An early December snowstorm threw many well-planned events into overdrive last year. The Library Ball was nearly cancelled for the first time in 29 years! Everyone pulled together to postpone the ball from Saturday night to Sunday night. The entire Special Events Department made calls to all 350 guests on Saturday morning, and Patti Swannack rallied her Facilities team together to help out. The Ball was held on Sunday evening, and attracted a wonderfully generous crowd, raising more money than ever before. Gloria Nilson was honored at the ball and the Library Association presented President Gaffney with a check for $75,000.

The Performing Arts series had its hands full, as well. Vaune Peck and a team of four others contacted the 750 people who had tickets to the Father Alphonse concert on Friday night. Vaune stayed late in her office surrounded by 4 dozen poinsettias, just in case someone might not have gotten the message about the cancellation. Sunday’s performance of Winnie the Pooh went off beautifully and charmed everyone in attendance.

The Employee Activity Committee postponed the Children’s Holiday Party until the following weekend, and it snowed again, but the show went on as planned and the children had a great time.

It was a hectic weekend for everyone! Vaune reports, “All in all it was stressful, but kind of exciting at the same time... I hope to never go through it again.”

Within the School of Science, Technology and Engineering, students can pursue a number of academic degree programs, including those available in the Department of Biology.

Students who major in biology can follow a standard curriculum or elect one of two concentrations, one in cellular and molecular biology that focuses on aspects of biotechnology, the other in marine and environmental biology which focuses on the unique ecosystems and environmental concerns of coastal NJ. For the department, the former concentration may serve as the springboard to a new graduate program while the latter may soon be replaced by an innovative new bachelor’s degree. This new degree would be dedicated to studying marine and environmental biology, while providing a background in how coastal environmental policies are established and managed.

The department is committed to experiential learning in its broadest sense. Biology majors frequently spend an hour or more in the laboratory for every hour they spend in the classroom. Most courses have integrated laboratory or field exercises, and students have opportunities to participate in biological research along with internships, and cooperative education programs. There is a significant investment of time and resources to provide students with hands-on experience and laboratory studies are designed to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. On campus, undergraduate research has developed to the point where it rivals most, if not all, external experiences in preparing students for graduate study or employment. For faculty-directed research, biology majors have brought home awards from the National Council for Undergraduate Research, the NJ Academy of Sciences, the Metropolitan Association of College & University Biologists, Sigma Xi (the scientific research society), Tri-Beta (the national biology honor society), and the Eastern Colleges Scientific Conference.

Dennis Rhoads, Associate Professor and Chair of the department, has been employed at Monmouth for almost nine years. Prior to coming to MU he was employed, for ten years, at the University of Rhode Island. He attended the University of Delaware for his undergraduate degree and the University of Cincinnati for his graduate degree.

Sports are his main interest outside work, and he often coaches his son, Lucas, in baseball, soccer and currently, basketball. Lucas will turn 13 in February. To relax Dennis often listens to music, primarily the blues. He is also interested in digital photography. Dennis is married and his wife Rebecca works in the NJ Office of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a national organization committed to ending chronic homelessness. Rebecca received her masters in psychological counseling here at MU. The family has a pet cockapoo by the name of Sarafina.

Dennis grew up in the Amish country in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His dad owned and ran a grocery store that had been in the family for four generations. He wistfully told me, the larger chains have taken over essentially all of those small stores now, but his dad remained successful in part because he responded to the unique needs of the local Amish families.

DECEMBER SNOW STORM

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Biology continued on page 2
PROMOTIONS
Congratulations!
10/01/2003 – 12/31/2003

Stephen Acquaviva  
Patrol Officer I
Carol Janczewski  
Assistant Director of Advancement Services

TRANSFERS
10/01/2003 - 12/31/2003

Marlene Dixon  
Administrative Assistant – Operations, Registration and Records
Lauren Johnson  
Scheduling/Registration Assistant, Registration and Records
Debra Koval  
Coordinator of Computer Services, Development

Allen Covin  
Facilities Management
June Darby  
Human Resources
Brianne Goldsmith  
Bookstore
Cornell Key  
EOF
Nick Lopez  
Facilities Management
John Miller  
University Police
Kristy Miskoff  
Undergraduate Admission
Clotilde Oliveira  
Office of the President
Emily Spiker  
Health Services

Donald Dorfman, Professor, has been teaching at Monmouth since 1970, prior to that he was a chicken farmer. His experience with chickens led to his interest in egg production and birds. He is in the process of doing work with chicken blood and developing embryos to do comparative work with chickens and older birds. He also does a lot of work with turtles and often one of his daughters assists him in handling the turtles. He studied fisheries at the University of Connecticut and had a professor there who was very helpful to his career. His interest in fisheries led to his becoming a marine/worm expert in the Hudson River.

