



THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

OUTLOOK

OUTLOOK.MONMOUTH.EDU

February 22, 2017

VOL. 89 No. 5

Out of the Classroom and Into the Streets New Mural Unveiled in Bey Hall



PHOTO COURTESY of Mark Ludak

Students have engaged in student activism since the University was Monmouth College, and a new mural created by Dr. Johanna Foster shows the timeline of those historical moments.

COURTNEY BUELL
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

On permanent display in Bey Hall is the “Out of the Classroom and Into the Streets” mural, painted by Dr. Johanna Foster, Director of the Sociology Program. The mural celebrates the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s historic visit to Monmouth University and documents the waves of student activism from 1966 to

the Black Lives Matter campus rallies in 2016.

The mural, which hangs in the second floor of Bey Hall, is composed of eight 24” x 24” attached canvases. It depicts the likenesses of 25 student activists on campus, and displays a visual timeline of student demonstrations throughout the years. The building houses the Department of Political Science and Sociology, both of which tie strongly to the subject matter of the piece, which was funded

entirely by a generous award from the Monmouth University Research and Creativity Grants Committee.

Although Foster was the primary painter, over 30 students from across academic disciplines participated in the creation of the piece. Ten students contributed as social history researchers and painting assistants as well.

“I was inspired to paint this, as someone who teaches about social inequality and a commit-

ment to racial justice I wanted to find a way to honor King’s visit. I wanted to find a way to connect the gift of his visit and the spirit of his message to the school today,” said Foster.

King spoke in a crowded Boylan Gymnasium on Oct. 6 1966, by invitation from the school’s Black Student Union. According to Foster, this historic event marked an influential point

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New MU Recreation App

GABRIELLE IENTILE
STAFF WRITER

A free Monmouth Recreation app that gives the campus community the ability to schedule workouts and view the availability of exercise equipment through their mobile devices is now available for download. The app was released on Jan. 30 through a contract between the University and fitDEGREE, a recreational software company.

The app offers live occupancy counts, and after an update on Feb. 15, the number of cardio machines occupied. It also shows whether or not the indoor track and areas of Boylan Gymnasium are being used at any given minute. Additional features include the ability to check into the fitness center, view the hours of operation, see and sign up for upcoming group classes. Users are able to interact with other users, posting on the fitFeed, and direct message.

According to Nick Dennis, CEO of fitDEGREE, the app saw over 200 downloads in the first couple of days simply by word of mouth.

Dennis, a former alumnus, contacted Christian Esola, the campus’ Fitness and Wellness Coordinator, during the fall

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Keychains for a Cause A Student’s Fundraiser to Help Syrian Refugee Children

NICOLE SEITZ
COPY EDITOR

Carly Miller, a junior homeland security student, has raised about \$40 so far in donations for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by creating “Keychains for Children” to directly help child refugees from Syria.

The keychains are little plastic animals painted with various metallic colors. Miller explained how she had to screw a hole into each plastic animal and attach the keychain ring to create her final product.

The homeland security student has been selling her keychains through her personal instagram and facebook accounts and also booked a few days in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center (RSSC) to sell her keychains in person a few weeks ago. Miller plans to continue selling her keychains online and booking table space across from the information booth in the RSSC to sell them for \$2 each.



PHOTO TAKEN by Nicole Seitz

University student Carly Miller created “Keychains for Children,” a fundraiser that began over winter break to help raise money for Syrian refugees.

Miller explained how she really felt moved to dive into this craft. “It was truly the intense me-

dia coverage and intimate personal videos of the victims I saw on social media one night that really

motivated me to do something,” said Miller.

Her inspiration for the project came when she was scrolling through her facebook page and saw all of these videos of innocent civilians being shot and killed in Syria. A few months ago, government forces in Syria attacked the city of Aleppo. The attack was supposedly a search for rebels, but it was evident that they were just killing innocent civilians.

Miller said, “How could I sleep when in front of my own eyes, there were civilians like me being brutally killed?” She continued, “I felt helpless and sick to my stomach about how privileged I was just to be able to safely go to bed.”

After creating the keychains, Miller had to decide which organization would be best to donate the money to. “I believed sending the money through the UN would be the best,” said Miller. “The UNHCR focused on healthcare and housing efforts as well as counseling for children, which I thought was amazing.”

Mary Harris, Specialist Pro-

fessor of Public Relations, commented on the importance of fundraising and awareness for world issues, “Fundraising and public relations plays an essential role in the public’s awareness of important causes,” Harris continues, “I encourage students to take an active role for the causes that they align with most.”

Miller created this fundraiser all on her own and plans to do a lot more to give back. “This is only the beginning of my hu-

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