

# MMC



Marymount Manhattan  
MAGAZINE | FALL 2019



In This Issue

## CREATIVITY AT THE INTERSECTION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**11**

NEWS

### GRIFFY'S GROCERY

The MMC Student  
Food Pantry

**36**

FEATURE

### AMBASSADORS OF THE ARTS

Dance Education at MMC

**42**

FEATURE

### CATALYZING

A Lifelong Scientific  
and Creative Practice

# CONTENTS

## columns

**5** MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**6** CAMPUS NOTES

**48** FACULTY PROFILES

**50** IN THE NEWS

## features

**36** AMBASSADORS OF THE ARTS:  
Dance Education at MMC

**42** CATALYZING  
A Lifelong Scientific and Creative Practice

## departments

**56** ALUMNI PROFILES

**60** CLASS NOTES

**65** IN MEMORIAM

**66** A MOMENT IN TIME

### ON THE COVER

Photograph from the nature collection of alumna Maya Shikhman '01 (Luna, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania). Shikhman, a Studio Art major at MMC, now puts her passion for photography to use as a citizen-scientist, collecting data and imagery to benefit the scientific community. Read her profile on page 59.

## STRIKE A POSE

MMC students Alondra Olmo '22, Samantha Raffellini '20, and Carli Christian '22 don their Griffin Gear on the Lowerre Family Terrace during Welcome Week. Check out the Griffin Gear store for the latest in MMC apparel, accessories, drinkware, and more at [www.mmm.edu/griffin-gear](http://www.mmm.edu/griffin-gear).



**GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL FUND** provide MMC 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.

The generosity of our donors enables the College to prepare students to become **creative changemakers**—bold individualists who are able to adapt in a rapidly changing world and advance their communities through purposeful action.

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY:**



**Call**  
212.517.0460  
to donate by phone



**Visit**  
[www.mmm.edu/donate](http://www.mmm.edu/donate)  
to donate online



**Mail**  
a check using the  
enclosed envelope

Visit [www.mmm.edu/giving](http://www.mmm.edu/giving) for additional ways to make your impact, including planned giving options.

**EVERY GIFT COUNTS!**

*Dance Education at MMC Photo Credits (pages 36–41)*

*All photography by Rosalie O'Connor  
D= Dancer(s) C=Choreographer(s)*

- 1 C: Earl Mosley
- 2 D: Lia Gagianas '19  
C: Jessica Lang
- 3 D: Cheyenne Fitzsimons '18 and Jonah Delgado '19  
C: Gerald Arpino
- 4 D: Isabella Varon '20  
C: Kyle Abraham
- 5 D: Cassidy Fulmer '20 and Max Erickson '19  
C: Jacquelyn Buglisi
- 6 D: Gracie Anderson '19  
C: Katie Langan
- 7 D: Audrey Wells '18  
C: Katie Langan;
- 8 D: Cheyenne Fitzsimons '18 and Jonah Delgado '19;  
C: Gerald Arpino
- 9 C: Katie Langan
- 10 C: Jacquelyn Buglisi
- 11 D: Nancy Donnes '21 and Tade Biesinger  
C: Jessica Lang
- 12 D: Shannon Walsh '19  
C: Chase Brock

FALL 2019

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Carly Lynch, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Carly Schneider '12, *Senior Editor*  
Fanny He  
Todd Heilman  
Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.  
Barbara Lynch Loughlin '70  
Kayla McCaffrey  
Sharon Meagher, Ph.D.  
Tatiana Serafin, MFA  
Emmalyn Yamrick

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Lauren Brown, Ph.D.  
Mary Brown, Ph.D.  
Hallie Cohen, MFA  
Kevin Croke  
Valerie Marchesi  
Lorraine Martinez-Novoa, Ph.D.  
Richard Sheldon  
Laura Tropp, Ph.D.  
Zakkiyya Taylor

*With special thanks to the Division of Sciences and the Department of Dance students, faculty, and alumni for their collaboration on our feature stories*

**DESIGN**

Rose Creative Group | [www.rosecreative.net](http://www.rosecreative.net)

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Joshua Cuppek  
Melanie Einzig  
Denis Gostev  
Carly Schneider '12

**SENIOR LEADERSHIP**

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
*President*

Sharon Meagher, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*

Carol L. Jackson, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Student Affairs*

Todd Heilman  
*Vice President for Enrollment Management*

Graham Ciraulo  
*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

Wayne Santucci  
*Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance, Controller, and Interim Chief Financial Officer*

Bree Bullingham  
*Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Interim Chief Administrative Officer*

Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.  
*Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives*

*MMC Magazine is published for alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of Marymount Manhattan College by the Office of Institutional Advancement.*

**We want to hear your feedback! Please complete our survey at [mmm.edu/fall2019-survey](http://mmm.edu/fall2019-survey) or contact us at [editor@mmm.edu](mailto:editor@mmm.edu).**

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



This fall, Marymount Manhattan College welcomed the Class of 2023 to campus. It's hard to believe, but most of our new students were born in 2001! These students, with two feet firmly grounded in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, join a campus community that seems as if it had been made for them—welcoming, dynamic, and creative. This issue of *MMC Magazine* focuses on the third of these essential characteristics of the MMC experience: creativity.

Across all areas of study at MMC—the arts, certainly, but also the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and business—developing the imagination to form new ideas, often by combining concepts, approaches, and disciplines that don't typically “belong” together, is deeply fundamental to a Marymount Manhattan education.

MMC is, at heart, a creative college. Last semester, the truth of this statement was powerfully reinforced at a dinner I hosted for members of the Psychology Club, which had just been named Student Organization of the year. Over dinner, I asked the club's president, Amanda Anzovino '19—a dynamic leader who was the recipient of the Dean's Award—what it was like to be a science student at MMC. “Fantastic!” she said. “Being in this creative environment is what makes Marymount Manhattan so exciting—and it has encouraged me to take leaps in my coursework and research projects that I never would have thought possible.”

In the pages of this magazine, you will read about the myriad ways students like Amanda, as well as our world-class faculty and accomplished alumni, graft together disparate areas of study and interest, forming new educational and professional pathways. You'll read about Itzamary Dominguez '19, whose heartbreaking series of drawings, *Missing Moments*, influenced the Department of Immigration to reunite her stepson with his family. And you'll learn about Maya Shikhman '01, who combined her Studio Art major with her interest in biology to become a nature photographer, providing visual data to benefit the scientific community.

It is my privilege to be a part of the creative MMC community, which buzzes with new ideas and fresh perspectives in every corner, classroom, and conversation. Thanks to your generosity and friendship, MMC is the college of creativity.

Best wishes,

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
*President*



1



2



3

## DANCE GALA

MMC's Annual Dance Gala is held in the Theresa Lang Theatre each spring. A festive occasion highlighting the extraordinary talent of MMC's students, the Gala celebrates the rigorous training and versatile education provided to Dance majors. Read more about MMC's Dance programs on page 36.

1. *Lines Squared*  
Choreography by Jessica Lang  
Photography by Rosalie O'Connor
2. *Oh, Inverted World*  
Choreography by Trey McIntyre  
Photography by Rosalie O'Connor
3. *Drive*  
Choreography by Kyle Abraham  
Photography by Rosalie O'Connor



## ELON IN NYC

In the fall of 2013, representatives from Elon University, a private liberal arts college in North Carolina, contacted Marymount Manhattan in the hopes of developing a program for Elon students to study in New York City for a semester. After a year of development, the first cohort of seven students arrived at MMC for *Elon in NYC*—a program that paired an internship in the city with four courses at MMC.

The increasing popularity of the program at both schools resulted in its expansion, and today it is a year-round program during fall, spring, and summer semesters that includes housing in the MMC residence halls.

"Marymount Manhattan has been an indispensable partner in Elon's effort to offer our students an intentional, academic, and co-curricular experience in one of the world's most global cities," explains Mark Dalhouse, Ph.D., Director for Global Experiential Initiatives at Elon. "MMC's administration, faculty, and Student Affairs staff have gone above and beyond in welcoming our students and working with us to make this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Elon students. We are proud to call Marymount Manhattan our New York academic partner."

Lauren Brown, Ph.D., MMC's Associate Professor of History, teaches *Global Places, Local Places*, a signature, recurring course for the Elon program that immerses visiting students (and MMC students) as urban explorers in their new city, taking numerous excursions throughout the semester.

"Focused on the politics of public design, we discuss the razing of Hell's Kitchen to create Lincoln Center, learn about the power of city officials like Robert Moses while visiting Flushing Meadows in Queens, assess the economics of fun while touring the Coney Island boardwalk, and trace the evolution of Central Park from 19<sup>th</sup> century leisure greens, to 20<sup>th</sup> century crime forest, and back," says Dr. Brown. "This course is meant to uncover the hidden histories of our shared spaces and to make students think about how place makes us who we are, and how we make those places home. It is the ideal class for students doing an immersive semester in the city—New York is both our campus and our research!"

## HEOP Students Attend Chicago Convention

Jerandy Beato '22, Kayleen Cabrera '22, and Diana Camilo '22, first-year students in MMC's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), traveled to Chicago for the 2019 National Student Leadership Diversity Convention on social justice and diversity in April.

Throughout the weekend, students had the opportunity to attend experiential workshops, roundtable discussions, and keynote sessions while interacting with hundreds of peers from around the country. The trio even got to meet a fan-favorite presenter, Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq., Founder and President of the Harbor Institute.

For Beato, a Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology major, the convention had a profound impact. After attending workshops on colorism within the Black and Latinx communities, she says, "I became aware of the impact that colorism has on our communities and how other individuals experience racism within their own homes. This convention has changed the way I view myself as a Latina woman. For the first time, I felt independent and confident because I am beautiful and enough."





## ELECTRA CLOSES OUT MMC'S 2018-19 SEASON

Euripides' *Electra*, as translated by Emily Townsend Vermeule, was the Department of Theatre Arts' final mainstage show of the spring semester. Directed by Adrienne D. Williams, *Electra* is a passionate family drama told through text, music, and movement.

Williams, who has been a guest director at MMC for over twenty years, was impressed by the commitment, focus, and flexibility of her *Electra* cast and crew. "I threw a lot at them in the early days of rehearsal, and they dove into it with 100 percent commitment. My stage managers were the most efficient team I have ever worked with in an undergraduate program," Williams reflects. "My favorite thing about the process was seeing the growth in the artists—both in technique and in confidence."

Playing the title role was BFA Acting major Kiara Mendez '20, who is originally from Puerto Rico. *Electra* was Mendez's first major role in English. "It was a long, three-month process, but in the end, every second was worth it," Mendez says. "Playing *Electra* and acting in English for the first time was one of the hardest things I have ever done."



## MMC WELCOMES GRAHAM CIRAULO AS NEW VP



The College is thrilled to welcome Graham Ciraulo as MMC's new Vice President for Institutional Advancement (VPIA). Having joined the campus community in September, Ciraulo brings 15 years of experience in advancement team leadership and academic and healthcare fundraising to the role.

He most recently served as Director of Development at NYU Langone Health, with responsibility for the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries, among other areas. Prior roles have included Senior Major Gifts Officer at Fordham University School of Law and Senior Director of Development at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai. He earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature and History from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in History from the University of Chicago.

In addition to being the brother of alumnus Greg Ciraulo '07, Graham is the son of Paul Ciraulo, who retired as MMC's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at the end of June 2019 after 19 years of distinguished service.

"Graham's ties to the College are deep," says MMC President Kerry Walk. "He has been outstandingly successful in advancement leadership and fundraising, and his strategic approach will serve MMC well—as will his extensive experience working not only with administrators on fund- and friend-raising, but also with academic departments and individual faculty members."

## CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF MARYMOUNT COLLEGE, TARRYTOWN



2019 marks one hundred years since the incorporation of Marymount College, Tarrytown, MMC's parent college

Marymount Manhattan College's history is inextricably tied to that of the former Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. Originally founded in 1907 by Mother Marie Joseph Butler as an independent girls' boarding school, the Marymount School in Tarrytown expanded over the years, first offering a complete high school curriculum, then providing the option for two additional years of post-secondary school, and ultimately acquiring additional property "up the hill." With three additional buildings, Mother Butler achieved her vision and established Marymount College, Tarrytown, which received its provisional charter as a four-year college awarding baccalaureate degrees in 1919. Under Mother Butler's direction, the college became a leader in Catholic higher education and was the first of the "Marymounts"—colleges and schools around the world founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM).

In 1926, the RSHM opened the Marymount School of New York, a private, four-year school for girls on Fifth Avenue at 84<sup>th</sup> Street. A decade later, the RSHM purchased a neighboring building and opened a junior college, which, from 1936 to 1948, served as an urban non-residential alternative to the Tarrytown campus. In 1948, the junior college was relocated to 71<sup>st</sup> Street and became a four-year, bachelor degree-granting college, with the first class graduating in 1950. During the 1950s, the city campus, still associated with Marymount College, created a culture distinct from the Tarrytown campus. In 1961, the college was granted an absolute charter by the Board of Regents of the State of New York and was independently incorporated as Marymount Manhattan College (MMC).

The two colleges were officially separate at that point, but MMC remains faithful to the vision of its founders. Inherent in MMC's mission—both then and today—is "the intent to develop an awareness of social, political, cultural and ethical issues, in the belief that this awareness will lead to concern for, participation in, and improvement of society." That belief derives from the history of the RSHM, a religious order born of a commitment to supporting, sheltering, and educating society's most marginalized people. In that vein, MMC's mission has expanded over the years to include a greater variety of students, including people of all faiths, all genders, and all personal identities.

Although Marymount College, Tarrytown, closed its doors in 2007, its legacy lives on at MMC and in the thousands of alumni who embody the commitment to social justice held by the visionary sisters who dedicated their lives to the global advancement of a Marymount education—an education of the highest quality for both heart and mind.

Clockwise from top left: Michael Johnson, Assistive Technology Specialist; Lindsay Green, Assistant Director of Disability Services and Academic Access; Diana Nash, Director of Disability Services and Academic Access; and Melissa Pietaro, Administrative Assistant



## STRIVING FOR ACCESSIBILITY

MMC is committed to maintaining a diverse and inclusive academic community, where all students are afforded the opportunity to have a transformative learning experience. Essential to fulfilling this commitment is the ability to provide equal opportunity to persons with disabilities, including equal access to College programs, services, and activities provided through Electronic or Information Technology (EIT).

In 2017, MMC launched the EIT Accessibility Steering Committee to review the College's existing policies and to chart a course toward digital accessibility for all students, faculty, and staff. Since then, the College has undertaken a variety of initiatives, including overhauling webpage templates to better adhere to national web content accessibility guidelines, implementing new technology to make digital course content more accessible, and offering trainings and workshops to increase awareness about issues of digital accessibility and available on- and off-campus resources.

These efforts have been spearheaded primarily by MMC's Office of Disability Services, which has provided support and accommodations for students with learning, physical, medical, and psychological disabilities since 1973.

## PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER ACADEMY

Officially dubbed the "MMC Summer Academy" in 2019, MMC's pre-college programs offer college-level preparatory courses to rising high school juniors and seniors. The Academy—funded by a generous \$1 million donation from MMC alumna Mary Ellen McNiece Hawn '91 and her husband Gates Helms Hawn—provides learning opportunities ranging from one- to two-week-long intensive programs in a variety of subjects to a longer-term College Experience Program, which enables students to enroll in full-semester MMC courses for college credit. Last summer, MMC again offered two signature intensive programs: one on the United Nations and two in Musical Theatre.



The United Nations (UN) Summer Intensive offers qualified students the opportunity to participate in classes and workshops held both at MMC and at the UN, gaining valuable experience in international affairs, environmental policy, and peace and security issues. The Musical Theatre Summer Intensive—a rigorous program providing training in dance, voice, acting, and audition preparation—features exclusive access to Broadway shows and expert instruction by MMC faculty and other leading theatre professionals in the NYC area. In addition to providing a Musical Theatre intensive open to all high school applicants, MMC also partners directly with Shu-Te University in Taiwan to bring approximately 20 students to campus each summer for dual theatre instruction in English and Mandarin.

"Our Summer Academy gives high school students a chance to challenge themselves academically, but also to experience the boundless opportunity of a college career in New York City," says Sharon Meagher, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.

Since the summer of 2016, 36 students who have participated in MMC summer courses have matriculated and now attend MMC full time.

"It is a true joy to see our summer students find a passion both for their coursework and for our campus, and to return to MMC as full-time students after high school," says Richard Sheldon, Associate Vice President for Academic Administration.



## GRIFFY'S GROCERY: THE MMC STUDENT FOOD PANTRY

When asked what her dream project to help students in need would be, Zakkiyya Taylor, Associate Director for Student and Community Engagement, didn't need to think long or hard: a food pantry for Marymount Manhattan College was at the top of her list. At the same time, Robin Nackman, Esq., Executive Director of the Office of Career Services, was inspired by Governor Andrew Cuomo's mandate that all state and city colleges and universities must provide for food-insecure students, and she believed MMC needed to join in. Taylor and Nackman soon connected and, with a concrete proposal, a moveable cart, community support, and a lot of passion, they opened *Griffy's Grocery*, MMC's first student food pantry.

Commonly defined as inconsistent access to balanced, regular, and nutritious meals, food insecurity proves to be a significant issue among college students today. "Hungry students don't go to class as much. They don't study as well. They don't complete assignments as well. They don't finish their programs. They don't graduate," says Nackman.

Developing *Griffy's Grocery* was no small feat. "We thought carefully about what would be realistic and practical for our students," explains Nackman. They created a one-time intake form for students to complete to determine whether participants had access to basic amenities, like microwaves and can openers, which then affected the types of goods they brought into the store. Students can now sign in each week and pick out a bagful of non-perishable items such as pasta, soups, canned goods, breakfast foods, and more. Since its opening in February, over a hundred students have visited the pop-up pantry.

Nackman and Taylor are committed to ensuring that every student is welcome to stop in, regardless of their circumstances. "If you're here, then you're here for a reason. It's really **no questions asked**," says Taylor. "We don't want students to ever have to decide between getting food and doing anything else. We've had students who were in late-night tech rehearsals and weren't able to earn a paycheck for two weeks. Whether it's for two weeks or longer, students can feel comfortable coming here to shop."

*Griffy's Grocery* provides MMC students open access to healthy and plentiful food thanks to generous donations of non-perishable items from the College community. To make a tax-deductible monetary donation in support of the Grocery, visit [mmm.edu/grocery](http://mmm.edu/grocery).



## UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMAT VISITS CAMPUS

Students in *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*, taught by International Studies adjunct instructor Kazi Rahman, had the opportunity to meet Meriem El Hilali, a Counselor of Foreign Affairs with the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations (UN). Counselor El Hilali, on campus to address the history of U.S.-Moroccan relations, discussed her early work abroad in Morocco and France while simultaneously weaving in historical context on major diplomatic events between the U.S. and Morocco. She also shared her most recent professional experience at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, providing valuable insight to students interested in MMC's United Nations Professional Immersion program.

## WOMXN'S HERSTORY MONTH

The College proudly recognizes the contributions of womxn to the United States during Womxn's Herstory Month, celebrated each year during the month of March. "Womxn," the alternative spelling of "women," symbolizes a commitment to the inclusion of non-binary gender expressions and international feminism.

Featuring a host of panel discussions, workshops, speakers, and more, the events coordinated by MMC's Student Activities Advisory Board and the Office of Student Development and Activities were designed to increase the visibility of all womxn, both on campus and throughout our communities.

To kick off the month of celebration, Councilperson Helen Rosenthal, who represents the 6<sup>th</sup> Council District comprising NYC's Upper West Side, came to campus to deliver a keynote address titled *Becoming SHEroes: Womxn and the Important Role They Play in Society*. A dedicated civil servant, Councilperson Rosenthal seeks to advance the position of women and girls in society and is a leading voice on issues of gender equity and civic engagement, tenants' rights, accessibility, education equity, and adequate funding for social service providers. In her address to the campus community, Councilperson Rosenthal spoke about the large pay gap between women and men and between white people and people of color, and she urged everyone in the room to use their constitutional right to vote on the local, state, and federal levels.

Other events throughout the month included:

- a *Women in Publishing* workshop;
- a campus-wide campaign to wear purple in solidarity on International Womxn's Day;
- a panel discussion on motherhood featuring faculty members Nava Siltan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology; Laura Tropp, Ph.D., Professor of Communication and Media Arts; and Gunjali Trikha, MBA, Assistant Professor of Marketing; and
- a Womxn's Empowerment Luncheon, including panelists President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.; Lorraine Martinez-Novoa, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing; and Dayana Bernavil, Regional Director of Marketing at Millennium Hotels and Resorts.



