



# AlumniConnections

The monthly newsletter for alumni and friends | March 2022 | Volume 16 | Issue 3



## Alumni News



### The College Tour: Coming Soon On An App Near You

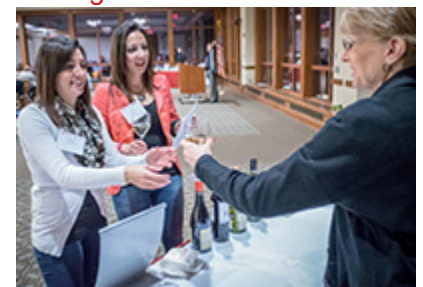
There's a tradition among students who perform as Montclair State University's mascot, Rocky the Red Hawk: it's a secret until they cross the graduation stage wearing bright yellow talons to make the "big reveal." But for one member of Team Rocky that unveiling will be happening on multiple streaming platforms when he un.masks on the television series *The College Tour*. "This is the coolest kind of reveal for Rocky that you could do," says Sean Risch '22, who graduated in January with a degree in Theatre Studies. He represents Montclair along with 18 other students and alumni in the University's hour-long episode that begins running in April on Prime Video, IMDbTV and additional channels. "Being Rocky was a personal thing and sharing that with America is just ... awesome." [\[View the full story\]](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Featured Event

April 5

10th Annual Alumni Wine Tasting



Register for the 10th Annual Alumni Wine Tasting on April 5, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Join us on a wine tasting journey of blends from the traditional to the modern and learn why blending creates some of the most expensive wines and some of the most modern. **Registration** is required. For questions, contact Alyssa Zinola, Office of Alumni Engagement, at [zinolaa@montclair.edu](mailto:zinolaa@montclair.edu) or 973-655-5465.

February 15-April 23

Ajamu Kojo's "Black Wall Street: A Case for Reparations"

March 17

Philosophy for Lunch: Identity and Gender

March 17-20

MOVEMENT



## Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc. 31st Kappa Chapter Anniversary Celebration

Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc., Kappa Chapter, celebrated the fraternity's 31st anniversary during a campus celebration at Montclair State University on February 24. The event was built on the successful celebration of their milestone 30th anniversary, which was held virtually in February 2021 due to the pandemic. The fraternity brothers decided that it was important to gather together in person to celebrate, and they made it happen! Reunion committee chairs, Rey Acevedo '13, Jason Velante '00, Antonio Garcia '01, and Luis Roeder '05, worked closely with the Montclair State Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving team to plan and execute a successful reunion for the Lambda Theta Phi brothers. [\[View the full story\]](#)

## University News



**March 18-25**

[The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time](#)

**March 19**

[African Drumming Master Class with Emmanuel Agbeli](#)

**March 19**

[MSU at the MET- Cali Ensemble Artists](#)

**March 21**

[MBA Executive Speaker Series: Faith Taylor](#)

**March 22**

[Lisa Crafts: A Collection of Her Films](#)

**March 23**

[Organization Tips and Tricks](#)

**March 26**

[MSU Symphony Orchestra](#)

**March 26**

[Gastronomía is Just One Accent Away from Gastronomía: A Cooking Workshop and Tasting about Spanish and Latin American Influences on Italian Dishes](#)

Space is limited. If you would like to attend, please email Joanne Caruso at [carusoj@montclair.edu](mailto:carusoj@montclair.edu) before Friday, March 18. Please provide a few sentences explaining how you relate to the Latin American and/or Italian content of the event.

**March 31**

[What is Digital Citizenship?](#)

View the [full calendar of events](#) and check out some [online resources](#).

