

# MONMOUTH



## When the Past Comes Knocking

ADAM HEINRICH AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE ON A MISSION TO FIND AND PRESERVE THE STORIES OF PEOPLE TIME HAS FORGOTTEN. »P. 30

PLUS: TAKING ON QANON »P. 20

AND: WHY BOOK BANNING IS BACK »P. 08





# Looking In



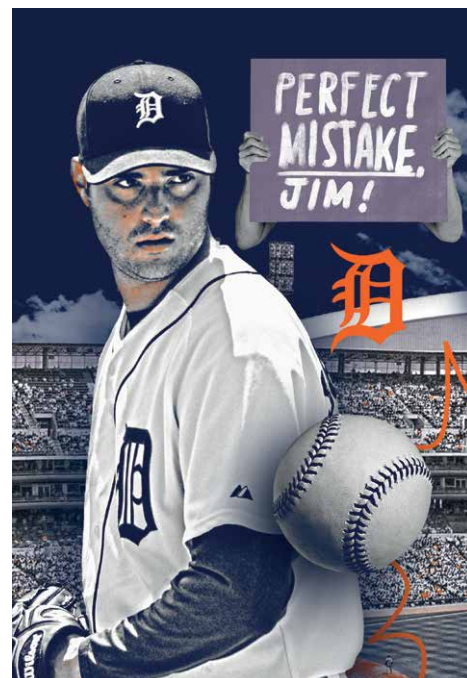


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# Forging Ahead

Monmouth celebrates a \$1.1 million NSF grant, the move to a new athletic conference, and the launch of a new doctoral degree.

This spring marked the two-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as we take additional steps toward restoring more normalcy across our campus operations, I can't help but reflect on how far we've come this past year and how much we have to celebrate.

Despite the challenges and uncertainty created by the pandemic, the Monmouth University community has flourished, especially over the past academic year. We continued to advance academic excellence while positively impacting our community and expanding our national footprint. Time and again, our students excelled in the classroom and beyond, showing the remarkable strength of the Monmouth spirit.

A testament to our continued focus on advancing academic excellence is evident in Assistant Professor of Biology Megan Phifer-Rixey receiving a prestigious, five-year, \$1.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation for the Faculty Early Career Development Program. The grant, which supports Phifer-Rixey's research on the evolutionary impact of urban environments on house mice, will provide high-quality, hands-on educational experiences for undergraduate students across the disciplines. It will also provide learning and enrichment opportunities for K-12 teachers in our local community.

Further evidence of the University's positive impact on the region can be seen in the recent archaeological project that took place at Sandy Hook. A multidisciplinary team of Monmouth faculty and student researchers helped the National Park Service better understand the history of a site that once served a key role in our region's commerce, and proposed ways to safeguard the site for future generations.

This past March, the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music launched a new collaboration with the Borough of Freehold to create an exhibition space that will celebrate the life and story

of the Boss, who grew up in the borough. I believe private institutions like Monmouth have an obligation to serve the public by being a force for positive economic, cultural, and social development in our communities, and this new partnership with Freehold further exemplifies how the University continues to be a valuable resource for the region.

At the same time, we have continued our efforts to extend Monmouth's regional and national recognition. Our move to the Colonial Athletic Association on July 1 is an important step in that process. This move will enhance competition for our student-athletes, as they will be playing in one of the top mid-major conferences in the country. It will also bolster the University's regional recognition and reputation, as we will be competing against other fine CAA member institutions along the East Coast from New England to the Southeast, including Northeastern University, Drexel University, the University of Delaware, Elon University, and The College of William & Mary.

Others are already taking notice of everything that is happening at Monmouth. Evidence of this can be seen in the University's inclusion in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023 Best Graduate Schools rankings for Best Education Schools, Best Nursing Schools: Master's, Best Schools for Social Work, and Best Speech-Language Pathology Programs. And, looking ahead to the fall, we will welcome the inaugural cohort of students to our fourth doctoral program, the Doctor of Social Work in Human Rights Leadership. This will mark another major step in our journey toward achieving national doctoral university status, which will place Monmouth University alongside some of the finest institutions in the country.

As we continue to forge ahead in our evolution to a bona fide national university offering multiple doctoral programs, I am gratified by the strength and support of our entire community—faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and, of course, students—who continue to support and advance our mission. Thank you for your commitment to our exceptional University.

»PATRICK F. LEAHY, ED.D., PRESIDENT



# Correspondence



Our Fall 2021 issue

Just received my *Monmouth* magazine. Loved it! It's a great product that reinforces the very best qualities of Monmouth and its brand! —*Mitchell Shivers '70*

## Remembering "Hoss"

I was saddened to hear about the passing of John "Hoss" Kessler '69. He was a great guy. Rest in peace, my friend. —*Randall C. Rogers '71*

As Paul (Doherty Jr. '67, '04HN) depicted in his article, John was such a genuinely nice person who would befriend others so easily. John and I were teammates on our junior high school team and remained friends and competitors throughout our intramural teams

at Monmouth. We met twice in the school championship games, and I can still picture John pulling in a pass behind him with one hand. That was over 50 years ago too! Fortunately, we won both of those games and had a big laugh about his catch. —*David Fass '68*

## Praise for Monmouth's Focus on First-Generation Student Services

I too was a first-generation graduate and stumbled along the way. Study abroad? Internships? If I only knew. Monmouth University was a great choice for me, and I'm happy to see there are programs to help students along the way! —*Debra Ann (Watts) Fournier '93, via LinkedIn*

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- Speech-Language Pathology

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

\*Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2009–2019.

\*\*"Employment outlook for graduate-level occupations"— U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



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[BOOK BANNING]

## At a Loss for Words

Maureen Dorment's course on censorship helps students make sense of the current resurgence in book banning across the country.

INTERVIEW BY STEVE NEUMANN

One would be forgiven for momentarily thinking they've been transported to pearl-clutching, Gilded Age America as they read today's headlines regarding book banning in school libraries across the country. But instead of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Leaves of Grass*, or *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, today it's works like *Maus*, *And Tango Makes Three*, and *A People's History of the United States* that are drawing the ire of some parents and politicians.

Just this year, a sweeping bill was introduced in the Oklahoma State Senate that would prohibit public school libraries from keeping books on hand that focus on sexual activity, sexual identity, or gender identity.

No, it's not the 19th century, it's the 21st; but there is nevertheless an "unprecedented" resurgence in the censorship of books, according to a report by

the American Library Association.

With this growing movement by conservatives to control what children should learn about American culture, society, and history, we asked Maureen Dorment, senior lecturer in history and anthropology, to help us make sense of it all. Dorment tackles these issues through her course, *Censoring Culture: Banned and Burned in the USA*. →



### Tell us about the course on censorship you're teaching.

It's an interdisciplinary perspectives course that focuses on specific instances of censorship in American history, from post-Civil War America to as current as I can make it. The books that are censored change throughout time—there are some constants that are usually in there, but for the most part, they always change. Books that were censored in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are not canonical works of literature. The texts don't change. So, what changes? The historical context. We have looked from the late 19th into the 21st century at changing historical contexts and the different aspects of censorship that surface in each of these.

I also have students watch films as part of the course, because most of them are not history majors, and they need to have some type of historical context. And I try to choose movies that will give them a sense of the time period that we are discussing, and that will provide them an avenue to look and say, Now, wait a minute, was this warranted? Was there a real fear, or was the fear manufactured?

It's all about the social, political, and cultural context in which the book is written and in which the book is read. For the most part, it's because the book has ideas that might not be conventional; it contains ideas that people would like to suppress.

### Why is it important that your course view banned books as products of a given historical and social context?

When we look back at people like J. Edgar Hoover, for example, and his censor-

ship of the modernist writers like James Joyce, we tend to forget the context of the times. But this is post-WWI, just after the Russian Revolution. There were labor strikes in the United States. Fear of communism was real. And rightly or wrongly, some of the cultural authorities associated those writers with communism. I want students to understand that there might have been a genuine fear which might explain but hardly justify Hoover's war on the moderns.

### Why is your course relevant today?

I tell my students at the beginning of the semester that censorship is the gift that keeps on giving—there is something every week in the paper about the current state of censorship in this country. What's going on right now in Texas and Tennessee is in keeping with this steady flow of censorship.

In Texas, we're talking about the American history narrative. In Tennessee, with the censoring of *Maus* because of the nudity and graphic detail—it's difficult to write about the Holocaust without graphic detail.

What is happening now is in direct relation to the election of President Biden, and the emphasis by conservative commentators on culture war. So this class is particularly relevant to the time we're living in today. It's been really good because we are discussing the past in conjunction with the present.

### What's the crux of the issue with book banning?

It's the suppression of information. Books are material artifacts, but they are also carriers of ideas; when a book is removed from the shelf, someone is deprived of reading that book, and they are deprived of the ideas that are in it.

A democracy is predicated on a free flow of ideas and an educated population, and if that population is not supplied with all the materials that they need to make decisions, then that's not good for a healthy society.

### What's the rationale behind book banning?

It is seldom about the censored artifact—it is more often about the historical, sociological, and cultural context that produced the artifact. It happens because there are those in some type of authority, religious or political, and the ideas are threatening to them and threatening to their way of life.

I always also tell the students that censorship is about power—who has it, and who wants to hold on to it—and if there are books that threaten traditional values, traditional ways of life, then it behooves certain cultural authorities to censor them.

### What are these traditional values, or traditional ways of life?

Before the Civil War, America was a very homogeneous society. But with the influx of immigrants, the freeing of the slaves, and the African diaspora to the north, the Victorian values that had held society together were being threatened. After WWI, they were threatened even further.

I always explain to the students that traditional American values are centered on belief in God, country, and family, and whenever any of those three pillars of traditional values are threatened, the censors appear.

Traditional America, going back into the 19th century, was white Anglo-Saxon Protestant. Then the Catholics came in, and they were initially a vilified minority. As we move through the 21st century, you see this white Anglo-Saxon Protestantism challenged by multiple religions, and this is very threatening to religious authorities.

And then, of course, central to any country is the historical narrative. The question is, who gets to tell it, and how it is to be told. Do we do "America the exceptional country" or "America the oppressor?" Is there a way of squaring the circle that this was a country founded with very high ideals of liberty and equality, but it

was also a country that was grounded in slavery, and a country that moved the Native Americans further and further west to almost complete extermination?

### How are these "traditional values" being challenged today?

I think traditionalists believe it was a much simpler way of life, but it's also about how they feel threatened. It's not necessarily just religion. While it is sometimes ill advised to make generalizations, white Anglo-Saxon Protestantism, American exceptionalism, and a belief in the nuclear family work in tandem to attempt to define American values.

The traditional narrative is that America is exceptional. But since the 1970s, historians have been trying to rectify the triumphal narrative and see to it that our children are educated on the legacy of slavery, the civil rights movement, and the quest for African Americans to achieve the elusive goals of liberty and equality. There's also the women's movement, and Native Americans need their stories to be told, too. So the question is, how do you work these things into the historical narrative?

And in the traditionalists' view, the nuclear family is under siege. Back in the 1920s, you had divorce and the single woman—the "flapper"—but now we have biracial couples and LGBTQ families.

### Is there anything surprising you've learned by teaching this course?

In this day and age, it's very difficult to censor anything. You can ban a book, but where there's a will, there's a way—someone is going to find that book on the internet. I had a student whose whole argument was that nothing can ever truly be censored because it will live on the dark web. He showed me how the dark web worked, and it was really quite fascinating.

There was also a recent article in *The New York Times* about a very entrepreneurial young woman in Tennessee who crossed the border into Kentucky and bought as many copies of *Maus* as she could possibly find and took them back to Tennessee and sold them at a profit.

Censorship sells, censored books sell—and that's the great fear, because of the ideas they contain. ☪



## Bridging the Political Divide

**"H**ave we lost the ability to respectfully disagree?" That was the question posed by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Pamela Scott-Johnson at the March 2 kickoff event for Leadership, Civility, and Common Ground in Politics and Public Service, a new conversation series aimed at bridging the political divide through civil discourse.

The series came to fruition after New Jersey state Sen. Vin Gopal, an adjunct professor at Monmouth, reached out to President Patrick F. Leahy with the idea of bringing state Republicans and Democrats together for a series of discussions on civility and how it can help create common ground and advance public good.

The first event, which focused on how civil discourse can lead to good public policy, was led by Gopal, a Democrat, and former New Jersey Republican state Sen. Joe Kyrillos. The pair facilitated a conversation between two other public leaders—New Jersey Senate President Nicholas Scutari, a Democrat, and New Jersey Senate Minority Leader Steven Oroho, a Republican—who shared their thoughts, personal experiences, and plans for continuing to engage in civil dialogue in order to work successfully across the aisle.

The event, sponsored by the Office of the President with support from the Department of Political Science and Sociology and the Institute for Global Understanding, is the first in a series that Leahy says is fitting to be held at Monmouth.

"If society needs a haven for free exchange of ideas, it need look no further than its colleges and its universities," Leahy said. "As John Masefield, poet laureate in Great Britain, said back in the '40s, 'Wherever a college or university exists, the free minds of men and women, urged on to full and fair inquiry, may still bring wisdom into human affairs.' And that's what we're all about here at Monmouth." »BREANNE MCCARTHY





# The Evolution of Teacher Preparation

Monmouth's Teacher Residency Program provides K-12 schools with real value in an era of teacher shortages across the nation.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

The recent TV hit *Abbott Elementary* shows just how difficult it is to be a teacher—especially a substitute teacher like the character of Gregory Eddie, who isn't sure how invested he wants to be when he first enters the classroom.

Gregory eventually allows his relationships with his pupils to grow, becoming a leader and a student advocate in the process. And despite his struggles with the day-to-day vicissitudes of classroom management and instruction, he decides to remain a teacher.

John Henning, dean of the School of Education, knows how much tougher things are now for both teachers and schools—due to a perfect storm of a global pandemic, a wave of teacher retirements, and employee burnout.

That's why the core of Monmouth's Teacher Residency Program, which Henning started in 2017, focuses so much on extending the classroom teaching experience beyond what's seen in traditional teacher preparation programs.

"Because I taught for 20 years, I knew that experience was crucial to becoming an effective teacher," says Henning. "And when I became a professor, one thing was sure: If I said something, and then students could see it in their classroom experience, they took what I had to say to heart."

In Monmouth's Teacher Residency Program, student teacher candidates work in schools as substitutes—and sometimes as paraprofessionals and tutors—as their academic schedules allow. Many candidates even end up substituting every day during University breaks as well as after the academic year is over. They also assume a full-time co-teaching role in their senior year.

One aspect of the residency program that Henning is particularly proud of is the yearlong clinical experience that replaces traditional student teaching. Instead of spending just one semester in a classroom, teacher candidates spend at least 10 hours per week in their field placement during the first semester and remain in the same placement while completing their full-time student teaching in the second semester.



illustration CHERYL THUESDAY

Henning believes that spending an entire year in a school enables teacher candidates to develop stronger relationships with their students, other faculty, and the administration. It also lets them experience in-service days, parent-teacher conferences, and after-school events.

"It's tremendous because teaching changes throughout the year," says Henning. "Every day is different depending on where you are in the calendar. Your journey through that academic year is very much influenced by how well you began it and how you started building those relationships."

But while Henning is happy with the way the Teacher Residency Program has prepared his teacher candidates thus far, he's always looking to evolve the program to meet both current and future challenges.

One of the perennial challenges for any teacher preparation program is the fact that most teacher candidates around the country work while they're in college—and most work in food service or other retail jobs not related to teaching.

Looking ahead, one of the innovations Henning is considering is an apprenticeship format where student teacher candidates have the opportunity to earn a living wage while they're learning the teaching trade.

"What would it mean for teacher candidates of the future, and for schools, if instead of working for Burger King, they were actually in a school working, adding value to the school because they can be of real assistance for a longer time?" says Henning.

It's the ultimate win-win situation, because at the same time that the schools are benefiting from the unique aspects of Monmouth's program, the teacher candidates themselves are gaining more extensive experience and becoming more invested as they get more comfortable in the classroom—just like substitute teacher Gregory Eddie on *Abbott Elementary*.

"I think this is a more equitable and fair way for people who are willing to come into the profession and make some of the sacrifices that go with it," says Henning. "Why not let them get better compensated as they learn how to be better teachers?"



