

Monmouth

THE MAGAZINE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY » FALL 2020



INSIDE | The Struggle for Black equality (p. 26), The Dark Side of WeChat (p. 32), and more.



“No one succeeds alone.”

—Mehdi Husaini '20, current medical student and future physician

The Class of 2020 experienced a year no one could have predicted.

The COVID-19 crisis affected the traditions Monmouth alumni remember and cherish. Through it all, our class felt the support of dedicated faculty, staff, alumni, and donors. Our community makes Monmouth special.

We cannot predict what challenges Monmouth’s current students may face, but what we do know is that no one succeeds alone. Monmouth students need our help.

Please make a gift to the Monmouth Fund, and do your part to help shape tomorrow’s leaders.

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illustration DUNG HOANG

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Vice President for Enrollment Management
Robert D. McCaig, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Tara Peters '94, '99M

Editor
Tony Marchetti

Assistant Editor
Breanne McCarthy

Design & Layout
Dog Ear Consultants

Contributing Writers

Pete Croatto
Kelley Freund
Mark Gola
Justin M. Liu
Peter W. Liu, Ph.D.
Steve Neumann
Molly Petrilla

Photographers

Anthony DePrimo
John Emerson
Matt Furman
Nick Grant
Tom Lozinski

Illustrators

Aldo Crusher
Josue Evilla
Dung Hoang
Simone Martin-Newberry

On the cover

An illustrative look at the civil rights movement and Black Lives Matter by Chicago-based illustrator Simone Martin-Newberry.

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UNIVERSITY

400 Cedar Ave.
West Long Branch, NJ 07764
732-571-3489 • monmouth.edu

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



ON RESILIENCE

THRIVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC.

By the time this issue of *Monmouth* magazine finds its way into your hands, we will be eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic on our campus.

Even in this relatively short period, we have changed our behaviors, modified our expectations, and started to envision the permanent changes that will emerge from the crisis. While some things have looked and felt markedly different on our campus this fall, our commitment to providing our students with an outstanding and highly personalized academic experience has remained steadfast.

I often tell my colleagues that, in the absence of a playbook on navigating a global pandemic, we have no choice but to fall back on our institutional values as we chart our path forward. Since arriving at Monmouth, I have asked our senior administrative team to make decisions with one funda-

mental question in mind: What is in the best interest of our students? This driving question has guided us well throughout the past year and has been at the center of our evolving response to the COVID-19 crisis. One such example of this commitment was Commencement. When the pandemic forced a move to remote teaching and learning last spring, we had little choice but to postpone graduation, but we pledged to do our very best to serve our graduating students with a meaningful commencement experience. I am proud to share, thanks to the collective efforts of my dedicated colleagues, that we were able to host a series of nine modified in-person commencement exercises for our Class of 2020 in

“
I OFTEN TELL MY COLLEAGUES THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF A PLAYBOOK ON NAVIGATING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FALL BACK ON OUR INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AS WE CHART OUR PATH FORWARD.
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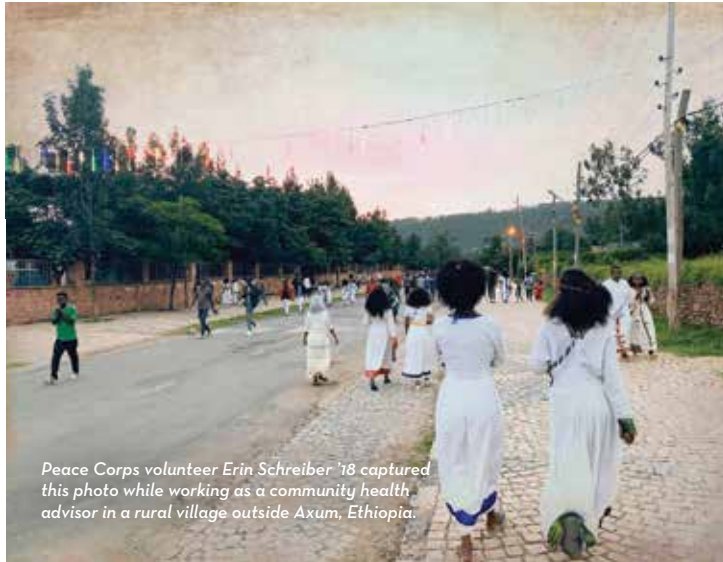
late August. It was a Commencement Week that none of us will soon forget.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Monmouth continues to be a university on the move. Our incoming first-year class is the most diverse and most academically prepared cohort in our history. This fall we obtained approval to launch our third doctoral program, in occupational therapy, and look forward to enrolling our first class this coming summer. And, we have also recently completed construction of a new nursing simulation lab at our graduate center in partnership with Monmouth Medical Center, a project aimed at serving our growing number of undergraduate and graduate nursing and health studies students.

I am proud that these efforts continue to be recognized by third parties. We are pleased to be included once again in Princeton Review's "Best 386 Colleges" roster, in *Money* magazine's "Best Value Colleges," and in *Washington Monthly's* annual college guide and rankings, a newer publication that ranks colleges and universities on what they do for our country. And, finally, Monmouth has also reached our highest ranking ever in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings—No. 23 among Regional Universities North. Even more gratifying to me is that only a few institutions in our category integrate excellence and access like we do, as measured by our strong rankings coupled with our commitment to first-generation students and Pell Grant recipients.

This is a challenging time for American higher education, and Monmouth University is not immune to these challenges. But, if we continue to focus on what is in the best interests of our students, we will emerge stronger and better positioned than ever before. I hope I can count on you for your continuing support.

Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D.
President



Peace Corps volunteer Erin Schreiber '18 captured this photo while working as a community health advisor in a rural village outside Axum, Ethiopia.

RE: SUMMER 2020

HOME TOO SOON

Great story! I don't think any of us 7,300 volunteers wanted to leave our host countries, but we were given no choice. All of our hearts are broken.

Jason Michael Walker (@skywalker1640) via Twitter

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Thank you for sharing [Sarah Ripoli's] story. She's truly an inspiration. Marguerite Stocker via Facebook



After losing her mother to domestic violence, Sarah Ripoli '14 launched a clothing brand to raise funds and awareness for victims.

WOODROW WILSON FLUNKS OUT OF MONMOUTH

I was never proud of my alma mater's association with the name of Woodrow Wilson. A disaster capitalist and white supremacist, Wilson was known by many in his day as a "liberal fascist"; a great friend of the KKK; and a power-seeking, ego-driven war criminal.

Wilson abandoned neutrality and got Congress to insert this country into World War I for no definitive or convincing reason. As a result, at least 115,000 Americans died horrible and unneces-

sary deaths. Through his Justice Department, Wilson was also responsible for arresting tens of thousands of citizens, including a five-time presidential candidate, who were lawfully protesting and resisting that unwarranted military disaster.

In 1918, the HiN1 flu became a worldwide pandemic. It should be called the "American Flu" because it was likely to have originated in American training bases and was then exported to Europe on crowded troop ships. Wilson never spoke about it publicly, nor did anything to stop it, because he and his advisors wanted our troops in battle, whatever the cost, and he didn't want to lower the morale of the troops and the people back home. So 45,000 troops, at least 600,000 American civilians, and 50 million people worldwide died from that virus.

It took George Floyd's public lynching to raise the consciousness and the outrage, which have become the catalysts of social, cultural, and political revolution in America and around the world. Congratulations to Monmouth's Board of Trustees for unanimously voting to remove Wilson's name from the University's marquee building. I urge them to also remove any traces of that man that may exist anywhere else on the Monmouth University campus.

Fred Dente '65

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Email us at magazine@monmouth.edu, or write us at Monmouth magazine, Monmouth University, Alumni House, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

Submissions for the Letters page are subject to editing for clarity and length and must include the writer's name, address, and phone number for confirmation.

LET'S CONNECT

For more stories and photos, follow us on Twitter and Instagram:

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EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

TOP FIVE IN THE NATION FOR ACCESS & EXCELLENCE



This summer, Monmouth faculty researchers and students aboard the R/V Heidi Lynn Sculthorpe collected environmental DNA samples from the waters off our coast, part of their ongoing work pioneering a marine life detection technique.

Hands-on experiences like this have made Monmouth University one of the Top 5 schools in the nation for both access and excellence. See how we rank, and read more about the exceptional opportunities and outcomes Monmouth provides, at monmouth.edu/exceptional.



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

“
THE PROBLEM IS THE POLITICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO THROW CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS UNDER THE BUS IN ORDER TO HOLD ON TO THEIR VOTER COALITIONS.
 ”

NEED TO KNOW » Topics & trends

A SNAPSHOT OF WHO WE ARE

PATRICK MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF MONMOUTH'S POLLING INSTITUTE, TALKS ABOUT A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

INTERVIEW BY STEVE NEUMANN

Now in its 15th year of operation, Monmouth University's Polling Institute has established itself as one of the most respected public opinion research organizations in the country. It consistently earns A-plus ratings from the venerable polling analysis website FiveThirtyEight, including most recently this spring, when it was one of just six polling operations out of 453 nationwide to earn the top mark. We asked the institute's founding director, Patrick Murray, for his insights on what sets the Monmouth University Poll apart from the pack, what lessons were learned from the last presidential election, and what's different about 2020.

Many people were surprised by the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. What lessons did pollsters learn from that?

Well, in the end, the polls weren't off by any more than they normally are. It just so happened that in three particular states, the error was the difference between one person winning and another person winning. If you look back at 2012, we had a similar size of error in the battleground states, but none of those errors changed our expectation of who would win versus who actually won.

But one issue of importance in 2016 was education. In prior elections, there wasn't a lot of difference between the way people with a college degree voted and the way people without a college degree voted. That started to shift in the 2012 election, but it didn't shift enough to impact the polls. By 2016, it had shifted so dramatically—the gap

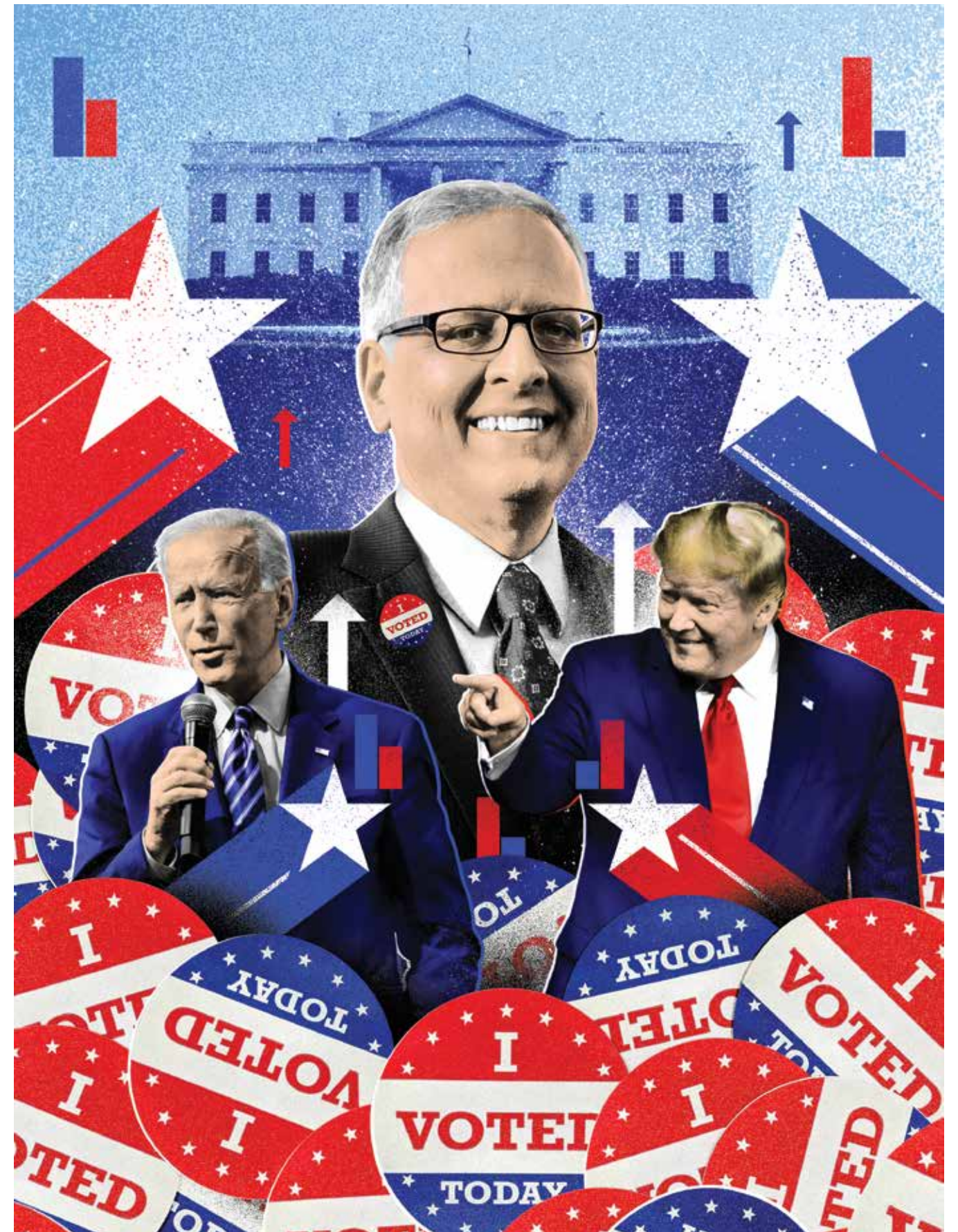


illustration JOSUE EVILLA

was so huge between those without a college degree voting Republican and those with a college degree voting Democrat—that if you didn’t have the right balance of education in your polls that could throw off your results anywhere from one to three points. So now that it does matter, we’ve had to come up with ways to figure that out.

What else might people be surprised about when it comes to polling?

The bigger issue is that we’re talking a lot about which candidate is ahead and which is behind—but that’s only one question out of 40 that we ask in a typical poll. The other 39 are significantly more important to understanding the American psyche. What I’m interested in when I ask questions like “Do you believe that there are a significant number of secret Trump voters in your community?” is not a backdoor way of figuring out how many people are secret Trump voters; it’s a way of figuring out the mood of the electorate and what this could mean for the future of democracy in this country.

If people feel that Trump will win due to so-called secret voters, and the results come in counter to their hardened belief, that’s much more important to understand. I’m trying to find questions in our standard polling that can help us measure the things we can’t do in a typical poll that are driving the electorate. I’m trying to inform the public of the degree to which these beliefs exist and a sense of how entrenched we’ve become in our partisan identities. We don’t know the consequences of that because we haven’t seen something exactly like this in the past.

The problem is the politicians who have been willing to throw constitutional norms under the bus in order to hold on to their voter coalitions. This really shouldn’t be a left

“**IN 2016 PEOPLE WERE THINKING: DOES MY VOTE REALLY MATTER? IS THERE REALLY A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES? SHOULD I VOTE FOR A THIRD PARTY? BUT THEY’RE NOT THINKING THAT IN 2020. IT’S A CHOICE BETWEEN A SECOND TERM FOR DONALD TRUMP—WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR DON’T WANT IT.**”

or right thing, but what usually happens is that it generally takes over one party more than another. What we saw with the Republican Party in 2016 was that Donald Trump didn’t control a majority of the party until after he won the nomination.

How does this year’s presidential election compare to 2016?

We knew that there were going to be Obama-to-Trump voters in 2016; we just didn’t know exactly what proportion of the electorate they were going to make up. But the one thing that did surprise pollsters was the voters who would normally vote for Hillary Clinton didn’t show up at the polls at all. And that was because there was a big lack of enthusiasm for Clinton.

In 2016 people were thinking: Does my vote really matter? Is there really a difference between the two candidates? Should I vote for a third party? But they’re not thinking that in 2020. It’s a choice between a second term for Donald Trump—whether you want it or don’t want it. Most voters are there right now, and that’s much different than what we saw in 2016. Over the summer of 2016, we had a significant number of voters, over 20%, who were either undecided or were shifting around or thinking, “I’m voting for a third party candidate.” But it’s less than 10% right now.

What sets the Monmouth University Poll apart from others?

The key thing is that we’re looking to ask fundamental questions of why voters behave the way they do, and not simply trying to answer topical questions or chase the news of the day—which we do, but we do that within the context of going out there and fully understanding the electorate. I’ve done a lot of work in the past on qualitative research, like focus groups. I go

out and talk to people where they are. So you’ll find me at the Iowa State Fair; you’ll find me in a diner in New Hampshire. I do these things before we start an election season in order to understand the vernacular of what’s going on. Fortunately, I did quite a bit of it before COVID-19 hit, and I heard a bunch of information that’s making its way into our polling.

What did you learn doing that ahead of this election season?

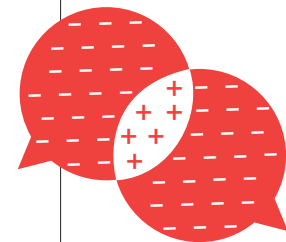
That’s where I first started hearing a sentiment among some Republican voters that there were a lot of secret Trump voters who are going to show up on Election Day but not be captured in the pre-election polls. We have absolutely no evidence that that exists. We looked for that in our 2016 polling and they weren’t there. But understanding that belief is really important, not because it changes our polling numbers in terms of the outcome, but because it changes our understanding of what’s going to happen when we get the results back. There will be a significant number of people who expect Donald Trump to win and won’t accept the results if he doesn’t, and that’s what we’re trying to capture in our polling.

If there is one takeaway for readers about the polling process, what would that be?

Polling is a good barometer of where the public stands at any given point in time. It’s not perfectly precise, nor does it predict the future; but if you do dig deeper down into the poll, beyond the horse race numbers and the job approval numbers, you should be able to find information that helps you understand what proportion of the public is on one side of an issue and what proportion is on the other side, and who might be movable. It gives you a snapshot of who we are as a people. [M](#)

EXPLAIN THIS »
Answering your burning questions

Q: HOW CAN I HAVE A CIVIL DEBATE?



Following the 2016 presidential election, psychologists and therapists across the nation noticed a spike in patients from both sides of the aisle who were experiencing post-election stress disorder, the unofficial name for the anxiety and depression brought on by activities such as communicating with people who hold politically opposing views.

That’s not surprising, says Associate Professor of Political Science Joseph Patten, given the preponderance of populist leaders whose rhetoric and platforms attempt to divide us.

“What’s destructive about populism is ... this framing of politics as the establishment versus the people, but where only some of the people are really ‘the people,’” says Patten. “These populist leaders are anti-pluralist, meaning they try to attract supporters by almost intentionally alienating others. So if you look at what’s keeping the Democratic and Republican parties together ... it’s the negative partisanship; it’s the hatred of the other.”

In other words, political tribes have become obsessed with demonizing the other, and that can be detrimental to our relationships and mental well-being when we hold differing political views from family and friends, says Patten.

“There’s a study that shows that families who are unified about Trump—either loving him or hating him—spend at least an hour longer together on Thanksgiving,” says Patten. “So that’s where our dysfunctional politics has ultimately infected us: We’re now dysfunctional too.”

