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THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » SUMMER 2018



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Katie Carey's whimsical art helped bring our Summer Fun Guide to life.

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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LETTERS

RE: SPRING 2018

I read it cover to cover. Great articles, especially the cover photo and accompanying story about Bruce Springsteen.

Barbara Levitt Grapka '72

Building on last issue's "Name Game" piece celebrating the late Jane Freed's support for the field hockey program, I'd place her among the most important alumni in Monmouth University history. The Freed Foundation and Jane's estate have endowed several scholarships for the next generation of students, and the Honors School would not exist without Jane's vision and leadership. The Freed Awards for Honors School students embody the transformative impact of student research, reflecting years of advanced academic work that creates leaders in every industry. Her commitment was a key element in the emergence of Monmouth University as a leader in 21st century higher education.

Walter D. Greason, Ph.D., Dean of the Honors School

The spring issue mentioned great concerts at Monmouth. I'd like to add one that wasn't on campus, but was a huge success. It happened on March 31, 1967, at Asbury Park Convention Hall and was put on by Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. I was the fundraising chairman and wanted to put on a rock and roll show to raise enough money to buy a new frat house for a growing group of men then numbering 104 brothers and pledges. We hired the fabulous Four Tops with an opening act of Percy Sledge, who had a No. 1 hit in 1966, "When a Man Loves a Woman." There was a big financial risk to the fraternity, so to make it work financially, each brother had to agree to sell \$84 worth of tickets or be responsible themselves for that amount. In 1967, that was a great deal of money for a college student. Ticket prices for our show were \$4 for orchestra and \$3.50 for the balcony. Fortunately, not only



Howard Lapidos '67 (far left) and Anthony "Stomps" Tramontano '69 (far right) pictured with The Four Tops and the group's guitarist in 1967.

was it a sellout of all seats but of all the standing room areas as well! I remember, Monmouth President Dr. Van Note attended and praised our fraternity for its achievement. In 1967, the \$6,000 profit bought us a fraternity house with over 30 rooms on a couple of acres close to the school.

Howard Lapidos '67

SUMMER MEMORIES

My wife Alice and I have not lived in the shore area for decades, but we spend at least a few days every summer at the beach in Belmar, New Jersey, where we met 53 years ago. As a strawberry blonde sensitive to the sun, she was not a frequent beachgoer, but had joined her younger sister for an ocean swim. I was just days out of what was then Monmouth College, and she was just days out of the Peace Corps having served as a nurse in the midst of a bloody revolution in the Dominican Republic. Our return to the site of our meeting always brings back great memories.

Ken Dalecki '65 

LET'S CONNECT

For more content and photos, follow us on Twitter and Instagram:

[@monmouthmag](https://twitter.com/monmouthmag)



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Email us at 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.

FIVE FOR THE ROAD

We asked readers to share stories about the road trips they took while in college. The letters below were edited for space. Visit monmouth.edu/magazine to read the full submissions.

IN 1972, I DESPERATELY wanted to go to Florida for Spring Break one last time. Our plan was to pile into our friends' van and motor down I-95. Unfortunately, the van had other plans. The transmission died, so we purchased one-way plane tickets instead (round trip was not in the budget). We had a lot of fun in Florida, but as the week went on we had to figure out how to get home. Somebody suggested we take a "destination car"—a vehicle owned by a senior citizen who wants it driven north while they fly home. We expected a luxury car but instead got a '58 Chevy. The trunk was full of the owner's possessions, so we gave our luggage to friends who were flying home. By the time we got back and delivered the car to its owner, the exhaust system needed to be replaced and the directional signals were broken. My first two Spring Break trips went a lot smoother, but this trip was memorable!

Joe Di Marco '72

IN MARCH 1982, SAL STRANO '82, Anthony DiLieto '82, Bill Introcaso '82, Tim Haider '82, Chris Tumme '82, and I headed to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in a rented, fully loaded 25-foot Winnebago. We drove straight through with only a few hiccups. (We mistakenly drove the RV through the Baltimore Tunnel in violation of tunnel regulations. That was nicely explained to us by the police officer who pulled us over and ultimately decided not to ticket us after we promised to come back using a different route.) Upon arriving at our destination, we were met by other Monmouth students as well as thousands of Spring Breakers from colleges all over the country. The Winnebago served as our home for the next several days as we experienced

ELEVEN'S A CROWD: Michael Lodato and crew with their 25-foot Winnebago, which survived a straight-through drive from New Jersey to Florida during Spring Break in 1982.



“
WE MISTAKENLY DROVE THE RV THROUGH THE BALTIMORE TUNNEL IN VIOLATION OF TUNNEL REGULATIONS. THAT WAS NICELY EXPLAINED TO US BY THE POLICE OFFICER WHO PULLED US OVER AND ULTIMATELY DECIDED NOT TO TICKET US AFTER WE PROMISED TO COME BACK USING A DIFFERENT ROUTE.
”



the crazy scene. We had a blast on the beach, at clubs such as the “world famous” Elbo Room and The Button, and at the various events throughout the week. On our ride back, we stopped at South of the Border to load up on fireworks—at least the few of us with any money left (or their parent’s credit card) did. It was an experience we’ll never forget.

Michael Lodato ’82

I BELIEVE IT WAS 1968, MY friends and I went to Fort Lauderdale in an ambulance. The owner, a guy, sat up front with his friend, and five of us girls sat in the back. The looks we got in the South when we stopped to eat were priceless. Not only because of five girls piling out of an ambulance, but the girls all had Sassoon short haircuts and the guys had shoulder length hair. Ah yes, to be young again.

Kathy Guercioni Eovino ’69

I BELIEVE IT WAS 1962, MAYBE 1963. Frank Richardson ’66 and I decided to head to Fort Lauderdale over Spring Break. Before we headed south, I took my VW Beetle in to a garage to get the spongy-feeling brakes adjusted. After that, it was off to sunny Florida. Fort Lauderdale was great. We had loads of laughs. Met lots of college kids from up and down the East Coast ... and that was the first day we were there. The second day? We started to figure out how we were going to make our combined revenue source of \$143 last for six more days. We limited ourselves to one meal a day. And, by meal, I mean a seat at a drugstore lunch counter where they had a big bowl of pickles, pickled tomatoes, and coleslaw for the taking. I think it was the third or fourth night we “dined” this way when an elderly gentleman seated nearby sidled up and asked, “Are you boys hungry?” Frank looked at me. I glanced back. And both of us answered rather sheepishly: “Yes.” Seems this kind fellow was eating by himself at the same counter every evening and had noticed our meager

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subsistence. He then proceeded to buy each of us a pork chop dinner. We appreciated it oh-so-much, and the gesture meant that we could afford a couple of cold ones at the Elbo Room.

After a great week of sun and laughs, we got back in the VW and headed for West Long Branch. We hadn’t gotten far up U.S. 1 (this was pre-I-95) when we suddenly drove under a typical Florida cloud burst. The rain fell so quickly and came down so hard I decided to slow down. I tapped my brakes ... and the car with the tightened-up brakes skidded across the river of a highway. We hit some soft earth off the shoulder of the road and the car flipped three times before skidding to a stop on its side. To this day, I don’t know if I was knocked out. But I soon came to my senses, climbed out of the window, reached back in and pulled Frank out the same window. I suffered a one-inch cut on my right hand from the broken window glass when I was reaching in to extricate Frank.

The car was not salvageable. Roof mostly caved in. Windshield smashed. We hauled our belongings out of the bug and Frank also was able to retrieve his guitar. Good thing. We wrote “N.J. or Bust” on the back of it and within a half-hour we were picked up by a couple of college kids who drove us all the way to Hightstown. It was a road trip I’ll never forget. And I was back at Monmouth in time for my 9 o’clock class Monday morning.

Chuck Hassol ’61A

WHILE MOST OF MY FRIENDS went to warm locales—Key West, Daytona Beach, Cancun—for Spring Break 1998, Karen Van Etten ’01, Dave Yablonsky ’01, John Pompilio, and I took a road trip to Nashville and Memphis. We traveled in style—in a brand-new Dodge Caravan—and ate at exotic restaurants such as Shoney’s, Waffle House, and Cracker Barrel. In Memphis, we stayed at the ritzy Days Inn, which boasted about its Elvis memorabilia, guitar-shaped pool, and 24-hour Elvis channel. Spending time at Graceland was surreal: It was amazing to see the home where Elvis lived and allegedly died. We toured the legendary Sun Studio, where Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis recorded their hit songs. You had to feel like a real rock star posing with Elvis’ original microphone! We bought a pair of CDs, so the second half of our trip was spent listening to the greatest blues and country hits of Sun Records—timeless songs like “That’s All Right” by Elvis Presley, “I Walk the Line” by Johnny Cash, and “Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis. We may have had arguments and sleepless nights due to snoring, but that trip cemented Monmouth friendships that continue to this day.

Marisa Bodner Strauss ’00

THEY’VE BEEN EVERYWHERE, MAN:
From left, Karen Van Etten,
Marisa Bodner Strauss,
John Pompilio and Dave
Yablonsky during their
Memphis and Nashville
excursion in 1998.



NEED TO KNOW » Topics & trends

IMPROVING AUTISM EDUCATION

MONMOUTH'S NEW AUTISM PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (APIP) IS ENHANCING TRAINING FOR TEACHERS ALREADY TASKED WITH EDUCATING STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM IN FIVE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

INTERVIEW BY LESLIE GARISTO PFAFF

The number of children diagnosed with autism continues to rise, and increasingly, these children are attending public schools. Unfortunately, many schools are ill-prepared to teach these students—especially those with more significant needs. We asked Stacy Lauderdale-Littin and Mary Haspel—the directors of APIP, which was instituted in 2016—how they're improving the educational process for teachers and students alike.

What challenges do students with autism—and their teachers—face in our public schools?

Mary Haspel: Students with autism—also known as autism spectrum disorder, or ASD—have difficulties with communication and social interaction, which makes it chal-

lenging to teach them. They also have behavioral problems—repetitive behaviors, aggression, and so on—that can make it daunting for them to be in an educational setting and pose significant challenges for those trying to teach them.

ART + AUTISM

A juried exhibition of works by artists living with autism spectrum disorder is on display in Monmouth's Pollak Gallery through August 31. Select works are available for purchase, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Autism Program Improvement Project. More information is available at monmouth.edu/mca.

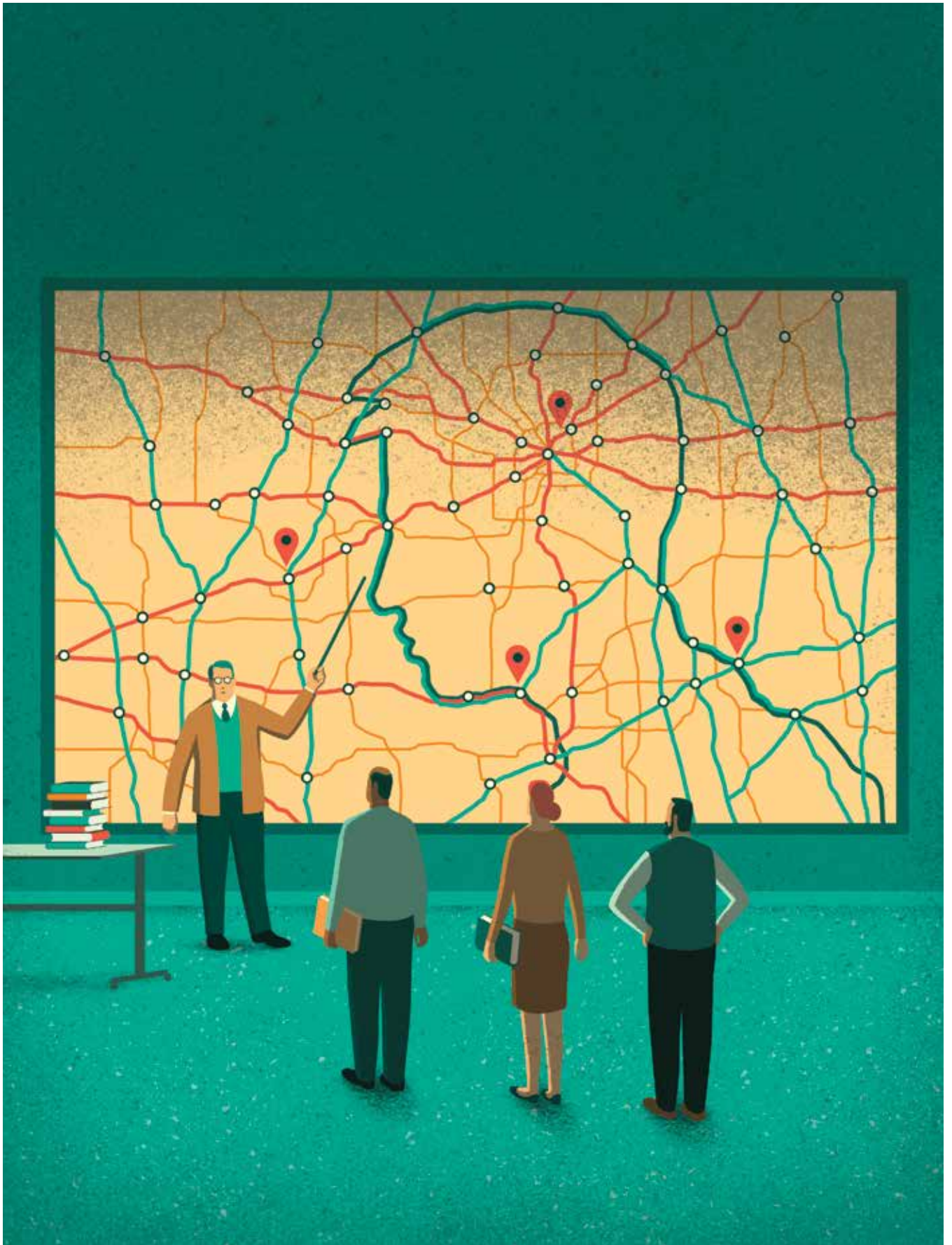
What is the data telling us about all this?

Stacy Lauderdale-Littin: This year, the Centers for Disease Control came out with new data showing the national autism rate to be 1 in 59. That translates to more than half a million school-age children with autism in the U.S., and nearly all of those children are now being educated in our public schools. The numbers themselves speak to why the training we offer is so important.

Many children with autism end up in self-contained, or segregated, classrooms. What kind of preparation are teachers in these classrooms generally receiving? Are there national standards?

SL: They receive very little training, unfortunately, which makes it challenging to develop and implement appropriate individualized programming. And that directly impacts the efficacy of instruction and the progress of students. Behavior problems tend to be higher when instruction isn't appropriate or aligned to students' needs.

MH: And there are no national standards for teacher preparation, which means that every teacher enters the field with different skills, or very limited skills. Individual states have started to mandate specific autism certifications for teachers, but they're not standardized across the country. In New Jersey, for instance, all you need to teach children with autism is a special education endorsement. ■



What kind of training do you offer the teachers you're working with in APIP?

SL: Before we even begin training teachers, we assess them, and their districts, to see how they're doing. When we first go into a district, we do a needs assessment for individual teachers through classroom observation, and then for the district as a whole, a global assessment. Our assessments are based on the Autism Program Environment Rating Scale (APERS), a checklist of various items like classroom design, acknowledgment of positive student behavior, and so on. We also ask teachers about their proficiency in the implementation of current evidence-based practices—interventions that research has proven to be effective. We then create a checklist of things we plan to accomplish in the district, and we work with individual teachers to help them achieve those goals. We focus specifically on teaching three evidence-based practices that work together as a package: prompting, which is simply assisting a child to increase probability of a correct response; reinforcement, a way to increase desired behavior; and discrete trial training, a method of instruction that breaks a lesson down into a series of simple steps. These practices are at the core of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a systematic approach aimed at increasing skill acquisition and reducing problem behaviors, which is commonly used with children on the autism spectrum.

One of the challenges of teaching an entire classroom of students with ASD is the fact that autism is a spectrum, and each child on that spectrum is likely to have very different needs. How does the training deal with that?

MH: The evidence-based practices we teach—there are 27 of them in all—are designed to meet the needs of students

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”**

at various levels of functioning. Part of the training we offer is to help teachers identify each student's particular areas of need and then match evidence-based practices to those specific needs.

How are teachers and districts responding to the program?

MH: Most are very receptive and incredibly grateful. And all the districts view the partnership as a positive, though you definitely see variability in the involvement of administrators. We have certain districts in which the administration is very involved, and these districts make large gains in the quality of their autism programs. We have other districts in which the administrators are less involved, and we see fewer gains in these districts. The challenge is to increase the involvement of that second group of administrators.

Do you hope to expand the program to additional districts?

