

Campus Radio Station WRCM Gives Students a New Voice

by Haley Burnside

This past semester, a new set of sounds madewaves on campus - the college's radio station is broadcasting once again. Thanks to a group of dedicated students working alongside the Communication Department Chair, Thom Gencarelli, and the College's Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnerships, Rob Walsh, WRCM has ended its long hiatus.

The station began broadcasting from its newly-outfitted studio, located at the front of the Resource Learning Center (RLC) in February. Walsh and Gencarelli were integral in getting the studio prepared for the student DJs. From there, the station began broadcasting shows created by and for Manhattan College students.

Communication students Joseph Liggio, Alexa Schmidt, and Samantha Walla spearheaded the revival of the station, and now, WRCM boasts an eclectic mix of content producers and DJs across a number of majors. Involvement continues to grow, as more and more students contribute ideas for programming, and Schmidt hopes that this growth in participation continues.

"The radio station is a great outlet for students to share their music or have a talk show where they can express how they feel with others," she said.

"It is a great community to get involved in."

The students involved with the station have used the opportunity to explore their own interests and skills, while connecting with other members of the Manhattan College community. Brendan Hanney, a junior at the College, cites this comradery as his reason for joining WRCM as a DJ.

"I decided to join WRCM because of the community that seemed to be forming so early into its life. The experience has been awesome because new friendships are already forming and everyone seems so passionate about making the station the best it can possibly be," said Hanney.

Many of WRCM's members also had the chance to meet with Juliet Papa, the legendary journalist with New York's own 1010 WINS radio station, and ask questions about her experience. This event was one way that WRCM has helped students explore potential career paths in within the radio industry.

Pete Janny is another one of the student DJ's with his own show, a sports-centric discussion that covers news related to Manhattan College's varsity teams, as well as the larger professional sports world. He presents news while sharing his opinion, as a college student, and offering his take on what's happening in sports.

"So far the feedback has been very encouraging and I'm thankful to all those who have given my show a chance," said Janny. "My biggest goals moving forward are to improve my communication skills and to procure interviews with some of Manhattan's most popular athletes." WRCM does not have official club status during this adjustment period, but it's well on its way. The enthusiasm expressed by the entire Manhattan College community - both on the broadcasting end and the listening end - bodes well for the future of the club. The station's general manager, Samantha Walla, recognizes this and appreciates the enthusiasm.

"Although we are only in our first semester, WRCM has been met with excitement by students, faculty and administration," said Walla. Walla is hopeful about the station's next steps, and is quick to express gratitude for the opportunities it has provided her at Manhattan College.

"Reviving WRCM has been hard work, but the experience has exposed me to people and departments in the school I never would have known otherwise," she said. "I hope WRCM will continue to enrich the lives of other students as it