

Monmouth

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH

SUMMER 2019

ON POINT

Discover what acupuncture can do for you.

PAGE 04

H2O WOW

Exploring aquatic ecosystems with just a cup of water.

PAGE 24

FUTURES SO BRIGHT

See where the Class of 2019 is headed next.

PAGE 32

MILES

The former Cowboys receiver on life after football and finishing his degree.

PAGE 28

YOUR FUTURE: MASTERED

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

- Addiction Studies
- Anthropology
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Education
 - Teaching, MEd, MEd and EdD options
- English
- History
- Information Systems
- MBA
- Nursing (MSN, DNP)
- Physician Assistant
- Social Work
- Software Engineering
- Speech-Language Pathology

Graduate scholarships available for eligible students.

APPLY TODAY @
MONMOUTH.EDU/GRADUATE

NEW PROGRAMS:

- MS in Athletic Training
- MFA in Creative Writing

CONTENTS

Features | Summer 2019

BACKSTORY »
More than 1,500 students received their degrees in May. We asked 10 where they're headed next. Story, p. 32.

24

CHARTED WATERS

Monmouth researchers are helping to pioneer a cutting-edge marine life detection technique.

28

MILES AND MILES AND MILES

After nearly a decade as a star wideout for the Dallas Cowboys, Miles Austin took on a new challenge: finishing his degree.

32

GOING PLACES

Class of 2019 grads share where they're headed next, and how Monmouth helped them get there.

CONTENTS

Departments | Summer 2019



MONMOUTH » VOL. 34. NO. 3
Monmouth magazine is published thrice annually by the Monmouth University Division of Enrollment Management.

Vice President for Enrollment Management
Robert D. McCaig, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Tara Peters '94, '99M

Editor
Tony Marchetti

Assistant Editor
Breanne McCarthy

Design & Layout
Dog Ear Consultants

Contributing Writers
Pete Croatto
Mark Gola
Ryan Jones
Molly Petrilla

Photographers
Anthony DePrimo
Matt Furman
Mike Lanis
Tom Lozinski

Illustrators
Davide Bonazzi
John Jay Cabuay
Josue Evilla
Don Foley
Eric Hanson

On the cover
Miles Austin, photographed for the magazine by Matt Furman

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

400 Cedar Ave.
West Long Branch, NJ 07764
732-571-3489 • monmouth.edu

The Front

●○○○ **CURRENTS** » RESEARCH & REFLECTION

04

NEED TO KNOW

With an expanding understanding of wellness, Western medicine looks East.

07

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

A look at Monmouth's new Interactive Digital Media concentration.

08

CONCEPTS

A Monmouth University Poll shows public opinion is divided on wild animal exhibits.

○○○○ **TIDES** » CULTURE & COMMUNITY

10

EXIT INTERVIEW

Outgoing President Grey Dimenna reflects on his time at Monmouth University.

13

HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE

An artist's passion endures in the University's sculpture garden.

14

CAMPUS BRIEFS

The scene at West Long Branch.

○○○○ **PLAY** » SPORTS & FITNESS

18

CHASING GREATNESS

How hard work and some fatherly advice led Reggie White Jr. to the NFL.

20

IN AN INSTANT

Winning isn't always about being atop the leaderboard.

22

HOLDING COURT

Tennis standout Nicola Pipoli talks MAAC championships, Rafael Nadal, and grandma's cooking.

The Back

○○○○ **CLASS NOTES** » ALUMNI LIFE

42

THE CHANGEMAKERS

Rodney Salomon and Mychal Mills use holistic intervention to help children in at-risk communities.

47

TOO GOOD TO FAIL

How the Great Recession helped launch Natalie Imani's music career.

The Rest

Letters, 03. **A Day at the Beach**, 16. Double Double Vision, 21. **Alumni Roundup**, 44. Alumni Award Winners, 50. **In Memoriam**, 55. Remembrances, 56.

LETTERS



RE: SPRING 2019

The Spring 2019 issue is awesome. So rich, so diverse!
Rita Held '67A

I really enjoyed the article "Rock of Ages." I'm a huge Beatles fan, so it's great to see many of your students think so too.
Joe Masulli

MORE ON MCAFEE'S LEGACY

Gary Barnett's letter about Dr. Walter S. McAfee (Fall 2018 issue) brought back some memories of great times at what was then Monmouth College.

During the 1960s, the only engineering degree offered at the school was electronic engineering, probably due to the proximity of the Army's Signal Corps Command at Fort Monmouth and the Bell Telephone Laboratory facilities at Holmdel, New Jersey. I was only a semi-serious engineering student beginning in 1960, but after progressing through the curriculum, some of us would hear of the difficulty of the senior year course Atomic and Nuclear Physics, which was taught by Dr. McAfee. His reputation included his work with the radar/moon project and a claim that President Eisenhower

had created another GS level [pay scale] to reward him for his contribution.

A few of us were five-year students because of the challenge of the curriculum. My experience included a brisk social life (fraternity), varsity soccer, and several part-time jobs. When we finally arrived at our fifth year, the advanced engineering courses loomed in front of us. Most of these were evening and night courses, since the instructors were still in the daytime work environment.

With great anticipation, we went to our first "Atomic and Nuc" class to meet our instructor. He was a friendly person with a quick smile, and showed a special interest in our textbook for Advanced Mathematics, a class meeting either just before or after this one.

McAfee was black. In all of our discussions about his achievements and his reputation this never came up. In the fall of 1964, the civil rights movement was gaining energy in the South, led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. But at Monmouth, integration was accepted wholeheartedly. Two of my best friends, a fraternity brother and roommate (and his girlfriend, later his wife), were African Americans. At Monmouth there was a small chapter of the NAACP, but they quietly endorsed their cause with little disruption. As for Dr. McAfee, his stature transcended race.

Advanced science students have a certain confidence in their academic abilities. After all, we had been exposed to the physics of the atom in earlier science classes, so how tough could this be? It wasn't long before we would leave the class scratching our heads, wondering what we had learned. Our final exams were completed with much less confidence than hope.

Standing tall, with jacket and tie, and graying hair, Dr. McAfee taught an arcane and very complicated subject with patience and reserved enthusiasm. We were learning from a real expert. Being led to other endeavors, I never had the opportunity to further pursue his subject, but I still recall with fond memories a real fine gentleman.

Dick Easley '65

LET'S CONNECT

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

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



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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

NEED TO KNOW » Topics & trends

TAKING ROOT

WITH AN EXPANDING UNDERSTANDING OF WELLNESS, WESTERN MEDICINE LOOKS EAST.

INTERVIEW BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Acupuncture is gaining mainstream acceptance in the medical community. Belinda Anderson, director of Monmouth University's Institute for Health and Wellness and a practicing acupuncturist, explains how this therapy is being used to help everyone from couples trying to get pregnant to individuals suffering from chronic pain—and why it's so effective.

What is acupuncture as a practice?

Acupuncture is one of the modalities that belongs to the practice of Chinese medicine.¹ The most common modality people know about is acupuncture, but there are several other techniques that acupuncturists use on a regular basis when they're treating patients. Another common one is cupping—think of Michael Phelps in the Olympics. There are other things like moxibustion, a warming technique; Chinese herbal medicine; tui na, which is Chinese medical massage. There's a common

misconception² that if you go for a treatment, you're only going to get acupuncture. It's very unusual that someone will only get acupuncture.

How is Chinese medicine different from conventional medicine?

In conventional medicine we say that bacteria or a virus caused a cold or pneumonia or something to occur in the body. But in Chinese medicine, we see it more as a dynamic interplay between the outside and the inside. We're surrounded by bacteria and viruses all of the time but we

don't always get sick. Part of it is because sometimes the body is in a weakened state and sometimes it's very strong and able to fight that off. In the Chinese medicine model, we think of our body as a garden, and our body, like a garden, is significantly impacted by the environment. So, you can think about a person like this too. What sort of person is this?³ What are the weaknesses that will develop easily when this person is put under unfavorable conditions?⁴ It becomes a default pathway that an individual's body will go into when the body is put under stress.⁵

What are some of the most common reasons a patient seeks out an acupuncturist?

Pain—any type of musculoskeletal pain. It can be arthritis, neck pain, back pain, knee pain, shoulder pain. Pain⁶ is definitely the most common reason. And headaches are very common. Often a patient will come in with migraine headaches and say they're worse when under stress. Mental health is another—people with anxiety and depression, stress. Mental health disorders are really on the increase. ■

1. Traditional Chinese medicine originated in China thousands of years ago. It spread to other countries in Asia and the West, gaining popularity in the U.S. in the 1970s.

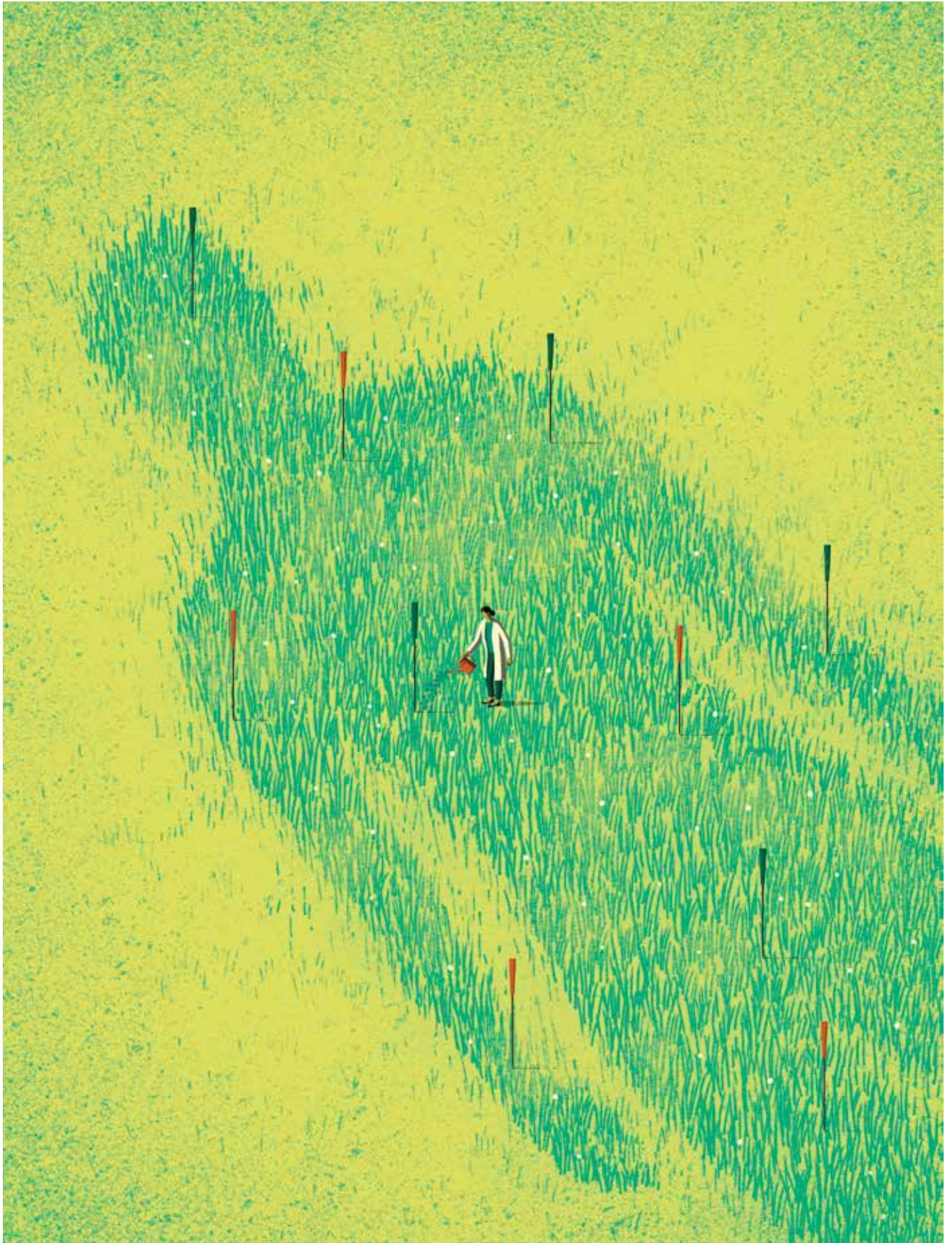
2. Another misconception is that acupuncture only treats pain, but Anderson says "it treats any condition that a patient walks in with, from digestive disorders to gynecological problems."

3. Anderson says people have different "constitutions," or physical make-ups, and so weaknesses show up differently in each individual.

4. "Unfavorable conditions" creating stress in the body can be caused by myriad things, both physical and mental—from the food we eat, to exercising too much or too little, to the loss of a loved one.

5. Anderson says stress can show up in physical symptoms ranging from headaches to cramps to joint pain.

6. According to Anderson, 50 percent of patients who go to an acupuncturist go for pain, and the majority of those are going in for back pain.



So acupuncture is effective for treating both physical and mental symptoms?

In Chinese medicine it's impossible to separate the mind and the body. So it doesn't matter if somebody comes in and only ever talks about their physical symptoms. You, as the clinician, know that there is a whole psycho-emotional dynamic, and you treat them according to their physical symptoms, which will automatically treat their psycho-emotional symptoms. And it's the same in reverse. In fact, the most common diagnosis for depression in Chinese medicine also often has a physical component—a classic example is back pain. A person comes in, they've got this back pain, and it's been really bad in the last month, and you start talking to them and they're describing to you that they've got this job, it's been really stressful, they're having a really hard time with their boss, and so you know that this is a mind-body thing.

Why does acupuncture work?

It's what we call a complex intervention. Because there's the practitioner-patient relationship, there's the relaxation on the table, there's the needles,⁷ there are other things that the acupuncturist does, there's the patient's belief system about what's going to happen, and so there are many different components. It's not just the treatment—you're also giving a lot of lifestyle advice. The patient is seeing their practitioner regularly, so there's an element of coaching where you're checking in with the person every week and discussing why and how they are trying to improve their health. You're helping make modifications to their lifestyle habits. When someone changes their diet and exercise program, and starts thinking of what the sources of stress are, this can be very powerful over an extended period of time.

Why is a change in lifestyle so important to healing?

7. BA: "Acupuncturists manipulate needles by twirling, lifting, and thrusting them. When you do that, these fibers that are in the underlying fascia (connective tissue) matrix wrap around the needle, placing stress and strain forces on those fibers. The cell is registering that, and that mechanical force stimulus goes right into the nucleus and regulates gene expression."

8. The American College of Physicians recently declared that non-pharmacological intervention—management of pain without medication—should be the first line of therapy for both chronic and acute back pain.

9. Anderson says when choosing an acupuncturist, patients should make sure they have a state license and are certified with the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

It takes time to recover. We've been lulled into this sense that when you're sick, you go to somebody who tells you what's wrong with you and then they come up with a solution, which usually involves taking a pill. Then we expect a very immediate response, even though we don't necessarily change any of the things that caused the problem in the first place. So you can see how that whole approach is a bit illogical. In fact, it makes a lot more sense to think of our body as a garden or as a natural ecosystem, and when we're doing things that are constantly disruptive, you can't just fix it by adding something else to the system, or having surgery and chopping something out. Because you need to change the things that are causing the problem in the first place. You might be able to take away the symptoms temporarily but the disturbed systems will continue to be disturbed.

Given that pain is the most common complaint among patients—why should they choose a non-pharmacological⁸ approach over, say, medication?

Opioid medications are not very effective for chronic pain. For acute pain: yes. It relates to the fact that chronic pain has a complex psycho-emotional-physical dynamic, so it's not like you can treat it with just the chemical approach. If these psycho-emotional components are the dominant ones, then medication is not really going to help. And of course, one can develop a tolerance to these medications, so if you're taking them over an extended period of time, it's another reason why they might become less effective.

You have extensive experience in utilizing acupuncture for women's health issues. Why is it so effective for women?

