A Wise Investment

Anne C. Flannery ’73 Invests in MMC and its future
Scholarships and need-based assistance remain central to our mission, just as they were when you attended MMC. Today, with demand at nearly historic levels, there is a truly extraordinary need to increase the availability of scholarships. Need-based financial aid is one of three central initiatives of MMC’s $25 million comprehensive campaign, This is the Day. We are grateful to all donors whose generosity recently enabled the College to surpass $20 million. Support to This is the Day is playing an integral role in meeting the campaign’s $1.5 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation.

Our Kresge grant deadline of June 30, 2009 grows closer each day. To comply with Kresge’s requirements, campaign pledges must be received by that date. However, payments may begin at the time that is best for you, and may extend up to five years, as long as they are received by June 30, 2014.

No one knows Marymount Manhattan better than its alumni. The time is now to show your support for this most ambitious initiative in the College’s history. We are asking each graduate to consider making a pledge by June 30, 2009 to This is the Day, the campaign for Marymount Manhattan.

CONTACT:
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Construction Set for New Commons at Marymount Manhattan College

By Manny Romero

When The Lowerre Family Terrace, the first major facilities project of This is the Day, the campaign for Marymount Manhattan, opened in September of 2008, it was an immediate success. The terrace transformed the roof above the Theresa Lang Theatre into an outdoor quad that connects the third floors of the Nugent and Main buildings. The new terrace features a water wall, outdoor seating and trellis gardens that foster the community interaction essential for student-centered learning.

On March 10, 2009, the Board of Trustees approved a new construction project that will join The Lowerre Family Terrace with a new college commons.

“The Commons is a key component of the 2006 Facilities Master Plan,” said Paul Ciraulo, B.A., Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration. “Consisting of a two-tiered dining facility and lounge, the Commons will occupy the northern portion of the third and fourth floors of the Main building, and will overlook The Lowerre Family Terrace and the Shanahan Library.”

In order to accommodate the new space, certain offices located on the third floor of the Main building will relocate to the eighth floor. Additionally, the Board approved significant renovation of the Library, and to the Great Hall.

“Work on all three projects will occur almost simultaneously over the next five months,” Ciraulo said. “We have instructed our contractors to make a best effort to segregate certain...
work areas behind temporary walls to help isolate the projects and, as far as possible, muffle the sounds associated with construction activity.

Construction of the commons will also advance the President’s Climate Commitment because it will incorporate energy-efficient lighting and mechanical systems. The new lighting and HVAC systems will help reduce the College’s carbon footprint.

Ciraulo said this construction project is ambitious, but “We expect to complete all construction activity by August 31, just prior to the beginning of the fall 2009 semester.”

Upon project completion the physically integrated commons, terrace and library spaces will provide well-designed and cohesive settings for study, dining, and gathering for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

TWO-TIERED DINING STUDENT LOUNGE FACILITY FLOOR PLAN AND EAST PERSPECTIVE (3RD FLOOR)

The third floor will be transformed into a Dining Facility/Student Lounge that will offer new space that fosters interaction among students, faculty and staff in support of academic achievement and personal growth. In addition to increasing the dining capacity, this handsome new Student Lounge, with its comfortable seating, also will include flexible and private areas that can be used to host meetings and gatherings throughout the day.

TWO-TIERED DINING STUDENT LOUNGE FACILITY FLOOR PLAN (4TH FLOOR)

The Food Service Facility on the fourth floor will boast a state-of-the-art kitchen with self- and full-service areas for students and other members of the MMC community. When completed, the upper tier of The Commons will provide students, faculty and staff with a greater variety of food offerings in a more spacious setting, and direct access to the dining area and lounge on the third floor.
This is the Day, the largest fund-raising effort in Marymount Manhattan’s history, is nearing its $25 million goal. In January 2008, the College launched the public phase of the comprehensive campaign that supports increasing student access through expanded financial aid resources; enhancing the learning environment by making strategic improvements to the College’s facilities; and advancing academic excellence through the creation of fixed-term academic chairs.

This is the Day, is an extraordinary undertaking that seeks funding that is separate from the College’s annual appeal. To date, gifts and pledges to the campaign exceed $20 million. This support has also played an integral role in getting us closer to meeting the campaign’s $1.5 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation.

“To comply with Kresge’s requirements, the College must garner $25 million in pledges to meet the June 30, 2009 goal,” said Campaign Director Jean Wilhelm, B.A. “However, actual payments may be made over as many as five years, as long as they are received by June 30, 2014.”

Today, with the demand for scholarships and need-based assistance at nearly historic levels, there is an extraordinary need to increase the availability of scholarships. Need-based financial aid is one of the three central initiatives of the $25 million comprehensive campaign.

“In addition to increasing financial aid, This is the Day is enabling MMC to modernize and improve our facilities to enhance the learning environment,” President Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D., said. “The first major facilities project, The Lowerre Family Terrace, which opened last September, has proven to be a wonderful space where the entire campus community can engage with one another. Campaign funds will also advance academic excellence by supporting scholarly faculty research and enabling us to add full-time faculty.”

This is the Day also includes several special initiatives that honor Sr. Judith Savard, Professor Gurcharan Singh and Professor Marvelle S. Colby, Ph.D. These inspirational educators touched the lives of thousands of students during their many years of teaching at the College. A number of endowed scholarships also exist that honor other distinguished faculty and staff members who span MCCs history. They include the Maureen Lyons Olson ’79 Endowed Scholarship, Sr. Raymunde McKay Scholarship, Sr. Dymphna Leonard Scholarship, and the Professor J. William Bordeaux Scholarship.

To learn more about these initiatives and This is the Day, visit the Web at www.mmm.edu/campaign or contact Jean Wilhelm, Campaign Director, at (212) 517-0460/jwilhelm@mmm.edu

Loughlin ’70 Hosts Alumni Reception for This is the Day

On January 27, Barbara Lynch Loughlin ’70 welcomed area alumni to a reception at her home located on Manhattan’s Upper East Side. The reception offered an opportunity for guests to learn about current developments at Marymount Manhattan and This is the Day, the College’s $25 million comprehensive campaign.

Ann Aguanno, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology and recruiter for the Division of Sciences, was a guest speaker who provided an overview of the Sciences Division. She was accompanied by biology majors Jessica Stevens ’09 and Zach Barbati ’10.

President Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D., spoke of the current economic upheaval and assured that MMC staff will work with families during this difficult time to help ensure that their children will be able to complete their education. President Shaver also provided an update on the progress of This is the Day, which has surpassed $20 million in gifts and pledges. In acknowledging the economic hardship many are facing, the President said, “Those of us who can give at this time must.”

Campaign Director Jean Wilhelm, B.A., encouraged guests to consider multi-year pledges which would enable them to maximize their generosity. While The Kresge Foundation challenge grant deadline is June 30, 2009, pledges may be paid over five years as long as payments are completed by June 30, 2014.

(L-R) Barbara Lynch Loughlin ’70 with fellow classmates Sheryl Henry Douglas ’70 and Mary Masone Guzman ’70.
College Names LeBesco and Rosenfeld Distinguished Chairs

By Megan Youngblood
At the March 10th Board of Trustees meeting, President Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D., announced that Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D., and Jason Rosenfeld, Ph.D., will be the first faculty members to become Distinguished Chairs at Marymount Manhattan College. A Distinguished Chair is one of the highest honors that Marymount Manhattan College can bestow on a faculty member. The selection of these Distinguished Chairs advances academic excellence for faculty, one of three capital campaign initiatives.

As a Distinguished Chair, LeBesco, Professor and Chair of Communication Arts, will write, direct and produce a documentary film with the working title Fat Panic! Health, Morality and the “Obesity Epidemic.”

“Through the Distinguished Chair awards, the campaign promises to enhance MMC’s national profile as a community of teacher-scholars. I am honored and delighted to have this wonderful opportunity to take my scholarship from the page to the screen,” LeBesco said. “The time and financial support provided by the Distinguished Chair award will make it possible for me to shoot and edit a documentary film, which is an extension of the research I’ve been doing for the last dozen years.”

Rosenfeld, Associate Professor of Art History, was invited by Tate Britain in London, the National Gallery of British Art, to produce and co-curate an exhibition on the art of the English Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in the second half of the 19th century. He will use his term to bring this project from conception to realization. Both of these teacher/scholars have already produced notable scholarly works. These awards will provide time and funds to advance their work with students, their colleagues and the College. The duration of each Distinguished Chair is three years.

LeBesco received a bachelor’s and a master’s from The State University of New York at Albany and a doctorate from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Rosenfeld received a bachelor’s from Duke University and a master’s and doctorate from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York.
BHCP Graduates Visit Campus

By Manny Romero

Marymount Manhattan College’s Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) continues to receive recognition and support from the College and the community-at-large.

