

# MMC



MarymountManhattan  
MAGAZINE | SPRING 2019



**14**

NEWS  
**COSTA RICA  
COURSE**

Students Study Abroad

**26**

FEATURE  
**GOLDEN  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Celebrating 50 years of HEOP

**30**

FEATURE  
**CREATIVE  
CHANGEMAKERS**

Ready to take on the world



MMC students share what they love about the College's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at a networking event for students, alumni, and family. Read more about HEOP on p. 26

# CONTENTS

## columns

**5** MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**6** IT'S A WRAP  
The best of MMC 2018-19

**24** FACULTY PROFILES

**34** IN THE NEWS

## features

**22** FACULTY Q&A  
Meet Jessica Blatt, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science

**26** GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES  
MMC celebrates 50 years of the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)

**30** CREATIVE CHANGEMAKERS AT MMC  
Our students graduate ready to take on the world and make a positive impact

## departments

**40** ALUMNI PROFILES

**44** CLASS NOTES

**49** IN MEMORIAM

**50** A MOMENT IN TIME

### ON THE COVER

Jennifer Acevedo '19, Business major and Psychology minor, was one of twelve MMC students who participated in a 14-day travel course to Costa Rica in January to study ecotourism and sustainability. Read more on page 14.



# The Carson Match

## COMPLETE!

An enormous **THANK YOU** to benefactors Judith '03, H'13 and Russell Carson, who have contributed \$3 million to Marymount Manhattan College since 2016 as part of the **Carson Match**—a truly transformative gift. Through the Match, the Carsons donated one dollar for every two dollars contributed by MMC donors, inspiring engagement and generosity from friends of the College at all levels and raising a total of \$9 million.

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MarymountManhattan

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



One of the special pleasures and privileges I enjoy as Marymount Manhattan's President is witnessing the impact of an MMC education every day—in our students, who are fiercely committed to both educational excellence and social justice, and in our alumni, who make their mark through close personal and family relationships, passionate engagement with diverse communities, and wide-ranging professional and avocational pursuits.

As another academic year comes to a close, I am proud to look back on the many student-driven intellectual and creative endeavors that invigorated our campus this past year—achievements and activities you will read about in this issue of *MMC Magazine*. I am also delighted to share progress on the 2017 - 2021 Strategic Plan, which is the guiding star of

MMC's efforts to prepare students to become creative changemakers—fearless individuals who have the motivation and know-how to effect positive change in communities around the globe through creative thinking and impactful action.

The cornerstone of those efforts is *CityEdge*, MMC's signature college-to-career initiative. With an extraordinary array of city-based courses, guest speakers and artists, site visits, and internship opportunities offered each year, our students experience New York as their learning laboratory from the moment they arrive at MMC. They also begin envisioning and preparing for their post-graduate lives of meaningful impact.

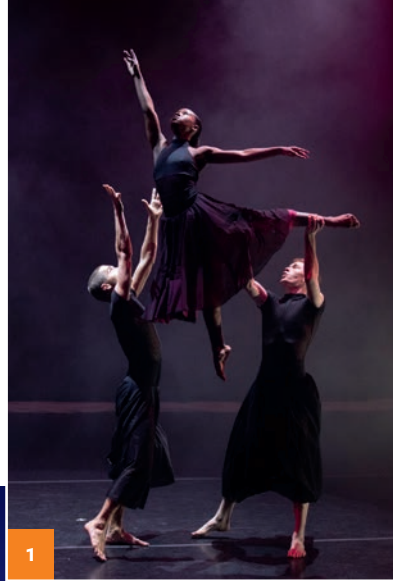
In this issue, we also celebrate an important milestone for the College: 50 years of offering an MMC education to financially disadvantaged students through New York State's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). HEOP has been an integral part of the MMC community since 1969, and it gives me great joy to share stories with you about the program's history and growth, as well as the tenacious and inspiring students who give it life.

This spring, the College is proud to confer degrees on nearly 300 students, who join our remarkable network of MMC alumni. I hope you share my feelings of Griffin Pride in our new graduates and all those who make our community an exemplar of intellectual and creative achievement, and who inspire optimism for the impact MMC students and alumni have on the world in which we live.

Best wishes,

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
*President*

*Painting detail: Particle Point Collisions, oil on board by Jim Holl, MFA, Associate Professor of Art*



1



2



3

### DANCE FALL REPERTOIRE

The Department of Dance Fall Repertoire is a faculty choreography concert showcasing the College's talented educators and dance professionals.

- 1. *Wild and Free Mount18 (Excerpts)*  
Choreography: Earl Mosley  
Photography: Rosalie O'Connor  
Costumes: Mondo Morales
- 2. *The Gilded Lily*  
Choreography: Pedro Ruiz  
Photography: Rosalie O'Connor  
Costumes: Jeff Surdivant
- 3. *Onrush*  
Choreography: Gabrielle Lamb  
Photography: Rosalie O'Connor  
Costumes: Mondo Morales



### Black History Month

February marks national Black History Month, and the MMC campus celebrated in full force. Featuring film screenings, cultural showcases, forums on racially offensive language, and panel discussions on topics ranging from racial bias in the workplace to natural hair products and more, the month was packed with events hailing the contributions and achievements of the Black community.



### NEW CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER AND TITLE IX COORDINATOR

In July 2018, Rebecca Mattis-Pinard was appointed Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and Title IX Coordinator. For more than a decade, Mattis-Pinard's career has centered on equity and social justice at MMC—as a higher education leader, faculty member, career counselor, academic advisor, and, just prior to her current role, as Director of MMC's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) since January 2015.

The President's Advisory Committee for Inclusivity was established by President Kerry Walk in her first months at the College, in fall 2015, to promote a college-wide approach to advancing MMC's educational mission through diversity and inclusion. Now chair of this Committee, Mattis-Pinard works to ensure equal access and a safe environment for all members of the College community and is spearheading the development of MMC's first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan.

"This plan will be the first of its kind and will help chart the path towards a college that is reflective of the values we espouse around diversity and inclusion," says Mattis-Pinard. "As we become increasingly diverse as a nation, so too will higher education institutions. We must be prepared to continue supporting the shift in demographics among our students, as well as in the workforce that will be guiding them."



*“I attended MMC in the 60s and it was a vibrant place that was very politically and socially involved. It was the Vietnam War and the time of Civil Rights, so we were marching every other weekend.”*

—KATHLEEN MEEHAN '68

## ORAL HISTORY

Each spring, Marymount Manhattan College welcomes our dedicated alumni back to campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend—a celebratory event to rekindle old friendships, forge new ones, and reminisce about life on 71<sup>st</sup> Street. Among the host of events and activities offered during the weekend is MMC's Oral History Project, a student-led initiative to record and archive the experiences and memories of MMC's students throughout the years. Facilitated by Assistant Professor of History Lauren Brown, Ph.D., current students sit down with alumni who volunteer to share their stories.

“It's a unique opportunity for everyone involved,” Dr. Brown explains. “Current students get a chance to practice their interview skills, while alumni get the opportunity to share together (we often interview in groups) their favorite memories of MMC. These are the things school records don't always document, like that Mother Berkman could often be spotted outside school early mornings polishing the brass doorknobs, or that some of our more radical 1960s grads accompanied the Sisters on political protests. Whether it's the small details of daily MMC life, the challenges and victories of the years since graduation, or reflections on Marymount Manhattan's place in the wider world, every alumnus/a has a story to share and our students are eager to capture as many of them as possible,” Dr. Brown emphasized. “Reunion is the perfect time for these reflections—come solo or bring a group—twenty minutes of your time is an investment in MMC history!”

For more information, or for those interested in alternative interview possibilities, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Brown (lbrown2@mmm.edu). We are particularly eager to document reflections on movements towards change, as 2019 marks a variety of anniversaries, including the Civil Rights Act (55 years), Woodstock and the moon landing (50 years), Nixon's resignation (45 years), Apple's first Macintosh (35 years), the fall of the Berlin Wall (30 years), and the rise of Amazon (25 years) and Facebook (15 years).

## CSD Clinic Panel

In March, MMC's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) presented a powerful panel discussion featuring clients from the College's on-campus clinic, the Ruth Smadbeck Communication and Learning Center, as a way to give students a glimpse into life as a professional speech-language pathologist serving clients who struggle with speech and communication disorders.

Moderated by Denise Cruz, Director of Clinical Education and Clinical Services, the panel comprised four clients who survived strokes and now have communication difficulties, a caretaker of one of the clients, and Renee Royles '19, the MMC senior who leads their group sessions in clinic.

The Smadbeck Center provides free services to the community, while serving as a valuable educational asset to MMC students studying Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Students learn a wide variety of diagnostic testing and treatment techniques in the clinic and have the opportunity to work directly with clients, experiencing on-site clinical observation, training, and supervision—learning opportunities rarely available at the undergraduate level.

Royles, who completed her clinical rotation last year, was so moved by the group therapy sessions she led as part of her training that she has continued to lead more this year on a volunteer basis.

“Being a student clinician is emotionally and academically rewarding. It helps grow soft and hard skills,” Royles explains. “Reading it in a textbook is one thing, but being there with the patients is beautiful and just so rewarding when you see growth happen.”



## BLUES FOR MISTER CHARLIE

Under the direction of David Mold, MFA, Professor of Theatre Arts and Chair of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts, the theatre arts department presented James Baldwin's *Blues for Mister Charlie* on the MMC mainstage last fall, to rave reviews from the community.

Centered on a town's split reaction to the murder of a young black man in the segregated South of the 1960s, *Blues for Mister Charlie* dares its audience to face the wounds that racism has inflicted, to find ways to heal those wounds, and to imagine a world free of racial bias, where every person has the social, economic, and political power to thrive.

“The College's outstanding production of Baldwin's play was a powerful provocation, challenging audience members to explore and confront deep personal attitudes toward race, racism, and bigotry,” says President Kerry Walk. “Thanks to the incomparable leadership of David Mold and the excellence of the cast and creative team, the production had a profound impact on the MMC community, sparking meaningful discussions across campus.”



# CITYEDGE

The capstone experience of MMC's *CityEdge* initiative is the internship—a vital tool for equipping students to find success in the workforce post-graduation. All students completing for-credit internships are required to complete *Shape Your Experience*, an online module featured in *CityEdge*'s CareerLab program, an online and interactive career development “boot camp” that introduces students to foundational concepts in career preparation and planning.

*Shape Your Experience* walks students through the internship search and application process, offers interview preparation with a digital mock interview platform, and provides tips for making the most—professionally and personally—out of the internship experience.

Take it from our students: internships provide the opportunity to gain marketable job experience, build social capital, and make a meaningful contribution to their employers and fields of interest.

*“Public relations wasn't something I thought I would be focusing on or something I thought I would be particularly good at. But I now have a portfolio of promotional videos I created that I can show future employers, in addition to having promotional experience for a small nonprofit under my belt. This hands-on experience can be transferred anywhere I go next.”*

—Alexandra Mandell '19  
Internship: Jazz Power Initiative

*“Wow, what a unique once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was exposed to so much over the four months of my program, I hardly know where to begin. I have gone to more than 50 events on topics ranging from soil, conflict resolution, and the environment, to migration, education, and disabilities. I have also gone to several Security Council and General Assembly (GA) meetings and had the very bizarre and thrilling experience of sitting in the General Assembly Hall during GA week. My biggest takeaway from this internship is having become highly aware of my privilege, and I feel so inspired to continue to empower others with the information I've learned.”*

—Claire Buonocore '19  
Internship: United Nations Program, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary Non-Governmental Organization



The organizers and facilitators of the *Let's Talk About Anti-Semitism* forum last winter. Back Row L-R: Rebecca Mattis-Pinard, Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator; Bradley Herling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences; and Lauren Brown, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History  
  
Front Row L-R: Nava Siltan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology; Tami Stronach, MFA, Adjunct Professor of Dance; Diana Epelbaum, Ph.D., Director of Academic Writing Program and Assistant Professor of Academic Writing; and Mary Brown, Archivist and Bibliographer

## LET'S TALK ABOUT...

*"The 'Let's Talk About' series allows students, faculty, and staff to meet in an open forum for challenging conversations that provide 'brave spaces' for a diversity of voices,"* explains Diana Epelbaum, Ph.D., Director of the Academic Writing Program and Assistant Professor of Academic Writing. *"In our first two forums, participants explored the power of language and symbols as historical tools of systemic oppression and exclusion. MMC's commitment to inclusivity is the driving force of the series."*

## New Major

In 2018, the College launched a new major in Urban and Environmental Sustainability (UES). This rich academic program prepares students to be "environmentally literate" graduates ready to find sustainable solutions to environmental problems and tackle critical issues in a rapidly urbanizing world.

The UES program is holistic and interdisciplinary, requiring coursework in the natural and social sciences, as well as in the humanities. The courses take students all over NYC, from Central Park to the Gowanus Canal, using the City as a learning laboratory. With the UES degree, students become equipped to work towards greater food security, biodiversity safeguards, climate resilience, and positive changes in how humans interact with our environment.



## EL CHAPO TRIAL

In November, students in both *Journalism in the 21st Century* and *Future Directions in Journalism* headed to the U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York, in Brooklyn, to hear opening arguments in the trial against one of the world's most dangerous drug lords: Joaquín Guzmán Loera, known as "El Chapo." The goal, explains Tatiana Serafin, MFA, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, was to teach her students what it takes to write a breaking news story and to give them the opportunity to network with representatives from top NYC news outlets.

In preparation for the trip, students studied 2016 news coverage of El Chapo's capture and arrest and closely followed headlines leading up to the trial. Because of delays in the proceedings, students were able to mingle with reporters in the courthouse, discussing both the trial and their aspirations as rising journalists with representatives from *The Washington Post*, *The Times of London*, *ABC News*, and more. First-year student Adam Ophir '22 was interviewed by *Newsday's* Nicole Fuller and quoted in her article about the day: "Ophir worried about his prospects for landing a spot inside but said he'd be willing to sacrifice his comfort. 'I'll sit on the floor if I have to,' he said!"