Donald is married to Renee and admitted she “tolerates all of what I do”. They have four children, all are graduates of Monmouth University, including his wife and himself. One of his children is a schoolteacher and the other three are interested in computer work.

He admits his hobbies are his research and his work. He likes to write. He is making plans to go to Mexico this summer to do blood work on a certain fish species in Lake Chapala, the largest freshwater lake in Mexico. He also finds fish parasites fascinating.

Donald enjoys travel and was in Puerto Rico earlier in the year working on research. He has also been to Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest, Bangladesh, China, Mexico and lived in Africa for three years. He has taken classes on many field trips and found it to be a great research opportunity for them. In a few weeks he will be traveling to Barbados to do research on a South American species of tortoise.

He really likes the work he does and feels as long as he is physically able he will continue to teach. He makes a lot of his presentations now in PowerPoint. He is at the University seven days a week to take care of the turtles, frogs and fish and looks forward to doing more research. He proudly told me there are world-class fossils nearby in the Shark River, Ramanassan and Big Brook and he is working on one or two papers about shark teeth fossils and vertebrae. Donald feels there is an invaluable potential for a good marine program here at the University and mentioned that John Tiedemann provides a great program at Monmouth University and has some very good ideas for the future. Donald sighed and said out loud that he hoped he would be around to be in on the action.

James Mack, Professor, is an alumnus of Monmouth University, as is his wife, Alida. He has been teaching at Monmouth for 31 years, along with his responsibilities as director of the elite Monmouth Medical Center Scholars Program. He is Director of both the Monmouth Early Warning System and the Pre-Professional Health Advisory Committee. He has been an adjunct professor in the science department at Ocean County College since 1971. Prior to joining Monmouth, James taught at Shore Regional High School for six years, and Lakewood High School for three years.

Following the careers of his former students has been very rewarding for James. He feels he has helped many students enter into the health professions, and it is very rewarding to see doctors, dentists, podiatrists, etc., that he helped guide into these fields become successful.

James was appointed by former Governor Kean to serve on the NJ Clean Water Council, and he also served as the Education Chair of the American Chemical Society, Monmouth County Sec-

Campus Connection 2
Catherine is in 6th grade at Seashore School and is the swimmer in the family; she also plays the violin in the NJ Student Orchestra. Emma is in 3rd grade at Wanamassa School and is very interested in sports, soccer, basketball, and gymnastics. The family has a number of pets, a 3-year-old cat, a golden retriever who is going to be seven years old and a fish. He laughed and told me they all got along well.

A common thread among most of the faculty that I have interviewed is there is little separation between work and play in their lives. Ivan is interested in computers and does a lot of work on them. He also teaches an IT minor, as well as Biology. He first worked on an Apple computer when he came to the University. He was made director of the microcomputer lab. His work is primarily in genetics and embryology and advanced Internet Technology. He has a passion for collecting classical music and attending concerts. Ivan is a movie fan and for exercise he likes to play tennis. He was born in Newark and has always lived in New Jersey; first attending Rutgers, then Princeton University.

Nancy, Ivan’s wife was a computer programmer, but after the adoption of both girls her life changed. There were very few American agencies dealing with China at that time so they went through a Canadian agency in order to adopt their children. Nancy has established an adoption program for an agency in Teaneck that did not have a Chinese adoption program. She arranges the travel, paperwork and much of the behind-the-scenes work involved in overseas adoptions.

Ivan Gepner, Associate Professor, began his lengthy career at Monmouth University in 1973, intending to spend just one or two years working here. Ivan and his wife, Nancy, have two daughters; Catherine is almost 12, and Emma is 8. Both girls are of Chinese ancestry and although not related, were adopted from the same town in China. He said their life is extremely busy because both girls are very active with swim meets and gymnastics. Catherine is in 6th grade at Seashore School and is the swimmer in the family; she also plays the violin in the NJ Student Orchestra. Emma is in 3rd grade at Wanamassa School and is very interested in sports, soccer, basketball, and gymnastics. The family has a number of pets, a 3-year-old cat, a golden retriever who is going to be seven years old and a fish. He laughed and told me they all got along well.

