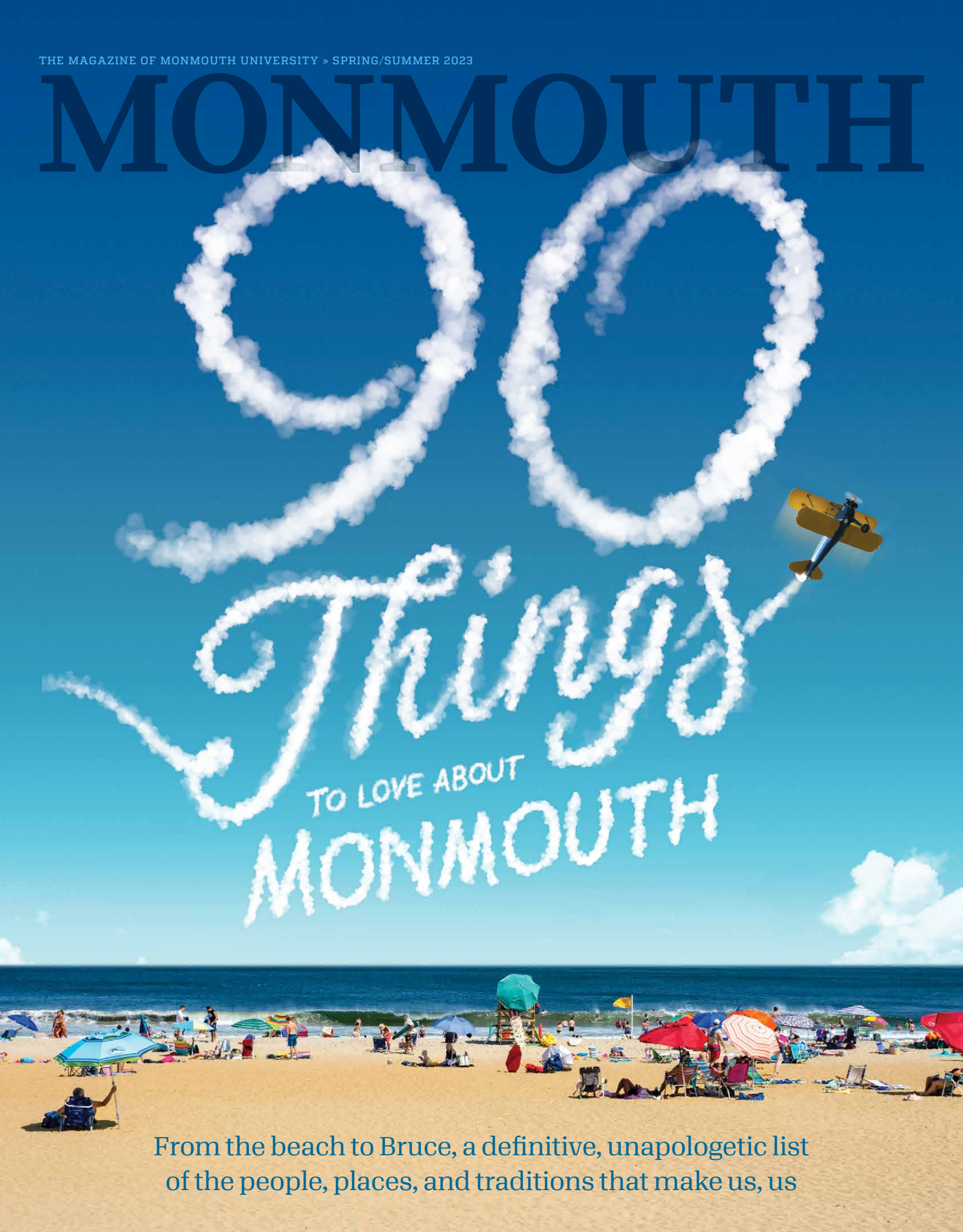


# MONMOUTH



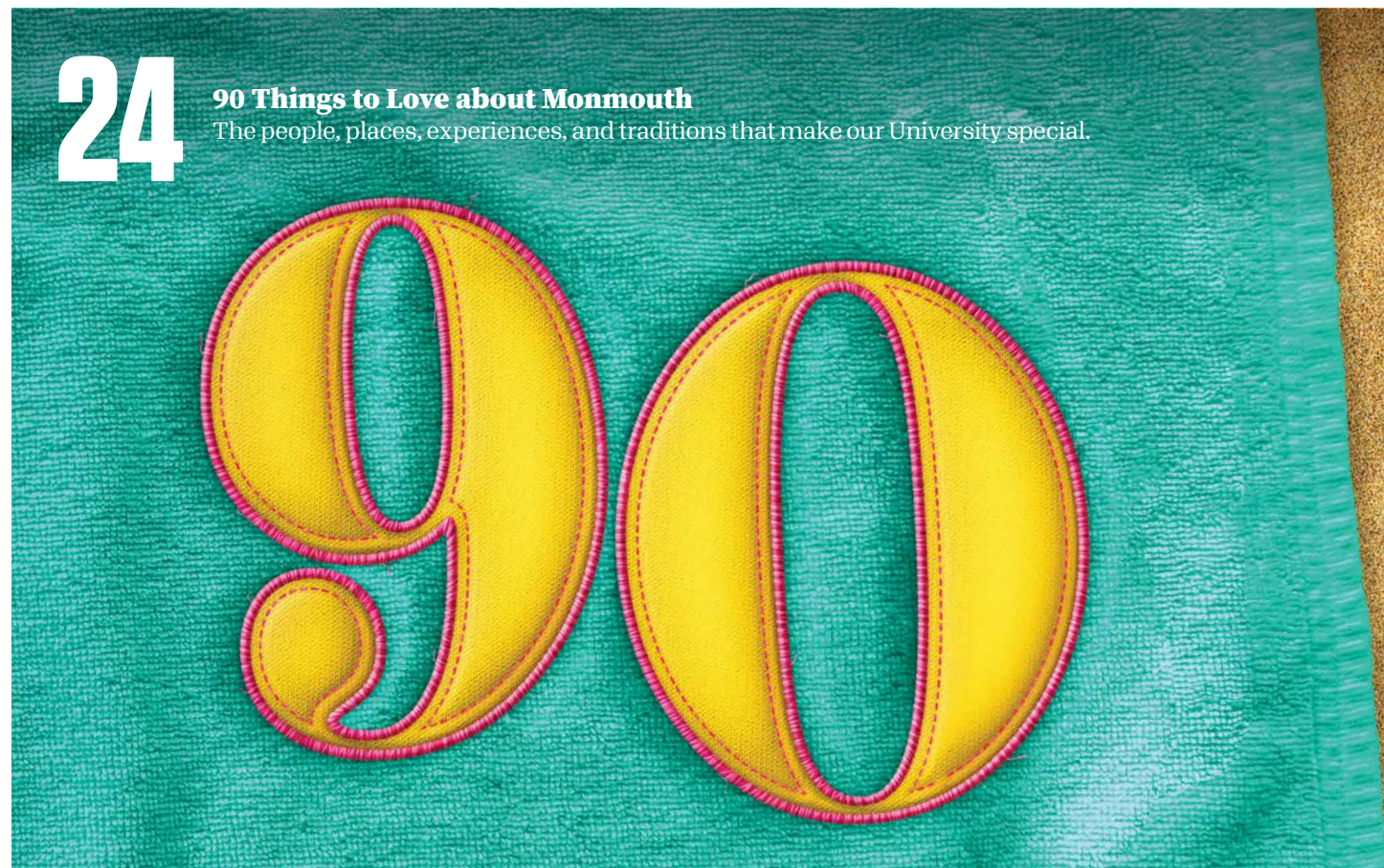
From the beach to Bruce, a definitive, unapologetic list of the people, places, and traditions that make us, us

# Looking In



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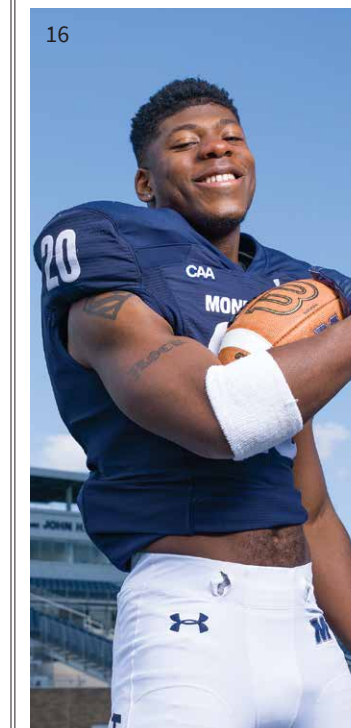
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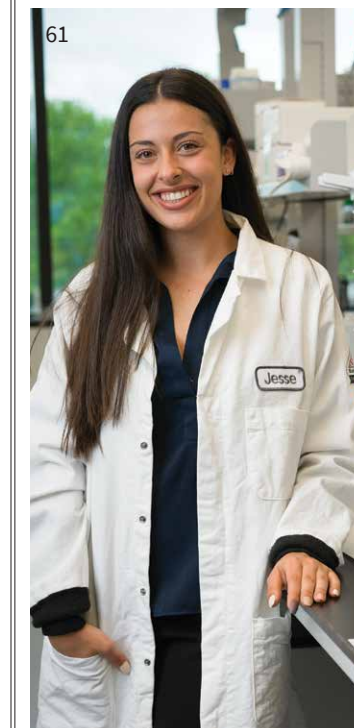
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## A Pivotal Moment

This year marks Monmouth's 90th as an institution of higher learning, and this expanded issue of *Monmouth* magazine celebrates the many things there are to love about our University, past and present. As we continue to celebrate our institution's rich history, I can't help but think that future generations will look back on this past semester as pivotal in the trajectory of Monmouth University.

This spring, we celebrated the largest gift in Monmouth University's history: \$21 million from a donor who has chosen to remain anonymous. This transformational gift, which you can read more about in this issue, will help us recruit and retain

high-achieving students facing financial hardship, changing the life course of scholarship recipients for generations to come. It directly aligns with our commitment to integrating educational excellence and access, and I am incredibly grateful to the donor for their remarkable endorsement of our mission.

As we pursue our mission of making Monmouth *both* more excellent *and* more accessible, it is imperative that we continue to do so in a fiscally responsible way. It therefore brought me great pride to see *Inside Higher Education*, one of the industry's leading news publications, laud Monmouth's ability to enhance infrastructure and increase student aid while remaining relatively debt free. It is a testament to the foresight of past and present trustees and administrative leaders that Monmouth is in such an enviable financial position.

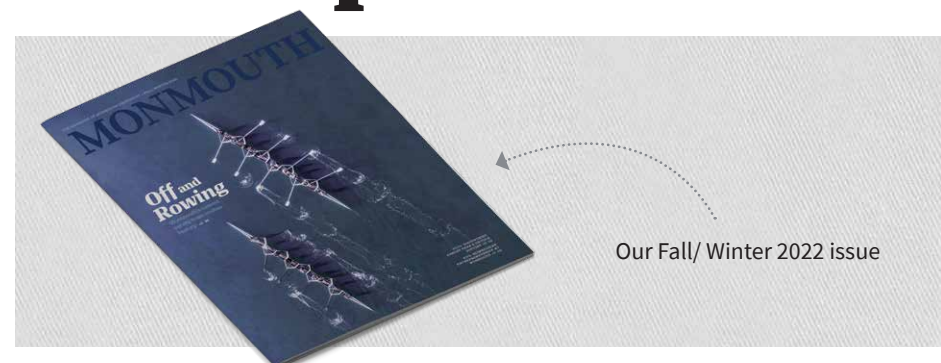
We also celebrated other exciting historic firsts this semester. Our women's basketball team won the University's first Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championship—and in the process earned the program's first automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in 40 years. The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music hosted its inaugural American Music Honors, an evening that brought several entertainment icons to campus and showcased Monmouth's commitment to the arts in an unprecedented way. You can read about both of these accomplishments in this issue, as well as learn about the important work our students, faculty, and alumni are doing to protect our region's waterways, provide food security to the state's less fortunate, and discover pharmacological compounds that can treat and cure cardiovascular diseases, the leading cause of death globally.

Indeed, there is much to love about Monmouth University, and many reasons to be excited for the future. The recent institutional successes and historic firsts shared on the pages that follow give me—and you, I hope—great pride in the work that we do here. Thank you for your continued support of Monmouth's mission. We wouldn't be who we are today without it.

»PATRICK F. LEAHY, ED.D., PRESIDENT

photo MIKE MORGAN

## Correspondence



### Comics in the Classroom

The article on Professor Stanley Blair's comic book course ("Where Comics Meet Classics," Fall/Winter 2022) brought back some fond memories. In the early 1970s, I taught an elective, *The Comic Vein*, at Red Bank Regional High School. I used this media as a social barometer reflecting such issues as the women's movement, the drug scene, and war. The class even received some media coverage, and I was asked to do a slideshow presentation on it at the Monmouth County Library-Eastern Branch.

»JOHN R. HIRD '73M

### Memories from Abroad

*Thanks to all of the readers who shared their stories about living and learning overseas. Have a story you'd like to share? Check out the Looking Back article on p. 58.*

My desire to see what the world has to offer influenced my decision to spend my summer studying in Florence, Italy. While abroad, I traveled to 15 cities in three countries—kayaking in Switzerland, lying under the Eiffel Tower while it sparkled, cliff jumping along the Amalfi Coast, hiking Mount Vesuvius, and dancing through the streets of Italy with locals while learning their culture. The experience presented many challenges: learning my way around a foreign city, overcoming language barriers, and adapting to cul-

tural norms. It also taught me more than I could have ever imagined about how to be independent and get out of my comfort zone, and it opened my eyes to the world.

»KAITLYN ALAVARCES '23

When I arrived back in the U.S. after spending a semester studying at Regent's University London during my sophomore year, I remember feeling so much more independent. Before I left, my parents took care of so many things for me, like setting up doctor's appointments or taking care of my bills. But after dealing with everything on my own for those four months, I realized I was capable of taking care of myself. To any students considering whether to study abroad, I say, do it! You will never get an opportunity like this again in life. It will help you become more independent, well rounded, and understanding of those different from you. I grew so much as a person from my study abroad experience, and I still carry the lessons I learned while there with me.

»NATALIE JORDAN '09

With the encouragement and permission of Dr. Robert Pike, chair of Monmouth's foreign language department in 1965, I enrolled at the University of Paris (the Sorbonne) for my junior year. The courses, all taught in French, included French history, literature, grammar, geography, and history of ideas in modern France, to name a few. In retrospect, it was quite economical. Tuition was \$50 a semester, and \$100 a month was more than sufficient for room and board and minor expenses. My, how times have changed!

»LAWRENCE PERGOLA JR. '67

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[MEDIA LITERACY]

## Reality Check

Nicholas Messina's course on media literacy helps students embrace the curiosity needed to question their media consumption.

INTERVIEW BY STEVE NEUMANN

The most basic goal of formal education in society has long been to produce *literacy*, mainly in the three R's of "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic." But as society and its technology change, formal education needs to evolve.

The most obvious form of technology that has impacted society today is the internet—and the deluge of media content it continually pipes into the minds of everyone everywhere on the planet.

Society has clearly embraced this new reality, as evidenced by recent Pew Research surveys showing that 85% of Americans go online daily, with 31% of adults and 46% of teens reporting they are "almost constantly" online. Yet the country's educational institutions have been slow to incorporate media literacy into their curricula.

At Monmouth, Specialist Professor of Communication Nicholas Messina '18M's Media Literacy course (CO-155) helps students develop an understanding of the aesthetic, emotional, cognitive, and moral choices involved in interpreting media messages. We asked him recently why it is so important to be media literate in today's world. →



### How do you get your students to start thinking critically about the media they consume?

The very first assignment I have them do is keep a journal for one full week in which they record *all* the media content they consume: radio, TV, billboards, advertisements, music streaming, social media. Once they realize how much content they're actually consuming, it's easier then to say, "OK, now that we realize how much we are actually being exposed to, let's see what we miss."

We can start to investigate some of the questions we don't usually look into when it comes to media consumption. Who owns and controls the media? What are some of the economic implications of the media? What are the impacts of the constant flow on our perception of the world around us and on our perception of ourselves in that world?

Oftentimes, I'll show them a television show episode or a movie and then have them break it down: What are our thoughts on the demographic imbalance? Why is it that we see more of this type of character as opposed to that type of character? Do we see any stereotypes? Do we think these are valid stereotypes?

I try to have as free flowing a class as possible because having conversations is so important. Part of the issue that we experience in the way we consume media is that it all happens within a microcosm; it happens within these echo chambers.

So it's really a matter of first saying, "Here's what you're already looking at, and these are what the implications are. Here's what you could be looking at and hopefully sparking some curiosity. Try a different news outlet. Stop watching or listening to certain individuals." But it's incumbent on the individual to take that initiative.

