

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » FALL/WINTER 2022

MONMOUTH

Off and Rowing

Monmouth's newest varsity team makes history. »P. 30

PLUS: DISCOVERING
ASBURY PARK'S UNTOLD
HISTORY »P. 38

AND: REIMAGINING
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT
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LOCATION: POMPEII ROOM IN THE GREAT HALL

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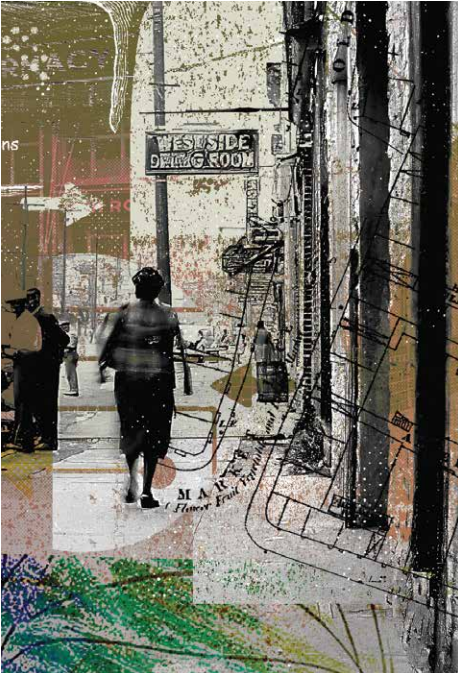
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A Year of Successes

With a new calendar year upon us, our focus at Monmouth has turned to the second half of the academic year. But I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to reflect on some of the University's recent successes and accomplishments.

We began the current academic year by enrolling one of Monmouth's finest first-year classes ever. The Class of 2026 had the highest average GPA (3.61) of any incoming class in University history. It was also the most geographically diverse class ever enrolled at the University, with more than 30% hailing from outside New Jersey. This class was also one of Monmouth's most racially and ethnically diverse, with 27% of incoming domestic students identifying as racial or ethnic minorities. What's more, 30% of the first-year class was eligible for federal Pell Grants, financial aid to students and families with demonstrated financial need. This benchmark, coupled with the University's highest-ever ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*, is strong evidence that Monmouth continues to make great progress toward its goal of becoming a national leader in the successful integration of excellence and access.

Last fall marked the University's inaugural season of competition in the Colonial Athletic Association, and I am proud to report that the women's soccer and field hockey teams both captured regular season championships and numerous student-athletes

earned individual conference honors for both their athletic and academic performances. The fall also marked the debut of women's rowing at Monmouth, the University's 24th Division I sport. True to form, the Hawks not only hit the water rowing this fall, but they did so in historic fashion, winning the program's first medals in the team's second competition at the prestigious Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia.

Monmouth continued its commitment to being a valuable partner to the external community, efforts that are exemplified by the extraordinary work being done through the Paradoxical Paradise project. Led by Associate Professor Hettie Williams, a multidisciplinary team of faculty members and students is bringing to light the untold history of the African American experience in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Elsewhere on campus, we are actively reinventing the Center for Entrepreneurship at Monmouth University so that it better serves all members of the campus community and becomes the go-to service provider for emerging entrepreneurs and budding businesses throughout our region, resulting in a positive impact on our local and regional economy.

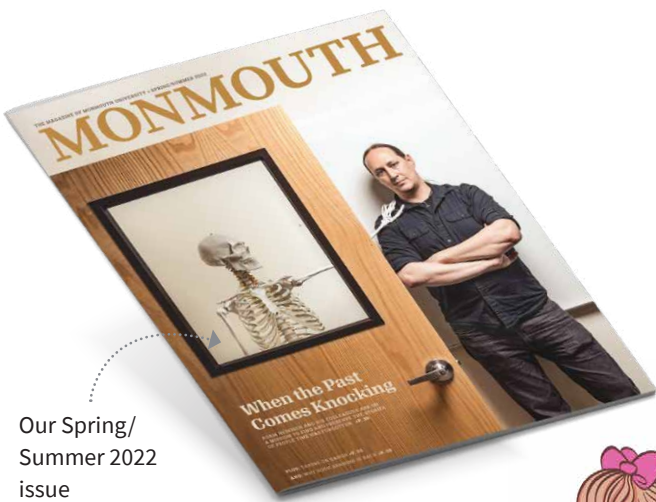
And as the semester drew to a close, it was my pleasure to welcome many of you back to campus for the Gala at the Great Hall. This new tradition is one of our marquee fundraising events, the proceeds from which support our Access Fund. This important fund provides scholarships to students with unmet financial need, enabling us to make the first-class, private education that Monmouth University offers as accessible as possible.

As we look ahead to 2023—the 90th year in our University's impressive history—I am grateful for the many individuals and experiences that have helped shape Monmouth into what it is today. My sincere thanks to our entire community—faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and of course, students—who continue to support and advance our mission as we approach bona fide national university status. Thank you for your commitment to Monmouth and the exceptional students we serve.

»PATRICK F. LEAHY, ED.D., PRESIDENT

photo MIKE MORGAN

Correspondence



Still Kicking

YOUR AMAZING STORY ON DA'QUAN Grimes ("The Comeback Kid," Spring/Summer 2022) resonated with my family and me because it hit so close to home. My daughter, Cameron Morgan, is a senior and plays on the women's soccer team at Monmouth. Cameron, who committed to Monmouth as a sophomore in high school, tore her ACL just before her senior year at Shawnee High School. She rehabbed in time for her freshman campaign with the Hawks. Three days into preseason, she tore her ACL again. She rehabbed again and returned to campus, and then COVID delayed her return until fall 2021. Ten days into preseason, the unthinkable happened: Cameron tore her ACL a third time. This time, she taped her knee and played in several games with no ACL intact (she was a starter against St. Peters) before the pain was too much. In November 2021, Cameron had her knee reconstructed a third time. She rehabbed for eight-and-a-half months so she could be back with the team for her senior campaign! We're so proud of her for her relentless passion and determination. Go Hawks!

»CHRIS MORGAN

illustration ANDY WARD

"Many of the girls on my floor got together and put me in a tub with ketchup, mustard, and various other things to celebrate."



Living in the Past

Thanks to all of the readers who shared their memories of life in Monmouth's residence halls. Have a story you'd like to share? Be sure to check out the Looking Back article on p. 45.

WHEN SCHOOL STARTED IN 1963, THE dorms were not complete. The women lived at the Diplomat Hotel on Ocean Avenue. Four girls were in a room and ordering dinner out every night or going to local restaurants. Finally, either in October or the beginning of November, we were able to choose roommates and move into the dorm.

I remember the pay phones on each floor and all the calls that came for many

girls from their boyfriends. I remember the dorm mother, signing in and out, and definitely curfews. I remember trying to climb in the windows when I was late so I would not get in trouble. I remember being the first woman in the dorm to get pinned and the excitement I felt when I came home that night. Many of the girls on my floor got together and put me in a tub with ketchup, mustard, and various other things to celebrate. I remember watching the funeral of President Kennedy on the only TV located on the first floor and everyone crying together.

We were only allowed to live in the dorm freshman year and, after that, had to find apartments near school or room with someone who had a car.

»JUDY BARRON LEITNER '68



ABOVE: Tin can bandits (l-r) John O'Neill, Jim (last name unknown), Michael Roberts '73, and Bill Riker '71A.

I LIVED IN K-SUITE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF Cedar Hall during my freshman year (1999–2000). Most of us on the floor congregated in N-Suite to hang out, watch movies, and have fun. I remember a hurricane hit and residential students were evacuated to the Student Center. Although we had lost power, my friends and I remained in N-Suite all day, hanging out in our pajamas, joking, and having fun. I'm not sure why that memory stands out given that it occurred 23 years ago. I couldn't tell you the name of the hurricane or what movies we watched. But I recall the feeling of community we shared during our first year of school. Many of us were away from our families for the first time and experiencing our first taste of adulthood. I think that year changed me from a shy introvert into a slightly less shy, and much more talkative, extrovert. I can't say for sure if the hurricane did all of that, but I can say for sure living on the third floor of Cedar Hall did. »JONATHAN WEINRAUB '05

DURING MY FRESHMAN YEAR, IN 1968, I had an 8 a.m. and a 9 a.m. class that I went to with Jeff Trout (Class of 1972). My roommate, Stephen Berg (Class of 1972), would often sleep in until I got back from my second class at around 10:15 a.m. One day, both of my morning classes were canceled in advance. So Jeff and I headed back to my room at 8:15. Stephen was still fast asleep, so I quietly turned his clock ahead to 10:10 a.m. We then made enough noise to wake him up and watched as

he proceeded to get dressed and head to class. We followed him from a distance to watch him enter a completely different class, and we waited the approximately 10 minutes it took him to realize he was in an English class and not his math class. His look of confusion was priceless as he walked back to the dorm. »RICHARD TRACHTENBERG '72

DURING MY FRESHMAN YEAR, SOME friends and I played a prank on one of our fellow Elmwood Hall residents. The doors in Elmwood were recessed a few feet from the hallway's cinderblock walls, so one night we decided to "brick up" one of the doorways using empty soda cans we had saved. I don't remember who the victim was, but the next morning he burst through those cans like the Kool-Aid Man. It was hilarious!

I should have graduated in 1973, but I changed majors (once officially, two or three times unofficially) and had to do a second senior year. I was a resident assistant in Elmwood both years, and it was during that time that I met and proposed to Neila Jordan. We celebrated our 48th anniversary last June.

I lived off campus on Second Avenue during my sophomore and junior years. Partaking in way too many "extracurricular activities" there eventually drove me back to living in the dorms. That was definitely a lesson learned: Living off campus rocks, but dorm life rules if you want to actually graduate! »JOHN A. O'NEILL '74

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Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing
Robert D. Mc Caig, Ed.D.

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

Editor
Tony Marchetti

Assistant Editor
Breanne McCarthy

Design & Layout
Dog Ear Creative

Contributing Writers
Eileen Chapman
Pete Croatto
Nick DiUlio
Larissa Forese
Mark Gola
Ryan Jones
Steve Neumann
Molly Petrilla
John Spinelli '22

Photographers
Bill Cardoni
Tina Colella
Anthony DePrimo
John Emerson
Chuck Lohf
Michael McWeeney
Mike Morgan
Matt Raspanti

Illustrators
Josue Evilla
Dung Hoang
Max-o-matic
Andy Ward

On the cover
The women's rowing team, photographed by Anthony DePrimo.

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*Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2009–2019.
**"Employment outlook for graduate-level occupations," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



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[ENTREPRENEURSHIP]

Beyond Business

Alison Gilbert, the new director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Monmouth University, is reinventing how the center serves the University community and beyond.

INTERVIEW BY TONY MARCHETTI

One of the key initiatives set forth in Monmouth's five-year strategic plan, *Excellence. Access. Ambition.*, is the reimagining of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Monmouth University. For years, the center has connected students and faculty from the Leon Hess Business School with local businesses. Looking to build on that success, President Patrick Leahy, while discussing the initiative on one of his *Monmouth Weekly* podcasts, said he envisions a sort of center "2.0"—a place that fosters entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity for all members of the University community as well as the surrounding state and regional communities.

The person responsible for making that vision a reality is Alison Gilbert, who last summer was hired as the center's new director. For the last 15-plus years, Gilbert has consulted, coached, advised, and workshopped with hundreds of early-stage entrepreneurs, helping them launch, build, and grow their businesses. She's also an entrepreneur herself, having started and scaled multiple businesses.

Gilbert talked with us last fall about how those experiences will help her "build out a thriving center that supports, inspires, and grows entrepreneurial activity on campus and throughout the region." One area of particular importance, she says, will be ensuring the center serves as a resource for students from all majors, not just business, so it is perhaps fitting to note that Gilbert herself was a humanities major in college. After →

earning her bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from George Washington University, Gilbert thought her next step would be law school. But when she couldn’t think of a good answer to the application essay question “Why do you want to be a lawyer?” she pivoted. The Monmouth County native says she always had a passion for cooking, so she moved to Manhattan, went to culinary school, and ran a pastry catering company while working in the kitchen of a private dinner club. Then a serendipitous turn of events led her down the entrepreneurial path.

How did you go from pastry chef to entrepreneur and business strategist/advisor? It was one of those right-place, right-time moments. While working in New York City, I connected with the CEO of a just-started food media startup, Tasting Table, who hired me for a part-time job. I worked at the food media company by day and in the kitchen of a private dining club at night. After burning the candle at both ends for a while, I quit my kitchen job. When I told the CEO, he said, “Oh no, I don’t have a job for you yet.” I said, “That’s OK. I believe in this company, and I’ll be here when one opens up.” The next month, he hired me full time, and within that first year, I became the COO. We scaled that into a multimillion-dollar business with readership in the millions, and by the time I left, the company had grown to a team of 40.

From there I started my own strategy coaching and consulting practice called Project AG. I wanted to bottle up what we did and bring it to as many businesses as I could. More than 10 years later, I’ve worked with hundreds of entrepreneurs across different industries and sectors and with various business models to help them transform their visions into thriving businesses.

How are those experiences helping in your new role as director of the Center for Entrepreneurship? I built my business, Project AG, like a business incubator. I call it a “studio” because I think of it less as a coaching and consulting practice and more as a lab: a creative environment to help my clients—leaders, innovators, and founders—make their visions a reality. It’s less about providing the

answers to my clients and more about providing the space, guidance, access to resources and connections, inspiration, and learning opportunities to help them find the answers for what’s right for them to fulfill their visions. I’m building the Center for Entrepreneurship the same way.

I’ve worked with entrepreneurs who have built businesses that generate meaningful revenue. I’ve worked with entrepreneurs who have fundraised. I’ve worked with owners who have pivoted. I’ve worked with entrepreneurs who have decided to stop building their businesses. All of this experience has prepared me for this role leading the center, and I’m excited to deepen the impact we can make in our society and on our economy through the medium of entrepreneurship.

What are your immediate priorities? In the near term, I am focused on uncovering existing entrepreneurial activity on campus and cultivating new additional opportunities at the University to build a vibrant entrepreneurial culture here. Right now, anyone at the University can visit the center and receive coaching guidance and learning resources to help them prepare, launch, and build a business. We’re also building out programming such as workshops, boot camps, and competitions and creating a mentorship and advisory network.

Can you give us a preview of the programming you’re planning for the upcoming semester? I’m excited to be running the HawkTank Spring 2023 Pitch Competition, which will build upon the HawkTank Challenge that was started by Joseph McManus, the center’s previous director and now associate professor and chair in the Department of Management and Leadership, as well as building upon the entrepreneurship learning foundations set forth by John Buzza, senior specialist professor and another former center director.

HawkTank ’23 will be a University-wide event in which undergraduate and graduate students from all schools can submit an entrepreneurial idea. Those who are selected as finalists will present to a team of judges for a chance to win a cash prize they can invest in furthering their

entrepreneurial idea. Along the way, the finalists will receive one-on-one coaching through the center, gain mentorship guidance from strategic advisors in our network, develop a pitch, and learn how to take their products or services from the idea phase to market.

I have a lot of ideas for how to expand the competition in the future with additional tracks for alumni, faculty, and entrepreneurs across the state to participate.

You mentioned alumni, many of whom read this magazine. Can Monmouth graduates currently make use of the center? Absolutely. Alumni can benefit from the same resources as students and faculty. We can provide strategy coaching and mentorship matching and can create opportunities for networking to help alumni move their entrepreneurial ideas forward. As we build out our offerings and capabilities at the center, deepening the support we offer to alumni will be a part of that.

Getting back to the broader topic of entrepreneurship, what changes or trends have you noticed over the years? And how might those influence the work you’re doing through the center? One of the biggest trends that I’m seeing is that what some people once called “social impact” or building a “socially responsible” business has become mainstream. Now, most founders when starting their businesses incorporate some sort of mission or impact focus into the strategy of what they are building. Most business owners realize that to be relevant and competitive in this market, it’s necessary to build something that both generates profits and helps society or the environment in some way.

I’m also seeing more and more people leading entrepreneurial lives, even if they don’t identify as entrepreneurs. More people have side hustles or work on entrepreneurial projects in addition to their full-time jobs to supplement their incomes and experience and channel their passions.

You’ve said you want the center to be a resource for all students. Why is it important for non-business majors to develop entrepreneurial skills? And how will the center make that possible?

Now more than ever, employers value entrepreneurial skills in their employees, and they’re looking for that skill set—creative problem-solving ability, emotional intelligence, resourcefulness—in their new hires. In addition to incubating and coaching businesses at the center—what I’m calling the Business Impact Path—we are working on a learning and coaching path that I’m calling the Personal Inc. Path: Be the CEO of Your Life. The idea with the Personal Inc. Path is to take the principles and strategies for building a business and apply them to your life: What is the vision for your life? What is the mission for your life? What are the different ways you will make money? What are the ways you will invest back in yourself, your family, and your community to become personally fulfilled and financially secure and be able to contribute to society? We’re piloting a set of Personal Inc. Path workshops on campus this spring and will build it out from there.

Looking further ahead, what is your long-term vision for the Center for Entrepreneurship? The longer-term goals involve taking this blueprint of programming and experiences that we’re offering to the University community and using it to support greater regional entrepreneurial communities and projects as well. I want this center to be a leading destination in the state for incubating innovative projects and entrepreneurial endeavors that make local, statewide, national, and in time, global impact. Shoot for the moon and land among the stars, right?