With the cooperation of a consortium of New York area colleges, Marymount Manhattan serves as the degree-granting institution for the program. The College has managed BHCP’s operations since late 2004. The BHCP offers non-credit college-preparatory courses in writing and math, as well as credit-bearing courses leading to Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees. To date, MMC has conferred more than 100 associate’s and bachelor’s degrees to Bedford Hills students since the program’s inception. On May 28, five undergraduate candidates will be participating in the 2009 BHCP Commencement scheduled at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

On November 20, 2008, three MMC graduates of the Bedford Hills College Program shared insights about the experience of women in prison seeking higher education at “Education Inside.” Nora Moran ’06, Iris Bowen ’99 and Cheryl Wilkins ’00 spoke to a large audience at the College about their involvement and their experiences acquiring a degree while incarcerated.

Wilkins earned her bachelor’s degree from Marymount Manhattan College and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Urban Policy at Hunter College. Bowen earned an associate’s degree and will return to school for her bachelor’s degree. She currently works for the Fortune Society, a non-profit organization that helps at-risk, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women. Moran graduated summa cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in June 2006. Currently, she works at Puppies Behind Bars, a non-profit organization that trains inmates to raise puppies to become service dogs. She will pursue a master’s in social work in fall 2009.

For more information about the BHCP, contact Aileen Baumgartner, M.A., at (914) 241-3100, Ext. 4514 or abbaumgartner@mmm.edu.

Board Welcomes Vice Chair and Trustee

By Manny Romero

On October 7, 2008, the Board of Trustees of MMC’s elected Louis A. Martarano, B.S., MPPM, Vice Chair of the Board. Martarano will assume the Chair position at the next Board meeting in May.

Elected to the Board in the fall of 2001, Martarano also currently chairs the Academic Affairs Committee and serves on the Executive, Facilities, Investment & Finance Committees of the Board and the Campaign Executive Committee. He serves on numerous philanthropic boards, including the Pennsylvania State University Dean’s Advisory Board for the Eberly College of Science, The Palmer Art Museum Advisory Board and the Alumni Advisory Board for the LGBTQ Student Center. He received a master’s degree in public and private management from Yale University. During his 18-year career in project finance at Merrill Lynch and, before that, at Kidder Peabody, Martarano assisted a broad range of domestic and international clients in raising public, private and multilateral debt and equity for infrastructure, energy and environmental facilities.

The Board recently also elected Paul C. Lowerre ’81, B.A., as the newest member of the Board. Lowerre, currently serves as a Senior Vice President of Investments at UBS Financial Services, Inc., in New York City. Lowerre has been with UBS in various positions since 2000 and was previously at PaineWebber, Inc. and Kidder Peabody & Co., Inc. He studied at the Center for Fiduciary Studies, affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Marymount Manhattan College. Lowerre is Chairman of the Board of Franklin College, a liberal arts college located in Lugano, Switzerland; and a board member of the Friends of Hildene, Robert Todd Lincoln’s historic home in Manchester, Vermont. His other philanthropic activities include the LSA Family Health Service, the Elsie Lee Garthwaite Memorial Foundation, and the Stroganoff Foundation Ltd.

Louis A. Martarano, M.A.

Paul C. Lowerre ’81, B.A.
On December 12, 2008, the Marymount Manhattan Community gathered to celebrate the life of Theresa Lang '97, HD '08. Friends, family and members of the MMC Community gathered for a heart-warming memorial service in the Theresa Lang Theatre.

Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D., President of Marymount Manhattan College, welcomed more than 100 guests. Participants in the program included: Sr. Rita Arthur, Trustee; Regina Peruggi, President Emeritus of MMC; John Costello, MMC Associate Professor of English; Alister Sanderson, Director of the Theresa Lang Center for Producing; and David A. Andrejko, a recipient of the Theresa Lang Scholarship. Theresa’s husband, Eugene, attended the event, and their sons Stephen and David, and daughter, Jane, shared fond memories of their mother during the service.

The service included a performance of Celtic songs by Flutist Barbara Siesel and a musical medley from Finian’s Rainbow and Ragtime by MMC Musical Theatre students.

Two prominent facilities and a scholarship at the College bear Mrs. Lang’s name: In honor of her advocacy of education, The Theresa Lang Theatre, the Theresa Lang Center for Producing and the Theresa Lang Scholarship Fund. After graduating from Marymount Manhattan College as a returning student in 1997, Mrs. Lang remained a member of the MMC community and served on the Board of Trustees for nearly ten years. The College awarded Mrs. Lang an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts at Commencement in 2008.

In February, Director of Student Activities Rosemary Ampuero, M.A., was appointed the Assistant Dean and Director of Student Activities. Ampuero, who has been with MMC for four years, also serves as the College’s diversity officer to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse campus. In this role, Ampuero helps the College cultivate a more inclusive environment for the student body. She will also assist in handling judicial affairs and working with student representatives on MMC’s Judicial Review Board. Ampuero received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from St. Peter’s College and a master’s from New York University in student personnel administration in higher education.

MMC’s Office of Institutional Advancement welcomed Carolyn Bolt, M.A., as the Director of Development in March. She will assist in managing and seeking fundraising opportunities for the College. Bolt earned a bachelor’s in art history from Purchase College, The State University of New York and a master’s degree in visual arts administration from New York University.

Earlier this year, Carol Jackson Ph.D., was appointed Acting Vice President for Student Affairs. Jackson serves as the lead administrator for departments that include Student Activities, Academic Access, Campus Ministry, Career Services and Internships, Counseling Services, Health and Wellness, and Residential Life. Jackson has a B.S. degree in Education from the University of Rochester, a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, Teachers College, and a Ph.D. from Fordham University in Counselor Education.

Treb Winegar, M.A., J.D., joined MMC’s Office of Institutional Advancement as a Major Gifts Officer in November, a position he held at Yale Law School. Prior to working in Connecticut, Winegar practiced law in Sacramento, Calif. Winegar earned a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Brigham Young University, an M.A. from Yale University in Portuguese and Spanish, and a J.D. from King Hall at the University of California, Davis.
Trustees and Donors Gather for Annual Dinner

MMC trustees and donors attended a dinner at the Lotos Club on December 9, 2008. Welcoming remarks and appreciation for trustee’s and donors’ leadership and generosity to the College were expressed by Chair of the Board of Trustees Anne C. Flannery, Esq. ’73 and President Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Betty K. Heinig introduced a presentation by English major Jessica Dragonetti ’09. Guests were also treated to a musical performance by Fine and Performing Arts (FAPA) Students Melissa Benoist ’11, Diana Zambrotta ’09 and MMC FAPA alumnus Nathan Atkinson ’07.

Scholarship Reception Acknowledges Donors and Students

On November 13, 2008, MMC’s Office of Institutional Advancement hosted a scholarship reception for donors and recipients of the 2008-2009 endowed scholarships. The scholarship reception served as an opportunity for MMC students to meet with donors who support the College through generous scholarships. Trustees, students, families, faculty and staff shared their appreciation for donors at the event, which took place in MMC’s Regina Peruggi Room.
Mary Ellen McNiece Hawn ’91 and Gates Helms Hawn made a $500,000 pledge to This is the Day. The Booth Ferris Foundation made a $200,000 grant award for the renovation of the Thomas J. Shanahan Library through This is the Day. Eilene Bertsch ’59 pledged $42,500 to This is the Day, the campaign for Marymount Manhattan. The Joseph C. and Clare F. Goodman Memorial Foundation, Inc. contributed $30,000 to The Writing Center. Trustee Judith M. Carson ’03 made a $100,000 unrestricted contribution to the College. Former trustee Geraldine A. Ferraro ’56 made a gift of $10,000 to the Antonetta Ferraro Scholarship. Tina E. Flaherty made a $30,000 contribution to support The Writing Center through the New York Community Trust. Mary Twomey Greason ’86 made a $10,000 unrestricted gift. The late Sol J. Heilgman bequeathed $29,485 from a Charitable Remainder Trust to Marymount Manhattan. Audrey Katz ’79 contributed $10,000 and made an additional pledge of $10,000 in support of This is the Day. David L. Kuhns contributed $10,000 toward the Academic Access program through The New York Community Trust. Eugene and the late Theresa Lang ’97 contributed $25,000 to the Theresa Lang Scholarship through the Eugene M. Lang Foundation. Helen T. Lowe ’55 pledged $15,000 to the campaign. Leila H. Luce contributed gifts totaling $15,000 to support The Writing Center. The Brand Foundation of New York, Inc. awarded $20,000 to The Writing Center. Stephen and Barbara Phillips made an unrestricted campaign contribution of $25,000. Ellen Seibel donated $20,000 to the campaign to provide scholarship support for MMC students. James H. and Marilyn Simons made a contribution of $20,000 in unrestricted support. Trustee Lucille Zanghi and James Dow contributed $10,000 in unrestricted support. Former Trustee Erwin A. Zeuschner made an additional $25,000 campaign pledge in support of the Zeuschner Family Scholarship. The Mortimer Levitt Foundation, Inc. contributed gifts totaling $25,000 to support The Writing Center. The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York awarded a $48,337 grant to the Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP). The Samuel J. & Ethel Lefrak Charitable Foundation, Inc. awarded $15,000 to MMC’s The Writing Center. The Smart Family Foundation, Inc. contributed $25,000 to The Writing Center at the College. The Ambrose Monell Foundation awarded a grant of $25,000 in unrestricted support to the campaign. The Starr Foundation awarded $50,000 to the C.V. Starr Scholarship Fund.
MMC Students, Community Witness Presidential Inauguration

By Megan Youngblood

On January 20, 2009, about 60 members of the Marymount Manhattan College community gathered in the Nugent Lounge to watch the Presidential Inauguration. As those at the College watched the broadcast, two MMC students were in the crowd that witnessed it firsthand. President and vice-president of MMC’s Student Political Association Holly Dougherty ’09 and Farah Minwalla ’11 observed President Barack Obama’s inauguration amid a crowd of nearly two million people in the span between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument.

