“Thank you.
Your generosity has opened so many doors for me.”
— Nicole Sivetz ’19, biology major and scholarship recipient

Under the direction of Professor Martin Hicks, Nicole is investigating the effects of RNA therapy on the epidermal growth factor receptor pathway in glioblastoma multiforme, the most common and malignant form of brain cancer. Her work is contributing to the development of improved medical therapies.

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MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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BACKSTORY » This 1941 Cadillac Series 62, owned by Mark Skesavage ’11M, was the perfect prop for our photo shoot with Professor Katherine Parkin. Skesavage, a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is Parkin’s friend and former student. Story, p. 24.
The scene at West Long Branch.

Bill Elliott ’95M is working to end drunk driving tragedies.

Three ACL injuries can’t stop Monmouth’s Peter Hegarty from competing in the world’s greatest arena.

The library was once a summer retreat for one wealthy family.

The magazine is wonderful and it keeps us all in touch with Monmouth’s progress. Great job!

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Sarah Lewis ’17 via Twitter

RE: SUMMER 2017

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MONMOUTH MEMORIES

My dad, Dr. Harold Jacobs (far right in photo above), was the founding chair of Monmouth’s Electrical Engineering Department. He is pictured here with an electronic measuring device he co-developed with Dr. Richard Benjamin (center, and later chair of the same department) and Dr. Frank Brand (left, a former Monmouth professor). My dad did some amazing things at Monmouth, and I established a modest scholarship in his honor to remember him: the Dr. Harold Jacobs Scholarship in Science. He is pictured here with an electric measuring device they developed.

GOOD SPORTS

I mustered out of the Navy in June of ‘63 and enrolled at Monmouth College in September of that year. A few friends asked me to try out for an intramural team, the Chinese Bandits. The Bandits, I found out after making the team, dominated intramural sports for years (and continued to after I graduated). Fifty-two years ago, this picture was snapped on The Great Lawn before one of our games. It seems nondescript, but two of the history makers of Monmouth University’s sports are pictured here: Vincent “Vinnie G” Giordano ’66, 7’5” 250 and John “Hoss” Kessler ’68. That year our team went on to win another championship thanks to the fierce competition by these two winners.

WHAT PROFESSOR CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

Deanna Shoemaker has helped make my time at Monmouth the best it could be. I go to her with all of my problems, because she always has the solution. I can’t wait to continue my academic journey with her as my mentor.

Emily G. Bleser ’20

Lauren K. Woods was my first real acting teacher, director, and mentor. He dropped into my life like Clarence in It’s a Wonderful Life and showed me the path forward to what has now been almost a 50-year career in theater, film, and TV. “Woody” and his influence have played an important part in every step I have taken in my career and in life. I feel his presence whenever I make an artistic choice.

Bill Cwikowski ’57

Thomas Kelly, my freshman English teacher, advised me to join the staff of the school newspaper. That was the moment my life changed. I took his advice and went to see Howie Newman ’63, the editor-in-chief of The Outlook. He hooked me up with Art Katz ’62, the sports editor, who had me cover a couple of baseball games. Then, Art gave me some wonderful advice. He told me my stories were strong but, in writing sports, I should try to write like I was sitting at a bar and talking to the person next to me. In other words, more conversationally. That was great advice. I went on to have a wonderful career in sports journalism, as a reporter, editor, and award-winning columnist. I was twice voted New Jersey Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association. And it was all because of Mr. Kelly, who steered me in the right direction.

Chuck Hassel ’61

LEAVING A LEGACY

Ron and Darlene Carlson’s bequest will provide scholarships for generations of Monmouth students—with no immediate cost to the Carlsons.

Graduating from Monmouth was a difference maker in his life, says Ron Carlton ’68. To show his gratitude to the university that gave him an excellent start to his information technology career, he created the Ronald H. Carlson Endowed Scholarship. Then, he and Darlene included it in their estate plan. Their bequest will make it possible in perpetuity for graduates of New Jersey’s most underserved high schools to attend Monmouth. And it allows the Carlsons to rest easy knowing they are supporting a cause they care about without any immediate cost to themselves.

“Recognizing the university in a manner that will assist future students with their education has provided us with a high degree of comfort,” says Ron. “We hope other graduates will thoughtfully consider their ability to contribute to Monmouth.”

Join Ron and Darlene in helping deserving students while creating your own legacy at Monmouth University. Contact Keith Richardson, assistant vice president for leadership programs, at 732-263-5758 or kerichar@monmouth.edu for more information on legacy giving, or visit mylegacy.monmouth.edu.
NEED TO KNOW » Topics & trends

TAKING ON TEEN SUICIDE

THE SUICIDE RATE FOR ADOLESCENTS HAS BEEN SLOWLY RISING, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT DATA FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. WE ASKED MICHELLE SCOTT, PH.D., WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REVERSE THE TREND.

INTERVIEW BY TONY MARCHETTI

The American Psychological Association has labeled teen suicide “a growing health concern.” Can you share some statistics to help put the issue in perspective?

According to the CDC, about 44,000 people across the lifespan die by suicide every year in the U.S. That’s one person every 11.9 minutes. Overall, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death. But among 15- to 24-year-olds—the age group I do most of my research with—it’s the second leading cause. From 2011 until 2014, the suicide rate for 15- to 24-year-olds was pretty stable. Then, from 2014 to 2015, there was an increase of almost 1 person per 100,000 [raising the rate from 11.6 to 12.5]. We don’t know yet if that’s a trend upward or just a blip.

What caused that uptick?

I wish we could say, but there’s never an easy answer when it comes to suicide. There are constellations of risk factors, so when we teach individuals what they should be on the lookout for, we list a bunch of things. People might want to say it’s social media, or substance abuse, or economic hardship. But we can’t just say there’s one cause. It’s those constellations of risk factors.

What are some of the risk factors to look for in young people?

The news about suicide often makes it seem like some event—such as being bullied or experiencing a loss—was the cause. Those are situations that may be a triggering event, but usually occur within the context of other risk factors. Those factors include depression, anxiety, substance use, lack of connection to others (or social withdrawal), previous exposure to death by suicide, and prior suicide attempts. What we worry about is if we start to see a bunch of them together, then there’s an increased likelihood that suicide could happen. But it doesn’t mean it will happen. You have to balance all of the protective factors. For instance, on college campuses students have access to mental health care. That’s a brilliant thing. Students don’t have to pay for each visit, because it’s part of their student services. If they need help, they can get it. We want to promote to everyone that it’s normal and it’s important to seek help. If we could have an epidemic of help-seeking, that would be good.

Tell me about some of the prevention work you’re doing here at Monmouth.

We had a multiyear suicide prevention grant that let us train students, faculty, and staff...
about how to take care of each other at the level they’re appropriately supposed to. We created on campus what we called a “community.” It’s a public health social work model in which everyone has a role in suicide prevention. The idea is, your role isn’t to do everything, it’s one piece of the puzzle in this model, and if everyone does their role, then no one falls through the cracks. That grant ended in 2016. Then in January, we received a large private donation that was a logical extension of the work we were already doing.

You’re referring to the SRF Suicide Prevention Research and Training Project. What’s happening through that initiative?

In September, we hosted a free conference, Youth Suicide Prevention: Using the Media to Start the Conversation. The conference was inspired in part by Reasons Why, as well as other stories in the media earlier this year. The idea is, open to anyone who interacts with youth, and we had more than 300 participants, grandparents, clergy, coaches, school counselors and social workers, state workers, administrators, case managers, health professionals, and substance abuse professionals attending. The conference was focused on the media, on upstream prevention. That is, what we can do, without necessarily putting protections in place—that is, providing information on what people can do. If they’re experiencing those thoughts or know someone who is. You didn’t get that in the show. On some episodes, you were warned there was suicidal content, but they didn’t tell you what to do if you were upset—everyone is small, stand-alone segment, “Beyond the Reasons,” which was not connected to the show. So, we’re trying to really evaluate objective: Is this good for dog welfare? And if it’s good and shows promise, we’ll give it more funding. If it’s not doing what we need it to be doing, we’ll make necessary changes.

Along the same line, there have been stories in the news about the so-called Blue Whale Challenge. Can you explain what that is? Is this a real thing?

I don’t know a lot about that, but it’s supposedly an app or online game where you complete acts of vandalism that lead to a final challenge in which you hurt yourself or die by suicide. I don’t know if it’s real. I don’t know if kids are doing it. But if kids think it’s real, then it’s a real thing. If there’s a cluster of contagion of, “Oh, this is what everyone’s doing,” then it’s something we need to be addressing.

Looking ahead, what more must be done to confront the issue of adolescent suicide?

California recently passed a law that mandates six hours of clinical training in suicide prevention for clinicians before they can get licensed. More states need to do that. That way, when someone has the courage to get treatment, their therapist, their clinician, their doctor knows what to do. It sounds scary, but many clinicians are somewhat ill-prepared—unless they’ve sought out additional training on their own, like the people who came to our September conference. We have to make sure therapists know exactly what needs to be done, and that they’re comfortable doing that job—these are what we call downstream measures. We also need to focus more on upstream prevention. That means working with young people, who are before suicidal thoughts or behavior, to become an option. We can start with young children to build resiliency, problem-solving, and coping skills. I just wrote a curriculum, LifeLines Prevention from Hazelden Inc. with my colleague, Judith Springer. Ph.D. Schools can use it to teach 11th and 12th graders emotional preparedness for life after high school. My colleagues also created a 5th and 6th grade version that mimics the same kind of learning. These curricula complement the Lifelines prevention education for 7th to 11th graders. This way, when people hit the bumps in the road in life that we all know we will face, they can weather them better and not think suicide is the solution.

To improve a dog’s chances of being adopted, some shelters are taking the animals out of the kennels and placing them in a four-legged bretherin. The idea is that these doggy playgroups reduce the animals’ stress and anxiety, help them expend excess energy, improves their quality of life, and provides a natural setting for staff to assess a dog’s behavior and personality.

But it’s important to determine the potential positive impacts playgroups can have on a dog’s welfare, says Mehrkam, as their behavior can diminish rapidly when placed in a shelter, potentially making them less adoptable. She says dogs can go from showing signs of enthusiasm toward people and a willingness to approach the kennel gate to displaying abnormal behavior like pacing and excessive licking, due to overcrowding and anxiety, in a week or less.