Chinese medicine has been used for gynecological condi-

tions for thousands of years, and we know for women, Chinese medicine can be really effective for anything from painful periods, unusual bleeding, and ovarian cysts, to struggling to get pregnant. In terms of regulating entire physiological systems, like the reproductive system, we don't yet know the exact molecular mechanisms.... But there are animal studies that have shown acupuncture can regulate the hypothalamus-pituitary system in the brain, and once you start regulating the hypothalamus and pituitary, then you're also regulating the endocrine system.

Is acupuncture becoming more accepted by the mainstream medical community?

If we look at current trends, yes, there are a lot more referrals by conventional healthcare practitioners, and we're seeing acupuncture being brought into mainstream medical facilities, hospitals, and other clinics. There's a growing body of research evidence to demonstrate its effectiveness, and we're steadily seeing an increase in insurance coverage. One of the best research facilities, arguably, in this country—Harvard Medical School—is doing very sophisticated research looking at acupuncture's ability to modulate brain function. The other big driver is that a lot of the conditions people struggle with are more chronic, lifestyle-based conditions, and often conventional medicine hasn't got a lot to offer, and so that's where the complementary therapies [like acupuncture] can be really effective.

Who should see an acupuncturist⁹ and when should they go?

Chinese medicine is fundamentally preventative—so anybody can go to an acupuncturist, even if they don't have an ailment, because it's all about maintaining wellness. That's the fundamental philosophy. [M](#)

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

A LOOK AT MONMOUTH'S NEW INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MEDIA CONCENTRATION.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Imagine you could experience what it's like to drive one of the world's fastest luxury cars through the Swiss Alps from the comfort of your living room.

Recently, Porsche made this possible by utilizing augmented reality technology. Potential customers anywhere in the world could download an app that lets them feel as if they are strapped into the driver's seat of their own customized Porsche, racing against others.

This space, where entertainment and technology meet business and marketing via digital platforms, is what students pursuing Monmouth's new Interactive Digital Media (IDM) concentration in communication will be exploring.

"IDM will offer an opportunity to deep dive and explore trans-media storytelling through interactive and immersive hardware platforms," says Dickie Cox, assistant professor and concentration director for IDM. "We'll be working with emerging technology to explore the ramifications of physical computing, mixed reality technologies, and ambient computing into elements of the built environment, of work life, of play and leisure, marketing and advertising."

The concentration will support those interested in a slew of fields and careers from game design and experiential marketing (think special pop-up events where consumers can participate in a brand experience) to web development, applied animation, content creation, and more.

Cox says IDM is a highly interdisciplinary concentration where students are required to take classes in computer science, communication, and business with the

option of taking art and design classes. The hope is to have students with different backgrounds and passions "cross-inform" one another as they work on analyzing, creating, and pitching functional business plans that address real-world problems.

The new concentration—which will see its inaugural cohort this fall—is complemented by the opening of the brand new Interactive Digital Media Lab located in Plangere Center. Outfitted with state-of-the-art technology—including virtual and augmented reality headsets, video projection remapping tools, 2D- and 3D-scanning stations, a grid system outfitted with DMX lights, and game design tools—the lab will not only allow students to utilize cutting-edge technology, but will also provide a backdrop where students can think about how to utilize that technology in new ways.

"Technology moves quickly, and I want us to be able to respond with it," says Cox, who in 2017 pitched the idea for the new IDM lab, which opened to students this spring. "We're early adopters. We're investigators. We want to be able to see, 'OK, how do these things work?' and 'What can we do with them?'"

BELOW: Dylan McGilloway '19 uses Magic Leap One augmented reality goggles.



CONCEPTS »

Dispatches from the Monmouth Polling Institute

ON DISPLAY

PUBLIC DIVIDED ON ROLE OF WILD ANIMAL EXHIBITS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

In 2018, New Jersey became the first state to ban circuses, carnivals, fairs, and other traveling acts from featuring elephants, tigers, and various exotic animals for entertainment. One week later, Hawaii followed suit and today, there are nearly 150 cities, towns, and counties across the country that have passed similar restrictions at the local level.

The changes come as public perception regarding how animals are treated in captivity—whether it be for entertainment in a circus or for education at a zoo—has shifted. A recent Monmouth University Poll found that there is public support for banning circus animals, as most people believe they are treated poorly.

Yet while the public believes animals in aquariums, zoos,

safari parks, and marine parks are generally well treated, they remain divided when it comes to viewing those outlets as being for educational or entertainment purposes.

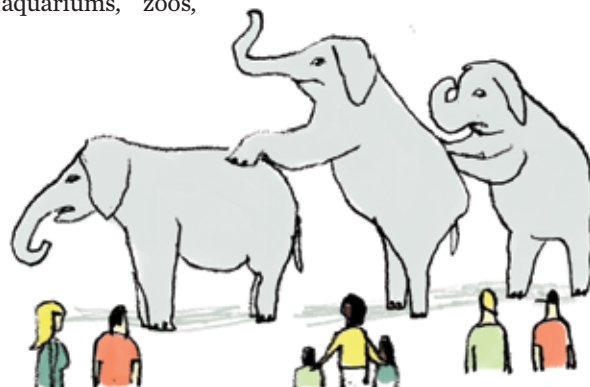
Here's a breakdown of how the public's concern for animal welfare is impacting their view of the organizations that exhibit wild animals.

25%

Number of respondents who have been to a circus in the past decade.

The places respondents reported visiting in that same time period...

69% zoos
59% aquariums
30% marine animal parks



21%

Respondents who believe circus animals are never well treated.

31%

Percentage of respondents who think circus animals are "well treated all or most of the time."

BETTER THAN THE BIGTOP

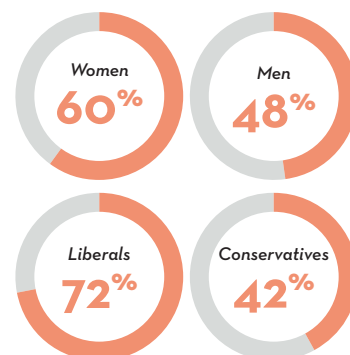
Places where respondents say animals are "well treated all or most of the time":

73% aquariums 66% zoos
63% safari parks 57% marine animal parks

54%

Number of respondents who would favor a law prohibiting the use of wild animals in circuses.

WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT A BAN?

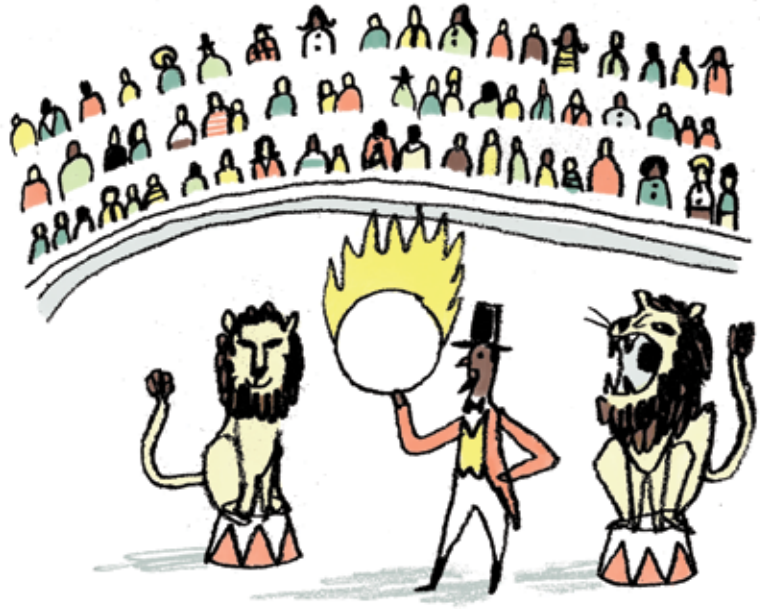


81%

Number of respondents who believe circuses are primarily focused on entertainment versus educating the public about wildlife conservation.

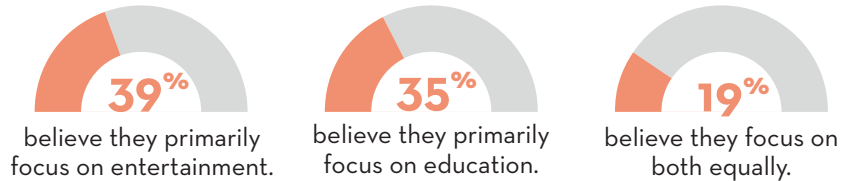
Similarly, here are the percentages of participants who believe the following are focused more on entertainment than education.

- 54% marine animal parks
- 44% safari parks
- 43% zoos



AQUARIUMS

The public is the most equally divided on the role of aquariums.



ANIMAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Public opinion varies when it comes to deciding whether the main purpose of popular animal demonstrations is primarily about providing entertainment.

WILD ANIMAL ACTS AT CIRCUSES

82% say it's just about putting on a fun show.

DOLPHIN & SEAL PERFORMANCES

62% say it's just about putting on a fun show.

FEEDING TIMES AT ZOOS

35% say it's just about putting on a fun show.



EXIT INTERVIEW

OUTGOING PRESIDENT GREY DIMENNA REFLECTS ON HIS TIME AT MONMOUTH.

INTERVIEW BY TONY MARCHETTI

On July 31, Grey Dimenna, Esq., will step down as Monmouth University's ninth president, a position he has held since Feb. 28, 2017. After serving as vice president and general counsel from 1995 to 2015, Dimenna returned to Monmouth as president at the request of the Board of Trustees. He said from the start he would stay only until the board hired a new president, which it did last winter: President-Elect Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D., will take office on Aug. 1.

Dimenna's affable nature and devotion to the University made him beloved by the Monmouth community, particularly among the students. And though his tenure always had a fixed endpoint, it doesn't make leaving the community he considers family any less bittersweet.

From day one, you said your top priority was to be as visible and accessible as possible on campus. As your tenure comes to a close, how would you assess the pulse of this University?

I leave here feeling that morale is sky high. Monmouth feels like a family. It continues to be a great place to get an education. The people care about the students, and the students are proud to be here.

What achievements are you most proud of?

One is our scholarship campaign [Together We Can]. I'm proud that we've been able to raise so much money and that so many people got on board to help students attend Monmouth.

Another is fixing the Greek system. It was headed in the wrong direction, and we were able to turn it around with the help of the students and Vice President [Mary Anne] Nagy ['91M, '01M] and others. That was a great decision to make because it really has made things better for the students.

And I'm very proud that we got the Martin Luther King exhibit [Waves of Change] set up before I left. A lot of people have said to me how much it means to them. Connected to that was starting the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Speaker in Social Justice series last October. The two items tie in with the efforts to balance Woodrow Wilson's legacy on campus.

In terms of the Waves of Change exhibit, what do you hope visitors take away from the experience of interacting with it?

Part of Monmouth being a family is that we welcome and embrace everybody, no matter your background, ethnicity,

gender, or sexual orientation. Particularly in today's national climate, where there is a lot of divisiveness on these issues, it's important to me, important to the campus climate, and particularly important to the underrepresented students coming here that they understand Monmouth is a place that welcomes all.

Dr. King's message long ago was that we're all human beings, that we're all together and we shouldn't separate ourselves on the basis of artificial categories. We're still working on it in this country, but it is a message that I think is important to get out, and I think the exhibit does that. And I love that the exhibit is right there when you walk into Wilson Hall. You can't avoid it. It's so prominent. So I think celebrating Dr. King's legacy helps to reinforce the message that, at Monmouth, we welcome everyone.

What have been some of your biggest challenges as president?

One was changing the Greek system, which as I mentioned I think we came through great. Something I wish I could have done more for is address the cost of attending Monmouth. The scholarship campaign is going to help with that, but it [the rising cost of college] remains a huge challenge—one that all institutions are struggling with, not just Monmouth. Higher education is expensive these days. One of the reasons it's expensive at Monmouth is because of the nature of the education we provide: the small classes, the individualized attention, all of the support systems. It's not cheap to do that. We could make cuts in places, but it would change the nature of the Monmouth experience, and I'd hate to do that. ■

OPPOSITE: Dimenna with his Harley-Davidson Road King.



What's been the best part of this job for you?

Being able to make a difference in individual students' lives. I love spending time with students, going to student events, talking with students. They're our future, and it's been great to be on campus and have students just come up to me to talk about their issues and problems. I try to always eat lunch in the student dining hall, and I'll pick students at random to talk with about how they got to Monmouth, what their family situation is, what they like about Monmouth, what they're going to do after graduating. Some of my favorite times have been just sitting in the dining hall eating and talking with students.

Another thing has been being the ambassador of the University—particularly outside of campus, talking to donors and others in the community about how great Monmouth is. It's fun to be the face of the University.

Has it been a priority of yours to strengthen Monmouth's community connections?

Absolutely. I believe very strongly that universities aren't ivory towers or islands, that they are part of their surrounding communities, and that it's important for them to have connections with and to serve the surrounding communities. So things like the Rumson field station, which is coming along, and Lakehouse; our programs for Asbury Park High School students; and the Big Event, where our students go out every year and do community service projects—all of these are very important. Whether it's coming here for an athletic event, or for a lecture or art show—I want people to see Monmouth as a resource, and I've tried to make that happen as much as I can.

Tell me something fun you were able to do as president that you didn't get to do as general counsel.

“
I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT UNIVERSITIES AREN'T IVORY TOWERS OR ISLANDS, THAT THEY ARE PART OF THEIR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES ... I WANT PEOPLE TO SEE MONMOUTH AS A RESOURCE.
”

I got to meet Bruce Springsteen because of the connection with the Springsteen Archives. Last year during the Blue/White football game, Coach [Kevin] Callahan let me call the offensive plays. How often do you get to do things like that? I got to dance on stage in the Winter Dance Concert. I got to record a song at Lakehouse because the Blue Hawk Records students asked me to play on it. I can't play guitar to save my life, and I tried to talk them out of it, but they insisted. How many people—especially with my limited musical experience—get to record a song in a professional recording studio? Or live in such a beautiful residence as Doherty House? Or preside over Commencement? I love being in front of people, so getting to be on stage and talk to the crowds and make jokes and such—it's been a lot of fun.

Speaking of Commencement, you thanked your wife, Nancy Kaplen, during the graduate ceremony. What has her support meant to you throughout your tenure?

She is the most important person in my life. She's one of the smartest people I know, and has always been a great sounding board for me when I have a tough issue here. She's got a great sense of judgment, which has been super helpful to me. She's also been a great hostess for the University in terms of the events at Doherty House and on campus.

What's next for the two of you after July 31?

On Aug. 2, we fly to Santa Barbara for a couple of days, just to break up the flight, and then we fly to Bora Bora. I wanted to do something crazy and exotic right after retiring, something that would be completely relaxing. We'll be there for five days, living in a hut over the ocean. The resort is the only thing on the island, so other than snorkeling or kayaking and such, there's nothing else to do. It sounds like the ultimate relaxing vacation.

What will you miss the most about this job?

Spending time with the students. When I retired before, what I found was you miss the people the most, whether it's the people who work here, or the donors and supporters. As president, I've made a lot of friends among the students, so I'm going to certainly miss that.


I'll also miss going to the athletic events. I hope to get to some, but it's not going to be like it is now. But mostly it's the students and the people I'll miss—and Doherty House, because that's a *nice* place to live.

Is there anything you won't miss?

Setting my alarm. Putting on a suit and tie every day. The responsibility. As president, you're responsible for everyone, and you're constantly thinking of that. It'll be nice to not always be focused on that. It'll be nice to always be relaxed.

Do you have any parting sentiments that you'd like to share with the Monmouth community?

I hope that students will always continue to come first at Monmouth University. We're very student oriented here. It's an important part of our culture and part of the Monmouth story. [President-Elect] Pat Leahy understands that, and I know he'll be carrying on the tradition.

The other thing would be that I hope the Monmouth family atmosphere continues. By that I mean that everyone continues working together for the benefit of the students. I know we've made a lot of progress in the last two and a half years, and I think everyone on campus is on board with the idea. As a family, everyone—faculty, administrators, staff—has an important role to play. And when we all do our role together, Monmouth is a wonderful place and a great place for students. 

HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE » Landmarks & stories

A LIVING LEGACY

AN ARTIST'S PASSION ENDURES AT MONMOUTH.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Nestled alongside the 600 Art Building is a patch of campus outfitted with a koi pond, walking paths, budding plants, and an array of sculptures that together create a tranquil refuge for all who visit.

The Lois Blonder Sculpture Garden is named in memory of Lois Blonder '70A, '73, an artist, avid art collector, and benefactor of the arts whose family donated pieces of her artwork and collection to Monmouth University after her death in 1999.

A Newark, New Jersey, native, Blonder entered Monmouth as a nontraditional student, and it was here that she pursued her studies and passion of becoming an artist while raising three children.

Quickly flourishing from an amateur to professional artist, Blonder created eclectic paintings, prints, and sculptures that won more than 50 awards. Her work was featured in numerous juried competitions and exhibited in private and corporate collections across the country.

In addition to fervently pursuing her craft, Blonder was passionate about collecting art. She and her husband, Isaac "Ike" Blonder, often spent weekends visiting yard sales from which they acquired more than 20,000 items—from paintings to teapots to Japanese netsuke, or miniature sculptures.

Blonder kept some of her favorite finds in a garden at her home in Morganville, New Jersey. Many of those pieces, along with some of Blonder's own artwork and a plethora of her exotic plants, were moved to campus to populate the garden, which opened in 2000.

The garden's array of plant life—complemented by a unique cast of sculpted characters, including a gargoyle, cows, and dinosaurs—continues to pay tribute to Blonder's passion while offering visitors a welcome respite.





THIS IS MONMOUTH » The scene at West Long Branch

CAMPUS BRIEFS

EXHIBIT HONORS MLK'S VISIT TO CAMPUS

Waves of Change: An Interactive Exhibit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Monmouth University is a new, permanent installation honoring the civil rights leader's Oct. 6, 1966, speech on campus. An initiative of the President's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion made possible by the generosity of Monmouth University Trustee Raymond G. Klose '77, the exhibit memorializes the lectern and microphone that were used by King when he addressed approximately 2,600 students, faculty, administrators, and community members in what is now Monmouth's Boylan Gymnasium. In addition to the podium, the exhibit features a wavelike wall with an audio timeline of King's speech, complete with accompanying visual callouts of historical references made throughout the speech.

Visitors can listen to the speech by scanning a QR code with their cell phones or utilizing available tablet computers. Visit monmouth.edu/wavesofchange for more information. Better yet, come experience the exhibit in person: The installation, which is on the main floor of Wilson Hall, is open to the public for viewing during regular business hours.

CRONIN RECEIVES FULBRIGHT AWARD

Michael Cronin, associate professor of social work, has been named a Fulbright Scholar. Cronin will spend the 2019-2020 academic year teaching classes in social work in emergencies, social entrepreneurship, international social work, community social work, and social work professional concepts at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in

ABOVE: President Grey Dimenna; Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, chair of the Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion and vice provost for academic and faculty affairs; and Raymond G. Klose '77 were on hand for the unveiling of the Waves of Change exhibit in May.

Kyiv, Ukraine. During that time, he will also provide consultation and training for psychosocial support capacity building for affected populations of war and emergencies, including support for staff and volunteers who are conducting this work at the Centre for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support at NaUKMA and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society Psychosocial Support Team.

BREAD WINNERS

Students Zack Sandler and Mike Veit's app, "Save Bread.," won the Business Pitch Contest at the third annual Hawk Tank Challenge. The duo took home \$2,000 for their app, which helps students find the best student discounts on food, clothing, nightlife, and more at businesses within their college community. The free app is available for download in the iTunes App Store.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPION

Johanna Foster, associate professor of sociology and the Helen McMurray Bennett Endowed Chair in Social Ethics, was named a corecipient of the Society for the Study of Social Problems' 2019 Michael Harrington Award. The organization grants the award each year to an individual or organization that, by their actions, advances our understanding of poverty, social class, and/or inequality, and/or proposes effective and practical ways to attend to the needs of the economically marginalized and reduce class inequalities.

POLL POSITIONS

In conjunction with a Monmouth University Poll on wild animal exhibits (see p. 8), five University experts shared their perspectives on current issues related to animal welfare, animal research, and animal law during a March panel discussion. "Animal welfarists are about promoting better conditions for animals in whatever situations they find themselves in, whether they be in research or agriculture or in entertainment," said panelist Randall Abate, the Rechnitz Family/Urban Coast Institute Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy. Faculty members Lindsay Mehrkam, Chris Hirschler, Megan Phifer-Rixey, and Anastasia Wheeler also took part in the discussion, which was moderated by Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. You can watch the complete discussion at monmouth.edu/polling.

COLLEAGUE EXTRAORDINAIRE

Associate Professor of English Stanley Blair received the Steven J. Rosen Mentor Award from the New Jersey College English Association (NJCEA). The honor is bestowed upon a college English professor who has served as a

mentor to colleagues, and has "contributed to the profession beyond assigned teaching duties by demonstrating leadership, giving wise counsel, and providing extraordinary guidance," according to the NJCEA.

EXAMINING THE PAST

Christopher DeRosa, associate professor of history, was one of a select group of faculty members nationwide chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to participate in a special American history seminar, "The Civil War in American Memory," held at Yale University in June. Seminar participants assessed the historical memory of the most divisive event in American history, examining why the slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction epoch has remained an unending dilemma in American historical consciousness.

BAND AID

Rock 'n' Raise, an annual charity event run by Monmouth's student-run television station, Hawk TV, and student-run radio station, WMCX, raised \$1,600 to benefit the American Cancer Society. The event, held in the Monty Television Studio in the

Plangere Center, featured a battle-of-the-bands showdown of live musical performances, and was livestreamed on YouTube and simulcast on WMCX.

SOCIAL RECOGNITION

The School of Social Work's Master of Social Work program was ranked among the top programs in the country according to the recent "2020 Best Graduate Schools" rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*.

SOUNDS LIKE A WINNER

Broadcasters from Monmouth University's student-run radio station, WMCX, received national recognition at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's 79th Annual International Media Conference held in New York City earlier this spring. Glen DeNigris won first place for best baseball/softball play-by-play announcer and was a finalist for best football play-by-play announcer. Other finalists at the conference were Molly Fichter for best live music broadcast and Karla Avila, Denisse Quintanilla, Odalis Caraballo, Paola Sosa-Siguenza, and Juan Vega for best foreign language program for their show *Nuestros Sonidos Latinos*.



AT RIGHT: The live-streamed battle of the bands during Rock 'n' Raise helped raise funds to benefit the American Cancer Society.





A DAY AT THE BEACH

» Coastal moments, captured

DOWN THE SHORE

As students depart for the summer, sun seekers flock to a Jersey shoreline favorite—Belmar Beach.

CHASING GREATNESS

HOW HARD WORK AND SOME FATHERLY ADVICE LED REGGIE WHITE JR. TO THE NFL.

BY MARK GOLLA

Like all elite athletes, Hawks wide-receiver Reggie White Jr. has always chased greatness. It's a mindset that was instilled in White Jr. long before he signed an NFL contract with the New York Giants earlier this spring.

It came via his father, Reggie, a former NFL defensive end who played four seasons with the San Diego Chargers and New England Patriots. The advice passed from father to son, former NFL player to future NFL player: "Don't be afraid to be great."

The statement sounds simple, but it's layered with wisdom. It's a calling to the athlete that while talent is essential, true greatness requires more. It's owning your preparation and delivering on the execution. There is no hoping or making excuses, just doing and achieving. Anyone can aspire to greatness, but few corral and embrace it.

"That's what my dad would tell me over and over," says White Jr. "Don't be afraid to be great. I went out there with focus and wanted to be great on every play. Ever since I've had a ball in my hands, this has been my dream. I'm pretty excited right now, because it's my dream come true."

Two constants have accompanied White Jr. throughout his quest for greatness—the deter-

mination to get better every day and a strong family support system. Those two components were as important as his size, speed, and natural ability—perhaps even more so.

White Jr. was a gifted, multi-sport athlete coming out of Milford Mill Academy in Windsor Mill, Maryland, but football was his passion. While he experienced tremendous success in high school, his potential became the chase.

"Mom and dad always told me, 'Stay humble, stay hungry,'" says White Jr. "I never got complacent and always knew there was something I could do better. I kept a positive mentality and my coaches pushed me a lot."

When he arrived at Monmouth, White Jr. was 6' 2", 175 pounds. He redshirted his freshman season to spend hours in the weight room and study the offense. He raised eyebrows that spring season and followed with a strong summer camp, earning a starting role. He caught 35 passes for 432 yards and five touchdowns, impressive numbers for

“
**MOM AND
DAD ALWAYS
TOLD
ME, ‘STAY
HUMBLE, STAY
HUNGRY.’ I
NEVER GOT
COMPLACENT
AND ALWAYS
KNEW
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
I COULD DO
BETTER.**
”

his rookie season, but he was far from satisfied.

"I remember feeling like I could be the best receiver in the league, so I went into that off-season with a big chip on my shoulder," White Jr. recalls. "I worked like crazy to get better every day."

It paid off. White Jr. erupted in 2016, leading the Big South in receptions (69) and receiving yards (934) en route to a First Team All-Big South selection. It was the first of three straight all-conference picks, culminating with All-American honors as a senior. He now holds program records in career receptions (249) and receiving yards (3,373) and ranks second in touchdown receptions (31) behind former NFL Pro Bowl wideout Miles Austin (33).

After clocking 4.45 seconds in the 60-yard dash and posting a 37.5-inch vertical leap on Pro Day, White Jr. got the call he'd dreamed about. At home, surrounded by family, the 6' 3", 210-pound receiver accepted an NFL contract offer from the Giants.

"It was awesome, especially to have my family and friends with me," says White Jr. "My dad helped me so much, and my mom is my best friend. I called Coach [Kevin] Callahan to tell him the news. The coaching staff has been like family to me. I've told my parents so many times, the best thing that ever happened to me was going to Monmouth."

White Jr. will now chase a roster spot with the Giants this summer. There may be some nervousness and even periods of struggle, but he can count on one constant pushing him forward: He's not afraid to be great.



IN AN INSTANT » The story behind the photo

THE WALK-ON

Winning isn't always about being atop the leaderboard.

I GOLFED A LITTLE IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH my grandfather, but I had never played competitively. Then one day last summer, Pat Jordan, who started the women's golf program at Monmouth, saw me hitting at the driving range. She suggested I try out for the team here and helped me contact Coach Michelle Melia. I came in for an interview, and five days later I was playing in my first tournament. My grandfather was so excited he bought me a new set of clubs.

I shot a 109 and a 111 that first outing, and didn't break 100 during the fall. But I kept at it. We practiced twice a day in season, and over winter break I worked with Coach twice a week indoors. She told me she wanted to give me the Freddy Couples swing—the smoothest in golf. That's the goal, she'd say. (We're still working on it.)

I shot a 90 in my first tournament this spring, and stayed in the 90s for a while. By then, my goal had become to break 90 before the season ended. Just before our last outing, the MAAC Championship, Coach kept telling me that she knew I was going to do it, that this was my time.

As I approached the last green on the last day of the tournament, I knew that if I parred the hole I would shoot an 86. I ended up double-putting and bogeying, but it was OK. I finished with an 87.

Coach Melia met me on the green, put her arm around me, and told me how proud she was. I was so happy I couldn't stop smiling. (My teammate, Katie Baron, told me I'd be smiling forever.) I had set a goal for myself, and with Coach's help and a lot of hard work, I had accomplished it.

—Mackenzie Matarese, as told to Tony Marchetti

PICTURED: Golf Coach Michelle Melia (left) and Mackenzie Matarese embrace after Matarese shot a career low on her last round of the season.



DOUBLE DOUBLE VISION

THE STRATZ AND JENKINS SISTERS—TRACK TEAMMATES AND IDENTICAL TWINS—TALK RUNNING, RITUALS, AND MORE.



| | AMBER STRATZ » Health studies major » Runs: middle distance and cross country | BRIANNA STRATZ » Health studies major; biology minor » Runs: middle distance | TIYANNA JENKINS » Marketing major » Runs: sprints | IYANNA JENKINS » Marketing major » Runs: sprints |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Before Monmouth | Competitive runners since age 9, the Stratz sisters were members of the state-record-holding 4x800 indoor and outdoor relay teams at Central Bucks High School South. | | Soccer standouts as kids, the Jenkins sisters took up track in their teens, and were co-captains of both the track and soccer teams at Linden High School. | |
| Do you have a pre-race ritual? | I'm not ritualistic, so I treat race day like any other. I don't want to get too "in my head," because if I had a ritual and something went wrong, I wouldn't want to freak out. | I eat a lot of pasta and chicken the night before, but not much the morning of because of nerves. An hour before my race, I'll drink a double-shot espresso so I'm really awake. And I always chew mint gum during stretches. | I drink lots of water the night before. I listen to gospel music on the bus to the meet. When I'm warming up, I listen to hip hop—Meek Mill—to get me excited. When I step to the line, I say a prayer to help me stay focused. | I lay out my clothes the night before—headband, socks, everything. I also listen to gospel music the morning of a race, but I listen to YG Teck at the meet to get going. When I'm on the line, I say a little prayer and then let my mind go blank. |
| What's something you've learned in sports that's helped you in life? | I never really wanted to run anything longer than a mile, but after my sophomore year at Monmouth, I tried cross country at my coach's suggestion. I loved it. As a junior, I set our school's record for the Paul Short Run at Lehigh. It showed the hard work I put in paid off. It gave me confidence, and it was a turning point in my running career. | When I ran the 1,000 meters at the USATF Indoor Championships, I toed the line with professional runners whom I idolize. I never in a million years imagined I'd run competitively after college, but after that event my coach told me, "If you want to continue doing this, you can. You just showed you can run with the pros." | Running track has taught me patience. Some people might have a bad race and beat themselves up because they're training so hard and want to see immediate results. But I've learned that when I focus on what I need to do from A to Z, the results will show in time. That's important. I can take that anywhere in life. | Transitioning from high school to college track was mentally tough. In high school, you might practice for two hours and then you're done for the day. In college, track is like a full-time job. I didn't realize that at first. Figuring out how to balance everything I had to do has been key. |
| Ever have one of those cliché "twin moments?" | In sixth grade, we switched classes to try to fool people. It was funny, but afterward we were like, OK, we did that. We can cross it off the list. | People who don't know us make assumptions. Whenever there's something I don't like, people automatically assume Amber doesn't like it either. | Iyanna will be thinking of a song, and I'll start singing it. Or she'll be thinking about a certain food and, without knowing it, I'll say that's what I want to eat. | Our parents dressed us alike as kids, but that stopped in high school. Yet even now we'll come out of our rooms unknowingly having dressed in the same outfits. |
| What's your sister better at than you? | Speed workouts. | Distance running. | Track. | Being creative. |
| What's something you're better at than your sister? | Distance. I can run for longer than she can. | Running fast. | I was an all-around better soccer player. | Driving, and it's arguable what Tiyanna said about being better than me at soccer. |
| Since timing is everything, particularly in track, who's older? | Amber, by 19 minutes. | | Tiyanna, by 2 minutes. | |

± compiled by Tony Marchetti



HOLDING COURT

NICOLA PIPOLI TALKS MAAC CHAMPIONSHIPS, RAFAEL NADAL, AND GRANDMA'S COOKING.

BY PETE CROATTO

Nicola Pipoli, a native of tiny Polignano a Mare, Italy, fell in love with tennis at age 4 when his grandmother threw tennis balls for him to hit. The sport has stayed with Pipoli ever since, taking him across an ocean to Monmouth University, where he was a major contributor to the Hawks' four straight MAAC titles and earned 2018 MAAC Player of the Year honors.

“
IF YOU START THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU ACCOMPLISHED, YOU'LL STOP LEARNING AND PUSHING YOURSELF TO IMPROVE. THE KEY WAS, ENJOY THE MOMENT WHEN WE GOT AN IMPORTANT WIN OR A BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT THE DAY AFTER, KEEP PRACTICING AND GIVING 100 PERCENT.
 ”

The 2019 graduate is not leaving the game. Pipoli wants to pursue his master's degree (either in finance or business administration) while serving as a graduate assistant coach on some lucky college's tennis team. During a May conversation, he had not yet decided which school he'd be attending. That was the only thing he was uncertain about.

