

# '70s '80s '90s

# CLASSTOTES

**Franklin Walker Sr. '74** retired after a 48-year career in Jersey City Public Schools in January.

**John F. Clabby '75 MA, PhD** was appointed to the position of professor emeritus in the field of Behavioral Health by the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Rutgers University.

**Joe Cosentino '77** published *Drama TV*, the 13th book of the Nicky and Noah series, in December.

**Gregory Dell'Omo '77**, president of Rider University, was included in the 2021 *NJBIZ* Education Power 50 list.

**Nancy Erika Smith '77, Esq.** was included in Senator Loretta Weinberg's 2021 Women's Power List in *InsiderNJ*. (See profile, page 43).

**Donna Bonavita '78**, principal of Bonavita Design LLC, collected eight awards at the 53rd Annual Jersey Awards statewide competition in September, winning four first and one second place awards as well as three Certificates of Excellence for corporate and promotional marketing material.

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**Samuel "Sam" D. Mills Jr. '80** was inducted posthumously into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in February. He played for the New Orleans Saints and the Carolina Panthers. (See story, page 33)

**Constantino "Gus" Milano '81** was included on *NJBIZ*'s 2021 Commercial Real Estate Power 50 list.



**William C. Petzinger '82, '97 MA** was appointed as a major in Civil Air Patrol's Maj Thomas B. McGuire Composite Squadron at Joint Base McGuire Dix

Lakehurst. He is the squadron commander and also serves as its public affairs officer. Founded during World War II, Civil Air Patrol pilots flew missions over the nation's coasts and borders to protect the U.S.

**Peter D. Aquino '83** was appointed the new president and chief executive officer of SeaChange International, Inc. – a leading provider of video delivery, advertising and streaming platforms – in September.

**Gina Coleman '91** was named chief diversity officer of PNC Bank. She also serves as co-chair of the PNC Corporate Diversity Council, which focuses on embedding inclusion into every aspect of the organization.

**James Dorey '92** became senior vice president of operations for In Serra Supermarkets in December.



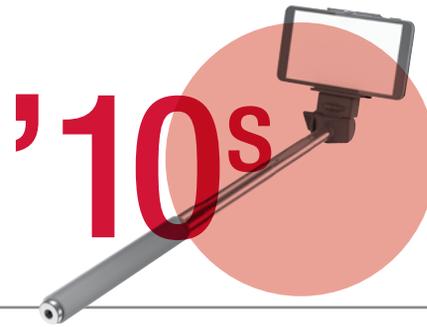
**Kevin J. O'Connor '92** was certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a civil trial attorney in January. Fewer than 2% of attorneys in New Jersey have this

accreditation. He is the chair of Peckar & Abramson P.C.'s business litigation practice and vice-chair of the firm's labor and employment practice.



**Mary Bell Steffen '96 MFA** exhibited her paintings at the Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, Pickens County Museum of Arts & History in Pickens, and ArtFields in Lake City, all located in South Carolina. She was also awarded honorable mention in the Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild Members Show in November. Steffen is a member of the National Association of Women Artists and has been treasurer of the South Carolina chapter since 2019.

**Anthony J. Scardino '97, PhD** was appointed the associate dean of the School of Business and Information Sciences at Felician University in November. He is also an associate professor.



**Allison Bressler '00** became the co-founder and co-director of A Partnership For Change, a New Jersey-based nonprofit organization that trains individuals statewide on preventing and ending domestic violence and dating abuse.



**Joseph "Joe" Fiduccia '01** built a full-scale replica of Optimus Prime from the *Transformers* films in 2016 to inspire his son. With approval from Hasbro, he travels with Optimus to elementary schools around the country and shares life experiences to encourage students to stand up to bullies. Upon graduation, Fiduccia dabbled in radio before becoming a software application trainer and consultant.

**Alvin Mallette '01** helped welcome Afghan refugees arriving in the United States at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey in September. He is an Air Force Major.

**Jennifer Higgins '04 MA** joined the New Jersey State Health Benefits Commission as the state employee representative of the New Jersey AFL-CIO in November.

**Angelo Auteri '05, Esq.** was promoted to a partner of Scarinci Hollenbeck in the Public, Labor & Employment group out of the firm's Lyndhurst, N.J., headquarters.

