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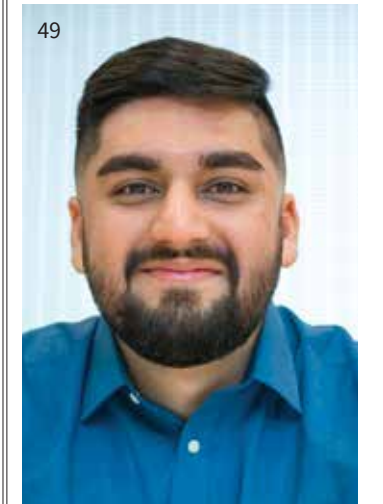
Morgan Davis, the MEAC Bowling Rookie of the Year, talks pins, pets, and persistence.

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Forward Together

As my fifth year at Monmouth—and 20th year in academia—draws to a close, I can't help but reflect on how fortunate I am to work alongside the faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of this great University. Your unwavering commitment to serving Monmouth's students and advancing its mission have helped our institution thrive during incredibly challenging times in higher education—including a pandemic, national protests, and seismic changes in technology and demographics.

No matter the obstacles, we've accomplished remarkable successes together over the past five years, beginning with the launch of our strategic plan—Excellence. Access. Ambition.—which set Monmouth on a course to being a national leader at integrating academic excellence and student

access. Our progress toward that goal was underscored this academic year with our highest-ever ranking in U.S. News & World Report, new benchmarks in social mobility success from Washington Monthly, and the welcoming of the most diverse and academically prepared class in our history.

Furthermore, as we continue to serve an ever-growing percentage of Pell-eligible and first-generation students (half of Monmouth's 2023–24 first-year class identifies as one or both), we have attracted philanthropic investment in our mission at record levels—including the largest single gift in University history—that has helped provide greater access for a highly personalized private education than ever before to deserving students.

We've added two new doctoral programs; enhanced our beautiful campus, including revitalizing the Great Hall; and implemented programs and initiatives to ensure that all members of our community feel welcome, valued, and supported. We've joined top-tier academic and athletic peers in the Coastal Athletic Association, enhancing competition for our student-athletes and bolstering Monmouth's regional recognition and reputation. And, our recognition is increasingly national, thanks in part to the growth and success of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, which recently hosted the second American Music Honors event—bringing to campus such world-renowned artists as John Mellencamp, Jackson Browne, Mavis Staples, Dion DiMucci, and, of course, Bruce Springsteen himself while raising more than \$1 million to support the Center.

In the pages that follow, you can read about some of our more recent accomplishments, including the addition of our newest and fastest research vessel, the R/V Ocean Hawk; meet our newest Fulbright recipient; learn about the ecological influences on the art of Professor Kimberly Callas; and uncover the story behind the classic rock photography captured by Mike Frankel '72.

Despite our challenges, these past five years have been remarkable at Monmouth, and it is thanks to our endlessly amazing students, and the dedicated professionals, passionate alumni, and tireless members of our Board who support them. The collective spirit of this community never ceases to amaze and inspire me. I look forward to working with you to accomplish even greater milestones in the years ahead as we advance Monmouth University and its mission.
»PATRICK F. LEAHY, ED.D., PRESIDENT

photo CHRIS SPIEGEL

Correspondence



“The idea that Bruce’s archives will be kept close to his home ... is fantastic. I’m one proud alumna!”

Our Fall/Winter 2023 issue

Jersey Born, Jersey Brewed

I ENJOYED READING THIS ISSUE! I WAS blown away by the stories about the Bruce Springsteen Archives and the brewery in Bradley Beach.
»MATTHEW CIOLETTI, SOPHOMORE

Cleared for Takeoff

HERE'S A BIT MORE HISTORY ON SLOCUM Hall (“Hidden in Plain Sight,” fall/winter 2023). In the spring of 1960, just before I graduated with an associate degree, I was passing through the hall on the way to class and encountered a naval officer who had set up a table. He was recruiting potential naval aviators. I signed up for testing at Naval Air Station Lakehurst. I passed and started Navy flight training two months later. This led to a Navy career of 31 years. I retired as a captain in 1991. Funny how these seemingly small encounters lead to lifelong pursuits. »CAPTAIN DARRYL A. STUBBS '60A, UNITED STATES NAVY (RETIRED)

Music to Their Ears

EVERY ARCHIVE NEEDS A HOME, AND THE idea that Bruce's archives will be kept close

photo FROM 1963 "SHADOWS" YEARBOOK

to his home, in a place with a theater and funding for programming, lectures, and all the artifacts, is fantastic (“Inside the New Springsteen Archives,” fall/winter 2023). I'm one proud alumna!
»TRISH HURLEY CALLAHAN '86M, VIA LINKEDIN

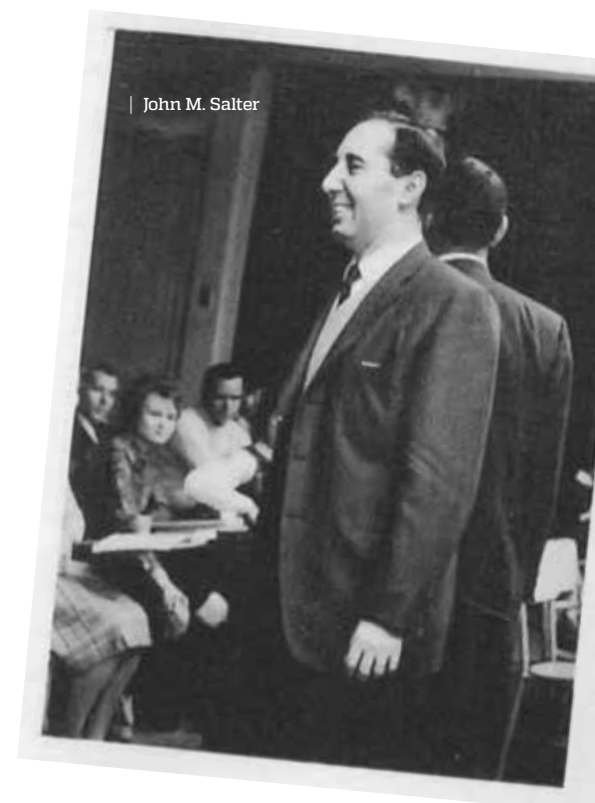
SO PROUD OF THE “BOSS” AND HIS LIFE-time achievements. What's even better is being a Monmouth College/University alumnus.
»JEROME L. HUTCHINSON '78, VIA LINKEDIN

WE SHOULD NEVER LOSE THE TREASURE of great American singer/songwriters like Bruce, Dylan, John Prine—the list goes on and on. It's part of our fabric, and it tells our great American story. This center should preserve and encourage that spirit.
»BRUCE N. HAYDU '75, VIA LINKEDIN

Remembering a Monmouth Radio Pioneer

WMCX WAS NOT MONMOUTH'S ONLY RADIO station, or at least did not emerge unprecedented in 1974 (“Transmitting Memories,” fall/winter 2023). Back in September 1962, the speech and drama department brought in my father, John M. Salter, as an assistant professor. He served as an advisor to Monmouth's radio station, having worked sev-

eral years as a radio DJ at WNYU, where he had a program titled “The Four Winds.” To Monmouth he brought records from his own classical music collection that he left with the tiny West Long Branch station, which I believe broadcast at five watts and was AM only. Among the courses he taught at Monmouth were Introduction to Broadcasting and Creative Broadcasting. As a teacher, he found that taking outrageous positions got his students into vigorous classroom discussion. »JEREMY M. SALTER '74



John M. Salter

Latte Legend

I VISITED FROM NEW ZEALAND ... AND ONE of my absolute highlights was the Parson Café and the iced chai (“Office Space,” fall/winter 2023). ... What a special human Jenn is. I can see why all the students love her! Thank you for the best service I received on my visit.

»ROBYN ANCELL (PARENT), VIA INSTAGRAM

MONMOUTH IS SO LUCKY TO HAVE JENN.

She knows how to make everyone feel special. »ANNE DEEPAK (FACULTY), VIA INSTAGRAM

Seeing Red

I EMPHATICALLY DISAGREE WITH THE whole premise of the article “From Red Scare to Green Scare” (fall/winter 2023). Peter Jacques has been researching climate change denial, and he appears to be accusing conservative thinkers on the subject of being politically motivated—a “countermovement,” as he says, that de-

nies the science of climate change warming the planet, leading to “dangerous changes.” I object to his opinion being used to make people think that it is fact that using fossil fuels has caused the slight rise in warming the climate, since countless times—over many, many years—temperatures have risen and fallen, as in ice ages and then global warming and back again. And that was before we even used

fossil fuels as we do today. There are many scientists who have studied the facts about climate and have not concluded, as Professor Jacques has, that the planet is doomed. I think the climate activists are the ones who are fearmongering, creating a problem where none exists. Some of the choice remedies to fix the climate are, in my opinion, going to do more harm than good. »PAUL W. BERKOWICZ '77

And the Winner Is...

Congrats to sophomore Matthew Cioletti, an honors secondary education and history major, who won the Snag Some Swag trivia challenge in our last issue. Matthew correctly identified the connection between President Patrick F. Leahy and former U.S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy: They’re both Georgetown alumni. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Spotted on eBay

Our fall/winter 2023 issue. It seems some enterprising readers sold their copies (after reading them cover to cover, of course) to collectors. We think the demand might have something to do with our cover model.



I MUST SAY, I WAS A LITTLE TAKEN ABACK BY the last issue, first and foremost by the article concerning global warming (“From Red Scare to Green Scare”). I graduated in 1971, and I was a bleeding liberal at the time and participated in the Vietnam war strike and the taking over of what was then called Wilson Hall. Then I graduated and went to work and over the years became conservative. This does not nor should not make me an outcast and be defined by a conservative movement. We’re a movement? Really? If you want to address global warming, you should start with India and China.

I was also disappointed that there weren’t more stories about alumni who graduated before 1980. On a positive note, Morgan Alston’s smile (“Launchpad”) is one of the nicest I have ever seen. »GERARD TIROTTA '71

Editor’s Note: We invited Peter Jacques, whose research on climate change denial was detailed in the article, to respond.

Of course, there have been conservative leaders who did not oppose climate policy or science (think John McCain, early Newt Gingrich, etc.). However, the Climate Change Countermovement (CCCM) has been organized to cast doubt on climate science and oppose climate policy since 1992. A social movement (e.g., the environmental movement) is simply a conscious, collective effort for change, identifiable by organizations and leaders. When opposition to the first movement is organized, it is a countermovement, similarly identifiable through countermovement organizations and leaders (e.g., the Heartland Institute and the Heritage Foundation).

Additionally, there is a robust consensus among scientists who do climate research stating that the Earth is warming (the temperature anomaly over the last couple years has been astonishing), that this warming is driven principally by human-related greenhouse gases, and that there are already dangerous impacts from this disruption. This consensus is measured in the scientific literature. The latest study (Lynas et al. 2021) concludes “with high statistical confidence that the scientific consensus on human-caused contemporary climate change—expressed as a proportion of the total publications—exceeds 99% in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.”

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**“Employment outlook for graduate-level occupations,” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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[POLITICAL ANALYSIS]

Presidential Punchlines

Associate Professor of Communication Michael Phillips-Anderson discusses the art of humor in presidential rhetoric.

INTERVIEW BY STEVE NEUMANN

In the grand theater of politics, where presidential utterances are typically meticulously crafted and policies are debated with gravity, levity has often taken a back seat. But throughout history, presidents have also wielded wit as effectively—or as ineffectively, depending on your political commitments—as they have wielded executive power.

Associate Professor of Communication Michael Phillips-Anderson, whose scholarship focuses on rhetoric, politics, and humor as well as the role public discourse plays in the creation of active citizenship, believes humor can be a powerful tool in the hands of a president.

We spoke with Phillips-Anderson about the nature of humor in general, and how presidents and presidential candidates—including Joe Biden and Donald Trump—use humor to engage voters. →

What motivated you to study presidential humor?

I was in a doctoral program in rhetoric and political culture at the University of Maryland, and I've always been a big comedy fan: stand-up, movies, all kinds of stuff. And it occurred to me the question of how does humor work? It's a little bit of an unusual communicative act.

And it turned out that we've been studying humor for a couple thousand years in the West, since the pre-Socratics. Gorgias, an ancient Greek philosopher and rhetorician, urged orators to "destroy one's adversaries' seriousness with laughter, and their laughter with seriousness."

I was also interested in political communication and how politicians use humor.

I was really interested in how they were using it strategically to accomplish other persuasive goals—they're not doing it just to make people laugh, they're doing it to make people laugh in service of getting elected, or persuading them to support or oppose an issue.

So, it seemed like an interesting thing to study, and I both enjoyed it and regretted it as a subject area because it is bedeviling.

Why is the study of humor "bedeviling"?

On the one hand, humor has to be somewhat predictable in how it might work. In a political context, you want at least a good chunk of your intended audience to understand it; but how we actually experience humor is deeply subjective. And I don't think it's that much of a choice—we get the joke; it's not like you hear the joke, consider its implications, think about the meanings, and then choose to laugh. It's much more of an instinctual, physiological response, and we don't have that response to other kinds of persuasion. If you're giving a talk to a group, you know if they have gotten and enjoyed your joke, but you don't necessarily know if they've gotten and understood your arguments.

But getting a joke isn't just understanding it—you could totally understand the joke, but not find it funny. If a joke is about a subject we don't know anything about, it can of course go over our heads. But even if you know the subject matter, you still just might not find it funny.

"Politics is different because it is about people. We aren't just choosing [a president] on a technocratic basis, but on a human basis. And because I think humor is so deeply tied into what it means to be human, I think that that is why it is something that we want to see in our presidents."

On the other hand, I could be trying to persuade you to buy a product, and I can understand everything that you care about with this, and that my product totally matches what you want, and it's at the right price and all of that—but you still don't have to buy it. There's still this gap, and it's that sort of space that I think is interesting but also kind of the bedeviling thing—why can't we figure out how humor can just work?

A lot of people don't realize that humor is a well-established field of research. The International Society for Humor Studies has been around for almost 50 years, and it's something that has been written about in philosophy and psychology and neurobiology. I like the fact that people in a lot of different fields are interested in it, because to me it is an argument for being important.

Why study presidential humor in particular?

Do we really want our presidents to entertain us, or do we want them to just do the work of the presidency, like cut our taxes, defend our country, and veto stuff we don't like?

I kind of think we want them to do everything: We want them to entertain us to get and keep our attention because then we'll be more likely to vote for them. But we also want them to do all these other things.

And it is rare to find somebody who has all of these skill sets. Do we care if our surgeon can tell a good joke? It might make a difference when you are talking to prospective surgeons, you might feel more of a connection, but if somebody just comes out as a clown you might think they're not the surgeon for me. You probably shouldn't care what the political views of your surgeon are.

That's obviously a more technical thing. But it shows why politics is different because it is about people. We aren't just choosing them on a technocratic basis, but on a human basis. And because I think humor is so deeply tied into what it means to be human, I think that that is why it is

something that we want to see in our presidents, if at all possible.

Since it's a presidential election year, let's talk about the differences in style of humor between Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

Biden's humor tends to be more scripted than Trump's. Trump's tends to be seemingly ad-libbed. Some of the things, like his nicknames for people, he's clearly given some thought to ahead of time. But he hasn't scripted out the jokes like I think a lot of Biden's jokes are.

Both of those things kind of fit with what we see as their regular speaking styles. Biden is using the teleprompter more, while Trump almost never uses a teleprompter, and when he does, he's not good at it, so it doesn't seem believable.

