THE PMC MISSION
MAGNIFIED

PINE MANOR College Bulletin
THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMS & FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE
FALL 2020
On July 1, 2020 Pine Manor College and Boston College signed an agreement to integrate the two institutions in a common mission to serve underrepresented, first-generation, low-income students. In a joint statement the institutions announced that “Under the agreement, Pine Manor College, renowned for serving underrepresented populations, will join forces with Boston College, a Jesuit, Catholic university with longstanding success in educating immigrant and first-generation students, in an educational partnership of mutual benefit that will accelerate and expand Pine Manor College’s mission.”

The agreement established the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success, endowed with $50 million from Boston College, which will fund outreach and academic support programs for underserved, low-income students. It will be guided by the legacy and ideals of Pine Manor College, whose guiding principle “Educating with Purpose” aligns with Boston College’s motto “Ever to Excel.”

Boston College assumed responsibility for Pine Manor College along with its assets and liabilities. Through a two-year ‘teach-out’ plan, Pine Manor College students are able to complete their studies through the end of the 2022 academic year.

The agreement offers Pine Manor College students the opportunity to apply to Boston College’s Woods College of Advancing Studies and, if admitted, will be able to finish their Bachelor of Arts degree at Boston College. All Pine Manor College students will continue to receive the financial aid necessary to meet their cost of attendance.
Dear Alums, Friends and Neighbors,

This past year has been an exceptional one. From a global pandemic, increased racial tension, and an election year like no other in recent memory, our personal and communal resiliency has been tested. As I reflect on the choices we have made and the values we have upheld as individuals and as a community, I am filled with gratitude and pride, because we never lose sight of our mission of caring for our students, placing them and their wellbeing at the center of every decision we make.

Pine Manor College is known for the focus and determination of its community to creating paths for our students to ensure their success, whether in their journey to complete their degrees or their journey to find meaningful careers and beyond. Our passion for student success is woven into our actions, from the programs and initiatives that faculty and staff design, to the dedication of our dining hall team and support staff - small and big acts that are all focused on empowering our students and ourselves to fulfill our promise of *Educating with Purpose*.

Our story captured the attention and the imagination of our visionary friends and colleagues at Boston College. It was our mission of educating with purpose that was the basis for the relationship we created together and that will ensure the Pine Manor College legacy is magnified for years to come.

When I joined Pine Manor College in 2016 it quickly became clear to me that the expertise, dedication and passion for our students’ success is at the core of the Pine Manor College identity. Through the Initiative for Student Success, we continued to promote and refine what is clearly the Pine Manor College hallmark and quickly gained recognition for the tremendously important work done at Pine Manor College.

Many of the stories you will read in this Bulletin reflect the unique student body of predominantly first-generation, low-income students of color at PMC and the fascinating work that continues to inspire me and others. I am so very proud of the work we do and thankful for everyone in our community who makes our mission come to life on a daily basis.

I hope that you’ll enjoy this issue and keep Pine Manor College in mind during this season of giving. There is so much more to do. Today is just the beginning.

Very truly yours,

Thomas M. O’Reilly
President
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An electronic copy of this Fall 2020 Bulletin with links to additional photographs and related information is available on our web site: www.pmc.edu/bulletin
On July 1, 2020, Boston College and Pine Manor College signed an agreement to integrate the two institutions in a common mission to serve underrepresented, first-generation, low-income students.

Pine Manor College brings a distinctive educational model of proven success for underserved, underrepresented first-generation students owing to outstanding faculty and staff, programming, and a commitment to social justice. Recognition for the Pine Manor College success model grew in recent years to include ranking by US News and World Report as #1 in Campus Diversity and #11 in Social Mobility, among other recognitions. As our college gained recognition, we enjoyed new partnerships both near and far. Each of the collaborations with other mission-aligned organizations, were fostered with the success of our students in mind. One significant such collaboration grew to become a committed relationship between organizations that share a genuine mutual admiration.

In the shared statement, Boston College President Rev. William P. Leahy, S.J. said, “These two schools have been neighboring institutions for more than a century, and each recognizes the vital importance of educating the whole person and building a more just and humane society.”

“Boston College and Pine Manor College are joining forces to advance the crucial mission of expanding educational opportunities for traditionally underserved and underrepresented students,” said President O’Reilly. “Boston College brings strength, stability, outstanding programs and faculty, and a proven track record in serving this important demographic of students.”

President O’Reilly recalls his meeting with President Leahy in May, “The Pine Manor College mission and expertise in promoting student success became the foundation of our relationship. It was evident that we share the same values, and that sustaining the PMC social justice mission is of real interest to President Leahy. Our shared values and goals created a high level of trust that made it easy to work together.”

“Through strong support from the Pine Manor College Board of Trustees, three core principles were key in designing our collaboration,” said President O’Reilly, “take care of our students, take care of our people, take care of our mission and legacy.”

These two schools have been neighboring institutions for more than a century, and each recognizes the vital importance of educating the whole person and building a more just and humane society.”
In July of 2020, Boston College Vice President for Student Affairs Joy Moore was named the inaugural Executive Director of the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success, which will oversee outreach and academic support programs for underrepresented, first-generation, low-income students at Boston College.

Joy Moore, who serves as Vice President for Student Affairs at Boston College, was a former leader of the Archer School in Los Angeles, the Dana Hall School in Wellesley (a cornerstone shared with Pine Manor College), and the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.

“It is a win-win for both institutions that will help preserve the mission and heritage of Pine Manor College through the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success at Boston College,” said President O’Reilly, “We look forward to working with Joy and our new colleagues at Boston College to advance our shared mission to serve first-generation, underserved students.”