“The city was really alive,” Dougherty, Senator for Senior Issues of the Student Government Association, said. “I was there for four days, and each day, there would be randomly assembled crowds of people calling for change, all of them ready for [President] Obama to take the oath of office.”

It was incredible to see millions of people, all united behind one person, come together for one day,” Minwalla said. “There was a feeling in the air of optimism for the future, curiosity and most importantly, happiness.”

Minwalla, who is an English major, devoted the Fall semester to serving on the Obama Presidential Campaign in the battleground state of North Carolina. She concentrated primarily in Charlotte from July 2008 through the General Election. As a field organizer, Minwalla also received internship credit for the semester.

“My [campaign] experience has shown me that behind every public policy issue there are real people suffering due to a lack of proper infrastructure in the major arenas, such as healthcare and the public education system,” Minwalla said. “I have been exposed to the predicaments that face America by listening to people, and that has influenced me politically that something has to change.”

While President Obama’s administration faces challenges in almost every area of the world, it has set forth a sizeable agenda to resolve everything from the nation’s financial state to troops in Afghanistan. Dougherty and Minwalla acknowledge President Obama’s across-the-board shift in priorities from the previous administration as a step in the right direction, although the new administration recognizes that this shift will take time to implement successfully. As a young citizen and college student, Dougherty also understands that the nation’s financial dilemma is an issue that affects her most directly.

“He has a lot of work ahead of him, but I think if I had to pick one thing that would directly affect me is the rising cost of higher education. After financing an undergraduate degree through loans, I am starting all over again with the costs of attending law school,” Dougherty, a four-year Academic Excellence Scholarship recipient who plans to attend law school in the Fall, said.

“Everyone is under a strict budget in the current economy, so scholarships are even harder to come by, and loans for expenses are dwindling,” Dougherty continued. “Many of the providers of student loans cannot survive in the current economic

Continued on page 12
Honors Day Recognizes Achievement of MMC Students and Faculty

Honors Day and the 32nd Annual Honors Colloquium at Marymount Manhattan was held on March 17, 2009. Students were given the opportunity to present their best course work including papers, projects and performances throughout the day. Honors Day recognizes and encourages the outstanding scholarship and achievements of students and faculty at the College.

At the Awards Brunch, Teaching Recognition Awards were presented to Eberly Marechi, Ph.D. (Humanities); Anthony N. Corrao, M.B.A. (Business Management); Ellen Houston, M.A. (International Studies); and Rachel Brandoff, M.S., ATR-BC, LCAT (Psychology).

Students received cash awards in the following categories: Frances Vignola ‘09, $500 for the Dean’s Award for Excellence Winner; Sofia Palacios-Blanco ‘10, $250 for the first Dean’s Award for Excellence Honorable Mention; Sara Bauknecht ‘09, $250 for the second Dean’s Award for Excellence Honorable Mention; Amy Markel ‘09, $250 for the Alpha Chi Award; Austin Ruffer ‘12, $100 for the Writ I Winner; Holly Gover ‘11, $100 for the Writ II Winner; and Genni Hester ‘12, $100 for the Service Learning Award Winner.

McNerney ’09 and Allison Tebbano ’09 presented “As You Like It, Shakespeare Scene Study and Performance”, sponsored by John Basil, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts.

MMC Hosts Charter Day 2009

The MMC community celebrated 330 years of combined service to the College at Charter Day on March 9, 2009. The event offered MMC faculty and staff an opportunity to engage and celebrate the college’s charter and recognize colleagues who have dedicated many years of service to the college. Gifts were presented to honorees, which included faculty Mona Cutole, M.A.; Mary Fleischer, Ph.D.; Donald Williams, Ph.D.; Haila Strauss, M.A.; Carol Camper, Ph.D.; Marguerita Grecco, Ph.D.; Raymond Recht, M.F.A.; Rosanna Rivera, B.A.; Yu-Yin Cheng, Ph.D.; Anthony Ferro, M.F.A.; Kathleen LeBesco, Ph.D.; David Mold, M.F.A.; Cheryl Paradis, Psy.D.; and Michael Salmon, M.Sc.; and staff Victor White, Carmen Jackman-Torres ’92, B.A. Quincy Harper, and Daniel Irizarry.

Rudin Lecture Features Noted Environmentalist

By Manny Romero

Marymount Manhattan College featured Dr. Richard West Sellars as The Jack and Lewis Rudin Distinguished Visiting Scholars Lecturer on March 17 in The Theresa Lang Theatre. Sellars, a retired National Park Service Historian, is a noted author and Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. He delivered his lecture on “America’s National Parks and the Rise of an Environmental Ethic.”

Sellars’ visit to Marymount Manhattan connected with the 2008-2009 “Year of the Environment,” a college-wide effort to raise awareness of environmental issues through coursework, events and activities.

Sellars began his career with the National Park Service in the mid-1960s as a seasonal naturalist in Grand Teton National Park. His articles on American history and on cultural and natural resource preservation have appeared in numerous national publications. Sellars has lectured on preservation philosophy, policy, and practice at many universities, and has presented at a number of conferences including the Thomas Moran Symposium at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Abraham Lincoln 197th Birthday Commemoration, Springfield, Illinois; the Greater Yellowstone Coalition Conference, West Yellowstone, Montana; and the Mesa Verde Centennial Archeological Conference.

Sellars’ book, Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History (Yale University Press, 1997), is a critical study of the conflicts between traditional scenery-and-tourism management and emerging ecological concepts in the national parks, and spans the period from the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 to the late 20th century. Currently, Sellars is preparing a companion study to “Preserving Nature”—a history of evolving policies and practices in the management of historic and archeological sites in the National Park System.

Theater majors Melissa McNerney ’09 and Allison Tebbano ’09 presented “As You Like It, Shakespeare Scene Study and Performance”, sponsored by John Basil, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts.
Returning Student Meron Finds a Perfect Fit at Marymount Manhattan

By Megan Youngblood

Marymount Manhattan student Eric Meron ’10, a recipient of the McIntyre Family Scholarship, is a returning adult student from New Jersey. As the father of a three-year-old son and a newborn, Meron is juggling a full-time job, classes and family life. The McIntyre Family Scholarship, awarded to returning adult or commuter students who demonstrate financial need and academic merit, is helping Meron finish his degree and pursue his dreams while devoting more time to his family.

“The hardest part is finding the time for it all,” Meron said. “Fitting homework into a work schedule all while trying to be a husband and father—it has made me appreciate my education more, and I will not take it for granted.”

While he was attending Hunter College, his wife, MMC alumna Chiarina Meron ’00, who received a bachelor’s in theatre arts from MMC, encouraged Meron to speak with Professor of Communication Arts Alister Sanderson, Ph.D., about pursing an education in communication arts at Marymount Manhattan and a career in sports broadcasting.

“I love sports and wanted to leave the corporate world,” Meron said about his decision to attend MMC as a returning student. “It wasn’t about money; it was about finding something that would make me happy. I love listening to sports radio and have a theater background, so combining performance and sports seemed like a good fit for me.”

After speaking with Sanderson, Meron says he knew that Marymount Manhattan would be the best fit for him.

“I thought [Professor Sanderson] would speak to me briefly about the program, but he asked to meet me and spent over an hour with me and gave me a tour,” Meron said. “Small class sizes allow me to feel like I can get the attention I need as a student.”

Meron currently hosts a sports show on Griffin Radio, airing on Saturdays from 2-4 p.m.

“Ultimately, I want to be on sports radio and have my own talk show,” Meron said. “I may even venture into calling actual games.”

Students Attend Inauguration

Continued from page 10

environment. I have always known that my reality is that I would have student loans, but some way to alleviate the costs would be extremely useful.”

Minwalla’s first-hand experience on the campaign trail has opened her eyes to many issues facing the country. She also identifies education as a necessary issue the new administration must address.

