Gala at the Great Hall

MAKING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS POSSIBLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

Gala at the Great Hall

MAKING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS POSSIBLE

Welcome to the Gala at the Great Hall

Monmouth opened its doors in 1933 during the Great Depression as a junior college to offer quality education to local students aspiring to earn a college degree. Providing deserving students with access to higher education, regardless of their economic circumstances, has always been central to our mission. As Monmouth has evolved—first into a four-year college, and then into a nationally ranked university boasting doctoral programs, Division I athletics, and state-of-the-art facilities—our commitment to access remained steadfast.

This fall, while maintaining its highest-ever ranking in U.S. News & World Report's list of Best Colleges, Monmouth also welcomed one of its most diverse—and its most academically prepared—class in the University's history. Today, nearly one-third of Monmouth students are Pell Grant-eligible, and 40% identify as the first in their family to attend college.

With generous support from donors like you, we will continue to provide access to deserving students while advancing efforts to make our beautiful campus a safe and modern center for educational excellence. One shining example among recent student-focused improvements is the Parton Broadcasting Center, a state-of-the-art facility that opened this past year, giving our students hands-on learning opportunities as they broadcast Monmouth's exciting Division I athletics, now in our new conference, the CAA. This significant upgrade to our broadcast capabilities was made possible thanks to a generous gift from trustee emeritus and former board chair, Charlie Parton '01HN, and his wife, Trudy.

For nearly 40 years, Charlie and Trudy have been stalwart supporters, advancing Monmouth University's educational mission through philanthropic initiatives and extensive involvement in the campus community. Yesterday, I was honored to present Charlie and Trudy with the President's Medal, Monmouth's highest honor, in recognition of their extraordinary service, philanthropy, and leadership. I am equally delighted to celebrate in their honor with you tonight.

Like Charlie and Trudy, so many of you have invested in the success of our students. I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to this evening's top sponsors—Gourmet Dining, Torcon, the Grunin Foundation, Trudy and Charlie Parton, and Stillwell-Hansen—for your support of our Gala at the Great Hall.

I am grateful to all of you—our sponsors and guests—for making educational access a priority. Proceeds from this evening's gala will provide immediate scholarship assistance to students with financial need through the newly-established Access Fund. Thank you for your active participation in advancing our mission, your vote of confidence in the value of a Monmouth University education, and your direct support of the exceptional students we serve.

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
President

The President's Medal 2022

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Trudy and Charlie Parton '01HN

For nearly 40 years, Trustee Emeritus and former board chair, Charlie Parton '01HN, and his wife, Trudy, have been loyal to advancing Monmouth University's educational mission through philanthropic initiatives and extensive involvement in the campus community.

Most recently, the Partons have made a commitment to enhancing students' on-the-job training by establishing the Parton Broadcasting Center—a state-of-the-art control room for students to produce live broadcasts. The Partons' service and leadership continue to fuel the University's progress, and we are honored to celebrate their longstanding support alongside you this evening.

MARIA MONZON, CLASS OF 2023

Maria is a first-generation college student who would not have been able to come to Monmouth University without scholarship support. Maria was born in Guatemala and moved to Long Branch when she was five years old. Now in her senior year, Maria is serving as the Senior Class President while preparing to graduate with a degree in International Business and Marketing. We are grateful to Maria for representing all Monmouth University students who will benefit from the Access Fund, thanks to donors like you.

"Thank you to the donors whose assistance enabled me to be part of the Monmouth community. With your support, I have been able to join and make a difference in the Student Government Association, Residential Life, and as a member of Fraternity and Sorority Life. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your generosity!"

– Maria

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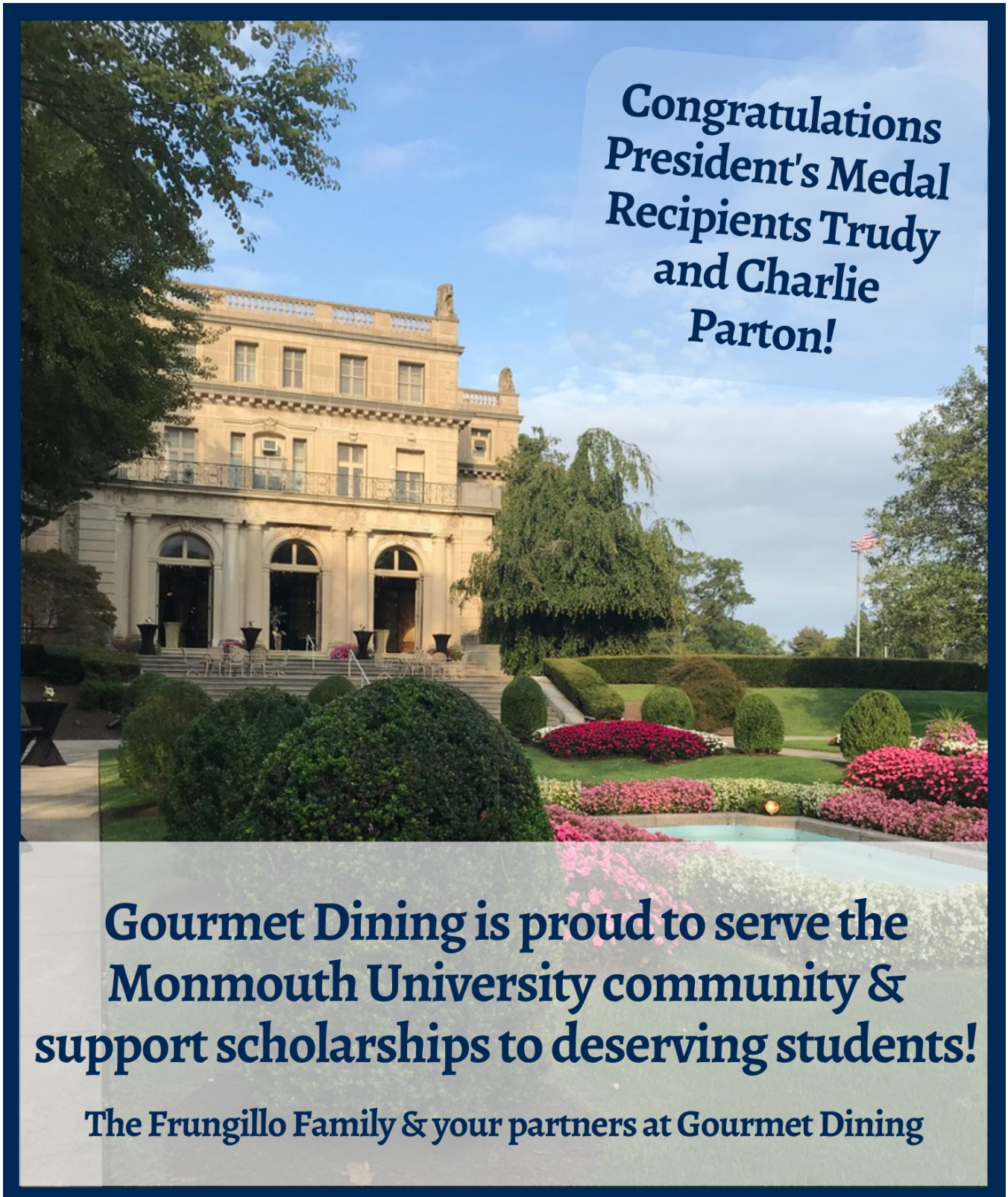