Employee Activity Committee News

The Employee Activity Committee completed its first year of events with its second annual trip to Rockefeller Center in New York City. Thanks to all for your wholehearted support of the various activities held throughout the year. We are still in the planning stage for events for 2004, so please share with us your thoughts and suggestions.

The first annual Employees’ Children Holiday Party was very well received. After a weeks postponement due to a snowstorm [see cover article] everyone still had a great time. The children enjoyed entertainment including dancing with Sponge Bob Square Pants, watching the magician, receiving small gifts, etc.

Many of our events were so successful we have been asked to repeat them in 2004. We will once again attend a baseball game at beautiful First Energy Park in Lakewood to cheer on the Lakewood Blue Claws. The tentative date is set for early May. Once the Blue Claws have their promotional schedule available we will send out flyers.

Another Sunset Cruise on the Navesink is planned for June, and we are always looking for discounts to Broadway hit shows and group rates to the world famous museums in New York. We are continuing to work with assorted merchants for discount coupons for our employees and their families.

Again, thank you for your enthusiastic participation and please look for our flyers announcing upcoming events. Suggestions and comments for Employee Activity Committee events are always welcome. Please contact Sharon Smith at x7594 or via e-mail at eac@monmouth.edu.
24th ANNUAL
EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY GATHERING

Door Prize raffle winner of the 20” color TV, Mary Lamberson
There is a Disney trip coming up in May for their children, but they don’t travel as often as they would like. Ivan said he enjoys what he does and plans on spending another twenty years here [he hopes by that time there is a prize for the longest-employed faculty member].

**Kathryn Lionetti**, Associate Professor, is in her 14th year at Monmouth. She came to MU from graduate school at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island. She loves teaching here and the work that she does with the students in the lab. She tells me they are all a bunch of good kids, all really nice. She is also the advising coordinator for the department.

In her spare time, she tries to keep up with all the literature on what’s happening in her field, and browsing the CDC and Microbiology websites. She exercises every morning and plays a little bit of tennis but has no real time for hobbies. Jeff, her husband is a dentist and they have two sons, Matthew, 14, and Jonathan 10. The active, athletic boys keep her very busy with swimming, tennis, cross country, track, baseball and basketball. She helps out the swim team quite a bit. Kathryn reports both boys do well in school and are very good kids. The family pets are two guinea pigs. When I visited the department she had just picked up a bag with leeches that she had gotten for one of her sons as a demonstration for his class at school.

The family loves to travel and has enjoyed trips to the Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Every year they go to Florida to visit relatives. Next summer the swim team will travel to Hawaii and the whole family and team are very excited about it.

**Dorothy Hutter**, Assistant Professor, is in her second year of teaching at Monmouth. She attended Immaculata College in Chester County, PA and went on to graduate school at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Prior to working at Monmouth she worked at Villanova University and the National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Aging), each for two years. When she was looking for another change, Monmouth became her first choice due to its size, location and environment.

Dorothy isn’t from this area, she was born in Pennsylvania and her family moved to Orlando, Florida and lived there for 16 years, or so. She laughed and told me she has Disney Orlando memorized! Dorothy is primarily involved with her church when she isn’t at MU, and began a social and service group for young adults. This group can be found working with the homeless through an interfaith hospitality net-
and the outdoors. Michael is involved in different community efforts and takes an active role in the Pinelanders Youth Soccer Club. He also gives science demonstrations and presentations for students and teachers in the local community.

Michael Palladino, Assistant Professor, began working at Monmouth in 1999. He went to graduate school at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA, moved back to NJ, (worked in the dept of molecular biology after finishing his undergrad degree) and then began working at Brookdale Community College as a faculty member in the Biology Department for 5 years, prior to joining Monmouth.

He moved back to NJ to be near his family. He met his wife Cindy when they were both undergraduates at Trenton State College (now known as The College of New Jersey); she is also from NJ. Cindy is a registered nurse in neonatology. She occasionally works on a per diem basis, but her main full time job right now is raising their three children: Elizabeth 10, Lauren 8, and Michael 4. Both Lauren and Michael play soccer, while Elizabeth’s real passion is horseback riding. In addition to being good fishing buddies with their dad, both girls are involved in dance lessons and girl scouts. At any given time the family has a menagerie of pets, right now they have in-residence two cats that were rescued from the SPCA, a hamster, a number of fish, crayfish and turtles.

