

# MMC



MarymountManhattan  
MAGAZINE | FALL 2017



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Around Campus

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FEATURE  
FINDING FREEDOM  
BEHIND BARS

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ALUMNI PROFILES  
KONCEPT '08

# A WHALE OF A THANK-YOU!

The iconic American Museum of Natural History proved to be the perfect venue for the Annual Scholarship Benefit on April 27. President Walk and the entire MMC community thank all those who generously supported the 2017 Benefit, which holds the record as the most successful fundraising event in the College's history—raising more than \$1.2 million in support of need-based student scholarships. Read more about the Benefit on [page 14](#).

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### on the cover



▲ *Six decades of Griffin pride!* Left to right: Maureen Lally '60, Barbara Lynch Loughlin '70, Nicole Lajom '08, Kristen Anderson '08, Kathleen Owen '08, Diante Webb '15, Tyler Godden '16, Katherine Dunford '16, Lissa Nicolas '89

# The Carson Match



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MarymountManhattan

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This fall has been called “hautumn” because of the unseasonably warm weather we experienced in New York, but as the weather finally becomes brisk, and the tree leaves on 71<sup>st</sup> Street fall, I look back with Griffin Pride on an exhilarating semester at Marymount Manhattan.

In September 2017, the College welcomed 642 new students, who enjoyed a week of bonding, learning, and New York City-immersion that was capped off with a celebratory Convocation featuring the traditional **MMC Pinning Ceremony** and a rousing rendition of our unforgettable alma mater, *Hail Marymount!* A record-breaking 1,915 full-time students are currently enrolled at the College.

The new academic year also marked the launch of a new Strategic Plan for 2017 - 2021. The plan, *Contemporary and Compelling: Envisioning MMC's Future*, advances an ambitious vision—for MMC to become **the nation's premier destination** for students seeking a small-college experience that blends a versatile liberal arts education with professional preparation and social engagement in the heart of New York City.

In this issue, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MMC's Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP), which gives incarcerated women the opportunity to earn the Associate of Arts degree in Social Science and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Thanks to the generosity of private individuals and foundations, MMC has conferred **over 200 college degrees** to Bedford Hills students since the program's founding, in 1997.

This issue also unveils a new institute at the College designed to provide innovative programs for pre college, college, and adult learners, enabling them to successfully make milestone transitions—whether from high school to college, college to career, or one career to the next.

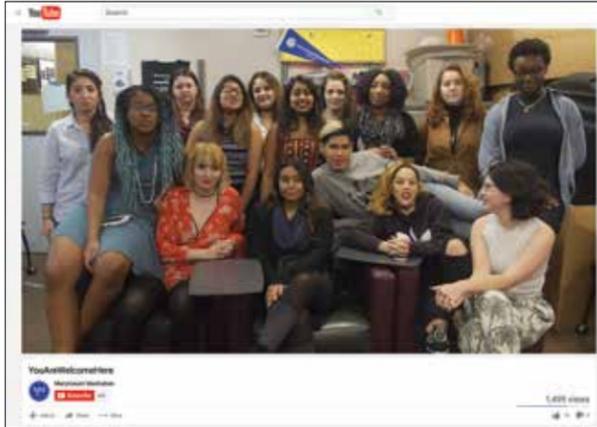
Made possible due to the generosity of longtime MMC benefactors Mary Ellen McNiece Hawn '91 and her husband, Gates Helms Hawn, the institute is **the most significant educational enterprise** that MMC has undertaken in decades. It demonstrates the College's ongoing commitment to promoting lifelong learning and establishes MMC as an educational destination for learners of all ages from around the world.

Every day, I am grateful to be a part of Marymount Manhattan, **a college of creative changemakers**—students and alumni who are tenacious about making a positive impact in the world through their creative ideas and their purposeful actions.

Kerry Walk, Ph.D.  
President



## #YouAreWelcomeHere



The MMC community prides itself on its geographic and cultural diversity, each year attracting students from around the globe.

To reinforce the College's mission of educating a socially and economically diverse student body, MMC participated in a national social media initiative to acknowledge the tremendous value international students bring to the campus. MMC representatives collaborated with Study New York, a consortium of colleges and

universities that promote New York State internationally as the world's premier education destination for students.

Using the hashtag **#YouAreWelcomeHere** as inspiration, a team of MMC faculty, staff, and students came together to produce a video for the College's official YouTube channel that emphasized MMC's commitment to inclusion and underscored the message that all are welcome at MMC. The video went viral!



## Alternative Spring Break 2017

This year, 15 MMC students traveled to Boston for a series of volunteer projects focused on women and children. Part of the Alternative Spring Break program, the trip challenged students to reflect critically upon their roles in the community through service, activism, inquiry, and leadership.

In Boston, the students worked with five organizations and offered support ranging from meal service to sorting donations at a food bank. The most popular worksites were Community Servings, where the team worked in the kitchen and packaged meals for individuals with various illnesses, and Rosie's Place, the first women's shelter in America (established in 1974).

After each activity, the students met to reflect on what they learned and how, with their new knowledge, they could make a positive impact on the MMC campus and in the NYC community.



## Dance Gala 2017

MMC's Department of Dance hosted the annual Dance Gala on May 12 in the Theresa Lang Theatre, followed by a champagne reception in the Great Hall. The event raised approximately **\$33,000**—funds which allow the dance department to produce high-caliber work by distinguished choreographers each year. This year's Honorary Chair was Tony Award-winning choreographer Jerry Mitchell, who honored MMC alumni celebrating their 10-year reunion in a pre-performance reception held by President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.



## Welcome to the Q

Nearly a century in the making, the Second Avenue Subway phase-one extension officially opened on January 1, 2017. The new line is part of the Q train, with stations located at Lexington Avenue-63<sup>rd</sup> Street, 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, 86<sup>th</sup> Street, and 96<sup>th</sup> Street. Though years in the making, the Second Avenue Subway immediately reduced transportation times for many MMC commuters, and has made New York City more accessible.

Entrances to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street station are directly across the street from MMC's Nugent Hall entrance. Students can now leave their classes and be on a train within minutes. The expanded rail-line also provides convenient access to Times Square and destinations on Manhattan's West Side.

Given its instant impact on the MMC community, the Second Avenue Subway line became the topic in an honors contemporary art class taught by Professor of Art History, Jason Rosenfeld, Ph.D., during the spring 2017 semester. In his course (ART 384), students examined newly commissioned public art in the new



Q train subway stations. Dr. Rosenfeld's students spent considerable time in their assigned stations, exploring how the artwork integrates into the transit system and investigating its contribution to the cultural life of the city.

To gain a full understanding of the new stations and their associated artwork, students studied each station's artist and immediate neighborhood, and spoke with station employees, construction workers, and designers. After completing their research, students gave oral presentations to the class in their assigned stations and then wrote papers assessing the projects. Samantha Fujita '18 and Alana Roberts '20 examined the stop across the street from MMC and educated the class on Vik Muniz's work *Perfect Strangers*, which uses intricate mosaics to depict the different kinds of people seen along the platforms of the New York City subway system.

The MMC community has enjoyed the expansion of the Q train and the art that comes with it. Bring on phase two!



## Two MMC Students selected as 2017 Jeannette K. Watson Fellows

**Amanda Anzovino '19** and **Jennifer Acevedo '19** received the prestigious Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, granted to NYC undergraduate students who demonstrate academic and extracurricular excellence. The Fellowship offers three consecutive summers of paid internships, one of which is abroad. In addition, students can access mentoring and enriched educational opportunities—tremendous advantages as they prepare for graduate school, the professional world, and leadership roles.

Anzovino, a native of Manahawkin, New Jersey, is earning a degree in **Psychology** while pursuing minors in **Forensic Psychology** and **Social Work**. She has immersed herself in the college experience, taking on such leadership roles as resident assistant and vice president of the Psychology Club. She also volunteers for service organizations, including Marymount Muscle and Advocates for Wellness Education.

Acevedo, originally from East Harlem, New York, majors in **Business** and minors in **Gender Studies**. She has completed several internships at esteemed companies and organizations, including Price Waterhouse Cooper, Bertelsmann Inc., and the Manhattan Borough President's Office, and participates in numerous community service and campus activities.

## Michael Quituisaca '17 MMC's First Thomas Cole Fellow

**Michael Quituisaca '17** is the first MMC student to receive a Thomas Cole Fellowship. Quituisaca, who received the Gold Key in **Art History** last spring, is one of four students nationwide to secure this distinguished position.

Based at the Thomas Cole House in Catskill, New York, Quituisaca will conduct in-depth primary research, help to curate and design exhibitions, participate in marketing strategies, and organize public programs during his seven-month fellowship. Quituisaca has interned in the Curatorial Department of the Museum of the City of New York, where he worked closely with Dr. Bruce Weber, the curator of paintings and sculpture.

Thomas Cole (1801-1848) is the founder of the Hudson River School of American landscape painting. Most notably, he painted *The Oxbow* (1835-36, Metropolitan Museum of Art) and wrote *Essay on American Scenery* (1836), a text widely viewed as an inspiration for the environmental movement in America.



## Madison Weisend '20 Awarded Boren Scholarship

**Madison Weisend**, a sophomore majoring in **Environmental Studies** and **Politics and Human Rights**, won a prestigious David L. Boren Scholarship to study Hindi and sustainable development in India during the 2017-18 academic year. The scholarship is highly competitive: fewer than 20 percent of applicants are accepted. Weisend's successful application as a freshman is an extraordinary achievement.

Before leaving for India, Weisend undertook an intensive, eight-week immersion program through the South Asian Flagship Languages Initiative at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This fall, she headed to Jaipur, where she will spend the semester studying Hindi at the American Institute for Indian Studies. In the spring 2018 semester, she will move to the School of International Training in Jaipur to participate in its Sustainable Development and Social Change Program.

In her Boren Scholarship application, Weisend made the case that food insecurity in India—one of the United States' largest and most important trading partners—creates potentially disastrous political instability and strengthens the role of the Naxalites, a Communist group that has a stated desire to overthrow the Indian government.

Upon graduating from MMC, Weisend plans to serve in the Indian Peace Corps for two years while earning a master's degree in Environmental Policy. She hopes to become an adviser on agricultural development for the U.S. State Department. Weisend reports, "I am beyond blessed to have this opportunity. I can't wait to spend my sophomore year in India!"



