

The magazine of Montclair State University

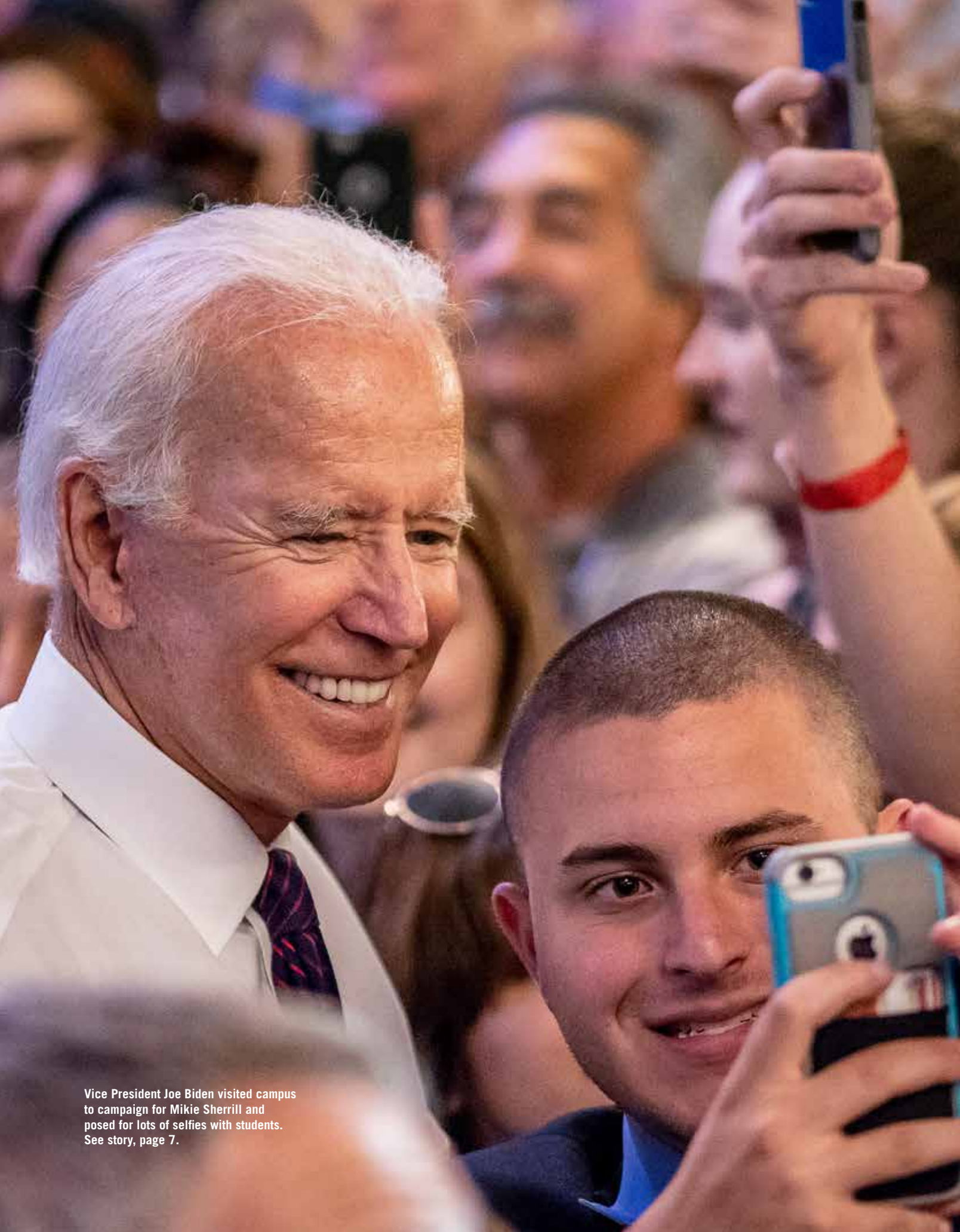
Fall/Winter 2018

MONTCLAIR

University
Aims High With
Fundraising Goal

SOAR

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY



Vice President Joe Biden visited campus to campaign for Mikie Sherrill and posed for lots of selfies with students. See story, page 7.

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The Red Hawk statue soars by College Avenue.



MONTCLAIR

The magazine of Montclair State University

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This fall, as we mark the University's 110th anniversary and celebrate its tremendous growth in both size and reputation, we have officially launched Soar, The Campaign for Montclair State University, a \$75 million fundraising effort.

When the New Jersey State Normal School at Montclair opened in 1908, with the mission to educate and train an initial class of 187 students in the science of education, it would have been hard to envision the day when Montclair State would grow into a national research university, serving more than 21,000 students and offering more than 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate degree programs. But here we are!

To maintain the University's momentum and commitment to providing life-changing and affordable educational opportunities, the private funds raised by the Soar campaign will allow us to increase the number of students supported by scholarships, to fund groundbreaking research and innovative academic programs, and to improve the campus experiences for all of our students and faculty.

The Soar campaign both celebrates how far we have come and reflects our ambitions for the future. An affordable, high-quality education matters greatly in a democratic society, and philanthropic support is central to our goal to reach all those students who deserve access to the excellence Montclair State University offers. Our core mission is to serve students who reflect the full diversity of our society, without respect to their economic circumstances, which means that in addition to providing a rich academic experience for students, we must ensure they can afford it. Multitudes of gifts from alumni, foundations, corporations and friends of the University have made possible initiatives that enrich the educational program and contribute to keeping the University affordable for students.

We are committed to sustaining Montclair State as a first-rate, student-centered research university, and we are grateful to all those who believe in and support our work. This issue highlights some of the benefits that gifts to the Soar campaign have already provided to our students. I invite you to visit montclair.edu/soar for more updates and to watch a short but inspiring video that captures our compelling story.

Thank you for all that you have done to bring us this far and for providing opportunities for generations to come. Together, we will soar to new heights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan A. Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan A. Cole

FEEDBACK

Enjoy the magazine?
Have a story idea for us?
We want to hear from you.

Email us at editor@montclair.edu.
(We reserve the right to edit letters.)



OUR FAVORITE TWEETS AND POSTS



Doubling in size and scope in just three years, the “Green Teams” sponsored by the PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies spread out across the Garden State to tackle how industries and communities adapt and innovate greener ways of doing business, and as this tweet from August shows, connect with global sustainable development goals set by the United Nations.



With Montclair State nationally recognized for its campus diversity, Fox News included an interview with President Susan A. Cole and Montclair State students (shown in this tweet when the crew visited campus) for a series on diversity and education.



Mary Stanton, a junior Theatre Studies major at Montclair State, tweeted about the time Vice President Joe Biden called her dad. It happened during Biden's visit to campus. With the vice president posing for selfies with students, “I tried to scramble some thoughts together,” Stanton recalls, “and blurted out a jumble of ‘You’re an inspiration, I grew up knowing and respecting you.’ And then I mentioned my dad (Tom) who is a huge supporter.” Biden's response? “Your dad? Put him on the phone!” Stanton says she did what the VP asked, calling her dad and praying he would pick up. “Thankfully he did and he was in just as much shock as myself.” See page 7 for a story about the event.



Correction

A timeline in the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *Montclair* magazine misidentified the first African American president of Montclair State. When Dr. David W.D. Dickson became president in 1973, he also became the first African American to head a New Jersey state college or university. A corrected version of the timeline has been reprinted and can also be found at montclair.edu/magazine.



HEADLINES



skills and competencies that organizations in the private and public sectors need to be successful. For example, our inaugural online short-duration certificate programs in the expanding fields of blockchain technology and analytic linguistics/criminal translation, along with a line of technical skills workshops to enhance young professionals' resumes, address immediate needs in our state and region – while furthering students' education and career goals.”

In addition, students enrolled in the short-duration, non-credit CAPE certificate programs will receive personalized career guidance and support – an innovative feature that sets CAPE's approach apart from those of most other continuing and professional education programs.

While CAPE helps northern New Jersey government, not-for-profit and private organizations and groups develop cost-effective solutions to their training needs, it is also committed to developing and delivering personal-enrichment and community-engagement programs by growing partnerships with community organizations, such as the Montclair Public Library.

To see a full list of offerings, visit montclair.edu/cape. ■

Continuing Ed Expands Course Offerings

Montclair State's expanded Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) offerings include face-to-face and online credential-bearing courses designed to help working professionals advance or change careers; provide enrichment for lifelong learners; and meet the needs of area businesses

seeking skilled “new collar” professionals.

“CAPE's courses reflect today's workplace realities, while learners of all ages can explore outside interests and passions through personal enrichment offerings. CAPE's community service options give our local community access to the

University's robust health, social service and community-oriented resources,” says Montclair State University Provost Willard Gingerich.

“We're taking a holistic approach to continuing and professional education,” says CAPE Executive Director Peter McAliney. “We've identified

New Semester, New Degree Programs



Registered nurses are now able to earn an MSN online.

The fall semester marks the launch of dynamic new graduate degree programs in Nursing and Social Work, as well as a brand-new undergraduate major in Medical Humanities.

The online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) offers three concentrations – administration, education and clinical research – providing “registered nurses the opportunity to advance their practice and education, and to specialize in an area that’s meaningful to them,” says School of Nursing Dean Janice Smolowitz.

In the new Master of Social Work (MSW) program, advanced practitioners are being prepared to provide clinical and advocacy services to vulnerable children, teens and their families.

“Graduates will promote the well-being of their clients by engaging in ethical, culturally competent and evidence-based practice – and by demonstrating a strong commitment to social and economic justice,” says MSW Program Director Svetlana Shpiegel.

The new bachelor’s degree in Medical Humanities examines far-ranging questions about health and illness, and connects the hard science of modern medicine with the healing powers of art.

Students will delve into the social sciences, humanities, arts, biomedical sciences and caregiving disciplines to explore and understand the human experience of health and illness, says Jeff Gatrall, director of the BA in Medical Humanities program. ■

GOVERNOR LAUNCHES ‘RESEARCH WITH NJ’

Montclair State University is among six leading New Jersey universities contributing to “Research with NJ,” a scientific research database created to support the continued development of New Jersey’s innovation economy.

Governor Phil Murphy launched the portal in August, saying it is designed to foster collaboration between business, industry and prestigious New Jersey research institutions by providing free access to institutional research in science, technology,

engineering and mathematics. “Through Research with NJ, the University is able to share more fully our exceptional research assets and expertise in the search for solutions to today’s most pressing societal and scientific issues and in applications of new knowledge,” says President Susan A. Cole.

The portal showcases researchers from Montclair State, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Princeton, Rowan, Rutgers and Stevens Institute of Technology. Vice Provost for Research and Graduate School Dean Scott

Herness sits on the Research with NJ Advisory Board, which provides oversight, guidance and insights for the portal’s success.

“Research with NJ reflects the state, national and international impact of the University’s research efforts,” he says. “For New Jersey entrepreneurs and industry innovators, it is a streamlined, efficient way to connect with the cutting-edge institutional research breakthroughs that lead to the creation of new products – and bolster the state’s reputation as a national leader in innovation.” ■



Dancers Tayler Riveron and Marsha Pierre perform *To Have and To Hold*, the dance they performed with Montclair State classmates at the Kennedy Center in June.

STUDENTS’ KENNEDY CENTER DANCE EARNS AWARD

Six students from Montclair State’s BFA in Dance program performed the modern dance masterwork, *To Have and To Hold*, on the Kennedy Center stage at the American College Dance Association (ACDA) National College Dance Festival in June. Their bravura performance was recognized with the ACDA/*Dance Magazine* Outstanding Performance Award.

This is the 10th time University dancers have been selected to perform at the prestigious festival. “Our program in Dance has emerged as one of the best in the nation,” says College of the Arts Dean Daniel Gurskis. “Our graduates are on their way to success at dance companies around the country – and around the world.” ■

STUDENT WOWS JUDGES ON *THE VOICE*



When Radharani Martinez – better known by her stage name RADHA – belted out Jessie J’s “Mamma Knows Best” on the first day of on-air auditions for the hit TV show *The Voice*, judges Adam Levine, Jennifer Hudson and Blake Shelton quickly responded. After Levine used his only block to keep Hudson from being a potential coach, RADHA chose him as her coach.

“He really fought for me, so now it all feels like being on Team Adam was meant to be,” RADHA recalls.

RADHA has been singing since age 4 and performing since sixth grade, and since *The Voice* premiered in 2011, she has dreamed of competing on its national stage. “Being here and physically seeing myself live my dreams is indescribable,” she says. RADHA is taking

the fall semester off from her studies as a Television and Digital Media major to focus on *The Voice*.

Regardless of the final outcome, RADHA knows she is already a winner. “I’ve already gotten a taste of what it’s like in the ‘real world’ – the world I want to be a part of. *The Voice* has opened up parts of me I didn’t know existed.” ■

Grad Appears on FOX-TV Dance Show

Judges on the hit FOX TV show *So You Think You Can Dance* described contestant Cole Mills’ dancing as “gorgeous,” “genuine” and “amazing” before naming him as one of the five male finalists who would compete along with five female finalists in the live shows.

Despite being eliminated on the show’s third live episode, making the Top Ten was an unforgettable experience for Mills, who graduated in 2016. “There’s no other opportunity where the best choreographers in the commercial industry create works of art specifically for you,” he says. “There is so much emphasis on the dancer that being yourself never felt so good.” ■



FROM WALL STREET TO BROADWAY

In “Defying Gravity,” the first act finale of the hit musical *Wicked*, Elphaba – the Wicked Witch of the West – sings, “It’s time to trust my instincts/Close my eyes and leap.”

That is precisely what Jessica Vosk ’07, who is currently starring as Elphaba on Broadway, did when she quit her job on Wall Street to pursue a career as a performer nine years ago.

After suffering panic attacks at work, Vosk realized that art was

what was missing from her life, so she trusted those instincts to rekindle her early dream of being a performer.

