LOOKING IN

HAWK’S-EYE VIEW

A moment of relative calm on the quad in front the Great Hall.
The Afrofuture Is Now
Your primer on the movement that’s sweeping pop culture.

Bridging the Gap
Keeping refugee children connected to their heritage.

Answering the Call
Students deliver telecounseling services to the region.

American Dreaming
One senior is fulfilling the promise of the generations before him.

The Resilient One
Damon Colbert spent his teens and 20s homeless and battling personal demons. Now he helps at-risk children realize their potential.

Our Man in the Pentagon
Christopher Lowman is helping to modernize the U.S. Army.

All Good Things
Marilyn McNeil, a champion for gender equity who transformed Monmouth athletics, calls it a career.

Game On
Keeping Hawks teams and players healthy enough to compete during a pandemic has been no small task.

Two on Threes
The Hawks’ new and former career three-point record holders talk about life beyond the arc.

A Force for Change
Eileen Gavin is helping to shape how we tackle public health issues.

Marley & Me
Jeff Steinberg recounts being the last person to interview Bob Marley before his death 40 years ago.

Up to the Test
Adele Beegle leads production at a Roche facility that makes 250,000 COVID-19 tests per week.

A Ahead of the Curve
Entrepreneur Krish Ramkrishnan has made a career of being in the right place at the right time.

The Next Normal
What will a post-pandemic world look like? From pharmaceuticals to photography, faculty weigh in on how COVID-19 will leave its mark.

Reflections
**RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

**POSITIONING THE UNIVERSITY FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS RELIES ON ITS UNFAILING COLLECTIVE SPIRIT.**

I am confident that these strengths, coupled with the re-silience of the Monmouth spirit, will help us successfully navigate through the next several months and transition into a post-pandemic reality that more closely resembles our pre-pandemic living and learning environment at Monmouth. As we develop plans for the upcoming academic year and beyond, we are encouraged by increased vaccination efforts, and the overwhelmingly positive desire of our students to return more fully to campus. While we have been carefully managing the day-to-day details of operating in a pandemic, we also have been keeping our sights firmly focused on the future. Thanks to thoughtful input and ideas from members across our University community, I am confident that we have produced an ambitious yet achievable blueprint for Monmouth University’s success now and for generations to come.

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

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

**LETTERS**

**BLACK WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

Thank you for the insightful interview with Dr. Hattie Williams (“The Long Struggle”) in which she discussed the ongoing struggle for Black equality. I agree wholeheartedly with her point that the civil rights struggle is about much more than just Black Lives Matter. Black people, especially Black women, very often face racism in the workplace. It can take many forms: unequal pay, unrealistic expectations, harassment. I know this from personal experience. The struggles that Black people face are indeed real, and much work remains to be done to end systemic racism in America. I’m proud to say my alma mater addressing it in this way. —Lyssiahsa (Holtork) Bonds ‘23

**IN DEFENSE OF WILSON**

Regarding your Fall 2020 magazine, I am disappointed with your choice of cover artwork. Is it not enough that the mainstream media is constantly showing scenes of violent riots under the guise of “protesting for equal rights”? Monmouth University is supposed to be an educational institution for all in a broad range of occupational fields, not acting as an arm of the liberal agenda.

Moving on to the letter from Fred Dentu ’65, “Woodrow Wilson Flunks Out of Monmouth,” I feel his assessment is more opinion-based than historically accurate. Let us remember that the 1918 H1N1 flu was well documented as the Spanish flu. But true to current revisionist tactics, Mr. Dentu places opinion-based blame on America, writing that the flu “was likely to have originated in American training bases and was then exported to Europe on crowded troop ships.” In truth, actual historical and epidemiological data are not adequate to certify the origin of the Spanish flu. It was early identified not only in America, but also in France, Germany, and the UK. I’d be interested to see reliably sourced, pre-2000 documentation rather than the popular and shameful trend to blame America for everything and see what sticks. Stating something as fact in one form of media does not make it true, although our country is suffering dearly from just that means of spreading fake information. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists mostly doing more damage than good, but where are those who would preserve our history as written, as something to learn from rather than erase? Buying in to revisionist history and the destructive cancel culture, Monmouth’s Board of Trustees caved on renaming the former Wilson Hall based on opinion-based than historically accurate.... Let us remember that the continual taking of American bases and was then exported. Does the writer not see and the many U.S. civilian lives taken. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists. There are more than enough revisionists and cancel culturists.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

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

**LETTER’S CONNECT**

**President’s Note**

J ust over a year ago, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and the state of New Jersey announced a public health emergency in response to this growing threat. This has been a year that has tested our resolve, but together, we have faced these unexpected challenges with great patience, flexibility, and fortitude.

I am confident that these strengths, coupled with the resilience of the Monmouth spirit, will help us successfully navigate through the next several months and transition into a post-pandemic reality that more closely resembles our pre-pandemic living and learning environment at Monmouth. As we develop plans for the upcoming academic year and beyond, we are encouraged by increased vaccination efforts, and the overwhelmingly positive desire of our students to return more fully to campus. While we have been carefully managing the day-to-day details of operating in a pandemic, we also have been keeping our sights firmly focused on the future. Though we paused our strategic planning efforts last spring when the pandemic first emerged, we have spent the past several months reenergizing our work in developing the University’s next five-year plan. Thanks to thoughtful input and

**Letters Page**

**RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

POSITIONING THE UNIVERSITY FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS RELIES ON ITS UNFAILING COLLECTIVE SPIRIT. I am confident that these strengths, coupled with the resilience of the Monmouth spirit, will help us successfully navigate through the next several months and transition into a post-pandemic reality that more closely resembles our pre-pandemic living and learning environment at Monmouth. As we develop plans for the upcoming academic year and beyond, we are encouraged by increased vaccination efforts, and the overwhelmingly positive desire of our students to return more fully to campus. While we have been carefully managing the day-to-day details of operating in a pandemic, we also have been keeping our sights firmly focused on the future. Though we paused our strategic planning efforts last spring when the pandemic first emerged, we have spent the past several months reenergizing our work in developing the University’s next five-year plan. Thanks to thoughtful input and
Knot the score 64–64 on a driving rally in the closing moments to give Monmouth a 72–68 cushion. Walt Mischler scored 18 points and pulled down 16 rebounds before fouling out late in the second half. The Hawks’ 66-inch sparkplug, Barry Ayers, continually out-hustled everyone and wound up with 10 rebounds. When Ayers cooled out with two minutes remaining, Gill, his replacement, stole the ball at half court and dropped it in. The ball cut the margin to two points, 62–60. Arning, a 6-foot-1 freshman, made several key baskets and finished with 14 points. That scintillating overtime victory propelled the Hawks to prominence in the NCAA circles nearly 50 years ago.

PADDY’S ON MY MIND

Paddy Murray’s was my favorite hangout during my junior and senior years back in the early days of Monmouth College. It was in Paddy’s quiet and comfortable surroundings where many of us would be able to sit at the bar or at a small table and carry on conversations. It was a wonderful place, full of Paddy’s own antiques. He trusted his clientele within the atmosphere he established. There was no dancing, yes, there was music on the jukebox, but it was Tony Bennett (Paddy’s favorite) or Ray Charles singing “Georgia on My Mind.” Even a rock ‘n’ roll lover such as myself welcomed the quieter atmosphere for many evenings with my Monmouth classmates. After I graduated in 1961, Paddy’s remained the place to spend an evening until I left the area in 1967. It was an original Monmouth hangout.

—Ron Emmons ’61

A MEMORABLE WIN FOR THE HAWKS

It was Dec. 1, 1961, prior to anyone even thinking about awarding three points for long-range shooting. Tiny Monmouth College did not yet have a basketball court on campus. The Hawks were still prac-
ticing outside and playing their “home” games at Asbury Park’s Convention Hall. And they were hosting what was considered, at the time, a small college basketball powerhouse—Long Island University (L.I.U.) and its All-American, Ed “Cornflakes” Johnson.

It was supposed to be no contest. Many even wondered how Hawks Coach/Athletic Director Bill Boy-
lan even managed to book L.I.U. on the schedule.

A bit more than 1,000 fans were on hand for the big game, and they were becoming discouraged when, with just six minutes left on the clock, Monmouth was still trailing by eight points. But the Hawks lit a fire under their fans by rallying in the closing moments to knot the score 64–64 on a driving layup by Hank Arning before time expired. Then, Monmouth’s Bruce “Hot Thumbs” Beckman poured in six points and George Gill two in the five-minute overtime to put the game in the Hawks’ win column, 72–70.

Beckman wound up with a game-high 32 points, hitting mainly on booming jump shots from 25 to 30 feet. He also made two clutch free throws with 20 seconds left to give Monmouth a 72–68 cushion. Walt Mischler scored 18 points and pulled down 16 rebounds before fouling out late in the second half. The Hawks’ 66-inch sparkplug, Barry Ayers, continually out-hustled everyone and wound up with 10 rebounds. When Ayers fouled out with two minutes remaining, Gill, his replacement, stole the ball at half court and dropped it in. The ball cut the margin to two points, 62–60. Arning, a 6-foot-1 freshman, made several key baskets and finished with 14 points. That scintillating overtime victory propelled the Hawks to prominence in NCAA circles nearly 50 years ago.

Phew! And Mischler went on to earn NAIA All-American honors. It was a glorious Monmouth sports moment.

—Chuck Hassol ’61A
THE AFROFUTURE IS NOW

AFROFUTURISM IS EXPANDING BOUNDARIES AND POSSIBILITIES IN ACADEMIA, ART, AND SOCIETY.

INTERVIEW BY STEVE NEUMANN

Afrofuturism—the cultural, political, and aesthetic movement that reimagines a future filled with arts, science, and technology through a Black lens—is thriving. From movies and TV to music and literature, there has been an explosion of science fiction–inspired works rooted in, and celebrating, the uniqueness and innovation of Black culture. We asked Walter Greason, Ph.D., creator of the popular “Wakanda Syllabus,” which was named after the fictional African country featured in the equally popular Black Panther movie and comic books, to explain what the Afrofuturism boom means for the broad academic discipline of cultural studies as well as for society as a whole.

What was the starting point for Afrofuturism?

In the early 20th century, African American scholars recognized that mainstream academic society assumed there was no history in Africa, and that the peoples of the African diaspora had no useful path to offer any kind of productive lesson. The corollary was that for two or three generations people then produced the work to demonstrate that history. But by the early 1990s, a pernicious pattern had emerged within literature. When people wrote fantasy or science fiction, there were rarely people of African descent in those stories, the implication being that at some point, all people of African descent would somehow disappear. People who had no past were being imagined as having no future. Within that context, author Octavia E. Butler really emerged as the leading voice in challenging that assumption by centering science fiction stories on African American women characters. The second major figure that I talk a lot about is Dwayne McDuffie, who, within comics, created a company called Milestone Media that created a universe that was much more diverse.

It was that foundation with those literary and artistic influences in the 1990s that inspired work like Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, which featured an African American commander and had many stories that talked about the uniqueness of that heritage in the future. So that was a moment where people started to explore the possibility of a future that included people from Africa.

How has Afrofuturism grown since then?

What emerged in the last 15 or 20 years is that people like me, who grew up fascinated with that premise, became adults and produced a lot of new work. The big one for me is, of course, the Black Panther movie. I spent a lot of time from 2003 to 2016 talking about what should be in such a film. And then, when the concept of the character was launched in the Captain America: Civil War movie for Marvel, I wrote up a document called the “Wakanda Syllabus” that talked a lot about all the different influences that had developed and how to use them going forward.

FUTURE REFERENCE

IN ADDITION TO the popular Black Panther, Lovecraft Country, and Watchmen, Greason recommends these other novels, movies, and TV shows in the Afrofuturism genre:

» Kindred (1979)—“Octavia E. Butler’s classic novel explores the intersection of the past and present through the ongoing legacy of racial slavery in the United States. It defines the principle of Afrofuturism that ‘every past was once a future.’”

» Brother from Another Planet (1984)—“Joe Morton continues to distinguish himself as one of the great actors of this generation. His performance in this film revealed the contradictions of racial judgement through the metaphor of extraterrestrial alien experiences.”

» Epilogue, Justice League Unlimited (2005)—“One of the greatest animated References continued p. 10
You would also get more work like Watchmen with Regina King and Lovecraft Country with Jurnee Smollett-Bell. You might go back before James Baldwin and three, laid the groundwork for Butler, but there’s a deep er feeling that what we left behind as primitive is much more valuable than we appreciate, and that is her critiquing nostalgia. A common theme for her work is that nostalgia is this kind of dangerous illusion, in that by longing for a romantic past we’re overlooking the actually dangerous and pernicious aspects that made it a painful, even deadly reality for different people who are not included in that nostalgia. And so the kind of critique that comes out of Butler is very similar to the kinds of cyberpunk stories that you see in movies like Blade Runner. ‘What is it that we’re really protecting? Do we really represent ourselves honestly? So Afrofuturism is very much about revealing truth and showing stories that had not been told.’

How does Afrofuturism fit into cultural studies? Cultural studies opens the door to interdisciplinary work, the idea that multiple disciplines can combine and overlap and create new forms of expression. It takes multiple approaches and explores experiences in new ways, that don’t marginalize different voices and different insights. The initial breakthrough was Black Studies, a demand made by students at San Francisco State in 1967. They said, ‘We want a curriculum that represents our experience.’

Afrofuturism is the natural fruit of interdisciplinary work, in that it requires you that familiar with multiple fields in order to enter the ‘cyberpunk and creative world of the future’. You don’t just be a historian or a political scientist or a musician and come to the table; in Afrofuturism, you have to have elements of all of those. You have to be a fundamental, to continue to explore. You have to have the humility that you know that you don’t know all of it, and you’re constantly trying to find a way to grow, because you’re seeking out a bigger and bigger universe of experience and ideas.

Has Afrofuturism had any impact on attitudes and beliefs around race in America? If you look at a moment like 1920, the high point of the second Ku Klux Klan, there were dozens of deadly race riots past we’re overlooking the actually dangerous and pernicious aspects that made it a painful, even deadly reality for different people who are not included in that nostalgia. And so the kind of critique that comes out of Butler is very similar to the kinds of cyberpunk stories that you see in movies like Blade Runner. ‘What is it that we’re really protecting? Do we really represent ourselves honestly? So Afrofuturism is very much about revealing truth and showing stories that had not been told.’

