



TESS Newsletter

Accordance to Article 7
Section 3 of its Constitution

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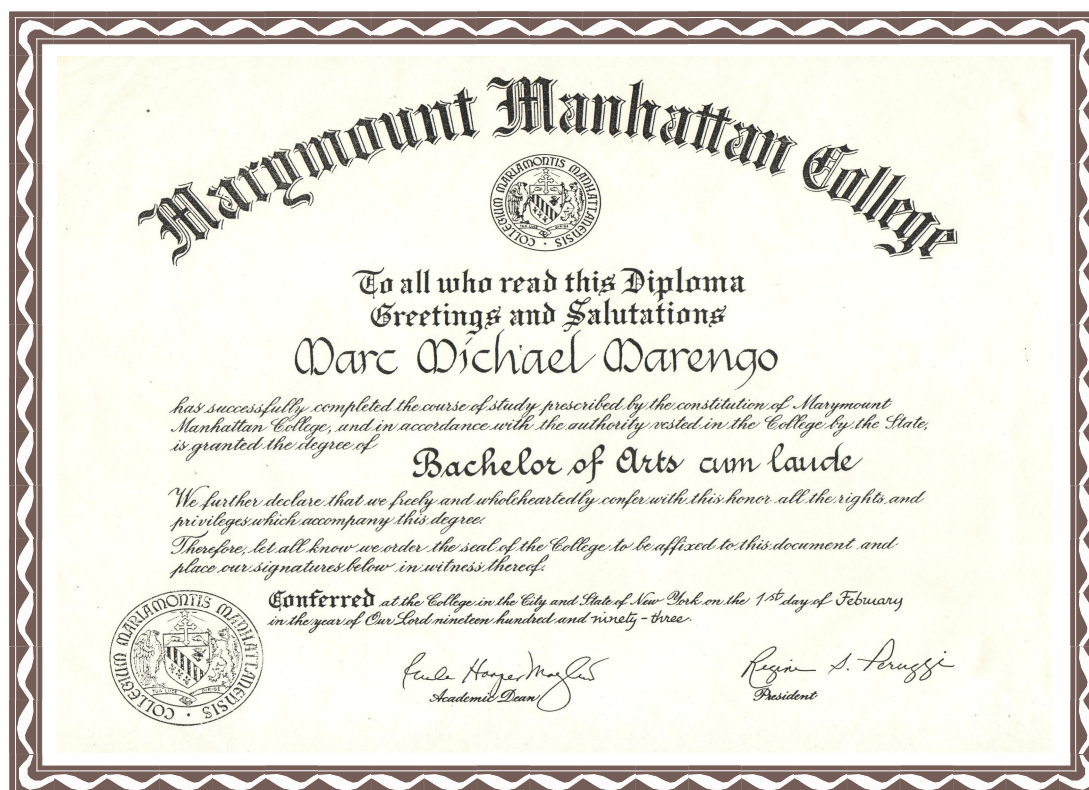
“ Turning Possibilities into Realities ”

Building a Global Movement for Change [UNSG]: The Promise (part 22)



"Working Hard at Working Smart" (part XXXIII)

The Value of Encouragement



“I choose to rise up out of that storm and see that in moments of desperation, fear, and helplessness, each of us can be a rainbow of hope, doing what we can to extend ourselves in kindness and grace to one another. And I know for sure that there is no them - there's only us.”

Oprah Gail Winfrey

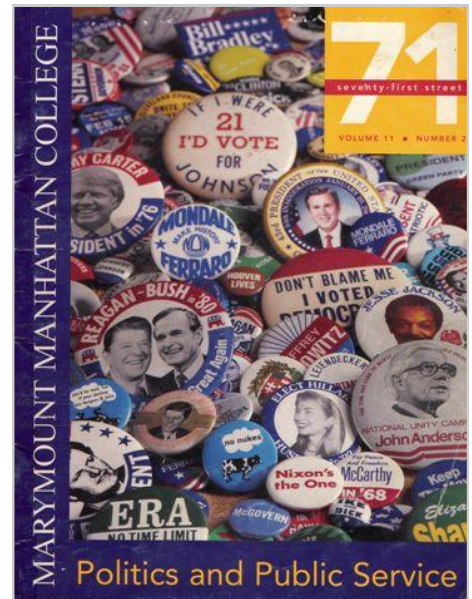
The future we want: The Promise: The Force Beyond

Public Lives

Alumni profiles government, politics and public service.

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Many of you are familiar with Marymount Manhattan's claim to political fame: in 1984 Geraldine Ferraro '56, already a successful New York State Congresswoman, became the first woman to run for Vice-president of the United States. But the College has many other dedicated alumni in the field of politics and public service. In this issue of 71st Street, we highlight four: a senior political editor at CBS News, the commanding officer of a New York City Police precinct, a New York State Supreme Court Judge and **an ambassador and advisor for the Seychelles Islands**.



Marc Marengo '93

Special Advisor of the Minister for Tourism and Transport, Seychelles Islands



Q. How did you decide to come to Marymount Manhattan?

A. In 1986, I got posted in the Seychelles Permanent Mission to the United Nations. In the discharge of my duties, I felt that was out of my depth intellectually to appropriately analyse and take action on the many issues before the world

body. It was still the Cold War Era, and my country found itself in the centre of that war. I had the responsibility to make the right recommendation to my government. I felt that the best way to approach the situation was for me to pursue further studies in political science and international relations.