I do think Trump is presenting as an entertainer, rather than as a stand-up comedian, for example. I think it is more like the kind of comedy of reality television, since that's the world that he comes from. It's about ridicule—most of reality television is laughing at the kind of grotesquery and foibles of these people on the show. They are held up for us to knock them down, right?

I don't think Trump is up there with the intention that we are going to knock him down, but he is up there sort of presenting the reality show; he is putting forward the people and the things that he wants his audience to knock down.

How does all of that compare to Biden's approach to humor?

I think the kind of jokes that Biden does are much more classic political jokes. They're more scripted, and I think that they are for a different audience. I'm sure there's a segment of his audience that wants him to rip into Trump mercilessly, but I think Biden is a little uncomfortable with that.

Like at the recent White House Correspondents' Dinner, which is a traditional venue for political humor, I think Biden had to sort of work himself up into being a

joke teller, because I think his team thinks it will get under Trump's skin.

And I think they're right. The thing that Trump can't abide is being laughed at. It's one of Trump's recurring themes—he's said it about Obama and Biden: "The whole world is laughing at us."

I think the worst thing in the world for Trump is being laughed at. Which is why I think humor may be an interesting strategy to use, because I don't think he can just let it go. I think you can get under his skin relatively easily.

How does the humor of Biden and Trump compare to some of the historical instances of presidential humor you've studied?

In the Correspondents' Dinner, one of Biden's jokes was about the age issue that has been dogging him in the media. He said, "Of course the 2024 election is in full swing and yes, age is an issue. I'm a grown man running against a 6-year-old."

That echoes Ronald Reagan's 1984 debate with Walter Mondale. Reagan was running for reelection, and in his first debate with Mondale, Reagan seemed confused, he was making misstatements—all kinds of stuff—whereas Mondale did quite well.

But in their second debate, Reagan was asked a question about his age: "You already are the oldest president in history. ... I recall yet that President [John F.] Kennedy had to go for days on end with very little sleep during the Cuban missile crisis. Is there any doubt in your mind that you would be able to function in such circumstances?"

But as soon as the reporter starts asking the question, Reagan dips his head a little bit and smiles—so you know he's thought about this kind of question and knows what the answer is going to be—and he says, "I will not make age an issue in this campaign. I will not exploit for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience."

And it's amazing. Mondale laughs and the audience roars, because it's so well done. It's sort of self-deprecating: He gets to take a jab at his opponent, but in a very friendly way. The age issue wasn't a focus of reporters for the rest of the campaign.

So, I think that whoever was writing the jokes for Biden for that, I'm guessing that they were thinking about that joke, and trying to figure out a new version of it. ☪



Prose for the Planet

Douglas Brinkley lecture examines how protest music helped shape the environmental movement.

"DON'T IT ALWAYS seem to go, that you don't know what you got 'till it's gone / They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

The iconic lyrics from Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi," which was released in April 1970—the same month that the first Earth Day Celebration was held—captured the angst and lament many artists and intellectuals were feeling about the existential threats facing the planet during the Long Sixties (1960–1973), making it one of the first environmental anthems.

In his talk "Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology): Long Sixties Protest Music and the Earth Day Revolution," New York Times best-selling author and acclaimed presidential historian Douglas Brinkley highlighted music's integral and enduring role in the environmental movement in the U.S. He explained that while the first two waves of environmental movements in the U.S. were ushered in under presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the third grew out of a cultural movement sparked largely by writers and artists, such as Mitchell, after Rachel Carson's anti-DDT book, "Silent Spring," galvanized a generation upon its release in 1962.

"Suddenly the groundswell of saving the environment kicked in and music—and artists—became a huge part," Brinkley said.

Brinkley's talk, held in April, was the inaugural President's Lecture on Music History and Contemporary America. Hosted by the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, the new series "showcases the Center's mission to educate and inspire future generations to understand the diverse influences in American music, and appreciate its power as a force for change," according to Monmouth University President and BSACAM Board of Directors Chair Patrick F. Leahy.

Visit youtube.com/@BSACAM to watch Brinkley's full lecture.

»BREANNE MCCARTHY

The View from Here



Rock & Raise

The Great Hall and Pollak Theatre played host to a sell-out crowd on April 24 when the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music presented the second annual American Music Honors awards.

Each of the 2024 honorees—John Mellencamp, Jackson Browne, Mavis Staples and Dion DiMucci—took center stage for performances backed by Marc Ribler and the Disciples of Soul. The ceremony was hosted by former “NBC Nightly News” anchor Brian Williams and featured remarks from Gov. Phil Murphy as well as the award presenters: Springsteen, Steven Van Zandt, Darlene Love, and Jon Landau. The evening concluded with the audience on their feet while honorees and presenters shared the stage and jammed to such hits as “Small Town,” “Glory Days,” “Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out,” “Take it Easy,” and “Will the Circle be Unbroken?”

Together with a silent auction, the event raised more than \$1 million to support construction of a new building, announced last fall, that will house the Archives, the Center for American Music, related exhibition galleries, and a state-of-the-art theater.



photos DANNY CLINCH

A Familiar Face in the Provost’s Office



Richard F. Veit was named provost and senior vice president for academic affairs in April, a role he has held on an interim basis since July 2023. Veit was unanimously selected by a committee of faculty, administrators, and students from a pool of nearly 50 applicants nationwide.

During his 29-year career at Monmouth, Veit has developed extensive leadership experience, serving as an undergraduate program director, graduate program director, faculty athletic representative, Faculty Council chair, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning director, department chair, and associate dean and interim dean of the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He also recently served as co-chair of the Middle States Steering Committee.

As a professor in the Department of History and Anthropology, Veit received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007 and was the inaugural recipient of the Eugene Simko Faculty Leadership Award in 2019.

All In, All Win

Giving Days 2024 was another record-breaking success, raising over \$398,000 in just 48 hours. The more than 2,100 gifts received from Hawks around the world will have an immediate impact on student scholarships, academic programs, and athletics.

Ahead of the Curve

Less than three years since its founding, and before its first cohort of students had graduated in May, Monmouth’s Occupational Therapy Doctorate program earned a national ranking on U.S. News & World Report’s roster of “Best Occupational Therapy Programs.”

Planting Prowess

Thanks to the efforts of social work students Arely Lazaro ’24 and rising seniors Erin McDowell and Camryn Levy, Monmouth’s Virginia A. Cory Community Garden earned distinction as a Homegrown National Park for its commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem health. Working with Garden Coordinator Teresa Maltz, the students introduced several species of native plants into the garden this spring, including black-eyed susan, coneflower, goldenrod, aster, and cardinal flower.

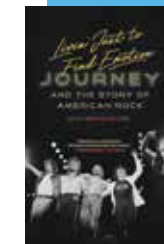
Innovation Overload

Two teams split the top prize at this year’s HawkTank Business Pitch Competition: Parkshark, an app developed by senior Gianna Piroso and juniors Davian Albarran and Andrew McGovern that tackles commuter chaos by providing users with real-time parking availability updates and reminders; and Link, a tool created by junior Alexander Kalina that plays matchmaker for patients and clinical trials by helping users sort through the government’s registry of clinical trials to find the most compatible options.

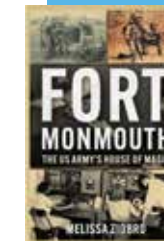
photo BILL CARDONI

SUMMER READS

Three recent books by faculty members that will make your beach days even brighter.



LIVIN’ JUST TO FIND EMOTION: JOURNEY AND THE STORY OF AMERICAN ROCK
David Hamilton Golland, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and a lifelong Journey fan, takes readers through the band’s greatest songs and moments in this story of ambition and larger-than-life personalities. Based on over a decade of interviews and thousands of sources, the book chronicles the band’s complete history, exploring how race contributed to Journey’s breakout success.



FORT MONMOUTH: THE US ARMY’S HOUSE OF MAGIC
Melissa Ziobro ’04, ’07M, curator of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music and specialist professor of public history, explores Fort Monmouth’s rich history, its wartime mobilization, and the stories of the soldiers who served and civilians who worked there, including Walter S. McAfee ’85HN, a mathematical physicist and former Monmouth College lecturer whose work helped launch the Space Age.



LIVING THE BEATLES LEGEND: THE UNTOLD STORY OF MAL EVANS
The life and untimely death of the Beatles’ long-time roadie, personal assistant, and devoted friend have long been shrouded in mystery—until now. Working with full access to Evans’s unpublished archives and having conducted hundreds of new interviews, Professor of English and Popular Music Kenneth Womack presents the first full-length biography of an invaluable member of the Beatles’ inner circle.



Virgilio “VG” Gonzalez

Vessel Captain and Operations Manager

For more than a decade, Virgilio “VG” Gonzalez has been captaining boats up and down the East Coast—everything from private yachts to a National Geographic–contracted vessel from which film crews conducted baited shark dives. As Monmouth’s new vessel captain and operations manager, he now oversees the University’s five research vessels (R/Vs). He gave us a tour of the newest and fastest member of the fleet, the R/V Ocean Hawk. »BREANNE MCCARTHY

AIS SYSTEM

Like an E-Z Pass transponder signals to toll booths on the highway, Automatic Identification System technology transmits the R/V’s real-time position to receivers on land and nearby vessels. It is used for maritime safety, ocean planning, environmental protection, and fishing enforcement.

DEPTH SOUNDER

This navigation tool uses sonar to measure water depth at high and low frequencies to help identify objects or fish. High frequency is best for detailed searches in shallower waters, while low frequency is best for general searches in a wider area and at greater depths.

SALON

This below-deck area provides room for additional seating and gear storage and includes a sink, coffee maker, and small toilet.

CHARTPLOTTER

This device aids navigation by combining GPS data with electronic navigational charts to provide real-time information about the boat’s position, course, and surroundings.

Boat Specs

- » **Boat type:** Downeast
- » **Length:** 32 feet
- » **Passenger capacity:** 6
- » **Cruising speed:** 15 knots
- » **Distance offshore:** 50 nautical miles, round trip

The Way We Play

A then-and-now look at Americans' favorite pastimes.

COMPILED BY BREANNE MCCARTHY AND TONY MARCHETTI FROM MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY POLL DATA

While much has changed over the last half century, at least one thing hasn't: we still enjoy a little downtime, a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives. But the ways in which we choose to unwind have evolved.

Recently, the Monmouth University Polling Institute asked Americans about their favorite hobbies, comparing the data with Gallup and Roper polls conducted in 1974 using the same questions. The TL/DR version: Americans still love to cook and want to see more of the world than ever before, but fewer of us likely know how to mend a torn seam. Here's a fuller look at how our extracurricular pursuits have evolved with time.



Cooking Reigns Supreme

Then, as now, cooking is Americans' No. 1 hobby. But perhaps inspired by the rise of food culture, the countless cooking shows on TV, and the abundance of social media chefs, more of us than ever are donning aprons for fun: 68% in 2024, up from 37% in 1974.

Crafting is No Longer Niche

Like travel, the percentage of Americans who report craft-making as a hobby has more than doubled in the last half century, from 21% in 1974 to 46% today.



Traveling Has Taken Off

Back in 1974, fewer than one-third (29%) of Americans reported traveling as a hobby. Today, that percentage has more than doubled to 61%, making it Americans' No. 2 favorite hobby. Our dream destinations have changed with time too, suggesting a growing interest in exploring diverse cultural experiences beyond Europe (see sidebar).

Wanderlust Wishlist

Like their choices in hobbies, Americans' dream destinations have shifted with time. Here's a look at Americans' top bucket list destinations, then and now.

1974	2024
UK (10%)	Italy (13%)
Germany (10%)	UK (10%)
Australia (8%)	Japan (8%)
Italy (7%)	Australia (8%)
France (7%)	Ireland (8%)
Switzerland (7%)	France (6%)
Israel (5%)	Spain (6%)
Japan (4%)	Germany (5%)
Spain (4%)	Greece (4%)
	New Zealand (4%)



So Long, Sewing

Nearly every hobby mentioned in the poll saw increased participation, but not everything trended upward. Gardening, which tied for the No. 1 spot in 1974, dropped to No. 3 this year despite a 10-percentage-point increase in people reporting it as a hobby. Meanwhile, sewing was the only hobby that saw a decrease, dropping from 25% in 1974 to 19% today.

The Arts Ascend

While participation in classic pastimes such as camping, swimming, hunting, and golf remained relatively steady over the last 50 years, Americans are increasingly engaging in creative pursuits. The number of people reporting photography as a hobby jumped from 10% to 30%, while painting, sketching, and drawing skyrocketed from 9% to 29%.





The Pumping Predicament

Why New Jersey continues to pump the brakes on self-service gas.

BY ROBERT H. SCOTT III

» **N**ew Jersey's quirky reputation is hard earned, but one peculiarity stands out: It's the only place in America where you can't pump your own gas.

Laws against self-service used to be common: In the late 1960s, nearly half the states in the U.S. had one. But as fuel dispensers became safer and credit cards made paying at pumps possible, those states began to reconsider. By the early 1990s, nearly four out of five gas stations nationwide were self-serve.

For decades, Oregon and New Jersey were the last two holdouts, but Oregon reversed its ban in 2023.

That leaves the Garden State. Its self-service ban, which went into effect in 1949, has a colorful history: It was born of a thuggish, Sopranosesque effort to thwart competition. In the late 1940s, a man named Irving Reingold opened a self-service station in Hackensack, offering gasoline at a lower price than his competitors. Those competitors tried to intimidate Reingold—complete with a drive-by gas-station shooting. When that didn't work, they formed an alliance and proposed the self-service ban.

As an economics professor based in New Jersey (but from the Midwest), I've taken a keen interest in this rule. And I don't think it's going anywhere—for now, at least.



Scott is a professor in the Department of Economics, Finance, and Real Estate and the Arthur and Dorothy Greenbaum/Robert Ferguson/NJAR Endowed Chair in Real Estate Policy.

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1 Why New Jersey's ban is here to stay.

Despite the ban's unsavory origins, New Jersey residents seem to like it. Nearly three out of four New Jerseyans oppose lifting the ban, a 2022 Rutgers poll found. That same year, a Monmouth poll found that a slight majority would support allowing self-service gas, but only if the state required all gas stations to offer full service as an alternative. If the state didn't do that, then 60% said they'd support maintaining the current ban.

Because of this, self-service stations may be the most bipartisan public policy issue in New Jersey. When asked about the self-service ban in 2019, Gov. Phil Murphy said that trying to reverse it would be "political suicide." Chris Christie, a Republican, and Jon Corzine, a Democrat, met the same resistance.

2 Do drivers benefit from the plan?

There are reasonable arguments for and against the ban. One is that banning self-service leads to higher prices at the pump because it boosts labor costs. A recent study found that gasoline prices fell 4.4 cents per gallon after Oregon partially removed its ban in 2018.

However, prices likely won't fall more than a few cents per gallon if the ban is repealed. That's because having full-time gasoline pumpers lowers stations' insurance costs because of fewer accidents and less risk.

3 What about the workers?

People also support the self-service ban for a practical reason: It creates jobs.

There are 3,205 gasoline service stations in New Jersey. If each station employs two attendants, that would add up to 7,410 employees across the state. These are jobs that are open to people with limited education, which is a big deal at a time when blue-collar service jobs are being replaced by automation.

But the labor issue is complex and the net economic effects from lifting the ban remains unclear. There's a movement to put the issue on the ballot in November 2024 and let Oregon voters decide whether to reinstate the ban. If successful, this will be an election that New Jersey politicians—and self-service gurus—will watch closely.

In the meantime, if you want to pump your own gasoline in the Garden State, fuhgeddaboutit.