How does Afrofuturism fit into cultural studies? Cultural studies opens the door to interdisciplinary work, the idea that multiple disciplines can combine and overlap and create new forms of expression. It takes multiple approaches and explores experiences in new ways, that don’t marginalize different voices and different insights. The initial breakthrough was Black Studies, a demand made by students at San Francisco State in 1967. They said, ‘We want a curriculum that represents our experience.’

Afrofuturism is the natural fruit of interdisciplinary work, in that it requires you that familiar with multiple fields in order to enter the ‘cyberpunk and creative world of the future’. You don’t just be a historian or a political scientist or a musician and come to the table; in Afrofuturism, you have to have elements of all of those. You have to be a fundamental, to continue to explore. You have to have the humility that you know that you don’t know all of it, and you’re constantly trying to find a way to grow, because you’re seeking out a bigger and bigger universe of experience and ideas.

Has Afrofuturism had any impact on attitudes and beliefs around race in America? If you look at a moment like 1920, the high point of the second Ku Klux Klan, there were dozens of deadly race riots past we’re overlooking the actually dangerous and pernicious aspects that made it a painful, even deadly reality for different people who are not included in that nostalgia. And so the kind of critique that comes out of Butler is very similar to the kinds of cyberpunk stories that you see in movies like Blade Runner. ‘What is it that we’re really protecting? Do we really represent ourselves honestly? So Afrofuturism is very much about revealing truth and showing stories that had not been told.’

How does Afrofuturism fit into cultural studies? Cultural studies opens the door to interdisciplinary work, the idea that multiple disciplines can combine and overlap and create new forms of expression. It takes multiple approaches and explores experiences in new ways, that don’t marginalize different voices and different insights. The initial breakthrough was Black Studies, a demand made by students at San Francisco State in 1967. They said, ‘We want a curriculum that represents our experience.’

Afrofuturism is the natural fruit of interdisciplinary work, in that it requires you that familiar with multiple fields in order to enter the ‘cyberpunk and creative world of the future’. You don’t just be a historian or a political scientist or a musician and come to the table; in Afrofuturism, you have to have elements of all of those. You have to be a fundamental, to continue to explore. You have to have the humility that you know that you don’t know all of it, and you’re constantly trying to find a way to grow, because you’re seeking out a bigger and bigger universe of experience and ideas.

Has Afrofuturism had any impact on attitudes and beliefs around race in America? If you look at a moment like 1920, the high point of the second Ku Klux Klan, there were dozens of deadly race riots past we’re overlooking the actually dangerous and pernicious aspects that made it a painful, even deadly reality for different people who are not included in that nostalgia. And so the kind of critique that comes out of Butler is very similar to the kinds of cyberpunk stories that you see in movies like Blade Runner. ‘What is it that we’re really protecting? Do we really represent ourselves honestly? So Afrofuturism is very much about revealing truth and showing stories that had not been told.’
To meet the growing need for counseling services to support people through the pandemic, and to provide a hands-on professional learning opportunity for graduate students, in July the School of Social Work launched the Monmouth University Community Care Telehealth Clinic (MUCCTC), a free, online counseling service available to adults living in New Jersey. “We had always wanted to start some type of free clinic for social work, but we had never really considered telehealth before,” says Elena Mazza, Ph.D., clinic coordinator and director of the social work master’s degree program. “But between the stress people were, and still are, under due to pandemic-related challenges such as job loss, loss of insurance, and a shortage of in-person counseling services, we knew there was a growing need for accessible telecounseling.”

Last spring, Mazza worked with Robin Mama, Ph.D., dean of the School of Social Work, and several licensed clinical faculty members to develop the program policies and set up a HIPAA-compliant video conferencing platform. She then recruited six clinical graduate student interns who, with COVID-19 infection numbers surging, were having difficulty securing field placements they needed in order to graduate. The clinic offered the students a way to get supervised, hands-on experience in order to fulfill their field education hours, while also serving the regional community. The program, which is open to New Jersey residents 18 years or older who are not members of the Monmouth University community, launched over the summer with interns seeing their first patients in July.

Itiesha Glover ’21, one of the graduate interns who helped to build the program and do outreach across the state, says the clinic helped to quickly fill a void left open by the pandemic. “Right now, everything’s telehealth, but at the beginning of the pandemic hit, telehealth wasn’t that big of a thing, and trying to convince someone that they can get the same level of care [virtually rather than in person] was something that we were concerned about,” she says. “But it’s become such a great program and resource for people, especially in this environment... being able to meet people where they are. We came right on time, right when we were needed.”

Each intern works closely with four clinical mental health faculty members, who volunteer their time to support the program. The faculty members meet with the interns at least once a week to discuss cases and conduct trainings, and one faculty member is always on call while interns meet with their clients to provide additional support if needed. For clients, the clinic offers flexible hours with counseling sessions available seven days a week via phone, tablet, or computer.

Mazza says each person who calls in is initially screened by a licensed clinical faculty member before they are scheduled for their first appointment with an intern, which they are usually able to book within a week. The interns are able to see an average of five to eight clients per week, and there are currently no time limitations in terms of the number of weeks clients can receive counseling services. Mazza says that even when an intern graduates, if one of their clients wants to continue receiving counseling they will help transition the client to one of the incoming graduate interns. That way the clinic is able to offer services continually throughout the year without having to break from May to September.

To date, the MUCCTC has served nearly 100 people from seven counties across the state. Glover, who has worked for New Jersey’s Division of Child Protection and Permanency for nearly 20 years, says she believes telehealth is here to stay. “In addition to having a program in which Monmouth graduate students can gain hands-on experience providing telecounseling, while being accessible to people all around the state, is more important than ever.”

“Even outside of the pandemic, some people are really hesitant to get counseling because they may have negative connotations attached to therapy—they don’t want to be seen walking in or out of the office, they worry others can hear what they’re saying,” Glover says. “So being able to meet people where they are—in their home, where they know they’re receiving counseling and can talk freely—that’s a really positive thing for people... It’s very accessible and a reason why telehealth should definitely stay.”

The program has become so popular that Mazza has received calls from other universities across the country that are interested in adopting a similar model. In addition, MUCCTC has partnered with a number of organizations that refer their clients to the clinic, including community colleges, family support centers, veterinary clinics, visiting nurses, and agencies providing recovery from substance use services.

Mazza says her hope is to grow the program in order to include more interns and to serve more clients, especially from under-served and vulnerable populations like the elderly, who might have no method of transportation to receive counseling services in person. There are also plans for expanding the program to work with groups across campus, like the occupational therapy and the professional counseling programs, to make the clinic more interdisciplinary.

In addition, the interns who graduated have all volunteered to be part of the steering committee to ensure that MUCCTC remains a leader in providing free counseling services across New Jersey while supporting the growth of future professional social workers.

“Our goal is to make this last forever, to be a resource for the community, but also for our students to get one-on-one experience working with clients,” says Mazza. “We’ve received calls from clients thanking us for this service and referring friends and family members to the clinic for counseling, and it just makes us so happy to be able to help people when they need it most.”

ANSWERING THE CALL

A NEW TEL EHEALTH CLINIC STAFFED BY GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS IS DELIVERING COUNSELING SERVICES TO THE JERSEY SHORE REGION.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

In June 2020, just three months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study that found that 40% of U.S. adults reported they were struggling with mental health or substance use—a significant increase from similar studies done the prior year.
American Dreaming

HOW ONE GRADUATING SENIOR IS FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF THE GENERATIONS BEFORE HIM.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

Senior Nick Goranites witnessed the American dream firsthand. His Syrian-born mother and his father, a first-generation American, built successful real estate careers—despite never finishing college—thanks to hard work and grit. In so doing, they set an example for their son.

“As I got older and entered high school, my objective was to work hard because my grandparents and parents sacrificed a lot to make a better life for their children,” says Goranites. “It’s important I make them proud and show them their hard work was not done in vain.”

Following in his older sister’s footsteps, Goranites enrolled at Monmouth University, where he is pursuing a double major in political science and business. His interest in business comes from witnessing his parents’ entrepreneurial success, but his interest in politics—experience, and he want to stay after he graduates in May. “My dream is to work in the American political system, which enabled my parents and grandparents to come here, work hard, and make a change for their family,” he says. “I want to be able to contribute to helping the American people thrive through our system of politics, wherever I happen to find myself.”

Meanwhile, Goranites rose to a variety of leadership positions on campus, thriving in an environment that supported him after a history with bullying. He’s the president of the Student Alumni Association, a senior senator for the Student Government Association, and president of MU Spectrum, a student club aimed at creating and promoting awareness for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer/questioning community within Monmouth. “When I arrived at Monmouth, my life changed,” he recalls. “I kept to myself and didn’t have the courage or confidence to come out as gay until I got to Monmouth, and so the University has also been a big part of my personal journey.”

Recently, Goranites landed an internship working for the Minority Republican Ranking Member Kay Granger on the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, thanks to earning a spot in the Washington Center Internship Program. He gathers data for staff, helps craft memos and briefs, and sits in on hearings. “It’s all about learning how to work as part of a policy-oriented committee staff,” he says. It’s also his first exposure to Capitol Hill, where he hopes to stay after he graduates in May.

“My dream is to work in the American political system, which enabled my parents and grandparents to come here, work hard, and make a change for their family,” he says. “I want to be able to contribute to helping the American people thrive through our system of politics, wherever I happen to find myself.”

Opposite: Goranites pictured on the National Mall, one of his favorite spots in D.C. “The Mall’s neo-classical architecture reminds you that you are in the capital of this great republic,” he says.
A<br>new campus simulation lab is helping prepare students to enter the workplace.

**ABELE MINDED**

Students in Professor Melissa Ziorbo’s Fall 2020 Museums and Archives Management Basics class curate a virtual exhibit on Julian Abele, the pioneering African American architect who played a key role in designing the building now known as the Great Hall. Their work, which includes an interview with Abele’s biographer, Dreek Spurlock Wilson, can be viewed at guides.monmouth.edu/abele/.

**WE’re DOWN WITH OTD**

Monmouth University will launch its third doctoral degree-granting program this summer when it welcomes the first students to its Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program. The three-year, full-time OTD program requires 105 credits over nine semesters, including summers. Students will take a mix of traditional and hybrid courses that place a heavy emphasis on experiential learning and hands-on training.

More information is available at monmouth.edu/OTD.

**Shaping the future in a time of uncertainty**

The ultramodern facility boasts four high-fidelity simulation suites with attached observation rooms for training with computerized manikins in simulated real-life settings, as well as six standardized patient exam rooms. The lab design and equipment incorporate the latest technology and best practices in simulated learning in OB/GYN, pediatrics, medicine, surgery, and intensive care. The lab is "a terrific example of the service culture that is at the center of Monmouth University’s mission," says President Patrick F. Leahy. "We feel a strong obligation to partner with our host communities, and we believe this facility will provide exponentially greater long-term benefits to health care in our region. To truly great, we believe universities must be anchors of community enrichment, and we are proud of our partnership with Monmouth Medical Center.”

**Dr. Robert Raso**

"The Linda Grunin Foundation, providing hands-on learning and training opportunities to students on campus; one of the summer when it welcomes the Monmouth University will anchor two manikins; President Patrick F. Leahy. "We feel a strong obligation to partner with our host communities, and we believe this facility will provide exponentially greater long-term benefits to health care in our region. To truly great, we believe universities must be anchors of community enrichment, and we are proud of our partnership with Monmouth Medical Center.”

**ABELE MINDED**

Students in Professor Melissa Ziorbo’s Fall 2020 Museums and Archives Management Basics class curate a virtual exhibit on Julian Abele, the pioneering African American architect who played a key role in designing the building now known as the Great Hall. Their work, which includes an interview with Abele’s biographer, Dreek Spurlock Wilson, can be viewed at guides.monmouth.edu/abele/.

**WE’re DOWN WITH OTD**

Monmouth University will launch its third doctoral degree-granting program this summer when it welcomes the inaugural cohort of the new Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program. The three-year, full-time OTD program requires 105 credits over nine semesters, including summers. Students will take a mix of traditional and hybrid courses that place a heavy emphasis on experiential learning and hands-on training.

More information is available at monmouth.edu/OTD.

**DAUGHTER KNOWS BEST**

Just how solid was the business plan that senior business management major Lex Walker submitted for her Small Business Management and Marketing class last fall? So solid that it persuaded her father, Robert, to start his own company. “He was kind of thinking of doing it already but was unsure if he could make it work,” says Lex. But after reviewing his daughter’s plan, Robert liked what he saw and opened a landscape design and supply business in Edison, New Jersey. He’s even renting the location that Lex recommended in her plan.

**THE FORCes STRONG WITH THIS ONE**

Senior communication major Sean Gerhard’s Star Wars Show on WMCX was named “Most Innovative/Creative Program” in the 2021 Intercollege Broadcast System (IBS) Media Awards. Each week, the broadcast highlights a different movie from the franchise and features music from that film and discussions of related topics by Gerhard and, occasionally, special guests. The end of each episode is reserved for Star Wars news, which most often covered the newest episode of The Mandalorian. In addition to his Star Wars show, Gerhard also serves as the station’s sports director, and was nominated by IBS for Best Men’s Basketball Play-by-Play.

**NURSING SCHOOL RANKED ONE OF THE NATION’S BEST**

The Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies was named one of “The 100 Best Private Nursing Schools in the United States” by Nursing Schools Almanac. According to the Almanac, a research team collected data on more than 3,000 institutions throughout the U.S. to evaluate each institution’s academic prestige and perceived value; the depth of nursing programs offered; and student success, particularly first-time National Council Licensure Examination pass rates, in selecting the top 100 list.

**I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT FOR US TO KNOW THAT WHEN WE SAY ‘I DON’T DO POLITICS,’ WHAT WE'RE ACTUALLY SAYING IS ‘I DON'T DO POWER. POLITICS IS ANOTHER WORD FOR POWER. THINK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE SAYING WHEN WE SAY ‘I DON'T DO POWER.’ ... THE IMPLICATON OF THAT IS—DOMINATE ME. CONTROL ME. I DON'T NEED TO BE AT THE TABLE OF MY OWN EXISTENCE. I DON'T NEED TO BE A VOICE AT THE TABLE FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO ME—I AM YOUR SLAVE.”**

—Ibram X. Kendi, discussing with a Monmouth audience via Zoom about the importance of civic engagement in the ongoing struggle for racial justice. The award-winning author, who was named one of Time magazine’s “100 Most Influential People of 2020,” delivered this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Lecture in Social Justice.