## Five Podcasts Worth Listening To

Between the convenience of being able to listen on the go and the plethora of diverse content available, the podcasting industry has one of the fastest-growing media audiences worldwide. So it's no surprise that there is a host of Monmouth-produced podcast content available to stream. Here are five you should tune in to (links for each are at [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine)).

### 1 CROSS-GEN PRIDE

A student-run series created by the School of Social Work's LGBT+ Older Adult Project, this podcast features unique personal stories from LGBT+ people and aims to increase understanding and bridge the gap between generations.

### 2 HAWK TALK

Associate Athletics Director Eddy Occhipinti '06, '09M and Senior Associate Athletics Director Greg Viscomi talk all things Monmouth sports with guests who include Hawks coaches and staff, current student-athletes, and alumni.

### 3 THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE

Launched by the Black and African Diaspora Forum United of Monmouth University, an interracial group of faculty at Monmouth concerned with the Black/African experience, this series features conversations with scholars and activists on such topics as criminal justice, reparations, mental health, science, and politics.

### 4 IGU VOICES

This student-run podcast, launched by Monmouth's Institute for Global Understanding, features interviews with scholars and experts from all disciplines and aims to improve global literacy and promote cross-cultural understanding.

### 5 TUESDAY NIGHT RECORD CLUB

Host Ken Womack, a professor and world-renowned Beatles expert, and guests discuss some of the greatest records of all time. »BREANNE MCCARTHY



# The View From Here

Music news, polling reports, and other dispatches from West Long Branch.

## Springsteen Archives and Freehold to Open Exhibition Space in Bruce's Hometown



Pictured at the press conference announcing a new Bruce Springsteen exhibition space are Springsteen (center), Springsteen Archives Director Eileen Chapman (far right), and Monmouth students (from left) Lily Incantalupo, Gillian Demetriou, Connor Rupp, and Evan Stackhouse.

The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University will collaborate with the Borough of Freehold to create an exhibition space celebrating the life of Freehold's most famous son, Bruce Springsteen. The partnership was announced at a March press conference that the Boss himself attended.

The new exhibition will be curated and programmed by the Springsteen Archives and will include artifacts, photographs, multimedia displays (voice, film, concert

footage, interviews), and interactive displays. The anticipated opening date is mid-2024. The current Freehold Fire Department building, located at 49 W. Main St., will be renovated to accommodate the new exhibition space.

This new venture "will allow us to provide not only exciting exhibits that tell the story of Springsteen's early years, but also dynamic educational and public programs with strong ties to the community and area schools," Archives Director Eileen Chapman said.

**BIG THANKS**  
**Monmouth Giving Days, held in March, raised over \$195,000 through more than 1,400 gifts in support of the University's students.**

photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO

## Four real

Monmouth's fourth doctoral-degree granting program was approved by the state and will welcome its first class this fall. The Doctor of Social Work (DSW) in Human Rights Leadership will prepare students to be agents of change who can design, evaluate, and implement effective human rights programs and policies that will positively impact individuals and communities.

### POLITICS ASIDE

A quick look at some recent Monmouth University Poll findings:

**54%**

of New Jerseyans support allowing motorists to pump their own gas, but only if stations are required to maintain a staffed full-service section.

**61%**

of Americans want to do away with the nation's twice-a-year time change. Of that group, 44% prefer the later sunrise and sunset hours that come with Daylight Saving Time.

**73%**

of Americans agree with the sentiment that "it's time we accept that COVID is here to stay and we just need to get on with our lives."

photo COURTESY OF MEGAN PHIFER-RIXEY

## THE MONMOUTH BRAG BOARD

GREAT FOR GRAD SCHOOL

**U.S. News & World Report unveiled its 2023 rankings of Best Graduate Schools in April, citing Monmouth in its lists of Best Education Schools, Best Nursing Schools: Master's, Best Schools for Social Work, and Best Speech-Language Pathology Programs.**

BEST FOR BUSINESS

**The Leon Hess Business School was named to The Princeton Review's list of "Best Business Schools for 2022," a compilation of the nation's top on-campus MBA programs.**

LEADING IN THE STATE

**The Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies was the first school of nursing in New Jersey to join the Nurses Climate Challenge, committing to prepare "all nurses to better care for patients and communities in a world with a changing climate."**

## Clover Crew

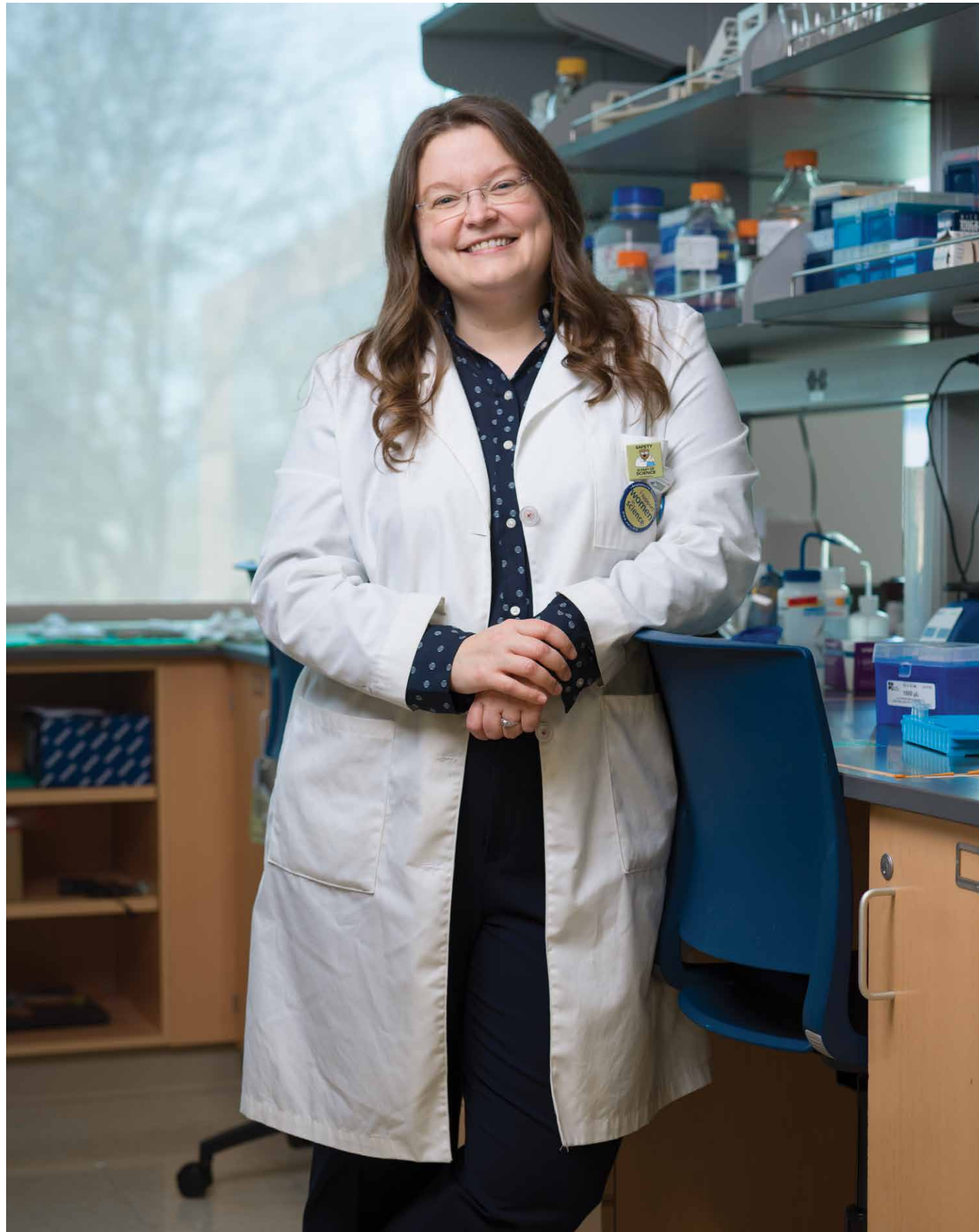
Tiffany Longo '20, Jesse Bragger '21, and Summer Shaheed '19 (l-r) were among the authors credited on a global collaborative study that showed how urbanization affects wildlife—in this instance, white clover. More than 280 scientists from 26 countries contributed to the multiyear study, the findings from which were published in March in the journal *Science*. Bragger, Longo, and Shaheed conducted their work while they were undergraduate student researchers in Professor Megan Phifer-Rixey's lab.



## Music That Matters

The founding members of Monmouth Artists for Diversity and Inclusion (MADI) received a joint senatorial and gubernatorial proclamation from the state of New Jersey for their work on *MADI Volume I*. The album, which features current and former Monmouth students, celebrates diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness through music, spoken word, and art. The proclamation cited it as a "significant educational example of how college students can creatively, constructively and effectively use artistic expression to impactfully support themes of diversity, inclusion and belonging in an educational manner in our society."





# That Million-Dollar Feeling

Megan Phifer-Rixey wins \$1.1 million NSF grant for research into how urbanization impacts wildlife.

INTERVIEW BY TONY MARCHETTI

**A**ssistant Professor of Biology Megan Phifer-Rixey was awarded a five-year, \$1.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) initiative for the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program. The grant will support her research on the evolutionary impact of urbanization on house mice while expanding educational experiences and resources across campus and beyond. She talked with us about her work and what the grant will make possible.

**Can you explain your research and how this grant will advance that work?**

My work is focused on understanding how organisms adapt to environmental variation. Previously, much of the research in my lab has looked at how latitudinal variation affects house mice. So we've really been focused on how mice adapt to variation in climate.

This grant is a new direction for my lab. We'll be focusing on how living in an urban environment impacts mice differently than living in more rural environments. Animals that live in urban areas could have different diets, experience different types of stress, and move around in different ways than animals in rural areas. Over time, those differences can shape how populations evolve and adapt. We'll be looking at genomic data to investigate the evolutionary impacts those urban environments might have.

**What are some of the broader implications of this research?**

Urbanization is a growing phenomenon. Much of the world's population is concentrated in urban areas, and our use of land is fundamentally changing as populations get bigger. This work could further our understanding of how urban environments affect all wildlife. That will be increasingly important to understand as more people live in urban environments and we have more human-wildlife interactions occurring in our cities.

One of the things I'm really interested in is the genetics of complex traits, which are traits that are driven by variation in genes and the environment. Body size is a good example of that. Lots of things affect body size: your diet, your

activity level, things that happened in the womb before birth—so there is an environmental component. But there are also many genes that contribute to body size. This work could help us better understand the connections between these traits and the underlying genetics.

**How are undergraduate students involved with this research?**

One of my students is using GIS [geographic information systems] analysis to quantify different aspects of land use and population density to help target specific collection areas for this summer. Once we collect our mice, the students will be involved in the genetic analysis of tissue samples and analyzing traits. They'll also be preparing natural history specimens from the mice we collect, which will help fill gaps in our natural history collections and be a resource for others to use.

**How will this grant have an impact on teaching and learning outside your lab?**

One part of this project will be looking at how genes and the genome respond to different environments. We'll be generating a lot of gene expression data that will need to be analyzed. I'll also be developing projects that will allow students who aren't in my lab to use this data to complete bioinformatics projects. [Assistant Professor of Chemistry] Nikita Burrows, whose expertise is in evaluating project-based approaches to learning, will be assessing the effectiveness of these projects to see how they improve student outcomes. And she'll be able to formally write that up and publish it as a classroom exercise, which is one way that broadens the impact beyond my lab.

In the final year of the grant, we'll also be offering an interdisciplinary seminar with the English Department. [Associate Director of First-Year Writing and Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition] Courtney Werner will help create a science writing class in which students will learn to communicate the results of this work to the public. We also have funding in later years to bring local high school teachers into the lab during the summer. We'll be able to give them exposure to that sort of environment as well as lessons they can take back to their own students.

This is ultimately a community project about fostering new scientists in the classroom. We're trying at every level to make the most of this opportunity. ☺





## Nicole Halliwell, DSc., OTR/L

Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy

The Multisensory Environment Lab (MSE) is a new, state-of-the-art, sensory-immersive space located in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the Monmouth University Graduate Center. Aimed at providing user-driven opportunities for exploration, relaxation, and sensory integration, the MSE is utilized by occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, and educators to support clients of all ages and abilities with psychiatric, neurocognitive, and intellectual challenges. Halliwell gave us a tour. »BREANNE MCCARTHY

### PROJECTION ELEMENTS

Different tools are used to project a variety of images within the environment, which can be used to target both visual and vestibular systems, or incorporated into movement activities that enhance proprioception, or your body's ability to sense movement, action, and location.

### FIBER OPTIC LIGHT STRANDS

These hang in front of a seated client, providing them with an enclosed space that elicits calm while supporting tactile and visual systems by surrounding the user with preferred visual input.

### BUBBLE TUBE

Clients can choose preferred colors, hear the sound of flowing water, and feel the gentle vibratory input of the bubble tube, which creates a calming environment while simultaneously targeting visual, tactile, and auditory systems.

### COLOR CUBES

These sync with the wireless controller, allowing the client to select their preferred color choices while allowing providers to customize seating based on client needs.

### WIRELESS CONTROLLER

This master switch connects to the lab's equipment and allows clients to change color and sound elements. Providers can use it to teach and reinforce concepts including colors, numbers, and sound identification in five different languages.

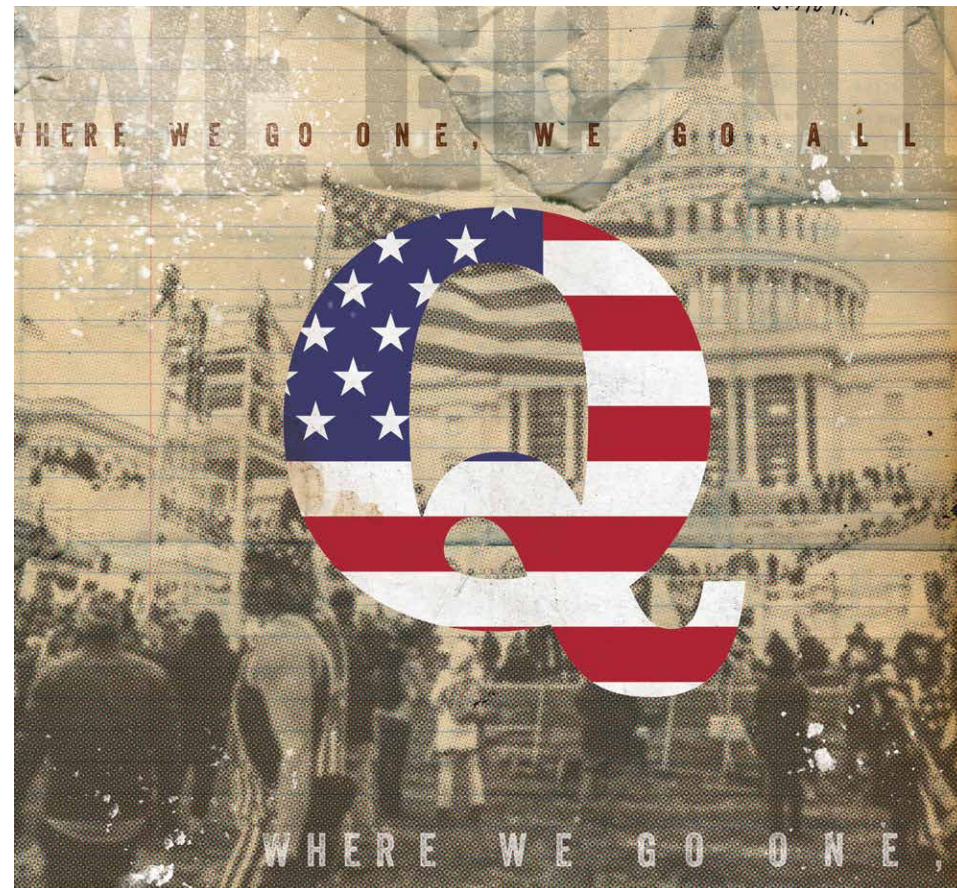
### SOUND STEPS

Colorful, moveable, and soft, the sound steps target visual, vestibular, tactile, and auditory input. Providers often use these to gain client attention/interest, provide visual/auditory targets, or incorporate movement within the MSE.