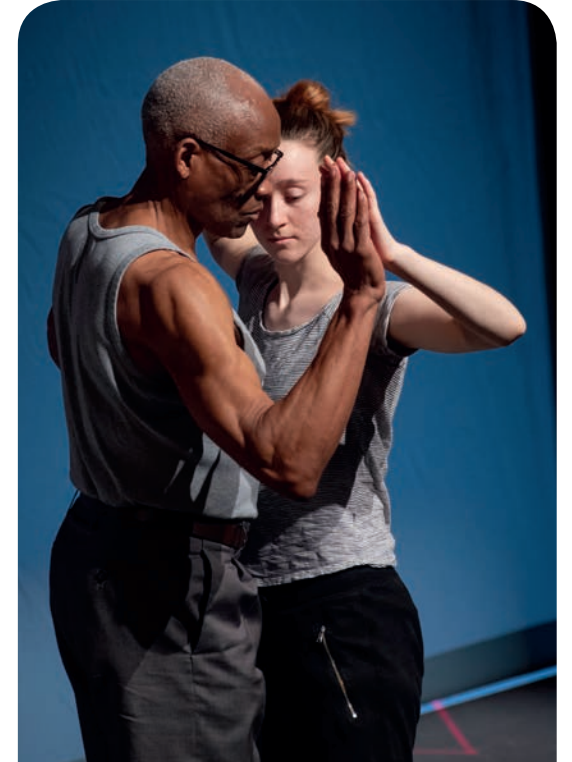
## LEGACY AWARD LUNCHEON

On November 29, 2018, Marymount Manhattan College hosted the inaugural Legacy Award Luncheon, established to honor those who have served the MMC community with distinction. More than 100 guests gathered to honor Dean Emeritus Peter H. Baker for his decades of service to the College.



President Kerry Walk, Dean Emeritus Peter Baker, and Board Chair Michael J. Materasso

**IT'S A WRAP**



**BILL T. JONES | ON THE ARTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

MMC's Ferraro Institute for Breakthrough Civic Leadership held its inaugural event in February, bringing distinguished dancer, choreographer, and activist Bill T. Jones to campus to discuss *The Arts and Social Justice*.

In a compelling conversation facilitated by Lane Harwell, Program Officer of Creativity and Free Expression at the Ford Foundation, Jones truly broke the fourth wall, engaging students and audience members in vibrant discussion, debate, and even improvised dance (featured at right).

"Bill T. Jones has dedicated much of his legendary career to harnessing the power of art to spark social change, and he has been recognized far and wide for this lifelong passion," says Katie Langan, Professor and Chair of the Dance Department. "We were deeply honored to host him on campus and it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students and community, most especially those in the arts, to be inspired by an incomparably engaged artist."

**HONORS DAY**

In March, Marymount Manhattan College held its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Honors Day Colloquium. A spring tradition, Honors Day is a full-day conference that showcases MMC students' creative and intellectual abilities—through presentations, demonstrations, an academic award ceremony, and honor society inductions—and builds awareness among students of the importance of achievement within the academic community.

From research papers and performances to creative projects and scientific studies, students presented their faculty-sponsored work, setting classrooms and performance spaces abuzz with the broad range of talents and interests fostered by MMC's liberal arts curriculum.



**LATINX HERITAGE MONTH**

To kick off Latinx Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 – October 15 each year, MMC's Student Activities Advisory Board and the Office of Student Development and Activities hosted an event featuring New York City Councilwoman Carlina Rivera as the keynote speaker.



Rivera has worked for decades as a civil servant and has established herself as a leader on issues including housing affordability, education equality, and small business survival, among many others. She spoke passionately about the lack of representation of people of Latinx heritage within city government and urged students to use their voices and get involved in their communities through civil service, outreach, and leadership. The program concluded with a powerful spoken word performance by Musical Theatre major Jacqueline Leon '22, who poignantly captured the richness and complexity of her experience within the Latinx community.

Vice President for Student Affairs Carol Jackson, Ph.D., Councilwoman Rivera, and student organizer Jennifer Acevedo '19



# STUDY ABROAD COURSE | COSTA RICA

**T**welve MMC students spent their January session with Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of International Studies, on a 14-day travel course studying ecotourism and sustainability in the heart of Costa Rica. Met by their Costa Rican co-teacher Tomás Dozier, Director of the Association for Development through Education (ADE)—a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to sustainable development—the group took part in a number of academic and cultural adventures, studying economic development and sustainability through multiple lenses while visiting important sites of the ecotourism and conservation movements.

Students met with Jim Stewart, founder of Seattle’s Best Coffee, whom some refer to as the “Godfather of the Northwestern Coffee Boom.” During their visit to his Costa Rican farm, Stewart shared his work to develop more sustainable ways of growing quality coffee while treating workers well. The group spent the remainder of the afternoon

harvesting wild coffee, later making coffee tea with the pulp from collected beans.

Other excursions included a visit to USAID, the United States Agency for International Development, to study infrastructure resilience and geopolitics; a tour of the University for Peace, part of the academic wing of the United Nations system; a meeting with Chilean NGO Techo on development and connecting community/social needs with government services; and a visit with the local governor’s office to gain an understanding of how Costa Ricans score highest on the Happy Planet Index.

The second week of the course focused on ecotourism and examining Costa Rica’s use of conservation for economic development. The excursions blended studies in privatized tourism, the country’s extensive National Parks system, community development, and the relationship between the urban and the rural. Students hiked up an active volcano, visited La Paz waterfall gardens, saw natural hot springs, and traveled to Manuel Antonio National Park.

Annie Bleiler ’19, Communication Arts major, Environmental Studies minor, and first-time study abroad student, was amazed by the experience. “We were able to fit so much in, and learn about so many new perspectives,” she said. “Costa Rica is the most sustainable country in the world ... so it was really eye-opening to be immersed in its culture, as opposed to just learning about it sitting in a classroom.”

Dr. Hernandez agreed: “The ability to be in a place and build community and relationships, and then *do* things is a powerful form of learning,” he said. “We really took advantage of that and enjoyed it.”



## NEW PRISON EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

This February, in partnership with nonprofit Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, MMC opened a new teaching location at the medium-security Taconic Correctional Facility for women in Bedford Hills, New York. The program at Taconic complements MMC’s longstanding college program offered in the adjacent maximum-security Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women, which has awarded more than 235 degrees since its inception in 1997.

The collaboration of MMC, Hudson Link, and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is the first in New York State to provide an opportunity for incarcerated women to have an uninterrupted pathway to degree completion when transferred from a maximum-security facility to a medium-security facility. This spring, MMC had 28 new Taconic students and 14 continuing Taconic students enrolled in college preparatory and for-credit undergraduate coursework.

A hallmark of MMC’s approach to prison education is mutual learning and dialogue between and among incarcerated students and 71<sup>st</sup> Street students. All students benefit from the free exchange of ideas and enhanced perspective-taking, paving the way for more fluid re-entry of incarcerated students to society. MMC calls this model **BRIDGE**, for **B**uilding **R**elationships for **I**nclusion, **D**iversity, **G**lobalism, and **E**quity.

The Crossing Borders Conference, which takes place every one to two years at the Bedford Hills facility, exemplifies the BRIDGE model by bringing together students, faculty, and alumni from both the prison program and main campus to present scholarly and creative work in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

In the coming years, MMC plans to expand and disseminate the BRIDGE model of college- and university-based prison education programs. Fully realized, the BRIDGE will be a New York State model that can be extended to include other institutions in a robust state-wide network, and a national model that could be emulated by colleges and universities in any locale.





## STAND UP SPEAK OUT FESTIVAL

In March, Marymount Manhattan students presented a multimedia festival of collaboratively created, social justice-oriented art, including short films, play readings, and illustrations. The connective tissue: an artistic dialogue between students from the 71<sup>st</sup> Street campus and those enrolled in MMC's Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP). Operating in a maximum-security women's prison, the BHCP offers students the opportunity to pursue an MMC education, earning an Associate of Arts degree in Social Sciences or Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology or Politics and Human Rights.

This year, *Stand Up Speak Out* (which has taken place annually since 2015) aimed to connect the two student bodies by promoting an artistic exchange in which participants sought commonality and inspiration between MMC's 71<sup>st</sup> Street campus and the BHCP.

Poetry was at the core of the exchange. The process began on Friday, February 15, with a workshop on the 71<sup>st</sup> Street campus. Creators engaged in dialogue about the circumstances of the prison facility, and then generated the first round of group-written poetry. Delayed a week by snow (an unexpected barrier between the student locations), the poems made it up to the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility a few weeks later. There, the pieces were transformed by BHCP students, becoming response poems and, in some cases, storyboards. During step three, the poems bounced back to 71<sup>st</sup> Street, where they served as the inspiration for five dialogue-free short films, accompanied by readings of the poems, and five short plays.

The festival on March 16 showcased the creative works and detailed the collaborative process. While they weren't physically present with their 71<sup>st</sup> Street peers, the Bedford Hills creators took part in the festival by appearing in videos and via printed versions of their work.

This exchange challenged students to confront their identities in a number of ways. As a result, the final art pieces were less about personal aesthetic or individual expression, and more about honoring their roles in a collaborative process that bridged two very different artistic environments.

*Note: This piece was written by Cassie Cloutier '19, who served as dramaturg and producer for the playwriting aspect of the festival.*



## HOMECOMING

In October, alumni, family, and friends gathered with current MMC students, faculty, and staff for the College's 2018 Homecoming Weekend. Festivities included an alumni BBQ, a reception for HEOP students and families, and the annual Field Day on Roosevelt Island, featuring a rousing game of flag football and performances by MMC's highly regarded activist dance team, Infamous Unit (read more on p. 31). The weekend wrapped up with the Dean's List ceremonies, which acknowledge and celebrate students for their academic accomplishments in the previous academic year.



## NEW FACULTY

Back Row (left to right):

**Bethany Elkin, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

**Melissa Tanning-Kollwitz, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

**Emily Clark**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

**Christine Riley**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

**Tatiana Serafin, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts

**Noelle Griffis, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts

Front Row (left to right):

**JoAnn Jarolmen, Ph.D., LCSW**, Visiting Instructor of Psychology (2018-19)

**Matthew Lundquist, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Biology

**Lori Zepp**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

**Margaret Kjelgaard, Ph.D.**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders (2018-19)

Not pictured:

**Leila Gastil**, Visiting Instructor of Psychology (Fall 2018)

**Pielah Kim, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Marketing

**Helen Pfeffer, MFA**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts (2018-19)

**Daniel Williams, Ph.D.**, Visiting Associate Professor of Biology (2018-19)

In addition to welcoming new faculty members, the College community would also like to congratulate **Lauren Brown, Ph.D.**, History; **Daniel Hunt, MFA**, Communication and Media Arts; **Tahneer Oksman, Ph.D.**, Academic Writing; and **Sarah Nelson Wright, MFA**, Communication and Media Arts, who have been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor; and **Alessandra Leri, Ph.D.**, Chemistry, who has been promoted to Professor.



## CAREER SUMMIT

MMC's Annual Career Summit, now in its fourth year, is a full-day professional and career development conference held each spring, offering students an opportunity to engage with employers from a variety of industries.

This year's Summit focused on financial literacy for students and featured Galia Gichon, founder of Down to Earth Finance, as the keynote speaker. Students participated in breakout panel discussions related to a range of industries and networked with representatives from dozens of companies and organizations.

*"Being a moderator for the Career Summit was such an incredible opportunity for me. It allowed me to speak in front of my peers and a group of experts working in my field of interest in a professional setting. It was such a unique networking opportunity and one of the best experiences I had at MMC."*

—KEVIN MORA '19

## DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE ARTS

Artist, activist, and educator Pablo Helguera came to campus in the fall as part of the College's *Conversations on Diversity and Social Justice* series. Helguera is a dynamic speaker and a leading thinker, practitioner, and advocate in the field of socially engaged art. His works have been exhibited and performed in major museums, galleries, and public art spaces throughout the world. Among the most notable was his mobile public art project, *The School of Panamerican Unrest*, a "nomadic think-tank" that traveled 20,000 miles from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

### STUDIO ART MAJOR ITZAMARY DOMINGUEZ '19 EXPLAINED THE IMPACT OF THE EVENT:

*"I grew up surrounded by immigrant families and saw how they had to abandon their dreams to dedicate their lives to work. I was completely shocked when I saw Mexican artist Pablo Helguera talk about his artwork. It was not only that his work fascinated me, but it was also an honor to see a successful artist who looks like my family and me. Seeing Helguera's presentation made me realize that my work as a Mexican American is valuable and that everyone can pursue their dreams."*



## Tracy K. Smith U.S. Poet Laureate

MMC proudly presented Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Tracy K. Smith with an Honorary Degree at the College's 2019 Commencement.

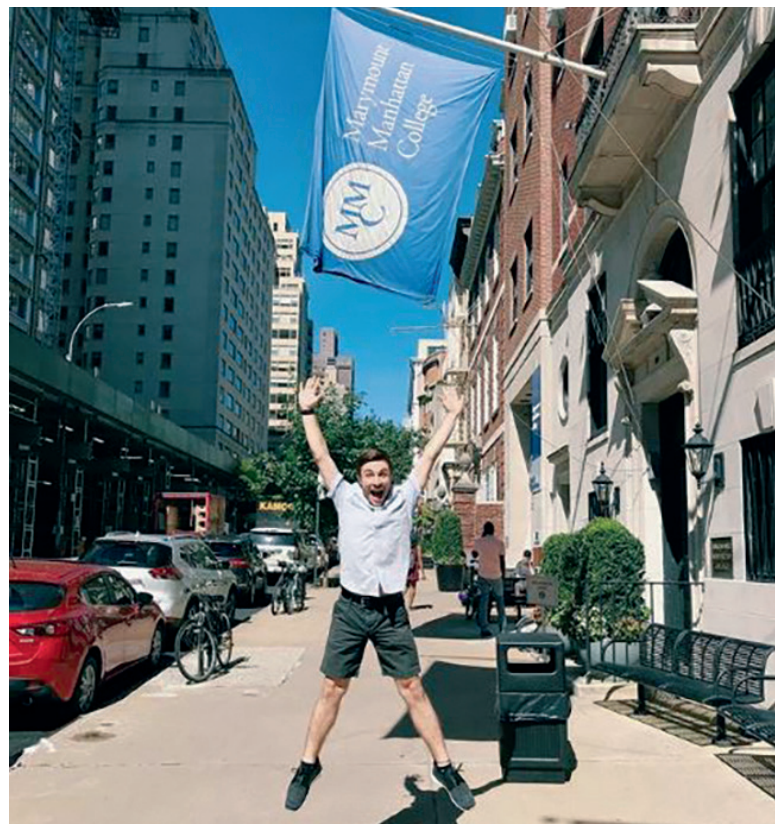
Smith, an American poet and educator, currently serves as the 22<sup>nd</sup> United States Poet Laureate, an office to which she was appointed in 2017. She is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Ordinary Light* (Knopf, 2015)—a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Nonfiction and selected as a Notable Book by *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*— as well as four books of poetry, including *Life on Mars* (Graywolf, 2011), which won the Pulitzer Prize. Her most recent collection, *Wade in the Water* (Graywolf, 2018), shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, boldly ties America's contemporary moment both to the nation's fraught founding history and to a sense of the spirit and the everlasting.



