PIECES OF HOME

International students share the mementos that remind them of home.

PAGE 32

MEET THE NEW BOSS
Patrick F. Leahy named 10th president of Monmouth.

PAGE 04

TALKING TAXES
“The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America” takes our questions.

PAGE 06

SIGNS OF LIFE
Living with a terminal diagnosis.

PAGE 24
YOUR FUTURE: MASTERED

Information Session
4/13 @ 10 a.m.

REGISTER @ MONMOUTH.EDU/INFO

Continue your studies by pursuing a graduate degree at Monmouth University. Programs include:

• Addiction Studies
• Athletic Training
• Anthropology
• Business Administration (M.B.A.)
• Clinical Mental Health Counseling
• Communication
• Computer Science
• Criminal Justice
• Education
  - Teaching, M.S.Ed., M.Ed., and Ed.D. options
• English (M.A. and M.F.A.)
• History
• Information Systems
• Nursing (M.S.N., D.N.P.)
• Physician Assistant
• Social Work
  - Traditional/Advanced Standing M.S.W.
• Software Engineering
• Speech-Language Pathology

Graduate scholarships available for eligible students.

NEW PROGRAMS:
• M.S. in Athletic Training
• M.F.A. in Creative Writing
The Front

06  NEED TO KNOW

10  CONCEPTS
In search of America’s favorite rock band.

12  SOUNDING OFF
Professor John Morano’s eco-adventure novels give voice to the voiceless.

14  THE INSIDER
Senior Kayvon Paul is already a force in the political world.

16  HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE
The early days of Monmouth’s Fourth Estate.

17  CAMPUS BRIEFS
The scene at West Long Branch.

20  FUTURE FOCUSED
Megan Hart is making the most of the opportunities she’s getting on and off the field.

22  STRIKING A BALANCE
Diego Zubieta finds full-fulfillment in two seemingly contradictory worlds: art and football.

23  SPORTS SHORTS
Recapping seasonal high-lights from the world of Hawks athletics.

The Back

44  THE CHANGEMAKER
Karen Silva is leading a new effort to identify and assist human trafficking victims.

54  THE MORNING MAN
Brad Hennessy takes you behind the scenes at GMA.

57  THE REST

44  MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE
Editor’s note. Last issue, we asked readers to share stories about the hands-on learning experiences they had at Monmouth. Read the unsolicited responses of monmouth.edu magazine.

LETTERS

RE: FALL 2018
Incredible photo! I was moved to tears reading the article on Mr. Hanlon (“Larger than Life”). Jennifer Moroch Fara via Instagram

I agree with giving employees an expanded paid family leave (“Family Matters”). I remember when starting in the workplace they did not have employee leave to take care of a parent or child. The only paid leave was for six months, and you could stay at home with your baby up to a year without pay. But you always had a job to go back to. They never replaced you. I am a mother of two adult children, and I can tell you it wasn’t easy when you have to combine work plus your children’s activities. Sandra Cobo ’88

As a senior criminal justice major, I interned at the Monmouth County Youth Detention Center in Freehold, New Jersey. One of the most interesting aspects of this experience was observing the interaction between inmates and corrections officers. I was most impressed with the professionalism exemplified by the officers despite the difficult situations they often faced. Although it was a juvenile facility, some of the inmates were charged with violent crimes and were considered very dangerous. There was a healthy mix of potentially violent juveniles and others who may have just been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

One of my most memorable experiences was a time when a correction officer and I were observing inmates during outdoor recreation, and I noticed one inmate shooting baskets by himself. The officer asked the inmate if I could play a game with him. The juvenile, who was being detained for a somewhat violent crime, accepted. As I walked onto the court, the officer quietly gave me a last-minute word of advice, “Make sure you let him win.” It turned out to be a very fun and friendly game, and yes, he won. (He probably would have won anyway, because my basketball skills back then were not the greatest.)

After graduation, I was employed as a hotel and casino security officer and as a county investigator and special deputy sheriff, before going back to school for paralegal certification and working as a paralegal, senior paralegal, and ultimately as a case manager at several large law firms. It’s interesting to note that I was able to relate my internship experiences to many of my current and past employment experiences, both in law enforcement and legal settings.

Michael Loda’s ’82
Leahy emerged as the board's unanimous selection from a diverse pool of more than 100 highly accomplished leaders in the nationwide search. He will succeed Grey J. Dimenna, Esq., who will retire on July 31.

“I am thrilled to begin my tenure as the next president of Monmouth University,” said Leahy. “Monmouth has consistently demonstrated its willingness to evolve to meet the needs of all students and is dedicated to serving an increasingly diverse student body. “As we move forward, we’ll build upon the strong foundation here at Monmouth and move toward even higher levels of excellence and access. It is clear that the Monmouth community is a family. I, along with my wife, Amy, and our children, am excited to be joining this family at the Jersey Shore.”

Leahy comes to Monmouth from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he has served as president since 2012. Guided by a fundamental commitment to student success, Leahy led the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for Wilkes that focused the university’s efforts and resources on teaching, research, and civic engagement.

The plan set the stage for key initiatives and accomplishments, including the introduction of 20 new academic programs; strategic enrollment growth in online master’s programs and doctoral degrees, including the launch of the university’s first Ph.D. program; investments in faculty scholarship and research, resulting in the university’s first five patents; and innovative external partnerships that expanded the university’s reach and supported the local community.

Fulfilling key initiatives of the Wilkes plan, Leahy has been instrumental in over $100 million in transformative campus enhancements, including the construction and renovation of five academic buildings to support learning in the arts, sciences, health care, and business. In order to enhance the student experience and strengthen undergraduate enrollment, Wilkes launched seven new NCAA Division III athletic teams and the region’s only collegiate marching band.

“Dr. Leahy is a strategic, entrepreneurial thinker,” said Henry D. Mercer, III ’87, chair of the presidential search committee. “He has a clear understanding of how a private university works and knows how to get visionary initiatives realized.”

Prior to his time at Wilkes, Leahy was a senior administrative leader at The University of Scranton from 2004 to 2012. He first served as vice president of university relations, successfully completing a $129 million comprehensive capital campaign. He was then promoted to executive vice president, where he was responsible for development, government relations, undergraduate and graduate admissions, intercollegiate athletics, planning, and information technology. Leahy also taught in the Business Leadership Honors Program.

Before moving to Scranton, Leahy was co-founder and president of the Business Affairs Forum, a 15,000-member distance learning community based in Ithaca, New York. He has also worked as an investment officer for Allied Capital Corporation, as an account executive at Deluxe Corporation, and as a development officer at Georgetown University.

A native of Towson, Maryland, Leahy graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Arts in English literature. He earned dual master’s degrees in business administration and labor relations from Cornell University, where he was a Fried Fellow, and earned his Doctor of Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Leahy and his wife, Amy, have four children: Grace, 20; Molly, 18; Jack, 14; and Brian, 12. They will relocate to Doherty House, the presidential residence, this summer.

The announcement of Leahy’s hiring concludes a year-long national search, conducted in consultation with Isaca Corporation, headquartered in Boston. The 17-member presidential search committee included two students, two administrators, three faculty members, and 10 members of the Board of Trustees, six of whom are alumni.

“I am grateful to Search Chair Henry Mercer and all 17 members of the presidential search committee, who gave generously of their time to serve the University,” said Board Chair Michael A. Plodwick ’82. “I would also like to extend my gratitude to President Dimenna for his outstanding service. His tenure has been characterized by a keen dedication to student engagement and success, and I have greatly valued his leadership, energy, and commitment to Monmouth University in the years we have worked together.”

Dimenna will continue to actively lead the university while he works with Leahy to facilitate a productive transition. The university has appointed a cross-functional presidential transition team, led by co-chairs Robin Mama, dean of the School of Social Work, and Richard Veit, chair of the Department of History and Anthropology, to help ensure a smooth process.
TALKING TAXES AND MORE WITH DOUG STIVES, CPA—“THE MOST TAX-EFFICIENT MAN IN AMERICA.”

INTERVIEW BY NICK DIULIO

Specialist Professor Doug Stives spent 36 years at a public accounting firm before joining Monmouth’s faculty in 2006.

Five years later, The Wall Street Journal bestowed the title “The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America” on him because of his decades of experience as a CPA and the ways his nuanced and meticulous use of annual deductions, benefits, and professional autonomy allows him to “live a fuller life.” Stives talked with us about how he first fell in love with accounting, what the new federal tax law could mean for filers, and how you should never do your taxes by hand.

What led you to a career in accounting?

I took five years at Lehigh University to get my bachelor’s and M.B.A., but when I got there, I didn’t even know what “CPA” meant. I originally wanted to become an engineer, like my father. Nonetheless, my studies in engineering weren’t working out, and this was the ’60s, so you didn’t drop out, or you got a one-way ticket to Vietnam. The only thing I really enjoyed was my accounting class. It was different. It wasn’t more math, or science, or history—I always said that if I took another history course I was going to get sick [laughs]. Accounting wasn’t easy, but I was able to get it. I started to see it as the language of business, and like learning any new language it’s not fun in the beginning. But the more I learned, the more I liked it.

Why do you think the subject clicked for you?

I think it was because I was always fascinated with business. As a kid I would look up stock prices in the paper. One time, I visited a family friend who was a stockbroker in New York, and we watched the tickertape come off the machine. I was captivated, even though I didn’t understand it all. My father was also fascinated with finance, and we would sit and read annual reports together.

You worked for several decades in public accounting before joining Monmouth’s faculty. What did you come to realize about the profession in that time?

Accounting is a foreign language; it’s also an art. It’s not a science. I teach my students this. I’ll say to them, “OK, you just elected me treasurer of your organization. Do you want me to give you good news or bad news?” And they’ll say, “Just give us the numbers.” And I’ll say, “No. Do you want me to show a profit to shareholders and a loss to the IRS?” I’m not talking about breaking the law; I’m talking about understanding the language of business. An accountant isn’t there to just add up numbers. Anyone can use a software program to do that. An accountant needs to put talent and experience together to assess who the information is being tallied for and what that information will be used for.

Do your experiences from that time trickle down to your students?

I teach by telling stories. Sure, I show PowerPoints and go over homework and prepare students for exams. But I don’t go 10 minutes without saying, “Let me tell you about this experience I had.” I use that technique in my continuing education courses as well. It adds value and my students aren’t just watching a video.

So your approach is a combination of theory and practice?