### SOUND SHELL CHAIR

This immersive environment provides noise-canceling conditions to support both sound-sensitive and sound-seeking clients. Providers facilitate calming and alerting sensations via sound selections and vibratory inputs as users are fully surrounded by sound, helping to decrease sensitivity, increase recognition, and facilitate carryover of the room's myriad benefits outside of the MSE.





## Down the Rabbit Hole

Graduate student Sara Aniano researches the far-right rhetoric of conspiracy theories despite the challenges and risks.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

In 2020, Sara Aniano started her master's in communication studies at Monmouth just as the COVID-19 pandemic was about to disrupt everything. Amidst the uncertainty, Aniano found herself with a lot of time to contemplate what she wanted to do when she finished.

Then one day a friend told her a story about celebrities drinking the blood of children—a favorite topic of the QAnon conspiracy communities.

"I fell into the same rabbit hole a lot of people fell into during that time," says Aniano. "But instead of believing it, I found it to be this really fascinating communication event that could pose really big problems for the future."

Aniano, who worked in marketing for nine years before beginning her master's

degree work, was already familiar with effective social media strategies—core parts of online conspiracy theories—so she decided to make the machinations of QAnon the focus of her master's studies.

"My thesis is on QAnon Instagram comments leading up to the Capitol riots of Jan. 6, 2021," says Aniano. "I'm studying the online rhetoric of far right groups to see what kind of warning signs we can identify while highlighting the accountability required of both big tech and mainstream media."

In her thesis, "Conspiratorial Communities: A Rhetorical Analysis of QAnon Instagram Comments Before the Capitol Riots," Aniano presents evidence for how conspiracy theories about election fraud were successfully spread on public Instagram accounts.

"That's worrisome because they're readily accessible to everybody," says Aniano. "You don't have to be particularly tech savvy to read some misinformation on Instagram and find it believable."

Equally worrisome for Aniano is being a researcher who presents her real identity online.

Last year, when Aniano wasn't as experienced as she is now, she shared the username of a conspiracy theorist on Instagram who was posting from her public account. That person found out and shared all of Aniano's content from Twitter, including her picture and real name.

"Commenters quickly branded me a satanic pedophile-supporting communist and said that I only got hired because I have Jewish on my résumé," says Aniano. "And I'm not Jewish, by the way."

Aniano has a thick skin, so the epithets didn't bother her; the worst part was her lack of control over it.

"We did everything we could to report this account, but it never got taken down," says Aniano. "The fact that Instagram was unwilling to help me, when I had so much evidence of their inability to take down misinformation before Jan. 6, made me feel unsafe."

Despite the risks, Aniano has steadily published her research both on Twitter and for the Global Network on Extremism and Technology, which is funded by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation at King's College London. In the process, she has become a go-to source for major media outlets reporting on the topic, including NBC News, *The Washington Post*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Aniano intends to continue the work on the rabbit hole she fell into when the pandemic hit.

"My mission is to prevent misinformation in the future," says Aniano. "That's a lofty goal, but I'd rather try than not try." ❊

## What Makes Inflation Rise?

AS TOLD TO DAN MORRELL

**Inflation in the United States rose by nearly 8% in March, the highest annual increase since 1982. But while consumers can feel inflation everywhere from the gas pump to the lumberyard, the root causes can often be opaque. Rick Roberts, a 20-year veteran of the Federal Reserve Bank and current specialist professor in the Department of Economics, Finance, and Real Estate, explains the forces behind these rising prices—and what can be done to bring things back to normal.**

**1** THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF INFLATION that we usually talk about. There's demand-pull inflation, which is an increase in prices due to strong consumer demand. Economists often refer to this type of price increase as occurring when there are "too many dollars chasing too few goods." Then there's cost-push inflation, where producers are facing higher costs and they pass some of those higher costs on to consumers in the form of higher prices. What we're seeing now is a combination of both. Strong demand has been created by well-intended but excessive reactions by policymakers to the COVID-19 pandemic. And I understand the reaction: I was in the room when those kinds of decisions were made while working at the Fed during the 2008 financial crisis. You have many moving parts to consider, and you want to do more rather than less just to be safe. Moreover, pandemic-related supply chain issues have bumped up producer costs, and some of the increase has been passed on to the consumer.

**2** THE MOST POPULAR GAUGE OF INFLATION is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). I think of it as a basket of goods that the government creates, and in that basket are the typical purchases of a consumer each month, with a current price. The change in the cost of that basket from one month to the next is the rate of CPI inflation.

**3** THE FED HAS TWO MANDATES FROM CONGRESS on the economic front: maintain full employment, and maintain stable and low inflation. They're always balancing those two goals, though more attention is paid to one depending on what's happening with the economy. Right now, the Fed is zooming in on the inflation goal because we're missing it horribly. Counteracting inflation relates to what caused the inflation. For example, if inflation seems due to excessive spending that came as a result of borrowing, higher interest rates would help tame the spending. The tricky part with our current situation is that there's not a lot of evidence that the inflation is due to borrowing, outside of housing inflation. It's more due to the excessive amount of money that people have as a result of expansive fiscal policy (e.g., stimulus checks) that they're starting to spend now. So raising interest rates is a good messaging technique, and I expect the Fed to continue to do that until short-term rates are around 3%. But, ultimately, we need to drain some of the excess reserves in the economy.

**4** THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT FROM INFLATION are the borrowers who are paying back loans in what are now cheaper dollars. Unfortunately, inflation generally impacts those that can least afford to deal with the pain it causes—those people at the lower end of the income spectrum. Although we are seeing wages even at the lower end go up, those folks face real financial strain when inflation impacts necessities like food and gas, because they can't afford to survive that volatility in the way that others can. This is not a small portion of the public, either: Some 70% of American consumers live paycheck to paycheck. ❊



# ATHLETICS

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[FOOTBALL]

## The Comeback Kid

After overcoming multiple injuries, Da'Quan Grimes is determined to finish his Hawks career on a high note.

BY MARK GOLA

Da'Quan Grimes' story begins like many you've heard before. A promising athlete starts their collegiate career only to suffer an injury. They endure recovery, struggle to regain form, and overcome the odds to play another day. But Grimes' story flips that script. He suffers another injury. Then another. And one soon realizes this story is less about sorrow and more about determination.

"I love competing, and I love playing football," says Grimes, who will play his final season for the Hawks this fall. "There have been some very difficult times, and I learned early on not everything is going to be sunshine and rainbows in life. I walked through some heavy rainfall, but I'm better because of it." →



Grimes arrived at Monmouth from Gaithersburg, Maryland, in 2016. The freshman linebacker was playing in a preseason scrimmage when he tore his meniscus. He attempted to return after a six-week recovery, but when his knee continued to swell, he was shut down for the season.

After rehabbing through that winter, a second surgery was required in spring 2017 to control swelling. Grimes' knee continued to flare up during preseason camp that year. He tried resting it, but when he returned, he suffered a hamstring pull while compensating for his ailing knee.

Through his first two seasons at Monmouth, Grimes had yet to play in an official game.

"I was so down I honestly started to question if I could play football," says Grimes.

Veteran teammates can have a tremendous impact on their younger peers, particularly ones who are searching for answers. Near the end of the 2017 season, senior defensive back Mike Basile '18, the Big South Defensive Player of the Year and a consensus All American, approached Grimes and delivered a message.

"He said, 'I've seen what you can do on the field when you're healthy. Keep your head up, keep grinding, and you'll be better than ever,'" Grimes recalls. "For a player of his caliber to say that to me, it meant everything."

Grimes focused on increasing his flexibility during rehab to take stress off his knee. He was finally healthy and returned for the spring preseason stronger and faster than ever.

When Grimes took the field for the Hawks' opener in fall

2018, it was the first game he had played since his high school state championship win—1,001 days earlier. He led Monmouth's defense with eight tackles. It was an emotional return for Grimes. "After playing, I thought about how much I would have regretted walking away," he says.

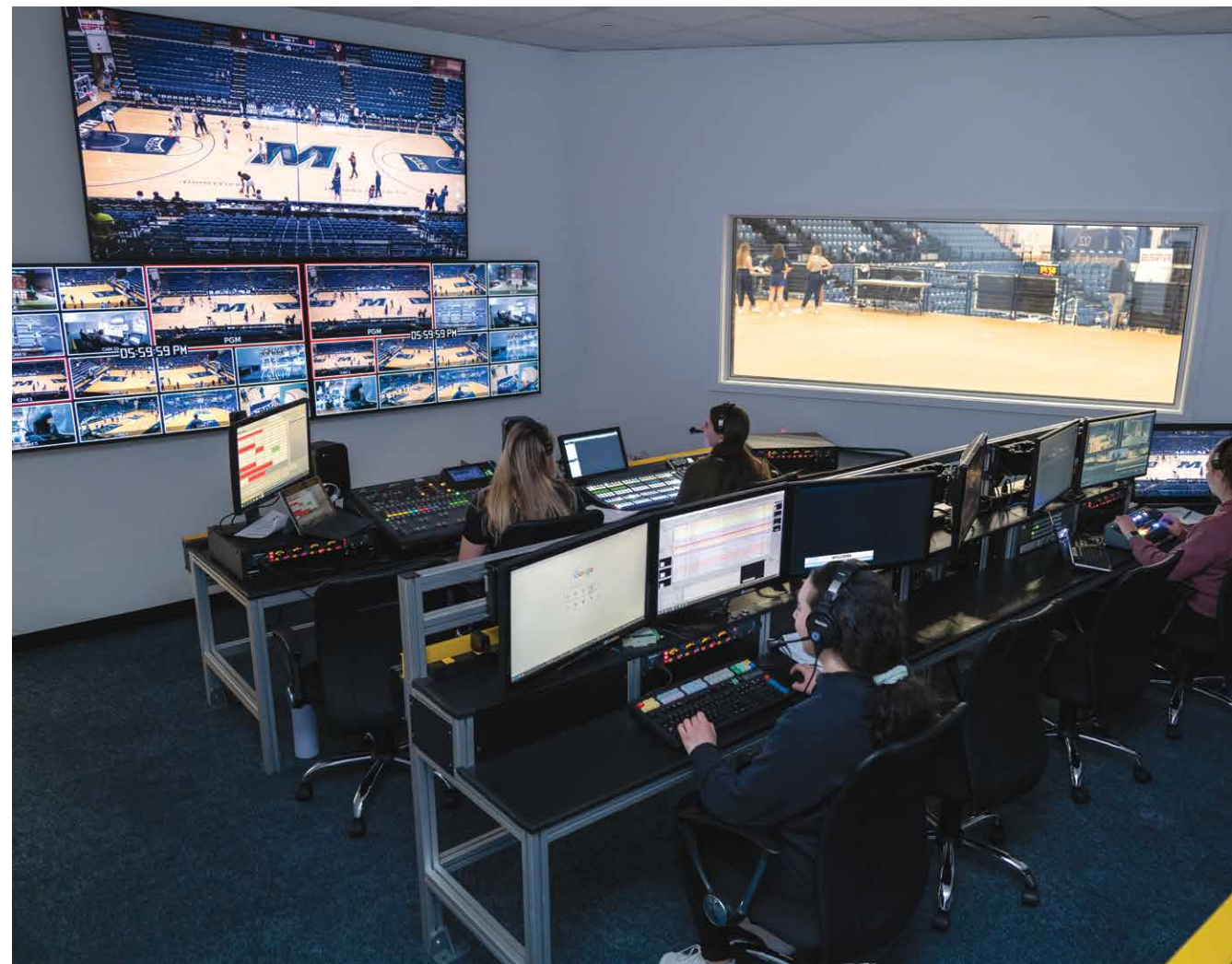
The following season Grimes started all 14 games, leading Monmouth in tackles (115) and earning a Second Team All-Big South selection. The 5' 11", 225-pound linebacker was poised for a dominant senior season in 2020 until COVID-19 sidelined every Big South player for the fall.

Refusing to be denied his final season, Grimes remained with the program. He took the field in a preseason scrimmage last year and tore his Achilles tendon. He missed the entire 2021 season.

"It was overwhelming emotionally," he says. "After about three days, I decided to return. I won't allow an injury to end my career if I have a choice." He still has more to prove, he says, adding that the program does too in what will be its inaugural season in the Colonial Athletic Association (see p. 29).

Grimes has capitalized on his extra time at Monmouth. He earned his bachelor's degree in health and physical education in 2021 and then a graduate certificate in public service and communication. He's currently working toward a master's degree in communication.

"My goal has always been to put myself in a position to build a life for myself and support my family," says Grimes. "Monmouth is helping me achieve that. But right now, coming back to play football is something I need to do." ❁



## A New Home for Hawks Broadcasts

The students who produce the live broadcasts of Hawks sporting events are doing so from a new, state-of-the-art control room thanks to a generous gift from Charles T. Parton '01HN and his wife, Trudy.

Since December, all Monmouth Digital Network (MDN) broadcasts have emanated from the Parton Broadcasting Center, which is located on the second floor of the

OceanFirst Bank Center. MDN had previously used a mobile trailer for its broadcasts.

MDN's production team is composed mainly of students, and the ultramodern facility allows them to work with industry-standard digital production and broadcasting technology, says Andrew Kurtz, assistant athletic director for live broadcasts. Among the equipment the new center features is a bigger board for cutting between the multiple cameras deployed during games, a replay machine, an audio control station, a more powerful graphics machine, a LiveCut

station for editing and posting big plays to social media during games, a new router for inputting feeds from different locations on campus, and three large TVs to monitor the action.

In addition to the technology upgrades, the center provides considerably more space than the old trailer. Kurtz says that makes it possible to add workstations in the future, and—equally important—facilitates on-the-job training for new students, who can now sit with and observe their experienced peers during live broadcasts.

"We could maybe squeeze seven people in the old trailer,"

says Kurtz. "Now we can have 14 students working at once learning skills they can take with them should they want to pursue careers in sports broadcasting."

The new center puts Monmouth "ahead of the game" compared to similarly sized schools in terms of live-event broadcasting capabilities, and it wouldn't have been possible without the Partons, says Kurtz.

"They are constant supporters," he says. "They always come to our games and stop by the center. And they're so happy to see our students learning and thriving in this new space." »TONY MARCHETTI



# Forward Thinking

Star forward Annick van Lange talks changing conferences, what she'll miss most about Monmouth, and the two items she always brings to games.

BY PETE CROATTO

Predictions in sports are always iffy. But Annick van Lange, a forward for Monmouth's field hockey team, seems certain of at least two things that will happen when her stellar, five-year career with the Hawks ends this fall. She's going to miss her teammates, many of whom have become like extended family. And, win or lose, when the horn sounds at the end of her final collegiate game, she's probably going to cry.

"This has been such a big part of my life," says van Lange, who hails from Sint-Job-in-'t-Goor, a small town in the province of Antwerp, Belgium. "Playing here has been such a great opportunity." She discussed the experience with us earlier this spring.



Van Lange, pictured on So Sweet A Cat Field, started all 18 games for the Hawks last season and led the conference in goals (17) and points (39).

#### ON WHY SHE CHOSE MONMOUTH.

During my senior year of high school, my mom asked if I'd be interested in playing field hockey and combining that with my studies in America. And I thought, *Oh, that'd be so cool—but so unrealistic*. But I decided to give it a shot. I made a highlights video and sent that and my SAT scores to different schools. When Carli [Figlio], our head coach, contacted me, we had a lot of Zoom calls to get to know each other. Then I visited Monmouth during my senior year and fell in love with the place. The campus is so beautiful, and I had so much fun meeting the team.

#### ON ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN AMERICA.

I'd been to the U.S. once before for a family vacation to New York, but there definitely was still culture shock. I'm glad that I came for summer school. I took two classes to get to know the campus and what it's like to be a student-athlete here. When preseason started, there were some more adjustments because I had never practiced two times a day for two weeks straight like that. And there were so many team meetings!

#### ON HER FAVORITE CLASSES.

I'm majoring in international business, and I really like my marketing classes. This year, I'm taking Strategic Management with Professor Joseph Mosca. He divides us into groups, and we meet with executives from different companies. That's been a valuable experience.

