2016 Honorary Degree Recipient

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
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Around Campus

SHOWCASE
A TRADITION
of Engagement

ALUMNI PROFILES
RACHEL KELLY MARTINEZ ’08
Interview
President Walk and the Marymount Manhattan College trustees, faculty, and staff wish all of our graduates the very best. We can’t wait to see what you’ll do next! More from commencement on page 17.
For every two dollars you give, longtime Marymount Manhattan College supporters Judith ‘03, H’13 and Russell Carson will give one dollar.

Phase 3 of the Carson Match: Inspiring Student Success

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

MAKING A GIFT IS EASY

In this presidential election year, I reflect with pride on the accomplishments of our alumni in public service. Among the most distinguished is a woman who has inspired generations of Americans from all walks of life: Geraldine Ferraro ’56, H’82, the trailblazing politician and legislator who became the first female vice presidential candidate representing a major political party.

On the day before the 1984 presidential election, Ferraro returned to 71st Street to pay tribute to the college where, in her words, she “first learned to make serious choices.”

“I have come back to Marymount Manhattan,” she said, “for the last stop of this campaign, because I wouldn’t be my party’s candidate for vice president if it hadn’t been for the education that I received here.”

Two other notable Marymount Manhattan degree recipients in public service are currently front and center on the world stage: Hillary Clinton, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the College in 2005, and Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who received an honorary doctorate this spring.

A strong commitment to contribute to the betterment of society was woven into the fabric of Marymount Manhattan by the College’s founders, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM), and enshrined in the College mission. A Marymount Manhattan education has always been, and continues to be, concerned with preparing students for active community participation and engaged citizenship, from the local level to the global.

In this issue of MMC magazine, we recognize a few of the exceptional individuals and educational programs at Marymount Manhattan that carry this founding commitment forward. We also applaud several members of our college community.

In accepting his honorary degree in May, the U.N. Secretary-General exhorted graduating students:

“...we share the outstanding accomplishments and life milestones of the Class of 2016—proud and feisty MMC graduates who are poised to make a positive and lasting difference in the world. Finally, we share the outstanding accomplishments and life milestones of several members of our college community.

In accepting his honorary degree in May, the U.N. Secretary-General exhorted graduating students: “We must not lose sight of the opportunities that are in our hands, today, that can set the world on a better course.” As MMC celebrates 80 years of educational excellence, these words can serve as a reminder of the long Marymount tradition of educating students not only to see but also to seize opportunities to improve the lives of others and society at large.
Marymount Manhattan College’s 39th annual Honors Day, held on March 15, 2016, recognized the achievements of talented, hard-working students through presentations and awards.

The busy day also included the 2016 Barry Commoner Lecture on the Environment. The lecture series, named after prominent environmental scientist Barry Commoner, was established at MMC through the generosity of Richard S. Berry and Lucy A. Commoner, who also created The Commoner Fund for Environmental Studies at the College.

This year, urban revitalization expert and Peabody Award-winning broadcaster Majora Carter delivered a presentation titled “Home(town) Security” to a packed house of students, alumni, and friends of the College. Carter discussed numerous green infrastructure projects, policies, and job training and placement services.

Creative media student Donovan Sanders ‘16 moved closer to his dream to work in television with his senior capstone project, which took place on January 27, 2016.

While many students create short films or documentaries for their capstone, Sanders went in a different direction—devising and filming a “pilot episode” of his own talk show, “Talkin’ Back.” Adding to the excitement of live entertainment was one very special guest: mega-media personality Regis Philbin. How did Sanders gain the attention of the legendary host and entertainer? Rewind years ago when he attended a taping of Philbin’s show “Live with Regis and Kelly” with a close friend. The producers polled the audience prior to taping, asking for volunteers to try out for a small dancing role on the show. When his friend encouraged him to do the mini-audition, he went for it. Thanks to his outgoing personality, outstanding dance skills, and impeccable timing, Sanders earned an enviable recurring gig as a dancer on the ABC daytime staple. He even won a Relly Award (a blend of Regis and Kelly, get it?) for Favorite Go-Go Dancer. Sanders’s multiple appearances on “Live” gave him in-person access to Philbin, whom he considers a mentor—which is why Philbin attended the “Talkin’ Back” taping and even answered questions from an appreciative audience.

Much as he did on Philbin’s show, Sanders pulled out all the moves on this project, and MMC wishes this fresh young talent many successful years to come!

Jacqueline Manuel ‘16, a double major in political science and philosophy and religious studies, and Alec Lafavore ‘16, a double major in political science and theatre, presented their scholarly research at the 2016 Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference on February 13, 2016, at George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.

The conference welcomed more than 100 students and faculty and included 65 presentations. The students representing Marymount Manhattan shared their research findings in a professional setting, with the welcome bonus of engaging in conversation with a diverse group of people from differing political positions.

Manuel presented “País Petit: An Analysis of Catalan Nationalist Ideology from the Renaixença to Current Events,” while Lafavore presented “Architects of Language: How Narrative Framing Shapes Politics.” When describing his experience at the conference, Lafavore said, “The paper was well received, and I received invaluable feedback from my peers, as well as doctoral candidates and professionals working in politics. Presenting at the conference was one of the highlights of my academic career.”
Marymount Muscle is lifting the MMC community to new heights. Now entering its second year, the program encourages students to give back to the city through volunteerism. To date, more than 100 student participants have completed 2,000 collective service hours over two semesters—no easy feat.