## Sindelt Flores '18, a semester abroad at the Umbra Institute

**Sindelt Flores '18**, a **Business** major and member of MMC's **Higher Education Opportunity Program** (HEOP), recently completed a semester abroad at the Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy.

Flores studied the **Italian** language while gaining insight into the culture. In addition to in-class coursework (taught solely in Italian), Flores had immersive, hands-on experiences, such as ordering food in a café and navigating public transportation. These real-time experiences provided insights into Italian life that, she believes, cannot be acquired from a textbook.

According to Flores, MMC played a significant role in her decision to go abroad. "Being a liberal arts school, MMC doesn't want you to just study for your specific major. The College wants you to explore and learn from other things," she said. As a result of her time in Italy, Flores feels as though her worldview has broadened, and she has newfound confidence in relating to people of different backgrounds.

## Booth Ferris Foundation Awards Internship Stipends

A grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation to support *CityEdge*, MMC's college-to-career initiative, provides \$1,000 stipends to students pursuing unpaid internships at New York City nonprofits.

Students completed detailed applications describing their prospective internships and how they would advance their academic and career goals. After careful review, the selection panel chose the following students to receive the stipend for spring 2017 and summer 2017 semesters:

- ▶ **Maria Andrews '17**, *Foreign Affairs* magazine
- ▶ **Keaven Caro '17**, The Morishita Lab at Mount Sinai Hospital
- ▶ **Briana Cotugno '17**, Public School #20
- ▶ **Danielle Pitera '17**, CityScience
- ▶ **Alisha Bunting '18**, 7Cinema
- ▶ **Annelisse Guillen '18**, Kravis Children's Hospital at Mount Sinai
- ▶ **Monica Nyenkan '18**, Gibney Dance Center
- ▶ **Alyssa Wagner '18**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- ▶ **Hailey Albright '19**, FEM Project
- ▶ **Gillian Curry '19**, The 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Project
- ▶ **Madelin Gomez '19**, Congressman Adriano Espaillat's Bronx District Office
- ▶ **Amne Madi '19**, American Iranian Council
- ▶ **Taylor Taff '19**, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
- ▶ **R. Vincent Macareno '20**, LoftOpera
- ▶ **Gabrielle Mank '20**, Goodspeed Musicals

Upon completion of their internships, students submitted either an essay or video summarizing their experience. Gabrielle Mank '20 said, "Spending my entire summer at Goodspeed Musicals was an amazing experience, and I am very grateful that the *CityEdge* stipend helped to offset my expenses so that I was able to fulfill this internship."

## SPEAKER SERIES

### Gurcharan Singh Lecture

The International Studies Department and Office of Academic Affairs welcomed Robert Malley, Ph.D., to this year's Gurcharan Singh Lecture. Dr. Malley served as President Obama's White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region.

A packed room of students, faculty, and friends of MMC attended Dr. Malley's discussion on the state of United States/Middle East relations. Journalist Alex Kane '11 co-led the discussion, which also included Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of International Studies.

During the event's Q&A portion, an attendee asked Dr. Malley what advice he could give students studying international relations. Dr. Malley advised students to "follow your heart" when choosing career paths and to "figure out what truly interests you and find that passion in your work life." He observed: "You have to pay your dues, you have to study hard, you have to do well in general, but I'm saying when you have your next career choice when you graduate, you can't be overly calculating, because life isn't going to turn out the way you planned it."

#### ABOUT THE LECTURE SERIES

Professor Gurcharan Singh was a beloved member of the MMC community and founded the International Studies major in the early 1980s. After his passing in 2007, students, alumni, and friends collaborated to create the Gurcharan Singh Memorial Fund. This fund established a lecture series and a student essay competition focusing on Professor Singh's core values and fields of interests: mutual respect and understanding across cultures and nations, justice for the oppressed, and conflict resolution.

From L-R: Rajinder Bains (Gurcharan Singh's daughter), Robert Malley, Surinder Singh (Gurcharan Singh's son and MMC faculty member), and Alex Kane '11



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Honors Day 2017

Despite last-minute rescheduling caused by an unseasonal snowstorm, Honors Day 2017 was a great success. Held on March 23, the event featured 53 individual and collaborative projects—from traditional academic papers to sculptures, science posters, stage performances, and virtual reality experiences. Although diverse in subject matter and medium, each project highlighted MMC's signature mix of passion and creativity.

The festivities opened with an awards ceremony to honor the best student submissions. Honorees received certificates and cash awards.

**Emily Inman '17** earned the Dean's Award for her research paper on the role of silence in *Dante's Divine Comedy*. **Paige Cowen '20**, won the first-year writing award for her compelling essay endorsing a meat-free diet. **Rosie Wenrich '17** earned the student-faculty collaboration award for her presentation on the composition of phytoplankton. Additionally, Bedford Hills College Program students received recognition in two panel presentations that featured their work on creative writing and food studies.

From morning to evening, Honors Day brought the community together to celebrate student achievements—making it well worth the weather-induced wait.

# CITYEDGE

## ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARDS

The *CityEdge* Advisory Boards provide a tangible way for students to connect with professionals from industries of interest and gain valuable perspective from experts at the tops of their fields. Each of the College's academic departments enlists an Advisory Board that is unique to the needs of their department and is composed of accomplished professionals from across the city who can provide insight on and access to their respective industries.

**Amy Brandt '14**—MMC alumna, Editor-in-Chief of *Pointe* magazine, and Advisory Board member for the English and World Literatures department—was flattered to be invited to join, saying, "I truly enjoy mentoring young people and think I could be especially helpful to English majors exploring careers in journalism." In her experience supervising interns and young professionals, she noticed there was a learning curve for graduates as they adjust to the journalistic style of writing: "Graduates adapt to writing more concisely as journalists. They tap into the creative and analytical sides of themselves that they developed in college, and learn to apply that to the more condensed style of journalism."

Brandt also poses advice on the future of the industry: "I really encourage English majors to take Communications and Journalism courses to be more well-rounded and well-prepared for the shift toward more digital journalism." In addition to offering guidance to students on becoming more employable and developing marketable skills for the "real world," Advisory Board members also assist with student outreach to the industry, support career development initiatives, and help identify job openings, internships, and other opportunities. **Ruth Facer '05**, Senior Director at Zillow Group, Inc. and Advisory Board member for the English and World Literatures Department, speaks to students' needed preparation for the job market: "I honestly didn't think about career development when I was a student. When I graduated, I was not prepared for the transition from academia to the business world. As an Advisory Board member, I hope to help students develop early professional goals, provide practical resources for job hunting and interviewing, and build confidence for being a great employee and team player in the workplace".

Each departmental Advisory Board consists of at least four members and typically does not exceed eight. Appointments are for three-year terms, which are staggered to provide the Board with the necessary combination of experience and new ideas.

## New Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Sharon Meagher, Ph.D., has been appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. Serving most recently as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Widener University, in Chester, Pennsylvania, Dr. Meagher began her new role at MMC on July 1, 2017.

“Dr. Sharon Meagher’s background in promoting a place-based model of higher education that fully integrates theory and practice makes her the perfect fit for MMC. Her highly collaborative leadership style and passionate dedication to student learning and success strongly resonate with our entire campus community,” said MMC President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.

Dr. Meagher comes to MMC with 20 years of higher education leadership experience at three institutions. At Widener, she improved retention rates

and humanities enrollments, fostered the creation of graduate certificate programs, and raised funds for innovative, creative place-making projects in the City of Chester. While Professor of Philosophy at the University of Scranton, Dr. Meagher served as a founding chair of a department that housed the Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies programs. At The Union Institute, she served as Co-Chief Operating Officer and Director of the Office of Social Responsibility, where scholars and practitioners engaged in funded research projects. She served on the board of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, is the co-founder of the Public Philosophy Network, and serves as a trustee at Keystone College. She earned her BA in Philosophy and Sociology from Boston College, and Ph.D. in Philosophy from SUNY Stony Brook.



“My entire career has been dedicated to the purposeful integration of liberal arts education, professional studies, and civic engagement in an urban environment. MMC has a history of combining these things and is now building on that history to take it to a level of national leadership. I am excited to join a team of dedicated faculty and administrators to foster and facilitate this work,” said Dr. Meagher.

Dr. Meagher’s appointment follows a national search led by a committee co-chaired by Mary Fleischer, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, and Bradley Herling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences.

RECAP

## Shark Tank

This past spring, six teams of MMC students gathered to pitch their ideas at the College’s first-ever Shark Tank competition. Sponsored and hosted by the Division of Business, MMC’s Shark Tank helped these budding entrepreneurs present their ideas to potential investors. In addition to strengthening students’ critical thinking, teamwork, and presentation skills, the program provided a solid grounding in business acumen.

The judges included **Jill Bright '83**, MMC Trustee and Executive Vice President at Sotheby’s; Erum Azeez Khan, a West Chester University graduate who provides innovation strategy for messagingLAB; and Toni Rubio, Founder and President of Move to Empower and member of MMC’s Division of Business Advisory Board.

The program allowed each team to present an idea to the judges and audience. After each presentation, the judges asked questions and interacted with the team.



The winning pitch was *Realabilities*, a puppet musical and comic book series that would teach young students about disabilities and showcase the talents and strengths of individuals with disabilities. As champions, the *Realabilities* team has the opportunity to work with mentors from the Division of Business and enter the nationwide Student Entrepreneurship Competition during the 2017-18 academic year.

## GRIFFIN GEAR



### MMC pride never goes out of style!

Check out the latest and greatest Griffin Gear styles for students, alumni, and friends! To purchase these products and others, visit the Griffin Gear store at [www.mmm.edu/griffin-gear](http://www.mmm.edu/griffin-gear).



### These Manhattan Streets

Attending college in NYC means the city is your campus. Stay comfy when you’re on the go or in the classroom in Griffin Gear active wear!

### Daily Dance? Fuhgeddaboutit!

Whether you wake up early for dance class, a biology lab, or simply want to beat the crowd on the Second Avenue Subway, a sip of coffee from this MMC mug will perk you right up.