On what he misses back home

Pretty much everything: family, friends, the food. Family because, of course, who doesn't miss the family? I grew up there; everyone is there. Friends, I was very close to my friends, and I used to spend time with them pretty much every day. The food as well, because I have two grandmas that cook for me most of the time. So that's another soft spot for me.

On why Monmouth felt comfortable quickly

The school community was very similar to my living experience in Italy. I knew pretty much everyone in the Athletics Department, the other teams, and the school. My teammates and coaches helped me find a comfort zone. And having another Italian guy [Alberto Giuffrida] on the team helped me out a lot.

On which MAAC championship was the hardest

The toughest one was the first, where we kind of broke the ice. I think the guys on the team, and the future incoming guys, will keep the tradition. With the

coaches and the senior leadership, we created the right path for them to follow and to keep succeeding.

On not reflecting on his resume

If you start thinking about something you accomplished, you'll stop learning and pushing yourself to improve. The key was, enjoy the moment when we got an important win or a big accomplishment, but the day after, keep practicing and giving 100 percent. I think that allowed us to keep going forward.

On why Rafael Nadal is his boyhood hero

He made me really love the sport—the way he was playing and fighting and giving his best all the time. It made me understand that that is the way you can get something accomplished. I was looking at him playing with injuries and not in great shape, but he was always giving his best.

On whether he regrets not going pro

I made a choice before starting college: I could either study and get the opportunity to play at an American university, or go professional. I am not old, but maybe I've lost my time. You can see all the good players start coming out when they're 18 or 19 years old. And I am 23. Those four years were important if I wanted to go professional. Honestly, I am very grateful. Because I enjoyed [the accomplishments] along with my teammates and coaches. I have no regrets whatsoever.



WE WIN WHERE YOU VACATION

FOR TICKETS, CALL 732-263-5735
OR VISIT MONMOUTHHAWKS.COM





NOT ACTUAL SIZE: In one cup of water, Monmouth researchers can potentially find the eDNA of dozens of species, all of which is significantly smaller than the toy shark pictured here.

CHARTED WATERS



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS ARE HELPING TO PIONEER A MARINE LIFE DETECTION TECHNIQUE THAT HOLDS THE PROMISE OF BEING LESS EXPENSIVE, MORE HUMANE, AND MORE REVEALING THAN OTHER LONGSTANDING SCIENTIFIC METHODS.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY
PHOTO BY ANTHONY DEPRIMO

From the endangered Atlantic sturgeon to the elusive great white shark, New Jersey's coastal waters are home to an array of species whose presence remains largely undetected unless spotted with the naked eye, or caught with fishing lines and trawl nets.

But now, thanks to advances in environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis, researchers like Assistant Professor of Biology Keith Dunton and his students can easily determine the presence, absence, and migration patterns of any native, invasive, endangered, or hard-to-find species in and around New Jersey's coastal water bodies, just by dipping a cup into water.

"eDNA is a rapidly developing tool that I can foresee being utilized in the future for doing full species analysis," says Dunton, who studies the sharks and sturgeon native to New Jersey.

Like humans, all animals shed DNA into their environment. Under water, this DNA might come from the slimy mucous layer that is continuously shed by an eel, or the excrement discharged by a shark. Undetectable to the eye, these small fragments of DNA float in the water and can be easily captured by dipping a reg-

ular-sized bottle into a body of water. Once filled, the bottles are brought back to campus, where researchers and their students analyze the eDNA captured (see sidebar, p. 26).

The amount of DNA shed varies by species, but scientists recently determined that DNA remains in the water up to 48 hours, meaning even after the animal is long gone, researchers can tell they were there.

This ability to determine the presence of a particular species without having to physically spot or capture it is one of the myriad reasons why researchers believe eDNA could play a huge role in conservation biology.

For starters, eDNA collection is non-invasive, so it does not harm or traumatize the species being surveyed—which is particularly beneficial when studying critically endangered species. It's also rela-

tively low cost, and the water sampling process can be carried out by nearly anyone, which could potentially allow for a citizen science component in the future.

Another important aspect is that eDNA can be easily collected in various weather conditions and from places typically difficult to reach, allowing for easier and more continuous surveying of a species. That makes eDNA a perfect tool for researching a hard-to-catch fish such as the sea bass, which often lives near underwater structures and rocky environments.

While eDNA analysis has been around in some form since the 1980s, recent advancements in sequencing technology have made it cheaper, easier, and faster to use.

Dunton says the usefulness of eDNA testing became particularly popular in the early 2010s, when scientists used it to track the movements of an invasive fish species called silver carp. The

carp, purposefully introduced to North America in the 1970s to control algae growth, wound up devastating native fish species reliant on that same algae growth. Scientists used eDNA to track the carp's migration northward and develop a plan of where to focus resources in order to keep the fish from entering the Great Lakes.

"It's a similar situation with sea lampreys," Dunton says of the eel-like species of fish invading the Great Lakes and other water systems in North America. "For example, if you were investing money with lamprey control in the Great Lakes, you can sample a stream and say, 'OK, lamprey aren't here, so don't put chemicals or resources into this stream.'"

In addition to determining species presence and migration patterns, eDNA sampling can also help scientists characterize an entire body of water to see how the species in it fluctuate and adapt

to something as natural as the seasons changing, or as unnatural as an oil spill.

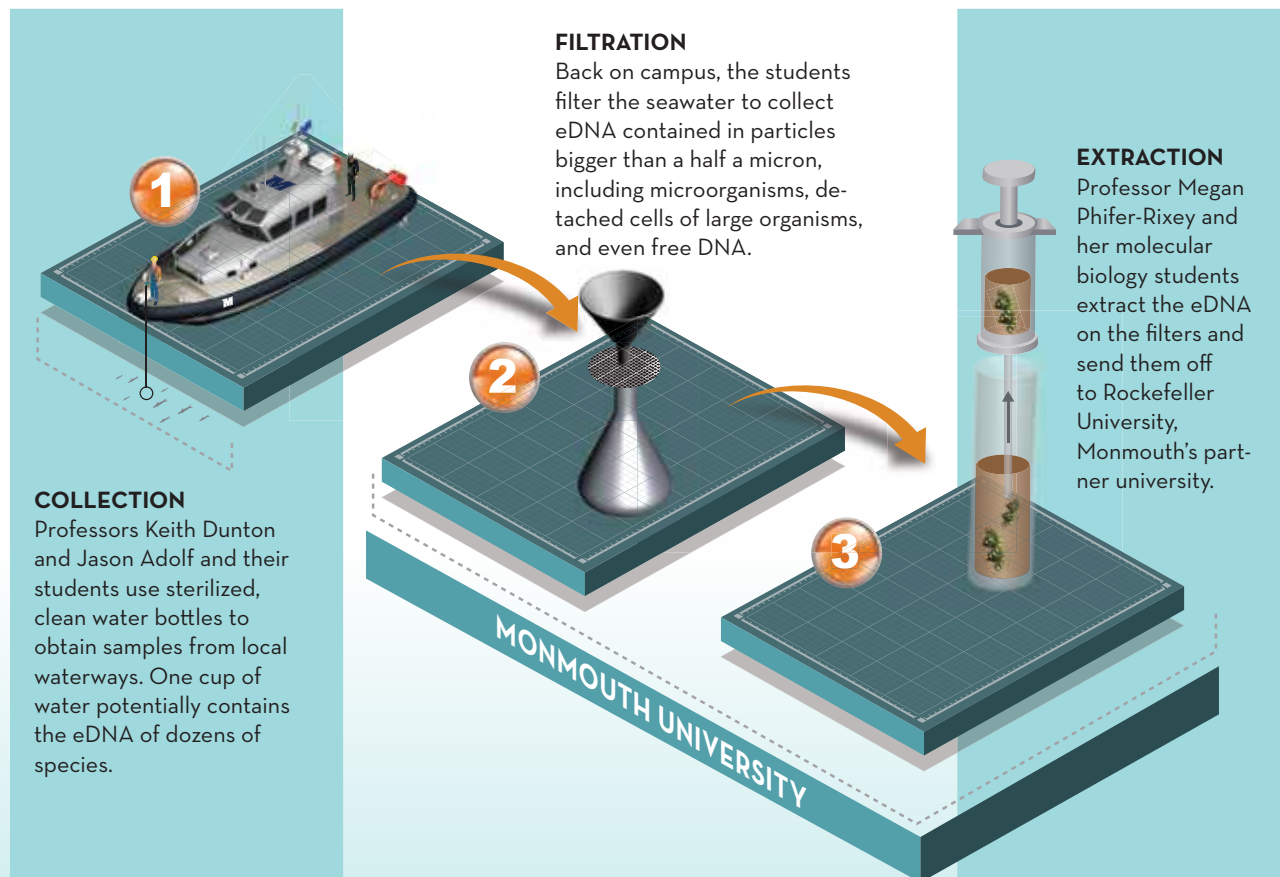
This summer, Jason Adolf, an endowed associate professor of marine science who studies harmful algae blooms, will be collecting eDNA samples from Sandy Hook Bay and the Shrewsbury/Navesink River systems in New Jersey as part of a long-term study of these systems.

While the benefits of eDNA analysis are expanding, the process isn't without its limitations. For one, it cannot help researchers determine species abundance. It also cannot differentiate between the eDNA from a living animal and one that just died.

Because of this dilemma, the race is on amongst scientists to figure out how to expand the use of this new technology beyond detection of a species.

Since earlier this year, Dunton, Adolf, and researchers at the Rockefeller University, Monmouth's partner university in eDNA

FROM SEA TO SEARCHABLE DATABASE



analysis since 2016, have been trying to determine if there is a way to correlate eDNA results with those of the tried-and-true trawling methods traditionally used by biologists for conservation and management purposes.

For a full year, under the Urban Coast Institute-funded project, they are partnering with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to compare its trawl data—which includes information like the weight, length, and abundance of various species captured along the Jersey Shore—with eDNA results taken at the same time.

Already, the researchers have found that there are certain species detected only in the net, certain species primarily detected by eDNA, and species that show similar results via both methods.

“We’re seeing things with eDNA results that don’t normally get picked up in the trawl, like sea lamprey—which

means they’re around, maybe attached to a fish, but we didn’t physically catch them,” Dunton says. “We also found all sorts of whale eDNA. You can see a whale surface but can’t trawl up a whale—luckily, their eDNA is abundant enough in the water to detect.”


With eDNA, scientists also have to determine how to rule out potential false positives. Mark Stoeckle, a senior research associate at Rockefeller University, got a positive hit for pig eDNA from a water sample taken in a Central Park lake—possibly the result of a pigeon or human dropping a small piece of ham or bacon into the water. Researchers also need to figure out a way to control for things like sewage contamination of water bodies, or cross-contamination in a lab.

This past fall, about 100 of the world’s leading eDNA researchers discussed these challenges and future possibilities for the science in New York City at the first National Conference on

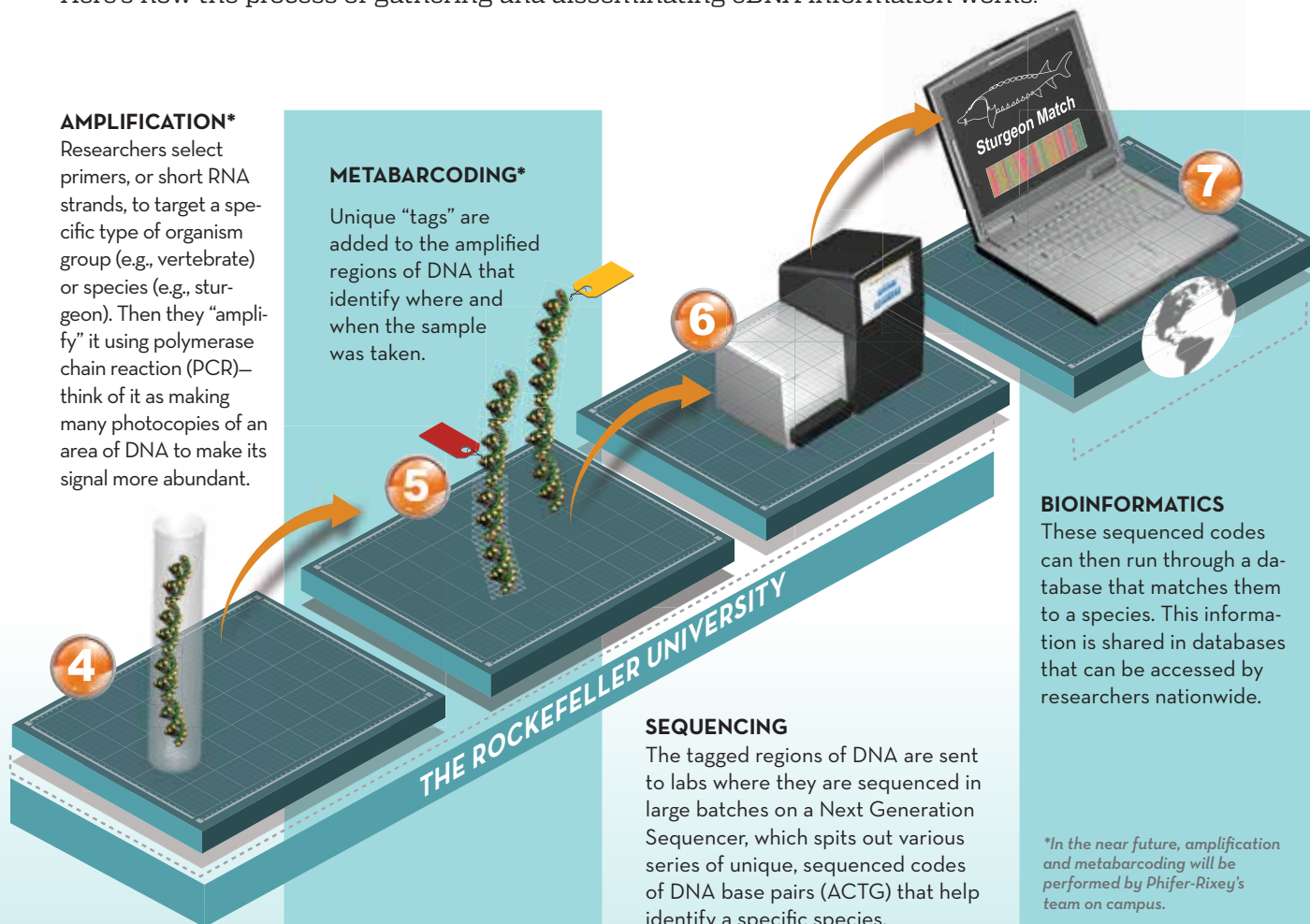
Marine Environmental DNA, co-hosted by Rockefeller and Monmouth’s Urban Coast Institute.

As Monmouth researchers continue to collect data in the field all across New Jersey and the Greater New York City area, that data, once analyzed, will be placed in a genetic reference library utilized by researchers throughout the country.

This supports fellow researchers in a speedy identification process as they analyze samples and try to make sense of large sets of data that support species-specific conservation efforts, invasive species control, and the greater understanding of whole ecosystems.

“In the future, eDNA analysis of marine waters will be an additional and indispensable tool in the marine ecologist’s toolbox that allows us to understand the fundamental question of ‘who’s out there’ in ocean ecosystems,” Adolf says. 

Here’s how the process of gathering and disseminating eDNA information works.





MILES AND MILES

AFTER NEARLY A DECADE AS A STAR WIDEOUT FOR THE DALLAS COWBOYS, MILES AUSTIN TOOK ON A NEW CHALLENGE: FINISHING HIS DEGREE.

BY RYAN JONES
PHOTOS BY MATT FURMAN

It was the bowling alley that surprised him. Miles Austin stumbled upon the Ciniello Family Bowling Center last fall, and natural competitor that he is, he immediately had one thought. “I was just going to start bowling,” he says with a laugh. “But I didn’t know how to turn on the lanes.”

