INSIDE | The Struggle for Black equality (p. 26), The Dark Side of WeChat (p. 32), and more.
“No one succeeds alone.”

—Mehdi Husaini ’20, current medical student and future physician

The Class of 2020 experienced a year no one could have predicted.

The COVID-19 crisis affected the traditions Monmouth alumni remember and cherish. Through it all, our class felt the support of dedicated faculty, staff, alumni, and donors. Our community makes Monmouth special.

We cannot predict what challenges Monmouth’s current students may face, but what we do know is that no one succeeds alone. Monmouth students need our help.

Please make a gift to the Monmouth Fund, and do your part to help shape tomorrow’s leaders.

Monmouth Strong.

monmouth.edu/give

For more ways to show your support and make an impact, visit fly.monmouth.edu.

annualgiving@monmouth.edu | 866.4MU.1933
President’s Note

ON RESILIENCE
THRIVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

By the time this issue of Monmouth magazine finds its way into your hands, we will be eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic on our campus.

Even in this relatively short period, we have changed our behaviors, modified our expectations, and started to envision the permanent changes that will emerge from the crisis. While some things have looked and felt markedly different on our campus this fall, our commitment to providing our students with an outstanding and highly personalized academic experience has remained steadfast. I often tell my colleagues that, in the absence of a playbook on navigating a global pandemic, we have no choice but to fall back on our institutional values as we chart our path forward.

This is a challenging time for American higher education, and Monmouth University is not immune to these challenges. But, if we continue to focus on what is in the best interests of our students, we will emerge stronger and better positioned than ever before. I hope I can count on you for your continued support.

Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D.
President

“ I OFTEN TELL MY COLLEAGUES THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF A PLAYBOOK ON NAVIGATING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FALL BACK ON OUR INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AS WE CHART OUR PATH FORWARD.”
WOODROW WILSON FLUNKS OUT OF MONMOUTH

I was never proud of my alma mater’s association with the name of Woodrow Wilson. A disaster capitalist and white supremacist, Wilson was known by many in his day as a “liberal fascist”; a great friend of the KKK; and a power-seeking, ego-driven war criminal. Wilson abandoned neutrality and got Congress to insert this country into World War I for no definitive or convincing reason. As a result, at least 115,000 Americans died horrible and unnecessary deaths. Through his Justice Department, Wilson was also responsible for arresting tens of thousands of citizens, including a five-time presidential candidate, who were lawfully protesting and resisting that unwarranted military disaster.

In 1918, the H1N1 flu became a worldwide pandemic. It should be called the “American Flu” because it was likely to have originated in American training bases and was then exported to Europe on crowded troop ships. Wilson never spoke about it publicly, nor did anything to stop it, because he and his advisors wanted our troops in battle, whatever the cost, and he didn’t want to lower the morale of the troops and the people back home. So 45,000 troops, at least 600,000 American civilians, and 50 million people worldwide died from that virus.

It took George Floyd’s public lynching to raise the consciousness and the outrage, which have become the catalysts of social, cultural, and political revolution in America and around the world. Congratulations to Monmouth’s Board of Trustees for unanimously voting to remove Wilson’s name from the University’s marquee building. I urge them to also remove any traces of that man that may exist anywhere else on the Monmouth University campus.

Fred Dente ’65

LET’S CONNECT

For more stories and photos, follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @monmouthumag

RE: SUMMER 2020

HOME TOO SOON

Great story! I don’t think any of us 7,300 volunteers wanted to leave our host countries, but we were given no choice. All of our hearts are broken.

Jason Michael Walker (@skywalker1640) via Twitter

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Thank you for sharing [Sarah Ripoli’s] story. She’s truly an inspiration.

Marguerite Stocker via Facebook

This summer, Monmouth faculty researchers and students aboard the R/V Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe collected environmental DNA samples from the waters off our coast, part of their ongoing work pioneering a marine life detection technique.

Hands-on experiences like this have made Monmouth University one of the Top 5 schools in the nation for both access and excellence. See how we rank, and read more about the exceptional opportunities and outcomes Monmouth provides, at monmouth.edu/exceptional.
Many people were surprised by the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. What lessons did pollsters learn from that?

Well, in the end, the polls weren’t off by any more than they normally are. It just so happened that in three particular states, the error was the difference between one person winning and another person winning. If you look back at 2012, we had a similar size of error in the battleground states, but none of those errors changed our expectation of who would win versus who actually won.

But one issue of importance in 2016 was education. In prior elections, there wasn’t a lot of difference between the way people with a college degree voted and the way people without a college degree voted. That started to shift in the 2012 election, but it didn’t shift enough to impact the polls. By 2016, it had shifted so dramatically—the gap...
was so huge between those without a college degree voting Republican and those who had a college degree voting Democrat—that if you didn’t have the right balance in your polls that could throw off your results anywhere from one to three points. So now that it does matter, we had to come up with ways to figure that out.

What else might people be surprised about when it comes to polling?

The bigger issue is that we’re talking a lot about which candidates are ahead and which is behind—but that’s only normally the question out of 40 that we ask in a typical poll. The other 39 are significantly more important to understanding the American psyche. What I’m interested in when I ask questions like “Do you believe that there are a significant number of secret Trump voters in your community?” is not so much figuring out how many people are secret Trump voters; it’s a way to talk about who the base of the electorate and what this could mean for the future of democracy in this country.

If people feel that Trump will win due to so-called secret voters, and the results come in counter to their belief, that’s much more important to understand. I’m trying to find questions in our standard polling that can help us measure the public we can’t do in a typical poll that are driving the electorate. I’m trying to inform the public of the degree to which we know and a sense of how entrenched we’ve become in our partisan identities. We don’t know the consequences of that because we haven’t seen something exactly like this in the past. The problem is the politicians who have been willing to throw constitutional norms under the bus in order to hold on to their voter coalitions. This really shouldn’t be a left or right thing, but what usually happens is that it generally takes over one party where the other isn’t another. What we saw with the Republican Party in 2016 was that Donald Trump didn’t control a majority of the party until after he won the nomination.

How does this year’s presidential election compare to 2016? We knew that there were going to be Obama-to-Trump voters in 2016, but we didn’t know exactly what proportion of the electorate were coming to make up. But the one thing that did surprise pollsters was the voters who weren’t normally voting for Hillary Clinton didn’t show up at the polls at all. And that was because there was a big lack of enthusiasm for Clinton.

In 2016 people were thinking: Does my vote really matter? Is there really a difference between the two candidates? Should I vote for my party or for my values? But they’re not thinking that in 2020. It’s a choice between a second term for Donald Trump—whether you want it or don’t want it. Most voters are there right now, and that’s much different than what we saw in 2016. Over the summer of 2016, we had a significant number of people over 20%, who were either undecided or were shifting around or thinking, “I’m thinking about being a third-party candidate.” But it’s less than 10% right now.

What sets the Monmouth University Poll apart from others?

The key thing we’re looking to ask fundamental questions of why voters believe the way they do, and not simply trying to answer topical questions or chase the news of the day—which we do, but we’re not as interested in getting out there and fully understanding the electorate. I’ve done research in the past on qualitative research, like focus groups. I go out and talk to people where they are. You’ll find me at the Iowa State Fair; you’ll find me in a diner in New Hampshire. I do these things before we start an election to understand the vernacular of what’s going on. Fortunately, I did quite a bit of it before COVID-19 hit, and I heard a bunch of information that’s making its way into our polling.

What did you learn doing that ahead of this election season?

That’s where I first started feeling it was a sentiment among some Republican voters that there were a lot of secret Trump voters. We had a strong showing on Election Day but not be captured in the pre-election polls. We have absolutely no evidence that that exists. We looked for that in our 2016 polling and they weren’t there. But understanding that belief is really important, not because it changes our polling numbers, in terms of the outcome, but because it changes our understanding of what’s going to happen when we get the results back. There will be a significant number of people who expect Donald Trump to win and won’t accept the results if he doesn’t, and that’s what we’re trying to capture in our polling.

If there is one takeaway for readers about the polling process, what would that be?

Polling is a good barometer of where the public stands at any given point in time. It’s not perfectly precise, nor does it predict the future, but if you do dig deeper down into the poll, beyond the horse race numbers and the job approval number, you should be able to find information that helps you understand what proportion of the public is on one side of an issue and what proportion is on the other side, and how mobile they are. It gives you a snapshot of who we are as a people.

EXPLAIN THIS » Answering your burning questions

Q: HOW CAN I HAVE A CIVIL DEBATE?

Following the 2016 presidential election, psychologists and therapists across the nation noticed a spike in patients from both sides of the aisle who were experiencing post-election stress disorder, the unofficial name for the anxiety and depression brought on by activities such as communicating with people who hold politically opposing views.

That’s not surprising, says Associate Professor of Political Science Joseph Patten, given the preponderance of populist leaders whose rhetoric and platforms attempt to divide us.

“What’s destructive about populism is...this framing of politics as the establishment versus the people, but where only some of the people are really ‘the people,’” says Patten. “These populist leaders are anti-pluralist, meaning they try to attract supporters by almost intentionally alienating others. So if you look at what’s keeping the Democratic and Republican parties together...it’s the negative partisanship; it’s the haters versus the haters.”

In other words, political tribes have become obsessed with demonizing the other side of the political spectrum, and that can be detrimental to our relationships and mental well-being. It’s also stymied the flow of public opinions from family and friends, says Patten.

“Politics is a healthy activity that shows that families who are unified about Trump—or loving him or hating him—spend at least an hour longer together on Thanksgiving,” says Patten. “So that’s where our dysfunctional politics has ultimately infected us: We’re now dysfunctional too.”

With election season upon us and the two candidates set to debate, Patten notes, there’s never been a better time for a refresh on how to re-main civil while discussing politics. Patten shared three tips that will help you maintain your relationships—and sanity—through election season and beyond.

1. Don’t try to “fix” anyone.

“What happens when somebody expresses an idea that’s different from your own—how do you tend to naturally think something is wrong with that person and must fix them?”

Don’t. Instead, go into every discussion with an open mind, willing to appreciate and even enjoy a different viewpoint.

2. Agree to disagree.

It’s important to have open or non-human to each other’s viewpoints, but we don’t need to compromise on our beliefs, especially on our core principles, says Patten. “We should all recognize that we have a social responsibility as developed humans to at least try to understand the viewpoints of others even when our views don’t align...and to be OK with that,” he says. “It’s OK to have disagreements.”