### Sun in your Eyes?

The skyscrapers of Manhattan can only block so much. Keep your eyes and skin protected during jogs in Central Park and group meetings on The Lowerre Family Terrace with Marymount Manhattan baseball caps.



### Think in Technicolor!

MMC’s school colors may be blue and white, but Griffin Gear has apparel in every shade imaginable.

Photo Credit: Lindsay Rootare '13



1

## An Evening at the Museum The 2017 Annual Scholarship Benefit

**D**ining under the cerulean shadow of the majestic blue whale model, guests of the 2017 Annual Scholarship Benefit enjoyed an unforgettable event at the American Museum of Natural History. It was an evening full of excitement, culminating in the announcement that, for the first time, the Benefit surpassed the one million dollar mark in fundraising.

Trustees, faculty, alumni, parents, and friends of the College gathered at this special event on April 27 to celebrate and support the positive impact of an MMC education, as well as to honor MMC benefactors and parents **Scott and Debby Rechler P'17**, who received the Marymount Manhattan College Visionary Award for their leadership in ensuring opportunity and security for people around the world.

Anne Thompson, NBC's Chief Environmental Affairs Correspondent, presided as the host of ceremonies. In a special moment of the evening, she read a proclamation from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio declaring April 27, 2017 "Marymount Manhattan College Day." The proclamation cited several of the College's milestones, including record-breaking full-time enrollment and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bedford Hills College Program, and commended Scott and Debby Rechler for their unwavering commitment to MMC and its mission. In addition, Matilda Raffa Cuomo H'01, an Honorary Benefit Chair, close friend of the honorees, and the proud grandmother of a member of MMC's Class of 2021, addressed the crowd with a congratulatory letter from her son, Governor Andrew Cuomo.

During the awards presentation, President Kerry Walk lauded the Rechlers. "Through his civic leadership, Scott Rechler envisions a vital and magnetic city and region," she said. "And through her involvement in many charitable causes, Debby Rechler envisions a world in which all people can lead safe and productive lives."

Between the presentations and awards, guests enjoyed spectacular performances by renowned actress and singer Rachel York and three gifted MMC alumni, including Tony nominee Adrienne Warren '09, Broadway actor Jason Gotay '11, and musical artist and composer Breedlove '05.

In total, the Benefit raised more than \$1.2 million to support need-based student scholarships. President Walk thanked all those who contributed to the success of the largest fundraiser in the College's history. "Thanks to the generosity of all who contributed, more students than ever will receive the gift of an MMC education, one of the finest in the nation."

### Get to Know Scott and Debby Rechler

Tireless champions for young people throughout New York City and beyond, Scott and Debby Rechler P'17 were presented the Marymount Manhattan College Visionary Award by President Kerry Walk and Hope Knight '85, former Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Scott Rechler is the CEO and Chairman of RXR Realty, one of the tri-state region's leading real estate companies, which formed subsequent to the sale of Reckson Associates Realty in January 2007. In that time, RXR has accumulated a \$15 billion, 25-million-square-foot portfolio spanning New York City and the New York Metro Region.

Debby is deeply involved in a variety of charitable causes, most notably the Rift Valley Children's Village, which provides a permanent home for orphaned children in northern Tanzania. She is also active with the Association for Children with Down Syndrome, the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, and the National Eating Disorder Association.

The couple co-founded the Long Island Children's Museum, where Scott served as co-chair of the museum board of trustees.



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- 1 | President Kerry Walk, Ph.D. (left) and former Board Chairperson Hope Knight '85 (right) present the Visionary Award to Debby and Scott Rechler P'17
- 2 | Trustee Barbara Loughlin '70, Alice and Board Chair Michael Materasso P'14, and Patrick Abarta
- 3 | Trustee Carol Berman '13 and husband Walter Berman
- 4 | The Visionary Award
- 5 | Host of Ceremonies Anne Thompson, NBC's Chief Environmental Affairs Correspondent
- 6 | MMC students perform *America the Beautiful*
- 7 | The sisters of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM)
- 8 | The evening's honorees, Scott and Debby Rechler, with daughter and current MMC student Gabrielle Rechler '17
- 9 | President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.
- 10 | Jason Gotay '11 performs *Out There from The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (music by Alan Mencken and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz)
- 11 | Adrienne Warren '09 sings *Constellation* (music and lyrics by Joey Contreras)
- 12 | Matilda Raffa Cuomo H'01 and Honorary Benefit Chair reads an address from her son, Governor Andrew Cuomo

# CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS

**@haleydebattista**  
They see me eatin, they hatin.  
#mmcstrawberryfest



**@verchot\_fosho**  
Pierre the sheep dog  
#marymountmanhattancollege #mythmirthmusic  
#theatre #rehearsals #puppet #dog



**@mantha.michelle**  
My pretty princesses



**@alexandra\_cowan**  
Hail Marymount and hail that cab.  
#marymountmanhattan #graduation  
#nycactor #redhead

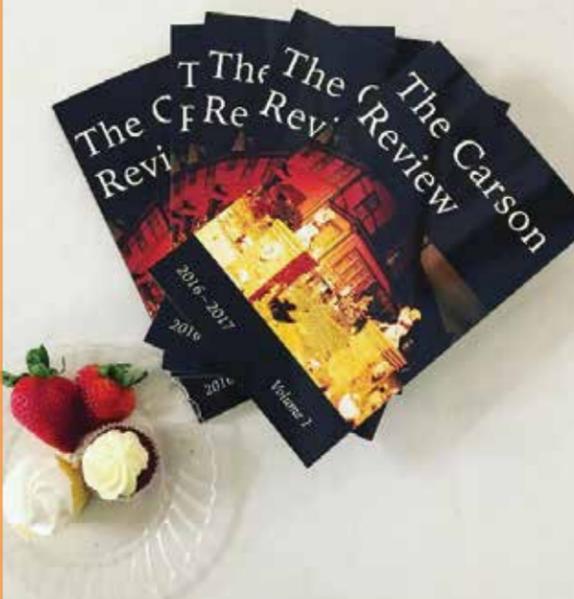
**@ewlmmc**  
It was a lovely night for a party...for the first ever Carson Review! Thank you to everyone who attended and to our fabulous students who read their work. Cheers to a great year!  
#literarymagazine #undergraduate #english #poetry #nonfiction #fiction #writing#nyc #manhattan



**@humsoc\_mmc**  
Our team might not have won, but we're so proud of some of our HUMSOC students for killing it on the court today! #students #faculty #marymountmanhattancollege #marymountmanhattan #collegeinnyc #volleyball #uppereastside #ues #manhattan



**@xerixrose**  
Some of my peeps that made this year amazing, many other peeps that aren't depicted but i'm missing you just the same



**@emilymun\_official**  
Strawberry Fest at Marymount Manhattan College 2017 #festival #booth #desserts #food #foodie #mmc #college #student #fun #studentactivities #strawberry #donut #nyc#newyork #manhattan #newyorkcity #school#follow #followtrain #followme #marymountmanhattan #strawberryfest #mmc #marymountmanhattancollege



## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



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1. In July 2017, the Council of Independent Colleges selected **Adrienne Baxter Bell, Ph.D.**, Professor of Art History and Director of the College Honors Program, to participate in a special weeklong seminar series on teaching European Art in context. Held at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut, and funded by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the seminar focused on the relationship between landscape and identity in Britain and the United States from 1770 to 1914.

2. **Ann DiBella Jablon, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Communication Sciences and Disorders, received the Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Award during the annual State Scholarship Awards presented by the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Grand Lodge of New York Order. The award recognizes outstanding Italian-American women in higher education who have made significant contributions to their profession and community. Dr. Jablon earned the award in recognition of her recent work, *“Italian/American? Second-Generation Voices in Search of an Identity,”* co-authored by Lori DiBella Wallach.

3. Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts **Mary Fleischer, Ph.D.** and **Barbara Adrian, MFA, CMA**, both Professors of Theatre Arts, served as editors for the second edition of Nicole Potter’s book *Movement for Actors*. Potter, who passed away in 2013, was an adjunct professor in the Theatre Arts department. Dr. Fleischer and Adrian updated this rich resource for actors, and have added six new chapters that have relevance across many types of physical performance: Authentic Movement, yoga for actors, Body-Mind Centering®, stage combat, Bartenieff FundamentalsSM, and Grotowski-based movement.

4. In June 2016, **Yu-Yin Cheng, Ph.D.**, Professor of History and International Studies, presented her research paper “Exploring Christian Thought of Lower-Stratum Elite in Late-Ming China: The Case of Xiong Shiqi” at the international conference *Revisiting Intellectual History during the Ming-Qing Transition Period*. Dr. Cheng, a guest of the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica (the highest-ranking research institute in Taiwan), was among 28 scholars from across the world chosen to participate. Dr. Cheng also accepted an invitation from *Ming Qing Studies* to contribute her research on Christianity in 17th-century China for an upcoming issue.

5. Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.**, and **Peter Naccarato, Ph.D.**, Professor of English and World Literatures, recently edited *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Food and Popular Culture*. This authoritative overview of the influence of food on popular culture in recent decades brings together more than 20 original essays from leading experts. The interdisciplinary, groundbreaking resource will be an essential reference work for students, researchers, and scholars.

6. Congratulations are in order for **Dan Hunt, MFA**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts, on the April 2017 premiere of his first fiction short film, *Assisted Living*, at the Newport Beach Film Festival in Southern California. The film, which explores the financial exploitation of the elderly, was a true MMC endeavor, including Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts Erin Greenwell, MFA, as creative producer and editor; Associate Producers Kelly Caminero '16 and Emily Hamilton '16; Cast and Production Designer Sara Gemind '16; and an original score by Kenan Hunter '18.

7. Associate Professor of English and World Literatures **Michael Colvin, Ph.D.**, recently published *Fado and the Urban Poor in Portuguese Cinema of the 1930s and 1940s*. The book is Dr. Colvin’s study of the evolution of Fado music as the soundtrack to the first Portuguese films with sound, also known as “talkies.” In it, he analyzes the most successful Portuguese films of the first two decades of the Estado Novo era to show how directors used the national song to promote the values of the young regime regarding the poor inhabitants of Lisbon’s popular neighborhoods.