A Fulbright Experience in Romania

FAITH BATES '24M first became intrigued by Romanian culture through her graduate literature courses, and it wasn't long before she found herself fascinated by the social developments taking place in Romania as well as the rapid educational reforms that were implemented after the fall of the communist regime.

Thanks to a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Bates will spend the upcoming academic year in Romania, teaching and assisting with practical and specialized English language and American culture classes at higher education institutions, while also serving as a resource on American culture and history and literary and nonliterary traditions.

She says she's excited by the prospect of experiencing Romanian culture and seeing firsthand how the changes and reforms she's read about have "shaped the arts and humanities as well as student learning."

"Romania is a beautiful country, and I'm incredibly excited and grateful for the opportunity to experience it through the Fulbright program," says Bates, who is an adjunct professor in the Department of English.

Since 1946, the U.S. Fulbright Program has provided more than 400,000 participants from over 160 countries the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

As a Fulbright alumna, Bates will join an esteemed network that includes 61 Nobel Prize laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 40 current or former heads of state or government.

Two additional scholars represented Monmouth in the Fulbright semifinal round: Ausirys Alviz, a doctoral social work candidate and adjunct professor in the School of Social Work, and Cierra Spruill '24M, a graduate of the physician assistant program. »LARRISA FORESE



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[WOMEN'S BASKETBALL]

Dreams in Motion

With determination and heart, new Head Coach Cait Wetmore looks to drive the women's basketball program forward.

BY MARK GOLA

Dream big." It's common advice imparted to youth to stimulate excitement and promise. *Pursuing* that dream is a different story. It requires courage, commitment, sacrifice, and above all, resiliency.

Cait Wetmore dreamed of becoming a head coach of a women's basketball program, and it took raw determination to realize that dream.

Monmouth's Director of Athletics Jennifer Sansevero named Wetmore the 10th head coach of the women's basketball program in April. The New Jersey native previously served as associate head coach at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and is elated to lead the Hawks basketball program. →

"I am extremely grateful to President Leahy and the athletic administration for the opportunity to coach at this incredible institution," said Wetmore, who also served as an associate head coach at UNC Greensboro. "When someone sees something in you, it's empowering, and I want to thank Jen for her belief in me to lead this program. I'm ready to put my head down and give this program everything I have."

The journey to fulfilling a dream can become a test of character, and Wetmore's desire to coach was tested from the onset. After serving as a graduate assistant at Columbia University, she was named assistant coach in 2012 at her alma mater, Adelphi University. Wetmore was one of two paid coaches on the Panthers' staff and earned a whopping \$18,000 salary while living in Long Beach, New York.

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy struck Wetmore's apartment complex, forcing her to vacate for months. Needing a place to live that was near campus so that she could continue coaching, but not wanting to trouble family and friends, Wetmore was forced to use her car as a temporary residence.

"I understand now that asking for help is not a burden," she said. "People innately want to help people, and we all need to lean on each other from time to time. But that experience left no question of how badly I wanted to coach. I was all in."

Every assistant coach—particularly at the Division II level—needs something to break their way to propel their career. Wetmore attended a professional development conference and caught the eye of Wendy Palmer, the head coach of Division I UNC Greensboro

and a former WNBA player. One year later, Palmer had an opening on her staff and contacted Wetmore.

"I was stunned," Wetmore recalled. "Networking was not my strength back then, but she liked my work ethic. I'm a grinder, and I think that's what her staff needed."

Athletic administrators often attended practices at UNC Greensboro. Sansevero was an assistant athletic director there at the time and took notice of Wetmore's work habits and her impact on the program.

"I remember liking Jen because we were both from New Jersey," Wetmore said. "We had the same type of attitude that was unique to those in North Carolina."

"Fast forward 10 years, and she called me about the position here. I couldn't believe she remembered me, and I'm so humbled that she saw something in me."

Observing something special in Wetmore has been a pattern. She's extremely passionate, and her focus on learning about and understanding each player is an asset. Wetmore earned her master's degree in clinical social work from Columbia and applies what she learned to coaching student-athletes.

"Clinical counseling trains you to understand people," said Wetmore. "To be a successful coach, you need to be a good teacher. You have to understand how other people think and how they receive information. I have 15 athletes on the team, and none of them think or receive information the same way."

When asked what attribute in a player appeals to her most, Wetmore responded, "a level of resiliency." In other words, someone who has what it takes to pursue their dream. 📍

Grappling with Greatness

Monmouth's Wrestling Club enjoys a milestone year.

BY RYAN GALLAGHER

It was a historic season for the Monmouth University Wrestling Club, which hosted its first home meet in decades and had four members qualify for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Tournament.

On the men's side, John Dooley (125 pounds) punched his ticket to nationals with a major decision win over Rutgers Wrestling Club's Zain Ahmad at the NCWA Mid-East Regionals, while Luke Petaccia qualified with a second-place finish at 174 pounds. On the women's side, Olivia Fazio and Elizabeth Markov qualified by placing first in their respective divisions at regionals.

Such accomplishments would be reason to celebrate for most club wrestling programs, but for the members of Monmouth's nascent organization, they're serving as motivation.

"Getting to nationals was a big feat, but a lot more work has to be done," says Dooley, a rising junior and the club's current president.

Monmouth's Wrestling Club was founded in 2018 and off to a strong start before the COVID-19 pandemic forced it to go on hiatus, says Maureen Slendorn, the former adviser. She credits past presidents Kyle Ravro '21 and Eric Brew '23 with keeping the program going, recruiting a new group of wrestlers who resumed training and competing last academic year. Through crowdfunding initiatives, the club has since been able to purchase a wrestling mat and apparel with the Monmouth logo on it and join the NCWA, says Slendorn.

Last December, the club marked a historic first when it rolled out the mats for a home match in Boylan Gymnasium—the first dual wrestling meet held on campus in 50 years, says Slendorn, whose son, Kyle, helped start the club in 2018.

All students regardless of gender or previous wrestling experience are welcome to join.

"Several kids never wrestled before or had come back to wrestling," says Richard Famularo, one of the volunteer coaches. "It's more about learning something, having fun, and getting a good workout in. And if they [the



Luke Petaccia (above) and John Dooley helped lead the men's wrestling club to a successful season.

students] want, we can go compete."

One of the newbies was Fazio, a first-year Honors School student who says the idea of learning to wrestle had never crossed her mind prior to coming to Monmouth. She admits now she wasn't sure how long she would last.

"I thought I'd either regret it as soon as I joined or just take to it, and the latter happened," says Fazio. "It's one of the best decisions I made this year."

Petaccia, who wrestled for Division III TCNJ before transferring to Monmouth, says he enjoys the opportunity to continue competing.

"When you're out there, it's a battle of wills," he says. "Whoever works harder is going to win. [Wrestling] builds a lot of character."

That's a sentiment echoed by Famularo, who says this experience will pay dividends long after the students hang up their singlets.

"Kids that come out of college wrestling programs—employers look at that and know the work ethic," says Famularo. "Dan Gable, who's one of the all-time greatest wrestlers, said, 'Once you wrestle, everything else in life is easy.'"

Regardless of their skill level, the students are benefitting from a wealth of experience brought by the volunteer coaching staff. Famularo, who has been competing in or coaching wrestling for nearly 60 years, has coached the sport at Howell High School for the last 28 years. Joining him on the staff are Head Coach Nick Roy, a former All-American wrestler at Division I Michigan and two-time high school state champion who now runs a wrestling school; Jake Benner, who won a state title in high school before wrestling for Division I Rutgers; and Mike Verrochi, who has coached at Howell for more than 40 years.

That combined experience is a big part of the reason Monmouth's club had four members qualify for nationals, which were held in March in Shreveport, Louisiana. Only Dooley and Petaccia traveled to Shreveport, where they went 2-2 and 3-2, respectively, and afterward were named NCWA Scholar All-Americans. Nevertheless, the experience strengthened their resolve to continue growing the club and competing at a higher level.

"I want to get our name out there for the team as a whole ... [and] bring home as many medals as we can," says Dooley. "I'm not living in the past. I'm focused on winning at nationals next year." 📍

Striking Success

Morgan Davis, the MEAC Bowling Rookie of the Year, talks pins, pets, and persistence.

INTERVIEW BY MARK GOLLA

MORGAN DAVIS MIGHT be from Texas, but she's just a typical college student experiencing her first year away from home. She misses her mom, she can't wait to see her high school friends, and she's looking forward to feeding dried leaves and cookies to her pet goat, Blue Bell.

Well, maybe she's not *exactly* like the typical first-year student.

Davis is a member of the Monmouth University bowling team and enjoyed an exceptional first season. She was named Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year, averaging 19.5 pins per frame and rolling a team-high 18 games in which she scored 200 or above. Davis is also a nominee for the Hawks' prestigious Paul G. Gaffney II Female Athlete of the Year, which will be awarded this summer.

The North Richland Hills, Texas, native is a marine and environmental biology and policy major. She is thrilled to be at Monmouth, and the Hawks are equally happy to have her on the East Coast. Davis also has a vision for her life after Monmouth that is as clear as the Ionian Sea.



From the Lone Star State to the Garden State, by way of the Wolverine State.

I was competing at the Junior Gold Championships in Michigan when I was approached by Coach [Karen] Grygiel. I think I was an easy sell. My goals for attending college were to receive a scholarship for bowling and to study marine biology, so Monmouth was a dream come true.

The Gulf Coast is the closest beach to us in North Richland, and that's a seven-hour drive. Being able to visit the ocean anytime I want is my favorite thing about being a student at Monmouth. It's absolutely amazing.

Don't worry, be happy.

I can get a little nervous during warm-ups when I bowl, and I can also get fired up when an opponent rolls the worst shot imaginable and still gets a strike. To calm myself, I like to tell jokes to break up the tension and reset my focus. I seem to be a better bowler when I'm happy.

Eat Mor Chikin.

Whenever possible, I eat Chick-fil-A for my pregame meals. My mom has always stressed the importance of breakfast, so Chick-fil-A biscuits is my go-to in the morning. I'm a big Raising Cane's fan as well, but they don't have too many in New Jersey.

Not the GOAT, a goat.

I have a lot of pets at home. Besides my goat, Blue Bell, I have three cats: G, Moonlight, and Coco. I also have a rabbit and a horse. I absolutely love animals and want to spend my career doing rescue work. I have an internship at Jenkinson's Aquarium this coming fall, and I will be feeding, cleaning, and stimulating penguins, sea lions, birds, and even sloths.

That's just like, her opinion, man.

I watched "The Big Lebowski" and I

really didn't get it, but any movie about bowling is awesome. "Dolphin Tale" is probably my favorite movie. My dream job is to work at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida, where they filmed the movie. I would love to work there and help rescue and rehabilitate mammals and animals.

The Jersey way.

I love the people here, but I've learned that I don't need to stop and turn my music down when someone says hello or asks how I'm doing. It's just a courtesy. They really don't want to know. In Texas, people always want to talk to you. Here, they want to say hi and move on. It's the Jersey way.

Twangs and tumbleweed.

People here always mention that they're surprised I don't have a Texas accent. I'm from the Fort Worth area, so we don't have a slow, Southern drawl. That's more on the east coast side of the state that borders Louisiana. I also get asked if I've seen tumbleweed, which I think is hilarious.

"No bagel, no bagel, no bagel!"

Before coming to New Jersey, I had never eaten a bagel. Turns out, I love them. My favorite is an everything bagel with butter.

The things I miss most.

What I'll miss about New Jersey this summer is how much green is here with the grass, tree foliage, and beautiful flowers. There's not much green in Texas. I also love seeing the chipmunks and squirrels running around here.

The things I've missed most about Texas are my mom, my friends, my boyfriend, and of course my pets. I also cannot wait to have some chicken with white gravy. I didn't know what I was missing with bagels, but people from New Jersey don't know what they're missing if they haven't tried white gravy. It's the best. 🍞

SPORTS SHORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Head Coach King Rice was inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame in April. The Binghamton, New York, native led his high school team to state championships in 1985 and 1986 while being named Mr. New York Basketball and a McDonald's High School All-American.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

High-jumper Veronica Chainov swept the CAAs this year, winning gold at the Indoor Championships in February and the Outdoor Championships in May.

FOOTBALL

Jaden Shirden capped off his stellar Monmouth career by winning the inaugural Walter Camp Foundation FCS Player of the Year award and signing with the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Head Coach Jordan Trautman earned her 100th career victory as a head coach in February when her squad beat Fairleigh Dickinson University, 20-6.

Waves of Creativity

Associate Professor Kimberly Callas' latest project merges art and science to highlight our oceans' hidden depths and ecological significance.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA



Kimberly Callas stood aboard the R/V Seahawk studying the deep water that swayed all around her. As hard as she tried, she couldn't tell what glided, lurked, or swam below the surface. There was just opaque ocean in every direction, broken only by the horizon line.

"I saw nothing," she remembers, "and that was so interesting to me."

But how could she translate this formless sea into art? That was, after all, the point of her voyage. Callas, an associate professor of art and design, had joined several scientists from Monmouth's Urban Coast Institute (UCI) for a tour of their local research sites in late 2019. She was spending two years as artist-in-residence at UCI—an M.F.A. working beside Ph.D.s; an artist blending facts with feelings.

"There was so much underneath me, yet I had no concept of what it was," Callas says of her outing on the UCI vessel. She later turned that into a 10-foot-tall mixed-media work, "Whale Boat," which places a giant whale below a small—and likely oblivious—boat at sea.

"Whale Boat" is part of her larger "Ocean Bodies" series, which Callas has been working on for the past five years. Inspired by her time as a faculty fellow at UCI, "Ocean Bodies" now includes more than 40 pieces, with images and symbols of water and whales, boats and nets, the horizon line and the human body. Many of these works highlight nature's beauty and its cosmic origins while also hinting at the threats and destruction it faces.

"I think we all have this deep connection to nature, and we've forgotten it," Callas says. But she's well aware. That's why she writes about it, teaches about it, and makes art about it—including a solid month focusing on her "Ocean Bodies" series earlier this year.

Callas spent all of March in Hungary as an artist in residence at the Art Quarter Budapest

(AQB), an independent art center. Living and working alongside five other international artists, she'd read and write each morning, then head into the studio for a full day of sketching, drawing, and digital sculpting. She met local artists and visited museums. At night, the artists in residence sat together discussing their day's work and swapping visions, perspectives, and techniques.

Going into her residency, Callas had planned to work on life-size human sculptures for her "Ocean Bodies" series, and she did that. But she also found herself fixated on four tiny sketches she'd made of people swimming. "I was trying to be open to other ideas, but I kept coming back to the swimmers," she says.

In a resulting show at AQB, "Ocean Swimmers (Entanglement)," Callas exhibited a quartet of four-foot-tall black-and-white drawings of her swimmers. Their bodies are each in different positions, but all are posed vertically, reaching out of the water and up toward the moon. She captured the whirling, blurry motion of ocean waves by using water-soluble graphite pencils



FROM INSPIRATION TO INSTALLATION: The artist's work in progress and on exhibit in Budapest.



on paper. It's a tricky medium to control, she says, but that's the point—no one can control the ocean, either.

These new swimmers join her "Ocean Bodies" series in trying to raise awareness of the ocean's role in climate regulation and stability. She says the "entanglement" in their title refers to both humans' entanglement with the natural world and also the species-threatening entanglements that North Atlantic right whales face from ropes and ships at sea. (Right whales, which migrate through Jersey Shore waters, are seen throughout "Ocean Bodies," including in "Whale Boat" and "Night Whale Entanglement.")