**@jasmine.katherin**  
"I'm so thankful to have been a part of your beautiful piece Kam! ♥️ and to have been dancing with these people who have my heart, ✨"



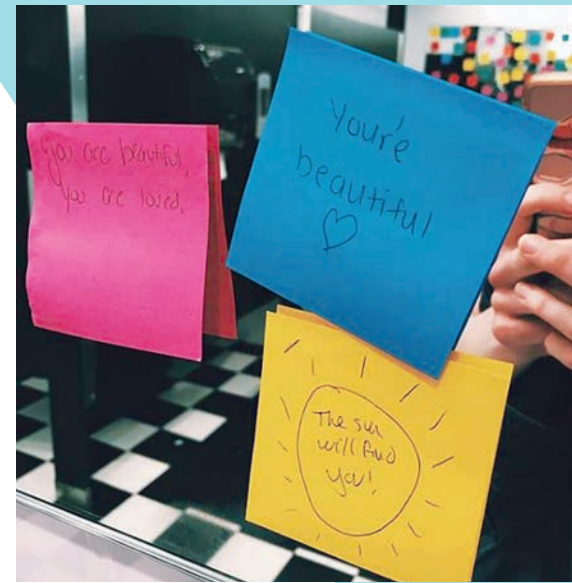
**@zharrell**  
first-year college roommates and still buds. #301 #marymountmanhattan 📷: @sfilss



**@colemanrayclark**  
This is it! On my last first day I will finally post my first first day photo. Fitting? #marymountmanhattan #graduate? #firstdayofschool #jumpingphoto



**@katiekitz**  
the pose of someone who just presented their Senior Sem project. Who wants to invest?? #RootedDanceFestival



**@carolineebodan**  
Lots of love 🥰♥️



**@liv\_happily\_**  
I'd like to thank my family, friends, and most importantly @chrisbharrison for getting me through the last 4 years. Without your love and support, I don't know how I could have done it! #bachelornation #undergrad #themostdramaticgraduationyet



**@get.on.tha.flaugher**  
Y'all have a little devil and a little angel on your shoulder? I have two tiny Kerry Walks encouraging me to eat cake.



**@tomsworld86**  
Play a song for us Mr. Piano Man #waystopayit #inthesestreets #underconstruction #marymountmanhattan #dancer #choreographer

# FACULTY Q&A

*Meet  
Dr. Jessica Blatt*

**JESSICA BLATT, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of Political Science, joined Marymount Manhattan College in 2010 and teaches in the Department of Politics and Human Rights. Her research on how ideas about difference—such as race, gender, and class—interact with political discourse and public policy comes into sharp focus in her recently published book, *Race and the Making of American Political Science* (University of Pennsylvania Press).

## WHAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL ARGUMENT IN YOUR BOOK?

My book explores how ideas about race and racial difference have shaped the academic discipline of political science. One of the contemporary critiques of political science in the United States is that it has spent far less time than other social sciences in analyzing the racial dynamics of American life, despite the far-reaching consequences of those dynamics. Race is all over American politics, even beyond the obvious things like the extreme racial inequality in social indicators such as family wealth, health outcomes, educational opportunities, and treatment by the criminal justice system.

**“I am always happy when students challenge the premises of what I say or of what we are reading or discussing. Because then I think they are getting it!” — Jessica Blatt, Ph.D.**

For example, you wouldn't necessarily think of economic regulation as a racial issue. But for the past half-century (at least), hostility to civil rights measures has been rhetorically joined in U.S. politics to a larger anti-regulatory agenda. That doesn't mean that all opposition to government regulation is racist—but it does mean that any understanding of the coalitions and political forces at play in fights over economic regulation is incomplete without an understanding of their racial dynamics, past and present. Yet until recently, although there has been good work by individual scholars, these questions of racial dynamics haven't been at the center of our discipline, and to an extent they are still marginal.

So I wanted to know why and how that was. And what I found is that political science, like other social sciences, was founded on deeply racialized premises. But as the discipline developed, and particularly as it sought to be seen as more scientific or objective, it tended to define “race” outside of “politics.” That is, things like racial inequality, racialized voting patterns, attitudes about race and immigration, etc., came to appear in a lot of our work as facts of life—unfortunate facts, perhaps, but not really factors fundamental to political life, much less fundamentally products of political life. So my book tries to challenge that perspective by showing how it is that our discipline came to think about race and politics in that disconnected way.

## HOW DO YOU ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORK?

I think disciplinary history is fascinating, and it holds important lessons about politics and ideology. But for a lot of students, it may be off-putting—a bit too “inside baseball,” as it were. So I have yet to try to teach my own work! Instead, in class I try to make students aware of questions of knowledge production. It's easy to think of education as the transmission of information—we know it; students learn it. But I want my students to reflect critically, not just on the information they are getting, but on the categories in which information is presented, the things that are left out—all of that. I want them to recognize that they are actively engaged in creating and validating knowledge about how the world works, and it's not a neutral thing. All ways of talking about subjects are not equal, and we need to be aware of the social and political stakes involved. So I am always happy when students challenge the premises of what I say or of what we are reading or discussing. Because then I think they are getting it!

## DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR NAVIGATING THE TENSE CURRENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CLIMATE?

When you are confronted with claims about political issues—such as immigration, for example—don't take them at face value. Historicize them. Look at who has said similar things in the past, and why. With what effects? What benefits

have politicians and others gained by demonizing immigrants, for example? What is the historical resonance of the language being used? How true did those past claims turn out to be? What does all of that suggest about the present?

## WHAT WILL YOUR NEXT BOOK BE ABOUT?

Another area of interest for me is education research and policy, particularly around public elementary and secondary education. A lot of the same issues that I address in my current book are at play in those areas, in fact. We see, for example, a lot of emphasis on objective measures of “merit” in education—think standardized testing—and attempts to redefine questions of inequity—racial and otherwise—in technical, apolitical terms.

So my next project focuses on political contestation around public education over the last several decades in the United States. And, as with my current book, my interest is both academic and political. I believe that there are real political stakes to how we talk and think about race and its relationship to politics, and that if we want to work toward social justice and solidarity, we have to get that right. I'm an educator and have two children in the New York City public school system myself, so the experience of kids going through that system and the kind of education they receive is important to me, not just as a scholar, but as a citizen, a parent, and a teacher.



## FACULTY PROFILES



1



2



3



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**1 |** In September 2018, **Tahneer Oksman, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Academic Writing, was keynote speaker at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the German Society for Comics Studies at the University of Cologne, where she delivered a lecture entitled *An Art of Loss*, addressing several contemporary graphic narratives dealing with sexual assault, grief, and other forms of loss. She has also had the opportunity to speak about her work and research topics at a number of other events and venues, including the annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, the Queers & Comics conference at the School of Visual Arts, and the NY Comics & Picture-Story Symposium at The New School's Parsons School of Design, to name a few.

In January 2019, Dr. Oksman's co-edited collection, *The Comics of Julie Doucet and Gabrielle Bell: A Place Inside Yourself*, was published by the University Press of Mississippi as part of its *Critical Approaches to Comics Artists* series. The book includes original essays as well as republished interviews with these two contemporary autobiographical cartoonists.

**2 |** **Andrea Tsentides, CPA, MBA**, Associate Professor of Accounting, was recently selected as a 2018 American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) Accounting Doctoral Scholar, one of only 14 nationwide. Professor Tsentides also provides *pro bono* financial services and volunteers for Move to Empower, Inc., a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower women and children in underserved communities around the world by promoting health literacy and economic opportunity through fitness programs and training. She worked to incorporate and register the organization as an official United Nations non-governmental organization (NGO), providing bookkeeping, tax consultation, and administrative assistance.

Professor Tsentides also collaborated with **Lorraine Martínez-Novoa, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Marketing, to develop the first faculty-led study abroad course in the Business Division, titled *Global Fashion Business*, which traveled to Paris and London over spring break 2019.

**3 |** In 2018, **Susan Behrens, Ph.D.**, Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, published her book *Understanding Language Use in the Classroom: Including Teaching Materials for College Educators* through Multilingual Matters (UK). This year, Dr. Behrens wrote a review of *Speaking Up* by Allyson Jule for *Women and Language*, an international interdisciplinary research periodical. She also collaborated with Eva Fernández, Assistant Provost at Queens College, on "Linguistically-informed Pedagogy in Higher Education" for the *Journal of Excellence in College Teaching*.

As Director of MMC's Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence (C-TIE) since 2011, Dr. Behrens provides faculty members with access to pedagogy resources, guidance, focus groups, and a monthly speaker series known as *Pedagogy Wednesday* luncheons. The focus of C-TIE's work this term is diversity and accessibility. This semester, Dr. Behrens and a team of C-TIE Faculty Fellows—including Dr. Tahneer Oksman, Dr. Nava Siltan, Professor Gunjali Trikha, Dr. Laura Tropp, and Dr. Lorraine Martínez-Novoa—are planning a one-day *We Write* workshop to help faculty jumpstart their summer scholarly work.

**4 |** **Cecilia Feilla, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English and World Literatures, wrote seven entries for the forthcoming *Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel* on works such as François Ducray-Duminil's *A Tale of Mystery, Or Celina and The Novice of Saint Ursula*. The book, to be published by Cambridge University Press later this year, draws on new research in social and political history to question the traditional view of the novel's intentions.

In 2018, Dr. Feilla received the Award for Innovative Teaching from C-TIE for the Haunted House Pop-Up Museum created by the students in her Senior Seminar in Literary Studies capstone course. The pop-up was a collaborative, project-based midterm assignment, which gave students the opportunity to share their knowledge of Gothic literature with the wider Marymount Manhattan community through the creation of interactive displays and artifacts. Thanks to the award, Dr. Feilla was inspired to organize another pop-up during the fall 2018 semester, in which students explored the history of coffeehouse culture (read more on p. 32).

This summer, Dr. Feilla will travel to the Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy, to teach MMC students in a course on *Shakespeare's Italy: A Literary Journey*. The class will study Shakespeare's Italian plays alongside the sources and settings that inspired him, as well as visit the sites in which the plays are set.

**5 |** In summer 2018, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts and Technical Director for the Theresa Lang Theatre **Robert Lee Dutiell, MFA**, was the scenic designer for Hip To Hip Theater Company's production of *All's Well That Ends Well*, as well as the scenic consultant for the Company's production of *King Lear*. He was also the scenic designer for *Backyard/Desert*, a new production by the Theater Collective presented at the TADA theatre, and at MMC for Anne Washburn's *10 out of 12* this past fall.

Professor Dutiell has also been working as a design and technical consultant with Jo Wood Brown, a New York City multi-media artist, and dancer/choreographer Miriam Parker on a series of installation pieces. In December, they submitted a proposal for their latest work, *Nomadic Spaces*, to be produced at Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City.

This summer, Professor Dutiell will co-teach the sixth installment of the travel course *Theatre and Drama of Ancient Greece*. Along with Mark Ringer and Jill Stevenson, both professors in Theatre Arts, Professor Dutiell will lead 28 students to several cultural and antiquity sites in Greece. Activating the belief that international travel is a critical component of education, particularly in the liberal arts, Professor Dutiell is eager to introduce MMC students to the birthplace of Western theatre.

**6 |** **Elisabeth Motley, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Dance, received a 2018-19 Fulbright US-UK Scholar Award. As a result, Professor Motley taught, researched, and created at the University of Roehampton in London in fall 2018 with her project: *Inquiring Bodies: Probing the Discourse and Practice of Creative Process Through Identity-Driven Contemporary Dance Choreography and Improvisation*. At Roehampton's Centre for Dance Research, she explored new pedagogical approaches to embodied writing practices and practice-as-research methodologies.

**7 |** *Imagined Communities*—a seminar developed by **Manolo Estavillo, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Politics and Human Rights, through a Mellon Advanced Interdisciplinary Perspectives Teaching Enhancement Award—traverses a number of fields from philosophy to photography. The interdisciplinary course ran as a workshop in which students collaborated with each other and Community Board 8 in Manhattan to develop visual ethnographic essays about the College's neighborhood. Some of the topics explored included a landscape of empty storefronts, delivery of goods and services as a way of life, the heterotopic character of the entrance to the townhouse, the exclusionary character of museums, and white masculinities.



5



6



7



HEOP STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AN ADVENTURE-FILLED TRAVEL COURSE TO COSTA RICA IN JANUARY

# GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

## MMC'S HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HEOP) CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EDUCATING ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

**T**his spring, 18 students—hailing from some of New York's most economically and educationally underserved communities—will take what may be the most important walk of their lives, across the stage of Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall as they graduate from Marymount Manhattan College.

This proud group joins more than 200 MMC alumni who have participated in the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at MMC. HEOP provides support and financial assistance to eligible students attending independent colleges and universities in New York State. The program is sponsored and partially funded by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). This year, HEOP celebrates its

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and MMC honors the program and the extraordinary students who have gained access to a brighter future because of it.

### BACK TO THE BEGINNING

In the early 1960s, MMC faculty and students were at the forefront of progressive thinking about who was entitled to a college education. This vanguard regularly conducted outreach in underserved communities in Harlem and Brooklyn, seeing it as an essential civic responsibility to provide educational opportunities to students who would otherwise be denied access to higher education and its many benefits—personal, economic, and civic.

Over time, this social awareness expanded, and MMC as an institution recognized its duty to open its doors to academically and financially disadvantaged students from surrounding communities. In addition, for the first time in the College's history, funds became available to pay tuition for students who couldn't afford a college education—much less an education at an independent, private, small liberal arts college like MMC.

And so, in the summer of 1967, the Community Leadership Program (CLP)—HEOP's predecessor at MMC—was born. In collaboration with community centers in Fort Greene and East Harlem, the CLP offered admission to approximately 20 promising high school students each year. These students received not only funding to attend MMC, but also holistic support through tutoring, counseling, and meaningful interaction with their cohort.

Eilene Bertsch '59, former Vice President for Academic Affairs and CLP's (and eventually HEOP's) first director, recalls: "When we understood some of the difficulty these students were having—they were hungry, they couldn't afford bus fare, they didn't have some of the foundational knowledge they needed for their classes—we saw that it was critical to step in so we could fully champion their success as students by helping their life conditions."



HEOP STAFF AND STUDENTS CIRCA 1983

### HEOP AT MMC: ABOVE AND BEYOND

When the New York State Legislature established HEOP in 1969, MMC was immediately awarded a grant and accepted into the program, paving the way for the CLP's seamless transition to a new funding format. Today, there are 52 independent colleges and universities across New York that participate in HEOP, serving disadvantaged students from every county in the state.

