

The magazine of Montclair State University

# MONTCLAIR

Fall 2016

## PRESERVING OUR WORLD



### STARTING OVER

Faculty, staff and students help Syrian refugees rebuild their lives

### GETTING REAL

Innovative partnerships let students explore passions during internships

### COVER STORY:

Researcher's decades of work conserves land and culture in Papua New Guinea

# “I’m going to college.”



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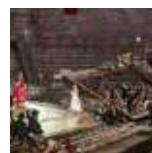
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**E**ducation by its very nature is about transformation; it changes lives through learning, experimentation and creative expression. As knowledge and the world change, the institutions that provide that education also evolve, and, this year at Montclair State, evidence of our continuing transformation is abundant.

The University's educational resources have been enhanced with the addition of new facilities; new programs are offering even more pathways for students; and we recently welcomed a record-breaking enrollment of 21,000 talented and promising students into our community.

In 2017 we will open a new School of Communication and Media building, providing the most technologically advanced broadcast and media production facility at any university in the country. Our new School of Nursing, along with The Graduate School, will be moving into the renovated Partridge Hall in January. And students in our dance program (which was recently ranked No. 5 in the nation) are already pirouetting in our new state-of-the-art studio space.

Less than a year ago, Montclair State marked a major transformation as we moved up in our national classification from a master's level comprehensive university to a research doctoral institution. As a result, the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings this fall compared us to the nation's largest doctoral institutions. I am proud to report that we debuted impressively in the top 200 and in the top 100 public universities in *The Wall Street Journal* rankings.

The most impressive transformations, of course, happen at the individual level, and this is where Montclair State truly excels.

As you read through this edition of *Montclair* magazine, consider the students so transformed by a beloved professor and his lasting impact on their lives that they stepped forward to offer a kidney to save that mentor's life.

Examine the power of just one of our talented, devoted researchers whose decades-long effort to preserve biodiversity in Papua New Guinea has helped create that country's largest conservation area.

Read how our faculty, staff and students have transformed the lives of Syrian refugees, offering them safety, hope and support as they begin anew in New Jersey.

Contemplate the generosity of spirit of two remarkable friends of the University whose lives were so enriched by their educational experiences that they contributed considerable family wealth toward making that experience possible for others.

In fact, every page of *Montclair* magazine contains a story of transformation, betterment and lives well led. That's what great universities make possible. As we head into the season of celebration and sharing, I hope that you share in the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with being a member of the Montclair State University community.

Susan A. Cole

# MONTCLAIR

The magazine of Montclair State University

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# FEEDBACK

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

Like us on Facebook, tweet about us on Twitter @montclairstateu, email us at editor@mail.montclair.edu. (We reserve the right to edit letters.)



with Montclair students and profit as much from them as they do from us oldsters. Maybe your article can spur other [communities] to reach out to nearby colleges or even high schools and do the same. Given the increase in our aging population, having more people understand older people is and will be important in the future.

**-Suzanne Hawes, Cedar Crest retirement community**

Dear Editor,  
Thank you for keeping me up to date on these exciting developments at Montclair. I taught at Montclair State from 1972-79 and chaired the music department from 1975-79. I left

a large part of my heart at Montclair when I went "west" to Penn State University where I continue to teach full time and to do my research on the music of Igor Stravinsky. Please give my best wishes to the president.

**-Maureen A. Carr**



## Our favorite tweets

New York Times Arts tweeted about Montclair State's Peak Performances in October.



**New York Times Arts**  
@nytimesarts



New York Times Arts @nytimesarts - Oct 8

The choreographer Deborah Hay unveils her latest work as part of Peak Performances at Montclair State University.



**Review: This Sublime New Dance Work Embraces Wonder**

The choreographer Deborah Hay unveils her latest, with help from the Culberg Ballet, as part of Peak Performances at Montclair State University. nytimes.com

When the Inter Milan soccer team practiced here, we were mentioned in an Italian tweet about the team's first practice on our fields.



**F.C. Internazionale**  
@Inter



F.C. Internazionale @Inter - Jul 26

Primo allenamento per i nerazzurri sui campi della Montclair State University: foto e report bit.ly/2atVUPa



# HEADLINES

## Montclair State Ranks Among National Universities



The new dance studio in Life Hall

In its first academic year as a Carnegie-designated research doctoral university, Montclair State was ranked among the top 200 national universities in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* and in the top 100 public institutions in *The Wall Street Journal* rankings.

One of only seven New Jersey institutions in the *U.S. News* top-tier category of private and public universities, Montclair State finished on a par with schools including the University of New Mexico and Ball State University, and outperformed numerous universities including Bowling Green State University and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Montclair State's rankings reflect its much higher-than-

expected graduation rates given the characteristics of the student population, including its diversity and large number of first-generation college students.

"These recognitions affirm what an excellent job we do at helping students succeed here," says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Willard Gingerich.

These recognitions are the latest indication of the University's forward momentum and its growing national reputation.

### DANCE PROGRAM RANKS IN TOP FIVE NATIONALLY

This fall, Montclair State's BFA program in Dance was cited as one of the top five programs in the country by OnStage, a leading online voice on the arts.

"The best kept secret in the world of dance is no longer a secret," says College of the Arts Dean Daniel Gurskis. "We at Montclair State have always known that our dance program is among the finest in the country, both for its gifted students and for its extraordinary faculty."

The program was commended for its conservatory-based approach to training, as well as for giving Dance majors the

opportunity to rehearse and perform in exceptional state-of-the-art facilities, including spacious new dance studios and six professional-quality theaters.

### LGBTQ-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

For the second consecutive year, *Campus Pride* has included Montclair State in its "Best of the Best" Top 30 list of LGBTQ-friendly institutions of higher education, joining Tufts, University of Pennsylvania and UCLA on the prestigious 2016 list of the nation's most LGBTQ-inclusive schools in terms of policies, programs and practices.

"This is a huge honor that sets the bar high," says Brian Edwards, the University's assistant director of the Office of Equity and Diversity.

### OTHER RECENT NOTABLE RANKINGS

Montclair State has also earned spots on other notable rankings lists, including:

- The graduate programs in elementary teacher education and secondary teacher education were both ranked nationally No. 14 in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 Best Education Schools.
- *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine* has placed Montclair State on its list of "Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics" for 17 years in a row – and awarded it the second highest ranking in New Jersey in 2015.
- *Money* magazine listed Montclair State among the nation's "50 Colleges that Add the Most Value" for 2016. ■

# Enrollment Hits Historic High

Montclair State University's fall 2016 combined undergraduate and graduate student population of 21,000 has broken previous records for enrollment.

The record-breaking count of 16,810 undergraduate students includes approximately 3,000 freshmen and 1,500 new transfer students, making the incoming

class of 2020 one of the largest in the University's 108-year history. The new enrollment figures reflect the University's successful expansion of its recruitment geography, as well as its growing diversity.

"This year we experienced a 16 percent increase in out-of-state students," notes President Susan A. Cole. "Our students have come from every county in New Jersey, from



27 states and from many foreign countries. We are proud to have attracted such a diverse and accomplished class of students this year." ■

## New Online MBA Targets Working Professionals

This fall, the Feliciano School of Business enrolled its first cohort of students in its new fully online MBA program, which is designed to meet the needs of working professionals seeking to expand their career potential and impact.

"The online format allows us to offer our high-quality, work-ready MBA to nontraditional students who aren't able to join us on campus," says Feliciano School of Business Dean Greg Cant. "Our goal is to give students the flexibility they need to accommodate their work schedules, as well as an innovative curriculum that develops the talents and skills needed to compete in an increasingly global marketplace."

Students can pursue either the online General MBA with no specializations, which covers a variety of business disciplines and managerial practices, or the online MBA offering specializations in Digital Marketing, Human Resources Management, Marketing and Project Management.

The Online MBA joins the School's popular Weeknight, Executive and Saturday Hybrid MBA degree program options, as well as a Master of Science in Accounting degree program.

The MBA increases the University's fully online presence, which includes two degree programs in the College of Education and Human Services: a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and a Master of Arts in Child Advocacy and Policy. These online programs are available to students in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. ■

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
**Montclair State University**  
IT'S ALL HERE.

**5** REASONS IT'S SMART TO GET YOUR GRADUATE DEGREE

**92%** OF GRAD ALUMNI ARE EMPLOYED

**3 OF 4** SAY THEIR DEGREE PROVIDED FASTER ADVANCEMENT

ON AVERAGE ALUMNI RECOUP THEIR INVESTMENT IN **<4** YEARS

**75%** SAID GRAD SCHOOL HAS BEEN FINANCIALLY REWARDING

**9 IN 10** WOULD DO IT ALL AGAIN

SOURCE: GRADUATE MANAGEMENT ADMISSION COUNCIL

VISIT [montclair.edu/graduate](http://montclair.edu/graduate)

# Hero on the Hudson

**M**ost college students spend their summers earning money or extra college credits.

Kevin Suarez spent his becoming a hero.

In July, the mathematics major from Jersey City was working on Ellis Island as a dock attendant for Statue Cruises when he noticed a small boat in the restricted area near the seawall capsized, tossing its six passengers into the water.

Without hesitation, Suarez dove into the Hudson River from the seawall – a nearly 20-foot drop – and swam about 70 feet through choppy water to reach the boat.

The passengers frantically told him that one of the four children, a 5-year-old girl, was missing. He knew then

that she must be trapped. “When a boat flips like that there’s usually a pocket of air underneath, but this boat was already flat and sinking so I knew there couldn’t be much air left,” says Suarez.

“I found her tangled in some ropes under the boat. I untangled her and brought her to the surface. The moment her head was above water she was gasping for breath and crying.”

With the 5-year-old in one arm, Suarez, who was wearing a life jacket because of his job on the pier, held a 7-year-old girl in his other arm, and floating on his back and using just his legs, swam the three of them toward the seawall. Once there, his co-worker threw out a buoy for them to hold onto until the Coast Guard arrived.

Suarez, a junior who wants to be a firefighter or police officer after graduation, has worked for Statue Cruises since his freshman year of high school.

Two weeks after that dramatic day on the Hudson, Suarez was reunited with the family he helped rescue – including the little girl he saved.

“At first I didn’t really think it was a huge deal, it was just my instinct to try to help them – until she gave me a tight hug and called me her superhero,” says Suarez. “Then I realized that I’d really saved her life.”

The U.S. Coast Guard, the Jersey City Police Department and City Council, his employers and the U.S. Park Police in Washington, D.C., have all honored Suarez for his bravery. ■



Junior Kevin Suarez saved a 5-year-old girl from a capsized boat in the Hudson River. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Suarez)



## Red Hawks and Red Bulls

**M**ontclair State has partnered with the New York Red Bulls II, the United Soccer League second team of Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls, and will be the new home for the club beginning in 2017.

As part of the formal partnership, the organization will help the University renovate Pittser Field, home of Red Hawks soccer, turning the facility into a 5,000-seat stadium over the next five years. When completed, Pittser will also serve as the home field for Red Bulls II and will feature a press box, video camera platforms and a FanFest area.

The upgrades will position Montclair State as a potential host location for some of college soccer's biggest events, including the NCAA Division III men's and women's soccer Final Four tournaments.

“We are excited by this partnership and recognize that it will allow Montclair State students to develop an even closer connection to a sport they love,” says Montclair State Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Holly Gera. ■



## School of Communication and Media Takes Shape

In 2017, Montclair State University's School of Communication and Media will open the most technologically advanced broadcast and media production facility at any university in the country.

Currently nearing completion, the 105,000-square-foot facility will link Morehead Hall with Life Hall, creating a single, multifunctional communication and multimedia facility. It will be equipped with leading-edge technology, including a 4K studio and interoperable

control rooms, each of which will be able to control any production facility in the building.

The school is also updating two high-definition studios and adding five new production spaces, including a dedicated film studio and a broadcast-ready newsroom. Thanks to a new strategic alliance between the University and Sony Electronics, Montclair State students will have access to the latest technology used in Hollywood. ■



## Drive Raises Funds for Emergency Assistance



The Montclair State Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving raised more than \$12,470 from 350 alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University during its first Day of Giving campaign in April.

In honor of the University's 108-year history, donors gave anywhere from \$1.08 to \$108 and beyond to help students facing financial emergencies

that could threaten their education. Funds raised from this campaign support the Emergency Scholarship Fund and Red Hawk Pantry (see story, page 40) – both of which help students through financial crises – as well as to cultural and educational programs across campus. Save the date for Day of Giving 2017 on April 20. For more information, visit [montclair.edu/day-of-giving](http://montclair.edu/day-of-giving). ■

# PBS Airs Instructor's Documentary of Scholar Turned Killer



**A** promising student at Glenfield Middle School in Montclair, Tourrie Moses was student council president by eighth grade. The following year he traded high school for life on the streets. Today, he sits behind bars at East Jersey State Prison with a 15-year sentence on aggravated manslaughter and assault charges.

A new documentary by Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmakers John Block, formerly of NBC, and Steve McCarthy, a Montclair State University instructor and news producer, explores Moses' transformation from a scholar to a killer, by way of gang violence and lost opportunity.

Funded in part by the John and Rose Cali Family Foundation and filmed during Block's and McCarthy's free time over the course of three years, *The One That Got Away* premiered at the Montclair Film Festival in May before airing on PBS in September.

"Most people don't think a kid like this grows up this way in Montclair, but it does happen," McCarthy says. "It's also about teachers though, really, and how they try every day and how they save people every day. This is the one that got away, but they save thousands and thousands through the years, no doubt."

The film chronicles efforts by Moses' middle school teachers to keep him engaged in school and expand his world beyond his neighborhood in Montclair's south end. For Glenfield teacher Dan Gill, who has taught there for more than 40 years, Moses is the student they couldn't save – "the one that got away."

The film was also the topic for WNYC's *The Takeaway* in September. "We hope that it starts a national discussion about young people like this," says McCarthy. "When they're looking like they're going the wrong way, what can we do?" ■



Actress Ali Stroker

## Montclair State Hosts ReelAbilities Film Festival

**A**li Stroker, *Glee* cast member and the first actress in a wheelchair to perform on Broadway; actress Kathy Buckley, a motivational speaker and the first female comedienne with hearing loss; and hearing-impaired performance group Silent No More headlined the ReelAbilities Montclair Film Festival – the largest of its kind in the country – held at Montclair State this fall.

"ReelAbilities promotes awareness of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different abilities

by challenging assumptions and generating discussions about abilities, differences and similarities, and inclusion in society – while busting stereotypes and attitudes that can be discriminatory, restrictive and limiting," says Fran Karen Prezant, a festival organizer and professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

As an official host of the national event, Montclair State screened award-winning films selected by the festival's New York City screening committee from over 1,000 competitive

submissions that redefined what it means to be "normal."