With election season upon us and the holidays around the corner, there’s never been a better time for a refresher on how to re-

main civil while discussing politics. Patten shared three tips that will help you maintain your relationships—and sanity—through election season and beyond.

1. Don’t try to “fix” anyone.
“What happens when somebody expresses an idea that’s different from our idea is that we tend to naturally think something is wrong with that person and we must fix them,” says Patten. Don’t. Instead, go into every discussion with an open mind, willing to appreciate and even enjoy a different viewpoint.

2. Agree to disagree.
It’s important to be open to others’ viewpoints, but we don’t

3. Avoid dehumanizing language.
Because there are no social norms about political discrimination—as there are for discriminating against people for their race or gender—it’s become acceptable to speak about others in politically dehumanizing ways. Avoid doing so because it facilitates the “otherization” of the person or group, says Patten. “People are not ... this label of a thing. They’re not left wing or right wing; they’re not snowflakes; they’re not a basket of deplorables. ... They’re humans,” says Patten. “Once you start talking about people in non-human terms, it makes it easier to use violence against them.”
—Breanne McCarthy

THE 10-SECOND BONUS QUESTION

WHEN DO I AVOID TALKING POLITICS?

“You can’t have a good political discussion with somebody whose intention is to be insulting or whose intention is to try to prove how stupid you are,” says Patten. “So if somebody’s coming in without good intentions, then you shouldn’t have the conversation in the first place.”

To ask a question of our faculty experts, email magazine@monmouth.edu or mail Explain This, Monmouth magazine, Alumni House, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE?

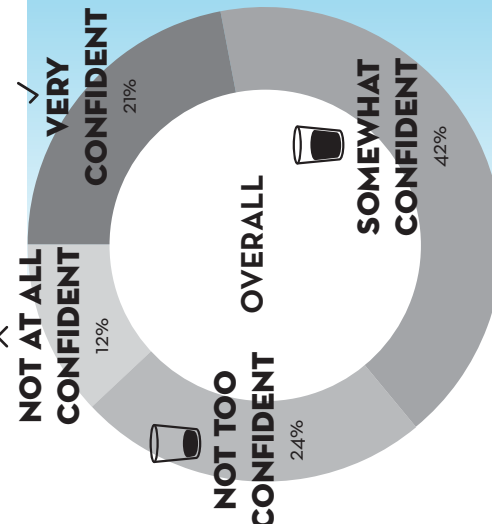
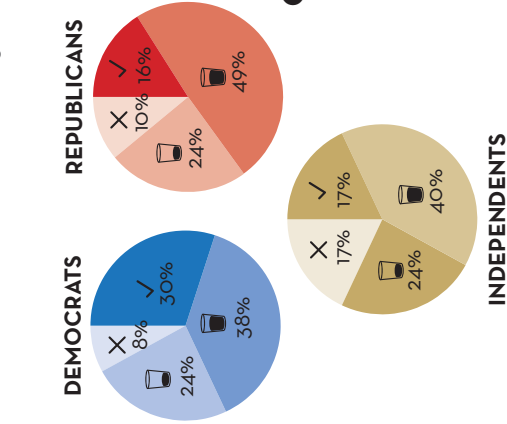
MOST AMERICAN VOTERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT MEDDLING IN THIS FALL'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

COMPILED BY TONY MARCHETTI FROM MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY POLL DATA • INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN BY PATRICK KIRCHNER

First, some encouraging news for anyone interested in the continued health of our democracy: According to a recent Monmouth University Poll, 95% of registered voters say they are “certain” (85%) or “likely” (10%) to cast a ballot in the 2020 election. What’s more: 64% of voters say they are feeling “optimistic” about this presidential election, an increase compared to four years ago.

Now for some concerning news: Many voters also say they are worried about outside interference affecting the integrity of the results. As is often the case, there are stark differences along partisan lines about the likely source of any potential meddling. Here’s a look at how confident American voters are feeling as they prepare to head to the polls.

The Monmouth University Poll was conducted by telephone from Aug. 6 to 10, 2020, with a national random sample of 868 adults age 18 and older, in English. The results detailed here are based on 785 registered voters and have a +/- 3.5 percentage point sampling margin of error. Visit monmouth.edu/polling-institute for more information on the methodology.



MOST VOTERS TRUST THE PROCESS

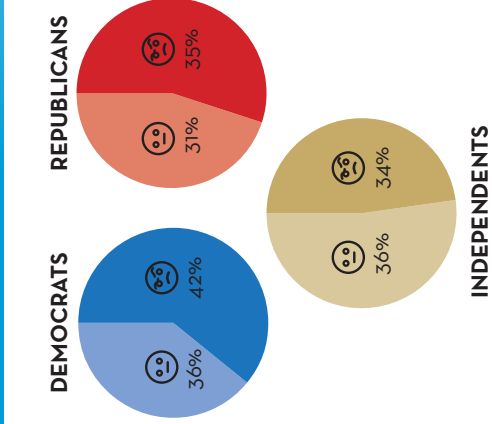
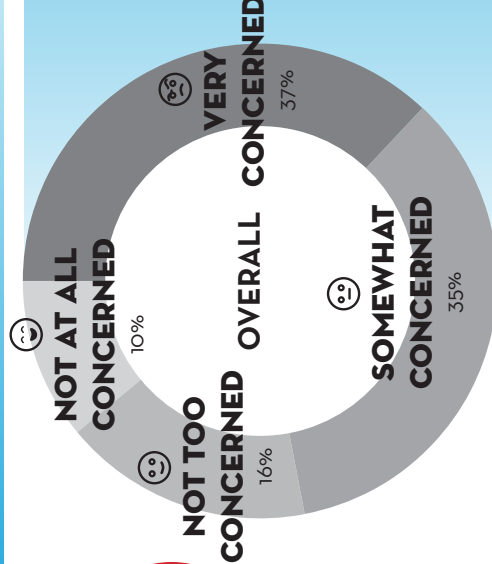
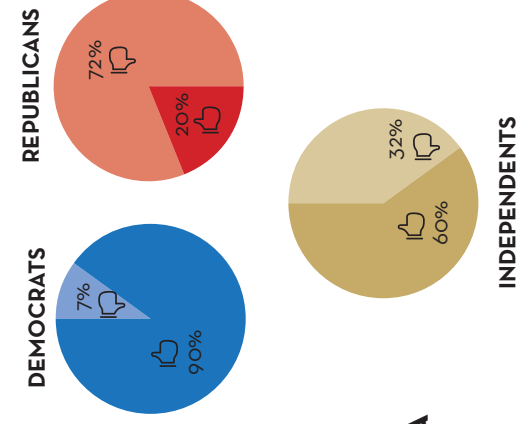
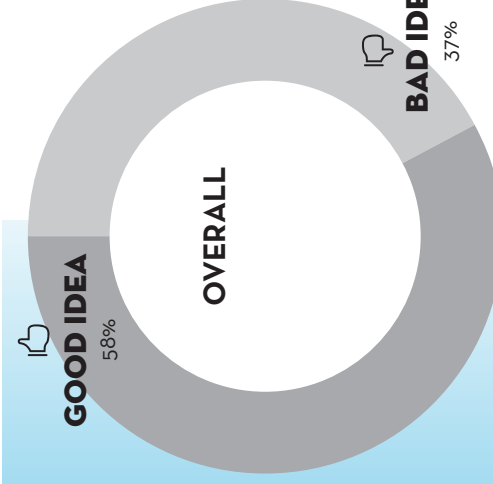
A majority of those polled—slightly more than 6 in 10 voters—say they are either “very confident” or “somewhat confident” that the November election will be conducted fairly and accurately. That includes majorities of Democrats (68%), Republicans (65%), and independents (57%) alike. But a closer look at the numbers reveals that more than one-third of voters still have little confidence in the election being conducted fairly and accurately.

← HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED FAIRLY AND ACCURATELY?

VOTING BY MAIL IS POLARIZING

In recent months, one of the biggest points of contention between Republicans and Democrats has been whether voting by mail affects the integrity of election results. President Donald Trump, despite having voted by mail himself, has repeatedly criticized the process, claiming it leads to fraud. Democratic nominee Joe Biden has voiced support for expanding access to it. Predictably, opinions on it among registered voters are split along party lines, but the majority of American voters favor making it easier to cast ballots by mail.

→ DO YOU THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA OR BAD IDEA TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MORE VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS BY MAIL THIS YEAR?



SUSPICIONS OF MEDDLING PERSIST

Despite most voters having some degree of confidence in how the election will be administered, nearly 3 in 4 of them—72% of voters—say they are concerned that outside interference could cast doubt on the legitimacy of the outcome.

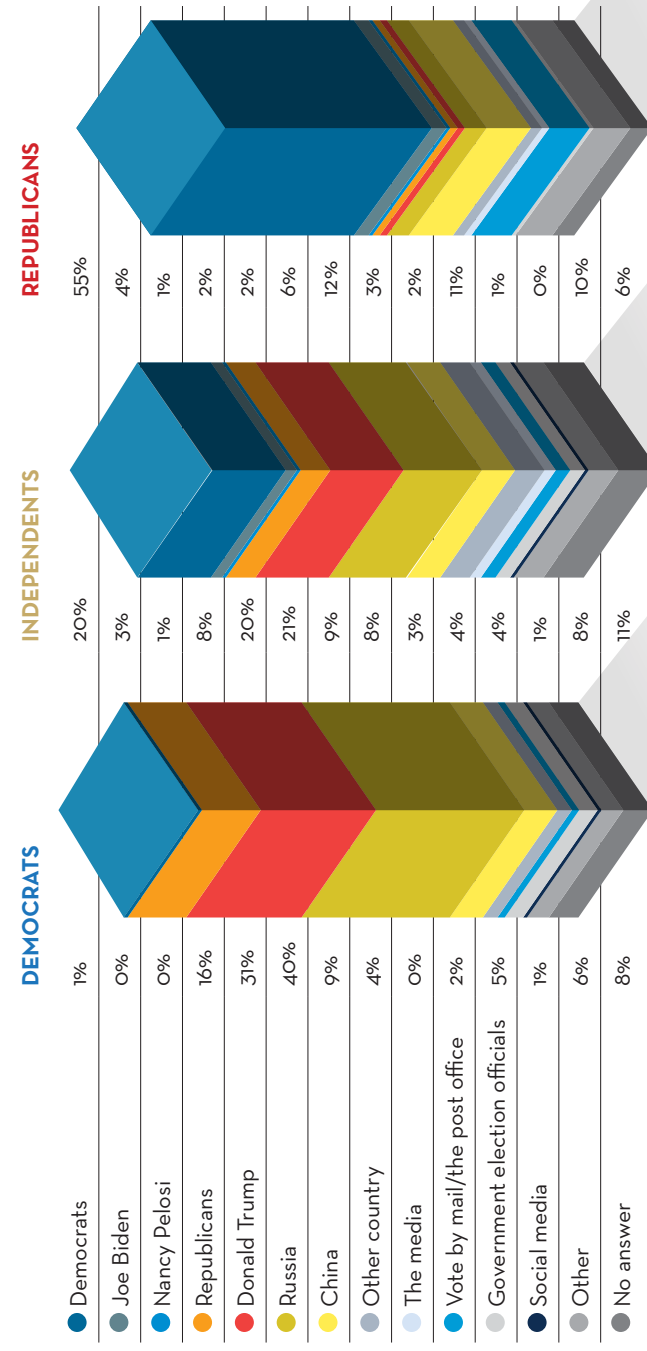
← HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ELECTION MEDDLING COULD UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OF THE RESULTS?

FINGERS ARE POINTING EVERYWHERE

Voters who voiced concerns about election meddling have differing opinions as to who or what might be responsible for interfering. Not surprisingly, the suspected culprits vary widely depending on voters’ political affiliations. A sizable number of Democratic voters (53%) concerned about meddling think a foreign power will be involved; many see Russia as the most likely perpetrator. Meanwhile, a majority of GOP voters (55%) concerned about meddling say the Democratic Party will be responsible for the malfeasance.

→ WHO DO YOU THINK IS MOST LIKELY TO BE THE SOURCE OF ELECTION MEDDLING?*

*Multiple response question; percentages add to more than 100%.



THE MARKETING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

COMPARING THE CHRISTMAS BOYCOTT OF 1963 TO RECENT PROTESTS BY PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES.

BY STEVE NEUMANN

On Sept. 15, 1963, a bomb set by the local Ku Klux Klan exploded in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four Black schoolgirls.

In the aftermath, the Association of Artists for Freedom, led by such folks as writer James Baldwin and actress Ruby Dee, condemned the murders and demanded a national response.

They settled on the first national “Christmas Boycott” because, that same year, there had been a series of studies showing the growing economic power of African Americans. The Association hoped to exploit that economic clout by targeting the biggest consumer spending holiday of the year.

Professor of History Katherine Parkin’s article in the journal *History of Retailing and Consumption*, published in July, explores the tension of that decision.

The article, “Marketing Justice: The Christmas Boycott,” argues that, instead of a more traditional quid pro quo boycott that sought to exact demands of a company or a community, the proposed Christmas Boycott sought to use financial angst to compel a reckoning with the institutionalized ways that racism pervaded the nation.

“The goal of the Christmas Boycott was to say that racism is not just a problem in Birmingham, Alabama, but a national problem,” Parkin says, “so we’re going to deprive ourselves of something that we love in order to draw attention to it.”

What Parkin discovered during her research was how difficult it was for members of the Associa-

tion to get anyone to listen to them—mainly because they were not part of any of the major civil rights organizations of the time.

“Martin Luther King Jr., had a pulpit,” Parkin says, “and the NAACP had a magazine. And while the writers, singers, and actors of the Association had people who admired them, they didn’t have an effective way to communicate.”

Parkin says that while the leaders of the Christmas Boycott of 1963 were certainly successful artists in their own right, they were not the powerfully wealthy artists that we have today. She points specifically to the professional athletes who refused to play in their scheduled sports events in response to the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin—all of which happened after her article was published.

Beginning in the NBA, the activism quickly spread to the WNBA, MLB, and MLS. In the following days, tennis star Naomi Osaka refused to play in a tournament semifinal, NHL players walked out of playoff games, and nine NFL



teams canceled scheduled practices.

“I think demonstrations like this lead those individuals who follow those sports and admire these athletes to listen,” Parkin says. “The effort is in changing a mentality and opening ourselves to conversations to try to effect change.”

Parkin believes that those efforts are working, citing polling over the summer about attitudes toward the Black Lives Matter movement that showed that more than 75% of people understood what “defund the police” actually meant, for instance.

“I thought that was a pretty remarkable change in just a few years,” Parkin says. “That people went from thinking it was something irrelevant to their lives to truly understanding what Black Lives Matter was trying to get at.

“To introduce new ideas that people can wrestle with and be nuanced and sophisticated about is a tremendous success.”

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY ABOUT THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

BY STEVE NEUMANN

The 2020 presidential election is fast approaching, which means it’s the perfect time for a refresher on the governmental institution that has increasingly become the deciding factor in American presidential races: the Electoral College. We asked Chris DeRosa, Ph.D., chair of the Department of History and Anthropology, to share his insights on the institution.

THE PURPOSE

The original plan called for each elector to cast two votes for president. Whoever received a majority of votes from electors became president; the runner-up became vice president.

States can do what they want with their electoral votes, says DeRosa. Most give them to the candidate who wins a state majority. An elector who defies that assignment is called a faithless elector, and the state has the choice whether to tolerate them. “You don’t get them very often because they’re chosen as party loyalists, and we’ve never had faithless electors swing an election,” says DeRosa.

THE GOOD

One of the advantages is the end result is clear: “Somebody wins; somebody gets a majority of the electoral votes,” says DeRosa. If presidents were elected purely by popular vote, a candidate could win the presidency with less than 50% of the vote. “If you had more than two parties contending for the presidency, you might have somebody winning with 30% of the votes, and that’s a ticket to an extremist candidate.”

THE BAD

The first problem with the Electoral College is that it gives more weight to voters in small states than those in more populous ones, says DeRosa. Every state gets a minimum of three electoral votes. However, each state’s total allotment is based on its representation in the Senate (always two people) and the House (varies by population). “So take Washington, D.C., as an example,” says DeRosa. “More people live in D.C. than in Wyoming, the least populous state in the union; but they both get three electoral votes.” (Plus, unlike Wyoming, D.C. gets no voting representation in Congress.)

THE UGLY

The biggest problem with the Electoral College is that it encourages vote suppression, says DeRosa. Southern states always had an advantage in the population count, because they got electoral votes appointed on the basis of their slave populations and their white populations. That gave the states extra representation for people they weren’t really representing at all.

After the Civil War, former slaves were counted as “whole” persons, not three-fifths of one, for purposes of electoral vote allotment. But Black voter suppression still took place through Jim Crow laws. This further “inflated the electoral count of people who were not representing all the people in their state,” says DeRosa. “So the Electoral College became a pillar of white supremacy.”

THE FUTURE

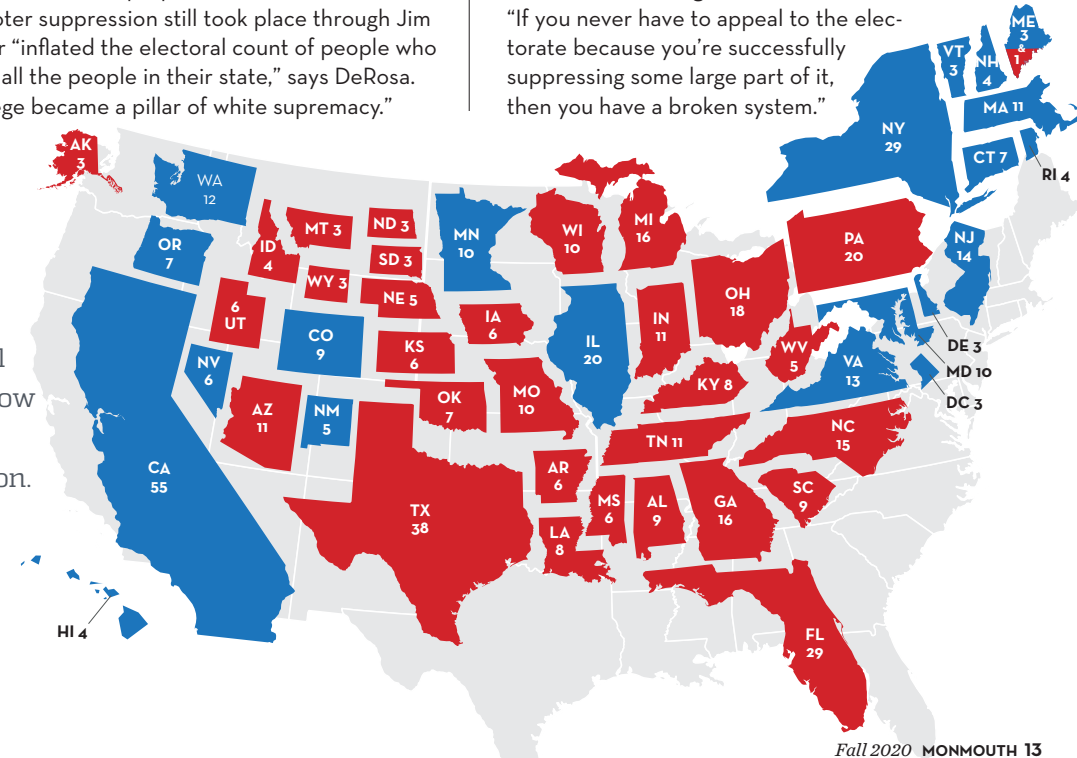
Love it or hate it, the Electoral College is here to stay because changing it would require “constitutional surgery,” says DeRosa. “You would need three-fourths of the states to ratify any change, and too many states that are intent on suppressing votes benefit from the Electoral College.” The downside? “If you never have to appeal to the electorate because you’re successfully suppressing some large part of it, then you have a broken system.”

