

# MANOR

2019 SPRING/SUMMER EDITION

THIS IS PRIVISH





# MANOR COLLEGE

SPRING/SUMMER MAGAZINE 2019

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Letter from the

# President

Determination and excellence. These words frame how deeply we are moved by our community's ambitiousness and consistent achievements. Our students and alumni regularly carry the Basilian flame. Student Privish Sadaqat's journey from Pakistan to the United States over the past year, her committed focus to her academics at Manor, and her authentic impact on those around her is nothing less than inspiring. Alumna Zoeya Jou's transformation over the course of her time here at Manor awakened in her a love of learning, leading to her recent acceptance into UPenn's prestigious veterinary doctoral program.

Like many in our community, their paths became possible through their commitment, persistence, and hard-earned merit, while relying upon the strength of others among our community: faculty, staff, and colleagues. We are blessed with a collective dedication to mutual support at Manor College. This dedication grows each day, such as with the expansion of our Campus Ministry program through new leadership and activities like Basilian Bread Baking, where we gather as a whole community to bake bread together.

As we look ahead to summer, buoyed by the enthusiasm and momentum of our 2019 Commencement Ceremony, a landscape of new possibilities unfolds as foreseeable. There are major renovations happening all around us, both the invisible but important, like new roofs and climate control systems, as well as culturally important upgrades like our soon-to-be enhanced dining hall, a new on-campus fitness center, and a new Manny's Market spirit shop and café in Mother of Perpetual Help Hall.

Our magazine also received rejuvenation. We are pleased to announce that we will be moving from an annual edition, to a schedule that allows us to publish biannually; once for the Spring/Summer and once for Fall/Winter. This change will bring you all of Manor College's news and stories timely. The new schedule includes a reimagined design, one that we hope will make great stories easily accessible and shareable.

Look to future communications for ways that you can further advance our campus. Please remember that our tagline You Belong Here is our embrace for all of our community: current students, families, faculty and staff, community members, alumni, and friends. Enjoy the summer and find renewal as we prepare for academic year 2019/2020.

May God bless you always,

*Jonathan Peri*

Jonathan Peri, PhD, JD

**President**





## IT'S ON US: PENNSYLVANIA AWARDS MANOR COLLEGE STATE GRANT

According to the It's On Us campaign, "an estimated one in five college women and one in 20 college men" will be affected by sexual violence—the aftermath of which can impact the health and well-being of survivors, and can derail a student's educational success.

The "It's On Us PA" campaign was launched by Governor Tom Wolf in January 2016 in an effort to end sexual violence. Manor College submitted for and successfully received \$16,643 as a state-funded grant this year in order to prevent, address, and effectively respond to the nation-wide issue of sexual assault on and off campuses.

The Manor Assault Protection Program focused on five key areas: campus-wide training and certification, institutional

awareness, community knowledge, increased awareness of reporting and resources, and a campus climate survey.

One highlight of Sexual Assault Awareness Month: a campus screening of *The Hunting Ground*, a 2015 documentary detailing the issues of sexual assault on college campuses. And on April 24, dozens of students wore their It's On Us t-shirts in support of this national and state-wide movement to end sexual assault—a powerful visual message.

"The It's On Us grant has drastically changed how we are able to serve our campus community by helping us provide more education and services related to sexual assault," said Allison Mootz, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs. "We have been able to provide more information to both the campus

and community at large on reporting and support services."

"We have also been able to have further training for employees on our Title IX team," explained Mootz. The Title IX Act and its impact on student welfare has been a source of constant dialogue over the past several years, and the grant provided funding to train an additional Title IX Coordinator, bringing the college's Title IX team to 6 members.

"Additionally, we were able to conduct a campus climate survey, which will give us insight into students' perceptions of the campus climate in relation to unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault."

Manor's involvement with It's On Us will ensure that Manor College continues to be a safe place for all.

## REFUSING TO FORGET THE HOLODOMOR: MANOR REMEMBERS

On October 4, Manor College held a commemoration for the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor, Stalin's man-made famine in Soviet Ukraine from 1932-1933 that killed millions of Ukrainians.

Chrstyna Prokopovych, Curator of the Ukrainian Heritage Museum, stated, "On the 85 days leading up to International Holodomor Memorial Day on November 24 2018, a candle will be lit daily in a different part of the world uniting Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine in remembrance of the innocent victims of the genocidal policy of the Stalin regime, while raising awareness of the issues of human rights, respect and tolerance."

Manor College strives to foster appreciation for its Ukrainian heritage and culture. The College was established in 1947 by the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, Jesus Lover of Humanity Province, a Byzantine Ukrainian order of the Eastern rite. Manor College reverently honors those that were victims of and affected by the Holodomor.







# BASILIAN BREAD:

## A FRESH-BAKED TRADITION ON CAMPUS

MARI ROGERS

How can you bring together the campus community while honoring the Catholic Basilian tradition of hospitality? The idea took a bit of kneading, but before long, Student Life and Campus Ministry had cooked up a plan.

It all started as a conversation in Residence Life over how to celebrate—and learn about—the many diverse cultures that come together at Manor College. Bread baking was an idea that gained traction thanks to its ethnic versatility—students can learn to make everything from Ukrainian Easter bread, to Indian naan. And with the help of Culinary staff, it's an activity that takes place right in the heart of campus—the dining hall.

Lynn Wales, Assistant Resident Director, noted that the most rewarding part of the experience might be the interactions students have not only with each other, but with staff and faculty. "You're making bread next to someone you've never met before, asking questions and measuring out ingredients. While it takes a lot of planning and effort to make this event happen, it's worth it for the moments of joy it creates on campus," she explained. "It's everyone coming together, and working together."

Not only have students been learning about different cultures, but they've also been catching on to an even simpler lesson—how to cook. Developing healthy eating awareness is a focus of Residence Life, and many students have never baked bread before.

"Students are asking questions and learning hands-on skills," said Chrystyna Prokopovych, curator of the Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center. Prokopovych donates her time and expertise, helping to lead Ukrainian-themed bread bakings. "Ukrainian culture revolves around bread," she explained. "Ukraine has long been known as the 'breadbasket' of Europe."

Visitors to campus may have noted that an outdoor brick bread oven, used by the founding religious order, sits between Manor College and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. The Basilian bread team hopes that the oven can one day be restored and used again with students—fortifying the ties to the school's roots and Ukrainian heritage.

