilman earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management at SUNY-New Paltz and a Master's Certificate in Project Management at Villanova University. He gained significant experience in the corporate sector before transitioning to a successful career in higher education.

"Marymount Manhattan stands out nationally among small liberal arts colleges for providing a versatile, personalized education that leverages the limitless resources of a world-class city," said MMC President Kerry Walk. "Todd Heilman's background in promoting a high-quality college education in a dynamic urban environment is invaluable. His collaborative leadership style, understanding of student needs, commitment to diversity, and creative approach to marketing make him a perfect fit for MMC."

Vin Cipolla brings an extraordinary range of experience to his new role as well. He is a recognized capital campaign and fundraising leader, a three-time CEO of major nonprofits, an accomplished corporate and venture CEO, and a successful entrepreneur in fintech, digital media, and communications. He has also served on over 30 boards of directors of leading civic and business organizations. Cipolla has been a lifelong champion of education, the arts, and the environment, as evidenced by his many professional activities. Most recently, he was the head of the redevelopment campaign of David Geffen Hall, a partnership of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the New York Philharmonic. Cipolla earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Clark University, where he was named a member of Phi Beta Kappa and later received an honorary induction to the University's School of Management honor society. His wife, artist Celine McDonald, is a Marymount Manhattan College graduate.

"In Vin Cipolla, Marymount Manhattan has found a compelling, high-energy, and transformative leader who will be an effective advocate for the College and its mission," said Lucille Zanghi, a member of the Board of Trustees and co-chair of the search committee for Cipolla's position. "We are thrilled that Vin is joining the MMC community and believe he will inspire people to make a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of our students."



Todd Heilman



Vin Cipolla



From left to right: Lorraine M. Martinez-Novoa, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing; Vandana Rao, Ph.D., Professor of Business Management and Chair of the Division of Business; Andrea Jung, President and CEO of Grameen America; President Kerry Walk; Andrea Tsentides, Associate Professor of Accounting; Gunjali Trikha, Assistant Professor of Marketing; and Michael Salmon, Dean of Academic Advisement and Student Retention.

## RECAP Fall Lectures Bring Industry Experts To Campus

Each year, Marymount Manhattan College presents opportunities for students to engage with industry experts through internships, panels, and lectures. This fall, the community was thrilled to welcome two such leaders as keynote speakers for the annual Lefkowitz Lecture and Rudin Lecture.

The 2017 Lefkowitz Lecture, held on September 13, was delivered by Andrea Jung, President and CEO of Grameen America and former Chairman and CEO of Avon Products, Inc. In her talk, *Investing in Women to Lift Our Communities*, Jung shared stories of her journey to becoming an influential woman in business and expounded on Grameen America's initiatives to help women in poverty improve their communities by gaining knowledge in finance and business. She urged students to "follow their compasses rather than their clocks"—sage advice a mentor shared with her years ago.



Anthony D. Romero, Executive Director of the ACLU, greets guests after his lecture.

The Rudin Lecture took place on November 1 and featured Anthony D. Romero, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). His lecture, *Rights and Liberties in America Today*, presented an overview of the work the ACLU has accomplished since the last presidential election, highlighting the vast amount of change our country has witnessed in that period. In addition to speaking passionately about activism and community involvement, Romero stressed the importance of citizens engaging in open conversations with one another, which, he believes, results in measurable progress and increased understanding.

Before both lectures, students with particular interest in the topic were invited to exclusive roundtable discussions with the speakers, where they had an opportunity to engage in close conversation with Jung and Romero and receive valuable insight and advice related to their industries of interest.



# CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS

**@megan\_innit**  
Me lovin' my major to pieces



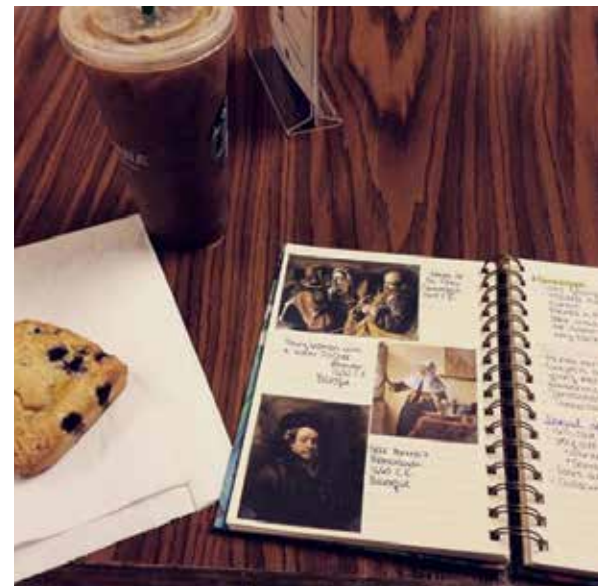
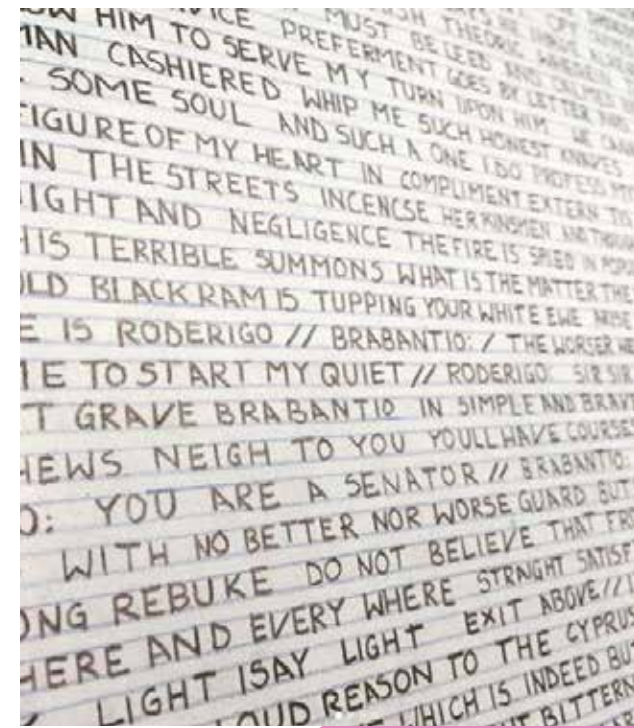
**@dancing\_mimmzy**  
And arabesque out the door...