NATION OF REPRESENTATION

A look at the portion of electoral votes each state gets versus actual geographic area, plus how each state voted in the 2016 presidential election.

2016 Electoral College Votes

- won by Hillary Clinton
- won by Donald Trump



A MUSICAL JOURNEY

CONNOR RUPP'S LOVE OF SPRINGSTEEN'S MUSIC LED HIM ON A ROAD TRIP THAT LANDED HIM AT MONMOUTH.

BY TONY MARCHETTI

In 1974, Bruce Springsteen wrote *Born to Run*—perhaps the ultimate anthem to shaking off the dust of your surroundings and getting out while you're young—in a small cottage one mile from Monmouth's campus.

Four decades later, Ohio native and Springsteen superfan Connor Rupp took that sentiment to heart.

"When a song comes to you at the right place and time, it can mean the world to you," says Rupp. "I was a restless kid in high school and wanted to get out of Ohio. And when I listened to *Born to Run*, I felt like Bruce's music was talking to me in the cheesiest way possible."

Rupp did get out, sort of. He is now a junior music industry major at Monmouth, works in the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, and lives off campus in Asbury Park, New Jersey—Springsteen's old stomping grounds. The irony of his journey isn't lost on him.

"The place Bruce wanted to get out of was the place I wanted to come to," Rupp says with a laugh.

It was Rupp's love for Springsteen's music that first put Monmouth on his radar. As a teenager, he and a friend made a

pilgrimage of sorts—driving 10 hours east to visit Bruce's old Jersey shore hangouts. Rupp's mother made him promise to visit a college along the way. "Closest to everything was Monmouth, of course," he says.

When it came time to apply to college, Rupp, who plays bass, says he wanted a school that offered a music industry program and had a thriving arts scene. Monmouth checked both boxes. "I wanted to be around 'the noise,' and Monmouth is between two of the biggest music cities in the world: New York and Philadelphia," says Rupp. "It felt like the perfect place."

It also feels like "the perfect time" to be a student here, says Rupp. This spring, *Billboard* magazine named the University one of the country's Top Music Business Schools. Students in the program have "almost every resource possible" at their disposal, says Rupp. Most of his music classes are held at Lakehouse Recording Studios, a multimillion-

“
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE RESTLESS YOUTH ANYMORE. IT'S MORE ABOUT MY PASSION FOR TALKING ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE. I APPRECIATE BRUCE'S VOICE AS AN ACTIVIST AND AS AN AMBASSADOR OF THE AMERICAN DREAM.
 ”

OPPOSITE: Rupp, a bass player, is a music industry major in a program recently named one of the country's Top Music Business Schools by *Billboard* magazine.

dollar facility in Asbury Park. Many of his professors are trained producers who know "the real-world side of the music business," says Rupp. "And the kids in my department want to make the arts scene just as big as it possibly can be, which is exciting."

Rupp is still a Springsteen devotee, but he says the music speaks to him for different reasons now. "It's not about the restless youth anymore," says Rupp. "It's more about my passion for talking about social justice. I appreciate Bruce's voice as an activist and as an ambassador of the American dream."

Working as a student archivist in the Archives, Rupp helps catalog donations sent in from fans around the world, and sometimes from Springsteen himself: news clippings, concert tickets, memorabilia, and the like. He also assists with events that are staged by the Archives. At one, "Springsteen: His Hometown," Rupp was personally introduced to the Boss by his own boss: Archives Director Eileen Chapman. The moment was both awesome and surreal, says Rupp, and provided further evidence he was at the perfect place at the perfect time.

"Students just have access to so much here," he says. "I got here, talked to people about Bruce, and the next thing I know I'm in the Archives going through Springsteen's personal collection. But even outside the music industry program, I know there are opportunities like that for students to get involved," says Rupp. "If you have a passion or a goal, Monmouth is the place to be."



photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO



HOW MONMOUTH WAS MADE »
LANDMARKS & STORIES

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE MANY MONIKERS OF MONMOUTH'S MARQUEE BUILDING.

COMPILED BY BREANNE MCCARTHY

Long before Monmouth University was founded, the area upon which a portion of today's campus stands was part of an estate called Shadow Lawn.

Named for the many trees that dotted the property, the estate was home to a wood-frame, colonial-style mansion that bore little resemblance to the building that would one day replace it and come to be associated with this University.

Built in 1903, the original Shadow Lawn mansion had 52 rooms and was referred to by one critic at the time as "all vocabulary and no rhetoric." Nonetheless, it gained some notoriety in 1916 when its owner, Joseph B. Greenhut, head of the Siegel-Cooper Company, leased it to President Woodrow Wilson.

Wilson arrived at the original Shadow Lawn mansion on Sept. 1 and over the next several weeks ran his reelection campaign from the mansion's steps. That "front porch campaign" earned the old building a nickname: the "Summer White House." It also drew the ire of former President Theodore Roosevelt, who referenced the locale in a scathing speech he gave just days before the election. "There should be shadows enough at Shadow Lawn," Roo-

sevelt said in condemning Wilson's policy of nonintervention in Europe—despite direct attacks on U.S. citizens—as World War I unfolded. "The shadows of men, women, and children who have risen from the ooze of the ocean bottoms and from graves in foreign lands; the shadows of the helpless who Mr. Wilson did not dare protect."

Wilson narrowly won reelection, though sources differ on when exactly he learned he had captured enough electoral votes to retain the presidency. One item not in dispute is that when Wilson left the old Shadow Lawn mansion on Nov. 9, 1916, he never again returned.

More than a decade later, in January 1927, the original Shadow Lawn mansion—which was then owned by Hubert T. Parson, president of F.W. Woolworth Company—burned to the ground.

Despite having just spent \$1 million renovating the old mansion, the wealthy Parson decided to build a new, significantly larger structure on the original building's footprint. World-renowned

ABOVE: When the original Shadow Lawn mansion (above, right) burned to the ground in 1927, Hubert T. Parson—despite having just spent \$1 million renovating the old mansion—built a new, larger structure on the original footprint.

architect Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia was hired as the lead architect, while the interior design was led by Julian Abele, one of the first professionally trained African American architects in the country. Abele had already risen to prominence for his design work on various architectural projects, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Harvard University's Widener Library, and Duke University's west campus.

It took two years and \$10.5 million to build the new Shadow Lawn mansion. When it was complete, it reached far beyond the glory of the former building, more than doubling the number of rooms. The new mansion included a bowling alley, an indoor swimming pool, and the stunning Great Hall, a three-story entrance hall highlighted by a grand staircase and a 100-foot-long Venetian stained glass skylight.

Parson suffered financial ruin during the Great Depression, and the mansion he had built eventually fell under municipal ownership in 1939.

In 1942, Highland Manor Junior College, a private girls' school, acquired the Shadow Lawn mansion. It was during that school's ownership of the



property that the building's name was changed to Woodrow Wilson Hall.

That name remained in use until 1955, when the University, which was then known as Monmouth Junior College, purchased the building and changed its name to the Great Hall. The building continued to be referred to as the Great Hall until 1966, when Monmouth College officials, in a nod to the history of the site (since Wilson had never physically been in the building that now stood there), rededicated the Great Hall as Woodrow Wilson Hall.

In the years since then, Wilson's legacy has become complicated. Among his many accomplishments, he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for leading the establishment of the League of Nations. But it has been well documented by historians that Wilson was a racist who supported segregation and white supremacy. Therefore, as conversations of race exploded across the country earlier this year following the death of George Floyd, Monmouth's Board of Trustees voted to remove Wilson's name and rename the building the Great Hall at Shadow Lawn. In announcing its decision, the board noted the impor-

tance of taking into account the concerns of many Monmouth students, administrators, and faculty regarding Wilson's racist legacy.

"Wilson was a controversial politician, who never actually set foot in the current building," President Patrick F. Leahy and former Chair of the Board of Trustees Michael A. Plodwick '82 said in a joint statement announcing the decision to the University community. "Removing his name, and incorporating these earlier names, connects the centerpiece of our campus more accurately to our historical roots and eliminates a symbolic barrier to the important work of creating a truly welcoming and inclusive space in the Great Hall."

With the building's name having been returned to its roots, efforts are underway to return the Great Hall itself to a central hub on campus. There are plans to build a coffeehouse on the first floor and to add furniture to create more common areas and study space for students. "We want more students, alumni, faculty, and staff to feel this building is a part of the central experience at Monmouth University," Leahy said this fall.

EMBRACING ANTI-RACISM

IN JULY, PRESIDENT LEAHY ANNOUNCED A series of actions that Monmouth University will undertake to commit itself to becoming an anti-racist institution. Zaneta Rago-Craft, Ed.D., director of the campus Intercultural Center and the president's advisor on diversity and inclusion, explains what that means.

What is the difference between being "not racist" and being "anti-racist"?

I think one of the main markers of anti-racism is behavior. We can all hopefully recognize racism or inequity happening around us, but what we do about it is what makes us anti-racist. Do we allow it to happen? Do we intervene? Anti-racist means you're taking action. You're intervening. You're recognizing what's happening around you and working toward change in your spheres of influence.

What can Monmouth do institutionally to become anti-racist?

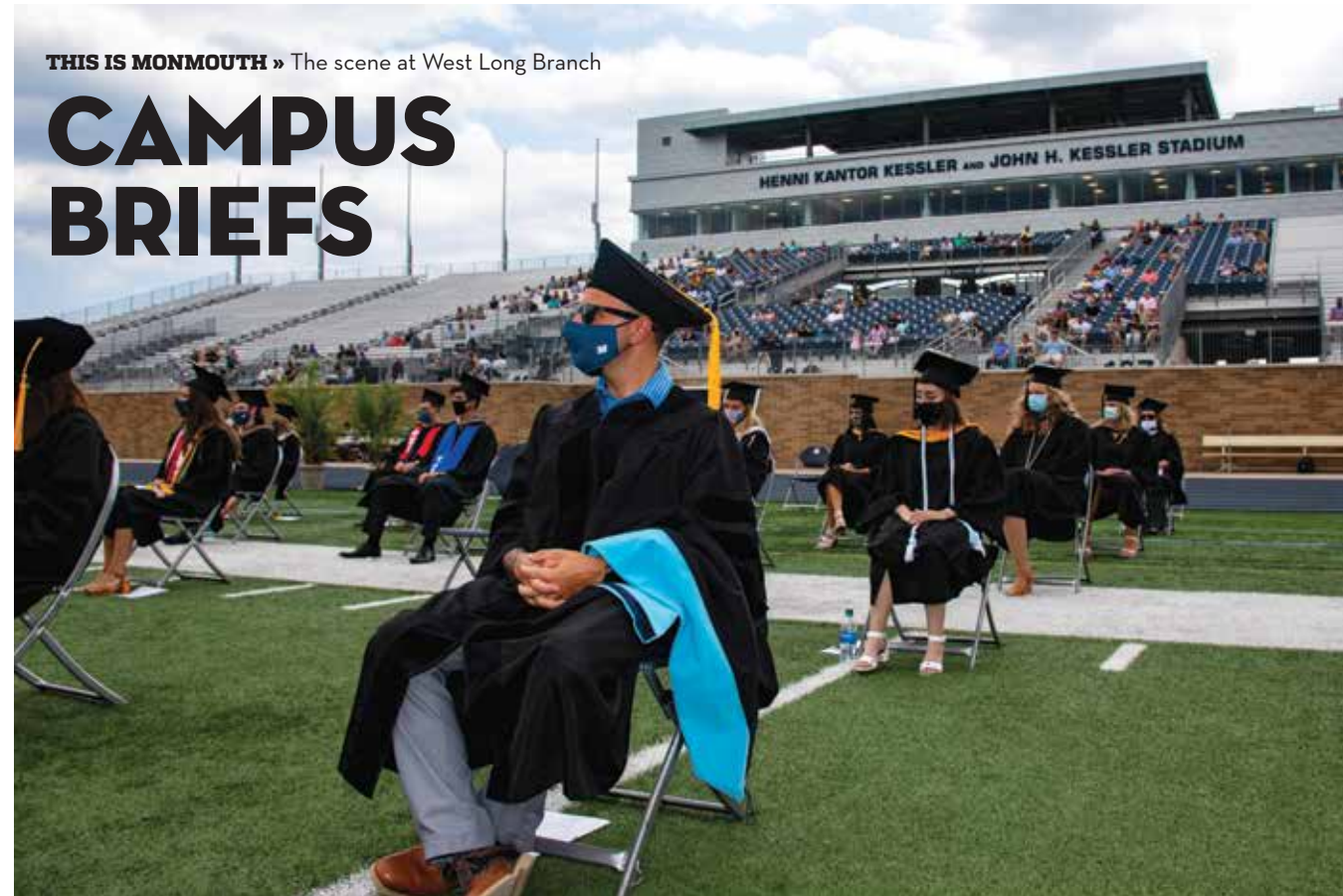
Some of this is addressed in the Anti-Racist Commitment that the president shared with the community. And for me, I think institutionally there are policies we can create to actively confront inequity. For instance, in regard to our hiring policies, are we aggressively recruiting diverse candidates to come to campus? And once we recruit a critical mass of diverse faculty, staff, and students, are we also actively working to keep them here? That's an example of anti-racist action: creating support networks and mentoring programs. Another piece would be taking a closer look at the curricular experience that students are having, how we can support the critical courses already being offered, and think about recruiting faculty with specialties in these areas of scholarship.

How can your appointment to cabinet help in these efforts?

I think being at the table will allow for questions of equity to be at the forefront when decisions are being made around campus change. It also helps to indicate that we as a University are taking positive steps to confront our history and our present, and want to envision a better future that is more inclusive, welcoming, equitable, and anti-racist. —interview by Tony Marchetti

THIS IS MONMOUTH » The scene at West Long Branch

CAMPUS BRIEFS



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE AT LAST

When the state's COVID-19 health and safety regulations made it impossible to host in-person commencement ceremonies last spring, many schools resorted to holding virtual events. Monmouth, however, remained committed to celebrating the Class of 2020 graduates in person as soon as it was safe to do so.

That moment finally arrived in late August. During three days of modified Commencement ceremonies, faculty and staff joined with the graduates' families to honor the Class of 2020 for their achievements. The ceremonies were school based, and total attendance at each event was limited to 500 people to adhere to state guidelines in effect at the time.

Despite the delays and unusual circumstances, it was all worth it, said Michael Fazzino '20, the past

senior class vice president and Student Government Association president.

"University administrators kept in touch throughout the summer and surveyed all graduates to determine what worked best for the majority of people, while planning the ceremonies," said Fazzino. "I feel fortunate to have been able to celebrate my Commencement in person with my classmates and family."

MONMOUTH SOARS IN U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

The University earned its highest-ever ranking on *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges roster, moving into the No. 23 spot in its category, Regional Universities North. It is the first time the University has ranked in the top 25. Additionally, Monmouth once again secured its place on the publication's Best Colleges for Veterans list, moving up to No. 11 in its category.



BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Monmouth was again named to *Money* magazine's annual Best Colleges for Your Money list. The University has appeared on the list, which assesses nearly 750 four-year colleges, every year since its inception. The rankings are based on three categories—quality, affordability, and outcomes—spanning 27 different criteria, including graduation rates, faculty ratings, peer ratings, net price paid to attend, average debt, employment, and earnings.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

President Patrick F. Leahy and Polling Institute Director Patrick Murray were named to *ROI-NJ's* list of influencers in higher education and *NJBIZ's* Education Power 50 list.

SEVEN-FIGURE GIFT WILL SUPPORT REAL ESTATE STUDENTS

The Kislak Family Foundation has pledged \$1 million in scholarships and \$100,000 in academic programming support for Monmouth University students studying real estate. The seven-figure scholarship donation will support a need-based Kislak Family Scholarship for undergraduates pursuing a business degree with a real estate concentration, while the \$100,000 pledge will continue to support the University's Kislak Real Estate Institute Academic Challenge, an annual intercollegiate real estate competition that will include an affordable housing component.

NEWS WORTH BROADCASTING

WMCX 88.9 FM, Monmouth's student-run radio station, was recognized as the No. 18 Best College Radio Station in the Princeton Review's annual guide *The Best 386 Colleges*.

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION

A series of Cuban street scene illustrations commissioned for the fall 2019 issue of this magazine were awarded a bronze-level Circle of Excellence Award from the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) earlier this year. This is the second year in a row that *Monmouth* magazine has won a Circle of Excellence Award.

THINKING GLOBALLY

Two decades ago, administrators and faculty from across the disciplines teamed up to enhance cultural and global awareness and citizenship throughout the University community. Their efforts culminated in the creation of the Global Understanding Project, which in 2008 was renamed the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU).

Over the years, the IGU flourished. Among other things, the institute facilitated the participation of Monmouth students and faculty in high-level United Nations meetings and conferences and increased the University's participation in the Fulbright Program, an exchange program that focuses on improving intercultural relations and competence as well as cultural diplomacy.

Following a brief hiatus, the IGU this year welcomed both a new faculty advisory council and a new director: Randall Abate, J.D., a political science professor and the Rehnitz Family Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy.

Through a mix of academics and arts programs, interdisciplinary research and events, community partnerships, and service at the local and global levels, the IGU will embark on a new era focused on reinvigorating the Fulbright Program and Monmouth's relationships with the U.N., reinstating a biennial symposium, and fostering partnerships with other academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations across the globe, Abate said.



ABOVE: Two of the CASE Circle of Excellence Award-winning illustrations by Dan Williams from the fall 2019 issue of *Monmouth* magazine.

OPPOSITE: Scenes from the socially distanced Commencement ceremonies Monmouth held for the Class of 2020 in August.

"I look forward to working with the IGU faculty advisory council to build on the IGU's legacy of excellence in supporting global education and cross-cultural understanding programs and events on campus for faculty and students and building partnerships in neighboring communities and around the globe," Abate said. "The IGU is a clearinghouse for bringing the campus community together around these efforts."

WRITE STUFF

Undergraduate students in Adjunct Professor Lawrence Jones' Spring 2020 Law and Society course authored a book about the legal and social issues confronting society as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Written during the frantic months of March and April 2020, *Confronting COVID: Research and Reflections of Monmouth University Students in the Early Days of the COVID-19 Pandemic* is believed to be the first COVID-19-related book in the U.S. authored by college students in real time. It tackles some of the most challenging issues of the time, including lockdown orders, child welfare, special education, college and university students, unemployment, mental health, the elderly, price gouging, child custody, the stock market, and student loans. The book is available in e-book or hard copy format at the Guggenheim Memorial Library.

