

# Monmouth

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » SPRING 2018

**NO. 128\***

...and other rarities and artifacts in the Springsteen Collection

**PAGE 34**



\*A ticket to show 128 of the Born in the U.S.A. Tour—closing night of the European leg—is one of many treasures in the collection.



Paul Corliss (left) and Nick Carlascio '18, the first recipient of the Richard Corliss Memorial Endowed Scholarship. "I don't think I would have been able to afford this great opportunity if it wasn't for scholarships," says Carlascio.

# The Power of Endowed Scholarships

*To honor his late brother, Paul Corliss wants to make a Monmouth education possible for a new generation of students. He's already made a difference in the life of one Hawk.*

When Trustee Paul Corliss established a distinguished endowed scholarship in remembrance of his late brother, noted film critic Richard Corliss, he wanted to ensure it would have an immediate impact on students. So Paul fully funded the scholarship with a gift of \$100,000. That foresight and generosity helped make a Monmouth education possible for Nick Carlascio '18, the first recipient of the Richard Corliss Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

Not content to stop there, Paul personally appealed to titans of the film industry to honor Richard's legacy by contributing to the scholarship. His outreach paid off handsomely with an anonymous gift of \$100,000—doubling the endowment and moving Paul closer to his goal of raising \$1 million

to foster academic excellence and help Monmouth University students achieve the same professional heights as Richard.

Distinguished endowed scholarships can be established at Monmouth University with a gift of \$50,000, while endowed scholarships can be created with a gift of \$25,000. Either type can be established with a pledge that is fulfilled over five years. When fully funded, endowed scholarships provide a perpetual source of financial assistance for students.

For more information on how you can establish an endowed scholarship, contact Jonathan Meer, vice president for University Advancement, at 732-571-3411 or [jmeer@monmouth.edu](mailto:jmeer@monmouth.edu).

MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY

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Springsteen Collection, photographed by Matt Furman

## MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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## LETTERS



### RE: FALL 2017

Without doubt, in my nearly 50-year association with Monmouth, this is the best *Monmouth* or *Chancellor* yet! Well done on so thoughtfully, and artfully, capturing the many facets of Monmouth!  
*Mitchell Shivers '70*

### FAVORITE CAMPUS CONCERTS

I saw many great shows at Monmouth—Jethro Tull, The Byrds, John Mayal—but my favorite was the first time I saw Bruce. It was 1969 or '70, and I was sick in bed with the flu. My roommates said, “Come on, we’re going to see Steel Mill.” Steel who? When we got there, the gym was sectioned off in half. In front of us was a minimal drum kit, a bass guitar, a guitar, and a few small amps. I said, “I got out of bed for this?” Bruce came out and the band started to play ... and play ... and play—three hours of original material, and the place was going wild. Just phenomenal! I walked out into the night and had an epiphany: I was cured.  
*Jerry Tirotta '71*

Mitch Ryder, Sam & Dave, Jack Jones, Vanilla Fudge—I saw a lot of great concerts at Monmouth, but

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Email us at [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu), or write us at *Monmouth* magazine, Monmouth University, Alumni House, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

Submissions for the Letters page are subject to editing for clarity and length and must include the writer's name, address, and phone number for confirmation.

Wayne Cochran rocked Boylan Gym better than anybody in the '60s. I remember him breaking chairs and rocking James Brown songs and then calming everyone down doing Otis Redding's “Sitting by the Dock of the Bay.” Great memories.  
*Joe Rall '69*

I was in a Blues-oriented group, The Charlie Smith Band, while at Monmouth. We opened for B.B. King when he played Monmouth Gym in 1971. We had opened for him once before, in Albany, New York, in 1969. B.B. remembered us and was very gracious, and we all had a great time together that evening. By May 1974, I was in another band, Clockwork, and we opened for Bruce Springsteen on campus. It was a packed house in the gym, and I was very proud when the announcer said, “Here is Clockwork,

featuring our own Andy Shawn.” Bruce and the band were also very gracious.  
*Andrew V. Shawn '74*

### SNEAKY SAILORS

When I was captain of the Monmouth Sailing Team, there was a tradition for teams to “steal” the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Greek bear flag and hoist it on their own flagpoles for the next regatta. After Navy stole it from the USMMA in Kings Point, the Monmouth team stole it from Navy in the dead of the night. We then hoisted it on our greased flagpole at the Patten Point Yacht Club where we held the next regatta.  
*Nina Vuyosevich Anderson '67*

BELOW: An article from the Dec. 5, 1965, edition of the Asbury Park Press on the stealing of the flag.



**NEED TO KNOW** » Topics & trends

# OPEN FOR DISCOVERY

THE NEW-LOOK EDISON SCIENCE BUILDING PUTS SCIENCE ON DISPLAY.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

A welcome sight greeted students and faculty when they returned to campus this semester: a fully functional, state-of-the-art science building.

For the last two-and-a-half years, sections of Edison have been closed on a rotating basis as the facility underwent an extensive renovation and expansion. The interior was stripped down to the studs and sub-flooring, exterior walls were pushed out, and a new section was added, says Dean of the School of Science Steven Bachrach. Though technically not a new building, anyone who hasn't visited campus in several years likely wouldn't recognize the facility that stands adjacent to Torcivia Common. And once people step inside, they'll see something even more spectacular. [▶](#)





Gone are the cinder block walls, dark hallways, and brutalist architectural style that marked the old Edison. Large exterior windows and glass walls running throughout the interior allow natural light to pour in, giving Edison a bright, airy, open feel. Classrooms, labs, collaborative spaces, and faculty offices now seemingly blend into one large, inviting space. The design choice is “purposeful,” says Bachrach.

“It puts science on display and gets students curious and excited about learning,” says Bachrach. “Instead of ‘hiding’ what we’re doing, we want to welcome people into the scientific endeavor. We hope this building will foster a sense of discovery. That’s why people become scientists—to be involved in discovery, to do something new, to create new knowledge, to push back on the frontiers of what we understand.”

The changes go beyond the aesthetic. In addition to its larger footprint, the building contains a multitude of new and improved spaces and safety features, says Bachrach, including 12 faculty research labs, a tissue culture lab, seven prep labs, nine instrument labs, 15 write-up rooms, a herbarium and vivarium, and 55 fume hoods. There is also ample space for students to study alone or to collaborate with classmates. And since all Monmouth students are required to take science courses as part of their core academic requirements, the new facility benefits everyone, says Bachrach.

At \$40 million, the Edison renovation and expansion was the largest academic construction project in the university’s history. Funding came from a variety of sources, including \$5 million from New Jersey’s Building Our Future Act and the state’s Capital Improvement Fund, as well as generous contributions from several individuals.

“We have big expectations with this new facility,” the dean said during a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony held in February. “We believe that [\[link\]](#)





CONTINUE  
THE TOUR  
More photos  
online at  
[monmouth.edu/  
magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine)

“  
**MORE  
STUDENTS  
WILL BE  
DRAWN  
INTO THIS  
RESEARCH  
ENTERPRISE,  
AND SHARE  
IN THE  
UNMATCHED  
EXCITEMENT  
OF SCIENTIFIC  
DISCOVERY.**  
”

our new facilities will be quite attractive to prospective students and parents, and new faculty. These new facilities will inspire our faculty to undertake new and more ambitious research projects. More students will be drawn into this research enterprise, and share in the unmatched excitement of scientific discovery. We firmly believe that this beautiful new facility has transformed the School of Science into an open, interactive cornerstone of the Monmouth University campus.”





**35:** The percentage of respondents in a recent Monmouth poll who said they have either “a great deal” or “some” confidence in how the federal government will handle coastal management issues over the next few years (as of 2017)

**61:** The percentage of respondents who had either “little” or “no” confidence in the federal government’s handling of these issues



**54:** Percentage of respondents who said loosening restrictions (those in place as of 2017) would be a “bad idea”

**20:** The percentage who said it’s a “good idea”



**72:** The percentage of coastal residents surveyed who said they would support windmills for energy off the coast, as long as they aren’t visible from shore.

**52:** Percentage who would support visible windmills

**22:** Percentage who support offshore drilling for oil and gas



**94:** The percentage of the outer continental shelf that the Obama administration blocked for drilling

**90:** The percentage of those waters that could soon be free game under the Trump plan



**509:** The number of oil rig fires that erupted between 2006 and April 2010, the month of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history

**134 million:** The number of gallons spilled in that disaster

**\$18.7 billion:** BP’s payout for federal and state claims resulting from the spill. The money was divvied up between clean-up projects and the restoration of natural resources, claims from the five Gulf states and 400 local government bodies, and a hefty Clean Water Act penalty



**26:** Percentage of respondents who support oil and gas drilling off the Atlantic coast

**40:** Percentage of respondents who oppose it

CONCEPTS » Data, visualized

# DRILL, BABY, DRILL?

EXAMINING A NEW POLL ON ENERGY AND THE COAST

BY MAUREEN HARMON

Just days into 2018, the Trump administration released a draft proposal detailing an ambitious plan: The federal government would seek to open almost all U.S. coastal water to gas and oil drilling. The proposal is an effort to develop more domestic energy sources, but the move pins environmentalists and activists against developers and drillers.

On one side, a hope to become an energy powerhouse. “Under President Trump, we are going to become the strongest energy superpower this world has ever known,” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Bloomberg. “We want to grow our nation’s offshore energy industry, instead of slowly surrendering it to foreign shores.”

On the other side, a major concern about the environment and coastal towns—areas that fear negative side effects to their tourism and fishing industries. “This radical offshore drilling free-for-all is a clear

example of politics over people, ignoring widespread local and state opposition,” Diane Hoskinsm, a campaign director for the marine conservation group Oceana, told Bloomberg.

While the two sides duke it out, we turn to stats and two recent polls—collaborations between Monmouth’s Polling Institute and Urban Coast Institute—to see how people living in coastal towns in Maryland, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and Pennsylvania feel about the water in their backyard, its care at the state and federal level, and its future.

Sources: A written statement from U.S. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), April 2010; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; The Economist; The New York Times; Mid-Atlantic Coastal Policy; The Public View: A Survey of Residents in the Six-State Mid-Atlantic Region; Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast 2017: A Five-State Survey of Coastal Community Residents

**EXPLAIN THIS »**

Answering your burning questions

# Q: HOW CAN I BUILD A BETTER PAPER AIRPLANE?

**A**s a child growing up in New York City, science education lecturer Letitia Graybill spent her summer afternoons engrossed in neighborhood paper airplane competitions. The goal? To build the fastest, farthest-traveling paper aircraft. To win, myriad considerations needed to be taken into account: speed, distance, paper weight, wingspan, throwing style. As it turns out, the winners all had something in common: Their designs were sleek, streamlined, light, and strong. One surefire way to lose a race was to rely on a chunky, squared-off design, says Graybill.

To ask a question of our faculty experts, email [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or mail *Explain This*, Monmouth magazine, Alumni House, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

Today, educators might define those childhood competitions as STEM education at work, due to the practical application of science, technology, engineering, and math. And if you ask Graybill, STEM is a worthy approach—but it is no longer the whole story.

“We don’t want to forget about the role design can play,” she says. “STEM has always stressed the importance of math, as well as the application of technology and science research. But in recent years, we’ve been thinking more and more about engineering because we want to keep our nation competitive. And with engineering comes design.”

Enter STEAM education—STEM plus Art. “Imagine the design of a beautiful bridge,” says Graybill. “It’s about the function of the bridge, but also

## THE 10-SECOND BONUS QUESTION

**Can you top these Guinness World Records?**

Suzanne, a glider designed by John M. Collins, holds the record for distance flown: **226 feet, 10 inches.** (It was thrown by Joe Ayoob, a former arena football player.) Sky King, a paper aircraft designed by Takuo Toda, holds the record for flight time. It stayed aloft an incredible **29.2 seconds.**

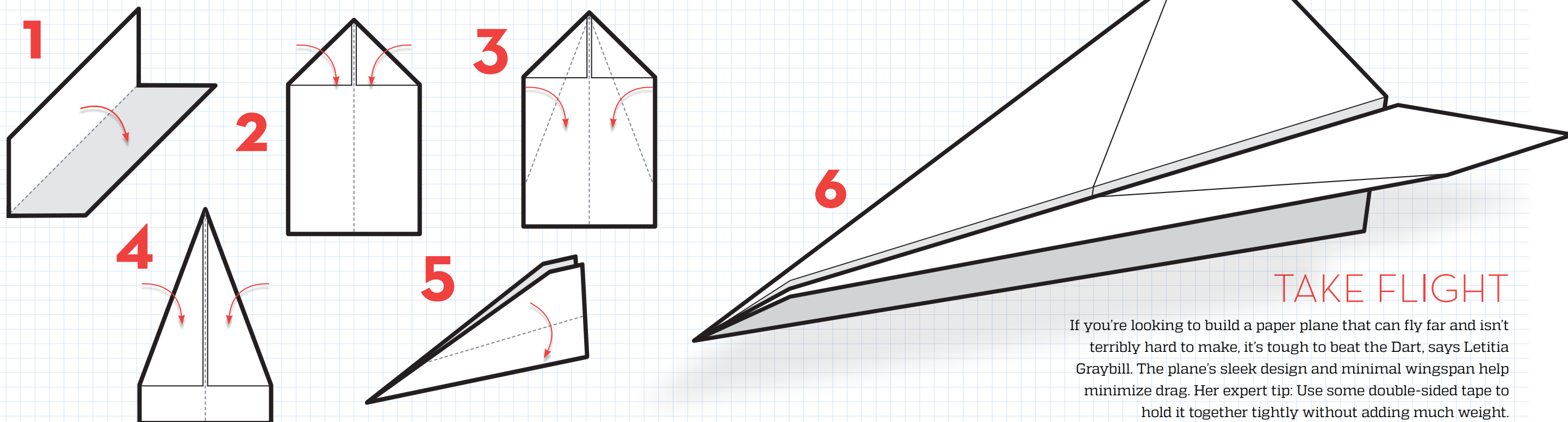
the beauty of it. That’s what STEAM is about.” And unlike STEM, which relies on a specific knack for the sciences, STEAM allows students with artistic talents to envision how they can put those skills to work in the engineering field.

Drawing inspiration from her childhood paper airplane competitions, Graybill designed a STEAM lesson plan, which she detailed in a chapter she contributed to the textbook, *Cases on STEAM Education in Practice*. (One of Graybill’s Monmouth colleagues, Professor of Science Education Judith Bazler, is co-editor of the book.) In Graybill’s lesson, students build paper airplanes, considering variables such as mass, materials, and design, to see which are the most effective. In addition to designing a plane that flies well, students

must take into account what the airplane will look like: can it be attractive as well as effective?

It didn’t take long for the students to recognize design’s impact on engineering. While some students chose to draw on the paper to make it more beautiful, others who decorated with paper clips or stickers needed to take into account what the added weight would do to their flight. Some chose heavier cardstock with bright colors, and others chose simple but lightweight copy paper. “I left it to their creativity,” says Graybill. “That’s engineering—trial and error. Design and redesign. That’s what STEAM is all about: the beauty in science, and the application of science and beauty together.”

