

# MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends

Spring 1995

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MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S  
**25<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

20

Celebrating 25 years  
of university status.  
See p. 12.

MONMOUTH  
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**PEEL-OFF COVER**  
Help us celebrate 25 Years of U.  
See reverse side.



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# Monmouth

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » SPRING 2020



## DRIFTING INTO CRISIS

7 takes on climate change and its effects

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### BLAST FROM THE PAST

What Archie Bunker can tell us about politics today.

PAGE 06

### RAISE A READER

Turn your kid into a bookworm.

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### HEALING WITH HORSES

Helping combat vets through equine-assisted therapy.

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**MONMOUTH » VOL. 39. NO. 2**  
Monmouth magazine is published thrice annually by the Monmouth University Division of Enrollment Management.

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE



# SUCCESS AND MOMENTUM

A LOOK AT MONMOUTH'S GROWTH 25 YEARS INTO ITS UNIVERSITY STATUS.

Six months into my tenure, several elements have come into clearer focus that I think really shape the character of the University. What stands out to me is a special blend of academic excellence and access to opportunity for our students.

photo MATT FURMAN

“  
**IF WE CAN UNLEASH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND CONTINUE TO OPEN OUR DOORS TO THAT KIND OF ACCESS, MONMOUTH WILL STAKE ITS CLAIM TO A NATIONAL REPUTATION AS AN INSTITUTION THAT IS BOTH HIGHLY RANKED AND HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE.**  
”

In the 25 years since Monmouth attained university status, we have been on a steady march to becoming a first-rate academic institution. That progress has certainly accelerated in recent years. At the same time, we are also proud of the fact that one-third of our undergraduate students receive federal Pell Grants, awarded to students with the greatest financial need.

At Monmouth, nearly half of our students—45 percent—are the first in their family to pursue a four-year college degree. Twenty-nine percent of our students self-identify as diverse. Taken together, these measures of access are very uncommon for a private Division I institution and will continue to inform our ongoing strategic planning process.

If we can unleash academic excellence and continue to open our doors to that kind of access, Monmouth will stake its claim to a national reputation as an institution that is both highly ranked and highly accessible.

I am pleased that this issue of *Monmouth* magazine showcases areas where our intellectual life and our commitment to access shine. In “Our Warming Planet,” Breanne McCarthy gathers diverse perspectives on climate change from a cross section of faculty in different disciplines.

Closer to campus, in “Cross Talk,” Tony Marchetti profiles two students who are the first to matriculate to Monmouth as a result of our Future Scholars program, in which graduate interns from the educational counseling program mentor 6th through 12th graders in the Long Branch public schools.

There is so much about our University that makes me proud, from our championship athletic programs, to our engaging thought leadership, and to so many alumni success stories. This issue of the magazine covers them all. Enjoy!

*Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D.*  
President



Our fall 2019 issue featured stories about Withey Chapel.

## SETTING THE SCENE

There is another story to tell about Withey Chapel (“How Monmouth Was Made,” fall 2019) that I think should be added to its history. In 1964, members of the Monmouth College theater group and our favorite professor, Lauren “Woody” Woods, took over the chapel and renamed it the Chapel Studio Theater. It was a perfect little venue to produce plays for a limited audience back then. It was an intimate space for sure: I believe we were able to squeeze in 24 seats for each performance.

Most of the audiences were students from various acting classes or there by personal invitation from Lauren Woods. As I can recall, some of the plays we did were *The Bald Soprano*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *The Glass Menagerie*.

Across the hall from the Chapel Studio Theater was the Wilson Hall Bowling Alley. It was the perfect place to do makeup and store costumes for each show. No one within the college administration seemed to care if we used the chapel or the bowling alley. For two years, that was a special place for the drama group. Our only other venue in those days was the little theater on the lower level of Wilson Hall. It was a totally different time in the history of the school.

There was one little problem we had doing our shows in the chapel though. The chapel is right behind and next to the former ladies’ room (now the men’s room) on Wilson’s lower level. Every flush clearly resounded during each play. The actors got used to it, but the audience always had a chuckle!

*Marilyn Egolf Rocky '65*



Marilyn Egolf Rocky '65 and the late Michael Fisher '66 in a 1965 production of *The Bald Soprano* that was performed in Withey Chapel.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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

## WITHEY CHAPEL, TWO TAKES:

One of the creepiest places on campus, but in a charming way. @HarlonJugo via Twitter

One of my favorite spots on campus. @jellybellspinelli via Instagram

## REMEMBERING KENNETH STUNKEL

I was saddened to read of the passing of Dr. Kenneth Stunkel (“Remembrance,” summer 2019). What a great man and educator he was! I have many enduring memories of Dr. Stunkel, but two stand out. The first is the very first class that I attended in September 1976: Western Cultures, co-taught by Dr. Stunkel and Dr. Prescott Evarts. How fortunate to be taught by two such esteemed titans of academia at Monmouth. The way they worked together was truly inspiring! And, of course, both had such incredible senses of humor as well as intellectual brilliance.

My most enduring memory of Dr. Stunkel, however, occurred in late 1978. I was then a reporter and editor for *The Outlook*. For our final issue each semester, we put out a special edition called *The Lookout* in which we satirized current happenings at Monmouth and around the world. Just one month earlier, in November 1978, the events at Jonestown in Guyana occurred. Foolishly, I guess, we decided to satirize this in *The Lookout*. I wrote the article and decided to make Dr. Stunkel the Jim Jones-like figure at Monmouth. Dr. Stunkel always had that larger-than-life persona and lots of charisma, so I felt he was a perfect fit.

In the article, the avid Monmouth followers of Dr. Stunkel and his cult, “The Guggenheim Peoples Temple,” met a similar tragic fate as those at Jonestown. It was a fairly funny article that was generally well received by the Monmouth community. However, my biggest



concern was how Dr. Stunkel would react to it, especially since he was being compared to Jim Jones. We found out shortly after when Dr. Stunkel wrote a letter to the editor. He totally played along with it, and his humor in the letter certainly surpassed and even enhanced the humor of the original article. It was one of the funniest things *The Outlook* has ever published, and I still chuckle thinking of it. It shows what kind of person he was and just how funny he was. He never took himself too seriously.

This led to an even longer collaboration with Dr. Stunkel, when soon afterward I became editor-in-chief during the second semester. I asked him to become a columnist for the paper, and he did for the remainder of that semester. His "Gadfly's Corner" column enhanced *The Outlook* whenever he wrote one. And he wrote it most weeks, even continuing for the entire 1979-80 school year. It certainly raised the intellectual level of our college paper.

I graduated in May 1980, so I have no idea if he continued with this column. I hope that he did. His columns were always witty, perceptive, and extremely well written. They were probably over the heads of most of us college kids. I always suspected he was writing them more for his colleagues than the students. Whatever his reasons, I was always thrilled when he sent us a new "Gadfly's Corner." What a coup for our paper!

Dr. Stunkel was a giant of a man. He will be sorely missed and never ever forgotten by those of us who knew him and were taught by him.  
*Dan Stern '80*

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NEED TO KNOW » Topics & trends

# DISPATCHES FROM THE CULTURE WARS

L. BENJAMIN ROLSKY'S NEW BOOK DOCUMENTS THE SPIRITUAL POLITICS OF TELEVISION PRODUCER NORMAN LEAR AND THE RELIGIOUS LEFT.

INTERVIEW BY STEVE NEUMANN

**T**he *Rise and Fall of the Religious Left*, the first book from L. Benjamin Rolsky, illuminates our current political moment by examining famed television producer Norman Lear's career as an example of liberal religious mobilization in opposition to the rise of the Religious Right in the public sphere in the 1970s. We asked Rolsky, an adjunct professor in Monmouth's Department of History and Anthropology, about his research and reflections on these "Culture Wars," and how he plans to continue his scholarship in that area.

## What's the "elevator pitch" for your book?

This is a story about the Religious Left,<sup>1</sup> which is in the news all over the place these days—you watch any kind of Democratic debate and it'll come up. But it's really the story of Norman Lear and his career in media from *All in the Family* to his nonprofit organization, People for the American Way.<sup>2</sup>

The book uses Lear as a case study for a broader understanding of politics: a progressive, civic-minded vision of the public square that says, "We don't put a bigot on TV because we agree with the bigot; we put a bigot on TV because he's going

to put a mirror up to the rest of us so we can theoretically become better citizens."

## How was a sitcom like *All in the Family* supposed to accomplish something like that?

Archie Bunker<sup>3</sup> is a poster child for what happened politically during the early 1970s. He's someone who grew up during the Great Depression and the New Deal. He supported Democrats at one point because they were about labor and working class issues. But then you have conservatives coming along who are very good at getting the idea out there that someone like Archie has more

## FOOTNOTES

1. LBR: *The Religious Left* is an understanding of religion and its sacred texts that speaks to social concerns, rather than having some sort of "born-again" conversion experience. We can talk about the Religious Left as part of American religious liberalism, a broader tradition that includes Walt Whitman, Emerson and Thoreau, etc. Lear's career in media is representative of a Religious Left understanding of American religion and politics from outside the confines of traditionally institutional settings such as churches or synagogues.

2. *People for the American Way* is an advocacy group founded by Lear in 1980 to educate by combatting the seemingly invasive media-savvy agenda of the newly formed Christian Right.

3. *The patriarch of the 1970s sitcom All in the Family* was a bluntly bigoted WWII veteran and warehouse dock worker who drove a taxi for extra income and lived in a row house with his family in Queens, New York. He was portrayed as being stubborn with his adult daughter, Gloria; argumentative with his liberal son-in-law, Mike, whom he dubbed "Meat-head"; and dismissive and condescending toward his deferential wife, Edith.

to fear from minorities than he does from anyone else.

The liberal religious approach to societal change is to tweak the structures of society so that individuals will then act accordingly, whereas the conservative approach is to change the heart in order to change society. So the assumption with *All in the Family* is that the audience will see Archie Bunker and understand that it's satire. Lear's programming isn't going to tell you what to think. It'll give you the viewpoints; it'll give you the conversation.

Lear represents the pinnacle of that type of cultural influence and power. *All in the Family* was on at a time when there were only three networks, so hundreds of millions of people a week could watch the show.

## Did Lear's approach to politics and societal change actually work?

I think it's a very ambivalent legacy. My argument is that when Democrats started reaching out to minority communities of various sorts, Republicans said, "OK, we're going to bring over the Archie Bunkers of the world, we're going to double down on those people for the foreseeable future."

I think the biggest naïveté of Lear and the Religious Left was that if you put the right stuff in front of people, then they'll make the best choices. Take *All in the Family* as an example: You put the bigot in front of people and you assume that they won't be as racist over time. That was the perspective of Carroll O'Connor, the actor who played Archie Bunker. He said that Archie is really meant for the dustbin of history. 📌



But then you're kind of leaving behind a group of people who are going to feel ignored, and they're going to feel condescended to—right up until the conservative advertisement that says, "Are you worried about the person of color that's going to take your job? Then vote for us; we're going to make sure that doesn't happen."

And the Religious Left of the time wasn't necessarily a coalition, or even a movement, because it wasn't that well organized. It wasn't pragmatic, it was aspirational. It wasn't like the fine-tuned campaigns of the Religious Right,<sup>4</sup> which only invested time, money, and campaigning when the return on investment was going to be appropriate.

### So despite Norman Lear's domination of TV programming in the 1970s, you say that the Religious Left still experienced a significant fall. Why?

People usually talk about this period as the "Culture Wars." It's that period of time since the 1960s when we stopped arguing about things like gross domestic product and started arguing about who people should sleep with. Politics since the 1960s became about hot-button social issues. I think that helped the Religious Left when it was about civil rights, but I think it hurt them when it came to abortion.

When you make a movement about civil rights, you're reducing very broad traditions—like Judaism or Christianity—down to particular issues of importance. But that way of mobilizing for something like civil rights, with explicitly moral, Christian language, then allows the rights of the unborn to become a moral, theological issue, too. Who gets to decide what those issues of importance are going to be? In one moment, it's going to be civil rights, and in another it's going to be the unborn fetus.

4. The terms "Religious Right," "Christian Right," and "New Christian Right" are largely interchangeable, and can be understood both as a collection of organizations, groups, and individuals who organized on a grassroots level, and as shorthand for a group of people led not only by televangelists but also by savvy political advisers. The "New Right" describes a conservative political movement between 1955 and 1964 that centered around right-wing libertarians, traditionalists, and anti-communists at William F. Buckley's National Review.

5. The Bible Scorecard, sometimes referred to as a Biblical Scorecard, was a direct mail questionnaire authored by Evangelical pastor Jerry Falwell and other members of the Religious Right in the late 1970s to mobilize previously inactive Christians in American presidential elections. The questionnaire scored all the candidates on the purported moral issues of the election (e.g., abortion, homosexuality, and national defense).

6. Why the Right Went Wrong: Conservatism—From Goldwater to Trump and Beyond. E.J. Dionne is an American journalist, political commentator, and frequent op-ed columnist for The Washington Post.

Single-issue politics might be good if you are in favor of the issue—whether it's civil rights or gay marriage—but I don't think that reducing everything down to these things helped progressives at all. I think if anything it turned politics into marketing and market research. Religious conservatives came up with things like Bible Scorecards<sup>5</sup> in the 1970s to help citizens understand and judge the politicians based on how they answered questions about certain theological issues. The Religious Right has a certain understanding of how to be political, an understanding of how to mobilize people. For them, politics is not about widening the circle and bringing in a diversity of people, it's about winning.

Another part of the fall is that religious liberals have become too comfortable with turning on something like *The Colbert Report* and thinking that that was their political act for the day. I think they've gotten comfortable with a certain type of cultural influence that didn't necessarily translate into the day-to-day mobilization and activism that you need to actually make things happen.

### So what should those who consider themselves to be on the Religious Left do today?

Those who ascribe to or identify with the Religious Left have to do a little self-examination. I think a simple suggestion would be to start talking to the Archie Bunkers again. We've ignored them for a very long time, and in many ways they've come back with a vengeance—and we wonder why.

Part of the reason is, we've been distracted by the racist things they've said. Racism is obviously something that we should be concerned with; but at the same time, Archie Bunker's paycheck was dwindling. He was also suffering under the conditions that led to the death of the working class.

If you want anything to change, you're going to have to think about how you engage in politics a little bit more pragmatically. You can't just assume that with something like immigration, for example, people are going to come up with the best decision.

### What's next for your scholarship?

I have a tentative title for my next book: *Establishments and Their Fall: Direct Mail, the New Right, and the Remaking of American Politics*. E.J. Dionne wrote a book<sup>6</sup> about how the Republican Party has tried to purify itself since Barry Goldwater—purifying in the sense that they've gotten rid of the most moderate dimensions of the party. My contribution to that conversation would be an analysis of the forms of communication and technology that were used to make that purification possible.

How did Republican PR people learn from Barry Goldwater's failed campaigns? How did the New Right strategists in the 1970s deploy and use the mailing lists of Goldwater to connect people in a way that they had never been connected before? What if direct mail starts to reach these people in their mailboxes and they then know they're not alone? That the Religious Right will defend their Christian values to the hilt?

Direct mail was a way of bringing people together in a relatively inexpensive way that gave them a sense of identity, that let them know they were part of something bigger. How are you going to get that housewife from suburbia to get off her couch? You're going to tell her that there are people moving into her neighborhood; you're going to tell her that what people do in the privacy of their own homes affects everyone, right? That's the brilliance of conservative argumentation. [M](#)

## EXPLAIN THIS »

Answering your burning questions

# Q: HOW CAN I RAISE A READER?

**K**enneth Kunz, an assistant professor of literacy education, is such a print fanatic that he installed a Little Free Library outside his house. But that's not the only way Kunz, who's president of the New Jersey Literacy Association and a board member of the International Literacy Association, is encouraging people to read more.

At Monmouth, his research focuses on literacy interventions in public schools, and this spring, he will co-publish a new book: *Literacy Change-makers: How to Bring Joy Back into Focus for Reading and Writing with Teachers and Stu-*

*dents*. Here, Kunz offers five tips for parents hoping to raise the next generation of book-lovers.

**1. Access is key.** "If you want a child to grow up to be a reader, you have to surround them



with books," Kunz says. "We need print-rich environments." That means a house filled with diverse, high-quality reading material, displayed with titles facing out—and cozy, defined places to cuddle up with a book. (Kunz is a big fan of book nooks.)

### 2. Bring stories off the page.

To get kids excited about what they're reading, tie it into real-world experiences. Read a book about wild animals? Treat the kids to a day at the zoo. Young readers also love retelling a story they read by acting it out with props. (The perfect audience: you.)

