

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » FALL/WINTER 2023

MONMOUTH



MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

The Boss's Big Reveal

» P. 30



PLUS: BREWING
BEERS & BONDS » P. 36
AND: NEW DEGREES,
NEW SOLUTIONS » P. 40



Looking In



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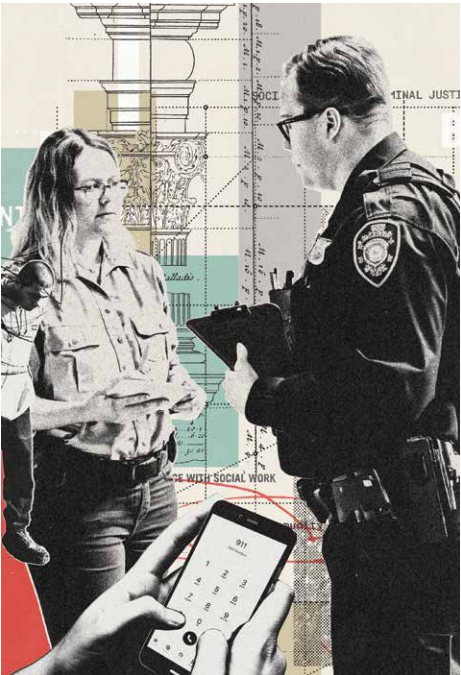
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Our Incredible Potential

From academics to athletics to the arts, Monmouth's future is bright.

This academic year began with news that Monmouth had achieved its highest-ever ranking in U.S. News & World Report, continuing a steady trajectory of success. The jump was noteworthy because U.S. News—long considered the leader of college rankings—altered its methodology significantly this year to account more appreciably for social mobility measures. For the first time, the rankings put a greater emphasis on student outcomes—especially the impact of education on social mobility—which was reflected in our jump of 26 spots in the U.S. News social mobility rankings and 19 spots in Washington Monthly's social mobility rankings. Our rise on both indexes is particularly gratifying because the measures align directly with the goals we established in our strategic plan and the course we set for the future of Monmouth University.

The success of our commitment to integrating excellence and access is also evident in our measures of student quality and diversity, which continue to rise. The average incoming high school GPA is 3.64, with out-of-state students making up close to a third (30.4%) of the first-year class—the highest percentage ever. The University also continues to attract strong numbers of underrepresented students, with more than 29 percent of the class identifying as ethnically or racially diverse. The percentage of Pell-eligible and first-generation students also increased, and I am proud to report that half of our current first-year class are FLI students—that is, either first generation, Pell eligible, or both. At the same time, our Honors School enrolled its highest cohort of first-year students ever.

So, what's been happening since the Class of 2027 arrived? As you'll read in this issue, there has been no shortage of exciting developments. Our faculty and students continued to achieve outstanding success, winning prestigious grants and scholarships, securing coveted internships, and giving back to the local community. With our transition to the Coastal Athletic Association, our student-athletes will compete on television approximately 70 times this year, up and down the Atlantic seaboard, from Boston to North Carolina. Also sharing a well-deserved spotlight are our plans to construct a new, donor-funded home for the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music on campus. This ambitious project promises to enhance our academic offerings and elevate Monmouth's reputation on a national, if not international, scale. The impact of the Center's resources on students is already coming into focus, and I hope you will enjoy reading about senior English education major Carlee Migliorisi's research into the little-known history behind "Born to Run."

Given the remarkable successes that Monmouth University has enjoyed of late, I can't help but reflect on our incredible potential. I have never felt more energized by our University's standing in the educational landscape, and what the future holds in store for Monmouth. Thank you for your ongoing support of our University and our exceptional students.

»PATRICK F. LEAHY, ED.D., PRESIDENT

photo MIKE MORGAN

Correspondence



"You captured everything that makes Monmouth so special."

Our spring/summer 2023 issue

Cheers to 90 Years

KUDOS ON THE OUTSTANDING ISSUE (spring/summer 2023)! The depth and breadth of the articles was most informative and provided much reading pleasure. Having worked at Monmouth for 30 years, and now looking on from the sidelines, I am accustomed to being impressed by the upward momentum and evolution of our beloved University, and this celebration of its 90th anniversary brought that all into focus.

I loved the list of "90 Things to Love About Monmouth" and not just because Nos. 50 and 51 are close to my heart. You captured everything that makes Monmouth so special. I would add only one item: the time capsule that was created to celebrate the Millennium and is to be opened in 2033 at Monmouth's 100th anniversary. It contains many items that will bring back history and memories. In the meantime, I look forward to more great issues of *Monmouth* magazine.

»JANET FELL, ADMINISTRATOR EMERITUS

YOUR "90 THINGS" LIST BROUGHT BACK many fond memories of my five years at Monmouth, but I do have a comment. You listed the Hawk Family at No. 52. At 57,800-plus strong, the alumni should be No. 1 on the list. Monmouth's alumni are its best resource for new students. I talk up Monmouth every chance I get, touting the excellent education, small classes, dedi-

cated faculty and staff, career opportunities, gorgeous campus and location, etc. I am forever indebted to Monmouth for giving me, a first-generation college student, the gift of higher education through a full Trustee Scholarship. In my opinion, Monmouth alumni always come first in spreading the word about how cool the school is!

»CATHERINE FOLIO, ED.D., '75, '76M

IF I HAVE TO BE SECOND PLACE TO anything, at least it's the motherland.

»@SHADOWTHEHAWK, VIA X



Belated Best Wishes

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FOR THEIR dedicated service to Monmouth ("Faculty and Staff Retirements," spring/summer 2023), especially to Mary Ann Nagy and Bill Craig, both of whom I had the pleasure of appointing during my presidency in the 1980s.

»SAMUEL H. MAGILL, PH.D., '05HN, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

A Splashing Success

YOU DID A FANTASTIC JOB WITH THE "TROU-bled Waters" article (spring/summer 2023). It was easy to understand and visually appealing.

»KYLE A. SEIVERD '11, '21ED.D.

HEY THERE, READERS!

We wanted to clear the air about our "90 Things" list. We weren't ranking the items from least to most favorite. We're head over heels for everything on the list. In fact, we had to cut a bunch of awesome items off our list to get it down to 90; otherwise, our list could have gone on forever!



Transmitting Memories

Our request for past and present WMCX staffers to share stories about working at Monmouth’s student-run radio station found a receptive audience (“Looking Back,” spring/summer 2023). Thanks to everyone who cranked up the nostalgia and shared a half-century’s worth of on-air adventures!

THE PHOTO IN THE LAST ISSUE SHOWS BRIAN HERMAN ’10 (in the Mets jersey) and me. We were production directors on the executive board and did a morning show together for a few years.

I met most of my college friends at WMCX (and HawkTV) and really hung out there all day. WMCX got me into music production and expanded my love for so many different kinds of music. Also, how could you not love seeing Donna (Dolphin) and Furg (Aaron Furgason ’92) every day?

I made so many funny radio bumps for the station—many questionable for air, but always reviewed by Chris Cavallaro ’95 for a thumbs-up or down. One of them, “Golfing Babies,” ran for about 10 years. I really miss Professor Cavallaro.

My favorite show that I hosted was a midnight jazz show called “Jazz Etc.” Everyone used funny accents, and we’d play different background noises to pretend we

were broadcasting from different places. I also fondly remember doing the 24-hour live music fests and co-productions with M-squared live, and producing news pieces. WMCX is really a huge part of my life, and the nostalgia always floods back when I remember it all.

»NICK SGROI ’10

I WAS ONE OF THE DJS BACK IN 1995.

I remember physically splicing the cassette tapes and putting them in the player. We had to record songs, splice them, and make them blend together to sound good for the radio. I clearly remember one of my broadcasts where I had to talk about the Monmouth baseball team, and I said, “They came up swimming” instead of “swinging.” I laughed so hard! We used to always close with “X88.9 rockin’ your shoreline!” I miss those days!

»AUDREY LOPRESTI ’98

I WAS A DJ WHEN THE STATION WAS HOUSED

in the old Student Union Building. The only folks able to hear the broadcast were located in the dorms around the building. I also helped stock and restock the records—yes, we used records, which were spun on the station’s record player. If anything broke, the only person who could fix the equipment was a guy we called “EZ Ray.” I don’t remember his full name, but he kept the station running. Ron Subarsky ’72 was the

program manager, and Cliff Frisch was in charge of the records themselves. To say that we had a great time running the station would be an understatement.

»ELLEN BLUT SPIVACK MEEDS ’75

CONGRATULATIONS TO WMCX FOR 50 YEARS

of bringing the noise to the Jersey Shore! This may come as a surprise, but there was a time 10 years *before* the X when we spun vinyl on campus. Back in prehistory, a bunch of us had a little closet we called a studio—I think it was somewhere just off the Great Hall—and a way to send a signal over phone lines all around what was then Monmouth College. In early 1964, we got our hands on a Capitol Records release of a British band. Four faces, blue tint on the cover, mop-tops. You got it? We put *Meet the Beatles* on the turntable, snap-cued the first track, and played it—and played it, and played it again. We locked the door of the closet-studio and kept playing it. A lovely guy, Tom Murtha, was dean of students, and he came pounding on the door telling us to knock it off. I don’t remember how it ended. Probably we got hungry and had to come out for dinner. What I do remember is the rush, the pulse, the pure in-your-face excitement of playing rock on the radio. To the recent and current X-men and women, keep finding that rush.

»THOMAS BOYD ’65

I WASN’T DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE radio station, but my first-year roommate, David Colangelo ’74, was the evening/nighttime DJ. I remember one night he returned from his show and excitedly told me that Renaissance and Billy Joel would be performing at Monmouth that spring. Of course we all went to the concert, which was held in the gymnasium. I don’t think there were more than a thousand people there, and we sat near the front row. After the show, some of the band members met down at the Brighton Bar in West Long Branch. How cool is that?

—ANDREW LEWIS ’75

I GRADUATED IN 1978 AND WITNESSED THE birth of WMCX. While I don’t have any pictures, I enjoyed the many experiences. One particularly memorable moment was when a group of us from the station covered the Democratic National Convention during Jimmy Carter’s election. We rented a hotel room, slept in the bathtub, and even managed to infiltrate the White House pressroom. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

During my time at WMCX, I also had the opportunity to interview Nancy Reagan and former tennis great John Newcombe, go on the air each week as a DJ, learn a lot, and meet some great people. I wouldn’t trade my time there for anything.

»DONNA CAMARDO ’78

IN THE FALL OF 1984, I ASKED PROFESSOR (Rett) Rich if I could start broadcasting men’s basketball games for WMCX. In the past,

there had not been any sports broadcast by the station. The first game we broadcast was an exhibition match against the Russian National Team at home. I was the play-by-play voice and Professor Rich was our color commentator. It was a tough assignment given the difficulty we had pronouncing the names of the Russian players, but we survived. That year, we broadcast every home game for the team. For the 1985–86 season, I was joined by Lisa Russo ’88 and Mike D’Onofrio, and we broadcast home and away games. What a great experience I had working at WMCX. I am forever grateful to Professor Rich for taking the chance and allowing me the opportunity to broadcast those games!

»JERRY LOMURNO ’88

I WAS THE STATION’S PROGRAM DIRECTOR during the 2009–10 school year, and although I have countless stories I could share about my time at the X, the best one is that WMCX is the place where I met my husband, Trevor Marden ’11 (former music director and station manager). We met in November 2008 while working on a project for Advanced Radio in the editing suites and started dating the following spring after we were elected to the WMCX Executive Board. The rest, as they say, is history! We got engaged in September 2013 on the steps of the Great Hall and had our engagement photos taken in the WMCX studios. These days, we live with our two children in Old Bridge, New Jersey, and Trevor is the producer of the Jim Kerr Rock n’ Roll Morning Show on Q104.3 in New York. For Trevor and me, WMCX will always be a special part of our history, the place where it all began for us!

»VANESSA (AVANSINO) MARDEN ’10

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WMCX 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join alumni and friends for an unforgettable evening celebrating Monmouth’s iconic radio station.

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[CLIMATE CHANGE]

From Red Scare to Green Scare

How the conservative movement borrowed a page from Big Tobacco’s playbook to paint global environmentalism as the new communism.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

Peter Jacques, the Rechnitz Family/Urban Coast Institute endowed chair in marine and environmental law and policy, is nearing completion of a 15-year research project on climate change denial that analyzes 108 climate change denial books published through 2010.

His work has already empirically shown that the rejection of anthropogenic (or, human-caused) global warming was politically organized—a social countermovement in which conservative think tanks played, and continue to play, a critical role.

Now, Jacques is digging into the root political reasons for their involvement. We talked to Jacques, whose research specialty is the politics of sustainability and global environmental change, about his work and its implications for the planet. →

When did this climate change denial begin in earnest?

The conservative climate countermovement began in 1992 in opposition to the global environmentalism that was on display at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Rio Earth Summit.

There was a fear that global environmentalism was the new “communism” taking over after the demise of the Soviet Union the year before. Leading conservatives from the United States attended the summit on a reconnaissance mission, as later revealed in an interview with conservative leader and former governor of Washington state Dixy Lee Ray. Ray said that she and political writer and founder of Washington, D.C.-based libertarian think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute Fred Smith were sent there by the Free Congress Committee, headed by Paul Weyrich.

Weyrich was the co-founder of the Heritage Foundation, the Free Congress Foundation—later renamed American Opportunity—and the American Legislative Exchange Council. All of these conservative think tanks served, and continue to serve, as social countermovement organizations.

How did this countermovement go about attacking the idea of climate change?

We have known for a long time that the rejection of climate science is organized and ideological. In the early 2000s, there was still this sense of the public not knowing what climate science was really saying. There would be an article about a warming trend, and journalists would feel compelled to go find a contrarian—and this was normally found in conservative think tanks.

But those contrarians can be real scientists. The Cato Institute, for example, has a real climatologist working there, and people would see him say that this is all exaggerated, so don’t believe it. And a fair-minded citizen would be sitting there watching the news and thinking, “How am I supposed to tell the difference between these two messages?”

And for a long time, we’ve known the kinds of denial that exist: There’s rejection of the trend of warming, there’s rejection of the cause of warming, and then there’s

“Right after the fall of the Soviet Union, conservatives, who had primarily been opposing communism and socialism, all of a sudden didn’t have a whole lot to do. So, they started to paint environmentalists and environmental scientists as watermelons: green on the outside but red on the inside.”

a rejection of anything bad happening. But it’s political and has nothing to do with actual science.

So why oppose the science? Why not just have a policy debate about which approach to climate change is better?

Because the cigarette industry was so successful in creating front groups to criticize the science that was indicating passive smoke was still harmful, some of the same people that organized against cigarette science came over to climate change science.

Since that moment, they have been organizing and using the model from the cigarette industry to cast doubt on the science that would compel us to do something about global warming.

And that’s been working now for over 30 years, really starting with that 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Right after the fall of the Soviet Union, conservatives, who had primarily been opposing communism and socialism, all of a sudden didn’t have a whole lot to do. So, they started to paint environmentalists and environmental scientists as watermelons: green on the outside but red on the inside.

What was the core reasoning for this climate change denialism? What exactly is this conservative social countermovement afraid of?

I really think it’s about a fear of change that’s coming because of global warming. Climate denial originates in and is mainly organized from the “Anglo” group of countries—the wealthy, English-speaking, primarily Protestant former British colonies with institutionalized white power like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

If you think about who’s been in charge of the economy for the last several hundred years, it is first the U.K. and then the U.S. So, that would also mean that there’s an awful lot of responsibility by those countries for a significant chunk of that warming.

These countries are experiencing deep anxiety about the persistence of their imperial privilege. The changes to the international social order commensurate with changing the energy base of industrialized countries—their industrial power—endanger the Anglo privileged identity. And of the industrialized countries, the Anglo countries have the most privilege to lose.

There are three different categories of climate policy: One is mitigation, or reducing greenhouse gases; two is adapting to things that happen regardless of how well you mitigate; and then loss and damage is this third category of bad things that happen that you cannot adapt to—and paying for that kind of damage essentially requires a blank check, so I think there’s worry about that kind of thing.

But how can climate change denialism exist when there’s so much evidence of a warming planet?

How would you know, for example, that there was a very concentrated consensus in climate science about the basics—the basics here being that the Earth is, on average, warming, and that this is driven primarily by human use of fossil fuels, and that is going to create dangerous changes?

The only way you would actually know that is to go into the halls of science, which, in reality, would mean attending events like climate science conferences or reading peer-reviewed journals that most people don’t have access to.

So, we can’t expect people to be able to discern which claim has more merit here. Which then means that we’re in the middle of a very deep democratic problem. Because if it’s not fair to have non-experts reading technical journals about complex problems on the weekend, then they have to simply trust and rely on other people representing the information such as journalists, academics, and elected officials; but in a polarized world it’s hard for them to know who to trust, so people rely on ideology to identify who it is they trust.

And this is where climate denial really shines. Because they’ll say, “We’ll tell you what’s going on—we have real climate scientists that can read this stuff for you.” And then a think tank like the Heartland Institute publishes a pamphlet that they send out to thousands of teachers. And if you’re a teacher who doesn’t have any background in that kind of thing, then having a free resource in plain language is pretty nice.

The climate denial machinery is very well funded—although most of the money that is put into that machinery is dark money.

So how can we as a society overcome the denialism movement in order to carry out the changes needed to slow climate change?

I think the answer still lies in civil society. Obviously, conservative think tanks are part of civil society, but the beauty of the larger picture of civil society is this is where everybody can come together in public and make their case.

I don’t think the answer is simply in organizing voter registration or other, similar projects. I think it’s more about people coming together and understanding how we live, and the overall values that are more robust when we’re doing things like participating in our local bowling club, for instance.

Things like that are part of civil society even though they’re not political. But they build social capital, and social capital is a network of knowledge, trust, and reciprocity, and those things are very important.

It’s all very, very messy. There aren’t any kind of clean answers here about how to fix it. This is a long-term project. 🍷



The Tale of the Trash

Love Blue Monmouth removes nearly 1,000 lbs. from local beaches.

KATIE MARSHALL would love to tell you the coast is clear, but her experience proves otherwise.

As president of Love Blue Monmouth, a student club dedicated to protecting the beach and coastal environment, Marshall helped organize five cleanups at beaches near campus last semester that removed a whopping 376 pounds of trash. The items ranged from the standard to the stunning.

“We had one cleanup where there was an entire dinner set left on the beach,” Marshall said. “It makes you wonder how people can be so inconsiderate.”

Love Blue is now in its seventh semester on campus. Through December 2023, the club had organized 15 events at which 462 participants cleaned up 921 pounds of trash. The most common items collected have been plastic bottle caps and straws.

