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Over 100 Students Organize Anti-Hate Protest in Response to Election



Students protested peacefully on Friday Nov. 11 with the goal of uniting MU students and staff.

PHOTO COURTESY of Grianne McCormick

JAMILAH MCMILLAN
MANAGING/NEWS EDITOR

Two days after the presidential election, over 100 students, faculty, staff and administrators, gathered in a peaceful demonstration around the steps of Woodrow Wilson Hall on Friday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m.

"The purpose of the protest was to unite MU students and staff as well as local community members in a show of love and support for each other, especially those who are part of marginalized groups that, overwhelmingly, are experiencing fear and anxiety in the wake of the election," said Sydney Un-

derhill, an organizer of the event and the president of the Gender Studies Club.

The protest was planned in a group message Thursday night by executive board members of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), the Gender Studies Club, the History and Anthropology Club, CommWorks, and Students Advocating Girls' Education (SAGE).

The attendees consisted of an array of individuals from different races, religions, and sexual orientations. Demonstrators were free to speak to the crowd from an available microphone at the top of the steps. Students and educators shared stories, read verses and

poetry, and shared actions that could be taken to combat hate and bigotry. Around midday, the group walked through campus with signs, and vocally projected the statement "love not hate."

"I was really impressed with the peaceful anti-hate protest. Students organized quickly and peacefully. I really appreciated how the organizers made clear that this was not an anti-Trump rally, but rather an anti-hate protest," said Nancy Mezey, a Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. "The students who spoke at the rally were eloquent and passionate. And there was support from faculty members

and administrators as well. I think fighting for something is often more productive than fighting against something, but sometimes both are necessary."

Unlike many protests that have unfolded on campuses and cities across the nation, the gathering held at the University was intended to be a non-partisan demonstration of love. "It served as a protest against hate and bigotry rather than the president-elect himself as a means to generate the positivity, love, and political

For more information and a statement from our faculty see page 2.

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FBI Special Agent, Alumnus Speaks to Hawks

GIANA BRUCELLA
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth University alumnus and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Brian Cotter attracted over 60 students when he spoke at a Guardians Club meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9 in Magill Commons.

Cotter graduated from the FBI Academy this past February and now works for the Counterterrorism Task Force in New York City. He shared how his experiences at Monmouth prepared him for his future in the FBI.

Cotter was a brother of the Sigma Pi fraternity and a study abroad student. He stressed the importance of networking and getting out of your comfort zone in order to be successful in whatever career path you choose. Cotter said that his semester abroad "was the best experience of my whole life," and encouraged the students to take advantage of the opportunity.

Cotter has also participated in the Washington Center Internship program that the University offers to students each semester. The internship allows students to get experience working in places such as the White House, the United States Congress, and the Department of Defense.

"Brian is a terrific person and a great success story. MU has had 120 students participate in the Washington Semester over the past 10 years and many others have also secured prestigious jobs in DC after participating in the program. We have several MU alum now working in the FBI and intelligence agencies, other who have secured positions in the US Dept of State, the US Congress, and other prestigious placements around the federal government," said Joseph Patten, Associate Professor of Political

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Men's Basketball Tickets Jump in Sales

MEHDI HUSAINI
STAFF WRITER

The increased popularity of the University Men's Basketball team resulted in a jump in ticket sales by nearly 52 percent last season, and a 15.2 percent increase in merchandise sales since this time last year.

"Last season was the first time since the OceanFirst Bank Center opened in 2009 that we have seen multiple sell-out crowds, and a fully packed student section for almost every game," said President Paul Brown, Ph.D. "A big part of the success of the team comes from a culture that values and nurtures students with the understanding that most of their maturation as young men happens off the court."



PHOTO COURTESY of Chris Spiegel

The Monmouth Bench received national attention last season leading to record breaking home game crowds.

Kenneth Taylor, Associate Athletic Director, cites big wins against teams like UCLA, Georgetown, and Notre Dame as key turning points in the Men's Basketball team's popularity. A surge in game attendance was apparent by ticket sales which jumped last season by 1,860 more tickets sold per game.

This increase ranked tenth among D1 teams last season. More than 1,000 season tickets have been sold thus far, shattering records from recent years, according to an article by the *Asbury Park Press* (APP) released in October.

According to Jarred Wiess, the Assistant Athletics Business Manager, Men's Basketball ticket sales increased from \$145,119.93 in the 2014-15 sea-

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