

INSIDE CONNECTIONS:

36 NEWS

42 CLASS NOTES

41, 43, 45 PROFILES

47 IN MEMORIAM

48 LASTING LESSONS



ALUMNI NEWS

Meet the 2022 Distinguished Alumni



Joetta Di Bella Sautter '69



Frank Alvarez '76



Tracy Doyle '87



Erika Hamden, PhD



Helene Becker '79



Elsie Alabi-Gonzalez '18, '21 MSN

Montclair's class of Distinguished Alumni for 2022 were selected for personal accomplishments, professional achievements, community service involvement and support of the University's mission. Each spoke at a college or school convocation, the first convocations held in three years.

In the photo, the Distinguished Alumni, clockwise from the top left, are:

• **COLLEGE OF THE ARTS: Joetta Di Bella Sautter '69** earned a BA in English and then, deviating from her initial plans to become an English teacher, she instead launched a successful career in television and broadcast media that took her from NYC to Hollywood. An Emmy Award-winning producer, she received several Los Angeles area Emmys for her work with KTLA Channel 5 and has served on the Television Academy's Diversity Committee and its Foundation's Education Committee.

• **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES: Frank Alvarez '76** went on to earn an MA and EdD from Teachers College, Columbia University. He is an educational consultant assisting districts to improve educational practices with a focus on underrepresented student achievement, special education and principal effectiveness. During his career, he has served as superintendent of schools in four districts: North Caldwell (N.J.), River Vale (N.J.), Montclair (N.J.) and Rye (N.Y.).

• **COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: Tracy Doyle '87** is a managing partner at eNOVA, a medical communications software and services company serving the life sciences industry. Doyle finds creative solutions to industry challenges and designs initiatives that help health-care providers connect and learn about advances in science and medicine.

- SCHOOL OF NURSING: Elsie Alabi-Gonzalez '18, '21 MSN** was a member of the inaugural RN to BSN class at Montclair State University. As a registered nurse caring for adults in long-term care facilities and in the community, she also served as a peer development coach during her studies at Montclair. In the MSN degree program, her specialty concentration was in the educator role and she joined the Montclair faculty in fall 2021, serving as clinical specialist.
- FELICIANO SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: Helene Becker '79** is a managing director and senior research analyst at Cowen who covers airlines, air freight and aircraft leasing. She has more than 35 years of experience on Wall Street, holding positions within the

research, trading and investment banking departments of several broker/dealers including Citi, Lehman Brothers and Smith Barney.

- COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS: Erika Hamden, PhD** is an astrophysicist. The daughter of Montclair State University Physics and Astronomy Professor Dean Hamden, it's no wonder that she developed a love of science. She attended Montclair before completing her bachelor's degree in Astronomy and Astrophysics at Harvard College in 2006 and a doctorate in Astrophysics at Columbia University in 2014. Her research focuses on measuring and mapping diffuse hydrogen around other galaxies and within star-forming regions in our own galaxy. ■



Montclair's community of alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends came together to make a difference. Here's how each group ranked in giving.



This year's giving day, One Day for Montclair, celebrated donors and their contributions, which help provide opportunities for students through scholarships and programs. Thanks to matching gifts and donation challenges, including a challenge to donate what you'd spend on your latte for one day (or a week or a month), One Day for Montclair raised more than \$225,000 through 1,426 gifts. "We asked our campus to come together to create something special, and they did," says Director of Annual Giving Kara Baldwin Brennan '92. "We are so inspired, knowing how impactful these gifts will be." ■



A Night with The Jersey Four

The Black Alumni Advisory Council hosted an evening with The Jersey Four on campus in February. Twenty-three years ago, Rayshawn Brown, Jarmaine Grant, Keshon Moore and Danny Reyes, headed to North Carolina hoping to play college basketball, but were pulled over and shot by police on the New Jersey Turnpike. Their story continues to resonate today, particularly in the wake of so many high-profile killings by police. ■



Wine Tasting Returns

Sommelier Gerry Piserchia teaches alumni and friends all about wine at the 10th Annual Alumni Wine Tasting event, held for the first time in two years in person at University Hall on April 5, 2022. ■