**Did you know that only 62% of MMC’s operating budget is funded by tuition?** In order to continue to provide high-quality facilities, faculty, and student services, MMC and all other not-for-profit colleges need to fundraise.

Alumni of Marymount Manhattan College remain deeply connected to the College they love and call home, and many demonstrate that connection by giving back to ensure that the next generation of MMC students have the same positive experience. Gifts to the Annual Fund provide Marymount Manhattan College with flexible and immediate funds to support need-based financial aid for our students, enhanced programs, technology, campus infrastructure, and much more. Unrestricted annual gifts from alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends allow the College to operate, grow, and thrive.

When you support MMC with your generosity, you’re giving directly to the programs and initiatives that mean the most to you. A strong and bright future for our community starts with you.

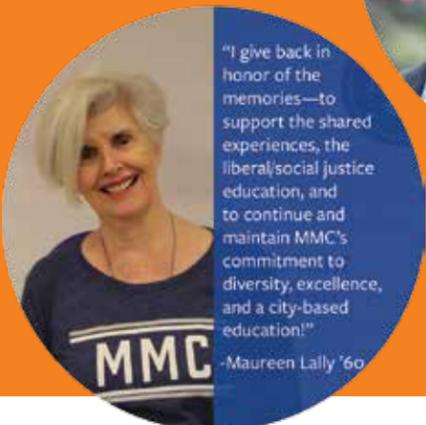
### Why do you give?



“I give because attending MMC allowed me to feel like part of a bigger global community—my classmates were from all over the world—and that gave me a sense of belonging.”  
-Lissa Nicolas '89



“I give back to MMC because it’s part of my story and personal brand. Strengthening our College by providing for current and future students helps all of us.”  
-Mike Burt '11



“I give back in honor of the memories—to support the shared experiences, the liberal/social justice education, and to continue and maintain MMC’s commitment to diversity, excellence, and a city-based education!”  
-Maureen Lally '60

**USA TODAY COLLEGE**



Photo Credit: Tariq Mustafa

**VOICES: HOW I WENT FROM A SMALL TOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA TO LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

June 28, 2017

“Throughout my childhood, everyone told me to follow my dreams. My dream was to see the world. To a little girl in Beaver, Pennsylvania, that aspiration seemed pretty far away. I didn’t know anyone who picked up and left for adventures to Asia and Africa, nor could I imagine what that would be like. But I inched closer to my aspirations by getting into Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. Four years later, I am interning at my dream job in South Africa.” —Bryen Farrell Pittner '17

**backstage**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ‘MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS’**

February 24, 2017

“Mary Fleischer and Barbara Adrian, theater professors at Marymount Manhattan College, took the reins on updating Nicole Potter’s *Movement for Actors* after the author passed away in 2013. Their update adds six new chapters to Potter’s original text and covers everything from stage combat to yoga for actors to Bartenieff Fundamentals.”

Photo Credit: Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times



**The New York Times**

**A PRISON CLASS IN AFRICAN RELIGION ATTRACTS STUDENTS BEYOND ITS WALLS**

December 16, 2016

“The class, which explored religions like spiritism, Santería, voodoo and Rastafarianism, was one of 16 courses taught at the prison this semester. The program is overseen by Marymount Manhattan College, which teaches most of the courses here...for which inmates receive college credit toward a Marymount Manhattan degree.”

**COMMERCIAL OBSERVER**

Photo Credit: Yvonne Albinowski for Commercial Observer

**MEET HOPE KNIGHT, THE WOMAN AT THE CENTER OF JAMAICA’S TRANSFORMATION**

February 15, 2017

“Before Hope Knight became the President and Chief Executive Officer of the nonprofit Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC) almost two years ago, she walked the neighborhood to get a sense of what it was like...But since she started working in Jamaica, the change, which had been set in motion decades prior, is starting to take effect. There are more than 3,666 new apartments and 2,194 hotel rooms planned for the Queens neighborhood, by GJDC’s count. And Knight is finding her role is to maintain the growth of Jamaica while still keeping it affordable.”



MMC Trustee Hope Knight '85

**MEET THE FOUR WOMEN EARNING BACHELOR’S DEGREES FROM A NY PRISON**

June 7, 2017

“Marymount Manhattan College and community members mounted a fundraising campaign and, in the spring of 1997, they brought college back to Bedford Hills. Since then, prisoners there have earned 55 bachelor’s degrees and 150 associate’s degrees from Marymount.”

For More On The Bedford Hills College Program, see pg. 22.



# FINDING FREEDOM BEHIND BARS

*MMC's Bedford Hills College Program celebrates 20 years of excellence*



President Kerry Walk, Ph.D. presents BHC graduate with her diploma



Katie LeBesco, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, addresses the audience at commencement

**A** group of women studiously sit around a room with white concrete walls, discussing the nature and origin of human rights. Beyond their matching green attire, they don't appear to have much in common, representing a range of ethnicities, ages, and life experiences.

This is a room in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women, and this group is part of Marymount Manhattan College's Bedford Hills College Program (BHC). And although these women may seem dissimilar, they share a sense of purpose, a drive to succeed, and a desire to improve their own lives and the lives of their families.

#### THE TRANSFORMATIVE EFFECT OF EDUCATION

For 20 years, the BHC has proudly afforded inmates in New York State's only women's maximum-security prison the opportunity to enroll in college courses while serving time behind bars. To date, more than 200 incarcerated women have earned either an Associate of Arts degree in Social Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from MMC.

The program has been a boon to the facility's population, both those who are enrolled in courses and those who aren't.

"The women in the BHC change the culture here," said Aileen Baumgartner, the program's director. "They encourage incoming women to obey the rules so they, too, can take the courses they need to complete their high school diploma and enroll at MMC. The whole program is a big motivator, for the women who have a sentence of five years to those who will be here far longer."

As with all prison education programs, the BHC remains the single most effective tool for decreasing the likelihood that incarcerated women will return to prison upon their release. Recidivism among released BHC graduates is virtually zero, as compared with the national average of 43.9 percent for women.

#### RISING FROM THE ASHES

The BHC's success wasn't always so assured. In 1995, "tough-on-crime" initiatives slashed federal and state funding for prison education programs, leading to the closure of more than 350 pre college and college programs in prisons around the country. At that time, the program at Bedford Hills—then conducted by Mercy College—shuttered after 15 successful years.

By the spring of 1997, the program at Bedford Hills had made a comeback, this time as a consortium of colleges led by then-President of MMC Regina Peruggi, Ed.D. Today, the BHC exemplifies MMC's mission to educate a socially and economically diverse student body by fostering intellectual achievement and personal growth, and promoting social, political, cultural, and ethical understanding.

#### COLLEGE LIFE AT BEDFORD HILLS

Although MMC has been the degree-granting institution of the BHC since 1997, the program officially became an extension campus in September 2004, and the College now considers itself to have not two, but one student body.

In fact, MMC students at both campuses have plenty of crossover: main campus students attend classes like Theories of Justice at the facility, and the BHC hosts numerous educational events, such as the Crossing Borders conference, during which professors and students—from inside and outside the facility—present their academic research. Inside/Outside art exhibitions feature work by main campus and BHC students.

Continued on page 24 ►



“The Bedford Hills College Program provides a future for them, bringing a sense of hope and a purpose to succeed and do their best every day.”

—Valerie Rowe, Ph.D.



▲ Panelists from left to right: Cheryl Wilkins '00, Sharon White-Harrigan '02, Stacy Royster '08, Colby Thompson '11, and Iris Bowen (90's graduate of the Mercy College program)

▼ Standing from left to right: Aisha Elliot '00, Cheryl Wilkins '00, Regina Peruggi, Ed.D., H'01 (MMC President Emerita), Rachel Bernard (Assistant Director of the Bedford Hills College Program), Claude Millery '12, Iris Bowen, Kerra Tolliver '14, Aileen Baumgartner (Director of the BHCP), President Kerry Walk, Ph.D. Seated from left to right: Sharon White-Harrigan '02, Stacy Royster '08, Colby Thompson '11

► Continued from page 23

Students in the program are held to the same rigorous academic standards as anyone at MMC, taking placement exams in math, reading, and essay writing, and fulfilling the same general education and major requirements.

A college degree substantially increases these students' chances for fruitful employment after their release. With their degrees, many BHCP graduates work in social-service nonprofits, prison-transition services, and social work.

“The women of BHCP are extraordinarily eloquent about the power of education to transform their lives and the lives of those around them,” says MMC President Kerry Walk. “Many of the program's students and alumnae describe entering the BHCP weighed down with self-doubt.... But their professors believe in them, knowing what they're capable of achieving, and their self-doubt turns into self-empowerment.”

#### THE FUTURE OF BHCP

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Education selected MMC for the experimental *Second Chance Pell Program*, which is expected to provide modest support for students, including replacing old and worn textbooks. The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) at both the state and facility level, also fully support the program.

But to keep the program up and running, MMC relies primarily on the generous donations of private individuals and foundations, whose contributions support an operating budget of nearly \$300,000 each year.

One such contributor is Valerie Rowe, Ph.D., whose leadership gift to an endowed fund in support of the BHCP has been sustaining. “Speaking with these women is a life-changer,” said Dr. Rowe, a retired Clinical Associate Professor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Education. “The Bedford Hills College Program provides a future for them, bringing a sense of hope and a purpose to succeed and do their best every day.”

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, May 5, 2017, MMC celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP). With the event's theme of **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER** in mind, MMC President Emerita Regina Peruggi spoke to attendees, reminding them of BHCP's origins, which began during her tenure.

A highlight of the day was a BHCP Alumnae Panel, in which graduates shared their experiences as students and attested to how their education helped prepare them for their lives outside the walls of New York State's only maximum-security prison for women.

As MMC celebrates the history of the BHCP, the College also looks to the future. With the dedication of BHCP faculty, staff, and volunteers, and ongoing financial support primarily from private donors, that future looks bright—for BHCP students and alumnae, the wider MMC community, and society as a whole.





# School's in Session for a New Population

*MMC rolls out new institute for pre college and advanced study*

**T**he landscape of the college classroom is changing. As more people embrace lifelong learning, individuals outside of the traditional college age bracket—both older and younger—are exploring new educational opportunities.