**@raresoul.96**  
George. My one true love.



**@gettin\_bi**  
this is about 20 hours of work and the letters are an eighth of an inch tall anyways here's othello



**@ssam\_simss**  
Tuesday morning cramming



**@faradnin**  
I found my college napping spot



**@matt\_mucha**  
Still trying to figure out where four years went. Happy last first day ever!



**@bibi\_newlife**  
Marymount Manhattan College Alumni Homecoming weekend  
#MMCAIumnistrong  
#loveMMC  
#goodtimes  
#Alumnipartybus  
#flagfootball  
#Alumnicheersquad  
#Saturdayfunday

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1



2

**1** | On January 25–27 at Theater for the New City in Manhattan, **Catherine Cabeen, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Dance, presented the world premiere of *Give Me More*. This multi-part work unfolds in three chapters, each with a distinct lens on how our desires shape our identity and worldview, which in turn reshape our desires. Moving from a duet to an ensemble piece to a solo, the production was met with positive reviews, with journal *Eye on the Arts* calling it an “imaginative reflection on gender politics within the dance world.”

**2** | Director of Clinical Education and Clinical Services **Denise Cruz, CCC-SLP**, has started a voice modification clinic for transgender clients. The clinic is open and free of charge to MMC students, faculty, and staff, as well as the community at large. In the future, Cruz hopes to train graduate-level speech-language pathology students to provide voice modification services to this largely underserved population. “Everyone deserves to be heard and feel confident with not just their inner voice, but their true voice,” says Cruz.



3



3

**3** | **Edrex Fontanilla, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, and **Sarah Nelson Wright, MFA**, Director of the Theresa Lang Center for Producing and Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, used wood, paint, found objects, and 360-degree video to create “Hidden Vistas,” a virtual reality scenic viewer that offers experiential glimpses of two urban spaces. In the first, viewers experience vistas of a now-demolished landscape while traveling through a lush, overgrown forest to a postindustrial waterfront across from the City skyline. In the second, viewers travel from more formal park spaces to hidden borderlands between industry and nature. The two-part piece was exhibited in 2016 at the Queens Museum in New York City and in 2017 at UnionDocs in Brooklyn.



4



5

**4** | Co-created by Associate Professor of Theatre Arts **Ellen Orenstein, MFA**, with six actors and one playwright—all Marymount Manhattan alumni—the four-part dramatic symphony *The Human Variations* premiered on February 10 at Red Roots Gallery in Manhattan. The piece examines those moments when human beings are physically right next to each other and still deeply alone. *The Human Variations* employs a unique theatrical style (which the group calls “theality”) that juxtaposes expressive movement and hyper-realistic docu-theater techniques to blur the line between naturalism and expressionism, revealing an extraordinary potential for catharsis.

**5** | **Gunjali Trikha, MBA**, Assistant Professor of Marketing, received the Best Paper Award at the Academy of Business Research Fall 2017 Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, held September 18–20, 2017. Titled “The Millennial, Digital Gig Economy,” Trikha’s paper focuses on the challenges that gig economy employees (such as short-term contract or freelance) encounter and discusses potential solutions and strategies to address them.

Trikha was also awarded an Emerging Scholar Award from e-Learning and Innovative Pedagogies, an accolade given to outstanding graduate students and early career faculty who have an active academic interest in the conference area.



## NEW FACULTY

**Karen Kinsley**  
Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts (Costume Design)

**Anastasia Saverino**  
Visiting Instructor of Communication Arts

**Emily Goldsmith, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Marketing

**Ellen Houston (not pictured)**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of International Studies

In addition to welcoming new faculty members, the College community would also like to congratulate **Eileen Doherty, Ph.D.**, Communication and Media Arts, and **Margaret Kamowski-Shakibai, Ph.D. '02**, Communication Sciences and Disorders, who have been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor; **Michael Colvin, Ph.D.** and **Jennifer Brown, Ph.D.**, both English and World Literatures, who have been promoted to Professor; and **Leslie Levin, Ph.D.**, former Assistant Professor of Business, and **Anthony Ferro, MFA**, retiring Associate Professor of Dance, who have been promoted to Professor Emeritus.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

## MMC Faculty

### TAKE PART IN NYRR'S GRETE'S GREAT GALLOP

On October 1, faculty members from three of the College’s academic divisions participated in Grete’s Great Gallop, a 10-kilometer race hosted by New York Road Runners (NYRR) celebrating the life of female running legend Grete Waitz.

Six MMC faculty members participated in the run, including English and World Literatures Professors Jennifer Brown, Ph.D., Cecilia Feilla, Ph.D., Magda Maczynska, Ph.D., and Julie Huntington, Ph.D., along with Accounting Professor Andrea Tsentides, MBA, and Communication and Media Arts Professor Jennifer Dixon, Ph.D.

Over 6,000 runners took to Central Park to honor Waitz, who is often considered the greatest female distance runner of all time, winning the NYC Marathon nine times between 1978 and 1988. A special shout-out goes to Dr. Huntington, who placed first in her age and gender group!



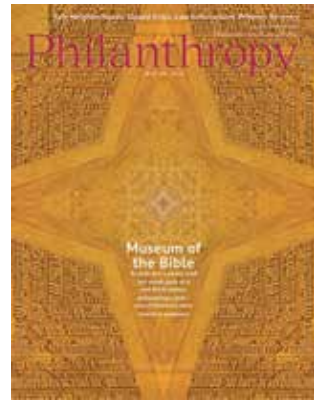
Credit: Rachel Papo



**THINK YOUR SCHEDULE'S ROUGH? SPEND A DAY IN THE LIFE WITH KATIE LANGAN, MARYMOUNT DANCE CHAIR**

**September 1, 2017**

"During her tenure at MMC, Langan has revamped the school's dance curriculum. For example, 'Once, there were only two options: The BFA was about performance and choreography, and the BA was about teaching,' she says. She broadened the department, adding BA concentrations in Body, Science and Motion; Dance and Media; Teaching Dance Arts; and Dance Studies. She also restructured the technique class requirements. 'We want there to be a skill set beyond kinesthetic awareness,' she says. 'Dancers should be able to write about dance, speak about it, and negotiate the field on many platforms. The study of dance can be as rigorous and multifaceted as any other discipline.'"