3. Avoid dehumanizing language.

Because there are no social norms about political discrimina-tion—as there are for discriminat-ing against people for their race or gender—it’s become acceptable to speak about others in politically dehumanizing ways. Avoid doing this. Patten says, “It facilitates the ‘other-ization’ of the person or group, says Patten. “People are not...the label of a thing. They’re not left wing or right wing; they’re not snowflakes; they’re not a basket of deplorables...They’re humans,” says Patten. “Once you start talking about people in non-human terms, it makes it easier to use violence against them.”

– Breanne McCarthy

WHEN DO I AVOID TALKING POLITICS?

“You can’t have a good political discussion with somebody whose intention is to be insulting or whose intention is to try to prove how stupid you are,” says Patten. “So if somebody’s coming in without good intentions, then you shouldn’t have the conversation in the first place.”

To ask a question of our faculty experts, email askacampusexpert@monmouth.edu or mail Explains This, Monmouth University, 404 College Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE?

MOST AMERICAN VOTERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT MEDDLING IN THIS FALL’S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

COMPILED BY TONY MARCHETTI FROM MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY POLL DATA • INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN BY PATRICK KIRCHNER

First, some encouraging news for anyone interested in the continued health of our democracy: According to a recent Monmouth University Poll, 95% of registered voters say they are “certain” (85%) or “likely” (10%) to cast a ballot in the 2020 election. What’s more, 64% of voters say they are feeling “optimistic” about this presidential election, an increase compared to four years ago.

Now for some concerning news: Many voters also say they are worried about outside interference affecting the integrity of the results. As is often the case, there are stark differences along partisan lines about the likely source of any potential meddling. Here’s a look at how confident American voters are feeling as they prepare to head to the polls.

OVERALL

Very confident
21%
SOMewhat confident
42%
Not too confident
24%
Not at all confident
13%

DEMOCRATS

3% 90%
20%

REPUBLICANS

36% 49%
24%

INDEPENDENTS

36% 42%

Fingers are pointing everywhere

Voters who voiced concerns about election meddling have differing opinions as to who or what might be responsible for interfering. Not surprisingly, the suspected culprits vary widely depending on voters’ political affi liations. A sizable number of Democratic voters (53%) concerned about meddling think a foreign power will be involved; many see Russia as the most likely perpetrator. Meanwhile, a majority of GOP voters (59%) concerned about meddling say the Democratic Party will be responsible for the interference.

Most voters trust the process

A majority of those polled—slightly more than 6 in 10 voters—say they are either “very confident” or “somewhat confident” that the November election will be conducted fairly and accurately. That includes majorities of Democrats (68%), Republicans (65%), and independents (57%) alike. But a closer look at the numbers reveals that more than one-third of voters still have little confidence in the election being conducted fairly and accurately.

Voting by mail is polarizing

In recent months, one of the biggest points of contention between Republicans and Democrats has been whether voting by mail affects the integrity of election results. President Donald Trump, despite having voted by mail himself, has repeatedly criticized the process, claiming it leads to fraud. Democratic nominee Joe Biden has voiced support for expanding access to it. Predictably, opinions on it among registered voters are split along party lines, but the majority of American voters favor making it easier to cast ballots by mail.

Suspicions of meddling persist

Despite most voters having some degree of confidence in how the election will be administered, nearly 3 in 4 of them—72% of voters—say they are concerned that outside interference could cast doubt on the legitimacy of the results.

The Monmouth University Poll was conducted by telephone from Aug. 6 to 10, 2020, with a national random sample of 868 adults age 18 and older, in English. The results detailed here are based on 785 registered voters and have a +/- 3.5 percentage point sampling margin of error. Visit monmouth.edu/polling-institute for more information on the methodology.

No answer
8% 11% 68%
Social media
9% 9% 12%
Other
6% 8% 10%
Government election officials
6% 3% 11%
Vote by mail/the post office
2% 2% 11%
Thailand
0% 0% 0%
Other country
2% 3% 12%
China
9% 9% 12%
Russia
40% 31% 6%
Donald Trump
31% 20% 2% 
Nancy Pelosi
0% 1% 1%
Joe Biden
0% 3% 4%

Multiple response question; percentages add to more than 100%.
THE MARKETING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

COMPARING THE CHRISTMAS BOYCOTT OF 1963 TO RECENT PROTESTS BY PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

In the aftermath, the Association of Artists for Freedom, led by such folks as writer James Baldwin and actress Ruby Dee, condemned the murders and demanded a national response. They settled on the first national “Christmas Boycott” because, that same year, there had been a series of studies showing the growing economic power of African Americans. The Association hoped to exploit that economic clout by targeting the biggest consumer spending holiday of the year.

Professor of History Katherine Parkin’s article in the journal History of Retailing and Consumption, published in July, explores the tension of that decision. The article, “Marketing Justice: The Christmas Boycott,” argues that, instead of a more effective way to communicate,

Parkin believes that those efforts are working, citing poll numbers over the summer about attitudes toward the Black Lives Matter movement that showed that more than 75% of people understood what “defund the police” actually means, for instance.

“I thought that was a pretty remarkable change in just a few years,” Parkin says. “That people went from thinking it was something irrelevant to their lives to truly understanding what Black Lives Matter was actually about.”

THE PURPOSE

The original plan called for each elector to cast two votes for president. Whoever received a majority of votes from electors became president; the runner-up became vice-president. States can do whatever they want with their electoral votes, says DeRosa. Most give them to the candidate who wins a state. An exception is California, which uses a system called a faithless elector, and the state has the choice whether to tolerate them. “You don’t get them very often because they’re chosen as party loyalists, and we’ve never had faithless electors swing an election,” says DeRosa.

THE GOOD

One of the advantages is the end result is clear: “Somebody wins; somebody gets a majority of the electoral votes,” says DeRosa. If presidents were elected purely by popular vote, a candidate could win the presidency with less than 50% of the vote. “If you had two people more or less equally competing for the presidency, you might have somebody winning with 30% of the votes, and that’s a ticket to an extremist candidate.”

THE BAD

The first problem with the Electoral College is that it gives more weight to voters in small states than those in more populous ones, says DeRosa. Every state gets a minimum of three electoral votes. However, each state’s total allotment is based on its representation in the Senate (always two people) and the House (varies by population). “So take California, for example,” says DeRosa. “More people live in D.C. than in Wyoming, the least populous state in the union; but they both get three electoral votes.” (Plus, unlike Wyoming, D.C. gets no voting representation in Congress.)

THE UGLY

The biggest problem with the Electoral College is that it encourages vote suppression, says DeRosa. Southern states always had an advantage in the population count, because they get electoral votes appointed on the basis of their slave populations and their white populations. That gave the states extra representation for people they weren’t really representing at all. After the Civil War, former slaves were counted as “whole” persons, not three-fifths of one, for purposes of electoral vote allotment. But Black voter suppression still took place through Jim Crow laws. This further inflated the electoral votes of people who were not representatives of the people in their state, says DeRosa. “So the Electoral College became a pillar of white supremacy.”

THE FUTURE

Love it or hate it, the Electoral College is here to stay because changing it would require “constitutional surgery,” says DeRosa. “You would need three-fourths of the states to ratify any change, and too many states that are intent on suppressing votes lack from the Electoral College.” The downside? “If you never have to appeal to the electorate because you’re successfully suppressing some large part of it, then you have a broken system.”

NATION OF REPRESENTATION

A look at the portion of electoral votes each state gets versus actual geographic area, plus how each state voted in the 2016 presidential election.

2016 Electoral College Votes

- won by Hillary Clinton
- won by Donald Trump


BY STEVE NEUMANN

The 2020 presidential election is fast approaching, which means it’s the perfect time for a refresher on the governmental institution that has increasingly become the deciding factor in American presidential races: the Electoral College. We asked Chris DeRosa, Ph.D., chair of the Department of History and Anthropology, to share his insights on the institution.

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In 1974, Bruce Springsteen wrote Born to Run—perhaps the ultimate anthem to shaking off the dust of your surroundings and getting out while you’re young—in a small cottage one mile from Monmouth’s campus.

Four decades later, Ohio native and Springsteen superfan Connor Rupp took that sentiment to heart. “When a song comes to you at the right place and time, it can mean the world to you,” says Rupp. “I was a restless kid in high school and wanted to get out of Ohio. And when I listened to Born to Run, I felt like Bruce’s music was talking to me in the cheesiest way possible.”

Rupp did get out, sort of. He is now a junior music industry major at Monmouth, works in the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, and lives off campus in Asbury Park, New Jersey—Springsteen’s old stomping grounds. The irony of his journey isn’t lost on him. “The place Bruce wanted to get out of was the place I wanted to come to,” Rupp says with a laugh. It was Rupp’s love for Springsteen’s music that first put Monmouth on his radar. As a teenager, he and a friend made a pilgrimage of sorts—driving 10 hours east to visit Bruce’s old Jersey shore hangouts. Rupp’s mother made him promise to visit a college along the way. “Closest to everything was Monmouth, of course,” he says.

When it came time to apply to college, Rupp, who plays bass, says he wanted a school that offered a music industry program and had a thriving arts scene. Monmouth checked both boxes. “I wanted to be around ‘the noise,’ and Monmouth is between two of the biggest music cities in the world: New York and Philadelphia,” says Rupp. “It felt like the perfect place.”

It also feels like “the perfect time” to be a student here, says Rupp. This spring, Billboard magazine named the University one of the country’s Top Music Business Schools. Students in the program have “almost every resource possible” at their disposal, says Rupp. Most of his music classes are held at Lakehouse Recording Studios, a multimillion-dollar facility in Asbury Park. Many of his professors are trained producers who know “the real-world side of the music business,” says Rupp. “And the kids in my department want to make the arts scene just as big as it possibly can be, which is exciting.”

Rupp is still a Springsteen devotee, but he says the music speaks to him for different reasons now. “It’s not about the restless youth anymore,” says Rupp. “It’s more about my passion for talking about social justice. I appreciate Bruce’s voice as an activist and as an ambassador of the American dream.”

