A Message from Dean Marietta Morrissey

The spring semester has come and gone and, with it, the many events the College of Humanities and Social Sciences has held to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Every department and program had an inspiring and enjoyable awards or honors ceremony. The College itself honored its outstanding students at our Convocation on May 19, 2013.

As I attended these celebratory events I was amazed by the achievements of our students, earning high grade point averages, doing research in our labs, presenting their findings at conferences, mastering world languages while study abroad, interning at major corporate organizations and social agencies. Many students continue to achieve fantastic academic heights while contributing volunteer service to the campus and community.

Our students’ accomplishments are a product of the very hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff and alumni. Please learn more about how the College of Humanities and Social Sciences fosters student excellence and engagement. And, take the time to congratulate your student friends, colleagues and relatives as we look back on another exciting school year.

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CHSS: The Class of 2013

Jennifer Ocampo: Sociology

I graduated in May as a Sociology major with a certificate in Child Advocacy. I liked my major because it allowed me to explore very different areas of society and afforded me the knowledge I needed to have a more open mind to people, challenges in society, and a unique outlook as a global citizen. I chose this major after traveling to Nicaragua on a learning delegation, where I realized I wanted to work with people and study more about the interaction between groups. I have had such great opportunities to connect with amazing professors at Montclair State University.

I have just been accepted to the Peace Corps for a possible education assignment leaving in July 2013. If all goes well, this is what I am doing after graduation! It will definitely be a challenging experience but one that I am looking forward to and welcome with arms wide open.

Justin Jacobs: History

I enrolled as a History Education major at MSU in the spring of 2010, only two months after completing three years of active duty as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. I chose MSU as my school mainly because of how easy it was for me to apply, especially when you consider that I had certain restrictions when it came to filling out college applications—I was sitting in a tent in Iraq. I used a weak Wi-Fi signal on base to exchange e-mails with the admissions counselor and she was very accommodating throughout the whole process.

More than three years later, I know that I made the right decision in choosing MSU as my school. I graduated this May after a semester of student teaching, and I accepted my diploma with a bittersweet feeling. MSU has not only helped me grow as a student and academic, but as a person as well. I know the skills I learned at MSU will help me succeed in whatever challenge life throws at me next.
Kurt Keena: Linguistics & Spanish Double Major

I majored in Linguistics and Spanish, with a concentration in Translation. I loved both of my majors for a variety of reasons. I loved that they both involve language, but in different ways. Studying Linguistics led me to explore what language really is, what components make it up, how languages are similar, how they differ and how they change over time. Studying Spanish has given me a better understanding of the language, its literature and the culture in which it is spoken.

Both majors complement each other in ways that I never expected: principles in one often have implications for the other. For example, my phonetics class helped me improve my accent in Spanish, while knowing Spanish has helped me understand the Romance language family. I never imagined learning so much not only about Spanish but also about my own native language. I now plan to continue my studies in Montclair State’s graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology.

CHSS Welcomes a New Advisory Council

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to announce the debut of a new Dean’s Advisory Council: John T. Riordan ’59 founding chair, Piera Accumanno ’92, Theresa Concepcion, Esq. ’04, Michael Cryor, MA ’70, Altair Gobo ’74, Thomas Loikith, Esq ’75, Stephen Philip Pepe ’65, Pamela Portin ’77, Steven Resnick, Esq. ’93, Joyce M. Smith ’94, and Dr. Robert W. Woods. Council Members have a wide range of experience and backgrounds, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is grateful for their participation and support.

John T. Riordan ’59, founding chair of the CHSS Advisory Council, received a BA from Montclair State College, an MA from Laval University in Quebec, and an honorary doctorate from Montclair State University. On the role of the council, he says: “It is our hope to become a strong support for students, faculty, and staff through positive contacts with the world at large. It is fashionable but futile to put both a price tag and a resale value on a university diploma. The liberal arts, broadly defined, are and have been demonstrably among the best preparations for the range of opportunities life inevitably offers. Many of us end up finding success and enjoyment in fields seemingly far from our original courses of study precisely because the liberal arts give us the broad, flexible skill sets that progress in virtually all endeavors our fast-paced world requires.”

