

# Areté

*Newsletter of The Honors School*

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## NEWSLETTER STAFF

### Editors

Michael Edwards  
Sasha Goldfarb

### Layout

Michael Edwards

### Contributing Writers

Aimée Babbin  
Michael Edwards  
Sasha Goldfarb  
Chris Lukas  
Nicole Stevens  
Dan Suraci  
Ossiana Tepfenhart

e-mail: arete@monmouth.edu

## East Meets West for Honors Cluster

by Dan Suraci

Students from the Honors School and Professor Anthony Inciong's animation class enjoyed a day long trip to Princeton University on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The students, who are studying Japanese culture in History under Professor Douglass, were invited to taste their culture through both art and dining. The trip began at the Princeton University Art Museum, which was commended as one of the hidden jewels of New Jersey. Anne Florey and Joel Goldberg, docents, gave in depth tours of two Japanese galleries, as well as a Chinese one.

The showcase of "Japanese Views of the East and West: Imprinting the Other in Meiji Eyes", was a prime display of Western influences beginning to effect not only Japanese art, but their views as well. A series of wood block prints, they ranged from showing Western inventors to naval battles to illustrations of the infamous tale of Genji. Wood block prints, which were easy to distribute and recreate, could easily maintain commentary on the rapidly changing Meiji era. Japanese characters are portrayed in Western clothing, with Western architecture present, something which did not occur. Specifically in Toyohara Chikanobu's *Nobility Taking in the Cool Night Air* (1887), the Japanese nobility are wearing clothing of Western influence, from bonnets to long gaudy dresses, and the architecture of both buildings and bridges is Western. The triptych shows perfectly the merging of Japanese and Western culture in the late Meiji period. Other prints were of the Russo-Japanese naval battles (1904-5), such as the *Great Naval Battle of the Port of Lushun*, based on the battle of Port Arthur on March 10, 1904 by Ōkura Kōtō. Vivid colors and chaos rule the print showing the Japanese victory over the Russians, as well as the skill of the creator. The wood block prints were only the start of the Japanese material found in the museum.

The second vast Japanese exhibit consisted of a variety of Shinto, Buddhist and household items. One item in particular stood out, an Edo period six fold screen, inked on gold paper, of a tiger lying in a bamboo forest on a foggy day. Viewed as a protector in Japanese culture, the tiger is expressing this with a great smile, personifying the creature to carry across his role. Among the other displays were Buddhas and burial guardians, simple clay sculptures compared to the more intricate designs of the Chinese and later Japanese works.

Also on display was a Chinese gallery, fascinating in its contrast with the Japanese art. Such displays as burial sculptures to tomb guardians to pottery. Buried with their dead would be miniature armies and animals. An almost life-size horse was also shown, made of clay but painted green to look as copper, making it even more extravagant. Most interesting of all to our current society, a "dollar tree" was also buried with the dead so that the would have money in the afterlife. With many branches and multiple (Continued on page 6)



## Students Honored for Freshman Achievement

by Aimée Babbín

The rainy, melancholy weather on Sunday, November 12 did not dampen the spirits of the 93 Monmouth University students inducted into Phi Eta Sigma. Founded in 1923 at the University of Illinois, Phi Eta Sigma is the oldest and, with 353 chapters nationwide and over 900,000 members, the largest academic honor society for first-year achievement. In 1937, Phi Eta Sigma was voted into the Association of College Honor Societies and holds the third-oldest membership in that group. The motto of Phi Eta Sigma, from the three Greek words on its crest, is "Knowledge is Power." To be eligible for induction, students must, in their first full year at their academic institution, maintain a 3.5 GPA. Once inducted, students are members for life. The Monmouth University chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, part of Region XIII, has been a chapter since October 18, 1987. For the past 19 years, Monmouth students who excelled academically their freshman year have been honored with an induction into Phi Eta Sigma.



This year's induction took place in Wilson Auditorium, which was filled to the brim with inductees and proud family members. The elected officers of Phi Eta Sigma, President Kacie Hubbs, Vice President Christopher Meyer, Secretary Dana Capozzalo, Treasurer Patrick O'Rourke, and Historian Nikki Pavalonnis, and the advisor, Dr. Golam Mathbor, Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, presided over the ceremony, in conjunction with the Honors School.