Professor Erin Greenwell, Dr. Nava Siltan, and Dr. Sue Behrens, C-TIE Director and Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders

## AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING

Erin Greenwell, MFA, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, and Nava Siltan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, were the recipients of the 2019 Awards for Innovative Teaching, presented by MMC's Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence (C-TIE). Professor Greenwell and Dr. Siltan were acknowledged for their unique projects that promoted understanding, creativity, and teamwork—both inside the classroom and out.

Professor Greenwell's project fostered collaboration between MMC's 71<sup>st</sup> Street students and Bedford Hills College Program students on the annual *Stand Up Speak Out* film festival. Students worked together on poetry writing, reading, playwriting, illustrating, and filmmaking, sending creative work back and forth between the two locations. Designed both to connect MMC's teaching locations and to showcase the ways in which higher education can be a tool to stem mass incarceration, the collaborative project pushed all participating students outside of their comfort zones personally, academically, and creatively.

Dr. Siltan challenged students in her *Children and Media* course to create a TV show or virtual reality game with characters that either defied gender stereotypes, represented disabilities positively and realistically, displayed mental health disorders, or hailed from low socio-economic, single-parent, or second-generation homes. Students were engaged in representing children from diverse backgrounds in ethical, realistic, and normalizing ways.

## PURPLESTRIDE: RAISING MONEY AND AWARENESS

Last spring, individuals from across the MMC community joined Marymount Muscle, the campus community engagement club, to take part in the annual *Wage Hope at PurpleStride* walk to support pancreatic cancer research. Led by Brooke Harbaugh, formerly the Administrative Coordinator for the Division of Fine and Performing Arts, the MMC team surpassed its fundraising goal and raised \$6,482. The funds support the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), which works to improve patient services, increase awareness, and further critical medical research. This year's PurpleStride NYC event raised more than \$486,000.

Harbaugh started the MMC team in memory of her father, John Harbaugh, who passed away in September 2018 after a two-year battle with the disease. "Inspired by his proactive, hopeful, community-oriented, and can-do attitude, I saw organizing a team for *PurpleStride* as a wonderful way to connect to my dad's spirit," she explained on her personal fundraising page.

Prior to the walk in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, team members hosted a bake sale on campus, attended by a representative from PanCAN who answered questions about the organization and the upcoming event. Harbaugh also traveled to Capitol Hill with PanCAN in June for Advocacy Day to call for Congress to advocate for increased federal funding for pancreatic cancer research.



## MMC R.E.A.D.S.

Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Thomas J. Shanahan Library, the MMC R.E.A.D.S. (Racial Equity and Dialogue Series) Book Club was developed to provide a space for continued learning among faculty and staff interested in better understanding issues of race and racism. Participants at all levels of understanding around race and racism are now invited to meet monthly during the academic year to engage in honest and thoughtful dialogue about the selected readings.

The book selected for the inaugural spring 2019 meeting was *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo.

"Unpacking the readings together in an honest and open environment along cross-racial lines has helped in the understanding of how personal racial socialization shapes institutions and, ultimately, structures," explains Rebecca Mattis-Pinard, the College's Chief Diversity Officer. "I'm pleased to see our community's commitment to personal learning in this area, which will undoubtedly impact the ways we strive to make MMC a more equitable and inclusive environment."



Rebecca Mattis-Pinard; Catherine Cabeen, MFA, Assistant Professor of Dance; and Jennifer Brown, Ph.D., Professor of English and World Literatures

## Celebrating APIDA Heritage Month



May marks Asian Pacific Islander Desi Associated\* (APIDA) Heritage Month, and MMC held several campus-wide events during the final weeks of the semester to honor and celebrate APIDA cultures, histories, and identities.

Organized by MMC's Office of Student

Development and Activities, in conjunction with the Student Activities Advisory Board, Campus Activities Board, and Cultural Peer Mentors, the events were developed to be representative of as many cultures as possible.

This year's keynote event was a workshop on APIDA identity and success in the workplace with educator Isabella Villacampa, Associate Director for Community Engagement at New York University's Center for Student Life and a celebrated expert on topics including social justice and identity, social media, and generational differences.

Other events included a Chinese calligraphy workshop; a food and culture festival called *Taste of Culture: Vietnam*; an excursion to the Museum of Chinese in America in lower Manhattan; a screening of the blockbuster film *Crazy Rich Asians*; and a roundtable discussion on perceptions of Asian ethnicities called *But You Don't Look Asian*.

"It was wonderful to see APIDA student representation, not only in event attendance, but also in the planning process to incorporate their own experiences and cultures in the month's agenda," recounts Fanny He, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Inclusivity Programming. "As a staff member who identifies as Asian, it was special for me to have a hand in cultivating the activities for this heritage month, and I am excited to see how this celebration continues to grow in future years."

\*APIDA officially stands for "Asian Pacific Islander Desi American," but MMC substitutes Associated in place of American to be inclusive of both domestic and international students.



## PROFESSIONALS REVIEW STUDENT PORTFOLIOS

In *ART 480: Professional Portfolio*, a capstone course open to all concentrations in the Art and Art History Department, students create a portfolio for future professional opportunities or graduate studies. Instructed by Jim Holl, MFA, Associate Professor of Art, students work to develop a personal vision for their portfolios and design their own curriculum within a seminar that features weekly critiques mentored by Professor Holl.



The course culminates in Professional Portfolio Review Day, an end-of-semester showcase in which students present

their final work to faculty and industry professionals for feedback. Last semester, professional reviewers included designer and illustrator Jane Archer, animator and illustrator Julia Gran, and brand designers Eric Shelton of Gensler and Roger Vandenberg of Onoma Design.



## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT HONORS CAROL BERMAN '13

The 2019 Annual Scholarship Benefit was held on April 29 at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall. Nearly 300 guests attended as the College honored **Carol Berman**, a proud alumna of the Class of 2013, a member of the MMC Board of Trustees, and a lifelong champion of education.

The Annual Scholarship Benefit is MMC's largest fundraiser of the year, with all proceeds supporting need-based student scholarships. Addressing attendees, Berman highlighted the crucial importance of the event for the College and thanked all those who contributed generously to the evening's success.

"Adversity comes to us in many different forms," Berman said. "Through my involvement in the Marymount Manhattan community, I've learned that many intelligent, talented, and driven students cannot afford to attend college. My mission is to help them overcome their adversities and give them the opportunity to fulfill their dreams. . . . On behalf of the entire Marymount Manhattan family and the students who will now have the chance to succeed, thank you for your support."





## ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK



Last April, ten MMC students traveled to Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, for a series of volunteer projects focused on hurricane relief. The projects were a part of the College's annual Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip, an immersive service experience that challenges students to reflect critically on their roles in the community through service, activism, and leadership. Accompanied by staff members Fanny He, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Inclusivity Programming, and Zakkiyya Taylor, Associate Director for Student and Community Engagement, students provided assistance to hurricane survivors, helping with scraping, painting, and debris clean-up at homes in critical need of repair.

"The ASB trip to Puerto Rico was especially memorable due to the connections each of us made," says Devan Zingler '19, an International Studies major. "We were able to bond as a team and build friendships, but we were also able to connect with the Puerto Ricans we met throughout the trip. Being able to build relationships and learn about the culture, while also providing services, was an incredible experience."



## History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies Conference

In March, students, faculty, and guests gathered in the Regina Peruggi Room in MMC's Carson Hall for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies conference, showcasing research by a variety of students from MMC and beyond. The conference began with a *Defining Religion* panel featuring MMC students Allie McInerney '20, Molly Null '20, and Michaela Williams '19. In another session, Daniel Driscoll, a Philosophy major at Columbia University, presented his research, "On Nature, Economy, and Ethics in Thirteenth-Century Scholarship."

MMC Communication and Media Arts students presented their research from *Introduction to Philosophy*—a spring course taught by Brad Herling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. In the course, students wrote essays relating Plato's famous *Allegory of the Cave* to contemporary television or film pieces, including examples like *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, *The Matrix*, and *The Hunger Games*.

To conclude the afternoon, MMC's Philosophy Club, headed by Molly Null '20, Agata Krupa '19, Alex Tavarez '20, and Sabrina Sooknanan '19, led an entertaining interactive panel on the philosophy of hit television show *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.



## MMC CELEBRATES WORLD PRIDE 2019

Marymount Manhattan was honored to be included in the annual NYC Pride festivities again last June. An excited contingent of MMC students and staff marched down Fifth Avenue and through the West Village of Manhattan among thousands of other revelers for the annual New York City Pride Parade. This summer marked 50 years since the Stonewall Uprising, often considered the catalyst for the gay rights movement.



## STUDENTS PUBLISH RESEARCH ON SPELLING



The research of recently graduated students Jessica Krimgold '19 and Ailyn Gomez '19, both Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SLP-A) majors and Language Science minors, will be published in the peer-reviewed journal *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education* this year in an article titled "Spelling Counts: The Educational Gatekeeping Role of Grading Rubrics and Spell Check Programs."

Working with Sue Behrens, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Krimgold and Gomez investigated how adherence to traditional English spelling has an impact on mastery of academic writing and explored the ways in which over-reliance on grammar- and spell-check technology leads to a loss of sensitivity to multilingual and multicultural aspects of language. They examined grading rubrics across colleges and departments, finding that both the quality and quantity of spelling errors were prone to subjective judgment and that the top five most commonly used spell-check programs were inconsistent in their recommendations.

As seniors last May, Krimgold and Gomez presented this research at the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NYSSLHA) Annual Convention and were selected as finalists in the student research category. Of their project, Krimgold and Gomez said, "We presented data that question the validity of this technology in the speech-language pathology world, and we illustrated how, as student clinicians, we have benefited from developing language awareness through the study of linguistics."

This work on spelling was a companion project to a 2016 study in which Dr. Behrens and three SLP-A majors tested common grammar checkers. That technology also proved to be unreliable and fostered a prescriptive sense of right vs. wrong grammatical constructions, with no room for discussion of grammatical variation.



## GLOBAL FASHION BUSINESS GOES ABROAD

During spring break, 14 students enrolled in *Global Fashion Business*, a spring semester course, had the opportunity to visit two of the fashion capitals of the world: London and Paris. Accompanied by Lorraine Martinez-Novoa, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing, and Andrea Tsentides, CPA, MBA, Associate Professor of Accounting, students visited world-class museums and cultural landmarks, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the London Eye, the Fashion and Textile Museum, The Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, the Palace of Versailles, and the Louis Vuitton Foundation. They also toured flagship stores of renowned designers, such as Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney, and learned about ethical production at Fashion-Enter's Factory, a London-based manufacturing facility for brands such as ASOS.

As the capstone project for the course, students conducted an analysis of the performance of a selected brand with operations in all three markets—New York City, London,

and Paris. They visited the brand's stores both domestically and abroad to compare and evaluate product offerings, advertising techniques, pricing, and overall operations, ultimately applying concepts from the course to provide strategic recommendations for the brand's operations. In addition, students each maintained travel vlogs to document their experiences abroad.

"From private tours of luxury designer flagships to historical guides through beautiful cities, every stop on this trip was a learning experience," says Nichole Lawrence '21, a Marketing and International Business major with minors in Fashion Studies and Urban and Environmental Sustainability. "As a student, I naturally question if what I learn in class will apply to the real world, but with this course I didn't have to. Class discussions prepared us with the right tools to communicate with people in the fashion industry for our projects. This trip allowed me the perfect balance for personal and academic exploration—a truly unforgettable experience!"



Special thanks to the following students, whose photography is included here:

Taryn Littleton '21, double major in Business (with concentration in Media Arts) and Cinema, Television, and Emerging Media

Olivia Marrone '21, Business major (with concentration in Fashion Marketing) and Digital Journalism minor

Molly Power '20, Business major (with concentration in Fashion Marketing) and Studio Art minor

Hailey Zanesky '20, Business major (with concentration in Fashion Marketing) and Studio Art minor



## Student Leadership Awards

Each spring, MMC's Office of Student Development and Activities (SDA) hosts the annual Student Leadership Awards, known as *The Griffys*. "The Leadership Awards serve to celebrate a community of student leaders who have worked diligently throughout the year to provide engaging, entertaining, and thought-provoking programs for their peers," says Kevin Croke, Assistant Director of Student Development and Activities. "Celebrating the 16<sup>th</sup> Student Leadership Awards makes me incredibly proud to work with these inspiring young leaders."

Two dozen accolades were awarded at the May ceremony, recognizing numerous student campus roles, including Cultural Peer Mentors and Peer Leaders. Among the highest honors given out were the IDEAL Award (Billie Sangha '19), the Dean's Award (Amanda Anzovino '19), the Unsung Hero Award (Monica Benitez '19), and the President's Spirit Award (Jordan Barnett '20). In addition, Brenelle Braganza '19 was recognized as Student Leader of the Year and the Psychology Club's screening of the *Absolutely Safe* documentary was deemed Educational Program of the Year.



## MMC WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

Marymount Manhattan College is pleased to announce the election of two new members to the Board of Trustees, which oversees the mission, fiscal integrity, and educational quality of the College. Marymount Manhattan is proud to welcome these new trustees, both of whom are alumnae of the College.



### Lisa Tachick Hooper '95

Lisa Tachick Hooper was raised in New Mexico and Colorado. She received her BFA in Dance, *cum laude*, from Marymount Manhattan College in 1995, and was that year's recipient of the Dance Medal. After college, Hooper danced professionally for ten years, freelancing with (among others) the Albany Berkshire Ballet, Ballet Metropolitan de Caracas in Venezuela, Connecticut Ballet, Dance Galaxy, and Chamber Dance Project. She also performed in the opening ceremony of the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

An avid and longtime supporter of MMC's Department of Dance, Hooper started the Tachick Hooper Scholarship at the College to

allow qualified students who are unable to afford the membership costs to be a part of the MMC Dance Company. The MMC Dance Company is a selective and prestigious yearlong "residency" that offers students an opportunity to work with some of the industry's most renowned choreographers and perform at top locations across New York City (read more on page 39).

Hooper and her husband now live in Rye, New York, with their three children. Hooper is deeply involved in the Rye community and, for the past six years, has directed or co-directed the Resurrection Grammar School's annual school play, overseeing and inspiring approximately 70 children each year in what has become one of Resurrection's most popular after-school activities.

Hooper is also a member of Rye's Westchester Country Club, where she has served on several board advisory committees, including in leadership roles. In addition to her family, her passions include playing the piano and volleyball.



### Trish Shortell '90

Trish Shortell has spent 25 years in the executive search business, in both search firm and client-side roles. Based in New York City, she has a multi-disciplinary focus in marketing, finance, digital, and analytics, and from an industry perspective, works across professional services, retail, apparel, financial services, technology, telecommunications, and healthcare, among others.

Currently Managing Director of Executive Search at MediaLink, Shortell oversees executive search in addition to organizational strategy and design services for MediaLink's clients. Previously, she served for more than 10 years as Senior Vice President, Executive

Recruiting and Talent Management, at WPP, a global marketing and communications company. In her tenure at Heidrick & Struggles, Shortell fulfilled searches for clients that ranged from entrepreneurial start-ups to multi-national corporations, was a faculty member for training and development programs, and initiated a firm-wide process for enhancing diversity efforts across all practices. She also spent several years at law firm Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft.

A thought leader in the communications industry, Shortell has served as chairperson of the British American Business Human Resources Roundtable. She also helped to establish New York City's CAPITAL Program, which introduces inner-city, high-potential youth to the creative industries.

Shortell and her husband live in Riverdale, New York, with their three teenage children and their bichon, Scooter. A member of the Class of 1990, Shortell received her BA in Communication Arts. Her outside interests include photography, cooking, and travel.

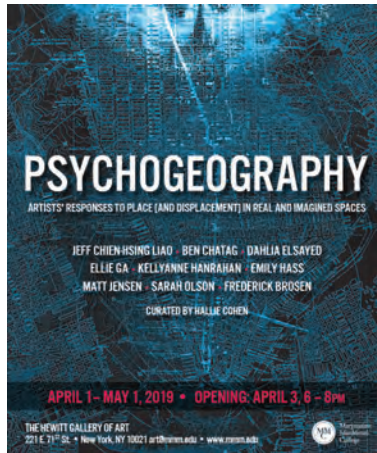
## PSYCHOGEOGRAPHY

Last spring, MMC's Hewitt Gallery of Art was home to *Psychogeography*, an exhibit exploring nine artists' responses to place (and displacement) in real and imagined spaces. From the psychic to the specific, from recollections to recordings, the works in this exhibit recreated the power of place in the human imagination.

Curated by Hallie Cohen, MFA, Director of the Hewitt Gallery and Professor of Art, the exhibit took inspiration from the notion of *dérive*, or "drifting," a word coined by French Marxist philosopher Guy Debord, one of the founders of the Situationist International movement.

The artists included Frederick Brosen, Ben Paljor Chatag '15, Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao, Dahlia Elsayed, Ellie Ga '98, KellyAnne Hanrahan, Sarah Olson, Emily Hass, and Matthew Jensen.

Jensen took current MMC Art students in a *Drawing II* class—taught by Beth Shipley, MFA, Chair of the Department of Art and Art History and Associate Professor of Art—on a "psychogeographic" place-based learning walk from the campus art studio to Central Park and back. The students then collaborated to create a large-scale drawing that mapped and recorded their experiences and discoveries. This piece was displayed in the Hewitt Black & White East Gallery alongside Jensen's work.



## ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

Hosted by the Business Division in conjunction with the Fashion Marketing Student Association and the Asian Student Association, the Annual Spring Fashion Show was held in the Great Hall and featured a culturally diverse group of nearly 20 student, faculty, and staff models. The theme of this year's show was "Take a Glimpse of the World," and participants proudly displayed their cultural heritage by donning interpretations of traditional dress.

## COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY



Pictured left to right:  
**Lennay Chapman, MBA**  
*Assistant Professor of Business Marketing*

**Jan Dijkwel**  
*Assistant Professor of Dance*

**Martha Eddy, CMA, RSMT, Ed.D.**  
*Visiting Artist in Residence, Coordinator of the Body Science and Motion program (Dance Department), and Social Justice and Movement Fellow (Ferraro Institute)*

**Cyrille Phipps**  
*Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts*

**Marnie Brady, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Politics and Human Rights*

**Kenneth Finkle, MFA**  
*Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts*

Not pictured:  
**Matthew Lundquist, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Biology*



## COMING HOME TO 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET

Marymount Manhattan's 2019 Alumni Reunion Weekend welcomed more than six decades of alumni back to 71<sup>st</sup> Street in May.

The weekend kicked off with a dinner and cabaret on Friday night, featuring emcee Kimberly Wilpon '11 and talented alumni performers Alison Alampi '13, Robert Dalton '14, Angela Elia '11, Michael Perlman '04, and Anthony Rotondaro '14.

Saturday was jam-packed with exciting activities, including a walking tour with MMC Archivist Mary Brown; a "Back to the Classroom" discussion with Professor of Theatre Arts David Mold; the MMC Oral History Project with Associate Professor of History Lauren Brown; and the annual Milestone Luncheon in the Great Hall, honoring alumni from the classes of 1959 (60<sup>th</sup> Reunion) through 1989 (30<sup>th</sup> Reunion). There was also a lively afternoon brunch for the classes of 1994 (25<sup>th</sup> Reunion) through 2014 (5<sup>th</sup> Reunion), featuring drag performances and bingo hosted by the illustrious Misty Venn (Stephen Mascall '15).

The weekend provided a meaningful opportunity for alumni to mingle and share stories of their time at MMC.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## CITYEDGE



Students in *Professional Practices* visit Pace University's Fred F. French Building, home to MMC's joint Master's in Publishing Program with Pace.

**CityEdge**, MMC's college-to-career initiative, combines a rigorous place-based liberal arts curriculum with focused professional opportunities and services to position students to compete and excel in a constantly evolving professional world.

Central to these efforts are the Departmental Advisory Boards, sponsored by each academic department on campus and composed of accomplished professionals with expertise in their fields. Members provide insight on the state of their industries, collaborate with faculty to assist with external relations and outreach to the industry, support career development initiatives, and identify job openings, internships, and other professional opportunities for students.