Throughout the 2015-16 academic year, Marymount Muscle partnered with Good Shepherd Services to plan events with foster children, contributed to meal service programs for City Harvest and the Food Bank NYC, and volunteered with New York Cares.

“Marymount Muscle has been more successful than I could have imagined,” said Zakkiya Taylor, coordinator of student engagement and community service. “It shows the commitment our students have to giving back to the community, and I’m looking forward to seeing how the program will grow.”

The annual Alternative Spring Break trip presented a week-long opportunity for students to dedicate themselves to service outside of New York City. In April, 11 students traveled to Baltimore to work with the homeless and hungry population at shelters and food banks.

In May, a special “day of action” focused on supporting individuals with HIV/AIDS. A team of 60 students, faculty, and staff also participated in the AIDS Walk New York. Marymount Muscle has already changed attitudes and perspectives on campus, and there are plans to expand the initiative in 2016-17.

“Working with Marymount Muscle brings me excitement and inspires me, and the students give their all at each volunteer opportunity,” said participant Eneida Hernandez ’19. “It warms my heart to know that people love making a positive impact.”

Marymount Manhattan College students earned The Scarpetta Award for “Best Undergraduate Paper” at the 27th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research.

The November 2015 conference, at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, welcomed more than 200 students and faculty researchers from across the country. The seminar included 14 scientific presentations selected by a review committee of faculty from area colleges with the aim of encouraging excellence in behavioral research.

The MMC team consisted of psychology majors Carol Wagner ’16, Alicia Ferris ’16, Michael Corning ’15, A. Kristina Kaysor ’16, and Michael Rojas ’15, who worked under the guidance of associate professor of psychology Nava R. Silton, Ph.D. Their research paper analyzed studies of children who participated in the “Realabilities” intervention. “Realabilities” is a television show and comic book series developed by Dr. Silton and featuring five children with disabilities who harness their special talents to save their school from bullies. The research measured changes in young people’s attitudes toward children with disabilities as a result of watching the show and/or reading the comic book series.

“I am beyond thrilled to share this award with my incredible, hardworking MMC psychology research students,” says Dr. Silton. “Each student contributed their talents, creativity, and knowledge to this exciting pursuit, and we are highly encouraged by the results. We can’t wait to continue to expand upon our ‘Realabilities’ materials and research methodology in the upcoming year.”

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
The playfully titled “New Yawk Tawk” invited first-year students to explore the New York dialect from several angles, including working with The Oral History Project at the New York Public Library (NYPL). Alexandra Kelly, outreach services and adult programming manager, arranged for students to hear archived interviews with native New Yorkers from such neighborhoods as Greenwich Village and Harlem.

SCHOLARSHIPS/STUDENT PROJECTS
Emily Garcia ’17 has been awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman international Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. A Brooklyn native and 2014 Watson Fellow, Garcia is pursuing a double major in international studies and business management at Marymount Manhattan College. She participates in the Emerging Leaders Program and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and is on the Dean’s List. With the help of the Gilman Scholarship, she spent the spring 2016 semester in Thailand working with women and children.
The grand ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, New York, offers a sweeping view across Central Park, showcasing the beauty, size, and bustle of the city below. This was the perfect venue for an evening celebrating the power of a Marymount Manhattan College education and the impact MMC students and alumni make in the world.

Trustees, faculty, alumni, parents, and friends of the College gathered at this special event on May 5 to raise money for need-based scholarships. As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Hope Knight ’85 told those in attendance, “Your generosity transforms lives and provides students the opportunity to succeed.”

At the event, President Kerry Walk, Ph.D., presented entrepreneur, environmentalist, and philanthropist Paul Polizzotto with the Marymount Manhattan College Visionary Award, calling Polizzotto “an ‘extreme innovator,’ someone who thinks divergently and disruptively, and who has spent his life effecting socially responsible change through innovative business practices.” Polizzotto also received a special video message from CBS President Leslie Moonves and Senior Executive Vice President Tony Ambrosio, commending him for his inspirational work.

Polizzotto is the inspiring founder and president of CBS EcoMedia, which harnesses the power of advertising and channels it into tangible social change. A month before the event, Polizzotto visited MMC to share his experiences as a social entrepreneur with several hundred students and other members of the campus community. The California native was honored to receive the Visionary Award and pleased to have a “home on the East Coast.”

Anthony Mason of CBS News hosted the event, which also featured guest performances under the direction of bandleader William Foster McDaniel. Jenna Ushkowitz ’07, of the television hit “Glee” and the nonprofit Kindred: The Foundation for Adoption, sang Adele’s “Turning Tables.” Chris Pinnella ’08 teamed up with talented young performers from the nonprofit Little Kids Rock for a rendition of “New York State of Mind.” Finally, the legendary singer and actress Vivian Reed soared in her performance of “Believe in Yourself” from The Wiz.

MMC’s Joseph Maybloom, a theatre arts major and the valedictorian of the Class of 2016, thanked the donors who have made possible his education and that of so many others. His remarks followed a special “thank you” video, which featured many current scholarship recipients articulating the dreams that their Marymount Manhattan scholarships help them realize.