The induction began with addresses by Ms. Hubbs and Dr. Mathbor congratulating both the inductees and their families for the achievement, as only about 10% of last year's freshman received membership into Phi Eta Sigma. Ms. Pavalonnis then discussed the history of Phi Eta Sigma and Monmouth's chapter, explaining how Phi Eta Sigma recognized the "academic nature of society" which is the reason it is an academic fraternity. Ms. Hubbs, Mr. O'Rourke, Ms. Capozzalo, and Mr. Meyer then detailed the member responsibilities, which are to maintain an unimpeachable character through truth, courage, charity, and generosity, to care for and honor the body (considered sacred by Phi Eta Sigma), and to have a vigorous and disciplined mind. Additionally, the symbols on the crest were explained. The torch atop a book represents scholarship, whereas the pyramid and the star represent character and a strong body. The chain links all three together, thus symbolizing the necessity for all three (scholarship, character, and body) to be combined.

The candidates then swore an oath to meet these responsibilities and received an official certificate of membership to Phi Eta Sigma. Once all inductees received their certificate and signed the register, Dr. Judith Nye, Associate Vice President for The First Year Experience, gave the keynote address. Dr. Nye detailed the importance of leadership and the characteristics necessary to be a good leader. She stated that the three most important aspects of a leader's personality were honesty, competence, and the ability to look forward and plan for the future. Dr. Nye then turned Wilson Auditorium into a classroom, breaking the audience of inductees and family members into three groups to discuss each characteristic. During this discussion, many parents experienced flashbacks to their own time in the classroom. The main point of Dr. Nye's speech was that leaders are judged by both their behavior and choices, which she summed up with a quote by Professor Dumbledore from *Harry Potter*, "It is our choices that show who we are, far more than our abilities."

To end the ceremony, Dr. Mathbor seconded Dr. Nye's statements on leadership. He stated, "A leader is a person who can outstandingly influence another person." The 93 new members of Phi Eta Sigma possess that type of leadership. For more information on Phi Eta Sigma, contact Ms. Reenie Menditto at 732-263-5308 or go to [www.phietasigma.org](http://www.phietasigma.org).



### INVITATION TO JOIN THE HONORS SCHOOL

Not everyone is aware that students may join the Honors School even if they did not come into Honors as freshmen. If you have a 3.5 or better GPA after completing 12 credits at Monmouth University, and you are interested in more information about joining a tailored curriculum to suit your needs, please contact the Honors School Office at 732-263-5308.

**HONORS SOPHOMORES**

**If you have not yet taken your required Honors Seminar class, there are still openings for 07/SP in HS 262 01 History of Russia II (W-F 1-2:15 Pearson).**

**An Honors Seminar will also be offered this summer.**

**HONORS JUNIORS**

**If you have not registered for H0498 Honors Thesis Proposal for 07/SP, contact the Honors School Office as soon as possible.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>12/6/06</b>  | Draft of Thesis Proposal due in to Chief Advisor, Second Reader, & Honors School Advisor (Dr. Garvey or Dr. Mitchell)   |
| <b>12/13/06</b> | <u>Final copy</u> of Thesis/Thesis Proposal due in to Chief Advisor, Second Reader, & Honors School Advisor (Dr. Garvey or Dr. Mitchell).<br>Last Day of Classes. |
| <b>1/16/07</b>  | Classes Begin   |
| <b>1/23/07</b>  | Last Day for Late Registration or Program Changes   |

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**Lot's Daughters**

by Ossiana Tepfenhart

At Monmouth University on a cold rainy night, I went off to see Lot's Daughters. People had been talking about the play, and there was a lot of buzz about it being controversial. Some called it sacrilegious, others simply called it shocking. Nobody, however, told me exactly what it was about.

The story of Lot's incestuous daughters was used as an allegory for the two main characters. It was a highly controversial story about two women who, under very bizarre circumstances, fall in love and try to keep their love a secret in what one might normally consider to be a very judgmental society. The entire play kept a certain theme of purity versus sin, and showed a new take on what is right and what is wrong.

