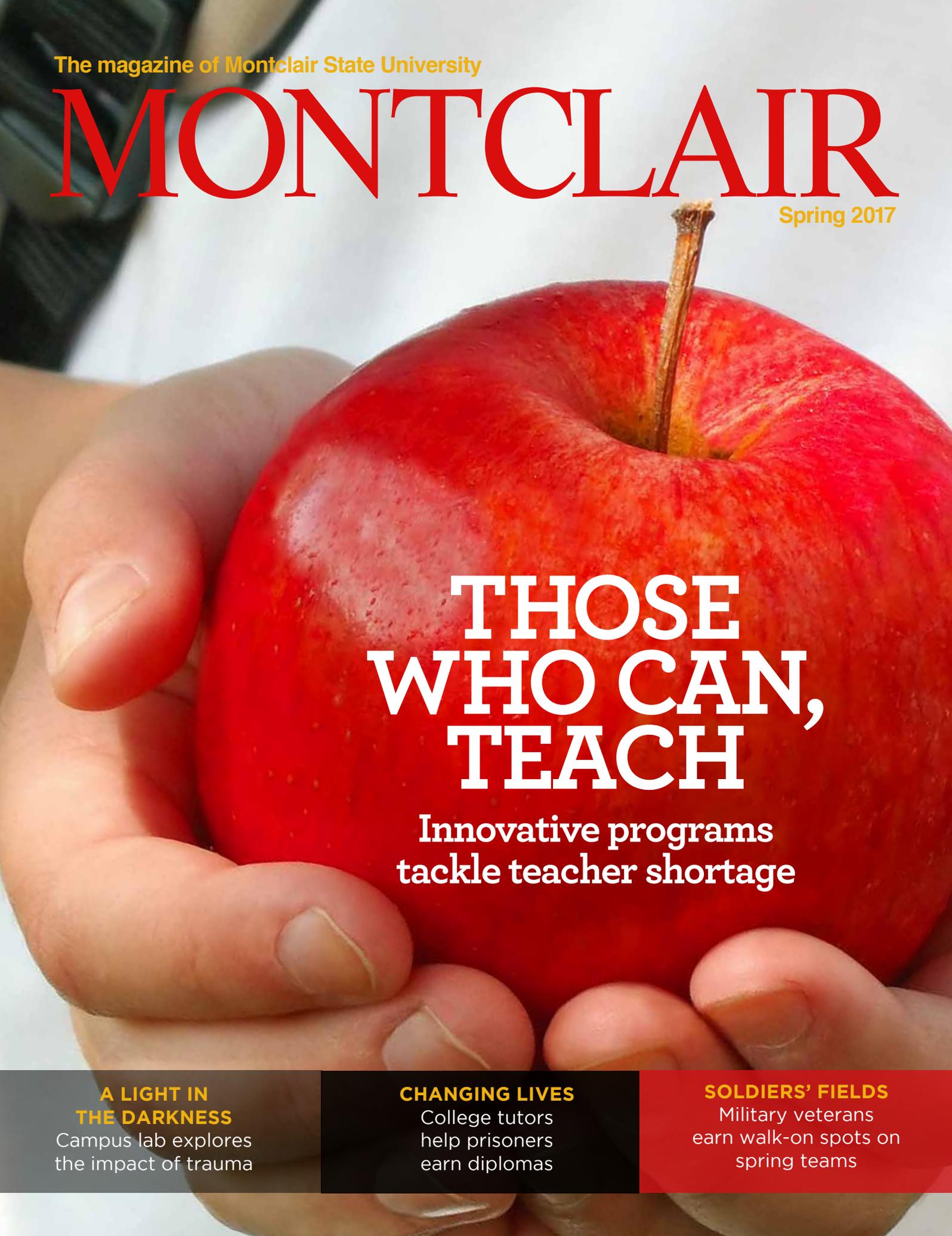


The magazine of Montclair State University

# MONTCLAIR

Spring 2017



## THOSE WHO CAN, TEACH

Innovative programs  
tackle teacher shortage

### **A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

Campus lab explores  
the impact of trauma

### **CHANGING LIVES**

College tutors  
help prisoners  
earn diplomas

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# MONTCLAIR

The magazine of Montclair State University

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has been another amazing academic year for Montclair State University, one that has been particularly rich in collaborations – between students and faculty, among faculty across disciplines and with the greater community that we serve.

Working together, our faculty and staff have launched innovative new programs that expand the University's reach and impact. They include a new School of Nursing, a new doctoral program in clinical psychology, and a fully online MBA. In keeping with our designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education, we created a Hispanic Student College Institute.

Beyond the campus proper, we are collaborating with such local communities as Paterson, Montclair and Newark on important programs in education, the arts, public health and anthropology. Globally, we have expanded our footprint in Australia, with a new partnership between Curtin University and the Feliciano School of Business; deepened our partnership with the University of Graz in Austria; and further developed creative arts partnerships with Shanghai Theatre Academy, East China Normal University and Shanghai Institute of Technology.

We have, in summary, done what all great universities do: pursued knowledge, discovery and innovation toward achievement of the greater good.

As you read through this edition of *Montclair* magazine, you will learn of yet more examples of Montclair State University students, faculty and staff having an impact on our world, as they discover and foster ways to improve the quality of life in New Jersey and beyond. To those who have supported us along the way, I thank you. Your generosity continues to make possible our University's powerful work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan A. Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Susan A. Cole

# FEEDBACK

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

Email us at [editor@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:editor@mail.montclair.edu).  
(We reserve the right to edit letters.)



Class of 1967

Dear Dr. Cole,

As a member of the class of 1967, I took advantage of “re-graduating” at the Rock and lunching with my classmates, and it was a wonderful experience. Despite graduating in the “Summer of Love,” most of our conversation focused on September 1963 and our first few months at Montclair State Teachers College: from wearing our 1967 beanies and watching *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* in the Amphitheater to sock hops in the gym. It was unanimous that as we entered college, many of us the first from our families to attend college, like so many of the current student body, we were treated in ways that would forever shape our lives. Time has passed, but the class of 2017 presented themselves in a way that indicated they were

treated in the same professional and caring manner. It will take some time but the recent graduates will realize the power of their degree from MSU. There is no doubt as to why Montclair is one of this country’s leaders in higher education.

—Respectfully, Harry McLaughlin '67



## OUR FAVORITE TWEETS

The *New York Times* arts section wrote and tweeted about Montclair State’s Peak Performances’ upcoming fall season devoted entirely to new works by women.



Award-winning actor John Turturro tweeted he enjoyed a joint interview with comedian and late-night talk show host Stephen Colbert and Montclair State student and WMSC correspondent Julia Siegel after the Montclair Film Festival.



## ON THE 'GRAM



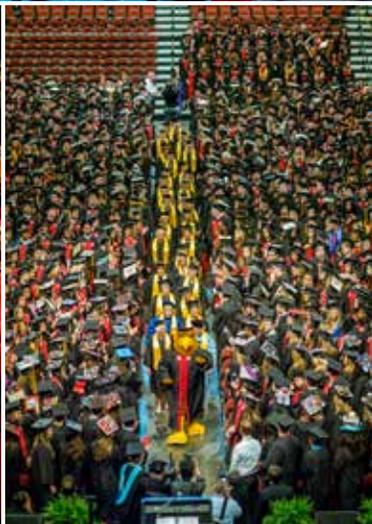
### Red Hawks of Montclair State

Inspired by the social media phenomenon *Humans of New York*, several University students created a virtual snapshot of life on campus, posting new installments of Red Hawks of Montclair State on Instagram every weekday using the hashtag #RHOMS.

Since its launch in August 2016, RHOMS has garnered more than 6,700 followers and has posted about 175 unique stories and photos of students, faculty, staff and alumni that reflect the University’s diversity.

# HEADLINES

## A First: Winter and Spring Commencements



degrees and addressed the students during the ceremony for undergraduates at Prudential Center in Newark, while Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP) President and CEO Carlos Rodriguez received an honorary degree and addressed graduates at The Graduate School Commencement ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

In January, longtime Montclair resident and Tony-nominated actor Frankie Faison, whose four decades of stage, film and TV performances included roles in *The Silence of the Lambs* and HBO's *The Wire*, received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree and addressed the graduates at Prudential Center.

"Here, are you – thousands of members of the next class of citizens, prepared by your education to make a meaningful contribution to the hard work it takes to build a peaceful, prosperous and just society," President Susan A. Cole told graduates. "The work that you have done has been to enable you to become the person you want to be in this world, but only in part. It has also been to enable you to become the kind of citizen that our nation and the world needs." ■

Responding to a record enrollment of 21,000 students, the University held three Commencement ceremonies in 2017, with a record-setting 5,086 graduates earning their

degrees this academic year. The winter Commencement, held in January, combined ceremonies for graduate and undergraduate students, and in the spring, graduate students and undergraduate students

were conferred in two separate Commencements.

At the May exercises, Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka and legendary tap dancer Savion Glover accepted honorary

# NBC's Lester Holt Receives DuMont Honor

**N***BC Nightly News* and *Dateline* anchor Lester Holt not only reported the news in 2016 – he made it. In September, he moderated the most-watched presidential debate in U.S. history. In December, he visited Montclair State, where the School of Communication and Media honored him with the 2016 Allen DuMont Broadcaster of the Year Award.

Holt's first stop on campus was the set of *Carpe Diem*, the School's weekly student-produced public affairs program, where show host Marc Rosenweig, a Television and Digital Media professor, interviewed him for an episode that aired in January. Holt later fielded questions from Rosenweig – on everything from the debate to fake news – at a Colloquium Series event, where he received his award. He also stopped by WMSC-FM, where student News Director Sammie Williams interviewed him.

"I would say journalism is still a higher calling," Holt told Williams. "A free and independent press is a cornerstone of democracy. It sounds a little corny but it's important that there's someone who can, in an independent way, hold people in power and institutions accountable – to shine light in dark places." ■



**Above:** Marc Rosenweig interviews Lester Holt for *Carpe Diem*. **Left:** Holt talks to students during his campus visit.

## President Addresses MLK Breakfast

**P**resident Susan A. Cole delivered the keynote address at the 46th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast at the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity.

At the January 13 event, Cole urged the audience of local leaders and community members to remember Dr. King's extraordinary legacy and asserted that affordable, quality education is a foundation of a free and democratic society. "I am absolutely certain that a better tomorrow depends upon the quality of the education we provide to the rising generations who we have in our care," Cole said.

Cole pointed to the impact Montclair State makes in communities, by supporting schools with federally funded programs such as the Urban Teacher Residency in Newark, which embeds graduate students – who commit to three years

of teaching after graduating – in the city's schools. Cole also noted that more than \$3 million in corporate and foundation grants is helping the

University to prepare science teachers for Newark schools, support summer programs for students in environmental and computer science, and bridge programs in the performing arts.

"I promise that our University is here to stand with you as we wrestle with the awesome challenges we face to build the society our children deserve, taking with us Dr. King's optimism, refusal to despair, and absolute faith that when people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory," she said. ■

To read Cole's full remarks, visit [montclair.edu/president/speeches](http://montclair.edu/president/speeches).



# President Obama Honors Science Professor

A Montclair State University professor and researcher received the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on federally funded science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their careers.

Pankaj Lal, associate professor of Earth and Environmental Studies and associate director of the PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies, was among the 102 recipients of the prestigious Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.



Pankaj Lal

College of Science and Mathematics Dean Robert Prezant says Lal's work in environmental economics represents the best among emerging scientists and their disciplines: "His work reflects the broad spectrum of critical and far-reaching research within our College that informs our students and simultaneously offers important, positive benefits to our global society."

Lal was nominated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which has funded his collaborative, interdisciplinary research that contributes to the development of a

In announcing the awards in January, President Barack Obama said, "These innovators are working to help keep the United States on the cutting edge, showing that federal investments in science lead to advancements that expand our knowledge of the world around us and contribute to our economy."

Says Lal of the award: "It is extremely gratifying to get presidential validation of the research I am undertaking and an absolute honor. Personally, it gives me added confidence to continue on with my sustainable energy and resources research, which is one of the grand challenges facing modern society."

sustainable bioeconomy as a fossil fuel alternative, by assessing the socioeconomic impacts of forest- and agriculture-based biofuel development in Southern rural communities.

This is not Lal's first award for his research. In 2016, he received a highly competitive, five-year, \$450,000 Faculty Early Career Development grant from the National Science Foundation to support his research and education initiatives. His portfolio includes nearly \$7.5 million in grants and contracts for research not only from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but also from the U.S. Department of Energy, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ■

## Professor's Book Receives International Praise

The *New York Times Book Review*, *The New Yorker*, *The Times Literary Supplement* and *AMFM Magazine* are among the publications that featured the winter release of *Dear Mr. Beckett – Letters from the Publisher: The Samuel Beckett File*.

Lois Oppenheim, professor of French and chair of Montclair State's Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, edited the collection of letters, interviews, contracts, photos and doodles. "Dear Mr.

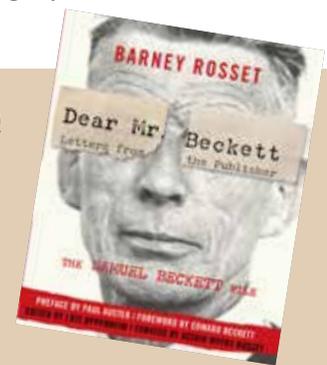
*Beckett* pays homage to two extraordinary men – Samuel Beckett, the Irish-born author of *Waiting for Godot*, and American Barney Rosset, the renegade Grove Press publisher – and the relationship between them," notes Oppenheim.

A leading Beckett scholar, Oppenheim has authored or edited 14 books, including *The Painted Word: Samuel Beckett's Dialogue with Art* and *Directing Beckett*.

"I was asked by Rosset, shortly before he died in 2012, to

publish his letters to Beckett and was subsequently given access to all his personal files," says Oppenheim, who spent three years going through material to edit the 480-page compilation.

Together, the two men revolutionized the world of literature. "Rosset was arrested more than 40 times for defying censorship laws. He always won and succeeded in publishing Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*, D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and many other works



that would never have seen the light of day in this country without his courage and tenacity," says Oppenheim. "Beckett wrote novels and plays the likes of which had never been written before. He was utterly original in every way. Who else could have written a play in which nothing happens?" ■

# Professor Honored with NSF CAREER Award



The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded Mathematical Sciences Assistant Professor Marc Favata a five-year, \$400,000 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) grant for a research and education project that will explore ways in which gravitational waves offer a new way of looking at the universe.

The competitive award supports the research and education initiatives of faculty like Favata who are in the early stages of their careers.

Favata is a member of the international LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) team that made history in 2015 when it detected, for the first time, gravitational waves from two black holes colliding to form one. The detection – one of the most significant physics discoveries of the past 50 years – confirmed a key prediction of Albert Einstein’s 1915 theory of relativity.

According to Favata, LIGO’s discovery helps answer questions about the environment in which these black holes formed and how they interacted and evolved before becoming black holes. “We’re also asking, ‘Was Einstein right?’ It’s possible that as our measurements become more precise, we could find a disagreement with Einstein’s theory.”

University students will be involved in project research and educational components. “They’ll help improve the ‘Sounds of Spacetime’ website that we created last year ([soundsofspacetime.org](http://soundsofspacetime.org)), which lets people ‘listen’ to the universe by exploring the analogy between gravitational waves and sound.”