To serve this changing population, Marymount Manhattan College has launched an institute for pre college and advanced study, which offers cutting-edge educational programs to nontraditional, non-degree-seeking learners. The new institute is funded by a \$1 million donation from MMC alumna **Mary Ellen McNiece Hawn '91** and her husband, Gates Helms Hawn.

## ENVISIONING MMC'S SUCCESS

In the past, MMC offered popular educational outreach programs for nontraditional students seeking degrees and certifications, but were discontinued more than a decade ago for a variety of reasons. For President Kerry Walk, Ph.D., now in her third year at the College, reviving the outreach programs, with a new purpose, has been a key initiative.

"Offering programs that meet the needs of a wide range of learners makes sense for MMC," says President Walk. "It's no wonder that so many campus stakeholders have expressed a desire to see the return of such programs: they help fulfill the MMC mission to educate students of all ages, they serve the community around us, they provide opportunities for greater regional and national visibility, and they optimize institutional resources—including space, which is plentiful during low-peak times, such as the summer. That's a lot of wins!"

The new institute for pre college and advanced study is also a centerpiece of the College's new Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, **Contemporary and Compelling: Envisioning MMC's Future**, which focuses on enhancing the College's distinctive educational experience and ensuring financial stability and growth.

## ATTRACTING NEW POPULATIONS

The first program to be offered by the new institute was an intensive summer workshop in Musical Theatre for high school juniors and seniors.

"The program was tremendously successful," says Assistant Vice President for Academic Administration Richard Sheldon, who spearheaded the development of a five-year business plan for the institute. "We're marketing not only our strength and expertise in the performing arts industry, but also the New York City experience. We had students attend from all over the country, and MMC is now the college of choice for all of them."

High school students from California, New Jersey, Kentucky, Puerto Rico, and more worked with MMC faculty during the successful summer intensive.

In the future, the pre college program will continue to build on MMC's distinctive strengths, expanding its offerings to other subject areas and taking advantage of the College's NYC location as a draw for both domestic and international students.

## ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR ADULTS

MMC also recognizes the abundance of prospective adult learners living in and around the city.

"By establishing programs aimed at working professionals in the New York City area, we can increase MMC's presence on the Upper East Side," says Sheldon. "We can help our local population re-envision the kind of college Marymount Manhattan is, and the role we can play in helping adults enrich their lives and engage in their communities."

For this next step, MMC is exploring a variety of options, including intensive non credit courses. One such intensive course on offer in winter 2018 is "Tasting NYC Food Culture," taught by Fran Alswang, a Day-

time Emmy Award-winning producer of culinary programs. The course explores NYC as one of the food capitals of the world, with an emphasis on the culinary culture of the Upper East Side.

"We're also considering certificate programs for working adults to pursue credentialing, again looking to where MMC has an established pattern of success," says Sheldon. "We could offer career enhancers in areas like stage or arts management, social justice and human rights, social entrepreneurship and ethical business—the potential is limitless."

## FOSTERING FISCAL HEALTH

In addition to expanding MMC's visibility to populations around the world, the institute also offers a new revenue source.

While the gift from the Hawn family offsets costs for the first several years of the programs, the education programs are expected to generate income by the second or third year through program fees, housing, food services, and more. This diversification of revenue is important for the long-term sustainability of the College and addresses a goal of the new strategic plan to foster fiscal health.

## MAKING THE GRADE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

For President Walk, the institute for pre college and advanced study offers a perfect way to optimize the College's resources, leverage long-standing strengths, and try out innovative modes of teaching and learning.

"Marymount Manhattan is a jewel in one of the world's great cities," President Walk observes. "The new institute will make our rich educational offerings available to a large nontraditional student population while harnessing the College's tremendous potential for ongoing success."

▶ The official name of the institute will be announced soon. Check out the next issue for more details!



Alumnae celebrating their milestone 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion (Class of 1967) gathered at Lincoln Center and were recognized on stage during commencement

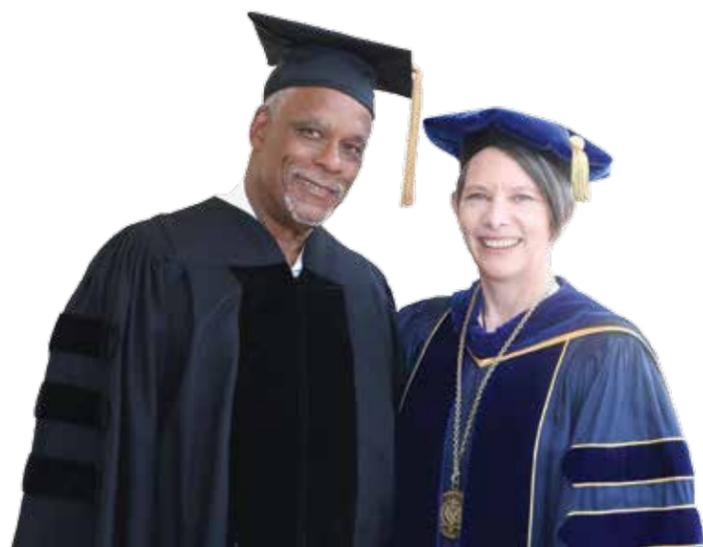


“The one thing you will never get back is your time. Utilize every minute you have doing what you love and fill the gaps in your schedule productively. Assessing the purpose of each activity you partake in will help you determine what you need to prioritize for your greater goal. While you keep yourself busy, do not forget to take breaks. Balance is key when it comes to efficiency.” - Senior Class Speaker, Anika Ferdoash '17

Marymount Manhattan Celebrates

# Commencement & Alumni Reunion

“Your generation will be called upon to solve some of the world’s wickedly difficult problems, including an aging society, international conflict and terrorism, water and food insecurity, economic and gender inequality, and climate change, to name a few. Given the focus, drive, and resilience you have shown during your years on 71<sup>st</sup> Street, I know you will find new ways to rise to these and the many other challenges that you will face in the coming years.” - President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.



Honorary Degree recipient Stanley Nelson with President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.

In May 2017, Marymount Manhattan College held commencement exercises in tandem with Alumni Reunion Weekend—a first for MMC. Unifying the two events resulted in unforgettable moments as multiple generations of Griffins came together.

At commencement, held in the iconic David Geffen Hall of Lincoln Center, the graduates of 2017 reflected on their accomplishments and looked to the future. Notable graduates include Valedictorians, Jaime Bartoletti and Hiu Ching (Penny) Pun, and the student speaker for commencement, Anika Ferdoash.

Additionally, members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class (1967) received special recognition during the ceremony—demonstrating the lifelong connection between alumni and the College.

MMC proudly granted Director and Producer Stanley Nelson an honorary degree. Nelson is one of the foremost chroniclers of the African American experience working in nonfiction film. His films, many of which have aired on PBS, combine compelling narratives with rich and deeply researched historical detail, shining new light on both familiar and under-explored aspects of America’s past.

Following commencement, Reunion Weekend continued with an incredible line up of events, including the annual awards luncheon in the Great Hall, the signature alumni cabaret, and a lively evening of bingo, where alumni old and new mingled and shared stories of their time at MMC.

## ALUMNI PROFILES



▲ Following in the footsteps of countless successful graduates of MMC's Business program, **Blake Balsamo '15** is an outspoken advocate for the business courses that helped launch his career.

"The faculty in the business department go above and beyond. The classes they curate are rigorous and challenging, and push students to think more like entrepreneurs and marketing or banking professionals," he says. Now in his second year at Citigroup, the recently promoted Assistant Vice President works in the Commercial Banking Division. This department lends capital and fulfills the banking needs of large corporate clients. Balsamo's areas of interest and expertise include the automotive and packaging sectors, among others.

Although he now resides in his home state of New Jersey, his career required a temporary residency in Dallas—an experience Balsamo holds in high regard. "I would recommend for

everyone to live away from home and your comfort zone for at least a year after graduation—I learned so much."

While in Texas, Balsamo volunteered with the Prison Entrepreneurship Program. "I would visit the prison monthly and speak with incarcerated individuals about the world of business and how to build a business proposal," he says. "It was informative and enriching for them and for me."



▲ As he selected courses for his senior year at MMC, **Joshua Sherman, MD '00** realized he needed to fulfill a science requirement and signed up for a 100-level nutrition course. The Theatre Design major saw it as a means to an end, but it ultimately changed his life. "During Professor Suzanne Polo, R.D.'s class, I decided that I would pursue a career in medicine. To my surprise, many of the skills I had developed in the arts—problem solving, communication, dealing with a wide range of personalities—carried over perfectly," he says.

Now a practicing physician, Sherman credits MMC for preparing him for success. He recalls, "When I

approached Professor Bill Bordeau to tell him of my interest in medicine, he was completely supportive. He said, 'One of our theatre graduates is a priest. Why shouldn't we have a doctor, too?!'"

When not treating patients, Sherman still makes theatre a priority. He is developing and producing a one-man show called **Antonio's Song**, which stars MMC alumnus and faculty member Antonio Edwards Suarez '98—the pair have been best friends since Sherman's first year at MMC.

Sherman also created a digital series called CHARMERS, which showcases his home state, Vermont, and features Broadway stars. To learn more about all of Sherman's artistic endeavors, visit [joshuashermapresents.com](http://joshuashermapresents.com).



▲ In the art world, few names carry as much influence as Christie's. The famed auction house, founded in 18<sup>th</sup>-century London, has shaped the careers of many aspiring art historians, including **Ariel Kline '15**.

"An internship at Christie's during my senior year introduced me to the professional art world, a crucial experience that continues to serve my thinking as a young art historian," she says.

From there, Kline earned an MA from Williams College and recently began a Ph.D. program in Art History at Princeton University. She is also curating an exhibition depicting the history of the domestic pet that will open at the Clark Art Institute in 2018.

A world traveler who recently spent time in Istanbul and the U.K., Kline has a deep appreciation for the MMC faculty members who helped propel her career. "The kindness and guidance of Professor of Art History Adrienne Bell, Ph.D., is just one example of the school's best advantage: small class sizes and caring professors, which results in great mentor relationships. Distinguished Chair and Professor of Art History Jason Rosenfeld, Ph.D., too, honed my art history writing skills by editing drafts and engaging in discussions."