As a critic, I suppose I should say what struck me as most impressive and noteworthy. First off, the scenery and lighting were spectacular. It was better made than some of the professional, non-school produced plays that I have watched. Next, the actors were extremely skilled. I knew some of the people who played main characters and could barely even recognize them under the costumes and the new accents adopted for their parts. The plot itself was very deep and symbolic, yet since I do not have much experience with the type of microcosmic culture presented in the play, I cannot say whether the people's actions were realistic.

Overall, the play raised many questions and is guaranteed to make people think about certain issues in regards to religion, societal morals, and love. I would highly suggest it for people who are taking a philosophy class.

**Growing Trends for Areté and Honors School**

by Sasha Goldfarb

Monmouth University's Honors School was awarded the privilege of presenting its achievements in this year's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The conference was held at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia and was host to administrators, teachers, and students from across the country including Puerto Rico. The NCHC national conference was organized to inform educators and students about honors education and support their efforts in its pursuit at nationwide colleges and universities. The conference has an array of programs every year providing advice and opportunities to enhance honors education.

After its first year in existence, the Honors School at Monmouth University performed a self-study and was reviewed by a number of internal committees as well as by the former President of the National Collegiate Honors Council, Dr. Joan Digby, an approved site visitor for the National Council. All reviewers, including Dr. Digby, rated the School as outstanding in all categories. Dr. Digby encouraged the sharing of "...statistical research on honors at the annual meetings of the National Collegiate Honors Council and in their publications, JNCHC and Honors in Practice...[it is] important work of a scholarly nature that will be helpful to the honors community." Dr. Garvey's thirty-six slide presentation included thirteen graphs and charts of different studies performed by the School. The presentation was well received by a substantially attended session, and many in the audience stayed after to ask additional questions and request that more information as well as the studies be forwarded to them.

I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the (continued on page 5)



## Prozac Nation

by Sasha Goldfarb

Depression is an issue so often skewed in the public's perception due to a bombardment of media misinformation. A daily dose is administered almost anywhere from favorite TV dramas, the 10 o'clock news, or commercial advertisements of prescription medications. As much exposure as is afforded to depression, little is actually known about its effects as a mental health issue and what a diagnosis truly entails. Research from the National Mental Health Association shows that depression and anxiety disorders, the two most common mental illnesses, affect about 19 million adults in America every year. Media however, can still portray real life concerns in a way that can inform or educate the public. Franca Mancini, a counselor from Counseling and Psychological Services who helped to host the *Prozac Nation* event said: "We believe that even mainstream entertainment can be used as a way to send a message."

*Prozac Nation* is a riveting account of a college freshman's battle to overcome severe depression. Based on a national best-selling autobiography, its raw imagery and dark humor lures its audience into the tortured mind of young Elizabeth Wurtzel. We are introduced to a person who seems to have had trouble from the start, in an agonized monologue: "How... far back do you go? My mom and dad were divorced before I was two, and from that on my father was almost uninvolved in my life, and my mother much too involved. She wanted to make up for all her mistakes through me." Wurtzel is thrown around a fast-paced world of substance abuse and addiction, promiscuous sex, self-doubt, and immense social pressures. The many milestones we recognize in adjusting to life at college, such as instances of attempting to balance academics and a social life, mark her development in a personal account. Wurtzel tears through her semesters sometimes at a break-neck pace; other times she barely pulls herself out of a drugged and depressed stupor.

And every high and low she experiences, she also inflicts on others in her home life and family. Ironically, noting the timing of our publication, it is meaningful to mention that sometimes depression can worsen at holiday time. Whether it's the pressure of exams, the stress of visiting in-laws, the frenzy to finish cooking holiday meals and wrapping presents, or if it is nostalgia or an anniversary. Families, friends, and loved ones are meant to come together to celebrate a special time of year, but can frequently cause more aggravation than happiness. Many times, it is some combination of unfulfilled expectations in a season where we are pressured to be perfect.

Jackey Ambruzs, a graduate student who attended the film commented: "It's a movie everyone can relate to, even though its extreme, every college student can relate to it in some way." While trying to grab hold of the fleeting and elusive "college experience," Wurtzel still secretly desires to earn her family's approval and the affection of others. However, her depression puts up an invisible wall between her and the people she tries to connect with emotionally.