**Keith T. Campbell '06, Esq.** was promoted to senior associate of Scarinci Hollenbeck out of the firm's Lyndhurst, N.J., headquarters. He practices education and special education law.

**Al-Nesha Jones '07, '13 MBA** is a member of the Intuit® Tax Council, and recently provided content to "The Path to Advisory," a guide to creating and managing an advisory practice.

**Paige A. Dworak '08** played a pivotal role in the rebranding of the East Orange General Hospital, now named CareWell Health Medical Center. She is the co-owner and CEO.

**Cristina A. Pinzon '08** was included on *InsiderNJ's* 2021 Top 100 Millennials list. She is the founder of Stateside Affairs, which serves as a critical bridge between the state's political structure and the Latinx community.

**Emily Midkiff '10**, who went on to earn a master's and a PhD, published a book of research with the University Press of Mississippi. Titled *Equipping Space Cadets: Primary Science Fiction for Young Children*, the book is about how science fiction is great for children.

**Mark J. Comesañes '11 MA** was named the first full-time executive director of My Brother's Keeper Newark, an initiative of Newark Opportunity Youth Network aimed at helping young people in New Jersey succeed.

**Christina A. Vance '11** and **Gregory S. "Greg" Winick '15 Cert.** were married in November 2021, at the Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park, N.J.

**Sean R. Verbist '11** and **Matthew Dobrowolski '12** helped save a six-day-old infant in December when his airway was obstructed. They are both Montclair police officers.

**Shante D. Palmer '12** was reelected treasurer of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee in January. She was also included in Senator Loretta Weinberg's 2021 Women's Power List in *InsiderNJ*.

**Avraham Groll '13** had a conversation about "Using JewishGen to Research Your Roots – Including Holocaust Related Information" with Jerry Zaks, a retired technology expert, who has done just that. He is the executive director of JewishGen – The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy.



**Sandy Alzubi '14 MA** was named the educational service professional for 2021. She works as a school social worker for the Union City (N.J.) Board of Education.

**Amanda J. Del Gaudio '15** became the inaugural director of Gender Equity and LGBTQIA+ Life at Gettysburg (Pa.) College.

**Maria Harper '15** joined A.Y. Strauss as a litigation associate in September. She also married fellow alumnus **Ryan J. Harper '16** in September 2020.

**Stephen Lyman '15** was named executive director of The Maritime Association of the Port of New York/ New Jersey.

**Anthony Fasano '16** was included on *InsiderNJ's* 2021 Top 100 Millennials list. He was elected deputy director of the Hopatcong (N.J.) Board of Education in early 2021.

**Hope Kremer '16, '21 MA** hopes to raise \$3,000 for the Lymphoma Research Foundation in order to gain entry to the New York City Marathon in October. She also recently began working full time in University College as an academic advisor.

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**Stephen P. Blazejewski '17** led the branding transformation process of the New Jersey Pride Chamber of Commerce (NJPC). He was appointed president of NJPC in 2021 and is the youngest president to preside over a chamber in the state. He has worked to improve the brand and reorganize the board and its processes, in order to add more value to its membership.



**Samantha Johnson Boyer '17** was named the 2021 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year. She is a pre-kindergarten teacher in Upper Deerfield (N.J.) Township at C.F. Seabrook School. She is the first Pre-K teacher to earn this title.

**Beth L. Gottung '19 MA** joined Montclair Film as the new co-head and executive director in February. In her new role, she leads development, external affairs, education and community relations initiatives for the organization.

**Gabrielle "Gabi" Bartnik '21** won a 2021 Jersey Award at the NJ Ad Club's 53rd Annual Jersey Awards, along with **Joanna Zaccardi '21**, **Zoe W. Gleason '21**, and **Christina Giordano '22** in October. They created a Motown curriculum guide for the Motown Museum.

**Rahjaun Gordon '21 PhD** was promoted to director of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at Montclair State University.

**Marilyn Joyce Lehren '21 MA** and **Ariana Leyton '17, '18 MS, '22 MA** helped produce an episode of Amazon Prime's *The College Tour*, which featured Montclair State University. (See story page 12)

**Diamonique Lundy '21** was a featured speaker at the Feliciano School of Business' 8th Annual Women Entrepreneurship Week in October. (See profile, page 45)

**Craig J. Merkle '21** was sworn in as a police officer for Montgomery Township, N.J., in January.



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