**Keychains for a Cause**

A Student’s Fundraiser to Help Syrian Refugee Children

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 (RSCC) to sell them herself.

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 media 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 Professor 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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**New MU Recreation App**

**GABRIELLE IEMILE  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 counters, 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 alumna, contacted Christian Esola, the campus’ Fitness and Wellness Coordinator, during the fall

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Monmouth Recreation App Changes Gym Experience

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our most successful schools so far. Christian and I were pleasantly surprised at how fast the student reaction has been.

According to Esola specific terms of the agreement, and the cost of the APP cannot be disclosed as per the request of fitDEGREE. “Our goal was to streamline everything about how we use the fitness center; [and make] the student experience more efficient and enjoyable,” said Esola. “The Fitness Center gets extremely crowded; we all know that. So, being able to get a live look at just how crowded the areas are, and also an hour by hour breakdown, was something we thought students would be inclined to use.”

The team at fitDEGREE has been working on similar software since May 2016. It was first introduced in Sept. at Rowan University, and now Monmouth University. It was first introduced during the early moves to repeal, because most college students are very hesitant and confused about the simplicity of signing up for insurance to student employees and those student workers.

President Donald Trump, along with other leaders in Congress, have voted to repeal and replace Obamacare with something “terrific.” He has called the ObamaCare a “disaster” and has criticized its ineffectiveness. Dubbed on social media as TrumpCare, the President has largely kept his ultimate health care plan shrouded in mystery, and it is unclear what the final form will look like.

The provision of Obamacare that allows students to stay on their parents’ insurance has come in handy for a number of persons who are well versed in the health insurance market place.

“I know that if you were to tell me to go out and find an insurance plan for myself, I would be very hesitant and confused on what I was doing.” Basically, what ObamaCare was supposed to do, whether or not it was one-hundred percent perfectly implemented, was to create widespread availability of health care,” said Marciniak. A majority of University students have entry-level, and part-time jobs, and may not be able to afford their own plan or a campus-offered plan that may have high copays and out of pocket costs asserts Marciniak.

“We must try to make the ability to stay on our parents’ health insurance plan has been an extremely beneficial aspect of Obamacare and should be a statute that stays in place,” said Marciniak. This statute was talk about very highly during the early moves to repeal, it is unclear as to how the Trump administration plans to keep the statute in whatever it is they are proposing as the replacement of Obamacare.

Fortunately, many, Republicans claim that they’d like to keep this provision when they replace ObamaCare. President-elect Donald Trump told the Wall Street Journal that he would “very much” like this right.

Dr. Kevin Dooley, an associate professor of political science, said, “The main issue for college students, primarily those age 18-24, is that if ObamaCare gets repealed, that protection will not exist,” said Dr. Dooley. “We must continue calling for a repeal are not necessarily calling to repeal that specific provision.”

According to a recent Gallup poll, ObamaCare has helped a great number of individuals attain healthcare. Nearly 30 million Americans have gotten health insurance under ObamaCare, and the rate of uninsured adults has dropped to 12.3 percent. The annual number of people who would be uninsured over the next decade if not for ObamaCare has also risen from 24 to 27 million.

Most pundits agree that there are both pros and cons of ObamaCare. Austin Skelton, a junior political science student and president of the Student Government Association, noted that students will be one of the main demographics impacted by a repeal of ObamaCare. “If Trump is successful in repealing ObamaCare that means that health insurance for low-income college students will be more expensive and less accessible,” said Skelton.

With regard to rising health care costs, Trump has proposed expanding tax-free health savings accounts, selling across state lines; and giving tax credits to those who help affordability. Skelton asserts that a pro from repealing ObamaCare involves student work. He said, “Those who are employed through federal work study or by the University in general, would no longer be limited to working 30 hours a week. This means that employers don’t have to worry about providing insurance to student employees and those student workers can make more money each week.”

**The Monmouth Recreation App, released in late January, allows students and members of the University community to connect with gym services directly through their phone.**

**What to Know if ObamaCare is Repealed**
History continued from pg. 1

in the University’s history, as well as in the lives of students to come.

