

# Monmouth

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » SPRING 2019

## PIECES OF HOME

International students share the mementos that remind them of home.

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Patrick F. Leahy named 10th president of Monmouth.

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"The Most Tax-Efficient Man in America" takes our questions.

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### SIGNS OF LIFE

Living with a terminal diagnosis.

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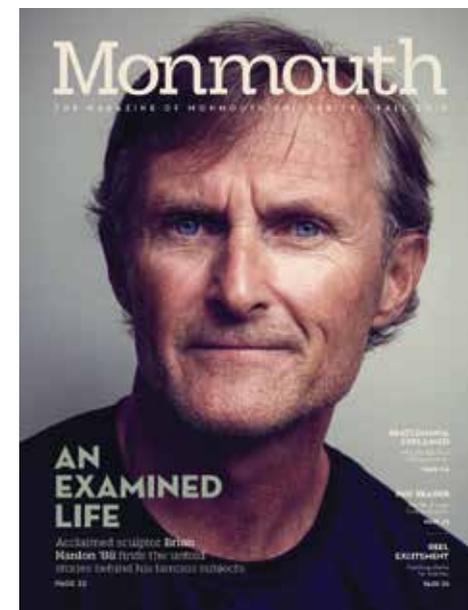
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Graduate student Zainab Audu, photographed by Anthony DePrimo

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## 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 via Facebook

### 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 unedited responses at monmouth.edu/magazine.

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 Lodato '82



### LET’S CONNECT



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# TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Email us at magazine@monmouth.edu, or write us at Monmouth magazine, Monmouth University, Alumni House, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764. Submissions for the Letters page are subject to editing for clarity and length and must include the writer’s name, address, and phone number for confirmation.

SPECIAL REPORT »

Events & announcements

# MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY NAMES PATRICK F. LEAHY 10TH PRESIDENT

CURRENT WILKES UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT TO START AUG. 1, 2019.

BY MORGANNE DUDZINSKI



**O**n Dec. 14, 2018, the Monmouth University Board of Trustees announced that Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D., would serve as the University's 10th president, effective Aug. 1, 2019. The announcement was made at an event in historic Wilson Hall, where the incoming president addressed the university community.

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 continually 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 and immediate past chair of the Monmouth University Board of Trustees. "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 admission, 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 Isaacson Miller, 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.

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?**

“DON’T EVER DO YOUR RETURN BY HAND. THAT’S STUPIDITY.”

OPPOSITE: Stives is a two-time winner of the Leon Hess Business School Teaching Excellence Award.

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. ▮

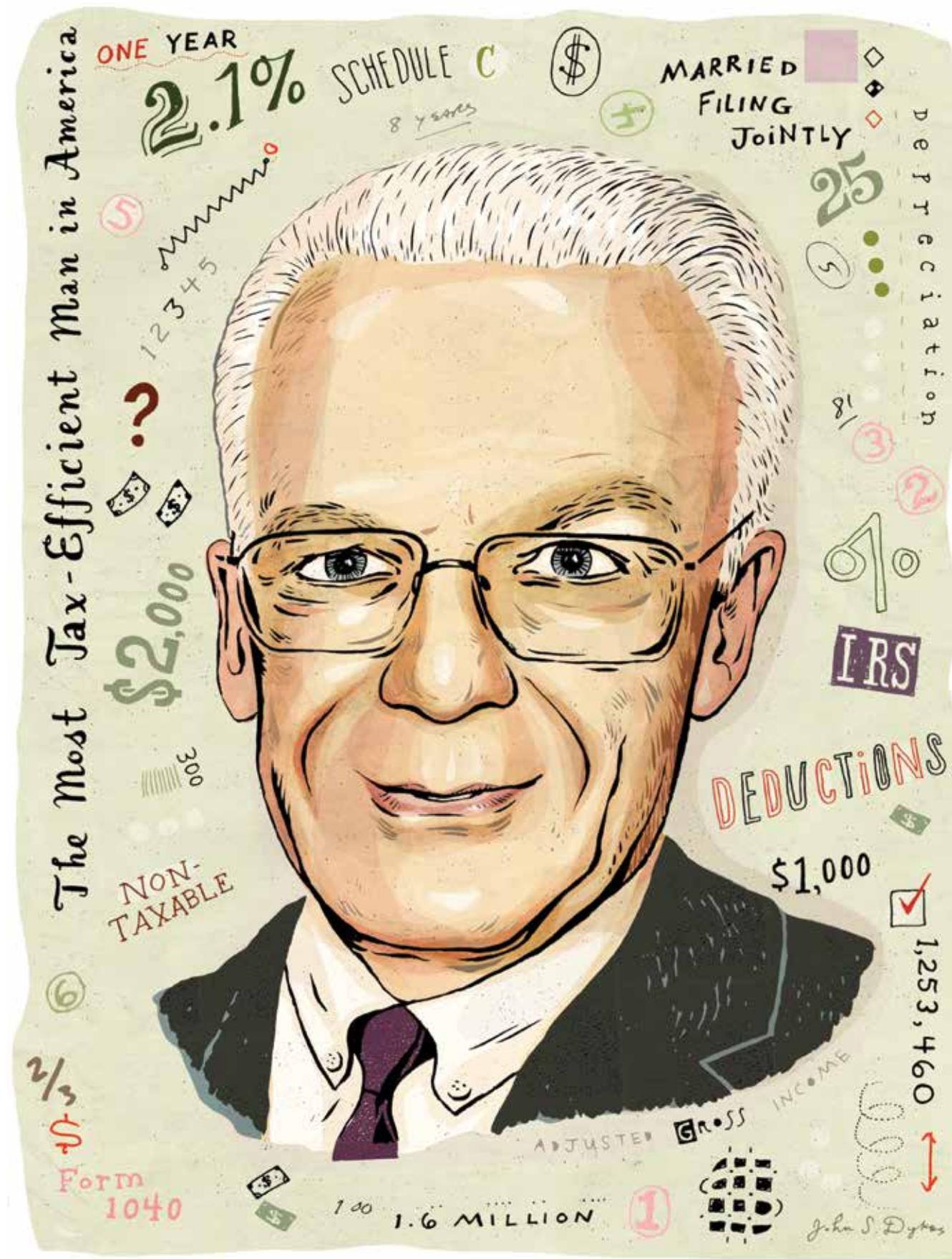


illustration JOHN S. DYKES

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 *The Wall Street Journal* writing about some CPA from New Jersey—already you're off to a bad start, because it doesn't get any duller than a CPA from New Jersey—but they were looking for a way to get readers interested in this tongue-in-cheek, front-page article. And they said, "What do you do that's different?" 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 10 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 classes across the country. For that work I get a 1099. So I told [the *Journal*] it's the best of both worlds. I get benefits from the college side and then deduct on my tax return things like my *Wall Street Journal* subscription, my computer, Wi-Fi, my cellphone, continuing education, and some travel expenses. You can't do that as an employee. They twisted it around in journalistic fashion—which I admire—and came up with the title.

That article says you "use the tax code's many quirks" as the means through which you "can live a fuller life." How so?

Tax laws are complicated by their nature. Congress writes them—and Congress can't do anything without complicating it. As a professor, I know what you can do—not what you can get away with—what you can do to reduce your taxes *legally*. I'd be a fool not to take advantage of those things. And the more you do it, the bet-

“**YOU DON'T CALL A DOCTOR AND JUST TELL HIM WHAT'S WRONG OVER THE PHONE, RIGHT? WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING AN ACCOUNTANT, YOU HAVE TO INSIST ON SOME KIND OF PERSONAL MEETING, AT LEAST THE FIRST TIME.**”

ter you get at it. I'm careful. I know what records I need, and I know what to back up and what will survive an audit.