**FEEDING BODY AND SOUL**

**Winter 2018**

"With some inmates, preparing them for college while they are locked up is effective. Partnering with nonprofits like Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, the Bard Prison Initiative, and Marymount Manhattan College Bedford Hills [College Program], recidivism rates have sometimes been reduced to under five percent, versus more than 40 percent for other ex-cons."

**The Objective Standard**

**CARRIE-ANN BIONDI ON AYN RAND'S ENDURING APPEAL**

**December 12, 2017**

"Biondi, an Aristotle scholar who chairs the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Marymount Manhattan College, provides a concise overview of some of Rand's key ideas while also addressing several common misconceptions."



Photo Credit: John Hersey



**HOW I PICKED UP WHERE I LEFT OFF - IT'S NEVER TOO LATE**

**October 2017**

Michael Emmons, Security Supervisor and current student at MMC, wrote a term paper for his Business 200 course that was ultimately published in the *Irish Examiner USA* newspaper. In the article, Emmons describes his journey from high school to the present day and his constant desire for completing his college education. "After a couple of years in the safety and security field, I came across a job opening at Marymount Manhattan College on the Upper East Side of New York City," he said. "I am currently a supervisor of safety and security there. My children and wife all encouraged me to begin taking classes. They pointed out the convenience and told me that there are no more excuses. They were right."



**INMATES' ART FEATURED IN FIRST PUBLIC EXHIBIT**

**December 8, 2017**

"Made possible through the Bedford Hills College Program, the month-long exhibition dubbed *The Moby-Dick Project* ran through December 6 at the Hewitt Gallery of Art at Marymount Manhattan College. It featured work by six invited artists as well as pieces created by Bedford Hills Correctional Facility inmates."

**HELPING INCARCERATED WOMEN HEAL THROUGH ART**

**November 3, 2017**

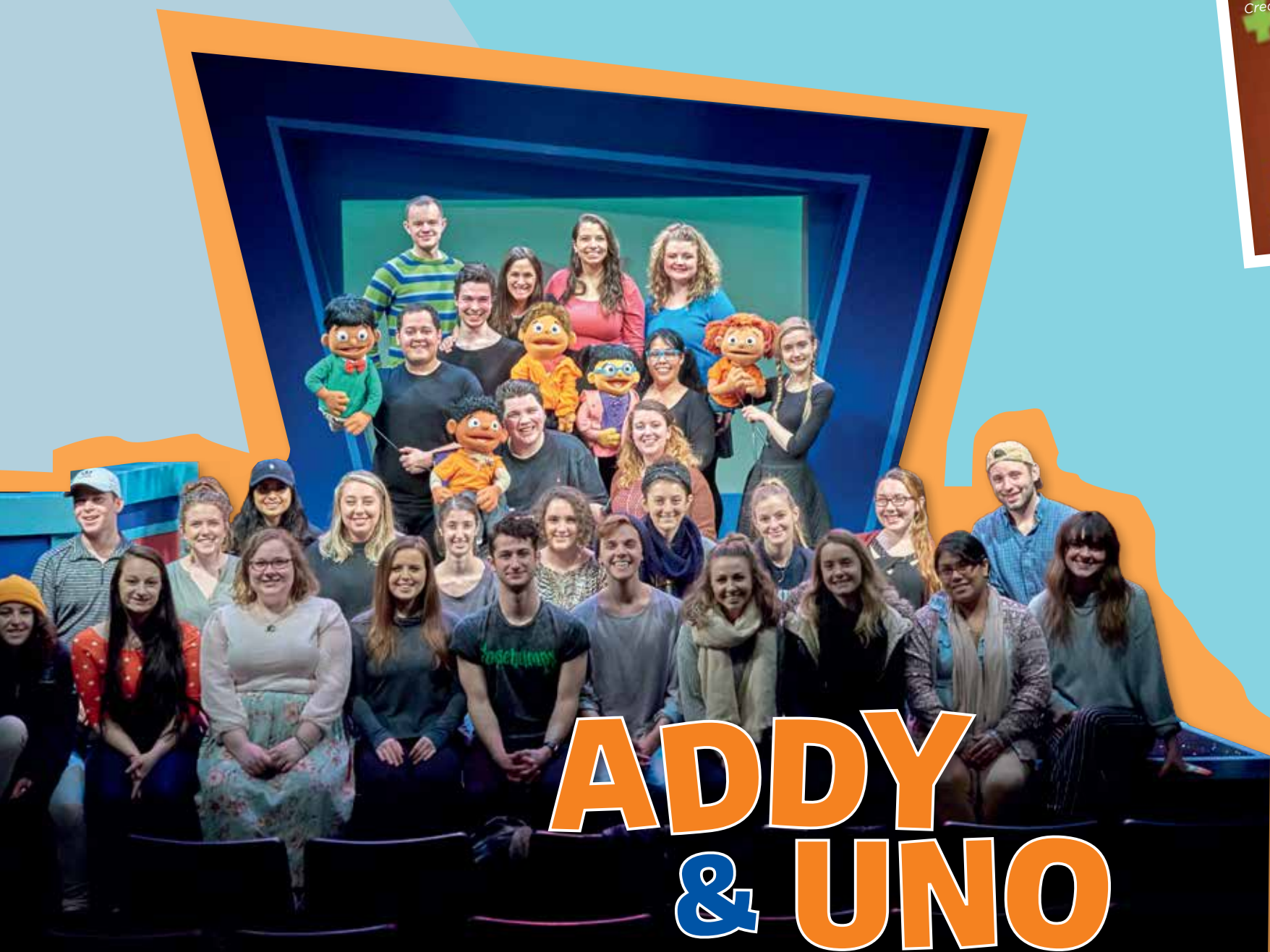
"This year, as MMC and the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) recognize 20 successful years of granting college degrees to inmates, MMC will also celebrate the opening of *The Moby-Dick Project*, an exhibition of artworks created by women artists of the BHCP. The works are based on the Herman Melville novel and were created by the women after taking a course called 'Illustrating the Novel,' taught by professor and artist Duston Spear."

