Created with a sense of humor along with materials from Hofstra University’s Department of Special Collections
Each of the stories included in this presentation is noteworthy for its Hofstra or Long Island connection.
The public's appetite for the scandalous and salacious is not peculiar to our times; lurid reporting, accompanied by shocking photographs, helped William Randolph Hearst and others to sell newspapers in the late 1800’s and into the 1900’s.
Born into an upper-class family and educated in posh finishing schools, Starr Faithfull travelled the world with her wealthy family. Unfortunately, her privileged life was too short.
Starr Faithfull was only 25 when she was found on Long Beach by beachcomber, Daniel Moriarty.

On the night that she died, Starr was said to have boarded a Cunard ship, docked at the piers in Manhattan; an additional report said that she was in the company of two “unsavory” men at a nightclub in Long Beach. Her body washed ashore at the foot of Minnesota Avenue.
With the death of Starr Faithfull in 1931, Long Beach became the center of attention for more than just its proximity to the ocean.

Body of Missing Girl Found at Long Beach

Violence Suspected in Death of Starr Faithfull, Daughter of Manufacturer.

Friends to Be Questioned

Police Seek to Learn if She Fell or Was Thrown Off Boat—Autopsy Indicates Attack.

Under circumstances so puzzling that Nassau County officials assigned their best detectives to the case, the body of Miss Starr Faithfull, 25 years old, step-daughter of Stanley E. Faithfull, a well-to-do retired chemical manufacturer, who disappeared from her home at 12 St. Luke's Place, Manhattan, last Friday, was cast up by the sea at Long Beach, L. I., yesterday morning.
All sorts of ideas were postulated about the demise of Starr Faithfull. Suicide, murder, death by a blunt instrument, intoxication or drugs were all part of the speculation.

Her parents were questioned extensively by police, her step-father was thought to have manufactured documents to absolve the family as they were having severe financial trouble due to the coming depression. The family physician, was also questioned and his psychoanalysis of Starr was brought under much scrutiny.

SENATOR LOVE ASKS INQUIRY.

Thinks Starr Faithfull Was Victim of Psycho-Analysis.

ALBANY, June 20.—In the belief that Starr Faithfull was “the tragic victim of psycho-analysis,” Senator William Lathrop Love of Brooklyn asked the Legislative Bill Drafting Committee today to prepare a bill providing for the investigation of psycho-analysts.

Senator Love, who is the only physician in the State Senate, said he believed many persons claiming to practice psycho-analysis were not registered physicians.

“Psycho-analysis,” he said, “should be done exclusively by alienists or neuro-psychiatrists. In my opinion there are many ‘bootlegging’ neuro-psychiatrists who are practicing upon credulous and erotic women. The power of the practitioners of psycho-analysis over such women is fraught with terrible possibilities of danger.”
Her family, especially her stepfather, were thought to be suspicious and her sister was said to have replied, “I’m not sorry she’s dead,” when told that Starr was deceased.

The detectives thought that it was possible that drugs or alcoholism might be to blame.

FAITHFULL DOUBTS EXPERT.

Asks Nassau Prosecutor to Permit Another to Study “Suicide” Notes.

Stanley E. Faithfull, stepfather of Starr Faithfull, whose body was found at Long Beach more than three weeks ago, made public yesterday a letter given by him to District Attorney Elvin N. Edwards of Nassau County, in which Mr. Faithfull, still doubting the authenticity of three letters written by his stepdaughter to Dr. G. Jameson-Carr, ship’s surgeon, asked that the missives be submitted to another handwriting expert for analysis.

In his letter to Mr. Edwards, Mr. Faithfull said: “There are certain variations in the penmanship of these letters to Dr. Carr, different to any Mrs. Faithfull, Miss Tucker or I have ever seen, leading us to believe that Starr could not have written them. I therefore request that the opinion of another handwriting expert be obtained, of our selection.”

Mr. Edwards said he had no intention of complying with the request of Mr. Faithfull.
Aerial view of Long Beach, 1931.

The case lingered in the public eye for months. Mainly because of the family’s peculiar reaction to her death, people assumed they had some involvement in Starr’s demise.
The newspapers carried stories about Starr’s death until October of 1931. Many articles appeared in London newspapers as well, as the Faithfull family spent time in England.

Starr was thought to be addicted to alcohol or veranol, which was a barbiturate, many thought that she might have killed herself.