Favata is eager to continue expanding the frontiers of gravitational-wave science.

“I’m looking forward to LIGO finding many more signals,” he says. ■

# Officers Save Lives on Campus

University police officers Andrew Burde, Ron DeWitt and Jeff Struble were honored in January for saving a man’s life in Partridge Hall in the fall. Responding to a report of a nonresponsive construction worker on November 21, they arrived at Partridge Hall to find that the worker was not breathing.

DeWitt and Burde immediately began CPR. When that didn’t work, Struble shocked the man’s chest with a defibrillator to revive him. The officers continued CPR until EMS transported him to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Paterson, where surgeons repaired a heart defect.

“It was quite a humbling experience to be able to bring someone back to life,” says Burde, a 2008 Montclair State graduate. “My fellow officers and I train to a high level and to provide for the safety and security of our campus community.”

All three officers were honored in January with a Life Saving Award from the University Police Department, and Dispatcher Sylvia Sims was recognized for facilitating the officers’ quick response. “Had it not been for the efforts of these officers, this man would have died,” Captain Kieran Barrett told *The Montclarion*. “Their quick and decisive action saved a life.”

Saving the construction worker’s life was only part of Struble’s day. He later used the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge food stuck in an employee’s airway.

“Our officers take great pride in their service to the community when it comes to emergencies,” says Barrett. ■



Officer Jeff Struble, Dispatcher Sylvia Sims and Officer Andrew Burde. Officer Ron DeWitt is not pictured.



From left: Craig Shilowich, screenwriter/producer of *Christine* being interviewed by student Melanie St. Clair; Shilowich poses with students (l to r, surrounding Shilowich) Asher Sosinsky, Nicholas Calisti, Melanie St. Clair and Nich Marchese.

## Film Students Partner With New York Film Critics Series

A new partnership between the Film Institute at Montclair State and the New York Film Critics Series (NYFCS) allowed 18 advanced filmmaking students to capitalize on a unique opportunity to direct and produce segments featuring some of today's top filmmakers. In the process, they gained valuable hands-on experience in researching, interviewing, writing and editing original programming.

The program is the brainchild

of Susan Skoog, director of programming for the Film Institute at Montclair State and lead instructor of the Advanced Film Workshop course.

Using storytelling and production skills honed in the School of Communication and Media's Filmmaking program, the students began working in September with the NYFCS, which screens movies before their release dates at leading independent cinemas nationwide. Peter Travers, film

critic for *Rolling Stone* and ABC's *Popcorn*, and Alison Bailes of BBC.com and WOR Radio moderated the events. According to Skoog, the partnership not only provided students the opportunity to create original film-based content, but it also gave them a chance to meet and interact with some of today's leading filmmakers, including *Loving Land* writer/director Damian Chazelle and *20th Century Women* producer Anne Carey.

"They shot interviews and live Q&A's during NYFCS events at area cinemas," says Skoog of the students. "They also conducted a few interviews on campus with Film Forum guests."

"What excited me most was being able to gain real-life work experience while working with a professional production crew," says student Stephanie Garcia. "The icing on the cake was being able to watch films before anyone else." ■

## Student Performs With Kathleen Battle at the Met



Andrew Darling

When legendary soprano Kathleen Battle returned to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera after a 22-year hiatus, she was joined by Andrew Darling, a graduate student at the John J. Cali School of Music.

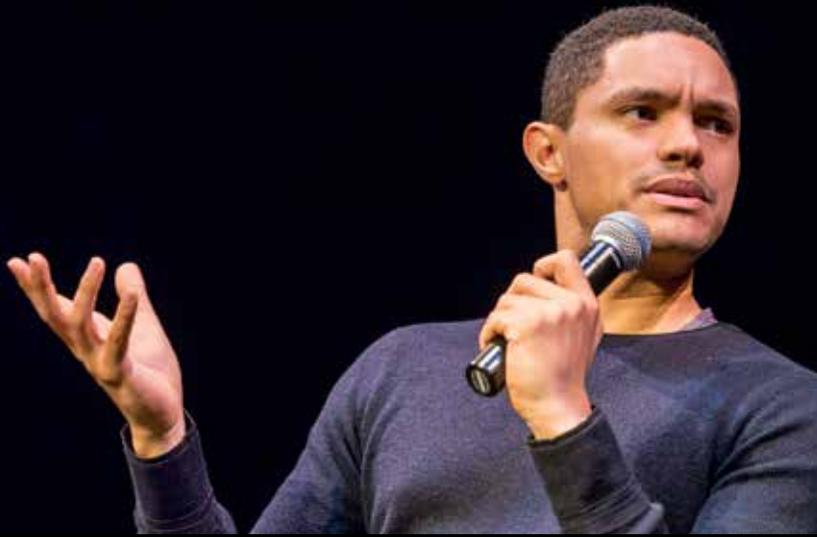
Countertenor Darling was a member of the professionally auditioned 34-voice backup choir for the special concert performance of "Kathleen Battle: Underground Railroad

– A Spiritual Journey" in November. The program featured two dozen spirituals, readings from the words of civil rights giants and special appearances by guests, including Wynton Marsalis and Cicely Tyson.

"Ms. Battle attended every single rehearsal and often prepared food for us," Darling recalls. "We would spend hours on one musical phrase not to make it perfect, but to make it heartfelt."

Darling sang a solo in the spiritual "Hold On," which received so much applause that Ms. Battle asked him to sing it again. When he did, with even greater embellishment, he brought down the house.

"Ms. Battle is my idol. I always listen to her recordings to try to mimic her lovely tone," Darling says. "So it was mind-blowing to appear with her on the grand stage of the Metropolitan Opera. I remember feeling overwhelmed with pride after I sang my solo." ■



# Heard (and Seen) on Campus

**Clockwise from top left:** Trevor Noah, comedian and host of *The Daily Show*; Choreographer Doug Elkins; Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards; Nobel laureate Eric Wieschaus; and *Washington Post* Editor Martin Baron were among the notable lecturers who visited campus this spring.

Politicians, journalists, dancers, comedians and a Nobel Prize-winner are among the high-profile recent visitors to campus who imparted words of wisdom to students on everything from dance to genetics.

In April, *Washington Post* Executive Editor Martin “Marty” Baron participated in the 2017 Terhune Journalism Lecture for a conversation with Merrill Brown, national media commentator and former director of Montclair State’s School of Communication and Media. Billed as “Untangling Fact from Fiction,” the conversation focused on the challenge and opportunity of covering the Trump Administration.

At an Earth Day press conference on campus, U.S. senators Cory Booker and

Robert Menendez announced legislation to prohibit potentially devastating seismic offshore fossil fuel exploration in New Jersey. In October, the senators and then U.S. Education Secretary John B. King Jr. also hosted an education round table on New Jersey’s implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Menendez made a third visit to campus in March to honor women trailblazers. Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards delivered a keynote address to a capacity audience at the Women’s History Month event.

New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno was a special guest speaker at the Montclair State University Foundation’s Annual Scholarship Dinner in

March (see story, page 11); it was a return visit, as she also spoke during Women Entrepreneurship Week in the fall. And *NBC Nightly News* Anchor Lester Holt, who won the DuMont Broadcaster of the Year Award, talked with faculty and students about the state of the news business in the Trump era (see story, page 5).

On Darwin Day in February, the University welcomed Princeton professor and Nobel laureate Eric Wieschaus as the keynote speaker at the First Wehner Student Research Symposium. The molecular geneticist discussed “Cell Mechanics During Early Embryonic Development.”

The spring 2017 Emerging Science Lecture brought Amicus Therapeutics CEO John Crowley to campus to share his quest to find a cure

for Pompe disease, the deadly degenerative disorder affecting his children.

*The Daily Show* host and author of *Born A Crime* Trevor Noah and his editor Chris Jackson kicked off the Montclair Literary Festival in March by speaking to a sold-out Memorial Auditorium audience.

Award-winning choreographer Doug Elkins premiered two of his works on campus. Peak Performances commissioned and co-produced his dance *O, round desire*, while his film *A Hundred Indecisions* was part of the Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State series funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Choreographers on Campus Initiative. Elkins also taught a master class for dance students. ■

## National PR Society Inducts Professor

School of Communication and Media Professor Larry Weiner was among 22 professionals inducted into the Public Relations Society of America College of Fellows last fall. Election to the College is considered the pinnacle of a successful public relations career.

"I never thought that when I began my public relations career in the early 1980s that my career path would ultimately lead me to induction in the PRSA Fellows," says Weiner, who also teaches advanced courses in public relations at Montclair State. "This honor is recognition from the public relations industry that I, in some small way, improved the profession through my commitment to ethical practices and the work I did for my clients."

The College of Fellows, an honorary organization within the society, has a membership of just over 350 senior practitioners and

educators who have made significant contributions to the public relations profession.

A Montclair State faculty member since 2003, Weiner has developed ongoing projects for the Metropolitan Opera Guild, the New Jersey Advertising Club and Hackensack University Medical Center's John Theurer Cancer Center. As faculty adviser to the School's Public Relations Student Society of America, Weiner has established an annual fundraising benefit for Autism New Jersey.

"I consider what I do in front of a classroom simply a continuation of my public relations career," Weiner

says. "The first part of my career was learning my craft – the second part is giving all those years of acquiring knowledge, experience and wisdom back to my students." ■



## Water Analysis Lab Certified by NJDEP

The water analysis laboratory of the University's Passaic River Institute (PRI) received certification from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection last fall, affirming its work to address a range of environmental challenges including the contamination of drinking and surface waters by chemicals and microbial pathogens.

"The mission of the Passaic River Institute is to promote environmental research and education," explains PRI Director and Biology Professor Meiyin Wu. "The new certification recognizes that we are producing high-quality data for both research and environmental outreach."

Municipalities, academic researchers, environmental groups and private citizens

who are concerned about the quality of their water are among those who turn to the lab for its full menu of services. The lab tests water quality parameters, such as pH and salinity, and screens water for the presence of cyanotoxins, as well as pathogens such as E. coli that could pose a threat to public health.

Lab members – including Wu, Biology Professor Lee Lee, University professional staff, two full-time PRI staff members and a doctoral student – also perform species identification, GIS mapping and microbial source tracking analyses.

According to Wu, the data generated by the lab can provide interested parties, such as municipalities and environmental groups, with a better understanding of their



water. "The data can also now be used by state and federal agencies for regulatory purposes," says Wu. ■

## More 'Bests' in Education



The University's online Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program has been ranked the best in New Jersey – and among the top 50 in the nation – by *U.S. News & World Report* in its “2017 Best Online Graduate Education Programs” survey.

The ranking, released in January, is the latest recognition of Montclair State's growing national reputation. *U.S. News & World Report* included the University's graduate education programs among the nation's top 100 in its listing of the *2017 Best Education Schools*, and also placed the University's graduate programs in elementary and secondary teacher education among the top 15 in the country. ■

## Class Project Helps Cancer Patients

School of Communication and Media students partnered with Hackensack University Medical Center's John Theurer Cancer Center to create effective online storytelling chronicling a bone marrow patient's journey from diagnosis and treatment to recovery.

Students in the Transmedia Projects classes taught by professors Beverly Peterson and Larry Weiner began working in the fall to make the Center's website more user-friendly, especially for newly diagnosed patients. “What makes this important is the impact our students will have on the lives of cancer patients,” says Peterson. “This form of story mapping for a top national cancer center has never been done before.”

Students worked to personalize and demystify the information patients need. “They learned about the procedures and journeys of patients involved in bone marrow transplants, so that they could create a prototype built on personal stories – with an emphasis on hope and healing,” Peterson explains.

Weiner, who has battled cancer himself, notes that students interviewed Center marketing and communication directors and visited the Center to create their prototype for the website.

“They also had me as a backup resource for the treatment process, as I had recently gone through lymphoma treatment there,” he says.

This spring, according to Weiner, students were charged with turning their approved prototype into a reality. ■



## Scholarship Gala Raises Record Funds for Students

The University Foundation Annual Scholarship Dinner in March raised a record-breaking \$800,000 for scholarships, benefiting the Second Century Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to students of limited economic means.

At the gala on March 4, hundreds of alumni, friends, benefactors and community members gathered to also honor the University's award winners – New Jersey business leaders Annette Catino '78 and Judith Schumacher-Tilton, and the global biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb.

“This event is the University's most important yearly effort to raise general scholarship funds for our students,” said President Susan A. Cole in her remarks welcoming the guests. “You are generously contributing to that effort, for which we are extremely grateful.”

New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno was among the night's speakers prior to the awards presentation.

Bristol-Myers Squibb, represented by CEO Giovanni Caforio, MD, received the Rose and John J. Cali Award for Business Leadership and Community Engagement; Catino received the Margaret and Herman Sokol Award for Alumni Achievement and Civic Leadership; and Schumacher-Tilton received the inaugural Mary Mochary and Michael Kasser Award for Philanthropic Leadership.

The awards highlighted an evening program that featured performances of selections from *West Side Story* by students in Montclair State's nationally recognized Department of Theatre and Dance and John J. Cali School of Music. ■



# Memories



"Conklin Crowd, after coasting, 1917"

In the 1917–18 school year, the country was fully engaged in World War I, women did not yet have the right to vote and Charlie Chaplin was king of the silent screen. Montclair State – then known as the New Jersey State Normal School at Montclair – was just a decade old. Several hundred students attended, including a friend of Mabel Geraldine Staats's family, who was handy with a camera – long before the era of selfies – and documented life at the school on Valley Road. Mabel's daughter, Peggy Hayes Patton, discovered the album of old photographs of Russ Hall and College Hall, and pictures of women who lived in the female-only dorm, when her mother died. It remains a mystery why Mabel's friend gave her the album, but Peggy decided the best place for the pictures would be at Montclair State. "I thought the photographs represent a great part of Montclair State history that may not have been seen before," she says. "It would have been a shame to toss them." And she was right – there's a lot of history here – even a picture of Mathematics Department Head John Stone, the namesake for Stone Hall. The photos will become part of the University's archives and the photo of Professor Stone will be repaired and may end up with a home in Stone Hall. ■



"Our Xmas Party at Edward Russ Hall, 1917"



"Winter, Russ Hall, 1917"



"Mr. John Stone, Professor of Mathematics, 1918"



"1918 at Edward Russ"



"Edward Russ Hall Dining Room, 1918"



"Just three! 1918"



"In our room, 1918"



"Edward Russ Hall Living Room, 1918"



# THOSE WHO CAN, TEACH

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TACKLE NATIONAL TEACHER SHORTAGE

by Amy Wagner

**A**sked to name the most rewarding thing about being a teacher, Janae Taylor has a ready response: “Knowing that you’ve had a positive impact on someone’s life is a great feeling.”

Taylor, who is in her fifth year of teaching math at Newark Arts High School, is among 72 teachers that have gone through

Montclair State’s teacher residency program and are now teaching in Newark or other urban districts that have struggled to keep teachers.

“I was hired after I did my student teaching here,” says the 2012 graduate. “I’ve been here ever since and love it.”

The Newark-Montclair Urban Teacher Residency (NMUTR) program is one of

several innovative and federally funded University programs that are directly aimed at reversing a national teacher shortage – felt particularly in cities and in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, where the shortage is hardest felt.