Thanks to the generosity of those gathered, the event raised over $615,000 to support student scholarships. MMC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Marilyn Wilkie said, “This was a huge success, and we attribute that success to so many people, especially Paul Polizzotto. I have nothing more to say than thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every person involved—for recognizing the value of a liberal arts education at Marymount Manhattan College and for continuing to create impact through your support of the Annual Fund.”
Alumni Reunion Weekend

June 3–4, 2016

This year the College saw the return of many alumni from decades past, with special recognition of the classes of 1966 and 1991 for their 25th and 50th anniversaries, respectively. Attendees enjoyed an alumni art exhibition, a cabaret with recent musical theatre graduates, academic presentations from Honors Day 2016, and plenty of opportunities to visit with fellow alumni and see all the ways Marymount Manhattan College has (and hasn’t) changed since their time here.

1 | Alumni Cabaret in The Theresa Lang Theatre
2 | Amy Palkal ’15 and Elle Imperato ’96 at the Alumni Art Exhibition in The Hewitt Gallery of Art
3 | Alumni Soirée in The Regina Penzug Room
4 | Award Luncheon performance by recent musical theatre graduates in The Great Hall
5 | Alumnae reunions and reminiscences at the Award Luncheon
6 | President Kerry Walk with honorees Amber Adams ’11, Susan McKoon ’66, Rossaleen Knapfel ’01, and Sarah Galli ’06
7 | Class of 1961 enjoying a good laugh with old friends on The Lowrie Family Terrace

After years of coordinating and hosting study abroad programs in Italy, Peter Naccarato, Ph.D., professor of English and world literatures, secured a rare direct partnership with the Umbria Institute and the International Studies Institute in 2015. The partnership allows MMC students to attend one of the institutes for a fall or spring semester, a full academic year, or a summer semester. Participants will enroll in a full range of courses, with a particular focus on Italian history, society, politics, art, and culture. Dr. Naccarato, who serves as the faculty liaison for the program, works closely with MMC staff member and study abroad coordinator Cindy Sittler to recruit students for the program, guide them through the application process, and coordinate their study abroad experience.

Edna Alizenberg, Ph.D., professor emeritus of Hispanic studies, recently authored “On the Edge of the Holocaust: The Shoah in Latin American Literature and Culture.” The book refutes the assumption that the whole of Latin America served as a Nazi refuge during and after World War II. Dr. Alizenberg demonstrates how Latin American authors, journalists, and activists opposed and fought fascism, and her analysis of individual texts confronts clichés about Latin American writing and literature.

Professor of theatre arts Kevin Connell, MFA, received a BroadwayWorld.com/ Columbus Award for Best Direction of a Play for “One Man, Two Guvnors,” which he directed at the Weathervane Playhouse in Ohio in June 2015. The play is an update of the 1743 comedy “Servant of Two Masters,” by Carlo Goldoni. Professor Connell won the same award for his direction of “To Kill a Mockingbird” at the Weathervane Playhouse in July 2014.

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Andreas Hernandez, Ph.D., assistant professor of international studies and chair of the Department of International Studies, won the Best Environmental Film Award at the 2015 Mexico International Film Festival, and the Merit Award of Awareness at the Awareness Film Festival, for his recent documentary “Soil, Struggle and Justice: Agroecology in the Brazilian Landless Movement.” The film examines a cooperative of the Brazilian Landless Movement that transitioned to ecological agriculture, or agroecology, and subsequently serves as a thriving model for alternative farming. The documentary has become a tool for groups around the world to transition to agroecology; it is currently being used by a coalition of dairy farmers in Ecuador, a women’s cooperative in Nicaragua, and a nongovernmental organization in Andhra Pradesh, India. To date, the film has appeared at more than 30 film festivals globally.

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coverage from the 2016 Annual Scholarship Benefit, which honored philanthropist, entrepreneur, and environmentalist Paul Pelosi, Jr., president and founder of CBS EcoMedia, Inc. The grand ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental was filled with scholars, students, parents, alumni and friends of Marymount Manhattan College on the evening of May 5. The celebration toasted to the institution’s Annual Scholarship Benefit, a fundraising event with no shortage of fun.

Melissa Rauch and Small Town Celebrity

“Raised in New Jersey, Rauch ’02 studied acting and musical theater (‘something sturdy to fall back on,’ she jokes) at Marymount Manhattan College. Now 35, she is most widely known for her role as Bernadette on the CBS sitcom “The Big Bang Theory” but has been writing with her husband Winston Rauch ’02 since college.”

One to One” with Sheryl McCarthy

“Marymount Manhattan College’s new president, Dr. Kerry Wall, describes the school’s approach to its students as personal, warm—a small college atmosphere in one of the world’s largest cities. Its strong liberal arts foundation includes 30 majors and many minors from Acting and Biology to Marketing and Theatre Arts.”

At the end of the interview, Sheryl McCarthy said, “You’ve got about a minute left to tell me your five-year plan for the college.” Laughing, the president replied, “Well, I can tell you it’s building on what the college has been doing—and that is combining a fantastic, high-quality liberal arts education with professional preparation.”

