

YALE-HARVARD GAME



Saturday, November 18th

Check our LinkedIn and Facebook pages
for updated information about an
MMF gathering.



Michael Manzella Award 2023



Yale University's Timothy Dwight College continues to present a Michael Manzella Award in memory of Michael each year at graduation. It is given to a senior who, "through the qualities of kindness, dedication and courage most inspired his classmates." This year the recipient was Zachery Lee Andalman. The award was presented by Frank Manzella (Michael's brother) and Timothy Manzella (Michael's nephew).

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear MMF Supporters:

As MMF enters its 30th year, let's look back for a minute. While Michael's life created MMF, its future lies with people who know him only through our efforts. To that end, we are committed to building an enduring and interconnected community of Fellows that will support MMF well into the future.

We are planning for decades, not years.

So this past year saw the Board make a dedicated effort to reach out to MMF's 100+ past Fellows - see the expanded "Where Are They Now" portion of this letter describing a world-renowned tenor, a career philanthropist, a pediatric specialist, a labor economist and, yes, a leading doctor moonlighting as a screenwriter / director!

They are unanimous that MMF's Fellowship played a critical role in their career development. To say we are humbled would be an understatement.

And yet this only represents a small fraction of the lives we've impacted.

At the same time, we have continued our work this past year with two fabulous fellows in the performing arts while also filling unique charitable gaps that others may have overlooked in DreamYard (equity & opportunity for impoverished youth through the arts), Friends of Karen (support for families of children with cancer) and Back Country Jazz (transforming young lives through music).

So, it is with deep gratitude and on behalf of our Board that I thank you for your support of our past endeavors - and the future generosity that ensures our mission will endure for decades to come.






Sincerely,

Frank J. Manzella
Chairman

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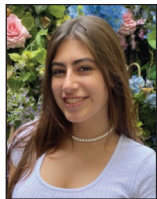
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BONUS: Where Are They Now? Catching Up with MMF Fellows From Across the Decades

Name of MMF Fellow	Year and Description of MMF Fellowship	Where Are They Now?
 <p>Romy Drucker '07</p>	<p>2005: Internship at SHARE (a breast cancer and ovarian cancer advocacy and support organization), organizing advocacy campaigns, writing a newsletter and translating it into Spanish for emerging Latina readership.</p>	<p>2023: Romy holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and founded <i>The 74</i>, an award-winning nonprofit news organization focused on education. She is Education Program Director for the Walton Family Foundation.</p>
 <p>Wesley Greenblatt '07</p>	<p>2006: Lab research concerning endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation (ERAD), a system highly relevant to cancer.</p>	<p>2023: Wesley is an MD, PhD working as an Assistant in Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and an Instructor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.</p>
 <p>Roshan Sethi '09</p>	<p>2008: Internship in the Office of the Surgeon General in Washington, DC. on the Childhood Overweight and Obesity Prevention Initiative.</p>	<p>2023: Roshan is not only an Oncologist at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, but he is also a screenwriter and director whose debut film, <i>7 Days</i>, won Best First Feature at the 2022 Independent Spirit Awards.</p>
 <p>Natalia Emanuel '13</p>	<p>2010: Teaching Poetry Slam classes to underserved youth in New York City, working through The Door, an NYC nonprofit.</p>	<p>2023: Natalia is a research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Her research focuses on understanding the informal labor market, workplace policies that help firms and workers thrive, and child welfare and criminal justice systems.</p>
 <p>Terrence Chin-Loy '14</p>	<p>2012: Five-week, intensive operatic training festival with Opera on the Avalon in Newfoundland, Canada playing the role of Puccini's Rinuccio from Gianni Schicchi.</p>	<p>2023: Now a professional opera singer described by <i>Opera News</i> as having "a beautiful lyric tenor voice," Terrence recently made his solo Metropolitan Opera debut in Terence Blanchard's <i>Fire Shut Up in My Bones</i>.</p>

Michael Manzella Foundation's 2023 Summer Fellowships Invest \$10,000 in Amazing Leaders of Tomorrow