A DAY AT THE BEACH

» Coastal moments, captured

RISE AND SHINE

An early morning fog blankets the ocean at Manasquan Inlet.

WORDS AND DEEDS

ATHLETE ALIAH MOORE IS USING HER PLATFORM TO ADVOCATE AND CAMPAIGN FOR RACIAL EQUITY.

BY MOLLY PETRILLA

A'Liah Moore '22, a communications major and forward on the women's soccer team, has gotten used to public speaking over the last few years. But as she held a police microphone outside the Lakewood Municipal Building this summer and began to address the crowd, "this one really hit me hard," she says.

Moore and others from the local NAACP chapter had just finished marching through the streets of Lakewood, New Jersey, side by side with local police officers, in protest of George Floyd's killing and ongoing police brutality. When it was her turn to talk, Moore looked into the crowd and saw a woman crying. In that moment, she felt the pain of not just one person, but everyone there. "You look around, and it's a crowd of people who are hurt, broken—people who haven't been heard," Moore says now. "It hit me: I'm not just speaking for myself. I'm speaking for the whole crowd and anyone who is listening. That's a real honor."

Through tears of her own, Moore introduced herself and began: "Because I am Black," she said, "me talking with the right etiquette means talking

like a white person." She discussed wage gaps, broken families, and ignorance and hatred. "Let's not come together for just some protest, but stick together to make a change and a different narrative for us," she added. "If we want change, we must be the change. If we want peace, we must demonstrate peace. If we want justice, we must raise our voices."

Moore has been involved with the Ocean County/Lakewood Chapter of the NAACP's Youth and College Division since she was 10 but only began speaking at events in the past few years. As the Black Lives Matter movement swelled this summer, and as she watched professional athletes speak out and protest, Moore committed to stepping up her own activism too—both at Monmouth and beyond.

“
IF WE WANT CHANGE, WE MUST BE THE CHANGE. IF WE WANT PEACE, WE MUST DEMONSTRATE PEACE. IF WE WANT JUSTICE, WE MUST RAISE OUR VOICES.
 ”

OPPOSITE: Moore, a junior, was named to the 2018 MAAC All-Rookie Team and 2019 MAAC All-Academic Team.

She figured the campus athletic community, where she already has close ties, was a good place to start. Moore loves her teammates and coach, but even in that supportive environment, there has been discomfort and pain: the time a group of boys cheering on an opposing team called her "monkey"; all the parties she skipped, afraid that if the cops came, she'd be first on their radar as the only Black student there; the feeling of being Black in a locker room where the majority of the team is white.

Moore believes that change begins with simply sharing her perspective and these stories. That's why she participated in a "Hawk Talk" Black Lives Matter panel discussion this summer and why she is working to foster more conversations this fall.

She already reached out to her soccer teammates this summer and set up a video call in which they discussed George Floyd's killing and some of her own experiences as a Black woman. Her coach and teammates have agreed to continue these conversations in person, and Moore plans to speak with other Hawks athletics teams too.

"The time is now," says Moore. "There's no reason to hold my tongue and not try to make a difference, especially with what's going on in our country and especially with sports today. Athletes in the NBA, MLS, NFL—they're all doing something. And everything they're doing, we can do as well. I'm just trying to figure out the best approach so I can use my voice to bring awareness and make a change in the world."

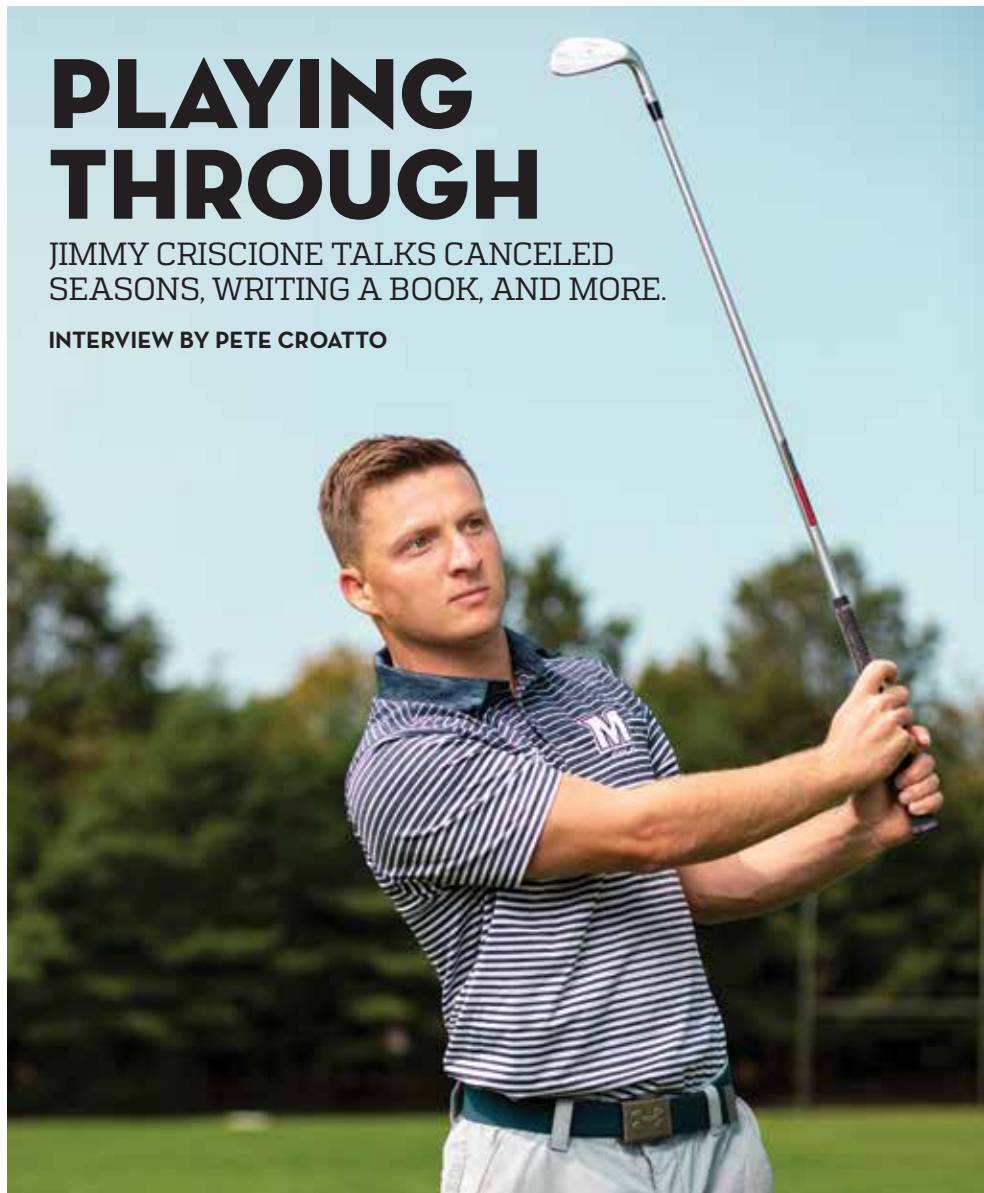


photo ANTHONY DEPRIMO

PLAYING THROUGH

JIMMY CRISCIONE TALKS CANCELED SEASONS, WRITING A BOOK, AND MORE.

INTERVIEW BY PETE CROATTO



Senior Jimmy Criscione carries several titles: captain of the men's golf team, president of the Monmouth Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (MSAAC)—and, now, published author. *Little Timmy*, the baseball-focused children's book he wrote to impart lessons of perseverance on the younger generation, was published last spring. Criscione began writing the story while in high school and drew inspiration from his own experiences as a Little League All-Star whose team comes up one win shy of a trip to the World Series. As MSAAC president, Criscione is playing a key role this fall in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference's voter registration initiative. He talked about all of that and more with us recently.

ABOVE: A business management major, Criscione is a member of Chi Alpha Sigma, the national scholar-athlete society. Last spring he received the golf team's Leadership Award.

On dealing with a canceled fall season.

I was in the club championship at my home golf course this summer, and I was ready to come out firing this fall. But with COVID-19 canceling the season, we've all had to adjust our mindsets. We're still practicing as a team, and I think playing against each other and setting common goals in our team meetings will have us in even better shape come spring.

On why he wrote a children's book.

Playing baseball and being part of a team taught me a lot of life lessons that I wanted to share. I figured the best way to do that was to write a children's book—one that teaches kids to follow their dreams and overcome adversity.

On the similarities between writing and golf.

In golf, you really need to be specific about what you're trying to accomplish as far as technique. You practice on the driving range or putting green for hours at a time, and then you need to translate those skills into your game. The long hours of practice and preparation are similar to writing a book. I'd spend hours each day working on it, writing and editing to fine-tune the message I was trying to get across—kind of like working out the kinks in my swing on the range.

On why he's working to increase voter access.

As student-athletes and, more importantly, as citizens of the United States of America, we must take seriously our constitutional right to vote, either in person or via absentee ballot. Every vote and every voice is important.

On his childhood sports hero: Derek Jeter.

I was a Yankees fan growing up, and I learned from my parents what a class act he was off

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 ”

the field. He handled himself well with the media. He was always very humble. He was kind. He was someone I wanted to emulate.

On another less-well-known hero: Mema.

My grandmother is one of the most generous people in this world. Before I walked out of the house each day, her message would be, “Choose kindness.” So that is something that I take with me every day: Choose kindness, be humble, and help others.

On what golf has given him.

Golf is similar to life: It's about setting small goals and trying to achieve them. The game has made me a better person overall—mentally, physically, and emotionally—and given me the opportunity to grow. I'm grateful I've had the opportunity to compete for a Division I program.



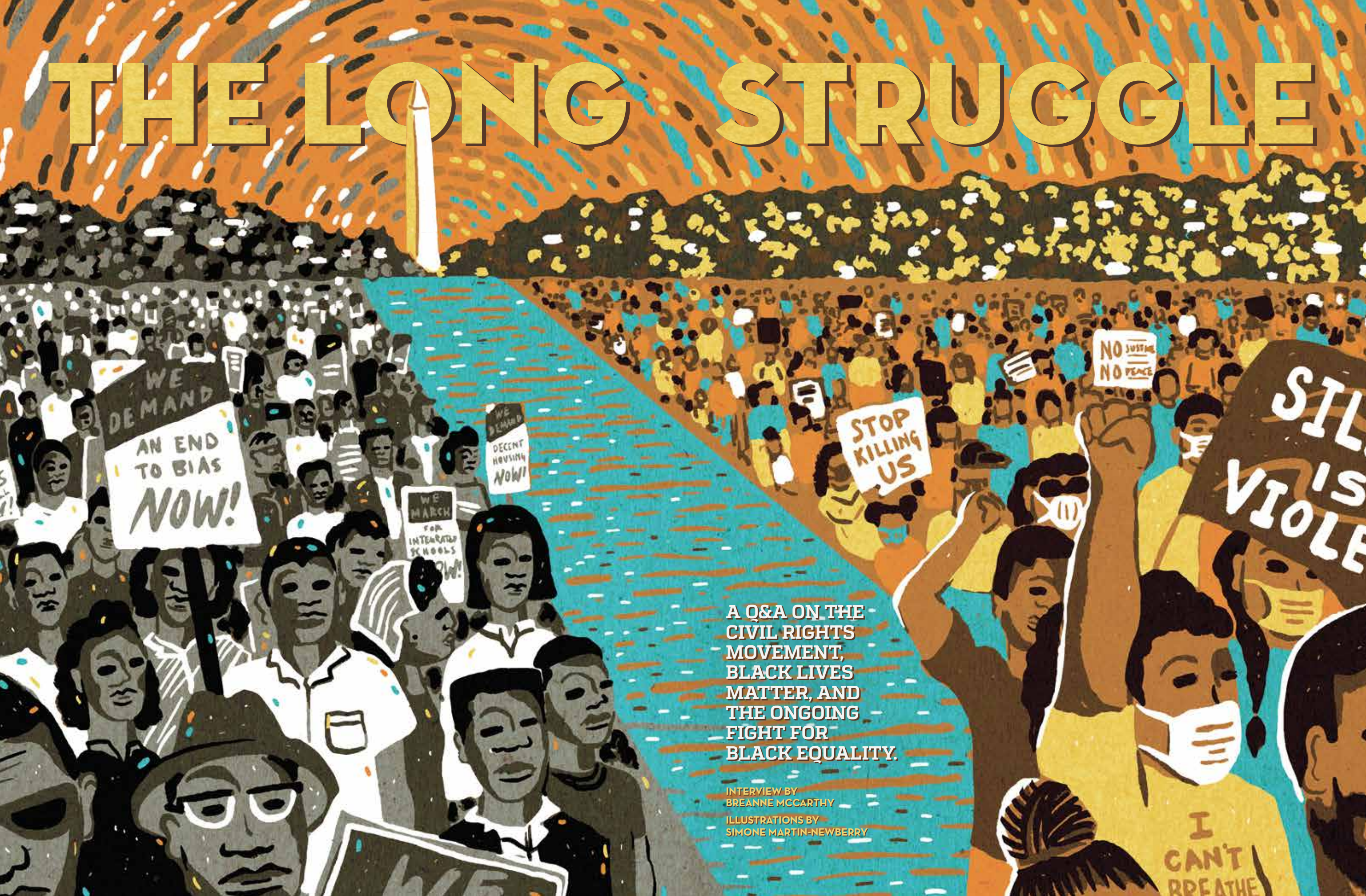
GOOD SPORT

HAWKS PHOTOGRAPHER KARLEE SELL SHARES HER SECRETS.

ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS MONMOUTH SPORTS ONLINE HAS LIKELY SEEN THE work of Karlee Sell, athletics' uber-talented student photographer. (If not, check it out at monmouth.edu/magazine.) Sell, who has photographed all 23 sports during her four years at Monmouth, is set to graduate in December. Before that happens, we picked her brain for some tips on shooting sporting events.

- 1 **Get into position**
 The best place to be is on the sidelines, not the stands, but be aware of your surroundings so you don't interfere with the action. And make in-game adjustments: Switch sides at halftime for a different perspective on the action.
- 2 **Light it up**
 Keep the light at your back to illuminate the action, but skip the flash. “It's the quickest way to get kicked out,” says Sell. For outdoor sports, overcast and cloudy days are best. “There are no harsh shadows, and you can see the players' faces clearly.”
- 3 **Shoot away**
 To capture the action, keep your ISO setting low, your shutter speed at or above 1/1000th of a second, and your lens set to autofocus. But remember there's more to sports photography than what's on the field. “That awesome touchdown shot is great to have, but the blood, sweat, and tears that go into every game are just as interesting,” says Sell.
- 4 **Take your game to the next level**
 Cellphones are for selfies: To take great sports photos, you need an SLR or mirrorless camera. A 200- to 500-millimeter zoom lens gets you close to the action; a monopod helps stabilize your shots. As for editing, Sell suggests Adobe Lightroom. “It's easy to use and can make an average photo great.” —as told to Tony Marchetti

THE LONG STRUGGLE



A Q&A ON THE
CIVIL RIGHTS
MOVEMENT,
BLACK LIVES
MATTER, AND
THE ONGOING
FIGHT FOR
BLACK EQUALITY.

INTERVIEW BY
BREANNE MCCARTHY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
SIMONE MARTIN-NEWBERRY

When George Floyd was killed on May 25, 2020, a cascade of protests, rallies, and conversations focused on topics such as systemic racism, police brutality, and Black equality erupted across the nation, ricocheting around the globe until it seemed as if the entire world was reciting the names of those who will be forever connected to this historic moment in time: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery ...

Many likened the renewed focus on the struggle for Black equality to the civil rights movement and the tragedies and tensions that sparked that earlier campaign for social justice in the 1950s.

But Assistant Professor of African American History Hettie Williams, Ph.D., a scholar of race and ethnicity studies, says we shouldn't think of the two moments as separate but rather as two parts of a continuum that will persist until equality is achieved.

We asked Professor Williams about how the movement has transformed over the past 60 years, how the events of this year—including the COVID-19 pandemic—have shaped its current form, and what needs to be done to continue moving toward achieving racial equality.

How does the Black Lives Matter movement compare to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s?

Rather than thinking of these recent Black Lives Matter protests as something distinct from the civil rights movement, I would argue they are part of a historical continuum. Black oppression and responses to it are not new but rather a continuation of what historians call the struggle for Black equality. George Floyd is the Emmett Till of the post-millennial generation.

Historians' thinking on the civil rights movement has evolved. At first, scholars such as Stephen B. Oates, David Garrow, and Taylor Branch emphasized the figure of Martin Luther King Jr., and the time period from the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 and 1956 to King's death in 1968, when writing about the movement. That standard chronological framing came to be known as the "Montgomery to Memphis" narrative, and it was, in part, defined by movement participants such as King, who wrote several books about the movement while it was in progress.

Later historians challenged this approach to understanding the civil rights movement. Harvard Sitkoff¹ suggested the notion that the "struggle for black equality" is a more accurate term to describe the ongoing demand for civil rights by African Americans. One of his counterparts, John Dittmer,² emphasized the role that local civil rights activists such as Amzie Moore, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Medgar Evers played in the fight against Jim Crow in Mississippi, as opposed to national leaders such as King. Charles Payne's work³ echoes Dittmer's by promoting the concept of an "organizing tradition," one that has always been a part of African American life and society, involving both middle-class and working-class people, or "local people." More recently, historian Jacquelyn Dowd Hall redefined the parameters of the civil rights movement,⁴ declaring it to be a movement that extends beyond the Montgomery to Memphis narrative.

Thus, many historians have come to think of the civil rights movement as a long struggle for Black equality, one that began before the 1950s and is ongoing. Black Lives Matter is a continuation of that struggle. The organization's founders make it clear on their website that they draw on the organizing tradi-

tion operationalized during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and beyond.

You mentioned Emmett Till, whose lynching in 1955 is often seen as the tipping point that mobilized civil rights activists across the country. Sadly, as was the case with Till, there were many wrongful deaths of Black people prior to George Floyd's. Why do you think Floyd's death became the tipping point for the large-scale mobilization we see today?

The death of children has always mobilized the Black masses. In many respects, the civil rights movement was—is—a woman's movement. Mothers such as Mamie Till, who wanted the world to see her son's mutilated body in an open casket, have led the struggle for Black equality for decades. George Floyd cried out for his mother in the video that went viral on social media, and women are once again at the forefront of this current demand for Black equality.⁵ Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, who was killed by George Zimmerman in 2012, has become a major figure in the struggle for Black equality. So Trayvon Martin is as much the Emmett Till of this generation as George Floyd or Tamir Rice or Michael Brown.

Floyd's murder also took place amid a global pandemic, and African Americans have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black or African American people are dying at 2.4 times the rate of white-identified persons in the U.S.⁶ Thus, African Americans are fighting the twin pandemics of racism and COVID-19, and this has also shaped the current moment.