“We’re trying to give some science and data behind what is now becoming a very common practice in shelters—the play groups,” says Mehrkam. “And we’re trying to really evaluate objectively: Is this good for dog welfare and show promise to our stakeholders?” The study, which is being funded by a grant from Maddie’s Fund, is expected to run through May 2018.

The study, which is being conducted by researchers at the University of Delaware, is expected to take up to two years to complete. Researchers at the University of Delaware are expected to begin collecting data on the number of dogs that are placed in play groups and the number of dogs that are adopted within a one-month period after being placed in a play group. Researchers are also expected to conduct surveys of shelter staff and volunteers to determine whether play groups improve a dog’s adoption rate.

PAW PALS CAN PLAYGROUPS IMPROVE A DOG’S ADOPTABILITY? BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

More than 3 million dogs enter animal shelters each year, and while most end up being adopted, the ASPCA estimates that 670,000 are euthanized annually.

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CANEINE CREW

Assisting Mehrkam in this study are several Canine Behavior Research Coordinators: Alexandra Heaney ’16 and current MONMOUTH, 08

Mehrkam was lead author of a study that found a dog’s name was associated with more of an impact on adoption rates, and those with the shortest and most common names are more likely to be adopted. The study, which was published in the journal Animal Cognition, found that dogs with shorter and more common names were more likely to be adopted than dogs with longer and less common names.

\( \text{Mehrkam was lead author of a study that found a dog’s name was associated with more of an impact on adoption rates, and those with the shortest and most common names are more likely to be adopted.} \)
Q: How can I cut stress and increase focus?

Have you ever walked into the kitchen only to realize you don’t remember why you’re there in the first place? Or forgotten to include the attachment on an important email? Then you could benefit from practicing mindfulness meditation, says Cynthia O’Connell, a specialist professor in Monmouth’s School of Education.

At its core, mindfulness is noticing what’s happening in the present moment. “You can be mindful without practicing meditation,” says O’Connell—by single-tasking rather than multitasking, for example. “The practice of mindfulness meditation, however, is setting aside time each day, or a few times a day, to concentrate on being present.”

Anyone can benefit from it. According to the American Psychological Association, mindfulness meditation is linked to reducing negative thoughts, cutting stress, boosting memory, increasing focus, and other health benefits. How does one do it? It’s simple, says O’Connell.

First, sit or recline in a comfortable position. Then, concentrate on your breathing. “Breathe in and out slowly through your nose,” says O’Connell. “As thoughts come in, acknowledge that thought and let it float by like a cloud in the sky. You can revisit that thought later.”

Some beginners might find that meditation comes naturally to them; others can benefit from the help of a guided meditation mobile app. O’Connell also advises beginners to put a sticky note on their computer monitor, steering wheel, or cell phone to remind them to practice.

So how does concentrating on your breathing a few minutes each day translate to being more mindful in day-to-day life? “It helps you remember to STOP!” says O’Connell, which is an acronym she recommends for beginners. Whenever you find yourself autopilot, remember to: Stop—pause; Observe what’s happening around you; Practice being present; Remember to ‘STOP,’” says O’Connell—by single-tasking rather than multitasking.

The most important thing is to keep practicing. “Make it part of your daily routine just like eating, drinking water, and brushing your teeth,” says O’Connell. “In order to reap the benefits, it has to be a daily effort—even if it’s just two minutes.”

—Melissa Kvidahl

The 10-Second Bonus Question

Do I Need a Mantra?

The short answer? No. A component of Transcendental Meditation, the mantra is intended to let the mind settle and, ultimately, transcend thought entirely. This kind of meditation is a totally different approach from being mindful, which instead encourages practitioners to not only have thoughts, but to focus them on the present moment.

The most important thing is to keep practicing. “Make it part of your daily routine just like eating, drinking water, and brushing your teeth,” says O’Connell. “In order to reap the benefits, it has to be a daily effort—even if it’s just two minutes.”

—Melissa Kvidahl

Crowdsourcing History

Joseph R. Veit was just 25 years old in 1917, when he was drafted to fight in World War I. Hailing from the Vailsburg section of Newark, a largely German-American and Jewish community, he was sent to fight on the Western Front as part of the 78th Infantry (“Lightning”) Division, 312th Regiment. His grandson, Richard Veit, chair of Monmouth’s History and Anthropology Department, says his grandfather’s World War I items were crowd-sourced from a dozen people, including many in the Monmouth community, by Specialist Professor of Public History Melissa Ziobro, whose experiential Museum and Archives Management Basics class curated and developed the displays, which include various memorabilia from the war. Some of the items, including a needlepoint and welcome home banner (pictured), had belonged to Joseph. Others were keepsakes given to him by his comrades. Joseph collected the items while he was one of the last survivors of the regiment.

These artifacts, along with about 150 others, are currently on display in the Monmouth University Library as part of an exhibit marking the centennial of the United States’ entry into WWI. The items were crowd-sourced from a dozen people, including many in the Monmouth community, by Specialist Professor of Public History Melissa Ziobro, whose experiential Museum and Archives Management Basics class curated and developed the displays, which include various memorabilia from British, American, and German troops.

—Breanna McCarthy

To ask a question of our faculty experts, email magazine@monmouth.edu or mail Explaining This, Monmouth magazine, Aliquippa House, 400 Cedar drive, West Long Branch, NJ 07764.
5 QUESTIONS FOR MICHAEL WATERS

THE ENGLISH PROFESSOR AND CELEBRATED POET TALKS CRAFT, INSPIRATION, AND THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF POETRY.

INTERVIEW BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

1. How do you select your themes for books?

I don’t. What happens is I start writing poems and, rather than a collection of poems, and then, maybe, I might start leaning toward that. And when I feel the book is finished, I really just go on writing poems and see what else starts to rise.

2. In terms of process then, do you wait for inspiration to strike?

There’s a quote by a famous artist, Chuck Close. “Inspiration is for amateurs. So, no, it really is the work itself. It’s the sitting down at the desk to do the work… Writing is a process. I don’t think of it as a product…” For me, the line is the most important part of poetry. Each line has its own integrity, so I tend to write line by line.

3. For your 13th book of poetry, which you’ve said will focus on “bridging the old world with the new,” what do you mean by that?

The last time I was in Romania, I saw a family with a new car. They had brought the car to a monastery and asked the head monk, the abbot of the monastery, to bless it. They had all of the doors of the car open, and the hood was up, and the trunk was up, and the family was standing around in their Sunday best. And the abbot was walking around the car, sprinkling it with holy water, and reciting prayers so that the family would be safe in that car—so that’s the old world and the new world right there.

4. What advice do you share with students when it comes to writing creatively?

What’s important is not to dress like a writer, or talk like a writer, or drink like a writer! What you have to do is actually write. You have to put pen to paper and learn your craft.

5. Being a poet for nearly five decades, how do you think the art form is faring in a modern, digital world that’s so full of distractions?

People turn to poetry after any kind of national trauma. After 9/11, for example, there was poetry chalked all over the streets of New York, so it seems poetry is essential to our lives. There always seems to be a hunger for poetry throughout the centuries.
Henni Kantor Kessler & John H. Kessler Stadium, the new $16 million facility that is home to more than half of the university’s student athletes, opened in style on Sept. 2 when the football team defeated Lafayette, 31-12. Made possible by a generous gift from Henni S. Kessler and John H. Kessler, the stadium features more than 4,200 seats, including 800 chair-back seats, a full concourse with concession stands; a state-of-the-art press box; and multimedia and coaches’ booths. The facility also features a 1,855-square-foot Panasonic HD LED video display board thanks to a generous gift from Hackensack Meridian Health, that share the category “Regional Universities North.” Monmouth was also named one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education by Princeton Review: The Best 382 Colleges—2018 Edition and was featured in Money magazine’s “Best Colleges for Your Money 2017” list. The annual Founders’ Day Convocation was highlighted this year by the investiture of Grey J. Dimenna, Esq., as the ninth president of Monmouth University. During the ceremony, Henry D. Mercer, III ’37, immediate past chair of the board, received an honorary Doctor of Public Service in recognition of his dedication to the university. William Elliott ’57M received the Distinguished Alumni Award (see p. 42), and John K. Lloyd, co-CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health, received the Maurice Dollak Award for Distinguished Community Service.

MISSION AND TRADITION

The first graduating class of Monmouth’s Physician Assistant program had a 100 percent pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam last spring. The university climbed 10 places in the latest U.S. News & World Report annual ranking of “America’s Best Colleges,” landing at No. 28 out of the 196 institutions that share the category “Regional Universities North.” Monmouth was also named one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education by Princeton Review: The Best 382 Colleges—2018 Edition and was featured in Money magazine’s “Best Colleges for Your Money 2017” list. The annual Founders’ Day Convocation was highlighted this year by the investiture of Grey J. Dimenna, Esq., as the ninth president of Monmouth University. During the ceremony, Henry D. Mercer, III ’37, immediate past chair of the board, received an honorary Doctor of Public Service in recognition of his dedication to the university. William Elliott ’57M received the Distinguished Alumni Award (see p. 42), and John K. Lloyd, co-CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health, received the Maurice Dollak Award for Distinguished Community Service.

MOVIN’ ON UP

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THIS ONE GOES TO II

Ken Womack, dean of the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences, published Maximum Volume: The Life of Beatles Producer George Martin, The Early Years, 1926–1966. This first-ever biography of Martin is part of a planned two-book series by Womack, who is a world-renowned authority on the Beatles and their enduring cultural influence.

THREE-PEAT

Monmouth won its third consecutive Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Overall Commissioner’s Cup for the 2016–17 academic year. The award symbolizes overall excellence in athletics in the 25 championship athletic events conducted within the MAAC. During the 2016–17 campaign, Monmouth won the field hockey, women’s indoor track and field, men’s tennis, and men’s and women’s outdoor track and field championships.

SOME GREAT PR

The Public Relations program received the Award for Certification in Education from the Public Relations Society of America in October, making Monmouth one of three schools in the state, and one of only 50 in the U.S., to earn such a distinction.