SL: Yes, we do. One of our confounding issues is manpower—because there are only two of us working on this right now. It takes time, of course, to drive to a district, and once we arrive, we typically travel to at least two schools and sometimes as many as 20 within that district. So we're in the process of revising some of our approaches to better utilize technology, in order to overcome barriers related to time and scheduling and increase districts' access to the project. In doing so, we hope not only to support our existing districts but also to have the potential to add more in the future.

MH: Through the use of platforms like Google Hangout and Voice Thread, we can “see” what's going on in classrooms without having to travel to schools. These platforms allow us to provide training, as well as feedback and support.

Both of you teach in the Department of Special Education

at Monmouth University. Has your work with APIP had an impact on the way you prepare your students to teach children with autism?

SL: Our research with APIP has definitely informed some of our instruction here at Monmouth, and we've actually modified some of our courses. What we realized in the field is that many teachers aren't implementing evidence-based practices with fidelity—in other words, they're not doing things correctly or consistently, or both. So we started including a specific focus on that in one of our courses. Students begin by demonstrating an evidence-based practice to their classmates; then they have to implement it in the field. What's really neat is that the course now includes a video component, in which students videotape themselves while implementing those practices in our partner districts.

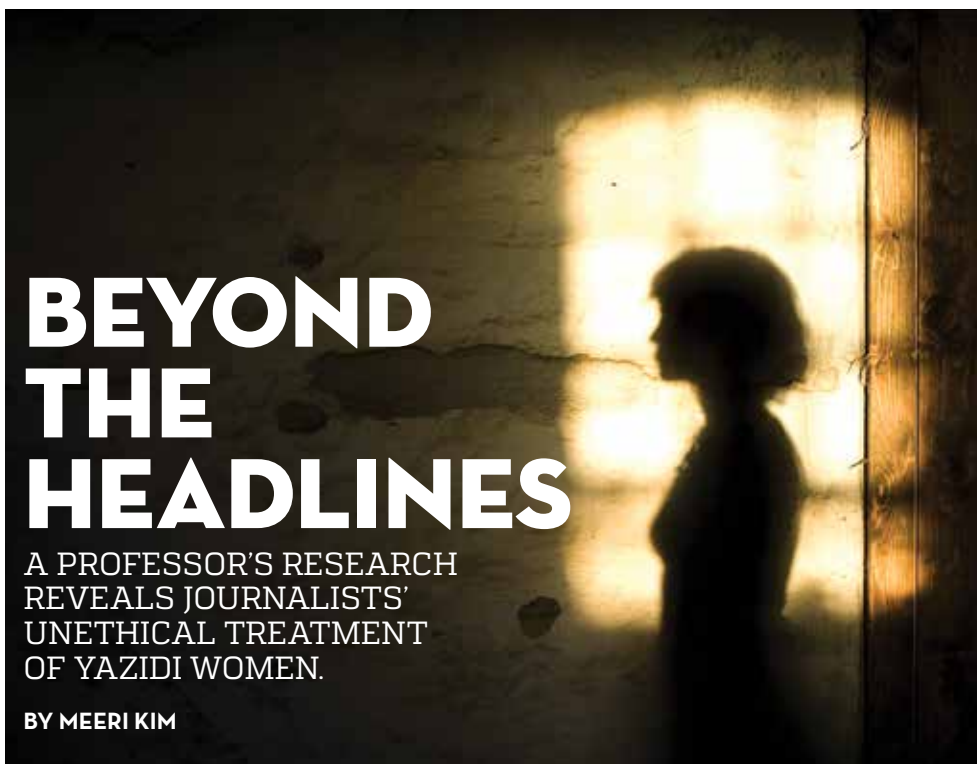
In addition to founding more projects like APIP, is there anything that can be done to improve the quality of teaching in the autism classroom?

SL: For individuals interested in working with students with ASD, universities need to start offering more training that's specific to autism. Autism is a spectrum and no two students look the same, so you really need to have a breadth of knowledge to meet their needs.

What would it mean to students if this kind of training were universal?

SL: Students would have consistency in the implementation of programming, and research suggests that this leads to faster acquisition of skills.

MH: It would also mean better student outcomes upon leaving school: increased independence, better ability to obtain a job, higher potential to develop relationships—in other words, a better life. [M](#)



BEYOND THE HEADLINES

A PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH REVEALS JOURNALISTS' UNETHICAL TREATMENT OF YAZIDI WOMEN.

BY MEERI KIM

Johanna Foster was waiting in line at a coffee shop when a prominent newspaper headline caught her eye. She immediately felt aggravated. The headline highlighted the sexual violence against female members of the Yazidi religious community—one of Iraq's oldest and most persecuted minorities—by Islamic State militants.

"As someone who has studied gender equality for years, I couldn't even read the story because my initial thought was that it was going to be a voyeuristic portrayal of gender violence, particularly violence against racial and ethnic minority women," says Foster, an assistant professor of sociology. "Women of color in the U.S. and around the world are either hyper-invisible or hyper-exposed when it comes to gender violence."

Indeed, the article turned out to be one of the many that sensationalized a "Yazidi rape and enslavement" narrative while largely ignoring other crimes against the Yazidi people and the underlying factors that contributed to the conflict. The publications involved also seemed to

brazenly disregard ethical concerns about revealing victims' real names or photographing their faces.

So Foster and a colleague, Sherizaan Minwalla, practitioner-in-residence in the International Human Rights Law Clinic at American University, decided to speak directly to Yazidi women about their experiences with journalists to determine whether unethical reporting practices had taken place. The researchers published their findings in *Women's Studies International Forum* earlier this year.

In total, Foster and Minwalla interviewed 26 Yazidi women, listening to their complex and compelling stories of surviving ISIS captivity or fleeing ISIS during the attacks. Of the survi-

vors who interacted with media, 85 percent described unethical journalistic reporting practices such as the disclosure of identity without consent or being pressured to reveal traumatic details of their rape and sexual assault.

"Some of the violations that we heard of were clear breaches of the privacy of survivors, such as showing their faces or revealing places where they live. There were cases where women asked that their children not be photographed, and members of the media still did it," says Foster. "Some women were explicitly promised something in exchange for telling their story, like money or assistance for family members."

Both the United Nations Global Protection Cluster and the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma have created ethical guidelines for reporting on sexual violence in conflict zones. Foster recommends that journalists educate themselves both in these principles as well as the cultural context in which they're reporting.

"I was shocked by the extent to which journalists seemed unaware of the level of threat to the survivors, not just from ISIS but also from members of their own community," she says. "Women and girls are at risk for retaliation, and some were still in captivity and being harmed when these stories came out."

The report is already making waves, with significant press coverage and discussion by the UN High Commission for Human Rights. In addition, Foster and Minwalla have been invited to speak this summer with representatives from the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Ultimately, Foster says she hopes the findings increase the amount of care and concern that the media—as well as society as a whole—give to survivors of sexual violence.

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EXPLAIN THIS »

Answering your burning questions

Q: HOW CAN I START PODCASTING QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY?

For thousands of years, humans have used storytelling as a way to entertain and educate the next generation about cultural values, morals, and history. So it's no surprise that podcasting, or the uploading of a series of digital audio files to the internet for storytelling and listening purposes, has become such a successful medium.

"It's growing exponentially at this point," says Eric Reisher, professor and director of broadcast engineering. (According to a recent story published by *Fast Company*, the number of podcasts downloaded on iTunes has jumped from 7 billion in 2014 to 50 billion in 2018.)

Reisher says creating your own podcast is easier today than ever before, and virtually anyone can get started with a few simple steps. To start, pick a topic that you are passionate about and knowledgeable in, he suggests. "If you have to do a week's worth of preparation to do a podcast, maybe that's not the right topic for you," he says.

Once you've picked your topic—the more niche, the better—it's important to learn to market yourself. Reisher suggests creating a brand name, logo, and social accounts that can be used to promote your content.

Next, invest in simple, low-cost technology. Reisher says it's not necessary to sound-proof a room in your home or office as long as you have a relatively quiet space in which to record. Provided you have a decent computer, it's possible to get started for under \$200. Purchase a microphone for between \$50 to \$100, grab a set of headphones, and download Audacity, an easy-to-use free-ware audio editing program where you can record and edit sound clips. Mac users can also use GarageBand.

When recording, Reisher says, stay focused and don't ramble off topic with guests or co-hosts. Once recorded, edit your podcast via Audacity or GarageBand and upload it via Libsyn, a podcast hosting and publish-

ing service. Libsyn, which has plans starting as low as \$5 per month, is easy to use, automatically imprints to iTunes, and sets up your RSS feed. He suggests keeping the finished product to less than an hour—25 to 30 minutes is the sweet spot when growing a following.

Besides posting content on a consistent basis, Reisher says it's important to continually market yourself—whether it's by sharing new content via social accounts or by offering merchandise like t-shirts or mugs with your brand name and logo on them.

"Podcasting is a lot of fun in that you can really build yourself," he says. "You're not just a broadcaster, you're a marketer, a merchandiser, a designer."

—Breanne McCarthy

THE 10-SECOND BONUS QUESTION

SHOULD I PRE-RECORD OR LIVE STREAM?

Though it may lack that sense of spontaneity, Reisher suggests new podcasters pre-record since it gives them the option to go back and edit the recording, while also relieving feelings of trepidation that some may feel when recording for the first time.

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

SOUND ADVICE

NOT ALL BACKGROUND MUSIC IS THE SAME WHEN IT COMES TO IMPROVING YOUR CHILD'S COGNITIVE SKILLS.

BY MEERI KIM

In 1993, a study published in *Nature* claimed that college students performed better on cognitive tests after listening to Mozart as opposed to silence or a relaxation tape. The findings set off a phenomenon wherein parents believed playing classical music for their children—even to those still in the womb—would lead to higher IQs.

But researchers later contested the “Mozart effect” when numerous follow-up studies were unable to replicate the results and failed to find a relationship between classical music and its cognitive benefit.

While music alone doesn’t enhance intelligence, it may lead to modest improvements in spatial task performance simply because we enjoy listening to something pleasant while engaging in challenging tasks. While previous works used college students, Louis Koolidge ’17 and his senior thesis mentor, Professor of Psychology Robyn Holmes, wanted to see how enjoyable background music might impact young children’s performance on a puzzle.

“All cultures have music, and in most communities, children are exposed to it from the time they are born,” says Holmes, whose research focuses primarily on children’s play. “We wanted to explore whether background music would interfere or be beneficial for young children when working on a cognitive task.”

Koolidge and Holmes visited three local pre-

schools, where 87 primarily European-American children tried to solve a 12-piece jigsaw puzzle as best they could in one minute. The children wore headphones during the task, and listened to either music with lyrics, music without lyrics, or silence. After gathering advice from teachers and parents, the researchers chose the song “You’re Welcome” from the *Moana* soundtrack—an upbeat tune that most kids would recognize and enjoy.

Overall, children who listened to the song without lyrics completed more pieces of the puzzle, while music with lyrics and silence were less beneficial. The journal *Perceptual and Motor*

Skills published Koolidge and Holmes’ study on January 9.

“Our hope is that these results will start to inform classroom practice and improve children’s academic experience,” says Holmes. “When children are doing cognitively demanding tasks, maybe background music—something that children like and puts them in a happy mood—could be beneficial to helping them acquire certain cognitive skills and abilities.”

MORE THAN FUN AND GAMES

Play gives kids the opportunity to build creative, imaginative, and other key developmental skills. Professor of Psychology Robyn Holmes studies different aspects of children’s play, such as the role of outdoor play in development and how play differs across diverse cultural communities. She recently traveled to the Hawaiian island of Lanai to look at caregivers’ attitudes toward play, finding that adults mostly encouraged types of play that fostered social skills like cooperation and sharing.





THIS IS MONMOUTH » The scene at West Long Branch

CAMPUS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2018

More than 1,300 students received their undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees during two days of Commencement celebrations this spring. Five-time Grammy Award winner James Samuel “Jimmy Jam” Harris III received an honorary doctor of music and delivered the commencement address at the undergraduate ceremony, which was held May 9 at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey. The following day, Moleen Madziva ’09M, founder of the Macheke Sustainability Project, an organization that supports

sustainable development in Macheke, a small farming community in Zimbabwe, delivered the address to graduate students at a ceremony in the OceanFirst Bank Center. Visit monmouth.edu/magazine for photos and videos of both ceremonies.

GOOD NEWS

The Outlook, Monmouth’s student-run weekly newspaper, won “Best Non-Daily University Newspaper” in the 2018 Society of Professional Journalists Spotlight Contest. It’s the paper’s fifth major national award in less than a decade, says the publication’s adviser, John Morano.

HATS OFF: New graduates take a moment to celebrate their degrees after Commencement in May.

FAKE NEWS

When Sinclair Broadcast Group came under fire this spring for forcing anchors at its local stations to read a scripted warning about the proliferation of fake news, the company cited a Monmouth University poll in a statement defending its actions. That poll, conducted in March, found: “Large majorities of the American public believe that traditional media outlets engage in reporting fake news and that outside sources are actively trying to plant fake stories in the mainstream media.” The poll also found that the majority of Americans think the term “‘fake news’ also applies to how news outlets make editorial decisions about what they choose to report”—which, ironically, is what media watchdogs were criticizing Sinclair for doing with its scripted ad. You can read the full Monmouth University Polling Institute report on Americans’ opinions about fake news at monmouth.edu/polling-institute/.

MASTERFULLY DONE

A team of Monmouth business students beat their counterparts from Villanova and Rutgers universities to win top prize in NAIOP New Jersey's Fourth Annual Intercollegiate Case Study Competition. The event challenged students to create a mock master plan for redeveloping the former Hoffmann-LaRoche campus in Nutley and Clifton, New Jersey. The 116-acre campus represents the state's largest contemplated redevelopment site, according to the contest's organizers. Monmouth students Christopher Fitzsimmons, Lindsey Florio, Jacqueline O'Dor, and Sam Perrelli's plan for creating a highly connected, walkable, and bikeable setting with a medical/healthcare theme—supported by residential, lifestyle, hospitality, and retail components—was praised by the judges for its financial feasibility, design excellence, and sustainability. Peter Reinhart, director of the Kislak Real Estate Institute at Monmouth University, served as the team's adviser.

PRESIDENTIAL PICKS

Grab a copy of *After Midnight*, the newest release from Blue Hawk Records, to hear Monmouth President Grey Dimenna show off his guitar

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S BANDMATES: From left, Joe Rapolla, President Grey Dimenna, and student musicians Owen Flanagan, Dan Amato, Zack Sandler, and Jon Bass at Lakehouse Recording Studios in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

chops. Dimenna, who's been playing guitar for several years, accompanied The Sentimental Gentlemen on their rendition of the album's title track, which was made famous by Eric Clapton. Specialist Professor Joe Rapolla also plays on the track. The album, which features five original songs from current and former students and local performers, is the 12th release from Monmouth's student-run record label. It's available now on Apple Music and Spotify.



TWO BYRDS WITH ONE TWEET

Roger McGuinn and David Crosby, two founding members of the groundbreaking folk rock group The Byrds, performed in Monmouth's Pollak Theatre this spring. Sadly, though not surprisingly, their performances occurred six weeks apart.

For years, Byrds fans have clamored for the group's surviving original members to reunite. Crosby has too. But McGuinn continues to say he's not interested. Still, he and Crosby remain friends, and they frequently communicate with each other via Twitter—as evidenced by this tweet McGuinn sent his old bandmate upon arriving in his Monmouth dressing room: “Got to my dressing room at Monmouth University and what should I see?” accompanied by a photo on the wall of Crosby.

NEW NAME, SAME MISSION

Monmouth's community garden has a new name—The Virginia A. Cory Community Garden at Monmouth University—thanks to an endowed gift from Jennifer Cory-Morrongiello, a 2002 graduate of the School of Social Work and member of the school's Dean's Advisory Council, and her family. The garden is run by the School of Social Work as a cooperative. Participants can grow their own fresh produce as well as produce that is donated to local organizations and individuals in need. Since the garden's establishment in 2009, more than 18,000 lbs. of produce have been donated to food insecure individuals and families in Monmouth County. The garden also provides educational opportunities for people of all ages to learn about gardening, sustainability, and wellness. The endowed gift, which was made to honor Virginia's generous spirit and love for nature, will help support, in perpetuity, the annual operating expense of the garden.



ONE FOR THE BOOKS

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

"I get to bring poetry and literature to audiences and introduce them to these writers that then have this impact that is immeasurable for people, this emotional, intellectual impact," says Thomas. "It's spiritual—I'm not a churchgoer but I'm a devout poet—and it's the shared experience of the literature that awakens and heals people."



THE ZEBRA IN THE ROOM

A STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE SHEDS LIGHT ON THE ROOT CAUSE OF MEDICAL MISDIAGNOSIS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

“By a show of hands, how many people in this room have been sick with the common cold or flu?” Scott Fiorini asked the audience at the second annual Hawk Talks, held in April. “Congratulations, you guys have all been diagnosed as human beings.”