Institutional support at MMC continues to be essential to the program's sustainability and success, and to the success of HEOP students. Eighty percent of MMC's HEOP students graduate in six years or less, as compared to 59 percent for HEOP students state-wide and only 14 percent for this demographic across the United States. It is not an understatement to call MMC HEOP students' outcomes phenomenal.

"HEOP at Marymount Manhattan is highly successful because of the sense of community we have created, and the sense of belonging students feel," says Harmony Cross, HEOP's Director. "As an institution, MMC has been very intentional about the support we give to this important student population."

Cross, who joined the College in January, has years of experience seeing how these types of programs work at other institutions. She most recently served as the first appointed Director of Special Programs/Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Nassau Community College (NCC), and prior to that she was Director of HEOP at Mount Saint Mary College, in Newburgh, New York.

"At MMC, we have a large, comfortable, welcoming HEOP center, directly across the hall from the library, for students to call home," says Cross. The space includes computers and areas for studying, as well as private rooms for counseling, and couches for downtime between classes. In their vibrant shared space, HEOP students have created a deep sense of fellowship among themselves and are often joined by other MMC students, who are playfully called "adoptees" by their HEOP classmates.

"HEOP students have a tremendous positive impact on our campus community and climate," says President Kerry Walk. "They are academically successful individuals who are student leaders. The chance to share their life experiences with others and to belong to a tight, successful learning community helps to make HEOP students stronger, more self-confident adults."



MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED FROM HEOP AT MMC



THE HEOP CENTER SERVES AS A PLACE TO STUDY AND SOCIALIZE



MMC'S HOMECOMING WEEKEND FEATURES AN ANNUAL HEOP RECEPTION FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND ALUMNI



CLASS OF 2018 STUDENT SPEAKERS (LEFT TO RIGHT): TATIANA VALENCIA, CHRISTEL MITCHELL, AND KARLA CASTRO

## SUPPORTING HEOP INTO THE FUTURE

In 2018, a major gift from an anonymous donor allowed Rebecca Mattis-Pinard, the HEOP Director at the time and currently the Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at MMC, to establish a professional development fund for HEOP students. This support covers the costs of internships, conferences, workshops, graduate school preparation, and study abroad programs for HEOP students.

In the last decade, a total of just 11 HEOP students were able to study abroad, hindered by the high cost of participation; now, thanks to this generous gift, ten HEOP students participated in study abroad programs in the past semester alone. In January, five HEOP students took a 14-day travel course to study eco-tourism and sustainability in Costa Rica (see p. 14). Over spring break, two students participated in a study abroad trip to London and Paris as part of a course called *Global Fashion Business*, and two more students traveled to Puerto Rico for the College's Alternative Spring Break, an annual service learning and volunteer experience. And finally, one HEOP student spent the entire spring semester in Paris as part of her academic program in International Business and Marketing.

"Study abroad is extremely important for students to gain exposure and a broader life perspective," says Cross. "This gift has provided HEOP students with life-changing experiences."

The anonymous gift also enabled HEOP students to attend the annual Inclusive Leadership Conference at Temple University, in Philadelphia, in February. Students enhanced their leadership skills through presentations, workshops, dialogues, and panel discussions. They also met privately with Tiffany Tavares, a Bronx native who is now the Vice President of Community Relations at Wells Fargo. In April, Cross accompanied three HEOP honor students to the National Student Leadership Diversity Convention (NSLDC) in Chicago, where they learned to advocate on topics of social justice and diversity.

Finally, the gift has funded a series of on- and off-campus workshops for students to develop personal and professional skills, including a dining etiquette class for graduating seniors and a lesson on "dressing for success." Students have also been able to participate in a variety of guest speaker events, conferences and networking opportunities, and other high-impact experiences that expose them to the many career and life pathways available post-graduation.

A combination of winning factors makes HEOP at MMC so successful. "It's not just one thing that makes HEOP work so well here," says Mattis-Pinard. "These students are often seen as outsiders in higher education—the academically underserved, the financially underserved, people of color, the children of immigrants. At Marymount Manhattan, we've spent more than 50 years making sure they know they belong."

As a testament to the power of HEOP at MMC, the 2018 Senior Speakers at Commencement—Karla Castro, Christel Mitchell, and Tatiana Valencia—were all HEOP students. Their joint speech, presented in a slam poetry-style fashion, was inspirational and shed light on the transformative impact of education on their lives.

"I realized I was afraid of getting lost and never being able to get back on track, afraid of failing my family that had worked so hard to set up a foundation for me in a new country. But I realize that in getting lost, I've learned so much about the essence of who I truly am. So remember to have a plan, but realize that there's not only Plan A, but Plan B, Plan C, and plans for the whole alphabet. Chase your dreams; don't become so close-minded that you can only see one road. *Be willing to get lost.*"

—Karla Castro '18

"Four years ago I went through one of the hardest points in my life. I was discouraged, unmotivated, and tired. Tired of people not believing in me, tired of having to work harder to prove my worth as a woman of color. *I was tired of seeing trees grow on the east side of Brooklyn while dreams didn't.* A lack of encouragement from educators in my life and constant reminders throughout my neighborhood of my fate led me to believe that college would not be an option.... The day I received the congratulations letter—'you have been accepted into Marymount Manhattan College'—I cried tears of joy because my dream turned into a reality. And four years later here I am sharing my story with you."

—Christel Mitchell '18

"It's been a process for me, not an easy, one but one that has left me feeling whole and more curious about the world than I have ever been. Different life stages demand a different version of you—graduation is not the last stop because where there is an end, there is a new beginning."

—Tatiana Valencia '18

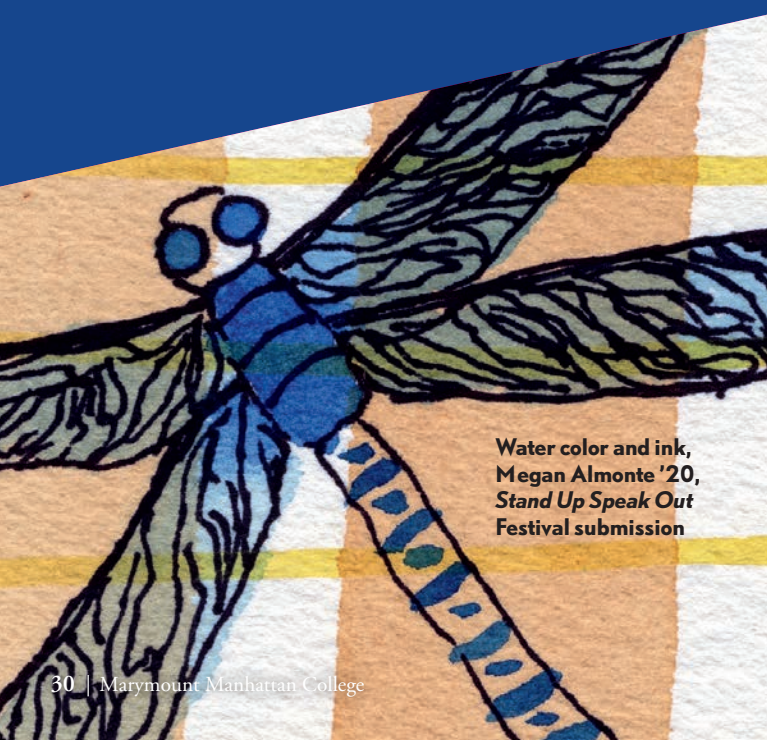
HEOP offers life-altering experiences to economically disadvantaged, highly deserving students, thanks to support from generous donors. To make your gift today, please visit [mmm.edu/donate](http://mmm.edu/donate).



Infamous Unit, MMC's activist dance team

## PREPARING

# CREATIVE CHANGEMAKERS



Water color and ink, Megan Almonte '20, Stand Up Speak Out Festival submission



NYC Seminar The Urban Ecosystem visits the Department of Environmental Protection

Over a hundred students, faculty, and staff gathered on the Lowerre Family Terrace one day last fall. Their goal? To raise awareness about environmental sustainability at MMC. The walkout was organized by SustainMMC, a student-led group that originated in *Social Movement*—a radically interdisciplinary course in which students not only studied ways of bringing about cultural and political transformation; they were also asked to create a social movement of their own (see spotlight right). SustainMMC embodies an important goal of an MMC education: to prepare students to become creative changemakers. In the words of President Kerry Walk, “Creative changemakers are individuals who have the motivation and know-how to effect positive change in communities around the globe through creative thinking and impactful action.”

## MOVEMENT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

SustainMMC joins a long list of student-led initiatives and organizations committed to driving change, both on campus and in the wider community. Infamous Unit, MMC’s wildly popular activist dance team, is one such organization. Founded by Emani De’Andre Mack ’20, a junior double-majoring in Dance and Digital Journalism, the group is dedicated to creative self-expression and social justice, and has been a major force in shaping campus climate for all students.

True to its mission, Infamous Unit is diverse in many dimensions—race/ethnicity, gender, academic major, and even level of dance technique. With rehearsals three nights a week and often multiple performances a month, membership is demanding. Yet Mack and his fellow team members have grown the group from seven students to 45 in just two years.

In a recent student-produced short documentary on the evolution of Infamous Unit, Mack says that while the team exists to give students opportunities to express themselves and “de-stress,” Infamous Unit is—at heart—dedicated to creative changemaking. “The motive,” Mack says, “is to set a new standard for diversity.”

Dani Cole ’19, a double major in Politics and Human Rights and Dance and an organizer of SustainMMC, expresses similar sentiments. Reflecting on her experience in *Social Movement*, Cole observes: “The course strengthened my dual artistic and activist voice, providing me with the theory, engagement, and practice vital to enacting thoughtful, empathetic change rooted in research and conversation.”

Mack, Cole, and campus leaders like them exemplify creative changemaking at its best. ➔



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Co-taught by faculty from very different academic disciplines—Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D., in International Studies and Catherine Cabeen, MFA, in Dance—the fall 2018 course *Social Movement* became a touchstone for courses at MMC, exemplifying the College’s multidisciplinary approach to a curriculum that not only crosses areas of study, but also blends creativity and community engagement into the classroom experience.

The course challenged students to explore pathways of problem-solving and societal transformation, and then to apply their new knowledge to urgent issues. Student groups coalesced around themes of destigmatizing mental health issues, subway accessibility for people with disabilities, reducing MMC’s environmental impact, and more.

“The most amazing part of the course,” Professor Cabeen observes, “was in the presentation of final projects. Students explained what they had researched and accomplished, but then took the extra step of saying what they were going to do next, beyond the class.”

One student group challenged NYC subway riders to evaluate the transit system’s lack of accessibility. In addition to developing a social media campaign using the handle @subway4everybody and creating a petition to raise awareness, the students took to the Fifth Avenue-Bryant Park subway entrance to stage a community protest.

The students who formed SustainMMC as part of their capstone project developed a proposal to reduce MMC’s own environmental impact, and successfully advocated for incorporating environmental sustainability into the College’s Strategic Plan. To learn more about the College’s ongoing sustainability efforts, visit [www.mmm.edu/sustainability](http://www.mmm.edu/sustainability).



# CITYEDGE: THE CITY AS OUR CAMPUS

*CityEdge* offers immersive educational and professional opportunities in New York City that provide students with the first-hand experience needed to excel as creative changemakers in a constantly evolving world. In addition to providing unique career development programs, *CityEdge* includes several academic components:

- **New York City Seminars** help first-year students acclimate to both the College environment and the larger New York City community, combining academic exploration of the City with interactive learning experiences and career advisement. Seminars include *Curating the City*, *New York's Literary Women*, *Urban Ecosystem*, *Spiritual New York*, and many more.
- **Signature *CityEdge* Courses** develop students' knowledge about their urban environment through experiential learning, and consistently engage students with industry professionals in the College's growing network, including entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, government officials, business executives, and successful creatives, such as writers, artists, directors, choreographers, and filmmakers.
- **Departmental Advisory Boards**, composed of accomplished alumni and professionals who are leaders in their respective fields, inform curricula with industry expertise. Advisory Board members share ideas with faculty, as well as cultivate networking and professional opportunities for students.

## COURSEWORK COME TO LIFE

A commitment to making an impact is integral to an MMC education. MMC faculty embrace a variety of experiential and immersive pedagogies to encourage students to apply their learning to urgent world challenges—wherever their interests and passions may take them.

Under the guidance of Erin Greenwell, MFA, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, students on MMC's main campus and in the College's prison education program at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women collaborate to write and produce short films around social justice themes. The films are screened at *Stand Up Speak Out*, a "turn and burn" film festival, where students' creative efforts become a part of cultural conversations about politics, identity, and social structures (read more on p. 16).

In her *Reading the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Sex and the City* honors course, Associate Professor of English and World Literatures Cecilia Feilla, Ph.D., challenges students to understand the multifaceted economic, political, and cultural legacy of a commodity many take for granted and consume every day—*coffee*. A component of the course is for students to work in teams to create an interactive "pop-up" exhibit that provokes visitors to become more informed about this commodity's complex history and more aware of its present-day social and political impacts.

Next year, in another groundbreaking team-taught course called *Photography and Social Engagement: A Path to Activism*, students will explore the intimate relationship between photographs and the fate of communities. The course combines theories in the fields of photography and sociology with training in the production of photographic essays. Using New York City as inspiration and backdrop, students will edit and sequence their own photographs to create cohesive visual essays that examine how storytelling can reinforce and/or challenge the social order, as well as the distribution of cultural, political, and economic resources in communities.

The College's Place-Based Learning Academy, established in summer 2018, is a faculty development program that supports the creation of new courses or the revision of existing courses that are rooted in the local environment to promote both student achievement and community vitality.

## AN ENDURING LEGACY

Regardless of major, students at MMC have abundant opportunities to take courses that pull down the traditional walls between college and community. Learning both in the classroom and outside of it, and from their professors as well as from each other, students experience change themselves and promote change in their communities.

By providing learning experiences that encourage students to drive societal change in innovative ways, MMC draws on its own rich history hearkening back to France in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when the College's founding religious order, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM), was established. The RSHM was born of a commitment to supporting and sheltering some of society's most marginalized people.

Exactly 170 years later, MMC carries on this mission by graduating students with the knowledge, skills, and creativity to make a positive impact in communities around the globe.



SustainMMC  
walkout on the  
Lowerre Family  
Terrace



Students in the *Reading NYC*  
seminar visit an exhibit at the  
Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens



Student-run coffeehouse pop-up exhibit



Freelance Article  
Writing class visits  
the Huffington Post  
headquarters



Students in *Chemistry  
and the Environment* take  
science into the streets



Directing Video students gain hands-on  
experience conducting and filming  
interviews in class

## SCREEN DAILY

### Yomeddine: Cannes Review

"Competing in Cannes, the film should be a solid festival traveler, benefiting from warm word-of-mouth. Plus, the rarity of a movie about leprosy starring a performer with the condition may further boost *Yomeddine's* visibility."



Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts Erin Greenwell, MFA, (pictured here) and alumna Christina Remley '17 were part of the post-production team for the film *Yomeddine*.

CREDIT: DESERT HIGHWAY PICTURES



Laura Tropp, Ph.D., Professor of Communication and Media Arts, joined the host of Wisconsin Public Radio's *The Morning Show* in September to explore the culture of pregnancy.

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In a 2018 article, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* named MMC's signature *CityEdge* initiative one of the "high-impact learning experiences" emerging at many small colleges. Characterized in the article by "immersive learning experiences like first-year seminars and undergraduate research; intensive, personalized academic advising; and internships and other real-world, off-campus opportunities," these programs represent a commitment to creating a "definitive student experience" from which all students can benefit.



COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA ARTS ALUMNA ALANA BATTALINO '18 WRITES FOR *REFINERY29*

### What It's Really Like To Be The First In Your Family To Get A Degree

"As the first in my family to attend college, it became my responsibility to teach what I could to my parents. After countless conversations at the kitchen table, things eventually did work out. I applied and got into my top choice [school], Marymount Manhattan College, where I decided to study communication. Four years later, I graduate[d] with that hard-earned degree. Reflecting back to the beginning of this journey, I'm starting to realize just how much I was shaped by this experience."

## Broadly.

### Hollywood's Depressing History of Putting Thin Women in Fat Suits

Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and author of *Revoltin' Bodies? The Struggle to Redefine Fat Identity*, tells *Broadly*, "Fat suits are generally not used to tell stories involving fat people living fulfilling, rich lives. In this way, their use perpetuates harmful and one-dimensional understandings of fatness."



Communication and Media Arts alumna Olivia Armstrong '14 is part of the creative team for *Westworld*, which won the **2018 Emmy for Outstanding Creative Achievement in Interactive Media within a Scripted Program**.



### Frontline to Homefront

Alumna Adrienne Brammer '16, Outreach Director of the NYC Veterans Alliance, was interviewed on the PBS Thirteen news show *MetroFocus* as part of its "Frontline to Home Front" series. A veteran, Brammer completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and later attended Marymount Manhattan College to study Theatre Arts.



"Gives you the satisfying rush of a good mystery or a crossword puzzle—in a way that's both invigorating and unsettling!"  
—Sara Holden

Adjunct Professor Deanna Twain served as Lead Producer of the Broadway play *The Lifespan of a Fact*, which received rave reviews.



### Orange Is the New Black season 6 "challenging" for Laverne Cox '91

"Laverne Cox, who plays Sophia Burset on Netflix's *Orange Is the New Black* says the much-anticipated sixth season of the prison-set series will offer some demanding scenes for her character.

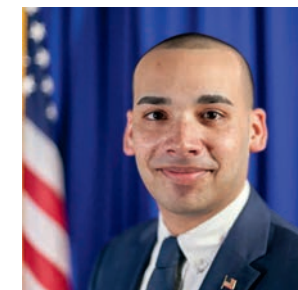
"I got some scripts that I really was so excited about, and some scenes that were really challenging for me and that made me just so happy to get to prepare," she says. "When I have the time and can make the time to really prepare as an actor, that is just the best thing in the world for me ... I've been with Sophia for a very long time, but when I just get to really prepare in various ways ... I really, really love the process."



COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA ARTS STUDENT JACK IRVIN '21 WRITES FOR *ROLLING STONE*

### The Internet is a Pop Star's Game, and Slayyyter is Winning

"The rulebook for would-be pop stars has changed drastically over the last decade. As social media has largely replaced tabloids, new artists in search of a certain kind of fame have been forced to stir up their own controversy instead of relying on headlines or paparazzi photos to do the job for them. For Slayyyter, keeping fans on the hook is as easy as maintaining a playful online presence from the same St. Louis, Missouri home where she creates her hyper-real, tongue-in-cheek pop music."



International Studies alumnus Raghib Allie-Brennan '13 was elected State Representative in Connecticut's Second District.



### Allie-Brennan beats Duff in House District 2 race

"Democratic challenger Raghib Allie-Brennan upset Republican incumbent Will Duff in a rematch for the State House District 2 ... Allie-Brennan was tearful and hugged his supporters when he realized he had won. In a speech to supporters at Bethel Democratic Town Committee headquarters, he thanked those who knocked on doors and called voters throughout the campaign. 'I am honored by your support and I will always fight for you and the trust you have placed in me,' he said. 'Tonight, this victory is for all of us.'"



## MEET THE CLASS OF 2019 VALEDICTORIAN

### Rachel Nevins '19

A College Honors Program student since her first year at MMC, Rachel Nevins came to college determined to excel in academics, experience all that life in New York City had to offer, and still find time to travel.

A Speech-Language Pathology major, Nevins selected MMC because of the comprehensive curriculum and exceptional clinical opportunities available to undergraduates in the College's Ruth Smadbeck Communication and Learning Center. "I've been lucky enough to spend my senior year working at MMC's clinic," she says. "I see patients weekly and am responsible for every aspect of their speech therapy, from diagnostic evaluations to treatment, all while being mentored and guided by my supervisors. Working with patients has been incredibly rewarding, and I feel exceptionally well prepared for graduate school and my future career."

In addition, Nevins participates in an intensive modern dance training program at the Martha Graham School, often rising earlier than the sun to rehearse for several hours each morning before heading uptown for class at MMC. She also volunteers weekly to teach an after-school dance class to elementary students at P.S. 63 in the East Village.

Outside of her studies and training, Nevins is an avid adventure traveler. During her years at MMC, she has hiked through the Swiss and Austrian Alps; gone to the Arctic Circle to photograph the northern lights, ice-climb on a frozen waterfall cliff, and drive a dogsled; hiked into the canyons of Utah; lived in a van for a week while helping to build an off-grid house in the Canadian Rockies; helped out in mountain villages of Peru for a medical service trip; and visited Machu Picchu. After graduation, Nevins is headed to a remote forest on the Finland/Russia border to photograph bears in their natural habitat. She also has a summertime trip planned with her family to whitewater-raft in the Grand Canyon.

Nevins will begin a master's program in Speech-Language Pathology at Gallaudet University, in Washington, D.C., in September. She was awarded a graduate assistantship for the program, which provides her with a scholarship in exchange for conducting research with a faculty mentor. Her eventual goal is to become a certified speech pathologist and travel to countries that lack adequate healthcare resources, working to establish community-based self-sufficiency and to train others to provide sustainable services.

"The community at MMC has pushed me to follow my interests and broaden my knowledge," Nevins says. "I was inspired by the diverse and creative student body I was a part of and encouraged by my passionate professors, who have given us the knowledge, skills, and confidence to go out into the world."

### Kate Cheney '20

Having grown up in a small town in Texas, Kate Cheney had only been in New York City for 24 hours on a college visit before she decided MMC was where she belonged.



The junior Art History major, with a double minor in Business Management and Law and Ethics, is a member of MMC's College Honors Program and is a Distinguished Scholar.

In addition to her rigorous academic program, Cheney has also immersed herself in the City's professional development opportunities, interning at renowned auction house Bonhams for the past year. Formerly part of the operations team and now an administrator for the photographs

department, Cheney relishes the experience of working for one of the world's oldest and largest auctioneers of fine art and antiques.

"My experiences on the front line interacting with clients, as well as behind the scenes in operations, have given me a well-rounded understanding of the art market," she says. "I love the fast-paced environment and the vast exposure it provides."

In addition, Cheney is the recipient of the 2019 Sister Judith Savard Study Abroad Fellowship, which enables qualified Art or Art History majors to enrich their academic experiences by studying art abroad. With her fellowship, Cheney will travel to Cyprus to participate in an archaeological excavation this summer.

"I am so excited to participate in my first dig and will be forever grateful for the opportunities, such as this one, given to me by Marymount Manhattan."



### Quenton Ellis '19

As an incoming first-year student in fall 2015, Quenton Ellis knew he wanted to be a part of the

College's student-run Musical

Theatre Association (MTA). When he wasn't cast after his first audition, he found a different way to be involved—as a writer.

For five years, the Musical Theatre major had been writing his original work, *Evelyn*. Inspired by the iconic photo "The Most Beautiful Suicide," published in *The New York Times*, *Evelyn* follows the life of Evelyn McHale who tragically took her life by jumping off the Empire State Building in 1947. Both heart-wrenching and heartwarming, *Evelyn* touches upon themes of feminism, family, and sexuality, while carefully depicting mental illness in the 1940s.

During his first year at MMC, Ellis collaborated with the MTA to organize a festival of original works by students, including *Evelyn*. For his creative and logistical efforts, Ellis was recognized at MMC's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Awards ceremony in 2016, receiving the honors of "Distinguished Performing Arts Programming" for his play and "Outstanding New Member Award" from the MTA.

Since producing *Evelyn* in 2016, Ellis has music-directed *The Disney Dreamer's Cabaret* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, completed a second run of *Evelyn* in the spring of 2018, and established MMC's *Semester Kick-Off Cabaret* with co-collaborators Heather Bildman '18 and Rikki Ziegelman '18.

"MTA will always be a home for me, and I am immensely grateful to the organization for providing a safe, inclusive space for young artists to shine while creating work that matters."



### Julia Furnari '20

For junior Biology major and Business Management minor Julia Furnari, a love for science and a commitment to community outreach go hand-in-hand.

After receiving a conference travel award last spring, Furnari journeyed to San Diego, California, with five fellow MMC students to present at the Experimental Biology Research Symposium, during which she also presented in the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Undergraduate Research Poster competition.

As President of MMC's Science Society, Furnari was instrumental in writing the proposal for an ASBMB outreach grant, which resulted in a \$500 award to conduct public outreach activities last semester. The Science Society was then able to purchase two breast models with interchangeable nodules that were used to educate the school community on breast cancer and to teach self-breast exams to students, faculty, and staff.

In addition, Furnari is Senator for Service and Sustainability in MMC's Student Government Association. Focused on

obtaining better recycling signage for on-campus trash bins, Furnari explains, "Students should know about and be proud of all the green practices our school partakes in." She is also a member of the Environmental Sustainability team tasked with achieving the College's sustainability goals.

A member of the ASBMB Chi Omega Lambda Honor Society, Furnari is a recruiting assistant for the Department of Natural Sciences, where she updates the department's marketing literature and interacts with prospective students interested in MMC science programs.

"The best part of my job is sharing my MMC story with other students and explaining how much the department has helped me," she says. "I often get to sit face-to-face with prospective students during campus tours, classroom observations, and lunch visits to help guide them in choosing the right college."

## Kathryn Grubb '19

"My semester abroad in Seoul, South Korea, is one of the most exciting, treasured experiences of my life," says Marymount Manhattan senior **Kathryn Grubb**.



In the spring of 2017, the Marketing major and Asian Studies minor attended Yonsei University through a program offered by the Council on International Educational Exchange. In addition to taking classes in communication, politics, and more, Grubb describes every day as a cultural learning experience.

"I had the opportunity to visit ancient temples, explore a nearly deserted island, and gain a broader understanding of the world and the diverse people living in it," she says.

Like most students studying abroad, Grubb also seized the opportunity to learn a new language. She says, "I never thought I would feel so proud and excited to order a cup of coffee by myself!"



## Lily Rasmussen '22

Theatre Performance major **Lily Rasmussen** has had a breakout first year of college. In summer 2018, Rasmussen was selected as one of just forty students nationwide to participate in The Songbook Academy, a highly selective summer music intensive for young singers interested in the American Songbook.

Then, selected as the winner of the competitive summer program, Rasmussen was designated the Songbook Youth Ambassador. This major honor offers the opportunity to perform with legendary entertainer Michael Feinstein, Founder of the Great American Songbook Foundation and five-time Grammy Award nominee, as well as to represent the Songbook Foundation and perform at a variety of renowned venues throughout the year-long appointment.

"Getting to sing alongside and learn from the master of this genre, Michael Feinstein, is simply the chance of a lifetime," Rasmussen says. "The greatest part of my job as Youth Ambassador is that I get to be an advocate for this music, share it with the new generation of musicians, and ensure that America's musical legacy carries on through the years."

In addition to her Songbook performances, Rasmussen held a role in MMC's production of *Oh, What A Lovely War!* at the York Theatre this spring.

## Malachi Rosen '20

As a first-year student in the fall of 2016, **Malachi Rosen** was excited to be pursuing a BFA in MMC's competitive Acting program, but he felt a nagging nostalgia for his high school *a cappella* group and the fun he always had performing.

"It was then that I decided to start a new campus *a cappella* group, called *On a Side Note*. Our group came together quickly and now includes 18 members," Rosen says.

Today, *On a Side Note* has an established reputation on campus. The group has organized numerous concerts, performed at signature campus events, including the annual Apple Fest and {ME} LANIN FEST, and also spearheaded and performed in a collaborative concert with Hunter College's Hawkappella group.

Recognizing that singing groups—quite literally—depend upon harmony, Rosen is quick to share credit for *On a Side Note*'s success. He says, "I am forever grateful for the help and support of my friends, fellow group officers, and group members. I am thrilled to have created a small *a cappella* family here at MMC and am excited for all our future accomplishments."



## Sabrina Sooknanan '19

As a first-year student, **Sabrina Sooknanan**, a Business and Philosophy & Religious Studies double-major, was involved in a wide variety of extracurriculars. She became an Emerging Leader and also founded and ran a club on campus called Fresh U Marymount, which produced a publication of original content for MMC first-years, by MMC first-years, and aimed to make the transition from high school to college in the "big city" a little easier.

After two years of running a successful publication and gaining management experience, Sooknanan decided to transform the original club into a new, more personal endeavor: *Blended Magazine*.

By the spring of 2018, Sooknanan launched *Blended* from a student organization into a full-blown startup media company, with the help of Patrick Reynolds '20 and Sarah Laberge '20, who had been involved during the early stages of the club.

From hosting events to creating original digital content, *Blended* does it all. The company has creative freedom at its core and is dedicated to showcasing and promoting a mix of music, art, culture, and fashion in a variety of media.

"In the short time since our platform launched, *Blended* has worked with an abundance of rising musicians, local artists, fashion brands, and art collectives to produce both digital content and events in New York City," she says. "Our focus as a media company is to shed light on the growing creative world and to serve as a platform for up-and-coming or rising artists."



## Matthew Straub '19



After his grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, **Matthew Straub** wanted to find a way to express the range of emotions, stress, and confusion that come with having a family member struggle with the disease.