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

Assistant Professor Melissa Febos’ latest book, Abandon Me, which we excerpted in our spring issue, received a social media shout-out from actress Emma Roberts. The American Horror Story star, who co-created the online book club Belletrist, shared Febos’ book with her 11 million Instagram followers.

PERFECT

The first graduating class of Monmouth’s Physician Assistant program had a 100 percent pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam last spring.
A PALACE OF BOOKS

MONMOUTH’S LIBRARY WAS ONCE A SUMMER RETREAT FOR ONE OF AMERICA’S WEALTHIEST FAMILIES.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Two years before construction of the Guggenheim Mansion was complete, the estate’s architects (from the same firm that built the New York Public Library) won a gold medal for the building’s design. 

Built as a summer cottage for Murry and Leonie Guggenheim, known for both their extravagant wealth and their philanthropy, the mansion was fashioned in the Beaux Arts style and modeled after the Petit Trianon in Versailles. The original estate sat on eight acres and included the 35-room mansion, a carriage house (which today houses the Lauren K. Woods Theatre). With a white stucco exterior, largely white interiors, and numerous floor-to-ceiling windows and doors, the cottage had a light, airy feel and was less extravagantly decorated than other summer homes built by wealthy families of the time.

After his parents’ deaths, Edmond Guggenheim, who ran the family foundation, offered the estate to Monmouth Medical Center. But locals petitioned against the move, with many saying they preferred the estate instead be donated to Monmouth College.

The property was officially conveyed to the college on September 9, 1960. Since then there have been two major construction projects: a four-story addition built in 1967 and a $14 million expansion and renovation project completed in 2002. Today, the library is home to more than 300,000 books—472 of which were written by Monmouth University authors.

MY MONMOUTH »
COMING TO AMERICA (TWICE)

MY 17,000-MILE ODYSSEY TO BECOME A HAWK.

BY BASEM ZREIAT’84

I arrived on campus at 1 a.m. on a cold morning in January 1980—a 20-year-old freshman from Amman, Jordan. Hours earlier I had landed at JFK, and after two bus rides and a taxi, I was knocking on the door of Cedar Hall. A senior let me in and showed me to my room. He wished me good luck and said goodnight. The semester hadn’t started and the dorm was eerily quiet, but I knew I would fall asleep quickly. The next day I was so homesick that I called my brother in California and told him I was going home. Using the money that was supposed to last me through the first semester, I took a taxi back to JFK and bought a plane ticket to Jordan. I didn’t realize then how crazy my actions were. I didn’t come from a rich family; my parents had borrowed money from relatives to fly me to the U.S. But I didn’t care. All I could think of was going home.

I stayed in Amman for two days. Then I went to the American embassy and applied for another visa to go back to Monmouth. It was the best decision I’ve ever made.

I arrived back at Cedar Hall and knocked on the door at almost the same crazy hour as before. The same senior who had greeted me came running out, asking where I had been. I hadn’t told anyone I was leaving, so he thought I was lost. When I explained what had happened, he didn’t believe me.

Given a second chance, I worked hard to succeed—both for myself and to make my family proud. I made so many friends in my time at Monmouth, I took classes in beautiful Wilson Hall and saw Annie filmed there. I learned to program in PL/1 on a keypunch machine, and remember walking across the hall to hand my cards to the operator in the computer room, who ran them through the reader. As a member of the International Club, I helped run our annual parties on campus, which featured authentic food, colorful costumes, music, singing, and dancing. I also worked part time at the famous Balthazoo in Blue restaurant in Long Branch, where the owner, Yvonne, would introduce me to customers as “Baie, the young man from Jordan.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in computer science, I went back to Jordan for six years. In 1990, I moved to Australia and took a job as a PL/1 programmer for an American bank in Sydney. I’m still there 27 years later; these days my responsibilities include managing Asia Pacific region projects.

My experience as an international student at Monmouth was rich and inspirational, both academically and culturally. I had great professors and received tremendous support from them throughout my studies. I am where I am now because of Monmouth, and for that I will forever be grateful and proud to be a Monmouth alumnus.
A DAY AT THE BEACH
Coastal moments, captured

AUGUST 28, 2017
The early bird gets the photo along the shore in Long Branch.
Fall 2017 MONMOUTH 21

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JUST FOR KICKS

INJURIES AND SEVEN (YES, SEVEN) COLLEGIATE SEASONS IN SOCCER HAS GIVEN VETERAN DEFENDER GABBY CUEVAS UNWAVERING DRIVE—AND A WHOLE LOT OF PERSPECTIVE.

BY RYAN JONES

B y the third one, surely, Gabby Cuevas was ready to give up. This was three years ago, when Cuevas went down with her third ACL tear in four years. She was in her fourth season at UConn, seemingly at the end of a collegiate soccer career that had been repeatedly and cruelly interrupted by injury. At that point, it could hardly have seemed worth the trouble to try to come back again.

You’d think so, anyway. In fact, Cuevas insists, giving up “never crossed my mind.”

“I couldn’t picture college without soccer, and not being part of a team,” she says. “As soon as it happened, I was like, I knew what I need to do. When can I get surgery?”

That insistence powered Cuevas through another grueling round of rehab, and ultimately brought her to Monmouth. Granted two additional seasons of eligibility by the NCAA—her first two ACL tears occurred in the very first games of her 2011 and 2012 seasons, and her third happened in the fourth game of the 2014 season—Cuevas left UConn with a psychology degree and a hunger to get back on the field. From there, the Wayne, New Jersey, native (a three-time All-State pick during her time at powerhouse Immaculate Heart Academy) made the comfortable transition to Monmouth, where she immediately earned a starting spot with the Hawks.

Starting every game for Monmouth last fall, Cuevas paced a defense that posted 11 shutouts. She finished the season as a second-team All-MAAC pick, a vital piece in a squad that finished 14-5-1 en route to the regular-season and conference tournament titles. Coming into the 2017 season, longtime coach Krissy Turner called her “a seasoned veteran” who “leads by example in all that she does.”

Now 24 and suiting up in her seventh collegiate season, Cuevas knows that “seasoned” is putting it politely. “I’m not even the ‘team mom’—we have a fifth-year player who’s the team mom,” she says with a laugh. “I’m known as the team grandma.” She’s particularly tight with the sophomores, who arrived on campus at the same time she did, but says she’s proud to play “middle man” between the coaching staff and players. “I’ve been around the game longer, so I know why we do things,” she says. “Being a mentor comes easy for me, but I also joke around with them: ‘You guys keep me young.’”

As she works toward her master’s in social work—she’s eyeing a career in family mental health counseling—Cuevas owns a unique perspective that makes her not only a rare teammate, but an inspired choice for the university’s new promotional push. That’s her in the debut video for Monmouth’s #PerfectDay campaign, jogging along the boardwalk, working on a class project in the library, and working out in the weight room and on the practice field. “I really didn’t know what to expect,” she says of filming the clip. “I’m like, I don’t know what I’m doing. I’m a soccer player.”

That she is, remarkably, still.

DON’T LET THAT SMILE FOOL YOU

Sunny disposition aside, Cuevas is a tenacious defender. With her in the lineup, the Hawks have posted shutouts in 16 of 37 games to date.

Check out Gabby’s commercial at monmouth.edu/perfectday and find inspiration for your #PerfectDay.
IN THE GARDEN
EVERY HOOPSTER DREAMS OF STEPPING ON THIS COURT. THESE FOUR DID IT.

AS TOLD TO TONY MARCHETTI

For the first time in 20 years, and only the third time in program history, the men’s basketball team returns to Madison Square Garden. As Monmouth gears up for its Dec. 9 showdown with the Kentucky Wildcats in New York City, we asked some Hawks who’ve been there what it’s like to play in “the world’s greatest arena.”

EVERY HOOPSTER DREAMS OF STEPPING ON THIS COURT. THESE FOUR DID IT.

IN THE GARDEN

THE SMELL OF THE PLACE STILL STICKS out in my mind. The Garden hosted a lot of circuses back then, so maybe one had just been in town, but the place smelled like—the zoo. I wasn’t the only one who noticed it, either. I was born and raised in the Bronx, and I’m a huge Knicks fan, so it was exciting to play there. We played in some big places around the country, but the Garden is unique. It’s definitely the greatest arena on Earth—there have been so many great sporting events, and concerts and shows there. We didn’t take it for granted where we were playing. I’m a middle school counselor in the Bronx public school system these days, and I still tell my kids about when I played there. They get a kick out of that.

It makes me proud as an alumnus to see how far this program has come. I’ll be there in December cheering as loud as I can. And the fact that we’re going against an opponent like Kentucky? It doesn’t get any better than that.

WILL LEWIS ’92 • Forward

I REMEMBER BEING ON THE BUS AS IT SAT in city traffic, and looking out at how alive Manhattan was, and thinking, I’m going to play basketball in Madison Square Garden. It was surreal. During the pregame shootarounds, I think I was looking around more than shooting, thinking, and saw some iconic buildings over there. It wasn’t the same as being in Madison Square Garden. But it wasn’t the same as being in Madison Square Garden. Until this day, it is one of the coolest places I ever played.

Corey Albano ’97 • Forward

I REMEMBER BEING ON THE BUS AS IT SAT in city traffic, and looking out at how alive Manhattan was, and thinking, I’m going to play basketball in Madison Square Garden. It was surreal. During the pregame shootarounds, I think I was looking around more than shooting, taking it all in. I can’t speak for everybody, but for a few people it seemed there was a sense of, Wow, we’re playing in the Mecca of basketball.

I played in Europe for 13 years after graduating, and saw some iconic buildings over there. But it wasn’t the same as being in Madison Square Garden. Until this day, it is one of the coolest places I ever played.

To hear Monmouth in the same sentence as Kentucky shows how much the program has grown. I couldn’t be prouder. A Hawks win that day would be so great. It would definitely take the program to the next level.
AN ANNOTATED CONVERSATION WITH KATHERINE J. PARKIN, AUTHOR OF THE NEW BOOK WOMEN AT THE WHEEL: A CENTURY OF BUYING, DRIVING, AND FIXING CARS.