Fashioned after TED Talks, Hawk Talks, held during Monmouth's Student Scholarship Week, gives students five minutes to share what they learned during a recent academic experience. Fiorini, a graduate student in the Physician Assistant Program, kicked off this year's event with a personal experience that sheds light on a growing issue in healthcare: misdiagnosis, which affects approximately 12 million Americans every year.

While the cold or flu is a common diagnosis that is typically easily treatable, Fiorini explained that issues arise when more serious health problems are disguised by symptoms that get mistaken for common ailments.

“A zebra is a term that we refer to as a rare disease—it comes

from the saying, ‘When you hear hoof beats, think horses, not zebras,’” Fiorini said. “However, diseases do not read the textbook, and sometimes zebras present as the common cold.”

Last summer, Fiorini was on shift for his internal medicine rotation at a hospital in North Jersey, when 55-year-old Brandon came to the ER complaining he felt sick. Brandon told the staff he had recently been released from jail, had been eating poorly, and had failed to take his diabetes medication for nearly two months. Tests showed his blood sugar levels were nine times higher than normal. The team brought his levels down within normal range, and the treatment was considered a success. But when Fiorini went to check on

“**BRANDON HAD BEEN IN THE ER FOR EIGHT HOURS AT THAT POINT, EXPOSING FAMILY, FRIENDS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, AND [OTHER] PATIENTS. SO, WHERE WAS THE COMMUNICATION LOST? THE ANSWER IS ON BOTH SIDES.**”

ABOVE: Fiorini delivers his Hawk Talk in April.

the patient, he noticed something strange.

“He couldn't answer me without coughing, so I said, ‘OK, let's think this out,’” Fiorini recalled. “We have a diabetic, but he's coughing. ... Diabetes does not make people cough. So, I said to myself, ‘OK, let's step back and let me conduct a full history and physical exam.”

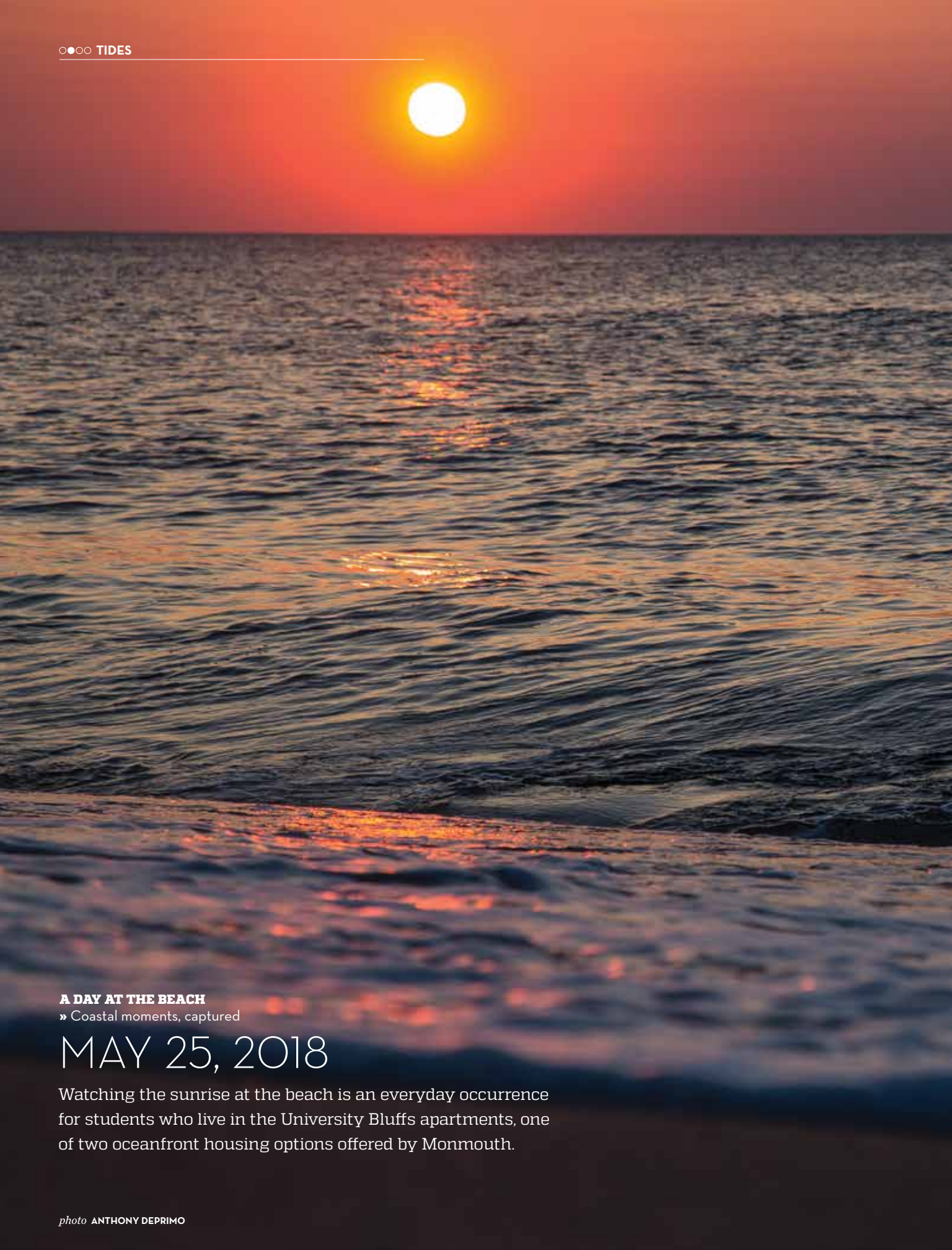
As Fiorini spoke with Brandon, he learned the patient had developed the cough in jail, that he had it for nearly seven months, that it lasted nearly all day, and that he often coughed up phlegm that was red. That stopped Fiorini in his tracks. It meant Brandon had been coughing up blood, indicating a potentially more serious diagnosis: tuberculosis, an infectious disease that affects the lungs. Sure enough, Brandon's tuberculosis test came back positive.

“Brandon had been in the ER for eight hours at that point, exposing family, friends, healthcare providers, and [other] patients,” Fiorini said. “So, where was the communication lost? The answer is on both sides.”

Fiorini said Brandon should have made it clear to healthcare providers that he was struggling with a severe cough for so long, and, as the team later found out, that he was also suffering from severe night sweats. At the same time, Fiorini said the medical team should have asked more questions instead of relying on an initial diagnosis that focused on the main issue of getting Brandon's sugar levels down.

The episode sheds light on how important it is for healthcare providers to ask questions and for patients to share as much information as possible, Fiorini said.

“When you're sick, give us a look into your life for the last couple of weeks,” Fiorini said. “If something doesn't feel right, bring it up. If something doesn't look right, show us. And if you don't know, ask.”



A DAY AT THE BEACH

» Coastal moments, captured

MAY 25, 2018

Watching the sunrise at the beach is an everyday occurrence for students who live in the University Bluffs apartments, one of two oceanfront housing options offered by Monmouth.



PITCH PERFECT

AMANDA RILEY CAPPED HER RECORD-BREAKING COLLEGIATE CAREER BY LEADING THE HAWKS TO A HISTORIC SEASON.

BY MARK GOLA

Amanda Riley '18 has always gravitated toward leadership roles. A team captain in softball and cheerleading at John C. Kimball High School in Tracy, California, she took her softball career across the county to Monmouth and experienced tremendous success through her first three seasons.

Riley was determined to make her final year a memorable one. She was certain that if the Hawks were to soar to new heights, scoreless innings and strikeout totals would not be enough. To have a greater impact on the field, Riley felt the need to look inward.

"I focused on building my confidence," says Riley. "Coach Shannon (Salsburg) and Marisa (DeStasio) really emphasize the mental game. Negative thoughts are common in athletes and part of improving confidence is understanding and targeting weaknesses. I became a more focused, confident pitcher and that was important because players feed off the pitcher's presence.

I think it made a difference for us."

The difference she references spawned a historic outcome. Monmouth captured its first-ever Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship, and with that title, qualified for the 2018 NCAA Division I Softball Championship Tournament. The Hawks competed at the University of Tennessee to cap a storybook season with an overall record of 32-16. Riley posted a mark of 21-7 and was named MAAC Pitcher of the Year.

It's called the pitcher's "circle," but it could also be referred to as the "podium." Perhaps no team sport relies on one position more than softball does its

DO YOU SMELL WHAT THE ROCK IS COOKING?

Asked who she would most like to have dinner with, Riley quickly named Dwayne Johnson, aka The Rock. "I think he's hilarious and very wise," says Riley. "I admire his work ethic and I'm sure he'd keep me laughing the entire time, so it would be a fun dinner."

pitcher, and it's a perfect spot for Riley. Her competitive and compassionate nature, seasoned by a West Coast perspective, empowered her to bring out the best in her teammates. (That, and a dominant pitching repertoire.) While leadership seminars and courses saturate the professional market today, Riley boils it down to a simple, holistic approach.

"Leadership is about getting to know people," she says. "If you want to lead a group, you need to talk to them and learn about them. That is the only way to determine how to motivate an individual. Above all, you need to show them that you truly care about them, and you care about the team more than anything."

Riley certainly left her mark at Monmouth. She finished her career as the all-time program leader in strikeouts (666), innings pitched (691.2), and saves (10), and ranks third in wins (55). Having graduated with a degree in business marketing and management and a minor in IT, Riley says she will take her time on the road trip back home to California before beginning the next phase of her life.

"I loved my time here at Monmouth," says Riley. "Coach Shannon and Marisa had a huge impact on how I developed as a person. I'm so blessed and grateful that I came here and leave confident and prepared to take on my next challenge."

OPPOSITE: Riley was an All MAAC First Team selection and the MVP of the MAAC Championships this year.



SPORTS SHORTS

KING'S COURTS

The city of Binghamton, New York, renamed its Columbus Park basketball courts in honor of men's basketball coach King Rice, who was a McDonald's All American on the city's high school team before continuing his playing career at the University of North Carolina. The city also decreed that May 5 will henceforth be known as "King Rice Day" in Binghamton. Rice, who this year completed his seventh season at the helm of the Hawks, is a two-time Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

CONFERENCE CHAMPS

In addition to the softball team winning its first ever MAAC championship (p. 18), the men's and women's track & field teams won their fifth straight, and the men's tennis team its third straight, MAAC titles this spring.

SEE YOU IN AC IN 2020

Monmouth will join the MAAC and Rider University as a co-host for the league's basketball tournament at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from 2020-22. ESPN will telecast the entire men's and women's championships on the network's various linear and digital platforms.

Compiled from Office of Athletics Communication and New Media reports.



FIELD VISION

MIKE BASILE, THE MOST DECORATED PLAYER IN MONMOUTH FOOTBALL HISTORY, EYES HIS NEXT MOVE.

BY MARK GOLA

In a society where brevity is king, the term “GOAT” has embedded itself in the sporting lexicon.

Mike Basile '18 is undoubtedly one of the best to ever don a Hawks football uniform, but the jury remains sequestered on whether he can carry the label, “Greatest of All Time.”

That's because the trial is still in session. The defensive back received an invite to the Indianapolis Colts' rookie minicamp after an impressive showing at Monmouth's Football Pro Day, and the prospect of playing in the NFL shines a brighter light on his already brilliant career.

“The goal is to stay with the team and be on their roster for the season moving forward,” Basile said earlier this spring. “I'm going to work my tail off and do everything in my power to show them what I can do and what I bring every day.”

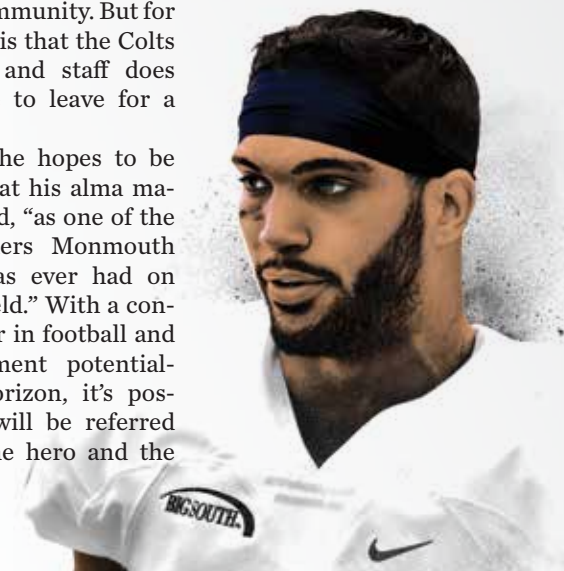
What Basile brought to the Hawks football program was four years of exceptional play, tremendous leadership, and a penchant for setting program records. He was the first player in team history to earn consensus AP All-American honors (2016 and 2017), the first to earn First Team All-Conference honors in four consecutive seasons, and the first to be named Monmouth Defensive MVP for four straight years. He holds the program record for career tackles (433) and the program and Big South record for career solo tackles (285).

Perhaps the crown jewel of Basile's collegiate career was what the Hawks accomplished during his senior season. Monmouth posted a 9-3 mark and, for the first time in program history, received an at-large bid to compete in the NCAA FCS Playoffs. For his part, Basile led the NCAA in solo tackles per game (7.6) during the 2017 season.

Outside the hash marks, Basile, who graduated with a degree in criminal justice, has long been drawn to serving the community. “It's a reflection of how I was raised,” he said. “I have always had great respect for law enforcement and want to play an important role in the community. But for now, my goal is that the Colts organization and staff does not want me to leave for a long time.”


Asked how he hopes to be remembered at his alma mater, Basile said, “as one of the greatest leaders Monmouth University has ever had on and off the field.” With a continuing career in football and law enforcement potentially on the horizon, it's possible Basile will be referred to as both the hero and the GOAT.

“
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”





THE ORG ANI ZER

A full-page photograph of Dante Barry, an African American man with a beard, wearing a dark blue suit and a patterned tie. He is leaning against a metal railing with a chain-link mesh on a rooftop staircase. In the background, there are modern buildings with large windows and brickwork. The lighting is natural, suggesting daytime.

ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER
DANTE BARRY TALKS
ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND
EVENTS THAT SHAPED HIM,
AND HIS ONGOING FIGHT
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

INTERVIEW BY ALEXANDER GELFAND
PHOTOS BY MATT FURMAN

Dante Barry '10 is executive director of Million Hoodies Movement for Justice, an organization he helped found in response to the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, by George Zimmerman in 2012. Since its inception, Million Hoodies has sought to build the next generation of human rights leaders and end anti-black racism and systemic violence. In recent years, Barry has expanded the organization's reach beyond people of color. But he continues to draw on the lessons he first learned as a young black community organizer.

What sparked your interest in activism and organizing?

My mom was the person that really got me excited about organizing, and about black freedom work and its relationship to the civil rights movement.

I was born into a single-parent household in Mount Holly, a small town right outside of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. We were very poor: The highest level of formal education my mom got was a high school diploma, and she worked multiple jobs to put food on the table for me and my younger brother.

When I was 7 or 8 years old, she asked me: "Are you a leader, or are you a follower?" I didn't really understand the question at the time, but it stuck with me and informed my initial understanding of organizing.

When I was a senior in high school, our teachers had a contract dispute and went on strike, which meant that all the extracurricular activities were cut. I was very involved in school—I was class president, ran track, played soccer—and as a poor black student who didn't have any family members who'd gone to college, the strike really impacted my ability to advance myself. So me and a group of friends built an organization to change the situation. We raised around \$20,000 and held a march and a day-long event that included all the activities that had been cut. Vernon C. King, a nephew of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., gave the keynote address.

That experience has informed a lot of my organizing to this day. I saw the effect of having people get excited about elevating issues in their communities and taking action.

How did you find your way to Million Hoodies?

After graduating from Monmouth, I moved to Washington, D.C., and worked as a policy assistant at the School-Based

Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization that advocates at the federal and state levels to provide health services to young people in schools. But I left after a year because I wanted to do more of what I had done in high school and college: I wanted to organize at the community level, and I wanted to see tangible results. National-level work is important, but with local organizing you're more likely to see the fruits of your labors in a direct way.

So I went to work for the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network, a student-run policy organization that has chapters on 130 college campuses. I directed their operations, gave support to chapters, and trained members in community organizing and advocating for ideas at the local level.

Daniel Maree, who initially founded Million Hoodies in response to the Trayvon Martin shooting, was a member of the Network. In 2013, he asked me to join Million Hoodies to help turn it into a sustainable organization. I was a volunteer until 2014, when I moved into Million Hoodies full-time.

Why then?

A bunch of things happened in 2014: Eric Garner was murdered in New York City, John Crawford was murdered in Ohio, and Michael Brown was shot and killed in Ferguson, Missouri.

