

ANNAMARIA MACIOCIA

Marist College

Poughkeepsie, NY

Transcribed by Ann Sandri

For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections

Maciocia, Annamaria

Transcript – Annamaria Maciocia

Interviewee: Maciocia, Annamaria

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Marist College Social Aspects

Summary: In this interview Professor Maciocia speaks about her early years and what brought her to the Hudson Valley. She discusses her education at Vassar College and her early career before coming to Marist College. Annamaria talks about the Para-Legal Program at Marist in depth and its growth over the years. She speaks about the leadership of the college and where she thinks it is headed in the future.

Jan Stivers ([00:00:01](#)):

And I'll start for the record by saying that this is Thursday, January 6th, 2022. My name is Jan Stivers and I'm interviewing professor Annamaria Maciocia for the Marist College Oral History Project. And the purpose of the project is to capture the experiences of members of the Marist community who played an active role in the development of the college. And I'm grateful to you, Annamaria, for this contribution to the archives.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:00:31](#)):

I'm grateful to be here. I'm very excited about the opportunity to participate. And I hope that, you know, I have something that I can contribute, but it's a tremendous privilege to be here. So thank you.

Jan Stivers ([00:00:44](#)):

It's gonna be a pleasure too. <laugh> so I'd like to start with questions about your background. If you could tell me where, and when you were born about the family you were born into.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:00:55](#)):

Oh, I was born November 8th, 1966, in Queens.

Jan Stivers ([00:01:02](#)):

Oh, in Queens. Okay. I just assumed you had been a local family.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:01:05](#)):

Yeah. And in in Italian American family, <affirmative> the second daughter, the second child to my parents who both immigrated from Italy. So my sister and I are first generation to go to college and first generation to be born in the United States.

Jan Stivers ([00:01:25](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Wow

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:01:27](#)):

And so we you know, having, being born in Queens in a, in Italian American family whose Catholic, went to Catholic schools for the first 12 years and my sister is older, eight years older than I, so I always had sort of the, experience of, or I should say I had the benefit of her experiences, as they, you know, related to, you know, her breakthrough in terms of education, going to college. Yeah. Going to college, the outside world. And so I went to St Leo's grammar school, St. Leo's school in Corona, Queens. Yeah. In Corona. Yes, my high school St. Francis Prep in Fresh Meadows. And when my parents I guess, as we were growing, I wanna say probably I was very much an infant, so my sister who's eight years older was seven. She could relate to this better, but my parents started to venture out on the weekends and started to come to upstate New York to spend the weekends because they just felt that it was a pleasant reminder of their own childhood, where they were in a local, very rural town in, um Abruzzi, in Italy <affirmative>. And so they loved, you know, Ulster County, which is an area that they visited frequently. And there were

Jan Stivers ([00:03:20](#)):

There were boarding houses in the Plattekill area

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:03:22](#)):

Yes. And so they did, they

Jan Stivers ([00:03:25](#)):

Sadie Penzatta wrote about them. Do you know Sadie? No. Oh, I we'll talk about her afterwards.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:03:29](#)):

Wow. That I'd love to read about that. I know that my parents would come up usually for a day, but it would be like a day where they would go either apple picking or tomato picking or, you know, it would, a lot of it had connection to food because they wanted to you know, be able to make, either, you know, have a canning project or have some sort of tomato meat sauce, making, you know, tomatoes and stuff like that. So that was always very much a backyard project in Queens. And so they started coming up now, by the time I was one we had already, my parents had acquired a farm upstate.

Jan Stivers ([00:04:20](#)):

Oh my gosh.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:04:21](#)):

Yeah. So they, they did, they had saved their money and they had purchased a 45 acre property in the Town of Plattekill, which always served as a weekend home and as an eventual retirement place. So we always lived with our extended family, which meant my maternal grandparents and my paternal grandmother. So

Jan Stivers ([00:04:56](#)):

So, they were in this country too. They had come from this country

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:04:58](#)):

Yes, they loved the Ulster County area. And so the grandparents, as quickly as they were able to retire from their, you know, various jobs, they moved to the farm permanently, which of course meant that, you know, we had like a summer house, you know, it was always functioning and we had, and on the weekends we would come up to Ulster county. And so I, and my parents also eventually did just that they retired and, you know, moved up full time. So when I was looking at colleges, I knew that it was the intention of my parents to move eventually. So I, Vassar College is where I completed my bachelor's that's where I attended. And then Albany Law School. Yeah. Yeah.

Jan Stivers ([00:05:56](#)):

Well, that was one, one of my questions is what made you choose Vassar? Well, location was one part of it.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:06:03](#)):

Location was a tremendous part of it. I lived at home while I went to Vassar mm-hmm <affirmative>. But it was located where you know, I guess the proximity you know, was just perfect for being able to go home and also be able to have a good college experience, which that was always very important to my parents. That we went to the best possible schools. They saw that as part of their obligation

Jan Stivers ([00:06:40](#)):

Parental obligation?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:06:40](#)):

Absolutely.

Jan Stivers ([00:06:42](#)):

So, I imagine Vassar was very different from St. Francis Prep, the culture.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:06:50](#)):

Yes. Yes. It was.

Jan Stivers ([00:06:52](#)):

Especially at the time that you're talking about. So you went to Vassar, you were born in 66, did you say, so you went to Vassar,

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:07:01](#)):

Uh, 80, 84. Okay. To, and I graduated in 87. I completed my studies at Vassar in three, three years. So I, have took, heavy course loads each semester and took summer classes as well

Jan Stivers ([00:07:19](#)):

As a day student?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:07:20](#)):

Yeah. So, and I...

Jan Stivers ([00:07:25](#)):

How did you find Vassar? What was that experience like for you?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:07:29](#)):

Well, you know, I found that the faculty were just these extraordinary people, all of them were so, just dedicated and diligent in their fields. <affirmative>, you know, and these were people who

Jan Stivers ([00:07:52](#)):

Two, three load, lends itself to that

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:07:56](#)):

<laugh> yeah. Who had you know, written books. And I could tell that, although, you know, I came from a high school where the faculty was just incredible as well. <affirmative>, and I had an excellent experience there. The the faculty at Vassar were, you know, incredibly diligent, intelligent people, very driven. And they had expectations that, you know, I could immediately sense were a challenge and that they could not be disappointed <affirmative>. So I think it was in that way. It was a good fit, <affirmative> it was a good fit. And quite frankly, I was so busy while I was there that it just kept me, you know, motivated <affirmative> and it kept me going, so I really did enjoy, and the kinds of coursework

that I was able to do was just you know, the studying, taking a course and English that was devoted to, you know, revenge tragedy plays.

