

Alumni Profiles:

Erin Murphy and Olivia Paladino

by C. Garrett Keidel

Every year the communication department graduates a senior class, and the students transfer into their professional careers. We recently caught up with two graduates from the class of 2019, as they near their first full year post-graduation.



Olivia Paladino graduated last year as a communication major with a concentration in Journalism. She now works in New York City in the advertising department for healthcare providers at DDB Health.

Erin Murphy graduated in 2019 as a Communication major with a concentration in Broadcasting. Murphy also continues to work in New York City, and currently works in the production department of the public relations agency, BCW Global.

As our alumni near completion of their first year post-graduation, both felt the Communication department placed them on the right track in preparing for the professional world. In her time at Manhattan College, Paladino was one of the founders of Lotus Magazine, serving as its editor for a number of semesters, and was the first student editor of the restarted communication department newsletter.

“Because of [the communication department’s] support, I was able to gain the confidence to go after what I wanted outside of my academic career, while at the same time gaining a bunch of writing/editing/design experience. This allowed me to build a portfolio of work to show employers,” said Paladino.

Murphy agreed that her in-class broadcasting work helped her gain valuable experience. “I feel that Manhattan College fully prepared me for the professional world...[t]hese classes gave me so much hands on experience that helped me not only to get an internship, but also to get a job,” she said.

The transition from college to professional life can pose different challenges for each graduate; both students reflected on their experiences. “The stakes were really low in college. I could try



new things and mess up, and there was always someone there to catch me or give me a pep talk,” said Paladino. “So, *after* I graduated and started working, I experienced a lot of anxiety about my future - like, suddenly, life became real and there was no room [for] trial-and-error.”

Murphy also shared her difficulties with the transition. “[H]ardest part was probably actually getting a job... [I]t was strange to be around a bunch of new people and having to learn about a whole new culture/environment of people.”

Both Paladino and Murphy offered closing advice to current students still studying at Manhattan College. “Be open to every opportunity. I thought I was going to end up working in TV, but now I work at a PR/Marketing Agency,” said Murphy. There are so many different jobs out there that you can apply what you learn at MC/ in Comm classes. Also be open to interning at smaller companies. The big fancy names look great, but sometimes you can get so much more experience in the same field at a smaller company.”

Paladino added, “Non-COMM department-related, but enjoy this experience while it lasts!!! I hate to sound cliché, but it seriously flies by. Your school work is really important, but it's *also* important to try to find balance - get involved on campus, go out of your way to learn new things outside the classroom, go out with friends, enjoy New York City. It'll be over in a blink of an eye, and you'll wish you could go back and spend less time stressing over the small stuff.”