She made her Broadway debut in 2014 in *The Bridges of Madison County* and left the cast of the Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* to star as Elphaba on a national tour of *Wicked*. In July, Vosk joined the Broadway cast of *Wicked*, which is celebrating 15 years on Broadway. ■

Red Hawks Get Out the Vote; Biden Visits Campus



Clockwise from top left: Vice President Joe Biden takes a selfie with students and fans; students led a get-out-the-vote effort; Biden and then congressional candidate Mikie Sherrill pose with students; Sherrill poses for selfies with students and others. Sherrill went on to win the 11th District on Nov. 6.

Montclair State's efforts to get students registered to vote this year got a boost on the first day of classes when former Vice President Joe Biden stopped by campus with Governor Phil Murphy to stump for congressional candidate Mikie Sherrill, shaking hands and posing for selfies. It was an Instagramable moment that inspired political engagement among campus voters.

That high-profile event helped efforts by Britah Odoni, a graduate student working on a combined BA in Jurisprudence/MA in Law and Governance, who also works for the

University's Office of Civic and Voter Engagement. After the September rally, Odoni says she saw an increase in both the number of students who registered and pledged to vote.

Among the motivated was Naajidah Khan, a junior political science major who spoke about her personal journey to civic engagement at the rally. "When you have an elected official standing in front of you, shaking your hand and telling you, 'You need to vote,' it's inspiring and brings everything into context about why things matter and why you need to be engaged," says Khan, who also volunteered

for Sherrill in New Jersey's 11th congressional district, which includes Montclair.

"I decided to educate myself on how we got here and how I could be proactive and make a difference," Khan told the crowd. "I began to understand the importance of off-year elections, civic engagement, that every vote really does count, and how our current political climate has been allowed to take shape in large part because of our own complacency."

The Office of Civic and Voter Engagement promoted registration, rewarding students

who join the voter rolls with T-shirts that feature the slogan, "Grumble. Complain. Blame. Tweet. Protest. Vote." Montclair State also competed in the Ballot Bowl, a non-partisan, statewide collegiate voter registration competition connected to the September 25 national registration drive. For the first time, the University was able to target registration strategies using data that shows which kinds of students vote and which do not, according to Mariel Pagán, director of the Center for Student Involvement. In the 2016 Presidential election, for instance, nearly 56 percent of all Montclair State undergraduate students voted, a number provided by the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement.

The University's efforts recently earned it a spot on the listing of America's Best Colleges for Student Voting Information published by *Washington Monthly*.

"The University feels strongly that part of our core responsibility to the State of New Jersey and to society as a whole is to help students develop and execute their rights and responsibilities as citizens," says Karen L. Pennington, vice president for Student Development and Campus Life. "Voting is the most fundamental of those rights, and the responsibility of all who are eligible to be a part of creating and sustaining the type of world in which they want to live." ■

Student, Alumni among *NJBIZ's* Forty Under 40



From left: Luzaj, Lazare and Garcia

At just 22 years old, George Garcia, a senior at Montclair State University, has had a hand in two startup companies and a seat on a government agency looking at economic development. He's a young professional to watch, according to *NJBIZ*, which named him to its list of 40 influential up-and-comers, all under the age of 40.

The *NJBIZ* Forty Under 40 awards recognize the achievements of millennials making headlines. Garcia is the CEO of a social application startup called Wheatpaste Inc., which won the Montclair State pitch contest, the biggest collegiate prize for promising entrepreneurial ideas at any university in New Jersey.

Garcia isn't the only one connected to the University who made the list. Two alumni joined him on this year's Forty Under 40:

- Shannon Lazare '09 MBA with a concentration in Management and a vice president at M&T Bank was named to the list in Banking.
- Ermal Luzaj '03, '10, a partner at Sax LLP, was named in Accounting. At Montclair State, Luzaj earned a BS in Accounting and a MBA. ■

2018-19 ENROLLMENT BREAKS RECORDS

Members of the Class of 2022 are among 21,115 Montclair State undergraduate and graduate students – the University's highest-ever recorded enrollment.

The applicant pool hailed from 45 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and nearly two dozen foreign countries. ■

GRAD LANDS ROLE ON *BLUE'S CLUES* REBOOT

Montclair State University alumnus Joshua Dela Cruz '11 was recently named the new host of the reboot of Nickelodeon's popular children's show *Blue's Clues*, titled, *Blue's Clues & You*.

The Bergenfield, New Jersey, native will make his television series regular debut after appearing in Disney's *Aladdin* on Broadway as the understudy for Aladdin and a member of the ensemble. He has also appeared in other theater productions during his career, including David Byrne's *Here Lies Love* and *Encores! Merrily We Roll Along*. His TV appearances include CBS' *Bull* and ABC's *Time After Time*.

"Never in a million years did I imagine when I was in

Bergenfield, I'd be that guy someday," Dela Cruz told NJ.com for a recent story.

"I'm so excited to bring (the show) to a new generation because they can watch with their parents who might have nostalgia with this show," he said. "I want to get kids to be excited about curiosity, to not be afraid to ask for help, and just be silly and make mistakes."

In *Blue's Clues & You*, beloved animated puppy Blue invites viewers to join her and host Dela Cruz on a clue-led adventure and solve a daily puzzle. With each signature paw print, Blue identifies clues in her animated world that propel the story and inspires viewers to interact with the action. ■



Dela Cruz

From left: Alumnus Anthony Scriffignano '82, '85 MA and University board member Francis Cuss join Susan A. Cole, Lora Billings and Constantine Coutras at the opening.



INTRODUCING THE CENTER FOR COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Mallory Hall transformed into a technologically advanced research and instructional facility



When it was dedicated in 1963 to honor former Montclair State Mathematics Professor Virgil Mallory, Mallory Hall was a modern educational facility with what was then considered state-of-the-art classrooms, labs and a lecture hall. More than half a century and a complete renovation later, the 34,400-square-foot Mallory Hall has been transformed into the 43,800-square-foot, cutting-edge Center for Computing and Information Science.

Funded in part by state bond funds, the new \$22.2 million facility – like the other bond-funded projects such as Partridge Hall, the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences, and the Feliciano School of Business building – supports Montclair State's mission as a Carnegie-designated research doctoral university and state-designated public research institution.

"The new Center will allow New Jersey's second-largest university to sustain and grow high-quality, high-demand science programs that are directly aligned with the state's and our students' needs," says Lora Billings, the new dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

Classrooms and labs in the Center for Computing and Information Science include specialized research labs and instructional spaces for areas such as cybersecurity, data science, image processing, parallel and distributed computing, human-computer interaction and computational sensing.

The University's strategic technology partner Sony Electronics has delivered a unique mix of classroom technologies, active learning solutions and state-of-the-art professional equipment – such

as laser projectors; 55- and 85-inch displays; robotic pan/tilt/zoom cameras in collaborative spaces; and wireless microphone systems – to the high-tech center.

Department of Computer Science Chair Constantine Coutras is especially looking forward to the Center's significantly expanded research spaces. With all the research space, Coutras explains, "We'll be able to offer new graduate degrees, including an MS in Cybersecurity and an MS in Data Science."

Another standout feature is the reconstructed and expanded skywalk that connects the Center to neighboring Schmitt Hall. Says Billings, "These common areas encourage increased communication within and across different disciplines, inspiring new research directions." ■

SEEN AND HEARD ON CAMPUS

Montclair State hosts wide-ranging programming that shapes the University as a cultural, artistic and intellectual center for the campus and community. Here's just a sampling of the guest speakers seen and heard this fall.

Mehmet Oz, host of *The Dr. Oz Show*, made a house call to talk about the importance of mental and physical resilience. He touched on managing stress to improve health and wellness and how thoughts and actions set you up for success (or failure).

Celebrated education thought leader and scholar **Linda Darling-Hammond**, president of the Learning Policy Institute and professor emeritus at Stanford University, explored "The Current and Future State of Teacher Education."

New Jersey's top-ranking lawmaker, Senate President

Stephen Sweeney, joined Brigid Harrison, professor of Political Science and Law, in a salon-style conversation on civic engagement and the future of New Jersey politics.



First Lady Tammy Murphy visited campus on National Latina Equal Pay Day.

In a conversation on #MeToo, the School of Communication and Media (SCM) Colloquium Series looked at the media, race, gender and making it with **Vickie Burns**, a pioneering

media executive who ran NBC-owned newsrooms in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, D.C.; and **Hugo Balta**, a broadcast and digital media news executive and former senior director at Disney ABC Television Group.

On National Latina Equal Pay Day, the University and partner Latina Surge hosted an event on campus focused on equal pay issues in the Hispanic community that featured a keynote address by New Jersey First Lady **Tammy Murphy**.

As part of a partnership between the SCM and the Montclair Art Museum, the School held a panel discussion on the intersection of social justice, race, media and art with panelists **Soledad O'Brien** of HBO and Hearst News, MSNBC's **Joy Reid** and WNYC's **Kai Wright**. ■

Police Lt. Honored



Montclair State University Police Lieutenant Timothy Fox was recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police with its 40 Under 40 awards for 2018.

Each year, the Association honors 40 law enforcement professionals under the age of 40 from around the world who demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment to their profession. Fox has been with the University's police department since 2004. ■

ALUMNUS RECEIVES YOUNG COMPOSER AWARD

The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation's prestigious Morton Gould Young Composer Award encourages concert music creators aged 12 to 30. Montclair State alumnus Aferdian Stephens received the 2018 award for his *Trio for Violin, Clarinet and Piano*. He was among 17 composers from around the world selected by a panel of composer judges from a competitive field of 520 entries.

After graduating from Montclair State with a degree in music composition in 2014, Stephens

went on to earn an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a Master of Music degree from the Mannes School of Music. He is also the recipient of the Bohuslav Martin Award for his orchestral composition *The Clock*.

A multidisciplinary musician, he has composed one-act operas, song cycles and chamber pieces, as well as songs for Tony Award winner Chuck Coopers' cabaret show *The Blues of Langston Hughes*. ■



Aferdian Stephens (center) with ASCAP's Cia Toscanini and ASCAP Foundation Executive Director Colleen McDonough



Political leaders and family traveled from Papua New Guinea to see Fulbright Scholar Rose Andrew receive a Master of Public Health. From left, front, Jennifer Makiba, Rose Andrew, Kikitani Andagali, Rhonda Andrew Kelwaip Liu; in back, Larry Libe Andagali and Janet Andagali

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS GIVE
THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH A WORLD VIEW

Fulbright Scholars Promote GLOBAL HEALTH

BY MARILYN JOYCE LEHREN

“WHERE’S ROSE?”

A world away from Papua New Guinea, where Rose Andrew is a dentist devoted to tackling the inequities faced by the sick and poor, she heard her name, called in a Pidgin common in her country.

She was hiking a New Jersey forest – Montclair State’s New Jersey School of Conservation – as part of a Fulbright Scholars orientation to America. To hear the Tok Pisin language here, at a time when she was yearning for home, was surreal.

“I felt like God was talking to me from Heaven,” she recalls.

(Continued next page)

“Over the past few years, foreign medical professionals have completed the Master of Public Health as a path toward working with their governments or health care systems to improve practices and policies that protect the public’s health by focusing on prevention.”

—Lisa Lieberman

In a twist of fate, Montclair State has a connection with her homeland in William Thomas, a researcher and director of the field campus at the School of Conservation. For 30 years, he has explored Papua New Guinea, working to save ecosystems in danger of climate change, including, as it turned out, the same swath of wilderness in which Andrew had lived.

“I went and hugged him and almost cried,” she says of the memory. “I felt at home.”

So began Andrew’s journey toward an advanced degree from Montclair State University. Last spring, she was among the international Fulbright Scholars who earned a Master of Public Health, bringing home a sea of new science and learning initiatives to improve medical care and community health in their corners of the world.

The Graduate School Commencement ceremony in May was the culmination of years of challenges and commitment for these Fulbright Scholars, the latest from the renowned educational exchange program to graduate from Montclair State.

The scholars’ prestige back home was embodied by the attendance at Commencement of a delegation of Papua New Guinea political officials and family to celebrate the achievements of Andrew, who graduated alongside medical doctors Samwel Marwa of Tanzania in East Africa and Evgeniya Shalaeva of Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

Mohammad Naseer Malikzai, who worked as a UN humanitarian affairs officer in Kabul, Afghanistan, is completing his studies.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

“I have a lot to do when I get back,” says Andrew, as she shared her experiences a few days before returning to work at the Papua New Guinea Department of Health with fresh ideas on how to raise awareness of oral cancer and rapid oral HIV testing. Both are vital health issues. Papua New Guinea has the world’s highest rate of

malignant mouth cancer, which Andrew says is attributed to the once sacred custom of chewing buai or betel nut. The country also has the highest HIV prevalence among the Pacific Island nations.

Growing up in the rainforests, Andrew was educated at a time when few girls had the opportunity to go to school. “I come from a tough culture like that,” she says. But her father’s work as a missionary opened his mind to such opportunities and Andrew excelled, becoming the first in her province to receive college and advanced degrees, becoming an advocate for oral health and among the few in her country to ever win a Fulbright Scholarship.

Andrew plans to write policy to help guarantee funding for dental issues long neglected, especially in the rural areas of the country. It’s a passion fueled by her own experiences providing care to villagers who wait for hours, hundreds deep to be seen, and childhood memories of suffering by family members with tooth and gum decay.

These global health perspectives enrich Montclair State’s program by expanding the horizons and world view of students and faculty, says Professor Lisa Lieberman. “Over the past few years, foreign medical professionals have completed the Master of Public Health as a path toward working with their governments or health care systems to improve practices and policies that protect the public’s health by focusing on prevention.”

An emphasis on social justice is particularly appealing to these doctors passionate in providing humanistic care and finding solutions to deep-rooted problems.

Marwa, the Fulbright Scholar from Tanzania, is the medical officer in charge of a referral hospital in the rural Rukwa region. He has taken an interest in improving the quality of care of women during childbirth, implementing change in the maternity ward to reduce infections after delivery. It hasn’t been easy.



Left: Samwel Marwa meets with colleagues and community leaders on how to improve health services in Tanzania. **Below:** Marwa travels with midwives to a remote health facility.

“Everyone was singing their own tune,” Marwa recalls of his early days at the facility, “and not in harmony.”