Jan Stivers ([00:09:16](#)):

Wow.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:09:16](#)):

Rather than, you know, just...

Jan Stivers ([00:09:18](#)):

British literature. Yeah. Yeah.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:09:19](#)):

Just doing like very specific, just diving deep. And so I appreciated the curriculum and I appreciated you know, some of the nuances, you know, having eight people in my class that was great. And calculus, yeah. There were people and a colleague that attend my math class and that's just, you know, how it was. And it was great to ask questions and I just, I found the experience to be one that made me work. I did not want to disappoint and I wanted to, you know, I wanted to succeed at the opportunity that my parents had given me.

Jan Stivers ([00:10:14](#)):

Mm-hmm <affirmative>, I imagine that in a few minutes, we'll talk about how that has influenced your own teaching. You know, you became a college teacher and but before we get to that what made you decide to study law?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:10:32](#)):

Well, I have always, since I can remember, I always wanted to be an attorney really, and it was a very unlikely match <laugh> because I was always a more quiet or reserved individual, but I always saw law as a way to resolve problems as a way to solve things. <affirmative>, you know, and so even from when I was, I can remember in the seventh grade, you know, just having different speakers who would come to school and different careers and just in that engagement, I think I would, I just saw that this was an opportunity to really help people. And even within my own family, you know, there are so many barriers, language is a barrier education is a barrier and those barriers create fear. And so lawyers are really able to sort of, you know, just make the fear go away and are able to make a path where someone can see their way forward. And so I...

Jan Stivers ([00:12:01](#)):

It's quite beautiful Annamaria. It's really beautiful to, to think about to your profession in that way.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:12:07](#)):

And so I always saw the law in that way, and I guess there were individuals along the way who would say, do you really think that you wanna do that because you don't, I don't have a what, you know, would be characterized as this you know, charismatic or, you know, this ability, this aggressive ability

Jan Stivers ([00:12:35](#)):

Adversarial?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:12:37](#)):

Yes. Yeah and I think I just, I don't see the law that way and so that did not really hinder my, and then I just, my parents were just always very incredibly supportive. Like, if you want to do something, then, you know, you can do it because you just keep moving toward your goal. And what you want to be will invite who you are in. You don't have to fit someone else's definition <affirmative> of what a lawyer, of how a lawyer behaves or how, you know, so that was always, and I think that's from being immigrants, I think they, themselves had so many times they had to accept that. And so, that was always very much part of what, you know, we were told. And I always saw, you know, lawyers as being helpful. And as you know, my parents had real estate transactions. And so, you know, these individuals always seemed to be able to explain documents and make things that were sometimes very, you know, mysterious or menacing, just able to break things down. And I guess, being in the presence of these individuals

Jan Stivers ([00:14:03](#)):

Mm-hmm <affirmative> yeah, yeah, yeah. That's, that's wonderful. One of my earlier questions was how would you know about the work of a lawyer? And it would really be through your parents' experiences as their world expanded upstate.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:14:18](#)):

Yeah., right. As their world expanded also.

Jan Stivers ([00:14:21](#)):

I mean, they did come from Italy. It's not like they went into small world. Yeah. They crossed the ocean and established home here.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:14:30](#)):

Right. And they had to.

Jan Stivers ([00:14:30](#)):

And did they bring their parents over?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:14:33](#)):

Yes. So that's how and the entire, and that, you know, the entire family, the only grandparent I didn't meet because he was killed in World War II was my father's father <affirmative>. And so, and that was, you know, my father was three at the time, <affirmative>, we were always an incredibly close family <affirmative>. And I always had that, you know, very loving and supportive <affirmative> framework <affirmative>. And I think that that really, you know, helps an individual find their way. Yeah. Yeah. And of course, so the environment at Vassar had a different take, you know, there was different spin and I would go home sometimes and I would engage my mother and like, do you know, you know, what these things are? And, you know, my mother would say, look, she'd say, I know who you are, you know, who you are, and you need to be who you are, and other people are gonna be who they are. You are, you're not at Vassar to you know, to give up your identity, you're at Vassar to learn you're at Vassar to grow and, and there's a right way to do that. Right. And so I think she was always you know, just, you know, very pragmatic. I don't know if you recall, but I gave a small, I do a small talk about how I, you know,

stumbled into, my biology major. Right? So here I was at Vassar and I didn't know what to major in. I loved English history, political science with Sydney Plotkin he was just so dynamic <affirmative>. And I, you know, I wanted to major in everything and we were assigned these random advisors and I had Charles Briggs, an anthropologist as my first year advisor. And I think I went to see him just about every other day with, "what am I gonna major in?" Here are the pros for history, here are the cons for history. Here are the, you know, everything was a list. And so, I think he was just, you know, he just didn't know what to do with me. So he said, all right. He said, what are the harder subjects? I said, well, math and science. He said, that's where you need to pick your major. So I got this advice and within 10 minutes, I walked from Blodgett to Main and I handed in my card, majoring in biology, and I thought, I've checked that off. Okay. I'm gonna go off. And I think maybe that was the quote/unquote Catholic school girl <laugh>, <affirmative> of organizing, like I have to pick a major and I can't be, and if this, and it's anxiety producing, not to have that choice made correct. And the longer you dwell in like, oh, you know, I love these things. I love them all equally. How can I give up two, to pick one and you know, all this stuff, so,

Jan Stivers ([00:17:54](#)):

Oh, that's a great story.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:17:55](#)):

And so then, you know, there go and then I get into some of the blood instance where you're really tested, where you're really tested where you said, okay, here's the anatomy and physiology lab. And now, you know, you've got to, you've got to, do dissection, the dissection, and guess what we have live rats. And, you know, you need to kill the rat and or at least stun the rat, you know, the idea was we had to take them by their tails and hit the back of their heads, the edge of a lab table. And I mean, these rats were biting people. They were escaping. It was, it was just, there was mayhem in that room. And that's where I thought to myself, I'm like, oh, now at this time on the farm, I was living with my grandparents and my parents would come up every weekend, but they still had their work in the city. They still had their business. So I said, oh my, and of course I have, you know, people around me who are taking positions, taking stands and, you know, making decisions. And here I am. And I'm like, I, I just, I don't know what to do. And that's when I call and I make that, that call to my mother. And, you know, she's like, listen, I can't tell you what you have to do here. She, but essentially, you know, reminds me says, look, you know, W's, aren't always available out there, you know, the whole world isn't, you know, going give you the chance for a W <affirmative> . And that's where I think I, you know, realized, I said, I've go in there...