When it comes to addressing big environmental issues, "everybody needs to find their narrative," says Tony MacDonald, director of Monmouth's UCI.

"Sometimes scientists and lawyers think they can convince people of things by giving them facts," continues MacDonald, who is a lawyer himself. "But an even more powerful way to galvanize action is to get people emotionally in-

involved. Kimberly's work really reflects that."

Weaving ecological science into her art isn't new for Callas, nor is her deep concern for the climate crisis. In fact, during this interview, she's speaking from the sod-roofed, solar-powered, wood-heated stone house that she and her husband, George, built by hand in Brooks, Maine.

That was her first eco-focused project. Neither of them knew how tough it would turn out to be, but building an off-the-grid home stone by stone appealed to both the environmentalist and artist in her. “It just sounded very sculptural and like something I could do,” she says.

Callas grew up in rural Northern Michigan, in a small town sandwiched between state and national forests. She spent most of her time playing outside, building houses out of sticks and collecting red wintergreen berries. “Those were my favorite toys,” she says.

Eager for a bigger pond, she studied sculpture at the University of Michigan, then moved to New York City to pursue her MFA in sculpture at the New York Academy of Art. She was walking to her studio, where she’d been focusing on sculpting human figures, when she saw a plane smash into the World Trade Center on 9/11. She was five months pregnant, and George had left the building only a few minutes earlier.

“My husband and I were already environmentally minded,” she says. “We were weighing our garbage, we were vegetarian. But after 9/11, we said, *we really have to do something different.*”

Enter the eco house, which they built together from 2003 to 2006. “At that point, I didn’t know if I was going to make art again,” she says. “I thought the environmental crisis is the issue, and it felt like me sitting in my studio does nothing for that.”

With the house complete, she and George co-founded with another couple a nonprofit institute, Newforest, which focused on sustainability research and education. That’s where she first began collaborating with scientists. “Our board had poets and economists and scientists, artists and engineers,” she says. “The idea was that we’re too siloed and can’t deal with these environmental issues that way.”

Leading creativity workshops at Newforest brought Callas back to an artsy state of mind, and

soon she was back in her studio. But her work was different now. It was focused squarely on nature.

Even after Newforest closed in 2010, Callas continued her work at the intersection of art and sustainability, joining projects at Unity College and the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Maine. She’s keenly aware of the overlaps between her and her scientist collaborators. “Scientists go out in the field, and artists do, too,” she says. “We’re all looking so closely; it’s all about observation. We all have tools we use, and a language and a process. It’s fascinating when we bring all of those together.”

But her collaborations extend well beyond scientists. When Callas came to Monmouth in 2016, she brought along one of her longest-running endeavors: Discovering the Ecological Self. The project took root during her years at Newforest and continues now as workshops, residencies, courses at Monmouth, and in Callas’ own art. “All of my work falls under the Ecological Self,” she says.

While working in sustainability, she realized that personal connection, not scientific data, was most likely to sway people’s outlooks and behavior. The Eco Self project centers on “finding out where that deep passion for nature is in you,” Callas says. Maybe there’s a specific tree that defined your childhood. Maybe you keep seeing crows everywhere, or a certain flower continues to pop up in your dreams. Whatever your connection to nature, Callas wants to help you discover it, explore it, and make art about it.

She weaves the Eco Self into her courses at Monmouth, including Eco Art (AR 231) and Sculpture II (AR 218), and she’s brought it to museums, libraries, nonprofits, and universities near and far. “We need to reawaken this ecological self,” Callas says. “It’s there. There’s no way we can be separated. But our life is designed in so many ways to have us think that we are separate. And that’s how we don’t see the destruction.”

As a result of her Eco Self programs, “I want people to become environmental activists. I want them to become social-practice artists,” she says. “I’ve had people leave the art school and go into environmental science after taking that course.”

Megan Delaney, an associate professor at Monmouth who focuses on ecotherapy and ecopsychology, published a paper about Callas’ Eco Self work—specifically, a workshop collaboration between her Sculpture II class and the nearby Aslan Youth Ministry. For multiple

“I’m interested in exploring our emotional attachments to nature and the process of how we create meaning out of the natural world.”

weeks, Callas’ students guided the children from Aslan through the Discovering the Eco Self process and into creating their own social-practice art pieces.

“I think we tend to take care of things that we have a connection to and feel rooted in,” Delaney says. “If we’re going to take care of our place in space, we have to feel connected to it, and Kimberly does that through her Eco Self project in creative ways.”

She notes that Callas’ own art offers further ways in. “When we see beautiful paintings of nature, we feel connected to saving it or valuing its importance,” Delaney says. “Her art encourages people to explore those feelings.”

Soon that art will be viewable on campus, inside Monmouth’s Rotary Ice House Gallery. In January 2025, Callas will open a solo show of “Ocean Bodies,” filling both the upstairs and downstairs spaces. She’s looking forward to showing her work to the Monmouth community, including her collaborators Delaney, MacDonald, and the other UCI scientists, as well as to her students. “It’s really exciting to share what I’ve been doing,” she says.

The exhibition will include “Whale Boat” and three other 10-foot works; the four-foot-tall swimmer drawings from Budapest; and large, 3-D-printed sculptures and other pieces from her “Ocean Bodies” series. “The scale is important,” Callas says, “because I want people to be immersed in the imagery.” She hopes to provide “a psychological experience,” prompting viewers to think about their own connections to other species and the ocean.

In talking about her work, Callas often calls it “uniting facts with feelings.” That, along with her personal connection to nature, is what drives her in all of this. “We have the science,” she says, “but people don’t act out of knowledge. They act out of feeling. To bring the facts and the feelings together is a big part of what I want to do in my art, my classes, and my Ecological Self work.”

“I’m not merely aiming to illustrate nature,” she continues, “I’m interested in exploring our emotional attachments to nature and the process of how we create meaning out of the natural world.”



Miller Anderson (left) and Jimmy Jewell of the Keef Hartley Band, performing at Woodstock in August 1969.



CAUGHT IN THE ACT

MIKE FRANKEL '72 SHARES THE STORIES BEHIND HIS PHOTOS OF CLASSIC ROCK LEGENDS.

**AS TOLD TO MAUREEN HARMON
PHOTOS COURTESY MIKE FRANKEL**

T

he first thing that Mike Frankel noticed about Jefferson Airplane was the band's name. He was traveling with his mother in San Francisco in 1965 when he spotted posters promoting the group's upcoming concerts. When the Airplane's debut album, "Jefferson Airplane Takes Off," was released in 1966, Frankel tracked down the record driven solely by curiosity about the group's name. After a listen, he was hooked. So, when Jefferson Airplane played a show at the Asbury Park Convention Hall, Frankel, then 18, grabbed his camera. He managed to run into the band backstage after the concert, and they asked Frankel if he would share his photos with them the next time they were in town. He did, and it wasn't long before the Airplane was leaving his name at the door to places such as the Fillmore East so he could continue his craft.

Jefferson Airplane wasn't the first group that Frankel photographed. He had been at this since a young age, continuously finding himself in the midst of serendipitous moments that have allowed him great access to massive talent and historic shows. The result is a decades-spanning collection of images of the music scene of the '60s and '70s, which he recently compiled into a book, "Hurricanes of Color," published by Penn State University Press, showcases not only the music scene, but also the evolution and experimentation of Frankel's photography, which was heavily influenced by the sounds he was experiencing. From the Beatles staid press conference with the musicians in suits to Pete Townshend doing the windmill on his guitar when The Who first played "Tommy" at the Fillmore, Mike Frankel was there—and through the images and stories on the following pages, he'll take you there, too. →

A WIBBAGE WELCOME FOR THE BEATLES



**THE BEATLES • CONVENTION HALL, PHILADELPHIA
SEPTEMBER 1964**

MY DAD HAD gotten tickets, and when we showed up, there was a massive group of teenagers screaming and running to the venue. In the midst of it, I heard some guy yell, “Hey, what are you doing here?” It was an off-duty policeman who used to do security at Convention Hall, where I took photos of concerts all the time. I said, “What do you think I’m doing here? I’m seeing the Beatles.” He said, “Well, do you want to see the mop tops up close? Come with me.” He took me inside and opened a set of doors to the Beatles’ press conference. I had one roll of color film and several rolls of black-and-white film. I thought it was so special getting into the press conference that I used the color film, and I was left with the black and white film for the concert. In retrospect, I wish I had done it the other way because there are very few, if any, color pictures of them from that first tour.

**JEFFERSON AIRPLANE
WOODSTOCK • AUGUST 1969**

WHEN I SAW Jefferson Airplane in Atlantic City in the summer of 1969, they mentioned the next festival they had on their schedule in upstate New York—this little thing called Woodstock. Nobody at that time had any idea what was to come. I wound up on the stage on Saturday and told myself, ‘I’m not going anywhere.’ That was around 4 p.m., and I didn’t leave the stage until close to noon the next day. This image was taken from right behind the amplifiers. I had free reign of the stage during that time and encountered Janis Joplin and a passed-out Pigpen from the Grateful Dead. I was just a few feet away from Pete Townshend when he hit Abbie Hoffman with his guitar because Hoffman tried to make a political statement.

**CHUCK BERRY • FILLMORE EAST,
NEW YORK • FEBRUARY 1969**

THIS IS MAYBE the single most popular picture that I sell. People tell me it’s so iconic of Chuck and rock ‘n’ roll. ... He looks like he’s sublimely lost in the music. At the time, Chuck played a lot of bars, but this was the Fillmore—the temple of rock ‘n’ roll—and he understood the importance of it, and the crowd understood the importance of it. I think it was a very big bridge between his music and the music of that day.





**▲ ROBERT PLANT OF LED ZEPPELIN
FILLMORE EAST, NEW YORK • JANUARY 1969**

THIS WAS LED Zeppelin's first New York appearance. I knew Zeppelin, so I knew what we were in for that night, but the crowd, for the most part, did not. This was just a few weeks after their first album had been released, and they were opening for headliners Iron Butterfly, which was riding on "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" fame. When Zeppelin came out, they performed their entire album, plus a couple of blues songs, and the crowd was just bowled over. When Iron Butterfly performed, the crowd didn't really react, except with pleasant applause. They played two or three songs and the lead singer said, "We can't compete with what you just saw. Goodnight and good luck." They played maybe 15 or 20 minutes and left the stage.



**◀ DAVID BOWIE
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL,
NEW YORK • FEBRUARY 1973**

AT THIS SHOW, Bowie performed the entire "Ziggy Stardust" album, plus a few other songs like "Space Oddity." Up to that point, he was used to playing smaller clubs and venues. This was a watershed moment in his career—and it was rare that Bowie played saxophone. After years of experimentation, I had my technique down. I would do an establishing shot of the group in a long shot—in this case it was at the bottom. To capture the three additional images, I would mask off the camera lens with my hand, take the first image, and that would leave the rest of the film dark. Then I would rewind and cover other parts of the lens to take the next shot and so on. I still get people who say, "That's a great job in Photoshop." I don't take the Photoshop comments as insults, but it's fun to watch people's eyes widen when I tell them how it was done.

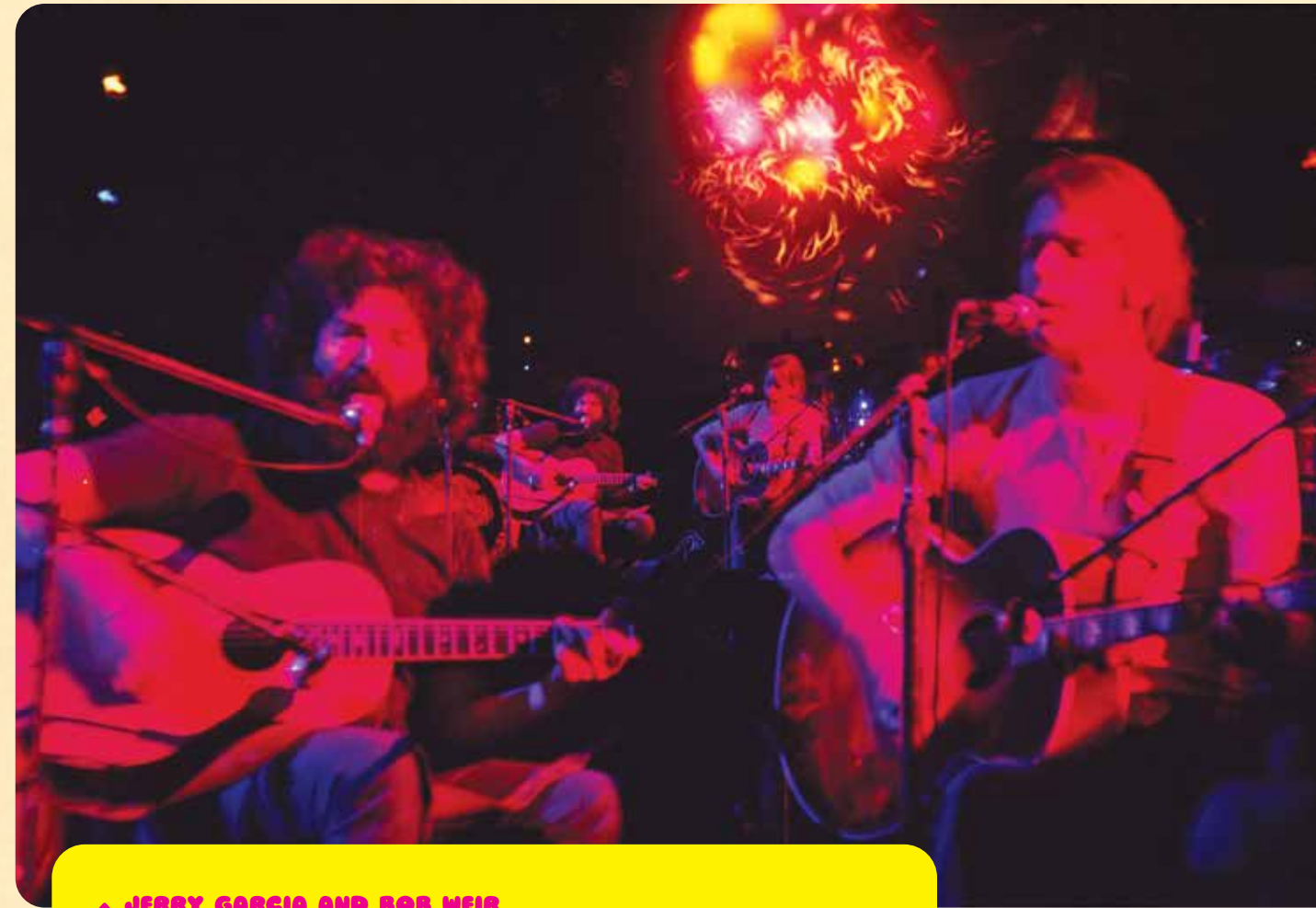
**▼ DAVID CROSBY, GRAHAM NASH, AND STEPHEN STILLS
FILLMORE EAST, NEW YORK • SEPTEMBER 1969**

I HAD TO leave Woodstock early ... and one of the bands that I missed was Crosby, Stills, and Nash. But I was fortunate because a month later they played New York ... and Neil Young joined them. I have pictures of all of them. This one was taken during "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes." There's a bridge in it where they build the harmonies and add and add, and it comes to such a crescendo. When they hit those harmonies, the audience was awestruck. They were just rendered completely silent before erupting into applause. To hear these three voices together for the first time was just unbelievable.