I was in New York City when Brown was killed. I was hanging out with some friends from Monmouth at a bar in Hoboken when I got a bunch of text messages about it, and I was stunned. I remember watching on television as the tanks came in and the police started throwing teargas, and I just remember crying. I felt deep outrage and deep sorrow. I felt even more angry than I did when Zimmerman was acquitted.

I went down to Ferguson to support some of the local community organi-

“ALL POLITICS IS PERSONAL, IN THAT EVERYONE ENTERS POLITICS BECAUSE THEY WERE IMPACTED PERSONALLY: SOMETHING GOT THEM SO ANGRY THAT THEY WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. AND FOR A WHILE, I WAS VERY ANGRY. MY EXPERIENCE IN FERGUSON SHAPED A LOT OF THE WORK THAT I'VE DONE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS.”

zations. And one particular night really shaped my life moving forward. Someone in the street threw an empty water bottle at the police, who started throwing teargas and chasing all of the black people down the street. I was pushed to the ground, and I had four loaded guns at the back of my head. I remember screaming, "I'm unarmed!" and getting up and running. There was a helicopter flying above me, there were spotlights all over the place, there were sound cannons going off. I felt like a runaway slave: I had nowhere to escape. I'm a very different person because of that experience.

All politics is personal, in that everyone enters politics because they were impacted personally: they were poor, or they experienced some type of violence, or they were incarcerated. Something got them so angry, so enraged, that they wanted to do something about it. And for a while, to be honest with you, I was very angry. My experience in Ferguson shaped a lot of the work that I've done over the last few years.

What drew you to Million Hoodies?

At the time, there were very few organizations that were engaging young



black people in a way that felt authentic and represented our values and vision for the world. Million Hoodies filled a gap among young people of color who were outraged by the murder of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman, and it provided a unique form of organizing and leadership development for communities of color.

What makes the organization special?

We're a black-led human rights organization, which means that while our membership is predominantly black we fight for a set of rights that all human beings deserve. We do leadership development in which we train and develop the next generation of human rights leaders. And we do grassroots organizing, advocacy, and education.

As far as I know, we are the only black-led organization that engages youth of color over the long term, from high school to young adult: We organize folks between the ages of 16 to about 37, and we have chapters in high schools, on college campuses, and in local communities.

What kinds of campaigns do you engage in?

Much of our work is around ending anti-black racism, criminalization, and systemic violence. In 2015, for example, we launched a campaign in partnership with Color of Change, a progressive civil rights advocacy group, that stopped the state of Oklahoma from passing a discriminatory bill that would have criminalized black youth for wearing hoodies in public spaces. That was one of our first wins as an organization.

But we work from a values-based perspective, and the core value is safety. So right now, we're moving into the sanctuary space. A lot of folks have heard about sanctuary cities. We're pushing a framework called *freedom* cities. We like to say that safety is freedom: If we're able to feel safe in our communities, if we have jobs and housing and healthcare and food to eat—the basic tenets of what we think of as human rights—we're able to live freely.

We're also building a movement called Freedom Campus to provide opportunities for people of color to build more inclusive academic curricula in their institutions and feel safe on campus. Just last month, our Bard College chapter deliv-

ered a set of demands to the college president that included inserting Africana and Latin American studies into the curriculum and investing in a space for students of color on campus. Several of those demands have already been met.

You've broadened the organization's scope beyond people of color: Recently, you've advocated for social justice on behalf of immigrants, women, and members of the LGBTQ community. What's driving that shift?

When black people win, everyone wins. What I mean by that is, when we empower black folks that creates opportunities for every other community.

But we can't have movements that are just about black people. We need to organize white folks and Latin folks and Asian folks and women and trans folks and queer folks. We need to build coalitions with other communities that understand that the main fight of our time is about safety. Me Too is about safety. Black Lives Matter is about safety.

We all understand what it means to be safe in our communities, and what it means not to feel safe. We all want a job, we all want a place to live, we all want to have our family safe and close to us, and we all need to eat. That's the core of what we are moving toward and what we are working on.

Do you see signs of progress?

Yes. More and more people across the country are getting involved in grassroots organizing because they see that so many communities are hurting and are vulnerable to so much injustice, and they want to do something. I think that's in large part because of black people being out in the streets. Ferguson allowed the world to see live on television how poor people of color are treated in this country, and made them more aware of racism, sexism, power, and abuse.

Five or six years ago, I would never have guessed that NFL players like Colin Kaepernick would be kneeling during the national anthem. I also wouldn't have imagined all of these celebrities—people like Mark Ruffalo, the actor, or Ava DuVernay, the director—communicating messages relating to black people and gun violence. So I'm definitely hopeful. We need to keep creating moments of courage for people to get involved and take action, so that people's lives can change. [M](#)



SUM



FUN





MER GUIDE



TIPS, TRICKS, AND
HACKS TO HELP YOU
SEIZE THE SEASON.

TEXT BY TONY MARCHETTI
AND BREANNE MCCARTHY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATIE CAREY



BE AN EXTRA

HOW TO LAND A ROLE IN NEXT YEAR'S SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER.

Michael Greenblatt '83 is a fitness trainer by trade, but for more than two decades he's had a fun side gig: movie extra. (His credits include *Deep Impact* with Robert Duvall, *A Beautiful Mind* with Russell Crowe, and *Creed* with Michael B. Jordan.) Greenblatt says anyone, regardless of acting experience, can find work as an extra. He explained how:

It might seem impossible to get in a movie, but it's not. They're always casting and there's a lot of work out there. When I started, *The Ross Report* listed the casting director for every TV show, soap opera, movie. These days, there are lists and lists of casting-calls on the web.¹ Look through those and decide what you want to apply to.

Go to Staples or Office Max and buy yourself a box of 100 manila envelopes. Put your resume in there. Make it look as impressive as possible: If you've got some skill related to the movie, include it. Say it's a movie about dancing they're casting for—put something in your package that shows you know how to dance. Put your picture in there too. It doesn't have to be a professional headshot. When I got hired for *Creed*, I sent a picture of me running on the beach with my famous cat, Roadrunner². I figured Rocky is athletic, so why not send a picture like that? I used that same picture both times³ and got hired. If you've

had any publicity, attach that to your resume too. It doesn't matter if it's related to acting. Whatever it is, publicity sells. They like to see that you're in the news.

From there it's a numbers game really. You just have to send out enough packages. I probably had 98 rejections before I got my first job. That's fine. I was just spending money on postage. These days, some casting directors just want an email, so you don't even need the postage.

When you do get hired, they'll tell you what you can and can't do on set, and what to wear. Just follow their rules, be respectful, and don't be a know-it-all. Make a good impression, because you want to be hired again. When you're done, send a thank you letter to whoever hired you at the casting agency. It doesn't take long, and you can even email it. Maybe they'll never read it, but at least you'll know you did it, and it'll keep you in the loop for the next time. —as told to Tony Marchetti

¹ Two that Greenblatt recommends for the Monmouth area: castinghl.com and backstage.com.

² Greenblatt's cat has appeared in national TV commercials for Optimum.

³ Greenblatt will also appear in the upcoming *Creed II*, due out this fall.



ADD THESE SONGS TO YOUR PLAYLIST FOR THE PERFECT SUMMER SOUNDTRACK.

A song doesn't have to be *about* summer for it to be the perfect summer song. "It just needs to make you feel good," says Joe Rapolla '90M, chair of Monmouth's Department of Music and Theatre Arts and director of its Music Industry program. As he sees it, the best summer songs fall into one of two categories: "chill ones for grooving and bopping" and "fist-pounding, high-fiving, steering-wheel-drumming ones" to get you where you're going. Lucky for you, Rapolla curated a playlist that features some of both. Says Rapolla: "I guarantee if you add these to your playlist and turn it up, you'll get to where you need to be ... whether you're going anywhere or not!"

Photos: Springsteen: Thomas Uhlemann; Bob Marley: Eddie Malin; Aerosmith: Julio Aprea; Amy Winehouse: RAMA; all others: Wikimedia

FOR GETTING READY TO HEAD TO THE BEACH OR THE BOARDWALK...

Start with a little **"Cruel Summer" by Bananarama**. It's a groovy '80s jam that has such a hot vibe. Then you've got to roll into some **Beach Boys**—"Good Vibrations" and **"Surfin' USA."**

FOR SWINGING AND SWAYING AT A BBQ...

Get things going with **"Dancing in the Street" by Martha Reeves & the Vandellas**. And you'll need some **Fleetwood Mac**, **"Go Your Own Way,"** Bob Marley's **"One Love,"** and Mungo Jerry's **"In the Summertime."** The ukulele has such a beachy, summer sound to it, so add **"Hey, Soul Sister" by Train**.

FOR CRUISING THE STRIP...

You've got to throw on some **Springsteen**¹. You can't go wrong with **"Born to Run,"** and for those really hot July and August nights, **"Backstreets."** For fun, **"Hungry Heart"** always works. Bruce helped define the Jersey Shore music scene, so a list of his songs could just go on and on. And add some **Aerosmith**², too: **"Walk this Way."**

¹Rapolla has worked with and shared the stage many times with Springsteen at the Light of Day Festival in nearby Asbury Park, New Jersey.

²Rapolla has worked with Steven Tyler of Aerosmith and John Oates for a book he is coauthoring with Warner Music Nashville Chairman John Esposito.

PERFECT FOR ANYTIME, ANYWHERE...

"You Make My Dreams Come True" by Hall & Oates.² **"You Get What You Give" by New Radicals** is a great song that conveys a positive message. **"She's So High" by Tal Bachman** has a catchy hook. A sentimental new favorite is **Amy Winehouse's "Valerie."** And don't forget **Tom Petty**—"Don't Do Me Like That" and **"American Girl"** are perfect.

BENNY BONUS TRACK...

If you have to drive home after being "down the shore," reflect on the day with **"Summer Wind" by Frank Sinatra**, another great Jersey artist.

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO SAY GOODBYE TO SUMMER AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE FALL...

Rod Stewart's **"Maggie May"** is a must!
—as told to Tony Marchetti

SPIN THE PLAYLIST



» Scan this code with your phone to listen to Monmouth's Sounds of Summer playlist.



CATCH A FISH

DO'S AND DON'TS OF RESPONSIBLE STRIPER FISHING.

An avid fisherman, John Tiedemann has been angling striped bass for nearly 40 years. “They’re beautiful fish,” says the assistant dean of Monmouth’s School of Science and director of its Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program. “They can get very large, and they’re the classic game fish in that they put up a good fight.”

But the striper population nearly crashed in the 1970s due to overfishing and pollution, and these days there are strict size and possession limits on the fish, says Tiedemann. That means if you fish for stripers, at some point you’re going to have to release at least some of the fish you catch, he says.

Studies have shown that eight percent of stripers caught and released still die because of improper handling by anglers, says Tiedemann. To reduce that percentage, he created Stripers for the Future, an education and research campaign through which he and his students develop and promote best practices for catch and release.

Armed with data from scientific literature on best handling practices, Tiedemann and his students produced an easily digestible list of do’s and don’ts for handling the fish. They put that info on brochures, posters, and cards and distributed them to bait and tackle shops across New Jersey.

The researchers have also been accompanying local anglers out on the water, where they assess injuries and behavioral responses and check stress indicators on stripers the anglers handle. In the fall, the team will undertake similar work at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory at Sandy Hook. Local anglers will be brought in to handle and grip the stripers in a controlled environment so the team can more closely assess how factors such as time out of water, holding the fish vertically versus horizontally, and using fish grips affects the striper. The data they’re collecting will help better inform anglers on how to properly handle and release the stripers they catch.

Tiedemann’s team is also doing DNA testing on clippings from striper pelvic fins. “We... can match it to the established DNA for their spawning grounds—primarily the Hudson and Delaware rivers and tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay,” says Tiedemann. “In the long run, it can help inform conservation. If a larger percentage is from one area, then we know we need to concentrate conservation efforts on that area.”

The bottom line, says Tiedemann, is he wants the fish to be angled, handled, and released in the best way possible to ensure their survival. So go ahead and fish for stripers, he says. If you’re on a boat, he suggests heading to the Shrewsbury Rocks off

THE BASICS

VALUE
ADDED!

DO

- » Release the fish in the water.
- » Cradle the fish with one hand under the belly and one hand under the shoulder.
- » Limit the fish’s air exposure to 15 seconds.

DON'T

- » Lift the bass by the mouth or tail.
- » Handle the bass with dry hands.
- » Touch the red gill rakers or gill area.

Visit monmouth.edu/magazine for a complete list of do’s and don’ts on how to properly catch and release stripers.

of Monmouth County’s northern coast. And if you’re surfcasting, try fishing off or near one of the rocky groins that dot the coast: Fouling organisms grow on the rocks and attract smaller baitfish, which in turn attract stripers, says Tiedemann. And when you do hook one, be sure to keep the above do’s and don’ts in mind.

—Tony Marchetti



6 BOOKS TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS SUMMER, RECOMMENDED BY FACULTY IN MONMOUTH'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.



READ
THESE
NOW

1 ON THE ROAD: THE ORIGINAL SCROLL BY JACK KEROUAC

» *Recommended by Stanley Blair*

Summer is road-trip season! The first complete version of Kerouac's 1957 classic originated in 1951 from three weeks of typing that resulted in a 120-foot-long scroll, now available in book form. Unlike the novel, the original scroll version uses real names, is unedited and uncensored, and lacks margins, paragraphing, and sections: a stream-of-consciousness exploration of late 1940s America, when the U.S. had survived the Great Depression and WWII and was trying to figure out what kind of country it was going to become.

3 INCENDIARY ART BY PATRICIA SMITH

» *Recommended by Michael Waters*

This book of poems, often elegiac, captures Black life in America through the lens of history and does so with nonstop verbal energy and lyric grace. Each poem is a performance, and each is accessible and, especially, memorable.

5 THE PRIZE: WHO'S IN CHARGE OF AMERICA'S SCHOOLS BY DALE RUSSAKOFF

» *Recommended by Maria Geiger*

Russakoff's incredibly researched book offers an insider's view of how public-school students (Newark, New Jersey, in this case) are being educationally shortchanged while being used as political pawns. I think that all educators will benefit from recognizing that identity politics and unions that fight for the sake of fighting are only hurting our students.

2 ASYMMETRY BY LISA HALLIDAY

» *Recommended by Alena Graedon*

It's immersive, entertaining and—while it touches on some bleak material relevant to both the Me Too movement and racial profiling—it manages somehow to be wryly comic. It helped enlarge my sense of what a novel can do, exploring ways to expand the limits of reader consciousness and empathy, while, at heart, remaining a really good story.

4 DID YOU EVER HAVE A FAMILY BY BILL CLEGG

» *Recommended by Michael Thomas*

Not the typical beach read—though I did, in fact, read much of it on the beach—this novel is deeply emotional and so beautiful, yet written with fluid, economical prose. It is one of the few novels I've read that has a multitude of perspectives surrounding a single tragedy, with each one offering true humanity and compassion, ultimately teaching us what it means to live through another's experiences. It's heartbreaking and illuminating.

6 THE POWER BY NAOMI ALDERMAN

» *Recommended by Courtney Wright-Werner*

This dystopian novel takes a hard look at the power dynamics of our world by flipping them upside down. While gender plays a significant role in the novel, it's about more than just gender dynamics. The piece is particularly engaging and follows five or six key characters of various genders and ages. It's a framed piece, too, which makes it a book about a book (extra points, in my opinion!). It's an engaging, meaningful read that will make you think differently about how the world works.

—as told to Breanne McCarthy

MAKE A SPLASH

FOLLOW THESE WHITEWATER RAFTING TIPS TO ENJOY THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE.

Before he graduated with a business administration degree and spent four years hitchhiking around the world, Paul Fogal '69 spent his childhood answering phones and booking reservations at two Ocean Grove, New Jersey, hotels his parents owned.

So, when Fogal landed a job as a river guide at the Youghiogheny River in Western Pennsylvania in the mid-1970s, it didn't take long for his boss to put him to work three days a week booking reservations. That's when Fogal realized he'd found his niche.

"I was kind of figuring out what I wanted to do with my life," says Fogal. "It slowly started to dawn on me that I could do this—and I could do it better than him."

After two seasons at Youghiogheny River, Fogal and his brother, Doug, opened their own business. That was 1976. Today their company, Pocono Whitewater, located in the Lehigh Valley, has taken over 1 million people down the Lehigh River.

For Fogal, a lifelong water sports enthusiast who has paddled on all seven continents, it's the perfect job. "People come here to have a nice time, and [I] get to go and have a nice time with them," says Fogal, who despite owning the business still works as a guide on occasion. We asked him what people need to know before heading down the rapids.