For relaxation, Michael told me he fishes every chance he can get (while in college he was a freelance writer for a number of fishing magazines) and reads scientific literature. He was a varsity soccer player at Trenton State College and part of the Olympic Development Program for the US soccer team. He has coached and played in a number of over-35 leagues. He laughingly told me he was born with a soccer ball in his crib because his dad played in Italy and loves the sport. He coaches Michael and Lauren’s soccer teams and still plays soccer in an adult league for oldtimers.

Presenting at seminars involves a lot of travel-related activity and takes up a lot of Michael’s time [20 to 30 trips a year]. Whenever possible, he tries to incorporate a few days family vacation linked to his work travel. The family resides in Howell and enjoys camping and the outdoors. Michael is involved in different community efforts and takes an active role in the Pinelanders Youth Soccer Club. He also gives science demonstrations and presentations for students and teachers in the local community.

Mirjana Seskar, Temporary Instructor, originally began working at Monmouth as a substitute teacher filling in for Vern Churchill. She said their styles were totally different, she likes to use the textbook and Vern liked the hands-on approach. She has been with the University for three years now. Prior to teaching at Monmouth she worked at Rutgers, where she obtained her Ph.D. in Disease Resistance in Plants.

Michael Palladino

Mirjana Seskar

**Employee News**

**NEC Coach of the Year**

**Kevin Callahan** is the only coach in Monmouth’s football history, and his 11th year at the helm of the Hawk’s program was his finest. Under Callahan’s guidance, Monmouth finished 10-2, setting a school record for wins in the process, and earned a share of the NEC championship for the third time. The Hawks went on to represent the NEC in the ECAC Football Classic and finished 2003 ranked fourth in the Sports Network I-AA Football poll.

Monmouth, which spent three weeks in October as the top-ranked team in the Sports Network rankings, also posted the best turnaround in I-AA this season. The Hawks improved from 2-8 in 2002 to 10-2, a seven-game swing. Callahan built this team around the nation’s stingiest defense, which allowed just 8.5 points per contest, a new NEC record.

**Monmouth University Photographer Jim Reme** won second place in this summer’s University Photographers’ Association of America Photo competition. The UPAA is an international organization of college and university photographers with over 500 members. Jim won in the category of Photography in a Specialty or Coffee Table Book. The MU coffee table book “Great Steps” placed second from among 200 entries.

She said she doesn’t have much free time due to the amount of preparation and research that is involved with teaching. However, she did quickly tell me she likes to read, go to the theater, garden and enjoys cooking. For Thanksgiving she prepared a typical American meal with foods not normally available to her in her native Yugoslavia; food such as pumpkins, cranberries and corn. Mira and her husband, Ivan, both immigrated to the United States 13 years ago. He works at Rutgers as an Assistant Director of Wireless Information. They have twin sons, Danilo and Milos, who just turned four and keep them both very busy.

When the Seskar’s lived in Europe, and before the twins arrived, they traveled extensively, and have been to Hawaii, Greece, the Virgin Islands, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, London, Switzerland, and Italy. She laughed...
and said they came to the States thinking they wouldn’t stay long, so they thought they should visit as much of it as possible, and she ratted off a list of states they have visited. Now Mira takes mini-trips when time permits, and goes off to visit her many Yugoslavian friends in Canada while her husband and one of the grandmas take care of the twins.

She is enthusiastic about teaching at Monmouth. She likes her department colleagues and their approachability. She feels being able to develop one’s own courses is great professionally. It gives the professors a lot of independence to work in their own field of expertise.

Ursula Howson, Temporary Instructor, is also in her second year of teaching at Monmouth. Two years prior to working at MU, she was a post-doctoral fellow at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Laboratory at Sandy Hook. At NOAA she was involved in research in fish larvae and juvenile fish. She earned her doctorate in marine science at the University of Delaware and undergraduate degree in biology at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania. She has a non-thesis Masters from the University of Arizona and did research in Baja, Mexico. She also took part in a very cold ten-day research cruise with scientists and fishermen to study monkfish in late winter off the east coast of the United States.

Ursula has been married for 15 years to Geoff and they have three daughters: Amanda, 12, and 8 year-old twins, Emily and Elizabeth. She is very busy with teaching and research, but also likes to cook and garden. Right now, they are renovating a house they recently purchased in Ocean Township. The family enjoys their two dogs [one is a puppy], two cats, two birds, a chinchilla and various fish.