### What are some of the dangers of people not thinking more critically about the media they're consuming?

The danger is taking everything at face value and believing that it is an unvarnished, untainted presentation of the truth. That can distort one's perception of the real world.

For example, individuals who tend to watch more violent media content begin to believe that the world around them is equally as dangerous, when that is not the case at

### "The danger is taking everything at face value and believing that it is an unvarnished, untainted presentation of the truth. That can distort one's perception of the real world."

all. The types of crimes that are seen on television in certain cases are much more frequent in their depictions than they actually occur in real life. And this leads to the idea of "mean world syndrome," where everybody's out for themselves.

There's also a lack of curiosity. Everything's so fleeting—you continue to scroll and scroll and scroll, and certain ideas aren't investigated further. They're not being given the time and care they deserve. We're looking for that next dopamine fix, if you will. So it really disconnects us from the physical world we're currently living in.

### Is there the possibility that people could become radicalized or fall for conspiracy theories because of their media consumption habits?

I don't think people ever seek to become radicalized. It's the algorithm of the medium and the way that these algorithms are set up—it continually feeds individuals this content whether or not they've asked for it.

They tend to have this assumption or belief that, since it's been sent to me because I already watched X, then I guess Y and Z are perfectly OK to go ahead and watch—so they wind up falling down the rabbit hole without even realizing it.

To have this hyperexposure to media content—to live in such an oversaturated environment—and not ask some of the really pertinent and critical questions is a disservice not just to the individual but to society overall.

### What are some of the positive aspects of having so much media content at our fingertips?

We see the ability to connect with certain subgroups and subcultures that one would not normally have access to. And it does make us at least aware of other things that are happening in other places.

It's one of the reasons they cite for why public sentiment in Russia in regard to the war in Ukraine hasn't been nearly as effective as it would have been in the past.

People can simply see the reality of what's happening on the ground in Ukraine, so they can't just be fed state-run propaganda and take it at face value. There's a completely different set of images that they have access to.

### New Jersey recently became the first state to mandate that media literacy be taught in K-12 classrooms. What are your thoughts on this requirement?

I think it's 20 years overdue. I think it's par amount for students, especially at those younger ages, because we develop a regular pattern of consumption before we even enter school. By the time folks get to college, they've had 18 years of conditioning, and it's up to us to address the conditioning that has happened and then try to instill the will and the desire to change that.

I do one particular lesson on Disney movies and Disney characters where I have students look back and think about some of the classic Disney movies that we've all seen. There's nothing wrong with still liking them, but it's important to at least acknowledge that there were certain things that were being reinforced that are probably not the greatest. The materials used for the lesson include clips from films like *Dumbo*, in which there are characters quite literally named "Jim Crow," begging the question about racial stereotypes and negative reinforcement. We have discussions about the potential underlying relationship messages in films like *Beauty and the Beast*, in which we see a young woman effectively in an abusive relationship. Instead of leaving the relationship, she stays and, through love and compassion, she's able to "change" the beast, exposing the "prince" within. This has the potential to teach young girls that, hey, even if you're in a troublesome relationship, stick it out and you can "change" that partner.

I had an undergraduate professor who said that you cannot unteach the people something, but you can teach them a new way to think about it. That's what my goal

is. We cannot undo students' consumption patterns, but we can teach them to look at media and consume it in a different way.

### What more needs to be done to foster a more media-literate citizenry?

I think media literacy should be a part of the general education experience even at the highest educational levels, full stop. I think it's unfortunate that it's not a mandatory class because it is, in many ways, the apex of intersectionality and interdisciplinary studies for a liberal arts education.

It's a class in which we're discussing individuals like Jean Piaget and the work that he did in early childhood development. We're discussing the impact of political advertisements and political campaigns. We're talking about the horizontal and vertical integration of media industries.

Basically, media literacy should be introduced to every school everywhere in the country as early as possible, and for as long as possible, because it is an ongoing process. One should never stop questioning what they're consuming and what it does to us.

### How does your course help Monmouth students after they graduate?

It sparks curiosity about others. It forces one to look more critically at themselves as well. Why is it that I have this particular opinion? Where did this potential bias develop?

I think it makes students better citizens of an increasingly global society when they can ask, why is the news presented in this fashion? What does it mean when this type of verbiage is used as opposed to this type of verbiage? How do I cut through the muck and the mire for verified factual information?

In general, they'll be able to evaluate information in a critical way and distinguish between facts, points of view, and opinion, as well as understand the kinds of legal, social, ethical, and economic implications around the information that they're consuming.

But the most important thing that the class teaches them is to embrace that curiosity instead of taking everything at face value. The underpinning of our entire country is questioning and investigating, and I think when we stop that, we find ourselves at a crossroads for democracy overall. 🗳️



## "A True Game-Changer for Our Students"

Historic \$21 million gift will expand educational access.

**IN MARCH, MONMOUTH** announced the largest single gift in its 90-year history, an outright gift of \$21 million from a donor who has chosen to remain anonymous. The gift will establish a new scholarship program that will aid undergraduate students who meet specific academic and financial criteria by helping provide access to a private university education that would otherwise be financially challenging or unattainable for them.

"This transformational gift is a true game-changer for our students," President Patrick F. Leahy said. "Promoting and supporting social mobility is one of the most important things we can do in higher education, and this commitment is squarely aligned with Monmouth University's ambition to integrate academic excellence and educational access like no other university in our category. We are extremely grateful that our generous benefactor shares this commitment."

According to Amanda Klaus '09, vice president for University Advancement, the gift will be structured with \$20 million dollars invested in a perpetual endowment and \$1 million deployed for immediate scholarship use—all with the intention of supporting academically high-achieving students at the greatest financial risk.

"This historic gift will have an immediate impact at Monmouth University," said Klaus. "But its true benefit will be demonstrated when we see deserving students graduate and succeed in careers of their choice that will help provide them with long-term financial security, allowing them to transform their lifelong personal and financial trajectories. This is the real power of education, and I hope this lead gift will inspire others to support scholarships."

Leahy emphasized the short-term and long-term benefits of the scholarship funds. "This gift will allow our students to unleash their potential immediately, and just as importantly, it creates the possibility for generational impact through social and economic mobility," he said. »TARA PETERS

# The View from Here

## Music Legends Shine on Pollak's Stage

Rock & Roll Hall of Famers Steven Van Zandt, Sam Moore, and Darlene Love and acclaimed singer-songwriter Steve Earle were honored at The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music's inaugural American Music Honors.

Jon Stewart hosted the event, which was held in April in Pollak Theatre. The honorees were introduced with speeches from Springsteen (who sent his tributes by video after a positive COVID-19 test precluded him from attending), E Street Band bassist Garry Tallent, and Southside Johnny Lyon. Gov. Phil Murphy was also on hand to officially proclaim September 23 as Bruce Springsteen Day in New Jersey.



From left: Steve Earle, Steven Van Zandt, and Southside Johnny Lyon

## Fun Factor

A recent study by psychology Professor Robyn Holmes, Ph.D., and Tori Hart '21 found a strong connection between adult playfulness and emotional intelligence. Published in the *Journal of Play in Adulthood*, the study found that people who scored highly on standardized playfulness scales also scored highly on standardized emotional intelligence tests, showing that adults who regularly engage in playful activities—however they may define “playful”—are better able to perceive, manage, and utilize emotions as well as manage the emotions of others.

### OVERHEARD ON CAMPUS

**“Your ... questions were absolutely outstanding. I wish when I did a press conference, I had such intelligent questions. That’s often not the case.”**

»MLB COMMISSIONER ROB MANFRED, SPEAKING TO MONMOUTH PRE-LAW STUDENTS VIA ZOOM ABOUT THE LEGAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES CONFRONTING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL.

## Record-Breaking Success

The third annual Monmouth Giving Days, held in March, raised over \$225,000 through more than 1,500 gifts in support of students, making it the University's most successful Giving Days yet. Gifts came in from alumni and friends around the world, including Argentina, Germany, Mexico, and New Zealand, and domestically from 38 states.

## Faculty and Staff Retirements

Four individuals whose contributions to Monmouth touched the lives of generations of students, faculty, staff, and supporters of the University retired in June.



**William  
“Bill” Craig**

**VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR FINANCE**

Craig joined Monmouth as controller in 1981 and was promoted to vice president for finance in 1988. In that capacity, he led the Division of Finance, which includes the accounting, investment, and treasury functions of the University including budgets, grants fiscal management, the mailroom, the University Store, the Central Box Office, the Digital Print Center, and the Office of Purchasing. He also served as the administrative liaison to the Audit, Finance and Budgets, and Investment Committees of Monmouth University's Board of Trustees. During his tenure, Monmouth completed nearly \$300 million in new construction, yet thanks to his careful financial stewardship, the University has virtually no accrued debt at the time of his retirement, an accomplishment that was recently touted in *Inside Higher Ed*.



**Nancy Mezey,  
Ph.D.**

**DEAN OF THE  
HONORS SCHOOL**

Mezey was a member of the University community for more than two decades. She joined Monmouth in 2002 as an assistant professor and coordinator of the sociology program and was instrumental in developing the sociology minor and bachelor's degree program. She later served as the program's director as well as a first-year advisor, curriculum coordinator and director of gender studies, chair of the Faculty Council, and associate director and director of the original Ic. In 2011, she was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award. Mezey moved into full-time administration in fall 2014 as the associate dean of the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the same year in which she earned full professorship, and in 2019, she was appointed dean of the Honors School.



**Mary Anne Nagy  
'91M, '01M**

**VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE  
AND LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT**

Nagy joined Monmouth's program services department in 1986 and, following a series of promotions, was elevated to vice president of student life and leadership engagement in 1994. In that role she oversaw the areas of campus safety, conference and event services, counseling and prevention services, crisis management, fraternity and sorority life, health services, judicial affairs, off-campus and commuter services, residential life, student engagement and student center operations, transitions and leadership programs, and student support and veteran services. She also twice served as interim vice president for advancement, overseeing the areas of advancement services, alumni engagement and annual giving, development, and stewardship and donor relations. From 1991 on, Nagy managed the University's Commencement programs, and her tireless leadership of the crisis management team was critical in helping Monmouth navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Jeff  
Stapleton**

**DIRECTOR OF  
ATHLETICS**

Stapleton was an integral part of the success and advancement of Monmouth's Division I athletics program for more than three decades. For the last two years he served as director of athletics, during which time he led Monmouth's transition into the Colonial Athletic Association and stewarded the addition of the women's rowing program. Prior to that he served as deputy director, during which time one of his key responsibilities was overseeing the development and construction of some of the top fields and facilities in mid-major Division I athletics. He was a key component to the construction of the OceanFirst Bank Center and Kessler Stadium, and oversaw renovations to all of Monmouth's athletics facilities, including most recently the varsity weight room, the field hockey facility, Boylan Gymnasium, and the outdoor track.



## Winning Pitch

A fitness media company founded by students scores big at HawkTank.

**SENIOR BUSINESS MAJORS** Ben Zakowski, Griffin Tomas, and Dylan Sara (above, left to right) won top honors in the Center for Entrepreneurship's HawkTank 2023 Business Pitch Competition for their fitness media company, Division One Fitness.

The trio's plan for growing their existing business, which started with an initial concept centered on producing short, entertaining soccer training videos for social media, edged out five other finalist teams composed of students from four Monmouth schools whose ideas ranged from a hybrid greenhouse/vertical farm that could serve as a community hub to an app that provides crowdsourced flood data to an interchangeable decorative pillow system.

As the winning team, Tomas, Zakowski, and Sara took home a check for \$2,500, but they say the insights they gained from HawkTank were even more valuable.

"HawkTank ... really opened our eyes to where we could take our business within the next year or two," says Zakowski.

The students launched Division One in November 2021 seeking to capitalize on Tomas and Zakowski's soccer skills (the two are co-captains of Monmouth's men's team) and Tomas' social media savvy (he managed social accounts for an investment firm for

three years). They started small, posting a few training and challenge videos to TikTok. "Those first few videos blew up," says Tomas, and within three weeks, Division One had 10,000 followers. Over the next year and a half, Division One built a global audience of more than 350,000 followers, and its content has been viewed more than 100,000,000 times.

Along the way, the young entrepreneurs were kicking around ideas for growing their business, including rolling out a subscription-based training program, launching a clothing and apparel line, and branching out into other sports. But until they got involved with HawkTank, many were just that—ideas.

"We'd never actually mapped everything out," says Tomas.

As part of the HawkTank experience, each finalist team worked closely with Alison Gilbert, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, who in the months leading up to the competition guided each team on how to create a business model, project

earnings, hone their value proposition, and determine market opportunities.

Since Division One already had such a strong foundation, Gilbert says she focused on helping its founders accelerate and monetize the progress they had already made.

In their meetings with Gilbert, the Division One team "mapped out all of our revenue projections for the year, how much we were going to be making for each one, and when we were going to be rolling those out," says Tomas. "It was something that was good for us to do."

Division One will be launching its subscription service soon, and the company is in discussions with manufacturers for its clothing and apparel line. "That could be our biggest stream of revenue," says Tomas. "We feel like we have the reach and the audience to really capitalize on that market."

Although their HawkTank experience has concluded, the trio says they're continuing to use the Center for Entrepreneurship as a resource. Gilbert's mentoring went beyond helping them hone their winning pitch. "She gave us a lot of insight on what we should do as a business," says Tomas. "She's helped us a lot." »TONY MARCHETTI

## Balancing Duality

Mihaela Moscaliuc reflects on the power of poetry.

INTERVIEW BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts awarded the 2023 Individual Artist Fellowship for Poetry to Associate Professor of English Mihaela Moscaliuc, lauding her outstanding body of work, which largely focuses on the immigrant experience.

**Much of your writing touches on your identity as a "permanent immigrant." How has emigrating from Romania at age 24 impacted your life's work?**

The experience of emigration/immigration has never ended. Although I reside in the U.S. and my annual visits to Romania are brief, I continue to write from both places and from many kinds of in-betweenness, including some related to language, culture, and family. It is a generative space of double-rootedness and suspension that keeps me alert to change. Sometimes the feeling of not belonging to either place takes precedence and threatens to overwhelm, but I have learned how to deactivate it or turn it into a useful resource. That's when writing comes in.

**Your work highlights the fluidity you feel in terms of not belonging to any one place, culture, or history. Does this insight help you in the classroom?**

Definitely. I believe that empathy, which requires that you temporarily step out of the self (to the extent possible) and adopt another's views and sentiments, can be cultivated. Fortunately, both literature and the experiences of emigration/immigration have trained my mind to make those leaps. In the classroom, whether discuss-



ing a text or workshopping a poem, I try to meet students on their ground, or at least halfway, and understand how the view they hold came about. And I guide them toward spaces of inquiry, toward uncertainty and ambivalence, toward the disorienting feeling of having stepped into another's life and perspective.

**What role can literature—and more specifically, poetry—play in helping us connect with and understand the experiences of others?**

Literature is a repository of human experiences, a portal to understanding ourselves and others. I fear that everything I have to say about it will sound grandiose, but I truly believe that literature teaches us more about the past than history books do, that it invites self-reflection, that it disrupts apathy, ideological intransigence,

**"I truly believe that literature teaches us more about the past than history books do, that it invites self-reflection, that it disrupts apathy, ideological intransigence, and egotism, that it prepares us to live and think with nuance, to evolve as thinkers and overall, as human beings."**

and egotism, that it prepares us to live and think with nuance, to evolve as thinkers and overall, as human beings. I fear that a nation which loses interest in literature is a nation without a future. ☪

For the full interview, visit [monmouth.edu/magazine](https://monmouth.edu/magazine).



# Troubled Waters

Monmouth researchers and local citizens have teamed up to restore the region's coastal lakes.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Superstorm Sandy's devastation of lake watersheds made clear the need for a more concerted approach toward lake monitoring and restoration.

That's why in 2017, the University launched the Coastal Lakes Observing Network (CLONet), a project through which staff and students from the School of Science and Urban Coast Institute partner with municipalities and community groups to organize and equip community scientists to assist in lake monitoring efforts.

Funded by two \$150,000 grants from the Jules L. Plangere Jr. Family Foundation, this first-of-its-kind study combines data collected by Monmouth researchers with data collected by community scientists to determine the health of 11 coastal lakes in Monmouth County.

"Everything in ecology is so variable, so the more data you have, the better you can home in on an average condition," says Jason Adolf, Ph.D., an endowed professor of marine science and lead on the project. "That's why the community scientist aspect was so beneficial: It not only gave people a chance to directly engage in the stewardship of the lakes they live by, it also allowed for continuous monitoring."

The project's first phase, which primarily focused on data collection, showed that coastal lakes were less healthy than the state's inland lakes. It also revealed that, despite the lakes being within a 15-mile radius of one another, their water quality and health varied widely, with some lakes being reliably more polluted and more likely to develop harmful algal blooms (HABs) than others.

