

Meet the Five New Quadrangle Scholarship Recipients

by Madalyn Johnson

Every year, Manhattan College's publications committee, one of the standing committees, accepts five new students as recipients of The Quadrangle Scholarship. This academic year has, however, proposed challenges for these five freshmen, stripping them of the normal experiences of reporting and interviewing people at the scene of an event. Regardless of these setbacks during their freshman year, these journalists have showcased grit and determination to keep the Manhattan College community informed about school news.

Meet this year's five Quad Scholars:



Kyla Guilfoil

**Communication and Political Science
Major, Journalism Concentration**

What prior experience do you have with journalism and writing?

I wrote for my high school newspaper and besides that, I just honestly have always loved reading and creative writing. I always cared about politics and stuff like that, so I just kind of figured I wanted to get more involved, and The Quadrangle obviously has done that.

How did it feel to be accepted into Manhattan College, a school in New York City?

I actually only applied to city schools. Especially for journalism I knew that was the kind of environment I wanted to be in so most of the schools I looked at were mostly in New York and then Boston and a couple in D.C. But, New York was my top choice, I have family down here and everything. So, I was so excited when it all worked out and I was able to come here because I definitely was planning to come here for a long time.

How has the pandemic affected your experience with The Quadrangle?

It's definitely been super weird, like I've never even been in the office, which is super funny because I'm on the masthead now. Even though I've only met most of them [The Quadrangle journalists] through Google Meet, I definitely feel like we all are very open with each other and we all have a passion for being there and so I think that there's still such a connection and support system there. Everyone's so eager to help out and talk, so I think I definitely still felt the connection that happens through being on the paper together and could see people's passion for being on it.

Why do you think student journalism is more important than ever, especially since the pandemic?

Well, we're all going through it, you know, which I think is really important because I think that students are just going through something that they've been training for essentially their entire lives, to get this degree to study, and that was just all turned on its head. So, I think that it's really important for us to use our voice to connect with students and represent not only us but them, our fellow students. I think it's a really effective channel for the students' voices to the administration and the people have the power to make executive decisions.

What do you look forward to in the future with *The Quadrangle*?

I'm really excited to hopefully experience an in-person meeting next year and just be able to be in that space with everyone, to just continue to keep doing what we're doing because I love it.

Jocelyn Visnov

**Communication Major
with a Journalism Concentration**



What prior experience do you have with journalism and writing?

I wrote for my high school paper, and I write when I'm home. I write for a local community magazine that has small business profiles, family profiles, things like that.

How did it feel to be accepted into Manhattan College, a school in New York City?

It felt so good, I remember it was one of the earlier schools that I got admitted to and it was jumping up and down, I got the letter in the mail and everything. I only applied to two schools in New York and I was looking at other schools, but I had this idea in my mind that I would move to New York at some point. So, just being here for college, especially studying communication, I feel so lucky to be here every day.

How has the pandemic affected your experience with *The Quadrangle*?

It's definitely made a difference with no in-person communication. It feels more like work at some points than it should be, just in the way of coordinating with like a million Google always happening on my computer and spending hours typing on my computer sitting alone, instead of being in a classroom talking to people.

Why do you think student journalism is more important than ever, especially since the pandemic?

I just think it's so important to stay to stay involved in your community and to know what's going on. I also just

think we can kind of speak for students in a way that professors can't because we can kind of get the unfiltered version and write it in a way that makes sense and feels good. In the fall, I wrote an article about why we need a nutritionist on campus, and now we have one. Someone read that, someone saw it, and then action was put into place.

What do you look forward to in the future with *The Quadrangle*?

I'm doing many things, I am doing production this semester as Assistant Production Editor and it was a little difficult at first, but now it's something I look forward to every weekend. We'll be able to kind of broaden things once the pandemic kind of limits contact restrictions. So I look forward to getting out, reporting on more things in the city, and more things in Riverdale.