Why do you think it’s important for this center to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in the external community? By intentionally hosting gatherings, creating opportunities for knowledge sharing, and developing workshops, boot camps, and incubator initiatives, we’ll be bridging connections between the outward community and the inward University community. The more we engage in and support innovation and entrepreneurship in our local and regional communities, the richer the ecosystem of people, activities, and resources we create for all who participate—and the more impact we’re able to make on society and the economy. 🍷



Santelli Appointed Executive Director of Springsteen Archives

Robert Santelli ’73, ’14HN was appointed executive director of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth in October. In this new role, Santelli oversees the Springsteen Archives and works to create programs, exhibits, and collaborations with music museums and universities around the country. A Grammy Award-winning music historian, producer, and educator, Santelli was the founding executive director of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles. He is the author of more than a dozen books on American music, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Greetings from E Street: The Story of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band*. His recent book, *Woody Guthrie: Songs and Art, Words and Wisdom*, co-authored with his good friend Nora Guthrie, received the 2022 Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Book Award. A longtime music journalist, Santelli was one of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame’s original curators and served as vice president of education and public programs before moving on to head Paul Allen’s Experience Music Project in Seattle. While at the Grammy Museum, Santelli created the popular public program series “An Evening with ...” and developed more than 50 exhibitions, including Woody Guthrie’s, Frank Sinatra’s, and Leonard Bernstein’s centennial celebrations. “I’m honored to serve my alma mater and join Archives Director Eileen Chapman as one of the caretakers of Bruce Springsteen’s incredible legacy,” Santelli said. “The opportunity to bring the Archives and Center for American Music onto the nation’s cultural and educational landscapes is a rare opportunity that I deeply appreciate.” Jon Landau, Springsteen’s longtime manager and vice chair of the Archives, added, “Bob Santelli, with his Jersey Shore roots and music history background, is the best person to oversee the Springsteen collection and to create a vibrant center for American music education and experiences.” »EILEEN CHAPMAN

Where Comics Meet Classics

Inside a course that explores the literary origins of DC Comics’ Justice League characters.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

Many of the students who take Associate Professor of English Stanley Blair’s general education course The Literary Origins of the DC Justice League are already familiar with the comic book characters they discuss. But while the students might know about contemporary superheroes on film and TV, few know about the literary origins of those heroes—not how the characters *became* superheroes, but how their creators came up with them.

“The question that I ask students at the beginning of the course and that guides their research is this: ‘Everyone knows that the film and TV superheroes come from earlier comic book superheroes, but where did the comic book superheroes come from?’” says Blair. “The answer,” he says, “is a combination of classical literature, popular pulp fiction of the early 20th century, and film.”

During the semester, Blair’s students read excerpts from works by Homer, Plato, Sir Thomas Malory (of King Arthur fame), Edgar Allan Poe, and others. One of the discussions that is often eye-opening for students is when Blair reviews each character’s first comic book appearance.

“We end by analyzing elements of the first page of the superhero’s first comic book appearance in terms of where their characteristics come from in classical literature, popular literature, and film,” says



illustration MAX-O-MATIC

Blair. “By the end of that exercise, students are amazed that they can read this old comic book critically in terms of specific source influences, something most readers can’t do.”

Blair created the course, which is open to students from all majors, because he believes the study of literature enriches one’s general knowledge and enables individuals to gain a critical perspective on their own experiences.

Case in point: One of Blair’s students, senior accounting major Zach Francese, went to Six Flags to ride the Superman: Ride of Steel roller coaster. While waiting in line, Francese began telling his girlfriend about something that had recently been discussed in class: Superman’s origin on the planet Krypton and his being sent to Earth as paralleling the birth and infancy of Moses in the book of Exodus.

“Superman’s creators were Jewish,” says Blair, “so it’s reasonable to infer that Moses would have had an influence on their development of the character.”

Blair said that Francese made a further connection to the class when he explained that the formulation of Superman’s Kryptonian name, Kal-El, paralleled other biblical names like Gabri-el and Micha-el, with the “El” signifying “god” in ancient Hebrew.

“Critical thinking is something we try to foster throughout the general education curriculum,” says Blair. “When students bring up reading assignments while waiting in line for a roller coaster, that suggests a way of thinking critically about, and observing critically, the culture in which we live.”

Though Blair himself was a fan of Marvel Comics growing up, he thought that the DC Comics made for a better literature course. Many of the Marvel characters that students know about nowadays emerged after World War II and involved exposure to some form of radiation.

“That might be the gamma radiation that causes Bruce Banner to turn into the Hulk or Peter Parker getting bitten by a radioactive spider,” says Blair. “In that sense, those kinds of superheroes are an American response to the age of atomic weapons.”

DC superheroes such as Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman, on the other hand, were created before the U.S. entered World War II and have a variety of other scientific explanations for their origins as superheroes. Therefore, they’re a little easier for non-English majors to connect to classical literature in a general education literature requirement course.

“For example,” says Blair, “Superman’s superpowers on Earth have to do with science-based explanations like different planets’ gravities and atmospheres, as also depicted in Edgar Rice Burroughs’ 1917 novel *A Princess of Mars*.”

However, thanks to the popularity of his Literary Origins of the DC Justice League course, Blair is looking to expand the number of figures that are in it and include some Marvel characters—even some villains. His eventual goal is to develop his comic book course offerings into a textbook. ☼

SUPERHERO SUPER INFLUENCE: Depicted in the illustration, clockwise from the top left, are Justice League superheroes and their literary counterparts: Batman and Zorro; Wonder Woman and Queen Penthesilea; Aquaman and the Lost City of Atlantis; The Flash and Hermes; and Superman and Moses.

DID YOU KNOW?

Batman’s Beginnings

IN THE FIRST installment of the Warner Bros. *Batman* film franchise in 1989, a mugger asks the caped crusader, “Who are you?,” to which actor Michael Keaton’s character replies, “I’m Batman.”

While most fans know Batman’s origin story as being a creation of billionaire Bruce Wayne as vengeance on the criminals who killed his parents, few might realize that the character itself is woven from two disparate threads.

One of those is Zorro, whose alter ego is Don Diego Vega, the richest landowner in Spanish colonial Alta California. Zorro is a masked vigilante who vows to

“avenge the helpless, to punish cruel politicians, to aid the oppressed”—not unlike Batman. In fact, many *Batman* films and TV shows often have a Zorro reference, such as the movie that’s playing in the theater the night that Bruce Wayne’s parents are murdered.

Batman’s creators were influenced by the 1920 silent film *The Mark of Zorro*, which in turn was

based on a novel published one year earlier by Johnston McCauley.

The other source for Batman’s character is *The Shadow*, who appeared on radio and in pulp fiction and films. The Shadow has an alter ego too: Lamont Cranston, a wealthy “man-about-town” who gets driven around in limousines. In the 1937 film *The Shadow Strikes*, Cranston also has a personal assistant with a British accent named Henry Hendricks—a possible inspiration for Bruce Wayne’s butler, Alfred.

»STEVE NEUMANN

The View from Here



**Bernice King, Daughter of MLK,
Brings Message of Peace to Campus**

From left: Assistant Professor Vernon Smith,
Bernice King, and Associate Professor Nicole Pulliam

Bernice King, CEO of The King Center, the official memorial to the life, work, and legacy of her father, Martin Luther King Jr., was the featured speaker for a moderated discussion titled “Building the Beloved Community” last October. The event was co-sponsored by Monmouth’s Social Justice Academy and Intercultural Center and was part of the Academy’s Combating Racial Injustice through Education Professional Development Series.

The “beloved community” is a term popularized by her father and her mother, Coretta Scott King, and refers to “a love-centered community where the humanity of everyone is honored and respected ... [and where] every individual is able to thrive and live out their purpose in this life,” Bernice King said. “There’s a commitment inside the beloved community to work to rid it of injustices, in particular my father’s triple evils of racism, militarism, and poverty.”

“Some people feel like the beloved community is a utopia ... something that we cannot achieve because of our diversity and differences,” Bernice King said. “Nothing could be further from the truth.” Conflict will always be present in society, she explained. But by committing to “resolving that conflict in a peaceful manner—in a manner that’s consistent with the teach-

ings of nonviolence,” individuals can build a more just and equitable society.

“My father on numerous occasions said, ‘The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community,’” King said.

During her opening remarks, King referenced her father’s visit to Monmouth 56 years ago. During his speech “The Future of Integration,” the late King remarked, “We have come a long, long way; but ... we must honestly face the fact that we still have a long, long way to go before the problem of racial injustice is solved.”

“What daddy said back then is very true today,” King said last fall. “We’ve made some tremendous progress, but if we’re not careful, we can revert back to those times. And we see things occurring now from a judicial standpoint that are very concerning.”

In a Class of Their Own

Last fall’s incoming first-year class had an average GPA of

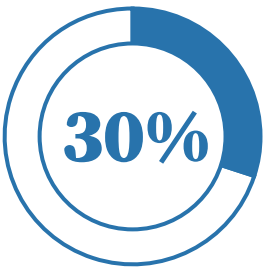
3.61

—the highest average of any incoming Monmouth class.

The class* also had the highest average SAT score in the University’s history.

1211

Additionally, more than



of the students came from outside New Jersey, representing



and



This marks the greatest geographic diversity in Monmouth’s history.

*Students whose admission evaluation included standardized tests.

OVERHEARD ON CAMPUS

“We’re in the position of being early adopters for having a written constitution. I liken it to having an iPhone 3G. ... We’re the first in the neighborhood to have it, and it’s still the best. The design is elegant, and it works well. ... [But] we may be losing out on some functionality that other societies may have acquired, and in these last few years, I’m afraid that the original company may not be supporting the repairs ... and warranties on the thing anymore.”

»ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY CHRISTOPHER DEROSA, DURING A WIDE-RANGING PANEL DISCUSSION OF HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONSTITUTION

THE MONMOUTH BRAG BOARD



Still Soaring

Monmouth retained its highest-ever ranking (No. 18) on *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2022–2023 “Best Colleges” list in the Regional Universities North category and is also featured in the publication’s Best Colleges for Veterans, Best Value Schools, and Top Performers on Social Mobility lists.



Rock On!

Billboard named Monmouth one of its Top Music Business Schools for 2022, praising the University’s role as the home of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music as well as the “hybrid model that combines classic business coursework from the University’s business school with its music and music business curriculum.”



Serving the Greater Good

Washington Monthly, which ranks colleges and universities based on “what they do for our country,” named Monmouth to its 2022 College Rankings: Master’s University list and 2022 Best Bang for the Buck Colleges: Northeast list.



Pardon Our Humblebrag

The magazine won a gold Circle of Excellence Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for the series of illustrations that accompanied our Fall 2020 cover story, “The Long Struggle.”

Teaching the Tough Topics

Three questions for Anne Deepak, NASW-NJ's Academic of the Year.

INTERVIEW BY LARISSA FORESE

The National Association of Social Workers-New Jersey chapter (NASW-NJ) recently named Associate Professor of Social Work Anne Deepak the 2022 Academic of the Year, lauding her leadership in the areas of advancing anti-racism and social justice and developing and applying a postcolonial feminist social work perspective to global issues and education.

Deepak's scholarship and research focuses on the development and application of a postcolonial feminist social work perspective to global social problems, the role of social work in addressing climate justice, and the examination of the delivery of social justice and diversity content in social work education. In addition to her teaching schedule, Deepak serves as the co-chair of Monmouth University's Growing Together as Allies (GTAA), a group committed to anti-racism and racial equity work. She also represents the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) at the United Nations as a member of the New York team. She talked with us recently about that work.

How does your service outside the classroom impact your teaching?

I recently co-authored a policy statement adopted by IFSW, *The Role of Social Workers in Advancing a New Eco-social World*. I used this policy statement in the syllabus for a course I am teaching in Monmouth's new Doctor of Social Work program in Human Rights Leadership. The policy, adopt-

ed by IFSW in May 2022, articulates IFSW's position on co-building a new eco-social world grounded in a holistic human rights framework. It is a call to action for governments and key stakeholders to recognize social workers as key partners in the global action by engaging and working with communities as agents of change in building a more sustainable and just world.

In that course, we also explore the history of social work through the lens of anti-racism, intersectional feminism, and global justice. There are a lot of topics that I didn't learn when I was getting my degrees, and some things that most people don't really learn. There are some uncomfortable histories of complicity with racism in social work, but there are also some beautiful ones, including the parallel histories of Black social workers and global and local human rights leadership. The content in the course can be hard to tackle, but my students are learning about these things and will be able to use that in their own trajectories for human rights leadership in social work.

Can you talk about your work with GTAA?

Growing Together as Allies is a committee of students, alumni, and faculty from the School of Social Work that works to advance anti-racism in our school, the University, and the community. It started as an informal group several years ago and served as a space for people to come together and educate one another around the intersection of oppression and anti-racism. After Dean Robin Mama formalized GTAA as a committee within the School of Social Work, our work expanded. Together with faculty, students, and alumni, we wrote an anti-racism statement that was unanimously approved by



photo BILL CARDONI

“There are some uncomfortable histories of complicity with racism in social work, but there are also some beautiful ones, including the parallel histories of Black social workers and global and local human rights leadership.”

the School of Social Work. Since then, we have hosted listening sessions and started an annual lecture series. Our most recent event, held in December, was a panel discussion, *Advancing Anti-racism through Intergenerational Conversations: Power and Possibility in Latinx Communities*, featuring social work educators and practitioners, students, and alumni.

I think GTAA is a prime example of how people can make change in an organization, even if you're at a predominantly white university. It can be done, but it requires a sustained commitment.

Are people becoming more aware of the impact social workers can have on systemic issues?

I think so, in part because people saw the impact of COVID-19, and how important public health is, and the big-picture issues that impact people's individual physical and mental health.

In the U.S., 90% of social work graduate students pursue clinical social work, while only 10% pursue macro work. While there are many ways that this work overlaps, there is still a lack of awareness that social work goes beyond working with individuals. Most people think of social work and wonder, how does that include social justice and human rights? How are those connected? Our MSW program helps students to understand these interconnections.

Our Global and Community Practice macro specialization prepares students to work to change systems, in partnership with groups, organizations, and communities, to think in a bigger-picture way about how to address such far-reaching concerns as environmental justice and global women's issues. ☺



A Hollywood Ending

At Monmouth, Leon Galloway worked on the set of a major motion picture, an experience that led to a post-graduation job on one of TV's longest-running shows.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

If there is any truth to the adage that achieving success in the film industry comes down to the people you know and the connections you make, a bright future awaits Leon Galloway.

Last spring and summer, Galloway worked behind the scenes of the upcoming feature film *Miranda's Victim*. The movie, co-written and co-produced by Monmouth University Trustee George Kolber, was filmed partly on campus and chronicles the events that led to the establishment of the Miranda rule.

Hired initially as an intern, Galloway quickly wowed the film's producers with his talents and tenacity and was promoted to production assistant and then to first team. By the time production wrapped, Galloway had gained real-world professional experience and made several industry connections, one of which led to his being hired as a production assistant for *Law & Order*, a job he begins this January.

A communications major with a concentration in media studies and production, Galloway says he was already looking for an internship to fulfill his graduation requirements when a departmental email alerted him to the opportunity to work with Navesink River Productions, the company behind *Miranda's Victim*. After interviewing via Zoom with Carly Harper, one of the film's producers, Galloway was hired.

Two weeks later, another producer, Alexandra Guarnieri, pulled him aside to tell

him he was being promoted to production assistant.

"She said the producers appreciated the work I'd been doing and thought I had a knack for it," recalls Galloway. "She said they could see this is a field that I want to pursue and they wanted to give me an opportunity to grow."

Shortly after, Galloway was again promoted, to first team, which gave him the opportunity to work directly with several of the film's A-list actors, including Oscar-nominee Abigail Breslin ("She is super cool," says Galloway) and Enrique Merciano ("He's the funniest man I ever met. He has 10 personalities, and they all come at you at once.")

Part of Galloway's responsibilities entailed serving as a liaison to the actors. That meant coordinating their schedules with the hair and makeup departments, arranging their transportation to the various filming locations throughout Monmouth County, ensuring the actors were properly miked and outfitted by the props and costume departments when they got to the set, and assisting them throughout. After shooting was done each day, he did all of that in reverse.

Being on the set of a major motion picture was more than just fun, says Galloway—it was incredibly educational.

"I got a clear view of how everything runs in the real world," he says. "I saw how the props department works. I saw how the art department dresses the set for the scene. I saw the director doing her thing and the camera and audio and lighting people doing their things. I saw how it's all intertwined and how one area can't function without the other. I was really in the thick of it."

The workdays were long—12 hours or more—and Galloway says he used the time to learn as much as he could about what it's like to work in the industry.

"I was just picking people's brains about everything they were doing," he says. "You get really close to people when you're working together every day for two to three months. No one had any problems letting me know how things worked, what the difficulties of the job are, [and] what the rewards are."

Galloway, who earned an associate degree from Brookdale Community College before transferring to Monmouth, says he

"One day you're working the camera, the next day you're directing, [and] the next day you're the talent. It's an all-hands-on-deck type [of] thing. There's never a time you're not learning."

arrived on campus knowing he wanted to pursue a career in the TV and film industry. Getting involved with Hawk TV early on was the perfect way to get his feet wet, he says. Working at the student-run TV station gave him the opportunity to contribute to a variety of productions, from pop culture and sports talk shows to news broadcasts and live event coverage.

"I'd been around sets before coming to Monmouth but never as intensely as what I experienced with Hawk TV," says Galloway. "One day you're working the camera, the next day you're directing, [and] the next day you're the talent. It's an all-hands-on-deck type [of] thing. There's never a time you're not learning."

His coursework at Monmouth only amplified the experience.

"My favorite class was Introduction to Television Production with Professor Donna Dolphin," he says. "It's very hands-on, and you really take a deep dive into how to operate the cameras, how to work the technical director board, and how to operate the other equipment."

This January, Galloway will put everything he learned at Monmouth to work behind the scenes of *Law & Order*. The production assistant job came through a connection he made with Paula Clarkson, the second assistant director on *Miranda's Victim* who also works on the TV procedural.

Galloway says that as filming on *Miranda's Victim* wrapped, Clarkson tried to persuade him to forgo his final semester at Monmouth and come work with her right away. "I mulled it over for maybe five minutes," he says, before he decided he wanted to finish his degree.

"I've worked hard, gone to class every day, completed all of my projects, [and] put in my 50 hours of practicum," he says. "I didn't want that to be in vain."

Besides, he says, "I knew my mom would probably kill me if I didn't finish." 🗨

Model UN Team Shines at Oxford

Monmouth's Model United Nations team finished its fall schedule with big wins at the Oxford University Model United Nations competition in November. The event is one of the most prestigious competitions on the European Model U.N. circuit, Professor Ken Mitchell, the team's advisor, said.

Senior Nick Yalch won top individual honors as Most Outstanding Delegate for his work representing France on a committee simulating the European Commission.

Yalch and his teammates—seniors Oliver Gaines, Eric Machnicki, and Catherine Melman-Kenny; junior Sabria Smith; and sophomore James Bellinger—won Most Outstanding Small Delegation, beating out universities like Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The Small Delegation category is the most competitive, Mitchell said. »EXCERPTED FROM MONMOUTH NOW



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Such Great Heights

[MEN'S TRACK & FIELD]

A World-Class Debut

Evan Niedrowski battled back from a shoulder injury to compete with Team USA.

