



THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933 OUTLOOK

OUTLOOK.MONMOUTH.EDU February 15, 2017 VOL. 89 No. 4

Students Win \$1,500 in Software Challenge

LAUREN NIESZ
SENIOR/OPINION EDITOR

Student teams competed for a grand prize of \$1,500 in a challenge to create a 'chatbot,' a knowledge-management software that companies implement in their customer service departments on Feb. 4, in Pozycki Auditorium. The event was hosted by the School of Science and Business School, along with Edison knowledge provider, RightAnswers, an information technology organization that's focus is on creating accessible customer service for other companies.

The RightAnswers@ Monmouth University Chatbot Challenge demonstrated students' collective efforts to work in a team and create a helpful and inventive 'chatbot.' The event included students in teams of three that were a mixture of business, software engineering, and computer science majors.

The winners of the Chatbot Challenge were the team Binary Trio, with their chatbot, "Shadow." The team consisted of Anthony Vazzana, a senior business student, Nicole Puccio, a senior marketing student, and Giuseppe Licata, a senior computer science student.

dent.

The three teams that competed were named "Binary Trio," "Bot City," and "C++ Get Degrees." Binary Trio came up with a bot playfully named "Shadow" that retrieved information on the University's website in a swift fashion. Bot City's bot created different meal choices for people with difficult health needs. Lastly, C++ Get Degrees' bot called "CampMe" was focused on giving campers survival tips, keeping campers' safety at the forefront of the bot's purpose.

Students were allowed a few weeks for preparation and planning with help and guidance from various professors at the University and representatives from RightAnswers, for the event. There were three teams of three that competed for the grand prize.

Jamie Kretsch, Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, was involved with the fruition of this event. She said, "What really helped was the kickoff event held in Young Auditorium – students from both programs were able to mingle with RightAnswers staff and our faculty, and a conversation between a business student and a RightAnswers executive often brought a student from computer science into the conversation, and before you knew it

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MU Tech Community Comments on Slow Progress Towards Workplace Diversity at



IMAGE COMPILED by Jamilah McMillan

Google Diversity data for 2016 showed that the tech giant had more black, Latino and female employees but still lagged in its goal of mirroring the population.

JAMILAH MCMILLAN
MANAGING/NEWS EDITOR

Women and minority students, faculty, and other members of the Tech industry shared their reactions to Google's latest diversity statistics for 2016. Although white men still account for a majority of Google's workforce, the tech-giant has made slow but steady progress towards their goal of a more inclusive company.

According to the data, 69 percent of Google's approximately 50,000 employees worldwide were men in 2016. Of its U.S. employees, 59 percent were white, 32 percent were Asian, three percent were Hispanic, and two percent were black.

"Google is not where we want to be when it comes to diversity," Laszlo Bock, Google's former Senior Vice-president of People Operations, wrote in a blog post.

"And it's hard to address these kinds of challenges if you're not prepared to discuss them openly, and with the facts."

Diversity has been a challenge for many other major tech companies, including Apple, Facebook, and Yahoo, who have all reported similar gender and ethnic imbalances in the past.

"There is a stereotype that is often portrayed on TV and mov-

Google continued on pg. 3

A Look into the World of Women as Sports Fans

LAUREN NIESZ
SENIOR/OPINION EDITOR

As a female sports fan (a Hawks basketball fan to be exact), I am frequently confronted with questions like, "Okay, but do you even know any statistics?" or "What does the term 'paint' mean?"

And if I don't answer immediately, I get shut down and shamed for being a "fake fan," or I get told, "You just like the sport for the players' looks." And, while the players' looks don't hurt, I really am a fan of the sport itself. It is about time that women get treated like the true, dedicated fans that they are.

Dr. Jennifer McGovern, an assistant professor of political science and sociology and current professor of the sociology course, "Sports and Society," explained that sports, from the beginning of times, have been a way for men to prove that they are manly. It was first used as a method of training for military combat; therefore, sports were gendered because women were not able to engage in military

combat.

However, nowadays, McGovern suggested, "The performance of masculinity, or just a man trying to present himself as a man to other men and to women often wants to associate himself with sports." Since masculinity is so rooted in sports from the beginning of time, it makes it difficult for women to 'connect' in men's eyes.

Girls are often socialized from birth to enjoy things like shopping, caretaking, and dressing up, but, at least in their earlier years, most girls are not encouraged to take a liking to sports. Or, worse, girls are at times discouraged from taking a liking to sports. Therefore, when a girl decides to truly get involved and invested in a sport, whether it be playing the sport or being a spectator, it seems as though a good portion of men take offense to it.

Dr. Marilyn McNeil, Vice President and Director of Athletics, stated, "It's the cool thing for the guys to be into sports; it's not always the cool thing for women."

McNeil further explained that when men are spectators of a female sport, they believe that they can do what women do just be-

cause women are smaller and can't run as fast as men do.

On the other hand, McNeil said, "They [men] think things such as, 'I can't shoot or jump like Justin Robinson,' or 'I can't block like Chris Brady.'" This idea that male fans watching female athletes makes them feel empowered, like they can do what they do is startling because, as many athletes would know, being an athlete is extremely hard work.

For some reason, some men feel as though sports are their domain and that women cannot intrude on it. No matter how dedicated a fan a woman is, it just does not seem to be enough for some male fans. Women should not have to 'get approval' by a man of her fandom, nor is she seeking approval; however, it would be nice if a male fan would give female fans the same respect and courtesy as they do fellow male fans. However, this is not to say that there are not male fans who do dole out respect and courtesy to all different genders of fans.

At Monmouth University, we are fortunate enough to have a

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University Runs its First Super Bowl Commercial



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth Basketball Commercial

THE OUTLOOK STAFF EDITORIAL

The Super Bowl is widely known as one of the most watched events on television. An article from *The Hollywood Reporter* reported that 113.7 million viewers tuned in for this year's event, which was tied for the second-most-watched Super Bowl of all-time, creating an optimal opportunity for companies to advertise. Monmouth seized this opportunity for the first time

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