Marshall, a junior marine and environmental biology and policy student, attributes much of the club’s success to the buy-in by other campus clubs and Greek organizations, whose members are showing up at cleanups in strong numbers and sometimes contacting Love Blue Monmouth to co-organize events. The club has also garnered support from the local business community, with merchants including The Herd Juicery, Jack’s Goal Line Stand, and Tak Waterman contributing refreshments and prizes at events.

Beyond removing trash, Marshall believes the experience of participating in cleanups is making students more conscious of ocean and beach pollution and how their choices could contribute to it.

Looking ahead, she hopes to expand the club’s footprint to organize cleanups at beaches that need help a bit further from campus, such as Sandy Hook. She would also like to build new partnerships with local church groups and schools, some of which could take advantage of the opportunities to gain community service hours. —KARL VILACOBIA 🍷

The View from Here



History and Service Take Center Stage at Founders' Day Convocation

The campus community celebrated Monmouth's 90th anniversary and honored two local elected officials for their service to the University and the region at Founders' Day Convocation on Oct. 11, 2023.

President Patrick F. Leahy bestowed the Maurice Pollak Award for Distinguished Community Service on Monmouth County Commissioner Director Thomas A. Arnone and New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal.

Arnone, now in his fifth term on the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners, was honored for his dedication to Monmouth County, particularly for championing shared services, boosting business, and securing scholarship funds that enable local students to attend Monmouth University.

Gopal, who co-chairs the University's program on Leadership, Civility, and Common Ground in Politics and Public Service and occasionally serves as an adjunct, was recognized for advancing legislation that has bolstered education, businesses, and community well-being; supporting property tax relief; and securing funding for essential county services.

U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. was also scheduled to be honored but couldn't attend because of commitments in Washington, D.C. He will receive his award at a future University event, Leahy said.

Reflecting on Monmouth's evolution since its founding as a junior college during the Great Depression, Leahy said, "Our first 90 years ... were remarkable, even audacious. If we stopped right now, it would be an incredible success story. ... But we aren't stopping. ... Our story is not complete."

Outlining plans for further developing the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music, enhancing the University's beachfront property to foster economic and cultural growth in the region, forging a potential partnership with Netflix, and undertaking a comprehensive capital campaign, Leahy declared, "The best days of this institution lay ahead of us."

A Banner Day

Prior to the women's basketball team's home opener on Nov. 10, the Hawks unveiled a banner celebrating the program's historic 2023 Coastal Athletic Association Championship and NCAA appearance—then capped the day off with a thrilling, come-from-behind win over St. John's.

Dual Dedications

Two campus locations—the underpass that links the residential and academic sides of campus and the baseball field's home dugout—were renamed in honor of Patricia L. Swannack '02 and the late John Kessler '69, respectively, in acknowledgement of those individuals' decades of service and commitment to the University.

Movie Madness Hits Monmouth

The University rolled out the red carpet last October for a star-studded advance screening and panel discussion of "Miranda's Victim." The film, which details the story behind the establishment of the Miranda rule, was shot partially on campus in 2022 and is now available on various streaming services. Hawks viewers might notice more than just familiar locations in the movie: President Leahy has a nonspeaking role portraying former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court William O. Douglas. Leahy's cinematic connections haven't reached six-degrees-of-Kevin-Bacon level yet, but his cameo forged an interesting legal link with another Patrick Leahy.

COURTROOM COINCIDENTAL

PATRICK F. LEAHY
president of Monmouth University

PATRICK J. LEAHY
former U.S. senator from Vermont

WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS
former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

JOHN PAUL STEVENS
former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

Who shares a first and last name with Patrick

In the movie, President Leahy portrays

Whose confirmation was the first such vote for

Who was replaced on the court by

Snag Some Swag

The two Leahys share another thing in common. Know what it is? Send your answer to magazine@monmouth.edu by April 1. Correct entries will be entered in a drawing to win some Monmouth swag.

THE MONMOUTH BRAG BOARD

SPIN IT TO WIN IT
Monmouth's Tuesday Night Record Club snagged the Association for Continuing Higher Education's Distinguished Program Award (noncredit) for its "originality, innovation, and ongoing success." Now in its eighth season, Tuesday Night Record Club brings music lovers and scholars together each month to discuss and dissect classic albums from across the musical genres.

ROCKING THE RANKINGS
Billboard Magazine again named Monmouth one of the world's Top Music Business Schools, noting that the University's "hybrid" academic approach and hands-on learning opportunities equip students for diverse opportunities in the industry.

ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE
Monmouth's Center for Entrepreneurship received the Catalyst of Ventures Award from TechUnited:NJ for its success at "fostering entrepreneurship and innovation" and "providing invaluable resources to aspiring entrepreneurs."

Breaking Barriers in Biology

Sean Sterrett's \$3 million NSF grant aims to improve diversity and mentorship in the field of biology.

INTERVIEW BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology Sean Sterrett, Ph.D., is part of a team that was awarded a four-year, \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The main goal of the Research and Mentoring for Postbaccalaureates in Biological Sciences grant is to diversify the field of biology while offering training and mentorship to a new generation of scientists who will be studying species in a world continually impacted by climate change.

In collaboration with scientists from Bridgewater State, Pennsylvania State, Michigan State, and Susquehanna universities, Sterrett will be working to integrate this new research and mentoring network into the existing Salamander Population and Adaptive Research Collaboration Network, known as SPARCnet.

He talked with us about this effort and his role specifically.

One of the goals of this grant is to help diversify the workforce in the field of biology. Why is that so important?

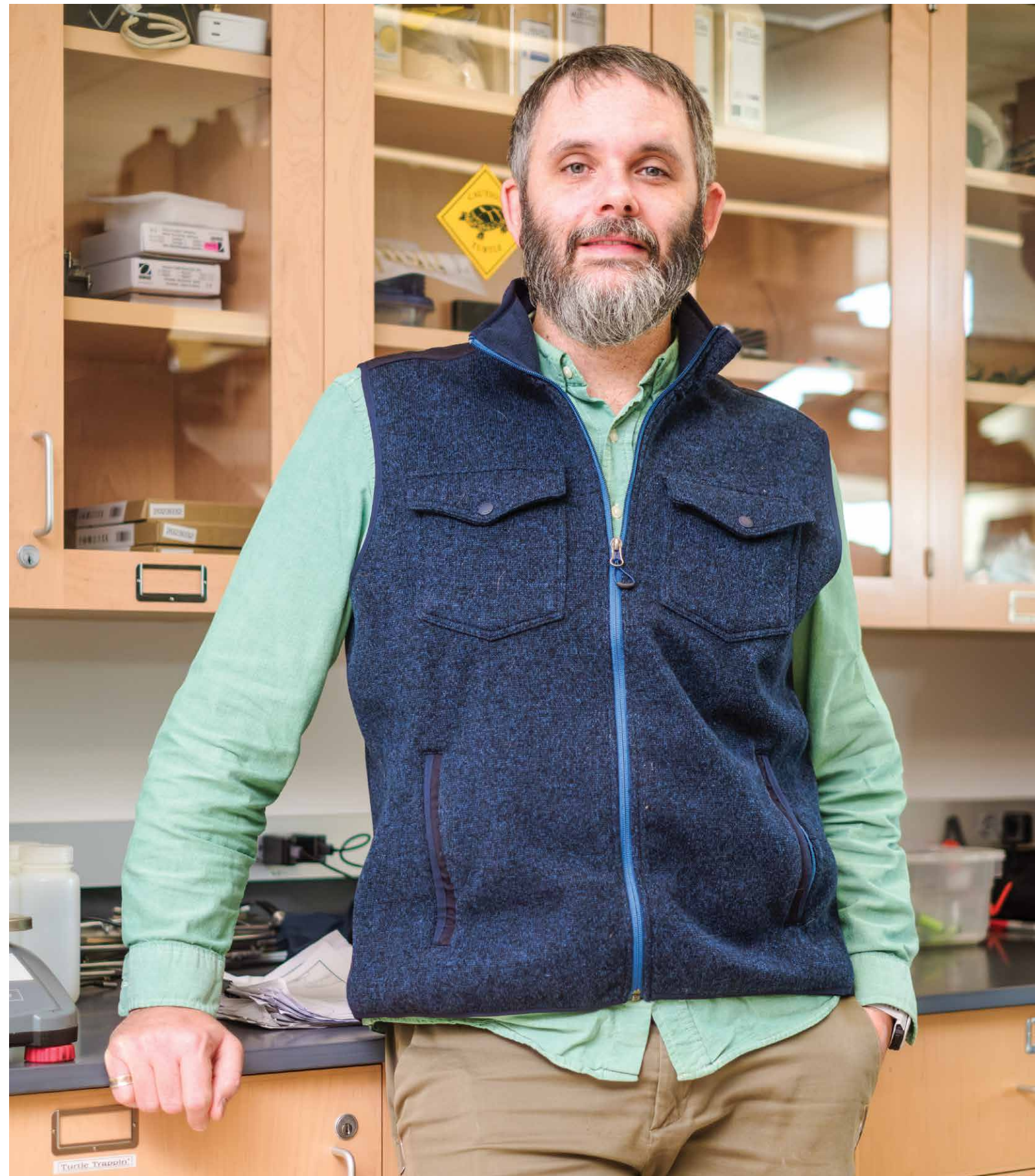
The workforce diversity issue is a problem that most of science has—it's mostly white men and women—and part of the problem is that, oftentimes, underrepresented groups don't have the same opportunities. You might have someone who is a fantastic student in the classroom but they haven't used their summers for research or career development because maybe they have other financial or family obligations. Or they might be a first-generation student like I was who doesn't really know how to approach a professor for help. As a result, they're missing that professional networking and development piece that many other students get throughout their undergraduate careers, which in turn can help them get a job or get into graduate school. This grant will provide a diverse group of 30 postbaccalaureate mentees with a one-year, paid, mentored-research position at SPARCnet sites in the eastern United States, where, through a combination of research, training, and mentoring, they

will be better prepared to successfully enter the competitive STEM workforce and postgraduate education programs.

What is SPARCnet, and why is it the perfect vehicle to grow this network?

SPARCnet is a regional initiative designed to advance the understanding of environmental change on salamander populations across the eastern United States. It's made up of a diverse group of scientists; educators; and university, federal, state, and non-profit partners who up until now have been informally using it as a place to store and share data related to the study of salamanders. This grant will help to formalize the group and allow SPARCnet to be a vehicle for mentees to connect with hundreds of fellow students as well as scientists from more than two dozen universities who utilize the network for their research.

Another big initiative of this grant that I'm focusing on is training the mentors. Mentoring as a skill is something that most researchers aren't taught, but it is extremely important to be able to build a professional relationship with students



“Mentoring as a skill is something that most researchers aren’t taught, but it is extremely important to be able to build a professional relationship with students and mentees focused on their aspirations.”

and mentees focused on their aspirations, and to be able to communicate with them to help them work toward and achieve their short- and long-term goals. We'll be holding workshops and developing a community of practice focused on helping our mentors to be better mentors.

What type of projects will the mentees be working on, and how does it relate to your research?

The red-backed salamander is the focal species we're studying. They're the most abundant and biomass-rich vertebrate in forests in the eastern United States, and they're considered an indicator species when it comes to understanding how forest communities are adapting to climate change. If they're not doing well, the ecosystem isn't doing well.

Mentee projects will be twofold. They will contribute to the standard SPARCnet sampling projects that happen every fall and spring to help build out that database so we can understand how populations change. They will also be part of a tailored research project, which will focus on something that they're interested in and that's mostly tied to the expertise of the mentor.

My lab studies spatial ecology—which is the study of where animals go and how they utilize particular spaces in their range—as well as how to track those animals. So, the mentees I work with might be joining me on a first-of-its-kind study using small PIT tags (like the microchips found in pets) to track the movements of salamanders underground, which is where they spend the majority of their life. Ultimately, these projects will all be focused on studying different elements that will help us understand whether and how salamanders and others animals are adapting to climate change. 🐸



Song Sleuth

Carlee Migliorisi lets us in on the little-known history behind one of rock's legendary anthems.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

Like the mysterious figures who inspired the Rolling Stones' "Angie" and Carley Simon's "You're So Vain," the identity of Wendy, the woman Bruce Springsteen implores to "let me in" in his song "Born to Run," has long been the subject of speculation. While some fans think it's a reference to Wendy Cook, a childhood acquaintance of Springsteen, others say the singer chose the name at random. A few have even theorized a link to Wendy Darling, the character in Peter Pan.

Senior English education major Carlee Migliorisi once counted herself among the random selection camp. "I figured he just picked the name out of a hat and threw it in there," says the Springsteen uberfan. "I didn't really think there was much significance to it."

But after spending last summer researching the birth of the song, she's convinced there is a connection to the beloved children's story. And she shared what she discovered about the song's creation in an unexpected way.

The project started last spring after Migliorisi, who works as a student archivist in the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, stumbled upon an issue of the long-out-of-print magazine *Crawdaddy*. Published in 1975,

just after the "Born to Run" album had been released, the magazine featured a cover story on Springsteen. Written by editor Peter Knobler, the article includes a brief description of the Long Branch, New Jersey, cottage in which Springsteen lived while working on the album. The bedroom there was a mess, Knobler wrote, with motorcycle magazines and records strewn about. But there was a key detail—just a few words buried within eight pages of text—that caught Migliorisi's eye.

"Above Springsteen's bed ... was a tacked poster of Peter Pan leading Wendy out the window," she explains. It's common knowledge among fans that Springsteen wrote "Born to Run" while sitting on the edge of his bed, says Migliorisi, and she thinks the singer likely found lyrical inspiration in his surroundings.

"If you're just sitting there with a notebook and don't have any ideas on what to write about, you tend to look around," says Migliorisi. Given the additional context she found in Knobler's article, "All of the arrows are pointing in the direction of Springsteen sitting at the edge of his bed, looking up above his headboard ... and there, right above him, are Wendy and Peter Pan."

Disappointed there was no photo of the room—"it's such a big piece of the story behind the song"—Migliorisi decided to re-create the iconic space in a painting. Wanting to make it "as historically accurate as possible," she started combing through everything she could find in the Archives that would give her an idea of the room's contents.

"At that time, Springsteen was giving himself a crash course in '50s rock 'n' roll ... and he had a 45 player right next to his bed so that he could just roll over and put a song on without having to get up," says Migliorisi. So, she researched which albums Springsteen would have been listening to—Roy Orbison, the Everly Brothers, and Elvis, among others—and incorporated them into her painting. Then she searched online for motorcycle magazines from the time period that Springsteen rented the house so that she could accurately depict those. She also studied typical 1970s bedroom decor; hence the "awful green carpet" in the painting. She even threw in an Easter egg: the cover of the *Rolling Stone* magazine that Springsteen was featured in at that time.

"I thought, 'He was in the issue, of course he probably had a copy laying around in his room,'" says Migliorisi. "I pulled in everything that could have possibly been in that room to make the painting feel as authentic as possible."

Migliorisi says she's received "pretty good reviews from people who lived through the '70s" about the painting's authenticity, but one person's feedback was particularly meaningful. When Knobler visited campus last fall for a 50th anniversary symposium on "The Wild, the Innocent & the E Street Shuffle," Migliorisi showed him her creation.

"He was honored that I took such inspiration from his article," she says. "He also seemed very touched when I told him how important I view *Crawdaddy* in the story of Bruce Springsteen. Being that the magazine did not last for more than 13 years, it is often forgotten or generally unknown to most people."

Migliorisi, who's planning to pursue a Master's in English at Monmouth after

graduating this May, says she hasn't ruled out compiling her research into a formal academic paper.

"I think Wendy is more of a symbol," says Migliorisi. "When you look at the lyrics, 'Wendy, let me in. I want to be your friend. I want to guard your dreams and visions,' to some extent, that is what Peter Pan is trying to do in the beloved classic story. ... He doesn't want Wendy to grow up." It's a theme that runs not just through the song "Born to Run" but through the entire album, says Migliorisi. The coming-of-age narrative Springsteen crafted on "Born to Run" is one he would build on in later works that feature characters who are forced to grow up and confront the challenges of adulthood, she says.

Does that sound like the seeds of a yet-to-be-written master's thesis? Perhaps. But till then, "It's just a fun tidbit about one of my favorite artists and the inspiration for one of rock 'n' roll's most famous songs," says Migliorisi. 🎸

All in the Song » It's widely believed Springsteen wrote "Born to Run" in the bedroom of the Long Branch, New Jersey, cottage in which he stayed while working on the album. But with no photos of the space, Migliorisi re-created it in a painting, referencing primary sources from the Archives to make it as historically accurate as she could.





Jenn Cabral

Head Barista, Parson Café

FOR ALMOST THREE decades, Jenn Cabral has been brightening the days of Monmouth students, faculty, and staff with her positive energy and supernatural ability to remember everyone’s regular order. Having previously worked in Bey Hall, Java City, and the Plangere Coffee Café, she now runs Parson Café in the Great Hall. “It’s absolutely gorgeous here, just breathtaking,” says Cabral about her new digs. She gave us a quick tour. »TONY MARCHETTI

BREWING INSPIRATION

When caffeine alone won’t do the trick, Cabral’s Quote of the Day board provides an additional spark to help her “sweetpeas”—her pet name for students—to power through. “Some days, people will stop in and not buy anything at all; they just need those words of encouragement,” says Cabral.

CAFÉ CUISINE

Parson Café offers a variety of grab-and-go food options, including wraps, sandwiches, salads, fruit cups, yogurt parfaits, a daily soup special, and fresh-baked pastries.

FLAVOR FAVES

Cabral uses Torani syrups to craft a rotating menu of specialty drinks. Her most popular? Caramel Dreams, which infuses caramel with a hint of vanilla. Regardless of what you order, you won’t be disappointed. “No one leaves here without me asking them to make sure the drink is perfect,” says Cabral.

THE DAILY GRIND

All of the coffee beans and tea leaves come from Booskerdoo Coffee Co., a popular Jersey shore microroaster. “I grind my own coffee and French press my tea. Everything here is made fresh daily,” says Cabral. “You can’t beat that.”

THE PERFECT BLEND

Parson Café was designed to look like it was always part of the Great Hall. These panels, which came from a now-demolished Pennsylvania church built in the 1800s, were repurposed to create the front of the bar.

5 Questions for Asad Whitehead

INTERVIEW BY TONY MARCHETTI

Entrepreneur. Social justice advocate. Mentor. Student leader. Asad Whitehead wears many hats, but music is what fuels his soul. A two-sport standout in high school, Whitehead turned down multiple athletic scholarships from smaller schools because none offered the musical opportunities he found at Monmouth. Now a senior, he says he loves the mix of classes he takes as a music industry major: “I’m getting a bit of everything: performance, production, and the business side of it all.”