The article also mentions "the flurry of tiny deductions that add up," explaining how you write off things like allowable mileage and food expenses on business trips—even down to a hot dog you bought at the airport. Are there things the average person doesn't understand about deductions?

Deductions can be very beneficial. However, one of the things I'm constantly telling my students is that just because you can deduct it from your taxes doesn't make it free. There's so much misinformation out there. You have people who brag about being in the top tax bracket or who brag about not paying any taxes at all. That tells you a lot about a person.

Also, some people think that because they work from home, they can deduct part of their house. Well, no, there are very strict rules about that. People are doing stuff they shouldn't, sometimes intentionally and sometimes because they lack information.

This is the first year that people are filing under the new tax law. What should the average filer know heading into this season?

For a lot of people, tax returns are simple. They get a W-2, and unless they are afraid of computers, they get a software program and file that way. By the way, don't *ever* do your return by hand. That's stupidity.

As for the new law, a lot of people won't itemize deductions this year. Many people are reverting to standard deductions. And if you don't have more than \$24,000 (for married taxpayers) in deductions, there's not a whole lot you need to know.

What about someone whose return might be a little more complicated?

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 W-2 and other forms. Then the accountant processes your return and sends it back to you for filing. Don't do it that way. You don't call a doctor and just tell him what's wrong over the phone, right? When it comes to 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 own business—within certain parameters—you won't pay taxes on 20 percent of what you make. This law simplified taxes for a lot of people but made it unnecessarily complicated for others. But we don't have nearly enough time to get into all of those complications [laughs]!

Any other tips?

If you hear from the IRS, get professional help before you respond. The IRS is not the Middletown police. They don't read you Miranda rights. You open your mouth, say the wrong thing, and you could go to jail.

What do the next few years look like for you?

More of the same wonderful stuff, really. I know it can't go on forever. I've tragically seen people who don't know when to quit, and I don't want that to happen to me. My memory is not as good as it used to be. I need more sleep. My hearing is terrible. My eyesight's bad [laughs]. I think I'll give myself another four or five years in the classroom. But I still like to ski and sail. The last thing I'll ever do is sit around screaming at the television. But right now I am just exceedingly happy doing what I'm doing. 

**EXPLAIN THIS »**

Answering your burning questions

# HOW CAN I PRESERVE MY FAMILY'S HISTORY?

It's a familiar scene for so many today—basements full of old photo albums, attics overflowing with home movies, smartphones bursting at the seams with selfies and videos. Chaotic? Sure. But put them together, and what you have is valuable family history. "Whether you're preserving your family's stories to pass down to your children, or you're planning to donate your photos or keepsakes in some way, all of these stories make up a narrative worth saving," says Melissa Ziobro, a specialist professor of public history. But how to do that?

When it comes to paper documents like photos, keep them comfortable. "Most of these family collections get stored in the basement or attic because that's where there's room," says Ziobro. "But these are the worst possible places for them" since there is minimal control over temperature and humidity. A good rule of thumb, she says: "If you wouldn't be comfortable in your basement or attic, the documents aren't comfortable either." Also, it's best not to use paper clips or staples, which can rust and destroy the documents over time. Instead, use acid-free

folders and papers, and keep the documents as flat as possible to avoid putting any unwarranted stress on them.

In addition to storing the original copies properly, Ziobro recommends investing in an inexpensive scanner to create digital versions. Just be sure to capture a high-resolution image—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 you can," she says. "This goes for printed and digital files."

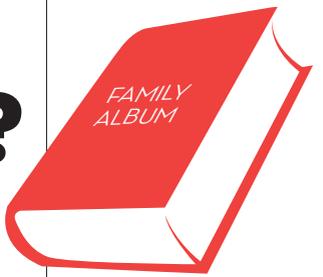
And while images and documents can tell a valuable story, Ziobro says we shouldn't underestimate the value of the spoken word. Collecting oral histories can be a fun and informative way to make the past accessible for future generations. "It's so much more relatable because we're hearing from people in their own words and cadence," she says. "And since we're hear-

ing from people who aren't in the history books, we're getting different perspectives."

The good news is that it's easy to get started capturing your family members' personal histories. Chances are you already have an app on your smartphone that can record crystal-clear audio. Ziobro says it's best to start simple. "Even if I'm interviewing grandpa about his Korean War service, it can be hard to jump right in there," she says. "Start at the beginning with 'When and where were you born?' It's a simple question and sets the context for the interview."

Oral histories, photos, and videos make great family keepsakes, but Ziobro encourages families to share them with museums, historical societies, and oral history archivists. "People tend to be humble and think that no one cares about their story, but that's 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 Kvidahl Reilly



**THE 10-SECOND BONUS QUESTION**

## WHAT'S WORTH DONATING?

A national organization may be interested in military uniforms, while local groups would love to preserve a scrapbook of memories from the neighborhood. Many archivists welcome recordings or interviews.

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

**CONCEPTS »**

Dispatches from the Monmouth University Polling Institute

# ROCK OF AGES

IN SEARCH OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE ROCK BAND.

**P**ity 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. Maybe 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](http://monmouth.edu/polling) for complete findings and methodology.



# SOUNDING OFF

PROFESSOR JOHN MORANO'S ECO-ADVENTURE NOVELS GIVE VOICE TO THE VOICELESS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

In 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 extinct in the wild. The news hit Monmouth communication professor and nature-lover John Morano particularly hard. "I wanted to cry—I really did," says Morano, who is the author of a series of critically acclaimed

eco-adventure novels. His newest book in the series, *Flocks of One*, which was published by Grey Gecko Press in February, focuses on some of the planet's most endangered bird species, including the Spix's macaw. "I'm not Bill Gates, you know; I can't throw a hundred million dollars at the Spix's macaw. I want to—I can't. So, what can I do? I'll write a story. I'll be that guy."

This avocation—to effect change for imperiled species and endangered habitats through story-

telling—began 25 years ago with the publication of the first book in what's come to be called The John Morano Eco-Adventure Series, *A Wing and a Prayer*. Inspired by a news story about the last hamster of its kind, Morano became determined to tell the stories of endangered animals through the perspectives of the animals themselves.

"It's not about our loss, what about their loss? We think of everything through our viewpoint," says Morano. "But, what's it like to not—forget about selecting a mate, what about not being able to find a mate? Forget about not liking your community, what if you don't have a community? What if your habitat—your world—is shrinking?"

Each book in Morano's series features a different cast of char-

acters, both human and animal, in settings ranging from the Cambodian coral reefs to the volcanic Guadalupe Island, and tackles issues ranging from climate change and pollution to captivity and overfishing.

*Flocks of One* intertwines new and old characters with a focus on birds, such as the critically endangered Ivory-billed woodpecker. It features scenes set in New Jersey, with both the Pine Barrens and Monmouth University's campus making appearances (see sidebar).

While Morano admits that the books in his series focus on highlighting imperiled species and their stories, which can be emotionally taxing, he does try to inspire hope.

"Those are some depressing, dark stories, and you can capture that ... but write a story that's still hopeful, that says the glass isn't necessarily half empty, and have characters that might model the ways things should be," says Morano. "That's what I tried to do. The books are funny. They're fun—like Disney for the environment."

Morano's eco-adventure series has been endorsed by the World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy, the ASPCA, the Ocean Conservancy, and Oceana. Even the Grateful Dead have lent its support, giving him permission to use its lyrics for free: His second book, *Makoona*, features a psychedelic octopus named Molo 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. Already at work on the next book in the series, he says he's grateful for a life which has afforded him the ability to work on subject matter that he is passionate about.