In 2012, he met an American, Adrienne Strong, who was conducting PhD research in Tanzania. “It was clear that the hospital was really struggling with supply shortages and, especially on the maternity ward, shortage of staff.” Over time, Marwa’s commitment changed the image of the hospital and raised morale among the professionals who worked there. To further his experience, Strong encouraged Marwa to apply for a Fulbright, cementing a friendship so solid that Strong traveled from Tanzania to see Marwa earn the master’s degree from Montclair State.

Marwa says his experience in the Public Health program has taught him the importance of truly listening to his underserved community – “How do they want services, what do they need, what is the best approach?” He will also be returning with a renewed focus on disease prevention, research tools and commitment to better equip the health facilities. “I’ve seen women dying because of a lack of an



ultrasound,” Marwa says. “Having the right equipment is key.”

Before coming to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar, Shalaeva worked as a cardiologist and researcher at Tashkent Medical Academy, one of Central Asia’s leading research and teaching universities.

“I was constantly engaged in practical work as a physician, scientific work, health education and professional education,” she says.

Shalaeva has a strong interest in decreasing morbidity and mortality among diabetic patients in Uzbekistan. Earning

From left to right: Mohammad Naseer Malikzai will return to Afghanistan in May rededicated to promoting medical care for children and women; Fulbright Scholar Evgeniya Shalaeva, a cardiologist in Uzbekistan, added to the Fulbright family at Montclair State when she gave birth to her son **Below:** Adrienne Strong, who is conducting research in Tanzania, encouraged Samwel Marwa to come to America to earn the Master of Public Health as a Fulbright Scholar. She returned to the U.S. for his graduation.



added to Montclair State's Fulbright family when she gave birth in November 2017 to a son.

Malikzai will return to Afghanistan in May rededicated to promoting public health and health care for children and women. The country is suffering one of the worst health crises in the world, he says, devastated by decades of conflict. About 40 percent of the population lacks access to basic health services. Children are especially vulnerable to chronic malnutrition, respiratory infections and vaccine preventable deaths, especially measles. Women's access to health care has decreased due to societal restrictions on gender relations and behavior.

The Fulbright and Montclair State program has provided Malikzai the opportunity to explore how best to overcome these huge challenges upon his return to Afghanistan working in the public health and health care sector. "What I learned here I can apply at home very effectively," he says. ■

the advanced degree, Shalaeva says, has given her the tools and expertise to conduct research on health-related issues and to apply health theories to improve patients' medication compliance and lifestyle changes.

"I have skills and basic structural knowledge in research and grant writing, program evaluation and implementation, as well as advocacy campaign and policymaking," Shalaeva says. She also

Your gift opens doors.

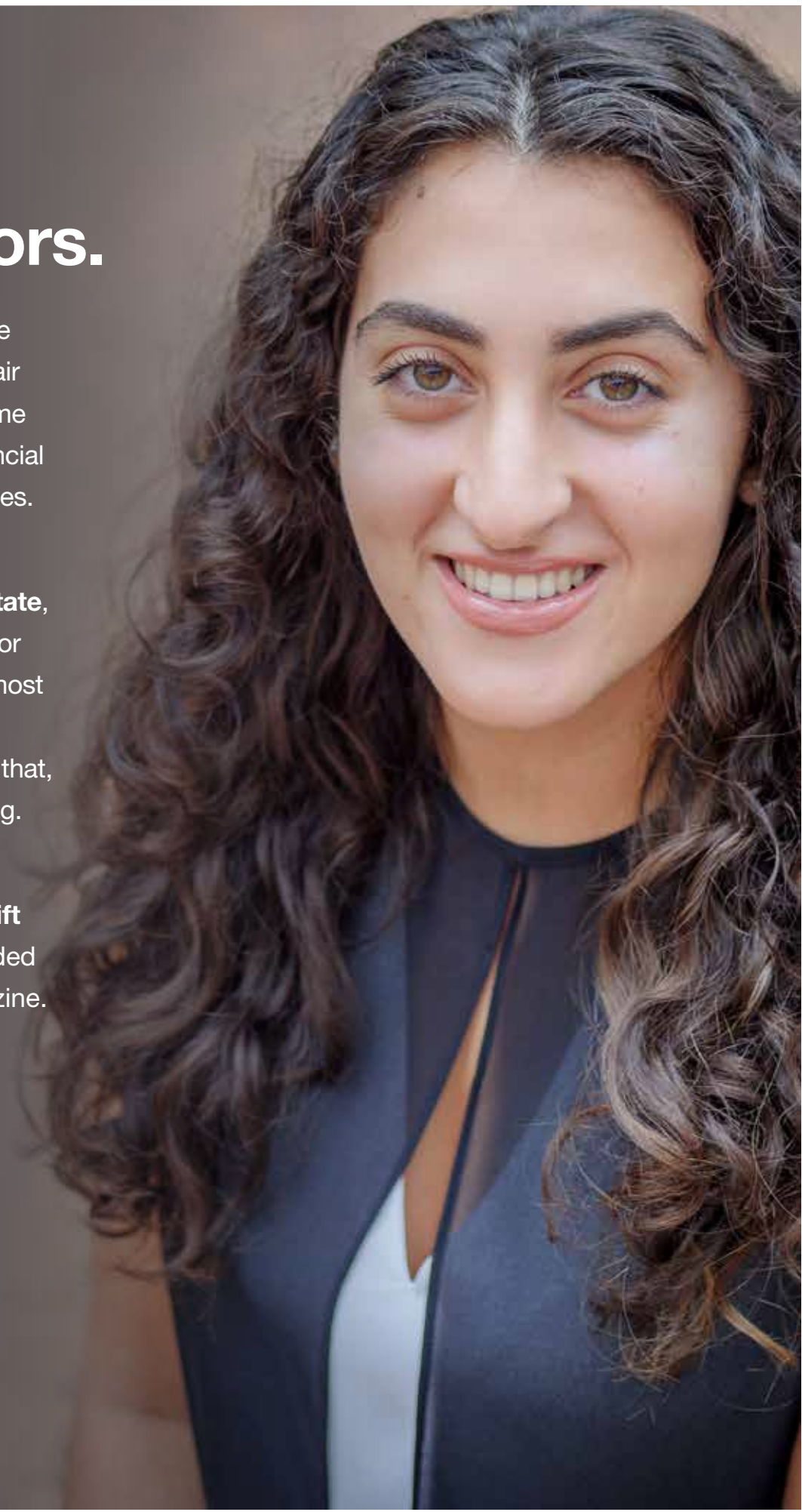
More than 80 percent of the students attending Montclair State University rely on some form of scholarship or financial aid to complete their degrees.

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SOAR
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY



EDUCATION EXPLORATION

UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
guides students
in choosing
majors,
career paths

BY MARILYN JOYCE LEHREN

Mario Rodriguez was facing a pool of options as a student new to Montclair State, so he did what comes naturally – he hit the gym. As he trained, he saw how his workouts motivated other students to join him, and he grew interested in learning more about how the human body works, and once injured, how it recovers.

“That was the start of my journey,” Rodriguez says. Now a second-year student, he is moving closer to connecting his interests, skills and strengths to choosing an academic and career path in exercise science. “I wanted experience to decide what it is I want to do,” Rodriguez says of the time he spent in the gym thinking about his future. “There are so many things you can do on this campus and so many places it can take you. I feel a year really helped me out.”

To give students the time and space to make “major” decisions, Montclair State has launched the first program of its kind in New Jersey with University College. The initiative makes “exploratory” and “pre-major” the new “undeclared” and provides an academic home for students as they discover a passion and career path.

Opened in September of 2018, advisors in University College are helping more than 2,000 students wade through all the educational possibilities available at Montclair State, mindful that a wrong choice could lead to added semesters and tuition. The students include freshmen and transfer students, as well as continuing students who have yet to select a major or are transitioning to a new major.

“We give students the chance to explore, to take their time and make sure that the major they’re selecting is the right major,” says David Hood, founding dean. With an academic home, “students don’t feel the pressure to decide whether they want to be a chemist or a marine scientist or an educator or study pre-law.”

Students coming out of high school may not know exactly what they want to pursue,



“WE GIVE STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO EXPLORE, TO TAKE THEIR TIME AND MAKE SURE THAT THE MAJOR THEY’RE SELECTING IS THE RIGHT MAJOR.”

-DAVID HOOD

Dean Hood greets students at University College orientation.

“and at 18, 19 years old, that’s OK,” says Daphne Galkin, assistant dean for academic programming. Even students who are sure about what they want to study often change their mind.

“What we’re creating is a sense of belonging for students to the College and to Montclair State,” says Danielle Insalaco-Egan, associate dean, “that will enable them to select a major that is truly the ‘right fit’ so they can stay on track and graduate in a timely way.”

With 300 majors, minors and concentrations, there’s a lot for students to consider, and some difficult conversations, says Temeshia Rufus, an academic advisor. It could be about grades or the “aha!” moment when a student – perhaps one attracted to fashion studies – comes to terms that the major they are interested in requires more math and science than they bargained for.

Freshman Ally Ayers says University College has allowed her to “experience



Jaffir Abdul Rice, an academic advisor at University College, helped Mario Rodriguez discover how his interests, skills and strengths connect to an academic and career path at Montclair State.

and consider different educational and career paths that I would have otherwise overlooked had I gone directly into a major.”

Ayers is considering the arts and working on her portfolio for Animation/Illustration. But she’s open to other avenues, and as a University College student, she had the

chance to explore those in early October, literally “crashing” classes in business and communications during a special academic exploratory week.

“I want to take my time, complete my general ed requirements and see where it goes,” Ayers says. “I still have time to decide my major.” ■

HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

BY MARILYN JOYCE LEHREN

RED BULLS II PROVIDES START TO BROADCASTING CAREERS



Casey Owens '18 works audio sound during Red Bulls II broadcasts.



Students film the action from the video camera platform.



Christo Apostolou '17 directs the Red Bulls II soccer broadcast from inside a mobile studio truck.

“MY ROLE AS A DIRECTOR IS TO MAKE SURE ALL THE PIECES COME TOGETHER INTO A NICE, TIGHT-KNIT PACKAGE WITH A BOW ON THE TOP.”

—Christo Apostolou '17



When the New York Red Bulls II take the field on their home turf at MSU Soccer Park at Pittsner Field, fans at home can watch their live broadcasts on ESPN+. These visuals and sounds are captured by a production team comprised of a director, camera operators and engineers – a majority of whom are either alumni or current students of Montclair State University.

The production crew are employees of Fascom Productions of Nutley, New Jersey, which drives its high-tech mobile video studio truck right up to the turf of MSU Soccer Park. Fascom is one of hundreds of companies in the New York and New Jersey region jump-starting careers and engaged in meaningful partnerships with the University.





Andrew Amiano, senior, Television and Digital Media

Last year, more than 3,000 Montclair State students completed hands-on learning experiences, including co-ops, internships, fieldwork, practicums, externships, student teaching and faculty-led research. Students who have benefited include Casey Owens '18, who works audio sound during Red Bulls II broadcasts. She earned her degree in TV Production and had several "dream internships" while a student, including *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *Late Night with Seth Myers* and *Say Yes to the Dress*. "I've had an amazing amount of opportunities," she says.

Fascom's owner Patricia Fastook, who also teaches at Montclair State as an adjunct professor in the School of Communication and Media, says the company routinely hires the "great, young talent" she finds in class for the intense, live Red Bulls II

"I HAD VARIOUS INTERNSHIPS AT ABC'S THE CHEW AND WENDY WILLIAMS. I LEARNED A LOT AT BOTH THEIR STUDIOS AND MONTCLAIR STATE'S TV PRODUCTION STUDIOS. NOW THAT I'M IN THE REAL WORLD, I'M CONFIDENT THAT WHAT I LEARNED WILL HELP ME SUCCEED."

—Amanda Kaminsky '18



Amanda Kaminsky '18, production assistant, Red Bulls II

productions. "It's a professional shoot and the crew has been instrumental in helping us pull off this big endeavor," she says. "I was a little nervous going into this," says Christo Apostolou '17, who directs the sports show. "But the excitement that comes from the crowd, the players and plays are second to none. I love it."

The players for the Red Bulls II are prospects for major league soccer, and the team has made Montclair State home to its developmental squad, upgrading the stadium with new turf and stands, and constructing camera towers for the live broadcasts.

"When I'm directing," Apostolou says, "what I'm looking for out of my crew is consistency and being ahead of the game. A big part of soccer is being on top of what

you think the players are going to do." Camera operator Andrew Amiano, a Montclair State senior majoring in TV Production, says he has learned to appreciate this fast-growing sport by filming the action, though through a lens so in a much different perspective than that of the fans in the stands.

"I'm not watching it for the players or for the game itself," Amiano says. "I'm watching it for the production. So, while people will say, 'That was such a good goal.' I'll say, 'That was such a good [camera] shot.' It gives me a different perspective."

Amiano, ever focused on the angle of the camera, cheers, "Follow, Follow, Follow," instead of "Go, Go, Go, Go." ■

STUDENT ANNOUNCERS SCORE HOME RUN

One week before the first pitch of the Women's Softball World Championship in Chiba, Japan, the School of Communication and Media partnered with digital sports provider Eleven Sports to help produce the tournament's global English-language play-by-play broadcast.

"This event allowed us to do what we truly aspire to accomplish, which is partner with cutting-edge media properties to give our students and recent graduates hands-on, professional experiences that place them at the forefront of the industry," says School of Communication and Media Director Keith Strudler, who set the pace by calling the first game.

Project manager Keanan Carter '18 assembled a team of student and alumni announcers in August to call the tournament's 72 games as they came in via live overnight feeds from Chiba. The winning team – USA – automatically moves on to the 2020 Olympics.

"We scrambled," recalls Mark Effron, the School's clinical specialist. "We were doing something never done before at Montclair State, calling an international sporting event from here and broadcasting to different platforms around the world. Who knows what we'll be doing next? We're at ground zero of this new world."