### 3. Make time for reading, but don't time it.

Kunz calls out a misconception about requiring kids to read 20 minutes a day. Noting that reading aloud should happen every day, especially with young children, he acknowledges that it isn't always possible to find 20 minutes. Rather than setting minimums (or ceilings) on book time, Kunz offers this advice: "Read as much as humanly possible with your kid."

### 4. Encourage their interests and embrace their choices.

You know what your kids like. Buy books that echo those interests. Have a daughter who adores trees? Get her some Berenstain Bears books. If your son loved *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, encourage him to read the whole series. Then let him re-read it. "People get hung up on reading level or challenge, but choice is going to lead to that," Kunz says. "What develops our kids' skills is voluminous reading."

### 5. Be a reading role model.

Let your kids see you with a book in your hands. Share what you're reading with them. Talking about the characters and stories you're discovering will encourage them to do the same. —Molly Petrilla

## THE 10-SECOND BONUS QUESTION

## HOW CAN I REWARD MY KIDS FOR READING?

The short answer: don't—or at least not with tangible prizes. Kunz doesn't recommend using reading logs or suggest offering pizza in exchange for book time. "The more you extrinsically motivate with prizes and rewards, the less value children see in reading," he says. Instead, try accountability that isn't linked to prizes. Have your kids tell you about what they're reading. Ask them questions about it. Remind them of how reading teaches them new words and makes them more empathetic.

To ask a question of our faculty experts, email [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or mail Explain This, Monmouth magazine, Alumni House, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

**HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE** » Landmarks & stories

# A LONG TIME COMING

HOW MONMOUTH COLLEGE BECAME A UNIVERSITY.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

**W**hen Monmouth attained university status 25 years ago this month, it was the culmination of a nearly decade-long undertaking.

Beginning in the mid-1980s, Monmouth and several other New Jersey colleges started lobbying the state’s Board of Higher Education to amend a 1966 law which prohibited institutions from becoming universities unless they offered doctoral programs.

But as then-Monmouth President Samuel Magill explained in a 1988 *New York Times* op-ed, such regulations weren’t in line with the higher education landscape in many other states. Even more concerning, Magill wrote, was that they were putting New Jersey “at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states when it comes to higher-education opportunities.”

College-bound seniors were exiting the Garden State in large numbers, he wrote, and it was getting harder for colleges here to recruit from out of state, since many students sought the prestige that comes with attending a university. In short, it was time to update the law to allow New Jersey colleges the opportunity to become universities, Magill argued.

Over the next several years, legislative attempts to do that fell short. Nonetheless, Magill kept up the pressure until his retirement in 1993.

It wasn’t until 1994 that the state board finally relented, amending its regulations and creating a new designation: teaching universities. Under

the new guidelines, colleges that offered a certain number of graduate programs, met specific enrollment standards, and showed a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning could apply for teaching university status, regardless of whether they offered doctoral programs.

“That description really fit us like a glove,” explains Stanley Bey ’59, who was a Monmouth trustee at the time. “So that’s the course we took.”

Monmouth applied for teaching university status, but before the Board of Higher Education could issue a ruling, it was disbanded, and replaced shortly thereafter by a new oversight body: the Commission on Higher Education.

In summer 1994, then-President Rebecca Stafford and then-Provost Thomas Pearson met with officials in Trenton to discuss Monmouth’s application. “It became clear we would have to do a bit of ‘infrastructure’ work,” such as designating which faculty members would teach graduate courses and organizing existing academic programs under a number of schools, says Pearson. Much of the work was already underway as part of Stafford’s strategic plan for Monmouth. “But [in the application] there had to be a clear indication to the commission that the college was reorga-

nizing itself to assume a teaching university mission,” says Pearson.

After that meeting, Monmouth filed a new application, one that more clearly “showed we had the resource base to function as a university,” says Pearson. A successful site inspection by state officials followed in fall 1994, and a unanimous recommendation from the Council of College Presidents in February 1995 bolstered Monmouth’s chances.

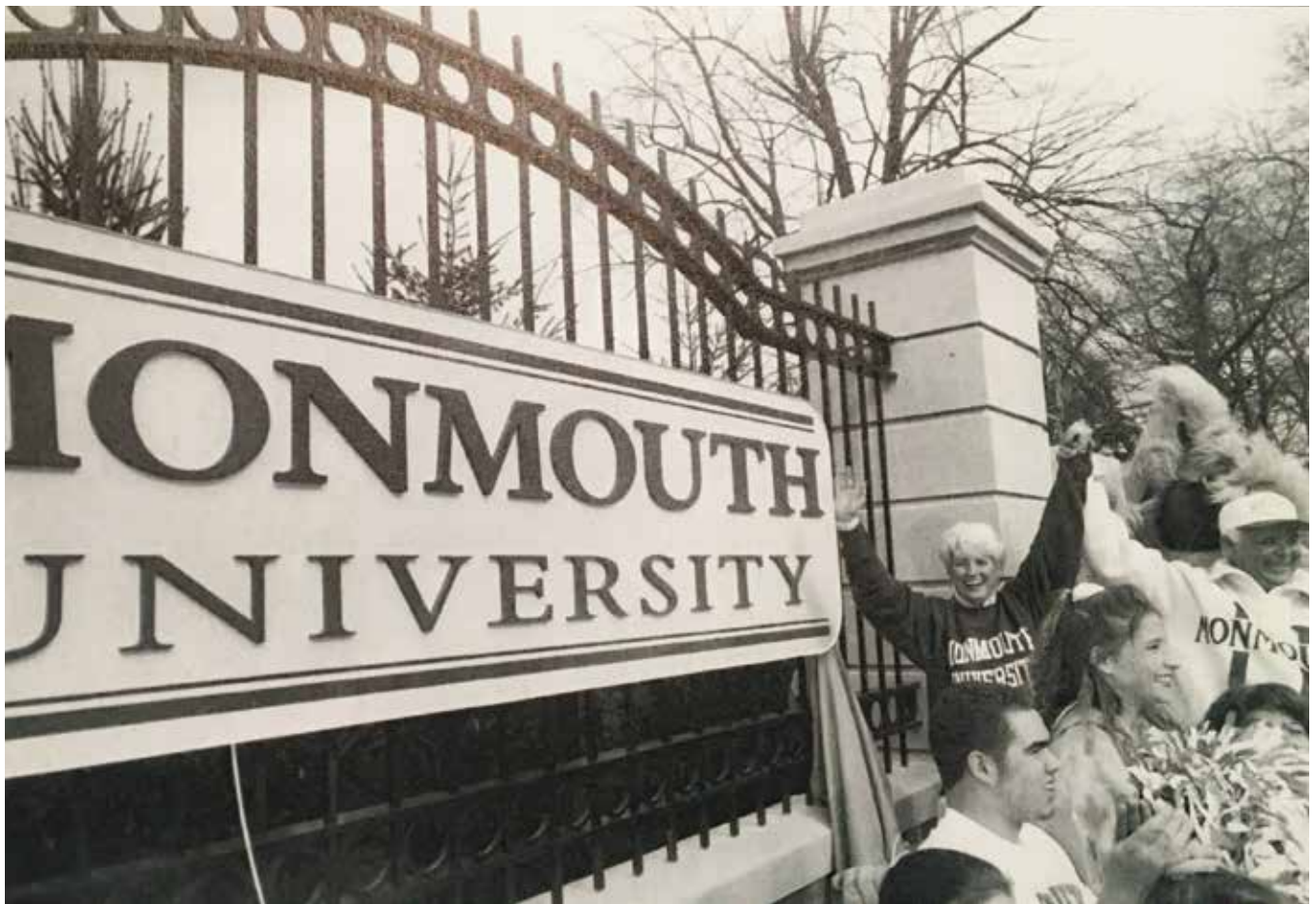
Finally, on March 24, 1995, at 10:40 a.m., the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education granted university status to Monmouth.

“It was a unanimous vote with one abstention: me,” recalls Bey. By then, he was chair of Monmouth’s Board of Trustees and serving on the state commission. “I couldn’t vote for my own school,” says Bey. But it didn’t matter, he adds. “I considered the vote a formality. We [Monmouth] had done our homework and there were no issues. All the questions had been answered. All the requirements had been met, and we were ready to go.”

Stafford was at the meeting, and remembers that after the vote was announced, she opened her suit jacket to proudly reveal a Monmouth University sweatshirt she had made for the occasion. After handing out some Monmouth University hats to the commissioners, Stafford, Bey, Pearson, and the rest of the Monmouth contingent headed back to campus to celebrate.

And oh, what a celebration it was. Sirens wailed and a Dixieland band played as students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local media filed into the Great Hall. “This is the end of a long dream,” Stafford told the crowd. Bey, holding up a special edition of *The Outlook* that bore the headline “A New Era,” offered a toast: “Good-bye, Monmouth College. Hello, Monmouth University. We

“**SIRENS WAILED AND A DIXIELAND BAND PLAYED AS STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI, AND LOCAL MEDIA FILED INTO THE GREAT HALL. ‘THIS IS THE END OF A LONG DREAM,’ STAFFORD TOLD THE CROWD.**”



love you!” Afterward, many in attendance paraded across campus and watched Stafford unveil the new Monmouth University sign along Cedar Ave.

“Memories soften over time, but that’s one that will always remain foremost in my mind,” says Mary Kane ’95 about that day. “There was so much energy and enthusiasm across campus.” As president of the Student Government Association for two years, Kane had been closely involved with the application process.

A few days after Monmouth became a university, she was recruited by former University Photographer Jim Reme for a photo shoot.

“We purchased a Monmouth College sweatshirt at the bookstore, then we crossed out the word ‘college’ and wrote ‘University’ on it,” recalls Kane. Reme photographed her with Wilson Hall in the background.

*ABOVE: Rebecca Stafford and Stanley Bey '59 (hands raised in background) unveil a new sign along Cedar Ave. on March 24, 1995, the day Monmouth College became Monmouth University.*

*See more photos from the celebration at [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine).*

The photo was featured on the cover of this magazine’s spring 1995 issue, the first to be published with “University” in the nameplate.

“Being named a university is not the end; it is the beginning,” Bey told this magazine at the time. Indeed, attaining the designation brought new challenges. Enrollment had already started increasing by March 1995; it continued to climb once Monmouth became a university. Stafford recalls some people worried there wasn’t enough classroom and residential space to accommodate the growing number of students, nor enough faculty to teach them.

It all worked out, of course. In the years after Monmouth attained university status, new academic programs were created (including two doctoral programs). The Centers of Distinction were founded and

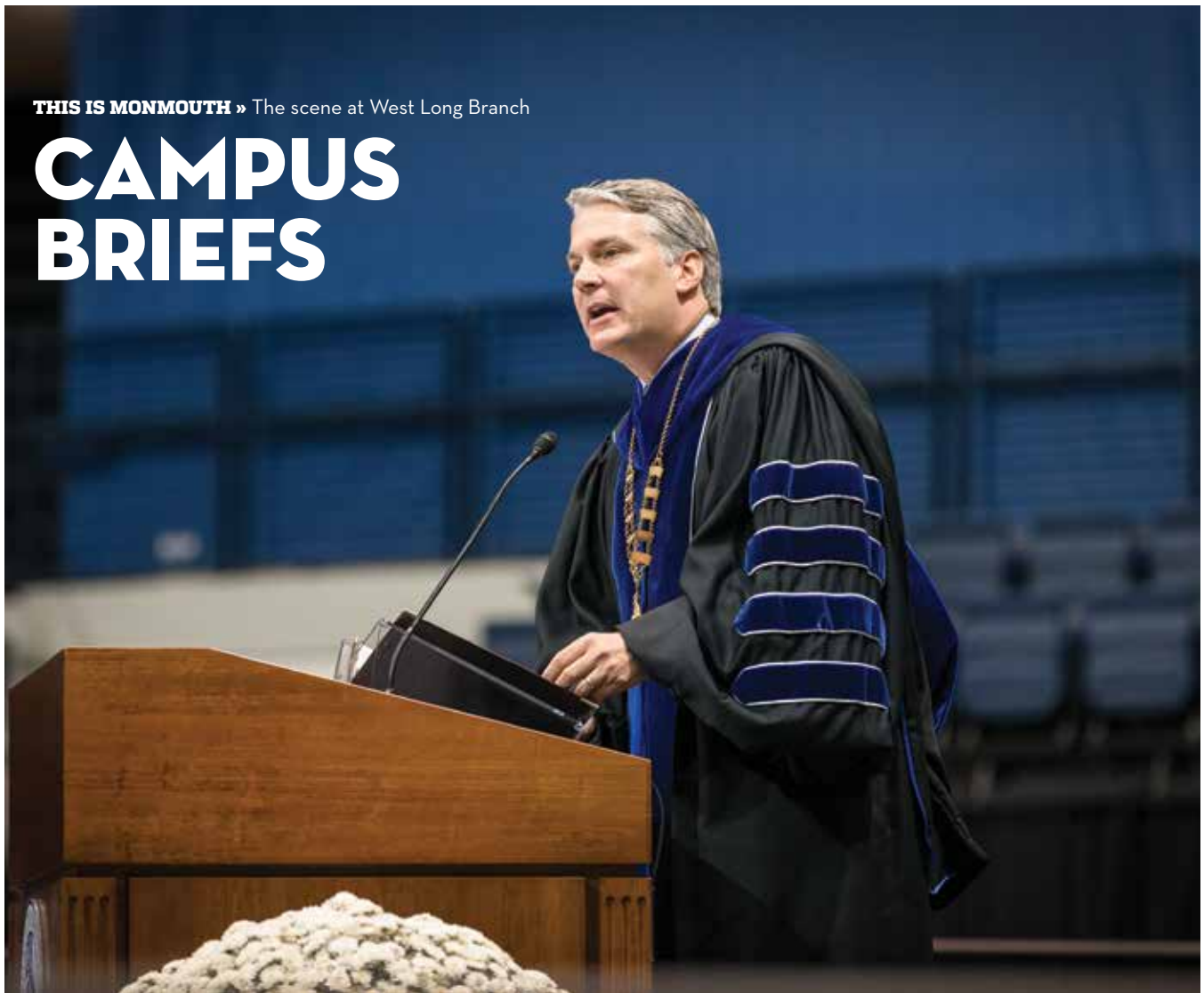
continue to thrive. New buildings went up to accommodate it all: McAllan, Rechnitz, Pozycki, Mullaney, and Hesse Halls; the Plangere Center; Ocean-First Bank Center. Renovations to Edison made it a state-of-the-art science facility.

University status also made it easier to recruit top-notch faculty, says Pearson, who stepped down as provost in 2014 and is today a professor of history. “Not faculty who avoid students in order to do their scholarship, [but rather] faculty who bring their scholarship into their teaching to enrich it,” he explains.

“The idea was always to make sure that the real essence of Monmouth did not change as we grew into this university designation,” says Pearson. “I think our mission as teacher scholars is still very strong, and it’s been passed on to successive generations.”

**THIS IS MONMOUTH** » The scene at West Long Branch

# CAMPUS BRIEFS



## A DAY FOR CELEBRATION

With pomp befitting the historic circumstances, Monmouth University formally installed Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D., as its 10th president on Oct. 18, 2019. Academic and legislative leaders from across the region joined the University community in welcoming Leahy, who officially took office on Aug. 1.

During his installation address, Leahy invoked the words of President John F. Kennedy, who during a 1963 speech at Amherst College asked, “What good is a private college or university unless it is serving a great national purpose?”

“That question is more rele-

vant, more challenging, more urgent today than ever before,” Leahy said.

“If we can educate students of competence, creativity, and compassion; if we can make our first-class private education as accessible as possible; if we can expand discovery to help solve our nation’s problems; and if we can continue to be forces for positive economic, cultural, and social development in our communities, then we private colleges and universities really can serve a great national purpose in the 21st century,” Leahy continued. “And if we here at Monmouth University can do all of this, then we will not only participate in this effort in the years to come, we will lead it.”





## POLLING INSTITUTE AGAIN RATED A+

For the third straight time, the Monmouth University Polling Institute has been rated one of the best in the nation by the news site FiveThirtyEight. The Monmouth Poll was one of just six to receive a grade of A-plus out of 430 polling operations reviewed by FiveThirtyEight. It also received the best “predictive” score among these pollsters.

## BIG WINS FOR MODEL UN

Monmouth’s Model UN team had major wins at competitions in London and Washington, D.C., last fall. At the Oxford University International Model UN, where teams from Oxford, Cambridge, and London School of Economics were among the universities competing, several Monmouth students won individual speaker awards: Kristen Gomez (Best Delegate), Nick Boice (High Commendation), Payton Collander (Honorable Mention), and Mackenzie Ricca (Honorable Mention). In D.C., Monmouth’s U.S. Delegation took home Outstanding Delegation honors while Monmouth’s Jordan Delegation received Honorable Mention distinction.