BY JOHN SPINELLI '22

Last August, javelin thrower Evan Niedrowski competed for Team USA at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Cali, Colombia. It was the perfect capstone to an impressive first collegiate season—one made all the more remarkable considering that, just a year prior, it was unclear whether Niedrowski would perform competitively in the sport again.

Niedrowski was a standout thrower in high school, earning All-County, All-District, All-State, and All-American honors. He won the javelin state championship in 2019 and still holds his high school's record in the event.

He also excelled at football, and it was on the gridiron in fall 2020 that he suffered an injury that put his throwing career on hold. During practice just before the season's first game, he dislocated his throwing shoulder. "I didn't think it was bad at first," says Niedrowski, who finished out the football season. "Every year I got banged up from football and was used to it." →

It wasn't until the season was over that Niedrowski realized the severity of the injury. An MRI revealed he had a torn labrum. "When I found out, it was like a punch to the gut," he says. He had surgery to repair his shoulder in March 2021, which forced him to sit out his senior track season. He was still rehabbing when he arrived at Monmouth in fall 2021.

"I eventually started throwing again around late November [2021]," says Niedrowski. "My shoulder felt great, and I continued to get stronger in the weight room. I worked with Aaron [Bottinick, assistant athletic trainer] and Christian [Spaulding, assistant throws coach], and we were being extra cautious and not taking too many risks all year long to make sure my shoulder stayed healthy."

Finally, in spring 2022, Niedrowski returned to action. In his collegiate debut at the Lehigh Invitational—his first competition in more than two years—he finished first with a throw of 68.45 meters. Two weeks later at the Virginia Challenge, Niedrowski placed third with a throw of 71.42 meters—a personal best and Monmouth record for first-year students. Last May, he won gold at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships with a throw of 63.83 meters.

Niedrowski's strong showings throughout his first-year campaign earned him an invite to the NCAA Eastern Regionals, where he placed 10th with a throw of 70.04 meters. That in turn qualified him for the NCAA National Championships, held last June at historic Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus. There, Niedrowski posted a mark of 70.22 meters, securing 11th place and Second Team

All-American status.

A week later, Niedrowski returned to Hayward Field to compete in the USA Track and Field U20 Outdoor Track and Field Championships. In one of the biggest competitions of his career to date, he threw 70.58 meters, earning gold and punching his ticket to last summer's World Athletics U20 Championships.

"Worlds' was a whole different animal," says Niedrowski. "Meeting athletes from around the globe and hearing what they had to say, how they speak, how they train—it was surreal."

Niedrowski finished 8th at the World Championships with a final throw of 69.25 meters. Competing on a global stage is something most athletes can only dream of. Not only did Niedrowski accomplish it; he finished in the top 10, in a throwing event, less than two years removed from tearing his labrum.

The enormity of the experience of competing at the World Championship hasn't escaped Niedrowski. "The atmosphere that I was surrounded by in Cali is something I'll always remember," he says. But the sophomore business administration major is now focused on helping his Hawks track and field team—perennial MAAC champions—excel in the program's inaugural season in the Colonial Athletic Conference this spring.

Looking further ahead though, Niedrowski says he still has a few personal goals to accomplish. "I want to be an NCAA champion. ... And I want to represent the United States at the 2024 and 2028 Olympics," he says. Eventually, he'd like to throw professionally.

With the grit and determination Niedrowski has shown, all of that seems within reach. ■

Transition Game

Kylee Flynn ascends from assistant to head coach of Hawks women's soccer in championship form.

BY MARK GOLA

Effort is spawned by a decision that leads to action. It's a tool coveted by those who are fiercely competitive.

Head Coach Kylee Flynn is determined to make Monmouth University synonymous with winning soccer on the national stage. For the Hawks to soar at such heights, effort will need to start at the top and permeate throughout her roster.

"You can outwork people in this profession," says Flynn. "If you need to drive to Long Island to see a prospect play, you get in the car and go see her. Sometimes getting the best recruits can be achieved through effort."

After serving as an assistant to Krissy Turner for 10 seasons, Flynn was named the fourth head coach in program history last July. The transition seemed ... effortless. Flynn flourished in her new position, leading Monmouth to a 13-2-3 record and regular season title in the Hawks first season in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) last fall. She was named CAA Co-Coach of the Year, while six Monmouth players earned all-league honors.

The transition may have appeared effortless, but Flynn worked hard to make it as smooth as possible.

"The relationship with the players has to be different," says Flynn. "They could come to me with things as an assistant, but as the head coach, I had to make hard decisions and deliver messages mindfully. It was an adjustment for me and for the upperclassmen especially."

The women's soccer program at Monmouth has sustained an outstanding reputation for over 20 years. Turner led the Hawks to 10 conference titles and punched eight tickets to NCAA championship tournaments. One hurdle the program is yet to clear is advancing to a second-round match.

As a star player at the University of Tennessee, Flynn sent the Volunteers to a third-round contest in the 2007 NCAA Tournament when she tallied the game-winning goal in a 1-0 overtime win against Clemson University. She badly wants her Monmouth players to taste victory at the NCAAs, not only for the thrilling moment but also for the program's future. Advancing in the NCAA tournament draws national recognition and can expand her recruiting field geographically.

"Krissy and the alumni built this program," says Flynn. "The best way to honor their success is to become even better and achieve more. The coaching staff will work hard to bring in the best players and prepare them every time they take the field. I love this program and want to continue growing the great tradition of Monmouth soccer." ■

"You can outwork people in this profession. ... Sometimes getting the best recruits can be achieved through effort."





Such Great Heights

Amaan Sandhu talks hoops, hip-hop, and making history.

INTERVIEW BY PETE CROATTO

Amaan Sandhu, the first Indian-born male basketball player to receive a Division I scholarship, comes from a family of hoopsters. His father captained India's men's national team, his sister played for the women's national team, and his mom played for the state team. The 7'1" first-year center, who is eyeing a career in the NBA, says a big part of his motivation is playing for his family members who never got this far.

"I want to carry my dad's legacy," says Sandhu.

An alumnus of the NBA Academy India, an elite basketball training academy in the Delhi National Capital Region, Sandhu talked with us before the season about his basketball odyssey, what makes Monmouth feel like home, and why it's OK for strangers to inquire about his height.

ON HOW HE DISCOVERED BASKETBALL.

My parents never forced me to do anything. I started playing basketball just for fun and eventually fell in love with the game. It got serious when I was selected for the NBA Academy in 2017. That was huge. Hundreds of coaches came to tryouts and selected 21 of us from thousands of hopefuls.

ON WHAT THE NBA ACADEMY MEANT TO HIM.

That was my family. I stayed there for three years, and they taught me everything. I learned how to speak English. They changed my body. They taught me how to play basketball. They taught me how to be a good human being on and off the court. I got a chance to travel around the world—Europe a couple of times and the United States, before I moved here, a few times.

ON WHY HE CHOSE MONMOUTH.

I just fell in love with this school. The people—they're so nice. And it's right by the beach! The biggest thing that made me commit was the coaching staff. I felt like I knew the coaches for a long time, like the connection was already there. I've always wanted a coach like Coach Rice. I couldn't ask for a better coach or to be anywhere other than Monmouth right now.

ON THE POWER OF PUNJABI MUSIC.

Music plays a huge role in my life. It hypes me up before games and practices and helps me relax when I'm hanging with friends. My favorite rapper is Sidhu Moose Wala. I don't go anywhere without his music. I use his song "Jatt Da Muqabala" as my walk-out song. The lyrics roughly translate to "There is no competitor of me. I'm one of one."

ON WHY HIS HAWKS TEAM IS FAMILY.

There are times when I feel pressure. I start thinking too much: I'm the first one, I've got to show everybody. Coach Rice helps me at every step. He makes sure I don't feel pressure. Sometimes I'm going through problems and my teammates come together and say, "We know something's going on. Talk to your family." That's what makes me feel so comfortable. We're a family here. I can go to anybody on the team and tell him what's happening in my life.

ON BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR MONMOUTH AND BASKETBALL PLAYERS IN INDIA.

I used to get tired of questions about my height. "Can I get a picture of you? How tall are you?" I used to just say, "I'm late for my flight," or something like that. Now I just tell them, "I'm seven-foot-one." Because then people will come away thinking, He's a good guy, or Oh, let's go to the team's games.

Because I'm the first male from India to commit to a D-1 school, there are a lot of younger players who message me on Instagram. I try to answer everybody as soon as possible. I want to stay connected with my community back home. 🙌

"I used to get tired of questions about my height. 'Can I get a picture of you? How tall are you?' I used to just say, 'I'm late for my flight,' or something like that. Now I just tell them, 'I'm seven-foot-one.'"

Murder,

Mystique,

and Early Monmouth County

When Anthony Setaro started digging into the history of his family's emigration from Italy, he uncovered a world of intrigue that had been lost for more than a century.

Now he's creating a multimedia universe that brings that world to life.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

TWO PROHIBITION RAIDS.
Two Red Bank Storekeepers
rested and Held in \$500 Ea
Stores on West Front street
ducted by Emilio Talarico
Borelli were, raided
liquor last Frid
VanNot

Rum Fleet Moves.
Reports are current to the effect
that the rum fleet, which has been ly-
ing off Highlands and supplying rum
runners with contraband liquor, has
changed its base of operations.
liquor ships are now said to be
quentering the coast near Egg Ha
bay into which the Mullica

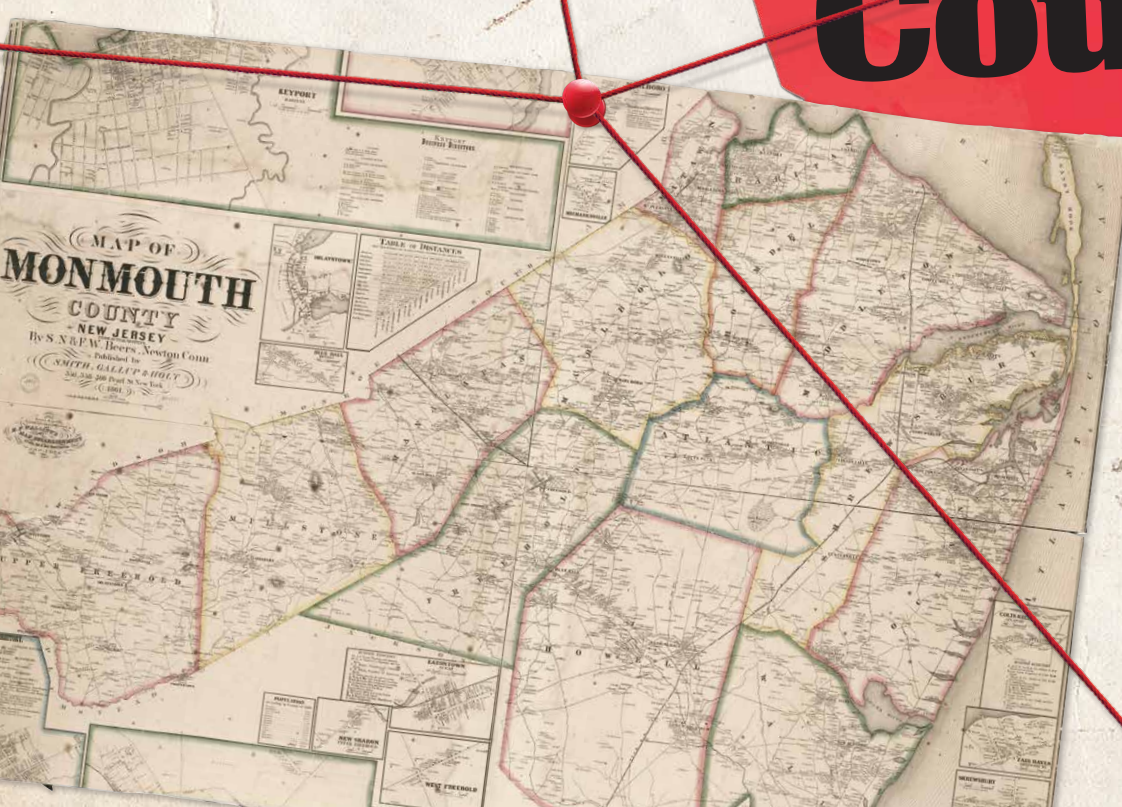
**ITALIAN ASSAULTED
MAN WITH HAMMER.**
Victim of Assault Made Dying
Statement Last Night.

the result of a fierce encounter a
a week ago between two Italians
the gas house, Dominico Sataro
the Long Branch hospital with
his
the
po
re
to
e

They say
bottles nearly filled



photos MATT RASPANTI



You're wandering around Red Bank one afternoon when you meet Count Basie, the famous American jazz musician. He says hello and tells you a quick story. His words carry weight—so much so that they help you decide where you'll go next.

Back to wandering again, you come across Sigmund Eisner. His Red Bank uniform factory is one of the largest in the country, and like Basie, he has some advice for you. Now you're off to follow his tip. Before long, you're bumping into bootleggers, visiting local landmarks, and maybe even unraveling a murder mystery.

At least, that's the vision Anthony Setaro '03 has for you. His still-in-development video game, which drops players into early-1900s Red Bank, is one of several projects that Setaro is immersed in right now as he strives to share his family's history with the wider world. It's a history that weaves together not just old-time Red Bank but also early Italian American immigrants, murder and betrayal, bootlegging, and even presidential elections—and it's also a history that Setaro himself knew almost nothing about until recently.

"A lot of these were things I heard whispers of growing up, but I didn't know what it all meant," he says. "And I had no idea how big the story was or how compelling it was. It's just been a deeper and deeper rabbit hole every time I start to uncover something."

But now Setaro believes that there is broad appeal for the family history he's pieced together. "It's a way for people to learn about the diversity of the community and the people that made up this town," he says. "Also, it shows the trials and tribulations of Italian Americans in this area, which no one has ever documented before."

Setaro's research odyssey began in 2020, after he and his cousin, Doug Booton, purchased their great-aunt's house in Red Bank. It had been in the family since 1934, and Setaro can remember celebrating Christmases there with over 100 relatives filling the rooms. (His grandfather was one of 11 children.)

As Setaro and Booton got to work renovating the home, clues from the past began literally falling into their laps. They were replacing old plaster ceilings when yellowed newspaper clippings floated down from the attic floorboards above them. They also discovered boxes of forgotten photos and notebooks that had been sitting in the house for decades.

Setaro threw himself into the research process, combing through the *Red Bank Register* archives, reading books about early-day Red Bank, and eventually discovering a project centered on the Italian village of Sessano, from which his ancestors had emigrated. The latter supplied him with names and dates and details beyond what most people can ever uncover in their genealogy efforts. And that's when things really took off.

FAMILY SECRETS WITH BROADER MEANING

Setaro now knows that his family arrived in New Jersey from Italy a full generation earlier than he'd thought. An 1891 article about the murder of a Middletown, New Jersey, farmer prompted him to track down a coroner's inquest, which was stuffed with suspect interviews and witness testimonies.

"I realized all of these people were my relatives," he says. "So now I know they were here in 1888 and had settled an Italian colony at the foot of Cooper's Bridge, where they were bootlegging beer and offering protection for other Italian families as they moved to the area."

That places the Setaros among the earlier waves of Italians arriving in America. More than 4 million people emigrated from Italy to the U.S. between about 1880 and 1924, attempting to escape the poverty

and other challenges of their country. And like the Setaros, many chose New Jersey as their new home.

Setaro also began to discover that turn-of-the-century Red Bank was quite different from what he'd always imagined. His research conjured up a gritty and dangerous town, where his great-great-grandfather Domenico was murdered in 1903 by the Jersey Shore's most prominent bootlegger. Even though Domenico's killer was common knowledge, the murderer never went to jail—in fact, he grew even more successful and, to Setaro's shock, later became the brother-in-law and lifelong friend of Domenico's son.

While personally fascinating, Setaro realized that the family history he was uncovering had broader meaning. It turned out his family members were locked in jail for over six months after that 1891 murder as investigators searched for a culprit. "The Italian Americans were sort of hunted at the time," he says. "But then by 1912, they're helping get the next president of the United States elected. There's an Italian American heritage and story here that, frankly, has never been told and has been lost."

FRESH STORYTELLING FORMS

After recognizing how many historical strands their family's story wove together, Setaro and Booton began thinking about how they'd tell it. They first settled on *Rum Runner*, a five-part podcast centered on their great-grandfather, Giovanni "Big John" Setaro.

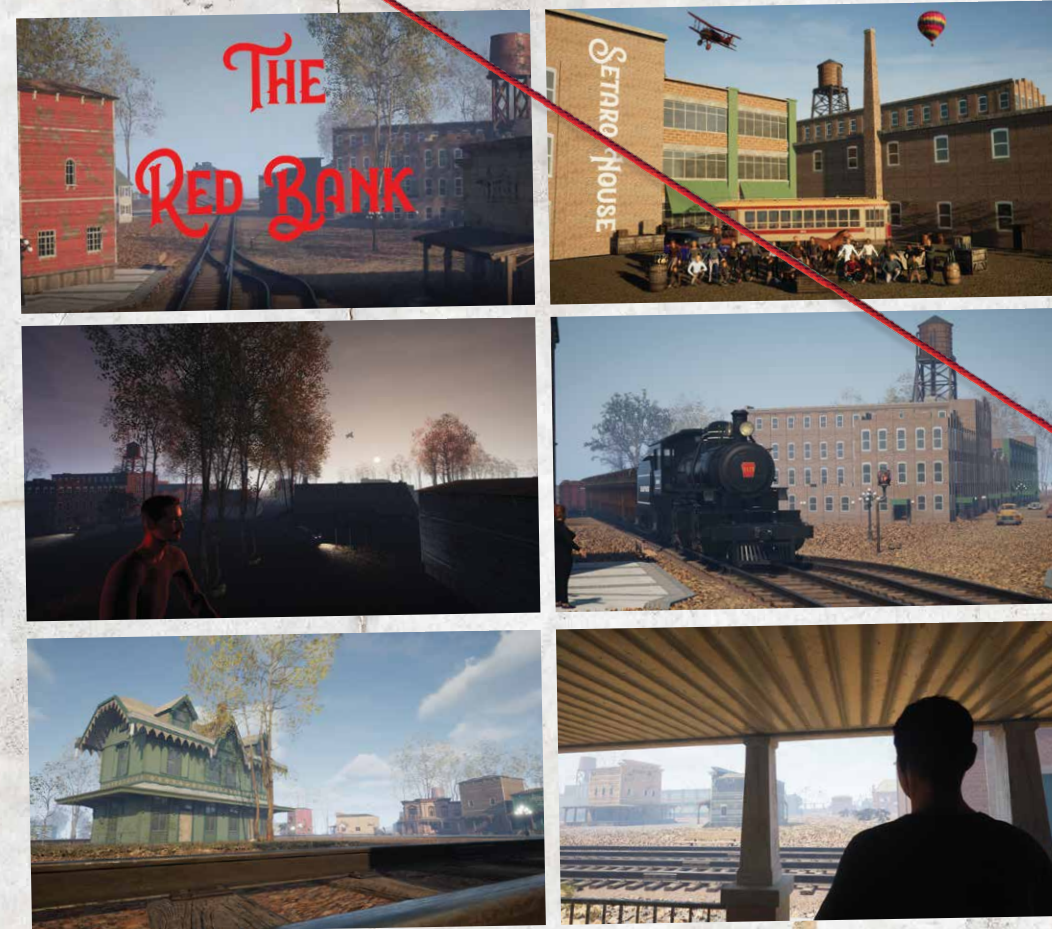
"We did the podcast more for historical record and to own the story right away, rather than trying to blow it up for listens," Setaro says. They released all five episodes in February 2022.