▶ KEITH MOON AND PETE TOWNSHEND OF THE WHO • FILLMORE EAST, NEW YORK • MAY 1969

PETE TOWNSHEND WAS famous for doing the windmill on his guitar. And that was a tough thing to really represent. This image from May 1969 was when The Who first performed “Tommy” at the Fillmore. The crazy thing was that their concert was postponed by a night because of a fire at the venue. That’s why the background is black—the fire affected the lights, so there was no light show that night. But the dark background really lends to the drama of the image. Townshend almost looks like a bird in flight.



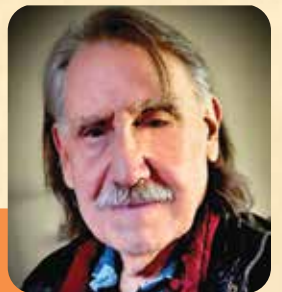
▲ JERRY GARCIA AND BOB WEIR FILLMORE EAST, NEW YORK • MAY 1970

BACK THEN, WHEN the Grateful Dead would play, you almost never knew how many people were in the band. They didn’t even face the audience. They were feeding back. They were messing around with electronics, and the drummers were fooling around with different percussion instruments. But starting around 1970, Jerry and Bob would come out either before the main concert or in between sets and do a little acoustic set. This is more of a straightforward shot, but it’s one of my most popular Dead images, because everybody loves Jerry and Bob, and they so rarely did the acoustic thing back then.



◀ NEIL YOUNG • FILLMORE EAST, NEW YORK • MARCH 1970

THIS IMAGE IS one of my all-time favorites, because it is made up of 10 separate images. It stands as the largest number of rewinds and multiple shots I’ve ever done to create a single image. In the book, there’s another image of Young taken on the same day as a partial eclipse. I photographed the eclipse on a roll of film, rewind, and later captured Young in concert so he would be superimposed on the partial eclipse. That one I’m particularly proud of, because it was one image created from two different times in two different places.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mike Frankel lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, and has been president and/or executive director of the Artists’ Coalition of Flagstaff, the largest nonprofit art group in Northern Arizona, for more than 20 years. ©



RACING FOR RESILIENCE

Graduate student Oleksandr Nedoruba organized Ukraine's first extreme triathlon, inspiring hope in the country's citizens during their ongoing war with Russia.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

Oleksandr Nedoruba had an idea.

It was August 2019, and he had just completed the legendary Norseman Xtreme Triathlon, an Ironman-like competition in which participants must swim 2.4 miles in the chilly Hardangerfjord and bike 117 miles through mountainous terrain before running a marathon (26.2 miles) to the top of Norway's Mount Gaustatoppen (elevation: 6,178 feet). →

An extreme sports junkie who had already conquered Mount Elbrus (Russia and Europe's highest peak) and swam the Bosphorus Strait (the channel in Istanbul that bridges the European and Asian continents), Nedoruba had tried for five years to land a spot in Norseman, the event that many endurance athletes consider "the father of extreme triathlons."

Now, not only had he achieved his goal, but he had done so with distinction. By finishing 72nd out of 250 competitors, Nedoruba had secured one of the coveted black t-shirts given to participants who complete the race portion at its highest altitude. It's a badge of honor in the triathlete community signifying someone has completed the world's most extreme competition under the toughest circumstances.

As Nedoruba basked in the glory of his achievement, a thought crossed his mind: Ukraine should have its own extreme triathlon. After all, his native country had every bit as much rugged beauty as Norway did—and the prospect of experiencing it while mapping out courses for each leg of the race excited him. Beyond that, the challenge of creating such an event in his homeland intrigued Nedoruba.

By the time the competition he dreamed up that day finally did take place, four years later, much had changed in Ukraine. So too had the rationale for holding it. What started as an undertaking to create a race that could challenge competitors' physical endurance had become an event that he hoped would inspire Ukrainian perseverance.

NEDORUBA, WHO GREW UP IN ZHOVTNEVE (now Vakulove), a small village in Ukraine's Dnipro region, says his parents instilled a strong sense of right and wrong, and justice and morality, in him and his sister, Yuliia, from an early age.

"We were taught that if someone needs help, and you can help, then you should help," says Nedoruba. "It's how we were raised."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A runner approaches Hoverla during the second part of the marathon; a competitor bikes along Road H09 in Tiachiv Raion; Nedoruba gives final instructions to the athletes before the race begins at the Tereblia-Ritske Reservoir.

On some level, he says, those formative lessons played a role in his enrolling at National University Odesa Law Academy, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, and eventually led him to a career as an investigator and prosecutor in Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General.

"It was great to be helpful to my country and its citizens," says Nedoruba, "and it was an honor to help effect changes in law enforcement legislation."

Nedoruba says that he started competing in endurance events because he enjoyed the mental and physical recharge that the training provided him as well as the self-discipline and motivation it instilled in him. He also loved exploring the world while meeting like-minded individuals through the competitions.

Landing a spot in Norseman "changed my life," he says. "I met such motivated people ... and saw how mentally and physically strong they were."

Invigorated and inspired by what he describes as the "great energy exchange" that took place among contestants at Norse-

man, Nedoruba knew that he wanted to create a similar experience in Ukraine. When he shared the idea with Yuliia, her response was, "Oleks, that's crazy—but it's great."

Over the next two years, Nedoruba went about making his idea a reality. One of the first things to do was determine the course. There's an unwritten rule with extreme triathlons that the finish line should be at the host locale's highest point, says Nedoruba. That put his race's endpoint on Mount Hoverla, in the beautiful yet wild Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. From there, Nedoruba worked backwards to scout and test potential courses for the race's swimming, cycling, and running legs.

Together with his sister, he recruited a team of volunteers that could help with rules, registration, securing sponsors and partners, acquiring permits, handling security, and promoting the event.

There's another unwritten rule with extreme triathlons, says Nedoruba: The race's name should be derived from the locale in which it's run. Norway has its

LEFT: The athletes pose during their pre-race briefing at Kolochava village's Cultural and Art Center.

RIGHT: Nedoruba speaks during the awards ceremony held at Avanhard ski resort in Vorokhta.

Norseman. Scotland its Celtman. Ukraine would have Karpatyman, the team decided, using the Ukrainian spelling for the Carpathian Mountains.

“For us, Karpatyman means someone who endured the toughest, most extreme triathlon finishing on Ukraine’s highest mount,” says Nedoruba.

With the course set and most of the logistics worked out, Nedoruba and his team put out the word: Ukraine’s first-ever extreme triathlon would take place on May 7, 2022.

ON FEB. 24, 2022, RUSSIA INVADED

Ukraine, setting off the largest ground war in Europe since World War II. By that point, Nedoruba had already moved to the United States, where he was working toward a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice at Monmouth. After the invasion, he says, the consensus among the team was that Karpatyman needed to be pushed back.

“We thought the war would be over in a few months, so we postponed until October 2022,” he says.

When the fall arrived and the conflict was still going, the team postponed again. But this time, Nedoruba says, he started hearing pushback from Ukrainians who had registered to compete.

“Please do not postpone Karpatyman anymore,” he says people told him. “We really need this race. Despite the stress of war, this is something that motivates us to wake up in the morning, to stay strong, to keep going to work.”

He heard similar sentiments from the international registrants.

“We want to support Ukraine. We want to support Ukrainians,” Nedoruba says he was told. “You need to make this race happen.”

Realizing the significance that holding Karpatyman could have, Nedoruba and his team eventually decided the race must go on.



It would still challenge participants with its demanding course. But now it carried a deeper importance. It could provide Ukrainian triathletes with a sense of purpose, and it could make a difference in the lives of others, particularly the children, who were affected by the conflict.

Furthermore, Karpatyman could help promote the country’s rich culture—the very thing Ukrainians were fighting to protect, says Nedoruba.

ON OCT. 14, 2023, 23 TRIATHLETES FROM across Ukraine as well as from Poland and Great Britain, accompanied by dozens more supporters and sponsors, gathered in the predawn hours near the rural village of Mereshor, in Ukraine’s Zakarpattia region,

for the start of Karpatyman. After a 2.4-mile swim through the 53-degree F waters of the Tereblia-Ritske Reservoir, contestants biked 113 miles across 7,200 feet of hilly ascents to Tatariv, in the Ivano-Frankivsk region. From there, they ran 26.2 miles to the top of Hoverla (elevation: 6,762 feet).

Karpatyman accomplished everything the team hoped it would and more, says Nedoruba.

It gave participants “the brightest few days in this darkest time in the history of Ukraine,” he says. It also showed the children who have been living through the trauma of war that they can still “be physically and mentally strong ... and enjoy exploring nature and their culture.” And it boosted the local economy by attracting visitors to the family-run hotels, restaurants, and shops throughout the region,

an area that has hosted displaced migrants from all over Ukraine.

As Viktor Mykyta, the governor of the Zakarpattia region, wrote in a letter thanking Nedoruba and the team for holding Karpatyman, “This event has acted as a source of inspiration for Ukrainians to remain resilient and continue fighting for their freedom.”

Nedoruba, who traveled to Ukraine for last fall’s race, says that returning home “was a great and sad experience at the same time.”

“You’re happy because you’re home, you’re seeing your family, [and] spending time with friends,” he explains. “But when you hear the sirens, and see all the ruined buildings, it’s just unbelievable. I still cannot understand how this war happened ... [and] how people can dehumanize [one

“This event has acted as a source of inspiration for Ukrainians to remain resilient and continue fighting for their freedom.”

another] because of propaganda, or money, or power.”

Back in the U.S., he follows the ongoing conflict by keeping in touch with his mother, a schoolteacher who still lives in Ukraine, as well as by following Ukrainian and Russian news outlets. “I compare what’s right, what’s wrong, who’s lying, who’s telling the truth.”

Because of the success of last fall’s Karpatyman, Nedoruba and his team were in-



spired to organize not one but two races for this year. The first, a half triathlon that could serve as an “early season builder race,” was held in June, after this magazine went to print. The second, a full triathlon on the same course as last year’s, is scheduled to take place on Oct. 12. This year’s races will have an increased focus on helping the children of the region, with a portion of the registration fees to be allocated to provide sports equipment for local schools.

“We believe that it will help them with what they are going through,” says Nedoruba.

Beyond that, he says, the team believes that by continuing the Karpatyman tradition, they are doing what they can to continue to demonstrate “true Ukrainian spirit, culture, and strength—the inspiration our country needs.”

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Alumni Award Winners

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[LOOKING BACK]

Gush about Guggenheim

Our historic Guggenheim Memorial Library holds countless stories—but we want to hear yours! Whether the library was the scene of late-night-study marathons, quiet naps, or chance encounters with its reputed ghostly inhabitant, share your memories of how this cherished campus landmark played a central role in your life at Monmouth. Email your stories and photos to magazine@monmouth.edu or mail them to Monmouth Magazine, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764. 📧

Alumni Roundup

Listed by graduation year.

1970s

» After her husband passed away on Dec. 12, 2021, **Barbara Rise '75, '90M** wrote "You Don't Know Jack! How Antics from My Late Husband's Spirit Give Undeniable Evidence of Afterlife," in honor of discoveries she made after his passing. The book was published Dec. 12, 2023; it reached best-seller status on Amazon and was listed as No. 1 on the "Hot New Releases" list within one week. Two book signings brought additional attention to the book, including one at Barnes & Noble in January 2024. "Professional contributions can continue long after retirement," says Rise who, after graduating from Monmouth, taught K-8 for 20 years, eventually specializing in G&T program-

ming. After earning her master's at Monmouth, she became a school counselor for 14 years, also earning two certifications, one in substance awareness and one in mathematics. After she retired, she published a book called "Behind the Counselor's Door: Solutions to the Most Common Middle Schooler's Problems," before heading back to school to become a certified clinical hypnotherapist and starting her own business. "I truly believe in lifelong learning," says Rise.

» **David Middleton '79** is a senior advisor to Brown Brothers Harriman's private equity businesses. Middleton, who served as the president and CEO of Simplura Healthcare, a provider of home care services, from 2007 until 2022, has diverse experience in finance, operations, and general

management in both the services and manufacturing industries, with particular expertise in turn-around/crisis management, labor optimization, cost control, and working capital management, as well as investor, board, and lender relations.

1980s

» The Hon. **Noel L. Hillman '81** (Ret.) joined Gibbons P.C. to lead its Alternative Dispute Resolution practice. Hillman, who spent 18 years as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey, will practice from the firm's Philadelphia, Newark, and New York offices. Hillman was appointed to the U.S. District Court in 2006 by President George W. Bush after receiving the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary's highest ranking ("Unanimously Well-Qualified") and unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate (98-0). His appointment followed a storied career in the Department of Justice (DOJ), culminating in his service as Chief of the DOJ Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section (PIN) in Washington, D.C., where he spent five years and oversaw DOJ's anti-corruption, election crimes, and campaign finance prosecutions nationwide. Prior to these positions, from 1992 to 2001, Hillman served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

» **Susan Bulanda '87M** recently had her latest book, "Military Dogs of World War II," place first in its class in the international writers contest sponsored by the Dog Writers Association of America. This is Bulanda's 12th book. To see all of her books, for which

she's won more than a dozen awards, visit sbulanda.com.

» In March, **Susan Schroeder Clark '89**, Esq. was sworn in as the first female municipal court judge in Middletown, New Jersey. Clark has been a lawyer in practice for more than 24 years. She is a former prosecutor, defense attorney, and child advocate. She also serves as the municipal court judge for Tinton Falls and Howell. Clark began her legal career in 1994 at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, where she started in the appeals section and worked her way up to trial team leader. She left the prosecutor's office in 2006 to stay home with her children and worked as a part-time professor at Monmouth, where she taught both undergraduate and graduate classes in evidence, criminal procedure, and advanced criminal justice. In December 2007, Clark started the law firm of Clark & Clark. She handled all types of criminal cases and represented children in juvenile and educational matters. She left the law firm of Clark & Clark in 2015 upon being appointed as a municipal court judge for Tinton Falls and Howell. She also practices at the Susan Clark Law Group as an advocate representing students and adults with special needs with guardianships and school matters.

1990s

» Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Lakehurst Executive Director **Kathleen Donnelly '91** retired after nearly 40 years of service supporting the warfighter. As the highest-ranking civilian at Lakehurst, she oversaw a number of major changes during her career, including the transition



Muhammad Fahad '22

THIS COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE HELPED AMAZON BUILD ITS NEXT-GENERATION STREAMING TV ADVERTISING PLATFORM.

As a software engineer for the online behemoth Amazon, Muhammad Fahad played a crucial role in developing the company's highly scalable advertising streaming TV service, Sponsored TV. The initiative, which launched earlier this year, expands advertisers' reach across platforms such as Twitch and Prime Video. "My responsibilities included developing targeting algorithms to ensure ads reached customers with relevant interests," says Fahad. "Additionally, I contributed to enhancing the audience experience by constructing new infrastructure for video-ad interactivity."

HOW I GOT HERE

The foundational principles of software development that I was immersed in at Monmouth laid a sturdy groundwork upon which I could build my career. My classes and internships, including one with Goldman Sachs, equipped me with essential skills and instilled a deep understanding of the intricacies of software engineering. Together, these have helped me navigate the challenges and innovations of the industry. They also prepared me well to pursue my master's in computer science from Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the top programs in the country.

WHY I CHOSE MONMOUTH

Monmouth's project-based courses significantly fueled my passion for exploring novel technologies and addressing distinctive problems. Also, Monmouth's smaller class sizes allowed me to engage with my professors on a more personal level.

MY CAREER GOALS

I envision myself spearheading the development of intricate products and offering technical guidance for such ventures. My aspiration is to deepen my understanding of specific business domains across various tech sectors and identify opportunities to innovate and create new products within these domains.