“I hope President Obama will focus heavily on reforming America’s public education system,” Minwalla said. “The quality and standards of public education within our country has dropped, and the short-term and long-term effects of this downfall are seriously under-represented. A challenging education is the key to success, and for many children that opportunity has never been made available. President Obama must focus on this issue if he wants change.”

While visiting the nation’s capital, Dougherty also attended the Impact Film Fund’s “Artist Making An Impact.”

“Never have I seen such an outpouring of support and call to action from the younger generation,” Dougherty, a political science major, said about the event that celebrated the election of President Obama. “The fact that many young Americans cast their first vote in the election sets a great tone for future involvement in politics.”

“Obama’s continuing message of change and nonpartisan politics has influenced young citizens to vote for the first time and become engaged in politics like never before,” Minwalla reiterated. “The next generation has increased their interest in politics and community service, and I feel will continue to do so as President Obama stays true to his desire for change.”

Marymount Manhattan College
Homecoming and Parents Weekend Welcomes Parents, Students and Alumni

This year, Marymount Manhattan combined 2008 Homecoming and Parents Weekend to create a special celebration that brought parents, students and alumni together. Homecoming and Parents Weekend allowed participants an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family, while experiencing campus life at the College. The weekend included academic presentations, divisional open houses, a special alumni reception, an alumni career panel, a student and alumni networking social and a flag football game.

On October 17, the Regina Peruggi Room served as the setting for the Alumni Career Panel, in which participants shared insights about their careers and lives since graduating from Marymount Manhattan. A networking social organized for students, parents and alumni followed on the Lowerre Family Terrace.

In addition to many other activities, this year’s annual Homecoming Flag Football Game was a great success on Roosevelt Island. A BBQ, a half-time show, and the crowning of the homecoming court made the flag football game a memorable event.

President of MMC Outreach Ari O’Brien ’10 successfully bobs for an apple, a Homecoming event sponsored by the Marymount Literary Society.

Dancers At Work Showcases Original Choreography

The MMC Dance Department presented DAW, the Dancers at Work student choreography showcase November 14-15. Ten student choreographers produced their work in the Great Hall. Choreographers included Robert Bamberger ’09, Jessica Dunham ’09, Lisa Fagan ’11, Vanessa Gale ’10, Allison Kimmel ’10, Jessica LaChance ’10, Tomoko Maeda ’09, Cassandra Neville ’09, Meghan Pilling ’09 and Jessica Sylvester ’09. Additionally, the B.A. dance majors presented a new work choreographed by adjunct faculty member Jane Vorburger, M.F.A., former dancer with American Ballet Theatre.

(L-R) The Homecoming Court includes King Josh Wallis ’09, Queen Hannah McIntyre ’09, Lord Terrell Green ’12, Lady Gabby Wright ’12, Duke Evan Johnson ’11, Princess Kat Barnes ’10 and Prince Zach Harrell ’10 (Duchess Tiana Fridley ’11 was not present.)

Cast members perform Tomoko Maeda’s ’09 Destiny ≠ Consequences.
Seniors Celebrate 100 Nights to Graduation

The 100 Nights Celebration, held each year approximately 100 days before MMC’s Commencement, was held at the earthy-themed bar, Branch, in Midtown. Graduating seniors celebrated their achievements with members of the faculty and staff, while enjoying a wonderful array of hors d’oeuvres and dancing the night away. This year’s theme was “Prom Night.” Students selected Jake Warren ’09 as prom king and Caitlin Krause ’09 as prom queen. Seniors also voted “Single Ladies,” as their prom song.

Students Bring Three New Clubs to Marymount Manhattan

Marymount Manhattan students initiated three new clubs during the Fall 2008 semester: Griffin Soccer, the Cancer Schmancer Club, and the Mock Trial Club.

Alejandro Fernandez ’10 is the president of Griffin Soccer, a club of 21 male and female members, which provides opportunities for students to participate in an organized soccer league. They also attend lectures, fundraisers and other events connected to the sport and other positive causes. On November 9, 2008, Griffin United participated in the final week of play-offs, and won the Newton Co-ed League Championship. Assistant Professor of Accounting Corrine Crawford, M.B.A., C.P.A., serves as the club advisor.

The Cancer Schmancer Club promotes awareness on women’s health issues and disseminates information on the importance of women tending to their health and bodies. Gabriella Greco ’11 is president of the club. Cancer Schmancer advocates diagnosis of women’s cancers in the earliest stage possible, when they are most curable. The club is an extension of the Cancer Schmancer Movement, founded by actress Fran Drescher. Monica Colbert, M.A., assistant director of Academic Achievement, serves as the staff advisor to the club.

The Mock Trial Club seeks to educate Marymount Manhattan students about the legal system, jurisprudence and the work of attorneys. Julietta Lopez ’12 is the club president and Political Science Professor Richard Meagher, Ph.D., is the advisor.

In February, the Mock Trial Team competed in the American Mock Trial Association’s Atlantic Regional at St. John’s University alongside Columbia, Fordham, New York University, University of Pennsylvania and Yale.

“They did pretty well for first-timers, holding their own against Fordham and Yale, and defeating NYC College of Technology,” Meagher said. “Most team members were first year students, so I think we can expect big things from them in the future.”

To learn more about these and other campus clubs visit the Web site at http://www.mmm.edu/current/student/clubs/studentclubs.html.
The MMC Dance Department presented its Fall Repertoire December 4, 5 and 6 in the Theresa Lang Theatre. Fall Repertoire featured works choreographed by faculty members Pat Catterson, B.A.; Elena Comendador, B.A.; Peter Kyle, M.F.A.; Katie Langan ’92, B.A.; and Lone Larsen, B.F.A. In keeping with the mission of the department, the program provided a variety of dance styles.

MMC students perform Lone Larsen’s Dahab, at the Fall Repertoire.

Theatre Arts Students Perform Major Barbara and Our Town

In Fall 2008, audiences were treated to two productions. The MMC Theatre Production Workshop presented Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw on October 15-19 and Our Town by Thornton Wilder on November 12-16.

Viridis II Exhibit Highlights “Year of the Environment”

As part of the “Year of the Environment,” Viridis II is the second installment of a two-part exhibit that examines nature and our relationship to it. Artists work in a variety of media to ask the viewer to acknowledge the fragility of our planet. From April 20-May 30, coinciding with National Environment Education Week and Earth Day, Viridis II highlights artists who focus on the animal kingdom. An opening reception is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 6-8 p.m., Hewitt Gallery of Art. For more information, call (212) 517-0690.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSALIE O’CONNOR

“Macrophage: Toco Toucan,” watercolor and gold on paper by Deborah Simon

Our Town featured MMC students Noreen O’Neill ’10 and Jacob S. Bartush ’09.

Melissa McNerney ’09 and James Doheny ’09 performed in Major Barbara.
MMC Alumni Elect ALC Leaders

By Megan Youngblood

MMC’s Office of Alumni Relations held an election in March for President and Vice President of the Alumni Leadership Council (ALC). Alumni elected Marilyn Mills '02, B.A., as President and Michelle Lamb '02, B.A., as Vice President.

“We are very pleased with the turnout of voters,” Suzy Mulvihill, Director of Alumni Relations, said. “We received great participation with 123 votes cast. This represents a new phase for the ALC, and we are very excited about the new direction it is taking.”

“As an alumna working at the College, I was so impressed with the amount of alumni participation throughout the election,” Shelli Luchs '06, B.S., Alumni Relations Coordinator added. “We have a group of very dedicated alums, and I am so proud to be working with them.”

The Alumni Leadership Council governs through promotion of the College’s educational philosophy, by strengthening collegiality among alumni, faculty and students, and by encouraging financial support. Now restructured and expanded, the ALC seeks to maintain closer communication among alumni with the president and vice president serving as ALC leaders to the alumni.

Mills graduated from Marymount Manhattan in 2002 with a bachelor’s in international studies. Currently, she serves as the Executive Coordinator in MMC’s Office of the President, and for the previous five years, she had been the Assistant to the Senior Vice President. Mills has also worked on the President’s Task Force for Student Services as well as MMC’s Commencement, Honorary Degree and Homecoming Committees.

“As President of the Council, I will maintain a strong and effective partnership with the Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Institutional Advancement to assure consultation on matters impacting the Alumni Leadership Council, the Alumni Association and the MMC community,” Mills said.

A two-year ALC member, Lamb graduated from MMC in 2002 with a bachelor’s in communications. She has worked in broadcast news for CBS and other television stations across the country. Lamb has served as an Account Executive at a Manhattan media relations firm, leading nine accounts, and she most recently served as the Spokesperson and Director of Communications for Galveston Independent School District (ISD) in Texas.

“As Vice President of the ALC, I hope to unify MMC alumni, students and the community,” Lamb said. “Together, we can build a stronger campus, which will in turn have a positive impact on the future of the college.”