Now he and Booton are working on a movie and hoping to secure a grant so they can buy an LED video wall to use for live-action filming. (The large, curved wall replaces a traditional green screen and was used to make the immersive *Mandalorian* series.)

Then there's the video game, which they're developing with another fresh technology: Unreal Engine 5—a 3D computer graphics creation tool. With help from old photos and maps, they've managed to precisely re-create the Red Bank of the 1900s, right down to real-life charac-

To the Future, via the Past: A Fully Immersive Red Bank Experience

When complete, Setaro's video game will immerse players in early-1900s Red Bank, weaving together the town's history, with the experience of his Italian American immigrant ancestors, murder, bootlegging, and more.



ters like Basie and Eisner. They're currently working to create a full playable demo.

"This story is not one book; it's not one movie—it's a universe that we're creating, essentially," Setaro says. "We're trying to assemble a 'sandbox' not just for ourselves and our production team but for other artists and historians in the area. The main goal is to get the story out there for any storytellers to have a vehicle."

RECONNECTING WITH MONMOUTH

While knee-deep in the massive project he's taken on, Setaro has found himself turning back to skills he learned as a student at Monmouth—along with connections he still has to the University itself.

A communication and media studies major, Setaro was part of the team that helped start Hawk TV News at Monmouth. In fact, he was its first anchor. "We didn't even have a teleprompter; I was just reading off a paper that we printed out," he remembers. "It was wild. But I was the

only one that had any on-camera experience, and I probably hosted about 50 news shows, at least."

He further honed his journalistic experience with an internship at MTV News in the early 2000s. There he assisted in a quest to track down a Nirvana interview tape that had been stolen. (They never found it.) He often ran across Manhattan to pick up tapes for segments set to air that same day. He logged interviews and even held the boom mic when the team went out in the field. "That experience at MTV still to this day informs so much for me," he says, especially when it comes to research savvy and tenacity.

When his family project began to take shape, and soon grow bigger and bigger, Setaro decided to contact Monmouth for help. He reached out to the alumni engagement office and was directed to Aaron Furgason, an associate professor and chair in the communication department—someone Setaro had known during his own student days.

"It's been cool to reconnect with him," Setaro says. "It all feels pretty full circle."

In October, Setaro and Booton shared their project on campus in an ArtNOW visiting artist presentation. They've also been working and workshoping with the IDM Research Lab on their video game and invited students to explore the digital version of Big John that Setaro sculpted using Unreal Engine.

"As we grow our productions, we hope to offer more opportunities for students," Setaro adds. "We're really working on the ground floor of what this software can do as a storytelling medium."

While he acknowledges how much he's taken on with all of this—especially considering the project's multiple forms and the fact that he's already a busy real-estate agent in Red Bank—Setaro says he's enjoying the process and now feels committed to helping Monmouth County better understand this slice of its history.

"I just know there's a story to be told," he says, "and a wide appeal for it." 🎮

Just a year after its inception, the women's rowing program took to the water last fall in historic fashion.



BY RYAN JONES
PHOTOS BY ANTHONY DEPRIMO

Caitlin Newsome walked on to the Monmouth rowing team with what could charitably be described as limited experience.

"I had actually never rowed before," Newsome says with a laugh. "I'd been on camping trips where I had canoed, but I realized pretty quickly that that's a very different thing."

A complete lack of relevant experience would be disqualifying for a roster spot in most Division I sports, but not in rowing. And like many of her

teammates, Newsome brought other qualities that made her a great fit. An accomplished athlete before arriving at Monmouth, she appreciates the value of practice and discipline, thrives on competition, and relishes the chance to improve in measurable ways. She also had good timing: The Hawks, in the program's first year of existence, had a roster to fill.

In fact, about half of the student-athletes on Monmouth's inaugural rowing team followed a

path similar to Newsome's: standout high school athletes, many who dealt with injuries, open to a new challenge and not scared off by pre-dawn practice sessions. The other half were seasoned high school rowers drawn by the offer of scholarships and the chance to be trailblazers. Led by an experienced coaching staff and enthusiastically backed by the University, the team hit the water this fall with realistic expectations for the short term—and big ambitions for the future. →



CATCHING UP WITH THE

New Crew

“The challenge of starting an NCAA Division I program from scratch, with no club team or existing infrastructure—there were definitely times last year where I was sitting at my desk thinking, What did I get myself into?” says Head Coach Scott Belford, who was hired in September 2021. “But the support from the University has been tremendous, and now we’re getting recognition from around the sport. People see that Monmouth’s here to stay.”

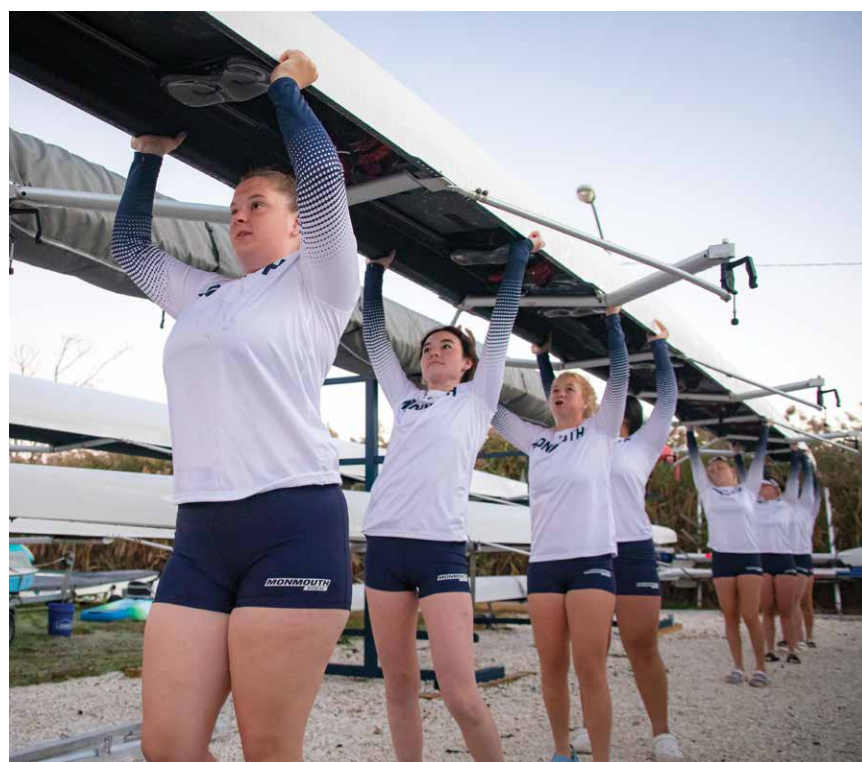
Using the success of the Hawks’ athletic programs to enhance Monmouth’s national name recognition was a stated goal in the University’s five-year strategic plan, *Excellence. Access. Ambition.*, which was launched in 2021. That goal applied to existing sports, of course, but also to sports the University might someday add. Considering those possibilities meant considering potential barriers to entry, including cost, Title IX compliance, and the opportunity to be competitive; by all those measures, women’s rowing made a lot of sense. It didn’t hurt that President Patrick F. Leahy, a collegiate rower during his undergraduate days at Georgetown, had a firsthand appreciation for the sport.

And then there’s the water. “We’re in a really unique area—there are rivers all around us,” says Athletic Director Jeff Stapleton. An agreement with the Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club, about 10 minutes from campus, provided Monmouth with a perfect place to launch its boats—and the program.

Once the University was committed to the sport, there was no more vital decision than hiring the right head coach. In that search, Belford checked every box. He was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and grew up in Monmouth County, where he was a good enough high school soccer player to walk on at Rutgers. Not long after a knee injury derailed his hopes of playing in college, he was walking past a row of student activity tables when someone asked him, “Did you play a sport in high school? And are you playing it here?”

Belford said he wasn’t. “Show up at the boathouse Monday morning,” came the reply.

“So I did,” he says. “And I was absolutely hooked.”



RISE AND SHINE: The team’s pre-dawn practices begin with a stretching session at the Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club (top) after which the athletes grab their boats and head for the water (bottom). **OPPOSITE PAGE:** team captains Marissa McKenzie (left) and Kaitlyn Rice were both standout rowers in high school; Head Coach Scott Belford watches his team from a chase boat.



Belford rowed for four years and eventually captained the team, and he has dedicated much of his life since to coaching the sport—from the club team at William & Mary to assistant gigs at Princeton and Penn and stints at rowing clubs and with the U.S. junior national team. In 2003, a college teammate called and asked if he’d be interested in helping to start a rowing team at Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) in Lincroft, New Jersey. Belford said yes. He ended up leading a nationally competitive high school program for the next 18 years.

“I always said the only way I’d leave CBA was if a suitable position came open at Rutgers,” Belford says, “or if Monmouth started women’s rowing.” When he saw the position advertised in the summer of 2021, Belford says his wife looked at him and said, “This is meant to be.”

Stapleton has no doubt the University nailed the hire. “Scott is a passionate guy, and I think we’ve been very lucky to have him help start our program,” the athlet-



ic director says. “He’ll go up to students around campus and say, ‘Hey have you ever rowed? Why don’t you come down and try it.’ And he’ll get them in a boat.”

Drawn by the University’s commitment to building a competitive program, Belford spent his first year on the job doing everything but competing. With no staff and no roster, he focused on purchasing equipment—six Hudson racing boats and a couple of chase boats for the coaches—figuring out logistics, and getting the word out that Monmouth would have boats in the water the following year. “Initially, people just didn’t know we were here,” he says. “I did a lot of reaching out, sat in on a lot of high school practices. It was just getting the word out, letting people know we’re here and we mean business.”

The first class includes 20 athletes, split between walk-ons like Newsome (most are

first-year students and none had rowed competitively before they arrived on campus) and experienced high school rowers like Kaitlyn Rice of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, to whom the Hawks could offer scholarships. Rice’s high school resume includes a gold medal in women’s single sculls at the Atlantic County Championship and a seat in the novice eight boat that was named *Atlantic City Press* Boat of the Year—not to mention National Honor Society membership. In other words, she’s exactly the type of student-athlete Belford was thrilled to recruit.

The team’s first meeting last September emphasized the newness of the entire endeavor. “We didn’t have any upperclassmen to show us the ropes, so we were all kind of hesitant at first to really jump into it,” Rice says. “But once we started to get to know each other, we helped each other get



OARS AWAY: The coxswain (bottom photo, front, facing the rowers) is essentially an additional coach in the boat, Belford says, and calls drills and cadences, executes practice (and race) plans, steers, and provides motivation. The team’s practices on the Shrewsbury River are intense, although the occasional visit from a dolphin (top right) can provide a brief interlude during which the athletes can take in their surroundings.



THE FINAL PULL: The team will look to parlay its early momentum, which was highlighted by the program's first medal wins at the prestigious Head of the Schuylkill Regatta last fall, into a successful spring campaign that culminates in May at the CAA Championship at Saratoga Springs, New York.



through the hard workouts or helped each other with homework, and we all kind of bonded over that.”

About those workouts: “You’ll be in the best shape of your life,” Belford says with a laugh. It’s part of his recruiting pitch, but also a warning to the novice rowers that they’re in for some serious work. The newbies started on rowing machines before they got into the boats—they race in teams of four and eight—where they discovered the challenge went beyond mere physical exertion. Newsome, a three-sport standout in high school who ran cross-country at a small college in Vermont as a first-year student before injuries forced her to hang up her spikes, says she quickly learned that “it’s not just about speed or how hard you paddle. It’s a mix of form, keeping the boat centered and balanced, timing, and working together as a team.”

“It’s the ultimate team sport,” Belford says. “You can’t get anywhere without all the people in the boat working together.”

The Hawks—whose early-morning practice runs on the Shrewsbury have occasionally been joined by dolphins racing alongside their boats—have come together more quickly than even their coach dared hope. Monmouth raced for the first time in October, running three boats against a small field of other freshman teams at the Navy Day Regatta in Philadelphia. That they posted middle-of-the-pack finishes did nothing to diminish what Belford called a “historic day for the program. I can’t wait to see where they go from here.”

He got an answer two weeks later, when the Hawks returned to Philly for the prestigious Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. Competing against a much deeper field, Monmouth made history again, finishing third out of 22 boats in the freshman fours race and third out of 16 boats in the freshman eights to clinch the program’s first medals.


Looking back on the performance a week later, Belford said, “I thought we would be competitive, but I would be lying if I said I expected us to have the per-

formances we’ve had. I knew we had a good group that I felt was going to come in, work hard, and establish the right culture, and I knew we had a bunch of individuals poised to grow athletically. But the finishes we’ve had so far ... I just didn’t think we’d have these kinds of performances right away.”

Belford acknowledges that the Hawks have a long way to go to turn strong finishes against regional competition into true national relevance. Well-funded programs at universities like Stanford, Texas, Ohio State, Washington, and Cal have dominated the sport over the past decade, and Monmouth—which won’t have a full four-year roster until 2026—won’t catch them overnight. But the coach has a plan to make up the gap.

It starts with expanding the Hawks’ recruiting base. Only four members of the inaugural roster hail from outside New Jersey, but early signees for Belford’s second class include athletes from California, Pittsburgh, and British Columbia. The goal is to build a program that can regularly attract national and even international recruits.

From there, it’s a question of climbing the ladder: The Hawks compete in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), in which Northeastern and Drexel are the current powers. “Our hope is that once we’re big enough to field a full NCAA squad, by year four we can start knocking off CAA opponents and be relevant in the conference championships,” Belford says.

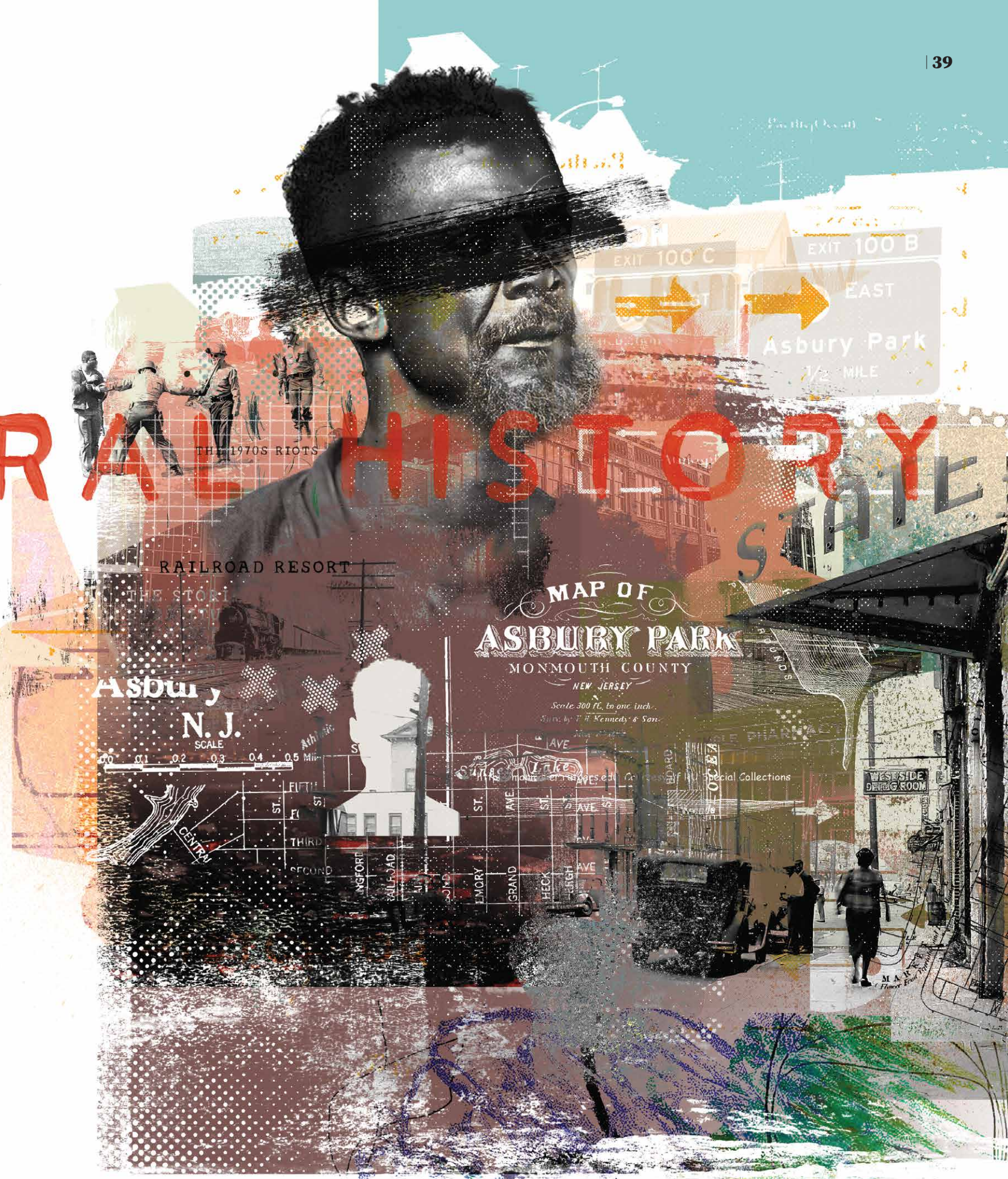
It’s an ambitious goal, one that will require hard work, patience, and resilience—some of the same qualities required of the athletes themselves. This first class of Monmouth rowers will be gone by the time the program can enjoy the full fruits of their efforts, but there’s a shared sense of pride in their status as trailblazers that makes the hard work and pre-dawn practices worthwhile. They know they’re part of history—even the ones who’d never held an oar before they joined the team. 