—Amy Wagner



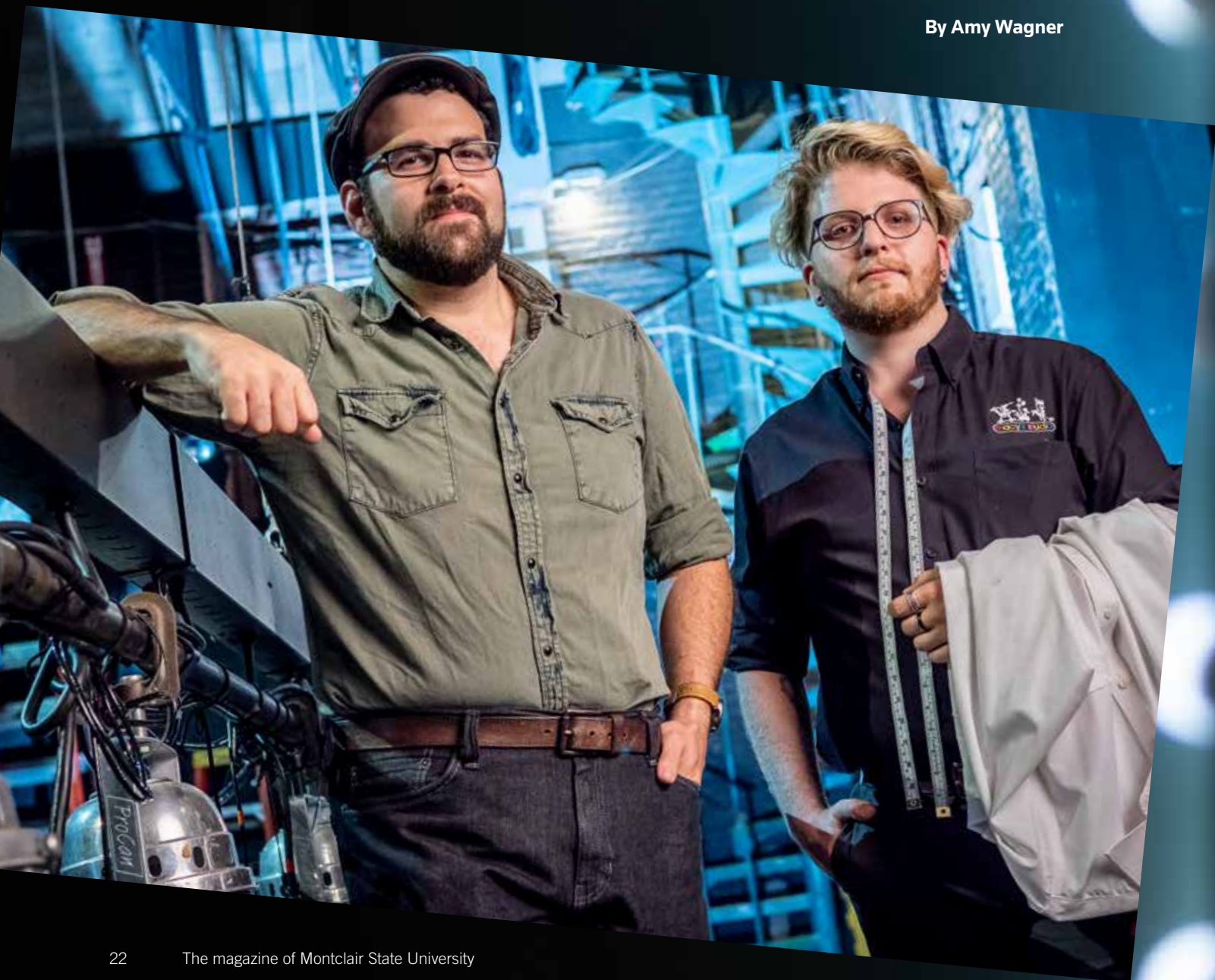
On the field, the Red Bulls II take on Bethlehem Steel in mid-summer action.

FEATURES

BACKSTAGE STARS

Alumni bring hit productions to life from Broadway to Europe

By Amy Wagner



W

hen audiences applaud, it's not only for bravura onstage performances, but also for all the behind-the-scenes artistry that brings a show to life, including costume design, sound and lighting, and hair and makeup. Graduates of Montclair State's Theatre and Dance department – which was recently ranked #1 in New Jersey by College Factual – are making their mark on productions the world over, not only on stage but backstage as well.

According to Theatre and Dance Professor Debra Otte, theatre production and design students gain both the knowledge and experience to excel in the industry.

“Due to our department’s large scale, we produce three musicals, three plays and three dance concerts, as well as workshop and concert events each academic year,” she says. “Each is designed, managed and built by our undergraduate students, giving them experience with a wide variety of performance styles.”

Creating characters through costumes

As a student, award-winning freelance designer Leon Dobkowski '02 was excited by the idea of shaping characters through costumes. “You give a garment to an actor and they create a person around that,” he says.

After graduating, he worked for the New York City costume shop Eric Winterling, where he shopped for costume materials. “As a shopper there, I really learned how a sketch is turned into a costume,” he recalls. He honed his craft on big Broadway musicals such as *Wicked* and *Shrek*, before earning an MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

While Dobkowski maintains a home base studio in New York City, he is in demand all over the country. His summer 2018 credits included lavish productions of *Annie* and *The Wiz* at The Muny in St. Louis, the nation’s oldest and largest outdoor musical theatre.

Dobkowski describes his craft as a lengthy, collaborative process. “It’s a lot of work. But I enjoy what I do. It’s what I’m good at,” he says.

The finishing touches

Like Dobkowski before her, Samantha LaScala '17 is now gaining valuable experience sourcing and buying new fabrics for costumes in upcoming Broadway shows as a head shopper at Eric Winterling.

Since April, LaScala has also been the hair/wig designer and stylist at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, where, as a student intern, she made the connections that led to the job she holds now.

Wigs, she believes, bring characters to life. “It’s amazing to see the actor become the character once the hair is on,” she says. “Costumes do the same thing, but a wig really is the finishing touch that makes actors see their characters.”

Building a portfolio

Jeffrey Colton Reid '17, who goes by Jeffrey Colton professionally, credits his alma mater with giving him the hands-on experience he needed to compile a costume design portfolio. “In my time at Montclair State, I would say I made or altered a costume or costume piece for every show the department presented,” he recalls.

Equally beneficial, Colton says, were the department faculty and staff. “Having professors working in the industry set me up to have a good connection to the industry even before I graduated.”

Today, while Colton describes himself as a freelance costume maker, he also works full time for Broadway costume shop Parsons-Meaers LTD, where his credits include such hits as *Frozen* and *Aladdin*.

“When working for costume maker Lynne Baccus, I worked on *Hello, Dolly!* I’ve also made costume pieces for the U.S. tour of *The Lion King*, for American Ballet

Alumni Jeffrey Colton (left) and Jason Flamos (right) have both found success backstage in costume and lighting design, respectively.



Alumnus Leon Dobkowski designed costumes for *The Wiz* and *Annie* at The Muny in St. Louis.

Theatre and worked in the Macy's Parade studio," he says.

From intern to employee

As a senior, Cheyenne Pellicoro, who also graduated in 2017, interned with the costume design team of Tony Award-winning *Hamilton*, which led to a full-time

job. "At *Hamilton*, I swatch and shop for fabrics; create the 'Bibles,' which have information about each character's costume from head to toe; deliver fabric to costume shops; set up fitting rooms; and ship costumes to companies on tour," she says. Pellicoro, who is also an assistant costume designer at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival,

loves watching productions develop from script and research to performance. "It never gets old," she says.

She says she gained the experience she needed to launch her career as a student. "One of my most rewarding experiences was being the costume designer for *Aida* in 2016," she remembers. Her costume design for *Aida*, which received the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Design Excellence Award, will also represent the U.S. in the Emerging Artists category at the Prague Quadrennial in June 2019.

For classmate Deirdre Morgan, a cosmetologist/costume technician with Disney Cruise Line, the University was also a launch pad for a postgraduate career that has included stints as an assistant to several designers, a fabric shopper and as an off-Broadway theater wardrobe supervisor.

The Disney Cruise Line presents original productions that bring Disney characters to life. "It's almost impossible to realize what an army the costuming team is," she says. "I love the creative aspect, but I also love being a part of the energy backstage, where running from quick change to quick change is so exciting."



Photo by Phillip Hamer

Actors in *The Wiz* dressed in Leon Dobkowski's designs.

From top to bottom: Cheyenne Pellicoro interned with the costume design team of *Hamilton*; Abigail Martin works backstage on *Girl from the North Country* at the Public Theater in New York City.



Setting the stage

Scenic designer Aaron Turetsky '15 believes college set the stage for an exciting career. "I get to collaborate with other artists to create productions that are entertaining, emotional and thought-provoking," he says.

As a student he interned with Blackwalnut LLC, an Emmy Award-winning scene shop and with the Wexford Festival Opera, which sent him to Ireland to assist Theatre and Dance Professor Erhard Rom on the European premiere production of *Silent Night*.

Since graduating, he has assisted Rom on more than 25 major productions for opera houses worldwide. "I help translate his beautiful designs into scale models, drafting packets and paint elevations for the rest of the creative team and scene shop to use," he explains.

Shedding new light

"If you want to know how to work in dance, musicals, theater, opera and live events, you won't find a better place in New Jersey than Montclair State," insists Jason Flamos '10, who has worked all over the country, Europe and South Africa as a lighting director for dance companies RIOULT Dance NY and 10 Hairy Legs – and most recently at Colorado's Vail International Dance Festival with Alonzo King LINES Ballet. "If you want hands-on, you'll get



hands-on at Montclair State. It's pretty much a sandbox to play and learn in so long as you're willing to apply yourself and give it everything you've got."

When not touring with dance companies, Flamos works as an associate lighting

designer for off-Broadway and regional productions.

Listen up

May 2018 graduate Abigail Martin quickly found work as head sound technician on the National Yiddish Theatre's off-Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without my internships," she confesses. "I spent every single summer away from school learning." As a production audio intern with The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park series in 2017, she fell in love with the city – and her career. "I learned a lot about audio, but I also learned that work should be fun. If you're not laughing while sweating and running cable through tiny holes while dodging raccoons left and right in a theater in Central Park, then you're not doing it right." ■



**We've looked to
the future,
we've spread
our wings,
and now, more
than ever,**



we're ready to...

SOAR

University launches the most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history to help meet the needs of a vibrant and growing campus community



BY MARILYN JOYCE LEHREN

“If you are going to invest in me, then I have to live up to the expectations you have in me.”

—Nubia Lumumba

Nubia Lumumba, Patterson scholarship recipient

As a student teacher to second graders in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Nubia Lumumba is drawing on the skills instilled in her by the teacher education program at Montclair State to tap her students’ potential to learn and grow.

The children come from all over the world and Lumumba embraces their cultural backgrounds, speaking Spanish and delighting a group of girls trying to teach her Portuguese. Her efforts are rewarded by Montclair State, where Lumumba’s academic performance twice earned her scholarships from the foundation of best-selling author James B. Patterson.

The novelist is among the University’s donors who, by removing financial stressors, are helping students like Lumumba work toward their degrees, and to learn and flourish at college. “I don’t like letting people down,” Lumumba says. “If you are going to invest in me, then I have to live up to the expectations you have in me.”

Making a difference in the lives of students is at the heart of Soar, The Campaign for

Montclair State University, the largest and most ambitious campaign in Montclair State’s 110-year history. More than \$60 million has already been given as the University strives to meet its goal of \$75 million in private contributions.

The campaign is designed to enhance the University’s ability to provide a vibrant educational environment where students, regardless of their financial means, are

challenged and empowered to succeed. Soar also provides faculty members with the resources to conduct groundbreaking research, and for the entire campus community, access to facilities conducive to 21st-century teaching and learning.

President Susan A. Cole says the multitudes of gifts from alumni, foundations, corporations and friends of the University have made possible initiatives that enrich the educational program and contribute to keeping the University affordable for students. "Our students are rich and they are poor; they are homegrown and immigrants; they have been to good schools and to bad; they are all races and religions; and our job is to help each of them flourish, to give them what they need, so that they in turn can be productive and responsive and engaged citizens," Cole says.

The power of giving

Tom and Lucy Ott epitomize the givers to Montclair State University. They established a philanthropic endowment fund in 1996 in memory of their son, David, a promising journalism major who contracted a devastating brain disease.

Music was always important to him, and as he lived for 17 years with lasting physical disabilities from encephalitis, he listened to all kinds of music, an eclectic mix including BB King, spirituals and Beethoven providing meaning, comfort and strength. David's Fund supports research, clinical services, and at Montclair State, scholarships for students studying music therapy.

The Otts maintain longtime bonds with the students who benefit from David's Fund, inviting scholarship alumni each year to break bread and share stories about the healing powers of music. "The dinner is like a family reunion," says Kristen O'Grady '04, clinical director of creative arts therapies at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center in New York, with everyone seated around the table "united by the generosity of Tom and Lucy."



In memory of their son, David, Tom and Lucy Ott established scholarships for students studying music therapy.



“Our students are rich and they are poor; they are homegrown and immigrants; they have been to good schools and to bad; they are all races and religions; and our job is to help each of them flourish, to give them what they need, so that they in turn can be productive and responsive and engaged citizens.”

–Susan A. Cole



Top: Students listen to a lecture. **Bottom:** The author James Patterson, at 2014 graduation ceremony



Jordan Brito,
scholarship recipient

“Scholarship support was definitely life changing for me to continue helping my family and completing what my mother would have wanted for me.”

–Jordan Brito '18

reading and an understanding of the experiences of her students, many adjusting to new lives in America. “Talking with children in their own language makes them feel comfortable and their cultures valued,” Lumumba says.

Changing trajectories

Today, when the options of personal savings, parental support and federal and state grants are exhausted, receiving a donor-funded scholarship can be a deciding factor for a bright prospective student to attend or remain in college. For Jordan Brito '18, the assistance, he says, changed the path of his life.