After the movie, Counseling and Psychological Services, who sponsored the event, held a discussion about the many topics involved in *Prozac Nation*, especially depression in young adults. The showing of *Prozac Nation* was the third part in a fall series following a theme of coping with depression. Counseling and Psychological Services also held an open, free depression screening for the school earlier this semester. Despite the stormy weather, there was still a good turnout for the evening's film and all audience participants were enthusiastic about the experience. Orin McKay, a junior at Monmouth, was impressed by the movie's perspective: "The movie deals with problems that are going on today in society. It relates to how we act and portray ourselves, and I would recommend it to anyone." The two counselors who hosted the event, Kate Memoli and Franca Mancini, were sure to mention that everyone at Psychological Services in the LCAC were available, and love to talk to students. If you or anyone you know would like to visit with a counselor, you can stop by the first floor of the Student Center in the LCAC or schedule an appointment at (732) 571-7517.



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## Mr. Tartuffe Attracts Hundreds from MU

by Michael Edwards

*"The actors did a great job of keeping the pace fast and the jokes rolling, but it was odd to see a farce so intellectually challenging..."*

As many of you know, Tartuffe has been playing at the Two River Theatre Company from November 15 through December 3. Through an unprecedented collaboration with Monmouth University through Bea Rogers of the First Year Experience Program, a host of MU students were able to see the play through their classes. Many students in Theatre Appreciation, History, and English were able to go on specified dates for free, and each show booked up fast. Coming to Red Bank by the busload, the students were in for a real treat.

The play, written by Molière, was readopted by Constance Congdon into a more southern, modern setting - the Christian heartland of Texas. It featured a man named Tartuffe - pious on the outside, conniving on the inside - and his subtle manipulation of the family father who controlled all the assets of his house, including his family. Little by little, each member of

the family sees Tartuffe for what he really is and not the saint that the father made him out to be. Their main goal was to prove to their father that his "good friend" and pious, humble, voluntarily poverty-stricken Mr. Tartuffe is nothing but a fake before it's too late.

The play's main assets were its impeccable set and the versatility of its actors (with at least one of them actually being from Texas!). Molière wrote much of the play in rhyming couplets

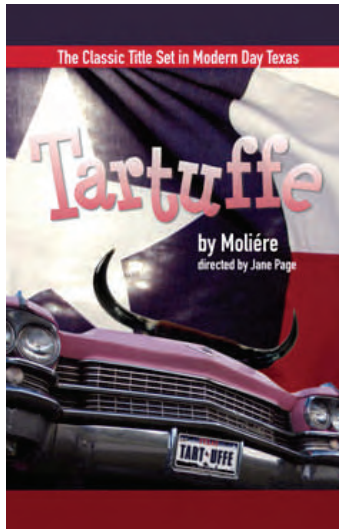
which forced the actors to make each of their lines make sense when some of them really didn't. The result was added comedy to a play strong in verse but sparse in slapstick humor. The actors did a great job of keeping the pace fast and the jokes rolling, but it was odd to see a farce so intellectually challenging.

As for the set, I was in awe when I saw it from the back seats and even more so when I went on-stage. It takes place inside the family's spacious, two floor living room. Carefully designed tiles on the floor and beautiful white walls raising 25 feet housed the elegant staircase, luxurious furniture, a ten foot light-up (and remote controlled) cross, and three side rooms perfected with meticulous detail. It all served to show that this cushy family was ill prepared for the strife Tartuffe brought upon the house.

All in all, Two River provided yet another fantastic play for the community. While even the most experienced theatergoers would find this a fun and challenging ride, each person also had the option of sitting back, relaxing, and watching the slow, witty, and often hilarious undoing of their family unfold.

The next show in their lineup is the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *The Pavilion*, playing January 17 - February 4, 2007. Call the Honors School at 732-263-5308 for more details.