#### ON HER GAME-DAY RITUALS.

I always wear the same red socks under my shin guards and make sure to put on my right sock and right shoe first. And I always eat half a banana during halftime; it's a little pick-me-up.

#### ON BEING NAMED DIVISION I EASTERN COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN 2021.

It's fun to be recognized like that, but at the end of the day, I feel like our focus should be on winning a championship. That's why we're all here. We got so close to winning an America East championship, so we still want revenge for that. Playing in the Colonial Athletic Association this fall will bring

new challenges, but we're working hard and scrimmaging teams that we'll be playing this season. That's giving us a taste of what to expect.

#### ON WHAT SHE WANTS IN ADDITION TO A CHAMPIONSHIP.

To get Monmouth's name out there. A lot of times people are like, *Monmouth field hockey. What is that? D-2?* No, we're D-1. We're nationally ranked. I want other teams to think, *Oh no, we're playing Monmouth. It's not going to be an easy game.*

#### ON THE BONDS SHE'S MADE HERE.

I like the fact that my teammates come from all over the world and that there are so many different cultures represented. Everyone shares her input and that ultimately makes us better. It's what makes our team our team, and it's helped me to be open to new ideas. Right now, I'm living in a house with five teammates, and we spend all our time together. We're never apart and we pick each other up when there are setbacks. I feel like that will be a big gap when I go back home. 🍌





## Cooking With Gas

Pitcher Trey Dombroski's draft stock is on the rise.

BY MARK GOLA

Trey Dombroski loves to cook. He likes experimenting with ingredients and seasonings to create his own culinary masterpieces.

One could say Dombroski is cooking on the baseball diamond as well. Professional scouts think he has all the ingredients to develop into a Major League talent.

The 6' 5" left-hander is projected to be an early-round draft pick come July. Following a sensational season in the Cape Cod Baseball League last summer, where he was named the Cape's 2021 BFC Whitehouse Pitcher of the Year, Dombroski is poised to become the latest

Monmouth baseball player to join the professional ranks. But he's not letting that distract him.

"I owe the program and my teammates my complete focus and best effort every day," says Dombroski, a junior. "Things will happen the way they're supposed to happen, but if this is my last season with Monmouth, I want to make it the best year possible. These guys are my best friends. We're like a family." ❦

Monmouth has always provided a family-like atmosphere for Dombroski. His older brother, Regan '21, was a fellow pitcher and former teammate with the Hawks. Dombroski grew up in nearby Manasquan, New Jersey, so his mom and dad are staple spectators at home games. But it took an experience outside of his comfort zone for Dombroski to realize his potential.

After a superb sophomore season, he was invited to play in the prestigious Cape Cod league, where top baseball prospects compete each summer. Dombroski made an early impression on the Harwich Mariners coaching staff while pitching out of the bullpen. He was quickly promoted to starter, and by season's end led the league in ERA (0.85) and was tied for the league lead in strikeouts (45).

"What it really came down to was trusting myself and throwing every pitch with conviction," says Dombroski. "I was facing great hitters but needed to pitch to my strengths. I respected those guys but went after them with confidence. It's the only way to succeed."

Command is perhaps Dombroski's greatest strength. He throws four pitches—fastball, curveball, slider, and change-up—and can throw each where he wants, when he wants. His slider is his best pitch, and considering his height and length, it's a pitch that haunts both left-handed and right-handed hitters.

"Upside" is a common term used for projecting talent, and Dombroski has plenty of it. His velocity ranged in the low-to-mid 80s in high school and has increased steadily under Hawks Head Coach Dean Eehalt and Pitching Coach Sean Thompson. Dombroski has plenty of room to fill out, and if he continues his training regimen (along with his artistry in the kitchen), scouts are predicting he'll throw all of his pitches with increased speed and sharpness.

"The talk about me being drafted in the early rounds has given me confidence and motivates me," says Dombroski, who is a huge Clayton Kershaw fan. "It makes me want to work harder, but I'm not getting caught up in the attention. The dream is to be a first-round pick by doing what got me here and by being exactly who I am. There's no pressure in being myself." ❦

photo BILL CARDONI

## Monmouth Joins the CAA

**A new era in Monmouth athletics will begin on July 1 when the University officially joins the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) in all sports the league sponsors. The move will enhance competition for Hawks athletes while bolstering the University's recognition and reputation, President Patrick F. Leahy said.**

» **WHAT TO KNOW:** Beginning this fall, 23 of Monmouth's 24 Division I athletic programs will compete in the CAA, one of the top mid-major conferences in the country. Women's bowling, a sport not sponsored by the CAA, will still compete in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

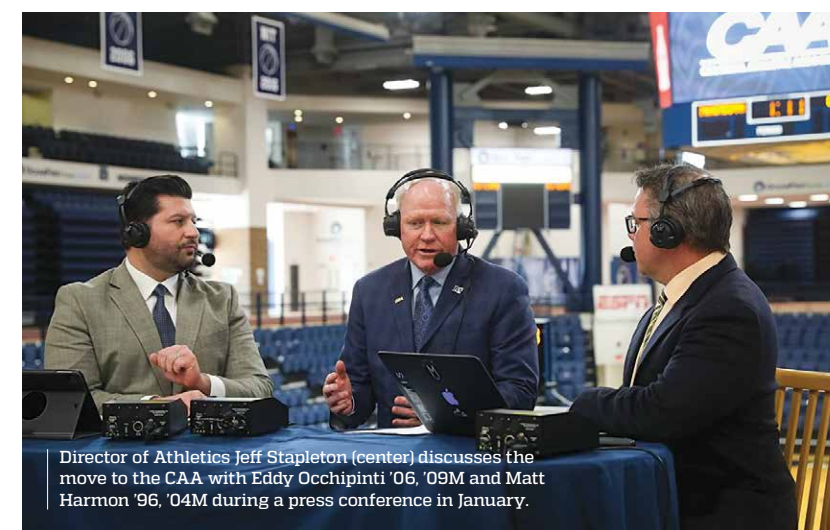
Consolidating as many programs as possible under one conference banner "is something that we have been working toward for the past 10 years," Director of Athletics Jeff Stapleton said. The move will allow Monmouth to "compete at the highest level but do so in a fiscally responsible way," Leahy said.

» **GOOD COMPANY:** CAA member institutions include College of Charleston, University at Albany (football only), University of Delaware, Drexel, Elon, Hampton, Hofstra, University of Maine (football only), University of New Hampshire (football only), University of North Carolina Wilmington, Northeastern, University of Rhode Island (football only), University of Richmond (football only), Stony Brook, Towson, Villanova (football only), and William & Mary.

» **THE BIG PICTURE:** The CAA encompasses many of the nation's largest metropolitan areas, with a geographic footprint that stretches from Boston to Charleston, South Carolina.

Competing in it will allow Monmouth "to tap major media markets up and down the East Coast," said Leahy. "This gives us an important opportunity to extend the Monmouth brand and to shine a spotlight on the incredible work that happens day in and day out on this campus."

» **NUMBERS GAME:** The CAA has produced 18 national team champions in five different sports, 33 individual national champions, 15 national players of the year, 15 national coaches of the year, 13 Honda Award winners, five Rhodes Scholars, and 25 NCAA postgraduate scholars.



Director of Athletics Jeff Stapleton (center) discusses the move to the CAA with Eddy Occhipinti '06, '09M and Matt Harmon '96, '04M during a press conference in January.

photos COURTESY OF MONMOUTH ATHLETICS

## Sports Shorts

### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Both teams won the 2022 MAAC Indoor Track & Field titles, and both of Monmouth's 4x800 relay teams earned gold medals and broke MAAC Championship records.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

George Pappas set a program record with his 103 three-pointers this year, becoming the first Hawk to make more than 100 threes in a season. He was also selected to play in the 2022 Dos Equis 3X3U National Championship in New Orleans during Final Four week-end.



### MEN'S TENNIS

The team won its seventh consecutive MAAC Regular Season Championship while finishing unbeaten in the conference for the fifth straight season.

### WOMEN'S BOWLING

For the third consecutive season, Saige Yamada earned All Conference honors. The senior secured a spot on the All-MAAC Third Team this year after bowling the most traditional games for the Hawks this season, achieving a total pinfall of 8,621 over 45 games.




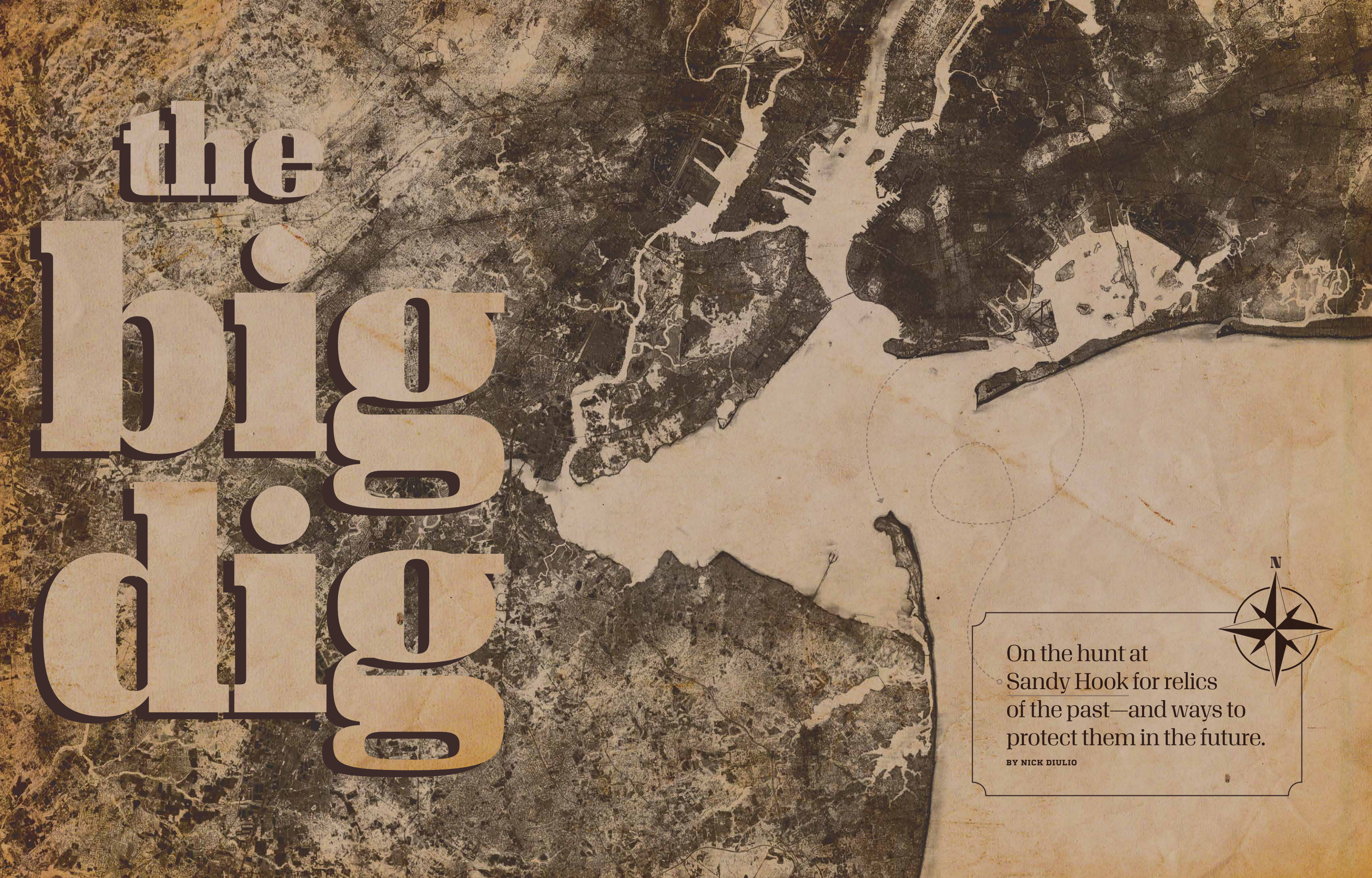
### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

The Hawks made a splash at their final MAAC Championships, bringing home a program-record eight individual gold medals while the women's 200-yard medley relay team won the program's first-ever relay gold at the event with a school-record time of 1:42.87.





# the big digs



On the hunt at  
Sandy Hook for relics  
of the past—and ways to  
protect them in the future.

BY NICK DIULIO



# To the untrained eye, the archaeological site doesn't look like much.

An undisclosed, forested stretch of beach on the thin spit of Sandy Hook, littered with leaf drop, sprawling poison ivy, and a bounty of underbrush. That's about the extent of it. But when one hears the story of this site and what lies beneath the surface, an entire world emerges.

Here, a bustling tavern and bunkhouse once served scores of sailors and travelers from the late 1700s before it burned down in 1855. Here, an adjacent blockhouse once stood, likely built to house soldiers during the War of 1812. Here, the legendary Sandy Hook Pilots slept and drank and played games in between perilous missions to escort ships safely through a treacherous New York Harbor. Here, long-forgotten artifacts like cups, plates, coins, musket balls, and buttons, embossed with the letters U.S. and buried for centuries, now finally emerge to tell their ghostly stories of a world somehow both ancient and contemporary. Here, a microcosm of the seemingly mundane has been liberated from the ceaseless corrosion of time to shed some light on a greater tale about ourselves.

"Certain people get recorded throughout history. Others not so much. Archaeology gives voice to those other people," says Assistant Professor of History and Anthropology Adam Heinrich, who helped spearhead an extensive, multidisciplinary dig last summer in an effort to better understand the history of this obscure patch of land while also assessing the extensive beach erosion and sea level rise threatening to wash it away forever.

"It can also show us how rich and colorful history actually is," Heinrich continues. "It's not just about the big events and black-and-white photos. Here you had a tavern and young men on the beach passing the time, maybe waiting for the British to attack in 1812, watching the ocean, drinking, playing games. It enriches our past and helps us to understand where we come from and how we've moved on."

Interest in the site goes back about 30 years, when a few Sandy Hook beachgoers found a smattering of 18th-century artifacts in the sand. Intrigued by the discovery, the National Park Service (NPS)—which owns and manages the majority of Sandy Hook—commissioned an archaeological survey of the area in 1982, which eventually unearthed a trove of relics and tried to identify the original foundation of the tavern itself. The artifacts were catalogued and placed in a storeroom on Staten Island, and it seemed like that would be the extent of it.

Then, in 2019, an NPS archaeologist took a Monmouth student out to see the site, and both were struck by the amount of erosion and sea level rise that had taken place over recent decades. The NPS now had a new project in mind, and they wanted to enlist the talents of Monmouth University's faculty and students to help pull it off.

"The initial project was modest. We were supposed to take old maps from earlier excavations and see how much of the site had been washed away. But we wanted



## The Process

**Top:** Geomorphologist John Stiteler and National Park Service Archaeologist Holly Staggs examine the soils at the site.

**Left:** An excavation unit showing the burned floor and foundation of the building.

**Right:** Monmouth University students Rick Altenburg and Allison Butchko excavate to the south of the building.

**Bottom:** Monmouth University student Jenna Lombardi and Montclair University student Will Williams search for the southern foundation of the building.





to propose an even bigger project,” says Richard Veit, professor of anthropology and interim dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. It was he and Heinrich who wrote an \$80,000 grant proposal to define the boundaries of the site, characterize it more precisely, assess the extent of the erosion and sea level rise, and propose possible ways to protect it for the future.

“It was a thrill to know this site was right in our backyard,” says Veit. “And we knew we could assemble a team that spanned the University. It would also be a fantastic opportunity for students to get field experience while showing them career opportunities in everything from archaeology to cultural resource management to geographic information systems.”

In assembling their team, Heinrich and Veit reached out to Geoff Fouad, assistant professor of geography and program director for Monmouth’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program. Fouad’s task was to examine historic maps spanning more than 300 years and overlay them onto more contemporary cartography to assess precisely how the landscape had changed over time. According to Veit, Fouad brought “an incredible ability to read the land.”

“It’s all about positioning and context,” says Fouad, who also serves as Monmouth University’s official cartographer. “Archaeologists are focused on the site itself, but it’s cartography that brings context. What’s around the site? How does it relate to the broader landscape? And how can we reconstruct the shoreline to see how it’s been changing?”