Victor Franco

Civil Engineering Major

What prior experience do you have with journalism and writing?

In high school, I took two AP English courses, which just helped me out a lot. I also participated in a newspaper called *The Challenger* at my school.

How did it feel to be accepted into Manhattan College, a school in New York City?

Being that I live in the Bronx, I felt so nice actually going to school in the city because honestly I always thought that this is where big opportunities are and this is where the work is. I never wanted to deviate from going outside of the state because I didn't feel it was necessary.

How has the pandemic affected your experience with *The Quadrangle*?

I definitely feel I need to build more chemistry with the team, specifically, because we don't see each other in person. You can't really catch a person's vibe through just a screen, so I think I'm lacking a little bit there, but other than that, I think it's going really well. I'm getting more familiar with the group and I know I could trust them. They really know what they're doing.

Why do you think student journalism is more important than ever, especially since the pandemic?

I feel like it's extremely important. I pick up a newspaper from *The Quadrangle* and there's a perspective from a student, written by a student. I can relate to this or see where they got to this conclusion. It's very important that it's directly from the students and it just builds perspective.

What do you look forward to in the future with The Quadrangle?

Honestly, to get a better position, it's just a matter of time. Along with the scholarship, you also have to be part of the masthead, which is where all the major positions, like News Editor and Features Editor, are. I don't know exactly what position I want yet, but I know that for sure like eventually I will have one, and I do hope that I do get one because I see the people who are in those positions right now. I give them my respect because they really work for it. I hope I can be at that level one day.

Zoe DeFazio

Communication Major with a Journalism Concentration



What prior experience do you have with journalism and writing?

I used to write for my high school newspaper and I figured this [The Quadrangle] was a great way to kickstart my career in journalism.

How did it feel to be accepted into Manhattan College, a school in New York City?

It was amazing. I mean, my dream is literally to write for The New York Times, and to go to a school that's right next to the headquarters of it felt so amazing.

How has the pandemic affected your experience with The Quadrangle?

I haven't experienced it in full effect. I would love to actually sit down and see everybody and actually be able to share The Quadrangle with people that like the actual paper, rather than sending my parents the links.

Why do you think student journalism is more important than ever, especially since the pandemic?

Growing up in an interracial family I always saw things in a different perspective than other people and I always felt it was like my moral obligation to inform the world about certain things, such as systemic racism and certain things like that. Especially when the Coronavirus hit, I felt like people were just misinformed about certain things, so I feel like student journalism is a great way to break down information from news outlets, something that has big words. I would say break it down for a way so students can feel like they really comprehend it, and so they can feel safe.

What do you look forward to in the future with The Quadrangle?

I honestly don't know. I'd love to work my way up and maybe see myself as Editor-in-Chief one day, but that's a big goal I'm manifesting in.



Colleen McNamara

Communication Major,
Undeclared Concentration

What prior experience do you have with journalism and writing?

I wrote for four years at my high school.

How did it feel to be accepted into Manhattan College, a school in New York City?

It was great. It was the only school I applied to because of lacrosse so I knew I was going there to be on the lacrosse team, and then everything else kind of worked out following that. I didn't realize how many opportunities I would have with writing and the ESPN truck and The Quadrangle. I was so thrilled and everything just kept getting better, especially getting that scholarship.

How has the pandemic affected your experience with The Quadrangle?

I think just more sense of community and when you know people really well and you're having those outside conversations not just about The Quadrangle, I think the stories would get better. You want to work together more and I think we definitely have that sense of community.

Why do you think student journalism is more important than ever, especially since the pandemic?

It's really important to hear a student's perspective on campus and give them a voice when they can't communicate, especially the people remote. They can't really communicate their worries or their impacts on this so I think being able to write and express their point of views is really important.

What do you look forward to in the future with The Quadrangle?

Well, I'm thrilled to be Assistant Sports Editor currently, and so I hope to be the full Sports Editor, and just work with the other people on The Quadrangle in any way I can. ★