

comm·unity

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Saying Goodbye to Administrative Assistant Kaitlin Scheie and Welcoming Melissa Cerezo!



by Jilleen Barrett

This semester, the communication department office said goodbye to Kaitlin Scheie, who served as the administrative assistant in the department for eight years. Now when you walk into the communication department's suite of offices in Leo Hall, you will be greeted by Melissa Cerezo, the newest member of the office.

Scheie explained her decision to step away from the job, noting that the pandemic had an influence on her as a mother.

"I decided to leave my position in the department because I have 3 children, Ellie, Freya and Aurora," Scheie said. "After being home throughout the pandemic and being with my children everyday, it really put life into perspective... of what is truly important to me. Especially now that my older two daughters are starting school, I knew that being there for them everyday was important."

Although she is excited to spend more time with her kids, Scheie says she will miss working at Manhattan College — especially the faculty in the communication department.

"The thing I will miss most is seeing my coworkers everyday," she said. "The Comm department has such a unique environment, we all get along so well. We are able to work and have fun, which a lot of jobs are not like that."

She also touched upon how much she loved getting to know students in the major and how she will miss seeing them each day.



"The Comm students always want to hangout in the department because we are so welcoming to everyone ... It was so nice to see a student come in as a freshman and watch how much they matured and grew into themselves over the four years ... Working in the Comm department was by far the best job I ever had, aside from being a mom," Scheie said.

Melissa Cerezo is the new administrative assistant in the department starting this semester. While Cerezo may be new to the communication department, she certainly isn't new to the college. She is an alumna of Manhattan College, having graduated with a sociology degree in 2003. During her time at the college, she was part of the Society for Hispanic Professional

Engineers despite being a student in the school of liberal arts.

“Their thing that they used to say was, ‘You don’t have to be an engineer and you don’t have to be Hispanic to be in the club,’” Cerezo said.

Since graduating, Cerezo has worked several jobs within the college, including at the controller’s office, human resources, the engineering department, capital campaign, the biology department, and now finally, at the communication department. She’s been working in various roles at the college for about 14 years.

She’s not the only one from her family to work here though — Cerezo’s father, Juan Cerezo, was the head of public safety before Peter Decaro’s tenure. *The Quadrangle* reports that Juan Cerezo had a great impact on the college and partnered with different offices around campus to ensure student safety.

“My daughter graduated from this school in 2003 and she’s an employee with the college,” Juan Cerezo told *The Quadrangle* in 2019. “One of the reasons I took the job was because I wanted my daughter to graduate with this school. As it turns out, I never anticipated I’d be here 23 years.”

Melissa Cerezo says that having her father on campus during her years as a student here was not as bad as some might think it would be. While he may have been enforcing safety standards, she was able to have her own life as a regular student on campus.

“I guess it wasn’t as bad as it, you know, as it could have been,” she said. “We basically, unless I needed something from him, we sort of just stayed our separate ways.”

In addition to her work in the communication office, Cerezo is also enrolled in an MBA program at Manhattan College. Make sure to say hi to Melissa Cerezo the next time you stop by the communication department office! ★