Reflection Time: What are you leaving behind in 2020 and taking with you into 2021?

**Fordham University Reminders:**

Final grades are technically not due until January 3rd, but most professors are working to get everything in before Christmas. So please get your work into your professors as soon as possible.

If you are running into issues, please reach out to your professors as soon as possible. Students can take a grade of *incomplete* if necessary, which gives until January 29th to submit all work. The grade of incomplete disappears off a student’s record once the final grade comes in.

Don’t forget that the PMMA Intensive dates are **January 25-28**

**If you are taking audio narrative,** there is a 1 day intensive prior to the start of class that will take place on **January 29th**

Make sure to connect with our new Communication and Media studies [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)
page, if you haven't already, for events, networking and job opportunities!

Have a fun and safe holiday season with your loved ones. See you next year!

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A message from the Director of the Public Media MA Program, Dr. Beth Knobel

Dear students,

This message is coming during the final and, I'm guessing, toughest week of the fall semester. As you complete your work for the first stage of the PMMA, I would just like to express my deep gratitude to all of you for making this a wonderful semester.

Despite all the challenges, and they were many, we managed to create a warm and supportive community. You learned and pushed yourselves. You worked hard. You leaned on your classmates and helped each other. You got to know your professors, and appreciated the knowledge we tried to impart. You made friends and forged lasting relationships.

Even in this time of pandemic, there is much to celebrate.

I celebrate you--each and every one of you--for all that you did this fall to enrich our community. This has been a time of unprecedented stress and disruption--a horrible time for our nation and the world. And yet the hard times seemed to bring out the best in our PMMA family. Thank you all for responding to these difficult times with flexibility, good humor, and concern for others. I am proud of what we accomplished together during these dark and challenging weeks.
I hope the fall semester was all that you hoped it would be, and more. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I wish you good luck with finals, continued good health, and a very warm holiday season with your loved ones.

I hope you will take the bulk of January to relax, reflect, and recharge your batteries before the Spring semester. I will look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, January 25th for our pre-term intensive on digital design.

Be well until then, and I look forward to sharing a happier new year with you all.

Warm regards, Beth

A message from the Communication and Media Studies Department Chair, Dr. Amy Aronson

This has been an exceptionally challenging semester for all of us, yet one that ends with a feeling of accomplishment and hope. I want to express my gratitude to Prof. Knobel for her extraordinary energy and leadership, to the graduate faculty, and, especially, to all of you who have risen to the special challenges of this semester. Many people at Fordham have worked hard both to support online instruction through Flexible Hybrid Learning and to make it possible for some of you to live in residence at Fordham. Still, I recognize that, even with this enormous effort, all of our students confronted a very imperfect choice between remote classes and a highly constrained on-campus experience.

Your resilience and commitment to learning have been inspiring. And now that we can reasonably look forward to a time when vaccines make it possible to gather together again, I want to particularly thank you for becoming part of the Fordham family this year. This experience has given us a special bond, I think. All of us in CMS will particularly cherish the fact of our connection to each other as we move forward from here.

With warm wishes for a happy, and safe, holiday, and a brighter new year to come.

Very best,

Prof. Aronson

FORDHAM & NYC EVENTS

PMMA Virtual Secret Santa
DUE: Thursday, December 17,
If you chose to participate in the cohort secret santa, make sure to send your gifts to pmma@fordham.edu by **THURSDAY** so the gifts can get disbursed in time.

**Climate Impact Sustainable Gift Guide**

This year Social Innovation Collaboratory’s Climate Impact Initiative is urging you to shop sustainably and shop small! It is more important than ever to support small businesses that have struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you’re going to shop, please do so consciously! We have compiled a comprehensive sustainable gift guide to help you support small sustainable, ethical, and BIPOC-owned businesses while lessening your carbon footprint.

[Click here for some ideas!](#)

**2020: Lessons Learned and Advice for 2021 with Dr. L. Maren Wood**

*Friday, December 18, 12PM*

Join Beyond the Professoriate as we examine how 2020 shaped job searching and professional development — and how we can employ best practices for a successful 2021. Attendees will learn how to

- identify strategies and skills that helped job seekers on the market this year;
• outline a manageable plan for your career development;
• and evaluate the steps you need to take next year in your professional development and career transition.

Click here to register!

GSAS Dialogues with the Dean: Office Hours
Wednesday December 16

Dr. Tyler Stovall, Dean of the Graduate School, welcomes an opportunity to engage directly with members of the GSAS student community to gain a more in-depth understanding of what might be on students' minds at this juncture. Please join Dean Stovall for a one-on-one conversation in an office hours appointment!

Use this form to schedule an appointment!
*office hours appointments are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Boren Fellowship
Deadline: January 27, 2020 5PM

The Boren Fellowship provides up to $24,000 to support U.S. graduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. national security. University endorsement of applicants is required. If you're interested in applying, please review the websites of specific opportunities carefully and reach out to fellowships@fordham.edu to set up an
appointment to speak with an advisor.

For information about other award opportunities, check out their [website](#) and "stop by" for a quick chat with a fellowships advisor during weekly virtual drop-in hours: Thursdays @ 2pm-4pm (Zoom Meeting: ID: 87472128359 / Passcode: 756607) For more information on the fellowship [click here](#).

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**SNAPSHOTS OF THE FIRST SEMESTER**

Picture from the first PMMA picnic in Central Park. **Photo credit: Julia Werner**
This past semester the PMMA had the privilege of gaining insight from many successful media professionals including Jack Ford (top), PBS/CBS correspondent and anchor, George Bodarky (bottom left), news director of WFUV, and Julliane Welby (bottom right), senior editor of WNYC.

Don’t forget to check out Handshake for job & internship opportunities throughout the semester!
If you're looking for more personalized career guidance, please contact Megan McDonald with Fordham Career Services at mmcdonald21@fordham.edu.

That's it for now. Thank you for reading!

Morgan Williams & Julia Werner
PMMA '21

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For comments or suggestions, please email mwilliams150@fordham.edu

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