Furthermore, television media, new in the 1950s, helped to facilitate a mass movement that became the civil rights movement. Today, new media and technologies such as handheld cellphone videos have been instrumental in making possible this current struggle for Black equality.

It seems those technologies are helping to amplify the message as well, as we've seen Black Lives Matter protests taking place around the world in response to George Floyd's death.



The struggle for Black equality has always been global. There was international mobilization for Black equality in the early 20th century as exemplified in the Pan-African Congress and the Pan-African Congress conventions from 1900 to 1927. These conferences brought together Black leaders from all over the world concerned about European imperialism, colonialism, and racism more generally. That said, the Garvey movement that flourished in the 1920s and 1930s was an international movement. In fact, Marcus Garvey's organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), was the most successful Black association for civil rights in world history, with an estimated 3 to 5 million members worldwide. The UNIA had chapters in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.

There have been attempts by President Donald Trump and some in the right-wing media to delegitimize the current protests and movement. Does their rhetoric in any way echo what was written or said about the civil rights movement in the 1960s?

Trump seems to resemble George Wallace, as many historians have noted. Wallace was a segregationist and governor of Alabama who eventually ran for president. He was also a populist who claimed to represent the common man and gained notoriety by standing in the door of the University of Alabama, which he sought to keep segregated. At that time, Martin Luther King Jr. was referred to by southerners as "Martin Luther Coon"; he was not embraced by the media or the public, as illustrated in a Gallup Poll of 1966 that showed King had a 63% negative rating among the American public. Declassified FBI

files have shown that the government's COINTELPRO counterintelligence program⁷ was used against King and several Black civil rights leaders who were constantly surveilled and harassed. And now Black Lives Matter members are being tracked across the country by the FBI, according to documents obtained by *The Intercept*. So the similarities are there.

What possible ramifications could this year's presidential election have in helping or hindering the struggle for Black equality in this country?

American democracy is at risk. Those who support a democratic form of government in the U.S. must vote. Jason Stanley, a Yale-based philosopher, has written a book called *How Fascism Works*, detailing the history of fascist ideologies and strategies. Fascism is a form of government in which one lead-



er or political party has power, with little or few individual rights for most—unless you are a member of the ruling party. It is also a political ideology that utilizes racist thinking, misogyny, and attacks on the free press to consolidate power. It seems to me that the current occupant of the White House is a crypto-fascist who is placing American democracy at risk every day.

Are there specific changes that need to come about in the wake of this current mobilization in order for historians to look back on this period as a true watershed moment in the continuing struggle for Black equality?

Social equality in education, housing, policing—one could go on and on. Whites will be outnumbered in the next generation, and much of the current racial tension in the nation is about white racial anxiety, or the fear of losing ground as a result of what social scientists have called the “browning” of America. Change is coming in terms of the shifting social geography. In 2010, more than 50% of the children born in the U.S. were classified as non-white according to the U.S. Census. The increasingly multiethnic demography of the U.S. will require that cultural competency be essential in policing, education, and every other sector of the U.S. This society will be *majority non-white*.

What are some actions that white allies and non-Black people of color can take to help in the struggle for Black equality?

Be aware of your privilege, and understand what it means: The freedoms that you may have are not easily enjoyed by someone else. Have the ability to move beyond your own experience and listen. You don’t know what you have not lived. Avoid being judgmental as you listen. Educate yourself (see “Resources” sidebar, right) on the issue, and learn about the problem. You should be willing to step into a supportive role and speak up—but not *for* or *over* the person or group you have allied yourself with.

How are you and your students discussing and reflecting on what has happened in the world since the death of George Floyd?

Students in my U.S. History I class this semester are reading chapters from

RESOURCES

TO TRULY HELP THE CAUSE, ONE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT IS AT STAKE. We asked Professor Williams what resources she would recommend to anyone looking to learn more about the history of the civil rights movement and the ongoing struggle for Black equality. Here is what she recommended.

» ***Eyes on the Prize* (PBS documentary):**

This multipart film, composed of archival footage and interviews of some of the most important historical figures in the history of the struggle for Black equality, is the definitive documentary on the American civil rights movement.

» ***The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* (PBS documentary):**

This film documents the Black Panther Party and its role in the larger struggle for Black equality and includes discussion of the impact the Black Panthers had on the civil rights movement.

» ***Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018) by Keisha N. Blain:**

In this award-winning text, Blain reconceptualizes the history of Black

nationalism by placing women—including such pivotal figures as Amy Jacques Garvey, Amy Ashwood Garvey, and Mittie Maude Lena Gordon, co-architects of the Garvey movement—at the center of the narrative.

» ***At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2010) by Danielle L. McGuire:**

Stunning and compelling, this groundbreaking work defines the American civil rights movement as a woman’s movement, tracing the history of women’s activism from the work of Rosa Parks, who investigated the sexual assault of Black women in the 1940s for the NAACP, through to the early 1970s.

» **“The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past,” *Journal of American History* (2005) by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall:**

This pivotal journal article by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall chronologically reconceptualizes the civil rights movement as a “long movement” that has occurred beyond the parameters of the 1955 to 1968 narrative. It is essential reading for understanding the struggle for Black equality as a whole.

» ***A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History* (Beacon Press, 2018) by Jeanne Theoharis:**

Theoharis demonstrates how the popular histories or “fables” of this event get used to denounce contemporary protests and downplay current movements for social justice.

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi. For this class, I want students to recognize that racial slavery has had a residual impact on U.S. history, society, and culture, and this continues down to the present through systemic racism.

It is impossible to understand U.S. history without a broad conversation about race. Race and racism are central to the evolution of U.S. history. White privilege is also a part of this history. The U.S.

Census has indicated that the U.S. will be roughly 46% white in about 20 years. This means that white-identified individuals must gain a greater awareness of the history of this nation, and the role that race has played in that history, in order to function as productive citizens in an increasingly globalized world—one in which they will be numerically outnumbered. [M](#)

For a complete list of footnotes and citations, visit monmouth.edu/magazine.

THE DARK SIDE OF WECHAT

HOW THE CHAT APP TURNED “MEGA-PLATFORM” HAS BECOME CHINA’S ULTIMATE TOOL FOR AUTHORITARIANISM AND CENSORSHIP.

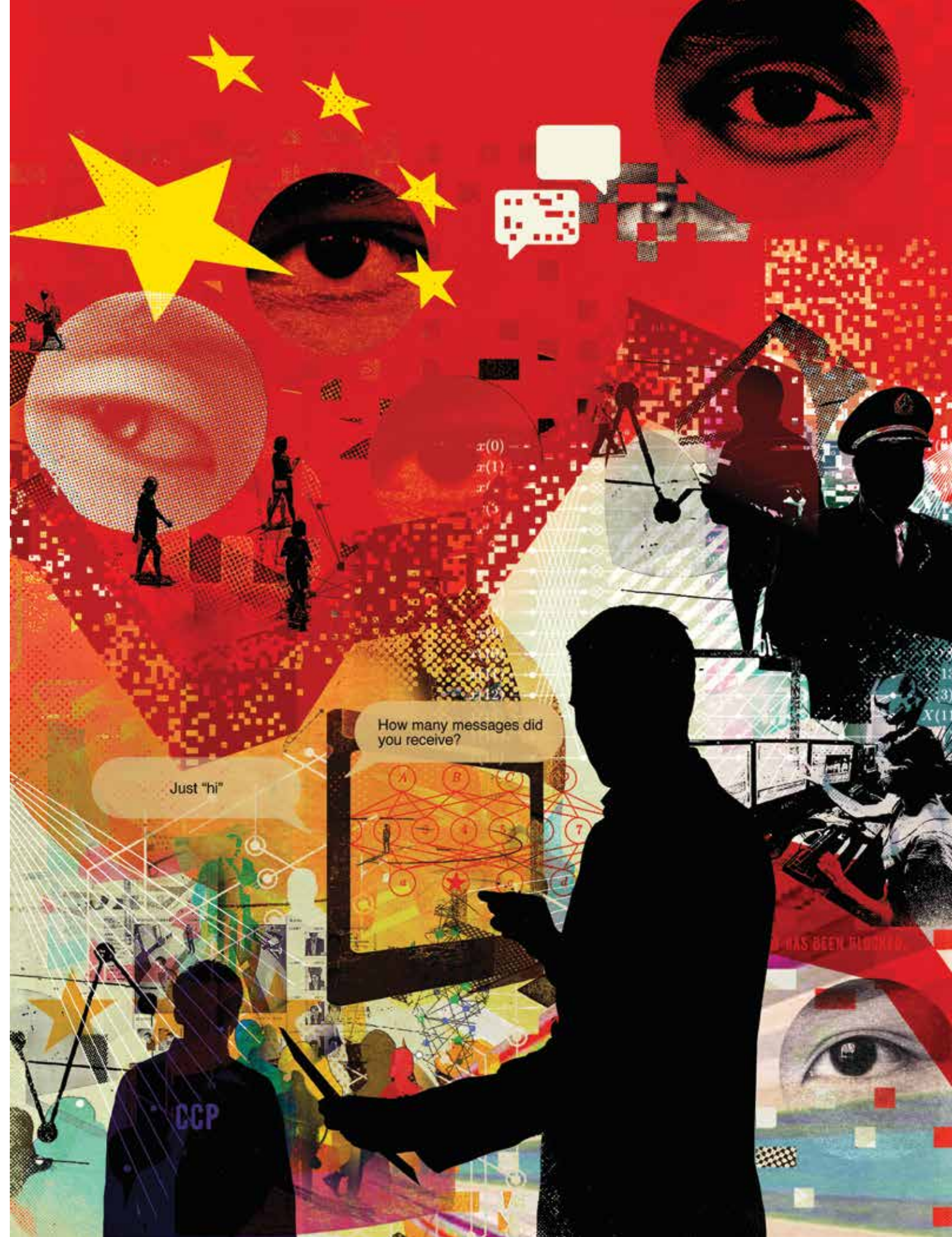
BY PETER W. LIU, PH.D., AND JUSTIN M. LIU
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DUNG HOANG

The following excerpt is adapted from the forthcoming book Democracy in Crisis around the World (see p. 35 for more on the book). It is printed here with permission. All rights reserved by Lexington Books.

Fearing the free flow of information on the internet, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has banned all foreign internet services in China and built the Great Firewall to deny the Chinese people access to outside online sources. As a result, social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other services such as Google, Wikipedia, and Amazon are not available. In their place, China has developed its own domestic internet and affiliated services.

One such service is WeChat, a smart-phone app that boasts “over 1.1 billion users”.¹ Released by the state-sponsored company Tencent in 2011, it started out as a simple messaging app. However, hand in hand with its popularity, WeChat quickly grew into a “mega-platform,” boasting a massive number of practical features.² The list of uses includes public social media, ordering food delivery, Uber/Lyft-like functionality, sending money to friends, mak-

ing doctor’s appointments, paying bills, communicating in the business world, and even using government services.³ As its monopoly continues to expand, the app has become indispensable in Chinese citizens’ lives. Though it may sound like an exaggeration to someone who has not used the app before, “leaving WeChat means leaving [social] life in China,” not to mention missing out on the convenience of all of its other functions.⁴



Beyond its surface-level ease and accessibility, however, is a darker side, a side strictly monitored and regulated by the CCP: censorship. As cybersecurity journalist Patrick O’Neill detailed in a 2019 *MIT Technology Review* article, Beijing heavily pressures Tencent to implement effective real-time censorship of not only text, but also images posted to WeChat users’ Moments (analogous to Facebook’s timeline) and even in group chats and one-on-one conversations. In particular, it is the social dimension of WeChat that has allowed technology to become a powerful weapon in tightening censorship and state control in China.

Censorship has had a long and unfortunate history in China. Two millennia of emperors, wars, revolutions, and bloodshed after Qin Shi Huang, General Secretary Xi Jinping sits at the head of the CCP. Under his leadership, both traditional and newer internet media are being tightly regulated in order to avoid “potential subversion of authority,” going as far as jailing dissenting “journalists, bloggers, and activists.”⁵ With the emergence of WeChat, the CCP has a new medium, with cooperative developers, through which it can maintain its stranglehold on the availability of information. WeChat defines its mission as seeking to “improve the quality of life through internet value-added services,” but in reality, its work is to “reflect the party’s will, safeguard the party’s authority, and safeguard the party’s unity.”^{6,7} This is legally echoed in WeChat’s privacy policy, which offers no protection against government surveillance.⁸

WeChat’s model fits political theorist Langdon Winner’s outline of an authoritarian technology: It is “system centered” and “immensely powerful,” a technology that leads society toward authoritarianism.⁹ This is made evident by WeChat’s unprecedented rise and the ways that it censors information. As mentioned, WeChat is indispensable in today’s China. However, it has not become a backbone of Chinese lifestyle simply because of its usefulness; as long as it continues to align with the CCP’s values, it will receive plenty of help from the government. On top of granting subsidies to Tencent, Beijing has globally banned or heavily handicapped virtually all of WeChat’s foreign competitors, mak-

“ **WECHAT SCORED DEAD LAST IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL’S RANKING OF MESSAGING APP PRIVACY, ACHIEVING A GRAND TOTAL OF ZERO OUT OF ONE HUNDRED POINTS.** ”



ing it the only logical choice for practical use.¹⁰

This rise from service platform to infrastructure has allowed WeChat to become an easy one-stop shop for a large portion of the government’s censorship, fulfilling its role as an authoritarian technology. As the publishing platform of virtually all media outlets in China, as well as the newsfeed provider of most citizens, information flow can be strictly controlled with ease, effectively making WeChat a propaganda machine of the state. This is accomplished by Tencent’s censorship algorithms, ever-improving due to stress from Beijing such as monitoring by government agencies in “special operations.”¹¹ Beyond simply blacklisting words and phrases, the real-time censorship technologies have

even been improved to recognize images, and any text that may be contained in those pictures, using a self-reinforcing machine-learning approach to generate dynamic blacklists.¹²

Technology becomes hazardous when it becomes the driving force of society due to people’s complete dependence on machines.¹³ The sticky nature of WeChat has not only enforced complete dependence by enhancing its users’ addictive behaviors; it has taken the hazard one step further by creating an intimate and dangerous one-way relationship with China’s central government through its censorship technologies.¹⁴

As a specific example, in the protests in which Hong Kong residents opposed the extradition law passed by the cen-

tral government, WeChat played a prominent role in keeping mainland citizens out of the know. As a bit of background, Hong Kong holds a special classification different from the rest of China due to its previous status as a colony of the United Kingdom. It was returned to China in 1997 under the principle of “one country, two systems,” in which Hong Kong would enjoy “a high degree of autonomy” for 50 years.¹⁵ However, in June 2019, just 22 years later, plans of an extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China sparked protests in Hong Kong that have now grown to encompass more general arguments for democratic reform.¹⁶ Early in the protests, CNBC concluded that searching for the Hong Kong demonstrations on WeChat did not return any

IS DEMOCRACY DYING?

A new faculty-authored book examines the state of democratic institutions around the world.

THE NOTION THAT DEMOCRACIES are not only unsustainable but inevitably self-destructive is not necessarily new.

Around 380 B.C., the Greek philosopher Plato asked, “Does not tyranny spring from democracy?” A little more than two millennia later, John Adams, the former president and Founding Father, observed, “There was never a democracy yet, that did not commit suicide.”

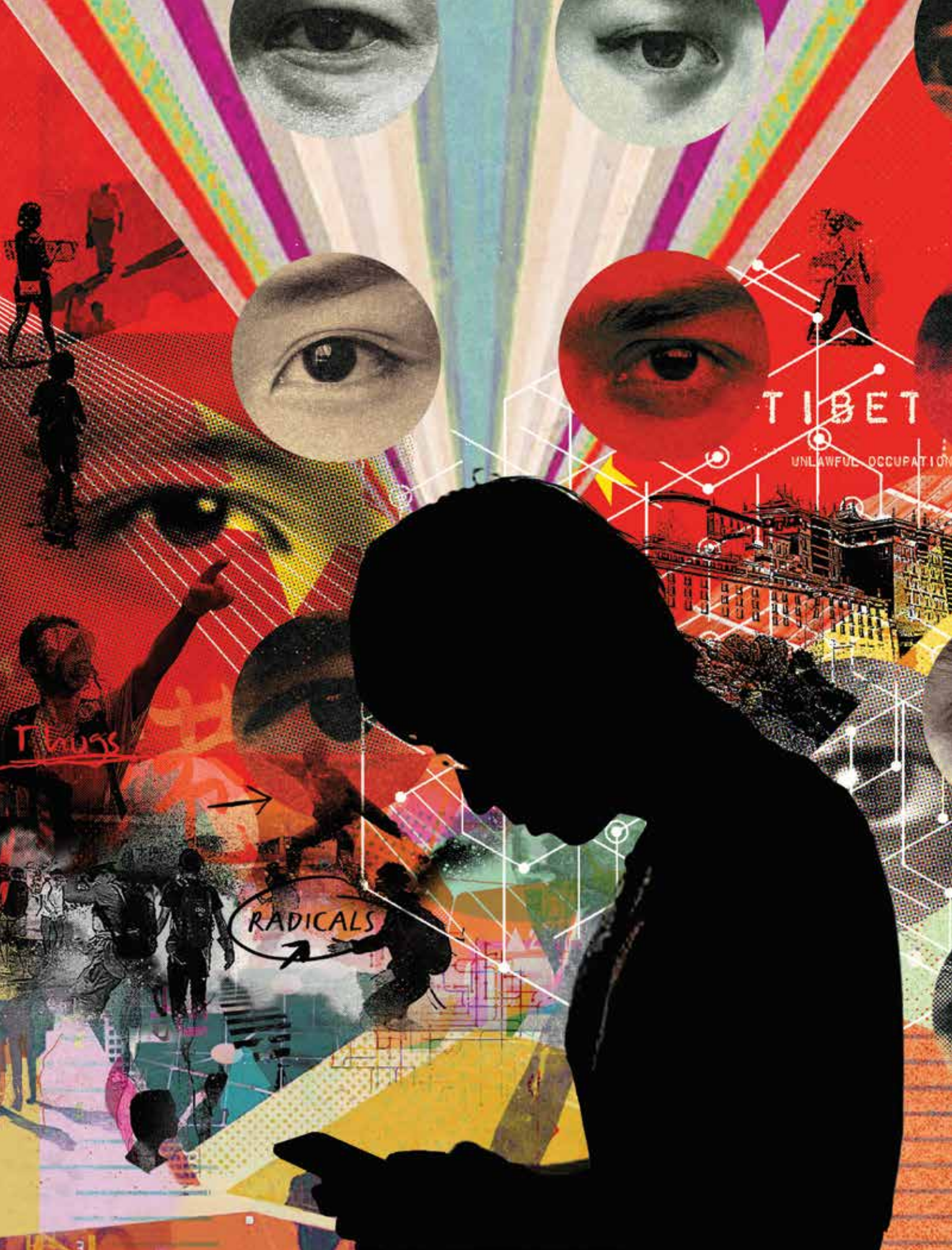
As its title might suggest, *Democracy in Crisis around the World* (Lexington Books, 2020) starts from the vantage point that many democratic institutions have already reached a critical juncture. And the consensus reached by the one dozen Monmouth faculty members who contributed to the book is that “unless democracy is defended with resolution and nurtured with resilience, it will fall.”