*For more on The Moby Dick Project, check out the back cover.*



# CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF DIFFERENCES

Thanks to hard work from members across the MMC community, Professor Nava Silton's production about children, disability, and understanding reaches audiences far and wide.



After graduating from Cornell University, Associate Professor of Psychology **Nava Silton, Ph.D.**, saw her professional interests and her personal relationships converge in an unexpected way.

"I was working at Nickelodeon and pursuing a research assistantship in social-emotional intelligence and instructional technology for children at Columbia University, and my nephew Elie had recently been diagnosed with autism," recalls Silton. "One of the most powerful moments was when my sister told me that the hardest part of her son's disorder is that people flock to her other children, but pretend that Elie is part of the wallpaper."

After this heartbreaking revelation, Silton began thinking about how she could use her knowledge of children's media and social-emotional intelligence to create something that could help both kids with disabilities and their families in a compelling way.

## EVERYONE'S STORY DESERVES TO BE TOLD

While teaching a graduate-level Child Development class at Fordham University in 2008, Silton assigned her students a project to create an intervention that would aid individuals with disabilities in some fashion. She also had a personal interest in helping typical children both recognize what Silton calls "the beautiful strengths" of their peers with disabilities and take an active interest in interacting with them. Her own response to the assignment became the seed for the big idea she'd been looking for—*Realabilities*.

*Realabilities* eventually morphed into a story-boarded series and then a comic book series featuring characters with distinct disabilities, but with extraordinary strengths as well. For example, main character Addy is creative and exuberant, but presents with ADHD-associated behaviors like distractibility and impulsivity, while Uno has autism and difficulty with social-emotional skills, but excels in math and engineering. Although the stories in each comic book differ, they all center on the theme of characters working together to solve mysteries, overcome challenges, and rehabilitate bullies in their school.

When Silton joined Marymount Manhattan College's psychology department in 2010, her work on *Realabilities* continued. She engaged the help of more than a dozen MMC psychology students as research assistants over the years, who worked on data collection and analysis of children's behavioral intentions and cognitive attitudes towards peers with disabilities and on their knowledge and attitudes toward bullying, both before and after consuming *Realabilities* media.

Thanks to a number of grants Silton received—including those from MMC, the Greenwich Autism Alliance, the Delta Gamma Foundation, The Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Grant, and the UJA-Federation—*Realabilities* now has 11 different comic books for children, which have been translated into Spanish and Hebrew, with Chinese coming soon, as well as four teaching manuals for adults and parents to encourage discussion and understanding.

► Story continues on following page

**“Dr. Silton embodies the Marymount Manhattan ideal of creative changemaking.”**

—President Kerry Walk



### FROM THE BOOKSHELF TO THE STAGE

Following the popularity of the comic book series, Silton began to hatch the idea for transforming *Realabilities* into a musical and sought out involvement from other disciplines across the College. Students and graduates from Theatre Arts and Communication and Media Arts, as well as a number of research students from Psychology, became involved in various iterations of the project.

“I always try to ensure that all of my projects are collaborative and interdisciplinary,” explains Silton. “The students are able to bond with one another over a common goal and recognize how their different strengths work well together to accomplish an important social need—which is also at the heart of what *Realabilities* is about conceptually.”

In September 2016, Silton began working with Bonnie Gleicher, a Broadway singer and songwriter. After an intense month of crafting the music and lyrics, *Realabilities* moved onto the stage with several early productions at MMC and a performance at a disabilities-focused film festival.

A blossoming stage performance, the show was ultimately accepted at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y in Manhattan and debuted in September 2017 as *Addy & Uno*—Off-Broadway’s first family musical about disabilities and bullying.

Featuring puppets, sign language, humor, and catchy songs, the production is a quintessential MMC project, engaging faculty, students, and alumni from different disciplines to form creative and collaborative solutions to social problems.

Silton joined forces with **Christine Riley**, Visiting Instructor in Theatre Arts at MMC, and her husband, Doug Oberhamer, an accomplished classical/jazz pianist and trumpeter, on the orchestration and musical direction of the show. **Rob Dutiel**, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, worked to build and design materials and props for the show, and **Lindsay Green '16**, who earned her BA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Design and Technical Production, became involved as *Addy & Uno*’s initial Sound and Lighting Designer.

“Nava and I worked together to make sure that the first productions at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y were as inclusive as possible,” says Green. “I helped put together a trigger list of things that could be upsetting or jarring to children with disabilities, such as different lighting cues and sounds.”

Additionally, numerous MMC students and alumni participated as actors or crew members in various productions of the show.

### THE FUTURE OF ADDY & UNO

*Addy & Uno* met with great success during its initial run at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y, earning features in *The New York Times* and on Fox 5 NY, *Time Out New York*, *Playbill*, *BroadwayWorld*, and *BroadwayBox*.

The production has since been optioned by producers Tom and Michael D’Angora ’04, and has run on Theatre Row on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street since November 2017, with tickets selling strongly and additional coverage on CBS, NBC, *Good Day Street Talk*, and *Good Day New York*. The show has already been extended twice and is expected to run past spring 2018.

**Noah Pyzik '19** is one of two current MMC students on stage for *Addy & Uno*’s weekend performances on Theatre Row, an opportunity he calls both “rewarding and fulfilling.”

“Seeing children and their families resonating so much with a creative project you’re presenting fills your heart,” says Pyzik, who plays Uno. “These kids have never seen themselves represented on stage, and the parents are beyond grateful. One of our biggest fans is a young boy with Down syndrome who has seen the show dozens of times. He crafted his own *Addy & Uno* puppets and figurines, and even knows the songs. To me, that’s an incredible impact.”

With the musical theatre production geared toward children ages 4-11 and the comic books suited for ages 8-11, Silton has now begun wondering how she can create something new to interest older children. The result is a joint project she is working on with Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts **Edrex Fontanilla**, MFA: a virtual reality game in which players can simulate and experience what it’s like to have a disability through the eyes of the *Addy & Uno* characters.

President Kerry Walk is proud of the work that Silton, her team of students from across the College, and the whole MMC community, have done to make *Addy & Uno* such an innovative and impactful success.