The project recently entered its second phase, and the data collected is informing actions to promote the restoration of health to the lakes and surrounding watersheds. Water sampling will continue to measure the success of the restoration efforts now underway.

"The water quality of the lake doesn't necessarily reflect what's happening in the lake but [rather] what's happening in the watershed," says Adolf. "It'll be really cool to see in the community data the impact of some of the million-dollar watershed restoration efforts that are planned and whether they worked or not."



## Human causes of poor water quality

» **Development** — Residential, commercial, and industrial — reduces the availability of natural buffers that impede runoff and leads to soil erosion during rain events

» **Excess Nutrients** — Rain events push excess nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen (from sewer leakage and fertilizer and stormwater runoff) into lake watersheds, feeding algae

» **Warming Temperatures** — Toxic blue-green algae absorb sunlight and proliferate faster in warm, nutrient-rich waters, causing lake water to stagnate and become noxious



## Steps to reduce poor water quality

» **Watershed improvements** — Small efforts such as having a rain garden and not paving a majority of your lot help reduce stormwater runoff

» **Reduce waste** — Properly managing trash and leaf litter helps, since they can add excess nutrients to water bodies if they enter sewage systems

» **Support local groups** — Joining advocacy groups focused on lake management helps to directly support restoration efforts

## Colorful Culprits

HABs are a naturally occurring event, but due in part to human-caused factors, they can quickly proliferate and turn toxic, disrupting ecosystems and leading to a multiple-species die-off. These blooms have a negative impact on recreation and tourism industries, threaten human health, and can kill small animals, including pets. Cyanobacteria are a photosynthetic bacteria responsible for most HAB events.

## Concerned Collaborators

A group of 60 community scientists collected more than 1,500 water samples during the last four years. The samples were tested for temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, clarity, and pH. All data is available via the CLONet Data Explorer, an interactive and downloadable tool.

Scan this code with your mobile device to view the CLONet Data Explorer:





# ATHLETICS

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

»PLUS: *Advantage, Zoë Klapman, p. 18*

[FOOTBALL]

## Happy as a Hawk

The best running back in the FCS says there's no place he'd rather be than Monmouth.

BY RYAN JONES

Jaden Shirden knows his history. He can recite the names of the guys who've blazed the trail he hopes to follow, college football stars who shined out of the spotlight but still found their way to the NFL. Guys like Brian Westbrook at Villanova, Chase Edmonds at Fordham, and of course, the one FCS-to-NFL story that any Monmouth football fan knows by heart. →

“Miles Austin!” Shirden says of the former Hawks standout and 10-year NFL vet. “I’m a Cowboys fan; plus, I’m all about the old school. I love all that stuff.”

Old school is a relative term, of course, but one that seems accurate where Shirden is concerned: Hall of Fame running back Barry Sanders, Shirden’s favorite player and the inspiration for his jersey number, retired a few years before Shirden was born. But for all his appreciation of the past, the Hawks’ consensus All-American running back is very much focused on his immediate future—specifically, his junior season at Monmouth. That he’ll be spending this fall in West Long Branch and not some Big Ten or SEC outpost is quietly one of the more fascinating stories of the sport’s offseason.

By the unwritten rules of college football in 2023, Shirden should be somewhere else by now. That he would enter the transfer portal was widely assumed after an astonishing sophomore season in which he ran for 1,722 yards, the most in the nation across all divisions through the end of the regular season. But Shirden himself insists he was never going anywhere. Simply put: Why should he?

“Going into the portal was never something in my heart or something I believed I had to do,” he says. “Those ‘big-time’ schools had their chances when I was in high school. I don’t forget that. But I’ve seen other people come from this level and get drafted. There’s really no need for me to jump.”

He’d be a big man on any campus, but Shirden is unlikely to be appreciated elsewhere like he is at Monmouth. He landed in New Jersey after a terrific high school career in

Connecticut, then ran for 497 yards and three touchdowns as a freshman in 2021. “Toward the end of that year,” he says, “I saw a glimpse of what I was going to do.” As a sophomore, he racked up 156.5 rushing yards per game and 13 touchdowns—eight of which went for more than 50 yards apiece. And he did it all without losing perspective; longtime Hawks head coach Kevin Callahan calls him “a great young man, and a great guy to have in your locker room. He’s extremely grounded.”

Shirden says he’s “always carried myself like that. I just think about where I came from, what God has put in front of me. You just have to keep your head on your shoulders.”

The son of a coach, Shirden knows that hard work has gotten him this far and will take him however much farther he might yet go. He’s spent much of the offseason in the weight room, intent on becoming a stronger, more physical runner. (At 5-foot-9 and 185 pounds coming off last season, he’s about the same size as Sanders, his football hero.) He’s also working to improve his blocking and pass-catching. “I’m focused on being a complete running back,” he says.

The NFL will accept nothing less. It’s hard to imagine Shirden playing much better than he did last season, but sooner rather than later, he’ll need to prove his domination of CAA opponents can translate to the pros. It’s something he tries not to dwell on. “I’m just living in the moment,” he says. “Shoot, I don’t know what my next meal is going to be.” But Shirden believes he’ll be ready when the time comes. “All I need is an opportunity,” he says. 🏈



# Advantage, Zoë Klapman

The women’s tennis ace turned an internship in Silicon Valley into a full-time job.

INTERVIEW BY GREG VISCOMI AND GARY KOWAL '13

Maybe you’ve seen those NCAA commercials that state that only 2% of college athletes go on to play professional sports. Count women’s tennis player Zoë Klapman among the 98%—but that doesn’t mean she’s not doing what she loves.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in computer science this May, Klapman went to work for Climate LLC, the Silicon Valley–based digital agriculture company she interned with last summer. The company’s mission, she says, is to help end world hunger by giving farmers the digital tools they need to increase production.

A San Jose, California, native, Klapman followed in the footsteps of her brother, former men’s tennis player Austin Klapman ’22, when she selected Monmouth. She talked with us prior to the spring season about her family’s love of tennis, her own love of technology, and why she can’t get enough of that famous Jersey attitude.

## On teaching Mom the joy of tennis.

I started playing tennis when I was 5. Austin had started the year before, and when I saw how much fun he was having, I wanted to have that as well. Our parents had never played before, but Mom picked it up when we started so she could hit with us. She ended up playing on a team at the club where we trained. When Austin and I played in tournaments, we’d all travel there together, and Mom would hit with us on the court to help warm us up.

## On playing for a Monmouth legend, former three-sport standout Patrice Murray ’82, ’89M.

Coach Murray has taught me so much. She’s *always* positive, which helps after a tough loss. She knows the team is hurting but knows how to communicate constructive criticism in a way that we’ll learn from the experience and move those efforts toward the next match. She emphasizes the importance of putting your all into everything you do and working to be the best you can be on and off the court. That’s really had an impact on me.

## On having the opportunity to play with a tennis legend.

Thanks to Coach, we were able to meet and hit with Kim Clijsters last year. We

played some singles and doubles with her, which was *unreal* because she’s a legend and is in the [International Tennis] Hall of Fame. Afterward, she gave us a really great talk about the mental aspects of tennis, and we learned a lot of great lessons from her.

## On why she majored in computer science.

New technologies have always fascinated me. My dad has worked in the tech industry for a long time, and I grew up listening to him talk about the latest industry topics and what the future might look like.

I started coding in middle school and liked it, and I think that if you have an interest in something, you should follow it. In high school, I found that I was good in languages and math too. And I think with that skill set and the passion I had for coding, I thought, “I’m just going to see where this takes me.”

At Monmouth, Professor Raman Lakshmanan was always supportive of my journey. It was his Enterprise Mobile Apps Design and Development class that introduced me to iOS design and made me realize how cool the field is because it’s a mix of back- and front-end engineering. He taught me some great skills that really pushed me forward as a developer.

## On the internship that turned into a full-time job.

Last summer, I completed a 12-week internship as a software engineer with Climate in San Francisco. I was part of their iOS team and worked on an app that farmers use to extract data from their fields. Not coming from an agricultural background, it was interesting to see how much technology affects farming and how much data goes into it.

Climate, which is a subsidiary of Bayer, is committed to modernizing farming by making it more efficient. By helping farmers produce more food, the app I worked on will have an impact across the world. That’s really exciting to me.

## On coastal comparisons.

In California, people are all about putting their best foot forward and trying to say things as nicely as possible to others. In New Jersey, people just tell you how it is straight to your face. I like that.

Also, the beaches in New Jersey are so accessible. Where I’m from in California, you have to drive around a mountain range just to get to the beach. Here, the beach is literally down the road. It’s crazy. 🌊

\*This article was adapted from a *Hawk Talk* podcast and has been edited for length and clarity. Visit [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine) to listen to the complete interview.



# Food *for* Thought

Mark Dinglasan, the nation's first state-level food security advocate, explains why efforts to end hunger need to go beyond simply handing out food.

INTERVIEW BY MAUREEN HARMON  
PHOTOS BY JOHN EMERSON

**I**n September, Mark Dinglasan '03 was appointed director of the Office of the Food Security Advocate by New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy—the first role of its kind in the state and in the nation. His charge from the governor was broad but clear: Move the needle on food insecurity. →

Dinglasan spoke to us about what he plans to do in this position, which will go well beyond funding food banks; the complicated links between childhood trauma, community, and food insecurity; and how he hopes his office can be a role model for the rest of the country.

**We noticed your office has some fun décor, including images of Voltron. We know you're passionate about your work, but clearly, you have other passions. Before we get too deep into food insecurity, we have to ask about these pictures.**

I'm a fan of antiquing, and I came across this limited-edition artwork from an artist who focuses on retro foil-type work. These Voltron images have been a great talking point with colleagues. This position is so new that it was a bit of a mystery to everyone around me. I think people were intimidated by me and (what) the role of this office was, so I thought, "If I bring a little bit of my personality to work, hopefully it'll bring down the walls a little bit." So I brought half my collection, which thrilled my wife. As a result, I found the person in the Department of Agriculture who loves to collect history memorabilia. I also found the *Star Wars* folk.

**There's always a *Star Wars* person in the office. Always.**

I am the *Star Wars* person.

**Yoda aside, talk to us a bit about your career trajectory launching from Monmouth.**

Monmouth was a huge growing experience for me. I had done the study abroad thing. I had done the honors program. I thought I was going to be a lawyer, but when I went to New York Law School for a semester, I realized I wanted to be doing more. So I told my dean that I wanted to become a Catholic missionary, building homes and social justice programs in the slums, especially in the Philippines. She said, "If you don't go, you will not succeed here. So go now and do that."

I always thought I would go back to law school after my mission work, but I found my way to programming and event planning in the corporate sector of Chicago. I

was three doors down from the corner of office—thinking I had made it—when the economy crashed in '08. That crash was an opportunity for me to reframe and find myself again. So I dove headfirst into nonprofit work in Chicago while earning my MBA.

**What did that nonprofit work look like?**

During that time, I worked for the first African American woman on the federal bench in Illinois, Judge Ann Williams. I was the fundraiser for her foundation, which supported youth programs that helped underserved kids get into college and law school and get clerkships. I learned everything about justice, equity, and diversity from Judge Williams and her colleagues. Later, I met another mentor, an attorney, who brought me into juvenile justice, advocating for kids who ended up in the system. It was that work that led me to where I am now.

**I'm curious about the leap—or link—between juvenile justice and food insecurity.**

Prior to me leaving Chicago in 2017, one in four homeless adults in the United States was a former youth in care, meaning they had spent time in the juvenile justice system. And a lot of kids we saw ended up in the system because of outcomes related to hunger, neglect, poor nutrition, and lack of safe, stable, humane housing. We used to say in juvenile justice that we're at least two years behind the eight ball by the time a kid gets assigned to us.

I spoke to a lot of people who work in trauma and community building, especially in Chicago. My "aha moment" came when I realized I could combat issues we were seeing in juvenile justice by building food security.

**What's the difference between food emergency work and food security?**

There's a huge difference. Emergency work is just that—combatting hunger in emergency situations. Food security is different and largely about ongoing access. It was defined in 2001 by the United Nations, and they're working on an expanded definition now, which I'll use here: True food security exists when all people at all times have economic, physical, and social access to safe, sufficient, nutritious food for an active and healthy lifestyle. Their definition also includes dietary and cultural preferences.



**“One in 12 people in New Jersey is food insecure—that means that one in 12 people have to decide between buying food or spending money on another need.”**

**This is clearly a national issue, but this is a state-focused job. What does food insecurity look like in New Jersey?**

The challenges in New Jersey are not novel or new. Many of these problems are problems that have existed for quite some time in our state and in the country. The pandemic in 2020 just burned away the curtain that diverted our focus from this area. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one in 12 people in New Jersey is food insecure—that means that one in 12 people have to decide between buying food or spending money on another need.

In addition, our costs are higher in New Jersey, so food simply costs more. And transportation is an issue here. Families need transportation to get the services they need. Those are just two of the issues that are specific to our state.

**This role is the first for the state, but it's also a first for the nation. What's expected of you in the position in New Jersey? And what are you trying to establish for the country as you and your team build this out?**

To be clear, there are a lot of other food security advocates from the other states. The difference with my office, and I think it's part of the reason that makes New Jersey unique in this food security work, is that I'm the only state-level, executive-branch-level food security advocate.

What's expected of me? I asked Governor Murphy, one on one, "What do you want me to do with this office?" And he looked at me and said, "Move the needle."

As a nation, we have tremendous opportunity right now. This White House administration created the first hunger conference in 60 years, so there's this spotlight on food security work. As a nation, we are looking at this with greater intention. There's a lot of great research going on right now—community-driven, participatory research and trauma-informed research. What that means is we're not treating people as numbers, but we're actually listening to communi-

ties. The pandemic supercharged us locally into where we were already headed with food security, and now we're supercharging where we're headed as a nation. If we're going to move the needle on food security—if I'm going to do what my boss has asked me to do—we have to focus our collective impact on empowering communities. We have to look at three aspects of food security and empower our communities to reach them: economic, physical, and social access.

**You approach your work from what's called a holistic, trauma-informed lens. What does that mean to you?**

A lot of my food security work is tied to adverse childhood experiences—trauma like physical or sexual abuse, violence in the home or community, stress. To combat this kind of trauma, you have to build community.

There are five major aspects of food security: access, availability, utilization, stability, and agency. So the connection is if you care about preventing trauma, then you have to care about community building. If you care about community building, you have to figure out how to do it.

Dinglasan (center) meeting with representatives from Monmouth County-area food security organizations in March: (from left) Karyn Moskowitz from Interfaith Neighbors and Tracy Wilson, Linda Kellner, and Dawn Dell'Ormo from Mercy Center.

And I think the way we do it is through food security and breaking down access barriers.

**How do we go about accomplishing that? What does that mean in real terms?**

I am organizing my work into three buckets. First, informing policy. We have a tremendous policy window here in New Jersey where our state assembly, our state senate, and our governor's office are open to and creating these forward-thinking, nation-leading policies around food security. Now, somebody's going to say, "Oh, you're just saying that because you're part of the administration." The reality is, I'm a nonprofit guy who has worked on the front lines and never in a million years thought I would be the first nationwide state-level food security advocate. So for as long as I am in this role, I can advocate for and be in meetings where I say, "Hey, do you know that food security is tied to trauma and adversity? Do you know that if we want to end hunger we have to focus on economic mobility? And by the way, here's research from New York, from Chicago, from Ohio that shows how it's being done in other states." I can share that knowledge and advocate for support from our partners in the legislature.

Second, philanthropy. Donations and gifts across the nation used to fund food programs, but the pandemic taught us that that's not good enough. Where else should we be directing funds? I'll be working with multiple foundations to build consensus around what we should be supporting.

Lastly, I'll be working with local organizations—food banks, food pantries, housing organizations—so that we're all saying the same thing and agreeing on the same definitions. What is the definition of food security? What is the definition of hunger? What does it mean to be food insecure?

We have to build common language and common understanding so that, collectively, we understand what helps and what hurts. And if we do that, then we can move the needle. ☪

90  
Things  
to LOVE about  
Monmouth

In honor of Monmouth's 90th anniversary, we present this unapologetically idiosyncratic, somewhat randomly ordered assortment of the people, places, experiences, and traditions that make our University special.

COMPILED BY TONY MARCHETTI & BREANNE MCCARTHY  
ILLUSTRATION BY LUKE LUCAS

# 1 The Beach

Less than one mile from campus, the beach is where our students go to surf, soak up the sun, and relax with friends—and some are even lucky enough to see the waves crashing from their residence hall adjacent to the boardwalk.



# 2 Our Mascot

Energetic and fun-loving, Shadow the Hawk can always be spotted shaking a tail feather at sporting events and campus celebrations.