Since its beginnings more than 100 years ago as a teacher’s college, Montclair State has been a leader in teacher education. Today, programs such as NMUTR, the



Through the Newark-Montclair Urban Teacher Residency program, Carla Nisbett has returned to her hometown as a first-year elementary teacher at South Street School in Newark.

Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowships are helping to prepare students for meaningful careers in education, starting – and often staying – in struggling urban school districts like Newark.

College of Education and Human Services Dean Tamara Lucas says the College has received more than \$25 million in recent years to support STEM teacher preparation. “That helps us provide students with the skills they need to be excellent teachers and make a lasting impact on the lives of young people across New Jersey,” she says.

Indeed, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Montclair State among the nation’s top 100 graduate schools for education and places its graduate programs in both elementary and secondary teacher education among the top 20 in the country – a distinction unmatched by any other New Jersey institution.

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

Taylor is one of a handful of Newark natives who have come full circle – from students to teachers – in the district where they grew up. “I’ve always wanted to work in Newark,” she explains. “As one who had so many things to overcome – from bad influences to the violence around me – I wanted to help those around me.”

Assistant Superintendent of Newark Public Schools Roger Leon, who earned his master’s degree from Montclair State in 1996, was University High School principal when Taylor was a student there. “During her senior year, she wrote that her classmates should focus on unity, humanity and scholarship,” he recalls. “I’m glad to learn she is true to her words and is helping her students maintain the same focus.”

Taylor’s love of math was fostered in high school by her math teacher, David Scutari, who also earned master’s degrees in Teaching and in Educational Leadership at Montclair State. He later encouraged her to apply to the residency program.



Amanda Faison (right), a residency program graduate, is in her third year of teaching at the South Street School.

“To think that I’ve played even a small part in her journey is exceptionally humbling,” he says. “With each milestone she reaches and accomplishment she achieves, my own passion for the profession is reinvigorated.”

The residency program, funded by a pair of consecutive five-year, multi-million-dollar U.S. Department of Education grants, is an immersive apprenticeship program for Master of Arts in Teaching candidates who commit to teaching in Newark public schools for three years after they graduate. As residents, they teach on-site for an

entire academic year. After graduation, the program provides three years of additional mentoring and support.

The University’s Center of Pedagogy Director Jennifer Robinson says the program has not only prepared and placed outstanding teachers in Newark’s schools, it has given faculty an opportunity to work in the schools to prepare teacher candidates on the job. “Because faculty are on-site teaching candidates how to teach,” she says, “graduates are much better prepared.”

For instance, Ariana Calderon, a 2014 residency program graduate and bilingual biology teacher at East Side High School, chose the program because of the extended hands-on classroom experience it gives prospective teachers. “Many programs only give teachers a few weeks of student teaching in a classroom before thrusting them into their own classrooms after graduation. Instead, I was able to have an entire year of experience in a classroom with a mentor teacher.”

Like Taylor, Calderon has returned to her hometown to teach. Her East Side High School biology teacher, Karina Monteiro, suggested she apply to the residency program, where Monteiro mentored her.

According to Susan Taylor, the program’s director, who got her master’s degree from Montclair State in 1982, the University studied what urban schools need in order to better address the shortage of qualified teachers in Newark. “And when we select people for the program, we select the right people,” she says.

### CREATING EXCITEMENT FOR TEACHING STEM COURSES

Montclair State is one of five New Jersey universities offering Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowships that help train and place high-quality STEM teachers in high-need urban secondary schools. This year, 11 students are enrolled in the national program, which has already graduated 23 teachers.

Nearly half of the teacher candidates from these two programs identify themselves as members of an underrepresented group.

Beyond Newark, the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program encourages talented STEM students to teach in high-need urban schools. With the help of a \$1,106,026 National Science Foundation grant, eligible mathematics majors will soon take part in a scholarship program preparing them to teach math in the New Jersey elementary schools that need them most.

This is the second Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program administered by the University. Some 22 undergraduate

“**I just love having the opportunity to give my students the space and attention they need to develop. It’s not always easy, but it is definitely worth it.**”

–Carla Nisbett

“There has been nothing more rewarding as a teacher than to have watched Ariana grow into the talented, dedicated and passionate educator she is today,” says Monteiro.

Calderon plans to continue teaching after fulfilling her three-year commitment. “I do enjoy teaching and, as tough as it has been, our students need and deserve the well-prepared teachers that this program produces,” she says.

First-year special education teacher Carla Nisbett also has returned home to Newark to teach. “Working with students with autism is unique from student to student,” the South Street School teacher says. “I just love having the opportunity to give my students the space and attention they need to develop. It’s not always easy, but it is definitely worth it.”

Woodrow Wilson Fellows enroll in a program that mirrors the Newark-Montclair Urban Teacher Residency program in most respects. “It uses the residency model to maximize the time fellows spend in classrooms and provides coursework that is embedded in their daily practice, which is the most authentic and effective way to prepare teachers,” notes Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship Director Julianne Bello.

Woodrow Wilson Fellows also receive induction support during their three years of required teaching in secondary schools in the high-need districts of their choice.

Both programs have helped diversify the teacher population in New Jersey, where there is a shortage of teachers of color.

chemistry, physics, earth science and biology majors have received Noyce scholarships since 2013, and seven graduates are now teaching in New Jersey Schools.

“For every year of support, Noyce Scholars agree to teach in a high-need school in New Jersey for two years,” explains Biology Professor Sandra Adams, who directs the program together with Secondary and Special Education Professor Douglas Larkin.

Take senior Kathryn Beatty, for example. She is one of 13 Noyce Scholars who is looking forward to the support she will get as a biology teacher. “I think support in the first year after graduating is an absolute must, as many teachers leave



Bilingual biology teacher and residency program graduate Alex Diaz has been teaching at East Side High School for five years.



**Above:** Adriana Calderon, a bilingual teacher, has returned to her alma mater, East Side High School, to teach biology.  
**Right:** Residency program graduate Janae Taylor (in blue), returned to her hometown to teach math at Newark Arts High School.





the profession after five years,” she says. “This is an invaluable tool for all new teachers.”

### RECRUITING TOMORROW'S TEACHERS TODAY

Always looking to create a pipeline of future teachers, the University looks to recruit prospective teachers while they are still in high school. In January, hundreds of high school students attending the New Jersey Future Educators Conference at Montclair State learned it is never too early to plan for a teaching career.

The Teacher Education Advocacy Center at Montclair State partnered with the New Jersey Future Educators Association for the daylong event,

which introduced attendees to teaching through presentations by top New Jersey educators, including Gemar Mills, a 2005 graduate who taught math and became the principal of Newark's Shabazz High School and is credited with turning the once-failing school around.

According to Carolina Gonzalez, the Center's director, the conference encourages and supports students considering teaching careers. “With an estimated shortage in the United States of approximately 64,000 teachers that's projected to increase to as many as 112,000 by 2018,” she says, “events like this are the steps needed to reverse the trend.” ■

**Above:** NMUTR graduate and biology teacher Dave Koethe, who is also the East Side High School robotics coach, has been teaching for five years. **Right:** When Janae Taylor returned to Newark to teach, she worked with Dave Scutari and Roseann Heyl, both of whom inspired her when she was a student at University High School. Scutari, who was her high school math teacher, is now math supervisor for Newark Schools. Heyl served as Taylor's mentor when she was in the residency program.



# A Workhorse University Becomes a Thoroughbred

President Susan Cole refuses to lower standards or reduce access as she grows Montclair State



**TRANSFORMATIONAL HIGHER ED LEADER** – President Susan Cole has more than tripled the budget at Montclair State University, paving the way for its recent designation as a level 3 research institution.

Story by Matt Zalaznick, *University Business*, January 19, 2017. Reprinted with permission.

**M**ONTCLAIR, New Jersey – Montclair State had been a university for only a few years when Susan Cole took over as president in 1998.

She wanted the job – her second presidency – because she saw vast, untapped potential on the campus of 12,000 students. She also felt certain that she could, pretty quickly, ensure the institution lived up to its new name.

“It had a good, committed faculty and a reputation for providing students with a high-quality education, and it was sitting right in the heart of North Jersey, surrounded by a grossly underserved, highly diverse population in the densest state in the nation,” Cole told me during a recent interview in her office.

“But it was too small, and it was not serving enough students. It was not resourcing its programs adequately and it didn’t have contemporary facilities.”

So, Cole launched an aggressive building plan that continues to this day on a campus that overlooks the New York City skyline. She also went on a recruitment drive to fill those new classrooms, dormitories and labs with students.

This required hiring significant numbers of quality faculty who could attract those students, while also bringing in fresh millions in research funding. This boost in tuition and other revenues allowed Cole to issue bonds to pay for her ambitious construction plans.

“I felt we could really grow this institution to meet that hungry need out there – and I was right,” she says.

Montclair State now serves 21,000 highly diverse students and has evolved far beyond its origins as an under-the-radar teachers college for commuters.

“I’ve argued quite strenuously that this notion of a very limited mission for New Jersey’s public colleges and universities was putting us way behind the rest of the nation,” she says. “We need to think about what students in the 21st century need and how many of them are going to need it.”

### Staying connected to the real world

Like a growing number of her students, Cole is the daughter of immigrants, a product of public K12 schools and the first in her family to attend college.

And though her parents – her mother came from Russia and her father from Ukraine

– didn’t receive a formal education, they took advantage of cultural events in and around their home in Brooklyn, from college lectures at Cooper Union to free concerts in Manhattan.

Cole earned degrees in English and American literature at Barnard College in New York City and Brandeis University in Massachusetts. Initially, she had planned to go into the theater, but like many who have considered a career in the arts, Cole wondered whether she could make a living.

So, in the early 1970s, she began teaching literature at the City University of New York and – though she enjoyed the dynamics of classroom interaction – she moved toward administration pretty quickly as she began to have some doubts about how the institution was being run.

Cole joined task forces and other groups working to improve the university’s academic programs. “It caused me to realize something about myself – that I was always happiest and most productive and at my best when I was in charge of something,” she says.

She eventually became a vice president at Rutgers University and, before returning

From left to right: **BRIGHT FUTURES** – Increased tuition revenue led to the construction of up-to-date facilities – such as new laboratories and technological capacity – enabling the college to get serious about research; **EYE ON EXPANSION** – A surge in enrollment at Montclair State allowed President Susan Cole to issue bonds to modernize the college campus with several new buildings, including the University Hall academic center.



to New Jersey and Montclair, served as president of Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

“It was a very interesting time to go there – the Twin Cities were just waking up to the fact that the majority of the students in their public schools were students of color,” Cole says.

At Metropolitan State, she added freshmen and sophomores to a student body that had comprised only juniors and seniors, and she got one of its first centralized buildings built.

Though a strong sense of philanthropy existed in the Twin Cities, Cole felt she couldn’t move the university forward as fast as it needed to grow.

But that stretch in the Midwest – along with her days at CUNY during its open admissions period – fired a passion for serving the broader world of students outside the highly selective environment that was the setting for her own experiences as a student.

“Figuring out how to serve this larger and intensely important population was just a much more exciting challenge,” Cole says.

“The elite at the top are exactly that – they are sitting on top of the mountain, but it’s the mountain that defines the world we live in. If we’re not attentive to that, we will lose connection with the real world – and that’s a great danger.”

### Freedom to grow

A major change in New Jersey’s government paved the way for Cole’s work at Montclair. Part of the reason Cole says she took the job was that, a few years earlier, Gov. Christine Todd Whitman had abolished New Jersey’s department of higher ed.

It had been this kind of centralized bureaucracy that had slowed her efforts to expand Metropolitan State, she says.

The greater autonomy given to New Jersey’s universities jump-started Cole’s three-pronged plan to boost enrollment, fortify

the faculty and substantially upgrade the university’s facilities.

“I’ve never been short on audacity – my mother taught me courage and I am intensely grateful to her for that,” she says.

But Cole and her leadership team refused to lower the university’s standards in enrolling more students. So she made an immediate commitment to hire 20 to 30 new tenure track faculty every year while launching the university’s first concerted recruitment efforts.

“It was not as hard as one might have thought because Montclair State always had a good reputation,” she says. “No one had asked this institution to grow, even though New Jersey was not serving its population. We said, there are people out there who need us.”

While pats on the back came from state officials and others as Montclair grew, financial support did not follow. Cole’s solution? The increased tuition revenue from growing enrollment allowed the university to issue bonds to support new construction.

Those up-to-date facilities – such as new laboratories and technological capacity – enabled the university to get serious about research that brought in even more funding to support the academic mission.

The annual operating budget has grown from \$120 million to \$400 million during Cole’s tenure. And in 2016, Montclair was for the first time designated a level 3 research doctoral university. “Access to mediocrity was never our goal,” Cole says. “Access to the front edge of the highest-quality education always has been the goal.”

### Cornerstones of diverse democracy

Cole remains a firm believer in the critical role public colleges and universities play in expanding access to higher education and, in turn, educating a citizenry that’s invested in elective government. So she grows frustrated when she hears people say that not everyone needs to go to college.

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**BRIGHT FUTURES**  
 – Montclair State trains college students for careers in the performing arts as rigorously as it prepares graduates for jobs in technology and the sciences. The newer Alexander Kasser Theater – featuring a 500-seat auditorium with an oversized stage, orchestra pit and state-of-the-art technical features – rivals those found about 15 miles away in Manhattan.



“When they say that, I know they’re not talking about their own kids – they’re talking about somebody else’s kids,” she says. “Ask the guy who works at 7-11 or the woman washing dishes in the Chinese restaurant whether or not they want their sons and daughters to go to college.”

Cole has held tuition below the average of similar institutions, and the school now

A 10-year study by administrators found that students’ success in college could be predicted far more accurately by their performance in rigorous high school courses.

“If you rose to the top of your high school, whether it was the least well-endowed urban institution or it was a fancy suburban school, you have a good chance at succeeding at Montclair State,” Cole says. “You have

Hispanic-Serving Institution. And another must for Cole is ensuring that her students resemble the people in the communities surrounding the university – though some of the neighborhoods themselves may not be as mixed ethnically as is her campus.

“This institution is what I believe it should be, which is an institution that is wholly and entirely focused on what is needed to ensure a free and democratic society,” she says. “There are lots of institutions out there that are struggling toward that same vision.”

### Looking ahead, looking back

Cole expects enrollment growth at Montclair to be less traditional – that is, growth in both the students and in the ways instruction is delivered. Along with hybrid courses and online learning, for example, the university may provide direct instruction to employees in their workplaces.

And just as she hopes to see continued efforts to make higher education free for at least the neediest students, funding remains a major challenge, Cole says.

**“No one had asked this institution to grow, even though New Jersey was not serving its population. We said, there are people out there who need us.” –Susan A. Cole**

hosts recruitment programs in Spanish and Korean. Another socioeconomic obstacle the university has removed is the SAT, which is now optional for its applicants.

demonstrated that you will take advantage of whatever opportunity is offered to you.”

The university, because of its Latino enrollment, was recently designated a

"Large public universities that seek to provide an excellent education to a highly diverse student population – many of whom cannot afford college – have to be rethinking the funding model as we go forward," she says. "I refuse to give up the battle for state funding, but we need to continue to use all of the mechanisms available to support growth."

At Montclair, Cole and her team know that alumni philanthropy should be one of those revenue generators. Public institutions everywhere have had more difficulty getting graduates to give back, as many still assume the states provides their alma maters with sufficient funds.