Working as a student archivist in the Archives, Rupp helps catalog donations sent in from fans around the world, and sometimes from Springsteen himself: news clippings, concert tickets, memorabilia, and the like. He also assists with events that are staged by the Archives. At one, “Springsteen: His Hometown,” Rupp was personally introduced to the Boss by his own boss: Archives Director Eileen Chapman. The moment was both awesome and surreal, says Rupp, and provided further evidence he was at the perfect place at the perfect time. “Students just have access to so much here,” he says. “I got here, talked to people about Bruce, and the next thing I know I’m in the Archives going through Springsteen’s personal collection. But even outside the music industry program, I know there are opportunities like that for students to get involved,” says Rupp. “If you have a passion or a goal, Monmouth is the place to be.”
L
ong before Monmouth University was founded, the area upon which a portion of today’s campus stands was part of an estate called Shadow Lawn.

Named for the many trees that dotted the property, the estate was home to a wood-frame, colonial-style mansion that bore little resemblance to the building that would one day replace it and come to be associated with this University.

Built in 1903, the original Shade

Shadow Lawn mansion had 52 rooms and was referred to by one critic at the time as “all vocabulary and no rhetoric.” Nonetheless, it gained some notoriety in 1916 when its owner, Joseph B. Greenhut, head of the Siegel-Cooper Company, leased it to President Woodrow Wilson.

Wilson arrived at the original Shadow Lawn mansion on Sept. 1 and over the next several weeks ran his reelection campaign from the mansion’s steps. That “front porch campaign” earned the old building a nickname: the “Summer White House.” It also drew the ire of former President The-odore Roosevelt, who referenced the locale in a scathing speech he gave just days before the election. “There should be shadows enough at Shadow Lawn,” Roo-

sevelt said in condemning Wil-son’s policy of nonintervention in Europe—despite direct at-
tack on U.S. citizens—as World War I unfolded. “The shadows of men, women, and children who have risen from the ocean bottoms and from graves in foreign lands, the shadows of the helpless who Mr. Wilson did not dare protect.”

Wilson narrowly won reelection, though sources differ on when exactly he learned he had captured enough electoral votes to retain the presidency. One item not in dispute is that when Wilson left the old Shadow Lawn mansion on Nov. 9, 1916, he never again returned.

More than a decade later, in Jan-

uary 1927, the original Shadow Lawn mansion—which was then owned by Hubert T. Parson, pres-

ident of FW. Woolworth Compa-

ny—burned to the ground.

Despite having just spent $1 million renovating the old man-

sion, the wealthy Parson decided to build a new, significantly larger structure on the original build-

ings’ footprint. World-renowned archi-


tect Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia was hired as the lead architect, while the interior de-

sign was led by Julian Abele, one of the first professionally trained Af-

rican American architects in the country. Abele had already risen to prominence for his design work on various architectural projects, including the Philadelphia Muse-

um of Art, Harvard University’s Widener Library, and Duke Uni-

versity’s west campus.

It took two years and $10.5 million to build the new Shadow Lawn mansion. When it was complete, it reached far beyond the glory of the former building, more than doubling the number of rooms. The new mansion in-

cluded a bowling alley, an indoor swimming pool, and the stun-

ning Great Hall, a three-story entrance hall highlighted by a grand staircase and a 100-foot-

long Venetian stained glass sky-

light.

Parson suffered financial ruin during the Great Depression, and the mansion he had built eventually fell under municipal ownership in 1939.

In 1942, Highland Manor Ju-

ior College, a private girls’ school, acquired the Shadow Lawn mansion. It was during that school’s ownership of the property that the building’s name was changed to Woodrow Wilson Hall.

That name remained in use until 1955, when the University, which was then known as Monmouth Junior College, purchased the building and changed its name to the Great Hall. The building continued to be referred to as the Great Hall until 1966, when Mon-

mouth College officials, in a nod to the history of the site (since Wilson had never physically been in the building that now stood there), rededicated the Great Hall as Woodrow Wilson Hall.

In the years since then, Wilson’s legacy has become complicated. Among his many accomplish-

ments, he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for leading the es-

tablishment of the League of Nations. But it has been well documented by historians that Wilson was a racist who support-

ed segregation and white su-

premacy. Therefore, as conver-
sations of race exploded across the country earlier this year fol-

lowing the death of George Floyd, Monmouth’s Board of Trustees voted to remove Wilson’s name and rename the building the Great Hall at Shadow Lawn.

In announcing its decision, the board noted the impor-
tance of taking into account the concerns of many Monmouth students, administrators, and faculty regarding Wilson’s racist legacy.

“Wilson was a controversial politician, who never actual-

ly set foot in the current build-

ing,” President Patrick F. Leahy and former Chair of the Board of Trustees Michael A. Plod-

wick ’82 said in a joint state-

ment announcing the decision to the University community. “Removing his name, and incor-

porating these earlier names, connects the centerpiece of our campus more accurately to our historical roots and eliminates a symbolic barrier to the im-

portant work of creating a truly welcoming and inclusive space in the Great Hall.”

With the building’s name hav-

ing been returned to its roots, efforts are underway to return the Great Hall itself to a central hub on campus. There are plans to build a coffeehouse on the first floor and to add furniture to create more common areas and study space for students. “We want more students, alum-

ni, faculty, and staff to feel this building is a part of the central experience at Monmouth Uni-

versity,” Leahy said this fall.

What is the difference between being “not racist” and being “anti-racist”? I think one of the main markers of anti-racism is behavior. We can all hopefully recognize racism or inequity happening around us, but what do we about it is what makes us anti-racist. Do we allow it to happen? Do we intervene? Anti-racist means you’re taking action. You’re intervening. You’re recognizing what’s happening around you and working toward change in your spheres of influence.

What can Monmouth do institutionally to be-

come anti-racist? Some of this is addressed in the Anti-Diascit Commitment that the president shared with the community at the time. And for me, I think institutionally there are policies we can create to actively con-

front inequity. For instance, in regard to our housing policies, are we aggressively recruiting diverse candidates to come to campus? And once we recruit a critical mass of diverse faculty, staff, and students, are we also actively working to keep them there? That’s an example of anti-racist action: creating support networks and mentoring programs. Another piece would be taking a closer look at the curricular experience that students are having, how we can support the critical courses already being offered, and think about recruiting faculty with specialties in these areas of scholar-

ship.

How can your appointment to cabinet help in these efforts? I think being at the table will allow for questions of equity to be at the forefront when decisions are being made around campus change. It also helps to indicate that we as a University are tak-

ing positive steps to confront our history and our present, and want to envision a better future that is more inclusive, welcoming, equitable, and anti-racist. —interview by Tony Marchetti
BANG FOR YOUR BUCK
Monmouth was again named to Money magazine’s annual Best Colleges for Your Money list. The University has appeared on the list, which assesses nearly 750 four-year colleges, every year since its inception. The rankings are based on three categories—quality, affordability, and outcomes—spanning 27 different criteria, including graduation rates, faculty ratings, peer ratings, net price paid to attend, average debt, employment, and earnings.

MOYERS AND SHAKERS
President Patrick F. Leahy and Polling Institute Director Patrick Murray were named to ROI-NJ’s list of influencers in higher education and NJBIZ’s Education Power 50 list.

SEVEN-Figure GIFT WILL SUPPORT REAL ESTATE STUDENTS
The Kislak Family Foundation has pledged $1 million in scholarships and $100,000 in academic programming support for Monmouth University students studying real estate. The seven-figure scholarship donation will support a need-based Kislak Family Scholarship for undergraduate students pursuing a business degree with a real estate concentration, while the $100,000 pledge will continue to support the University’s Kislak Real Estate Institute Academic Challenge, an annual intercollegiate real estate competition that will include an affordable housing component.

MONMOUTH SOARS IN U.S. NEWS RANKINGS
The University earned its highest-ever ranking on U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges roster, moving into the No. 23 spot in its category, Regional Universities North. It is the first time the University has ranked in the top 25. Additionally, Monmouth once again secured its place on the publication’s Best Colleges for Veterans list, moving up to No. 1 in its category.

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION
A series of Cuban street scene illustrations commissioned for the fall 2019 issue of this magazine were awarded a bronze-level Circle of Excellence Award from the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) earlier this year. This is the second year in a row that Monmouth magazine has won a Circle of Excellence Award.

THINKING GLOBALLY
Two decades ago, administrators and faculty from across the disciplines teamed up to enhance cultural and global awareness and citizenship throughout the University community. Their efforts culminated in the creation of the Global Understanding Project, which in 2008 was renamed the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU).

Following a brief hiatus, the IGU this year welcomed both a new faculty advisor and a new director: Randall Abate, J.D., a political science professor and the Rechnitz Family Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy.

A mix of academics and arts programs, interdisciplinary research and events, community partnerships, and service at the local and global levels, the IGU will embark on a new era focused on reinvigorating the Fulbright Program and Monmouth’s relationships with the U.N., reinstating a biennial symposium, and fostering partnerships with other academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations across the globe. Abate said, “I look forward to working with the IGU faculty advisory council to build on the IGU’s legacy of excellence in supporting global education and cross-cultural understanding programs and events on campus for faculty and students and building partnerships in neighboring communities and around the globe.”

WRITE STUFF
Undergraduate students in Adjunct Professor Lawrence Jones’ Spring 2020 Law and Society course authored a book about the legal and social issues confronting society as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Written during the frantic months of March and April 2020, Confronting COVID: Research and Reflections of Monmouth University Students in the Early Days of the COVID-19 Pandemic is believed to be the first COVID-19-related book in the U.S. authored by college students in real time. It tackles some of the most challenging issues of the time, including lockdown orders, child welfare, special education, college and university students, unemployment, mental health, the elderly, price gouging, child custody, the stock market, and student loans.

“I look forward to working with the IGU faculty advisory council to build on the IGU’s legacy of excellence in supporting global education and cross-cultural understanding programs and events on campus for faculty and students and building partnerships in neighboring communities and around the globe,” Abate said. “The IGU is a clearinghouse for bringing the campus community together around these efforts.”
RISE AND SHINE

An early morning fog blankets the ocean at Manasquan Inlet.
She figured the campus athletic community, where she already has close ties, was a good place to start. Moore loves her teammates and coach, but even in that supportive environment, there has been discomfort and pain: the time a group of boys cheering on an opposing team called her “monkey”; all the parties she skipped, afraid that if the cops came, she’d be first on their radar as the only Black student there; the feeling of being Black in a locker room where the majority of the team is white.

Moore believes that change begins with simply sharing her perspective and these stories. That’s why she participated in a “Hawk Talk” Black Lives Matter panel discussion this summer and why she is working to foster more conversations this fall.

She already reached out to her soccer teammates this summer and set up a video call in which they discussed George Floyd’s killing and some of her own experiences as a Black woman. Her coach and teammates have agreed to continue these conversations in person, and Moore plans to speak with other Hawks athletics teams too.