University President, Paul Richard Brown Ph.D, said, “The mural is a powerful reminder of the strong commitment to social justice embraced across our campus, by students and faculty alike. We are a caring community, and I think Dr. Foster’s artwork captures that spirit of active participation in issues that affect us,” Brown added.

Dr. Melissa Zobro, a specialist professor of public history, said, “I understand that at the time, Dr. King noted that, while we as a country had come a long way, there was still work to be done. You could say those same words today, and it would still be true.”

Michelle Toscano, a junior fine arts student said, “I originally worked on the mural as a project for a final for my gender studies class, but throughout the process I found it much more rewarding. Being able to be a small part of a larger project made me feel important, and know that I’ve made my mark on this school. The same way individuals in the painting have throughout the years at Monmouth.”

Foster’s interest in using mural art as a voice for communities as well as a teaching tool for marginalized people, translates an empowering message to the University community. Foster urges students to take action, to be active citizens of democracy, and to take their voices seriously.

“My initial reaction was ‘this is cool,’” said Nina Anderson, the Director of the Office of Equity and Diversity. “I truly appreciate the broad range of issues and persons captured in the mural. I am encouraged by the demonstration of student and community commitment to achieving justice through activism here at Monmouth. It really speaks to the fact that lasting culture change on University campuses is driven by students and that students have voices that can often ring the loudest. The mural also reminds us that there is still work to be done.”

Phoebe Nelson, a sophomore political science student, said, “I think it is really important that people see that the young people painted on that mural are just like us, and that they decided to voice something they cared about and wanted to make change. That is really inspiring.”

Dr. Ken Mitchell, Chair of the Political Science and Sociology Department, said, “This mural has the potential to remind young people to be actively thinking about the future and about society. We need political activism today just as much as we’ve needed it in the past. It is a natural impulse to have current issues be more important, which is why there is always a place for student activism, especially at Monmouth University.”

The Sociology Program will host an informal ‘opening’ of the project on Wednesday, Mar. 1, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Bey Hall Room 226. At that time, Foster will present some background on the activism featured in the mural and give thanks to the current student activists who helped make the work possible.
Hawks Talk Hybrids

Technology is always changing and developing, and it seems that finding a way to adapt to these frequent changes has become necessary. With so much of our lives being online, from our personal profiles to the way we communicate, it makes sense why technology should have a place in education as well. Hybrid and online courses at Monmouth University have given students the option to learn outside of the traditional classroom.

According to the spring 2017 course catalog, there were 138 hybrid courses offered this semester, as well as 68 complete online courses. Students are able to participate in an online class through eCampus.

Laura Moriarty, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, believes that it is the University’s responsibility to make it easier for students to be able to balance both their education and their personal lives. “Such programs meet a need for a student population that is working full time and come to campus for a 3-hour class after a long day at work. Students in hybrid and online courses have the ability to learn when they can devote time to that process,” said Moriarty.

One editor said, “I think that hybrid courses are a great asset to the University’s students. I have a friend who has a six-year-old child and tries to opt for hybrid or online courses so that she can have more time to spend with her daughter and maintain a job. I think these options expand our University’s accessibility for non-traditional students.”

Another editor said, “I am taking three hybrid courses this semester and I find them to be extremely beneficial. I commute and taking hybrid courses have allowed me to shorten my days on campus, which has allowed me to spend more time on my studies.”

While these courses are convenient for students who need to balance their academic and personal lives, these courses are not offered to all studies which is an inconvenience to the students. “I have never benefited from a hybrid or online class. I’m a science major so most of my major-related classes have lab meetings that need to be done in person. I also prefer going to class in person. Learning is unique for everyone so I’m sure opinion varies.”

Mary Harris, a specialist professor of communication who has taught hybrid and online courses, said, “If approached with creativity and effort, hybrid classes can offer the best from both online and face-to-face classes. What is nice about hybrid classes is that students have the opportunity to schedule type of coursework when it best fits their schedules, while still getting the in-person classroom experience. However, for students who have trouble with time management and forget to log into eCampus for their coursework, online and hybrid courses may not be the best fit for them.”