## TWO FIRSTS FOR THE DEBATE TEAM

In October, Monmouth debaters Payton Collander and Anthony Cendagorta finished first, and Mia Ardovini-Booker and Billy Siefert finished second, at the University of Rochester’s Brad Smith Invitational Debate Tournament—the first time the Debate Hawks have captured the top two team awards in a competition. The following month, Ardovini-Booker and Siefert won first place at the Rutgers University Newark tournament, securing the Debate Hawks’ first-ever back-to-back championship wins.



## ENSURING A SAFE PLACE FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE

Last semester, a two-day Conversation and Action event brought together experts from the legal, advocacy, law enforcement, and higher education fields for a provocative discussion about sexual assault and Title IX on college campuses. Panelists left their talking points behind as they debated hypothetical scenarios based on real-life cases of campus sexual assault, discussing a wide range of topics including reporting procedures, investigations, support and advocacy, adjudication, and penalties. The discussion, which was moderated by Peabody- and Emmy-award winning journalist Jack Ford, was based on the popular Fred Friendly Seminars: Participants were not meant to reach a consensus, but rather to engage in “high-level conversation ... that allows for diverging perspectives,” said Lisa Dinella, director of Monmouth’s Program for Gender and Intersectionality Studies, which organized the event.

“Universities have been criticized for presenting only one side of issues and for shutting down conversations that are controversial,” said Dinella. “That Monmouth University hosted this event is progressive. We’re not shying away from this

ABOVE: Jack Ford addresses the audience during last semester’s Conversation and Action event.

OPPOSITE: Scenes from President Leahy’s Installation. (Top) President Leahy delivers his Installation address. (Middle) The president flanked by Board of Trustees Vice Chairs Jeana M. Piscatelli ’01, ’02M (left) and John A. Brockriede Jr. ’07, ’10M (right), who presented him the President’s Chain of Office. (Bottom) The president celebrating with his family—daughters Molly and Grace; wife, Amy; and sons Jack and Brian—after the ceremony.

conversation, and that’s really important.”

The action part of the event featured a full day of workshops in which students learned concrete skills they can use to end sexual and gender-based campus violence.

Dinella said the goal now is to find sponsorship that will allow the Conversation and Action series to become an annual event, so that other relevant topics can be explored. While elevating the public discourse on meaningful issues, the event teaches students “how to have a conversation about controversial topics in a way that allows them to see all sides of the issue, and how to use that information to make an impact in their community,” she said.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING RANKED AMONG BEST

The Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies was ranked as the No. 3 best nursing school in New Jersey, and among the Top 100 best private nursing schools nationwide, in the annual 2019 Nursing Schools Almanac report.

## DEP LAUDS MONMOUTH AS A RECYCLING LEADER

Last fall, New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection recognized the University as an institutional leader for its broad-based program that resulted in recycling 46% of the waste generated on campus in 2018. Monmouth’s program includes initiatives to recycle glass, plastic, metal, aluminum, used light bulbs, batteries, toner cartridges, and more. The installation of hydration stations to encourage use of reusable containers and the donation of old electronic equipment, clothes, and books to charities were also cited as contributing factors to the University’s successful program.

**A DAY AT THE BEACH**

» Coastal moments, captured

# SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Colors blur and light up the evening sky at Jenkinson's Boardwalk in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.





# MORE THAN JUST A GAME

SOCCER MIDFIELDER ESTHER WELLMAN HAS FOUND SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

AS TOLD TO MOLLY PETRILLA

**W**e had just won our MAAC semifinal game against Niagara, but I didn't have much time to celebrate. As soon as I left the field that night, I showered and jumped in my car to drive straight to Rhode Island. I had another major event slated for the next morning: presenting my research at the International Studies Association-Northeast conference, just 12 hours after my game ended.

When I was younger, I had hoped college would be a place where I could balance my love for soccer with academics. But, honestly, the way both have unfolded these last few years has been a surprise even to me.

I'm the third in a family of four girls, and I've been playing soccer since I was 5. At first it was mostly about keeping up with my older sisters, but soon my love for the game grew much deeper. For years, I spent almost every free moment practicing or playing in games and showcases all over the country.

By the time I was in high school, I knew I wanted to play Division I soccer in college, but I arrived at Monmouth still unsure what subject I wanted to study. Then I took a political science class with Professor Ken Mitchell. I loved everything about it—the material, the way he taught. Af-

ter taking another poly-sci class the following semester with Instructor Ryan Tetro, I walked into my advisor's office and said, "I *need* to make this my major."

Things took off from there. I interned at a small law firm in New York City during the summers after my freshman and sophomore years. As a junior, I did mentored research with Assistant Professor of Sociology Jennifer McGovern, analyzing the socioeconomic backgrounds of elite women's soccer players. Our findings were published last June and reported on in media outlets around the world.

Another one of my professors, Interim Provost Rekha Datta, suggested I apply for the 2019 Summer Scholars Program. I spent last summer working with her on a research project that examined the United Nations' Sustainable Development

## ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM

**4x**

MAAC regular season and tournament champion

**3x**

MAAC All-Academic Team selection

**6x**

Dean's List honoree

Goals. We investigated how those goals are being implemented on a global scale, as well as at the local level through sustainability initiatives enacted by the Asbury Park City Council. Ultimately, that's why I headed to Rhode Island between MAAC playoff games: I was presenting my findings from that research. (Almost everyone there thought I was a Ph.D. student!)

In January, I had the opportunity to travel to India with Dr. Datta, Associate Professor Joseph Patten, and my fellow Monmouth Hawks Debate Team members. Being fully immersed in the culture there was an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience. In Mumbai, we visited nongovernmental organizations and at-risk schools, where we taught students the structure of debate and discussed the issue of gender inequality in India and around the world. When the students stood up and debated to show us how much they had learned, I could not have been more proud. My hope is that they will continue to hone their critical thinking, analytical thinking, and public speaking skills.

When I arrived at Monmouth four years ago, I had no idea all of these experiences lay ahead of me. (Nor could I have predicted the four MAAC championship rings I'd win with the soccer team.) I feel so lucky to have connected with professors who create such amazing opportunities for their students. They extend the invitations, but then it's up to you to take them. I believe college is what you make of it, and I've worked hard to make the most of these past four years.

*OPPOSITE: Wellman got the mehndi design, visible on her left hand, at a Lohri celebration she attended with other Monmouth debaters while in India.*



# ONE FOR THE AGES

FOOTBALL'S REMARKABLE SEASON CAPPED BY A BEVY OF HONORS FOR KEY PERSONNEL.

BY GREG VISCOMI

**T**hough it ended sooner than hoped, the 2019 season was nonetheless a historic one for the Monmouth University football program.

The Hawks won their first-ever Big South title and NCAA playoff game, in the process setting multiple school records and achieving the program's highest-ever rankings in the national polls.

Monmouth captured the Big South Championship—and with it, the league's automatic bid into the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs—with a dominating 47-10 win at Campbell University on Nov. 16. Two weeks later, in front of a spirited Kessler Stadium crowd, the Hawks rolled over Holy Cross, 44-27, in the first round of the playoffs.

The Hawks came up short the following week in their second-round showdown against James Madison. Still, as Head Coach Kevin Callahan pointed out afterward, one game “cannot overshadow what we have done this season and what the team has done for Monmouth University.”

Callahan's squad finished 11-3 overall—setting a school record for wins in a season—while going 6-0 in conference play. They were ranked as high as 11th in the American Football Coaches Association poll, and finished 12th in the STATS FCS poll—both program bests. Along the way, the offensive unit set a number of program records, including points per game, total offense, and rushing offense. Two key reasons for that were quarterback Kenji Bahar '19 and running back Pete Guerriero, who established themselves as two of the top players in the country.

Bahar, who was named the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Confer-

ence (ECAC) and Big South Offensive Player of the Year, threw for 3,684 yards and 30 touchdowns—both Monmouth single-season records. His 3,861 total yards was also a program high. The fifth-year senior finished his career as Monmouth's all-time leader in passing yards (9,642), passing touchdowns (70), passing attempts (1,290), and completions (798).

Guerriero set Monmouth records for rushing yards and all-purpose yards en route to becoming a consensus All-American. The explosive redshirt junior led the NCAA with 1,995 rushing yards while scoring 18 touchdowns. A true all-purpose threat, he added a pair of touchdown receptions and 336 yards receiving. His third-place finish in voting for the Walter Payton Award, which is given annually to the FCS's top offensive player, was the highest finish ever for a Hawk.

For his part, Callahan took home Big South, ECAC, and American Football Coaches Association (Region II) Coach of the Year honors, and finished fourth in voting for the Eddy Robinson Award, which is bestowed on the nation's top FCS coach. The only head coach in the history of Monmouth football, Callahan now has 163 career wins. He'll get the chance for number 164 on Sept. 5, when the Hawks travel to SHI Stadium to take on Rutgers. The game will mark the first time Monmouth football will face a team from the Big Ten or any of the power five conferences.





## MAKING THE MOST OF A FIRST IMPRESSION



IN ITS DEBUT SEASON IN the America East Conference, the field hockey team captured the East Division Regular Season Championship outright, posting a perfect 5-0 record in league play. Five Hawks were named to all-conference teams, and the coaching staff, led by Carli Figlio, was recognized as the conference staff of the year.

Monmouth, which hosted the conference tournament, entered as the No. 1 seed. The Blue and White defeated the California Golden Bears, 4-3, in the semifinals before falling in the final minutes of the championship to Stanford, 2-1.

The Hawks, who finished 14-5 on the season, were ranked in the Penn Mon-to/National Field Hockey Coaches Association National Coaches Poll for seven consecutive weeks—the last two at No. 20, the program's highest-ever ranking.

*Compiled from Office of Athletics Communication and New Media reports.*

# ALL IN A

EDITED BY TONY MARCHETTI  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK MATCHO

**W**e asked readers to share stories about the jobs they worked in college, and alumni responded with tales of how they discovered unknown talents, developed self-confidence, or found fulfilling careers—and even lifelong love. Here are some of our favorites. For more, visit [monmouth.edu/magazine](http://monmouth.edu/magazine).



## MODEL EMPLOYEE

For most of college, I worked nights and weekends at Bamberger's in the infants' department. We were required to wear white nurse's uniforms so customers would think we knew what we were talking about. In my junior year, I was offered an additional job in Monmouth's art department as a life model—that is, modeling in the nude! The benefits? A job on campus (no commuting), I could work between classes (nights free), and there was no uniform (no clothes at all actually). Best of all: The pay was almost three times what I made at Bamberger's. On day one I was a nervous wreck, wondering if I was pretty, skinny, or sensuous enough. During my first break, I overheard a student and teacher discussing me and my fears vanished. To the art students I was just shape and shadow, muscle and form—not a centerfold. In time, I became so comfortable I even fell asleep during a session. To this day it still counts as the best, easiest job I've ever had.

*Tikki Biondic Russell '72*  
Orange, Texas



# DAY'S WORK



## PREPPING FOR THE RAT RACE

Wanting to get a job in my future field of psychology, I took the only one that was available to me at Monmouth: feeding the rats that were used in experiments. Since then, I have had to deal with a lot of “rats” in other jobs, so that was a good way to start my education.

*Sunny (Slack) Donald '72  
La Jolla, California*

## DESIGNATED DRIVER

One of my jobs at Monmouth was giving guest speakers a ride home or to the airport. Some of the people I met included George Plimpton, then of *Paper Lion* fame, and Harrison Salisbury, the one-time Moscow editor and managing editor of *The New York Times*. Given Mr. Salisbury's profession, I thought we would have an interesting political conversation during the one-hour drive to his home in New York City. But it turned out he loved automobiles, and when he saw my Triumph Spitfire all we talked about were sports cars the entire ride.

*Joseph B. Rall '69, '72M  
Laurence Harbor, New Jersey*

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## THE WRITE STUFF

I learned I could write by taking a creative writing class, and my success in the class led me to join the editorial board of *Monmouth Letters*, the school's literary magazine. Now that I was a starving artist—literally—I needed a job to pay rent, buy food, and pay off my student loans. A trip to Monmouth's job placement office led to a three-year stint as a copywriter at WJLK-AM in Asbury Park, New Jersey—part time during the school year, and eight-hour days during the summer. My college work experience and GPA eventually led to a full scholarship to the University of Denver for a Master's in Mass Communication, which in turn led me to a 46-year career in advertising. And it all started with that creative writing class. I owe all my successes to Monmouth.

*Fran Scannell '68  
Denver, Colorado*

## CRITICAL EXPERIENCE

I had a for-credit internship at the *Asbury Park Press*, which led to a paid position as an editorial assistant, which led to my working as the paper's music critic during the summers before and after senior year. I went to dozens of performances in and around Asbury Park, did phone interviews with musicians, and received free albums from record labels. Several shows stood out. The Talking Heads and the B-52s at Asbury Park's Convention Hall: That was some double bill, even if interviewing B-52s singer Fred Schneider was like pulling teeth. The Ramones at the Paramount: 30 songs in 70 minutes—gabba gabba hey! The Who at the Capitol Theatre in Passaic: Their first show after Kenney Jones replaced the late Keith Moon on drums. After the second summer ended, I decided to explore other areas of journalism, but that's a whole 'nother story.

David Wilson '80  
Woodbridge, New Jersey



## GOOD SPORT

I served as sports editor of *The Outlook* in the early '60s and was surprised one day when I received a phone call from the managing editor of the (now defunct) *Long Branch Daily Record*. She had been receiving *The Outlook* each week and thought I could help them produce a daily sports section until the editor, who was hospitalized, returned. I met her and was quickly hired at the ungodly salary (to me) of \$70 per week. That became my college job because, when the sports editor returned, he made me his assistant. I later worked for several other newspapers and was twice named New Jersey Sports Writer of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. I attribute it all to my first college job at good old Monmouth.

Chuck Hassol '61A  
Leesburg, Florida

# LOVE AMONG THE SUDS

When I joined TKE, I learned a lot of the brothers worked in the school cafeteria. I joined them, thinking it would be a good way to meet girls. I started out in the dish room, which was a hot and dirty job with little downtime, and eventually worked my way up to student manager. That had its perks: I got to eat for free and hang out in front looking professional. As for meeting girls? I met Wendy Stempler, an elementary education major who was the same year as me, when she was busing tables and loading dishes onto the conveyor belt. When I became manager, she worked for me, and I often gave in and gave her easier work. The rest, as they say, is history. Wendy and I have been married for 45 wonderful years.

*Allen (Buke) Bukowsky '72*  
Warren, New Jersey

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## DOUBLE DUTY

I worked two internships my senior year that couldn't have been more different from one another. As a STEM instructor at Snapology, I ran educational parties and community events for children ages 4 to 12. At Stratus Technology, I sourced leads and developed strategies to fill staffing roles for IT companies. And I did all of that while holding down a six-class course load with mostly 300- and 400-level classes. I miss every minute of the chaos of my senior year. Enduring all of it made real life a whole lot easier.

*Kenny Morgan '19*  
Blairstown, New Jersey

## ANSWERING THE CALL

I was a dispatcher for the Monmouth University Police and worked overnight shifts for several years while completing my undergrad degree. I saw everything from 3 a.m. dorm lockouts to various medical emergencies while on duty. Occasionally, the officers brought someone into the station for some youthful shenanigans and I would realize, "Uh-oh, that guy is in my Monday morning history class! This is going to be super awkward!" Since graduating, I have continued working as an on-call dispatcher because I believe in the good work Monmouth does as a whole and that the MUPD does specifically.

*Sean Quinn '08, '11M*  
Morristown, New Jersey



## COLLEGE JOBS IN 2020

We asked Aimee Parks '98, '00M, Monmouth University's assistant director of human resources for student employment, about the types of jobs today's Monmouth students work.

"Today's Monmouth students are peer mentors, elementary school tutors, shark taggers, debate coaches in Asbury Park and Long Branch schools, researchers for the Urban Coast Institute, lab assistants in 3D printing labs, assistants in the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, and so much more," says Parks, who worked as a Night Hawk (front desk security in the dorms) as an undergraduate. "Students who take full advantage of the professors and staff who serve as mentors for these jobs add so many amazing, career-building experiences to their résumés." ■



*Stone in her stables with Samson, a 14-year-old buckskin quarter horse.*

# HEALING WITH HORSES

RENÉ STONE DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS OF EQUINE THERAPY WHILE RECOVERING FROM HER OWN PERSONAL TRAUMA. NOW SHE'S USING HORSES TO HELP VETERANS SUFFERING FROM PTSD.