Jan Stivers ([00:19:44](#)):

I didn't get that.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:19:46](#)):

I've gotta go in there and kill that rat, which is what I did <laugh> just what I end up doing. And at that point, I think, I just felt like, okay, I mean, this is horrible, but I've done it. And I'm ready to proceed with this, you know, lab, and we're gonna, you know, get through this.

Jan Stivers ([00:20:10](#)):

Did you remain a biology major? You graduated with a major in bio from Vassar?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:20:16](#)):

Yes. Yes I did. Because, you know, to change the major, would've meant an extra semester and that would've meant extra money. Tuition. Yeah. And I just know that it was a challenge. It was a hardship for my parents. And so I could not in good faith, put them through that. I said, I made this choice.

Jan Stivers ([00:20:42](#)):

And the reality is that what you gained from that experience developed your thinking skills, your analytics skills, your approach to problem solving those things, carry over to wherever you're going.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:20:55](#)):

And that's exactly correct at the end. I think I had to do a reflection about my major, would I major in anything different? And I think, you know, my answer was, no, I wouldn't have majored in anything different because it was essentially just an opportunity to learn about the world maybe through the lens of a discipline little bit more, but you've had the benefit of that wonderful liberal arts education all around. And, you know, you had maybe that opportunity to confront things that you were less comfortable with.

Jan Stivers ([00:21:33](#)):

Yes. Yes.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:21:34](#)):

Now that being said, as an advisor to students who want to go to law school, I do not ask them to identify the areas of greatest struggle. Right.

Jan Stivers ([00:21:49](#)):

I tell them to go with their strengths.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:21:51](#)):

Exactly.

Jan Stivers ([00:21:52](#)):

Nurture Your strengths, develop your strengths.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:21:54](#)):

Nurture your strengths. Because I think that by pursuing those, you develop a passion for what you study. And I really just, I wanna think about the undergraduate experience, not just as preparation for law school, but as preparation for your whole life. Yes. And if you can find that area, that field, that inspires you, that I think that not only will you develop everything that you need to be ready for your one hour year, but for your whole, you have almost like a first love there that for your whole life you have a way of looking at the world a way of ordering things, a way of making sense of things that is something that you thoroughly enjoy

Jan Stivers ([00:22:54](#)):

And the experience of mastering it. Yes, you know, reaching a point hopefully of excellence and then bringing that forward with you, that awareness that you can achieve excellence. What a good thing.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:23:14](#)):

Yeah. That is, that is the high, you know, I think that's the highest achievement that an advisor can have is knowing that your advisee is on their way to that type of growth. <affirmative> that type of experience.

Jan Stivers ([00:23:35](#)):

Changes the person. Yes. Well, I have to get to more prosaic questions. <laugh> What was your work like before you came to Marist?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:23:44](#)):

Okay. So I graduated from Albany Law School in 1990, and I had come home to very sad news that my paternal grandmother was dying. She was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer. And so I, unfortunately, almost like graduation two weeks later were presented with like this, just this terrible news. So I had to complete my work for the bar exam. So I was studying for the bar exam and I took the bar exam. And then once I came home from the bar exam, essentially the next year of my life, I functioned as her as her primary caregiver. Yes. She was.

Jan Stivers ([00:24:42](#)):

Now you had been living with her all through college?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:24:45](#)):

Absolutely. She was, you know, out with my maternal grandparents and then my paternal grandmother was with us. And she you know, had just been obviously as all of my grandparents just always had been there for me. And she just, her decline was just so, it was incredibly sad to witness. And then yet at the same time, there was no desire to avoid or to withdraw from it, you know, you needed to simply be there. <affirmative>. And so it was a year of Sloan Kettering. It was a year of, you know, trying treatments that, you know, we would hope would give her some time. My father's two brothers who at the time, both of them were alive, one since passed, but my two uncles were able to come to spend some quality time with her. And so they came to the farm and had that opportunity. They stayed with us too, and they had that opportunity to spend some time with her. And and that was just, you know, an incredibly sad time <affirmative>. And so it was a time where I really did not want to do anything else.

Jan Stivers ([00:26:09](#)):

Right, and nor could you have and continued as a caregiver. Right.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:26:14](#)):

No. And it just presented itself that that was really where I needed to be at that time. And so then after she passed away, it was January, 1992, she passed away. It was January eighth.

Jan Stivers ([00:26:36](#)):

Oh. So we coming on to the

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:26:38](#)):

Yeah, to the anniversary yeah. Three years. And so what happened after that was, I just systematically changed my whole vision of where I thought I was going I thought, you know, I would reconnect with

some of my networking and intern experiences, which had been in law firms <affirmative> and to you know, pursue some of those opportunities. And I just thought, I said, I just really wanna change what I do. And I think I wanna be more in control of what I do. So I think I did probably the scariest thing somebody could do between January 8th and March 1st. I started my own little in the home practice. <affirmative>. I told my parents about this idea, and I just wanted to do this and just sort of put out my shingle and see what would come independent practice. Yeah. And so my parents were very supportive and it was awesome. I mean, so many people in my community, you know, obviously had a need for different, you know, legal, different types of advice, representation, different things that would come up. And it was a great, it was a great, you know, I still maintain that, that space and I still have that, I don't do as much. I mean, in the early days, I just kind of took everything on, you know, so cuz you wanted to do it. So you would really be very busy and at times, you know, it's very lonely because you're the only person that you could really run ideas by. You really don't have somebody else to communicate with. So it would just have that, I think that drawback, but I was, you know, very busy and one of my clients was taking classes and she was, I think she was in a business law class and she was having difficulty getting I think, some of the concepts down. So she would have questions occasionally that were just academic <laugh> and she would say you know, by the way, I'm wondering if you could explain this to me or, you know, whatever. And so I would just, you know, she's like, oh, you know, you really have a great way of explaining things. And I said, oh, you know, thank you. I, you know, appreciate that. And I sometime later I was just clearing up some newspapers and just, you know, trying to straighten out a little bit, and I saw a Marist College ad looking for Paralegal, Adjunct instructors. Wow. And I said, you know, I said, this sounds like this is like interesting. And you know, maybe I should, this is like the class, that this Linda is taking. And I think this is, this sounds like a very interesting thing. So I remember being asked to show up in Fishkill at the extension center <affirmative> and that's when I met Scott Myers <affirmative> and Elizabeth Carr <affirmative> and to the world of weekend paralegal <affirmative>. And before I met them, I was in the lobby and I could see these students sitting in a circle and how passionate they were. And they were talking about the parts of the deed and they were just, you know, going at it and quizzing each other. And I said, oh my goodness. I'm like, this is.