A student’s personal learning style is important to consider. While hybrid classes may be convenient for some, they may be difficult for others. One editor said, “I have taken one hybrid course before and it forced me to do more of my own research outside of class. For me, I did not enjoy this because I tend to learn better when following someone’s example and seeing it done correctly by a professor first.”

If someone is the type of learner that enjoys doing things on their own, however, the hybrid system may work better.

It seems that subject matter and time of day is important to consider. Another editor said, “I am currently in my first ever hybrid class and it is one of my worst classes I’ve taken thus far. Being that it’s a creative writing course, it’s difficult to manage providing cohesive and intellectual thoughts in a cyber-space where everything is reduced to emojis and quick lingo.”

The University will continue to offer hybrid and online courses. Moriarty said, “At Monmouth, we take pride in our student and faculty interaction, exemplified by our small class sizes characterized by person-centered education. This is not going away, and for some, the hybrid and online courses/programs are an example of how we can keep that student and faculty interaction going utilizing a modern vehicle – the web – that suits some students very well.”

EDITORIAL
February 22, 2017
Celebrity Impact on Our Political Climate

Tomi Lahren’s most recent commentary on Lady Gaga’s performance has brought to light the controversy on the impact of celebrity input in politics.

Sibling Support On and Off the Field

Nicole Riddle
Staff Writer

Recently, legendary tennis star Serena Williams took home the trophy for her 23rd Grand Slam Tennis Championship. This prestigious title was the result of a fierce match with an even fiercer competitor: her sister, Venus Williams. Although they say that participating in sports with your siblings can breed a tense relationship, these two have shown us that supporting our brothers and sisters can help us to improve our skills and be the best version of ourselves.

When I was younger, my older sister Amanda and I participated in a recreational soccer league called Pinelands. Initially, we entered the league as uncoordinated children living out the dreams of our enthusiastic parents. Over the years, we had learned valuable skills like teamwork, accepting direction, and streamlining our focus toward a greater goal (no pun intended). By being with other people, Amanda and I were also able to assess each of our strengths and weaknesses and pull our weight to benefit the team.

Having a teammate that knows you well enough to keep you on track, or you become a better athlete. Someone that can come from a place of understanding when things get difficult is essential in a competitive environment, and having that person be a sibling you admire makes all the difference.
Michael Flynn Resigns as National Security Advisor

GABRIELLE LENTILE 
Staff Writer

National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn resigned after misleading Vice President Mike Pence and other administration officials about the nature of his calls between the Russian ambassador to the United States on Monday, Feb. 13.

Flynn’s resignation surfaced less than a month after his tenure began when the Justice Department alerted President Donald Trump of Flynn’s inaccurate recollection of his communications with the ambassador. The Justice Department also warned the administration that the former National Security Advisor was potentially vulnerable to blackmail by Moscow.

In his resignation letter, Flynn wrote, “I inadvertently briefed the Vice President and others with incomplete information regarding my phone calls with the Russian ambassador. I have since corrected the President and the Vice President, and they have accepted my apology.”

He continued, “I know with the strong leadership of President Trump and Vice President Pence and our superb team they are assembling, this team will go down in history as one of the greatest presidencies in U.S. history.”

According to CNN, Flynn’s resignation makes for one of the shortest-serving senior officials in modern history. Representative Devin Nunes, a California Republican and Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said, “Washington, D.C., can be a rough town for honorable people, and Flynn — who has always been a soldier, not a politician — deserves America’s gratitude and respect.”

An administration official said of Trump’s reaction, “He’s moving on.”

However, the sudden departure of one of Trump’s closest and most senior advisors, who has assisted the President with issues of security and foreign policy since early in the presidential race, has been added to the list of tumultuous events in his first month in office.

Republican Senator of Arizona, John McCain, said, “It’s a dysfunctional White House. Nobody knows who’s in charge and nobody knows who’s getting policies.”

Specialist professor of public history, Melissa Ziozio, said, “It would be an accomplishment of his brand,” he continued.

According to the World Bank Data’s World Development Indicators, “New Jersey’s 2008 population density of 1,168 people per square mile is more than ten times that of the country as a whole. More people results in more accidents.”