BY NICK DIULIO  
PHOTOS BY JOHN EMERSON

It had been nearly four decades since Michael served as a combat soldier in Vietnam, but he bore psychological wounds that felt as raw as they did when he first returned home. And they showed no sign of healing. He was perpetually fearful of open spaces and couldn't recall the last time he'd slept through the night, tormented as he was by terrors that awoke him at odd intervals, compelling him to uncomfortably wedge himself under his bed for some sense of security. But then he visited Serenity Stables, and something fundamental began to change.

Founded in 2015 by Monmouth University alumna René Stone, Serenity Stables, From Combat to Calm, is a non-profit farm in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, that provides what's known as equine-assisted therapy to U.S. veterans returning from deployment with a broad range of physical, psychological, and emotional disabilities. It's part of a growing trend across the country aimed at using the unique temperament and intuition of domesticated horses to help veterans work through myriad developmental and physical disabilities, including the severe mental health challenges that stem from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"I grew up around military men, and I know that when these men are traumatized, they won't sit on a couch and talk to someone about how they feel. And here's the thing about PTSD—when you have PTSD you don't *feel* anything," says Stone, a mortgage loan originator by trade who has more than two decades of experience owning and caring for horses. "There's a change that happens to you on a biological level when you're traumatized. You're frozen. It's not that you don't want to cry, it's that you don't know where crying is. What the horses do is evoke emotion. They unlock the frozen part of you. And no matter how hard you try to stay frozen, you are going to melt when you're around them."

And that's precisely what happened with Michael. As part of a larger group of Vietnam vets visiting the farm one morning in 2017, Stone asked Michael to walk into the field and spend some time with her stable of six horses. Not to ride them or walk them or groom them—just to spend time with the herd. And as he found himself standing there amongst the animals, their unavoidable evocation of presence and immediacy helped Michael begin healing in ways that were as surprising as they were instantaneous.

"He came back from the field and said to me, 'I can't believe this, but that's the first time in decades that I've been out in an open space when I wasn't thinking about being ambushed,'" recalls Stone. "About four days later I got a call from Michael's therapist and he told me that Michael woke up in his bed after sleeping through the night for the first time in as long as he could recall. And that was after just one session with the horses! This was very early on in our jour-

ney, and that's when I realized we have a very powerful way to heal these men."

And Stone knows better than most just how profound a role horses can play in processing and healing the scars of trauma. After all, it was a horse that saved Stone from her own psychological turmoil many years ago.

Stone's love of horses stretches back to her childhood growing up in Keyport, New Jersey, when her boyfriend's sister brought Stone to visit her stable in Holmdel. Stone's affection for horses was immediate, not only because of the animals' aesthetic beauty, but also because of their distinctive and disarming disposition.

"When you're around horses you realize right away that they are *very* present. It's not like being with a dog. Dogs really just want to please you. And they're predatory by nature. But horses are prey animals, and that means they are consistently reading and sensing their environment," says Stone, who graduated from Monmouth in 1992 at the age of 29 with a degree in communications. "That's how they've survived for millions of years. And when you're with a horse they bring you right into the present moment as well. You need to stay present or you're going to get hurt. And that's a real gift, because most of us aren't in the present. We're thinking about yesterday or worrying about tomorrow."

To be sure, Stone had plenty to worry about during her formative years, which were both financially strained and emotionally tumultuous. When Stone was just 13, her father—a former Merchant Marine who suffered from PTSD—attempted to take his own life at home one afternoon. In a panic, Stone's mother called the police, who entered the house and eventually wound up shooting Stone's father through Stone's bedroom door, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

"I spent the next several years in and out of VA (Veterans Affairs) hospitals trying to get care for my father, who eventually needed to have his legs amputated," recalls Stone, whose mother died of lung cancer four years after the shooting. "I spent a lot of time with the men at those hospitals, and it was just a god-awful site. Men suffering or dying on gurneys. Rats in the hallways. Just wretched. I would sometimes play pia-



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**THERE'S A CHANGE THAT HAPPENS TO YOU ON A BIOLOGICAL LEVEL WHEN YOU'RE TRAUMATIZED. YOU'RE FROZEN. IT'S NOT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO CRY, IT'S THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE CRYING IS. WHAT THE HORSES DO IS EVOKE EMOTION. THEY UNLOCK THE FROZEN PART OF YOU.**  
”



Former Marine Mark Otto (foreground) was the first veteran to go through Stone's program. Now, he brings other veterans from the Samaritan Daytop Village to Stone's farm each week. "It is very fulfilling to share this experience so that other veterans can benefit from it as well," says Otto.

no for them and sing songs, and I promised myself that one day I would do something to help them."

Stone also vowed to buy her own horse once she'd graduated from college, a dream that was financially out of the question during her youth. And so, shortly after graduating from Monmouth, she leased her first "crazy thoroughbred" and then bought her own horse in 1997, a roan thoroughbred named Tristan who is currently 30 years old.

"I think the real reason I always wanted my own horse is that I just love the experience," she says. "There's something very spiritual about the connection you have with them. There's no other feeling like it in the world."

And this, says Stone, is what makes these animals so ideally therapeutic for victims of trauma. Not only are they mystifyingly captivating, but they also reflect one's internal state of mind at all times.

"They can hear your heart beat from four feet away. They can sense a tiger from a quarter mile away *and* they can tell whether or not that tiger is hungry," says Stone. "So if you're afraid or timid or at peace, the horse will mirror and reflect that emotion. That's how they've survived. They're always reflecting."

Before Stone could merge her passion for horses with her internal promise to help U.S. vets, she first had to endure even more personal tragedy of her own. In 1997, her horse kicked her in the head, fracturing her skull and causing a traumatic brain injury from which she took more than a year to fully recover. Shortly thereafter, Stone was involved in a car accident that resulted in the death of a young boy—and that, she says, was when she first began to realize that she too was suffering from PTSD.

"And the only place I could go to feel any degree of peace was at the barn with Tristan," says Stone. "That's when I first made the connection. Tristan saved my life. And he was a very good therapist."

Equine therapy was barely in its infancy at the time, but in 2012 Stone purchased 25 acres of land in Virginia, where she figured she would start her own program 10 or 15 years down the road, assuming she'd wait until she retired from the mortgage business. But fate, she says, had other plans.

Three years after purchasing the Virginia property, Stone learned that a 15-acre farm two miles from her house was up for lease, so she decided to take a look. The evening after she visited the



"Engaging with the horses has helped clear my mind," says Will, a former Marine. He is pictured with Texas, a 21-year-old Tennessee walker whose owner, an Army colonel, loans him to Stone to use in the program.

property, Stone says she woke up in the middle of the night with an unshakable conviction that she should begin her equine therapy journey much sooner than expected. So she leased the land in early 2015, got her necessary certifications, and by the spring of that year Serenity Stables began treating its first veterans—and it has served more than 1,000 individuals since.

“When I sit back and think about it, I’m struck by how we should all listen to the voice inside of us that pushes us toward our destinations,” says Stone. “This project was the first time I actually did that. And it’s been amazing.”

It’s important to understand that equine-assisted therapy is not about riding horses or conversing with a human therapist in the traditional sense. Instead it’s about allowing veterans to interact with the horses in myriad ways, giving them time to reflect on those interactions, and then using those reflections to open pathways to healing.

“Talk therapy is when I ask a question and the client responds in order to

process their feelings. But with equine therapy, it’s about a relationship between the client and the horse, which I help facilitate,” says Brooke Lichter ’14, ’16M, a licensed social worker who earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from Monmouth. Lichter—who is certified through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International as an equine specialist in mental health and learning—was instrumental in helping Stone create Serenity Stables and now serves as the program’s mental health specialist.

“It’s really the horses who are the therapists,” says Lichter, adding that she and Stone follow therapeutic guidelines established by the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (Eagala) through which they are both certified. “The client will tell me their goals and I, as the mental health professional, try to facilitate exercises that will help. It’s my job to help them work things out with the horse and then come to their own conclusions. I don’t give solutions or advice, because it’s all about learning from the horse.”

According to Stone, the Eagala model asks therapists to watch for four different signifiers: shifts, patterns, uniqueness, or discrepancies.

“Let’s say I send a veteran to go introduce himself to the herd. As he approaches, I notice all the horses stop and don’t move. Then suddenly one of the horses walks around in a circle. That’s a shift and a pattern,” says Stone. “Then the circling horse paws on the ground over and over again. That’s another pattern. So I might pull the client back and say, ‘Hey, notice how that horse is pawing the ground?’ And he’ll say, ‘I was digging for a bomb. And it exploded.’ Now he’s crying for the first time in 10 years, and only then can he begin to process what he’s feeling.”

Currently, most visits take place on Wednesdays, when a group of vets begins with lunch at a nearby restaurant hosted by Mark Otto, executive director of the United War Veterans Council. After lunch the vets come to the farm, where they’re encouraged to walk around and meet the horses. Stone and Lichter ask them which

*Jack, who served in the Navy from 1998 to 2001, finds a moment of calm with Samson.*





Stone has served more than 1,000 veterans at Serenity Stables. "This whole experience has really humbled me greatly," she says.



horse they feel connected to, and the women will instruct them on how to groom the animal of their choice. After that Stone either teaches them how to lead a horse or she might let the horses loose in the field to let clients simply observe the animals' behavior. The session then becomes slightly more concentrated when Stone and Lichter ask the vets to each build an obstacle course using myriad objects—cones, jugs, buckets, wood—each one representing something they're struggling with, something they're currently bothered by, or something they may even be happy about.

"Then we ask them to try and lead a horse through the obstacles and tell the horse anything they want to get off their chest, because horses are very good listeners," says Stone. "So let's say they build a structure that represents fear or apprehension and the horse stops and won't go through it. I might then ask them to write down a word that represents what's bothering them. But we never ask the vets how they're feeling. That's not what they want to talk about, because they don't *know* how they're feeling. It's always related back to the horse, so we only ask questions surrounding the horse and its behavior. The horses become the metaphor for what is going on with them [the vet] subconsciously."

Time and time again, Stone says she is surprised by the extremely nu-

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**LET'S SAY I SEND A VETERAN TO GO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO THE HERD. ... I MIGHT PULL THE CLIENT BACK AND SAY, 'HEY, NOTICE HOW THAT HORSE IS PAWING THE GROUND?' AND HE'LL SAY, 'I WAS DIGGING FOR A BOMB. AND IT EXPLODED.' NOW HE'S CRYING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS, AND ONLY THEN CAN HE BEGIN TO PROCESS WHAT HE'S FEELING.**  
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anced and insightful reflections these vets bring to the process. For instance, Stone was working with a group last summer and she was bothered by how much grass had grown in the horses' ring. It was irritating, she says, because the horses just wanted to eat the grass, making it extremely difficult for the men to lead the animals through their obstacle courses.

"When we finished the session I asked one of the guys, 'What did you think?' And he said, 'Ya know, I looked at all the grass, and I realized the grass is like our addictions. The horses needed to focus, but all they wanted was grass all the time.' That just blew me away," says Stone. "That had nothing to do with me. It's all about the horses. The horses will always show you what you need to see."

On a typical week Stone says she sees between five and 10 veterans at Serenity Stables, the vast majority of whom are post-9/11 combat soldiers in their 30s who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. And even though Stone has established long-term relationships with various VA hospitals in the region, one of the most significant challenges is actually getting veterans to come out to the farm in the first place.

"When they get back from active duty these vets are injured and in mental collapse," says Stone. "They've experienced consistent trauma, and then they return home and they've lost their unit. Their herd. They were injured in their herd, and they need to be healed in a herd. And that's part of what we provide, so long as they're willing to participate."

To be sure, Stone's experience with Serenity Stables has not only changed the lives of hundreds of U.S. vets, but it's also changed her in ways she couldn't have imagined before she started this program nearly five years ago.


"This whole experience has really humbled me greatly, and it's made me a much more patient and calmer person. If you just quiet your mind and body, you can probably recover from anything. I didn't used to think that way," says Stone. "And I see it all the time with these men. I remember one time a vet said to me, 'Every time I come here, something bad falls off me.' That right there is more of an accomplishment than any of the mortgage accounts I've closed or awards that I've won. I will never forget it as long as I live." **M**



# OUR WARMING PLANET

MONMOUTH FACULTY WEIGH IN  
ON THE DEFINING ISSUE OF OUR  
TIME: CLIMATE CHANGE.

BY BREANNE MCCARTHY  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALEX NABAUM



Last September, millions of people took part in global demonstrations to demand that action be taken to address climate change. In November, more than 11,000 scientists from around the world issued a joint public statement in the journal *BioScience* warning of the “untold suffering” humanity will face if inaction regarding climate change continues.

Shortly thereafter, Italy became the first country in the world to announce that it will require climate change studies be taught in classrooms as part of a student’s compulsory education.

These are but a few of the recent mile markers dotting our journey through the Anthropocene, the proposed name for our current epoch, suggested in part to indicate the impact human activity is having on our climate and environment. And while opinions vary on what should be considered the actual starting point of the Anthropocene, the vast majority of scientists do agree that, in recent decades, the impact humans are having on the climate and environment is irrefutably harmful—and could soon be irreversible.

Within this context, Monmouth University’s faculty organized a Climate Crisis Teach-in last fall. The day-long symposium featured experts from across the disciplines examining what the United Nations has called “the defining issue of our time.” In sometimes stark terms, they explained how climate change is already impacting everything from international law and cultural beliefs to our own physical, mental, and emotional well-being. They also shared insights on what the average person can do to help prevent further damage. Here, with permission, we highlight a few of their talks.



# OUR LOVE AFFAIR WITH CAPITALISM IS KILLING THE PLANET

A SOCIOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE.

**T**o Nancy Mezey, the root cause of climate change is abundantly clear: global capitalism's demand for production and consumption.

"We *love* to love capitalism," says Mezey, a professor of sociology and dean of the Honors School. "The bottom line for capitalism is to increase the profitability of corporations ... and the very growth that corporations rely on causes the degradation of this Earth."

In today's post-industrial consumer economy, a corporation's major focus is to produce as much as possible in hopes that consumers buy as much as possible, says Mezey. And thanks to advances in technology and companies like Amazon, consuming has never been easier.

"You could have purchased a car or purchased all of your groceries in just the five minutes you've been reading this," says Mezey. "We make it so easy to consume, and not only do we make it so easy to consume, but we love to consume."

Why? Because the act of consuming makes us feel good, says Mezey. But the never-ending cycle of overconsumption and overproduction comes with a hefty price tag: an ever-growing carbon footprint. Transportation is currently the largest contributor of anthropogenic (human-caused) greenhouse gas

emissions in the United States, with energy use listed as a close second; both are due to the burning of fossil fuels. The agricultural sector is another major offender, with farms contributing 9% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

What makes these figures worse, says Mezey, is that we continue to exasperate existing problems across sectors because of our obsession with consumption. We cut trees that absorb carbon to either build roads with heat-absorbing black asphalt (so Amazon can deliver our products) or to clear space for cultivating crops and livestock for food. Raising animals in and of itself requires enormous amounts of water, crops, and land, and as Mezey points out, livestock and food waste contribute large amounts of methane, which is 85 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide, which is almost 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide, throughout the duration of their life.

"Not only are we using a lot of land and natural resources, but we also create a lot of waste because everything that we consume comes with throwaway

products—it comes with a straw, it comes with a single-use bag, it comes with plastic and Styrofoam," says Mezey. "We super-size everything and can't possibly eat it all ... so, we throw it out, and just by throwing out our food, it creates an enormous carbon footprint."

But there is hope, says Mezey. Individuals, companies, and even some communities are slowly making efforts to change. New York City, for example, is attempting to adopt a circular economy, a widescale effort that aims to have no additional energy and production going into the economy, as well as no more waste going out.

But while that's a step in the right direction, Mezey points out that the biggest change that needs to happen is a cultural one. Individuals must recognize the problems that exist with regard to Americans' overconsumption in order to affect change across the larger political and economic systems.

"Scientists tell us climate change is happening. We know that we have the technology to reduce our carbon footprint. We just have to convince people," says Mezey. "To ignore people's hearts and minds is really a dangerous thing, and I think that's really where we're at right now. We can't ignore people's hearts and minds, so we have to convince people that climate change is real."