**WE JUST MADE THE LIST**

PR News named Monmouth University to the inaugural “Education A-List” earlier this year. The list showcases the top 35 educational institutions that are advancing the careers of public relations and communication professionals in the U.S., and includes Columbia University, Harvard University, and Georgetown University, among other national institutions.
since she arrived at Monmouth more than four decades ago, Vice President for Administrative Services Patti Swannack ’02 has been witness to institutional history several times over.

She was working in the human resources department when the athletics program celebrated its move to Division I. She saw Monmouth welcome its first female president, her friend and mentor, Rebecca Stafford. And she was newly appointed in her current role when Monmouth gained University status in 1995. She’s also witnessed the University community come together to persevere through trying times including 9/11, Superstorm Sandy, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

As she readies for retirement this June, Swannack, who has worked at Monmouth for more than half of the institution’s history, took a moment to reflect on the accomplishments she’s had and the friendships and memories she’s made along the way. “When I came to Monmouth, I’ll never forget, there was one female administrator and she wasn’t even permitted to wear slacks,” Swannack laughs. “I never expected I’d end up becoming leader in sustainability."

During her tenure as vice president, the University’s property holdings have increased over 50% while its financial obligation for utilities has remained flat. Thanks to her efforts, the University has won numerous awards for being a leader in sustainability.

"I think we’ve had some great success stories and I’ve made wonderful friends whom I will never forget."

"Every person that reports to me directly has worked for me for 18 to 20 years and we’ve laughed, we’ve worked through trials and tribulations, through personal issues, and celebrations," she says. "Even when I was in HR—it was always more than just hiring people, it’s helping people who are experiencing difficulties and challenges every day, and I think we’ve had some great success stories and I’ve made wonderful friends whom I will never forget."

She’s witnessed the University’s satellite campuses, the Edsel Ford Corporate Center, and the University’s property restoration of the Great Hall at Shadow Lawn, which included securing more than $4 million in preservation grants; and the University’s largest construction project, the OceanFirst Bank Center. She also negotiated the contract for, and oversaw the multiyear renovation of, the University’s satellite campus at the Monmouth Park Corporate Center.

"I’ve made some great success stories and I’ve made wonderful friends whom I will never forget."

"I think we’ve had some great success stories and I’ve made wonderful friends whom I will never forget."

"Every person that reports to me directly has worked for me for 18 to 20 years and we’ve laughed, we’ve worked through trials and tribulations, through personal issues, and celebrations," she says. "Even when I was in HR—it was always more than just hiring people, it’s helping people who are experiencing difficulties and challenges every day, and I think we’ve had some great success stories and I’ve made wonderful friends whom I will never forget."
ALL GOOD THINGS
MARILYN MCNEIL, A CHAMPION FOR GENDER EQUITY WHO TRANSFORMED MONMOUTH ATHLETICS, CALLS IT A CAREER.

BY MARK GOLA

If there is one thing Marilyn McNeil holds in higher regard than relationships, it’s treating those relationships equally. Fairness defines both her character and her leadership style. It is the ideal that has driven her to create positive change throughout a 53-year career in collegiate athletics.

“One of my first memories from when I arrived at Monmouth in 1994 was watching the men’s basketball team depart for a conference game on a charter bus,” recalls McNeil, vice president and director of athletics at Monmouth. “Not far behind them was the women’s basketball team headed to a conference game in a van driven by their part-time head coach.”

That—and so much more—has changed during McNeil’s 27-year tenure, which will come to a close on June 30 when she retires.

It has been an era of unparalleled growth and achievement for the Hawks’ athletics program.

McNeil took over as the women’s basketball head coach at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in 1979. The move across the border was difficult personally, but professionally, McNeil was filled with optimism. Title IX legislation had passed in the U.S. in 1972, and McNeil was eager to continue her career under the warm blanket of equity. She quickly learned that perception fell short of reality.

“They had some real equity issues at Cal Poly,” says McNeil. “It caught me off guard because I thought America was much further ahead than Canada because of Title IX. But the U.S. was behind Canada.”

Uncertain about her future in collegiate athletics, McNeil decided to pursue her doctorate. She figured that a terminal degree would position her for an administrative role in athletics, or strengthen her profile for a new career path.

“It was a good decision,” says McNeil. “Writing that dissertation was such a process that it’s something you can’t fully appreciate unless you experience it. It’s allowed me to have a connection with faculty that’s helped build relationships.”

McNeil eventually opted to leave the hardwood at Cal Poly, but she remained in athletics. Rather than coping with inequity as a coach, she thought, perhaps she could help bridge the gap as an administrator.

A COACH AT HEART

McNeil graduated from the University of Calgary and began her career in athletics at age 21 doing what she calls “the greatest job in the world”: coaching. Over the next seven years, she coached multiple sports at McGill University in Montreal and the Quebec System of Junior Colleges before returning to her alma mater as the head coach of women’s basketball in 1975.

At Calgary, McNeil quickly built a successful program, earning Canadian Coach of the Year in 1979. But it was also there that she got her first taste of the inequity of college athletics. The men’s basketball coach, her friend, told her what his salary and budget were, and she couldn’t help but notice the enormous gap between the two.

“I didn’t ask to be paid the same as the men’s coach, but I wanted to be paid fairly,” says McNeil. “I wanted the AD to make a commitment to the women’s program, and told him I’d leave Calgary if he refused. Sadly, I had to walk away from my alma mater.”

While McNeil ultimately opted to leave her post at Cal Poly, she couldn’t help but notice the enormous gap between the men’s and women’s athletic programs.

TAKING FLIGHT WITH THE HAWKS

When former Monmouth President Rebecca Stafford hired her in spring 1994, McNeil became the first woman to serve as a college athletic director in New Jersey. The appointment was major news—The New York Times ran a Q&A with McNeil in its national edition.

“I fell in love with sports at a very young age and have never lost my passion for it,” says McNeil, who was a three-sport athlete, playing volleyball, basketball, and field hockey, in college.
edition—but that didn’t make the work any easier. “I was the only woman, and that was reflective of how things were in college athletics at the time,” says McNeil. “I was in a world of young children who I’d just up-rooted from California, and there were times I was treated with disdain from the people with me as a working mom.”

When she arrived on campus, the Hawks had two full-time head coaches: football and men’s basketball; every other program was led by part-time coaches. McNeil quickly went to work establishing relationships and helping the institution understand the value of athletics.

She also needed to battle the perception that her agenda was focused in constructing a competitive athletic program: full-time coaches, head coaches for each program, men’s basketball; every other conference and field were considered a long shot. “There was a perception that her agenda was focused on men’s basketball; every other conference and field were considered a long shot.”

“She’s a true educator who was passionate about athletics,” says McNeil. “She was determined to build a program based on a strong vision. She also had an open-door policy and always wanted to show her love, so they’re avoiding the in-person interactions they’re accustomed to as college students.”

Athletics are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“Absolutely not.”

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.

“The legacy that she leaves is extraordinary. She’s served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council, and was an advocate for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. But her biggest contribution to women in sports might be her 27 years of service at Monmouth, her 27 years of service at Monmouth. She left the institution, according to Rosenblum, “knows how to handle the right answers from people.”

Athletes are creatures of habit by nature, and it has been a massive undertaking for coaches and athletes to become their new routine. Locker rooms are used in shifts to allow large indoor gatherings and maintain social distancing. Athletes must schedule treatment appointments online. Trainers continue to provide all services but have extended office hours to limit the number of visitors at any one time.

Along the way, Rosenblum has preached common sense when it comes to testing athletes' behavior outside the athletic arena. Keep your circles small and avoid gathering. Wear face coverings, and don’t hang out with other teams. Players have been competing this spring. Every sport—23 men’s and women’s programs—has been competing this spring. It’s been a massive undertaking for athletics support staff, and perhaps no office has been leaned on more than sports medicine.

Rosenblum and nine staff members are givng the traditional duties of athletic training with the additional responsibilities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic: performing regular testing and contact tracing, and providing guidance on new protocols that keep everyone safe.
TWO ON THREES

THE HAWKS' NEW AND FORMER CAREER THREE-POINT RECORD HOLDERS TALK ABOUT LIFE BEYOND THE ARC.

INTERVIEW BY PTE CROATTO

For 30 years, Dave Calloway ’91, ’95M, the former Monmouth men’s basketball coach, held the school record for career three-pointers—until senior guard Deion Hammond broke it on Feb 7 when he canned his 261st trey during a 71–69 road win over Manhattan College. Fortunately, it was a peaceful takeover: The two Hawk greats are acquainted, and were happy to sit down and talk with us about their shared love of the game, who their favorite shooter is, and more.

Deion: Oh, well, I wanted to. I’m trying to find ways to get it. Dave: It might be in black and white. Deion [laughs]. I don’t know that we had color back when I played.

Who’s your favorite three-point shooter to watch? Deion: I’d have to say Steph [Curry] is the best shooter I have ever seen. He will take any shot. That confidence he has, that comes from just hours of practice—that really stands out for me.

Dave: My new favorite is Deion. You can see the confidence in his shot. And I think it’s interesting that his favorite player is Steph, because I see some of the quick release that Steph has in Deion. Like in transition, they’ll advance [the ball] to him and he’s already up into his shot as he’s catching the ball. I hope Deion keeps playing as long as he can, because once you get to my age...

Do you ever get out there anymore? Dave: Well, David, who’s a junior at Monmouth, has a nine-year-old brother. So I will do some shooting with him. We have some fun with that. But as far as actual playing—even just a 30- or 40-minute game of just three-on-three—the knees don’t feel as good as they do after a round of golf.

Deion, can you imagine your life without basketball? Deion: Absolutely not. I’ve been playing my whole life. So it will be hard to live a life without basketball. And this is what’s putting me through college right now. I’m blessed to say I can go to college for free because of the game I love. If it wasn’t for basketball I probably would have joined the military or something like that.

When did you fall in love with the game? Deion: My sophomore year, I led the Hawks beat.

Dave: I played football, basketball, and baseball as a kid, so if you asked me then I would have said it was whatever season we were in at the time. But when I got to high school, I grew a little bit. I went to a small Italian Catholic high school, which meant 95% of the guys were 5’10”. I was 6’2”.

So I was the center on my high school team, and we started four 5’10” guys and myself. We went on to win a sectionals championship and lost to St. Anthony’s in the state finals. My senior year, I started getting recruited by Monmouth, and then was fortunate enough, like Deion, to earn a scholarship and have my education paid for. It was the best decision for me. Basketball was my life at Monmouth for 24 years.

How did you become a three-point shooter? Deion: My dad is actually a great shooter, and I learned from him. Growing up I didn’t really have concrete, but I had a hoop, so I’d shoot a lot but couldn’t really dribble. I’d make my own games, all sorts of stuff.

Dave doesn’t seem fascinated to have relinquished the crown. If your record falls, Deion, will you be happy with that? Deion: I’m not the type of person that would ever talk negatively about people in my sport. So I’ll probably be like, “How did you do it so quickly?”

Dave: I’ll have a problem with it because I don’t want to be number three [laughs]. I’m used to being the number-two person, that’s what I am at home.

This isn’t the first time the two of you have chatted...

Dave: Deion was a sophomore when my son, David, was a walk-on freshman, and David always talked very fondly of him: “Dad, this guy is good. He’s gonna break all your records.”

importantly, David always talked about what a great person Deion is, and how Deion kind of took him under his wing. That always stuck with my son, and I’m thankful for that.

Deion, Dave’s record was older than you. Have you seen any highlights of Dave from his playing days?

Deion: I started playing when I was like four or five, and I knew right away this was it, and I’ve just stuck with it.

Dave: Yeah, just shooting from everywhere around the backcourt. We had this hill back there, and I’d go all the way up the hill and start shooting down on it.

Dave: My sophomore year, I led the country in three-point shooting. The end of that season, and then all offseason, all the coaches would implore me, “Listen, when you’re back there, make sure you’re behind the line, we’ll get an extra point for it.” And my junior year was more of a focus of actually shooting threes. My last two years, I made a lot more threes because it was more of a focus.
Ahead of the Curve

ENTREPRENEUR KRISH RAMAKRISHNAN HAS MADE A CAREER OF BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

BY DAN MORRELL
PHOTOS BY ANGELA DECEZNO

A Tuesday night in March 2020, while waiting for a flight in a Chicago airport, BlueJeans co-founder Krish Ramakrishnan ’83M, ’19HN got an urgent call from one of his company’s biggest customers, Facebook. With cases of COVID-19 cropping up globally and cities mulling stay-at-home orders, the social media giant was going to shut down its global offices and have its employees work remotely—and lean heavily on BlueJeans’ video conferencing platform. “You’re going to be the mission-critical connection for us,” they told Ramakrishnan. “Are you ready?”
Facebook was the first domino. The next day, another Fortune 500 company came calling with the same message: ramakrishnan wanted to escape the rat race, take the next step of his career. He, a large, top-ranked public research university in the Midwest called to let him know that they would be transplanting to Remote learning. Over the next four days, traffic on BlueJeans’ networks shut up by 25%.

While the pandemic’s instant spike was impossible to predict, Ramakrishnan had been seeing the trend lines lead here for decades. Increasingly globalized workforces, companies would need a better way to connect with employees working far apart and expand their talent pool—and video, he believed, would be the communication medium that could make that happen.

Ramakrishnan’s ability to identify these kinds of movements in their nascent stages is a big part of what has made him a successful serial entrepreneur, having built and sold two tech companies before BlueJeans. “If you want to start a company, you need to look at technology and project it two to three years out,” he says. “You want to create a company that solves tomorrow’s problem, not today’s problem.”

Ramakrishnan attributes his pre- science to an outsider’s perspective—borne of his immigrant experience. Raised in a small village in Southern India, he moved to New York City in 1971 when his father, a diplomat, was stationed at the Indian Consulate. After his first-ever train and plane rides, he sat in his new high school, which “might as well have been on Mars.”