Taylor continued, “For me I think the peace of mind is worth the money.”

Although the price may be justifiable, it is still expensive and concerning, especially for part-time working college students. Shannon Burke, a freshman at Monmouth and a Wisconsin native and was shocked when she found out the cost of car insurance in New Jersey.

When asked how she felt about the state’s car insurance cost, Burke said, “My parents said that in order for me to have my car on campus, I would need to pay for my own car insurance. Considering the cost of car insurance here, I don’t think I’d be able to. Back in Wisconsin, I paid $85 a month for car insurance. While I was looking at prices here, the lowest amount I’d be able to pay was $125.”

Madeline Walker, a freshman psychology student, said, “I worked all summer just to have enough money to pay for my car insurance while in school. I pay so much for car insurance that I don’t have enough money to actually use my car and go out.”

New Jersey is an extremely expensive state to live in, especially when it comes to car insurance. That being said, if you plan on purchasing a car, be prepared to spend a generous amount of money on car insurance.

New Jersey has been number one for highest car insurance rates since 2011. Some of the causes are a high volume of drivers and accidents claimed in the state.
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Chronicles of the Social Media Foodie

Have Your Best Semester Yet at Monmouth

According to the Huffington Post, there are several ways to make the most of your college experience during any given semester. The first step is learning how to become optimistic rather than pessimistic. Rather than looking at the glass half empty, see it half full. Having a positive outlook will enable you to have the best attitude when facing any issue throughout the semester.

Build a relationship with your professors and ask them for help when you need it. It is important to love what you study in college. If you find a subject that you enjoy, you will most likely spend the rest of your life doing it, whether it is journalism, science, or business.

Videos on social media draw crowds for business owners.

Relieve stress with a quick trip to the beach, which is less than two miles from Monmouth’s campus.

Have you ever been to Chin Chin Labs, a shop in the touristy Camden Market area that sells hot chocolate of every flavor you can imagine? While I didn’t try their specialty hot chocolates, a trip to the store was on my to-do list over the weekend. It was by far my favorite visit during all of the holiday season, and now that the temperature has begun to cool, it is time to head back to the store to try some new drinks and find out which one you like best.

“My favorite drink was the chocolate crepe. It was by far my favorite drink, and I would definitely come back here again,” said Marla R. Smith, who tried the drink for the first time on her recent trip to London. “I really enjoyed the chocolate crepe, and I would definitely come back here again.”

The hot chocolate itself was also a bit too thick, sharing the consistency of hot fudge than a drink. However, for only four pounds (about five dollars), it was worth it. It tasted good but this excursion was a bit much for me. The crowded atmosphere made ordering a drink more stressful than it was necessary, and the founder of the store had to order the drink from the back and then bring it up to the front of the line, which slowed down the process. The second place that I went to was also in Camden Market. This place had a different menu, but they were also simple enough to be in the line.

When I finally made it to the front of the line, I ordered my hot chocolate with marshmallows. The order that, according to Facebook, I was the only one to order it that day. They were simple enough by the hype - maybe they’re seen the same online videos, but they were simple enough by the line. The hot chocolate itself was also a bit too thick, sharing the consistency of hot fudge than a drink. However, for only four pounds (about five dollars), it was worth it. It tasted good but this excursion was a bit much for me. The crowded atmosphere made ordering a drink more stressful than it was necessary, and the founder of the store had to order the drink from the back and then bring it up to the front of the line, which slowed down the process.

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The Outlook Entertainment
February 22, 2017

If you have the opportunity to see the director, cast and crew rehearsal for The Merry Wives of Windsor play followed by a Q&A with the audience. The most rewarding thing I learned from watching this rehearsal is that it takes a lot of time, patience and effort to put on a performance. It is incredible to see the kind of work ethic and dedication that actors, directors and crew members have because they do what they do non-stop. They live and breathe art and it shows through their passion for it. The creative process of The Merry Wives of Windsor is interesting when you realize that only three actors, Nicole Lewis, Jason O’Connell, and Zuzanna Szadkowski, will be headlining the show. They will be playing several characters and switch roles in the same setting during scenes. The concept sounds pretty wacky, but the director Eric Tucker put the audience at ease by comparing his version of the classic play to a Coen Brothers film or a Quentin Tarantino film. In his words, “it takes place in a dingy, seedy motel room.”

