

# AlumniConnections

The monthly newsletter for alumni and friends | May 2023 | Volume 16 | Issue 5



## Alumni News



### Montclair Alumnus and Shark Tank Winner, Tog Samphel '22, Visits Local Elementary School

Local elementary Principal and fellow Montclair alumnus, Hal Abraham '11 '15 MA, PhD teamed up with Samphel '22 to inspire his students with a special challenge.

[\[View the full story\]](#)

## Upcoming Events

May 17 - May 20

[Launchpad - Student Thesis Exhibition](#)

May 18

[M.B.A., Dual Programs, and Graduate Business Certificates Virtual Information Session](#)

May 22

[Commencement Live Stream](#)

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

## Class of 1973 Reunion



Congratulations on the **50th anniversary** of your graduation from Montclair State University!

The deadline to book your hotel room at Best Western Fairfield Executive Inn is **May 22. Call (973-575-7700)**

for a discounted group rate of \$159+ per night. Please mention Montclair State University's Reunion when making your reservations.



## Alumni and University Supporters Raise Over \$270,000 on One Day for Montclair

**One Day for Montclair** (#1Day4Montclair) is a day when the entire Montclair State University community comes together for a day of action and celebration. Thank you to our alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students for answering the call! This year, over 1,650 community members came together to raise over \$270,000. Your support on April 27 helps us create opportunities, elevate achievements and celebrate our students.

[\[View the full story\]](#)

## University News



## "Cooking with Koppell" Launches on Hawk+

Online registration is closed. If you would like to register, contact Rachel Vigilante, at [vigilanter@montclair.edu](mailto:vigilanter@montclair.edu) or 973-655-5465.

## BAAC Black Alumni BBQ Saturday, June 10



The Black Alumni Advisory Council invites you back to campus on Saturday, June 10, for a summer barbeque. Come connect with fellow alumni and friends for food, drinks (soft and beer/wine), games, music and dancing! There will be fun for the whole family. Future Red Hawks (children) are welcome and can enjoy face painting, cotton candy and glitter tattoos!

[Purchase Your Tickets](#)

## Save the Date: Summer Social @ McLoone's Boathouse June 29



Join us at McLoone's Boathouse on Thursday, June 29 for an opportunity to network with fellow Montclair graduates while enjoying the first few weeks of summer with waterfront views.



New student-produced show featuring President Koppell and fellow Red Hawks debuts on the School of Communication and Media's streaming platform.

[\[View the full story\]](#)



## Chemistry Student Wins Prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

A Montclair State University undergraduate was named a 2023 Goldwater Scholar, becoming the first student in University history to earn this prestigious award. Junior Chemistry major Marisa Messina's research focuses on an enzyme that could one day be used to target breast cancer treatments.

[\[View the full story\]](#)

## More University News

### [American Heart Association HSI Scholars Share Research Findings](#)

[Six Montclair students participating in the national AHA program were honored at the HSI research symposium](#)

### [Graduate Programs Ranked Among Nation's Best in U.S. News](#)

[Rankings](#) Education programs ranked in the Top 100 for the first time in 2023-2024 Best Graduate Schools rankings

## Giving News

More event details to follow.

## Dental Insurance



Your alumni association has partnered with AMBA and Ameritas to offer quality dental plans at affordable prices, so you can find the best dental insurance plan for you and your family.

The Ameritas Dental Network is one of the largest in the nation, making it easier for policyholders across the country to see the dentist of their choice. Plans also feature next-day coverage, no enrollment fees, and preventive visits, such as dental exams and cleanings, are covered up to 100%.

[Learn More](#)

## MS Business Analytics Info Session - June 6

In today's data-driven business environment, virtually every profession requires practitioners to identify, sort, and analyze data and information, enabling informed business decisions and driving success. Learning how to utilize data for strategic purposes also has distinct competitive and career advantages.

Montclair's MS in Business Analytics program is designed for working professionals, with flexible course schedules and online learning options to accommodate busy schedules, with completion



## Forging a Path

The path that led Wamwari Waichungo '90 to Montclair and to the career she loves seems guided by fate. What has been purposeful, and impactful, is her unwavering drive to create pathways for future generations, which is leaving an indelible mark at her alma mater. [\[View the Full Story\]](#)

## Athletics News



## Itoua Sets School Record In 100 At NJAC Outdoor Championships

Rookie Michelle Itoua broke the school record in the 100-meter dash to highlight top performances at the New Jersey Athletic Conference

possible in as few as **16-20 months.**

[Register Today](#)

## Union County Alumni!

We are excited to be partnering with Union College (Scotch Plains Campus) to be offering our MBA, MS ELAD, and Computer Science and Business Management (Undergrad programs are post Associates equivalent) this fall.

All programs are hybrid and evenings in a convenient location, but fully Montclair Degrees with our faculty and curriculum.

Please reach out to [Kirsten Tripodi](#) for more information.

## HAWK+



Stream some of Montclair's School of Communication and Media (SCM) best content on their brand new digital streaming platform **Hawk+** a free digital streaming platform that curates video content from across the University.

[Stream Hawk+](#)

## Sign onto MONTCLAIRconnect!

[Create your profile](#) to start making connections today!



Outdoor Championships on Saturday, May 6.

[\[View the Full Story\]](#)



## Griffith, Thomas Collect Wins As Men's Track & Field Takes Third At NJAC's

John Griffith and Jabez Thomas notched victories as the Montclair State men's track and field finished third at the New Jersey Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships. The third-place finish is the highest team finish since 2015.

[\[View the Full Story\]](#)

## Alumni Spotlights



### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Michael Maiorana '99 MBA

**Michael Maiorana '99 MBA**

*Transforming Customer Experience in the*

- Expand your network and connect with fellow graduates.

- Access Handshake to post a job or search for a job with the click of a button!

- Check out the calendar of events for upcoming digital and in-person opportunities

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

Our featured **MONTCLAIRconnect group of the month** is the **Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)**. EOF Alumni help provide a critical support network for current students by speaking with students, serving as mentors, and demonstrating the path to success beyond Montclair State. [Click here to sign up and learn more.](#)

## Career Corner



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

### 5 Job Search Tips for College Grads

1) Continuously learn and develop new skills: Attend workshops, seminars, and webinars, take online courses, and read industry publications.

2) Network: Connect with alumni, colleagues, and industry professionals through social media, LinkedIn, and professional organizations.

## Government Sector

As Vice President, Public Sector – Experience Insights and Analytics at Medallia, Michael Maiorana '99 MBA is bringing his passion for public service to state and federal agencies across the country, helping them to improve customer experience. Might his vision for effective customer dealings with government agencies have us looking forward to our next visit to the motor vehicles office? If Maiorana has his way, it certainly will.

[\[View full story\]](#)



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anabella Poland '20 MBA

### Anabella Poland '20 *Radio Rules*

As general manager of WMSC 90.3 FM, Anabella Poland '20 MBA is raising the “Voice of Montclair State” to new heights. Under her leadership, the station is sweeping 2023 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) award nominations while providing valuable – and unforgettable – career preparation experiences for students who are passionate about radio.

[\[View full story\]](#)

- 3) Be proactive: Don't wait for opportunities to come to you.
- 4) Seek feedback and mentoring: Identify mentors who can provide guidance and advice on your career path. Seek feedback from your colleagues and supervisors to improve your skills and performance.
- 5) Maintain a positive attitude: Your attitude can have a significant impact on your career success.

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