Absolutely. Students need both. I think some schools in accounting have gone a little too far in practice. For instance, my students don’t ever do a tax return in my classes because the forms change, the laws change. I want them to understand the theory behind the practice. I don’t do my own tax returns, the software does. But if you don’t understand what the software is doing, you’re lost.

Don’t ever do your return by hand. That’s stupidity.

S

Need to Know » Topics & trends

Many Happy Returns

Making the most of taxes with Doug Stives, CPA—“The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America.”

Interview by Nick Diulio

Specialist Professor Doug Stives spent 36 years at a public accounting firm before joining Monmouth’s faculty in 2006.

Five years later, The Wall Street Journal bestowed the title “The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America” on him because of his decades of experience as a CPA and the ways his nuanced and meticulous use of annual deductions, benefits, and professional autonomy allows him to “live a fuller life.”

Stives talked with us about how he first fell in love with accounting, what the new federal tax law could mean for filers, and how you should never do your taxes by hand.

What led you to a career in accounting?

I took five years at Lehigh University to get my bachelor’s and M.B.A., but when I got there, I didn’t even know what “CPA” meant. I originally wanted to become an engineer, like my father. Nonetheless, my studies in engineering weren’t working out, and this was the ’60s, so you didn’t drop out, or you got a one-way ticket to Vietnam. The only thing I really enjoyed was my accounting class. It was different. It wasn’t more math, or science, or history—I always said that if I took another history course I was going to get sick [laughs]. Accounting wasn’t easy, but I was able to get it. I started to see it as the language of business, and like learning any new language it’s not fun in the beginning. But the more I learned, the more I liked it.

Why do you think the subject clicked for you?

I think it was because I was always fascinated with business. As a kid I would look up stock prices in the paper. One time, I visited a family friend who was a stockbroker in New York, and we watched the tickertape come off the machine. I was captivated, even though I didn’t understand it all. My father was also fascinated with finance, and we would sit and read annual reports together.

You worked for several decades in public accounting before joining Monmouth’s faculty. What did you come to realize about the profession in that time?

Accounting is a foreign language; it’s also an art. It’s not a science. I teach my students this. I’ll say to them, “OK, you just elected me treasurer of your organization. Do you want me to give you good news or bad news?” And they’ll say, “Just give us the numbers.” And I’ll say, “No. Do you want me to show a profit to shareholders and a loss to the IRS?” I’m not talking about breaking the law; I’m talking about understanding the language of business. An accountant isn’t there to just add up numbers. Anyone can use a software program to do that. An accountant needs to put talent and experience together to assess who the information is being tallied for and what that information will be used for.

Do your experiences from that time trickle down to your students?

I teach by telling stories. Sure, I show PowerPoints and go over homework and prepare students for exams. But I don’t go 10 minutes without saying, “Let me tell you about this experience I had.” I use that technique in my continuing education courses as well. It adds value and my students aren’t just watching a video.

So your approach is a combination of theory and practice?

Absolutely. Students need both. I think some schools in accounting have gone a little too far in practice. For instance, my students don’t ever do a tax return in my classes because the forms change, the laws change. I want them to understand the theory behind the practice. I don’t do my own tax returns, the software does. But if you don’t understand what the software is doing, you’re lost.

Don’t ever do your return by hand. That’s stupidity.

NEED TO KNOW » Topics & trends

Many Happy Returns

Talking Taxes and More with Doug Stives, CPA—“The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America.”

Interview by Nick Diulio

Specialist Professor Doug Stives spent 36 years at a public accounting firm before joining Monmouth’s faculty in 2006.

Five years later, The Wall Street Journal bestowed the title “The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America” on him because of his decades of experience as a CPA and the ways his nuanced and meticulous use of annual deductions, benefits, and professional autonomy allows him to “live a fuller life.” Stives talked with us about how he first fell in love with accounting, what the new federal tax law could mean for filers, and how you should never do your taxes by hand.

What led you to a career in accounting?

I took five years at Lehigh University to get my bachelor’s and M.B.A., but when I got there, I didn’t even know what “CPA” meant. I originally wanted to become an engineer, like my father. Nonetheless, my studies in engineering weren’t working out, and this was the ’60s, so you didn’t drop out, or you got a one-way ticket to Vietnam. The only thing I really enjoyed was my accounting class. It was different. It wasn’t more math, or science, or history—I always said that if I took another history course I was going to get sick [laughs]. Accounting wasn’t easy, but I was able to get it. I started to see it as the language of business, and like learning any new language it’s not fun in the beginning. But the more I learned, the more I liked it.

Why do you think the subject clicked for you?

I think it was because I was always fascinated with business. As a kid I would look up stock prices in the paper. One time, I visited a family friend who was a stockbroker in New York, and we watched the tickertape come off the machine. I was captivated, even though I didn’t understand it all. My father was also fascinated with finance, and we would sit and read annual reports together.

You worked for several decades in public accounting before joining Monmouth’s faculty. What did you come to realize about the profession in that time?

Accounting is a foreign language; it’s also an art. It’s not a science. I teach my students this. I’ll say to them, “OK, you just elected me treasurer of your organization. Do you want me to give you good news or bad news?” And they’ll say, “Just give us the numbers.” And I’ll say, “No. Do you want me to show a profit to shareholders and a loss to the IRS?” I’m not talking about breaking the law; I’m talking about understanding the language of business. An accountant isn’t there to just add up numbers. Anyone can use a software program to do that. An accountant needs to put talent and experience together to assess who the information is being tallied for and what that information will be used for.

Do your experiences from that time trickle down to your students?

I teach by telling stories. Sure, I show PowerPoints and go over homework and prepare students for exams. But I don’t go 10 minutes without saying, “Let me tell you about this experience I had.” I use that technique in my continuing education courses as well. It adds value and my students aren’t just watching a video.

So your approach is a combination of theory and practice?

Absolutely. Students need both. I think some schools in accounting have gone a little too far in practice. For instance, my students don’t ever do a tax return in my classes because the forms change, the laws change. I want them to understand the theory behind the practice. I don’t do my own tax returns, the software does. But if you don’t understand what the software is doing, you’re lost.

Don’t ever do your return by hand. That’s stupidity.
YOU DON'T CALL A DOCTOR AND JUST TELL HIM WHAT'S WRONG OVER THE PHONE, RIGHT? WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING AN ACCOUNTANT, DO YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF PERSONAL DISCOUNT AT THE BOOKSTORE AND SELLERS LIKE MY WOOL STREET JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION, MY COMPUTER, OR MY PHONE? FREE DISCOUNTS FOR PERSONAL USES. YOU CAN'T DO THAT ANY MORE WITHOUT COMPLICATING YOUR TAXES.

This is the first year that people are filing under the new tax law. So what should you know about deductions?

If you have investments, a business, or rental properties, then you really need professional help from a CPA. And you need to meet with that person one-on-one. Unfortunately our profession has morphed into just scanning your tax forms. I don’t do that anymore. I scan them and I return and send them back to you for filing. Don’t do it that way. You don’t call me and I don’t tell you what’s wrong over the phone. I insist on finding an accountant, you have to insist on some kind of personal meeting, at least the first time.

People should also be aware of the new Qualified Business Income deduction, which, if you have your business—within certain parameters—you won’t pay taxes on 20 percent of what you make. This law simplifies taxes for a lot of people but made it unnecessarily complicated for others. But we don’t have to pay for these services one on one. It’s one that is at least 300 dots per inch, and possibly 600 dpi if the scanner is capable. For images born digital—smartphone photos, for example—Ziobro recommends printing and backing up the images in the cloud or on a thumb drive. “Have as many different versions as possible,” she says. “This goes for printed and digital files.”

And while images and documents can tell a story, Ziobro says we should under-value the extent of the spoken word. Collecting oral histories can be a fun and informative way to make the past accessible for future generations. “It’s your mouth, your mind, your story,” she says. “And just not the case,” she says. “We want to know what the average person in New Jersey was doing during World War II. The only way to get that is to hear these ‘average’ stories.”

Melissa Kivaldi, Beatty

Let’s talk about that title, “The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America.” How did that come about?

I wasn’t keen on that title, actually [laughs]. But here’s how it came to be. The Wall Street Journal was writing about some CPA from New Jersey—already you’re off to a bad start, but he didn’t get any duller than a CPA from New Jersey—but they were looking for a way to differentiate me. So if you do that differently? Well, I get a W-2 from Monmouth and I get benefits. I used to pay for my own health and life insurance. All pension money came directly from me. But as a full-time employee of the University, those things are now covered. I even get a 40 percent discount at the bookstore and free tickets to football games.

Then, on the side, I have Doug Stives LLC, which is my vehicle for teaching continuing education. I work about 25 hours a week, and I don’t get to do that differently! Well, I get a W-2 from Monmouth and I get benefits. I used to pay for my own health and life insurance. All pension money came directly from me. But as a full-time employee of the University, those things are now covered. I even get a 40 percent discount at the bookstore and free tickets to football games.

Then, on the side, I have Doug Stives LLC, which is my vehicle for teaching continuing education. I work about 25 hours a week, and I don’t get to do that differently! Well, I get a W-2 from Monmouth and I get benefits. I used to pay for my own health and life insurance. All pension money came directly from me. But as a full-time employee of the University, those things are now covered. I even get a 40 percent discount at the bookstore and free tickets to football games.

Then, on the side, I have Doug Stives LLC, which is my vehicle for teaching continuing education. I work about 25 hours a week, and I don’t get to do that differently! Well, I get a W-2 from Monmouth and I get benefits. I used to pay for my own health and life insurance. All pension money came directly from me. But as a full-time employee of the University, those things are now covered. I even get a 40 percent discount at the bookstore and free tickets to football games.

Then, on the side, I have Doug Stives LLC, which is my vehicle for teaching continuing education. I work about 25 hours a week, and I don’t get to do that differently! Well, I get a W-2 from Monmouth and I get benefits. I used to pay for my own health and life insurance. All pension money came directly from me. But as a full-time employee of the University, those things are now covered. I even get a 40 percent discount at the bookstore and free tickets to football games.

Then, on the side, I have Doug Stives LLC, which is my vehicle for teaching continuing education. I work about 25 hours a week, and I don’t get to do that differently! Well, I get a W-2 from Monmouth and I get benefits. I used to pay for my own health and life insurance. All pension money came directly from me. But as a full-time employee of the University, those things are now covered. I even get a 40 percent discount at the bookstore and free tickets to football games.
ROCK OF AGES
IN SEARCH OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE ROCK BAND.