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**WE CONTINUE TO EXASPERATE EXISTING PROBLEMS ACROSS SECTORS BECAUSE OF OUR OBSESSION WITH CONSUMPTION. WE CUT TREES THAT ABSORB CARBON TO EITHER BUILD ROADS WITH HEAT-ABSORBING BLACK ASPHALT (SO AMAZON CAN DELIVER OUR PRODUCTS) OR TO CLEAR SPACE FOR CULTIVATING CROPS AND LIVESTOCK FOR FOOD.**  
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# THE ART OF SOWING DOUBT

IT'S EASY TO MAKE PEOPLE QUESTION FACTS, SAYS ONE RHETORICIAN. THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.

A climate scientist, a French politician, and an industrialist walk into a bar ...

That's the setup for an anecdote, made popular by French philosopher Bruno Latour, that Assistant Professor of English Patrick Love shares to explain his area of research—rhetoric, or in this case, agnotology, which is the study of culturally induced doubt, particularly when it comes to the publication of inaccurate or misleading scientific data (think: climate change doubters).

“Agnotology is a rhetorical framework used that encompasses an anti-intellectual progression of ideas, and it is often invoked by climate skeptics or climate deniers to mitigate arguments of people like us—specialists or scientists who study climate to a great degree,” says Love. “It's a doubt that comes about through a cultural consensus. It doesn't arise from necessarily one place, but it comes from our collective willingness to doubt or ignore something.”

An example of the rhetoric used by those who reject mainstream climate science goes something like this: A climate scientist presents her position and says, “We need to do this now, it's essential, and we'll need to do this in the future.” Then an industrialist, perhaps someone from the coal industry, asks, “Why should we trust you over anyone else?” The sense of doubt cast by the industrialist creates equivalency, or a sense of equal weight between both arguments, says Love.

The industrialist might then ask the scientist if she can say with absolute certainty that what she predicts is going to happen *exact-*

*ly* as she predicts it—something no scientist would ever do, says Love.

“With the scientific method ... we are only willing to go to 99% because we have a disciplinary duty to acknowledge that we might be wrong about some things along the way,” he says. “So, the industrialist starts by creating that doubt, then goes on to say that academics or specialists are financially motivated—they want their research agenda to continue, they want to continue getting funded, they want to keep studying this problem because it lines their pockets somehow.”

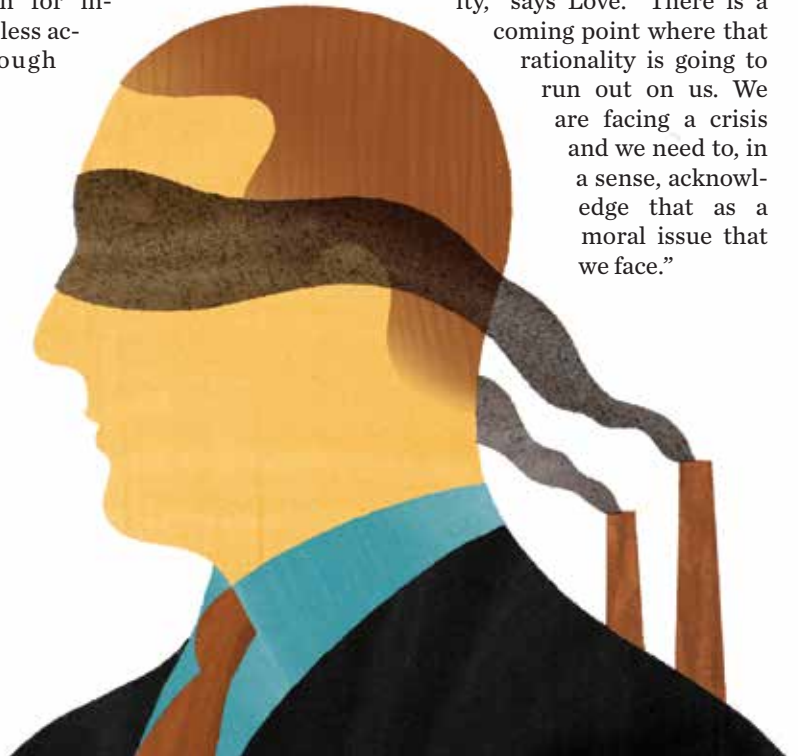
Love says the industrialist would then oversimplify the issue, acknowledging that something might be happening but offering up a retort along the lines of, “It's far enough in advance,” or, “It's going to happen in ways we can manage over time.” Lastly, to support his views, the industrialist will find narrow, contradictory studies that counter entire bodies of research, just so he can continue down a path of inaction.

“The agnotological argument, which often comes down to market justification, gives [people] a justification for inaction—or less action—through

an appeal to rationality, through saying, ‘Let's not freak out about this, let's be calm, let's move slowly,’” says Love. “The industrialist will say immediately, ‘Well of course I'm motivated by the market: I want to save you money. I might not do what you're recommending, but your bottom line will be better, and who knows if anything will change.’”

And though Love acknowledges there is no clear antidote to combatting the rhetoric used by those who reject mainstream climate science, the more important course of action is to reframe the discussion as one about morals. The state of doubting that climate change is real often comes down to a moral decision, says Love, where a person sides with what is beneficial and profitable to them individually in the short term instead of what is better for our species and the planet in the long term.

“Thinking about it as a moral thing is important, because if all we want to do is save money, then we have to think about what's really important to us, what our priorities are. We need a planet—that's the number one priority,” says Love. “There is a coming point where that rationality is going to run out on us. We are facing a crisis and we need to, in a sense, acknowledge that as a moral issue that we face.”



# LAW AND WORLD ORDER

A LEGAL EXPERT EXAMINES WHETHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE  
A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE.

Imagine this: After generations of your family living in one location, an environmental disruption linked to climate change forces you to leave. You are given little to no resources or money from the sale of your property, and you are forced to live in a new community or country, never to return to your homeland.

In essence, this is already happening to large populations of people around the world, says Randy Abate, J.D., a political science professor and the Rechnitz Family Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy. While his new book, *Climate Change and the Voiceless: Protecting Future Generations, Wildlife, and Natural Resources*, explores how the law can be used to protect the world's most vulnerable populations, Abate says another type of vulnerable group that needs protection includes what have come to be called climate refugees.

Typically, issues affecting refugees displaced by political or religious persecution have been regulated under human rights law, while issues related to climate change have been regulated under international environmental law. Yet while the issues facing climate refugees align more closely with human rights law, Abate says governments are regulating the problem from an international environmental law perspective. Because there is no legal precedent for how to handle populations displaced by climate change, climate refugees across the globe are now stuck in a void between international environmental laws and international human rights laws, with both sides pointing to the other to take responsibility.

It's happening right here in the U.S., says Abate, pointing to a lawsuit filed by the indigenous Alaskan community of Kivalina against 24 of the largest fossil fuel companies in the world as a prime example. The 400 native Alaskans who have called the isolated village of Kiva-

lina home for generations claimed that the global collective emissions created by those companies contributed to a significant portion of the sea level rise that is causing their community to vanish into the ocean. They argued that the fossil fuel companies should be responsible for paying the \$400 million it would cost to relocate the community 10 miles inland.

"Ultimately, they lost this case in court, but it gives you a sense that there are no existing laws to protect them," says Abate. "Even when creative efforts through the court systems are used to seek recovery, [the residents of] this native village in Alaska [are] still to this day on their own to figure out how they will move on when this strip of land goes underwater."

The number of climate refugees is expected to grow in the coming decades: Some estimates put the number at 200 million by 2050. When you factor in climate change's threat multiplier effect—that is, its ability to exacerbate existing threats in already unstable regions of the world (the Middle East, for example)—with the lack of a reliable go-to legal framework for dealing with climate refugees, a continued lack of action could soon cause "chaos" globally, Abate warns.

This inertia by world leaders is already drawing the ire of vulnerable nations and populations around the world. Enele Sopoaga, the former prime minister of the South Pacific Island nation of Tuvalu, famously said climate change is a "slow and insidious form of terrorism against us."

"Those who are vulnerable in the South Pacific, watching what they call home ... about to go under water in a period of decades, believe [that] developed countries have a moral, political, and legal responsibility to regulate climate change, to buy them more time in the South Pacific, to stay where they are and not be robbed of their culture—they see that failure to act as a form of terrorism," says Abate.

Abate says a necessary shift is beginning to occur: Cases are being brought to the courts on the basis of morality.

One such example is *Juliana v. United States*, a pending case in federal court in which 21 teenagers from across the U.S. are suing the federal government for the "right to a stable climate." Because teenagers, children, and the unborn cannot vote, the plaintiffs argue there is a moral imperative for the government to regulate climate change in order to protect them. Similar to the argument used in the Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage, the plaintiffs are not seeking an amendment to the constitution, but rather that the Due Process Clause recognize the right to a stable environment, so that vulnerable populations can enjoy the other rights included in the constitution.

"There is clearly nothing in our constitution about same-sex marriage, but the argument is that marriage is so fundamental to the enjoyment of so many other constitutionally protected rights, it is the foundation from which we as citizens live our lives," says Abate. "Essentially the same argument is being made with climate in that a right to a stable climate is so fundamental ... that it has to be something that our Due Process Clause recognizes. What's the point to having the right to free speech and freedom of religion if we're all dead because of an unstable climate?"



# PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE IS SUFFOCATING OUR OCEANS. THAT'S JUST THE START OF OUR PROBLEMS SAY TWO MARINE BIOLOGISTS.

**W**hen trying to understand the big-picture effects of climate change, no subject is more important than the oceans and their role. Water, as endowed Associate Professor of Marine Science Jason Adolf points out, has the ability to absorb heat without significantly changing temperatures. And because the oceans hold 97% of Earth's water, they are the largest absorber of the Earth's excess heat.

"Of the excess heat that is accumulated at the surface because of the greenhouse effect, the oceans have absorbed 93% of it. So we have to ask the question, what is that doing to the ocean?" says Adolf. "When we're trying to understand how climate change is going to—and does—affect the oceans, we have to do that under the caveat that we know very little about the oceans to begin with."

Adolf, who studies harmful algal blooms, says we are already seeing some of the effects of climate change on the oceans. As water warms, it expands, causing sea levels to rise. That excess heat absorption also affects ocean circulation. And as the oceans absorb more carbon dioxide to cool the Earth, carbonic acid increases, causing the pH to acidify. In many cases, these changes to ocean physics and chemistry translate to negative impacts on ocean life.

"Oceans are losing oxygen," says Adolf. "In terms of harmful algae blooms, the combination of existing nutrient pollution, and climate change increasing the temperature of the ocean and extending the growing season, is creating larger windows of opportunity for harmful toxic species to grow in the environment and contaminate shellfish and fish resources."

Assistant Professor of Biology Keith Dunton, who studies fish species native to the Mid-Atlantic, says fish are already being affected by temperature changes alone.

Because oxygen levels are affected by warming oceans, fish essentially have to work harder and increase their rate of breathing in order to extract enough oxygen out of the water to survive, says Dunton. It's theorized

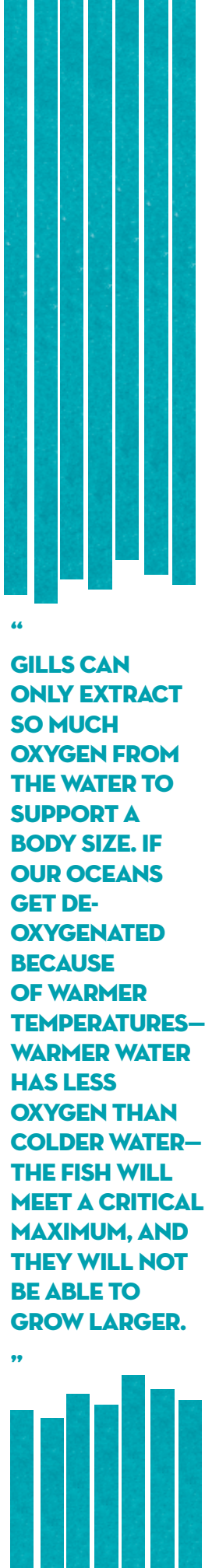
that because of this, fish species will begin decreasing in size over time.

"Gills can only extract so much oxygen from the water to support a body size," says Dunton. "If our oceans get deoxygenated because of warmer temperatures—warmer water has less oxygen than colder water—the fish will meet a critical maximum, and they will not be able to grow larger than a certain size because their body cannot extract the oxygen for it."

Because of factors such as this, many fish and shellfish species are migrating toward the poles to survive. Dunton says this is a major cause of concern not only for biologists, but also for the individuals and local economies that rely on the fishing industry. As fish species move north, fisherman will need to travel farther distances to attain the same catch. And as species such as the American lobster and Atlantic cod move farther north, there is a possibility these fisheries will cross international boundaries and be lost entirely for U.S. fishermen.

Compounding the problem: as fish species from southern states move north into regions that are cool enough for them but have not yet experienced an outmigration of other fish, the range of the species contracts, says Dunton.

"What we get is fish coming off New Jersey have to suddenly move up farther; then we get an influx of southern fish—species that we hadn't seen before," he says. "This is contracting their overall range ... This eventually leads to what we say will enable harvesting to extinction, because the habitat the fish have gets smaller and smaller and smaller, and then eventually they're stuck in this isolated island in the ocean based on temperature."



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**GILLS CAN ONLY EXTRACT SO MUCH OXYGEN FROM THE WATER TO SUPPORT A BODY SIZE. IF OUR OCEANS GET DE-OXYGENATED BECAUSE OF WARMER TEMPERATURES—WARMER WATER HAS LESS OXYGEN THAN COLDER WATER—THE FISH WILL MEET A CRITICAL MAXIMUM, AND THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GROW LARGER.**  
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# LAY OF THE LAND

## TWO BIOLOGISTS SHED LIGHT ON THE TERRESTRIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

**A**s the ocean loses its ability to absorb increasing levels of heat, the Earth as a whole begins to warm, which in turn affects terrestrial plant and animal species.

Similar to the migration of fish, Associate Professor of Biology Pedram Daneshgar says certain plant species have begun migrating. Some are heading to higher elevations, endangering the indigenous species that need a higher altitude to grow. For example, the white-bark pine, North America's highest elevation tree species, is facing the threat of extinction as other plants are crowding it out of its mountaintop home in search of cooler temperatures. Other plant species are migrating toward the poles, creeping into environments where their growth might previously have been restricted due to the cold and frost. Imagine, says Daneshgar: America's breadbasket could eventually move north into Canada.

Warming temperatures due to an increase in carbon dioxide in the air presents another problem for plants and animals. As temperatures warm, growing seasons can potentially extend, giving plants more time to pull in carbon dioxide. That would almost seem to be a positive, since carbon dioxide—along with water and sunlight—is one of the components needed for photosynthesis. But as Daneshgar explains, if the soil is low in key nutrients like phosphorous or nitrogen, and plants are disproportionately gaining carbon, thus causing them to grow quickly, the result is plants that are not as nutritionally dense.

"So, if you're a happy little herbivore, like a bunny rabbit or a deer, and you're walking around eating plants, you might have to work harder to eat more to gain the nutrition you would normally get if there was an even distribution of [nutrients] in the leaves," says Daneshgar.

The increased carbon dioxide in the air is connected to more storm and flooding events in New Jersey, meaning more plants are exposed to salt water, which poses another threat, says Daneshgar. He and his students recently studied eight tree species that were affected by an increase in flooding events and varying levels of salinity. What they found was that as trees were exposed to more salinity, they experienced a decrease in health over time. After one growing season, there was 30% mortality in the eight species studied.

"The forest composition will change, as the trees that are more able to survive this will stick around and everything else will get wiped out," says Daneshgar. "So the diversity in our forest will decrease. The sad thing if you're an animal lover is that the trees that seem to be going first are the ones that produce bird-friendly fruits." In fact, a recent report released by the National Audubon Society projects that two-thirds of North America's birds are already threatened with extinction due to climate change factors such as this.

Sean Sterrett, an assistant professor of wildlife ecology, focuses much of his research on reptiles and amphibians. He says the mix of warming temperatures, rising sea levels, increased water salinity, and altered hydroperiods is also beginning to affect ectotherms (cold-blooded animals, including amphibians and reptiles) globally.

"What I mean by altered hydroperiods [is] altered seasons ... the springs are potentially going to get earlier, the winters might be nonexistent, the summers may be longer," says Sterrett. "And things related to temperature, humidity, pressure, wind, precipitation—everything related to keeping an animal cool or warm, dry or moist—are really, really important for ectotherms."

Since many ectotherms are small-bodied, have limited home ranges, and often require specific temperature and/or moisture conditions to thrive, it is difficult for the animals to easily find a suitable new home. And certain ectotherms, like diamondback terrapins, a small turtle species native to the New Jersey coast, also have temperature-dependent sex determination, meaning the eggs they lay might be male or female depending on the external temperatures around the egg while the embryo is growing.