The book, due out this November, examines how the rise of authoritarian regimes and populist leaders has threatened freedom in key regions of the world—sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North Africa—as well as four major countries: India, China, Russia, and the U.S. A section analyzing the effects of COVID-19 on freedoms around the world gives the work added relevance.

Each chapter was written or co-written by a Monmouth faculty member. Together, their scholarly interests cover a broad range of disciplines: international relations, area studies, American politics, history, criminal justice, and pedagogical analysis. Professor Saliba Sarsar ’78 and Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Rekha Datta edited the tome and contributed chapters as well.

Visit monmouth.edu/magazine for more information on *Democracy in Crisis around the World* and how this collaborative undertaking came together.

—Breanne McCarthy



relevant results, and that images of the protests sent in one-on-one conversations did not go through.¹⁷

Not only has information availability been limited, but WeChat has also been the root of the spread of misinformation. *The Guardian's* Lily Kuo recently reported that on WeChat's newsfeeds, prior peaceful demonstrations were described as "riots," protesters were portrayed as "radicals" and "thugs" "lured by the evil winds of foreign agents," and the United States was accused of being the "black hand" behind the protests. By painting radicals or other nations as the instigator, the narrative in mainland China has been shifted toward a nationalist sentiment in which the protestors' arguments are the minority, while the rest of Hong Kong's citizens just want to live their lives peacefully under the CCP's rule.¹⁸ As tensions continue to increase, Beijing can maintain its control over the rhetoric and keep its citizens in blissful ignorance by implementation of their nearly omnipotent authoritarian technology.

Meanwhile, WeChat has also begun its conquest of Tibet, a far-west region in China. Ever since Dalai Lama's failed uprising against the People's Republic of China in 1959, activists have maintained a government-in-exile, claiming that "Tibet is an independent state under unlawful occupation."¹⁹ However, as smartphone usage rises in the region, WeChat has invaded the lives of over 70% of the Tibetan population.²⁰ As one would predict, the Dalai Lama's spiritual messages are heavily censored by Tencent and the CCP, and users with dissenting political viewpoints are cut off from the internet by removing them from the app, effectively silencing activism.²¹ Rates of restrictions, fines, and arrests doled out have also been increasing, with recent news stating that Tibetans could face up to eight years of prison time for sharing information on WeChat about politically sensitive current events like Hong Kong's protests.²² In this remote region over 1,500 miles away from Beijing, previous insurrection has been crushed, and new information is being censored easily through WeChat and looming punishments.

One final striking example of WeChat's role as an extension of state control is in the introduction of China's relatively new social credit system. This system is a way for the CCP to monitor, shame, and punish 1.4 billion Chinese citizens, sepa-

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AND MANIPU-
LATING THIS
GRASP AS THE
CCP PLEASES.**
”

rating the trustworthy from the disobedient. Just like a personal credit score, one's social credit score can fluctuate depending on good behavior (e.g., paying bills on time) and bad behavior (e.g., smoking in a non-smoking zone), and those with low scores may be placed on blacklists in all aspects of life.²³ Tencent and WeChat's role in this topic of unease is its implementation of a system nicknamed the "Deadbeat Map." This disturbing application will display the full name, court case number, reason they are deemed untrustworthy, and even partial home addresses of anyone with low social credit scores within a user's 500-meter radius, with a radar changing colors as the density of "deadbeats" increases or decreases.²⁴ This massive infringement of personal privacy by Western standards aims to enhance the repercussions of the social credit system by shaming the "deadbeats" and encouraging others to "treat those people as subhuman," effectively making Chinese society a "virtual prison."²⁵ Without the support of WeChat as a medium, consequences of a low social credit score would obviously still be felt in citizens' daily lives, but not in the same dimension as being publicly exposed and shunned by everyone within 500 meters.

With its willingness to provide users' information, it is no surprise that Tencent's WeChat scored dead last in Amnesty International's ranking of messaging app privacy, achieving a grand total of zero out of one hundred points.²⁶ With the role of media under President Xi Jinping's reign to be supporting "the party's unilateral rule, and nothing less," WeChat has demonstrated its commitment to this philosophy from end to end, helping the CCP move quickly from its role of spectator to authority in today's information age.²⁷ Without resorting to brute force that would attract the attention of countries around the world, China has ensnared its people in a digital vice grip, filtering and manipulating this grasp as the CCP pleases. By downloading WeChat and clicking on the happy little icon, all that the Chinese citizens wanted was modern convenience. The price: whatever limited social and political freedom they had left, engulfed by the abyss of one of today's most ambitious and successful authoritarian censors. **M**

For a complete list of footnotes and citations, visit monmouth.edu/magazine.

THE CHANGEMAKER » Alumni making waves

FIRST AND FOREMOST

JEANA PISCATELLI, THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE ELECTED CHAIR OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES, IS RIGHT WHERE SHE WANTS TO BE: HELPING TO GUIDE HER ALMA MATER TO NEW HEIGHTS.

BY KELLEY FREUND

Jeana (Hobbs) Piscatelli '01, '02M knows how important it is for young women to see someone like themselves in leadership roles. And for her, as a Monmouth student, that person was the University's first female president, Rebecca Stafford.

Today, it's Piscatelli who serves as a role model to the next generation of female trailblazers on campus. In July, she was elected chair of Monmouth University's Board of Trustees, becoming the first woman in the University's 87-year history to hold the position.

A Monmouth County native, Piscatelli says the University was the perfect fit. The campus was beautiful, class sizes were just right, and the school was close to home. She earned a B.S. in marketing and finance and went on to earn her MBA from the Leon Hess Business School.

Piscatelli began her career in the technology field before transitioning to banking. After joining Wells Fargo in 2004, she knew she had found her niche. Things often felt ethereal working in the tech sector. "But money is tangible, and it's extremely important regardless of industry," says Piscatelli. "It doesn't

matter what type of business a person is in—you always need financial support. And that's the best part of what I do: interacting with clients from all different industries."

After holding progressively responsible positions at Wells Fargo and J.P. Morgan, Piscatelli joined OceanFirst Bank in 2018. As director of treasury management, she ensures the bank's commercial customers have access to online banking resources and works to make those resources as efficient as possible for clients.

Through it all, Piscatelli has continued giving back to the University that helped launch her career.

"I had such a great experience here, and everyone gave me such confidence and the ability to be successful that I wanted to give that back to other students in any way that I could," she says.

“
WE HAVE SOME TALENTED WOMEN WHO ARE CURRENTLY ON THE BOARD. ... I KNOW THERE ARE PLENTY OF FUTURE CANDIDATES FOR THIS POSITION. EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING, ‘THE FIRST FEMALE.’ BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE I’M NOT THE LAST.
”

OPPOSITE: Piscatelli first joined Monmouth's Board of Trustees in 2010 and was elected chair in July.

Through the years, that has included serving on the Alumni Board of Directors and the Leon Hess Business School Advisory Council. A recipient of a private scholarship as a student, Piscatelli, together with her husband, Drew, has also established a scholarship to benefit accounting, marketing, and real estate majors.

Piscatelli, who was first elected to Monmouth's Board of Trustees in 2010, has served on the board's Educational and Faculty Affairs Committee and Finance and Budget Committee and was most recently vice chair. The significance of her appointment as the board's first female chair isn't lost on her.

"I appreciate the responsibility that comes with that," she says. "But we have some talented women who are currently on the board, and I'm always impressed with all the students who I meet. I know there are plenty of future candidates for this position. Everyone keeps saying, 'The first female.' But I want to make sure I'm not the last."

For Piscatelli, her spare time is all about family. When she and her husband aren't driving their son and daughter to practice or cheering them on during their games, the family likes to bike or hike, as well as spend time skiing with extended family and friends at their vacation home in Utah. But no matter how busy she is, Monmouth will always be part of Piscatelli's life.

"The University is stuck with me," says Piscatelli. "There will always be opportunities to give back, and it is very rewarding to remain involved and see the school continue to improve and prosper."



photo JOHN EMERSON

ALUMNI ROUNDUP

LISTED BY GRADUATION YEAR

1960s

» **Pat Ricci '68** was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) during the 2019 International Sports Sciences Association World Championships held at the Glen Allen Sportsplex in Richmond, Virginia. Throughout his career, which has spanned 22 years, Ricci accumulated 17.5 points towards the NSSHOF criteria, earning all-tournament and most valuable player selections in the world tournaments across the three major senior softball associations. Ricci, who has played with some of the top teams in the Northeast, currently plays with CC Medical Services New York 70M.

1970s

» **Jim Akers '70** and **Rita (Mahon) Akers '70** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January 2020. They were also reunited with Jim's fraternity brother and Rita's friend, **Jim Strunk '70**, for the first time in 50 years.

» **Raymond Sandelli '70** was appointed to the Lee Board of County Commissioners by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. Sandelli completed eight years of military service as a naval officer and aviator after finishing first in his class in the Aviation Officer Can-

didate Program. He also flew with the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. Currently, he is a managing partner at CRE Consultants, which advises clients on health care, office, retail, industrial, land, and property management.

» **Jim Strunk '70**. See note for **Jim Akers '70**.

» Monmouth honored **Denis Gallagher '76** with the 2020 Distinguished Business Leaders Award at an annual dinner held in the Great Hall on Feb. 27, 2020. Gallagher, an entrepreneur with more than 40 years of experience in the passenger transportation industry, was founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Student Transportation Inc. (STI), a leading school transportation company in North America. At STI, he directed the strategic operations of the NASDAQ- and Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX)-listed company while leading and developing investor activities through capital raises and explosive growth. Gallagher currently serves on several private company boards and is a highly sought-after business consultant. In addition to his roles in the transportation sector, he has built enterprises in the media entertainment industry and is the founder and chairman of Charliewood Entertainment, LLC, a production and investment company based in Charleston, South Carolina. He is also chair-

man and principal owner of Front and Center Entertainment, which produces the highly acclaimed television shows *Front and Center* and *Speakeasy* seen on cable and public television across the U.S. Gallagher is also chairman and lead investor in Novo Media Group, a Los Angeles-based television and film development and production company. He was a past member of the Monmouth Board of Visitors, and in 1987, he was the youngest member ever elected to the Board of Trustees. In 1992, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2019, he rejoined the Monmouth University Board of Trustees. Gallagher currently resides in Charleston, South Carolina, with his wife, Mary.

» **Bob Koar '77, '79M**, senior managing director of Sterling Bank, was named to ROI-NJ's Influencers Power List 2020: Bankers. Koar was recognized for his leadership, which has helped Sterling to become a go-to bank for small and family businesses in New Jersey.

» **Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D. '78**, a professor in Monmouth's political science department, recently had a new book, *Peacebuilding in Israeli-Palestinian Relations*, published with Peter Lang Publishing. Focusing on peacebuilding, this book emphasizes how grassroots peacebuilding efforts contribute to closing the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian national communities that have been in conflict for decades.

1980s

» The Honorable **Noel L. Hillman '81** graduated in May 2020 with a master of laws in judicial studies from Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina. Judge Hillman has served since 2006 as the United States District Judge in the district of New Jersey and was elected as a member of the American Law Institute,

headquartered in Philadelphia, in fall 2019. Judge Hillman also holds law degrees from Seton Hall Law School, earning a J.D. in 1985, and New York University School of Law, earning a master of laws in 1998.

» **Edward Kivior '81** has been appointed vice president and commercial loan officer with First Bank & Trust Company, a diversified financial services firm. Kivior has 30 years of banking experience, most recently with First Community Bank where he served as commercial lender. He is a former board member with Daily Planet, an organization that provides health services to patients regardless of their ability to pay, and a former board member of the Risk Management Association, which promotes safety and sound risk principles to the financial services industry. Kivior and his family, including his wife Ronda and three children, Claire and twins Devyn and Caroline, reside in Glen Allen, Virginia.

» **Cynthia Guerreri '83** has been appointed as the new director of the social services department for the town of Enfield, Connecticut. Guerreri is the founder and president of Essential Outcomes, a Tolland, Connecticut, consulting firm that provides professional coaching, collective impact planning, evaluation and metrics, governance structure design, and other resources for nonprofits, community collaboratives, school systems, and municipalities. She earned her master's degree in social work from New York University.

» **Robert Kuehl '85** was appointed as the first chief of police for the city of Raytown, Missouri; previously, the role was that of city marshal. Kuehl, a 34-year veteran officer with the Kansas City, Missouri, police department, previously served as deputy chief for the department.


» **Patrick Fallon '87** was the senior investigator on the House Perma-

nent Select Committee on Intelligence's (HPSCI) investigative team responsible for the investigation that led to President Donald Trump's impeachment trial. Fallon, who retired from the FBI after over 25 years as a public corruption/financial crimes subject matter expert, was hired by the HPSCI in April 2019.

» **Karyn (Calabro) Cusanelli '89** and **Nick Cusanelli '89** were joined by a handful of fellow Hawks to celebrate the wedding of their daughter **Marissa (Cusanelli) Purdy '14** to Bill Purdy. The wedding, held on April 26, 2019, in Spring Lake, New Jersey, was attended by sister of the bride **Gianna Cusanelli '17**, **Chris (Barreras) Feeney '85**, **John Feeney '87**, **Alanna McGlynn '14**, **Rob Scott '88**, **Aundrea Scott '08M**, **Teresa Heitsenrether '15HN**, **Maria Cusanelli '94**, **Mike Dunlap '88**, **Mike Farragher '88**, **Michelle (Cusack) Furey '14**, **Alexandra (McMahon) Webb '14, '17M**, **Barbara (Miskoff) Farragher '89**, **Lori (Loschiavo) Dunlap '90**, and **Arnold Laspina '88**.

1990s

» *Overreacting: A Memoir of Anxious Proportions* by **Lucie Dickenson '90** was recently published by Inspired Girl Books. The memoir covers the author's battle with anxiety and search for healing, tracing how she spent over \$100,000 looking for the "holy grail of healing" only to "come home to herself." After experiencing everything from trying new, cutting-edge energy healing techniques to shutting down a department store to find her family, Dickenson shares what it's truly like to have anxiety and how to embrace—not fix—who you are, while allowing yourself to change and grow.

» **David Giannetto '90** was promoted to chief executive officer (CEO) of WorkWave. Headquartered in Holmdel, New Jersey, WorkWave, which has consistently been voted as one of the best places to work in New Jersey, is a leader in cloud-based field service and fleet management 



NOT TO MISS »
Nov. 17
VIRTUAL TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Join fellow book lovers to discuss Clare Beams' *The Illness Lesson*, a powerful exploration of women's bodies and minds, and the time-honored tradition of doubting both. Register for the virtual event at monmouth.edu/events.

“NEVER WASTE A DAY.”

MAJOR LEAGUE LACROSSE MVP BRYCE WASSERMAN IS ALL ABOUT MAKING THE MOST OF THE MOMENT.

BY MARK GOLLA



Don't try to take anything away from Bryce Wasserman '18, '19M. If you do, he'll likely come back at you with a vengeance.

An ACL injury disrupted Wasserman's lacrosse career at Monmouth University, and he responded by becoming the all-time scoring leader in program history. Major League Lacrosse (MLL) suspended its season due to COVID-19 before condensing it into a nine-day sprint in Annapolis, Maryland. So what did Wasserman do? He led the Boston Cannons to the championship title while being named the league's Most Valuable Player.

When Wasserman is put into a holding pattern, he returns to action like a Hawk seeking prey.

“My dad always told me ‘never waste a day’—that your final day of playing will come; you just don't know when,” says Wasserman, the first Monmouth lacrosse player to be drafted in the MLL. “The ACL injury was a wake-up call, and the situation with the pandemic was a challenge. It seems like when things go wrong—when the sport is taken away—my work ethic and desire to get better intensifies.”

Wasserman was determined to establish himself as a premier player entering the 2020 season. He was drafted by the Denver Outlaws in 2018 but made his pro debut later that year with the Ohio Machine. The franchise relocated to his home state of Texas, where he played his first full season in 2019, appearing in 16 games and tallying 35 goals.

In February 2020, Wasserman was traded to a Boston team that was loaded with offensive talent. At first it seemed the biggest challenge would be that there was only one ball to be shared on the field. Then COVID-19 emerged, and the preseason was canceled.

“I went home to Texas, and the quarantine led to more training time,” says Wasserman. “I trained with my brother (Casey, who plays at Towson University) at our old high school. I knew we'd only have a couple days of practice in Annapolis before opening day, so arriving in peak condition was key.”

ABOVE: Wasserman was a runner-up for the 2020 Powell Offensive Player of the Year award.

Wasserman led Boston with 15 goals in six games, as the Cannons defeated Denver 13–10 in the title match. He was named league MVP, propelling himself to MLL star status as an offensive threat from behind the net.

Following the championship, Wasserman returned to Florida to continue building his second career as an attorney. He's attending law school at the University of Miami, studying sports and entertainment law. Wasserman also has an internship with the Orange Bowl Committee and is revising sponsorship and vendor contracts for the 2021 Capital One Orange Bowl to ensure they adhere to the fluid COVID-19 requirements.

A career in sports and entertainment law appears to be Wasserman's future calling. In the meantime, he'll continue wearing an MLL uniform and competing in the sport he's loved since middle school. Preseason 2021 is slated to begin next April.

“I'm in no rush to grow up,” jokes Wasserman. “I want to play as long as I can. If I have to put my law career on hold, I will, because I want to play this out.”

solutions for companies with a mobile workforce. Giannetto has nearly 20 years of experience leading and managing international organizations focused on the deployment and usage of enterprise-level technology in a wide range of service-oriented industries. Prior to his time working as an executive for software companies, he was CEO of The Telos Group and the practice lead of the nationally respected EPM consulting practice of J.H. Cohn (CohnReznick). Earlier in his career, he was a hands-on operational leader for Airborne Express and an officer in the U.S. Army. He is the author of three books and is a nationally respected thought leader, speaker, and columnist on how information and technology can drive business performance. Giannetto received his MBA from Rutgers University.

» **Joe Rapolla '90M**, chair of Monmouth's Department of Music and Theatre Arts, was honored as a guest speaker at the graduation ceremony of his alma mater, Mater Dei Prep, a college preparatory high school located in Middletown, New Jersey.

» **Julio Vacacela '91** joined the Monmouth women's soccer coaching staff in August 2019, where he works primarily with the Monmouth goalkeepers. Vacacela was a goalkeeper for the men's soccer team and a member of the Hawks' 1990 Northeast Conference regular season and tournament championship team. Vacacela played semiprofessional soccer in New York and New Jersey following his graduation and has coached a number of men's and women's soccer players in various coaching roles. From 2001 through 2011, Vacacela coached at Match Fit Academy Football Club and served as an assistant coach working with goalkeepers for the Princeton University women's soccer team from 2003 to 2014. Vacacela has also worked as a staff coach with the New Jersey Rush Soccer Club since 2014 and as the director of coaching

at Howell United Soccer Club since 2016. He has also assisted as a boys staff coach for the New Jersey Olympic Development Program since 2001.