Pity the Rolling Stones. Still going strong nearly six decades after they formed, scheduled to hit the road in April, and reportedly working on a new album, they again find themselves eclipsed by their one-time rivals, the Beatles—a band that broke up nearly 50 years ago.

The latest example: In a national poll conducted by Monmouth University’s Polling Institute, Americans were asked to name the greatest rock ’n’ roll band or group of all time. Nearly 1 in 4 (23 percent) said the Beatles. The Stones finished a distant second, with just 8 percent naming them. AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, The Eagles, Aerosmith, and Queen were the only other bands named by more than 1 percent of respondents.

When asked if they like the Beatles, 86 percent of Americans said they do, either “a lot” (50 percent) or “a little” (36 percent). Eight percent reported disliking the group, while 4 percent weren’t sure. Perhaps the most surprising piece of data in the polling report: Two percent of respondents said they’d never heard of the lads from Liverpool. So take heart Stones fans. Hypothetically speaking, there’s at least a sliver of the population for whom your band never played second fiddle to the Beatles. May be that tidbit, and Keith Richards’ seeming immortality, can give you some satisfaction.

—Compiled from Monmouth University Poll data by Tony Marchetti

SUPPORTING ACTS
The following artists were mentioned by no more than 1 percent of respondents:

- The Beach Boys
- Bon Jovi
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band
- Creedence Clearwater Revival
- Def Leppard
- Elvis Presley
- Fleetwood Mac
- The Grateful Dead
- Guns N’ Roses
- The Jimi Hendrix Experience
- Journey
- Kiss
- Lynyrd Skynyrd
- Metallica
- Pink Floyd
- U2
- The Who

Visit monmouth.edu/polling for complete findings and methodology.
n 2011, millions of children around the world fell in love with a Spix's macaw named Blu, the lead character in the animated film Rio. The movie tells the story of Blu, the last known male of his species, as he is brought from captivity in Minnesota to his native Brazil to mate with the last known female of his species.

What viewers might not have realized was how that fictionalized story, which ends happily with the birds returning to the wild to carry on their species, forewarned of a grave reality. Last September, the Spix’s macaw was officially declared critically endangered. "I wanted to cry—I really did," says Morano, who is the author of John Morano particularly hard.

A proponent of thinking globally and acting locally, Morano travels to college campuses and holds book signings where he tries to provide a voice for the voiceless. Already at work on a new eco-adventure novel, the main character, Gus Dewar, who only communicates through the band’s lyrics. A proponent of thinking globally and acting locally, Morano travels to college campuses and holds book signings where he tries to provide a voice for the voiceless. "I made that mistake once and ended up NBC's artist-in-residence. Give me it," says Bon Jovi, adding as he takes the papers from her, “I have an honorary degree from Monmouth University." "I made that mistake once and ended up NBC's artist-in-residence. Give me it," says Bon Jovi, adding as he takes the papers from her, “I have an honorary degree from Monmouth University." "I made that mistake once and ended up NBC's artist-in-residence. Give me it," says Bon Jovi, adding as he takes the papers from her, “I have an honorary degree from Monmouth University.”

MONMOUTH CAMEOS

Early in Flocks of One, the new eco-adventure novel by John Morano, a group of scientists and conservationists convene an international bird conference at Monmouth University. It’s not the first time Monmouth—or some representation of it—has appeared in print or on screen. Here are a few other fictional works that featured Monmouth-related cameos:

ANNIE

Wilson Hall served as the setting for Oliver ‘Daddy’ Warbucks’ Park Avenue mansion in the 1982 movie musical, which was shot partially on campus over the course of six weeks. According to The New York Times, Roger Paradis, a former Monmouth student who was the location manager for Annie, suggested using the iconic building as the setting for Warbucks’ home.

FALL OF GIANTS

The first book in Ken Follett’s The Century Trilogy includes multiple references to Shadow Lawn, the estate that once stood on the grounds where Wilson Hall now does, and that served as the "summer White House" for President Woodrow Wilson in 1916. In a passage from Follett’s historical novel, the main character, Gus Dewar, picks up a ringing phone and is told, "A call from Shadow Lawn. The president wants to speak to you."

30 ROCK

In the season four episode “Anna Howard Shaw Day,” Jon Bon Jovi ‘03/N puts his Hawk credentials. Playing himself, the singer reprised Tina Fey’s character for blindly signing paperwork. "Woah, woah, woah—you shouldn’t sign anything without reading it first," he warns Fey. "I made that mistake once and ended up NBC's artist-in-residence. Give me it," says Bon Jovi, adding as he takes the papers from her, “I have an honorary degree from Monmouth University.”

BACK TO SCHOOL

Forty-three minutes into this 1986 Rodney Dangerfield movie, the comedian jumps on stage at a bar to sing "Twist & Shout." As the camera cuts back and forth between patrons dancing and the band, you can see an old Monmouth College pennant on the wall behind the backup singers. —Breanne McCarthy

Know of any other Monmouth “cameos” in fictional works? Write us at magazine@monmouth.edu to let us know.
Browsing Kayvon Paul’s LinkedIn profile, it’s easy to forget you’re looking at an undergraduate’s resume. There’s a significant amount of scrolling required as you cruise through his list of work experiences: field organizer for political races, community outreach for an LGBT organization, associate at a Trenton lobbying firm.

At just 22 years old—and still several months away from graduating with his bachelor’s in political science—Paul has leapt fully into the work world while still balancing classes and college life. At one point, he was juggling 50- to 60-hour weeks working on a state senate race while keeping up with his coursework and serving as president of his fraternity.

“If you want something in life, you make time for it,” says Paul. “I like the vibes that I get from being around a bunch of political people, Republican or Democrat. I like listening to other people’s views.”

Paul spent all of 2018 working as the community outreach coordinator for Garden State Equality—a statewide organization that advocates for LGBT rights. This past January, he started full time with a Trenton-based lobbying firm, MBI—GluckShaw, where he hopes to continue working after graduation.

As he looks toward graduation in May, Paul has also been reflecting on his time at Monmouth. He credits the University’s Educational Opportunity Fund Program, Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, and the political science department—where “each and every one of the professors really cares about the students and wants to see them grow,” he says—with propelling him through these busy and often challenging college years.

“If you were to take one of those three things away,” says Paul, “then I probably wouldn’t be where I am right now.”
O
ne month and two days after Monmouth Junior College opened to students, the first issue of what would become The Outlook rolled off the presses. Originally titled the Monmouth Junior College Press Publication, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days.

Another month and two days after Monmouth Junior College opened to students, the first issue of what would become The Outlook rolled off the presses. Originally titled the Monmouth Junior College Press Publication, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days, the paper was produced by a new student organization that called itself “The Press Club.” The group met for the first time on Dec. 14, 1933, and within eight days.
A local surfer takes a breather to watch fellow wave riders. Even amid icy coastal temperatures, the surf beyond the University Bluffs still serves as a winter playground for members of the Monmouth University Surf Club.
Megan Hart, a junior defender on the women’s lacrosse team, loves that she has been given the green light this season to do more. She knows this is her time to shine, but also that she must earn that right every game.

There’s no need to remind Hart that mindset applies equally to the moments she is without a lacrosse stick in her hands. “I am a very competitive person,” says Hart, who was coming off a two-hour practice and a session in the weight room. Two more classes loomed, and her day wouldn’t end until 10:30 p.m., nearly 15 hours after it began. “I want to be the best on the field, but I’m also trying to be the best in the classroom as well.”

She is well on her way. A 2018 MAAC All-Academic Team selection, Hart led the Hawks with 52 ball controls and tied for second with 19 caused turnovers last year. Both were huge increases over a successful freshman year. She entered this season eager to become a larger part of the offense.

“I think that this year I have the potential of being a threat,” says Hart. “I take the draw. I play defense. I’m good with transition.”

The 2019 season has already added another dimension to the upperclassman’s role: team leader. She is teaching newcomers what she’s learned while embracing Head Coach Jordan Trautman’s mantra: Be ready to be uncomfortable, and be comfortable with being uncomfortable. As Hart tells newer players, “If you can listen, adapt, and overcome, there are going to be really big things for us if we can all just buy into that.”

Hart’s on-field confidence carries over to the classroom, where she boasts a cumulative 3.85 GPA. In June, the finance major will start a 10-week internship in Bank of America’s Advisor Development Summer Analyst Program. Based in Washington, D.C., she’ll be working with Merrill Lynch’s wealth management team to gain real-world experience.

Academically, Hart says, last semester felt different. She had completed most of her general education course work and was heavy into finance classes when the realization hit: This feels right. I can see myself using this material in the future. “Everything,” she says, “is falling into place.”

What’s even more crazy? The green light will be up for a while. Hart has another year to show everyone—and, most importantly, herself—how far she can go.
C

contrast is a principle of art that refers to the
arrangement of opposite elements. Light versus
dark colors. Large versus small shapes. Smooth
versus rough textures. Artist versus... football player?

Senior Diego Zubieta would refute the notion that there is a contrast between his being both a football player and an artist. Since childhood, the lessons he learned from both pursuits have blended together to develop his character, challenge his resolve, and provide him genuine joy.

“I am a football player who loves art just as much as be-
ing on the field,” says Zubieta, who will graduate this spring with a degree in graphic and interactive design. “It’s given me great balance in life. Football is regimented and a phys-
ical battle, and creating art is a time that I have individual freedom and am encouraged to open my mind.

At a glance, football and art would seem to have little in com-
on. One is a team sport domi-
nated by physical force with de-
ned rules and objectives. The other is an individual conception that is harmonic, creating visu-
al expression through bound-
less imagination and technical skill. But artist and author Carrie Lewis cites that each great artist shares five common characteris-
tics: persistence, patience, pas-

sion, sense of adventure, and dis-
cipline. Those traits are equally
shared by the football player who
posted 135 career tackles in 37 games as a linebacker for the Hawks. I needed to be disci-

plined in both, pay attention to detail, be willing to take risks, and battle through adversity. The skills are interchangeable, and I progressed in both worlds as a result.

Last summer, the world of football presented Zubieta
with perhaps his greatest ar-
tistic challenge. Teammate
Nick Venier, a junior who com-
pleted four years in the U.S.
Air Force prior to enrolling at
Monmouth, approached Zubi-
ets about painting a mural in the
Veteran Student Lounge in the Student Center.

The Student Veterans Association wanted to honor Lance Cpl.
Cosgrove III ‘05, who was killed in action in 2006 while conducting com-
bat operations in Iraq.

Zubieta eagerly accepted, but there was no playbook to study. Ve-

nier provided him with the space for the mural and a por-
trait of Cosgrove. The concept and vision were en-
trusted to Zubieta.