“Dr. Silton embodies the Marymount Manhattan ideal of creative changemaking,” says President Walk. “She identified a problem, came up with an imaginative solution, and involved members of the community with different skills and interests to make the project a resounding success. Her collaborative and groundbreaking project is truly a celebration of the beauty of differences.”

For more information about *Addy & Uno* and to see it live on stage in New York City, visit [addyanduno.com](http://addyanduno.com). For more information about *The Realabilities Educational Comic Book Series Curriculum*, visit [realabilities.com](http://realabilities.com).



Above:

*Realabilities* first came to the stage right here at MMC. Students, alumni, and faculty collaborated on early workshops that led to the initial scripts, music, and set design for *Addy & Uno*, now a hugely popular Off-Broadway production.

The first family musical about disability, *Addy & Uno* teaches children to celebrate the beauty of differences and to spread kindness and understanding.



Dr. Nava Silton (center) with Shark Tank winners Deanna Viletto '17 and Kate Norley '17

In spring 2017, Dr. Silton and some of her research student participants pitched *Realabilities* as a puppet show musical and comic book series at the College’s first-ever Shark Tank competition. Based on the popular start-up venture TV show and hosted by MMC’s Business Division, the competition offered students an opportunity to present business ideas to a panel of impressive NYC entrepreneurs and vie for the chance to enter the nationwide Student Entrepreneurship Competition during the 2017-18 academic year—and *Realabilities* was selected as the winning project!

## Raghib Allie-Brennan '13

After majoring in International Studies during his time at Marymount Manhattan, **Raghib Allie-Brennan '13** is now making a name for himself in local politics by advocating for the people of Bethel, Connecticut, and running as the Democratic candidate for State Representative in Connecticut's 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District.

As the Vice Chair of Bethel's Democratic Party, Allie-Brennan led an effort to ban fracking waste in his hometown. He also serves as a board member for three organizations: the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, Triangle Community Center in Norwalk, and HERO Project, which brings awareness and resources to the opioid epidemic afflicting the area.

In addition to these extensive commitments, Allie-Brennan maintains a demanding day job helping small businesses secure grants and loans at the firm Pastore & Dailey LLC in Stamford, Connecticut.

Allie-Brennan's political career dates back to 2014, when he spent two years as a congressional policy adviser in the U.S. House of Representatives. His efforts in this role touched upon a range of hot-button issues, including environmental justice, energy, foreign policy, and LGBT rights.

Unsurprisingly, Allie-Brennan was an active and engaged contributor to the Marymount Manhattan community as a student. The former class speaker believes that a strong liberal arts curriculum helps students understand their place in the world and relationships with each other. **"Marymount played a crucial role in directing my future career as a community leader and advocate,"** he says. **"Professors such as Ghassan Shabaneh, Andreas Hernandez, Rosemary Nossiff, Lauren Brown, Laura Tropp, and Debra Tillinger went above and beyond to teach me what it really means to be a local and global citizen."**

positive social impact. As one of 20 fellows globally, Daigneault spent nine days at Windsor Castle in England engaged in classes and conversation about social sciences and business innovation.

Last year also brought about the completion of Daigneault's book, *PLANT-POWERED BEAUTY*, which became available nationwide in March 2018.

"Several years ago, I started to become mindful about how the ingredients we eat and introduce into our body's ecosystem through the skin can impact our health. This took me on a journey to earn a certification in aromatherapy and start blending

my own products. During this process, I worked closely with the founder of the New York Institute of Aromatherapy and we eventually decided to write a book to help others learn about the therapeutic properties in natural ingredients," she says.

A person with many passions, Daigneault is also an attorney-mediator and the President and Founder of Orchard Strategies, a public relations firm. The Brooklyn resident says, **"I credit my experiences at MMC for instilling an entrepreneurial zeal that gave me the courage to start my company and engage in a life of learning."**



## Ben Nemzer '08

What's the most magical thing about being a magician? The array of opportunities it provides. **Ben Nemzer '08** has performed around the world: headlining for cruise lines, appearing Off-Broadway, and even impressing his peers at The Magic Castle in Hollywood, California.

Such success wasn't always certain. While a Theatre Performance major at Marymount Manhattan, Nemzer decided he would have to choose: continue pursuing an acting career or fully dedicate himself to magic.

**"I remember my acting teacher, Ellen Orenstein, MFA, explained to me that as a magician, the audience is my scene partner. Looking back, I am very impressed by how she was able to help me stay focused and get the most out of my education—I'm sure it's made me a better performer!"** he says.

While Nemzer has wowed everyone from college students to corporate executives, his most memorable magic show was for a herd of pachyderms.

"Recently I traveled to India with my wife. We stayed at an elephant preserve in Agra where we volunteered and cared for rescued elephants. And we also performed for the entire organization and its employees," he says.

While in India, Nemzer also dedicated a week to teaching magic at the Shanti Bhavan Children's Project near Bangalore through the nonprofit program Artists Striving To End Poverty.

Currently, Nemzer stars in *Monday Night Magic* at The Players Theatre in New York.



## Lisa Calano Sicurelli '84

For **Lisa Calano Sicurelli '84**, attending Marymount Manhattan was a simple decision.

**"My mom was a professor at MMC; she taught Italian for 30 years. I felt as though I grew up alongside MMC and wouldn't think of going anywhere else. It was my first and ONLY choice!"** she says.

After obtaining a degree in Psychology and quickly advancing in the real estate industry, today Sicurelli is the President, CEO, and Cofounder of Ambassador Abstract LLC, a full-service title abstract company in Roslyn, New York. The company has earned numerous awards since its 2005 launch, including multiple Best Agent Awards from Westcor Land Title Insurance Company.

A resident of Huntington and East Hampton, New York, Sicurelli is an avid supporter of the National New York Kidney Foundation and the North Shore Animal League, among other philanthropic organizations. Her two children, Stefania and Robert-James, have completed college and currently work in New York City.

This year—for the third consecutive year—Sicurelli is among the Top 50 Women of Long Island as selected by the *Long Island Business News*.