"It's been, honestly, for me, it's been a magical life. Magical," says Morano. "And I don't know why or how, but I'm taking the ride."

## 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:

### 1 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 Paradiso, a former Monmouth student who was the location manager for *Annie*, suggested using the iconic building as the setting for Warbucks' home.

### 2 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 one 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."

### 3 30 ROCK

In the season four episode "Anna Howard Shaw Day," Jon Bon Jovi '01HN touts his Hawk credentials. Playing himself, the singer reprimands Tina Fey's character for blindly signing paperwork. "Woah, 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."

### 4 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

“**THOSE ARE SOME DEPRESSING, DARK STORIES, AND YOU CAN CAPTURE THAT ... BUT WRITE A STORY THAT'S STILL HOPEFUL, THAT SAYS THE GLASS ISN'T NECESSARILY HALF EMPTY.**”

ABOVE: John Morano is also the author of *Don't Tell Me the Ending!*, a textbook for aspiring film critics.

» Know of any other Monmouth "cameos" in fictional works? Write us at [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) to let us know.

# THE INSIDER

KAYVON PAUL IS STILL MONTHS AWAY FROM GRADUATING, BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED HIM FROM BEING A FORCE IN THE POLITICAL WORLD.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

**B**rowsing 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. "You stay up a little later, wake up a little earlier. I have a lot of friends that are dead, that are in jail. I just use that as motivation every day."

Born and raised in Long Branch and Asbury Park, Paul says violence and gangs were all around him. The oldest of eight children, he worked at Rite Aid

to help pay the bills and tried to stay out of trouble. He hadn't thought much about college until his high school history teacher—who also teaches at Monmouth—encouraged him to consider it.

"He has a very good mind that grasps things in a commonsense way," says Noah Lipman, who taught Paul both in high school and at Monmouth. "He can resolve daily problems in a much quicker, analytical way than most people have the ability to."

Paul initially enrolled as a social work student at Monmouth, but soon politics beckoned. "When people ask me why I like political science, I usually say that politics affects everything you do, every day. How could you not be involved?" says Paul.

## POLL POSITION

In the months leading up to last fall's midterm elections, Paul expanded his political science savvy—and further bolstered his resume—by working as a research assistant for Monmouth University's Polling Institute. He was part of a team of students who helped assemble datasets for congressional house races across the country.

He took his political education outside the classroom in 2016 as an intern with New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.'s campaign for re-election. A few months later, he worked on a local board of education campaign, and then joined the state Senate campaign of Vin Gopal as a paid field organizer.

Outside of the obvious resume building, "all this is fun for me," 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."

*OPPOSITE: Paul has already taken his LSAT exam but says law school will likely wait for now.*



*photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO*



HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE » Landmarks & stories

# PRESS MATTERS

THE EARLY DAYS OF MONMOUTH'S FOURTH ESTATE.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

One 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 had produced Monmouth’s first student newspaper. The issue included accounts of faculty speeches, reports from other recently formed student clubs, a letter from then-dean (later

president) Edward G. Schlaefer, and a call for submissions to name the new publication.

When the second issue hit newsstands on Jan. 18, 1934, it had been renamed *The Outlook*. That issue included stories on newly appointed staff members, a student’s proclamation of MJC’s college spirit, and a report on Monmouth’s first basketball game (a 41–30 win over Middlesex

Junior College). Sadly, it did not include a report on who suggested the name *The Outlook*, nor did it list any of the other names that were considered.

In the 85 years since then, *The Outlook* has continued to “document the history of this university as it has happened,” says Professor John Morano, the club’s current advisor. “They covered protests on the Great Lawn; they covered Martin Luther King, Jane Fonda, Ralph Nader—anyone who has ever been here has appeared on the pages of *The Outlook*.” Because of this, says Morano, *The Outlook* has served—and continues to serve—a vital role at Monmouth.

“We’re the Fourth Estate on this campus,” says Morano. “We say things no one else is going to say. We ask questions that no one is going to ask. That’s our job. Someone has to do that. The newspaper does it.”



THIS IS MONMOUTH » The scene at West Long Branch

# CAMPUS BRIEFS

## HAWKS HELPING HAWKS

The Nest, an on-campus food pantry opened last semester by the Student Government Association, supports food-insecure undergraduate and graduate students at the University. Students who do not have any form of meal plan can come to The Nest, which is located in the Student Center, and select non-perishable food items, beverages, and toiletries that have been donated by their fellow Hawks. According to *The Washington Post*, more than 30 percent of students attending a college or university in the U.S. experience some form of food insecurity.

## CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Nursing students Madalyn Zuber and Natalia Maticke’s final day of clinical could not have been more meaningful or memorable: The duo helped deliver a baby in the parking lot of Monmouth Medical Center.

Zuber says the experience taught her an important lesson about her future career: “I learned that when I become a nurse, and even now in school, I can’t ever expect a day to go a certain way because this field is full of surprises. I think that’s one of the best things about nursing.”

## SPRINGSTEEN SIGHTING

When Monmouth University hosted a free screening of the Netflix original special “Springsteen on Broadway” in January, the Boss himself was in the audience. According to the *Asbury Park Press*, Springsteen slipped into Pollak Theatre just after the screening started, then left through the theater’s back door relatively unnoticed. Monmouth is home to The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music.

## GOAL WITHIN REACH

As of Feb. 1, Together We Can: The Campaign for Scholarship

had reached 80 percent of its goal with \$12.2 million in gifts and pledges committed to date. President Grey Dimenna said reaching and exceeding the campaign’s \$15 million goal will enhance Monmouth’s ability to continue to attract highly qualified students from economically, geographically, and culturally diverse backgrounds. Currently, 30 percent of students qualify for need-based, federally funded financial aid at Monmouth.

## GREEK SPOKEN HERE

President Grey Dimenna announced a full reinstatement of the University’s seven fraternities and eight sororities for the spring 2019 semester. The reinstatement of the University-affiliated Greek organizations follows the development of a comprehensive, accountability-based plan that includes several changes to current policies and practices in order to promote a safe and productive Greek system.

ABOVE: There was swag and info aplenty at the New Graduate Student Orientation in January. Monmouth has added two new grad programs: an M.S. in athletic training and M.F.A. in creative writing. Info at [monmouth.edu/grad](http://monmouth.edu/grad).



**A DAY AT THE BEACH**

» Coastal moments, captured

## CHILLING OUT

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 playland for members of the Monmouth University Surf Club.

# FUTURE FOCUSED

MEGAN HART IS MAKING THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES SHE'S GETTING ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

BY PETE CROATTO

**M**egan 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 fresh-

man 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."

## IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

HART'S THREE older siblings—Dean, Tom, and Michele—also played collegiate lacrosse and majored in finance. All three excelled at both. "Keeping up with them over the years made me feel like I had to one-up them," says Hart with a laugh. Has she? "I don't know about that, but I've definitely held my own."

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."

Hart sees another parallel beyond athletics providing discipline in the classroom and vice versa.

"Every time I learn something in either sports or academics, it's such a rewarding feeling," she says. "Knowing that you're better than you were the day before, and even to look back to my freshman year and just how much I've grown, is kind of crazy."

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.

OPPOSITE: Hart was named to the MAAC All-Rookie Team following her freshman season.



photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO

# STRIKING A BALANCE

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

BY MARK GOLA

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'm a football player who loves art just as much as being 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 physical 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. Christopher 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 presentation 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 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."