So far, student participation has been high. "We're seeing students come back each time, and it's definitely a growing tradition," said Prokopovych. "Ideally, one day the students may lead this activity themselves, teaching us about their cultural traditions—and I think that will definitely happen."

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## MANOR COLLEGE BOARD RENEWS PRESIDENT PERI'S CONTRACT NEARLY A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

After more than three years of ambitious transformation at Manor College, its Board renewed President Jonathan Peri, Ph.D., J.D.'s contract nearly a year early. When Peri arrived at Manor in late 2015, the college was facing financial challenges. Within seven months Peri led the college to a balanced budget, erased deficits, created significant excess revenues, and restructured debt by fiscal year end. By fall 2017, and for the first time in about 10 years, both enrollment and revenues increased.

In fall 2018, Manor's total student population skyrocketed, increasing by 125 students over the prior year. Furthermore, it is currently the best-priced private college in Pennsylvania, and Manor's projections are for continued enrollment and revenue growth.

"Manor's renaissance resulted because Dr. Peri refreshed the cultural commitment to our mission; he is authentic, and he took decisive strategic action," said Manor College's Board Chairman, Dennis McGrath.

During Peri's first three years at Manor, the Marketing Office was restructured and a rebranding campaign was successfully launched, the Admissions Office obtained energized new leadership, the Advancement Office was given new directives and resources enhancing fundraising, and major facilities improvements happened thanks to a "Transforming Spaces" campaign.

"We know what the marketplace looks like in the region," continued McGrath, "There are about a hundred colleges and universities in our backyard.

The competition for visionary higher education leadership is probably stronger here than in university-saturated New England. We renewed Dr. Peri a year early because his kind of talent gets recruited, and we were not going to let that happen."

During Peri's first term, Manor was named a "Top 5" associate's degree granting college in Pennsylvania. Without letting go of that, Peri has just led the college to become both an Associate's and a Bachelor's degree granting institution. Additionally Manor was recently listed in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for having the 16th highest paid faculty in the country for a private associate's college.

"Right now we're working with our Board of Trustees and our entire campus community on our next vision statement as a lead-in to our next strategic plan '2021 and Beyond.' Contract renewal a year early is a welcomed way to ensure consistency in that process," said President Peri. "Having a really wonderful Board, Chairman, and a community who are deeply committed to our Basilian mission and our students makes every bit of difference. I feel so blessed to be at Manor."

Since Peri's been in office, Manor was named among the safest colleges in Pennsylvania, several times. The college's commitment to its Ukrainian heritage has grown, along with its commitment to campus-wide diversity. The college is recognized for its excellent student-teacher ratio, its higher than national average salary-after-graduation rate, and its student surveys show significantly higher satisfaction year over year.



## Manor College hosts Philadelphia film premiere: "HUNGER FOR TRUTH: THE RHEA CLYMAN STORY"

History can only be remembered if we record it. This past November, Manor College hosted the Philadelphia premiere of *Hunger for Truth: The Rhea Clyman Story*, a documentary by Emmy-award winning director Andrew Tkach. Tkach was present for the screening and responded to audience questions while also providing further background on the making of the film.

The documentary follows the story of Rhea Clyman, a young Canadian reporter who traversed the starving Soviet heartland when Stalin's man-made famine, the Holodomor, was just beginning. Clyman's newly discovered newspaper articles from 1932-33 show her remarkable resourcefulness and courage. After she was banished from the USSR for writing about the Holodomor and the Gulag, this brave woman went on to cover Hitler's early lethal years in power.

The feature-length documentary interweaves Clyman's trip during the 1930s with today's conflict in eastern Ukraine. Combining rare archive photos, historical perspective, and today's real life drama, the film shows the power of truth-telling in the face of disinformation.

"This film and its journey in shedding light on a dark episode in our common history is precisely what Manor College's mission of enabling students to fully develop as individuals and instill an understanding of scientific, humanistic, and ethical principles to form a global vision is all about," stated Nicholas Rudnytsky, Manor College Dean of Academic Services. "The Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center is proud to sponsor the presentation."



## THE W.W. SMITH CHARITABLE TRUST AWARDS \$30,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MANOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Manor College was awarded \$30,000 in scholarship monies for the 2018-2019 academic year by The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, a private foundation established by William Wikoff Smith in 1977. This is the third year that Manor has received this grant.

Eligible students for the W.W. Smith Scholarship are full-time undergraduate students in a degree-granting course of study and must be permanent residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery or Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, or the city of Camden in New Jersey. Students must be in good academic standings with a grade point average of 2.5 or better, and who have unmet financial need.

Awardees this year are Cody Bane, a sophomore veterinary technology major; Andrea Schuitema, a sophomore veterinary technology major; Stacey Ramirez, a freshman dental hygiene major; Maleek View, a freshman accounting major; and Aameeka Washington, a freshman veterinary technology major.

"It's a great honor to have the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust as a partner for student scholarship," stated Kimberly Hamm, Vice President for Advancement. "The Trust's commitment to bettering our community by providing basic needs, medical care, and education fits with Manor's Basilian traditions of education, hospitality, and service to others."

## MANOR COLLEGE LEADS THE PACK WHEN IT COMES TO OER ADOPTION

A recent survey of Manor College faculty indicated that the vast majority now use Open Educational Resources in the classroom. What exactly are Open Educational Resources (OER)? The materials vary, but essentially they are textbooks, research materials, and other educational assets that can be accessed digitally by students, often for a low cost or as free open-license content.

As national college costs continue to rise, the benefit of having inexpensive or even free textbooks is apparent.

Dr. Cherie Crosby, Dean of the Division of Education and Professional Studies, headed the survey to find out how prevalent OER usage really was at the college and the degree to which the college was best serving its students financially. Manor faculty's quick adoption of OER is ultimately in keeping with the school's mission to provide students an affordable pathway to education.

Manor's Fall 2018 survey polled 53 faculty members from a wide range of disciplines, and an overwhelming majority reported that their courses use OER materials. This is in contrast to most colleges and universities—national surveys indicate a far lower rate of adoption.

How does Manor stack up? The Babson Survey Research Group polled nearly 3,000 instructors, and discovered that

a mere 9% of faculty nationwide are using OER for their classes. In addition, only 30% report even being aware of open educational resources. The Fall 2018 survey further found that Manor faculty were using a wide variety of OER, including open source textbooks, openly licensed videos, articles, powerpoint presents, and more.