The contrast was striking: Items that would have looked familiar to him—everything from yesterday’s newspaper to vegetables—from yesterday’s newspapers to out-of-state but working-TVs—were bad, he says. “My outsider’s perspective, he says, helps him recognize opportunity. “When somebody says, ‘This is the way it needs to be done,’ that just rubs me the wrong way,” he says. “I’m always asking, ‘Why should it be like that?’”

So Ramakrishnan decided to build something better. In 1993, he launched Internetx, an early e-commerce solution, with two friends. He spent his days in tech consulting and his nights helping to write code for the start-up. (He was nominated by his two cofounders to serve as the company’s president—a role he believes he was given because he was the slowest coder.)

Self-funded and lacking any name recognition, the startup still managed to get the attention of Silicon Valley tech giant Cisco Systems, which eventual- ly offered to buy the company. The final negotiations were a remarkable scene. Ramakrishnan was called in to meet with John Chambers, Cisco’s legend- ary CEO, he believed, would be the clunkiness of the technology. “That was not easy,” says Periyannan. “Humility can be a rare trait in Silicon Valley, but it’s another reason why Ramakrishnan has thrived.”

Periyannan also heralds his cofounder’s ability to identify these kinds of movements in their nascent stages as a big part of what has made him a successful serial entrepreneur, having built and sold two tech companies before BlueJeans. “If you want to start a company, you need to look at technology and project it two to three years out,” he says. “You want to create a company that solves tomorrow’s problem, not today’s problem.”

When somebody says, “This is the way it needs to be done,” that just rubs me the wrong way. I’m always asking, “Why should it be like that?”

One of the things that Krish has taught me is that when you start a company, it’s about the investors, the shareholders, the employees and the customers—you know, all of the stakeholders. It’s not just about the two founders and what we want it. It’s about doing the right thing, he says, even if it’s the hard thing.

In mid-April 2020, BlueJeans an- nounced that it was being acquired by Cisco as part of an un- precededent traffic surge that tested its mettle, the company was now also in this role to “a disability of mine.” “I can’t dive that deep into a subject, but I can see the forest from the trees. I can paint a picture,” he says. “My cofounder, Alaga, is a very rigorous engineering talent—very bright, very articulate. I could only provide Ramakrishnan arrived, Topspin was in disarray. The market for its main prod- uct had collapsed, he soon realized, and he had no ready fix. “So we either had to return our investors’ money,” which was about $14 million of the $15 million it had raised, “or we had to find something different to do.” He divided the company into three teams, each tasked with devis- ing a new idea in 30 days. “All of the ideas were bad,” he says, with a laugh, “but one idea was slightly better than everything else.” The new tech found a market, took off, and—once again—caught the atten- tion of Cisco. In 2005, they acquired Topspin for $250 million.

After another stint at Cisco, he spent a few years at Silicon Valley venture fund Norwest Venture Partners, where he met his BlueJeans cofounder, Alaga Periyannan. Ramakrishnan had a vague interest science to an outsider’s perspec- tive, he says, helps him identify these kinds of movements in their nascent stages as a big part of what has made him a successful serial entrepreneur, having built and sold two tech companies before BlueJeans. “If you want to start a company, you need to look at technology and project it two to three years out,” he says. “You want to create a company that solves tomorrow’s problem, not today’s problem.”

“When somebody says, ‘This is the way it needs to be done,’ that just rubs me the wrong way. I’m always asking, ‘Why should it be like that?’

The company’s eventual offer was, would become BlueJeans—a simpler, more user-friendly videoconferencing system. (The name BlueJeans is meant to connot- e a disability of mine.” “I can’t dive that deep into a subject, but I can see the forest from the trees. I can paint a picture,” he says. “My cofounder, Alaga, is a very rigorous engineering talent—very bright, very articulate. I could only provide the pattern,” he says. “My cofounder, Alagu, is a very bright, very articulate. I could only provide the where- withal to construct it.”

Periyannan says those pictures are important, of course. “My ideas were very broad and focused on how to solve a problem,” he says. “And Krish had a rea- sonably nice way of taking that and creating a story out of it.”

Periyannan also heralds his cofounder’s steadiness. “With any sort of entrepre- neurial journey, it’s got many ups and downs. Lots of these can actually pull apart a founding team. That never hap- pened to us. We were very focused on what’s important and trust, but also a fair amount of empathy for each other.”

Navigating the downs can be emotion- ally taxing, though. Periyannan offers an example from a few years ago, when BlueJeans’ growth stalled a bit and the pair had some meetings with outside CEO and have Ramakrishnan move into an executive chairman role. “Some people would say, ‘Humility can be a rare trait in Silicon Valley, but it’s another reason why Ramakrishnan has thrived,’” he says. “One of the things that Krish has taught me is that when you start a company, it’s about the investors, the shareholders, the employees and the customers—you know, all of the stakeholders. It’s not just about the two founders and what we want it. It’s about doing the right thing, he says, even if it’s the hard thing.

In mid-April 2020, BlueJeans an- nounced that it was being acquired by Cisco as part of an un- precededent traffic surge that tested its mettle, the company was now also in this role to “a disability of mine.” “I can’t dive that deep into a subject, but I can see the forest from the trees. I can paint a picture,” he says. “My cofounder, Alaga, is a very rigorous engineering talent—very bright, very articulate. I could only provide the pattern,” he says. “My cofounder, Alagu, is a very bright, very articulate. I could only provide the where- withal to construct it.”

Periyannan says those pictures are important, of course. “My ideas were very broad and focused on how to solve a problem,” he says. “And Krish had a rea- sonably nice way of taking that and creating a story out of it.”

Periyannan also heralds his cofounder’s steadiness. “With any sort of entrepre- neurial journey, it’s got many ups and downs. Lots of these can actually pull apart a founding team. That never hap- pered to us. We were very focused on what’s important and trust, but also a fair amount of empathy for each other.”

Navigating the downs can be emotion- ally taxing, though. Periyannan offers an example from a few years ago, when BlueJeans’ growth stalled a bit and the pair had some meetings with outside CEO and have Ramakrishnan move into an executive chairman role. “Some people would say, ‘Humility can be a rare trait in Silicon Valley, but it’s another reason why Ramakrishnan has thrived,’” he says. “One of the things that Krish has taught me is that when you start a company, it’s about the investors, the shareholders, the employees and the customers—you know, all of the stakeholders. It’s not just about the two founders and what we want it. It’s about doing the right thing, he says, even if it’s the hard thing.

In mid-April 2020, BlueJeans an- nounced that it was being acquired by Cisco as part of an un- precededent traffic surge that tested its mettle, the company was now also in this role to “a disability of mine.” “I can’t dive that deep into a subject, but I can see the forest from the trees. I can paint a picture,” he says. “My cofounder, Alaga, is a very rigorous engineering talent—very bright, very articulate. I could only provide the pattern,” he says. “My cofounder, Alagu, is a very bright, very articulate. I could only provide the where- withal to construct it.”

Periyannan says those pictures are important, of course. “My ideas were very broad and focused on how to solve a problem,” he says. “And Krish had a rea- sonably nice way of taking that and creating a story out of it.”

Periyannan also heralds his cofounder’s steadiness. “With any sort of entrepre- neurial journey, it’s got many ups and downs. Lots of these can actually pull apart a founding team. That never hap- pered to us. We were very focused on what’s important and trust, but also a fair amount of empathy for each other.”

Navigating the downs can be emotion- ally taxing, though. Periyannan offers an example from a few years ago, when BlueJeans’ growth stalled a bit and the pair had some meetings with outside CEO and have Ramakrishnan move into an executive chairman role. “Some people would say, ‘Humility can be a rare trait in Silicon Valley, but it’s another reason why Ramakrishnan has thrived,’” he says. “One of the things that Krish has taught me is that when you start a company, it’s about the investors, the shareholders, the employees and the customers—you know, all of the stakeholders. It’s not just about the two founders and what we want it. It’s about doing the right thing, he says, even if it’s the hard thing.
WHAT WILL A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD LOOK LIKE?
FROM PHARMACEUTICALS TO PHOTOGRAPHY, FACULTY WEIGH IN ON THE WAYS IN WHICH COVID-19 WILL LEAVE ITS MARK.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIEL FISHEL
A SAFER PUBLIC AND A SPEEDIER DRUG PIPELINE
JEFF WEISBURG • SPECIALIST PROFESSOR, BIOLOGY

Every time you have these large disease outbreaks, it has a lasting effect on our everyday life. I’m 51, and I was about 13 years old when HIV and AIDS first reared its ugly head. Before that, doctors didn’t wear gloves when they saw you. We didn’t have equipment that covered needles, because you weren’t so concerned about needle sticks. Now it has become part of our everyday life.

The pandemic is going to have a lasting effect, too. There will always be hand sanitizers now in every room in public places. I think masks may also become more prevalent in the United States than they ever were before. And I think, no matter what, there’s going to be a large number of people who will not go to large gatherings ever again.

For the vaccine, we saw collaborative responses, which we’ve never seen before. Johnson & Johnson and Merck worked together; Pfizer and BioNTech worked together. Universities got involved, too, with Oxford working with AstraZeneca to develop their vaccine. So we saw how the science world could come together.

The other big thing was the smoother, faster FDA approval process for the vaccine. FDA approval for most medications is really a long, drawn-out process, and I think that this experience will hopefully speed up the response for any new medication. Of course, you always want to worry about safety, but people complain that—in the United States—we take a lot longer to approve our medications than most other countries. So I do hope that this is going to be a norm for the relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and the FDA. —as told to Dan Morrell

“I THINK, NO MATTER WHAT, THERE’S GOING TO BE A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT GO TO LARGE GATHERINGS EVER AGAIN.”

THE RISING ROLE OF NURSES AND TELEHEALTH
ANN MARIE MAURO • DEAN OF THE MARJORIE K. UNTERBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES

Nurses in many states, including New Jersey, do not have the benefit of practicing to the full scope of their education and their potential practice. Many of these regulations were lifted during the pandemic because of need, and there has been a push to keep them off, because evidence shows that health care delivered by advanced practice nurses is more economical, with higher quality outcomes and higher satisfaction.

There needs to be more understanding of this at the government level. I’ve lobbied for nursing and health care on Capitol Hill a number of times, working to educate legislators and lawmakers about what it is that nurses do and the value of their work.

The rise of telehealth has also changed care, just as the technology has changed the delivery of academic courses and many other parts of our lives. I don’t think it will completely replace in-person care, but it can certainly be an excellent substitute.

The challenge is that there are people who don’t have access to it. People from disadvantaged or underrepresented and minority groups may not have the economic resources for internet service. Elderly people, too, may be more challenged with that type of delivery or not trust it.

So telehealth has a real value. We just need to make sure that it’s not another way for health disparities to proliferate because of a lack of access. —as told to Dan Morrell
Coaches have had to adapt their recruiting practices, and I think they may continue to use some of the new technology they’ve learned during the pandemic. Video calls (Webex, Zoom) will likely be a tool they use to maintain contact with recruits. Expressions during a video call can give a coach a better feel for the person, their level of maturity, and interest in the program that you can’t absorb through phone, text, or email communication.

Another area that will be given thoughtful consideration is event scheduling and conference realignment. Institutions are going to assess where they’re playing and why. Now that universities were forced to take a hard look into travel and the costs and additional risks it incurs, I think there will be a more practical approach to building conference and non-conference schedules.

Athletic departments are also going to have to work hard to fill seats at their events. COVID-19 is going to stick with people for a while, and I think there will be hesitancy in attending crowded events. We’ve made it very convenient for students and families to stay home and watch livestream coverage, and feeling safer at home could give some fans another reason to opt out of attending.

The majority of changes will apply to the peripheral elements of athletics. Fortunately, I don’t think the rules of sports and how they are played will be affected, and that’s the silver lining. Athletes can adjust to limits in locker rooms or scheduling training room appointments online. They just want the opportunity to compete in the sport they love. —as told to Mark Gola

THE GAMES WILL GO ON, BUT THE OPPONENTS COULD CHANGE

Marilyn McNeil • Vice President and Director of Athletics

Change Academy through which our faculty and doctoral students are helping principals and aspiring principals from across the region lead innovations in their own schools and districts.

Those are just a few examples of the many possible outcomes of the pandemic. The pandemic has also provided us another opportunity to change and adapt, and that is the silver lining.

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION IS NOT GOING AWAY

John Henning • Dean of the School of Education

A common refrain in education has been that the pandemic made everyone a first-year teacher. The overnight switch to virtual instruction forced educators to completely reconceptualize their work to accomplish virtually what previously was done in person. What we’ve learned over the last year or so is that many of the technological tools that teachers had to quickly get up to speed on in order to facilitate remote instruction can—and I think should—continue to be used when all instruction goes back to in-person.

Even before COVID-19, some school districts were already experimenting with how to use technology to better engage students in the classroom. But the pandemic really thrust our thinking ahead on that front, and it revealed the potential that these virtual platforms have for increasing student engagement with the content and giving students more autonomy over their learning. At the same time, teachers have become increasingly more comfortable and adept at using these various technologies in their instruction.

In some regards, the pandemic provided an opportunity for the School of Education to aim our change initiatives at technology. We’re incorporating what we’ve learned about virtual teaching into our Methods courses so that our teacher candidates will be better prepared for classrooms in which technology will play an ever-increasing role in student learning. We’re piloting a simulated instruction program that provides our teacher candidates a “safe space” in which to learn to teach. And we created a School of Education Change Academy through which our faculty and doctoral students are helping principals and aspiring principals from across the region lead innovations in their own schools and districts.

There have been other changes brought on by COVID-19 that will affect P-12 education in the future. The pandemic heightened our awareness of the importance of social and emotional learning. A teacher’s presence—their physical proximity to the student, their body language—matters so much to learning, and we’re seeing the results that our current disconnectedness can have on some students. The pandemic also revealed to a greater extent the inequities that so many students face. We saw that early on with some students not having computers and internet access, and then later as teachers got to look into their students’ home lives like never before. That greater understanding will remain with teachers when everyone returns to the classroom, and it will help better inform their planning and teaching. —as told to Tony Marchetti
THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS

JOE RAPOLLA | CHAIR OF THE MUSIC AND THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY PROGRAM

The music business has been disrupted many times, so the industry seems to be well groomed for change and innovation. Just over the last several decades, we’ve gone from a physical product—vinyl, eight-track tapes, cassettes, and CDs—to virtual products—such as MP3s and downloads—to, right now, where we’re essentially an all-streaming, non-ownership service-based model.