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### (Growing Trends, Cont. from page 3)

NCHC conference as a student ambassador. As co-editor and founder of Areté, I found interest in attending the program: "How to Publish an Award-Winning Newsletter." I was surprised to see our newsletter meeting many of the standards and expectations of the program's presenters from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While some of the discussion pertained to the physical publication, costs, and other technical matters of an Honors newsletter, content of a newsletter was a main topic. The information I gathered from the presentation can be brought to Areté's growing staff to improve our own publication. It is my personal goal to be next year's presenter and to be able to proudly display the work of Monmouth University's students. I hope it could be part of the long-awaited realization and recognition of the potential and ambition of the Honors School.

Philadelphia was in itself an amazing place to travel and experience. We found time to visit some of the historical buildings and sites, as well as appreciate the stunning architecture, from the Ben Franklin Bridge to City Hall. I enjoyed my very first (and famous) Philly cheese steak before attending the first conference programs. That evening we enjoyed authentic Chinese cuisine, shopping, and a scenic stroll through Philly's Chinatown. The NCHC conference also endorsed the Reading Market, an indoor shopping area with homemade crafts, food, and other unique gifts. A trip for business and pleasure, my weekend in Philadelphia proved to be both fun and educational (a model for all aspects of the Honors School). Less than a two-hour drive and a tank of gas, Philadelphia is a worthwhile trip for anyone.

## Move over Mathematics, Birch Takes on Athletics

by Chris Lukas

There is an old stereotype that the people who excel in academics are un-athletic and cannot excel at sports. The freshmen in Birch Hall decided to put this stereotype to the test and join several intramural sports here at Monmouth. The sports included flag football, wiffel ball, soccer, and dodge ball.

The intramural season opened as several of the males in Birch played flag football. Only one of the players had ever played football before, so the Birch males were not sure what was in store. Following the first two games the team realized that it needed to make some adjustments if it ever wanted to be successful. Some crafty game planning allowed the team to close the athletic gap between them and other teams, tying their third game. This tie was uplifting because it showed the team that it could compete competitively, and there was a shimmer of hope. This hope enabled the team to end the season on a two game winning streak. Playoffs came, and the team was not able to compete successfully against the strongest teams in the league. The overall verdict on football was that it was a fun game, but the team had only limited success.

The next season to come was wiffel ball. This was a game that the males of Birch had some confidence in because most had played it before. Skepticism was also present because of the disappointing losses in the flag football playoffs. The team won its first game, and suffered a heartbreaking loss in its second game. The final few games took strides to prove the stereotypes that the Honors kids can-

not excel at sports. These crushing losses were disappointing but the team cut its losses and looked toward the next season.

The soccer season soon arrived, and Birch entered a co-ed team. The team experienced the most success of any sport that they had played. The mix of males and females that had played, along with the abilities of those who had not, allowed for success. The team fared well in the regular season and qualified for the playoffs. The team was very successful in the playoffs, reaching the semi-finals. A loss sadly ended the Cinderella run for Birch's most successful team.

The most recent intramural sport was dodge ball. The males of Birch entered the season looking at it purely as fun, disregarding any competitiveness associated with it. The team did not have a successful record, but had fun while playing. It allowed new members of the team to shine in different aspects of the games.

Overall, the athletics of Birch went as one would expect. Some success was seen, but generally the teams were not overachievers. The members of the teams enjoyed their experience. This is one experience most of the players would never have thought of, if they followed the typical Honors stereotype. There are still a few more intramural sports to come throughout the year, and the Birch team is likely to enter them. Hopefully, Birch can "kick" the stereotype and find success before the year is over.

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### (East Meets West, *Cont. from page 1*)

slots to place coins in, the tree was close to four feet tall. The intricacy of the Chinese sculptures showed a civilization much more evolved in art than the Japanese. While the Japanese sculptures were crude and bland, the Tomb Guardians of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) were in sharp contrast. The two monstrous figures, made of earthenware and painted with silver and gold, crushed boar and deer demons under their feet. With large eyes, intimidating glares, and flames shooting from their backs and head, they would intimidate any intruder to the graves.

The tour continued over the Princeton campus, with Professor Douglass as the guide to the beautiful architecture of the university. Traditional Ivy League buildings with small windows, sloped shingled roofs, dark bricks, and ivy contrasted with Greek inspired buildings and even a Gothic cathedral where ceremonies still take place today.