Another critical member of this multidisciplinary team was Thomas Herrington, associate director of Monmouth’s Urban Coast Institute, who was tasked with figuring out how the NPS might protect the site in years to come. According to Herrington, the primary cause of erosion is the regular removal of sediment from navigation channels at the entrance to New York Harbor—sediment that would otherwise naturally travel south along the western shoreline of Sandy Hook.

“It’s a very interesting site, and it’s really complex. It’s evolving from both natural forces and our anthropogenic influences on the shoreline,” says Herrington. “The sand they remove from New York Harbor used to provide natural protection to the shoreline. But over the last century we’ve taken that sediment out of the system, so the site is becoming more and more exposed to waves during storms or strong currents during surges like we saw with Superstorm Sandy. So it’s in a chronic erosion state now. As the sea level continues to rise, the higher water level allows for the development of bigger waves along the shoreline. All of this forebodes accelerated erosion.”

But before they could begin proposing preservation solutions, the team of faculty and students first had

**“Certain people get recorded throughout history. Others not so much. Archaeology gives voice to those other people. It can also show us how rich and colorful history actually is.”**



Adam Heinrich in Howard Hall with boxes containing some of the 10,290 artifacts he and the team recovered from the site.



to understand the nuances of the site itself, and that, says Heinrich, started with shovels and trowels in the late spring of 2021.

“When you’re digging in sand, it’s a blessing. Even with roots it’s relatively easy work,” says Heinrich. “We also recovered a lot of artifacts, so you’re never bored.”

According to Heinrich, even seemingly mundane items often revealed fascinating nuance and detail. For example, Heinrich—who specializes in zooarchaeology—recalls the discovery of a chicken bone with a large spur, indicating that it came from a male. And why might there have been a male chicken at this tavern? A likely hypothesis is that there was cockfighting taking place. Or consider, for instance, the nails.

“So you find nails. OK, so it was a timber building. But they were even more informative than that,” says Heinrich. “When you find a concentration of older nails in one spot and a concentration of newer nails in another, you start to understand the sequence of the tavern’s construction. It got me really excited to know the nails were telling me about a bigger pattern.”

According to Veit, the site proved to be even richer than he’d expected, and was “chockablock full of artifacts” (10,290 to be precise), including everything from the remains of pigs and cows to a puzzling glass seal on the side of a bottle.

“We couldn’t figure it out, initially. But we did some research and realized it was a bottle of maraschino liqueur bottled somewhere in Croatia,” says Veit. “I just thought it was so cool to think of these guys sitting in their bunkhouse drinking this bottle that was maybe salvaged from a shipwreck. Sometimes archaeology is about finding a narrative that’s revealed, and sometimes it’s about stitching together fragments of the past.”

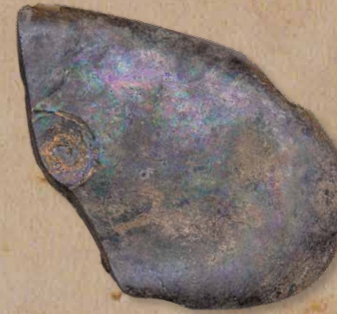
That stitching wasn’t solely about discovering artifacts. It was also about determining the dimensions of the tavern. According to Heinrich, fieldwork began in March 2021 and ran through early May 2021. Every Friday and Saturday, he and his team traveled to the site and slowly, patiently worked to determine as much of the perimeter as they could while also figuring out the tavern’s proportions and internal organization.

“We did targeted excavation to learn more about the site that wasn’t done in the 1980s,” says Heinrich. “Back then, they made a map, but where they had drawn a foundation didn’t make any sense. The lines didn’t add up and there were all of these weird angles. So that’s where some of the more traditional archaeology took place and we were eventually able to identify the structure of the building itself.”

FROM TOP: Richard Veit, professor of anthropology and interim dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Thomas Herrington, associate director of Monmouth’s Urban Coast Institute; and Geoff Fouad, assistant professor of geography and program director for Monmouth’s GIS Program.



## Every find has a story to tell



The base of a large chestnut bottle that likely contained alcohol at the tavern; late 18th or early 19th century.



Mended pieces of a shell-edged pearlware plate likely used in a table setting; late 18th to early 19th century.



A glass seal from a maraschino cherry liqueur bottle produced in Zadar, today’s Croatia. The double-headed eagle dates this to 1804 or later.



A lower leg bone from an adult male chicken. The large spur suggests that the bird was used for cockfighting at the site.

For Veit, this was one of the most valuable exercises for the team of Monmouth students who volunteered their time last summer.

“They had an opportunity to participate in a real archaeological excavation here in our own community! That’s a powerful experience,” says Veit. “Archaeology is different than traditional history. We find things that allow us to tell new stories, and our students weren’t just learning about this in the classroom. They were diving into the deep end of the pool and learning how to swim. They also understood that we have one chance at this, and we have to do it right. I was very proud of them, and they left with a whole new set of skills.”

Meanwhile, Fouad and Herrington were stumbling upon surprises of their own. For Fouad, who was “learning about the history on the fly,” his overlaid 19th-century maps gave him a new understanding of the impact humans can have on a coastline.

“I was really surprised by the sudden shift in one area of the shoreline,” says Fouad. “For about 100 years, from 1830 to 1930, it was in the same position. Then, all of a sudden, it shifted 150 meters toward the land. That was striking. Some kind of military installation was there, and whatever happened really destabilized the coast. That in itself shows how the structures we put in the ocean really change the landscape.”

For Herrington, this project was another opportunity to examine the impacts of climate change—not in some abstract, far-distant future, but in an immediate and concrete way.

“I thought my role was important to understand how the system responds to the climate change impacts it’s experiencing, and what we can do to preserve this

historic site. I’ve never been asked to do that before,” says Herrington. “There’s a very real chance this site won’t be there much longer, which is a real shame because it holds such significant history for the area.”

In his report to the NPS, Herrington made a few suggestions about how they might best preserve the site, which included the notion of either depositing sand directly in front of the site or placing it into the broader water system, which would feed into the area over time. He also proposed using brush—naturally fallen trees, for instance—to create and maintain breaks to help curb wave energy and currents.

As for Heinrich and Veit, they’re now waiting to hear back from the NPS to see if they’d like further excavation, exploration, and documentation of the site, as well as what they’d like to do about the erosion. Whatever the future holds, Veit says this entire project was simultaneously awesome and overwhelming.

“I think American history is amazing in terms of the stories it encompasses. And this particular site speaks to the development of New York City as a world city, a transportation hub. And also to the challenges that were inherent to travel and transportation at that time,” says Veit. “Thousands of ships wrecked off the Jersey coast trying to get into New York Harbor, and that’s why they needed the Sandy Hook Pilots to go out, meet the ships, and help thread the needle. Without them you’re in real trouble. They used this site as their home base, which really facilitated the growth of cities like New York and, in a sense, helped create the modern world we live in today. And it would have been a forgotten story if not for sites like this. It really is exceptional.”







# W

When Hannah Latshaw enrolled in the Law and Society class at Monmouth University, she had no idea she would spend the semester studying something that happened in a Major League Baseball game.

"I definitely did not expect to write anything about sports in the first place," said Latshaw, a senior psychology major who is minoring in sociology and criminal justice.

Yet that's exactly what happened after Adjunct Professor Lawrence Jones began laying out his Fall 2021 class syllabus.

Law and Society—PO-364 in the Monmouth course catalog—aims to study "the evolution of law, social forces influencing law, social impact of law, and law as an instrument of social control and social change."

Jones likes to bring in real-world examples and find ways for the students to produce work that can have an impact beyond the classroom.

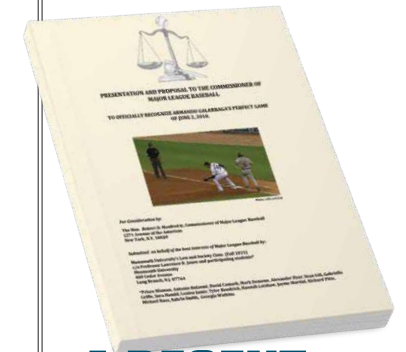
In this case, Jones—a retired judge of the New Jersey Superior court and also a lifelong Oakland Athletics fan—turned to Armando Galarraga and the infamous almost-perfect game from June 2, 2010, the one where Galarraga lost a perfect game because of a blown call with two outs in the ninth inning.

Jones had seen coverage of the 10-year anniversary of the game, including a story in *The Athletic* in which Galarraga expressed hope MLB would one day recognize him with a perfect game. (Galarraga backed off that idea in subsequent interviews and later wrote on his website, "It would be very selfish to try to change the play, when errors have also happened in other important games.")

Jones, though, remembered the game when it happened, as well as the reaction across the country. White

## Just Out of Reach

Armando Galarraga was still battling for a regular spot in the Detroit Tigers rotation on June 2, 2010. But after retiring the first 26 Cleveland Indians he faced that day, Galarraga stood on the precipice of baseball immortality. With two outs in the ninth, Cleveland's Jason Donald hit a slow roller to Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera, who tossed the ball to Galarraga (covering first) for what everyone thought was the final out—except first-base umpire Jim Joyce, who called Donald safe. Replays showed Galarraga had beaten Donald to the bag, but this was before teams could challenge such calls. Galarraga retired the next batter and was credited with a one-hit shutout. Afterward, a tearful Joyce admitted he blew the call and cost Galarraga his perfect game.



## A DECENT PROPOSAL

Following a semester of legal and social analysis, the 16 students in Lawrence Jones' Law and Society class jointly submitted a detailed analysis to MLB commissioner Rob Manfred supporting the reopening and reconsidering of the case of Armando Galarraga. The students' document sets forth in great detail 10 reasons why MLB should include Galarraga in its official record of honored athletes who have pitched a perfect game. (To date, only 23 people in MLB history have pitched a perfect game.) The students' document also includes a detailed footnote explaining the exceptional and extraordinary circumstances surrounding this unprecedented case.

A complete copy of the 80-page proposal can be viewed at [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine).



**“I thought this would be an outstanding, excellent, thought-provoking exercise in terms of studying law and society, in terms of studying the spirit of rules, the interpretation of rules. ... The Galarraga case was a classic educational example for students, and they really, really immersed themselves in it and enjoyed it.”**

House spokesman Robert Gibbs joked about using “the full force of the federal government” to have the play reviewed. The Michigan state House even made a proclamation declaring Galarraga had pitched a perfect game.

“What I remember most about it back in 2010 is the focus and outcry by so many people in the country who were not baseball fans, who didn’t even really know about baseball, that something was wrong here, that this did not make sense,” Jones said.

In teaching the Galarraga case to his class, Jones had the students read articles, watch videos, and do their own research. After some individual work, students broke up into teams—the Yankees, Red Sox, Phillies, and Mets—and began crafting deeper arguments. The students came to a near-unanimous resolution: that Galarraga should be awarded a perfect game.

The magnum opus of the class was an 80-page report filled with examples, precedents, and legal rhetoric arguing Galarraga’s case. The report was mailed to MLB commissioner Rob Manfred. Jones made sure to get a courier note as proof the proposal was successfully delivered.

**“THERE WERE MULTIPLE REASONS WHY I** thought this would be an outstanding, excellent, thought-provoking exercise for the students,” Jones said, “in terms of studying law and society, in terms of studying the spirit of rules, the interpretation of rules, when results are equitable versus non-equitable, and how not only courts but anyone in positions of authority have to generally have reasonable discretion to accomplish the right result. To me, the Galarraga case was a classic educational example for students, and they really, really immersed themselves in it and enjoyed it.”

In baseball circles, the idea of changing such a monumental call remains a

controversial issue. MLB can be known for its rigid rules and a strict reverence for its history. Jim Joyce, the umpire who made the call, has expressed since the days after it happened that he would like for the call to be overturned. But even former Tigers manager Jim Leyland has never loved the idea of changing the record books.

“I think you just open up a can of worms,” Leyland said in 2020. “I think that would have been probably the worst thing to do, in my personal opinion.”

Students such as Tyler Kudrick, a sophomore majoring in political science with a concentration in legal studies, approached the Galarraga case with a fresh set of eyes. Kudrick, like many in the class, doesn’t follow baseball closely.

“(The research) just revealed a lot of idiosyncrasies within the MLB rulebooks and whatnot that aren’t necessarily modern enough to apply to the Galarraga case,” Kudrick said. “We looked at the idiosyncrasies of the rules. There was a lot of room, especially in Mr. Galarraga’s case, that it could have turned out differently if there were more wiggle room applied to the rules.

“It seemed like a lot of it was very cut and dry. But in the name of equity, it shouldn’t have been.”

The Monmouth students became more fascinated with Galarraga’s case after Jones arranged to have Galarraga join and speak to the class via a video call. Jones contacted Galarraga and explained the project, and Galarraga was happy to lend his time.

“He really connected with the students in a very, very humanistic way,” Jones said. “And that’s part of education. Students can read textbooks all day long. What it boils down to: Can they connect with people? Can they understand issues and have empathy for issues, and not just in a computer age where everything seems automatic and electronic? The human elements of an issue or a story become critical.”



## Building the Case

The students’ proposal cites several incidents in MLB history that relate to the Galarraga case to support their call for action. Among them:

### HOOKS WILTSE IN 1908

A disputed ball-strike call cost Wiltse a perfect game, but he still pitched 10 no-hit innings for the win.

### HARVEY HADDIX IN 1959

Three decades after Haddix pitched 12 perfect innings in a game, MLB withdrew his name from its official list of perfect games because he had lost the game in the 13th.

### GEORGE BRETT IN 1983

In the infamous “pine tar incident,” MLB retroactively reversed an umpire’s call on the last out, forcing the game be resumed and changing what had been the official outcome.

In his meeting with the students, Galarraga shared his life story, tracing his path from growing up in Venezuela to experiencing both triumphs and struggles on baseball’s biggest stage.

“I thought it was amazing,” Latshaw said. “My heart just really hurt for him, honestly.”

“He sat there talking to us as if it was no big deal,” Kudrick said. “He had this almost-perfect game, as they call it, and he could have been in the record books, he could have been in MLB history. But he just accepted it.”

By semester’s end, the students compiled a detailed proposal that makes a compelling case for why MLB should recognize Galarraga in the record books. The report cites other incidents in MLB history such as the George Brett pine tar incident, Harvey Haddix in 1959, Hooks Wiltse in 1908, and more. It lays out an argument in a detailed yet levelheaded fashion.

“Students, particularly those who are interested in studying law, you always want to try to do the right thing,” Jones said. “You want to accomplish equity and fairness and justice. That’s what our whole system is about. The question is: How can that be

done here? Can this be done in a way that’s reasonable and equitable and logical and consistent with the spirit of the game, the spirit of the rules, without causing any damage, so to speak?

“The presentation and proposal to the Major League Baseball commissioner accomplish all that in multiple ways, in an extremely reasonable, analytical, and thoughtful way.”

The legacy of the Galarraga perfect game, however, persists because of its complications, because of the fact it’s not actually recognized as a perfect game. As Joyce said in 2020, “Let’s face it. It’s a great baseball story.”

Such a great story that it’s now being taught at the university level.

“I’m definitely proud I’m part of something like this,” Latshaw said. “I’m very interested in law and everything that comes along with it. But never in a million years would I have imagined myself doing something like this. ... Something I did could help somebody else and help them succeed and get the recognition they rightfully deserve.”

A version of this article originally appeared in *The Athletic*. It is reprinted here with permission.



Gripped by the claws of opioid use disorder, Nikki Tierney was convicted of child endangerment. Even after 13 years of recovery, it haunted her every move: where she could work, how she could interact with her kids. So Tierney focused on changing the law—and the lives of others who are in sustained remission from substance use disorder.

# Out of the Dark

BY MAUREEN HARMON  
PHOTOS BY JOHN EMERSON

**N**ikki Tierney '21M remembers Sept. 21, 2007, only vaguely. She was at Monmouth Beach lying in the sand when her 3-year-old son Kole came to her. “He might have said, ‘Mom, let’s go play,’” she recalls. And with that, she was up and headed for the ocean.