But live music has obviously been impacted. And live music, over the last couple of decades, has been one of the biggest revenue chunks within the overall music industry pie. It used to be that you put a live tour together to go to the individual markets to expose your music to different fans and get them excited about buying your records. Well, over the last couple of decades, people haven’t been buying the records anymore; they’ve been streaming them, turning the live part of the business into a bigger part of the pie.

So artists have had to really ramp up their use of online and social platforms to try to fill in some of the gap. They’re finding new, virtual ways to connect with and perform for fans to give them somewhat of a live experience. With the student record label, Blue Hawk Records, we had live, virtual song release events. And think of Travis Scott’s (April 2020) concert in Fortnite, where you saw an artist using AI to create an experience with fans that they would never have had before and have fans really interact with the whole concert experience in a video game. So the industry has been demonstrating that it is, at its core, a creative industry, and its creativity is helping it develop new ways for fans to connect with artists.

But the pandemic has changed the way we will experience live music. There will be more precautions, like the way we incorporated new travel procedures after 9/11. And there’ll probably be some new safety procedures incorporated into the live experience. But we’re coming back and we’re coming back sooner than we think. In fact, in the UK, there are large-scale concerts scheduled for this summer that sold out in 72 hours. There’s a pent-up appetite.

The return will be a little slower in the United States. Some of the venues are opening now at 10% to 50% capacity, and some of the big promoters like Live Nation are waiting, but they’re optimistic that 75% capacity shows are within sight. So I think there’s light at the end of the tunnel here. —as told to Dan Morrell

WE’RE COMING BACK AND WE’RE COMING BACK SOONER THAN WE THINK.... THERE’S A PENT-UP APPETITE.

THE DANGERS OF A POST-COVID-19 TOURISM BOOM

KAREN SCHMELZKOPF | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Tourism certainly engenders exposure to other places and cultures—and while the ability to travel has been on hold, the pandemic has opened up the world in different ways. This year we have talked with people we might never have engaged with before on Zoom. We have had the time to watch foreign TV shows and travel documentaries on Netflix. And young people from all over the world are engaging with TikTok, producing their own content and transcending many of the cultural bubbles of more established social media

In addition, knowing that this is a pandemic—a global phenomenon—has brought some sense of commonality with distant places and people.

When tourism does resume, one unfortunate possibility is that the vaccine could actually help spread COVID-19, because the vaccinated can carry the virus and infect people who are not. We might see people who are vaccinated taking advantage of the cheap flights and hotel rooms to go somewhere as soon as they can. Not only could this cause a surge of infections, but as we are increasingly aware it could also spur variants that are not susceptible to the vaccines.

Encouragingly, though, many tourist agencies have been using this time to rethink tourism and its impact on local people and the environment. Restrictions such as limiting the numbers of tourists, encouraging the use of electric cars, using GPS and surveillance technology to monitor flows of people, and increasing carbon removal and storage technologies are being proposed. On the other hand, the economic impacts on the tourism industry have been devastating. The incentive to be sustainable may not be viable in the face of the pent-up demands of tourists and the economic needs of tourism, resulting in an increase in extreme over-tourism after the pandemic is over.

While the duration of the pandemic has given us time to investigate much-needed changes, the end of the pandemic may give us minimal time to bring them about.

However, I am optimistic that with public-private alliances and community participation, including wearing masks and practicing social distancing, the pandemic will in some ways prove beneficial for the future of tourism. —as told to Maureen Harmon
WORK FROM HOME IS HERE TO STAY

NOAH HART — COORDINATOR OF FIRST YEAR ADVISING, WHOSE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON THE WORKPLACE

Based on what we’ve seen over the past year, a large percentage of staff—especially professional and technical staff—are working remotely, and the overwhelming majority of that work has gone much better than anyone ever expected. So the trajectory of moving into the next 10 or 15 years has really been accelerated. Business doesn’t need to go on as it did pre-COVID-19.

What American capitalism is all about is profit, the bottom line, and nonprofits want to minimize expense. So what’s happened already, and I don’t see it stopping, is brick-and-mortar organizations—which require that staff be in the office at 9 a.m. and leave at 5 p.m.—became part of history.

I think what’s going to really suffer is spontaneous interaction and spontaneous growth—growth that comes out of personal, in-person relationships, not on Zoom but over a cup of coffee or during a brief break when you go out and you sit in the sun and think through an issue with colleagues from another area—and eureka. That’s not something that you can schedule. It’s organic. And I think that’s going to be where organizations are going to be challenged.

Management will need to be really innovative and creative, and I think they really will have to borrow from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to learn how to sustain culture. Organizational culture is an intimate thing, and it’s shared, in many ways, informally. So there will need to be an opportunity for groups to get together and have face time—weekly, monthly, or quarterly. The ability to do that will certainly improve with the vaccine. But even if tomorrow we have a situation where COVID-19 is largely neutralized, I don’t see a wholesale return to pre-COVID-19 work—as told to Maureen Harmon.

THE ART OF THE PANDEMIC

COREY DEZENKO — ART HISTORIAN AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ART AND DESIGN

Right now, I think it’s too early to know the impact of COVID-19 on art and visual culture. But what keeps coming to mind is the AIDS epidemic and the direct parallels that artists are already making to COVID-19. Last semester, one of my students, David Rogers ’20, delivered a thoughtful presentation about graphic design used for social change. He looked at advocacy designs through the AIDS epidemic, but then he brought in COVID-19—because in both instances in the United States, we had a federal government that was ignoring or downplaying the impact of these health crises on the national populace. The first major exhibition to look at AIDS in the United States wasn’t until 2015, and New York Times art critic Holland Cotter asked, “What took so long?” Why did it take us so long to address this disease that impacted such a large part of the population?

There’s a way that art records what’s happening. There’s a way that artists work through what they’re experiencing. There’s a way that artists look at their past work as resonating again now, which I’ve seen. And there’s a way that they create this psychological working through. That’s why I say it’s so early—we don’t know the trauma that people are going to come out of this with as a whole.

We can’t disconnect the trauma of COVID-19 from the social justice movements like Black Lives Matter that are going on, especially as we see how COVID-19 affects different communities disproportionately. The ways that we represent and understand recent social justice events and the way that we understand those events are deeply embedded and connected to the way we understand and are experiencing COVID-19 as a disease.

Very early on in the pandemic we lost two very important art history scholars. One was Maurice Driskell was very important in recognizing and telling the history of African American art. He died in April. Their voices are now gone. Berger’s husband, curator and writer Marvin Heiferman, also connected to photography, has been sharing his journey of grief through photographs on social media, with captions like: “This is my first day sleeping in our bedroom again; this is my first time returning back to our New York City apartment.” He has even shown images of the ambulance and the emergency team about to use a helicopter to take Maurice away, but it was too late.

I think that’s what some people don’t understand about art and visual culture. It’s not just pretty pictures on your wall... It’s Visual language used to communicate. It’s strange to look at Heiferman’s photos because it feels, in one sense, voyeuristic, but he’s putting them out there for us to see as he mourns. And then if we just take a step back we can see that this is not an isolated incident; it connects to the larger public moments of trauma. —as told to Maureen Harmon

“I THINK THAT’S WHAT SOME PEOPLE DON’T UNDERSTAND ABOUT ART AND VISUAL CULTURE. IT’S NOT JUST PRETTY PICTURES ON YOUR WALL.... IT’S VISUAL LANGUAGE USED TO COMMUNICATE.”

Spring 2021 MONMOUTH 39
It’s often challenging to identify definitive turning points in the path of someone’s life. But Damon Colbert ’15, ’16M, ’20Ed.D. doesn’t hesitate when asked to recall the exact moment his life took a turn toward trouble.

It was the end of his first marking period at Long Branch High School, and for the first time in his life Colbert had taken pride in his grades, which was no small feat. Colbert’s childhood had been mired in disadvantages and obstructions. His father was an emotionally and physically abusive addict who maintained only the faintest pretense of parenting, leaving Colbert’s mother to care for her son and three daughters while wrestling with her own substance abuse.

“Growing up, we really had nothing,” says Colbert. “We were dirt poor. My father was running around in the streets, neglecting his family, so I had no guidance, no role models or inspirations or anyone giving me a sense of positive manly direction or support. My mother was struggling with her own demons and spent most of her attention on my sisters. So, I was kind of left to figure it out for myself.”

In middle school this proved extremely difficult. Colbert’s grades were awful, his behavior abysmal, and he generally classifies that time as “just barely getting by.” But he vowed to begin high school with renewed focus and tenacity. He started playing football and actually tried to apply himself academically. When he got his first report card, Colbert was elated to see his efforts had paid off.

“I had B’s and C’s, maybe even an A in there, but for the first time no D’s or F’s. I was extremely excited,” says Colbert. “I was even more excited to show my father, because he was always hard on me, and I would get a beating for bad grades. He beat me with a belt or extension cord until I was in eighth grade. And when I finally showed him my report card, he shrugged and said, ‘Huh. You got C’s. This isn’t nothing.’”

Here Colbert pauses and sighs. “I really wanted him to be proud of me, but it wasn’t impressive enough to him,” he continues. “That was a turning point in my life. I came to him with good grades expecting him to get behind me and be happy for me. Instead, I got a shrug. That really hurt. And things changed. For the worse.”

Colbert’s grades plummeted. His behavior worsened. And his life quickly spun out of whatever control he’d previously tried to exert over his circumstances, eventually ending with him becoming homeless at the age of 16. And yet the story of Damon Colbert was far from over. In the end he would achieve incredible things, including serving...
in the U.S. Army for four years, mar-
rying, and becoming a father to twins, and
receiving three degrees from Mon-
mouth University, including his doc-
torate in educational leadership last
August. But before we get there, it’s im-
portant to understand how Colbert got
there, because his struggles are also the
source of his inspiration.

B
ty the age of 16, Colbert’s perfor-
mance on his high school’s foot-
ball field had propelled him to lo-
cal celebrity status. And defensive end,
Colbert set a new school sack record
with 29 tackles. He was adored—at least
during the fall. “Anything outside of these,” he says, “was horrid.”

Colbert was missing countless days of
school, and when he did show up, he put
forth the bare minimum to keep his
head above water. Meanwhile, outside
the classroom, he’d started “running
around with the wrong people.” He was
drinking, smoking weed, and often not
coming home until the early morning hours, if he came home at all.

“My mother was overwhelmed with
struggling through her substance usage,
caring for my sisters, and trying to
stay strong through heartache,” says Col-
bert. “My dad just left his family, and
my mother had no support, no family
around.” It was just her and son, and his
behavior at the time was completely out
of line. I didn’t follow any rules she put
forth to establish order in her house.”

“I had a rough time of it, but it’s not a
big deal. Be home every night by a certain
time or leave. And so, he left.

For almost the entire of his senior year
of high school, Colbert was a teenage no-
mad. He’d sleep wherever he could—
friends’ couches, abandoned cars, train
stations, alleyways, emergency rooms. He
even made a regular practice of setting his
alarm on the other end of the station. He’d
use a tucked-away bathroom inside Mon-
mouth Medical Center to wash himself,
get changed, and brush his teeth before
the morning rush of medical sta-
taff. And he’d arrive.

He watched his future wife work her way
up the ranks to supervisor status with
in Monmouth Medical Center while he
continued driving produce trucks, he felt
needed to do more. So Colbert made a
pivotal decision to enlist in the Army.

Colbert says, “I was able to do that because
I was technically homeless, heartbroken
from my last relationship, and I think
she could see my pain.”

By the age of 29 Colbert was living with
America and finally embracing a stabil-
ity he’d never known before. And as he
watched his future wife work her way
up to the ranks of supervisor status with
in Monmouth Medical Center while he
continued driving produce trucks, he felt
needed to do more. So Colbert made a
pivotal decision to enlist in the Army.

“I knew that if I stayed on that job, I
was never going to go anywhere,” he
America was moving on. I needed to move
up too.”

The army changed everything.
Following boot camp, Colbert was stationed in the 82nd Air-
borne Division in Fort Bragg, North
Carolina, and eventually deployed to
Haiti for six months to assist in the af-
termath of a devastating earthquake in
2010. Colbert’s work there as a human
resources specialist impressed his ser-
gent major so much that, when the of-

cifer’s unit was given orders to deploy
to Iraq, he stopped Colbert’s orders to
Iraq deployment.

Here Colbert—typically effusive and un-
restrained—becomes reticent. He doesn’t
like to talk much about his time in Iraq,
where he served until being medically
discharged following an IED explosion.

“There are certain things I don’t want to
open up for myself,” he says. “Prior
to that deployment I was going to stay
in the military for 20 years. I was do-
ing excellent and it felt like I was where
I supposed to be. But by the end of my
time in Iraq, I hadn’t seen my wife in
over a year and I was extremely ready to
come home.”

And, so, Colbert’s life took one last dra-
matic turn.

Colbert began working for the New Jersey
Beenity Corporation, helping recently
released inmates find employment and
housing. After a year there, he accepted
a position as a social worker for the Vet-
erans Health Administration, where he
currently case-manages homeless veter-
ans throughout New Jersey.

Colbert decided to take one last educa-
tional leap in 2018, when he returned to
Monmouth once more to earn his doc-
torate of educational leadership. For
two years he worked on his disserta-
tion, “Examining the Emotional Im-
pact on Educators Working with Col-
be-Ma-Affected At-Risk Youth,” which
he completed last summer. And while he’s
definitely not sure what the next step in
his journey will look like, he knows that it
will, in some way, involve helping chil-
dren who were as disadvantaged as he
was. “If I were to start my own small
local after-school program, starting
for at-risk children, or poten-
tially even getting involved with
educators who’ve worked with
these kids to go unlock that
potential,” he says. “I don’t
think people should be
proud of. I don’t think people should
be judged on their past. Everybody has
potential, and sometimes you just have
to unlock that potential. My goal is to
provide opportunities for kids to unlock
that potential,” says Colbert. “No one is
lost. My story is a lesson in perseverance,
and struggle, but I like to think of myself
as the potential of the struggle.”

T

I don’t want kids
like me to suffer
through almost 30
years before seeing
an opportunity to
thrive. I don’t want
these kids to go
through life blind
for so long.