Austin could talk all day about the differences, about all the ways the Monmouth University campus and his classmates and college life itself have evolved in the 12 years since he left. But he insists that in the time between his first stint at Monmouth and his return last summer, nothing and no one changed more than he did. And that was nowhere truer than in the classroom.

The first time around, not counting the athletic ability and determination that eventually would carry him to a 10-year NFL career, Austin was a fairly typical

college student; looking back on his early academic career, what he remembers most is doing just enough to get by. “If we had a group project, I’d do my part, but I’d kind of figure out what the easiest part would be,” he says. “And if there was any type of public speaking with it, I wouldn’t necessarily volunteer. I probably wouldn’t have a lot to say.” Only when he returned to Monmouth last year to finish his degree, a 33-year-old husband and father with an unlikely pro football career behind him, did he truly appreciate his own transformation.

AND MILES

Workload? No problem. “I had a couple of group projects this time, and I was like, ‘I’ll do this, this, and this.’ I’d do the bulk of it. I wanted us to get a good grade!”

Oral presentation? Happily. “I’ve done so many interviews as a football player, so I felt completely comfortable with that.”

All of which is to say that Miles Austin probably would’ve been one of the most popular people on campus last year even if he hadn’t been, well, Miles Austin.

When he left West Long Branch in the spring of 2006 to focus on a long-shot NFL bid, Austin had etched his name all over the Monmouth football record book, having set program standards for career receptions, receiving yards, and touchdown catches. What he hadn’t done was graduate, leaving about a year’s worth of credits shy of his degree. Finishing it would remain a goal, one that would be postponed more than a decade but never forgotten.

Passed over in the NFL draft that April, he signed with Dallas as an undrafted free agent, earned a spot on the Cowboys’ opening-day roster, and stuck around for eight more seasons in Dallas. Of course, “stuck around” undersells things just slightly: After contributing primarily on special teams his first three seasons, Austin was named a starting wide receiver in 2009 and ended the year as the NFC leader in receiving yards, earning the first of two Pro Bowl bids. In just four seasons, Austin had gone from undrafted out of Monmouth to NFL stardom.

After a few more seasons in Dallas, stints in Cleveland in 2014 and Philadelphia in 2015 saw diminishing returns, and by 2016 it was clear Austin’s playing days were over. Back in Dallas—the Cowboys had brought him back as part of the team’s scouting staff—he and his wife, former Hawks lacrosse standout Stacy Sydlo Austin ’04, started thinking more seriously about what might come next. “It had always been one of our family goals to be able to tell our kids he went back to school, to prove that education is important to us,” says Stacy. “It was always in the pipeline.”

It took a couple more years, but last summer, with his family relocated to Rumson, New Jersey, and his next career step yet to be determined, Austin was finally back on campus to finish

what he’d started in 2002. His Monmouth homecoming makes for a wonderful story, but it’s worth emphasizing that this was no public-relations stunt. Not when Austin had to knock out 31 credits in the summer and fall semesters to belatedly complete his degree in history and political science. Certainly not when he insisted on finishing his coursework on campus, mostly eschewing online courses that might’ve more easily fit his lifestyle. Austin says he considered finishing up entirely online, but something about that option just didn’t feel right.

“This is the place I grew up,” he says. “It’s New Jersey, the shore, the entire vibe. Our friends and family are here. And I just wanted to experience it fully, be in interactive situations with my teachers, asking questions, face to face. It just kind of made sense. It felt like home.”

Joseph Patten likes to start a new semester with a simple icebreaker, asking his students to share their name and a tidbit about themselves. Needless to say, there was one student in his PS 305 class last fall whose brief biographical blurb stood out. “Miles introduces himself, ‘I was a wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys,’ and everybody looked at him like, what?!” Patten

“**WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MY THOUGHT PROCESS WAS JUST DOING WELL ENOUGH TO CONTINUE TO PLAY SPORTS. I THINK A LOT OF STUDENT ATHLETES ESPECIALLY BELIEVE SCHOOL IS JUST A TOOL THAT GETS THEM THEIR DEGREE. THIS TIME, I WAS MORE MATURE, AND HAD A BASE OF KNOWLEDGE THAT I DIDN’T HAVE WHEN I WAS TAKING CLASSES THE FIRST TIME. I’VE LIVED A LOT OF LIFE.**”

remembers. “And honestly, it was good that he got it out there. There were no pretensions about him.”

An associate professor of political science, Patten served as Austin’s advisor, taught him in PS 305: The American Congress, and worked with him on an independent study course. As such, he owns a unique perspective on the adult learner whom Patten’s younger students knew only from highlights on ESPN. Patten was, and remains, impressed.

“I think he attacked coming back to school the same way he attacked cornerbacks in the NFL—that same mindset, same approach, all in,” says Patten. “This wasn’t just a side thing he was doing. He went to all of his classes, did all the readings. He really made being a full-time student a priority.”

Austin began his return last summer with a mix of online and on-campus classes, knocking out 12 credits over the summer session. But just as in his football days, the summer was only a warm-up for the rigors of a busy fall. And boy, was Austin busy: With 12 credits down, he still had 19 go, and he was committed to finishing them by winter break. His schedule featured six three-credit classes and one credit of Pilates—which, despite his elite athleticism, Austin found particularly challenging. “It was my first time doing it,” he says, “and it was *hard*.”

The entire endeavor was a challenge—think back to the heaviest credit load *you* carried in any given semester—but Austin adapted quickly. After making the 20-or-so-minute drive to West Long Branch, he would often spend most of the day on campus; his packed schedule included night classes three days a week. In this, his NFL career proved to be terrific preparation. “As a player, you’re so scheduled, and you can’t miss a day—it’s not like you get a sick day in the NFL,” says Stacy. “He was used to the grind; it’s just a different kind of grind: go to class, come home, put the kids down for a nap or get them lunch, do his homework, play with the kids, put them to bed, do more homework after that.”

Throughout, Austin was buoyed by a perspective borne of life experience. It wasn’t only about understanding how to juggle a busy schedule with marriage and fatherhood; it was about embracing hard work as an opportunity. “Being older, I think I was more curious. I



GAME PLAN: Miles and Stacy always wanted to be able to tell their children that dad had finished his college degree. Now they can.

looked forward to doing the readings, talking about my thoughts in class. I actually wanted to learn,” he says. “When I was younger, my thought process was just doing well enough to continue to play sports. I think a lot of student athletes especially believe school is just a tool that gets them their degree. This time, I was more mature, and had a base of knowledge that I didn’t have when I was taking classes the first time. I’ve lived a lot of life.”

While he never taught Austin in a classroom, Kevin Callahan is perhaps more familiar than anyone with Austin’s focus, determination, and work ethic. The longtime Monmouth football coach and his former star have stayed in touch throughout Austin’s playing career, and Callahan was impressed, if not exactly surprised, by how Austin immersed himself in classwork the second time around. “He was really into it,” says Callahan. “I think he had a much greater appreciation of the learning process.”

In a sense, that curiosity had always been there, even if Austin wasn’t driven as a 19- or 20-year-old to be a straight-A student. Callahan remembers him as “very coachable, eager to understand the hows and whys of what he was doing on the field.” Austin got a chance to show what he’d learned last fall, when,

class schedule permitting, he’d drop by the Hawks’ practice field to watch and—occasionally, at Callahan’s urging—offer informal insight. “He’d stand off in the distance, because he said he didn’t want to disrupt anything,” the coach says. “But I’d stop practice. I wanted him to come out, just to talk to the team for a few minutes. He’s a great example of what we want Monmouth football players to be.”

Which is to say: hardworking, studious, and unwilling to give up in pursuit of a goal. The qualities that made Austin a Monmouth legend—the first Hawk to have his jersey retired—and carried him through a decade in the NFL are the same that brought him back to college to complete his degree. Those same traits have positioned him for a new career in football: In February, he joined the San Francisco 49ers’ staff as an offensive quality control coach. It’s a spot near the bottom of the league’s crowded coaching ladder, one that makes him feel once again like a student. (“I’m just curious to learn, curious to get better,” says Austin.) But for a guy who made it from West Long Branch to the Pro Bowl, no path should seem particularly daunting.

If Austin decides to make a career of coaching, Callahan is sure he’ll succeed. “I think he’s a natural. He was an

intelligent player, and he’s got a strong passion for the game,” says Callahan. “He’s also got a great personality, so he’s going to establish great relationships with the guys he coaches.”

Patten suggested Austin think about a different path, though for many of the same reasons. “When I had him in my American Congress class, I told him he should run for Congress—and I didn’t mean it as a joke,” says Patten. “He’s bright, incredibly hardworking, and just salt of the earth. A really impressive guy.”

Whether he ends up coaching, campaigning, or who knows what else, Austin understands what he’s already accomplished. Finishing his degree only reaffirmed all those traits his coaches, teachers, family, and teammates have long recognized; he might not have *needed* that diploma at this point, but it will always serve as a reminder of the value of seeing something through. He can take particular pride in how he finished, posting straight A’s in his final semester as a Monmouth undergrad.

And then he feels compelled to clarify: “I had one A-minus, to be honest.” The class that dinged his GPA was SO 397: The Sociology of Aging. Realizing the potential irony, Austin laughs. He swears he wasn’t the oldest person in the class. [M](#)

» ILLUSTRATIONS BY
JOHN JAY CABUAY

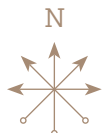
» BY TONY
MARCHETTI

» PHOTOS BY
ANTHONY DEPRIMO

GOING

PLACES

CLASS OF 2019 GRADS SHARE WHERE THEY'RE HEADED
NEXT, AND HOW MONMOUTH HELPED THEM GET THERE.



A portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a teal backpack. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and flowers.

ANDREA MORA

NEXT STOP: TUFTS UNIVERSITY FOR A PH.D. IN CHEMISTRY—ON FULL SCHOLARSHIP

HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO faculty-mentored, hands-on research as a first-year student was one of the main reasons Andrea Mora enrolled at Monmouth. “I thought it would be a great opportunity to start here as opposed to a bigger college, where it’d take longer to get to know my professors and get them to see my passion for chemistry,” she says.

Since freshman year, Mora has worked in Associate Professor Tsanangurayi Tongesayi’s lab, examining the role heavy metals like lead, chromium, and zinc have on microplastics, and how they affect aquatic environments. “The overall goal is to look at the effect that they have on public health, because if these toxic metals are sticking onto the microplastics ... they could scale up through our food chain ... or upscale through drinking water systems,” says Mora.

As she prepares to continue her work in water quality research at Tufts, she’s thankful for the opportunities she had at Monmouth, and particularly the chance to work with Tongesayi.

“I couldn’t have had anyone better to be my mentor—not just in chemistry, but also as an individual going through the process of applying for grad school,” says Mora. “I’m a first-generation student, so I didn’t really know much about college to begin with. Dr. Tongesayi was a big factor in getting me thinking about grad school and all the possibilities I would have if I were to obtain my Ph.D.”



DOMINIQUE CONNELL

NEXT STOP: FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

I interned in the division of advertising practices within the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection through the Washington Semester. My new job will be as a paralegal in the FTC's Bureau of Competition, working with antitrust law.

Monmouth gave me a leg up. Dr. [Joseph] Patten and Professor [Ryan] Tetro talked a lot about the benefits of going to D.C. for The Washington Semester, and how helpful it would be if you want to pursue a career in federal government. Because of the internship, I actually got two job offers from the FTC.

I couldn't have done this without basically the entire political science department. They made sure I did my best even when I thought I couldn't, and pushed me really hard, so I would not have walked across that stage at Commencement with the accomplishments I have without them. My parents also played a very big part.

I'm most proud of being an Honors School graduate and making Dean's List every semester at Monmouth.

BRUCE WILSON

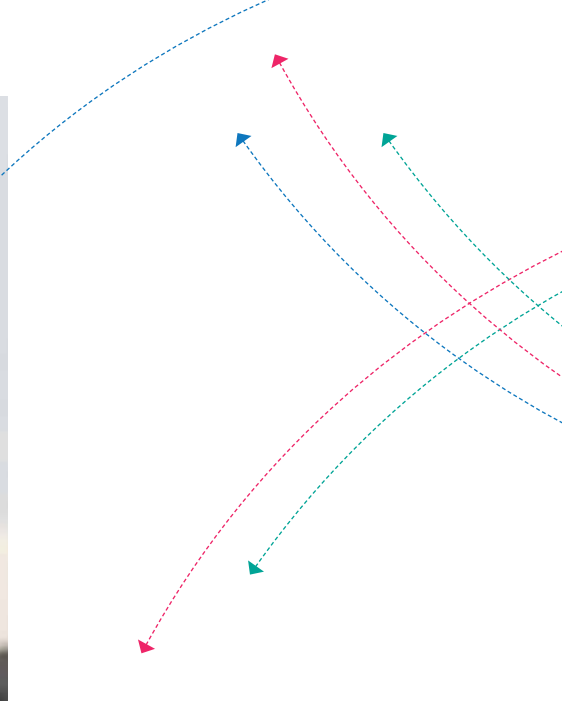
NEXT STOP: CITI HABITATS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK CITY

BRUCE WILSON WAS 8 WHEN HE caught the real estate bug after watching a realtor sell his parents' house. "I thought it was so interesting that someone could come in, tell you how much your house is worth, do open houses, and then sell it," he recalls. "As I got older, I was like—this is actually a career, and I can make a lot of money doing it. It just started from there."

After transferring to Monmouth his freshman year—"one of the best decisions I've ever made," says the former student ambassador—he earned his New Jersey real estate license at 19, his New York license at 20, and reached his first million dollars in sales last year. At Monmouth, he cofounded the Real Estate Club and was mentored by two real estate professionals through the Leon Hess Business School's SEEMA mentoring program.

During Wilson's junior year, Jeff Mass, assistant director of career services at Monmouth, helped him secure an internship as an onsite sales coordinator with The Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group, a new development company. "It was the best experience I ever had," says Wilson, and it directly led to his new, full-time position at Citi Habitats (both companies are owned by Realogy). Since May, Wilson has been living in New York City while working on site at Citi Habitats' new project in midtown Manhattan.

"I'm literally living my dream," says Wilson.



LAUREN NIESZ

NEXT STOP: COMCAST-NBCUNIVERSAL IN PHILADELPHIA

AS AN UNDERGRAD, Lauren Niesz took a general education IT class taught by Specialist Professor Jamie Kretsch. "She took me under her wing and said, 'You know, you're really good at this,'" recalls Niesz. With further encouragement from Kretsch, Niesz picked up an IT minor and,

after graduating with her B.A. in English, enrolled in Monmouth's M.S. in Information Systems program. While attending the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing last fall (thanks in part to a scholarship Niesz secured from Anita B.org on a recommendation from Kretsch), Niesz

landed an interview with Comcast-NBCUniversal. She was hired on site as a software engineer in Comcast Xfinity's testing department. "I think back on all the support I had, and I'm so thankful I was able to create those relationships with my professors," says Niesz. "Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today."



EMMA O'ROURKE

NEXT STOP: LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS FOR AN M.S.C. IN
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

ALTHOUGH SHE ENTERED COLLEGE undecided on a major, Emma O'Rourke leaves with a purpose, and a passion for a field she might never have considered had it not been for her experiences at Monmouth University. "I was veering toward majoring in business, because it seemed like it would give me the most options," she says. But a freshman-year political science course, in which she applied theory to real-world problems, hooked her. She discovered a fascination with how politics and economics intersect, and her selection last year for Monmouth's Summer Scholars Program allowed her to further pursue that interest. She traveled to Guatemala to study how and why environmental factors cause migrants to leave that country, then published her findings in Sigma Iota Rho's *Journal of International Relations* this spring.

In September, O'Rourke will begin an accelerated master's program at the London School of Economics, where she'll be analyzing how and why countries develop the way they do. Even she admits that it's all somewhat incredible, considering she came to college feeling "a bit lost, basically."