Why Supergirl Star Melissa Benoist is the “Annie Hall of Superheroes”

“Born in Houston and raised in Denver, Benoist acted in community and dinner theater throughout high school and then moved east to study musical theater at Marymount Manhattan College. Sophomore year she switched to straight theater. “I fell in love with 19th-century Russian plays. I fell in love with Shakespeare, with Shaw and Coward.” Since graduation, in 2011, however, television and movies have claimed the actress, and no wonder—this woman puts her heart in her eyes. She was the love interest in the surprise hit “Whiplash” and joined the cast of “Glee” in Season 4, playing adorable Marley Rose.”

The Women at Bedford Prison Writing Their Own History

May 12, 2016

“President Barack Obama’s prison reform efforts rank among his most important initiatives. I was privileged to take part in a recent conference highlighting significant work being done at the Bedford Prison for Women in New York, “The Crossing Borders VI Conference,” organized by Marymount Manhattan College at Bedford, the maximum security prison for women in New York State.”

—Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan

Chris Mosier: The Definition of an Athlete

October 29, 2015

“Mosier, assistant director of residential life at Marymount Manhattan College… [is] the first known out transgender athlete to qualify for any U.S. national team. …[H]is event is the sprint duathlon, a run-cycle-run race.”

Mosier was also recently featured in ESPN The Magazine’s Body Issue, becoming the first transgender athlete to pose. The eighth annual Body Issue hit newsstands July 8 and is available at espn.com/bodyissue.

The New York Times

After “Girls,” Lil Freckles Raps About Life as a Brooklyn Millennial

April 20, 2016

“Lil Freckles (her real name is Emma Carroll) is a pixie-faced rapper whose unapologetic and raunchy lyrics betray the high-low melodrama of millennial life. Ms. Carroll graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2010 and was a production assistant on “Girls” when she began to take rap more seriously. “Everyone was very cool about the music, and Lena wrote me into a scene,” she said, referring to Lena Dunham, the show’s creator. Lil Freckles made her debut TV performance in the show’s third season as the musical act that preceded Marnie and Desi in a scene filmed at Grasslands in Brooklyn.”

Coverage from the 2016 Annual Scholarship Benefit, which honored philanthropist, entrepreneur, and environmentalist Paul Pelosi, Jr., president and founder of CBS EcoMedia, Inc. The grand ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental was filled with scholars, students, parents, alumni and friends of Marymount Manhattan College on the evening of May 5. The celebration toasted to the institution’s Annual Scholarship Benefit, a fundraising event with no shortage of fun.
A TRADITION OF ENGAGEMENT

Investigating the Social and Political History of MMC

Marymount Manhattan College, Tarrytown, courses are offered in the classrooms of the Marymount School on Fifth Avenue, across the street from The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

1936
Marymount College, Tarrytown, moves to 71st Street, into the old Junior League building.

1947
The city branch of Marymount College moves to 71st Street.

1954
MMC awards an honorary degree to Robert Moses, the civil rights and urban reformer. (For more, see page 18.)

1961
May, 1969
The College is independently chartered and renamed Marymount Manhattan College. Mother Raymunde McKay serves as its first president.

1964
MMC awards an honorary degree to Ethel Skakel Kennedy, the widow of Robert F. Kennedy.

1965
Father Daniel Berrigan joins the MMC faculty to teach theology and comparative religion.

1968
May 25, 1969
The New York Times publishes an article describing the My Lai Massacre and the role of the U.S. Marines. At Marymount Manhattan, faculty member Hugh McMahon was formally charged with violating the Rules and Regulations of the College for allegedly “throwing” a Marine recruiter’s table down a set of stairs.

1969
 MMC awards an honorary degree to Eleanor Holmes Norton, who had worked for the ACLU and headed the NYC Human Rights Commission, which held the first hearings in the country on discrimination against women.

1970
1971
Marymount Manhattan amends its charter to admit men, making the College coeducational. The College also becomes increasingly secular.

1973
Professor of political science Tiber Farkas takes 10 MMC students to Washington, D.C., for a one-month internship, each student assigned to a different congressperson.

1974
MMC awards an honorary degree to Coretta Scott King, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1977
The leadership and example of the RSHM have always been an important part of the College’s identity. Though MMC was never tied to the church in a legal sense, nor was the student body ever exclusively Catholic, the RSHM’s commitment to promoting peace and justice established an atmosphere of public awareness and civic engagement.

1982
The Marymount Manhattan Gallery (now called “The Hewitt Gallery of Art”) presents “Color Harmonious and Discordant,” an exhibition curated by the provocative feminist artist Sylvia Sleigh for The Woman’s Caucus for Art.

1984
The first female vice presidential candidate from a major political party, Geraldine Ferraro ’56, H’82, runs for office.

1986
Several MMC alumni were trailblazers for women in politics. A few who come to mind are the Honorable Sallie Manzanet-Daniels ’85, the first Latina judge to serve in the First Judicial Department of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court; Joan Fitz-Gerald ’70, the first woman to serve as President of the Colorado State Senate; and Geraldine Ferraro ’56, H’82, who was the first female vice presidential candidate from a major political party.

1993
MMC awards an honorary degree to Robert Moses, the civil rights activist and MacArthur Fellowship recipient.

1997
Marymount Manhattan returned to its previous system four years later. (For more, see page 18.)

1998
MMC awards an honorary degree to their-Senate-Hillary Rodham Clinton.

2000
In the words of the College mission, a Marymount Manhattan education is intended “to develop an awareness of social, political, cultural, and ethical issues in the belief that this awareness will lead to concern for, participation in, and improvement of society.”