INTERVIEW BY TOBIAS CARROLL
I n Women at the Wheel: A Century of Buying, Driving, and Fixing Cars, History Professor Katherine J. Parkin examines the fascinating history of how American car culture and American attitudes toward gender have overlapped, conflicted, and defied expectations. Parkin takes readers from the days when gasoline-, electric-, and steam-powered vehicles vied for supremacy through to the present, examining everything from NASCAR driver Danica Patrick’s advertising work to Volkswagen’s relaunch of the Beetle, with the tagline ‘It’s a boy.’ Along the way, she shares insights on the (occasionally bizarre) automotive subcultures she unearthed during her research and chronicles decades of cringe-worthy automotive advertising campaigns.

What drew you to the topic of women’s relationships with cars over the years? When I was working on my last book, I came across a statistic that 50 percent of driver’s license holders are women. I clipped that out and put it on my wall to think about. At first, I thought that maybe the women’s movement was a liberating force that encouraged women to drive. But I found that wasn’t the case; the growing number of women drivers was part of a trend. The number of women drivers grew across the 20th century, and women now outnumber men. I don’t think it was really about liberation so much as that society really needed women to drive and women clearly sought it out.

You write about a number of very particular subcultures, including grandmothers who work as mechanics. Where did you first encounter them?

I grew up watching David Letterman, so I’d see him having [auto mechanic and cable host] Lucille Treganowan on. She was a grandmother in the 1980s, but the grandmother-mechanic figures that I discovered did not start out working as grandmothers. They only became acceptable as mechanics because as they aged, they were considered too be asexual. We don’t consider older women to be sexual beings. I think there’s a way in which we allow women to be engaged with a car—as long as they’re not a threat to men’s masculinity.

Does that also apply to the car-repairing nuns you wrote about?

Yes. A nun, whose nickname was Sister Fixit, taught high school women how to fix their cars and talked to them about God while she worked under the hood, but it was all seen as holy work. It’s not seen as anything untoward.

What was your research into the time before gas-powered cars were ubiquitous like?

One of the most interesting parts of the book was your research into the time before gas-powered cars were ubiquitous. I think it’s important to recognize how much everything was in play. We tend to think only of gas or electric cars, but there was a third, steam, and although it didn’t survive it was certainly a contender. The woman who was the first to drive in Washington, D.C., drove a steam car. Her dad was a doctor, and she was his driver; she would help him go around to his patients. Steam was even more complicated than gas and electric, and it was particularly challenging to write about in urban areas with short distances and a guarantee of finding water. Women have long been identified with electric cars in the popular imagination, but they drove steam and gasoline-powered cars, too.

You discuss how early electric cars were often marketed toward women. Is it significant, then, that today’s high-profile manufacturer of electric cars, Tesla, is named after a man?

When I was finishing up my book, Tesla had just emerged as a strong contender in the car industry. Car companies have long placed an emphasis on science and on inventors—we admire Ford, we admire these men who created these cars. However, we also know that American car companies have long sought to crush electric cars. It is no accident that it took a Japanese automaker, Toyota, to break into the American market with the first successful hybrid, the Prius. I think that they appeal a lot to women, but most automakers don’t believe being successful with women is good. Take for example the popularity of the revitalized Volkswagen Bug. After recognizing its success, the company rejected women and said to themselves, “Okay, we’ve sold it to all these women; now let’s change it into a boy!” They brought in Porsche designers to masculinize the rounded beetle shape and removed the flower vases. It’s a very contradictory impulse.

Were there any sections of the book that were particularly challenging to write?

One of the most difficult parts was writing about police and sexual violence. I found that police used their power to coerce sexual acts from women they pulled over. Similar experiences were found with driving instructors and their assaults—I think it’s an unspoken experience that women are having, that there’s a risk when you’re getting into a car with a male stranger. We have a notion that cars represent freedom, but women are constantly told to be afraid with their car. Don’t pump your own gas; it’s dangerous. Parking garages are dangerous. I find that the fears are not substantiated in the crime statistics,

FOOTNOTES
1. According to TiVo, Patrick’s ‘Enhance- ment’ commercial for GoDaddy.com was the most watched commercial during the 2009 Super Bowl.
3. According to the most recent statistics from the Federal Highway Administration, there are 1,354,947 more female than male licensed drivers in the U.S.
4. Treganowan also appeared as herself in a 1996 episode of ‘Tool Time,’ the show-within-a-show on the Tim Allen ve-

icle Home Improve-

ment.
5. Sister Joan Ma-

rese. She also did carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work, according to a 1973 UPI news article.
6. Girls Auto Clinic, in Upper Darby, Pa., was named Philo-

delphia magazine’s ‘Best Multipurpose Garage’ in 2017.

Continued, p. 28
but also that we don’t hear much about women’s experiences. That’s partly what motivated me to write the book. Women are having different experiences with cars and we don’t know it. In the case of the crimes that are occurring, the silence means no laws or policies are being developed to help police the perpetrators.

Women worked with cars in both world wars. Did one war have more of an impact as far as changing perceptions of gender and automobiles?

In some ways, I think the First World War had more revolutionary potential. The American suffragist Rosalie Jones said, effectively, “We have suffrage, now we need to learn how to fix a car.” It was part of this understanding of women’s independence, the idea that women would find independence in their relationship with a car, in learning how to drive and assisting, as Gertrude Stein did overseas, transporting goods and being a part of the war effort.

I have less of a sense of that from the Second World War. It’s that the car industry still can’t cross the notion of women assaulting the car as a way of getting back at a betrayal by a man. One of my students said, “Oh yeah, I did that. I got in trouble.” As I was finishing writing the book, Beyoncé’s Lemonade came out, and she’s mad at Jay-Z’s infidelity and beating cars with a baseball bat.

One of the most memorable images you bring up in the book is the moment where male car designers attempted to understand a woman’s driving experience by wearing fake nails and approximating wearing a dress. Is automotive design still an overwhelmingly male field?

Not only is automotive design still overwhelmingly male, it is also consistently tone deaf to the American consumer. The example you mentioned, of men wearing trash bags for dresses and taping paper clips to their fingers, was proudly detailed in press releases. Companies proudly proclaim that they’re working hard to understand women. I found it shocking that they would believe that would be a positive thing today. It really only reveals how few women are involved.

If you look at Volvo, which is a very successful car in appealing to women and safety, they put together a team to create a pink, prototype Dodge La Femme kind of car. Why wouldn’t they put them to work to make a car that was good and appealed to everyone? I found that disheartening. Volvo proudly touted that they created floor mats that you could change out with the seasons. Listening to consumers, particularly women, seems like a pretty low bar that the car industry still can’t cross.

Was there anything you found that surprised you, or defied expectations of what you were looking for?

I structured the book along the lines of a woman’s experience with a car: you learn to drive, you get your license, you buy your car, you care for your car. What I didn’t expect to find in my research were all the ways people identified with the car. People’s relationships with their cars didn’t really fit into expected patterns that I had anticipated, to the extent that people named their cars, had sex in their cars—or with their cars.

Once when I was teaching, I was talking about the notion of women assaulting the car as a way of getting back at a betrayal by a man. One of my students said, “Oh yeah, I did that. I got in trouble.” As I was finishing writing the book, Beyoncé’s Lemonade came out, and she’s mad at Jay-Z’s infidelity and beating cars with a baseball bat.

Do you consider yourself a car person, or did writing this book turn you into one?

I’ve always enjoyed driving, and like the independence it gave me. I’ve driven in Europe; I’ve driven stick in England on the other side of the road. But I’m not a car person. I don’t know much about anything under the hood. Writing this book made me more aware of the ways that cars permeate the American experience. If you take something like music, the Beatles have very few songs that reference the car, but American musicians use the car to talk about escaping bad relationships (Tracy Chapman, Melissa Etheridge), avenging bad behavior (Carrie Underwood, Beyoncé), seeking out freedom and joy in cars.
By almost every measure the party was a grand and cheerful affair. A large tent was set up in the backyard, a jukebox had been rented for the evening, and more than 100 people showed up to celebrate the homecoming of Christian Benedetto Jr. ’89, who had just spent the better part of the past year serving as a United States Marine in Operations Desert Shield and Storm. Gathered at his parents’ home in Middletown, New Jersey, friends and family laughed and smiled with delight at seeing the 24-year-old safe and sound, showering him with frequent hugs or pats of congratulation on the back. But as the night grew later, Benedetto’s father couldn’t shake the feeling that something wasn’t quite right with his son.

Walking over to Christian and putting an arm on his shoulder during a lull in the celebration, he asked, “You OK?” “Sure,” said Benedetto, surveying the party with a detached, faraway look in his eyes. “I guess it’s kinda surreal for me. Just trying to take it all in.”

Surreal indeed. The nine months spent on the front lines had been an arduous and ceaseless journey comprising equal parts fear, adrenaline, and exhausting vigilance. Not only had he witnessed the jarring and often sudden violence of war, but he also hadn’t slept inside a building in more than seven months and had been afforded the luxury of a shower only once during that same time. And just five days before his homecoming party he was stationed at an agricultural compound in Saudi Arabia, waiting for the slow, tedious gears of his deployment to churn in the direction of home.

Now, as if in a flash, here he was, standing in his backyard with a mind trapped thousands of miles away.

“Are you sure you’re all right,” his father asked again, this time with a little more insistence in his voice. “Yeah,” he said. “Why do you keep asking me?”

“Well, you’ve got more than 100 people here. And we’ve got four bathrooms inside the house. But all night you keep walking over and taking a piss in my flower beds.”

Like waking from a dream, Benedetto snapped to a realization. He hadn’t used a proper bathroom in more than half a year. Like every other soldier, he had become accustomed to simply walking 50 feet and doing his business wherever he could find spare ground. And that’s what he was doing now, subconsciously reverting to the crude, indelicate routines of military life in his parents’ backyard. Until his father said something, it hadn’t even occurred to him to use the bathrooms inside. And while he breezily dismissed the moment with a
When Benedetto enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1989 after earning his undergraduate degree in financial services from Monmouth, he did it because he “wanted more from life than a wife and a starter home with three and a half bedrooms.” He wanted to see the world. It was during his time at boot camp that Desert Shield got underway, and Benedetto was enthusiastic about the opportunity to eventually serve his country overseas. And for the first few weeks of his deployment everything progressed more or less as he’d imagined it would, with a few notable exceptions.

