Person of the Year

The Write Stuff: Alumni Authors

Student Activism on Campus:
Creating Change and Spreading Peace in a New Era

A Centennial Story:
The Legacy of Evelyn Hock Walter

SUMMER 2008
The doors of what is now called College Hall opened on September 15, 1908, so we will soon bring to a close the 100th year of this institution and begin our second century. Although the institution has grown and developed to the point that it would be all but unrecognizable to an observer from those early days, the spirit, determination and vision that has guided it through the years remains unchanged.

From the New Jersey State Normal School at Montclair to Montclair State Teachers College to Montclair State College to Montclair State University, this institution consistently and determinedly has pursued a mission of educational excellence and innovation and a commitment to give every possible opportunity to talented and ambitious students to achieve the quality education that will enable them to excel in their chosen professions.

Throughout our history, we have remained true to the first defining principles of this institution, that good teaching matters and that students, whatever their professional goals, should receive a rich education in the liberal arts and sciences. Montclair State’s commitment to quality and intellectual rigor and our profound belief in the purposes of education in a democracy has remained unchanged for a century.

Now we must set our sights on the future and, while firmly holding onto the principles, philosophy and beliefs that have guided the institution for the past century, we must set a clear course for the next. As our centennial year concludes, we will focus our attention and efforts on developing a new strategic plan for the next ten years.

As we undertake that work, our eyes must be on our vision of the University we want our successors to find when they stand here 100 years from today celebrating our bicentennial. We must do what our worthy predecessors did: always hold before us the possibilities of what we can achieve, do the best we can, and thereby build a legacy of excellence for the future.

Carpe futura.

Susan A. Cole, president, Montclair State University
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When Dick Lynde moved into what was basically a glorified stockroom as a new science faculty member in 1970, could he have imaged that, in 2008, he would be retiring as a beloved provost after an acclaimed 38-year career at Montclair State?

It was at President Susan A. Cole’s spring 2007 address to faculty and staff that she announced that Richard A. Lynde, provost and vice president for academic affairs, would be retiring June 30, 2008. There was a gasp in the room as Lynde’s colleagues and friends contemplated the University without his steady, guiding force. Few people have had such a long and critical impact on the very ethos of the University. For more than one third of the institution’s rich 100-year history, Lynde has played a profound role.

During the past year, the transition plans have been made, a new provost has been named and Lynde is poised to begin his retirement. Now, as his departure nears, the University community looks back on a legacy of service, and a career of steadfast leadership in years filled with technological growth, ideological tumult and intellectual vigor.

Person of the Year:
Richard A. Lynde
From the Beginning

Montclair State has been part of Lynde’s life since his earliest days. As excerpted from historian and Montclair State University Professor Emeritus of History and Social Studies Education Joseph Thomas Moore’s 2008 book, *Montclair State University: A Century of Triumph Over Circumstance*:

(St. Richard A.) Lynde can trace his roots at Montclair back to the Sprague era. His mother, Clara Gessner Mayo, had been interviewed by President Sprague himself before becoming the resident nurse in Chapin Hall in 1928. Fourteen years later, in 1942, as Clara Lynde, she bore Montclair’s future leader in Orange Memorial Hospital, making him Montclair’s first president to be born in New Jersey.

After graduation from Columbia High School in South Orange-Maplewood, Lynde earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry at Hamilton College, followed by a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry at Iowa State University. As a young man, he married Karin Lewis. Two options beckoned upon completion of his degree: a position in industry with Kennecott Copper or a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas. As he pondered the decision, a friend at Iowa State mentioned a faculty opening at Montclair, which led to a successful interview with the dean of the School of Mathematics and Science.

In a recent interview, Lynde noted that many people don’t have the opportunity he had—to have a 38-year career at one institution, yet moving up from within.

In 1970, Lynde joined the faculty as a chemistry professor and three years later became the chair of that department. Displaying natural administrative skills, in 1976, Lynde was named acting dean, then dean, of what was then called the School of Mathematics and Natural Science. In August 1987, he became vice president for academic affairs and then, just months later, was named acting president when President Donald Walters fell ill. He served in that capacity for two years before returning to his role as vice president for academic affairs in 1989. In 1991, the additional title of provost was added and he has served in that capacity ever since.

About the Man

When defining success, it’s usual to focus on what was accomplished. In the case of Lynde, the how it was accomplished is just as important. Lynde says that who he is—his manner and style—was ingrained at a very young age. “From my parents, I learned to listen and weigh things out,” he says. “I’ve never met a person I didn’t like; there’s good in everyone.”

His patience and gentle demeanor are so much a part of his essence that everyone who speaks of the provost comes to the same core conclusion. “He brings people together as a team,” says Phyllis Wooster, executive assistant to the president, who worked directly with Lynde for more than 10 years. “He is respectful of other people, therefore, he is respected, and through his understanding of all aspects of the University, both academic and administrative, he is able to instill in people an understanding of the benefits of working together and what can be accomplished for the University when they do.”

Nancy Young, Lynde’s assistant for the past nine years, adds that “Dr. Lynde is so calm, compassionate and honest that even when he has to deliver bad news he presents
“Dick Lynde has been an intelligent, thoughtful and incredibly hard-working member of the University’s administrative team. During the 10 years we have served together, I have valued his willingness to pursue change, to take risks, and to be accountable for the details. His absolute reliability, loyalty and good judgment have constituted an important contribution to this University. On a personal level, I have thoroughly enjoyed our working partnership and have been the delighted beneficiary of those recurring instances of sly humor and irreverence not often seen by others. Montclair State University is very much the better for Dick Lynde having been here.”

— President Susan A. Cole

Lynde’s manner and skills were ideally suited to the position and the times. During periods when there was turmoil, such as in the aftermath of statewide faculty/administration conflicts in the late 1980s, his consensus-building skills were critical in the establishment of winning outcomes for all involved. In Moore’s book, Lynde says of himself: “I helped change itself to happen in acceptable ways by having a collegial style.”

Success: His Own Definition

Lynde views his role as helping people accomplish their goals and objectives. “Satisfaction for me is to see them succeed,” he says.

Commenting on his legacy, Lynde says, “When I leave office, my lasting impact will be that over 72% of the current faculty have had their CVs cross my desk. As department chair, dean, vice president for academic affairs, acting president and provost, I’ve had a role in hiring most of the current faculty. I feel great pride in the company of people I’ve helped to bring to Montclair State, and that legacy will still be with the institution for another 25 years.”

Lynde also expressed great pride that, during the time he was provost, half of the faculty he hired were women, and one third were persons of color. “Most of our students experience true diversity for the first time when they come here,” he says. “Our dedication to building a diverse campus community of faculty for the students creates a true life lesson of enormous value for their future.”

Another great source of pride for Lynde was his success at achieving a greater balance between teaching and research. For instance, the Faculty Scholarship Program—which Lynde both proposed and implemented in the early 1990s—enables faculty to be more engaged as scholars. The program allows faculty to reduce teaching loads and to use the additional time gained to pursue research. For the students, it means that faculty members are on the cutting edge of research in their discipline and they are sharing that excitement and knowledge with their students. It also means that the students—whether undergraduates or doctoral candidates—have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty on research.

The Next Chapter

After so many years of being the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at night, what changes does Lynde plan for his retirement? “My alarm has been set for 4:30 a.m. for many years. I think that will be the first thing that changes,” he laughs. But don’t expect a lot of puttering about by Lynde. While he plans to take the summer off “to travel, and to see the grandkids in the Boston area,” he plans to be back to focus on the advancement of education in the fall. He has been approached by a leading consulting group
When interviewing faculty and staff throughout the campus about Dick Lynde, a recurring theme emerges: he is a tremendously hard-working individual who puts the needs of the institution above his own.

Joan Ficke, who has been the vice provost under Lynde for the past 10 years, comments on how Montclair State would have been different as an institution if Dick Lynde hadn’t been a part of it. “The obvious differences would have been the result of all Dick’s professional and academic achievements. The truly important, though, is the humanity and concern for others that he has brought to bear on all he does.” On a personal note, “His impact on my career and personal growth has been immeasurable. From Dick, I have learned the value of patience, perseverance, and grace and dignity under pressure.”

Greg Waters served as deputy provost under Lynde and had Lynde serve under him when Waters was acting president in 1997-1998. “On a personal level, Dick is the sort of man whose definition of success begins with the word integrity, whose sense of family is profound and whose dedication to Montclair State is without bounds. I look forward to working with his successor very much but Dick Lynde will never be replaced.”

Ken Bain, vice provost for Institutional Learning and director of the Research Academy for University Learning, says, “Dick Lynde is one of the principal reasons I chose to leave NYU to come to Montclair State University. His emphasis on and support for student learning is extraordinarily powerful.”

that recommends curricular options for universities at the master’s and doctoral levels, and anticipates working with the New Jersey President’s Council to implement the new transfer agreement between two- and four-year state colleges.

In addition, Lynde plans to volunteer for community service organizations. “For many years, my busy schedule did not enable me to volunteer my time on many town committees,” he says. “Other people were volunteering. It’s time for me to give back.” He has also promised his wife, Karin, who has Swedish roots, that they would learn Swedish together. “I have no recent ties to Sweden,” Lynde explains, “but it seems like good mental exercise once the day-to-day activities of the office are behind me.”

A lifetime of service.
A beloved leader.
A presence both strong and gentle. Dr. Lynde, your Montclair State University family wishes you happiness and good health in your retirement.
And we thank you.
Danilo Figueredo ’76

Danilo (Dan) Figueredo, who writes as D. H. Figueredo, is a prolific, award-winning author who has turned out children’s books, histories, short stories and reference works including the two-volume, 1,016-page *Encyclopedia of Caribbean Literature* (Greenwood Press), for which he was honored with a medal from the president of St. Martin University in the Caribbean. He is also the co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Cuba* (Greenwood Press). His latest and 11th book is *A Brief History of the Caribbean* (Facts on File).

Figueredo, who is director of the Library and Media Center at Bloomfield College, also has a less academic side and has written two children’s books and *The Complete Idiot’s Guide® to Latino History and Culture* (Alpha). He credits retired Montclair State English professor George Petty for being an inspiration and a mentor during his early years of writing. “I still remember his lessons,” says Figueredo: “Keep it true, keep it interesting, be yourself and watch your diction.”

Fred Misarella ’62

A writer, Fulbright Scholar and professor of English at East Stroudsburg University, Fred Misarella has published fiction and non-fiction in numerous journals and newspapers including *The New York Times* and *The Village Voice*, as well as written the book, *Lies to Live By* (Bordighera Press), a collection of short stories. He has also published a novella, *Short Time* (Bordighera Press), and critical essays in two books on Primo Levi, the Italian author.
Misurella, who earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, teaches writing, journalism, and Italian American literature and is a lover of most things French or Italian. He has been doing readings from *Lies to Live By* in and around New York for the past year and is hoping to have his next novel, *An Average, Sensual Man*, published soon.