“The time is now,” says Moore. “There’s no reason to hold my tongue and not try to make a difference, especially with what’s going on in our country and especially with sports today. Athletes in the NBA, MLS, NFL—they’re all doing something. And everything they’re doing, we can do as well. I’m just trying to figure out the best approach so I can use my voice to bring awareness and make a change in the world.”
On dealing with a canceled fall season.
I was in the club championship at my home golf course this summer, and I was ready to come out firing this fall. But with COVID-19 canceling the season, we’ve all had to adjust our mindsets. We’re still practicing as a team, and I think playing against each other and setting common goals in our team meetings will have us in even better shape come spring.

On why he wrote a children’s book.
Playing baseball and being part of a team taught me a lot of life lessons that I wanted to share. I figured the best way to do that was to write a children’s book—one that teaches kids to follow their dreams and overcome adversity.

On the similarities between writing and golf.
In golf, you really need to be specific about what you’re trying to accomplish as far as technique. You practice on the driving range or putting green for hours at a time, and then you need to translate those skills into your game. The long hours of practice and preparation are similar to writing a book. I’d spend hours each day working on it, writing and editing to fine-tune the message I was trying to get across—kind of like working out the kinks in my swing on the range.

On why he’s working to increase voter access.
As student-athletes and, more importantly, as citizens of the United States of America, we must take seriously our constitutional right to vote, either in person or via absentee ballot. Every vote and every voice is important.

On his childhood sports hero: Derek Jeter.
I was a Yankees fan growing up, and I learned from my parents what a class act he was off the field. He handled himself well with the media. He was always very humble. He was kind. He was someone I wanted to emulate.

On another less-well-known hero: Mema.
My grandmother is one of the most generous people in this world. Before I walked out of the house each day, her message would be, “Choose kindness.” So that is something that I take with me every day: Choose kindness, be humble, and help others.

On what golf has given him.
Golf is similar to life: It’s about setting small goals and trying to achieve them. The game has made me a better person overall—mentally, physically, and emotionally—and given me the opportunity to grow. I’m grateful I’ve had the opportunity to compete for a Division I program.

THE LONG HOURS OF PRACTICE AND PREPARATION ARE SIMILAR TO WRITING A BOOK. I’D SPEND HOURS EACH DAY WORKING ON IT, WRITING AND EDITING TO FINE-TUNE THE MESSAGE I WAS TRYING TO GET ACROSS—KIND OF LIKE WORKING OUT THE KINKS IN MY SWING ON THE RANGE.

THE BEST PLACE TO BE IS ON THE SIDELINES, NOT THE STANDS, BUT BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS SO YOU DON’T INTERFERE WITH THE ACTION. AND MAKE IN-GAME ADJUSTMENTS. SWITCH SIDES AT HALFTIME FOR A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE ACTION.

Light it up
Keep the light at your back to illuminate the action, but skip the flash. “It’s the quickest way to get kicked out,” says Sell. For outdoor sports, overcast and cloudy days are best. “There are no harsh shadows, and you can see the players’ faces clearly.”

Shoot away
To capture the action, keep your ISO setting low, your shutter speed at above 1/1000th of a second, and your lens set to autofocus. But remember there’s more to sports photography than what’s on the field. “That awesome touchdown shot is great to have, but the blood, sweat, and tears that go into every game are just as interesting,” says Sell.

Take your game to the next level
Cellphones are for selfies: To take great sports photos, you need an SLR or mirrorless camera. A 200- to 500-millimeter zoom lens gets you close to the action; a mono-pod helps stabilize your shots. As for editing, Sell suggests Adobe Lightroom. “It’s easy to use and can make an average photo great,” says Sell.

ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS MONMOUTH SPORTS ONLINE HAS LIKELY SEEN THE WORK OF KARLEE SELLS, ATHLETICS’Uber-talented student photographer. If not, check it out at monmouth.edu/magazine. SELL, who has photographed all 23 sports during her four years at Monmouth, is set to graduate in December. Before that happens, we picked her brain for some tips on shooting sporting events.
THE LONG STRUGGLE

A Q&A ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, BLACK LIVES MATTER, AND THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR BLACK EQUALITY.

INTERVIEW BY BREANNE MCCARTHY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY SIMONE MARTIN-NEWBERRY
When George Floyd was killed on May 25, 2020, a cascade of protests, rallies, and conversations focused on topics such as systemic racism, police brutality, and Black equality erupted across the nation, ricocheting around the globe until it seemed as if the entire world was reciting the names of those who will be forever connected to this historic moment in time—George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery.

Many likened the renewed focus on the struggle for Black equality to the civil rights movement and the tragedies and tensions that sparked that earlier campaign for social justice in the 1950s.

But Assistant Professor of African American History Hettie Williams, Ph.D., a scholar of race and ethnicity studies, says we shouldn’t think of the two moments as separate but rather a continuation of what historians call the struggle for Black equality. George Floyd is the Emmett Till of the post-millennial generation.

Historians’ thinking on the civil rights movement has evolved. At first, scholars such as Stephen B. Oates, David Garrow, and Taylor Branch emphasized the figure of Martin Luther King Jr., and the time period from the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 and 1956 to King’s death in 1968, when writing about the movement. That standard chronological framing came to be known as the “Montgomery to Memphis” narrative, and it was, in part, defined by movement participants such as King, who wrote several books about the movement while it was in progress.

Later historians challenged this approach to understanding the civil rights movement. Harriott Stithof suggested the notion that the “struggle for black equality” is a more accurate term to describe the ongoing demand for civil rights by African Americans. One of his counterparts, John Dittmer, emphasized the role that local civil rights activists such as Amzie Moore, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Medgar Evers played in the fight against Jim Crow in Mississippi, as opposed to national leaders such as King. Charles Payne’s work echoes Dittmer’s by promoting the concept of an “organizing tradition,” one that has always been a part of African American life and society, involving both middle-class and working-class people, or “local people.”

Furthermore, television media, new technologies such as handheld cellphone videos, have been instrumental in making the struggle for Black equality operationalized during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and beyond.

The struggle for Black equality has always been global. There was international mobilization for Black equality in the early 20th century as exemplified in the Pan-African Congress and the Pan-African Congress conventions from 1909 to 1927. Those conferences brought together Black leaders from all over the world concerned about European imperialism, colonialism, and racism more generally. That said, the Garvey movement which flourished in the 1920s and 1930s was an international movement. In fact, Marcus Garvey’s organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), was the most successful Black association for civil rights in world history, with an estimated 3 to 5 million members worldwide. The UNIA had chapters in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.

The struggle for Black equality has always been global. There was international mobilization for Black equality in the early 20th century as exemplified in the Pan-African Congress and the Pan-African Congress conventions from 1909 to 1927. Those conferences brought together Black leaders from all over the world concerned about European imperialism, colonialism, and racism more gener- ally. That said, the Garvey movement which flourished in the 1920s and 1930s was an international movement. In fact, Marcus Garvey’s organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), was the most successful Black association for civil rights in world history, with an estimated 3 to 5 million members worldwide. The UNIA had chapters in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.

How does the Black Lives Matter movement compare to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s?

Rather than thinking of these recent Black Lives Matter protests as something distinct from the civil rights movement, I would argue they are part of a historical continuum. Black oppression and responses to it are not new but rather a continuation of what historians call the struggle for Black equality. George Floyd is the Emmett Till of the post-millennial generation.

You mentioned Emmett Till, whose lynching in 1955 is often seen as the tipping point that mobilized civil rights activists across the country. Sadly, as was the case with Till, there were many wrongful deaths of Black people prior to George Floyd’s. Why do you think Floyd’s death became the tipping point for the large-scale mobilization we see today?

The death of children has always marked the Black masses. In many respects, the civil rights movement was— is—a woman’s movement. Mothers such as Mamie Till, who wanted the world to see her son’s mutilated body in an open casket, have led the struggle for Black equality for decades. George Floyd cried out for his mother in the video that went viral on social media, and women are once again at the forefront of this current demand for Black equality.

The struggle for Black equality has always been global. There was international mobilization for Black equality in the early 20th century as exemplified in the Pan-African Congress and the Pan-African Congress conventions from 1909 to 1927. Those conferences brought together Black leaders from all over the world concerned about European imperialism, colonialism, and racism more generally. That said, the Garvey movement which flourished in the 1920s and 1930s was an international movement. In fact, Marcus Garvey’s organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), was the most successful Black association for civil rights in world history, with an estimated 3 to 5 million members worldwide. The UNIA had chapters in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.

There have been attempts by Presi- dent Donald Trump and some in the right-wing media to delegitimize the current protests and movement. Does their rhetoric in any way echo what was written or said about the civil rights movement in the 1960s?

Trump seems to resemble George Wallace, as many historians have noted. Wallace was a segregationist and governor of Alabama who eventually ran for president. He was also a populist who claimed to represent the common man and gained notoriety by standing in the door of the University of Alabama, which he sought to keep segregated. At that time, Martin Luther King Jr. was referred to by southerners as “Martin Luther Coon”; he was not embraced by the media or the public, as illustrated in a Gallup Poll of 1966 that showed King had a 60% negative rating among the American public. Declassified FBI files have shown that the government’s COINTELPRO counterintelligence pro- gram was used against King and several Black civil rights leaders who were constantly successful. In fact, now Black Lives Matter members are being tracked across the country by the FBI, according to documents obtained by The Intercept. So the similarities are there.

What possible ramifications could this year’s presidential election have in helping or hindering the struggle for Black equality in this country?

American democracy is at risk. Those who support a democratic form of government in the U.S. must vote. Jason Stanley, a Yale-based philosopher, has written a book called How Fascism Works, detailing the history of fascist ideologies and strategies. Fascism is a form of government in which one lead-
er or political party has power, with lit-
tle or few individual rights for most—
unless you are a member of the ruling
party. It is also a political ideology that
utilizes racist thinking, misogyny, and
attacks on the free press to consoli-
date power. It seems to me that the cur-
rent occupant of the White House is a crypto-fascist who is placing American democracy at risk every day.