Jan Stivers ([00:30:36](#)):

Adult learners, they're on fire, aren't they?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:30:39](#)):

Yes. On fire. Exactly. They were great. And so I thought, oh no, I, this is fun. And so then it was some time, I don't remember, maybe it was maybe months later that I got a call and I said, yes, of course. And I'll come in. And that was that. And so I think,

Jan Stivers ([00:31:03](#)):

so you began as an adjunct?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:31:05](#)):

Oh, yes. In, I think 1993.

Jan Stivers ([00:31:09](#)):

Oh, very soon.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:31:09](#)):

Yeah, 1993 and I began as an adjunct and I would take a course here and there. And then at some point Scott Meyers had mentioned to me that there was the opportunity to teach full time and that was going to begin in 95. And was I interested and would I submit a resume? And that is when I. I said, oh yes. I said, I'm interested in this opportunity. And I thought, I said, this is transitional, but the students had such an interest in law in its pure sense to solve problems, to not to manipulate it so much, but to be in awe of it. And I have to say that was incredibly attractive. Just that the rule of law, you know, it orders our society that, you know, it is there to be respected and the students seem to have this keen appreciation you.

Jan Stivers ([00:32:24](#)):

Yeah. I hope they're more attention now.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:32:27](#)):

More so than clients.

Jan Stivers ([00:32:29](#)):

Right.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:32:30](#)):

Because clients have a very focused <affirmative> need. <affirmative> and then you, you quickly see, okay. People are sometimes limited in how they're willing to understand or appreciate, you know, things people tend to want to go their way. And you can understand, and you can appreciate, their world and how that shapes, you know, those desired outcomes. But teaching was the opportunity to back up from all of that <affirmative> and to look at how things work <affirmative> with people who were interested in how things work.

Jan Stivers ([00:33:15](#)):

<affirmative>. So you came on full time in 95?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:33:19](#)):

95/96 was my first Marc van der Heyden was the AVP and Dr. Vincent Tuscano was... I think we were, was

Jan Stivers ([00:33:33](#)):

The department of

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:33:34](#)):

The Department, yes.

Jan Stivers ([00:33:35](#)):

Of Liberal arts here, department of Liberal Studies, was it called at that time?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:33:40](#)):

I think it, we were oh my goodness, you know, I don't remember that. Were we liberal the

Jan Stivers ([00:33:49](#)):

Humanities?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:33:50](#)):

Humanities...

Jan Stivers ([00:33:51](#)):

Was it humanities?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:33:52](#)):

I think we were. And Dr. Vincent Tuscano, and Scott Myers was the director of the paralegal program, my boss.

Jan Stivers ([00:34:03](#)):

You eventually became director.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:34:05](#)):

This is correct when Scott retired. And if you asked me the year <laugh> I could become that. I just don't recall. I don't recall.

Jan Stivers ([00:34:16](#)):

But you just moved into the director role when he retired.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:34:21](#)):

Well, I believe that, you know, there was a, I had discussions with with Dean Schaffer. <affirmative> so I said, you know, I'm not sure.

Jan Stivers ([00:34:33](#)):

Marty was already Dean by that time?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:34:35](#)):

Yes. Martin Schaffer was already the Dean. And so I just, I told him that I was very interested in being the program director that I had learned a great deal. And I believe Scott Meyers had also indicated that there was, and so there was a year after he left, where we went from having a director who we teach and then a faculty member who just one person in this department. And so I was carrying the director responsibilities and I explained to the Dean that, you know, the only way I could see myself being the director is if I could also, you know, teach, I do enjoy so much the teaching responsibilities. <affirmative>. And so that's where,

Jan Stivers ([00:35:30](#)):

But there's, is there another person in the department today?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:35:33](#)):

No.

Jan Stivers ([00:35:35](#)):

So you're the director and the ins... I don't wanna say primary instructor, the instructor.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:35:42](#)):

Right.

Jan Stivers ([00:35:43](#)):

That's a lot

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:35:43](#)):

We have a wonderful adjunct faculty. At this time. So we have adjuncts who I am so blessed have been with us for a long time. <affirmative> and two of them are actually our alums who participated in the paralegal program. <affirmative> went on to law school who are my former students. <affirmative> Practice law locally <affirmative> and come back to teach each a course. So that's great.

Jan Stivers ([00:36:12](#)):

That's great.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:36:12](#)):

And another one of our adjuncts is a student who essentially did the same, but under Scott Meyers. So she was not my student, but she was his former student. So she had worked as a paralegal for 10 years before she went to law school. She had full appreciation of. And then we have, you know, other attorneys that are still, our faculty has like a very low attrition rate. I'm so pleased.

Jan Stivers ([00:36:46](#)):

The whole college.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:36:46](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Thank God. And so we have two courses, there's the opportunity to teach in the weekend and then also to teach in the evening, the same subject matter <affirmative> and I'm happy to say that's what they do. So everybody has their course. And they're willing to teach it in the weekend. They're willing to teach it in the evening so that everyone has that same experience, that same instructor. And I mean, obviously that's the best of all worlds. That has been one of my goals since I became director.

Jan Stivers ([00:37:23](#)):

That was The question <laugh>. When you took over, what were your goals? What strategies did you use to achieve them?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:37:29](#)):

Well, one of the, you know, I guess the goal is always maintaining ABA approval. Okay. So that has to be your pragmatic goal. But then we, you know, we really wanna look at, okay, so how are we gonna deliver the best possible education to our students? And faculty is at the heart of that. And so having a law program where your faculty is engaged in family court during the day, and then they're coming at night and they teach the family law course, and the weekend that person also <affirmative>, that means

that there's that commonality for the experience for the weekend students and the evening students. It's always about equalizing <affirmative>. And that individual too is bringing, you know, from the real world bringing. And that's why I also continue my practice experience. So, you know, I'm a sound justice <affirmative>. And so I think it's so important for us to have that real world, gotta have some mud on your boots <affirmative>, you know? That's important for our faculty. And so I then the teaching experience, that is not always a given all lawyers think they can teach <laugh>

Jan Stivers ([00:39:00](#)):

