

the comm-unity newsletter

Communication Students Work on Community Reporting in The Bronx

by **Timmy Kwong**

In recent semesters, there has been a growing trend of Manhattan College's journalism and media production students getting involved in community reporting in The Bronx. In particular, some students, including RJ Giannichi and Caroline McCarthy, have worked with BronxNet and *The Bronx Times* to produce news stories and feature pieces about their local community. These students have been dedicating their time and energy to reporting on issues that matter to the people of the Bronx, and their work has impacted the community.

RJ Giannichi, a senior with a concentration in Media Production, was a videographer field intern for BronxNet last semester. Giannichi helped the team shoot interviews and collect B-roll and other videos for the channel. He carried out four major projects for BronxNet during the semester on memorial services, heritage months and important resources for Bronx community members.



While completing the projects, Giannichi faced various challenges and obstacles, and gained hands-on experience outside of the classroom.

“[One of the challenges] was that sometimes it is difficult to shoot [in certain] conditions. [Shooting] at night without proper lighting equipment can be very difficult,” he said. “Field shooting will always have many more random variables than studio shoots, so always having to be prepared is a big part of the job.”

After being in his position for over two months, Giannichi emphasized the

importance of local news.

“Local news will always be an important staple in a functioning community and democracy. Staying connected through trusted local news will always keep the citizens updated and aware of the changes the community might be going through,” he said. “BronxNet does a massive service to the Bronx community by offering reliable reporting and information to the community for free.”

Caroline McCarthy, a senior concentrating in journalism, worked at *The Bronx Times* this past summer and was responsible for writing, editing and pitching stories to her manager. Besides the traditional journalism tasks, McCarthy also developed *The Bronx Times*’ social media.

“To find pitches, I read through local community boards, check online event listings, and stay active in community Facebook groups,” she continued. “By doing so I got a better sense of The Bronx as a whole, not just the microcosm that is Manhattan College. I also developed *The Bronx Times*’ social media by creating a new template for postings and a new strategy to boost viewership.”

McCarthy assisted Robbie Sequeira in interviews for a story called “With Roe overturned, New Yorkers grapple with a nation divided in its legal rights.”

“This was my first professional byline and was about an extremely important topic, especially for New Yorkers living in The Bronx,” she continued.

Giannichi and McCarthy’s work has



helped to bring attention to important and trending issues — or even share stories that might otherwise go untold. It creates a strong sense of community amongst residents in The Bronx. Their work shows the power of the Communication Department’s journalism and media production concentrations in the community! ★