“I had some preconceived, romantic notions from the movies. Some of them were true and others were definitely not,” says Benedetto. “For example, one of my jobs during the war was to drag 55-gallon drums from under the privies into the desert, pour diesel fuel in them, and burn the waste. That definitely wasn’t in the brochure.”

Benedetto doesn’t care to share specific horror stories from his time overseas, but looking back, he is unflinchingly about tracing his PTSD back to that long, interminable stretch of time spent in the theater of desert warfare.

“My PTSD comes from being in reality, really cramped places that were really, really hot while things are blowing up all around us,” says Benedetto. “And then there was the sleep deprivation. You’re up every night for a few hours and then up and at it the entire next day, cleaning weapons, digging holes, always on alert. All of that starts to take its toll. To this day, I still can’t sleep for longer than an hour and 45 minutes at a time.”

Benedetto’s military service eventually came to an end in 1994, at which point he decided to go into sales, a career lifestyle perfect for hiding the demons lurking beneath the surface.

“I was the life of the party. A former Marine! OK, so he drinks a little too much, but who cares? He’s bringing in deals. And I was good at it,” says Benedetto. “I could drink while golfing, wine and dine clients, and entertain business partners at casino bars. And nobody thought anything of it because I was just this big, fun-loving war vet. People cut me a lot of slack.”

But when he was alone the walls came crumbling in. In addition to drinking himself to sleep, Benedetto was also becoming increasingly paranoid, wracked by panic attacks, and thrust into nightmares almost every time he closed his eyes. He would sometimes barricade his base door or hide behind his living room couch and keep watch for no specific reason other than to obey the crippling whines of his untamed anxiety. By 2007, he knew something had to change. He’d recently gotten married, and he and his wife were already making plans to have a child. He stopped drinking and built a life of sobriety that’s now lasted 10 years. And yet he had not come to terms with the disorder that was ru

“Here’s the paradox about being a Marine: the best thing is that you’re tough as nails... but guess what? That’s also the worst thing about being a Marine. You never think you need any help.”

PTSD statistics for service members are sobering and staggering. According to the VA, about 12 percent of U.S. troops who served in Desert Storm have been diagnosed with PTSD (compared to 20 percent of soldiers from the most recent theaters in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 30 percent from Vietnam). What’s more, NBC reported in 2016 that U.S. military suicides hit a record high in 2015 — more than 1,000 military men and women took their own lives (a higher number than those lost in battle that same year). That number dropped to 55 last year, and while overall awareness of the disorder has risen throughout the
past decade, many who specialize in the treatment of PTSD and general trauma say there is a long road ahead. “This is one of those topics in mental health that hadn’t been very well understood for a long time, and there’s still a lot to learn,” says Tom McCarthy, assistant director of counseling and psychological services at Monmouth. “And the more we try to understand PTSD, the more we understand how pervasive and detrimental it is to a person’s life. It doesn’t just go away after combat. It stays with the person and affects every single level of their life.”

This is the message Benedetto has been trying to broadcast ever since that fateful morning in 2013. In addition to maintaining his sobriety, Benedetto has been getting regular treatment from the VA, which includes a combination of medication and counseling. And while he still encounters triggers—unannounced, spontaneous circumstances that can ignite debilitating panic attacks—he now knows how to recognize and manage them through breathing and mindfulness.

“PTSD robs you of your dignity, and it robs you of any ability to really just function in the world,” says Benedetto. “And the thing is, you don’t get better. You get less worse.”

Help and healing, he says, are made that much more difficult by the persistent, lingering stigma PTSD still has within the military community and beyond, which Benedetto likens to “where same-sex marriage was seven to 10 years ago.”

“People still think admitting you have PTSD means you’re not strong enough, but in fact you get PTSD from being too strong for too long,” says Benedetto. “I literally had someone come up to me once and tell me that his grandfather fought in World War II and that he was just fine, so what kind of wuss was I to say I had PTSD? That’s what we’re still dealing with.”

To that end, Benedetto founded PTSD Journal in the summer of 2015, which bears the tagline “Not all wounds are visible.” The idea came about when he first started seeking treatment and discovered there weren’t any periodicals dedicated to this pervasive and critical topic. Since then he and his publishing partner have released five issues, each dedicated to improving the quality of life for PTSD sufferers and their families. Functioning as a veritable advocate for the PTSD community, the bimonthly journal comprises a mixture of research articles, personal essays, and myriad service pieces highlighting the causes of PTSD and the tools needed for recovery and healing. And the journal is not limited to combat-related PTSD. According to Benedetto, PTSD can arise from a wide variety of traumas, including sexual assault, domestic abuse, car accidents—even unexpectedly witnessing a distressing event. Statistics related to non-combat PTSD are hard to come by, but according to the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Alliance, about 70 percent of U.S. adults have experienced a traumatic event at least once in their lives, and up to 20 percent of those go on to develop PTSD. What’s more, an estimated 5 percent of Americans have PTSD at any given time, and about 8 percent of all adults—1 in 13 people—will develop some level of PTSD.

“We’re trying to help people, to raise awareness, and to engage in meaningful interactions with our readers,” says Benedetto, adding that the magazine’s Facebook page receives a steady stream of traffic and user comments. “We’re touching people’s lives on a daily basis.”

Outside of the magazine, Benedetto is tireless in his personal outreach, publicly offering his cell phone number to anyone who feels like they need to reach out for help. It’s all part of his new appropriation of the PTSD acronym: Please Tell Someone Directly.

“If you have PTSD or feel like something is wrong, don’t waste any time. Tell someone how you’re feeling,” says Benedetto. “And if you think someone you know is acting a little odd or depressed or angry or drinking too much, talk to them about it. I’m sharing my story not so I can come across as a professional victim with a sob story. I’m doing it because I want people to get the help they need—the same help that I needed for so long.”
IN 1992, COACH KEVIN CALLAHAN DIDN’T HAVE SO MUCH AS A CAMPUS OFFICE, LET ALONE A TEAM. NOW, 130-PLUS WINS LATER, CALLAHAN AND HAWKS FOOTBALL ARE CELEBRATING THE QUARTER-CENTURY MARK.

BY RYAN JONES
Of course he had doubts. Not many, mind you. Kevin Callahan wouldn’t have taken the job if he hadn’t thought he could make it work. But starting a program from scratch, all the scraping and building and struggling that implied, with no guarantee it would pay off? Yes, there were doubts. Moments when he wondered what exactly had gotten himself into, whether he’d made a mistake. It’s perhaps fitting that those moments that stick in his mind now have nothing to do with anything that happened on the field.

“My first year here was the first time that I wasn’t actually coaching a team in probably 15 years,” says Callahan. “I didn’t even have an office at that point. I was kind of wondering, Is this really going to happen here? Did I do the right thing?”

That was 1992, a quarter century ago, when the football program at Monmouth College—university designation was still three years away—was more of an idea than a tangible thing, a concept that he and a handful of others were willing into reality. It’s a process few coaches ever get to experience, one that no amount of game planning, practice reps, or film study can ultimately prepare them for. The challenge appeared to Callahan, of course, as did the opportunity.

Without games to coach that first year, he spent his Saturdays in the fall of 1992 traveling the region to watch other teams play. In part, he simply wanted to be involved in the game. But he was working, too, scouting potential opponents for the Hawks’ first season the following year. “I knew we were going to be involved in the game. But he was never happy with being average,” says Monmouth athletic director Marlyn McNeil. “He always wanted more out of his players and more out of the program. He’s always on the forefront of doing what’s best for his team.”

Adds Don Burnaford ’72, a longtime Callahan friend: “With Kevin, it’s about structure, integrity, and—most of all—character.”

This fall, Callahan led the Hawks into their 25th season, a testament both to his consistency and to his ability to adapt to change. It’s an almost unrivaled tenure on the college football landscape, and one he couldn’t have managed with-out the support of his players. He also picked the brains of colleagues at a handful of other programs to learn from the success of others and, when-ever possible, avoid their mistakes.

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It paid off quickly: Without a scholarship player on the roster, the Hawks clinched an NEC title that first season for the program to date. One of the longest-tenured athletic directors in the nation, McNeil has led the Hawks athletic department since 1994, a full two years after Callahan arrived to start building the football program. By that time, the first of Callahan’s jobs—the daunting task of implementing a plan, of simply figuring out where to start—was complete. “When I first started,” Callahan remembers, “we did not have any facilities, we did not have any equipment, we did not have any players. We also didn’t have time to worry about the problems. We just had to focus on solving them.”

Without games to coach that first year, he spent his Saturdays in the fall of 1992 traveling the region to watch other teams play. In part, he simply wanted to be involved in the game. But he was working, too, scouting potential opponents for the Hawks’ first season the following year. “I knew we were going to be involved in the game. But he was never happy with being average,” says Monmouth athletic director Marlyn McNeil. “He always wanted more out of his players and more out of the program. He’s always on the forefront of doing what’s best for his team.”

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This fall, Callahan led the Hawks into their 25th season, a testament both to his consistency and to his ability to adapt to change. It’s an almost unrivaled tenure on the college football landscape, and one he couldn’t have managed without the support of his players. He also picked the brains of colleagues at a handful of other schools, places that had either recently established football, or had salvaged moribund programs. It was all steady and deliberate, a chance to learn from the success of others and, whenever possible, avoid their mistakes.

It paid off quickly: Without a scholarship player on the roster, the Hawks

**PROGRAM NOTES**

**A TIMELINE OF HAWKS FOOTBALL**

- **6/11/92**
  The Board of Trustees approves starting a football program at Monmouth, ending months of speculation.

- **8/13/92**
  Kevin Callahan is hired as head coach.

- **8/13/93**
  The Hawks welcome 105 recruits to campus for the program’s first practice.

- **10/2/93**
  A last-minute field goal gives the program its first win, 44-42 victory over St. Peter’s College.