The stage was set up to look like a motel room, with two twin beds and a nightstand, although the lot of atmosphere was left to the imagination of the actors. Since the set was un- furnished it was difficult to gauge what the actors were trying to convey some of the scenes, such as the lack of props onstage. From a viewer’s perspective, it is interesting to see an actor holding an invisible cup or sitting on a chair that is supposed to be a toilet during a rehearsal, but the actors are dedicated to the performance so in a lot of insight into what the craft of acting is. It’s a transformative art form.

I was most impressed by the last scene the actors performed. Master Ford thinks his wife is cheating on him with Falstaff so there are all these accusations as they move into the motel room and thinking that he will catch his wife’s infidelity. Simultaneously, the actress (Szadkowski) is switching between playing Master Ford and Mistress Page in the scene. Her mannerisms and voice changes were interesting. I liked that the roles were gender neutral as well. Actresses can play a male character and act-play a female character, which is unique with three cast members playing multiple roles. Another aspect about watching rehearsals is to see the director give out cues to the actors to enrich the scene. In return, the actors would tell the director certain things they can change to add to the scenes or characters. It was a collaborative relationship between the cast and director. Keeping in mind that this play is an updated version of one of Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies, the language and the cast was one of the challenges for the director.

Tucker explained his vision for re-imagining the archaic jokes. He edits and rearranges scenes based on what the actors can handle. An idea he shared was to introduce an old, taxidermy “squirrel named Ovacia” that pops up in different scenes to add modernity to the jokes. Tucker explained his vision for the director at Two River Theater, talked about creating intimacy on the stage and making it more relatable. He said, “The idea is that we want the work ethic of making it like a canvas, shrinking it down to make it more intimate for the audience.”

The Merry Wives of Windsor will begin showing this Saturday, Feb. 25; the opening night performance is Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m.

The idea is that we wanted this play to be like a canvas, shrinking it down to make it more intimate for the audience. JOHN DIAS
Artistic Director at Two River Theater

ANNA BLAINE
STAFF WRITER

### Tyler Robinson Gets Signed To Blue Hawk Records

Tyler Robinson, also known as Teddy, is the first rap artist to be signed to Monmouth University’s Student-Run record label, Blue Hawk Records. In the past four years that Blue Hawk Records has been operating, it has had a few rap artists representated on the various compilation albums. These artists included J Piff (James Porrisselli, senior music industry student), Jay the Greenius (Jamier Gee, music industry recent graduate), and Trevor Bailey (sophomore biology student).

Blue Hawk Records has primarily been a label for indie rock bands and singer/songwriters based on the artists who have been on the past nine compilation albums. Robinson auditioned to be on the upcoming music industry class’ tenth compilation album a few weeks ago, and although the class did not see a place for him on the album, the e-board of the record label saw a great artist in Robinson. “It takes place in a dingy, seedy motel room.”

“I was most impressed by the last scene the actors performed. Master Ford thinks his wife is cheating on him with Falstaff so there are all these accusations as they move into the motel room and thinking that he will catch his wife’s infidelity. Simultaneously, the actress (Szadkowski) is switching between playing Master Ford and Mistress Page in the scene. Her mannerisms and voice changes were interesting. I liked that the roles were gender neutral as well. Actresses can play a male character and act-play a female character, which is unique with three cast members playing multiple roles. Another aspect about watching rehearsals is to see the director give out cues to the actors to enrich the scene. In return, the actors would tell the director certain things they can change to add to the scenes or characters. It was a collaborative relationship between the cast and director. Keeping in mind that this play is an updated version of one of Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies, the language and the cast was one of the challenges for the director. Tucker explained his vision for re-imagining the archaic jokes. He edits and rearranges scenes based on what the actors can handle. An idea he shared was to introduce an old, taxidermy “squirrel named Ovacia” that pops up in different scenes to add modernity to the jokes. Tucker explained his vision for the director at Two River Theater, talked about creating intimacy on the stage and making it more relatable. He said, “The idea is that we want the work ethic of making it like a canvas, shrinking it down to make it more intimate for the audience.”