# 3

## Our Trailblazers

Thirty-three percent of current undergraduate students are the first in their family to pursue a college degree, and Monmouth's personalized approach to serving them has earned the University national designation as a First-gen Forward Institution by the Center for First Generation Student Success.

# 5

## Location, Location, Location

Situated in idyllic West Long Branch, New Jersey, less than one mile from the Atlantic Ocean and one hour from New York City, Monmouth's coastal campus offers easy access to a host of cultural and recreational opportunities, from the boutique shops and eateries lining the streets of Long Branch to the upscale offerings of Pier Village to nature hikes in nearby Atlantic Highlands and Sandy Hook. Our unrivaled location also impacts and enhances learning experiences. Students study marine and environmental biology at sea. They intern at Fortune 500 companies in New York City. They perform and pursue their artistic passions in Red Bank's renowned theater district and Asbury Park's legendary music and arts scene.

# 4

## Our Championship Culture

Monmouth's small-school feel belies the big-school vibes of its Division I athletics program, which has won 152 regular season championships, compiled 45 NCAA Tournament appearances, and produced 127 professional athletes—all while competing against some of the biggest programs in the country.



# 6

## Our Beautiful Campus

Monmouth's picturesque, 170-acre campus is home to state-of-the-art labs and learning spaces, multiple theaters and art galleries, Division I-level athletic facilities, ample green space, and two historic buildings. It's no surprise ours has been named one of the 10 most beautiful campuses in the world.



# 7

## No Lecture Halls

With class sizes capped at 35, no classes taught by graduate students, and a student-to-faculty ratio of 12:1, Monmouth gives students more opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue with their professors. It's what a highly personalized educational experience should look like.

## No. 9 Our Palace of Books

The opulent building into which generations of Monmouth students have withdrawn in search of a quiet place to study originally served as the summer retreat of Murry and Leonie Guggenheim, American socialites known for their extravagant wealth and philanthropy. Modeled after the Petit Trianon, which stands on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles, the Guggenheim Memorial Library (below) was conveyed to Monmouth in 1960 and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



## No. 12 Apt Descriptors

Cited as one of the state’s “grandest campus buildings,” the Great Hall at Shadow Lawn is a registered National Historic Landmark and serves as the iconic centerpiece of campus. Built in 1929 as the private residence of former F.W. Woolworth Co. president Hubert Templeton Parson and his wife, Maysie, the interior design was led by Julian Abele, one of the country’s first professionally trained African American architects. The mansion, which boasts 130 rooms and 50 varieties of Italian marble, has served as the setting for weddings, private events, and movies, most notably *Annie*. But perhaps the building’s greatest role is its recent return to a central campus hub for students, who get to study and collaborate within its walls.

## No. 8

### Peaceful Pursuits

Monmouth was the first college in New Jersey to offer the Peace Corps Volunteer Preparatory Program, which helps students build the competencies needed to serve as an agency volunteer, and ranked No. 5 in the nation on the Peace Corps’ most recent list of the top certificate-issuing schools.

## No. 10

### Our 10th Prez

He’s a perennial inclusion on lists of the top influencers in higher education, so we’d be remiss if we left Monmouth’s 10th president, Patrick F. Leahy, off our list. While guiding us through the COVID-19 pandemic, Leahy has helped Monmouth achieve its highest-ever ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*, usher in a new era in athletics by joining the Colonial Athletic Association, launch a five-year strategic plan, bring Commencement back to campus, and continue to set new benchmarks in the diversity and academic preparedness of its incoming classes.

## No. 11

### The NEST

Seeing an uptick nationally in the number of college students who reported being food insecure, the Student Government Association created this student-run food pantry to support Monmouth students who are food insecure by providing nonperishable food items, beverages, and personal hygiene items donated from the community.

## No. 13

### Our Remington

The library has on permanent display one of Frederic Remington’s most famous sculptures, “The Bronco Buster” No. 35. The iconic sculpture—of which an earlier casting of the same work has been a longtime fixture in the Oval Office—was donated to the University by the Guggenheim family in 1989.



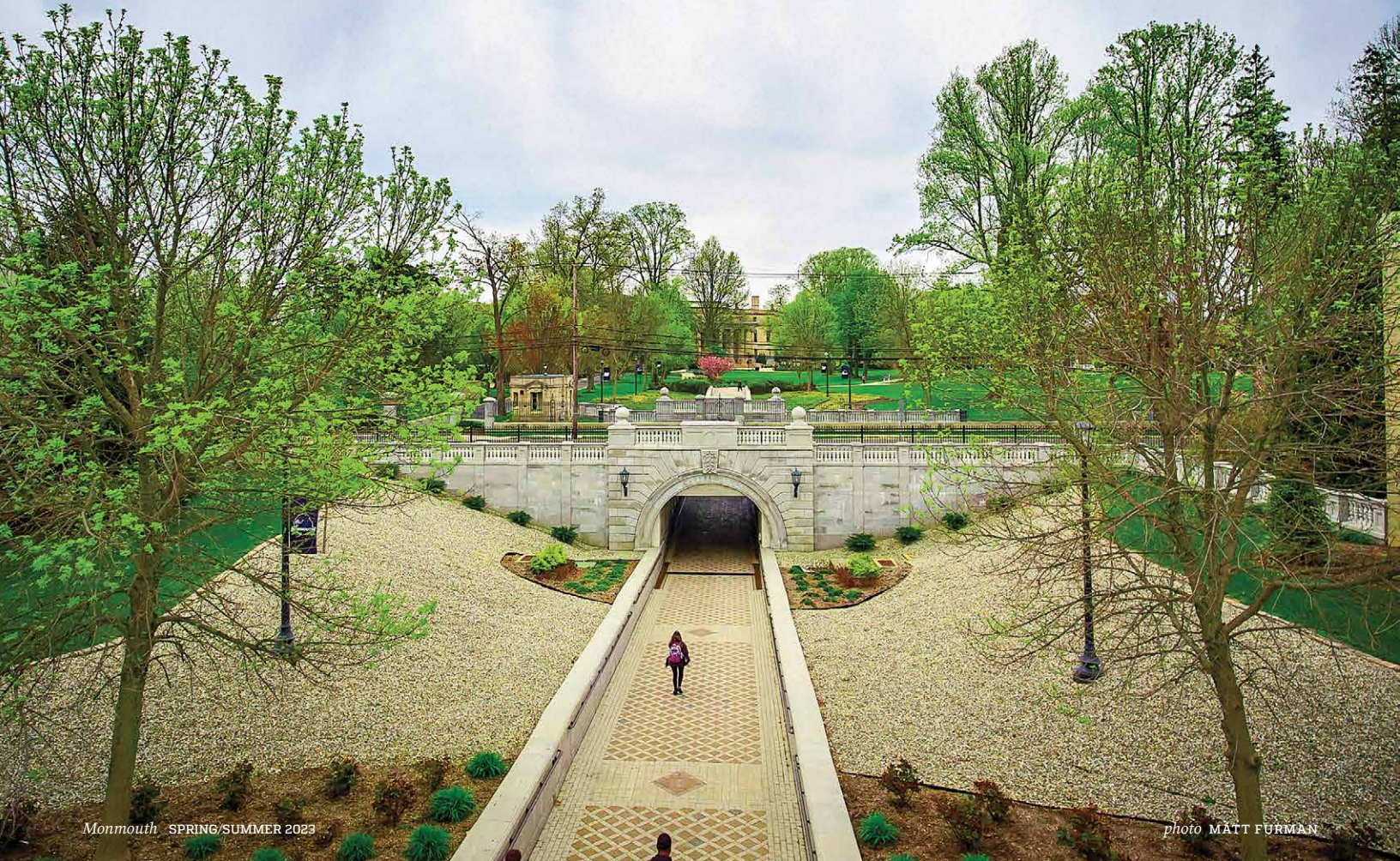
## No. 14 Women’s Rowing

The newest addition to Monmouth’s athletics program made a splash by winning multiple medals during its first year of competition.



# No. 15 Not-So-Pedestrian Passages

Even bridge and tunnel traffic will bring a smile to your face here, whether you're traversing the Arthur M. Greenbaum Bridge, which connects Pozycki and Bey Halls and offers a unique view of beautiful Torcivia Common below, or passing friends in the Swannack Gateway (aka, "the tunnel"), the subterranean passageway that links the north and south sides of the main campus.



# No. 16 The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music

Housing close to 35,000 items—including Springsteen's written works, photographs, periodicals, and other artifacts—the Archives is literally the Promised Land to scholars, authors, and fans who have a serious interest in the singer's life and prolific career. The Archives also creates traveling exhibits, educational conferences, public programs, teacher workshops, and scholastic field trips aimed at exploring the American music tradition and furthering academic discourse in various fields of American music. This spring, it hosted its inaugural American Music Honors event, and in 2025, it will open an exhibition space in Springsteen's hometown, Freehold, New Jersey.



## No. 17 No. 18 No. 19 No. 20 No. 21

### Student Scholarship Week

Held yearly every April, this weeklong series of events showcases and celebrates student achievement in research, writing, the arts, service learning, clinical experiences, and leadership development.

### The Number 18

What's the significance, you ask? That's Monmouth's ranking on *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Regional Universities North list—the University's highest ever—and the number of consecutive years Monmouth has been named one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates by The Princeton Review.

### Our Poll Position

Monmouth's Polling Institute has been called "freakishly accurate," "the gold standard of polling in New Jersey," and "one of the most respected and highly regarded measures of public opinion in the nation" by various media outlets. Its recent A rating from FiveThirtyEight only reaffirms its standing as one of the country's most accurate polling operations.

### Our Coastal Crusaders

Since its founding in 2005, the Urban Coast Institute has been making the region's coastal communities more resilient to the impacts of storms and climate change, and the region's waterways cleaner and healthier, while working to ensure that future ocean management actions and policies are based on the best available science.

### The Parton Broadcasting Center

Can't make it to a game? You can still catch all the action from home thanks to the ultramodern Parton Broadcasting Center, which enables the award-winning (and primarily student-composed) Monmouth Digital Network team to broadcast Hawks athletics contests on the YES Network, SportsNet New York, and NBC Sports Philadelphia and stream it to FloSports.

# No. 22 Our Big Bird

Twenty-two—that’s the wingspan (in feet) of The Hawk at Brockriede Common, the gargantuan bronze sculpture depicting a real-life version of our mascot. Sculpted by world-renowned artist Brian Hanlon ’88, the Hawk’s larger-than-life proportions—15 feet tall and weighing 29,000 pounds—symbolize the outsize spirit, energy, and enthusiasm of Monmouth’s students, staff, alumni, and supporters.



# No. 23 So Sweet A Cat Field

Despite its feline implication, the name of Monmouth’s field hockey field comes from a racehorse once owned by the late Jane Freed ’81, whose gift helped make the field turf possible.



# No. 24

## We “DIG” Diversity

Monmouth’s Diversity Innovation Grants provide funding for campus initiatives that encourage conversation, learning, and connection across race, religion, class, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, and nationality—helping to make the University a more inclusive, affirming, and equitable community.

# No. 26

## Entrepreneurship Thrives Here

There’s a history of innovation at Monmouth, where in the past, business students have brought products ranging from pasta sauce to perfume to market. With the recent launch of a reimagined Center for Entrepreneurship, there is a renewed focus on fostering opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity for all members of the campus community, as well as the surrounding state and regional communities.

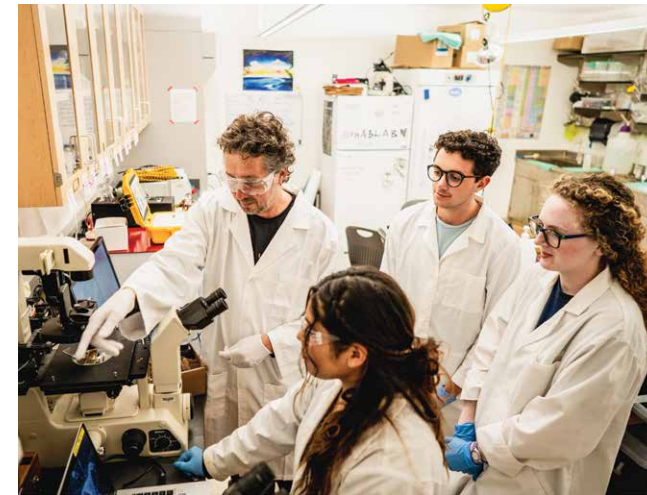
# No. 27

## Open Ears

Established in May 2020 to meet the growing need for counseling services to support people through the COVID-19 pandemic, Monmouth’s award-winning Community Care Telehealth Clinic is still going strong, providing free, online therapeutic support for adults across New Jersey and real-world field internship opportunities for our clinical graduate students.

# No. 25 Asbury Park

Named one of the top 25 best beach destinations in America by *Travel & Leisure*, the historic shore town is just a 15-minute drive from campus and is home to unique shops, eclectic bars and restaurants, and iconic music venues. Whether our students head to Asbury to enjoy—or perform at—a show at the Stone Pony, take in the historic architecture and iconic art scenes along the boardwalk, or grab a bite to eat with friends, this cultural hub is an unofficial extension of campus that can’t be beat.



# No. 28 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Abound

From studying the effects of harmful algal blooms to the psychology behind pickup lines, our undergrads collaborate on research projects, coauthor publications in leading journals, and present at regional, national, and international conferences thanks to the research opportunities that are available to them beginning their first year.



## No. 30 The Big Event

A tradition for more than two decades, Monmouth's largest single-day community service project is a chance for students to give back. Every fall, hundreds of students (as well as faculty and staff members) fan out across the region to help local neighbors, social service agencies, and community organizations through service projects ranging from painting and yard work to community cleanups to working with the elderly.



## No. 34 The Best View in College Soccer

Is there a more serene setting for soccer than Hesse Field on The Great Lawn? We think not.

## No. 29

### Spreading Social Justice

Established through a \$2 million grant from the Grunin Foundation, Monmouth's Social Justice Academy fosters equity beyond campus by training regional K-12 educators how to model, coach, and teach about social justice in their respective school districts.

## No. 31

### Our Grammy Partnership

Monmouth was one of the first universities nationwide to partner with the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum, which provides our students, faculty, and staff access to the museum's content for educational purposes, curriculum resources, professional development seminars, unique student internship opportunities, and more.

## No. 32

### The Linda Grunin Simulation Lab and Learning Center

Built in partnership with Monmouth Medical Center with funding from the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, this state-of-the-art health care education and training facility enables Monmouth's nursing, physician assistant, and occupational therapy students to learn in a realistic simulation environment, ensuring they're prepared to deliver quality health care to the region once they graduate.

## No. 33

### Our Faculty

Award-winning authors. Fulbright recipients. Grant-funded researchers. Our faculty are leaders in their respective fields whom you'll see quoted in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* and spot on the National Geographic channel. But above all, our professors are mentors who are committed first and foremost to their students' success.



## No. 35 Our Picture-Perfect Peristyle

The picturesque center of campus, Erlanger Memorial Gardens include two unique features: a peristyle, or a row of covered columns that encloses one side, and a "water organ" fountain that is modeled on the Colonnade at Versailles. Between the unique architectural design and lush landscape, the space is one of the most photographed spots on campus.



No.

## 36 Our Floating Classroom

At 49 feet, the R/V Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe is Monmouth's largest research vessel, enabling faculty and students to conduct research at sea. With the capacity to take classes of 20 students out on the water, the R/V is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and can sleep up to eight researchers for overnight, around-the-clock operations to support experiential learning and discovery.

No.

## 37 Science on Display

At \$40 million, the renovation and expansion of Edison Science Building was the largest academic construction project in University history. Completed in 2018, the state-of-the-art building includes 12 faculty research labs, a tissue culture lab, seven prep labs, nine instrument labs, 15 write-up rooms, a herbarium and vivarium, large exterior windows, and glass walls throughout the interior—which truly puts the work of our faculty and student researchers on display.



No.

## 38 Finding Your Niche

With more than 125 student clubs and organizations to choose from, our students can explore their passion, whether it's cleaning local beaches, leading a campus governing body, or competing nationally and internationally with the Debate Hawks and Model UN teams against such schools as Georgetown, Cornell, Oxford, and Cambridge.

No.

## 39

### Hawk TV

For more than 25 years, Hawk TV has been giving students hands-on, immersive television production experience. Students from any major can crew the station's shows, which are broadcast 24/7 from the Monty Television Studio.

No.

## 40

### WMCX

As its slogan proclaims, Monmouth's student-run radio station has been "Rockin' the Shore Since '74"—save for an 11-month period in the mid-1980s when a fire destroyed the original studio. Originally broadcasting at 88.1 before moving to 88.9 in 1988, the station's mix of music, news, and special events is now heard around the world through streaming.

No.

## 41

### There's an App for Us

Looking for something to do? The Experience Monmouth App, which is available on the Apple and Google Play stores, helps you stay in the know on a variety of campus happenings throughout the year.