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We proudly support Monmouth University

Congratulations to Trudy and Charlie Parton.

Best wishes to all Monmouth University students as you continue on your path to an inspiring and impactful future.

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Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all members of our community by using philanthropy to drive economic excellence at the Central Jersey Shore (CJS).

Our Vision

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GRUNIN FOUNDATION

GruninFoundation.org

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Thank you to all the faculty, staff, coaches, administration, volunteers, alumni, and students – past and present – who have made Monmouth the outstanding university it is.

Trudy and Charlie Parton

Monmouth students in the Parton Broadcasting Center

Congratulations to President's Medal recipients Trudy and Charlie Parton on their well-deserved honor. We are proud to support Monmouth University and its students.

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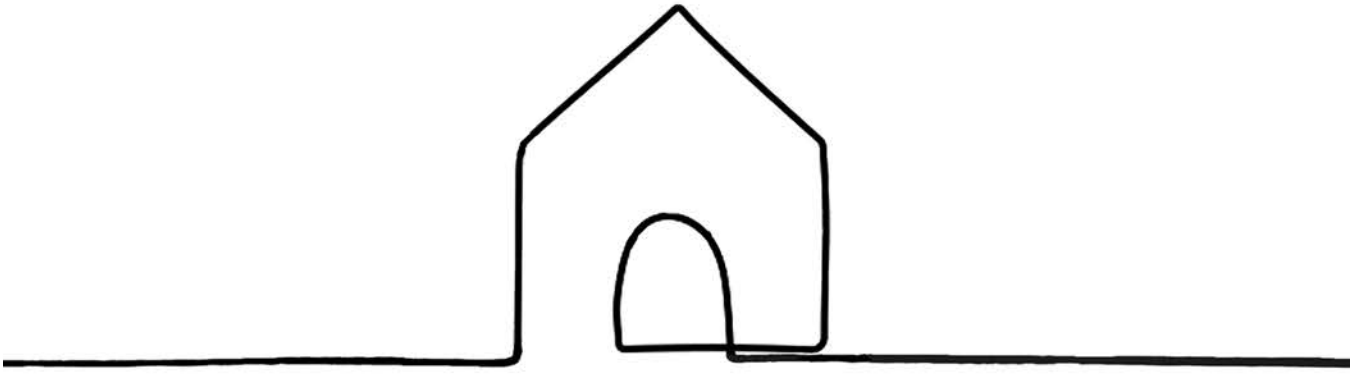

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to our dear friends and beloved members of the greater Monmouth University community, Trudy and Charlie Parton, on your well-deserved recognition.

The Hesse Family

THE Hesse COMPANIES

Congratulations Trudy and Charlie on this well-deserved honor.
Thank you for your more than 40 years of support for
Monmouth University, our students, and our community.
We are grateful to call you our friends.

– Amy and Patrick Leahy

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Thank you Charlie and Trudy Parton for your service, dedication and philanthropy!