2005
MMC awards an honorary degree to their-Senate-Hillary Rodham Clinton.

2016
Celebrate 80 Years
Ban Ki-moon, the eighth secretary-general of the United Nations, receives an honorary degree. (For more, see page 18.)

2017
Marymount is an invitation to be different, to really learn rather than be taught, to have the right to disagree, to know the world situation firsthand.”

— Mother Raymunde McKay, RSHM, First President of Marymount Manhattan College

ON-CAMPUS POLITICS
As the MMC student body became more politically engaged, they desired a more active role in administrative decisions within the College.

For instance, some students became upset when the administration formed the Academic Policy Committee, which failed to include student representatives—leaving the student body voiceless regarding curricular changes. These students rallied together in protest, publishing blistering satires and critiques in the school paper.

And they were heard: the College did away with contested academic requirements. Thereafter students could design their own curriculum with a faculty advisor, and only 120 credits were required to graduate. (After a sharp decline in enrollment in history, math, science, and language classes, Marymount Manhattan returned to its previous system four years later.)

THE TRADITION CONTINUES
In subsequent decades, Marymount Manhattan College maintained its commitment to civic responsibility and political engagement.

Today, the tradition is carried on at the College through a new major in politics and human rights, a recently launched internship program with the United Nations, expanded community engagement opportunities through Marymount Music, academic and co-curricular initiatives focused on diversity and inclusion, several lecture series dedicated to social justice issues, and many other programs and activities.

The College also boasts several alumni who have led lives of public service, including recent alumni Julietta Lopez ’12, Constituent Liaison in the Office of U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, and Vladimir Martinez ’14, Director of Budget and Capital Projects for Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

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This was certainly the case for Kiley Griffith ’15. “My professors at Marymount pressed me to think more critically about past and current events,” Griffith says. “And given its history, it’s fair to say that Marymount will carry on its legacy of being progressive and socially conscious.”

“Marymount is an invitation to be different, to really learn rather than be taught, to have the right to disagree, to know the world situation firsthand.”

— Mother Raymunde McKay, RSHM, First President of Marymount Manhattan College

Portions of this article adapted by Karl Hinze from “Rebel College: A Radical History of Marymount Manhattan College” by Kiley Griffith ’15. Additional research and interviews contributed by Carly Schneider ’12.

Kiley Griffith ’15 spent nine months after graduation traveling through Southeast Asia and South America. She now works as an assistant at The Blackstone Group in New York City.
As you complete your transformation at the end of this ceremony from college students to college graduates, and join the larger community of educated persons, I have three wishes for you—that over the next few years, you are brave enough to have a dream; that you dare to take action—any action—in the direction of your dream; and that you have the courage to change your dream even as you yourself change and grow.

—President Kerry Walk, Ph.D.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon received an honorary doctorate from Marymount Manhattan College on Thursday, May 19, 2016, at a special ceremony in The Theresa Lang Theatre.

"As I'm sitting here with so many young people who are graduating from this great college, I'd like to say just one word. The world may be big, but I tell you that the world is now small. Very small. We are living in a very small family. Everything is interconnected. Whatever I'm saying now has already been communicated to the end of the world within a fraction of a second.

So whatever you do is important, should be important, and should be beneficial to other people. Particularly to those students and young people who are living in an affluent society like the United States, you are apt to forget or lose sight of others, and what is happening in other places in the world.

"Therefore, at this time, the national boundaries do not mean much to all of us. Forget about all these national boundaries and have a greater global vision. Be a global citizen. ...I thank you very much for this honor and I will continue to respect and to honor the spirit of the Marymount Manhattan community."
In the tumultuous 1960s, people on every block of every borough were confronting the issue of diversity, and the newly independent Marymount Manhattan College was asking itself the same question: What is the value of diversity, and how do we promote it within our college and community?

In June of 1967, Marymount Manhattan College started the Community Leadership Program in collaboration with Sister Thomas Marie—a program that would eventually become part of the state-wide Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). The mission of the Community Leadership Program was to recruit local students who might not otherwise attend a private college, and to provide those students with the community, academic, and financial support they needed to succeed at MMC.

The first students admitted to the program—20 women, six from East Harlem and 14 from Fort Greene, Brooklyn—were selected in a similar fashion to today’s HEOP students. The program leaders and the director of admissions performed a rigorous review and interview process. Then, the summer before enrolling, the selected students completed six weeks of intensive tutoring to prepare them for their first semester.

Rebecca Pinard, current director of HEOP, offers insight as to why HEOP is still important 50 years after its inception. “The program’s financial and educational support assists students from low-income backgrounds in breaking the cycle of poverty that they are often born into,” Pinard notes. “Along with the program support, students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in higher education are able to create a sense of community among one another.”

Community has always been at the core of HEOP; many students refer to the program as their second home. Ingrid Sotelo, a 2010 HEOP graduate who is now the director of the Community Action Center in the New York City Comptroller’s Office, commented: “If Marymount didn’t have HEOP, it wouldn’t have flavor, it wouldn’t be representative of New York. We wouldn’t have students from the Bronx or small pocket areas. It wouldn’t be what it is now. We really are the cherry on top of the sundae to Marymount.”

