



# AlumniConnections

The monthly newsletter for alumni and friends | May 2022 | Volume 16 | Issue 5



## Alumni News



### Fighting for Healthy Food for Kids

Montclair State University graduate Isabella Paz Baldrich '19, BS in Nutrition and Food Science, has spent months on Capitol Hill, immersed in the nitty-gritty of policy work, including the wording of legislation designed to address food insecurity among America's children. The 24-year-old dietician will wrap up a nine-month graduate fellowship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) in May. As a CHCI PepsiCo nutritional health graduate fellow, she is working with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor, which oversees child nutrition programs. [\[View the full story\]](#)

## Upcoming Events

- May 20**  
10th Annual Todd Ouida Children's Foundation Conference
- May 20**  
Cali Pathways Spring Concert
- May 24**  
Webinar: Educational Leadership (MA)
- May 24**  
Webinar: MBA and Graduate Business Certificates
- May 24**  
Human Trafficking: A Webinar to Foster Awareness and Action
- May 26**  
Webinar: Online MS in Nursing
- May 29**  
From a Russian Orphanage to a Sicilian Adoptive Family
- June 6**  
Webinar: MBA, Dual Programs and Graduate Business Certificates
- June 8**  
Summer Institute for Summer and Learning
- June 13**  
Webinar: Social Work (MSW)
- June 16**  
Maximizing Your Money Webinar



## The Basketball Reunion - Honoring Women's Basketball Final Four Team 77-78

NCAA Championship season is always more exciting when New Jersey athletes are advancing in the tournament, and the Saint Peter's Peacocks' history-making performance in 2022 had everyone's attention. While many of us might have invited a few friends over to watch the championship game, Fred Hill, Jr. '81 envisioned something a little more grand. On April 4, 2022, Hill welcomed more than 500 former high school and college basketball players, coaches and fans to Newark's Prudential Center for the first-ever "The Basketball Reunion," a celebration of New Jersey's basketball greats that would launch a new basketball Hall of Honor. On the inaugural Hall of Honor roster was Montclair's 1977-78 Women's Basketball team. [\[View the full story\]](#)

## University News

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

## PEAK Performances Announces 2022-21 Season



Artists confront dark truths of the past and present and help us imagine a future beyond them.

[Learn more](#)

## Montclair State University MBA Program

Are you interested in pursuing your MBA degree? Apply today to Montclair State University's MBA program.

Featuring an innovative curriculum taught by distinguished faculty, the MBA Program offers flexible modalities to accommodate your busy schedule. Our program's unique features include research and internship opportunities, an executive speaker series, a mentorship program, global trips and more so that you can develop the skills and experience you need to be successful.

To learn, sign up for one of our upcoming Information Sessions or contact us at [mba@montclair.edu](mailto:mba@montclair.edu) / 973-655-4306.





## Professor Named to 2022 Class of Andrew Carnegie Fellows

Public Health Associate Professor Tamara Leech has been named to the 2022 class of Andrew Carnegie Fellows and will be awarded a \$200,000 stipend to devote up to two years for research and writing in the humanities and social sciences. Leech's work centers on the well-being of youths who live in marginalized and underserved urban environments. In 2019, Leech co-authored a study about common recruitment and retention obstacles that scholars interested in racial disparities research face: potential mistrust from the black community; a stigmatized research topic; and high participation burden. [\[View the full story\]](#)



## Celebrating Survival and Triumph

In a celebration of their parents, brothers Mark and Bernard Ravina along with Montclair State University hosted a special screening of the award-

## Class of 1970, 1971 and 1972 Reunion

Reunion provides alumni with the opportunity to reconnect with each other and with their alma mater. There's still time to register! 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 on May 20-21. Interested in attending? Please contact Karen Hackett, at [hackettk@montclair.edu](mailto:hackettk@montclair.edu) or 973-655-4207.

## Career Corner



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

Not sure how your resume stacks up to a job description?

Interested in getting a detailed analysis of your soft skills, hard skills and overall match rate for a job description? You're in luck because the answers are easily found through jobscan. While you do have to create an account, this free service sheds considerable light on the prospect of resume optimization.