After first convening in the fall of 2017, the Advisory Boards evolved to meet the varying needs of their individual departments, and three distinct models of engagement have now emerged:

### **Internship Cultivation**

In the Business Division, Advisory Board members have served as influential networking and career advisors. "Students have reached out to specific board members for advice on resume preparation or guidance on internship and job opportunities," says Vandana Rao, Ph.D., Professor of Business Management and Chair of the Division of Business. "The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive."

### **Curriculum Development**

For the Department of English and World Literatures (EWL), Advisory Board meetings resulted in the establishment of *EWL 370: Professional Practices*, an upper-level course designed to help students explore the many careers available to English majors. Throughout the class, students integrate academic and extra-curricular experiences, utilizing New York and its vast array of opportunities to chart individualized pathways to identify and fulfill career goals. "We mainly use the Board to get a sense of what kinds of skills our students will really need in the workforce," explains Jennifer N. Brown, Ph.D., Professor of English and World Literatures. "Their ideas and guidance have been invaluable."

### **Fundraising Assistance**

The Department of Dance Advisory Board has supported a number of events in conjunction with the department, including a Friends of Dance Dinner and the Annual Dance Gala, in order to assist in program fundraising and engagement. "We hope to increase visibility and attendance at all the Department's performances, as well as increase the financial support that ultimately enhances the already excellent dance students' experiences at MMC," says Ellie Imperato '68, President of the Dance Advisory Board.

Through MMC's **CityEdge** program, students across disciplines benefit not only from the College's place-based curriculum, but also from dedicated industry professionals who guide students towards competitive and successful careers.

# NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION

Marymount Manhattan College officially welcomed the Class of 2023 and new transfer students to the campus community in August at New Student Convocation, a joyful event attended by hundreds of students, as well as faculty, staff, and trustees.

The incoming class was greeted by MMC President Kerry Walk, Board Chair Michael Materasso, and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Sharon Meagher. In addition, students learned what it means to join the MMC family from Student Government Association President Marchael Giles '20, Vice President Yasmin Serrano '22, and staff members from throughout the College community.

Alumnae Julietta Lopez '12 and Sameera Uddin '14 spoke about their MMC experiences, encouraging students to dive in and take advantage of all the opportunities the College and NYC have to offer. "Join every club, go to every meeting, talk to every professor and mentor, be active in the causes in which you believe," advised Lopez, now Director of Community and External Affairs for Senator Charles Schumer. "I learned some of the most important lessons of my life in these buildings."



"As a freshman, I remember walking into Career Services and telling them I wanted to change the world with my job. . . . Today, as a 26-year-old immigrant woman working to create opportunities for thousands of New Yorkers, I am glad I chose MMC to help put me on that path."

—Sameera Uddin '14

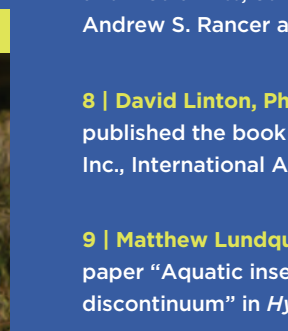
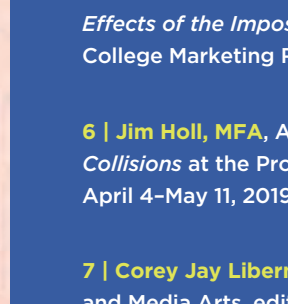
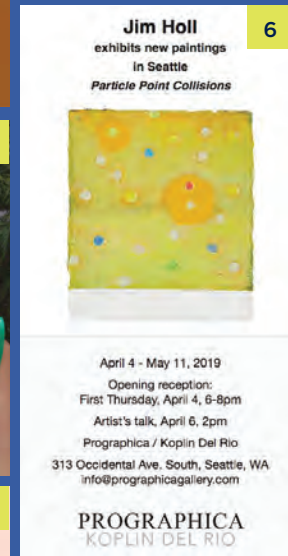
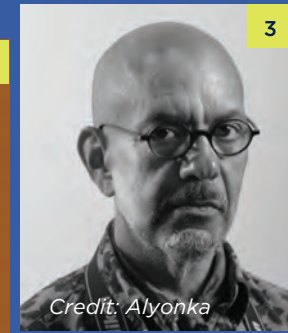
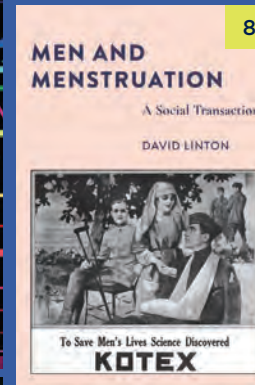
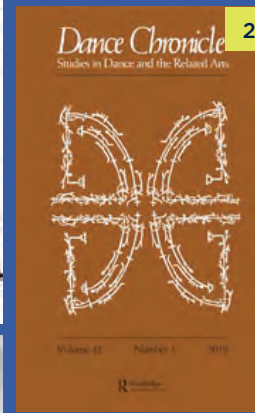
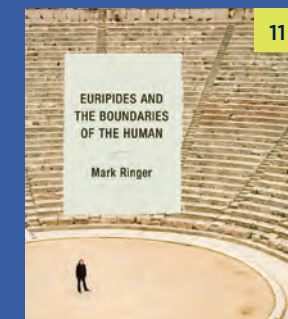
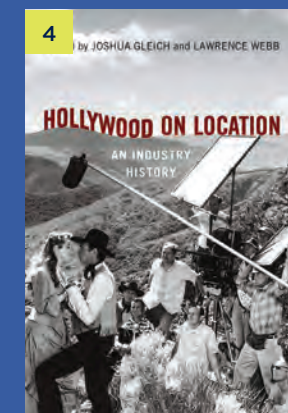
Senior Community Engagement & Partnerships Manager at NYC Kids RISE

Central to the celebration is the Pinning Ceremony, in which each new student receives a pin featuring the MMC logo on the image of a big apple. Upper-class Peer Leaders were invited to the stage to share what the MMC pin meant to them: integrity, passion, community, freedom of expression, creativity, inclusivity, and friendship. Finally, new students were asked to exchange pins—not once, but twice—symbolizing the class's multiple connections to one another, before affixing a pin to their own shirts.

Convocation concluded with a raucous singing of the College's Alma Mater, *Hail Marymount Manhattan*. The event was the culmination of the College's Welcome Week orientation program for new students as well as a celebratory launch of the new academic year.

Photos by Lina Jang

# FACULTY SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORK



1 | **Ann Aguanno, Ph.D.**, Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences, published the article "Catalyst conversation workshop provides tools faculty can use" in *ASBMB Today*, January 1, 2019

2 | **Lauren Erin Brown, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of History, published the essay "'As Long as They Have Talent': Organizational Barriers to Black Ballet" in *Dance Chronicle*, January 2, 2019

3 | **Manolo Estavillo, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Politics and Human Rights, participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities' summer seminar *Maps in the Digital Age* at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois, June–July 2019

4 | **Noelle Griffis, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, published the chapter "The New Hollywood, 1980-1999" in *Hollywood on Location: An Industry History* (Rutgers University Press, 2019) and contributed the chapter "Teenage Movie Makers of the Lower East Side, 1968-1974" to the volume *Screening Race in Nontheatrical Film* (Duke University Press, 2019)

5 | **Emily Goldsmith, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Marketing, presented *Do You Feel Like a Fraud? The Effects of the Impostor Phenomenon on Consumption Behaviors* at the Iona College Marketing Research Symposium in Westchester, New York, Fall 2018

6 | **Jim Holl, MFA**, Associate Professor of Art, exhibited *Particle Point Collisions* at the Prographica/KDR Gallery in Seattle, Washington, April 4–May 11, 2019

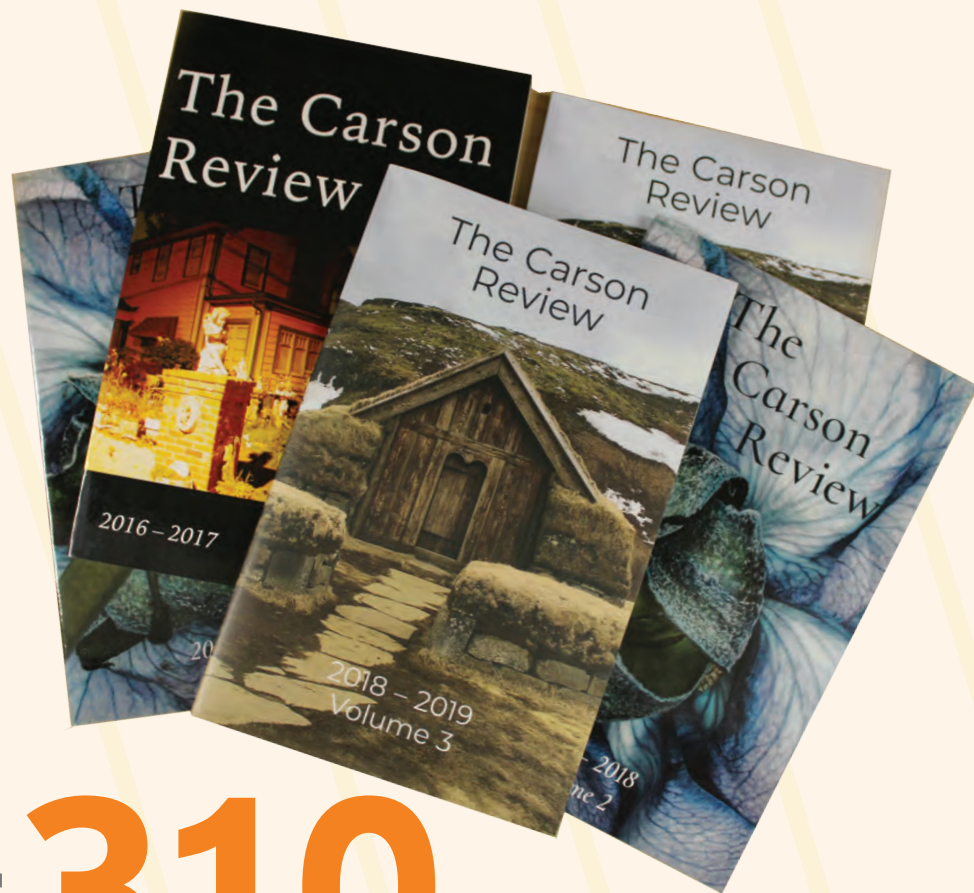
7 | **Corey Jay Liberman, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Arts, edited the book *Casing Communication Theory* with Andrew S. Rancer and Theodore A. Avtgis (Kendall Hunt, 2019)

8 | **David Linton, Ph.D.**, Emeritus Professor of Communication and Media Arts, published the book *Men and Menstruation: A Social Transaction* (Peter Lang Inc., International Academic Publishers, 2019)

9 | **Matthew Lundquist, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Biology, published the paper "Aquatic insect diversity in streams across a rural-urban land-use discontinuum" in *Hydrobiologia*, April 3, 2019

10 | **Tahneer Oksman, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Academic Writing, presented "Drawing on Grief" at the New York Comics & Picture-Story Symposium at The New School, May 7, 2019, and moderated the New York Public Library's "LGBTQ Coming-of-Age Comics" panel, June 3, 2019

11 | **Mark Ringer, MFA, Ph.D.**, Professor of Theatre Arts, published the book *Euripides and the Boundaries of the Human* (Lexington Books, 2018)



# CREATIVE WRITING 310

## and *The Carson Review*

**THE FALL OF 2016** marked a new era in publishing at Marymount Manhattan. After more than twenty years, the College’s literary journal, *The MMC Review*, evolved from a student-run editorial board project into a three-credit experiential course. Rebranded to match the newly named Carson Hall, *The Carson Review* became the responsibility of those enrolled in CRW 310: *Literary Magazine Publishing*. Half discussion, half editorial work, the course engages students in all aspects of presenting a literary arts journal to the community.

“We tackled everything from choosing the color of the paper to analyzing the cover photo to make sure it fit perfectly with the vibe we wanted for the magazine,” explains Mia Innocenti ’19, an English and World Literatures (EWL) major with a concentration in Creative Writing, who took the course in the fall of 2018. “I learned a lot more about myself as a writer through reading all of the submissions. We have remarkably talented writers at our school, and it was truly an experience to read all of their work!”

Each semester, the students are tasked with more than simply selecting submissions; they learn about the marketing and distribution of the final product, event planning, and more.

“It was interesting to learn just how literary magazines collect their stories and works and how they manage to gain the traction to be read by the general populace,” says Frankie Kavakich ’19, also an EWL major with a concentration in Creative Writing. “I want to be an author, but before that class, I had never thought of sending out my smaller pieces to literary magazines who might be happy to take them. Just discovering those opportunities has really helped me get used to the idea of throwing my work into the world.”

Jerry Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director of Creative Writing at MMC, believes the general health of a creative writing program can be judged by the quality of the literary magazine the students put out. “In our case,” he says, “the program is thriving.”



At the conclusion of the academic year, students celebrate the publication of the journal with readings of select pieces, including the winners of *The Carson Review*’s three literary prizes.

SPOTLIGHT

## PRISON EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT:

### *The Book Arts Project*

Thanks to a generous grant from the Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust, Marymount Manhattan students at the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) and on the main 71<sup>st</sup> Street campus began the journey of collaboratively writing and visually interpreting fables last year. This concept—dubbed *The Book Arts Project*—advances MMC’s BRIDGE model of college- and university-based prison education programs.

The two-fold purpose of the BRIDGE model—which stands for Building Relationships for Inclusion, Diversity, Globalism, and Equity—is to enrich all students’ educational experiences through the free exchange of ideas and dialogue across locations and to pave the way for more seamless re-entry of incarcerated students to society. Through *The Book Arts Project*, the two populations—those on the “inside” and those on the “outside”—benefit not only from the opportunity for creative expression, but also from mutual critique, dialogue, and artistic collaboration across their divide, thereby promoting self-understanding and empathy, as well as a shared vision for a more just society.

*The Book Arts Project* began in January with ten BHCP students who participated in MMC faculty-led writing courses that focused on generating original fables. Over the summer, additional BHCP students worked on the fables written during the previous semester, honing the drafts and creating art for the tales. The stories and artwork were then shared with main campus students enrolled in *Digital Imaging* with Julia Gran, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art, at the start of the 2019–20 academic year. Those students continue to work on the fables and art this semester. Exhibitions of the final projects will take place in early 2020 at both locations.

*The Book Arts Project* was inspired by a similar multimedia project produced by BHCP student Connie Leung, who created a Chinese fable-based illustrated book, *The Phoenix and the Dove*, for one of her courses. The process was documented via video by MMC faculty and students, and the book that Leung created was subsequently animated.



@gracelvh  
Upper east side! WHO!



@sydneyteter

I moved to nyc two years ago today & yes i am v emotional abt it but i got to spend it at my first day of welcome week as a peer leader :)) i love this program, all the people in it, this city & this life 💙



@joey.mulvey



@alyssa\_jades

We love strawberry fest 🍓☀️



@millienelson

“there’s more chance than choice in our decisions” THANK YOU to my beautiful cast for such an amazing process and a wonderful product! I couldn’t be more proud 💕  
ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLEEE



@infamousunit

Meet the Leaders of the Throne!!! This year’s Captains @\_serenaaaaxo @karingkucci @gwen\_attridge @jackiefabu under the direction of Presidents @emanidmack & @elijah\_castrooo have not only grown tremendously, but have put their blood, sweat, and tears into excelling the legacy of Infamous Unit! The unit couldn’t be more proud of them all! 🏆❤️100🏆 @tspicey97 #mmc #infamousunit #danceteams #unity #leaders #hbcustyle

# A SEASON OF COMMENCEMENTS



Marymount Manhattan College graduated nearly 400 bachelor's degree recipients at its Commencement Exercises last May.

Family and friends, students, faculty, and staff packed Lincoln Center's iconic David Geffen Hall to celebrate the Class of 2019. Both the valedictorian, Rachel Nevins, and senior class speaker, Jaswin "Billie" Sangha, addressed attendees, speaking about their undergraduate careers, the challenges faced, and the community they found at MMC.

In addition, the College proudly granted Tracy K. Smith, Poet Laureate of the United States, an honorary doctorate.



"The idea of troubling is what I'd like to leave you with. To trouble is to worry, to bother, to disturb, to agitate. But it is also to mine, to stir up, to plumb, to animate. In the realm of art, and myth, renewal often arises only after a purposeful troubling. . . . I think every mindful act of language has the potential to trouble something, to bring about discovery, upheaval, transformation and change. No matter where you go from here, I invite you to ground your words and your thoughts, your wishes and your dreams, in a place where troubling is always possible."

—Tracy K. Smith, MFA, H'19  
*Poet Laureate of the United States*



"I know that many of you, just like me, have faced and fought your own invisible battles to get to this day. We should not just be proud that we made it here, but also take a moment to reflect on the trials we endured along the way."

—Rachel Nevins '19 (below left)  
*Valedictory Speech*



"Marymount Manhattan quickly became my home, and it has inspired, frustrated, welcomed, challenged, and shaped me in all the ways a home does, in all the ways a diverse, dynamic family does."

—Jaswin "Billie" Sangha '19 (above right)  
*Class Speaker Address*

## COMMENCEMENTS FOR MMC'S PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Through MMC's Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) and Taconic College Program (TCP), women incarcerated at the maximum-security Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and at the adjacent medium-security Taconic Correctional Facility enroll in courses leading to Associate of Arts degrees in Social Sciences and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology or Politics and Human Rights. These programs provide the first opportunity in New York State for incarcerated women to have an uninterrupted pathway to a bachelor's degree if they are transferred from maximum-security to medium-security prison.

To celebrate their students' accomplishments, each program hosts an annual commencement ceremony, during which family, friends, and supporters can visit the graduates and witness them walk proudly across the stage to accept their diplomas.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual BHCP commencement was held in May, with six women earning Bachelor of Arts degrees and 14 receiving Associate of Arts degrees. Betsy West, distinguished video journalist, producer, filmmaker, and co-director of the Oscar-nominated documentary *RBG*, gave the keynote address. Since the BHCP's inception in 1997, more than 235 MMC degrees have been granted to incarcerated women who have completed their academic requirements.



The TCP was established as a new MMC teaching location in February 2019, in partnership with nonprofit Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison. In June, MMC celebrated its first-ever TCP commencement ceremony, awarding four Associate of Arts degrees.

The ceremony featured keynote speaker Topeka K. Sam, Founder and Executive Director of The Ladies of Hope Ministries (LOHM), whose mission is to help disenfranchised and marginalized women and girls transition back into society. She is also the founder of HOPE HOUSE NYC, a safe housing space in the Bronx for formerly incarcerated women and girls.

In addition, Jane Maher, Ph.D., professor in the BHCP for over 23 years and professor at the Taconic facility for the last three semesters, received an award in recognition of her distinguished service. Dr. Maher was instrumental in driving MMC's new partnership at the Taconic facility.





### Martine Faustin '19

**Martine Faustin '19** knew she needed to return to college to finish her degree, not only for herself, but also for her three young children. However, finding the right school was contingent on being able to continue the Behavioral Neuroscience degree she had started years prior at a different university. After discovering MMC's Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral Neuroscience and learning that the majority of her previous credits would transfer, Faustin couldn't help but jump on the opportunity to go back to school.

Citing the influence of MMC Psychology professors Sarah Weinberger-Litman, Ph.D., and Deitra Hunter-Romagnoli, Ph.D., Faustin believes that supportive faculty relationships were pillars of her MMC experience. "I could not be where I am now without them," she says. Dr. Hunter-Romagnoli steered Faustin towards securing an internship at the Nestler Lab at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, a rigorous program that helped Faustin develop critical study habits and presentation skills. Her hard work paid off, as the internship turned into a neuroscience research associate position, in which Faustin

now aids in research on the molecular mechanisms of addiction and depression.

On top of her academic endeavors, Faustin was an involved member of the campus community, serving as the president of the Neuro Club and receiving a number of awards and distinctions, including the 2019 Rowley Founder's Medal. Outside of school and work, Faustin volunteers her services at her children's school, serving on various PTA Boards and coordinating informational and community involvement events in Far Rockaway, Queens. Faustin plans to attend medical school, where her focus will be on community health, specifically mental health and addiction.