Key offices at Boston College engaged in supporting underserved students, including Learning to Learn, Options through Education, and the Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center, will be placed under the umbrella of the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success, which Moore will lead. All of Pine Manor College’s students will have access to BC’s support programs through the Institute. With the $50 million endowment established by Boston College, the Institute will also link Pine Manor College students to such BC campus programs as the Monserrat Coalition, the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, Appalachia Volunteers, and 4Boston.

Through the integration of the two institutions in a common mission, Pine Manor College students will benefit from a two-year “teach out” arrangement allowing them to either complete their degrees or have the time and support needed to transfer to BC or other academic institutions. Students currently enrolled at Pine Manor College will be able to continue their Associate of Arts or Bachelor of Arts degree programs in classes taught by Pine Manor College faculty on the Pine Manor College campus. Pine Manor College students who gain admission to Boston College’s Woods College of Advancing Studies can finish their Bachelor of Arts degree at Boston College.

“Partnering with the Pine Manor College Success Coaches, who provide support for Pine Manor College students will be key to designing a model that can be individualized for each student. It will also require the involvement of many talented colleagues at BC and Pine Manor College to make the Institute a reality,” said Moore, “I look forward to all of the opportunities the Institute will provide the students as they chart their course to success.”

The agreement was praised by New England Commission of Higher Education President Barbara Brittingham, who described it as “an exemplary model of what can happen when schools look to one another as potential partners in pursuit of the common good.”

INCREASING PMC’S REACH

As Pine Manor College moves into the next chapter of its history, we hope PMC alums will help to uphold our motto Amez Loyaute, or “Love Loyalty” and stay connected and involved. Moving forward there will be many opportunities for alums to do so by planning events, acting as class agents/secretaries, and fundraising. To have successful alum representation we need you! Please watch for upcoming opportunities and help us recruit classmates and friends to continue the Pine Manor College legacy.

The important work and legacy of Pine Manor College will live in our alums and through the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success for generations to come. It will continue to be a source of great pride for everyone who is touched by its people. As we re-imagine a new future for Pine Manor College, we hope that you will continue to support our mission of Educating with Purpose.
The Pine Manor College 109th Commencement Ceremony was the first to break from the traditional in-person gathering, and instead, was broadcast in a virtual ceremony on Sunday, August 23, 2020. Nevertheless, the virtual ceremony held many of the beloved traditions of a PMC commencement, celebrating each and every student, and highlighting this milestone as well as the promise for future success.

Over the course of the late spring and summer, there was extensive planning for the online event with the goal of capturing the spirit of a Pine Manor College traditional celebration as much as possible. As in every year, the College Marshall, Professor Bill Stargard, led the way in orchestrating the work by so many in our community to make this event a reality. Our videographer and producer, Matt Hichborn, developed a plan for filming and editing the speeches, and the Moncrief Library in the Ferry Administration building became the filming location for all the speakers, as social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines were strictly maintained.

The broadcast captured important traditions, such as welcoming speeches by President Thomas M. O’Reilly, Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Shea, and Dean for Student Affairs Lisa Rodrigues. An invocation was read by Rev. Janine Dailey, Vice President of Advancement.

“Giving voice to the human condition and challenging systems of power privilege and oppression are sorely needed.”

“While you enter a challenging economy, recognize the skills you carry forth from Pine Manor College, the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and work across differences will serve you well. But it has always been about something more. It was to learn and to grow in a diverse learning community in an effort to prepare yourselves to more effectively share your voices and your gifts with the world.”

Robert Shea
Vice President of Academic Affairs

An original poem was written and read by Lisa Sullivan, MFA, ’16 (see the poem on page 11). More about special awards and recognitions in the following pages, and for the full commencement recording visit, pmc.edu/commencement-2020
Senior Class Speaker, Wendy Myrbell Napoleon ’19

“When I say that my journey wasn’t easy and the people at Pine Manor College made it easy, I truly mean it! Now, after my graduation, I believe that I gained a voice and a perspective that allow me to move mountains and reshape my world in ways that I have never imagined to be possible.”

Wendy Myrbell Napoleon
December 2019 Graduate

Recipient of the Jane French McCall Dill ’39 Exemplary Achievement Award, Danielle Sturgeon ‘19

“I was filled with a sense of pride when I watched the virtual commencement, and saw those familiar faces of the staff and professors presenting the awards to the students who I knew had worked so hard to earn them. I was astonished to hear that I had been awarded the Jane French McCall Dill ’39 Exemplary Achievement Award. I was filled with gratitude to those who had went above and beyond to help me virtually cross the stage. The Exemplary Achievement Award and other awards given to the students were not only in acknowledgment of our academic success, but it also showed the dedication of the faculty and staff. I had so very much wished, as I believed all of the students did, that we could have all been there to personally thank and hug those who were our cheerleaders who guided us through, and who we have learned so much from.”

Danielle Sturgeon
December 2019 Graduate

Recipient of the President’s Cup, Feven Bedard-Khalid ‘20

“Deciding to move far away from home to come to Chestnut Hill, I was looking for something that I didn’t know was missing. Starting fresh has helped me become the strong Black woman I am today. I found leadership opportunities, advisors, and administrators that encouraged me to get involved and student leaders who empowered and reminded me of the value of my voice and to use it without reservations. Mostly, I was allowed to be myself, and along the way, I was able to find my purpose. Each opportunity that was presented to me brought me closer to uncovering what I want to do for the rest of my life. For me, Pine Manor College is more than a place to earn your degree, it’s family.”

Feven Bedard-Khalid
2020 Graduate
AN INSPIRATION
AND A ROLE MODEL

Former Chancellor of University of Massachusetts, Boston, Dr. J. Keith Motley was presented with an honorary degree from Pine Manor College during the 2020 Commencement. Lise Chin Leist ’73, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, presented the award.

Dr. Motley is a role model for all and as a Pine Manor College Inspire Program Speaker, he is an inspirational figure for PMC students and our community at large. Dr. Motley has been a member of an amazing cast of educators that includes teachers, professors, education administrators, education consultants, and historians, who are referred to as a History Makers.

