

Lotus Shifts Focus Under New E-Board

by Sophia Sakellariou, Editor-in-Chief

Lotus Magazine is undergoing a remodel this semester as the new editorial board set their sights on a broader audience. Founded by Manhattan College alum Olivia Paladino, *Lotus* was created with the intention of providing a creative outlet for women to feel empowered on this campus. The new e-board has taken this vision and run with it, looking to include and inspire marginalized groups on campus.

Co-Editors-in-Chief Deirde Heavey and Samantha Walla, class of 2021, wanted to push the boundaries of Paladino's vision. The former logo of pastel pinks and dainty cursive has been replaced with a bold, rainbow design that lets readers know *Lotus* is different, but that change can be a good thing.

"We've been able to gain our empowerment through [the magazine] to a point where I feel very strongly as a woman on campus," said Heavey. "I think it's important to evaluate where the voices aren't being heard on campus, whether its people of color, whether its people of the LGBTQ community, and make sure that their voices are represented as well."

Walla echoed this vision.

"We want to continue to push that barrier where sometimes we face pushback from social norms on our campus. We wanted to continue to make the magazine a place where everybody can find something in the magazine, not just the people who work on it," said Walla.

This semester the board has their first male editor on the masthead. Junior marketing major Michael Notarbartolo is one of the fashion and beauty editors for *Lotus* who's enjoyed how the magazine has given him the opportunity to explore his passion for fashion.

Notarbartolo is the brains behind the central photoshoot in the upcoming issue. The "Block Party" shoot features models of various backgrounds and sexual orientations posing throughout the streets of the Bronx. The central message— our differences bring us together— pays homage to New York street culture through the celebration of fashion and diversity on campus.

"I didn't grow up in New York, but I love the whole essence of New York street culture and ... how New York uses fashion to shape culture and identity," said Notarbartolo. "I thought, going back to the rebranding process, that that would be perfect for our first issue."