The Merry Wives of Windsor will begin showing this Saturday, Feb. 25; the opening night performance is Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m.

The idea is that we wanted this play to be like a canvas, shrinking it down to make it more intimate for the audience.
Joey Affatato Shares New Music on The Ramparts Rebel

PRESS RELEASE

The Center for the Arts at Monmouth University has announced that tickets are on sale for “Doo Wop Explosion II,” a March 4 concert event that showcases several generations of top vocal talent from Philadelphia, New Jersey, and NYC’s boroughs inside our flagstaff performance space, the Pollak Theatre. A sequel to the first successful Doo Wop Explosion event in 2016, the Saturday evening serenade transforms the enhanced Pollak Theatre — a room that boasts near 300 new seats, improved sight lines, and a newly enlarged stage area — into a pop concert from the old neighborhood. It’s that magical musical laboratory where the harmony-based vocal traditions of the urban African American communities coalesced into an exciting new sound in the postwar era; one that would soon to be embraced by young audiences and performers of many different ethnic backgrounds.

More than anything else, the music known as “Doo Wop” draws its passionate power from the awesome beauty of human voices working in perfect harmony. It is delivered a cappella-style without benefit of instrumental accompaniment, and graces everything from the most heartbreaking love ballads and soaring songs of devotion, to the crazy rhythms of the wildest early rock and roll. More than mere artifacts from an oldies age, and more than mere entertainment, the music is itself a joyful declaration of the power of the great vocal groups to continue to inform and inspire many of today’s top pop acts.

Headlining the powerhouse program of six premier groups will be Pookie Hudson’s Spaniels, inheritors of a legacy that began with their late colleague, Spaniels lead singer Pookie Hudson, and the return of the vocal ensemble that defined the entire doo wop era, the 1956 million-selling “Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight” into the here and now. The group also contains long time member, Shelly Bachinsky, who sang on “Unchained Melody” and “Your Way.” Rick Anthony has been handling most of the group's leads for the past 15 years, as the original Vito is no longer with them. The group contains long time member, Shelly Bachinsky, who sang on “Unchained Melody” and many of their other hits.

While musical memories will fill the air, the evening is hardly all nostalgia, as several next-generation acts aim to prove that the Doo Wop tradition remains in good hands. Returning for an encore appearance at the Pollak is Philly’s Quiet Storm, a group that’s attracted a cohort of fervent fans known as “Storm Chasers” who follow them from gig to gig and — another group from Philadelphia — A Perfect Blend who have been singing since 1996, and had previously won the talent contest on the nationally syndicated “Showtime At The Apollo” TV show. Piscataway’s own Re-Member Then, who memorably backed the legendary Larry Chance at the 2016 show, will demonstrate the stuff that’s made them two-time winners of the Acafellas Showdown competitions at the Meadowlands. They’re joined by the first time by The Copians, an all-star outfit drawn from former members of several standout Phila vocal organizations.

The follow-up explosion continues a partnership between Monmouth’s Center for the Arts and our friends Charlie and Pam Horner of Carlin’s Harmony, LLC, the musicologists and collectors who curate an acclaimed 2015 salute to the sounds of Audubon Park’s West Side, inside the Pollak Gallery. This is music that’s too vital to keep confined to a museum, however, as the Horners return to campus with a musical showcase of people-powered soul in all its living, breathing, versatile glory; one that carries the “remember when” into the here and now.

Tickets for Doo Wop Explosion II are priced at $23 and $45 (with a Gold Circle seating option of $55), and can be reserved through the Monmouth University Performing Arts Box Office at 732-263-6889, or online at www.monmouth.edu/arts. Gold Circle tickets also allow access to a meet and greet reception with the artists, to be held prior to the 7 p.m. concert (please note that the scheduled lineup for the March 4 event is subject to change).