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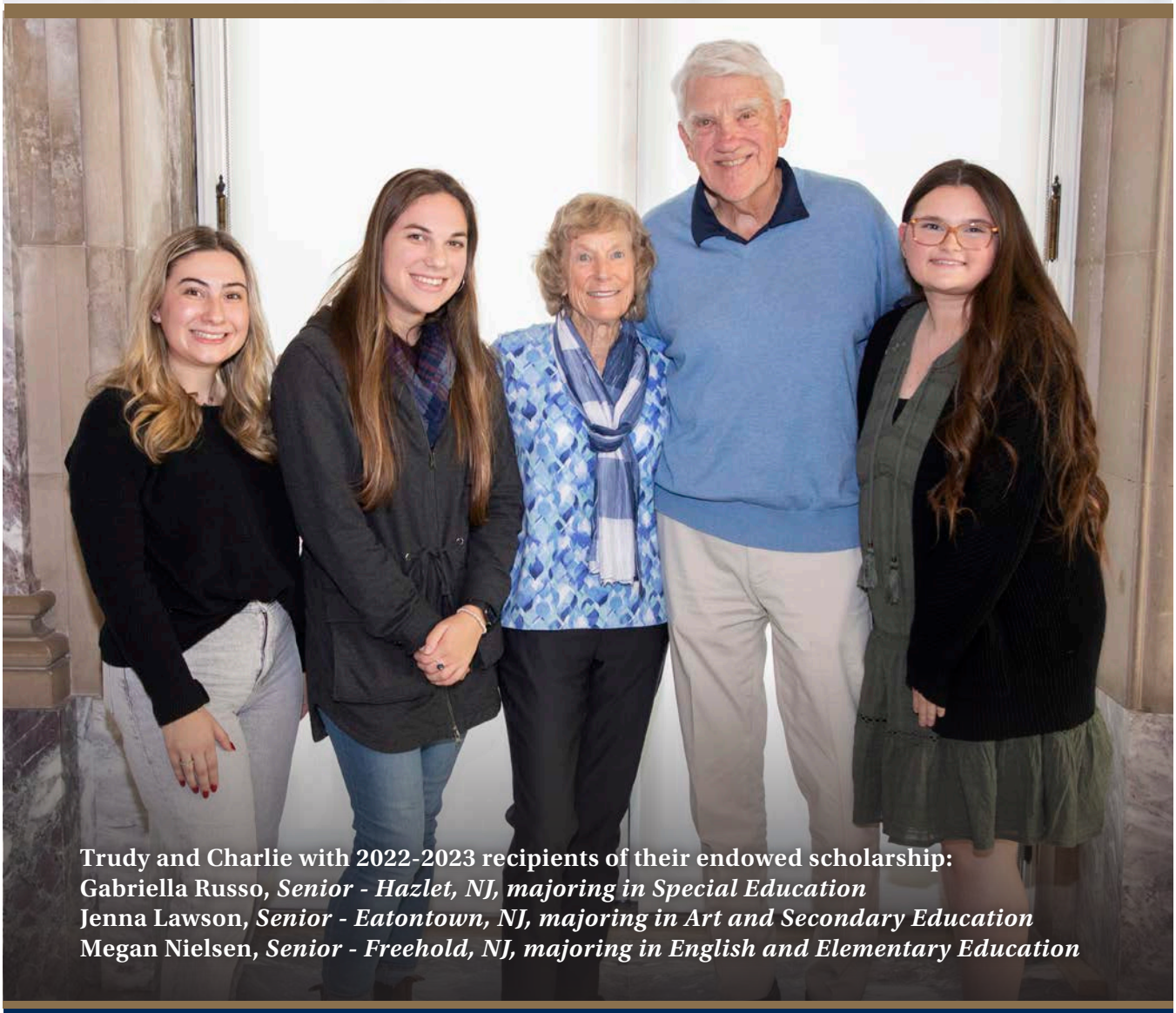
For 40 years, Monmouth has benefitted from your selfless service, kindness, generosity, and friendship. On behalf of the generations of staff who came before us, and the team of today, thank you for your partnership as we work to improve the lives of our students.

The University Advancement Team



Trudy and Charlie with 2022-2023 recipients of their endowed scholarship:
Gabriella Russo, ***Senior - Hazlet, NJ, majoring in Special Education***
Jenna Lawson, ***Senior - Eatontown, NJ, majoring in Art and Secondary Education***
Megan Nielsen, ***Senior - Freehold, NJ, majoring in English and Elementary Education***

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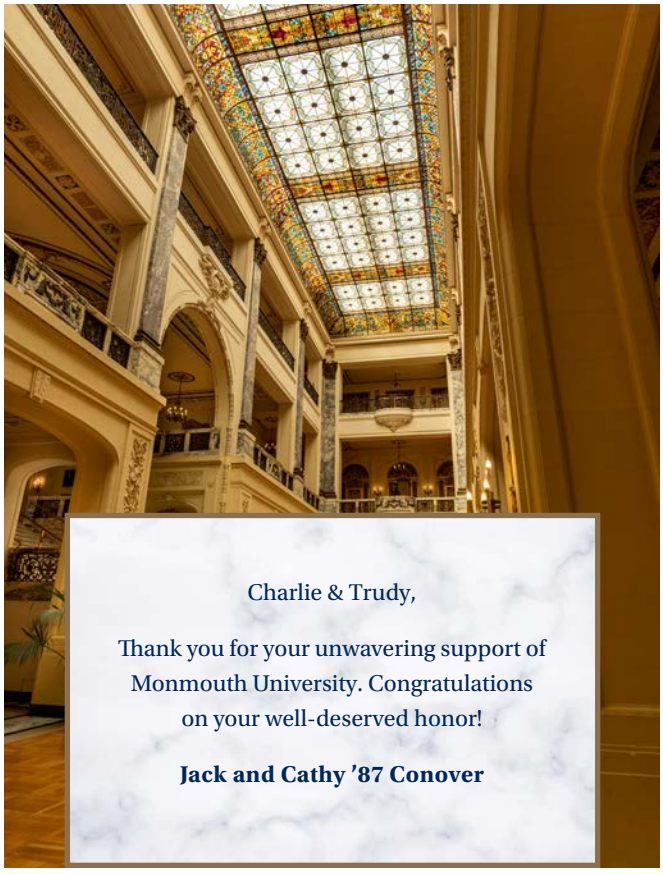
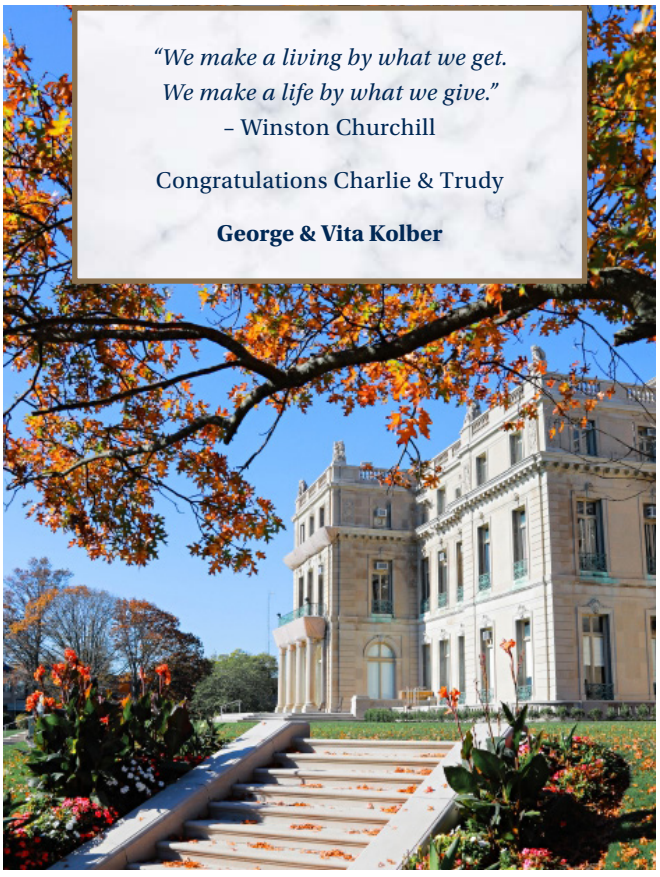