Well, they speak to Juries.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:39:01](#)):

Yes. And they all believe, oh, no, no, no, this is gonna be, but sometimes it just doesn't work out. Yeah. So with respect to the faculty, it has been very much about making sure that we support the adjuncts. And hopefully those people who are having a good time doing this and want to do it, want to continue are, you know, giving the students what they need. Right. So that's what you really love is when the people who are doing it are also, you know, and so I'm pleased with that. The next thing about, you know, the legal environment itself is that we are obviously constantly in the real world of change, you know, we have the technology. So that is always something about manifesting the best curriculum, making sure that we have the appropriate technology for our students. So right now we have taken this launch into a Westlaw 24/7, all students who are in the paralegal program. So this is now our library <affirmative> is Westlaw <affirmative>. So that is something that, you know, we hope is going to continue to get people ready for what they need to do. So we had, you know, some Westlaw and some books, but now we've launched Westlaw as the direction,

Jan Stivers ([00:40:40](#)):

The environment of the future really for lawyers.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:40:41](#)):

Yes, so now we we're on a system where all of our students are really being able to take that deep dive, you know, into, Westlaw.

Jan Stivers ([00:40:54](#)):

What Other goals do you have for the program now that you've achieved some of these really significant ones?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:41:00](#)):

Well, you know, and I guess the, the wonderful thing about being here, I think, is that Marist is so much about giving students that education that prepares them for a lifetime, right. <affirmative> and I think we need to be available to be accessible. So the American Bar Association in September had some changes to the restrictions that were placed on programs for being, having an online presence.

Jan Stivers ([00:41:45](#)):

Okay. Right, right they have to.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:41:46](#)):

So that is really the next world that, you know, we are, we're going to be entering <affirmative>, but as we do it, I really want that to be different from other <affirmative>, you know, institutions to that, do that, how I think that, you know, our approach, of having that small group experience <affirmative>.

Jan Stivers ([00:42:14](#)):

Ready access to faculty.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:42:17](#)):

Yes. A faculty that are so dedicated. I think the weekend model will probably be a great way of launching and doing a lot of synchronous <affirmative>. And so I think that is something I think that will be distinctive. Yeah. COVID did that. We were the first academic program to have to pivot in March of 2020. So when we went on that break <affirmative> I feel so guilty because I was sitting in the Henry Hudson Room <affirmative> I had so much work to do that week before break. And so I remember saying to myself, oh, they just extended break by a week, I think I can catch up. Why did, God could you please, this is what I need right now. And then all of a sudden,

Jan Stivers ([00:43:16](#)):

Two years later, <laugh>,

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:43:18](#)):

It's like this dooming globe. I said, I think I, you know, you gotta watch what you ask for, very careful about this. So this is, yeah, so what, you know, you want to do is try to take some of that experience and some of that challenge. So we had weekend classes that were coming up that weekend that could not meet in face to face. So we were immediately, we were on WebEx <affirmative> we were, you know, and I was telling my faculty was like, what, what is WebEx? What are you talking about? How are we gonna, you know, and, but I think that, you know, too, in the courts, we've had to deal with Teams. That's how we have all of our proceedings. And so, you know, we, we've just, we've had to embrace this. And so I think here's an opportunity for us to take some of our one on one, some of our points of distinction and to, you know, continue to allow them to, to move us <affirmative> in a direction where we'll be available to students who could not otherwise take advantage of this program. <affirmative> So that's obviously a goal. It's always a goal, is to try to grow the program in a way that we are there for students so that students could benefit from this education.

Jan Stivers ([00:44:52](#)):

It sounds to me you're talking also about moving the program forward, growing the program in ways that continue to reflect a Marist set of values, that the mission and values are still evident, say in the availability of faculty, the willingness to make that pivot and do whatever you have to do to deliver a good experience.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:45:15](#)):

Right. I mean I think absolutely, in terms of those Marist values are essential. When you look at you know, the access to faculty and the kinds of experience, now also as a program, we are very good about sprinkling in extras, you know, sort of always having a finger on the pulse of the local legal community. What do you want to see in entry level paralegals? So when we identify the software, then we make sure that our students have the opportunity to be introduced to that software. <affirmative> I make sure that I run free notary prep classes. <affirmative> So that you are ready to take that notary test

<affirmative> I've developed a portfolio, model <affirmative> so that a student can develop a portfolio with the thought that this portfolio is a bridge from your academic to your practical experience. <affirmative>. And so, you know, in the years of having to work with students, I think being able to offer them all of those extras as part of the program so that when they leave, they really are ready for their first professional experience or they're ready if they go to law school, they have an excellent foundation.

Jan Stivers ([00:47:00](#)):

<affirmative> yeah. From what you've said, I get a really clear understanding of the importance of you working as a town justice of your faculty. Well, I'll stay with you, you know, of having, you still practice, right?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:47:20](#)):

Yes, yes. Still take odd matters. Yeah, absolutely.

Jan Stivers ([00:47:23](#)):

So it makes perfect sense to me. How do you do it, while also being a fulltime faculty member?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:47:33](#)):

Well, I'm a professional lecturer, which is truly, I think, a godsend to me because that enables me to use that professional experience as my professional development. Okay. So that opportunity to take on projects, to take on work in my practice,

Jan Stivers ([00:48:02](#)):

Rather than writing an article or presenting at a conference

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:48:06](#)):

Exactly. That enables me to be able to provide the oversight to my program. And then within the areas that I teach, I teach three areas, Intro to Law, Legal Research and Writing, <affirmative> Real Property Title <affirmative>. And so in those areas, you know, being a transactional lawyer, helps me to develop, you know, that course. Yeah. And to shape what students need to learn in that. So

Jan Stivers ([00:48:39](#)):

So the complementary, yeah. Yes. That makes sense to me.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:48:42](#)):

And as a judge, you know, I think that the areas that, where I have to write and I have to research and my opinions, you know, so I, <affirmative> do end up spending a significant amount of time resolving cases on paper rather than issuing.