Tickets for other upcoming Performing Arts events including another acafellas group Sweet Honey in The Rock (February 24), and the return of the vocal ensemble Bravo Amici (April 2) — are also on sale now. To schedule interviews, please contact Kelly Harrett at 732-263-5114.

Joey Affatato, senior music industry student, debuted his self-titled album, The Ramparts Rebel.

The Outlook      11

Entertainment

February 22, 2017
LEFT:
STUDENTS ATTEND CABARET FOR A CAUSE TO BENEFIT BROADWAY CARES: EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS. (PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN SCHULD)

RIGHT:
STUDENTS COLLECT FOOD DONATIONS FOR LUNCHBREAK FOOD PANTRY IN RED BANK. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA MERRIMAN)

LEFT:
PATRICE BASTON AND TRACK TEAM COMPETE AT THE OCEANFIRST BANK CENTER. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICE BASTON)

RIGHT:
MEMBERS OF 'BINARY TRIO' TEAM FROM RIGHTANSWERS@ MONMOUTH COMPETITION RECEIVE RECOGNITION AT THE MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME. (PHOTO TAKEN BY AMANDA DRENNAN)

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE SPRING SEMESTER?

COMPiled by: AMANDA DRENNAN

Darius
Senior
"Knowing it's almost summer."

Cassondra
Sophomore
"Recruitment."

Jake
Sophomore
"Lacrosse season."

Phoebe
Sophomore
"Springfest."

Courtney Werner
Assistant Professor of English
"Getting to teach a 491, because it brings things I care about into perspective with advanced students."
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Guardian’s Club Hosts Guest Speaker

DALLY MATOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Guardian’s Club hosted a talk with author and veteran Julia Torres on Wednesday, Feb. 19. The criminal justice club hosts talks a few times a month with different professionals in the industry to help students learn about the different facets of the criminal justice system.

“She is a remarkable person, and is a great role model for all of our students in terms of what she has accomplished and gone for, and for your dreams,” said Nicholas Sewitch, a professor in the criminal justice department on why he chose Torres to speak at Wednesday’s meeting.

The talk consisted of Torres expressing her life, and instilling the idea to those attending to seize every opportunity available.

Torres enlisted in the Army Reserve the summer of her freshman year at Monmouth University in order to make some money. She wanted to prove others wrong and show that women could be truck drivers, and chose that as her specialty in the Army Reserve.

After graduation from Monmouth School of the Arts, she worked in portraiture for a while, and decided to make a career change. Her sister from the Army Reserve recommended she apply to the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office as an agent and got the job instantly.

She began reading cases until she read a case about a female undercover agent which sparked a curiosity that led to another career change. When the Persian Gulf War came around, Torres teetered to go and drive trucks for eight months. Upon returning, she chose to go back to school and had her eyes set on working in Hudson County.

At the time, Torres explained, Hudson County had one of the highest crime rates in the state, and to get a job in that area she did undercover work buying drugs and collecting for evidence.

Torres said that one of the hardest parts about being an undercover agent is to trust people she had grown close to. “They weren’t all bad guys,” Torres said. “Some had just gotten mixed in to. “They weren’t all bad guys, in people she had grown close to.”

She was date raped by an ex-boyfriend, sexually assaulted in the military and even admitted that there were times in her career because she wanted to end her life, and said that she couldn’t write anything without her daughter knowing first.

Instead, she chose to start two books, the first entitled “Still Standing” about her life in the metal field. “Bolder and Braver: My Undercover Story” about her undercover work as a police officer.

Monmouth students of all rights, issues such as injustices to women, the LGBTQ community, African Americans, Immigrants, and Indigenous people.

In addition to these topics, members discussed the event that will also touch upon the existence of white privilege, and other contemporary issues that are current in today’s society. Members of both MOCC and CommWorks are using this event as a platform to perform, and raise their voice on issues that need to be heard.

Members of both organizations planned the event to be outdoors in front of Wilson Hall. While performers mostly consist of club members, anyone who wants to share and perform both original works as well as works written by notable authors, poets, politicians and more.

Performances will be structured in chronological order, with each piece recited in order of the year it was written. This will be done to express the passing of time and the progress reached along the way.