No.

## 42

### Hawk Capital

Monmouth's student-managed investment fund gives finance students real-world security analysis and portfolio management experience by having them oversee an actual portfolio valued at over \$300,000.



No. **43** **Parson Café**

Located on the first floor of the Great Hall, the new go-to spot for students, faculty, and staff looking to get their caffeine fix serves up local fav Booskerdoo Coffee.

No. **44**

**The Kislak Real Estate Institute**

Launched in 2006, the institute was the first credit-bearing academic real estate program in New Jersey, and thanks to a recent \$2 million pledge from the Kislak Family Foundation, it is well positioned to continue providing Monmouth students with the skills needed for successful careers in commercial real estate.

No. **45**

**OceanFirst Bank Center**

Located in the heart of campus, the Center is home to the bookstore, fitness center, Leon Hess Champions' Hall, the Athletic Hall of Fame, an indoor track, the Dr. Marilyn A. McNeil Arena, and—for a brief period in 2013—about 1,000 area residents who sought shelter there during Superstorm Sandy.

No. **46**

**Rare Books**

James Joyce once said, "Life is too short to read a bad book." We're certain he'd approve of the selections in the Library's Rare Books Collection, which includes works from such important writers as John Milton, Virginia Woolf, Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. There's even a Paris and Company first edition of Joyce's own masterpiece, *Ulysses*.

No. **47**

**Tuesday Night Record Club**

A book club but for records, this event series is a fan favorite for music lovers who get together throughout the semester to listen to and talk about some of the greatest records of all time.



No. **48** **The Lois Blonder Sculpture Garden**

Named in memory of the 1973 alumna, who was an artist, art collector, and benefactor of the arts, this charming patch of campus features a koi pond, walking paths, a plethora of exotic plants, and a unique cast of sculpted characters including gargoyles, cows, and dinosaurs.



No. **49** **Big Ideas**

Martin Luther King Jr. The Dalai Lama. Joyce Carol Oates. Monmouth has a long history of welcoming visionaries and thought leaders whose words have had a lasting impact on our students for generations.

## No. 50

**Charming Chimes**

Housed in the Plangere Center clock tower, Fells' Bells—dedicated to Monmouth by the late Gilbert Fell, a professor of philosophy and religion studies at Monmouth for 35 years, and his wife, Janet, a long-time employee—ring out across campus hourly.

## No. 51

**Our Fight Song**

The man behind Fells' Bells also gave Monmouth its fight song. Gilbert Fell came up with the lyrics and tune, but since he couldn't read or write music, he enlisted help from William Alexander Wollman, emeritus associate professor of music, to commit the music to paper. (Wollman, incidentally, had written the previous version of the school's Alma Mater.) Fell's fight song debuted at the men's basketball game on Feb. 3, 1997, and has been heard at countless Hawks athletics competitions since then.

## No. 52

**The Hawk Family**

Numbering more than 57,800 strong, with members living and working in all 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as 53 countries around the world, Monmouth alumni help the next generation of Hawks to soar through their generous support, volunteerism, and mentorship. Fly Hawks!

## No. 53

**The Sea Sharps**

Whether performing on campus or competing at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella, Monmouth's student a cappella group is always pitch perfect.

## No. 54

**Learning from the Pros**

A full-service production company, Monmouth University Production Services pairs students with award-winning industry professionals to produce high-quality video and digital content for regional and campus clients. Its recent feature-length documentary, *Drift*, which was featured in the Fall/Winter 2021 issue of this magazine, won Best New Jersey Film at the 2022 Indie Street Film Festival.

## No. 55

**The Outlook**

The award-winning student-run newspaper has been the go-to source for news, sports, entertainment, and opinions on campus and world events since the University was founded in 1933, launching countless students into successful journalism careers through the years.

No. 56 **Springfest**

Hosted annually by SGA, Springfest brings all of our students together before finals week for a day of music, food, games, and activities. It's the perfect send-off for our graduating seniors.



## No. 61 Kessler Stadium

The home field for more than half of Monmouth's student-athletes was made possible by a generous seven-figure gift from two ardent Hawks supporters, Henni Kantor Kessler '68 and her late husband, John '69. If you ask us, there's no better place to be on a crisp Saturday afternoon in the fall than sitting in the stands and cheering on the Hawks among a sea of blue and white.



## No. 57

### The Wishing Well

Located just inside the gates of the main entrance to campus, this oft-overlooked, one-story hut houses a wishing well that was designed for the Parsons' estate. The gnome-like structure with its concrete, triangular roof is an enduring symbol of well wishes for all who enter our campus.

## No. 58

### Our Pet Cemetery

Near the well lie two modest gravestones that mark the eternal resting spots of what were believed to be the Parsons' pets: Fluffy, who shuffled off this mortal coil on Nov. 8, 1924, and Girlie, who followed on Nov. 28, 1926.

## No. 59

### Our Students

Hola. Bonjour. Ni hao. However our students choose to say "Hello," we think it's pretty cool that they hail from 34 states, one territory, and 31 countries around the world including Costa Rica, France, and China.

## No. 60

### How It Started ... How It's Going

More than three-quarters of Monmouth seniors complete an internship during their first three years, and within nine months of graduation, 93% of Monmouth graduates are already engaged in their next step—a job or a graduate program. That's far above the national average.

## No. 62 The Center for the Arts

Throughout the year, the Center hosts hundreds of events that enrich and inspire the campus and surrounding communities. Offerings include both the Metropolitan Opera and National Theatre performances live in HD; gallery exhibitions; an array of live music, dance, and theater performances; and lectures from visiting artists and writers.



## No. 63 Homecoming

The biggest party of the year brings alumni and students together to celebrate their Hawk pride and cheer on the football team. We'll see you on Sept. 30!

No. **64** **Our Hess Toy Truck Collection**



Leon Hess, the visionary entrepreneur and oil magnate for whom Monmouth's Business School is named, introduced the replica toy version of his company's trucks in 1964, and they have been bringing smiles to children (and collectors) every year since. Monmouth's collection is on the second floor of Bey Hall, home of the Business School.

No. **65** **Hollywood Loves Us**

Monmouth's campus enjoyed starring roles in the 1982 movie *Annie* and the recent feature film *Miranda's Victim*, and through a little Hollywood magic had a blink-and-you'll-miss-it cameo in the film *Blinded by the Light*. With Netflix planning to open a major production studio a few miles up the road, we think we'll be seeing movie stars on campus again soon.



No. **66**

**Waves of Change**

Located in the Leon Hess Champions' Hall in OceanFirst Bank Center, "Waves of Change: An Interactive Exhibit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." memorializes King's visit to campus on Oct. 6, 1966, and includes the lectern and microphone from which he addressed approximately 2,600 Monmouth students, faculty, administrators, and community members in what is now Boylan Gymnasium.

No. **67**

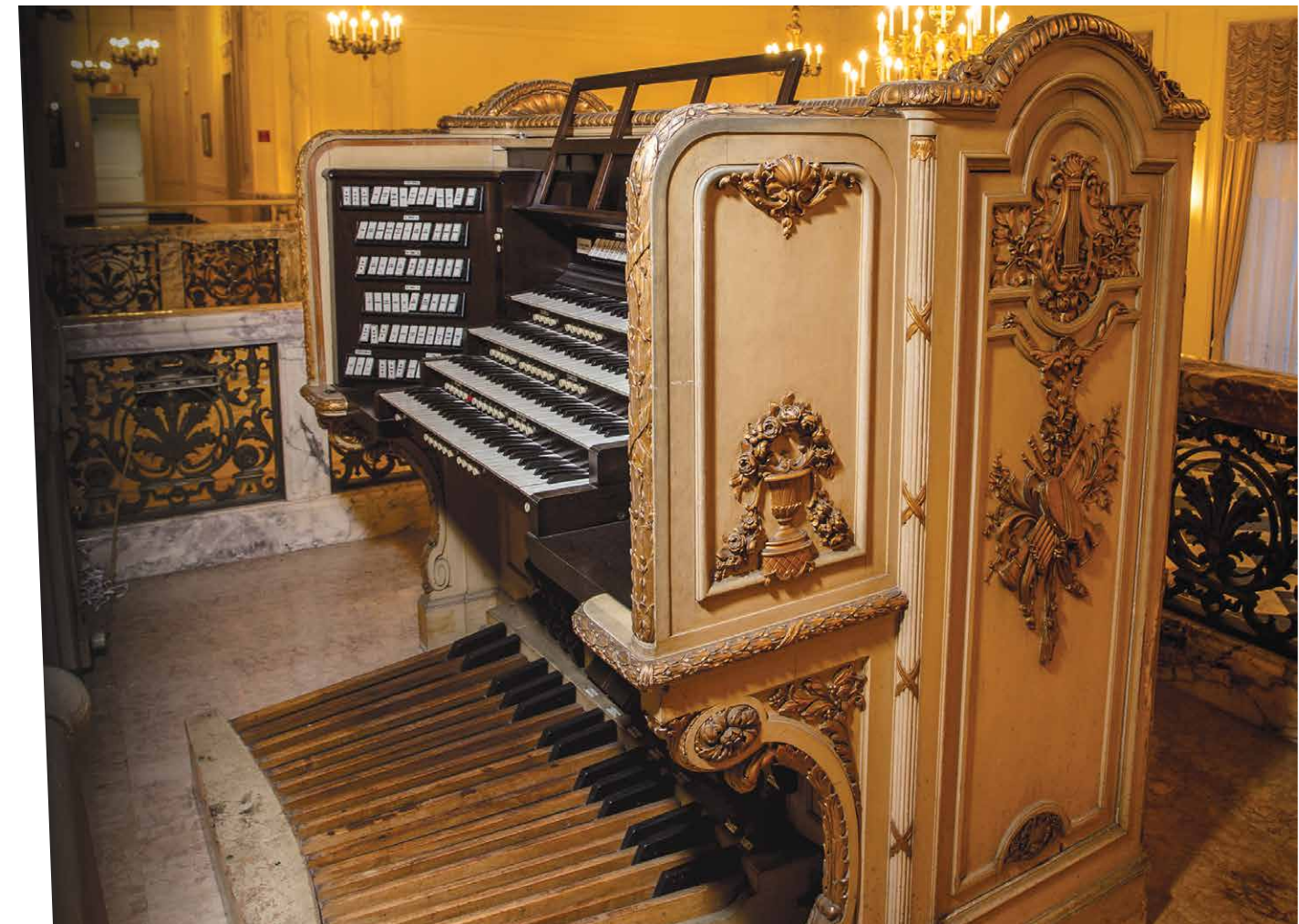
**Career Treks**

Hosted by the University's Career Development office, these daylong excursions enable students to visit companies that employ Monmouth alumni—such as Sirius XM/Pandora, Bloomberg L.P., and the New York Giants—to tour facilities and talk with industry professionals about their respective fields.

No. **68**

**Our Alleys, Past and Present**

Monmouth is home to the Ciniello Family Bowling Center, a four-lane bowling alley located inside Boylan Gymnasium that's used by our women's bowling program as well as the larger campus community. But that's not the only bowling alley on campus: There are remnants of a two-lane Brunswick bowling alley on the lower level of the Great Hall that was built for—but reportedly never used by—the Parsons.



No. **69** **Silent Beauty**

Although its sounds haven't been heard in decades, the four-manual Aeolian opus 1677 organ that stands at the top of the Great Hall's central staircase is still a sight to behold. It is reportedly the only remaining residential stereophonic surround sound Aeolian in existence today.



No. **70** **Blue Hawk Records**

Monmouth's student-run record label has been churning out a new album every semester since it was founded a decade ago. This spring marked the release of *Exit 22*, the label's 22nd record. Students from all majors can join to get hands-on experience in all aspects of running a current-day music label, from finding the talent and recording the songs to branding the label's artists and marketing and distributing the final product.



No. **71**

### Blue and White and Going Green

The University's solar-powered buildings, refillable water stations that reduce plastic waste, and award-winning broad-based recycling program are part of a concerted effort to make Monmouth a more sustainable institution. It's working: The Princeton Review's 2023 *Guide to Green Colleges* named Monmouth one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges.

No. **73**

### Monmouth Matches

In nature, hawks are monogamous, so it's no surprise that many of our students find their forever partner while pursuing their studies here. In fact, there are more than 1,400 alumni couples, many of whom participated in the first-ever vow renewal for our Monmouth Matches at this year's AlumniFest.

No. **74**

### Cultivating Town-Gown Relationships

Through the Virginia A. Cory Community Garden, members of the campus and neighboring communities come together to grow produce that supports local organizations and Monmouth County individuals and families dealing with food insecurity. The garden also hosts festivals, garden-to-table cooking classes, and educational lectures throughout the year.

No. **76**

### Birds of Prey

It's not on every college campus that one might spot the actual animal on which the school's mascot is based (we're looking at you, Princeton). But at Monmouth, it's easy to spot the hawks that call campus home, as well as other birds of prey (ospreys and bald eagles) that also forage, roost, and nest on our grounds.

## No. **72** Woods Theatre

Once the carriage house for the Guggenheim estate, the Lauren K. Woods Theatre is today an intimate 140-seat venue housed in the Department of Music and Theatre Arts. Although it's newly renovated, you can still see remnants of the horse stables in the building's features, such as the theater's makeup booths, which were built inside the still-standing solid brass horse stalls where each horse's name is spelled out in custom mosaic tiles on the back walls.



## No. **75** Our Core Values

They guide our actions and reflect our aspiration to be a national leader at integrating excellence and access.

- » Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- » Personal and Professional Integrity
- » Caring Campus Characterized by Mutual Respect
- » Empowerment of the University Community
- » Diversity
- » Service



# No. **77** Commencement on Campus (Again)

Last spring marked the formal return of Commencement to campus for the first time in nearly 20 years, allowing students to celebrate the capstone event of their college years on the picturesque campus upon which their student experience was anchored.

No. **79****Shadow Lawn**

Long before Monmouth was founded, the area upon which a portion of today's campus stands was part of an estate called Shadow Lawn. Named for the long shadows cast by the many tall trees that dotted the parklike grounds, the area remains a lush tree-lined landscape where students gather to study, soak up the sun, and enjoy the special celebrations and gatherings held in the serene setting.

No. **80****Unique Career Combos**

What do software engineering and history have in common? At Monmouth, students can combine interdisciplinary studies like these to obtain an accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree that satisfies both their career goals and passions. With more than 200 combinations, our Bachelor's + Master's program is a no-brainer for high-achieving students who want the freedom to explore what inspires them while accelerating their future.

No. **82****All the Pretty Pictures**

Anyone seeking a moment of quiet contemplation would be wise to stroll through one of Monmouth's three art galleries (DiMattio, Rotary Ice House, and Pollak), which feature rotating exhibitions from regional, national, and international artists whose works challenge public perceptions of civil, social, and aesthetic issues affecting society. The University also has an extensive permanent collection, and many of those works have been digitized and can be viewed online.

No. **78** **Winter Ball**

For decades, students have been dressing to the nines and dancing the night away in a decked-out Great Hall at this time-honored tradition. Complete with themed decor, the event is open to all students and includes music, food, drinks, and entertainment.

No. **81** **Puppies and Ice Cream ...**

... and goats, oh my! These are just a few of the offerings at the various destress events happening throughout the year. Goat yoga? Check. Need to hug a therapy dog? We got you. College can be stressful, so there's never a shortage of fun—and often scrumptious—ways to unwind between studies.



photos (from top) MIKE LANIS, ANTHONY DEPRIMO

No. **83** **Our Iconic Gates**

A remnant of the Guggenheim estate, the gates were moved down the road from their original location on Cedar Avenue, widened, and now serve as the picturesque entryway to the residential side of campus—a threshold for first-year students arriving on Move-In Day, a welcome sight to returning visitors, and one of the most photographed spots on campus.

No. **84** **Alma Mater**

When Monmouth attained University status in 1995, it needed a new Alma Mater. After a section of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony ("Ode to Joy") was selected for the musical portion, a call went out to the campus community seeking lyrical submissions. The winner: Louis Nappen '90, '92M, whose words were first sung at Founders' Day Convocation on Oct. 11, 1995.



**Symbol of our skills and virtues,  
Herald of our dignity;  
With these praises we salute you,  
Monmouth University.**

photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO

## No. 85 Ornate Beauty

It's everywhere you look on campus, but perhaps nowhere as colorful as when you're standing below the Great Hall's 100-foot-long Venetian stained glass skylight, which bathes our iconic building in amber light by day and is lit up by 156 LED bulbs at night.

## No. 86

### Monmouth Magazine

Sure, we're a bit biased, but this award-winning magazine has been keeping the Hawk family engaged and connected for more than four decades.

## No. 88

### Partying with a Purpose

The Gala at the Great Hall unites the Monmouth community amidst the grandeur of the Great Hall for a celebration like no other while raising vital support for the Access Fund, which helps fund scholarships for students with unmet financial need. Last year's event raised nearly half a million dollars.