In their words, "The more effectively you can tailor your resume for a specific job, the better your chances are." Good stuff. Check them out at <https://www.jobscan.co/#>

winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Time*, which captures their mother Ruth's remarkable story in surviving the Holocaust. The April 10 event in the School of Communication and Media's Presentation Hall drew close to 100 attendees. Ruth, who was two years old when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, says she was born in "an inconvenient time." Living through three concentration camps by the age of seven, Ruth was the only survivor of her kindergarten class. In the compelling documentary, Ruth shares her story of survival and triumph, recalling the resilient people and surreal twists of fate that enabled her to survive. [\[View the full story\]](#)

## More University News

[Nursing Grads Rock the Today Show](#)

## Giving News



### One Day for Montclair and World's Fair Day a Success!

Thank you to the over 1,300 donors who came together to raise \$215,891 on April 28, 2022, when we celebrated **One Day for Montclair**. We are so grateful to our Montclair State University community who answered the call to help us create opportunities, elevate achievements and celebrate our students. There is still time to be counted in our annual giving campaign this year! Please **make a gift** by June 30, 2022, to support student success at Montclair. Please contact Kara Baldwin '92, Director of Annual Giving, if you have any questions

### 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

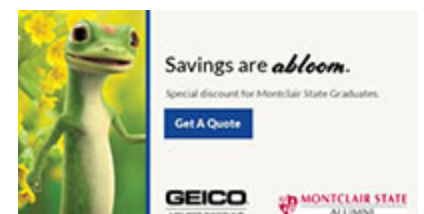
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### Did you lose your health benefits? **Augeo Benefits can help!**

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



regarding your year-end gift at [brennanka@montclair.edu](mailto:brennanka@montclair.edu) or (973) 655-7492. [Learn More](#)

## Athletics News



### NJAC Outdoor Track All-Conference Honors

John Griffith claimed a pair of First Team All-New Jersey Athletic Conference honors to highlight the All-NJAC selections for the Montclair State men's outdoor track & field teams Friday. Griffith was First Team in the shot put and the discus, while Sebastian Cortes, Cameryn Martin and Anthony DiMaulo gained Honorable Mention honors. Cortes was Honorable Mention in the 400-meter dash, while Martin and DiMaulo earned the distinction in the 110-meter hurdles and long jump, respectively. [\[View the full story\]](#)

## Alumni Spotlights



**Julyste Derisse Simmons '94**

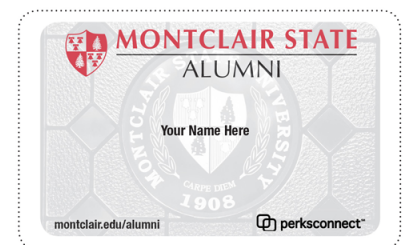
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When Julyne Derisse Simmons '94 first began thinking about college, corporate leadership was not part of her plan. "I was interested in linguistics, and I knew how to speak French," she says. "I thought I might have a career as a translator, perhaps at the U.N." With that path in mind, a high school guidance counselor suggested Montclair. "I knew of Montclair's history and reputation as a teacher's college, and I really liked the campus," Simmons says. Simmons chose French as her major, minored in psychology, and was a part of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. She also took advantage of Montclair's study abroad opportunities, opting to live and study in Paris. [\[View full story\]](#)



### Dr. Sanford Shevack '08 MA

A life-long volunteer in his work developing youths and the communities of Passaic and Paterson, Dr. Sanford "Sandy" Shevack '08 MA, recently received the NJ Governor's Jefferson Award for Community Service. Sandy will be implementing another unique mural project at the Passaic Boys and Girls Club next year, thanks to a grant he received from the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council. The mural will be entitled "Girls Changing Our World." It will feature Emma Gonzalez, Simone Biles, Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg. [\[View full story\]](#)

### Why Get Life Insurance Through AIG Direct?

Hear from our customers who helped protect their family with life insurance. What our satisfied customers say about us in their life insurance reviews say more than any advertising campaign ever could. A review from a customer is a great way to see what people really think about a company. We encourage you to request a **free quote** for life insurance to experience a similar journey as our thousands of other happy customers. Take the first step to help protect those who matter to you. [\[Learn more\]](#)

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