Discussions featuring Stroker, Buckley and area advocates from Easter Seals New Jersey and Achilles International were held after each screening. Additional films were shown at the JCC Metrowest in West Orange as part of the festival.

Founded eight years ago in New York City, this year's ReelAbilities included more than 15 venue cities nationwide. Montclair State previously served as a venue site in 2013 and 2014. ■



# Rx for Success

## School of Nursing opens with inaugural RN to BSN degree program

Dean Janice Smolowitz and Courtney Reinisch, director of Undergraduate Nursing, look forward to moving the program into the renovated Partridge Hall in spring 2017.

The new School of Nursing at Montclair State opened this fall and welcomed its first class of students in the RN to BSN degree program.

This hybrid program is designed to accommodate the schedules of working nurses, who already hold RN degrees from associate and diploma programs. They meet on campus for monthly classroom collaborations and engage in weekly online activities with their instructors.

Come January, when renovations are complete, the on-campus sessions will join The Graduate School in a move to Partridge Hall. The School of Nursing's new home will feature computer-mediated classrooms, an anatomy lab and nursing lab spaces with dedicated areas where students can develop and hone complex procedural skills. High-fidelity patient simulators

will foster collaboration and student decision making, problem solving and patient care skills.

Janice Smolowitz, the founding dean of the School of Nursing, joins Montclair State from Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, where she served as the senior director of education, professional practice and research, and The Columbia University School of Nursing, where she served as senior associate dean and professor of nursing. *Montclair* magazine talked with Smolowitz about the School of Nursing and what the future holds for its students.

### Why is the RN to BSN degree so important?

While there are different paths to becoming an RN, the BSN is the preferred – or even required – degree for generalist nursing practice. The health care system

is rapidly evolving. Nursing care is shifting from an in-patient model to one based on care delivered in the community and across multiple settings.

Nurses are increasingly taking on advanced roles and functions that require skill in case management, care coordination, health promotion and disease prevention education, staff supervision, and interprofessional communication. Our RN to BSN program provides working RNs with a course of study that enables them to refine and enhance their current skill sets at a pace designed to meet their individual needs.

### As dean, what do you most hope to accomplish?

Montclair State's rich history will inform the role the School of Nursing will play in improving health care locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Establishing meaningful relationships is key. There are

tremendous opportunities for collaboration among programs that can improve the health of the community. I hope to foster and participate in new models of interprofessional education that will successfully prepare nurses for innovative collaborations with consumers and other stakeholders to develop, implement and evaluate compassionate, coordinated health care services for diverse populations.

### Is the future bright for School of Nursing graduates?

Absolutely. Nationally, it's projected that employment for RNs with BSN degrees will increase 16 percent by 2024 – higher than the average for all other occupations. According to the American Nurses Association, 89 percent of students who earn a BSN degree are employed within 4 to 6 months after graduation. ■

# Invasion of the Clinging Jellyfish

The Shrewsbury and Manasquan Rivers were invaded this summer by a highly toxic, nocturnal species of the dime-sized *Gonionemus vertens* or clinging jellyfish – not seen there before.

So the state brought in Montclair State jellyfish experts to investigate. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection funded an emergency study with Montclair State to quantify and delineate the clinging jellyfish population.

Paul Bologna, biology professor and director of the University's Marine Biology and Coastal Sciences program, and Biology Professor Jack Gaynor

spearheaded the research effort by collecting specimens and analyzing their DNA.

The team set up a clinging jellyfish habitat in their campus lab. "Given that this species has not been recorded in New Jersey, we need to understand its distribution and life history to establish a baseline and support the development of public education and management strategies," explains Bologna.

While the adult jellyfish, or medusa, are a problem because of their venomous sting, it's the resilient polyps, which attach to hard surfaces like bulkheads to reproduce, that pose a more



Researcher Paul Bologna and students study jellyfish.

lasting challenge. "It's a vicious cycle – so you don't really have a jellyfish problem, you have a polyp problem," says Gaynor.

The team found a polyp on one of their jellyfish attracting devices in the Shrewsbury

River. "This tells us that the adults have successfully reproduced in the river, which means that we are likely to see this species return again next spring or early next summer," explains Gaynor. ■

## Young Boot-Camp Journalists Cover Rare Cuban Baseball Visit

When the Cuban National baseball team played the New Jersey Jackals at Montclair State this summer, the games not only gave New Jersey residents a rare look at Cuban baseball, they offered a group of minority middle and high school students invaluable experience as journalists.

The students had the opportunity to interview players from both the Cuban National Team and the Jackals at Yogi Berra Stadium on June 30, as part of a journalism boot camp.

It marked the first time a Cuban professional team has played in North America since 1960 and the team's stop on campus was one in its six-city, 19-game tour with the Can-Am (Canadian-



American Association of Professional Baseball) League.

Students from Orange and Paterson, New Jersey, attended the boot camp held at Montclair State's School of Communication and Media for a complete immersion into the program, which included living on campus and culminated with the player interviews.

Designed to promote diversity in the newsroom and develop the next generation of minority journalists, the boot camp featured a packed calendar of workshops that included a trip to New York City for a guided tour of ABC News.

"It is an important public service, bringing together gifted educators and talented high school students who may not be in a position to afford 'boot camp' programs or other journalism summer efforts," School of Communication and Media Director Merrill Brown told *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine. "We're also pleased to be in a position to serve students with an interest in journalism, especially at a point in time in which the students and their parents may be getting mixed signals about opportunities in the field." ■



## Center for Clinical Services Delivers for the Community

The University officially opened its new Center for Clinical Services this fall, providing the general public with a host of programs and services from mental health counseling and literacy development to psychotherapeutic services for children with autism.

The Center embodies the University's commitment to making positive, meaningful contributions to its larger community – by both providing the public with access to affordable clinical services and by serving as a research hub.

The Center also provides students with professionally supervised opportunities to develop skills in treating clients of all ages and backgrounds.

Centrally located at 147 Clove Road, the Center has ample free parking and is easily accessible by car, bus or train, making clinical services more convenient to the public. "In the past, our various clinical services were scattered around campus," says Montclair State Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Frederick Bonato. "Now, they are all under one roof,

in one place members of the community can call on to get the support they need."

Each program and clinic is staffed by licensed professionals, counselors and faculty who supervise advanced master's and doctoral degree students-in-training. Fees are determined by a sliding scale based on income.

The Center houses the following clinics and programs:

- **Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health**, which fosters the development and psychological well-being of children from birth through age 12, and their families, through psychotherapeutic services.
- **Community Counseling Clinic**, offering children and adults compassionate counseling for everything from anxiety and depression to relationships and career decisions.
- **Clinic for Evidence-Based Practices in Schools**, including academic and behavioral assessments and interventions for children ages 5 to 21, as well as professional development, coaching and training for school staff.

• **Nutrition Counseling**, to help adults develop healthy eating habits by providing nutrition and weight control counseling.

• **Psychological Services Clinic**, offering cognitive, academic, behavioral, social/emotional, psycho-educational assessments

and providing evidence-based recommendations for school, home and/or outside interventions.

• **Summer Literacy Program**, providing literacy development, support and instruction to prepare children for the start of each new school year. ■

## University Assists Hearing Aid Project



Nearly 150 low-income senior citizens have received refurbished hearing aids through the New Jersey Hearing Aid Project since 2014.

A collaboration between Montclair State, the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Hearing Charities of America, the hearing aid project is part of the University's Audiology Clinic and its hearing aid bank is located within the Clinic.

In addition, the clinic is part of the Center for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, which offers various services including diagnostic hearing evaluations, auditory processing disorders testing and comprehensive balance testing. The Center and its clinics are open to the University community as well as the general public.

Eligibility for hearing aids is limited to state residents 65 years and older who meet income requirements and are ineligible for Medicaid.

To donate a hearing aid, drop it off or mail it to: The Center for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, 1515 Broad Street, Building B, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. ■

## Women Entrepreneurship Week Goes Global



Kim Guadagno

**F**or the first time, Women Entrepreneurship Week became international in scope this year, with events held on nearly 40 college campuses – from Australia to India, from Chile to Nigeria

and from New Jersey to Texas. In addition, the State of New Jersey declared October 15–22, 2016, as Women Entrepreneurship Week in honor of the movement that was created and organized by the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship at Montclair State in 2014.

“Events were held this year on every continent except Antarctica, but Women Entrepreneurship Week will always have Jersey roots,” says Sharon Waters, program manager for the Feliciano

Center for Entrepreneurship. Montclair State celebrated the week with free events, including “Power Play: What Makes Great Women Leaders,” an evening panel discussion that focused on power and leadership.

The panel featured Community Food Bank of New Jersey CEO Debra Vizzi; Adenah Bayoh and Companies CEO Adenah Bayoh; Zinn Graves & Field President Ruthi Byrne; and Wyndham Destination Network President and CEO Gail Mandel.

At WEW’s signature daylong conference, entrepreneurs and executives received tips for succeeding in their personal and professional lives, including advice on juggling it all and taking risks. Motivational speaker (and actual juggler) Jen Slaw was joined by New Jersey Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno; Debbie Dyson, corporate vice president of Client Experience at ADP; Laura Overdeck, founder and president of Bedtime Math Foundation; and Jayne Millard, CEO of Turtle & Hughes Inc. ■

## Professor Discusses Research With Irish President

**F**ew authors have the chance to personally present their books to heads of state. But Lucy McDiarmid, the Marie Frazee-Baldassare Professor of English at Montclair State, has done it twice.

McDiarmid presented a copy of her award-winning *At Home in the Revolution: What Women Said and Did in 1916* to Irish President Michael D. Higgins last November. “I was able to spend an hour with him, and the whole event was very exciting,” she recalls. This was the second time McDiarmid presented an Irish president with one of her books: in 1995, she gave a copy of *Lady Gregory: Selected Writings*, which she co-edited, to then President Mary Robinson.

Long interested in Ireland’s 1916 Easter Rising, McDiarmid commemorates the women of the historic six-day Irish rebellion in *At Home in the Revolution*. Internationally acclaimed for its originality and meticulous research, McDiarmid’s book contributes to women’s history by analyzing “small behaviors,” such as the ways women argued with priests, cooked with bayonets and entered male spaces during the revolution. It has received the bronze award for best history book of the year from *Foreword Reviews*.

McDiarmid notes that President Higgins is a former professor of sociology as well as a poet and politician who supports scholarship in the field of Irish culture. “I brought with me a copy of his collected poems, and because my next book is about contemporary Irish poetry, I asked him about some of his poems,” she says. “He asked his

assistant to print out a copy of a recent poem and gave me a signed copy.” President Higgins also talked about subjects ranging from global debt to the Easter Rising.

McDiarmid encountered President Higgins again at a concert on the night before the official state ceremony marking the Rising’s centenary. Invited to the green room after the performance, she was reintroduced to President Higgins. “He said, ‘Thank you for all you have done,’ and hugged me,” she recalls. “I’ve never before been hugged by the president of a nation, and I’m going to save forever the denim jacket I was wearing.” ■



Lucy McDiarmid with Michael D. Higgins, president of Ireland

# LOVE AND A LEGACY IN THE ARTS

## CONSALES FAMILY GIFT TO ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIPS AND AN ENDOWED CHAIR

**D**espite its beginnings as a show-business collaboration, the love story of Gene and Kay Consales was a private, sweet tale of deep devotion and commitment, written over the course of their 63-year marriage. At its core was also a love for music and the arts that led to a full life together and a lasting legacy of \$6 million in gifts that will help Montclair State music students for years to come.

Their story began in high school, but their friendship was interrupted when Gene was drafted into the Army Air Corps, where he played the accordion for the troops in Italy and the United States. They reconnected later when they collaborated on a production of *Voice of the Heart*, an operetta that Gene composed and Kay choreographed. As the show took shape, Gene and Kay fell in love. They married in 1947.



Kay Consales was overcome by performances of students who will benefit from her gift to the College of the Arts.

Soon, Gene found himself at a crossroads. As a talented musician and composer, he could pursue a career in the theater, or he could take advantage of the G.I. Bill, earn a degree and spend his life doing something else he loved: sharing his passion for music with young people.

Gene chose the latter, earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Montclair State and became the beloved vocal music teacher at Union (New Jersey) High School, where he was known for his elaborately staged choral concerts.

Kay also shared her passion for the arts with young people. After an injury ended her dance career, she opened a dance studio and taught for almost a decade.

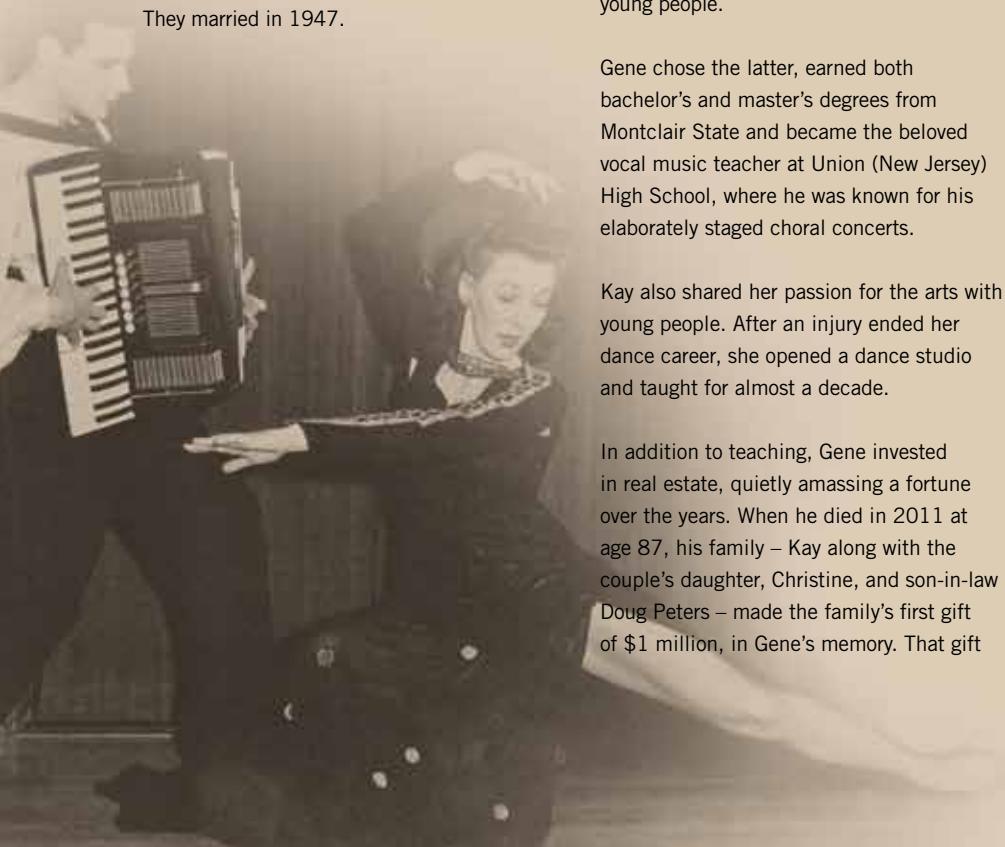
In addition to teaching, Gene invested in real estate, quietly amassing a fortune over the years. When he died in 2011 at age 87, his family – Kay along with the couple's daughter, Christine, and son-in-law Doug Peters – made the family's first gift of \$1 million, in Gene's memory. That gift

established the Gene Consales '50 Endowed Music Scholarship for students studying vocal music, in memory of Gene.