Riordan has been a school teacher, college instructor, editor, and developer of standardized tests and textbooks in a wide range of subjects, from foreign languages to real estate development and management. He is the immediate past Chief Executive and now lifetime trustee of the International Council of Shopping Centers, the world’s largest retail property trade association. He is a founding member of the Zell Lurie Center for Real Estate at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, served as full-time chair of the Center for Real Estate’s Master’s Degree program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and served on the Advisory Board for the Graduate School of Baruch College at the City University of New York and various other educational, business, and civic boards in the U.S. and Canada.
Spanish writer Javier Cercas spent the week of November 26, 2012 at MSU as Writer in Residence and regaled the campus community with his wit, warmth, and wealth of information and insights about literature. His visit was sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Italian with funds provided through the generosity of MSU alumnus, John Riordan (BA, 1959). Co-sponsors of Mr. Cercas’s visit included the Instituto Cervantes in NY, the Consulate General of Spain in NY and the Embassy of Spain.

Mr. Cercas, novelist, short story writer, essayist, and journalist, is the author of the internationally renowned novel, *Soldados de Salamina* (2001; *Soldiers of Salmamis*, 2003), which has been translated into more than thirty languages, made into a film, and is the recipient of several international prizes. His fascinating account of the attempted 1981 military coup in Spain, *Anatomía de un instante* (2009; *The Anatomy of an Instant*, 2011), won the Premio Nacional de Narrativa in Spain in 2010. His most recent novel is *Las leyes de la frontera* (2012). Mr. Cercas has won several prizes for the body of his writing; the most recent one is the Prix Ulysse (2012) which he was given in Corisca shortly before arriving at MSU.

The topics Mr. Cercas addressed in Spanish and English during his visit dealt with such varied concerns as Spanish society and politics, the creative process, writing about the Vietnam War (*The Speed of Light*), the dangers of success, and the film version of his novel *Soldados de Salamina* by Spanish director David Trueba. Affirming that the novel is “a paradise of ambiguity,” Cercas declared that “a good novel takes a problem that is complex and makes it more complex.” His passion for writing and his belief that literature can change the perception of the world of the reader resonated throughout Schmitt and Dickson Halls, creating an inspirational space for fruitful dialogues about life and fiction.
Four clinical staff members of the Center for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology recently participated in a training mission in China. Eileen Fasanella, MA, CCC-SLP, Joyce Liebelt, Rosemary DeStephan, MS, CCC-SLP, and Diane Polledri, MA, CCC-SLP traveled to China from January 10 to January 18, 2013, in order to help local personnel understand how best to treat the speech, language, and feeding disorders of children living in an orphanage and a village’s foster homes.

The team provided training to staff personnel at New Day Creations Foster Home in Beijing and the Institute for Children’s Welfare (ICW), a government orphanage in Zhengzhou with 800 special needs orphans. With translators provided by New Day, the team presented workshops on Autism Spectrum Disorders, infant feeding disorders, language development and treatment, and language-based play therapy. The staffs were able to observe direct treatment with individual children.

The idea for a team of specialists to travel to orphanages caring for special needs children began after Eileen Fasanella adopted her daughter Grace from China at the age of 3 in 2006. In response to the request for help from New Day Foster Home’s director, Eileen approached her friends and colleagues at MSU, and the four formed the Grace Foundation, a New Jersey private, not-for-profit organization that provides workshop presentations and demonstrations of therapeutic intervention strategies to train foster caregivers and orphanage staffs of special needs orphans.
Co-operative Education & Internships: Opening doors

Jade Leach is making the most of her journalism minor

I’ve done several co-ops and internships through MSU. I was directed to my most recent internship at Ebony Magazine through the website Ed2010.com, which is a great source for college students interested in the magazine industry. The site posts internships, jobs, and advice for résumé improvement.