As she continues to acquire degrees and life experience, it's clear that Kline's time at MMC has had a profound effect on both her interests and her aspirations.



▲ Life is sweet for **Diane A. Holland '89**, owner of the award-winning company Blue Tulip Chocolates. A professionally trained Chocolatier and Pastry Chef, Holland says, "There were many people who thought a fine chocolate business would not survive, but it is best to follow your own heart and talents—

and, of course, to have a good business plan."

Although she has worn many hats in her career (including gaining experience in marketing and historical preservation), Holland declares that her liberal arts education at MMC has reaped endless benefits. "As an English major, I learned how to research and critically analyze, and apply those skills to all facets of my life. A great education gives you a great foundation," she says.

The Westchester, New York, resident and mother of two also credits MMC for sparking her interest in community building and volunteerism. As a student, she actively supported Campus Ministry. Today, through her company, she donates time and resources to roughly a dozen local charities, including hospitals, schools, and community centers.

Holland says, "If you love what you do, it is worth pursuing. And it is never too late to follow your passion."



▲ When facing a crowd of 1,500 people at an event in Chicago, **Blair Bloomston '03** called upon her MMC education to see her through a high-stakes presentation.

"I was battling a head cold and had just had my second child three months earlier—and now I had to win over this room," she recalls. "I couldn't have done it without Professor of Theatre Arts Barbara Adrian, MFA, whose unparalleled voice and speech training so thoroughly prepared me for such a scenario all those years before!"

## ALUMNI, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

### BECOME A CAREER MENTOR Share Your Story Now

In an effort to connect our students with professionals in a variety of fields, we want to know where you are now and how your liberal arts education at MMC helped you get there.

If you are interested in sharing what you have learned with the next generation of Marymount Manhattan students, visit [www.mmm.edu/careermentor](http://www.mmm.edu/careermentor) to complete a survey.

Opportunities to engage with students may include:

- **Careers over Coffee**  
Invite students to meet for an informational interview to discuss your career and offer advice on your job field.
- **Internships**  
Connect students to internship opportunities with your employer.
- **Career Fairs**  
Attend MMC's on campus Career Fair to speak with students about internships/jobs.
- **Panels/Career Summit**  
Attend MMC's spring networking event or participate in career-related panels on campus.
- **Job Shadowing**  
Invite students to your work place to observe your typical work day for a few hours.

▲ Having released two albums in the past two years, the multi-talented musician **Koncept '08** recently partnered with Sony Music Asia and is establishing himself across continents. The Rapper/Singer/Producer also designs the artwork and branding for his music, calling upon skills he honed at MMC.

"I majored in Graphic Design and minored in Music. I had great professors in both fields

and a really great advisor, Associate Professor of Art James Holl, MFA," he says.

"Jim gave me the confidence to follow through with my vision. He never shut down an idea, but would help guide and develop it into something more."

The Queens native (whose given name is Keith Whitehead) has performed alongside rap superstars Rick Ross,

Macklemore, and Wiz Khalifa, and his album *The Fuel* boasts more than one million streams online.

Koncept encourages young artists to "see what you want and where you want to be. Put a plan together and work hard every day to achieve it."

To hear Koncept's music and watch the accompanying music videos, visit [iamkoncept.com](http://iamkoncept.com).

## ALUMNI PROFILES

An entrepreneur and game theory expert, Bloomston says she often applies lessons from her days as an undergrad: **“All of my professors were phenomenal and I think back on their classes all the time.”**

As Vice President for *game on Nation*, Bloomston develops and delivers multi-phase leadership, teamwork, and corporate culture programs for such clients as Hilton, NASCAR, and Deloitte. Outside of work, she and her husband, Shane, have their hands full with sons Beau and Kirby.

Although she lives on the Gulf Coast of Florida, Bloomston remains connected to the MMC community, having recently collaborated with alumna Brenna (Palughi) Thys '03 on an event with Institutional Advancement.

Bloomston says, “I was so impressed with MMC’s intention to seek best practices and provide cutting-edge programming. As an alum, I was truly thrilled to pilot this partnership.”



▲ Not one to let a good opportunity slip away, **Michelle Lamb '02** made a powerful first impression when a guest speaker visited MMC her freshman year.

**“Bob Waldman, an executive producer for CBS News, spoke to my class. I approached him afterward with my resumé—yes, I came prepared—and expressed interest in an internship. We chatted, I applied, and a few months later I secured a position with the CBS News summer program. I was so excited,”** she says.

Through the internship, Lamb worked on numerous shows and news segments alongside broadcasting legends, including Dan Rather. This experience led to a career in production before more recently becoming a TV and radio personality.

Lamb can be heard on iHeartmedia and seen on television as a true-crime reporter for programs including *Fatal Attraction* (TV One) and *Snapped: Killer Couples* (Oxygen Network). She enjoys hiking, traveling, and swimming, and also devotes time and resources as a volunteer, supporting soup kitchens and clothing drives. Reflecting on her life, career, and what lies ahead, Lamb says, “I think most of us are afraid of the unknown, but with positive thoughts, faith, and looking for that silver lining, you can make the best of any situation.”



▲ Every theatregoer knows the sensation of leaping through a *Playbill* in the minutes before the lights dim and the curtain rises. But few know about the committed people who work at *Playbill*, such as **Sarah Jane Arnegger '06**.

As the Education Director for Playbill, Inc., Arnegger oversees two educational websites: PlaybillEDU and PLAYBILLder. She also manages Playbill’s educational partnerships, including those with the NYC Department of Education, BroadwayCon, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**“I am leading the charge at Playbill to promote arts and theatre education by working not only within our own network, but with our partners in New York City and around the country. I get to challenge myself every day and help foster a new community of students who are just discovering the performing arts,”** she says.

Arnegger’s ties to the arts run deep: before enrolling at MMC she had already completed internships with

Broadway companies, including Disney Theatrical Group, Boneau/Bryan-Brown, and The Karpel Group. As a Communication Arts major, she devised an educational path to fit her interests and goals.

“I was able to challenge myself with the classes I chose and the professors I wanted to study with,” Arnegger says. “The greatest thing a liberal arts program can provide is the opportunity to learn purpose and creativity and to foster personal growth.”

Today, in addition to extensive travel, the Astoria resident performs for the Educational Theatre Association, also serving on its Alumni Counsel and Foundation Advisory Board.



▲ For **Amy Plitt '04**, curiosity and a passion for city life led to the perfect career. In 2015, Plitt published her first book, *Subway Adventure Guide: New York City*. The indispensable guide is beneficial to both tourists and locals, offering tips, insider knowledge, and historical tidbits about the metropolitan area.

Plitt is also the editor of *Curbed NY*, which is part of a network of websites that provide localized neighborhood news about such topics as real estate, transportation, politics, and community events. In this role, she leads a three-person team and oversees daily posts and larger projects.

**“I’m lucky that one of my main interests—exploring New York City—is basically my job,”** she says.

During her time at MMC, Plitt studied Journalism and served as Editor of the *Monitor*. **“That was when I first learned the absolute importance of sticking to deadlines!”** she says. **“I also enjoyed media criticism courses, which provided skills that come in handy to this day.”**

Although the life of the Brooklyn resident centers on New York’s five boroughs, Plitt enjoys traveling to new places, as well as watching '90s sitcoms and sampling beer.



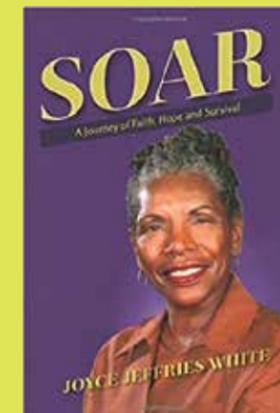
▲ Brooklyn-based **Ben Chatag '15** draws upon deeply personal life experiences to create his colorful and complex contemporary paintings. He says, “I want to visually convey Tibetan philosophical ideas in works that focus on current social, political, and cultural issues. The notions of freedom, interdependence, and compassion are important in a time when many are rejecting our connectedness and focusing on differences.”

With his recent first solo show, “Suffering and Cessation,” at the Yasher Gallery, in Brooklyn, Chatag aimed to raise awareness of the struggle of refugees and migrants around the world. “As a Tibetan who had left my country and family, this was and remains important to me,” he says.

Chatag is quick to credit Hallie Cohen, MFA, Professor of Art and Director of the Hewitt Gallery of Art, for giving him the courage to follow his passion. He says Cohen provided him guidance for pursuing a double major—in International Studies and Studio Art—and traveling to India to study Tibetan thangka painting.

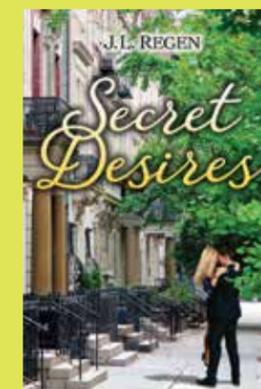
He says, **“I have learned that being an artist is really hard work, like anything else. You have to stick to it every day and not worry so much about what people say. It is a long process. I just feel lucky to have this passion in me, and the opportunity to follow it.”**

## GRIFFIN BOOKSHELF



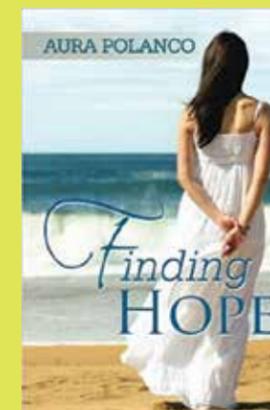
**Joyce Jeffries White '76** published a memoir, *Soar*. The book focuses on White’s struggle to acquire higher education while battling the stigmas associated with disability and a life in poverty. She devotes a chapter of her book to MMC, saying, “At the top of my list of miracles that had taken place in my life over the past three years was my ability to attend MMC.” She credits her success to an inner faith that empowered her to overcome obstacles, as well as the unconditional love of her parents, who enabled her to reject labels of “inferiority.” Currently, White is enjoying life as a grandmother and traveling the world with her husband, Benjamin (Bene) White.