Outside of class, Whitehead is involved in several campus organizations, including Blue Hawk Records (BHR), WMCX, the Black Student Union (BSU), and Empowering Young Black Males. He’s also steadily building his own live entertainment brand, Versatile Arts and Entertainment.

When we talked in December, Whitehead had just completed an internship with the United Justice Coalition (UJC) and Roc Nation, the multimedia company founded by Jay-Z. As one of a handful of college students selected from across the country, Whitehead helped organize the second-annual UJC Summit, which brought together thought leaders and entertainers to address issues in social justice and criminal justice reform.

How did you land the UJC internship, and what was the experience like?

I was already doing a lot of work advocating for social justice, bringing awareness to police brutality, and increasing civic engagement. When I interviewed, I also told them the story behind the brand I created, Versatile. It all sort of aligned with what UJC does.

Every day last summer, and once a week during the past semester, I was at Roc Nation’s headquarters in New York City. Being an artist and a music guy, just being in that building was an amazing experience. I had a lot of meetings with UJC’s advisory board, which is made up of powerful people from different industries—everyone from Charlamagne tha God to Michael Eric Dyson to Gayle King. I made a lot of con-



“I think the biggest takeaway for me has been that I’ve learned to be open-minded and vulnerable. You never know what someone else is going through. I’ve realized there’s a lot you can learn from everyone, regardless of their age.”

nections with influential people who share my passion for social justice, so I’m grateful to have had that opportunity.

You mentioned your brand. Can you share the story behind it and what you do?

Versatile grew out of a rap group I was in that was formed as the result of shared tragedies. My best friend’s father was killed by police brutality in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, in 2018. My brother had also passed away recently, and the other person in our group had lost his two-year-old nephew. It was a traumatic time, and we were all looking for a way to cope. We had all made music separately, so we channeled our grief into doing it together. We released a song, “What Else?,” that addressed the topic of police brutality, and we performed it at shows around Wilkes-Barre, where we also promoted awareness of the issue.

In the years since, I have started diving more into the arts and entertainment, which led me to create Versatile Arts and Entertainment. It’s a me-

dia business that serves as a platform for celebrating and promoting artistic freedom by bringing together musicians, visual artists, dancers, fashion designers, and other creative individuals. In the music realm, we showcase a diverse range of artists and musical genres. Within the visual arts realm, we host exhibitions showcasing the creations of painters, sculptors, photographers, and mixed-media artists. But music is the key to it all.

You’re in your second year as president of BSU. How have you grown from that experience?

I’m a big “event guy.” I’m creative. I like to put things together—to take nothing and make it something nice. BSU gives me the opportunity to sponsor events, bring in speakers, plan trips, and fundraise. It’s like a practice run for what I want to do with Versatile: running artistic- and music-based events.

BSU has also helped me become a better leader. I speak at meetings, and I’m the moderator for a lot of the events we sponsor. Monmouth is still a primarily white institution, so I understand the importance of maintaining thriving intercultural clubs and organizations such as BSU. It’s a lot of responsibility, but I put my all into it and love the work.

What inspired you to start mentoring high school students, and what’s been the biggest takeaway for you?

My roommate, Gildon Smith, who’s vice president of BSU, got me involved with Empowering Young Black Males, which is a collaboration between Monmouth and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Every oth-

er Tuesday, students from Neptune and Long Branch high schools visit campus, and we’ll do various activities together. The goal is to build relationships with these young Black men and give them life advice, since they’re about to go through the same thing we did heading into college. I think the biggest takeaway for me has been that I’ve learned to be open-minded and vulnerable. You never know what someone else is going through. I’ve realized there’s a lot you can learn from everyone, regardless of their age.

You’ll be graduating in a few months. What’s next for you?

This spring, I’ll be a music intern at “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.” I’ll be working closely with the daily musical guests and the house band, The Roots, to ensure seamless and memorable performances on the show. I’m looking forward to getting an immersive experience in the fast-paced world of television and having a front-row seat to the excitement of live music production on a national stage.

As far as after graduation, regardless of where I go, I know that everything I did at Monmouth will play a role in my future. That’s why I did mentoring: to enlighten people and help the younger generation. That’s why I joined BSU: to learn how to be a leader and throw events. That’s why I joined Blue Hawk Records: to learn how to work with other artists and see how a label works. Everything I’ve done here has been for a reason, and I’m grateful I’ve had these opportunities. Without them, I don’t know where I’d be. 🎧

Musical Aside

Asad Whitehead’s commitment to social justice, entrepreneurial drive, and natural leadership abilities converge around his passion for music, which he says is his “personal outlet for self-expression and setting an example for others.” Here’s a look at how that has taken shape at Monmouth.

BLUE HAWK RECORDS

As a singer, rapper, and songwriter performing under the name Kid Ace, Whitehead has appeared on two of the student-run record label’s albums. He’s also secretary of The Music Alliance, BHR’s live event planning team.

EQUAL SOUND INITIATIVE

The project, which Whitehead secured grant funding for, has enabled several campuswide musical programs, including a “Classroom Concert” series held in collaboration with BSU, BHR, and WMCX.

LIVE NATION SCHOLARSHIP

Whitehead was one of six recipients selected nationwide to receive a \$10,000 scholarship from Live Nation and the Music Forward Foundation. The award supports students pursuing careers in Live Nation’s core business areas: concert promotion, venue operation, sponsorship, ticketing, and artist management.

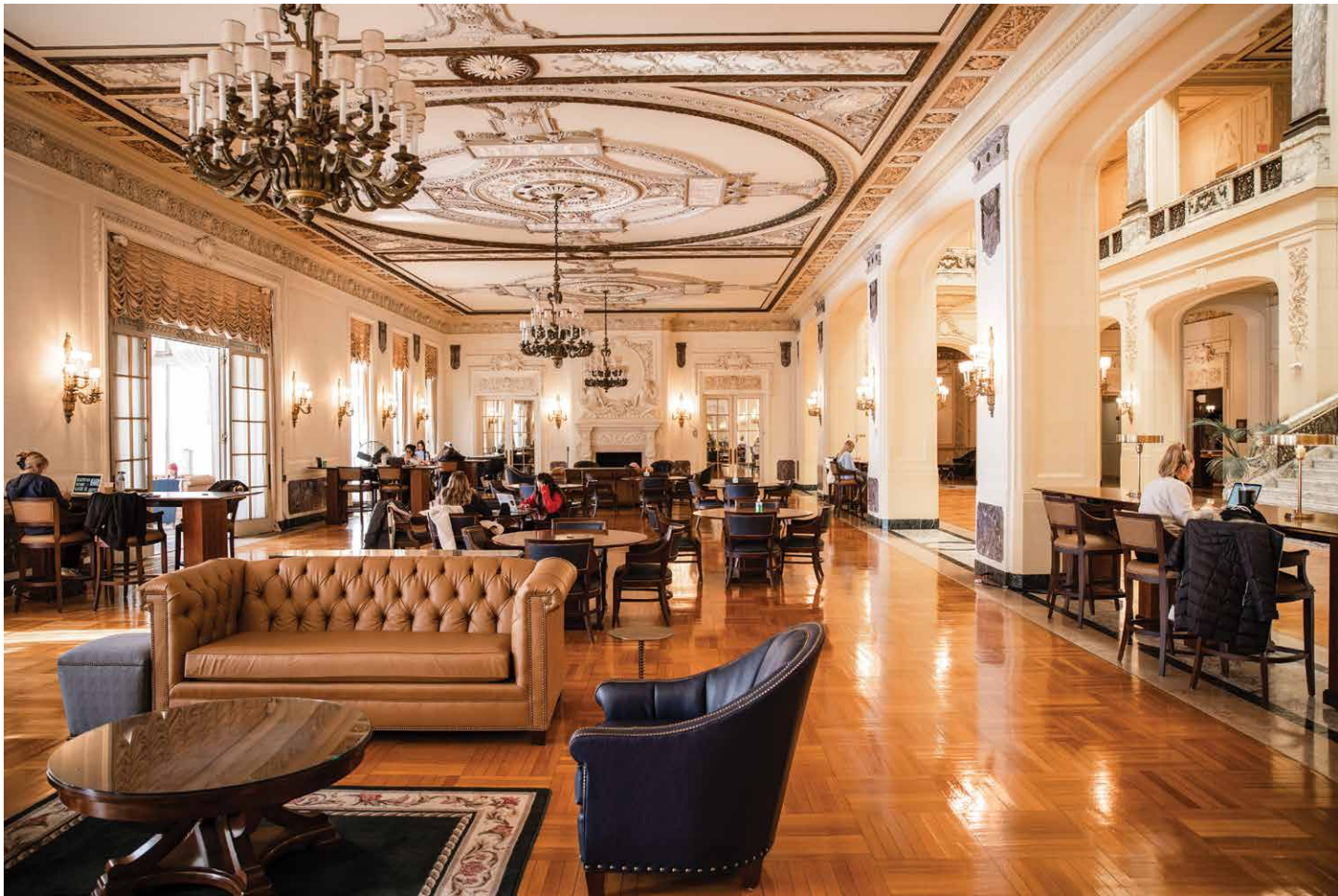
“VICE VERSA”

Whitehead’s biweekly radio show on WMCX, where he’s also head of media production, features a heavy dose of hip-hop and R&B as well as discussions of such topics as mental health, college life, and the struggles of being Black in today’s society.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Rediscovering the quiet legacy of Haslam Slocum and the iconic campus location that bears his name.

BY AMANDA GLATZ



“How do I get to Slocum Hall?” This simple logistical query would likely stump even some of the longest-tenured members of the Monmouth University community, but if you’ve ever ventured into the lobby of the Great Hall, chances are you’ve already been there.

Tucked into the main campus’s central hub and marked only by an unassuming, blink-and-you’ll-miss-it plaque, Slocum Hall encompasses the Great Hall’s main floor, beginning just past the iconic mansion’s front entrance and ascending its three interior stories. The area, which was officially dedicated on Oct. 7, 1961, has been witness to

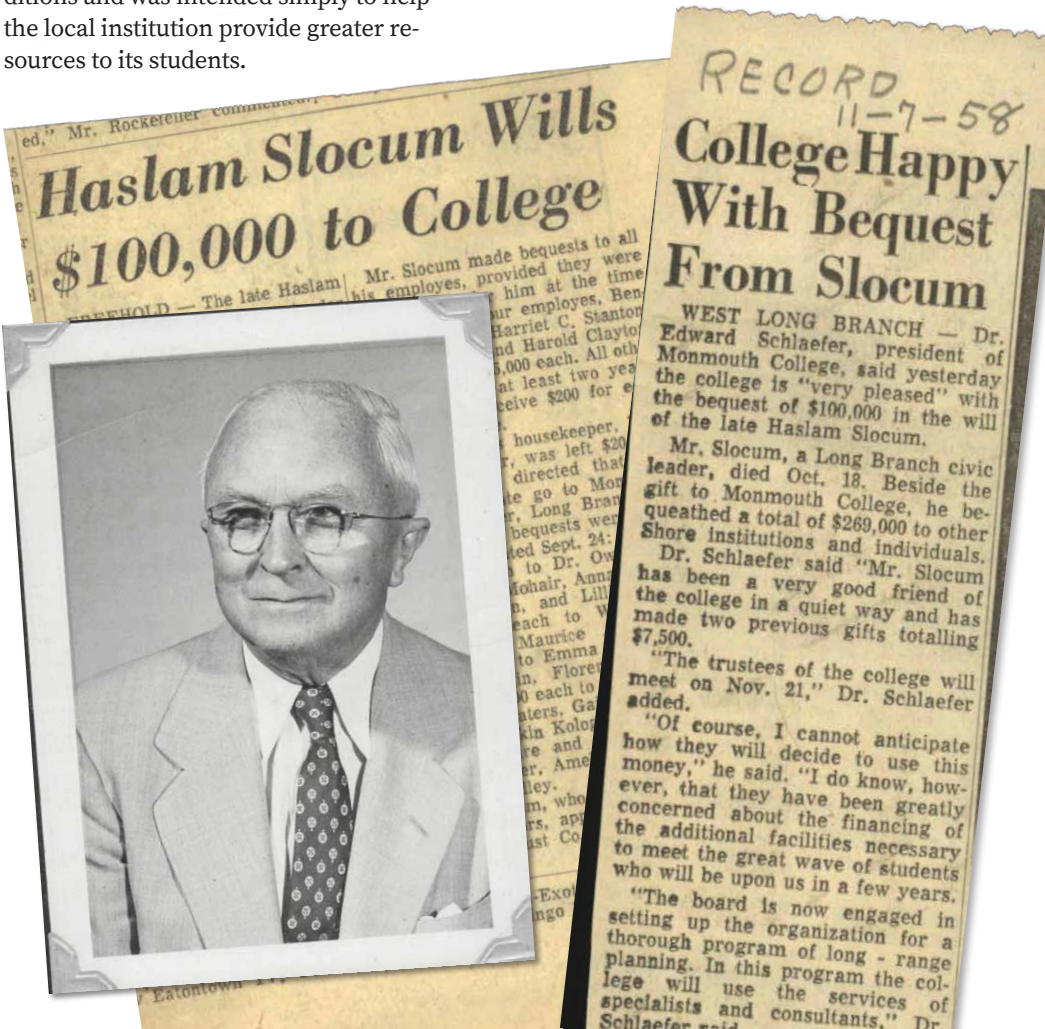
decades of transformation, including Monmouth’s transition from college to university in 1995. It has hosted galas, presidential announcements, club events, and campus tours. Every day, hundreds pass through the space, likely without realizing its true name. So who was Slocum Hall named for, and why does it matter?

The history of the hall is intertwined with neighboring Long Branch, New Jersey, and begins when Haslam Slocum was born there in 1879. A lifelong resident until his death in 1958, Slocum graduated from the Long Branch public school system, operated a local fuel oil business, and was a respected civic leader and fixture in the community for nearly eight decades. In a final act of service to his beloved hometown, Slocum willed over \$250,000 to local causes, including \$100,000 to then-Monmouth College, marking the institution’s first-ever bequest.

Notably, the bequest contained no parameters for specific use and was intended only for “the general purposes of the College at the discretion of its Board of Trustees.” “Monmouth College is very pleased with the splendid bequest of \$100,000 in the will of Haslam Slocum,” wrote then-president Edward G. Schlaefer in a statement made Nov. 6, 1958, noting that Slocum had been a very good friend to the College “in a quiet way.” Schlaefer had spearheaded the initiative that saw Monmouth acquiring the Great Hall a few years prior; previously, all classes had been held at the local Long Branch high school. The Shadow Lawn mansion, which cost over \$10 million to build in 1933 dollars, was eventually purchased by Eugene Lehman to serve as the home of Highland Manor Junior College after the now-landmark building fell into ignominious municipal ownership. Schlaefer’s daughter, Nancy Schlaefer Bruch ’58, recalls that Slocum, or “Has,” as he was known to her father, had earlier made a gift of \$1,000, which was one of the first significant donations toward the purchase of Shadow Lawn. Slocum’s estate gift, which would be valued at nearly \$1.1 million in today’s dollars, marked a turning point in Monmouth’s history. Once a humble junior college, the institution conferred its first four-year baccalaureate degrees in 1958 at the new Shadow Lawn campus, taking the first steps toward eventual university status. Over the next decade, Monmouth would also acquire the Guggenheim Memorial Library while continuing to grow its academic, athletic, and residential programs. To honor those who helped usher in this new era of the institution’s history, Schlaefer commissioned plaques that would adorn campus with the names of individuals and groups who had a profound impact on Monmouth, including the likes of Milton Erlanger, Maurice Pollak, and Slocum, among others. Gifts from these donors had “enabled the institution to provide more facilities and a larger curriculum,” Schlaefer said. He promised that as Monmouth continued to grow, it would “become the pride of the shore area.”

Slocum, for his part, had no particularly strong connections to Monmouth before his death other than a deep dedication to serving the local community in which he lived his entire life. Bruch believes that Slocum and her father had become acquainted through the Rotary Club. Slocum proved to be exceptionally generous in his will, bequeathing his home to the city to be turned into a public park. He also bequeathed funds to the YMCA at Long Branch, St. James’ Episcopal Church of Long Branch, the West Long Branch Cemetery Trust, Monmouth Medical Center, and all employees still working at his fuel company at the time of his death. Now a doctoral university on a 170-acre campus, Monmouth has transcended anything the pioneers of Monmouth College likely would have envisioned in the 1950s. Slocum’s then-unprecedented gift has quietly faded into history, but perhaps that’s the way he would have wanted it. His planned gift—the first in Monmouth’s history—was offered without fanfare or conditions and was intended simply to help the local institution provide greater resources to its students.

Ultimately, Slocum’s gift was a tremendous vote of confidence in the importance of the college to the region. His bequest proved to be instrumental to an era of accelerated growth of campus facilities, ushering in a new era at Monmouth and paving the way for generations to come—what Schlaefer correctly predicted in 1958 would be “the great wave of students who will be upon us in a few years.” Though Slocum didn’t seek recognition, that doesn’t mean he isn’t due any. His generosity is a reminder that all gifts, big and small, have the opportunity to change the course of individuals and institutions alike. Slocum’s bequest came at a turning point in the University’s history, and, by setting the stage for Monmouth’s transformation from modest college to thriving national university, its impact still reverberates through the recently renovated Slocum Hall, where a new generation of students gather, grab a bite between classes, and study. ●





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[MENTAL HEALTH]

A Game Plan for Well-Being

Monmouth's holistic approach to supporting the unique mental health needs of its student-athletes is designed to help them succeed on and off the field.

BY RYAN JONES

Alyssa Ercolino '17, '22M understands the student-athlete grind as well as anyone. A three-time All-MAAC forward for the Monmouth field hockey team from 2013 to 2016, she started 78 games and finished her Hawks career among program leaders for goals and assists. Two years after graduation, she was back on campus as an assistant coach, where she spent five seasons helping young women who were balancing the same demands of classwork, practice, and everything else that she was juggling just a few years earlier.

In the fall of 2022, Ercolino began a new role for which her prior experience was the ideal preparation: She's the University's first full-time sports behavioral health specialist. The new position is part

of Monmouth's response to the unique mental health needs of student-athletes, a challenge of which there is growing awareness at institutions across the nation. "It's the time commitment spent →

on your sport—not just the 20 hours of practice a week the NCAA allows, but time spent thinking about and preparing for your sport, plus the impact of travel and missing classes,” Ercolino says. “It all takes a toll.”

Accounting for that toll, and helping student-athletes not just get by but thrive in the face of it, is the focus of Ercolino and her colleagues in Monmouth’s student-athlete development office. Along with sports nutritionist Ellie Meyers and sports psychology consultant Pete Economou, Ph.D., Ercolino is tasked with giving nearly 600 Hawks competing in 24 varsity sports the tools they need to thrive. Jennifer Sansevero, Monmouth’s acting director of athletics, says such a holistic approach to athlete wellness is essential to Monmouth’s on-field success.