**Calling the Classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972**



## Staying Focused on Social Justice

Twenty-three years ago, Rayshawn Brown, Jarmaine Grant, Keshon Moore and Danny Reyes, were headed to North Carolina to pursue their dreams of attending a four-year college and playing professional basketball. But their dreams ended when they were pulled over by police on the New Jersey Turnpike and all ended up shot by police. Now known as the “Jersey Four” their story continues to resonate today, particularly in the wake of so many high-profile killings by police, including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Three of the Jersey Four – Brown, Grant and Reyes – participated in a panel discussion on February 16, 2022, at the Montclair State University School of Communication and Media, hosted by the Black Alumni Advisory Council and moderated by Justice Studies Professor Jason Williams, a social justice activist and criminologist whose research focuses on racial and gender disparities and abuse in the legal system. [\[View the full story\]](#)



## Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope

Montclair State began its month-long celebration of women’s history on March 1 by honoring the caregivers and frontline workers of the pandemic and paying homage to the women who have inspired hope. “As I think about all that women are and all that we do, it is incredible,” said Office for Social Justice and Diversity Director Adela Caceres during a flag raising ceremony, the first in a series of special events planned at Montclair State University to honor the contributions of women through history. “We are moms, we are wives, we are partners, we are sisters and daughters, we are each other’s best friends, we are volunteers, we are philanthropists, we are soldiers, we have varied and vibrant careers and not to mention

Reunion provides alumni with the opportunity to reconnect with each other and with their alma mater. Please save the date for May 20-21! Members of the classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972 will have the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and fellow alumni at their 50th Reunion this May. Interested in attending? Please contact Karen Hackett, at [hackettk@montclair.edu](mailto:hackettk@montclair.edu) or 973-655-4207.

## New Online Certificate in Customer and User Experience Research

Montclair State University is now offering an online graduate certificate program in **Customer Experience and User Experience Research** (CX/UX Research). Designed to meet the growing need for professionals in the field of customer experience (CX) and user experience (UX), the 13.5-credit, five-course program builds student expertise in understanding the needs of customers and the users of technological devices and services. The flexible, short-term online certificate provides an accelerated path to develop a highly specialized skill set. For more information on Montclair State’s online graduate programs, visit [montclair.edu/online](http://montclair.edu/online). Read full article. [View full article.](#)

## Career Corner

during this pandemic, many of us were frontline workers during one of the toughest times in history,” Caceres said. [\[View the full story\]](#)

## More University News...

- [New Study Shows COVID-19 Impact On College Students](#)

## Giving News

# IMPACT Montclair State

### Giving Day - It's Coming! Become an ambassador

We're inviting the entire Montclair State University community to participate in One Day for Montclair - a day of action and celebration. Your support on Thursday, April 28, 2022, will help us create opportunities, elevate achievements and celebrate our students. Help spread the word! Share your support on social media and reach out to fellow alumni as a **#OneDayForMontclair Team Champion**. Please email [giving@montclair.edu](mailto:giving@montclair.edu) to sign up today! We have ONE DAY to reach as many Red Hawks as possible. To hit our goal, we need your help! As a thank you, you will receive a Montclair State phone wallet, and bring in two additional gifts to receive a One Day for Montclair t-shirt! Your participation counts. Remember - all gifts, large or small, add up to make big change. If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact the Office of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement at 973-655-4141 or [giving@montclair.edu](mailto:giving@montclair.edu).

[Make Your Gift Early](#)

## Athletics News



*By Adam Mayer, MA, GCDF, CPRW, Director, University College Career and Academic Programming*

Open office space was all the rage, and continues to be for many employers, but is it really that effective? Well-intentioned, this egalitarian concept is meant to foster better communication, culture, and trust, but a [2021 Cambridge](#) study asserts otherwise—a significant causal relationship between open office noise and physiological stress. Given these findings and the pandemic's effect on in-person work, it's no wonder 70% of employees are seeking new jobs if their employer doesn't offer WFH flexibility. For more on this evolving dynamic, check-out [episode 47](#) of Career Services' podcast [Manual or Automatic: What Gears are Driving Your Career?](#)

### Sign onto **MONTCLAIRconnect!**

Create your profile to start making connections today!