While these coastal species may struggle to reproduce due to warming weather conditions, increased water salinity, and flooding events, other more inland populations like woodland salamanders in the Northeast may struggle to adapt due to variations in weather events like seasonal precipitation.

Sterrett says it's expected that in the winter we will experience more precipitation, but less in the form of snow. This is important because snow acts as a blanket, insulating the soil in winter. Without it, the depth at which the forest floor freezes may increase, and it remains to be seen whether animals like salamanders, who move up and down in soil layers, will be able to adapt and survive.

"Imagine being at home in bed with a big, thick blanket," Sterrett says. "Now imagine just having a thin sheet ... it's quite possible that freezing soil depth is going to change forests."

Sterrett, whose students are studying salamander survival rates with an experiment that removes or leaves plots of snow across various areas of the forest floor, says he believes there's more than enough scientific evidence to show the wide-ranging effects climate change is having across ecosystems globally.

"I do think the science is important and that we continue to understand systems, [but] I'd argue that we have to change people's values," says Sterrett. "The value of information is what we should be thinking about, and getting the right types of information to change the values."

# COPING WITH CHANGE

CLIMATE ANXIETY IS REAL. A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXPLAINS HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

“I want you to close your eyes and do a full body scan to see how you’re feeling and to check if you’re holding any stress or anxiety. Now, breathe in, and then try to let a slow breath out, because this conversation is stressful.”

That’s something that Megan Delaney, a licensed professional counselor who practices ecotherapy, a group of techniques or treatments based on the idea that contact with and involvement in the natural world can have a psychotherapeutic effect, often says to clients and students when talking about climate change.

Delaney, an assistant professor in the Department of Professional Counseling, whose new book, *Nature Is Nurture: Counseling in the Natural World*, explores the power of ecotherapy, says one reason the topic of climate change

is so stressful to discuss is because the early environmental movement sometimes focused on “scare tactics” in hope of grabbing people’s attention. Such tactics, while important to raise awareness, can be anxiety-inducing and upsetting, and the overwhelming message can actually cause some people to become inactive in seeking solutions, says Delaney.

“Have you ever known anybody who doesn’t go to the doctor because they don’t want to admit they’re sick?” asks Delaney. “To think about the issues

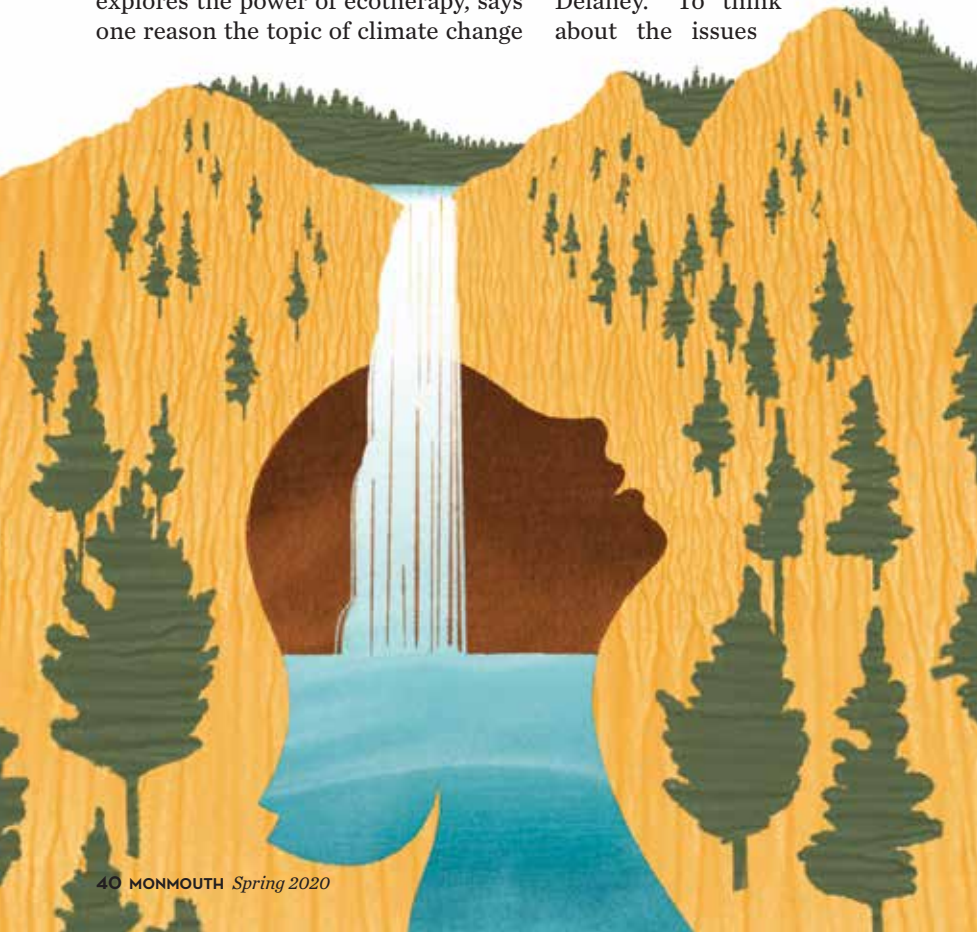
of how sick the planet is, it’s like, ‘Oh, if we just deny that then we don’t have to worry about it.’ Because when we really think about how sick the planet is, it’s very sobering.”

Another part of the problem is that as a species, humans have never been more disconnected from the natural environment, which in and of itself contributes to depression, anxiety, and feelings of hopelessness, says Delaney.

“I’ve seen many of us talking about how the shift in our culture has gone from when we were once hunter-gatherers and living mostly nomadically, where we were in tune with the natural world and understood its cycles, to where we’re at now,” she says. “Today, 93% of our time is spent indoors.” In fact, many people spend an average of just six hours *each week* outside.

One thing Delaney has her clients focus on is giving back to nature—supporting preservation efforts or joining a clean-up effort, for example—in places that are special to them. That helps individuals reconnect with the environment in a positive way, she says. She also emphasizes how important it is to create what she calls an ecological self-plan: a self-care plan of sorts that involves visiting those sacred places regularly.

“Being connected to that space and taking care of it as if you would something special makes us feel good and also gives back to a place,” says Delaney. “It’s self-care, too, right? ... Because the science shows that even five minutes outside in nature makes you feel better, less stressed, [and] more relaxed, and you’re also taking care of those places that nurture us.”



# THE RIPPLE EFFECT

HOW SMALL INDIVIDUAL ACTS CAN LEAD TO BIG CHANGE.

**W**hile thinking about climate change can be overwhelming, Nancy Mezey, a professor of sociology and dean of the Honors School, says that “we all have to pick our little piece of the world and try to make it better.” Here, she and several other professors offer ideas that can help anyone spark change in their own corner of the world.

## COMPOST

When you throw food away in a garbage can, it typically winds up in a landfill. When food breaks down in that environment, it undergoes an aerobic decomposition that produces methane. If you instead compost your food scraps (banana peels, coffee grinds, egg shells, etc.), the breakdown creates carbon dioxide. While that is still a greenhouse gas, it is 85 times less potent than the methane those same food scraps would produce in a landfill, says Mezey.

## START THE CONVERSATION

Courtney Werner, an assistant professor of English who studies climate rhetoric through the lens of religion, says it’s important to engage in conversations with people who reject mainstream climate science. She says to look for indicators of someone’s viewpoint in how they respond to your statements surrounding a subject. For example, if you mention that you’re using a bamboo straw because you want to stop using so much plastic, and someone pushes back or laughs, ask them why. “That opens a conversation, but it’s a gentle question,” she says. “We have to be willing to take a first step in some ways.”



## BE A “LAZY GARDENER”

Professor of English Heide Estes, whose blog covers climate change topics, says there are two important ways that slacking off in the garden can be beneficial to supporting the natural ecology and local wildlife. One: throw away the leaf blower. Estes says allowing leaves to lie where they scatter naturally and decompose in place helps to sequester carbon in the ground. Two: don’t mow, let it grow. “Let your lawn turn into a meadow with native, local plants that will support local pollinator populations, which in turn will support local and migrating birds, and simultaneously sequester carbon,” says Estes.

## KNOW THE RISKS

Peter S. Reinhart, director of Monmouth’s Kislak Real Estate Institute, says people are beginning to factor in myriad issues associated with climate change when deciding where they’re going to live or work. That’s a good thing, as the risk landscape is changing. The National Flood Insurance Pro-

gram’s Risk Rating 2.0 initiative, which will go into effect in October 2021, will readjust insurance rates depending on how close your property is to a potential flood zone. The closer you are to the ocean, for example, the higher your premium will be.

## GET EDUCATED

Estes says that the global climate crisis is so in flux that there is no one resource with the best information. “People need to ... work to stay on top of the latest data and ideas,” she says. And so while resources like Drawdown.org and Yale Climate Connections help, Estes’ number one piece of advice is to have what technology scholar Clive Thompson calls “ambient awareness”—the idea that we each gain a sort of omnipresent knowledge from our constant connections and interactions with those in our online social circles. Stay connected with climate scientists and journalists who share their news, views, and research via social channels and e-newsletters, and your knowledge of the topic will subsequently grow. [M](#)

THE CHANGEMAKER » Alumni making waves

# CHANGING THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

SOPHIA LEWIN DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOUR AVERAGE GRIDIRON COACH. THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S NOT.

BY PETE CROATTO

**T**he love of a sports team can be inherited; what we do with it is up to us.

Growing up, Sophia Lewin absorbed her father's tales of the 1970s Oakland Raiders, tough-as-nails competitors who were nonconformists in every sense of the word. Surely those stories played a part in molding Lewin, a self-described underdog who, in true trailblazer fashion, refuses to adhere to convention.

The 2019 Monmouth grad just finished her first year as receivers coach at Hudson Catholic High School in Jersey City, New Jersey. In February, she was hired as an offensive quality control coach for Princeton University's football team. Uncomfortable with her presence on the sideline? Too bad. "I believe in me," says Lewin.

Like any first job, Hudson Catholic presented challenges. Yes, there was a 4–7 season, but Lewin also had to understand the unseen details of a football game, such as substitutions and managing playing time. There was also an unanticipated emotional component: The players came to her with personal problems. That's where her sociology degree became an asset.

Overall, it was a promising start for the 22-year-old, who admits she has a long way to go.

"Once you feel like you've made it, I think that's when you're declining," says Lewin. "I just want to continue to be a student of the game. I want to continue to learn."

Lewin's curiosity raged even before she arrived at Monmouth in 2015. While attending Wayne Hills High School, she applied to be the team manager. The head coach, Wayne Demikoff, asked Lewin if she had any questions. Yes, she said. What's the difference between a gap scheme and a zone scheme in run blocking? "He got me right away," says Lewin. The two hit it off, and Demikoff let Lewin shadow the coaching staff for two seasons.

Monmouth is where Lewin, a student assistant on the Hawks football team for three seasons, became fluent in football, con-

“  
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”

necting the myriad strategies with what she saw on the field. Her biggest ally was then-wide receivers coach (and current pass game coordinator/quarterbacks coach) TJ DiMuzio, a mentor who improved Lewin's football IQ and instilled confidence. He brought her into receivers meetings. They watched game film. Eventually, DiMuzio allowed his mentee to coach his players individually in practices.

Lewin also found two steadying influences—and future friends—in the classroom at Monmouth. Professors Johanna E. Foster and Jennifer McGovern exposed Lewin to new ideas about gender, sex, and race, which were invaluable last season as she got her players—high school boys with sometimes troubled backgrounds—to open up. "I think it's important that you're vulnerable and that you let people in. You can't be afraid to say, 'Hey, I'm having a really bad day,' or, 'I'm not OK,' or, 'This happened in my house,'" says Lewin. "You have to tell me. I'm not going to read your mind and know. I've got to know you're not OK. Otherwise, I'm not doing my job and you're certainly not going to do yours."

This is not the approach of Belichick, Parcells, and fabled old-school coaches. Yes, Sophia Lewin wants to win. And she wants to coach in the NFL. But there's no rush. Her goals lie "beyond the title," she says. "It's to try to help people be really good human beings."

That includes herself.

"When I'm in a position to help young people do the things they want to do," she says, "I'm never going to tell them that they cannot do something because of something irrelevant to the job."

OPPOSITE: Lewin, who hopes to coach in the NFL one day, stays in regular contact with Lori Locust, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' assistant defensive line coach.



# ALUMNI ROUNDUP

LISTED BY GRADUATION YEAR

## 1960s

» **Jim Wiencke '63** recently visited campus with his wife, Patricia, his daughter, Debbi McCormick, and two grandchildren, Matthew and Christopher.

» **Bary C. Sherman '64** and **David Ennis '74**, who have been friends for more than seven decades, continued their tradition of a yearly fly-fishing adventure. This fall they fished the San Juan River at Navajo Dam, New Mexico. They reminisced about their long friendship, life, and their days at Monmouth. Both were members of Tau Kappa Beta (TKB), Monmouth's first fraternity, and are founding members of Tau Kappa Epsilon, which evolved from TKB. Sherman was vice president of the Student Government Association, president of the Inter-fraternity Council, and president of TKB. Along with his wife, Lynn, he has, since 1990, led PEPworldwide, a global training and consulting organization. Ennis, who received Monmouth's Distinguished Alumni

Award in 2008, is a realtor and the principal of David J. Ennis & Associates LLC, which specializes in conservation, open space, and farmland preservation projects nationwide. Still connected with Monmouth, he was a founding member of the Real Estate Institute Advisory Council (now the Kislak Real Estate Institute) and currently serves as a member of the Urban Coast Institute Advisory Board, both of which are Centers of Distinction at the University.

» **Barry Stein '67**. See note for **Laurel Coleman Stein '82, '05M**.

» The Central Regional Middle School in Bayville, New Jersey, named its library the Graichen & Rocco Media Center in honor of **Michael A. Graichen '69** and **Joseph R. Rocco '72**. Graichen and Rocco spent a combined total of over 70 years teaching at the school. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on the evening of May 23, 2019.

» **David Reiss '69**. See note for **Nona (Twerdowsky) Reiss '69**.

» **Nona (Twerdowsky) Reiss '69** and **David Reiss '69** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 12, 2019. The couple met at Monmouth College in 1965 during their freshman year. The couple says, "Big thank-yous to our wonderful college years for starting us on our road to happiness."

## 1970s

» **Sharlene Tonkin Wach '70** and **Michael Wach '71** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 27, 2019. Michael was a founding member of the Delta Sigma Theta fraternity and was a member of the Inter-fraternity Council for three years. He also became a member of Tau Epsilon Phi when the two fraternities merged. Michael, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, is retired after working in the accounting field for many years, and Sharlene is a retired high school teacher. The couple live in Mesa, Arizona, and have two children and four grandchildren.

» **Michael Wach '71**. See note for **Sharlene Tonkin Wach '70**.

» **Joseph R. Rocco '72**. See note for **Michael A. Graichen '69**.

» **David Ennis '74**. See note for **Bary C. Sherman '64**.

» After 31 years at Nassau Downs OTB, **Mitchell Sirotta '74** retired from his role as lead public address announcer. Sirotta says that without the former professor and advisor for WMCX Rett Rich, former professor and theater director the late Lauren K. "Woody" Woods III, the founding faculty member and former chair of the Communication Department the late Kenneth Knapp, as well as former professor John Salter and his wife, Margaret, he "never would have made it this far." Sirotta hosted many seminars with the biggest names in horse racing and worked with the great Dave Liftin, Sue Morris Finley, Steve Crist, John Price, Bill Finley,

Steve Matthews, Jan Rushton, and Noel Michaels. He's also thankful to his parents, Dave and Mickey Sirota, and his lovely wife, Joan Schifrin. "Many thanks to the many great people at Monmouth," says Sirota.

» In October, **Jillian L. Forman '75** started a new private practice as a licensed mental health counselor in Andover, New York.

» **Linda G. Turrell '75**, a speaker, columnist, and award-winning instructor, has completed her new book *Writing Good Stories: Mastering Language Arts*, an interactive workbook developed to help novice writers hone their technique. The first in a three-volume series, the book can be used both inside and outside the classroom by students and independent learners. Turrell, who has taught how to master many types of writing over the course of 30 years, has published 23 books and 15 professional articles. She has been a state conference speaker, columnist, consultant, and instructional review columnist and has served as a judge for instructional media. She is the holder of the Texty award, given nationally for excellence in instructional writing.