“I’ve been in this business for 15 years, and these issues weren’t part of the recruiting conversations in the past. They definitely are now,” Sansevero says. “Our student-athletes are very vocal about the need for support in this area, and it is a point of emphasis for our department.”

The numbers show just how much of a need there is. Ercolino, who completed her master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling at Monmouth, says more than 100 student-athletes contacted her in her first three semesters in the role. Many are looking for help with issues specifically related to their sport, while others have questions about their broader life outside athletics. Of course, Ercolino says, those areas often overlap: “We hear a lot about performance anxiety. Well, take away the word ‘performance,’ and it’s just anxiety.”

It’s in her ability to relate to the challenges facing student-athletes that Ercolino’s background is invaluable. “Being integrated in athletics, I understand the environment and the culture,” she says, adding that she often heads out to team practices to observe and connect with athletes on their turf. Much of her work is focused on improving performance, through everything from mindfulness practice to establishing pre-performance routines. But, as Sansevero emphasizes, the challenges faced by student-athletes have implications well beyond their sports.

“We’re already trying to give them a skill set for how to perform from an X’s and O’s standpoint, an academic skill set, and preparing for whatever they chose to be in their careers,” Sansevero says. “Now, how do we give them a skill set for managing through crisis, managing through stress, or managing through injuries? And how do they manage after they’re done with their sport, when being a student-athlete has been a big part of their identity?”

Mindful that Monmouth’s student-athletes are students first, Ercolino’s office collaborates with and refers some students to the University’s counseling & prevention services office. Regardless of whether they’re struggling with time management; the pressure of expectations; or any of the other stressors faced by multitasking, high-achieving young adults, the goal is to help them emerge unscathed. As Sansevero says, “We’ve tried really hard to eliminate the stigma and let student-athletes know it’s OK not to be OK.”

Home Court Harmony

King and Xander Rice are proving their delayed court connection was worth the wait.

BY RYAN JONES

King Rice finally has the chance to coach one of his kids, and he wouldn’t trade it for anything. Not even for the chance to go back in time and start coaching him four years earlier.

That seemed like a possibility—the coaching, not the time travel—when Xander Rice, the older of the Monmouth men’s basketball coach’s two sons, was deciding on his college destination back in 2019. Instead, Xander committed to Bucknell, where he played four seasons for the Bison, led the team in scoring and assists as a senior, and earned a psychology degree. His dad insists that Xander choosing *not* to play for him back then was best for both of them.

“I wasn’t mature enough,” King Rice says. “I would’ve been pushing him so hard I probably would’ve messed up his college experience.”

Xander says his dad is being too hard on himself—“I think we would’ve figured it out,” he says—but they agree that their belated pairing was worth the wait. Weighing his options for a post-graduate transfer last summer, Xander eschewed interest from high-major programs—reportedly including six-figure name, image, and likeness licensing offers—and chose Monmouth, where he’s spending his final season of college eligibility leading the way for the Hawks. And for his dad.

King Rice says the process wasn’t as clear-cut as outsiders might assume. It was Xander who first broached the subject of where he should spend a post-grad year, and King said he felt it was “a no-brainer” that Xander would come “home” to Monmouth; a fixture at games and practices, he’d practically grown up in the Hawks’ gym, and both knew that Xander’s mom, Summer, and his younger brother, Julian, would be thrilled to have him around. But King Rice insisted that if Xander was interested, he’d leave it to his staff—particularly assistant coaches Rick Callahan and Brian Reese—to recruit his son. “If he was coming here,” King Rice says, “it was going to be because it was best for him.”

It’s turned out to be a perfect fit for all involved.

“He’s been incredible,” King Rice says. “He’s even better as a player than I thought he was—he can score



from all three levels, and he’s better on defense than I thought. And the way he’s taken over a leadership role, the way he puts in the work, and just how he handles himself, the younger guys really look up to him.”

It didn’t take his teammates long to realize Xander, a 6-foot-3 point guard, was a special addition to the roster. Back in November, in just the second game of the season, the Hawks traveled to Morgantown, West Virginia, to take on the Mountaineers. Xander Rice scored 30 points to lead Monmouth to a 73-65 road upset of the Big 12 hosts. Through 20 games, he was averaging a team-high 21.1 points along with 3.1 assists, production he credits to “playing with consistent confidence, which I kind of struggled with in the past. I think that’s the biggest thing for me, because this team needs me to do a lot on both ends of the floor.”

In that, he shares much in common with his father. King Rice was the higher-profile recruit, earning McDonald All-America honors as a high school point guard and going on to captain the 1991 North Carolina Tar Heels to the NCAA Final Four. Xander has three inches on his dad, and King Rice says that’s not the only way his son has surpassed him.

“He’s way smarter than me,” the coach says. “He

can do all the things you would think a coach’s son does, and he’s tough. He grew up down here, and his high school coach once said to me, ‘How do you grow up in such a beautiful place and still have an edge on the court?’ He’s a tough competitor, because he hates losing. Everybody wants a kid like him on their team.”

Their shared competitiveness is invaluable, but also, both admit, occasionally combustible: Xander laughs when he says he sometimes comes home heated after a rough practice, “and my mom’s mad at my dad because he made me mad, and I just stay in my room.” But the difficult moments have been far outweighed by the good ones, both on and off the court. Just as Xander has no regrets about going away for college, he has no second thoughts about coming home for one last year.

“Being here has been a learning curve, but really it’s been a dream come true,” he says. “I can go home, hang out with my little brother, my mom and my dad, and my dog. It’s something I’ve really appreciated.”

For his part, King Rice calls the situation “a blessing.” And the best part of coaching his son? Easy: “To see him having success, and just to see him smiling on the court.”

“His high school coach once said to me, ‘How do you grow up in such a beautiful place and still have an edge on the court?’ He’s a tough competitor, because he hates losing. Everybody wants a kid like him on their team.”



Balancing Act

Pole vaulter Lexi Baumgartner discusses the heights and depths of her Monmouth experience.

AS TOLD TO MARK GOLA

IF YOU CATCH LEXI BAUMGARTNER walking across campus, you might want to hurry and take a selfie with her. She doesn't stay grounded for long. Baumgartner is often catapulting herself high above the surface or researching areas deep below sea level.

The junior marine environmental biology and policy major and pole vaulter for the Hawks track and field program says she's enjoying an eclectic student-athlete experience at Monmouth, and she's optimistic the heights and depths of her time here will lead to one result: making a difference.

Flying high comes naturally for me.

There was a slight fear factor early on with pole vaulting, but I was used to being in the air. I competed in gymnastics for 10 years before shifting to track and field. Holding a 12-foot pole and flinging yourself over a bar does, however, require a lot of trust in yourself and coaches.

Where my academic interests lie.

Marine biology is a very broad topic of study. I'd like to research migration patterns—tagging fish, tracking why they move a certain way, and how humans impact their environment and affect behaviors. My generation has a lot of data to work with, and we continue to do research, so we're now trying to reverse any negative effects the marine environment has endured.

Summers are for scholarship.

I spent last summer conducting research with two other students through the Urban Cost Institute's Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe Scholars Program. Our study focused on the ocean's current and its impact on a salt marsh in Barnegat Bay,

New Jersey. We used doppler technology to measure velocity and determine the threshold for sediment movement. The currents were strong enough to move sediment along the northwestern side, which was causing the salt marsh to split in half.

We are family.

The track and field team is like a big family, and the jumpers are a very close-knit group. The guys are like my older brothers and the girls are like my sisters. At meets, it feels like I'm cheering for my own family.

Never underestimate the power of routine.

I normally listen to Lady Gaga before meets. Her music is upbeat, and she has a different image than other artists; I like that about her. When I'm on the runway before jumps, I take deep breaths, close my eyes, and block out any distractions or negative thoughts. Then I count down my steps during my approach. There's a sense of relief when I clear the bar and then excitement to continue competing.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Both of my parents have raced in triathlons and Iron Man competitions, so they know how much work goes into training. They have always been very supportive, but they also motivate me. They usually text me after meets to tell me how well I did but will also ask, "Where do you think you can do better?"

When I'm not above the bar or researching below sea level.

I love to cook and bake. My grandmother is German and passed down dessert recipes for sweets and breads. My mom and I make 15 types of cookies for the holidays. I also love painting. When I have no homework, I pick up the brush and start painting. It's a way for me to relax.

My ideal dinner date.

If I could have dinner with one person, I'd pick British broadcaster and biologist David Attenborough. He's a naturalist, and what he's done with his career is so cool. He's been up close and personal with so many animals, and I'd love to hear about all his experiences.

We all scream for ice cream.

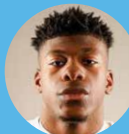
We don't have Carvel where I'm from (Alexandria, Virginia), so when I'm at Monmouth, I love getting peanut butter chocolate sundaes from there. ☺

SPORTS SHORTS



CROSS-COUNTRY

Emily Simko was named the 2023 Coastal Athletic Association Women's Cross Country Rookie of the Year, making her the program's first major CAA award winner.



FOOTBALL

For the second straight season, running back Jaden Shirden was named the CAA Offensive Player of the Year.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jakari Spence's buzzer-beater against Northern Illinois on Dec. 9 earned him the No. 1 spot on ESPN SportsCenter's Top 10 Plays Daily.



WOMEN'S TRACK

Yasmeeen Tinsley set two school records last fall, clocking 8.56 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles and, one week later, 39.76 seconds in the 300 meters.

INSIDE THE NEW *SPRINGSTEEN ARCHIVES*

The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University unveils plans for its new home.

BY EILEEN CHAPMAN

SEPTEMBER 9 1956

ast October, the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University announced a new 30,000-square-foot building that will house the Archives, the Center for American Music, related exhibition galleries, and a 230-seat, state-of-the-art theater.

Designed by the acclaimed New York-based architectural firm CookFox, the building will be located on Monmouth's campus, not far from where Springsteen wrote his landmark song, "Born to Run," nearly 50 years ago.

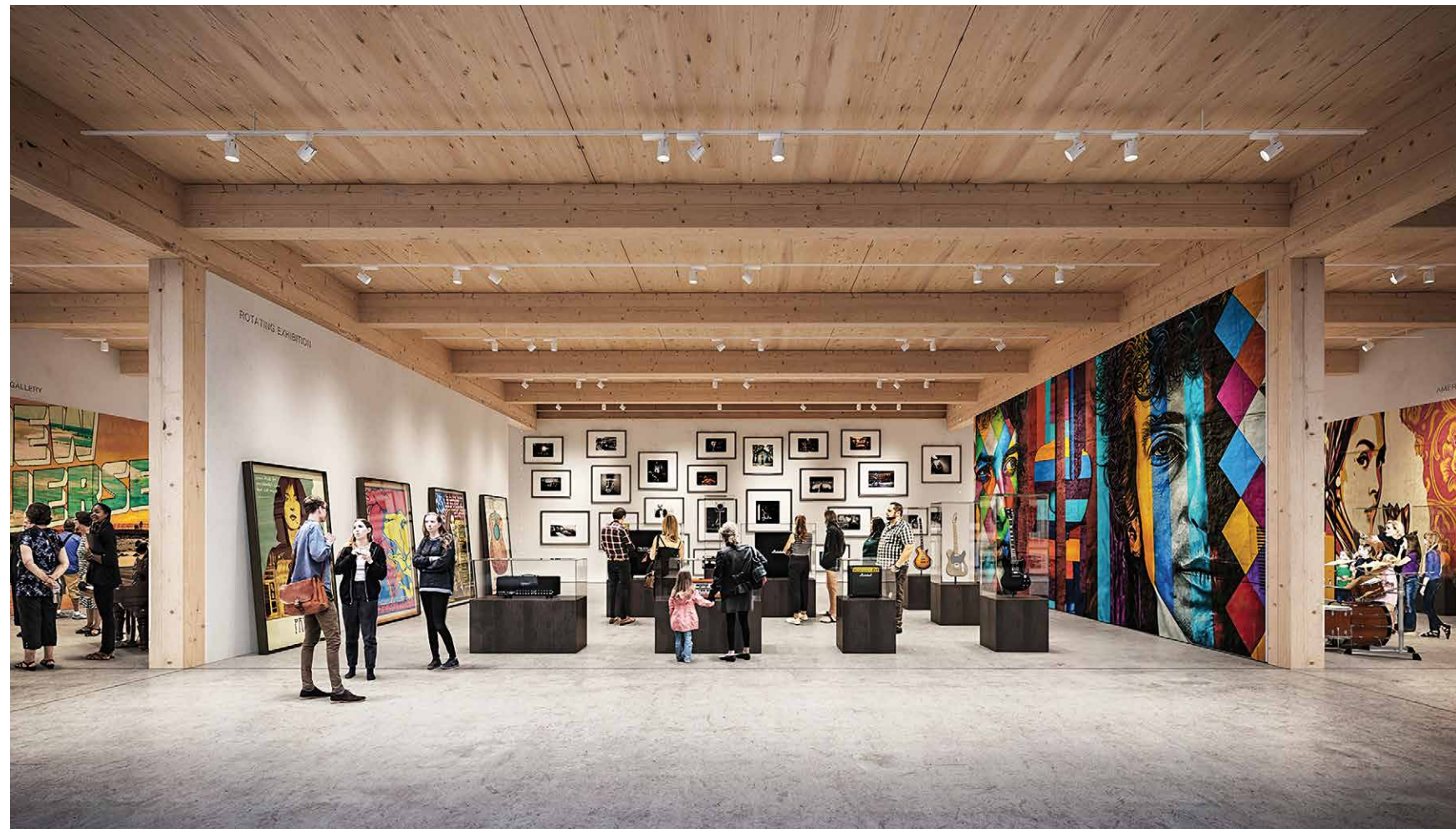
The new building will be 100% funded by external donors, and a campaign to raise the \$45 million to construct the building is underway. The anticipated opening date is spring 2026.

"Monmouth University is excited to enrich our campus with a new home for one of the country's premier cultural and educational institutions dedicated to preserving the legacy of Bruce Springsteen and the story of American music," said Monmouth University President and Chair of the Archives Board Patrick F. Leahy. "This beautiful and functional facility will enhance cultural and educational opportunities in New Jersey and our region, expand academic scholarship, and position Monmouth University as a national leader in arts education."

The Center for American Music will feature exhibits on Springsteen and showcase diverse topics and themes in American music, while the Archives will offer visitors the chance to listen to oral histories and interviews, watch rare film footage, and explore major moments in music history.

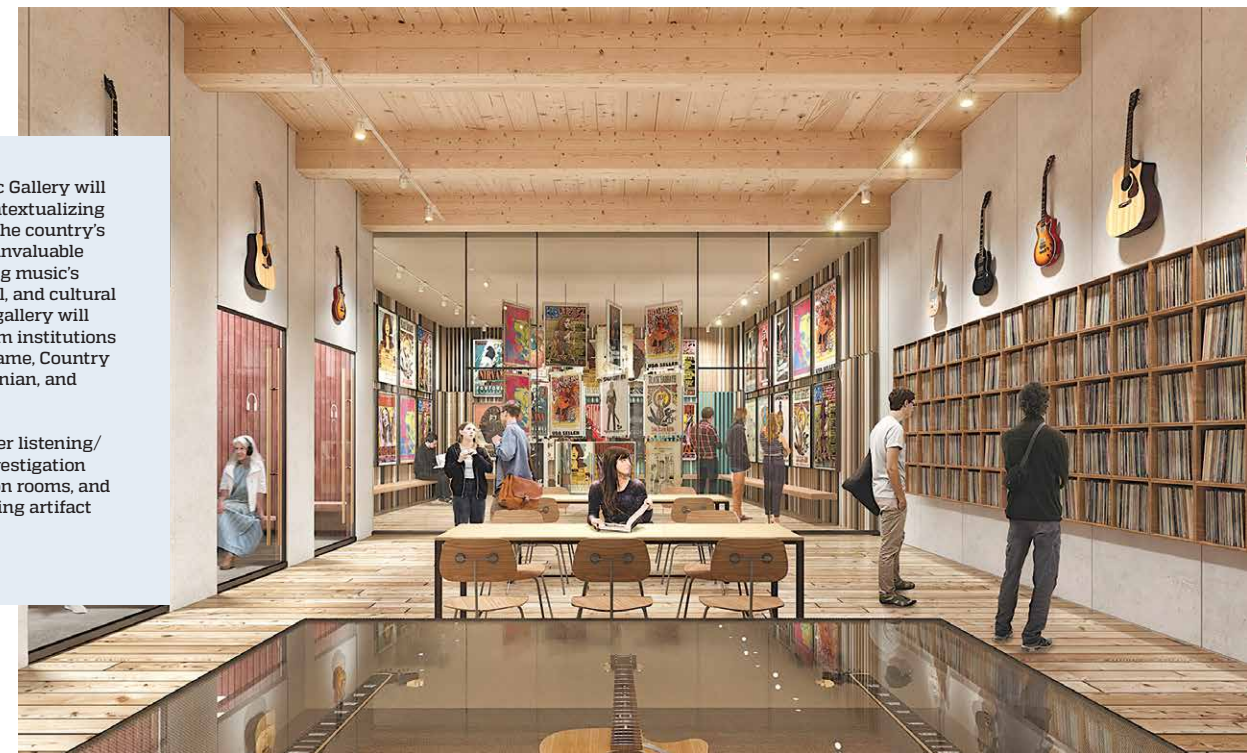
Intimate concerts, teacher workshops, symposia, lectures, film series, and other public and educational programs will also be part of the mission of the Archives and Center for American Music.

"Our institution will offer exciting research opportunities for students, journalists, and historians and give Springsteen fans the chance to explore his music and the role it plays in American history like never before," added Robert Santelli '73, '14HN, executive director of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music. "Teachers will also find the Archives and Center for American Music a valuable educational resource. Lesson plans, teaching strategies, and online programs will be available to teachers and enable them to bring American music into the classroom."



ABOVE: The American Music Gallery will offer interactive displays contextualizing Springsteen's music within the country's diverse musical history—an invaluable resource for classes exploring music's impact on the social, political, and cultural fabric of America. A second gallery will host rotating exhibitions from institutions like the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Country Music Hall of Fame, Smithsonian, and Grammy Museum.

RIGHT: The Archives will offer listening/viewing cubicles, artifact investigation space, small-group discussion rooms, and a processing center for ongoing artifact donations.





ABOVE: The soundstage and theater will host intimate performances, lectures, film screenings, seminars, and conferences. Daytime visitors will enjoy an introductory film on Springsteen's music and life; in the evening, Monmouth faculty will teach courses on popular music.

