



Dr. Peter McCarthy
Distinguished Lasallian-Faculty
2013-2014

“He is one of the most caring, considerate, and dedicated teachers I have ever met. Whenever I have a problem or need help with anything, whether it’s school related or not, I know I can always count on him to talk to and get advice from. Although I’m only a freshman, he has already impacted my life tremendously. He truly practices what he preaches in class and his hard work and dedication inspires and motivates me to be the best teacher I can be. I can only hope that some day I am half the amazing teacher that he is.” This quote was directly from Michaela, one of Dr. McCarthy’s students.

Peter McCarthy is a master teacher, advisor, mentor, collaborator and networker. He has been a faculty member at Manhattan College for over 19 years, but his beginnings started here when he earned his BS in Physical Education. Dr. McCarthy’s other credentials include an MS in special education from the College of New Rochelle, and an MS in school Administration and Supervision. He then went on to Teachers College to earn an Ed.M in Instructional Practice in special education and an Ed.D in urban special education.

As a teacher, Peter creates lasting relationships with his students at one of the most pivotal times in their lives, during their freshmen year at a new College. During this transitional time, he builds community in his classes, perpetuates relationships among students, and molds their first impressions of the teaching profession, Manhattan College, and the Education Program. He is an outstanding professor who truly cares about his students and who wholeheartedly dedicates himself to the Lasallian mission.

Peter's positive influence transcends the classroom and extends into student advising. Peter can be found in his office at 10:00 at night during advising times, working on students' schedules and planning for their future. He is concerned about every aspect of his students' lives, socially, academically, and emotionally. He is a true Lasallian who knows each student individually.

Dr. McCarthy is the king of networking and building connections between teachers, school administrators and our students; he's definitely a people person. He seems to always know the right person to contact if a student is looking for a teaching job.

He is also a valuable resource to faculty; he is the "go to" guy for any technology issues. He is the first to volunteer for Accepted Students Days, Freshmen Orientations, and committees that require his expertise.

Dr. McCarthy has published chapters in books and in academic journals. His main interests reflect integrating technology in classes to improve teaching and learning for special needs populations.

In addition to serving the needs of his students every day, Dr. McCarthy has been a chaperone on my service trips. Recently, he visited Jamaica to work with secondary students at St. Vincent Strombi School where Brother Nicoletti is the principal. He accompanied four students, and Dr. Ladda in a pilot program to explore the possibility of having more students from MC serving this population. Brother Nicoletti commented, “Dr. McCarthy, up are a good and faithful servant. You earned and deserved this honor for

all the teaching of minds and touching of hearts you have done throughout your career. You are a true Lasallian educator in the fullest sense of the meaning of this word. You are a living embodiment of the Lasallian virtues of faith and zeal.” He also traveled extensively with Dean Merriman who said, “Peter is one of the friendliest and most helpful colleagues you will ever meet. He is a great teacher who students never forget.” Gloria Wolpert stated that she could never thank Peter enough for all of his help with their major Council for Exceptional Children presentation in New Orleans.

The most important part of Peter’s life at Manhattan College is his students. They are the heart of his Lasallian work here. Megan shared, “As I look back on the past four years of my life at Manhattan College, there is one person who has been a constant source of support to me, and that was Dr. McCarthy. As both my teacher and advisor, he has played an integral part in making me the educator and person that I’m proud to be today.” (Megan)

Peter and his wife, Kathy, have raised two beautiful and successful children, Amanda and Bryan. Peter shares his Christian family values with both his own family and his Manhattan College family. He is a devoted and loving father and husband, caring colleague and friend.

Dr. Lisa Rizopoulos