Indeed when I left Seychelles, I had only a high school diploma, which you will agree was far from being adequate for the responsibilities I was called upon to discharge. Consequently, in 1988 I joined another college as a freshman. (At that time I was serving as the Chief of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Economic Planning and Environment.)

“I had the responsibility to make the right recommendation to my government.”

In view of my heavy workload at the United Nations, however, I needed a more practical location to undertake such studies. Though the discussions that I had with Mr. Mohamed Faiz of the Permanent Mission of the Maldives, who was already enrolled at Marymount Manhattan, I decided to transfer from another college. After joining your institution, it did not take long for me to realise that I had made the right choice with regards to its location, the quality of the professors, the level of studies and the pertinent issues covered, class size, you name it... and I should say that the rest was history.

However, I must say that taking up such a challenge was no easy feat. Since at that time the Seychelles Islands had only three embassies abroad, I was also working with Washington D.C. and Canada. And above all, I was also given the solemn duty to pursue bilateral cooperation matters with the 186 countries accredited to the United Nations in which Seychelles had no diplomatic representation.

Q. How would you describe your current occupation? What role does it play in the health and success of your country?

A. Before my graduation in 1993, I was promoted to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador to the United States of America and High Commissioner to Canada, responsibilities which I assumed until August 1996.

In 1996 I was given the option of either returning to Seychelles or to continue heading the Seychelles Tourist Office in New York. I gladly accepted the latter, a mission which I undertook until January 2000, when the time came for me to head back to my island paradise. Since my arrival back in Seychelles, I continue to serve my country as the Special Advisor of the Minister for Tourism and Transport. I

presently also hold the post of Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation (IOTO).

The Seychelles economy is based on tourism and fisheries, and apart from being the most beautiful mid-ocean islands in the world, we do not possess any other national resources. As such, we have the duty to ensure that our tourism industry develops sustainably. With 50 percent of its territory and surrounding waters dedicated as reserves, our efforts in such fields have continued to receive due recognition by the international community. I have been instrumental in the drafting of our "Tourism Blue-Print of the 21st Century," and as the current Chairman of the Seychelles Ecotourism Committee, I have been also mandated to draft the "Seychelles First Ecotourism Strategy," which will be published in September.

Q. Did your experience at Marymount Manhattan shape what you wanted to do with the rest of your life?

A. Looking back over the multiple achievements since my graduation at Marymount Manhattan, there is no doubt that this institution has been highly instrumental in building the foundation for my personal success, which has in turn contributed (no matter how small) to the overall success of the Small Island Developing States of Seychelles, which today has one of the highest per capita income in Africa and ranks at number 54 on the 2002 United Nations Human Development Index.

As such I have no doubt that such a foundation will continue to provide the basis for the rest of my life, which I am sure will be filled with more fruits of success, joy and happiness. For that I will be forever grateful to Marymount Manhattan.■

Resolution of Conflicts: UNSC

The Crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic: Reflection time

The Value Of Encouragement

By Erin Williams, Houston Life Coach

As each and every one of us stumbles and leaps along our journey in life, we invariably experience the highs, lows and in-betweens just like every one else. Often times we seem to be running along side one another in groups in a marathon pack, all plodding away toward the same finish line... at others we feel connected with a handful of others as if serving as a small team sailing a boat toward a destination... but more times than not, we find ourselves feeling very alone on our journey, disconnected from anyone that truly understands the burden we carry or the path we tread... whether that is reality or not. Since we have all had at least one leg of our journey that has proven to yield to such isolation and have experienced the correlated emotions... **we must remember how valuable encouragement can be.**

It is very easy to become so focused on our own goals, dreams and aspirations... or our own problems, concerns and issues... that we do not take the time to recognize and encourage others. However, we must recall that even the smallest gesture of appreciation can often make the biggest difference in the world to someone who is at a crossroads in life. Our assumption that the CEO of our company needs no pat on the back since he or she is the leader is exactly that, an assumption. Like us, they are human, and probably have just as fractured a support system as we do. We cannot take for granted that those who accomplish great things actually believe they are doing so... we cannot let our laziness accept that the brave faces we see on our friends are real when a little extra effort would reveal they are only masks hiding

fear and concern. **Sometimes the only difference between what a person accomplishes in life is directly related to the degree of encouragement and support they receive from their environment.**

Today... remember a moment in your life when you needed support. Maybe you were floundering emotionally... maybe you were wavering about a life-changing decision... maybe you were wondering whether the seed of a dream or business venture should be planted... maybe you simply were not sure you were on the right path. Regardless of the situation, you can also remember a turning point in which someone offered encouragement to you... believed in you... demonstrated faith in your ability to grow, achieve, succeed... looked at your work in amazement and said, "YES!!!"... stood in front of you and reflected back to you an image you didn't see in the mirror... one capable of calling upon whatever tools necessary, however latent they might have been, to rise to the occasion and claim what has been waiting for you. As you recall those moments in your life and realize the impact they had on you... **the honorable thing to do is to now, and forever, pay it forward. Be that mirror to someone else...**■

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The journey continues...