### Romello Rodriguez '19

After trusting the word of a friend from high school, **Romello Rodriguez '19** gave Marymount Manhattan College a shot. Four years later, the Theatre Performance major and Musical Theatre minor strutted across the stage at Commencement in a red-sequined graduation gown so fabulous it caught the eye of RuPaul—illustrious drag queen, actor, model, and television personality—who featured Rodriguez's "graduation reveal" video on his TV show and retweeted it from his personal Twitter account.

Before graduating, Rodriguez made an impact across campus, serving on the College's Campus Activities Board for four years and participating in other organizations, including Griffin Radio, the Theatre Arts Student Council, and the Musical Theatre Association, and helping to plan signature campus events like Apple Fest and Homecoming. His legacy also includes the creation of two major events on campus: MMC's Laugh Factory (with Dead Rabbits Society and America's Least Wanted) and MMC's Annual Drag Show.

The recent graduate loves working with young artists and students helping to develop their artistry and to push for growth outside of their comfort zones. He hopes to continue teaching and working with nonprofit organizations, in addition to auditioning for various productions and developing his interest in fashion design. Though many students may feel post-graduation pressures, Rodriguez is going with the flow. "I'm not in a rush," he says. "I'm staying focused and working one step at a time."



### Itzamary Dominguez '19

Can a single art project speed up an immigration visa process? *Missing Moments*, a stunning series of colored pencil drawings by Art major **Itzamary Dominguez '19**, may have done just that. Dominguez's husband, Victor, who immigrated to the United States from Ecuador when he was 18, had waited over a decade for the approval of his son's visa. Because she was able to travel, Dominguez made the journey to Ecuador to meet with Immigration officials in what she thought would be the last step in bringing Victor's son home. At the meeting, however, Immigration extended the waiting period, citing a need for further evidence that Dominguez had a relationship with Victor's son. Devastated, Dominguez returned to the United States and relied on art to help process her grief. She then began what she would entitle *Missing Moments*, drawings depicting a father and son relationship, and a testament to the ways in which separation at the border continues to be a painful reality for so many immigrant families.

Dominguez took photos of her artwork, along with other documents of proof, and sent them to Immigration Services, imploring them to reconsider the waiting period extension. And, she believes, the artwork made an impact: shortly after sending the images of her work, Dominguez received a call from Immigration Services with further instructions, and she noticed a remarkably quickened pace for the proceedings. On April 19, 2019, Victor was reunited with his son.

Dominguez's series was featured in MMC's Hewitt Gallery of Art, where it inspired another project by Gabriel Richardson '21, Dance major (read more on page 55). In a powerful short documentary and full-length blog post, Richardson detailed Dominguez's process, the emotions behind her artwork, and the worsening plight of immigrants at the border today.

The video and article can be found at [mmm.edu/missing-moments](http://mmm.edu/missing-moments).



Top: *Walking Together*,  
Colored Pencil 12"x16"



Center: *Missing Moments*  
series, Colored Pencil



Right: *Hug*,  
Colored Pencil, 12"x16"



## Meet Dr. Laura Tropp

MMC's Professor of Communication and Media Arts and author of *Grandparents in a Digital Age*

### WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND YOUR NEWEST BOOK, *GRANDPARENTS IN A DIGITAL AGE*?

My family made a decision to move in intergenerationally about four years ago—we decided that my parents could play a key role now in helping out, and later, when they need more assistance, we could all play a key role for them. But, one day, my daughter came home from school with this assignment about “nuclear family” vs. “extended family”. She was upset. “I put Nana and Papa on the nuclear family ’cause my teacher said that’s the people who live in your house, but she said Nanans and Papas belong on the extended family because they don’t live in your house. But I told her that they do live in my house and the whole thing is so confusing,” she told me. It got me thinking about how her understanding of a grandparent may be different from other people’s. I started paying attention on the playground and at school events to how many grandparents were around and how involved they were in caregiving. I wondered, as people are aging longer, at least here in the United States and other developed places, how the grandparent role is affected. That’s when I started looking into what the role of grandparents is in the United States today, and how it has shifted.

### HOW DID YOU START THE RESEARCH AND WRITING PROCESS FOR THE BOOK?

For this book, as I usually do with my work, I took a multi-research approach. I was interested in interviewing grandparents from all around the country—of different economic statuses, races, and ethnicities—but I also wanted to talk to companies and businesses that provide for grandparents. And I conducted an analysis of popular culture to see how grandparents are represented. I came away with a lot of different types of stories and then had to figure out how it all wove together into a larger book narrative—which is the fun part.

### DID YOU FIND ANY MAJOR DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN MEDIA PORTRAYALS OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE RESEARCH YOU CONDUCTED?

First, I found that there’s definitely what I call the very “commoditized grandparent experience” reflected in media and pop culture. There’s a desired experience that’s geared toward upper-class, white, privileged groups, where grandparents can choose how involved they want to be with their grandchildren. They can choose how much money they want to spend and what activities they want to participate in. Then there are all these other groups of grandparents who don’t have that kind of flexibility or choice. They might be in a caregiving role, not because they necessarily *want* to spend Sundays with their grandchild, but because the parent or parents *need* them to give care. The groups that remain more hidden are those who can’t define their own grandparent experience; they’re kind of left with it. A group that tends to be missing from the media depictions altogether is the alienated grandparents.

This was a surprising group that I hadn’t really thought about—probably like most people—because they’re not visible.

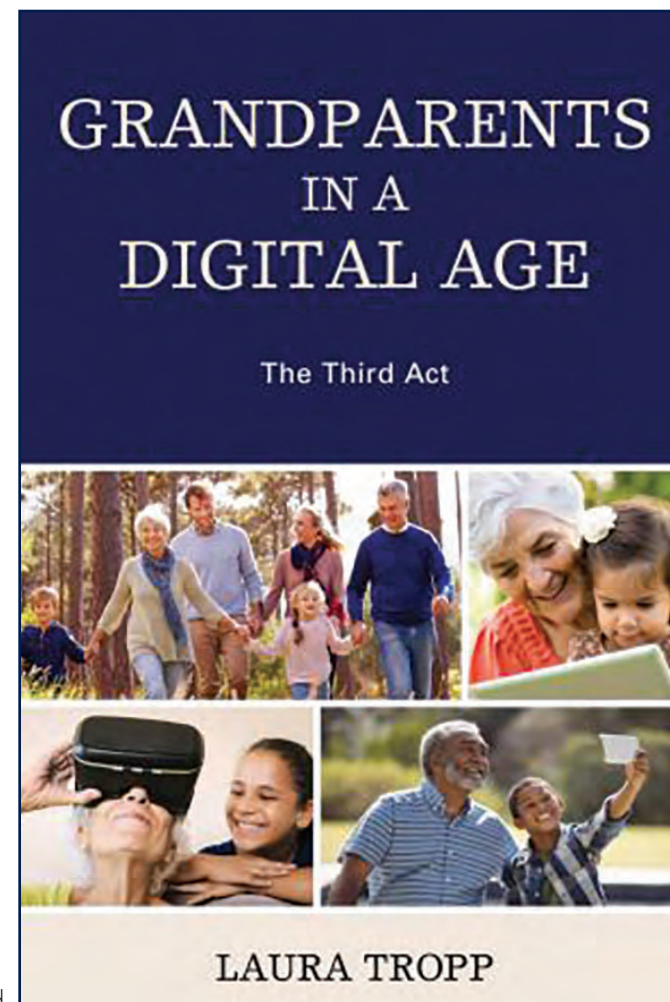
### HOW DOES THIS RESEARCH CONNECT TO (AND DIFFERENTIATE FROM) YOUR WORK AT MMC?

Something I’m always paying attention to in my classes is, *Who doesn’t get attention?* and *How can we give them more attention?* My understanding of the elderly has shifted since I wrote this book. I notice them more, and I notice the ways in which society is not paying attention to them. I’ve found ways to integrate those observations into my lessons on new technology and digital culture. Where do the elderly and the aging fit in with new technology in terms of access, expectations, and ability? In the class I teach on motherhood and media, I’ve found that students love having a chance to think about family relationships and family issues before they’ve engaged in those roles. I think a class about aging would give students another interesting perspective. And, society has a problem right now—we don’t have enough resources for those who are aging, we don’t know how to help people through the process. So much of an MMC education is about developing changemakers—having a class where younger students could engage with these issues early on

could really make a difference. The best way to shift viewpoints about aging is to get 20-year-olds thinking about aging.

### WHAT’S NEXT?

Intergenerational living is becoming a new “trend” for upper-middle class American families, but there are some cultures where people have always lived that way. I am fascinated by all the different ways in which families have experimented with this type of arrangement. It could be fun to do another book that profiles ten or twelve families and the ways intergenerational living existed in earlier historical periods and how it functions now.



Winner of the Media Ecology Association’s Erving Goffman Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Social Interaction.

### WERE THERE ANY OTHER AREAS YOU FOUND SURPRISING?

Something I found really interesting was the role of technology in creating relationships between grandparents and grandchildren. Once children have their own phones—which is starting to happen earlier and earlier—a whole separate relationship can exist that doesn’t involve and isn’t mediated by the parents. The grandparents, and also sometimes the parents I’d interview, would say “this has been fabulous.” I’d hear people say things like, “I didn’t really get along well with my mother-in-law, but now I don’t have to communicate with her. My child can have a relationship with her grandparent without my having to be involved.”

“ My understanding of the elderly has shifted since I wrote this book. I notice them more, and I notice the ways in which society is not paying attention to them. I’ve found ways to integrate those observations into my lessons on new technology and digital culture.”

— Laura Tropp, Ph.D.

# Ambassadors of the Arts

## DANCE EDUCATION at MMC



See page 4 for full photo credit details for this piece.

## Preparing DANCE ADVOCATES

When graduates of Marymount Manhattan College's Department of Dance walk across the stage at Commencement in May, each dancer has completed countless hours of rigorous training in dance technique and theory, alongside intensive academic study in the liberal arts and sciences. This holistic dance education—intended to prepare students for a wide variety of professional roles in the dance world, while ensuring that students have the general knowledge and abilities to pursue any life pathway they wish—is a hallmark of MMC's Dance programs.

What further sets MMC's Dance graduates apart is that they are passionate and articulate ambassadors of the arts.

"The quality of our program speaks for itself—our alumni go on to some of the most prestigious dance companies in the country, and they attain incredible personal and professional success in dance, as well as in many other professional areas," says Katie Langan '92, Professor and Chair of the Department of Dance. "But what's most important is that our students are trained as champions of and for the arts. In a cultural climate that threatens the future of the arts in America, our students, faculty, and alumni unite under the philosophy that the arts are a vital part of our social fabric, deeply necessary in a world that values innovation and different points of view."

MMC Dance students regard arts ambassadorship as a key outcome of their college education. Chantelle Good '18, a BFA Dance alumna, has been a dancer for Jennifer Lopez and recently performed in Emmy-nominated choreographer Al Blackstone's *Freddie Falls in Love*. Of her education, she says: "My time at Marymount Manhattan was life-changing. What's unique about the program is that we are taught how to become true citizens of the arts. We are taught how to advocate for ourselves and for our art form, because as young artists, it is our responsibility to do so. I graduated with a new perception of dance as an art form with endless capacity to drive positive change in the community, both within the arts and at large."



## Tapping into PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Firmly grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, MMC's Dance programs provide the combination of a conservatory-based dance curriculum led by excellent professional faculty with an education focused on the importance of arts advocacy and opportunities for professional preparation.

**“The Department of Dance offers courses and training opportunities that are flexible and individualized,”** says MMC President Kerry Walk. **“We have students who are passionate about performance and choreography, those who are fascinated by anatomy, and others who choose to explore representations of moving bodies in media. The department embraces and encourages this diversity of interest.”**

Each semester, 15 to 16 students are chosen to participate in the department's Dancers at Work program, a high-level training experience in which students develop and then showcase original pieces of choreography. Selected for freshness and diversity in aesthetic backgrounds and dance styles, students in the program refine a five to seven minute piece for a performance in the College's Great Hall, in addition to receiving substantial leadership training.

**“During our weekly evening sessions, faculty members share tools to help students with the development of their pieces, but also provide guidance on being better facilitators,”** explains Elisabeth Motley, MFA, Assistant Professor of Dance. **“Students are choreographing on their peers for these pieces, and they take this learning and directing opportunity very seriously. It's truly a chance to grow their creative voices, and many students audition for and complete the Dancers at Work program more than once during their time at MMC.”**

Guest choreographers, acting as a bridge between the college environment and the professional world, regularly teach classes and workshops, adding new challenges and diverse perspectives to the education of MMC dancers.

Jessica Lang—the Bessie Award-winning choreographer who has created 105 ballets with such companies as American Ballet Theatre and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater—has worked with MMC students twice, most recently on a piece that was performed at the 2019 Dance Gala. Lang's piece, *Lines Squared*, featured 16 MMC dancers.

**“The work ethic of these students is so evident,”** Lang says of MMC dance students. **“They carry a serious and focused approach to learning and are highly disciplined, a demeanor that clearly comes from the top. Katie**

**Langan and the entire dance department teach not just technique, but how to be a responsible young professional ready to enter the world.”**



4



7



5



8



6



9

## Forging the Next Generation of PERFORMING ARTISTS

The department's commitment to preparing ambassadors of the arts is apparent in the inspiring outreach efforts of a very special corps of Dance students.

The MMC Dance Company comprises approximately 20 Dance majors, who are selected through a competitive audition process within the department. Requiring a yearlong commitment of five extra hours of training and rehearsal a week, the Company is essentially a professional-level residency that provides students with exposure to advanced training and coveted opportunities for selective performances. Members also participate in an intensive month-long January session, which includes full-day rehearsals and classes with numerous guest artists and well-known dance professionals, fostering personal development and professional connections.

During their January semester, MMC Dance Company members “pay it forward” through an engaging winter outreach workshop with local elementary schools PS 158 and PS 267. Evan Supple '16, an MMC Dance Company alumnus, founded the winter outreach workshop during his senior year as a BFA Dance major. After the month of training with celebrated dancers in the community, Company students become the teachers, working with younger students to create their own dances—from music selection and choreography to rehearsals and a final performance. The experience is transformational both for Company members and for their grade school students, almost none of whom have a background in dance.

**“To watch the faces of the future generation as they leave Marymount Manhattan with knowledge about dance and all that it has to offer is an indescribable experience and is beyond inspiring,”** says Andrew Burleson '20, BFA Dance major with a concentration in Choreography and a minor in Business. **“The Company provides an environment that fosters free expression and that instills the premise that dance is for everyone.”**

Supple is proud to see the tradition he started grow year after year. He observes: **“Having initiated a lasting legacy—not only in the concrete program itself, but in the commitment to bringing the arts, and the values of the College, into the lives of younger generations—is something I'm deeply proud of. It attests to the type of ambassadorship that MMC nurtures and develops in its students.”**

## Dance as ACTIVISM

MMC's Department of Dance operates on the belief that physical training is intrinsically connected to dancers' understanding of the world and their ability to change it.

**“There is so much power in dance,” explains Catherine Cabeen, MFA, Assistant Professor of Dance. “The body is an incredible source of knowledge, and dance is a rich form of communication when engaged as a practice and as a performance. It has healing potential for individuals and communities. As an art form that uses the body as its central vehicle of expression, dance is loaded with political significance, and, as such, helps us to understand culture and human interaction.”**

More MMC courses each year focus on dance as a platform for the exploration of social justice and diversity. *Black Dance in America*, for example, examines the body as a potential site of both empowerment and oppression, exploring the role of racism while celebrating the Africanist aesthetic in a variety of dance forms. In *Ethics, Aesthetics, and Gender in the Performing Arts*, students study 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century performing arts history as it relates to our understanding of gender, and learn about various female artists, queer artists, and artists of color whose work stands in opposition to cultural norms and expectations.

Interdisciplinary courses like these inspired Dani Cole '19, a double major in Dance and Politics and Human Rights (PHR), to understand dance as a means for sociopolitical action. “The dance department encourages critical thinking and creative practices,” she says. “The simultaneously moving, thinking, and speaking body is required and inspired to incite dialogue. I was asked to dance quite physically in technique classes and then immediately dive into academic work in Dance Studies and PHR that acknowledged and questioned what I was doing in my more movement-oriented classes.” She adds: “My courses and independent studies deepened my advocacy and activation for political engagement through the body.”

Today, Cole puts these seemingly different methods of study to work as the Artistic Leader and Organizer of the interdisciplinary collective Mobilized Voices/MOBIV—the idea for which originated in her Dance Senior Seminar, which requires students to present a business proposal that reflects both entrepreneurship and advocacy in the arts. Brought to fruition by Cole during her senior year, MOBIV is now a politically active organization, composed of dancer-activists, that creates performance works and collaborates with local communities to advocate for choreographic processes as vital support for change-making social and political causes. Cole is also a curatorial associate at Gibney, a leading nonprofit arts organization that conducts outreach to domestic violence survivors through dance.

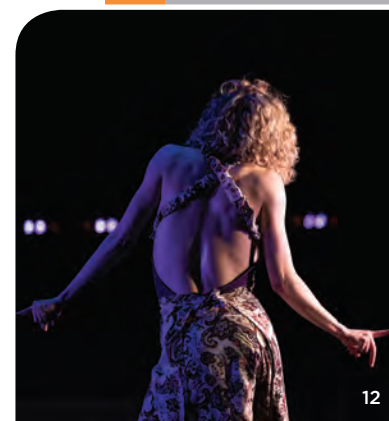
Alumnus Evan Supple's career was similarly influenced by his MMC dance education. “The department's multi-faceted emphasis on integrity, discipline, and critical thought, both in the studio and out, was integral to my development as an artist and a person,” he explains. “At MMC, I learned that the most impactful artists are those who are active in carving their own value-laden path and who can leave the dance community, and the world as a whole, a better place by way of advocacy, stewardship, and justice.”

After spending three seasons in his dream job with the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Supple is now on set in Toronto for several episodes of an upcoming Netflix ballet series. He is also pursuing a master's degree in social and political thought to reintroduce the intellectual component to his artistic practice, having missed that strong connection between dance and intensive thought in his career since graduating from Marymount Manhattan.

With their multifaceted and socially engaged endeavors, Cole and Supple embody the dance department's philosophy. “Our students are taught to think of a career in the arts as more than just performing on stage,” says Philip Treviño, MMC's Technical Director of Dance. “Ultimately we try to teach our students to be better humans. Dance and the ideas surrounding it can help build bridges for a better future in new and innovative ways. Our students are going out and changing the world by bringing their education, skills, and experiences to it.”



Anthony Lopez '96; Baayork Lee (Tony Award-winning actress, singer, dancer, choreographer, and director); Katie Langan; Richard Jay-Alexander; and Ellie Imperato '68



# THE ANNUAL DANCE GALA

Held in the Theresa Lang Theatre each spring, the College's annual Dance Gala is the Department of Dance's major fundraising event of the year, showcasing MMC Dance students and raising critical funds to provide enhanced educational experiences. Funds from the event support student scholarships, fees for music and performance rights, and, perhaps most significantly, opportunities for students to train with renowned choreographers and performers, adding depth and rigor to the MMC learning experience.

Crucial to the success of the Dance Gala is MMC's Dance Advisory Board, a group of 15 active and dedicated professionals in a variety of arts and management fields who advocate for the success and visibility of the department.

Ellie Imperato '68, an English major at MMC with a lifelong passion for dance, joined the Dance Advisory Board in 2007 and is now in her second three-year term as President. An avid attendee of MMC dance performances, Imperato has seen the department grow and excel over the years.

“The caliber of MMC performances becomes more impressive every year because of the students' exposure to more demanding choreography—which is only possible as a result of the generosity of donors to the Gala,” Imperato says. “This opportunity to work with noted choreographers results in a more stimulating and satisfying learning experience, which translates into professionally executed performances. As I've learned in talking with MMC dancers, it is clear that our students are grateful for what the dance department offers them—an outstanding education in dance training as well as in the liberal arts.”

The 2019 Dance Gala, which was chaired by alumnus and Advisory Board member Anthony Lopez '96, honored the distinguished Broadway producer and director Richard Jay-Alexander. Of the talented student performers, Jay-Alexander declared to the packed house: “This is not a dance department. This is a *company!*”



President Kerry Walk; former MMC trustee Gerard A. McCallion; MMC President Emerita Dr. Regina S. Peruggi; and Department Chair Katie Langan

# Catalyzing a Lifelong Scientific and Creative Practice



## CREATIVITY, ORIGINALITY, IMAGINATION—THESE ARE THE QUALITIES SPARKED BY A MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN EDUCATION IN ... SCIENCE!