## No. 87

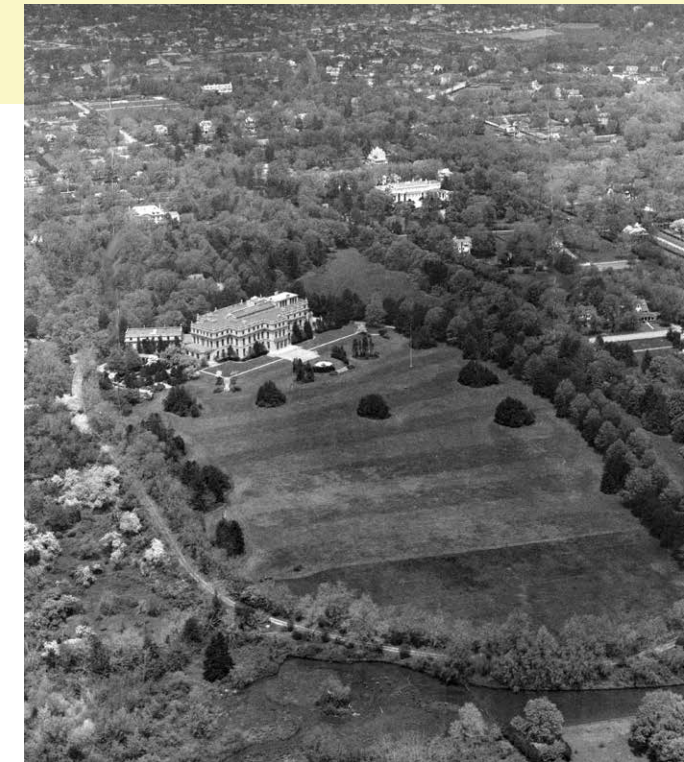
### Financial Markets Lab

Complete with a real-time trading room ticker, the Tom Byer '67 & Susie Byer Financial Markets Lab gives our students hands-on experience analyzing market and financial data by employing the same technology and techniques used by Wall Street professionals.

## No. 89

### Withey Chapel

Named for a pundit of poultry pathology and composed with materials imported from a 16th-century Tudor abbey, the chapel, which is on the lower level of the Great Hall, originally served as the Parsons' "English lounge." Its namesake, Clarence "Walt" Withey, worked for them in the 1930s, during which time he saved the couple's turkeys from a life-threatening disease. Years later, when Withey returned to what was then Monmouth Junior College to serve as bursar, he restored the space, which had fallen into disrepair after the Parsons were forced to sell the mansion. On Nov. 22, 1969, the chapel was dedicated in Withey's honor.



## No. 90 Years of History

From its humble beginnings as a junior college that was founded to serve as a stepping stone for local students whose families were impacted by the Great Depression to today, a nationally recognized, Division I, private institution dedicated to making an exceptional education accessible to all, Monmouth University revels in the accomplishments of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni and looks with promise to the years ahead. 🍷

**Tell Us What We Missed.** Did we leave one of your favorites off the list? Write us at [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) and let us know what you love about Monmouth University.

**DAMNING**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CAPS  
ITS FIRST SEASON IN THE CAA WITH THE  
PROGRAM'S FIRST NCAA BID IN 40 YEARS.**

BY MARK GOLA | PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONMOUTH ATHLETICS



**AGAWAN**



**WHEN GINNY BOGGESS WAS NAMED HEAD COACH OF MONMOUTH'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM IN APRIL 2020, SHE ISSUED A PROMISE TO THE HAWK FAITHFUL THAT NEW CHAMPIONSHIP BANNERS WOULD ACCOMPANY THOSE HANGING IN THE OCEANFIRST BANK CENTER.**

Those were bold words for a first-time head coach who was taking over a program that had compiled an 11-38 record over its past two seasons. But boldness should never be mistaken for arrogance. Bold leaders believe in their intentions, guide with conviction, and harvest the courage to be innovative in the pursuit of greatness.

In her second season, Boggess led her team to the NCAA Championship Tournament, the program's first trip in 40 years. The Hawks advanced following a historic run in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championship Tournament, winning four straight games that included victories over the top three seeds in the field.

Banners are being printed; expect the lettering to be boldfaced.

"I didn't anticipate it would happen this quickly, particularly with the move to the CAA," says Boggess. "This championship was the result of a process, and it's not just about what we did, but how we did it. This is an incredible group of women who are humble, care about each other, and are now forever connected."

Standing atop a ladder to snip the strings of a championship net is the ultimate feeling (and photo op) in college basketball. For Boggess, the climb began the day she arrived on campus.



**FIRST QUARTER: A CHANGE IN CULTURE**

"Create a winning culture" is a buzz phrase often used by new head coaches; achieving it is never a guarantee. Boggess began her mission using a simple tactic: communication. She met and talked with her players, but equally importantly, she listened to them. Boggess was eager to build a rapport that extended beyond the hardwood and the classroom. To earn their trust, Boggess needed the student-athletes to sense that she cared about them personally.

"My first impression was how comfortable I was around her," says junior point guard Ari Vanderhoop. "I mean, we went out for ice cream in our first meeting, so what a way to start! In our individual meeting, she began by asking how I was doing as a person. Then we talked about academics and basketball was last. It was clear that she cared about us from day one."

Above, top: Ari Vanderhoop pulls up for a shot during the Hawks' NCAA tournament game against Tennessee Tech. Bottom: Bri Tinsley brings the ball up court against Northeastern in the CAA semifinal game.

Opposite page: Coach Ginny Boggess talks with her squad during a February game against CAA foe North Carolina A&T.

**"IF I TURN THE BALL OVER AND IT'S AN AGGRESSIVE MISTAKE, COACH BOGGY WANTS ME TO FOCUS ON THE NEXT PLAY—THAT'S IT. THAT GIVES ALL OF US THE CONFIDENCE TO BE AGGRESSIVE MAKING PLAYS. FEAR HOLDS YOU BACK ON THE COURT, AND WE DON'T HAVE THAT HERE."**

Boggess established a set of core values for her program driven by the acronym NEST (Navigate. Energize. Sharpen. Trust.). The goal was to create a family atmosphere that fostered connectivity and faith in one another. They would win together, lose together, train hard as a unit, and have each other's backs in times of peril.

"When we hired Ginny, the number one priority was getting the student-athletes to love playing basketball again," says Jeff Stapleton, director of athletics. "It was amazing how quickly she was able to develop such a strong culture. Ginny looks out for her players and what is best for them, and they trust that."

The process wasn't all sunshine and rainbows. Boggess was determined to establish an identity of discipline and toughness, and that required a commitment to intense practices and conditioning. She wanted to push the pace of play and implement a style that generated more opportunities on offense and fewer second chances on defense.

Perhaps the greatest impact Boggess had on the players (and program) was her outlook on mistakes. Mistakes on the court were understood, provided they were aggressive mistakes. That mentality lifted a haze of playing conservatively—or, frankly, playing in fear of being pulled.

"If I turn the ball over and it's an aggressive mistake, Coach Boggy wants me to focus on the next play—that's it," says Vanderhoop. "That gives all of us the confidence to be aggressive making plays. Fear holds you back on the court, and we don't have that here."

The first season under Boggess saw points per game rise from 46.0 to 59.2. Three-point field goals nearly doubled, from 3.9 to 6.2 per contest. Assists climbed from 9.6 to 12.8, rebounds went up, turnovers went down, and the Hawks erased memories of a 2-16 season by posting a 14-16 mark in 2021-22.

The Monmouth women's basketball program had a bounce in its step for the first time in years, but a new challenge was looming.



## SECOND QUARTER: WELCOME TO THE CAA

When Monmouth accepted the invitation to join the CAA last year, it meant the Hawks would be competing against league opponents in eight states outside New Jersey, canvassing the East Coast from Massachusetts to South Carolina. The league was stronger than the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and had greater visibility.

“Accepting the offer allowed us to align ourselves with some really fine institutions,” says Stapleton. “It broadens our recruiting base, not just for athletics but the institution as a whole.”

The immediate reality, however, was—oh boy. Greater size and athleticism in opponents, increased travel, and unfamiliarity with the league topped the list of worries for Boggess. Monmouth was picked to finish 10th in the CAA preseason poll, and the tenacious young head coach knew she needed to shift her focus from what concerned her to what she could control.

“I was getting squirrely about the move to the CAA and ultimately decided to put my head down and coach my team,” says Boggess. “I started to think about what we could be best at in the league. We needed to hold the opponent to one shot and force them to defend us in transition. If they’re able to get set, we needed to be the best three-point shooting team in the CAA.”

The players left the worrying to the coaches. They were excited about the upgrade in competition and poised to build off the momentum from the previous season. A double shot of graduate student transfers—Bri Tinsley from James Madison University and Lovin Marsicano from St. Joseph’s University—also infused the roster with energy and optimism.

“We knew it was a big jump but felt we were capable,” says Vanderhoop. “We attacked the challenge from the summer

Above: Boggess talks with her players during the CAA championship game against Towson University.

Opposite page, top: Jania Hall goes for a layup against a College of Charleston defender during the opening game in the CAA Tournament. Bottom: The Hawks celebrate a win over Stony Brook University in the regular season finale.

right up to the season. And the travel didn’t bother us. It made us feel more big-time!”

Monmouth showed up big-time by winning its first two conference matchups. A victory over Northeastern and a 20-point triumph at Delaware validated the Hawks’ presence and sent a message to the CAA. This season wasn’t about survival. It was about continuing the program’s revival.

## THIRD QUARTER: THE RUN

On Feb. 3, the 1983 Monmouth women’s basketball team was honored before a home game against Hofstra University. Former Head Coach Milt Parker joined members of the championship squad that had been the last women’s team to compete in the NCAA championship tournament. The proud alumnae met with current Hawk players before the game.

“They shared their experiences from that season,” says Vanderhoop. “They kept joking with us saying, ‘83 needs some company!”

Monmouth posted a 9–9 league record and earned the No. 7 seed in the CAA Championship Tournament. The Hawks coasted to a 69–54 victory over 10th-seeded Charleston, advancing to a quarterfinal matchup with second-seeded Drexel. The Hawks shot 50% from 3-point range to eliminate the Dragons and move on to the semifinals to battle Northeastern. Down by four points at the half, Monmouth used

**“I TOLD THEM THEY BELONGED UP ON THAT PODIUM BECAUSE THEY WERE CHAMPIONS. NO ONE CAN EVER TAKE THAT AWAY FROM THEM. WATCHING THEM DANCE AND CELEBRATE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND SEEING THE PURE JOY ON THEIR FACES—IT WILL BE HARD TO ECLIPSE THE FEELINGS I HAD EXPERIENCING THOSE MOMENTS.”**

back-to-back 3-pointers by junior Kaci Donovan to spark a 22–8 run in the third quarter and oust the third-seeded Huskies.

In just three days, the Hawks had knocked off three CAA opponents to advance to the championship match against top-seeded Towson University.

“I couldn’t believe how well conditioned we were during the tournament,” says Stapleton. “We seemed to get stronger as the tournament went on. We shared the ball beautifully and never had to rely on one player.”

With Monmouth’s warmup video playing prior to the championship game, Boggess looked over at her five starters sitting on the bench. She noticed Tinsley was crying and thought to herself, *not good*. Boggess then saw Marsicano was crying, and the tears continued down the line.

“I get emotional talking about this, but I quickly realized that they weren’t scared, they were grateful,” says Boggess. “They had an opportunity to live out their dream and win a championship with the people they loved. They were ready.”

The starting five rose from the bench empowered by unity and the gift of playing basketball with freedom. Tinsley immediately set the tone by draining a 3-pointer with the game’s opening shot. The Hawks overwhelmed the Tigers, mounting a 15–2 run and never relinquishing the lead. Monmouth closed the game by outscoring the top seed 18–2, capturing the program’s first CAA title and a ticket to the NCAA tourney for the first time in four decades.

“I told them they belonged up on that podium because they were champions,” says Boggess. “No one can ever take that

away from them. Watching them dance and celebrate with their families and seeing the pure joy on their faces—it will be hard to eclipse the feelings I had experiencing those moments.”

## FOURTH QUARTER: THE ULTIMATE DANCE

Every championship run has its ritual or theme song. The Philadelphia Phillies had “Dancing on My Own,” so what about the Hawks?

“The Griddy Dance’ was our dance throughout the tournament,” says Vanderhoop. “We did it anytime, anywhere, but especially before games and after wins.”

Monmouth punched its ticket to the Big Dance, and it was time to soak up some of the spoils: the Selection Show, a chartered flight, nationally televised games, and memories that will last a lifetime.

“The swag was amazing,” says Vanderhoop. “We got March Madness hoodies, shorts, new Under Armour sneakers, a bucket hat, a nameplate. We had cameras in our face, press conferences. It was all awesome.”

The Hawks dropped a 79–69 decision to Tennessee Tech in Assembly Hall at Indiana University. Losses are always disappointing, but the coaches, support staff, athletic administration, alumni, and University community were beaming with pride.

“Something I’m most proud of is how many CAA coaches and administrators thanked me after the championship game,” says Boggess. “They told me what an incredible group of genuinely nice, respectable women we had and [that] if they didn’t win the tournament, they were rooting for Monmouth. It tells me we’re doing things the right way.

“I’m so grateful to President Leahy, our Board of Trustees, Jeff [Stapleton], our terrific alumni, and the entire Monmouth community for how much they supported us and embraced women’s basketball. This place is really special, and I’m so fortunate that I get to be a leader here.”

Boggess and her players will forever be connected to each other, but they also joined another special family. Vanderhoop had one final message to the 1983 Monmouth women’s basketball team. With a big smile, Vanderhoop softly sang the words, “Y’all got some company!”





# CLASS NOTES

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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Finding Empowerment among the Clouds

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Connecting the Dots

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Hawk Hacks

»PLUS: *Alumni Roundup, p. 60 • Celebrations, p. 62 • Remembrances, p. 70 • In Memoriam, p. 71*

[LOOKING BACK]

## Raised on Radio

**W**MCX turns 50 next year, and ahead of its golden anniversary, we want to hear from past and present staffers who have kept Monmouth's student-run radio station rocking the shore since '74.

Whether you were on the mic or behind the boards, spinning vinyl or planning programming, tell us about the highlights (and high jinks) that occurred during your days at The X. Email your stories and photos to [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or mail them to *Monmouth Magazine*, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764. 📧

# Alumni Roundup

Listed by graduation year.

## 1960s

» **Susanne (Rhodes) Gilbert '64** is happy to announce that her grandson, **Christian Gilbert-Pagan**, Class of 2026, is now the third generation of the family to attend Monmouth. Christian follows in the footsteps of his grandmother and his mother, **Beth-Gilbert-Pagan '93**.

» *Christmas in Cooperstown*, the latest novel from **Peter J. Murgio '65**, was published by Dragon Tree Books in November 2022. The novel tells the story of a 9/11 widower who leaves his rising Wall Street career to teach at his young son's school. Bonding over baseball, the father and son make a pilgrimage to Cooper-

stown, New York, the site of Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame. Through a series of twists, they both find magic, healing, and love in the town that treasures baseball—and the courage to start life anew.

» **Claire Garland '66** had her essay "Indian Summer at Sand Hill" published in the winter issue of *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, a project of the New Jersey Historical Commission, Rutgers University Libraries, and Monmouth University.

» On Oct. 22, 2022, the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity held a reunion at the Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, home of alumni **Sal Giacchi '68** and **Barbara Giacchi '75**. The last reunion was in October 2011.

## 1970s

» **Richard E. Carmichael '70**, Ph.D., has released a new book, *Common Sense Economics 2023 Edition*. The book explains most of the commonly used economic principles and presents many facts, current and past, so that readers can make up their own minds. Carmichael is the owner of R. Carmichael Company, a management consulting and publishing firm located in Conover, North Carolina. He previously was an adjunct professor of business administration at Gardner-Webb University. In addition, he served as the Alex Lee Professor of Business at Lenoir-Rhyne University. He was also a visiting professor of finance at Washington College and a faculty associate with the Johns Hopkins University Division of Business. In addition, he has held executive positions with Bank of America Corp., First Interstate Bank, and Manufacturers Hanover Corp. He has more than 10 years' experience with the U.S. government as budget manager for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Maryland and as branch chief for credit programs for the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C.

## 1980s

» **Marie Beebe McGuinness '80, '90M, '97M**, also known as Cornelia James, had her first novel, *The Italian Shoes*, published on Jan. 9, 2023. The novel, available on BookBaby.com, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble, follows the

adventures of a young woman, Maggie Carruthers, as she rebuilds her life and gets a second chance at love.