“There were three main themes to the mural,” says Zubieta. “Lance Cpl. Cosgrove was the fo-
cal point, and we wanted to hon-
or the history of the Marines and our nation’s flag, which is what he fought for. I used the famous image of the six U.S. Marines raising the flag during the Bat-

tle of Iwo Jima to honor the Ma-

rines and complement his por-
trait.

The mural took three months to complete, as Zubieta de-
signed and painted between summer workouts. Following a Hawkeye fundraiser walk last fall, the mural was unveiled to the Cos-
grove family. They were deep-
ly touched by the commemora-
tion and greatly appreciative to both Venier and Zubieta.

“I went into the project doing a favor for a teammate,” says Zubieta. “And I came out of it with a profound respect for tatic the military and this incred-
ible feeling that I helped a fam-
ily honor their son and broth-

er, who was a hero. Lance Cpl.
Cosgrove’s mom sent a letter to the institution thanking me and Nick. It was really moving.”

While drawing is his natu-
ral talent, Zubieta has broad-
ened his skill set at Monmouth.

His artistic repertoire now in-
cludes painting, sculpture, and
computer graphics. He is also
creating graphics for the Ath-
letics Department to expand his portfolio. Zubieta is tar-

geting a career in branding or packaging design and feels the

campus location between New

York City and Philadelphia is optimal for a designer.

“I loved everything about Monmouth,” says Zubieta. “I’ve made personal connections
and developed friendships with people from so many differ-
ent backgrounds. It’s been the

perfect college experience for me.”

BY MARK GOLA

STRIKING A BALANCE

DIEGO ZUBIETA FINDS FULFILLMENT IN TWO SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY
WORLDS: ART AND FOOTBALL.

Senior Diego Zubieta would

refute the notion that there is a
contrast between his being both a football player and an artist. Since childhood, the lessons he learned from both pursuits have blended together to develop his character, challenge his resolve, and provide him genuine joy.

“I am a football player who loves art just as much as be-
ing on the field,” says Zubieta, who will graduate this spring
with a degree in graphic and
interactive design. “It’s given me great balance in life. Football is regimented and a phys-
ical battle, and creating art is a time that I have individual

freedom and am encouraged
to open my mind.

At a glance, football and art would seem to have little in common.

One is a team sport dominated by physical force with defined rules and objectives. The other is an individual conception that is harmonic, creating visual expression through boundless imagination and technical skill. But artist and author Carrie Lewis cites that each great artist shares five common characteristics: persistence, patience, passion, sense of adventure, and discipline. Those traits are equally prized in the makeup of a player in pursuit of gridiron success.

“Football and art are different, but how you get things done is very similar,” says Zubieta, who posted 135 career tackles in 37 games as a linebacker for the Hawks. “I needed to be disciplined in both, pay attention to detail, be willing to take risks, and battle through adversity. The skills are interchangeable, and I progressed in both worlds as a result.

Last summer, the world of football presented Zubieta with perhaps his greatest artistic challenge. Teammate Nick Venier, a junior who completed four years in the U.S. Air Force prior to enrolling at Monmouth, approached Zubieta about painting a mural in the Veteran Student Lounge in the Student Center.

The Student Veterans Association wanted to honor Lance Cpl. Cosgrove III ‘05, who was killed in action in 2006 while conducting combat operations in Iraq.

Zubieta eagerly accepted, but there was no playbook to study. Venier provided him with the space for the mural and a portrait of Cosgrove. The concept and vision were entrusted to Zubieta.

“There were three main themes to the mural,” says Zubieta. “Lance Cpl. Cosgrove was the focal point, and we wanted to honor the history of the Marines and our nation’s flag, which is what he fought for. I used the famous image of the six U.S. Marines raising the flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima to honor the Marines and complement his portrait.

The mural took three months to complete, as Zubieta designed and painted between summer workouts. Following a Hawkeye fundraiser walk last fall, the mural was unveiled to the Cosgrove family. They were deeply touched by the commemoration and greatly appreciative to both Venier and Zubieta.

“I went into the project doing a favor for a teammate,” says Zubieta. “And I came out of it with a profound respect for the military and this incredible feeling that I helped a family honor their son and brother, who was a hero. Lance Cpl. Cosgrove’s mom sent a letter to the institution thanking me and Nick. It was really moving.”

While drawing is his natural talent, Zubieta has broadened his skill set at Monmouth.

His artistic repertoire now includes painting, sculpture, and computer graphics. He is also creating graphics for the Athletics Department to expand his portfolio. Zubieta is targeting a career in branding or packaging design and feels the campus location between New York City and Philadelphia is optimal for a designer.

“I loved everything about Monmouth,” says Zubieta. “I’ve made personal connections and developed friendships with people from so many different backgrounds. It’s been the perfect college experience for me.”

BY MARK GOLA

STRIKING A BALANCE

DIEGO ZUBIETA FINDS FULFILLMENT IN TWO SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY
WORLDS: ART AND FOOTBALL.

Senior Diego Zubieta would

refute the notion that there is a
contrast between his being both a football player and an artist. Since childhood, the lessons he learned from both pursuits have blended together to develop his character, challenge his resolve, and provide him genuine joy.

“I am a football player who loves art just as much as be-
ing on the field,” says Zubieta, who will graduate this spring
with a degree in graphic and
interactive design. “It’s given me great balance in life. Football is regimented and a phys-
ical battle, and creating art is a time that I have individual

freedom and am encouraged
to open my mind.

At a glance, football and art would seem to have little in common.

One is a team sport dominated by physical force with defined rules and objectives. The other is an individual conception that is harmonic, creating visual expression through boundless imagination and technical skill. But artist and author Carrie Lewis cites that each great artist shares five common characteristics: persistence, patience, passion, sense of adventure, and discipline. Those traits are equally prized in the makeup of a player in pursuit of gridiron success.

“Football and art are different, but how you get things done is very similar,” says Zubieta, who posted 135 career tackles in 37 games as a linebacker for the Hawks. “I needed to be disciplined in both, pay attention to detail, be willing to take risks, and battle through adversity. The skills are interchangeable, and I progressed in both worlds as a result.

Last summer, the world of football presented Zubieta with perhaps his greatest artistic challenge. Teammate Nick Venier, a junior who completed four years in the U.S. Air Force prior to enrolling at Monmouth, approached Zubieta about painting a mural in the Veteran Student Lounge in the Student Center.

The Student Veterans Association wanted to honor Lance Cpl. Cosgrove III ‘05, who was killed in action in 2006 while conducting combat operations in Iraq.

Zubieta eagerly accepted, but there was no playbook to study. Venier provided him with the space for the mural and a portrait of Cosgrove. The concept and vision were entrusted to Zubieta.

“There were three main themes to the mural,” says Zubieta. “Lance Cpl. Cosgrove was the focal point, and we wanted to honor the history of the Marines and our nation’s flag, which is what he fought for. I used the famous image of the six U.S. Marines raising the flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima to honor the Marines and complement his portrait.

The mural took three months to complete, as Zubieta designed and painted between summer workouts. Following a Hawkeye fundraiser walk last fall, the mural was unveiled to the Cosgrove family. They were deeply touched by the commemoration and greatly appreciative to both Venier and Zubieta.

“I went into the project doing a favor for a teammate,” says Zubieta. “And I came out of it with a profound respect for the military and this incredible feeling that I helped a family honor their son and brother, who was a hero. Lance Cpl. Cosgrove’s mom sent a letter to the institution thanking me and Nick. It was really moving.”

While drawing is his natural talent, Zubieta has broadened his skill set at Monmouth.

His artistic repertoire now includes painting, sculpture, and computer graphics. He is also creating graphics for the Athletics Department to expand his portfolio. Zubieta is targeting a career in branding or packaging design and feels the campus location between New York City and Philadelphia is optimal for a designer.

“I loved everything about Monmouth,” says Zubieta. “I’ve made personal connections and developed friendships with people from so many different backgrounds. It’s been the perfect college experience for me.”

BY MARK GOLA
Melissa Surdez ’91 will tell it like it is. She will tell you about the beauty of life—of the ways that college love can turn into marriage, of children that can come your way, of simple moments like when those children bound in from school to tell you of an aced test, a scorned crush, or of landing the coveted part in the school play. She will also tell you about anger and true, crushing sadness—of unfair diagnoses when you had planned ahead, of mapping out your own funeral, of imagining the lives of those precious children and that husband moving on without you.

And Misse, as friends and family know her, will tell you about these things—about anything you ask really—in a no-nonsense manner, in a New Jersey accent, her language riddled with profanity and punctuated with laughter.
When Misse was 35 years old, her sister, Jessi Israel, a physician, convinced her to participate in some of the early genetic screenings that focused on the BRCA1/BRCA2 genes—indicators of breast cancer. The sisters knew their breast cancer risk was higher than most women. Their mother had been diagnosed with the disease at stage four, and died in 1988.

Knowing medicine like she did, Jessi wasn’t going to take any risks. The sisters were screened, and after six weeks, the results were in. Jessi, the elder by 15 months, was positive for the BRCA gene. Misse was negative. That meant that Jessi was facing a 90 percent chance of developing the disease unless she had a double mastectomy, which she promptly did. Misse’s chances dropped to just 3 percent, and she went on about her life. She had been getting regular mammograms prior to the screening because of her family history. But the knowledge she now had in her back pocket— that figure of 3 percent—put her mind at ease. And she decided that she could wait on additional mammograms until the recommended age of 40. “You tell a woman who has kids and is working for a living that she’s not going to have to squish her enormous boobs in that uncomfortable machine? Well, I’ll see you when I’m 40,” says Misse. “And I lived my life, from that point on, thinking I’m never getting breast cancer.”

It was a Saturday in the shower when she first felt the lump in her upper right breast. “It felt like an egg under the skin,” says Misse, “and I was like, ‘Shit, what the hell is that?’” After breast exams by her sister and her gynecologist, she was given encouraging words—“It’s probably just a cyst”—and a script for a mammogram, which the doctors wanted to do after the regular one. “My doctor had requested she get additional testing, the quickness with which everything came again, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.”

Misse, a senior human resources director with Johnson & Johnson, had had the screenings. She knew the risks, so her sister’s teary eyes, the need for additional testing, the quickness with which her doctor had requested she get additional testing, the quickness with which everything came back positive. She knew she had cancer. She decided to believe in modern medicine. To trust her oncologist. To trust her sister. And to do what she was told. What her sister told her was this: “Cancer is an individual sport. So trust your own navigator. Your DNA, your genetic makeup, is not in those stats.” Misse simplified it: “I’m in my own swim lane.”