Asked where she'd like to be in 10 years, she pauses before saying, "This is dreaming big, but I would love to be working at the World Bank or the United Nations Development Program." Seeing how far she's come in four years, it's not that unreachable of a dream.



BERNARD REBECCHI

NEXT STOP: DELOITTE IN NEW YORK CITY

I interned with Deloitte last summer. It's like a two-month interview: On your last day, you sit down with a partner who tells you if you have a job offer. So I got offered this position last summer.

My office will be in Rockefeller Center. I'll be a first-year auditor in the financial services industry.

I'll be spending my summer studying for the CPA exam. There are four parts; I took the first two already, and hope to finish by August. Each part is four hours long and requires hundreds of hours of studying.

I've taken 18 credits every semester since freshman year. Everyone always says, "You took 18 credits that long?" But I've earned my B.S. and M.B.A. in five years and I have a job lined up. You can't ask for more than that.

I may not have won gold on the track but I earned MAAC All-Academic Team honors every season I was eligible at Monmouth. I'm pretty proud of that.

The top question every runner gets is "Are you ever going to run a marathon?" and my answer is—no [laughs]. Why would anyone ever need to run 26 miles?



MARISA CRETA

NEXT STOP: TEACHING ENGLISH IN KOSOVO
WITH THE PEACE CORPS

I went to Nicaragua through Monmouth's Global Experience

Programs. We worked at a school and an orphanage for people with special needs. This experience made me realize the importance of sustainability in developing countries, which is why I chose the Peace Corps.

I was also involved in Monmouth's Peace Corps Volunteer Preparatory

Program. This program helps students to get certified with the Peace Corps by gaining necessary experience. The program has sent some members to visit alumni serving in other countries, and educates the Monmouth community on the Peace Corps. I would

have never known about it without this program on campus.

I chose Kosovo because

it's such a young country with endless potential. It experienced a genocide about 20 years ago, and they are still rebuilding the country. That's one of the things that interested me: I am going to have the opportunity to create sustainable projects for the second-youngest country in the world.

I'm both excited and

nervous. It's hard to move to a different country and start over completely. That part is nerve-racking. But it's exciting to have this opportunity, because I will be representing America overseas in a country that many overlook, which is an honor.

ALI SHAHINE

NEXT STOP: SCRIPPS MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL LA JOLLA IN SAN DIEGO

THE DAY AFTER RECEIVING HIS BSN FROM Valparaiso University, Ali Shahine moved to New Jersey to enroll in Monmouth's MSN in Adult-Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program. Shahine, who turned down acceptance offers from both Georgetown and Sacred Heart universities, says Monmouth was a good fit academically and offered him a scholarship, a perk he found to be rare while looking at other master's programs. "Graduate school can be pricey, so that was a big difference," he says.

That doesn't mean Shahine didn't need student loans—he did (though there's a happy ending to this part of his story as well). He also worked full time as an RN throughout his master's studies, first at Monmouth Medical Center and later at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City (something made easier by the hybrid nature of his last-semester courses, in which he took class on campus one week and online the following).

Shahine says the knowledge base he accumulated from his studies at Monmouth, and the hands-on experience he gleaned through his clinical experiences (as well as working as an RN) "truly prepared me for the next step." For now, that step is working as an RN in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla (Shahine's family lives in California). He plans to take his Nurse Practitioner boards this summer, after which he would ultimately like to work as an NP in either cardiology or dermatology, and perhaps teach.

Oh, and about those student loans? By scrimping and saving—and working a lot of overtime at the hospital—Shahine paid off both his undergraduate and graduate student loans before graduating this May. "I'm debt free, done with school, and I have a job," he says. "Thank you!"





NICOLE SIVETZ

NEXT STOP: COLD SPRING
HARBOR LABORATORY FOR A
PH.D. IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

WHEN NICOLE SIVETZ BEGINS HER Ph.D. studies at the Watson School of Biological Sciences at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) this fall, it will be a homecoming of sorts for her. Last summer, Sivetz participated in CSHL's highly selective summer undergraduate research program. "Cold Spring is kind of like the Mecca, or Disney World, of molecular biology," says Sivetz about the world-renowned institution, which is home to eight Nobel laureates. "People from all over the world come there to teach courses, share the latest in their research, and ... make decisions about policies that involve research development. It's a place that has its finger on the pulse of what goes on, and it was my dream to go there to learn."

Sivetz, an Honors School graduate who majored in molecular biology and chemistry at Monmouth, worked on cancer-related therapies in the labs of Professors Martin Hicks and Massimiliano Lamberto. She says being able to do hands-on, mentored research beginning in her freshman year "definitely gave me an advantage" when she applied to CSHL's Ph.D. program. "I'm so grateful to be leaving this place [Monmouth] knowing that I left no stone unturned and that I took advantage of everything this place had to offer me," says Sivetz. "I'm not afraid for what's next. I feel very prepared."



JACKSON POPE

NEXT STOP: KING'S COLLEGE LONDON FOR AN M.A. IN CONFLICT, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT

The professors who helped me the most were Dr. [Ken] Mitchell, my Model U.N. advisor; Dr. [Saliba] Sarsar ['78], my thesis advisor; and Professor [Ryan] Tetro, who teaches legal studies.

But they all played a role. I could walk into any political science professor's office and be like, "Hey, I'm working on this. Do you have any suggestions or help?" and I'd get a response.

You get out of college what you put into it. I was co-president of the Political Science Club, interned with the Peace Corps through the Washington Semester, and

was on the Mock Trial team and Model U.N. It's all about building connections.

I'd be crazy not to be nervous about going to London for grad school, but I'm also very excited. It really is a multinational, multicultural city. And there are so many international organizations that operate out of there, and Europe too, so if you want to get into this field, it really is the logical choice to get your degree there.

In 10 years I would like to be somewhere where I felt that I was making an impact in people's lives. [M](#)

THE CHANGEMAKERS » Alumni making waves

MINDFULNESS FOR MINORS

RODNEY SALOMON AND MYCHAL MILLS ARE USING HOLISTIC INTERVENTION TO HELP CHILDREN IN AT-RISK COMMUNITIES STEER CLEAR OF TROUBLE.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

A roomful of second-graders are all giving themselves a hug. From there it's hands to hearts, then arms outstretched as wide as they can go. Through each movement, they repeat after Rodney Salomon '10, who stands several feet taller than all of them and calls out in a baritone singsong:

*I love myself. (I love myself.)
I love my body. (I love my body.)
I love my heart. (I love my heart.)
I love my soul. (I love my soul.)*

These self-affirming kids are part of a youth development movement that Salomon and fellow alumnus Mychal Mills '11, '13M have now brought to 3,200 students, 500 educators, and 25 schools across New Jersey. Launched in 2014, their Konscious Youth Development & Services (KYDS) program teaches meditation, yoga-based movement, and other mindfulness techniques to kids of all ages in an effort to help them resist drugs and alcohol, walk away from fights, and settle into self-love and inner peace.

Most of Mills and Salomon's work has been in the Asbury Park School District, where KYDS now runs programming daily from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in an

elementary, middle, and high school. (Next year they will be in all five Asbury Park schools.) It's a district in which almost 90% of high school students are considered low income, and many don't graduate. Violence is common. Some kids come to school hungry, or with an uncertain housing situation, or a shaky support system at home.

"We know we can't solve all the problems that the kids are going through externally," says Salomon, "but if we give them tools to face those challenges from a better space internally, they're going to be in a better place to deal with things than before."

"It's about hitting the root cause of why a student is actually turning to drugs or fighting," Mills adds.

He and Salomon have seen the results of their work take many forms over the past five years. Mills remembers a middle-school

BEYOND SCHOOLS

"Our vision is for a more balanced community and world," says Mychal Mills. That's why he and Rodney Salomon don't contain their program work to schools. They maintain a busy schedule of community meditation, yoga, and open mic events throughout Asbury Park and Ocean Township. Last fall, KYDS collaborated with Associate Professor Deanna Shoemaker and her communication graduate students, helping them better understand and connect with local residents for an Asbury Park oral history project.

girl who came to the program "closed off to herself," unable to participate in an exercise that required looking into a mirror and calling herself beautiful.

"Last year she was almost always in a fight," he says. "This year she's staying out of drama. She's always full of love and light. It may take a year or even three years, but eventually the seed [we are planting] will blossom."

The KYDS founders knew each other in passing at Monmouth—mostly because Mills was often assigned to guard Salomon in intramural basketball games—but reconnected several years after graduation when they volunteered at the same soup kitchen. Both were searching for ways to better the world. Eventually they landed on the idea for KYDS.

Throughout the process of building their program, Mills sought guidance from both his former Monmouth professors and ones he never studied with as a student. And both men credit the University with starting them on their journeys to self-discovery.

What began as a passion project has now become a thriving nonprofit organization, with four additional staff members, frequent calls from interested schools, and a slate of services including an eight-week mindfulness program, a physical education replacement workshop, and group sessions for teachers, administrators, and community members.

"A lot of youth, they *need* these services," says Mills. "I think this is something that's continuously going to grow."

Adds Salomon: "We want to serve as many schools as we can without losing our essence."

OPPOSITE: Salomon (left) and Mills pictured in Asbury Park's High Voltage Café, where they regularly meet for strategy sessions.



ALUMNI ROUNDUP

LISTED BY GRADUATION YEAR

1970s

» **Dave Marshall '70.** See note for **Mike DePrince '71.**

» **Ed Wendel '70.** See note for **Mike DePrince '71.**

» Delta Sigma Pi brothers **Mike DePrince '71, Dave Marshall '70, Ed Wendel '70,** and **Bill Bay '72** recently reunited in Beaufort, South Carolina. The longtime friends, who together purchased a block of Hawk Walk bricks listing the names of all of the Delta Sigma Pi brothers, also reunite each year on campus to attend the Leon Hess Business School M.B.A. Homecoming Barbecue and other Homecoming weekend festivities (set for Saturday, Oct. 19, this year).

» **Bill Bay '72.** See note for **Mike DePrince '71.**

» **Charles Muth '75.** See note for **Jill Johnson Muth '76.**

» **John "Jack" Trainor '75** was honored by the Boy Scouts of America with the Silver Beaver Award, which recognizes distinguished and noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered scouters. Trainor, who started in scouting as a Tiger

parent with his eldest son, James, in 1988, is also involved at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway, New Jersey, where he is the Bellaires youth bell choir assistant director and is head usher and chair of the worship committee. Jack and his wife, **Sallie (Douglas) Trainor '75**—his college sweetheart—are avid square dancers. They started dancing in 1977 and have been ever since.

» **Howard Levine '76** was named by Best Lawyers in America as the 2019 "Lawyer of the Year" for litigation-bankruptcy in Portland, Oregon. Reserved for only one attorney in each practice area and geographic region, the award reflects the high level of respect a lawyer has earned among other leading lawyers regarding their abilities, professionalism, and integrity. Levine, who has been named to the Best Lawyers in America since 2014, has received the honor of "Lawyer of the Year" once before. Levine, who moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1979 after graduating from law school, began a federal clerkship with U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Donald Sullivan. He then joined Sussman Shank, a downtown Portland law firm, in 1982 and became a partner in 1987. Levine is chair of the firm's business restructuring and bankruptcy group, and co-chair of

the firm's nonprofit and religious organizations group. He is licensed to practice in Oregon and Washington state, and also represents clients in large cases throughout the country.

» **Jill Johnson Muth '76** and **Charles Muth '75** just celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary. The couple continues to live in Sugar Land, Texas, and enjoy time with their three children. Jill is lead technologist of microbiology at HCA Houston Healthcare West Medical Center in Houston. Chuck recently retired as a senior marketing manager from Nalco Champion in Sugar Land, Texas.

1980s

» Middlesex Water Co. named **A. Bruce O'Connor '80** president of its wholly owned Delaware-based subsidiary, Tidewater Utilities Inc., which serves 45,000 retail customers in over 400 communities in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties in Delaware. O'Connor, a certified public accountant, joined Middlesex Water in 1990 and has served as its CFO since 1996. He has served as the financial officer of Tidewater since its acquisition by Middlesex in 1992. O'Connor oversees all financial reporting, accounting, regulated public utility commission requirements, and customer service for Middlesex and its subsidiaries.

» **Robert Reinalda '80**, executive editor at Ragan Communications, received the ACES: The Society for Editing 2019 Robinson Prize. Established in 2005, the Robinson Prize honors an editor of the year whose work exemplifies the values that ACES promotes—nominees are evaluated on everything from their design and editing skills to their ability to foster teamwork. Reinalda has been with Ragan Communications since 2008 after spending 28 years in print journalism, including 25 years as an editor at publications

such as the New York *Daily News* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

» **Kathleen Carroll '82A** wed Stephen Carney in a ceremony in Sea Bright, New Jersey, on Oct. 20, 2018.

» **Michael "Greeny" Greenblatt '83**, former captain of Monmouth's men's tennis team, was delighted for the invite to check out Monmouth's outdoor tennis complex on April 14, right before seeing the Hawks earn their 12th straight victory, defeating Quinnipiac University 7-0.

» **Deb Mannix '83**. See note for **Mark Cayne '18**.

» **Anthony Rodio '85M** is the chief executive officer at Caesars Entertainment Corp. in Las Vegas. Appointed by Caesars' board of directors, Rodio has nearly four decades of experience in the gaming industry. Since October 2018, he served as chief executive officer of Affinity Gaming and previously served as president, chief executive officer, and a member of the board of directors of Tropicana Entertainment Inc. Additionally, Rodio has served on the boards of professional and charitable organizations including Atlantic City Alliance, United Way of Atlantic County, the Casino Associations of New Jersey and Indiana, AtlantiCare Charitable Foundation, and the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming Hospitality & Tourism.

» **Susan Schroeder Clark '89** is a municipal court judge in Howell and Tinton Falls, New Jersey. She is also the managing partner at Susan Clark Law Group LLC, a law firm located in Freehold, New Jersey, that focuses on children with special needs with the goal of "empowering families by identifying and working to obtain the educational tools and support they need for their loved ones with disabilities." Previously, Clark was the founding partner at Clark & Clark, Attorneys at Law, which she founded with her husband in 2007. She was also an adjunct criminal justice professor at Monmouth, and taught criminal and

municipal court law to attorneys at the Institute of Continuing Legal Education through the New Jersey State Bar Association. Clark was elected as a councilperson in Howell in 2008, and was later appointed to the Howell Township Planning Board. After spending more than a decade with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, Clark says she's thankful to her former political science professor **Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D. '78** as well as to Superior Court Judge Eugene Iadanza, whom she connected with through an internship, in helping her launch her career in law. "I firmly believe, but for those experiences and connections at Monmouth University, I would not have achieved my professional successes," says Clark.

1990s

» **Tara P. Carver '90** has been named shareholder to the firm Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr,

headquartered in Philadelphia. Carver practices in the area of commercial real estate and commercial loan transactions. Carver, who earned her J.D. from New York Law School, was selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America in 2018. She is admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey.

» **Annie Stinson, Ph.D. '90, '92M** was awarded the College of Education and Professional Studies Service Award and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (UWW) Faculty Service Award. Stinson is a professor in the Curriculum and Instruction Department at UWW in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

» **Laurie Bandlow, Ph.D. '93M** was named the superintendent of schools for the Brewster Central School District, effective Aug. 1, 2019. Previously, Bandlow was superintendent of schools for the Paulsboro Public School District in Paulsboro, New Jersey, and was an elementary and middle school principal in Howell, New [NJ](#)

GET INVOLVED » JOIN THE 50TH REUNION COMMITTEE



Calling all members of the Class of 1970! Join the 50th Reunion Committee to reconnect with classmates and plan your reunion celebration, set for June 12-14, 2020. Those interested should contact Laura MacDonald '10, director for Alumni Engagement, at lmacдона@monmouth.edu or 732-571-7563.

Jersey. Bandlow, who is the author of *Parental Involvement Predicts Student Success*, published by Lambert Academic Publishing, also holds a master's in elementary education and science from SUNY-New Paltz in New Paltz, New York, and a bachelor's from East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

» **Sean Moynihan '94** was hired as the executive vice president and market leader for the global commercial real estate advisory firm Newmark Knight Frank, located in Atlanta.