## 1980s

» **Art Troccoli '80, '83M** was named CFO of the Year Nonprofit (Small) by Lehigh Valley Business. Troccoli, who is the chief financial officer for PBS39, began his career with American Express and has since served in a variety of leadership roles with Marsh, AIG, Corporate Synergies Group, and Roster Financial.

» **Arthur Paoella, Ph.D., '82** attended the Space & Underwater Tourism Universal Summit, or SU-TUS2019, in Marbella, Spain, this past September. More than 250 professionals and students from more than 90 countries attended the conference, which is the first

event that brings together the ideas of space tourism and underwater tourism.

» **Laurel Coleman Stein '82, '05M**, a member of Mu Alpha Phi, and **Barry Stein '67**, a member of Delta Sigma Pi (DSP), celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Monmouth Beach home of fellow Monmouth alumni **Sal Giacchi '68** (DSP) and Barbara **Conti Giacchi '75** on May 25, 2019. Among the 50 guests were a handful of fellow alumni, including **Tom Baldino '69, Michael Costa '69** (DSP), **Stewart Finkelstein '67** (DSP), **Dennis Gazi '69** (DSP), **Eugene Iadanza '70** (DSP), **Neal Marine '70**, member of Zeta Epsilon Sigma, and **James Serano '69** (DSP).

» A group of friends who met at Monmouth recently celebrated their 40th reunion as friends. The "Pinewood Girls," including **Chris Cribbin '83; Allison Gates '83; April LoMonte, Class of 1983; Loretta Cuccia LoMonte**


**'83; Karen Menichini, Class of 1983; Laurie Musial '83; and Fran Sulak '83**, enjoyed a weekend of activities, including a visit to campus.

» While training an athlete in Holmdel, New Jersey, **Michael Greenblatt '83** ran into what he refers to as "a true legend" and good friend, the former longtime track and field coach Joe Compagni. Under Compagni, who recently retired after 24 years, the men's and women's cross country and track and field teams captured 58 conference championships.

» **Lisa Rauschert Herrick '84**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

» **Lori Labbree Thomson '84**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

## 1990s

» **Tamera Restuccia '90**, founder of T. Restuccia Events 

### NOT TO MISS »

March 10-14

### MEET MONMOUTH IN ATLANTIC CITY



MAAC Basketball tournament, family fun, happy hours, and more! Check [monmouthhawks.com/MUAC](http://monmouthhawks.com/MUAC) for more information.

# CELEBRATIONS

**WEDDINGS:** 1. **Jeffrey Humbert '05** wed Jackie Beach in New York City on July 26, 2019. 2. **Courtney Lazur '07** and **Jeffrey Kolodziejczyk '05** were married on Dec. 14, 2018, in Sparta, New Jersey. 3. **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12** wed Daniel Mombiedro in Torremocha, Spain, on June 21, 2019. 4. **Steven Mark Leonardi '13** wed Matthew Joseph Garrido on Dec. 7, 2019, at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan, New Jersey. 5. **Kathryn (Blanchard) Palmer '15, '18M** wed **William Palmer '11** at the Grand Cascades Lodge in Hamburg, New Jersey, on Sept. 29, 2019. 6. A group of friends who met their freshman year at Monmouth including, from left, **Courtney Reddington '09**, **Emesha (Chemez) Jackson '08**, **Tabitha Ruiz, Class of 2008**, **Megan Ehrling, Class of 2008**, **Dana Parisi, Class of 2008**, and **Nadine Andersen '09**, reunited recently for the wedding of Ehrling and Michael Reiersen. **ENGAGEMENTS:** 7. **Lauren Mrazik '17 '18M** and **Matthew Sheehan '17, '18M** were engaged on Aug. 25, 2019. 8. **Kelly Santoriello '18** is engaged to **Joseph Kellett '18**. **ANNIVERSARIES:** 9. **Nona (Twerdowsky) Reiss '69** and **David Reiss '69** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 12, 2019. 10. **Laurel Coleman Stein '82, '05M** and **Barry Stein '67**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary alongside many of their fellow alumni.





LLC, has planned and executed a variety of large-scale, high-profile events for many of the nation's top brands and leading corporations. For the past six years, she has served as the executive producer of *The New York Times DealBook Conference*, hosted by Andrew Ross Sorkin, which features an incredible lineup of luminaries.

» **Daniel J. Weeks '95** had his latest book *Gateways to Empire: Quebec and New Amsterdam to 1664* published by Lehigh University Press on July 15, 2019.

» **Justin Burroughs '96** is now the record holder for the most wins of all time as coach of the Bucks County Community College soccer program. Burroughs' milestone of 157 wins was reached after the team faced Montgomery Community College on Oct. 15, 2019.

» **Kurt Gruending '96M**, vice president of marketing and business development for Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT), will serve as chair of the Lake Champlain Chamber board of directors for the next year. At WCVT, Gruending is responsible for all facets of marketing, customer service, public relations, strategic planning, and new product and business development. He is a past board member of the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce as well as past president of the Chamber's Valley Economic Development Committee. Gruending currently serves on the marketing and public relations committee of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, where he served as committee chairman, and is past chairman of the marketing committee for the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies. This past year he testified on behalf of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection as part of its "Disrupter Series: Smart Communities." Gruending resides in

Shelburne, Vermont, with his wife, Suzanne, and their 16-year-old twins.

» **Tony Manners '96M** has been named partner of BDO USA LLP, the U.S. member firm of BDO International, a global accounting network, where he will work in the firm's specialized tax services practice. Manners, who leads the Southeast region's state and local tax team, has experience in state tax audit defense, development of state income and franchise tax filing positions, changes in corporate structures to achieve tax efficiency, transfer pricing, and apportionment strategies.

» **Angela Germano '98, '00M** is a No. 1 bestselling international author. *Women Who Illuminate*, a collection of 30 illuminating stories by 30 inspirational women, in which Germano has a chapter, soared to the top of Amazon sales in August 2019. She will next be featured in *Women Who Rise*, the next in the *Inspired Impact* book series, due out this spring.

## 2000s

» **Caan Giberson '00**. See note for **James Giberson '05**.


» **Laura Jackson '01**, who is a senior managing director at FTI Consulting Inc., was named to *Crain's* second annual list of Notable Women in Accounting and Consulting. Jackson is a member of FTI Consulting's Real Estate Solutions industry practice and has more than 18 years of experience in the real estate investment trust (REIT) and partnership areas of real estate taxation, providing expertise in due diligence, structuring, REIT compliance, 754 adjustments, and partnership taxation. Jackson currently serves as vice president on the board of Rebuilding Together NYC, a nonprofit organization that promotes safe and healthy housing throughout New York City. She also founded the She Builds initiative, which empowers prominent women in

real estate to give back to the communities they serve. Within FTI Consulting, Jackson is on the global steering committee of FTI's Women's Initiative Network (FTI WIN) and is heavily involved in the firm's diversity, inclusion, and belonging initiative.

» **Sabrina DiBella '03** co-founded Push the Envelope PR, a full-service boutique agency that raises consumer awareness about indie brands through creative and impactful strategies. DiBella combined her previous experiences working at E! Entertainment Television and in luxury travel PR to start her own agency concentrating on fashion and beauty after seeing a lack of agencies in New Jersey. Since its inception, the New Jersey-based agency has grown to collaborate with businesses across all markets and has secured national press coverage in major outlets like *Vogue* and *The New York Times*, as well as securing celebrity fans like Jennifer Lopez. A young parent of four children, DiBella is a supermom and a "She-E-O" to a high-energy staff of more than 10 creative members.

» **Robert Keagle '04** is a real estate appraiser for Clear Capital and for Pro Teck Valuation Intelligence, whose main clients include Chase Bank and Goldman Sachs. Keagle is a graduate of Red Bank Catholic High School and is a lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys. His sister **Gina Keagle '05** was the head field hockey and lacrosse coach at Long Branch High School from 2006 to 2016.

» **Jacqueline (Klein) Leon '04, '05M** is a local real estate agent with Coldwell Banker's Spring Lake, New Jersey, office. She serves both Monmouth and Ocean counties.

» In May, **Kristin Worthley '04** was honored as the Monmouth County School Counselor of the Year by the Monmouth County School Counselors Association. Worthley, who works at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New 

Jersey, was recognized for her work with the schools and students of Monmouth County. On Oct. 1, 2019, she was promoted to associate director of admissions for Brookdale Community College.

» **Joe Bognanno '05.** See note for **Jeffrey Humbert '05.**

» **Jason DeLeonardo '05.** See note for **James Giberson '05.**

» **James Giberson '05** wed Maria Manfre on Aug. 18, 2019, in Great River, New York. Brothers **Caan Giberson '00** and Dave Giberson were best men, and fellow alumnus **Jason DeLeonardo '05** was a member of the wedding party. The couple met in January 2017 and were engaged in January 2019.

» **Jeffrey Humbert '05** wed Jackie Beach in New York City on July 26, 2019. They will make their home in San Diego, California. Fellow Monmouth alumnus **Joe**

**Bognanno '05** was in attendance.

» **Gina Keagle '05.** See note for **Robert Keagle '04.**

» **Jeffrey Kolodziejczyk '05.** See note for **Courtney Lazur '07.**

» **Jennifer Pergola '05** had two of the one-act plays that she's written performed at The Grange Playhouse in Howell, New Jersey. The pieces, which are included in a collection of one-act plays written by various playwrights, was part of the show called *Pretty Parodies*.

» **Christine Colaco '07.** See note for **Courtney Lazur '07.**

» **Courtney Lazur '07** and **Jeffrey Kolodziejczyk '05** were married on Dec. 14, 2018, in Sparta, New Jersey. Numerous alumni attended the wedding, including **Brian Sforza '08, Alivia Barbieri '08, Alison (Maloney) Martin '07,** and **Christine Colaco '07.**

» **Alison (Maloney) Martin '07.** See note for **Courtney Lazur '07.**

» **Brian Thomas '07, '11M** was elected as councilman to the Borough of Neptune City on Nov. 5, 2019. Thomas was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2020, to serve a term of three years as the newest member of the governing body.

» **Alivia Barbieri '08.** See note for **Courtney Lazur '07.**

» A group of friends who met at Pinewood Hall during their freshman year were reunited for the first time in years to celebrate the wedding of **Megan Ehrling, Class of 2008,** and Michael Reiersen, which was held at The Green Building in Brooklyn, New York. There to celebrate were **Courtney Reddington '09; Emesha (Chemez) Jackson '08; Tabitha Ruiz, Class of 2008; Dana Parisi, Class of 2008;** and **Nadine Andersen '09.**

» **Rachael Goldberg '08M** was named the executive director of Liberty Hall Museum Inc., the organization devoted to the preservation and protection of New Jersey's first governor's house. Goldberg, who has worked for the organization for more than a decade in various roles, earned her bachelor's degree in history from the University of Rhode Island and holds a certificate in historic preservation from Drew University.

» **Brian Sforza '08.** See note for **Courtney Lazur '07.**

» **Andrew Musick '09** has joined the New Jersey Apartment Association's (NJAA) government affairs team. As vice president of government affairs, Musick will be responsible for managing legislative and regulatory issues that impact the multifamily apartment industry in New Jersey. Musick joins NJAA from the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, where he served as vice president. [B](#)



**NOT TO MISS »**  
March 21  
**WINE VS. STEIN**

Swirl and sip as you network and mingle in historic Wilson Hall. The first floor will be transformed into two unique spaces for an evening of wine and beer tasting with music and delicacies to complement each other. Register at [monmouth.edu/wvs](http://monmouth.edu/wvs).



## CELEBRATIONS

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:** 1. A group of friends, including, from left, **Fran Sulak '83**, **Karen Menichini, Class of 1983**, **Chris Cribbin '83**, **April LoMonte, Class of 1983**, **Laurie Musial '83**, **Allison Gates '83**, and **Loretta Cuccia LoMonte '83**, recently reunited in celebration of their 40 years of friendship. 2. **Jim Wiencke '63**, middle, and his wife, Patricia, revisited their old stomping grounds at Monmouth along with Chuck Gerdon, director of development for the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences. 3. **Bary C. Sherman '64**, left, and **David Ennis '74**, who have been friends for more than seven decades, continued their tradition of a yearly fly-fishing adventure at the San Juan River at Navajo Dam, New Mexico. 4. The Central Regional Middle School in Bayville, New Jersey, named its library the Graichen & Rocco Media Center in honor of **Michael A. Graichen '69**, left, and **Joseph R. Rocco '72**. **ADVENTURES & ACCOLADES:** 5. **Arthur Paoella, Ph.D., '82** attended the Space & Underwater Tourism Universal Summit, or SUTUS2019, in Marbella, Spain, this past September. 6. **Tony Manners '96M** has been named partner of BDO USA LLP, the U.S. member firm of BDO International, a global accounting network. 7. **Laura Jackson '01** was named to *Crain's* second annual list of Notable Women in Accounting and Consulting. 8. **Andrew Beuschel '10, '11M** received the prestigious United States Attorney General Award for Distinguished Service in Policing.



# FINDING HER ELEMENT

HOW ISHITA BHATTACHARYA WENT FROM PRE-MED TO PIONEERING CHOREOGRAPHER.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

In the spring of 2017, Ishita Bhattacharya '16 called her parents from India and announced that, after years of working toward medical school and with an acceptance already in hand, she had decided not to go.

They reacted about as she'd expected.

"They were like, 'Come home immediately, you've gone insane,'" she jokes now.

But Bhattacharya, who also goes by the stage name Ishita Mili, says she has no regrets about the waves of change she set off with that single decision—and the new Urban Indian dance style and professional troupe she's created since.

Though she's been dancing since she was three years old, Bhattacharya says she spent most of that time struggling to

*Bhattacharya says she'd love to work with Rosalía, an urban flamenco singer from Barcelona now making big waves in pop culture. "She is the perfect example of someone who was shaped by a traditional cultural art form and created something completely new from it using urban and modern influences," says Bhattacharya.*

find a style that felt like a true fit. In Indian classical dance, which she studied for most of her life, she had trouble connecting to the ancient stories each dance explored, and coveted the fast, powerful parts that consistently went to male dancers.

When Bhattacharya discovered urban hip-hop at age 16, she thought she'd found her answer. The new style felt freeing. She came to Monmouth through the Monmouth Medical Scholars Program to pursue a chemistry degree, and joined a hip-hop dance company in nearby Matawan, New Jersey. But soon she began noticing the limits of that style, too.

"I still felt like I was confined by a style that didn't necessarily reflect my whole experience," she says. "I had to put my 'Indianness' away in a box [while dancing hip-hop] and consciously make sure not to bring that out."

After an ACL tear took Bhattacharya off her feet in 2015, she spent time considering her future in dance. She decided that "if I go back [to dancing] at all, I want to make something that speaks to me and that says what I want to say, how I want to say it."

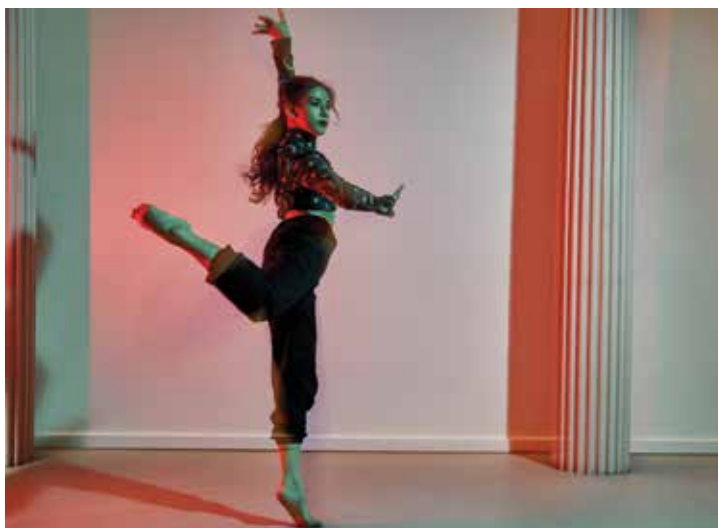
Fresh out of her knee brace, she choreographed a new piece for a dance showcase. People liked it, so she made more. At first she didn't even have a term for what she was doing, but eventually it came to her: Urban Indian.

Drawing from both Indian classical and modern hip-hop styles, Bhattacharya says that her choreography is primarily rooted in re-examining old Hindu myths, our relationship with nature, and the structure of society. Her goal is to offer Indian audiences a fresh take on familiar moves and stories while also attracting audiences who've never even seen Indian dance before.

In July 2017, Bhattacharya founded her own Urban Indian dance troupe—IMGE (Ishita Mili Global Exposé)—which includes 15 professional dancers.