## Christina Daigneault '97

For **Christina Daigneault '97**, 2017 was a year to remember. To start, she received an Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship, a program that celebrates entrepreneurs who are committed to



### Mary Norton '58

Despite being a fourth-generation New Yorker, **Mary Norton '58** credits Marymount Manhattan for introducing her to all the riches the city has to offer.

**“The College’s location provided a more intimate knowledge of New York’s multiple and varied cultural offerings. Non-academic pursuits, such as the MMC Chorus, playing bridge, and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade were greatly enjoyed,”** she says.

In class, Norton fell in love with literature—ancient, medieval, modern—under the tutelage of Joseph Clancy, Ph.D., Elaine Klein, Ph.D., Donald Drennen, Ph.D., and Father Manning, O.P., among others.

Following graduation, Norton began a rewarding career as a teacher in Manhattan and, later, the Bronx. Ultimately, her experiences in educating children from impoverished communities took her out of the classroom and turned her into a champion for literacy.

“I was appointed to the district office to train teachers in improved literacy instruction. This adventure continued as my administrative positions ascended beyond the city to include state and national pursuits

of literacy improvement. Along the way, I pursued two master’s degrees and achieved my doctoral degree from Fordham University,” she says.

In 2000, MMC presented Norton with the Alumna Tribute Award for her outstanding achievements in education.

Norton eventually retired in 2012, but remains as busy as ever. She divides her time between Manhattan and Cape Cod and is devoted to her four adult children. Working alongside her sister, Helen Norton White '61, she wrote and published their family history, *The Norton Brennan Family: Dreamers, Adventurers, Builders*.

Norton enjoys travel, sailing, and staying active in the MMC community.



### Anthony Palencsar '98

In the years since departing Marymount Manhattan, **Anthony Palencsar '98** has traveled the world for work and pleasure, but New York remains his home. Presently residing in Queens, the Theatre Arts alumnus is a concierge for Tiffany & Co., providing luxury hospitality to clients visiting the Manhattan landmark. Before that, Palencsar spent a decade as a performer.

**“My passion for travel and the arts—which led me to the opportunity to live in Japan for two years and retain the language—has been a wonderful gift that keeps on giving,”** he says.

Palencsar also discovered an interest in ancestry and recently brought together relatives who had never previously met. In the process, he compiled the necessary documentation to gain Irish citizenship.



“My dream would be to move to Ireland, or any part of the European Union, and bring theatre to a small community where I could make a difference—while also running a bed-and-breakfast,” he says. “Not so out-of-this-world, right?”

## Qualities of a Creative Changemaker

Let’s meet **Jordan Mason '19**, a junior, who, like 85 percent of MMC students, relies on scholarships and financial aid to fund her education. She embodies all the ways in which an MMC education helps to develop **creative changemakers** positioned to take on the world with innovative ideas and purposeful actions.

Marymount Manhattan College is committed to forging a generation of creative changemakers and we count on the support of our generous donors to help us do that.

Gifts to the Annual Fund provide Marymount Manhattan College with flexible and immediate funds to support need-based financial aid for our students, enhanced programs, technology and campus infrastructure improvements, and much more. Unrestricted annual gifts from alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends allow the College to operate, grow, and thrive.

**You are essential to the learning and success of MMC’s uniquely self-expressive students, who combine intellectual curiosity with creativity and seriousness of purpose.**

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**DEDICATED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Guest writer for *The Monitor* (MMC’s campus newspaper) and Member of the National Honor Society Lambda Pi Eta

## CLASS NOTES

### EILEEN PILLMEIER MCCARDLE '50

reminisces fondly about her time at MMC with alumna Joan Finn Higgins '50. She hopes today's students will have just as happy memories of their MMC experiences.



### ▲ CHRISTINE RUSSO, PH.D. '53

had a wonderful evening with President Kerry Walk at MMC's annual Donor Dinner.

### BRIGID JOAN DRISCOLL, RSHM '54

taught and tutored as a volunteer with MMC's Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) after her retirement as President of Marymount College, Tarrytown. She says that seeing the amazing impact of the BHCP on the lives of incarcerated women and their families has made her incredibly proud.

### JUDITH BANZER FARR, PH.D. '57

is Professor Emerita of English & American Literature at Georgetown University. She was the first woman to be accorded the rank of full professor in the English Department in Georgetown's 200-year history. She continues her professional life as a literary critic, poet, and novelist while continuing to lecture frequently in New York and Washington, D.C. She currently lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband of 55 years, Dr. George F. Farr.

### JOANNE O'CONNELL WHITNEY '59

was elected Head of the Docent Council of the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

### GLORIA SPINELLI BOHAN '63

was named Godmother of the *Ms. Robert Burns* by Riviera Cruises, a UK company. Robert Burns is known for writing *Auld Lang Syne* and many other works.

### ELLEN FORREST MARTIN '65

regrets to report that her husband, Robert H. Martin, passed away on April 3, 2017. The Metropolitan Community College of Kansas City, Missouri, named a building in his memory and as recognition of his service as an elected Trustee of his Board. This is the first time in the 130-year history of the institution that a building has been so dedicated.

### KATHRYN STEINER SIMIC '65

puts her MMC degree in Psychology to work as a Case Manager at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul assisting the poor and the homeless, including many who are recovering from past hurricanes.



### ▲ ELEANOR MAIELLA IMPERATO '68

continues to write and pursue her love of travel. Her latest book, *Carving Life: Walrus Ivory Carvings from the Bering Sea*, was published in October 2017 in conjunction with an exhibition of her collection of walrus ivory carvings at the QCC Art Gallery in New York City. She is currently working on her second collection of poetry, *Purple Sins*. When not writing, Imperato is involved with MMC as President of the Dance Department Advisory Board and is a member of the College Fund Board at Queensborough Community College. She is planning a summer trip to the Orkneys, an archipelago off the far northeastern coast of Scotland, with stops along the way in London and Edinburgh.

### VICTORIA DAWSON '69

retired from the Trustees of St. Patrick's Cathedral in December 2017. Before that, she worked at the Ford Foundation for 12 years and as Head of the Library at Thirteen/WNET for 19 years.

### MARY ELLEN MCALEER BAGLIN '69

retired and settled in Plano, Texas, with her husband Ian after a 45-year nomadic life.