Emil Lendof, a 2014 graduate and photo editor at The Daily Beast, also spoke highly of the program. “HEOP provided me with a platform and an environment to harvest and grow the skills necessary to succeed in the academic environment and eventually in the professional world. HEOP provides a tight-knit network of students who can relate to where you’re coming from and understand whatever hurdles you may face in your career. They actively try to help you, be it through tutoring or just letting you know, hey, you’re running late for class. The support that HEOP provides is priceless.”

As for me, I see HEOP as an embodiment of the Marymount Manhattan College mission “to educate a socially and economically diverse student body” that is politically, culturally, and ethically aware. On a personal level, HEOP helped me take full advantage of all that MMC offers, particularly an independent study of French literature with professor Julie Huntington. I can’t imagine having these kinds of opportunities anywhere else. It’s heartening to see HEOP entering its 50th year at MMC and continuing to promote diversity and opportunity for new generations of students.

Dominic Siri ’16 graduated from MMC with a double major in religious studies and studio art and a French minor. He plans to travel and pursue a career in media.
Marymount Manhattan College alumna Rachel Kelly Martinez ’08 has served her country and worked for peace across the globe—from Senegal and Afghanistan to Washington, D.C.

Rachel recently shared her memories of MMC and what ultimately led her to a position in the State Department.

What led you to New York City and MMC?
I knew only one person when I moved to NYC—I didn’t even know there were different boroughs! I came with $1,000 in my pocket and the goal of attending Columbia University. Although I wasn’t accepted, Columbia was nice enough to provide me with an exit interview, telling me why I wasn’t selected. I was devastated and left in tears. As I rode the train home, I saw a sign for an open house at MMC. I went, I applied, and I got in. I am so happy I went to Marymount Manhattan College. It was the perfect college for me to complete my bachelor’s degree.

What is your fondest Marymount Manhattan memory?
I’m most fond of the faculty I met, including Dr. Singh, Dr. Shabaneh, Dr. Gandolfo, and Sister Virginia, plus the lifelong friends I made. Also, I really enjoyed the location and the size of the school.

What did you do after graduation?
What at MMC, I attended a study abroad trip to El Salvador. I fell in love with El Salvador, so after college I moved there. The plan was to stay for a year, but I ran out of money and returned home after only five months. Looking back, it was the best five months of my life. I was considering joining the military, and the time in El Salvador helped me make the decision. I joined the National Guard for my home state of Maryland.

What’s it like working for Maryland’s 290th Military Police Company?
I’ve been in the 290th Military Police Company for six years. I traveled with them to Senegal and we spent nine months in Afghanistan. Our unit responded to the Baltimore riots, and most recently we were deployed in El Salvador. Helping people after a disaster is a rewarding experience. The jobs are extremely rewarding. Being a soldier in the United States Army has been very fulfilling.

What do you do when you’re not being called in for the National Guard?
I completed an eight-month internship with the Executive Office of the President of the United States in the fall of 2015. Shortly after that, I was accepted into George Washington University, and I am now a full-time student pursuing a master’s degree in international policy and practice. I also started a full-time job with the State Department and am currently an outreach specialist with the Office of Emergency Management.

What advice would you give to fellow Marymount Manhattan alumni looking to make a difference in their communities?
Don’t give up! It didn’t happen overnight, but I can finally say I see the hard work from my bachelor’s degree paying off. Everyone has their own timeline, but as long as you continue to do work in what you love, things will work out. I strongly believe that loving what you do is an important part of not only a successful career, but also a happy life.
The year prior, she put her skills to the test by traveling with a team to Hue, Vietnam, to teach emergency medicine. She worked in both an urban and a rural emergency department where she delivered lectures and gave demonstrations to medical and dental students, as well as residents. “I love a lot to professors Dr. Benedetta Sampoli-Benitez and Dr. Judith Hanks, who served as my mentors during undergrad and beyond. They were so helpful in writing me letters of recommendation for hospital volunteer opportunities, outside research jobs, summer internship programs, and medical school applications.” —Holly Ringhauser ‘08

In July 2016, Ringhauser headed to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to start a surgical critical care fellowship at St. Luke’s University Hospital.

Matthew Rodrigues ‘04
Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in theatre arts in 2004, Rodrigues made the move to Los Angeles to pursue his dreams but quickly realized it wouldn’t be as easy as planned.

After living in Los Angeles for some time, he was ready to pack his bags and head back to New York City because he “just wasn’t getting a break in his hosting career.”

As fate would have it, a close friend mentioned that an up-and-coming company company called POPSUGAR that created online video content needed on-camera hosts. After acquiring a ticket to the opening of POPSUGAR’s new studio, Rodrigues walked up to the founder of the company, Lisa Sugar, and said, “I love your company and what you do, and I think it’s time you have a male host.” Two weeks and three auditions later, he had the job.

“Studying theatre helped me to discover and explore all the different parts of my personality and gave me confidence to make bold choices. The actor in me loves to bring a lot of energy, physicality, and humor to my hosting work.” —Matthew Rodrigues ‘04

Alicia Williams ‘14 always knew she wanted to attend college, but her life took a left turn when she was arrested and incarcerated at a young age. However, through the Bedford Hills College Program, she was able to get a Marymount Manhattan education in sociology while in prison. She says, “Studying sociology helped me to understand myself more, as well as learn about diverse cultures and communities. This, in turn, led me to discover that I love helping and working with people.”