» **Heather Vitale '94** was named the United States Writers Association Member of the Year at the U.S. Harness Writers Association's (USHWA's) annual Dan Patch Awards dinner, held in Orlando, Florida. Vitale is secretary of the Delaware Valley chapter of USHWA, an international harness racing video journalist, and two-time Sam McKee Broadcasters Award winner. Her show "Post Time" has

aired on the CBS affiliate WBOC TV in the Delmarva region for 20 years, and she co-hosts the weekly show "PA Harness Week," airing on the NBC sports channel out of Philadelphia—a position in which she has served for nearly a decade. She has also worked nationally for ESPN2 and CBS Sports Network.

» **Loretta Hill '98**, business administrator/board secretary for the Belmar and Lake Como school districts, was honored with the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials. As part of the award, which recognizes "long-term, continuous, exemplary service," Hill will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to present to a district student of her choice. Hill, who serves as treasurer for the Shrewsbury and Sea Girt boards of education, previously served as director of compensation and benefits at K. Hovnanian Enterprises Inc. in Red Bank, New Jersey. Prior to that, she

was manager of human resources for American General Corp. in Neptune, New Jersey.

» After 20 years of working in the Long Branch Public School District, **Nicole Trainor '99, '01M** was named the Educational Services Professional of the Year.

2000s

» **Laura Jackson '01** was promoted to the role of senior managing director for FTI Consulting's tax advisory group. Jackson specializes in the real estate investment trust (REIT) and partnership area of real estate taxation, providing expertise in due diligence, structuring, REIT compliance, 754 adjustments, and partnership taxation. A resident of Florham Park, New Jersey, Jackson currently serves as vice president on the Board of Rebuilding Together NYC, a nonprofit organization that promotes safe and healthy housing throughout New York City. She also founded the She Builds initiative, which empowers prominent women in real estate to give back to the communities they serve. In 2018, Jackson was honored with the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award for her volunteer work with Rebuilding Together NYC and Connect Media's Women in Real Estate Award.

» **Anthony Talerico '03M** was elected the mayor of the Borough of Eatontown, New Jersey.

» **Nicole (Virgilio) Smith '04** and Sean Smith welcomed their first child, Piper Ann Smith, at 1:12 p.m. on Sept. 1, 2018.

» **Joseph Lizza, Ph.D. '05** was selected to serve as the director of the student center and campus activities at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. Lizza is responsible for the administrative vision, leadership, and

Continued, p. 48

NOT TO MISS »

July 11

CALLING ALL DIVAS



Enjoy a pop, rock, soul, and country hit parade that positively affirms the power of music, friendship, and sisterhood, while paying tribute to the timeless tunes and talents of Carole King, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, and many more.



TOO GOOD TO FAIL

HOW THE GREAT RECESSION HELPED LAUNCH ONE ALUMNA'S MUSIC CAREER.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

Since graduating from Monmouth University in 2004, Natalie Imani has established herself as a go-to vocal accompanist for some of the music industry's biggest stars—including John Legend, Jennifer Hudson, and Nicki Minaj—while making a name for herself as a solo singer-songwriter.

But had it not been for the collapse of Bear Stearns in 2008, that might not have happened.

Imani had been working at the storied investment banking firm for three years when, to her and many other people's surprise, it went under. She was told she could take a job with JPMorgan Chase, the company that purchased Bear, or receive her severance package and move on. As it happened, she had just auditioned for and was offered a spot singing with Jazmine Sullivan, a Grammy nominated singer and

songwriter. "So Bear Stearns went out of business one week, and the next week I was singing background," recalls Imani. She hasn't looked back since.

Imani performed with Sullivan for three years, and says that period helped her take her career to the next level. "A lot of people ask me how they can get into this type of work," says Imani, who went by Natalie Curtis as a student at Monmouth. "One way is auditioning. But also, I think that once you're 'in the network' people know you, so

they'll call you to see if you're available for different things. And I feel singing with Jazmine put me in that network, because that was the first time I actually went on tour."

Since 2011, Imani has toured internationally with John Legend. Among other things, the connection led to her appearance in the film *La La Land*. "I'm one of the background singers you see when John performs on stage during the movie. I'm the singer in the middle with the short hair. It's a very brief performance, but I'm in there," she says with a laugh. It also landed her on the Grammy winner's 2018 "A Legendary Christmas" special, which aired last December. That wasn't her first TV appearance: In April of last year, fans—and much of the internet—went crazy over her duet with Cardi B on *Saturday Night Live*.

Imani says she is putting the finishing touches on her latest solo effort, which she hopes to release in July. (For the latest on that, and to watch the video for her last single, "Cranberry Liquor," visit natalieimani.com.) There's also talk of taking "A Legendary Christmas Tour" on the road in Europe this winter.

With some downtime between tours, Imani has been spending time speaking with schoolchildren in and around her hometown of Philadelphia, telling them about life as a musician and the importance of following one's dreams.

"I let them know that achieving their dreams is possible," says Imani. "I was 6 when I decided I wanted to be a singer, and now I'm living that life. So sometimes you have to take a risk to really do what you're passionate about."

"Honestly, if Bear Stearns never went out of business, I'm not sure I would've taken that risk—to leave a 9-to-5 job that was paying me well to just up and go follow my dreams," she adds. "But that pushed me to pursue what I really wanted to do."

"**I WAS 6 WHEN I DECIDED I WANTED TO BE A SINGER, AND NOW I'M LIVING THAT LIFE. SO SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TAKE A RISK TO REALLY DO WHAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT.**"

"

management of the Chamberlain Student Center and Campus Activities, a comprehensive department that provides an array of programs, facilities, and services in support of the division of student affairs and Rowan University's mission and core values. In this role, Lizza directly oversees the programmatic, service, operational, and financial components of the student center auxiliary operation and provides overall leadership in establishing initiatives and goals that promote a culture of quality, inclusion, and service excellence to the university's community. Lizza obtained both his master's and doctoral degrees from Rowan University.

» **Caitlin Cricco '06, '12M** and her husband, Charles Roberts, welcomed daughter Mila Roberts on Jan. 16, 2019.

» **Stacie Griswold '06, '10M** and **Aaron Griswold '08** welcomed daughter Penelope Malia Griswold on March 29, 2019.

» **Ashley L. Toth '06** has been named shareholder to the firm Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, located in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Toth, who works in the professional liability department, focuses her practice on employment law and civil rights law. She practices in New Jersey's federal and state courts, handling a wide range of employment cases dealing with discrimination. Toth, who earned her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law in Camden, New Jersey, is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

» **Lori Kaufman '07** and husband Shane Derris welcomed their first child, Simon Baines Derris, at 12:39 a.m. on Nov. 9, 2018. The family currently resides in Cranford, New Jersey.

» Radiation oncologist **Dr. Talha Shaikh '07** has been appointed medical director of radiation oncology at Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County

in Willingboro, New Jersey. Previously, Shaikh worked in private practice in New York City after completing his residency in radiation oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Shaikh earned his medical degree at Drexel University College of Medicine and his Master of Business Administration at Temple University's Fox School of Business, both located in Philadelphia. Shaikh has presented his research at several national and international conferences and has authored numerous book chapters. He has won multiple awards for his work, including the American Society for Clinical Oncology Conquer Cancer Foundation Merit Award.

» **Aaron Griswold '08**. See note for **Stacie Griswold '06, '10M**.

» **Christina Grott '08**, a second-grade teacher in the Randolph Township School system, was named the Governor's Educator of the Year for 2019. Grott, who lives in Denville, New Jersey began her teaching career in Mahwah, New Jersey, before joining Randolph schools, where she taught first grade for seven years.

» **Elizabeth Ricciardi Moore '08** and **Bryant Moore '11** became the parents of twins on Oct. 11, 2018. Bryant Moore Jr. and Maya Rose Moore were born at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, New Jersey, at 1:46 p.m. and 1:48 p.m., weighing 4 pounds, 5 ounces, and 3 pounds, 6 ounces, respectively. The family lives in Manchester, New Jersey.

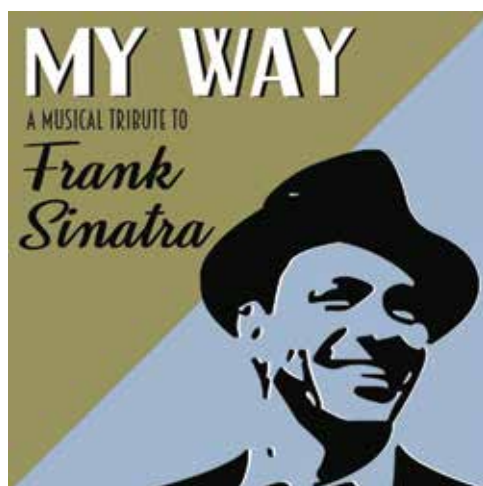
» **Alyssa May '09, '10M**, a kindergarten teacher at Red Bank Primary School in Red Bank, New Jersey, was one of only five teachers in Monmouth County to receive the New Jersey Department of Education's Exemplary Educator Award.

» **Andrew Musick '09, '10M** was named to ROI-NJ's 2019 

Continued, p. 52

NOT TO MISS » July 18–28

MY WAY: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA



Shadow Lawn Stage presents a swinging tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes, where four actors will take you on a musical revue spanning the breadth of Sinatra's legendary career.

CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHS: 1. **Caitlin Cricco '06, '12M** and her husband, Charles Roberts, welcomed daughter Mila Roberts on Jan. 16, 2019. 2. **Stacie Griswold '06, '10M** and **Aaron Griswold '08** welcomed daughter Penelope Malia Griswold on March 29, 2019. 3. **Elizabeth Ricciardi Moore '08** and **Bryant Moore '11** welcomed twins Bryant Moore Jr. and Maya Rose Moore on Oct. 11, 2018. 4. **Jessica Orr '09, '12M** and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their son, Jackson William Orr, on Feb. 10, 2019. 5. **Nicole Oppelt '10** and **Michael Oppelt '10** welcomed daughter Goldie Maris Oppelt on May 14, 2018. 6. **Maya Saito '10** and **Matthew Bonilla '11** welcomed son James Bonilla on Feb. 1, 2019. 7. **Larissa Cardozo '16** and her husband, Orlando, welcomed son Liam Cardozo on Dec. 19, 2018. **WEDDINGS:** 8. **Kathleen Carroll '82A** wed Stephen Carney on Oct. 20, 2018. 9. **Phabiana Stanzione '09** wed Jorge Andrade on May 4, 2019. 10. **Christine D'Ottaviano '11, '12M** wed Allen Franchi on July 20, 2018.

CELEBRATIONS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: 1. Delta Sigma Pi brothers, from left, **Dave Marshall '70**, **Mike DePrince '71**, **Ed Wendel '70**, and **Bill Bay '72** recently reunited in Beaufort, South Carolina. 2. **Michael "Greeny" Greenblatt '83** recently visited Monmouth's outdoor tennis complex with his wife, Sarah. 3. Former adjunct professor David Lee Russek, from left, **Deb Mannix '83**, a committee member of Monmouth's Business Council, and **Mark Cayne '18** enjoyed time with one another at Jack's Goal Line Stand in West Long Branch, New Jersey. **ACCOLADE:** 4. **Max Timko '11** is the director of marketing for Ion Labs Inc. **ENGAGEMENTS:** 5. **Kathryn Blanchard '15**, '18M is engaged to **William Palmer '11**. 6. **Meaghan Wheeler '17** is engaged to **Robert Ewanis '17**, '18M.



2019 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

Alumni Association honors three alumni during Reunion Weekend

The Monmouth University Alumni Association feted three Monmouth graduates for their professional, volunteer, and civic accomplishments as part of Reunion Weekend festivities in June. Michael Salvatore, Ph.D. '98, received the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his achievements in the field of education. Deb Mannix '83 received the Outstanding Alumni Service Award for her work in bettering the University community. And Dante Barry '10 received the first-ever Recent Alumni Award, which is given to an individual who graduated within the past 15 years and has already demonstrated a high level of professional success and made a significant impact on society. Here's more on the winners.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

MICHAEL SALVATORE, PH.D. '98

Superintendent of Long Branch Public Schools

- » Degree Program: B.S. Special Education
- » Student Activities: Football

Michael Salvatore has developed a reputation as a personable, forward-thinking instructional leader with a purpose to ensure that children matter most. Salvatore firmly believes "access" is the great equalizer, affording children opportunities to engage with high-quality content, which creates learning experiences far beyond the school walls.

With his alma mater in mind, Salvatore has worked to build a stronger partnership between Monmouth University's School of Education and Long Branch Schools through internship and employment opportunities for future teachers. Today, Salvatore serves as a member of the School of Education Dean's Advisory Council, providing industry advice to support the new doctoral program in education and develop new processes to better prepare teacher candidates for the workforce. In addition to his commitment to Monmouth's School of Education, Salvatore volunteers with his former "team," Monmouth football, as a fan and speaker to current student-athletes. Through this effort, Salvatore has helped to foster a suite of service projects between student-athletes and Long Branch students, creating an outstanding learning opportunity for all involved.

» Professional Accolades/Activities

Selected as New Jersey's 2019 Superintendent of the Year by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators.

President of Great Schools New Jersey, an organization comprising of more than 180 school districts with extraordinary needs.

Appointed as a national presenter on early childhood education by the U.S. Department of Education.

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.



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

DEB MANNIX '83

Senior Financial Advisor and Assistant Vice President, Merrill Lynch

- » Degree Program: B.S. Business Administration with a concentration in Finance
- » Student Activities: Head Resident Hall Assistant, Gamma Gamma Sigma

For over a decade, Deb Mannix has been an active alumna volunteer. Aside from attending signature alumni events and athletics games, Mannix has volunteered her time in support of academic initiatives, including serving as former chair of the Business Council and member of the council's Steering Committee, being involved in the Career Discovery Series, and serving as a guest speaker on business strategy. Mannix has also served on the Holiday Ball Committee, which exists to plan and support Monmouth's annual gala to raise funds for student scholarship. In addition to volunteering her time, Mannix and her husband, Craig Hendrick, have decided to join the Shadow Lawn Society, Monmouth's planned giving recognition society.

Above all, Mannix enjoys her volunteer commitment as a mentor for Leon Hess Business School students, helping to place business students in internship and career paths so they can achieve their professional goals.

» Professional Accolades/Activities

Active member of Shore WINS, a women's networking group in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

Avid volunteer for many charitable foundations, including the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation and Mater Dei Women's Leadership Program.

Mentors young professionals through Women's Unlimited.

Founder of Vertical Vixens, a national women's ski club.



RECENT ALUMNI AWARD

DANTE BARRY '10

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice

- » Degree Program: B.A. Political Science
- » Student Activities: Phi Kappa Psi, Student Government Association, Admissions Ambassador

Dante Barry is the cofounder and executive director of Million Hoodies Movement for Justice (MHJ), a human rights organization that is dedicated to ending gun violence and reimagining safety and justice for all communities. MHJ partners with leaders and advocates to advance state reform through advocacy, public education, coalition-building, and research. Since the organization's inception, Barry has worked hard to promote strategies to stop the cycle of violence and build healthy communities.

Previously, Barry served as a director of a summer organizing fellowship and chapter services coordinator for the Roosevelt Network, providing triage and training a generation of young people to organize for student-driven policy initiatives at the local level. Barry also served as the engagement editor for the Roosevelt Institute, launching the organization's first digital program. He also advocated for education and healthcare policy at the state and federal levels to provide low-income access to school-based health centers at the School-Based Health Alliance.

» Professional Accolades/Activities

Named in Revolt TV's "New Leaders of Social Justice" and The Root's list of 100 black influencers

A frequent commentator for Al Jazeera America, Barry has also appeared on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, NPR, and MSNBC. He also writes extensively on racial justice and participatory democracy for The Nation, MSNBC, HuffPost, Ebony, Truthout, and other news outlets.