OPPOSITE: A mural Zubieta painted in the Student Center to honor Lance Cpl. Christopher Cosgrove III '05, who was killed in action in 2006 while conducting combat operations in Iraq.



## SPORTS SHORTS

### CHAMPS AGAIN

Last fall, the women's soccer team won its third straight MAAC title while the field hockey team captured the program's third MAAC Championship in the last five years.

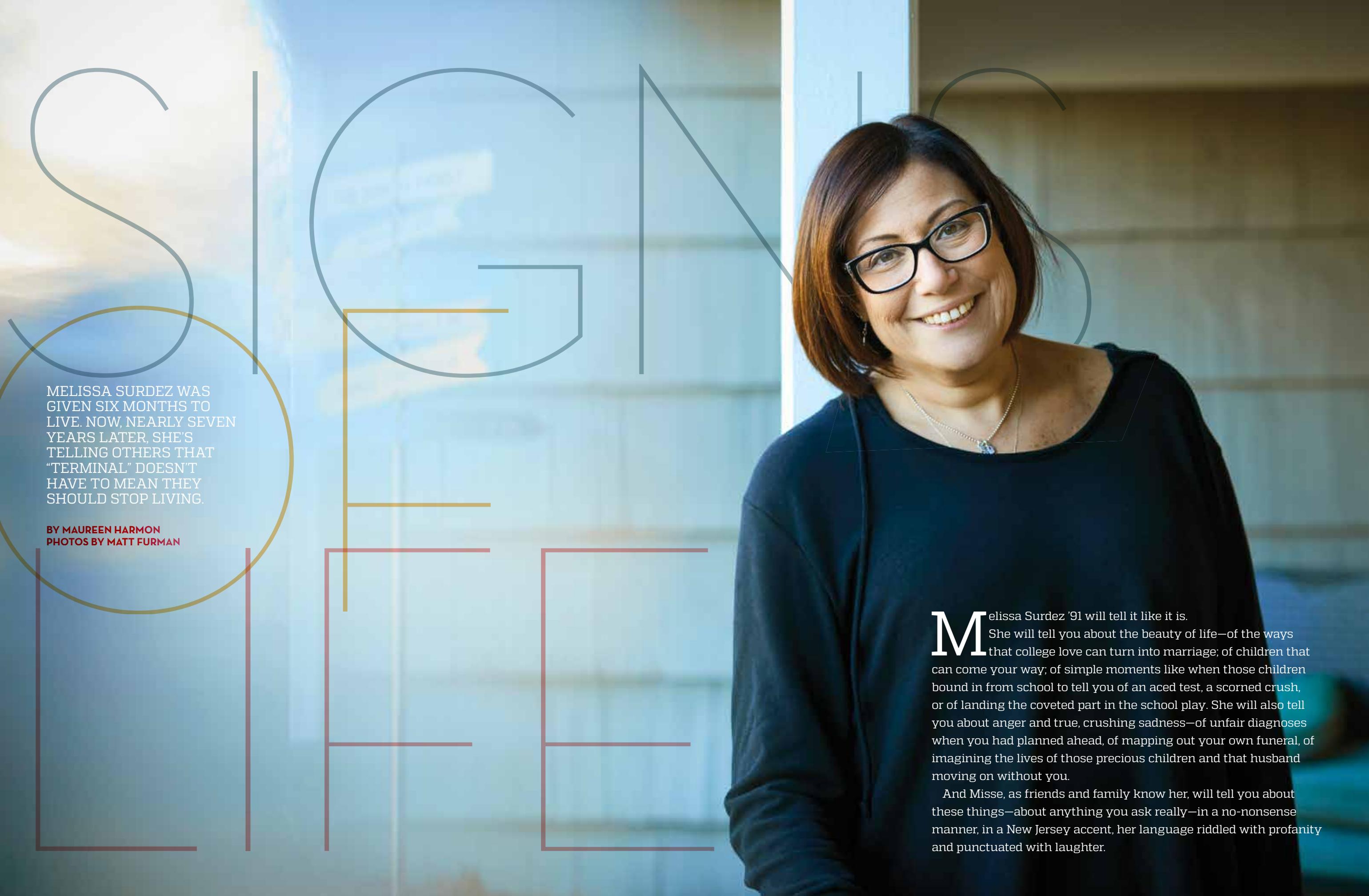
### WHITE OUT

Wide receiver Reggie White Jr. closed out his stellar Hawk career as the program and Big South record holder in career receptions and reception yardage. During his senior year, his best ever, White had 1,133 receiving yards on 71 catches with 11 touchdowns and was named Second Team All-America by the AP and Third Team All-America by Phil Steele.

### GIVING BACK

In December, approximately 40 student-athletes visited LADACIN Network's Schroth School in Ocean Township, New Jersey, to hand out gifts and spread holiday cheer to the school's special needs students. LADACIN (Lifetime Assistance for Developmental and Challenging Individual Needs) Network is a non-profit agency that provides education, therapeutic, social, residential, and support services for people with cerebral palsy or other physical disabilities. This was the 20th year Monmouth student-athletes made the trip.

Compiled from Office of Athletics Communication and New Media reports.



# SIGNATURE

MELISSA SURDEZ WAS GIVEN SIX MONTHS TO LIVE. NOW, NEARLY SEVEN YEARS LATER, SHE'S TELLING OTHERS THAT "TERMINAL" DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN THEY SHOULD STOP LIVING.

BY MAUREEN HARMON  
PHOTOS BY MATT FURMAN

**M**elissa 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 have completed quickly, within three days. Jessi encouraged her sister to come to Monmouth Medical Center, where she worked, so she could read the slides herself. Misse did as she was told and parked herself in the waiting room in her robe as her sister headed in to review the images. When the older sister returned, she had tears in her eyes. All she said was, “Misse, it's not a cyst.”



“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.

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 the mammogram completed, simply escaped her. “Even at that moment, I was still like, ‘Well, what the hell could it possibly be? Did something get stuck in there?’”

Misse, the mother of two children named Quinn and Brielle, had stage three breast cancer. She was 40 years old—the same age her mother was when she died of the disease.

Genetic testing, Ancestry.com, and 23andMe are all wonderful things, says Misse, but you can't use them alone. “Every ounce of information—like true, factual, non-fake news information—will help you make decisions,” she says. “But you still have to go off of all the other factors. My

mother had breast cancer. So did my aunt, her sister. I had to go off of those facts, even though the one that made me make all my decisions—the results of the genetic test—came out negative. That was just a piece of information.” This is the kind of thing Misse tells people who call her today and ask her how she lives with a terminal illness. In addition to her role with Johnson & Johnson, she's become a life coach and a confidante to others who received terminal diagnoses—she's truly living, knowing how she will likely die.

When the diagnosis came—and then came again, when she was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer after a brief time of remission and given six months to live—Misse, Type A in the extreme, began making plans. “I do all the bills. I do everything. I balance the checkbook, so I came home that week, and I wrote a big spreadsheet for [my husband] Lance of all of the bills, all of the passwords, the usernames.” She called Johnson & Johnson to make sure the beneficiary information was up to date. She called the

insurance company to understand her benefits. “I absolutely went into finalizing mode, but that, to me, only lasts so long. It only has a certain runway.”

This runway brought Misse to her own fork in the road. Sit tight and wait for death, or live with this particular hand. 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 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 simplifies it: “I'm in my own swim lane.”