But Misse, a senior human resources director with Johnson & Johnson, had had the screenings. She knew the risks, so her sister’s teary eyes, the need for additional testing, the quickness with which her doctor had requested she get additional testing, the quickness with which everything came back positive. She knew she had cancer. She decided to believe in modern medicine. To trust her oncologist. To trust her sister. And to do what she was told. What her sister told her was this: “Cancer is an individual sport. So trust your own navigator. Your DNA, your genetic makeup, is not in those stats.” Misse simplified it: “I’m in my own swim lane.”

R R

“Cancer is an individual sport, so when you go on the internet in a state of panic, and you start looking up survival rates, you have to remember: You’re only playing against your own self. Your DNA, your genetic makeup, are not in those stats.” Misse

Misse Suredz is still riddled with cancer. It is not going to go away. She will not beat it. But that six-month lifespan has stretched on for nearly seven years. It was a combination of chemo drugs called Herceptin and Perjeta. Every three weeks, she takes a day off of work and gets chemotherapy. Within 48 hours, she’s back up and running—working, mothering, life-coaching, and TED-talking about doing all of it with a terminal illness—and life is relatively normal. “She’s doing great,” says her husband, Lance ’90. “She lost weight; she’s going back to the gym; she’s hiking; she’s cooking. You wouldn’t even know she had it.”

But she certainly does have it. There is no question. If her oncologist takes her off the drugs, she “lights up like a Christmas tree in the scans,” as he likes to put it. So, it’s as simple as that. She will take this combination of drugs for as long as she lives. The cancer, though contained, will always call her body home. And she’s using that to connect with others.

“If you’re diagnosed with a chronic illness, you’re going to be scared to death, and you’re probably going to start on the side of, ‘Jesus Christ, did this happen to you? Do you think I’m going to die? Will I die? What am I going to do?’” says Misse, who was named the 2016 Working Mother of the Year by Johnson & Johnson and today sits on the board of the Central and South New Jersey branch of Susan G. Komen. “And I’m going to hear that out. I’m going to ask you open questions. While you’re talking and telling me this story, I am getting a piece of you—one of the many thousands of stories that make up you. I’m listening. I’m figuring out a way to connect and be able to use it back with you, so that you can start to see through to the other side and remember who your anchors in your life are.”

For Misse, those anchors are Lance and Brielle and Quinn. Even though cancer would like to take her out, those anchors keep her grounded to this life. When she thinks too far ahead, when she takes herself out of the present moment when she’s laughing with her husband or hearing about her son’s college experience or her daughter’s final years of high school, she remembers, “Wait a minute. I can’t go anywhere. This is too grand, hanging out with these guys.”

Remember who your anchors in life are,” says Misse, pictured here playing a game of Scattergories with her anchors: husband, Lance, and children, Quinn and Brielle.
Frank Gogol’s early life was a series of painful setbacks. His father died of a drug overdose before he turned 2. His mother, who also struggled with addiction, did her best to support them by working multiple waitressing jobs, but they moved around often.

Gogol enjoyed a relatively stable home life for a few years after his mother met his stepfather. There were Christmases spent as a family, birthdays that had gifts. But his stepfather also struggled with substance abuse, and when Gogol’s mother relapsed around the time he turned 12, he was sent to live with family friends. When they were no longer able to take care of him, he was placed in a group home where he remained through his teen years up until the week before he moved in at Monmouth. During his freshman year, Gogol received word that his mother had been hit by a car and was in a coma; she died a few months later.

“If I had known then what I know now, I may have realized things were a little bit more off,” Gogol says of his upbringing, which seemed mostly normal to him. “My mom—she wasn’t the best person, but she was a good mom. She really did bust her butt working two to three jobs making sure I was taken care of.”

An anchor in the chaos for Gogol was the fictional worlds provided by books, comics, and cartoons. He was an avid reader and vividly remembers buying his first comic book at the Rite Aid in Hazlet’s Airport Plaza in 1997. “I think having those colorful characters like the Ninja Turtles and Spider-Man growing up, they were helpful in keeping me young when there were things going on around me that would maybe make other people have to grow up a little faster,” says Gogol.

His love of reading led him to take as many English courses as he could in

WHEN FRANK GOGOL BEGAN PROCESSING A PERSONAL TRAGEDY, HE TURNED TO AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE: COMICS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NENAD CVITICANIN

DRAWN OUT

Spring 2019 MONMOUTH 29
He wanted to write but was unsure marketing but floundered on the creative writing. He quickly found a job in bachelor’s in 2010 and, a year later, his writing and graphic design, earning his. “I was moving things around, moving things next to each other, and I realized stories are but a weird way.”

Gogol ran with the idea and rounded out the collection with 10 stories in total—two for each of the five stages of the grieving process. The stories span genres—from drama to horror, magic to superhero—and while all address the topic of grief, many also tackle current social issues. “Different,” for example, is about a transgender woman struggling to find her place in the world. She succeeds by finally accepting who she is and uses her painful experiences as a springboard to create a better version of her life. Another story, “Prayer,” features a woman in a Narcotics Anonymous meeting expressing how her financial struggles make it impossible to buy her son a Christmas present. When she leaves the meeting, she finds a box of presents sitting on her trunk (see illustration above). Gogol says “Prayer” is plucked from his own life. “It was my birthday, not Christmas, and rather than buying him presents, my mother’s NA group chipped in to buy him a cake. When several of the stories touch on dark themes, highlighting the harsher moments of grief, some, like “Prayer,” are ultimately stories of hope.

“You know that the mother’s and son’s lives are not going to get markedly better between that story and the next morning, or maybe the next year, but the universe sort of provided for them in that moment,” says Gogol. “It’s realistic—it’s not perfect—but it’s hopeful … and that is kind of how my life has gone.”

Once he had 10 stories written, Gogol paid over $3,000 out of pocket to have them produced by professionals. He self-collected comic books for $1,500 within the first 10 hours. A few months later, Source Point Press approached him with an offer to publish GRIEF in paperback form.

Print copies of GRIEF are available online, and Gogol also sells them at conventions. While doing so at New York Comic Con, he experienced a touching moment with a fan. A trans man who had purchased GRIEF the day before returned after reading the story “Different.” The man broke down, crying quietly on the convention floor and thanked Gogol for showing a trans character in both a positive and accurate light.

“I do want to be a socially conscious writer,” Gogol says. “I feel opinion that sto- ries should be useful to people in some way, shape, or form, either entertaining, or they should learn some lesson from it,” says Gogol. “And if we, as a so- ciety … talked about [grief] in a more positive way and embraced it and were more open about it, then I think we’d be better off for it.”

Now that he knows what to write about, Gogol says he’s at work on several books.

This is the kind of book I wish I’d had when I was growing up. I think I would have done things differently with my own grief process and healing, and grown up better,” says Gogol. “And that has all changed. It’s who I am, and that has brought me to the other part of my life. Another story, “Prayer,” features a woman in a Narcotics Anonymous meeting expressing how her financial struggles make it impossible to buy her son a Christmas present. When she leaves the meeting, she finds a box of presents sitting on her trunk (see illustration above). Gogol says “Prayer” is plucked from his own life. “It was my birthday, not Christmas, and rather than buying him presents, my mother’s NA group chipped in to buy him a cake. When several of the stories touch on dark themes, highlighting the harsher moments of grief, some, like “Prayer,” are ultimately stories of hope.

“You know that the mother’s and son’s lives are not going to get markedly better between that story and the next morning, or maybe the next year, but the universe sort of provided for them in that moment,” says Gogol. “It’s realistic—it’s not perfect—but it’s hopeful … and that is kind of how my life has gone.”

Once he had 10 stories written, Gogol paid over $3,000 out of pocket to have them produced by professionals. He self-collector comic books for $1,500 within the first 10 hours. A few months later, Source Point Press approached him with an offer to publish GRIEF in paperback form.

Print copies of GRIEF are available online, and Gogol also sells them at conventions. While doing so at New York Comic Con, he experienced a touching moment with a fan. A trans man who had purchased GRIEF the day before returned after reading the story “Different.” The man broke down, crying quietly on the convention floor and thanked Gogol for showing a trans character in both a positive and accurate light.

“I do want to be a socially conscious writer,” Gogol says. “I feel opinion that sto-
The students who come to Monmouth from 31 countries around the world choose to do so for the same reasons their domestic counterparts do: competitive academic programs; the opportunity to actually know their professors (and have their professors know them—by name); the allure of living and learning on an idyllic campus that’s one mile from the beach and an hour from New York City.

But the journeys international students take to get here can span oceans and continents, meaning visits home are few and far between. For that reason, many students who come here from abroad bring a treasured object to serve as a reminder of the people and places they left behind. We asked these 11 students to share the story behind their piece of home.

Sarah Almuhaish

Home Country: Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, it is customary to burn oud, or agarwood, in a censer at celebratory events such as weddings, during Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr, and to welcome guests into your home, says Sarah Almuhaish. Other types of incense are also regularly burned in censers, so that their fumes can freshen clothes and a person’s hair. “People in my country spend a lot of money on perfume—a lot,” she explains. “It’s part of our culture.”

Almuhaish, who received a scholarship from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to pursue her M.S. in information systems at Monmouth, says she had to overcome “culture shock, weather shock, everything shock” upon arriving in the U.S. from Al-Hasa, the oasis town in Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Province that she calls home. She is settled in fine now—she recently got her driver’s license and bought a car—but still thinks of home often.

“The sense of smell is important to memory,” says Almuhaish. “And any time I smell these perfumes, I remember my family, my home, the parties we would have, and all the people I left over there. I have pictures on my phone, but it’s not the same. These scents take me home.”
Barkhuizen admits the first two weeks of living on his own “half-way across the world” were rough. “Homesickness hit me so hard,” he says. “It was hard to grasp that I was so far away from home.” Daily phone calls with mom helped while he settled in and got to know his professors and teammates. Now that it’s behind him, he says the process made him appreciate his family even more. “I never knew how much I loved my parents until homesickness hit me.”