For students who attend school with the help of financial aid and scholarships, the hefty bills associated with traditional textbooks are no small burden. The College Board estimates that the cost of books and supplies for undergraduates now totals an average of \$1,430 per year.

A recent study detailed by *Inside Higher Ed* indicated that 85% of students had not purchased textbooks by the first day of class—and 90% of these students, in turn, cited cost as the reason. High costs delay students receiving their learning materials—a choice with a clear impact on grades and, ultimately, students' ability to progress with their degrees. Additionally, *U.S. News and World Report* recently highlighted OER as a way for students to help reduce the cost of their degree.

"Our faculty are paying close attention to the costs of books and classroom materials; they are working hard to ensure quality free and very low-cost materials are available," said Manor

College President, Dr. Jonathan Peri, in an email to the Manor community.

As a member of Pennsylvania's State College Textbook Advisory Committee, which is charged with developing recommendations to improve the affordability and accessibility of college textbooks statewide, Peri is elated with Manor College faculty's initiative with Open Education Resources: "We are able to offer opinions through the lens of experience. While textbooks are always on reserve for students at the library, the college has gone one step further by making sure class materials are accessible anytime, anywhere."

So why have Manor College faculty adopted OER so quickly, compared to other colleges and universities nationwide? Faculty are acutely aware of the financial burdens associated with traditional textbooks, and are actively engaged with creating cost-effective solutions that better serve their students.

"The benefit of OER is that it removes financial barriers and levels the financial impact for our students. Without access to coursework, students can't be successful," explained Dr. Crosby.

Dr. Crosby aptly summarized the need for institutions to push forward, despite the challenges: "It all comes down to: how can we best serve our students?"



## GIVING TUESDAY WRAP-UP: MORE THAN \$5,000 RAISED FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

12 hours, 60 miles: That's not a road trip, that's how far local attorney Paul Peters ran to help raise money for student scholarship on Giving Tuesday. Peters, an ultra-marathoner who has raced in competitions around the globe, started running at 7:00am on November 27—and didn't stop until 7:00pm.

Students, staff, faculty and even several local news stations came to cheer Peters on. Multiple students ran alongside Peters on treadmills set up in the Basileiad library, while cheerleading volunteers brought Paul snacks and hydration and also managed to shake a few pom-poms.

"Through this somewhat quirky effort, we had a fun time bringing together our entire campus community—students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends—to celebrate what makes Manor College a great place to be while supporting one another and bringing awareness to the need for student scholarship," noted Vice President for Advancement, Kimberly Hamm.

When asked about his decision to run, Paul explained: "I decided to offer to help Manor College on Giving Tuesday due to my several connections to Manor, and love for Manor's mission, values, and overall impact on students and Montgomery County." A native to Northeast Philadelphia, Peters has had long-standing ties to campus. "Manor also afforded me my first opportunity to teach, for which I am forever grateful."

Over the course of the day, more than \$5,000 was raised for student scholarship.

"To me, Giving Tuesday showed the power of coming together to support our students and our community," said Amanda Irwin, Assistant Director of the Annual Fund at Manor. "Everybody who ran, volunteered, cheered, or just stopped in quickly to watch had a smile on their face."



## MANOR COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH WIDENER UNIVERSITY DELAWARE LAW SCHOOL

How long does it take to graduate with a law degree? For Manor College students who want to save on both time and money, the answer is now one year shorter!

In the recently announced 3+3 program, Manor students can earn an accelerated Bachelor's Degree from Manor, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Widener University Delaware Law School. The program is intended to save students time, allowing for the completion of both degrees in six years instead of seven. Additionally, the schools have agreed to a Guaranteed Admissions program for Manor College students completing a Bachelor's degree, before being admitted to Delaware Law School.

Under the 3+3 agreement, Manor students will be admitted to Delaware Law after completing just three years of undergraduate study at Manor, so long as they meet Delaware Law admission requirements (such as having a 3.0 GPA or higher every semester).

"Thanks to a new agreement between Widener University's Delaware Law School and Manor College, our students will have a 'jump start' into the field of law. Imagine this: our students do not have to wait four years before entering law school. Now, our students begin law school and complete their bachelor's at the same time," stated Dr. Calandra Lockhart, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Additionally, Delaware Law has agreed to award a minimum \$20,000 merit scholarship to all Manor College students accepted through the Guaranteed Admission or 3+3 program. This academic award can be renewed if the student maintains good academic standing in their program.

Delaware Law School Dean Rodney A. Smolla said he is pleased to see the two schools collaborate. "This collaboration will strengthen both institutions and contribute to educational opportunities in both Delaware and Pennsylvania."



## MANOR COLLEGE: HEALTHLINK DENTAL CLINIC'S COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

Manor College was selected to receive HealthLink Dental Clinic's Community Partner Award at their Anniversary Cocktail Party Fundraiser on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. This award acknowledges the clinic's partners that have contributed to the success of HealthLink. Healthlink is a free dental clinic that serves uninsured, low-wage earning adults in Bucks & Montgomery Counties.

Dr. Virginia Saunders, Dean of the Division of Allied Health and Director of Dental Hygiene Program at Manor College stated, "The Dental Hygiene Program has a long-standing relationship with this wonderful organization. I served as a consultant to HealthLink when the dental facility was in its planning stages, and our

students have provided dental hygiene services to their patients for many years. Having the opportunity to provide treatment to those in need has greatly enriched our students' educational experience. Manor College is proud and honored to receive the HealthLink Dental Clinic's first Community Partner Award!"

2018 has been an exciting year for the Dental Hygiene Program at Manor College. The program was recently ranked as a Top Five Best Dental Hygiene Program in the state of Pennsylvania according to Universities.com. The Program and the entire College community are grateful for this accolade. Manor College is looking forward to continuing its relationship with HealthLink Dental Clinic.

## MANOR COLLEGE HONORS STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Many students discover their academic spark while at Manor, and recognizing their achievements is an important part of fostering intellectual growth. On April 4, students, staff, faculty and family gathered to honor students receiving the Freshman Excellence academic award.

"This year, Academic Affairs began a new annual tradition by recognizing hard-working, diligent freshmen with a special award," stated provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Calandra Lockhart. The Freshman Excellence Award was given to full-time second semester freshmen who have earned a 3.25 GPA for first semester and second semester mid-terms.

At the same ceremony, students were inducted into PTK (Phi Theta Kappa) Honor Society, the world's largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year college students.