» **Stephan Henig '95M** has been promoted to chief customer officer at Wakefern Food Corp. Henig has spent nearly three decades at Wakefern, progressing through various procurement roles as well as leadership positions in corporate merchandising and marketing. He most recently served as vice president of digital commerce and analytics where he was responsible for e-commerce initiatives, app development, and analytics needs. He also oversaw the launch of the company's first automated micro-fulfillment center and leads the popular ShopRite from Home service. Henig, who served in the United States Army, earned his undergraduate degree from The College of New Jersey and now teaches strategy and marketing at the school.

» **Kenneth Long '95M** was chosen by the board of governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to be East Stroudsburg University's (ESU) interim president, effective July 31. Long has served as ESU's vice president of administration and finance since 2013 and has held similar positions at other schools in Pennsylvania. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in math and political science from Drew University.

» **Juan Vargas '96** was promoted to police sergeant with the Township of Union Police Department, located in Union, New Jersey. Vargas was appointed to the Township of Union Police Department in July 2004, where he was assigned to the patrol division and then staff services. He was awarded a Letter of Commendation and Appreciation in 2017 for assistance with a medical emergency on a pedestrian stop. Throughout his career in Union, Vargas has held numerous assignments and positions including being on loan to the Union County Narcot-

ics Strike Force for one year, a fatal crash investigator, a Police Explorer advisor, a training officer, a systems administrator for the special needs ID program, and an organizer for the Autism Awareness fundraiser. After graduating from Our Lady of Good Counsel in Newark in 1991, Vargas enlisted in the Army Reserves from 1991 to 1999, becoming a nuclear biological chemical operations specialist. Prior to joining the Union Police Department, Vargas was a domestic violence probation officer in Middlesex County from 2002 to 2004.

» **Joe DeSilva '97** is president of small business services, retirement services, and insurance services at ADP. In this role, he leads a team focused on helping ADP's small business clients fulfill their entrepreneurial dreams by providing them integrated solutions for payroll, HR, and benefits. Before this leadership role, DeSilva served as senior vice president of service and operations for ADP small business services, where he focused on ensuring ADP's small business clients received the best in service. Previously, he also led the retirement services business, successfully steering the business under a complex regulatory overhaul. He joined ADP in 2003, starting his career in benefits sales, and went on to assume leadership roles in sales, operations, and client services. Throughout his career, DeSilva has been passionate about developing talent and creating engaged and empowered teams. He is especially passionate about expanding access to higher education among underserved groups. He currently serves on the New York/New Jersey Board of America Needs You, a nonprofit organization that fights for economic mobility of ambitious, first-generation college students by providing mentorship and career development avenues. Prior to joining ADP, DeSilva worked in benefits with Mellon HR Solutions. He started his career with PwC in its benefits outsourcing group. He received his MBA from Seton Hall University. 

» **Jennifer Lea (Ort) Reynolds '97** has authored her debut children's picture book, *The Cat Who Loved the Moon* (Seacoast Press). Endorsed by the best-selling author of *The Invisible String* as well as a former NASA advisor, and previously featured on a New Hampshire Public Radio literary segment, it is heralded as a heartfelt must-read about finding comfort and hope during times of loss and change. Released in February 2020, it is available through major online booksellers including Amazon.com, as well as select bookstores and libraries.

» **Thomas Farrell '98M, '20Ed.D.**, is the new superintendent of the Brick Township School District. Farrell was previously the superintendent at Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, New Jersey since April 2013. Farrell, who entered the field of education from the business world, was previously executive vice president at Atlantic Lighting in Edison from 1992 to 1999. In 1994 he began teaching business at Monsignor Donovan (now Donovan Catholic High School) located in Toms River, New Jersey. There, he was the Griffins' head football coach and later served as assistant athletic director. In 2002 he left Donovan for New Egypt High School in the Plumsted School District, where he taught business and coached the football team. He was an assistant principal at the high school from 2005 to 2008, when he became the high school's principal, a position he held until leaving in 2013 for the Shore Regional superintendent's position. During the 2006-2007 school year, he was the Plumsted district's director of technology and communications. He also served as an adjunct professor at Ocean County College from 2004 to 2013. Farrell and his wife, Linda, who teaches kindergarten at Drum Point Elementary School, live in Toms River and have three children. 

CELEBRATIONS

ENGAGEMENTS:

1. **Alexandria Kostiuk '07** is engaged to wed **Daniel Villanova '12**.
2. **Marisa Dickinson '16** is engaged to wed Ryan Valliere.
3. **Marissa Marie Iradi '16** is engaged to wed **Rob Wendel '16**.

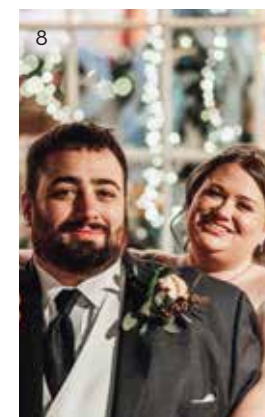
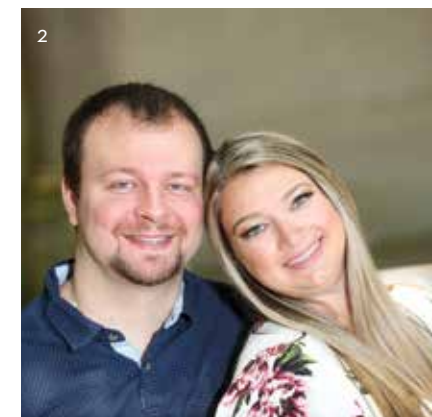
WEDDINGS:

4. **Karyn (Calabro) Cusanelli '89** (front row, far right,) and **Nick Cusanelli '89** (back row, far left), were joined by a handful of Hawks to celebrate the wedding of their daughter **Marissa (Cusanelli) Purdy '14** (center) to Bill Purdy. Several alumni attended the wedding including, (back row, from left) **Chris (Barreras) Feeney '85, John Feeney '87, Alanna McGlynn '14, Rob Scott '88, Aundrea Scott '08M, Teresa Heitsenrether '15HN, Maria Cusanelli '94, Mike Dunlap '88;** (front row, from left) **Mike Farragher '88, Michelle (Cusack) Furey '14**, sister of the bride **Gianna Cusanelli '17, Alexandra (McMahon) Webb '14, '17M, Barbara (Miskoff) Farragher '89, Lori (Loschiavo) Dunlap '90, and Arnold Laspina '88.**

5. **Scott Mark '02** wed Michelle Faber on Aug. 3, 2019.
6. **Alicia Barbieri '08, '11M** and **Brian Sforza '08** (center) were joined by fellow Hawks (from left) **Courtney (Lazur) Kolodziejczyk '07, Christine Colaco '07, Alison (Maloney) Martin '07, Sharon Thompson '74, and Jeff Kolodziejczyk '05** at their wedding on Nov. 9, 2019.
7. On March 2, 2019, **Kelly Gahm '08** and **Blake Domaracki '07** (center) tied the knot in in Rome, Italy. In attendance were fellow Hawks, (from left) **Nicole Partica '08, Marc Paliseno '07, Lauren Dill '08, Adam Dill '07, and Anthony Ruggiero '07.**
8. **Kaitlyn Kanzler '10** wed Niel DiSpigna on Nov. 8, 2019.
9. **Julie Miller '11** wed **Steve Scarano '10** on Sept. 28, 2019.
10. **Marissa (Cusanelli) Purdy '14** wed Bill Purdy on April 26, 2019.

BIRTHS:

11. **Meghan Erin Gottshalk '04, '10M** and John Gottshalk welcomed a daughter, Quinn Caroline Gottshalk, on Jan. 23, 2020.
12. **Amy Friedrich '05, '07M** and **Todd Friedrich '05, '06M** welcomed a daughter, Annabelle Friedrich, on Dec. 9, 2019.
13. **Chelsea Lorentz '12** and Juan Fernandez welcomed a son, Ian Fernandez, on Dec. 3, 2019.
14. **Jeffrey Carmichael '13M** and Laura Carmichael welcomed a son, Andrew Carmichael, on July 17, 2020.



CELEBRATIONS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:

1. Rita Akers '70 (left) and **Jim Akers '70** (right) not only recently celebrated their 50th anniversary but also got to reunite with longtime friend **Jim Strunk '70** for the first time in 50 years.

2. A group of fellow Hawks recently made a visit to campus to celebrate their 50th reunion as friends after meeting at Monmouth in the fall of 1968. There to celebrate were (from left) **Susan Tardugno Hart, Class of 1971; Joan Wagenseil Wright, Class of 1971; Pam Brown Hartung '71; Bonnie Nelson Buckner '71; Nancy Law, Class of 1972; Barbara Darcy Perri '72** (seated in front); and **Susanne Carman Abbiati '72** (not pictured).

ACCOLADES:

3. David Giannetto '90 was promoted to chief executive officer (CEO) of WorkWave.

4. Joe DeSilva '97 is president of small business services, retirement services, and insurance services at ADP.

5. Jennifer Lea (Ort) Reynolds '97 has authored her debut children's picture book, *The Cat Who Loved the Moon*.

6. Michael Lauer '02, a communications leader with Johnson & Johnson, has joined the nonprofit Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) New Jersey board.

7. Joseph Fritsche '03 was recently awarded Teacher of the Year at Howell High School, located in Howell, New Jersey.

8. Sean Grimes '12 helped facilitate a bulk donation of hand sanitizer from his employer, Global Essence Inc., to Monmouth University to help support health and safety measures as the University prepared to welcome students back to campus.

9. Jacqueline Nicole DiPasquale '15 was crowned Miss New Jersey International 2020 on March 28, 2020.



» *Middlesex County Through Time* by **Robert Gilinsky '98** was recently published by Arcadia Publishing as part of its America Through Time series. The book highlights the history of the New Jersey county, which is home to 175 public schools, five major hospitals, and nearly a million people.

» At the recent annual conference of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO), **Loretta Hill '98M** was among four recipients statewide to be presented with a 2019 Distinguished Service Award, an honor that also included two \$500 college scholarships in her name that were given to the children of two of her colleagues at the Belmar School District. She has served as business administrator for the Belmar, New Jersey, school district for 18 years. Hill is active with NJASBO and has served on the organization's accounting, education, and conference committees, as well as its ad hoc website redesign committee. She became an officer with the Monmouth County Association of School Business Officials in 2011, and she subsequently held the positions of secretary, vice president, and president. She received her bachelor's degree from Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey.

» **Christie Pearce Rampone '99, '05HN** co-published *Be All In: Raising Kids for Success in Sports and Life*. Rampone, a decorated athlete who is a three-time Olympic gold medalist, teamed up with sports neuropsychologist, Dr. Kristine Keane, to share the best practices that athletes, parents, and coaches can use to turn the lessons learned through sports into lifelong skills.

» **Amy Yao '99, '01M** recently published *College 101: What to Expect*, a book that aims to give college-bound students an idea of what their time at college might entail. The book includes a checklist of what to pack and also covers various other topics

including problems you may encounter, how to fit in, and how to survive in your new environment, among other things.

2000s

» **Michael Ettore '01M** is the new superintendent of the Little Silver School District in Little Silver, New Jersey. Ettore, who was previously the superintendent and principal of the Monmouth Beach School District in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, earned a bachelor's degree from Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, and his elementary teaching credentials from Kean University, in Union, New Jersey.

» **Laura Jackson '01** was named chairman of the Young Men's/Women's Real Estate Association of New York. Jackson is a senior managing director in the FTI Real Estate Solutions practice and is based in Roseland, New Jersey, and in New York. Jackson also currently serves as vice president on the board of Rebuilding Together NYC, a nonprofit organization that promotes safe and healthy housing throughout New York City. She also founded the She Builds initiative, which empowers prominent women in real estate to give back to the communities they serve.

» **Darrell Nick '01** was promoted to police sergeant with the Lacey Township Police Department in Lacey Township, New Jersey. Sgt. Nick, who joined the police department in 2003 after having attended the Burlington County Police Academy, previously served in the patrol division where he served for 17 years, including 11 years spent as a field training officer.

» **Donna Pinamonti '01M** recently had her book, *King Claude the Talking Dog*, the first book in a

new children's book series based on the real-life adventures of her dog, Claude, published by Page Publishing, Inc.

» **Rosetta Johnson '02, '04M** recently published *Saved by Grace: Spiritual Poems, Poetry & Short Stories*. The collection includes "short and long stories" that reflect Johnson's personal experiences, beliefs, events, and hypotheticals, as well as her spirituality. Since 1991, Johnson has been president of United for the Community, a nonprofit that aims to address issues and improve the quality of life for residents living in the southwest side of Asbury Park. For 10 years, she worked for the City of Asbury Park, New Jersey, as a program monitor and neighborhood preservation program director where she wrote grants and worked with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also created the city's Energy Maintenance Network, which assisted people who couldn't pay their utility bills between 2001 and 2008. Prior to that she worked for Shadow Lawn Savings Bank in Long Branch, New Jersey, as a property manager and as a latch key teaching instructor at the YMCA in Asbury Park. Johnson attended the Asbury Park Public School System, then later obtained two associate degrees from Brookdale Community College in 1999. At Monmouth she was a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society. She also has a general law enforcement diploma from the National Correspondence School. A 60-year-old single parent, born and raised in Asbury Park, Johnson currently resides in the city with her 20-year-old daughter, Shadasia Rose.

» **Michael Lauer '02**, a communications leader with Johnson & Johnson, has joined the nonprofit Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) New Jersey board. Lauer will serve a three-year term as chair of the organization's awards and programming com-

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mittee. A seasoned communications professional with nearly two decades of experience, Lauer is currently responsible for developing and executing communication strategies for the Johnson & Johnson office of the chief medical officer. Prior to Johnson & Johnson, Lauer worked for several leading communication agencies, including Edelman and Mercer, to support a diverse range of clients. He also led human resources communications for Cigna, a leading U.S. health insurance provider. Early in his career Lauer was the public information officer for the U.S. Capitol Police Department.

» **Scott Mark '02** wed Michelle Faber on Aug. 3, 2019, at the Barnegat Lighthouse, in Barnegat Light, New Jersey, surrounded by family and friends.

» Thomas Edison State University has named **Melissa Maszczak '02** as a senior fellow and director of the university's new Center for Leadership and Governance. Her positions prior to moving to the center were executive assistant to the president and secretary to the board of trustees. As a Hawk, she was involved with *The Monmouth Review* literary magazine and later wrote for the *Red Bank Review* literary magazine as well as the *Coaster* newspaper. Maszczak received her master's degree in liberal studies and industrial organizational psychology at Thomas Edison State University.

» **Lara Rinaldi '02** was chosen by students, parents, and staff at Westfield High School as the Parent-Teacher-Student Organization Outstanding Teacher of the Year. A teacher has been presented with this award annually since 1988. The last time a special education teacher was awarded with the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award was 1995.

» **Joseph Fritsche '03** was recently awarded Teacher of the Year at Howell High School, located in Howell, New Jersey.

» **Meghan Erin Gottshalk '04, '10M** and John Gottshalk welcomed a daughter, Quinn Caroline Gottshalk, on Jan. 23, 2020. Quinn joins her big brother, three-year-old Brett. The family resides in Bernardsville, New Jersey.

» **Erik Hirschbein '04** has been promoted to chief financial officer with Z Capital Group (ZCG), a leading private markets asset manager. Hirschbein, who joined ZCG as managing director of finance in 2019, was responsible for all aspects of accounting and financial reporting for the firm and its managed funds. Prior to joining ZCG, he was a vice president of global fund services-Americas fund administration at BlackRock Alternative Investors.

» Artist **Nick Bautista '05** was recently signed and is now fully represented by Agora Gallery located in Chelsea, New York City. New paintings will be exhibited this year at the W. 25th Street gallery in the heart of New York's prestigious art scene.

» **Amy Friedrich '05, '07M** and **Todd Friedrich '05, '06M** welcomed a daughter, Annabelle Friedrich, on Dec. 9, 2019.

» **Todd Friedrich '05, '06M**. See note for **Amy Friedrich '05, '07M**.

» **Justin Roach '05, '09M** is the new assistant principal of Cranford High School in Cranford, New Jersey. Roach, who began his career as a high school English teacher for the Wall Township Public Schools and Manasquan Public School District, was most recently the supervisor of instruction and STEM for grades K-8 for the Manasquan Public School District in Manasquan, New Jersey.

» **Adam Dill '07**. See note for **Kelly Gahm '08**.

» **Blake Domaracki '07**. See note for **Kelly Gahm '08**.

» **Alexandria Kostiuik '07** is en-

gaged to wed **Daniel Villanova '12** in 2020. The couple, both communication majors and E-Board members of Hawk TV, initially met at Homecoming 2010 where Dan was the current Hawk TV station manager and again a few months later at Hawk TV's 15th anniversary. However, it wasn't until years later—at Monmouth's Homecoming 2017—when the sparks began to fly. In September 2019, Villanova took Kostiuik back to where it all started just outside of Plangere Center—the building that meant so much to both of them—to pop the question. The couple is looking forward to a happy life together full of laughter and good times with family and friends.

» **Suzanne Moore '07, '09M** became a permanent park guide with the National Park Service (NPS) at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She began with the NPS in 2010 and was a seasonal park ranger from 2014 to 2019 at Gateway National Recreation Area in Sandy Hook, New Jersey. She is also currently an adjunct professor of history at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey.

» **Marc Paliseno '07**. See note for **Kelly Gahm '08**.

» **Anthony Ruggiero '07**. See note for **Kelly Gahm '08**.

» **Alicia Barbieri '08, '11M** wed **Brian Sforza '08** in Alexandria, Virginia, on Nov. 9, 2019. Several alumni were in attendance, including **Alison (Maloney) Martin '07, Jeff Kolodziejczyk '05, Sharon Thompson '74, William MacDonald '81, and Judy MacDonald '82**, as well as bridesmaids **Christine Colaco '07** and **Courtney (Lazur) Kolodziejczyk '07**.

» **Lauren Dill '08**. See note for **Kelly Gahm '08**.

» On March 2, 2019, **Kelly Gahm '08** and **Blake Domaracki '07** tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Rome, Italy. In attendance were fellow alumni **Nicole Partica '08**, »

Marc Paliseno '07, Lauren Dill '08, Adam Dill '07, and Anthony Ruggiero '07.

» **Laura Kirkpatrick '08M** has been named the executive director of Red Bank RiverCenter, the semiautonomous agency in Red Bank, New Jersey, that manages the borough's special improvement district. Prior to joining RiverCenter in March 2018, Kirkpatrick held posts in Monmouth County government, where she directed tourism interests and served as the media spokesperson. She earned her bachelor's in urban affairs and planning from Boston University.

» **Nicole Partica '08.** See note for **Kelly Gahm '08.**

» **Brian Sforza '08.** See note for **Alicia Barbieri '08, '11M.**

» **Miles Vidreiro '09** is a quality-control manager and a board-certified behavior analyst with ACEing Autism in Houston, Texas. ACEing Autism is a nonprofit that aims to connect children with autism through unique tennis programs. Vidreiro began working with the nonprofit in 2013, bringing the program to New York City for the first time. Vidreiro is a board-certified behavior analyst who earned his master's degree from Columbia University in health and behavioral studies of persons with intellectual disabilities and autism.