An ambitious multiyear project is documenting the rich but often-overlooked history of African Americans in Asbury Park.

BY NICK DIULIO
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DUNG HOANG

PARADOXICAL PARADISE

The story of Asbury Park is one that often gets told in broad, unambiguous strokes—a city best known for Bruce Springsteen, late-century economic decline, and a swift and booming revitalization that made the coastal city a resurrected tourist destination for the wealthy and hip. And when it comes to city's African American population, the story is even more one-dimensional, typically only pausing on one particularly incendiary moment: the race riots of the summer of 1970, which saw seven days of looting and destruction that resulted in dozens of injuries and more than \$5 million in property damage. But Hettie Williams knew there were more nuanced, complicated, and compelling tales to tell—and she wanted the people of the city to tell them. →



“Asbury Park has one of the largest African American populations in the state, behind only Newark, Plainfield, and Trenton. But that population has been dwindling over the past few years, and it occurred to me that we needed to document their stories before they were lost forever,” says Williams, an associate professor in African American history and president of the African American Intellectual History Society. The African American demographic in Asbury Park has declined by nearly 3,000 people over the past decade, forced out by gentrification and the passing of older generations, she says. “I wanted to find a way for the stories of these people to be told and remembered.”

Steeped in research concerning the history of the civil rights movement in New Jersey, Williams began considering how she could best encapsulate the myriad untold narratives of Asbury Park’s African American population, which she says have been overshadowed by the riots for too long. But she didn’t want to simply produce another academic tome, which could feel distant, antiseptic, and detached from the subtleties of the city and its people. Williams’ project had to be starker. Unvarnished. Intimate. And that’s when she got the idea to capture oral histories from everyday African American residents, eventually stitching together a vibrant landscape that examines the evolution of this traditionally overlooked population. These were the seeds of Paradoxical Paradise: An African American Oral History and Mapping Project on Asbury Park.

“One of our primary goals was to bring in the voices of the people in the city. We didn’t want to claim this as *our* history. This is the history of the people,” says Williams, whose mother, Gloria, marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in 1961. “We are talking to everyday citizens, not political leaders or those with power but average citizens who might never get their voices in a history book.”

Williams wanted the project to be interdisciplinary and interactive, and it began just over two years ago when she and two fellow Monmouth professors were awarded a \$5,000 Diversity Innovation Grant from the Monmouth University Intercultural Center and the Office of the Provost. According to Williams, the vision was as ambitious as it was important.

Under the direction of Monmouth University Specialist Professor of Public History Melissa Ziobro ’05, ’07M, Williams’ team would collect dozens of oral histories to explore “the largely untold experiences of African Americans in Asbury Park.” What’s more, the transcripts of these interviews would be housed on a vibrant, interactive, multimedia website comprising archival photos, a short documentary film, and an interactive map that would allow users to explore hundreds of important Asbury Park locations and their relationship to the broader tale being told by the project. And all of it would be free and fully accessible to anyone who cared to visit.

“I wanted this to be a teaching tool that the public could access anytime they

“We didn’t want to claim this as *our* history. This is the history of the people. We are talking to everyday citizens, not political leaders or those with power but average citizens who might never get their voices in a history book.”

wanted,” says Williams, who also worked closely with the Asbury Park Historical Society and the Asbury Park Museum. “So much is now behind paywalls or requires you to be a member of a certain school or institution. I wanted something you simply had to Google.”

Since the inception of Paradoxical Paradise, Williams’ team has collected 21 oral history interviews—the transcripts of which are all available and fully searchable on the project’s website—and archived dozens of historic photos, newspaper clippings, and other primary source documents.

“Oral history is all about recording these people’s memories and experiences in their own words,” says Ziobro, who has more than 15 years of experience record-

ing oral histories and is the current president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region. “And all of them are saved in full. They aren’t edited down to snippets or something neatly polished. And that then becomes part of the historical record—a primary source that transports people back to a certain era in time.”

The effect is disarmingly intimate, and to read these transcripts is to tuck oneself into the most familiar and private corners of the subjects’ lives—the spaces previously left unexamined by the blinding lights of broad, historical narratives and gated out of fusty works of academic literature. Consider, for instance, this excerpt from an interview with Roy Riller, a 90-year-old resident of the city who was born in Louisiana and moved with

his family to Asbury Park when he was 10 years old. Here, Riller recalls one of his earliest memories of experiencing racial inequality at one of the city’s public pools, painting an unvarnished picture of youth and tension that unfolds as vividly as though one were experiencing it in real time.

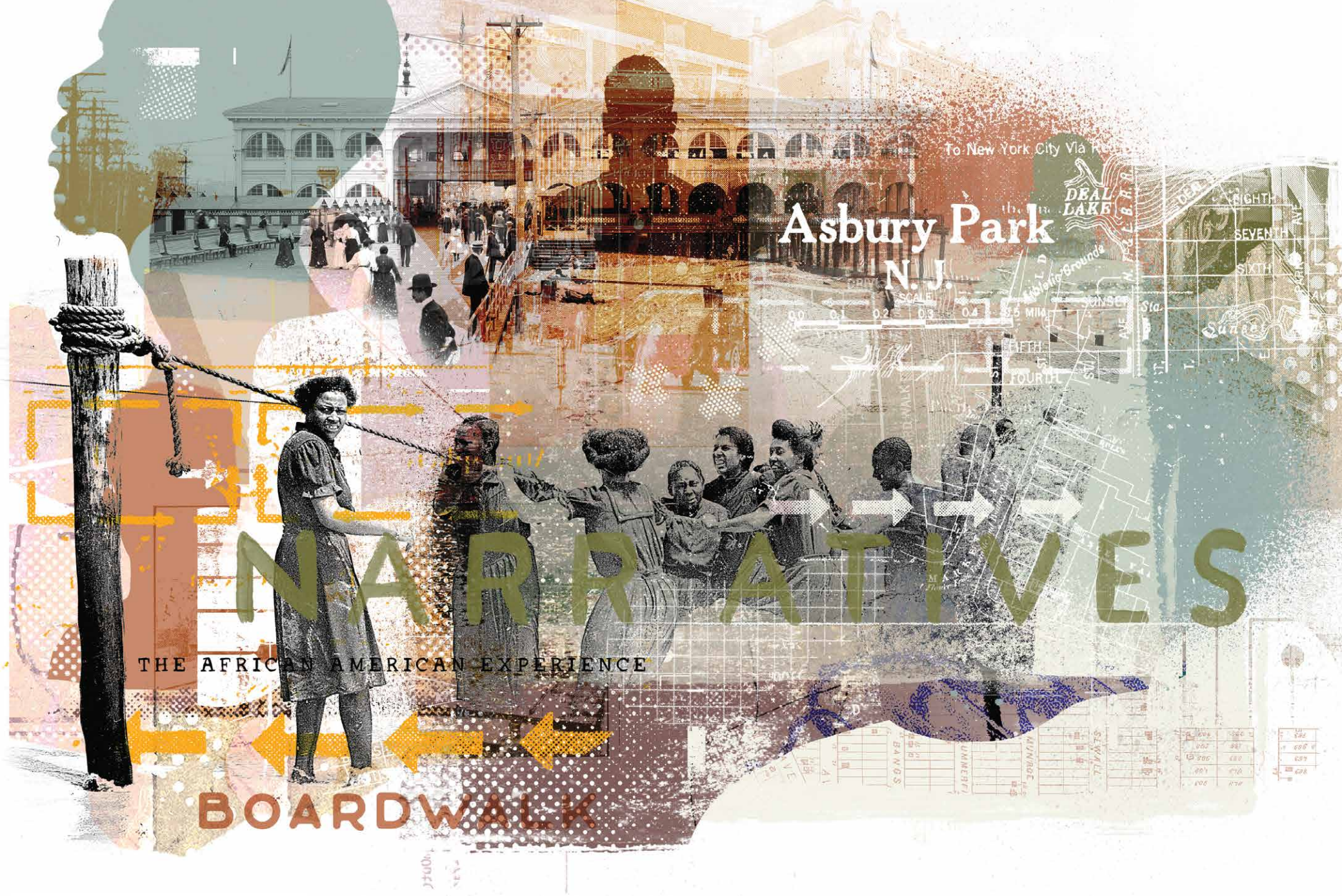
“I’m riding, being nosy, just being a kid,” Riller begins. “These kids were standing out front, these Black kids. And they had their little bathing suits, rolled up in the towel. They’re standing around, and they weren’t looking happy. So I pulled over. I said, ‘What’s the problem?’ One came, and he said, ‘They won’t let us in!’ I said, ‘What do you mean they won’t let you in?! This pool is a public pool.’ ‘Well they told us we can’t come in. And they said, they got a club swimming.’ That was their cover. They told the kids, ‘They got a private club swimming. So you can’t come in now.’ So I said, ‘OK, wait here, let me check it out.’”

In addition to embracing the cultural value of the Paradoxical Paradise project, Ziobro has been invigorated by the educational opportunities it has afforded her students, who are responsible for conducting the interviews.

“I think one of the things my students find so surprising is how much racism and segregation there actually was in the city,” says Ziobro. “Students typically just think about being in the North and how the North were the good guys in the Civil War, and that’s the end of the story. No. There are countless stories in these oral histories about segregation, about being young and Black and restricted from various places. And that leads to some interesting conversations about whether everyone feels equally comfortable and can equally enjoy Asbury Park, even *today*, or are there still de-facto lines that don’t get crossed?”

Documentary filmmaker and Director of Monmouth University Production Services Erin Fleming echoes this observation. Over the past year and a half, Fleming worked with a crew comprising Monmouth students and film professionals on a short documentary called *The Great Migration and Asbury Park*, which was screened in October and can now be viewed on the Paradoxical Paradise website.

“I was continually struck by seeing the emotional reactions on students’ fac-





es when interviewing our subjects,” says Fleming, a native of Ocean County. “There was this general lack of awareness and knowledge about Black history. I think this is an area of history they’re just beginning to explore, and it’s been rewarding to see them beginning to understand this important and often-misrepresented population.”

Looking ahead, Fleming says she hopes to make a feature-length documentary reflecting an even broader and deeper examination of the themes that originally inspired Williams to create Paradoxical Paradise.

“I’ve produced stories on so many different topics in my career, and what I find is that the experts who study these communities know a lot, but not everything. And that makes anecdotal, on-the-ground storytelling so important,” says Fleming. “We’ve produced stories about the environment, and the data collected by scientists and researchers is enriched by historical accounts from local populations that are using the resource on a much more intimate level. You need both, and that’s what we’re doing here with these stories from Asbury Park.”

Eventually these stories will also be connected to an expansive interactive map of the city designed by Geoff Fouad, associate professor of geography. As of now, Fouad has only created a prototype of the map, which is being used to apply for the grant funding needed to bring his ambitious, multimedia vision to fruition. In the end, he hopes to create an interactive experience that allows users to click on various locations throughout the city to see photos, watch videos, or hear excerpts of oral histories that reference a particular spot.

“A map is a visual repository, and the end goal is for this map to be part of how we tell the history of African Americans and Asbury Park,” says Fouad, who also heads up the overall management of the Paradoxical Paradise website and intends to work with at least one student when the next phase of the project begins. “I’m excited to be a part of elevating a culture that’s been widely overlooked and overshadowed for so long.”

With the first phase of the project behind her, Williams says she and her team are currently preparing grant applications for the spring, which she hopes will yield enough funding to create the map, conduct more

“I’ve produced stories on so many different topics in my career, and what I find is that the experts who study these communities know a lot, but not everything. And that makes anecdotal, on-the-ground storytelling so important.”

oral history interviews, and expand Fleming’s documentary into a feature-length film. What’s more, she wants to expand the Paradoxical Paradise umbrella to include a plurality of voices from the city, including many of its older non-African American residents who may have compelling reflections on the evolution of social equality and restorative justice in the city.

For instance, Williams recalls hearing from an Italian American gentleman who attended the screening of Fleming’s film in October. He told her that his family has called Asbury Park home since the mid-19th century but that he remained largely unaware of the various forms of racism, segregation, and discrimination that were taking place all around him.

“It was a really emotional and upsetting moment for him, but I told him that everybody’s stories should be heard, and I invited him to give an oral history,” says Williams. “Look, history is many people talking at once, and we want as many voices as possible for this project because this is an important and sometimes difficult dialogue to have.”

As for the inspiration behind the project’s title, Williams says it speaks to the thorny and confounding dualities that have coursed through the city since its founding in 1871—a blithe, sunny beach resort that cast long, intimidating shadows across many of its people, barring them from the joys and rewards reaped by others. Even today, Williams points out, many of Asbury Park’s African American families are being displaced by a booming tourist economy and the skyrocketing rents that come with it; and for those who remain, some families are so economically disadvantaged that they can’t enjoy luxuries in their own backyards, including something as simple as a \$6 beach pass.

“Yes, this project is about Asbury Park, but it’s also about something bigger in the human condition because the history of African Americans is the history of a struggle for freedom,” says Williams. “I hope this helps people become more cognizant of the struggle for Black equality. It’s Black people who called this nation to conscience. African Americans have done that. And all of us can and should learn about this experience because it says something about the larger humanity—all of ours.”

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[LOOKING BACK]

Stories from Abroad

Did you study abroad while at Monmouth? We want to hear all about your experience living and learning overseas. Share your recollections of the places you visited, the people you met, and whether and how the experience changed your life. Email your stories and photos to magazine@monmouth.edu or mail them to *Monmouth Magazine*, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

Alumni Roundup

Listed by graduation year.

1960s

» **Richard Plunkett '61** spent 20 years teaching elementary education in Monmouth and Ocean counties. A former student of art studies at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, Plunkett spent 20 years as chairman of the Long Beach Island Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, giving awards to more than 400 structures for preservation efforts, and helped restore six historic buildings in New Jersey and Maine. He is the owner of six antique shops in New Jersey and Maine and is currently a published writer and painter of assumed landscapes.

» **Ron Surgent '61** recently retired after working for the Freehold Regional High School District in Freehold, New Jersey, for 39 years as a social studies teacher, guidance counselor, guidance supervisor, and administrative supervisor. Additionally, he was a Hall of Fame wrestling coach at Howell High School and

recruited students for Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, and Caldwell College in Caldwell, New Jersey, for 10 years. Surgent, who holds two master's degrees from The College of New Jersey, is currently spending his time walking, oil painting, and guitar playing.

» *The Peace We Are Given*, the latest novel from **Peter J. Murgio '65**, was published by Dragon Tree Books in July. The novel follows a 2-year-old British heir, Owen Manning, who is scooped from the icy Atlantic waters as the Titanic sinks with his mother aboard, leaving him orphaned in a new country. A prodigy and eventually an MIT grad, Manning's life intersects with a genius Brit from an aristocratic family; a beautiful Dutch med student whose family has a secret; and Louis Stimson, the secretary of war. As World War II escalates, Manning is recruited for the Manhattan Project but soon learns he is not who he thinks he is. This sends him on an odyssey for both the project and his past.

1970s

» One month shy of his 75th birthday, **James Akers '70** walked 1 million steps in 29 days last March. He finished out the month with 1,031,000 steps. Akers walked a total of 475 miles during his journey, averaging 33,258 steps per day and burning an average of 3,548 calories a day. Akers said it was mental and physical toughness and time management that helped him accomplish his goal of walking 1 million steps in a month. He previously ran and walked 100,000 steps in one day on April 7, 2021.

» **Mitchell Shivers '70** joined Atlanta-based Studebaker Group as chair of its new Studebaker Capital subsidiary. Studebaker Capital is the investment arm of Studebaker Defense Group, a global leader in providing governments, international agencies, and private companies with high-risk security, defense planning, training, and support services. Shivers, who retired from Merrill Lynch as managing director and head of global Public Credit Origination in 2002, formerly served as acting assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

1980s

» **Lori A. (Granchelli) Cafolla '84**, who earned her B.S. in computer science, has worked in the global audit and assurance department at Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, New Jersey, for 32 years. She

is proud to report that her daughter, **Lisa M. Cafolla '22M**, earned her M.S.Ed. in speech-language pathology from Monmouth this past May.

» **Kathryn Engle '87M** has been performing in the New Jersey-based musical duo "Kat and Lou" since fall 2021. They perform pop, rock, and jazz standards for dance venues, dining venues, private parties, and wineries.

1990s

» **Jimmy Leslie '90** is resident artist for the fine art brands Liquitex and Winsor & Newton and fine art collective director at Co!Art North America. As a painter and former college art professor, he works with the marketing team on assets related to new product development. His paintings have been exhibited across the U.S. and reside in collections in the U.S. and the U.K.

» In July, **Chari (Brownstein) Chanley '93M** was appointed superintendent of the Monroe Township School District in Monroe Township, New Jersey. She had served as acting superintendent since fall 2021. Chanley earned her bachelor's in English literature from New York University and her master's in education from Monmouth and is pursuing her doctorate from Rowan University. She also sits on the board of directors of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

» **Charles Howard '93M** was appointed managing director of cross-asset trading at Cowen Inc. He was most recently with R.W.

Denisse Quintanilla '22

BILINGUAL NEWS PRODUCER FOR KSN-TV IN WICHITA, KANSAS

"Growing up, I saw the challenges my parents faced due to the lack of information provided in their own language," says Denisse Quintanilla. "This is what pushed me to pursue a degree in bilingual journalism. I wanted to be able to provide people in underserved communities with the tools and information they need in their everyday lives." After earning a bachelor's in Spanish with a concentration in communications (media studies and production cluster) last May, Quintanilla was hired to produce the weekday 6 p.m. news broadcast at KSN, an NBC-affiliated station. "The work has been very rewarding," she says.

HOW I GOT HERE

Working on the WMCX show *Nuestros Sonidos Latinos* gave me self-confidence and experience telling stories that have an impact on the community. And two key internships—at Telemundo 62 and CNBC—taught me how to script newscasts; write and translate business news to Spanish, making it concise and informative; create and edit news videos; and manage my time.