—Melissa Kvidahl Reilly



If you’re looking to build a paper plane that can fly far and isn’t terribly hard to make, it’s tough to beat the Dart, says Letitia Graybill. The plane’s sleek design and minimal wingspan help minimize drag. Her expert tip: Use some double-sided tape to hold it together tightly without adding much weight.

# LONDON CALLING

A MAJOR CHANGE—AND SOME MONMOUTH CONNECTIONS ABROAD—HAVE PRACHI PATEL CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR AFTER GRADUATION.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Prachi Patel isn’t afraid to admit her college career got off to a rough start.

“I will openly admit the first semester of college, I didn’t do well,” says Patel, who entered Monmouth as a biology major in fall 2014.

Concerned about her grades, her parents suggested she reevaluate, so Patel made a first-year advising appointment through which she connected with political science professor Joseph Patten. That’s when everything changed.

“Dr. Patten, who I absolutely adore, was like, ‘You know what you should try out? My debate class,’” Patel recalls. “So I took his class, and I think that’s really what kicked it off for me.”

Patel, who says she had also considered pursuing a law degree before opting to major in biology, immediately joined the Debate Hawks. She also took a political science class with Ken

Mitchell, which in turn inspired her to change her major to political science with a concentration in international relations and a minor in legal studies. Then she joined the Model UN Team and Political Science Club, became president of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society, and earned a spot in the Washington Center Internship Program last spring, where she interned with the Peace Corps.

She credits Monmouth’s small class sizes and, in particular, the professors in the political science department with helping her find her way and catapulting her toward success.

“I don’t think I would have been able to have the relationships I do with my professors if I didn’t have the small class sizes because they wouldn’t know me!” she says. “And I would not be able to do all of these things if I didn’t have all of these professors helping me.”

With aspirations to become a prosecutor, followed possibly by a career in teaching law

## WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Born and raised in New Jersey, Patel says her first name is often mispronounced in places abroad but never domestically in India where her parents were born. The name, which means “where the sun meets the Earth on the east horizon” is pronounced: PRAH-chee.

at the college level, Patel says all of her experiences at Monmouth have combined to help lay the foundation she needs for success.

As a Debate Hawk, she volunteers with the Asbury Park High School Debate Team, where she mentors students. She gained real-world experience via the Peace Corps internship, where she supported the team that delegated volunteer assignments internationally.

Her international contacts expanded during her Model UN trips to London, which for Patel, have been eye-opening and life-changing—literally. While on her second trip, Mitchell connected Patel with some of his former students. Those interactions inspired her to change her post-graduate course: Rather than going straight to law school, she plans on pursuing her master’s in development studies at the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies.

Despite the rocky start, Patel says her college career is ending on a high note. One of the highlights came just last semester during the Model UN awards ceremony at the University of Oxford.

“The ceremony was held in the Sheldonian Theatre, which is the hall that the Oxford students graduate in, and when they said my name, it was just such a cool, surreal experience,” she says. “They mispronounced it—but I was like ‘Wow, they just said my name in the Sheldonian!’”

*EXTRACURRICULAR: Patel, the captain of Monmouth’s Model UN team, won Best Delegate awards at both the Oxford and London competitions.*



photo MATT FURMAN



**HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE »**  
Landmarks & stories

# NAME GAME

SO SWEET A CAT FIELD IS NAMED FOR AN ANIMAL, BUT NOT THE KIND YOU'D EXPECT.

COMPILED BY  
BREANNE MCCARTHY  
AND TONY MARCHETTI

“**W**here can her mourning mistress find so sweet a Cat? So meek! So kind!”

It's from this line of Mary Robinson's poem, "Mistress Gorton's Cat: A Domestic Tale," that the name of the home field of Monmouth's field hockey program is derived.

But the field isn't named in memory of Robinson, or even a cat for that matter. It's named for one of Class of 1981 alumna Jane Freed's beloved race horses, So Sweet A Cat. The race mare, which claimed a win at Saratoga Park and was also named Horse of the Year at the Finger Lakes in 2004, reportedly earned Freed nearly half a million dollars during its four-year career.

**100**

Hawks games played on the field

**20**

Hawks' current regular-season home winning streak

**2**

MAAC Tournament Championships won on field

A philanthropist and generous supporter of a number of academic and athletic initiatives at Monmouth, Freed served on the university's Board of Visitors and received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002. She was also an avid fan of Monmouth's field hockey team; as a child, she played the sport while attending the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., where she was named to the All Washington Field Hockey Team.

Freed's gift in support of the rollout of Monmouth's turf field was "the first major capital gift made by a woman for women," Vice President and Director of Athletics Marilyn McNeil said at the time. Former assistant field hockey coach Kathleen Stefanelli '01 also made a generous donation in support of So Sweet A Cat field, which was officially dedicated on Oct. 12, 2007.

**THIS IS MONMOUTH »** The scene at West Long Branch

# CAMPUS ROUNDUP



## BOSS APPROVED

Blue Hawk Records students performed with original E Street Band drummer Vini "Mad Dog" Lopez in January at Asbury Park's Light of Day Winterfest, an annual event that raises money for Parkinson's research. For their finale, an Elvis impersonator joined them onstage for a rousing rendition of Bruce Springsteen's "Rosalita." Two of Springsteen's friends sent him a clip of the performance, says Joe Rapolla, chair of the music and theatre arts department, who was among the performers. "I'm told he got a kick out of it." Check out the performance at [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine).

## HANGING 10

Surfer magazine ranked Monmouth the 10th best university in the U.S., and tops on the Eastern Seaboard, in its recent listing of "Best Surf Colleges." The publication cited Monmouth's personalized educational experience, historic campus, and proximity to

New York City and Philadelphia as reasons why it's one of "the best universities in the U.S. for scoring waves while getting your degree."

## READ ON

Professor John Morano's Eco-Adventure Series is enjoying a resurgence. Last year, a 25th anniversary edition of *A Wing and a Prayer*, Morano's story about the last Guadalupe petrel, and a new edition of *Makoona*, his story about an octopus living in a coral reef and the refugee boy who fishes there, were released. This spring, the series' third installment, *Out There, Somewhere*, hits shelves; it features an "appearance" by retired Monmouth biology professor Don Dorfman. Morano says a new book, *Flocks of One*, featuring characters from the previous three books as well as "a major scene set at Monmouth University," will be out soon after. For more info, visit [johnmorano.com](http://johnmorano.com).

ABOVE: Blue Hawk Records students perform with original E Street Band drummer Vini Lopez and an Elvis impersonator in January.

## NO QUESTION ABOUT IT

President Grey Dimenna marked Presidents Day by randomly quizzing students on their knowledge of U.S. presidential trivia. Unanimous response to the question "Who's your favorite president?": Grey Dimenna. Check out our video at [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine).



**A DAY AT THE BEACH**

» Coastal moments, captured

JAN. 1, 2018

The first day of the year brought the New Jersey coast a special visual treat: a bright orange supermoon, seen here from in front of the University Bluffs.

# HIGHER PURPOSE

SIDELINED BY AN INJURY THIS SEASON, SENIOR NICK WILKER HAS EMBRACED HIS NEW ROLE ON THE MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM WHILE STAYING FOCUSED ON HIS NEXT STOP: THE MARINE CORPS.

BY MARK GOLLA

As college students approach graduation, they often set their sights on what they can go out and get. For Nick Wilker, the focus is on what he can give.

Wilker, a midfielder for the men's lacrosse team, completed Officer Candidate School (OCS) at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia, last summer. He is scheduled to be commissioned in July before returning to the base this fall to attend The Basic School, a six-month program in Marine officer training. Wilker's sole objective is to give back by serving his country.

"I want to do my share to make the world a better place," says Wilker, a political science major. "For me, the military—and specifically the Marine Corps—is the best way to achieve that. I would not be where I am today if not for the men and women who have served past and present, so I want to give back to them and my country."

Wilker arrived at Monmouth from York, Pennsylvania, with a reverence for service. His father, Nathaniel, was a hospital corpsman, petty officer 3rd class, in the Navy from 1987 to 1993, and his grandfather, Vince Craig, was a yeoman in the Navy from 1963 to 1965. But it was a Hawk teammate, Eric Berger '17, who ultimately struck the match that ignited Wilker's charge to protect and defend. Berger completed the OCS program a year prior, before returning to captain Monmouth last season.

"I looked up to Eric and could sense how proud he was after his experience in OCS," says Wilker. "Witnessing that, along with the pride my dad and grandfather have for their service, I knew it was something I wanted to do, and felt I *should* do."

## A PROGRAM ON THE RISE

Since its O-13 inaugural season, Monmouth's men's lacrosse program has quickly soared to the top of its conference. Last year's squad went 14-4 while winning the MAAC regular season and tournament championships. This year, the Hawks were a unanimous pick to finish first in the MAAC's Annual Preseason Coaches' Poll. They'll have a chance to defend their title at home next month, when they host the 2018 MAAC Men's Lacrosse Championship in Kessler Stadium, May 3 to 5.

OFF THE FIELD: Wilker is a two-time MAAC All-Academic Team selection.

OCS is a 10-week program designed to screen and evaluate potential Marine Corps Officers. The physical training was a challenge, but Wilker held an advantage as a student-athlete. Preseason workouts with Monmouth Head Coach Brian Fisher conditioned his body and mind to handle the grueling regimen. He encountered an even tougher challenge in week three, when he tore a tendon in his shoulder while completing an obstacle course. Dealing with obvious pain, Wilker had a decision to make: He could undergo an MRI to confirm the tear and risk being sent home from OCS, or he could endure the pain and continue. Wilker gritted his teeth for the final seven weeks and graduated.

Unfortunately, surgery was imminent, and as a result, he is inactive for his senior season. But Wilker is taking on a different role this spring, serving as a student coach as the Hawks try to defend their 2017 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship. While it is not the storybook ending most players dream of, the transition suits Wilker's character. He is drawn to, and takes great pride in, helping others.

"I love Monmouth, and it's been an amazing experience," says Wilker. "My professors in political science have been great mentors, and they have always been there to help me. They are a big reason why I'm thinking about a career in teaching following my service."

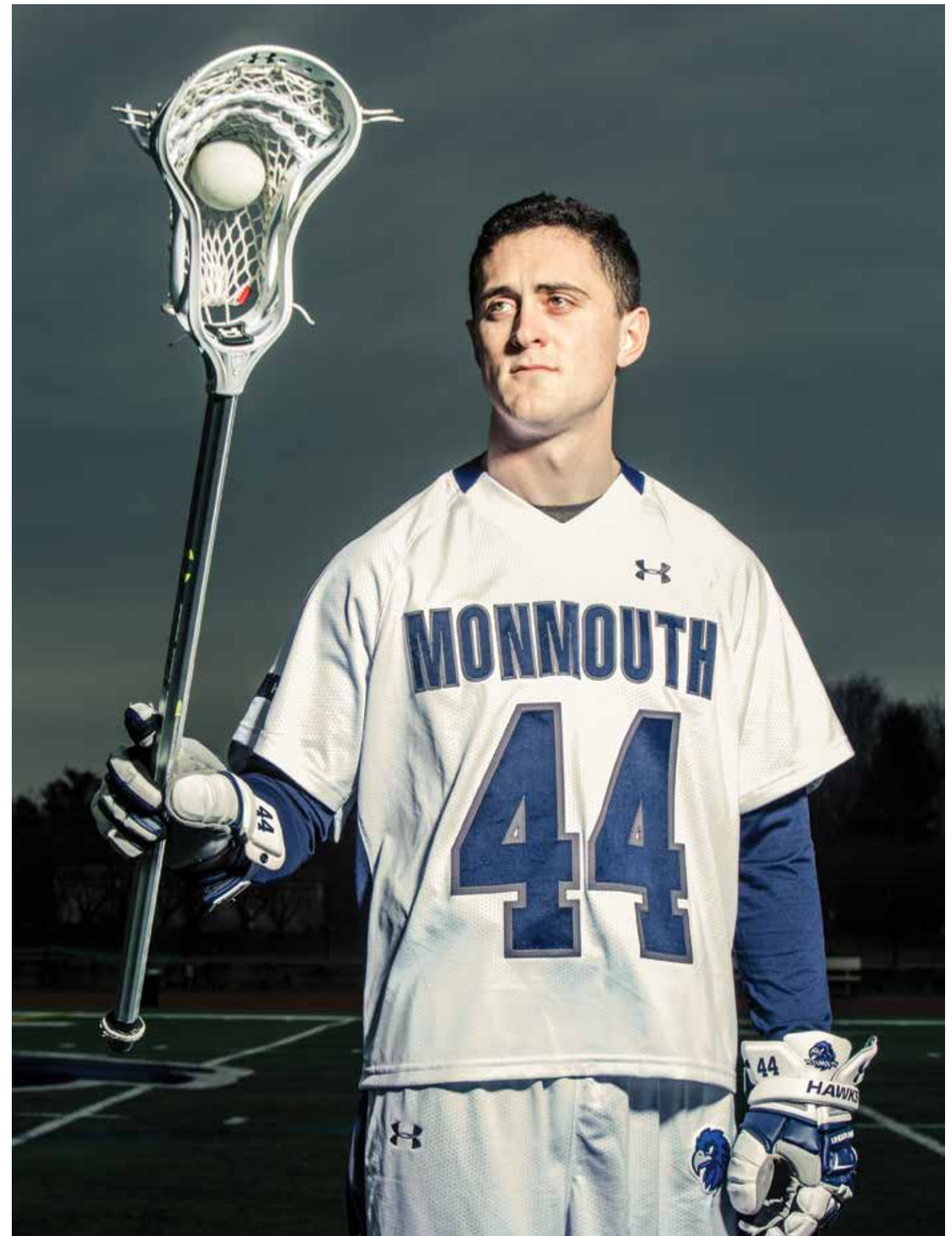


photo CARDONI

## SPORTS SHORTS

### HONORS FOR TURNER

Women's soccer Head Coach Krissy Turner was appointed to the staff of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy in January, a role that allows her to evaluate the top players in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as national U.S. Soccer Academy events. And in February, she was inducted into the New Jersey Youth Soccer Hall of Fame.

### A WIN 32 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The men's swimming team captured its first victory since the program was reintroduced in 2015, beating Saint Francis Brooklyn, 142-60, at Steadman Natatorium in November.

### HIGH-FIVES

The women's track and field team won its fifth straight MAAC Indoor Championship in February, while women's soccer won its fifth straight regular season MAAC championship (and second consecutive tournament championship) last fall.

### MAKING THE GRADES

Monmouth's athletics department achieved its highest Graduation Success Rate and improved its score for the third consecutive year, according to the data released by the NCAA last fall. Nine Hawk programs led or tied for the lead of their respective conferences: men's and women's basketball, field hockey, women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis, football, and bowling.

*Compiled from Office of Athletics Communication and New Media reports.*

### RITUALS

» Warmups & superstitions

# LEAPS AND BOUNDS

SPRINTER/JUMPER BRYAN SOSOO TALKS LEADERSHIP, LIFE AFTER MONMOUTH, AND THE GLORIES OF OLD BAY SEASONING. TRY TO KEEP UP.