2010s

» **Kaitlyn Kanzler '10** wed **Niel DiSpigna** on Nov. 8, 2019. Their ceremony took place at Allaire State Park in Howell, New Jersey, and their reception took place at the Smithville Inn in Absecon, New Jersey. Several alumni were in attendance, including **Melissa Roach '10** and **Shannon Desiere '12** as well as bridesmaid **Danielle Orlandini '11.**

» **Christian M.H. Lampe '10.** See note for **Heather Baginski '12.**

» **Melissa Roach '10.** See note for **Kaitlyn Kanzler '10.**

» **Steve Scarano '10.** See note for **Julie Miller '11.**

» **Nicholas Sgroi '10** is engaged to wed **Danielle Ulloa.** The couple met at Toastmasters International Speech Contest in North Brunswick, New Jersey, where they competed against one another in the area division—the bride-to-be won. One month later, the groom-to-be traveled to support Ulloa at the next level contest, and, right after she gave her speech, he texted her from his seat, "Win or lose, I am taking you out for ice cream." The two enjoyed their first scoop of ice cream together as a couple at Magnifico's Ice Cream in East Brunswick, New Jersey, and have been together ever since. Several years later the couple moved to Milltown, New Jersey—just five minutes away from where they first met—and, on Christmas morning in their new home, Sgroi proposed. "I had Danielle go over to the tree to look for her gift," he says. "When she couldn't find it, she turned around all flustered, and I was on one knee asking her to marry me. She said yes, and the rest is history." The couple plans to wed at Perona Farms in Sparta, New Jersey, in May of 2021.

» **Kaitlyn (Bernaski) Campanile '11** recently opened her own law practice, the Law Office of Kaitlyn R. Campanile, LLC, located in Oakhurst, New Jersey, which focuses on real estate transactions, condominium and homeowner's association (HOA) law, and business and corporate matters.

» **Alan Lieberman '11M** designed a Memorial Coin Challenge to recognize the dozens of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel who have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A coalition of national EMS organizations joined

in to support the fundraising effort that ran from June 1 to June 15. All proceeds from the sale of the custom-designed memorial coin, conceived by Lieberman, were donated to the National EMS Memorial Service, an organization dedicated to honoring those emergency medical service personnel who have died in the line of duty.

» **Julie Miller '11 and Steve Scarano '10** met in Prof. Kevin Dooley's political theory class and became closer friends over the years as they both participated in Model UN and The Washington Center internship program in 2010. The couple, who settled in Washington, DC, in 2012, were married on Sept. 28, 2019.

» **Danielle Orlandini '11.** See note for **Kaitlyn Kanzler '10.**

» **Heather Baginski '12** is engaged to marry **Christian M.H. Lampe '10.** The couple, who lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, are planning to wed on Oct. 31, 2021, in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

» **Shannon Desiere '12.** See note for **Kaitlyn Kanzler '10.**

» Monmouth University received a bulk donation of hand sanitizer from Global Essence Inc., thanks to the efforts of **Sean Grimes '12** who helped to facilitate the donation. Grimes, who is the technical manager for quality assurance and regulatory affairs at Global Essence Inc., headquartered in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, recently worked to obtain FDA approval for Global Essence to temporarily produce hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 crisis, using >75% isopropyl alcohol as per World Health Organization recommendations. In addition to donating sanitizer to hospitals, police departments, and other organizations in need, Global Essence Inc. donated 200 gallons to Monmouth to support health and safety measures as the University plans for a return to campus. »



WHAT IT'S LIKE » Firsthand accounts

IN THE PITS

A NASCAR JACK MAN DETAILS HIS LIFE IN THE FAST LANE.

BY PAT GRAY '15, AS TOLD TO MARK GOLLA

» **During my football career at Monmouth,** we spent hours each week practicing, watching film, and lifting weights preparing to compete for 60 minutes on Saturday. I didn't know it then, but I was also training for something even bigger: 12 seconds on Sunday.

» **I've been a pit crew member** for Team Penske since 2015. These days, I'm the jack man for the No. 2 car, Brad Keselowski, in the NASCAR Cup Series. On race day, the pit crew refuels the car and changes the tires as quickly as possible. If we're at the top of our game, it takes us about 12 seconds. As with football, countless hours of preparation go into that.

» **On Mondays,** we watch film from the previous race, dissecting every movement we made during pit stops to ascertain how we can improve. If we're struggling, we might run a few reps in our indoor facility in North Carolina, where

there's a pit stop area. Then we'll head to the weight room with our strength coach. The rest of prep week is similar: running practice reps, doing strength training and conditioning, and watching more film. Any fraction of a second we can shave off our time is critical.

» **Saturday is a day to relax,** eat well, and hydrate. It's unbelievably hot down on the track—especially in our fireproof suits—so we have to make sure we're hydrated.

» **Early in the morning on race day,** the pit crew and coaches board a 40-passenger private jet to fly to that week's location. Once there, we head straight to the track to set up the pit box, review strategy with the crew chief, check equipment, and prep the tires.

» **When the race starts,** it's all about staying focused and having confidence in your ability. If you have a bad pit stop, you can't let it dictate the rest of the race. You



ABOVE: Gray worked his way up through the ARCA, Truck, and Xfinity series before spending the last three years in the Cup Series.

need to attack the next stop. The driver, crew chief, mechanics, and road crew—those guys worked their tails off all week and are depending on you to perform your best. A car's time in the pits can mean the difference between victory and 10th place. So we have to execute at the highest possible level every time.

» **I'm still amazed at how playing football** at Monmouth prepared me for a career that I didn't even know existed at the time. There's a great book, *The Compound Effect*, by Darren Hardy, and I'm living proof of one of his theories. He says that you may not know what you're going to do three or five years from now, but if you work really hard at whatever it is you are doing, you'll create opportunities for yourself that will shape your future.

» **I love my job,** I'm confident in myself, and I can't imagine doing anything else this fun.

MONMOUTH HANGOUTS

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE AND THROUGH THE WEST END

TO REVISIT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE COLLEGE HOT SPOTS.

We asked alumni to share memories of their favorite college hangouts. Read more responses at monmouth.edu/magazine.

CLUB SPANKY

They may as well have called it “Club Monmouth” because most of the patrons were Monmouth students—especially on Friday and Saturday nights. —Michael Lodato '82

JACK'S GOAL LINE STAND

I participated in many poorly harmonized group renditions of Springsteen and U2 songs on karaoke nights. —Michael Conway '09

THE WINDMILL

Great onion rings and burgers!
—Kathleen Sullivan '77

BRIGHTON BAR

Pre-punk days, it was the preferred Wednesday night hangout. —Ed Halper '80

RON'S WEST END PUB

One of my favorites. It was always a great time sipping a pint while sitting on the rockers on the front porch.
—Matthew Chodosh '97, '00M

CELTIC COTTAGE

Best jukebox and burgers on the beach! Don't forget to add a side of cottage fries. —Laura (Embrey) MacDonald '10

THE INKWELL

We'd always go for coffee after cheering on Ronnie Kornegay and the rest of the great basketball team in Boylan Gym. —Gerri C. Popkin '71A



» **Chelsea Lorentz '12** and Juan Fernandez welcomed a son, Ian Fernandez, on Dec. 3, 2019.

» **Daniel Villanova '12**. See note for **Alexandria Kostiuk '07**.

» **Jeffrey Carmichael '13M** and Laura Carmichael welcomed a son, Andrew Carmichael, on July 17, 2020.

» **Rachel Popovitch '13** is engaged to wed Alex Perlberg.

» **Marissa (Cusanelli) Purdy '14** wed Bill Purdy on April 26, 2019, in Spring Lake, New Jersey. Marissa is a pharmaceutical client account manager at IQVIA, a multinational company serving the fields of health information technology and clinical research, and Bill is a financial advisor at Ventura Wealth Management, a full-service financial planning firm. They reside in Brick, New Jersey.

» **Jacqueline Nicole DiPasquale '15** was crowned Miss New Jersey

International 2020 on March 28, 2020, and also competed in the Miss International Pageant held this past July and August in Kingsport, Tennessee. The Miss/Ms./Mrs./Ms. Woman New Jersey International Pageant was set to take place on March 28, but due to COVID-19, the event became virtual. The contestants were judged virtually, and the winners were crowned in the safety of their own homes by their family members. DiPasquale's platform "1 in 5: From Bullied to Healed," spreads awareness about bullying prevention. The name refers to the fact that one in five students report being bullied. "This was my life for many years in school growing up," says DiPasquale. "Through my platform, I am using my experience as a bullying victim to help other bullying victims cope with and heal from the same pain that I endured."

» **Taylor R. Johnson '15** received her doctoral hoods from The Ohio

State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, during a virtual doctoral convocation ceremony held on April 30, 2020. This marked Johnson's graduation from medical school and her official promotion to the title of Dr. Taylor R. Johnson. She was awarded the Ernest W. Johnson, M.D. Medical Student Award for outstanding performance in physical medicine and rehabilitation. She began her residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in June 2020.

» **Marisa Dickinson '16** is engaged to wed Ryan Valliere. The couple met at a Trenton Thunder baseball game in April 2014. In May 2014, they started dating at the Island Heights Boardwalk in Island Heights, New Jersey, and, five years later, were engaged there. The couple is planning to wed in April 2021.

» **Marissa Marie Iradi '16** is engaged to wed **Rob Wendel '16**. The couple's love story began at Monmouth in the Fall of 2014. They were both members of Greek life organizations and met at a party through their respective organizations. Fast-forward to Oct. 12, 2019, when they officially became engaged overlooking New York City at View of the World and celebrated with their families at Ruth's Chris Steak House. "Aside from the night we first met, it was one of the most unforgettable nights of our life, which we will cherish forever," Marissa says.

» **Anthony McCue '16**. See note for **Vanessa Garces '18**.

» **Kelly Parks '16, '18M** recently joined the team at Ceros, a tech startup located in New York City, as their new sales enablement manager. She is looking forward to growing the enablement side of the business for their organization.


» **Rob Wendel '16**. See note for **Marissa Marie Iradi '16**.

» **Joseph Ruggiero '17** is the new producer and director in charge of the production crew at Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York. Previously, Ruggiero was Monmouth's director of new media for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

» **Vanessa Garces '18** is engaged to wed **Anthony McCue '16**. The couple met at a fraternity party at Monmouth in 2016. They were together for four years and were engaged on McCue's 26th birthday. Garces thought she was the one planning a surprise party, but it turned out the surprise was on her the entire time as McCue proposed in front of both of their families with *Jersey Girl* by Bruce Springsteen playing in the background.

» **Austin Skelton '18** is currently pursuing a degree in law at Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law. The summer after his first year of law school, Skelton was a legal intern for the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, and this past spring semester, he served as a judicial extern under the Honorable Steven C. Tolliver in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas.

» **Bryce Wasserman '18, '19M** helped the Boston Cannons capture the 2020 Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Championship at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland, in August. Boston defeated the Denver Outlaws 13-10 thanks in part to a 9-2 run that included a goal and an assist by Wasserman. The former Monmouth standout finished the abbreviated 2020 season with a league-high 21 points in six games as the Cannons went 4-2 on the way to their second MLL title in franchise history. For his efforts, Wasserman was named the 2020 Major League Lacrosse most valuable player. See p. 42

» **Kim Bianchi '19** is currently pursuing a master's degree in applied statistics at Villanova University. 

SEND US YOUR NEWS

» Online: monmouth.edu/ClassNotes

» By email: classnotes@monmouth.edu

» By mail: **Class Notes, Monmouth University Magazine, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898.**

Monmouth University encourages alumni to share news regarding career changes, awards and honors, marriages, anniversaries, births, and other life events for inclusion in Class Notes. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. We welcome submissions of high-resolution digital images for possible inclusion with your class note; however, we reserve the right not to print submitted photos due to space limitations or issues with image resolution.

In addition to the news items sent by alumni, the University receives press releases from businesses and organizations announcing alumni achievements, and subscribes to an online news clipping service that provides news items about alumni. These items are edited and placed in the appropriate class section. Monmouth magazine staff members try to verify the accuracy of this information; however, the University cannot be responsible for incorrect information contained herein. If you would like us to correct any inaccuracies that have been printed, please contact the magazine at magazine@monmouth.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

» ALUMNI

Adele Becker '37 (Aug. 6, 2020)
 Doris H. Ditto '42 (March 20, 2020)
 James H. Magill '59 (Feb. 19, 2020)
 Peter M. Delaney '60 (Feb. 16, 2020)
 Nadine W. Jeffrey '60 (Aug. 16, 2020)
 Beatrice J. Tracy '60 (Dec. 31, 2019)
 Elliott Weinberg '60 (June 16, 2020)
 Larry R. Bush '62 (Sept. 30, 2019)
 Robert J. Locher '62 (April 26, 2013)
 William J. Moore '62 (Dec. 22, 2019)
 Marianne S. Zwanger '62 (Feb. 29, 2020)
 David M. Breslin '63 (Jan. 13, 2020)
 Samuel C. Rozza '64 (April 3, 2020)
 Meryl (Peterson) Bonney '65 (April 20, 2019)
 Florence Crawford '65 (July 11, 2020)
 Gale A. Holst '65 (Dec. 14, 2019)
 Robin M. Millstein '65 (April 25, 2020)
 William N. Moore '65 (Dec. 25, 2019)
 Sheldon Ronald Schwartz '65 (July 2, 2020)
 Charlotte Meaney '67, '74M (Jan. 20, 2020)
 J. Gary Sammon '67 (Aug. 2, 2020)
 Eleanor B. Hamer '68 (June 4, 2020)
 Jeanne Mullaney '68 (April 12, 2020)
 Andrew S. Battend '69, '95M (Nov. 10, 2019)
 Joan Gleason '69 (June 13, 2020)
 Rose V. Cammareri '70 (Jan. 5, 2020)
 Stephen M. Grasso '70 (Jan. 23, 2020)
 Craig F. Haese '70 (Dec. 8, 2019)
 Kathleen A. Merrigan '70 (Jan. 25, 2020)
 Thomas C. Piacentino '70 (July 16, 2020)
 William Stanzione '70 (June 22, 2016)
 Watson Stillwaggon '70 (July 27, 2020)
 Joan N. Lyons Weber '70 (Jan. 4, 2020)
 Jean Buonano '71, '84M (Dec. 12, 2019)
 Robert M. Tiedmann '71 (April 18, 2020)
 Charles Herbermann '72 (Aug. 17, 2020)
 Richard W. McBride '72 (Oct. 11, 2015)
 Judith Renzo '72 (May 22, 2020)
 Edward J. Holden '73 (Jan. 11, 2020)
 Gary M. Kaplan '73 (Aug. 16, 2020)
 Spencer M. Fields '74 (Dec. 10, 2019)
 James L. Moening '74 (Jan. 11, 2020)
 Bruce Hillman '75 (Dec. 1, 2018)
 Judith E. Marshall '75 (Feb. 25, 2017)

Anton J. Massopust II '76M (March 7, 2020)
 Thomas B. Quigley '76 (Jan. 5, 2020)
 Michael Leotti '78 (Dec. 28, 2019)
 Marie F. Aania '79M (April 9, 2020)
 Nancy Ann Chen '80 (May 30, 2020)
 Gomer D. Horne '80M (July 28, 2020)
 Nancy Taylor '81 (June 20, 2020)
 Paul J. Fillinich '83M (Aug. 10, 2020)
 Gloria M. Stamato '84 (Jan. 14, 2020)
 Irene A. Petry '85M (Feb. 10, 2020)
 Susan Luchenta '86, '92M, '97M (former adjunct professor) (Aug. 10, 2020)
 Andrew J. Rachlin '87 (Nov. 25, 2013)
 Janet Hartoin '91 (July 27, 2020)
 Thaddeus Klepac '91M (Aug. 20, 2020)
 Susan J. Antoon-Cousins '94M (July 31, 2020)
 Alice F. Clark '99 (June 5, 2020)
 John Nadel '99M (Dec. 2, 2019)
 Shoshana L. Hammerman '02 (Jan. 19, 2020)
 Pamela J. Branin '03 (Jan. 31, 2020)
 Neil Haynes '08 (June 7, 2020)
 Megan C. Mazza '08 (March 25, 2020)
 Emily MacEwen '13 (April 7, 2020)
 Bernadette Sabatini '13M (February 2020)
 Irena Hartell '15M, '19DNP (April 12, 2020)

» FACULTY & STAFF

Ron Frangipane (former associate professor of music) April 25, 2020
 Edward Jankowski (professor emeritus of art) April 30, 2020
 Arie van Everdingen (associate professor emeritus of art and former chair of the department of art) June 3, 2020.
 Charles "Joe" Strickland (former employee) June 4, 2020

» FRIENDS

Richard Bonney (friend) Feb. 27, 2018
 Raymond A. Bullus (former student) April 15, 2020
 Rory Hamill (former student) May 1, 2020
 Gordon N. Litwin (Urban Coast Institute Advisory Committee member) April 5, 2020
 Brittany Powell McGuinness (former student) June 13, 2020



NOT TO MISS »
 Dec. 8
VIRTUAL TUESDAY NIGHT RECORD CLUB

Get together with other music enthusiasts to discuss *Double Fantasy*, the fifth album by Beatles legend John Lennon and Yoko Ono. Register for the virtual event at monmouth.edu/events.



REMEMBRANCE

RONALD FRANGIPANE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, 1944–2020

It would be an impossible task to put into words the impact that the great Ron Frangipane had on Monmouth University and its students during his 18 years with the institution. When Ron arrived in 1997, my freshman year, we became best friends. He immediately set out to reinvent the existing music education program into an astounding, world-class performance and industry curriculum.

Those first five years, Ron taught every class and conducted every rehearsal. I had the great fortune to serve as his concert master and attend every class he offered. Ron would create opportunities for performance and encourage students

to bring music and art to all corners of our campus. He would re-orchestrate popular music and compose original music to shape what talent and instrumentation was available. His passion for life and art created astounding performances wit-

A noted studio musician and composer, Frangipane played keyboards on the Archies' hit "Sugar, Sugar" and worked with such artists as John Lennon and Diana Ross.

nessed by many over his tenure.

Ron shared his strength with us, and we shined like shooting stars. He had an ability to motivate great emotion and purpose from his students and convey passion to his audiences so profoundly that the impact was self-evident. Ron challenged us in a powerful but caring way to explore our creativity and search deeper into ourselves.

I could speak in perpetuity on Ron's brilliance and genius as a composer, musician, producer, and inspired creative. He was a truly amazing, beautiful, kind, and inspirational human. He was the most influential person in my life. A father, brother, mentor—but mostly my best friend. Ron was a gentle giant, a warrior of emotion. He was a genius of creativity in art and music, a master of the creative process, and an endless source of inspiration and new ideas to those he touched. I await the day I can join his band again. —Roberto Muolo '03

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