When he left for Monmouth, Barkhuizen packed a South African flag to hang in his residence hall as a reminder of the people and places he’d left behind. “It brings back a lot of memories of growing up,” he says. “South Africa is such a beautiful country, and I’m so proud of it. Looking at the flag just makes me happy. It’s a small thing, but it makes a massive impact knowing that I’ve got something from home to remind me of where I came from.”
ALICIA SOUTH

The leather bracelet on Alicia South’s wrist reads, “Jamaica One Love.” She bought it two years ago at a craft market in Kingston, just before coming to Monmouth to pursue her M.B.A. “It’s a typical Jamaican greeting,” she says. “Every now and again I’ll look at it and smile.” South had just finished her last exam—ever—prior to her photo-shoot. Hence the big smile. That’s not to say she won’t miss Monmouth. She says she “found a family away from home” through Monmouth’s Global Education office. She served as president of the International Club for a year and, last fall, mentored two first-year international students. “It felt good to facilitate someone else’s transition and make them feel comfortable here.” Born and raised in Jamaica, South says her experiences at Monmouth changed the trajectory of her life, and she is contemplating staying in America. To do so, she’ll need to find full-time employment before her VISA runs out. So recruiters take note: If you’re seeking an energetic, newly minted M.B.A. grad with experience in international banking and finance—and an infectious smile to boot—look no further.

MEGAN DE LANGE

Her teammates call her “Lil Meg” so it’s perhaps fitting that the object Megan De Lange brought to remind her of home—“lucky beans”—are themselves diminutive. But you’d be foolish to underestimate the strength of either De Lange or her beans.

De Lange says the beans are the seeds of coral trees that are native to South Africa. (In fact, the trees from which they come, E. lysistemon, are often referred to as “Lucky Bean Trees.”) The beans are supposed to keep you safe and give you luck, says De Lange, adding, “I keep one with me all the time.”

A sophomore majoring in biology with a concentration in molecular cell physiology, De Lange says her beans come from trees that grow outside her grandmother’s holiday home in Plettenberg Bay. “I go there every December, and I’ll gather some when I visit. I brought a bunch back and gave them to all the girls on the team.”

Last fall, De Lange started all 20 games for the Hawks field hockey team, which captured the MAAC championship. Like we said, don’t underestimate the power of De Lange and her lucky beans.
few months before leaving for Monmouth on a tennis scholarship, Sergio Martinez was walking through a market in Mexico City with his grandfather, Javier Jimenez, when a silver bill clip engraved with the Mayan calendar caught his eye. “I said, ‘Hey, Grandpa, can you buy this for me? I want to have it with me to put my bills in it like you do,’” recalls Martinez.

Jimenez has been an influential presence in Martinez’s life. “I look up to him a lot,” says Martinez about his grandfather, who still lives next door to the Martinez home in the city of Orizaba. “He built his own construction company from the ground up. He’s a hard worker—a laborer who works with his hands but has a soft side too. He’s a very caring person and has always been supportive of me and my tennis.” And, adds Martinez, his grandfather always carries a bill clip wherever he goes. Now, so too does Martinez. “It makes me think of the Mayan culture, which has a very strong presence where I come from. And it also makes me think of my family, and my grandfather especially.”

GEORGIA GARDEN BACHOP

“Sports are very big in my family,” says Georgia Garden Bachop. Her father, Stephen, was a star rugby player and coach; her mother, the late Sue Garden Bachop, was a four-sport star and one of the first women to coach a men’s rugby team in New Zealand; and her brothers, Jackson and Connor, both play professional rugby.

At Monmouth, Georgia has made a name for herself in a different sport: field hockey. While etching her name across the program’s record books, she helped lead the Hawks to two MAAC Tournament Championships (2016 and 2018). Last fall, as a senior, she was named the MAAC Player and Offensive Player of the Year and the conference’s All-Championship Team MVP.

Georgia was born in southern New Zealand, lived in England for four years, and then moved to Wellington, so homesickness “isn’t something that happens to me,” she says. “Home is where the people that you love are, and I love my team and the friends that I’ve made here so much.” Nevertheless, the photo of her parents serves as a reminder of sorts. “It was taken just after they found out my dad was named to the national rugby team,” says Georgia. “They were successful in their sports and helped set things up for me, so I just want to follow in their footsteps and make my family proud.”
“You know the cliché about kids taking apart toys to see how they work? I was all about that when I was little,” says Hamza Zafar. He says that love of tinkering and technology led to his interest in the software and IT fields. After earning his bachelor’s degree in Pakistan, the Lahore native wanted to continue his studies in America. “It’s a driving ground for innovation—the perfect sandbox if you have an idea,” he says. “You’ve got the tools you need at your disposal, and there is a community here that will help you make your dream a reality.”

After considering the University of Michigan and Penn State, he chose Monmouth’s M.S. in software engineering program because the people here were “friendly and inviting,” he says. “The other universities I talked with, their emails sounded robotic—like auto replies.”

Coming to Monmouth marked Zafar’s first trip outside of Pakistan. Despite that, he says he didn’t plan to bring any memento of home because he doesn’t get homesick. But when his friends came to see him off, they brought him a present: the book Choti Choti Khushiyan. “The title loosely translates to small pieces of happiness,” says Zafar. Each page features a simple line drawing and a few words that highlight the little things Pakistani people enjoy in their daily lives. “These things are unique to, and ingrained in, our culture,” says Zafar.

A self-described introvert, Moyya says leaving her home in Hyderabad meant taking a big step outside her comfort zone. However, doing so has given her a newfound sense of empowerment. “I’m close to my family. My parents always helped me in all of my decisions,” she says. “But when you start doing things on your own, you realize, I can do that. I don’t need to depend on anyone else.”

Moyya says it had long been her dream to study for her master’s in information systems in the U.S. “I enjoy every day here,” she says, adding that her grandmother would be particularly proud. “She wanted me to go, so I think she would be really happy I’m here.”

The pieces in Aneesha Moyya’s jewelry collection come from across India, and each item has its own story. But together they remind Moyya primarily of her late grandmother, Sukanya, who accompanied her on countless shopping expeditions to acquire them. “She had great taste,” says Moyya with a smile. “I have an emotional connection to so many of these pieces because of her.”

A self-described introvert, Moyya says leaving her home in Hyderabad meant taking a big step outside her comfort zone. However, doing so has given her a newfound sense of empowerment. “I’m close to my family. My parents always helped me in all of my decisions,” she says. “But when you start doing things on your own, you realize, I can do that. I don’t need to depend on anyone else.”

Moyya says it had long been her dream to study for her master’s in information systems in the U.S. “I enjoy every day here,” she says, adding that her grandmother would be particularly proud. “She wanted me to go, so I think she would be really happy I’m here.”

You know the cliché about kids taking apart toys to see how they work? I was all about that when I was little,” says Hamza Zafar. He says that love of tinkering and technology led to his interest in the software and IT fields. After earning his bachelor’s degree in Pakistan, the Lahore native wanted to continue his studies in America. “It’s a driving ground for innovation—the perfect sandbox if you have an idea,” he says. “You’ve got the tools you need at your disposal, and there is a community here that will help you make your dream a reality.”

After considering the University of Michigan and Penn State, he chose Monmouth’s M.S. in software engineering program because the people here were “friendly and inviting,” he says. “The other universities I talked with, their emails sounded robotic—like auto replies.”

Coming to Monmouth marked Zafar’s first trip outside of Pakistan. Despite that, he says he didn’t plan to bring any memento of home because he doesn’t get homesick. But when his friends came to see him off, they brought him a present: the book Choti Choti Khushiyan. “The title loosely translates to small pieces of happiness,” says Zafar.
After earning her bachelor’s in computer science from Punjab Technical University, Ridhima Mehra worked as an IT consultant in Chandigarh, India, for four years before deciding to pursue an M.B.A. to advance her career.

She says she had heard of Monmouth through a friend of a friend, and when she took a closer look at the University, she liked what she saw: a competitive business program, evening classes, and scholarship and assistantship opportunities that would make getting her degree more affordable. One semester into her studies, she’s happy with her decision. “My professors are really interactive, the classes are challenging, and my grad assistantship [in the Leon Hess Business School] is going well,” says Mehra, who also landed a part-time marketing job with Monmouth’s Athletics Department.

“In my culture, whenever we start a new task, or a new job, or even a new day, we worship Lord Ganesha,” says Mehra. “We ask him to shower his blessings on us so that whatever we are about to initiate turns out to be a positive.” Coming to Monmouth “was a new beginning for my life,” she says. “I brought the Lord Ganesha idol so that every day I will have his blessings with me, and whatever I’m doing I’ll be successful in it.”
Stopping traffic
KAREN SILVA IS TRAINING HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN LOS ANGELES TO SPOT AND ASSIST INDIVIDUALS TRAPPED IN LABOR AND SEX TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS.

BY MEERI KIM

As Karen Silva ‘00M learned more about human trafficking, she came to the realization that this form of modern-day slavery was happening everywhere around her. Silva came to the U.S. as a nurse from Brazil—a country with high rates of sex and labor trafficking—at the age of 24. Now, nearly 30 years later, she has made it her personal mission to train hospital staff to recognize the signs of human trafficking and help aid the victims.

“How human trafficking has unfortunately become more common because it’s a very profitable criminal business,” says Silva, who today is an education program coordinator and instructor of psychiatry at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. “A lot of criminals are letting go of drug trafficking and going into human trafficking because they can use the same commodity over and over, unlike with drugs.”

Thousands of human trafficking cases are reported in the U.S. each year, but since victims rarely come forward to seek help, many more cases go unnoticed. Victims are hidden in plain sight at nightclubs, truck stops, factories, and farms. Anyone can fall prey to traffickers, regardless of a person’s race, gender, citizenship, or age. However, certain states like Texas, Florida, and Silva’s home state of California suffer from higher rates of human trafficking.

“Here in California, we have one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the U.S.,” says Silva. “It is a border state, and there’s Hollywood of course, so a lot of young people come here to pursue their dreams and fall into the traps of traffickers, who lure them in with false promises of work or educational opportunities.”

Health care practitioners—in particular those who work in emergency departments—are well-positioned to identify and assist victims. A 2014 study found that 88 percent of sex trafficking survivors had some contact with health care professionals while being trafficked. Since 2017, Silva and a team that includes a lawyer, social workers, and other nurses, have trained almost 600 Cedars-Sinai staff members on how to recognize signs of human trafficking. Silva’s team gives lectures that include background information on the issue, such as different types of human trafficking and how traffickers lure victims and keep them trapped.

The team also presents common behavioral and physical indications to watch for that might show someone is being trafficked: certain injuries, tattoos or brands, implanted chips, inappropriate clothing, and someone else speaking for the person seeking care.

Despite being less than two years old, the initiative has already raised awareness and helped victims.