In fact, Montclair gets only 17 percent of its funding from state government.

On the academic side, Montclair's instructors will work even harder to show students how what they study relates to how they will function as U.S. and global citizens – and how graduates will be able to improve societies with the skills they have acquired, Cole says.

"I'm not sure that the connection between those two is as clear, as vibrant, as alive for students as it needs to be. That needs to be on the future agenda, as well."

Looking back on her professional and personal accomplishments, Cole regularly asks herself if she has led a fulfilling and purposeful life. The answer can never be determined with any finality, she says, but on most days – and for most of most days – her answer is yes.

"It was important to me to have a family, to have kids and grandkids, and a companion in life called husband, but it was equally important to have work in the world that was worth doing," she says.

"It never ever gets old to me when I see 4,600 students stand to be graduated at the end of the year. I love doing the best we can to prepare them and send them out into the world to do the best they can to make it better."

## Breakdown of a building boom

Montclair State University has opened several major facilities within the last few years, including the towering seven-story University Hall that created a new hub for a range of academic programs. From its higher floors, it also offers a clear view of one of the world's most famous skylines, just 15 miles away.

On my visit in November, Cole and some members of her leadership team were dismayed to see rain and clouds blocking our view of Manhattan.

However, when we returned for a breakfast with the dean of students the next day, a mid-autumn sun had emerged to shine on the Freedom Tower, the Empire State Building and the surrounding skyscrapers.

Montclair has also opened a new business school and a performing arts center with a theater that rivals those found on Broadway. The theater, President Susan Cole says, represents the university's deep commitment to the arts.

It's also one of the few universities where students pay an arts fee that entitles them to attend all campus performances for free.

"Not only are we invested heavily in creating the next generation of great performing artists, but we also have

historically been invested in creating great music and theater teachers," she says. "We are also invested in creating the next generation of audiences who appreciate the human component of the arts."

Cole has entered into a number of public-private partnerships to build new dormitories and outfit other facilities as well. These initiatives required her to convince the state legislature to pass a law that would allow projects such as the two 1,000-bed dormitories the university built with a private developer.

Public-private partnerships have also brought the campus a station for a commuter train to Manhattan and a brand-new energy system that – despite all the new facilities – has reduced Montclair State's carbon footprint by about 40 percent.

Currently under construction is the new School of Communication & Media, where a partnership with electronic giant Sony will provide students with broadcasting technology more advanced than the equipment found in many Manhattan TV studios.

Sony will provide its products at a discount and will get to use the school as a commercial demonstration site. ■



Susan Cole, a native of New York City, has been president of the higher ed institution, Montclair State University in New Jersey, since 1998.

# CHANGING LIVES

## COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP PRISONERS WORK TO OBTAIN THEIR

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS, IMPROVE THEIR FUTURES

BY LAURA GRIFFIN

**T**o get to the law library of the Northern State Prison in Newark, visitors must walk through a metal detector, a security check, a few sets of steel, double doors, and past prisoners exercising behind the razor wire fence surrounding the yard.

The sound of the heavy doors locking shut can be unnerving for first-time visitors, even college students trained to know what to expect. But the prisoners awaiting the students' help in passing high school equivalency tests quickly put their new tutors at ease.

"The first time you hear it, it dawns on you that's there no way out," says Ebony Coleman, a junior economics major. "But the inmates are so kind and so eager to learn; they're very respectful, and I have never felt scared or threatened in any way."

Thirty-seven people from Montclair State have volunteered to tutor inmates at Northern State Prison as part of the Petey Greene program, a project that began at Princeton University in an effort to change lives and reduce recidivism. Statistics show that inmates with diplomas are more likely

to get jobs when they get out and less likely to return.

Justice Studies Professor Jessica Henry first connected the University with the Petey Greene program in 2015, and says that while helping to change the trajectory of prisoners' lives, students are also transformed in the process.

"Slowly but surely, they are changing lives in meaningful ways," Henry says.

Having begun in 2008 with only a couple of New Jersey colleges, the Petey Greene program now operates in seven East Coast states and the District of Columbia and uses tutors from 28 universities, including several Ivy League schools. Students from Montclair State, Seton Hall and Rutgers tutor at Northern State Prison.

"I've been so impressed with the tutors from Montclair State," says Samantha Thoma, the Petey Greene field director for New Jersey. "Especially considering so many of them have other responsibilities – jobs and school. I love how passionate they are about what we do. It's a really good fit."

The law library at Northern State Prison is a large and sunny cinder block room with an ocean mural above shelves filled with law books. On any given weekday, several inmates and their tutors work on science, math, reading or writing. Each tutor spends about two hours a week at the prison.

"It helps their self-esteem to accomplish this," says Janoa Watson, an athletic training major who started tutoring this spring as a freshman. "I enjoy pushing



Darrell Moody, diagnosed with ADD in prison, is working with tutors to get his GED.



Munajj Khan, Joe Wasowski, Koedi Shakir and Paramvir Singh are among 37 Montclair State volunteers with the Petey Greene prison tutoring program.



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people to do their best, and I hope I can help them better themselves and improve their lives.”

### Making the most of doing time

While their crimes are different, most of the inmates share similar educational backgrounds. None focused on school; many dropped out or were expelled. Most ended up in and out of detention, then jail and finally prison.

It took prison to change their mindset about education. Prison also gave them a place to learn without the distraction of the streets.

“Because of decisions I made, I’m forced to stay focused and handle business now. It’s [easier] to study now, because you

want it,” says Edward Hawkins, 31, who is serving 18 years for aggravated manslaughter. “This program helps keep me on track.”

Prisoners are chosen based on good behavior and classroom effort. The one-on-one attention by tutors can mean the difference between passing and failing. It has also given inmates reason to think about the future.

David Valdez-Martinez, 54, grew up in Cuba and came to the United States at 17. He spent much of his adult life in and out of prison and is now serving an eight-year sentence for armed robbery. English is his second language, so he doesn’t always understand what is being taught in class.

With Montclair State Justice Studies major Koedi Shakir’s help, he is now only seven points away from passing. Determined not to return to his previous life this time, he hopes to change things with a diploma.

“I’m planning to go to college when I get out,” says Valdez-Martinez. “I want to be an example for my kids, even though they’re grown. ...I’m trying to be a better person.”

Shakir says she admires her “students” that want to change. “To me, they’re students not inmates,” she says. “They’re people, too, and they want to learn and do well.”

As a kid, Darrell Moody, now 43, was in special education classes, where he says he



Justice Studies Professor Jessica Henry (right) with student volunteer Gabriela Suriel

**“SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THEY ARE CHANGING LIVES  
IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.”** –Jessica Henry



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learned very little and was easily distracted. He skipped school to hang out in Newark with friends. He was constantly in and out of trouble – and jail. It wasn't until prison, he says, that he was diagnosed with ADD and finally learned to read.

Now, with the help of a college student, he's close to getting his GED. "I've been in every school program they've got," says Moody, who is serving eight years on a manslaughter charge. "I had to get my mind together...I take all the programs I can take."

Justice studies senior Lauren Vasquez once thought she would be a prosecutor, but after a year as a prison tutor, she decided to help inmates transition from incarceration to the community.

Vasquez has helped a few prisoners pass their tests. "The first one I tutored was very motivated," she recalls. "He'd tell me about his goals and what he wanted to do when he gets out. When he passed his test, he was so grateful and thanked me for helping him. It was rewarding."

Inmate Kevin McCray works as a teaching assistant. McCray, aka "V-1" for Victorious

One, helps guide both inmates and students and the college volunteers when they have questions or need help with materials, etc.

"It took prison to clear my mind and help me figure life out," says McCray, 41, who was sentenced to 30 years for his role as an accomplice in a murder that occurred during a robbery. He decided the time would be best spent turning his life around. Eventually, he became a teaching assistant.

"Someone saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," says McCray, who hopes to one day work with troubled youth.

### Educating, not judging

Tutors are trained in what to expect in a prison; how to interact with prisoners. They don't ask about the inmates' crimes or share their own personal information.

"Society portrays the incarcerated as less than human but the inmates I've tutored are not bad people. They've made some bad decisions and are paying the price," says Coleman. "Who am I to judge you on something you did 25 years ago, before I was even born?"

**PHOTOS:** 1. Inmate David Valdez-Martinez works with tutor Koedi Shakir on science. 2. Senior Joe Wasowski enjoys tutoring. 3. Inmate Edward Hawkins concentrates on a math problem. 4. Tutor Paramvir Singh concentrates on the task at hand. 5. Prison teaching assistant Kevin McCray and Montclair State adjunct Alan Lentin help inmate Oneil Reid hone his writing skills.

Working with prisoners gave senior psychology major Gabriela Suriel a renewed appreciation of being free to make her own decisions. "It's made me grateful to be able to step outside when I want to," she says.

For most of the volunteers, tutoring is about giving someone a shot at a second chance. "[Tutoring] someone who wants to change their life for good is a humbling experience," says Justice Studies senior Paramvir Singh.

Justice Studies senior Joe Wasowski says that, as a tutor, he enjoys pushing prisoners in the right direction. "It takes more than a handful of willpower for a middle-aged prisoner with a history of criminal behavior to decide that they care enough about their lives to educate and better themselves," he says. "That's...inspiring." ■

Campus lab  
explores the  
impact of  
trauma

# A Light in the darkness

By Amy Wagner

Mourners place candles at a memorial for victims of the 2015 Paris terror attacks.



Photo by Adrian Hancu

How can Twitter data help locate those most in need of assistance after a terrorist attack? How do experiences of discrimination impact Muslim-American students' feelings of well-being? Psychology Professor Sarah Lowe and other researchers at Montclair State's new Trauma and Resilience Lab are asking these questions and others to determine the impact of traumatic events on mental health in order to help shape appropriate and effective community-based support.

"We ask the big questions," explains Lowe, a psychology professor and researcher who opened the Lab last fall. "We want to determine who is at risk of suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and how we can prevent and mitigate the impact of traumatic events."

Because people respond to trauma differently, the Trauma and Resilience Lab explores the long-term mental health consequences of highly stressful life events by looking at the pathways that lead from trauma to mental illness – as well as factors such as genetics and neighborhood demographics that shape survivor risk and resilience.

Says researcher Petty Tineo, who is working on a master's degree in clinical psychology: "Unfortunately, these are events that almost any one of us can experience at some point in our lives. Our work helps us understand what some of these long-term consequences are, which is the first step in developing appropriate treatments and resources for people who have undergone these experiences."

### A unique lab

According to Lowe, the Lab uniquely expands the boundaries of clinical psychology through cross-disciplinary collaborations in fields such as psychiatry, epidemiology, public health, biostatistics and sociology.

Lowe continues to work on several long-term projects, including studies focusing on the aftermath of large-scale disasters

such as Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. She has published initial results of a continuing study of single mothers in New Orleans who were community college students when Hurricane Katrina struck. "The main question is the extent to which Katrina altered the women's life trajectories, both in terms of their mental and physical health, as well as their decisions regarding work, school, housing and child rearing," Lowe notes. "Right now our team is in the process of collecting another round of follow-up data to learn more about the women's longer-term, post-Katrina trajectories.

"But I'm not just a storm chaser," she insists. "I'm interested in a broad range of experiences." Her ongoing investigation into community resources that shaped mental health in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, for instance, led to a fruitful collaboration with data scientists that used geographically linked Twitter data to determine locations for potential mental health issues.

*"We want to determine who is at risk of suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and how we can prevent and mitigate the impact of traumatic events."*

—SARAH LOWE

When terrorists attacked Paris in 2015, Lowe's team analyzed Twitter data from Paris during and after the attacks to identify postattack spatial clusters of fear and sadness. "We hope our work, which was published in *The Lancet*, could help researchers formulate effective, community-based interventions," says Lowe.

A recent sub-contract from Social and Scientific Systems, Inc. has funded Lowe's continued participation in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' longitudinal Gulf Long-Term Follow-up Study (GuLF) of mental health outcomes among those who helped clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



Sarah Lowe

### Peer pressures

The Lab is currently working on several on-campus studies. Last fall, approximately 50 Muslim-American students participated in an online survey for a study that will delve into how their experiences of discrimination have impacted their emotional well-being.

This semester, Lowe's team, which includes Tineo and graduate assistant Megan Young, have worked with the Muslim Students Association on recruiting additional participants in order to better represent the University's Muslim student population.

"Everything we do in the Lab has some deeper connection to what is going on in society," notes Young. "In light of what is going on in our world sociopolitically, our study targeting Muslim individuals is so, so important. It gives them a voice. Hopefully, the findings of this study will give us insight into ways we can improve the experiences of Muslim students."

Young is also involved in another online campus survey – a collaboration with Yeshiva University Professor Kate Walsh. "We are

examining how sexual experiences affect emotional well-being, looking specifically at issues of consent," says Young.

According to Lowe, her student researchers are especially enthusiastic about this study, which will take a look at how even consensual sexual encounters can often result in feelings of guilt and shame. "When consent is not fully or wholeheartedly given, sexual encounters can be confusing and embarrassing and can ultimately compromise a person's emotional well-being," says Lowe. "We hope this study will inform efforts to help people manage their encounters with clearly communicated expectations."

In another campus project, Tineo and other Lab researchers have teamed up with Psychology Professor Joshua Sandry and a group of his graduate and undergraduate students to investigate the neuropsychological correlates of PTSD among people with multiple sclerosis (MS) and healthy control subjects.

"We are generally interested in how PTSD symptomology in MS is related to cognitive function, brain function and brain structure, as well as the interrelationships across these variables," explains Sandry, who is also a visiting scientist at the Kessler Foundation. "We plan to begin with analysis in the summer so we could have preliminary findings by fall or shortly thereafter."

"I started the Lab, in part, to support my students and give them a richer experience in all aspects of research, including data collection," recalls Lowe.

For senior psychology major Kaitlyn Komar, working on the three on-campus studies is a rewarding experience. "I used to only want to be a clinician, but after being in the Lab, I want to be a clinician and a researcher," she says. "The way the mind works is intriguing to me and the Lab showed me that research is a way to understand different mental illnesses." ■



University researchers are studying the impact on mental health of traumatic events such as the Paris attacks (previous page) and Superstorm Sandy (top and bottom).





FEATURES

# LIGHTS, ACTION, *Cuba!*



**Cuban exchange trip strengthens University's relationship with filmmakers and the International Videoart Festival of Camaguey**



Student filmmaker Will Monahan is always looking for new ways to share his work. In April, he was able to screen his film *i, u, we, us, this* in Cuba at the seventh International Videoart Festival of Camaguey (FIVAC). Held in the World Heritage City of Camaguey, FIVAC is the only event of its kind in Cuba.

Monahan was one of nine students who accompanied Television and Digital Media Professor Beverly Peterson and Filmmaking Professor Karl Nussbaum on a weeklong trip to the biennial festival, which showcased Monahan's work alongside films produced by a roster of 75 international emerging and established artists and filmmakers. "We screened a reel of the best Montclair State experimental films from current students and very recent alumni the past few years," says Peterson.

"My film explores the idea that the human experience transcends time, race and setting, using clips from 17 different films that I accompanied with short text I'd written," says Monahan. "It was surreal to see people watching something that I made. A woman came up to me after viewing my film and said, 'I know you a little better now.' That was very touching."