Dr. Motley has spent his career advancing educational philosophies, teaching, advising, mentoring students, breaking new ground in developing curricula, and sharing information through related programming.

During Dr. Motley’s time in higher education, he has been involved in a variety of community-based philanthropic efforts. He became the founder of the Roxbury Preparatory Charter School and chair emeritus of the school’s Board of Trustees. He was the founder and education chair of Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts, Inc., and the Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self-Development. Dr. Motley did all this, while serving on the boards of many community organizations such as the Carney Hospital, Freedom House, the Boston Foundation, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Boston Sports Museum, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, the Commonwealth Corporation, and the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

Dr. Motley has been named to a variety of lists that recognize his accomplishments that include Boston Business Journal’s Power 50 the “Get Konnected 100” list of ‘Boston’s 100 most Influential People of Color.’ Dr. Motley was also the Boston Business Journal’s 2014 recipient of the Leaders in Diversity Award.

Dr. Motley received his Bachelor of Science degree in education, speech pathology and audiology and his Masters of Education degree in higher education administration from Northeastern University. He went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in education administration from Boston College.

For the full citation, visit: pmc.edu/citation-dr-keith-motley
Recognizing President THOMAS M. O’REILLY

Presented by Robert Utzschneider
Chair of the Board of Trustees

During his over four years of leading the College, Thomas M. O’Reilly has brought stability, a greater focus on mission and purpose, transparency in operations, extensive outreach to friends and neighbors, and collaboration and communication among students, faculty, staff, and trustees.

One of the reasons that Tom joined Pine Manor College was his already strong commitment to the College’s mission of delivering equity and education to first generation, low income, underrepresented communities of color. As President, Tom has focused all stakeholders on improving outcomes resulting from deeper and more effective execution of the College’s mission and purpose. “Growing the graduation rate” became part of the job description of every member of the College’s faculty and staff. Securing external funding to hire a consultant and launch a collaborative development of a five-year strategic plan was an important step in strengthening mission and purpose. Implementing the Initiative for Student Success (ISS) in November 2017 supported the College’s mission and purpose by increasing “every student’s likelihood of graduating by ensuring that students thrive in the classroom, in internships, in the community, and with personal life goals.”

Tom’s relentless focus yielded multiple successes, as demonstrated by greatly improved student retention rates between Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.

Tom has also established outreach and cultivated relationships with individuals and organizations in the Boston area that have a direct influence on the College’s mission, including high school access groups such as Freedom House, The Base, Boston Scores, Dimmock Community Health, the Urban League of Boston, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), and so many others, and such outstanding individuals who he brought to the PMC campus to inspire us all, such as Keith Motley, Katrina Shaw, Mark Gearan, Deval Patrick, Renee Watson, Tommy Chang, Michael Dukakis, Melissa James, Joseph Kennedy, Callie Crossley, Rahsaan Hall, Deehsa Dyer, and many others.

The integration of Pine Manor College with Boston College is a positive outcome for both institutions, and only occurred thanks to Tom’s effective leadership. His relentless focus on the College’s mission and purpose helped to create a mission alignment opportunity and value proposition that excited Boston College.

It is for all of these reasons that the Pine Manor College Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to award President Tom O’Reilly with an honorary degree of Doctor of Education.

For the full citation, visit: pmc.edu/citation-for-thomas-m-oreilly
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Anthony E. Dedek,
Food Service Director,
Aladdin Dining Service

Oscar R. Aldana Landverde,
Assistant Kitchen Supervisor,
Aladdin Dining Service

Indhira C. Ovalles Mejia,
Production Cook,
Aladdin Dining Service

During the Commencement ceremony, President O’Reilly offered a special Pine Manor College recognition to our front-line employees and bestowed upon them Distinguished Service Awards. The President recounted their unyielding dedication to the community. Describing their commitment, the President said, “Every day with a friendly smile. Every day with food to nourish us all. They are our very own essential workers of this pandemic, and I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart for everything that they have done for our community.”

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY AND STAFF

The following faculty and staff members were recognized for their continuing commitment to our students. These two special awards are given based on student nominations and votes.

THE RUTH ALLINGER GIBSON ’26 AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE recognizes excellence in teaching and calls attention to the importance our College places on the learning-teaching interface. The 2020 Ruth Allinger Gibson Award was awarded to Sandra McElroy, Ed.D., Professor of Early Childhood: Education, Health and Leadership.

PAM PALMER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING AND SUPPORT OF STUDENT SUCCESS honors a faculty or staff member who students feel provides support across all areas of their lives, and helps them reach their full potential. This award was presented to Ross Merlin, M.Ed., Student Success Coach.

For more Commencement 2020 faculty and staff recognitions and awards, visit pmc.edu/commencement-2020

CEREMONY

By Lisa J. Sullivan, MFA ’16

For the Graduating Class of 2020,
Pine Manor College

Tassels traded for face masks.
Podium rests backstage, empty lectern upon it. Graduates, faculty, families—retreat to their backyards, where even in the heat, their breath ghosts in the false dawn.

Isolation can do strange things:
Some vanish into themselves, become dormant as winter branches.
Some take to the ocean bluffs, sit so close to the edge, they feel the spindrift mist their faces.
Some let their hair grow long.
We endure.

When uncertainty clings to us like redwood bark, we recognize the familiar: a darning needle stitching Queen Anne’s lace, an airplane’s contrail cutting a tangerine sky, a loved one humming while cooking jambalaya, a grandfather teaching a grandson how to fish.

And closer still, that which nothing can take away—a diploma on the mantle, on the desk, or nestled in the top dresser drawer, reminding us again and again, that winter branches always bud.

They always bloom.