“This year, staff members at Cedars-Sinai were able to detect 20 victims of human trafficking—and 10 of them accepted help,” says Silva, who received her M.S. in nursing and her post-master’s certificate in forensic nursing at Monmouth University.

In addition, she holds a doctorate in psychology and says her “day job” at the hospital involves teaching other nurses how to work with particularly vulnerable patients. Silva responds to psychiatric emergencies in the hospital, works side-by-side with nurses at the patient’s bedside, works on ways to prevent patient falls, and troubleshoots problems in the care unit.

“I’m a jack of all trades, and my job is not limited to one or two things,” she says. “But this project on human trafficking education is going to go on forever. I think the issue is that important.”

How you can help

Human trafficking victims are often “hidden right in front of us,” says the U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Common indicators to a trafficking situation can include persons living with their employer or with multiple people in cramped conditions, and persons showing a reluctance to speak individually—or, when doing so, providing scripted answers.

If you suspect such an occurrence, the office recommends you call 911 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.
their productivity and effectiveness by saving time and reducing personal stress. Over 5,000 people throughout the U.S. have graduated from various PEP® Programs and have saved more than nine hours per week, amounting to a gross savings of over 2.5 million hours of time. The Shermans have had hiking adventures in England, Spain, France, and Italy. Lynn, who was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and received her B.S. in communications from Clarion State College and an M.Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh, has also hiked in Patagonia and Newfoundland, as well as climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Whitney. The Shermans grow grapes and make award-winning wine at Rancho Wamhas, their home and vineyard, in Fallbrook, California.

Even though they were strangers to each other, Connie Gryczka ’66 and Marianne and Tony Volonnino soon discovered that they had common ground on foreign soil. While waiting in a line at the Rome International Airport in Rome, Italy, Connie struck up a conversation with the couple who were standing behind her. It didn’t take long before they discovered that Monmouth University was familiar to both of them. Although the Volonninos have not yet visited the campus, they were proud to say that their granddaughter, Lauren, is enrolled as a first-year student at Monmouth.

Nina Anderson ’67 received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for 50 years of safe flying presented by the FAA in Hartford at the Connecticut Ninety-Nine’s women pilot’s meeting. Anderson says she was the first female corporate jet pilot in New Jersey flying for Philip Morris out of Teterboro Airport in Teterboro, New Jersey. She soloed in 1968 at the now defunct Red Bank Airport, formerly in Red Bank, New Jersey. Retired, Anderson.

This juried exhibition, spurred by the #MeToo social media movement, aims to raise awareness, as well as drum up support and solutions, for those affected by sexual assault and harassment.

1960s

Bary C. Sherman ’63 and his wife, Lynn, recently hiked the Grand Canyon. They hiked down the super steep South Kaibab Trail (6.5 miles), spent two nights at Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and then hiked back up the super long Bright Angel Trail (9.5 miles) to the South Rim of the Grand Can-
now flies for fun out of Great Barrington Airport in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

1970s

» Jeff Zamek ’70 walked into a pottery studio in 1967 and started his career as an amateur potter. After completing a degree in business from Monmouth, he obtained B.F.A./M.F.A. degrees in ceramics from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in Alfred, New York. While there he developed the soda firing system at the college and went on to teach at Bard College at Simon’s Rock in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and Kean University in Union, New Jersey. During this time, Zamek earned his living as a professional potter. In 1980, he started Ceramics Consulting Services, a ceramics consulting firm that develops clay body and glaze formulas for ceramics supply companies throughout the United States. He works with individual potters, ceramics companies, and industry offering technical advice on clays, glazes, kilns, raw materials, ceramic toxicology, and product development. He is a regular contributor to several ceramics magazines and technical journals. Zamek’s books What Every Potter Should Know and Safety in the Ceramics Studio, featuring the safe handling of ceramic materials, and The Potter’s Health & Safety Questionnaire are available from Jeff Zamek/Ceramics Consulting Services. His latest book, The Potter’s Studio Clay & Glaze Handbook, was published in June 2009.

1980s

» Mark Ludak ’81 had his photography series, Transition: Vietnam, on display in the windows of the Art Alliance of Monmouth County in Red Bank, New Jersey, for the month of November. Ludak traveled through Vietnam over a two-year period exploring the rapid changes taking place there as it becomes a significant part of the global economy. In 2016, he was awarded an individual fellowship in visual art-photography from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. In 2016, he received a Puffin Foundation Grant for photography. Ludak is the recipient of two Monmouth University Grants in Aid of Creativity, and a grant from the Urban Coast Institute.

1990s

» Kurt Gruendling ’96M is vice chair of the board of directors for the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is also the vice president of marketing and business development at Westfield and Champlain Valley Telecom where he is responsible for all facets of marketing, customer service, public relations, strategic planning, and new product and business development. Gruendling also currently serves on the marketing and public relations committees of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, where he served as committee chairman, and is past chairman of the marketing committee for the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO).

CLASS NOTES

CELEBRATIONS


Follow six Louisiana women as they gather in their small-town beauty parlor to gossip, complain, and share the joys and sorrows they face in their lives in the spring production of the Department of Music and Theatre Arts.

1900s

NOT TO MISS »
March 6–14
STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Continued, p. 50

Follow six Louisiana women as they gather in their small-town beauty parlor to gossip, complain, and share the joys and sorrows they face in their lives in the spring production of the Department of Music and Theatre Arts.
Superintendent of Long Branch Public Schools, Mike Salvatore ’98 was named New Jersey’s 2019 Superintendent of the Year by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. A prolific writer and presenter, Salvatore is often tapped to speak on various topics including, but not limited to: early childhood education, digital leadership, accountability, teacher evaluation, standardized assessment, and 21st-century leadership. He has served as a keynote speaker for the New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Rutgers University Certified Educational Facilities Manager, the National Plant Management Association, Future Teachers of America, and the New Jersey Department of Homeland Security.

Kyle La Baron ’99, who played soccer as a Hawk, was inducted into the Red Bank Regional High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

2000s

Bill Bradshaw ’01 was listed as No. 85 on InsiderNJ’s OUT 100 Power List, a first-of-its kind-tribute to influential LBGTs in New Jersey politics. Bradshaw sits on the board of directors for Garden State Equality, The Center in Asbury Park, and the Monmouth County Fair Housing Board. He recently joined KPMG, LLP on the national human resources team, as a manager of their inclusion and diversity initiatives. He was recognized by InsiderNJ for raising almost $100,000 for LGBT equality within 15 minutes at Garden State Equality’s annual gala last spring.

Bill Bradshaw ’01

Award-winning businesswoman, respected keynote speaker and best-selling author Donna Cardillo ’02, also known to many as the “inspiration nurse,” was accepted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. She is one of 195 nurse leaders accepted into the academy for making significant contributions to the nursing and health care fields. Cardillo makes an impact through her speaking engagements at numerous nursing and health care conferences, business groups, and health care facilities, as well as through her published books and signature programs. The fellows were honored at the academy’s annual policy conference in November.

A staged reading of Jennifer Pergola’s ’05 play Change or Death, a murder mystery spoof, was performed by The Grange Playhouse in Howell, New Jersey, in November.

Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Pergola’s ’05 play Change or Death.

Cheryl Schumann Finan ’07 wed Jim Finan on September 14, 2018. There were many Monmouth alumni in attendance, including matron of honor Stacie (Czurlanis) Hipolito ’07.

Christina (Schumann) Finan ’07

Lori Kaufman ’07 and her husband, Shane Derris, welcomed their first child, Simon Baines Derris, at 12:39 a.m. on November 9, 2018. The family lives in Cranford, New Jersey.

Lori Kaufman ’07

Grant Lucking ’08, ’10M has been promoted vice president of environmental affairs at New Jersey Builder’s Association. Now in his fourth year at the association, Lucking previously served as the director of communications and public affairs.

Grant Lucking ’08, ’10M

Eric Bancroft ’09. See note for Jacqueline Turner ’12.

NOT TO MISS »

March 7

VISITING WRITERS SERIES

Visitng writer Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic who has been published in The New Yorker, The New York Times, and Pitchfork, among others.

Hanif Abdurraqib

Their success depends on you.

With more than 30 percent of Monmouth University students qualifying for need-based federally funded aid, and more than 40 percent identifying themselves as first-generation college students, the need for private financial support is clear.

Together We Can: The Campaign for Scholarship seeks to raise $15 million in gifts and pledges by June 30, 2019, to ensure that deserving students can benefit from the outstanding, highly personalized, private education that Monmouth University provides.

Please, give now at monmouth.edu/together.
Continued, p. 55

Frank Warren, founder of The PostSecret Project, a collection of more than 1 million anonymous “secrets” which have been mailed to his home on postcards, will tackle the topic of #MeToo.

PostSecret: Live With Frank Warren

CELEBRATIONS

ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1. Barry C. Sherman ’63 and his wife, Lynn, recently hiked 16 miles of the Grand Canyon to celebrate Barry’s 77th birthday. 2. Chrisy Skudera ’05 completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training with the School Yoga Institute in Calca, Peru. 3. Nina Anderson ’67 received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for 50 years of safe flying. 4. Blake Burger ’17, ’18M joined Denholtz Associates as an acquisitions and development associate. 5. Though strangers to each other, Connie Gryczka ’66 (left) and Marianne and Tony Volonnino soon discovered they had common ground on foreign soil: while chatting at the Rome International Airport, Gryczka discovered the Volonnino’s granddaughter, Lauren, is a first-year student at Monmouth.
I came to Monmouth because I was interested in the soccer program, but an ankle injury prevented me from playing. Lucky for me, I got a career out of the experience thanks to Monmouth’s wonderful communications program.

Internships played a key role in steering me toward my career. Working first at ABC-News.com and then at MTV’s The Total Request Live, I gained a ton of experience and learned what it’s like working for big-time TV in New York City. After graduation, those experiences led me to positions at Philadelphia WaterWorks—where I was literally low-paying, but I got to do everything from shooting cameras to audio and graphics—and later to shows at VH1, Comcast SportsNet, ESPN Classic, NBC Sports, and the Oprah Winfrey Network.