BY MARK GOLA

Senior Bryan Sosoo embodies character traits universities covet in student-athletes. He is talented, smart, hard-working and accountable. He also possesses exceptional leadership skills, honed in part through his involvement with the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum. (Sosoo was one of only two students selected to represent the MAAC at the annual event.) But the Laurel, Maryland, native is just too fast—as in the “he-holds-the-top-12-all-time-Monmouth-records-in-the-60-meter-dash” kind of fast—to be the subject of a standard magazine profile. An assortment of quick bites seemed the more suitable treatment for this highly decorated Hawk.

#### On his greatest experience as a Hawk.

Competing in the USA's my sophomore year and racing against elite professionals was pretty awesome. It's allowed me to believe that I'm not that far off from being one of the best in the nation.

#### On how he prepares for meets.

I typically have my headphones on and stay to myself. I listen to hip hop, rap, Jersey club—anything that has rhythm and is high intensity to get my heart rate going. Then I slow it down with the music choice to settle myself before I get on the track.

#### On his biggest takeaway from the NCAA Leadership Forum.

A good leader must lead by example. It's easy to say words, but you need to stand by them and back them up. And never ask anyone to do anything you're not willing and able to do yourself.

#### On what he loves most about Monmouth.

There is a tremendous support system here, and everything is geared toward helping you prepare and succeed in the future.

#### On what's next after graduation.

I'm continuing my education at Monmouth for a fifth year to earn my graduate degree in business administration. From there, I'd like to work in the sports industry. A friend of mine assists with college and professional athletes in hospitality and event management, and that sounds pretty interesting to me.

#### On why you should hire him.

I'm detail oriented. I'm a good communicator. I like a fast-paced environment and can adapt quickly. I picked up an IT minor my sophomore year, and right now we're learning to build websites, code, and program. The info tech minor goes well with my business management and should make me more valuable to a company.

#### On what out-of-towners must do when in Maryland.

No doubt try the crab cakes. But also try Old Bay seasoning on fries. It is the greatest thing in the world.



## FAST FACTS

Sosoo's list of achievements is long. Here's the sprinter's version.

» '15, '16, '18  
MAAC Indoor  
Track and Field  
Championships

» Monmouth Record-  
Holder/MAAC Champion-  
ships Record-Holder: 60-me-  
ter dash (6.71 seconds)

» MAAC Champions: Three-  
time 60-yard dash (indoor),  
200-yard dash (indoor), two-  
time 4x100 relay (outdoor)

» Five-time  
MAAC  
All-Academic  
Team

» Competed in the  
2016 USA Indoor  
Track and Field  
Championships

# A NEW SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

AMERICA'S SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IS HAVING A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON AT-RISK YOUTH. MONMOUTH STUDENTS HAVE A PLAN TO FIX THE SYSTEM.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVIDE BONAZZI

“**W**hen I grow up,  
I want to be a  
criminal.”

It's a statement no child is likely to ever make, said senior Lacey Wood to those in attendance at the Reverse the Flow! Stop Criminalizing Our Youth forum, held on campus last November. The event featured presentations by eight Monmouth students who completed a special course, Investigating the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Over the span of two semesters, Wood and her classmates examined a disturbing trend: Minority youth in this country are being disproportionately funneled from school systems into prison systems, which in turn, can lead to a lifetime of recidivism for them. As part of the course, the students studied how school systems are failing to support large



segments of the population, a problem that often falls along racial lines. They also traveled inside New Jersey State Prison (NJSP) to learn about the pipeline from those who have experienced it firsthand. Working in tandem with 11 incarcerated men from NJSP, the Monmouth students developed a plan of action for shutting down the pipeline, reducing recidivism rates, and countering the stigma associated with ex-convicts in an effort to help them assimilate back into society. At the forum in November, the Monmouth students presented their work to a packed room.

“When we were children ... we dreamt of growing up to be astronauts, doctors, police officers, firefighters—professions that seemed noble in our young eyes,” Wood told the audience that day. “So how did 2.3 million children with dreams of becoming the central members of society end up as adults living a nightmare of an existence behind bars?”

## PIPELINE ORIGINS

To understand how such a system came into existence, one must look back at least as far as the 1990s when, in response to concerns over the growth of violent incidents in schools, Congress passed the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994. The law required every state receiving federal funding for elementary and secondary education to adopt zero-tolerance policies in regard to violent behavior. One of the edicts of the law required states to expel, for a minimum of one year, any student who brought a gun to school (though administrators could review incidents on a case-by-case basis).

As states adopted their own policies, many cast a wide net under which minor infractions, like calling out in class, could be counted as equal to major infractions, such as bringing a weapon to school. Critics have long argued that the policies are vague and arbitrarily enforced and have done little to curb violence in school settings during the past two decades. What the policies did do, they say, was create prison-like environments in schools, often making it easier for districts to punish and eliminate children with problems rather than help them.

“[The policies] allow school officials to ditch their evaluation of student behavior and to enact more suspensions

“**REGARDLESS OF THE LENGTH OF YOUR SENTENCE OR THE SEVERITY OF YOUR CRIME, WHAT WE CAN ALL ACKNOWLEDGE IS THAT OPPORTUNITY IS ALMOST ABSENT. SO AFTER [SOMEONE’S] SENTENCE IS COMPLETED, THEY ARE SENTENCED TO UNEMPLOYMENT.**”

and expulsions for the smallest infractions,” senior Erica Bogert said during the forum. Especially vulnerable under these policies are students of color, particularly those with disabilities, and at-risk youth, including those with histories of poverty, abuse, or neglect who attend school in poorly funded districts with limited resources. To illustrate her point, Bogert shared the story of Derek, a family member of one of the NJSP students she met, who had been diagnosed with ADD and bipolar disorder. When Derek was 16, he had an outburst in class, but instead of being referred for counseling, a police officer escorted him out of school in handcuffs.

“Instead of understanding the circumstances of the student and why their behavior is disruptive, [schools] have become accustomed to simply expelling or suspending the ‘bad student,’” said Bogert.

## A ONE-WAY PASSAGE

While positive outcomes from these zero-tolerance policies are hard to discern,

one result is clear: when youths, especially those at risk, are pushed out of school, they are more likely to become involved in criminal activity. A 2014 study published in *The Journal of Youth and Adolescence* showed that students are almost twice as likely to be arrested on days they are suspended from school. From there, research shows, the problem can easily snowball.

“Students who have been suspended are three times more likely to drop out by the 10th grade than students who have never been suspended,” according to Donna Lieberman of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Testifying in 2008 before the New York City Council Committees on Education and Civil Rights Regarding the Impact of Suspensions on Students’ Education Rights, Lieberman noted, “Dropping out, in turn, triples the likelihood that a person will be incarcerated later in life. In fact, in 1997, 68 percent of state prison inmates were school dropouts.”

There is often little opportunity for incarcerated high school dropouts to earn more than a GED. Many correctional facilities don’t offer college-level courses for inmates. And for returning citizens hoping to further their education upon release, it can be difficult to receive a private student loan.

When you add in the fact that it’s sometimes legal for employers to discriminate against the formerly incarcerated—jobs in education, health care, law enforcement, and the military are generally off-limits for those who have served time, said seniors Alyssa Behr and Steffi Groezinger at the forum—there is little room for the formerly incarcerated to find work in today’s competitive job market.

“Regardless of the length of your sentence or the severity of your crime, what we can all acknowledge is that opportunity is almost absent,” said Groezinger. “So after [someone’s] sentence is completed, they are sentenced to unemployment.”

A 2015 survey by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights found that 67 percent of respondents were unemployed or underemployed five years after being released from prison. And 79 percent of those surveyed were either ineligible or denied housing. For many of the formerly imprisoned, returning to the streets often seems the only option.

## A COSTLY CYCLE

Given these obstacles, it’s perhaps not surprising that two of three formerly incarcerated people end up back in prison within three years of release.

Recidivism’s impact reaches far beyond the prisoner: The 2.7 million children in this country who have an incarcerated parent are more likely to perform poorly in school, exhibit behavioral or mental health issues, and deal with financial, emotional, and familial instability. They are also more than twice as likely to commit delinquent acts. Across the board, ethnic minorities are at greater risk.

“Black youths in New Jersey are 26.2 times more likely to be incarcerated than white youths,” said Bogert. “This proves that not only are we ignoring the problem of at-risk youths being funneled into the school-to-prison pipeline but that it has also become an issue of systemic racism.”

It’s a problem that affects everyone, even those with no direct connection to someone behind bars. In New Jersey, for example, it costs \$200,000 a year to incarcerate a youth. The state spends more than \$63 million a year on its young inmates, “with only a small fraction of that budget going to community programs to help those youths,” said Bogert. “As a result of lack of funding

for rehabilitative programs, there’s an 80 percent recidivism rate for youths in New Jersey.”

## REVERSING THE FLOW

The Monmouth students and their NJSP counterparts argued that resources pertaining to education need to be improved, not only during and directly after incarceration but, most importantly, before conviction or arrest, when children are still in school. This, they argued, can be done by ensuring that public schools receive a larger portion of state budgets. That would enable schools to provide better resources for students with disabilities, as well as to support more extracurricular programs in poorly funded districts.

The students also urged the creation of more community-based programs for youths to participate in. One successful example they pointed to is Monmouth’s partnership with the Asbury Park High School Debate Team. For eight years, Monmouth University’s debate team has visited Asbury Park High School not only to coach the students but also to act as mentors and increase the high schoolers’ academic and social learning. “The graduation rate for Asbury Park High School is 66 percent, but the debaters for the past eight years have a 100 percent gradu-

ation rate,” said senior Elizabeth Carmines. “Studies show that not only do programs implement a sense of belonging for students and provide social support that [students might] not be getting at home, but students who participate in extracurricular programs also have increased attendance at school, better reading comprehension, and [fewer] disciplinary referrals.”

Both the Monmouth students and their NJSP counterparts also agreed that increasing educational opportunities, including the opportunity to earn advanced degrees, and providing mental health resources for convicts are essential steps for helping them successfully reintegrate into society upon release.

“Part of what the class is doing is also trying to create a space for an educational intervention inside this one particular facility,” said Assistant Professor Johanna Foster, who co-taught the two-semester course with Professor Eleanor Novek. “[NJSP] is a facility that has no access at the moment to higher education, and many of these men are serving extremely long sentences—but the majority of [them] will be released someday.”

Novek echoed that sentiment. “I think people don’t realize incarcerated people are coming back when they’ve served their sentences. And so, what we should want is a system that prepares them to live safely back in their communities, employed legally—which is not a system that we currently have.”

Along those lines, the students stressed during their presentations the importance of eliminating the stigma society often attaches to the formerly incarcerated. That, they argued, would make it easier for them to secure jobs and break the cycle of recidivism.

“Take a moment to think about the worst mistake you ever made in your entire life,” senior Paul Matt said to the audience that day. “Then think about your character and people’s perception of you—[if] that’s how they viewed you for the rest of your life, how would that make you feel?”

“The sole purpose of prison should not be to punish, but rather to educate the individuals and show them how they can change their behavior to become productive members of society. Yes, these people committed crimes—but they’re more than their worst mistake.” ■



# LANGUAGE OF LOVE

A RARE NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER  
ROBS GIRLS AND WOMEN OF SIMPLE  
COMMUNICATION. A NEW EFFORT AIMS  
TO HELP GIVE THEM THEIR VOICES BACK.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY  
PHOTOS BY MATT FURMAN

For the first year after the birth of Theresa Bartolotta's daughter, Lisa, everything went along seemingly well.

The infant was quick to smile, and though she took a bit longer than Bartolotta's son had to sit independently, she eventually got it. Lisa started pulling to stand up at around 10 months, well within the normal time frame. Shortly after, she started "cruising," holding onto the wall for support as she made her way into her older brother's room to knock books off his shelf.

Every milestone was happily recorded by Bartolotta in a new baby book.

Then one day, at around 14 months, Bartolotta noticed something peculiar. Lisa kept saying one particular word, "bleeka," over and over. Curious, Bartolotta recorded the phrase in her book. It ended up being the last entry she made.

*Professor Theresa Bartolotta  
and her daughter, Lisa, at their  
home in Lincroft, New Jersey.*

“Kids usually go ‘ba ba ba ba’ and ‘ba, da, da, da,’ and Lisa would go ‘bleeka, blee-ka, bleeka’ all day,” says Bartolotta, a professor in the Department of Speech and Language Pathology. “And it took me a long time, probably a month, to talk to someone to say something’s not right.”

Lisa’s path along normal development hit a road block, and after months of doctors’ visits, she was diagnosed at 18 months as being “developmentally delayed” and exhibiting “some features of autism.” Bartolotta was told to get Lisa into early intervention as soon as possible, and while she did, Lisa’s condition didn’t much improve.

It wasn’t until a decade later, in 1999, when the gene mutation for Rett syndrome and its associating symptoms was identified, that Bartolotta felt she may have found an answer for her daughter’s wide-ranging symptoms. Despite the fact that neurologists brushed the idea of a Rett diagnosis aside—one simply said, “Oh, no, you don’t want her to have that”—Bartolotta and her husband drove Lisa to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, one of only two hospitals in the country testing for the disorder at the time. After nine months of waiting, in early 2000, she got the results: Lisa did have Rett syndrome. She was 11 years old at the time.

## AN INSIDIOUS DISEASE

Rett syndrome is a rare, largely non-inherited, genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females. The mutation of the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome, which occurs spontaneously during early development prior to birth, affects one in every 10,000 to 15,000 girls born worldwide, with no regard to racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background.

The MECP2 gene encodes the protein by the same name that is found in all neurologically derived cells in the human body. It is essential for the normal function of neurological development, but too much or too little of the protein leads to severe abnormalities of cell function—too little of the protein leads to Rett syndrome in girls, while too much of the protein leads to MECP2 duplication syndrome, which contrary to Rett, occurs almost exclusively in males. *(See sidebar, p. 33.)*

Typically, girls born with Rett develop normally up to the first 18 months of age, at which time their development slowly begins to regress, causing them to lose previously acquired skills. Those living with Rett are affected by myriad symptoms, which exist on a spectrum similar to autism, and typically includes delayed growth, microcephaly, impaired communication, and unusual eye and hand movements as well as loss of functional use of the hands. They are prone to irregular breathing habits, such as holding their breath; they often have cardiac, circulatory, and digestive impairments; and over 80 percent have seizures, which can be severe enough to cause death.

The disease is often described as having symptoms of autism, cerebral palsy, Parkinson’s, epilepsy, and an anxiety disorder all wrapped into one.

## THE COMMUNICATION BARRIER

Perhaps the most challenging and frustrating symptom is the regression of the child’s ability to communicate—words learned slip away and are often lost forever. Unable to functionally use their hands, girls with Rett cannot write or sign, leaving the child with limited ability to communicate their wants, needs, and discomforts, of which there are many.

“It’s kind of like the shoemaker’s kids have no shoes,” Bartolotta says of experiencing this challenge with her own daughter when she herself has more than 30 years of clinical experience as a speech-language pathologist. “I was working with all of these young children who had communication problems, and my daughter was developing her own communication problems, and I really couldn’t figure them out.”

While advancements have been made in genetic testing to find a cure, or a way to ease or improve symptoms, communicating with children who have Rett today continues to be a major challenge.

The only way many girls can learn to effectively communicate is through the use of their eyes, as they maintain control over their ocular muscles. Parents are often able to pick up on the subtle nuances in body language and eye expression—knowing when their children are hungry, or uncomfortable, or if they want to listen to music or watch their favorite shows.