By Lisa J. Sullivan, © 2020
Lisa J. Sullivan is a Poetry Instructor at the Plymouth Center for the Arts, Poetry Editor for Pink Panther Magazine, Associate Poetry Editor for Lily Poetry Review Books

Visit pmc.edu/commencement-2020 for more Commencement 2020 faculty and staff recognitions and awards.

Gaining skills and knowledge are means to an end, which is living a fuller life of empathy and action. Empowered to grow through careful listening and thoughtful engagement, our students initiate both explorations into art and culture and outreach in support of our community. As part of Black History Month, the Black Student Union organized a trip to New York City (pre-pandemic) to attend “Documenting History in your Own Backyard: A Symposium for the Advancement of Archiving & Preserving Hip-Hop Culture.” The forum was an opportunity to explore the process of documenting and preserving Hip-Hop’s history. The event included presentations from archivists, curators, collectors, educators, and scholars representing a wide variety of educational, cultural, preservation institutions, and others. This event was hosted by The Schomburg Center in Harlem, NY, presented collaboratively by the Hip-Hop Education Center, The Schomburg Center, Cornell University’s Hip Hop Collection, and The Smithsonian Archives Center in the National Museum of American History.

Additionally, students and administrators were involved in encouraging community members to register to vote ahead of the Presidential elections. We urged the PMC community to commit to voting in the fall and make a plan to cast their ballot.

(Left to Right) Lisa Rodrigues, M.Ed., Dean of Student Affairs, Angelina Cabraza '23, Catalina Matos '23, Filipe Spencer '23, Crystal Dejesus '23, Ailda Antigua '21 (in back), Gabriela Comes Viera '23 (with camera), and Pamela Jiminian '21.

Picture by Black Student Union President George Anderson '22
TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION
ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOPS

Shocked and dismayed by the senseless death of George Floyd in May of 2020, and experiencing an increased sense of frustration within our community, faculty and staff searched for ways to become stronger allies and active advocates in combating racial injustice.

As a learning and teaching institute, members of our community felt the need to enhance their understanding of racial justice activism through in-depth reflection, practice and personal change. “I found myself frustrated in conversations with others on the topic of racial equality, and didn’t always feel like I was using the right language,” said Professor of Biology, Colleen Krieser, Ph.D., “When the email about the anti-racism working group came out, I knew that this would be a good way to develop tools to combat racism.” Assistant Professor of Sociology and Political Science, Emily Cury Tohma, Ph.D., agrees, “I joined the workshop because I view racial justice work as an integral part of my job as an educator. At its core, anti-racism is transformational and any transformation must begin with ourselves.”

“The purpose of the anti-racist circles was to work to understand racism and privilege, then find ways to take that understanding and implement concrete social action,” said Staci Weber, Ph.D., who facilitated the workshop, “This difficult and meaningful work takes time, patience, introspection, and vulnerability.”

“There were many groups I worked with in the past that didn’t feel safe, or where people felt they couldn’t make meaningful contributions,” said Weber. “These anti-racist circles help create a more open and safe space for discussion and meaningful change.”

“Through conversations with others in the group, I began to rethink areas within my classes that I could better align in support of my students,” said Prof. Krieser, “I made some adjustments to my courses this fall, for example in my grading policies, and I am thinking about how to build on these changes in the spring. Thanks to the workshop, I also feel much more confident in how to talk about racism and racial injustice and I hope that this helps impact others the way the anti-racism working group impacted me.”

Prof. Cury Tohma adds, “Collectively working with members of the PMC community to identify, unpack, and dismantle some of the racist ideas that we have absorbed was a very meaningful experience. Our weekly meetings were a sobering reminder of how much work we, as a society, as a community, and as individuals, still have to do.”

~

ABOUT RESTORATIVE PRACTICES’ CIRCLES:

Circles are part of Restorative Practices’ (RP) principles. RP is a form of group engagement that was originated from and practiced by indigenous peoples to connect and build relationships. The use of restorative practices by educators and facilitators provides high support and high accountability, a fair process in decision-making, affective questions and statements, and circles to build and maintain community and repair harm.

The circle format helps ensure everyone present at the circle has a voice. Hierarchy can easily form in any group and the concept behind a circle is that it is structured intentionally to level the playing field, and make room for every voice to be heard.

A few guiding principles of the circle are facilitated by one person who manages the discussion, works with the participants to set the expectations of the circle, opens and facilitates the circle’s discussion, poses questions for the group, and closes out the circle. As the facilitator poses the questions, each person in the circle can respond, one person at a time.
EDUCATING WITH PURPOSE IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Spring of 2020 presented challenges no one could have expected. With mounting concerns regarding the coronavirus impact, the Pine Manor College community reacted with an increased sense of urgency to create new support methods that would ensure student success in volatile times.

RE-IMAGINING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Facing the coronavirus outbreak, Pine Manor College rapidly moved to online learning in March of 2020 while providing housing to any student who needed it. The PMC faculty stood at the forefront of that change and quickly adapted to new teaching methods and new ways of staying connected with students. The faculty devoted their Spring break to attending several faculty development workshops aimed at effectively engaging students online. The College added video conferencing capabilities through its learning management system (Open LMS) with the purchase of Blackboard Collaborate. This video conferencing tool enabled the offering of synchronous class sessions, as well as one-on-one and small group meetings with students. It became instrumental as faculty made effective use of it for teaching courses and for advising students registering for classes for the fall semester.

In March, the faculty voted to amend the Credit/No Credit grading policy to allow students to elect this option for any course in which they were enrolled. Faculty workshops continued through the spring under the direction of our Assistant Dean of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence, William Stargard, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor of Computer Studies, Barbara Schwartz. In addition, faculty continued their collaboration with the student success team, alerting them of student concerns on a weekly basis, providing for expedited outreach to students to help remediate any challenges or barriers to completing their spring courses successfully.