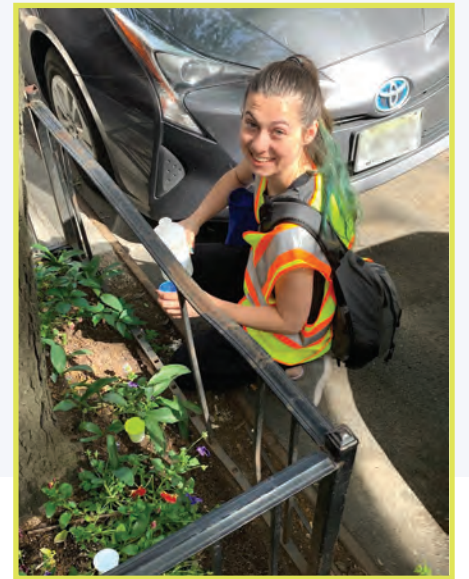
From making surprising hypotheses to designing inventive experiments that test them, to solving complex scientific problems in innovative ways, science is a highly creative activity, and nowhere is that more apparent than at MMC, where the Division of Sciences includes such popular majors as Behavioral Neuroscience, Biomedical Sciences, and Psychology, among others.

### Science Education Tailored to a Creative Community

A perk of attending a small liberal arts school is that students can explore their interests and develop multidisciplinary courses of study, often combining seemingly disparate majors and minors in unexpected ways to suit their curiosities.

For example, students with a broad range of creative and scientific interests are finding a home in the College's new Urban and Environmental Sustainability major. "Our location in NYC gives students the unique opportunity to experience an important urban ecosystem firsthand, and that appeals to students from across a variety of disciplines," explains Matthew Lundquist, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology and an expert in urban ecology.

Dr. Lundquist can reel off examples of MMC students who combine contrasting areas of study in their pursuit of scientific discovery. "Over the summer, Hope Kenmore '20 was my research assistant on a project focused on the biodiversity in cities," Lundquist notes. "She's a BFA Dance and BA Biology double major. This semester, Madison Weisend '20, an Environmental Studies and Politics and Human Rights double major, is collaborating with me and a faculty member from The New School on a project that examines the impact of the urban environment on honeybee microbiomes. The customizability of our program lets students from all majors follow their interests while gaining valuable research experience with faculty."



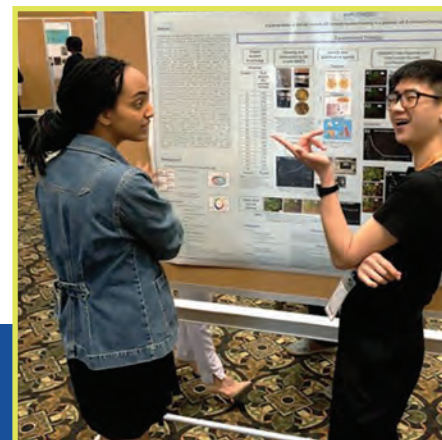
Hope Kenmore '20 assesses insect diversity in sidewalk tree beds

Sometimes, student interests even serve as the inspiration for new programs, as was the case with Lucas Sverdlen '19, a Theatre major with a concentration in Performance. According to Ken Ching, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics, "Thanks to Lucas' enthusiasm for mathematics and his persistence and creative input, the College introduced an Applied Mathematics minor in fall 2018. While many may think math and theatre are opposite disciplines, Lucas demonstrated that his aptitude for mathematical thinking is only strengthened by his creative, performative spirit. Both subjects teach and rely on analytical thinking, resourcefulness, and the discernment and interpretation of patterns."

Now working at a tech software startup, Sverdlen is balancing a demanding website development position with a performance career. "I was able to combine all of my interests in my academic program at MMC, and the knowledge I gained allowed me to get my foot in the door to explore the tech world while still pursuing my dream of performing," he says.



Ann Aguanno, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences, reviews student research presentations



# THERAPY ABROAD ENHANCES STUDENT LEARNING ON CAMPUS

In early May, **Denise Cruz**, Director of Clinical Education and Clinical Services, and **Nathalia Fonseca '10**, Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) alumna and adjunct instructor in MMC's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, traveled to Belize for a 12-day speech therapy program. They worked with Therapy Abroad, a company that brings critical speech therapy services to developing countries by offering short-term service learning programs to qualified SLP students.

Well-known for its beaches, eco-lodges, and Mayan ruins, Belize is also one of the most underserved countries in Central America in terms of speech and language services, with just one licensed pathologist in the entire country. Working to bring sustainable services to the community, Cruz supervised six graduate students who conducted diagnostic evaluations, speech therapy sessions, and home-based field visits for children with a variety of speech and language, oral motor, and swallowing disorders. Fonseca supervised undergraduates in a 15-day speech-language therapy camp.

"This program was completely life-changing," says Cruz. "Families came from far and wide, with one family even hitchhiking for hours to participate. Our student clinicians had only construction paper and a few crayons to work with. They had to be creative with very limited resources to make the therapy engaging and effective. It was beautiful to see their success with such limited tools."

The experience in Belize has inspired Cruz to make changes to the College's clinical curriculum. On campus, MMC's Ruth Smadbeck Communication and Learning Center is a state-of-the-art facility in which student clinicians commonly use resources like iPads, toys, flashcards, coloring books, and more, but Cruz now assigns projects that require students to improvise. "It was a good wake-up call—no matter

where in the world you are, you never really know what kind of resources people will have at home," she explains. "Patients and families often need to know how to practice therapy in very basic environments, and so should our students."

Cruz hopes to be able to bring a group of MMC students to participate in Therapy Abroad during a future January or summer session. "Our students complete a full-year course in our speech clinic. With their experience and knowledge, they could absolutely operate at the level of the graduate students I supervised," she says. "Plus, the underlying messages of social justice and cultural sensitivity that this program teaches is completely aligned with our curriculum and educational mission at MMC."



Science Society promotes importance of organ donation



Students test water chemistry in Central Park

## Research as a Place of Discovery

At the heart of MMC's science programs is the faculty-student research relationship. Original research helps students experience firsthand the creativity and curiosity inherent in scientific exploration, as well as develop a high level of competence in their fields of interest while making genuine contributions to the scientific community.

Benedetta Sampoli Benitez, Ph.D., Chair of the Division of Sciences and Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is a champion of faculty-student research collaborations. "At larger institutions, undergrads might have a small role in a project, helping to collect or organize data," she explains. "But at MMC, our students are involved in every step of the process, from beginning to end. At conferences and competitions, science faculty at institutions around the country are amazed that our students are only undergraduates—their level of work and ability to communicate findings are truly exceptional."

Across the scientific disciplines at MMC, students are highly encouraged and often actively recruited to engage in faculty-mentored research projects. In addition to developing crucial laboratory and presentation skills, students frequently appear as co-authors on original publications—a rarity at the undergraduate level.

For example, Jessica Krimgold '19 and Ailyn Gomez '19—both Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology majors and Language Science minors—will be published in the peer-reviewed journal *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education* this year alongside Sue Behrens, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, for work they collaborated on during their junior and senior years at MMC (read more on page 17).

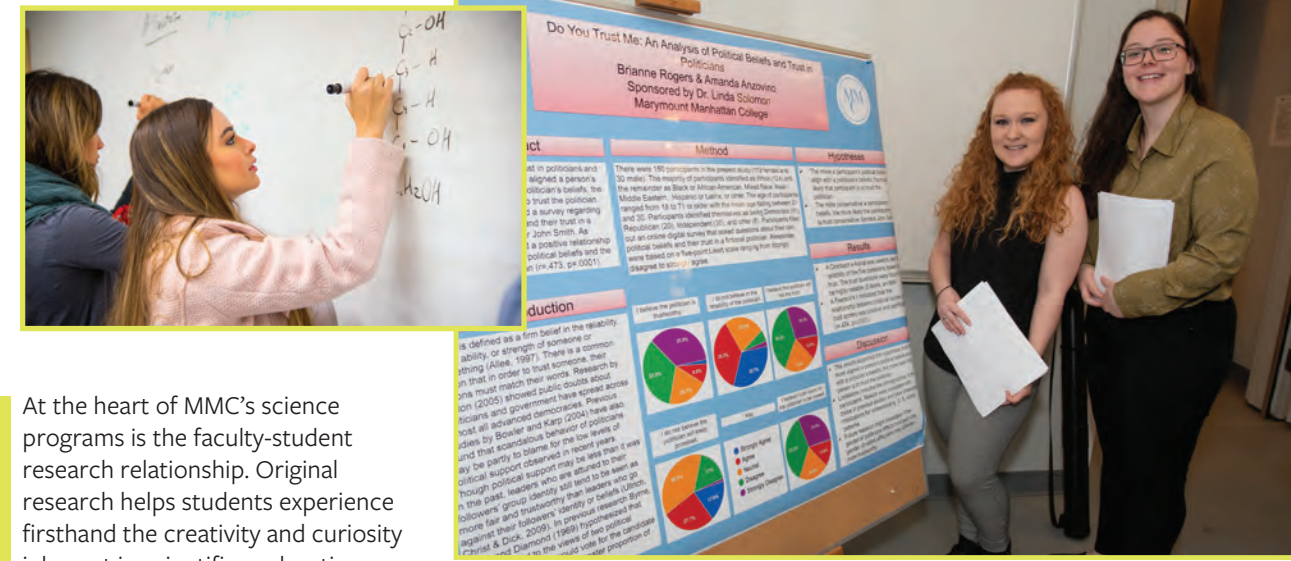
In a groundbreaking article published this year in the top-ranked journal *Food Chemistry*, Marisa Dunigan '15 and Rosie Wenrich '17 are credited as co-authors alongside Alessandra Leri, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry. Their project was the first to quantify total concentrations of certain harmful organic compounds in edible brown seaweeds, which have attracted scientific attention because they serve as a good substitute for land vegetables. Dunigan, now a researcher at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Wenrich, a medical student at the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine, in New Jersey, originally began working with Dr. Leri as students and continued to collaborate years after graduation.

"Through research partnerships with their professors, our students not only have the opportunity to experience the thrill of creating new knowledge, they also acquire, at an unusually early stage, important habits of scientific thinking and practice," says MMC President Kerry Walk. "These habits open doors to internship and research assistant

opportunities, acceptance into prestigious graduate and health-related programs and medical school, and employment in a range of scientific fields."

Adds President Walk: "Faculty-student research collaboration is a truly distinguishing feature of an MMC education in science."

Rosie Wenrich '17 (center) publishes her senior thesis with Emma Kamen '18 and Dr. Leri



Psychology students present research at Honors Day

As a student, Keaven Caro '18, a double major in Biology and Behavioral Neuroscience with minors in Chemistry and Dance, conducted research with Deirtra Hunter-Romagnoli, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Biopsychology, and Behavioral Neuroscience. Caro, now an MD/Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, reflects on his college experience:



**"I believe my research at MMC equipped me to succeed. Working so closely with faculty on a small research team, I conducted complex research myself, and I developed my communication skills, because I had to be able to discuss research and current scientific literature with high-level faculty and other researchers."**

## Translating Coursework into Community Outreach

At MMC, students demonstrate that there is creativity in scientific discovery, to be sure, but also in developing the ability to communicate that knowledge to popular audiences—no easy feat.

In May, seven Biology majors developed and ran a learning station at *Science Saturday*, a major science outreach festival for K–8 students hosted by Rockefeller University. Titled *Molecular Madness*, their station offered a series of hands-on activities that demonstrated how the shape of a molecule affects its chemical properties. Through this outreach activity, MMC students instilled the excitement of science in younger students.

Not satisfied with simply mastering their own programs, students actively seek opportunities to teach others, conducting outreach to students on campus and to members of the larger NYC community and beyond. They have a passion for what they're learning, and their curiosity and creativity permeate every facet of campus life.

That excitement is felt throughout MMC's student body, thanks to the efforts of one of the most dynamic student groups on campus: the Psychology Club, which won Student Organization of the Year

## Science Communication as a Creative Endeavor

In a competitive market, MMC students have an edge, thanks to their curiosity and penchant for creative exploration, and their strong foundation in applied skills. Not surprisingly, they go on to find success in a range of scientific careers.

Ashley Pirovano '13, a Biology major and former laboratory assistant for the Department of Natural Sciences, is now a community scientist at BioBus, a New York City-based nonprofit dedicated to science outreach. She teaches classes on the BioBus, a high-tech lab on wheels, bringing engaging, relevant science to students and communities that are typically far removed from the world of science.

"My training at a liberal arts school has been very beneficial. I learned how to talk about science through storytelling," says Pirovano. "And because of our small class sizes, we were encouraged to ask questions and fully articulate our thoughts, which made me more comfortable with communication."

Carol Wagner '16 is another alumna who has translated a scientific education into a career. As Senior Analyst for Primary Research at NBCUniversal, a global mass media conglomerate, she writes surveys, conducts focus groups, and then analyzes and presents data that inform the creation and marketing of new content and the development of advertising sales strategy. As an undergraduate, Wagner conducted disability research with Dr. Silton in the psychology department and completed formative media-related internships at Sesame Workshop and Nickelodeon.

and Educational Program of the Year at the annual Student Leadership Awards ceremony last year. With over 30 active members, the Psych Club engages the campus community with a robust calendar of on- and off-campus programming.

Weekly roundtable discussions have addressed topics ranging from play therapy, to disabilities, to disordered eating. Screenings of films like *WONDER* and the documentary *Absolutely Safe* have ignited discussions about the lives of patients with facial differences and the intersections of health, money, and beauty in relation to breast implants. And activities like a psychology-inspired costume party for Halloween and participation in the annual President's Cup Volleyball tournament as the "Psychlones" evidence the group's playfulness and humor.

"The club members are very intrinsically motivated," says Nava Silton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology and Psych Club advisor. "They come up with incredibly original ways of engaging a variety of other students and MMC community members. It's inspiring to see how many creative applications our students are finding for psychology."



The Psych Club receives Student Leadership Awards

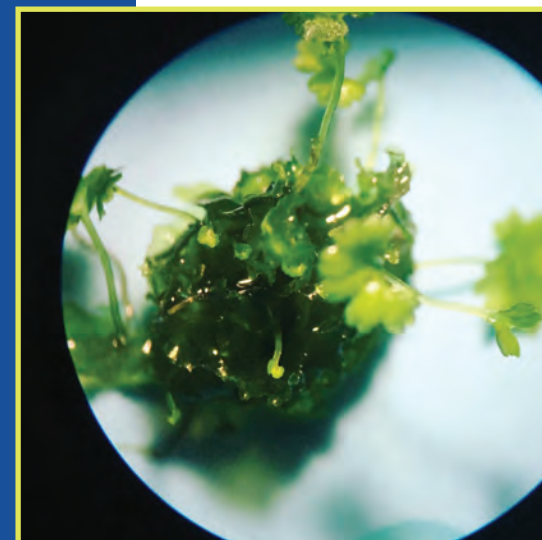
"I was extremely fortunate to see the concepts I was learning in the classroom applied to real-life situations in my research and internships," says Wagner. "When I realized I could combine my interest in psychology with media, it sparked my passion not only to understand how people think, but to use that information to create the highest quality media experience for viewers. It was through these experiences that I really solidified the perspective that creativity is essential to psychology."

That perspective—that science and creativity are inextricably linked—is one that each program in the Division of Sciences fosters.

"Success in science requires a creative mind," says President Walk. "As Einstein famously said, 'Imagination is more important than knowledge,' because imagination is the engine of discovery. Our science faculty test Einstein's hypothesis in their teaching and their research collaborations with students every single day."



MMC students lead a learning station at Rockefeller University's Science Saturday



Student microscopy image of a fern reproductive structure



## SUPPORTING THE SCIENCES

Philanthropy has been crucial to the growth and vigor of MMC's science-related programming, facilities, and student scholarship opportunities.



### The Barry Commoner Lecture on the Environment

The Commoner Lecture was established through the generosity of Richard S. Berry and Lucy A. Commoner in honor of Barry Commoner, a prominent American ecologist who was among the founders of the modern environmental movement. The annual lecture brings notable scientists, environmentalists, and authors to campus to speak on a wide variety of contemporary environmental issues. Recent speakers

have included Dr. Emma J. Rosi (at left), urban ecologist and Senior Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, and Laurence C. Smith, leading UCLA climate scientist and author of *The World in 2050*.

### Ruth Smadbeck Communication and Learning Center

The Smadbeck Center, located in the heart of Carson Hall, provides free diagnostic testing and treatment for a wide range of pediatric and adult communication disorders, such as language delay, voice disorders, and aphasia. Students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology have the opportunity to work directly with clients, benefitting from on-site clinical observation, training, and supervision. Open to the public, the Smadbeck Center was established in 1987 through a generous grant from the Heckscher Foundation.



Student clinicians train in the Smadbeck Center

### Scholarships for Students

Colette Mahoney, RSHM, Ph.D., served as President of Marymount Manhattan College for 21 years (1967–1988). In honor of her passion for the sciences and her championing of undergraduate research when she was President, the **Sr. Colette Mahoney Science Research Grant for Faculty-Student Collaboration** was established in 2013.

Each year, the **Dean Peter H. Baker Science Scholarship** provides crucial funds to first-year or transfer students pursuing a major in the Division of Sciences. For 50 years—until his retirement in 2012—Dean Baker, a philosopher by training, served the College in a wide variety of roles—as Professor, Chief Academic Officer, Vice President for Institutional Research, and, for 15 years, Chair of the Division of Sciences. Dean Baker and his many friends around the world consistently contribute to this scholarship, which supports the next generation of scientists and science enthusiasts.

To make a gift in support of MMC's science programs, please visit [www.mmm.edu/donate](http://www.mmm.edu/donate) or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 212-517-0460.





1

**1 | Amit K. Bhattacharyya, Ph.D.**, is a Visiting Fellow and Adjunct Professor in International Studies. In May, he received the 2018–19 Excellence in Part-Time Teaching Award in recognition of his dedicated service and lasting impact, both inside and outside of the classroom. Before coming to MMC, Dr. Bhattacharyya spent more than 25 years working for the United Nations (UN) Secretariat as an International Civil Servant focused on population issues and poverty alleviation.

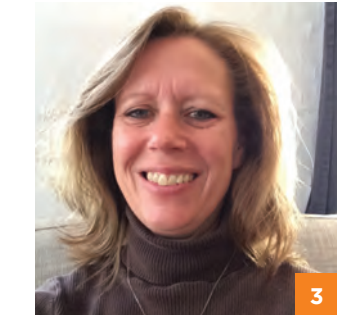


2

Dr. Bhattacharyya's longstanding connections to the UN were instrumental in enabling MMC to launch its esteemed United Nations Program, a rigorous, semester-long professional immersion allowing qualified MMC students to work full time in UN programs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited to the UN, and permanent missions of UN Member States. Offered each year during the UN's General Assembly, the program is an invaluable addition to the College's International Studies academic program, offering students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain firsthand experience at the United Nations. Now a well-developed, competitive internship program, it is the only one of its kind to offer such hands-on, practical UN experience to undergraduate students.

Originally from India, Dr. Bhattacharyya has lived and worked in numerous countries and is the author of dozens of books and articles related to poverty and population issues. This global perspective has enabled him to teach a wide variety of courses at MMC, ranging from *Modern South Asia* and *United Nations: History, Theory, and Practice* to *World Geography* and *Population and Development*.

**2 |** What began as a graduate studies capstone project for **Bethany Elkin, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, is now the focal point of her professional and creative endeavors—a new musical, *HEF*, that she conceived and created in collaboration with musician Justin S. Fischer. Now in development with producers in NYC and Chicago, the musical follows the rise and life of *Playboy* mogul Hugh Hefner who gave voice to the sexual revolution and went from the “guy next door” to a cultural icon. Professor Elkin first started working on this piece in 2012 while completing her MFA at San Diego State University. Over the years, MMC's theatre department has hosted a variety of showcases and readings, and through these events, a number of MMC alumni have become involved in the development process for *HEF* as cast and creatives. She is grateful for the opportunity that academia and professional creative projects provide for great collaboration and discovery.



3

**3 |** Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts **Lori Ann Zepp** served as the Production Stage Manager for Manhattan Class Company's (MCC's) production of *Moscow Moscow Moscow* (colloquially known as *Moscow x6*), which ran at the Robert W. Wilson MCC Theater Space on West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street from June 26 through August 3, 2019. Written by Halley Feiffer and directed by Trip Cullman, the production was a contemporary reimagining of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* and followed the joys and heartbreaks of a lovingly dysfunctional family.