**Firth Haring Fabend ’79 M.A.**

“I’ve always been associated with words,” says Firth Haring Fabend. “I started out in high school writing news articles and features for the school newspaper.” After college, she spent the next 14 years in book publishing, editing a total of about 70 college textbooks. During those years, she also wrote and published her first three novels. Fabend, who’s most recent and sixth novel is *Land So Fair* (iUniverse), an historical novel set in colonial-era New York and New Jersey, has a Ph.D. in American Studies from NYU and is a leading historian of Dutch American culture.

Between her first three novels and *Land So Fair*, she wrote critically acclaimed histories including *Zion on the Hudson: Dutch New York and New Jersey in the Age of Revivals* (Rutgers University Press) and *A Dutch Family in the Middle Colonies, 1660-1800* (Rutgers University Press), which was awarded the Hendricks Prize from the New Netherland Project. “In *Land So Fair*,” she says, “I went back to fiction to write an historical novel, which combines the two strands in my career—novelist and historian.”

**Dave White ’05 M.A.T.**

Award-winning writer Dave White is the author of the critically acclaimed mystery-detective novels *When One Man Dies* and *The Evil That Men Do* (Three Rivers Press), and has contributed to many anthologies and collections, including *The Adventure of the Missing Detective* (Carroll & Graf) and *Damn Near Dead* (Busted Flush Press).

White, who grew up in Clifton, N.J., and now teaches there, started writing and submitting short stories to writers’ Web sites and soon began being noticed. He has been nominated for several awards and won the Derringer Award for Best Short Mystery Story for his work “Closure” in 2003. His two novels feature a fictional ex-cop-turned-private-investigator, Jackson Donne, and are both set in New Jersey, primarily in White’s old undergraduate stomping grounds of New Brunswick.

**Patrick J. Gallo ’59**

*Pius XII, the Holocaust and the Revisionists: Essays* (McFarland) is Patrick J. Gallo’s latest and 11th work. A Fulbright Scholar and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, Gallo has taught high school, been a scholar-in-residence at the American Academy in Rome and is currently an adjunct professor at New York University. Gallo began writing because of the encouragement he received from a high school English teacher. His first short story was well received by his classmates and he decided to pursue writing in earnest. “Interestingly,” he notes, “my entire writing career has been writing nonfiction. I do have an idea for a novel and will venture forth … very soon.”

Recently published books by alumni are available at a bookstore near you. Check out these titles:

- *A Camouflaged Fragrance of Decency* (Inkwater Press) by Tim Josephs ’03
- *Coming of Age in a Globalized World: The Next Generation* (Kumarian Publications) by J. Michael Adams and Angelo Carfagna ’89
- *For Gloria, Wherever You Are: A Novel* (PublishAmerica) by Edward Buhrer ’71 ’83 M.A.
- *Glory Days (Zebra)* by Irene Ceccato Peterson ’71
- *Hachi-Ko: The Samurai Dog* (PublishAmerica) by Shizuko Obo Koster ’70
- *Overkill: The Rise and Fall of Thriller Cinema* (McFarland & Company) by Bill Mesce, Jr. ’93 M.A.
- *The Atheist Syndrome* (Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers) by John Koster ’67
- *The Inferno Collection* (Five Star) by Jacqueline Seewald ’66
- *The Sacred Bones* (Harper) by Michael Byrnes ’93

The Office of Alumni and Community Relations welcomes news from alumni about recent publications or anything else! Please send your news to alumni@mail.montclair.edu.
Student Activism on Campus: Creating Change and Spreading Peace in a New Era

By Brian Yankouski ’08

Setting foot on the campus of Montclair State University as a freshman, I could hear music and students conversing as well as smell the aroma of food in the air as various student groups were joining together to celebrate culture and diversity on the Student Center Quad. Four years later, Montclair State still has that same essence, but there is a new wave of energy. The sounds of music are being accompanied by the voices of hundreds of students gathered chanting, “THIS IS MY CAMPUS!” The voices of students echoing throughout the University are felt by the faculty, staff and administration.

Now at Montclair State, the sight of rallies, candlelight vigils and demonstrations are far more common than even a few short years ago. In my four years at the University, I have observed a shift in students’ energy. Now, more than ever, students are becoming involved in politics, activism, human rights and social justice work.

Why is this happening now? There is a plethora of reasons why students have become more involved in activism in their community at Montclair. For one, some students become activists or involved in a cause because they have been touched by something through a personal experience such as knowing someone serving in the military or a family member with HIV/AIDS.

For me, that is how I became an activist on campus. During my freshman year, while I was a peer counselor at the Drop-In Center, I worked with a young woman who was a survivor of a sexual assault. This young woman taught me the meaning of true strength. From then on, I committed myself to helping educate and raise awareness in the community to end violence against women on college campuses. This is why I am involved with the Center for Non-Violence and Prevention Programs on campus under the mentorship of Jhion Velasco.

Historical and political events over the past four years have also played a significant role in the increase in student activism. When I first came to Montclair State, I was not even registered to vote because I thought that my vote did not matter. It was through professors and mentors that I learned that my vote can, and does, make a difference. I truly believe that with the upcoming presidential election, we have an opportunity to create change in the world and make history.

Many on campus agree. “Now there are things at stake,” says Anthony Neglio, vice president of the History Club. “For every action there is a reaction. For example, the economy is being affected and now we have a weak job market, or people are getting killed in Iraq so we react and protest the war. Now that we see what is occurring, we, as students, must do something about it. The political events of today are affecting our future as college students.”

Another reason for increased student involvement on campus is the profound impact of technological advancements. “During the war in Vietnam, we received information via the radio,” says Neglio. “This method was insufficient, so we turned to television to provide us with graphic,
visual images of world events. But during the Vietnam War, even the television began to be censored. So now we have resorted to the Internet to provide us with more accurate information of what’s happening in the world.”

Not only is this true with the news media but the Internet has had a huge impact on college students in many other ways, particularly with the creation of social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace. College students have become connected to a whole new world and it has affected the ways and rates at which students have become involved on campus.

These Web sites allow students to receive constant updates of what other student organizations are doing on campus. Furthermore, if students do not like something that has happened at the University, it takes just minutes to create a group on Facebook to allow students to voice their opinions. The University has already seen such Facebook groups protesting parking, housing and other concerns.

The Internet has also allowed students to organize large-scale events more rapidly. For example, when the school shootings occurred at Virginia Tech in April of 2007, it took just 24 hours for Montclair students to organize a candlelight vigil, promote it on Facebook and hold the event with over 200 members of the community in attendance. This is just one of many examples in which technological advances have aided in student involvement and activism at the University.

But with any form of student involvement, especially activism, there will always be supporters and dissenters. “One of the rewards of being an activist is knowing that you can make a difference to at least one person,” says Erica Emmich, a senior broadcasting major and president of Students Against Violence. “One of the challenges has been negativity from other students because when you are promoting something, students can give mean or negative responses because they are trying to degrade the cause you are promoting.”

Emmich feels the negative responses are usually because the dissenters think the cause is unimportant. “The reason they think it is unimportant is because they think it does not affect them,” notes Emmich. “In seeing this negativity, we have tried to make a change in people’s attitudes and have created programming on campus that is fun and inviting to students.”

In this new era of awakening student interest in involvement, there are more organizations raising awareness on global warming to organizations looking to end the genocide in Darfur. Students now are also showing renewed interest in politics. Just this past semester, the Latin American Student Organization and Lambda Theta Phi organized an event to gather to watch and discuss the results of the “Super Tuesday” primaries. Montclair State students are not only concerned citizens but are agents of change in their community.

I truly believe and hope that with our generation and the generations to come, there will be a great deal of positive change created—positive change not only at Montclair State but also in the U.S. and the world. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi we need to, “Be the change we want to see in the world.” I believe we are on the right path to making this happen because we are the future. Carpe futura!

Brian Yankouski recently graduated from Montclair State with a B.A. in psychology. While he was a student, he worked at the Center for Non-Violence and Prevention Programs, was a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and was actively involved in Students Against Violence. He now plans to take a year off to gain further practical experience in the field of psychology before enrolling in a doctoral program in clinical/community psychology.
Eleanor Gavegan ‘27 has the distinction of celebrating her centennial in the same year as that of her alma mater. Trained at Montclair as a teacher, Gavegan went on to a 40-year career teaching the first grade at schools in New Jersey and has enjoyed nearly as many years of retirement. She has two children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and enjoys reading, writing poetry and getting together with friends and family.

NEW JERSEY ROOTS
Gavegan was born Eleanor Wake in Bayonne, N.J., on the Fourth of July, 1907, just months before the New Jersey State Normal School at Montclair—which she would later attend—opened its doors. Since that day, “Ellie,” as she is known to family and friends, has lived, studied and worked in New Jersey and, quite frankly, has never felt the need to be anywhere else. She now lives in Long Valley with her daughter, Dale Reyes and Dale’s husband, Will.

DESTINED FOR EDUCATION
Gavegan grew up in Bayonne in a home above a tavern run by her father. She remembers it being “like a game room. It had pool tables and bowling alleys,” she recalls. From an early age, she loved reading and writing poetry and did very well in school, graduating from Bayonne High School as valedictorian of the class of 1925. She wanted to be a teacher so she enrolled at Montclair, choosing it over the other Normal Schools, because Montclair was considered the best in the state for training teachers.

“I couldn’t get into the dorm so I lived off campus with family friends,” Gavegan says. “They lived on Valley Road.” She walked the half mile to and from the campus each day and returned to Bayonne on the weekends. She was a member of a few clubs on campus but recalls that she wasn’t able to spend too much time with them because of living off campus and schoolwork. She also admits to being a bit strong-willed. “Sometimes [friends would] say, for instance, ‘Come on and let’s go here or there’ but I am not a person to be told what to do,” she laughs. “I was stubborn in that way.”

FORTY YEARS OF FIRST GRADE
As a teacher, Gavegan was a specialist: she taught first grade exclusively. Her first 20 years of teaching, stretching from the Great Depression through World War II, were spent in Bayonne. She recalls that during the 1930s, there was an influx of people coming to the U.S. from Germany in order to escape Hitler. Gavegan says that many of the German children were assigned to her classroom to learn English. Even older children were assigned to her class until they could speak English and join others of their age. She had students ranging in age “from first grade up,” she recalls. “They were all so anxious to speak English and be Americans,” she adds.