STUDENT SUCCESS BOTH ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS

Following the move to remote learning, the Student Affairs team got together to re-imagine ways to support all students and especially those with significant housing and wellness insecurities. For some students, that also meant providing financial support for transportation and ensuring their safe return home or another housing solution. Some students who had no place to go required immediate assistance. “We quickly delivered solutions and resources that allowed our students to maintain a safe environment to continue their investment in academic learning despite the chaotic reality unfolding around them,” said Lisa Rodrigues, Dean of Student Affairs.

Faculty’s determination to make the transition and continue to focus on student success bore fruit, as students’ engagement remained steady. When compared with previous semesters, the level of student engagement and persistence remained high, and was evidenced by the lower percentage of withdrawals from courses. Under less-than-ideal conditions, our students, supported by our dedicated faculty and staff, maintained momentum toward their degrees.
outreach efforts, we also learned of students who had technology needs, so in partnership with IT, students received Chromebooks and hot spots for the academic year.

To support our students’ wellness needs, the College maintained all counseling and wellness services throughout the spring and the summer months. When asked to reflect on the tremendous effort, Rodrigues said, “The transition was certainly tough to navigate, given our student’s substantial and diverse needs. Being abruptly uprooted can be especially traumatic for some of our students. So, while we as a Student Affairs team were doing all we could to provide resources, some of our students also needed emotional and mental support. However, what became clear to me was that our Student Success model of individual support and outreach, building a strong rapport with our students, and our thinking outside the box for what support looks like for first-generation and marginalized students, can make a world of difference in times of crisis.”

THE BOSTON COLLEGE IMPACT

After the integration agreement with Boston College was announced, BC provided Pine Manor College with additional COVID-19 resources including testing and wellness services.

Placing a priority on the health and safety of our students, their families, and our communities, and given the timing of the announced agreement with Boston College, President O’Reilly made the decision to start the PMC 2020-21 academic year two weeks later than originally planned. In September it was decided that teaching and learning would continue remotely for the Fall 2020 semester. Faculty and staff welcomed this decision and continued to work diligently to prepare online courses and academic support. Faculty workshops continued with a particular focus on effective student engagement in an online environment and on the development of more asynchronous learning activities to help support learners in different time zones and those dealing with other constraints due to COVID-19.

As the collaboration between Pine Manor College and Boston College is strengthening new opportunities for collaboration and development are becoming a reality. The online teaching efforts of our faculty have been enhanced by the generous instructional technology and instructional design support from Boston College. All PMC faculty have been granted access to the use of Zoom under the BC site license. Access has been made available through Boston College’s Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). The staff at the CTE have provided helpful guides and personalized support, as necessary. In addition, Boston College has extended the use of their Learning Management System (Canvas) for all future course offerings at PMC beginning in the Spring 2021.

Instructional Design staff from Boston College’s Center for Digital Innovation in Learning (CDIL) have facilitated LMS transition and have worked closely with Pine Manor College’s Assistant Dean for Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence, William Stargard, Ph.D., on the design of workshops to prepare our faculty to effectively use Canvas and its affiliated tools. “The BC Canvas provides a much better course management system that will significantly enhance student learning and student success,” said Professor Stargard, “The faculty are excited to apply the online resources of Canvas in their spring courses. They recognize the value of Canvas as an outstanding LMS. In addition, the faculty understand how Canvas will benefit students who will take advantage of BC courses in the future and those who may be transferring to BC at the end of the teach-out period.”

Furthermore, Boston College is building out a number of classroom technology upgrades on the Pine Manor College campus. These will include improved Wi-Fi access, new classroom projectors, SmartScreens, and lecture capture capabilities.

Pine Manor College’s mission is served best when we execute on the promise of providing holistic and complete support to our students. “As we look forward to the formation of the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success,” Rodrigues concludes, “we can draw on our vast expertise and experience. We’ve learned from years of addressing our students’ needs and, more recently, from the coronavirus health crisis, that academic pursuits can be pushed aside when other, more urgent priorities such as housing, food, and mental health, take priority. Having the expertise to address all aspects of our students’ lives is what ensures their success.”
A CULTURE OF REACHING BEYOND

Everyone at Pine Manor College works with the goal of increasing the graduation rate. This pragmatic idea, incorporated into every job description, has become a mantra within our community. One of the ways we have succeeded in this effort has been by encouraging students to explore graduate study.

When you ask PMC Success Coach Cyrus Konstantinakos how we support student success, he softly says, “by aiming to a point beyond graduation.” He refers to an analogy by the late psychiatrist Viktor Frankl. In aviation, where there is a crosswind, Frankl explains, “the pilot needs to overestimate the distance to the landing.” When it comes to human achievement, we have to be idealists; we have to overestimate ourselves. This principle guides Konstantinakos’ approach to coaching, and it undergirds new graduate pathway opportunities that he and several colleagues have developed for PMC students.

A Path to Success at the Harvard Business School

Pine Manor College has a longstanding agreement with Harvard Business School (HBS) that allows our students to take its online courses, including a certificate program that earns admission into master’s programs at Harvard Extension School. In 2019, in an effort to increase students’ certificate program completion rate, a team of Business and Management faculty and Learning Resource Center (LRC) tutors worked together to provide nested layers of support with impressive student success results. Eight students have taken courses with the added support, and all of them have earned certificates. In the HBS Online course, Negotiation Mastery, PMC students, Jacobo Flores-Marines and Feven Bedard-Khalil, did not just pass; they defeated their Harvard classmates—professionals in Buenos Aires and Dubai—in simulated negotiations. Harvard Professor Michael Wheeler was so impressed that he invited the students, tutors, and Konstantinakos to a “fireside chat” at HBS.

A less formal arrangement at Boston University’s Metropolitan College also offers students the opportunity to complete undergraduate certificates in Business Management, International Business Management, Criminal Justice, or Computer Science, and a GPA of at least 3.0 can earn admission into related master’s degree and graduate certificate programs.