BE IN SHAPE

You'll need to help paddle the raft, and you'll need to be able to get back in it if you fall out, says Fogal. If you do go overboard, be sure not to panic. It can create a dangerous situation both for the guides and other rafters.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Leave the flip flops at home; rafters must wear closed-toe shoes, says Fogal. In summertime, it's good to have a hat and sunglasses, and apply plenty of sunscreen. In colder weather, some businesses will supply wet suits. Call ahead to confirm. And be sure to have dry clothes and towels in the car for afterward, he says.

PLAN ON BEING TIRED

The trips can be intense and exhausting, so if you're traveling a great distance to go rafting, consider getting a hotel room for the night and head home the next day, says Fogal.

DITCH THE VALUABLES

"When the water gets low here in the summertime we'll go snorkeling in the pools below the rapids and we always find cell phones," says Fogal. Leave your cell, wallet, and any other valuables in a locked car or secured locker. Leave the jewelry at home. And if you just have to get a whitewater selfie, buy a waterproof case for your phone in advance, says Fogal.

—Breanne McCarthy



RIDE THE WAVES

SOPHOMORE JOSH SPICER, A COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR AND TREASURER OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S SURF CLUB, SHARES SOME CHOICE SURF SPOTS ALONG THE JERSEY SHORE.

I can't give away my secret spots—hence they're secrets—but there's good surfing all through Deal and Long Branch. Right near campus there's The Pit, down by the Windmill. A lot of people surf there, and the people tend to be friendly. If the waves get big it can get heavy there, but it's not common.

I'm a lifeguard for the Beach Haven Beach Patrol, and we've got some good spots down there in LBI. Taylor Ave. tends to pick up swell pretty well. I've heard that communications cables were laid there during WWII, so there's a hard surface underneath. Whatever it is, the swell can get one to two feet bigger there than everywhere else.

Just south of there is 5th St. Pavilion. The breaks there are friendly enough for beginners.

Farther south is Holyoke Ave. It's a really nice spot if you're a goofy footer¹. Especially on the northeast swell—it tends to break right off the jetty and peel left. It's a magnificent wave.

The wooden jetty, the very last jetty on the island, is really popular. But I don't recommend you paddle out there unless you're an intermediate or advanced surfer. It's a hazardous wave. There are submerged rocks and the wave tends to break before the jetty. You have to cross the jetty and the wave takes you down into a bird sanctuary where there are rip currents. I've gotten stuck there and it takes a while to get out.

The number one thing to do if you get stuck in a rip current is keep your composure and stay calm in the water, because if you start to freak out that's when problems occur.

—as told to Tony Marchetti

¹ Surfers who put their right foot forward on the board tend to favor waves that break left, says Spicer.

EXPERT TIP

VALUE ADDED!

If it's speed you're looking for, head out on the rapids after a heavy rainfall, says Fogal. A big storm can increase the water speed from 1,000 cubic feet per second to 1,200 or 1,500 cubic feet per second.



HIT THE ROAD

TIPS FOR VACATIONING IN AN RV, FROM THE ALUMNUS WHO WROTE THE BOOK ON THE SUBJECT.

Jeremy Puglisi '01 and his wife, Stephanie, bought their first RV on a whim after they decided staying in hotels with their young children wasn't fun. They were hooked instantly.

"We could put the kids to sleep, step outside, have a campfire and reconnect as a couple," says Jeremy. "Then the next day, we'd do it all over again and have a great time with the kids at the campground. We quickly realized taking family vacations in our RV was something we wanted to do very, very regularly."

They've done just that, and in the process have built a mini media empire around that passion.

Jeremy says they started blogging about their experiences early on because they like writing and thought family and friends would enjoy reading

it. But they built an audience beyond that group, and increased followers exponentially when they began podcasting about four years ago.

At the time, most RV-related content was created for and by retirees, says Jeremy. "There was really no content out there for busy, working families who own an RV and use it recreationally."

Listeners loved it, and the Puglis soon had major companies in the RV industry sponsoring their shows. Those relationships led to freelance writing opportunities for the Puglis and, eventually, to Penguin Random House,

where publishers asked them to write *Idiot's Guide: RV Vacations*.

Today, Jeremy and Stephanie produce three RV-related podcasts, work as spokespeople for the industry's "Go RVing" global advertising campaign, and have appeared on nearly 50 local and national TV talk shows. They have over 50,000 followers on their various social media channels, and continue to write for various publications (pick up the July issue of *Trailer Life* magazine for their latest cover story).

Their website, rvfta.com, provides a wealth of information, reviews, and other content for RVers of all experience levels. We asked Jeremy to share some tips for readers thinking about taking their first RV vacation this summer.

START IN A CABIN

Most campgrounds rent them, and if you've never been camping before, it's a good way to see what the campground experience is like, says Jeremy. "They're very social places, and most people love that, but it's not for everyone."

RENT BEFORE BUYING

You can get your feet wet without spending a lot of money, says Jeremy. There are numerous peer-to-peer sites to help you find local vehicles for rent, almost like Airbnb for the RV world. (He recommends Outdoorsy.com.) If you do buy, stay within your budget. "I always tell people: The family in the \$500 popup camper is having just as much fun as the family in the million-dollar motorhome," he says.

KICK THE TIRES

Better yet, get a gauge. "One of the most common roadside accidents people have is a blowout because they didn't monitor the tire pressure," says Jeremy. "A little boring, but super, super important."

KEEP IT PRIVATE

"We love state parks, and highly recommend camping there, but if it's your first trip you might want to go to a privately owned chain, like KOA or Jelly Stone campgrounds, because they offer more customer service," says Jeremy. If you have a technical question, or just need someone to help you back up without hitting anything, you'll have more luck finding someone to help at a private campground, he says.



TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Head to Hershey, Pennsylvania, in September for one of the biggest RV shows in the country. "It's a carnival-like atmosphere with thousands of RVs," says Jeremy, who'll be there with Stephanie to do meet-and-greet sessions. "You can see what this whole RV lifestyle thing is about and see what all the options and price points are."

—Tony Marchetti

FEEL LIGHTER

DITCH BAD HABITS TO ENJOY SUMMER TO THE FULLEST.

Summer is the perfect time to assess what's weighing you down in life and fix it, says Mary Harris '08M, a Certified Holistic Health Coach and specialist professor in the Department of Communication. On her blog, "Wild Mary Blossoms," Harris shares healthy living advice that can help anyone enjoy "a soul-expanding life." Here, she shares some positive lifestyle changes you can make this summer to help lighten the load.



DECLUTTER YOUR LIFE

Look at your environment—your home, car, office—and get rid of what's not being used or adding value to your life. The benefits are threefold: it's physical work, it's emotionally freeing, and giving things away will help you feel whole spiritually, says Harris.

RELEASE YOURSELF FROM YOUR ROUTINE

Getting stuck on autopilot can weigh you down and keep you from living life in the moment. "Structure is important, but if you can, pepper in spontaneity every now and again just to break a link on the chain," says Harris.

STOP MULTITASKING

Monotasking, part of the "slow living movement," follows the philosophy of prioritizing tasks and fully focusing on completing one thing at a time, says Harris. It can be as simple as cutting back on the number of goals you set each day to keep yourself from rushing through tasks.

DO A DIGITAL DETOX DAY

"I feel like we've really distracted ourselves in so many ways and it's created this internal heaviness where people get so anxious about checking their email, so anxious about having their phone," says Harris. She suggests you unplug from your phone and computer and instead enjoy time with friends, connect with nature, or read a book.

PRACTICE MINDFULNESS

Be mindful of environmental toxins—in what you eat, wear, spray on the lawn, put in your hair—to identify if something is directly affecting your well-being, says Harris. And be mindful of habits that can affect you negatively, she says. Do you shop out of necessity or to fill a void? Does spending an hour on social media each day keep you from having time to exercise?

GET OUTSIDE

"Being active is one of the best ways to live lighter because it helps your mental state in a natural way," says Harris. "So kayaking, walking, hiking, dancing, or just sitting outside and existing—it's so important."

—Breanne McCarthy

SKIP THE FIREWORKS

THIS SUMMER, SHOOTING STARS—AND MARS—WILL LIGHT UP THE SKY.

The Perseid Meteor Shower is an annual affair, but this summer's show should be particularly good thanks to a favorable moon phase. We asked Monmouth astronomy professor Gloria Brown Simmons, who worked on the CASSINI, Magellan, Galileo, Voyager, and Viking missions, to explain the phenomenon.



WHAT IT IS

Every 133.28 years, Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle (C/109P) orbits the sun, leaving behind a debris trail of very small meteoroids, says Brown Simmons. It's been doing so for at least thousands of years (the first recorded sighting was in 69 BCE). The comet's orbit is stable, so the debris trail has essentially remained in the same location; that's why the Perseids are an annual event. When Earth passes through this trail, meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere, becoming meteors and appearing as "shooting stars."

WHAT YOU'RE SEEING

Those "shooting stars" are actually ice and dust, entering the atmosphere at about 60 km per second, heating up to 2,000 to 6,000 degrees Kelvin, and burning out by the time they reach 80 km above the Earth, says Brown Simmons.

WHEN AND WHERE TO LOOK

Earth will pass through the comet's debris trail between mid-July and mid-August. If you're in the northern hemisphere, the peak viewing time will be between 9:30 p.m. (EDT) on August 12 and 3:30 a.m. (EDT) on August 13. Look up, toward the northeast sky. The moon will be in a waxing crescent phase that

night, which should make for excellent viewing conditions, says Brown Simmons.

THE BEST WAY TO WATCH

There's no need for binoculars or a telescope, says Brown Simmons. But you'll want to get away from any light sources, so skip the beach (the boardwalk lights are too bright), head outside of any city centers, and find a nice open field with no trees.

WHAT ABOUT MARS?

Brown Simmons says another interesting phenomenon stargazers should catch this summer is Mars in retrograde, when the planet will appear to move backward through the sky as the red planet approaches its September 2018 perihelion (the nearest it gets to the sun during its 1.8-year orbit). Mars will be in opposition to Earth—meaning our planet will pass between the sun and Mars—on July 27. Unfortunately, a full moon that night will likely hamper viewing, she says. But don't worry. The red planet will be one of the brighter objects in the night sky throughout the summer. So while you're taking in the Perseid Meteor Shower, Brown Simmons says to turn around and look south. There, low in the sky, you'll see Mars.

—Tony Marchetti

TAKE A DIVE

5 UNEXPECTED REASONS TO TRY SCUBA DIVING THIS SUMMER.

Jersey Shore native Sean Cervone '13 has always loved two things: animals and the sea. So, when he had to get scuba certified for a position he attained through an internship class with Associate Professor Lisa Dinella, he fell in love with the sport that connected two of his passions. Now a certified assistant instructor through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Cervone teaches courses through Divers Two in Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey, and continues to travel and dive on expeditions focused on conservation. Scuba diving is fun, of course, but there are more reasons than that to get involved in the sport, he says.



1 YOU CAN EXPERIENCE WEIGHTLESSNESS

This month, Cervone traveled to Trinidad to experience “drift diving”—when the ocean current transports the diver through the water without them having to exert any energy. “You’re just weightless and flying through the ocean—it’s an amazing feeling.”

2 IT’S THERAPEUTIC

Not only can weightlessness ease physical pain, but the calmness beneath the water can help to relieve emotional stress, says Cervone, who cofounded Warhorse Scuba, a nonprofit that serves those with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, C-spine, and other disabilities. “Your physical pain is 100 percent capable of being relieved during scuba diving ... and there’s the group aspect because when you’re diving, it’s a team effort with everybody looking out for one another,” says Cervone. “Plus, when you’re diving, no one is talking to you, so you have time with your own thoughts.”

5 YOU’LL MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND EXPLORE NEW WORLDS

Over the past several years, Cervone has traveled to nearly 30 countries to connect with other scuba divers and take part in various types of conservation efforts. The sport connects you to a community and takes you to places that may have otherwise been off your radar, he says. “Once you’re under water, you’re in a place that a lot of people don’t get to see.”

3 IT’S EYE-OPENING (IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE)

You’ll connect with rare and endangered species and observe sea life and landscapes that will amaze you. “We saw whales in Long Branch, diving last year—I mean, that’s pretty awesome,” he says. “You don’t think of whales being right here but they are.” Scuba diving can also be eye-opening for landlubbers who are unaware of how vast plastic pollution is. “There’s a floating patch of garbage in the Pacific, between California and Hawaii—it’s incredible how much garbage there is, and it’s plastic that’s really the problem.”

4 YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Because it’s such an eye-opening experience, scuba divers often become heavily involved in conservation and cleanup efforts across the globe, says Cervone. Through PADI’s Project Aware, for example, many divers participate in Dive Against Debris events, which are focused on collecting and reporting on how much trash is floating in water ecosystems. In 2011, 50,000 divers in 114 countries collected over 1 million pieces of trash. Cervone says that every summer, he and his colleagues at Divers Two participate with other local divers to clean up the Belmar Bay.

WHERE TO START

VALUE ADDED!

Ready to try it? Cervone says Roatán, Honduras, is a great place to start.

“Roatán is gorgeous and there’s a nice little diving community there,” he says.

“The conditions are very clear, it’s easy to get to, and it’s not too expensive.”

—Breanne McCarthy 



★ A WHOLE NEW ★

BALL GAME



WITH HIS PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CAREER OVER, **JAKE GRONSKY** IS FOCUSING ON HIS OTHER PASSION: WRITING. HIS NEW BOOK, *A SHORT SEASON*, TELLS THE TRUE STORY OF HIS FRIEND, JOSIAH VIERA, A BOY WITH A RARE DISEASE AND AN EVEN RARER ABILITY TO INSPIRE EVERYONE HE MEETS.

TEXT BY RYAN JONES
PHOTO BY ERIC FORBERGER



It was an inside fastball, and Jake Gronsky '14 never had a chance. This was in Peoria, Illinois, back in the summer of 2015, and Gronsky was in his second season as a member of the St. Louis Cardinals' minor-league system. He'd been struggling to find his rhythm at the plate, and then, just as he finally got it going, came that pitch—and a broken metacarpal on his left hand. Just like that, he was out for the season.

He swears it's one of the best things that ever happened to him.

"It was a hard thing to go through," Gronsky says now, "but if that never happened, I never would have gotten to know Josiah."

Indeed, it was on a visit to the Cardinals' single-A affiliate in State College, Pennsylvania, where the team sent him to have his hand checked out, that Gronsky met the kid who would change his life. He was in the State College Spikes' clubhouse, catching up with some familiar faces from spring training, when "this kid comes bouncing through the room," Gronsky remembers. "And the whole place just stops."

The kid was Josiah Viera, a tiny, baseball-loving 10-year-old boy whose uniqueness was immediately apparent. Josiah was born with Hutchinson-Gilford progeria, a rare genetic disorder that essentially causes the body to age at eight to 10 times the normal rate; those afflicted rarely live past their teens. But if Josiah's body was fragile, his spirit was buoyant—and, to hear Gronsky tell it, infectious. The two developed a bond, and over the next two years Gronsky grew close with Josiah and his family—particularly Josiah's grandfather, Dave Bohner. Eventually, their friendship would lead to a joint conclusion: Josiah deserved to have his story told.

The result, published in March, is *A Short Season: Faith, Family, and a Boy's Love for Baseball*. At its heart is Josi-



TOP: Gronsky, Viera, and Bohner at the State College Spikes' "Josiah Viera Day" in 2016.

BOTTOM: Gronsky and Viera at spring training in 2016.



ah, the sports-obsessed kid who was all but adopted by the minor-league team two hours from his rural Pennsylvania home. Gronskey and Bohner are listed as the book's co-authors, but Gronskey says he served mostly as the medium for a story that has shown no limits in its ability to inspire. "A lot of people, when they see Josiah at a game or with a team, it's like a charity event—they think people are doing so much for him," Gronskey says. "But really, they have it wrong—he does so much for us."

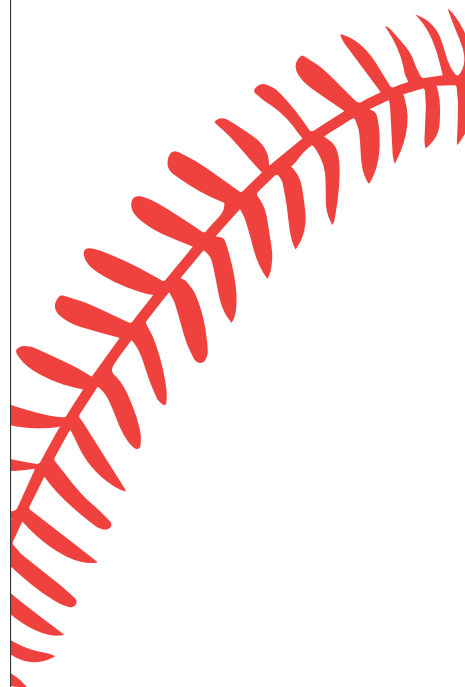
The connection that Gronskey made with the family that first summer was strengthened through the following offseason: Once a week over that span, Bohner would drive to Danville, Pennsylvania, to bring Josiah's older sister to dance classes at a studio run by Gronskey's mom, and the two men would pass the time with coffee and conversation. That's when Gronskey learned Josiah's story wasn't the only one the family had to tell. "Dave had this incredibly rough childhood, and then he had this imperfect child come into his life, and it brought the family back together," Gronskey says. "It's one of the greatest stories I'll ever hear in my life. Those talks were like going to church for me."