An Interdisciplinary Studies major with a focus in Critical Sound Design, he developed an exquisite audio installation called *remember*. Straub recorded dozens of hours of questions that family members asked his grandmother and, combined with ambient recordings of elder care facilities and musical elements, created an abstract simulation of dementia that immerses participants in a forgetful world.

"This piece serves as a simulation of what it is like to suffer from dementia, but also poses the question of how we should care for and converse with those who suffer from different types of dementia," Straub explains.

Upon his fall graduation, Matthew joined the Mac IT Department at MMC as a Mac/Multimedia Technician.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Homecoming 2019

MMC's 2019 Family, Friends, and Alumni weekend will be **Friday, October 18 through Sunday, October 20.**

**We hope to see you there!**

**ALUMNI  
PROFILES**

**Lorraine Abruzzese Liscio '68**

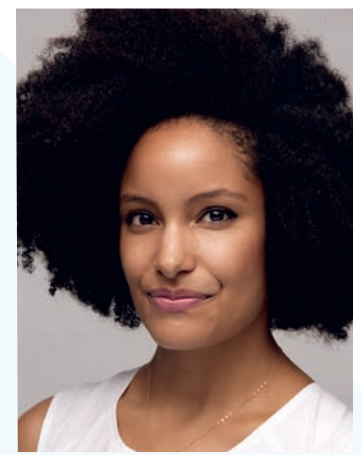
Fifty years after graduating from Marymount Manhattan, alumna Lorraine Liscio has retired from a career in academia but hasn't even begun to slow down.

A French major with an Education minor, Liscio began teaching high school French and Latin in Cazenovia, New York, after graduation. She later earned an MA in French at the University of Vermont and a Ph.D. in English at Boston College, where she taught as an adjunct professor in the English department and directed the Women's Studies program.

Today, Liscio's talents are channeled into her career as a writer. Her historical biography, *Paris and Her Remarkable Women*, traces sixteen exceptional women—from Camille Claudel to Coco Chanel—whose lives intersected with Paris from the Middle Ages through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

One of these intriguing women—French 18<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher and physicist Emilie du Châtelet—became the inspiration for Liscio's recent play, *Moving Bodies*. Produced at the Theater for a New City in New York City in fall 2018, Liscio's play explores du Châtelet's relationship with French Enlightenment writer, historian, and philosopher Voltaire, as the two were paired in both romantic and intellectual pursuits.

While working on *Moving Bodies*, Liscio turned to her MMC roots and reached out to Professor of Theatre Arts David Mold, MFA, who helped her secure the assistance of other Marymount Manhattan alumni for the production. Kristen Delahanty '18 became stage manager for the show, and Abigail Grubb '18 provided publicity support. Additionally, alumnus David Beck '04 was a cast member in the show.



**Kiley Reid '10**

When Kiley Reid began her college journey at a large state school in a smaller city in Arizona, she realized that she hadn't really found the right fit. After transferring, she discovered what she was looking for—a close-knit college community in one of the world's most vibrant cities—right here at Marymount Manhattan.

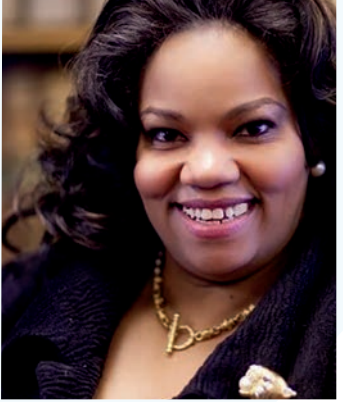
Reid earned her BFA in Acting, along with a minor in Religious Studies, in 2010. Today, she is enrolled in the MFA creative writing program at the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she also teaches an undergraduate course in creative writing with a focus on race and class.

**"My writing comprises a good amount of dialogue, and this was definitely informed by studying play scripts and religious texts side-by-side at MMC,"** says Reid. **"Several teachers left a lasting impression, especially Barbara Adrian, Richard Niles, David Mold, John Basil, Kevin Connell, and Brad Herling."**

Reid will graduate with her MFA in May of this year. Her debut novel, *Such A Fun Age*, was acquired by Putnam, an imprint of Penguin, and is slated for publication in 2020. Film rights to the novel were acquired by Lena Waithe's Hillman Grad Production and Sight Unseen.

**Debra Ann  
Byrd '01**

Debra Ann Byrd knew exactly what she was looking for when she began her search for a college: a "school of excellence," at which she could study Shakespeare.



**"I saw an ad on a bus in the city that read, 'Marymount Manhattan College Theatre Program, at the center of excellence,'"** Byrd recalls. **"I said 'Great, that's where I want to be!' So I enrolled. Excellence is what I was promised at MMC, and excellence is what I received."**

A fifth-generation Harlem resident, Byrd earned her MMC degree in Acting with a minor in Musical Theatre. She founded Take Wing and Soar Productions, Inc. in 1999, as well as the Harlem Shakespeare Festival, which brings Shakespeare scripts alive through plays, master classes, panel discussions, Shakespeare4Kids, and more.

In the span of just one year, Byrd has been named Writer-in-Residence at The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, UK; the 2018-19 Artist-in-Residence at the Southwest Shakespeare Company in Arizona; a 2018-19 Folger Shakespeare Fellow and Artist-in-Residence at The Folger Institute in Washington, D.C; and one of five fellows chosen for Cohort VI in Columbia University's Community Scholars Program.

Byrd will again play the title role of *Othello*—traditionally a role for male actors—in an eight-character, all-female, 90-minute production with the Southwest Shakespeare Company. She is also developing and producing *Becoming Othello: A Black Girl's Journey*, an exploration of her experience taking on the role of Othello, which will consist of a memoir, a published script, and a one-woman touring show.



**Will Fischer '11**

For Will Fischer, access to exciting internship opportunities in New York City was a deciding factor for enrolling at MMC. With help from Adrienne Bell, Ph.D., Professor of Art History, the double-major in Graphic Design and Communication Arts secured an internship during his senior year at the renowned auction house Christie's. **"My story is a prime example of how an internship can lead to a career,"** he says. **"I started interning at Christie's...in the proposals department to gain experience in the graphic design field."**

Fischer was then offered a full time role in the company's digital media department after graduation. Since 2011, Fischer has worked within a number of different departments, leading him to his current role as a product owner, responsible for creating, maintaining, and improving the digital experience for both internal and external clients. "These experiences led me to realize my career goals have changed and allowed me to change my focus to where I am now as a product owner," he explains. "I am able to adapt the skills I developed during both my time at Marymount Manhattan and throughout my career at Christie's to make me successful and give me a unique perspective in this role."

Fischer currently resides in New Jersey with his wife and fellow alum, Gabriella Calabro Fischer '11. They welcomed their first child in October 2018.

**Patricia "Pat" Reilly Giff '56**

An accomplished children's author whose books have been translated into eight languages, Pat Reilly Giff loves what she does, even after forty years of experience and close to a hundred titles published.

Later this year, Holiday House will release Reilly Giff's latest book, *A Slip of a Girl*. The story is set in Ireland in 1881 and has a distinct Marymount Manhattan connection.

**"In *A Slip of a Girl*, I acknowledged Dr. John Mullee, the history professor at MMC who made me fall in love with history, made me think of history as story,"** says Reilly Giff. **"He had an enormous influence on my life, and always when I'm writing historical fiction, I think of him."**

Reilly Giff also ran a children's bookstore for 26 years in Connecticut, at which she taught writing courses. In 2016, her son Jim—who was the heart of the bookstore—passed away suddenly, and she decided to close the shop. However, Reilly Giff still keeps in touch with many of the talented writers she taught there: Tony Abbott, who is a current Edgar Award nominee; Susan Hood, who just won the Golden Kite Award; and Rose Kent, whose writing Reilly Giff deeply admires.

Reilly Giff is the recipient of two Newbery Honors for *Lily's Crossing* and *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, as well as the Christopher Award for *Genevieve's War*. She lives in Trumbull, Connecticut, and encourages current students to "love what you're doing, read, and be grateful for that wonderful MMC!"





### David Joseph Craig '04

When David Joseph Craig entered the Theatre Arts program at Marymount Manhattan, he was a different person from who he is today.

"I was very timid and meek," says Craig. "My first true experience of 'letting go' was in [Professor of Theatre Arts] Barbara Adrian's movement class, which not only helped me to feel comfortable in my body, but also to see outside the bubble that was created for me prior to entering college."

For a long time, Craig believed that acting would be his only path to success in the industry; however, his knack for diving in and exploring the unknown has opened more doors than he ever could have imagined.

**"MMC taught me that an arts career didn't have to be just one thing—you could create your own unique experience, one that quite possibly had not been cultivated yet,"** Craig explains. **"I never expected to add 'producer' or 'director' to my title, but I feel confident that my time at MMC led me in that direction."**

After on-screen roles in movies such as *Permission* and *The Gift*, Craig recently co-produced and had a supporting role in Focus Feature's *Boy Erased*, the emotional drama based on author Garrard Conley's book of the same name and starring Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, and Lucas Hedges. Craig then also created and produced the *UnErased* podcast alongside Conley and *Radiolab*'s Jad Abumrad, exploring the dark history of gay conversion therapy in America.

Back and forth between Los Angeles and Brooklyn, Craig is currently working on his feature directorial debut.



### Jason Bowman '99

Jason Bowman knows a thing or two about adapting to change. As a first-year student at Marymount Manhattan, Bowman had declared himself a BFA Acting major and planned a future in the theatre industry. However, he ended up on an entirely different academic path.

In his sophomore year, he took a human rights and economics class taught by International Studies professor Radhika Balakrishnan that completely changed his perspective on social justice issues and working to improve the lives of others. Her class so profoundly moved him that he changed his major and academic trajectory, graduating with a degree—and a Gold Key—in Sociology and a minor in Theatre Arts.

Today, Bowman is the founder and director of the Fountain House College Re-Entry Program, which helps college students who withdraw from their studies due to mental health challenges to return to school and successfully reach their educational goals.

**"I didn't know that mental health was going to be my cause, but I threw myself into the field because the people were passionate and the fight for awareness and equity was real,"** says Bowman.

Prior to founding the College Re-Entry Program, Bowman was director of Fountain House Gallery, expanding it from a small volunteer program into the premier venue in New York City representing artists with mental illness.

During that time, Bowman received his master's degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and also co-founded Swish, an organization that engages straight allies in the fight for LGBT equality. In 2015, when marriage equality became law across the United States, he married his partner, Christopher.



### Emily Kincaid '07

While many of us were binge-watching hours of Netflix on our couches, Emily Kincaid '07 was hard at work creating content for the massive international streaming service.

A former Communication Arts major at MMC, Kincaid is now the producer of *Abducted in Plain Sight*, a true-crime documentary that premiered on Netflix in January 2019.

Before moving to Netflix, *Abducted in Plain Sight* traveled the film festival circuit, winning a total of 11 awards, including several for "Best Documentary Feature Film." The documentary—written, produced, and directed by an all-female team—tells the dark and disturbing story of a young girl who was kidnapped twice by the same man in the 1970s. *Abducted in Plain Sight* is currently available to be streamed in 190 countries on Netflix.

As someone with myriad interests, Kincaid was served well by MMC's approach to developing intellectually curious students. **"Marymount Manhattan was such an inviting school,"** she remembers. **"I felt free to explore who I was and all of the different paths I was interested in pursuing for my career. In the same week, I'd be rehearsing for a role in *The Vagina Monologues* and then strategizing with members of The Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society [for Communication majors], for which I served as head of Public Relations."**

Kincaid, currently a resident of Los Angeles, is a full-time producer and actress, and also works as a freelance consultant helping businesses strategize growth through innovative branding and marketing techniques.

## THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Alumni of Marymount Manhattan remain deeply connected to the College they love and call home, and many demonstrate that connection by giving back to ensure that the next generation of MMC students have the same positive experience.

The College is especially grateful to the loyal donors who give consecutively, year after year. These generous individuals understand that consecutive annual investments, no matter the size, transform our students' lives.

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



**Barbara Lynch Loughlin '70,**  
**MMC Board of Trustees Member**  
**Major: Government**  
**Minor(s): Early Childhood and Elementary Education**  
**Consecutive Donor: 23 years**

*"Contributing to educational causes has always been important to me, but helping others attain a Marymount Manhattan education like the one that has shaped my life is even closer to my heart. An MMC diploma is an investment in a student's future. By giving back, we are protecting this investment and sustaining the College's reputation as a community of creative and intellectually curious students. Education is important. Donating to education is critical. It is our future."*



**Susan McKeon '66**  
**Major: History**  
**Consecutive Donor: 21 years**

*"I am a big believer in paying it forward. One of the things I found astounding as a student was that perfect strangers donated to my education at Marymount Manhattan. Though it was so many years ago, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship, and now I give back because I would like to do the same for another MMC student in need."*

## CLASS NOTES

The *MMC Magazine* staff compiles the Class Notes column from online and mail submissions from alumni. This edition of Class Notes contains information processed by March 11, 2019. To submit a note for the next issue, please visit [www.mmm.edu/class-note](http://www.mmm.edu/class-note) or email us at [classnotes@mmm.edu](mailto:classnotes@mmm.edu).

### JOAN BRAKMAN '53 (ON BEHALF OF THE CLASS OF 1953)

is proud to have celebrated the momentous occasion of her 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion among four other members of the class last spring: Evelyn Bonanno, Helen Calderone (who flew up to New York for the occasion), Margaret Reilly (who is a first-grade classmate of hers, in addition to a fellow MMC alumna!), and Christine Russo. Although the group was small, it was a memorable weekend for the Class of 1953. Christine Russo was awarded the Mother Butler Gold Cross award and, cumulatively, the class gave the second highest reunion gift across the year's honored classes.

### PATRICIA STRYKER '57

retired from her role as Recording Secretary of Teamsters Local 237 on March 31, 2018—her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday and a day officially declared "Patricia Stryker Day" by mayoral proclamation! She graduated from Bank Street College of Education in 1971 and served as a devoted educator in the NYC public school system for 17 years, before transitioning her career to focus on union work, advocating for thousands of NYC employees and teachers over the years. She was active in the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), served as Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education for three years, and joined Teamsters Local 237 in 1990, where she worked until her retirement.



### ▲ MARY NORTON '58

(right) enjoyed a reunion on Anna Maria Island on the gulf coast of Florida with her sister Helen Norton White '61 and Ann Mullin '58. The three alumnae enjoyed lunch, sun, and friendship. Ann lives in Florida year-round while Mary and Helen are snowbirds.

### JULIANNE THOMPSON GRACE '59

was elected to the Board of Directors of the Naples Historical Society in Naples, Florida.