From Pioneers to Leaders

PMC students are pioneers in every sense of the word, within their families, their communities, and as a group with unique life experiences, they add value to the conversations held in those prestigious institutions. Creating opportunities for academic exploration beyond the Pine Manor College’s program offerings are key to broadening our students’ opportunities. Through strong staff and faculty collaboration the team has created meaningful support for PMC students to ensure they are able to successfully complete the courses and earn the certificates. Members of the team include Lisa Rodrigues, Dean of Student Affairs, Joseph Fargnoli, Chair of Business and Management, Sara-Anne Beaulieu, Director of the LRC, Raquel Lopez, Assistant Professor of Business and Management, Beck Hing Lee, Business Tutor, Rhonda Seidman, Director of ELI, Kate Holden, ESL tutor, Antoine Melay, Adjunct instructor of Business, Diane Mello-Goldner, former Dean of Academic Affairs, and Vincent White, Bursar.

Passionate about the program, Konstantinakos said, “These initiatives proved to be effective in increasing the graduation rate by promoting a culture of reaching beyond it.”

Cyrus Konstantinakos, PMC Success Coach
After graduating from Pine Manor College in 1989 with a degree in communications, Lawrie Bird Firestone worked for fashion photographer Bruce Weber for almost 15 years, managing every aspect of his photo shoots from scouting locations, transportation, travel accommodations, catering – every facet of the studio work was touched by her, so much so that when she retired, Bruce hired three people to take her place.

Lawrie had just returned to work after taking time off to be with her children Spencer (14) and Ellie (12) when COVID-19 hit the US. Like most people, Lawrie wanted to do something to help. She contacted Northern Dutchess Hospital, where she is a board member, to see if she might be able to do something to support their front-line workers. They suggested bringing meals to the employees of a COVID testing center in Kingston, NY. Lawrie and a group of friends began fundraising through www.giveinkind.com and raised funds to purchase meals from local restaurants to be delivered to the COVID-19 testing unit of roughly 40 people a day, at a daily cost of about $500.

This group distributed about 1,700 meals over five months, supporting 30 local businesses in Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Kingston, New York who have been struggling during the pandemic. As the need grew so did their operation, expanding their reach to bring meals to a local nursing home and Astor Services, a local non-profit serving children with emotional and behavioral challenges.

“It is hard to put into words how fortunate we feel at Northern Dutchess Hospital (NDH) to have someone like Lawrie in our community,” said Dawn Morrison, Executive Director of NDH Foundation, “She is the most hard working, charismatic and caring person I have ever met. Not only can she mobilize people to get stuff done, but she does it in a way that is almost impossible to say no to.”

Lawrie credits Pine Manor College, particularly her involvement in Student Government, for teaching her how to manage people and events, both in her career and in her volunteer roles, and is grateful for the opportunity to be of help.

We are all grateful for your work, Lawrie!
“On behalf of the Pine Manor College community, I am honored to congratulate Jacqueline on this well-deserved recognition from the MacArthur Foundation,” said President of Pine Manor College Thomas M. O’Reilly. In 2008, recognized for her work promoting diverse voices in literature, Ms. Woodson also received an honorary degree from Pine Manor College. “As a recipient of the College’s highest honor, Ms. Woodson has actively and passionately contributed to Pine Manor College’s mission and ongoing racial and social justice work for many years. I am thrilled that through this outstanding recognition, this shared mission is amplified.”

Ms. Woodson has underwritten the Solstice Fellowship for A Young People’s Writer of African or Caribbean Descent since the program’s founding in 2006. “Jacqueline Woodson has always been a person who supports fellow writers, especially those just starting out. She has also long been recognized as an incredibly talented writer who, from her earliest novels back in the 1990s, has been carving a path on the page for previously unheard, unseen young people,” said Solstice Founding Director Meg Kearney. “All of us at the Solstice MFA Program are beyond happy to know that a real investment has been made in Jacqueline and her work, which will make it possible for her to focus both on her writing and her family.”

Jacqueline Woodson is author of numerous books for children and young adults, including the 2014 National Book Award winner Brown Girl Dreaming and the Newbery Honor books After Tupac And D Foster, Show Way, and Feathers. Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, her novel Miracle’s Boys was made into a television miniseries, directed by—among others—Spike Lee. She just completed writing the screen play to her 2019 novel for adults, Red to the Bone.

The annual MacArthur Fellowships, also known as “genius grants,” are awarded to “extraordinarily talented and creative individuals” with no strings attached. At $625,000 each, the Fellowships are seen as an investment in the futures of myriad types of talented people, including writers, scientists, teachers, and entrepreneurs.

This award marks the second Solstice MFA Program writer to receive a MacArthur Fellowship; its writer-in-residence Terrance Hayes received an honor in 2014.

For the full story, visit: pmc.edu/woodson-awarded-macarthur-fellowship

“...an incredibly talented writer who, from her earliest novels back in the 1990s, has been carving a path on the page for previously unheard, unseen young people.”