MY MONMOUTH MENTORS

All of the advisors in the Educational Opportunity Fund Program understood my struggles as a first-generation student and were my go-to people. But also Professor Frank Cipriani, who was my No. 1 fan at Monmouth and always provided moral support, and Professor Priscilla Gac-Artigas, who pushed me to try new things and helped me become who I am.

MY ADVICE TO FUTURE HAWKS

Don't be afraid to mess up. The thing I'm most proud of about my time at Monmouth was that I got out of my comfort zone. I was this really shy thing when I got there, but I tried new things that I never thought I could do and was able to grow because of that. »AS TOLD TO TONY MARCHETTI



Pressprich & Co., an institutional fixed-income broker-dealer, where he spent four years as managing director, head of high-yield and distressed fixed income. Before that, Howard spent two years as a managing director at Seaport Global Holdings LLC and one year at Pali Capital as managing director, head of high-yield and leveraged loans. Previously, he spent just under seven years at RBC Capital Markets, where he most recently served as managing director, head of high-yield sales and trading. Howard earned his MBA from Monmouth and his B.S. in criminal justice from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

» **Chuck Martin '93** is the men's basketball assistant coach at the University of Oregon. Previously, Martin spent five seasons as assistant coach at the University of South Carolina.

» **Christian Kane '94** and his family recently celebrated the official opening of the RWJ Barnabas Health Field of Dreams in Toms River, New Jersey, a multimillion-dollar recreational complex designed to serve people of all ages and abilities. Kane, a math teacher at Toms River High School North, spearheaded the effort to build the complex for his son, Gavin, who suffered a traumatic brain injury at just 19 months old when Kane's vehicle was struck from behind by a truck. After noticing a lack of inclusive playgrounds for children with special needs, Kane set out to gain support to build the Field of Dreams. What originally started out as plans to build an all-inclusive baseball field, the newly opened complex includes a baseball field, basketball court, a nine-hole miniature golf course, a bocce court, a walking path, a playground with a zip line, and a community garden, among other offerings.

» **Ram Patrachari '96M** is chief information officer with Jamul Casino in San Diego, California. Patrachari, who has worked for Bell Labs, Exodus Communications, and AT&T Wireless, brings more than 25 years of experience in information technology (IT) to the role. A sought-after gaming technology industry expert, speaker, and award-winning executive, Patrachari has served for the past seven years on the *Harvard Business Review* Advisory Council. He has also been an advisory board director for TribalNet for 11 years and an advisory board director for *Gaming & Leisure* for 10 years. In 2015, his IT team won the Tribalnet Game Changers Technology award. He has been awarded the Top Tech Exec award from *San Diego Magazine* and the Information Technology Executive of the Year award sponsored by the *San Diego Business Journal*.

» **Jennifer Heinzen Krueger, Ph.D., '97, '00M** was named vice president of team experience for The Giant Co. in May. In this role, Krueger leads the human resources team and is focused on fostering a culture of care and innovation and delivering an enhanced experience for the company's more than 35,000 employees. Her areas of responsibility include people strategy, talent management, organizational development, diversity and inclusion, communications, corporate social responsibility, change management, training and development, and total rewards. She earned a Ph.D. in workforce development and education from Penn State University and a B.S. in business administration and MBA from Monmouth.

» **Michael Salvatore, Ph.D., '98**, was named to ROI-NJ's ROI Influencers: Higher Education 2022 list in August. Salvatore is currently the senior vice president for

administration for Kean University and co-leads the institution's presidential task force with an ambitious plan to achieve R2 status in the next fiscal year.

» **Christie Pearce '99, '05HN** was officially inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in May 2022. Pearce had been chosen for the Hall in 2021 but deferred her induction until 2022. The defender earned 311 caps for the U.S. women's national team (USWNT), the third most all-time. She won two World Cups and earned three Olympic gold medals with the USWNT over a 19-year international career and appeared in five World Cups and four Olympic Games.

» **Danae Pesce '99** was inducted into the Trenton Softball Hall of Fame. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1995, a year in which she was named the Mercer County Player of the Year and to the all-state team. As a Hawk, she was selected as the NEC Rookie of the Year in 1996, the NEC Player of the Year in 1998, and Monmouth's Female Athlete of the Year in 1998 and 1999. Pesce is currently the junior varsity coach at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence Township, New Jersey.

» **Charles Wilson '99, '03M**, who writes under the pen name Christopher Michael Blake, published his second book, *The Cape May Murders*, in November 2022. The mystery novella is available as an e-book and a paperback on Amazon.

» **John Babula '00** was awarded the 2021 Bob McNulty New Jersey

Youth Soccer Coach of the Year. Babula, who played for Monmouth's men's soccer team from 1996 to 2000, is the head coach of Bloomfield Barcelona, a team based in Bloomfield, New Jersey, that his son plays on, which he started four years ago.

» **Laura Jackson '01** was named the Young Real Estate Professional of the Year by the Young Men's/Women's Real Estate Association. The award is presented annually to a member of the association whose knowledge, skills, integrity, and high degree of ethics have contributed most to his or her profession and the community. Jackson recently joined SL Green Realty Corp. in New York where her areas of responsibility include tax planning and structuring, investment due diligence, and REIT and income tax compliance, and advising the board of directors, CEO, president, CFO, and management. She serves as vice president on the board of Rebuilding Together NYC, a nonprofit organization for safe and healthy housing throughout the city. She also founded the She Builds initiative, which empowers prominent women in real estate to give back to the communities they serve. In 2018, she won the New Jersey Governor's Award for her continued devotion to helping communities in need.

» **Katie Kostohryz, Ph.D., '01**, is a licensed professional counselor and an associate teaching professor in the Counselor Education and the Rehabilitation in Human Services programs at Penn State. She currently serves as the Herr Clinic supervisor in the State College Area School District (SCASD). In this role, she is developing an infrastructure to connect Penn State counselor education and SCASD through the provision of clinical supervision and administrative support aimed at ex-

“Thank you to the donors whose assistance enabled me to be part of the Monmouth community. With your support, I have been able to join and make a difference in the Student Government Association, Residential Life, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your generosity!”

—Maria Monzon,
Class of 2023 President

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panding access to mental health services. The overall mission of this partnership is to remove barriers and provide equitable access to students, families, faculty, and staff seeking mental health support. Kostohryz earned her bachelor's in education and psychology from Monmouth; her master's in community counseling, with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy, from the University of Northern Colorado; and her doctorate in counselor education and supervision from Ohio University.

» **Leslie LaMacchia '01** joined Beasley Allen as a lawyer in the firm's toxic torts section. She handles Camp Lejeune-related claims and paraquat cases, bringing experience she obtained while previously developing bellwether cases for trial in *In Re: Paraquat Liability Litigation* in the multidistrict litigation and Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding. Before joining Beasley Allen, LaMacchia worked for other top plaintiff law firms handling pharmaceutical and product liability cases. She earned dual bachelor's degrees in political science and communications, with a minor in Spanish, from Monmouth, graduating summa cum laude, and was a member of the women's basketball and track and field teams. In 2004, she graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston. LaMacchia was a professional triathlete from 2011 to 2018, racing internationally while practicing law.

» **Jeana M. Piscatelli '01, '02M** was recognized as an honoree of the 2022 NJBIZ Leaders in Finance awards, which celebrates New Jersey's financial executives at all levels who contribute to the success of their companies as well as their communities. Piscatelli is the senior vice

president, director of treasury management, for OceanFirst Bank and has served as chair of Monmouth's Board of Trustees since July 2020.

» **Eric Buraszkeski '02, '05M** was promoted to lieutenant with the South Brunswick Police Department. Buraszkeski served with the department for 17 years as a patrol officer, a patrol sergeant, a support services sergeant, a member of the Emergency Response Team, an instructor for defensive tactics and for supervising firearms. He also served as an instructor for the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office ABLE initiative.

» **Kate (Stevens) Kane '02** and **Jennifer (Gradzki) Harris '03, '05M**, past Monmouth Alumni Association board members, attended Zeta Tau Alpha's National Convention in June 2022. Both alumnae currently serve the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) Fraternity in national officer capacities: Kane as district president 1-beta and Harris as province president 1-beta. Although the Kappa Nu chapter of ZTA is currently closed on Monmouth's campus, these Hawk alumnae were proud to pose with their collegiate chapter flag, which was displayed throughout the weeklong ZTA Convention in Grapevine, Texas.

» Longtime TV news anchor **Talitha Vickers '02** has joined international law firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP as a marketing and business development manager. Vickers has worked in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina, Florida, and North Carolina for NBC, CBS, and FOX affiliates. Most recently at WXII 12 News in Winston-Salem, she was a weekend anchor and reporter and within a year was promoted to main anchor of the 4 p.m.,

Celebrations



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

1. Proud mom **Lori A. (Granchelli) Cafolla '84** (left) poses with her daughter, **Lisa M. Cafolla '22M**, after Lisa's graduation last May.
2. **Jennifer (Gradzki) Harris '03, '05M** (left) and **Kate (Stevens) Kane '02**, national officers in the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) Fraternity, proudly displaying their Kappa Nu collegiate chapter flag at the ZTA Convention in Grapevine, Texas, last June.

ACCOLADES

3. **Jennifer (Gradzki) Harris '03, '05M** celebrated her fifth work anniversary at the Hun School of Princeton, where she was recently promoted to director of parent giving and engagement.
4. **Nicole L. (Russo) Weingartner '09** was recognized by *City & State*, a political magazine, in the publication's 2022 roundup Above & Beyond: Women.

A Healthy Outlook

Joey Cioffi, CEO and founder of the rapidly expanding Salad House franchise, explains why his family is the secret to his success.

BY MARK GOLA

If there is one thing Joey Cioffi '99 loves more than "making people smile through their stomachs," it's his family. Family shaped his past, inspires his present, and motivates his future.

Cioffi's business title is CEO and founder of The Salad House, a rapidly growing franchise that began as a single, health-conscious restaurant in Millburn, New Jersey. But the descriptors he prefers are son of Italian immigrants, brother, husband, and father of three children.

"I know my purpose is my family," says Cioffi. "My mother and father built a family business in Tony's Pizza in Newark and instilled values in me that I can never repay.

"My father wanted me to go to college and would say, 'An education is something that can never be taken away from you.' Monmouth University was the perfect fit for me."

As a first-generation student, Cioffi studied finance in Long Branch and played tight end for Head Coach Kevin Callahan for four years.

Hard work and toughness were requisites in the Cioffi family, but the Hawks football family took those to another level. As a first-year student, Cioffi recalls being hit so hard by junior linebacker Anthony Berke '98 in practice that he called his brother, Jerry Cioffi, to tell him he was quitting for safety reasons. Jerry calmed his younger brother down, and Joey made an important decision that night.

"I realized I had to put more work in the weight room, eat better, and do all the little things off the field so I could not only compete but survive," says Cioffi. "That has



stuck with me. No matter how hard you work, there's always more in the tank."

After working for Merrill Lynch on Wall Street, Cioffi gravitated back to his entrepreneurial roots at Cioffi's Deli and Pizza in Springfield, New Jersey. But in his mind, he was tossing around a modern concept that would appeal to families who moved from city to suburbs.

"You could get terrific, fresh salads in the city but not in the suburbs," says Cioffi. "My wife and I were driving and saw a vacant spot in Millburn in 2010. I drew up a business plan, took a loan, and just went for it."

The restaurant name, *The Salad House*, was intentional. Cioffi wanted to create a casual restaurant atmosphere where families could feel at home and eat healthy. As the father of three children, he also recognized that all kids aren't eager to choose from among 15 proteins and add-ins like walnuts, black beans, or baby kale. He offers a Happy Kids menu that includes healthy options as well as grilled cheese, chicken fingers, and of course, french fries.

Cioffi, pictured at his Salad House location in Red Bank, New Jersey, has plans to grow the restaurant franchise throughout the state and beyond.

The concept, matched with Cioffi's industry experience and interpersonal skills, took flight. There are nine locations in New Jersey, and he has commitments from 12 additional franchise members to open in New Jersey and beyond in the coming year. Cioffi's work family has expanded to include Salad House franchising partners Jerry Eicke, Jarrod Bravo, and Tim Banos.

The success of The Salad House can feel overwhelming at times, but the motivation for Cioffi has remained fundamental.

"I want to make my family proud," says Cioffi. "My wife has been amazing and always believed in me, and my children are my 'why.' I teach them the importance of hard work and keeping a positive mindset and to always give back."

Antonio Cioffi is proud of how much his son, Joey, gives back—much like the pride he feels in the Monmouth degree that no one can ever take away. 🍴

5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 11 p.m. newscasts. She has received an Associated Press Award for Outstanding Spot News Coverage and numerous awards and recognition for community service, including the 2020 Outstanding Women Leaders Award presented by the late Winston-Salem Mayor Pro-tem Vivian Burke and the city of Winston-Salem. She was also recognized with the 2019 Winston Under 40 Leadership Award and the Rebecca Stafford Award for Excellence in Leadership from Monmouth University. In addition to being an adjunct professor focused on media presentation, Vickers has been the mistress of ceremonies at numerous galas, premieres, charity events, and festivals and has worked with various nonprofit organizations, including the Boys & Girls Clubs; Stand Up for Autism; and the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympic.

» **Mark Dinglasan '03** was appointed director of the Office of the Food Security Advocate by Gov. Phil Murphy in August. The office, which was established in September 2021, coordinates the administration of the state's food insecurity programs, advocates for the food insecure, and develops new policy initiatives to combat hunger and facilitate greater access to food relief programs. Dinglasan most recently served as executive director of CUMAC, the largest anti-hunger organization in Passaic County, New Jersey, where he led efforts to fight hunger and its root causes through a holistic, trauma-informed approach that provides groceries and basic necessities to families and individuals in need. Dinglasan earned his MBA from DePaul University's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business and his B.A. in criminal justice from Monmouth.

» **Jennifer (Gradzki) Harris '03, '05M** celebrated her fifth work anniversary at the Hun School of Princeton, where she was recently promoted to the new director of parent giving and engagement. She and her husband, Tom, live in Hamilton, New Jersey, with their two children, Aidan and Emma. Aidan is an eighth grader at Hun School and Emma a fifth grader at St. Paul School in Princeton. Harris and her family look forward to returning to campus this fall to cheer on the Monmouth football team. Go Hawks! Also see the note for **Kate (Stevens) Kane '02**.

» **Jennifer Nangano, Ph.D., '03M** recently published *Fidgety Frank Goes to Field Day*, a children's book meant to educate children on the value of inclusion and acceptance of students who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). ADHD is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders of childhood. Children with ADHD may have trouble paying attention, controlling impulsive behaviors, or being overactive. The story both shows Fidgety Frank's struggles in the classroom and highlights his strengths outside the classroom on Field Day at school. Nangano, who has worked as a school psychologist since December 2015, previously worked as a director at a center for adults with disabilities and as a supervisor for 10 years on a crisis team for a regional medical center. She received her bachelor's in psychology from Seton Hall University in 2002 and received her doctorate in psychology, with a specialization in school psychology, from Walden University. She has spoken at several conferences and workshops throughout the state of New Jersey.

» **Stacey (Plaisant) Derhay '04** was named Teacher of the Year at Nut Swamp Elementary School in Middletown, New Jersey. Derhay has been a special education teacher at the school for 13 years and is currently an in-class and pull-out resource teacher for English language arts and math. She has been in the district for 18 years and began her career as a learning language disabilities teacher at Middletown Village Elementary. Derhay earned her bachelor's in special education, graduating magna cum laude, from Monmouth and her master's in reading from Georgian Court University. She lives in Middletown with her husband, Andrew, and their three children.

» **Nicole (Virgilio) Smith '04** and her husband, Sean Smith, welcomed their third child, a son, on March 15, 2022. Cooper Martin joins older siblings, Piper Ann and Jameson Cash.

» **Megan McInerney-Forte '05** wed Adam Meissner on June 1, 2022.

» **Rebecca Anne Patton '05M** and her husband, Keith Patton, welcomed a daughter, Rowan Patton, on Feb. 22, 2022.

» **Steve Boldt '06** is a director of product experience design at Mastercard with the customer experience and design team. He has made lasting contributions to design initiatives for Mastercard, E-Trade, and Astor Chocolate. Most recently with Mastercard, Boldt helped to co-create and deliver engaging experiences that empower global product and sales teams to pitch compelling consumer-centric solutions that win critical deals while strengthening relationships with partners. His work also includes design direction, experience design consultation

and solutions for many clients, such as Apple, Google, Amazon, and Citi.

» **Stacie Griswold '06, '10M** and **Aaron Griswold '08**, welcomed a son, Brayden Gregory Griswold, on May 19, 2022.

» **Bernadette Purcell '06M** recently had her debut book, *Divorced as F* in Seven Spiritual Steps*, published. The "edgy" self-help book is a psychotherapist's guide to "owning your divorce so that you can come out the other side with unbelievable lightness." Purcell is an experienced therapist who has been in private practice since 2006 and is the founder of Shore Behavioral Health in Manasquan, New Jersey. Her career has included helping patients with anxiety disorders enjoy more fulfilling lives. She also helps individuals and couples through all phases of divorce, including post-divorce, so they can thrive.

» **Maureen A. Schneider, Ph.D., '06M** was named president of Chilton Medical Center, an Atlantic Health Hospital located in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, in May 2022, after serving as interim president since November 2021. She joined Atlantic Health in 2014 as chief nurse and operations officer. Schneider earned her bachelor's and master's in nursing from Hunter College-Bellevue School of Nursing, an MBA from Monmouth University, and a doctorate from Seton Hall University. She is certified in advanced nursing administration and quality health care, is a fellow in the College of Healthcare Executives, and is a Johnson & Johnson Executive Wharton Fellow. Schneider is an adjunct faculty member at Seton Hall; an accomplished author, coach, presenter, and executive leadership mentor; and past recipient of the Governor's

Celebrations



WEDDINGS

1. **Megan McInerney-Forte '05** wed Adam Meissner on June 1, 2022.
2. **Tim Cahill '12** wed Kristen Swamer on Jan. 29, 2022.
3. **Sarah Marie Meyer '17** wed **Bradley Meyer '16** on May 15, 2022.