In the 1950s, Gavegan found a teaching position in Orange and began her next 20-year tenure teaching the first grade. It was while she was there that “Sesame Street” debuted on Public Television and shortly after that, Gavegan managed to convince her administration to allow her to put a television set in her classroom and to let the first graders watch “Sesame Street.” At that time, showing televised programming in a classroom was unusual enough that The Newark Evening News published a story about Gavegan and her class.

LIFE AFTER WORK
Since retiring, Gavegan has kept busy with many activities. She continues to read, write poetry and create artwork. A number of her poems, including one entitled “The Horror of Hate,” which she wrote after the tragedy of 9/11, have been published in local newspapers. For many years, she knitted lap robes for war veterans and was recently recognized by the Veterans Society for her years of service to the organization.

On the social side, Gavegan is still a member of the Long Valley Women’s Club and keeps in touch with her former teaching friends through a group they formed called the Retired Educator’s Gab Society, or “the REGS.” “We’re down to eight [members] now,” Gavegan says, “but we still get together twice a year to catch up.” She is now looking forward to her next birthday party, which will be a backyard barbecue like the one she had for her 100th birthday. And, according to Gavegan, the town is still talking about that one.
A Centennial Story: 
The Legacy of Evelyn Hock Walter ’25

“Beneath the Jersey skies so blue,
In Montclair’s mountain town,
There stands our College tried and true
And growing in renown…”

The familiar notes chime from the top of College Hall’s bell tower, and at all the University’s convocations and commencement ceremonies, but few know the story of the woman who penned these timeless lines.

Evelyn Hock Walter, the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor, entered the Normal School at Montclair in 1923, and went on to a long and distinguished teaching career, but she is best remembered by the Montclair State University community as the author and composer of the alma mater.

In this Centennial year, her daughter, Evie Walter Richards, with her husband Ty Richards ’71 M.A., traced her mother’s footsteps and came to visit the campus and see their grandson, Tyler Curtis Richards III, a Montclair State student.

“My mother was always very musical,” recalls Richards. “Our house was filled with the sounds of her on the piano, and she sang hymns with all of us children every day.”

In 1925, during Evelyn Hock’s second year, she entered a competition sponsored by the Music Department for a school song, and after performing her composition for the faculty, she won in a “hands down” victory. The song was immediately adopted by the school and has been the official school song ever since.

In spite of this early musical success, Walter focused her life’s work on teaching, not music. After graduation, she devoted herself to the profession, and spent most of her career teaching primary and secondary grades in South Orange and Passaic. She made such an impact on her students that many of them remembered her long into adulthood. Some, such as Dominick Massaro, kept in touch as they went off to serve in World War II and then returned to civilian life.

“As time goes by, my mind often wanders to the happiest time of my school days,” recalled the former student at Walter’s retirement party, “the days when I was fortunate enough to be a pupil in Mrs. Walter’s 6B class. Her love for her students, her devotion to her profession and her all-around goodness will always be cherished in my memories.”

Richards, on her recent visit to campus, remarked that she thinks her mother would be proud of the changes to the University that have taken place over the years. “She was a ‘born teacher’ and always so involved with students,” says Richards, “so I think the diversity of the students at Montclair would have especially pleased her.”

Evelyn Hock Walter
Summer 2008
11
First Person

Sandra Passchier

It all started with a family vacation in Norway. Every summer, my parents, my sister and I would embark on a four-week road trip to some interesting place in Europe from our hometown in the Netherlands. The car would be packed with tents and supplies for maximum mobility and flexibility so that we could visit even the most remote areas. One summer, my parents had decided we would visit Norway. On that trip, we explored the Jostedalsbreen ice cap and my father had arranged for a hike with a guide on the ice. I was 14 years old and I had just experienced my first lessons in geology and what fascinated me the most were volcanoes and plate tectonics. The trip would change everything.

As we were driving up the valley, I could see a dome of ice sticking out above the mountains. We passed a large moraine—a mound of debris left by a melting glacier—and behind it was a large blue lake. Further up the valley, at the foot of the Nygardshreen outlet glacier, we got out of the car and continued on foot with the guide. We were given crampons so we could walk on the slippery ice. The guide took us onto the ice, past gushing meltwater streams and moulins, holes in the surface of the glacier where meltwater disappeared into the depths below. The ice was sky blue in these places and I found it all fascinating. Looking down the valley, I saw the moraine with the lake behind it—the outline of the former footprint of the glacier. It really left an impression on me; what was going on here? Why did the glacier melt? From then on, my volcano and tectonics books began collecting dust as I read one book after another about snow and ice.

Twenty-five years later, I have completed five field seasons studying the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. On my first trip to the Arctic in 1992, our objective was to study the effect of global warming on the mass balance of the Greenland ice sheet.

My most recent trip to Antarctica took place in the fall of 2007. I participated in a multi-national drilling program with scientists from four nations: Italy, New Zealand, Germany and the United States. We are studying the response of the Antarctic ice sheet to a past episode of global warming approximately 14 million years ago.

I spent two months in a research station in the Ross Sea area of Antarctica. With a team of seven other scientists, I was describing and interpreting drill core samples that were brought in from the drill site out on the sea ice of the McMurdo Sound. After enduring temperatures of -22 degrees Fahrenheit—without the wind chill—while camping out on the ice during survival training, we were allowed to take a helicopter trip to survey some of the rock outcrops in the Transantarctic Mountains. Antarctic weather is incredibly unpredictable and we almost got stranded on the edge of the mountains in blowing snow and low-hanging clouds. It was all worth it. Only a few hundred geologists are studying a continent almost twice the size of the United States. I am thankful that I can be part of that group and I hope to inspire students to follow in my footsteps and to help advance the frontiers of science and exploration.

Sandra Passchier, Ph.D., is assistant professor of earth and environmental studies and an expert on sediment core samples. Her most recent field work was in 2007 with ANDRILL, the international drilling program based at the McMurdo Station research base in Antarctica.
A Bright Future Ahead for Montclair State as We Embark on Our Second Century

“There are many ways to support Montclair State,” says Thomas J. Haynes, Vice President for University Advancement. Some recent noteworthy contributions for scholarships, music and the humanities will benefit both today’s and tomorrow’s students.

Montclair State University’s Centennial Gala: 100 Scholarships for 100 Students, a glittering black-tie dinner-dance celebrating the University’s centennial, was held on May 3 in the new Student Recreation Center. Proceeds from the Gala established the Centennial Scholarship Fund, which creates 100 scholarships for 100 students in the University’s five colleges and schools. Longtime Board of Trustees member Rose Cali ’80 served as chair of the Gala Committee.

“I would like to give a special thanks to the hard-working members of our advisory boards of our schools and colleges,” says Haynes. “They were instrumental in ensuring the Gala’s success.”

The Centennial Honorees were recognized for their contributions of time, talent and resources. Pictured at left from left to right, they were Francis Cuss, senior vice president, Discovery and Exploratory Clinical Research, accepting for Bristol-Myers Squibb; Mitchell E. Hersh, president & CEO, Mack-Cali Realty Corporation; Douglas L. Kennedy, president of the New Jersey Division of Capital One Bank; and Nader Tavakoli, Esq. ’80, senior managing director, EagleRock Capital Management, LLC.

In other news, a distinguished alumna, Pamela W. Portin ’77, has established the Pamela Portin Scholarship for outstanding...
Spanning the University

All Things Italian Celebrated at Montclair State

“An Italian Sense of Place: Land and Identity,” an Italian Festival of the Arts and Humanities, took place at Montclair State University from January through May 2008. Bringing together artists, photographers, historians, literary scholars, architects, musicians, film critics and chefs from the United States and Italy, the Festival explored the many illustrations of land and identity within the broad framework of an Italian Sense of Place.

Montclair State was chosen for this international undertaking in part because of the large population of people of Italian descent living in New Jersey. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the total population of New Jersey in 2003 was 8.4 million people. Of that total, 1.6 million people were of Italian heritage, the largest single group.

With a comprehensive array of artistic events and educational programming with internationally renowned experts, the Italian Festival offered something for everyone. The event was organized by the Global Education Center, the George Segal Gallery, the Department of Art and Design, the John J. Cali School of Music, the Spanish/Italian Department, the History Department, the Health and Nutrition Sciences Department and the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America.

Montclair State “Goes Green” with Large-Scale Food Composter

Montclair State is ahead of the curve in the “green revolution” as the owner/operator of one of the few university-based aerobic composters in the nation. The composter, which is a demonstration model, can process a total of two cubic yards (approximately two tons) of food residue daily, is inexpensive to run (it costs about $3 a day), and is quiet and odor-free.

“The amount of food residue that ends up in landfills is astonishing,” says Nicholas Smith-Sebasto, associate professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies and the man in charge of the composter. “The food waste that is thrown out and ends up in landfills is a contributing factor to the ‘build out’ problem that has reached a critical point in New Jersey.”

In October, members of the environmental consortium, New Jersey Food Waste Recycling Initiative (NJFWRI), attended a demonstration of the composter. The members, comprising of individuals from organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Trenton Fuel Works, A&P Supermarkets, Whole Foods Stores, local municipalities, and Rutgers and Princeton universities watched as Smith-Sebasto demonstrated each step of the process from loading a hopper with food residue to extracting finished compost from the back of the unit.

Smith-Sebasto says that approximately one ton of food is diverted from the Montclair State waste stream each month into the composter. This food residue, which is collected through one location of the University’s food services vendor, Sodexho, is emptied into the bio-mixer where it is combined with wood chips, which act as a “bulking agent” to extract moisture while providing a source of carbon for the microbes that break down the food matter.

The mixture reaches a temperature of around 130 degrees Fahrenheit for several days, so it is odor-free, Smith-Sebasto explains. The material is rotated slowly (four times an hour, four times each day) to help break down the food residue, and three days later, it is completely broken down into usable material that is used to fertilize green spaces on campus.

The aerobic composter has been in operation since it arrived at Montclair State in the summer of 2007. Smith-Sebasto hopes that the success of the demonstration unit will help in his efforts to upgrade to a larger system that will be able to handle food recycling for the entire University. He points out that taking the residue of food that came from the earth and turning it into compost that is then returned to the earth is true recycling. “Do you want to be green?” he asks. “Well it doesn’t get any greener than this.”
2008 Sokol Science Forum Addresses the Environment and Sustainability

In March, students, faculty and guests gathered in Kasser Theater to learn about sustainability and the environment at the College of Science and Mathematics’ annual Margaret and Herman Sokol Science Forum. Featuring a keynote address by global warming expert Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D., a member of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Committee on Climate Change and a professor at Princeton University, the forum explored the theme: “The Environment and Sustainability: The Next 100 Years.”