But once in the water, this mother of four with the law degree and the stellar collegiate basketball career was having trouble swimming. Lifeguards told her to get out of the water. She started to, but inexplicably waded back in and tried—unsuccessfully—to swim again. Her inability to function normally could have been due to the amount of alcohol in her system. It’s also possible she had had a seizure, which she was prone to.

In the end it wouldn’t matter. →





The only thing she knows for sure is that her day was spent with a bottle of vodka because she didn't have the money to buy the pills she *really* wanted. She knows she was pulled out of the water by lifeguards who had called 911; she was arrested; and later she was charged with child endangerment.

Tierney also knows her son was crying that afternoon at the beach.

"It was a hard day for Kole," she says.

#### TIERNEY'S STRUGGLES WITH OPIOID USE

began when she was 14, as she waited to have a surgery that would repair a hole in her stomach lining, which she had had since she was a toddler. An always-anxious child, Tierney still remembers lying on that operating table. "I was so warm," she says. "I was so at peace." Though she would be going under the knife, this kid—who always feared death and catastrophe—felt just fine. Her anxiety was gone. Her fears were laid aside. "But it wasn't Jesus coming down or the bright lights," says Tierney. "It was the morphine."

From that day on, any time Tierney felt that anxiety creeping in, she would tell her parents her stomach hurt, and she would be off to the hospital for Maalox, phenobarbital, and a little peace. Not long afterward, Tierney found alcohol. "The drink wasn't as powerful as the morphine," she says, "but it was good."

Her full-scholarship undergraduate years brought more drinking and pain pills, but they also brought straight A's, a three-point record in basketball her freshman year, academic All-American status, and a \$15,000 postgraduate scholarship from the NCAA. Outside of sports, drinking, and opiates, Tierney didn't really have a self-image or a life plan. So after graduation, she vacantly landed on law school and took opiates with her to Rutgers School of Law in Newark. "I took pills almost every day of law school," says Tierney. "I took pills when I took the bar."

She finished in the top of her class. She had everything—a great job, a beautiful home, money in the bank. "So now, I have everything anyone could possibly want," she says, "and I was so broken."



Nikki Tierney (second from left) at home with her children (from left) Kole, Ashley, Amanda, and Kyle Devaney.

Next there were two traumatic pregnancies (one a set of triplets and a son born a few years later) that both ended with C-sections—and pain pills. With those drugs, the insanity came back with a vengeance. "That's when I starting kiting scripts to feed my habit," she says.

#### KITING PRESCRIPTIONS—FILLING THEM AT

one pharmacy and then immediately heading to another to fill them again or forging them entirely—is a third-degree felony. And Tierney had several when she tried to end her life in 2007. All the things she had—the house, the family, the license to practice law, custody of the kids—were gone by then. She couldn't get out from under her addiction, and her mental health had spiraled. Her child endangerment

charge from that day at the beach was another felony, second degree. There was nowhere to go, she figured, but to the grave.

After she tried to take her own life, she landed at Bergen Pines, a psychiatric detox unit. Tierney's recovery started there. So did her awakening about her mental health. When her counselor asked her what kinds of medication she was on, she confessed she didn't even have insurance. When he asked if she was seeing a psychiatrist, she was perplexed. "Why would I?" she asked him. She went home and cried. The one person she had opened up to thought she was "crazy." It broke her down and woke her up. "I was diagnosed with major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder," says Tierney, "and I've been in psychiatric care ever since." She's also been on what she calls her "journey of wellness" ever since.

Tierney's life improved, one day at a time. She managed to get on her feet, develop relationships with her children, and volunteer with recovery groups and in her community. "I do parenting classes, I do group therapy, I do individual therapy, I go to church," she says. "I do anything I possibly can not to return to the darkness." Eventually she put 13 years of recovery together. But because of those felonies, there were things she *couldn't* do. She couldn't coach her kids' basketball teams, couldn't cosign their college loans, couldn't be a class mom. Getting jobs was difficult—or required a lot of explaining. In New Jersey, there are 1,088 collateral consequences of having a felony on your record. And Tierney ran into most of them.

It wasn't until she decided to pursue an M.S. in clinical mental health counseling at Monmouth that she read about her abil-

**"I do parenting classes, I do group therapy, I do individual therapy, I go to church.**

**I do anything I possibly can not to return to the darkness."**

ity to expunge her record should she complete drug court, a program she was sentenced to and completed several years back. When Tierney went before the judge for the expungement, the judge told her, "My hands are tied. It says everybody who graduates gets expungement, but down the list, it cross-references things that can never be expunged."

Those things? Felonies—including non-violent, nonsexual child endangerment.

It just didn't make sense to Tierney. People with violent felonies—murder, rape, assault—couldn't be admitted to drug court anyway. The judge knew it was an issue, and admitted that she had just hugged and turned down another mother who was trying to get her own life back on track. She urged Tierney to call legislators or appeal her decision. "Nikki, you could do it," she told her. "You could appeal me. You're the one that could."

That's when all the roads Tierney had taken—the productive ones like law school and the difficult ones like addiction and recovery—came together to make change. What she wanted to do in that instance was cry and give up. But she made herself do something else. "I told myself: 'Don't you dare be so selfish, because if you could hardly make it, what about them?'" she recalls.

She was worried about the single moms who would be overwhelmingly affected by the current law.

So instead of giving up, Tierney picked up the phone. She called legislators. She reached out to Monmouth for help—professors offered advice, students and faculty signed petitions, and President Leahy

gave Tierney access to Monmouth's general counsel, John Christopher. It took nearly four years and 10,000 signatures, but she pushed and pleaded and made the case to get a bill before the legislature that would offer expungement to those facing non-violent, nonsexual child endangerment charges should they complete drug court (today called recovery court). It passed the assembly, but when it reached the judiciary committee, it stalled. Legislators came back with an edit: They would post the bill but would require a 10-year wait before a judge could grant an expungement in those cases. The compromise was frustrating for Tierney, who knew that children would age out by the time their parents' records were expunged. But it was a win nonetheless, one that would make a difference in her life and in the lives of other families with parents in recovery.

Today, Tierney continues to work with and for others who face substance use disorders and mental health challenges. Today, she has her Monmouth degree with a concentration in addiction studies. Today, she is a licensed associate counselor, certified alcohol and drug counselor, and peer recovery specialist at CPC Behavioral Healthcare and an in-community clinician with Jersey Innovative Science. She is also the coordinator for the Hazlet Municipal Alliance, which focuses on prevention and awareness. She knows her role in the community and in the health care profession might not have been within reach had her journey been any different, and today, she chooses to walk down this new path she has created for herself. The expungement is just one step along the way.

"It's a huge step for myself and for others who benefit, because we will continue to pay it forward and show society that your belief in us is worth it," Tierney told the *Asbury Park Press* in January, days after the bill passed. "My gratitude is going to be a verb. I want to be exhibit one of why expungements, second chances, clean slates—whatever we call it—is one of the best investments society can make." ❁

If you are thinking about harming yourself or attempting suicide, call the toll-free, 24-hour hotline of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) to be connected to a trained counselor at a suicide crisis center nearest you.



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[LOOKING BACK]

## Dorm Life

**D**id you live on campus as a student? *Monmouth* magazine wants to know what life in the residence halls was like in your day. Share your recollections of the friendships you made, the pranks you played on floor mates, the all-nighters you pulled, and any other dorm life experiences you fondly recall. Email your stories and photos to [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or mail them to *Monmouth Magazine*, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ, 07764. 📧



# Alumni Roundup

Listed by graduation year.

## 1960s

» **Robert Sculthorpe '63, '15HN** received the inaugural President's Medal in recognition of his extraordinary service, philanthropy, and leadership. The award, created by President Patrick Leahy, represents the highest honor Monmouth University can bestow on an individual. Sculthorpe has been a dedicated supporter of Monmouth University for more than 25 years, serving with notable distinction on the

Board of Trustees, as well as providing generous financial support to diverse initiatives across the University. Read more about Sculthorpe's accomplishments and contributions to the Monmouth community in the Spring 2021 issue of the magazine at [Monmouth.edu/magazine](http://Monmouth.edu/magazine).

» **James W. Holzapfel '66** is the New Jersey state senator of the 10th legislative district. He was previously the assemblyman for the 10th legislative district from 1994 to 2012 before being elected as senator in 2012. He served as

the Ocean County prosecutor from 1987 to 1992. He is currently the managing partner of Citta, Holzapfel & Zabarsky, located in Toms River, New Jersey.

» **Vito Perillo '68** is the mayor of Tinton Falls, New Jersey. The World War II veteran, who is 97 years old, was thought to be the oldest mayor in America after his reelection in November.

## 1970s

» **Patrick Glynn '71** and **Eileen Glynn '74** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11, 2021.

» **Vera S. Maass, Ph.D. '71**, is the author of 10 professional books. Her latest book, *Feminist Psychology: History, Practice, Research, and the Future*, has just reached the market. Maass is a licensed clinical psychologist in Indianapolis, Indiana, and all her books are about psychological issues.

» In 1968, **Sunny (Slack) Donald '72** transferred to Monmouth and met **Bob Donald '72**, who was the freshman class president. The two have been together ever since that first day on campus 54 years ago. In 1976, the couple welcomed a son, Kristopher, and then in 2000 they welcomed a grandson, Kristopher Jr. On May 20, 2022, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. "Thank you, Monmouth, for bringing us together," says Sunny.

» **Eileen Glynn '74**. See note for Patrick Glynn '71.

## 1980s

» **Ed Corneiro '83** is the senior vice president of finance at SkyHive, a SaaS provider of intelligent workforce planning technology. Corneiro has over 20 years of experience in finance and operations, serving in various leadership positions with Accenture, Credit Suisse, Merrill Lynch, and Morgan Stanley. He most recently founded Tech-FinIQ, a company focused on optimizing enterprise technology investments. He also serves on the School of Science Dean's Advisory Council.

» **Lou Podbelski '86M** is the senior vice president, business development for Halio Inc., which makes smart glass based on electrochromic technology and cloud-based AI. Most recently, Podbelski was the founder and president of LEAP, a consulting firm specializing in business development for building products and services companies. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Virginia Tech and is a licensed architect.

## 1990s

» **Stephanie Perrin '91** is the founder and owner of Two Rivers Tax & Accounting Service in Red Bank, New Jersey, where she provides everything from the preparation of individual, partnership, corporate, and S corporation tax returns to business formations for new businesses and divorce consulting from a tax perspective.

## Zack Sandler '20

PRODUCER FOR DANNY CLINCH PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE TRANSPARENT CLINCH GALLERY, ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY

Music industry graduate Zack Sandler assists award-winning photographer Danny Clinch and is also the associate producer for the Transparent Clinch Gallery at the Sea.Hear.Now Festival. He has worked on productions with Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, members of Pearl Jam, and more. Sandler is also a tour manager and plays saxophone in several bands.

### HOW I GOT HERE

I always had the musical bug. I've played the sax since the fourth grade, but my calling was the business side of the music industry. With Monmouth being so close to Asbury Park, I was able to learn in the classroom and then hone my craft in town later that same night.

### MONMOUTH MENTORS

Professor Joe Rapolla has been a huge influence on my personal life and professional career. A lot of what I'm doing is thanks to him. And I wouldn't have graduated with honors if it wasn't for Reenie Menditto, who pushed me to write my thesis, which is now published and archived in the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music. I'm really proud of that.

### MY CAREER GOAL

I'm living it. I'm happy being a producer. I'm happy playing on stage. I'm happy touring. And I'm happy working alongside the superheroes I grew up listening to and idolizing.

»BREANNE MCCARTHY







# Celebrations

## WEDDINGS

1. **Amy Lee (Friesendorf) Santise '03** wed Michael Santise on May 7, 2021.
2. **Timothy Ballard '09** wed Kristen Desbiens on June 20, 2020.
3. **Marissa Iradi '16** wed **Robert Wendel '16** on Oct. 2, 2021.
4. **Ashley (Ogrodowski) Pevine '18** wed Michael Pevine on Oct. 15, 2021.

## ENGAGEMENT

5. **Jenna Gaudio '09** is engaged to wed **Erik Massimino '15**.

## BIRTHS

6. **Diana (Greene) Castaldo '08** and her husband, John, welcomed a son, Luke Castaldo, on Aug. 30, 2021.
7. **Phabiana Stanzione '09** and her husband, Jorge Andrade, welcomed twin boys, Lukas Fabian Andrade and Logan Jorge Andrade, on Dec. 9, 2020.
8. **Nicole Ryan '11, '13M** and her husband, Daniel, welcomed a daughter, Nora Rose Ryan, on Nov. 30, 2021.
9. **Robin (Stohrer) Nichols '11M** and her husband, Craig F. Nichols, welcomed a daughter, Kensie Breigh Nichols, on April 23, 2021.
10. **Jennifer DiBerardino '13** and **Michael DiBerardino '13** welcomed a daughter, Kendall DiBerardino, on Oct. 29, 2021.

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

11. President Patrick Leahy, left, presents **Robert Sculthorpe '63, '15HN** with the inaugural President's Medal in recognition of his extraordinary service, philanthropy, and leadership.
12. **Sunny (Slack) Donald '72** and **Bob Donald '72**, who met at Monmouth in 1968, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 20, 2022.
13. **Katiane Drummond '18M**, left, a dual language teacher at East End Elementary School in North Plainfield, New Jersey, met President Joe Biden during his visit to pre-K classrooms on Oct. 25.

» **Emilia (Simonelli) Leese '92** is the co-author of *Think Like a Vegan: What Everyone Can Learn from Vegan Ethics*. She has presented the book, which is available for purchase worldwide, at the Nairn Book & Arts Festival and the Timber Festival, and the book was also featured in Björkborn Manor, the Alfred Nobel house museum in Sweden. Additional upcoming events and appearances can be found at [thinklikeavegan.com](http://thinklikeavegan.com). Leese, who writes essays on life, travel, and veganism for a variety of online publications, is closely involved with the Birchfield Highlands Forest Rewilding project in the Scottish Highlands. She regularly hosts benefit supper clubs and is a speaker on vegan ethics at a variety of events. She has also developed life skills and ethics workshops for underserved youth. A corporate finance lawyer for over 20 years, she and her husband, Roger, who is also vegan, live in London and the Scottish Highlands.

» **Chari Chanley '93M**, the acting superintendent of the Monroe Township School District in Monroe Township, New Jersey, has been appointed to the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey's (ESCNJ) Board of Directors. Chanley has been with the Monroe school district since 2003, serving as assistant principal and principal of Monroe Middle School before being promoted to acting superintendent in Fall 2021.

» **Sean Moynihan '94** was promoted to executive vice president, regional managing director, and Southeast market leader for Newmark, a major commercial real estate advisory firm. Moynihan, who is based in Atlanta, Georgia, will oversee

Newmark's strategic management throughout the Southeast, working to drive the platform's strategy and enhanced service offerings in the region. Moynihan's responsibilities have been extended to include the Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee markets, in addition to Atlanta. A 20-year industry veteran, Moynihan most recently led the company's Atlanta office as executive vice president, responsible for revenue growth, profitability, client relations, industry recruitment, and business development. His tenure at Newmark also includes a team leadership and tenant advisory role. Moynihan is also a former professional soccer player and has served as a professional youth soccer coach in New Jersey and Georgia.

» **Joe DeSilva '97** is president of global sales at Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP). DeSilva joined ADP in 2003, starting his career in benefits sales, and went on to assume leadership roles in sales, operations, and client services. Prior to his current role, DeSilva served as president, small business services, retirement services, and insurance services. He also served as senior vice president of service and operations for ADP small business services. Prior to joining ADP, DeSilva worked in benefits with Mellon HR Solutions. He started his career with PwC in its benefits outsourcing group. DeSilva, who received his MBA from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, currently serves on the New York/New Jersey Board of America Needs You, a nonprofit organization that fights for economic mobility of ambitious, first-generation college students



by providing mentorship and career development avenues.

» **Joseph Fussner '98** was appointed as the chief of the Ventnor City Police Department in Ventnor City, New Jersey, on Jan. 1, 2022. Fussner, who was promoted from captain, has been a police officer with the city for nearly 22 years.