*Gerard Saydah and his daughter, Michelle, who was diagnosed with Rett syndrome. Faculty, students, and licensed speech-language pathologists at Monmouth's Center for Speech and Language Disorders are working with Michelle to improve her communication abilities.*

The problem is that professionals, including caretakers, teachers, and therapists, are less attuned to these subtleties and may misread or altogether miss the message the child is trying to send.

Luckily, there are ways for the girls to learn to use eye-tracking technology to express themselves. There are low-tech, non-electronic tools that can be used, such as paddles that can be raised for simple answers, like yes or no; and there are language boards that can be outfitted with pictures and held up while one tracks the patient’s eye movements to see what she is focusing on.

There are also sophisticated electronic eye-tracking devices, where a sensor follows one’s eye movements and syncs with computer software to track points of focus. This allows for more complex communication and also al-

lows the girls to utilize apps, via the device, through which they can learn, play games, or even turn synced light switches on and off.

But even with this technology, many hurdles still exist for individuals with Rett and their families. For one, not all teachers, therapists, and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) know what Rett syndrome is, let alone how to communicate effectively with girls with Rett. In the same vein, many SLPs and specialists have not communicated with a patient who utilizes an eye-gaze device. On top of that, the equipment can be expensive—some systems cost tens of thousands of dollars—and is sometimes difficult for parents to get approved through insurance.

Even then, once equipment is purchased, parents need access to spe-

cialists who can teach them and their daughter how to effectively program and communicate using the device. Each device needs to be programmed in a specific way to meet the needs and abilities of each individual girl. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to assessing the patient’s ability to communicate or to knowing what the best communication strategy is, let alone knowing the best way to program the device for that particular patient.

“The device is important, but the SLP and the augmentative communications specialist ... are two huge and important keys,” says Gerard Saydah, whose daughter, Michelle, has Rett. “She has the device, and ... as much as we [mom and dad] want to help her with it, we’re not trained in that. So we can help, but only to a point.”

## A LIFELONG MISSION

Bartolotta says effective approaches toward communicating with Rett girls are lacking not only because it’s a niche disorder, but also because only recently did doctors realize these girls have a larger capacity to learn and communicate than was originally thought.

“If you look at the literature ... you find very little positive information to help you to develop a communication intervention for girls with Rett syndrome,” she says. “It’s a rare disorder, so it’s rare that a teacher or a therapist who encounters your child will know that they have Rett syndrome. And if they read the early articles, the early articles are very discouraging. They talk about severe disability, lack



Graduate student Madison Chase (foreground) works with Michelle Saydah on improving her communications abilities when utilizing her eye-gaze equipment.

of progress, only regression—we now know that is not true.”

With those challenges in mind, Bartolotta set out to broaden the communications horizon for girls with Rett. Her 2005 dissertation focused on the perception that parents, teachers, and SLPs have of girls with Rett in regards to their communication abilities.

Several years later, she teamed up with a former classmate from her doctoral program, Patricia Remshifski, who is the current chair of Monmouth’s Speech-Language Pathology Department. The two co-published a paper in 2012 that examined communication intervention with Rett patients during mealtime. In 2013, they received a \$60,000 grant from Rettsyndrome.org to study eye tracking in girls with Rett syndrome, specifically regarding receptive and expressive vocabulary.

That same year, Remshifski joined Monmouth’s School of Education to run the SLP program. From the moment she arrived, she advocated for making Monmouth’s Center for Speech and Language Disorders a resource for Rett patients and their families and a center for research related to the syndrome. In early 2017, with support from

John Henning, dean of the School of Education, she got the approval to start a Rett program at Monmouth.

Remshifski had long been developing the idea for such a program with Bartolotta, who at the time was dean of the School of Health Sciences at Stockton University. The two reached out to the New Jersey Rett Syndrome Association (NJRSA) and Rettsyndrome.org to partner and help them to develop their mission. They recruited a board, and several months later, in August 2017, Bartolotta joined Monmouth’s faculty. Last November, Monmouth officially launched The Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome at a one-day inter-professional symposium on care for persons with Rett.

## THE PROGRAM

The mission of The Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome is threefold. It serves as an information hub where parents and family members of those living with Rett, along with professionals working with the Rett population, can get answers to questions as well as help with the challenges specific to the syndrome.

It seeks to create educational and treatment programs specific to individuals with Rett syndrome that support patients and their families directly, while equipping students in Monmouth’s SLP program with the knowledge and experience of working with Rett patients. Along with this, it seeks to develop and implement community-based research and service learning initiatives focused on the syndrome.

The program is housed within Monmouth’s Center for Speech and Language Disorders, which offers evaluation as well as one-on-one and group therapy for a wide array of conditions beyond Rett, including articulation disorders, auditory processing disorders, autism, aphasia, and cognitive communication disorders. For a small fee, patients can attend biweekly treatment sessions that are run by graduate students in the SLP program and overseen by speech-language pathologists and faculty members who are certified, licensed SLPs. For most of the grad students, it is their first time working hands-on with patients, and for those working with one of the four Rett patients who utilize the clinic, it’s their first time working with someone who

uses an eye-gaze device. Despite the challenges, it’s been a rewarding experience for the students.

“Not only was I learning how to be a professional in the field, but I was learning how to interact with that population in a therapeutic sense,” says Carleen Higgins of her time working one-on-one with Michelle last year. “That really helped me to grow as a clinician.”

The clinics are an especially important resource for students with Rett who have aged out of school, such as 23-year-old Michelle Saydah. She only began using an eye-gaze device a few years ago, and as is the case with many persons with Rett, she has worked with various teachers, therapists, and augmentative communication specialists who have organized her eye-gaze software in various ways. This semester, the Monmouth team is trying to organize Michelle’s device to create a consistent user interface for all of her pages.

“Basically it would be like if every time you turned on your television or turned on your computer, you had a different way to go back—sometimes it’s an arrow; sometimes it’s a right click,” says Michelle’s father, Gerard, of his daughter’s eye-gaze software. “They’re looking at Michelle holistically, and they’re like ‘What can we do to make this make

## BEHIND THE DIAGNOSIS

THERE ARE ROUGHLY 200 GIRLS and women living with Rett syndrome in New Jersey. Though extremely rare, the mutation does occur in males, but many die *in utero* or shortly after birth. Girls are born with two X chromosomes, meaning half of their cells express the normal X, while the other half express the mutant X. Boys, however, cannot typically compensate with their only X compromised.

There are anomalies, however. In January, NBC News’ Richard Engel announced that his son, Henry, was diagnosed with Rett syndrome. Neurologist Huda Zoghbi, who led the team that identified MECP2 as the causative gene in 1999, believes two-year-old Henry can hold the key to a possible gene therapy, as it appears he may have been born with a milder form of the mutated gene.

“**THE DISEASE IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS HAVING SYMPTOMS OF AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, PARKINSON’S, EPILEPSY, AND AN ANXIETY DISORDER ALL WRAPPED INTO ONE.**”

more sense?” And if they get to that, it will be very significant not only for Michelle, but they can probably leverage that for others.”

## A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

In addition to the clinics being a way for Monmouth’s students and faculty to study, treat, and assess the communication hurdles that girls with Rett face, there are also plans to carry out service learning projects throughout the community.

One such project, initiated by graduate student Madison Chase, is already underway and focuses on establishing a peer mentor program. Graduate students have been paired up with a person with Rett syndrome or another severe communication disability in a nearby school to serve as communication partners—the two communicate and talk in a non-therapy, social way.

“We’re trying to establish peer communication groups between people—your typical developing population and then your population that has a developmental disability, someone who is nonverbal,” says Chase. “It’s just bringing the two worlds together, which are sometimes just completely separated.”

The project is currently being initiated at two New Jersey schools: the Schroth School in Ocean Township and Hawkswood School in Eatontown.

Additionally, there are plans to run an annual inter-professional confer-

ence, which will bring together doctors, therapists, Rett experts, and parents to talk about recent developments in research and evidence-based communication strategies.


Bartolotta herself is currently working on an international project led by a team from the Rett Expertise Centre in the Netherlands to develop guidelines for the management of communication in Rett syndrome. The guidelines will not only help to broaden the awareness of the communications abilities of girls with Rett for parents and professionals, but will also help connect parents with tools, resources, and assessments to help them evaluate the best way to approach communicating with their daughters.

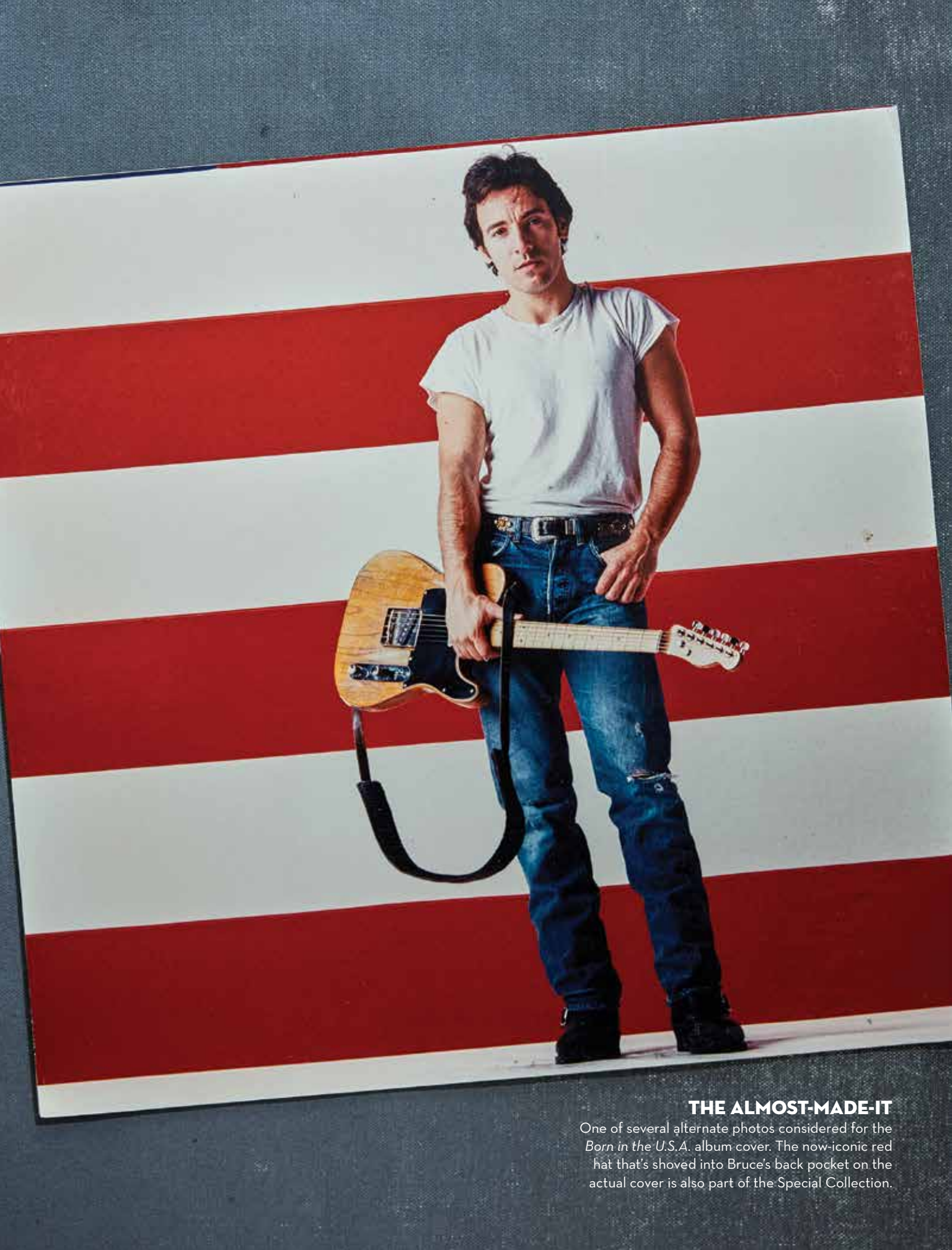
“People need a guideline—they need a road map to say, ‘OK, you have a girl with Rett syndrome; these are the kinds of things you can do when you approach and assess her communication and when you try to develop her communication,’” she says. “Because we don’t currently have literature out there that can guide people in that way.”

Bartolotta, whose daughter, Lisa, utilizes the clinic, says Monmouth’s program might be one of the few programs in the country with a mission focused on treating Rett patients from a rehabilitation standpoint versus a purely medical one.

“We’re trying to do the allied health side, the speech therapy side, the everyday care,” she says. “Because there’s a lot of interest in the medical side of Rett syndrome, but not as much in the rehab side, the day-to-day of how do you get them to communicate, how do you keep them walking and the things that have the biggest impact on quality of life.”

Gerard Saydah, who sits on the board of NJRSA and The Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome, has high hopes for the program’s future.

“We have Patty [Remshifski], who is the heart and soul of it, and then Theresa—my God, having them both here in the same place at the same time—Monmouth is just in the best possible place,” he says. “As a parent, we have a stake in having this be as successful as possible, and at the minimum, it will be a model. ... But it’s not just helping the Rett population. What they’re learning here helps a very wide population of people, and a lot of people really need this.” 



#### THE ALMOST-MADE-IT

One of several alternate photos considered for the *Born in the U.S.A.* album cover. The now-iconic red hat that's shoved into Bruce's back pocket on the actual cover is also part of the Special Collection.

# ROCK RELICS



THE BRUCE  
SPRINGSTEEN  
SPECIAL  
COLLECTION  
IS LIKE THE  
PROMISED LAND  
FOR FANS OF  
THE BOSS. AND  
IT'S GOT A NEW  
PERMANENT  
HOME AT  
MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY.