Jan Stivers ([00:49:02](#)):

Yeah, yeah. You think about that.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:49:04](#)):

Yeah. Rather than issuing a verbal opinion. <affirmative> I often, you know, do write. You know, my rationale and my opinion for the individuals. Now being a town justice, the people who normally read these opinions are my court clerk <laugh> and the people who receive them. And I have to say, I've been blessed with many court clerks who have just had a very generous spirit and they read the opinions. And they're very good about. I remember I had an engagement ring case, this was a few years ago just before COVID. And so I had to go back and do a significant amount of, you know, research on the statute cases and application. And it was a case that, you know, had a great deal of emotional <affirmative> build up. And so the staff in the courthouse, I think they were all waiting for, you know, this decision, you know, to come out, they wanted to read it. And the clerks were just you know, just shaking their heads one day. And I walk in and I said, no, what happened? I said, you know, how did that go? At the end of my case, I offered the opportunity to return the ring in lieu of, you know, paying the money to the other party and she said, oh, you know, she said, you laid out everything so nicely. It was an eight page opinion. <laugh> Some of them were like 16. And she said, you laid out everything so nicely. She said, they just turned to the end <laugh> they just turned the pages to the end. She said, I don't even wanna tell you, they just turned to the end to read the, the end of it.

Jan Stivers ([00:51:02](#)):

It's good. Cause it's like we're giving students lots of feedback on papers and they just checked the grade.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:51:08](#)):

What's the grade... And so I said, you know, I said, that's all they needed. I said, I think the rest of it was just for me. I just needed to know, i was deciding it correctly. And the clerk i mean to appreciate, she said you really just can't make a decision like that off the cuff. You really have to work through it. Yeah. She said you had to. And so when you can see it again through somebody who is just being very neutral and just, you know, approaching it in that way, not having a state, you know, just looking at it, you can say, okay. You know, somebody else gets it. And that's important. That's important.

Jan Stivers ([00:51:51](#)):

There's really a link to the last question I wanna ask in this section, this part. And that is about you having received the highest honor, the college awards for Excellence in Teaching the Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Teaching. And I wanna ask about the impact that had on you.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:52:15](#)):

Well, I think after that award, I said, I have to get busy. I really have to earn this. I have to somehow you know, live up to this. I think, you know, I can't imagine, and still, you know, being selected for that. And I think that there are times where maybe we're challenged in different ways. And so in many ways I see that award as being a challenge. <affirmative>, I mean, I've gotta get busy, I've gotta do this. Marist has been just an incredible place. It has been a gift to me in my life. It really has. It has brought into my life so many exceptional individuals.

Jan Stivers ([00:53:14](#)):

Can you? Let's talk about them.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:53:16](#)):

Whether they were faculty,

Jan Stivers ([00:53:21](#)):

Can you identify some of them?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:53:22](#)):

Well, of course I, you know, there, just in terms of Scott Myers, <affirmative> the, from the paralegal program, he was just an incredibly generous individual in giving me this opportunity. Any of those resumes would have worked. I know, and it was just an incredibly generous opportunity for me to try something different. And it was something that, and he was also a type of individual who would just allow you to grow and, you know, learn from your own mistakes. He was a, just an incredible person to work for and to work with. He was not micromanager. He was not, not any of those things, just really very generous in his assessment of my abilities. And so I always found it a great pleasure and honor, to work for him.

Jan Stivers ([00:54:38](#)):

Anybody else?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:54:39](#)):

Well, yes. I mean, I had Lou Zuccarello.

Jan Stivers ([00:54:42](#)):

What a gem. Oh, I'm sure Scott too. I just didn't know Scott very well, but I know Lou very well.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:54:50](#)):

Lou Zuccarello was just an incredible mentor, in terms of, you know, from my arrival here, was someone who, I just felt that, you know, if I had a question I could just go in and it was, and Bill Olson. Yeah, and Tom Casey. And so there, I think were just individuals who were, you know, so established, so didn't need to reach out, didn't need to, you know, but they were just incredible. They were, I think I was blessed with the series of great deans, Vincent Tuscano and Regina Habucha . Oh, so Janetta was just, she was just incredible to work for as well. And she is the one who asked me to be the pre-law advisor <affirmative> and that was, that just opened up a whole new world of a different way of working with students that I enjoy profoundly. And so just giving me, having the confidence that I would be able to add, you know, contribute to them that way. I thought that was just incredible. In addition to her, then Thom Wermuth <affirmative> and I have as a Dean and as a Vice President, I always have found him to be an individual who is supportive and constructive and helpful. Just you know, again, a person who shaped my experience here in a very positive way. And my current Dean, Marty Schaffer, <affirmative> who I cannot, these are people we are just in observing them and their capacity to resolve conflict. <affirmative> their capacity to engage with various problems, their personalities, you know, I just think an individual would be lucky to run into one of these people. Wow. And I've run into all of them. Yeah. You know, I've had to all of them as overseers, I think that has to say something about the Marist culture that these individuals choose to come here and that they stay and that they contribute.

Jan Stivers ([00:58:05](#)):

So, can you talk about what you perceive to be the Marist culture? And I don't wanna lead you in this direction, but I do want to ask if you perceive the influence of the Marist Brothers still in the college.

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:58:20](#)):

Well, being Catholic, I think that also shapes, you know, the way I'm gonna perceive things, <affirmative> so yes, I'm gonna perceive it from being part of that. But I think it's possible for you to come from different experiences and still to, to see that and to find that, and I think that's what the Marist Brothers would have intended and would've wanted as well, that this would be a universal experience that people who come here would have that. It wouldn't just come from somebody having, let's say a Catholic worldview <affirmative> but really from a any multitude of perspectives that, you know, this is a college like no other,

Jan Stivers ([00:59:09](#)):

In what way?

Annamaria Maciocia ([00:59:12](#)):

In the way that the level of commitment I think I see in the faculty, the level of just the, in terms of the commitment that, you know, the faculty have to the development of students right now, the commitment at Vassar I wanna go back to okay. Was a commitment to one's discipline <affirmative> and that is a noble thing. <affirmative> But here, I think people are committed to both their discipline and to their students.<affirmative> I think it's teaching, teaching, teaching <affirmative>. And I think that when that is the central focus, I think that that ultimately allows you to, you know, manifest that discipline to your students in a way that really will hopefully shape and enlarge their worldview. <affirmative> You know, so, I do for me, and there are other individuals that I wanna mention. Yeah. And Joanne Meyers <affirmative>, I mean, she has always just been an incredibly, just a very wonderful colleague, just you know, very open, very if I needed somebody to debate or discuss an issue <laugh> I did not happen two seconds. You know? And I mean, we could be in total disagreement here and you know, talking about tomato soup or, you know, our favorite dessert or whatever here, and we both loved tiramisu. Right? <Affirmative> so we could, you know, and we don't, and that would be in the same paragraph, you know, <affirmative> people don't, and I, so I feel that there is this focus on teaching. There's just this generosity in how we accept others. I, to me, that has been a big part of my experience here.