Meg Kearney, Founding Director of the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing
ELIZABETH GARDNER
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Beloved Emerita Professor of Biology Elizabeth (Beth) Ballantine Gardner passed away on December 1, 2020. For more than 50 years, Beth was an active member of the Pine Manor College community, dedicated to the success of the students and the College. Beth earned her BA in Zoology from Vassar College and her MS and Ph.D. from Brown University. She joined Pine Manor College in 1967 as both a faculty member and Chair of the Department of Natural Science. Over the remainder of her career, she continued to be a campus leader through several terms of service chairing her department, her Division and various committees. As Chair of the Division of Science, she, in collaboration with Dr. Nancy White, developed the Biology major, which remains today. One of her most enduring contributions to the education of the students was her work on the reconfiguration and renovation of the Dane Science Building to support the science curriculum. She continued this work through her generous and repeated donations of technology to Dane, such as classroom technology and Chromebooks for student use. Beth taught courses for 50 years, most as a full-time faculty member and then as a faculty emerita until her retirement from active teaching in 2018. She created and taught a variety of courses such as Psychopharmacology, Human Genetics, Nutrition, and Biology of Women. She challenged her students, made science accessible, and was dedicated to the success of every student. She secured funding for the “Bioscholars Initiative” from the National Science Foundation to provide financial support to students of promise. Following her retirement, Beth remained as an integral member of the College through her work with the Development Office and the Physical Facilities Committee. Her dedication to PMC was recognized when she received the Distinguished Service Award in 2016. She was a mentor and friend to many faculty and staff. Beth was respected as a serious colleague, committed to excellence, always looking for ways to improve herself, her peers, her students and the College. She will be sorely missed by all of us but her legacy will be remembered by all who knew her. Visit pmc.edu/remembering-professor-gardner for more.

STEPHEN THOMPSON
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Stephen Thompson died on July 12, 2020 after a short illness. Stephen was a beloved teacher and mentor, productive scholar, and supportive colleague. He was also a dear friend to so many of us who had the good fortune to know him.

After receiving his BA and MA from Boston University and a theology degree from Yale University, Stephen joined Pine Manor College. He taught for over 40 years, from 1969 until his retirement in 2013. He loved teaching and came back from his retirement to teach additional courses as an adjunct until 2017. Stephen touched the lives of generations of Pine Manor College students. He taught a wide variety of philosophy, religion, and interdisciplinary courses throughout his career, including Time, Change, and Death: The Meanings of Mortality; Personal and Professional Ethics; and Culture, Consumption and Identity. In addition to teaching, Stephen was active in the administration of the College, serving as Chair of the Arts and Humanities Division; Dean of First Year Students; Dean for Advising and General Education; and Dean for Co-Curriculum and Advising.

Stephen encompassed a special talent for inviting collaboration and advocating for inclusiveness that he effortlessly modeled for others. He championed team-teaching and interdisciplinary research, teaching and learning. His dedication to Pine Manor College and to his students extended well beyond his teaching, and he became a life-long mentor for many. Visit pmc.edu/remembering-professor-thompson for more.
“NOW, THAT IS INCREDIBLE!” RESPONSES FROM OUR ALUMS AND STUDENTS

GLORIA HARRISON-HALL ’93
As an alumna of Pine Manor College, I am excited that Pine Manor’s legacy and vision of inclusion will live on in this unprecedented partnership with Boston College. Pine Manor gave me an opportunity that would prove to open so many doors to success. I am confident that the collaboration of PMC and BC will inspire more people to pursue higher education.”

BARBARA “BABS” GRAY KOCH ’50, P’87
I love my Pine Manor College. I am confident that this new relationship with Boston College is a very good thing. This coming together is a bonus for both institutions. I love it when I see goodness come out of things and I am seeing goodness here. My dear PMC will thrive in a way that matters because of this. I am grateful to the PMC Board and the President for helping us find our way to this. I think that everyone will be better off for it. My gratitude to Boston College for seeing the special value of Pine Manor College.”

RAFAEL BAEZ ’19
I was delighted to hear about the Pine Manor College and Boston College agreement. I believe this partnership will allow PMC to continue serving first-generation College students and students of color to reach their highest educational potential with support from Boston College. The Pine Manor Institute is defining what Education with Purpose truly means. With our commitment to serving those who are underrepresented, we will continue to unlock doors for many and lay the groundwork for other smaller private institutions to follow.”

DEINA DE COSTA LOPES ’22
When I heard of the partnership with BC I was very excited because it meant that I could take classes I was always interested in at BC. I could have the financial support and attend classes I previously couldn’t afford. I now work full-time and take three online courses at BC. I think that Diversity is important, and hope to continue to feel that everyone’s culture and values are appreciated.”

ANNE NOLAND EDWARDS ’70, P’00
The news of the Pine Manor College and Boston College partnership was stunning; a miracle as far as I was concerned. After years of financially struggling, PMC received an extraordinary lifeline: a pot of gold from a highly regarded neighboring institution. The Pine Manor Institute at Boston College will be a brilliant partnership, and will become a guiding light in higher education and a beacon of hope for students who might think a college education is merely a dream, not an obtainable reality.”

RAUDEL GOMEZ ’21
Pine Manor College is home to extraordinary students from all over the world who have different languages, different backgrounds, and especially different career goals! I know this new relationship with Boston College is just a stepping stone to our continued success. Boston College came into partnership with PMC to make sure students finish their degrees either at PMC or BC. We have been given a shot at entering their competitive undergraduate programs. As it is said, “It’s not the size of the dog in a fight, it’s the size of the fight in the dog.” I’m in for it!”

ELAINE BURNS ’70
I attended Pine Manor Junior College from 1968 to 1970. After graduation I enrolled in Newton College of The Sacred Heart, located in Newton Massachusetts. I believe that it was in 1973 that the announcement was made that Newton College would be closing and Boston College would occupy the campus as Boston College Law School. Seniors at Newton College had the option of taking a degree from Newton College or Boston College, upon graduation in 1974. Feeling some sense of loyalty, I chose a degree from Newton College. Now many years later I find it a bit ironic that Pine Manor will be merging with Boston College. It is my hope that the beauty and serenity of the Pine Manor campus is preserved along with the school’s ideals and philosophy.”
The Pine Manor College merger with Boston College is a tremendous opportunity for first generation, underserved students at Pine Manor College. It ensures the legacy of Pine Manor College and provides a new and incredible growth and development opportunity with Boston College.