- **11/16/96**
  The Hawks clinch a share of the inaugural NEC championship, the first of five conference titles for the program to date.

- **1998**
  Callahan is named NEC Coach of the Year. (He’ll win again in 2005 and 2006.)

“Coach Callahan is never satisfied, never happy with being average,” says former All-American linebacker Joe Sentipal ’03. “He always wants more out of his players and more out of the program. He’s always on the forefront of doing what’s best for his team.”

Adds Don Burnaford ’72, a longtime Callahan friend: “With Kevin, it’s about structure, integrity, and—most of all—character.”

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Callahan’s vision that drew guys like Sentipal, a North Jersey native who turned down scholarship offers from other programs to play for a Monmouth squad that couldn’t offer him aid when he arrived: “My parents were not happy, to say the least,” says Sentipal, with a laugh. By the time he was done, wrapping up a stellar career as Monmouth’s first All-American selection, Sentipal (and presumably his parents) had no doubt he’d made the right choice. “When I think of the program now, I think about all the friends I made, the learning experiences, the winning seasons we had, but ultimately it goes back to the guy who gave me the opportunity,” he says. “Coach Callahan just has a dedication to winning, and to turning out good people.”

Mike Basile felt a similar pull. Now a senior safety on pace to finish his career as Monmouth’s all-time leading tackler, Basile came just three games in, a dramatic come-from-behind victory over Bryant, for one of the marquee wins in program history. The program’s first victory over an FCS-ranked opponent. “It’s easy to forget that this is a sport, that it’s not the only thing going on in these young men’s lives. He’s passionate, and he cares, but he doesn’t make it bigger than it is.”

This is the man McNeil remembers being impressed by from her earliest days at Monmouth, a positive, approachable leader whose tenure has made him, in her words, “our dean of coaches.” To this day, she says, Callahan’s office door is always open, an unspoken invitation to other coaches in the department who might need advice or a sounding board. “He loves to coach,” says McNeil, “and he loves to teach.” Where balance is concerned, perhaps that is Callahan’s most impressive achievement: constantly evolving, yet never losing the qualities that allowed him to succeed in the first place.

Don Burnaford has known Callahan since he was an applicant for the head coaching job. As chair of the committee tasked with making a recommendation on the addition of the sport, Burnaford remembers being impressed by Callahan’s resume even before they’d met. “In 26 years,” Burnaford says, “there’s never been a hiccup that has ever made me change my feelings about him.” With Kevin Callahan, it seems the only change is progress. And he has no plans to stop getting better anytime soon. “I think there’s still so much potential in this program, so many places we can still go,” he says. “I want to keep pushing us forward. There’s more to come.”
Turning Tragedy into Change

HERO CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN AND CEO BILL ELLIOTT IS WORKING TO END DRUNK DRIVING TRAGEDIES.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL

Early in the morning of July 22, 2000, Ensign John Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, was driving from Annapolis, Maryland, to his family’s home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, to celebrate his mother’s birthday. He never made it.

Instead, his parents, Bill ’95M and Muriel Elliott, were awakened by a knock on the door from police, who informed them their son had been killed in a head-on collision with a drunken driver. That other driver had been arrested earlier in the evening on DUI charges, then released to a friend, who allowed him to get behind the wheel again.

“My thought was if that friend had only driven his buddy home instead of putting him back behind the wheel, our son would be alive,” says Bill. “A designated driver would have been a hero to us.”

Looking to honor his son and make a difference, Bill formed the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers. The name’s meaning is twofold, reflecting both the heroic potential of designated drivers and John’s service as a peer advocate and counselor in the Naval Academy’s Human Education Resource Officer (HERO) program, where he was honored as his graduating class’s Outstanding HERO.

The goal of the HERO Campaign is simple but ambitious: register 1 million designated drivers and make having a designated driver as automatic as wearing a seatbelt. Thanks to Bill Elliott’s tireless work, numerous stakeholders and partners have joined the effort, putting the campaign well on its way to meeting that goal.

One of Bill’s tactics has been to enlist bars and taverns to serve free soft drinks to designated drivers. This past summer, the campaign challenged 32 such establishments along the Jersey Shore to come up with nonalcoholic “mocktails.” Patrons voted on their favorite, from the Berry Sobertini to the No-hito. “The idea is that designated drivers don’t have to be the odd man out, and they can still have fun and enjoy a great drink,” says Bill. “They’re not party poopers. We like to say they’re actually the life of the party.”

The campaign also partners with police, accompanying them at DUI checkpoints and handing out T-shirts to thank designated drivers. A partnership with Uber provides discounts to those who sign the HERO pledge to be a designated driver. Additional partnerships with sports teams provide free soft drinks to designated drivers.

“This is all designed to prevent families in the future from getting that knock on the door that we received, because you never get over it,” says Bill. “You never leave the memory of your child behind. It’s impossible. But we think we have certainly made every effort to honor him in a way that is appropriate and reflects who he was as a person.”
Company, whose innovations, inventions, and vast contributions to the sport are recognized and celebrated. The Cinniolas, who have both bowled since a young age, received the prestigious hon- or for everything they have done to advance the sport. Together, the Cinniolas own seven bowling centers and have hosted several PBA Tour events. Patrick, who is the past president and chair- man of the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame and president and chairman of Qubi- cas, of the Worldwide, has received a slew of accolades, including the Victor Lerner Medal for a lifetime of service to the game.

1970s

» George Severini’s ’70 (Engl.) book, Lost Amusement Parks of the North Jersey Shore, was pub- lished in March 2017. Co-written with Rick Geffken, it documents how the Jersey Shore became the most famous vacation and recre- ational destination in the coastal United States.

» Professor of theatre at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, James Fisher ’73 (Speech/Comm./Thtr.) was presented with the UNC Board of Governors Mary Settle Sharp Award for Teaching Excellence during graduation week at UNC-G in May 2017. A theatre director, Fisher has not only authored 14 books, but he has also written many essays and book chapters, and has worked as an editor on several books. His most recent book, The Historical Dictionary of American Theater Modernism, to be published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, will appear in print later this year.

» Irene Gilman ’73 (Engl.) received the Monmouth University-Roberts Charitable Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award at the annual awards dinner hosted by Mon- mouth’s School of Education on May 4, 2017. Gilman, who taught at Ocean Township High School in Oakhurst, New Jersey, until her retirement in 2016, credits a number of her professors at Mon- mouth with cementing her desire to become an educator.

1980s

» David M. Wilson ’80 (Engl.) was appointed to the Dean’s Advisory Council for the Leon Hess School of Business. Klose is currently the president and CEO of Klose Associates, a full-service design and build production firm, which provides creative solutions for trade show, museum, and showroom displays. Klose, who is also a managing partner at Med- iterrina Properties in West Long Branch, New Jersey, serves on the Monmouth University Administration’s Committee and the Business Council Steering Committee, and is chair of the Business Council’s Mentoring Committee.

» Bill Schroeder ’78 (Bio.) joined Larry Kaplan (Bio.) and Phil Crin- coly ’79 (Bio.) at the Jersey Shore for a reunion on July 4. The three former close friends—now in their 70s and 80s—gathered in Asbury Park’s Small Business Re- serve, to advance the sport. Together, they have hosted several bowling championships, and they have been active in bowling for many years. Their long friendship dates back to their days at Monmouth, where they were both active in the bowling club and represented the university at various tournaments.

1990s

» Michael “Greeny” Greenblatt ’83 (Psych.) is president of the Princeton and New York bureaus. Wilson got his start as an editorial assistant and pop-music writer for Audsby Press before moving on to work as a reporter at the now-defunct newspaper in Millville, New Jersey, and ultimately making his way to Dow Jones, where he worked as a news assistant and stock reporter before heading to Bloomberg. Wilson is a member of Monmouth’s Communications Council and is board member of the Friends of the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection, housed at the university.

NOT TO MISS »

A Musical Winter Wonderland

A cavalcade of holiday favorites featuring the Monmouth University Chamber Orchestra, the Jazz Hawks, the Concert Choir, the Chamber Choir, soloists, and a special appearance by the Colts Neck Reformed Church Exultation Ringers, all in the magisterial setting of Wilson Hall.

» Karen Schwanzler ’82 (Ed./ Art) was named teacher of the year at Northfield Community School in Northfield, New Jersey. Schwanzler, who has spent her 35-year career in teaching in the Northfield School District, shares the spotlight with fellow teacher Mary Sudra, who teaches art at the elementary school level in the district. Schwanzler and her husband live in Galloway with their two college-aged children.
BUZZFEED’S JESSICA ANASTASIO SHARES HER RECIPE FOR SUCCESS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

‘IT’S REALLY THE COOLEST THING ever,” Jessica Anastasio ’16 says of working as a full-stack software engineer at BuzzFeed, a leading independent digital media company that delivers news and entertainment to hundreds of millions of people around the world. The 25-year-old, who was hired right out of Monmouth, was lead engineer on the Tastyly website, which corresponds to the recently launched iOS app “Tasty,” which Anastasio also worked on. Based on BuzzFeed’s popular online cooking brand, it includes more than 1,700 instructional cooking videos and syncs with the Tasty One Top, a new smart cooking appliance. Here, in true BuzzFeed fashion, she shares tips on how anyone can land their dream job.

1. Follow your heart.

2. Embrace challenges.


5. Be your own advocate.

"I adored my experience at Monmouth, but you will 100 percent not get an awesome, high-paying job if you don’t... do stuff outside of the classroom,” says Anastasio. Joining ACM/IEEE, Monmouth’s computer science club, connected her to the larger engineering and computing communities. So too did attending the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the world’s largest conference of women working in tech, as a student. (She’s headed back this year as a rep for BuzzFeed.)

Anastasio was already eyeing her next step when she was hired as a junior software engineer at BuzzFeed. She found her passion early on at Monmouth. Anastasio connect with several companies, which in turn helped her build the experience she needed to get where she is today.

1990s

Jose “Chuck” Martin ’93 (Comm.) was hired as the assistant coach of the men’s softball team at the University of South Carolina. Martin, a native of The Bronx, New York, has spent nearly 20 years coaching across the college and NCAA ranks, including five years as head coach at Monmouth. He assisted at Manhattan College, the University of Massachusetts, Drexel University, St. John’s University, and the University of Memphis.