Monahan's *i, u, we, us, this* and sophomore Peter Chapman's short silent film *The String of Things*, which tells the story of a young man's struggles with substance abuse, were both well received by festival audiences. "Both students were interviewed for a festival blog article," says Peterson. "They were super excited about that."

### A vibrant relationship

The trip strengthens Montclair State's deepening relationship with internationally acclaimed Cuban filmmakers and festival organizers Jorge Luis Santana Pérez and Diana Rosa Pérez Legón. "They've developed programs to reach out into

Camaguey so they can use experimental video and art as a way to build community," Peterson notes.

The husband and wife, who first visited Montclair State in 2015, returned in February and were interviewed by Peterson's class in advance of the trip and premiered a short documentary film by Legón at the University's Film Forum.

Students also got to know Pérez and Legón and each other at a special pre-trip orientation session. "There were a lot of questions about what to expect and the students were all curious about what Cuba is like," Peterson recalls.

### Faculty features

Both Peterson and Nussbaum – who received Global Education Center grants to subsidize their travel expenses – screened their own work at FIVAC. Peterson, who had screened her transmedia documentary *What Killed Kevin* at the 2015 festival, presented *Memory Rooms*, an experimental virtual reality documentary experience.

"The storyline of the project is directly linked to Cuba and it's easy to relate to, and was really well received," she recalls. "I'm also excited by the use of evolving technologies. *Memory Rooms* uses HTC Vive room-scale virtual reality and it was exciting and magical to see the fascination in the use of this technology as a storytelling platform."

According to Nussbaum, his experimental film *Night Blooming Flower* is a meditation on death, memory, acceptance and the passage into the world of the dead. In describing his film, Nussbaum says, "It was originally made for a video installation in which the film was projected onto a large, Vietnam-era parachute hung in a dark gallery, with an oscillating fan behind the parachute making the projection screen sway as if breathing."

Scenes from Cuba: Montclair State professor Susana Juniu took these photos while in Camaguey, Cuba, for the International Videoart Festival.





Cuban Filmmakers Diana Rosa Pérez Legón and Jorge Luis Santana Pérez were interviewed by students Nathalie Tilley and Christian Guaman (seated), and camera operator Kristie Keleshian and other students at the studios at Montclair State.



Front row, L to R: Peter Chapman, William Monahan, Javed Ali, Nathalie Tilley  
Back row, L to R: Melanie St. Clair, Brittany Zwier, Nicholas Richiusa, Eric Tumolo, Laila Abuelhawa are pictured on a beach in Cuba

Photo credit: J.S. Ali

### A transformative trip

According to Peterson, the trip made a lasting and positive impact on the students. “Camaguey is a fascinating, friendly city that is easy to get around and explore, so students were immersed in a new culture that only recently became accessible for most Americans,” she says.

*“They’ve developed programs to reach out into Camaguey so they can use experimental video and art as a way to build community.”*

—Beverly Peterson

For most of the students, the trip was their first exposure to a truly international art event. “It was really fun and gratifying as their teachers for us to see their meeting, networking and engaging in deeper dialogues with video artists from all over the world,” says Peterson.

For the students themselves, the trip was a transformative experience. “It gave me new insight on myself and on different cultures,” states Monahan.

Senior Journalism major Laila Abuelhawa says it was an honor to attend an international film festival as a student. “The trip was an incredible experience, and the films I saw were inspiring,” she says. “It was life-changing and made me think about so many different things – from the impact some of the films had on me to the people who live there.” ■

# SOLDIERS' FIELDS

Max Frankovits

After serving their country, military veterans walk on to spring teams and serve as leaders for younger players.

BY STEVE POLITI





Jesse Baiza

**M**ax Frankovits arrived home from military service with a rod, two plates and seven screws in his forearm, and without any idea of where life would take him next. He never imagined that he wouldn't be able to finish his contract with the U.S. Army – or that an injury would force him to leave behind his fellow soldiers and find a new direction.

“I had no idea what I wanted to do when I got home,” the 21-year-old Little Falls, New Jersey, native says. “I looked into trade schools. I looked into becoming a firefighter. I looked into certificate programs. I was completely lost.”

That's when a good friend made a suggestion and then, more importantly, helped him make a connection. Why didn't Frankovits, who played lacrosse for Passaic Valley High, embrace the sport he loved again as a college athlete? And why not do it just a few miles from his childhood home for Mike Schambach's program at Montclair State?

What happened next is a relationship that has benefited everyone. Schambach, in his third year as the team's head coach, added a mature leader to his team as a walk-on who could share his life experiences with his younger teammates who might be living away from their families for the first time.

## “LIFE THREW MISSED, BUT A BASE HIT.”

“He's been a great addition to our team,” the coach says.

And Frankovits? He found a reason to charge out of bed in the morning. Not only



playing field as the team tries to become a national title contender.

“It all worked out very, very well, because this is my home now,” Frankovits says. “This is my family. One of the coaches told me, ‘I would be happy knowing you’re the worst kid on the team because I know you’ll give it 110 percent all the time.’ And that’s part of our soldier’s creed. We never give up, ever.”

Military veterans are a small subset of the 460,000 student athletes enrolled at colleges across the country, according to the NCAA. The anecdotal evidence, though, shows that increasing numbers of former soldiers – including 153 at Montclair State – are using the GI Bill to attend college. And some of those veterans are picking up the bats and gloves that they left behind to serve their country.

At least two of them are Red Hawks. Like Frankovits, Army veteran Jesse Baiza never expected he would end up on the campus at this stage of his life. He graduated from North Bergen High School in 2011 and had interest from several colleges with prominent Division I programs, including Seton Hall, Virginia and Coastal Carolina. But he lacked the SAT scores and grade point average necessary to land a coveted scholarship. He enrolled at the County

encouraged him to enlist in the Army for a new start. “It was my best option,” Baiza says.

Soon, he was in Fort Benning, Georgia, going through the rigors of basic training. He didn’t know what his new life had in store for him until 2014, when he deployed to As Sayliyah Army Base in Qatar on a security mission – parts of which are too classified to discuss. He had plenty of time to think in a place he described as “the middle of the desert.”

“It was definitely getting taken out of my comfort zone,” Baiza says. “My life was all about playing baseball. That was a huge change for me. But it showed me that I can get through adversity, and whether or not I would keep playing baseball, I learned that about myself.”

Baiza returned to New Jersey in 2015 and started taking classes at Kean University, pursuing a degree in criminal justice, but the itch to play baseball wouldn’t fade. The coaches at Kean made it clear that he was wasting his time trying to walk on to their team, so a friend steered him toward a fresh start at Montclair State.

Coach Jared Holowaty knew that Baiza was a talented high school player, but after several years away from the daily grind of the sport – and with a more muscular

# ME A CURVEBALL AND I SWUNG AND I GOT UP THE NEXT AT-BAT AND GOT

–Jesse Baiza

is the self-described “terrible student” in high school taking advantage of the GI Bill as he pursues a degree in business administration and accounting, but he is committed to setting an example on the

College of Morris instead, but the long commute to the Randolph campus from his Hudson County home became too costly and time consuming. He was about to begin looking for a job when a friend

frame than the skinny kid who enlisted – he faced a big adjustment. But Holowaty liked the idea that he could bring in a player who, while technically a freshman, was a 25-year-old with real-life experience and



## RED HAWKS ATHLETICS

maturity that could rub off on his younger teammates.

There was, of course, the predictable round of questions about his service. "They would ask, 'What did I see? Did I kill anyone?' Stuff like that," Baiza says with a laugh. But soon, when the novelty of having a soldier sharing their dugout wore off, he could make himself available for more serious conversations about life.

"I want them to know they can see me as a mentor if life throws them a curveball," he says. "Because that happened to me. Life threw me a curveball and I swung and missed, but I got up the next at-bat and got a base hit."

Baiza still has to juggle his responsibilities with the National Guard, but his superiors have helped arrange his schedule around the important parts of the baseball season.

He is under contract through 2019 and will face a decision: Should he reenlist or chase his baseball dream professionally? Or complete his degree and find a job in a national security-related field?

For now, he is content to be a leader in the clubhouse. Baiza, who is a junior academically, wants to become the first member of his family to earn a college degree. His journey might have taken a 7,000-mile detour from New Jersey to the deserts of the Middle East, but that will make reaching the destination even more worthwhile.

Frankovits isn't thinking that far ahead. Part of the adjustment to attending college was allowing himself to be a young person again, to embrace what is right in front of him instead of worrying about the bigger decisions that he'll face years down the road. He wants to embrace it all during this

lacrosse season, and in the process, prove to his new teammates that he is worthy of being their captain.

There are days, he admits, when it isn't easy to get motivated for workouts on the lacrosse field that are far more difficult than the ones he faced in the military. But then he remembers the journey that led him here and the lessons he learned from this last team, and rededicates himself to working twice as hard.

"I think back to that kid back in seventh, eighth grade, that little kid in the backyard who would stay out with his brother until it was dark out," Frankovits says. "And I think, would that kid be okay with your quitting right now? Absolutely not. I want to make my family proud. I want to make myself proud." ■

Veterans Max Frankovits (lacrosse) and Jesse Baiza (baseball) walked on to their teams and have proven to be leaders.



# RED HAWKS FOR LIFE

BY STEVE POLITI



Photos by Gemadi Novash

Coach Karin Harvey credits much of the success of the Red Hawks to the leadership of seniors Rachael Krauss (No. 2), Sage Bennett (No. 34) and Zoe Curtis (No. 24).

As the final two minutes ticked off the clock, Women's Basketball Coach Karin Harvey wasn't thinking so much about the disappointment of this second-round loss in the NCAA Tournament. Rather, she was consumed by a different bittersweet thought: This was the last time she would ever see this special group of seniors.

Sage Bennett. Zoe Curtis. Rachael Krauss.

Together, they have elevated Montclair State basketball to another stratosphere, winning a remarkable 107 games over their four years together, including four NCAA Tournament berths and a run to the 2015 Final Four. With basketball Hall-of-Fame member Carol Blazejowski among its alumni, this program might have had more talented players in its history, but for Harvey, this trio holds a special place in her heart.

"They did everything right for their four years," Harvey says. "They helped create the culture that we have here. These three represent what it means to be a Red Hawk more than anyone I've had in the program."

Those are strong words given the run of success that Harvey has had at Montclair State. She has a 224-66 record in her 10 years in charge, including five straight New Jersey Athletic Conference championships. This is a program that reloads, not rebuilds, and where the expectation is to compete at a high level each season.

The three seniors have helped establish that level of excellence, both on and off the court. Harvey trusted this group enough to let them decide which defense to play at times, and in late-game situations, she would often ask them what play *they* wanted to run.

"That's a fun way to coach," Harvey says. "These three kids are such great representatives of Montclair State."

While the Red Hawks weren't picked to win the NJAC this season, they powered to an impressive 26-3 record anyway, earned home-court advantage in the league tournament and won 12 out of 13 games

before the season-ending loss to UMass-Dartmouth in the NCAA Tournament.

Losing Bennett, Curtis and Krauss – three of the team's top five scorers this season – will be a challenge come next season. But the Red Hawks return Katie Sire, an All-American who averaged a team-high 16.7 points and 8.4 rebounds a game, and Kate Tobie, who was second on the team in minutes played and rebounding.

This team should compete for another NJAC title next season, and if it does, Harvey believes her three departing seniors will have had a hand in that success, too. "Red Hawk for Life" became a rallying cry for the team this season, and those words are more than just a hashtag or a team motto.

"Our culture is different than anyone else's culture," Curtis told *The Montclarion* after the season-ending loss. "We have faith. We trust each other. I think that's how we build and how we get stronger. It's something that can't really be knocked down." ■

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RED HAWKS ATHLETICS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### ALL-AMERICAN

Erin Sullivan, a senior defender on the women's soccer team, became just the fifth player in program history to be named All-American when the National Soccer Coaches Association of America released its 2016 Division III squad. Sullivan helped the Red Hawks to a 15-4-3 record this season and led them to a fifth-straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament's second round.



### RECORD SCORER

No player has scored more goals in Montclair State men's soccer history than Lucas Terceiro, who had 63 in his career. But playing with the New York Red Bulls in the Desert Diamond Cup in Arizona, Terceiro did something new: He scored for the first time in a professional game, putting in a rebound against the Houston Dynamo to tie the game.

### WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Meredith King, a graduating women's lacrosse standout, was named "Woman of the Year" as part of the 25th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. The awards are presented to an outstanding athlete from each college in the state based on athletic excellence, academic success and community service. King anchored a team defense that helped Montclair State reach the NJAC Championship Game for the first time.

### HONORED

Senior football offensive lineman Charles Griffin has been announced as one of the Top 20 male and female finalists for the 2017 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award. The Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Awards are sponsored by *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by former tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr. Griffin has been named to the Dean's List three times and is a two-time member of the NJAC All-Academic Team. He is pursuing a degree in Justice Studies with minors in Sociology and Justice and Families. He was also inducted into the National Collegiate Athletic Honor Society last year.

### SCORE!



The New York Red Bulls II now call the Montclair State Soccer Park home, playing 14 of its 16 home games on campus this season.

"We are proud to call Montclair State University our new home," says New York Red Bulls II Director of Business Operations Jamie Ponce. "Our goal is to make our tickets affordable to the University community with the aim of New York Red Bulls II being the club students and faculty can all support for years to come."

As part of a comprehensive agreement between the respective entities, the Red Bulls have completed initial upgrades to MSU Soccer Park. The organization will create a 5,000-seat stadium over the course of the next five years, adding amenities, including a press box, video camera platforms and a FanFest area.

In addition to being the home pitch for the Red Bulls II, MSU Soccer Park will remain the home of the University's nationally ranked men's and women's soccer programs as well as Red Bulls' residential camps for youth soccer players.

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## Business alumni mentorship program grooms future leaders

# One on One

Sophomore Angelina Campomizzi became involved in the Student Alumni Mentorship program in the hope of gaining guidance and exposure to the business world. She was paired with Marilyn Moya '98, and the two instantly connected.

"Marilyn has helped me grow by sharing her insight with me and always supporting my aspirations while providing honest feedback," Campomizzi says. "She exposed me to many new experiences."

Campomizzi and Moya are part of the Student Alumni Mentorship program, a partnership between the Office of Alumni Relations and the Hospitality Management program that launched in spring 2016. The program pairs alumni and students of the Feliciano School of Business to allow students to learn from mentors' experiences, gain career advice and understand workplace expectations.

The key to the program is interaction – mentee and mentor are encouraged to keep in touch. It is recommended that the pair speak at least once a month and video chat at least three to four times throughout the program, but they are not limited to these recommendations.

Campomizzi and Moya, who works in Development at Seton Hall University, speak often. They have attended two networking events and have created vision boards. They also sat down with a hotel manager to discuss the hospitality industry – a move that resulted in an invitation for Campomizzi to shadow the manager for a day.

Moya says she always wanted to be a mentor but was unsure of what she could offer a student until she read that mentorships benefit both the mentor and the mentee. "I'm glad I made that decision," she says. "Not only has this experience allowed me to develop a future business leader, but it's also rewarded

me with a higher level of self-confidence and gratitude."

Jenna Alysse Villani, Alumni Relations associate director, says that, "the student is not the only one enriched by this experience; the program allows alumni to stay connected with the Feliciano School of Business and give back to their alma mater."

