Dear Monmouth University Neighbor:

It has been a pleasure to meet many of you at University social functions, during athletic events, in our arts venues and "out and about" in Monmouth County. Linda and I have enjoyed our introduction to the region and look forward to summer at the shore.

I understand the value of establishing and maintaining positive relationships between the University and its neighbors. At the same time it is clear that several projects needed to be completed in order to remain competitive and to improve the quality of the University while not increasing the capacity. I have discussed our concepts openly. Also, I have become specifically aware of concerns, in some municipalities, over student residents.

I hope over time to convince you, our neighbors, that while the University will strive to continue to increase student qualifications and campus quality, we also want to understand and address your concerns.

Since 1998 we have publicly discussed our desire to build a multi-purpose activity center (MAC) in the center of the campus, near the Jules L. Plangere Jr. Center for Communication and Instructional Technology building. We have discussed the MAC in informal settings, in presentations, in formal borough Council liaison meetings, during West Long Branch Coalition meetings and to the press. It is a goal for improved competitiveness; not to add to student capacity. But first we need a residence hall, for which we are currently seeking borough (West Long Branch) zoning approval; it would not increase capacity either. While our long-term vision is out in the public, we know we must earn approvals one step at a time.

Regarding student citizen-residents, it is a difficult issue, one with which we wrestle daily, one where Monmouth is seen by peer institutions as quite inventive, one which requires careful attention to all citizens’ rights, one where we expect to continually improve and change. Students who run afoul of the law are not only disciplined by municipal legal systems, but also are subject to the University judicial process – a double penalty. Yet, we try to do more. We will invite landlords in for meetings during the summer, we will advise parents when a student receives a municipal or state summons/citation for an alcohol or drug related infraction, we will continue to meet with the Community Relations Task Force, and we have hired a consultant to gather best practices from other universities.

I aspire to make Monmouth better in every regard, I intend to make our graduates and our neighbors proud of the University. We have capped freshman enrollment again this year, and we plan to continue to raise the qualifications of students.

Monmouth anchors the classic beauty of our larger neighborhood. I invite you to please enjoy our events and the campus at your leisure.

Paul G. Gaffney II
Ocean Township History Quiz

Created by Dr. Richard Veit, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Anthropology, Monmouth University

WIN A PRIZE!
The third person to send an e-mail to neighborhood@monmouth.edu or call 732-571-3526 with the correct answers will win a spectacular Monmouth University prize.

1. These two famous aviators held an air meet in Ocean Township in 1910.

CONGRATS TO PATRICIA DONOVAN Patent Donovan was the first person to respond to our last quiz and won two tickets to a performing arts event at Pollak Theatre.

Things to Do on Campus

Shadow Lawn Stage at Lauren K. Woods Theatre
Lovers by Brian Friel
Performance dates: June 25 - 27, June 30 - July 4, and July 7 - 11

Arsenic and Old Lace
by Joseph Kesserling
Performance dates: July 16 - 18, July 21 - 25 and July 28 - August 1

Ticket prices are $13 to $20. To reserve tickets contact Monmouth University’s Lauren K. Woods box office at 732-263-5730.

CHILDREN’S THEATRE AT MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
Designed to captivate and entertain children

Sunday, August 8, at 2 p.m.
Rapunzel
A witty, tongue-in-cheek retelling of a classic favorite with a moral about parent-child relationship. It will have young audiences rejoicing.

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased through Pollak Theatre’s box office by calling 732-571-3483.

Monmouth University, in coordination with Congregation Magen David of West Deal, presented a special outreach program this summer. The Summer Jewish Program, generously supported by the ARAMARK Charitable Fund through the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program is designed to build bridges to Judaism and the Jewish communities on- and-off-campus.

On July 1, 2004, from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Hazan Moshe Tessone and his Oriental Ensemble performed songs and music of the Sephardic Community. In between the music performance, the film The Last Marranos was screened. The Last Marranos is a riveting and moving documentary about the history of anti-Semitism and oppression faced over the centuries by Jews in Portugal. Forced to accept a conversion to Catholicism in 1497, Portuguese Jews practiced their true religion in secret for centuries afterward. Even today, the 100 or so remaining Jews in the village of Belmonte must observe their rituals clandestinely. In addition, a “mazza” of Syrian Oriental appetizers were served, under kosher supervision of the Jersey Shore Orthodox Rabbinate (JSOR). This event was free and open to the public.

Photography and book exhibits on the Sephardic Experience were held at Monmouth University’s Wilson Hall, Room 106, from June 25 through July 2. The exhibit included a copy of the Aleppo Codex, the earliest known Hebrew manuscript comprising the full text of the Bible, and 29 facsimiles from an illuminated Hebrew Bible of the 15th Century.

Jewish Studies Program

Monmouth University Volunteers Help Clean up Trash on Route 35 in Ocean

Monmouth University students helped clean up trash on Route 35 in Ocean during the third annual “Big Event” on March 27th. This year more than 300 students and employees volunteered at this one-day community service project sponsored by the Student Government Association. Students and employees spent the day performing service projects, like painting, cleaning, clearing brush, or visiting senior citizen centers and working with school children, as a way to express their gratitude to the surrounding communities for their support and allegiance to Monmouth University.

Congratualtions to the Class of 2004

Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Services, presented Ocean Township resident Matt Soto with the prestigious Student Government Association Award during Monmouth University’s commencement on May 19th at the PNC Bank Center in Holmdel. Degrees were awarded to approximately 1,000 graduates this year.

Mary Anne Nagy and Matt Soto.