Rocco Marinaccio, Ph.D.

Bonus et Fidelis

We celebrate Dr. Rocco Marinaccio for his twenty-five years of extraordinary service as Professor of English at Manhattan College, to which he arrived with a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1996. With an impressive array of essays in prestigious journals such as MELUS and Lit: Literature, Interpretation, Theory—along with dozens of conference papers, panels, and invited lectures—Rocco is a scholar and critic of extraordinarily wide-ranging interests who has brought credit to the College with his scholarship on the American Objectivist poets, Italian American culture, modern and postmodern New York, and Food Studies, fields in which he is a recognized authority. His work often layers these areas together in unique and original ways.

An embodiment of the teacher-scholar in the Manhattan College tradition, Rocco has shared his deep knowledge of the American literary canon with countless students in such popular courses as American Poetry; Modern American Literature; and New York City, Modernity and Postmodernity. Skilled and dedicated to the craft of teaching, Rocco is known for intellectually challenging students and opening their minds. He makes porous the boundaries between the College and the outside world, providing his students with opportunities to bring what they’ve learned in the classroom to literary sites and food markets throughout New York City. And he has devoted countless hours to student writing and research, including mentoring four Branigan projects.

Rocco has been a faculty leader, having served as the Chair of the English Department and as Director of the Core Curriculum in the School of Liberal Arts. His stewardship of the Dante Society has maintained a vital colloquium for sharing faculty scholarship and fostering collegiality across disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Rocco has also mentored and advised meaningful and significant activities in the Lasallian tradition, from leading a post-Katrina service trip to New Orleans to his current role as co-advisor to the LGBTQ Student Organization.

Congratulations, Rocco, and thank you for your service!