They became something more the following March when Gronskey was released by the Cardinals. Suddenly, he was a 20-something college graduate whose dream of reaching the Major Leagues was nearing its end. He needed to figure out what was next. It was around that time that Bohner offered a challenge: I don't want Josiah to ever be forgotten. Gronskey told him he was crazy, that his grandson's bravery and spirit had already touched too many lives. But Bohner insisted. "He said, if it's not written down, people will forget," Gronskey remembers. "So I said, 'You're right, this story's too good not to write. Let's write it for us.'"

Josiah's journey had been shared before—ESPN first featured him back in 2010, when he was just six years old—and writers had approached the family asking if they'd be interested in putting his story in print. Gronskey knew the story better than anyone, in all its heart-warming and heart-wrenching detail. The only problem: He wasn't actually a writer—at least, not yet.

In fact, Gronskey had always thought of himself as a writer, certainly since he'd taken Chad Dell's class as a Mon-

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”



mouth freshman. Dell, an associate professor in the Department of Communications, had seen Gronskey's potential and encouraged him, even as Gronskey pushed off the possibility of making a career of it. "I was a baseball player—I lived, breathed, and slept baseball," says Gronskey, a three-time all-conference pick who finished fifth in school history with 237 hits. "Writing was always my escape, and I knew I wanted to do something in writing, but I didn't think the opportunity would come this soon."

Accepting the task, Gronskey immersed himself in it, educating himself on relevant medical research, conducting extensive interviews, and detailing the lives of Josiah and his family, as well as four of Gronskey's teammates who were similarly impacted by getting to know the boy. Throughout, he says he never lost sight of the primary goal: To record the truth of their experiences—"to just get it right," he says—because Josiah and his family deserved nothing less. The rest—a book deal, promotion via ESPN, a line of hats and t-shirts that he and Josiah designed together—has been an unexpected blessing.

Josiah is 14 now, and the cruel math of what progeria has done to him physically is undeniable; as Gronskey notes, "His body is like 100 years old or more." But Josiah started high school last year, and emotionally, he does his best to be a typical kid. "He's a teenager, so of course he's got a phone now," Gronskey laughs. "We stay in touch, and I know he's excited about the book, but he's more excited about having sleepovers with his friends."

Gronskey now lives in Philadelphia, where he works in digital marketing, and he's already on to his second book project, co-authoring the autobiography of 2006 World Series MVP David Eckstein. He's come to terms with the end of his playing days, but the former second baseman is still passionate about the game, and would love to continue finding ways to combine that connection with his passion for writing. But he knows he'll never have another project that means as much as his first book—or another subject who taught him as much as Josiah has.

"Every time he walked into that clubhouse or stepped on the field, he understood that we may not have control over how our life unfolds," Gronskey says, "but we can always choose how we live." ■

THE CHANGEMAKER » Alumni making waves

FROM TECH TO TEACH

NICK GATTUSO '88, '90M IS TAKING THE LESSONS HE LEARNED AS A SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTO THE CLASSROOM.

BY MONICA ROZENFELD

After a successful 20-year stint as a software engineer at Bellcore, Nick Gattuso '88, '90M shifted gears and became a teacher at Point Pleasant Boro High School.

It was 2002 when he launched the school's computer science program, teaching students skills such as coding and programming at a time when many schools were still focused on typing. Today, his program is considered one of the best of its kind nationwide and has become a model that other schools want to emulate.

Gattuso's teaching style is project-based learning: His students develop apps that can help solve real-world problems. PALS (Panther Assisted Learning Software), which he launched in 2013, partners his computer science students with special education students to develop apps that can benefit the latter.

"When we asked the students if there was any way we can help

them, a river started flowing. There really wasn't anything out there for special needs students," says Gattuso.

The suite of software tools his computer science classes have developed can help special needs students learn to do anything from navigate the school to grocery shop. One app, Lunch Buddy, which helps special needs students find a classmate to sit with in the cafeteria, won the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. With a click of a button, a message goes out to students who have signed up for the app, notifying them the student would like a friend to eat with.

Other apps are focused on solving a problem at the school or for the town. One sends an

THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

While at Bellcore, Gattuso pitched and developed a converged network application called VICI that was used by the Department of Defense. Because the program runs over the internet and not a telephone network, the Pentagon was able to use the system as a secondary communication channel on 9/11.

alert when a bridge is going up within a mile to help drivers re-route and avoid traffic. Another notifies students and parents in case of an emergency, such as a school shooting. Gattuso is working on a licensing agreement so that other districts can have their own versions of this app.

Once his students graduate, they can take their projects with them and continue to build them out, says Gattuso. Moreover, the program's alumni are now at Monmouth University and other top schools, and are employed at such companies as Google, Twitter, and Lyft, which has created an invaluable network to help his students succeed.

Gattuso, whose program was featured on NJTV's "Classroom Close-up," in a segment focused on innovative education in the state, says he's now beta-testing the program at other high schools.

"Whether students become programmers or not, they need to learn to problem-solve," he says. They need to know how to "understand complexity and simplify it, and go through the steps to solve a problem. They need to know how to work in a team and be held accountable.

"These are the ingredients for success," says Gattuso. "Our courses are prepping them for college and the real world."

NET GAINS: Gattuso, opposite, also runs his own business, Background Solutions, which develops software for background checks.



ALUMNI ROUNDUP

LISTED BY GRADUATION YEAR

1960s

» **Chuck Hassol '61** (A.A. Lib. Stu.) has been elected chairman of the board of directors for the Royal Highlands Property Owners Association in Leesburg, Florida. He has served on the board of the 1,500-home gated community for seven years and has previously served as vice president.

» **James P. Mack '62** (Bio), a professor in Monmouth's Department of Biology, recently completed his 45th year as an instructor on campus. Mack received his M.A. from William Paterson College in 1966 and his Ed.D. from Columbia University in 1971. In 2014, he received Monmouth's Distinguished Teacher Award.

» **John Winterstella '65** (Bus. Adm.) is organizing a Phi Delta Sigma reunion off campus in New Jersey the weekend of September 7-9 and is looking for more brothers to attend. If you are a former brother, or know someone who is, please contact him at bisbob@gmail.com.

1970s

» **Pauline Amos Clansy '72** (Bus. Adm.), Ed.D., is a clinical neuropsychologist in Houston, Texas. She has over three decades of experience in her field and a special expertise in general practice. She is a distinguished member of the American Psycho-

logical Association and a member of the International Association of HealthCare Professionals, the Texas Psychological Association, and the Texas Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

» **Stew Freedman '73** (Bus. Adm.), who implements Enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems around the world, recently finished implementing his 23rd system. Throughout his career, he has implemented ERP systems in Singapore, Germany, China, Japan, and the United Kingdom, as well as in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Arizona, New York, and California. Though he recently retired, Freedman is actively working as an ERP independent consultant. He and his wife, Susan (Kaufman) '75 (Elem. Ed.), have two children.

» **Frank Falotico '74** (Art) recently retired as the director of the duCret School of Art in Plainfield. Falotico, who is a graduate of the duCret School of Art and studied at the Art Students League of New York, has exhibited his paintings in numerous shows in New Jersey and New York, including at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, and the Salmagundi Club in New York City.

» **John J. McGovern '77** (Bus. Adm.) will join AMC Health, the leading provider of proven real-time virtual care solutions, as chief financial officer. With more than 30 years of investment and consulting experience and an extensive background in financial planning and operations, management, and strategy, he will be responsible for overseeing all financial aspects of the company, including budget management, cost benefit analysis, and fiscal reporting. McGovern, who began his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Merrill Lynch Interfunding, has held various positions at healthcare and high-

growth technology companies, including working as president and CEO of Comprehensive Clinical Development, CEO of Care Management Technologies, SVP and CFO of Multex.com, Inc., special advisor to CareGain, Inc., and strategic advisor to Servient, Inc. He also founded and ran Bridgehead Partners, a professional consulting firm serving the private equity industry, for 14 years.

1980s

» In April, **Michael “Greeny” Greenblatt ’83** (Psych.) landed his second consecutive part in a “Rocky” movie—“Creed II,” which is set to release Nov. 21, 2018. Greenblatt plays the role of a VIP who sits ringside at the heavyweight championship boxing match. “It was truly an honor working 14 hours with Michael B. Jordan, the legendary Dolph Lundgren, and ring announcer Michael Buffer,” Greenblatt says. Previously, Greenblatt, the former captain of the Monmouth University men’s tennis team, appeared in “Creed,” where he plays the role of an English soccer fan of the Everon Football Club.

» **Steven T. Popper ’87** (Speech/Comm./Thtr.) was named lead sports columnist for *The Record* and NorthJersey.com in February.

» **Patricia V. Smith ’87** (Engl.) was one of seven non-federal appointees chosen to serve as a member on the newly formed Health and Human Services (HHS) Tick-Borne Disease Working Group. The working group aims to review all HHS efforts related to tick-borne diseases to provide expertise and help ensure interagency coordination, minimize overlap, examine research priorities and identify unmet needs. Smith is completing her 21st year as president of

the New Jersey-based national nonprofit Lyme Disease Association, which raises funds for research, education, prevention, and patient support.

» **Kim Cuny ’88** (Speech/Comm.), director of the Speaking Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was honored with the 2017-2018 Teaching Excellence award from UNCG’s College of Arts and Sciences. Cuny, a former Monmouth instructor, is currently an adjunct assistant professor for UNCG’s School of Theatre.

» Award-winning sculptor **Brian Hanlon ’88** (Art/Ed.) was selected among 13 sculptors to create a statue of Susan B. Anthony with plans to place it in the Town Common in Adams, Massachusetts. The Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration committee is commissioning the sculpture for their celebration “100 Events for 100 Years” to be held from January 2019 through Decem-

ber 2020. The events will honor the 200th birthday of Susan B. Anthony as well as the 100th anniversary of passing the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote.

» **Kurt Rao ’89** (Comp. Sci.) has been named chief technology officer of TEGNA, Inc. Rao, who has more than 20 years of media experience, will work to drive development and implementation of the company’s next-generation client and customer technology solutions. Most recently, Rao was chief information and technology officer for Time Inc., where he led the transformation and growth of the media publishing organization into a digital content platform company. He also served as chief information and technology officer at Time Inc., was vice president of technology at NBC Universal, and was director of application development at Viacom Inc. Additionally, he sits on the advisory boards of several software companies. [▶](#)

NOT TO MISS » Now through Aug. 31 **ART + AUTISM**



This juried exhibition will showcase the talents and abilities of artists living with Autism Spectrum Disorder and continue the conversation about the unique power of art in the autism community.

1990s

» **Stacey Trocchia Wilk '91** (Speech/Comm./Thtr.) published her first contemporary women's fiction novel, *A Second Chance House*, in March. It is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, iTunes, and all major online retailers. Visit staceywilk.com for more information.

» **Susan Looney '92** (Bus. Adm.), '93 (M.B.A.) was named the sixth president of Reading Area Community College by the College's Board of Trustees in February. Looney joined RACC in 2014 as dean of instruction, and since 2015 had been serving as the college's senior vice president of academic affairs/provost. She has a J.D. from Widener University School of Law and an Ed.D. in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

» **Paul C. Mottola '92** (M.B.A.) has joined Incapital LLC, a leading underwriter and distributor of fixed income securities, as head of capital markets. Mottola, who will also be a member of the executive committee, will lead the capital markets team and drive the firm's industry-leading InterNotes program to offer individual investors access to new issue corporate debt. Previously, Mottola spent 20 years at Merrill Lynch, where he was head of equity and fixed income syndicate for the Global Wealth Management Division. For six years, he was the head of the trading and capital markets platforms at Barclays Wealth and Investment Management and was a managing partner at PCM Management Consulting, LLC.

» **John Napolitani '93** (Bus. Adm.) married Michele Levin-DeGeorge on June 25, 2017, in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. Napolitani is a teacher at Asbury Park (New

Jersey) Middle School, president of the Asbury Park Education Association, 1st vice president of the Monmouth County Education Association, and a councilman in the Township of Ocean. His wife is a senior manager with Medtronic in Eatontown, New Jersey. The couple has five children together: John's two sons, John Jr. and Nicholas, and Michele's three children, Maxwell, Abbey, and Julia. The family lives in Ocean.

» **John Heidelberg '95** (M.S. Comp. Sci.) has been named client delivery leader for InsPro Technologies LLC, a leading provider of core policy administration software for group and individual life, health, and annuity products. Prior to joining InsPro, Heidelberg spent several years as an independent management consultant, creating and executing enterprise technology strategies for a variety of national and global insurance and financial services companies. He also served as vice president and chief information officer at Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and held leadership positions at Prudential Property & Casualty Insurance Company, BusinessEdge Solutions, and American Management Systems.

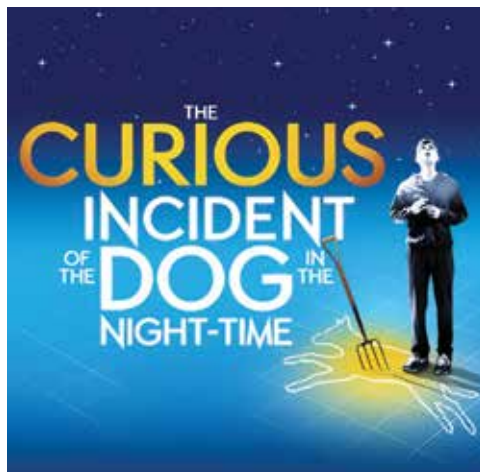
» **Kenneth W. Rathje Jr. '95** (M.B.A.) was the keynote speaker at the City of Rye's annual Memorial Day parade and ceremonies held in Rye, New York. Rathje is currently the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator for FEMA Region II covering New York, New Jersey, the Caribbean Islands, and all federally recognized tribes within these states. In this capacity, he is on point to implement the concepts and principles of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) throughout the region and the nation, often leading interagency teams of over 20 other federal agencies. As a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, Rathje served

Continued, p. 52

NOT TO MISS »

Aug. 8

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME



Captured live from the National Theatre in London, this critically acclaimed production directed by Marianne Elliot and based on the novel of the same name by Mark Haddon follows a 15-year-old amateur detective and mathematical genius as he investigates the mysterious death of a neighbor's dog.



WHAT IT'S LIKE » Firsthand accounts

HIKING THE HIMALAYAS

BY MARK MOLYNEAUX '99, AS TOLD TO MOLLY PETRILLA

Fifty is one of those big birthdays that you don't just breeze past with a cake and some balloons. That's why I started planning right around the time I turned 49. From the beginning, I knew I didn't want a party or more stuff. I wanted a once-in-a-lifetime experience—which is how I ended up hiking the Himalayas and climbing up to Mount Everest base camp this past spring.

First I booked a guided trip and recruited my friend Scott to come with me. We trained for almost a year leading up to the trip, hiking a couple times a week with full backpacks. I also walked every day, everywhere I could. People kept asking how my training was going and I'd tell them I had no idea. There's just no way to simulate the Himalayas when you live in New Jersey.

This past March, Scott and I flew to Kathmandu, then hopped on a little propeller plane to Lukla

and started our adventure. Over the next three weeks, we covered about 60 miles on foot. Every day we'd trek through the mountains—it was like climbing stairs for eight hours straight. Eventually the trees would thin out and we'd spot a little hamlet. That's where we spent our nights: in villagers' homes sleeping on plywood beds with no heat or running water.

On April 6, the day I officially turned 50, we made it up to Everest base camp. It's 17,590 feet

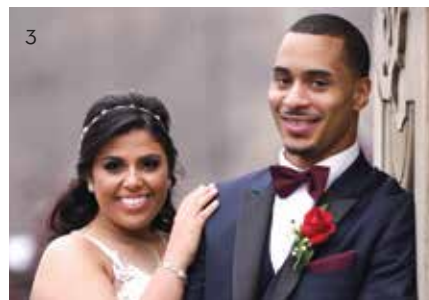
“
AFTER WE PASSED THE TREE LINE, THERE WAS NOTHING. NO SHRUBS OR MOSS, NO BUGS, NO ANIMALS. NO LIFE AT ALL. WHEN I SHOW PEOPLE MY PICTURES, THEY ASK IF I TOOK THEM IN BLACK AND WHITE. NOPE. THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE UP THERE. IT'S LIKE VISITING THE MOON.
 ”

ABOVE: Molyneaux at Everest Base Camp in spring.

above sea level, and after we passed the tree line, there was nothing. No shrubs or moss, no bugs, no animals. No life at all. When I show people my pictures, they ask if I took them in black and white. Nope. That's what it looks like up there. It's like visiting the moon.