»AS TOLD TO TONY MARCHETTI

to the Navy component of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst under the congressionally ordered Base Realignment completed in 2009. Under her watch, Lakehurst team members developed the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG), groundbreaking components on the new Ford Class aircraft carriers. The development of these systems has also led to physical changes at Lakehurst, namely the construction of the EMALS test facility and the integration of the AAG systems into the Jet Car Track Test and Runway Arrested Landing sites. She also advanced Naval Aviation's additive manufacturing, remote tech assistance, cybersecurity, and aircraft diagnostics capabilities.

A champion for diversity and inclusion, Donnelly is a founding member of Naval Air System Command's Women's Initiative Network and the outgoing Executive Champion for the LGBTQ+ Diversity Action Team. She has

been an active member of the Lakehurst Small Business Roundtable, leading to small business contracts totaling more than \$1 billion supporting Lakehurst's mission. Donnelly received the 2019 Presidential Rank Award and was recently awarded the Department of the Navy (DON) Superior Civilian Service Award, the second highest honorary award under the DON Civilian Awards program.

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

» **Cheryl Donnelly '96M** was elected to the board of directors of the Council on International Educational Exchange, a nonprofit leader in international education and exchange. Donnelly, who joins the board

with a proven track record in global health care leadership, has dedicated her career to safeguarding lives through vaccination and enhancing the lives of individuals battling cancer worldwide. She currently serves as the vice president of global vaccines strategy & new products at Merck & Co., Inc., where she leads the strategic initiatives that enable vaccines to have a profound impact on public health both currently and in the future. Her contributions to the advancement of medicine, patient care, and equity have earned her recognition as a 2024 Luminary by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association, underscoring her commitment to making a positive difference in her field and her dedication to the betterment of society. Additionally, Donnelly, who earned her bachelor's degree in international business at Villanova University, also serves as an advisor on the Graduate Studies and Research Council at the University of Notre Dame.

2000s

» **John Babula '00** is the 2024 National Winner of the Positive Coaching Alliance's Coach of the Year Award. Babula, who has been coaching soccer for 20 years and has spent the last seven years as a volunteer for the Bloomfield Soccer Club, was one of 10 national winners selected from nearly 500 nominated coaches nationwide from all sports at all levels including club, academy, and high school sports.

» **Catherine Cerreta '02** wed Nathaniel Quinn at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, on Nov. 2, 2023.

» **Kate Stevens Kane '02** was presented with an Honor Ring at the 2022 Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) National Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The Honor Ring is the fraternity's highest individual honor. It is presented to alumnae who have rendered sustained and outstanding service to ZTA. Kane has served as past president and historian for the local alumnae chapter in Mercer County, New Jersey, and currently serves as a national officer for ZTA as the district president for New Jersey and New York City. She is the first Zeta member from Monmouth's Kappa Nu chapter to achieve such an honor. She is also a past member of the Monmouth Alumni Board.

» **Janet Heeney-Miller '03** was promoted to vice president, marketing operations and delivery, at Dow Jones. Heeney-Miller began her career at Dow Jones in 2005 in the circulation department for The Wall Street Journal and Barron's. She recently relocated to Virginia Beach and is working remotely in support of her husband who is active-duty military. In addition to her degree in business administration from Monmouth, she earned an MBA from Rutgers Business School.

» **Joseph Lizza '05**, director of the Chamberlain Student Center & campus activities at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, received the Dr. Zenobia Lawrence Hikes Memorial Campus Safety Excellence Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the professional home for the field of student affairs. The award is a special recognition given to a college or university employee who has, over a sustained period, advanced the quality of campus safety by supporting student affairs staff and programs, built collaboration

to ensure a safer campus, and/or is a noted leader/scholar regarding campus safety issues.

» **Jenn Breisacher '06**, CEO of Student-Centered World, a go-to source for all things student-centered learning, released her debut book, "The Classroom Dichotomy." Since taking the helm of Student-Centered World in 2018, Breisacher has dedicated herself to transforming educational environments, and this publication marks a significant milestone in her mission to promote student-centered learning and student engagement.

» **Joseph Silvestri '06** was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant with the Monroe Township Police Department in Monroe Township, New Jersey. He graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy and began his law enforcement career with the Brielle Police Department before being hired by the Monroe Township Police Department in July 2005. Silvestri served in the patrol division and was then assigned to the criminal investigations division in 2014. As a detective, Silvestri taught the Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence Program and completed training to become a certified financial crimes investigator as well as certified crime scene investigator. He was promoted to sergeant in the patrol division in 2019, and in 2023 he was assigned to the administrative division and internal affairs unit. He will now oversee the Professional Standards Bureau.

» **Brian Thomas '07, '11M** and his wife, Kate Thomas, welcomed a son, Colin Thomas, on Nov. 22, 2023. Thomas, who is a councilman in the Borough of Neptune City, was also recently reappointed for a fourth term to the New

Jersey League of Municipalities (NJLM) Legislative Committee, which reviews state policy impacts on municipalities on behalf of all local governments. He was also reappointed to the Legislative Tax & Finance Subcommittee. The NJLM is the oldest organization of its kind in the nation and has a prestigious history.

» **Alexa Melhado '08M** is the vice president of implementation and training at ERPHealth, an outcomes tracking software provider used in the behavioral health sector. She is also an advisor working with private clients in need of concierge behavioral health services with Doyen Consulting Group. Melhado, who has worked in the behavioral health field serving a variety of populations within private and nonprofit organizations since 2006, currently resides in Northern California.

» **Elizabeth Ricciardi Moore '08** and **Bryant Moore '12** welcomed a daughter, Lyla Francesca Moore, on Sept. 6, 2023. Lyla was born at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, New Jersey, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. She joins big brother, Bryant Jr., and big sister, Maya. The family resides in Brick, New Jersey.

» **Lauren Costello '09** was awarded an Emmy for her producing work on "Variety Power of Women: Changemakers." Costello is currently a producer at A+E Factual Studios and has previously worked for National Geographic and Comedy Central. While attending Monmouth, she was a recipient of the Kenneth E. and Ilae R. Knapp Endowed Scholarship and was the programming director at HawkTV.

» **Jenna Gaudio '09** wed **Erik Massimino '15** at Spillian in Fleis-

chmanns, New York, on July 8, 2023.

» **William P. Reiley '09** has been elevated to of counsel at the national law firm of Ballard Spahr. Reiley focuses on complex commercial and consumer financial litigation, including class actions, in state, federal, and appellate courts. In the consumer finance space, he has extensive experience with mortgage, credit card, debt collection, auto loan, and servicing matters. Reiley's clients include banks, mortgage lenders, and servicers, as well as automotive lenders.

» **Nicole L. (Russo) Weingartner '09** was recognized by City & State, a political magazine based in New York City, on their 2023 Power of Diversity: Women 100 list. This is the second year in a row she has been named to the list, which recognizes trailblazers who have paved the way for women to take on an impressive number of powerful roles in New York today. Weingartner was ranked among other perennial power brokers, including New York State Gov. Kathy Hochul, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, as well as leaders in business and nonprofits.

2010s

» **Brian Glicos '10** was recently promoted to senior counsel at Peckar & Abramson, P.C. Glicos focuses the majority of his practice on construction law, representing construction managers and general contractors in various related matters within the construction industry, including construction defect cases, delay and disruption claims, change order and extra work claims, and contract disputes.

» **Lindsey Melody Specht '10** was elected to the Republican National Lawyers Association Board of Governors for 2024. Specht is senior counsel with the Stand Together community, where she counsels several tax-exempt organizations primarily on political law and nonprofit tax compliance, as well as a variety of other issue areas. She also works closely with internal and external partners on donor privacy and other First Amendment policy issues on both state and federal levels. Prior to joining the community, Specht worked for several of the Republican commissioners at the Federal Election Commission.

» **Morganne Dudzinski '11, '13M** was recently named to the No. 90 spot on InsiderNJ's 2023 Insider 100: Millennials List of rising political leaders who are working "to bring about a fairer, freer, and more just society." Currently the interim executive director for the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, Dudzinski earned her B.A. in communication and M.A. in public policy at Monmouth. With a background in nonprofit and education communications, she previously served as director of news and public affairs at Monmouth, and as a staffer to former New Jersey State Sen. Jennifer Beck.

» **Robin Nichols '11M** and her husband, Craig Nichols, welcomed a son, Bode Francis Nichols, on March 6, 2024. He joins big sister Kensie Breigh Nichols.

» **Samantha DeAlmeida '12, '14M, '18M** was recently named to the No. 28 spot on InsiderNJ's 2023 Insider 100: Millennials List. This

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Celebrations

ENGAGEMENTS

1. **Megan Magner '14** is engaged to wed **Jimmy Griffith '14**.
2. **Taylor Bernosky '16** is engaged to wed Daniel Harris.
3. **Emily Townsend '17, '18M** is engaged to wed **Michael Pepper '20**.
4. **Domoah Kutu-Akoi '18** is engaged to wed **Daniel Jefferson '18**.

5. **Meaghan Caulfield '20M** is engaged to wed **Johnny R. Burks '16**.

WEDDINGS

6. **Catherine Cerreta '02** wed Nathaniel Quinn on Nov. 2, 2023.
7. **Jenna Gaudio '09** wed **Erik Massimino '15** on July 08, 2023.
8. **Ryan Clutter '13** wed Jessica Flam on Oct. 21, 2023.
9. **Marissa Clemente '15** wed **Steven Taikina '15** on March 24, 2023.
10. **Leah Leszcynski '15** wed **Jordan Guest '15** on Jan. 14, 2024.

11. **Kaitlyn Brennan '16** wed **Matthew McColligan '16** on Oct. 6, 2023.

12. **Lennon Cooper '17** wed Matthew Gibbia on Oct. 27, 2023.

13. **Alexa Massari '17** wed **Alex Rivera-Arias '16** on April 26, 2024.

BIRTHS

14. **Brian Thomas '07, '11M** and his wife, Kate Thomas, welcomed a son, Colin Thomas, on Nov. 22, 2023.
15. **Elizabeth Ricciardi Moore '08** and **Bryant Moore '12** welcomed a daughter, Lyla Francesca Moore, on Sept. 6, 2023. She joins big brother, Bryant Jr., and big sister, Maya.

16. **Robin Nichols '11M** and her husband, Craig Nichols, welcomed a son, Bode Francis Nichols, on March 6, 2024. He joins big sister Kensie Breigh Nichols.

17. **Theresa Burek Dowd '12** and **William Dowd '11** welcomed a son, Connor Dowd, on Oct. 29, 2023. He joins big brothers Liam and Jack.

18. **Marissa Wendel '16** and **Robert Wendel '16** welcomed a daughter, Madison Wendel, on Nov. 2, 2023.

» Has a notable event occurred in your life or career?
Submit your Celebrations to classnotes@monmouth.edu

is DeAlmeida's fifth consecutive year appearing on the list of rising political leaders who are working "to bring about a fairer, freer, and more just society." DeAlmeida, who earned her bachelor's degree in political science and two master's degrees in public policy and homeland security at Monmouth, is currently president of the Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey. The young Republican is a "rising labor force and a respected voice" who recently oversaw a summer program to introduce trades to middle school students.

» **Theresa Burek Dowd '12** and **William Dowd '11** welcomed a son, Connor Dowd, on Oct. 29, 2023. He joins big brothers Liam and Jack.

» **Ryan Clutter '13** wed Jessica Flam in front of their closest family and friends at Liberty House in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Oct. 21, 2023. After six straight weeks of Saturday rain leading up to the wedding day, the skies cleared for a beautiful outdoor ceremony as the sun set.

» **Megan Magner '14** is engaged to wed **Jimmy Griffith '14**. The couple first met on campus outside of Maplewood Hall during a fire drill. "We really got to know each other because my roommate was friends with his roommate, and they lived in the dorm directly above us," says Magner. "We started dating just one month after that fire drill, and 11 years later on Aug. 19, 2023, he got down on one knee on the white sand of Destin, Florida, with the turquoise gulf behind him. I couldn't have dreamt it any better."

» **Marissa Clemente '15** and **Steven Taikina '15** wed on March 24, 2023 at the beau-

»CONTINUED ON P. 57



ACCOLADES

1. The Hon. **Noel L. Hillman '81** (Ret.) joined Gibbons P.C. to lead its alternative dispute resolution practice.
2. Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Lakehurst Executive Director **Kathleen Donnelly '91** retired after nearly 40 years of service supporting the warfighter.
3. **Kate Stevens Kane '02** (right) was presented with an Honor Ring at the 2022 Zeta Tau Alpha National Convention in Texas.
4. **William P. Reiley '09** has been elevated to of counsel at the national law firm of Ballard Spahr.
5. **Jacqueline DiPasquale '15** appeared as a contestant on "Wheel of Fortune" on Feb. 1, 2024. (Photo Credit: Carol Kaelson/Wheel of Fortune®/© 2024 Califon Productions, Inc. ARR.)
6. **Harry Termyna '19, '21M** (second, from left) was named Monmouth's Student Employment Supervisor of the Year. He was also selected as the regional Supervisor of the Year by the Northeast Association of Student Employment Administrators.



Melissa Richardson (right) with her sister, Tiffany Wilks, and brother-in-law, Keith Wilks, at the official start point of the Lemosho route of the Mount Kilimanjaro trek.

inclines along the Lemosho Route, a challenging path that tested her endurance and determination every step of the way. "Day two was a defining day," she recalls. "The excitement and anticipation had worn off and I wasn't sure I was going to make it. I realized this task was beyond my physical capabilities and, over the course of the climb, I got to the point where I physically didn't think I could take another step."

Despite the physical and mental strain, Richardson ultimately achieved her goal, arriving at the mountain's summit on the morning of Feb. 7. "I prayed my way up that mountain," she admits, adding that meditating on a particular scripture (Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me") got her through.

The true culmination of Richardson's efforts came when she arrived a few days later at the Biafra School in Nairobi, where roughly 250 children attend preschool through eighth grade. During her visit, Richardson had the privilege of meeting the children and serving them lunch, made possible thanks to the funds she raised. She was told that it was the first day every student at the school had lunch since its founding. "These are children who don't necessarily know where their next meal is coming from, and still, they're all smiles," she says. "We talked about their dreams and what they want to be when they grow up. It really motivated me to do more to help them reach their goals."

Looking ahead, Richardson hopes to continue to empower and uplift the community by raising funds for school supplies and desks, providing health education and prevention, and connecting students and parents with teaching, construction, healthcare, and other professionals. "Many of these children do very well in school but don't have the resources to continue their education," she says. "I met one young lady who finished high school and wants to be a nurse. That would be a way out of poverty for her whole family and is far more than what we can do with our fundraising. If we can continue to help them move through school and trade school, the whole community can experience a turnaround one family at a time." 🙏

Scaling New Heights

Melissa Richardson's Mount Kilimanjaro trek helped raise funds for children in need.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

Melissa Richardson '13DNP isn't a practiced hiker or camping enthusiast. But when her pastor proposed that she climb Mount Kilimanjaro with the mission's team to raise money for children in need, she didn't hesitate to say yes. "I had visited my church's sister congregation in Nairobi, Kenya, and saw firsthand the extreme poverty experienced there," says Richardson, a family nurse practitioner and nurse manager at RWJBarnabas Health's Somerset Family Practice. "I embraced the challenge of the climb because I knew we could have a tangible impact on the children of that community."

About eight months ahead of her departure, she began training. She climbed countless flights of stairs and took hours-long hikes, all while simulating the low oxygen conditions she'd encounter on the mountain. And though she knew that

climbing Africa's highest freestanding peak would be no easy task, she is the first to admit that the hike was far more challenging than she anticipated.