Colbert at home with his wife, America, and
children (from left) Darren IV and Lijiah. ABOV

“I looked a mess—dirty jeans, two
hoodies—but I just came up to her
and said, ‘Hey, what’s up’,” says Colbert.
“We started talking and everything
was great. I was in a vulnerable state.
I was technically homeless, heartbroken
from my last relationship, and I think
she could see my pain.”

ABOVE: Colbert and his wife, America, and
children (from left) Darren IV and Lijiah.

“I just remember thinking. ‘All right,
things will get better because maybe
when I’m 20 or 21 I’ll be in the NFL
and have a nice house and everything will be
fine.’ I thought that would just happen.
No work, No direction, No plan. Life was
just going to take care of itself.”

For a short while Colbert’s sudden home-
lessness came with a rush of adrenaline
and newfound freedom. But this didn’t
last long, and he eventually needed to
summon a robust work ethic in order to
survive. He took jobs wherever he could
find them. A gig at JCPenney. Pushing
carts at Foodtown. Working for the city
of Long Branch on the back of a garbage
truck. Whatever it took.

“I wasn’t a career criminal and I was
never scared of work. Faced with sur-
vival and having to eat and have a roof
over my head all pushed me to get jobs,”
says Colbert. “But I didn’t take anything into context. I was blind to whatever
the outcome was. I was living in the mo-
ment and not seeing past it.”

Colbert spent much of the next de-
cade in various stages of homelessness,
spending multiple states, and the sur-
real, sinuous path of his life during
that time contains more multifarious
experiences than can be chronicled
here. But suffice it to say, after working
odd jobs and enrolling for brief stints
at two different colleges in the South,
Colbert found himself, at age 27, back
in New Jersey.

“Problem wasn’t about living
up. The reality was, I didn’t
know how to live up to my
responsibilities. All I knew was get
money, get a room,” says Colbert.
“And I was drinking and smoking the whole
time. My lifestyle was similar to an ad-
dict. I moved back home to try and make
sense of everything.”

Colbert’s life didn’t spontaneously
improve when he got back to New Jersey,
but did mark the beginning of the end
of his aimlessness. Shortly after getting a job
at a produce warehouse in Long Branch,
he met a young woman named America at
a party. The next day he spotted her inside
a fast-food restaurant, so he popped in to
talk with the woman who would eventu-
ally become his wife.

Colbert got
in touch
with the woman who would eventually
become his wife.

America was moving up. I needed to
move up too.”

“I just remember thinking. ‘All right,
things will get better because maybe
when I’m 20 or 21 I’ll be in the NFL
and have a nice house and everything will be
fine.’ I thought that would just happen.
No work, No direction, No plan. Life was
just going to take care of itself.”

For a short while Colbert’s sudden home-
lessness came with a rush of adrenaline
and newfound freedom. But this didn’t
last long, and he eventually needed to
summon a robust work ethic in order to
survive. He took jobs wherever he could
find them. A gig at JCPenney. Pushing
carts at Foodtown. Working for the city
of Long Branch on the back of a garbage
truck. Whatever it took.

“I wasn’t a career criminal and I was
never scared of work. Faced with sur-
vival and having to eat and have a roof
over my head all pushed me to get jobs,”
says Colbert. “But I didn’t take anything into context. I was blind to whatever
the outcome was. I was living in the mo-
ment and not seeing past it.”

Colbert spent much of the next de-
cade in various stages of homelessness,
spending multiple states, and the sur-
real, sinuous path of his life during
that time contains more multifarious
experiences than can be chronicled
here. But suffice it to say, after working
odd jobs and enrolling for brief stints
at two different colleges in the South,
Colbert found himself, at age 27, back
in New Jersey.

“Problem wasn’t about living
up. The reality was, I didn’t
know how to live up to my
responsibilities. All I knew was get
money, get a room,” says Colbert.
“And I was drinking and smoking the whole
time. My lifestyle was similar to an ad-
dict. I moved back home to try and make
sense of everything.”

Colbert’s life didn’t spontaneously
improve when he got back to New Jersey,
but did mark the beginning of the end
of his aimlessness. Shortly after getting a job
at a produce warehouse in Long Branch,
he met a young woman named America at
a party. The next day he spotted her inside
a fast-food restaurant, so he popped in to
talk with the woman who would eventu-
ally become his wife.
Here’s Christopher Lowman ’94, ’96M, on the phone from his Pentagon office, leading the U.S. Army at a level few will ever reach—and explaining his prestigious role for those who don’t quite understand it:

“I think it’s analogous to the CMO in a large corporation,” he says. “We have a secretary of the Army—that would be the CEO—and then the under secretary is really the chief management officer.” That makes Lowman the Army’s second-highest-ranking civilian leader right now.

“This is a big deal—a job that only the best are selected for,” says Brigadier General Martin F. Klein, who has worked in the Pentagon for over a decade.

“Both humbling and an honor” is how Lowman, a Marine Corps veteran who joined the Army as a civilian employee in 1989, describes it. He spent the last 32 years advancing from “an extraordinarily low position” to eventually become the acting under secretary on Jan. 20, 2021. Only a few dozen people have ever held the title, interim appointments included, since its debut in 1947.

“But to those who have worked with him, it’s not surprising that Lowman is now one of them. “Mr. Lowman is very well versed in the way that the Pentagon runs, and is considered one of the most gifted senior leaders in terms of understanding how to steer issues within the Pentagon and get things done,” says Klein. “Now he’s in a position to make enduring change for our Army and for our nation.”

As under secretary, Lowman heads up three crucial areas of Army management. The first is “anything related to people,” he says—and with a million soldiers in uniform right now, their 1.2 million dependents, another million veterans, and roughly 300,000 people who, like Lowman himself, work for the Army as civilians, there is no shortage of people-related issues to tackle. Second and third, he oversees the Army’s commitment to modernizing and its ongoing readiness.

He arrived in the role at a time of transition: after the Trump-nominated under secretary left and before a Biden-selected, Senate-confirmed replacement has been named. Until then, Lowman will continue to act as the “senior official performing the duties of under secretary of the Army.”

“It’s a big job in a large organization with a very important mission,” he says. But it’s also “a challenge that I think I’ve prepared for my entire life.”

“Born into a family that prized “serving something larger than yourself,” Lowman spent most of his childhood in Germany, where his father worked for the U.S. Army as a civilian. After enlisting in the Marine Corps and then following his dad’s lead into Army civilian service, Lowman found himself assigned to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1990.

“That’s when I realized I could rise to a certain level, but I was going to need a college degree to progress further,” he says. So at 22 years old, and working full time during the day, he enrolled as a freshman at Monmouth. Thanks to night-time, weekend, and lunch-break classes, he zipped through his B.S. in business administration and management in just four years. From there, it was straight on to an MBA, also at Monmouth.

“It really was a foundational experience for me,” he says of the five years he spent as a Hawk. On top of imparting business fundamentals, Monmouth granted him flexibility with its off-hours course options for adult learners. Now he tries to share that same adaptability with his own teams.

“You have to lead with an understanding that all of your employees have challenges somewhere in their lives or commitments they must meet,” he says. “But the mission will go on, and you will...
From Monmouth to D.C.

owman became maintenance staff officer at the Pentagon in 1999—and he was working in his office on Sept. 11, 2001, when a plane smashed into the building about a hundred yards away. “It really drove home this notion of service,” he says, “and also that just because we worked in the Pentagon, we weren’t immune to the world’s problems.” In 2003, as the U.S. prepared to invade Iraq, Lowman accepted a job in Germany—immune to the world’s problems.” We’re tackling those head on,” he says, starting with a newly created People First Task Force to help identify problems and build better teams. The Army also launched a new modernization strategy last year. They’re working to update everything from air and missile defense to combat vehicles and field equipment between 2020 and 2035. “Because of the scale of the Army, it takes a fairly deliberate process and an enormous amount of capital investment,” Lowman says. “We have to be very careful about what we invest in and why we are investing in it.”

As he approaches these sweeping initiatives from one of the top posts, Lowman also wants to hear from those at the ground level. That’s where #TheUnderIsListening came from. Despite some early wariness from his PR team, he’s been scheduling weekly ask-me-anything chats, making himself available to anyone with a Twitter account. Some have tweeted in their complaints about on-base housing, others want to see postpartum physical fitness testing and BMI requirements change. “It’s those real-life, granular questions,” he says. “Questions that, while maybe broadly discussed in the intellectual life on campus. has funded a host of initiatives that have benefited students and faculty and has enhanced the cultural and intellectual life on campus. In recognition of Sculthorpe’s outstanding service and philanthropy to Monmouth University, President Patrick F. Leahy will present him with the first President’s Medal of Recognition at his Extraordinary Service, Philanthropy, and Leadership of Monmouth University.

Growing up in Long Branch, New Jersey, Robert B. Sculthorpe ’63 ’13HN had his sights set on Wall Street but little interest in attending college. Yet thanks to the gentle prodding of his mother, an Italian immigrant whose own formal education ended at the eighth grade but who understood the importance of attaining a college degree, he enrolled at Monmouth in the fall of 1956. After earning his B.S. in business administration, Sculthorpe, never short on gumption, bootstrapped his way to Wall Street, where he enjoyed a storied 35-year career at one of the world’s largest investment banks and financial services companies.

Despite his initial misgivings about college, Sculthorpe said he never forgot how fundamental his Monmouth education was to his professional success. So as his career drew to a close, he sought to give back to the University that had given him his start. He served on Monmouth’s Board of Trustees in various capacities for more than a decade, including four as chair. And through the years, he has funded a host of initiatives that have benefited students and faculty and has enhanced the cultural and intellectual life on campus. In recognition of Sculthorpe’s outstanding service and philanthropy to Monmouth University, President Patrick F. Leahy will present him with the first President’s Medal of Recognition at his Extraordinary Service, Philanthropy, and Leadership of Monmouth University.
leadership and support have provided countless opportunities for Monmouth students through the years, and I look forward to celebrating him this fall as part of our Founders Day Gala.

**A FIRST-GENERATION SUCCESS STORY**

Sculthorpe said his youthful disinterest in college stemmed in part from not being “smart enough to see what lay ahead.” He assumed his ticket into the business world would come by way of working in his uncle’s clothing store. But his mother, Geraldine, who had come to America from Naples, Italy, as a child, had other ideas. “She was a seamstress, but she was much more successful in her own right, but she didn’t have the education to compete in that world. So she was always encouraging my brother, sister, and me to finish high school and go to college.”

Sculthorpe paid his own way through Monmouth by working multiple jobs, and when he graduated in 1963, he was the first in his family to earn a college degree. “It was a breakthrough for my family to earn a college degree. I graduated in 1963, he was the first in his family to earn a college degree. He still had that glint in his eye toward Wall Street. “It always held a romantic place in my mind,” he said. “I had subscribed to The Wall Street Journal when I was in high school and loved reading about the markets.” But his first job out of college was selling insurance. He didn’t like the work or the product, and quickly moved into a corporate sales position with the H.J. Heinz Company. That was a better fit, “but I always kept an eye out to see if any of the Wall Street firms were looking for training program recruits,” he said.

After a few years, his persistence paid off when Dean Witter & Co., the former stock brokerage and securities firm, hired him. In those days, Wall Street was in many ways reserved for “elite” school graduates. “I certainly didn’t have the money or the ‘family legacy’ those guys had,” Sculthorpe said. But what he lacked in pedigree and connections, he made up for with initiative and affability—qualities he inherited from his mother. “I’ve always been able to ‘meet people’ very easily, and no matter how tough it might be, to make it work.”

Sculthorpe built a substantial business as a broker handling individual and institutional clients, and through the years worked his way up to become one of the most influential employees at the company. By the time Morgan Stanley acquired Dean Witter in 1997, Sculthorpe was director of its Institutional Equity Division. The merger created the world’s largest securities company at the time, and Sculthorpe’s role in it was chronicled in the *Harvard Business Review.*

At Morgan Stanley, Sculthorpe took responsibility for numerous business units, including Regional Management, Head of Global Private Wealth Management, Economic and Stock Market Research, and Institutional Equity Sales and Trading. When he retired in 2003, he was vice chairman and managing director of Morgan Stanley’s Private Client Group in London, responsible for all European, Middle East, and Asian private client businesses.

**RECONNECTING WITH MONMOUTH**

Sculthorpe said he never forgot how “absolutely key” his Monmouth experience was to his success. Now free from the 50- to 60-hour workweeks that Wall Street demanded, he wanted to play a more active role at his alma mater. He was elected to the University’s Board of Trustees the same year of his retirement and served as treasurer and vice chair before being named chair in 2011, a position he held for four years. In 2016 he received trustee emeritus status. His long service with the board has given him the opportunity to work with several Monmouth presidents. “All organizations are measured by their leaders,” said Sculthorpe, who during his Wall Street days met with chief executives from around the world. “Good leadership is contagious. It’s what makes organizations great. And Monmouth has had some exceptional leaders in my view.”

Sculthorpe has particularly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Monmouth students through the years, and it is they who have benefited most from his generosity. His support of Monmouth’s academic programs includes the establishment of the annual Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe Memorial Scholarship, which is named in honor of his late daughter and funds dozens of student research projects each year that make a positive impact in coastal communities. Many of those research experiences take place aboard Monmouth’s largest research vessel, also named in Heidi Lynn’s memory in recognition of another Sculthorpe gift that ensures the vessel’s seaworthiness.

A staunch supporter of the arts, Sculthorpe made a substantial donation to bring Metropolitan Opera programming to campus. He was also an early benefactor of the OceanFirst Bank Center, helping to launch construction of the facility that today serves as the area’s premier venue for large-scale concerts and shows and is home to several Monmouth athletics programs. The list goes on and on. When asked what has inspired him to this level of service and support for Monmouth University, Sculthorpe unassumingly said, “I was raised a Catholic, so giving back has always been a part of who I am. And I always thought that to the degree I could help, I would. He will forever have a ‘soft spot’ in his heart for his alma mater, he continued: “I was fortunate to find a career I really loved and was good at; that it paid well was a byproduct. But none of it would have been possible without my Monmouth degree.”