Charlie & Trudy,

Thank you for your unwavering support of Monmouth University. Congratulations on your well-deserved honor!

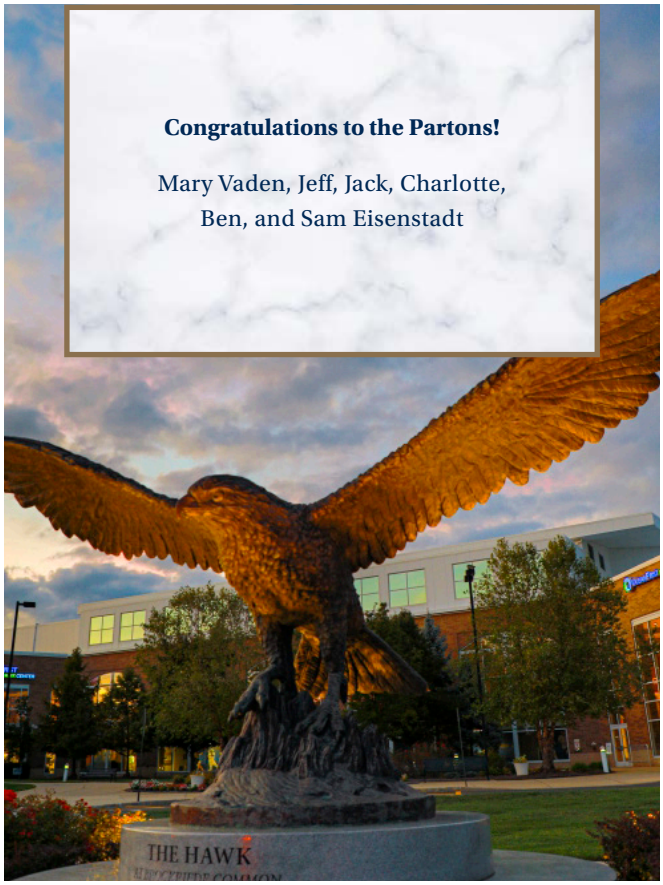
Jack and Cathy '87 Conover



"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
– Winston Churchill

Congratulations Charlie & Trudy

George & Vita Kolber



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This marquee outing also features: numerous luxury experiences available at auction; on-site competitions; exclusive networking with distinguished alumni, community, and business leaders; and most importantly, the opportunity to make a lasting impact in the lives of over 600 student-athletes.

monmouth.edu/golfouting

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Congratulations to the honorees, Charlie Parton ’01HN and Trudy Parton, as well as President Patrick Leahy and Vice President for Advancement, Amanda Klaus ’09, on the success of the Monmouth University Gala at the Great Hall

Best Wishes, Thomas Luchsinger, Carl Cervi and Tom Kissane

Congratulations,

Trudy & Charlie Parton

The recognition is well-deserved!

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and congratulates

Charlie and Trudy Parton

for their lifelong commitment to Monmouth University and for making a difference!