Following the keynote address, Oppenheimer was joined—for a panel discussion—by Andrés Edwards, founder and president of EduTracks, a firm specializing in green building and sustainability education; Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Eric Svenson, vice president of environment, health and safety, PSEG Services Corporation; and moderator, Ira Flatow, NPR Science Correspondent and host of “Talk of the Nation: Science Friday.”

“We are proud to present this esteemed group of experts to discuss one of the most critical issues of our times,” said Robert S. Prezant, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. “We have a special obligation to this and future generations to address this issue and seek answers from recognized authorities such as those featured at this year’s forum.”

Established with a generous gift from benefactors Margaret Sokol ’38 and Herman Sokol ’37, the Sokol Science Forum annually provides an opportunity for members of the University and surrounding communities to gain a greater appreciation and expanded knowledge of important issues in science. Each semester, a speaker of national or international renown is invited to the University to meet with faculty and students to conduct a seminar. The forum provides members of the University community with a rare opportunity to meet and speak with some of science’s top experts.

American Spring Celebrates American Arts

A celebration of the best of homegrown, modernist American performing arts, American Spring, featuring works by American performance icons such as Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein and Martha Graham, was held in April. Organized by Neil Baldwin, distinguished visiting professor at the College of the Arts, for the University’s centennial, the two-day event combined live music, drama and dance performances with film and commentary by a panel of experts comprised of artists, scholars, authors and professors.

Performances included excerpts from the opera Elmer Gantry, the drama Machinal, and the dance “Steps in the Street,” as well as the film Fancy Free. Discussion on the historical, social and political contexts and implications of these examples of American performing arts followed each piece. A podcast featuring Baldwin talking about American Spring is at www.montclair.edu/americanspring/podcast.

In addition to Baldwin, participants included Robert Aldridge, Elmer Gantry composer and director of the John J. Cali School of Music; Herschel Garfein, Elmer Gantry librettist; Jennifer Rivera, mezzo-soprano; Matthew Avery Sutton, author and professor at Oakland University; Rosemary Andress, director of Machinal; Liz Coen, dramaturg; Jerry Dickey, author and professor at the University of Arizona; Denise Vale, senior artistic director of the Martha Graham Dance Company; and Amanda Vaill, author of Somewhere: The Life of Jerome Robbins.

In order to have the program reach the widest possible audience, American Spring was presented at the Kasser Theater on the first day, and on the second day, it was taken on the road and presented at various Montclair community locations. The community outreach “lifts the opera, dance, and drama out of the University setting that engendered them and into the community surrounding us,” says Baldwin.

With superb performances and enlightening discussion and commentary, American Spring was a hit with audiences both at the University and in the community. It was indeed a fitting way to celebrate the best of American performing arts.
Maurice Torres: a Courageous Student Athlete

Maurice Torres, a junior with the Red Hawks men’s basketball team, was recently named the recipient of the Giant Steps Courageous Student-Athlete Award for 2007 by the National Consortium for Academics and Sports at its 10th Annual Awards Banquet in Orlando, Florida. This national award is given in recognition of students who have overcome obstacles or challenges in their lives and succeeded in athletics and academics, their pursuit of life goals and their commitment to the community.

At the event, Torres was lauded and sought out by some of the top names in collegiate sports, both past and present, who took the time to congratulate him on his honor. “The experience was amazing,” said Torres. “Just being able to meet other individuals and families who have had their own struggles and, through the grace of God overcame them, was great.”

Torres’ story of personal courage is one of great inspiration. When he was only four years old, Torres and his mother were homeless and had to sleep in alleyways while his sisters stayed with relatives. On the streets, he was forced to witness drug use, violence and prostitution before eventually being moved to the foster care system.

Determined to keep the family together, Torres moved from home to home until he and his sisters found a loving family that could provide for them all. They spent two years there before being sent to an orphanage for a year until they were taken in—and eventually adopted—by the Davis family.

Torres, the first in his family to go to college, has excelled in both sports and academics at Montclair State. He also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and tutors middle school children. He is president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and participates in many other activities. A campus leader and a role model, Torres is a true asset to the University community.

A Bright Future Ahead for Montclair State

During her student days, Portin, a political science major, was an R.A. at Bohn Hall, which she visited during her trip to the campus.

An anonymous benefactor has made the lead gift to the John J. Cali School of Music’s Commissioning Project. This initiative will create new musical compositions for one of Montclair’s outstanding student ensembles and support the development of New Jersey’s talented young musicians.

For more information on the Cali School’s Commissioning Project, contact Keith Wiggs at 973-655-3443 or e-mail wiggsk@mail.montclair.edu.

The Campaign for the Second Century has already surpassed its $50 million goal to support Montclair State. “Our advisory board members in particular have served as strong advocates for the University this year,” says Haynes. “Everyone has pulled together and been very supportive of our programs and events.”

“We have a bright future ahead for our second century,” Haynes adds.
First “Theatre Day for Teachers” a Success

Over 80 New Jersey high school theatre teachers gathered at the University in January to participate in the first ever “Theatre Day for Teachers.” Organized by the College of the Arts’ Department of Theatre and Dance, the full-day event provided participants with opportunities to attend performance- and production-related workshops, network with peers, share best practices and learn about the theatre programs at the University.

Theatre Day for Teachers was conceived by Susan Kerner, associate professor of theatre and dance, in response to the need for professional development opportunities for secondary school arts teachers in the state. “High school theatre teachers are dedicated professionals who do everything in their productions from choreography to lighting design. They are looking for ways to enhance and expand their skills,” says Kerner. “This event was organized to help meet that need and to give participants an opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow high school theatre arts professionals.”

With a dozen workshops on topics such as audition techniques, Broadway choreography, stage management and theatre games, participants had ample opportunity to learn about the latest trends and techniques in theatre and to take away new ideas to use in the classroom and at rehearsal. Taught by faculty of the Theatre and Dance Department and visiting theatre professionals, the workshops were timely, informative and lively.

Based on the overwhelmingly positive reactions of the high school teachers, Kerner believes the Theatre Day for Teachers should be an annual event. “With such an enthusiastic response in the first year, we plan to continue this program and possibly expand this day-long conference to a week-long summer institute at Montclair State,” she says.

Elmer Gantry Shines at Montclair State

With a sold-out run of four performances, Elmer Gantry, the new American opera with music composed by Robert Aldridge, director of Montclair State’s John J. Cali School of Music, and libretto by Herschel Garfein, came to the University in January. The opera, a coproduction of Montclair State University and the Nashville Opera, had its world premiere in Nashville in November 2007 and news of its success there made its Montclair State debut eagerly anticipated.

Living up to its billing, the Montclair State performances of Elmer Gantry won rave reviews from audiences and critics alike. Vivien Schweitzer wrote in The New York Times, “The opera is a tunefully entertaining and thoughtful piece of theater.” In addition to praising the professional singers, Schweitzer also lauded the student performers noting that “the well-rehearsed student chorus sang with heartfelt conviction,” and “the Montclair State University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Paul Hostetter, played with more polish and verve than some professional ensembles.”

Without a doubt, Elmer Gantry was a highlight of the 2007-2008 Peak Performances@Montclair season and a production that will be talked about for years to come. It was a showcase for the creativity and talent that exists here at Montclair State.
The “Real Men of MSU” Featured on Calendar

The “Real Men of MSU” campaign kicked off in January with the unveiling of the “2008 Real Men of MSU” calendar. Organized by the University’s Center for Non-Violence and Prevention Programs (CNVPP), the campaign seeks to raise awareness of women’s issues and to lessen campus violence against women by honoring men who have been recognized by the University community as personifying these goals.

“This year’s calendar features 12 extraordinary men who have been nominated by the community for the positive impact they make on campus,” says Jhon H. Velasco, director of the CNVPP. “These men not only exhibit respect for women and women’s issues, but actively support the end of violence against women through word and action. The community is fortunate to have them on campus as role models.”

Among the many initiatives of the CNVPP, the “Real Men of MSU” campaign is notable for its high profile on campus. In addition to the popular calendar featuring the stories and photos of the men, posters and ads are also produced, increasing the “visibility” of the campaign. The men, who either work for or attend Montclair State, serve as spokespeople for the campaign and for the cause of ending violence against women.

Begun in 2005 to serve as a vehicle to help create a safe learning, working and living environment based on equality, respect and freedom from all forms of violence, the CNVPP works collaboratively with faculty, staff and students toward these goals. In 2006, Montclair State and the CNVPP were honored for their efforts with the prestigious Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Award. Montclair State was the only institution in the nation to be presented with the award that year.

Montclair State Among the Top 10 Schools for Teacher Preparation in the Nation

Montclair State was named one of the 10 top schools in the nation for teacher preparation by Edutopia, the voice of the George Lucas Educational Foundation. The University’s College of Education and Human Services was lauded for its innovative programs for teacher preparation and for its interdisciplinary approach to innovations based on the needs of public schools.

Calling attention to the crisis that confronts teacher preparation in the United States, the George Lucas Educational Foundation selected Montclair State from among more than 1,200 schools of education because of its innovative teacher preparation programs that more closely mirror the demands of teaching in real classrooms. Each of the 10 institutions selected by the Foundation was featured in its November/December 2007 issue of Edutopia and on Edutopia.org.

“I am delighted to hear this exciting news,” said Ada Beth Cutler, dean of the College of Education and Human Services. “I am so proud of the talented and dedicated faculty and staff who have truly earned this designation as one of the 10 leading schools of education in the nation.”

Montclair State was hailed for its interdisciplinary approach to innovations based on the needs of public schools. At the College’s pioneering Center of Pedagogy, faculty from arts and sciences, education and the public schools are equally involved in the ongoing work of teacher education. Within the Center of Pedagogy, the MSU Network for Educational Renewal is the school-university partnership with 25 nearby school districts where students from Montclair State do their field work, and faculty from the University teach courses and mentor students on-site. The Foundation commended Montclair State’s close partnerships with public schools.

The Edutopia article noted that since Montclair State’s beginnings in 1908 as a modest two-year college focused on helping young women become grade school teachers, to its current status as the second-largest university in the state, it has never given up on teacher preparation. Although universities with similar backgrounds sometimes obscure their humble beginnings by eliminating teacher education programs or turning them into cash cows, Montclair State, to its credit, has never done so. It is another in a long list of reasons that explain why Montclair State has one of the top 10 teacher preparation programs in the nation.
Get connected.

We’re cultivating a national Montclair State University alumni online network and we want you to be a part of it. Register now to access:

- A searchable alumni directory of nearly 90,000 graduates
- A business card directory where you can list or look for services
- Your own space to create your own profile
- Class notes and centennial stories
- The latest updates on regional group happenings
- Photos of recent events
- Career networking services

This password-protected site is accessible only to Montclair State University alumni. You’ve got connections. Use them.