As part of the ALC’s new structure, volunteer-based committees will now address specific objectives and changing needs and priorities of alumni. Committees and volunteers include Reunion Committee: Marjorie Ihrig ’57 and Betty Santiago ’75; School Initiatives/Outreach Committee: Betty Santiago ’75 and Jennie Greene ’05; Events Committee: Betty Santiago ’75 and Susan Strong ’88; Career Development Committee: Athina Aston ’56 and Angelette Verdena King ’00; Alumni Benefits Committee: Susan Strong ’88; and Young Alumni Committee: Samantha Varn ’00.

For more information about the Alumni Leadership Council and upcoming events, contact Director of Alumni Relations Suzy Mulvihill, B.A., (212) 517-0463/smulvihill@mmm.edu.
MMC Alumni Participate in Array of Activities

By Manny Romero

MMC's alumni have been enjoying a variety of sites and experiences that New York City has to offer.

The College's Dance Company performed Behind the Scenes for Fine and Performing Arts Alumni on January 28, 2009. The performance showcased the technique and choreographic styles of Robert Battle and Edgar Zendejas. The event opened with an informal warm-up demonstration for guests followed by excerpts from Battle and Zendejas. Audience members also had the opportunity to engage with MMC dancers, featured choreographers, and members of MMC's administration, including President Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D.

On February 19, MMC alumni experienced the long-time New York City tradition of ice skating at Rockefeller Center.

MMC alumni and friends gathered for a reception and a docent-led tour of the Grant and Lee in War and Peace exhibit at the New York Historical Society on March 6. Attendees explored the roles of Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), commander of the Union armies and later 18th President of the United States, and of Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), commander of the Confederate forces.

On March 11, MMC’s Office of Alumni Relations invited alumni to dinner and a performance featuring MMC Theatre Production Workshop’s Thoroughly Modern Millie. Prior to the performance, guests enjoyed dinner at The Beach Café, located near the College on 2nd Avenue.

On April 2, the Offices of Career Development and Alumni Relations hosted a Career Networking Social. MMC alumni learned about new Web-based initiatives to jumpstart their job searches and received helpful tips from guest speakers.

In addition to exhibits, performances and outings, MMC’s Alumni Relations hosts periodical book club meetings. Shelli Luchs, B.S., Alumni Relations Coordinator, said participation has increased.

“We are looking forward to meeting with more alumni at future events,” said Suzy Mulvihill, B.A., Director of Alumni Relations.

On May 30, Marymount Manhattan College will host “Spring Into MMC,” Reunion 2009. This annual event will offer a variety of activities for alumni and an opportunity to visit their alma mater.

To learn more about MMC’s Alumni Association and Reunion, visit the MMC Alumni Association Facebook page at www.facebook.com or contact Suzy Mulvihill, Director of Alumni Relations at (212) 517-0463 or smulvihill@mmm.edu.
Anne C. Flannery, Esq. ’73 spent part of her college life as one of many students roaming the halls of Marymount Manhattan College (MMC). For Anne, the experience was life-changing and one that has shaped her life as an attorney, a Trustee and investor in the College’s transformation toward becoming a better liberal arts institution.

Having served as a member of the MMC Board of Trustees since 2004 and the past two and a half years as Chair, Anne reflects on her time as a trustee and witness to the significant changes at her alma mater.

“One of the most satisfying developments has been the College’s success at executing the first few phases of the Master Plan and Strategic Plan, each of which were the culmination of a deliberative process involving the entire College community,” Anne said. “While one of the most visible changes is The Lowerre Family Terrace, the increased financial aid, curriculum changes and new faculty positions all represent achievements of which the College can be proud. Speaking of achievements, the increasing recognition our students have received for their work across a number of disciplines, from dance to biology—means the College is succeeding in its most important goal.”

Anne continues to participate in many of the College’s annual events. Last year, she was honored with the Pere Gailhac Award at MMC’s Reunion. For Anne, Marymount Manhattan was a place where she discovered lifetime friends; a perspective on life more diverse than what she was exposed to in the Bronx where she grew up; and a platform from which to leap into the great unknown. She hopes today’s generation of MMC students embrace their experience by making the most of the opportunities that are offered to them.

“For current and future students, I would hope that the College is the bridge across which they can travel toward the rest of their lives,” Anne said. “Does the College offer the intellectual rigor and provide the stimulus for them to seek a life well lived with service to their communities and others? Is the College an environment in which they can discover either that one path that will carry them forward or the tools that help them re-group if their “first choice” turns out differently?
Scholarships Help Students Alleviate Financial Burdens

By Megan Youngblood

At a time when the economy is forcing budget cuts and layoffs in higher education, retaining funds for financial aid is top priority among colleges and universities. While some institutions are expected to cut financial aid, Marymount Manhattan College is striving to ensure more scholarship opportunities for its students.

This is the Day, the campaign for Marymount Manhattan, has garnered such vital scholarship support and opportunities for MMC students. During the fall semester, D’Marcus Langrum ’10 and Arisleydi Fernandez ’12 were awarded the Anne C. Flannery Scholarship Grant, and Elis Estrada ’09 was granted the scholarship in the spring. In addition to the campaign grant, an Anne C. Flannery Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Fernanda Valadares ’12 as well.

A member of the Lambda Phi Eta, the Communications Honor Society and Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Society, Elis Estrada is a communication arts major, with a minor in photography. She was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, when she was five years old. Estrada chose to attend Marymount Manhattan because she wanted to immerse herself in the disparate cultures of New York City while taking advantage of the College’s unique liberal arts education.

“I wanted a college experience that was different from every other college campus,” Estrada said. “The MMC community prides itself on being a small, yet unique liberal arts college that offers invaluable opportunities in the most diverse city in the country. For this reason, I chose MMC to obtain a solid liberal arts education and also to take advantage of the opportunities in New York City.”

D’Marcus Langrum, a Fine and Performing Arts student majoring in acting, agrees that the College’s supportive structure has allowed him to establish close relationships with faculty, and in turn, perfect his acting skills.

“I have had to challenge myself to go further because I am surrounded by a group of talented individuals,” Langrum said. “I have so many people invested in me that MMC has become my extended family.”

“I enjoy being an MMC student and being a part of the community,” Fernanda Valadares, a first-year international studies student, said. “I’m looking forward to pursuing my major and expanding my knowledge.”

“Everyone is like family,” biology major Arisleydi Fernandez added. “Marymount Manhattan will help me pursue my goal of becoming a pediatrician.”

Valadares and Fernandez are very grateful to have been awarded the Anne C. Flannery Scholarship in support of their education at Marymount Manhattan.

The Flannery Scholarship is an example of the student access initiative of This is the Day. Estrada is equally thankful that the scholarship has relieved some of the financial burden brought on by tuition loans.

“Especially in our current economic climate, even the smallest contribution helps tremendously,” Estrada said. “It’s humbling to know that my hard work is being recognized and acknowledged.”

Continued on page 20
Through her success, Anne continues to be a voice for MMC by encouraging others to support the College’s mission of providing a high quality liberal arts education to its diverse student body. More recently, Anne has demonstrated her on-going support with *This is the Day*, the College’s $25 million comprehensive campaign, which has garnered need-based scholarship support and opportunities for MMC students. During the fall semester 2008, Anne established the Anne C. Flannery Scholarship Grant, which was awarded to D’Marcus Langrum ’10 and Arisleydi Fernandez ’12 in the fall semester of 2008 and to Elis Estrada ’09 in spring semester of 2009. This grant is in addition to Anne’s previously established scholarship, the Anne C. Flannery Endowed Scholarship, which was awarded to Fernanda Valadares ’12 in the fall semester of 2008.

“So many friends of the College have contributed to the success of *This is the Day,*” she said. “It is critical to understand the campaign’s objectives and why it remains important that the College receive support after the campaign ends. *This is the Day* is all about taking transformative steps that will have an immediate impact on the College—a academically through the funding of new faculty chairs, scholastically through more financial aid for students, and physically through enhancing the facilities so heavily used by the College.”

The College’s transformation continues with a summer renovation that includes construction of a new Commons, a two-tiered dining/student lounge facility, a warm-up studio in the Great Hall, and renovation of the Thomas J. Shanahan Library. Anne said despite current economic conditions, the Board decided to move forward with the summer renovation.

“The work represents tangible evidence that the promises of *This is the Day* will be met,” she said. “Implementation of these changes, as well as the increases to financial aid and faculty support are possible because of the generosity of the College’s many friends.”

Additionally, Anne acknowledges President Shaver and the College’s leadership for their outstanding job managing the fiscal health of the College during this economic environment.

“If the College can deploy the fruits of the campaign so that the College represents a stimulating environment for students, faculty and staff, then its future becomes more secure.”