**GOOD LEadership IS CONtaGIOUS. IT’S WHAT MAKES ORGANIZATIONS GREAT. AND MONMOUTH HAS HAD SOME EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS IN MY VIEW.**

---

**MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS DAY GALA**

October 16, 2021 | OceanFirst Bank Center

Join campus and community leaders for Monmouth University’s premier fundraising event, the inaugural Founders Day Gala. Proceeds from the evening will support the Monmouth Access Fund, which provides critical scholarship support to deserving students whose financial circumstances preclude them from accessing a highly personalized education.

During the event, President Leahy will award the first President’s Medal to Trustee Emeritus Robert B. Sculthorpe ’63, ’15HN, whose extraordinary service, philanthropy, and leadership has provided countless opportunities for Monmouth University students.

MONMOUTH.EDU/FOUNDERSDAYGALA

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please contact foundersdaygala@monmouth.edu or 732-263-5400.
A FORCE FOR CHANGE
FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE’S OFFICE TO THE STATEHOUSE, EILEEN GAVIN IS HELPING TO SHAPE HOW WE TACKLE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

Confronting public health issues has always been a top priority for school nurses. During her 17 years working in the Middletown, New Jersey, school district, Eileen Gavin ’03, ’10M has helped students dealing with mental health issues, abusing drugs, and grappling with food scarcity at home.

“There are things that happen in our communities that are reflected in our schools,” says Gavin. “And school nurses have their fingers on the pulse of it all.”

Never has that been more evident than the past year, as countless school nurses landed on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. They prepared school reopening plans, screened students for symptoms, and even contact-traced outbreaks. For Gavin personally, 2020 was also the year she threw herself deeper into effecting change, through both legislative efforts and COVID-19 strategies.

“When I see something that’s not working correctly, I always want to change it,” she says. “Whether it’s systematic or just personal, I want to see how we can do it better.”

Gavin has been a nurse since 1983, but her state-level activism ignited in 2014, shortly after she participated in a health leadership program through Johnson & Johnson. The opioid epidemic was surging, and she’d been hearing from parents who were terrified that their kids might overdose.

She wanted the opioid reversal drug Narcan available in schools. With support from her then-superintendent William George ’97M—a Teaching Fellow at Monmouth—Gavin developed Narcan protocols and procedures for her own district that were later replicated throughout the state. She also advocated for legislation requiring that Narcan be made available in all New Jersey high schools. “That kind of propelled me into the limelight as an expert,” she says now.

She was ready for it, thanks in part to her multiple degrees from Monmouth. Gavin completed her R.N. in nursing in 2003 and continued on to a Master of Science in advanced practice nursing, all by a post-master’s certificate in School Nursing degree, followed on Sept. 14, 2020. “To be part of legislation from conception to when it’s passed is probably one of the highest honors,” says Gavin.

In the final days of 2020, Gavin was reflecting on these bright spots within a tumultuous year—and preparing to administer COVID-19 vaccines as a volunteer through the Monmouth County Health Department’s Medical Reserve Corps. Whether she’s working inside a school, testifying in the State Senate, or soon, administering lifesaving vaccines to people in New Jersey, “I’m a nurse every day, 24/7,” she says. “People are always texting me, emailing me questions. Neighbors even come to my door if their child is hurt. Being a nurse is just part of my DNA. It’s a sense of service, and I think a lot of nurses have that in them.”
1970s

- Kenneth F. LePosa ’71 and his wife, Barbara Ann (Lagrottiaria) LePosa ’72, proudly reported that their son, Ken, daughter-in-law, Michelle, and grandchildren Giovanni and Vincent donated food to feed 50 families in the Camden, New Jersey, area this past holiday season.

- Sandra Eber-Noble ’71 has worked in the field of elementary and preschool special education for 49 years, in both New Jersey and New York, including directing a special education preschool and evaluation site. She currently works for Kids-Centric in Brooklyn, New York, supervising and training preschool special education teachers. Noble has a master’s degree in special education and a second bachelor’s degree in education supervision and administration. She received an art-in-therapy certificate from Turtle Bay School of Music in New York City and enjoys songwriting and performing her original songs.


- James Fisher ’73 retired on July 31, 2020, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the end of a 42-year teaching career. At UNCG, Fisher served as department head of theatre from 2002 to 2018, and is currently the recipient of many awards for teaching and his scholarship, which includes 79 books and many essays and reviews. He is also an actor and director, staging over 150 theatre productions in his career. Fisher lives in Greensboro with his wife, Dana Warner Fisher, and he is the father of two children, Daniel and Anna. At Monmouth, Fisher was a speech and drama major and was a communication alumni academy award recipient in 2015.

1980s

- Deborah Capasso ’80 retired from the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center after 39 years and 9 months of service as a mathematician/computer specialist providing support to our nation’s air traffic control systems.

- Veteran editor Rob Reinaldo ’80 published Why Editors Drink, a snarky look at the foibles of online writing. Reinaldo is the founder of Word Czar Media, which specializes in editing, proofreading, writing coaching, and more.

- Martin Saltzman ’82 is co-host of It’s Your Money with Jo Ann & Martin, which seeks to educate viewers on all aspects of financial planning and investment topics, from mortgage forbearance to retirement plans for small businesses. The show is broadcasted by RYN TV and can be viewed through Apple TV, Roku, and Amazon Fire TV. Saltzman is the principal/chief operating officer of AFM Investments Inc. in Toms River, New Jersey.

- Guy Pedelini ’84M was elected president of the board of directors for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Pedelini has been a human capital senior executive for diverse global organizations including RSA, GE, Bayer, and Bioware Inc. He is currently president of Double Black Human Capital Solutions, a full-service human capital consulting firm. Pedelini holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Delaware. Lerner College of Business & Economics in Newark, Delaware, and is a graduate of the Villanova University certified Project Management Institute in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

- In April 2019, Siemens Demag Delaval Turbomachinery Inc. closed its doors in Trenton, New Jersey, and sent manufacturing back to Germany, so, after 50 years of service as a manufacturing manager, Thomas Frye ’87 was fortunate to land a new position as the director of facilities and grounds with the Bordentown Regional School District in Bordentown, New Jersey. Frye says he’s privileged to work in his hometown and at his high school alma mater, where he graduated in 1973.

- Kim Cuny ’88, a communication studies professor and director of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro’s Speaking Center, has been awarded the 2020 Service Engagement Award from the National Communication Association, the largest professional organization of the communication studies academic discipline. Cuny was recognized for a partnership she formed with Peacehaven Community Farm, an 89-acre sustainable farm in Whitselt, North Carolina. For the past five years, she and her students have been helping adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities improve their communication skills.

- Mike Farragor ’88 and Barbara (Misko) Farragor ’89 launched Love Letters Proflies, a writing service specializing in biography profiles, résumés, and dating profiles. Mike, who has lectured on humor writing, is the author of This Is Your Brain on Shroombucks, a series of essay books, and Barbara is an internationally known voice-over artist and radio DJ.

- Barbara (Misko) Farragor ’89. See note for Mike Farragor ’88.

- Brian M. Schwartz ’89 married Michelle Morra on Oct. 30, 2020, at The Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park, New Jersey. Several alumni were in attendance including Peter Simpson ’86, Jeffrey Gilb ’85, John Haluza ’85, and Kent Smith ’89.

1990s

- Kenneth Long ’94M is the interim president at East Stroudsburg University (ESU) in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he had served as ESU’s vice president of administration and finance since 2013. Long, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in math and political science from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, previously worked in university administration at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio, and at DeVry University, headquartered in Naperville, Illinois.

- Tara Clark ’94M was appointed the mayor of Hazlet Township on Jan. 5, 2021. Clark, who served as deputy mayor in 2020, was appointed to a one-year term. A member of the township commission, she has served on the communications committee, environmental commission, and library commission during her tenure. She has worked as an educator in the East Brunswick Public School District in East Brunswick, New Jersey, for the past 24 years.

- Communication specialist professor Matt Harmon ’96, ’04M earned his Ed.D in sports management from the University of Kentucky’s School of Journalism and Media in 2013. He is an active member of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association and the National Sportscaster of the Year in 2014. Harmon teaches a wide array of courses in sports and business communication. He is the play-by-play announcer for the New York Red Bulls Radio Network, the Monmouth Athletics Digital Network, and the Shore Sports Network. Harmon is a member of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association and the National Sports Media Association.


- Steven Chadwick ’03 is an attorney at Summerville Fuscaldo & Lampi, LLC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, serving as counsel in the real estate, corporate, and energy practice groups.

- Eileen Garin ’03, ’10M, co-lead nurse for Middletown Township Public Schools, Cathy Grano ’14M, co-lead nurse for Middletown Township Public Schools, and Karla Manchester, who complet ed her New Jersey School Nurse certificate at Monmouth and is a school nurse for Middletown Township Public Schools, were recently featured on the cover of the National Education of School Nurses newsletter.

- Nicole (Virgilio) Smith ’04 and her husband, Sean, welcomed their second child, Jamison Cash, on Aug. 28, 2020. Their son joins big sister, Piper Ann.

- In September, artist Nicholas Baulista ’05 debuted new paintings in the group exhibition, "Bus Stop" at the Monmouth County Arts Council. The exhibition features works by a variety of artists in a range of media, including painting, drawing, photography, and sculpture. The show features works by local artists such as Nicholas Baulista ’05, whose paintings are known for their bold colors and dynamic compositions. The show also features works by emerging artists, as well as established artists with a range of styles and techniques. The exhibition runs through the month of September, and is open to the public. The Monmouth County Arts Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts in Monmouth County, New Jersey. They offer a range of programs and events, including exhibitions, workshops, and classes, as well as grants and funding for local artists. The organization is committed to promoting the arts in the community, and to supporting the development of emerging artists. The "Bus Stop" exhibition is a great opportunity to see a range of works by local artists, and to support the arts in Monmouth County. The exhibition is open to the public, and is free to attend. The Monmouth County Arts Council is located at 300 Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey. For more information, please visit their website at monmoutharts.org.
Marley was in Germany receiving treatment for the cancer when I interviewed him. I was at home for Passover, and my father told me he would be calling to Bob and perhaps I could talk to him if he was willing. Bob didn’t want to talk to anybody at that point. So in the beginning of the recording you can hear my dad asking, and Bob says, “No, no, I’m all out of time.” My father persisted. “Please Bob, it will take just a few minutes, he’s all hooked up on the phone.” “OK,” Bob said, “Let’s hear what he have to say.”

I got on the phone and started firing away with my questions: Who created reggae music? “Reggae music was created through the environment.” Where is the Rastafarian movement headed? “Africa.” Do you enjoy any other kinds of worldly music? “I enjoy all music, but to tell you the truth I am not into the punk business, but I like some of the new wave music. I like the Police, some of the music of dem do.” What’s the message you are trying to portray in your music? “Peace, love, and harmony.” Before I knew it, the interview was over.

Fast-forward about two weeks. It’s Monday, May 11, and I’m back on campus studying for a final when I got a call from my father saying that Bob had died. I was incredibly sad, of course, but my first instinct was to run to the station. I kicked the disc jockey off the air and made the announcement at 9:25 a.m. “We have some really sad news to pass along,” I said. “I just found out that international recording star Robert Nesta “Bob” Marley, at the age of 36, has died this morning in Miami, Florida, with his family by his side, and we’re going to do a tribute and play Bob Marley music all day.” Then I played Redemption Song. I didn’t think many people would be listening, but within minutes the phonelines lit up, and I remember thinking, “Oh no, I’m in trouble.” We were getting calls from the AP, CNN, and MTV. I talked with Pete Fornatale, the legendary disc jockey from WNEW in New York City. The wire services started reporting that WMCX had announced Marley’s death. At some point I picked up the phone, and it was my father on the other end. “What the bleep did you do?” he shouted. And I was like, “You didn’t tell me I couldn’t tell anyone!” The phones rang all day long.

I played reggae music well into the afternoon and aired parts of the interview, which ended up being Bob’s last, and is likely the last recording of his most precious and beautiful voice. At the end of my interview with him, I had asked him to say, “This is Bob Marley, and you’re listening to WMCX in West Long Branch.” But for me, the best part of that interview—then and now—is the end. After I hopped off the phone with Bob, he and my father had this beautiful exchange, and the last thing you hear on the recording is Bob faintly saying, “Good mon. Bye-bye.” —as told to Breanne McCarthy

In 2006, Steinberg’s interview with Marley was submitted to the archives of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
They celebrated with family and friends, many of whom are Monmouth University alumni—including Sandra Meola ’12, 15M, who was a bridesmaid.

» Samantha DeAlmeida ’12, 14M, 18M, was recently named to The 2020 Insider 100: Millennials, Insider NJ’s listing of the most influential up-and-comers in New Jersey politics. DeAlmeida, who earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and two master’s degrees in public policy and homeland security at Monmouth, was recently named the second vice president and government affairs liaison for the Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey. She previously served as the New Jersey government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, where she worked to achieve legislative support for the organization’s initiatives, resulting in several bills being signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy. Prior to that, DeAlmeida served as deputy director of government relations and policy for the New Jersey Hospital Association, and as a policy analyst for the New Jersey State Legislature. DeAlmeida also works as an adjunct political science professor at Brookdale Community College and serves as the director for a nonprofit that provides equine-assisted therapy to veterans with PTSD.

» Melissa Mehrer ’12 wed Lee Simonetti ’09 on Jan. 7, 2021. The couple met while playing softball at Monmouth. They moved to North Carolina, but when they were visiting New Jersey for the holidays in December 2018, Simonetti took Mehrer to the beach to propose to her after they had enjoyed dinner at their favorite spot, Brickwall Tavern in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

» Christina Forrest ’13 was promoted to account director at Violet PR, a boutique, New Jersey-based public relations firm specializing in economic development, professional services, and social good. As account director, she serves as quality control for all IEC systems contractors. In this role, she works as quality control for all IEC educational products, including its four-year electrical apprenticeship program.

2010s

» Robert Donato ’10. See note for Heather Donato ’11.

» Daniel Jones ’10 is a managing director of UHY Advisors, a leading professional services firm. He is a leader of the audit and assurance group and has extensive knowledge of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting requirements for companies ranging in size from small to large accelerated filers. A licensed CPA in the state of New York, Jones was recently honored with an Emerging Leader Award by M&A Advisor.

» Heather Donato ’11 and Robert Donato ’10 welcomed their second child, Amelia Joy Donato, on May 15, 2020.