## 2000s

» **Tony Maglio '03, '05M** is IndieWire's first-ever executive editor, business, who will oversee the site's coverage of the TV and film industries in addition to offering his own insight and analysis. Previously, he spent nine years at The Wrap, most recently as its TV editor. A former financial analyst, he holds a master's in journalism from Columbia University.

» **Amy Lee (Friesendorf) Santise '03** wed Michael Santise on May 7, 2021. The couple wed at St. Rocco's Roman Catholic Church in Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, with their reception following at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In attendance was alumna and matron of honor Alison (Pergola) Savoia '02 and bridesmaid Josephine (D'Arpa) Mastrocola '00, '04M. Amy is an operations manager for an international software company and lifelong Shore resident until moving to Pennsylvania to get married. Michael is an owner-operator for the Santise Corporation. The couple lives in Forks Township in Easton, Pennsylvania.

» **Bryan Koslow '04M** was appointed to the Dean's Advisory Council in the Leon Hess Business School. Koslow works as principal of Clarus Group LLC, a financial planning, investments, and insurance firm. In addition to being a CPA and certified financial planner, he serves as the vice chair for the investment committee for the New Jersey Society of CPAs and is a former PTA treasurer. Koslow also provides pro bono accounting assistance to victims of domestic abuse through the Safe Center of Long Island.

» **James Giberson '05** and his wife, Maria, welcomed a daughter, Gabrielle Louise, on Jan. 20, 2022—the fifth anniversary of their first date.

» **Robert Ferragina '07M** is the new borough administrator for Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. The business executive left his position as Long Branch assistant director of community and economic development, where he had been employed for three years, to accept the position with the borough. Prior to that, he had spent more than two decades in the forest products industry, holding various management and executive management positions.

» **Diana (Greene) Castaldo '08** was promoted to sponsored projects manager of the post award team at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in May 2021. Castaldo and her team manage the sponsored projects of principal investigators for the department of surgery and the divisions of endocrinology and psychiatry. She joined CHOP in July 2016. Castaldo and her husband, John, also recently welcomed their second child, a son, Luke Castaldo,

on Aug. 30, 2021. Luke joins big sister Aubrey, age 6.

» **Timothy Ballard '09** wed Kristen Desbiens on June 20, 2020, at the Church of Christ the King in New Vernon, New Jersey, followed by a small reception. They celebrated with a large reception at the Ryland Inn in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, on June 20, 2021, with many Monmouth friends and alumni in attendance.

» **Jenna Gaudio '09** is engaged to wed **Erik Massimino '15**. Massimino proposed to Gaudio during a trip to Iceland in December. The couple is planning a July 2023 wedding. Gaudio was recently promoted to chief operating officer of Vydia and was honored on the NJBIZ list of 2021's Best 50 Women in Business. Massimino was recently nominated for a 2021 Emmy in the category of outstanding technical achievement for his work on NBC's "Today Show" as part of the technical production team.

» **Phabiana Stanzione '09** wed Jorge Andrade on a horse ranch in Manorville, New York, on May 4, 2019. "It was a beautiful Western-chic wedding full of long, beautiful gowns, cowboy boots, and light sabers—May the Fourth be with you," says Stanzione, who was wed on Star Wars Day, an informal commemorative day observed annually on May 4 to celebrate the Star Wars media franchise. "It was a wonderful time with lots of happy tears, laughs, and dancing." The couple also welcomed twin boys, Lukas Fabian Andrade and Logan Jorge Andrade, on Dec. 9, 2020.

» **Nicole L. Weingartner '09** was promoted to director of state government affairs at Davidoff Hutter & Citron LLP in New

York, New York. She also joined the firm's cannabis department in May 2021 as a regulatory analyst.

## 2010s

» **Kaitlyn R. Campanile '11** and her husband, Kurt, welcomed a son, Jack Michael, on Dec. 29, 2021.

» **Trevor "Kermit" Marden '11** has joined WWZY-WBHX "107.1 The Boss," a classic rock radio station, for weekend and swing duties. Marden joined Audacy Classic Hits WCBS-FM/New York as a member of the promotions team and worked his way up to producer. He was christened "Kermit" by radio disc jockey Scott Shannon. He also worked at iHeartMedia, Inc., as an executive producer, first at WOR-AM, a news/talk radio station serving New York, then on Jim Kerr's morning show team on WAXQ (Q104.3) as executive producer, a role he will continue.

» **Keith McPherson '11** is the host of WFAN, a commercial radio station located in New York City. Previously, he was a podcast host for Jomboy Media's Talkin' Nets and Pinstripe Strong. He also worked extensively in social media with Jomboy, Transition Sports & Entertainment, Roc National Sports, fuboTV, and MTV Networks.

» **Robin (Stohrer) Nichols '11M** and her husband, Craig F. Nichols, welcomed a daughter, Kensie Breigh Nichols, on April 23, 2021.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 58



## SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING 2022

Saturday, Oct. 22

Make plans now to attend the largest alumni event of the year. Cheer on the Hawks as they take on The University of Rhode Island in the first Homecoming game in our new conference.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MONMOUTH LOYAL?

Your gift makes Monmouth great! It inspires our students to take action and lead the way. That's why we created Monmouth Loyal: to recognize and thank you—our alumni and friends—for giving back for two or more consecutive years.

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# 2022 Alumni Award Winners

The Alumni Association honored three graduates for their professional accomplishments and service to the University during Alumni Weekend in June.

**D**avid Wilson '80, a retired journalist whose career spanned more than four decades in print and broadcast media, received the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association. Karyn (Calabro) Cusanelli '89, a sales associate with Diane Turton Realtors, received the Outstanding Alumni Service Award for her tireless advocacy and volunteer work on behalf of the University. And entrepreneur Saoud Khalifah '13, '14M received the Recent Alumni Award.



## Distinguished Alumni Award

*Bestowed on a graduate who has distinguished themselves by contributions to their profession and who serves as an inspiration to the next generation of alumni and the community at large.*

**David Wilson '80** retired in January from a journalism career that began while he was still a student at Monmouth. An English major with a concentration in media studies, Wilson was active in *The Outlook* and WMCX as well as the Student Government Association and the Honor Society. During his junior year, he interned at the *Asbury Park Press* and was hired afterward as an editorial assistant and music writer. After graduating, Wilson worked at the *Millville Daily* as a general-assignment reporter. Then he moved to business journalism, where he spent almost four decades.

Wilson worked at Dow Jones before becoming the second U.S. stock reporter hired at Bloomberg LP. He ran Bloomberg bureaus in New York and Princeton, began a news-training program, had two stints as a columnist, oversaw stock-market coverage globally, and served as stocks editor on radio and television. Upon Wilson's retirement, company CEO and cofounder Mike Bloomberg credited Wilson with helping "to shape Bloomberg News into what it is today through his writing and his teaching."

Wilson says the personalized education he received at Monmouth and extracurricular opportunities he took part in prepared him well for his chosen profession. "Monmouth was the foundation on which I built my journalism career," he says. "It gave me the start that I needed."



## Outstanding Alumni Service Award

*Bestowed on a graduate who demonstrates unwavering commitment and dedication to Monmouth by way of their exceptional leadership, volunteerism, generosity, and advocacy.*

As a student majoring in business administration with a concentration in marketing, **Karyn (Calabro) Cusanelli '89** was involved in just about everything: the Student Government Association, the College-Wide Advisory Board, the American Marketing Association, and WMCX, to name a few. She was also a four-year faculty merit scholar and served as a member of several national honor societies, including Delta Mu Delta, Lambda Sigma Tau, and Phi Eta Sigma.

Since graduating, Cusanelli has remained a dedicated volunteer at countless alumni events. She has been a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2014, serving consecutive terms as president since 2015. That same year she was elected to the Board of Trustees as an ex-officio member and has served on multiple board committees. Additionally, Cusanelli was a member of the Presidential Search Committee and Transition Team and served on the committee for Together We Can—The Campaign for Scholarship.

Cusanelli and her husband, Nicholas '89, have established an annual scholarship and are legacy parents to two alumnae: Marissa (Cusanelli) Purdy '14 and Gianna Cusanelli '18, '22M.

"One of the most rewarding things my involvement as a volunteer at Monmouth has given me is the opportunity to meet and interact with so many incredible students," says Cusanelli. "I'm really impressed by the dedication and achievements of these students, and I get excited to think of their futures and all they will contribute."



## Recent Alumni Award

*Bestowed on an individual who graduated within the past 15 years and whose success will inspire current and future alumni to strive for professional and personal achievement.*

**Saoud Khalifah '13, '14M** is the founder and CEO of Fakespot, a data analytics company that has helped millions of consumers around the world scan online reviews to get better insight about the items they want to purchase. Khalifah founded Fakespot in 2016 after several Amazon purchases did not match the reviews he had relied on. He says he is passionate about restoring trust and transparency to online information, starting with e-commerce, by using technologies like machine learning and artificial intelligence. Prior to launching Fakespot, Khalifah worked as a software engineer on Goldman Sachs' equities trading platform and as an adjunct professor teaching computer science and software engineering to undergraduate and graduate students. He has a B.S. and M.S. in software engineering and has been writing software since the age of 11.

"My advice for fellow Hawks who want to be entrepreneurs is to pursue something in your life that you're passionate about," says Khalifah. "Entrepreneurship is a life of dedication, resilience, and grit, where there are constant ups and downs. And it is only bearable when you are doing something you enjoy." 🍀

## Hall of Fame Inductees

Ryan Kinne '11, Bobby Smith '06, and members of the Touchdown Club were inducted into the Monmouth Athletics Hall of Fame during Alumni Weekend this June.

**Kinne** led the men's soccer team to four regular season championships and two NCAA appearances. The midfielder/forward ranks third in program history for both career points (91) and career goals (35). He was a two-time All American and two-time Northeast Conference (NEC) Player of the Year, and earned All-Region honors three times.

**Smith**, a two-sport standout, placed fifth at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 2005 while earning All-America honors. He was an All-East Region performer twice in the javelin and earned three consecutive All-East honors at the IC4As, winning the event as a junior. As a running back on the football team, Smith helped lead the Hawks to two NEC titles, finishing his career with 1,545 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns.

More than 60 members of the **Touchdown Club**, the group credited with being one of the driving forces in bringing collegiate football to Monmouth, will be honored as a Team of Distinction. Led by Don Burnaford '72 and the late John Kessler '69, the group tirelessly solicited funding from a number of sources to get the seed money together to start the football program in spring 1992.



» **Christopher Rau '11** was promoted to sergeant with the New Castle County Division of Police in New Castle, Delaware. Sgt. Rau joined the New Castle County Division of Police in November 2011 and previously served in the patrol division and criminal investigations unit, property squad, and major crimes squad. He is also a certified financial crime investigator, certified instructor, and recruiter.

» **Nicole Ryan '11, '13M** and her husband, Daniel, welcomed a daughter, Nora Rose Ryan, on Nov. 30, 2021.

» **Arielle Giordano '12** is the managing director, U.S. government affairs, for Canadian Pacific Railway (CP), one of North America's largest freight railroads, where she is responsible for CP's government affairs at the federal level and in 11 U.S. states. After graduating from Monmouth, Giordano went on to study law at the Catholic University of America, Columbus

School of Law, where she graduated with honors in 2015. After graduating from law school, she was admitted to the Maryland State Bar and was hired as legal counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Railroads under former chair Bill Shuster. She assisted in the drafting, negotiating, and passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, the Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act, and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Reauthorization Act, all of which were signed into law by President Barack Obama. She is the sole author of the STB Information Security Improvement Act, which was signed into law by President Donald Trump. Giordano, who remains an active member of Monmouth's political science alumni network, sits on the Board of Directors for the Washington Urban Debate League and is president of the Catholic

University of America, Columbus School of Law's Alumni Council.

» **Kathy Pretz '12M** is the editor in chief for The Institute, a website that covers all aspects of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, its members, and the technology they're involved in.

» **Jennifer DiBerardino '13** and **Michael DiBerardino '13** welcomed a daughter, Kendall DiBerardino, on Oct. 29, 2021.

» **Regina Betz-Madge '14M** recently had a poem titled "In Reach of Hope" featured in an installation—a public poetry gallery—in Charlotte, North Carolina. The installation was a part of the Of Earth and Sky Project, which featured about 40 pandemic-inspired poems around the city of Charlotte from the end of September to the end of October 2021. Betz-Madge's poem was showcased in front of the Booth Playhouse on the second floor of the Founder's Hall building in downtown Charlotte.

» **Michael Callahan '15M** is the director of social work services at Bridges Outreach's Project Connect office in Newark, New Jersey. Callahan, who was previously the director of student support and veteran services for Monmouth's Division of Student Life, is also currently an adjunct professor in Monmouth's School of Social Work.

» Former Hawks football player **Pat Gray '15** was part of the Team Penske pit crew that won the Daytona 500 in February. Gray, who worked his way up through the ARCA, Truck, and Xfinity series before entering the Cup Series, is the jack man on the pit crew for Team Penske.

» **Kelsey Rosvold '15**, who earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and history with an endorsement as a teacher of students with disabilities, was awarded the Governor's Educator of the Year Award at Ashbrook Elementary School in Lumberton, New Jersey. Rosvold has been a kindergarten teacher there since 2016. She is "very honored" to have been nominated for this award by her peers and the parents in the district.

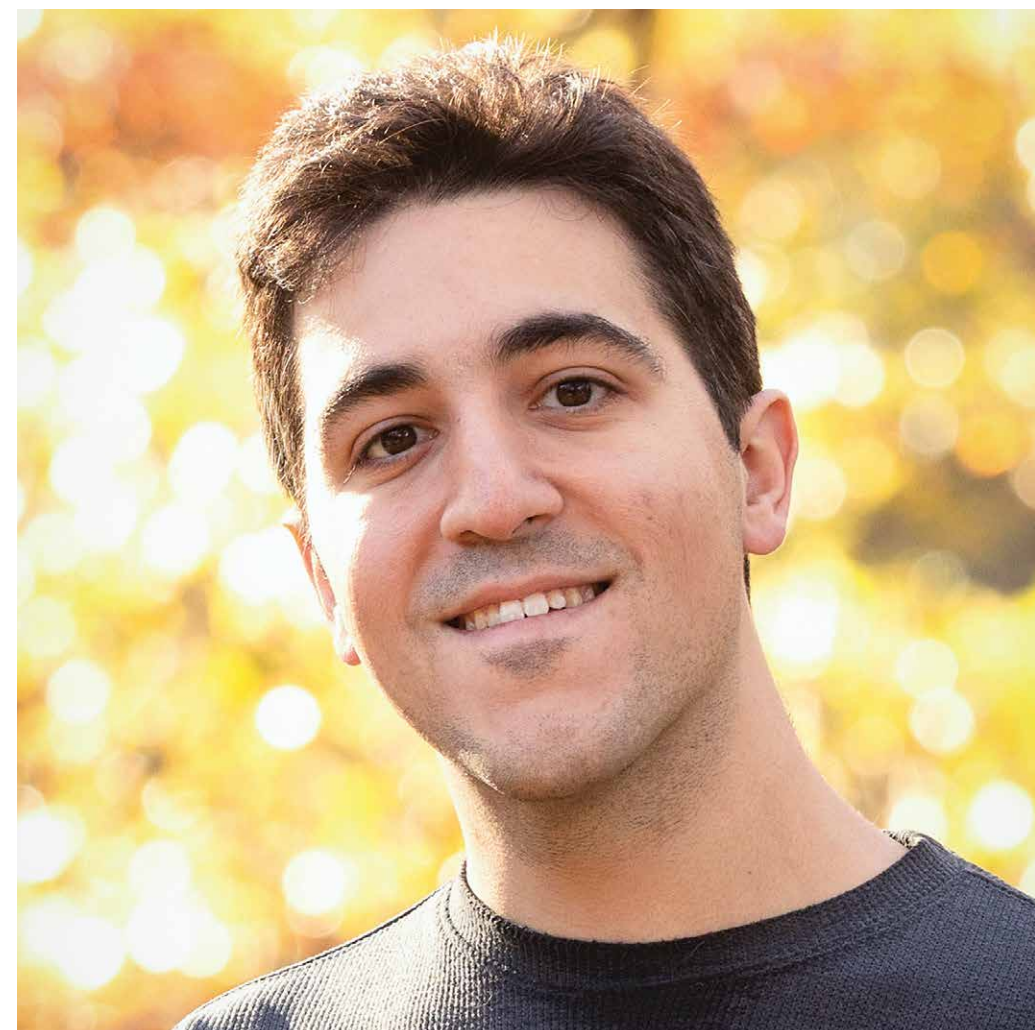
» **Marissa Iradi '16** wed **Robert Wendel '16** on Oct. 2, 2021. The couple met at Monmouth University's Homecoming in 2014 and were married, by chance, on the same date as Monmouth University's Homecoming in 2021. Both Iradi and Wendel were affiliated with Greek organizations on campus, so there were many Monmouth alumni in attendance. "It was a beautiful day filled with love," Iradi says. "We even were able to take some pictures on campus to commemorate meeting in college."