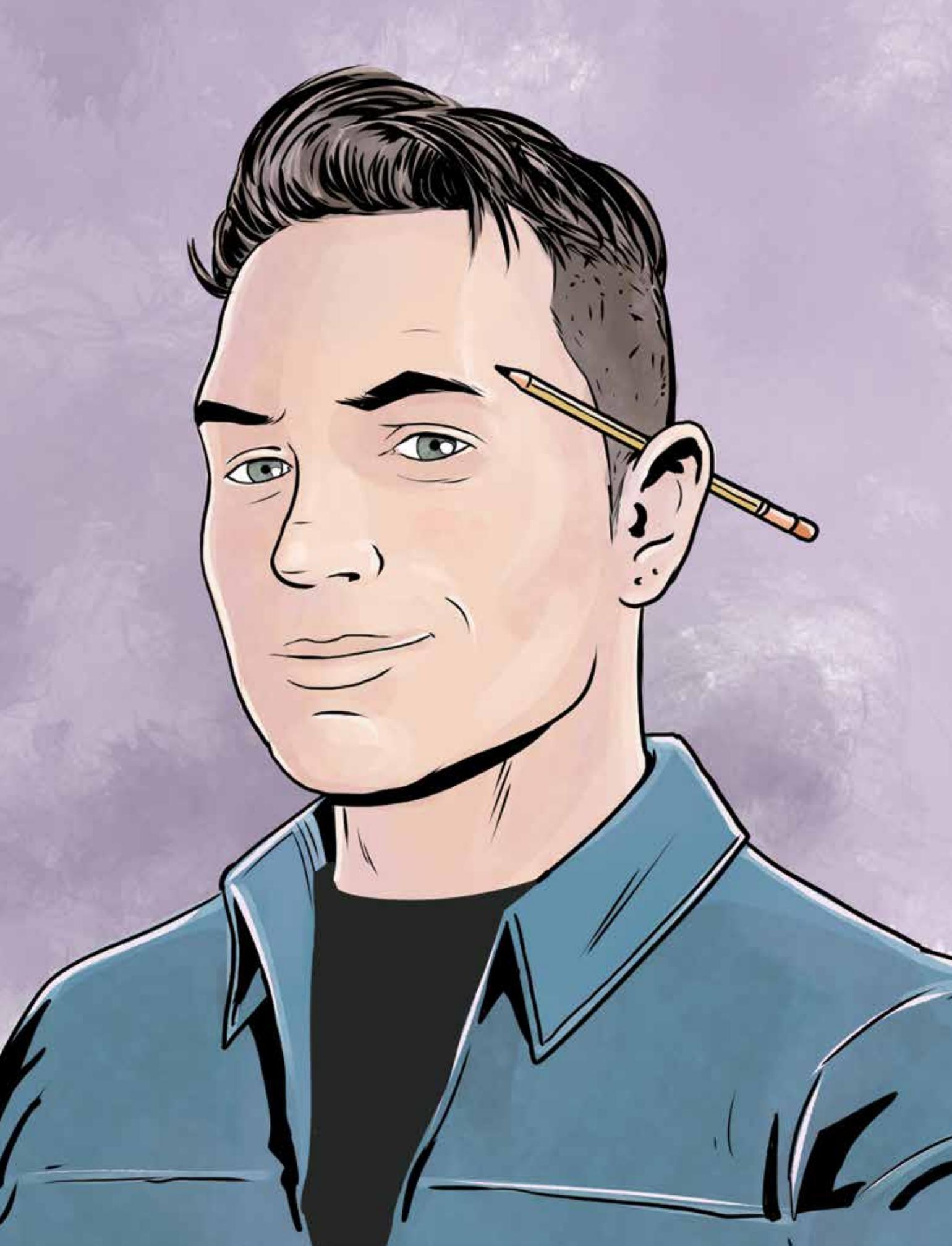
Misse Surdez is still riddled with cancer. It is not going to go away. She will not beat it. But that six-month lifespan has stretched on for nearly seven years. It was a combination of chemo drugs called Herceptin and Perjeta. Every three weeks, she takes a day off of work and gets chemotherapy. Within 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 eating healthy. 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.

“**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.**”

“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, and 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 and Jessi. 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.”



# DRAWN OUT

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

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NENAD CVITICANIN

**F**rank 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



high school, and it was there that he first felt inspired to write. For an honors class, he had to read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. A key passage in the book, in which the main character decides to leave an abusive relationship and lets her hair down for the first time, resonated with Gogol.

"It's sort of on-the-nose poetic. It's symbolic of her having her freedom—her hair is no longer up in this tight thing; now it's down and free like she is," says Gogol. "When I took that in, I really fell in love with what stories can do."

He enrolled at Monmouth as an English major with minors in creative writing and graphic design, earning his bachelor's in 2010 and, a year later, his master's in English with a focus in creative writing. He quickly found a job in marketing but floundered on the creative writing front, he says. He knew he wanted to write but was unsure what to write about. "I was having a lot of false starts: talking a lot about want-

ing to be a writer, trying, and then not getting really far."

Then in early 2015, Gogol had an aha moment. Feeling unfulfilled at work, he was reviewing a conversation he had with a friend on Facebook Messenger that had spanned years. When Gogol saw how long he had talked about wanting to be a writer—without actually doing much writing—he realized it was time to "fish or cut bait." With the blessing of his then-girlfriend now fiancée, Catherine, he quit his job to figure out exactly what it was that he wanted to do.

He freelanced at first and then, thanks to a gift from Catherine, enrolled in a class offered by Comics Experience, an online comic book school. For the class, he had to write a five-page script. That story, "Embrace," is a snapshot into the life of a father struggling to connect with his autistic son. Gogol, whose cousin has autism, combined his own worries of parenthood

with stories his aunt had told him of the struggles faced by parents raising children on the spectrum. Within two weeks of the class ending, he had found an artist, colorist, and letterer who turned the script into a complete illustrated comic within 10 days.

"Once I had that finished story, and I could read the script next to the finished pages and say, 'This is my thing,' I really—there's no better word for it, but I—got addicted to it," says Gogol.

Encouraged, he set out to expand his portfolio. He wrote a few stories back-to-back, writing each in a different genre to flex his creative muscles. When he had six stories finished, he laid the scripts across his office floor to look for holes in genre and style that he could fill with additional stories. He noticed a pattern.

"I was moving things around, moving stories next to each other, and I realized that these stories—sometimes directly, sometimes a bit indirectly—addressed

the stages of the grieving process," says Gogol. He hadn't consciously set out to write about grief but thinks that because of his life experiences, the grieving process had become somewhat ingrained in him through the years. (Not to mention, he particularly loved a comic book miniseries called *Fallen Son: The Death of Captain America*, which included five stand-alone stories of Marvel superheroes grieving the death of Captain America.)

"That was another one of those touchstone moments for me, not as a writer but as a person, because I had all of this stuff happen to me, and sometimes I'd dealt with it, and other times I hadn't," says Gogol. "This sort of gave me a framework to understand what I had been through and what I was going through up until that point in my life, and it really was just very helpful to me in 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 straight from his childhood—but it was his birthday, not Christmas, and rather than buying him presents, his mother's NA group chipped in to buy him a cake.

While 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 sold collector comic books to pay for a large portion of that cost and then started a Kickstarter campaign to recoup some of the cost and to get the content out so that people could read it. Supporters who gave \$1 or more would receive a PDF download of the finished product: *GRIEF*, the anthology. He launched the campaign in April 2017, and to Gogol's surprise, supporters surpassed his goal of \$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... and I'm of the opinion that stories 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 society... 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."

No longer unsure what to write about, Gogol says he's at work on several books. But *GRIEF* will always hold a special place for him.