» Morganne (Firmatone) Dudzinski ’11, 15M is associate director for the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU). In her new role, Dudzinski will develop, propose, and advocate for state higher education policy recommendations on behalf of NJASCU’s seven member institutions, while also contributing to the association’s communications and media relations. Previously, Dudzinski was Monmouth’s director of news and public affairs and was responsible for creating, implementing, and managing a strategic media relations plan to expand the University’s visibility, strengthen its reputation, and build support among key constituencies. Dudzinski, who previously worked as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology, served as captain of Monmouth’s Division I field hockey team.

» Anthony Mauro ’11. See note for Gina Columbus ’12.

» Maria Mazzone ’11, 14M is engaged to wed James Berner. The couple met in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in 2009 when Berner worked for Mazzone’s father at his restaurant, and they started dating in 2017. They were engaged on Dec. 8, 2019, in Ventura, California, and are planning to wed on Nov. 13, 2021.

» Gina Columbus ’12 wed Anthony Mauro ’11 at the Jacques Recep- tion Center in Middletown Town- ship, New Jersey, on Aug. 29, 2020. She traveled to New Jersey to propose to her after they had enjoyed dinner at their favorite spot, Brickwall Tavern in Asbury Park, New Jersey.
CELEBRATIONS

ACCOLADES:
1. Martin Saltzman ’82 is co-host of It’s Your Money with Jo Ann & Martin, which seeks to educate viewers on all aspects of financial planning and investment topics.
2. Mike Farragher ’88 and Barbara (Misko ff) Farragher ’89 launched Love Letters Profiles, a writing service specializing in career profiles, résumés, and dating profiles.
3. Steven Chadwick ’03 is an attorney at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, LLC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, serving as counsel in the real estate, corporate, and energy practice groups.
4. Chrissy Skudera ’05 was promoted to senior director of curriculum development at Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC).

Join us in June to relive your Monmouth moments.

Learn more about our in-person and virtual events at monmouth.edu/alumniweekend.

Opt in to receive updates by texting “Hello” to 732-314-5837.
near Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Alicea ran the “out and back” course—running the full course one way, then turning around to traverse the same course back—covering a total of 144 miles in three days, 19 hours, and 52 minutes.

» Vinny Mazzone ’15. See note for Julie Green ’17.

» Victoria Elizabeth Esler ’16 was appointed assistant prosecutor for the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office in Toms River, New Jersey.

» Margaret Evans ’16M has been selected as one of 25 inaugural Fellows of the Social Work Futures Lab at Portland State University.

» The couple met at Monmouth during their last year of college when they were group project partners in their senior perspectives course on video games; they became friends before going on their own ways beginning their careers. Months later, they reconnected and, while getting to know each other, noticed the undeniable connection they shared. They have been together for more than three years and were engaged at their favorite beach spot in front of the University Bluffs in Long Branch, New Jersey on Sept. 19, 2020. “Being Monmouth alumni, naturally we had our first date at the beach, and it has always been our spot,” says Lewis. “We are filled with love and happiness for the future,” says Julie. The couple would also like to thank Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Corey Dawen, Ph.D., for “playing a role in our love story,” Lewis says. “We will never forget the first time we met and the fun we worked on that started it.”

» Miles Austin III ’19 is the wide receiver’s coach for the New York Jets. Austin is a former offensive quality control coach for the San Francisco 49ers and former wide receiver who spent the majority of his 10-year NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys. Prior to his career in the NFL, Austin was a standout wide receiver for Monmouth from 2002 to 2005. During his four years, Austin helped lead Monmouth to back-to-back Northeast Conference Championships in 2003 and 2004, and was the Hawks all-time leader in receptions, receiving yards, and touchdown catches. Austin, who was elected to Monmouth’s Board of Trustees in July 2020, was involved in the Monmouth University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016.

» Kayvon Paul ’19 was recently named to The 2020 Insider 100. Millennials, Insider NJ’s listing of the most influential up-and-coming Millennials in New Jersey politics. Cited for his background working on political campaigns and his work with Equality Insider NJ described Paul as “a rising star at [Trenton-based]

» Bradley Meyer ’16. See note for Sarah Marie Lewis ’17.

» Julie Green ’17 is engaged to wid Vinny Mazzone ’15. The couple met through friends at Monmouth University in 2014 and have been together ever since.

» Sarah Marie Lewis ’17 is engaged to wid Bradley Meyer ’16. The couple met at Monmouth during their last year of college when they were group project partners in their senior perspectives course on video games; they became friends before going on their own ways beginning their careers. Months later, they reconnected and, while getting to know each other, noticed the undeniable connection they shared. They have been together for more than three years and were engaged at their favorite beach spot in front of the University Bluffs in Long Branch, New Jersey on Sept. 19, 2020. “Being Monmouth alumni, naturally we had our first date at the beach, and it has always been our spot,” says Lewis. “We are filled with love and happiness for the future,” says Julie. The couple would also like to thank Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Corey Dawen, Ph.D., for “playing a role in our love story,” Lewis says. “We will never forget the first time we met and the fun we worked on that started it.”

» Justin D. Okun ’17 passed the Pennsylvania bar exam in October 2020 and recently began practicing as an attorney for Farrell & Associates in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in October 2020.

» Stephanie Holtje ’18 is engaged to Dominic “Dino” Marino ’18. The couple met at Monmouth in 2010, and, upon graduating, started their careers—Holtje is a teacher and Marino is an officer in the Marine Corps. The two moved in together while Marino was stationed in San Diego, California, and, after a year of living together and exploring their new home, the groom-to-be proposed on the cliffs overlooking the water at sunset on Aug. 21, 2020. The couple plans to wed on July 22, 2022.


» The couple met at Monmouth during their last year of college when they were group project partners in their senior perspectives course on video games; they became friends before going on their own ways beginning their careers. Months later, they reconnected and, while getting to know each other, noticed the undeniable connection they shared. They have been together for more than three years and were engaged at their favorite beach spot in front of the University Bluffs in Long Branch, New Jersey on Sept. 19, 2020. “Being Monmouth alumni, naturally we had our first date at the beach, and it has always been our spot,” says Lewis. “We are filled with love and happiness for the future,” says Julie. The couple would also like to thank Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Corey Dawen, Ph.D., for “playing a role in our love story,” Lewis says. “We will never forget the first time we met and the fun we worked on that started it.”

A new team that produces 250,000 COVID-19 test kits a day side a central laboratory, such as at a patient’s bedside or doctor’s office. It allows the PCR and gives you a positive or negative result.

“A new team that produces 250,000 COVID-19 test kits a day side a central laboratory, such as at a patient’s bedside or doctor’s office. It allows the PCR and gives you a positive or negative result.

Save the date for Monmouth University’s Homecoming! Details of the event are still being developed and will be shared in the coming months at monmouth.edu/alumni.

NOT TO MISS » Saturday, Oct. 2

HOME-COMING

Save the date for Monmouth University’s Homecoming! Details of the event are still being developed and will be shared in the coming months at monmouth.edu/alumni.

UP TO THE TEST

ADELE BEEGLE LEADS PRODUCTION AT A ROCHE FACILITY THAT MAKES 250,000 COVID-19 TESTS PER WEEK.

BY MEERI KIM

C ontainment is key during the early stages of an outbreak, and the first step is identifying those who are infected. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it became clear that testing on a massive scale was desperately needed.

But how do diagnostic tests get made in such chaotic times? As quickly as possible, says Adele Beegle ’98, senior operations manager at Swiss biomedical giant Roche.

In 2020, Beegle and her colleagues developed, manufactured, and received an Emergency Use Authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for a point-of-care COVID-19 test in only four months. The term “point-of-care” refers to testing that can be done outside a central laboratory, such as at a patient’s bedside or a doctor’s office. It allows the PCR and gives you a positive or negative result.

Beegle traces her career in biotechnology back to her undergraduate years at Monmouth, where she first learned about polymerase chain reaction (PCR), the revolutionary, Nobel Prize-winning technique used in Roche’s diagnostic test. Without PCR, detecting the presence of a virus with a patient sample is like finding a needle in a haystack. PCR acts as a “molecular photocopier” that creates millions of copies of a small portion of the virus’s genetic material to make it much easier to spot.

The cobas SARS-CoV-2 & Influenza A/B test looks for genetic material from the viruses that cause both COVID-19 and the flu in order to distinguish which illness a patient has. A straw made up of packets of chemicals, along with the patient sample, pops into a toaster-sized analyzer called the cobas Liat System. Results are ready in just 20 minutes with an accuracy of 95% to 98%.

“When you put the patient sample into the analyzer, it’s breaking those packets up in a certain order and doing the mixing and processing right in that straw,” says Beegle. “At the end, it performs the PCR and gives you a positive or negative result.”

Beegle first put the skills she learned in Monmouth’s labs into practice as an early-career scientist at Sanofi and Shiseido after graduation. In 2000, she landed a position at Roche doing quality control for PCR devices. That launched a 20-plus-year career at one of the world’s largest biomedical corporations.

“I was in the hospital central area for 13 years,” she says. “First, I was doing the testing, then I was reviewing and approving the data, and eventually I transitioned into managing the whole 40-person team.”

Today, Beegle leads the manufacturing team responsible for supplying Roche’s test to the global market. Once the test received its Emergency Use Authorization in September, her team ramped up production to a 24-hour operation. She had to juggle the hiring of employees for a new overnight shift, competition with other companies to get the chemical raw materials, and the installation of new and complex equipment—all while trying to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak from occurring at the site.

Roche plans to scale up production within the next year and expand manufacturing to a COVID-19-only test as well. Despite the long hours, she pushes through, knowing the significance of her role in the midst of a global pandemic.

“What’s exciting is that now everyone knows what PCR testing is, since it was all over the news,” says Beegle. “When everyone is talking about it again, I won’t have to explain to people what I do. That’s pretty cool.”
IN MEMORIAM

> ALUMNI

Stacia E. Apostolos 21A (Sept. 7, 2020)
James G. Elmser 61 (Oct. 30, 2020)
Richard Fuhrmann 83 (April 30, 2020)
Wayman F. Smith III 83 (Sept. 15, 2020)
Sydney S. Brooke 84 (October 2020)
Edward “Ed” P. Draney 64 (Nov. 26, 2020)
Susan C. Koester 84 (Aug. 25, 2020)
Thomas W. Wright 84 (1980)
Aaron B. Cohen 85 (July 26, 2020)
Robert W. Landis 85 (Nov. 13, 2020)
Richard (“Dick”) H. Topham 85 (Sept. 17, 2020)
James F. Isaccson 86 (March 21, 2020)
Sarah (George) Arndt 87 (Sept. 2, 2020)
Robert Freyman 87 (Feb. 10, 2021)
Denise Fronapfel 87 (Oct. 19, 2020)
Linda C. Greene-Feinberg 87 (Sept. 11, 2020)
Wayman F. Smith III 91 (Oct. 7, 2020)
William A. Berger 91 (Aug. 29, 2020)
Patricia F. Waldman 91A (Dec. 7, 2020)
William “Bill” Salandi 91 (Oct. 31, 2020)
Paul J. Abrams 93 (Nov. 30, 2020)
Joseph F. Dennis 94 (Dec. 4, 2020)
Douglas H. Ewing 95 (Aug. 27, 2020)
Jean S. Lizotte 95 (Aug. 28, 2014)
Sharon Rose (Monaghan) Mallkarjun 96 (July 10, 2020)
Sharon Mallkarjun 96M (Oct. 1, 2020)
Joan C. Hall 73M (Aug. 26, 2020)
Elise Ann Gonzales ’74 (Sept. 10, 2020)
Mary DeBudder 77M (Oct. 5, 2020)
Mary B. Golden ’78 (Oct. 17, 2020)
Barbara J. McCarthy ’79 (Nov. 25, 2020)
John H. Newsome ’79 (Sept. 8, 2018)
William “Bill” Estler 82 (Sept. 14, 2020)
Kathleen Hauck L’90A (December 2020)
Kathleen Helevinski L’94M (Oct. 15, 2020)
Veronica Freeman ’93 (Aug. 23, 2020)
Catherine “Cathy” Villani ’96M (Jan. 18, 2021)
Patrick J. Duva ’90 (Nov. 5, 2020)

> FACULTY AND STAFF

John ‘Jack’ Burke (former associate professor and chair of the Department of Music and Theatre Arts) Dec. 10, 2020
Richard J. Pichner (associate professor emeritus of computer science) Oct. 3, 2019
Dianne McKinney Van Arsdel ’75 (former longtime adjunct in the School of Nursing and Health Studies) Aug. 26, 2020
Karen Wyatt (assistant registrar for academic affairs) Dec. 30, 2020

> FRIENDS

Patrick S. Clay (former student) Sept. 3, 2020
Peter Carmell (friend) Feb. 22, 2020
Charles Sills (friend) Aug. 28, 2020
Margot Warters (friend) Jan. 15, 2021

REMEMBRANCES

Margaret “Margot” Warters
PHILANTHROPIST, 1930–2021

Margot was always a kind, inquisitive, and supportive presence on campus, and her light shone brightest when she spoke with our students. Her thoughtful investments in scholarships for promising scientists were instrumental in the dramatic rise in the caliber of students Monmouth has recruited and retained in recent years.

Her generosity touched the lives of so many budding young scientists, and Margot cherished the time spent with each, hearing about their goals, ambitions, and research. We all will miss Margot at the annual School of Science Summer Research Program Symposium, and we recall fondly the many conversations she had with their scholarship recipients. She would walk from poster to poster, reviewing the research and asking challenging questions. She always told me how proud she was of our students.

Margot and her late husband, Bill Warters, was a past chair of the Board of Trustees, had been close members of the Monmouth family since 1970. Bill and Margot’s family commitment and support were enormously influential over the past six decades, and their legacy will live on through Monmouth’s students. – Beth Brody, Director of Development

MARGARET “MARGOT” WARTERS

Spring 2021
Below the Great Hall’s stained glass skylight, work continues this spring to return the campus’s iconic building to a central hub for students.
WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

Perhaps it was a quiet place to which you retreated to study, or someplace you knew you would always bump into friends and classmates. Regardless, we want to know where your favorite place on Monmouth’s campus is (or was) and why it will always be special to you. Write us at the address above or email us at magazine@monmouth.edu.