After the tour, the group finished their trip with dinner at Ichiban, a Japanese restaurant just outside of the Princeton University campus. Sushi was served on large Japanese style bridge platters. For many of the students, it was their first time trying sushi or even using chopsticks. With a mix of avocado rolls, eel, California rolls, and plain salmon and tuna, there was something for everyone. The meal continued with a salad with traditional ginger dressing and then a choice of teriyaki, tempura or nagamaki.

The wood block display will remain at the Princeton University Art Museum until January 7, 2007.



# HONORS SCHOOL ANNUAL FALL BBQ



good  
food,  
good  
friends,  
good  
times!!!



## Alumni Corner

### Gregory L. Acquaviva Class of '03

by Nicole Stevens



*Greg Acquaviva with Chief Justice James R. Zazzali.*

"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." This mantra, first spoken by John Wooden, the legendary basketball coach of the UCLA Bruins, is what has guided Monmouth Honors graduate Gregory L. Acquaviva throughout his successful educational career. As a member of numerous honor societies and the recipient of several distinguished awards, Greg's advice should undoubtedly be taken to heart and serve as an inspiration to all students.

Born and raised a short distance away in Middletown, New Jersey, the youngest of four sons, Greg was destined to attend Monmouth University in the footsteps of his three older brothers. His destiny once he actually stepped foot onto Monmouth's campus, however, was certainly not so predetermined; rather, his diligence and dedication (and not fate or destiny) earned him an outstanding and impressive list of academic as well as extracurricular achievements.

Since his graduation from Monmouth in May of 2003, Greg continued his educational career at Seton Hall University School of Law, where he graduated first in his class of 317 students. He now works as a judicial clerk to Chief Justice James R. Zazzali of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Next fall, after his clerkship ends, he plans to return to the law firm of Latham & Watkins, which was recently ranked third among United States law firms on *American Lawyer's* "A-List" and eighth in the *Vault US Guide to the Top 100 Law Firms*.

Although it has been three years since his graduation from Monmouth, Greg continues to value the lessons he learned as well as the qualities he gained as an undergraduate honors student. For example, writing his forty-page long honors thesis on the decline of Congressional power since 1787, although a daunting task, was a beneficial process which taught him the art of research and organization. Furthermore, it helped him write future lengthy papers, including his student comment, "Mental Health Courts: No Longer Experimental," which was published by the Seton Hall Law Review. Additionally, Greg has found that the interdisciplinary curriculum of the Honors program, which connects the subject areas of history, the arts, and literature, has enabled him to become a more effective lawyer, developing persuasive arguments based on multiple perspectives.

Beyond his extraordinary scholarly achievement, Greg was also actively involved attending Monmouth. As a broadcaster and sports director for Monmouth's radio station, WMCX, Greg gained valuable experience, which "helped [him] develop [his] voice and greatly enhanced [his] public speaking skills." As a formerly timid speaker, Greg even credits his experiences at WMCX for his victory at Seton Hall's Eugene Gressman Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Competition.

Undoubtedly, Greg valued his time as an Honors student. He also fondly remembers the two most crucial people in the Honors program—Dr. Brian Garvey and Reenie Menditto, whom he describes as extremely dedicated individuals. "[They are] dedicated to the success of the Honors program but, more importantly, to the success of each individual Honors student."

Greg advises all students to get involved—get involved with campus life and seize every opportunity which both the University and the Honors School offer. Even with his laundry list of activities, Greg still regrets not doing more while at Monmouth and hopes that current and future students will take advantage of the events, outings, and other opportunities offered to Monmouth University Honors students.

Additionally, for Honors students specifically, Greg reminds us that perseverance is key and strongly encourages all Honors students to complete the Honors program, including the challenging Honors thesis. He says that the reward for the completion of this distinguished program more than compensates for the hard work put into it. "The good things in life take time and hard work, and the Honors thesis is no different. Complete the Honors program. You will only regret it if you don't."

*Editors' Note: The Honors School would like to wish Greg and his fiancée Devon good luck with their upcoming wedding.*

## ATTENTION ALUMNI

**E-mail [arete@monmouth.edu](mailto:arete@monmouth.edu) to update us on what you have been up to since you left MU.  
We would love to hear from you!!**