Pine Manor College was an incredible institution for me. Its small class sizes, compassionate and challenging professors, beautiful campus and supportive environment gave me the confidence I needed to work hard and be successful both academically and athletically. The integration of these two institutions not only preserves and continues the incredible Pine Manor College educational model, but it also strengthens the institution financially and socially with the backing of Boston College. Boston College enjoys a long-standing reputation as a prestigious educational institution. This combination will extend the Boston College educational opportunity to even more first generation, underserved students through the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success.

The care and consideration these two institutions have exhibited during the first five months of the merger shows the sincere and desired commitment the parties have to provide Boston College education opportunities to more first generation, underserved students.

I am thoroughly impressed by the Boston College leadership under Fr. William Leahy. I look forward to working with Joy Moore, as the new Executive Director of the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success, and her team as this relationship continues to develop into something truly beneficial to our young people and which will ultimately serve as a model for other institutions to follow.

The first thought that went through my mind, when I heard that Boston College was going to financially support Pine Manor College in our mission, was one of thankfulness. I teared up remembering my two formative years at Pine Manor on the Wellesley campus. I fondly recalled our Centennial Celebration in 2011. We celebrated our founder, Helen Temple Cooke, and her philosophy of supporting women who wanted to continue to learn and turn their dreams into reality. Then I turned my thoughts towards our hopeful future, being able to share our legacy, a caring community educating with purpose, with an even larger community at Boston College. I am grateful to President O’Reilly, who supported this vision and became an advocate for Pine Manor College’s Faculty and Staff, lauding their successes to the greater educational community. Boston College’s President and Faculty recognized the student success Pine Manor has nurtured. Creating the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success honors Helen Temple Cooke and the wonderful Faculty and Staff who helped us, alumnae/i, reach our potential. I am excited for the future of Pine Manor and look forward to continuing to celebrate my College in its new path as a proud alumna.

I really enjoyed seeing old friends on the Zoom call, and hearing about the Pine Manor Institute for Student Success. You have done a great job managing the integration of Pine Manor and Boston College. I love the “education with purpose” focus. I frequently tell friends and family about how much Pine Manor has helped women – and now men, too.

I am thrilled over the Pine Manor and Boston College institutional arrangement and believe it is a win-win for both colleges. President O’Reilly was in the unique position to facilitate such a thoughtful move, having expertise in education and a passion for social justice with a deep understanding of both institutions for which both, historically, sought to serve the underrepresented.
**HESS GALLERY EXHIBIT**

**MOVED TO ACT!**

**DEMONSTRATIONS, MARCHES, POLITICAL ACTIONS**

Moved to Act! is a call to act to achieve social justice and change. It's an online exhibit of photographs from recent significant political demonstrations including Black Lives Matter, the Woman’s March, March for Our Lives, Climate Strike, Standing Rock, and March for Science.

Moved to Act! portrays the need to speak out, the determination to work for justice, and the importance of our differences. Created and co-curated by photographers and activists Ellen Feldman and Marky Kauffmann ’72 and featuring young photographers from across America, Moved to Act! is touring galleries around the country. The Hess version presents new work from 41 accomplished photographers, documenting America’s ever-evolving protest landscape.

**View the virtual photo show:**

[pmc.edu/about/hess-gallery/current-exhibition/](http://pmc.edu/about/hess-gallery/current-exhibition/)

**The Curators**

Ellen Feldman is a long-time street photographer, photo-artist, and book maker; her work has appeared in many solo and group exhibits. She is Photography Editor of the Women’s Review of Books and holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from NYU.

Margaret “Marky” Kauffmann ’72 has been working as a fine art photographer, educator, and curator for over thirty years, including curating “Outspoken: Seven Women Photographers,” at the Hess Gallery. She is a recent recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship in Photography.

**Moved to Act Featured Artists:**

Jane Fulton Alt  •  Gabriella Angotti-Jones  •  James Billeaudneau  •  Amber Bracken  •  Edie Bresler  •  Sheila Pree Bright  •  Lora Brody  •  Nicole Buchanan  •  Matthew Butkus  •  Gabriella Demczuk  •  Kelley Donnelly  •  Nina Weinberg Doran  •  Deena Feinberg  •  Colleen Fitzgerald  •  Keiko Hiromi  •  Lindsay Hite  •  Adriene Hughes  •  Sara Hylton  •  Julia Vargas Jones  •  Luke Jordan  •  Sam Kauffmann  •  Tira Khan  •  Neil O. Lawner  •  Rusty Leffel  •  Annu Palakunnathu Matthew  •  Emily Matyas  •  Debi Milligan  •  Talia Mirel  •  Maya Myers  •  Natalie Obermaier  •  Rachel Papo  •  Jessica Pons  •  Denise Saldaña  •  Harry Scales  •  Ellen Shub  •  Suzanne Siner  •  Belinda Soncini  •  Sandra Steinbrecher  •  Candice Washington  •  David Whitney  •  Evan Whitney

**Additional ways to support our mission:**

**Securities**

Giving appreciated securities to Pine Manor College may have more tax advantages than giving cash. If you donate appreciated securities held longer than one year, you can deduct the full fair market value, regardless of what you originally paid for them, and you pay no capital gains tax on the donated securities. With these tax savings, the actual cost of your gift can be less than if you had made a cash gift.

**IRAs: The “Tax-Free” Gift**

If you are 70 1/2 years or older, you may gift up to $100,000 of your Individual Retirement Account’s Required Minimum Distribution directly to a charity and avoid income tax on the distribution.

**Matching Contributions**

Many companies match charitable gifts made by employees, retirees, and directors. Check with your human resources department for details about your company’s matching gift program.

For donations of securities, IRAs we recommend consulting your financial planner to see what options are best for you.

To discuss creating a legacy for the future, call us directly, at 617-731-7113 or email: development@pmc.edu.

We are grateful for your interest and support.
This photo was taken on campus before the pandemic.

www.pmc.edu

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