A mentorship program committee reviews both student and mentor candidates to determine the best pairings and to ensure a rewarding experience for each. Several factors are taken into account, including the student's major and career aspirations.

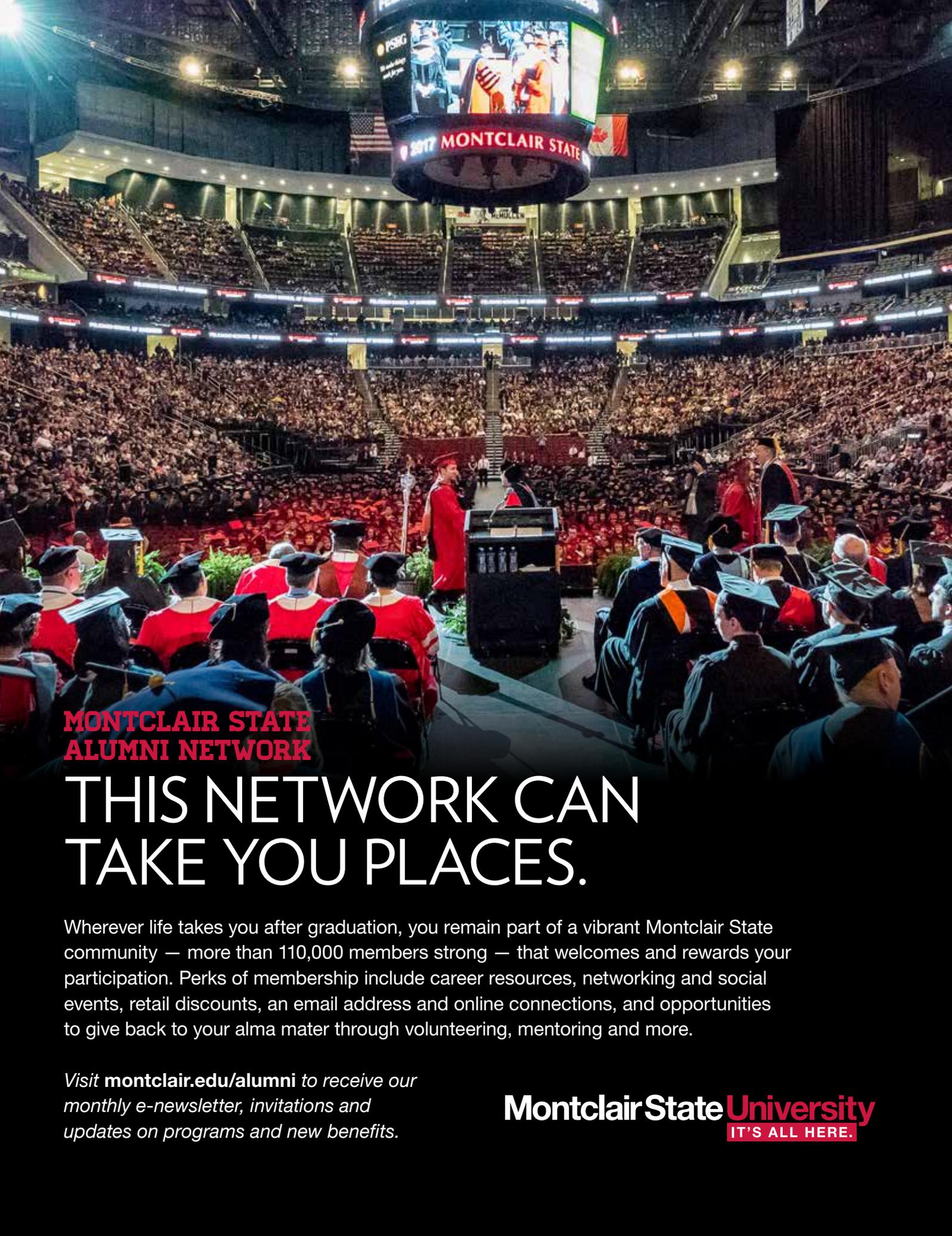
Students apply in the fall, and the program focuses mainly on sophomores and juniors. The Student Alumni Mentorship program urges candidates to apply early in their college career in order to create their own pathway to their future and gain a better understanding of what their future entails.

"When the mentor and the mentee form a relationship, it allows a connection that can be useful in the future," says Villani.

Additionally, Villani says, learning business skills from Montclair State University graduates broadens students' networks of business contacts in a way that will be useful to them moving forward, and also lets them see what they may some day achieve.

Campomizzi says because of Moya's mentoring, she landed an internship on a PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies' Green Team this summer. "I would not have been able to achieve this goal without Marilyn's help and guidance," she says. "This program has provided me with the confidence to pursue my goals, and I will forever carry this experience with me."

*For more information, contact Jenna Villani, Office of Alumni Relations, at 973-655-7872 or villanij@mail.montclair.edu.*



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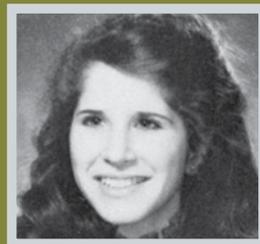
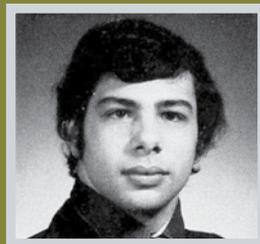
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# THE EDUCATED LIFE

Anthony Scriffignano '82, '85 MS

Rosanne Passaforo Scriffignano '84



Anthony and Rosanne Scriffignano have traveled the world while pursuing multiple academic degrees and forging distinguished international careers. But their beginnings at Montclair State still hold a special place in their hearts.

Anthony, a globally prominent computer scientist, credits the inspiring professors he had at the University for helping set him on the path to success. Rosanne, a career coach and retired executive, says she'll never forget the helping hand and the well-rounded education she received at her alma mater. "I was a scholarship recipient, so we always give; I feel it's very important to give back."

After earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science ('82, '85) at Montclair State, Anthony went on to get an MBA from Columbia University and a doctorate in leadership and change from Antioch University. Rosanne earned a degree in business from Montclair State in 1984 before getting a master's in communications from Seton Hall University and a doctorate in business administration from Northcentral University.



"We're overeducated here in the Scriffignano household," quips Rosanne. But all that education led to full lives and successful careers for both of them: Anthony is a senior vice president and chief data scientist at Dun & Bradstreet, holds several patents and is an expert on computational linguistics and big data; Rosanne is an executive and career counselor and worked for more than two decades at ADP,

where she was a project leader and now serves on the advisory board for ADP's internal coaching program.

Rosanne has spent more than 25 years in corporate communications and employer services, where she has helped clients with issues such as leadership, strategic planning and retirement planning. As a writer and coach, her advice has been published widely,

and she has received several international writing awards.

The Scriffignanos have donated both time and money to Montclair State and say they are heartened by the way the campus has blossomed since their time as students in the 1980s.

Anthony is a founding member of the University's Computer Science Department Advisory Board and in 2015 was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award at the College of Science and Mathematics convocation ceremony. He speaks six languages and has an ability to translate the world of computer science into relatable terms.

The couple met in junior high school and started dating after graduating from Montclair State, where their paths didn't actually cross much. Married 27 years, they live in The Caldwells, where they grew up and enjoy spending time with their extended family. "We've traveled all over the world, and there's nothing like New Jersey," says Rosanne.

—Patricia Alex



## STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GIVE BACK

The second annual Giving Day at Montclair State exceeded all expectations with a total of more than \$40,000 in donations from 311 donors, more than tripling the amount raised its first year. The goal was surpassed, in part, because alumni and friends donated up to \$17,000 in matching gifts.

Donors were able to designate funds to go to specific programs – academic and athletic – or donate to the Red Hawk Pantry or the Emergency Scholarship Fund. Excitement grew throughout the day as various groups took to social media to meet the challenge.

This year, Athletics also got into the act, kicking off a 10-day social media blitz prior to Giving Day, with Athletic Director Holly Gera pledging to match up to \$1,500 for gifts to Athletics. Within three days, alumni and friends met the match. In addition, sports teams posted video highlights, championship photos and messages from student athletes, coaches and alumni seeking support. By the end, Athletics had raised nearly \$10,000 to support nine teams and programs. To celebrate, Swim Coach Brian McLaughlin backflipped into the pool fully dressed.

“We are blown away by the generosity of our alumni, families and friends who helped us surpass all our goals for Giving Day,” says Stacy Albanese '08, '17 MA, associate director of Alumni Relations. “We are so grateful to all those who have helped to make a difference in students’ lives.”

## RED HAWK DAY OF THANKS

Montclair State University joined nearly 100 educational institutions worldwide to participate in its fourth annual “Red Hawk Day of Thanks,” also known as the University Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day. In a record-breaking event, more than 1,300 students stopped by eight locations across campus to sign thank-you cards for donors and learn about how philanthropy impacts the University.



Each school and college, as well as Residence Life, Student Development and Campus Life and Athletics played a role in the day as well.

In addition to students participating in showing their gratitude, nearly 125 students volunteered for the day, helping to educate fellow students on the importance of giving back.



## Carpe Diem Luncheon

Students from the John J. Cali School of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance entertained alumni, faculty and friends at the annual Carpe Diem luncheon, which honors those who have chosen to create a legacy by establishing gifts to the University through their wills and other gift plans. Legacy gifts play a key role in the University's future. To create a legacy, contact Ely Santoni Tuero at 973-655-3695.



## In Your Neighborhood: South Florida

Alumni and friends living in South Florida had the opportunity to get together with President Susan Cole, NASDAQ OMX board member and alumna Elynn McColgan and other University executives for luncheon receptions in Pompano Beach and Sarasota in February.

The Pompano Beach event featured noted Montclair State political expert, Political Science and Law Professor Brigid Callahan Harrison, who discussed Florida's presidential politics. A frequent commentator in print and electronic media on U.S. politics, Harrison provides regular political analysis to ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX News, among others, and is the author of *American Democracy Now*, a textbook used in college courses around the country.

## ALUMNI WINE TASTING

Alumni gathered in April for an educational wine tasting, where they learned the key aspects of wine tasting as well as the geography and history of the wines they sampled and the regions from which the wines originated. This year's event, the 7th Annual Signature Wine Tasting, focused on the wines of Australia and New Zealand. This favorite annual event gives alumni the opportunity to taste a variety of wines throughout dinner, including light, medium and full-bodied wines. Each year, a different region is chosen.



## Alumni on Ice

More than 75 alumni and friends gathered for the annual Montclair State Alumni Day in February with the New Jersey Devils, where they came together for a pregame reception and enjoyed some hockey as the New Jersey Devils took on the San Jose Sharks.



## Rocky Takes Manhattan

A student-produced, 30-second short film promoting the University's Feliciano School of Business aired in the heart of New York City's Times Square for a week in March, after donor and school namesake Mimi Feliciano won the use of the electronic billboard at a charity auction and gave it to the University. The film featured Rocky and included a cameo appearance by President Susan Cole.



## ALUMNI CAMPUS EMPLOYEE LUNCHEON

Kicking off 2017 with a get-together, more than 70 Alumni Campus Employees gathered in January for lunch at the Fourth Annual Welcome Back Luncheon.

Organized by the Office of Alumni Relations as a way to thank alumni employees for their dedication and service and to let them know about volunteer and philanthropic opportunities.



More than 500 alumni work at the University as faculty or staff and share a unique perspective on and dedication to the University. Alumni Campus Employees use their experiences to create strong connections to current students, understanding the importance of building a personal connection as a way to help students become active alumni. The Office of Alumni Relations also hosts an annual barbecue for alumni employees in June.

### 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](http://MONTCLAIRconnect), the online community exclusively for alumni of Montclair State University.

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

## Crystal Kuykendall '72 MA

# THE POWER OF HOPE

If there is a theme to Crystal Kuykendall's life, it's this: triumph over tragedy.

Growing up in a supportive family in public housing on Chicago's West Side, Kuykendall always dreamed big. She graduated from high school at 16 with four scholarships to Southern Illinois University and, after college, headed to Montclair State as a graduate assistant to earn a master's in sociology. But even she could never have predicted just where life would take her – from student and widowed mother to teacher, counselor and lawyer to author and inspirational speaker.

Kuykendall had just finished her master's degree at Montclair State when her husband was murdered. Roosevelt "Kirk" Kuykendall Jr. was killed on his way home from a store in East Orange by a 17-year-

old drug addict looking for money. Crystal Kuykendall was left to raise their two small children alone. It was then that her knowledge and experience working in sociology made a difference in her own life.

"The commitment to helping others that was strengthened during my time at Montclair State was magnified by my husband's death," Kuykendall says. "I decided to turn that tragedy into triumph. Going back to school for my doctorate in educational administration and then earning a law degree were steps I took to help me make a difference in preventing incidents like this."

Kuykendall went on to earn both degrees – a law degree from Georgetown University and a doctorate from Atlanta University – and put them to good use. She served as a guidance counselor for

minority undergraduates and high school dropouts, and taught in the education department at Montclair State and the Black Studies and Sociology departments at Seton Hall University. Now the author of four books – including the national best-seller *From Rage to Hope: Strategies for Reclaiming Black & Hispanic Students* – and a highly sought-after international public speaker, Kuykendall says her time at Montclair State also had a profound influence on her career.

"My assistantship working in the Equal Opportunity Office gave me the chance to work outside of the University, teaching education classes to people who were seeking careers in education, including some who were teacher's aides at the time," she says. "That experience provided such insight and fostered my desire to do more."

Since then, Kuykendall has founded her own company, Kreative and Innovative Resources for Kids (or KIRK in honor of her husband), and produces "Merchant of Hope" videos, publications, workbooks and learning tools for educators, counselors, administrators and parents – anyone making a difference in children's lives.

Everything Kuykendall does underscores her commitment to reaching young people before they make choices that could change their lives – and the lives of those around them – forever.

"I'm always working to magnify the power of merchants of hope."

–Erin Hines

# CLASS NOTES

## 1950s

**Jean Candee '53** published a science fiction novel, *Journey to Splendourland*, available at Page Publishing in Staten Island, N.Y.

## 1960s

**Lou Campanelli '60, '66 MA** published a memoir, *Dare to Dream*, which is the story of his career as a college basketball coach.

**John McGuckin '60** and **Sheila McGuckin '57** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 15, 2016.

**Louise Irving Donohue '64** and her husband, Peter E. Donohue, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 29, 2016, in Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

**Jacqueline Seewald '66** published a seventh book of fiction, titled *The Inheritance*, in December. The novel, published by Intrigue Publishing, is a mystery with elements of romance and suspense.

**Rosalie Rotz Saferstein '67** was listed as one of the top women in 2017 by *Total Food Service*, a trade magazine that serves the Metro New York food service industry. Saferstein is a food blogger who has been writing "Table Hopping With Rosie" for *New Jersey Monthly* since 2001.

**Patricia Nachtigal '68** was reappointed to the Governor's Higher Education Council. The five-member council serves as an advisory body on higher-education matters in New Jersey.

## 1970s

**Tobin Bell '70 MA** discussed his career as an actor in 40 years of film, TV and theater at "An Evening with Tobin Bell" at the USC School of Cinematic Arts in February.

**William Farkas '70 MA** received the National Football Foundation (NFF) Northeast Leadership Award, recognizing his commitment, generosity and leadership in developing leaders through football.