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**FAITHFULL NOTE HELD FAKE**

Expert Calls Suicide Letter to Carr a “Crude Imitation.”

The letter of May 30 last credited as having been written by the late Starr Faithful to Dr. G. Jameson Carr, surgeon of the Cunard liner Franconia, and in which the writer announced her intention of committing suicide, was pronounced “a crude simulation or imitation of a few of the many penmanship habits” of Miss Faithfull in a report given yesterday to the girl’s step-father, Stanley E. Faithfull, by John Vreeland Haring, a handwriting expert. Miss Faithfull’s body was found in the surf at Long Beach a few days after the letter was written. Since then a handwriting expert to whom the Nassau County authorities submitted the letter has reported that it is genuine.

Mr. Haring, who has figured as a handwriting expert in many important cases, including the Hall-Mills, Stokes, Mowell and the Duke and Croker will contests, insists that the writing in the letter is different fundamentally from Starr Faithfull’s writing.

Asked if he would try to have the case reopened, Mr. Faithfull said he was not aware it had ever been closed.
Eventually, after months of speculation played out in the newspapers, her death was ruled “cause not known.” Nobody paid the price for Starr’s death, but Starr.
Several books were written about the death of Starr Faithfull. A novel called *Butterfield 8* was based loosely on the events of Starr Faithfull’s life and tragic death. It was later made into a movie starring Elizabeth Taylor.
Captain Ernest Engerer immigrated to the US from Germany around 1914. He settled on Long Island and worked as an animal trainer. He also ran a kennel and dog training academy as well as a small circus that travelled around the region and abroad.
Engerer worked with wild cats, dogs and ponies. His family had a tradition of animal training and he had trained at the Hagenbeck Training School in Hamburg. He got his title, “Captain” after working with the German Imperial Army in South West Africa.
In 1918 Engerer suffered an incident with a wild cat and was then known as the "one armed lion tamer." Engerer then turned to dog training and opened an academy that trained police dogs, as well as circus animals.
In 1930, Captain Engerer returned to his initial focus on wild cats, winning the World Championship in Wild Animal Training held in Cleveland. Captain Engerer organized a performance exclusively for Jewish children in Brooklyn in 1935 and participated in the Works Progress Administration Federal Theater Circus in 1939.
Captain Engerer moved to North Carolina and continued his wild cat performances in small shows and amusement parks. As the years passed, he experienced an increasing number of attacks from his wild cats, sometimes during performances.
One event occurred when Engerer was mauled by several lions during feeding time and was almost dragged under the fencing and into the cage by his legs. His son, also named Ernest, needed to use a pole to push the lions away.

Leona, the lioness, one of the lions that attacked Captain Engerer.
The Captain died in 1964 during a wild cat act when Monte, a lion he had worked with for 12 years, attacked and killed him in front of 25 spectators during a performance in an amusement park in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Although he believed in and was trained in “kindness training,” the wild beasts that he had cared for and performed with for 50 years eventually did him in.
Pillars

Politicians and lawmakers have always been scrutinized in the media and we pay strict attention to their private, as well as, public lives. Sometimes a look back in time reveals things we didn’t know.
Teddy Roosevelt Jr. was born at the family estate in Oyster Bay Cove and was the son of President Theodore Roosevelt and his second wife, Edith. He's shown here with his siblings Quentin, Archie, Alice, Kermit, Edith and Ethel.
Teddy’s father, Theodore Roosevelt, became President in 1901 after having served as Vice President, Governor of NY, Assistant Secretary of the Navy and being in public offices in NY State since 1895 as NY City Police Commissioner.
Old Orchard, Oyster Bay

Teddy Jr. married Eleanor Butler Alexander in June of 1910. They had four children and lived first in NY and later in Puerto Rico and the Philippines. By the late 1930’s, the Teddy Roosevelt Jr. family was again living in the US in a home called “Old Orchard” on Long Island.
Eleanor B. Roosevelt, Teddy Jr.’s wife, was asked to be on Hofstra’s Board of Trustees and she accepted.
Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. died a Brigadier General in France not long after D-Day during World War II, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. His former home, "Old Orchard," is now part of the museum at the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in Oyster Bay. In this letter Eleanor B. responds to a Hofstra Trustee Questionnaire and explains that she is going to pick up Teddy Jr.’s Medal of Honor. Theodore Roosevelt Sr. and Jr. are one of only two father and sons that have been awarded this distinction – the other is Arthur and Douglas MacArthur.
Judge Elizabeth Bass Golding (1900-2001) was one of the first women to graduate New York University School of Law. She graduated second in her class in 1921, beaten out of first place by a fellow law student named Samuel Golding (as you may have guessed, they became husband and wife!)