Recently, the family also gave a separate gift of \$5 million to establish the Gene Consales Endowed Faculty Chair in the College of the Arts and three endowed scholarships for students studying vocal music and musical theatre. In early October, a week before Kay died at age 91, she visited Montclair State for an event in her and her family's honor for the difference they are making in students' lives.

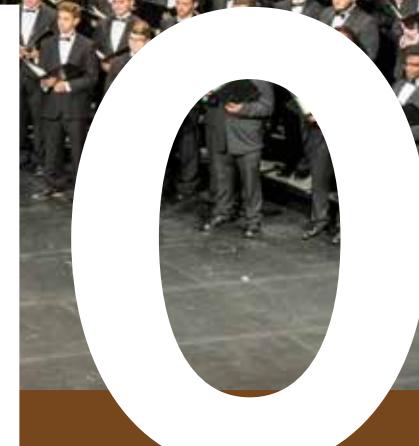
The event, featuring performances by current students from the College of the Arts, brought the Consales family together with students whose lives will be impacted by the endowed scholarships and was a reminder of the legacy Gene and Kay have created at Montclair State.

"Having my husband live on in your memories means everything to me," Kay said at the event. "And I thank you for that from the bottom of my heart." ■



# School celebrates 10 years of educating leaders in music

# CALI AT 10



## A LOOK BACK

### Scholarships Applaud Student Talent

Seeded by a \$5 million gift from the John J. Cali family and his foundation, students are considered for a growing range of Cali School scholarships after successfully auditioning for admission.



### Shanghai Quartet Collaboration

As artists-in-residence and core faculty of the Cali School's strings program, members of the renowned Shanghai Quartet teach, coach, and perform on and off campus.

2006

2010

### MSU Chorale Performs Verdi's *Requiem* with NJSO

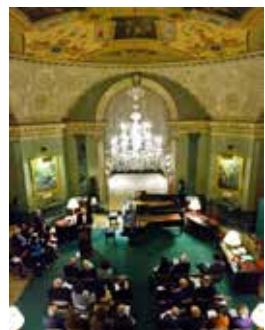
The University's partnership with New Jersey Symphony Orchestra began in 2004, and includes memorable performances by the MSU Chorale *The Lord of the Rings Symphony* (2004); Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* (2006); and Verdi's *Requiem* (2010, 2014) and the University Singers' performances of Mozart's *Requiem* (2013) and Handel's *Messiah* (2014, 2015, 2016).



2011

### Cali School Celebrates New Status as an "All-Steinway" School

Students and faculty perform at Manhattan's famed Steinway Hall as the University joins a prestigious group of national institutions of higher learning that prepare students exclusively on Steinway & Sons pianos.



2010



### Official Opening of Cali School's New Home

The new state-of-the-art home of the John J. Cali School of Music holds its Opening Celebration Concert in the 240-seat Jed Leshowitz Recital Hall, named in honor of the son of alumnus Edward Leshowitz '36, '96 HON.

**W**ith its annual *Kaleidoscope* presentation in October, the John J. Cali School of Music marked the 10th anniversary since becoming the first school of music at a university in New Jersey.

"Over the span of a single decade, the John J. Cali School of Music has distinguished itself as a locus of musical excellence, earning a reputation that extends beyond the State of New Jersey to across the country and around the globe," says College of the Arts Dean Daniel Gurskis.

Established in 2006, the School is named for the late John J. Cali, a prominent real estate developer and longtime Montclair resident, who worked his way through college by playing the saxophone.

"The School's strength is in the quality of our world-class faculty of leading musicians and scholars," says John J. Cali School of Music

Director Robert Cart. Today its nearly 500 undergraduate and graduate students pursue degrees in performance, composition, jazz studies, music education and music therapy.

"Over the next 10 years, the reach and impact of the School will continue to grow, as its graduates emerge as leaders in education, performance, composition, scholarship and arts therapy," predicts Gurskis.

Each year, the School presents more than 300 performances and master classes by students, faculty and guest artists, and students also regularly perform at prestigious off-campus venues, such as NJPAC (with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra), Lincoln Center and the Guggenheim, and tour in the U.S. and Europe.

While the Cali School's 10th anniversary is a clear cause for celebration, the future looks even brighter. Says Cart: "Our goal is to rank among the top schools of music in the nation during the next decade." ■

## A Kaleidoscope of Sound



Cali School faculty and students celebrated the School's 10th anniversary with *Kaleidoscope*, a 90-minute, nonstop musical extravaganza. The October 15 concert was followed by a reception.

The celebration will continue throughout the academic year, with a fully staged performance of Ravel's opera *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* and a special Director's Series of lectures and performances.

## JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC MILESTONES 2006–2016



**Vocal Accord Tours Europe**  
The 24-voice chamber choir performs in Austria and Italy during summer 2012. The group traveled to London in 2015 to perform for the Richard Alston Dance Company 20th Anniversary Season Opening at Sadler's Wells. Students have also participated in international choral festivals.

2013

### Graduate Exchange Program Established with East China Normal University (ECNU)

The Cali School enjoyed productive performance exchanges with ECNU. In 2013, ECNU student musicians visited campus, and in 2015, Cali students and faculty members performed with the ECNU Orchestra in Shanghai. Since 2015, ECNU MFA in Music students have been able to spend their second year at Montclair State, where they will receive an International Artists' Diploma.



### Graduate String Residency Program Established

The Cali School's first graduate-level performing ensemble-in-residence, the Julius Quartet, made its Carnegie Hall debut in March 2015. The program invites preprofessional, graduate-level string quartets to mentor with the Shanghai Quartet and serve as principal members of the University's Symphony Orchestra.

2016

### Cali School Hosts Conference for Teachers and Students of Voice

The 2016 Eastern Region Conference and Student Auditions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) awarded prizes to 20 Cali School students. More than 200 students competed in auditions or competitions adjudicated by NATS members.



### Unique Advanced Certificate of Music Education Offered

The first graduate program of its kind in the region, the Advanced Certificate's hybrid and online courses let music teachers enhance their qualifications without pursuing a full-time master's degree.

2012



2015



# To Sir With Love

## Former students offer to donate kidney to save mentor's life

By Laura Griffin

**F**or 42 years, Professor Emeritus Michael Kogan went beyond the classroom to expand his students' minds, hearts and horizons. The philosophy and religion professor welcomed them into his home for dinner, took them to cathedrals and synagogues, and exposed them to symphony and opera.



Sam Bolshoi donated a kidney to a donation pool that enabled Kogan to get a transplant.

In turn, they grew close as classmates and closer still to Kogan himself, who recently found out just how devoted his former students are when he needed a kidney transplant.

One by one, former students and friends volunteered to give Kogan a kidney, and each one was turned down for various reasons. Lots of factors play into a match – blood type, tissue match as well as physical and mental health.

"I can't get my mind around the fact that anyone would be willing to take a life-threatening risk to save my life," Kogan says. "That I had eight people who volunteered, many of them former students...It's remarkable. I'm blessed. I really am."

One volunteer told doctors he would "lay down his life for Kogan," though doctors assured him he would not have to do that and ultimately, it turned out he wasn't a match anyway.

Matt Dennis, a former student who volunteered but was not a match, took half a dozen of Kogan's courses, from poetry to philosophy to religious studies, and says Kogan taught his students to think deeply.

"This affects everything I do now," says Dennis, who to this day can't look at something without thinking about its history. "The world has depth now, everywhere I look. That is why we would make that offer, or at least investigate it. How could we not offer when he's given us the world?"

### Looking for a match

For most of his life, Kogan weighed more than 300 pounds, and doctors told him he must lose 100 before they would perform kidney surgery.

He had bariatric surgery, and then started the process of losing weight and looking for a kidney donor.

He asked friends to post on Facebook and send out emails. Lisa Sargese, now a Montclair State adjunct professor who took

**"How could we not offer when he's given us the world?"**

–Matt Dennis,  
a former student who volunteered  
but was not a match

courses with Kogan and graduated with a BA in 2000 and an MA in 2007, was one of those who helped spread the message.

"He was never good with the computer. He used to call it 'the devil machine,'" recalls Sargese, with a laugh. "He called one day, desperate, saying, 'Will you get on that devil machine of yours and talk to your networks to see about finding a kidney?' So I went on Facebook and asked for help and people wanted to do whatever they could to help him."

Ervin Nieves, now an English professor at the University of Iowa, wanted to help. In 1981, as he walked through Partridge Hall "contemplating dropping out because I felt too dumb to be in college," he passed Kogan's classroom and a lively discussion of Descartes' *Meditations*. Kogan invited him to sit in on the class. Afterward, he went to Kogan's office and asked him, "What is God?"

And that began a lifelong friendship. "Michael has shown me what God is through his own kindness in treating me as a worthy student, then friend and then like a son," recalls Nieves, who credits Kogan with teaching him how to really read and love books, earn a commission in the U.S. Air Force and become intellectually capable of earning a PhD in English.

"He taught us how to think and how to be better human beings. He was never just a teacher to many of us. He was, and continues to be, family. And one always helps family," says Nieves, whose own health concerns kept him from being a candidate.

Kogan was overwhelmed by the generosity of his former students and friends, but also

desperate to find a donor. "I didn't know what to do," Kogan says.

Then, in passing conversation with the wife of a one-time student and longtime friend, he mentioned the failed search.

"Michael called and was talking to my wife and was very down," recalls Sam Bolshoi, who took a course with Kogan in the mid-1990s. "He said he was dying and there had been no matches yet, but he was trying to remain positive. She offered us both up as volunteers."

While his wife's health precluded her from giving a kidney, Bolshoi was in peak physical shape and was the first of all the volunteers to be cleared as a donor. Still he wasn't an exact match for Kogan, so they turned to an "organ donation pool" where patients with willing donors who aren't matches can essentially trade donors.

"He got a kidney from a man in Minnesota and my kidney went to a woman in Ohio," Bolshoi says. "So in the end, it felt really good to be able to help two people with one donation."

Bolshoi, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in theoretical mathematics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994, took Kogan's T.S. Eliot course after hearing about it at a dinner at his parents' house.

"I had moved back in with my parents after I graduated and they were friends with Professor Kogan," he says. "It sounded so interesting. I thought I might as well take his course while I was home. I was a bit of an intellectual snob and I was surprised that it



Professor Emeritus Michael Kogan received a kidney transplant in August. Several former students offered to donate.

turned out to be by far the best philosophy course I had taken, anywhere."

From then on, Kogan and Bolshoi became and remained close friends, often attending The Metropolitan Opera together. Bolshoi says he never had a moment's hesitation about donating a kidney to help save Kogan's life, even during the long months of recovery.

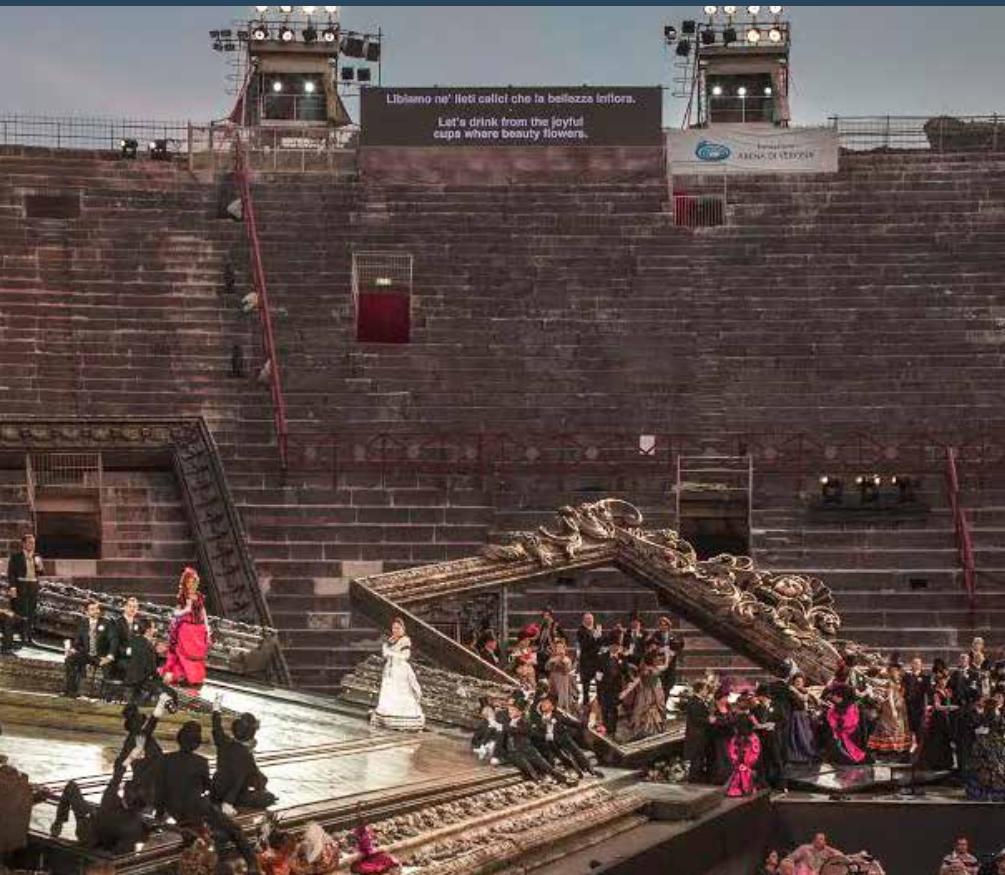
"I was so happy to be able to help him," says Bolshoi. "He's like family."

Kogan says that spending his life doing what he loved – 42 years of teaching, with 24 of those as the chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion – was enough to make him a lucky man. But the outpouring of love by students and friends is beyond measure and more than he could have dreamed.

"How do you ever adequately thank someone for giving a part of themselves to save you? Or thank those who were willing," he queries. "I will spend the rest of my life trying. What do you do for the person who gives you your life? I owe Sam everything."