Are there specific changes that need
to come about in the wake of this cur-
rent mobilization in order for histo-
rions to look back on this period as a
true watershed moment in the con-
tinuing struggle for Black equality?
Social equality in education, hous-
ing, policing—one could go on and on.
Whites will be outnumbered in the
next generation, and much of the cur-
rent racial tension in the nation is
about white racial anxiety, or the fear
of losing ground as a result of what so-
cial scientists have called the “brown-
ing” of America. Change is coming in
terms of the shifting social geography.
In 2010, more than 50% of the children
born in the U.S. were classified as non-
white according to the U.S. Census.
The increasingly multietnic demog-
raphy of the U.S. will require that cul-
tural competency be essential in polic-
ing, education, and every other sector
of the U.S. This society will be majori-
ty non-white.

What are some actions that white al-
lies and non-Black people of color can
take to help in the struggle for Black equality?

Be aware of your privilege, and under-
stand what it means: The freedoms that
you may have are not easily enjoyed by
someone else. Have the ability to move
beyond your own experience and listen.
You don’t know what you have not lived.
Avoid being judgmental as you listen. Ed-
ucate yourself (see “Resources” sidebar,
right) on the issue, and learn about the
problem. You should be willing to step
into a supportive role and speak up—but
not for or over the person or group you
have allied yourself with.

How are you and your students dis-
cussing and reflecting on what has
happened in the world since the death
of George Floyd?

Students in my U.S. History I class this
semester are reading chapters from

RESOURCES

TO TRULY HELP THE CAUSE, ONE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT IS AT STAKE.
We asked Professor Williams what resources she would recommend to anyone
looking to learn more about the history of this civil rights movement and the ongoing
struggle for Black equality. Here is what she recommended:

- “Eyes on the Prize (PBS documentary)”
  This multipart film, com-
posed of archival footage
and interviews of some
of the most important
historical figures in the
history of the struggle for
Black equality, is the dis-
tributive documentary on
the American civil rights movement.

- “The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolu-
tion (PBS documentary)”
This film documents the
Black Panther Party and
its role in the larger strug-
gle for Black equality and
includes discussion of the impact the Black
Panthers had on the civil
rights movement.

- “Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women
and the Global Struggle for Freedom (University
of Pennsylvania Press, 2018)” by Keisha N. Blain:
In this award-winning
text, Blain reconceptual-
izes the history of Black
nationalism by placing
women— including such
notable figures as Amy
Jacquies Garvey, Amy
Ashwood Garvey, and
Mittie Maude Lena
Gorden, co-architects of
the Garvey movement—
at the center of the
narrative.

- “At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women,
Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil
Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of
Black Power (Alfred A. Knopf, 2010)” by Danielle
L. McCue:
Stunning and compel-
ling, this groundbreak-
ing work defines the
American civil rights movement as a wom-
nan’s movement, tracing
the history of women’s
activism from the work
of Rosa Parks, who
investigated the sexual
assault of Black women
in the 1940s for the
National Association for
the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP),
to the early 1970s.

- “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Pol-
itical Uses of the Past”
Journal of American History (2005) by Jac-
queline Dowd Hall:
This pivotal journal article
by Jacquelyn Dowd
Hall chronologically
reconceptualizes the
civil rights movement as
a “long movement” that
has occurred beyond the
parameters of the 1955
to 1968 narrative. It is
essential reading for un-
derstanding the struggle
for Black equality as a whole.

- “A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The
Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History
(Beacon Press, 2018)” by Jeanne Theoharis:
Theoharis demon-
strates how the popular
histories or “fables” of
this event get used to
denounce contemporary
protests and downplay
current movements for
social justice.

Stamped from the Beginning: The Defin-
itive History of Racist Ideas in America
by Ibram X. Kendi. For this class, I want
students to recognize that racial slavery
has had a residual impact on U.S. histo-
ry, society, and culture, and this contin-
ues down to the present through sys-
temic racism.

It is impossible to understand U.S. his-
tory without a broad conversation about
race. Race and racism are central to the
history of U.S. history. White privilege
is also a part of this history. The U.S.
Census has indicated that the U.S. will
be roughly 46% white in about 20 years.
This means that white-identified indi-
viduals must gain a greater awareness
of the history of this nation, and the role
that race has played in that history,
in order to function as productive citizens
in an increasingly globalized world—
one in which they will be numerically
outnumbered.

For a complete list of footnotes and citations, visit
monmouth.edu/magazine.
One such service is WeChat, a smartphone app that boasts “over 1.1 billion users”.1 Released by the state-sponsored company Tencent in 2011, it started out as a simple messaging app. However, hand in hand with its popularity, WeChat quickly grew into a “mega-platform,” boasting a massive number of practical features.2 The list of uses includes public social media, ordering food delivery, Uber/Lyft-like functionality, sending money to friends, making doctor’s appointments, paying bills, communicating in the business world, and even using government services.3 As its monopoly continues to expand, the app has become indispensable in Chinese citizens’ lives. Though it may sound like an exaggeration to someone who has not used the app before, “leaving WeChat means leaving (social) life in China,” not to mention missing out on the convenience of all of its other functions.4

Fearing the free flow of information on the internet, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has banned all foreign internet services in China and built the Great Firewall to deny the Chinese people access to outside online sources. As a result, social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other services such as Google, Wikipedia, and Amazon are not available. In their place, China has developed its own domestic internet and affiliated services.

The following excerpt is adapted from the forthcoming book Democracy in Crisis around the World (see p. 35 for more on the book). It is printed here with permission. All rights reserved by Lexington Books.
Beyond its surface-level ease and accessibility, however, is a darker side, a side strictly monitored and regulated by the CCP: censorship. As cybersecurity journalist Patrick O’Neill detailed in a 2019 MIT Technology Review article, Beijing heavily pressures Tencent to implement effective real-time censorship of not only text, but also images posted to WeChat users’ Moments (analogous to Facebook’s timeline) and even in group chats and one-on-one conversations. In particular, it is the social dimension of WeChat that has allowed technology to become a powerful weapon in tightening censorship and state control in China.

Censorship has had a long and unfortunate history in China. Two millennia of emperors, wars, revolutions, and bloodshed after Qin Shi Huang, General Secretary Xi Jinping sits at the head of emperors, wars, revolutions, and fortunate history in China. Two millennia of state control in China. Censorship has had a long and unfortunate history in China. Two millennia of war, politics, and bloodshed after Qin Shi Huang. General Secretary Xi Jinping sits at the head of the Chinese government, WeChat played a prominent role in keeping mainland citizens, information flow can be strict- est and any text that may be contained in these pictures, using a self-reinforcing machine-learning approach to generate dynamic blacklists.

Technology becomes hazardous when it becomes the driving force of society due to people’s complete dependence on machines. The sticky nature of WeChat has not only enforced complete dependence by enhancing its users’ addictive behaviors; it has taken the hazard one step further by creating an intimate and dangerous one-way relationship with China’s central government through its censorship technologies.

As a specific example, in the protests in Hong Kong residents opposed the extradition law passed by the central government, WeChat played a prominent role in leading mainland citizens out of the know. As a bit of background, Hong Kong holds a special classification different from the rest of China due to its previous status as a colony of the United Kingdom. It was returned to China in 1997 under the principle of ‘one country, two systems,’ in which Hong Kong would enjoy “a high degree of autonomy” for 50 years. However, in June 2019, just 22 years later, plans of an extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China sparked protests in Hong Kong that have now grown to encompass more general arguments for democratic reform.

As its title might suggest, Democracy in Crisis around the World (Lexington Books, 2020) starts from the vantage point that many democratic institutions have already reached a critical juncture. And the consensus reached by the one dozen Monmouth faculty members who contributed to the book is that “unless democracy is defended with resolution and nurtured with resilience, it will fail.”

The book, due out this November, examines how the rise of authoritarian regimes and populist leaders has threatened freedom in key regions of the world—sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North Africa—as well as four major countries: India, China, Russia, and the U.S. A section analyzing the effects of COVID-19 on freedoms around the world gives the work added relevance. Each chapter was written or co-written by a Monmouth faculty member. Together, their scholarly interests cover a broad range of disciplines, including history, criminal justice, and pedagogy. Professor Saliba Sarsar ’78 and Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Debha Datta edited the tome and contributed chapters as well. Visit monmouth.edu/magazine for more information on Democracy in Crisis around the World and how this collaboration undertaking came together.

—Breanna McCarthy
relevant results, and that images of the protests sent in one-on-one conversations did not go through.22
Not only has information availability been limited, but WeChat has also been the root of the spread of misinformation. The Guardian's Lily Kuo recently reported that on WeChat's newsfeeds, prior peaceful demonstrations were described as “riots,” protesters were portrayed as “radicals” and “thugs” “lured by the evil winds of foreign agents,” and the United States was accused of being the “black hand” behind the protests. By painting radicals or other nations as the instigator, the narrative in mainland China has been shifted toward a nationalist sentiment in which the protestors’ arguments are the minority, while the rest of Hong Kong’s citizens just want to live their lives peacefully under the CCP’s rule.18 As tensions continue to increase, Beijing can maintain its control over the rhetoric and keep its citizens in blissful ignorance by implementation of their nearly omnipotent authoritarian technology.
Meanwhile, WeChat has also begun its conquest of Tibet, a far-west region in China. Ever since Dalai Lama’s failed uprising against the People’s Republic of China in 1959, activists have maintained a government-in-exile, claiming that “Tibet is an independent state under unlawful occupation.” However, as smartphone usage rises in the region, WeChat has invaded the lives of over 70% of the Tibetan population.20 As one would predict, the Dalai Lama’s spiritual messages are heavily censored by Tencent and the CCP, and users with dissenting political viewpoints are cut off from the internet by removing them from the app, effectively silencing activism.22 Rates of restrictions, fines, and arrests doled out have also been increasing, with recent news stating that Tibetans could face up to eight years of prison time for sharing information on WeChat about politically sensitive current events like Hong Kong’s protests.23 In this remote region over 1,500 miles away from Beijing, previous insurrection has been crushed, and new information is being censored easily through WeChat and looming punishments. One final striking example of WeChat’s role as an extension of state control is in the introduction of China’s relatively new social credit system. This system is a way for the CCP to monitor, shame, and punish 1.4 billion Chinese citizens, separating the trustworthy from the disobe dient. Just like a personal credit score, one’s social credit score can fluctuate depending on good behavior (e.g., paying bills on time) and bad behavior (e.g., smoking in a non-smoking zone), and those with low scores may be placed on blacklists in all aspects of life.24 Tencent and WeChat’s role in this topic of unease is its implementation of a system nicknamed the “Deadbeat Map.” This disturbing application will display the full name, court case number, reason they are deemed untrustworthy, and even partial home addresses of anyone with low social credit scores within a user’s 500-meter radius, with a radar changing colors as the density of “deadbeats” increases or decreases.25 This massive infringement of personal privacy by Western standards aims to enhance the repercussions of the social credit system by shaming the “deadbeats” and encouraging others to “treat those people as subhuman,” effectively making Chinese society a “virtual prison.”26 Without the support of WeChat as a medium, consequences of a low social credit score would obviously still be felt in citizens’ daily lives, but not in the same dimension as being publicly exposed and shunned by everyone within 500 meters. With its willingness to provide users’ information, it is no surprise that Tencent’s WeChat scored dead last in Amnesty International’s ranking of messaging app privacy, achieving a grand total of zero out of one hundred points.27 With the role of media under President Xi Jinping’s reign to be supporting “the party’s unilateral rule, and nothing less,” WeChat has demonstrated its commitment to this philosophy from end to end, helping the CCP move quickly from its role of spectator to authority in today’s information age.28 Without resorting to brute force that would attract the attention of countries around the world, China has ensured its people in a digital vice grip, filtering and manipulating this grasp as the CCP pleases. By downloading WeChat and clicking on the happy little icon, all that the Chinese citizens wanted was modern convenience. The price: whatever limited social and political freedom they had left, engulfed by the abyss of one of today’s most ambitious and successful authoritarian censors.
JOE EMMERSON