Growing up, school was always important, his mother made sure of that. She was an immigrant who graduated college summa cum laude and had a successful professional career in Manhattan. She died of cancer when Brito was 13, and his family struggled financially, his father eventually filing for bankruptcy protection. After high school, Brito helped raise a younger sister, worked a variety of jobs, and at age 21 encouraged by a mentor and supported by a scholarship, entered the five-year BS/MS accounting program.

Brito's life story, his sponsor Joanne Shershin remarked before she passed away in 2017, is one of determination, strong work ethic and dedication. Brito continued to hold down multiple jobs while a student, graduating this past spring

with little student debt and landing a job with the accounting giant Ernst & Young. “Scholarship support was definitely life changing for me to continue helping my family and completing what my mother would have wanted for me,” he says.

Next generation leaders

Patterson, the prolific author and philanthropist, provides scholarship money through the Patterson Family Foundation that supports aspiring teachers and focuses on youth reading and literacy at 22 colleges and universities, including Montclair State.

“We love the teachers who come out of here,” Patterson said in a 2014 interview while on campus as Commencement speaker. “We love how well they are trained to go in and deal with inner-city problems.”

Lumumba shares a love of literacy with the novelist. Growing up in Guyana, South America, “there wasn't a lot of recreational activities or technology, so after school we played or read. And I was a big bookworm. I spent so much time reading, seven books a week,” she recalls. As she works toward her degree in teacher education, she brings to the classroom both her passion for

Her story is just one of thousands recounted as private funding has broadened and deepened the opportunities available at Montclair State. A sampling shows the range of academic studies and aspirations lifted through the generosity of donors. For instance:

- Italian Studies have been transformed through the gifts from Lawrence R. Inserra Jr. Given in honor of Inserra's parents, an endowed chair is held by Teresa Fiore, one of the world's top scholars in Italian immigration.
- The support of the John J. Cali Family provides scholarships for musicians and students in the arts. Students studying vocal music and musical theatre have benefited from the gifts of Kay Consales in honor of her husband Gene Consales '50.
- A creative talent award winner, Trevor Stephney, a sophomore working on his BFA in Filmmaking, believes in the power of political art. “What I want is to address world issues with visuals you will never forget, change the world one frame at the time, all through the perspective of an everyday kid from

Morristown,” he says. The creative talent award is made possible by gifts from multiple donors to the College of the Arts and is intended to attract and retain exceptionally talented students to the program.

- Matthew Berg’s curiosity with dictionaries from around the world helped him at an early age to learn basic vocabulary in a variety of world languages. Today, the senior and Conrad J. Schmitt Scholarship winner aspires to earn a PhD in Latin American Literature and become a university professor.
- Candise Maiore went back to school after 20 years to study nursing, a career-changer from accounting after finding true purpose when a family member was hospitalized. “I’ve found my calling,” Maiore says. “The scholarship help has made all of this possible.”

Maiore’s story was highlighted at last spring’s Annual Scholarship Dinner, which raises funds for student scholarships and honors prominent philanthropic leaders. Assistance came from the McMullen Family Foundation, which has supported the University in a variety of ways, providing operating funds for the George Segal Gallery, scholarships for students at the John J. Cali School of Music, and, most recently, scholarships to help registered nurses like Maiore pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees at the University’s new School of Nursing.

Soar takes flight

Private donations annually fund scholarships for more than 700 students at Montclair State. The support covers a fraction of the nearly 13,000 students who qualify for financial aid at the University. The Soar campaign aims to significantly increase both the number of students supported and average award given.

In addition to students needing financial support, the University provides scholarships to keep high-achieving New Jersey students in state. This fall, the University welcomed its first class



Carla Ko, Presidential Scholar

of Presidential Scholars who each will receive a merit-based scholarship worth up to \$20,000 over four years. The cohort includes Carla Ko, an accounting major who says being part of the Presidential Scholars is a highlight of her first year on campus. “I thoroughly enjoy being a part of something new that not only enhances my education,” Ko says, “but also creates a network of connections and friendships, building a real sense of community within itself.”

Fundraising continues to increase efforts to attract top faculty and ensure they have the resources to conduct research that addresses today’s most pressing issues. Other initiatives will ensure the entire campus community has access to state-of-the-art facilities.

The largest philanthropic gift in the history of Montclair State, an anonymous \$20 million donation, supports the Feliciano School of Business. Other campaign gifts



Matthew Berg, Conrad Schmitt Scholarship recipient

have benefited the development of the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship, the Ellyn A. McColgan Student Services Center for academic career advising and the James W. Merli Executive Conference Center. AJ Khubani '84 inspires aspiring student entrepreneurs by funding New Jersey’s richest collegiate prize pool for promising business ideas.

Donations large and small have been put to work in essential programs, including

providing students with emergency assistance, including food at the Red Hawk Pantry. The Emergency Scholarship Fund helps fill gaps in a student's ability to pay tuition and the Emergency Book Fund helps to purchase academic texts.

Last spring, the grandmother of Elizabeth Lagrotteria, a senior Biology Education major, found a scholarship ceremony poignant as the family's experience at Montclair State went full circle. Lagrotteria was receiving the S. Marie Kuhnen Scholarship, which celebrates the legacy of Marie Kuhnen '41, former chair of the Department of Biology, a professor Lagrotteria's grandmother fondly remembers for inspiring a lifelong love of nature while she was a student.

Now, her granddaughter, also filled with a love of the life sciences, would soon begin her clinical experience as a teacher of biology. The scholarship, says Lagrotteria, who works two jobs to help pay tuition,

"reaffirms that the University recognizes all that I do."

Speaking at the annual Red Hawk Open golf outing, which raises money for athletic teams, George Alexandris, a senior who last spring won the national long jump title, summed up the gratitude of all the students encouraged to spread their wings and fly. "Montclair State has truly changed my life, my perspective and happiness," he said.

When hosting their annual dinners, Tom and Lucy Ott invite David's Fund alumni to take turns talking about their work. "They are invested in hearing what everybody is a part of," says O'Grady, who in addition to her work with seriously ill children serves as vice president of the American Music Therapy Association Board of Directors. "It seems meaningful to Tom and Lucy to hear how people progress in their profession and career, and that they played a role in that."

As music soothed their son through his illness, the Ott's say they have found comfort in their relationships with the scholarship recipients who heal through music. "It's been a wonderful learning experience for us," says Lucy Ott, "and to have scholarships given in memory of our son, we feel we are benefiting as much as we are benefiting others." ■

George Alexandris, track star, speaking at the Red Hawk Open



"It's been a wonderful learning experience for us, and to have scholarships given in memory of our son, we feel we are benefiting as much as we are benefiting others."

—Lucy Ott

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RED HAWKS ATHLETICS

Coach leaves legacy of success, inspiration for lacrosse team



SCHAMBACH STRONG

BY STEVE POLITI



Shane Carmody had to deliver heartbreaking news to a group of two dozen college students, but even as he sat down to write the painful message, he couldn't wrap his head around that news himself.

He had just seen Mike Schambach a few days earlier. The assistant coach had talked to his boss about recruiting and other routine business involving the Montclair State lacrosse team. Hadn't Schambach just attended his daughter's christening that weekend? Hadn't he just hung out with his old high school pals at an alumni game?

How could Head Coach Mike Schambach be ... gone?

Carmody had known this day might come from the moment Schambach was diagnosed with colon cancer less than a year earlier. The disease, he knew, was aggressive and the treatment – the chemotherapy that forced Schambach to, reluctantly, miss an occasional practice – was not effective.

But Schambach was making plans to the very end. He was so full of life, and his steadfast refusal to burden anyone with his condition had made it seem that he would kick cancer in the backside and roar with one of his unmistakable laughs afterward.

Mike Schambach was ... *gone*?

Carmody wanted to call his old coach to get his advice on how to handle this. He wanted to lean on his mentor one final time for guidance, because, he remembers thinking, "He'll know what to do. He'll know what to say."

Not wanting the players to find out from someone outside the team family, Carmody wrote a long note on June 14 and sent it to them in a group text.

"It's with a heavy heart and deep regret that I am writing this message. There's no easy way to say this but Coach is gone. His fight took a real bad turn earlier this week

and he was unable to recover from it. He passed peacefully this morning.

"He fought until the end. He was an absolute warrior. And you guys were a big reason he kept fighting. You were a part of his family and he didn't stop talking about you guys and our plans for the program until the end. He was so proud of each and every one of you."

Carmody hit send. A few moments passed, and when the replies started coming he knew that he wasn't the only one still too stunned to process the news.

Are you serious? Is this really true? How can this be?

Three and a half years earlier, Schambach was on top of the world. Not only had he been named head coach at a Montclair State program brimming with potential, but after three years coaching at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, he was coming home.



Clockwise, from far left: Mike Schambach coaches Montclair State men's lacrosse; Schambach enjoying a moment with his son; Schambach with the team and coaching staff; players wear their Schambach Strong T-shirts; and with his wife, Lindsay, son, Cameron, and daughter, Chloe, at the baby's christening.

He was returning to New Jersey, the state where he and his twin brother, Phil, led Bridgewater-Raritan High to a perfect 19-0 record and a No. 1 state ranking in 1998. His new job was just up the Turnpike from Rutgers, where he anchored a 2003 team ranked No. 7 nationally and appeared in the NCAA Tournament.

"He could do everything," his high school coach, Chuck Apel, says. "He played three sports, which is rare these days, and was pretty good at all of them. And he was such a fierce competitor."

Schambach believed there was nothing his new team couldn't accomplish, and soon after moving into his new office, he began to encourage his players to aim higher and higher.

Montclair State was the dominant team in the Skyline Conference and had been for several years. But why stop there? Schambach set his sights on bringing a

national title to campus. He wanted to turn the Red Hawks into a powerhouse.

"It was his goal to take us from good to great," says Ryan Anzalone, a captain on the team and a 2017 graduate. "And everything he did was focused on that goal."

Any skeptics were quickly converted. The team reached the second round of the Division III NCAA Tournament in 2017 – its best performance ever – and nearly pulled off a massive upset against top-ranked Ithaca College.

He was a fair but demanding coach with a work ethic that never wavered. His team had one of the top grade point averages in each of his four seasons.

"He would ride us at times ... but he did it for the betterment of you as a person," Anzalone recalls. "He didn't just want you to be a good lacrosse player. He wanted you to be a good man."

In the prime of life, Schambach was a 37-year-old husband to Lindsay and father to a son, Cameron, with a daughter on the way. Then, on a trip to the Jersey Shore with friends and family, he complained of severe stomach pain.

"I think I swallowed a chicken bone," he told them.

The pain worsened. Guy Budinscak, his best friend, encouraged him to go to the emergency room. It was there, at Ocean County Medical Center, that doctors discovered an obstruction and delivered the grim prognosis.

He had colon cancer.

He underwent surgery days later at Weill Cornell in New York City, where he was told that the disease – in Stage 4 – had metastasized to his lymph nodes. He was in for the fight of his life and his friends and family were certain he'd beat it.

Business as usual

Schambach never let that fight define him. Even when he was delivering the news to Carmody, the coach was focused on the team and the future.

“He didn’t want to say cancer and he didn’t want to say how bad it was,” Carmody recalls. “He needed me to come home from a recruiting trip to give a campus tour to a recruit. It was business as usual.”

The players knew he was sick. But they had no idea how sick. Schambach, after all, only missed an occasional practice for treatment and never missed a game. He was on the field for several hours a day last spring, directing them with the same passion he had always brought to their preparation.

The practices ran longer than usual, and that didn’t surprise Carmody. The field wasn’t just an oasis from his illness; it was a place where he was surrounded by some of the people who mattered the most.

“He had two families,” Carmody says. “He had his family at home, his wife and his kids, and his family at Montclair State. He was always a happy guy, but when he talked about either of his families, you could tell how happy he was.”

He stopped the chemotherapy in February, telling a few people that it wasn’t working. Even then, he quickly changed the subject when people pressed for details, and usually, the focus shifted back to his team.

“He said, ‘Okay, here’s the deal, I have colon cancer,’” Luke Neal, a captain on the team, says recalling a meeting with a small group of players. “But then he just started talking about something else. That’s the kind of guy he was.”

Montclair State had a rollercoaster season, and on April 28, it seemed the Red Hawks had run out of gas in their final home game. They were down three goals to Scranton heading into the fourth period when a heavy rainstorm drenched Sprague Field.

Neal remembers hearing the Scranton players whooping it up in the visiting locker room. He and his teammates were furious.

“Our coach was fighting just to stand on the sideline,” Neal remembers. “We had to win that game. It felt like it was destiny. There was no way we could leave that field without winning that game.”

They did, coming from behind for a thrilling 11-10 win. The five weeks that followed the season were filled with reunions, love and the birth of his daughter, Chloe Michelle, on May 7.

Schambach held his baby in his arms for her baptism, an event just two days after the entire '98 Bridgewater-Raritan lacrosse team gathered to tell old stories about that season at an alumni game.

Schambach was at the center of it all. When he canceled plans to attend a Yankees game with Carmody, the assistant coach knew Schambach needed to preserve

his energy with everything going on. They made plans to see a game later in the summer. Then, as usual, the conversation turned to recruiting.

Schambach died just days later, on June 14, with his family at his side. On that same day, he and his assistants were named the Coaching Staff of the Year for all of Division III.

Outpouring of love

No funeral home could hold all the mourners, so as temperatures soared above 90 degrees on June 18, more than 3,000 people packed Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville. Others stood along Mountain Avenue for more than an hour, waiting to get inside.

Phil Schambach gave one eulogy, and Budinscak gave another.

“I had the privilege of being with Mike until the end,” Budinscak told the packed church. “He would never let on how sick he was. Never complained. He was fighting until the end, planning his recruiting strategy for next season and discussing some projects that he planned to do around his house.

“He didn’t want to say goodbye. I think he knew what was coming, but he was trying to protect his friends and loved ones. Never making it about him. Never wanting to be the center of attention. Always brave, always with dignity and integrity. He was the bravest man I ever knew.”

The Montclair State players showed up in their lacrosse polos at the beginning of the service, still stunned that a man who led them onto the field with so much passion just weeks earlier was gone.

The players are preparing to head into another season in the spring, and when they do, two words emblazoned on their team T-shirts will serve as both a remembrance and a rallying cry.