ENGAGEMENTS

4. **Casey Smith '13, '17M** is engaged to wed **Eric Kaighn '13, '16M**.
5. **Madison Pinto '14** is engaged to wed **Matthew Pisano '13**.
6. **Juliann Schwartz '15** is engaged to wed **Samuel Mangiapane III '12**.
7. **Alexus Bird '16** is engaged to wed Joseph Murphy.
8. **Jenn Dougherty '16** is engaged to wed **Ed Cernera '16**.

BIRTHS

9. **Rebecca Anne Patton '05M** and her husband, Keith, welcomed a daughter, Rowan, on Feb. 22, 2022.
10. **Stacie Griswold '06, '10M** and her husband, **Aaron Griswold '08**, welcomed a son, Brayden Gregory, on May 19, 2022.
11. **Lori Kaufman '07** and her husband, Shane Derris, welcomed a son, Caleb Prescott Derris, on Oct. 8, 2021. Caleb joins big brother Simon.
12. **Karen (Salazar) Edgecomb '09** and her husband, Bryan, welcomed twins, Ariel and Aiden, on June 10, 2022.
13. **Meaghan Ewanis '17** and her husband, **Robert Ewanis '17, '18M**, welcomed a daughter, Kenzie James Ewanis, on Oct. 27, 2021.

Award for Nursing, an NJ Biz Top 50 Women in Business Award, and a DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award. She was nationally named as one of Becker’s Top 66 CNOs to Know.

» **Patrick Delaney ’07, ’09M** is the chief operating officer of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Somerville, New Jersey.

» **Dawn Gilchrist ’07**, a sergeant with the Little Falls Police Department (LFPD) in Little Falls, New Jersey, was appointed to serve as the new LGBTQ+ police officer liaison, a newly created position that aims to “ensure trust” and “promote a positive working relationship between the LFPD and the LGBTQ+ community through education and community outreach efforts.” Gilchrist, who received her master’s in human resources, training, and development for law enforcement from Seton Hall University, has been with the LFPD for 13 years and is currently the 65th LGBTQ+ police liaison in New Jersey.

» **Lori Kaufman ’07** and her husband, Shane Derris, welcomed a son, Caleb Prescott Derris, to the world at 4:53 p.m. on Oct. 8, 2021. The couple said their 3-year-old son, Simon, is excited to be a big brother.

» **Diana (Greene) Castaldo ’08** joined Attain Partners, a company based in McLean, Virginia, as a business management consultant specializing in grants management for higher education and nonprofits in September 2022.

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

» **Veronique Blostein ’09** recently graduated with a master’s in communication and

digital marketing from Georgian Court University (GCU) in Lakewood, New Jersey, as one of the program’s inaugural part-time cohort students. She prepared her final capstone in conjunction with BlueClaws Charities, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit of the Jersey Shore BlueClaws Minor League Baseball team. Earlier this year, she was also inducted into the GCU chapter of the Delta Mu Delta International Business Honor Society. She currently works in marketing as a product manager with Catalent, a global pharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization headquartered in Somerset.

» **Taylor Bythewood-Porter ’09** has served as assistant history curator at the California African American Museum (CAAM) since 2017. Prior to Bythewood-Porter’s appointment at CAAM, she served as president and a founding member of SIA Curates, a curatorial organization run through Sotheby’s Institute of Art at Claremont Graduate University. Bythewood-Porter is also the recipient of the 2018 Travel Scholarship to attend the Association of African American Museums conference. She holds a master’s in art business with a concentration in contemporary art from Sotheby’s Institute of Art at Claremont and a bachelor’s in communications with a focus on public relations and journalism and a minor in art history from Monmouth.

» **Karen (Salazar) Edgecomb ’09** and her husband, Bryan, welcomed twins, Ariel and Aiden, on June 10, 2022. They join big brother Wyatt.

» **Brian L. Robinson ’09** and his wife, Dot Bugbee-Robinson, are the owners of Salted Gems, a store based in Lavallette, New Jersey,

that sells handmade jewelry, home decor, crystals, seashells, and more.

» **Nicole L. (Russo) Weingartner ’09** was recognized by *City & State*, a political magazine based in New York City, in the publication’s 2022 roundup Above & Beyond: Women. The list recognizes 50 remarkable women who exhibit exemplary leadership in their fields and have made important contributions to society in the sectors of business, public service, media, nonprofit, and organized labor. Weingartner, who is the director of state government affairs at Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP in New York, acts as the firm’s go-to expert on state funding for not-for-profits and municipal governmental affairs and serves as a regulatory analyst for the firm’s cannabis law practice. She began her career in the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly.

2010s

» **Christopher M. Covello ’10, ’11M** joined Union Savings Bank as a vice president, wealth management certified planner and trust officer. In this role, Covello is responsible for the development of long-term financial plans for clients, including recommending personalized financial products and services. He is also responsible for the administration of trust, not-for-profit, and other various accounts in conjunction with the financial planning process. Covello earned his B.S. in business administration with a concentration in economics and his MBA from Monmouth. He is a certified financial planner, a

behavioral financial advisor, and a certified plan fiduciary advisor and holds securities trading licenses that include Financial Industry Regulatory Authority series 7 and 66.

» **Samantha M. Hegmann-Wary ’10** was appointed interim athletic director at the University of Maine (UMaine). Hegmann-Wary, who has worked in the UMaine’s athletic department since 2019, previously served as the university’s associate athletic director for compliance and senior women’s administrator. Prior to working at UMaine, Hegmann-Wary worked in athletic administration at Hofstra and Monmouth universities.

» **Nicolas J. Logothetis ’11M** was appointed a detective in the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office in June. He had previously served as detective in the Hazlet Township Police Department. Logothetis was the recipient of Mothers Against Drunk Driving Law Enforcement Distinguished Service Awards in 2014 and 2015 for leading his department with 28 DWI arrests during his first two years on the job. He is also the recipient of a 200 Club of Monmouth County Commendation Award for teaming up with a Long Branch, New Jersey, firefighter to save the lives of two elderly residents whose home was on fire.

» **Tim Cahill ’12** wed Kristen Swamer on Jan. 29, 2022. The couple, who were married at Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Berks County, Pennsylvania, made a grand entrance into their wedding ceremony by snowboarding down a mountain, Swamer in her wedding dress and Cahill in his suit.

» **Samantha DeAlmeida ’12, ’14M, ’18M** was named to *South Jersey Biz* magazine’s 20 Under 40



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UPCOMING EVENTS

	FEB 2	Recent Alumni Party with a Purpose
	FEB 9	National Pizza Day Party
	MAR 11	Wine vs. Stein
	MAR 23–24	Giving Days
	APR 15	Princeton Lavender Farm Outing
	JUN 9 – 12	Alumni Weekend
	JUN 30	Last day to be counted as a donor this fiscal year!



More information about these events and other offerings can be found online!

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list, recognizing young business professionals who are driven to succeed. DeAlmeida, who is president of the Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey (ABC NJ)—the youngest person in the country to lead one of the organization’s 69 chapters—has more than a decade of experience in policy and advocacy, including stints in government affairs and health care lobbying for the New Jersey Hospital Association and the American Cancer Society. DeAlmeida, who earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and two master’s degrees in public policy and homeland security at Monmouth, was previously ABC NJ’s second vice president and government affairs liaison. Prior to joining ABC NJ, she served as the New Jersey government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

» **Nicole Vitale ’12** was appointed the senior manager of new release content at Warner Music Group in New York City. A 10-year music industry veteran, she previously worked at 300 Entertainment, Ultra Records, and Megaforce Records. Vitale earned her bachelor’s in communications from Monmouth and is a former general manager of WMCX, the University’s student-run radio station.

» **Kimberly J. Kravitz ’13** was honored with a 2022 Phenom Award by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. The awards program recognizes exceptional women for their accomplishments, commitment to business growth, professional excellence, and community service. Kravitz is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer for News 12 New Jersey.

» **Bayaan Oluyadi ’13** was named to *NJBIZ*’s Accounting Power 50 list. Oluyadi is the

principal and founder of KTB Services LLC, an accounting firm based in Cranford, New Jersey. He started KTB in 2021 after two years at PwC and six years at CohnReznick LLP and, in addition to tax planning and compliance tax accruals, provides strategic business planning; financial statement preparation; bookkeeping and software support; state, local, and international tax guidance; and other services designed to help individuals and business owners manage and grow their companies. Oluyadi sits on the corporate advisory board of a New Jersey chapter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and is the treasurer for the alumni board at Monmouth University.

» **Casey Smith ’13, ’17M** is engaged to wed **Eric Kaighn ’13, ’16M**. The couple, who were both psychology majors and met at Monmouth during their sophomore year after being introduced through a mutual friend, were engaged at the Great Hall on Dec. 19, 2021, before heading to Jack’s Goal Line Stand in Long Branch, New Jersey, to enjoy some lunch and to watch football. Kaighn is a psychological counselor at Monmouth, and Smith is a therapist. The couple is planning to wed on Nov. 8, 2024.

» **Matthew Pisano ’13**. See note for **Madison Pinto ’14**.

» **Carly Thibault-DuDonis ’13** is the head women’s basketball coach at Fairfield University. Most recently, she served as the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Minnesota. As a Hawk, Thibault-DuDonis earned All-Northeast Conference Third Team honors and was named the NEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year as a senior, helping the Hawks to a Women’s National Invitation Tournament berth in her sophomore season.

Thibault-DuDonis was the valedictorian of the Class of 2013 at Monmouth, where she majored in psychology with a double minor in Spanish and health studies, graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

» **Nicholas Daddario ’14** graduated from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, with an M.S. in nursing and is now a board-certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

» **Lamar K. Davenport ’14** was appointed head coach of the Asbury Park High School football team in April. He previously served as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator for the team. A former player at Asbury Park and Monmouth, Davenport was a wide receiver and defensive back for Asbury Park’s three consecutive sectional title-winning teams from 2005 to 2007 and had 94 receptions during his Hawks career.

» **Nicole DeFonzo ’14** wed Timothy Viola on June 5, 2021, in Sparta, New Jersey. Alumni in attendance were **Anna Chamberlain ’14**, who served as a bridesmaid; **Christopher Orlando ’14, ’16M**, who served as an usher; and **Katie Meyer ’13, ’15M, Sara (Chamberlain) Campione ’10**, and **Nick Campione ’10**.

» **Caitlyn Fitzpatrick ’14** is the senior editor of social and social news for bestproducts.com and is the lead of social strategy for *Popular Mechanics*, *Runner’s World*, and *Bicycling Magazine*. Her work has also appeared in POPSUGAR, *InStyle*, and StyleCaster, among others.

» **Madison Pinto ’14** is engaged to wed **Matthew Pisano ’13**. The couple were engaged in Central Park on March 19, 2022, and are planning for a July 2023 wedding.

» *A Little Blues Story from the Jersey Shore*, the first novel by **Marjorie Duryea ’15M**, was published by Sacada Libros Press. The novel tells the story of Liz, who is pursuing her dream of a professional career singing the blues. Looking at humorous flashbacks from her life, she reflects on the obstacles she has faced and gains new perspectives on love, family, friends, and self-realization.

» **Matthew Lang ’15** is an associate with Hall Booth Smith P.C., a law firm in Red Bank, New Jersey. Lang focuses on complex construction and general liability matters and has represented clients in all stages of litigation from initial pleadings through appeals, including expert and fact discovery and motion practice. Lang has also represented clients in immigration and criminal defense matters before the Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals, and New Jersey state courts. He earned his J.D., cum laude, from Duke University School of Law and earned his master’s in law in transnational crime and justice from the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, based in Turin, Italy (in conjunction with the University for Peace in San José, Costa Rica).

» **Madelyn Irie Mauterer ’15** successfully defended her doctoral thesis work titled “Enhanced Female Vulnerability to Cocaine Self-Administration” on June 1, 2022. Her research sought to determine how the female reproductive cycle and associated underlying dopamine neurobiology influenced cocaine-taking behavior and was conducted under the guidance of Sara R. Jones, professor of physiology and pharmacology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. »CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

Better Living through Data and Science

At Monmouth, data scientist Michelle Grushko ’15 fell in love with the idea that you can answer nearly any question with the proper research design and data analysis.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

Michelle Grushko’s research experiences at Monmouth, where she pursued dual majors in political science and psychology, piqued her interest in human behavior and the power of data. In turn, that led her to graduate school at Columbia University, where she earned a master’s in quantitative methods in the social sciences.

Today, Grushko puts her degrees to use at Meta, where as a marketing science partner she helps the company’s advertisers grow their businesses. Before Meta, Grushko worked in similar roles at Twitter and Glossier Inc.—a beauty, makeup, and skincare startup.

“Meta marries both of my worlds in terms of the marketing analytics work I did at Twitter and the data science work I did at Glossier,” says Grushko, “and I love it.”

At Monmouth, Grushko—who also completed a minor in gender studies—was a member of the Honors School, which required her to write a thesis for graduation.

“My thesis was on the perception of female candidates on social media,” says Grushko. “I ran an experiment where I simulated a Twitter feed with Hillary Clinton’s tweets but masked [them] in terms of name, picture, and gender.”

Subjects were randomly assigned into groups in which they read the tweets and then were asked questions about the likability of the candidate.

“I learned there’s definitely a lot of gender bias when it comes to the perception of female candidates,” says Grushko. “I think the research was really eye-opening in terms of the world of social media and especially with the 2020 election and even the elections before.”



That experience helped Grushko when she was on the marketing insights and analytics team at Twitter, working on a project that investigated gender stereotypes and representation in sports advertisements.

“We looked at these ads to understand how people react to them and whether or not it drives brand metrics such as ad recall,” says Grushko. “People actually remembered the ad, and we also found that ads that went against the stereotypes were more memorable and empowering.”

Looking back, Grushko cites two factors from her time at Monmouth that have helped her in her career path. The first was the emphasis on statistical methods in both her political science and

psychology courses at Monmouth.

“Even while writing my thesis, I had to employ statistical methods and answer research questions,” says Grushko. “Being able to answer any question with data or with experimentation—that’s something that I’ve carried throughout my career as well.”

The other factor was being on the debate team, which she joined her first year and for which she eventually earned the role of captain.

“Being in a debate round prepares you to think outside the box, think on your feet, and understand arguments from different sides,” says Grushko, “and I genuinely use that in my career almost every day.” ☺

Gala at the Great Hall

ON SATURDAY, DEC. 3, Monmouth hosted a modern marquee fund-raising event, the Gala at the Great Hall, to raise vital support for the Access Fund, which provides scholarships for students with unmet financial need.

More than 350 alumni and friends of the University participated in the event, which in addition to other efforts raised nearly \$500,000. Amidst the grandeur of Monmouth's beloved historic building, guests enjoyed high-end action stations, craft cocktails, live music, and a program that featured a student speaker and vocal artists.

As part of the celebration, President Patrick F. Leahy paid tribute to Trudy and Charlie Parton '01HN, recipients of this year's President's Medal, which is the highest honor Monmouth can bestow on individuals who have dedicated exemplary time and philanthropy to the University. For nearly 40 years, the Partons have been loyal to advancing Monmouth's educational mission through philanthropic initiatives and extensive involvement in the campus community.



President Leahy with the Sea Sharps, Monmouth's student capella group.



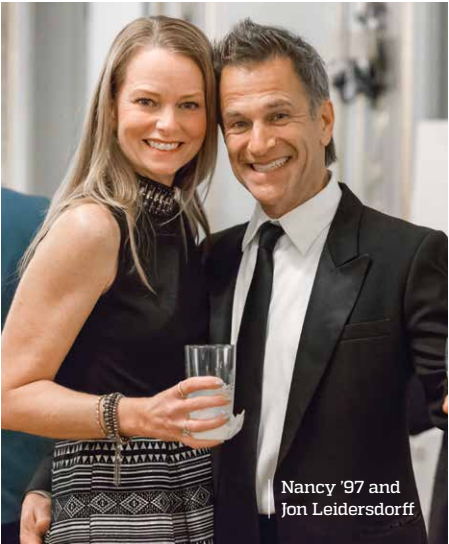
FROM LEFT: Jeana Piscatelli '01, '02M; Tasha Youngblood Brown '97, '03M; John Aiello; Eliane and Perry Scaranni; and David Howell



FROM LEFT: Senior Maria Monzon, who spoke at the gala, with President's Medal recipients Charlie '01HN and Trudy Parton



FROM LEFT: Charlie Hesse-Krohn '17, Fred Williams '04, and Chuckie Krohn '17



Nancy '97 and Jon Leidersdorff



FROM LEFT: Tim and Beth McLoone and Henry '87, '17HN and Joan Mercer

» **Daniel Roman ’15** is assistant prosecutor for the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office in Morris County, New Jersey. Roman, who most recently served as an associate attorney for a private firm and as a staff attorney for the Center for Hope and Safety in Rochelle Park, New Jersey, is assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit within the Family Division.

» In July, **Dr. Sammy Saka ’15** celebrated the grand opening of Saka Dental Spa in Long Branch, New Jersey. Saka earned his bachelor’s in chemistry from Monmouth, where he graduated cum laude, and his doctorate in dental medicine from Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. Following dental school, he completed a one-year residency at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York.

» **Juliann Schwartz ’15** is engaged to wed **Samuel Mangiapane III ’12**. The couple, who became engaged during their vacation to Maui, Hawaii, are planning a May 2023 wedding.

» **Alexus Bird ’16** is engaged to wed Joseph Murphy. The couple became engaged on June 12, also known as Loving Day, the anniversary of the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia*, which made interracial marriage legal in all 50 states. They are planning a June 2023 wedding.

» **Christine M. DiBiase ’16, ’18M** met **James S. Romano ’16** at a friend’s birthday party in the Pier Village Apartments when they were both about to start their junior year at Monmouth, sparking a romance that followed them through their college years and beyond. Nearly eight years later, Roma-

no proposed to DiBiase on their favorite dock in South Seaside Park. She said yes (or more like “finally!”), and they are both excited to spend the rest of forever together. The couple are planning an August 2023 wedding.

» **Jenn Dougherty ’16** is engaged to wed **Ed Cernera ’16**.

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

» **James S. Romano ’16**. See note for **Christine M. DiBiase ’16, ’18M**.

» **Monica Cioppettini ’17** is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Savannah, Georgia. Her work centers on used jewelry and found objects collected from local thrift shops and flea markets, with an interest to give a second life to something that was once so personal and close to a stranger. Cioppettini earned her MFA in painting from The Savannah College of Art and Design in 2020 and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in New York and Georgia.