While I’m a journalism minor—and all my previous internship experiences included editorial writing—I knew that I wanted at least have one fashion experience at a magazine to enhance my résumé. It has been a great experience! I was able to get bylines through my online posts, attend fashion previews, and I even went to a number of shows during NY Fashion Week. I also learned that it helps when you put yourself out there. You never know who you might meet.

I think an internship gives you hands-on experience and the opportunity to put everything you learned in the classroom to work. Internships are critical to success in any career a student wishes to pursue.

Matthew Roseff interns with the USPIS

During my senior year as a Justice Studies major, I interned with the US Postal Inspection Service. I began my search for an internship during the previous summer and was given a wide range of options, ranging from local police agencies to federal law enforcement agencies. I opted to go with the Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) thanks in part to the glowing reviews from previous interns.

My research into the agency taught me that the Postal Inspection Service is the oldest federal law enforcement agency in the country. The agency investigates all crimes committed through the US Postal Service – from foreign lottery scams to identity theft cases; their reach is far and wide. The USPIS often conducts investigations with other federal law enforcement agencies, both in the United States and abroad.

Before starting my internship, I was contacted by a Postal Inspector and was asked to come in for an interview. After the interview and a thorough background check, I was placed with the mail fraud team at the Newark division of the Postal Inspection Service. What followed were some of the most amazing months of my life: I helped postal inspectors conduct investigations, assisted them with field visits to local post offices, and even got to spend time with the prohibited mailings team in addition to the other teams I helped on a regular basis. This internship, only further strengthened my desire to work in law enforcement.
“What do you do with a major in Philosophy anyway?”

Our students know the answer.

**Jamie Sommer**

I got involved in my internship at Dwight-Englewood Private High School through the Philosophy Department at Montclair State University. The director of the Philosophy Department, Dr. Dorothy Rogers, alerted me to the internship and the opportunity to watch Mr. Joseph Murphy conduct an Ethics class for high school sophomores. I went once or twice a week to a section of the Ethics course, took notes, and discussed philosophical scenarios and issues with the students. At the end of the internship, I compiled a paper about the school's background and my observations.

I learned a lot about the environment of a private school, one very different from my public school background. I was impressed by the diversity of the school population and the benefits that philosophical education can yield. I was pleasantly surprised by the tightness of the D-E community and their acceptance of students’ differences.

Eventually I want to be a teacher myself, so it was useful to see from the inside how a class properly functions. The discussion-based format helped me learn how to introduce a topic and to navigate the discussion effectively. I recommend internships to all.

**Justin Garcia**

My project was called “P4C,” short for Philosophy for Children. Montclair State has developed an extension of the P4C program, which is a larger global effort to re-orient pre-college pedagogical practices, employing methodology seldom seen in pre-college courses but invaluable to the advancement of philosophical thinking among young people.

We met with a series of groups ranging from 1st to 4th grade. We kept sessions light and concise, meeting with the groups once a week, treating the sessions as an extension of the daily elementary school curriculum. My experience was with three 1st grade groups at Bradford Elementary School in Montclair.

Though my training as a Philosophy major is strong and varied, I had little experience with school-age children. My time at Bradford was full of meaningful moments, and they inspired hope for continued learning. Seeing the children’s eyes light up during discussion and the depths of the insights they articulated could not have been more rewarding.

Watching the other instructor interact with the students and my own experience with them allowed me to engage in real classroom dynamic, an added dimension to my Philosophy education.
In July of 2012, The Center for Child Advocacy (CHAD) entered into a new contract/grant with The Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop a post-BA certificate program in Adolescent Advocacy. The certificate program in Adolescent Advocacy provides workers of The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP) and DCF a graduate-level certificate curriculum that furthers their expertise in working with adolescents in the public welfare system.

