

By Fred Groh

# A BOWLING



# HOMECOMING

**MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY HAS A NEW BOWLING CENTER, COURTESY OF ALUM (AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF QUBICAAMF) PAT CINIELLO.**

**M**emories come back  
When you were a standout player (and president) of the Eastern Intercollegiate Conference, topping it with a 196 average in the days of rubber balls and less-than-party lane conditions. When four years in the TKE fraternity gave you lifetime friends, two of them buds on the five-man Conference team from the school. When you were getting set for wedding vows in your senior year, and serving as "Teek" (TKE) house chairman, and winding up your last semesters for a BS in business. Then you remember.

"A lot of fond memories and fraternity brothers and friends I've had for over 40 years. A great time, great experience," said Pat Ciniello, chairman of the board of QubicaAMF Worldwide. "It was a growth period for me socially and education-wise and one that I cherish."

So when your alma mater, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, gets in touch seeking a donation, you're more than happy to give it.

The deal was that the school would provide space in the old gymnasium

and do the build-out. Ciniello would supply complete QubicaAMF bowling packages for four lanes.

The project seemed to take forever. "It was like a two-year process by the time we got all the approvals. It had to be approved by the board of directors and the president of the university, then they had to go through zoning," where there were issues.

But last Oct. 10 during homecoming weekend, Ciniello cut the ribbon to open the Ciniello Family Bowling Center, flanked by his wife, Lisa, and their son, Marc.

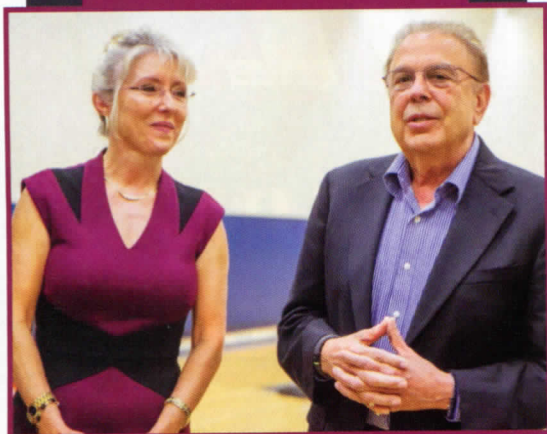
It's the first appearance of lanes on campus, a permanent home for the school's NCAA women's team who had to practice at one or another off-



Lisa and Pat receive thanks from the representative of Monmouth University.



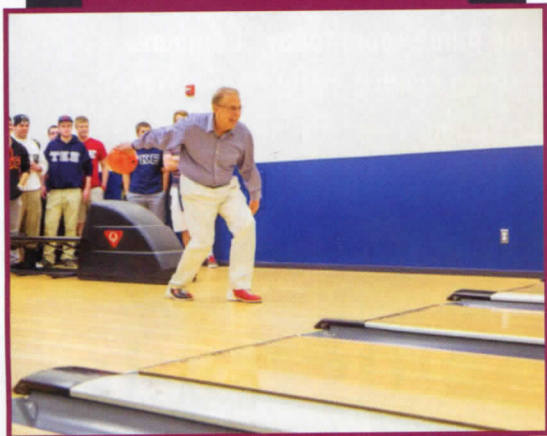
Lisa and Pat cut the ribbon on the new lanes.



Lisa and Pat express their gratitude to Monmouth University.



A group shot on the new lanes, with many of the TKE brothers.



Pat takes the ceremonial first shot.

campus center before. In the evenings, the lanes are open for rec play to all Monmouth students.

Karen Grygiel, director of women's bowling at Monmouth, who runs the team and now oversees the facility, says a "strong vision" will be driving the future for the venue.

"We want to add technologies so we can provide camps and clinics and educate everyone about the sport, whether they're a brand new beginner or they're competing at the elite level and want to fine-tune their skills," the enthusiastic coach reports. "The goal is to educate about bowling no matter what level you're at and keep people hooked on bowling."

While the university men's team was disbanded four of five years ago, a small group of new students are seeking re-approval from the student government for a club varsity program, she adds. They could be floored in the spring semester next year and creating a play schedule and making travel plans by summer.

Excited men and women bowlers attended the opening ceremony in company with members of Ciniello's fraternity, old and new. It felt like a reunion.

"I hadn't seen some fraternity brothers in over 40 years," he said happily. "They came over, plus the young fraternity members came with family members. The place was packed."

Ribbon-cutting guests reassembled afterward at a local restaurant for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. What was supposed to be an hour-and-a-half party ended up as three hours of renewing old ties and celebrating.

Bowling is *the* convivial sport. Does Ciniello think people who like bowling are more inclined to join a fraternity? He pondered for a moment.

"Yeah," he ventured, "because [a fraternity] is a team, it's a brotherhood, I would think they would be. [Bowling] is how I got involved with Teek. Mickey, whose father owned a bowling center in New Jersey, was a Teek member and bowled on the team and invited me to pledge." Koby, who became the third Teek musketeer on the Monmouth Conference team, soon joined the fraternity as well.

At the homecoming and ribbon-cutting, "both of them were there. We've stayed in contact since—I graduated in '67, so figure it out," Ciniello laughed.

"Bowling intercollegiately was phenomenal. I bowled for three years, from freshman to junior." The fourth year he had to decline; just too busy. "I still could go back and bowl one more year, right? If I go to graduate school?" He laughed again.

*We thank Gary Brown, director of collegiate and youth tournaments for USBC, for background for this story. ❖*



Fred Groh is a regular contributor to *IBI* and former managing editor of the magazine.