Jan Stivers ([01:01:52](#)):

Yeah. That's beautiful.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:01:54](#)):

It has you know, incredible. Rose DeAngelis who came in with you <affirmative> who did.

Jan Stivers ([01:02:00](#)):

She's the same time?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:02:01](#)):

Rose? Yes. Rose came in with me. She was one of my contemporaries and you know, there are just numerous people. I could go through that whole building in Fontaine, <affirmative> Irma Casey, you know, yeah.

Jan Stivers ([01:02:16](#)):

Well, these are your colleagues who shaped your experience. Can you talk for a little bit about how you see kind of the leaders who shaped the college, and I shouldn't say the leaders, but people who are responsible for the success that Marist is today and how it's changed in the 20 years you've been,

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:02:41](#)):

And that's probably the one person who I, Dr. Murray. I mean, I am just in awe of Dr. Murray and everything that he has been to Marist College. First of all, he had, in coming back to the college and helping us navigate the entire COVID nightmare when it would have been perfectly okay and understandable for somebody to say I'm retired. Right. That shows a level of commitment that goes beyond just being a college president who is committed to a college and who is committed to his legacy. It's commitment to the legacy of the college. That is why he is a phenomenal leader because he, his commitment is just to everything Marist is. And so I find that our history and having had him for so many years, I think it just, it manifests, you know, an individual who has really made the college part of, you know, part of who he is. I mean, I think he's just always been so committed. The college has, you could see the college has just been more than just a workplace to him. <affirmative> and I think that's,

Jan Stivers ([01:04:35](#)):

For sure. For sure. Anyone else you think has shaped the college?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:04:42](#)):

I think we have so many people, you know, I think if you look at HRVI just in terms of where we're located, <affirmative> Thom Wermuth, you've got that the idea about that focus on a national treasure, that is our backyard, that is our campus. Yeah. So I think that Thom in that way has just, you know, really given you know, this college a point of national distinction and you know, this is something that has, you know, percolated it from an idea to a room, to an Institute, to a journal, to internships, these amazing speakers. So, you know, I think you have that too. I think it's not, it's the, and I think his leadership there is the ability to, you know, see something that all of us look at <laugh> every day

Jan Stivers ([01:05:45](#)):

And recognize its value

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:05:48](#)):

And recognize its value. And recognize how we can somehow present this to the world, how we project this to the world. So I think that, you know, for that reason right there. And then I really think that when you look at our collective on campus, you know, who has shaped us the most, the different students who come here. The students who select from all of the many places where they can go and they decide, okay, I'm gonna pull the trigger. I'm going to Marist College. This is, I voted, I've made my decision. I'm going here. And they come here and I love that, you know, the fall semester and you look around and this place, and it's increasingly becoming more diverse <affirmative>. And I believe that that too is another way that we take, you know, this beautiful place with the devoted faculty that are so committed to their students. And this is another way that we project it outwards, because then it goes home. It goes to not just Westchester, but to the Bronx. It goes to different places, different communities. And it becomes part of their, you know, that's how Vassar became a household name in my household. <affirmative> And Marist, you know, becomes in a community where maybe they are not identifying with Christianity or in, but we, or with college at all, but it is now it's a seed that's gonna be

planted out there. <affirmative>. And so I think that the more and more we can bring in a diverse population of students, I think that is an outstanding way.

Jan Stivers ([01:08:03](#)):

In addition to the increased diversity of the students, what are the changes, do you notice in the student body over your time here?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:08:12](#)):

Well, I, I have to say that we have gone from when I first came, students who were first time, college <affirmative> right. To, I think there was a point in time where we, the students were very savvy about college. Their parents were college educated <affirmative>. So I saw this transition <affirmative> from students who maybe were working a full time job. I, one of my adjuncts love to tell the story. She was emancipated when she was 16, working 40 hours as a waitress, a full-time student here and doing her traditional college experience. She managed this tuition. She was one of the, in my early years, so we had these, you know, students who were working hard, you know, sort of this maybe college, you know, not even in the picture in their family. And then we went, I think, to a time where, you know, we were getting the children of teachers <affirmative> right. The children of teachers. The children. So we had students who were savvy. And now I think to a certain extent were going back again to where, for many of our students, because of the increased diversity, we're seeing that first time college again. <Affirmative> So I think there's a cycle that's interesting <affirmative> I do think that our, so those are some of their background, experience in terms of their families. I think that students are because of, unfortunately I think COVID right now limits the ways that we can appreciate our students. Right. Everybody's in class masked, probably speaking as little as they possibly can, <affirmative> and trying to, everyone's kind of carrying their own burdens of how this experience has touched them personally, their community. So, it's probably harder to look at them over the past two years. <affirmative>, you know. I think that they're suffering from sort of this, well they're suffering from the outpouring of the pandemic. I know that before the pandemic, I always used to give my students a little speech when at the end of the semester where I would say, Hey, go home. And don't be with your peers for a little while, learn intergenerationally, spend some time with the different generations in your own family and, you know, learn something there. And so now who do they wanna talk to, to do that, right?

Jan Stivers ([01:11:21](#)):

Yeah. So right. This is a silver lining here. Yes.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:11:26](#)):

One would hope, right. So what are we gonna see as a result? How is this gonna manifest itself? <affirmative> So that now they've had this opportunity for this, you know, intergenerational experience more so where I think people were spending a lot of time just with peers. <affirmative> And so that influences you. So now you have a different sort of a different way of looking at the world and then we'll have to see how that manifests itself.

Jan Stivers ([01:12:01](#)):

Right. I may be able to infer this from what you've already said, but what advice would you have for people who are considering a faculty position at Marist and for people who are currently faculty members?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:12:21](#)):

Well, based on, you know, on my experience here, I would say somebody who is considering it, I would say, do it. This is going to be the opportunity of a lifetime. The college is really, it's an open canvas. You have that opportunity, you know, to really come and to bring your passion for your discipline. You have students who are pliable. I think that's one consistent feature of our students. <affirmative> I have found that, you know, my students are willing to listen.

Jan Stivers ([01:13:15](#)):

They are, I agree.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:13:16](#)):

Sometimes, you know, it's almost like you think, okay, they're willing to listen too much. I've gotta get them talking more. <affirmative> but they are definitely, they are willing to listen. They're a blank slate they're willing to learn for me. <affirmative> right. So that I think for anybody who has a desire to teach that this is the place where you wanna be <affirmative> because you have students, you have colleagues who are going to, who are gonna be supportive <affirmative> and a place where you can thrive. I really do see this and...