### MARY JANE GIULIANO LEE '69

enjoys being a "snowbird" in Naples, Florida, with her husband, Vince. When she returns to Long Island, she gets to be closer to her three grandsons and works as part of the pastoral care teams at St. Francis Hospital and North Shore University Hospital. She sends her warmest regards to all her classmates and looks forward to her class's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2019.



### ▲ DIANE WILDEROTTER MAYER '70

is sad to report that her husband, James Mayer, died peacefully in her arms after a two-year battle with lung cancer. The couple was married for 45 years, raised two sons, and travelled across the U.S. and parts of Europe. She looks forward to seeing her roommates and friends from her time at MMC.

### KATHLEEN MOYLAN PURCELL '71

regrets to report that her husband, Carlton Purcell, passed away in 2014.

### CATHY CALO GERARD '72

and her husband have moved from New York to Hawaii to be closer to their son. If any Marymount Manhattan alums are living in the area, she would love to hear from you.

### NORA WYNNE PEYTON '74

accepted the position of Regional Director at the Alzheimer's Association in California. Her responsibilities include program management and delivery, volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising, and public advocacy.

### CHRISTEL KNETT COMAN '77

was awarded a scholarship and earned her master's degree at St. John's University as a Graduate Assistant after graduating from MMC. While on vacation in Canada, she met the love of her life, Bob, and married in May 1983. She is the proud stepmother of two children and four grandchildren. Currently, she lives in Altavista, Virginia, where she teaches children with special needs and serves as the President of the local teachers' association.

### DOUGLAS NEWAY '82

is the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee in the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Court and recently gave a presentation to the National Trial Lawyers Annual Conference in South Beach in Miami.

### AURA POLANCO '84

had both her books, *The Acquisition* and *Finding Hope*, shown in international book fairs. This June, she will retire from her teaching career and looks forward to pursuing writing and starting a travel blog.

### CATHERINE BARBOUR '87

is the Director and a Teacher at The American Mime Theatre in New York City, which just celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### CELESTE JOHNSON HAMPTON '87

hosted Umaru Sheriff, an international dignitary and the National Executive Director of 4-H Liberia. In her spare time, Hampton runs the Velvetens, a 4-H club in New Jersey that built an international seed bank and began sending Sheriff seed during the Ebola crisis.

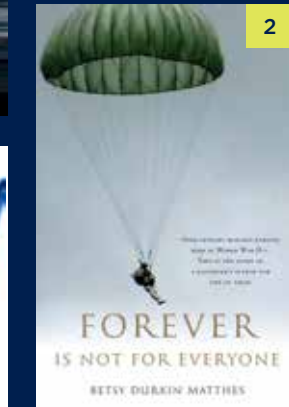
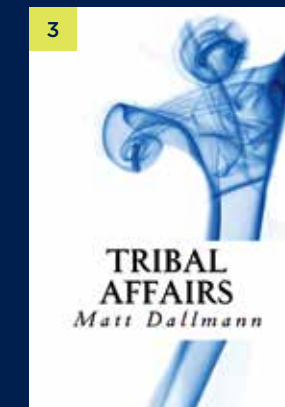
### EVELYN RAEZ '89

is proud to be working as a Hearing Officer for the OATH Tribunal. She sends her greetings to all her friends and colleagues from MMC.

## GRIFFIN BOOKSHELF



1 | Diane Wilderotter Mayer '70 published *An Ordinary Woman...An Awesome God* to share her faith journey with her sons and granddaughter. Her story is one about family, growing up, falling in love, and dealing with hardships, but mostly about how God guided Mayer when she felt like she was in the "belly of the whale." The book is available as an ebook from Amazon.com.



2 | Betsy Durkin Ostberg Matthes '96 published *Forever is Not for Everyone*, a World War II historical biography and present-day memoir that tells the story of one daughter's search for the forgotten life of her deceased father. During her search, she encounters heroes of the past and the present and ultimately finds herself in the midlands of England, as her father's representative, addressing attendees at memorials honoring regiments of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne who were billeted there during the war.



3 | Matt Dallmann '99 published *Tribal Affairs*, the story of a centuries-old genie, Dahlia, who is trapped in a locket charm attached to the ankle bracelet of a 16-year-old girl. The charm's presence starts a bizarre chain of events that leads to a showdown with Dahlia's mortal enemy and an unsuspecting romance.

4 | Helen Picca '01 published *The Last Frontier of the Fading West*, a fictional memoir spanning a half-century of wars, from WWII to Vietnam to Kuwait. It tells Jennifer's story of redemption for those who bear the scars of war, and of love—great love for a man, her family, and Port Orford, Oregon, a town she chooses to call home.

5 | Kristopher Dukes '06 published *Sworn Virgin*, a historical novel that tells the tale of an Albanian woman Eleanora who will do whatever it takes to keep her independence and seize control of her future—even if it means swearing to remain a virgin for her entire life. But when an injured stranger stumbles into her life, Eleanora nurses him back to health, saving his life while risking her own as she falls in love with him.



## CLASS NOTES

### ▼ ELAINE ZUKERMAN '89

is a coach, speaker, college instructor, and author of both *Lessons for an Urban Goddess* and *The Urban Goddess Lesson: How to Spot the Bad Boys from the Heroes*, which was featured in *Forbes*, *Brides*, *Redbook*, *Reader's Digest*, *Next on Scene*, and *Bustle*. She has also started educational and support groups for those dealing with toxic relationships.



### ▲ NANETTE PARISI PURCIGLIOTTI '94

is pleased to announce that her art website is live at [www.nanette-j-purcigliotti.pixels.com](http://www.nanette-j-purcigliotti.pixels.com).



### ▲ MARIA APONTE GONZALEZ '97

received her master's degree in Latin American and Latino Studies from Fordham University and works as Fordham's Diversity Initiatives Coordinator; she is now celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> year at the University. She is also the Founder and President of the nonprofit Latina 50 Plus, which honors Latina women aged 50 and older who excel in their careers. Maria is married to multicultural Taino storyteller, Bobby Gonzalez, and resides in the Bronx.

### NATALYA MACWILLIAMS '97

is researching and writing a book regarding Nazi medicine during WWII. Because of this project, she has spent a majority of each year in Germany and Eastern Europe. She is in the process of finalizing the book and hopes to see it in print later this year.