» **John M. Wolkstein '82** was inducted into the Livingston High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his athletic accomplishments as a student and for his contributions as a longtime booster. Wolkstein was a standout defender on the high school's 1976 conference championship soccer team and 1977 North Jersey Group IV championship and conference championship soccer team. Wolkstein played three seasons of varsity soccer at Monmouth.

## 1990s

» On July 30, 2022, **Edward Dowling '92** retired from the Office of Comptroller of the Currency after a 30-year career. Several alumni were in attendance at a party celebrating Dowling's achievement: **Kristin (Woodier) Dowling '91, Danny Fiore '89, Hannah (Culp) Fiore '91, Bruno Ippolito '91, Colleen (Lee) Ippolito '91, Robert Woodier Jr. '98, Nicole (Woodier) Casale '95**.

» **George Sourlis '92M** is the new head coach of the Red Bank Regional High School District's boys basketball team. Sourlis formerly coached the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School girls basketball team for 30 seasons.

» **Kenneth Long '95M** was named president of East Stroudsburg University (ESU) in November 2022 after serving in an interim role



## Jesse Bragger '21

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH SCIENTIST,  
BRISTOL MYERS SQUIBB

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death globally, taking nearly 18 million lives annually, according to the World Health Organization.

At Bristol Myers Squibb, Jesse Bragger is doing early drug discovery research that could one day help cure or treat a variety of cardiomyopathies. In her lab, she tests novel pharmacological compounds to determine their safety and efficacy. "It's one of the early steps in the process before a drug can potentially reach the clinical level," says Bragger.

A graduate of the University's Honors School, Bragger majored in biology with a concentration in molecular cell physiology and a minor in statistics. "I wouldn't be working in the role I am now if it wasn't for my experiences at Monmouth," she says.

### WHY I CHOSE MONMOUTH

I knew I'd get hands-on research experience as an undergraduate, and the scholarship money I received made Monmouth the most affordable option. Also, I was excited by the state-of-the-art science building that was being completed; I see a lot of similarities between that building and where I work now.

### HOW I GOT HERE

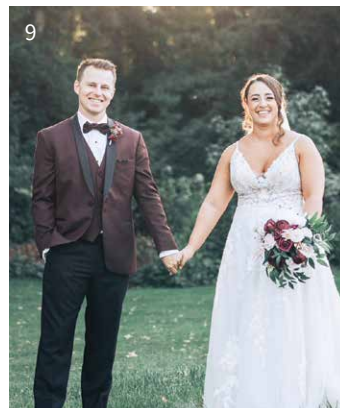
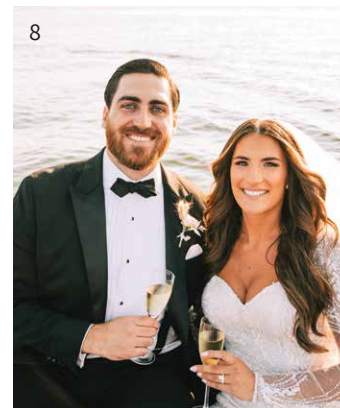
The experience I got doing three-and-a-half years of research with Professor Megan Phifer-Rixey, which included working on a global study that was published in *Science*, opened the door. When I interviewed at BMS, they said it sounded like I had completed a grad school program.

### MY CAREER GOAL

I want to advance within BMS and continue my research, and I still want to attend graduate school. Science is constantly changing, and I always want to keep learning.

»AS TOLD TO TONY MARCHETTI





# Celebrations

## ENGAGEMENTS

1. Elizabeth Sommer '13 is engaged to wed Andrew Murphy.
2. Sean Dries '15 is engaged to wed Claire McCord.
3. Christen Piersanti '17 is engaged to wed Zack Neugebauer '17.
4. Nicole Seitz '18 is engaged to wed Dave DePaola '17, '18M.

## WEDDINGS

5. Kelly Reilly '10, '12M wed Jeff Seidel on July 3, 2022.
6. Tiffani (Angelone) Bogda '11 wed Nick Bogda on Oct. 7, 2022.
7. Amanda M. Gallicchio '11, '20M wed Greg Cypher on Jan. 20, 2023.
8. Clare Collins '16 wed Zach Fabel '16 on Sept. 9, 2022.
9. Gianna Tringali '16 wed Colton Lambert '16 on Sept. 22, 2022.
10. Alexis (Hyams) Zammit '19 wed Michael Zammit '16 on Oct. 29, 2022.

## BIRTHS

11. Bridget (Kavanagh) Dougherty '09 and her husband, Christopher Dougherty, welcomed a son, Evan Dougherty, on July 29, 2022.
12. Alyssa Koulopoulos '10 and her husband, Paul Koulopoulos, welcomed a son, Maxwell, on Dec. 27, 2022.
13. Tracy Carretta '13, and her partner, Dave Maseroni, welcomed a son, Ryker James Maseroni, on June 30, 2022.
14. Susan (Elwood) Dunphey '15 and her husband, Richard Dunphey, welcomed a daughter, Ella, on Aug. 8, 2022.

## ACCOLADES & ENCOUNTERS

15. Meghan V. Busch '15M was promoted to a vice president in the financial services practice of The Bliss Group.
16. On Oct. 22, 2022, the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity held a reunion at the Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, home of alumni Sal Giacchi '68 and Barbara Giacchi '75.

since July 2020. Long is ESU's 14th president and the first African American to lead the institution.

## 2000s

» **Edward F. Aldarelli Jr. '96, '02M** was appointed acting superintendent of schools by the Edison, New Jersey, Board of Education. Aldarelli joined the Edison school district in October 2020 as director of human resources; prior to that he served as an elementary school principal for West Freehold School for 13 years. Aldarelli earned his bachelor's degree in history and education and master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Monmouth and his doctorate in education from Saint Peter's University.

» **Nicole Chambers '96M** is the vice president of strategic initiatives at health care technology company Annexus Health, Inc., headquartered in Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

» **Michelle Westfort '99** is the chief university officer at InStride. She brings more than 20 years of professional experience in higher education programs and partnerships to InStride, where she oversees the academic partnerships team and leads the development of InStride's highly curated global network of academic partners, which includes top-tier research universities. Prior to joining InStride, Westfort was the VP of business development for The Learning House (acquired by Wiley) and held leadership positions at Pivot Worldwide and Navitas.

» **Charles Wilson '99, '03M** will be releasing his second novel, *Pyramid of the Parasite*, on July 1, 2023, under the pen name Christopher Michael Blake. He is also the author of the horror novel *Prey for Dawn* and the murder mystery novella *The Cape May Murders*.

» Last October, **Nick DelGozzo '00** was hired as the head varsity baseball coach at Haddon Township High School. DelGozzo was a three-time All-Conference selection while playing for the Hawks, after which he played for the Ohio Valley Redcoats in the independent Frontier League.

» **Nora Green '01** was appointed as the principal of the Cecil S. Collins School in Barnegat, New Jersey. The school serves children in grades K-2. She previously served as the district supervisor of special education and curriculum K-4.

» **Jeana M. Piscatelli '01, '02M** has been inducted into Marquis Who's Who, a publisher of directories including biographical volumes where individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process. Piscatelli is the head of treasury management at OceanFirst Bank where she manages the commercial, governmental, and institutional client bases, as well as oversees a team of sales leaders and their cohorts focused on streamlining operations across diverse platforms, including product development and marketing. Piscatelli joined OceanFirst after spending several years with J.P. Morgan's Financial Institutions Group, serving banks and Fintech companies in the Mid-Atlantic region. Prior to that she served as the Director of Institutional Foreign Exchange at Wells Fargo Bank.

In addition, Piscatelli currently serves as chair of Monmouth's Board of Trustees.

» **Carolina (Feito) Menapace '02** co-founded a nonprofit theatre company, Ghostlight ETC (Educational Theatre Collective), where she serves as a producer and president of the not-for-profit side of the company. Ghostlight caters to kids from kindergarten through college and provides an inclusive, welcoming performing arts education for all kids, regardless of race, gender identity, and socioeconomic status. Whether it is performing or behind-the-scenes work, Ghostlight provides a safe space in the heart of Downers Grove, Illinois, for kids to explore the arts. With over 250 students, the company has tripled in size since it opened its doors in the summer of 2021. Find out more at [www.ghostlightetc.com](http://www.ghostlightetc.com).

» **Christine Wessels '02, '05M** was named Teacher of the Year at River Plaza Elementary School in Red Bank, New Jersey. A member of the faculty for 18 years, she's taught first grade for the past 16 years.

» **Melissa Dreher '06, '16M** wed Daniel Tesauro on April 29, 2022, in Bridgewater, New Jersey. The reception—which was attended by fellow alumni **Erin '06** and **Chris Joyce '06**—was held at the Lambertville Station Inn in Lambertville, New Jersey.

» **Michael McCauley '07M** is the chief of staff and senior vice president of corporate services and governance and strategic communications at Hackensack Meridian Health. McCauley, who previously served as vice president of marketing and communications, will continue to oversee and guide internal, strategic and

executive communications and events. Before joining Hackensack Meridian Health, McCauley served as vice president of internal communications at Christie's and held various leadership roles at Siemens, where he started his career. He holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from West Virginia University.

» **Suzanne E. Moore '07, '09M** was promoted to the position of permanent park ranger of interpretation for the National Park Service. She works at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, providing public tours of Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and other historically significant sites. Moore has been with the park for three years. Prior to that, she worked at Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, as a seasonal ranger.

» In January 2023, **Brian Thomas '07, '11M** was sworn in for his second term as councilman in the Borough of Neptune City in Neptune City, New Jersey. Following the ceremony, he was unanimously nominated as council president for the second year in a row.

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

» PGA and LPGA member **Rylee Plitz '08** is the head professional and director of instruction at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Lakewood, New Jersey.

» **Bridget (Kavanagh) Dougherty '09** and her husband Christopher Dougherty welcomed a son, Evan Dougherty, on July 29, 2022.

» **Jenna (Delozier) Guzman '09** was appointed communications director for the St. Mary's County Government in Maryland. Guzman was previously with the county Health Department and has more than a decade of communications experience, including strategic planning, communications development, and program administration.

» **Nicole L. (Russo) Weingartner '09** was recognized by *City & State*, a political magazine based in New York City, on their 2022 Power of Diversity: Women 100 list. Weingartner was ranked among other perennial power brokers, including New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, as well as leaders in business and nonprofits.

## 2010s

» **Jordan Avanzato '10** has been promoted to managing director of JLL, a global commercial real estate services company. Avanzato, who previously served as senior director, has 10 years of experience in commercial real estate, specializing in investment advisory in New Jersey and the surrounding New York Metro area, and is now in charge of JLL's Morristown-based investment sales team in the region. Avanzato has been involved in nearly \$3 billion in transactions over the course of his career.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 68



# Finding Empowerment among the Clouds

Jack Howell helps teens struggling with trauma to rise above their circumstances.

BY MARK GOLA

While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, retired Colonel Jack Howell '66 was periodically tasked with being a casualty assistance officer. That role included knocking on doors to notify families their loved one had died in service.

"You can only imagine what it was like delivering that news," says Howell, who served 25 years as a Marine officer. "We'd spend time with the families to help in any way we could, and one thing that struck me was how much it impacted the kids. They had very little help, and many were acting out. I remember thinking that some

of these kids were going to end up in the juvenile justice system, or worse."

Howell vowed that, when he retired, he would do something "over the top" to help those children recover and do something they didn't think was possible.

True to his word, Howell founded Teens-In-Flight Inc. in 2008, a nonprof-

it organization that offers flight training to teens who had a parent or sibling killed or wounded in action while serving on active duty in the U.S. military. The program has expanded to include children of first responders and at-risk youth.

The primary purpose of Teens-In-Flight is training students to earn their pilot's license at no cost. Students must first earn the Federal Aviation Association-mandated ground school certification, which can be accomplished online. Howell and his staff then provide a minimum of 20 hours of dual instruction and 20 hours of solo flying.

But there is also a healing component to flying that can stimulate strength from a teen in despair.

"When I get them up in the air, they're not thinking about the baggage on the ground," says Howell. "There is a fear factor in the beginning, but you educate and convince them they're capable of flying. When you challenge a student, they understand that you believe in them. Once they take control of that aircraft, it hits them, and they can't believe what they're doing. You see that huge smile, and you know you got them."

Every graduate from Teens-In-Flight has enrolled in college. Pilot training has also launched careers in aviation for many graduates. Some are currently commercial airline pilots, while Lieutenant Giovanni "Gigi" Gonzales earned an ROTC scholarship to study space physics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is currently an electronic warfare officer on the Boeing EA-18G Growler.

The Teens-In-Flight operation relies on grants, fundraising, and donations. Flight instructors donate their time to teach the students, and Howell has never earned one dime from the work. In fact, he bought the original plane used for training and spent over \$30,000 rebuilding its engine.

"The greatest satisfaction is giving different perspectives to students who are suffering from a traumatic experience," says Howell, who earned a degree in secondary education in English from Monmouth. "Learning to fly teaches them that life is worth living. Even though you've lost a loved one, there is always hope. And equally important, I'm going to push you hard, and you're going to discover talents you never thought you had." 🍀

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# Connecting the Dots

Terik Tidwell draws on his considerable experience in inclusive innovation to enhance the nation's competitiveness in science and technology.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

Last year, Terik Tidwell '07 went to Egypt as a Fulbright Fellow to help the vice minister for scientific affairs conduct an assessment of the country's 2017 National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation—an initiative intended to enhance the overall innovation and entrepreneurship of the country within higher education.

Over three weeks, Tidwell visited nearly 10 universities in Cairo, along with various other stakeholders—from ministry officials to representatives at science parks and entrepreneurial incubators—to see how each was implementing the policy throughout their respective organizations.

"It was an exhausting experience," says Tidwell, "but it was nonetheless exhilarating and amazing at the same time, because it was quite a significant strategy to go in and do this in a very delicate way in a country that's evolving from very traditional roots."

Tidwell was well prepared for his fellowship because he's spent the past 15 years facilitating inclusive, tech-based economic development while working at the intersection of entrepreneurship, technology, policy, philanthropy, and education.

He is also no stranger to the fellowship world. He completed an Education Pioneers Fellowship in 2013, a Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative Fellowship in 2017, a Global Innovation Fellowship in 2017, a U.S.-China Ecosystem Fellowship in 2018, and an Ecosystem Alumni TIES Fellowship in 2019.



Currently, Tidwell is the director of inclusive innovation at VentureWell, a company with decades of experience investing in science, tech innovation, and entrepreneurship with universities, startups, entrepreneurs, and federal agencies.

"Inclusive innovation involves bringing together diverse groups that may develop some technology, or build a program, or commercialize something that is patentable," says Tidwell. "It's about designing and implementing ... those programs and strategies and investments."

Prior to joining VentureWell in July 2022, Tidwell was the executive and founding director of the Smith Tech-Innovation Center at Johnson C. Smith University, where he developed programs and partnerships and raised more than \$19 million in funding from companies, federal agencies, and various philanthropic organizations.

"The Fulbright fellowship not only connected me to an alumni network of

400,000 Fulbrighters around the globe who have a shared interest in innovation, entrepreneurial development, and globalization," says Tidwell, "it helped me professionally, because I'm able to apply what I've learned to a project that my company is working on in Egypt."

Looking ahead, Tidwell is eager to do at VentureWell what he feels he does best: connecting the dots for various stakeholders in an innovation ecosystem. That could be a researcher in a lab who's disconnected from an investor who might be looking to invest in technology, or a faculty member who wants to support students becoming more entrepreneurial—or even supporting an innovation center that enables all of these connections to happen.

"This role is probably the pinnacle of my various experiences," says Tidwell. "I love being able to influence and impact a lot of areas in higher education to help bring some alignment within their innovation ecosystems." 🍷



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» **Brian Blackmon '10, '11M** recently finished writing his first screenplay, *The Indestructible Paperclip Man*, an autobiographical work based on his experience as a cartoonist majoring in business as a student at Monmouth.

» **Alyssa Koulopoulos '10** and her husband, Paul Koulopoulos, welcomed a son, Maxwell, on Dec. 27, 2022.

» **Kelly Reilly '10, '12M** wed Jeff Seidel at the Bay Head Chapel in Bay Head, New Jersey, on July 3, 2022. Reilly and Seidel, who is an alumnus of the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, where he played rugby, celebrated with friends and family at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. The bride also had her two college roommates, her matron of honor **Joan Bolla '11** and **Cassie Maines '10**—who she says are better known as the “9 Palmer Girls” and were all members of the women’s golf team at Monmouth.

» **Tiffani (Angelone) Bogda '11** wed Nick Bogda on Oct. 7, 2022, at Durham Hill Farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

» **Amanda M. Gallicchio '11, '20M** wed Greg Cypher at Perona Farms in Andover, New Jersey, on Jan. 20, 2023.

» **Patricia D'Aloia Gandolfo '11M** is the Director of Nursing at Brookdale Community College located in Lincroft, New Jersey.