Go to www.msualumcommunity.com, click on “Not registered yet?” and enter your last name and Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you don’t know your PIN, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 973-655-4141.
This year, Montclair State University celebrates its centennial year. It has been a time of reflection and visioning. Centennial celebrations featured a number of memorable events to commemorate the University’s growth and expansion during the past century, reconnecting alumni with the University and with each other. It has also been a time for looking forward, examining the needs of the University and its role in this next century.

Alumni have played a major role throughout the year. The University's administration has taken great pride in acknowledging the accomplishments and contributions of the alumni. We, as alumni, join in celebrating the success of the University and rejoice in the role Montclair State has played in our lives.

During this centennial year, I am pleased to inform you that the MSUAA has pledged a $400,000 contribution to the University to be paid in annual installments over the next eight years. This brings the MSUAA total contributions, over the past 10 years, to $1 million—$500,000 for the amphitheater restoration project, $100,000 to kick off the centennial celebration and, now, $400,000 to support University advancement efforts. This is an unprecedented amount from the MSUAA in the University’s history. Your continued support and contributions have made this possible.

As we look to the next century, one of our goals is to improve alumni relations. Although there are approximately 96,000 alumni scattered around the globe, we remain connected to only a few—probably fewer than 10 percent. Your Alumni Association has been in conversations with the University’s administration to assist in improving our outreach efforts. As part of a joint initiative, we are poised to conduct an alumni relations study to determine how best we can reach out and reconnect with our fellow alumni. Following the study, a task force will be convened to develop plans based on the proposed recommendations. These plans will serve as our joint strategic plan to bring alumni home.

Finally, I must say that it has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your MSUAA president over the past two years and at this moment in time—the centennial year. There is a genuine spirit of camaraderie that connects us, as evidenced by those of you whom I met at alumni gatherings and receptions. There is a sense of purpose that continues to embody the Montclair experience. I am proud to be a small part of that history. As the University looks forward to its next hundred years, I am confident that we, the alumni, will continue to assist in shaping the future of our beloved alma mater.

Carpe futura!

Frank Alvarez ’76, president, Montclair State University Alumni Association

MSU’s Biggest Alumni Reunion…Ever!

You—all 96,000 of you—are invited to Montclair State’s biggest alumni reunion ever. No matter what year you graduated, no matter what the school was called when you graduated—Montclair State is your home. And we would like to invite you back home for a reunion unlike any other.

The Centennial Festival, celebrating Montclair State’s 100 years, will take place Sat. Sept. 20 on the Montclair State campus. The event will feature food stands, arts and crafts kiosks, musical and dance performances, parades and much more.

A VIP Alumni Reception Area has been designated in the President’s Circle at the main entrance to College Hall where you can gather with classmates from each decade, look at old yearbooks and reminisce about your days at Montclair.

Bring your friends and family and plan on spending the whole day taking in the sights and sounds all around campus. The event will culminate with an exclusive evening concert and celebratory fireworks.

Let us know if you’re thinking of coming to this spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime reunion by visiting www.montclair.edu/alumni. We want to make sure we have all the preparations in place to welcome you home. Hope to see you there!

Class of 1983:

This is your opportunity to celebrate your silver anniversary! We’ll have a special spot in the Alumni Reception area just for you to commemorate 25 years since your graduation. Start spreading the word to your classmates! If you or anyone you know from the Class of ’83 is interested in chairing a committee to help spread the word to your classmates and make your 25th reunion the best it can be, contact the Office of Alumni & Community Relations at 973-655-4141 or e-mail alumni@mail.montclair.edu.

Frank Alvarez ’76, president, Montclair State University Alumni Association
Alumni are making connections in chapters (based on a particular geographical area) and in groups (based on a similar interest) across the country. Current active chapters and groups include: Bergen County (N.J.), Black Alumni, Communication Studies, MBA, San Diego area, Capitol (Washington, D.C.) area and Southeast Florida. Join one of these today or consider organizing one of your own. The Montclair State University Advancement staff is available to help alumni take the first steps in creating a chapter or group. If you are interested in developing a chapter or group, contact the Office of Alumni Relations or visit www.msualumcommunity.com, Chapters & Groups for information on the activities.
For the fourth consecutive year, the Montclair State University Alumni Association has partnered with Thomas P. Gohagan & Company to offer alumni unique and affordable vacation packages. In 2009, the offerings are as exciting as ever. Trips include deluxe accommodations, meals, guided tours and special educational and cultural enrichment programs. Book early as these vacations sell out quickly.

**Australia/ South Pacific**
Island Life in Tahiti & French Polynesia/S.Y. Star Flyer
- March 15 - 23, 2009
- 8 nights (7-night cruise through the French Polynesia islands of Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea, Raiatea, and Huahine)
- Priced from $2,795

European Sea Cruises
Island Life in Ancient Greece & Turkey/M.S. Le Diamant
- September 27 - October 5, 2009
- 7 nights (embark Istanbul/7 nights at sea/disembark Athens)
- Priced from $2,995

**Deluxe Land/Cruise Tours:**
Treasures of Southern Africa
- April 3 - 16, 2009
- 13 days discovering the wonders of South Africa. Travel along the soaring mountains of Cape Town, the flat-tops of the historic Robben Island, the serene landscapes of the Cape Peninsula coastline, the world’s greatest majestic Victoria Falls in Zambia, and the Gold City of Johannesburg
- Priced from $5,595

**Discoveries/Escapades: China**
Discovery—Beijing, Xi’an, Yangtze Cruise, Shanghai
- October 28 - November 9, 2009
- 12-day excursion includes exploring the secrets of China’s intrinsic mystique and highlights of its breathtaking countryside in Beijing, the legions of Terra Cotta Warriors in Xi’an, cruising the Yangtze River and strolling along the elegant Bund in cosmopolitan Shanghai
- Priced from $2,695

For more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 973-655-4141 or visit: www.montclair.edu/pages/Alumni/AlumniTravel.shtml.

**NEW AFFINITY PROGRAMS BEING OFFERED**

Join the more than 150 Montclair State University alumni who are currently saving on auto insurance with Group Savings Plus®. Montclair State alumni qualify for a special Group Savings Plus discount of up to 10% on Liberty Mutual’s already competitive auto insurance rates. Plus, alumni can enjoy benefits including accident forgiveness, emergency roadside assistance, 24-hour claims service and more. Call 1-800-524-9400 today for a free rate quote and see how much you could save, or go to www.libertymutual.com/lm/montclair.

The MSUAA has recently finalized plans to partner with Marsh Affinity Group Services who will bring to alumni discounted insurance offers on long-term care insurance, 10-year life insurance and short-term medical insurance designed for those who are recent college graduates, unemployed, in between jobs and/or in need of an alternative to COBRA. To learn more about any of these alumni services options, call 1-888-560-ALUM (2586) or visit www.mcsuaaalumniservices.com.
COMMENCEMENT AND CONVOCATIONS HIGHLIGHT ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Mikhail Baryshnikov, Governor Jon S. Corzine and Jane Holl Lute ’78, Assistant Secretary-General for Mission Support in the United Nations’ Department of Peacekeeping Operations, received honorary degrees and addressed Montclair State University’s Class of 2008 at the Commencement ceremony. Baryshnikov received an Honorary Doctor of Letters, Corzine received an Honorary Doctor of Laws and Lute received an Honorary Doctor of Laws.

In addition to the honorary degrees at commencement, others were awarded at convocation ceremonies:


Ronald Califre ’72, senior vice president and head of research and development, U.S. operations, and head of Pharma Development Operations in the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. Honorary Doctor of Science, College of Science and Mathematics.

Amy Mansue, president and chief executive officer of Children’s Specialized Hospital. Honorary Doctor of Letters, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.


Craig Newmark, founder of Craigslist. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, School of Business.

Also honored at the College of the Arts convocation was Christine Nagy ’98, actress and radio show host, who was awarded the Tom Leonardis Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. This year’s Commencement was special: in addition to conferring degrees on the 2008 graduates, it served as a celebration marking the University’s centennial. Throughout the almost two-hour ceremony, video messages from alumni and other notable figures were shown on the big screen, congratulating the University and the students on their achievements. Participants in the video included Eleanor Gavegan ’27, Melba Moore ’70, Yogi Berra, and former Governor Richard Codey, among others. The ceremony concluded with a spectacular pyrotechnic display.

Charles L. Magliaro ’54 ’58 M.A. established an endowed scholarship for mathematics and science education majors.

“There Was Never a Doubt”

“I appreciate so much what Montclair State has meant to me. I wanted to give something back. There was never a doubt that I would give to education. Accordingly, I have established an endowed scholarship for mathematics and science education majors. I hope that in some small way, my gift will help ensure Montclair State’s commitment to academic excellence.”

Charles L. Magliaro ’54 ’58 M.A.

Charles wanted to make a gift with a lasting impact. He chose to do it by creating a percentage bequest in his will. Generous and thoughtful planning today can benefit you, your family and future Montclair State University students. Some of the many types of planned gifts you may want to consider are:

• Bequests through wills and trusts
• Beneficiary designations
• Life insurance policies
• Life income gifts

“I am proud to have been a part of Montclair State, its growth and development, and everything it stands for,” Charles adds.

For more information about how you can support Montclair State through careful estate planning, please contact Judy Echeveria Linder ’83 at 973-655-5454 or lindery@mail.montclair.edu.
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF AN “ALUMNI FAMILY?”

The Office of Alumni Relations is interested in gathering data on our “alumni families”—multigenerational family members who attended Montclair State. Do you have an MSU family tree? Tell us the story of your Montclair State roots for a future article in the Alumni Magazine; alumnionline@mail.montclair.edu.

CAREER SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT

The Center for Career Services and Community-based Learning needs your input. The Center is interested in learning about your employment status and is offering you the opportunity to provide suggestions to improve services to current students and alumni. Take a few moments to complete a brief survey at http://tinyurl.com/5voff6. Don’t forget to look around the Center’s Web site at www.montclair.edu/careerservices to learn about programs of interest to alumni.

CLASS OF 1958 REUNION WEEKEND A BIG SUCCESS

Members of the Class of 1958 celebrated their 50th anniversary in style. They began their celebration with an upscale cocktail party on May 22 in the University Hall Conference Center. The next day, members of the Class of ’58 were honored at Montclair State’s Commencement exercises at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J. (above). The reunion class led the special Centennial Commencement wearing academic caps and gowns and the official golden anniversary sash. Following Commencement, the Class of 1958 had a chance to relax and reminisce at a luncheon in their honor.