### DEBORAH LANDON O'KAIN '97

resides in Palm Beach, Florida, and manages her company, DDL Style, which transforms individuals' wardrobes.

### JOSHUA DUNN '02

teaches *Think, Breathe, Act*, a course to improve golf swing techniques by combining the use of science, movement, mind, and visualizations.



### ▲ DEBORAH PALMER '02

was featured in the Met Union Art show in March 2017 for her mixed media photo collage submission.

### ▼ CHRISTINA ROMERO CARROLL '02

is sad to report that she tragically lost her husband, George Bernard Carroll, Jr., on August 18, 2017. She describes him as "a devout Catholic, beloved husband, actor, playwright, son, uncle, and brother." Condolence cards may be sent to Carmelite Monastery, ATTN: Mrs. Christina Carroll, 361 Highland Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11207. She requests your prayers during this time.



### JESSICA BONENFANT COOGAN '03

opened Greywood Arts, a multi-disciplinary artist's residency space in the village of Killeagh, County Cork, Ireland, in 2017. In addition to continuing her practice as a choreographer, Jessica teaches dance improvisation at the Firkin Crane in Cork, is a committee member for Midleton Arts Festival, and is a Project Coordinator for First Cut! Youth Film Festival.



### ▲ STEPHANIE DOCKSTEADER TRIMMER '03

was promoted to the Chief Administrative Officer at Professional Grounds, Inc., where she works alongside her husband, Timothy, to deliver commercial services to other operations in the D.C. Metro area.



### ▲ BELKIS CARDONA-RIVERA '04

celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with Jason Scott Long. The couple currently resides in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

### GEORGE GOUNTAS '04

is the Lighting Designer for *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*.



### ▲ SEÁN LINEHAN '04

married Daniel Kreiss on October 7, 2017, in Budir, Iceland. They were joined by 60 of their closest friends and relatives, including Anasua Chowdury '01 and Ariela Canizal '02.

### HEATHERLYN EGAN '06

relocated to Orlando, Florida, to join Universal Creative as a Lighting Manager for domestic projects, managing the lighting design process for new attractions from concept through opening.

### MATT DUMONT '07

married Adrienne Bergeron in 2015 and currently resides in Los Angeles, California, where he is the Manufacturing Manager for LA Photo Party.



### ▲ JILLIAN ZEMAN KROHNE '07

is proud to announce the birth of her son, Benjamin George Krohne, on February 22, 2017.

### RENÉE TESSIER NUNLEY '07

accepted a position at Entrée Health as an Art Supervisor.

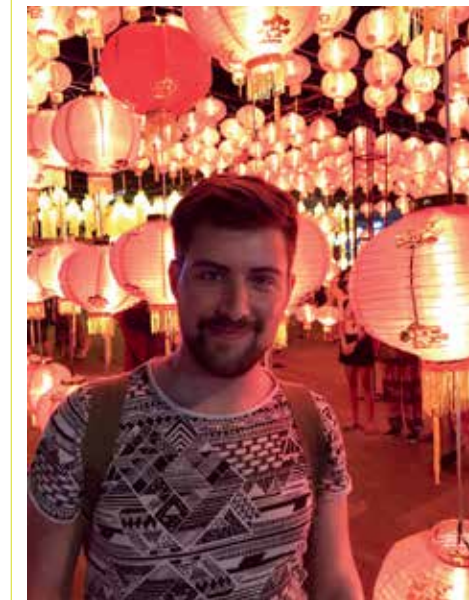
### ▼ CHRISTIAN IANNUCCI '08

celebrated his wedding to Rafaella Nunes on the beach in Fairfield, Connecticut, on September 16, 2017, and in São Paulo, Brazil, on December 31, 2017.



### CHRISTOPHER PERRÉ '13

joined the law office of Jackson Lewis P.C. in Miami, Florida.



### ▲ ROBERT ROBINSON '13

moved to Munich, Germany, in the summer of 2015 to pursue a 10-month language intensive program. Since July 2016, Robinson has worked as a Patent Paralegal at Grünecker Patent und Rechtsanwälte, one of the largest intellectual property law firms in Europe.

### NICOLE HILL GRIVOIS '15

works as an Editor at Maxim Group after working as an Editorial Assistant in the publishing industry. Her poetry has most recently been published in *Chronogram Magazine*. On September 30, 2017, she married Ethan Grivois at her family's farmhouse in New York.

### SHAUN LEONG '16

moved to California and began working as an enrichment teacher. In January 2018, she began teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in San Leandro, California, and is pursuing a Master's in Urban Education as well as her California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. In her spare time, she freelances for small businesses and friends looking to rebrand themselves or start a new business venture in the San Francisco Bay Area.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of the following members of the MMC community. We mourn the tragic loss of several young alumni and students with particularly heavy hearts and remember them each as joyful spirits with a passion for life.

**Emma Couture '20**

**Nick Gereffi '12**

**Marianne Githens '56**

**Claire Habermann '83**

**Professor Kathleen Leckband, Ph.D.**

**Professor Helene Napolitano, Ph.D.**

**Eric Rich '16**

**Lottie Williams '76**

### 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.



1949

## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

The *Sing* was a student-run production that began in 1949 and ended around 1970. Each class organized a musical presentation, usually involving parody lyrics of popular songs. Performances were themed and reflected the times. Acts were judged on the concept behind the performance, the performance itself (singing, musical accompaniment, dancing), the decorations, and costumes. The *Sing* lives on today in *MMC's Got Talent*, a variety show that takes place during Homecoming Weekend.

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LAST  
LOOK



*Curated by Hallie Cohen, MMC Professor of Art and Director of the Hewitt Gallery of Art, and Professor Duston Spear, The Moby-Dick Project was a collaborative art exhibition that ran from October 30 through December 6 in the Hewitt Gallery of Art.*

*The unique exhibition featured work created by the incarcerated women artists of the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) after participating in "Illustrating the Novel," a course taught by Professor Spear. Their artwork was featured alongside pieces by invited artists whose work shared an affinity with the great American novel.*

*This piece, titled Moby-Dick, Challenging Waters, was a collaborative class project created by BHCP students.*