The Student Awards Ceremony held on April 29 celebrated the accomplishments of Manor's student leaders and athletes. This year, the awards ceremony was opened up to friends and family for the first time. Ashley Hillegas, Student Engagement Coordinator in charge of the event, explained why: "We felt it was important because their friends and families

are their biggest supporters, and the reason our students strive to be excellent!"

Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Allison Mootz agreed: "It was wonderful to see our students recognized for their academic and service leadership at Manor College."



INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS  
FOUNDATION

Independence 

## AWARDS MANOR DENTAL CENTER COMMUNITY GRANT

On December 10, 2018, Independence Blue Cross Foundation announced that the Manor College Dental Center would receive \$25,000 in Blue Safety Net funding for the first time. The Foundation's Blue Safety Net Program aims to improve community health access by providing grants to private, non-profit health centers operating in medically underserved areas. The Blue Safety Net funding provides nearly \$2.4 million to 49 health centers throughout the local region.

"We are excited to have a partnership with the IBX Foundation," said Jaime Simpson, director of the EFDA program and Dental Health Center at Manor. "Due to their support, Manor College's Dental Health Center will be able to improve our outreach and service to the community providing quality care."

The Dental Health Center aims to provide affordable, high-quality dental care to the public. Patients are seen by licensed dentists and faculty, well-trained professionals, as well as students working under the supervision of a dentist as part of the students' EFDA Clinical rotations. The Center has been servicing the local community for over 31 years. New patients can receive a full consultation, clinical examination, and oral cancer screening for only \$35, while the Student Hygiene Clinic offers hygiene services (cleaning, x-ray, exam and more) for a nominal fee of \$20.



## MANOR COLLEGE GRADUATES MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS IN 2019

Manor College celebrated its Commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 23, 2019, graduating 116 students from its Summer 2018, December 2018, and May 2019 terms.

Lynette Lark, Class of 2019 Basileiad Scholar delivered the Commencement oration in which she urged her classmates to be the best versions of themselves, to use what they've learned at Manor to move outside of comfort zones, to take ownership of life's decisions, and to never give up on their dreams.

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Kenneth Lawrence Jr. addressed graduates in his first ever Commencement speech. He shared his personal academic journey and how his struggle to find the right scholastic path allowed him to find his purpose and to see failure as a temporary stop that doesn't define oneself.

He encouraged the graduating class to build and maintain their networks, to keep learning, and to show appreciation for those who help them in their journey to success.

"We are lucky to have Manor College in Montgomery County, and I am honored to take part in this important day as graduates begin their next chapter," stated Commissioner Lawrence, prior to graduation. "Manor College is well-known as a community partner in Montgomery County and it is fitting to speak to the graduating class about the importance of partnering with and service to one's locality."

Kenneth Lawrence Jr. was appointed by the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners to fill out the term of newly-elected Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

On February 2, 2017, he was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of the Board of the Commissioners. He also currently serves on the boards of SEPTA and the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association.

"We are incredibly pleased that Commissioner Ken Lawrence served as our commencement speaker" said Manor College's President, Dr. Jonathan Peri.

"Ken has an incredible set of experiences to share with our students, from private sector government affairs work to executive level achievements in the university setting. From coaching soccer to volunteering for Big-Brothers/Big-Sisters, he is authentically dedicated to our community, and he understands people and especially students. Ken is an incredible role model."



### STREAMKEEPERS: JENKINTOWN'S LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST POLLUTED WATERS

Fifty-five percent of U.S. rivers and streams are already in poor condition to sustain aquatic life. The Environmental Protection Agency asserts that the largest contributor to stream pollution is, in fact, runoff contaminated by fertilizers and other debris. Manor College is committed to partnering with Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc (TTF) for the organization's stream restoration project, which includes actively monitoring the streams alongside Manor College. The 3.6 mile long Jenkintown Creek runs through both Manor College and the property of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great.

Stormwater runoff, caused by rain and melting snow running off the land rather than seeping through the ground where it would undergo natural filtration, is not pure rainwater—it picks up chemicals and debris from roofs, trash, and roads. Around Manor College, stormwater runoff is the number one source of water pollution—a problem TTF is trying to address with diligent monitoring and proactive steps. TTF also employs the help of numerous streamkeeper volunteers.

In addition to streamkeeping, the Manor community participates in a number of TTF activities, such as building "pollinator hotels" for bees. TTF helps local communities build plant rain gardens and buffers of native plants, which help to naturally filtrate runoff before it reaches the stream. With commitment, community activism, and time, hopefully the local waterways will be preserved for generations to come.

### TWO MANOR STUDENTS NAMED FINALISTS FOR PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

Two Manor College students, Vera Lewis and Lineth Ciciliano, were semi-finalists for the prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This scholarship, available to students working toward two-year degrees, supports high-achieving students as they transfer to four-year schools.

The semifinalists were selected from a pool of nearly 1,500 students across the country. Lewis and Ciciliano, who both study pre-nursing at Manor, represent two out of eight finalists chosen from the state of Pennsylvania. Scholarship winners are selected based on achievement, academic prowess, financial need, service, and demonstrated leadership.

Students who win the scholarship receive financial support for their studies and textbooks, as well as academic advising, college planning services, and more. Four Manor College students have previously won this distinguished scholarship.





# SEEKING THEOSIS:

## Love of God, Service, and Transformation

HEATHER G. DOTCHEL

It's not hard to find Tom Verni on campus. This Manor College instructor of Religious Studies and Philosophy, Basilian Associate, and Saint Basil Academy teacher has made his home in this close community for 20 years. And now it will be even easier to find him, as he has taken on a new volunteer role continuing his mission support—that of Campus Ministry Coordinator.

Tom's new role was designed to take advantage of his authentic rapport with students, his academic background in theology, and his personal sense of spirituality, prayerfulness, and ministry. He will serve as co-chair, with campus chaplain Father Ciurpita, of the Chaplain's Voice of Mission and Ministry Committee, and he will help create an inclusive, ecumenical participation plan for Campus Ministry programs.

"What I love about Manor is how nurturing it is for students, how easy it is for them to connect with their professors," says Verni. "There's a sense of fellowship, 'Koinonia' is the theological term for it, that is reflected in the relationships on campus. Students know something is different here. Basilian love is very tangible here."

