

Summer | 2020

Letter from the Dean

Dear Students,

Now more than ever, the world needs reflective thinkers, scholars, and health care workers. I commend you for continuing your education during these difficult times. I hope you find solace in your studies and comfort in your classroom community.

As we move through uncharted waters, may you feel safe surrounded by dedicated students and educators. When we work to understand ourselves and each other we can accomplish anything. Lines from the poem **Pandemic** by Lynn Unger say it well:

*Cease from travel. Cease from
buying and selling.*

*Give up, just for now, on trying to
make the world*

different than it is.

*Sing. Pray. Touch only those to
whom you commit*

your life.

Center down.

Reach out with your heart.

*Know that we are connected in ways that
are*

terrifying and beautiful.

*Know that our lives are in one another's
hands.*

*Reach out your heart. Reach out your
words.*

Promise this world your love –

For better or for worse,

In sickness and in health,

As long as we all shall live.

I wish you and your loved ones a safe time together. I look forward to interacting with you virtually and very soon in person.

Stay safe,

Dr. Jill Carol Maggs
Dean of Academic Affairs,
Mildred Elley

BE INSPIRED

Audrey Heath won the Valentine's Day Poetry Contest that the library held in February for her poem called "Moon Love." Her Prizes included Chocolate Candy Heart box, \$25.00 Amazon gift card, and a Poetry Journal Notebook.

MOON LOVE by Audrey Heath

Dark

Mysterious

*Sometimes threatening...but yearning to
be understood*

Find me tonight my moon love.

*I will not run when I see you looming, for
this need to be immersed*

in your brightest glory has crippled me.

*Search for me tonight Moon Love and find
me*

Let me bask in your warmth.

Here I am

*Naked in the dark...waiting to touch the
smooth roundness of your face
as it illuminates my world.*

For this night I live, no longer afraid.

*Hold me close and whisper before you
leave... that you'll come looking*

*for me tomorrow night and forever more,
my Moon Love and forever
valentine.*

Student Spotlights



Born in the Bronx, **Katrina Gonzales** was working as a home health aide when she saw an advertisement for Mildred Elley. She always wanted to earn a college degree and have more than just a job. “I wanted a career. I called up and spoke with an admissions representative. After touring the college, I decided to enroll. Along with my deep desire to help others, I am also an artist, I paint. When I get inspired, I just run with an idea. My latest inspiration came from my Anatomy and Physiology class with Dr. Chowdhury. The class was learning about the heart and I began drawing the organ. When Dr. Chowdhury saw my work, she encouraged me to make it larger. I went home that night and painted the heart on a large canvas. I surrounded the heart with gold to indicate empathy and compassion. I added the flowers to depict the passion we hold in our hearts. My ultimate goal is to become a pediatric nurse. People should always follow their inspiration.

The sky is not the limit. You have to travel through the sky and out into the universe to really find your dreams.”



Kathryn Rosario was born in the United States, and as a baby, moved with her family to the Dominican Republic.

“I really think of myself as Dominican because I was raised there. I spent my whole life in the DR until five years ago when I moved to the Bronx. I worked at Chipotle and attended New York City College of Technology. I was very unhappy with that college. I was not receiving any individualized attention. One day I was complaining about school to my work colleague. She is a Mildred Elley graduate and she brought me in to this school.

From the first moment, I really loved the people here. The faculty and staff make this place magical. I started attending Mildred Elley in the Medical Assisting program. I loved my classes and soon it was time for me to do

my internship. My family moved to Boston and I desperately wanted to finish what I had started. I wanted to graduate.

Dr. Moro Sidibe worked with me to complete my degree. He helped me find an internship site near the bus station on the Lower East Side. I would work Monday through Thursday in Boston. Then, I would take the bus to New York and do my internship all day Friday and all day Saturday. After that, I would take the bus back to Boston to work at my job. It was very exhausting, but I never gave up. Sometimes I even slept at the bus station.

Everyone at Mildred Elley supported me and encouraged me. Now, I am a graduate!

When you start something, you owe it to yourself to finish it! If I can do it, so can you!”

Dream Big!



Rhonda Love

At the age of just forty-six, Rhonda Love is a mother of five and grandmother to five. She has worked as an EMT since 1994 and was previously enrolled in a nursing program at LaGuardia Community College before dropping out due to health issues in 2003. While there, she worked as a campus EMT, and on September 11, 2001 she provided medical assistance to people fleeing Downtown Manhattan across the 59th Street Bridge.

As a result, she was afraid of the World Trade Center area, which initially kept her from applying to Mildred Elley after she had seen the advertisements on MTA buses.

As a student, Rhonda is full of praise for her professors especially Dr. Mansour and Dr. Arifuzzaman who inspire her to think critically. She hopes to go on to become a Nurse Practitioner.

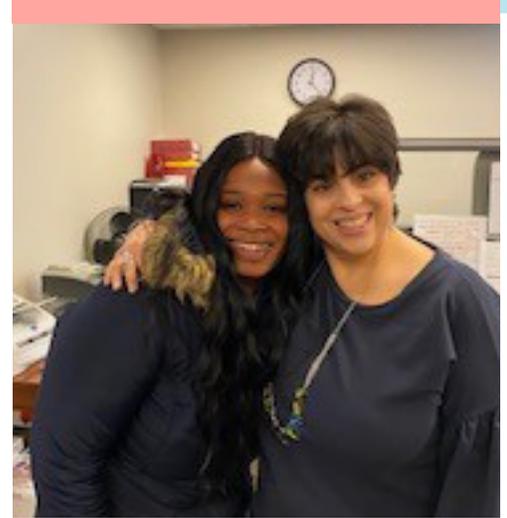
Way to go Rhonda!!

Freshmen Seminar Class bring it!

Professor Alex Bernstein had his Freshmen Seminar class bring one of their journals in. He instructed his students to highlight the lines and phrases they thought were the best. Then, students put their favorite line in the chat. Professor Bernstein acted as a scribe, collaging the lines into a document. The result: the beautiful poem below! Prof. Bernstein only changed the pronouns for narrative coherence. The poem has 29 lines. **Each unique line represents a student in the class:**

PRAYER

*There's a saying that faith
Without works is dead.
I say during my prayers,
Persuade yourself
To focus on receiving
The naked truth. Somehow
I've ended up developing
A weird interest in mortality.
If only I could understand
What all these beeping
Machines are capable of,
Then I'd have a natural
Touch to things, living
With not knowing what's
Coming around the bend.
The good does out weigh
The bad, and I'm willing
To muddle through it
To get to the rewarding part.
Today, I'm just gonna
Roll over on the kitchen floor
And look to my elders.
My desire to become
Part of something bigger
Than myself will follow suit
Because I believe life is all
About finding yourself.
Life, to me, is beautiful,
And I long for my story.*



Shaquil Butler was just sitting at home when the phone rang.

“I picked it up and it was Lisa Rini from Career Services. Lisa told me she had an amazing opportunity for me at Mount Sinai. I got excited, but when Lisa told me the first step was a phone interview - I got scared. I am not good on the phone. Lisa worked with me on my tone of voice and other tricks to ace the interview. The day of the call, I was scared. I focused and remembered all the skills Lisa taught me. After twenty grueling minutes, I was scheduled for an in person interview! The first thing I did was call Lisa. She told me I needed to come in to the College, dressed for the interview, so we could practice. After several mock interviews, I was ready. I felt so confident when I spoke with the recruiter. I got the job! I am now a full-time Medical Assistant with Mount Sinai Hospital with full benefits. My advice to Mildred Elley students is, **When Career Services calls, answer the phone!**”