From Small Things (Big Things One Day Come)

Monmouth has played an important role in Springsteen's music history. The University was the site of many early Springsteen concerts from 1969 to 1974 and has hosted numerous Springsteen academic conferences over the years. In addition, Springsteen chose Monmouth to rehearse his "Springsteen on Broadway" show, and he has participated in numerous music-related public programs on campus.

In 2011, Monmouth began housing a significant number of Springsteen's written works, photographs, periodicals, and artifacts. When the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music was formally established in 2017, Monmouth

was designated as the official archival repository for Springsteen's legacy and expanding its role in promoting the history and inspiration of American music. Today, the Archives house nearly 48,000 items from 47 countries ranging from articles and oral histories to concert memorabilia and promotional materials.

Springsteen, who was in attendance for the announcement, made note of his ties to the University while speaking about what the building means to him.

"At 19 ... I played on these very steps out here, and so to stand here today is quite humbling knowing that I'm going to be a presence here on this campus, which I really look forward to being," Springsteen said. "It's deeply satisfying, and I look forward to working with everyone to make the building and this endeavor a great success." 🎸

"At 19 ... I played on these very steps out here, and so to stand here today is quite humbling knowing that I'm going to be a presence here on this campus, which I really look forward to being."



A Glorious Day in the Great Hall

STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, staff, donors, politicians, and celebrities gathered in the University's iconic building on Oct. 18 for what some joked was the worst-kept secret in Monmouth County: the announcement that a new building would be constructed on campus to house the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music. All eyes were on the man of the hour, Springsteen, who while adding his signature humor to the occasion ("I'm glad about getting all the junk out of my house because it was really getting cluttered in there; now I got some place to put that stuff") expressed delight that "my archives are going to have a home right here in New Jersey."





BREWING BEERS & BONDS

PHOTOS
BY
MATT
RASPANTI

**CHELSEY DEMARINO-ZIOLKOWSKI '17
FOUND LOVE, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
ALL THANKS TO A COLD ONE.**

CRAFTED WITH THE FINEST NARRATIVE INGREDIENTS IN WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ

BY
BREANNE
MCCARTHY

To say that craft beer has played a significant role in Chelsey DeMarino-Ziolkowski's adult life might be an understatement. As a young 20-something working in the Jersey City, New Jersey, restaurant industry, her knowledge of and appreciation for microbrews sparked a connection between her and her now husband, Michal Ziolkowski. Little did she know that their initial conversations were laying the foundation for a journey that would eventually lead them to establish not one, but two breweries just a decade later. →

THE BREW BUG

Chelsey discovered her passion for craft beer in her early 20s. She “loved everything about it”—so much so that she acquired certification in the craft beer industry and began organizing trips to local breweries for friends and acquaintances in the business.

It was around that time that she and Mike—one of the regular customers at the bar she worked at and a fellow craft beer lover who’d recently started home brewing—often found themselves discussing the splendor of a perfectly brewed pint.

“He was the one customer I thoroughly enjoyed talking with about tasting notes, limited beers, and the love we both had for craft beer,” says Chelsey, who admits that she initially turned down Mike’s request for a date. A few months later, she reconsidered. “We went out to dinner, drank some good beers together, and haven’t left each other’s side since.”

A few years later, the couple welcomed twin daughters, turning their lives upside down. They moved to the Jersey Shore to be closer to family, but Chelsey’s aspirations to climb the ladder in the restaurant industry came to a halt, propelling her in a new direction.

“Your career kind of stops when you have kids, especially in the restaurant industry, but as soon as [the twins] were born, I wanted to get back into something; I’ve always had this desire to create and build things and do more,” she says. “When you have a baby, you realize how hard it is and how much support there is lacking, so when they were three months old, I went back to school to be a doula.”

Chelsey started working as a postpartum doula for twin moms and, soon after, entered Monmouth to pursue her bachelor’s degree in health sciences to bolster her growing expertise.

As a 28-year-old mother of two who worked part time, Chelsey recognized she wasn’t the traditional undergraduate student, but she “loved everything” about her time at Monmouth. She made friends, interned in the athletics department, and feels that being older enabled her to form closer connections with her professors.

It was during this busy time in their lives that Chelsey and Mike’s love of beer started to flourish into something bigger. They had occasionally home brewed in their Jersey City apartment, but now they

started testing out new beer recipes almost weekly at their home in Wall Township, New Jersey.

“We’re randomly pillow talking one night and we’re like, ‘What if we open a brewery? Who says we can’t do this, we make really good beer at home,’” she laughs. Looking back, she realizes they were being a bit naive—typical “home brewer’s thinking,” Chelsey says. But given her experience in the restaurant industry and Mike’s experience in the corporate world, they decided to give it a go.

BRADLEY BREW IS BORN

Less than two years after that conversation and just 10 days after the birth of their third daughter, in June 2018 Chelsey and Mike opened Bradley Brew Project (BBP), a community-focused microbrewery nestled cozily on Main Street, less than a mile from the coastline in Bradley Beach, New Jersey.

Complete with a large roll-up glass-door façade that opens to the bustle of Main Street, the space includes an outdoor seating area, an open and free-flowing tasting room, and a menu that features a new release every week. Chelsey says everything about the brewery, which utilizes an assortment of ingredients and brewing processes to provide clients with endless new experiences, is designed to exude an air of warmth and hospitality. BBP’s vision is simple, she says: “to brew inspired and approachable ales and lagers and to serve them in a welcoming environment.”

“Walking through our door, we want you to have the best experience all around, not only by having a really good beer, but [also because] our staff is really friendly and accommodating and they focus on educating our customers about all of our offerings,” says Chelsey. “Our brewery isn’t like many breweries because you’re not going into a warehouse space; it’s a little bit more elevated than that. You’re walking in right off of Main Street and getting a glass of really good beer in a tasting room where you can literally reach out and touch the tanks as part of the experience.”

There’s also a culture of family friendliness stemming from the fact that the

brewery is nothing short of a family affair. Not only do Chelsey and Mike share the day-to-day responsibilities of running the establishment, their daughters have a hand in the family business. In fact, BBP’s flagship brew, Unicorn Girls, which the couple started brewing in their home while developing their brewery concept, is an homage to the couple’s twin daughters, who as young children often referred to themselves as “the unicorn girls.”

The girls—whose other quips such as “I Dream of Darkness” and “Maybe We Could Do Magic” have made their way onto the cans of various BBP brews over the years—can often be found helping mom and dad around the brewery.

“My three girls are really amazing human beings and granted, I’m their mom, but I think the reason for that is they see how hard my husband and I work,” she says. “They see how we have to make sacrifices and don’t always get to do fun things when they come to work with us, but they’re so proud of it.”

CRAFTING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

If the first two pillars of the BBP culture are family and the importance of the customer experience, the third is community. Since BBP’s inception, Chelsey’s goal has been to not only have a business where people from the community can gather and connect, but also to identify ways that BBP can give back and support the community. It’s an idea that was sparked by a class she took at Monmouth.

“I took Maria Hrycenko’s course called Community and Health, and it really opened my eyes to how much communities need support in more ways than one,” Chelsey says. “Her teachings ignited my passion for community engagement, and I realized incorporating this aspect into our business model was incredibly important to me.”

To date, BBP has helped to raise more than \$34,000 for both local and national organizations including Communities in Crisis, Bluemont Sanctuary, and the Boomer Esiason Foundation.

Thankful for the spark ignited by Hrycenko’s class as well as her other experiences at Monmouth, Chelsey’s ongoing

Through a partnership with BBP, Monmouth’s athletics department helped to craft the University’s first-ever custom beer. Released in September 2023 and initially only available in the Varsity Club in the OceanFirst Bank Center, the brew is now available for purchase at BBP and select liquor stores throughout the state.

An easy drinking hazy IPA with notes of citrus and melon, Chelsey says the beer—which the University had a hand in naming, crafting the flavor profile, and giving design input—is so popular among patrons that it will likely continue to be offered at the brewery indefinitely.

connection to the University and its significance in her life inspired her recent collaboration with Monmouth’s athletics department to create BBP’s 1933 Great Hall IPA (see above).

FARMSTEAD FERMENTS

This past January, Chelsey and Mike celebrated the opening of their second establishment, Tall Oaks Farm + Brewery, a nanofarm and microbrewery located on a five-acre farmstead property with views of horses and tranquil woodlands in Farmingdale, New Jersey. The idea for the new business had sprouted even before BBP had opened its doors, Chelsey says.

Completely separate from BBP down to the labels on the cans, Tall Oaks is all about more—more beer, more space, and more amenities for guests, including fire pits, outdoor games, and a pavilion with covered seating as well as heated outdoor seating areas. Developed from the ground up, the larger space will allow for more community events, and the outdoor areas will help fulfill a dream Chelsey has had since the inception of BBP.

“I’ve always wanted people to be able to experience more than just being inside a brewery—I wanted them to be able to go outside, watch the sunset, and have those really unique conversations with friends and family while the rest of the world kind of fades away because you’re so present in that moment,” she says. “That’s the experience we always wanted to create.”

While phase one of Tall Oaks was about getting the doors open, phase two includes plans to use some of their property to grow hops as well as flowers that will be utilized in future brews, Chelsey says. But for now, she’s most excited about slowing down and, perhaps, taking a temporary break from her continuous pursuit of more.

“Building has been such an incredible experience, but it’s definitely taken a lot out of me, so I’m really excited to put the focus back on running my businesses and working alongside my staff to uplift them. Now, will I build something else or create something new? I don’t know yet,” she smiles. “But I’m not saying that I won’t.” ☺



Chelsey and her husband, Mike, opened Bradley Brew Project in June 2018.



PARTNERSHIP IS THE NEW PARADIGM

A new dual degree program is preparing Monmouth students to work at the intersection of criminal justice and social work.

BY STEVE NEUMANN | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DUNG HOANG



FOCUS ON PREVENTION, SUPPORT, AND LONG-TERM

long-standing biases are now changing

In July 2016, Miami police officers shot a behavioral therapist, Charles Kinsey, while he was attending to a patient with autism. The patient, Arnaldo Rios-Soto, had run away from his group home and Kinsey was attempting to bring him back. →

The police had received a 911 call indicating there was a man in the street with a gun threatening to kill himself. When they arrived, they found Rios-Soto sitting in the street and Kinsey standing next to him. Police ordered Kinsey to lay on the ground and put his hands in the air, which he did. Kinsey then told police that he was a behavioral therapist, and that Rios-Soto had no weapon, only a toy truck. But after Rios-Soto raised his hand, Officer Jonathan Aledda, a four-year member of the North Miami force who was on the SWAT team, fired three shots at him. Two missed, but one hit Kinsey in the hip. Aledda later said he thought Rios-Soto was holding Kinsey hostage and was going to shoot him.

The incident was one of many across the country in the past decade that has led to increased scrutiny of how law enforcement officials respond to calls that involve people undergoing various mental health crises and has helped forge a growing consensus around the importance of using skilled crisis intervention as an alternative to old-school policing. As a result, law enforcement agencies are increasingly partnering with social workers to help de-escalate these types of situations, provide appropriate support, and connect individuals with mental health services.

In the fall of 2022, Monmouth University began offering an innovative dual degree program in social work and criminal justice that prepares students to handle the complex societal challenges that affect the safety and well-being of communities. The idea for the program came from Robin Mama, Ph.D., professor and former dean of the School of Social Work.

“The whole idea of this was to collaborate between our disciplines in an attempt to make changes in policing in our communities,” says Mama. “The combining of the bachelor’s programs is a way to begin to get the culture of the police and law enforcement environments to change and really think about how they work in their community, how they operate, and who else they can work with to be successful.”

The Impetus for Partnership

Though the program officially launched in 2022, Mama says the seeds of its inception were planted for her back in 2014, when Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri,

by police officer Darren Wilson. The incident ignited a series of protests that were marred by more violence due to what many in the community and across the nation saw as the militarization of the police.

“After that, I went to the criminal justice department and said, ‘We need to do something around this,’ and the conversation began on what we could do,” says Mama.

She quickly began connecting interested faculty from both departments to begin planning the new program. Mama also reached out to Doug Collier, a former DEA agent, who was working in the New Jersey attorney general’s office running the Community Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations (CLEAR) Program, a statewide continuing education initiative that requires annual training in de-escalation techniques, cultural awareness, and implicit bias.

Collier, who began his law enforcement career with the CIA, is now an adjunct professor and the director of professional outreach and engagement for Monmouth’s criminal justice department. He says it’s been exciting in the years since to work on the new program, which he feels is “going to prepare our students for what I call beyond the curriculum.”

“We want to make sure that our law enforcement folks understand the social work and counselor models, and that the social workers and counselors understand criminal justice, because we found that there was this void because we were so biased against each other,” says Collier.

Those long-standing biases are now changing, he says, thanks in part to law enforcement’s increased acceptance of programs such as crisis intervention training, in which police officers work with clinicians to understand how to handle someone with autism, for example, as well as a host of other mental health and social issues. Monmouth’s Department of Criminal Justice and School of Social Work co-hosted one such program last spring, an event that attracted 80 law enforcement personnel from across the state.

“That was really well received, and they’ve been subsequently finding success,” says Collier. “I can tell you that, from my colleagues anecdotally, when they embedded a social worker in their departments, the calls for service decreased and providing services increased. They’re placing people where they belong—actual-



ly getting them help—whereas before we just threw them in a cell to protect them.”

“Ultimately, our goal with this dual degree program is to prepare students in criminal justice and social work for the new paradigm, which is embedding our social workers and counseling folks into the criminal justice system,” says Collier. “And we’re really excited about that partnership.”

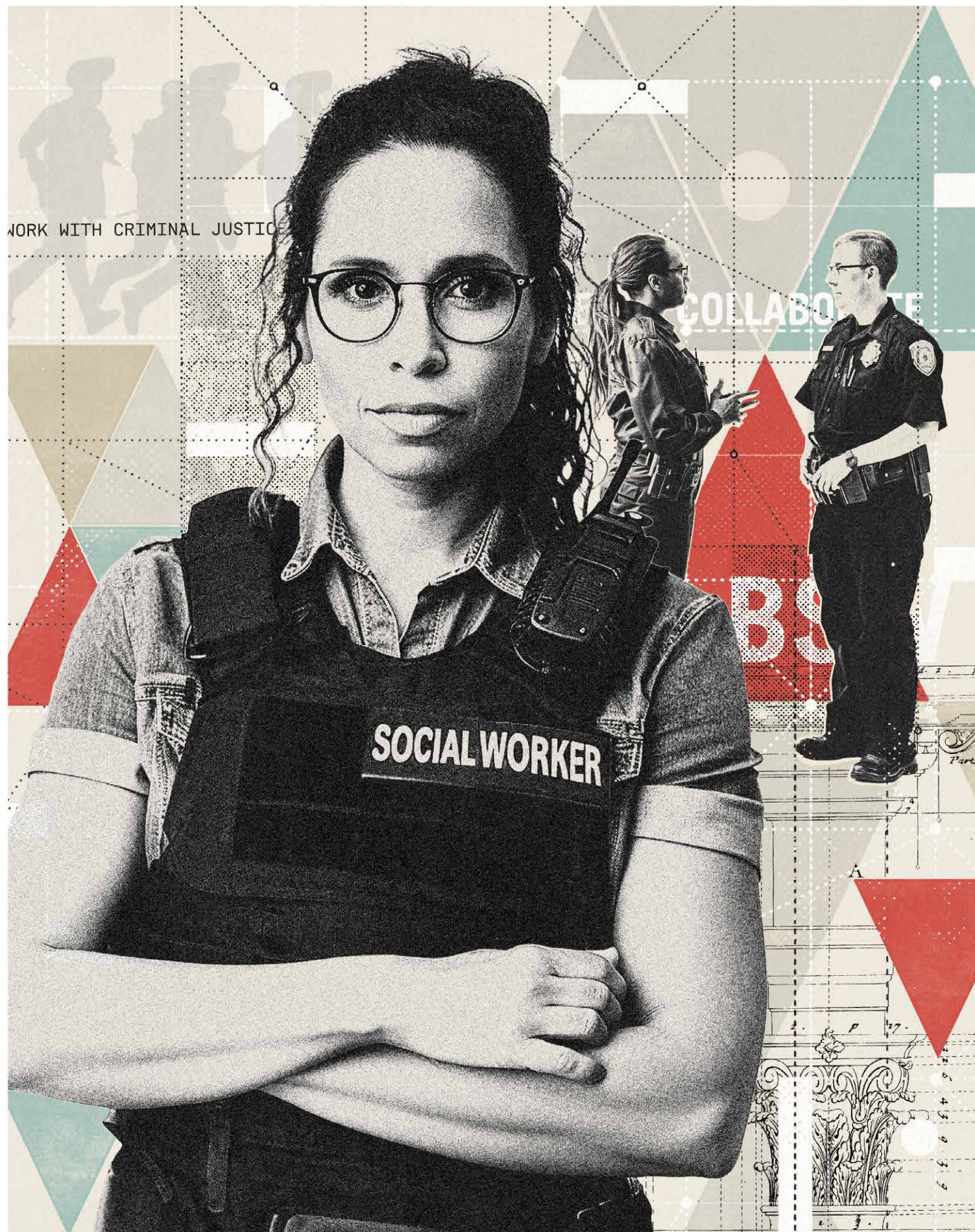
Preparing for the New Paradigm

Monmouth’s dual degree program combines foundational concepts from both disciplines. From the criminal justice side, that means required courses such as corrections, criminal law and procedure, and ethical issues in criminal justice. From the social work side, this includes coursework in social welfare policy and services; social work research methods; and social work practice with individuals, groups, and (most importantly, says Mama) communities. There are also opportunities for internships that combine both aspects of criminal justice and social work.

Students can graduate with both the Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice. They will be well prepared to work in such fields as corrections, juvenile justice, rehabilitative services, and law enforcement departments and to continue their education by pursuing a master’s degree in criminal justice or social work, says Nick Sewitch, J.D., the chair of Monmouth’s Department of Criminal Justice.

“There are a lot of jobs that social workers can do without a criminal justice degree, and a lot of the jobs that a criminal justice major can do without a social work degree,” says Sewitch. “But we believe our graduates will be able to do those a heck of a lot better with both degrees because they’ll have both perspectives.”

A former assistant prosecutor for the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office for 29 years, Sewitch says there are relatively newer institutions in the criminal justice system, such as mental health courts and drug courts, that focus on incarcerating people for shorter periods of time and creating therapeutic communities in prisons. These institutions link offenders who would ordinarily be prison-bound to long-term community-based treatment, he says, and “you need people



who have the training in both social work and criminal justice to do the kind of work to hook people up with resources.”

Additionally, says Sewitch, a new word has entered the criminal justice system lexicon in recent years: reentry.