"He has definitely secured himself a place in heaven." ■

# GETTING



A University partnership with Italy's Prescott Studio provided a student with an opera surtitling internship in Florence.  
*(Photo by Marco Borrelli)*

**S**tudent interns gained invaluable real-world work experience this summer – at home and abroad – thanks to collaborations the University has recently formed with corporate partners. While PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies “Green Team” interns explored sustainable solutions with top Garden State companies, a noted Italian studio hired a Montclair State student in Florence, Italy, to work on audiovisual translation projects for internationally renowned Italian festivals. These latest partnerships add to a growing list of the University’s corporate partnerships that benefit Montclair State students.

## Advancing sustainability in New Jersey

Whether majoring in political science or sustainability science, geology or accounting, the 35 members of PSEG’s Green Team were determined to address sustainability issues facing leading regional and global businesses.

“Every time I talk about this pilot program, I smile,” says Amy Tuininga, director of the PSEG Institute at Montclair State, who created the 10-week summer program. “This transdisciplinary initiative has been very important in terms of developing a model for productive academic-corporate-community partnerships.”

# REAL

## PARTNERSHIPS LET STUDENTS EXPLORE THEIR PASSIONS DURING INNOVATIVE SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

BY AMY WAGNER

It has also benefited the students, who learned everything from industry best practices to corporate social responsibility.

Funded by the PSEG Foundation, the paid internship program paired seven teams of five students each with host corporations Bristol-Myers Squibb, Cox Printers, Greener by Design, NJM Insurance Group, PSEG, Prudential Global Investment Management Real Estate and Sabert.

"The Green Team is the kind of program we support to help students who are increasingly broadening their knowledge of the relationship between the environment, businesses and economy," says PSEG Energy and Sustainability Policy Manager Angela Ortiz.

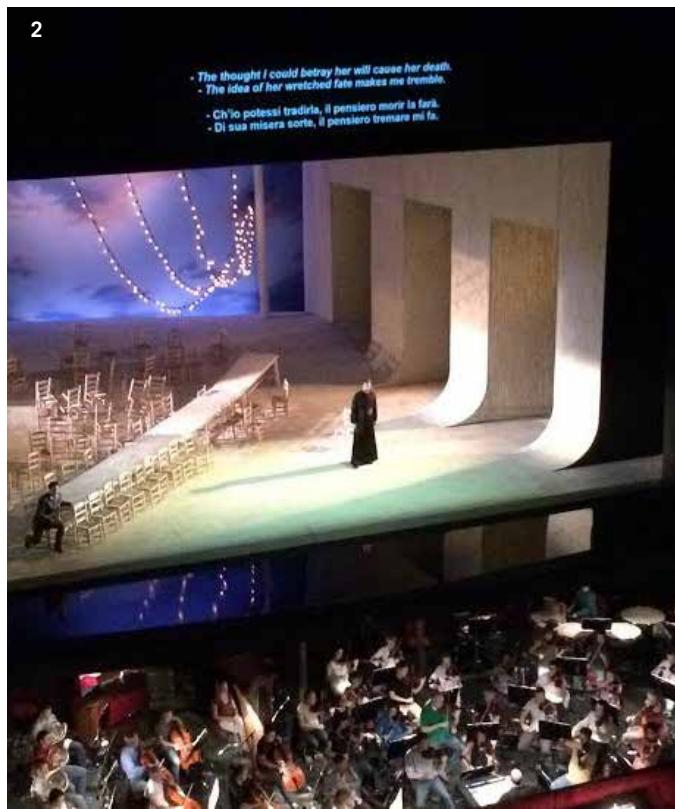
"This program went far beyond any internship experience," says public health major Leana Zeidan, a member of Greener

by Design's team. "We received hands-on experiences that we couldn't have gotten anywhere else."

In turn, host companies appreciated the opportunity to explore and develop custom-tailored sustainability solutions. For example, NJM Insurance departments were able to assess the sustainability of their operations and identify areas for improving efficiency.

"Green Team" interns (shown here on a rooftop garden at Cox Printers) worked on sustainable solutions at several New Jersey companies, including Cox.





Cox Printers team member Ralph Olacio, a sustainability science major, sees the Green Team as a bold step for the University. "It's the first program of its kind in New Jersey to bring academia and the private sector together to promote and implement a truly sustainable future for all," he says.

According to PSEG's Ortiz, the energy company was seeking a fresh and unbiased perspective on new trends in sustainability reporting – and what should be publicly available and reported.

PSEG team member Abdiel Jimenez says working for the large electric company was illuminating. "As students, we don't have enough experience to understand the corporate world," he says. "But through this program, my team and I learned to understand it."

### Putting theory into practice

Students seldom participate in corporate boardroom conversations and presentations at Fortune 500 companies, but at Prudential Global Investment Management Real Estate, Karthika Priya Jayaprakash and her teammates were able to do just that.

"We got beyond theory to practice and got a ringside view into how corporations operate, how decisions must be quantified, how risk assessments are performed and the factors that drive policy," she explains.

"Our participation in the program provided us with the opportunity to engage in projects outside of our typical day-to-day activities and also to challenge the students to find solutions for real-life sustainability issues," recalls David DeVos, PGIM Real Estate vice president and global director of sustainability.

Jurisprudence, Law and Society major Emma Lavin joined the program to learn firsthand about energy efficiency. "We worked to help solve NJM's sustainability issues such as finding new ways for them to decrease the yearly amount of energy they use," she recalls.

Encouraged by the pilot program's success, Tuininga plans to make it available again next summer. "We offered a great resource and practical deliverables to our corporate partners, while we brought students together from different disciplines who were able to build their resumes and network," she says. "So far, the program has been a win-win situation all around – and we anticipate an even brighter future."

### Interning in Italy

Angelene Agresta had never traveled abroad before spending five weeks as an intern with Prescott Studio, which does subtitling and surtitling – or supertitling – for operas, plays and movies, in Florence, Italy. "Once I stepped off the plane, I felt this incredible tranquility," she says.

Prior to her internship, Agresta had taken part as an undergraduate in Translating Voices Across Continents (TVAC), a collaboration between the Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies and Prescott Studio from May to October 2015. The international partnership produced English subtitles for nine plays and operas presented at the prestigious Piccolo Teatro of Milan during Expo 2015. "I enjoyed the challenge of translating from Italian into English, of maintaining not only the meaning but the nuances of the original text," recalls Agresta, who graduated in 2016 with a degree in Italian.

With the guidance of Italian Studies Professor Marisa Trubiano, students had the unique opportunity to hone translating skills in a project that transcended national and cultural boundaries.

"The partnership exposed students of Italian to a dynamic professional sector

in the humanities and enhanced their employability in the global marketplace," says Inserra Chair Teresa Fiore. "Perhaps more importantly, it offered an opportunity to make the students' classroom work relevant and useful to the outside world."

Students in Trubiano's fall 2016 course, Italian Translation for Tourism and Cultural Promotion, are gaining preprofessional experience by collaborating from Montclair State with Prescott Studio on revisions of surtitles of a Donizetti opera that will be performed at the Opera di Florence – as well as subtitling clips of a documentary by Italian director Andrea Segre.

"This exciting student work is instrumental to cultural travelers from all over the world," explains Fiore. "Surtitles expand audience enjoyment of live performances."

### An international partnership

Crediting the synergy between Prescott Studio and the University with the TVAC project's success, Prescott Studio director Mauro Conti renewed his partnership with

"That's when everything I had learned up to that point finally clicked and made sense."

The internship clicked with Conti as well. "The contribution of intern students is a great opportunity to test our systems of linguistic mediation for live theater," he says. "It also allows us to benefit from fresh technical and creative input from the future generation of professionals in the field. And we are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with Montclair State."

### A unique focus on translation

Montclair State's focus on audiovisual translation is unique, according to Fiore. "There is so much potential in this field, as, propelled by social media, there is a growing need for trained translators and surtitlers."

Agresta looks back at her summer experience with wonder. "Seeing my titles at the actual venues was very surreal," she says. "It's one thing to talk about how these titles are used during live performances at prestigious venues like the Arena di Verona.

**"WE RECEIVED HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES THAT WE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ANYWHERE ELSE."**

—LEANA ZEIDAN, INTERN

the Inserra Chair and the Italian program in 2016 to offer the innovative, five-week, on-site internship.

Agresta is currently pursuing her master's degree in French Studies with a focus on translation at Montclair State. "When I was introduced to audiovisual translation, that definitely helped me narrow my path in the field," she explains, adding that working on-site was a transformative experience.

And it's another thing to actually see them projected during rehearsals. It's very exciting that my work has been viewed by massive audiences on an international level."

For Fiore, the partnership with Prescott Studio provides students with a unique preprofessional experience. "Our collaboration," she says, "continues to open great partnerships with some of the most prestigious theaters in Italy." ■

# PRESERVING OUR *World*

**University researcher leads efforts to protect Papua New Guinea forests and culture**

BY AMY WAGNER

F

or nearly 30 years, William Thomas, a researcher and director of the New Jersey School of Conservation at Montclair State, has dedicated himself to protecting biodiversity in Papua New Guinea, particularly in its largely unexplored interior tropical forest, which is the greatest expanse of tropical forest in Oceania.

Thomas' conservation efforts were rewarded this summer when he signed an agreement with Papua New Guinea's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority and the Climate Change and Development Authority to formally designate 200,000 acres of forests as the largest conservation area in New Guinea.

"It is home to biodiversity that rivals that of the Amazon," notes Thomas. "It's one of the least explored regions on earth and part of the largest intact forest ecosystem in the Pacific."

These forests – which stretch northward from Lake Kopiago – are globally important for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and watershed protection, he says.

"By establishing the Headwaters of the Strickland Conservation Area," Thomas says, "Papua New Guinea will not only make an invaluable contribution to its conservation heritage, but it will also bring international recognition to this region."

## **Preserving indigenous cultures**

Today, Papua New Guinea is home to several thousand indigenous communities, including the Hewa, a nomadic community about 2,000 strong that was one of the last to come into contact with the outside world. "The Hewa are extremely remote, even by New Guinea standards," says Thomas, who has worked with the Hewa since 1988 to conserve their homeland and their culture.

"While I've seen the adoption of clothing and metal tools, they have no villages, roads, police, government-funded schools or trade stores. Life for the Hewa community revolves around gardening, hunting and family," says Thomas. He notes that although Hewa traditions generally remain strong today, in some instances they have been eroded to satisfy missionaries that have entered the region. While the Hewa have been accused of cannibalism by their neighbors, Thomas has never seen any evidence to support this claim.

The Hewa, according to Thomas, live on the northern fringe of Papua New Guinea's remote Central Highlands in scattered households separated by half-hour-long walks. Infertile soil means that the Hewa must change their gardens and their houses by moving frequently throughout their

A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, there's a dense forest. Beyond it, several mountain ridges rise, partially obscured by a layer of white mist or low-hanging clouds. The sky above is a pale blue.

“

IT IS HOME TO BIODIVERSITY THAT RIVALS THAT OF THE AMAZON. IT'S ONE OF THE LEAST EXPLORED REGIONS ON EARTH AND PART OF THE LARGEST INTACT FOREST ECOSYSTEM IN THE PACIFIC.

—WILLIAM THOMAS

”

homeland, which is classified as a “major terrestrial unknown.”

### **Creating a baseline of local knowledge**

As a conservationist and anthropologist, Thomas has long drawn on indigenous knowledge to develop effective means to conserve lands that are home not only to vibrant traditional cultures such as the Hewa’s, but also to unique flora and fauna. “I have worked with and been taught by generations of Hewa men, so I have developed a relationship and a level of trust with this community.”

While UNESCO has recognized Thomas’ success in creating a baseline of local environmental knowledge as a “Best Practices” in the use of indigenous knowledge, recording the information

shared by the Hewa has presented its own set of challenges. According to Thomas, 1,000 of the world’s 5,000 languages are spoken in New Guinea. The Hewa alone speak five different dialects. “I speak some Hewa, but I do most of my work in Neo-Melanesian Pidgin that facilitates communication,” he explains.

### **A historic, new conservation area**

Working with the Hewa community, Thomas has made significant advances in conservation since 2005, when they joined an international team of scientists and naturalists that discovered 50 new species – including many spiders and plants – in New Guinea’s largely unexplored Central Range.

They collaborated to develop the Papuan Forest Stewards initiative, which is dedicated to conserving the unique biological and cultural heritage of the Hewa. Their *Field Guide to New Guinea Birds of the Hewa Territory* is a textbook for the next generation of naturalists.

In 2015, with Thomas’ help, the Hewa began the process of creating the Headwaters of the Strickland Conservation Area – efforts that culminated in the historic agreement with Papua New Guinea’s Conservation and Environment Protection Authority and the Climate Change and Development Authority. The June 2016 agreement also supports the Papuan Forest Stewards as a model for the sustainable funding of conservation projects in Papua New Guinea.

“I DIDN’T KNOW THE AREA THAT I’D BE LIVING IN WAS CONSIDERED UNEXPLORED, BUT I ENDED UP SPENDING MORE TIME THERE THAN ANY WESTERNER.”

—WILLIAM THOMAS

### Exploring the unexplored

Thomas first visited New Guinea in 1983. “When I returned to graduate school at the University of Arizona, the university had

some money to investigate cannibalism accusations. Since I’d already been to New Guinea and they figured I could handle it, they gave me the money and I

officially became an explorer,” he recalls. “I didn’t know the area that I’d be living in was considered unexplored, but I ended up spending more time there than any westerner.”

Thomas’ determined exploration of the ways in which indigenous peoples shape their tropical forest environment, along with his concerted efforts to conserve New Guinea’s rugged forests, have not gone unrecognized.

In 2012, Thomas received the prestigious Lowell Thomas Award from the Explorers Club of New York City for showing “an extraordinary capacity to transcend traditional comfort zones to undertake expeditions that benefit us all.”

“I received the Lowell Thomas Award at the same time as Sir David Attenborough – the father of the modern nature documentary and a giant in conservation,” Thomas

## DISCOVERING NEW SPECIES

Papua New Guinea’s tropical forests support richly diverse plant and animal populations, including 50 new species Thomas and other researchers discovered. Here are a few:



Tiny frog, *Litoria*



Jumping spider, *Orthrus*



Tree frog, *Nyctimystes*



**Clockwise from left:** Scenic views in 200,000 acres of newly conserved land in Papua New Guinea; Thomas with one of the Hewa elders; a young Hewa in ceremonial dress. (Photos by William Thomas)

recalls. "To be included with him in an award given to explorers by explorers is humbling."

Thomas credits Montclair State with supporting every step of his explorations. "Bill Thomas is the embodiment of our programs in sustainability," says Robert Prezant, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "In New Jersey there are few individuals as accomplished in successful, hands-on and significant sustainability programs."