This connection has, perhaps, been best reflected in the Basilian Bread Baking project that has been fantastically received by students this past year (*see page 4 for more details*) and came out of conversations that Tom had with President Jon Peri, Allison Mootz, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs, and Assistant Resident Director Lynn Wales early last fall.

Tom recounts: "To us, bread baking seemed to be a transcendent and unifying experience. It's cross-cultural and, therefore, a wonderful way to build community in our student body. Building this sense of community is at the heart of Basilian spirituality."

As Campus Ministry Coordinator, Tom will guide two new student positions on campus, those of student chaplain. As part of their preparation, the student chaplains will learn about Saints Basil and Macrina, their spiritual legacy, and the meaning of living life with a true social justice emphasis.





"Youth is heroic. Oftentimes if you believe that they can do something great, they will rise to it," says Verni. "There is a hunger for spiritual truth within our students, if not necessarily a desire for all the trappings of traditional dogma. For some, that may come later in life. We are looking for spiritual dialogue and an ecumenical conversation."

The student chaplains will provide spiritual guidance to Manor's students, lead the student community in prayer, host recurring group sessions, and correspond with fellow students with spiritual advice and guidance—a form of e-ministry. They will bear witness to the whole community of the divine within—the connection between life in the spirit, the community, and God.

"Campus Ministry is seeing a resurgence in activity at Manor College. Our two new student chaplains are the first student chaplains the college has had and they are overjoyed to be making history while helping to support students in their spiritual journey," says Allison Mootz. "With Mr. Verni's guidance, the student chaplains will help set the stage for how this program will look for many years to come. By giving not only the program, but the physical space of Campus Ministry a face lift, we hope to draw more interest from students who previously may not have shown interest."

## Youth is **HEROIC.**

Additionally, the chaplaincy, in conjunction with the bread baking and other campus ministry activities, will lead to a greater visibility of Manor's active Catholic Basilian identity. The Campus Ministry Coordinator, like the student chaplains, will be available to those seeking spiritual consolation. And again, this is where Tom's strengths lie.

Tom received both his undergraduate and graduate degree from Holy Apostles College and Seminary and spent time abroad in Italy as a religious brother and monk. During his years of ministry both in the United States and Rome, he worked in parishes, taught catechesis to elementary aged children, worked with disabled adults, and provided service in a nursing home.

Now as a Basilian Associate, Tom makes a yearly covenant, an oath, to support the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great.

His immersion in Basilian spirituality and his experience with young adults will serve as his guideposts: "My primary goal is to work in service of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great here within our Basileiad, our city of charity and love; this is my life's work and vocation, bringing the healing and transformational love of God to all people, especially the vulnerable and those in need of divine compassion."











# THIS IS Privish Sadagat

Heather G. Dotchel + William F. Rodebaugh III

Photography: Ricky Haldis, Wise Owl Multimedia



## APRIL 19, 2018

The date tumbles from her lips effortlessly, without the need for examination or confirmation. She even knows the exact time: 3:00 pm. It's her favorite date and her favorite memory. It is the day she, her mother, and her siblings were reunited with her father after four long years apart.

"I was thrilled to see my dad after four years and tears of joy were in my eyes," she remembers. "It was a celebration."

Privish Sadaqat is a current Manor student, finishing her first year of studies as a pre-science major. Within that short time, she has distinguished herself as an excellent student, both with her GPA and her appreciated presence in the classroom.

"She's a dream to have in class," states Dr. Julie Senecoff. "Intelligent, modest, humble, outstanding, and respectful. She is intuitive and insightful. For Privish, simply knowing the answer to our questions in class isn't enough. She wants to understand the intricacies of the why."

## DOOR TO DOOR

Privish was born in Toba Tek Singh in the country of Pakistan in the province of Punjab, located in the central east side of the country. She is the oldest of four children, three girls and one boy. Her parents were social workers and Christians.

Her formal education began when a small American nun knocked on her family's door one day, looking for students for her school, the Convent of Jesus and Mary School. Sister Mary, known as Sister Mariam in Privish's village, was reaching out to Christian families in the area to educate as part of her ministry. Privish was four.

Initially, people in the village were afraid of Sister Mariam. There was little exposure to Catholics (Christianity is a minority religion in Pakistan), to Sisters, and to white people (her habit and grey eyes were unusual). Privish remembers being afraid.

AMERICA GIVES ME  
MY OWN DIGNITY...  
AND EMPOWER[S] ME  
AS A FEMALE.

Laughing, she recalls: "When she came to house, I hid behind my mother because I was scared to see a different skin color—this is funny to me now!"

The school was open to all village families and faiths, but Sister Mariam prioritized reaching out not only to Christian families but also to girls in the village, who had less opportunity for education than the boys. Privish was one of the foundational students to attend—the third admitted student—and she attended from kindergarten through tenth grade.

"We struggled a lot in the early years. We faced so much persecution; our school even got stoned once. The Sisters were forced to close the school and move to another location."

The location of the school was changed a total of three times, for the safety of the students. Police response to persecutory incidents, at first, was slow. Yet, the Sisters and the families who attended Convent of Jesus and Mary School persisted. Perhaps this is why Privish identifies Job as her favorite book in the Bible. She identifies, she says, with struggle and coming out of struggle through consistency in belief and faith.

Despite these tribulations, Privish notes that the opportunity that Sister Mariam brought was great and the families that sent their children did so for a superior education and better future. This willingness to take an educational risk for future benefits made for an open-minded and progressive atmosphere.

An added bonus of attending Convent of Jesus and Mary School was exposure to English language and lessons that were more effective than even the larger, exclusive metropolitan schools. This proved fortuitous for the Sadaqat family, as eventually Privish's father had to leave their village, alone, for his own safety. When the family was able to reunite in America, the language barrier was a minor issue.

"Convent of Jesus and Mary School was a blessing for me and my town. What and where I am right now is due to that school and Sister Mariam."

## FREEDOM & OPPORTUNITY

Privish beams when she speaks of America and her family's liberty in the United States. The differences between Pakistan and the U.S. are myriad and she lists them easily from climate and cuisine to clothing and family dynamics. What she returns to, though, time and time again, are the sovereignty and lack of constraint she feels as a woman. The first time she really felt the power of this freedom came in a simple moment: she was walking down the street, without a shawl, and no one looked at her because of it.

"Living in Pakistan was definitely not comfortable, especially for women. There were not opportunities like education and other rights. There was no freedom to speak, even in clothing and where to go," states Sadaqat.