- Expand your network and connect with fellow graduates
- Access Hire a Red Hawk with the click of a button!
- Check out the calendar of events for upcoming digital opportunities



## Red Hawk Sports Network

The Red Hawk Sports Network (RHSN) launched in the Fall of 2019 and is a joint venture between the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Montclair State University's School of Communication and Media. RHSN covers all 18 varsity athletic teams at Montclair State, with live streams of all home contests on YouTube with a color and play-by-play commentator calling the game. The network also has a weekly show called "Inside The Nest." All of Red Hawk Sports Network live webcasts, interviews and other pieces can be viewed through the network's [YouTube channel](#). Did you miss some of the most recent games, check out the Red Hawk Sports Network highlights! [\[View the YouTube Channel\]](#)

## Alumni Spotlights



### Gina Coleman '91

Gina Coleman '91 does not recall many family conversations about higher education when she was growing up in Paterson, New Jersey. "I am the sixth of seven children," she explains. "Everyone was busy working hard to get by." When a high school guidance counselor asked Coleman about submitting college applications, she realized she hadn't even given it a thought. "I went home and asked my mom about continuing my education," she recalls. "She said I could either live on a college campus or get a car and commute to classes. We couldn't afford both. I chose to live on campus and Blanton Hall was my home away from home!" "I applied to

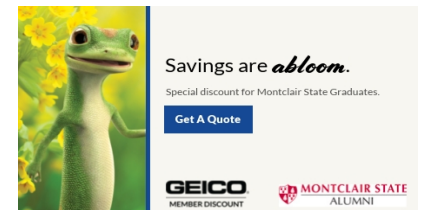
Get started by [creating your account](#) today!

## Did you lose your health benefits? Augeo Benefits can help!

If you just left your job for any reason and lost your job-based health coverage, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

This means you can enroll in a Marketplace insurance plan any time of year. You usually have 60 days from the day you lose your coverage to enroll. Speak with a licensed benefits counselor today by calling 888.807.3881 or get things started with a [free online quote](#).

## GEICO Alumni Discount

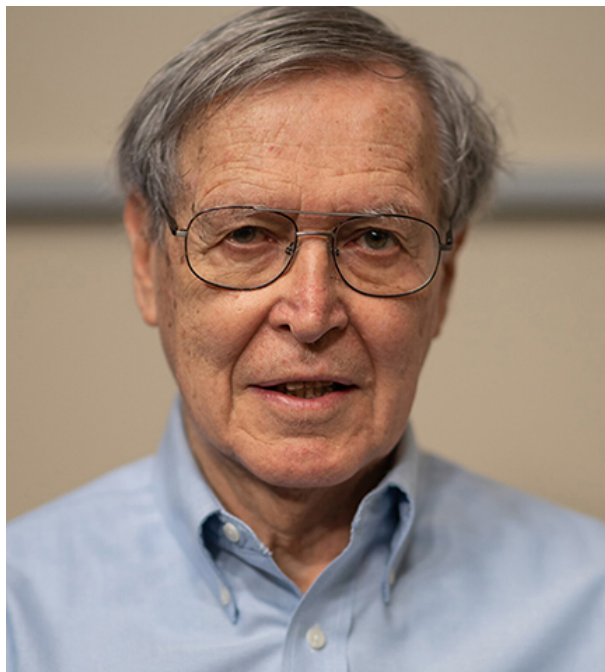


As a graduate of Montclair State University, you may be eligible for a special discount on auto insurance from GEICO. Find out how much you could save. Fifteen minutes could save you 15 percent or more on car insurance.® [\[Learn more\]](#)

## Save big on your car maintenance and repairs!



Montclair State University because it was close to home and became the first in my family to attend college,” she says, noting that her younger sister followed her lead, both becoming the first professionals in their family. [\[View full story\]](#)



## Harvey Schmelter-Davis '61

Harvey Schmelter-Davis '61 wanted to be a teacher. “I wanted to be the best history teacher in the world,” he corrects. But then as now, college was a big investment for the average family. “Montclair, which had just changed its name from Montclair State Teachers College to Montclair State College, had a reputation for offering a high-quality education, and the tuition was an affordable \$150 per year,” he recalls. Schmelter-Davis began graduate studies in geography at Penn State, but left to fulfill his goal of working with students. Teaching assignments in Highland Falls, New York and at Monmouth Regional High School in New Jersey gave him the classroom experience he was looking for. “I loved teaching history,” he says, “but I also began to think beyond the classroom. I completed a master’s degree in history at Rutgers as well as a fellowship at California State University, Los Angeles to earn my community college counseling certification.” [\[View full story\]](#)



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