Thomas' world-view is shaped by his passionate commitment to conserving wild places and the cultures of those who inhabit them. "Exploration in general has helped me gain patience and perseverance," he says. "I've learned to appreciate its many challenges and to be thankful for the opportunities and experiences." ■



FEATURES



# STARTING OVER

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
THOMAS E. FRANKLIN

Families struggling to rebuild lives in New Jersey find hope and comfort in two synagogues



**Editor's Note:** Multiplatform journalism professor Thomas E. Franklin, who spent 30 years as a photo journalist, is documenting the refugee experience. A longer version of this story appeared on NJ Spotlight in June as part of the In the Shadow of Liberty - Immigration in New Jersey series, funded, in part, by Montclair State's Center for Cooperative Media.

**M**ohammad Ali Zakkour says that his former life in Syria was very good. He owned a clothing workshop where he made jean alterations for men and women, and he was able to comfortably support his wife and three children. Life in his third-floor flat in Homs was comfortable. And safe.

Then the war changed everything.

Inspired by the prodemocracy Arab Spring, the civil war began on March 15, 2011, now known as the "Day of Rage," when peaceful demonstrations against the government forces of Bashar al-Assad were met by a harsh military crackdown. Aerial bombings and street fighting have killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and left cities devastated.

Homs, Syria's third-largest city, has been a key battleground in the uprising. Zakkour says that a tank blast blew through the apartment, breaching a wall. By September 2011, he realized it was no longer safe for his family.

**Left page (from left to right):** Kate McCaffrey of the Bnai Keshet Synagogue, welcomes Maryam Al Radi with big hugs. The two have become close despite cultural and language differences; Heba Elhamasy, a graduate student at Montclair State and founder of Ihsan Charity, Inc., a nonprofit "dedicated to the welfare of refugees" worldwide, took the Al Radi children and Maryam to Monster Golf in Paramus last summer; **Left page (bottom):** Fadel El Radi, his wife Maryam and children: Mohammed, 7, Ibrahim, 13, Thaor, 4, and Radi, 12. The El Radis fled their home in Daraa, Syria, after it was badly damaged by aerial bombings. **This page:** Samer Zakkour hugs her son Mohammad, 9, as he shows her a drawing he made.



## A LONG ROAD FOR THE ZAKKOURS

Like so many Syrians, the aerial bombings and street fighting forced the 36-year-old Zakkour and his family to leave everything behind and flee to Jordan, where he eked out a living for four years as a tailor. But the living conditions, including the hot, arid climate, were rough. "We struggled a lot there," says Zakkour.

So when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offered

them a chance at a new life elsewhere, they took it. The choice was between Spain and the United States, and he felt his children would have a better life in the United States. The Zakkours were resettled in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in July 2015.

"I don't think of my future except through my children," says Zakkour. "Because where I'm standing, there are millions who wish to be standing."

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) resettled the first Syrian refugees from the civil war in 2013. From then until June, 158 Syrian refugees had resettled in New Jersey. The resettlement is handled by three different NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), the IRC, Catholic Charities in Camden and Church World Service.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Syrian crisis, a grim milestone in the bloody civil war that has left an estimated quarter million dead, millions injured and the mass exodus of nearly half the country's population.

Many fleeing their homes risk their lives in perilous boat crossings to Europe in search

including two North Jersey Jewish synagogues.

"Members of the congregation were interested in getting involved with the refugee crisis," says Katherine McCaffrey, a Montclair State anthropology professor who, along with her synagogue Bnai Keshet in

Macall. "[Christmas] is a time when Jews and Muslims are kind of left out in the cold."

McCaffrey says that despite the differences in faith, this is not a new concept to the Jewish community.

"Many members of our congregation were refugees themselves, or came from



**Left to right:** The El Radis pose for a photo with Kate McCaffrey's family, congregants at Bnai Keshet who have become close to the family, as well as with Khalid Bendriss and his wife, Aman, a volunteer who also has become close with the refugee family; Fadel El Radi displays pictures on his cellphone. He had just learned that his wife's cousin and three friends were killed in a bombing in Aleppo, Syria. Many of the photos are disturbing and graphic, but Al Radi and his children have become numb to such images; Mohammed Zakkour playfully tosses his daughter Judy, 3, in the family's apartment in Elizabeth where the IRC resettled them.

of shelter and basic needs like food and health care. Millions have been forced to resettle outside the country and have come to depend completely on humanitarian aid.

New Jersey has seen a growing grassroots movement by religious groups and ad hoc volunteers to provide assistance and friendship to Syrian families trying to adapt to a new life in America. Some of that support has come from area churches and mosques, but some has come from more unusual sources,

Montclair, befriended and began assisting some of the refugees in December 2015. "We were concerned about the violence and the response of the United States."

With a nod to the dominant Christian faith in New Jersey, Bnai Keshet invited 10 refugee families for a "traditional" Jewish Christmas dinner of Chinese takeout this past year with 150 people attending the event.

"We wanted to find a way to do something that was positive," says Bnai Keshet's Melina

families that were refugees during World War II," she says.

Mohammad Zakkour and his family were among the families there that night; his wife Samer then pregnant with their fourth child. At the dinner, Macall and McCaffrey learned Zakkour had been a tailor in Syria and was having trouble finding work, so they turned to their synagogue community to quickly raise the money needed to buy him a commercial sewing machine.

While Zakkour set up shop for alterations in the family apartment, he says it's been a struggle drumming up business. Yet he seems happy to be in America. And he knows that learning the language is the key to finding work, so he attends tutoring sessions at the Elizabeth library once a week.

## HELP WITH RESETTLEMENT

Alison Millan, the resettlement director for IRC's New Jersey office, says the IRC had resettled 110 refugees in New Jersey from 2013 through June 2016. In Elizabeth alone, they have resettled 101 individuals. Most don't have any "U.S. tie support,"



meaning friends or family to help provide for them. So settling them in Elizabeth makes the most sense because they are closer to the IRC resources and programs. The IRC picks them up at the airport, furnishes an apartment for them, orients them to the community and enrolls their children in school. They also help obtain Social Security cards, food stamps and health insurance. The IRC works with them to figure out their goals, but she says the adjustment is not easy.

"Many families have fled very traumatic experiences," says Millan, whose office is next door to the apartment building in downtown Elizabeth where some of the Syrians live. "For any family we resettle, that first year is pretty difficult. The IRC

is here to support them, but we see our role as helping them learn as much as they can, so they can be as self-sufficient as possible, as early as possible."

Starting a new life and finding a job in an urban city like Elizabeth can be overwhelming. In addition, some of the volunteers are concerned that the Syrian children are falling far behind in school, not only because of the language barrier but also the lapse in learning from the time they left.

"These are children who have had trauma, dislocation and have not been in school for years," says McCaffrey. "They really need extra attention."

The IRC provides a pretty comprehensive package, but cannot supply intangibles like friendship, acceptance and dignity. That has been provided in part by a wide group of volunteers led by a Syrian-American who coordinates efforts and facilitates the "adoptions," matching North Jersey churches and synagogues with individual families.

After receiving the sewing machine back in February, Mohammad Ali Zakkour has remained friendly with McCaffrey and Macall from Bnai Keshet, mostly through text messages translated by a Google app. But since then, another Jewish group, Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston, has "adopted" the Zakkours, meeting them weekly and helping them with English.

"It became clear we could do hands-on things the IRC can't do," says Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz. This included getting Samer Zakkour pregnancy care.

Dantowitz says the Zakkours are adjusting to life in America and appreciate the friendships they've formed. She says Mohammad even sent her a thoughtful text on Passover to wish her a happy holiday.

"There are many crises in the world, the Syrian crisis is just one," she says. "This is about human beings in God's image. It just

happens to be Jews and Muslims." Zakkour says he's appreciative and he wants to teach his children that religion, race and gender should never get in the way. He's very grateful that he found people who feel for him and his family.

"We are all brothers and sisters in humanity," Zakkour says. "I want to teach that to my kids. I want to plant the seed."

## THE AL RADI FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE

The Al Radi family, who are Muslim, were also among the families who were guests at the Christmas dinner at the Bnai Keshet synagogue. They have since become frequent guests, recently taking part in a Community Seder for Passover, sitting with McCaffrey's family.

The Al Radis are from Daraa, one of the most heavily bombed cities in Syria. Fadel Al Radi says that snipers and bombings kept his family trapped in their home for over a year.

"When we were in the house there was no safety," Al Radi explained in Arabic, communicating with the help of a translator.

In Syria, Al Radi had his own welding business, which was connected to his home. One night a bomb struck next-door, killing his neighbor. A wall between the houses fell, injuring his wife, Maryam, and damaging his shop.

Another time, while they were at a relative's house, a bomb struck their home. "Our kitchen and half the living room were gone," Al Radi says, dropping his arms like bombs falling from the sky. Around this time their son Mohammad, 7, became sick. That's when they left for Jordan to get medical care. They never returned.

After three years in an enormous refugee camp in the desert two hours from the capital city of Amman, the IRC relocated them to Elizabeth. While they are



Mohammed Zakkour runs under a parachute while playing at the Gateway Family YMCA, Elizabeth Branch summer camp thanks to the generosity of two synagogues, Bnai Keshet in Montclair and Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston. He was one of 16 Syrian refugee children who attended summer camp.

happy to be here, they've struggled to adjust to American customs, and Fadel is frustrated that he cannot speak the language or find work.

"They had a pretty horrible experience in Jordan," says McCaffrey. "Maryam said that they were treated very badly, less than human. They have been struggling to reestablish themselves."

All resettlement agencies contracted with the U.S. Department of State are required to begin collecting on travel loans six months after a refugee's arrival to the United States. The United States is one of the few countries that require refugees to pay back their travel costs after they resettle. The Al Radis, who have four children, received a notice from the IRC informing them that they had to start making monthly payments. Even though the repayment of their loan was explained in full before departing for the U.S., the Al Radis, who have no means of income, panicked. The Bnai Keshet congregation

again stepped in to help. McCaffrey and Macall started a GoFundMe page, shooting a video and photos with the family to help pay off the nearly \$7,000 debt – and raised the entire amount in 72 hours.

"The response was remarkable," says McCaffrey. "There are so many people that have come out from all different towns and congregations to support these families. I think that they feel that they have recovered some of their dignity, but still there are a lot of challenges."

Recently, Heba Elhamasy, 22, a graduate student at Montclair State and founder of Ihsan Charity, Inc., a nonprofit "dedicated to the welfare of refugees" worldwide, took the Al Radi children and Maryam to Monster Golf in Paramus to play video games and ride motorcycle simulators, a rare occasion where they were able to forget their worries and relax.

"It's the small acts of kindness and friendship that make a difference," says Elhamasy, who has taken the children to

her Egyptian parents' home in Jackson, New Jersey, for a sleepover. "My parents love them. We speak the same language [Arabic]. We feel a closeness. There's a need [here]."

This summer, three interfaith groups – Bnai Keshet, Temple B'nai Abraham and the Al-Andalus Foundation – raised money to send 16 refugee children to day camp at the Elizabeth YMCA.

"It's easy to feel overwhelmed and depressed by the scale of this catastrophe, but there are ways to help on a local level," McCaffrey says. "They live in apartments with no yards. Camp gave them an opportunity to swim and play, and practice English – it helped restore the smallest piece of childhood to children who have already lost so much." ■

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*Montclair State graduate student Salma Hassan contributed to this story. To read the full piece, please see [njspotlight.com/refugees](http://njspotlight.com/refugees).*

## REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIPS

**In the last two years, Montclair State has provided scholarships to three Syrian refugees, making it one of five universities in the country providing the most scholarships to refugees. As part of the Institute for International Education's Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, it is also among 65 institutions internationally taking part in this growing campaign to offer scholarships to students from the war-ravaged country of Syria.**





RED HAWKS ATHLETICS

# Unbreakable Spirit

by STEVE POLITI

**WOMEN'S SOCCER  
COACH, PLAYERS  
AND INJURED  
TEAMMATE HELP  
EACH OTHER  
OVERCOME  
ADVERSITY**





RED HAWKS ATHLETICS



**T**he free kick was zipping through the air in her direction, and as it drew closer and closer, one thought flashed through Kim Mignone's mind.

## *I'm getting that ball.*

She had beaten her defender and was all alone with the goalkeeper, the moment belonging to her. The Montclair State women's soccer team was playing Army in a spring scrimmage, and while the game would not count toward the Red Hawks' season, beating a Division I opponent was still a major accomplishment. Mignone, a captain heading into her senior season, knew this was her chance to make that happen with the game tied and just 10 minutes left.

"I planted my left foot and shot the ball with my right," the Chestnut Ridge, New York, native says, "and the next thing I knew, I was on the ground screaming."

She was flat on her back, her body tangled with the Army goalkeeper – who, in her own effort to reach the ball, had careened into her left leg. Mignone, in the most intense pain she had felt in her life, looked down and could only see the bottom half of her shin. From there, her left tibia and fibula had snapped, a grotesque injury that left her foot pointing 90 degrees in the wrong direction.

Her coach, Pat Naughter, rushed onto the field and

pinned her shoulders against the turf so she wouldn't panic looking at the injury. He had suffered his own broken leg as a player and knew, from his own experience, that she would face a tough recovery in the coming weeks.

"When you first hear 'broken leg' in soccer, you think we'll be signing casts and six weeks later she'll be jogging," Naughter says. "This kid has caught every bad break you can catch."

He had no idea the ordeal that awaited Mignone – the seven surgeries, the month in the surgical ICU, the weeks of rehab and the still-uncertain future. How could he? How could anyone? The injury would end her career as a player but, in a way she could never imagine, teach her even more about the value of being part of a team and the strong bond of the Montclair State women's soccer program.

Oh, and that final shot? It ended up in the back of the net. Mignone was in the back of the ambulance on her way to the hospital when she learned she had scored a goal.

The few months that followed that moment at West Point required a deep reservoir of

toughness for Mignone, and she knows exactly where she found that strength. It came from a Red Hawks soccer program, she says, that was built on the idea that while it might not always be more talented than the team on the other side of the field, it will never be outworked or outhustled.

That comes from Naughter, a Bloomfield native in his seventh season as head coach. He arrived at Montclair State and surveyed the landscape of the sport and found it was dominated by elite private schools like Amherst and Carnegie-Mellon. He knew the Red Hawks weren't going to get the same polished recruits, but that in some ways, this could work to their advantage in creating an identity.

"If you look at the teams over the last four years that are in the top 20, we're the only ones with 'State' in our name," says Naughter. "We're proud of that. We like that. We're going to outwork you, we're going to be fitter than you and tougher than you, and we're going to love each other more. We don't care if they have more all-state players or kids who played on better club teams. We're going to beat them up."

That attitude has helped Red Hawks women's soccer become one of the most consistent programs on the Montclair State campus and in the New Jersey Athletic Conference. The team had an impressive 70-9-8 record from 2012–15, reaching the NCAA Tournament each time. Naughter, who played on the men's team at Montclair State from 1996–99, doesn't believe there is a ceiling for what the Red Hawks can accomplish. And yes, that includes winning an NCAA championship.