"[America] is a place where we can get freedom, independence, and a lot of educational opportunities. There is so much acceptance. America gives me my own dignity and gives me the confidence to fulfill my educational goals and empower me as a female."

Privish's sister was actually the spark that set off her passion for Manor. She was helping Privish look for schools and found a small, Catholic college in Jenkintown—not far from their new-found home in Northeast Philadelphia. It seemed the perfect and providential fit. She applied and was accepted. And despite starting the semester just a bit late, she immediately started to thrive. Professor Julie Senecoff, PhD, remembered being a bit worried that Privish might have difficulty catching up, but soon realized that Privish's determination and intellect would overcome those concerns.









Christine Cortese, a chemistry instructor, shared these initial apprehensions. Cortese recalled:

"When I first met Privish, I knew absolutely nothing about her. She was on my Chem 1 roster but missed the first class of the semester and arrived late to the second class. Her English was as clear as a bell and she came across as confident. I never would have guessed she had not grown up here...At the first test, she handed her completed test to me and said with a big smile on her face and a pause between each word, 'My. first. American. test. ever.' I thought I had misheard her and she repeated that it was her first test in the United States."

"At first I was shocked and then I felt a huge responsibility [that Privish would] always remember my class as one of her first American experiences. From that point onward, I learned her back story bit by bit through the semester. I found out she had only been in this country for about four months before she came to Manor and she did not just 'skip' the first class; she had been in the administrative offices working on the completion of her matriculation. I was wrong in my initial assumptions and experienced the first of many times I have been humbled by her."

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I ENJOY EVERY  
DAY AT MANOR.  
IT FEELS LIKE  
HOME.

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At the conclusion of her first year at Manor, Sadaqat was recognized for her academic prowess in the Freshman Excellence Awards ceremony and was also inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Ever humble, she credits her professors, especially Senecoff and Cortese, for their support of her success.

"Professor Chris encourages me and instills me with confidence." Privish laughs, "She brings my brains out. Dr. Senecoff is my academic advisor and guides me on how to pursue my dreams for my future plans."

In addition to her academic progress, Privish credits Manor for helping her with all sorts of intangible life skills such as



## MEMORIES FROM PAKISTAN



confidence and American behaviors and she has found it easy to meet people and pursue friendships. Due to its small size, the College is a comfortable place for her, one that gives her the freedom to grow academically and the space to pursue her dreams. When asked, Privish lists a litany of names—community members who have helped her transition at Manor.

"The first nice person I met was the receptionist, Miss Anne. She is a very kind lady and speaks very softly. Stephanie Walker, the Vice President of Admissions, also has been very supportive, plus she is very humble and understanding of students. Dr. Aneesh Khushman, who taught me microbiology, Professor David, the English tutor in the Learning Center, Miss Ashley in Student Engagement, all of financial aid staff, and Manny's Market staff—they all collectively make my experience great. These are not the only people, many other members in Manor's society play a vital role in encouraging and supporting me. My first year at Manor and in the United States was very colorful due to this," says Sadaqat, then going on to talk about her fellow students and how they each have affected her.

She has embraced all that Manor College has to offer, a consistent and enthusiastic presence at all manner of events, whether student or community-focused. Her joy is infectious, a trait that those who know her are quick to point out.

Ashley Hillegas, Student Engagement Coordinator, loves being able to share Privish's avid participation. Not only is it rewarding to have a student who is

so invested in Manor's community but it is also fun to observe Privish embrace American customs.

"It has been a pleasure to witness Privish experience many firsts at Manor College, from her first time seeing snow to participating in various holiday events for the first time, like carving a pumpkin for Halloween and building her first gingerbread house at our annual holiday party," remarks Hillegas.

Sadaqat sums it up more simply: "This is my best choice. I enjoy every day at Manor. It feels like home."

## DREAMS & GOALS

Privish hopes to complete her biology degree and pursue a career as a medical doctor or a physician's assistant. Currently she thinks that she would like to specialize within an obstetrician/gynecologist practice, but is keeping her options open.

One thing that she always returns to, no matter the subject of conversation, is her need to help others—her brother, her sisters, her parents, and her community members, of course, but she also talks about larger projects—helping many people with their education. Despite all the demands on her time and resources, she already contributes what she can to aid children, especially girls, to complete their education, contributing to tuition or buying textbooks.

"I can't do more right now as I am also a student, but I will do more when God provides me more," Privish says.

In the meantime, Privish dedicates herself to her studies and enjoys being with her once again united family: "I love when my family is together. I love to just be with them and talk and laugh."



### Photos Above (L-R):

1—The Christmas Eve program. Privish is the angel standing on left side facing the cradle.

2—Sister Mariam (R) with another Sister who taught at the Convent of Jesus and Mary School.

3—The first class at the School. Privish is in the white dress.

### Note:

This feature would not have been possible without the research and writing assistance of William F. Rodebaugh III, sophomore business student and marketing intern in 2018-2019.





## UKRAINIAN DIALOGUES CONTINUE TO FOSTER IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS

As part of a commitment to raise awareness of current events in and engender assistance for Ukraine, Manor College has continued to host Ukrainian Dialogues. On November 1, guests came to listen to Jack Thomas Tomarchio, a former senior U.S. intelligence offer, explain details of the Russian hacking of the 2016 elections. Tomarchio explained why Russians would want to influence a U.S. Election—and also discussed recent cyber attacks that have been brought against Ukraine.


The second Ukrainian Dialogue took place on March 21. Is the western world complicit in Russia's imperialist military aggression against Ukraine? Panelists used this dialogue to discuss Kyiv patriarchy and Russian aggression in the Kerch Strait. The panelists were Paul Grod, President of the Ukrainian World Congress, and Rev. (Douglas) Anthony Perkins, a Rector at St. Mary (Pokrova) Ukrainian Orthodox Pro-Cathedral in Allentown, PA, Professor & Vocations Director, St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ, and a retired US Army intelligence officer. The moderator for this event was former US Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Popadiuk.

Both events experienced high rates of attendance from the local community, and were presented by the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.







 **MANOR**  
COLLEGE

# FOUNDERS' *DAY* Week

## 2019 RECAP



Founders' Day is a campus-wide tradition that brings together the Manor community to celebrate the school's founders, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. This year, the College celebrated Founders' Day with an entire week of celebrations and special events honoring Manor's culture of service and institutional history.