PERFORMING ARTS



Hannah Kurzewski

Theater-major Hannah spent the summer at the Cape Cod Theatre Project, helping mount five shows in a month-long period, but also discovering her passion as a writer. Hannah reflected on this transformative experience: *"The chance to observe five different casts and creative teams at work made me realize how much I valued an actor's performance. I worked alongside Tony nominees, Obie award-winners, and Broadway regulars. But interns were also responsible for devising and performing a show of their own. For the first time, I tried my hand at writing scripts, using all of the techniques that I learned directly in workshops and indirectly observing performances. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed script writing! Once I started, I couldn't stop. I discovered I can feel just as 'at home' behind my laptop screen, working on a new script, as I can in the theater itself. I was inspired to write a draft of my first full length play, called 'prom night,' and have hopes of submitting it to the Yale Playwright's Festival. My time at CCTP made me not only a better performer, but awakened a passion to become a better writer, theater maker and person."*

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, PERFORMING ARTS



Anya AitSahlia

Anya interned with Hear Your Song, a nonprofit helping children and teens facing life-threatening illness create professionally produced, personalized songs to tell their story. Anya spent her 10-week internship at 2 hospitals in New York City and the surrounding area. A singer with the Yale Glee Club who plans to attend

medical school, Anya said a highlight of her summer internship was working with campers at Camp Inspiration at DoubleHRanch. *"We helped children with respiratory illnesses, most of whom are nonverbal, share their unique perspectives through song. I had a particularly meaningful experience with Tia, a camper who wrote a song called 'Happiness' about her life story and the importance of being happy. She was so vulnerable and generous and I was honored when she asked me to perform the song with her to close the camp talent show."* Dr. Kathleen Braico, Founding Medical Director of Double H Ranch Camp, echoed this gratitude: *"Helping children choose the words to write a song helps them express their feelings, their joy, what they like and don't like - everything an abled kid takes for granted. I saw children open up to you in a way that they have never opened up to me because you patiently waited and gently suggested words and ideas that allowed them to express themselves."*

FURTHERING OUR MISSION

MMF Long Term Partners awarded \$5,000 each to further their mission

Back Country Jazz

(www.backcountryjazz.org)

BCJ's full scholarship program brings music education to children in high-need neighborhoods, engaging their creative spirit and significantly closing the social / educational gap that undermines at-risk



youth. As former student Eric Zolan said: *"BCJ has given me support, experience, inspiration, and encouragement to attend college, get a job, and propel me forward on my developing journey as a musician and person."*

Friends of Karen

(www.friendsofkaren.org)

MMF's grant helped over 550 children and their families cope with a life-threatening illness from diagnosis to treatment to survivorship. According to Leslie Bellissimo, FOK Regional Director: *"Our financial, psychosocial, emotional, and advocacy helps avoids hunger, homelessness, and crushing debt, while also cultivating lasting coping skills and empowering self-advocacy."*



DreamYard Project

(www.dreamyardprep.com)



DreamYard continued to provide 150 under-privileged students with its core vocal singing instruction, but has now expanded its curriculum to include keyboard and percussion. A highlight of this year's expanded program was the Collaborative Arts Rhythm, a weekly convocation of senior music and dance students to learn a new rhythm that is applied to an in-class performance.



OUR MISSION



Michael Manzella
(1971 - 1993)

Michael Manzella, a gifted scholar, musician and athlete, succumbed to a two-year battle with cancer in 1993 at the age of 21. He left behind a legacy of music, love and inspirational courage. This Foundation was conceived to honor that legacy.

The Michael Manzella Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to activities in education, children's causes, cancer research and the arts. We support those individuals and institutions that demonstrate the leadership and potential to make significant contributions in these areas. These goals are consistent with the struggles and achievements of Michael's life.

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Check out the MMF website at themichaelmanzellafoundation.com

Keep in Touch! To hear more about MMF events, please provide us with your e-mail address on the enclosed form.

If you wish to support MMF, you may send a tax-deductible donation to:

Michael Manzella Foundation
412 Woodbridge Road
Rockville Centre, New York 11570

You may also donate on-line at www.themichaelmanzellafoundation.com.
This option is available under the "About" tab. Thank you for your support.