Influencers Power List. As the vice president of government affairs at the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, Musick was identified by ROI-NJ as a “quiet, but well-connected player” in Trenton, New Jersey, who has a “depth of knowledge” when it comes to issues affecting the business community. Named vice president of the organization in 2017, Musick previously worked for the firm Sokol, Behot & Fiorenzo and the Princeton Public Affairs Group.

» **Jessica Orr '09 '12M** and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their son, Jackson William Orr, on Feb. 10, 2019.

» **Phabiana Stanzione '09** met her fiancé, Jorge Andrade, on Oct. 11, 2014, at New York Comic Con's “Star Trek” merchandise table, where Stanzione invaded Andrade's space for a Mr. Spock oven mitt. Smitten by her smile, Andrade summoned the courage to ask Stanzione her opinion on what to purchase. Eventually, he respectf-

ly excused himself after two young men from her group returned, assuming one of them might have been a boyfriend. Those two were her brother, Stephan, and cousin Greg. In a convention with 151,000 attendees, but with fate on his side, Andrade would run into Phabiana again and make sure not to let go of her again. Dates of sushi, buffalo wings, and superhero films filled their nights and made them close. Cosplaying and their love of God made them almost inseparable. Four years and four New York Comic Cons later, Stanzione and Andrade embarked on a new journey together beyond what they would imagine for their lives. And they couldn't wait for May 4, their wedding day.

2010s

» **Keri (Finetto) Congiusti '10** graduated from Dominican

College of Blauvelt in Orangeburg, New York, with her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. While obtaining her second degree, she worked as a medico-legal assistant for a complex litigation firm specializing in medical malpractice and personal injury cases. She is currently employed as a medical-surgical nurse at Hackensack University Medical Center in Hackensack, New Jersey. She and her husband, Michael, were married in 2014 and currently reside in Norwood, New Jersey, where she is a member of the Norwood Board of Health and he is the assistant chief of the Norwood Fire Department.

» **Nicole Oppelt '10** and **Michael Oppelt '10** welcomed daughter Goldie Maris Oppelt on May 14, 2018.

» **Michael Oppelt '10**. See note for **Nicole Oppelt '10**.

» **Maya Saito '10** and **Matthew Bonilla '11** welcomed son James Bonilla on Feb. 1, 2019.

» **Priyanka Ahuja '11M** has been working for Barclays Bank for the past six years. She was fortunate to receive her green card sponsorship and was promoted to a full-time, senior role in the company. She enjoys participating in various community programs in the Indian community in the Delaware region.

» **Matthew Bonilla '11**. See note for **Maya Saito '10**.

» **Michael Corsey '11, '15M**. See note for **Lauren Zatzkin '14**.

» **Christine D'Ottaviano '11, '12M** married Allen Franchi at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort in Maui, Hawaii, on July 20, 2018.

» **William Palmer '11**. See note for **Kathryn Blanchard '15, '18M**.

» **Max Timko '11** is the director of marketing for Ion Labs Inc., one of the largest, most globally recognized contract supplement manufacturers in the world. He is »

Continued, p. 54

NOT TO MISS »

Aug. 10

UB40



World-famous reggae stars UB40—known for hit songs “Red, Red Wine” and “The Way You Do the Things You Do”—will perform as part of their U.S. tour marking their 40th anniversary.

Hawks on the Road

We're hitting the road again this fall for a series of alumni events throughout the region. Check the website often for dates and locations.

monmouth.edu/hotr



HOMECOMING 2019

Saturday, October 19

Calling all alumni, students, families, and friends!

Show your Hawk pride and join us for a fun-filled day that will include:

Annual Alumni Tailgate Party

Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally

Monmouth Football vs. Gardner-Webb

Kickoff at 1 p.m.

A full schedule of events plus hotel and registration information will be available online soon.

monmouth.edu/homecoming



also a contributing writer for *Nutritional Outlook* magazine and sits on the Digital Marketing Advisory Board for the University of South Florida Muma College of Business located in Tampa, Florida. He currently lives in Clearwater, Florida, with his wife, **Angela (Lucas) Timko '12**.

» **Lauren Garcia '13**, a children's librarian at Monmouth County Library Atlantic Highlands Branch, began a series of writing workshops called Camp NaNoWriMo. The workshop is named after the national initiative NaNoWriMo, held every November, which has the mission of helping participants achieve a goal of writing a 50,000-word novel over the course of one month. The Camp NaNoWriMo version, aimed at young readers in third grade and above, allows participants to set their own writing goals over the course of four months.

» **Jameson Zacharias '13** is the new cornerbacks coach at Fordham University. Previously,

Zacharias served for two years on staff at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where he was in charge of the defensive backs. Prior to his two years at IUP, Zacharias coached the outside linebackers and cornerbacks for three seasons at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, where he worked with defensive coordinator Greg Colby and defensive backs coach Archie Collins. Zacharias was a four-year member of the Hawks' football squad.

» **Alexander Daudier '14** is a senior associate at the New York Metro Market, where he applies an innovative approach to challenges by leading others to find new ways of thinking. Daudier, who started his career at PwC, was most recently a senior accountant at RWJBarnabas Health.

» **Robert Juliano '14** was promoted to police sergeant of the

Verona Police Department. Juliano, who joined the police force in 2014, has worked in patrol on various shifts and is an active member of the department's Crime Prevention Unit.

» **Lauren Zatzkin '14** is engaged to wed **Michael Corsey '11, '15M** on Nov. 9, 2019.

» **Kathryn Blanchard '15, '18M** is engaged to **William Palmer '11**. The bride- and groom-to-be were both in the Monmouth University Pep Band—they even played the same instrument. “We were both drummers and while we didn't get together until after graduation, the music never stopped,” Blanchard says. “He proposed under the giant wreath on the boardwalk at Pier Village and we are to be married this fall.”

» **Larissa Cardozo '16** and her husband, Orlando, welcomed son Liam Cardozo on Dec. 19, 2018.

» **Anita O'Malley '16M**, the founder and CEO of Leadarati, a social, digital, and public relations B2B marketing communications firm, shared tips on how to be a tech thought leader at the Jersey Shore Women in Tech gathering held in Asbury Park, New Jersey. O'Malley, who says the secret is in running an “optimal blog,” runs the blog Marketing TECHniques, which focuses on the best use of today's digital and online communication channels to help B2B and tech pros and their companies gain business opportunities. O'Malley, who publishes a column on *NJTechWeekly.com*, is also a PR news writer and a sought-after expert for press and business communications initiatives, specializing in B2B technology companies.

» **Lexi Swatt '16** was crowned Miss Montgomery County 2019 at the 48th annual Miss Fulton County & Miss Montgomery County Scholarship Program. She earned a \$3,000 scholarship as well as the \$250 talent award.

»

NOT TO MISS »
Sept. 19
MARGARET ATWOOD LIVE IN THEATRES



Fane Productions presents an evening with the Canadian novelist, poet, literary critic, and inventor, broadcast live from the National Theatre in London. Atwood will discuss her new book, *The Testaments*.

» **Robert Ewanis '17, '18M.** See note for **Meaghan Wheeler '17.**

» **Meaghan Wheeler '17** was engaged to **Robert Ewanis '17 '18M** on May 28, 2018. They plan to be married on Aug. 3, 2019.

» **Mark Cayne '18** and David Lee Russek, a former adjunct professor at Monmouth, reunited at Jack's Goal Line Stand in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Cayne, who is an actor, shared the news of recently being featured on an episode of the television series "Blue Bloods." While there, Russek introduced Cayne to fellow alumna **Deb Mannix '83**, a committee member of Monmouth's Business Council, and the three chatted and snapped a photo together.

» This past April, **Jackie Evans '18** competed in the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour. Evans, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, Connecticut, competed in 13 of the 14 PWBA Tour events. While at Monmouth, Evans earned National Tenpins Coaches Association (NTCA) All-American Honors and was an NTCA Academic Honor Roll student. As a senior in 2017-18, Evans compiled 27 200-plus games and was named to the Southland Championships All-Tournament Team.

» This past December, **Mike Gamba '18** was sworn into the Cranford Police Department on the same day that he finished up his final exams at Monmouth, completing his degree one semester early.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

» Online:
**monmouth.edu/
ClassNotes**

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

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

Monmouth University encourages alumni to share news regarding career changes, awards and honors, marriages, anniversaries, births, and other life events for inclusion in Class Notes. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. We welcome submissions of high-resolution digital images for possible inclusion with your class note; however, we reserve the right not to print submitted photos due to space limitations or issues with image resolution.

In addition to the news items sent by alumni, the University receives press releases from businesses and organizations announcing alumni achievements, and subscribes to an online news clipping service that provides news items about alumni. These items are edited and placed in the appropriate class section. Monmouth magazine staff members try to verify the accuracy of this information; however, the University cannot be responsible for incorrect information contained herein. If you would like us to correct any inaccuracies that have been printed, please contact the magazine at magazine@monmouth.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

- » Howard A. Brooks '60 (Jan. 12, 2019)
- » Alexander Davis '60 (Jan. 21, 2019)
- » Bernard Fink '61A (Nov. 6, 2018)
- » Douglas F. Fink '61 (Feb. 20, 2019)
- » Harry Kaiserian '61 (Feb. 26, 2019)
- » Germaine T. Metzger '61 (March 3, 2019)
- » Judith C. VanBenschoten '61 (Jan. 30, 2019)
- » Thomas E. Errickson '63 (April 26, 2019)
- » Edward J. Miller '63 (April 15, 2019)
- » James E. Furlong '66 (Feb. 11, 2019)
- » Charles F.A. Hall III '66A (March 21, 2019)
- » Michael A. Fisher '66 (January 2019)
- » William Sculthorpe '66 (Jan. 25, 2019)
- » Carl W. Setterman '66 (Dec. 22, 2018)
- » Theresa G. Sperber '67A (April 13, 2019)
- » Gerald S. Savitz '68 (Feb. 1, 2019)
- » Philip Apruzzi '69 (May 27, 2018)
- » Alexander Borden Iler '69 (April 2, 2019)
- » William R. Plummer '69 (Feb. 2, 2019)
- » Dennis Schurgin '69 (March 20, 2019)
- » Louis W. Garibaldi '70 (March 14, 2019)
- » Gary R. Homer '70 (March 18, 2019)
- » Douglas Neal Krugler '70 (Feb. 16, 2019)
- » Kim Maxson '71 (July 10, 2018)
- » Marie T. Walsh '71 (March 18, 2019)
- » James Leen '72 (Feb. 3, 2019)
- » Nancy G. Lillie '72 (Feb. 9, 2019)
- » Leonard Manger '72 (March 31, 2019)
- » Harry R. Potts '73 (Feb. 10, 2019)
- » John Creedon '74M (Oct. 6, 2018)
- » Geraldine San Filippo '75 (Nov. 3, 2018)
- » Keith M. Pahira '76 (Jan. 19, 2019)
- » Rose B. Gill '77 (Feb. 19, 2019)
- » Shirley Langer '77 (Jan. 1, 2019)
- » Constance Donaldson '78M (Oct. 22, 2018)
- » Shirley Kullback '78 (Dec. 18, 2018)
- » William F. Yodice '78 (Dec. 20, 2018)
- » Sharon A. Campagnola '79 (Jan. 17, 2019)
- » Patrice Lewandowski '80 (Jan. 17, 2019)
- » Mildred Hodson '81M (June 5, 2018)
- » Robert M. Hook '81 (Jan. 4, 2018)
- » Kathleen M. Economos '86 (Jan. 6, 2019)
- » Mary D. Goldsmith '87 (March 8, 2019)
- » Christopher Francis McMurray '88 (Dec. 14, 2018)
- » Elizabeth Hanson '90 (March 14, 2019)
- » Eleanor Becker '95 (Dec. 26, 2018)
- » Robyn B. Pinhas '95 (Feb. 7, 2019)

FACULTY AND STAFF

- » Rita Joy Crane (former employee) Jan. 4, 2019
- » Dale Haase (emeritus professor of music) Jan. 11, 2019
- » Gladys Goldberg-Daly (former professor) Feb. 9, 2019
- » Pasquale G. DiFlavis (former professor) Dec. 18, 2018
- » Kenneth R. Stunkel (emeritus professor of history) Feb. 7, 2019
- » William Mark Tepfenhart (computer science professor) March 25, 2019

FRIENDS

- » Martha Baldi (friend) Dec. 17, 2018
- » Loretta Schantz (former student) Jan. 19, 2019



REMEMBRANCE

KENNETH STUNKEL

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND FORMER DEAN, 1931-2019

BY VINCENT DIMATTIO, PROFESSOR OF ART

Ken Stunkel was a giant of a man. He was my mentor and my best man, and his valuable and caring advice aided me through the many years of our friendship.

This man of all seasons was passionate about the state of our planet, confirming his absolute trust in science. His profound love of classical music, and the magic of the written word as evidenced by his impressive, well-rounded library, were an important part of his life. Our University has produced its share of scholars, and Ken was at the very top of that list. His many contributions as dean of Humanities and Social Sciences for 13 years are well documented in his personal dossier. Much like

Greek scholars, his love of life was not just intellectual but also physical: He had a passion for dance, and as a gymnast performed the almost impossible still rings event. All of my memories of Ken are positive ones. He was a pleasure to be around and to share his love of life and his wonderful sense of humor. This was a man who was larger than life. We are taught that we are all expendable, but Ken could give us a convincing argument that he cannot be replaced.

REMEMBRANCE

WILLIAM TEPFENHART

PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND SOFTWARE ENGINEERING, 1956-2019

BY LAUREN NIESZ '17, '19M

Dr. Tepfenhart captivated students and colleagues with his wild imagination, wry sense of humor, and dazzling intellect during his 20 years at the University.

I knew him through my graduate studies—specifically from his course MIS-517: Database Design and Management. I had enrolled in the MS in Information Systems program after earning a bachelor's in English, and I was struggling. It got to the point where it was difficult for me to catch up with the other students and truly understand the concepts we were learning. Then I took Dr. Tepfenhart's class. He took me aside and said, "You're strong at this; I want you to use your English skills too." He never tried to stifle my English skills, or

overwrite them with coding and technology skills. He taught me that I could complement my two realms of study in harmony, not in strife.

Every student I know who was lucky enough to have Dr. Tepfenhart has a similar story. He challenged us intensely and rewarded us greatly. We are grateful to have benefited from his utter genius and immeasurable humility, and to have shared our seemingly outrageous ideas, worked on head-scratching tech projects, and discussed life-changing decisions with him.





Balancing Philanthropic Goals, Financial Planning, and Lifestyle

To learn more about charitable gift annuities, or joining the Shadow Lawn Society, Monmouth's recognition group for donors who have included the University in their estate plan, contact Emily Miller-Gonzalez, director of planned giving, at 732-263-5393 or emillerg@monmouth.edu.

Trustee Emeritus and former Board Chair Charles T. Parton HN '01 and his wife, Trudy, have always made giving back a priority. Charlie first joined the Board of Trustees in 1987, and ever since, he and Trudy have demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting Monmouth's educational mission through their time, philanthropy, and extended involvement with the University community.

For the Partons, a charitable gift annuity has been an attractive gift option that allows them to successfully balance their philanthropic ideals with their financial planning and active lifestyle. They liked the idea of supplementing their current income with guaranteed fixed income for life, while giving a long-term gift to Monmouth.

"Being able to support Monmouth while also receiving reliable payments for life was an easy choice for us," say Trudy and Charlie. "We are proud of Monmouth University, pleased to support the University, and delighted to be members of Monmouth's Shadow Lawn Society."

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

400 Cedar Ave.
West Long Branch, NJ 07764
monmouth.edu

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



1,000 WORDS » A story in a picture

WORDS OF WISDOM

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR MONMOUTH SELF?

Imagine you could travel back in time for a candid conversation with college-aged you. What sage advice or constructive criticism would you share with your younger self? Maybe to study more (or less). To not fear failure. To ditch the mullet. Share your snippets of personal wisdom with readers by writing us at magazine@monmouth.edu or the address above. We'll include the responses in the next issue of *Monmouth* magazine.