BY MARK BLACKMON  
PHOTOS BY MATT FURMAN

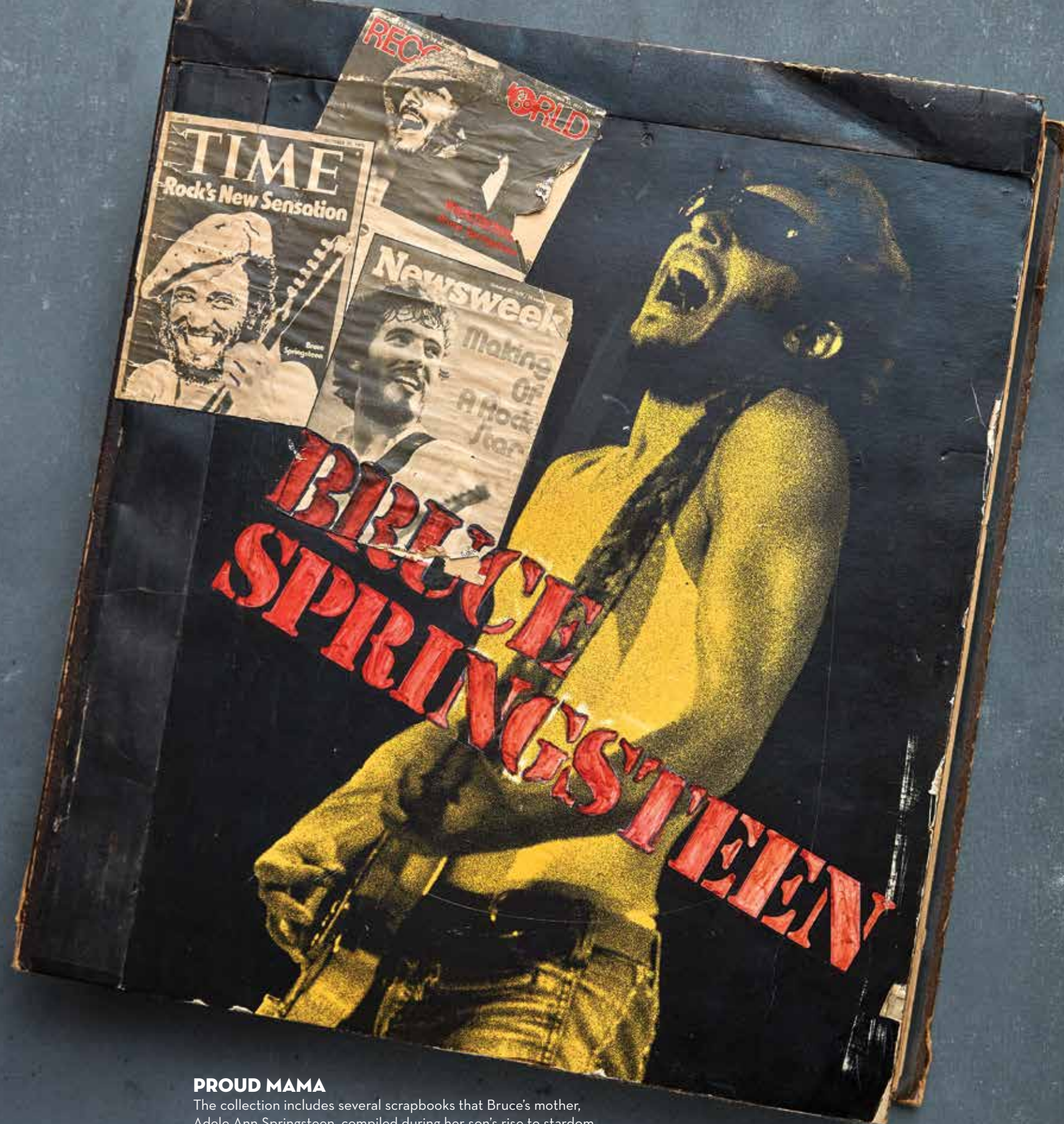
When Monmouth University announced plans for its collaborative partnership to establish The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music earlier this year, global interest in the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection skyrocketed.

A portion of the collection, composed of Springsteen's written works, photographs, periodicals, and artifacts, had been on loan to Monmouth since 2011. Last fall, it was formally gifted to the university for inclusion in the Archives by The Friends of the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection Inc., a nonprofit organization established to help preserve the history of the singer and his music.

"When Bob Crane and I started this collection more than 15 years ago, we imagined something big: something impressive, permanent, and unique, an unparalleled resource of use to fans, students, and scholars around the world," said Christopher Phillips, publisher and editor of the Springsteen fanzine, *Backstreets Magazine*, and former president of the Friends, which formally disbanded in January 2018.

"Given the importance of Bruce Springsteen's work in our own lives, we wanted to preserve and consolidate all this material before it faded away. But I don't think either of us imagined how much the collection would grow—thanks to the dedication, labor, and generosity of fans worldwide—and that we'd eventually find such a perfect home. As a founder, I couldn't be more pleased to have discovered a partner in Monmouth University to preserve and expand the collection for future generations."

The collection originated in 2001 when *Backstreets* organized a fan-to-fan campaign to collect and organize essential documents from each phase of Springsteen's career, ensuring that the historic record would be publicly accessible to all. Originally housed in the Asbury Park Public Library, the collection today contains more than 35,000 items from 47 countries. And it's still growing, as fans—and the Boss himself—continue to donate to it. We asked Eileen Chapman, who oversees the collection for Monmouth, to give us a peek at what's inside.



#### PROUD MAMA

The collection includes several scrapbooks that Bruce's mother, Adele Ann Springsteen, compiled during her son's rise to stardom, one of which includes original copies of *Time* and *Newsweek* from October 1975, when Bruce became the first musician in history to simultaneously appear on the covers of both magazines.



## ALL ACCESS

There's in—and then there's in. Lucky fans might score a backstage pass, but only tour staffers received itinerary books (left), which list hotels, local amenities, timetables, and contact info for each stop on that leg of the tour.

## TICKETS TO RIDE

The collection includes five decades' worth of tickets sent in from around the world.

A collaboration between Springsteen, photographer Danny Clinch, and skater Mike Vallely, the limited-edition skateboard pictured above was produced for charity in 2016.

Wearable memorabilia in the collection includes promotional jackets, blankets, T-shirts, and pins.

A postcard for "Cover Me," the second single off of 1984's *Born in the U.S.A.*

One of the badges that got fans into the “Meadowlands Boardwalk” area outside Giants Stadium during the summer 2003 tour.

The collection  
houses a number  
of live show  
recordings.

In 1984, Andréé Rathemacher wrote Springsteen to request an interview for a school project she was working on. Several months later, she got this response in the mail. “[It’s] a good illustration of how [he] always tried hard to be a ‘normal guy,’—he took the time to answer a letter from a kid in school,” says Rathemacher, who’s now a librarian at the University of Rhode Island.

THE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN ARCHIVES  
and Center for American Music will hold  
its inaugural academic conference, Bruce  
Springsteen's *Darkness on the Edge of  
Town*: An International Symposium, from  
April 12 to 15 at Monmouth University.

## TICKETS + SCHEDULE

A number of ticketing options are available. Visit [monmouth.edu/brucesymposium](http://monmouth.edu/brucesymposium) for a complete schedule of events as well as registration information.

**... AND EVEN MORE BRUCE**

Visit [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine) for more from this photo gallery of memorabilia.

**THE CHANGEMAKER** » Alumni making waves

# CONSUMER PROTECTOR

TIRED OF GETTING DUPED BY FAKE PRODUCT REVIEWS ONLINE? SAOUD KHALIFAH'S WEBSITE CAN HELP YOU SHOP SMARTER.

BY MONICA ROZENFELD

Back when he was a software engineering student, Saoud Khalifah '13, '14M liked to buy the things he needed—from clothing and groceries to books and electronics—on the web. But all too often when the products arrived, he found they didn't match the glowing reviews he'd read. The quality was poor, or the items simply didn't do what they were supposed to.

Khalifah soon realized that many of the reviews he was basing his purchasing decisions on weren't real. Rather, they had been written by someone the seller paid to rave about the product and thus inflate its rating. Back then, there was no easy way to filter out phony reviews from authentic ones. So Khalifah built Fakespot.com, a website that automatically scans reviews to give consumers better insight about the products they want to purchase.

"In the future, everything is going to be purchased online," says Khalifah. "So the reputation of sellers, and accurate reviews of their products, are critical for

making informed purchasing decisions."

It wasn't long before Fakespot caught the attention of major media outlets, such as CBS MoneyWatch, CNET, and *USA Today*. Khalifah had taken a job as a software engineer at Goldman Sachs after graduating, but the publicity was soon bringing more than 100,000 visitors per month to the site—more than enough for Khalifah to leave his job to focus on Fakespot full time.

The site is simple to use. Consumers insert a link for a product, and Fakespot analyzes the reviews, assigns them an overall grade (A through F), and provides a summary of what consumers

## DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE

Based on Fakespot's analysis, these sellers received an F for the authenticity of their reviews.

» **Pure Body Naturals**, which sells beauty products on Amazon, has only 40 percent reliable reviews of its products based on nearly 200,000 reviews.

» **LESHP**, which sells more than 400 electronics on Amazon, has 60 percent unreliable reviews based on a total of 10,500.

» **Kangaroo**, which sells baby products and pool toys, also had 60 percent unreliable reviews based on more than 17,500 reviews.

*AROUND THE WORLD: Born in Kuwait and raised in Poland, Khalifah studied electrical and computer engineering at Oregon State University before transferring to Monmouth to focus on software engineering.*

think about the product. To make the site more accurate, Khalifah incorporated natural-language processing. "NLP technology goes beyond searching for certain keywords," says Khalifah. "It allows the site to comprehend and understand the textual content of reviews. Then we can use this understanding for the evaluation of authenticity."

The site also detects if reviews are skewed negatively without merit. For example, if a product reviewer complains about the shipment (the product arrived late or the packaging was ripped) but not the item, or a restaurant reviewer comments on the décor or wait time but not the food, Fakespot factors that in when determining its grade.

These days, Fakespot draws a half-million visitors per month and has analyzed more than 1.1 billion reviews from Amazon, the Apple App Store, Yelp, and Trip Advisor. The service is free for consumers, but Khalifah has been able to monetize his startup in two ways: selling advertisements on the site and selling product reports through a sister site, Trustworthy. The in-depth analyses can be purchased by sellers who want a better understanding of how consumers view their products or by competitors.

Khalifah is tightlipped about the new project he and his team are working on, though he did say it's related to making the Internet itself more trustworthy. "Reviews are just the start of our ambitions," he says.

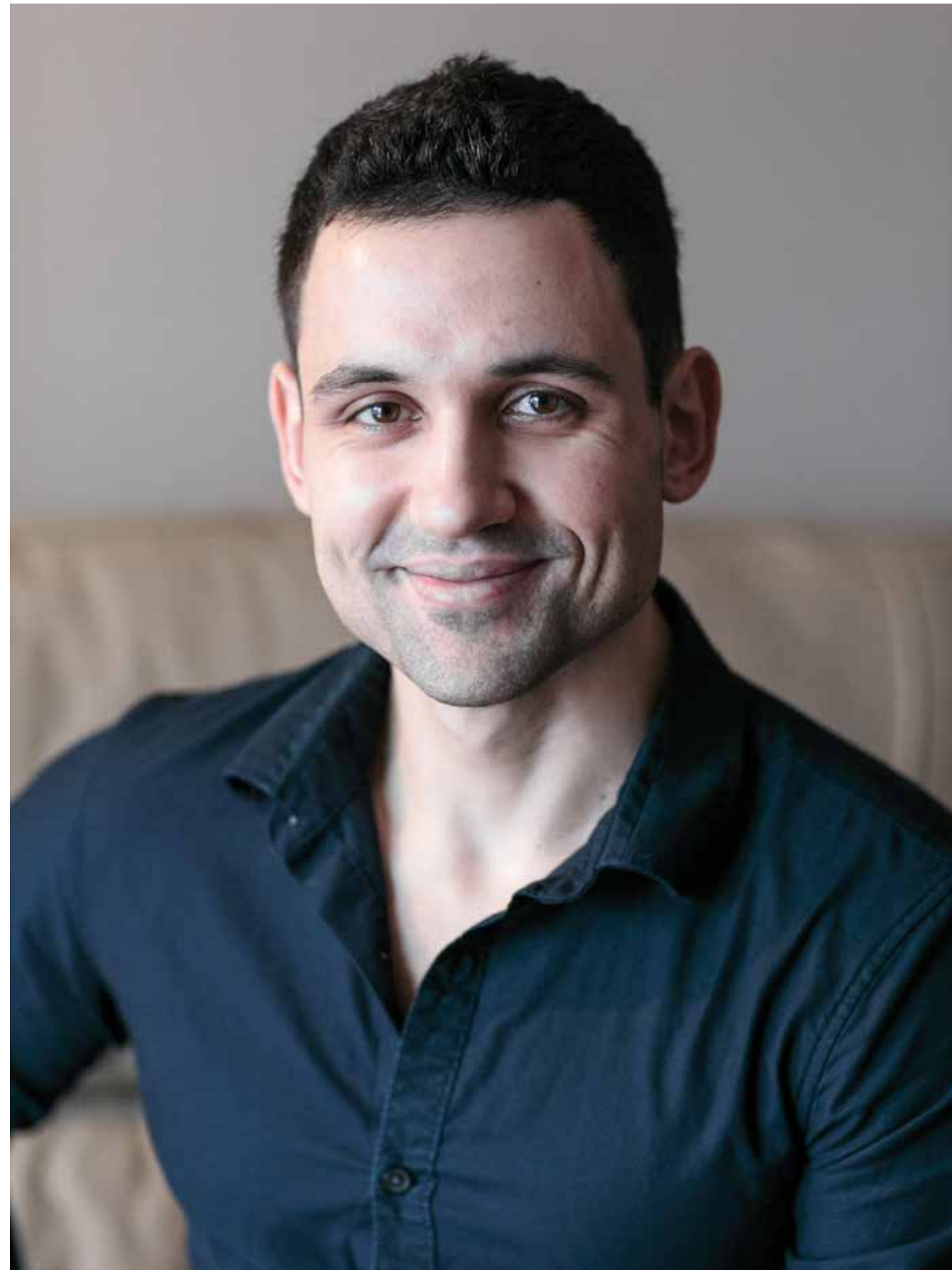


photo TINA COLELLA

# ALUMNI ROUNDUP

LISTED BY GRADUATION YEAR

## 1960s

» **Maryann Farrell '66** (Ed.) was inducted into the Union Catholic Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 30. Farrell began teaching English at Union Catholic in 1977 and remained part of the fabric of the school through 2014. She was chair of the English Department for two years, was named Teacher of the Year for the 1999-2000 school term, and received the Outstanding Educator of the Year award from the Archdiocese of Newark in 2000. Farrell supervised the remedial education program and helped develop the first-ever Multicultural English course at Union Catholic, and also served as the moderator for the yearbook and National Honor Society. She “retired” from teaching in 2000, but returned to work in the Stu-

dent Affairs office for five years before working in the admissions and development departments until 2014.

» **Connie Gryczka '66** (Art/Elem. Ed.), whose 20-year quest to identify and locate the site of an Italian church destroyed during World War II was chronicled in the Fall 2016 issue of *Monmouth*, was back in Italy in October 2017. While in Rome, she visited Musei Capitolini at the Piazza del Campidoglio, which was holding an exhibit that detailed the demise of works of art destroyed by war, illegal trade, and/or robbery. An entire room in the museum was dedicated to the ruined sculptures of Santa Maria Assunta-the church in Benevento, Italy, which Gryczka tracked down using just a photograph and the internet. Visit [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine) to read her full story.

» **Dr. Yvonne Thornton '69** (Bio.) (HN '95) was the keynote speaker at New Jersey City University's 36th annual Academic Convocation, held on Oct. 5, 2017. During her address, Dr. Thornton, a double board-certified specialist in obstetrics, gynecology, and maternal-fetal medicine, relayed the story of her family's triumph over racism and their journey to personal and career achievement. She shared stories of her father's determination to see his five daughters achieve success and move to a better life through higher education and careers in the medical field. She also described her ascent to the top of her field in the male-dominated world of academic medicine and credited her achievements to her father's life lessons, which taught her to attain her goals through perseverance and the will to rise above adversity. The first black woman in the United States to be board certified in high-risk obstetrics and to be accepted into the New York Obstetrical Society, Dr. Thornton has been listed in *New York Magazine* as one of the top 10 maternal-fetal medicine specialists in New York City. She is the author of the national best-selling memoir *The Ditchdigger's Daughters*, which was published in 1995 as a tribute to her parents. Featured on “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” the book was translated into 19 languages, adapted for a world premiere movie, and nominated for the Peabody Award and the Cable ACE Award for Best Picture. As senior M.S. in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Thornton established and developed the program for a new form of early, prenatal diagnostic testing known as CVS, or chorionic villus sampling.