**Nancy Tiritilli '70** wrote the new romantic comedy titled *Winner of the Heart*, which was performed at the Rhino Theatre in Pompton Lakes, N.J.

**William D'Andrea '71** was involved in production of the musical *Emmaline and the Archangel*, to raise awareness and prevention for post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Audrey Gregg '71** traveled to Iceland where, by coincidence, she met fellow alumna **Mary Bartz '72**. [1, page 51]

**Mary Sheilah O'Halloran '74** is vice president, legal affairs and chief legal officer for Atlantic Health System in New Jersey.

**Michael C. Gabriele '75** published his third book on New Jersey history, titled *New Jersey Folk Revival Music: History & Tradition*, in December 2016. The book traces the evolution of folk revival music in the Garden State.

**Nancy Iarossi '76** joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Board of Directors in Santa Barbara, Calif.

**Michael J. McDonough '76** received a Doctor of Medical Humanities degree from Drew University in May 2016. He is currently a professor of Health Services Administration at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

**Miguel A. Padron '76** joined Turner Broadcasting System, a global media company, as vice president of human resources for Latin America.

**Frank R. Yuppa '76** received the 2016 Kendrick P. Lance, M.D. Distinguished Physician Award from St. Joseph's Healthcare System.

**Susan H. Murphy '77 MA** delivered the Robert F. Nicely Jr. and Donna C. Nicely Distinguished Scholar in Education Lecture at Cornell University in November 2016.

**Carol Blazejowski '78** was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in recognition of her career in basketball, from player for the U.S. Olympic Team to president and general manager of the WNBA New York Liberty.

**Jane Holl Lute '78** was appointed to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy by President Barack Obama.

**Louis Gilleran '79** retired after 27 years of service as a Navy physician. He will start a new career of service with the Veteran's Administration Medical Center San Diego and San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

## 1980s

**Steve Adubato '80, Angelo Genova '72, Donald Scarinci '78** and **Braxton Plummer '04** were included in the 2016 PolitickerNJ Power List.

**Elizabeth Booth '80** was honored with a 2016 Oticon Focus on People Award, a national recognition for advocates working to eliminate negative stereotypes of those with hearing loss.

**Maureen Wolff-Reid '80** is CEO of Sharon Merrill Associates, an independent investor relations and corporate communications strategic advisory firm in Boston, Mass.

**Ronald Campbell '81 MA** was sworn in for a four-year term as a Leesburg (Va.) Council Member.

**Rodney T. Baltimore '82** received the Service to America Award presented by the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington, D.C.

**Richard Marranta '83** published a book of short stories titled *The New Romantics: Ten Stories of Mystery, Passion, Travel and Vampires*.

**Ervin Nieves '85** is a student success coach at the University of Iowa after serving in the U.S. Air Force and teaching creative writing, literature and composition.



## DRUM ROLL, PLEASE

It's been a big year for music educator **Louis D'Amico '73**: He was honored by the State of New Jersey and the town of Montclair, both recognizing his four decades as a music educator and for directing the Hillside Elementary School's renowned Drums of Thunder percussion ensemble, which has performed on the *Today Show* and at professional and college sports games.

In May, he received the Honorary Distinguished Alumni Award from the John J. Cali School of Music. At that ceremony, he learned that friends and admirers had established the Louis D'Amico Endowed Scholarship for Music Education in his honor.

"There are no words that can fully describe the feeling of appreciation that I have a scholarship endowed in my name forever," says D'Amico.

## CONNECTIONS ALUMNI & FRIENDS



WELCOME,  
CLASS OF 2017

### Welcome, Class of 2017!

Welcome to the Montclair State alumni network – more than 110,000 strong and growing! Your connection to Montclair State doesn't end the day you graduate. You are now a part of a powerful group of Red Hawks working across all 50 states and worldwide.

There are many ways to stay connected with your fellow alumni. For more information and to get involved, visit the Office of Alumni Relations website at [montclair.edu/alumni](http://montclair.edu/alumni), call 973-655-4141 or email [alumni@montclair.edu](mailto:alumni@montclair.edu).

**David A. Mudrick '86** is an executive officer of Topcon Corporation in Tokyo, Japan. Mudrick is only the fourth person of non-Japanese descent to hold this position.

**Timothy Kimbrough '87** invented a method of writing keyboard music that synthesizes the study of African American music such as blues and gospel.

**Christopher Rosati '87, '12 MA** is serving in the U.S. Navy. Lt. Rosati is a high school history teacher who has taught in Nutley, NJ, for 18 years. After his tour, Rosati plans to return to teaching. [2]

### 1990s

**Johanna Burke '91** raised more than \$1,400 at a fundraiser in Hawthorne, N.J., for her nonprofit group called Fight 4 Autism.

**Theresa A. Lyons '92** was ranked in the Top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs of New Jersey by Leading Women Entrepreneurs.

**Matthew Green '93, '98 MA**, a Teaneck (N.J.) High School swimming coach since 1989, was selected as the 2016 Northeast Sectional and New Jersey State Coach of the Year in boys swimming by the National Federation of State High School Coaches Associations.

**Joseph M. Amoroso '95, '02 MA**, formerly Montclair State's first coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, is now the director of Division of Disability Services within the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

**Coleen Weiss-Magasic '95 MA** was appointed as the new districtwide supervisor of science and industrial arts for the West Milford (N.J.) Township School District.

**Michael A. Rossi '96 MA** was elected as the Sparta (N.J.) School District Superintendent.

**Mary A. Long '97 MA** hosted a reception for a solo show of her paintings called "A Painterly Progression" at the Art/Place Gallery in Fairfield, Conn.

**Anne Marie Anderson '98** was promoted to associate professor in the Business & Public Service Department of Raritan Valley Community College.

**Katrina G. Macht '98 MA, '04 Cert, '16 EdD** earned the degree of Doctor of Pedagogy and Philosophy from Montclair State in 2016.

**Danny Brando '99** was promoted to a vice president of The Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

**William Crockett '99** was promoted to the rank of captain in the Kearny (N.J.) Fire Department.

**Robert McMish '99**, having served a 17-year career with Montclair High School as head coach of the girls' soccer team, has joined Montclair State University as an assistant coach for the men's soccer team.

**Joelene Wolfe '99 MBA** has joined Do Good Marketing's account services.

### 2000s

**Jennifer A. Fano '00 MA** was named Superintendent of the Randolph (N.J.) Township School District.

**Jeffrey S. O'Brien '00** was promoted to police lieutenant of the Woodland Park (N.J.) Police Department.

**Domenick Sportelli '00, '03 MS** was recently featured on the CBS show *The Doctors* as an expert guest.

**Jason J. Velante '00** was named Most Influential Teacher 2016 by UNIFFIED (United Federation of Filipino-American Educators) and Teacher of the Month at Paterson (N.J.) P.S. #21. Velante, pictured on the right, also serves as a trustee with the Wanaque (N.J.) Board of Education. [3]

**Frank Francia '01, '08 MA** was appointed principal of Yantacaw Elementary School by the Nutley (N.J.) Board of Education.

**Jennifer Winski Colodney '02** was named director of marketing for Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, overseeing all marketing efforts, including branding, inquiry generation and marketing communication.

**Joseph Matera '02, '08 MA** was named vice principal of Nutley (N.J.) High School.

**Patrick Naughter '02** earned his 100th career victory as head coach for Montclair State women's soccer. Naughter became the second coach in the history of the program to reach that milestone. [4]

**Timothy Purnell '02 MA** was named Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents and has served as the superintendent of schools in Somerville, N.J., since 2011.

**Anthony Abrantes '04** was recently promoted to Senior Council representative and vice president at the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters, Local 254.

**Alfred Cappello '04** was inducted into Montclair State University's Athletic Hall of Fame. Cappello, along with other inductees, was honored at halftime during the Homecoming football game in October 2016.

**Ghassan Abukhalaf '05 MBA** was appointed SABRE Corporation's new country manager for Qatar to lead the Sabre Travel Network Middle East (STNME).

**Robert J. Gentile '05** was named head coach of Fair Lawn (N.J.) High School's football team.

**Jeffrey C. Martinelli '05** was named assistant principal for student affairs at Immaculata High School in Somerville, N.J.

**Eric Magrini '06** was inducted into Montclair State University's Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2016.

**Gian Paul Gonzalez '07** officially became part of the New York Giant's 2016–2017 NFL season as the team's motivational speaker. Gonzalez traveled with the team for all home and away games, worked in the coaches' box during every game and spoke with the team each week. [5]

# CLASS NOTES





# A VOICE FOR THE AGES

## Autumn Turner '14

Like most people just starting out in their careers, Autumn Turner is working hard to make her dreams come true. But unlike most, she's doing it on a national stage.

Turner, an English teacher and ice skating coach by profession, is a singer at heart. In February she landed a spot as a contestant on this season's *The Voice*, a singing competition on NBC in which vocalists vie for a recording contract.

First, the singers perform for four celebrity coaches in a "blind competition." They are chosen for celebrity "teams" based solely on the sound of their voices. Then the teams and vocalists battle it out on live television to determine who stays.

Turner's performance of the Donna Summer classic, "Last Dance," during her blind audition inspired all four judges to want her on their teams. Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine and R&B artist Alicia Keys both aggressively wooed Turner, who ultimately chose to join "Team Alicia."

"We have similar vibes and thoughts about a lot of things," says Turner, who also liked that she shares an East Coast connection with Keys. "Everything she was saying resonated with me, and it's how I speak to my students every day. I make sure that they're in it and they're happy, and she said a lot of the stuff that I say to them. That's what made me choose her. She's just so positive."

bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Musical Theatre. Since graduating from Montclair State, Turner has worked as an English teacher and figure skating coach. She says her time at Montclair State helped give her a foundation for what she's doing now.

"I loved that the people and teachers there were really willing to help you and get to know who you are. We were always encouraged to give it our all and not be embarrassed if we messed up on something – that's how you learn and grow as a performer."

Turner says that's similar to how things work on *The Voice*, where the vocalists are "like a second family" despite battling it out with each other each episode. Add to that the opportunity to work with the talented celebrity coaches, and she soaked up every moment.

"The experience has been wonderful – it's like going to summer camp," says Turner. "You get to meet all of these wonderful new people who are helping you grow."

Autumn's run on the show lasted until mid-April, but she doesn't let the fact that she didn't win bring her down. She'll keep singing.

"I really just want to do what I love and show people that you have to keep trying and trying until it happens," says Turner. "I want to be able to put my music out there and show that hard work and dedication pay off."

–Erin Hines

Autumn Turner competed on NBC's *The Voice* this spring. Photos by Tyler Golden/NBC

Turner grew up singing in church and choir and went on to earn her

# CLASS NOTES

**Todd Tumelty '07** reached a milestone as Montclair State men's soccer head coach with his 100th career victory. With the win, Tumelty became the third men's soccer coach in history to reach that mark. [6, page 51]

**Jessica Vosk '07** joined the touring company of *Wicked* as the green witch Elphaba. Six years ago she left Wall Street to pursue a career in theater.

**Lunic Adisson-Boyd '08**, a successful entrepreneur, has developed organizations such as A Day at a Time and Y.E.A.R.S. (Young Entrepreneurs Achieving Real Success).

**Dara Gronau '08 MA** was approved as the new administrator for the South Orange-Maplewood (N.J.) School District Board of Education for the 2016–2017 school year.

**Steven C. LoVecchio '08** was sworn in as a firefighter for the Montclair Fire Department.

**John Pascal '08 MA** signed his book, *Mark Twain and Youth*, at Barnes & Noble Bookstore at the Livingston (N.J.) Mall in September 2016. [7, page 51]

**Brittany L. James '09** showcased her exhibit *Return of Saturn* at an opening at Salon Concrete in Red Bank, N.J.

**Johna Z. Mailolli '09** was hired as the retail dietitian at ShopRite of Tallman in Airmont, N.Y., leading the store's free nutrition counseling and wellness programming.

**Amy O'Connor '09** was named as head athletic trainer at York College in Queens, N.Y., where she will care for student athletes and prepare them for season games.

## 2010s

**Ashley M. Tobias '10** is the CEO of Be True to You, an interactive antibullying program that seeks to influence through the power of pop, rock and education in schools. She won the 2016 United Nation's and Meaningful World's International Youth Peace Award. (Pictured holding her award.) [8, page 51]

**Daniel C. Monda '11** is a member of the band Thank You Scientist, which released its second album titled *Stranger Heads Prevail* in July 2016.

**Theresa Marino Umana '11 MA** married Randall Umana on July 30, 2016, in West Caldwell, N.J.

**Brian J. Kapp '12** was sworn in by the Lyndhurst Police Department as one of five new officers, including **Matthew R. Dudek '14**, in Lyndhurst, N.J.

**Candace Margiotta Ross '12** married John Anthony Ross on July 21, 2016, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Pompton Lakes, N.J.

**Jennifer Wilson '12** helped launch an immersive theater experience, based on Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*, in Moscow, Russia. Wilson is the co-founder of Journey Lab, a start-up media brand and theater company.

**Rashard Bradshaw '13** released his debut studio album titled *Hedonism* in October 2016. Better known as Cakes da Killa, Bradshaw is a rapper based in New York City.

**Kimberli Gerechoff D'Angelo '13 MEd** married Joseph D'Angelo on May 21, 2016, at Scotland Run Golf Club in Williamstown, N.J.

**Justin DiGuglielmo '13** became a patrol officer for the Fair Lawn (N.J.) Police Department.

**Michele Fitzgerald '13**, a former *Survivor* winner, interviewed for a possible spot as a candidate for the ABC series *The Bachelor*, Season 21.

**Jamie A. Drescher '14** was one of eight Americans selected to represent Team USA at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. The World Maccabiah Games celebrates its 20th year and will attract more than 10,000 athletes from more than 80 countries. [9, page 51]

**Jenna Dwyer '14** was named head coach of the girls' volleyball team at Nutley (N.J.) High School.

**Stefani Gore '14** is a videographer for WNBC's *New York Live*.

**George Z. Juzdan '14** and **Sheena B. Higgins '14** married in February 2017 and honeymooned in Jamaica. On their way, they stopped by Montclair State for a photo op by the Red Hawk statue. [10, page 51]

**Jonathan Richard Kruzel '14 MA** married Erin Marie English in May 2016 at St. Rose of Lima in Freehold, N.J.

**Ashley Plus '14** works as an administrative assistant at the New Jersey branch of Golden Biotechnology Corporation, a pharmaceutical company.

**Evan Ruggiero '14** obtained his first starring role in CLO Cabaret's *The Toxic Avenger* in Pittsburg, Pa. Ruggiero, a tap dancer who lost a leg to cancer, went on to appear on *American Idol* and *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. [11, page 51]

**Jason Wang '14** found his calling as a Title 1 math teacher for the Paterson (N.J.) Arts and Science Charter School (ASCS).

**Clinton Ambs '15 MA** was named Teacher of the Year 2016–2017 for Delaware Valley High School in Frenchtown, N.J.

**Frank Auriemma '15** was sworn in to the South Orange (N.J.) Police Department in January.

**Nicholas Juzdan '15** spoke at a TEDxYouth conference held at Kinnelon (N.J.) High School in November about the film industry and filmmaking.