### PATRICIA MARSHALL LORENZ '59

regrets to report that her beloved husband, Donald, passed away at the age of 80 on October 7, 2017. A wonderful husband and father, he made his career as a chemist and, after retirement, was active in volunteer work and many church ministries.

### GERRIE MARSAR CHECKON '60

moved from Washington, D.C., to a senior community in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, in May 2018. Not only is she now closer to her children, she is also only blocks away from museums and symphony and opera venues, and she has become a "silver frog" at Texas Christian University's

continuing education program. She would love for fellow classmates to contact her at [gcheckon@gmail.com](mailto:gcheckon@gmail.com).

### JUDITH SHEA KENNEDY '61

has been retired for 19 years after a 37-year teaching career. She still lives in her home of 42 years in St. Pete Beach, Florida, where she enjoys visits with her daughter, Jill, and grandchildren Katie and Sean.

### MARY HEHIR O'DONNELL '61

is chairing a Climate Smart Task Force in Saugerties, New York. The goal of the task force is to identify ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve certification as a NYS Climate Smart Community for the Town of Saugerties.



### ▲ VERONIKA KURIA CRANE '64

celebrated her 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with her husband, Dr. Gilbert Sward, on January 27, 2019, at Alfio's Restaurant in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

### VERONICA HYNES QUINN '64

celebrated her golden wedding anniversary with her husband, Ed, on September

28, 2018. She is also pleased to announce that her third grandchild, Hailey Theresa Quinn, was born on June 2, 2018, joining brothers Brody Edward and Logan Brian.

### DIANE ASCIONE HOROWITZ '65

is excited to return to her old neighborhood with her partner, Joe Wojak. After missing living in New York City, the two decided to rent an apartment on West 62<sup>nd</sup> Street for a month in the fall.

### CATHERINE ROACH LEIBOWITZ '65

retired in November 2017 after working for over 50 years with people with various learning challenges as a teacher, vocational counselor, court monitor, and advocate. She now enjoys the ability to be physically active, which led to her involvement in environmental activities in Cunningham Park in Queens.

### ALICE O'HARA McCARTER '65

fully retired from New Communities Services, Inc. in December 2018. She lives near her daughters and son in Charlotte, North Carolina, and continues to develop her interests in opera and classical music. She and her son, Tom, will visit Ireland in May—a dream trip come true.

### MARY ANN BRADLEY MOONEY '65

became a grandmother to her second grandchild, Quinn Michael Mooney, on December 1, 2017. He joins



her granddaughter, Kara Jade, who was born on March 29, 2015.

### IRENE SCHERY FISCHER '66

celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with her husband, Larry, on August 18, 2018. The couple resides in Venice, Florida, and has three grown children and three grandchildren ages five, three, and five months.



### ▲ BARBARA CASOLARRO SHIELDS '66

is proud of her daughter Cristiana Shields Ferazzoli '08, who received the Young Alumni Award at her 10<sup>th</sup> MMC Reunion in spring 2018. Cristiana has since given birth to her first child, Juliana Marie, born this January in New York.

### MARIE MAGGIO CONNELLY '67

recently had a mini-reunion with classmates Liz Hannigan Brazaitis '67, Ginny Grace Monaghan '67, and Betti Lazarich Rossano '67 in South Florida.

### MARILYNN FREUND HAKALA '68

is proud of her son, John C. Hakala, who was awarded his Ph.D. in Physics from Brown University.

### KATHLEEN MEEHAN '68

is still enjoying the wonderful memories from her 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion last spring. She currently resides in Quincy, Massachusetts.

### FRAN CASSARA RAJOTTE '68

married Dr. John Myers on February 16, 2016, at Saint Henry Catholic Church in Nashville, Tennessee. The couple currently resides in Nashville and is involved in a variety of ministries and social justice issues. The couple has four children and eight grandchildren.

### JEANNE MCGOVERN RYNIKER '68

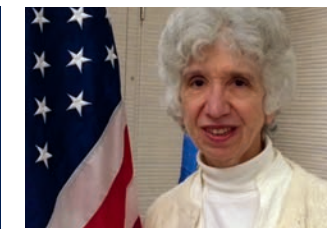
had a wonderful time at her 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion in spring 2018 and is proud of her fellow classmates' accomplishments.

### MARY JANE GIULIANO LEE '69

is excited to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion with fellow classmates this May. She is also delighted to announce that her first granddaughter, Kate Josephine, was born on September 9, 2018, joining big brother Tolan (children of Lee's son Chris and his wife Christie). Lee's daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Dave, also have two sons, James and Stephen. Everyone lives nearby, making it easy to get together and attend school and sports events. Lee spends the winter months in Naples, Florida, and would love to hear from any fellow MMC grads in the area.

### MARY CORDATO '71

remains busy in her "so-called" retirement and serves as the President of the New York Department of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a voluntary organization



for those who are direct lineal descendants of Union soldiers.

### ▼ MARIA VILLARS KENNY '71

completed her second solo cross-country trip in fall 2018. Totalling over 13,000 miles in her car, she traveled from North Carolina to Illinois, westward through Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington. After visiting her son in Seattle, she drove through California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Arkansas, Tennessee, and ended back at her home in North Carolina. For those who have not made the trip to the west coast, she highly recommends the fabulous experience of taking in the gorgeous landscape.



### LESLIE CORMIER, Ph.D. '73

published *Copley Square: History Through Architecture* with The History Press in 2018 and, in March, held a discussion on the book at the Central Library in Copley Square, exploring the history and architecture of one of Boston's most instantly recognizable public locations. Previously a faculty member of Harvard University Extension and Radcliffe Seminars, Cormier is currently affiliated with the Boston Architectural College. She received her doctorate from Brown University as a Kress Fellow and is the author

of a book on the early modern era in American architecture, as well as many articles on modern architecture and urban design in architectural encyclopedias.

### PATRICIA TOOMEY TWEEDY '74

enjoys reconnecting with her fellow alumnae, Connie Gallagher '74 and Doreen McDonough '74, at MMC's Book Club discussions throughout the year.

### JANET L. DE CASTRO '77

published *Lost Girl Missing*—an adventure and magical realism "tween" read—in 2018.



### MICHAEL REDMOND '77

was selected as the keynote speaker for the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) Australasia Summit in Sydney, Australia, in July 2018, where she presented "Resiliency - Risk and Impacts Are Different Today". Her book, *Mastering Your Work Life Balance*, was published by Booklocker Publishing in 2018.

### JOAN MISCIAGNA VECSEY '77

is a retired "empty nester" living on a small horse farm on eastern Long Island with her husband. She is proud of both of her children—a daughter who works as a news reporter and a son who is a stand-up comedian and comedy writer. The couple is active in animal rescue and has four dogs, seven cats, and one Welsh pony.

## CLASS NOTES

### AMIRA MAKHLOUF '78

resides in Cairo, Egypt, where she uses her experience in psychology and education to train and counsel families and young people who have been uprooted and relocated in the turbulence in the Middle East. She is the mother of two adult daughters who live in Dublin and the grandmother of two lovely grandchildren.

### YVONNE MARTINEZ WARD, Ph.D. '78

attended Fordham University for both her master's and doctorate degrees with the help of a full Presidential



White House Graduate Scholarship from then-president Jimmy Carter. After completing her studies, she worked for City College of New York

as the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Testing. Currently, she is a tenured faculty member of 25 years at St. Lucy School in the Bronx, where she is the art teacher for K-8 students, Director of the SLS Fine Arts Program, Director and Founder of the SLS Drama Ensemble, Director of the SLS Children's Choir, and Curator for the annual SLS student art exhibits. Outside of work, she is a professional multimedia artist and mother to her 25-year-old son who is attending Fairfield University. On June 23, 2018, she was honored at Fordham University's Latina 50Plus Conference as Educator of the Year.

### AVIA KINARD WISE '78

is proud of her granddaughter, who graduated as the salutatorian of her high school class and will be attending Yale University in the fall. Avia and her husband, Ron, continue to travel and enjoy the company of friends and family.

### GLORIA COHEN '79

recently moved to Vence, which is in the beautiful Provence region of France, and would love for fellow Griffins to visit if they find themselves in this special area.

### DEBORAH SAVARINO '80

is grateful and considers herself blessed and lucky to have had a meaningful career in teaching. She just retired after close to four decades of work in the field of special education, both at Edward R. Murrow High School in New York City and Bedford High School (BHS) in Massachusetts. At BHS, her wonderful students threw her an incredible surprise retirement party. She is tutoring and teaching some professional development courses for teachers and remains in touch with many graduates through their college years and beyond.

### JOAN RAMIREZ '82

published a children's book, *Jamie is Autistic*, which is now available on Amazon and Audible, as well as the motivational book *Let It Go, Let It Flow Leadership* to empower readers to improve leadership skills. In addition, her novel *Secret Desires* is up for a Readers' Choice Award in Romance.

### KATHLEEN O'HARE MURPHY '83

recently moved with her partner from Scottsdale, Arizona, to Vancouver, Washington, where they are loving living closer to family.

### NIEVES COUCEIRO '85

retired after working in foster care for The New York Foundling for nearly 10 years. She keeps busy by dog walking, aiding senior disabled neighbors, and writing on academic subjects and short stories. She also attends book clubs, the Albertine presentations and museum exhibits, and MMC theatre performances, and enjoys swimming. She remains at the same address she held during her time at the College and enjoys her friends and long-time neighbors.

### JACQUELINE "HOLLEY" JOHNSON '86

graduated *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans in 2015 and was inducted into the Honor Society of Nursing. She was a contributor to *The Write Treatment Anthology Volume I: 2011-2016*, a collection of literature written by cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers who have participated in the Write Treatment Workshops at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York.

### SHARON THOMAS LETALON '86

is the Head of Development for start-up tech company *SkillSignal*, which focuses on safety and compliance in the construction industry

and offers compliance management software tools for contractors. Their app is now available in the App Store and on Google Play.



### KATHY PERSICO WILSON '87

was selected to read from her memoir, *Out of the Rabbit Hole*, for the Dramatist's Guild Foundation to commemorate Women's Month in March. To make the evening even more special, her daughter Christina was also selected to read her own *Chest Confessions*, a brave story about her misdiagnosis and survival of breast cancer at age 32. Some of the proceeds from *Chest Confessions* are being used to build a mentor program for young women in need of support and information on breast cancer.

### ULLA PASANEN OKOS '88

received her master's degree from CUNY and has been working on her dissertation. She is forever grateful for the support of the late MMC professor Dr. Gurcharan Singh. She currently works as a flight attendant with Delta Airlines.

### ANNA PALUMBO FAZIO '89

has enjoyed 21 years working in the Yorktown Central Schools. She is proud to have presented various STEM activities and workshops at National Science Teachers

Association conferences, and this summer, she will be presenting *Activating Creativity in Primary Aged Students Using STEM Learning* at Alfred State University.

### GINA SAFADI '89

is back in the United States after a 14-year dance career in Ecuador, where she directed her own dance academy (Latin Dance Center) and represented the country in various international festivals and congresses. She currently works at Salsa With Silvia in Washington, D.C., as a program director, producer, and instructor.



### JULIA PORTELA FELICIANO '91

has worked at the Department of Defense's Ramey Unit School in Puerto Rico for the past 20 years. She currently teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Arts (ELA).

### LORI JONES '92

has returned to New York after raising her two sons in Jacksonville, Florida. She is pursuing her love of writing and hopes to someday complete an MFA in Creative Writing.

### BETSY DURKIN OSTBERG MATTHES '96

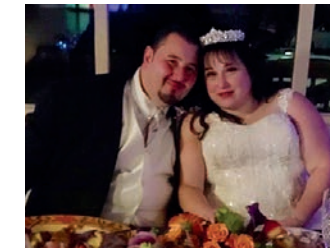
was invited to be a member of the Hospitality Committee for United Nations Delegations (HCUND) in June 2018. HCUND is devoted to promoting international understanding and friendship by assisting families of newly arrived delegates to the city,

and although the work is difficult, it is very rewarding. On December 10, 2018, she became a grandmother for the first time. Her grandson Ian Charleton Rutter Matthes was the miracle her daughter Rebecca, a cancer survivor, had prayed for.



### GEORGE SIROIS '98

and Cheryl Sirois announce the birth of Scarlett Grace Sirois, who was born 11 weeks early on November 6, 2017. George also published *Ever Upward: Part Two in the Excelsior Journey* with Aelurus Publishing in 2018.



### HEATHER CIESLINSKI CROGNALE '00

married Dante Crognale on November 11, 2018, at the Chalet on The Hudson in Cold Springs, New York. The wedding was attended by Paul Fiteni '99. Heather and Dante currently reside in Yonkers.

### JENNIFER ABAD '01

is the Owner and Creative Director of Beyond Dance Center for the Performing Arts in Brooklyn, New York, and is celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> year as a studio owner. Several MMC alumni are on the faculty at Beyond Dance. Jennifer, as well as her faculty and staff, would love to welcome more alumni to Beyond Dance!

### DAVID CASTILLO III '01

is the Digital Director of the Hispanic Federation, a Latino civil rights organization based in New York City, where he manages the company's website and social media platforms and provides strategies for using digital tools to amplify the impact of their work. He is excited to be working for this important organization that aims to lift up and improve opportunities for Latinos from all walks of life.



their summer vacations cruising to tropical islands or hopping on amusement park rides. In her spare time, Sanchez is involved in church ministry as a lead worship singer.

### ROSALIE FINE '01

is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and a certified therapist in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy in private practice.

### SUSAN HARVEY '01

works in the health industry and was recently a case manager in social services for senior citizens. She enjoys keeping active and frequenting the gym.

### JULIA KHVASECHKO '01

completed her 200<sup>th</sup> marathon at the Yakima River Canyon Marathon in Washington. Her accomplishment was featured in an article in the area's local newspaper, *The Yakima Herald*, which detailed Khvasechko's amazing recovery after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 1997 at just 23 years old.

### ADRIANA SANCHEZ '02

has been teaching junior high literature and writing since her time at MMC and obtained her master's degree in English Education (grades 7-12) from Lehman College. She is the mother of an 8-year-old daughter, and the duo enjoys



### DR. MARISSA BARRERA '03

married Konstantinos Plytas of Athens, Greece, after the couple met while Barrera was teaching abroad. They celebrated with two ceremonies: one in Manhattan in June 2017 and a second in Athens, Greece, in October 2017. They welcomed a son, Marcus, in November 2018. In addition, Barrera serves as the Program Director of the Graduate Program in Medical Speech-Language Pathology at the Katz School for Health & Science, Yeshiva University.



### MARIE MUSCAT '03

and her husband, Neal, are proud to announce that their son, Donovan Muscat Aissa, was born in February 2018, joining his sister, Sephina Marie Muscat Aissa.