“Before, when people were released from prison, it was up to parole to supervise all these people,” says Sewitch. “But they didn’t have the resources; the system was set up for failure. Now you have these non-profit and for-profit reentry corporations throughout New Jersey, and social workers are needed to assist them from all different standpoints—drug therapy, hooking people up with social services, vocational counseling, mental health counseling.”

It’s not solely on the offender side of the law enforcement equation that professionals with expertise in both criminal justice and social work are needed, says Sewitch. Victims of crimes might also require services—families who lost family members to murder or to vehicular homicide, victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual assault, and so on.

“Every prosecutor’s office has a victim advocacy unit in it,” says Sewitch. “And while you don’t need to have a criminal justice degree or a social work degree to work in those units, we think it would be much more effective if the people in those units had expertise in both criminal justice and social work.”

Simply put, Monmouth graduates will have an edge in terms of getting hired for these types of positions within and without law enforcement and will be better prepared for the new reality of partnership that has emerged, says Sewitch.

“I think graduates of this program are going into, truthfully, a new environment,” he says. “They’re really carving a new occupational path, and it’s going to be interesting to see how this works.”

Promoting Permanent Change in Public Safety

Overall, the collaboration between law enforcement and social workers is seen by proponents as a holistic, community-centered approach to public safety, one that focuses on prevention, support, and long-term solutions rather than solely on reactive responses. They see the partnership as key to creating a more compassionate and

effective system for addressing the complex challenges faced by communities.

That doesn’t mean there won’t still be challenges in creating and implementing this new paradigm.

Recently, Mama published the results of a study she conducted with Michelle Scott, professor of social work, and Stephanie A. Sabatini ’17, ’18M, in which they surveyed 335 leaders in law enforcement. Only about one-third of those surveyed believed a social worker was in fact needed.

However, more than 90% said a social worker would be helpful specifically with calls involving emotional disturbances, domestic violence, alcohol and drugs, and child endangerment, as well as for victims of crime and death survivors. Additionally, over 94% of senior leadership reported that an on-site social worker would support officers in facing their own emotional challenges, including alcohol and drug use and suicide risk.

There is a divide in the social work community around whether social workers should even be working with police, says Mama. There are some who feel that by working with law enforcement, they are condoning the bad behavior and contributing to—or at least perpetuating—the bias and violence that happens in communities.

Yet, there are many social workers who have been partnering with police for a long time who say that, when they’ve collaborated with and educated law enforcement personnel on the social issues they are dealing with (domestic violence, for example), they have been able to effect real change, says Mama.

“Realistically, we can’t get rid of the police—we have to have police in our communities, because there are safety and other issues that police deal with very effectively,” says Mama. “But what we can do is change the cultural attitudes there around how you deal with people and how you work successfully in all communities—and make them [police] more effective by being better communicators and not jumping for their guns at the first instant.

“Our whole goal has been to say, ‘Look, if there’s going to be police reform, the more we collaborate, the more we’re going to make permanent change.’ And to do that, it starts with education.”



CLASS NOTES

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[LOOKING BACK]

Full of the Joys of Springfest

Ah, Springfest—the annual rite of passage where studying for exams takes a back seat to free food, inflatables, and good vibes. We’re on a quest to uncover the gems of Springfest’s storied past, and who better to spill the beans than our readers? Whether you rocked the organizing committee or danced your heart out in the crowd, share your unforgettable Springfest memories and help us chronicle the moments that have made this campus tradition a highlight through the years. Write us at magazine@monmouth.edu or Monmouth Magazine, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764. Don’t keep those memories under wraps—let ‘em bloom!

Alumni Roundup

Listed by graduation year.

1960s

» **Darryl Stubbs ’60A** is happy to announce that his first great-grandchild was born on May 27, 2021.

» **James P. Mack ’62**, Ph.D., recently celebrated his 50th anniversary working as a professor in Monmouth’s Department of Biology. Over his now 51-year career at the University, Mack has received numerous awards, including the Gene Simko Award, the Distinguished Teacher Award, the Alumni Association Service Award, and the Donald Warncke Award, as well as numerous Faculty Merit

and Student Choice awards. Mack, who has been researching the efficacy of essential oils and methylglyoxal as antibacterial agents against multidrug-resistant bacteria since 1999, is co-founder of both the MU Mews program and the Pre-Professional Health Advisory Committee and was chair of the Faculty Council from 1977–1984, chair of the Department of Biology from 1981–1984, and chair of the committee to reestablish Monmouth’s Athletics Hall of Fame.

» **Jack Sell ’66** is the author of science fiction thriller “Illusion: Without a Trace,” available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and at Sherman’s Maine Coast Book Shop.

1970s

» **Richard E. Carmichael ’70**, Ph.D., recently released “American Economic History 2023 Edition.” The book examines the evolution of economic thought and the historical events that affected the economic growth of the world’s industrialized countries, with particular emphasis on the United States. 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 also served as 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 of 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.

» **Frank Pennucci ’72, Donald Burnaford ’72, Gene Taetsch, Class of 1975, Thomas Capaldi ’72, and Michael Burns ’72** attended Homecoming together in September—something the group of friends has been doing for years to celebrate old and long-lasting friendships while also supporting the University.

» **James Fisher ’73** is the author of “The Historical Dictionary of Vaudeville,” published by Row-

man & Littlefield on June 15, 2023. The 660-page book is a reference text on the history of vaudeville from its rise around 1880 until its demise in the early 1930s. Fisher, who is Professor Emeritus of Theatre and former Department Head of Theatre at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), is the author of three other dictionaries on the history of American theater: “The Historical Dictionary of American Theater: Beginnings” (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), which won the Library Journal Best Reference Work Award; “The Historical Dictionary of Contemporary American Theater” (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011); and “The Historical Dictionary of American Theater: Modernism” (co-authored with Felicia Hardison Londré; Rowman & Littlefield, 2007, expanded 2017). Born in Long Branch, New Jersey, Fisher earned his MFA in acting/directing at UNCG.

» **Bruce McDermott ’79** is an advisory board member at UnaTerra Venture Capital Impact Fund. McDermott is founder and CEO of Melides Capital, a private LLC that provides corporate advisory services and capital strategies to private corporations, foundations, and ultra-high-net-worth investors. A former managing director of Deutsche Bank Securities and a board director of Deutsche Bank Trust Company, N.A., McDermott spent most of his career at Deutsche Bank and predecessor companies Bankers Trust Company and Alex. Brown & Sons, where he served in numerous senior roles. A board member of multiple private corporations in the United States, McDermott holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Monmouth and a certificate from Cornell University in alternative asset management and real estate.



Morgan Alston ’23

THE COMMUNICATIONS GRADUATE IS A PRODUCTION ASSISTANT AT ESPN IN BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT.

By the time she graduated last May, Morgan Alston had held six internships, was a published writer, was a podcast host and creator, and had two full-time job offers lined up. After spending half a year as a studio production assistant at NFL Films, she recently made the move to ESPN, where she is on the field production unit, traveling to games and special events like the Super Bowl, NBA draft, and NFL combine, interviewing and reporting on athletes.

HOW I GOT HERE

I always loved TV but never got to experience it. When I got to Monmouth and saw they have their own studio, control room, and cameras, I fell in love. At HawkTV, I got the hands-on experience I needed to figure out what I liked and didn’t like, and what I needed to improve on. I know that it was my experience as an anchor and producer at HawkTV, along with my writing experience at the Outlook, that helped me get to where I am today.

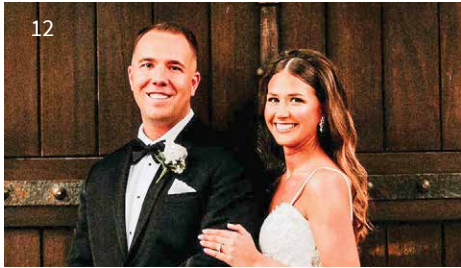
CAREER GOALS

My goal is to one day be the face of ESPN, a black woman taking over sports media. I want to be like Taylor Rooks and Malika Andrews, who are big names in sports. If I could even be half as successful as them one day, I would be so happy.

MONMOUTH MENTORS

If you’re not a good writer, you can’t be a good producer, storyteller, or reporter, and Professor Michael Thomas really tested my creativity and pushed me to become the best writer that I can be. Professor Nick Messina helped me so much too. He got me into podcasting, gave me voice lessons, and helped me in my job search—he was fantastic.

»AS TOLD TO BREANNE MCCARTHY



Celebrations

ENGAGEMENTS

1. Carol Ann Glazer '06 is engaged to wed **Derek Young '06**. **2. Kaitlyn Baklarz '14, '15M** is engaged to wed Alex Cerbone. **3. Kaitlin Clancy '18** is engaged to wed **Tommy Whelan '17**. **4. Gina Geletei '18, '20M** is engaged to wed **David Glass '18, '20M**. **5. Cheyenne DeVincentz '19** is engaged to wed Nicholas Costello. **6. Megan McClintock '19** is engaged to wed **John Gallina '19**. **7. Brianna Hough '21** is engaged to wed **Patrick White '21**.

WEDDINGS

8. Christina Anderson '06M married Griffin McNeese on May 13, 2023. **9. Heather Baginski '12** wed **Christian Lampe '10** on Oct. 31, 2021. **10. Michelle Pieczynski '13** wed Jeremiah Thomas on June 24, 2023. **11. Rebecca (Gaona) Corzo '16** wed Jonathan Corzo on June 24, 2023. **12. Lauren (Hill) Neyhart '18** wed **Brandon Neyhart '18** on April 28, 2023. **13. Jihad Johnson '18, '20M** wed **Mary (Fitzgerald) Johnson '18, '19M** on July 30, 2023. **14. Nicole Seitz '18** wed **Dave DePaola '17** on Oct. 21, 2023.

BIRTHS

15. Vanessa (Avansino) Marden '10 and her husband, **Trevor Marden '11**, welcomed a daughter, Emily, on Feb. 26, 2023. **16. Amanda (Friedman) O'Reilly '14** and her husband, Mark O'Reilly, welcomed a son, Harrison O'Reilly, on Feb. 20, 2023. **17. Morgan DonDiego '15** and **Michael DonDiego '13** welcomed a son, Vincent DonDiego, on Feb. 22, 2023. **18. Stephanie Deats '16** and **Tyler Conti '16** welcomed a son, Rory William Conti, on April 30, 2023.

1980s

» **Glenn Bellomy '83** was named to NJBiz's 2023 Accounting Power 50 list. As a partner in WithumSmith + Brown's Red Bank, New Jersey, office with four decades of accounting experience, Bellomy leads the consumer products services group. Through his role, Bellomy works exclusively with restaurants, food and beverage, and retail clients, helping their businesses secure financing, maximize tax benefits, understand regulations and code, and complete mergers and acquisitions. Outside of consumer products, Bellomy has expertise in the industries of construction, distribution, manufacturing, and professional services. Along with being a past vice president and current member of the Western Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce, Bellomy is involved with the New Jersey Restaurant Association, the New Jersey Food Council, and the Monmouth University Business and Industry Council.

» After 37 years, **Michael Laffey '83** is retiring from the practice of law. He and his wife, Karen, intend to spend the next few years traveling across America in their RV along with their two dogs, Annie and Fern. Follow their adventures on their Facebook page "Karen and Mike Go Camping."

» **William Deibler '86M** was awarded the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for his work at NASA on the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Deibler, who is a NASA Ames Research Center software assurance and software safety engineer, was recognized "for skillfully contributing to the achievement of JWST through many discipline

areas and resolving challenges to ensure mission success."

» **Kim Cuny '88** received the 2023 Betty Jo Welch Award for continuing and outstanding service to the Carolinas Communication Association (CCA) and the professions. CCA recognized Cuny for 20 years of developing and maintaining the communication center's subset of communication studies at the national level. She also served as the inaugural director of the University Speaking Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) from 2003 to 2023. Cuny led UNCG's Speaking Center to become a national model garnering 25 awards, 48 faculty-published articles, 29 faculty research presentations, 14 faculty-published chapters, 55 student research presentations, 31 student-published articles, and six student-published chapters, and was a four-time host of the National Association of Communication Centers Conference.

» **George Tobin '89** was recently recruited by Brycetek Space and Engineering, LLC, a fast-growing federal contractor headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, and is now a senior procurement officer and subject matter expert for them. Tobin is returning to the same department—the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—that he retired from after 22 years of federal service. He also spent 15 years with AT&T and IBM Global Services in a number of capacities. For over two decades, he was also active in the investments and insurance business. He's excited to be working on the successor to "COVID-19 Operation Warp Speed" within the department, as part of the HHS Coordination Operations and Response Element, H-CORE. He and his wife, Jane, reside 45

minutes from Washington, D.C., in Maryland and are active in church activities, car shows and events, gardening, running, golf, and visiting their new granddaughter as often as possible.

1990s

» As a follow-up release to accompany the October 2022 publication of **Diane McHutchinson's '91M** first novel, “Quincy: A Wheaten Terrier’s Adventure through Life,” the audiobook version of the novel became available in June 2023.

» **Alfred Nunan '91** joined Ion Bank as a senior vice president, New Jersey Commercial Banking Team leader. In this new role, Nunan works closely with local businesses to develop and expand commercial relationships for new and existing customers of the Montville, New Jersey-based financial institution. Nunan was previously a senior vice president, middle market banking, at Wells Fargo Bank in Summit, New Jersey. He is a current board member of the Greater Morristown YMCA and the Irish American Cultural Institute, past president of the Irish Business Association of New Jersey, and past trustee of Trinitas Health Foundation.

» **Natasha Chandler '92, '95M** is a senior client partner at Korn Ferry, a global organizational consulting firm. Prior to Korn Ferry, Chandler led a business consulting and services firm focused on change management and executive coaching. Chandler has more than 25 years of experi-

ence advising CEOs, chief human resource officers, and executive teams on leadership, business strategy, and organizational operating models. She holds an MBA from Monmouth and an M.A. in social-organizational psychology and change leadership from Columbia University.

» **David Glenn '93M** was promoted to the position of senior vice president for people and culture at the Neptune, New Jersey-based United Methodist Communities. Glenn, who served UMC for nine years as vice president of human resources, has more than 40 years of experience in generalist and executive human resources and maintains a Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional certification.

» **Chuck Martin '93** was added to the University of Kentucky’s men’s basketball staff as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator in July 2023. Martin adds more than 20 years of collegiate coaching experience to the Wildcats’ staff, most recently serving as an assistant this past season on Dana Altman’s staff at the University of Oregon, where he worked with All-Pac-12 First Team pick N’Faly Dante. Prior to Oregon, Martin spent five seasons on staff at the University of South Carolina, serving as assistant coach for four seasons and another as associate head coach.

» **William A. Calabria '94** was acknowledged by the Inner Circle as a Top Pinnacle Healthcare Professional for his contributions to the field of osteopathic medicine. Calabria is a hospital-based physician who sees patients at CaroMont Regional Medical Center, a not-for-profit hospital

located in Gastonia, North Carolina. Calabria, who graduated with his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2000 and completed a residency in emergency medicine at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in 2002, is an active member of the American Osteopathic Association.

» **Christian Kane '94**, co-founder of the RWJBH Field of Dreams in Toms River, New Jersey, was featured in two documentaries about his life and journey to build the country’s only special needs complex for those of any age and ability. Both documentaries—“Field of Dreams Is Heaven on Earth for Special Needs Families” by WABC-TV and “Field of Dreams” by News12—were nominated for the 66th Annual NY Emmy Awards. Kane was also a recipient of the 27th Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award.

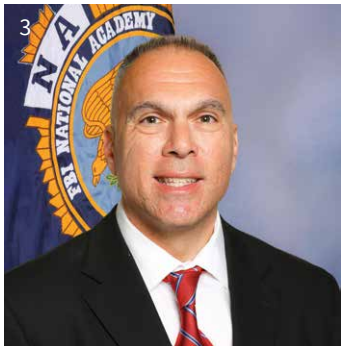
» **Christopher Lowman '94, '96M** is the assistant secretary of defense for sustainment for the U.S. Department of Defense. In this role, he advises the undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment and oversees the Defense Logistics Agency and Defense Microelectronics Activity. After serving for over three decades across the U.S. Army and the Joint Force, he performed the duties of undersecretary of the Army in 2021–2022. Lowman holds an M.S. from the National War College in Washington, D.C.

» **Edward Aldarelli '96, '02M** was recently appointed the superintendent of Edison Township School District in Edison, New Jersey. Aldarelli joined the school district in October 2020 as the director of human resources. He then transitioned to his role

as acting superintendent in December 2022. He has over 25 years of experience in public education, beginning his career as an elementary and middle school classroom teacher. Aldarelli’s administrative career began as the vice principal of the Adelphia Elementary School in Howell Township, New Jersey. He then became principal of West Freehold School in Freehold Township. He has a doctorate in educational leadership from Saint Peter’s University.

» **Robert Hemenway '96** was recently appointed executive director of Birch Bay Retirement Village in Bar Harbor, Maine. Hemenway began his career as a social worker in a special education school and then transitioned to a hospital setting, first in a state psychiatric hospital and then with an acute care hospital in New Jersey. Prior to joining Birch Bay, he worked as a social worker at Northern Light Home Care & Hospice.

» **Keith-Julien Tomasello's '96** solo exhibition of collage work, “The Secrets of Summer,” opened this November at the STRUT art space of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. “The Secrets of Summer” is an ongoing series of collage-on-panel works that each possesses a narrative of autobiographical fiction. These narratives blend events, dreams, and desires Tomasello experienced as an LGBTQ+ young person during the 1980s and 1990s, with threads of fictions influenced by the books, music, films, television, and art they absorbed during this time. In February 2023, Tomasello’s art was included in the exhibition “Aging and the Lived Experiences of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Adults” at Monmouth’s Pollak Gallery.



ACCOLADES

1. From left: **Donald Burnaford '72, Gene Taetsch, Class of 1975, Frank Pennucci '72, Thomas Capaldi '72, and Michael Burns '72** attended Homecoming together in September. **2. William Deibler '86M** (center) was awarded the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for his work at NASA on the James Webb Space Telescope. **3. Lt. Stephen L. Acquaviva '00** of the Rutgers University Police Department graduated as a member of the 285th session of the FBI National Academy. **4. Donna Saccone Pinamonti '01M** recently had her latest book, “King Claude at the Beach,” published. **5.** Three lacrosse teammates, from left, **2nd Lt. Ethan Masucci '22, 2nd Lt. James Lisignoli '22, and 2nd Lt. Daniel Hewitt '22**, attended Officer Candidate School for the U.S. Marines and are all now commissioned Marine officers currently attending The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. **6. Gabrielle Storino '23**, was honored with the prestigious Stella George Stern Perry Award at the 52nd International Convention of the Iota Theta of Alpha Omicron Pi fraternity. **7.** From left: Monmouth Physician Assistant Program Specialist Professor Jim Fries, physician’s assistant student Samantha Jimenez, and Monmouth physician assistant graduate **Kelsey Donlon '20M** were all recently working together in emergency medicine at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, New Jersey.