EOF Champion Awards

From left, Lou Gilleran '79, Julia Lanigan and Greg Collins '79 received EOF Champion Awards at the EOF alumni induction and awards ceremony for graduating seniors on May 4, 2022. ■

A Night of Gratitude

More than 200 supporters of the University gathered in May for a festive celebration at the Alexander Kasser Theater and promenade recognizing their commitment to students. While celebrating and showing appreciation for all donors and the impact they have on student success and Montclair's excellence, the event also honored a singular donor, Josh Weston '97 Hon., by awarding him the Mary Mochary and Michael Kasser Award for Philanthropic Leadership in recognition of his generosity and engagement in supporting the University and Montclair community. "Philanthropy transforms potential into reality...and when you make a contribution you are helping to create the future of this University," said President Jonathan Koppell in acknowledging donor impact. For more information and photos visit the News Center at montclair.edu. ■

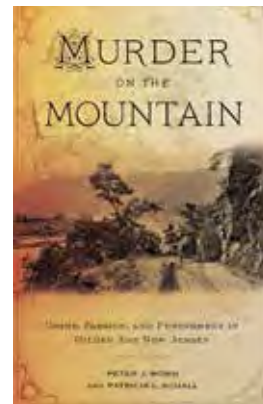


From left, Michael Kasser, President Koppell, award recipient Josh Weston '97 Hon. and Mary Mochary.



Fraternity Celebrates 31st Reunion

The Kappa Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc. celebrated the fraternity's 31st anniversary on campus in February. Reunion committee chairs, Rey Acevedo '13, Jason Velante '00, Antonio Garcia '01 and Luis Roeder '05, worked with Montclair's Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement team on the event. "Thank you Montclair State University for accepting us, many of us first-generation students, from poor or working poor 'at-risk' families, wanting a better life through achieving a college education," said Acevedo. ■



Author and Alumna's Legacy to Endure

The legacy of Patricia Schall '68 will continue for many generations to come – both at Montclair and through a recently published nonfiction historical crime story that occurred in 1879. Peter Wosh, Schall's co-author and husband of more than 30 years, has pledged to fulfill Schall's wish of supporting future students at Montclair State University. Schall was a longtime professor at Saint Elizabeth University in Morristown and a community activist who was admired and loved by her students, colleagues and the community. Before Schall's passing in 2020, she and Wosh co-wrote *Murder on the Mountain: Crime, Passion, and Punishment in Gilded Age New Jersey*, published by Rutgers Press. The University welcomes Pat and Peter to the Carpe Diem Legacy Society. ■



Above: President Koppell and Wendy Gillespie '73, who hosted an event at her home in San Diego, Calif. Right, top: Alumni and friends mingle at scenic Paradise Valley, Ariz., event. Right, bottom: Hosts Robert and Barbara Lieberman (second and third from right) with President Koppell and guests in Delray Beach, Fla.



Back in Your Neighborhood

With the world reopening and alumni living and working remotely across the country, University representatives, including President Jonathan Koppell, were on the road again, visiting gatherings in Arizona, California and Florida this year.

In February, alumni and friends gathered at El Chorro in Paradise Valley, Arizona, enjoying an evening of spectacular views and rekindled connections. There are close to 1,000 alumni living in Arizona.

In March, Wendy Gillespie '73 hosted a reception in her home in San Diego, California. Gillespie, an entrepreneur and Broadway producer of the musical *Come From Away*, has remained engaged with the University, ever grateful for her Montclair education. "With 2,000 alumni and friends living in California, our Red Hawk community is as strong as ever," she says.

Also held in March was a gathering in Florida, a state that more than 6,000 alumni now call home. Hosting the Delray Beach reception were Robert Lieberman and his wife, Barbara. Lieberman, who serves on the University Foundation board, is an enthusiastic advocate for Montclair, regularly supporting scholarships and creating opportunities for students as interns in his business.

"We are grateful for the generosity of our hosts across the country for giving our alumni opportunities to connect," says Jeanne Marano, assistant vice president for Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement. "As part of our series of regional events and activities, we reach beyond campus to host alumni networking opportunities, so even those alumni who don't live in New Jersey can network with fellow alumni and friends in their neighborhood and reconnect with the University." ■