» **Gregory D. Kammerer '11, J.D.**, is an executive vice president at Altrius Capital Management, where he is responsible for providing asset allocation and financial planning advice to

the firm’s high-net-worth clients as well as providing investment solutions for institutional clients. He was recently a guest on Nasdaq TradeTalks, an online series covering trading news, market trends, and education, where he discussed Altrius’ recently launched Global Dividend ETF (exchange-traded fund).

» **Andre R. Renaudo '11** was appointed to the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey’s Board of Trustees. His term will run through November 2025. Renaudo is a relationship director within the Corporate and Investment Bank at Barclays in New York, where he is responsible for relationship management, origination, risk control, and industry leadership.

» **Jilian A. Rise '11M** was honored as Educational Support Professional of the Year by Middlesex County Magnet Schools (formerly Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools). She recently celebrated her first anniversary with the schools.

» In January **Louis Crisitello '12** made his directorial debut with *Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and The Uncharted Zone*, a feature-length documentary film that made its world premiere at the 2023 Slamdance Film Festival. *Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and The Uncharted Zone* is a film about a group of ragtag artists making “so bad it’s good” music and videos in Pensacola, Florida, under the direction of the eccentric Phil Thomas Katt. Spanning over five decades of footage, *Space Happy* is a portrayal of creative minds pursuing art against all odds—and talent. This is the first feature film from Perpetual Doom Productions, an indie

label and production company created by Louis Crisitello that has become a home for fringe artists to release their music, publications, art, and other works.

» **Dominique Perrone '12** is the Teacher of the Year at Nut Swamp Elementary School in Middletown, New Jersey. She has been a member of the special education faculty there for 10 years, beginning with the 2012-13 school year. She is the pullout replacement teacher for English language arts grades two to four, and she is also the in-class support teacher for first grade math and second grade writing.

» **Tracy Carretta '13**, a detective with the Monmouth University Police Department, and her partner, Dave Maseroni, a technology support specialist at Monmouth University, welcomed a son, Ryker James Maseroni, on June 30, 2022.

» **Christina (Grothues) Forrest '13** was promoted to vice president of Violet PR, a public relations firm based in New Jersey. In this new role, Forrest will focus on leading the firm’s expanding team and identifying new growth areas for Violet PR while continuing to oversee media relations, social media, and content development campaigns for clients.

» **Elizabeth Sommer '13** is engaged to wed Andrew Murphy. The couple met in New Jersey; however, they recently moved to Virginia for Murphy’s career as a fireman at Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia. Murphy proposed to Sommer on her birthday at the holiday light display at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. “The lights were truly

magical,” Sommer says. “It felt like we were the main characters in a Hallmark movie.”

» **Brianne H. Giordano '14** is a digital advertising specialist for Beyond Fifteen Communications Inc., a full-service public relations, digital marketing, social media, and influencer marketing agency. Giordano has four years of agency experience, having worked with dozens of entrepreneurs, executive teams, and businesses to successfully market their products, services, and brands. She is skilled at developing creative strategies and innovative solutions to help level up client results.

» **Meghan V. Busch '15M** was promoted to a vice president in the financial services practice of The Bliss Group. In her new role, Busch ensures the delivery of high-quality results that drive top-line growth for longtime clients. She specializes in the wealth management, retirement, insurance, investment banking, and private equity industries. Her extensive program design, survey creation, and media expertise serves to create powerful thought leadership content that elevates the profiles of executives and C-suite leadership and secures influential top-tier and trade placements that increase brand awareness among her clients’ targeted audience.

» **Sean Dries '15** is engaged to wed Claire McCord. Dries proposed on a trip the couple took to Alaska. The wedding will take place on July 1, 2023, in Havre de Grace, Maryland.

» **Susan (Elwood) Dunphey '15** and her husband, Richard Dunphey, welcomed a daughter, Ella, on Aug. 8, 2022.



## How to Get Unstuck in Your Life and Career

Three tips from Bailey Frumen, CEO and founder of Mindrise.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

Life and career coach Bailey Frumen '06, '07M, LCSW, says one of the main reasons clients seek her out is they feel “stuck.”

A trained psychotherapist, speaker, and author of *Own Your Power: Your Guide to Feeling Powerful, Fearless & Free*, Frumen has more than a decade of experience helping people “reconnect with who they are” so they can restore balance between their careers and the quality of life they seek.

She shared three steps anyone can take to get “unstuck” in their life, career, or anywhere else.

### 1 FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GETTING IN YOUR WAY

Start by taking an inventory of life’s six key areas: career, mental and emotional well-being, physical health, finances, relationships, and spirituality. Think about each area objectively and without judgment, and rate how you’re doing with each on a scale of one to 10. “To achieve anything, you have to zoom out and take an inventory of where things are right now,” says Frumen. “If you don’t get clear on what’s holding you back, it’s going to show up over and over.”



### 2 MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Once you determine which areas need the most work, figure out what steps you can take to improve. “The size of the gap between where you are and where you want to be will reveal how much work you have to do,” says Frumen. If the gap is big—say, for example, you get winded walking to the mailbox but your goal is to run a 5K—a realistic timeline and bite-sized goals are critical for long-term success. “This is where a coach can help you define the results you want and figure out the steps you need to take to get there.”

### 3 BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR NARRATIVE

“Our words dictate our feelings, which dictate our actions,” says Frumen, adding that this self-talk cycle is the same for everyone regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status. “You’re never going to feel great and take positive action if you’re speaking negatively to yourself all the time,” she says. “If your narrative is negative, your feelings will be negative, and you’ll choose actions based on those negative feelings. We’re always telling a story. What is the story you’re telling yourself?”

For the full story, visit [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine).

» **Clare Collins '16** and **Zach Fabel '16** wed on a sunny, 75-degree day on Sept. 9, 2022, at the Bay Head Yacht Club in Bay Head, New Jersey. The couple celebrated their love with family, friends, and Monmouth alumni—many of whom were former Hawks football players, Zeta Tau Alpha sisters, and University roommates.

» **Gianna Tringali '16** and **Colton Lambert '16** met during their freshman year working in preparation for their roles with Monmouth's new student orientation program. The couple later re-connected during an alternative spring break trip to Guatemala during their senior year. After graduating, they started dating, and, after four-and-a-half years, Lambert proposed in December 2020. A week before their wedding, Lambert, who competed with Monmouth's men's indoor and outdoor track and field team as a pole vaulter, was offered the position as Monmouth's Assistant Track and Field Coach: Pole Vault and has already made an impact with athletes who are currently holding new school records. Tringali is an occupational therapist. The couple celebrated their wedding at the English Manor in Ocean Township, New Jersey, on Sept. 22, 2022, and they hope to grow their Hawk family in the future.

» **Christen Piersanti '17** is engaged to wed **Zack Neugebauer '17**. The couple met in Mul-laney Hall in 2013 during their freshman year and have been together ever since. Piersanti played for the women's field hockey team and Neugebauer for the men's soccer team. They were engaged in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in June 2022 and plan to be married at The Berkeley Hotel in Asbury Park in October 2023.

» **Nicole Seitz '18** is engaged to wed **Dave DePaola '17, '18M**. The couple were engaged on Sept. 4, 2022, on the border of Bay Head and Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, as the beach is one of their favorite places to be in the summer.

» **Reggie White Jr. '18** re-signed with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League. White Jr. caught 53 passes for 722 yards and two touchdowns over 15 games in 2022, finishing second on the team in receiving yards. He suffered a season-ending knee injury late in the year but is expected to be ready for the start of the 2023 regular season.

» **Alexis (Hyams) Zammit '19** wed **Michael Zammit '16** on Oct. 29, 2022, at the Shadowbrook at Shrewsbury in Shrewsbury, New Jersey.

## 2020s

» **Breeana N. Cassidy '20, '21M** recently completed her second season as head coach of the Ocean County College women's soccer team, during which she led the team to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 (N. Atlantic A District) championship and a quarter-final finish at the NJCAA D-III Championship tournament. Cassidy was named the NJCAA Region 19 Coach of the Year for her efforts. In addition to coaching, she works full time as a marketing program administrator for Trinity Solar.

» **Amanda K. Knaub '20, '21M** was hired as an assistant coach for Central Penn College's women's soccer team. Knaub was an Academic All-American goalkeeper while at Monmouth. She was named the 2019–20 Paul G. Gaffney II Female Athlete of the Year and still holds many school and Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference records.

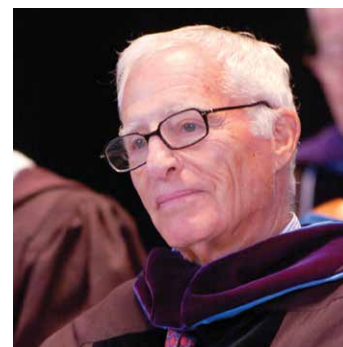


### Paul S. Doherty Jr.

TRUSTEE EMERITUS  
1943-2023

As a board chair, Paul S. Doherty Jr. '67, '04HN helmed the successful Vision for Distinction fundraising campaign. Along with his wife, Diane, he established the Doherty Family Endowed Scholarship and provided vital support for the president's residence on campus, Doherty House, which is named in their honor. As a student, Paul was deeply involved in campus life, serving as a class officer and member of the Phi Delta Sigma fraternity and participating in intramurals. As an alumnus, he was instrumental in bringing football to Monmouth as a charter member of The Touchdown Club, for which he was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022. Paul and Diane also contributed generously to the construction of the OceanFirst Bank Center and Kessler Stadium, which is home to The Doherty Family Deck.

» **John Spinelli '22** is serving in his third year on the Middletown Township Open Space Committee in Middletown Township, New Jersey. Spinelli, who started his volunteer position on the committee while a student at Monmouth, also joined the Leonardo First Aid Squad and is training to become a driver and EMT. 🚑



### Thomas I. Unterberg

FORMER UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE  
1931-2023

Thomas I. Unterberg '08HN was a respected financier and businessman, launching and running several successful investment firms bearing the Unterberg family name. His philanthropy and commitment to service impacted numerous institutions in New Jersey and New York, including Monmouth, where he served on the Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2003. Thanks to the generosity of the Unterberg family, Monmouth's Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies bears the name of Tom's late mother. The Unterberg family was also instrumental in the construction of the OceanFirst Bank Center and has been generously supportive of expanding performing arts partnerships and enhancing academic facilities at the University.

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

» Jeanette Kearns '38A (Jan. 5, 2023)  
 » Kenneth R. Duffie '59, '83M (Jan. 31, 2023)  
 » Louis J. DiGirolamo '61 (Jan. 14, 2023)  
 » Russell L. Martin '61 (Dec. 14, 2022)  
 » Mary Lou Deering '62 (Nov. 11, 2022)  
 » Paul J. Weiner '62 (Feb. 6, 2023)  
 » Edward R. Nesbitt '63 (Nov. 30, 2022)  
 » Leila A. Mahoney '64 (Jan. 3, 2023)  
 » Susan S. Skillern '64 (Jan. 2, 2023)  
 » Dorothy A. Torrey '64 (Oct. 21, 2022)  
 » Ernest Geroni '65 (Feb. 8, 2023)  
 » Joseph H. Johnson '65 (Jan. 27, 2023)  
 » Elizabeth M. Mautner '65 (Dec. 7, 2021)  
 » Audrey D. Sculthorpe '65 (Oct. 2, 2022)  
 » Judith A. De La Vergne '66 (Feb. 7, 2023)  
 » William W. Dugmore '66 (Nov. 24, 2022)  
 » Constance M. Edwards '66 (Nov. 14, 2022)  
 » Susan A. Mast '66 (Oct. 26, 2022)  
 » Harry Schiff '66 (Dec. 28, 2022)  
 » Paul S. Doherty Jr '67, '04HN, trustee emeritus (March 2, 2023)  
 » Donald L. Evenson '67A (Dec. 18, 2022)  
 » Jeffrey H. Karger '67, '69M (Feb. 6, 2023)  
 » Frederick E. Kreiss '67 (Aug. 13, 2021)  
 » Michael E. Wilbert '68 (Dec. 24, 2022)  
 » Kenneth A. Dadd Sr. '69 (Oct. 6, 2022)  
 » Peter B. Heck '70A (Nov. 22, 2022)  
 » Arnold R. Schlisserman '70 (Nov. 20, 2022)  
 » Melvin Woda '70A (Oct. 12, 2022)

» Richard C. Ashley '71 (Oct. 3, 2022)  
 » Gregory J. Cotty '71 (July 4, 2022)  
 » Darryl D. Hilliard '71 (Jan. 15, 2023)  
 » Carol E. Rippetoe '71M (Jan. 5, 2023)  
 » Sharon K. Armbrust '72 (Sept. 29, 2022)  
 » Victoria E. Furey '72 (Nov. 17, 2022)  
 » Jay Michael "Mike" Wagenheim '72 (Oct. 11, 2022)  
 » David L. Ferullo '73 (Oct. 22, 2022)  
 » Gail P. Gentry '73 (Feb. 11, 2023)  
 » George E. Sierra '73 (Feb. 1, 2022)  
 » James C. Himalian '74 (Oct. 8, 2022)  
 » John E. Fee '75M (Nov. 7, 2022)  
 » Mark Singer '75 (Nov. 10, 2022)  
 » Kenneth E. Warren '75M (Feb. 22, 2022)  
 » Kenneth H. Burkhard '76 (Oct. 3, 2022)  
 » Christine E. Crowder '76 (Jan. 6, 2023)  
 » Mary J. Callahan-Burrow '78M (Jan. 15, 2023)  
 » Michael D. Fornino '79 (Sept. 17, 2022)  
 » Ethel T. Frazier '79M (July 13, 2021)  
 » Michael P. O'Brien '80M (Feb. 21, 2023)  
 » Robert P. Quigley '80M (Oct. 25, 2022)  
 » Justin P. Wojcik '80 (Dec. 14, 2022)  
 » Ronald J. Brandmayr '81, '89M (Sept. 26, 2022)  
 » Russell W. Thompson '81M (Aug. 7, 2022)  
 » Frank G. Adams '84M (Oct. 13, 2022)  
 » Deborah Haas '84M (Jan. 29, 2023)  
 » Shirley M. Schmitt '84 (July 15, 2022)  
 » Judy Smith '84HN (Oct. 20, 2021)  
 » Joan H. Todd '84M (Nov. 22, 2022)  
 » Sally E. Vogt '84 (Dec. 3, 2022)  
 » William Condon '85M (Feb. 26, 2023)  
 » Ruth Ann Kluin '85A (February 2023)  
 » Renee Marko '85 (Jan. 10, 2023)

» Carol Ann Martini '85 (Oct. 30, 2022)  
 » Paul J. Naphy '91M (Feb. 21, 2022)  
 » Frances Cecelia Cromwell Reich '94M (Jan. 31, 2023)  
 » William S. Consovoy '96 (Jan. 9, 2023)  
 » Richard W. Jesmajian '96M (Aug. 20, 2022)  
 » Carol Ann Backus '01 (Jan. 10, 2023)  
 » Richard E. Treharne '01 (Dec. 18, 2022)  
 » Margaret Hartmann '02M (Aug. 4, 2020)  
 » Karen Schulte O'Neill '12M (Feb. 2, 2023)  
 » Patricia M. Maloney '13M (Dec. 18, 2022)  
 » Briann Lentine '14, '17M (Oct. 18, 2022)  
 » Tiffany Lola Rawls-Dill '16M (Dec. 3, 2022)

## Friends

» Marie (Kaptein) Adams, former student (Dec. 3, 2022)  
 » Nicholas John Scalfani, student (Nov. 5, 2022)  
 » Temitayo "Tayo" Olufemi Sunday Ali, student (April 15, 2023)  
 » Thomas I. Unterberg '08HN, former Monmouth University trustee (Jan. 10, 2023)

## Faculty and Staff

» John F. Anderson '61, former trustee and director of alumni affairs (Sept. 26, 2022)  
 » Cassandra Flanagan, former assistant to the director of cooperative education (Nov. 12, 2022)  
 » Richard W. Jesmajian '96M, former computer science/IT adjunct (Aug. 20, 2022)  
 » Franklin Bernard McLaughlin, former English professor (Nov. 22, 2022)  
 » Marilyn A. Parker, Ph.D., professor emerita of chemistry (May 6, 2023)  
 » Irene Farrell Towt, former director of institutional advancement publications (Nov. 27, 2022)

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07764-1898

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

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

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# Looking Out





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MARK DINGLASAN  
Director, Office of the  
Food Security Advocate



SPRING/SUMMER 2023

## 4 Things You'll Learn From This Issue

1. What's next for the student-founded fitness media company that won top honors at HawkTank. **»P. 12**
2. Why childhood trauma and community are often linked to food insecurity. **»P. 20**
3. How the women's basketball team defied the odds and made history this season. **»P. 52**
4. How to get unstuck in your life and career. **»P. 69**