On Martin Luther King Day, volunteers worked with TTF Watershed Project to help build "pollinator hotels" for bees that would be placed around campus, while others served with NORC, helping older residents in the local community with harder-to-do yard and housework. Tea with the Sisters connected student leaders, faculty, and staff with the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great—all enjoyed an afternoon of tea and conversation.

Throughout the month, non-perishable meals were collected for the Bird Feed student food pantry. By the time Founders' Week was finished, an incredible 273 meals had been donated!

The week culminated with the awarding of the Mother Josaphat Medal, given to a Manor student who exhibits reverence, respect, and service to the community. Will F. Rodebaugh III, a business major, was honored as the recipient this year. A divine liturgy followed the ceremony.

Founders' Week closed out with a reception for staff and alumni, allowing the campus community to mingle, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and celebrate the continued legacy of Manor College. The library was transformed into an intimate setting with live music and elegant decor.



# Evening with Manor 2019 RECAP



On April 11, 2019, Manor College's Evening With Manor gala raised nearly \$30,000 for student scholarships from ticket sales, sponsorships, a silent auction, raffle tickets and other contributions. Honoring the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board, this event took place at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown.

Sponsors for the evening included WSFS Bank, the McGrath Family, Pennoni Associates, Inc., The Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Entercom, Trevi BYOB, The Law Firm of Piatragallo, The Heritage Foundation, Ukrainian Self Reliance Federal Credit Union, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Board, Trenton Thunder, and the Mazur Family.





# 2019 GRAD PICNIC



SAY CHEESE!



Manor College is so proud of its 2019 graduates—and what better way to celebrate than with a giant Graduation Picnic? Whether it was racing up the giant inflatable obstacle course, dunking school staff, or challenging Dr. Peri to a myriad of games, our students had fun!



LET'S DUNK DEMPSTER!





MARY FRANCES **(MURPHY) MAZZA '80**  
is an Expanded Functions Dental Assistant.

LYNN **LUTGEN '90**  
is an Educational Support Professional.

NANCY (SHAUGHNESSY) **GERWIG '93**  
is Senior Software Developer at Vertex.

APRIL (KELLY) **ROAN '97**  
is a Licensed Veterinary Technician.

DONNA **CARTY '98**  
has moved to Florida in 2008 after being  
a Certified Vet Tech for 10 years  
in Pennsylvania.

SANDRA MARIE **URBAN, ESQUIRE '01**  
is an Assistant District Attorney at the  
Delaware County Office of the District  
Attorney, assigned to the trial division  
prosecuting major crimes. Sandra also  
serves as a Councilwoman in the Borough  
of Aldan and volunteer as an attorney  
advisor for Merion Mercy Academy's  
Mock Trial Team.

KAREN (COUTO) **DAVIS '01**  
is a Guidance Counselor with  
the Central Bucks School System.

ERIC **ROBINSON '02**  
is a Database Analyst with Arch  
Insurance after earning his MBA from  
St. Joseph's University last year.

RIMMON **GREENIDGE '03**  
is an Assistant Professor/Clinical  
Coordinator Magnetic Resonance  
at Thomas Jefferson University.

JILLIAN (GELD) **ALEXANDER '08**  
is a Marketing Assistant with the law  
firm of Ghitterman Ghitterman & Feld  
in Southern California.

BRITNI **HOUSE '08**  
is working at the University of Southern  
Alabama as a Scholarship Coordinator  
after earning her Master's degree  
in Sport & Fitness Management from  
Missouri Baptist University.

JACQUELINE (COLL) **WIVEL '09**  
is working as a Certified  
Veterinary Technician.

SCOTT ANDREW **MCAVOY '11**  
owns a business teaching the violin.  
He now lives with his family in  
the Shenandoah Valley.

ALEX **AMRHEIN '12**  
has been named Facilities Coordinator  
at WHYY in Philadelphia and has earned  
his Project Management Professional  
(PMP) designation from the  
Project Management Institute.

TREVOR **O'NEILL '14**  
graduated from LaSalle University in May  
with a Bachelor's in Accounting. He has  
accepted a position with Kreisher Miller.

MICHAEL **CERANIC '14**  
graduated from Rosemont this May  
with a Bachelor's in history.

SARAH **CLYMER '15**  
is a Digital Marketing Consultant after  
graduating with her Bachelor's  
from Temple University last year.

MARY JO **BELL '15**  
has been working as a Paralegal since  
graduation. She is also the Manor College  
Alumni Association Secretary.

DEBORAH **TURNER '17**  
graduated from LaSalle University in May  
with a Bachelor's in Accounting. She has  
accepted a position with Ernst & Young.

ZOEYA **JOURAVSKA '17**  
graduated from Delaware Valley University  
in May and will attend the Veterinary  
School at the University of Pennsylvania  
to earn her VMD.

NICOLE **SUWALA '18**  
is attending Thaddeus Stevens College  
of Technology in Lancaster, PA, studying  
Metals Fabrication & Welding Technology.

FRED **GUSOFF '18**  
has been working as a Paralegal  
since graduation.

MELISSA **PRESTI '18**  
has begun working as a Veterinary  
Technician with the CARES team.

BRIAN **BARATTA '18**  
is working toward his Bachelor's in Sport  
Management at Temple University and is  
the student manager for both the Men's  
Basketball and Football teams.



**KEEP US UPDATED.  
TELL US WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!**

✉ [alumni@manor.edu](mailto:alumni@manor.edu)