I’ve been at Good Morning America since 2014, where I’m one of four stage managers who work on GMA and GMA Day. My world day starts a little before 4:30 a.m. when I arrive at the studio for a meeting where our director walks us through rundown of both shows. Then I do everything from wrangling guests, to directing anchors to camera, and counting them in and out of packages. GMA is fast-paced, and I love that. My fellow stage managers and I always have to stay one step ahead of the show as it’s going along. It’s live TV, so things often don’t go as planned, but that’s OK. You just have to be flexible. The show’s schedule can always change because of breaking news, and I love having the chance to be on the cusp of events as they’re happening. Obviously, some of the things that happen in today’s world are horrible, so it can sometimes be tough. For instance, when the Pulse nightclub shooting occurred in 2016, producers scrapped the entire show we had planned and stayed with the Pulse story as it developed. Regardless of what’s happening on any particular morning, I think our team does a good job of presenting it in the best way possible. We have the best anchor team. They like what they do, and it shows.

One of my favorite parts of the job is working on our concert series in Central Park. Being off to the side of the stage and hearing people chant an artist’s name or sing along to their songs sends chills down my spine. I’m a big music fan, so I love having that kind of access and experiencing it up close.

I really love my job. It’s great to be part of a team like this, especially since I didn’t know if I’d ever make it. If there’s one thing I’ve learned from my experience, it’s this: You just have to believe and keep on trucking.

BY BRAD HENNESSY ’98, AS TOLD TO KELLEY FREUND

THE MORNING MAN
BEHIND THE SCENES AT GOOD MORNING AMERICA.

WITH HER master’s in art history, with a concentration in museum training. She has accepted a position as an acquisitions editor/publishing assistant at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

> Matt Cox ’16 works for WWE as a social media producer. He works directly with the WWE superstars to help them with their social media content and creates content for the company’s flagship programs such as Raw and Smackdown.

> Blake Burger ’17 has joined Denholts Associates, a fully integrated real estate development, investment, and management company, as an acquisitions and development associate. In his new role, Burger will work closely with the executive leadership team to assist with deal sourcing, underwriting, due diligence, community relations, and analytics.

> Former Monmouth University soccer standout Gabriella Cuevas ’18 has signed a professional contract with Maca- bi Kiryat Gat F.C. of the Women’s Premier League in Israel. Cuevas had a brief stint with Sky Blue FC in the National Women’s Soccer League on a national team replacement contract in late August while also serving as a volunteer assistant on Krissy Turner’s staff at Monmouth this season.

> Bryce Wasserman ’18 was named the 2018 Collegiate Athletic Achievement TV Student of New Jersey (CAANJ) Male Student-Athlete of the Year. The award comes following Wasserman’s senior season in which he set single-season program records for goals (14), assists (17), and points (55). He closed his career as Monmouth’s all-time leader in goals (99), game-winning goals (9), hat tricks (14), assists (93), and points (261). An All-MAC First Team selection in 2018, Was- serman also became Monmouth’s first First Team All-MAC Laurence draft pick when he was chosen by the Denver Outlaws.

> Monmouth University encourages alumni to share news regarding 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 notes; however, we reserve the right to print submitted photos due to space limitations or issues with stage resolution. In addition to the news items used by alumni, the university receives press releases from businesses and organizations and announces alumni achieve- ments and subscriptions to an online news clipping service that provides news items about alumni. These items are edited and placed in the appropriate class section. Monmouth’s magazine staff members verify the accuracy of this information; howev- er, 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 classnotes@monmouth.edu.

> Blake Burger ’17 has joined Denholts Associates, a fully integrated real estate development, investment, and management company, as an acquisitions and development associate. In his new role, Burger will work closely with the executive leadership team to assist with deal sourcing, underwriting, due diligence, community relations, and analytics.

> Former Monmouth University soccer standout Gabriella Cuevas ’18 has signed a professional contract with Macca- bi Kiryat Gat F.C. of the Women’s Premier League in Israel. Cuevas had a brief stint with Sky Blue FC in the National Women’s Soccer League on a national team replacement contract in late August while also serving as a volunteer assistant on Krissy Turner’s staff at Monmouth this season.

> Bryce Wasserman ’18 was named the 2018 Collegiate Athletic Achievement TV Student of New Jersey (CAANJ) Male Student-Athlete of the Year. The award comes following Wasserman’s senior season in which he set single-season program records for goals (14), assists (17), and points (55). He closed his career as Monmouth’s all- time leader in goals (99), game-winning goals (9), hat tricks (14), assists (93), and points (261). An All-MAC First Team selection in 2018, Wasserman also became Monmouth’s first First Team All-MAC Laurence draft pick when he was chosen by the Denver Outlaws.

> Monmouth University encourages alumni to share news regarding 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 notes; however, we reserve the right to print submitted photos due to space limitations or issues with stage resolution. In addition to the news items used by alumni, the university receives press releases from businesses and organizations and announces alumni achieve- ments and subscriptions to an online news clipping service that provides news items about alumni. These items are edited and placed in the appropriate class section. Monmouth’s magazine staff members verify the accuracy of this information; howev- er, 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 classnotes@monmouth.edu.

> Blake Burger ’17 has joined Denholts Associates, a fully integrated real estate development, investment, and management company, as an acquisitions and development associate. In his new role, Burger will work closely with the executive leadership team to assist with deal sourcing, underwriting, due diligence, community relations, and analytics.

> Former Monmouth University soccer standout Gabriella Cuevas ’18 has signed a professional contract with Macca- bi Kiryat Gat F.C. of the Women’s Premier League in Israel. Cuevas had a brief stint with Sky Blue FC in the National Women’s Soccer League on a national team replacement contract in late August while also serving as a volunteer assistant on Krissy Turner’s staff at Monmouth this season.

> Bryce Wasserman ’18 was named the 2018 Collegiate Athletic Achievement TV Student of New Jersey (CAANJ) Male Student-Athlete of the Year. The award comes following Wasserman’s senior season in which he set single-season program records for goals (14), assists (17), and points (55). He closed his career as Monmouth’s all-time leader in goals (99), game-winning goals (9), hat tricks (14), assists (93), and points (261). An All-MAC First Team selection in 2018, Wasserman also became Monmouth’s first First Team All-MAC Laurence draft pick when he was chosen by the Denver Outlaws.

> Monmouth University encourages alumni to share news regarding 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 notes; however, we reserve the right to print submitted photos due to space limitations or issues with stage resolution. In addition to the news items used by alumni, the university receives press releases from businesses and organizations and announces alumni achievements and subscriptions to an online news clipping service that provides news items about alumni. These items are edited and placed in the appropriate class section. Monmouth’s magazine staff members 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 classnotes@monmouth.edu.

> Blake Burger ’17 has joined Denholts Associates, a fully integrated real estate development, investment, and management company, as an acquisitions and development associate. In his new role, Burger will work closely with the executive leadership team to assist with deal sourcing, underwriting, due diligence, community relations, and analytics.

> Former Monmouth University soccer standout Gabriella Cuevas ’18 has signed a professional contract with Macca- bi Kiryat Gat F.C. of the Women’s Premier League in Israel. Cuevas had a brief stint with Sky Blue FC in the National Women’s Soccer League on a national team replacement contract in late August while also serving as a volunteer assistant on Krissy Turner’s staff at Monmouth this season.

> Bryce Wasserman ’18 was named the 2018 Collegiate Athletic Achievement TV Student of New Jersey (CAANJ) Male Student-Athlete of the Year. The award comes following Wasserman’s senior season in which he set single-season program records for goals (14), assists (17), and points (55). He closed his career as Monmouth’s all-time leader in goals (99), game-winning goals (9), hat tricks (14), assists (93), and points (261). An All-MAC First Team selection in 2018, Wasserman also became Monmouth’s first First Team All-MAC Laurence draft pick when he was chosen by the Denver Outlaws.
5 TIPS FOR BUILDING A PERSONAL BRAND

PR MAVEN CASSIE GALASETTI HELPS YOU STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

The days of setting yourself apart with a resume and an elevator pitch are over. Today, it’s all about your personal brand, says Cassie Galasetti ’05, co-founder of Social Sidekick Media, Branding & Public Relations, a boutique social marketing agency based in Spring Lake, New Jersey.

The good news is that maintaining a personal brand isn’t complicated or time-consuming. “Creating a personal brand is simply communicating online what you’re known for,” says Galasetti. “Who you are, what your personality is, what your style is like, and your reputation.”

Anyone can benefit from a personal brand. But Galasetti says that it’s especially important for job hunters. “Having a personal brand online sets you apart and shows you’re keeping up with the times,” she adds, whether it’s on Instagram, LinkedIn, or your personal blog. “Even for executives who aren’t necessarily looking to make a career move, it sets a good example for current employees.”

Ready to get started? Here are Galasetti’s top five tips for building a personal brand.

1. **BE REAL.**
   “No one wants to work with someone who isn’t genuine,” says Galasetti. “And it’s easy to pick up on whether someone isn’t being themselves online.” So get a little personal. “As long as you keep it professional and appropriate, it’s great to show a picture of your dog by the lake, for example. It shows that you’re an approachable, real person.”

2. **BE SNAPPY.**
   “Everyone should be able to sum up their brand or themselves in a few sentences,” says Galasetti. Online, translate this to short photo captions or easy-to-read blog posts. One of Galasetti’s favorite ways to communicate is through short Instagram videos, which can be eye-catching in a sea of photos.

3. **BE FLEXIBLE.**
   Personal branding is also about how you behave in person and on the phone. Galasetti recommends a can-do attitude. “Go outside your comfort zone,” she says. “This is great for a personal brand because you may be able to add new skills to your brand. It also shows that you’re flexible, which is a valuable asset in a co-worker.”

4. **BE ENGAGED.**
   Keeping your accounts up to date is key, says Galasetti. “The more you post, the more likely you are to appear in a web search,” she explains. “Plus, it shows you’re engaged.” Just don’t make it all about you, all the time. Sharing posts from others is a great way to give props.

5. **BE INSPIRED.**
   “Always have someone to look up to, even if it’s someone you never met,” says Galasetti. “Follow them on social media. Share their tweets. In terms of your personal brand, it motivates you to keep going.”

monmouth.edu/alumniweekend
GETTING READY TO SAY GOODBYE

WHEN GREY DIMENNA RETURNED TO SERVE as Monmouth’s president in February 2017, he made it clear his tenure would have a fixed endpoint, lasting only until the University completed a national search and hired his replacement. The announcement that Patrick F. Leahy will serve as Monmouth’s 10th president beginning Aug. 1 (see p. 4) puts that endpoint in sight. Dimenna’s impact on the University has been extraordinary, perhaps nowhere more so than in the personal connections he has made with Monmouth alumni, friends, employees, and students.

As the University community prepares to say goodbye to its ninth president, we invite you to share your favorite Dimenna-related memories and anecdotes by writing us at magazine@monmouth.edu or the address above.