## 1970s

» The Sigma Phi Omega fraternity was chartered at Monmouth College on March 21, 1960. Consisting of math and science majors, it existed until 1970-1971, when the

fraternity could no longer support its house. Without a place to gather for studying, meetings, and social events, the membership dwindled, and eventually the fraternity disbanded and all historical membership information was lost. In April 2016, assisted by the University Alumni office, **Robert Coben '70** (Elect. Eng./Phys.) sent out a mailer to all alumni who had indicated an affiliation with Sigma Phi Omega in the alumni database, hoping to reconnect with long-lost brothers. That effort yielded 39 contacts out of 81 in the database, although over the years there were over 100 brothers in total. Coben is looking to connect with more brothers. If you are a former brother or know someone who is, please contact him at Robert.Coben@alumni.monmouth.edu.

» **Edgar A. King '70** (Ed./Bio.) crossed an item off his bucket list when he experienced the raw adrenaline of stepping out of an airplane at Skydive Cross Keys in Williamstown, New Jersey, in celebration of his 70th birthday, which was in June. His “partner in crime” at the jump site was former Ocean Township Police Chief Robert Swannack, husband of Patti Swannack '02, the vice president for administrative services at Monmouth University. King is the former president of the Blue/White Leadership Council supporting Monmouth Athletics and is the owner of E.A. King Insurance and Condo Plus Property Management.

» The Rev. **Richard B. Barbour '73** (Engl./Ed.) recently retired as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Over the course of 39 years, he served four congregations in Branchville, New Jersey, Buffalo, New York, Rochester, New York, and Boca Raton, Florida. He and his wife Avis (nee Bertrand) continue to live in Boca Raton.

» **Denis J. Gallagher '76** (Bus. Adm.) is one of the recipients of NJBIZ's inaugural ICON Honors, a program that recognizes New

Jersey business leaders over the age of 60 for their years of success and good work in their industry and in the state. Gallagher is the founder, chairman, and CEO of Student Transportation Inc., North America's third-largest provider of school bus transportation services. The company is not only employee-focused and strives to make an impact through various community-giving initiatives, but is committed to cutting-edge, environmentally conscious programs that reduce emissions while providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation to students across North America.

» Borough of Fair Haven, New Jersey, administrator **Theresa S. Casagrande '79** (Elem. Ed.) (M.B.A. '87) was elected the 2018 president of the New Jersey Municipal Management Association (NJMMA). Casagrande, as well as the rest of the 2018 slate of officers and executive board members, was officially installed at the organization's annual awards luncheon, which took place during the New Jersey State League of Municipalities conference in Atlantic City in mid-November. Casagrande, a municipal management professional since

2005, has been an active member of NJMMA since 2009 and its executive board since 2012. She has served as Fair Haven's borough administrator since 2011, following an extended tenure in Spring Lake Heights. Casagrande is also a New Jersey-licensed municipal clerk and a certified tax collector.

## 1980s

» **Arthur C. Paoella '82** (Elect. Eng.), who is the senior scientist at Harris Corporation, a leading technology innovator headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, represented the company in Israel in early December when Florida Gov. Rick Scott highlighted the successful Florida-Israel Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Space Florida and Israel. The partnership, established between the two entities following the governor's 2011 trade mission to Israel, supports research, development, aerospace, and technology projects between Israeli and Florida businesses. The governor recognized 16 businesses from both Florida and Israel with the Governor's Ambassador Award. 📌

**NOT TO MISS »**  
April 25  
**ROGER  
MCGUINN**



The former front man of the influential '60s group, The Byrds, brings his fearless sense of experimentation to Pollak Theatre for a can't-miss solo show.

» **Lisa M. Winkler '83** (Engl.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **Rudy Masia '84** (Bus. Adm.) (M.B.A. '86). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **David Kiernan '87** (Elec. Eng.) (M.S. Elec. Eng. '00). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **William Richardson '87** (Bus. Fin./Bus. Mrkt.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **Jon Lenskold '88** (Elec. Eng.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» In November, **Christian Benedetto '89** (Bus. Adm.) announced the kickoff of the Centurion Project, an initiative that aims to get a penny, or coin, placed on each veteran's grave in every military cemetery across the U.S. by Memorial Day 2018. Each coin holds a different meaning: For ex-

ample, a penny left lets the family of the veteran know that you did not know their loved one, but that someone visited and paid their respects; a quarter indicates that the visitor was there when the veteran died. Part of the aim is to restore the meaning of Memorial Day, a day for remembering those who died in service of the United States. You can read more about Benedetto, a Marine Corps combat veteran, in the fall 2017 issue of *Monmouth*.

» **Bruce Kratz '89** (Comp. Sci.) is the chief technology officer at Sparta Systems, a leader in enterprise quality management software (EQMS) systems, serving pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biotechnology, and other highly regulated industries. Kratz, who was formerly the vice president of research and development, has had more than 25 years of experience working with EQMS systems, during which time he's held various



**EXECUTIVE CHEFS:** While visiting President Emerita Rebecca Stafford (right) at her home on Amelia Island, Florida, in January, President Grey Dimenna and Vice President for Student Life Mary Anne Nagy (not pictured) sampled Stafford's famous waffles. You can too: She shared the recipe at [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine). "They're very good," says Dimenna.

leadership positions with IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Bluestone Software, and Princeton Software. Kratz, who was appointed to the Dean's Advisory Council for the School of Science last year, also serves on the board of Thomas Edison State University Foundation as well as several advisory boards for small technology companies.

## 1990s

» **Kathleen Donnolly '91** (M.B.A.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **Tom Donnelly '92** (M.B.A.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **Alan Zwerling '92** (Comm.) is pleased to announce that New Jersey has its own Walking Dinosaur! Zwerling owns (and operates) Crunchy the T-Rex, New Jersey's own friendly animatronic carnivore. Crunchy is happy to attend birthday parties, corporate celebrations, retail and promotional events, weddings, town festivals, parades, and more, to make your event a roaring success. Those interested can contact Zwerling via [www.NJDINO.net](http://www.NJDINO.net).

» **Peter Bufano '94** (Bio./Chem.) is the director of rehabilitation and co-founder of Old Bridge Spine and Wellness in Old Bridge, New Jersey. Born and raised in Carteret, Bufano attended New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls, New York, and received his doctorate in chiropractic medicine in 1998. He is a graduate of the Spine Research Institute in San Diego, where he studied whiplash and traumatic brain injuries. Bufano earned his certification in neurodiagnostic electrophysiological evaluations at Neumann College in Aston, Pennsylvania, and in 2000, he earned his certification in sports medicine through NYCC in Long Island. Bufano, who specializes in musculoskeletal diagnosis and treatments, is a board-certified

chiropractor in New Jersey and is a current member of the Association of New Jersey Chiropractors who enjoys giving back to the community through his work with local sports teams. He and his wife live in Marlboro, New Jersey, with their three children.

» **Michael Cremen '95** (M.B.A.) joined Veritas Technologies as senior vice president of Americas sales. Cremen will lead a team of sales, technical, and services professionals committed to helping customers harness the power of their data, while accelerating market share across the Americas region, the largest geographical market for the company. Cremen is an accomplished business executive with a strong background in information management, data analytics, and cloud-based solutions. Previously, he managed an extensive business portfolio for IBM Global Technology Services and served as executive vice president of global sales for a subsidiary of Hitachi, leading a multibillion-dollar sales and services organization composed of 4,500 people in 130 countries. Cremen holds a B.A. in finance from The College of New Jersey and is a graduate of the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College's Executive Development Program.

» **Dan Weeks '95** (M.A. Hist.), former editor of *Monmouth* magazine, self-published a new book of poetry, *For Now: New and Collected Poems, 1979-2017*. Regarding the book, former U.S. Poet Laureate and honorary degree recipient Robert Pinsky said, "The wild, fearless imagination of *For Now* commands an engaging variety of subjects, feelings, sources, forms. That omnivorous range gains even more energy from the central element of poetry: mastery of sound. In the musicianship of Dan Weeks' sentences and lines an unpredictable, jazzy abundance thrives."

» **Robert Turner '96** (Crim. J.) was sworn in as Shrewsbury's police chief on December 20, 2017. Turner, who was hired as a patrolman in

1998, worked his way up the ranks and became acting chief on July 1, 2017, following the retirement of former chief Lou Ferraro. Turner lives in Ocean Township with his wife and three sons.

» **David Janezic '97** (Bus. Adm.). See note for Maryann (nee Christopher) Janezic, '98 (Comm.).

» **Jennifer (Ort) Lea Reynolds '97** (Comm.) recently appeared as the featured guest on "Health Check with Heidi Godman," a daily health talk radio show in the Tampa, Florida, market. Host Heidi Godman interviewed Reyn-olds about the kindness craze and the trend toward being mindful of how kind we are to each other. The live interview from November and the podcast are now available on [www.SarasotaTalkRadio.com](http://www.SarasotaTalkRadio.com). Reynolds, an established writer and advocate of spreading kindness by taking action, is the founder of The Kindness Couture, a website and Facebook page that provides others with feel-good inspiration, ideas, and articles. She was recently featured on the podcast "Distraction," where she discussed her Kindness Couture concept with host and renowned psychiatrist Dr. Edward "Ned" Hallowell.

» **Carrie (nee Goldstein) Boardwick '98** (Comm.) recently moved her family to Maryland after taking the position of vice president of philanthropy operations with Med-Star Health in Columbia, Maryland. Boardwick, who currently oversees the philanthropy operations for the entire health system, served as vice president of philanthropy operations for Hackensack Meridian Health for 15 years.

» **Maryann (nee Christopher) Janezic, '98** (Comm.) and David Janezic '97 (Bus. Adm.) welcomed their fourth child, Grayson David, on November 2, 2017. The couple has three other children, Macy Quinn, 4, Landon Robert, 3, and Hudson Christopher, 22 months. David is an assistant men's soccer coach at St. John's University in

Queens, New York, and Maryann owns Miss Mare's All About Dance studio in Eatontown, New Jersey. The couple resides in Wayside, New Jersey.

» **Bryan J. Dickerson '99M** (Hist.), a military and naval historian and twice-deployed Navy veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, had his first book, *The Liberators of Pilsen: The U.S. 16th Armored Division in World War II Czechoslovakia*, published by McFarland in December 2017. Through veterans' accounts and official U.S. Army records, Dickerson's book tells the complete story of the 16th, which was the last U.S. armored division to be activated in World War II, the last deployed to the European Theater, and the last to see combat. *Liberators* began as a research paper for an American Military History class Dickerson took in 1997 while pursuing his master's degree.

## 2000s

» **Kelly McAllister '00** (Comm.) was promoted to director of recruitment at Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore, located in Farmingdale, New Jersey.

» **Shannon Lyman Blacker '01** (Sp. Ed.) was inducted into the Bishop Fenwick High School Athletics Hall of Fame in November. Blacker led the Fenwick Crusaders to three straight state softball championships from 1994-1996, winning 15 consecutive games in the circle. A two-year captain, she finished out high school with a career record of 54-8 and an ERA of 0.54, with one perfect game. Blacker, who played three years of varsity field hockey and served as a captain her senior year, also played both sports as a Hawk while at Monmouth.

» **Katherine Mehrer '03** (Comm.) was recently promoted to the position of assistant director of the Student Success Center at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. [▶](#)



**CELEBRATIONS** **ENGAGEMENTS:** 1. Emily Fixter '11 and Nicholas DelTufo '11. 2. Christina Grothues '13 and Ryan Forrest '13. 3. Kaitlyn Krysiak '13 and Michael Funtsch. **WEDDINGS:** 4. Gretchen DeWynGaert '04 and Jeff Hemschoot. 5. Patrick Guaschino '07 and Heather Trachta-Guaschino. 6. Elizabeth Ricciardi '08 and Bryant Moore '11. 7. Jacqueline Turner '12 and Eric Bancroft '09. 8. Kristin Gaul '12, '16M and Brenden Bernhard '12. 9. Stefania Flecca '12 and John Shjarback '12. 10. Danielle Toritto '13 and Joseph Tarquini '13. 11. Brielle Parady '14 and Troy Easton '11. 12. Laura Curtin '16 and Kyle Kurczeski '10. **BIRTHS:** 13. Maryann '98 and David '97 Janezic, son Grayson, Nov. 2, 2017. 14. Teresa '06 and Paul '08 Martinez, daughter Cecilia, Sept. 13, 2017. 15. Brad '08 and Jenae Brach, daughter Brilee, Dec. 18, 2017. 16. Dominique '08 and Doug Trosky, daughter Madison, Nov. 9, 2017. 17. Nicole '11 and Anthony '10 Jennosa, son Anthony, Aug. 25, 2017. 18. Chelsea Lorentz '12 and Juan Fernandez, daughter Emalynn, July 11, 2017. 19. Nicole '12 and Michael Baniowski, daughter Avery, June 25, 2017. 20. Ruth Bazzano '15 and Scott Swayze, daughter Rebecca, Aug. 3, 2017.

» **Gretchen DeWynGaert '04** (Sp. Ed.) wed Jeff Hemschoot at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank, New Jersey, on November 10, 2017. Jeff's sons, Matthew, 4, and Andrew, 2, were in the wedding party, and many fellow alumni were in attendance at the special occasion, which was officiated by Governor-elect Phil Murphy.

» **Philip Dunn Jr. '05** (Poli. Sci.) and **Kathryn (Croce) Dunn '06** (Music) welcomed a daughter, Elaine Eldredge, on Oct. 10, 2017.

» **Laura Curtin '06** (Hist./Ed.) wed Kyle Kurczeski '10 (Hist./Ed.) on October 20, 2017. The couple took photos in Erlanger Garden before being married in a ceremony at the Eatontown Double Tree, which was attended by 16 alumni.

» **Teresa Mancini Martinez '06** (For. Lang.) and **Paul Martinez '08** (Intl. Bus./For. Lang.) welcomed their first child, a daughter named Cecilia Rose Martinez, on September 13, 2017.

» **Patrick Guaschino '07** (Comm.) and Dr. Heather Trachta-Guaschino were married on August 5, 2017.

» **Marta Velez '07** (Bus. Adm.) wed James Conahan '08 (Bus. Adm.) on June 2, 2017.

» **Brad Brach '08** (Hist./Ed.) and his wife Jenae welcomed daughter Brilee Kay Brach on December 18, 2017.

» **James Conahan '08** (Bus. Adm.). See note for Marta Velez '07.

» **Paul Martinez '08** (Intl. Bus./For. Lang.). See note for Teresa Mancini Martinez '06 (For. Lang.).

» **Elizabeth Ricciardi '08** (Engl./Sp. Ed.) and Bryant Moore '11 (Psych.) were married on November 3, 2017, at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, New Jersey. Ricciardi is a pre-K teacher in the Lakewood Public School District. Moore works as an operations manager for an entertainment company in

Marlboro, New Jersey. The couple took their engagement photos on campus on April 1, 2017, and make their home in Toms River, New Jersey.