"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 grieving process, and healing, and growing up," says Gogol. "And that has 100 percent been my experience talking to people—that is what [*GRIEF*] is doing for people, and that's what brings me the most happiness by far." 

•  
I HAD ALL OF THIS STUFF HAPPEN TO ME, AND SOMETIMES I'D DEALT WITH IT, AND OTHER TIMES I HADN'T. THIS SORT OF GAVE ME A FRAMEWORK TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAD BEEN THROUGH AND WHAT I WAS GOING THROUGH UP UNTIL THAT POINT IN MY LIFE.  
•

# PIECES OF HOME

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
SHARE THE MEMENTOS THAT  
REMINDE THEM OF HOME.

BY TONY MARCHETTI  
PHOTOS BY ANTHONY DEPRIMO

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."





# ZAINAB AUDU

## HOME COUNTRY: NIGERIA

THERE IS A REASON ZAINAB AUDU projects a regal air: She is descended from royalty. Her paternal grandfather, now deceased, abdicated his seat as Onu of Ajakouta (an area within Kogi State) because he feared for his safety. He advised his son to stay away too if ever asked to rule. “My father is a medical doctor in Lagos—he’s not going to go be a king,” Audu says with a laugh, as if it’s all very normal. So while the royal bloodline lives on, don’t expect anyone from Audu’s family to assume the throne, she says.

A student in the M.S. in information systems program, Audu says the fabrics that make up her dress represent her parents’ lineage. The patterned part is Ankara, typically worn by the Yoruba people of Oyo State (mom’s side). The solid part is Itauba, typically worn by the Igala and Ebira peoples of Kogi (dad’s side). “Back home when you wear this, no one cares,” says Audu. “But it’s the first thing Americans see and ask about, and it gives me a chance to talk about home.”

# DYLAN BARKHUIZEN

## HOME COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA



**B**eing recruited to swim for Monmouth University made it possible for Dylan Barkhuizen to pursue his dream of attending college in the U.S. It also meant leaving behind everything he holds dear: family, friends, his African Bulldog Sven, and his 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.”



# MEGAN DE LANGE

## HOME COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA

**H**er 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.



# ALICIA SOUTH

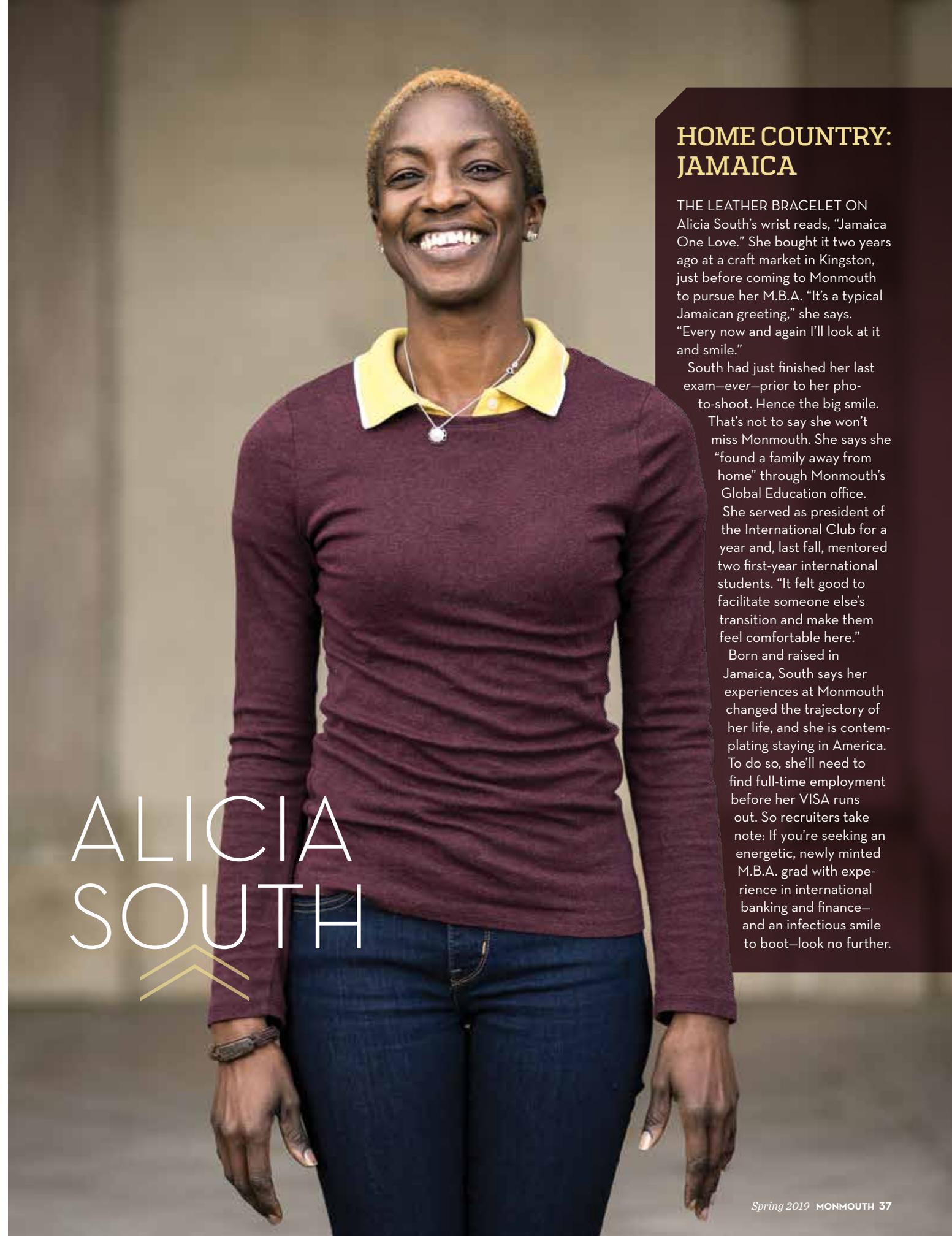
## HOME COUNTRY: JAMAICA

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.



A 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.”

### HOME COUNTRY: MEXICO



## SERGIO MARTINEZ



## GEORGIA GARDEN BACHOP



### HOME COUNTRY: NEW ZEALAND

“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.”



## ANEESHA MOYYA

### HOME COUNTRY: INDIA

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."



## HAMZA ZAFAR

### HOME COUNTRY: PAKISTAN

**Y**ou 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.

One page shows an illustration of two people and the words "Main aur tum" ("me and you"). Zafar's friends changed the text to read "us" and then drew themselves onto the page and signed it. When they showed it to him, they gave him a hug. "That almost made me tear up, which is a really big thing for me," Zafar says with a laugh. "I'm not a sentimental guy."



RIDHIMA  
MEHRA

HOME COUNTRY:  
INDIA

**A**fter 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."

HOME COUNTRY:  
NETHERLANDS

THE PHOTO BOOK JOSEPHINE VAN Der Hoop's mother made for her is filled with scenes from her family's first visit to Monmouth. "It's nice because I can look at it whenever I want to and be reminded of them being here," says the junior business management major. A midfielder on the Hawks field hockey team, Van Der Hoop says Monmouth's size, location, and beautiful campus helped seal the deal when she was being recruited by colleges. "I've loved it here since my first semester," says Van Der Hoop. "I went home [to Rotterdam] after my first semester with a big smile on my face and told my parents, 'I'm never leaving there.'" **M**



JOSEPHINE  
VAN DER HOOP

THE CHANGEMAKER » Alumni making waves

# 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.

“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, citizen-

ship, 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.