Anne Marie Lavin, Biology Laboratory Supervisor and Compliance Officer, has worked in the same position since she was hired seven years ago. Her background is in medical technology. She previously managed a medical laboratory in West Orange for 20 years, and set up a medical lab for a group of physicians in Old Bridge, giving her years of experience with blood work, compliance, OSHA rules and regulations, etc. This position was a natural fit for her.

James, Anne Marie’s husband, owns his own business in electrical contracting and Anne Marie helps out doing his books and accounting. Most of his work is on Long Beach Island. Anne Marie also helps out as a laboratory technologist on a per diem basis at her cousin’s lab; he is a physician and, at an oncologists lab in Manasquan. The Lavin’s have two bunnies and a Maine Coon cat as pets. She said the bunnies have the run of the house and “sure keep them busy”.

Weather permitting, Anne Marie and James travel as much as they can on the motorcycles they each own. This past August they drove through Canada and back into the states through Michigan around the lakes. This coming May they have plans to fly out to the Grand Canyon, rent motorcycles and tour the countryside on them. She told me they have done that in the past in both Arizona and Texas. This winter break they will be trailering their bikes to Florida and will ride to the Keys. They are both active and enjoy snow skiing in winter, boating and water skiing in the summer. Anne Marie also helps out her sister and spends a lot of time with her little nieces when she can.

To relax she enjoys reading, watching TV, working out and running. She does all the gardening and decorating at home and loves to shop and go to craft shows. She enjoys various artists and styles of painting and jewelry. She is always on the lookout for something unique.

Native American Indian Heritage Month

On November 18th the Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations hosted an event in Wilson Auditorium in celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month. Celebrated Cherokee Storyteller Lloyd Arneach shared stories and legends learned from two storytelling uncles. Arneach was born and reared on the Cherokee Reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina. His stories ranged from the “old stories” of the Cherokee to contemporary stories about a variety of Native American tribes. In addition to performing at colleges and universities around the country, Lloyd has told extensive stories at numerous festivals, has been featured at the Kennedy Center and at the National Folk Life Festival in Washington, DC. More than sixty audience members in attendance were students, employees, and a large majority of community members, who all greatly enjoyed Lloyd’s humorous and informative tales.

After Lloyd’s presentation he hosted a question and answer session where he was asked a large range of questions from some specifics concerning storytelling, to his feelings on the political occurrences of the Native American Nation and the United States. After a group discussion on the issues of Native Americans today, many guests stayed after the event and spoke individually to Lloyd, sharing their love of stories with him as well as asking individual questions.
Do you have a question about benefits?

Just... Ask Angela.

What is the name of the new mail service pharmacy that Health Net is using and do they offer any additional benefits?

Effective December 1, 2003 HealthNet changed their Mail Service Pharmacy carrier to Express Scripts, Inc. and the transition has been seamless. Express Scripts, Inc. has their own website (http://www.express-scripts.com) or you can access their website through the HealthNet website (http://www.health.net).

When you are required to use maintenance medication, the mail service delivers the medications to your home and you save money. Instead of paying three copays at the pharmacy for a 90 day supply, the cost is two copays and delivery is free of charge.

Express Scripts’ drug compliance program reminds patients by mailings when it is time to refill or renew a prescription. Also, Drug Digest is a valuable resource available on the Express Scripts website for drug and health information that allows you to search their drug library, check drug interactions and more.

Call for Submissions

The Monmouth Review is the University community’s literary and art magazine, published twice a year. All employees are invited to submit for consideration poems, short stories, essays, fiction, drama, interviews, photography, drawings, computer-generated art, and other forms of two-dimensional art.

To submit literary works, please send each work as an e-mail attachment to Professor Stanley Blair in the Department of English, at sblair@monmouth.edu. To submit artwork, please contact Professor Karen Bright in the Department of Art and Design at x3523. Please include information about how you may be contacted, as well as a brief biographical note of up to fifty words.

If you have any questions about the Monmouth Review, please contact Dr. Blair at his office, Wilson Annex, Room 505, or phone x3619.

The Monmouth University Hawk has officially changed its look after almost two years of deliberations with all constituents. The colors were changed as well, so that MU would be distinctive. The royal blue is just too popular and often times, particularly at track meets, MU athletes could not be distinguished from other schools!

The change in the logo came about in order to try to capture a more competitive Hawk. The previous Hawk was considered to be a little too passive and friendly. The new Hawk depicts some aggressiveness and competitive spirit. Hopefully, the students will be proud to wear the HAWK!