## CLASS NOTES

### JAKE WITLEN '03

spent five years as the Head of the Video Department at the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz in Berlin, where he created video designs with some of the top directors in Europe, including Thomas Ostermeier (*Professor Bernhardt*) and Romeo Castellucci (*Odipus der Tyrann*). *Professor Bernhardt* won the best theatre piece of the year (2016) in Germany, and subsequently toured Europe. Also with Ostermeier, Witlen developed *Returning to Reims*, which played last season at St. Ann's Warehouse and was invited to the Theatretreffen in Berlin. In September 2018, he transferred to the Komische Oper Berlin, where he continues to develop video work for opera with directors such as Robert Carsen and Barry Kosky. His essay "Space for Theatre" has been published by the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and he is a theatre critic for the *ExBerliner*.

### MAUREEN EHRLICH '05

works as an elementary speech language pathologist for the Klein Independent School District in Harris County, Texas.

### RUTH CALHOUN FACER '05

and Tom Facer welcomed Felix Paul Facer to the world on June 10, 2018.

### JESSICA HINDS '05

is creator of The Meditative Writing Method and founder of the school The Science and Art of Writing, where, combining her research in meditation,

neuroscience, and psychology with her experience as an award-winning screenwriter and playwright, she mentors emerging and professional writers in all formats. Current projects include a book *THE PROLIFIC WRITERS GUIDE: Before You Write*, and an upcoming series, *Slutty Rainbow Brite*.

### MARINA LANDMAN '05

is thrilled to celebrate her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday in March after being diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer in December 2017 and undergoing chemotherapy for the past year. She is thankful to all her family and friends who supported her during this time.

### CHRISTOPHER PERRÉ '07

was named to both the 2018 and 2019 *SuperLawyers Rising Stars* lists in the area of Labor & Employment. The *Rising Stars* list recognizes no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys in each state and candidates must be either 40 years old or younger, or in practice for 10 years or less. In addition, Chris joined the Miami office of Jackson Lewis PC in March 2018 and serves as the Legislative Affairs Director for the Board of Directors of the Greater Miami Society of Human Resource Management.

### CHRISTIAN IANNUCCI '08

serves as Founder and CEO of Doorbell Barbers, an on-demand, in-home, men's barber service based in Connecticut, which recently celebrated its 10,000<sup>th</sup> service. The company is preparing for regional expansion through franchising in 2019/2020.



### LAUREN MILLS '08

moved to southern California and owns a hot yoga and hot pilates studio in Coronado, California, called Hot + Soul Yoga Center. She leads retreats and often teaches at Rancho La Puerta, a luxury wellness resort in Tecate, Mexico.

### REGINA CAREY '09

retired from her career with New York City Health and Hospitals after 10 years of service. She resides in Brooklyn, New York.



### EUGENE FERTELMEYSTER '09

married Danielle Poole on November 17, 2018, at Blind Whino, an abandoned church reclaimed by graffiti artists and transformed into an art space, in the heart of Washington, D.C. Alumnus Jeff Hodder '07 was in attendance as a groomsman.



### HOLLY DOUGHERTY HESS '09

married Christian Hess '08 on February 25, 2018, at

the Cescaphe Ballroom in Philadelphia. Groomsmen included Adam Church Lizzoli '08. Guests of the bride and groom included Jason Buffer '08, Will Farrell '08, Hannah Huber Farrell '08, Jared Bardugone '08, and Christian Iannucci '08.

### ELEKTRA YAO '09

and Massimo Sciarra are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter, Maxime Lucia Elisa Sciarra. Additionally, Yao's law firm, The Law Office of Elektra B. Yao, which represents a wide variety of creative professionals, is celebrating its one-year anniversary.

### HOLLY JONES '12

was promoted to Associate Producer at The Yard, a contemporary artist residency and dance and performance center on Martha's Vineyard.



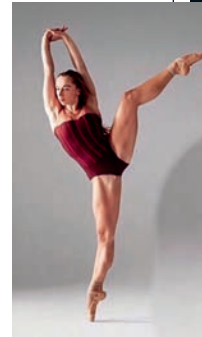
### RICHARD CORTES '13

now works as the Art Director for Amazon Live after transitioning from the art department of the *Rachael Ray Show*. Amazon Live displays and sells products to global customers through Amazon.com. In this role, he defines the set requirements while managing a team of designers to execute the production vision and partnering with key stakeholders to drive programming improvements through flexible design. He loves every second of his job and he "wouldn't be here if it weren't for Marymount

Manhattan." He currently resides in Newark, New Jersey, with his partner Harlam and their dog Charly.

### SHANNA IRWIN '14

has served as a company dancer with Complexions Contemporary Ballet since April 2014.



its world premiere at the Austin Film Festival.

### ALISHA RAJPAL '14

published her first novel *Has Everything Been Done?*, a collection of ten short fiction stories set in either New York

City or in her home city of Bombay (Mumbai), India. The book is available worldwide through Amazon and in select bookshops.

### JOE HETTERLY '15

finished teaching his first year at Purchase College, Conservatory of Theatre Arts as a Lecturer of Voice and Speech and is part of the Voice and Speech faculty at New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. He also works at Avalon Artists Group as the Senior Agency Assistant and is excited to announce that he was selected to serve as the Early Career Leadership Representative for the Voice and Speech Trainers Association for the 2018-2019 year. He recently published "The Current Use of Standard Dialects in Speech Practice and Pedagogy: A Mixed Method Study Examining the VASTA



### RACHEL KASOLD '14

(third from left) celebrated her bridal shower on June 30, 2018 with MMC alumnae including (from left to right) Emily Kay Shrader '14, Marisa Dunigan '15, Maricarmen Gonzales '14, Jenna Ventola '14, and Alicia Perez '16. She married Stephan Aguanno in November 2018.

### SARAH PETERSON '14

edited her first feature film, *Fathers of Football*. She attended the premiere screening in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in July of 2018. In October of the same year, the film had



Community in the United States" in *Voice and Speech Review* with MMC's Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, Melissa Toning-Kollwitz.

### KEVIN KEMLER '15

is pursuing his master's in Theatre at Hunter College, CUNY while continuing in his current position as MMC's Assistant Director of Fine and Performing Arts Admission.

### AMBER MORELAND '16

recently began her role as the Senior Administrative Coordinator to the Vice Provost of Diversity and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer at Johns Hopkins University. She also serves as the Assistant Director of the Baltimore County All-Honors Dance Ensemble and Dance Instructor at Baltimore DanceTech. She is currently pursuing her PMP Certification and MS in Project Management at Morgan State University.

### ESTÉE TANEL O'CONNOR '16

graduated with merit from the University of York, England, with her master's degree in History of British Art.



### ANIKA FERDOUSH '17

is the current Assistant Director of Annual Giving at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

### MAYA KATES '17

recently adapted the cult classic musical film, *Alice in Wonderland: An X-Rated Musical Fantasy*, for the stage with writing partner Harrison Beck. The show premiered in June 2018 at The Green Room 42 in New York City and featured performers including alumna Rachel Kara Perez '08.



### ADRIANA KUNSTENAAR '19

began her career as a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher at The Birch Wathen Lenox School after graduating from MMC in February 2019. She will be continuing her education this fall at Bank Street College School of Education, where she will double major in Early General Childhood and Special Education.



## IN MEMORIAM

Professor Edna Aizenberg, Ph.D.

Athina Leka Aston '56

Joan Winter Cleary '62

Brigid Driscoll '54, Ph.D., RSHM

Anne McVeigh Duggan '58

Muriel Caron Eingurt '64

Cathleen A. Flynn '73

Olivia Radda Foley '62

Marianne Githens '56, Ph.D.

Mary Pat Cady Haas '53

Adelaide M. Johnson '84

Beatrice McMorrow Kackmann '60

Kathryn Stengle Kelly '53

Mary Ann Beins Kocornik '56

Matthew Lecca '20

John Leustek '11

Sarina Cali Mustacchi '59

Richard Nagle '74

Anne Hallowell Obuck '57

Peggy Oswald-Manning '06

Elinor Tyne Riddle '62

Isabel Dunn Shanley '59

Helen Cancellieri Siragusa '83

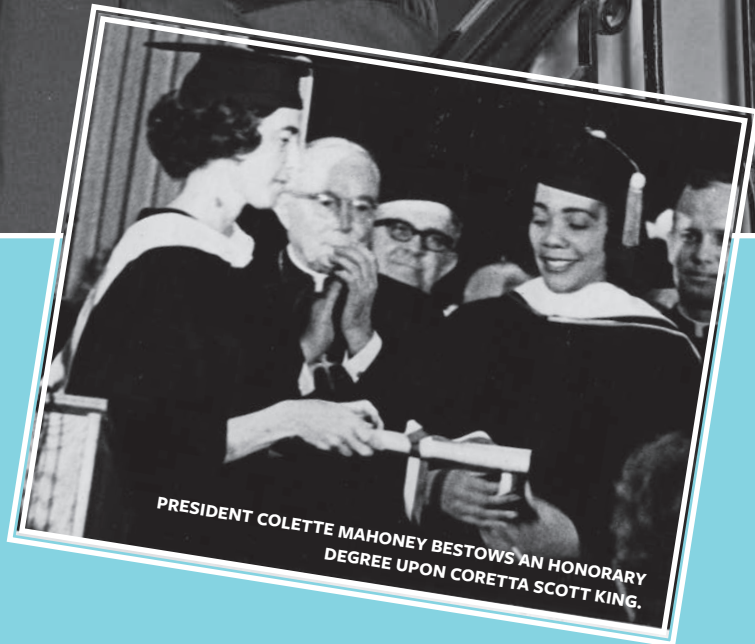
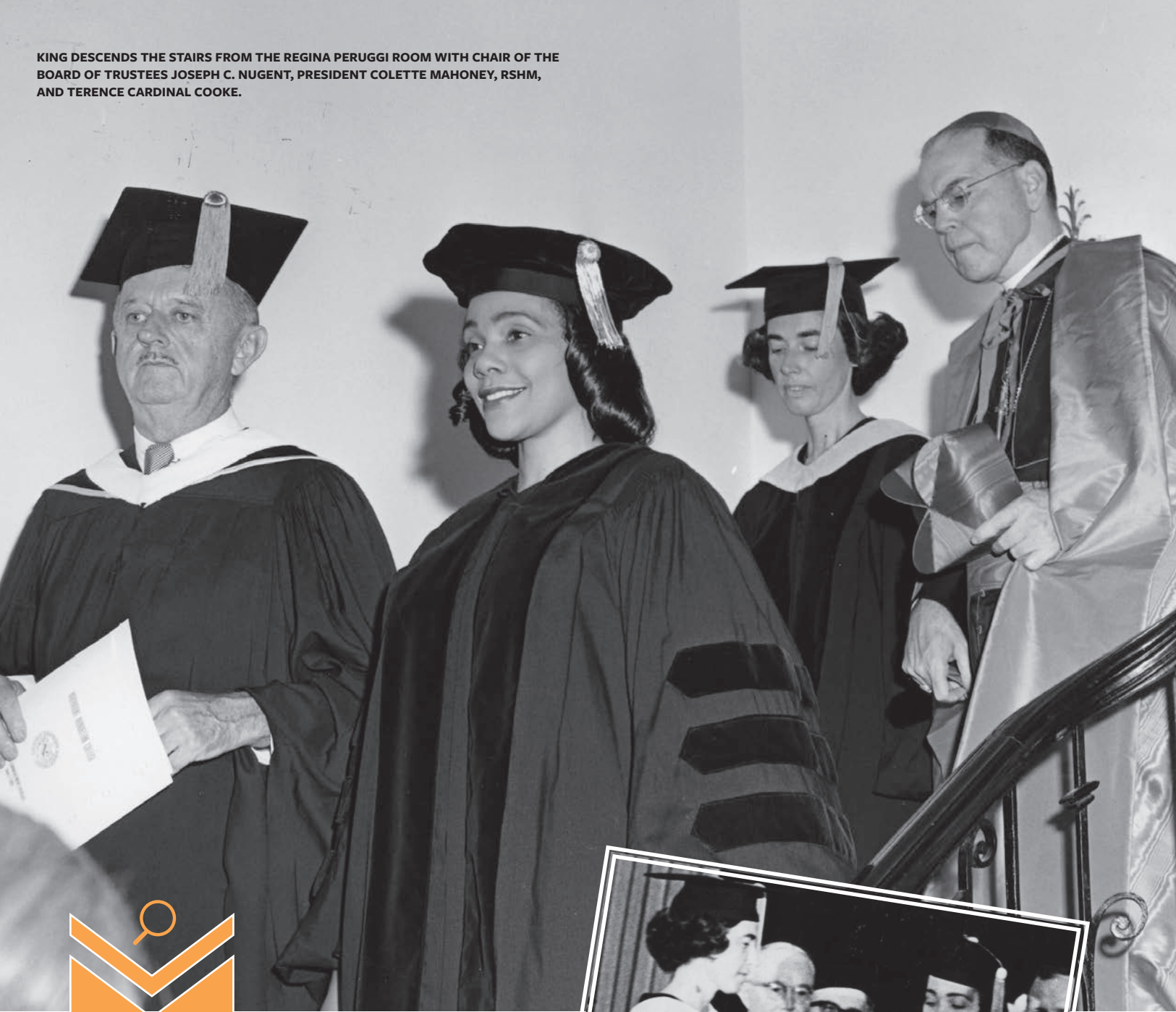
Patricia Abernethy Suppa '58

Doris Clark Sweat '82

Aura Medina Turkel '82

Karen Hansen Veltri '01

KING DESCENDS THE STAIRS FROM THE REGINA PERUGGI ROOM WITH CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES JOSEPH C. NUGENT, PRESIDENT COLETTE MAHONEY, RSHM, AND TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE.



PRESIDENT COLETTE MAHONEY BESTOWS AN HONORARY DEGREE UPON CORETTA SCOTT KING.



## A MOMENT IN TIME

On June 30, 1969, Coretta Scott King—author, activist, civil rights leader, and wife of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—received a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from Marymount Manhattan College.

# MMC's Annual Day of Giving

# GRIFFINS GIVE

## October 10, 2019

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TAKE THE SURVEY

LAST  
LOOK



### Introducing MMC's Slice of New York Program for High School Students

In July, MMC launches a new weeklong, intensive pre-college program designed to give students a taste of the College's diverse academic offerings. Each day, students will participate in a morning seminar led by an MMC faculty member and will then spend the afternoon on excursions to New York City institutions and places of interest related to the morning curriculum. The **Slice of New York** program will feature topics from *Green Spaces in an Urban Jungle* and *United Nations' Perspectives on Global Issues* to *New York Talk* and more.