For eight grueling days, Richardson navigated treacherous terrain and relentless

How to Go Viral

Make internet magic with these tips from celebrity magician John Stessel.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY

John Stessel '16 first felt the power of magic on his 8th birthday when he unwrapped a magic kit and quickly mastered the art of vanishing coins and beginner's card tricks. What followed was a lifelong fascination with illusion. "There's something really fun and interesting about having a secret that can amaze someone," he says. "I find magic in lots of things—a good piece of music or viral video can be magic. Knowing what strings to pull is magic."

A celebrity magician who performs at exclusive events, Stessel's other job is developing magical marketing campaigns for brands like iHeartMedia and Bicycle Cards. His big break came in 2023, when he filmed a viral video in partnership with TBS. The footage shows him making treats disappear to the delight and confusion of shelter dogs at a Hempstead, New York, animal shelter. "The idea was to show off their personalities and maybe get some of them adopted, and it ended up being the most successful thing I've ever done," he says. Not only was every dog in the video adopted, but the spot was picked up by "Good Morning America," "Inside Edition," HuffPost, People, and more, racking up tens of millions of views along the way.

"That experience made me realize what I wanted to do with magic," he says, adding that performing for shelter dogs online has become something of a passion project for him. "That was the first time I had seen magic make a real change in the world. When you look back on your life, the dream is to reflect on the lives you've impacted, and in this case, it's hundreds of dogs I've helped find homes."

Here, Stessel shares tips on how to go viral.



1 Play the Numbers Game.

Stessel likens each video he makes to a lottery ticket—the more you make, the more shots you have at going viral, and you never know which one is going to hit.

2 Collaborate with Others.

Stessel prioritizes working with creators who genuinely like making content and are good sounding boards for ideas. "The more you work on videos, and the more you brainstorm, the more content you'll share online," he says. "No account is too big or too small to collaborate with."

3 Find Your Hook.

You have about three seconds to get someone's attention with a video, so put the most interesting bit up front to keep viewers engaged, he says.

4 Tell a Story.

Whether the hook is a magic trick or a funny joke, a compelling story is often at the core of most viral videos. What unique story are you trying to tell?

5 Keep Creating.

One of Stessel's video series centers on motivational magic tricks and life lessons. It took about a year to go viral, but when it did, Stessel got 22 million views and 60,000 new followers in two days. "I like to say that nobody is going to care until the world cares. What I mean by that is you have to set aside your ego, because everything is a failure until it takes off."

tiful and picturesque Pleasantdale Chateau in West Orange, New Jersey. They met on the first day of freshman year when they had three fundamental art and design courses together. The couple fell in love during their senior year and have been a true #MonmouthMatch ever since. Many Hawks, including college roommates and fellow art majors, were in attendance on the big day. Bridesmaid **Maggie Smith '15, '19M** was the bride's roommate at Monmouth for three years, and the two have been best friends since 2012.

» **Kevin Dillon '15** is a lecturer in Monmouth's Department of Biology. After graduating from Monmouth, Dillon attended Rutgers University and earned his Ph.D. in microbial biology. After earning his doctorate, he was funded by the National Institutes of Health for his post-doctoral research at Rutgers University. His doctoral and post-doctoral research focused on the diversity and metabolic activity of airborne microbes in indoor and outdoor air. His interests include microbiology, bioinformatics, environmental science, and science education. He is teaching Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology and Microbiology in Health and Disease at Monmouth.

» **Jacqueline DiPasquale '15** appeared as a contestant on "Wheel of Fortune" on Feb. 1, 2024. "Having the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a contestant on 'Wheel of Fortune' as a proud alumna of Monmouth is my greatest honor and privilege," says DiPasquale. "As someone who grew up with a speech delay, a 504 plan, being bullied as a child, and was very shy, it was my time at Monmouth, especially within HawkTV and WMCX, that helped me to break out of my cocoon."

» **Sloane Ginsburg '15** is the owner of Endless Waves, a surf-inspired men's and women's boutique offering a consciously curated selection of premium apparel, accessories, and footwear in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

» **Leah Leszcynski '15** wed **Jordan Guest '15** in Miami Beach on Jan. 14, 2024.

» **Erik Massimino '15**. See note for **Jenna Gaudio '09**.

» **Taylor Bernosky '16** is engaged to wed Daniel Harris. The couple became engaged in front of Cinderella's Castle in Walt Disney World on Aug. 15, 2023. The two are planning a wedding for the fall of 2024. Bernosky is currently an investment associate with PGIM Quantitative Solutions, and Harris is chief of staff/deputy executive director for the New Jersey General Assembly.

» **Kaitlyn Brennan '16** wed **Matthew McColligan '16** on Oct. 6, 2023. The couple met in fall 2015 in Associate Professor of History and Anthropology Adam Heinrich's Artifact Analysis class and "the rest is history" says Brennan, who noted that they both majored in anthropology. The couple was married at Fonthill Castle in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, followed by a reception a few weeks later at the Joseph Ambler Inn in North Wales, Pennsylvania. A handful of Monmouth alumni and members of the Monmouth sailing team were there to celebrate.

» **Johnny R. Burks '16**. See note for **Meaghan Caulfield '20M**.

» **Marissa Wendel '16** and **Robert Wendel '16** welcomed a daughter, Madison Wendel, on Nov. 2, 2023.

2024 Alumni Award Winners

Monmouth University's biennial Alumni Awards ceremony, held in June in the Great Hall, celebrated three distinguished alumni for their professional achievements, outstanding leadership, and dedicated volunteer commitment.



Distinguished Alumni Award

Raymond G. Klose '77 is the president and CEO of Klose Associates Inc., a full-service, award-winning design and build production firm that provides marketing communication services as well as industrial, trade show, museum, and showroom business-to-business exhibit designs for government, higher education, and corporate clients around the world. He is also a managing partner in Meditirinia Properties.

Earlier in his career, Klose worked in new business development for Honeywell, ADT, and Atlas. He was also a project manager for Visual Communications Consultants and served as a board member of Photobition PLC in London.

Klose was elected to the Monmouth University Board of Trustees in July 2018. He is a member of the University's Business Council, where he leads their mentoring efforts, and serves as a member of the Leon Hess Business School Dean's Advisory Council. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Monmouth and is an ardent fan of Monmouth athletics.



Outstanding Alumni Service Award

Tasha Youngblood Brown '97, '03M is a managing director in the consulting practice of Ernst & Young. Recognized as a distinguished honoree on NJBIZ's prestigious list of Top Women in Business for 2022, she stands as an accomplished and purpose-driven leader boasting over 28 years of experience in the field of consulting. Her skill set encompasses a wide spectrum of competencies including risk management, finance, accounting, and information technology.

A community leader, Youngblood Brown serves as a member of the Long Branch Board of Education; as board treasurer of the Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council, working with minority-owned, women-owned businesses and corporations as an advocate for supplier diversity; and on the board of the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County.

Youngblood Brown was elected to the Monmouth University Board of Trustees in July 2020 and elected vice chair in 2023. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and an MBA in accounting from Monmouth.



Recent Alumni Award

Jenna Gaudio '09 is a media technology executive who specializes in building, aligning, and scaling successful teams that deliver industry-leading outcomes. She serves as the co-president (and previously, chief operating officer and vice president for product management) at Vydia, a media technology company that was recently acquired by Gamma. Prior to Vydia, Gaudio played an integral role in the successful exit of early-stage ad tech startup Yashi, which was acquired by Nextstar Media Group.

Gaudio is an active leader and supporter of many community organizations, including Jersey Shore Women in Tech, Women in Music, and Executive Women in Product. She was named a Top Business Influencer by the Asbury Park Press, one of NJBIZ's Top 50 Women in Business, a Top Tech Influencer by ROI-NJ, and a finalist for the #Next-Gen One-to-Watch Award at the Music Business Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Gaudio earned a bachelor's degree in communication, with honors, and remains active mentoring aspiring communication leaders.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The alumni tailgate will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19, before the football team takes on the Bryant Bulldogs! Join us as we celebrate all alumni, with a special focus on graduates celebrating milestones (class years ending in 4 or 9).

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FERNANDO IRAGORRI, CLASS OF 2026
Music Industry major



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» **Lennon Cooper '17** wed Matthew Gibbia on Oct. 27, 2023. The wedding took place at Smithville Park in Eastampton, New Jersey. A few fellow alumni from the cross country and track and field teams as well as members of residential life were in attendance.

» **Alexa Massari '17** wed **Alex Rivera-Arias '16** on April 26, 2024. The couple met at Monmouth in 2013 and began their journey in Laurel Hall during the first week of their sophomore year. During college, the couple traveled back and forth from East Brunswick to Atlantic City. “The Garden State Parkway became our new travel companion—long distance was hard for us, but in the end, it only made us stronger,” Massari says. “Alex proposed to me on July 31, 2022, creating a scenic display at the top of The Asbury Hotel, overlooking the Asbury Boardwalk, our home away from home. In the background, the instrumental version of ‘Watermelon Sugar’ by Harry Styles was playing. Needless to say, after being completely flabbergasted, I said yes.”

» **Emily Townsend '17, '18M** is engaged to wed **Michael Pepper '20**. The couple met in 2017 when they were fortunate enough to work as resident assistants (RAs) together in Cedar Hall. As RAs, the two bonded over the fact that they both enjoyed movies. So, on weekends when they were on duty together, the two would hang out and watch movies. They started officially dating on March 17, 2021. They enjoy going on hikes with their dog, Gigi, as well as exploring new places and looking for the best coffee shops on their explorations. On June 24, 2023, the couple were in Mystic, Connecticut, and Pepper planned a boat trip around the

harbor where he proposed to Townsend. The couple is excited to plan their future together.

» **Domoah Kutu-Akoi '18** is engaged to wed **Daniel Jefferson '18**. The couple met during Kutu-Akoi's freshman year when Jefferson was a sophomore. “When I laid eyes on her, I could tell that there was something different about her—something special,” says Jefferson. The couple realized they were both on the track and field team. And although it took a while for them to start dating, Jefferson says he “never regretted asking her to be mine—her being the phenomenal athlete she was, holding the 60m and 100m records.” After both graduating in 2018, the couple dated long distance for a while before Jefferson ended up moving to Charlotte, North Carolina, to be with Kutu-Akoi in 2021. Fast forward two and half years later, and they're engaged.

» Since 2001, **Chandler Vanderbeek '18** and **Connor Vanderbeek '18** have been serving as vice presidents of the retail division of Edison, New Jersey-based Bussel Realty Corp., where they spearhead the brokerage's business in that sector. The Vanderbeeks, who played men's lacrosse at Monmouth, worked at Jeffery Realty in North Plainfield, New Jersey, as retail brokers before joining Bussel to focus on retail leasing for tenants and landlords.

» **Harry Termyna '19, '21M** was named Monmouth's Student Employment Supervisor of the Year. Termyna, who is a career coach in Monmouth's Office of Career Development, was also selected as the regional Supervisor of the Year by the Northeast Association of Student Employment Administrators.

2020s

» **Meaghan Caulfield '20M** is engaged to wed **Johnny R. Burks '16**. The couple were engaged on July 5, 2023, at Po'olenalena Beach in Maui, Hawaii, and are planning to wed in Spring 2025.

» **Grace Lauren Haemmerle '21** is engaged to wed **Jared Heytink '20**. The couple started dating at Pascack Valley High School in Hillside, New Jersey, before attending Monmouth, with their journey spanning over seven and a half years. “Jared, the master of surprises, took me to a penthouse adorned with flowers and candles in New York City, followed by a delightful dinner with our cherished family and friends, including fellow Monmouth alumni,” says Haemmerle. “I'm ready for the next chapter with my love.”

» **Heather Veltre '21DNP** is the new chief nursing officer at Overlook Medical Center, part of the Atlantic Health System, located in Summit, New Jersey. In this role, Veltre is responsible for the overall delivery and management of nursing professional practice, education, professional development, research, administration, and clinical services, according to Atlantic Health. Veltre joins the Summit hospital from Bayshore Medical Center in Holmdel, a Hackensack Meridian Health facility, where she served as vice president of patient care services and CNO. Prior to Bayshore, Veltre served as vice president of patient care services and CNO at Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen from 2018 to 2022, helping lead the facility through the COVID-19 pandemic. She also

served in leadership positions at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick and at Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck, among other positions.

» **Emmanuel “Manny” Christian '22** is as a producer for Delmarva Sports Network. Christian, who played football as a left guard and became a two-time Big South conference champion on an athletic scholarship, worked for the Monmouth Digital Network as a camera operator and technical director. He was also involved with HawkTV, as a technical director and an audio technician.

» **John Spinelli '22** recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of writing for the Two River Times, a newspaper based in Red Bank, New Jersey, and covering towns along or near the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers in Monmouth County. He also recently celebrated the anniversary of his first self-published novella, “I've Never Seen the Ocean Before,” available on Amazon Kindle.

» **Zachary Dougherty '23** was recently named to the No. 28 spot on InsiderNJ's 2023 Insider 100: Millennials List. This is Dougherty's fifth consecutive year appearing on the list of rising political leaders who are working “to bring about a fairer, freer, and more just society.” As “an active voice for younger residents since he was in his teens,” Dougherty, a Monmouth County native with a B.A. in history and political science, is lauded by InsiderNJ for “spearheading efforts that include the recently established New Jersey Legislative Youth Council,” where Dougherty currently serves as 10th Legislative District Youth Council Representative.



Vincent DiMattio

Professor Emeritus of Art and Design, 1941–2024

If you were lucky enough to know Vincent DiMattio, you would be familiar with his strong handshake, biting sense of humor, and fierce loyalty. You would also know that his family, students, friends, and artwork were his life. His house and his studio were equal parts dwelling, workshop, and exhibition space. Walk into his office or studio and you would have seen piles of books, papers, and folders supplementing the shelves and shelves brimming with art catalogs, travel guides, clippings and correspondences, flea market finds, and art supplies. His teaching, artistic output, and personal relationships were seamlessly linked. He was always working, always teaching, always collecting, and always a friend.

photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO

Vincent's artwork covered many subjects, styles, and media, flowing between formal studies of shape and line to political collages to flat color paintings of sexual imagery to three-dimensional assemblages. He drew from a multitude of influences such as Matisse, Modigliani, Miró, Klee, Puryear, Gorky, Picasso, O'Keeffe, Schwitters, and Tooker. In fall 2018, his 50-year retrospective easily filled all three galleries on Monmouth's campus. The exhibition showcased his prolific output that included painting, drawing, sculpture, assemblage, printmaking, and collage. At times his artworks reflected a deeply personal and planned narrative. At other times, they were reactive and responsive to both the medium and his spontaneous imagination.

He also loved being around people, especially his family, and he loved telling stories—about his youth, about the TV shows he was watching, about the books he was reading. He loved to travel and took over 20 trips to Europe with his students. During a trip to London, he cautioned his students to be careful when crossing the street. “They drive on the opposite side,” he explained, “so don't be a knucklehead and try to cross without looking both ways.” Seconds later, he drifted into the street and was hit by the rearview mirror of a passing vehicle. Immediately, a coy smile appeared on his face as he turned back to the group and said, “Like that. How lucky you all are to have me to demonstrate my lessons to you.”

Those of us who spent time with Vincent in his home, the studio, the classroom, or on a London street corner were indeed lucky. We miss Vincent immensely, but we are all a part of his oeuvre.

Like one of his assemblages, his memory and legacy are held together in a tightly composed work of art, wherein we—his family and friends—are the colors, shapes, and materials that he has brought together. »OLIVIA DIMATTIO, DAUGHTER; COREY DZENKO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART AND DESIGN; SCOTT KNAUER, DIRECTOR OF GALLERIES AND COLLECTIONS; AND MIKE RICHISON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART AND DESIGN.