Even with the intense altitude, I was feeling pretty good at base camp. So the next morning, my guide and I decided to summit Kala Patthar—another 600 feet straight up from the Everest camp. That was the only time I wanted to quit. I could barely breathe and I was practically crawling my way forward. But when I looked up and saw people already there, I just kept telling myself that if they could do it, I could too. And I did.

The whole thing felt more like an endurance event than a vacation. I didn't come back talking about the amazing food I tried or the museums I visited. Don't get me wrong—I'm glad I went. I loved challenging myself and seeing that part of the world. But now I'm thinking about other adventures: the fjords of Norway, the volcanoes in Iceland, Mexico's underwater caves. I know I can't see everything out there, but I'm going to try.



CELEBRATIONS

ENGAGEMENTS: 1. Kate Stevens '02 and Michael Kane. 2. Meaghan Brandt '15 and Michael Kelvy '15. **WEDDING:** 3. Savina Vavlas '16 and Joshua Giovanni Ortiz. **BIRTHS:** 4. William Frech '00, granddaughter Brianna Valencia Frech. 5. Rebecca Lythgoe Patton '05 and husband Keith, son Declan Richard Patton. 6. Shannon Snyder Murphy '06 and husband Michael, son Greyson Michael Murphy. **ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** 7. Kim Cuny '88, 2017-2018 Teaching Excellence award from UNCG's College of Arts and Sciences. 8. Donna Cardillo '02, Vanguard Award from the National Nurses in Business Association. 9. Jennifer Wolff '03 and Michael Boylan '01M, formed local band, Where's Tino. 10. Laurie Matassa '03, Jackson School District's Educational Service Professional of the Year. 11. U.S. Air Force Capt. Mark Untisz '13, first deployment in Iraq, a three-and-a-half-month tour. 12. Madelyn Mauterer '15, advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in neuroscience at Wake Forest University.

SAVE THE DATES

*Join the Hawk family at
these upcoming events*

10.20.2018

Homecoming | Alumni House

Gather your alumni friends and join us for the
premier alumni tailgate of the year.

12.01.2018

Holiday Ball | Wilson Hall

Black-tie event to benefit the Monmouth University
Scholarship Fund.

Details at monmouth.edu/alumnievents

MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

Hawks on the Road

Can't make it to campus? Join alumni in your area at one of our upcoming regional events.
Visit monmouth.edu/hawksontheroad to see where we'll be this fall.

SWIPED OUT

DANIEL RUSSO '15 WAS TIRED OF DATING APPS THAT PERPETUATED THE HOOKUP CULTURE. SO HE CREATED ONE THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER BASED ON PERSONALITY, NOT LOOKS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Weather forecast calls for a rainy weekend. What are you going to do? That's one of about 350 questions you'll be prompted to answer before you can see what your match looks like when using Vyve, a dating app co-founded by business administration alumnus Daniel Russo.

A year out of college, Russo '15 and his friends found they were struggling to have meaningful conversations with people they met using other dating apps like Tinder and Bumble.

"The one problem we found with every single dating app is that you don't talk. You get matched and the person says 'hello,' you say 'hello,' they say 'what's up?' You say 'not much.' It's the same conversation every single time!" says Russo. "Honestly, I felt like I couldn't be myself on there."

As someone who had dozens of ideas for apps over the years,

Russo said the idea for a dating app that puts personality first came to him as a "brain blast," and he immediately knew it was worth pursuing.

He partnered with longtime friend Chris Moskal, an electrical engineer, and the two brought on graphic designer Juliana Scialabba. After coding much of the app themselves, Russo and Moskal brought on a team of developers to finish building the app and together, they fleshed out features they hoped would help Vyve rise above other dating apps that perpetuate the hookup culture.



"Everyone labels millennials as, 'Oh they want the hookup culture'—but I don't know, I'm a millennial and I don't really have any friends that want that," says Russo. "There are people you'd match with on other apps and they just want to meet up. We want to keep away all of the 'creepers'—anyone that you wouldn't want at your Thanksgiving dinner pretty much."

While it took several years to design and code—the project has been largely self-funded along with the help of a small investment—the free app launched in 2017 and has had over 10,000 downloads to date.

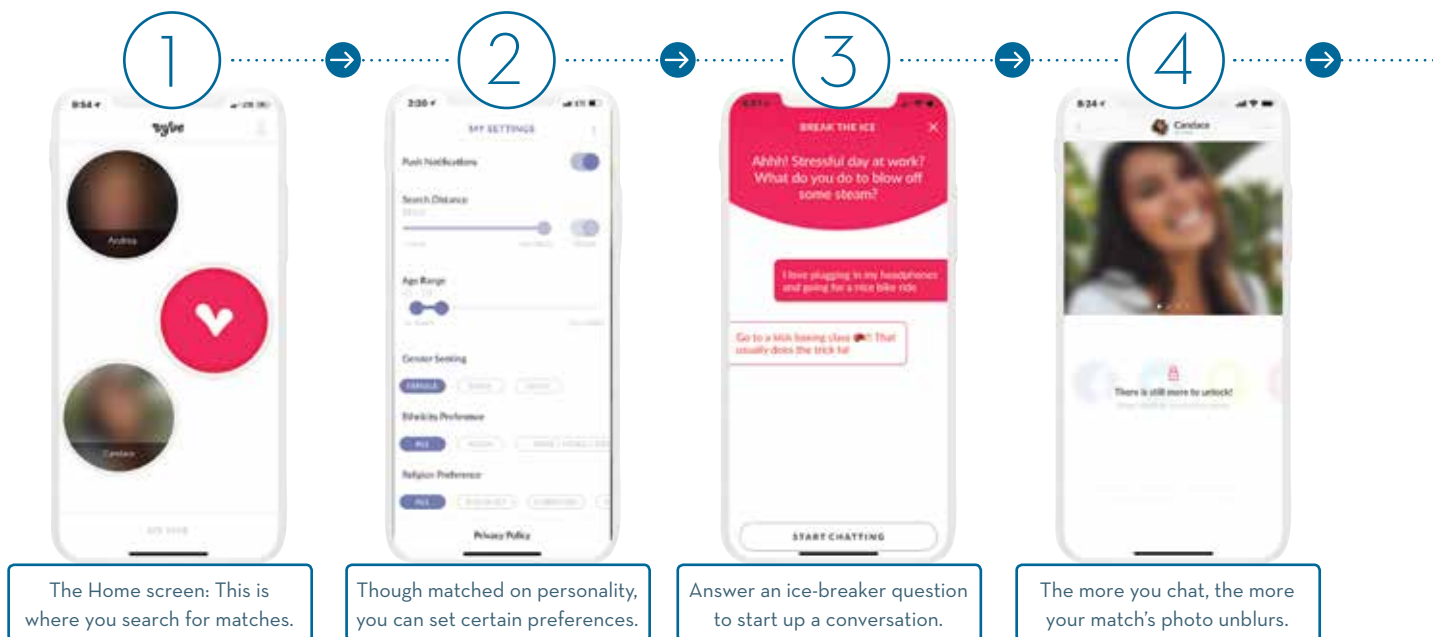
With the motto "More to Love at First Sight," Vyve focuses on supporting real connections based on personality, in a safe environment.

Russo says safety was of major importance, so every user

SIGNS OF LOVE: Inspired by shortcomings in other dating apps, Russo and partners unveiled Let's Vyve in 2017, and the app has garnered more than 10,000 downloads since its launch.

HOW IT WORKS

Curious? Here's a quick primer on the Let's Vyve process.



must complete an application for approval before they can use the app. Once approved, users fill out basic preferences describing what they are looking for, including things such as age range, gender, ethnicity, and religious preference. Location settings are also set—a person can choose global mode or restrict parameters within a few miles. Russo says they purposefully leave out physical attributes such as height or hair color.

After preferences are set, users are then prompted to answer ice breaker questions before being matched with other people with similar preferences.

“We use the ice breakers as a way of starting up the conversation differently every time,” Russo says.

What sets Vyve apart from other dating apps is that the faces and personal information of other users are blurred when you first match. Then, based on the rate of messaging between two people—such as the amount and length of messages being exchanged—the face of each user begins to unblur. After a real connection has been established, the two

“**THE ONE PROBLEM WE FOUND WITH EVERY SINGLE DATING APP IS THAT YOU DON'T TALK. YOU GET MATCHED AND THE PERSON SAYS 'HELLO,' YOU SAY 'HELLO,' THEY SAY 'WHAT'S UP?' YOU SAY 'NOT MUCH.' HONESTLY, I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T BE MYSELF.**”

users can agree to fully reveal their photos.

If they’ve “Vyved” with one another, they are stored in each other’s “MyFive,” where each user keeps their five strongest matches.

As they continue to chat, more information, such as additional photos and links to other social media accounts, begins to unblur as well. The last thing to unlock is the log where the answers to all questions they’ve been prompted with are stored.

“It gives you a little bit more fuel that you can use—you get to know your match even better,” he says. “It can happen in as little as an hour or three days—it all depends on how much you’re talking.”

If you feel you’re no longer Vyving with one match, you can remove them from your MyFive—that person then has the option to “Revyve” once a day to try and save the relationship.

“There are times when someone may disconnect from you due to a misunderstanding, or because you were away from your phone for too long,” he says. “So, it gives you a chance to explain and respark the relationship.”

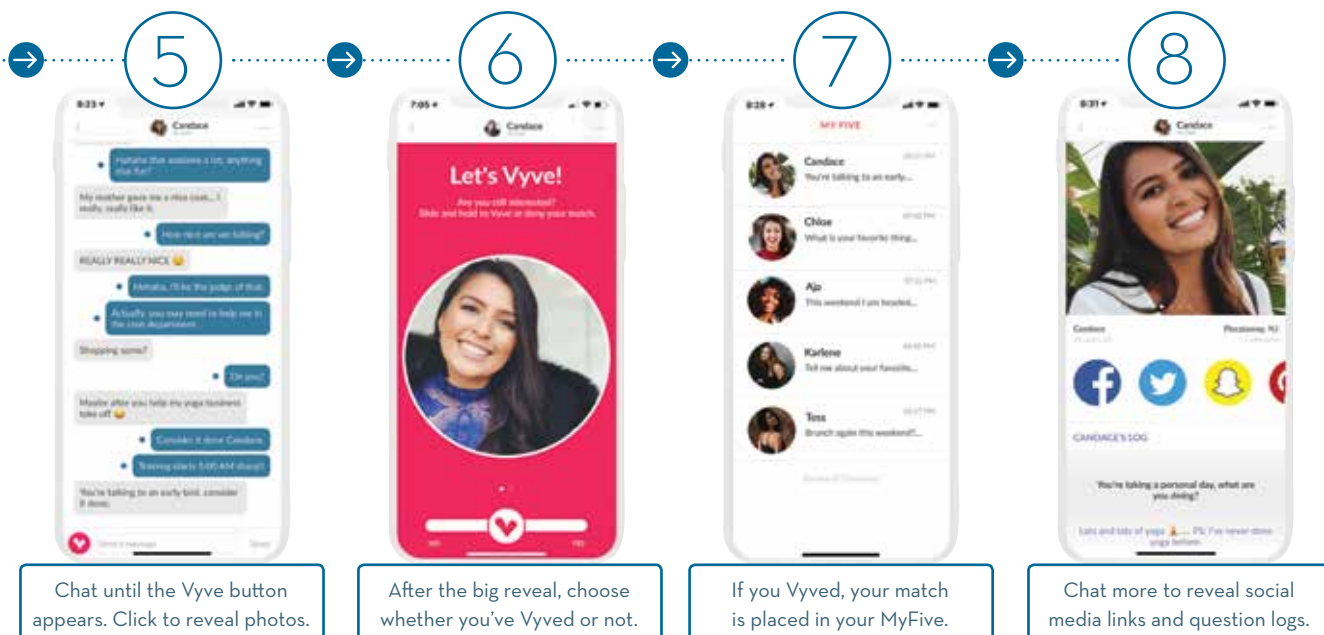
Russo says the reaction to the app has been overwhelmingly positive—a high rating of 4.3 from users puts Vyve’s rating above both Tinder and Bumble in the iTunes App Store.

In the near future, the app will become available to Android devices. The team plans to soon expand to be more inclusive of non-English speaking users, and they hope to one day offer more personalized matchmaking experiences such as Vyve-sponsored dates and meet ups.

Russo says stories are slowly beginning to come in about people finding success using the app.

After contacting two users who left the community to gauge why they deleted the app, Russo says he was told the two no longer needed the app after Vyving with one another.

“As long as you buy in to the no judgement, you can go along with it and maybe learn about yourself. You’re saying stuff that you wouldn’t usually say,” says Russo. “And I honestly hope that when people are on Vyve, they learn about themselves and in that process, they find someone who loves them for them.”



on the Army senior staff as well as commanded at the Brigade level in Iraq and Afghanistan. His education includes a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His highest military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Action Badge. He has also earned the Ranger Tab and the Army Parachutist Badge.

2000s

» **William Frech '00** (M.B.A.) welcomed his first granddaughter, Brianna Valencia Frech, on Sept. 28, 2017, in Baltimore, Maryland.

» **Juan Madrid '00** (Comm.) was named manager for rapper and five-time Grammy Award nominee Rick Ross earlier this year.

» **Michael Boylan '01** (M.A.T.). See note for Jennifer Wolff '03, '06M.

» **Angela Gallinari '01** (Comm.) married Fielder Strain at The Barn at Allenbrooke Farms in Spring Hill, Tennessee, on Oct. 7, 2017. Eight Monmouth alumni were on hand for the event: Justine De Vingo '00; Christine Kopecky '01; Amy Brancato '00; Anne Marie Havens Price '00, '02M; Paul McCarter '00; Arete Bouhla Tzovolos '01; Nicole Weiss '01; and Lauren Bertoni '03. Angela is a full-time top producing realtor with Re/Max Masters Nashville, and her husband is a freelance product and architectural photographer and high-end photo retoucher for Hudson Yards. The couple are expecting their first child, a girl, this fall.


» **Erik Lindquist '01** (Comm.) is a senior account executive in the Private Client Department for the Provider Insurance Group in

Boston. Erik lives in Wilmington, Massachusetts, with his wife of 10 years, Amy, and their two children: Aidan, 8, and Addison, 1.

» **Donna Cardillo '02** M.A.C.P.C. received the prestigious Vanguard Award from the National Nurses in Business Association in February. The award is presented in recognition of a nurse entrepreneur-exemplar with a proven track record of business success, impact, and substantial influence in the nursing profession. Cardillo, a registered nurse, is known by many as "The Inspiration Nurse"—a keynote speaker, columnist, author, and cut-up who helps women and health-care professionals to be happy in their lives and careers and to reach their full potential.

» **Danielle Nicolette Najarian '02** (Psych.) was the host of the 2018 Garden State Film Festival held in Asbury Park, New Jersey, back in March. Najarian, who has landed roles in TV shows such as "Gotham," "Mr. Robot," and "Private Practice," among others, was featured in the film, "The Gift," which screened at the festival.

» **Kate Stevens '02** (Bus. Adm.) is engaged to wed Michael Kane on September 21, 2018. Stevens, who sits on the Monmouth University Alumni Association Board of Directors along with her father, Thomas P. Stevens '71, is director of development and events for the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce. Kane is a sergeant with the Hamilton Township Police Department in Hamilton, New Jersey, where the couple also lives.

» **Laurie (DeLuca) Matassa '03** (Psych./Ed.) was named Jackson School District's Educational Service Professional of the Year. She has been a librarian at Jackson Liberty High School in Jackson, New Jersey, since it opened in 2006. She lives in Howell with 

NOT TO MISS » July 25 **EUGENE ONEGIN**



Captured live from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, beloved American soprano Renée Fleming will join Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky for a performance of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece of unrequited young love.

Continued, p.54



SHERLOCK IN FATIGUES

AN ALUMNUS TRACKS DOWN TWO WWI ARTIFACTS, AND IN THE PROCESS HELPS MAKE ARMY HISTORY.

BY PETE CROATTO

In the early morning hours of October 23, 1917, the American Expeditionary Force in Bathelémont, France, fired into the German lines—the first round fired by the U.S. against the Imperial German Army during World War I.

Spc. Thomas Minton '06 knows the details of the event well. How the soldiers of C Battery, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, dragged a 3,400-pound gun up a muddy hill outside of town in pitch darkness. How they wore gas masks because of lingering fumes from German mustard gas. How they fired that first shot at precisely 6:05:10 a.m.

But facts alone weren't sufficient. Minton wanted to track down the gun and shell casing used that fateful morning and reunite them.