For more information, please contact:
John A. Aiello, Esq.
jaiello@ghclaw.com

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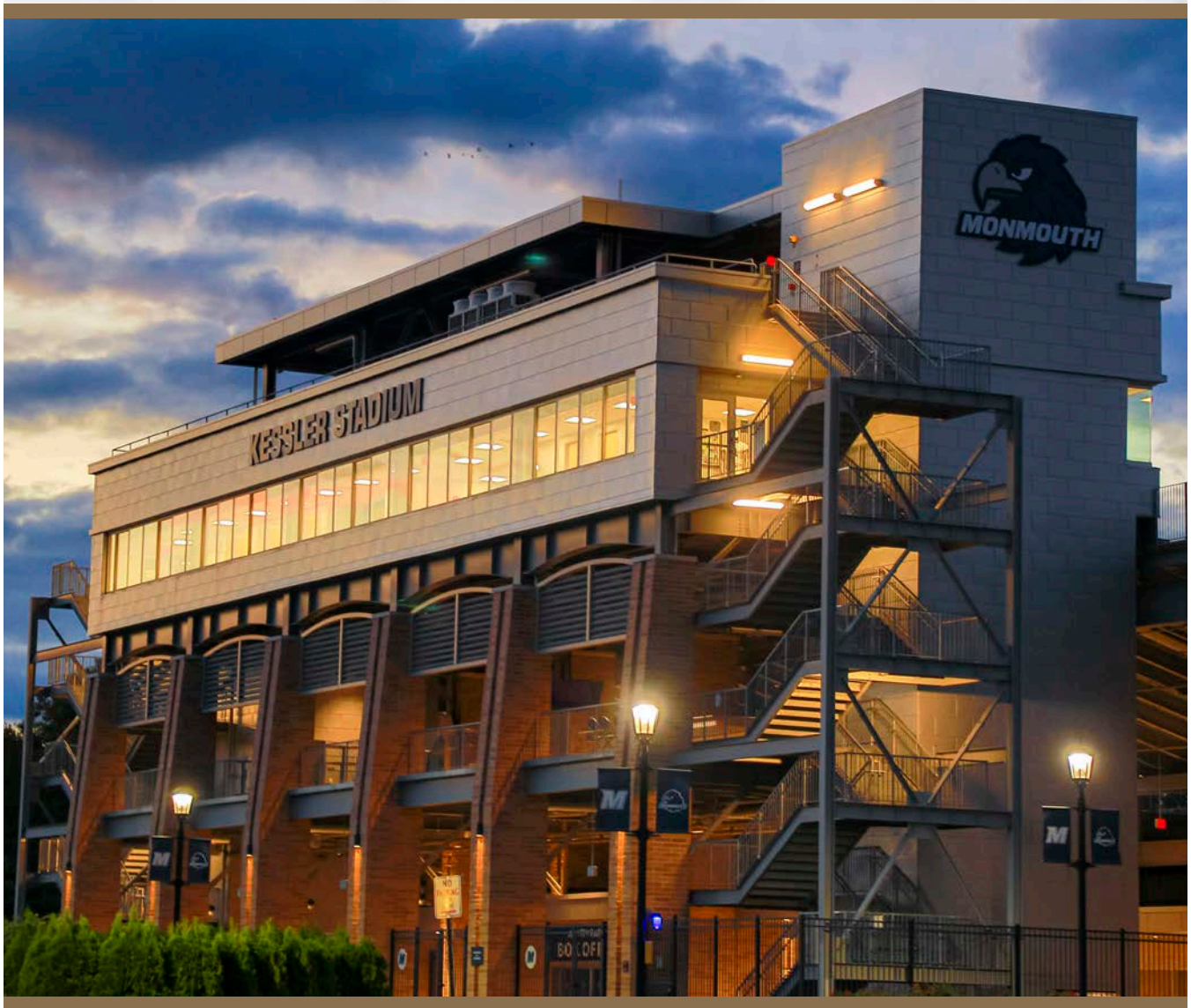
Congratulations
to my friends Trudy and Charlie.

Love, Henni Kessler



Congrats to Team Parton!

Huge thanks for your many years of dedicated public service. No one does it better!

Henry and Joan Mercer

Thank You Charlie and Trudy!

Tom, Roseann, Richard, Matthew, and Christopher

Raymond J. Michelli '00
06/27/1975 – 10/06/2011

The Michelli Family congratulates our 2022 President's Medal Recipients Charlie '01HN and Trudy Parton for their endless contributions to the Monmouth University community.

Special thanks from the member of the Michelli Family who had benefited the MOST from the Partons' Contributions.

MONMOUTH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

CONGRATULATES
Charlie & Trudy Parton

ON THEIR WELL-DESERVED HONOR AND APPLAUDS MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY FOR ITS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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Charlie and Trudy

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SENATOR DECLAN O'SCANLON

As a Monmouth Alumnus, I'm proud to support the 2022 Gala at the Great Hall's efforts to break down financial barriers our community's future leaders may be facing to their academic goals.