Srikantaiah Mallikarjun

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Physics, 1933–2024

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in physics from Central College, Bangalore, and his doctorate in physics from the University of London, our dad accepted a professorship at what was then Monmouth College in 1967, where he would remain on the faculty for nearly 50 years. In addition to teaching, he published several papers related to cancer and physics during that time. He also co-authored an "Introductory Physics" textbook that was written for students in India and the Middle East. In 1983, he was promoted to chair of the Department of Physics.

He also became heavily involved in recruiting international students to Monmouth. Every year, he traveled for a month and a half, giving lectures throughout Asia and talking to students about moving to the U.S. to pursue their education. He not only advised them about

their majors but also helped them with immigration and naturalization. Through this effort, he greatly increased the number of international students at Monmouth, changing the lives and trajectories of hundreds of people.

Our dad continued teaching, researching, and presenting until he retired from Monmouth University in 2014. He did well in retirement, spending time with his children and grandchildren; living in Marco Island, Florida, for half the year; and keeping up with his studies, the cryptoquote in the Asbury Park Press, and his friendships.

While his absence will be deeply felt, his legacy will endure through his family as we carry on through this world without him. »JENNIFER ENNIS KOHLHEPP '87, '90M; DAVID ENNIS; NAYANA MALLIKARJUN; AND RAEKA DELONG

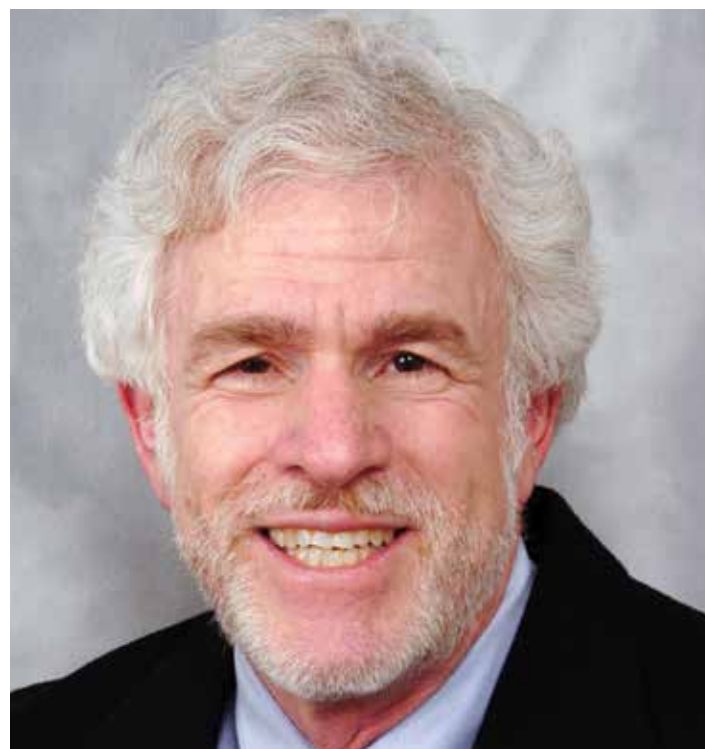
Harris Drucker

Professor Emeritus of Software Engineering, 1943–2024

A passionate teacher and researcher, Harris joined what was then Monmouth College in 1968 to teach in the graduate program in electronics engineering. In 1978, he became a full professor. In the almost 50 years of teaching at Monmouth, he was the chair of the Department of Electronics Engineering, managed the process of creating the information technology minor and certificate program, and was the vice president and chief negotiator for FAMCO, the union for full-time faculty at Monmouth University. An exceptional teacher and mentor, Harris received the Distin-

guished Teaching Award in 1982. After his retirement in 2006, he continued to teach in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. An avid researcher, he published more than 50 papers in machine learning and speech processing. His wisdom and care made him a vital, beloved colleague.

Our condolences go out to his wife and two sons as well as to his extended family and friends. His memory will always be with us. »DANIELA ROSCA, CHAIR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



photos COURTESY OF MONMOUTH ARCHIVES

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

- » Robert C. Stillwagon '48A (Jan. 29, 2024)
- » Raymond S. Tomaszewski '60 (Jan. 13, 2024)
- » John G. Breda '61 (Jan. 6, 2024)
- » Louella B. Schmidt '61 (Feb. 6, 2020)
- » Ernest R. Volkland '61 (Nov. 22, 2023)
- » Richard C. Wharton '61 (April 23, 2024)
- » Jean M. Portz '63 (March 16, 2024)
- » Elizabeth A. Proctor '63A (March 21, 2024)
- » Joseph F. Banafato '64 (Feb. 18, 2024)
- » Michael V. Fogg '64, '70M (Feb. 15, 2019)
- » Robert A. Young '64 (Dec. 20, 2023)
- » John A. Calabrese Jr. '65 (Jan. 18, 2024)
- » Susan L. Miles '65 (Nov. 5, 2023)
- » Robert Morris '65 (April 19, 2024)
- » Robert F. Scally '65 (March 1, 2024)
- » John L. Winterstella '65 (Nov. 15, 2023)
- » Harold F. Darcy '66 (Dec. 13, 2023)
- » Franklin D. Maurer '66 (Jan. 14, 2024)
- » Joel E. Steirman '66 (March 30, 2024)
- » Anthony B. Torchia '66 (Dec. 28, 2023)
- » Kenneth G. Unice '66 (Nov. 4, 2023)
- » William C. Drummond '67 (March 28, 2024)
- » Thomas Lamanna '67 (Oct. 26, 2023)
- » John Z. McRee '67, '71M (2022)
- » Robert X. Petersen '67 (Jan. 5, 2024)
- » Louis G. Sher '67 (Dec. 8, 2023)
- » Joseph W. Stolle '67 (April 21, 2024)
- » Robert L. Bassett '68 (Feb. 1, 2024)
- » Henry Gross II '68 (Dec. 14, 2023)
- » Thomas K. Tenbroeck '68, '71M (Feb. 28, 2021)
- » Carol A. Torre '68 (Feb. 11, 2024)
- » Sharon J. Hills '69 (July 21, 2020)
- » Joseph R. LaCasse '69 (Feb. 13, 2024)
- » Helen J. Woolley '69A (April 16, 2024)
- » John R. Bieljeski '70 (Nov. 26, 2023)
- » Harvey J. Boxer '70 (Dec. 31, 2023)
- » Anthony J. Calabrese '70A (Oct. 20, 2023)
- » Gertrude L. Davenport '70 (Jan. 6, 2024)
- » Charles F. Mason '70 (April 20, 2021)
- » Vernetta P. Richburg '70 (Dec. 22, 2023)
- » Margaret A. Sullivan '70 (Dec. 30, 2023)
- » Louis J. Visco '70 (Oct. 28, 2022)
- » Thomas J. Bott '71 (Jan. 6, 2024)
- » Lance Gotthoffer '71 (July 4, 2023)
- » John H. Kieferdorf '71 (March 5, 2024)
- » Christopher T. Kimmins '71 (April 6, 2024)
- » Eric B. Tillman '71 (Oct. 9, 2023)
- » Susan Bassler Pickford '72 (Feb. 10, 2024)
- » Samuel F. Fusaro Sr. '73 (Feb. 20, 2024)
- » Patricia J. McElwain '73 (Feb. 8, 2024)
- » Patricia D. Moran '73M (Jan. 11, 2024)
- » Joan M. Benus '74M (Nov. 18, 2023)
- » Robert W. Hallock '74 (Dec. 6, 2023)
- » James V. Jabour '74M (Nov. 23, 2023)
- » Donald R. Kleber '74 (Jan. 15, 2024)
- » Jean Montigros '74 (Feb. 3, 2024)
- » John J. Behson Jr. '75M (Nov. 19, 2020)
- » William F. Ritter '75M (Feb. 20, 2024)
- » Gerald J. Schulte '75 (March 2, 2024)
- » Rodger B. Wangerien '75 (Jan. 14, 2024)
- » Robert M. O'Brien '76M (Nov. 26, 2023)
- » Deborah L. Conover '77 (Oct. 22, 2023)
- » Alfred C. Morton Jr. '77, '83M (June 9, 2023)
- » Kenneth J. Gallagher '78 (Jan. 24, 2024)
- » Debra E. Meiss '78 (Jan. 7, 2024)
- » Joan Lane '79 (March 29, 2024)
- » Daryl C. Phillips '79 (Dec. 30, 2023)
- » Valerie J. Collins '80 (Dec. 10, 2023)
- » Eileen Lynch '80, '92M (Jan. 14, 2024)
- » Robert W. Mackey '83 (Jan. 9, 2024)
- » Victor L. Corts '84M (Jan. 9, 2019)
- » Dorothy M. Davis '85 (Dec. 19, 2023)
- » Susan Hungerford '85M (Jan. 27, 2024)
- » Joan L. Brownstein '86 (Feb. 8, 2024)
- » Burdette Theophilus '86M (Jan. 3, 2019)
- » Penelope K. Arvanitis '87M (April 12, 2024)
- » Angelo J. Domenick '87 (April 9, 2024)
- » John A. Dorsey '87 (March 12, 2024)

- » William C. Vanzino '87M (Dec. 11, 2023)
- » Susan K. Black '88 (Nov. 20, 2023)
- » Lynn K. Einbinder '89M (March 17, 2024)
- » Virginia Randall '89M (Oct. 27, 2023)
- » Villaire Pierre '91 (Dec. 30, 2023)
- » Geraldine A. DeFilippo '92M (Feb. 1, 2024)
- » Carl F. Ross-Jennings '93 (Dec. 2, 2023)
- » Kenneth E. Edens '95 (Jan. 8, 2024)
- » William L. Esposito '96 (Feb. 2, 2024)
- » Kathleen Howard Tjunin '96 (Feb. 21, 2024)
- » Victoria A. Jenks '97M (Nov. 13, 2023)
- » Eileen Parks '98 (Jan. 22, 2024)
- » Kyle J. Schneider Auwaerter '00 (Dec. 29, 2023)
- » Shawn Hotz '05M (Nov. 27, 2023)
- » Melissa S. Paul '06 (Dec. 31, 2023)
- » Jennifer M. Rosenblum '12, '15M (April 14, 2024)
- » Lynn A. Stipick '14M (Nov. 24, 2023)
- » Noah F. Dubuss '16 (Dec. 26, 2023)

FACULTY & STAFF

- » Daniel Alsalamah, former adjunct professor in the Department of Chemistry & Physics (Dec. 22, 2023)
- » Elizabeth Clark, former employee (Dec. 15, 2023)
- » Harris Drucker, professor emeritus of software engineering (Jan. 10, 2024)
- » Srikantaiah Mallikarjun, professor emeritus of chemistry & physics (April 10, 2024)

FRIENDS

- » Madison R. Alfano (student) Jan. 13, 2024
- » Virginia "Ginny" Genia Gabriel (former student) Sept. 21, 2023
- » Gen. Alfred M. Gray USMC '90HN (March 20, 2024)
- » Sirwart Hovnanian (friend) Jan. 14, 2024
- » John "Jack" Farley Klose (former student) Dec. 13, 2023

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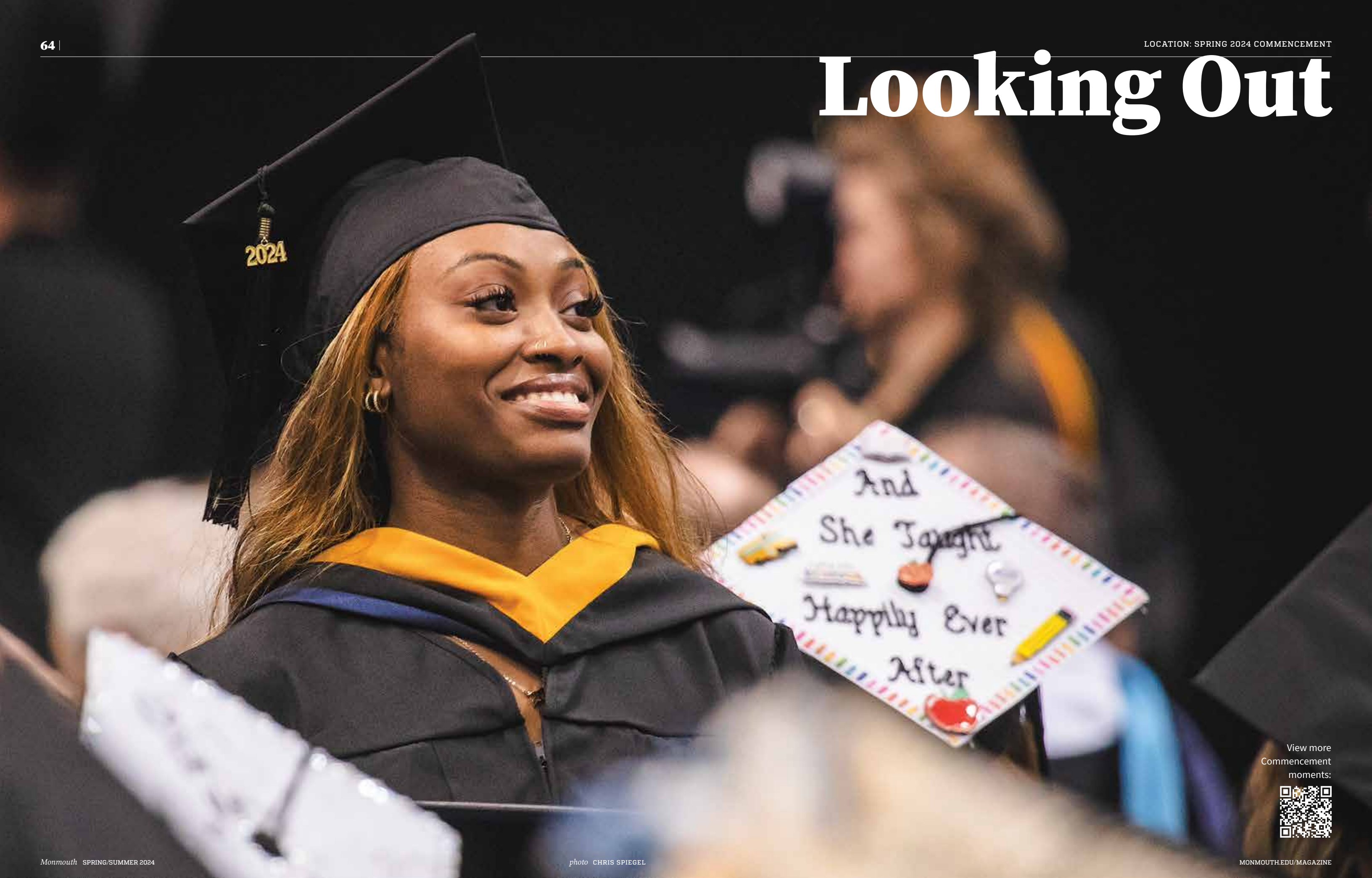
Class Notes, Monmouth Magazine
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Looking Out



2024

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After

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SPRING/SUMMER 2024

4 Things You'll Learn From This Issue

1. Why Bruce Springsteen was back on campus this spring. **»P. 12**
2. Which attribute new women's basketball coach Cait Wetmore values most in players. **»P. 20**
3. How Kimberly Callas merges art and science to highlight our oceans' hidden depths and ecological significance. **»P. 26**
4. How Oleksandr Nedoruba organized Ukraine's first triathlon and inspired hope amid war for the country's citizens. **»P. 40**