―Anne C. Flannery, Esq. ’73

**Calling All Alumni**

Tell us about recent job changes, marriages, births, publications, awards and other noteworthy accomplishments.* Photos are especially welcome but cannot be returned. If you know of alumni who have passed away, let us know; we would like to remember them in our In Memoriam section.

*This information may be included in the 71st Street Alumni Magazine in the Class Notes section and on the Web site under Alumni News.

Fax, e-mail or mail your 150-word submission to:

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Marymount Manhattan
a college of the liberal arts
Faculty Focus

Professor Peter Naccarato Earns Teaching Excellence Award

Marymount Manhattan is home to many talented professors who encourage participation in academic programs and College initiatives. Chair of the Humanities Division and Associate Professor of English Peter Naccarato, Ph.D., is a prime example. His work and dedication have earned him the College’s 2008-2009 Teaching Excellence Award.

As recipient of this award, Naccarato will give an address at the 2009 Baccalaureate Ceremony.

“I’m especially moved by this award because it comes from my faculty colleagues,” Naccarato said. “We have such a gifted and talented faculty so to be singled out from this group is quite an honor.”

Naccarato specializes in twentieth-century literature, literary theory, and cultural studies. He has written on the Modernist period, with a specific emphasis on Virginia Woolf. His recent research is in the area of food studies.

Naccarato has been actively engaged and supportive of the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP). He was a co-organizer of Crossing Borders II, a conference held at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility on October 17. The annual conference boasts panels and conversation among Marymount Manhattan students from the 71st Street campus and BHCP as well as faculty and staff from the consortium colleges and universities.

Most recently, Naccarato is leading the establishment of the John & Priscilla Costello Fund, which will support, among other projects, the College’s Priscilla H. Costello Award for Essay Writing and help establish a speakers series to invite literary scholars and creative writers to the College. Contributions to the Costello Fund will also support This is the Day, the campaign for Marymount Manhattan.

Biondi Applies Aristotle’s Concept to Analyze Financial Crisis

Carrie-Ann Biondi, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy at Marymount Manhattan, believes pleonexia, a term used by Aristotle and his contemporaries to explain an excessive desire for acquisition of wealth or objects, may have caused our country’s financial crisis.

Biondi says philosophy, and specifically Aristotle’s concept of virtue ethics, needs to be applied both in the business world and in the home to fully comprehend how the financial crisis came about and how it might be remedied. Pleonexia involves striving to build wealth and reputation (or whatever a person happens to desire) on any grounds necessary, no matter how shaky and unsecured their means may be and no matter the actual worth of the desired objects. The remedy for pleonexia is phronesis, a term meaning practical wisdom or good judgment.

Whether it was individuals trying to “keep up with the Joneses” by acquiring mortgages they couldn’t afford, or the lending institutions that provided these mortgages, or the government that relaxed regulations to allow banks to loan under such terms, Biondi said all were driven by pleonexia.

“The motives in these cases were to profit or acquire goods and push financial responsibility off to someone else,” she said.

Biondi sees connections between virtue, ethics and other moral contemporary issues including judicial rulings, the environment and parental responsibility. Virtue ethics can cause the personal qualities of leaders of corporations and legislators to overlap into their professional actions and decision-making. Pleonexia is timeless – it occurs today just as it did in ancient Greece. As a result, Biondi said teaching ethics in specific courses and reinforcing it in the core curriculum needs to be emphasized more in business schools and undergraduate colleges and universities.

Biondi earned a bachelor’s degree in American Studies at Hofstra University and master’s and doctoral degrees in Philosophy at Bowling Green State University.
Ann Aguanno, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, was invited to the University of Louisville, KY, on March 4 to give a talk to faculty on “Using the newspapers in the classroom.” The talk was part of the University’s faculty development program. Aguanno also led a workshop for faculty attendees about the educational strategies she employs in both her biology major courses and her lower shared course for incorporation of The New York Times into her curriculum. Aguanno has been using the newspapers in the classroom for over three years and is currently assembling data on its use for publication.

Radhika Balakrishnan, Ph.D., professor of international studies and economics, co-wrote and presented a new report, “Rethinking Macro Economics from a Human Rights Perspective,” with Diane Elson and Raj Patel. The report, presented on February 20, argues that protecting and promoting universal human rights even in the most difficult times is not only compatible with sound economic policy but also necessary to ensure a just society. Using case studies from the United States and Mexico over the past several decades, the report demonstrates how macro economic policy and human rights intersect in the areas of government spending, taxation, monetary and trade policies, and regulation of the private sector.

John Basil, M.F.A., assistant professor of theater arts, served as director of “Henry V” in American Globe Theatre’s 20th season. This was American Globe’s first presentation of a history play by William Shakespeare. “Henry V” also featured actors Seth James ‘08 and Adrien Saunders ’09, prop master Kaila Giovannello ’11 and assistant to the director Theo Maltz ’12. American Globe’s Fifteen Minute Play Festival and production of “Romeo & Juliet” also featured MMC students. Katie Chai ’12, Alyssa Evers ’12 and Michelle Foster ’10 serve as production assistants for the Fifteen Minute Play Festival, and Erica Swindle ’08 plays the role of Juliet in the company’s educational tour of “Romeo & Juliet.”

Sue Behrens, Ph.D., associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, published a case study with Cindy Mercer, Ph.D., director of the Center for Academic Advancement, entitled “What is Native Fluency? A Case Study on the Ambiguous Nature of Bilingualism and its Consequences for Writing Instruction,” appearing in a national, peer-reviewed case study Web site, National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science. In April, Behrens and Mercer presented this case study at the Cassola Conference on Teaching Communication at Johnson and Wales University. Behrens also published a series of book reviews for the National Science Teachers Association, Field Notes, a publication of the Masters of Arts in Teaching at Bard College, also included an essay and book review by Behrens. Behren’s “The Benefits of Writing a Teaching Philosophy” appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of Research and Teaching in Developmental Education.

Benedetta A. Sampoli Benitez, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, published a research article entitled “Mismatched base-pair simulations for ASFV pol X/DNA complexes help interpret frequent G-G misincorporation” in the Journal of Molecular Biology on December 31, 2008. Former MMC student Lisa Balistreri (2004-2006), and current graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, is one of the authors of the paper. The Rose Badgley Trust Foundation granted Balistreri funding for the research.

Millie Burns, M.F.A., director of the Hewitt Gallery of Art and assistant professor of art, is now an Adobe Certified Expert. To be certified as an Adobe Certified Expert, one has demonstrated proficiency with Adobe software products by passing a rigorous productspecific proficiency exam.

“Although I taught Digital Imaging for many years and I spent my winter break reviewing material, the rigor of the exam took me by surprise,” Burns said. “Having reached this benchmark, I have more goals in this realm. Next, I will seek certification in Adobe After Effects® which is taught in Digital Imaging II.”

Rob Dutiel, M.F.A., and Hallie Cohen, M.F.A., have been promoted by the Board of Trustees. Dutiel was awarded tenure and promotion to an Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, and Cohen is now an Associate Professor of Art. Dutiel received a bachelor’s and master’s from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Professor Cohen received her M.F.A. from the Hoffberger School of Painting of the Maryland Institute College of Art, where she studied with the painter Grace Hartigan and received the Henry Walters Traveling Fellowship. She received her B.F.A from the Tyler School of Art where she majored in painting and drawing and minored in printmaking.

Adjunct Dance Professor Michelle Ferranti ’96, M.A., has her costume
design currently displayed in the exhibit “Curtain Call: Celebrating a Century of Women Designing for Live Performance” at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. The costume was designed for the choreographer Jody Sperling’s performance of “The White Peacock” in her original work Roman Sketches. The exhibit runs through May 2, 2009.

Jens Richard Giersdorf, Ph.D., assistant professor of dance, was interviewed for a documentary directed by Ralph Ströhle broadcast on the European television channel ARTE. The documentary, entitled “Rebels of Dance,” traces the impact on dance of the Depression-era, New York-based New Dance Group. Giersdorf, whose work focuses on dance and other movement practices as they relate to choreographies of nationhood and locality, was interviewed in Paris and New York for the documentary, and elaborated on his research on dance’s capacity for social change.

In 2008, Anastacia Kurylo, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication arts, published a review of Angela Reyes’ Language, identity, and stereotype among Southeast Asian American youth: The other Asian in the Journal of Communication Studies. She co-wrote two publications: an entry in the newly published Encyclopedia of Communication with Valerie Manusov, Ph.D. (University of Washington) on Information Processing and Stereotypes and a chapter on professional networking titled Developing an intellectual community in Morreale and Anerson’s Getting the most from your graduate education in communication: A student’s handbook with Paul E. Nelson, Ph.D. and Judy C. Pearson, Ph.D. (both from North Dakota State University). Professor Kurylo has submitted “Proverb Activity: Understanding How Perception and Gender Stereotypes are Formed” for publication to the national journal, Communication Teacher, after co-presenting this with Ming-Yi Wu, Ph.D. (Western Illinois University) at the National Communication Association convention in San Diego, Calif. Professor Kurylo is also President of the New Jersey Communication Association.