"It's not *if* we do it," he says. "It's *when* we do it."

But even he learned something about his program in the days and weeks after Mignone fell to the ground at West Point. That was on April 23. The next day, at Nyack Hospital, she had surgery to repair the break and insert a titanium rod in her leg.

Naughter and Erin Sullivan, Mignone's best friend on the team, visited her that day. They found her suffering even more than she was in the minutes after the break, complaining about the pain and a tingling sensation. Sullivan called her mom, a registered nurse, and told her about her friend. "Something's not right," her mom told her, and the next day, they figured out exactly what was wrong.

Mignone had compartmental syndrome, an increased pressure in the muscle compartments that sometimes occurs after a serious injury. She needed fasciotomy surgery to relieve that pressure, and with the fear of infection, she

spent a full month in the ICU at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, New York.

She didn't know it at the time, but the fear that she would lose her leg entirely was real. She was still holding out hope that she could return to the field in time for her senior season.

"I wasn't focused on the soccer aspect of it because I didn't expect to not play," she says. "I didn't know that was a possibility. The only thing that was on my mind was getting through the pain every day. I



**Far left to right:** Kim Mignone is recovering from a career-ending injury with help from Coach Pat Naughter and her teammates. She still comes to practices and games to cheer on the team.

was in a lot, a lot, A LOT of pain every day. I had to force myself to eat. I didn't eat for a long time."

The only thing that carried her through the difficult days were the daily visits from her teammates and coaches. Naughter was there every day,

making the 30-minute drive from campus to the hospital so often that all the nurses knew his name. The players made that same trip as often as they could, too, bringing news from campus and, most of all, friendly faces.

Mignone, sitting on a bench near a grass practice field at

Montclair State, looked out at her practicing teammates as she remembered how much those visits mattered to her.

"When something as traumatic as that happens, you find out who's there for you," she says. "Every single person standing on the field right now, including all the coaches, was

**"Maybe the journey isn't so much about becoming anything. Maybe it's about un-becoming everything that isn't really you so you can be who you were meant to be in the first place."**

-KIM MIGNONE

there for me 100 percent. Seeing them made my day every day. I always loved to see who was going to walk into the room next because it took my mind off the pain."

And that's when she made a decision: Whether or not she could play the sport she loves, she would be there for them this season, too.

Her voice is a regular fixture at practice now, offering words of encouragement when teammates show good form or a gentle nudge when they don't. It would be impossible to fault Mignone if she decided to step away from soccer and focused on completing her degree in child advocacy with a minor in social work.

She did the opposite.

"It's amazing," Sullivan says. "I couldn't even imagine what she's going through, but every single day she hasn't missed a practice. She hasn't missed anything. She will never stop fighting and give up on this team even though she can't be on this field. I know it's hard for her to watch and know that she could be out there."

Mignone still walks with a limp and has what she calls a "pretty crazy scar" extending from her calf down to her ankle. The compartmental syndrome and surgeries caused

nerve damage in her leg. She can't feel anything from her lower leg to her toes, and the frustrating part is, she has no idea when – or even if – the feeling will return.

Most sports injuries, even the most serious ones like an ACL tear, come with a timetable for recovery. Mignone? "She has the mystery of never knowing when it's going to get better," says Sullivan. Still, her teammates marvel at her attitude.

"Her spirit is unbreakable," says Naughter. "She's the toughest kid I've ever been around. Sometimes we talk about a loss or giving up a goal as adversity. That's not adversity. Adversity is being 21 years old and doctors don't know what your leg is going to look like in six months. That's adversity."

Mignone tries to even look at that as a positive. She found strength in a motivational quote during her recovery: "Maybe the journey isn't so much about becoming anything. Maybe it's about un-becoming everything that isn't really you so you can be who you were meant to be in the first place."

This is part of her journey, she says, and she's just grateful she has her team with her.



Kim Mignone (second from left) inspires her teammates to win without her.

"I think this team makes me a better student, it makes me a better friend, it just makes me a better person in general," she says. "I think they taught me a lot about myself throughout this whole traumatic experience because I don't think I would have had the strength to get through it if I didn't spend my career here. I really don't think so."

She has resisted the whole win-one-for-Kimmy deal. It's just not her personality to make anything about her, but her presence is enough. Her teammates have seen firsthand how quickly the sport can be

taken away from them, and in the process, learned to value every minute on the field.

"The way these guys care about her, the way these guys love her, it's in everybody's mind every day," Naughter says. "We can't make her leg better but we know if we keep this thing going, there's not going to be anybody happier or prouder than her. And she's going to be a huge part of everything we do."

Montclair State women's soccer, a program built on toughness, doesn't have to look far to find its inspiration. ■

# CONNECTING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

by STEVE POLITI



Coach Marlon Sears explains a play during a game last season.

**C**oach Marlon Sears noticed something soon after he took over the Montclair State men's basketball team in May 2015. Former players, the lifeblood of most successful college programs, did not seem to have that strong a connection with the current team.

When he contacted them to ask why, he heard a similar theme: "The biggest thing for the majority of the guys was the history of the program got kind of lost a little bit over the years," Sears says. "They all want it back because they hold a great deal of pride in Montclair State University."

So Sears set about rebuilding that bond between the current team and the players who came before and had an idea: Create a preseason event to showcase the program to the alumni. And, better yet: Name that event for the Hall of Fame coach who led the team to a school-record 303 victories over his 24 seasons at the helm.

And so the Ollie Gelston/Team Hill Classic – a four-team preseason showcase – was born. Between 60 and 100 alumni of the basketball program and 200 grade-school kids from the Team Hill Foundation, an organization dedicated to youth sports in

the area, were invited to attend the fall event.

The goal was for the past, present and, potentially, the future to gather at Montclair State together. Gelston, now 84, met with Sears for more than two hours to discuss the event and the program's long history.

"I think it's wonderful," says Gelston. "I'm very honored that they would name the event for me. Of course, I've been retired since 1991. There are a lot of alumni who don't know me. But any way I can help the program at Montclair State, I'd be delighted."

Making that connection matters to Sears on many levels. For starters, he wanted to learn more about the university where he has become the 15th head coach in the program's history.

But Sears also knows that several of those alums have gone on to successful careers in the business world. Everyone in college sports understands that the game-changing upgrades – including improvements to facilities such as locker rooms and weight rooms – are almost always privately funded.

"I really wanted to get the guys back involved from the '80s and '90s," says Sears, who spent five seasons as an assistant coach at Cornell. And,

when they do, they'll probably have the same first impression of Sears that Gelston did – an energetic leader with Ivy League background and a classroom-first attitude.

The overall team GPA has risen substantially under Sears. "I think he's a very good teacher and role model," says Gelston. "I like his emphasis on academics. That's what matters the most."

The program has transformed since Sears took over, with only two players remaining from the team he inherited. The Red Hawks won 11 games a season ago, but with several losses by just a few points, he has reason to believe that they'll take a significant step in his second season.

Another reason for hope is freshman Justin Porter from Ewing, a talented 6-foot-5 player described as "the definition of a student-athlete." Porter, who had a 3.7 GPA in high school, had interest from Ivy and Patriot League schools but signed onto what Sears is building at Montclair State.

He is the future of this program. And, if Sears has his way, he'll make sure that future connects in a meaningful way with Ollie Gelston and other players from the past to build a stronger men's basketball program. ■



RED HAWKS ATHLETICS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

# HALL OF FAME NOD FOR “MOOSE”



Norm Schoenig, who guided the Montclair State baseball program from 1988 to 2013 and amassed a 724-409-11 record, was elected to the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class for 2017. “Moose,” as Schoenig is known, led the Red Hawks to two of its three NCAA Division III national championships in 1993 and 2000, which was the Red Hawks’ best season on record with a 42-7-1 record.

### CEBALLOS WINS SPORTS SCHOLAR AWARD



Kyla Ceballos, a captain on the 2015-16 women’s basketball team, was recognized as a 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar. The prestigious award was established in 1992 to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by the late tennis star. Ceballos was also a two-time member of the NJAC Academic Team and the winner of the Montclair State Athletics Poet Sportsmanship Award.



### LACROSSE ALL AMERICANS

A record-tying four players from the men’s lacrosse team were named to the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association All-America Team. Sophomore Ryan Young was selected to the third team, while seniors Brett Mangan and Zach Schreck and junior Blase Mantineo were tabbed honorable mentions. Montclair State finished 13-7 and reached the NCAA Division III Tournament.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## FOREVER MOORE

### Melba Moore '70

After four decades, four-time Grammy-nominated R&B legend Melba Moore is "just getting started."

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Melba Moore '70



"I'm just  
getting  
started."

# Forever Moore

**E**ven with a career that has spanned more than four decades and included a Tony Award, four Grammy nominations, television shows and movies, R&B legend Melba Moore has no plans to wind down.

"I'm just getting started," she says.

Throughout her life, Moore, who graduated from Montclair State in 1970 with a music education degree, has been both the student and the teacher – always ready to share her knowledge and talent, and eager to learn something new.

With the recent release of *Forever Moore*, a compilation album, and a new reality TV show titled *Step into My Life* in the works, Moore is still doing both.

"In my career, I have become a magnet for new songwriters, producers and promoters," she says. "There are still so many possibilities for work and growth."

Her music education began when she was a child and discovered her voice and her love of piano after her stepfather signed her up for piano lessons.

"My mother was a singer and Daddy wrote, performed and

made arrangements. He made us all take piano lessons," she says. "I wanted to be a jazz piano player and a dancer. But I knew my piano playing could never be as good as my singing."

Her parents urged her to go to Montclair State, where she studied with a professor who also performed with the Metropolitan Opera and encouraged her to embrace her culture. "We worked on Italian arias, but he encouraged me to sing African American hymns, to be the best of who I am," Moore says.

This lesson stuck with her and throughout her career, she has taught other musicians and students to do the same.

"I encourage young people to develop their spirituality – that takes you beyond thinking about yourself, your family, your friends and helps you to develop into the best person you can be," says Moore, a born-again Christian. "Then, you'll be a star no matter what."

Moore's career took off even before graduation, when she landed a role in the original Broadway production of *Hair*, starring Diane Keaton. When Keaton left, Moore took over

the role, becoming the first African American actress to replace a white actress in a starring role. In 1970, she performed in *Purlie* and was the first African American woman to win a Tony as a featured actress.

From Broadway, she went on to have her own TV series and a chart-topping recording career in the '70s and '80s with such R&B hits as "Love's Comin' at Ya," "Living for Your Love" and "Read My Lips." But by the '90s, she was mismanaged, unemployed and looking to start over.

In 1995 she returned to Broadway in the lead role of Fantine in *Les Misérables*, and later toured with her own one-woman show and started recording albums again. Through the years, she has acted in numerous Broadway shows, TV shows and movies including *The Fighting Temptations* with Beyoncé and Cuba Gooding Jr. in 2003.

She was the first female artist to perform a nonoperatic solo concert at New York's Metropolitan Opera House, and in 2015 she was inducted into the Official R&B Hall of Fame in Detroit. Earlier this year, she released *Forever Moore*,

a retrospective of her work in gospel, pop, dance, soul, jazz and R&B. The album and her recent performances have received rave reviews.

"I'm a person who never gives up," she says. "...I love being a performer, even with all the difficulties, I would do it again. You'll have challenges with everything – it's great to have challenges doing something you absolutely adore."

During her student-teaching, she learned lessons in the classroom that also proved invaluable in her music and acting career.

"I met a marvelous, gifted, talented teacher who absolutely inspired me," she says. "Observing her work, I realized I wanted to be a student and a teacher for the rest of my life."

And Melba Moore has excelled at learning. She learned a range of styles. She learned how to preserve her vocal chords. She learned, albeit the hard way, how to manage her own business and she learned how to give back. She combines performing with community service, supporting nonprofits that help with marriage and relationship issues, women's shelters, hunger and domestic violence.

"Education led me into community service, communicating effectively and realizing it's not all about me," says Moore, who received the Distinguished Alumni award for the College of the Arts in May. "It protects your work ethic – not just doing it for you."

—Laura Griffin



# Red Hawk Pantry Helps Campus Address Student Food Insecurity

The students of Montclair State University are strivers. They come to campus from all over the state and from diverse backgrounds – all aiming to succeed. But for many, the pathway to success is filled with more financial hurdles than for others.

*Above: CEHS Elementary Arts class adds donations during a food drive for the Red Hawk Pantry.*

*Above, right: Fatima deCarvalho and Sonja Tillman operate the Red Hawk Pantry, which has seen an increase in use since it opened in spring 2016.*

For some students, the ability to cover tuition is just the tip of a distressing iceberg. They are among the 1.1 million people in New Jersey who don't know where their next meal is coming from and among a large and growing number of students on campuses across the country who must choose between buying textbooks or food.

Montclair State Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life Karen L. Pennington has seen the issue up close. "An alarming number of students were coming to the Office of the Dean of Students with extraordinary personal needs," she says, adding that food insecurity impacts

learning, grades, graduation and time-to-degree.

To address the issue, the University opened the Red Hawk Pantry in spring 2016, after Pennington attended a national conference where student-life professionals discussed measures their campuses were undertaking to address student hunger, and she resolved then to find ways to serve Montclair State students without enough food.

The Food Pantry is one of more than 300 at universities nationwide.

"I call it my 'fire, ready, aim' approach," laughs Pennington. "When it's

important enough, you just do it and figure out the details later."

But decades of shrinking state aid made it impossible for the University to fully address the needs of food-insecure students on its own. In order to fill the gap, Pennington knew she needed to find funding sources as well as support and help from staff and faculty.

The Montclair State community rose to the challenge. The Red Hawk Pantry has become a labor of love for several staff members, including Fatima deCarvalho, associate dean of students, and Sonja Tillman, program coordinator of Student Center Programming, who manage the pantry, and Associate Director of Alumni Relations Stacy Albanese, whose research for her master's degree revealed the extent of the need on campus and who, working with the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, raised more than \$10,000 for the pantry.



Albanese and her classmates designed and distributed a questionnaire about hunger throughout campus. About 200 students responded to the survey with 10 percent reporting that they experience food insecurity on a daily basis; 15 percent indicated they experience a need weekly; and 12 percent reported a monthly need. The survey also revealed that many students also need basic toiletries such as toothpaste, soap and feminine hygiene products, as well as kitchen supplies, school supplies and warm clothes.

Albanese says that the issue resonates with alumni,

staff, faculty and students. Lawrence Inserra, a member of the University's Board of Trustees and the chairman, CEO and president of Inserra Supermarkets, Inc., and his daughter, Lindsey Inserra Hughes, have provided regular deliveries of perishable items including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, as well as an industrial refrigerator.