Professor Zepp was a part of the production team since the show's inception at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2017, and this was her thirteenth production with director Trip Cullman.

**4 | Jill Stevenson, Ph.D.**, Professor of Theatre Arts, celebrated the publication of her jointly edited volume *Performing Dream Homes: Theater and the Spatial Politics of the Domestic Sphere* (Palgrave, 2019) in January. The collection—which contains eleven chapters that interrogate how theatre and performance use the concept of ‘home’ to reconcile shifts in national, cultural, and personal identity—emerged from a three-session panel series that Dr. Stevenson organized for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's 2014 conference and continued to develop, attracting additional authors.

Dr. Stevenson completed an unprecedented two terms (four years) as MMC's Faculty Council President at the end of the 2018–19 academic year and spent part of this past summer co-teaching *Performance and Culture of Ancient and Byzantine Greece* with Rob Dutiell, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, and Mark Ringer, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre Arts. Twenty-eight students participated in the study abroad course, which culminated in two weeks traveling throughout Greece to visit ancient sites in cities such as Athens, Delphi, and Olympia, and Byzantine sites like the Hagia Sophia in Thessaloniki and the monasteries of Meteora.

During the spring 2020 semester, Dr. Stevenson will be taking leave to work on her next book project, which explores Christian “End Times” and apocalyptic performances in the medieval and contemporary periods. Having already published three articles on the topic, Dr. Stevenson will expand upon her previous work to develop a monograph. As research, she will attend contemporary religious performances and visit immersive performative sites—such as Tribulation Trail at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia, Hell's Gates in Dawsonville, Georgia, and Revelation Walk at Eden Westside Baptist Church in Pell City, Alabama—to explore the ways in which these performances use religious stories and images to interpret contemporary events.

She is particularly interested in what the desire to live through the “End of Time” suggests about our experiences of time and relationship to the future. She will be a visiting professor at the University of Messina in Italy for the month of March, conducting research and sharing her work with students and faculty there.

**5 |** A more than eight-year-long project by **Jennifer N. Brown, Ph.D.**, Professor of English and World Literatures, culminated in the publication of *Fruit of the Orchard: Reading Catherine of Siena in Late Medieval and Early Modern England* last year. The book analyzes and traces the circulation of monastic and lay English manuscripts about 14<sup>th</sup> century Italian saint Catherine of Siena and theorizes on how these texts were used to define English spirituality from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century through the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

During her 2019–20 research leave, Dr. Brown will continue to research and write for a new project on Middle English devotional vocabulary. She has already presented some of her research on this topic at the International Anchoritic Society at the University of East Anglia (Norwich, UK) in June 2018 and at the International Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University in May 2019, and will continue to conduct research throughout the year, reviewing manuscripts at The British Library in London and The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford.

In addition to working on numerous articles on topics ranging from friendship among nuns to the role of visionary women during the Hundred Years War, Dr. Brown is also currently co-editing a book of essays about medieval manuscripts and devotional culture, in honor of her dissertation advisor, Michael G. Sargent, which will be published by University of York Medieval Press next year. Her work examines the urgent questions that people were asking hundreds of years ago—*What makes a good ruler? What is our place in the world and in the cosmos? What is our relationship to the divine?*—that we continue to grapple with today.

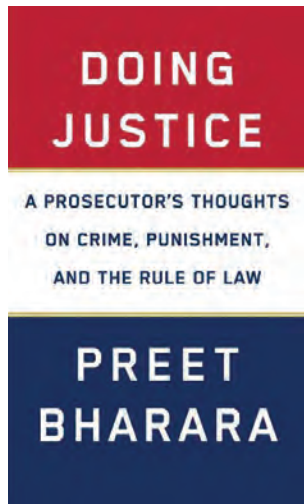
**6 | Philip Meyers, Ph.D.**, Professor of Mathematics, has been helping students to overcome anxiety about math and to thrive in the subject at MMC for 40 years. He teaches *Quantitative Reasoning*, a course that explores the mathematics of social choice and challenges students to understand the logic behind fair decision-making using real-world topics like the apportionment of Congress and the fair division of goods among populations. He also teaches *Forensic Mathematics*, an advanced interdisciplinary course that examines the mathematics used in judicial hearings (related to topics like employment discrimination, DNA identification, and jury discrimination) from a natural science perspective.

Dr. Meyers is currently working on compiling a drill book that will help students conquer the enormous amount of anxiety that often occurs around solving word problems. A primer for quantitative reasoning courses, the book will define key vocabulary and concepts used in word problems to demystify the experience for students.

No stranger to enigma himself, Dr. Meyers is researching the Graceful Tree Conjecture, a complex and unproven statement in graph theory that has stumped mathematicians for decades. Although the problem has many partial solutions, it has never been fully proven, and Dr. Meyers is intrigued by the challenge.



6



BEDFORD HILLS COLLEGE PROGRAM REFERENCED IN NEW BOOK BY PREET BHARARA, FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK (2009-2017)

***Doing Justice: A Prosecutor's Thoughts on Crime, Punishment, and the Rule of Law***

"[Cathy] Watkins did her time at Bedford Hills Maximum Security Prison. An innocent woman, she had nothing to repent for and no need for rehabilitation. Nonetheless, she approached prison life as an opportunity for self-improvement and redemption. She took classes as an inmate through Marymount Manhattan College. Because she could take only a few courses per semester, it took her eleven long years to earn her bachelor's degree in sociology. But she earned it."

**The New York Times**

WHITNEY BIENNIAL EXHIBIT BY ART ALUMNA ELLIE GA '98 REVIEWED BY *NEW YORK TIMES* CO-CHIEF ART CRITIC HOLLAND COTTER (READ MORE ABOUT GA ON PAGE 56)

***The Whitney Biennial: Young Art Cross-Stitched With Politics***

**May 16, 2019**

"And in a truly extraordinary video triptych, Ellie Ga, an American artist living in Sweden, weaves together archaeology, oceanography and social justice by recording the recovery of ancient remains from the Aegean, the tidal drift of Japanese tsunami debris to the Greek islands and the arrival of asylum seekers and refugees to those same islands. Circulating throughout all of this is an account of her being unmoored by grief at the death of her parents. Each part of the triptych runs about 13 minutes; all three reward watching, start to finish."

**QUEERTY\***

Free of an agenda (except that gay one)

DANCE ALUMNA LAUREN MORELLI '05 DISCUSSES HER ROLE AS WRITER, PRODUCER, AND SHOWRUNNER FOR THE NETFLIX REVIVAL OF *TALES OF THE CITY*

***Lauren Morelli hadn't heard of 'Tales of the City' before Netflix asked her to write a new series***

**June 19, 2019**

"...On a personal level, being in the writer's room which was an entire queer space, was extremely powerful and really healing. Being in a writer's room can be extremely intimate and intense. Being in that space and not being "othered" for even a second was one of the most profound experiences of my life. Then, on a professional level, I learned a lot about being a boss and holding power and my relationship to power. It's interesting to come up against how many of our ideas about power are gendered. It felt very important to me to be very thoughtful and intentional around it, and can I hold it differently? I think that's part of the national conversation right now: dismantling power, our relationship to power. I felt like I learned a lot, and like I have a million more things to learn."

**GLAMOUR**

ELENA SKOPETOS '12, THEATRE ARTS ALUMNA, AND HER CAREER AS A COMEDIAN PROFILED IN *GLAMOUR*

***The Woman Behind 'Hey Google, Tell Me a Joke'***

**June 19, 2019**

"Skopetos grew up singing in her choir, taking piano lessons, and performing in plays. She studied theatre in college at Marymount Manhattan, but it wasn't until her senior year, on a whim, that she tried out for a sketch comedy group. It was during a skit, in which she impersonated Norah Jones, that she realized she was way better at this kind of thing than she was at pure drama... After graduation, like many creatives, Skopetos balanced forays in the gig economy with honing her comedy skills. She walked dogs, sold mattresses, did voice-over work, and, on the side, auditioned. Then Google came knocking... It's her job to develop what Googlers call the Google Assistant's "funny bone."



TAWANA ANTHONY, BEDFORD HILLS COLLEGE PROGRAM (BHCP) STUDENT, PUBLISHES REVIEW OF HOMER VENTER'S *LIFE AND DEATH IN RIKERS ISLAND*, IN *METROPOLITICS*

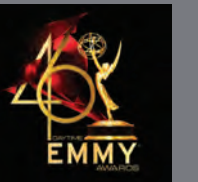
***Incarceration, Human Rights, and Health: "Life and Death in Rikers Island"***

**June 25, 2019**

"This book invites us to take a tour of how systems of domination and totalitarian institutions operate. It also explores how the culture of violence inside the jails leads to conditions that can be life-threatening. While the book provides an illuminating window into what occurs in Rikers, it does little to advocate for the necessary structural changes that can prevent these sorts of things from happening."

**The buzz**

Communication Arts alumna **Amanda Webster '15** served as assistant to lead actress Emma Thompson on the film *Late Night*, which was released in June 2019 to rave reviews. Webster pictured left on set with Thompson.



Alumna **Jeanette Donnarumma '07**, double major in Biology and Communication and Media Arts at MMC, is Senior Culinary Producer and Digital Contributor for *The Rachael Ray Show*, which won the 2019 Daytime Emmy Award for Best Informative Talk Show.



ART HISTORY ALUM E. JANE '12 SELECTED AS ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AND PROFILED IN *CULTURE TYPE*

**Studio Museum in Harlem Names 2019–2020 Artists-in-Residence: E. Jane, Naudine Pierre, and Elliot Reed**

July 11, 2019

"The new artists-in-residence beat great odds. According to the museum, more than 300 artists applied for the three positions—a selection rate of less than one percent. . . . 'In form, subject matter, and concept, the diverse practices of our three artists in residence for 2019–20 are all on the cutting edge, expanding the canon and showing us what's possible in art today and even giving us a glimpse of what art might be tomorrow,' said Legacy Russell, associate curator of exhibitions at the Studio Museum."



KEITH MEATTO, ACADEMIC WRITING ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, PUBLISHES *NEW YORK TIMES* ARTICLE

**Still Separate, Still Unequal: Teaching about School Segregation and Educational Inequality**

May 2, 2019

"Racial segregation in public education has been illegal for 65 years in the United States. Yet American public schools remain largely separate and unequal—with profound consequences for students, especially students of color. . . . Although many students learn about the historical struggles to desegregate schools in the civil rights era, segregation as a current reality is largely absent from the curriculum."



CLAIRE HUBBLE '20, THEATRE ARTS MAJOR, PUBLISHES PIECE IN DIGITAL MAGAZINE *WRONIN* ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR *ARTS AND MEDIA REPORTING AND CRITICISM* COURSE WITH TAHNEER OKSMAN, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ACADEMIC WRITING

**Nowhere is Truly Safe: Recent Alien Abductions at the Play Company**

April 5, 2019

"Ninety minutes is all playwright and director Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas needs to tell us about a fragile but tough Puerto Rican family on the brink of eruption. . . . *Recent Alien Abductions* is the type of play where listening is key: to make sure you got every line, you heard every pause, you savored every metaphor."



THEATRE ARTS PROFESSOR JILL STEVENSON DISCUSSES IMPACT OF LABOR UNION'S STRIKE DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH, FOR WHICH SHE WAS VICE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCES

**Why Canceling a Conference Isn't Crossing the Line: An Interview with Jill Stevenson from the American Society for Theatre Research**

February 7, 2019

"There was really very little discussion at the executive committee level about holding the conference if it required people to cross a picket line. Knowing how many of our members are in unions of their own, we felt very much that the values of the organization—and the decisions we made—had to reflect that. . . . I know we weren't the only group that cancelled contracts [at the venue], but I do think—and I hope this isn't just my Pollyannaism—that it makes an impact when organizations like ours stand up and say from the beginning that we will not cross the picket line."

The buzz

Adrienne Warren '09, Theatre Arts alumna, was nominated for a 2019 Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her starring role as Tina Turner in *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical*.



The show was also nominated for Best New Musical, and Warren performed *River Deep, Mountain High* during the awards ceremony in April. The show will be opening on Broadway in November.



Above: Glick (fifth from right) receives Tony Award.

Alumnus Aaron Glick '06, Theatre Arts major and Musical Theatre minor at MMC, was a producer for *The Boys in the Band*, which won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play. He was also a producer for *What the Constitution Means to Me*, nominated for Best Play.

## Brielle Charles '20

Bronx native Brielle Charles '20 was first drawn to Marymount Manhattan College's supportive environment, small classes, and interesting course offerings. But, what she didn't expect to find at MMC was the opportunity to travel the world as part of her academic journey.



A double major in International Business and Marketing and a member of the College's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), Charles first studied abroad in Costa Rica with 11 other classmates during the January 2019 session. The group visited a number of eco-tourist sites during their trip, providing Charles with the opportunity to study sustainability initiatives and their impacts on the environment and local communities.

Soon after her return to New York, Charles packed her bags again. This time she was off to Paris, where she completed a full-time internship during the spring semester with feminist agency Mad & Women, assisting their new business team on developing advertising pitches, researching and analyzing data, conducting market research, and more. On top of her work at Mad & Women, Charles took advantage of her surroundings and pushed herself to explore on her own, visiting museums, meeting new people, and traveling to other cities in Europe.

Over the summer, Charles studied abroad in Tokyo, taking a Japanese language class and business course. When she isn't traversing the globe, Charles enjoys reading, practicing her Japanese, and volunteering for her local church. After graduation, she hopes to move to Japan to teach English, as well as earn her master's degree.

## Makeda Davis '20

For many students, a college education is an expected next step after high school. For some, it's even a guarantee. But, for Makeda Davis '20, MMC's Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) provided an opportunity she and her fellow incarcerated classmates never believed they'd have.

A Sociology major and Business minor, Davis began taking classes with MMC through the BHCP in the fall of 2008. Davis has since been released from the correctional facility and has made the transition to MMC's Manhattan campus to complete her degree. "My first day was pretty scary," she says. "I felt out of place and awkward, but those feelings were resolved rather quickly. I'm glad to say my community here at MMC made me feel safe and at home."

On top of her studies, Davis works full time as a human resources coordinator. She expects to graduate in 2020: "There's nothing greater than education. The more I learn, the more I know about myself and the great possibilities that life offers. I hope to prove that anyone can *do* better when they *know* better and are given a chance."

## Marjan Khan '20

Biology major Marjan Khan '20 was awarded a prize for her platform talk in the Animal Biology category at the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual Eastern Colleges Science Conference in April. Khan's presentation, "Quantification of Pathogenic Fecal Bacteria on New York City Sidewalks," described research she has conducted with

Alessandra Leri, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, during the last two years.

Khan is working on a Chemistry minor at MMC and thanks Dr. Leri for her academic and professional support. "Dr. Leri has motivated me to think like a scientist," says Khan. "She has always given me constructive criticism, made sure I improved on my mistakes, and given me the freedom to scientifically conduct experiments on ideas I am curious about."

In addition to her studies, Khan is the president of the Pre-Med Club and the Environmental Studies Club at MMC, and she is an involved leader with the College's Glamour Group, Science Society, and 40% Club.

Khan currently works as part of a research team within the top-ranked orthopedics department at the Hospital for Special Surgery. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a doctoral degree and study dangerous and infectious diseases, their effects on the human body, and possible treatments.

## Gabriel Richardson '21



A devout Christian, Gabriel Richardson '21 credits the Marymount Christian Fellowship (MCF), an on-campus organization that actively engages in studying, praying, teaching, service, and fellowship, with helping his transition to college. "Being raised in a Christian home, it was nice to find a group of people who shared the same beliefs and values that I did," he explains. "We have bible studies together, pray for each other, and just have family fun. I would not be where I am today without their support and encouragement." This year, he is President of the organization.

A native of sunny San Jose, California, Richardson initially planned to pursue Musical Theatre and studied playwriting during his first year at MMC—even presenting an original play at Honors Day 2018—before deciding to switch to his current program. Now, as a Dance major with a concentration in Dance and Media, Richardson is exploring new ways of expressing himself and telling stories through art, particularly with choreography.

The academic program also enables Richardson to explore his artistic side beyond dance. During the spring 2019 semester, he created a documentary for his *Storytelling Across Media* course titled *Breaking Barriers*. The documentary featured MMC Art student Itzmary Dominguez '19, whose project critiqued the U.S. immigration system. "It was an honor to be a part of the story, and I am very proud of the finished product," he says. Read more about the project on page 33 or at [mmm.edu/missing-moments](http://mmm.edu/missing-moments).

While a lifelong dream of Richardson's is to perform on Broadway, he also has his eyes on a few other goals after graduation. He hopes to join a modern dance company in New York City and, someday, to start his own dance company that produces worship-minded dance pieces for the stage and church settings. When he's not at school, Richardson volunteers as part of his church's worship band, where he sings and plays the trumpet at Sunday services. He's also learning to play the guitar.

## Patrick Riley '20



During his first semester, Patrick Riley '20 took *Can You Tell Me How to Get to Sesame Street: Child Development in NYC* with Nava Silton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology. Introduced to the main concepts of developmental psychology and the ways psychological research influences media, Riley's academic interests were immediately—and permanently—piqued.

Now a double major in Psychology and Public Health, Riley has an impressively long resume that boasts numerous internships and countless awards, in addition to research assistantships and published peer-reviewed articles alongside his mentor, Dr. Silton. This year, the senior is keeping busy as President of the Psychology Club; a student recruiter for the psychology department; a teaching assistant in statistics courses with Sarah Weinberger-Litman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology; an executive board member for Psi Chi Honor Society; a member of both Alpha Chi and Omicron Delta Kappa; and a Senior Marshal and Peer Leader.

And, as he has for the past two and a half years, Riley is also serving as the lead research assistant on Dr. Silton's *Realabilities* and *Addy & Uno* programs, multimedia, prosocial children's programs that enhance the interest and sensitivity of typical children towards children with disabilities. During his time on the research team, Riley has presented *Realabilities* research at over a dozen regional and national academic conferences across the country, including the American Psychological Association's San Francisco conference and the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in Philadelphia. "I am proud to represent MMC and demonstrate the exciting research that happens on our campus. Being a member of this research team and watching the series evolve from when I started has been one of the most remarkable experiences of my life," he says.

This summer, Riley was awarded a *CityEdge* internship stipend, a competitive stipend program for students completing unpaid internships at nonprofit organizations or government agencies. With the stipend, he worked as a summer program counselor with the Child Mind Institute, a treatment program designed to support children with learning, social, or behavioral issues in a structured environment to help develop flexible problem-solving and social skills. "The experiences and knowledge that I gained at the Child Mind Institute have made me better prepared and excited for my future career in developmental psychology," says Riley.

## Ellie Ga '98

MMC alumna **Ellie Ga '98**, an MMC Studio Art major and now an internationally recognized artist, was one of just 75 artists selected to exhibit in the 2019 Whitney Biennial, the country's most important and longest-running showcase of contemporary art.

Taking place every two years since 1973, the Whitney Biennial highlights work in painting, sculpture, installation, film and video, photography, performance, and sound. This year's exhibition ran from May 17 through September 22 and featured Ga's video installation, titled *Gyres 1-3*, which explores the form of a gyre, a spiraling current on the ocean's surface that circulates debris and throws it ashore. Ga's narration interweaves seemingly disparate accounts and retellings, blending history, research, and autobiography.

Ga also performed her narrative-based work, *The Fortunetellers*, in July at the Whitney, featuring stories, memories, sketches, videos, and more from her five-month expedition near the North Pole.

At MMC, Ga spent much of her time in the art department, designing her own independent study courses and connecting her artistic life in NYC to her studies and full time work. During her sophomore year, Ga received a fellowship through the Hermitage Museum Foundation to spend several weeks in St. Petersburg and Moscow, her first time traveling outside of the United States.

After MMC, Ga went on to earn her MFA from Hunter College and now works in the intersections of performance, photography, video, sculpture, and installation. Her work is in the collections of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, FRAC Franche-Comté, The Flumentum Collection, Hessel Museum of Art, Foundation Galeries Lafayette, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions at leading New York institutions and across Europe and has presented performance works at The Playground Festival in Leuven, Belgium; The Kitchen in New York; Le Consortium in Dijon, France; and the Fondation Cartier in Paris, France. Her *Eureka, A Lighthouse Play*, developed with the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in 2014, has been presented at the Guggenheim Museum, EMPAC, and The Kitchen.