SAVE THE DATE!

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN FELLOW ALUMNI BACK ON CAMPUS

JUNE 7–8, 2024

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY

Celebrate some of our best and brightest as we recognize professional achievement, outstanding leadership, and volunteer commitment to Monmouth University.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

WINE VS. STEIN

The annual wine and beer tasting event will make its return to the Great Hall.



“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, I have been able to chase my ambitions and pursue my dreams. **Your gift, no matter the amount, will create life-changing experiences that define a Monmouth education and make it accessible to students like me.**”

Gabby Matos, Class of 2025
Early Childhood Education and
Teacher of Students with Disabilities

**Make an Annual Gift to
Student Scholarships Today ►**



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
and ANNUAL GIVING

» **Stephen Huntsman '98** is vice president of operations at Eclipse Gaming, a provider of top-performing casino games for tribal gaming markets and select commercial markets. Huntsman, who previously served in various positions at NCR Corporation from 1999–2022, will be responsible for leadership of manufacturing, quality, supply chain, field services, customer care, and information technology.

2000s

» **Lt. Stephen L. Acquaviva '00** of the Rutgers University Police Department graduated as a member of the 285th session of the FBI National Academy. The graduation took place at the National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, on March 16, 2023. Acquaviva is the fourth officer in department history to complete this prestigious program. Nationally, less than 1% of officers have the opportunity to attend the program that offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training by FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff with advanced degrees. “This has been the greatest experience in my professional career,” said Acquaviva, who holds a master’s degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a dedicated law enforcement officer with 20 years of service. An adjunct professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Brookdale Community College, Acquaviva continues to be a guest speaker within Monmouth’s criminal justice department.

» **Donna Saccone Pinamonti '01M**, author of the King Claude books series, a collection of illustrated children’s picture books that follow the adventures of an adorable “talking” shih tzu, King Claude, and his family, recently released the latest book in the series, “King Claude at the Beach.” Pinamonti, who taught first grade in Middletown, New Jersey, for over 15 years, writes the books that are illustrated by her former student, Rebecca McSherry, and aim to encourage young readers to overcome their fears when facing new or difficult experiences. The King Claude book series is available for sale on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online retailers.

» **Loli Salamone '01** is the owner of Sea Gypsy Handcrafted, a handcrafted business where she creates jewelry and home goods inspired and supplied by the beach. Salamone opened the shop earlier this year after leaving a corporate job and relocating from New Jersey to the Outer Banks, North Carolina, to fully pursue her passion.

» The Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore honored **Denise Wegeman '01, '02M** as a “Woman of Distinction” at its Women of Distinction & Community Partners Gala held in April 2023. The award celebrates extraordinary women who exemplify the Girl Scout Promise as business, community, and philanthropic leaders. After a successful career on Wall Street working as an investment broker, Wegeman earned her MSW from Monmouth and opened a counseling practice in Wall Township, New Jersey, where she dedicated her time serving as a consultant at Manasquan High School to addressing the second-largest suicide contagion in the United

States. A founding member of the Monmouth County Suicide Task Force, she was instrumental in lobbying the county to fund services to address suicide programming that continues today. In 2011, Wegeman was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year by the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County and was awarded the Osprey Award by the Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce. She has served on the board of the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide and the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County and currently serves on the SRF Suicide Task Force for Monmouth University. She is currently working in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore in addressing the ever-increasing mental health crisis and needs of Girl Scouts.

» **Kelly Weldon '01M, '02M** is the superintendent for the Township of Ocean Schools headquartered in Oakhurst, New Jersey.

» **Anthony Talerico '03M** was elected to a second four-year term as mayor of the Borough of Eatontown in Eatontown, New Jersey.

» Manhattanville College presented its annual Ethel Kennedy Award for Human Rights Leadership to doctoral recipient **Hope B. Weinberg '04** for her work on cultivating climates of belonging for LGBTQ+ children and adults in school communities. Weinberg, who graduated from Manhattanville with a doctorate in Educational Leadership in May 2023, is the assistant principal at the Concord Road Elementary School in the Ardsley Union Free School District. Her work on LGBTQ+ inclusion includes a presentation to regional education leaders about cultivating climates of

belonging, moderating learning chats, podcast appearances, and delivering a keynote speech at Manhattanville College School of Education Dean’s Symposium.

» **Jennifer Ellen Pergola '05M** is the author of “Everyone Picks on New Jersey,” a one-act play that was performed along with eight other one-act plays in the “New Jersey, New Jersey” show presented by the Southard Grange Playhouse in Howell, New Jersey, Aug. 4–6. All of the one-act plays were original works written by playwrights who are currently living in or have lived in New Jersey, and each piece included New Jersey as a location and/or theme. There also was an interview about the show featured on New Jersey 101.5.

» **Christina Anderson '06M** married Griffin McNeese on May 13, 2023. The couple were married at Withey Chapel located on campus on the lower level of the Great Hall; it was a small, intimate ceremony with immediate family members.

» **John Bosmons '06** is the principal of Wanamassa Elementary School in Ocean Township, New Jersey.

» **Carol Ann Glazer '06** is engaged to wed **Derek Young '06**. The couple met as coworkers, and after realizing how well they worked together, became great friends. Coincidentally, they discovered that they graduated the same year from Monmouth University. “Never did we know each other while students, but often wonder if ever we crossed paths while on campus,” says Glazer. “As lovers of the great outdoors and local beauty, we got engaged atop a hill in Holmdel Park to signify reaching new heights in life together.”

The Good Fight

Navy veteran Augusto Cespedes Jr. '20M hopes his new memoir will help others like him who struggle with loss and grief.



If you told 18-year-old me that I'd be writing a book in my 30s, I wouldn't have believed you. The truth is, at that time, I had little direction in life and no solid plans for the future. What I did know for sure was that I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. So, after graduating high school, I signed up to be a corpsman with the U.S. Navy. Being a Navy corpsman is like being an EMT in a combat zone—you're the first responder when someone gets hurt. I carried the wounded, dressed them with bandages, applied tourniquets to control bleeding, and inserted IVs, all right on the battlefield. I served with the 3rd Marine Division in Kāne'ohe Bay, Hawaii, and from 2004 to 2007 deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. →

That time of my life was marked by many ups and downs. On the one hand, I discovered my passion for nursing. On the other, my service was defined in many ways by the loss of three of my closest friends, all within the span of four months. When it was time for me to leave Hawaii, I decided I wanted to get as far away from the island as possible. There were too many haunting memories for me there.

I was assigned to a duty station in Lakehurst, New Jersey, and if that sounds mundane, it's because it was. I worked in a small clinic administering vaccines and medications, recordkeeping, and seeing general cases. It was just what I needed.

As my time in the military wound down, my trauma became my motivation. I decided I was going to live my life for the friends I had lost, and I hit the ground running. I left the military in 2009 and, for years, I kept busy working 12-hour shifts while earning an associate's degree from Ocean County College, a bachelor's degree from Kean University, a master's degree from Monmouth, and a license to practice as a family nurse practitioner. As long as I was busy, I wasn't faced with the guilt I had for surviving the war when my friends hadn't. But the reality is that I was running from my grief.

It took going to therapy (finally, at the behest of my wife) to face the complicated emotions I had been suppressing for years. My therapist encouraged me to start writing down my thoughts. I'll admit, I hesitated. But eventually I gave it a shot, jotting down notes on my phone, then putting pen to paper. Before I knew it, my thoughts were flooding out of me.

Those thoughts and experiences became my memoir, "Just Glow," which will be published later this year. The book is about grief, naivete, fear, growing up, and finding myself transformed. I hope that it will memorialize my friends. I hope, too, that it will help others confront and manage their own grief. And I hope it will help readers understand that there are true and deep emotions even (and perhaps especially) in the depths of war, and that for many service members, the battle of the mind wages on long after they've left the battlefield—that is, if they're willing to fight. » AS TOLD TO MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

» **Kevin Hartwyk '06** was inducted into the 2023 South Jersey Soccer Hall of Fame. Hartwyk, who played at Monmouth, where he was a team MVP and earned the Joan Martin award, which symbolizes leadership both on and off the field, is a four-time New Jersey and Regional Olympic Development Player. In 2000, he was an Adidas ESPN camp invitee and was part of the 2000 U-18 National Team USYA training camp. A four-year letter winner at Washington Township High School, where he earned three all-conference selections, Hartwyk was a two-time All-South Jersey selection, including a first-teamer as a senior. He was named the SJSCA Midfield of the Year, was an Adidas All American, and was inducted into the Washington Township Sports Hall of Fame.

» **Oscar Rodrigo Diaz '07, '13M** is a member of the Brookdale Community College Foundation Board of Trustees. Diaz, an administrative supervisor of curriculum & instruction at the Freehold Regional High School District, received his associate degree from Brookdale, where he was active in the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and received the Outstanding Student Award in Communications. He holds an undergraduate and graduate degree from Monmouth, where he's currently working to obtain his doctorate. In addition to his professional endeavors, Diaz's recent volunteer work includes coaching the Holmdel Football Club and serving as a board member for the New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association. Currently, he also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Monmouth.

» **Lauren Goldberg '08M**, a program manager for Via of Lehigh Valley's Adult Training Services, will oversee the operations of Via's two adult training service sites, Creative Expressions at the John E. Walson Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the Kristi Hanawalt Life Skills Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Goldberg started her career at Via in 2015 working as a direct support professional. She also worked as a small group employment job coach and creative expressions program coordinator.

» **Matt Losey '08** is the senior manager of equipment at Bartlett Tree Experts. Losey began his career with Bartlett in 2012 as a ground person in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Since then, he has held several positions within the company, most recently as a regional safety manager. Losey is an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist, a certified tree care safety professional, and a certified associate safety professional through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. He is a four-time Bartlett Champion and served on the President's Council in 2019. He holds a degree in business from Monmouth and a degree in forestry from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry Ranger School.

» **Tim Ballard '09** was named the new varsity baseball head coach for Sayreville War Memorial High School in Sayreville, New Jersey, this past September.

» **Danielle Diodato, Esq. '09** is a 2023 NJBIZ Leaders in Law honoree. Diodato, who is director of compliance and associate general counsel for the Dealer Owned Warranty Company in Parsippany, New Jersey, was

added to the list that recognizes lawyers and general counsels "whose dedication to their occupation and to their communities is outstanding."

2010s

» **Andrew S. Beuschel '10, '11M** was promoted to the rank of chief of police with the Riverton Police Department in Burlington County, New Jersey, on June 20, 2023. In his 11-year career, Beuschel served in the capacity of traffic officer, narcotics detective, patrol lieutenant, and now as chief.

» Bernards Township Police Detective **Philip Jasina '10** was named Police Officer of the Year by the Congdon-Overlook Mason Lodge in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Jasina, who joined the Bernards Township Police Department as a patrol officer in 2013, was recognized and elected by his peers as a delegate to the department's PBA organization. He spent several years in that capacity representing patrol officers in contract negotiations and was assigned as a school resource officer in 2020. He was appointed a short time later as the department's juvenile officer before his performance again merited him an assignment in the department's detective division in 2022.

» **Christian Lampe '10**. See note for **Heather Baginski '12**.

» **Vanessa (Avansino) Marden '10** and her husband, **Trevor Marden '11**, welcomed a daughter, Emily, on Feb. 26, 2023. She joins big brother 3-year-old Zachary.

» **Jennifer Renson-Chiappetta '10** recently self-published her second book, "Aoh." A historical fiction novel, the tale follows Aoh as she navigates her life through the palaces of Babylon and ancient Egypt, eventually becoming a protector for the pharaoh's true love.

» **Chenelle Covin '11, '17M** is the recipient of the 2023 Women of Color STEM Award for Technical Innovation. Covin, a technical writer-editor for the Department of Defense, received the Technical Innovation in Government Award at the annual Women of Color STEM DTX Conference, held in Detroit in October 2023. Organized by Career Communications Group, the Women of Color STEM DTX Conference helps women improve their education and careers in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields, and celebrates the exceptional contributions of women of color, inspiring the next generation of skilled professionals poised to secure high-wage jobs.

» **Fred Rubenstein '11** is the vice president, digital marketing at Sony Music Nashville. Rubenstein is responsible for overseeing the digital marketing team and leading the strategy, execution, and implementation of innovative social media and digital marketing campaigns across the Sony Music Nashville roster. Rubenstein was most recently senior manager, creator acquisitions & development for Amazon's livestreaming service Twitch, where he managed deals and accounts with billion-dollar companies and onboarded new talent from the music, gaming, and sports spaces. Prior to his role at Twitch, he was a member of digital marketing teams at Elektra Music Group and Roadrunner Records, where he spearheaded digital

campaigns for Slipknot, Sturgill Simpson, Turnstile, Trivium, and more.

» The New Jersey Law Journal has named **Samantha Stillo ’11** to the “New Leaders of the Bar” list for 2023. The recognition honors attorneys who bring forth “both notable achievements and outstanding potential.” Stillo, who is counsel on the Business and Commercial Litigation group at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., focuses her practice on complex business litigation, representing businesses and individuals in a wide range of commercial disputes, including breaches of contract, real estate disputes, corporate and shareholder conflicts, legal malpractice, franchise disputes, employment-related claims, and fraud. Stillo is also a member of the Monmouth Bar Association, where she has been appointed to the Young Lawyers Committee and Chancery Practice Committee, serving the committees for the past six years. Recently, she received the prestigious honor of being selected to serve as an editor for the American Bar Association’s Litigation News following a rigorous write-on competition. She also serves as a member of the Monmouth University Alumni Association Board of Directors and was appointed to serve a three-year term as the regional area coordinator for the Greater New Jersey/New York region for the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF).

» **Heather Baginski ’12** wed **Christian Lampe ’10** on Oct. 31, 2021. The ceremony was at the Allaire State Park Chapel in Farmingdale, New Jersey, and the reception followed at McLoone’s Supper Club in Asbury Park. Their honeymoon followed in Salem, Massachusetts. The

couple resides in Plant City, Florida.

» **Gregory V. Callanan ’13**, DO, joined the practice of Shore Orthopaedic University Associates in Cape May Court House, New Jersey. Callanan, who recently completed a Complex and Comprehensive Adult Spine Surgery Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, specializes in adult degenerative spine conditions, acute and chronic injuries of the neck and back, spinal cord compression, nerve root compression, and minimally invasive spine surgery.

» **Michael DonDiego ’13**. See note for **Morgan DonDiego ’15**.

» **Michelle Pieczynski ’13** was a member of the Monmouth field hockey team throughout their up-tick in success during the seasons of 2009–2013. In 2022, she traded in her field hockey stick for a pickleball paddle, and that’s how she met Jeremiah Thomas, owner of Doylestown Pickleball/Camp Curiosity and Curiosity Academy in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They wed on June 24, 2023, at Hotel Du Village in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Pieczynski’s fellow Monmouth field hockey teammate, Nicole Manziano ’13, stood alongside her as a bridesmaid.

» **Kaitlyn Baklarz ’14, ’15M** is engaged to wed Alex Cerbone.

» **Kimberly Burnett ’14** was named the executive director for marketing and communications at Middlesex College in Edison, New Jersey. Burnett, who served as a public relations manager for Salem State University in Salem, Massachusetts, from 2017 to 2019, most recently served as senior manager in the Office of Communications under the Ad-

ministration at Middlesex County local government.

» **Huifang Cheng ’14M**, M.S.N., R.N., APN, was honored with a National League of Nursing Foundation for Nursing Education Faculty Scholarship. The NLN Foundation Scholarship Awards Program supports diverse nurses committed to careers in academic nursing education who are enrolled in accredited graduate programs. Cheng, who is a student in the Ph.D. in Nursing program at Seton Hall University, currently works as a nurse practitioner at Garden State Surgical in South Plainfield, New Jersey, where she has been serving patients since 2014. Her research is predominantly centered around nursing education, and she has contributed to the field with publications in esteemed journals as well as in her ongoing doctoral research on staff nurses’ experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

» **Justin Godynick ’14M** joined NBC10’s First Alert Weather team as a meteorologist. Previously, Godynick was a meteorologist for NBC10 Boston at WBTS-TV, the NBC-owned station in Boston. Prior to joining NBC10 Boston, he was a meteorologist for MMJ News 12 Network, serving the New York metropolitan area. He has also been a meteorologist and traffic reporter for New York 1 and is currently an adjunct professor of meteorology/communication at Kean University in Union, New Jersey.

» **Nicole Nolan ’14, ’17M**, MPP, LCSW, has established her own private practice, Whole Peace Counseling, located in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. Whole Peace Counseling specializes in treating concerns related to childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood, utilizing a holistic

approach with evidence-based interventions. Nolan was recently nominated to the Committee on Nominations and Leadership for the National Association of Social Workers, New Jersey.

» **Amanda (Friedman) O’Reilly ’14** and her husband, Mark O’Reilly, welcomed a son, Harrison O’Reilly, on Feb. 20, 2023.

» Since 2022, Egyptologist, archaeologist, and Ph.D. candidate **Emily Smith-Sangster ’14** has been working with Princeton University and the Ministry of Antiques on an excavation in Abydos, Egypt. It was there where she, along with her team, made the discovery of a previously unknown Egyptian cemetery, which she’s writing about in her dissertation. The first Egyptologist through Princeton University, Smith-Sangster received her master’s in Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian studies from New York University before heading to Princeton University, where she studies Pharaonic period Egyptian art and archaeology with a focus on the New Kingdom.

» **Morgan DonDiego ’15** and **Michael DonDiego ’13** welcomed a son, Vincent DonDiego, on Feb. 22, 2023.

» **Kristi Irace ’15** wed Mackenzie Tasetano on Dec. 1, 2023. The couple met online during the COVID-19 pandemic and “fell in love eating in restaurant parking lots and walking every boardwalk in the area.” They got engaged on the beach in Long Branch, New Jersey, on Aug. 18, 2022.

» **Rebecca (Gaona) Corzo ’16** wed Jonathan Corzo on a beautiful summer evening on June 24, 2023, in front of their closest family and friends. Rebecca and

How to Avoid Lifestyle Creep

Three tips from Lance Hall, CPA and founder of FreeLance Finance.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

Lance Hall ’17, ’18M achieved success as a CPA but found himself seeking a larger purpose. “I wanted to help people who didn’t necessarily have a lot of money or access to a financial advisor,” he says.

Hall started teaching financial literacy basics on YouTube, and viewers soon began reaching out for help. In response, he launched FreeLance Finance, a financial coaching firm. “Financial advisors primarily help with managing investment portfolios and retirement planning,” he explains. “Financial coaches, like me, help people get to the point where they have money to invest.”

