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Gender Inclusive Bathrooms Unaffected by Rollback of Transgender Protections

KERRY BREEN
HEAD COPY EDITOR

The Trump administration removed Obama-era federal guidelines for transgender students in public schools and as a result, students are no longer guaranteed the right under federal law to use bathrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities that match their gender identity, as of Feb. 23. However, the University's establishment of gender-neutral bathrooms will remain unaffected, according to administration.

The protections, in place since May 2016 by former President Barack Obama, said that prohibiting transgender students from using facilities that align with their gender identity violated

federal anti-discrimination laws. The White House announced the roll-back of Obama's protection guidelines in a statement published on Feb. 22.

President Trump declared, "policy regarding transgender bathrooms should be decided at the state level...returning power to the states paves the way for an open and inclusive process to take place at the local level with input from students, parents, teachers, and administrators."

In 2016, the University took steps to make the campus more inclusive towards transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Every single building on campus now has at least one gender-neutral bathroom that can be used by all students, regardless of gen-

der identity.

"Monmouth University established gender neutral bathrooms and fully intends to keep them as they are designated today," said Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, speaking on the behalf of University President Grey Dimenna.

"The executive order says you are no longer required to do so but we will continue to provide them because it is the right thing to do. Monmouth prides itself on being caring, welcoming, and inclusive community, and all members of our campus should feel safe here. We are committed as a campus to be a place where

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Hackers Can Steal Fingerprints From Online Selfies



PHOTO COURTESY of Yasir Alsaedi

Hackers are able to retrieve fingerprints from photos on social media and online, researchers warn..

MEHDI HUSAINI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Researchers at Japan's National Institute of Informatics found that hackers can steal a victim's biometric data by recreating fingerprints from pictures posted on social media.

The Institute found that users could be at risk even without posting extremely high-resolution photos online. As long as the range of the photograph was about three meters and the area was well lit, hackers can steal fingerprints for later use. This means that even something as benign as putting up a peace sign in a selfie can be dangerous, since it openly exposes fingerprints to the lens.

According to an article by *The Telegraph*, released on Jan. 12, since an individual's prints do not change throughout the course of his or her lifetime, and can be linked to locks on their personal information as well as

bank accounts, stolen biometric data means vulnerability for a lifetime, especially if the data is sold illegally.

"[Students] shouldn't fall into the trap of thinking that biometric security is necessarily better than traditional security mechanisms," said Dr. Joe Chung, Unix Administrator-Teacher of the computer science and software engineering department. "An inkjet-printed fingerprint could be enough to unlock a phone. Biometric security may be more convenient than typing in a password or pin, but it's not inherently better."

Technology is advancing to accommodate for more secure biometric security that may offset fingerprint theft. According to the article [from *The Telegraph*], a China-based company is working on creating 'live' fingerprint scanners that analyze living tissue underneath the print to en-

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Communication Career Event Brings Professionals from NBC, Asbury Park Press, ESPN



PHOTO COURTESY of Fiona Mullen

Students sat with University alumni and discussed life after graduation at the Career Event.

DANIELLE SCHIPANI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over 100 students, faculty, University alumni and industry professionals from *Asbury Park Press*, *Sirius XM*, *NY Daily News*, *Star Ledger*, *NBC*, *ESPN*, and more attended the Communication Career Event on Monday, Mar. 6 in Wilson Hall from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"Events like this are beneficial to current students for networking purposes, for learning insider tips about their industries from former students who were once in the same position as them, and potentially for future internships and career advancement as well," said Mary Harris, a specialist professor of public relations.

There were four parts of the event. The day began with a

panel discussion that focused on careers in radio as well as a journalism and public relations career mentor session. This was followed by a panel discussion of careers in television and media production as well as a panel discussion on what you can do with a journalism and public relations degree.

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