**Virginia Monti '80** co-authored *Peering Through a Frosted Window: Essays and Poems About Life* with her sister Andrea Monti Riffe. The book is a collection of poems, memoirs, photography, and insights from the sisters’ imaginations. Monti hopes the book helps readers reflect on their life experiences and find new meaning, importance, and beauty in their gifts of expression, as well as pride in their heritage.



**Joan Ramirez '82** recently published *Secret Desires*, a novel inspired by a true story. When Margo Simmons meets the man of her dreams, she struggles with how to fulfill her desire for a loving relationship, further complicated by the man’s emotional ties to his deceased wife and fear of opening his heart again. *Secret Desires* is written from the heart and speaks to anyone who has suffered a loss and had to start over.

**Aura Polanco '84** recently published *Finding Hope*, “the story of a young woman, Kate Connor, who survives a tragedy that results in an immense loss. In a desperate attempt to run from the pain, Kate flees the only home she has ever known for a remote locale in Asia. It is in the lush surroundings and warm waters of a beach in Okinawa that she slowly restores her body and a fragment of her spirit. Despite the distance from her past, a surprising exchange begins with a man who forces Kate to question her capacity for forgiveness.”



## CLASS NOTES

### ▼ CHRISTINE AKIN '51

is the mother of nine children and has pursued different careers as a writer, paralegal, and travel agent all while travelling the world and owning homes in Florida and California. She prides herself on never knowing the meaning of “can’t.”



### MARIE MENNA PAGLIARO '56

wrote *Designing and Implementing the Curriculum: A Compendium of Criteria for Best Teaching Practices* and its companion text, *Questioning, Instructional Strategies, and Classroom Management: A Compendium of Criteria for Best Teaching Practices*. Pagliaro also had her second novel, *A Fork in the Road*, published by Rowman & Littlefield in September 2016.

### CONSTANCE ROCCANOVA KERWICK-KEARNS '57

met John P. Kearns in 2007, married in 2008, and soon after retired from her career in mediation and law. Kerwick-Kearns currently resides in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, but returns to Long Island in the summer to be with her children and grandchildren. In Florida, she enjoys painting outdoors and traveling.

### JULIANNE THOMPSON GRACE '59

ran her 42<sup>nd</sup> Mini Marathon 10K in Central Park with her daughter and three granddaughters. She is also a docent with the Naples Historical Society, giving tours of Palm Cottage and walking tours of the historic area.

### EILEEN MONAHAN CARROLL '61

has been married to Denis Carroll for 54 years, is a mother of four, and grandmother of 13. In 1983 she enrolled in CUNY Law School and received her Juris Doctor degree in 1987. After practicing law for 20 years, Carroll now enjoys a busy retirement, watching the grandchildren grow and participate in sports, music, arts, and academics.



### ▲ MARY HEHIR O'DONNELL '61

was appointed to a second three-year term on the Ulster County Environmental Management Council by the Ulster County Legislature, in Kingston, New York. Previously, she served as the team leader for a Solarize Saugerties program, which culminated in a solar rooftop installation for the Saugerties Senior Center, donated by Direct Energy Solar.

### EILEEN SULLIVAN '63

received the 2017 Catholic Press Association Award for best book in the immigration category for *The Shamrock and the Cross*. The judges said of the book: “Well-written, intellectually satisfying, and free from polemics, Dr. Sullivan’s book deserves a wide readership.”

### DIANE ASCIONE HOROWITZ '65

enjoyed her vacation in Italy with her husband, three children, eight grandchildren, and cousin Adrian Ascione Dillard '67.

### DIANE WILDEROTTER MAYER '66

wrote an inspiring memoir, *An Ordinary Woman, An Awesome God: My Faith Journey*, now available on Amazon.

### MARY-JANE O'BRIEN MARDIS '67

retired after 40 years in international banking and portfolio management and celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year. She and her husband are proud of their four children and enjoy visits and pajama parties with their eight grandchildren.

### JOAN WRIGHT SCHUSTER '68

thanks everyone for their prayers and support of her granddaughter Hazel, who passed away on April 26, 2017, from AML leukemia. Hazel was beautiful and fierce in her battle to overcome her disease and will be dearly missed.

### JOYCE HEFFERNAN BARBER '69

is enjoying her free days since retiring in April 2014. She is sad to report that her husband, David, passed away unexpectedly in November 2015, and she is still getting used to being on her own after 31 years of marriage. She keeps in touch with Vicki Dawson '69, who has visited in Fairfield, Connecticut several times. She hopes her other classmates are well!

### KAREN KARCHER MACK '70

married Michael Creutz on April 22, 2015, in a private outdoor ceremony at Creutz’s home on the bay in East Moriches, New York. Since marrying, the couple has enjoyed global travel for lattice gauge theory conferences, as well as personal land tours and cruises.



### ▲ KATHLEEN SWANTON ROLFINGSMEIER '73

loves retirement and being a grandparent.

### PEGGY MILLER BYRNE '75

enjoys retirement after 40 years in the IT field. She recently celebrated the marriage of her daughter Megan, and is excited for a trip to Ireland.



### ▲ GILDA FARIAS HEALY '76

is a published author for the second time in five years. Her chapter “The Art and Science of Collecting Art and Other Valuables” is featured in *Achieving Results*, which will be available on Amazon.



### ▲ MARY ANN PLEHO KROLIK '78

retired from her career in special education this past June. She looks forward to volunteering and walks with her husband, Michael.

### AMIRA MAKHLOUF '78

finished designing and teaching the course *English for Religious Purposes* at the American University in Cairo. She currently enjoys being on holiday at her beach house on the Mediterranean Sea.

### YVONNE MARTINEZ WARD '78

is employed at St. Lucy’s School in the Bronx as the Director of the Fine Arts Program, Director of the St. Lucy Children’s Choir, Art Teacher for grades 1 through 8, and Curator for the St. Lucy’s Annual Art Show. She is married to Alfred W. Ward, Ph.D., and mother to 24-year-old son, Eugene A. Ward.

### GLORIA COHEN '79

recently moved to Annot, France. Annot is a small village in the foothills of the Alps, about one hour away from Nice.

### ANNEMARIE KEARNS LATIMER '79

works at Sunrise House in Lafayette, New Jersey. She is an RN who holds two master’s degrees—one from Seton Hall University in General Professional Education and the other from Montclair State University in Counseling. Since retiring from school nursing in 2010, she enjoys photography and travel.

### JULIA SHAPIRO GOLDSTEIN '88

lives in Waterbury, Vermont, with her husband, Charlie, and works at Vermont Technical College, where she implements grants that educate parents about social services and helps them find livable-wage jobs.

### KAREN SPANIER GREEN '88

is a member of a pilot program at Riverdale Senior Services titled *c-rise*. She has written curricula that introduce plants and flowers to students to encourage nurturing behavior. The curricula also address urban agriculture and climate change.

### GINA SAFADI '88

represented Ecuador in various international dance festivals: In August 2016, she went to her first international competition as a soloist and won second place in the senior salsa soloist category. In September 2016, she represented Ecuador and competed at the Peru Latin Fest, winning second place in her category. Safadi’s motto is “never stop dancing.”

### EVELYN RAEZ '89

is a court attorney and a tax specialist. She wishes her fellow alumni health and success.

### SORAYA HURTADO '91

recently became an Associate with Fischer and Burstein, P.C.

### RANDI ROBBINS SOLIS '91

is a kindergarten and first grade teacher at Goosehill Primary School and a third grade teacher at Temple Beth Elementary. She resides with her husband, Fred, and children, Emma and Max, on Long Island.

### KAREN COOPER '92

went back to school and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 2014. Currently, she works for Wake Forest Baptist Health in infection prevention while raising two boys, ages 13 and 10, in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

### RENA GORDONSON '92

launched a coaching business specifically to help survivors of trauma. She is currently teaching the inaugural class of an eight-week course called *Breaking the Isolation*.

### SUFYETTY Z JOESOEF MITSUDOME '92

received a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2008 and is a head teacher for Pre-K students at Highbridge Advisory Council and Family Services. She is excited for her son to graduate from University of California at Davis this fall.

### NANETTE PARISI PURCIGLIOTTI '94

is proud of her husband, Robert A. Purcigliotti, who received a lifetime achievement award from The New York State Workers’ Compensation Bar Association on May 18, 2017, at the Princeton Club in New York City.

### VILMA VICTORIA CUEVA '96

is the proud grandmother of a beautiful girl, Audrey Cueva.

### SARA DEGRAFF '96

is the Director/Producer of *The NonProfit World*, a Connecticut-based television program that showcases nonprofit organizations.

### CHRISTINA ELLIOTT WOLPERS '96

has been promoted to Senior Account Manager for Ingenico Group and resides in Johns Creek, Georgia.

### CHRISTINA DAIGNEAULT '97

was awarded a 2017 Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship. Daigneault is an attorney-mediator and CEO of Orchard Strategies, Inc., a public relations firm and literary agency.

### KAT BROWER '98

celebrates the acceptance of her web series, *Kat vs. Alison*, into the Silicon Beach Film Festival in Los Angeles and the Movies4Movies festival in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

### RANDY LICHTENWALNER '98

was recently appointed Principal of Hillcrest School in Peekskill, New York, after previously serving as the principal of Pound Ridge Elementary School and Dows Lane Elementary School.

## CLASS NOTES

### ANGELETTE VERDNA KING '00

recently completed her associate's degree in Christian Education at World Changers Bible School in College Park, Georgia. Currently she attends Argosy University, where she is a candidate for a Master of Arts degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology.



### ▲ BERETTE MACAULAY '01

exhibited in the Biennial 2017 at the National Gallery of Jamaica with her current portrait series, "memory of nothing." The work features interracial/intercultural couples and was shown by the Strange Fire Collective in collaboration with the Center of Fine Art Photography in Denver. Macaulay will be published in the journal *Mfon: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora* with 100 other photographers in fall 2017. Macaulay currently teaches at the Schack Art Center in Washington State.

### CHRISTINA ROMERO CARROLL '02

works as an actress in New York and most recently held a principal role in *The Promise*.

### JENNY COBUZZI '02

wrapped up another school year teaching dance, performing for an entertainment company, and serving students as a school-based clinician using dance and movement therapy. This year, Cobuzzi will continue counseling students in the public schools while beginning a private practice.