In conjunction with the certificate program, the grant provides for part-time Youth Worker positions. This additional component of the grant brings a direct service element to the Center. Currently, CHAD employs three Youth Workers who have a history of child welfare involvement, coming from residential facilities and foster homes. Some of the objectives for the youth are to serve as a resource for the program, receive mentoring from program personnel and faculty, learn about grant management, and to develop professionally.

The first two semesters with the youth, by all accounts, have been excellent. They presented their stories and had Q&A forums in over twelve undergraduate and graduate Child Advocacy/Adolescent Advocacy classes. These presentations received accolades from students and faculty. The youth also organized and facilitated extremely successful bake sales to raise funds for DCPP adolescents, who otherwise would not have had gifts during the holiday season. At the same time, they ran a clothing drive for child welfare youth displaced by Hurricane Sandy and ran a book drive.

In March 2013, The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders hosted the Preview showing for the launch of the Reel Abilities NJ Disabilities Film Festival with "The Importance of Tying Your Own Shoes" and "Jazz Hands" followed by interactive discussion led by disability studies scholars and one of the featured film actresses. Almost 200 faculty, students and community members attended the opening event.

Students at the Montclair State event who were not familiar with real-time live captioning were able to understand why it is an important component of live events even in the presence of a captioned film to ensure that audience members with hearing loss can participate in program discussions.

One student studying communication disorders commented that, throughout the film, he thought about how better to identify with and foster the creativity of the teenager with autism for whom he is a part time aide.

Reel Abilities has the potential to affect us all by challenging our assumptions and bringing us together to explore, discuss and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.
Fawzia Afzal Khan

Fawzia Afzal-Khan, professor of English and Director of the Women's & Gender Studies Program, was recently awarded a major project grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Afzal-Khan received the $70,000 grant for the Bridging Cultures Through Film category. Her project’s title is “From the Melody Queen to the Muslim Madonna: A History of Pakistan Through it Female Singers 1947-Present.” The project resulted in a film trailer that was recently screened by interested faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Afzal-Khan comments on her experience: “This is what is known as a collaborative development grant, which means that the monies provided were to enable a scholar (me) to work with an independent filmmaker, to create a 10-minute trailer or preview of a fuller-length documentary film on a topic that would speak to the guidelines of “building cultural bridges.”

“Hopefully, as a result of the trailer we produce, I will be able to get funding to do the entire full-length film on this topic, which I believe will change the way many Westerners view or understand Pakistan and its culture, especially concerning women.”

Anna Feldman

Anna Feldman is an associate professor in the Department of Linguistics with a quarter-time appointment in Computer Science, who pursues data-driven approaches to Natural Language Processing (NLP). With a strong record of funding from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Feldman’s work focuses on the automatic creation, analysis and annotation of language corpora for practical NLP applications, such as machine translation, second language instruction, information retrieval, and parsing.

Dr. Feldman comments on a recent project, noting: “As part of this NSF-funded project, we have been developing a method for creating morphological taggers and analyzers without the need for large-scale knowledge- and labor-intensive resources for the target language. Instead, we rely on (i) resources available for a related language and (ii) a limited amount of high-impact, low-cost manually created resources. With this new approach, it is possible to rapidly deploy tools to analyze a suddenly critical language.

This grant work is rewarding because I have also received funds to involve undergraduate students in my research. Eight undergraduate students and three graduate students have been working on this project since 2010. My total external support from various grants is $506,634.”
For Kaitlin Hoesch, ’10, Montclair State University is more than an alma mater: it’s a family tradition. Kaitlin’s mother Lisa graduated from Montclair State College in 1983 with a degree in Marketing and her sister Jaclyn graduated MSU in 2006 with degrees in International Business and French. With that kind of Montclair pedigree, we know she’s destined for greatness. We caught up with the recent grad to find out what she’s been doing since leaving the Red Hawk’s nest.