Katie Langan, ’90 B.A., chair of the Dance Department, has written seven articles for Dancer Magazine. Langan’s article discussing contemporary ballet “The Spectrum of Contemporary Ballet: Giving Your Students a Leg Up,” was the cover story, for Dancer Magazine’s August 2008 issue.


Katie LeBesco, Ph.D., professor and chair of Communication Arts and Peter Naccarato, Ph.D., chair of the Humanities Division, participated in NYU’s Faculty Resource Network Summer Seminar, “The Landscape of American Food in the 21st Century.” During the Spring semester, LeBesco and Naccarato are co-teaching Edible Ideologies: The Politics of Food. In the course, students can select service-learning options through CHEFs for Schools’ CookShop Classroom program.

David Linton, Ph.D., professor of communication arts, was selected to give the keynote address at the biannual conference of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research to be held in Spokane, Wash., June 4-6, 2009. The meeting will bring together scholars and practitioners from around the world who do research on the topic of women’s menstrual cycles. The title of Linton’s address is “The Rise of the Happy Period.” It traces the way media
representations of the period in film, television and advertising have shifted over time to place more emphasis on positive imagery and associations. Linton has been conducting research in this area for nearly ten years and has previously published his findings in the journals Women’s Health and Sex Roles. His most recent publication appears in the Australian quarterly, Griffiths REVIEW, in which he analyzes the role of myths about menstrual practices among Aboriginal tribes in influencing political and economic decisions surrounding a tourist development.


Rich Meagher, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, presented a paper at the 2009 Western Political Science Association meeting in Vancouver in March entitled “The God (Talk) Debate: Atheism, Communism, and Discourse,” as well as act as a discussant on and chair additional panels at the conference. His review essay, “Backlash: Race, Sexuality, and American Conservatism,” was published in a February issue of Polity. In addition, his book review of Gregory Allen Smith’s Politics in the Parish: The Political Influence of Catholic Priests will appear in the Spring/Summer issue of the American Review of Politics, and his review of Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol’s The Transformation of American Politics will be included in the September issue of Political Studies Review.

Teresa M. Signorelli, Ph.D., clinic director of the Ruth Smadbeck Communication and Learning Center, had a paper accepted for the CASL National Conference on Stress and Language Use in February. The conference was hosted by the University of Maryland’s Center for the Advanced Study of Language (CASL). The paper, entitled, “Experimental Testing of Workload Effects in Professional Interpreters,” regards differences in short-term memory skills between professional simultaneous interpreters who regularly perform the highly taxing and stressful cognitive task of interpreting and non-interpreters who do not. She presented the paper with Dr. Lorain Obler of the CUNY Graduate Center and Dr. Henk J. Haarmann of CASL.
1980s

Reggie Rock Bythewood ’89, B.F.A., co-founded a New York City-based theatre company called The Tribe after graduating from MMC with a Bachelor’s in acting. He has since become a film director and writer with credits such as the writer for Spike Lee’s Get on the Bus (1996) and the writer/director for Biker Boyz (2003) starring Derek Luke and Laurence Fishburne. Most recently, Bythewood revised the script for Notorious (2009), an American biopic film about the life of hip-hop star Christopher Wallace/Biggie Smalls/The Notorious B.I.G. He is married to Gina Prince-Bythewood, who is a film director and writer and who recently adapted the screenplay for The Secret Lives of Bees.

Anne-Renee Testa ’84, Ph.D., received a bachelor’s in psychology from MMC and is now a practicing psychologist, lecturer, with a specialty in assisting clients dealing with the issue of bullying. Author of The Bully in Your Relationship: Stop Emotional Abuse and Get the Love You Deserve, Testa has appeared on “Today,” “Good Morning America,” “Montel Williams,” “Geraldo,” and other programs on CNN, ABC, NBC, Fox and Court TV. She has also produced and hosted her own cable television talk show “Turning Point.”

1990s

Walker G. Harman, Jr. ’93, J.D., graduated magna cum laude from MMC with a BFA in acting and went on to attend Fordham University School of Law. After working as a litigator for two prominent New York law firms, Walker established his own firm, The Harman Firm, P.C., in 2003. His current practice concentrates primarily on employment law where he protects employees’ workplace rights in claims that include various types of discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblower retaliation and wrongful termination. Walker teaches as an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School and does pro bono legal work for Human Rights First. He is a member of the New York City, New York State and American Bar Associations.

Maria Merullo Lapierre ’91, B.F.A., and her husband, Dr. James M. Lapierre, have remained busy raising their two children, Isabelle (age 4) and Jean-Luc (age 2) in Columbus, Ohio. Maria is a full-time mother and wife, and James has a thriving private dental practice in Dublin, Ohio. The family travels extensively and returns to New York frequently with the children to attend the museums, galas, the ballet, opera and Broadway—as Isabelle is quite the performer and so enjoys the exciting energy of the City, just like her Mama! The Lapierres recently acquired their own place in Manhattan, so they make their visits feel more like home.

Dianora Niccolini ’95, B.A., recently published Naked Splendor in March. The book of photography contains photos Niccolini took from the early 60s to the present and celebrates the nude with tastefully chosen photographs of both male, female and couples and with quotations from world renowned classic writings. Niccolini graduated from Marymount Manhattan in 1995 with a B.A. in studio art.

Beth Brotman Sugarman ’95, M.S., is the head of the newly opened Connecticut branch of the Winston Preparatory Schools in Norwalk. Sugarman graduated from Marymount Manhattan in 1995, specializing in Communication Sciences and Disorders. After graduating from MMC, Sugarman received her M.S. in speech-language pathology from Teachers College, Columbia University. After serving as a speech-language pathologist at Winston Preparatory School in Manhattan, she was promoted to head of Admissions. Then, she was entrusted with the launching and heading of the Connecticut branch of the school in September 2007. Winston Prep’s program holds the belief that all students acquire knowledge differently, and its goal is to determine how each student enrolled at the school will learn best and to develop specially tailored curricula to help them achieve success. Students are grouped in classes not by age or grade,
but according to skills, educational needs, and type of learning difficulty.  

**Olivette Taylor ’96, B.A.**, entrepreneur and owner of two enterprises: Vette Communications (producing multimedia products and media events) and Vette Ventures (event planning), obtained her insurance license in life and health. Taylor wrote, produced and distributed a documentary about the Slave Galleries and the historical and spiritual life of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church located in lower Manhattan (formerly a parish of Trinity Church on Wall Street) which she took to The Cannes Film Festival in 1998. Taylor has also formerly served on boards for various institutions and organizations. She is the recipient of several awards and a citation from former Manhattan Borough President Hon. C. Virginia Fields for her civic, community, philanthropic, political, academic and professional pursuits, affiliations and endeavors, including a “Key To The City” from the first African American City manager in Columbus, Georgia, in 2005.

**Joe Trentacosta ’96, B.F.A.**, and his wife, **Jennifer Koteles ’96, M.Ed.**, have been married since 2000 and live in Dumont, N.J., with their two children, Charles “CJ” (age 7) and Lilly (age 4). Joe is the Vice President of Springer Associates PR, an entertainment PR firm focusing on theatre and film, and Jen is a first grade teacher at Dwight Englewood School in Englewood, N.J.

**Shashi Balooja ’01, B.S.,** received a bachelor’s in business from MMC and is currently pursuing an M.S. at New York University. Balooja’s acting career includes performances in *And Then Came Love*, “As the World Turns,” and his recent film, *Exposed*. He is also the President and CEO of Media-at-Large, a media production company based out of New York. Media-At-Large’s recent political thriller, *Exposed*, starring and produced by Balooja, is about an up-and-coming interracial couple in New York who try to manage compromise.

**Janice Howard Battaglia ’01, B.F.A.,** married Paul Battaglia in 2002. They have three children, Joseph (age 5), Jackson (age 2) and Gabriella (10 months). For the past four years, Janice has been the owner of Dance Impressions, a dance studio located in Colts Neck, New Jersey.

**Lindsay Fleege ’04, B.A.,** who was a communications major, is enjoying her life in Manhattan. While at MMC, she earned public relations and editorial internships with Chanel, Burberry, *W* Magazine, and *Vogue*. She was hired as the assistant to the Accessories Director at *InStyle* Magazine and worked

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**Two Alumnae Continue to Cultivate MMC’s Lab Assistantship Program**

**Zinovia (Zena) Abatzis ’03, B.S.,** the College’s Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Manager, and **Ashley Brower ’07, B.S.,** the College’s Lab Supervisor, helped structure the Science Department’s Lab Assistantship program, which has fostered job placement opportunities within and outside the College.

The Lab Assistantship, which has been in place since 2000, is a work-study program that allows students to spend up to 12 hours per semester working alongside the lab supervisor. The program is designed for each student based on his or her educational experience or level. As lab assistants gain more knowledge in the science labs, they are given greater responsibilities in assisting the lab supervisor.