### JULES COHEN '02

obtained her Master of Social Work from Fordham University in 2006 and has been working as a full-time social worker for 15 years. She keeps busy with her life coach certification,

her record label, *RedjMusic*, and the label's third album release.



### ▲ TALEIA GILLIAM WHEELER '03

married Brendan Wheeler on February 19, 2017, at a bohemian-chic wedding in Simi Valley, California. MMC alumnae Michelle Lamb '02 and Candice Ricketts '03 were in attendance.



### ▲ ISABEL SINISTORE '04

was appointed Director of Communications at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in April 2017. Prior, she spent seven years with Resnicow and Associates.

### EVE CANNON '05

graduated from Caldwell University with a master's degree in Counseling and specializations in Art Therapy and Mental Health Counseling.

### PAMELA MORENCY MORRONE '05

enjoys her growing family with husband, Vincent Morrone. Their first child, Evelyn Hazel Morrone, was born on October 10, 2015, and baby number two is expected in October 2017.

### LAUREN CUMMINS '06

received her Master of Education in Gifted Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She will now pursue a Master of Science in Counselor Education to become a school counselor and licensed professional counselor.

### MICHAEL PAUL SMITH '06

debuts as playwright/director for the Long Island Theatre Collective in the play *'Twas the Night*. The play is a comedy about a family in New York that experiences every detail of the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

### CHRISTINA ILISJE '07

incorporated her business Living Dance as of March 2017. Through this company, she performs her own artistic work and, through dance-fitness private coaching, helps women achieve their happiest and healthiest bodies.

### MARGARITA PASSIONE '08

married Byron Zinonos on September 3, 2016, in Brooklyn. Passione graduated with a BA in Studio Art.

### REGINA FRANCES CAREY '09

was elected Irish Historian for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (Division 22, Brooklyn) in November 2016.

### AIMÉE LA FOUNTAIN '09

was a guest on *The NonProfit World*, a TV show produced by fellow MMC alumna Sara DeGraff '96.

### REGINA R ESCANO '10

became a Doctor of Audiology at George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates.

### NICK LAMEDICA '10

shot a commercial for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and played the lead role in the regional premiere of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* with The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

### CHRISTINA GALIFIANAKIS '11

moved to Bethesda, Maryland, last summer and works in the real estate asset management department at Clark Enterprises, Inc. She is attending Georgetown University, working toward a master's degree in Real Estate with a concentration in Finance.

### SHANE MEHIGAN '11

is a licensed real estate agent with Keller Williams Realty in the New York and New Jersey area.

### KEVIN SHIMKO '11

is Co-Founder and Owner of the Comedy Arts Theater of Charlotte

(CATCH). CATCH seeks to improve the performing arts community by actively recruiting for diversity, providing low- and no-cost rehearsal space, and building a framework of opportunity for comedy artists.

### DIONI VASQUEZ '11

is Partner, COO, and Executive Producer at One Push Digital Creative—a full-service, director-centric creative agency and production company.

### OLIVIA WARREN '11

graduated from Harvard Law School with her JD in 2017 and married Matthew Borths in Cincinnati on September 3, 2016.

### COURTNEY KATTENGELL '12

was promoted to tenure-track Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre at Ohio Northern University and is a teaching artist at the La Jolla Playhouse in the education and outreach department.

### SUZANNE PONOMARENKO '12

founded the dance company SPDance. With the help of Heather Robles '09 and Danielle Tamburro '12, she created the Senior Care Project, which brings dance performances to nursing homes and senior care facilities. Ponomarenko seeks to develop *A Chance to Dance*—a curriculum of dance and movement education as a form of self-expression and self-awareness—for communities that would otherwise not have such an opportunity.



Alina Mayer Fisk '13 and husband Thomas Fisk



Alexandra Peters '13 and husband Andrew Whitlatch

### AILINA MAYER FISK '13

married Colin Thomas Fisk on February 18, 2017, in Port Townsend, Washington, surrounded by their parents. She is a dance archivist with an MLIS from Pratt Institute, while her husband is First Lieutenant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment based out of Fort Lewis.

### ANDHIKA RONDOR MEWENGKANG '13

was promoted to Chief of Facilities and Security at The Vilcek Foundation. He is grateful to the professors and advisors who mentored him at MMC and provided

him with the skills needed for this promotion.

### ALEXANDRA PETERS '13

married Andrew Whitlatch on June 18, 2016, at Lake Paupac Club in the Poconos. Tori Ernst '13 was a member of the bridal party, and Elizabeth Rosetty '12, Casey Allard '13, Anna Marie Antinozzi '13, and Alex Dorr '13 were in attendance. After a honeymoon in Iceland, the couple continues to work and reside in Brooklyn.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Joseph P. Clancy, Ph.D.**, Emeritus Professor of English Literature and Theatre Arts passed away on February 27, 2017, in Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Clancy was the first chair of the English department and was a faculty member for 40 years. An esteemed and prolific translator and author, Dr. Clancy's translations of Welsh poetry and literature earned him numerous awards and honors, including an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Wales. A special edition of one his volumes featured original artwork of another MMC legend, the late Sr. Judith Savard, RSHM. Dr. Clancy was married to Gertrude Clancy, with whom he raised eight children.

**Eugene M. Lang**, Marymount Manhattan College friend and benefactor, passed away on April 8, 2017, at the age of 98. Lang is remembered for his generous support of MMC and its students. His late wife, Theresa, was a 1997 graduate of MMC (at the age of 79) who served as a trustee from 1997 to 2006, and received an honorary degree in 2008. The Theresa Lang Theatre, the College's 249 seat proscenium house and Off-Broadway showcase for professional theatre, dance, and music, is named in her honor. Lang also established the Theresa Lang Endowed Scholarship Fund to support students who demonstrate excellence in community service and extracurricular activities.

**Joan O'Rourke, Ph.D. '53** passed away on April 24, 2017. O'Rourke obtained her bachelor's degree from MMC, master's degree from Columbia University, and Ph.D. from St. John's University. In addition to a rich career in education, O'Rourke was a longtime supporter of the College, funding an endowed scholarship for students demonstrating academic merit and financial need.

#### KEVIN KEMLER '15

has been appointed Assistant Director of Fine and Performing Arts Admissions at Marymount Manhattan College.

#### SAMANTHA KIENEMUND '15

graduated from Iona College with a master's degree in Generalized Psychology and a specialization in Experimental Psychology. She will continue her education at Fielding Graduate University in the Media Psychology doctoral program.

#### KATELYN GRAY '16

had her fiction short story "The Aftermath of Braids" published in *Short Stories IV*.

#### BETHANY HAUSELE '16

has been named Director of Development and Recruitment at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Hamilton Heights, New York. She works alongside Cathy Hufnagel '80, the school's principal. Together they work to bring high-quality education to children ages 3 to 14 years old from all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.



#### ▲ AMBER MORELAND '16

represented Yorkville in the 2017 Miss New York USA pageant. She works as the Acting Senior Administrative Coordinator for the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore.

#### SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE!

We want to hear about your recent job changes, marriages, births, publications, awards, other noteworthy accomplishments, or the passing of a loved one. Submit a class note to [classnotes@mmm.edu](mailto:classnotes@mmm.edu) or call 212.517.0460.



## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Strawberry Fest has been an annual spring tradition at Marymount Manhattan since 1976, when it took the place of the annual "Spring In" which began in 1967. Since its inception, the festival has transformed into a day-long block party on 71<sup>st</sup> Street. Every year the festival grows, offering something for everyone, including games, food, music, performances, prizes, and, of course, strawberry-themed treats.

# SAVE THE DATE

#### ANNUAL TRUSTEE DONOR DINNER

December 5, 2017

In recognition of our most generous donors  
The Lotos Club, NYC

#### BOOK CLUB\*

February 7, 2018

Please join us for Alumni & Friends Book Club to discuss *A Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Enjoy refreshments and connect with fellow alums and friends.

#### THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

April 19, 2018

The Annual Scholarship Benefit is MMC's largest fundraising event of the year. This year's benefit will be held at Jazz at Lincoln Center. For more information, visit [www.mmm.edu/benefit](http://www.mmm.edu/benefit).

#### COMMENCEMENT GRADUATE-PARENT RECEPTION

May 17, 2018

President Kerry Walk, Ph.D. will host a special celebratory reception in honor of the Class of 2018. Graduating students, parents, and families are invited to attend.

#### COMMENCEMENT

May 18, 2018

David Geffen Hall  
Lincoln Center, NYC

#### REUNION 2018\*

May 18-19

We look forward to celebrating with you and your classmates this spring. All class years are welcome to come home to 71<sup>st</sup> Street. As part of this year's reunion, we will be honoring all class years ending in 3 or 8 and highlighting the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion years. To make a class gift or sign up to be a class volunteer, visit [www.mmm.edu/reunion](http://www.mmm.edu/reunion).

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER

Give today and your gift will be matched by our generous benefactors Judy '03, H'13 and Russ Carson. To learn more about the match visit [www.mmm.edu/carsonmatch](http://www.mmm.edu/carsonmatch).

#### WANT MORE?

Be sure to check out the Featured Events section of our website. Performances, exhibitions, and lectures are just a few of the events you can expect to see. And all events are open to the public, so spread the word. We hope to see you on campus soon!  
[www.mmm.edu/featuredevents](http://www.mmm.edu/featuredevents).

\*denotes event is located at MMC campus

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#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 28, 2017

A global day of celebration  
dedicated to giving back.

On #GivingTuesday, the MMC Community raises funds for The Fund for Marymount Manhattan College, which supports student scholarships, faculty initiatives, and campus improvements. Every gift makes a difference! Visit [www.mmm.edu/donatenow](http://www.mmm.edu/donatenow) to get started.

For more information on #GivingTuesday visit [www.mmm.edu/givingtuesday](http://www.mmm.edu/givingtuesday).

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# LAST LOOK

*Sarah Cole '19, a double-major in Dance Studies and Politics and Human Rights, atop Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa, where she traveled with a group of MMC students and faculty in March 2017. The journey provided real-world experience to complement the course From Apartheid to Democracy, taught by Associate Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department of Politics and Human Rights, Jessica Blatt, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor of International Studies, Jennifer Mueller, Ph.D.*