» **Dominique (nee Roentgen) Trosky '08** (Comm.) and Doug Trosky welcomed daughter Madison Hope on November 9, 2017.

» **Veronica Vergara '08** (Comp. Sci.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

» **Eric Bancroft '09** (Comm.). See note for Jacqueline Turner '12.

» **Jill (Epstein) Gindi '09** (Anthr./Sp. Ed.) and **Danielle (Fabbraro) Reid '09** (Engl./Sp. Ed.) were each recognized as Teacher of the Year within their respective school districts. Gindi is a second-grade teacher at Shrewsbury Borough School in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, and Reid is a first-grade special education teacher at Clark Mills Elementary in Manalapan, New Jersey. Both alumni were in classes together and returned to Monmouth in May 2017 to be honored at the Monmouth County Superintendents' Professional Recognition Ceremony.

» **Dianna Hnat '09** (M.S. Soft. Eng.). See note for Allison Barrow '10 (Comm.).

## 2010s

» Monmouth alumni who are employees at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst gathered for a group photo at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Nov. 1, 2017. Employees including **Allison Barrow '10** (Comm.), Kathleen Donnolly '91 (M.B.A.), Tom Donnelly '92 (M.B.A.), Dianna Hnat '09 (M.S. Soft. Eng.), David Kiernan '87 (Elec. Eng.) (M.S. Elec. Eng. '00), Jon Lenskold '88 (Elec. Eng.), William Richardson '87 (Bus. Fin./Bus. Mrkt.), Rudy Masia '84 (Bus. Adm.) (M.B.A. '86), Kyle Perry '15 (Bus. Adm.), Veronica Vergara '08 (Comp. Sci.), and Lisa M. Winkler

'83 (Engl.) work in various career fields, including engineering, business, corporate operations, and more. NAWCAD Lakehurst is the Navy's engineering support activity for Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) and Naval Aviation Support Equipment (SE), and is responsible for maintaining fleet support and infusing modern technology across the entire spectrum of equipment needed to launch, land, and maintain aircraft from ships at sea.

» **Samantha Hegmann '10** (Hlth. St.) has been added to Hofstra University's compliance staff as assistant director of athletics for NCAA education and compliance services. Hegmann, who worked as the assistant director for compliance at Monmouth since 2012, also served as the interim senior associate athletics director for student-athlete development and as senior women's administrator. In her capacity at Monmouth, she oversaw compliance operations for 23 Division I teams, monitored initial eligibility, recruiting, camp, and clinic approval, official visits, compliance paperwork and playing, and practice regulations. She was also the sport administrator for the school's softball team. Prior to her time at Monmouth, Hegmann spent nearly a year as the administrative fellow for compliance at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference after serving as the assistant track and field coach for throwing events at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. She competed in Division I track and field at Monmouth and went on to complete her master's in physical education and sport management at Adelphi University in 2011.

» **Anthony Jennosa '10** (Bus. Adm.). See note for Nicole Jennosa '11.

» **Kyle Kurczeski '10** (Hist./Ed.). See note for Laura Curtin '06 (Hist./Ed.).

» **Jennifer Renson '10** (Comm.) published *The Cottontail* (Pulse, 2017) a prequel to *Carousel*, the first young adult novel she wrote, which landed her the 2015 Best

*Continued, p. 52*

# JUST HER CUP OF TEA

HOW A FRESHMAN SEMINAR LED KAITLYN BAKLARZ ON A CAREER PATH FULL OF FLAVOR

BY TONY MARCHETTI



As part of her M.B.A. studies, Baklarz completed an analysis of the tea industry and wrote a business plan for starting her own tea company.

**S**tories about how a single class changed a person's life can sometimes seem cliché. Except for Kaitlyn Baklarz '14, '15M, it actually happened.

Baklarz says her knowledge of tea didn't extend beyond "your standard grocery store teabag" when she arrived at Monmouth for her freshman year. Then she took Professor James Konopack's First-Year Seminar, Tea Appreciation, which explored the history, art, science, and culture of the ancient beverage. "The class opened up a whole new world to me," says Baklarz.

As a sophomore, she served as Konopack's teaching assistant for the seminar. Then, she completed an independent study in which she examined the tea industry from a business perspective. For that course, she attended the World Tea Expo in Las Vegas, where she learned about processing and cultivation methods; saw tea-related products yet to hit the market;

heard the latest research on the health benefits of tea; and networked with growers, buyers, wholesalers, retailers, and distributors from around the world.

The expo is normally open only to industry professionals, says Baklarz, but Konopack arranged for her to attend as a student researcher. "He just went out of his way to make sure I had the tools I needed to succeed," she says.

For his part, Konopack says Baklarz "took her passion for the subject beyond the brick and mortar in ways I never thought a student would. She had the courage to pursue it on a global scale and make connections I didn't even know were there for her."

One of those connections helped Baklarz secure an internship at the Kyoto Obubu Tea Farms in Japan last summer, where, among other things, she worked in the fields with the company's lead farmer harvesting and processing the crops.

"Tea farming is an art," says Baklarz. "It can take only a few days for a bud to appear, open up, and grow into a leaf. Missing the harvest can compromise the tea's quality, as cer-

**"TEA FARMING IS AN ART. IT CAN TAKE ONLY A FEW DAYS FOR A BUD TO APPEAR, OPEN UP, AND GROW INTO A LEAF. MISSING THE HARVEST CAN COMPROMISE THE TEA'S QUALITY, AS CERTAIN TEAS MAY REQUIRE THAT ONLY THE BUD OR A CERTAIN NUMBER OF LEAVES BE PICKED."**

tain teas may require that only the bud or a certain number of leaves be picked. The timing of the harvest is of utmost importance. So having the opportunity to work directly under a tea farmer—someone who has dedicated his entire life to harvesting and processing tea—was incredible."

Back in the States since August, Baklarz is currently an event marketing specialist for DAVIDsTEA, overseeing community outreach and event planning for 13 stores in New England. "I'm making sure our brand is seen," says Baklarz. "We're a Canadian company, and some people aren't familiar with us yet." She's also still learning everything she can about her favorite beverage—taking classes with the World Tea Academy while working toward becoming a Certified Tea Specialist. Her hope is that certification takes her one step closer to her ultimate goal: working as a tea buyer.

"To be able to visit different regions and buy the tea for the company, meet with the farmers, see where the tea is growing, and develop new tea blends—that's really my dream."

## TEA FOR YOU

With thousands of tea varieties to choose from, it can be more than a little overwhelming deciding which ones to try. We asked Baklarz to recommend some of her favorites.

<b>DAVIDsTEA's Vanilla Orchid</b> Made from Huangjin Gui, a premium oolong grown in China's Fujian province, this aromatic tea features a hint of vanilla. And, it's vegan.	<b>Kyoto Obubu Tea Farms' Kabuse Sencha</b> Sencha, Japan's most popular tea, is known for its rich, earthy taste and sweet aroma.	<b>Harney &amp; Sons' Paris</b> A blend of black and oolong teas with added black currant, vanilla, and caramel flavors, this smells as good as it tastes.	<b>Ippodo Tea Co. Matcha</b> Matcha, a powder made from grinding green tea leaves, is incredibly popular right now. If drinking it isn't your cup of tea, there are a multitude of Matcha-flavored products—from KitKats to cheesecakes—you'll want to sample.	<b>Tea Drunk's Jun Shan Yin Zhen (Yellow Tea)</b> This is China's rarest tea, so expect to pay a bit more for it. But this sweet-tasting tribute tea is well worth the price.	<b>TeaGschwendner's Autumn Spice</b> Another tea whose aroma will have you hooked before the first sip, this blend features black teas from Sri Lanka, China, and India and boasts notes of cinnamon, orange and lemon peel, star anise, anise, and clove.
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*Continued from p. 49*

in YA Fiction Award from Urban Literary Agency. Along with her two novels, Renson has self-published three books of poetry and photography.

» **Matthew B. Rhoades '10** (M.S. Soft. Eng.) wed Dr. Jaclyn Bewick on November 5, 2016. The ceremony was held at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and was followed by a reception at the Hilton Scranton and Conference Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The couple, who honeymooned in Hawaii, reside in Clarks Green, Pennsylvania.

» **Kara Antonides '11** (Crim. J.) (M.A. Crim. J. '12) joined the Freehold Township Police Department as a police officer on December 19. Prior to her new role, Antonides was employed as an area loss prevention manager for a department store.

» **Nicholas DelTufo '11** (Bus. Adm.). See note for Emily Fixter '11.

» **Troy Easton '11** (Hist./Poli. Sci.). See note for Brielle Parady '14.

» **Emily Fixter '11** (Bus. Adm.) is engaged to wed Nicholas DelTufo '11 (Bus. Adm.) on September 15, 2018.

» **Nicole (Rose) Jennosa '11** (Engl./Elem. Ed.) and Anthony Jennosa '10 (Bus. Adm.) welcomed a son, Anthony James, on August 25, 2017.

» **Bryant Moore '11** (Psych.). Please see note for Elizabeth Ricciardi '08.

» **Samantha Stillo '11** (Poli. Sci.) is an attorney for the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman, and Spitzer in its commercial litigation practice group.

» **Jacqueline Turner '12** (Bio.) wed Eric Bancroft '09 (Comm.) on Sept. 16, 2017, at Clarks Landing in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Before the ceremony, the couple spent two hours taking photos

and video around campus with their bridal party, which included fellow Hawks William Bancroft '12 (Comm.) Eugene Henke '09 (Comm.), Philip McGevna '09 (Comm.), Brittany Ackerley '13 (Engl.), and Ashley Girard '12 (Engl./Elem. Ed.) (M.S. Ed.).

» **Nicole (Andretta) Baniowski '12** (Comm.) and her husband, Michael, welcomed a daughter, Avery Taylor, on June 25, 2017.

» **Brenden Bernhard '12** (Crim. J.). See note at Kristin Gaul '12, '16M.

» **Stefania Flecca '12** (Engl./Ed.) and John Shjarback '12 (M.A. Crim. J.) were married in Newark, New Jersey, on July 30, 2017, with a reception at Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park following the ceremony.

» **Kristin Gaul '12** (Anthr./Elem. Ed.) (M.S. Ed. '16) and **Brenden Bernhard '12** (Crim. J.) were married on July 8, 2017, in Red Bank, New Jersey. Kristin is a teacher for the Long Branch Board of Education. Brenden is a police officer for the Township of Ocean, New Jersey. They recently purchased a home in Howell Township, New Jersey.

» History teacher **Susan Kane '12** (M.A. Pub. Pol.) was named Cedar Creek High School's teacher of the year. A graduate of Shore Regional High School, Kane received her bachelor's degree in secondary education and history from Georgian Court University and has been employed with the Egg Harbor Township School district for 17 years. At Cedar Creek, where she's worked since its opening in 2010, Kane teaches U.S. History II and AP U.S. History. She lives in Oceanport with her son, Jonathon, and her fiancé, John Hawryluk.

» **Chelsea Lorentz '12** (Bio.) and Juan Fernandez welcomed daughter Emalynn Laura Lorentz Fernandez on July 11, 2017.

» **Dharm Patel '12** (Bio.) completed his Ph.D. in biochemistry

from Rutgers University-New Brunswick in July 2017, with a certificate in Pharmaceutical and Clinical Trial Management. His research, which focused on DNA repair mechanisms in cancer, was published in the *Journal of Cell Biology*. Patel has joined LEO Pharma Inc. as the project manager of scientific affairs for the psoriasis franchise. LEO Pharma Inc., headquartered in Madison, New Jersey, is a specialty pharmaceutical company in the dermatology space, with treatments for psoriasis, actinic keratosis, and atopic dermatitis.

» **John Shjarback '12** (M.A. Crim. J.). See note for Stefania Flecca '12.

» **Javier F. Casado Pérez '13** (M.S. Ment. Hlth. Coun.) Ph.D., NCC, is an assistant professor in the Counselor Education Department at Portland State University, specializing in marital, couples, and family counseling. He earned his master's with a specialization in marriage and family counseling and his Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision from Pennsylvania State University. Casado Pérez has been actively involved with equity work in higher education and professional counseling, and has maintained a diverse counseling practice in crisis, therapeutic foster home, court-mandated, and university settings. His focus is on minoritized faculty success and change making in academia, mental health justice, and equity, and the effects of sociopolitical activism on family and couples relationships.

» **Michael DiBerardino '13** (Comm.). See note for Jennifer Jamieson '13 (Bus. Adm.).

» **Christina Grothues '13** (Comm.) and **Ryan Forrest '13** (Bus. Adm.) met at Monmouth during their freshman year—he was a brother of Theta Zi, and she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma. After they had dated for a little over seven years, Ryan proposed at Pier Village in Long Branch, New Jersey. The 



**CELEBRATIONS** **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:** **1.** President Grey Dimenna and staff from the university engagement and career services offices visited with Monmouth alumni who work at SHI International in December. **2.** Eleven alumni who are employees at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst gathered at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Nov. 1, 2017. **3.** Robert Coben '70 is looking to connect with members of the now-defunct Monmouth chapter of the Sigma Phi Omega fraternity. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACCOLADES:** **4.** Connie Gryczka '66 visited Rome in October, where an entire room in the Musei Capitolini at the Piazza del Campidoglio was dedicated to the ruined sculptures of Santa Maria Assunta—the church in Benevento, Italy, which Gryczka tracked down using just a photograph and the internet. **5.** Arthur C. Paolella '82, the senior scientist at Harris Corporation, a technology company headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, represented the company in Israel in early December when Florida Gov. Rick Scott recognized 16 businesses with the Governor's Ambassador Award. **6.** Jill Gindi '09 and Danielle Reid '09 were each recognized as Teacher of the Year within their respective New Jersey school districts. **7.** Edgar A. King '70 crossed an item off his bucket list after skydiving in celebration of his 70th birthday in June 2017. **8.** Alan Zwerling '92 is now the owner and operator of Crunchy, a friendly animatronic T-rex.

two are planning to get married on July 14, 2018.

» **Jennifer Jamieson ’13** (Bus. Adm.) is engaged to wed Michael DiBerardino ’13 (Comm.) on August 25, 2018.

» **Kaitlyn Krysiak ’13** (Engl./Elem. Ed.) became engaged to Michael Funtsch on June 17, 2017. The bride-to-be graduated from Monmouth University and received her master’s degree from The College of New Jersey. She works as a special education teacher at George Washington Middle School in Ridgewood, New Jersey. The groom-to-be is a graduate of Rutgers University and is currently pursuing his M.B.A. at William Paterson University. He works in finance and accounting at Health and Wellness Partners of Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. The happy couple will be married on July 21, 2018.