## 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.

OPPOSITE: Silva was the co-author of the first scholarly article ever published in Brazil about forensic nursing.

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.”



photo JOHN DAVIS

# ALUMNI ROUNDUP

LISTED BY GRADUATION YEAR

## 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-

yon. Their 16-mile adventure was a celebration of Bary's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. While at Monmouth, Bary was president of TKB fraternity, a founding member of TKE, president of the Inter Fraternity/Sorority Council, and vice president of student government. Since 1990, the Shermans have operated PEPworldwide, a training and consulting firm that specializes in helping people, in both public and private sectors, improve

their productivity and effectiveness by saving time and reducing personal stress. Over 5,000 people throughout the U.S. have graduated from their 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

*Continued, p. 49*



**NOT TO MISS »**  
Now-April 30  
**BEYOND #METOO**

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.



## CELEBRATIONS

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:** **1.** Last August, President Grey Dimenna and staff from the Offices of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving and Career Services met with more than 85 Monmouth alumni who work at Commvault in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. **2.** President Emeritus Samuel Magill (left), Professor Emeritus Robert Rechnitz, and Joan Rechnitz '84, '12HN outside Rechnitz Hall last summer. **3.** Monmouth alumni from the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst gathered together in September at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. The pictured alumni are, from left, Tom Donnelly '92; Rudy Masia '84, '86M; David Kiernan '87, '00M; Gayle (Kraus) Edwards '86; Kathleen Donnelly '91; and Allison (Barrow) Murawski '10. **4.** Iota Alpha Phi sisters Joan R. Devivo-Brownlee '78, Kim (Bolton) Miller '78, Patty (Wilson) Wilhelmsen '78, Sharon (Pitt) Campagnola '79, and Patty (Wasylyk) Lewandowski '80 celebrated their sorority's 40th reunion last fall at Homecoming. **5.** The Phi Delta Sigma reunion was held on campus in early September. There to celebrate were (front row, left to right) John Winterstella '65, Mike Tufariello, Brian Limberg '64, Frank Oakley '69, Phil Hueston, and John Burns '62, as well as, (back row, left to right), Chuck Gerdon, director of development for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Bob Davis '65; Paul Doherty '67, '04HN; Bob "Bis" Beni; John McCarthy '61; Nelson "Bucko" Carr '65; Ozzie Measure '65.



## CELEBRATIONS

**BIRTHS:** 1. Jacqueline Turner '12 and Eric Bancroft '09 welcomed their first child, Marina Christine Bancroft, at 7:16 p.m. on July 16, 2018. 2. Lori Kaufman '07 and her husband, Shane Derris, welcomed their first child, Simon Baines Derris, on Nov. 9, 2018. **WEDDINGS:** 3. Jennifer Jamieson '13 wed Michael DiBerardino '13 on August 25, 2018. 4. Kathleen Fitzpatrick '09 married Christopher Baile '10 in Manasquan, New Jersey, on September 28, 2018. 5. Christine (Schumann) Finan '07 wed Jim Finan on Sept. 14, 2018.

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 Potters 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.

» **Joan R. Devivo-Brownlee '78** reports that Iota Alpha Phi sorority celebrated its 40th reunion at Homecoming last fall. In attendance were Devivo-Brownlee, Kim (Bolton) Miller '78, Patty (Wilson) Wilhelmsen '78, Sharon (Pitt) Cam-

pagnola '79, and Patty (Wasylyk) Lewandowski '80. "The old girls still know how to have a good time," Devivo-Brownlee said.

## 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 2018, 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 Gruending '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 Waitsfield 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. Gruending also currently serves on the marketing and public relations committee 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). ☒

*Continued, p. 50*



**NOT TO MISS »**  
March 6-14  
**STEEL  
MAGNOLIAS**

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.

» 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.

» **Chrissy Skudera '05** completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training with the School Yoga Institute in Calca, Peru. During her five weeks in Peru, she also hiked Machu Picchu and explored the Peruvian Amazon.

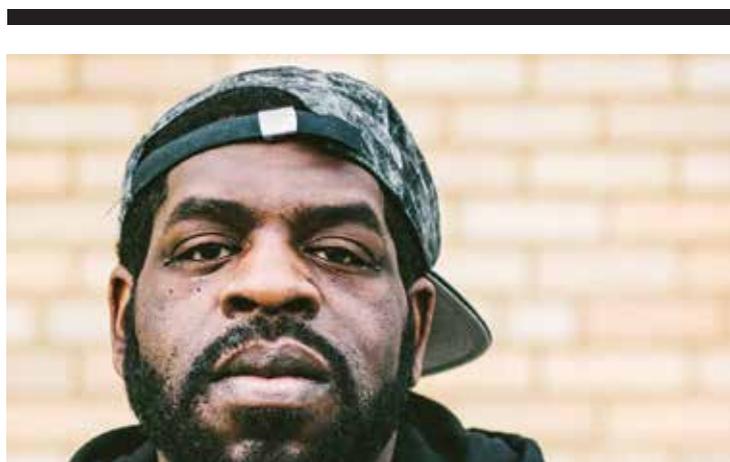
» **Christine (Schumann) Finan '07** wed Jim Finan on September 14, 2018. There were many Monmouth alumni in attendance, including matron of honor Stacie (Czurlanis) Hipolito '07.

» **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.

» **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.

» **Eric Bancroft '09**. See note for **Jacqueline Turner '12**. ➤

*Continued, p. 52*



**NOT TO MISS »**  
March 7  
**VISITING WRITERS SERIES**

Visiting 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.

# Their success depends on you.

**W**ith 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](http://monmouth.edu/together).

**M**  
**TOGETHER WE CAN**  
THE CAMPAIGN *for* SCHOLARSHIP



» **Kathleen Fitzpatrick '09** wed **Christopher Baile '10** in Manasquan, New Jersey, on September 28, 2018.

» **Nick Lezoli '09** is the new boys' varsity basketball coach at the Michael J. Petrides School in Staten Island, New York. A special education teacher, Lezoli has coached the Panthers' junior varsity team for the past five seasons.

## 2010s

» **Christopher Baile '10**. See note for Kathleen Fitzpatrick '09.

» **Brian Blackmon '10, '11M** has published a new edition of his most recent book, *The Beatnik Fox Almanack*, which contains a "definitive treasury of experimental artistic endeavors" from the writer's literary vault.

» **Rachel Feirstein '11** is engaged to Frederick Borsello. Feirstein is an elementary teacher on Long Island, New York. The couple plans on a November 2019 wedding.

» **Christopher Cavalier '12** co-published a book, *Alive by Grace: A Mother's Story with a Message of Hope from Christopher*, which tells the inspirational true story of his life. Cavalier was the first patient born with congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) to survive an experimental procedure known as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) at Boston Children's Hospital. The book highlights the challenges Cavalier faced throughout his life—he was hospitalized 18 times during his first year of life alone and was eventually diagnosed with hypoplastic lung, pulmonary hypertension, GI reflux, hydrocephalus, scoliosis, and an enlarged heart. In his own words, Cavalier talks of how he overcame the physical pain and emotional suffering, and how a spiritual breakthrough changed everything.

» **Jacqueline Turner '12** and **Eric Bancroft '09** welcomed their first child, Marina Christine Bancroft, at 7:16 p.m. on July 16, 2018.

» **Jennifer Jamieson '13** wed **Michael DiBerardino '13** on August 25, 2018.

» **Bryan Jenner '13M** was elected to a three-year term on the Manchester Board of Education. A retired public-school teacher, Jenner is currently a clinical supervisor at Monmouth University.