Prior to World War II, Elizabeth Bass Golding was an active member of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, and served as a committee woman on the National Committee on Social Legislation.

During the Second World War, Golding was appointed as vice chairperson for the Nassau County U.S.O., which operated out of Hempstead, near Mitchell Field.
Golding was the founder of the Woman's Forum of Nassau County (WFNC), a women's organization that worked to educate women regarding important social issues and to encourage women to lend their voices to the problems of the day. She acted as the Forum's president until 1952.

Jackie Robinson spoke to over 600 people at an event that the Women's Forum sponsored in 1966.
The Woman’s Forum visited many different NY politicians; here they visit Nelson Rockefeller in his Albany Office.
The first President to visit Hofstra was Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1950. Of course, this happened before he was actually President! At the time he was President of Columbia University.
Martin Luther King, Jr. received an Honorary Degree from Hofstra in 1965. King visited Long Island numerous times; visiting temples and churches to give speeches and even riding a bicycle on Fire Island!
Many Presidents have visited Hofstra and Long Island. Sometimes they have visited with the First Lady. Jimmy Carter and Rosalind Carter visited Hofstra in 1990.
George Bush visited Hofstra in 1997 along with Barbara Bush. The First Lady met with children at Hofstra’s Child Care Center and read them a story.
William Jefferson Clinton visited Hofstra in 2005 and was reunited with his Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who once took courses in Russian language at Hofstra.
Barrack Obama was at Hofstra in 2008 during the Presidential Debate, the first of three Presidential Debates held on the campus.
Thrillers

By “thrillers” we mean those in the entertainment industry.
Frank Buck was born in 1884 in Texas and became a hunter and collector of wild animals. He also did movies, but was probably most famous for his book, “Bring Em Back Alive.”
In 1934, Frank Buck introduced a zoo as well as “Monkey Mountain” to Long Island. Built on over 20 acres in Massapequa it included monkeys, elephants, lions, tigers and other wild beasts!

Frank Buck (left) with John B. Gambling and a Rhesus Monkey.
Monkey Mountain stood 70 feet tall and had a moat around it. A year after it opened, 150 monkeys escaped! A worker had inadvertently left a plank over the moat and the clever monkeys used it to flee. Unfortunately, situated as it was near to roads and railroad tracks, a few monkeys didn’t make it back. Other monkeys were returned by nearby residents who were given free admissions for each monkey returned.
Francis Ford Coppola, Class of 1960 at Hofstra, back row with glasses. Coppola started the Spectrum Players and directed a variety of plays.
Coppola not only wrote plays, but staged them, and was the first student to produce a major production on campus.
The Pro Arte organization was started by several North Shore residents who wanted professional quality entertainment in Nassau County.
Diahann Carroll was the lead character in *Julia*, one of the first television series that starred an African-American woman. Later in her career she starred in *Dynasty*. Most recently, she has played the role of “demanding mother” of Dr. Preston Burke on *Grey’s Anatomy.*
Diahann Carroll was asked to sing at a Hofstra Pro Arte Gala in 1968.
Other entertainers were brought in to perform with Hofstra’s Gray Wig theater group or for the Shakespeare Festival. Gray Wig was once named Green Wig. The Shakespeare festival is the longest continuously running collegiate production of Shakespeare in the country.

Eleanor Greenwich, pictured here in 1959, graduated from Hofstra while she was simultaneously a recording star.

Her songs, “Be My Baby,” “Then He Kissed Me,” “Da Doo Ron Ron,” and many many others made her an important part of the pop music era.

In 1984 a musical was written about her life entitled, Leader of the Pack, which was nominated for a Tony Award. In 1991 Greenwich was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.
Billy Joel, the “Piano Man” received an Honorary Degree from Hofstra in May of 1997. The lyrics he scribbled on the back of a Commencement program are kept in the Hofstra University Archives. Joel grew up on Long Island and was voted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.
These are but a sampling of “killers, pillars and thrillers” that have associations with Long Island. Many of the notable people of today have Long Island roots and we invite you to discover additional icons; including serious actors, musicians, politicians and television personalities to add to the list.

THE END