» **Danielle Toritto ’13** (Ed./Hlth. St. Phys. Ed.) wed **Joseph Tarquini ’13** (Bus. Adm.) (M.B.A. ’15) in a ceremony at the Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel in Asbury Park on Nov. 24, 2017. Many alumni were in attendance, including Jessica Toritto ’12 (Crim. J.), Luke DeSimone ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Vincent DuVernois ’13 (Bus. Adm.) (M.B.A. ’14), Alex Ferrara ’13

(Clin. Lab. Sci.), Joseph Heinz ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Peter LaSpina ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Stacey Lepes ’13 (Psych.) (M.S. Ed. ’16), Emily MacEwen ’13 (Psych.), Ann Marie Moccia ’13 (Elem. Ed./Anthr.), Joseph Natelli ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Michelle Pieczynski ’13 (Hlth. St.), Mark Romeo ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Francesco Rubino ’13 (Crim. J.), Michael Voitovich ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Louis Yuliano ’13 (Bus. Adm.), Sandra Jean-Romain ’13 (Anthr./Sp. Ed.), Jacquelyn Mosca ’15 (Bus. Adm.), Nicholas Tarquini ’17 (Bus. Adm.), and Robert Tarquini ’20.

» **Kelly Craig ’14** (Poli. Sci.) is the director of development at the American Repertory Ballet.

» *Synod*, the debut historical novel from **Dan C. Gunderman ’14** (Comm.), was published by Zimbell House in January. The book, an ambitious tale of a 19th-century war veteran who is thrust into a leadership position in a fledgling and remote religious community in New Jersey’s Ramapough Mountains, is both an endeavor in world rebuilding and a fast-paced examination of the law and complacency of the era. Gunderman is a former staff writer and film/TV critic for the *New York Daily News*. He’s currently the associate editor of a media

# SEND US YOUR NEWS

» Online: **monmouth.edu/ClassNotes**

» By email: **classnotes@monmouth.edu**

» By mail: **Class Notes, Monmouth University Magazine, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898.**

*Monmouth University encourages alumni to share news regarding career changes, awards and honors, marriages, anniversaries, births, and other life events for inclusion in Class Notes. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. We welcome submissions of high-resolution digital images for possible inclusion with your class note; however, we reserve the right not to print submitted photos due to space limitations or issues with image resolution. In addition to the news items sent by alumni, the university receives press releases from businesses and organizations announcing alumni achievements, and subscribes to an online news clipping service that provides news items about alumni. These items are edited and placed in the appropriate class section. Monmouth magazine staff members try to verify the accuracy of this information; however, the university cannot be responsible for incorrect information contained herein. If you would like us to correct any inaccuracies that have been printed, please contact the magazine at [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu).*

site covering cybersecurity and a contributing film critic to different outlets. He received his M.F.A. in creative writing from Fairfield University, where his studies focused on historical fiction.

» **Brian T. Newman ’14** (Crim. J.) has joined the law firm of Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford, P.C. of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, as an associate attorney. Newman, who graduated magna cum laude from Temple University School of Law in 2017, was awarded the Beasley Scholarship, a full merit scholarship, and won Best Paper and Distinguished Classroom Performance honors prior to graduating. He also participated in the State Judicial Clerkship Honors Clinic. His practice focuses on criminal defense, civil litigation, landlord-tenant, and consumer protection and collections law. Prior to joining Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford as an associate attorney, Newman served as a law clerk for the firm for one and a half years. Previously, he was a judicial intern for the Hon. Holly J. Ford in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and interned for the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office. Newman is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Montgomery County Bar Association.

» **Brielle Parady ’14** (M.A.C.P.C.) married Troy Easton ’11 (Hist./Poli. Sci.) on January 7, 2017.

» **Harmony Bailey ’15** (Hist./Poli. Sci.) graduated in May 2017 with her M.A. in social justice and human rights from Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona. She self-published her thesis, “Who Are The Feminists Now? 21st Century Postmodern Feminism’s Impact on Capitalism, Culture, Gender & Sexuality.” She recently accepted a position as a civil litigation paralegal for the law firm of Lippman Recupero in Tucson, Arizona.

» **Ruth Bazzano ’15** (M.S.W.) and Scott Swayze welcomed daughter

Rebecca Vienna Swayze on August 3, 2017.

» Former Hawks **Max DiLeo ’15** (Bus. Adm.) and Chris Brady ’17 (Comm.) played against each other in a German ProA league game in Main Kinzig Halle in Hanau, Germany, on Nov. 25, 2017. DiLeo, a point guard for RheinStars Koln, and Brady, a center for the Hebeisen White Wings Hanau, stepped away from the action to snap a photo together. RheinStars Koln bested the White Wings Hanau 96-82.

» **Kyle Perry ’15** (Bus. Adm.) See note for Allison Barrow ’10 (Comm.).

» **Lauren Taylor ’15** (M.S.W.) is engaged to wed Daniel Duncan on July 28, 2018.

» **Danielle Axelrod ’16** (Comm.) is now the varsity girl’s lacrosse coach at Arlington High School in Lagrangeville, New York. The former Hawk and three-time MAAC all-academic team member is a former standout athlete at Arlington High School, where she was named the *Poughkeepsie Journal’s* Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year as a senior in 2012.

» **Erin McDermott ’16** (Hist.), who self-published two young adult romance novels in 2017, including *Captive Rebel*, published in July, and *Immortal Rebel*, published in November, signed copies of her first novel at Little Boho Bookshop on Broadway in Bayonne on Sept. 9, 2017. McDermott is currently working on the third book in The Allegiance series, titled *Forgotten Rebel*.

» **Chris Brady ’17** (Comm.). See note for Max DiLeo ’15.

» Since graduating, **Zach Karvelas ’17** (Comm.) has worked at Oceana, an international ocean advocacy and conservation organization located in Washington, D.C., as a member of its field team, primarily helping to build grassroots opposition against offshore oil and gas development in the Atlantic. 

## IN MEMORIAM

» ALUMNI  
Faye Glenn Abdellah ’75 (Psych.) (HN ’82) Feb. 24, 2017  
Susan E. Allen ’75 (Elem. Ed.) Dec. 25, 2017  
Richard S. Bargloski ’97 (Crim. J.) Oct. 1, 2017  
Michael Baron ’66 (Hist.) Jan. 8, 2018  
William R. Beam Jr. ’59 (Bus. Adm.) Dec. 12, 2017  
Elmer F. Beck ’46 (A.A. Elec. Eng.) Nov. 6, 2017  
C. Russell Brahn ’63 (Physics) Oct. 28, 2017  
William J. Brennan ’72 (Elem. Ed.) Oct. 4, 2017  
Gov. Brendan T. Byrne ’99HN (Public Servant in Residence, 2011-12), Jan. 4, 2018  
Lisa Charles ’85 (Bus. Adm.) Jan. 3, 2018  
Phyllis Cohen ’72 (Elem. Ed.) Aug. 20, 2017  
Peter S. Cooke ’62 (Hist.) Nov. 22, 2017  
Warren S. Crammer ’59 (Bus. Adm.) Jan. 13, 2018  
Larry DeGrande ’75 (Ed./Art) Dec. 29, 2017  
Ernest J. Dragos ’61 (Bus. Adm.) Oct. 14, 2017  
Henry K. Ell ’06 (Hist.) Oct. 6, 2017  
Susan Epstein ’76 (For. Lang.) Oct. 12, 2017  
Anna Falk (née Skold) ’62 (Elem. Ed.) Dec. 19, 2017  
Joseph “Joe” S. Falkowski ’66 (Bio) Jan. 10, 2018  
Joseph W. Finley ’62 (Bus. Adm.) Dec. 27, 2017  
John T. Fitzgerald ’64 (Ed./Hist.) Oct. 7, 2017  
Jeffrey George Haese ’75 (Elec. Eng.) Aug. 17, 2017  
James Jay Harran ’60 (Bus. Adm.) Nov. 28, 2017  
Julian Hoffman ’41 (A.A. Bus. Adm.) Dec. 6, 2017  
John Gasparini ’87 (M.B.A.) Dec. 5, 2017  
Victor M. Genco ’59 (Engl.) Sept. 25, 2017  
Rosemarie (Troutman) Jacobsen ’67 (A.A.) (B.S. Elem. Ed. ’70) August 2017  
Robert E. Keffer ’84 (M.B.A.) Sept. 1, 2017  
Erich Manfred Klaiber ’65 (Chem.) Sept. 4, 2017  
Thomas J. Larson ’91 (M.B.A.) Dec. 27, 2017  
Linda Ledwitz ’64 (Elem. Ed.) (M.S. Ed. ’83) Jan. 10, 2018  
Nicholas Minas Lentis ’61 (Bus. Adm.) Oct. 24, 2017  
Albert A. Levitt ’60 (Bus. Adm.) Nov. 9, 2017  
Margaret V. Lisby Melville ’82 (M.S. Ed.) Jan. 3, 2018  
Lisa Ann Lorenzo ’93 (Crim. J.) Nov. 9, 2017  
Jennifer Marzulli ’09 (Music) Aug. 30, 2017  
Barbara A. Metzger ’89 (Bus. Adm.) Dec. 3, 2017  
Teresa G. McCue ’59 (Elem. Ed.) (A.A. Lib. Stu. ’55) Nov. 20, 2017  
Eileen McGowan ’88 (Hist./Poli. Sci.) May 28, 2009  
Carlos Moreno-Martin ’90 (For. Lang.) Dec. 11, 2017  
Paul Mudrick ’66 (Elem. Ed.) November 2017  
Paul Philip Vincent Muehter III ’66 (Chem.) Sept. 27, 2017

Julissa J. Novillo ’97 (Bus. Adm.) Dec. 2, 2017  
Ralph A. Padrone ’75 (Bus. Adm.) Dec. 18, 2017  
David Pasterino ’70 (Elec. Eng.) November 2017  
Eddy Howard Pevovar ’97 (Ed.) Sept. 6, 2017  
Jenelle A. Phulchand ’02 (Crim. J.) (M.A. Crim. J. ’04) Sept. 1, 2017  
Anthony “Tony” Quatrone ’70 (M.S. Ed.) Nov. 30, 2017  
Arthur Rothman ’61 (Bus. Adm.) Nov. 1, 2017  
Herbert C. Roy ’69 (Physics) July 9, 2017  
John H. Schmenkel ’66 (Bus. Adm./Poli. Sci.) Aug. 7, 2017  
Karen Spallina ’74 (Elem. Ed.) Nov. 9, 2017  
Joan H. Spiegel ’77 (M.A.T.) Nov. 19, 2017  
Victor A. Torchia ’63 (Bus. Adm.) Oct. 15, 2017  
Danielle Tubbert ’06 (M.B.A.) Oct. 31, 2017  
Frank Weiland ’68 (A.A. Ed.) Nov. 16, 2017  
Robert “Bob” Wilderman ’67 (Psych.) Aug. 25, 2017  
Anna Alexandra Williams ’08 (Ed. /Hist./Poli. Sci.) Aug. 29, 2017  
Edward “Joseph” Wooters ’68 (Bus. Adm.) Aug. 29, 2017  
Susan L. Yacubovich (nee Sutton) ’03 (Psych.) (M.A.T. ’05) Jan. 21, 2018

» FRIENDS  
Robert Edwin Eelman (former student) Sept. 7, 2017  
Dane M. Fante ’20 (student) Feb. 3, 2018  
Fred Fraterrigo (friend) Oct. 20, 2017  
Guy A. Little (former student) Sept. 29, 2017  
Joseph Melhem (former student) Jan. 7, 2018  
Thomas F. Murtha (former professor) Nov. 24, 2017  
Rita (Canino) Napolitano (former student) Oct. 24, 2017  
Jane Plangere (friend) Feb. 23, 2018  
Salvatore Ripandelli (former adjunct professor) Aug. 25, 2017  
Nancy Schermond (former student) Nov. 12, 2017  
Peter Charles Sexton (former student) Dec. 14, 2017  
Ronald Smith Schanck Sr. (former student) Sept. 16, 2017  
Vincent Renzo (former student) Oct. 13, 2017  
Judith Iris Rothenberg (library association board member) Aug. 23, 2017  
Tyler Terry ’22 (incoming freshman) Feb. 11, 2018  
Raymond Tierney Jr. (former professor) Sept. 19, 2017  
David J. Tietge (former professor) Nov. 28, 2017  
Jake Tooley ’20 (student) Aug. 28, 2017  
Dorothy Louise Waltz (former student) Aug. 13, 2017

## NOT TO MISS »

June 18  
**35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MONMOUTH ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING**



Enjoy a day on the links at Deal Golf and Country Club while helping to support Hawk student-athletes. Registration and sponsorship info at [monmouthhawks.com/golfouting](http://monmouthhawks.com/golfouting).

MY LIFE SINCE MONMOUTH » Career dossier

# AL MOTT

FOUNDER OF SENIOR AMERICA INC.

COMPILED BY MOLLY PETRILLA



Dustin Fenstermacher



## EDUCATION

**Monmouth College '57 (A.A.), '58**

» "I was part of **Monmouth's first graduating class** as a four-year school. We moved from night classes at Long Branch High School to Wilson Hall, which was like being in Versailles. We hardly wanted to touch anything because we didn't want to ruin it."



Monmouth University Archives

## Oral Roberts

**University '59 (M.Div., Theology)**

» "Because I was the only Catholic male student in the whole school, I was told I didn't have to listen to Oral Roberts because he wasn't my Pope!"

**New York Theological Seminary '89 (D.Min.)**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1959-65

**Record Producer**

» "I **recorded the Monmouth Collegians and College Dance Band** performing under the supervision of the great band leader Tommy Tucker."

1961-63

**Signed singer with 20th Century Fox Records**

» "I performed all over: weddings, funerals, ice capers skating performances, TV shows, radio."

1963-65

**Manager of The Mods**

» "I got the band on 'Candid Camera,' but when they decided to go to college and pursue other professions, I went back to school myself."

1969-70

**Founder and Director of Life-Line Inc. in Asbury Park**

» "The seniors were suffering. There were no programs for them in our area. This had to be rectified somehow, so I opened Life-Line and told any seniors that needed help to call."

1970-79

**Creator and Director of Operations for Asbury Park Senior Center**

1980-present

**Founder of Senior America Inc. (served as president until 2010)**

» "I created the **Ms. Senior America Pageant** for contestants who are 60 years and older. I tell them, you have reached the Age of Elegance!"

1993-96

**Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hudson County**



Courtesy of Al Mott

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

"LOVE THOSE WHO ARE ELDERLY BECAUSE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, AND RESOURCES ARE REALLY AMERICA'S NATURAL TREASURE."



Dustin Fenstermacher



# ALUMNI WEEKEND June 8-10

## Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Reception

**Friday, 6-8 p.m.**

Honoring David Calloway '91, '95M;  
Mary Beth Byrnes Stehle '96, '98M;  
and the 1977 Baseball Team.

## Campus Tour

**Saturday, 4 p.m.**

Check out our newest campus additions.

## Rooftop Bash

**Saturday, 5-8 p.m.**

Great music, fun eats, and cool cocktails on the Wilson Hall roof.

## Jack's After Party

**Saturday, 8:30 p.m.**

The party continues at Jack's Goal Line Stand.

## Hawks Hit the Beach

**Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a family-friendly day at the beach and discounts at select West End shops and eateries.

**monmouth.edu/alumniweekend**

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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**1,000 WORDS »** A story in a picture

## ROAD TRIP

Remember when you could just hop in your roommate's car and head out on the highway? Maybe you hit the slopes for a weekend or headed south for Spring Break. Maybe you went wherever the open road took you. We want to hear about the road trips you took in college. Send your stories to [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or to the address above.