"My passion in life is preserving the legacy of the American soldier for future generations, and making sure that nobody

forgets about him," says Minton, regimental historian for the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) in Fort Drum, New York. "By the grace of God, I found myself at the right time, at the right place, to tell the Army story and to help make Army history."

Minton began planning the 3-6 FAR's celebration of the shot's centennial in May 2016, giving him ample time to play Sherlock in fatigues. He knew the shell casing from that first shot had been sent to then President Woodrow Wilson. But where was it now? Minton, a field artillery fire con-

trol specialist, whose myriad duties also include serving as his unit's public affairs representative, social media administrator, and photographer, started following up on possible leads during his free time.

One was the Woodrow Wilson House in Washington, D.C. As it turned out, the shell casing had sat on the president's bedroom mantel since 1921.

Minton can close his eyes and relive the day in October 2016 when he traveled to D.C. to collect the casing. Over 100 years old, it had been prepared for travel and was enclosed in a box and sheathed in acid-free paper and bubble wrap. Minton donned a pair of white archivists' gloves and unwrapped it. "I'm holding the United States Army's Field Artillery equivalent of the Holy Grail," he thought. The gravity of that thought carried over to his rental car, where he cautiously buckled the box into the passenger-side seat before "very carefully" driving back to Fort Drum.

Last fall, when 3-6 FAR held a ceremony marking the centennial of that first shot being fired, the casing was on display for all to see thanks to Minton and his efforts.

Unfortunately, the gun that had fired the shot was not. Minton had been searching for the M1897 75mm howitzer all along as well, but it wasn't until just before the centennial that he found it. As it turned out, the massive weapon was hiding almost in plain sight less than a five-hour drive away. The West Point Museum had kept it since the summer of 1918—a minor miracle considering that many antique weapons were sacrificed for scrap drives during World War II, says Minton.

Earlier this year, Minton and his wife, Kimberly, drove the shell casing back to Washington, D.C., detouring through West Point, where eager museum staffers assembled. The shell casing and the gun were reunited for the first time since 1917.

"My hair stands up just thinking about it," says Minton.

SPECIAL CASE: Spc. Thomas Minton '06 holding the shell casing at the Woodrow Wilson House in Washington, D.C., where it had been for nearly 100 years.

her husband, Michael Matassa '06 (M.A.T.) and three children, Nicolina, Luca, and Christiano.

» **Jennifer Wolff '03** (Mus. Ed.) (M.A.T. '06) and Michael Boylan '01 (M.A.T.) have formed the local band, Where's Tino. The duo just released their first EP, The Girl From Bangs Avenue, as well as a music video for the title track. Their music is available on all digital music sites as well as through the band's website, wherestino.com. Where's Tino has been appearing throughout the Jersey Shore area performing their original music.

» After spending the past four years heading acquisitions for Cypress Equities, a multibillion-dollar institutional CRE sponsor, **Landon M. McGaw '04** (Bus. Adm.) departed recently to solely focus on his vertically integrated family office, McGaw Enterprises. Since graduating from Monmouth, Landon has been involved in over \$2.5B of commercial real estate acquisition, development, repositioning, asset management, and dispositions spanning across virtually all asset classes. McGaw Enterprises' strategy consists of exploiting market inefficiencies across asset classes as they arise, which in turn empowers the company to produce significant risk-adjusted returns. Differentiating McGaw Enterprises is their astute ability to rapidly identify, assess, secure investment opportunities, and execute project-specific business plans that allow them to reposition functionally obsolete institutional-grade commercial real estate within a predetermined time period.

» R&J Strategic Communications of Bridgewater has promoted **Tiffany Miller '05** (Comm.) to vice president. Miller, who joined the company in 2006, most recently served as associate vice president and had previously been added as a member of R&J's senior management committee. In her new role, she

will provide oversight for the firm's account executives and will continue to lead the company's Business-to-Business division serving clients in real estate, financial services, nonprofit organization, and healthcare. Miller, who was named one of Jersey's Best Marketing and Communications Professionals Under 40 by the NJ Ad Club and Jersey Shore Public Relations & Advertising Association, lives in South Plainfield.

» **Rebecca (Lythgoe) Patton '05** (M.A.C.P.C.) and her husband, Keith, welcomed a son, Declan Richard Patton, on Feb. 28, 2018.

» In February, **Purvi S. Manav Shah '05** (M.A.T.) was appointed principal of Franklin Park School in Franklin Park, New Jersey.

» In February, Solis Tek Inc., a vertically integrated technology innovator, developer, manufacturer, and distributor focused on bringing products and solutions to commercial cannabis growers in legal markets across the U.S., announced that **Alan Lien '06** (Bus. Adm.), the company's co-founder, chairman, chief financial officer, and president, had been reappointed chief executive officer. Lien had previously served as the company's CEO from 2009 to 2016.

» **Shannon (Snyder) Murphy '06** (Comm./Ed.) and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, Greyson Michael Murphy, on November 3, 2017.

» **Gilda D. Rogers '06M** (M.A. Hist.) was honored for her community service work by the Monmouth County Branch of American Association of University Women in April. Rogers is the vice president of the T. Thomas Fortune Foundation, an organization that leads the efforts to preserve the T. Thomas Fortune House, a National Historic Landmark in Red Bank, New Jersey. Rogers is also a

writer and community liaison for the Two River Theater and an adjunct professor at Brookdale Community College.

» **Michael Smith '06** (M.B.A.) was inducted into the Bayonne High School Hall of Fame. Raised in Bayonne, he became one of the most decorated swimmers in the school's history. He was a three-time high school state swimming championship qualifier named to 1st team All-State team in his junior and senior years. As a four-time All-County Swim team member, he finished undefeated in the HCIAA competition in the 50- and 100-yard sprint freestyle events. He set the HCIAA swimming/diving championship meet record in both the 50- and 100-yard events. He was also the 1995 USA Swimming New Jersey State Champion in both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle and was a U.S. Open and Speedo Junior National Qualifier. Smith received the Richard Bronstein Sports Scholarship, the Olympiad Memorial Award from Hudson County Council of War Veterans, and the Wendy's High School Heisman trophy his senior year. He received an athletic/academic scholarship to attend Rider University. Smith, who completed the Ironman in Louisville, Kansas, in 2014, is a member of the Jersey Shore Triathlon Club.

» **Jason Allentoff '07** (Comm.) has been promoted to vice president and chief operating officer at Micromedia Publications Inc., the company behind seven local weekly newspapers and the news website Jersey Shore Online. He will oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization; manage the production, news, and sales staff; and continue to ensure the company remains a leader in fair, balanced, and accurate local news. Allentoff, who previously served as general manager and editor-in-chief, worked as a radio news anchor/reporter for the Townsquare News Network with

his home base at 92.7 WOBN-FM in Ocean County, New Jersey. He was also part of the daily news rotation on the flagship station, New Jersey 101.5, filing Ocean, Monmouth, and Middlesex County news reports.

» In April, *The Control War: The Struggle for South Vietnam, 1968-1975*, by **Martin G. Clemis '07M** (M.A. Hist.), was published by The University of Oklahoma Press. Revealing the unique spatiality of the Vietnam War—a conflict that has often been called a “war without fronts”—*The Control War* analyzes the ways that both sides of the conflict conceptualized and used geography and the environment to serve strategic, tactical, and political ends. Clemis is assistant professor of history and government at Valley Forge Military College and a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey. His articles have been published in *Army History Magazine* and *Small Wars and Insurgencies*.

» **Christie Adams '08** (Bus. Adm.) is executive vice president of operations for experiential at Grandesign. In this role, Adams leads the experiential marketing division working with top entertainment companies and helps manage a company that handles over 1,000 projects a year and earns over \$50 million in revenue annually. She currently works out of the Hoboken office.

2010s

» The New Jersey State Nurses Association recognized **Deborah Ewtushek '11** (M.S. Nurs.) as the Beacon of Light honoree for inspiring the lives of other nurses through her leadership, service, community impact, and mentorship. Ewtushek, who is an educator at Ocean County College, is also a school nurse for the Point Pleasant School District.

» **Mallory O'Neil '11** (Comm.) is engaged to Pete Powell. The couple is planning a January 2019 wedding.

» **Mark Maglione '12M** (M.Ed. Sp. Ed.), '17M (M.S. Principal/Supervisor) and his wife, Allison Leigh Maglione, welcomed a daughter, Molly Rae, on Nov. 18, 2017.

» **Linda Johnston Muhlhausen '12** (M.A. Engl.) recently had her first novel, *Elephant Mountain*, published by Blast Press. The novel, set in Idi Amin's Uganda, draws on Muhlhausen's own experiences working as a Peace Corps volunteer in the country during the early '70s.

» United States Air Force Captain **Mark Untisz '13** (Math/Ed.) was proudly repping Monmouth during his deployment to Iraq earlier this year. Capt. Untisz, who supports special operations as a pilot, was on his first deployment, a three-and-a-half-month tour.

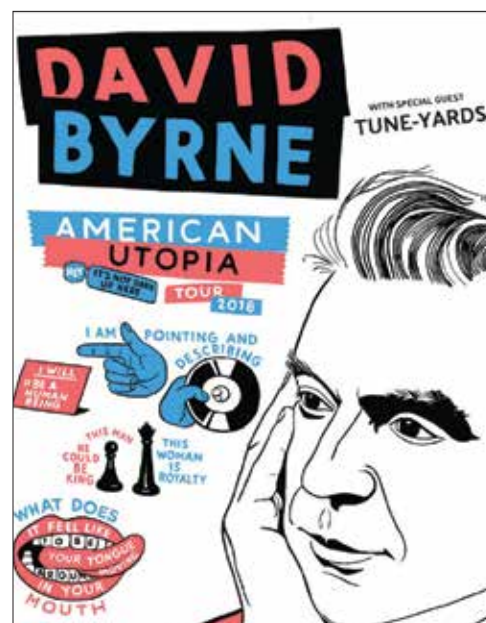
» **Meaghan Brandt '15** (Math/Elem. Ed.) is engaged to wed **Michael Kelvy '15** (Hist./Ed.) on June 15, 2019, in East Windsor, New Jersey. The couple, who were education majors as well as active members of Monmouth's Pep Band, both have full-time teaching jobs working in the Piscataway and Delran School Districts.

» *At the Hands of Madness*, a Kaiju-inspired novel by **Kevin Holton '15** (Engl.) '17M (Engl.), was published in January by Severed Press.

» **Michael Kelvy '15** (Hist./Ed.). See note for Meaghan Brandt '15 (Math/Elem. Ed.).

» **Madelyn Mauterer '15** (Bio) has successfully advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in the neuroscience program at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is completing her dissertation on the neurobiology of drug abuse and addiction under the mentorship of Dr. Sara Jones. ☑

NOT TO MISS » Sept. 7 THE BASIE PRESENTS DAVID BYRNE



David Byrne will be coming to OceanFirst Bank Center as part of his “American Utopia” tour to promote his new solo album by the same name with special guest Tune-Yards.

» Former Monmouth University women's soccer defender **Monique Goncalves '16** (Soc. Work) (M.S.W. '17) signed a professional contract with Icelandic Division 1 team UMF Sindri Höfn. Goncalves, who competed as a member of the Hawks from 2012 to 2015, helped Monmouth capture three consecutive MAAC Regular Season Championships and the 2013 MAAC Tournament Championship. The 2013 team qualified for the NCAA Tournament in Monmouth's first season as a member of the MAAC. Goncalves, who earned a number of individual accolades, was selected to the Northeast Conference All-Rookie Team in 2012, before earning First and Second Team All-MAAC honors as a sophomore and junior. She was a three-time MAAC All-Academic Team selection and played in 74 games over four seasons for the Hawks.

» **Frank Trimarco '16** (Hlth. Stu.) is a pitcher for the Washington Wild Things. The team, which is based in Washington, Pennsylvania, plays in the East Division of the independent Frontier League.

» **Savina Vavlas '16** (Soc. Work) wed Joshua Giovanni Ortiz on top of the Empire State Building in New York City on Feb. 14, 2018. The couple, who had been together for six years and had just recently gotten engaged over the Christmas holiday, won a contest sponsored by Kleinfeld's Bridal to get married at the top of the iconic landmark on Valentine's Day. Vavlas is a licensed master social worker at John Bowne High School in Flushing, Queens, and Ortiz works at the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan. The couple lives in Queens, New York.

» **Taylor Campbell '17** (Comm.) is currently working as an appointment executive for the Brooklyn Nets based out of Brooklyn, New York.

» **Veronica Granite '17** (Soft. Eng.) was recognized as an "Innovator to Watch and a Rising Star in STEM" at the NJ Tech Council's Future Forum event, held in May in Holmdel, New Jersey. Granite is a software engineer for WorkWave. [M](#)

IN MEMORIAM ALUMNI

- » Donald Carlos Smith '58 (Bus. Adm.) April 5, 2018
- » Valerie M. Jackson '59 (Bus. Adm.) (M.S. Ed. '90) May 1, 2018
- » Harold Carlyle Marshall '59 (Bus. Adm.) April 16, 2018
- » Richard J. Denes Sr. '60 (Elem. Ed.) March 6, 2018
- » Donald Kayser '61 (Bus. Adm.) April 25, 2018
- » Albert Joseph Talerico '61 (Elec. Eng.) March 13, 2018
- » Foster Diebold '62 (Ed.) April 1, 2018
- » Mary M. "Penny" Buchner (nee Walling Torchia) '63 (Elem. Ed.) March 9, 2018
- » Martin Lipton '65 (Hist.) May 8, 2018
- » James Graziano '66 (A.A. Lib Stu.) April 20, 2018
- » Ellen Tankel '70 (Elem. Ed.) March 16, 2018
- » Thomas Edward McDermott '71 (Hist.) March 28, 2018
- » Robert Simeone '74 (Psych.) Feb. 26, 2018
- » Bruce Bowe '76 (M.B.A.) Feb. 20, 2018
- » Anne Feeney '76 (Bus. Adm.) March 22, 2018
- » Leslie Doris McFadden (Neild) Hintelmann '76 (Hlth. Stu.) May 14, 2018.
- » Ronald J. Pacheco '76 (M.B.A.) March 3, 2018
- » Valerie Rothlein '76 (Engl.) (M.A. Lib. Stu. '83) March 11, 2018
- » Clifford Applegate '84 (Hist./Poli. Sci.) March 26, 2018
- » Geraldine J. Plant '84 (M.A.T.) April 28, 2018
- » Louis Edward Cimaglia '08 (Soc. Work) March 23, 2018

FRIENDS

- » Alvin Beckett (former teacher, Monmouth Junior College) April 26, 2017
- » Godfrey "Buzz" Buzzelli (former professor) May 19, 2018
- » Mary K. Caroli (former employee) May 7, 2018
- » Margaret Checton (employee) May 16, 2018
- » Chase M. Coram (student) May 19, 2018
- » Sarah W. Dempsey (former employee) April 27, 2018
- » Linda Natalie (Reis) Falchetta (former student) April 17, 2018
- » Ellen Garfield (former professor) April 8, 2018
- » Thomas Macaluso (former professor) March 15, 2018
- » R. Bruce Phillips (former student) March 11, 2018
- » Barbara Walsh (former employee) Feb. 26, 2018
- » William "Bill" White (former employee) Jan. 19, 2018

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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.

NOT TO MISS »

Sept. 18

PINK FLOYD'S DARK SIDE OF THE MOON



Join fellow music lovers at the Tuesday Night Record Club to discuss Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon."



“Monmouth changed my life.”

— **Nicholas Verzicco '19**, business finance major, merit scholarship recipient, and former SGA president.

RAISED BY HIS OLDER SISTER, Nicholas Verzicco, senior class president of the Class of 2019, was determined to be the first member of his family to receive a college education. As a new student orientation leader, admissions tour guide, and two-time volunteer in the alternative break program helping families in Nicaragua and Haiti, Nick feels a profound responsibility to give back.

“Monmouth has changed my life and afforded me the ability to make a positive impact in the lives of others,” Nick says. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the mentorship of faculty, and support from his wider Hawk Family, Nick will earn his degree in business finance with plans to pursue a financial career in Philadelphia and establish a scholarship of his own.

Gifts to the Monmouth University Scholarship Fund help dedicated student leaders like Nick become campus leaders, and far beyond following graduation. Your annual gift, no matter the size, helps the next generation of Hawks to soar and our national reputation to rise.

Make a gift and an impact today by visiting monmouth.edu/give

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1,000 WORDS » A story in a picture

MOVE IN MEMENTOS

It's hard to believe, but in two short months, bright-eyed first-year students will be arriving on campus ready to kiss mom and dad goodbye and experience living on their own. But packed away with their bedsheets, box fans, and bath supplies will likely be some keepsake the student brought to remind him or her of home. We want to know what memento you brought with you to college. Send your story and any pictures you still have to magazine@monmouth.edu or to the address above.