Beyond the Inserra donation and the \$10,000 raised by Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, efforts for the pantry have included:

- Montclair State Athletics, represented by 200 student-

athletes, staff, coaches and members of the campus community, donated the \$600 in proceeds from the 11th Annual Reservoir Charity Training Run to the pantry.

- Campus fraternities and sororities conducted food drives and contributed more than 2,000 cans of food.
- Many students, faculty and staff members have also made donations of cash and food directly to the pantry.

The pantry, which is in the Student Center, opens every other week on alternating Mondays and Thursdays and is staffed by deCarvalho and Tillman with help from students in the Bonner Leader AmeriCorps Program.

DeCarvalho says word is getting out and that on its second open day in the fall, the pantry served more than 70 students – a mix of those whose families are financially stressed and nontraditional students with struggling families of their own.

"It's a humbling experience," says deCarvalho, "when students come in with their children." She says that more than once, students have become emotional at the pantry. "Someone will say, with tears in their eyes, 'You have the cereal that my children like. I can't afford to buy it for them.'"

Pennington notes that a coat drive that is underway will provide coats through the food pantry and she is looking for a donor who will supply the pantry with socks in the winter.

"The larger problem of food insecurity in the United States can seem overwhelming," says Pennington, "and the Red Hawk Pantry may seem like a drop in the bucket. But drops in the bucket add up. We will continue to chip away at this problem and hope for a day when we can close the pantry because no one needs it anymore."

*—Anne Sherber*

# HOMECOMING 2016



A little wind and rain couldn't dampen the spirits of our Red Hawks and alumni at Homecoming on October 22. With a pancake breakfast, a tailgate party and carnival, a fun run, campus tours and open houses at schools and colleges, alumni and students were able to meet up with old friends and make new ones and watch the Red Hawks defeat The College of New Jersey Lions 21-7.





To see more, visit [montclair.edu/homecoming](http://montclair.edu/homecoming).



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# CLASS NOTES

## 1930s

**Ella Haver '34** celebrated the acceptance of her great-nephew **Colin Makombe** to the 2020 class at Montclair State. She is 103 years old.

**Marie Macchiaverna Anzalone '38** received a proclamation from Florham Park Mayor Mark Taylor wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

## 1940s

**Tommy "T-Bone" Giordano '47** is entering his 69th year in professional baseball, currently as Special Assistant to the General Manager of the Atlanta Braves. A former player with the Philadelphia Athletics, he has also worked as a scout for the Baltimore Orioles and the Texas Rangers, among others.

**Rev. Dr. Alan Rosenberg '49** received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition in November 2015 for protecting the well-being of communities. U.S. Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano of California stated his service to the country is the epitome of courage, bravery and valor.

## 1950s

**Eleanor Bill Calvin '51** played the organ for the concert "Love Songs Remembered" at Christ Congregational Church in Brockton, Mass.

**Elizabeth Stewart Gebler '51** and **Isabella Kaiser McCarthy '50** have remained friends since graduation. They say their years in college not only provided them an education that gave them careers they loved but also sweethearts they have been married to for 50 years: **Ernest Guy Gebler Jr. '49, '54 MA** and **Walter McCarthy '50, '52 MA**.

## 1960s

**Edward Perretti '61** is now the executive director of the New Jersey State Opera.

**Jacqueline Seewald '66** wrote a historical romance novel, *The Killing Land*, which is also a thriller set in the West.

**Tom Gannon '68, '71 MA** retired after 20 years at the University of Mount Union, achieving the rank of professor, serving several terms as chair of the education department and most recently directing the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program.

## 1970s

**Robert T. Brewer '70** wrote the novel *The Boy Who Would Not Play Ball*.

**Mary Manger Reece '70, '74 MEd** was named as the February 2016 Sustainability Hero by Sustainable New Jersey. She is the chair of the Montgomery (N.J.) Township Environmental Commission and Sustainable Montgomery.



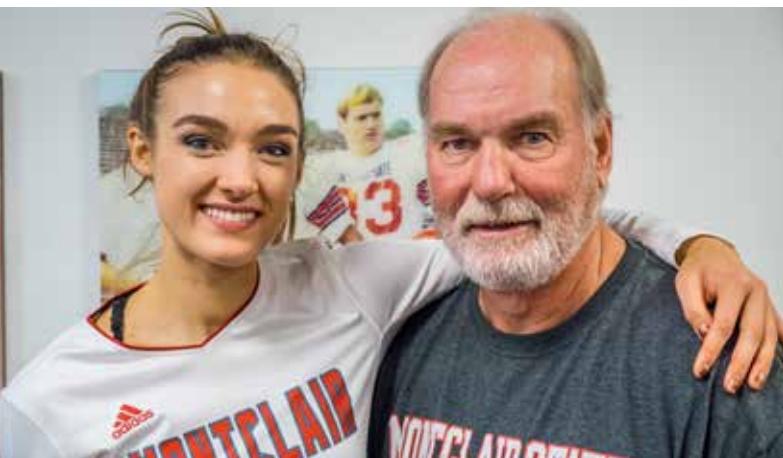
The Class of 1966 celebrated its 50th reunion and led the procession at the 2016 Commencement ceremony.



**Ella Haver '34**  
and great-nephew  
freshman  
**Colin Makombe**  
(see note at left)



**Marie**  
**Macchiaverna**  
**Anzalone '38**  
(see note at left)



**Roland Kascher '71**, a former Montclair State football player, is following Red Hawks volleyball this year because his granddaughter, junior Madison Maute, is a player. He recently traveled from his home in Florida to watch the team play and says his granddaughter is focused on the team aspect of the game. "My pride in her makes me speechless at times," he says.



**Bettie Anderson '73 MA** began training as a health volunteer with the Peace Corps in Botswana, Africa, in July 2016. Anderson will live with a host family for the first three months and will then be assigned to a community in Botswana to live and work for two years. She is pictured above with Vice President Joe Biden.



**Alban R. Albert '77 MA**, center, was honored by Wyckoff (N.J.) Mayor Kevin Rooney, left, for his artwork and teaching accomplishments.

**Beth Roll Smith '71** retired as library director from the West Bridgewater, Mass., Public Library in January 2016, after 27 years. Prior to that, Smith worked in three New Jersey public libraries.

**Paul Awramko '73** was featured in the April 2016 edition of *International Bowling Industry* magazine in an article titled "A Star is Re-born: How a TV show saved Paul's Bar and Bowling."

**Christine Ball Kindl '75** is now associate vice president for communications and public relations at California University of Pennsylvania. She is the university's spokesperson and editor of its magazine, the *Cal U Review*. Christine and her husband, **David Kindl '74**, live in Derry, Pa.

**Douglas Rallo '75** authored an article titled "Lawyers Gifts to Union Officials and the Steering of Injury Cases to Those Lawyers: Federal Criminal Law Implications" in the winter 2016 edition of the *University of Dayton Law*.

**Joe Cosentino '77** recently had three books released: *Cozzi Cove: Bouncing Back, In My Heart Anthology* and *Satin Doll*.

**Pasquale "Pat" Pignatelli '77** led Oakland, N.J.'s 2016 Memorial Day parade as its grand marshal in honor of his military service in the Vietnam War.

## 1980s

**MaryAnne Faschan '80** was honored in "Best 50 Women in Business 2016" by *NJBIZ*.

**Valerie D. Testa Almquist '81** recently published *Look Back Move Forward*, which takes readers on a journey of self-discovery.

**Theodore F. D'Alessio '81** was honored at the Krug Memorial Baseball Tournament at Millburn (N.J.) High School. After 40 years with Millburn, D'Alessio recently retired as athletic director.

**Rodney Baltimore '82** helped his employer, Cox Radio Group of Miami, Fla., earn a Service to America award from the National Association of Broadcasters in July 2016.

**Janine K. Iannarelli '83** was named presiding officer of the Texas Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Iannarelli is the founder and president of Par Avion Ltd.

**Richard Marranca '83** authored *The New Romantics: Ten Stories of Mystery, Passion, Travel and Vampires*, published in April 2016 by Oak Tree Press.

**Luis Rodriguez '84** is the new associate executive director of Technology Services at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

## Nick Matarazzo '79

# BEHIND THE WHEEL

As the new president of Hearst Autos, Nick Matarazzo '79 is now a driving force at Hearst Magazine Company's industry-leading automotive media business, which publishes *Car and Driver* and *Road & Track* with an audience of 24 million readers.

For Matarazzo, the lessons he learned at Montclair State have not only served him well in his new role with Hearst but also along the way.

"Everything in life changes. Expect it, accept it and be an agent of change," he says. "And whatever you do, put 200 percent into it. Do not tread water in the sea of mediocrity, that is not becoming of a Red Hawk."

Matarazzo says his business professors made a lasting impression on him, with challenging academics and lectures that made him think.

But not all lessons are learned in the classroom. And as a standout point guard on the Montclair State basketball team – he was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003 – Matarazzo

says that Head Basketball Coach Ollie Gelston and Assistant Coach Mike Cohen had the biggest impact on him.

"Both pushed me every day, on and off the court. They taught me life lessons on leadership, and understanding and motivating people, and they instilled in me that 'never quit and can do' attitude," says Matarazzo, who was named president in May. "It stuck with me, and I have taken it with me into the business world."

Many of Matarazzo's best memories of his time at Montclair State involve playing basketball and the lifelong friendships he and his teammates built with one another. In fact, he says, he still sees a lot of the players.

Both of his sons chose to follow Matarazzo's footsteps by attending Montclair State – a choice he says they made without his influence. And both have made their own marks as Red Hawks. Mark '10 played baseball for the Red Hawks, while Michael is currently a junior and a pitcher on the baseball team.



***"Everything in life changes. Expect it, accept it and be an agent of change. And whatever you do, put 200 percent into it."***

Matarazzo's advice to current Red Hawks reflects his experience at the University.

"Cherish every moment and don't take anything for granted.

Open your mind and if you learn anything at Montclair State, learn to listen to others and accept that people are different," he says.

Matarazzo began his sales and marketing career in 1981 at CBS Magazines and Diamandis Communications. He worked his way up in the magazine and publishing industry and was most recently the CEO of JumpStart Automotive Group, which is now a digital division of Hearst Autos.

He credits Montclair State with much of his success.

"There were many professors and coaches who guided me – they asked me questions and made me think about things," says Matarazzo, who is active with the University's Alumni Association. "The people I met back in the '70s – I'm still friends with today. We think of ways to give back. We ask ourselves: 'How do we make it better for those who are less fortunate?'"

*–Erin Hines*



## Sony Studios Welcomes Alumni

Los Angeles-area alumni joined Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole and University leadership in June for guided tours of Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, Calif., that provided a behind-the-scenes look at a working studio, including the home of the hit game show *Jeopardy*.

At a cocktail reception afterward, guests heard about the happenings at Montclair State from Cole, College of the Arts Dean Daniel Gurskis and School of Communication and Media Director Merrill Brown, and information about the University's partnership with Sony Electronics from Josh Greenstein, Sony's president of marketing and distribution.

As part of the partnership, the new School of Communication and Media building, which will open in 2017, will house a 4K-equipped facility that will allow Sony to offer students and industry professionals hands-on training similar to what is offered at its Digital Motion Picture Center at Sony Pictures Studios in Los Angeles.

The event was the third that Montclair State has hosted for alumni on the West Coast in the last three years. In all, more than 60 people attended, including Professor Emeritus Lee Primiano '60, Rosalina Esteves Primiano '59, '74 MA, Lynne Primiano Lisa '93 and Karen Horne '08, vice president of programming, talent development and inclusion for NBC Entertainment and Universal Television Studios.

"I can write a book on how Montclair State has changed the course of my life. It provided for me the same support and encouragement that I hope to create for aspiring, young and seasoned professionals," says Casandra Escobar '04, manager for film greenlights, acquisitions, international TV, film and digital distribution for NBCUniversal.

**Bobbie D. Seward Bagley '85** is Nashua, N.H.'s new director of public health, tasked with leading the city's efforts in battling its heroin and opioid epidemic.

**James Fritz '85**, a member of the Montclair State Lacrosse Hall of Fame, recently achieved his 200th win as a lacrosse coach.

**Enes Bovero Scardigno '87 MA** graduated from Montclair State at age 60. She and her husband are now 88, with two children, ages 59 and 61. Enes taught art in schools and evening courses to adults.

**Dr. Miguel Hernandez '89** is serving as the superintendent for Haledon (N.J.) Public School District.

## 1990s

**John P. Buechel Jr. '90** was promoted to branch manager by the Rockaway, N.J., branch of Wells Fargo Advisors.

**Dr. Cheryl T. Hayek '91** was named interim university president at Grantham University in addition to her continued responsibilities as the university's chief academic officer and provost.

**Faris N. Nejad '91 MA** authored *The Curse of the Ancient Greeks*, inspired by real stories that offer insight into contemporary Greek culture and politics. It has received international recognition and has been selected as a Best Books 2016 by Kirkus.

**Alonda R. Cannady Williams '91** was hired as the new director of marketing, community relations and enrollment management marketing at Bellevue College. In this role, she will provide leadership and supervision for all marketing and communications outreach and the college's ongoing 50th anniversary celebration.

**Theodore Conley '92** was appointed chief of the Scotch Plains (N.J.) Police Department.

**Christine L. Leppin Lourenco '92** recently published her first novel, *For the Love of the Ocean*.

**David S. Orlofsky '92** was promoted to senior managing director of Zolfo Cooper's U.S. practice.

**Laurie Jeffers '93, '95 Cert, '99 MA** released her first published novel, *Luke Aloysius: Bloodline*.

**Bill Mesce Jr. '93 MA** authored a WWII novel, *A Cold and Distant Place*, which won the 2016 Eric Hoffer Award for e-fiction, and was also short-listed for Hoffer's Grand Prize and a finalist for their Montaigne Medal.

# STAR POWER

## Lorene Scafaria '99

**W**hen Lorene Scafaria '99 was just 5 years old, her aunt gave her business cards that read, "Author." In fourth grade, she was writing screenplays. By high school, she was writing and directing plays.

Today, she is the screenwriter and director of such critically acclaimed films as *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World* and *The Meddler*. Scafaria is also a successful singer and an actor, who was featured most recently in the sci-fi film *Coherent*.

She is proud to be a member of a small but growing club of female screenwriters and directors that includes Nicole Holofcener (*Enough Said*), the late Nora Ephron (*Sleepless in Seattle*) and her good friend Diablo Cody (*Juno*). "Hollywood is a boys' club in the way the world is a boys' club," she explains. "It's like every office in the country. But it's starting to change."

Scafaria's first passion was English, which she majored in at Montclair State. "I learned so much from Professor William Dell, who taught 19th-Century Romantic Literature and Victorian Prose and Poetry. The way he approached the texts showed me how to think and work," she says.