Abatzis entered the Lab Assistantship program in 2001, training under the Lab Supervisor. Abatzis was then hired to fill the lab supervisor and college-wide hygiene officer position. She was in charge of all biology and chemistry labs, with responsibilities involving preparing specimens and chemical solutions to purchasing and budgeting to complying with safety regulations.

Brower began training as Abatzis’ assistant. Abatzis was then promoted as the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Manager for the newly established Department of Campus Safety, and upon graduation, Brower was hired as the College’s Lab Supervisor.

Abatzis, who is currently pursuing an M.Ph. in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at Hunter College, says that the Lab Assistant Program influenced her choice to focus her career on environmental and health sciences.

While a veteran lab assistant, Brower also took an internship with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center with a mentor in a developmental biology lab. Brower says the knowledge she acquired as a Lab Assistant entrusted her with an additional skill set not always available at the undergraduate level.

Brower is now training students as her lab assistants. A training cycle has been put into place to expand students’ abilities to enter the workforce in labs. Biology major **Devin Columbus ’09** is currently serving as Brower’s assistant, and after graduating in May, Columbus hopes to pursue a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) fellowship and to attend graduate school.
Frank ’01 Creates Aerial Dance

Deena Marcum Frank ’01, B.F. A., started the dance blog “MOTH Aerial Dance: Movement of the Heart” last fall and is currently in rehearsals for the premier full-length show, “Channeling.” The show blends circus, dance and theatre to tell the story of a few American women who swam the English Channel in the summer of 1926. They braved the waters, the critics, each other, and reveled in their successes and failures that ultimately shaped the history of women in sports.

“Channeling” will take place April 24 and 25 at the New England Center for Circus Arts in Brattleboro, Vt. Read about Frank’s ongoing engagements at www.mothaerialdance.blogspot.com.

A duet entitled, de Anima, features Deena Marcum Frank ’01 and Aimee Hancock.

In Memoriam

Sr. Barbara (Sr. Etienne) Becker was a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary for 55 years. Sr. Etienne taught at Marymount Manhattan College and came to the College with a number of other sisters of the founding religious order around 1967. She also taught at Marymount University and Marymount High School in Arlington, Va., and Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Barbara Slattery Cramer ’61 received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Marymount Manhattan in 1961.

Mette Dunk, who worked in Marymount Manhattan’s Admissions Department from 1990 through 2004, died December 23, 2008. Dunk recruited prospective adult students for the College’s part-time programs and served the College well.

The Class of ’66 would like to extend their condolences to classmate Maureen Dunn Hocker ’66, whose mother, Elizabeth Dunn, passed away this earlier in 2009.

Ellen Fulcher Merullo, mother of alumna Maria Merullo Lapierre ’91, died on September 22, 2008.

Cheryl A. Osborne ’94 was a former MMC Trustee, serving on the board from 1995-2004. She received a bachelor’s degree in art from Marymount Manhattan in 1994. Osborne enjoyed a successful early career as a model and actress, appearing in the movie “Cover Girl” and the Broadway musical “Love Life.” More recently, she worked as a volunteer in the American Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mary Catherine Sheehan Ward ’79 graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business. She retired as a recruiter for the Somerset County Vocational and Technical School in 1995.

Mary McCarthy Warren ’66 received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Marymount Manhattan in 1966. She passed away on March 24, 2009.

Mary Catherine Sheehan Ward ’79

Antonio Edwards Suarez ’98, M.F.A., his wife, Sheryl Stoessel Suarez and daughter, Milena (age 10), welcomed into the world newborn Mark Christian Stoessel Suarez on January 26 at 6:15 p.m. Mark weighed 9 pounds, two ounces.

Chiarina Quickmire Meron ’00, B.A., who received a bachelor’s in theatre arts from Marymount Manhattan College, her husband Eric Meron ’09, communication arts major, and son Ethan (age 3) welcomed newborn Gabriel into the family on January 8. Gabriel weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches long.
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A wide range of events are held for alumni and members of the MMC community each year. These provide opportunities to learn, to connect and to engage with fellow alumni community members. For further details on all events listed below visit [www.mmm.edu/alumni/alumnihome.html](http://www.mmm.edu/alumni/alumnihome.html).

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<tr>
<th>MAY 2008</th>
<th>JUNE 2009</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THROUGH MAY 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>JUNE 1-4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>“Viridis II”</td>
<td><strong>The Writing Center’s Writers’ Conference &amp; Intensives</strong></td>
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<td>As part of “The Year of the Environment,” the Hewitt Gallery of Art showcases the second installment of a two-part exhibit that looks at nature and our relationship to it. <strong>Contact:</strong> Hewitt Gallery at (212) 517-0690</td>
<td>The 2009 Writers’ Conference and Intensives features three keynote speakers, four luminous intensive teachers as well as 70 panelists of well-known authors, editors and publishers. The Writers’ Conference on June 4, organized by The Writing Center Director Lewis Frumkes, will feature Mary and Carol Higgins Clark, Jeffrey Deaver, Daphne Merkin, Harry Evans, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, Meg Wolitzer, and many others. The Intensives take place Monday-Thursday, June 1-4. <strong>Contact:</strong> The Writing Center at (212) 774-0780</td>
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<td><strong>MAY 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>JUNE 12-13</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Strawberry Festival</strong></td>
<td><strong>“Dialogue In/As Action” Conference</strong></td>
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<td>At this annual event, the MMC community enjoys food, games, music and dancing on the sidewalk in front of the College and 71st Street. Attendees also see performances by a variety of student bands and dance troupes. <strong>Contact:</strong> Office of Student Activities at (212) 774-0788</td>
<td>In cooperation with Marymount Manhattan College, The Network for Peace through Dialogue will present the “Dialogue In/As Action” conference June 12 and 13. The two-day conference provides community group organizers, students, teachers, and researchers with an opportunity to share their stories of success in transforming dialogue into action with others. Alumna, former trustee and President’s Medal honoree Geraldine Ferraro ’56 will speak opening night. <strong>Contact:</strong> Peter Naccarato (English/Humanities Chair), <a href="mailto:pnaccarato@mmm.edu">pnaccarato@mmm.edu</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>MAY 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>JUNE 15-SEPTEMBER 17</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chelsea Art Gallery Tour</strong></td>
<td><strong>MMC’s Art Department Faculty Exhibit</strong></td>
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<td>The Chelsea Art Gallery Tour will be led by MMC Art Professor Merrily Kerr. The tour will include visiting eight to ten galleries and will run from 2-5 p.m. A meal will not be included, but the group will be stopping for a snack along the tour. A meeting place will be determined closer to the date of the tour. Cost is $30. <strong>Contact:</strong> Shelli Luchs, (212) 517-0458 / <a href="mailto:sluchs@mmm.edu">sluchs@mmm.edu</a></td>
<td>The Art Department Faculty Exhibit is a biennial event featuring a range of media, styles and viewpoints. An opening reception will be held Thursday, September 17 from 6-8 p.m. in the Hewitt Gallery. <strong>Contact:</strong> Hewitt Gallery at (212) 517-0690</td>
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<td><strong>MAY 22</strong></td>
<td><strong>MAY 30</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MMC Baccalaureate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reunion 2009</strong></td>
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<td>Marymount Manhattan’s Baccalaureate ceremony is a joyous occasion for the entire college community: a time to rejoice, to praise, to honor and to celebrate with each other the life of learning, so richly shared by members of this community. During the Baccalaureate ceremony, students who are in honor societies and who have earned academic excellence are recognized. The ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle. <strong>Contact:</strong> Office of Student Affairs at (212) 774-0750</td>
<td>The MMC Alumni Association invites alumni to “Spring into MMC” Reunion 2009 on Saturday, May 30 to reconnect with former classmates and faculty. For more details, visit <a href="http://www.mmm.edu/alumni">www.mmm.edu/alumni</a>. <strong>Contact:</strong> Suzy Mulvihill, (212) 517-0463 / <a href="mailto:smulvihill@mmm.edu">smulvihill@mmm.edu</a></td>
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Marymount Manhattan is steadfast in its commitment to attract and serve a diverse body of students, faculty and staff by offering a high-quality liberal arts education in an exciting, enriched environment. Alumni support of the Annual Appeal is critical to enabling the College to fulfill its mission.

Your tax-deductible gift to the 2008-2009 Annual Appeal made by June 30, 2009, will help the College meet priority needs and allow MMC to:

- Offer increased financial aid to students in need
- Expand academic programs
- Recruit and retain top faculty
- Update facilities and provide access to the latest technologies

Make a gift today by mailing your check using the enclosed business reply envelope or visit our Web site www.mmm.edu/giving.

CONTACT:
Ashley Porter at aporter@mmm.edu
(212) 517-0459

Thank You!