» **Victoria Rodriguez '16** graduated from the Citadel Graduate College's Master in Social Sciences program in Charleston, South Carolina. She graduated with a 3.6 GPA and obtained two graduate certificates, one in intelligence analysis and the other in leadership.

» **Amanda L. Sutton '16** recently graduated from Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, with a Master of Science in applied statistics.

» **Robert Wendel '16**. See note for **Marissa Iradi '16**.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 62



Michael Barnathan is currently the director of applied machine learning at Cash App.

Since graduating from Monmouth, Barnathan has moved between academia, industry, and entrepreneurship. His first stop after West Long Branch was earning a doctorate in computer and information sciences from Temple University, which is where his expertise and interest in machine learning, a branch of AI that gives computers the ability to learn without explicitly being programmed, started to blossom. When he shifted gears from academia to industry, his knowledge of machine learning led to high-profile jobs at Google, Niantic, and Facebook.

It was during this time that a pathway to leadership finally opened for Barnathan. At Niantic, developer of the popular augmented reality mobile game Pokémon Go, he oversaw all machine learning aspects of the company. When he later joined Facebook in 2020, he led the team that prioritizes ranking in the news feed, which takes all the diverse content on the platform and recommends it to users in one unified stream.

His current position as director of applied machine learning at Cash App, a division of the financial services company Square, requires more of an eagle-eyed view of the company. Instead of managing a single group of developers, he coordinates the activities of multiple teams and translates high-level business goals into a tactical plan his teams can execute.

Barnathan, who has been working remotely from the Colorado home he shares with his spouse, Jiao, recently welcomed identical twin daughters, Athena and Aurora. When he's not spending time with his family, he finds solace in a hobby that is completely removed from his day job: composing music.

"Computer science is all about hard logic, and answers are either completely right or wrong. Music is much more fuzzy, and some things that might be considered mistakes in one form of music are totally interesting in a different form of music," he says. "I think it's good to have something you can take refuge in that changes the way you think a little bit." 🎵

## Thinking Big

Michael Barnathan's expertise in machine learning has taken him from Google to Facebook and beyond.

BY MEERI KIM

**M**ichael Barnathan '06 spent two years working as a software engineer at Google before finally striking out on his own. He longed for a leadership position in which he could leverage his technical expertise and also have a positive impact on the world. But when his first start-up—which aimed to use artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically detect breast cancer in mammograms—failed, he pivoted and launched an AI-powered mobile app. Clipless, instead.

"The experience taught me that it's OK to take risks and do things that aren't necessarily on the prescribed path," says Barnathan, who sold Clipless, an app that enables users to find hyperlocal deals, to a larger company in 2013.

"If I had stayed at Google, then right now I'd still be a software developer—maybe at a higher level of seniority but still locked in to the same career, not using the rest of my skills," says Barnathan. "I knew I wanted to explore leadership, so I had to change something."

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# Fearless at Heart

Jaclyn Isaac '09 made a career switch that harnesses her passion for interior design.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

After earning her degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing, Jaclyn Isaac '09 achieved her dream of working for an advertising firm on Madison Avenue. But she found herself craving a creative outlet. "I was working on the creative side of the business, but I was managing projects and not really doing any creative work," she says. "I always loved decor and design, so I started a blog."

Her blog was a place where Isaac could let her creativity and passion for interiors flourish. She interviewed interior designers near her Jersey City home, documented her personal home style, and got to know the industry. She picked up a few freelance interior design projects of her own and, when she met a real estate broker in Hoboken, her newfound career took off. "He referred a lot of projects to me, and the first turning point for the business was when I designed their office and event space," she says. "It really gave me the confidence to take on bigger projects."

Today, Isaac is owner and principal designer at doni Douglas, a design firm that specializes in high-end single-family homes and luxury multifamily buildings. She leads a five-person team, and her work has been featured in *Dwell*, *Architectural Digest Pro*, *Design NJ*, *Aspire Design and Home*, and other media outlets. "We just wrapped a 70-unit condo building where we specified every inch of the space," she says—everything from the kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, lighting, doors, and moldings to rugs, sofas, and window coverings. The project received a Coverings Installation & Design (CID) Award in April.

## IN STYLE

If you ask Isaac, the firm's style can be defined as interiors for the fearless at heart, blending the hallmarks of a classic home (think chunky moldings, wood windows, and big fireplaces) with modern furniture and funky fabrics. It's a look she's mastered across homes and commercial projects in New Jersey, Nantucket, Florida, and Massachusetts. But a recent project allowed Isaac to stretch her design muscles even further and indulge her personal style.

That project, a 1920s-era beach bungalow in Lake Como, New Jersey, kept some of its historic charm, evident in the brick fireplace and salvaged cast iron tub. Isaac then gave the place a bohemian-style update with raffia lighting, jute rugs, vintage colors, and even a bamboo bar sourced from a surf shop in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

"Some people can't believe the transition I've made from the business world to design, but I have my friends I made at Monmouth to thank for giving me the support I needed to take the leap," says Isaac. "The education I received at Monmouth and working in the corporate world gave me the business sense I need to run my firm. I wouldn't change a thing." ☺



## How to Elevate Your Space

Ready to take on your own renovation? Follow these tips from Isaac, and your home is sure to be the talk of the neighborhood.

# 1

### LOOK FOR GOOD BONES.

Isaac keeps an eye out for high ceilings, solid architectural features, and other marks of character. Then she gives the home a fresh look by updating it with modern fabrics and furniture and pops of contemporary art. The result might be styling a modern low-profile sofa with parquet floors, dropping a black-and-cream abstract-patterned runner over a grand staircase, or hanging a linear chandelier in a formal dining room.

# 2

### UTILIZE CURRENT LIGHTING PLANS AND PLACEMENTS.

Updating lighting fixtures is easy if the boxes and wiring already exist and their placements are aligned with the way you'll use the space. Replacing a fixture—rather than running all new wiring and cutting holes in the wall—is one of Isaac's favorite ways to immediately (and often affordably) update a space.

# 3

### RETHINK OPEN CONCEPT.

Walls are making a comeback, as the COVID-19 pandemic ushered in an era of unprecedented at-home multitasking. Open floor plans just don't serve today's families, who need privacy and noise control or need to utilize their homes for office space, entertaining, and leisure. "We always recommend mentally designating the functionality of your space before you take down any walls," says Isaac. "If the activities are similar—say, homework and office work—we will happily hand you the sledgehammer."

# 4

### GET A PLAN IN HAND.

Make sure there's a set plan in place before bringing in anyone for an estimate, since different finishes require different amounts of labor and materials. (Stone slabs versus tile in the shower, or a wall-mounted toilet versus a traditional floor-mounted toilet, can make a big difference in the budget.) Isaac recommends putting a mood board together with your selections and inspiration images in Google Slides or Canva so you can properly communicate your wishes to the contractor, and they can give you a price aligned with your expectations.

# 5

### KEEP THOSE PLASTER WALLS!

Properly maintained plaster walls provide a texture and patina that a lot of new homeowners are requesting on their brand new sheetrock. If you've got it, flaunt it! Isaac's tip? Paint existing plaster walls in Limewash by Sherwin Williams.





## Wine vs Stein returned to campus on April 2 for the first time since 2019.

Close to 200 Hawks participated in this alumni favorite.

Keep up to date with all alumni events at [monmouth.edu/alumni-events](https://monmouth.edu/alumni-events).

Find photos here:



» **Lauren Niesz '17, '19M** was selected to participate in the Philadelphia Keepers Program, where she works with a team of fellow leaders between the ages of 25 and 35 to help improve the city of Philadelphia. Niesz received the opportunity through her job as a product manager at Comcast, headquartered in Philadelphia.

» **Carly Sane '17** was appointed the new head coach of the girl's lacrosse team at Summit High School, located in Breckenridge, Colorado.

» **Morissa Schwartz '17M** was named to Forbes' 2022 North America "30 Under 30: Media" list. Schwartz is a bestselling author, entrepreneur, and founder of GenZ Publishing, "a book publishing company that has produced more than 20 Amazon best-sellers primarily from under-represented groups." She is also the owner of Dr. Rissy's Writing & Marketing, a New Jersey-based writing and marketing company. Passionate about helping the next generation find its voice, Schwartz also offers numerous resources to young and aspiring writers, including workshops, blog posts, and podcasts.

» **Katiane Drummond '18M**, a dual language teacher at East End Elementary School in North Plainfield, New Jersey, met President Joe Biden during his visit to pre-K classrooms on Oct. 25.

» **Ashley (Ogrodowski) Pevine '18** wed Michael Pevine on Oct. 15, 2021.

» **Jake Areman '19** has signed as a midfielder with the Tampa Bay Rowdies. Areman spent the past four seasons in the USL Championship with the Charlotte Independence, recording 81 regular-season appearances, four

goals, and nine assists. Areman, who started in all 18 games during his junior and senior years as a Hawk, also played one season with the New York Red Bulls U-23s in the USL League Two during the 2017 season.

» **Morgan Gaynor '19M** is a marketing manager with Emles Advisors LLC located in New York, where she is responsible for executing the Emles marketing strategy, including website, social media, and email marketing. Prior to joining Emles, Gaynor was director of communications at WBI Investments LLC in Middletown, New Jersey, where her primary responsibilities involved overseeing digital marketing efforts, including website, email, and social media for the firm's separately managed accounts, exchange-traded funds, and portfolio optimization software.

» **Caelin McCallum '19M** is the director of Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties' healthy communities initiatives. Most recently, McCallum held the position of grants and compliance administration manager at the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. Prior to that role, she held the positions of project administrator and quality coordinator at the same organization. McCallum, who is a board member for the National Association of Social Workers-New Jersey Chapter, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey.

» **Angello Villarreal '19M, '22Ed.D.**, an adjunct Spanish professor at Monmouth University and recent doctoral graduate, was a panelist for the 2022 National Association Professional Development School's Antiracism Summit held on Feb. 9, 2022. Villarreal,

who teaches Spanish at Freehold Township High School, was also the recipient of the 2022 Emerging Professional Development School Leader Award at the 2022 National Association for Professional Development Schools annual conference held on Feb. 10, 2022.

## 2020s

» **John Antunes '20** was named to EDP Soccer's list of 30 Promising Young Coaches for 2022. A former Gatorade Player of the Year in New Jersey, he serves as the Zone One assistant director for Cedar Stars Academy (CSA) North located in South Hackensack, New Jersey. In one of his first events, his team won the EDP Spring Classic. In addition to his role with CSA, he is the varsity assistant coach and freshman head coach at St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, New Jersey.

» **Azalia Whitlock '21** is the media services coordinator at CBS Sports.

» Former Monmouth men's soccer goalkeeper **Sean Murray '22** signed a professional deal to play with FC Tucson in the United Soccer League (USL) League One. Murray, who completed his career with the Hawks in fall 2021, was a staple in goal throughout his time with the program, playing in 63 matches and compiling 258 career saves with 17 shut-outs. He was named the 2020-21 MAAC Co-Goalkeeper of the Year after his junior campaign and earned the All-Rookie Team nod as a freshman. Murray was also a three-time MAAC All-Academic Team honoree. 🏆

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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](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu).

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

- » John F. Weigand, Jr. '48A (Dec. 15, 2021)
- » Angelo Boniello '49A (Jan. 13, 2022)
- » Celia Knoblauch '59 (Nov. 27, 2021)
- » Ronald H. Collins '61 (Nov. 17, 2021)
- » Marshall D. Konkin '61 (Jan. 7, 2022)
- » Merle J. Meola '61 (March 16, 2022)
- » John R. Marks '62 (Nov. 12, 2021)
- » Howard Richelson '62 (Oct. 21, 2021)
- » Robert W. Orr '63 (Oct. 15, 2021)
- » Kathleen T. Keating '64 (Jan. 5, 2021)
- » David Bennis '65 (Oct. 9, 2020)
- » Raymond D. Cotton '65 (March 22, 2022)
- » Josephine A. D'Apolito '65, '72M (Feb. 16, 2022)
- » Carole J. Ferruggia '65 (Jan. 20, 2022)
- » William C. Lauth '65 (June 26, 2021)
- » Kostandinos Kosaitis '66, '71M (Oct. 27, 2021)
- » Kathleen Manganello '66 (Jan. 18, 2022)
- » John J. McGowen '66 (Dec. 19, 2021)
- » Wade B. Turnock '66 (Jan. 17, 2022)
- » Edwin C. Corson '67 (Oct. 19, 2021)
- » Marion Hubert '67 (Sept. 3, 2021)
- » John Rosenfeld '67 (Nov. 24, 2021)
- » Guy M. Bolter '70 (Jan. 20, 2022)
- » Roy H. Fleischman '70 (Jan. 10, 2020)
- » Irvn G. Miller '70, '76M (Feb. 12, 2022)
- » Dorothy A. Palumbo '70 (Jan. 6, 2022)
- » John P. Carluccio '71 (Sept. 28, 2019)
- » Anthony J. Jozefowicz '71 (Sept. 21, 2021)
- » William L. Bay '72 (March 23, 2022)
- » Arthur Spiro '73 (March 13, 2022)
- » Nelson J. Wilson '73M (Sept. 30, 2021)
- » Bruce D. Fabrikant '74 (Jan. 23, 2022)
- » Jane Gerechoff '74, '80M (Oct. 22, 2021)
- » Christopher Lucas '74M (Dec. 3, 2021)
- » Lawrence R. Wagner '74 (Jan. 7, 2022)
- » Sarah M. Blackmon '76M (Feb. 18, 2022)
- » Robert W. Meyer '76 (Jan. 29, 2022)
- » Michael A. DeStefano '77, '86M (Feb. 1, 2022)
- » Margaret A. Vavrek '77 (Sept. 1, 2021)
- » Leigh S. Tilden '78 (Oct. 14, 2021)
- » Diane R. Griffiths '79, '97M (June 7, 2021)
- » Walter F. Konopka '79 (Oct. 20, 2021)
- » Maria C. Burt '82M (Sept. 4, 2021)
- » Ruth E. Reichert '83M (Jan. 24, 2021)
- » Roger S. Peterson '86M (Feb. 4, 2022)
- » William S. Duym '87M (Jan. 20, 2022)
- » David G. Frey '88 (Jan. 24, 2022)
- » Lucy (Ferrin) Sweeney '89M (March 7, 2022)
- » Irene Nordskog '92M (March 4, 2022)
- » Michael Giordano '94M (Sept. 15, 2021)
- » Deborah S. Connolly '95M (Oct. 27, 2021)
- » Paul McGrade '96, '07M (Feb. 1, 2022)
- » James Garley '98M (Oct. 26, 2021)
- » Robert W. Lucky, Ph.D. '00HN (March 10, 2022)
- » Darwin Henderson '12A (November 2021)
- » Kyle Mullen '20 (Feb. 4, 2022)

## Faculty + Staff

- » Andreas Christofi, Ph.D., professor emeritus of finance and former chair of the Leon Hess Business School (Jan. 25, 2022)
- » Forence Eliese Mooney Raser, former professor and founding director of the Center for Developmental Education (Feb. 21, 2022)



LOCATION: THE HAWK AT BROCKRIEDE COMMON

# Looking Out







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SPRING/SUMMER 2022

## 4 Things You'll Learn From This Issue

1. How a \$1.1 million NSF grant is fueling research on campus. »P. 16
2. What makes inflation rise (and what can be done to fix it). »P. 21
3. Why one Monmouth class wants to rewrite MLB history. »P. 38
4. What to do with your old plaster walls. »P. 60