Yet she also loved movies. While in her early 20s, Scafaria made *This Will Be Our Year*, a longer-than-usual short film. "This was my personal film school," she recalls. "I was trying to prove



**"I'm still a Jersey girl.  
I brought Jersey to California."**

that I could tackle a feature film some day. I wanted to write and direct – and do it all.

"If I'd been better as an actor or singer, I might have kept at that. But as a director, it's good to have those skills in my arsenal," she says.

They are skills that have come in handy when working with top Hollywood stars, whether with Steve Carell and Keira Knightley in *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World* or Susan Sarandon in *The Meddler*.

In *The Meddler*, Scafaria's well-received, semi-autobiographical 2016 release, Sarandon plays a character based on Scafaria's own mother, who moved from New Jersey to Los Angeles to be with her daughter after her husband's death. "Sarandon was great. Mom would joke that Daddy would have liked to be married to her."

As in all of her films, *The Meddler*'s soundtrack was important. "I had a score in mind and could hear the script as I wrote it, which informed a lot," she explains. "Knowing what something looks and sounds like – that's storytelling." Currently, she is writing a new script about fathers and sons that she plans to also direct.

Hollywood success has yet to go to her head. "I'm still a Jersey girl. I brought Jersey to California," Scafaria insists. "My mom lives down the street now. Having her here makes LA feel more like Holmdel, New Jersey."

*—Amy Wagner*



## Attention Class of 1967

Planning is underway for the Class of 1967 50th reunion. Mark your calendars to join your classmates on May 25 for a luncheon and to walk at the Commencement exercises. On May 24, catch up with classmates at a casual reception at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Fairfield, New Jersey. For more information, visit [montclair.edu/alumni/reunions](http://montclair.edu/alumni/reunions) or contact Deb Corasio in the Office of Alumni Relations at 973-655-4207.



**Catherine Zonenberg Barahona '04** married Andres Barahona in April 2016, at St. Anthony's Church in Hawthorne, N.J. **Stephanie Lacz Zonenberg '66**, mother of the bride, recently celebrated her 50th reunion.

**Michael Clementi '94** is the vice president of HR North America and Global Customer Development for Unilever. Through his efforts, Unilever was named one of the "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign, and also named a top employer for working mothers.

**Dawn Von Busch Romeo '94** recently authored *Life 101: A Guide to Your Personal Evolution*.

**Kirsten Loewrigkeit DaSilva '95** is now the vice president for administration and finance for Ramapo College of New Jersey.

**Mark Friedrich '95** received the High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award from the New Jersey Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

**Kyle Bailey '96**, who owns an aviation-consulting firm, is an aviation guest analyst on cable news networks, including Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, MSNBC, BBC and Bloomberg.

**Fernando J. Barboto '96**, who helped build the soccer program at Iona College, will lead men's soccer at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

**Melissa Miele Bracuti '96** was named a shareholder at the law firm of Graham Curtin in Morristown, N.J.

**Bridget M. Duffy Hartnett '97** was honored in "Best 50 Women in Business 2016" by *NJBIZ*.

**Ryan Mulligan '97** was named the Police Officer of the Year of Nutley, N.J., and helped lead its 38th Annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

**Lorene Scafaria '99** is the writer/director of *The Meddler*, a comedy starring Susan Sarandon. (See profile, page 49.)

## 2000s

**Steve Gotkin '00 MAT** authored *The Betting Black Book: Winning Sports Betting Data on All FBS Coaches, 2016-2017 College Football Edition*, which became a best-seller in three categories.

**Domenick Sportelli '00, '03 MS** was an expert guest discussing weather phobias on "Top 10 Weather Phobias" on the Weather Channel.

**James C. Vara '00** was appointed as the Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health in New Hampshire.

**Lauren Palermo '02** authored the children's book *Clicky Jules: Love is All Around*, published by Mascot Books.

**Jason Strother '03** is an international freelance journalist based in South Korea, where he was an exchange student in 2002. He also teaches an online journalism class as an adjunct professor for Montclair State.

**Gemar Mills '05** delivered the commencement address at Raritan Valley Community College's 47th annual spring commencement.

**Regina Rufano Rocco '05, '11 MA** married Michael Rocco at St. Catherine's R.C. Church in Glen Rock, N.J., in July 2015.

**Amelia Teo '05** wrote an essay, "My Immigration Experience" that was a winning story in the Annual Essex County Senior Citizens Legacy Writing Contest.

**Paul R. Rodriguez '06** joined the administration of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio as deputy counsel. Rodriguez has experience in criminal justice, economic development, labor, infrastructure and minority and women-owned business enterprises.

**Mellie Torres '06 MAT** published an exploratory study of the academic engagement and beliefs of Latino male high school students in *Race, Ethnicity, and Education Journal*.

**Justin Long '07** starred as Bert and **Sandra Taylor '10 MA** starred as Mary in the Mayo Performing Arts Center's production of *Mary Poppins* in June 2016.

**Francesco Bifulco '08** was appointed as Millburn (N.J.) High School's new director of Athletics and head of the Health and Physical Education Department.

**Martin Cabalar '08** has been named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers rating service.

**Kerry Connelly '08** has been named a 2016 New Jersey Leading Women Entrepreneurs & Business Owners Finalist.

**Hayden M. Greene '08 MA** has joined the Manhattan College staff as the director of multicultural affairs, a newly created position in the student life division.

**Victor Stolberg '08**, an assistant professor and counselor at Essex County College, authored *Painkillers: History, Science, and Issues*, a book that examines painkiller drugs from a variety of perspectives, including medical, historical, economic and social.



## Digital Series Begins With 9/11 Photographer

The Office of Alumni Relations launched the Alumni Digital Event Series in September with Thomas E. Franklin, an associate professor in the School of Communication and Media, whose photo of firefighters raising the American flag on 9/11 became an iconic image and a postage stamp in 2002 and won a Pulitzer Prize.

Sometime after the photo was taken, the flag was lost, but it was discovered in 2014, and given to the 9/11 Museum this fall, on the 15th Anniversary of the terror attacks.

Franklin has said that the photo was more about the heroic firefighters and first responders, along with those who died that day, than the flag itself.

This new series brings lecture-style talks with faculty, staff and other members of the Montclair State community to alumni. Future events will include representatives from each school and college, athletics, EOF and more. Visit [connect.montclair.edu](http://connect.montclair.edu) and click on "Digital Event Series" to watch events in this series.

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This is for informational purposes and is not intended as financial advice. Please consult your financial or legal advisor regarding your financial situation.

**Montclair State University**  
**IT'S ALL HERE.**

**Katie Miller '09 and Nicholas Walz '10** recently started a business called Top Secret Trip. It is a travel agency that specializes in "mystery vacations" where customers fill out a brief survey with their budget, travel dates and a few preferences, and Miller and Walz book their trip.

## 2010s

**Marco O. Capozzoli '10** returned to the Arena Football League's Jacksonville Sharks as a kicker for his fourth and fifth seasons.

**Ashley Kark '10**, CEO of biotech business incubator BIOjump, LLC, recently celebrated her one-year anniversary in the pharmaceutical industry and the formation of BIOjump.

**Jackie Rothong '10** battled three seasoned chefs to become the winner of the Food Network's show *Cutthroat Kitchen*.

**Jemima Akinsanya '11** received the Community Service Award from the Medical Society of the State of New York.

**Joseph Cullen '11** has been appointed head coach of the New Jersey City University men's soccer program.

**Amanda Parker '11**, at 27, was elected as the youngest board member to The Housing Partnership, a nonprofit organization that provides first-time home buyers in New Jersey access to education, counseling services and financial coaching.

**Stacey Sommer '11** is the producer on the culture team for MTV's *Vice News*. Sommer started working at MTV shortly after graduating.

A group of Montclair State University BFA alumni created an opportunity to share live theater through performing a contemporary drama: *Really Really*. The cast includes: **Tony Knotts '12, Daniil Krimer '14, Jordan Anton '15, Elena Barone '15, Esteban Carmona '15, Jeremy Landes '15 and Paige Sciarrino '15**.

**James Rawdon '12** married Brittany Campbell in May 2016.

**Sharrod Williams '12** opened the new musical *Tuck Everlasting* on Broadway. Additionally, Williams also played the role of Pouncival in the Broadway revival of *Cats* in the summer of 2016.



**Melissa Acosta-Amarante '09** married Frank Amarante in April 2016 in a private ceremony.



## Red Hawk Open 2016

Montclair State University's 4th Annual Red Hawk Open at the Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring brought out more than 100 golfers and raised more than \$110,000 to benefit Montclair State Athletics. The funds will go toward purchasing strength and conditioning equipment for the Panzer Athletic Center, and will also be allocated to the 18 varsity athletic programs to assist with each program's individual needs. The golf outing included a BBQ lunch, and a dinner and silent auction.

**Mary Esper Uy David '12 PharmD** graduated from the bridge program between Montclair State University and Rutgers Pharmacy School in May 2016. This rigorous program between the two schools only selects two candidates per year. David works for CVS Pharmacy.



**Maritza Rivera '16** and her son, **Michael Ruiz '16**, graduated together in May. Rivera returned to school after 23 years of raising three sons to earn her political science degree.



### Emeriti Luncheon

Emeriti faculty were honored during a luncheon to welcome four of the newest emeriti faculty – Linda Gould-Levine, Carol Gottschall, Elizabeth del Alamo and Thomas “Ted” Williamson.

**Joseph C. Cuccia '13**, a chef, was named a rising star by the James Beard Foundation, a national organization that celebrates all things food.

**Michele Fitzgerald '13** won the title “Sole Survivor” and the \$1 million prize to end the 32nd season of *Survivor*.

**Josh Johannessen '15** is cycling across the country to visit 12 baseball stadiums. He is dedicating his journey to his former co-worker Robin Reed, who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

**Mohamad B. Khair '16 MS** graduated with a master's in nutrition and food science and is now seeking asylum in the U.S. for his family. Khair and his family fled Syria after explosions and firefights became routine. He applied for and received scholarships from Montclair State.

### UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Did you move?  
Get married?  
New email?  
New number?  
Let us know!

It's easy to update your information online through **MONTCLAIRConnect**, the online community exclusively for alumni of Montclair State University.

Visit [montclair.edu/montclairconnect](http://montclair.edu/montclairconnect), where you can also sign up for a free email forwarding address and submit a class note! You can also update your information by calling the **Office of Alumni Relations** at **973-655-4141**.

### WELCOME NEW ALUMNI!



# inMEMORIAM

Doris Adams Weiss '39  
 Clare Dugan Rizzolo '42  
 Frances T. Seelig '42  
 Elizabeth Bardagjy Stambolian '42  
 Muriel Bowers Anderson '43, '50 MA  
 Helen Korchevsky Conrad '43  
 Virginia Sanders '43

**Lillian Szklarczyk**  
 Professor Emerita Lillian Szklarczyk, of Denville, New Jersey, died on July 4, 2016, at the age of 85. Beloved by her students and colleagues, she taught French and phonetics at Montclair State for 38 years before her retirement in 1997.

Jean Ellenberger Dougherty '44  
 Elizabeth Giordano Shaw '45  
 Henry "Hank" Ryan '48  
 Janet Schenkman '48  
 Lila Anderson '49  
 Dorothy "Dot" Gray '49  
 Carmine J. Conti '50, '54 MA  
 Alan R. Gifford '50  
 David Hart '50, '57 MA  
 Eugene Hastings '50, '55 MA  
 John J. Kaelin '50, '55 MA  
 Maurice Umble '50  
 Robert Lachenauer '51, '56 MA  
 Stephana "Gay" Borden Worth '51  
 Donald Campen '52

Joan Landadio Austra '53, '57 MA  
 James A. Freda '53  
 Margaret Hilla '53  
 Dolores Schmidt Jones '53  
 Diana G. Roberts '53  
 H. Fred Keil '54  
 Carol Maude '54  
 Marie Marra McGuire '54  
 Alvin Picker '54, '55 MA  
 Catherine Kopp Taylor '54, '58 MA  
 Carlo Alongi Jr. '55  
 Paul Shubeck '55 MA  
 Jude Gray '56, '70 MA  
 James E. Winkler '56 MA  
 Philip J. Congilose '57, '61 MA  
 Mary Ellen Bemler Flynn '57  
 George Dubroski '59, '67 MA  
 Robert White '59, '64 MA  
 Joseph F. Pacelle '60 MA  
 Barbara Bray Roth '60  
 John J. Baron '61  
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 Peter Carmichael '64  
 Eleanor J. Clark '64  
 Rita Ranucci '64  
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 Marilyn Sendell '66  
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 Howard Strouse '69, '74 MA  
 Rosalind Mehr Krupp '70 MA  
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 Brett W. Gurnee '04  
 Sandra Reilly Stoller '04  
 Mathew Gill '15  
 Joseph "JoJo" Blumenschein '16



**Rita Ellen Ranucci '64**  
 Musician and philanthropist Rita Ellen Ranucci '64, of Newton, Mass., died on April 6, 2016, at the age of 73. A cellist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and a music educator, she also supported Montclair State as a donor, establishing the Ranucci Family Legacy. The Ranucci Family Rehearsal Hall in Chapin Hall was dedicated in the family name in 2014.



## LASTING LESSONS

### Delores McMorrin Lorraine Whitaker

Counselors  
Educational Opportunity  
Fund Program

**W**ith more than a half-century of combined service to Montclair State between them, recently retired Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program counselors Delores McMorrin and Lorraine Whitaker advised, guided and mentored hundreds of students and changed the lives of many. “I learned so much from [them],” says Ramon Williams ’91. “I don’t know where I would be without their guidance; it is doubtful I would have completed my studies at Montclair State if they weren’t there.” Best friends since before high school, McMorrin and Whitaker were colleagues at EOF for more than two decades and were known for their wisdom, caring and unconditional support of their students. “They made it clear they were happy I was there and they wanted me to succeed,” recalls Williams. In addition to counseling, McMorrin, who holds a doctorate, taught courses in the Department of Political Science and Law, and is continuing to teach in retirement. “I was very fortunate to be in the company of Delores McMorrin,” says Kelly Smith ’89. “[She] taught me to be bold and fearless in my pursuit of academic excellence.” Mayor of East Orange Lester E. Taylor III ’97 also acknowledges McMorrin’s influence: “Ultimately, her influence and commitment inspired me to not only pursue my professional goals with confidence and rigor, but with a sense of passion and purpose.”

*Read more about McMorrin and Whitaker at [montclair.edu/lasting-lessons/McMorrin-Whitaker](http://montclair.edu/lasting-lessons/McMorrin-Whitaker). Let us know which faculty members made a difference during your time at Montclair State at [editor@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:editor@mail.montclair.edu).*

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