First and foremost
JEANA PISCATELLI, THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE ELECTED CHAIR OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES, IS RIGHT WHERE SHE WANTS TO BE: HELPING TO GUIDE HER ALMA MATER TO NEW HEIGHTS.

BY KELLEY FREUND

The Changemaker » Alumni making waves

Today, it’s Piscatelli who serves as a role model to the next generation of female trailblazers on campus. In July, she was elected chair of Monmouth University’s Board of Trustees, becoming the first woman in the University’s 87-year history to hold the position.

A Monmouth County native, Piscatelli says the University was the perfect fit. The campus was beautiful, class sizes were just right, and the school was close to home. She earned a B.S. in marketing and finance and went on to earn her MBA from the Leon Hess Business School. Piscatelli began her career in the technology field before transitioning to banking. After joining Wells Fargo in 2004, she knew she had found her niche. “Things often felt ethereal working in the tech sector. ‘But money is tangible, and it’s extremely important regardless of industry,’ says Piscatelli. “It doesn’t matter what type of business a person is in—you always need financial support. And that’s the best part of what I do: interacting with clients from all different industries.”

After holding progressively responsible positions at Wells Fargo and J.P. Morgan, Piscatelli joined OceanFirst Bank in 2018. As director of treasury management, she ensures the bank’s commercial customers have access to online banking resources and works to make those resources as efficient as possible for clients.

Through it all, Piscatelli has continued giving back to the University that helped launch her career. “I had such a great experience here, and everyone gave me such confidence and the ability to be successful that I wanted to give that back to other students in any way that I could,” she says.

Through the years, that has included serving on the Alumni Board of Directors and the Leon Hess Business School Advisory Council. A recipient of a private scholarship as a student, Piscatelli, together with her husband, Drew, has also established a scholarship to benefit accounting, marketing, and real estate majors.

Piscatelli, who was first elected to Monmouth’s Board of Trustees in 2010, has served on the board’s Educational and Faculty Affairs Committee and Finance and Budget Committee and was most recently vice chair. The significance of her appointment as the board’s first female chair isn’t lost on her.

“I appreciate the responsibility that comes with that,” she says. “But we have some talented women who are currently on the board, and I’m always impressed with all the students who I meet. I know there are plenty of future candidates for this position. Everyone keeps saying, ‘The first female.’ But I want to make sure I’m not the last.”

For Piscatelli, her spare time is all about family. When she and her husband aren’t driving their son and daughter to practice or cheering them on during their games, the family likes to bike or hike, as well as spend time skiing with extended family and friends at their vacation home in Utah. But no matter how busy she is, Monmouth will always be part of Piscatelli’s life.

“The University is stuck with me,” says Piscatelli. “There will always be opportunities to give back, and it is very rewarding to remain involved and see the school continue to improve and prosper.”

J
Jeana (Hobbs) Piscatelli ’01, ’02M knows how important it is for young women to see someone like themselves in leadership roles. And for her, as a Monmouth student, that person was the University’s first female president, Rebecca Stafford.

OPPOSITE: Piscatelli first joined Monmouth’s Board of Trustees in 2010 and was elected chair in July.

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1960s

» Pat Ricci ’68 was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) during the 2019 International Sports Sciences Association World Championships held at the Glen Allen Sportplex in Richmond, Virginia. Throughout his career, which has spanned 22 years, Ricci has played in over 200 tournaments and has won the Championship of the American Senior Softball Association World Championships across the three major senior softball associations. Ricci, who has played in over 200 tournaments and has won the Championship of the American Senior Softball Association World Championships across the three major senior softball associations.

» Jim Strunk ’70. See note for Jim Akers ’70.

» Monmouth honored Denis Gallagher ’76 with the 2020 Distinguished Business Leaders Award at an annual dinner held in the Great Hall on Feb. 27, 2020. Gallagher, an entrepreneur with more than 40 years of experience in the passenger transportation industry, was founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Student Transportation Inc. (STI), a leading school transportation company in North America. AT STI, he directed the strategic operations of the NASDAG- and Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) listed company while leading and developing investor activities through capital raises and explosive growth. Gallagher currently serves on several private company boards and is a highly sought-after business consultant. In addition to his roles in the transportation sector, he has built enterprises in the media entertainment industry and is the founder and chairman of Charlewood Entertainment, LLC, a production and investment company based in Charleston, South Carolina. He is also chairman and principal owner of Front and Center Entertainment, which produces the highly acclaimed television show Front and Center and Speakerbox seen on cable and public television across the U.S. Gallagher is also chairman and lead investor in Nano Media Group, a Los Angeles-based television and film development and production company. He was a past member of the Monmouth Board of Visitors, and in 1987; he was the youngest member ever elected to the Board of Trustees. In 1992, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award; and in 2019, he rejoined the Monmouth University Board of Trustees. Gallagher currently resides in Charleston, South Carolina, with his wife, Mary.

» Bob Koar ’77, ’79M, senior managing director of Starling Bank, was named to ROJ-NJ’s Influencers Power List 2020. Bankers. Koar was recognized for his leadership, which has helped Starling to become a go-to bank for small and family businesses in New Jersey.

» Saliba Sarsar, Ph. D., ’78, a professor in Monmouth’s political science department, recently had a new book, Peacebuilding in Israeli-Palestinian Relations, published with Peter Lang Publishing. Focusing on peacebuilding, this book emphasizes how grassroots peacemaking efforts contribute to closing the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian national communities that have been in conflict for decades.

1970s

» Jim Akers ’70 and Rita (Mahan) Akers ’70 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January 2020. They were also reunited with Jim’s fraternity brother and Rita’s friend, Jim Strunk ’70, for the first time in 50 years.

» Raymond Sandelli ’70 was appointed to the Lee Board of County Commissioners by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. Sandelli completed eight years of military service as a naval officer and aviator after finishing first in his class in the Aviation Officer Candidate Program. He also flew with the Navy’s Flight Demonstration Squad, the Blue Angels. Currently, he is a managing partner at CIE Consultants, which advises clients on health care, office, retail, industrial, land, and property management.

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1980s

» The Honorable Noel L. Hillman ’81 graduated in May 2020 with a master of laws in judicial studies from Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina. Judge Hillman has served since 2006 as the United States District Judge in the district of New Jersey and was elected as a member of the American Law Institute, headquartered in Philadelphia, in fall 2019. Judge Hillman also holds law degrees from Seton Hall Law School, earning a J.D. in 1985, and New York University School of Law, earning a master of laws in 1998.

» Edward Kivior ’81 has been appointed vice president and commercial loan officer with First Bank & Trust Company, a diversified financial services firm. Kivior has 30 years of banking experience, most recently with First Community Bank where he served as commercial lender. He is a former board member with Daily Planet, an organization that provides health services to the homeless, and currently resides in Charleston, South Carolina, with his wife, Mary.

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1990s

» Overextending: A Memoir of Anxious Proportions by Lucie Dickinson ’90 was recently published by Inspired Girl Books. The memoir covers the author’s battle with anxiety and search for healing, tracing how she spent over $100,000 looking for the “holy grail of healing” only “to come home to herself.” After experiencing everything from trying new, cutting-edge energy healing techniques to shutting down a department store to find her family, Dickinson shares what it’s truly like to have anxiety and how to embrace—not fix—who you are, while allowing yourself to change and grow.

» David Giannetto ’90 was promoted to chief executive officer (CEO) of WorkWave. Headquartered in Holmdel, New Jersey, WorkWave, which has consistently been voted as one of the best places to work in New Jersey, is a leader in cloud-based field service and fleet management.

NOT TO MISS > Nov. 17 VIRTUAL TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Join fellow book lovers to discuss Clare Beams’ The Illness Lesson, a powerful exploration of women’s bodies and minds, and the time-honored tradition of doubting both. Register for the virtual event at monmouth.edu/events.
An ACL injury disrupted Wasserman’s lacrosse career at Monmouth University, and he responded by becoming the all-time scoring leader in program history. Major League Lacrosse (MLL) suspended its season due to COVID-19 before condensing it into a nine-day sprint in Annapolis, Maryland. So what did Wasserman do? He led the Boston Cannons to the championship of the year. “When Wasserman is put into a holding pattern, he returns to action like a Hawk seeking prey. It’s an all-or-nothing attitude in a season that will be remembered as a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation

Wasserman was determined to establish himself as a prestigious player entering the 2020 season. He was drafted by the Den- ver Outlaws in 2018 but made his pro debut later that year with the Ohio Machine. The franchise re- located to his home state of Ohio. Wasserman is a waking up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation was a wake-up call, and the situation 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Jennifer Lea (Or) Reynolds ’97 has authored her debut children’s picture book, The Cat Who Loved the Moon (Sea-coast Press). Endorsed by the best-selling author of The Invis-ible String as well as a former NASA advisor, and previously featured on a New Hampshire Public Radio literary segment, it is heralded as a heartfelt must-read about finding comfort and hope during times of loss and change. Released in February 2020, it is available through major online bookstores including Amazon.com, as well as select bookstores and libraries.