**"I discovered the Russian avant-garde art and the samizdat movement of self-publishing during my time abroad. Thanks to this experience, I became a founding editor of Ugly Duckling Presse, which, 25 years later, is still up and running."**

Ga was the recipient of a three-year artistic research fellowship from the Swedish Research Council, during which time she worked on a history of messages in bottles: their use in oceanography, folklore, and literature. She currently lives in Stockholm and blends her many varied interests—volunteering, languages, mythology, travel, unexpected conversations, oceanography, archeology, and history of migration—into her artwork.



Left: Ga performing *Reading the Deck of Tara* at *Les Abattoirs Center for Contemporary Art* in Toulouse, France.

Top: (left to right) Alexandra Krueger '09 (Art Advisory Board Member); Annette Benda Fox (Art Advisory Board Member); Ellie Ga '98; MMC President Kerry Walk; Hallie Cohen, Professor of Art and Director of the Hewitt Gallery of Art; and Madeleine Arend '19. Photo taken by Gabrielle Giattino of Bureau.



## Alexandra Nicklas '14

Having overcome speech and learning difficulties of her own as a child, **Alexandra Nicklas '14** has long been an advocate for the differently abled. Grateful for the support and resources she always had access to, she launched the not-for-profit Different & Able in early 2019 to make sure others could have the same experience.

Different & Able is an online support platform geared toward individuals with physical, learning, speech, emotional, and medical differences, offering dynamic self-help and professional resources from leading doctors and researchers. As the Founder and President, Nicklas aims to create an inclusive community that empowers and inspires. "At Different & Able, we use the word 'difference' instead of 'disability' to emphasize *ability* and not *inability*," explains Nicklas.

**"MMC's academic program in SLP taught me so much that laid the groundwork for my organization."**

Nicklas transferred to MMC during her sophomore year and majored in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), which proved to be a crucial step. "I would have never thought that, as a college student studying prominent speech therapists in the stuttering field, I'd be learning about the key people who would later be involved with my foundation." Uri and Dr. Phil Schneider, leading clinicians and educators whose work she studied in classes at MMC, are now advisory board members for Different & Able.

In addition to her work with Different & Able, Nicklas is a leader and volunteer for several organizations dedicated to advocacy for individuals with health conditions, including FACES (Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures), where she serves on the steering committee.



## Amira Makhlof '78

A neighbor of the College, **Amira Makhlof '78** and her family lived on 59<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> during her teenage years while her father, an ambassador, was posted to New York to establish an Egyptian Consulate in New York City. Due to her father's posting, Makhlof had to complete her degree requirements in fewer than the typical four years, and chose to do so at MMC.

After graduation, Makhlof was accepted into a number of top schools, including Harvard University, where she earned her master's in Education. She credits her "stellar education" from MMC for her acceptance into the program.

Now an educator at the American University in Cairo, Makhlof has been teaching a program, *English for Interfaith Dialogue*, for the past ten years to develop the abilities of religious clerics and scholars to engage in productive dialogue with other faith communities.

Because of the program's success, Makhlof was recently invited to serve as a curriculum content and design consultant for the British Council in Egypt, with the

ultimate goal of making her program available in all British Councils across the world. The project will be piloted at Al-Azhar University, the world's leading Sunni Muslim university.

To the community of scholars at MMC, Makhlof advises keeping a sense of curiosity alive. "Don't let the easy availability of information dampen your quest for knowledge," she says. "There is so much out there and what you do with your life and the number of times you reinvent your career depends on how you keep learning."



## Olivia Warren '11

As an undergraduate BFA Dance major, **Olivia Warren '11** wanted to use dance to expose societal injustice. With the encouragement of her first-year academic writing teacher, Jason Rosenfeld, Ph.D., Professor of Art History, Warren was accepted to the prestigious Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship and spent the next three summers in formative internships working in nonprofit, government,

and policy spaces. Returning to campus after her first Watson summer, Warren pleaded with Rosemary Nossiff, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, to waive the prerequisites to her upper-level class, *The American Presidency*. "She let me take her class and then continued to teach me and support me in other upper-level coursework in political science," says Warren. "I credit her more than anyone else on my journey: she opened the world to me." Warren notes that Dr. Nossiff has been a present and trusted mentor for almost twelve years now.

**"You should try everything—but once you've tried it, feel free to say 'no thank you' and move on. This goes to my broader advice about authenticity: the more you are unabashedly yourself, the more you invite others to do the same."**

After graduation, Warren stopped dancing completely and struggled in the post-college transition. "My whole family was in the arts, and quitting felt like a betrayal of who I was raised to be, and of all the time and energy so many teachers had invested in my training." Warren completed a one-year public policy fellowship in Pittsburgh before returning to New York to work in indigent defense. She emphasizes that it took a lot of reading, thinking, reflection, and enormous kindness from professionals in different fields to focus her passions and strengths into a career. Ultimately, Warren realized that her interest in choreography—which is a way of regulating bodies in space—led her to become a fierce advocate for people who are in prison—what Warren describes as the most extreme regulation of bodies in space in this country.

In 2014, Warren was accepted into Harvard Law School, and she graduated with honors in 2017. She first served as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and then to the Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

In October, Warren began her dream job as a Staff Attorney at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation in Durham, North Carolina. She represents people facing the death penalty at trial, working on direct appeals in capital cases, and assisting people imprisoned on death row with the often decades-long process of post-conviction proceedings. "In sum, I advocate for poor people and against the violence of the government," she says.

In her free time, Warren loves accompanying her paleontologist husband on field work and museum visits, and he in turn brings marshmallows for her to snack on while he cheers her on in court. A Peloton spinning enthusiast, she also enjoys a good long ride while belting at the top of her lungs—the jury's out on how her neighbors feel about her singing, though.



## Laura Wood '05

After earning a BA in Theatre Arts at MMC, **Laura Wood '05** went on to earn a master's in Drama Therapy at New York University and a Ph.D. in Counseling from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Now an Assistant Professor at Lesley University, she teaches drama therapy full time in the Drama Therapy and Mental Health Counseling Graduate Program and also serves as the current President of the North American Drama Therapy Association. She has previously taught a drama therapy course at MMC as part of the College's revamped Drama Therapy minor.

Wood credits her acting training as an essential foundation for her success as a Registered Drama Therapist, Board Certified Trainer, and Licensed Creative Arts Therapist. Studying *Acting I and II* with Ellen Orenstein, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, was particularly influential. "Those courses have been a major influence in how I think about the role of the body in mental health and how mental health 'performs,'" she says.

This summer, Wood taught a seven-day course in drama therapy in Beijing and is currently working on a full-length book with colleague Dave Mowers on their CoActive Therapeutic Theater (CoATT) model. It is the first manualized model of Therapeutic Theater intended to support clients in different forms of recovery from conditions like eating disorders, addictions, and various types of medical traumas. She also operates her own theatre company, Recovery Through Performance, using the CoATT Model (learn more at [www.recoverythroughperformance.org](http://www.recoverythroughperformance.org)).

Currently residing in Boston, Wood is an equestrian and enjoys aerial arts, including silks and flying trapeze, as well as running, yoga, and being in nature. She's also an avid traveler, as her work has provided the opportunity to travel to some amazing places to lecture.

**"Be brave, compassionate, and know that you do have something important to offer the world, even if you aren't sure of what that is yet. Theatre is so much more than being an actor, it is studying life."**



## Pamela Ogwuazor Momah '84

After finishing her advanced-level qualifications in London, Nigeria-native **Pamela Ogwuazor Momah '84** was invited to come live with her family in New York City to experience the American education system. Momah's cousin, who had been attending another Marymount school, introduced her to MMC and the rest is history.

**"Education is power, and my love for librarianship and international relations started at MMC."**

At MMC, Momah chose to major in International Studies and learned from the late Dr. Gurcharan Singh, Professor and founder of the International Studies program at MMC, and Carmen Coll, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of French. It was in Dr. Coll's summer French course that Momah's love for travel was invigorated, as she and

her classmates visited the University of Nice in southern France and toured parts of the French and Italian Rivières. Momah was also one of the founding members of the International Relations club at MMC, which hosted numerous events highlighting the food, dance, and music of the College's international students.

Yet, it was working in the College's Thomas J. Shanahan Library where she grew to understand the value of books in providing access to education. Shelve a book in the wrong place, she explains, and the information is hidden from the seeker. "Those who, on the other hand, have easy access to information have a less tedious task in achieving their goals."

The systematic cataloguing and classification of books intrigued Momah and inspired her to enroll in a master's in Library and Information Science program at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. "I was able to marry International Relations with Library and Information Science," she explains. With her background in International Studies, she is able to easily navigate her way in the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs library, where she currently serves as the Deputy Director of Library Services.



## Maya Shikhman '01

Staten Island native **Maya Shikhman '01** was attracted to MMC's proximity to the City's major art institutions and to the intimacy afforded by small class sizes. As a Studio Art major and Art History minor, Shikhman has been well served in her professional and personal pursuits by the variety of courses she took in photography, digital art, and history of modern art at MMC. While birdwatching in southwest Florida, she developed an interest in photographing and documenting the natural world, and that interest quickly expanded from birds to other fauna and flora in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. "I enjoy taking birding trips to chase rare species and hiking in Staten Island parks to experience the growing biodiversity in our local urban environment," she says.

**"It's hard to predict the shape your professional career may take. The connections and knowledge you gain while in school may be instrumental in your future endeavors."**

Shikhman also documents her sightings in online databases, knowing her citizen data will benefit the scientific community. For the past several years, Shikhman has recorded the insect

biodiversity on Staten Island and in Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania. Her primary focus on moths and butterflies has led her to attend numerous seminars across New England, and her growing expertise earned her a month-long solo photography show this summer at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education center in Pennsylvania. The show, titled *Insects of the Poconos*, highlighted the biodiversity of the local entomological world. "I love sharing my appreciation of nature and insects with others, helping people to discover a completely new macro world," says Shikhman. "I couldn't think of a better way to combine my photographic and educational interests."

Check out her photography on the magazine cover and at [www.mayashikhman.com](http://www.mayashikhman.com).



## Matt Corridoni '13

After earning his degree in Political Science and Theatre Arts with a concentration in Directing, **Matt Corridoni '13** knew Washington, D.C., was where he was headed next. In 2015, he earned his master's degree in Political Communication from American University and started his career in political campaigns, working on Martin O'Malley's (D-MD) 2016 presidential campaign. He currently serves as senior spokesperson for Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA) and was appointed national press secretary for the Congressman's 2020 presidential campaign, *Moulton for America*.

Having been involved in both Student Government Association and Mock Trial at MMC, Corridoni now volunteers with College to Congress, a non-partisan nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a more inclusive and effective Congress by empowering the next generation of public servants.

Looking back, Corridoni treasures the friends he made at MMC and the professors who shaped his career.

**"The entire social sciences division deserves credit for helping me achieve my professional goals. I had a hands-on learning experience."**

## 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 July 26, 2019. To be included in the next issue, please submit a note online at [www.mmm.edu/class-note](http://www.mmm.edu/class-note) or email us at [classnotes@mmm.edu](mailto:classnotes@mmm.edu).

### EVELYN GIORDANO BONANNO '53

has three children and nine grandchildren. One of her granddaughters, Rory, was married in October 2018 and is expecting her first child in September 2019. Bonanno is glad to report that everyone is well.

### ▼ JOAN MOREL BRAKMAN '53

was thrilled to attend her 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion in May 2018—pictured below left to right are Helen Flynn Caldarone, Evelyn Giordano Bonanno, Christine Fiorella Russo, Margaret Power Reilly, and Joan Morel Brakman. Joan is proud of her daughter, Dr. Sarah-Vaughn Brakman, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University and an ethics consultant for Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health.



### HELEN FLYNN CALDARONE '53

is excited to tour London and Italy with her daughter, Ann Mascin, and family.

### BARBARA MASCIOCCHI DEVANEY '53

spends her time in East Hampton, New York, visiting her children and enjoying her newest grandchild, Charlotte Jane. She has a 2020 trip to Italy planned to visit relatives and friends.

### JOYCE GAUNTNER FEDDEN '53

is looking forward to an upcoming cruise to Halifax, Canada, and stays busy participating in activities in Manhattan throughout the year.

### BETTINA BONANNO FILARDI '53

enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and is happy to report that everyone is doing fine.

### THERESA CYZEWSKI KUTZ '53, MD

enjoys painting and visits from her children and grandchildren at her home in Laurel, New York.

### ANN MAURER '53

is happy to be a graduate of MMC and enjoys her continued relations with former graduates.

### JOANNA SEELY REID '53

is in the midst of moving. Her two grandchildren,

Decklan and Joaquin, 10- and 12-year-old brothers, participated in the Youth Bridge Tournament in Las Vegas this year. Reid coached all of her grandchildren in the game of bridge.

### MARGARET POWER REILLY '53

is proud of her daughter, Judge Margaret Reilly McNamara, the Surrogate Judge for Nassau County on Long Island. Reilly's granddaughter, Maggie McNamara, will attend Amherst College in fall 2019.

### ► CHRISTINE FIORELLA RUSSO '53, PH.D.

will complete 65 years of teaching in June 2020. She has served as an academic intervention teacher, an adjunct professor in MMC's Higher Education Opportunity Program from 1992–1998, and is presently a math and literacy specialist. She was the recipient of MMC's Père Gailhac Award (2015) and the Mother Butler Gold Cross (2018). In 2017, President Kerry Walk welcomed Dr. Russo as the founding member of the President's Advisory Council. Dr. Russo's brother, Judge Anthony Fiorella, taught in the paralegal program at MMC for 26 years. He is now a mediator for New York and Queens Counties and has been teaching in Hunter College's paralegal program for 10 years. Christine and her husband, Donald, will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 15, 2020, at St. Ignatius and the Glen Island Harbour Club.

### PATRICIA HASTO WUEST '53

has eight children, nineteen grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She has lived in Minnesota for the past 56 years.

### EDWINA GOULD YANK '53

enjoyed her children and grandchildren's extended stay at her home during the summer months—they kept her busy!



Top: Pictured are Christine (left) and Donald (seated) celebrating their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with Anthony (right).

Bottom: Three first-year members of Glee Club entertain the student body with Christmas carols at a celebration in 1950. L to R: Christine Fiorella Russo '53, Barbara Masciocchi Devaney '53, and the late Belinda Grabe Conway '53.

### CATHERINE DUNN KILEY '54

recently moved to Garden City, New York, to be closer to her five children, sixteen grandchildren, and one great grandson. Her beloved husband, Donald, passed away on September 10, 2018, leaving a legacy of five lawyers, three of whom continue the law practice that he started.

### MARIE MENNA PAGLIARO, PH.D. '56

is the author of nine books for educators. Two of her books—*Designing and Implementing the Curriculum: A Compendium for Best Teaching Practices* and *Questioning, Instructional Strategies, and Classroom Management: A Compendium of Criteria for Best Teaching Practices*—have been selected for Rowman & Littlefield for inclusion in a new delivery platform that provides academic libraries with electronic access to curated collections of resources to support student and faculty research.

### CAROLYN BERNARD ARENA '59

published *Creative Tension: Memories of Early Interfaith Experiences in Columbia, Maryland*, which she jointly edited with Elizabeth Martin. She was delighted to attend her 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion at MMC last May.

### JOANNE O'CONNELL WHITNEY '59

was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Botanical Garden, where she is head of the Docent Council.

### VALERIE GREENE BUTLER '60

is saddened to report the loss of her daughter, Susan Valerie Desch, on July 20, 2019. Susan was diagnosed

with Stage I breast cancer three years ago, but after she had beaten it and received a clean bill of health, she was diagnosed with bone and liver cancer and died ten months later. Her daughter was 55 years old and leaves behind children who are 21, 23, and 25; she was able to see her son get married in late May and her stepdaughter in late June before she passed away. Butler was glad to have the opportunity to go on an Alaskan cruise with her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren in early June.

### GERRIE MARSAR CHECKON '60

enjoyed her first year as a Texan. Enconced in the heart of Ft. Worth and living at The Stayton, she has been on a cultural high. Her involvement with the city's opera, numerous musical competitions, regular activities at the nearby museums, and programs in her facility have made life very enjoyable. She's also become a "Silver Frog," actively participating in Texas Christian University's 50+ program.

### JUDITH SHEA KENNEDY '61

has been retired for 20 years and has lived on St. Pete Beach, Florida, for 43 years. She recently celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with family, fellow retired teachers, former students—and Elvis!—at a party planned by her daughter, Jill. Kennedy's granddaughter, Katie, is starting the nursing program at Florida Gulf Coast University, while her grandson, Sean, is a sophomore in high school.

### HELEN CLARKE MOLANPHY '61

started teaching Irish history to adults in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this past year. The course is based on research she conducted for her family

memoir, *Over P.J. Clarke's Bar*, published by W.W. Norton Press in 2012, as well as on research she is currently conducting for a novel based on the life of Irish heroine Constance Gore-Booth Markiewicz, who was imprisoned six times for opposition to British rule of Ireland in the early twentieth century. In addition to this novel, Molanphy is also working on her second memoir, *Behind Closed Doors*, which follows her 40-year journey discovering the many downsides of the American prison system. She is grateful to MMC for encouraging her to study history and to the fine professors who taught her.

### GLORIA PEROPAT '63

began an initiative, A Simple Feast, three years ago that combines good company, good food, and good works. The series of dinner parties occurs every other month and raises funds for the Center of Undocumented Students at St. Peter's University, as well as for the Thrive for Life prison program, which provides spiritual and emotional counseling to incarcerated women and men. If you'd like to attend a dinner party, please contact Peropat at [gperopat@gmail.com](mailto:gperopat@gmail.com) and you'll be included on the mailing list. The dinners are held on 16<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City from 6-9pm, typically on Friday nights.

### JUDITH MCDONALD DIROCCO '64

and husband Tony DiRocco recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 28-day cruise from New York to Barcelona. The pair lives in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

### JEANNE FASTOOK '64

celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her medical school graduation last May with fellow classmates from Medical College of Pennsylvania.



### ▲ ALICE O. MCCARTER '65

traveled to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in May with her son, Thomas. The trip was a great way to celebrate a special birthday and to connect with her Irish heritage. They had a wonderful time dancing and singing Irish tunes in pubs.

### ► CONSTANCE KELSEY '66

is enjoying her sixth year of retirement in the pleasant year-round climate of Honolulu, Hawaii, and she would be happy to give advice to any alums looking to visit Oahu. Kelsey is an active volunteer, committed to her interests in natural history and marine biology, and an avid traveler. She visited Botswana this summer, her third trip to Africa!



### MARY ELLEN LEWIS LAKER '66

has retired from U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP), Office of Trade, after more than 30 years of service. She was the National Import Specialist for base metals at One World Trade Center. At retirement, she received the framed Customs Ensign for outstanding service and the CBP Commissioner's Award for her significant work in advancing trade facilitation for the new steel and aluminum tariffs since their inception in March 2018. She is enjoying retirement by spending more time with her husband, Ken (whom she met while at MMC), and their three sons and families, including four precious grandchildren.

## CLASS NOTES

### FRANCINE FERRANTE ROLAND '67

teaches at Woodbridge High School in New Jersey, where she also works with the school's dance and theatre departments and the drama, choir, and show choir groups. During holiday breaks, she travels to Switzerland, where her daughter and three adorable grandchildren live.

### MARY JANE GIULIANO LEE '69

and about 18 members of the class of 1969 gathered to celebrate 50 years since graduation at MMC's 2019 Reunion weekend last May. The day was filled with joy and reminiscing. After mass and the luncheon, the class got together to share stories and updates on their careers and family lives, and even sang along to some of their songs from the *Sing!* The group felt very blessed to be together again, and they look forward to seeing one another for their 55<sup>th</sup> reunion (if not sooner!). Mary-Ellen McAleer Baglin came from Texas and Mary Judge Geurtz was in from Arizona. A few classmates who could not attend sent news. Many thanks to Vicki Dawson and Ronnie Guariglia Warren for serving as class chairs.

### MARY ELLEN HARTIGAN MURPHY '70

was close friends with Elisa Fogarty Comerford, Carol Schmitt Mentasti, and Kay Fogarty Rosewall during her years at MMC. All four were 1970 graduates from MMC and all four had teaching careers. After marriage, Mary Ellen, Carol, and Elisa all moved to Long Island, where, coincidentally, they each had a son within two months of each

other. They organized a play group until the boys started school. Mary Ellen now lives between Virginia and Florida; Carol lives between Colorado and Long Island; Elisa lives on Long Island; and Kay lives in Florida. All four plan to attend their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in May.