Alicia now lives in Brooklyn and is taking nursing prerequisites while working as a student coordinator at a medical school. She recently completed a patient care technician program at Medgar Evers College and looks forward to a career in healthcare. She enjoys playing sports, shopping, and spending time with family.

WHY GIVE BACK?
It’s important for people to understand how fortunate they are to receive this education.

Giving back financially doesn’t mean you have to write a million dollar check. If you start small and work with a bunch of your friends, you can put something together that is impactful. And a gift doesn’t have to be tuition-based; it can be used for books for the library, art equipment, or something else that the school needs in a field that is significant to you.

Giving back makes you feel that you are part of something important. And for alumni especially, it’s honoring that which you have received. And again, it does not have to be a lot of money!
NEW TRUSTEES

Marymount Manhattan College is pleased to announce the election of six new members to the Board of Trustees. The Board oversees the mission, fiscal integrity, and educational quality of the College.

PATRICIA AGNELLO ’83 is currently the chief human resources officer and employment counsel for Insight Portfolio Group LLC (formerly Icahn Sourcing LLC), an entity formed and controlled by Carl C. Icahn. Agnello previously held senior human resources positions at several other high-profile organizations, including Integro Insurance Brokers, North Fork Bank (now Capital One), PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and Exxon. She serves on the board of directors of Trump Entertainment Resorts, Inc. and PSC Metals, Inc., is on the Group Advisory Board of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, and has served as an arbitrator for the Civil Court of the City of New York. Agnello is an associate adjunct professor of business and entrepreneurship at Marymount Manhattan College.

HELEN DEMETRIOS ’73 received a BA in mathematics and economics, magna cum laude, from Marymount Manhattan College and an MA in mathematics from SUNY-Stony Brook before embarking on a distinguished career in business and entrepreneurship. After holding positions in the Olivetti Corporation and JP Morgan early in her career, Demetrios launched one start-up company and then another, which sold international banking software to major banks throughout the world, including Citigroup, JP Morgan, Barclays, HSBC, and many more. After selling her second start-up in a bidding war to Misys, a billion-dollar British software company, Demetrios worked for Misys for several years as chief operating officer and board member of its new banking division. A Marymount Manhattan trustee from 2006 to 2007, she currently serves as a board member of Big Arts, a cultural center in Sanibel, Florida.

ABBY FIORELLA ’83 is general auditor of MasterCard, where she is responsible for providing independent and objective assurance on the design and effectiveness of the company’s risk management, internal controls, and governance processes. Fiorella also sits on the company’s Risk Management Committee and is a member of its Global Diversity and Inclusion Council. Prior to her current role, Fiorella was responsible for MasterCard’s global compliance programs, including ethics, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, trade sanctions, and privacy and data protection. Before joining MasterCard, Fiorella served as a director in KPMG’s forensic services practice and was an assistant district attorney in New York County. Fiorella earned a JD, magna cum laude, from New York Law School. She received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts, magna cum laude, from Marymount Manhattan College.

MICHAEL G. STEWART, MD, MPH is a renowned otolaryngologist who serves as professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and otolaryngologist-in-chief at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He also serves as vice dean of the Medical College and the E. Darrocott Vaughan, Jr. MD senior associate dean for clinical affairs. Dr. Stewart leads the Center for the Performing Artist at NYP/Weill Cornell. The author of more than a hundred publications, he is currently editor-in-chief of The Laryngoscope journal. He is a director of the American Board of Otolaryngology and the American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS, where he has received a Presidential Citation and two Distinguished Service Awards, along with induction into the Academy of Distinguished Educators at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Stewart earned his bachelor’s degree in engineering, summa cum laude, at Vanderbilt University, his MD at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and his MPH at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

EDWARD VAN SADERS ’95 is the chief strategy officer of Regional News Network (RNN), the nation’s fast-growing premium news content producer, where he is responsible for creating, communicating, executing, and sustaining the company’s strategic initiatives. RNN programs and manages news channels across linear, online, and OTT platforms, reaching more than seven million homes throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Previously, Van Saders served as chief financial officer of AccuWeather, following six years at RNN in the CFO role. He has also served in senior leadership positions at the entertainment brand Heavy.com and the environmental media company EcoMedia (now a part of CBS). Earlier in his career, he held positions at NBC-Universal, Fox News Network, and the Jim Henson Company. He earned a BFA in acting, cum laude, with a minor in musical theatre and a certificate in nonprofit management from Marymount Manhattan College.

CATHERINE VINCIE ’73 is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) and became a provincial councilor of the Eastern American Province in August 2019. She received a BA in piano performance from Marymount Manhattan College (certified by the Mannes College of Music), an MD from Yale Divinity School/Institute of Sacred Music, and a PhD in liturgical theology from the Catholic University of America. Sr. Catherine has taught liturgical theology in several graduate schools while also working as a church musician. From 1995 to 2015, she served as professor of liturgical and sacramental theology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology and Ministry in St. Louis. Sr. Catherine served as vice president/president of the North American Academy of Liturgy in 2011-12. A frequent lecturer, she has written more than 45 publications and is currently editing a book on Catholic preaching.
SHARON THOMAS LETALON ’86

graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business. She says that the best years of her academic life were at MMC—the friendships and wisdom she received were beyond measure. Sharon recently created a new web-based company named EQUITAS Network Partners LLC that focuses on providing working adults with a living wage and “clear compensation.”