2000s

Lisa Marino ’00 (Sp. Ed.) was appointed as principal of Indian Hill School, a child elementary school located in Holmdel, New Jersey. Marino, who started her career in education as an elementary teacher, was previously an assistant principal for the Monsignor Murphy High School, a third elementary school located in Holmdel, New Jersey. Marino, who started her career in education as an elementary teacher, was previously an assistant principal for the
Manalapan Public School District before serving as an assistant principal of the William P. Sall School in Holmdel. Before taking on her current role, she served as assistant principal of Holmdel High School.


» Adam Worth ’02 (Comm.) was nominated for a New York Emmy in the cinematography category for his short film highlighting the Monmouth University Women’s tennis team, and began making her first deals for Sally Beauty Supply. She worked professionally as a filmmaker and video DJ.

» Danielle Brunelli-Albrecht ‘03 (Bus. Adm.), president of R.J. Brunelli & Co., based in Old Bridge, was recognized as one of Chain Store Age magazine’s “Real Estate 10 under 40” for 2017. Brunelli-Albrecht, who began her career at the age of 16, started out as a part-time marketing assistant. She earned her real estate license while attending Monmouth University, where she was also captain of the Division I women’s tennis team, and began making her first deals for Sally Beauty Supply. She went on to broker assignments for Massage Envy and European Wax Center and has represented major chains such as T.J. Maxx, Zales, and Tuesday Morning. Brunelli-Albrecht was named a principal of R.J. Brunelli & Co. in 2010 before becoming president of the company in 2015.

» Heather Markson ’03 (Bus. Adm.) was elected as corresponding secretary to the board of trustees of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County. Additionally, she serves as chair of the art exhibit subcommittee, as well as serving on both the membership and nominating committees.

» Nicole Vigilio ’04 (Anthr.) married Sean Smith on April 14, 2017, at Elberon Church in Elberon, New Jersey. Monmouth alumni were in attendance, as well as many of the bride’s sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau. The couple honeymooned in the Riviera Maya, Mexico.

» Lauren Harms-Kreig ‘05 (Art) was appointed to the Dean’s Advisory Council for the Leon Hess School of Business. Harms-Kreig currently serves as the assistant vice president of public relations for George Harms Construction Co. Inc., a family-owned and operated business in Farmingdale, New Jersey. She has worked for the company since she was 16 years old and today oversees the company’s external communications, including community involvement and interaction in the firm’s overall public presence. Harms-Kreig, who also manages the George and Ruth Harms Foundation, has also served on the Hackensack-Meridian Women’s Heart Fund Board since 2015.

» Joseph Lizza ‘05 (Humi./Pol. Sci. (Ed.)) received his doctoral degree in education from Rowan University on May 10, 2017. Lizza, whose degree focuses on educational leadership, wrote a dissertation titled “A Qualitative Case Study of the Congruence between Fraternal Organizations’ and Members’ Values, Principles, and Standards.”

» A play written by Jennifer Pergola ‘05 (Engl.) titled Change or Death NOT TO MISS • Dec 8

THE LORDS OF 52ND STREET–LEGENDS OF THE BILLY JOEL BAND The Piano Man’s original band takes the Pollak Theatre stage for a special concert, proceeds from which will benefit Monmouth’s SRF Suicide Prevention Research and Training Project. Opening for them is singer-songwriter Matt McAndrew from The Voice.

CELEBRATIONS


MILESTONES: 4. UNC-Greensboro theater professor James Fisher ’73 (Speech/Comm./Thtr.) was presented with the UNC Board of Governors Mary Settle Sharp Award for Teaching Excellence, May 2017. 5. Angel Kames, left, ’75 (Bus. Adm.), recently featured in the Orlando Sentinel for being the Y ear in 2012 after leading her company, a national trade association for independent Electrical Contractors, IEC includes more than 3,000 member companies within 50 chapters across the United States.

» Thomas Chomko ’06 (Bus. Adm.). See note for Jessica (Tanner) Chomko ’11.


» Rashaun Jarvis ’07 (Comm.). See note for Diana (Vasquez) Jarvis ’10.

» Michael Maiden ’07 (M.A.C.P.C.) (M.A. Hist. ’14) was glad to be wearing a Monmouth T-shirt when he had a chance encounter with President Emeritus Samuel H. Magill while in the lighting section of Lowes in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, this past July. Magill says Dr. Magill was gracious at having his quiet Saturday morning errand interrupted by a stranger with a love of Monmouth history and a fearless approach to asking strangers to take his picture.

» Ryan Struck ’07 (Hist.) displayed a collection of his surf images taken from the coastlines of New York and New Jersey at Patagonia Bowery’s surf gallery on April 26. A New York-based photographer, Struck’s client list includes Rolling Stone, Outside Magazine, The Weather Channel, Verizon and Condé Nast,

» Joseph Palmer ’08 (Comm.) is engaged to marry Annies Brown. The couple plans to wed on No- vember 3, 2018.

» Lin Tang ’08 (M.B.A.) has been appointed non-executive director of the board of Empire Energy Group Limited. Tang has over 12 years of experience in the finance and energy sectors and is currently a financial manager at China CITIC Bank International in New York. Previously, she spent seven years in the energy finance strategic business unit at China Minsheng Banking Corporation in Beijing, China, and was the financial manager for Global Oil Corpora tion Limited. Tang was appointed to the board as a representative of Global Energy and Resource Development Limited.

» Danielle Butera ’09 (Comm.) has joined Mint Advertising as account supervisor and digital marketing specialist, where she will be responsible for aiding in client account management and in identifying digital opportunities for clients. Previously, Butera was an account director at Single Throw Marketing in Wall, New Jersey.

» John Kofka ’10 (Bus. Adm.) joined Beacon Hill Staffing Group as an account executive at the company’s 22nd office location in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Kofka brings six years of experience in the staffing and medical device fields to the group, which just launched its clinical research/life sciences specialty division, Beacon Hill Pharma. He will focus on the New Jersey-Pennsylvania-New York tri-state area markets.

» Keravay Martin ’10 (Comm.) is a sports anchor/reporter for WFXR. Previously, she worked in the San Francisco Bay Area as a sports anchor/reporter for the prep sports show “Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area.” She worked as a sideline reporter at Collegegameday.com, was the host of MidMajor V.com, and took on several roles, including anchor, color commentator, and sideline reporter during her time at KSF-YTV and Midsports Net, both in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As a Hawk, Martin played all four years for the women’s basketball team.

» Christine Parker ’10 (Comm.) and Ryan Richardson ’09 (Bus. Adm.) became engaged on May 20, 2017. The couple, who do not wish to be identified, will be married at their Hawk family members in their wedding party, including Jamise Parker ’10 (Bus. Adm.), and Marcus Matthew ’07 (Bus. Adm.).

» Jackie (Trainer) Stezzi ’09 (Pol. Sci./Hist.) was hired as Kutztown University’s head women’s lacrosse coach. Prior to the appointment, Stezzi spent eight years at Wil- mington University where she was head coach from 2012 to 2017. She was named the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in 2012 after leading her team to the conference semi- finals. Stezzi, who was a four-year member of the Hawks’ lacrosse team, helped lead the squad to three regular season Northeast Conference titles as well as the first round of the NCAA National Tournament in 2007.

2000s


» Robert Donato ’10 (Bus. Adm.). See note for Heather (Berger) Donato ’11.

» Diana (Vasquez) Jarvis ’10 (For. Lang.) wed Rashaun Jarvis ’07 (Comm.) in Punta Cana on February 11, 2017. The couple, who met at Monmouth, had three of their Hawk family members in their wedding party, including Jamise Barret ’08 (Bus. Adm.), Terrik Tidwell ’07 (Bus. Adm.), and Marcus Matthew ’07 (Bus. Adm.).

» John Kofka ’10 (Bus. Adm.) will be performed by The Grange Playhouse in Howell, New Jersey, on October 27, 28, 29 and November 3, 4, 5.

» James T. Pierson ’05 (Crin. J.) (M.A.T. ’07) was inducted into the Red Bank Regional High School Hall of Fame on April 28, 2017. Pierson, who graduated from Red Bank Regional in 2001, is currently vice president at Red Bank Middle School.

» Chrissy L. Skudera ’05 (Comm.) was in charge of the curriculum development at Independence Electric Contractors, a national trade association for the electrical industry, during her tenure as director of marketing and sales. IEC includes more than 3,000 member companies within 50 chapters across the United States.

» Dr. Magill was gracious at having his quiet Saturday morning errand interrupted by a stranger with a love of Monmouth history and a fearless approach to asking strangers to take his picture.


» Rashaun Jarvis’07 (Comm.). See note for Diana (Vasquez) Jarvis ’10.


» Three Chi Sigma Delta sisters—Marian Noel Bedigian ’66 (PsyCh.), Racielle Kardane Lande ’85 (Elem. Ed.) and Carol Barbanel Bryan ’66 (PsyCh.)—reunited recently after 50 years.

» Bill Schroeder ’78 (Bio.), Larry Kaplan (Bio.), and Phil Crincoli ’79 (Bio.), July 4 weekend reunion on the Jersey Shore.

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» John Kofka ’10 (Bus. Adm.)
How did you get interested in this genre?
I love anything paranormal. When I was 13, my mother took me to see Dracula at the local community college. I fell in love with him. He was the underdog, and I thought he deserved to be loved. I started writing vampire stories, but that was becoming popular, so I thought what else could I write? When I created the Heart of the Wolf series, I based it on some of the lore of werewolves. I researched wolf behavior and incorporated some of their characteristics into the stories to make the werewolves as realistic as possible. My stories are also very contemporary—the pack travels in SUVs.

What did you like about Monmouth?
To make lieutenant colonel in the military, you have to have a master’s, so I went for my M.B.A. I loved Monmouth. I remember for some of my classes, I was sitting in [Wilson Hall]. I’m trying to concentrate on the lecture, but I’m thinking, this was somebody’s home. I was thinking of time travel, and if I went back to the past, I’d be sitting in the middle of somebody’s bed.