SCHAMBACH STRONG. ■



Weightlifter earns bronze, shoots for national team

BY STEVE POLITI



Chris Hernandez knows his reputation with other athletes at the Montclair State varsity gym. He is “The Guy Who Drops the Weights.”

“I get dirty looks. I get people staring at me,” Hernandez, a political science major, says with a laugh. “I had one person come over to me and say, ‘If you have to drop it, it’s too heavy.’ That’s life as a weightlifter, I guess.”

But Hernandez is not dropping those weights to be a nuisance. He’s training for national competitions. And that training, something he’s done since he was 15, is paying off big time.

Hernandez won his first national medal at the Nike USA Weightlifting National University and Under 25 Championships in Ogden, Utah, in April. He lifted 130 kilograms – that’s about 286 pounds – in the clean and jerk competition to earn the bronze.

That breakthrough pushed him to chase bigger goals. Hernandez hopes to make the U.S. University National Team in 2020, an elite group of the country’s very best weightlifters that will travel to an Olympic-type tournament to compete globally.

The fact that 2020 will arrive just as Hernandez, a pre-law major, begins law school makes the challenge even bigger.

“I know my life is going to be weightlifting and studying – and not much else,” Hernandez says.

Weightlifting is not a common sport on university campuses. While several universities have club teams, it is not an NCAA-sanctioned sport like football, basketball or even rifle and skiing. That leads to a lot of questions from even the other athletes on campus, many of whom dread the necessary time lifting.

“They usually say ‘You’re not very big’ or ‘How much do you bench?’” Hernandez says. “They don’t understand that weightlifting is a very technical sport, much like karate is. It’s not just strength. It’s the technique.”

Hernandez learned this from his father, Gaspar, who has been in the sport for 40 years. His family even built a weightlifting gym near its home in Green Township.

He followed his older brothers into weightlifting while he was at Newton High, and though they gave it up, he stuck with it. And he got to celebrate his bronze medal with his father.

Now the medalist has resumed his training on campus for bigger goals. As for the noise from those dropped weights? That just comes with the territory. ■

SPORTS BRIEFS

HONORED



Katie Sire, a women's basketball All-American, and **George Alexandris**, a track and field national champion, were named Outstanding Athletes of the Year for the 2017-18 academic year. Sire, who also won the award last year, averaged 21.7 points – ninth in Division III – along with 8.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists as her team finished 25-4. Alexandris set a championship-meet record in capturing the long jump at the NCAA Division III Championship in May.

ACHIEVED



Volleyball player **Natalia Majkut** and football senior **Nick Catalano** were honored for their classroom achievements as 2017-18 Scholar-Athletes of the Year. The University's field hockey team finished with the athletic department's highest overall GPA for the fourth time in the last six years. Lacrosse took the top spot among men's teams.

NAMED



Myles Mitchell-White, a point guard for the men's basketball team, was named New Jersey Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year. Mitchell-White led the Red Hawks with 13.8 points a game and 96 assists, logging a team high 30.4 minutes a game in his first season. The team finished 18-9 and 11-7 in the NJAC. **Brittany Costigan**, a freshman on the women's lacrosse team, was also named the NJAC Conference Rookie of the Year. Costigan broke the single-season record for draws with 121, helping the Red Hawks to a 9-7 record, 4-2 in the NJAC.

CONNECTIONS

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR HOMECOMING 2018



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HOMECOMING 2018

The occasional drizzle didn't stop the thousands of students, alumni, families and friends who turned out to celebrate Homecoming on October 6. With a day packed with activities, alumni gatherings and performances, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Played this year under the lights, the Homecoming football game saw the Red Hawks blank The College of New Jersey Lions 28-0, perfectly capping a memorable day of fun and festivities.







RED HAWK OPEN HELPS ATHLETICS

More than 130 golfers came out for a beautiful day on the golf course to benefit Montclair State athletic teams and programs, raising nearly \$110,000 at the University's Sixth Annual Red Hawk Open.

The funds will be allocated to each of the University's 18 varsity athletic programs to assist with each program's individual needs that include travel, equipment or special events.

The Red Hawk Open began with a BBQ lunch prior to the scramble-format golfing event. After hitting the links, golfers and guests were treated to an evening of cocktails, dinner, a silent auction and an awards ceremony.

"Montclair State University athletic staff and student athletes appreciate the generosity of the outing participants and the consistent support from donors and friends," says Athletics Director Holly Gera. "Proceeds from this event and other donations enable us to enhance the athletic experience for all of our student athletes."



CLASS OF 1969 REUNION

Planning is underway for the Class of 1969 50th Reunion. Mark your calendars to join your classmates on May 24, 2019, for a luncheon and to walk in the Commencement exercises. Interested in serving on your 50th Reunion Committee? Contact **Kara Brennan, Office of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement**, at brennanka@montclair.edu or **973-655-7492**.



RED HAWKS CALLING

Don't be surprised if you get a phone call soon from a Red Hawk Caller. These hardworking students have made a collective 300,000+ calls to alumni, parents and friends, seeking vitally needed support for Montclair State programs and services. For these students, making calls is more than just a job. "I enjoy the opportunities to connect with alumni, bridging the gap between generations and building valuable connections with the Red Hawks before us," says Jessica Adams, a senior.

Annual gifts through The Fund for Montclair State have a direct and meaningful impact on students' lives by providing much-needed support for scholarships; improvements to classrooms, laboratories and campus facilities; new program development; and technologies that give our students an edge in an increasingly competitive world. All gifts, large and small, make a difference.

If you'd like to make a gift online, visit montclair.edu/make-a-gift.



SCIENCE IN ACTION: JURASSIC!

The College of Science and Mathematics' Science in Action day, which coincided with Homecoming, featured a new museum-quality exhibit of the dinosaur Coelophysis at the Center for Environmental and

Life Sciences. Coelophysis roamed New Jersey more than 200 million years ago, and left a footprint where Montclair State was eventually built.

In 1976, then student Mike McCloskey '78 discovered the footprint in a rock quarry that today is the site of the Yogi Berra Stadium. McCloskey's dinosaur discovery was recreated with the generosity of his employer, Louis Berger U.S. Inc. The professional global services corporation, led by Tom Lewis, donated the funds that brought the exhibit to life.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: L.A.



In a continuing effort to expand Montclair State's West Coast alumni network, the Office of Alumni Engagement partnered with the School of Communication and Media this past summer to host an event at Fox Studios in Los Angeles, California, marking the fifth year for a West Coast event.

Alumni heard from Michael Price '81, writer and co-executive producer for *The Simpsons* and co-creator and executive producer of *F Is for Family*. Guests also got an exclusive tour of the Fox Studios lot and a peek into *The Simpsons* writer's room with Price.



HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME

The Office of Alumni Engagement celebrated the summer of 2018 by creating a family-friendly series of events geared to entertain alumni and involve their families.

The Summer Fun Series included excursions to the Liberty Science Center, the Turtle Back Zoo, the races at Monmouth Park and a Jackals baseball game at Yogi Berra Stadium on campus.

"We are thrilled to offer activities like the Summer Fun Series to bring together alumni and families to learn about the latest happenings at the University and to have some fun," says Jeanne Marano, assistant vice president of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement.

At the Liberty Science Center in July, families attended a show in the Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium, the biggest planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. They also participated in scavenger hunts, an animal encounter, beekeeping, science shows, a touch tank and other scientific adventures led by talented STEM educators, including an exhibit called *Be a Surgeon*. The group gathered for lunch for a University Trivia Challenge game with Montclair State prizes.

In July, alumni met up with friends and former classmates to enjoy a day at the races, along with a barbecue picnic during the park's Family Fun Day, which included pony rides, face painters, a bounce house and other attractions.

Early August found families of alumni enjoying an evening of baseball and fireworks together at Yogi Berra Stadium as they watched the New Jersey Jackals take on the Quebec Capitales.

The end of August brought alumni back together for a day at the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, New Jersey, where they met some furry, scaly and feathery friends at the Australian Exhibit, African Adventure, the Wolf of the Woods and the Reptile House.

The Alumni Engagement Office plans events all year to bring Red Hawks together and is already working on next summer's activities. If you have ideas or suggestions, write to **Jeanne Marano** at maranoj@montclair.edu.



PEAPACK-GLADSTONE 'BREAKING INTO BANKING'

Karen Chiarello '85, John Kowal '09, Diane Makoujy '81, Chris Rozewski '09 and Karen Skocypec '88 were

presenters at the Peapack-Gladstone "Breaking into Banking" event held at the Feliciano School of Business in October.



BOOK FUND SUCCESS

The University's new crowdfunding initiative, Impact Montclair State, was established by Student Development and Campus Life,

the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement. The Emergency Book Fund, one of the pilot campaigns, was created to supplement existing book scholarships and grants. The campaign successfully raised \$5,000, which was then doubled by a match from the Parents Fund at Montclair State.

Dean of Students Margaree Coleman-Carter has seen the immediate impact that donations make to this fund: "The Emergency Book Fund will allow more deserving students an opportunity to purchase books and supplies critical to their academic success this semester."

Other campaigns executed through Impact Montclair State include a campaign to send the Wind Symphony to a national conference, a scholarship for MBA students, and an archaeological field project in Genzano di Roma, Italy. For more information on giving to one of the programs, visit crowdfund.montclair.edu or contact the **Office of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement** at 973-655-4141 or giving@montclair.edu.

CONFERENCE CELEBRATES WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



The fifth annual Women Entrepreneurship Week took place around the nation and the world in October, with Montclair State University once again hosting an all-day conference as part of the festivities.

This year's speakers came from a range of industries – including tech, food, pharmaceuticals and energy – but they all basically had the same message for the 479 people in attendance: Go for it. And then stick with it – even if no one else believes in your vision; even if your product prototype keeps failing; even if your place of business burns down.

That's what happened to Hakika DuBose, a 2006 Montclair State graduate and founder of Kika Stretch Studios, which teaches clients how to stretch their muscles. Although the fire forced her to relocate temporarily to a church basement, the business continued to grow and now includes five locations. "I became

the youngest female franchisor in the entire country," DuBose told the crowd.

Opening the conference, Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole said, "Events like this can help young women and emerging women leaders to understand that yes, they can; yes, they have all the talent, all the ability, all the knowledge, all the ideas, all of the energy to do whatever it is that needs doing in this world."

The speakers included both business owners and women with experience in large corporations, who said that they rely on many of the same skills as entrepreneurs, including being persistent, trying new experiences and speaking up for their ideas.

Elizabeth Vilchis, founder of latinoTech – an organization that promotes the development of Latinx entrepreneurs and innovators – said she has

gotten used to being the only woman in meetings. "I had to get comfortable with being uncomfortable," she said. "It's being clear about what you hope to get out of that meeting."

The speakers consistently urged the audience to take risks, even if that sometimes leads to failure. "Every time I go through something terrible, I think, this is just getting me ready for the next thing," said Nicki Radzely, co-founder of Doddle & Co. She described a string of failed tests before her company's product – a new type of baby pacifier – was finally ready for market.

Women Entrepreneurship Week was founded five years ago by the Feliciano School of Business and the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship, and is now observed by 167 colleges, universities and organizations in 32 countries and 46 states.

Mimi Feliciano, founder and CEO of FEM Real Estate in Montville, and an advisory board member of the Feliciano School of Business, said that the Center for Entrepreneurship has focused on women since its founding. Women, she said, don't always get the guidance and encouragement they need to start businesses. "They've got a lot more [ability] than they give themselves credit for."

"It's so important to encourage women that they can do it," said Kateryna Kardash, a 19-year-old international student from the Ukraine who attended the conference. She runs her own freelance graphic design business. Jah-Melia Cookhorn, 20, of Jersey City, a Montclair State fashion studies major, said she attended the conference to get tips for starting her own fashion business. "It's just kind of amazing to see how women are bosses in male-dominated industries," she said.

–Kathleen Lynn



Edward Gero '76

A MAN OF CHARACTERS



As he took the stage as Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on opening night of the off-Broadway performance of *The Originalist* in July, Edward Gero was empowered to know that Jerome Rockwood, his old acting professor from Montclair State University, was in the audience.

"That he was there, at age 91, meant a lot to me," Gero says. "He had such a major impact on the development of my career."

The role of Justice Scalia, which was written for Gero, offered his first return to the New York stage in 35 years.

Gero, who describes himself a loner prone to long moments of reflection, found acceptance with acting while attending high school in Madison, New Jersey.

"Acting was liberating for me," he says. "Once I was given the opportunity to participate in a play, all of my inner thoughts and feelings were released. I was encouraged to share all of myself."

As it turned out, Gero's high school drama teachers were Montclair State alumni, so he decided to learn more about the school and went to see a University production of Peter Weiss' 1963 play within a play, *Marat/Sade* directed by Rockwood.

"It blew my mind," Gero recalls. "That was the exciting theater I wanted to do. There was nowhere else to look. I applied early decision and never looked back."

Gero graduated in 1976 with a degree in speech and theatre and lived and worked in New York

until 1983, when he moved to Washington, D.C., for a role with what is today the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Over the last three decades, the four-time Helen Hayes Award winner with 16 nominations, whose roles have included characters such as Richard Nixon and Ebenezer Scrooge, has maintained a busy schedule of acting and teaching, working as an associate professor and head of performance at George Mason University.

For Gero, Montclair State was a place to develop a strong work ethic and the drive to get involved.

"I learned to reach beyond my comfort zone to grow as an artist," he says.

Gero says he can still hear Rockwood's voice in the back of his mind, challenging him to focus on the heart of the action.

"He made you really want to work on it and focus on the critical analysis of the role," he says. Gero has returned to Montclair

State to conduct student workshops, an experience he says helps him deepen his own understanding of the fundamentals.

"By working with students, I strive to honor the ideas and the challenges that inspired me through my training and my experience, and encourage students to grapple with them and find their own solutions," he says. "We learn from each other as we engage these questions again and again. It's about the process, not the result."

Over the years, Gero has also had opportunities to mentor Montclair State students through the Shakespeare company that helped him establish a foothold in the region.