CHSS: What have you been up to since graduating from Montclair State?

KH: After graduating in January 2010, I moved to Washington, DC. I am currently the Executive Administrator and Special Projects Manager for the Pentagon Memorial Fund. We are in the beginning stages of planning and constructing the 9/11 Pentagon Visitor Education Center across from the Pentagon and 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. I really love what I am doing and feel very fortunate to be a part of this project and organization.

CHSS: You majored in French Translation and minored in German. What drove you to pursue study in modern languages?

KH: I knew I wanted to pursue foreign language study while in high school, and French had been what I studied the longest. I loved everything about writing, literature, languages, and different cultures, and I really wanted to use my time in college to open my mind to all there was to learn through studying languages (secret: the learning never ends - that’s the best part!). I started at MSU in 2005 and immediately began my French Translation major requirement courses, picking up Italian courses and a German minor along the way.

CHSS: You’ve pursued a career that is not necessarily related to the major you studied in CHSS. How do you feel your time in CHSS has helped you since graduating?

KH: I chose my current path because I felt I needed to experience and grow professionally in other areas while still keeping my love of foreign languages and global communication close to me. In unexpected and delightful ways, I have used my language skills and so many other things I learned through studying languages. For example, I started a blog to channel my love of writing and my love of endurance racing. I
have always said that my study of foreign languages has helped me learn so much more than I could have ever anticipated about my native language.

Most importantly, studying languages taught me how to learn and it taught me patience (it’s not a quick process). I have carried those lessons with me through every new challenge and unknown and it’s given me great confidence when faced with something I don’t know. It made me see things as falling in one of two categories: “What I know” and “What I don’t know...yet.”

CHSS: What is your favorite Montclair State memory?

Only one favorite memory? That’s tough! But spending two beautiful summers studying in the Mediterranean (Sicily ’06 and Nice ’08) were the moments associated with MSU and studying languages that are most ingrained in my memory, for sure. The professors, the students, the places and culture, the food, the experiences—how can you compete with all of that? The first time I went abroad, I went to Taormina, Sicily with the most wonderful group of people I could ever imagine. Having only a basic knowledge of Italian at the time, it was the most dynamic and single-most significant time in my life. I grew in so many important ways: mentally, emotionally, intellectually.

CHSS: Do you have any advice for current CHSS students?

First, enjoy the process! Second, if you love something enough, as I still love learning and exploring foreign languages and cultures, it will find its way back into your life. Oftentimes, the way it comes back into your life is not the way you may think it will or should—but it’s certainly no less meaningful or fulfilling. It is not always easy to envision your post-college options while you are still doing the bulk of your studying, so when you can, volunteer or pursue internships that will allow you to see what you like and what you don’t like. I think the biggest and best surprise after college was to find that there are jobs that you may not even realize exist, but that can be an incredible fit for who you are as a person and the skills you possess thanks to your field of study and the experiences you had at Montclair State.

Bringing the Humanities to Bear —Dr. Victoria Larson

My original academic background is in Classics and Modern Languages. Arising from that more generally, though, is my research interest in how every generation and every culture come to grip in their own way with the "eternal" issues, deriving inspiration from the past, but re-inventing their own unique humanistic and artistic responses to them. Of course, all of this is the "bread and butter" of the Institute for the Humanities' programming, so I would say my interests make me a natural fit for it!

The Institute for the Humanities’ recent grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities funded a series of lectures over the course of 2012-13 on artists and humanists, past and present, who have been, in some sense, inspired by New Jersey. The series has been a great opportunity for a conversation about one of those "human" topics mentioned above -- our home -- and how we perceive it and treat it. The Institute for the Humanities has also worked recently with NJ Arts News to produce a short segment for TV on the life of the humanities at MSU and their connection with citizenship in a democracy.

Dr. Victoria Larson, Director of the Institute for Humanities, and panelists
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