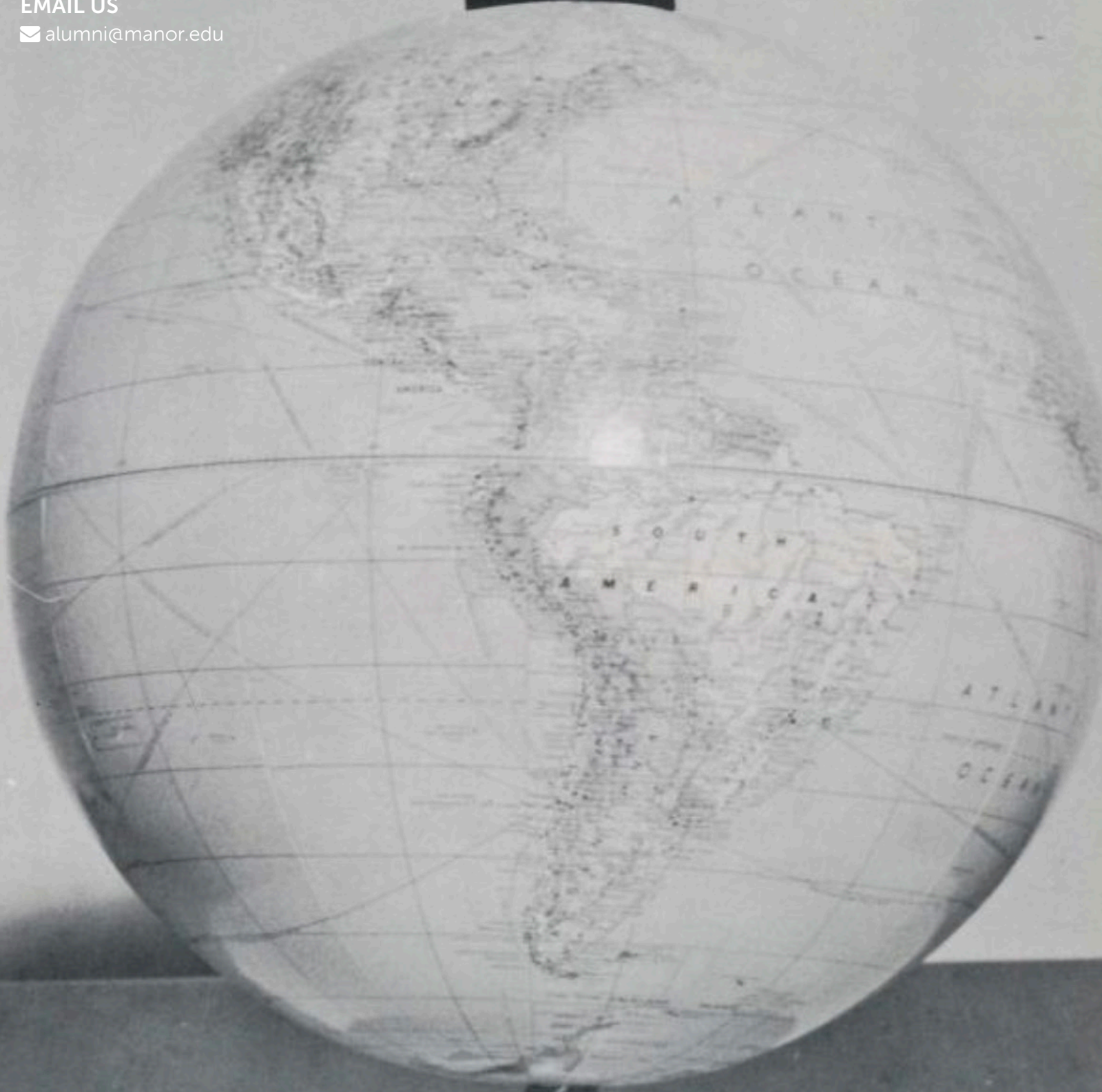


# IS THIS YOU?

Please help us identify our vintage photos.  
Let us know who we featured in this issue.

## EMAIL US

✉ [alumni@manor.edu](mailto:alumni@manor.edu)



*It's a woman's world*





# FROM MANOR TO PENN VET

Mari Rogers

When Zoeya Jou opened her inbox this January, she discovered something only a handful of students see: an interview request for a spot in the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Veterinarian program.

Jou begins veterinary school this fall, but she is quick to note: her journey started right here at Manor, as an undergraduate transfer student: "Manor was one of the best things that ever happened to me," said Jou.

In high school, Jou struggled to connect with what she was learning and says she hated going to class. Manor, though, was different. Citing the small class sizes and personal attention she received from instructors, Jou underwent a transformation - finding within herself the passion to follow a childhood dream of working with animals.

"Everything about Manor made me eager to wake up every morning and get to school," Jou said, describing her re-awakened love for learning. "I learned leadership skills, study tactics, and responsibilities I wasn't used to. Manor helped me grow up and take my future into my own hands."

"After an Anatomy I lab, I stayed after class to work some more on my dissection, when Dr. Bassert came up to me and we started talking," explained Jou. She was new to Manor, having only recently transferred from a Liberal Arts program at a local community college, and Dr. Bassert suggested she take the SummerVETS course that UPenn offers for students interested in veterinary medicine.

"I really respect Dr. Bassert, and our talk that day made me feel like I am capable of achieving all these things I had put out of reach for myself because I had it in my head that I wasn't smart or dedicated enough to get into vet school," said Jou. "Manor encouraged me to continue trying to be the best version of myself that I could be."

After graduating from Manor's Vet Tech Program, Jou went to receive her Bachelor's degree in Small Animal Science from Delaware Valley University.

"I want to complete a residency in surgery and become a board certified surgeon," said Jou. "Ideally, I would want to be able to serve shelters and impoverished communities with life saving operations and provide community education and outreach."

At the end of the day, though, it's a simple desire to help the helpless that defines Jou's motivations to continue her studies. "I feel relief and satisfaction when I know I helped any animal get another chance at life," she said.





# YOUR LEGACY THEIR FUTURE



## Planned Giving is a Simple Way to Make a Big Impact.

When you include Manor College in your estate plans, you can impact our students for generations. It may be one of the most important donation decisions you ever make. Planned gifts as the simplest, most significant way to have an impact on the future of Manor College, and they are extraordinarily easy to set up.

Planned Giving simply means you make a plan to include a gift to Manor College in your will or trust. Many people don't realize they have assets that qualify as planned gifts and how easy it is to donate them to support Manor College. It might even be possible to designate your planned gift to honor a loved one through a scholarship in their name.

Would you like more information? Call Kimberly Hamm, Vice President for Advancement: 215-885-2360 x215

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: **MANOR.EDU/PLANNED-GIVING**



## — UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE —

August 29, 2019

**NEW STUDENT  
ORIENTATION**

September 3, 2019

**FALL CLASSES BEGIN**

September 2019

**MOTHER OF PERPETUAL  
HELP UNVEILING PARTY**

October 10, 2019

**UKRAINIAN DIALOGUE**

October 2019

**ADMISSIONS  
OPEN HOUSE**

October 16, 2019

**BABA BABEE SKAZALA  
FILM SCREENING WITH  
DIRECTOR**

December 3, 2019

**GIVING TUESDAY**

January 2020

**FOUNDERS' DAY**

February 2020

**ADMISSIONS  
OPEN HOUSE**

Spring 2020

**UKRAINIAN DIALOGUE**





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