"I had great mentors from Montclair and the way I honor them is by sharing my experience with students."

—Suzanne Marta

A portrait of Michele Gierla Ansbacher '80, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue polka-dot button-down shirt and a pearl necklace. The background is a blurred indoor setting with wood paneling.

Michele Gierla Ansbacher '80

GIVING BACK

Michele Gierla Ansbacher was trying to decide between law school and a full-time MBA program when a chance conversation with a Prudential executive at graduation changed her course.

“He gave me his card and said, ‘You should come work for Prudential, and we’ll pay for you to get your MBA at night,’” she recalls. She did and ended up staying 34 years.

Since her retirement in 2014, Ansbacher, who graduated in 1980 with a BA in economics and political science, has been focused on giving back to the university she credits with helping her launch her career and meet her husband, Keith.

Intrigued by the Prudential executive’s pitch, Ansbacher

applied for the company’s prestigious Management Training Program, a challenging three-year program that provided a fast track to management. Ansbacher rotated every six months to different jobs in varied departments, then was evaluated for how much impact she’d made during her time.

“You had to hit the ground running, make an impact quickly,” she says. “It really taught me to adapt quickly and that your success is up to you.”

Looking back, Ansbacher says her experience at Montclair State provided important training for success. As a leader of student government, she worked closely with University administration, serving on search committees and managing meetings.

“I got to see how things were run,” she says. “It really gave me a chance to hone my leadership skills.”

Ansbacher’s career at Prudential navigated numerous roles, enabling her to gain experience grappling with a variety of business challenges. “I was seen as a problem-solver and could transform things,” she says.

From 2009-2012, Ansbacher served as corporate chief ethics officer for Prudential’s global operations. Her last role with the company was running its East Coast operations for Prudential Advisors.

Since 2015, Ansbacher has served as an adjunct professor at the Feliciano School of Business. She also serves as Executive-in-Residence, available to mentor

students or faculty grappling with business issues.

A longtime member of the Advisory Board for the business school, Ansbacher took the reins as board chair in spring 2017.

Ansbacher and her husband are committed donors to the University, where they met. They dedicated a five-year gift to the Feliciano School of Business, represented by the Michele and Keith Ansbacher Conference Room.

“I had fabulous professors who were mentors, and great engagement with the dean and other administrators during my time at Montclair State,” Ansbacher says. “They believed in me, propelled me and gave me great opportunities. For me it’s an honor to give back.”

—Suzanne Marta

CLASS NOTES

1940s

Thomas A. Giordano '47, at 92 years old, is a Major League Baseball scout for the Atlanta Braves.

1950s

Rose Marie Battaglia '51, former Bergen Community College coach, was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in June.

1960s

Marie Attanasio '65 and Bonnie Ruggiero '65 returned to campus and took a walk down memory lane. (1)

Eleta J. Caldwell '67, '86 MAT was honored with a gallery dedication and opening reception at the Gallery Afero in Newark, N.J., in February.

Robert H. Meehan '68 was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by *Marquis Who's Who*.

Charles Troccoli '68 celebrated 50 years of friendship with his brothers of the Psi Chi fraternity of Montclair State. (2)

Vaughn Vandegrift '68, '70 MA received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at its May 2018 commencement.

Marge Sawruk nee Wetmore '68 was honored with the State History Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service by the History Society of Michigan. (3)

1970s

Joseph R. Baker Jr. '70 retired as the director of intercollegiate athletics at Carroll University after eight years of employment.

Aldo D. Scrofani '73 was elected board chairman for Newark Symphony Hall in January 2018.

James A. Wynne '73 was named director of the Jefferson Township Community Chorus in Jefferson, N.J.

Dennis Divenuta '74 was named executive vice president for strategy and corporate development at 3PEA International.

Jan Snyder Price '74, '77 MA, national director of Women's HealthCare and Neurology Medical Science Liaisons Teams at Bayer, was honored as a Luminary by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association at its annual Woman of the Year event in May. (4)

William Brian Kretzmer '75 was appointed as an independent director of Cole Capital Advisors in February.

Henry "Hank" Gola '76 released his book *City of Champions*, a story of two teams colliding in the historic Orange Bowl to decide the National Sports Foundation's 1939 national championship. In addition, he was the 2018 recipient of the Lincoln Werden Award for Golf Journalism presented by the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association in June 2018. (5)

Joanne Barry '77 was honored in the Accounting category of the 2018 edition of the Top 100 Most Influential People.

Joe Cosentino '77 released two new books titled *Cozzi Cove: Happy Endings* and *Drama Fraternity*.

Richard "Rick" Geffken '77 MA signed a contract with The History Press to co-author a book on Monmouth County (N.J.) history.

Nancy Erika Smith '77, co-founder of the law firm Smith Mullen, was a finalist in the *NJBIZ* Power 100 list.

Mary T. Walsh '77 was named chief information officer for the University of Kansas.

JoAnn Young '77 received two Emmy nominations for her documentary on Fred Rogers from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

William Pope '78 joined New York University Institute of Fine Arts' Board of Trustees.

1980s

Susan Arslaner '81 was honored with a Perfumer Recognition Award by Women in Flavor & Fragrance Commerce.

Karin Seidel Klim '81 was named vice president for University Advancement at Rider University.

Susan F. Young '81 is serving the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials as immediate past president for the 2018-2019 school year.

Ronald Andersen '82 was appointed senior managing director, Commercial Private Banker at Peapack-Gladstone Bank.

Joyce A. Brocaglia '82 was listed in the 2018 *NJBIZ* Best 50 Women in Business.

Barbara A. Pinelli '82 was recently awarded the prestigious Facing History In-Depth Program Grant, which gives middle and high school history teachers access to professional development and materials for their classroom. She also developed a grade 8 Pre-AP History course for the South Plainfield (N.J.) School District.



CLASS OF 1969

It's time to celebrate
your 50th Reunion.
Save the date - May 24, 2019.

Visit montclair.edu/alumni/reunion
for more information
and updates.



6

Anthony J. Scriffignano '82, '85 MA was named U.S. Chief Data Officer of the Year 2018 by the CDO Club, the world's largest community of C-suite digital and data leaders.

Robert Pignatello '83 was selected by the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to be the 15th president of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. He served nearly 25 years in the CUNY system including 18 years as the senior vice president and chief operating officer at John Jay College and in the same capacity at Hunter College. (6)



7

Marie Rolls Faber '84 was appointed trial court administrator of the Hudson Vicinage in N.J.

Maria Sceppaguerccio Gever '84 joined Keurig Green Mountain as senior vice president of investor relations.



8

Maureen A. Langan '84, radio host and stand-up comic, returned to The Marsh San Francisco for a special limited engagement of her 2017 smash hit *Daughter of a Garbage Man* in April 2018.

John R. McEwen '84 received The Robert J. Smythe Award for Outstanding Professional Fundraiser from the New Jersey chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in June.

Kevin E. Wright '84 was ordained as permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of New York at a Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in June.

Thomas Tkach '85 was appointed interim director of University of New Mexico's Harwood Museum of Art.

Catherine Franzoni '86 was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Manasquan Bank.

Steven M. Klein '87 is the chief executive officer of Northfield Bank.

Peter Lori '87 was named chief financial officer of Univision Communications. He oversees its finance organization and is responsible for corporate finance, treasury, risk management, investor relations, financial planning and analysis, audit, tax, procurement, real estate and corporate business development.

Richard Scuderi '87, a local top-selling author, led an interactive discussion on surviving anxiety and depression at a Barnes & Noble in Bridgewater, N.J.

Jeffrey Biunno '88, '05 MA was a finalist in the Public Company category of *NJBIZ* 2018 CFO of the Year Awards.

1990s

Melinda Mullery Hanlon '90 MA was appointed the new chair of the Board of Trustees for Seton Hall University's Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies.

Patrick J. Brunner '91 was named the athletic director of Mountain Lakes (N.J.) School District.

Rhonda VanAntwerp '91 MA was appointed assistant director of corporate and foundation relations at St. Thomas Aquinas College. (7)

Kelly A. Frank '92 joined Crowe LLP as a partner in audit services.

Judy L. LoBianco '92, '95 MA was listed among an elite group of school district leaders recognized in *Education Week's* annual "Leaders to Learn From" report.

Elke Brindopke Yetter '92 was appointed Sussex County (N.J.) treasurer.

Karen D'Avino '94 was appointed the new superintendent of the Vernon Township School District in Vernon, N.J.

Jennifer F. Terry '95 joined The Bancorp as managing director and chief human resources officer.

Joanne Vos '95 was appointed president of the Middlesex County (N.J.) Bar Association in May.

Kerri Mazzoni Ehrmantraut '96 was awarded first place in the "Public Relations: Feature Media Placement" category of NJ Ad Club's 50th Anniversary Jersey Awards for her work on the New York State Podiatric Medical Association. (8)

Roger León '96 MA was named superintendent of Newark (N.J.) Public Schools.

Erica D. Sampson '96, a transformational speaker and best-selling author, released her new book *The Power to Believe in Your Greatness: A Story of Resilience and Triumph*.

Greer Gelman '97 MA, a kindergarten teacher and Livingston Education Foundation president, was named 2018 Educator of the Year by the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce in N.J.

2000s

Nanette L. Rotonda '00 MA was honored at a retirement dinner for her 44 years of service with the Belleville (N.J.) School District.

Nicole L. Viola '00, '15 MA was named supervisor of special services of the Clark Public School District in Clark, N.J.

Manda T. Weiss-Cronin '00, '07 was a recipient of the Sparta Governor's Educators Award in Sparta, N.J.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

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Visit montclair.edu/alumni, where you can also sign up for your alumni email account. You can also update your information by calling the **Office of Alumni Engagement** at 973-655-4141.

A portrait of Victor Cirilo '00, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred cityscape with tall buildings.

Victor Cirilo '00

PUBLIC SERVANT

For Victor Cirilo, the leafy campus of Montclair State University offered a rejuvenating refuge from the urban neighborhoods of West New York, New Jersey, where his family settled after emigrating from El Salvador.

His experience there inspired Cirilo, who had been in the United States for a decade, to build a foundation in public service that would guide his career.

Cirilo, who graduated from Montclair State with a degree in Political Science in 2000, learned the power of networking and collaboration as a freshman legislator. Juggling classes, work and extracurricular activities – he was president of his Theta Xi fraternity – helped him hone time management skills. His work for *The Montclarion* student newspaper helped push his writing skills.

“All these things really helped me develop leadership skills and learn how to move an agenda forward,” he says. “These were all additional skills that you don’t learn in a classroom.”

At Montclair, Cirilo says he felt faculty and staff were rooting for him to succeed, and particularly recalls the support of Dean James Harris. “He was always interested in how I was doing and making sure I was on the right path and doing well in the classroom,” says Cirilo.

Cirilo also credits Professor Jack Samuels, his fraternity’s faculty advisor, for his dedicated mentorship that assured that the organization ran in a business-like fashion, and that the members developed into strong, responsible leaders.

Montclair State’s Center for Career Services and Cooperative

Education ultimately led Cirilo to the Dover Housing Authority, where he spent six years gaining experience in public housing property management and development. Next, he shifted into politics, logging four years as chief of staff for New Jersey Assemblyman John F. McKeon, honing his skills at building legislation, managing staff and constituents.

In 2007, Cirilo returned to public housing as executive director of the Housing Authority for the City of Passaic, where, during the next decade, he turned around the agency’s finances, moving its federal designation from “Troubled” to “High Performer,” and used a new federal financing program to modernize its aging infrastructure.

It was that success that led him to his current role as executive

director for the Newark Housing Authority, the state’s largest public housing agency with a budget of \$183 million and about 400 employees, a position he took in 2017.

Cirilo also was involved in local government, having served two terms as a councilman for the Township of West Orange, New Jersey.

“It was the greatest opportunity of my life to become educated and be part of the American melting pot,” he says. “Being in public service is my way of thanking this great country for extending me so many great opportunities and really allow me to make something of myself.”

–Suzanne Marta



Carrie E. Merritt '05 was promoted to sergeant of the Old Bridge (N.J.) Police Department.

Michael S. Gall Jr. '01 was appointed superintendent of Sussex-Wantage (N.J.) Regional School District.

Jenn Winski Colodney '02 was named vice president of marketing and communications for the Somerset County (N.J.) YMCA. (9)

Renata A. Mizak '02, an attorney, was promoted to partner at Ladday, Clark & Ryan, LLP.

Brent Barnes '03 MA was hired as assistant football coach and defensive coordinator of Alfred State College.

John W. Coviello '03, '10 MA was named principal of Manchester Regional High School in Haledon, N.J.

Ermal Luzaj '03, '10 MBA was a finalist in the Accounting category of the *NJBIZ* 2018 40 Under 40 awards.

Keyana Jones '04, founder of HIKEOLUTION, was a guest speaker for a panel discussion at the Newark (N.J.) Museum in April 2018.

Matthew I. Wechter '04, a teacher at Robert N. Wilentz Elementary School, was named Teacher of the Year 2018 for Middlesex County, N.J.

Ryan Marshall '05 is a partner at Ela Financial Group, a wealth management firm that manages about \$250 million with locations in Wyckoff and Westfield, N.J. He was also selected to be on the cover of September's edition of *Financial Planning* magazine. (10)

Stephanie Sabaliauskas '05, '11 MA, Justine Barbato '07, Stef Elefther '11, Brittany Casares '14, Christina Nunes '12 and former MSU women's soccer coach, Eileen Blair, came together to enjoy a New York Red Bulls II soccer game on October 14, 2018. (11)

Kathryn L. Clores '06 married Jeffrey Vincent Fucci on October 22, 2017.

Hakika DuBose '06 was named the youngest female franchisor in the U.S. She is the founder/CEO of Kika Stretch Studios in Montclair, N.J. (12)

Sinclair Gibore '06 was promoted to senior IT specialist of BL&S Technologies.

Yuri T. Jadotte '06 was promoted to associate professor at Rutgers University. He was also appointed the assistant residency program director and assistant professor of preventive medicine at the Stony Brook School of Medicine.