CATIA QUEDA ’02

graduated with a bachelor’s degree in acting and is now a series regular on a new family television show called “Just Add Magic” from Amazon Studios. She plays Terri Quinn, the mom of the family. The show became available for streaming on Amazon on January 15, 2015.

SUPREET KESAR MCGRATH ’08

and STEPHEN MCGRATH ’09

married on October 10, 2015, in Roslyn Harbour, New York. They have been dating nonstop since they met at Marymount Manhattan.

LEILA JARAMAN ’09

premiered her film “A Dream of Paper Flowers on The Creators Project,” a platform that features the works of artists from different disciplines that celebrate creativity, arts, and technology.

NICK SANCHEZ ’03

married Sam Kiernan on October 10, 2015, in Naples, New York. They met on the First National Tour of “Mary Poppins.” Kiernan attended MMC for a semester, and the two learned later on that Sanchez must have auditioned him at some point as Sanchez worked in the theatre recruitment office during his time at MMC.

KAILA GIOVANNIELLO ’11 and CHRISTOPHER STOKES ’10

married on September 12, 2015, at the Garrison Inn in Garrison, New York. Professor of theatre arts Kevin Connell officiated.

JESSE ALLOWAY BARTON ’06

married Natalie Errthum on October 10, 2015, in Jersey City, New Jersey. Jesse graduated with a BA in theatre arts and a minor in philosophy.

KATIE HAY ’14

is currently working at the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

THOMAS HETTRICK ’12

married Natalie Errthum on October 10, 2015, in Charleston, South Carolina.

FLORENCE PERELLA HAYES ’57

passed away in 1996 following a courageous struggle with ALS (commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig’s disease). Her son, Jeremiah Hayes, an award-winning filmmaker, created a memorial film titled “God Comes as a Child,” which was released on YouTube in March 2013. The film takes place primarily in a palliative care clinic in Montreal, Canada, the city where Hayes lived in her later years and where she was also a Catholic chaplain and theology instructor at McGill University.

EILEEN SULLIVAN, PH.D. ’63

is having her book, “The Shamrock and the Cross: Irish American Catholicism,” published by the University of Notre Dame Press. It is available on Amazon as well as the university’s website.

CONNIE LA GRATTA ’66

lives in Danbury, Connecticut, where her husband practiced orthopedics for 37 years. She has four children and seven grandchildren, four of whom live in New York City. La Gratta and her husband are both involved in Catholic charities, and she is a trustee of St. Joseph Church in Danbury.

ROSE TERRANOVA CIRIGLIANO ’71

recently began a small independent publishing company called Rose Book Publishers.

ROSA COLON SANCHEZ ’71

is enjoying retirement, healthy living, and travel after a 36-year teaching career. She and her husband of 43 years, Freddie, are snowbirds, spending time in Dover, New Jersey, and Cocoa Beach, Florida. They have traveled abroad and gone on cruises. In between their travels, they spend time with their two children and three grandchildren.

GLORIA COHEN ’70

wrote a children’s book titled “Gubby’s Gift.”
Save the Date

Fall Donor Appreciation Reception
September 28, 2016
To thank supporters of The Fund for Marymount Manhattan College

Our Country’s Good
by Timberlake Wertenbaker, based upon the novel “The Playmaker” by Thomas Keneally
October 13: 8 p.m.
October 14: 8 p.m.
October 15: 2 p.m.
October 16: 2 p.m.
The Theresa Lang Theatre

Family, Friends, and Alumni Homecoming Weekend
October 21-23, 2016
We can’t wait to see you on campus! More details to come at www.mmm.edu.

3rd Annual Alumni, Parents, and Friends Reception in Los Angeles, California
November 18, 2016
Contact Katherine Dunford at kdunford@mmm.edu for more information.

Annual Trustee Donor Dinner
December 6, 2016
In recognition of our most generous donors The Lotos Club, NYC

Dancers at Work
November 17: 8 p.m.
November 18: 8 p.m.
November 19: 2 p.m.
BA dance majors investigate the parameters of choreographic perception in this student choreography showcase, which also includes new work choreographed by MMC faculty members. The Great Hall

Annual Trustee Donor Dinner
December 6, 2016
In recognition of our most generous donors The Lotos Club, NYC

Exception where noted, all events happening at Marymount Manhattan College, 221 East 71st Street, New York, NY.

#GivingTuesday
November 29, 2016
A global day of celebration dedicated to giving back.

Last year #GivingTuesday was a record-breaking success. The MMC community showed extraordinary generosity, donating over $18,000! Plus, your gifts have more impact than ever thanks to the Carson Match.

Gifts to The Fund for Marymount Manhattan College will help support student scholarships, faculty initiatives, and campus improvements.

Every gift makes a difference! Visit www.mmm.edu/donatenow to get started. For more information on #GivingTuesday visit www.mmm.edu/givingtuesday.

Stay Connected!
Engage with us on our social media channels

Follow us on Twitter @NYCMarymount
Join us on Facebook Facebook.com/MarymountManhattan
Find us on Instagram @NYCMarymount

Black Friday. Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday
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The Hewitt Gallery of Art
Paintings by Florence Alva ’89