» **Meaghan Ewanis ’17** and **Robert Ewanis ’17, ’18M** welcomed a daughter, Kenzie James Ewanis, on Oct. 27, 2021.

» **Nick Hreshko ’17, ’18M** is serving as a volunteer assistant coach for the Monmouth men’s lacrosse team this season. A standout student-athlete for the Hawks during his playing career, Hreshko was part of Monmouth’s first MAAC regular season and tournament championship team in 2017. Since earning his B.S. in business administration and MBA from Monmouth, Hreshko has worked as an auditor at PwC in the company’s asset and wealth management group and, since

2021, at CFGI, a consulting firm specializing in accounting advisory. In addition, he has coached youth and high school lacrosse in the Philadelphia area.

» **Sarah Marie Meyer ’17** wed **Bradley Meyer ’16** on May 15, 2022. The couple, who met in their senior perspective class, were married at the English Manor in Ocean Township, New Jersey, and were joined by several fellow alumni.

» **Jillian Thomas ’18** is engaged to wed **Robert Hart ’21M**.

» **Georgia S. Garden-Bachop ’19** is the managing director of Kiwi Athletes Agency, a New Zealand-based, NCAA-compliant U.S. college sports student-athlete placement service. A four-year standout for Monmouth’s field hockey team, Garden-Bachop helped lead the Hawks to MAAC Tournament championships in 2016 and 2018, being named MAAC Player and Offensive Player of the Year and the conference’s All-Championship Team MVP as a senior. She recently earned her M.S. in sport, health, and exercise sciences from Brunel University London.

» **Sophia Lewin ’19** is the senior assistant to the head coach for Princeton University’s football team. She previously served as offensive assistant coach for the Buffalo Bills.

» **Angello Villarreal ’19M, ’22Ed.D.** was appointed to a three-year term on the National Association for Professional Development Schools board of directors. Villarreal is a teacher at Freehold Township High School and an adjunct in Monmouth’s Department of World Languages and Cultures.

2020s

» **Samantha Casano ’20** joined the Local 3 News team in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in August 2022 as the weekend sports anchor/reporter. She was previously a news and sports anchor at WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, West Virginia. Casano earned her B.A. in communication with a concentration in journalism and public relations, and a minor in sports communication, from Monmouth. As a student, she completed internships at WABC-TV in New York, WPHL-TV in Philadelphia, and Move For Hunger. Casano also earned an associate degree in liberal arts-communication from Middlesex County College.

» **Allison Flynn Becker ’20M** is a health care content marketing writer who has been writing professionally since 2018. She has been a registered nurse for more than a decade and has worked in obstetrics, neonatal intensive care, and school nursing. Flynn Becker is also a board-certified lactation consultant and holds a master’s degree in nursing education. You can find her at rnhealthwriter.com.

» **Robert Hart ’21M**. See note for **Jillian Thomas ’18**.

» **George Papas ’21** signed a two-year contract to play for Olympiacos Piraeus of the EuroLeague. Papas concluded his Hawks basketball career with 1,150 points, 15th in program history, and 227 threes, fifth in school history. His 103 triples during the 2021–22 season were a program record for a single year, and he became the first Hawk to ever make over 100 threes in a season.

» **Aneri Patel ’21M** is a board-certified physician assistant at New Jersey Urology. She earned her bachelor’s in kinesiology and health, with minors in psychology and health and society, from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and her master’s from Monmouth’s Physician Assistant Program.

» The Count Basie Center for the Arts named violinist and longtime strings instructor **Laura Petillo ’21M** as manager of music programs at its Academy of the Arts and the Count Basie Center’s Monmouth Conservatory of Music. In addition to leading the conservatory, Petillo will manage music-based offerings as part of the Basie Center’s education department. Petillo earned her M.Ed. from Monmouth and is currently working toward her Ed.D. at the University.

» **Lisa M. Cafolla ’22M**. See note for **Lori A. (Granchelli) Cafolla ’84**.

» **Rachel Lessig ’22** joined Violet PR full time after interning with the firm for six months. She has supported media relations and social media campaigns for various clients, including the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs and Carbon Valley, Wyoming. She earned dual bachelor’s degrees in political science and communication with a concentration in public relations and journalism. As a student, she was vice president of Public Relations Student Society of America, a student-run PR firm, where she helped nonprofit organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters implement public relations strategies. Lessig was awarded the Future PR Pro Award in her senior year. ☎

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

In Memoriam Alumni

» Juanita F. Venerable ’50A (April 20, 2022)	» Yvonne Lynette Mann ’82 (May 5, 2022)
» Robert A. Crawford ’59, ’75M (May 20, 2022)	» Karin Wainright ’83A (May 21, 2022)
» Paul J. Lalonde ’59 (May 28, 2021)	» Lynn S. Berenbach ’84 (April 21, 2020)
» Ronald L. Emmons ’61 (March 20, 2022)	» George J. Christopher ’85M (April 16, 2022)
» Fred R. Wittenberg ’62 (Sept. 8, 2022)	» Margaret C. McNamara ’85 (June 30, 2022)
» Frank A. Anfusio ’63, ’77M (Aug. 16, 2022)	» Victor Cantillo ’87M (June 6, 2022)
» Gregory P. White ’63 (Sept. 9, 2022)	» Andrew Vernon Pastirchak ’87M (Aug. 2, 2021)
» William H. Holzapfel ’64 (March 17, 2022)	» June M. Applegate ’90 (Sept. 11, 2022)
» Rudolf R. Grosse ’65 (March 19, 2020)	» Donnalyn Giegerich-Zapcic ’92M (May 7, 2022)
» James H. Atkins Jr. ’66 (April 3, 2022)	» Jeanne Marie (Ferdon) Bergeron ’97M (March 8, 2022)
» Joseph A. Frenchick ’66 (March 29, 2022)	» Laura C. Hardy ’98M (Aug. 7, 2022)
» Richard W. Holevinski ’66, ’73M (May 27, 2022)	» Timothy H. Ragan ’00 (July 3, 2022)
» Michael S. Ulaki ’66 (June 24, 2022)	» Alan A. Ambler ’01 (July 16, 2022)
» Michael J. Mangano ’67 (June 21, 2022)	» Maria D. Holland ’01 (May 3, 2022)
» Diane M. Steets ’67 (May 25, 2022)	» Karl A. Marszałowicz ’06 (Aug. 2, 2022)
» Michael Groskin ’68 (July 25, 2022)	» Christopher R. Zanni ’06 (May 13, 2022)
» Patricia A. Lake ’69 (May 9, 2022)	» Julitta D’Adamo-Filosa ’10 (April 11, 2022)
» Percy B. Sundstrom ’69 (July 8, 2022)	» Michael C. Eck ’18 (June 17, 2022)
» Alexander J. Domorski ’70 (Sept. 16, 2022)	» Kofi O. Kyeremateng ’18M (June 24, 2022)
» Marylou Fitzpatrick ’70M (Sept. 20, 2022)	
» Gerald C. Senion ’70 (Sept. 7, 2022)	
» Webster B. Trammell Jr. ’70, ’73M (June 3, 2022)	
» John J. DeGeorge ’71 (Sept. 11, 2022)	
» Jeffrey R. Demarest ’73 (Jan. 12, 2022)	
» Donald James Tandy ’73 (July 5, 2022)	
» Kevin T. Galligan ’74 (Aug. 7, 2022)	
» John T. Gizzi Jr. ’74 (Sept. 3, 2022)	
» Alice J. Minervino ’74 (Sept. 8, 2022)	
» Michael Pasterchick Jr. ’75 (April 7, 2022)	
» Fred A. Beisser ’76 (Nov. 1, 2021)	
» Richard M. Caterino ’76M (July 14, 2021)	
» Edwin H. Iriye ’76M (April 30, 2022)	
» Leonid Oleinik ’76 (Aug. 30, 2022)	
» Dolores R. Feinswog ’78 (Nov. 7, 2021)	
» Mary W. Williams ’78M (May 21, 2022)	
» Jane S. Eisenmann ’81 (Aug. 7, 2022)	

Faculty and Staff

» Margaret Del Guercio, Ph.D., associate professor of English (April 14, 2022)

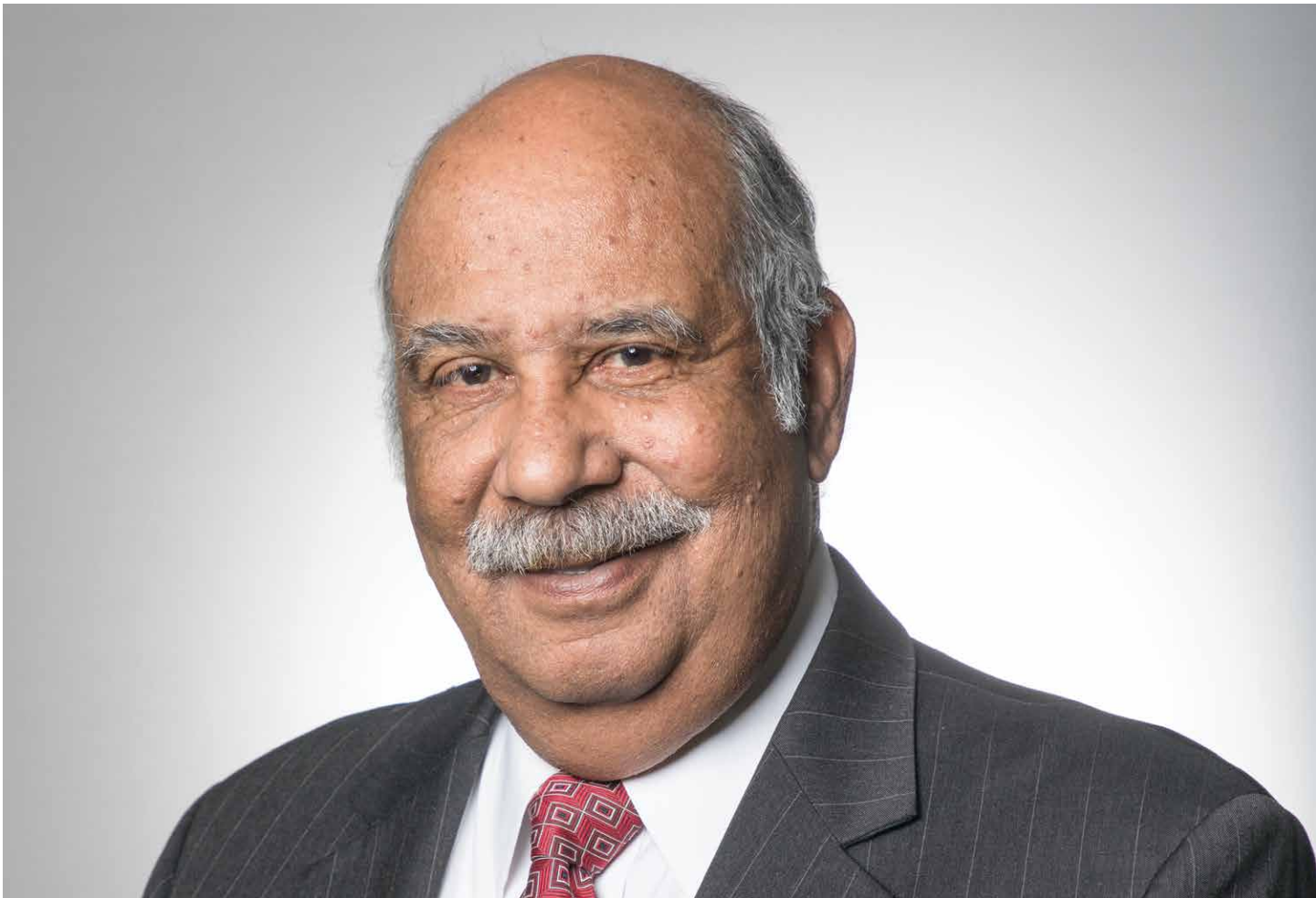
» Barbara H. Jaye, Ph.D., professor emerita of English (Aug. 8, 2022)

» Thomas Reiter, Ph.D., professor emeritus of English and former Wayne D. McMurray Endowed Chair in Humanities (April 24, 2022)

Friends

» Jessica Lisette Jacho (student) June 19, 2022

» Irene Price (former student) Jan. 2, 2022



Webster B. Trammell Jr., Board of Trustees Member

1947–2022

The Monmouth University community was saddened by the loss of Webster Trammell Jr. ’70, ’73M, a Board of Trustees member and former assistant dean of students, director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program, and psychology counselor. He died peacefully on June 3, 2022, at Monmouth Medical Center.

As a student at Monmouth, Trammell served as an editor of the *Shadows* yearbook for three years. He was a resident assistant, president of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, and member of the African American Student Union and the Art Academic Club, and he participated in varsity cross country and intramural basketball and volleyball. He was also an advisor for the Karate Club.

A loyal alumnus, Trammell recently served as the chair of the Class of 1970 Reunion Committee, which, delayed by COVID-19, convened on June 6, 2022, just days after his passing.

Trammell received his Bachelor of Arts in Art Education in 1970 and his Master of Science in Student Personnel Services in 1973 from Monmouth. He earned his Doctor of Psychology from Rutgers University in 1985.

Trammell joined Monmouth’s Board of Trustees in 2013. In addition to his involvement in current and former campus traditions, including the Holiday Open House, Distinguished Business Leaders Award dinners, and the Athletic Hall of Fame, he established the Webster B. Trammell Sr. Scholarship in 2011 in memory of his father.

In each of these roles, Webster Trammell Jr. made many significant contributions to the University, President Patrick F. Leahy said. To honor his legacy and impact at Monmouth, the Board of Trustees has established an endowed scholarship in his name that supports students with financial need.

“Dr. Trammell’s legacy as an educator of distinction, highly engaged community advocate, and passionate supporter of student outcomes will continue to influence our University for generations to come,” Leahy said. “This is indeed a loss felt by the Monmouth University community as well as the many other organizations that benefited from Dr. Trammell’s kindness and service during his lifetime.”

Margaret (Maggie) Del Guercio, Associate Professor of English

1953–2022

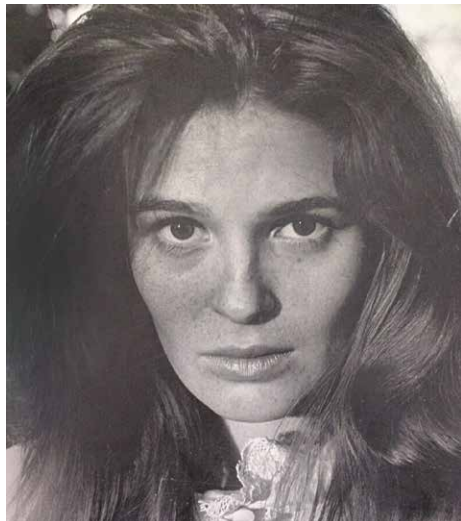
AN ACTIVE TEACHER AND POET RIGHT UP until her death, Maggie Del Guercio joined the Department of English in 1988 as an assistant professor and earned tenure and promotion in 1994. She regularly taught literature, creative writing, and Shakespeare courses; for many English majors, she is synonymous with their experience of Shakespeare in the classroom. Vibrant, innovative, and always engaging, she led students to an understanding of the multiple layers of Shakespeare’s works through hands-on projects; drawing on her background in theater, she used techniques such as puppet-making (and all English majors and faculty always particularly appreciated the Shakespearean baking!).

She developed and taught a perspectives course, *Morality and Community*, in which she strove to help students connect with the world around them. She worked

with students to meet them where they were and lead them to improve, working through revisions and drafts of essays and conferences. Her devotion to and concern for students was unparalleled. Her excellence in teaching was recognized with the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1995.

Maggie tirelessly served the faculty as FAMCO president for 20 years, spending countless hours on phone calls and helping the faculty who most needed it when they most needed it. A mentor as well as a colleague, she worked with faculty in pilot programs, such as team teaching, and served as a peer observer. In 2014, she was recognized with the Donald Warncke Award for service to the University.

Maggie took justified pride in her poetry as well, which demonstrates a range from themed poems on spiders and ti-



gers through some of life’s most serious and pressing issues. She published in multiple venues, including *Slant*, *Creosote*, and the *South Carolina Review*, and, at the time of her death, was at work on two poetry collections, *Silk* and *The Theory of Everything*.

Our condolences go out to her brother Fred Del Guercio; her loss will be felt sorely among us all. »SUSAN GOULDING, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Thomas Reiter, Emeritus Professor of English

1940–2022

THOMAS REITER JOINED THE FACULTY AT Monmouth in 1968, earning promotion to associate and then full professor. An integral member of the Department of English, Tom taught countless students in courses on American literature and poetry. Always a thorough and considerate reader, with an amiable classroom presence, his impact on his students was lasting. In 1985, he was named the first Wayne D. McMurray Endowed Chair, a position he served in until his retirement in 2005.

Tom served on numerous University committees, including the University Qualifications Committee; he was a respected and respectful community member. With a wry sense of humor, his presence always led to productive discussions.

Quiet and thoughtful, he excelled as a poet as well. His books of poetry include *Crossovers* (Eastern Washington UP, 1995) and three volumes from Louisiana State UP: *Pearly Everlasting* (2000), *Powers and Boundaries* (2004), and *Catchment* (2009). His awards include an Academy of American Poets Prize and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Fellow poets praised his “sympathetic imagination” and “luscious manipulation of sounds.”

The settings of his poems ranged from the New Jersey Pine Barrens to the Caribbean islands. He and his wife, JoNell, often spent spring breaks on St. Kitts-Nevis.

Poet Peter Makuck wrote of his work: “Thomas Reiter’s deeply engaging poems



are not for players of word games—they are matters of life and death, full of redemptive detail and the music of what’s often forgotten, good news from a fallen world.” Another poet, Brendan Galvin, identified him as “probably the finest poet-botanizer since Robert Frost.” Our deepest sympathies go out to his son Peter ’92, ’94M, the Reiter family, and all who had the honor and pleasure to know and work with him. »SUSAN GOULDING, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LOCATION: HESSE FIELD ON THE GREAT LAWN

Looking Out





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FALL/WINTER 2022

4 Things You'll Learn From This Issue

1. What the Bible has to do with Superman's origin story. »P. 12
2. How macro social workers are changing the world. »P. 16
3. Which Punjabi rapper gets Amaan Sandhu pumped before games. »P. 24
4. Why one alumnus is bringing 1900s-era Red Bank back to life. »P. 26