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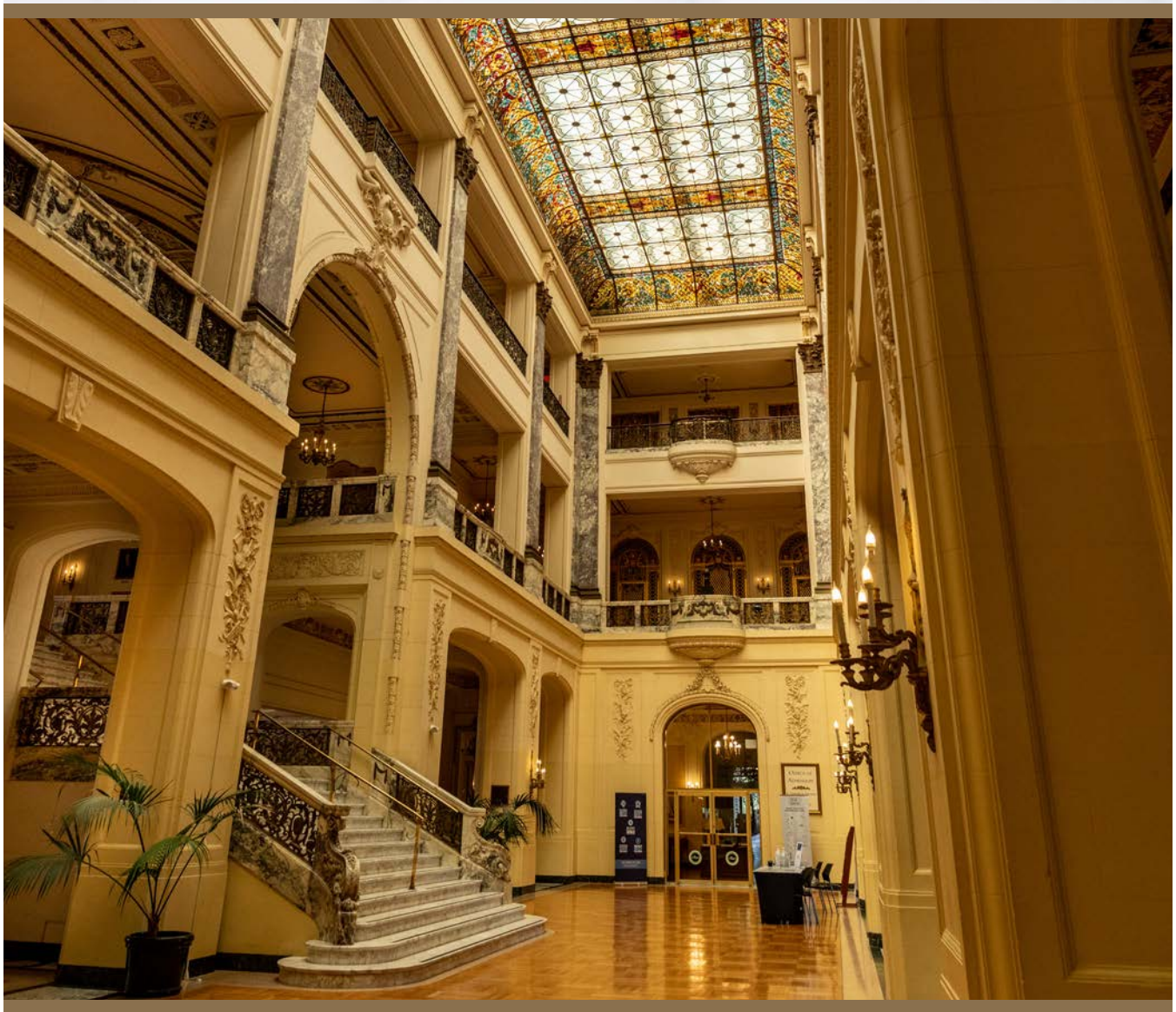
Congratulations to Charlie and Trudy Parton for your years of service to Monmouth University.

Barbara B. and Alfred J. Jr. Schiavetti



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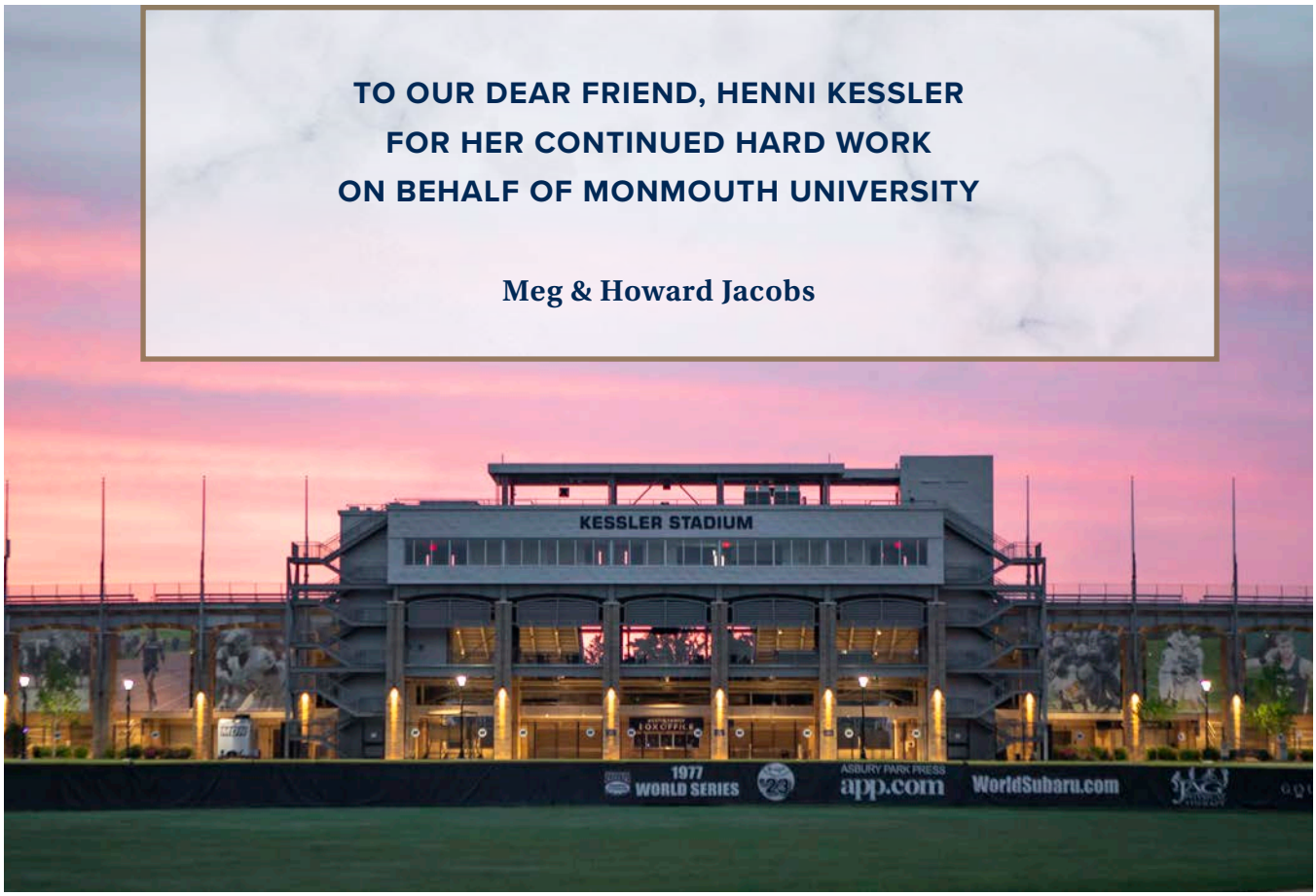


