Ashley J. Cross, Ph.D.

Bonus et Fidelis

We celebrate Dr. Ashley J. Cross for her twenty-five years of extraordinary service as Professor of English at Manhattan College, to which she arrived with a Ph.D. from Brown University in 1996. As the author and editor of two books, many articles, and dozens of conference papers, Ashley has brought credit to the College with her scholarship on British Romantic poetry and prose; Gothic literature; gender and sexuality studies; and the new materialism. Her monograph *Mary Robinson and the Genesis of Romanticism* established her as the leading authority on the 18th-century author and actress Mary Robinson. Her leading-edge, co-edited volume *Material Transgressions* was the first to bring the new fields of thing theory, affect theory, and the new materialism into studies of British Romanticism.

The consummate teacher-scholar in the Manhattan College mold, Ashley has shared this deep knowledge and expertise with countless students in such popular courses as *Romantic Matters; Literary Criticism;* and *Gender, Sexuality, and Literature*. She is as passionate as she is skilled in the craft of teaching. Students know her as a superb discussion leader, one who brings out their intellectual best and is capacious, generous with the time and attention that she devotes to their development as thinkers and writers. This same generosity extends to student research, including her mentoring three Branigan Scholars Projects.

Ashley has been a faculty leader, having served as English Department chair; co-director of the Lasallian Women and Gender Resource Center, and chair of the School of Liberal Arts curriculum committee, along with committee appointments too numerous to count. In these roles, she has displayed an extraordinary concern for justice and fairness. A colleague with an unusually deep commitment to service in the profession, she has mentored a generation of junior scholars here at Manhattan, as well as at other institutions.

Congratulations, Ashley, and thank you for your service!