### MARILYNN FREUND HAKALA '72

is thrilled to report her son, John Charles Hakala, was awarded a Ph.D. in Physics from Brown University this past May. He was given an award by the Physics Department at Brown for experimental work in his field, High Energy Physics. To earn his degree, he did research as part of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) Project at Fermi Labs in Illinois and at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (known as CERN) in Switzerland, where he was given an award for his contribution to the project. In April, he started a postdoctoral position in the Physics Department of the University of Virginia.

### KATHLEEN NOLAN MCWILLIAMS '72

retired from the Duval County Public Schools of Florida in June 2015. Later that year, she joined the staff at Beaches Chapel School as a counselor, and, since 2018, has served the school community as principal. She resides in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

### CATHARINE WILSON BURT '72

picked up stakes from the East Coast and moved to the Bay Area in California to be near her three- and five-year-old grandchildren.

### LESLIE HUMM CORMIER, PH.D., '73

presented *Copley Square: History Through Architecture* at the Boston Public Library. 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.

### MELODY DE CARA DEPREZ '74

was promoted to Full Professor of Special Education at Georgetown College in Kentucky, where she prepares graduate students to teach K-12 students with learning and behavior disabilities. She fondly remembers Professor Lillian Bernstein in the education department at MMC. She resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

### MAURA NEVIN GUSTAFSON '74

and her sister, Chris, enjoyed a lovely 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion at MMC on May 18, 2019. There were just eight attendees from the Class of 1974 and all are committed to increasing that number for their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. The group reminisced about their college days, especially taking *Hostess Problems* taught by Frances Telcey. Please come in 2024 and bring your memories!

### PEGGY BYRNE '75

became a grandmother for the first time on July 21, 2019, to Ronan Michael Wilcox, the

son of daughter Megan Byrne Wilcox. Baby, parents, and grandparents are all excited—he has stolen their hearts.

### MICHAEL REDMOND '77

published *Mastering Your Work Life Balance* through BookLocker.com Inc. in 2018. She is working for EFPR Group's Information Technology and Governance, Risk, and Compliance Consulting and Audit divisions as Director and Strategic Consultant and Auditor.

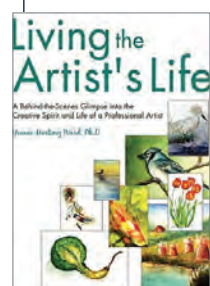


### SUSAN TALBOT-ELLIOTT '77

is the happy grandmother to beautiful baby boy Zachary, who was born

in October 2018. Many congratulations to her son Shawn and daughter-in-law Lori for this wonderful addition to the family!

### YVONNE MARTINEZ WARD '78



published *Living the Artist's Life: A Behind-the-Scenes Glimpse Into The Creative Spirit and Life of a Professional Artist*

(2010), an introspective book about how one becomes an artist and taps into the creative spirit. She is also the author of a collection of prose poetry, *Nature's Joy* (2012), as well as two children's books, *Lily's Daydreams* (2013) and *I'd Rather Be a Butterfly* (2014).

### GLENN SCHATELL '79



worked on Capitol Hill in 2015 and 2016 to obtain the passage of mental health and substance abuse bills, The Helping

Families in Mental Health Crisis Act and The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. The former was included in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, which also featured then-Vice President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative, and was signed into law by President Obama on December 13, 2016. This September, Schatell returned to Capitol Hill to work on the passage of mental health and substance abuse bills. He is active in Arlington county and Virginia state politics. In 2013, Schatell compiled and published *The Lighter Side of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection of Sherlockian artwork by his father, Norman Schatell, through MX Publishing.

### JOAN REGEN RAMIREZ '82

published her latest novel, *Secret Desires*, through JL Regan Enterprises in 2018. This summer, she signed copies of her book at the 2019 conference of Romance Writers of America in NYC.

### ANA VARGAS '82

has been spending more time with loved ones after moving to the Dominican Republic three years ago. A resident of Santo Domingo, she is still adjusting to water shortages and black outs after living through category four and five hurricanes in the same year.

### MARIA RAMDAS '84

relocated back to NYC a year ago and would love to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. She joined

Capital Real Estate Advisors as a commercial real estate associate and would love to connect with others within the community.

### PEGGY RICHARDS '84

recently moved to Star Valley, Arizona, from her home in northern Idaho. She maintains an on-call practice of her business, Dreams in Beauty Day Spa, in Scottsdale, Arizona, providing massage therapy, Roling, and bodywork, as well as make-up artistry for the film industry.

### PENNEY PENINGTON CLARKE '85

worked for a year as an Eileen Fisher specialist for a major department store chain and is now doing contract merchandise coordination for Winston Retail Solutions. Clarke has also returned to her career as a Fiber/Multimedia Artist and re-launched her knitwear website, www.KnitPickdbyPenney.com. Residing in San Antonio, Texas, she is finally polishing that collection of short stories she's been promising for so long—glimpses into the diverse lives she's lived and featuring poignant reflections of the very special people she has been blessed to encounter along the way.

### MARGARET GOULBOURNE '85

resides in Flushing, Queens, and works in healthcare. She's grateful to MMC's alumni office for staying in touch.

### PATRICIA BEAUPRE BECKER '86

is currently on sabbatical from her weight and life coaching business, Beaupre Coaching, and is exploring life after 65. Who are we when we stop working in our careers? What value do we offer? Even on sabbatical, Becker works

one day a week, supporting women to feel better about their weight, bodies and relationships.

### MIRIAM KRAUSE MCLEAN '88

is the proud mother of daughter, Nia, who graduated high school with honors and headed to Syracuse University this fall.

### FLORENCE ALVA '89

started her own Etsy business, Pearl Couture Knits, offering handknit dresses and sweaters for small dogs. A portion of the proceeds are donated to Maltese rescue organizations. She resides in Durham, North Carolina.



### TRICIA MEHLIG SHELLHORN '89

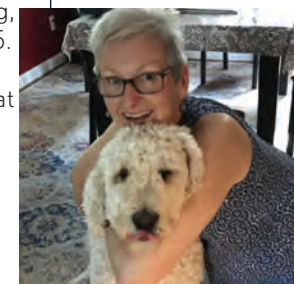
changed careers in January 2019 and accepted a full-time position as the business manager for St. David's Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Previously, Shellhorn had a career in property management.

### VILMA VICTORIA CUEVA '96

works for Evicore Healthcare and lives in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

### KURT KOEHLER '96

has recently made appearances on hit TV shows *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* and *Young Sheldon*. The actor and comedian lives in Los Angeles, California.



### JENNY SHERMAN '97

is celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her law firm, Law Offices of J.J. Sherman, P.C. She is a contracts and commercial real estate attorney based in both Los Angeles and New York and works with retail, finance, and tech companies who are in expansion mode in the United States.

### ROB WEISS '97

was hired by Whole Foods Market in July 2018 and was promoted to Customer Service Supervisor in April 2019. He resides in Brookline, Massachusetts.

### JENNIFER SPENNER-KIND '98

is currently the Executive Director of South East Consortium for Special Services, a nonprofit that provides therapeutic recreation and leisure activities to individuals with disabilities and special needs, operating in Mamaroneck, New York, and surrounding communities. This past spring she hosted an intern from the MMC dance department to help assist with teaching dance and choreographing for the annual spring performance.

### ALI SILVA '99

is a co-creator/producer, actor, and host of *Fireside Mystery Theatre*, a long-running live show and celebrated podcast of original audio drama in an anthology style that pays homage to the golden age of radio theatre. She also acts as audio supervisor and post-production engineer, managing sound design, editing, and audio production for the podcast. *Fireside Mystery Theatre* will begin its 6<sup>th</sup> live season this fall, and Silva is thrilled that it is the third season with her friend and MMC mentor, Dr. David Linton, as a fellow cast member and resident poet of the show.





## CLASS NOTES

### ▼ HEATHER CIESLINSKI CROGNALE '00

married Dante Crognales on November 11, 2018, at Chalet on the Hudson in Cold Springs, New York. Heather currently works as a Staff Assistant to the Physician Assistant Department at Pace University's College of Health Professions in Pleasantville, New York, and Dante is a third cook at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan. The pair resides in Yonkers and looks forward to many happy years together.



### ▼ JOSHUA SHERMAN '00

combines his training in the arts and sciences to effect change in healthcare and the arts. Since 2001, Sherman has been producing new works of theatre, music, dance, and digital media. He is the President of Joshua Sherman Productions; Owner/Publisher of *Vermont Magazine*, *Stratton Magazine*, and *Manchester Life*; as well as Founder and



Owner of Old Mill Road Gallery. Last November, he founded Old Mill Road Recording, a state-of-the-art luxury destination recording studio, featuring in-house

Grammy-winning engineer Benjamin J. Arrindell. The studio was featured on the cover of *Mix Magazine* in June 2019 and is a 2020 TEC Award Nominee in Studio Design. Learn more at OldMillRoadRecording.com.

### ▼ JESSICA BONENFANT COOGAN '03

is the founding artistic director of Greywood Arts, a multidisciplinary artist residency in Killeagh, Cork, Ireland. She recently



completed a Special Certificate in Entrepreneurship from Cork Institute of Technology and is delighted to announce her plans to expand Greywood Arts into a rural arts center in 2020.

### ▼ KATE RIVERA POWERS '03

celebrated the birth of Hazel Powers on August 7, 2018. Hazel joins sibling Louisa Powers, born in August 2016.



### EMILY KRONENBERGER WILSON '04

recently completed her Ph.D. in Health Professions Education from Simmons University after conducting dissertation research on trauma-informed education strategies in teaching and learning. She resides in Boston.

### YVETTE NOLES '07

graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Psy.D. in School Psychology in February 2019. Dr. Noles currently holds the Diplomate in School Neuropsychology from the American Board of School Neuropsychology, and has a second master's in Educational Leadership and Administration

from the College of Saint Rose. She is currently working for the NYC Department of Education as a bilingual school psychologist and thanks her family and friends for all the love and support provided to her throughout the years.

### CHRISTOPHER PERRÉ '07

has joined the Miami office of global law firm Littler Mendelson and was recently named a Super Lawyers Rising Star in the area of Labor & Employment Law for the second year in a row.

### TAYLOR GORDON '08

was recently featured on CNN, Fox News, and ABC for her choreography and performance with Exit 12 Dance Company. A documentary about the company, featuring Gordon's dancing, recently won at South by Southwest (SXSW). Learn more about Taylor at [www.taylorgordononline.com](http://www.taylorgordononline.com).

### MICHAEL BURT '11

and his wife, Kim, moved to Los Angeles in 2018 when he began a new job at City National. He is loving life in LA and would like to connect with other MMC alums in the area.

### MARGARET MONTAVON FELDMAN '12

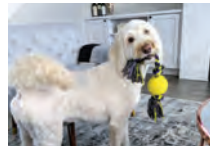
recently graduated with her master's in Education from Northeastern University. After spending the last four years working at the Marymount School of New York, she is now a theatre arts teacher working at Artistree Performing Arts studio in Mamaroneck, New York.

### ▲ SOFIJA GLIGOROV '13

married Dragan Bulic on May 25, 2019, in Novi Sad, Serbia. Gligorov, MMC's 2013 valedictorian, is the Vice President in Digital Investment Solutions at JPMorgan Chase. Her husband is the owner of Peaky Barista coffee shop. Patricia Diez '13 and bridesmaid Alexandra Kaprielian '13 celebrated alongside the newlyweds.

### ▼ CYNTHIA HOLL HUTTON '13

married her husband, Bryan, last November on the beautiful island of Mo'orea in French Polynesia. The couple lives in Portland, Oregon, with their labradoodle, Nola. Hutton is a senior client success manager for a digital advertising firm, working with clients in the auto industry and helping big brands better optimize their marketing campaigns.



### ▼ LORENZA BRASCIA INGRAM '13

and husband, Peter, welcomed Santo Michael Ingram into the world on May 2, 2019.

### AARON LOOR '13

graduated with a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. After completing his degree, Loor joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service officer and served in Mexico, Honduras, and most recently in the Dominican Republic. "The best part of my time at MMC was learning from other

students with different goals, spending time in the city, and learning from the interesting faculty. The best parts of my job are getting to reinvent myself after every tour, seeing the world, and learning from new cultures while representing our nation to the world," he says.

### NICHOLE DAVARI '14

recently accepted the position of Latino Achievers Program Director for the YMCA of Middle Tennessee. She lives in Nashville.

### SHANNA IRWIN '14

joined Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (BJM) in June 2019. Prior to her work with BJM, she toured with Complexions Contemporary Ballet from 2014–2019.

### MICHELLE UMPIERREZ '15

completed the first year of her Ph.D. in Medicine at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

### ▼ KATHERINE DUNFORD GODDEN '16

married Tyler Godden '16 on June 15, 2019, at Harding's in Manhattan. MMC friends in attendance (left to right) included: Kevin Kemler '15, Alex Pattee '16 (bridesmaid), Joe Maybloom '16, Rita Murray (Institutional Advancement), Kristen Anderson '08, Tyler Godden '16 (groom), Katherine Dunford Godden '16 (bride), Matt Weisgable '16 (reader for ceremony), Paige Gawley '16, Margaret McDewitt '16 (reader for ceremony), Alex DiMeglio '16, and Kevin Brelesky '16.



### JESSICA NORTON '16

graduated from The New School with a Master of Science in Media Management last May. Norton currently works as a freelance entertainment reporter and social media marketing director. She lives in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

### LAUREN ROLAND '16

has joined the team at the wonderful women's organization, The Wing, which focuses on building community among women. Roland will be attending New York University this fall for a master's program in Urban Planning.

### ◀ VERNEL BLACK '17

won the 2019 New York Miss Amazing pageant (Sr. Miss Division) in NYC on April 27. As a result, Black represented New York at the Nationals competition in Chicago in early August 2019.



### ASMA'U DASUKI '17

was fortunate enough to work at Citibank in NYC for a year after graduating in 2017. In 2018, Dasuki made the decision to return to Nigeria to begin her National Youth Service Corps service, which she just completed in July 2019. She is excited to have served one of her home countries and looks forward to moving back home to the U.S. in late fall 2019.

### COURTNEY BLACKMAN '18

recently started a position as Events Marketing Associate at *The Wall Street Journal* in New York City.

### ▼ JOSH MICCIO '18



immediately began working with Hip to Hip Theatre Company as one of their apprentice actors in productions of Shakespeare's *All's Well*

*That End's Well* and *King Lear* after graduation in 2018. Last fall, Miccio joined the Chamber Theater Company National Tour of *Encore!!* as Ichabod Crane. He has recorded two audiobooks that are for sale on Audible, iTunes, and Amazon. Miccio was also involved in an immersive production of *The Tempest* with The Secret Theatre Company in Long Island City, crossing off one of his dream roles as Trinculo. He took on a second season with Hip to Hip Theatre Company, appearing in their productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Richard III*. This fall, he began rehearsals for a new play premiering at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, in March 2020. He hopes the play will then transfer to NYC!

### ▼ ALLISON SEXTON '18



married Kellie Letner on March 15, 2019, in Dumbo, Brooklyn. Alumni Haley Fox '18, Mika Greene '18, Gabe Katz '18, and Audrey Wells '18 were in attendance.

### CAELA COLLINS '19

published a new book, *Food is Love*, through Mill City Press, Inc. It is available for purchase online and at Chelsea Market and Compton Health Bar. It has received praise from a number of influencers, including Brittany Sky and Jayde Kamille. Collins

has also collaborated with Fine & Raw to create a limited-edition chocolate bar to help support educational initiatives and charitable causes, including Libro Laya Foundation.

### AMANDA SHERWIN '19

recently started a job at Dance Media as the Assistant Managing Editor of *Dance Spirit Magazine* in NYC.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of the following members of the MMC community:

### ALUMNI

Mary Pat Cady Haas '53  
Kathryn Stengle Kelly '53  
Brigid Driscoll '54, RSHM, Ph.D.  
Athina Leka Aston '56  
Bernadette Dunn '56  
Mary Beins Kocornik '56  
Sharon Whalen Leary '57  
Anne Hallowell Obuck '57  
Clare De Santo Schlich '58  
Sarina Cali Mustacchia '59  
Maureen Quinn O'Rourke '59  
Kerry Ganly Reilly '59  
Isabel Dunn Shanley '59  
Beatrice McMorro  
Kackmann '60  
Olivia Radda Foley '62  
Elinor Tyne Riddle '62  
Muriel Caron Eingurt '64  
Katherine Kafel Kiernan '64  
Juanita Carmona '72  
Cathleen English Flynn '73  
Rosalie Tyler Long '74  
Richard Nagle '74  
Elsie Corrigan Barone '75  
Helen Johnson '78  
Nanette Norwood '82  
Doris Sweat '82  
Aura Medina Turkel '82  
Judy Lashway '83  
Helen Cancellieri Siragusa '83  
Adelaide Johnson '84  
Karen Spanier Green '88  
Yvonne Turner '94  
John Leustek '11

### STAFF

John Bullingham  
Michael Durnin '08  
Nichelle Johnson



## A MOMENT IN TIME

From the 1959 Marymount Manhattan College yearbook:

*“It’s a magic potion especially brewed  
for Science Club officers.”*



# SAVE THE DATES

**Go Figure: The Female Gaze  
Opening Reception \***  
Wednesday, November 6, 2019  
6:00–8:00 pm  
The Hewitt Gallery of Art  
*Exhibition runs November 4 through  
December 4, 2019*

**MMC Alumni and Friends  
Book Club \***

Tuesday, November 12, 2019  
5:30–7:00 pm  
Regina Peruggi Room  
*Discuss The Time Traveler’s Wife*

Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
5:30–7:00 pm  
Regina Peruggi Room  
*Discuss Dracula*

**MMC’s Day of Service**

Saturday, November 23, 2019  
Time and location to be announced

*In honor of #GivingTuesday, the MMC  
community will come together to help  
New Yorkers in need.*

**MMC’s Ugly Sweater  
Alumni Holiday Party**

Thursday, December 5, 2019  
6:00–8:00 pm  
Location to be announced

**MMC Honors Day Colloquium \***  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
9:00 am–5:00 pm  
Various locations on campus

**The Barry Commoner Lecture  
on the Environment \***

Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
6:00 pm  
Theresa Lang Theatre

**The Annual Scholarship Benefit**  
Date and location to be announced

*The Annual Scholarship Benefit is  
MMC’s largest fundraising event of the  
year. For more information, visit  
mmm.edu/benefit*

**Commencement**

Friday, May 22, 2020  
United Palace Theatre

**Reunion 2020 \***

Friday–Saturday, May 29–30, 2020

*This year, we honor class years ending  
in 0 or 5 and highlight the milestone  
25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion classes of 1995  
and 1970. All class years are invited  
to come home to 71<sup>st</sup> Street. To make  
a class gift or sign up to be a class  
volunteer, visit mmm.edu/reunion.*

*\* Denotes event happening at the College (221 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, NY)*

**For more information and to register, visit [mmm.edu/calendar](http://mmm.edu/calendar)**

Follow MMC on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube





MarymountManhattan

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

White Plains, NY  
Permit #1782

# LAST LOOK

## THANK A PROF

To Professor Rao:

*You are such a wonderful professor, thank you for always pushing me to do better and being an amazing advisor! I'm so glad I had the chance to be in your class!*

- Brenelle Braganza '19

## THANK A PROF

To Professor Liberman:

*Thank you for opening up the world of Communications in such an informative and engaging way that only builds my hunger to learn more. Your high spirits in class always brings me so much joy and takes me out of the classroom state of mind, making learning fun. Your intelligence and charisma is one I hope to emulate in my Communications career. I hope to always have you as a guide and look up to you always—a communications rock star!*

- Zoe Nelson '18

Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of International Studies, with students during a study abroad trip to Costa Rica

### Introducing MMC's New Thank a Prof Series!

Is there a professor who had a major impact on you when you were a student and shaped your future? Someone who engaged you in your studies, inspired you to excel, or helped you overcome challenges? MMC's *Thank a Prof* series is an initiative through the Office of Institutional Advancement that enables students and alumni to show appreciation for their faculty members, instructors, and mentors with a personalized thank you note.

Visit [www.mmm.edu/thankaprof](http://www.mmm.edu/thankaprof) to send your note today!