From Off-Camera to On-the-Air

The technical aspect of television is what drew Ines Rosales ’04 to Montclair State. But, just a few short years after graduating, she has moved from behind the camera to in front of it. Since 2007, Rosales has been the traffic correspondent for Fox 5 Television’s “Good Day New York” and has found that she likes being on camera as much as she liked being behind the scenes.

Rosales wasn’t an on-air reporter when she began working at Metro Traffic, her first job after graduating from Montclair State. “I was a camera operator,” she says. “After a while, they suggested I try going in front of the camera, so I did.” It took a lot of work to learn the ropes of being in front of the camera but Rosales soon became comfortable with reporting and when Fox 5 had an opening for a traffic correspondent, she applied and got the job.

She credits the broadcast program at Montclair State for preparing her for the rigors of the profession. “I’m really glad I chose Montclair,” says Rosales. “It was a demanding program but really prepared you for the real world.” Rosales recalls how she and her fellow broadcast majors thought Larry Londino, chair of the Department of Broadcasting, was really tough. “But if I saw him now,” she laughs, “I’d tell him ‘You are such a pushover compared to the people in the real world!’”

Rosales became interested in the technical side of broadcasting during her senior year at Belleville High School and decided to attend Montclair State because of the broadcast program. “I had heard great things about Montclair,” she says. “You got personalized attention from faculty because the department was relatively small.”

Her advice to those trying to break into the broadcast industry is “Nothing in life is easy; you just need to keep trying.” Rosales certainly isn’t taking it easy: her day begins at 2:30 a.m. and she commutes into Manhattan to start work at 3:30 a.m. Though the hours are early and the work is demanding, she has taken it all in stride and looks on the positive side, saying, “I’m usually done around 10 or 11 [a.m.] and I have the rest of the day off.”

She laughs as she brings up another plus to her early hours: “The good thing about it is that I don’t have to deal with traffic.”
New Jersey State Librarian is Tops in the Nation

Every state in the union has a state librarian, and for New Jersey, that title belongs to Norma E. Blake ’71. She has been the State Librarian since 2001 and if being one of only 50 state librarians in the country were not enough, Blake was recently recognized by *Library Journal* as the “Librarian of the Year,” perhaps the most prestigious national award a librarian can receive.

“This award is all about role models, and Norma Blake is a model for state librarians and librarians everywhere,” said *Library Journal* Editor-in-Chief Francine Fialkoff in bestowing the award. “She has energized librarians throughout the state, empowering them to develop and deliver better library services and marketing those services to New Jersey residents.”

Although Blake has gained national recognition for her innovative work in the library sciences, she did not always want to be a librarian. In fact, as a young woman growing up in New Jersey, she was not even sure that she wanted to go to college. However, she listened to her parents’ advice to take some business courses before looking for a job and enrolled at Montclair State as a business major.

“I soon found that wasn’t what I wanted to do,” Blake laughs. “I loved English so I thought I would be an English major but the major was full and I couldn’t get in.” Thanks to some lobbying from an English professor, she was admitted to the major and graduated with a B.A. in English and a minor in reading.

Blake first worked as a teacher in private adult education in an urban area but after a harrowing incident—“I was robbed at gunpoint,” she recalls—she decided to work for public enterprises. Blake earned a master’s in library science from Rutgers and has worked in libraries in New Jersey ever since.

Of the many groundbreaking programs Blake has instituted during her tenure as state librarian, she is most proud of the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative, a collaboration of government, business and libraries that provides thousands of small businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers and students with free access to expensive published research sources in the fields of business, technology, science and medicine.

“Through this program, in two years we have spent just $6 million for $74.5 million worth of licensing,” she says. “The program has helped everyone in the state—libraries, schools and businesses. It was the first time we were able to show businesses that libraries were important to their success.”

Other programs Blake has spearheaded include the outreach program featuring the hugely popular comic book character Super Librarian, and the pioneering “Trading Spaces” program which helps libraries create new spaces to encourage greater usage. Blake wants to build on this successful program by instituting “Senior Spaces,” which will help libraries create spaces especially for seniors, the fastest-growing demographic. “People are used to seeing Children’s Rooms in libraries, so why not Seniors’ Rooms?” she asks.

Blake is characteristically optimistic about the future of libraries saying, “Our future is very bright.” Detractors who say that the Internet will make libraries obsolete do not faze her. Blake maintains that libraries provide a social environment and personalized services that the Internet cannot. “After all,” she adds wryly, “do you want 50,000 hits or do you want the right answer? No, I can’t imagine people will stop coming to libraries any time in the near future.”

Spoken like a true Super Librarian.
Is It Real or Forged? Handwriting Expert, Robert Baier ’77 M.A., Can Tell

Handwriting expert, forensic document examiner or forgery expert—whatever you call him, Robert Baier ’77 M.A. is a very busy man. If he is not giving a deposition or testifying in court as an expert witness, he is dealing with the many clients who seek his expertise on everything from contested wills and deeds to forged checks and suspect signatures.

Baier, who works with Handwriting Services International (HSI), is a much sought after document examiner and handwriting expert. He has solved high-profile cases such as Marlon Brando’s disputed will and multiple cases for UPS’s Department of National Security. He has appeared on television on “Inside Edition” and spoken at numerous conferences around the nation.

Baier is also a retired high school physical education and health teacher and an outdoor enthusiast who has jumped out of planes at 14,000 feet and has been on a team that set a North American canoe record on the Penobscot River, among other feats. “I was a little bit of an overachiever,” he says simply.

Born in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, Baier received a B.S. in Physical Education from the University of Bridgeport before landing a job teaching in New Jersey at the Northern Valley Regional High School District. While teaching there, he attended Montclair State and earned an M.A. in physical education. As a physical education teacher, Baier was instrumental in helping Project Adventure—the high rope challenge course program—get started in New Jersey and spent the next 15 to 20 years teaching it.

As his retirement approached, Baier began to study document examination and became a Certified Handwriting Expert and document examiner. He then launched a Web site, partnered with HSI, and has been doing document work exclusively since 2003.

“There are two separate fields of handwriting experts,” Baier explains. “One is a handwriting analyst or graphologist who deals with the personality profiling of a person based on their handwriting. The other is a handwriting expert who is trained to determine the authorship of a handwriting sample, which is what I do. I can testify in court—a graphologist can’t.”

Although attorney-generated cases involving court testimony take up quite a bit of his time, Baier says that most of his business comes from the general public through his Web site. “The most common work I do is verifying the authenticity of wills,” says Baier. “You would be amazed at how often a person passes away and all of a sudden, a new will pops up that no one has ever seen before. And it almost always leaves everything to the person who ‘found’ it.”

Always ready for a new challenge, Baier is now branching out into college speaking. Drawing on his years of experience, he is developing educational speaking programs on topics such as campus safety and identity theft and he plans to launch a new company soon. His years of teaching high school students have benefitted him in another way too. “When I’m in front of a jury now,” Baier says, “I can absolutely get what I want to say across to them and know that they will understand me one hundred percent.”

superintendent of High Point Regional High School from 1971 to 1993 as well as president and longtime member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

George Mamunes ’67 M.A., following his retirement, has written So Has a Daisy Vanished: Emily Dickinson and Tuberculosis, published last year.


Dr. Jay Strauss Teran ’67 M.A., a member of the Actors’ Equity Association, continues to work on stage, having recently played the father, Maurice, in Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.” He was featured in the Broadway centennial of “Babes in Toyland” at Lincoln Center.

Louis Kirschner was a guest lecturer at Kingsborough Community College’s Health Fair. He spoke about diabetes and how families should get involved in the emotional support of their loved ones who suffer from diabetes. Kirschner is a longtime instructor in the Health and Physical Education Department at Kingsborough in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Laurel Sevack Bernstein graduated from Baruch College (CUNY) Zicklin Business School’s Professional Coaching program and has become an executive coach.

Alfred V. Roman was listed in the 2007 and 2008 editions of Who’s Who in America.

Jacqueline Seewald retired from teaching as an educational media specialist in New Jersey and now writes full time. Her seventh book of fiction, The Inferno Collection, was published last year.
Patricia Letchko Waller received the Outstanding Contribution to Discipline Award for Teaching, Learning and Technology from the College of Education of Lehigh University. Waller taught students in grades five through the graduate level for 40 years before retiring in 2006 from Emmaus High School in Pennsylvania. Waller reviews books and articles for The American Biology Teacher, the journal of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). In 2005, she was elected to the Board of Directors of NABT and served as president in 2007.

Daniel Derrico M.A. recently retired from a 42-year career in education, mostly as a community college administrator in three states, including having been the district vice chancellor for administration and finance, and the interim chancellor of Alamo Community College District in San Antonio, Texas (five college campuses).

Theresa A. Bowman Downing has published a book of autobiographical poems called A Hard Head and Delayed Blessings. The works follow the course of her life as a black woman including her battle with cancer.

Carol Baggerly Panzer retired from the San Lorenzo Valley United School District in 2005 and is currently living with her husband, Wayne, on a catamaran in Puerta Vallarta, Mexico. In the fall, they plan on sailing to the South Pacific.

Nancy Yelenik Goldberg retired after 22 years with Bank of America’s Global Corporate Investment Bank and its predecessor companies. Goldberg started her technology career, prior to moving to the Chicago area, with CommSys Inc. in Cherry Hill, N.J. Earlier, she was a music teacher at Governor Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights, N.J.

Jerry Ice M.A. is the CEO and president of the Graduate School, USDA, a continuing education institution in Washington, D.C. Previously, he served 18 years as provost at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J.

Ray Hannisian was invited to participate in testing of new proprietary software being developed by 3ality Digital to allow for alignment and depth placement of the “U23D” film footage to a degree not previously possible. Hannisian moved to California for an entire year to apply what became known as “Stereoscopic Depth Balancing” to the movie.

Stan Jakubik ’76 M.A. was elected president of the Board of Directors of the Higher Education User Group (HEUG). Jakubik is the assistant vice chancellor of the University System of Maryland where he has held a variety of positions for the past 17 years, his last position as assistant provost for Student Academic Services. Jakubik was elected to the HEUG board in 2004 and served two terms as its executive vice president.

Mark Rudnick is chair of the New Jersey chapter of the National Corvette Restorers Society. Since retiring in 2005 from a 35-year career as a speech and language specialist with the Carteret public schools, Rudnick has been a consultant providing research and marketing services for buyers and sellers of classic Corvettes. He has written articles for The Corvette Restorer and Corvette Market magazines.

Donna L. Ruggerio Lish ’78 M.A. will be featured in the book, Knitting Art: Expanding the Boundaries of Knitting, by Karen Searle, to be released this fall. Her work has been or will be in several exhibitions this year including the New Jersey Arts Annual Crafts at the Montclair Art Museum; “Beyond Knitting: Uncharted Stitches,” at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, California; and “Contemporary Repetition: Soft Sculptural Media,” Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences.

