

comm·unity

SPRING 2022

Communication Department to Stream May Commencement



by Claire Ganguin

The Manhattan College Sports Media Production crew is poised to broadcast the 2022 commencement live from the Meadowlands Exposition Center for the first time. In previous years, the commencement for graduating students has been held in Draddy Gymnasium, but this year, it will be held in New Jersey at the Meadowlands in order to allow the best possible in-person experience for the graduates and their families. This specific venue was chosen as it has a much greater capacity to accommodate students and staff, and still be in compliance with CDC guidelines and recommendations.

Due to this change in venue, Producer/Director Joe Ruggiero and Media Technology Coordinator Jeff Anderson have been assigned to the task of livestreaming the commencement. Ruggiero teaches

Advanced Sports Production, in which he and his students produce the live broadcast of all 27 men's and women's home basketball games on ESPN's streaming services. As Ruggiero works very closely with seniors and because the pandemic has complicated many in-person activities, Ruggiero and the Communication Department were asked to livestream the event, as opposed to hiring an outside production company that had been the norm in previous years.

“This is a great opportunity to show what Manhattan College has to give, when produced in-house, it gives more meaning not only to the graduating students, but also gives the underclassmen a stronger understanding of what the May Commencement means

-Joe Ruggiero



“This is a great opportunity to show what Manhattan College has to give, when produced in-house, it gives more meaning not only to the graduating students, but also gives the underclassmen a stronger understanding of what the May Commencement means,” Ruggiero said.

In order to produce this live broadcast, Ruggiero and Anderson will recruit eight to ten sophomore and junior students to run cameras, audio and minor graphics.

“We can be on the same page, in

order to celebrate the achievements and hard work that these students have put in,” Ruggiero said.

To produce this live broadcast, Ruggiero and his team will be using the Manhattan College mobile production unit, which is also used by Ruggiero and his team of students to produce basketball games at Manhattan College. This truck will come with the majority of the cables and equipment needed to produce the broadcast, however, they will require some Meadowlands Exposition Center’s equipment in order to produce a smooth broadcast for family and friends who are unable to attend. Additionally, Ruggiero plans to film the broadcast similarly to how it would have been filmed in Draddy Gymnasium to make the use of cameras and equipment less complicated.

Ruggiero stated that he plans to tow the production truck down to the new venue a day or two before, however, his team will be expected to have their own means of transportation to work for commencement. The college will otherwise provide shuttles for students and employees from campus to Meadowlands and back.

Ruggiero emphasized that his goal is to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the graduating class. Through this livestream, the students of Manhattan College, family, and friends will be able to celebrate this day alongside the graduating class even if they are unable to attend the event in-person. Through Ruggiero, Anderson, and their team of students, the live broadcast of the commencement will bring greater meaning not only to the graduating class, but to the underclassmen, family and friends as well. ★