**Rose-Marie Scott '15 MA** married Nicholas James Iannicelli on July 9, 2016, at DuVillage Inn in New Hope, Pa.

**Celinda Ortega '16** was crowned Miss Bergen County 2017, making her eligible to compete for Miss New Jersey in June 2017.

**Alexis R. Waters '16** was part of the 21st season of the ABC-TV reality series *The Bachelor*, which premiered in January.



SAVE THE DATE

**HOMECOMING  
2017  
OCTOBER 14, 2017**

Always a highlight of the fall semester, the University welcomes alumni and friends to campus for a day of open houses, tailgating, a street fair and, of course, football, when the Red Hawks take on the Salisbury University Seagulls.

As is tradition, the University will host a pancake breakfast for students and their families; students will perform in the Amphitheater; and there will be rides and games for children and families, as well as a beer garden for adults. Homecoming is always a great way to catch up with friends and former professors.

Matt Barbieri '10, '16 MA

# CRAFTING A CAREER



Like any entrepreneur nurturing a new business, Matt Barbieri works a lot of hours. Yet he still has time to spend in bars all over New Jersey.

That's because he's in charge of delivery – as well as marketing, brewing, licensing and just about any other task that comes to mind – for Two Ton Brewing, the craft beer company he founded with his dad and brother in 2014.

"It's small scale, so it's very hands on," says Barbieri, the only full-time employee of Two Ton, located in Linden, New Jersey. "It's been a wild ride, but I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Barbieri, who graduated with a degree in psychology in 2010, juggled the business with his

studies while working on his master's degree and a full-time job as a special education teacher.

"It was a full plate, but I made it through," says Barbieri, who earned the advanced degree in education in 2016 and is certified to teach students with disabilities in grades K-6.

Barbieri's dad, Mario, and brother, Jim, are educators as well and both have kept their day jobs, while Matt left teaching after five years to focus full time on Two Ton. Using Jim's recipes – honed over 18 years as a home brewer – the company has made more than a dozen beers since its inception. Its Extra-Special Chocolate-Vanilla Porter recently won first place in the 2017 Big Brew Festival in Morristown.

"I had the vision and was determined to turn Jim's skillful craft into a legitimate business model," explains Barbieri.

Two Ton – so named because Jim would use a ton of hops and a ton of grain in his home brews – can now be found on tap and in bottles at 50 bars and 20 liquor stores in New Jersey, including a steak house right down the street from Montclair State. The brew is distributed as far north as Sparta and south as Asbury Park. Barbieri has also brought Two Ton brews back to his alma mater for sampling at the Homecoming Beer Garden.

The craft beer market is growing in New Jersey, and Barbieri hopes that Two Ton will continue to grow with it. The Barbieres are scouting

a larger location, likely 5,000 square feet in Linden, and plan to then add more employees and host tours and tastings.

"We're at the point where we're profitable and looking to expand," says Barbieri, who lives in Westfield. "We're already looking toward the future."

While an undergraduate at Montclair State, Barbieri was president of a business-oriented fraternity, Tau Phi Beta, that helped prepare him for his entrepreneurial venture in the brewing business. "It was a springboard for leadership," he says. "It sparked a passion."

–Patricia Alex

Photo courtesy of Matt Barbieri

# IN MEMORIAM

Ella M. Haver '34  
 Edith Scibetta Salva '36, '47 MA  
 Goldie Kossman Sussman '36  
 Edith Berman Benjamin '38  
 Dorothea Gorski Dul '39  
 Gloria Davies Smith '39  
 Genevieve Rowe Pfeiffer '40  
 Emil J. Piel '40, '47 MA  
 Frank J. Scardilli '42



**Edith Berman Benjamin '38** of Woodbridge, Conn., died in April 2017. She was 100. She taught science and was also a prolific artist for 60 years, filling her home with watercolor and oil paintings.

Robert T. Ward '42, '58 MA  
 Irene Merkler Kominek '43  
 Anna Poplawsky Werson '45  
 Joan Egner Crew '46, '48 MA  
 Jacqueline Ehrich Mansbach '46  
 Dr. George Hennings '47, '48 MA  
 Dr. Max A. Sobel '47 (Emeritus)  
 (former faculty)  
 Edna Citron Elman '48  
 Charles V. Farinella '48, '51 MA  
 Paul S. Fernandez '48 MA  
 Marion S. Luthin '48, '54 MA  
 Stella Rosin Oleksiak '48, '69 MA  
 Emma Marshall Field '50  
 Richard E. Freeburg '50  
 William F. Lalor '50  
 Robert W. Buckley '51, '54 MA  
 Muriel McCaffrey Petrovics '51  
 Belva Pettengill '51  
 Werner A. Schanzenbach '51

Peter P. De Boer '52 MA  
 Grace Marraffa DelGuercio '52, '59 MA  
 Michael J. Oliva '52  
 Helen T. Solon '52, '54 MA  
 Romayne Wescott Platt-Smith '53  
 Barbara Milne Shaak '53  
 Sella Lang McNally-Biggs '54, '57 MA  
 Joyce M. Tyrell '54, '64 MA  
 Noreen Marmora Mickey '56  
 Jane Puzio Wdowiak '56  
 Rena Greebel Birnbaum '57  
 Francis S. Scelba '57 MA  
 Aurora Ronco Bernard '58  
 Eleanor Weihermiller Friedrich '58  
 Louis A. Cassella '59 MA  
 William L. Ginter '59 MA  
 Claire Waltke Link '59  
 Dominick J. Ferrara III '60  
 Merlyn W. Jones '60 MA  
 Judith Victor Rother '60  
 Marion Ascitutto '61 MA  
 Peter L. Cross '61  
 Frances Pado Hode '61  
 Helen Kilbourne McHale '61  
 Grace Napolitano Bachmann '62, '65 MA  
 Rosalie Rofrano Hartman '62  
 Judith A. Pflug '62  
 Joseph F. Wisniewski '62, '68 MA, '89 BA  
 Gail A. Yankauskas '62  
 George A. Di Bouno '63  
 Robert T. Tighe '63 MA  
 Michael A. Alfonso '64, '72 MA  
 John Leffler '64, '68 MA  
 Kathryn Roth Kennedy '65  
 Edward W. Stroh '65 MA  
 Marlene Schelmay Tedesco '65  
 Miriam Mimi Levin '66 MA, '73 BA  
 Geraldine Chierchio Arndt '67  
 Alette Popowich Blasi '67, '73 MA  
 Joseph T. D'Ambola '67  
 Richard Mola '67 MA  
 Frank P. Palmeri '67 MA  
 Anne Willette Brodeen '68



**Max A. Sobel '47** of Fair Lawn, N.J., died on November 11, 2016. He was 92. An internationally recognized mathematician and beloved math professor, Sobel taught at Montclair State University and College High School for 50 years.

Barbara Frank Rainey '68  
 James V. Grieco '69  
 Mary A. Pojedinec '69  
 Seymour W. Geller '71 MA  
 Josephine R. Gilbert '71 MA  
 Harold E. Kestenholz '71 MA  
 Nancy Ellsworth Ober '71  
 Sister Monica Vinges '71 MA  
 Kathleen Ellison Wood '71  
 James J. Bonney '72  
 Angela Bruno '72 MA  
 James A. Cherrey '72 MA  
 Irma M. Comas '72 MA  
 Kenneth P. Waller '72  
 Blaisdell B. Willis III '72  
 Nancy Di Grazia Carver '73  
 (former staff)  
 Raymond A. Dresch '73 MA  
 Douglas Krill '74  
 Harriet Faig Hoenie '75, '95 MA  
 Margaret Brandon Lacey '75, '81 MA  
 Leroy E. Love '75 MA  
 Donald V. Lusk '75 MA  
 David F. Mitros '75  
 Marilyn Berger Shavelson '75 MA  
 Joseph J. Bono '76, '77 MA  
 Debra Bachir Manov '76, '78 MA  
 William P. Misko '76  
 Richard G. Pincus '76 MA

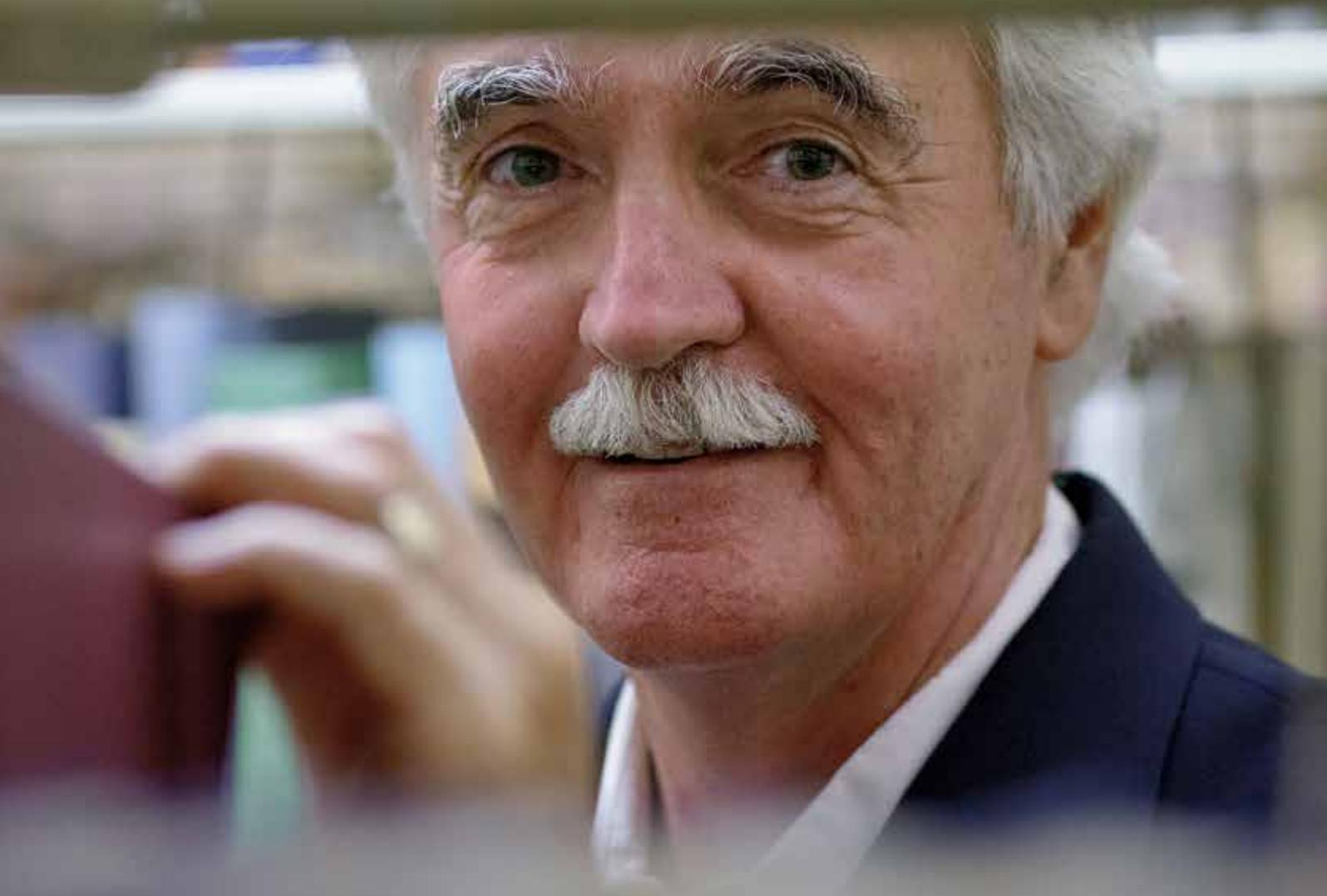
James M. Riley '76, '79 MA  
 Rebecca Mason Ryan '76, '91 MA  
 Frances Harac '77  
 Joseph B. Bell '78  
 Veronica M. Romano '78 MA  
 Timothy P. Sandford '78  
 Jeffrey G. Murren '79 MA  
 Debra Parente-Rosin '79  
 Alex J. Bergins '80 MA  
 Kathleen Weissman Boehm '80 MA  
 Susan R. Boyers '80  
 John P. Glackin '80 MA  
 Marjorie Gibson '81  
 Carla Passerini Schaafsma '81, '83 MA  
 Wendy J. Celi '82 MA  
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 Gertrude D. Begley '83  
 Linda Smith Finnegan '84  
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 Mary A. Visconti '85  
 Sherin W. Favocci '88  
 Beverly Paffrath Oburg '89  
 Robert Scott '89 MA  
 Richard J. Dowling '90 MA  
 (former staff)  
 Patricia Devine Ferry '90  
 Maria E. Dolan '91  
 Donna Liloia '93  
 Kathleen A. Bott '94 MA  
 Judith M. Whalen '94 MBA  
 Renee Turner Cevallos '96  
 Evan C. Childs '98  
 John J. Fierro '98 MA  
 Charles A. Berry '99 MA  
 Sean M. Cassels '99  
 Edward V. Milano '02  
 (former staff)  
 John P. DeRosa '03  
 Michelle L. Marano '06  
 Rose J. Lubin '08  
 Justin J. LaMura '16

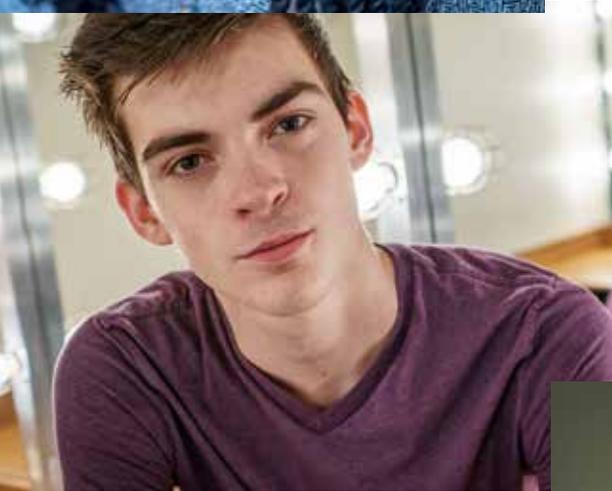
## GREGORY WATERS | Director, Honors Program

English professor and Honors Program Director Gregory Waters, who retires this summer, taught, advised and inspired hundreds of students, becoming a mentor and friend to many in his 33 years at Montclair State. “I remember Dr. Waters as the most empathetic and compassionate professor I have ever had,” recalls Jennifer Ocampo '13. “Not only did he create a safe space where I always felt comfortable being myself, but he also encouraged me and made me feel like I mattered and belonged.” Also a respected administrator, Waters has served at the University in many capacities including senior roles in the Provost's Office, Advancement and even for a time as Interim President. “Dr. Waters built my confidence as a writer and prospective educator,” says Jaclyn Gass '17, who knew Waters as a professor, advisor and program director. “His continual support and belief in my abilities have had a lasting impact on my life.” According to Emily Belsky '18, Waters “instills confidence and curiosity in every student who steps into his office or classroom – myself included.” For many former students, Waters' success as a professor and advisor is evidenced by their own success. “His passion for teaching and infectious enthusiasm for helping others inspired me to become the teacher that I am today,” says Ellen Gianakis '13. “Dr. Waters has left a lasting impact on each of the students in the Honors Program.”

—Robert Gano

Read more about Waters at [montclair.edu/lasting-lessons/Waters](http://montclair.edu/lasting-lessons/Waters). 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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