## DAY JOB

Bhattacharya didn't completely put science on the back burner when she opted to forgo medical school and found her own dance company. After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in chemistry from Monmouth University, she enrolled in a Master of Business and Science program at Rutgers, with a concentration in drug discovery and development. She graduated last semester and currently works in sales and business development for a biotech company.



ers. The group has performed at the Seattle International Dance Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, and other venues around the U.S. She says audiences have been as varied as the styles she is melding.

"We're always trying to make sure we're reaching different types of people and that our work is truly global, in that it can speak to anybody," she says. "We're trying to break down barriers."

Eventually Bhattacharya hopes to create a longer show that could play in large venues and tour the world. And, yes, she knows that won't be easy. "Currently there are no opportunities that exist for this style, so I have to create them," she says. "It's less about opening doors versus building those doors to open."

"In the past year especially, I really have found my purpose," she adds. "And my parents aren't mad at me anymore, so that's good news."

# 2010s

» **Andrew Beuschel '10, '11M** received the prestigious United States Attorney General Award for Distinguished Service in Policing. Beuschel was one of 23 officers from around the country to be selected for the award that recognized his work in the field of criminal investigations. During 2018, Beuschel, who was working as a narcotics detective in the Evesham Township Police Department in Marlton, New Jersey, arrested numerous suspects for heroin/fentanyl distribution and successfully investigated two drug-induced deaths from heroin/fentanyl—one of which involved a 15-year-old victim. Beuschel, who was a member of Sigma Pi at Monmouth, is an officer with the Riverton Police Department, located in Riverton, New Jersey, but was assigned to the detective bureau investigating narcotics-related crimes and undercover operations with the Evesham Township Police Department.

» **Christian Ries '10** founded software company Bid Ops, which provides a web-based business-to-business software-as-a-service analytics solution for procurement and cross-functional teams to optimize strategic sourcing workflow. Bid Ops helps companies, governments, and other entities to buy the goods and services they need faster, with better management of risk and with cost savings via partnerships marked by longevity and equity. Ries, who was president of Phi Alpha Delta, a co-captain of the Monmouth University sailing team during his senior year, and a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society, is currently chief operating officer for Bid Ops.

» **Joanne Antoine '11M** was named executive director of Common Cause Maryland, a non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core

values of American democracy. Prior to her appointment, Antoine spent over two years serving as the organization's state outreach and engagement manager, leading and supporting successful organizing campaigns to pass public financing of elections in numerous Maryland localities, a statewide ballot initiative on same-day voter registration, grassroots activities and events in support of redistricting reform, and several state legislative campaigns. Antoine, who is the first black and Haitian-American woman to serve in the role, has extensive history working on political campaigns and volunteering in local community organizations.

» **William Palmer '11**. See note for **Kathryn (Blanchard) Palmer '15, '18M**.

» **Lauren Brajer '12** is now the social media and content strategist at Rizco, a creative campaign agency based at the Jersey Shore. From research and being up to date on trends to strategic content creation, plan execution, and analytics, Brajer will help drive further engagement for Rizco's clients' social media accounts.

» **Jorge Branco '12**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

» **Michael Cunningham '12**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

» **Michael DonDiego '12**. See note for **Morgan (Celiano) DonDiego '15**.

» **Demanuel Edmondson '12**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

» **Lacy Holovacko '12**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

» **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12** wed Daniel Mombiedro in Torremocha, Spain, on June 21, 2019. The couple met when Thomson participated in the study abroad

program at Regent's College (now Regent's University) in London during her junior year in fall 2010. Fellow Monmouth alumni who traveled to Spain for the wedding included the mother of the bride, **Lori Labbree Thomson '84**, brother of the bride, **Trey Thompson '19**, **Lisa Rauschert Herrick '84**, **Victoria Vasso '12**, **Lacy Holovacko '12**, **Demanuel Edmondson '12**, and **Michael Cunningham '12**. The couple spent their honeymoon in Africa as members of a tour group with World Travelers Association, an organization founded by **Jorge Branco '12**, where they went on safari and participated in community service efforts with Aloito Africa and Zanzibar Learning 4 Life Foundation. The bride recently became a board-certified behavior analyst, and the groom recently completed his MBA at the University of California, Berkeley.

» **Victoria Vasso '12**. See note for **Chelsea Labbree Thomson '12**.

» **Nicole Vitale '12** was recently hired as head of production at 300 Entertainment in New York City. Previously, she served as senior manager of digital at Ultra Records, also headquartered in New York City. Vitale, a former WMCX general manager, directs and manages the digital department and asset delivery of all new records and singles in coordination with Warner Music/Atlantic Records. 300 Entertainment is one of the leading independent urban labels in the world, started by former Def Jam President Kevin Liles and current head of music at YouTube, Lyor Cohen. Its current roster includes, among others, Fetty Wap, Young Thug, Megan Thee Stallion, and Gunna.

» **Brittany Hardaker '13** was named one of *Hotel Management* magazine's 30 Under 30 in Hospitality for 2019. Hardaker, who recently celebrated her four-year anniversary with Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, the largest hotel



# ALUMNI WEEKEND

June 12–15

**All alumni are invited back.**

## SCHEDULED EVENTS INCLUDE

Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

All Alumni Marquee Rooftop Celebration

50th Reunion Reception

25th Reunion Toast

Golf Outing

Family Day

Registration and more information online.

[monmouth.edu/alumniweekend](http://monmouth.edu/alumniweekend)

*Reconnect. Relive. Reminisce.*



franchising company in the world, was nominated for always being responsive and for living and exuding the company culture day in and day out.

» **Steven Mark Leonardi '13** wed Matthew Joseph Garrido on Dec. 7 at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan, New Jersey. Several alumni attended, including **Vincent Buddle '13**, **Michelle Coby '13**, **Krista DiNocera '13**, **Matthew Ventimiglia '13**, and **Ricardo Nunes '13**, who were all members of the wedding party. Leonardi is a manager for associate communications at the PVH Corporation, the New York-based parent company of Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, and other apparel companies. Garrido, who graduated from Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, is an agency account manager in New York at Indeed.com.

» **Alexa Mazurkiewicz Haring '14** recently managed a production team for two sold-out Rolling Stones shows at MetLife Stadium. This August, Haring was asked to manage a staff of 10 production runners at the East Rutherford, New Jersey, stadium for a Rolling Stones tour stop that amassed 170,000 fans over two nights. Previously, Haring worked as a production manager at Madison Marquette, an investment company that manages six properties in Asbury Park, New Jersey, which required her to run production administration for venues including The Paramount, Stone Pony, Wonder Bar, and House of Independents. Haring is also a former assistant production manager at the Stone Pony, a role she earned after completing an internship she obtained while at Monmouth.

» **Jason Horowitz '14, '15M**, who is a broker of record for

Triforce Commercial Real Estate LLC and a property and casualty insurance broker at Safe Harbour Group Ltd., was named co-chair of the Rockland Business Association's newly established Rockland Emerging Business Owners & Professionals committee. The committee is geared toward supporting young business professionals aged 39 and younger.

» **Morgan (Celiano) DonDiego '15** wed **Michael DonDiego '12** at Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg, New Jersey, on Oct. 5, 2019. The couple met in 2011 at Monmouth University, where Michael was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon and Morgan was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. The couple, who live in Charlotte, North Carolina, had about 45 fellow Monmouth alumni in attendance, with the majority being from Greek life.

» **Kathryn (Blanchard) Palmer '15, '18M** wed **William Palmer '11** at the Grand Cascades Lodge in Hamburg, New Jersey, on Sept. 29, 2019.

» **Danny Robinson '15** played as the keyboardist for The Pember-tones in the Jams on the Sand summer series held in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in August. He also recently released his first single, "Rock It," available on all major music platforms.

» **Lauren Mrazik '17 '18M** and **Matthew Sheehan '17, '18M** were engaged on Aug. 25, 2019. The couple, who got engaged at Riverside Gardens Park in Red Bank, New Jersey, are planning an April 2021 wedding ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey, with a reception to follow at Nanina's in the Park in Belleville, New Jersey. The bride-to-be is a physical education teacher at David C. Abbott Early Learning Center in Morganville, New Jersey, and the groom-to-be is a tax consultant for Deloitte in New York City.



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Help determine the newest members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Look for an email this spring to cast your vote. Don't receive emails from us? Visit [monmouth.edu/stayconnected](http://monmouth.edu/stayconnected) to ensure your voice is heard.




» **Morissa Schwartz '17M** earned her doctorate in literature from Drew University after successfully defending her dissertation on nihilistic libertarianism in pop culture.

» **Matthew Sheehan '17 '18M**. See note for **Lauren Mrazik '17, '18M**.

» **Joseph Kellett '18**. See note for **Kelly Santoriello '18**.

» **Kelly Santoriello '18** and **Joseph Kellett '18** first met in middle school. They were “just friends” and didn’t start dating until their senior year of high school. A few days before decision day, they both decided to attend Monmouth. The couple says Monmouth is where many of their best memories were made and where they accomplished a lot, both together and individually. Almost a year after graduating, they got engaged at the Morris Arboretum located outside of Philadelphia. They are planning to get married at Clark’s Landing in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, in July 2020.

» Former Monmouth University men’s lacrosse midfielder **Gordon Phillips '19** was chosen by the Vancouver Warriors in the sixth round of the 2019 National Lacrosse League Draft. Phillips, who was the 80th overall selection, is the first Monmouth player to be picked in the National Lacrosse League Draft. The National Lacrosse League is a men’s professional box lacrosse league with 13 teams across North America, including five in Canada. A team captain as a senior, Phillips scored seven goals and had 20 assists for 27 career points, including three man-up goals. He graduated ranked seventh in Monmouth history with 20 career assists and finished third in Monmouth history in ground balls and caused turnovers with 103 and 42, respectively. He was named to the 2016 MAAC All-Rookie Team and was a Second Team All-MAAC selection as a senior. 

# SEND US YOUR NEWS

» Online: [monmouth.edu/ClassNotes](http://monmouth.edu/ClassNotes)

» By email: [classnotes@monmouth.edu](mailto:classnotes@monmouth.edu)

» By mail: **Class Notes, Monmouth magazine, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898.**

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

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

## IN MEMORIAM

### » ALUMNI

Henry Blumenthal '50 (May 6, 2016)  
John B. “Jack” Julian '59 (Oct. 29, 2019)  
F. George Campbell '60 (July 22, 2016)  
Bernice S. Eisenberg '61 (Nov. 23, 2018)  
Judith K. Getchell '61 (Oct. 2, 2019)  
Rudolph F. Schafert '61 (Aug. 30, 2014)  
Preston F. Gillam '63 (July 25, 2019)  
Robert Talbot '63 (Jan. 7, 2016)  
Charles P. Kaempffer '64 (Oct. 14, 2019)  
George Vasbinder '64 (June 9, 2019)  
William K. Comella '65 (Sept. 20, 2019)  
Marilyn E. McGowan '65 (Oct. 13, 2018)  
Stephen Weissman '66 (April 19, 2019)  
Vincent J. Wemlinger '66 (Oct. 11, 2019)  
Noele H. Lowe '67 (March 3, 2019)  
Mary D. Lynch '67 (Sept. 18, 2019)  
James C. Brooks '68A (Oct. 5, 2019)  
Helen E. Delia '68 (Sept. 16, 2019)  
Frank J. Mazza '68 (Nov. 12, 2019)  
Milton Turner '68 (Aug. 12, 2019)  
Lucious Zachary '68 (Sept. 28, 2019)  
Camcy B. Courten '69 (Nov. 8, 2017)  
James Delaney '70M (Nov. 13, 2019)  
Virginia K. D’Espies '70 (Feb. 2, 2016)  
William H. Hawkins '70 (April 14, 2012)  
Joan E. Norman '70 (Oct. 21, 2019)  
Louis J. Martinelli '71 (Nov. 2, 2019)  
John C. Avery '72 (Aug. 17, 2019)  
Barbara Hartz Kurkjian Bassett '72 (Oct. 25, 2017)  
Nancy L. Caron '73A (July 30, 2019)  
Edward J. Ruloff '74 (Sept. 26, 2019)  
Larita R. DiPaola '75, '97M (Nov. 7, 2019)  
John S. Slater '76 (Sept. 12, 2019)  
Luberta H. Pruitt '79M (Nov. 7, 2019)  
Robin D. Rose '79 (July 15, 2019)  
William E. Ivory '80 (Aug. 25, 2019)  
Amy J. Lee '87 (Sept. 20, 2019)  
Grace E. Moran '90 (Jan. 4, 2018)  
Leslie Pineiro '00 (Sept. 16, 2019)  
William J. Hamilton Jr. '09M (Oct. 10, 2019)

### » FACULTY + STAFF

Robert M. Kelly (former adjunct professor) Dec. 8, 2019  
Michele B. Lassen '85 '87M (former associate director of alumni affairs) Sept. 11, 2019  
Edward “Eddie” Ortiz (facilities management staff) Oct. 11, 2019  
Robert Rechnitz (professor emeritus of English and American literature) Oct. 12, 2019  
Donna Brann Sterling (former university advancement staff) Feb. 9, 2019

### » FRIENDS

Carol L. Greene (friend) June 26, 2019



REMEMBRANCE

# ROBERT RECHNITZ

1930–2019, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ENGLISH

**M**onmouth University was saddened by the loss of dedicated colleague and University benefactor Robert M. Rechnitz, Ph.D., who died peacefully on Oct. 12, 2019, at the age of 89.

A professor of English and American literature, Dr. Rechnitz taught at Monmouth for more than 30 years and was named Professor Emeritus in 1996. In 2001, he was recognized with the Maurice Pollak Award for Distinguished Community Service at the University’s Founders’ Day celebration and convocation.

Along with his wife, Monmouth alumna Joan Rechnitz ’84, ’12HN, Dr. Rechnitz established a legacy of philanthropy that extends throughout the Monmouth County region. Their generosity has supported scholarship and internship

opportunities for students, academic programming, and Monmouth’s Center for the Arts and Urban Coast Institute. The creation of Rechnitz Hall, Monmouth’s premier instructional space and gallery for art and design; the Urban Coast Institute’s Marine Science and Policy Initiative; and the Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy are all a direct result of the Rechnitzes’ philanthropic commitment.

“They gave generously to worthy nonprofits all along the Jersey Shore: hospitals, schools, social service agencies, arts programs,” says Carol Cohen

“**HE WAS A VISIONARY. JUST A WILDLY BRILLIANT MAN, WHO WAS FULL OF WIT, AND WHO NEVER LOST HIS LOVE FOR MONMOUTH. IT REALLY WAS A PART OF HIS HEART.**”

LaRose ’69, a family friend. “Most people didn’t know that because they didn’t want to put their names on anything. Bob was always so humble about the impact they had in the region. It was never about self-aggrandizement for him.”

LaRose says she first met Dr. Rechnitz during her undergraduate days at Monmouth, and later worked with him on a campaign to raise money to build the current home of Two River Theater, the company he founded while still teaching at Monmouth. “He was a visionary,” says LaRose. “Just a wildly brilliant man, who was full of wit, and who never lost his love for Monmouth. It really was a part of his heart,” said LaRose.

The Monmouth University community extends its heartfelt condolences to the entire Rechnitz family. Dr. Rechnitz’s contributions to education, the arts, the environment, health care, and more have enhanced the lives of many and will undoubtedly serve generations of students and community members for years to come.



# Leave Your Legacy

*Alumna's blended gift allows her to see the impact on Monmouth students for generations to come.*

**M**ore than five decades after she blazed a trail through Monmouth and enjoyed a distinguished career in journalism with the Associated Press, Linda Deutsch '65 continues to give back to the University that gave her so much.

Linda first created an annual scholarship in journalism to see the impact of her philanthropy during her lifetime. Wanting to do more, she then decided to make a significant planned gift by endowing the scholarship through her trust.

In celebration of her thoughtful planning, generosity, and professional accomplishments, she will be forever remembered by the newly named Linda Deutsch '65 Student Journalism Center, home to the student-run newspaper, *The Outlook*.

Join Linda and make your own impact with a blended gift to support today's students, and future generations of Hawks, by establishing an annual scholarship now, and endowing it permanently through your will or trust.

Contact Emily Miller-Gonzalez, director of planned giving, at 732-263-5393 or [emillerg@monmouth.edu](mailto:emillerg@monmouth.edu) to help customize your giving to create a combination that best fits your needs and philanthropic goals.

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## COLLEGE HANGOUTS

For generations of students, the West End and its environs have served as an extension of campus, offering places to grab a bite, catch a show, or just relax with friends. Where was your favorite hangout in college? Send your stories and photos to [magazine@monmouth.edu](mailto:magazine@monmouth.edu) or to the address above.