You’ve written more than 50 books. Can you pick a favorite?
When you’re working on a book, that’s your favorite. Your whole focus has to be on it. You have to love your characters [and] love your story or it really shows. One time, I tried to write a straight young adult novel—not paranormal—and it was an absolute struggle. I finished it, but it was awful and I never shared it with the world.

Q. What personal accomplishments are you most proud of?
I raised a son and daughter, and I’m proud they have done really well. My son is in the Air Force, and he’s getting his master’s in computer science. My daughter is a dietitian for a school system. She just had her first child, and I get to take care of her two days a week. Being a grandparent is fantastic because after the day is through, the baby goes back home with her parents and I get to sleep.

Your latest novel, Dreaming of a White Wolf Christmas, hit bookstores in October. What can you tell us about it?
Readers had been asking for more of the white wolf pack, a group of private investigators who were turned into wolf shifters in Legend of the White Wolf. So, Dreaming of a White Wolf Christmas was born. Romance, suspense, and adventure are all part of the wolf shifters’ world—this time at Christmas.
not have a date set as of yet, met
mother (M.B.A. ’14). See note for
in 2016, she was named
Hart's Year and was previously
New Jersey. In 2016, she was named
15, 2017. See note for
Celebration, 10 national champions,
prison. He attended the Cape May
thralls. Bernstein, who was a
in 2015, was also the head coach
as an intern for the department
of the department.
the appointment, Bernstein
2017. See note for
she will work primarily
now-closed Cardinal McCarrick
in the Raritan High School in South Amboy, New Jersey. 

Christine D’Ottaviano ’11
Crim. J. (M.A. Crim. J. ’12) and
on March 24, 2017.
news regarding current
Baccalaureate, and other life events
Class Notes. All submissions are subject
to editing for clarity and length. We
publication of high-resolution
digital imagery is possible with
your inclusion in Class Notes; however, we
the right to print sub-
mitted photos due to space
limitations or issues with image resolution.
In addition to the news themes used by alumni, the
university receives press releases from businesses and
organizations announcing alumni achievements,
and subscriptions to an online news clipping service
that provides news items about alumni. There
are edited and placed in the appropriate
section. Monmouth magazine staff members
try to verify the accuracy of the
information; however, the
university cannot be
or learnings. Information
behind the scenes, if you would like us
certain that
or photographs that have
not been printed, please contact the
magazine at
magazine@monmouth.edu.

**NOT TO MISS:** Jan. 16–March 23
MAUDERING BY TONYA D. LEE

Monmouth University Magazine shares news regarding current

Maurer 15 (M.S. Hlth. Coun.) See note for

Michael Napoli ’15 (Crim. J.)
the Head Brunswick Police
Office, where he will
represent the department
as a freelance
photographer.

Courtney (Verblauw) Shippe
’13 (Bus. Adm.) (M.B.A.) married

Jennifer van Alstyne ’15
(Eng.) is set to be married on October 6,
the Park Chateau in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Shippe
works as a surgical compensa-
tion claims team manager for Liberty Mutual
Insurance. Gloria
a diversified pool, an online music distribution
service for professional DJs; owner of Allura Events entertain-
ment company, and a freelance
magazine.

The artist and faculty member presents a
multidisciplinary of work that explores the
abstraction of nature and environment.


Greta Boyer ’51 (A.A.) March 12, 2017
James M. Robbins ’54 (Bus. Adm.) June 30, 2017
Frederick Sullivan ’55 (Bus. Adm.) April 22, 2017
Mary Patricia Jones ’56 (G.S. Ed.) (M.A. Ed.) June 30, 2017
Frank Steckinger ’53 (Poli. Sci.) July 26, 2017
Luisa J. Pilankova ’58 (Math) May 21, 2017
Mark Schuchman ’54 (A.A.) December 21, 2016
Ruth Aylaw Celyn ’63 (Eng.) June 21, 2017
John Kipner ’64 (Bus. Adm.) May 19, 2017
Corrine Sonnawal ’66 (Eng.) May 23, 2017
Louis J. Bertholet ’67 (Math) May 19, 2017
Richard Arthur Hally ’68 (M.A.); July 19, 2017
George Henry Moffett ’68 (A.A.) August 5, 2017
William G. Howell ’69 (Crim. J.) July 1, 2017
Rosemarie Troutman Jacobson ’70 (A.A.) (B.S. Ed.)
Willard Leroy Stockton III ’81 (Bus. Adm.) August 17, 2017
Douglas J. Gatta 58 (Tax) July 12, 2017
Myra Jane Fox ’59 (Eng.) June 5, 2017
Patrick Alban Vechione ’59 (Elect.) May 3, 2017
John Thomas Allen ’71 (Eng.) April 28, 2017
F. Alydah Camp, Comor. ’70 (Eng.)
(M.S. Read. Sp. ’70) May 1, 2017
Dino Lapetina 73 (Tax) April 30, 2017
Mary Louise (Barrett) Leon 73 (M.A.T.) May 15, 2017
Hilary Koryn Terjesen ’75 (Art /Eng.) July 11, 2017
Dominick Michael Balta ’77 (Bus. Adm.) May 3, 2017
David A. Sutton ’77 (Eng.) August 5, 2017
Barbara Jeanne (Dalley) Walser ’79 (Eng.) April 3, 2017
Mary Beth Vast ’79 (Eng.) (M.S. Read. Sp. ’85 April 25, 2017
Norma E. Luetzholtz ’80 (M.S. ’83) May 1, 2017
Keith Ward McKinno ’80 (Comp. Sci.) June 23, 2017
Teresa Mayhew ’80 (M.Ed.) May 31, 2017
Dr. Donald Swerida ’84 (Bio.) July 27, 2017
Daneil L. Heit ’91 (M.A.T.) June 20, 2017
Catherine F. Brandt ’93 (Bus. Adm.) ’16 May 19, 2017
Jennifer R. Cress ’93 (Bus. Adm.) May 19, 2017
Daniel V. Kuczynski ’96 (Crim. J.) June 12, 2017
Kevin Thomas Van Amburgh ’95 (Com.) July 21, 2017
Deborah Lee Ewe ’02 (Bus. Adm.) August 12, 2017
Virginia C. Downey ’05 (M.S.W.) July 15, 2017

**FRIENDS**
Marvin Broder (Friend) May 24, 2017
Scott James Daftori (former student) May 17, 2017
Philip H. Younger (former student) June 26, 2017
Alan Foster (former professor)
Francis J. Javorski (former employee), July 22, 2017
James J. Robare (Friend) March 26, 2017
Hun Paul A. Kapalko (Friend) April 21, 2017
Robert Kavalk (former student) May 9, 2017
Robert L. Volpe (former student) May 20, 2017
Elsie Lake (former student) June 7, 2017
Weber E. Mayer (photographer) April 4, 2017
Gail Ann McDornall (former employee) April 9, 2017
Gertrude “Gert” Murphy (former employee) July 6, 2017
William L. Baker (former student) May 16, 2017
Sydney Patricia Shelton-Hood (former student) April 11, 2017
Emmy G. Wall (former professor) March 26, 2017
Mark Wirkus (Friend) August 12, 2017
Robert F. Wright (Former Society of Trustees member) August 2, 2017
SAVE THE DATES

Three reasons to come back to campus

12.02.17
Holiday Ball | Wilson Hall
Black-tie event to benefit the Monmouth University Scholarship Fund

03.10.18
Beer vs. Wine Tasting | Wilson Hall
Let the rivalry begin!

06.09.18
Alumni Weekend Rooftop Bash | Wilson Hall Roof
Network and celebrate with alumni at this exclusive event on the Wilson Hall rooftop.

Details at monmouth.edu/alumnievents

HAWKS ON THE ROAD
Join alumni in your area at one of our upcoming regional events.
Visit monmouth.edu/hawksontheroad to see where we’ll be in the months ahead.

CLASS NOTES

A dedicated teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend, Prescott Evarts was instrumental in shaping the direction of Monmouth for the last 51 years, particularly in our identity as a liberal arts institution. His passion for the liberal arts stemmed from his lived understanding of how they enrich our lives, help us form community, and connect us with others past and present. His mark on Monmouth is indelible.

Generous, humorous, caring, and constant, he was for so many the “first face” they saw at Monmouth, and certainly the face they saw so steadily and regularly. He was always eager for a conversation, not only about literature, but about movies, houses, running—anything and everything. He knew that the most cemented of relationships are not founded through the single grand gesture or the scheduled appointment, but through the day-in and day-out contact that let you know, over time, he would always be there. While his length of service is itself exceptional, it is not for that alone that we will remember him; it is for his grace of character and his grand example. We mourn his death, but we take comfort in knowing that he did what he loved, every day and thoroughly; his whole life: teaching, reading, writing poetry, running, working on his house, being with his family. A rich and model life, with pleasure, joy, and love.

Prescott worked tirelessly—indeed, always with great vigor and enthusiasm—with students, with colleagues, with the University community, to know us all, to reach us, to recognize us for who we are, and to push us, gently, to be better at being who we are. The tributes posted to him following his death testify to this: alumni from as many as 30 or 40 years ago remember much more than “a great professor”; they recount the details of papers he worked with them on during office conferences. He knew how to work to help students and colleagues learn, to experience the joy he knew through his own accomplishments, to challenge themselves. For the entire Monmouth community, we have lost a part of ourselves, but our best tribute may lie ahead in our efforts to reach higher than we think we can. And, of course, to read an epic (or at least a poem).

Prescott Evarts
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
1938–2017
BY SUSAN GOULDING

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In November 1967, Ray Charles performed for more than 3,000 people inside the then newly opened Boylan Gymnasium. As the Asbury Park Press reported, Charles transformed “that big, cold, stadium-type room into a hothouse of exuberant rhythm,” fielding questions from the audience, sharing stories about his upbringing, and even meeting backstage with a fan who brought his blind son to the show. Monmouth has hosted some amazing musical acts through the years—from Billy Joel to The Four Seasons to Sammy Davis Jr. (not to mention some guy named Bruce Springsteen on more than one occasion). Send us your favorite campus concert memory—and share any artifacts you still have, from pictures to ticket stubs—by writing us at the address above or via email at magazine@monmouth.edu.