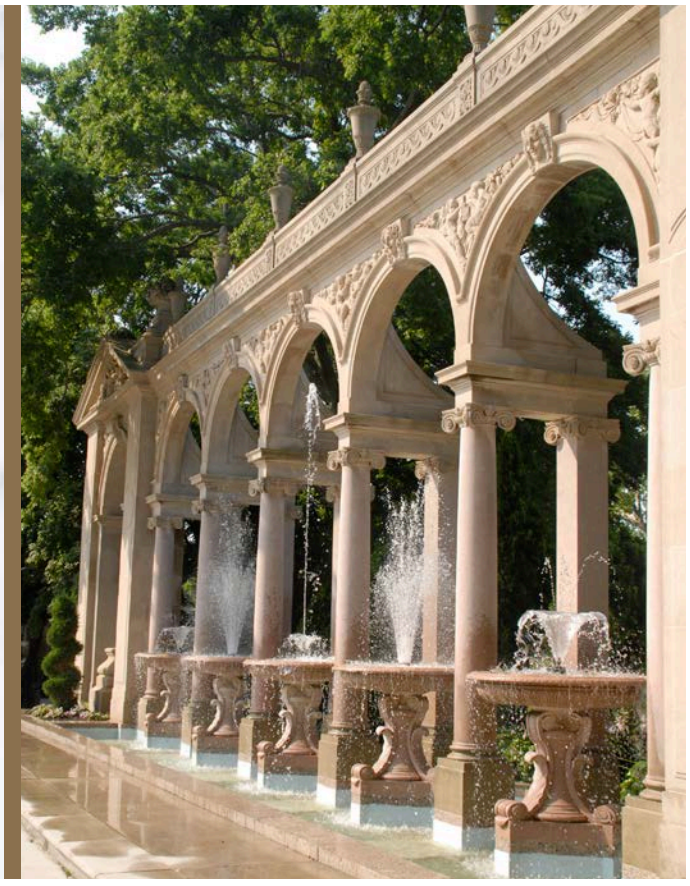
TO OUR DEAR FRIEND, HENNI KESSLER
FOR HER CONTINUED HARD WORK
ON BEHALF OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Meg & Howard Jacobs

CONGRATULATIONS TRUDY & CHARLIE!

This honor exemplifies a lifetime of service!

Liz and Bill Moss



A big thank you to *Charlie & Trudy*

for all the service and support given to Monmouth University!

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PNC is proud to support Monmouth University and to join in honoring Trustee Emeritus and former Board Chair, Charlie Parton, and his wife Trudy, as tonight's President's Medal recipients.

Contact William MacDonald, SVP - Group Manager
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It's an HONOR to know and love Trudy & Charlie Parton!
Thank you for the kindness and generosity you have
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We are all blessed to have you in our lives!

Congratulations!

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This Is Monmouth

Located along New Jersey's northern coastline, Monmouth University is a top-tier private institution that is home to innovative academic programs, expert faculty, and nationally ranked Division I athletics. Comprehensive in scope, Monmouth enrolls approximately 5,675 students in more than 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including four doctoral programs.

The University houses six Centers of Distinction: the Monmouth University Polling Institute, the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, the Urban Coast Institute, the Kislak Real Estate Institute, the Center for the Arts, and the Institute for Global Understanding. Run by experts and professors, these centers enhance the academic experiences of Monmouth students while meeting the needs of local and global communities.

Founded in 1933 as Monmouth Junior College, the institution became Monmouth College in 1956 and received its university charter in 1995. Today, Monmouth University consistently ranks among the best regional universities in the country in a host of measures related to excellence and access, offering proof that it is possible to make an exceptional private education affordable and accessible.

Top 20 Best Colleges

Monmouth ranked 18th in *U.S. News & World Report*'s Best Regional Universities North category.

Top 5 in the Nation for Peace Corps Prep

The Peace Corps ranked Monmouth No. 5 on its list of top Peace Corps Prep certificate–issuing schools.

The Best 387 Colleges

The Princeton Review named Monmouth one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates to earn their degree.

Best for Business

The Leon Hess Business School was named to The Princeton Review's list of "Best Business Schools for 2022," a compilation of the nation's top on-campus MBA programs.

Financially Strong

Monmouth ranked second, behind only Princeton University, in an independent financial assessment of New Jersey's private colleges and universities.[1]

Committed to Access

Monmouth was named one of "America's Top Colleges" by *Forbes*, which factors low-income student outcomes and percentage of students receiving Pell Grants into its rankings.

Best Bang for the Buck

Washington Monthly named Monmouth among the top colleges in the Northeast in its ranking of schools that help non-wealthy students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices.

[1]*Source: North Jersey Media Group*

—[The Strategic Plan for Monmouth University]—

Excellence. Access. Ambition.

Monmouth University is committing to a number of bold initiatives in the coming years that will propel the institution forward, making it a national leader at integrating excellence and access.

Many institutions distinguish themselves by their excellence, as measured by high rankings in various third-party publications. Others make their mark by their accessibility, as measured by their high number of Pell Grant–eligible students.

In recent years, Monmouth University has already begun to integrate excellence and access like few other private institutions in the nation. But, in order to become a national leader, we must become both more excellent and more accessible. →

Source: Monmouth University President's Report, Academic Year 2020-2021

Striving for Accessibility

We believe that there are a few fundamental attributes that distinguish Monmouth University from the nearly 4,000 colleges and universities in the U.S.—namely, that Monmouth is a private, nonsectarian institution competing in NCAA Division I athletics.