He shared three tips anyone can follow to avoid the savings pitfall known as lifestyle creep, the common practice of spending more as you earn more, often resulting in the inability to meet larger financial goals like saving for retirement.



Lance Hall helps clients develop plans and strategies to optimize their finances and find financial freedom.

USE BUDGETING AND EXPENSE TRACKING TOOLS

The first step in creating a budget is getting a full picture of your expenses. The good news? It’s no longer necessary to pocket every receipt or manually track every purchase. Instead, link your account(s) to income and expense tracking tools like Monarch Money, Rocket Money, PocketGuard, or Quicken Simplifi (a few of Hall’s favorites).

These tools not only reveal the realities of your spending, but they’ll also help keep you on track to meet your goals.



EMPLOY RULES-BASED BUDGETING

Having firm rules takes the guesswork out of spending. Hall recommends spending 80% of total income on expenses and saving 20%. The 50/30/20 rule is a bit more nuanced but just as effective: Spend 50% of income on needs like rent and groceries, 30% on wants like restaurants and hobbies, and 20% on savings.

“This allows you to reach savings goals while also satisfying the desire to treat yourself for getting a promotion or raise,” Hall says. “Your money is for you to enjoy; we just don’t want it to get out of control.”

SET CLEAR GOALS AND PLANS

Applying increased income to larger life goals rather than random luxuries ensures that you’re achieving your financial milestones rather than inflating your lifestyle.

“Having no plan can lead to additional money coming in and going right out the door,” says Hall. “When you set goals and give your money a purpose, it’s a lot less likely that the money will dry up unintentionally.” His tip? Set a meaningful goal and arrange for a direct deposit right into a dedicated savings account each pay period.



Jonathan, who is an alumnus of Rowan University, celebrated their marriage at Atlantic City Country Club in Northfield, New Jersey. The bride had her two Monmouth University women’s golf teammates, Ashley Navin ’15, ’16M and Jessica Kavanagh ’16, ’20M, as bridesmaids.

» **Stephanie Deats ’16** and **Tyler Conti ’16** welcomed a son, Rory William Conti, on April 30, 2023.

» **Aly Riley ’16** recently published her first novel, “She Spies: Women of the American Revolution, Their Heroic Missions and Agent 355 Revealed,” which tells the story of female espionage in the American Revolution.

» **Lexi Swatt ’16**, formerly a sports anchor and reporter at WNYT, NewsChannel 13, is now the director of sports information and digital content at the New York State Public High School

Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). Prior to WNYT, Swatt was a host and on-air talent for The Game Day, an online sports entertainment and media company geared toward millennials and Gen Z. She also worked as a photojournalist and editor for WVEC in Norfolk, Virginia, and as a producer and site manager for the National Federation of High Schools Network, which NYSPHSAA has used as its streaming platform for state championships.

» **Emily Pascali ’17** was promoted from classroom teacher to assistant principal at Belleville High School in Belleville, New Jersey. This comes two years after working as the alternative evening school supervisor while teaching history during the day.

» **Yazmin Rodriguez ’17** is a general assignment reporter for WTAE-TV located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Rodriguez, who

earned her master’s degree in digital production and broadcasting from Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Connecticut, previously worked as a morning news anchor at WJAC-TV in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

» **Neil Ruppert ’17** has been promoted to director at Pierson Commercial Real Estate. In this role, Ruppert will continue to manage his diverse portfolio of retail properties while focusing on growing Pierson Commercial’s client base. Ruppert, who earned a B.S. in business administration with a concentration in real estate at Monmouth, is a licensed real estate salesperson in New Jersey and New York and an active member of the International Council of Shopping Centers.

» **Paul M. Schwartzberg ’17M**, DO, MBA, FAAP, was named the associate dean of academic affairs and designated institutional official at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Medicine in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In this role, Schwartzberg will work in collaboration with the Graduate Medical Education Committee to oversee all 23 Graduate Medical Education programs, including 16 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited programs sponsored by the UTHSC College of Medicine. Schwartzberg began his career in New York City as a clinical instructor of pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. In 2004, he joined the pediatric faculty at K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and served as program director of the Pediatric Residency Program from 2008 to 2019. Schwartzberg, who completed his undergraduate degree at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and received his

medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, earned his MBA from Monmouth.

» **Tommy Whelan ’17**. See note for **Kaitlyn Clancy ’18**.

» **Reed Zak ’17** is the general manager in charge of the Rutgers Athletics’ name, image, and likeness (NIL) efforts. Previously, Zak, who played lacrosse at Monmouth, was a sales manager for REVELxp, where he directed hospitality sales at Arizona State, Colorado State, and Air Force football games. He previously worked at Learfield IMG College in partnership services on the campus of Providence College.

» **Kaitlin Clancy ’18** is engaged to wed **Tommy Whelan ’17**. The couple, who played on the men’s and women’s golf teams as Hawks, met at the local golf course in their hometown of Smithtown, Long Island. They were engaged on Dec. 21, 2022, and are planning to wed on June 22, 2024.

» **Gina Geletei ’18, ’20M** is engaged to wed **David Glass ’18, ’20M**. The couple met during their freshman year at Monmouth through a mutual friend at a Student Activities Board (SAB) event. They both became members of the executive board for SAB and worked the orientation program together in 2017. They also presented at a conference to represent the School of Education together in 2018. “We spent countless hours together studying at the library, working events, and just hanging out,” Geletei says. “Sure enough, we began dating July 15, 2016, and got engaged at our friend’s beach house in Lavallette, New Jersey, on May 13, 2023.” Geletei says Glass created a romantic beach

picnic with elegant scenery with the help of family and friends. He read a letter to her with the highlights of their relationship from each year they’ve been together. “Then, right as he asked me to be his wife, dolphins surfaced. It was picture perfect.”

» **Jihad Johnson ’18, ’20M** wed **Mary (Fitzgerald) Johnson ’18, ’19M** on July 30, 2023. The couple were married at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, on a beautiful Sunday evening, with over 170 guests including family and friends, 40 of whom are Monmouth alumni or employees.

» **Lauren (Hill) Neyhart ’18** wed **Brandon Neyhart ’18** on April 28, 2023, at the Park Chateau in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

» Three Monmouth Physician’s Assistant graduates—**Laura (Corniola) Paone ’18M, Kelsey Donlon ’20M, and Alex Bingham ’22M**—are currently working in emergency medicine at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, New Jersey, side by side with Physician Assistant Program Specialist Professor Jim Fries in an important and critical role.

» **Nicole Seitz ’18** wed **Dave DePaola ’17** at Monmouth’s Er-langer Gardens on Oct. 21, 2023.

» **Cheyenne DeVincentz ’19** is engaged to wed Nicholas Costello. The couple, who have been friends since they were 15 years old, got engaged in Central Park, New York City, after a romantic date day on May 20, 2023, and are planning to wed at the Mill Lakeside Manor on March 27, 2025.

» **Megan McClintock ’19** is engaged to wed **John Gallina ’19**. The couple were engaged on May 20, 2023.

» **Angello Villarreal ’19M, ’22Ed.D.**, a teacher at Freehold Township High School, was recently selected for the PDK International’s Emerging Leaders Fellow Program.

» **M.N. Walters ’19M** recently published her first book, “The Chronicles of Lila Ray: If I Had One Chance to Tell You Something,” a novel about life, love, and choices. Walters, who is a school counselor, has had a love of writing stories, songs, and poems since she was a child.

2020s

» **Kelsey Donlon ’20M**. See note for **Laura (Corniola) Paone ’18M**.

» **Lauren T. Rorie ’20M** was accepted into the Rutgers University doctoral program in history at New Brunswick with a full academic scholarship. Rorie, whose research concentrates on Black artists and how they addressed issues surrounding race, gender, class, and sexuality within the larger framework of U.S. history and society using visual art, literature, film, and music, has presented at several prestigious academic conferences concerned with the history of the Black experience worldwide, including at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. She has authored several pieces for the award-winning peer-reviewed blog Black Perspectives and has an essay on Rosetta Tharpe in “Women Who Changed the World: Their Lives, Challenges, and Accomplishments through History.” An adjunct

professor in Monmouth’s Department of History and Anthropology currently teaching courses in the perspectives program, Rorie is also active in the African American Intellectual History Society.

» **Jimmy Criscione ’21** is the assistant men’s golf coach at the United States Naval Academy. Criscione, a PGA Class A Professional, spent the last two years as the head coach at Wagner College in Staten Island, New York. As a Hawk, Criscione was a four-year member of the golf team and played 32 total rounds over 19 tournaments during his collegiate career. He tallied two top-15 finishes and three top-25 finishes for the Blue and White and in April 2020 was named the Pepsi Zero Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Student-Athlete of the Week. A team captain as a senior, Criscione served as president of the Monmouth Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was a three-year board member. Additionally, he was named to the MAAC All-Academic Team three times and was a three-year MAAC Academic Honor Roll member.

» **Brianna Hough ’21** is engaged to wed **Patrick White ’21**.

» **Alex Bingham ’22M**. See note for **Laura (Corniola) Paone ’18M**.

» Three lacrosse teammates who graduated from Monmouth in 2022—**2nd Lt. Daniel Hewitt ’22, 2nd Lt. James Lisignoli ’22, and 2nd Lt. Ethan Masucci ’22**—attended Officer Candidate School for the U.S. Marines and are all now commissioned Marine officers currently attending The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia.

» **Micah Seaborn ’22** has joined Monmouth’s men’s basketball

coaching staff as the director of player development. Seaborn, who has experience and success from his playing career as a Hawk—which includes winning two MAAC regular season titles and competing in two NITs—was a 2018 first-round pick of the Grand Rapids Drive, the NBA G-League affiliate of the Detroit Pistons, and also played professionally for Mega Basket of the Georgia A League. In 2021–22, Seaborn was a volunteer for Head Coach King Rice at Monmouth while completing his degree and helped the Hawks to a 21-win season and a trip to the MAAC title game.

» **Jesi Rossman ’23** recently joined the squad of Athlone Town AFC, the League of Ireland’s oldest football club. A defender, Rossman played for Monmouth and received numerous accolades including the 2022 Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) Defensive Player of the Year, 2022 First Team All-CAA, 2022 USC All-East Region Second Team, and 2022 First Team All-ECAC, and she was a member of the 2022 CAA Regular Season Champions, among other honors.

» **Gabrielle Storino ’23**, a member of the Iota Theta of Alpha Omicron Pi at Monmouth, was honored with the prestigious Stella George Stern Perry Award at the 52nd International Convention of the fraternity held at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas, in June. The award, which remains the fraternity’s most prominent award for collegiate individuals, recognizes one collegiate chapter president who leads with outstanding service to their chapter, exceptional inspiration to its members, and recognition by administration and other fellow students.

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Alfred J. Schiavetti Jr. ’11HN

Trustee Emeritus, 1939–2023

For more than 25 years, Alfred J. Schiavetti Jr. ’11HN was a steadfast advocate of Monmouth’s mission, supporting the University as a distinguished trustee and loyal friend. A champion of liberal arts education, he served on two presidential search committees and was integral in advancing financial stability and academic excellence at Monmouth.

First elected to the Board of Trustees in 1997, Schiavetti served as chair from 2007 to 2010, was elected life trustee in 2011, and trustee emeritus in 2016. He served as a member of the Kislak Real Estate Institute Advisory Board and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Public Service from Monmouth in 2011.

Throughout his involvement, he and his wife, Barbara, actively engaged in campus life as founding members of the Parents Council and longtime supporters of athletics. They also contributed significantly to annual funds, priority fundraising initiatives, and student scholarships, especially through the Barbara B. and Alfred J. Schiavetti Jr. Distinguished Endowed Scholarship.

In honor of Schiavetti’s deep commitment to Monmouth and its students, and the indelible legacy he left on the University, he was posthumously awarded the President’s Medal at last December’s Gala at the Great Hall.

Enoch Leonard Nappen, Ph.D.

Former Professor of Political Science, 1936–2023

In 1960, Enoch Nappen accepted a position teaching history and political science at what was then Monmouth College. He would remain with the institution for the next 55 years, during which time he became a beloved and respected professor and student mentor and contributed to Monmouth’s transformation into a regional university.

Nappen served as chair of the Department of Political Science in the 1980s, but teaching was always his true passion. He taught hundreds of courses through the years but was

perhaps best known for teaching American National Government and Constitutional Law.

At the time of his retirement in 2015, Nappen was the longest-serving faculty member in the University’s history. In an Outlook article celebrating his decades of service, Nappen was quoted as saying, “You wonder why I would stay here for so long, but there’s nothing better to life than where your vocation, or avocation, is something you enjoy and you’re with nice people. We have a really great department with fantastic people here.”



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

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

In Memoriam

Alumni

- » Richard H. Haunton ’53 (April 18, 2018)
- » Albert G. Morhart Jr. ’53A (June 17, 2023)
- » Edward R. Nolan ’53A (Feb. 28, 2022)
- » John S. Kalman ’60A (Oct. 5, 2023)
- » Robert B. Lawson ’61 (May 12, 2022)
- » Linda B. Newman ’62 (June 25, 2023)
- » Richard J. Miller ’63, ’71M (Oct. 17, 2022)
- » James A. Wiencke ’63 (Jan. 14, 2023)
- » Gary D. Burd ’64 (May 28, 2023)
- » Alfonso M. Melone ’64 (May 8, 2023)
- » Thomas L. Brusky ’65 (June 8, 2023)
- » Arthur L. Frank III ’65 (June 30, 2022)
- » Paul A. Galisin ’66 (Feb. 24, 2023)
- » William J. Joyce ’66 (March 24, 2023)
- » Terry L. Parsons ’66 (July 21, 2023)
- » Shirley A. Boggio ’67 (May 3, 2023)
- » Tom F. Bolger ’68, ’71M, ’73M (Dec. 26, 2022)
- » Robert A. McDonald ’68 (March 9, 2023)
- » Andre B. Rovito ’68 (August 2023)
- » Richard W. Apple ’70 (June 1, 2023)
- » Daniel Boyle ’70 (Jan. 13, 2023)
- » Lillian E. Dalton ’70 (June 8, 2023)
- » Mary L. DeSantis ’70 (Oct. 9, 2023)
- » Michael R. Koenig ’70 (May 12, 2023)
- » Marcy Pearlman ’70 (May 1, 2023)
- » Joseph M. Radoslovich ’70 (Feb. 5, 2022)
- » Barbara T. Reagor ’70 (August 2023)
- » Barbara A. Stetter ’70 (June 8, 2023)
- » Josephine Van Houten ’70 (Jan. 26, 2023)
- » Daniel H. Flynn ’71M (Oct. 26, 2019)
- » Joseph L. Fitzgibbons ’72 (Sept. 9, 2023)
- » Gary Garrubbo ’72 (Jan. 28, 2022)
- » Sharon L. Mazza ’72, ’96M (June 29, 2023)
- » Elke Puhala ’72 (Nov. 30, 2022)
- » Richard D. Quinn ’72 (Jan. 24, 2020)
- » Ruth Eder ’73 (April 23, 2023)
- » Jay H. Hughes ’73 (April 28, 2023)
- » Helene A. Miller ’73 (Dec. 14, 2021)
- » Maria Gesualdi Clerico ’74 (Feb. 23, 2022)
- » Vernon H. Hankins ’74 (Nov. 22, 2012)
- » John G. Johnstone ’74M (May 27, 2022)
- » George J. Lahey ’74, ’79M (Sept. 17, 2023)
- » Cynthia A. Sullivan ’74 (July 16, 2023)
- » Grace R. Griffin ’75 (May 2019)
- » Denise E. Minot ’75 (Nov. 29, 2021)
- » Kenneth R. Zelinski ’75, ’80M, ’84M (Sept. 1, 2022)
- » Phillip J. Boyle ’76 (June 23, 2023)
- » Forrest M. Noll ’76 (April 12, 2023)
- » Nina Vaughn Parisi ’77A (March 10, 2023)
- » Denise Y. Putlock ’77 (March 13, 2023)
- » Fortunato A. Acerra ’78 (June 3, 2023)
- » Barbara E. Crammer ’78 (April 26, 2023)
- » Barnetta R. Keyes ’78 (Sept. 13, 2023)
- » Carole A. Lord ’78 (April 20, 2023)
- » Roger J. Cleary ’79 (Sept. 6, 2023)
- » Sandra L. Faiola ’79 (Jan. 22, 2022)
- » Deborah A. Adesso ’80M, ’04M (June 20, 2023)
- » Rosie A. Keeve ’80 (Feb. 15, 2022)
- » Nanci J. Burton ’81 (Nov. 12, 2022)
- » Joan S. Delehanty ’82M (Nov. 6, 2018)
- » Matthias L. DiMattia ’82M (Feb. 2, 2022)
- » John P. Rodeck ’82M (Sept. 12, 2023)
- » Lynn Anderson Zbranek ’84 (July 7, 2022)

- » William F. Condon ’85M (Feb. 26, 2023)
- » Jeffrey S. Littlefield ’86 (Aug. 19, 2023)
- » Connie Wilson ’88M (June 25, 2022)
- » Dan Zorovich ’88M (April 17, 2023)
- » Joseph C. Teti Jr. ’89, ’99M (Nov. 2, 2022)
- » Kathleen A. Gross ’91 (July 20, 2022)
- » Brian M. Smith ’92 (May 26, 2023)
- » Louis A. Gallirio Jr. ’93 (March 26, 2023)
- » Mary S. Whittle ’93M (Aug. 1, 2023)
- » Louis Cifuentes ’95M, ’07M (Feb. 28, 2023)
- » Janet A. Manger ’97 (Sept. 25, 2023)
- » Gregory J. Howard ’99 (July 19, 2023)
- » Dexter Contee ’04 (April 17, 2023)
- » Donna L. Hawley ’06 (May 13, 2023)
- » Joshua D. Loudenberg ’06 (Sept. 6, 2023)
- » Matthew J. Zorner ’08 (May 5, 2023)

Friends

- » Harry Allen Butowsky, former professor of history (May 6, 2023)
- » Alfred J. Schiavetti Jr. ’11HN, trustee emeritus and former board chair (June 28, 2023)
- » Dennis Andrew Vaccaro, student (June 14, 2023)

Faculty & Staff

- » Michael Fletcher, custodian in facilities management (Oct. 26, 2023)
- » Fred Del Guercio Jr., former technical director at Woods Theatre (March 23, 2023)
- » Enoch Leonard Nappen, former professor of political science (June 4, 2023)

LOCATION: ERLANGER GARDENS

Looking Out



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2. Which fairy tale character one student says inspired a rock anthem. »**P. 16**
3. Where to find Slocum Hall on campus. »**P. 22**
4. Why a former Navy corpsman turned to writing to help process his wartime trauma. »**P. 56**