Thomas Farrell ’98M, Ed.D., is the new superin- tendent of the Brick Township School District. Farrell was previously the superintendent at Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, New Jersey since April 2013. Farrell, who en- tered the field of education from the business world, was previ- ously executive vice president at Atlantic Lighting in Edison from 1992 to 1999. In 1994 he began teaching business at Monsignor Donovan (now Donovan Catholic High School) located in Toms River, New Jersey. There, he was the Griffins’ head football coach and later served as assistant athletic director. In 2002 he left Donovan for New Egypt High School in the Plumsted School District, where he taught busi- ness and coached the football team. He was an assistant princi- pal at the high school from 2005 to 2008, when he became the high school’s principal, a position he held until leaving in 2013 for the Shore Regional superintendent’s position. During the 2006- 2007 school year, he was the Plumsted district’s director of technology and communications. He also served as an adjunct professor at Ocean County College from 2002 to 2013. Farrell and his wife, Linda, who teaches kindergarten at Drum Point Elementary School, live in Toms River and have three children.

CELEBRATIONS

ENGagements
1. Alexandria Kostiuk ’07 is engaged to wed Daniel Villanova ’12
2. Marisa Dickinson ’16 is engaged to wed Ryan Valliere
3. Marissa Marie Iraji ’16 is engaged to wed Rob Wendel ’16

Weddings:
4. Karyn (Calabro) Cusanelli ’89 (front row, far right,) and Nick Cusanelli ’89 (back row, far left), were joined by a handful of Hawks to celebrate the wedding of their daughter Marissa (Cusanelli) Purdy ’14 (center) to Bill Purdy. Several alumni attended the wedding including, (back row, from left) Chris (Barreras) Feeeny ’85, John Feeeny ’87, Alanna McGlynn ’14, Rob Scott ’88, Audrea Scott ’08M, Teresa Heitzenrether ’15HN, Maria Cusanelli ’94, Mike Dunlap ’88 (front row, from left) Mike Farragher ’88, Michelle (Cusack) Furey ’14, sister of the bride Gianna Cusanelli ’17, Alexandra (McMahon) Webb ’14, ’17M, Barbara (Miskoff) Farragher ’89, Lori (Loschiavo) Dunlap ’90, and Arnold Laspina ’88.
5. Scott Mark ’02 wed Michelle Faber on Aug. 3, 2019.
6. Alicia Barbieri ’08, ’11M and Brian Sforza ’08 (center) were joined by fellow Hawks (from left) Courtanay (Lazur) Kolodziejczyk ’07, Christine Colaco ’07, Alison (Maloney) Martin ’07, Sharon Thompson ’74, and Jeff Kolodziejczyk ’05 at their wedding on Nov. 9, 2019.
7. On March 2, 2019, Kelly Gahm ’08 and Blake Domaracki ’07 (center) tied the knot in in Rome, Italy. In attendance were fellow Hawks, (from left) Nicole Partica ’08, Marc Paliseno ’07, Lauren Dill ’08, Adam Dill ’07, and Anthony Ruggiero ’07.

Births:
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:
1. Rita Akers ’70 (left) and Jim Akers ’70 (right) not only recently celebrated their 50th anniversary but also got to reunite with longtime friends Jim Strunk ’70 for the first time in 50 years.
2. A group of fellow Hawks recently made a visit to campus to celebrate their 50th reunion as friends after meeting at Monmouth in the fall of 1968. There to celebrate were (from left) Susan Tartagno Hart, Class of 1971; Joan Wagensell Wright, Class of 1971; Pam Brown Hartung ’71; Bonnie Nelson Buckner ’71; Nancy Law, Class of 1972; Barbara Darcy Perri ’72 (seated in front) and Susanne Carman Abbati ’72 (not pictured).

ACCOLADES:
3. David Giannetto ’90 was promoted to chief executive officer (CEO) of WorkWave.
4. Joe DeSilva ’97 is president of small business services, retirement services, and insurance services at ADP.
6. Michael Lauer ’02, a communications leader with Johnson & Johnson, has joined the company as a communications leader with Johnson & Johnson, has joined
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8. Sean Grimes ’12 helped facilitate a bulk located in Howell, New Jersey. Teacher of the Year at Howell High School, was recently awarded America’s (PRSA) New Jersey board. Loretta Hill ’98M was among four recipients statewide to be presented with a 2019 Distinguished Service Award, an honor that also included two $500 college scholarships in her name that were given to the children of two of her colleagues at the Belmar School District. She has served as business administrator for the Belmar, New Jersey, school district for 18 years. Hill is active with NJASBO and has served on the organization’s accounting, education, and conference committees, as well as its ad hoc website redesign committee. She became an officer with the Monmouth County Association of School Business Officials in 2011, and she subsequently held the positions of secretary, vice president, and president. She received her bachelor’s degree from Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey.
9. Christie Pearce Rampone ’99, ’05M co-published Be All In: Raising Kids for Success in Sports and Life. Rampone, a decorated athlete who is a three-time Olympic gold medalist, teamed up with sports neuropsychologist, Dr. Kristine Keane, to share the best practices that athletes, parents, and coaches can use to turn the lessons learned through sports into lifelong skills.
10. Amy Yao ’99, ’01M recently published College 101: What to Expect, a book that aims to give college-bound students an idea of what their time at college might entail. The book includes a checklist of what to pack and also covers various other topics including problems you may encounter, how to fit in, and how to survive in your new environment, among other things.

2000s
1. Michael Ettore ’01M is the new superintendent of the Little Silver School District in Little Silver, New Jersey. Ettore, who was previously the superintendent and principal of the Monmouth Beach School District in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, earned a bachelor’s degree from Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, and his elementary teaching credentials from Kean University in Union, New Jersey.
2. Laura Jackson ’01 was named chairman of the Young Men’s Women’s Real Estate Association of New York. Jackson is a senior managing director in the FTI Real Estate Solutions practice and is based in Desaline, New Jersey, and in New York. Jackson also 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 New York City. Jackson also attended the Burlington County department in 2003 after having served for 17 years, including 11 in the patrol division where he served as a field training officer.
3. Seanna Lauer will serve a three-year term as chair of the organization’s awards and programming committee.
4. Rosetta Johnson ’01, ’04M recently published Saved by Grace: Spiritual Poems, Poetry & Short Stories. The collection includes “short and long stories” that reflect Johnson’s personal experiences, beliefs, events, and hypotheticals, as well as her spirituality. Since 1991, Johnson has been president of United for the Community, a nonprofit that aims to address issues and improve the quality of life for residents living in the southwest side of Asbury Park. For 10 years, she worked for the City of Asbury Park, New Jersey, as a program monitor and neighborhood preservation program director where she wrote grants and worked with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also created the city’s Energy Maintenance Network, which assisted people who couldn’t pay their utility bills between 2001 and 2008. Prior to that she worked for Shadown Law Savings Bank in Long Branch, New Jersey, as a property manager and as a latch key teaching instructor at the YMCA in Asbury Park. Johnson attended the Asbury Park Public School System, then later obtained two associate degrees from Brookdale Community College in 1999. At Monmouth she was a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society. She also has a general law enforcement diploma from the National Correspondence School. A 60-year-old single parent, born and raised in Asbury Park, Johnson currently resides in the city with her 20-year-old daughter, Shadasia Rose.
5. Michael Lauer ’01, a communications leader with Johnson & Johnson, has joined the nonprofit Public Relations Society of America’s (PRSA) New Jersey board. Lauer will serve a three-year term as chair of the organization’s awards and programming committee.
KEEPING the #HawkFamily together at Monmouth University.

Keeping the #HawkFamily together at our in-person and virtual events.

Whether you realize it or not, YOU make an impact by:

- Allowing us to share and celebrate your achievements.
- Mentoring our current students.
- Keeping the #HawkFamily together at our in-person and virtual events.
- Increasing our rankings in publications such as U.S. News & World Report, which increases the value of your degree.
- Register to be a mentor at monmouth.edu/hawknetwork
- Make a gift at monmouth.edu/give
- See what’s on tap at monmouth.edu/hawksathome
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YOU make Monmouth strong. Thank you!

You are grateful for YOU!

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YOU make Monmouth strong. Thank you!

We are grateful for YOU!
Marc Paliiseno ’07, Lauren Dill ’08, Adam Dill ’07, and Anthony Ruggiero ’07.

Laura Kirkpatrick ’08M has been named the executive director of Red Bank RiverCenter, the semiautonomous agency in Red Bank, New Jersey, that manages the borough’s special improvement district. Prior to joining RiverCenter in March 2018, Kirkpatrick held posts in Monmouth County government, where she directed tourism interests and served as the media spokesperson. She earned her bachelor’s in urban affairs and planning from Boston University.

Nicole Paticca ’08. See note for Kelly Gahn ’08.

Brian Sforza ’08.

Miles Vidreiro ’09 is a quality-control manager and a board-certified behavior analyst with AC-Eing Autism in Houston, Texas. AC-Eing Autism is a nonprofits that aims to connect children with autism through unique autism programs. Vidreiro began working with the nonprofit in 2013, bringing the program to New York City for the first time. Vidreiro is a board-certified behavior analyst who earned his master’s degree from Columbia University in health and behavioral studies of persons with intellectual disabilities and autism.

2010s

Kaitlyn Kanzler ’10 wed Niel DiSipigna on Nov. 8, 2019. Their ceremony took place at Allaire State Park in Howell, New Jersey, and their reception took place at the Smithville Inn in Absecon, New Jersey. Several alumni were in attendance, including Melissa Roach ’07, Shannon Desiere ’12 as well as bridesmaid Danielle Orlandini ’11.


Steve Scarano ’10. See note for Julie Miller ’11.

Nicholas Sgrel ’10 is engaged to wed Danielle Ulloa. The couple met at Toastmasters International Speech Contest in North Brunswick, New Jersey, where they competed against one another in the area division. The bride-to-be won. One month later, the groom-to-be traveled to support Ulloa at the next level contest, and, right after she gave her speech, he tested her from his seat, “Win or lose, I am taking you out for ice cream.” The two enjoyed their first scoop of ice cream together as a couple at Magnifico’s Ice Cream in East Brunswick, New Jersey, and have been together ever since. Several years later the couple moved to Milltown, New Jersey—just five minutes away from where they first met—and, on Christmas morning in their new home, Sgroi proposed. “I had Danielle go over to the tree to look for her gift,” he says. “When she couldn’t find it, she turned around all flustered, and I was on one knee asking her to marry me.” She said yes, and the rest is history. “The couple plans to wed at Perona Farms in Sparta, New Jersey, in May of 2021.