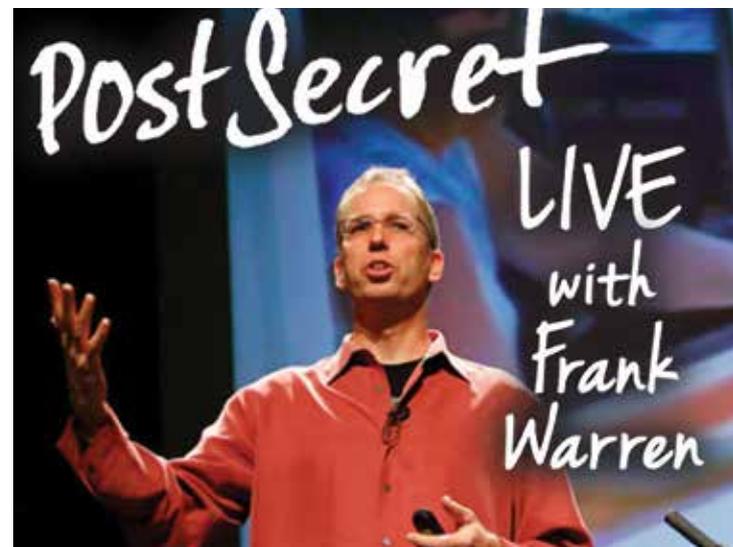
» **Nicole D'Agostino '15M** has joined Velociti Inc., a global provider of technology design, deployment, and support services, as a business development manager. Formerly, D'Agostino worked with the American Trucking Associations as an economic research analyst specializing in driver compensation, safety investment, and driver turnover studies. She was also a consultant for Gallup Inc., where she worked on implementing large organizational culture change efforts for various industries.

» Pierson Commercial, a retail real estate brokerage advisory firm, promoted **Ryan Starkman '15M** to the position of director. Starkman, who joined the firm in 2014 and represents national retailers like 24 Hour Fitness, focuses on the marketing and leasing of shopping centers, investment sales, land acquisition, development, and tenant representation. Prior to joining Pierson Commercial, Starkman worked in the asset management division of BLDG Management in New York City.

» The New York Giants signed former Detroit Lions tight end **Hakeem Valles '15** to their practice squad.

» **Jennifer Chiappone '16** graduated from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., [▶](#)

*Continued, p. 55*



**NOT TO MISS »**  
March 26  
**POSTSECRET  
LIVE WITH  
FRANK  
WARREN**

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.

## CELEBRATIONS

**ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** **1.** Bary C. Sherman '63 and his wife, Lynn, recently hiked 16 miles of the Grand Canyon to celebrate Bary's 77th birthday. **2.** Chrissy 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.



WHAT IT'S LIKE » Firsthand accounts

# THE MORNING MAN

BEHIND THE SCENES AT *GOOD MORNING AMERICA*.

BY BRAD HENNESSY '98, AS TOLD TO KELLEY FREUND

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 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 Park Racetrack—it was really low-paying, but I got to do everything from shooting camera to audio and graphics—and later to shows at VH1, Comcast Sports Net, 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 workday starts a little be-

fore 4:30 a.m. when I arrive at the studio for a meeting where our director walks us through rundowns of both shows. Then I do everything from wrangling guests, to directing anchors to cameras, 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

“**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.**”

ABOVE: Hennessy on set during a filming of *Good Morning America*.

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.

with her master's in art history, with a concentration in museum training. She has accepted a position as an editorial/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 Denholtz 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 women's soccer standout **Gabriella Cuevas '18M** has signed a professional contract with Maccabi 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 Administrators 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 (34), assists (17), and points (51). He closed his career as Monmouth's all-time leader in goals (99), game-winning goals (9), hat tricks (14), assists (50), and points (149). An All-MAAC First Team selection in 2018, Wasserman also became Monmouth's first-ever Major League Lacrosse draft pick when he was chosen by the Denver Outlaws. [M](#)

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

» Online: [monmouth.edu/ClassNotes](http://monmouth.edu/ClassNotes)

» By email: [classnotes@monmouth.edu](mailto:classnotes@monmouth.edu)

» By mail: **Class Notes, Monmouth magazine, 400 Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ 07764**

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

## IN MEMORIAM

» ALUMNI

- Mildred Younger '45 (Sept. 1, 2018)
- Jack R. Dessalet '59 (Dec. 4, 2018)
- Martin LeRoy Koempel '60 (Aug. 25, 2018)
- Norman Miles '61 (Sept. 1, 2018)
- Carl La Salle '61 (Oct. 16, 2012)
- Marilyn J. Harris '62 (Nov. 14, 2018)
- Leon Smock '63 (Sept. 28, 2018)
- James Rizzolo '64 (Sept. 26, 2018)
- Dolores Zilincar '64 (Sept. 7, 2018)
- Virginia D. Tringola '65 (Dec. 5, 2018)
- Roslyn Linse '66 (Aug. 7, 2018)
- Jackalyn Rawlings '68 (Sept. 21, 2018)
- Eileen Sagurton Borden '69 (Sept. 20, 2018)
- Rebecca Marchese '69 (Aug. 31, 2018)
- Joseph Mark Reich '69 (Aug. 31, 2018)
- Dana Lemke '70 (Oct. 25, 2018)
- Mitchell Lee Singer '73 (July 13, 2018)
- Diane M. Kanach '76 (Dec. 1, 2018)
- Donald McMillan '80 (Sept. 6, 2018)
- Robin D. Hallgring '83 (Sept. 28, 2018)
- Mary Bowers '86 (Sept. 8, 2018)
- John J. Hildin '88 (Oct. 10, 2018)
- Claire Addario Clark '89 (Aug. 12, 2018)
- James B. Earthman '90 (Oct. 29, 2018)
- Lynn M. Gonnello '97 (Nov. 19, 2018)
- Jeanna Mari '00 (Aug. 21, 2018)
- Lea Alyssa Maniaci '01 (May 19, 2018)
- Robyn Friedman '02 (Aug. 26, 2018)
- Marquita Hannibal '02 (Dec. 6, 2018)

» FRIENDS

- Arlene Marie (Krauss) Boesch (former employee) Oct. 13, 2018
- Bonnie Le (Sherman) Bostick (former student) Aug. 18, 2018
- William Feist (professor emeritus) Oct. 7, 2018
- Garland Grammer, Ph.D. (Instructor) Jan. 30, 2019
- Louis Kijewski (professor emeritus) Oct. 14, 2018
- Jay Kislak (friend) Oct. 3, 2018
- James Reme (former employee) Nov. 1, 2018
- Albert J. Maraziti III (former student) Aug. 31, 2018
- Joseph Naglak (former student) Sept. 17, 2018
- Joyce Jacqueline Clark Peak (former employee) Oct. 16, 2018
- Jayne Robin Sampson (former student) Nov. 1, 2018
- Thomas R. Seyler (former student) Sept. 1, 2018
- Thomas V. Solla Jr. (friend) Aug. 20, 2018
- Elizabeth (Wills) Real (former student) Aug. 22, 2018
- Zachary J. Wilson (former student) Nov. 5, 2018

**THE RECOMMENDER** » Tips and good advice

# 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."

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

## June 7–9

Kick off the summer making new memories with old friends.

Whether you turned your tassel last year or 50 years ago, all alumni are invited back home to celebrate!

Register online for a full schedule of events, including the rooftop reunion—an alumni favorite!

[monmouth.edu/alumniweekend](http://monmouth.edu/alumniweekend)



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

## 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](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or the address above.