Gloria J. Thurmond ’71 M.A. had her article, “Ecology and Mary: An Ecological Theology of Mary as the New Eve in Response to the Church’s Challenge for a Faith-Based Education in Ecological Responsibility,” published in Catholic Education: A Journal of Inquiry and Practice, a quarterly scholarly journal published by the University of Notre Dame. The article is an evolution of Thurmond’s doctor of ministry thesis, which she completed in 2002 at Drew University.

William Y. Fellenberg was named associate vice president for University Advancement at New Jersey City University. Fellenberg had served since June 2005 as executive director of the International Institute of New Jersey, a service and advocacy organization for refugees and immigrants. Fellenberg is a member of the MSUAA.

John Lingenfelter earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies from Newburgh Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Ind.

Marcy LoCastro was appointed managing partner of the executive services firm Tatum, in New York City. She has served as associate managing partner since September 2007. LoCastro has more than 30 years’ experience working with CEOs and CFOs. She was the first woman partner at JH Cohn LLP, Arthur Andersen and Ernst & Young in their New Jersey offices. She is a 2007 NJBIZ “Best 50 Women in Business,” and serves as president of the Executive Women of New Jersey.

Linda Leitstein Mango was named Coach of the Year for Bowling at Long Branch High School in Long Branch, N.J., where she teaches Health and Physical Education. She also serves as the head girls and boys varsity tennis coach.

Joan Mietzuk Migton teaches English at Abraham Clark H.S. in Roselle, N.J. She is also the adviser to the newspaper, The Rampage, and to the school’s National Honor Society chapter.
Making a Difference through Design

Not many Montclair State alumni can say that they have played a part in the birth of a nation, but Valon Sopaj ’03 is one who can. On February 17, 2008, the new nation of Kosova was born, and a monumental public sculpture entitled “NEWBORN” was unveiled in the capitol city of Prishtina. Sopaj, a graduate of the graphic design specialization of the Department of Art and Design, is a member of the team of designers that envisioned, designed and created the sculpture.

“NEWBORN was brought to life by a few artists who wanted to mark the Independence Day of Kosova in a specific way,” says Sopaj, who is manager and creative lead for the Interactive Design Division of Ogilvy Kosova in Prishtina. “This sculpture was created for a specific time and place, and for a specific reason.”

Kosova (also referred to as “Kosovo” in the U.S.) is a long way from Declo, Idaho, where, in 1998, Sopaj arrived as a 17-year-old exchange student. After a year and a half there, he moved to New Jersey because of the many opportunities in the tri-state area. “I guess I was a small-town kid with big-city dreams,” says the Kosova native. After a short time at CUNY Manhattan, he switched to Montclair State and never looked back. “I was completely lucky to stumble upon Montclair State,” he recalls. “I was interested in finding a school that offered a great environment to study in and allowed me to feel confident in my intellectual development.” Then he adds, “Though I have to say that I applied because of its basketball program.”

Although Sopaj soon dropped his basketball aspirations—he didn’t make the team—he did find a new goal: to become a graphic designer. “Montclair State has a great Art and Design department,” he says. “There’s something about its students and professors that make it special.” In particular, Sopaj is grateful for the tutelage of John Luttropp, now chair of the Department of Art and Design. “His ideas, questions and thoughts on design are always a source of inspiration that has guided me throughout my career,” says Sopaj.

That career has included working for an advertising agency, founding his own design firm, Lucid Vagabond, in Wayne, and eventually leading Sopaj back to his homeland of Kosova to work at Ogilvy. He is proud to be a part of the team that created the 9-ton, 24-meter long “NEWBORN.” The entire project, from concept to completion, took just 10 days with over 100 people working around the clock. For one day after its unveiling, the citizens of Kosova were allowed to sign the work and become a part of history. Sopaj is glad to have been a part of it too. “In my rather short career in design, I was able to be part of something that was bigger than life,” he says. “Design can make a difference.”

NEWBORN with its creators.

’76 Hank Gola took first place in the Daily Features category of the Golf Writers Association of America’s annual writing contest. The winning entry was his New York Daily News feature “Meaghan Francella Beats Odds and Annika Sorenstam.”

’77 Mary Olejarz Quinn was selected by the Herald Tribune as All Area Cross Country Coach of the Year. This is her second year coaching girls cross country at Lakewood Ranch High School in Bradenton, Florida.

’77 Nancy Erika Smith and her husband and law firm partner Neil Mullin received the Rebecca Locketz Legal Pioneers Award from the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition for their long history of civil rights litigation. Most recently, they took on the case of the male couple harassed by the Secaucus, N.J. volunteer fire department.

’78 Sylvia Belinfante-Abdelsalam is an adjunct professor at Montclair State, teaching Speech Communications.

’80 Alex Riddick is the activities director at Gates Manor Nursing Home in Montclair. He has been in activities with seniors for more than 19 years. Riddick has been certified by the NCCAP and a member of NJAAP for 15 years.

’81 Rev. Willard W.C. Ashley coedited the book Disaster Spiritual Care, Practical Clergy Responses to Community, Regional and National Tragedy. Ashley, a psychotherapist, is the founder
and senior pastor of the Abundant Joy Community Church in Jersey City. He was project director for Care for the Caregivers Interfaith Program, the largest clergy resilience program in the United States, created to assist caregivers in New York after 9/11. He is an ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention, USA, Disciples of Christ and the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Jeffrey Fiske M.A. is a former theatre professor who has written and directed an off-Broadway production of C.S. Lewis’ The Screwtape Letters. Fiske serves as the artistic director of the Fellowship of the Performing Arts Theater Company.

Charles Blumenkehl, president and founder of Blue Realty GMAC, announced his company completed the acquisition of its ninth office, formerly Cramer Reitlers, in Dover, N.J. The company maintains sales offices in Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Monmouth, Ocean and Hunterdon Counties.

Beverly Beveridge is the owner of Passport to Peru Imports, LLC, which offers hand embroidered and appliquéd swimsuits made in Peru.

Robbyn R. Chambers Woolridge is a quality service specialist for the State of New Jersey’s Office of Policy and Procedure.

Joseph Romano has been a business teacher at Irvington High School in New Jersey since 2004, following an 18-year career as a salesperson. In 2007, he was honored as the Irvington H.S. “pick” for Teacher of the Year. Romano serves as the adviser to the Future Business Leaders of America and the Irvington H.S. Consumer Bowl Team.

James Stephens is the deputy director for Education and Interpretation at the Historic Cold Spring Village living history museum in Cape May, N.J. He earned an M.A. in American History from Monmouth University in 2000.

Perseverance Keeps an Opera Singer Singing

“Be prepared. Know your music and be ready to go with it,” advised Valerie Bernhardt ’91 to an audience of music students and faculty at the McEachern Recital Hall in March. “You never know when you will be called on to perform.”

Bernhardt, a professional dramatic soprano, was sharing her life story and insights into the music world as the keynote speaker for the annual Sacher Memorial Alumni Lecture sponsored by Montclair State’s John J. Cali School of Music. The advice comes from her own experiences with being called into action on short notice and underscores her belief in preparation and perseverance.

Bernhardt’s perseverance has taken her from “a small town outside of Trenton” where she was born, to operatic roles and solo performances around the country and abroad. She has performed with the New York City Opera and the Pittsburgh Opera, among others, and soloed in performances at venues such as Carnegie Hall, and the St. Louis and Newark Cathedrals.

Although Bernhardt has always loved to sing, she wasn’t considering a career as a performer when she first came to Montclair State. “I didn’t know what to major in,” she recalls. “A counselor asked me what I enjoyed and then recommended music therapy.” A major instrument was required for the program “so I chose the only one I had—voice,” she says.

Bernhardt continued to develop her voice and performed in the Montclair State production of the opera The Marriage of Figaro. “That was a watershed moment for me,” she says. “Then I knew that I wanted to be an opera singer.” Since that decision, Bernhardt has earned two graduate degrees in voice from The Juilliard School and has continued to sing professionally.

It didn’t come easily, though. Bernhardt was a lyric soprano, which she says is “probably the most densely populated spot in music.” She faced considerable competition at auditions and learned about perseverance out of necessity. Her attitude and advice to others became “Keep going—there’s something there that’s going to happen.”

And it did. In 2006, under the guidance of a new teacher, David Jones, Bernhardt began to reinvent herself. She recalls, “When [Jones] heard me, he said ‘You’re not a lyric soprano. You’re a dramatic soprano—in fact, you’re a dramatic Wagnerian soprano.’”

Bernhardt’s second career as a Wagnerian soprano has taken off and she is making a name for herself. She has most recently distinguished herself in the Wagner Division at the 2007 Liederkrantz Foundation Competition and is part of the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Wagner Emerging Singers Program, under the auspices of the Wagner Society of Washington, D.C. Bernhardt just returned from six months of auditions in Europe and is busy preparing for new operatic roles.

Bernhardt admits that it has been a lot of work and there were times when she had doubts, but it has all been worth it. As the only person she knows of in her Montclair graduating class who is still pursuing her singing career, she certainly can teach others a thing or two about perseverance.
Lauren Wittnebert ’87
Tracy has started a new business, Time for Design Interiors, a full-service interior design firm serving Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and surrounding areas. Previously, she worked for Honeywell Inc. for 12 years in various positions in accounting and treasury-cash management.

Felice A. Harrison ’88 M.A., principal of Nishuane School in Montclair, will be director of school and community relations for the Montclair Public Schools beginning in July.

Aaron Katzoff was promoted to vice president of employee benefits at Bollinger Insurance in Morristown, N.J.

Joseph Anton is a senior vice president of data architecture for Guardian Life in New York.

Lori Bujalski was nominated last year for Related Service Provider of the Year for ASAH, a special education organization. She recently presented at the ATIA conference, a national conference for assistive technology in Orlando. Bujalski earned an M.A. from Kean University in 2004.

Linda S. Devlin M.A. was selected from a national pool of 1,700 applicants as a participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Devlin, a teacher at Lacey Middle School, was among 200 educators who spent three weeks in Japan in October, where they visited cultural sites and met with Japanese teachers among other activities.

Lisa D. Edwards Giblin joined the staff at the Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences as a business manager in the dean’s office. Prior to this position, Giblin spent 13 years in the budget office at NJ Transit Corp. and earned an MBA from Dowling College, New York.

Jason Grote had the premiere of his play, 1001, at New York City’s Baruch Performing Arts Center. The play links the fabled Scheherazade and A Thousand and One Arabian Nights to contemporary Manhattan.