Paul R. Rodriguez '06 joined New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's administration as the director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

Katalin Vilim '06 showcased her pop art and abstract imagery in a joint show as part of ARTSpeaks edition of the Jersey City (N.J.) Theater Center.

Melody A. Federico '07 MBA was hired as executive director for HOMECorp.

Paul Gorski '07 MEd was named principal of Fair Lawn (N.J.) High School.

Silvana Henao '07 was promoted to segment producer of CNBC's *Closing Bell*. She also represents CNBC as a bilingual talent ambassador on Telemundo recording biweekly personal finance segments for *Tu Dinero es Tu Futuro*.

Joseph A. DeNicolò '08, '15 MA, an English teacher and drama director at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, N.J., was honored as "Teacher of the Year" for 2018.

Makeida Hewitt Estupinan '08 was named principal of Gregory Elementary School in West Orange, N.J.

Talena Lachelle Queen '08 won an education award from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council for her "Little Free Library" program in Paterson, N.J., where users can take a book to read or leave one for someone else.

Amanda McCloy Rivera '08 was named 2018 Educational Services Professional of the Year by Cumberland Regional High School in Upper Deerfield, N.J.

Decosy Hercules '09 joined St. Luke's University Health Network as a primary care sports medicine physician.

Thomas E. Holland '09 was a finalist in the Rising Star category of *NJBIZ* 2018 CFO of the Year Awards.

Sonel Soulouque '09 MA released his new book titled *My Side Income: 7 ways to put more money in your pocket*.

2010s

Shauna DeMarco '10 MA was named superintendent of the Tenafly (N.J.) School District.





CONSUMER HEALTH ADVOCATE

Meriterese Racanelli '08 MS

Meriterese Racanelli is working to improve consumer health by creating cultural food and wellness campaigns to meet national consumer demand for healthy foods.

Now a global food scientist and nutritionist for Goya Foods, Inc., the nation's largest Hispanic-owned food company, Racanelli wears many hats at the company, including head of nutrition

and partnerships with government agencies, hospitals and national health organizations, as well as running wellness campaigns, MyPlate Cooking Demonstrations and community outreach programs to name a few.

She also helps lead the company's research and development team on the food science and nutrition features and benefits of ingredients, products and recipes.

Her work includes educating consumers on how to use culturally traditional foods, such as beans, for a healthy diet as they cope with weight management and diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and celiac.

"Eating healthy doesn't have to cost a lot, it can be cheaper than eating fast food," she said in a recent FOX TV video promoting tips such as choosing dry beans and rice, buying fruit in season or reading labels to make sure canned foods don't contain sugary syrup.

Racanelli graduated in 2008 from Montclair State University with a Master of Science in Nutrition and Food Science, after studying pre-med/biology for her undergraduate degree.

Working with New Jersey hospitals, she also completed her Clinical Dietetics and Medical Nutrition Therapy training magna cum laude.

Throughout her career, Racanelli has taught nutrition, food and health science in schools, universities, health departments and hospitals. Her nutrition and fitness programs targeting children from multicultural backgrounds was produced for media outlets such as Radio Disney and Nickelodeon.

As a consultant, Racanelli has worked with food and nutraceutical outlets, Olympic and professional athletes and celebrities.

Racanelli says her strong faith and results-oriented work ethic drive her. "Whether it be a patient health issue, company project or government health initiative, I enjoy creating and developing solutions to complex issues."

Since joining Goya in 2013, Racanelli has helped the company navigate government guidelines and health initiatives, and develop healthier cultural recipes and new products. She created the Goya "Better-for-You" product line, which includes low- and reduced-sodium and no-added-sugar foods, as well as organic and low-sodium grain mixes. The line has grown to include 300 products, she says.

Racanelli calls products such as low-sodium canned beans "a good example of how good nutrition can be combined with convenience and good taste."

Earlier this year, Racanelli returned to campus to share insights on the cultural components of food, diet and sustainability for University seminars on food sustainability.

"It's rewarding to be able to utilize my formal education, expertise and cultural competencies to help achieve solutions and goals that ultimately help the public reduce disease and improve health."

—Suzanne Marta





13

Kyle Peters '12 graduated from UCLA Law with a JD from the Public Interest Law and Policy Program in May. He is now working as a criminal defense attorney with The Legal Aid Society in NYC. (13)

Allison Strong '12 will be returning as Talia Goldstein in Season 2 of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* on Amazon. She was also a featured guest on *One on One with Steve Aduardo* for NJTV and on the cover of *The Digest* magazine. (14)



14

Matthew V. Cornacchione '13 MA was named head baseball coach at Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

Joseph LaSala '13 was appointed head football coach of Woodbridge (N.J.) High School.

David Acosta '14, a musician who goes by his stage name, "Murdock," celebrated the release of his new album in August.

Brittany Casares '14 was named head coach of women's soccer at The College of Staten Island (N.Y.).

George Juzdan '14 franchised TAPinto Passaic Valley, which provides original local news coverage for the residents of Little Falls, Totowa and Woodland Park in N.J.

Christine Soccio Romanell '14 MFA partnered with engineers at Unilux to create a custom program that creates a harmonic relationship between flash rate and the geometric form that is in motion for her solo show *Everything is Connected*.

Evan Ruggiero '14 was nominated for a Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Male Dancer in an off-Broadway Show.



15

Angela Babicz '15 competed on MTV's *Ex on the Beach*, a social experiment reality TV show.

Carlos Bandera '15 was selected as one of the six Copland House Fellows to participate in CULTIVATE 2018, an annual emerging composers institute.

Timothy J. Beaumont '15 MA received the prestigious 2018 Allen Morehead Memorial Award from Montclair State University's College of Education and Human Services at the CEHS Annual Awards Ceremony.

Christopher Gash '15 married Jenn Sudol, his high school sweetheart, on March 10, 2018. The wedding took place in the hallway of Clifton High School in N.J.

Rose B. Kingston '15 MA founded Josephine Clark Academy in Liberia in 2016. Her goal is to craft an individual education plan so students can overcome the gap in their education because of the war.

Eiad Masri '15 MA earned an EdD in Educational Leadership from the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Eric S. Schaffer '15 MA was hired as head women's and men's cross country coach as well as track and field coach for Dominican College.

Sandra L. Smith '15 MA was named assistant principal of Clinton Elementary School in Maplewood, N.J.

Gregory Winick '15 MA released his first fiction novel titled *A.H.* The novel is an ongoing paradigm of cause and effect, showing what's occurring in the past, current and future times and its ramifications on everyday American life.

Kofi Armah '16 celebrated the opening of his Ghanaian restaurant called Coal Lounge & Grill in Bethlehem, Pa.

Maura Johnston '16 was named assistant coach of Stevens Institute of Technology's field hockey team.

Melissa T. Koster '16 was named assistant coach of Stevens Institute of Technology women's soccer program.

Rita Rusin '16 was hired as a registered dietitian for ShopRite of Emerson, N.J.

Amatullah'Muhyi Ali '17 and **Michelle Martinez '17**, who together own Afrotwin Productions, showcased their two recent films titled *Undefined: A Muslim American Musical* and *Hit Me Up* at the Montclair Film Festival in May.

Melissa Collucci '17 PhD was named assistant professor of education of St. Thomas Aquinas College.

Donald J. Cook '17 and **Andrew Mulick '17**, were sworn in as police officers for the Clifton (N.J.) Police Department.

Kwasi Opoku '17 competed in the 7th season of MTV's hit dating show *Are You The One?* which premiered in August.

Jellyn Anne Echon '18 is an e-commerce and digital marketing director for W. Kodak Jewelry in Hoboken, N.J. (15)

Dean P. Spadavecchia '18 was sworn in as officer of the Parsippany-Troy Hills (N.J.) Police Department.

Taylor Strothmann '18 MA was appointed to the head women's bowling coach at Felician University.

IN MEMORIAM

William T. Allen '36
Eugene W. Kahn '37
Ruth Lussenhop Gibson '39
Pauline Poole Foster '42
Lloyd Adler '43, '67 MA
Roslyn Goldstein Fink '43
E. Alma Flagg '43 MA
Ruth Mather Flock '44
Marie Swithenbank Buikema '45
Berenice Giordano '45
Evelyn Murphy Mueller '47, '51 MA
Elaine Erikson-Marcus '48, '59 MA
Marion Gleason '48
Elise A. Kohms '49
Julia F. Dougherty '50
Raymond C. Lewin '50, '53 MA
Ruth Freeland Rechten '50
Michael J. Bernardo '51
Wynfield Kornreich '51, '70 MA
Walter Marusyn '52, '57 MA
Gabriel Amatucci '53 MA
William C. Enderlein '54
Jean L. Badgley '55
Virginia "Ginny" Grammer '55
Gerard Caracciolo '56, '61 MA
Marion Orlandini '56
Richard Moryl '57
Carl L. Ordway '57
Dorothea Paoletta '57
Terry H. Winter '57, '61 MA
Bart DiPaola '58, '63 MA
Henry Matelson '58
Anna Daviet '59
Jean Gallagher '59
William T. Hodge '59
Joseph E. Beliveau '60
Marie F. Halpin '60
Margaret Ruppert '60
James A. Agnew '61
Judith L. Reiss '61
Janet Stemmler Hector '62
Rose Mary Bergmann '63, '79 MA
Carol A. Dempsey '63, '70 MA
Eugene R. Fox '64

Robert E. Johnson '64
Barbara "Bonnie" Richelo '64, '72 MA
Robert Sulyma '64 MA
Carolyn Chesney '65
Frances M. Grimes '65 MA
James Cottingham '66
Frances Beckett Cucci '67
William T. Reedy Jr. '67
JoAnn E. Snow '68
Frank P. Tilli '68, '73 MA
Ruth Blum Landini '69 MA
Thomas J. Gay '70 MA
David McClay II '70
Norman E. Franklin '71 MA
Patricia Egan Procac '71 MA

Charles Aughenbaugh Jr. '72 MA
Toney Jackson '72 MA
Janet D'Alessio Lombardy '72 MA
Tod McDougald '72
Kenneth A. Pagach '72 MA
Lawrence R. Pitts '72 MA
Yolanda Plasencia '72 MA
Stephen W. Jefferson '73
Angela Rubbone '73
Kathryn Cheryl Chicken '74, '77 MA
Anne S. Cohen '74 MA
Phillip Colocchia '74
Linda L. Froede '74
Ronald R. Lauder '74
John R. Neary '74
Pearl Scott Osborne '74, '79 MA
Stephanie Stave '74
Valerie A. Torrisi '74
John S. Brodie '75
Robert L. Kastner '75 MA
Daniel P. Kelleher Jr. '75 MA
Sonya "Sunnie" Kurtzman '75
Lee T. McDonough '75
Nanette Swordsma '75
Herbert V. Tobias '75 MA
Gary J. Barber '76
Marilyn Conrad '76
Frances Goodman '76 MA
Mary Ann Betke '77

Daniel Donovan '77, '81 MA
Karen C. Rachwal '77
Thomas Craughwell '78
Marie A. Seidel '78
Clarice Silverstein '78 MA
Ann Louise Voelzke '78
Klaus D. Schleim '80
Robert J. Walzer '80
Bethany DiMarco '81
Timothy Dwyer '81
John A. Gilbert III '81
Margaret G. Kennedy '81
James A. McElhinney '81
Wayne Birkenthal '83
Robert M. Boyle '83 MA
Carol Hickey Fitzgerald '83
Phyllis A. Aquino '84
Rudolph L. Bartel Jr. '84
Hans E. Josephsen IV '84
Madeline McClure '84
Patrick J. Rooney '84
Laurie Belliveau Brunot '85
William W. Hubbard '85
Michael Miniere Sr. '85
George M. Snider '86 MA
Todd Sutterlin '86
Patricia J. Corbin '87 MA
Barbara L. Schweitzer '87 MA
Joseph Panzarella '90
Kimberly W. Rotondi '91 MA
Marjorie A. Wilkins '91 MA
John A. Kinsey '97
Lori A. Liskiewicz '98 MA
Zaida E. Polanco '98
Tana E. Quigley '04
Tammy M. Waldron '04
Christina Novak Azares '06
Michelle Carr '08
Jessica Lynn McMenemy '12

Retired Faculty

Martin Greenwald
Christopher Stasheff

Professors Emeriti

Gerald Caracciolo '56, '61 MA
Sureish Desai
David Stuehler

LASTING LESSONS



HOLLY GERA '79 | Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

Amid the whirlwind of all the schedules, games, personnel and decisions that is Montclair State Athletics, one constant and calming presence for the past 22 years has been Holly Gera. As director of Athletics, she has ably led the University's nationally respected athletics program, and guided and mentored countless student athletes. "I had the pleasure of having Holly as my athletics director during my time as player and coach," recalls Bill Anthes '07. "Her grace and composure were always evident and have had a lasting impact on me, not just at the leadership level, but on the human level." After joining Montclair State in 1989 as director of Campus Recreation, Gera quickly distinguished herself as a leader becoming assistant director of Athletics the following year. "Holly is a tremendous role model," says Michael Palazzo '14, now an assistant football coach at Montclair State. "She approaches every day with such great passion – she is a real inspiration to me." Gera, who is retiring in December, is renowned for her caring, positive approach to people. "Holly taught me the importance of poise and positivity," says Melissa Tobie '16, an All-American basketball star for the Red Hawks. "No matter how hectic the gym could be on game day, Holly always found a way to keep things running smoothly, with a positive attitude." Maurice Torres '10 agrees: "Holly's warmth and sense of community will forever stick with me as an alumnus and former student athlete."

–Robert Gano

Read more about Gera at montclair.edu/lasting-lessons/Gera. Let us know which faculty members made a difference during your time at Montclair State at editor@montclair.edu.



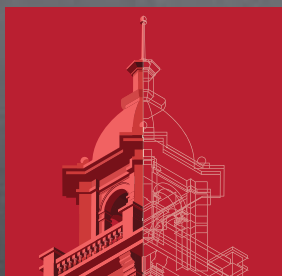
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CONVOCATIONS

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CHSS, CART May 17, 2019
CSAM, SBUS May 18, 2019

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