Kaitlyn ‘Bernaski’ Campanile ’11 recently opened her own law practice, the Law Office of Kaitlyn B. Campanile, LLC, located in Oakhurst, New Jersey, which focuses on real estate transactions, condominium and homeowners’ association (HOA) law, and business and corporate matters.

Alan Lieberman ’10M designed a Memorial Coin Challenge, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars, recognizing the dozens of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel who have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A coalition of national EMS organizations joined in to support the fundraising effort that ran from June 11 to June 15. All proceeds from the sale of the custom-designed memorial coin, conceived by Lieberman, were donated to the National EMS Memorial Service, an organization dedicated to honoring those emergency medical service personnel who have died in the line of duty.

Julie Miller ’11 and Steve Scarano ’10 met in Prof. Kevin Dooley’s political theory class and became closer friends over the years as they both participated in Model UN at Monmouth and The Washington Center internship program in 2010. The couple, who settled in Washington, DC, in 2011, were married on Sept. 28, 2019.


Monmouth University received a bulk donation of hand sanitizer from Global Essence Inc., thanks to the efforts of Sean Grimes ’12 who helped to facilitate the donation. Grimes, who is the technical manager for quality assurance and regulatory affairs at Global Essence Inc., headquartered in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, recently worked to obtain FDA approval for Global Essence to temporarily produce hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 crisis, using 75% isopropyl alcohol as per World Health Organization recommendations. In addition to donating sanitizer to hospitals, police departments, and other organizations in need, Global Essence Inc. donated 200 gallons to Monmouth to support the health and safety measures as the University plans for a return to campus.

During my football career at Monmouth, we spent hours each week practicing, watching film, and focusing on playing well. As we get ready to hit the weight room and prepare for the season, it’s all about staying focused and having confidence in your ability. If you set goals and work hard to achieve them, you will be successful. —Melissa Roach ’07

During the course of my career at Monmouth, I’ve had the opportunity to compete against one another in Model UN and The Washington Center internship program in 2010. The couple, who settled in Washington, DC, in 2011, were married on Sept. 28, 2019.

Kaitlyn Kanzler ’10.

Heather Baginski ’12.

Miles Vidreiro ’09.

Nicole Paticca ’08. See note for Kelly Gahn ’08.

Brian Sforza ’08.

Miles Vidreiro ’09.

Kaitlyn Kanzler ’10.

In the Pits

A NASCAR jackman details his life in the fast lane.

By Pat Gray ’15, as told to Mark Gola

During the course of my career at Monmouth, we spent hours each week practicing, watching film, and focusing on playing well. As we get ready to hit the weight room and prepare for the season, it’s all about staying focused and having confidence in your ability. If you set goals and work hard to achieve them, you will be successful.

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Miles Vidreiro ’09.
We asked alumni to share memories of their favorite college hangouts. Read more responses at monmouth.edu/magazine.

**CLUB SPANKY**
They may as well have called it “Club Monmouth” because most of the patrons were Monmouth students—especially on Friday and Saturday nights. —Michael Lodato ’82

**THE WINDMILL**
Great onion rings and burgers! —Kathleen Sullivan ’77

**RON’S WEST END PUB**
One of my favorites. It was always a great time sipping a pint while sitting on the rockers on the front porch. —Matthew Chodosh ’97, ’00M

**BRIGHTON BAR**
Pre-punk days, it was the preferred Wednesday night hangout. —Ed Halper ’80

**CELTS COTTAGE**
Best jukebox and burgers on the beach! Don’t forget to add a side of cottage fries. —Laura (Embrey) MacDonald ’10

**THE INKWELL**
We’d always go for coffee after cheering on Ronnie Kornegay and the rest of the great basketball team in Boylan Gym. —Gerri C. Popkin ’71A

**JACK’S GOAL LINE STAND**
I participated in many poorly harmonized group renditions of Springsteen and U2 songs on karaoke nights. —Michael Conway ’09

**THE INKWELL**
Great onion rings and burgers! —Kathleen Sullivan ’77
Chelsea Lorenz '12 and Juan Fernandez welcomed a son, Ian Fernandez, on Dec. 5, 2019.

Daniel Villanova '12. See note for Alexandra Kostick '17.

Jeffrey Carmichael '13M and Laura Carmichael welcomed a son, Andrew Carmichael, on July 17, 2020.

Rachel Popovitch '13 is engaged to wed Alex Perberg.

Marissa (Cusannili) Purdy '14 and Rob Wendel '16 are engaged.

Marissa Dickinson '16 is engaged to wed Ryan Vallerio. The couple met on a Tech Thunder baseball game in April 2014. In May 2014, they started dating at the Island Heights Boardwalk in Island Heights, New Jersey, and, five years later, were engaged there. The couple is planning to wed in April 2021.

Marissa Marie Iradi '16 is engaged to wed Rob Wendel '16. The couple’s love story began at Monmouth in the Fall of 2014. They were both members of Greek life organizations and met at a party through their respective organizations. Fast forward to Oct. 12, 2019, when they officially became engaged overlooking New York City at View of the World and celebrated with their families at Ruth’s Chris Steak House. “Aside from the night we first met, it was one of the most unforgettable nights of our life, which we will cherish forever,” Marissa says.


Kelly Parks ’16, ’18M recently joined the team at Ceros, a tech startup located in New York City, as their new sales enablement manager. She is looking forward to growing the enablement side of the business for their organization.

Rob Wendel '16. See note for Marissa Marie Iradi '16.

Joseph Duggiro ‘17 is the new producer and director in charge of the production crew at Monmouth College in Riverdale, New Jersey. Previously, Duggiro was Monmouth’s director of new media for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Vanessa Garces ‘16 is engaged to wed Anthony McCue ‘16. The couple met at a fraternity party at Monmouth in 2016. They were engaged for four years and were engaged on McCue’s 25th birthday. Garces thought this was a perfect surprise party, but it turned out the surprise was on her: the entire time as McCue proposed in front of all of their families with Jersey Girl by Bruce Springsteen playing in the background.

Austin Skelton ’18 is currently pursuing a degree in law at Villanova University’s Charles Widger School of Law. This past summer, after his first year of law school, Skelton was a legal intern for the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, and this past spring semester, he served as a judicial intern under the Honorable Steven C. Toller in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas.

Bryce Wasserman ’18, ’19M helped the Boston Cannons capture the 2020 Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Championship at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland, in August. Boston defeated the Denver Outlaws 15-10 thanks in part to a 9-2 run that included a goal and an assist by Wasserman. The former Monmouth standout finished the abbreviated MLL season with a league-high 21 points in six games as the Cannons went 4-2 on the way to their second MLL title in franchise history. For his efforts, Wasserman was named the 2020 Major League Lacrosse Most Valuable Player. See p. 42.

Kim Bianchi ’19 is currently pursuing a master’s degree in applied statistics at Villanova University.

Samantha Distelfeld, ’21 is a financial advisor at Ventura Capital Group, a multinational company serving the fields of health information technology and clinical research, and Bill is a financial advisor at Venture Wealth Management, a full-service financial planning firm. They reside in Brick, New Jersey.

Jacqueline Nicole DiPasquale '15 was crowned Miss New Jersey International 2020 on March 28, 2020, and also competed in the Miss International Pageant held this past July and August in Kingstown, Tennessee. The Miss/Ms./Mrs./Mrs. Woman New Jersey International Pageant was set to take place on March 28, but due to COVID-19, the event became virtual. The contestants were judged virtually, and the winners were crowned in the safety of their own homes by their family members. DiPasquale’s platform “1 in 5: From Bullied to Healed,” spreads awareness about bullying prevention. The name refers to the fact that one in five students report being bullied.

“This was my life for many years in school growing up,” says DiPasquale. “Through my platform, I am using my experience as a bullying victim to help other bullying victims cope with and heal from the same pain that I endured.”

Taylor R. Johnson ’15 received her doctoral hood at The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, during a virtual doctoral graduation ceremony held on April 30, 2020. This marked Johnson’s graduation from medical school and her official promotion to the title of Dr. Taylor R. Johnson. She was awarded the Ernest W. Johnson, M.D. Medical Student Award for outstanding performance in physical medicine and rehabilitation. She began her residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in June 2020.

Marissa (Cusannili) Purdy ’14 and Rob Wendel ’16 are engaged.

Marisa Fernandez welcomed a son, Ian Fernandez, on April 27, 2020.

Laura Carmichael welcomed a son, Ian Fernandez, on April 27, 2020.

Chelsea Lorentz ’12 is a pharmaceutical client account manager for Sphero Biopharma, Inc. in Spring Lake, New Jersey. Marissa (Cusannili) Purdy ’14 and Rob Wendel ’16 are engaged.

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It would be an impossible task to put into words the impact that the great Ron Frangipane had on Monmouth University and its students during his 18 years with the institution. When Ron arrived in 1997, my freshman year, we became best friends. He immediately set out to reinvent the existing music education program into an astounding, world-class performance and industry curriculum.

Those first five years, Ron taught every class and conducted every rehearsal. I had the great fortune to serve as his concert master and attend every class he offered. Ron would create opportunities for performance and encourage students to bring music and art to all corners of our campus. He would re-orchestrate popular music and compose original music to shape what talent and instrumentation was available. His passion for life and art created astounding performances witnessed by many over his tenure. Ron shared his strength with us, and we shined like shooting stars. He had an ability to motivate great emotion and purpose from his students and convey passion to his audiences so profoundly that the impact was self-evident. Ron challenged us in a powerful but caring way to explore our creativity and search deeper into ourselves.

I could speak in perpetuity on Ron’s brilliance and genius as a composer, musician, producer, and inspired creative. He was a truly amazing, beautiful, kind, and inspirational human. He was the most influential person in my life. A father, brother, mentor—but mostly my best friend. Ron was a gentle giant, a warrior of emotion. He was a genius of creativity in art and music, a master of the creative process, and an endless source of inspiration and new ideas to those he touched. I await the day I can join his band again.

—Roberto Muolo ’03
WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE HAWKS SPORTS MEMORY?

If you’re anything like us, you miss watching your favorite Hawks teams and players something fierce right about now. As we patiently await their return to play, help us relive the glory days by telling us about the memorable moments in Hawks sports history you’ll never forget. Whether you’re a fan or were a part of the action, send your stories and any photos you have to magazine@monmouth.edu.