» WE ARE A **PRIVATE** INSTITUTION, FUNDED BY TUITION, INVESTMENTS, AND PRIVATE DONORS—NOT BY TAXPAYERS.

» WE ARE A **NONSECTARIAN** INSTITUTION AND DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH OR ADHERE TO A PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR TRADITION.

» WE ARE AN NCAA **DIVISION I** SCHOOL, COMPETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.

By our estimates, there are only 50 institutions in American higher education that share these three essential traits. Our goal—as outlined in our new strategic plan—is to become one of the most **accessible** schools in this category, providing our exceptional academic experience to as many deserving students as possible.

Source: Monmouth University President's Report, Academic Year 2020-2021

SELECT COMPANY

Only 50 private, nonsectarian institutions with Division I athletics programs exist in the U.S. Among these schools, Monmouth is making strides toward becoming one of the most accessible in this category as measured by the total number of Pell Grant–eligible students enrolled.

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Bryant University
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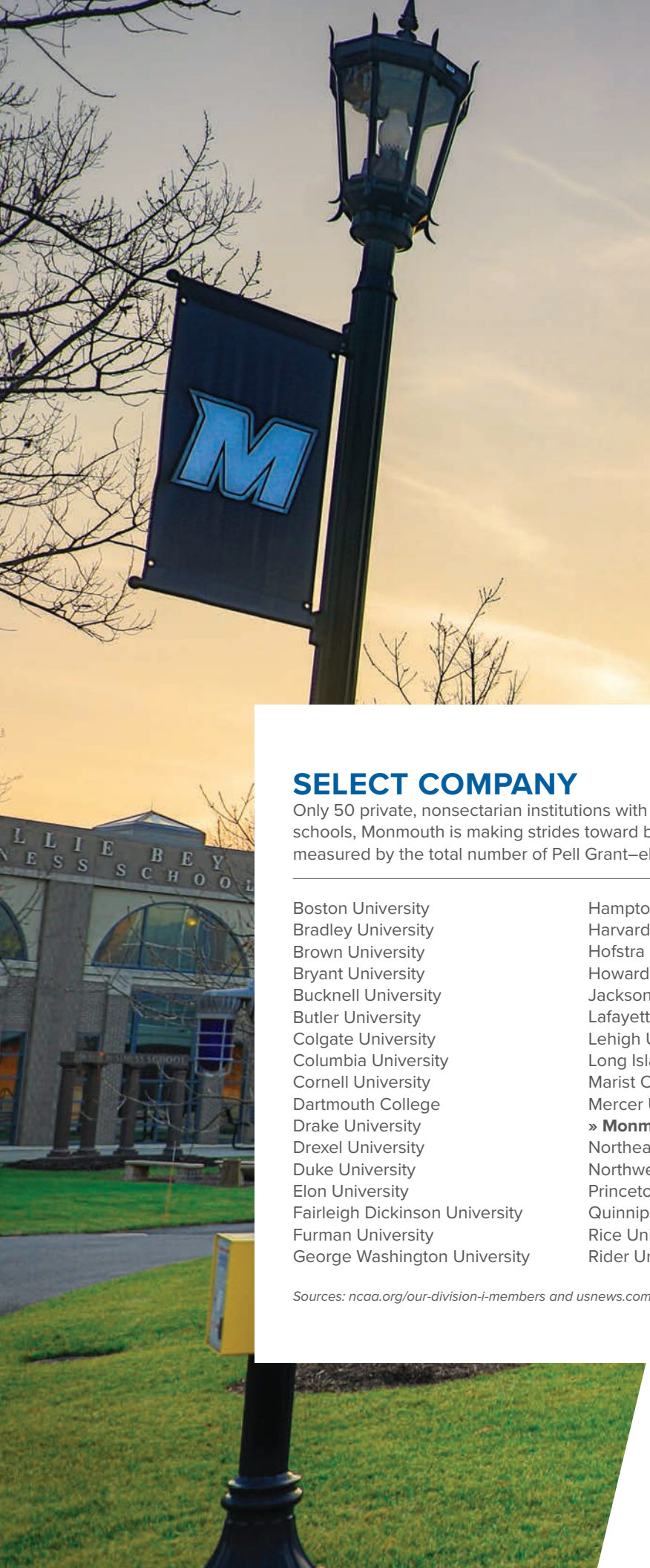
Vanderbilt University
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Yale University

Sources: ncaa.org/our-division-i-members and usnews.com/best-colleges



Source: Monmouth University President's Report, Academic Year 2020-2021

Excellence.

In order to become more excellent, we must continue to build a first-class, increasingly prestigious, residential university, successfully completing our evolution from a local, junior college to a national, doctoral university. We must rethink our program offerings, systems of support, and recruiting and retention expectations, and we must deliver exceptional outcomes at an entirely new level.

Access.

Then, we must make this prestigious University increasingly accessible to students. We must review our scholarship programs to ensure accessibility, and we must raise more money for scholarship support of low-income students and their families. We must recruit more widely and improve the culture to ensure that an increasingly diverse student population can thrive on Monmouth's campus.

Ambition.

To thrive as an institution while effectively serving a rapidly changing student body, Monmouth University will establish a new paradigm in American higher education, demonstrating that a private institution can be both highly ranked and highly accessible. In five short years, we will become a national leader at integrating excellence and access.

Source: Monmouth University President's Report, Academic Year 2020-2021

Thank You

FOR MAKING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS POSSIBLE

The Access Fund provides scholarship support for students with unmet financial need, helping to ensure a Monmouth education remains accessible to the most deserving students year after year.