Jan Stivers ([01:14:06](#)):

Do you see changes or adjustments that you think current faculty should make?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:14:11](#)):

Oh, I think that our new president is, I think the perfect person for this time. I feel that he brings an energy to this campus, that he is the right person for this time. And I am excited to return herein the spring. I'm, you know, it's, it's everything. I just believe that the, everything that has come from the president's office has manifested you know, a strong desire to cultivate a campus that appreciates that invites, you know, diverse diversity in thought, you know, diversity in creativity. So I'm very excited about what <affirmative> the future holds here. And I think that any new faculty member should just be inspired. I mean, how could you not <affirmative>, you know, and I find that there is a generous, welcoming coming from the president's office and that, you know, that is an incredible strength to this college because we just want to be able to be accessible to all students. <affirmative>, We don't want any barriers <affirmative> and I just believe that, you know, that's the energy I say, that's coming, you know, from there. So I think I see that as a, just a tremendous strength. And I think that new faculty should be inspired by that.

Jan Stivers ([01:16:23](#)):

Are you able to look down the road 10 or 15 or 20 years and predict what Marist might look like then if you had a crystal ball, what would you see?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:16:49](#)):

I think that 10, 15 years down the road that, you know, Marist has that potential of continuing to be a vibrant community. I think having a strong sense of community, I think that's <affirmative>, that is.

Jan Stivers ([01:17:22](#)):

Our mission, right?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:17:22](#)):

Yeah. I do believe that we are still going to you know, draw and you know, hopefully attract, students to come to this place to learn, because this is a safe place for them to the, during that transitional time. <affirmative> That they're going to be greeted by a culture of support and that, you know, that this will still be, you know, that the nexus of this place <affirmative>, I don't think when, you know, it's funny because I think of some institutions and I could think of some great things or a lab or something like that that matters. But when I think of Marist, I think of community.

Jan Stivers ([01:18:25](#)):

I do too.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:18:27](#)):

I really think that this is a place where, you know, people come to learn, this is a place that's safe. This is a place that is structured

Jan Stivers ([01:18:39](#)):

Accepting.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:18:40](#)):

Yeah, yeah,

Jan Stivers ([01:18:41](#)):

This has been wonderful. Tell me, aren't there things that you were thinking you'd want to say that I didn't ask about?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:18:55](#)):

You know, I can't, I truthfully, I didn't think too much. <laugh> which is probably none of us did

Jan Stivers ([01:19:03](#)):

No, no, no... So many things that I didn't ask you we covered you know, they came about indirectly. Well, here's one, I didn't get to, it's out of place now, but your program has a strong career orientation and you're housed in the school of Liberal Arts, which compared to other schools does not have so much of a focus on career preparation. Opportunities or challenges that that's presented to you?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:19:44](#)):

Only opportunities because we are like the little sister <laugh> of the School of Liberal Arts, right. <affirmative>, Political Science always says we're their little sisters sometimes. So, and there's this wonderful dialogue that takes place <affirmative>. So right within my building, I mean, law is influenced by History, by Philosophy, by Politics. <affirmative> There's this need to be able to speak to people in their language <affirmative>. So our students really have to immerse themselves in everything that's going on in the school of Liberal Arts. You know, so it's really, it has just been...

Jan Stivers ([01:20:33](#)):

That's great sense. Yeah.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:20:34](#)):

And, and so, in a way we really just have this label of obviously where this pre-professional where this way that you can go, but how do you build that foundation will look all around the school of Liberal Arts and you have where that, you know, that foundation has to come. Our certificate for the students who come for the certificate only is 60 credits. <affirmative> 36 of those credits are, you know, general education, 18 credits have to be in the Liberal Arts and then 24 are in law. So that right there tells you how important the rest of the houses are.

Jan Stivers ([01:21:21](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:21:24](#)):

Yeah. We're just part of that. And I just find that so many times, listening to my colleagues, who I see is just caring about the institution and caring about their discipline and wanting to you know, influence different things and bringing them up different. I just I find that, you know, much of that is very important. It's very good for me to be reflective and appreciative <affirmative> and understanding of what's going on in these disciplines.

Jan Stivers ([01:21:58](#)):

<affirmative> I don't think I asked you directly about what you would consider your greatest achievement at Marist.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:22:07](#)):

It hasn't happened yet.

Jan Stivers ([01:22:09](#)):

<laugh> Wow. <laugh>.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:22:13](#)):

I've gotta come up with this.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:22:14](#)):

You're really aiming high.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:22:17](#)):

No I've gotta come up with some good stuff.

Jan Stivers ([01:22:18](#)):

How about your greatest challenge?

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:22:25](#)):

I have to say, I think that, you know, the greatest challenge always comes on the first day of every semester when you're staring down that group of people who are looking at you, like, how is she gonna be, how is this gonna go <affirmative> and it's always those first few minutes of class getting everybody

to settle in <affirmative> I think that, you know, you have sort of repetitive challenges that come up with here and there, but that's always the most, that's the one that I like to reflect on the most. <Affirmative> I think you have to create you know, a sense of ease and calm and just hopefully to invite those that you're either teaching or working with to, you know, want to, to work with you on whatever that journey is. <affirmative> and I think that's at any given task, that's always the greatest challenge is always to try to kind of bring people on board. Making sure that you are up to that task of you know, putting out of yourself

Jan Stivers ([01:23:54](#)):

To share the vision. How about disappointments? Any disappointments,

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:24:00](#)):

Marist, I have to say that this has just, this has been a blessing to my life.

Jan Stivers ([01:24:08](#)):

<affirmative> I would say the same for myself.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:24:10](#)):

It has, it has been a blessing to be here. <affirmative> um, I have no disappointment, no disappointment. This has just been an incredible blessing. I have been privileged to be here.

Jan Stivers ([01:24:36](#)):

Yeah. And of course we're having this because it's so clear to so many that you have shaped it, you have contributed to Marist being what it is, you know, it's good for you. That's wonderful. You've also made it the place that's been good for the rest of us.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:24:57](#)):

Oh, well, I that's been, you know, again, thank you. I appreciate, you know, having the opportunity to discuss some of these, you know, thoughts and I can only you know, I can only say I'm just grateful for the opportunity to be here really.

Jan Stivers ([01:25:17](#)):

Me too, me too. Thank you very, very much.

Annamaria Maciocia ([01:25:20](#)):

Appreciate it.