Mary Judith Nacarlo ‘95 M.A. received a fellowship from the Korea Foundation and spent 18 days in South Korea.

Kathleen H. Witcher M.Ed. received the 2007 Sojourner Truth award from the North Jersey chapter of the National Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. Last year, she retired as a teacher in the Newark Public Schools after 33 years.

Susan Ball Miles M.A. is an assistant banking center manager with Bank of America in Manchester, CT.

Jason Yudoff was nominated on the 2008 Grammy ballot in four categories for his new album, “Tragic Hero,” including Album of the Year and Best New Artist.

Rose Mitchell M.A. co-authored with Hillary Roy, Journeys of Love Voices of the Heart, a collection of stories, poems and photos. She is a college administrator with nearly 18 years of experience in higher education, and is founder and president of Step Beyond, an organization that helps people explore the opportunities and possibilities in their lives. Mitchell is presently working on several books: The Rose Collection, a compilation of inspiring quotes, The ABC’s of Life, a motivational guide, and Forever and Always, an anthology on the value and impact of friendship.

Jay Alders was selected to be one of the fine artists in the 4th Annual Alma Surf-Art-Music festival three-city Brazilian tour, along with musicians Matt Costa, Donavan Frankenreiter and G Love. In addition, Alders was selected to design a snowboard for the Winter X Games 2008.

Maria Arce Castner earned a master’s degree in social work from Rutgers University and has passed the New Jersey state license exam.

Harold Hornung M.A. is the environmental field supervisor for TECM-Vinnell Services at Fort Monmouth, N.J. He has earned his Hazardous Materials Manager and Safety Professional certifications.


Blaise Apoldite had her most recent book, Bless Me Father, a mystery/detective novel, published.

Kristen Lyn Marie DiNuzzo works in inside sales for Shi in Piscataway, N.J., and was recently promoted.

Sharon Hurwich Teaching Cert. completed her sixth year of teaching.

Natasha D. Osborne-Boothe earned a master’s degree in library science from North Carolina Central University.

Stephanie M. Burke earned her MLS degree from Rutgers University in 2005. After working as a children’s librarian at the North Bergen Public Library for the past three years, she has been hired as the director of the North Arlington Public Library, New Jersey.

Alyson Wasko M.A. was published in Teachers Taking Action, A Comprehensive Guide to Teacher Research, with Deborah Eldridge of Montclair State’s Department of Curriculum and Teaching.

William Carroll works as a Morris County Sheriff’s Officer. He is a First Lieutenant in the New Jersey National Guard and will be going to Iraq later this year.

Brenda Murdock was awarded a grant from the Basking Ridge Philanthropic Education Organization Sisterhood for continuing her studies in the Dietetic Internship Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.
Births

To Mark Spinelli '83 and Linda Osborn Spinelli '84, a daughter, Sydney Olivia on Jan. 19, 2007, who joins big brother Mark (18) and big sister Lauren (15)

To Pat French '90 and Karyn French, a boy, Zachary Arthur, who joins big brother Shane

To Tracy Barrelli Lucey '90 and Marc Lucey '94, a daughter, Angela Teresa, on May 2, 2007, who joins big sister Cynthia and big brothers Gregory and Dennis

To Christina McAloney Scienski '90 '98 M.S. and Larry E. Scienski, a son, Nicholas Alexander, on May 27, 2006

To Lauren Cavallo Terranova '00 and Christopher Terranova, a daughter, Giuliana Melissa, on Jan. 8, 2008

To Amy Beck Dunbar '96, a son, Shane Patrick, on Sept. 20, 2007, who joins big brothers Kyle and Ryan

To Catherine Cimillo Cavallone '94 and George Cavallone, a boy, Michael Patrick, on Nov. 1, 2007

To Beth Belof-Jasko '94 and Daniel Jasko, a son, Nathaniel Lewis, on Jan. 24, 2007

To Eileen Schneider Gray '94 and Gregory Gray, a daughter, Kaitlyn Susan, on May 9, 2007

To Ray Murphy '94 and Joanne Kornacki Murphy '95, a son, Logan John, on Dec. 17, 2007, who joins big brother Liam

To Donald Oakes '98 and Jennifer Oakes, a son, Cleat Reagan, on Sept. 10, 2007, who joins big brother Huckleberry

To Donna Richner Greene '99 and Michael Greene, a son, Jacob Allan, on May 7, 2007

To Michael Orlando '99 and Amy LaPosa Orlando '00, a son, Nicholas Alexander, on May 27, 2006

To Lauren Cavallo Terranova '00 and Christopher Terranova, a daughter, Giuliana Melissa, on Jan. 8, 2008

Engagements

Vincent M. Bellucci '00 to Stephanie M. Burke '03; a fall 2009 wedding is planned

Stephanie Eromenok '04 '07 M.A. to Charles Brown III; a Nov. 26, 2008 wedding is planned

Shannon Hart '04 to Christopher Baran '04; a July 2009 wedding is planned

Jennifer Petracca '06 to Douglas Rothacker '06; a Dec. 20, 2008 wedding is planned

Marriages & Unions

Georgette Klemchalk Lentz '71 M.A. and John Harold Straub II '69 M.A. on Feb. 9, 2008

Linda Onorevole '94 to Gary Annett on Oct. 27, 2007

Linda Silliman '98 to Robert Klier on March 24, 2007

Dawn Calandra '00 to Michael Syntschka '01 on July 1, 2007

Pandora Anderson '01 to Andre Sanchez on Nov. 20, 2007

Miranda DeStefano '01 to Richard Meene Jr. on Aug. 4, 2007

Kristin Manko '02 to Steven Lavash '02 on Nov. 10, 2007

Carinne Stachel'ski '04 to Michael Murphy on June 4, 2006

Wodline Hippolyte '06 to Greelensky Charles on Sept. 29, 2007

Marilyn Muniz '07 M.A. to John Johnson on July 13, 2007

Marilyn Muniz '07 M.A. to John Johnson on July 13, 2007
class notes

Florence Kamphausen Trinkle ’23
Adelaide Polhemus Barr ’24
Dorothy Vance Kipp ’28
Edna Kolter Kinsey Ingram Higinbotham ’32
Beatrice Speer Lewis ’37
Doris A. Cox ’38
Edna Borg Froelich ’39
Herman J. Kroeze ’39 ’44 M.A.
Thomas J.C. Raymond ’42
Evelyn Andersen Dixon Grissett ’43
Daniel A. Longhi ’43
Mary Galvin Nietzel ’43
Filomena Peloro ’46
Stanley G. Wnek ’47 ’48 M.A.
Dorothy Scheidt Schumann ’49
Jane Cheetham Silvestri ’49
Norma Jaggard Westerdale ’49
Marita Foschini Coccia ’50
Dale Reinhardt ’50 ’57 M.A.
Raymond W. Westerdale ’50
Joseph T. Kienzle ’51
Edwin J. Dykes ’53 ’60 M.A.
Judson J. Fink ’53 ’58 M.A.
Loren Leek ’53 ’56 M.A.
Nat Giancola ’57 M.A.
Donald L. Dewlow ’58
Patricia Lease Cameron Droz ’58
Dale Douglass Gianforte ’58
Jerome Giblin ’58
Delores Schimmel Johnson ’58
Marie Kazanchy ’58 ’66 M.A.
Thomas Sheehan ’58
Eugene Krautblatt ’60
Marie Speciale Steeb ’62
Sigmund Barov ’63
Lorraine Trempett Catania ’63 ’76 M.A.
Judith Joswick Sarisky Gargiulo ’65
Donna F. Paduano ’66
Donald Walter Darlington, Jr. ’67 ’72 M.A.
Harry Kessel ’67
Carolyn Draus Maffia ’67
Cornelia J. Daub ’71 M.A.
Walter S. Hauck Jr. ’71 M.A.
Eugenia Jackiwicz Pfeiffer ’71 M.A.
Walter A. Caraccioli ’72 M.A.
Jay V. Hudnut ’73
John J. Sheehan ’73 M.A.
Fever Artidiello ’74
Maria N. Llerena ’74
John R. Marucci ’74
Marilyn Maser Odachowski ’74
Curt M. Clauss ’75 ’76 M.A.
Thomas M. Tam ’75 M.A.
Arnold G. Wunder ’75 M.A.
Haidee Allerton ’76
Jacqueline Donahue-Clark ’76 M.A.
Edna J. Murphy Libert ’76
Jean Greig Boice ’77
Joel M. Doddy ’77
Irene Colgate Garner ’79
Barbara Sapienza ’79 M.A.
Donna M. Sopologa Lope-Poloni ’81
Edith Anderson Brann ’82
John M. Noe, Jr. ’82
Douglas J. Erbig ’83
Daniel L. Stacher ’84 M.A.
William R. Barrowclough ’87 M.A.
Frank M. Riker ’87
James Arthur Mitchell ’88
Angela Frusteri ’89 M.A.
Sylvia Abelew ’90
Caswell J. Ewan ’93
Jessica Fox ’94
Susan Ullmann Miraldi ’94
Maddalena Vespa DeSanctis ’95
Diane Margaret Traupmann ’95 M.A.
Stephanie Zagada Neglia ’99
Scott F. Avella ’00 ’02
Ned T. Gross, Jr. ’04
John Paul Corchado ’06

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Leshowitz

The University community was saddened at the recent passing of Edward Leshowitz ’36, ’96 Hon., a longtime supporter and benefactor of Montclair State. A founder of Cali Associates, now Mack-Cali Realty, Leshowitz’ generosity to the University over the years led to new programs, scholarships and facilities, most recently the Jed Leshowitz Recital Hall, which will be located in the new home of the John J. Cali School of Music. His great concern for urban issues, generous nature and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM

What Have YOU Been Up To?

Your friends and classmates want to know. Send us your announcements about engagements, marriages, jobs, promotions, awards, births and any other news you’d like to share.

We must have all of the following information for submission:

Name
Address
City State Zip
Telephone (home) (work)
E-mail

Your news:

Be sure to print clearly and return this form to:
Montclair State University, Office of Alumni Relations, 1 Normal Ave., Montclair, New Jersey 07043
You can also fax 973-655-5483 or e-mail your information to alumni@mail.montclair.edu
A night to remember…

A Centennial Gala—what a wonderful way to celebrate 100 years of making a difference in people’s lives and to kick off a new century. Provide an elegant setting, distinguished honorees, fine dining and a great band that will keep the dance floor packed and before you know it, over 500 of your nearest and dearest friends will show up to join in the fun and generously help to create 100 scholarships.

—Mike Peters
University Photographer
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
Centennial Festival
A Celebration of
100 Extraordinary Years
JOIN US ON OUR CAMPUS
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