An excerpt from the Declaration of Independence as well as the United States Constitution will be read as the first performance. Performers will travel through America’s history, touching upon the people who helped progress the nation and improve the lives of others.

President of MOCC and senior communication student Stephanie Brady, said, “Our mission is to educate and improve public speaking, and being able to showcase this skill through events like this one is really special because not only do we get to speak, but we get to speak about topics we are passionate about.”

It is for that same reason the senior communication student and MOCC member Daniela Climenti is passionate about this event. She believes that as a woman, events such as this are important because they give people a platform to raise their voice and be heard.

It is inclusion rather than exclusion that she hopes to promote. Bringing people together in a safe environment is important to her because for some free entertainment is just one of the ways both MOCC and CommWorks hope to deliver such a message.

Senior communication student and President of CommWorks, Asia Byrd said, “As President, I’ve always wanted our organization to have an element of social activism. I believe that reaching out to people and covering difficult topics through performance is a better way to help people understand what is happening around them.”

“Is What Democracy Sounds Like” is not just for the student body. Faculty is also encouraged to watch and listen, and maybe even perform.

It is this inclusivity that the clubs wish to demonstrate to convey that people need to work together to form a better community. Both organizations hope for success as they continue to plan for the event in the coming weeks.

Dr. Deanna Shoemaker, Director of Corporate and Public Communication (CPA) Program and faculty advisor of CommWorks, said, “An event like this one speaks to the heart. People react to performance differently than they would to other types of activism, and addressing serious issues in a positive environment can really influence social change.”
**Technology: The Good, The Bad, and The Controlling**

**ETHAN BARON  MCT CAMPUS**

It’s no wonder tiny tchotchkes are locked in an epic battle of the bots, racing furiously to produce the virtual help-bots that will dominate the future.

The respective help-bots—Apple’s Siri, Google’s Assistant, Amazon’s Alexa and Microsoft’s Cortana—promise consumers one-stop shopping for everything from cars and homes, to phones and electronic devices to cars and homes, and the truly useful helper is approaching fast. The four companies are fighting for the biggest share of a market expected to grow to $12 billion by 2024.

“There’s a tremendous amount of promise for these virtual helpers to bridge the gap and assist with many different tasks that we can’t currently accomplish,” said Ross Rubin, Principal Analyst at Reticle Research. “The more the agent can help you with, the more value it holds.”

The ultimate goal is our own personal genie in a bottle that awakens with a word or touch to liberate us from all the endless days that have become our own personal genie in a bottle that awakens with a word or touch to liberate us from all the stress of our daily mundane tasks, or touch to liberate us from all our own personal genie in a bottle that awakens with a word or touch to liberate us from all our own personal genie in a bottle that awakens with a word or touch to liberate us from all our daily mundane tasks, or touch to liberate us from all our daily mundane tasks, or touch to liberate us from all our daily mundane tasks, or touch to liberate us from all our daily mundane tasks.

Today, the idea these virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited. Most users of virtual assistants provide remains fairly limited.

In order for a virtual helpmate to get a foothold in a competitive environment, Marchick predicted. “The story has not been written yet, but the virtual help-bot will likely be a unifying bond amongst all of us. All and any passions are welcomed and I must thank the club for giving me a way to create change with awesome people.”

This whole project that Carly is working on is really a testament to her global awareness,” said Ryan Tetro, an Instructor of Political Science and Sociology and advisor for YAG. “A project like this helps to remind us all that these issues are happening and we can’t just ignore them.”

Continuing to explain, regardless what people believe politically, we are all human and there should be a unifying bond amongst all of us.

Tetro said, “Regardless of what side you are on in politics, people should be able to agree that there is a global issue that needs to be addressed.”

“Think, especially in this day and age, politics and policies can make our decisions on human outreach and other forms of volunteering said Miller. “However, I feel my humanitarian responsibility to do something for those in need, despite politics.”

Miller and many others in YAG and all over campus are advocating for the innocent victims of the turmoil in Syria. Politics are a factor here, love for one another and understanding are the primary goals.

If you are interested in purchasing a keychain Miller’s email is d97t649@m.ourown.edu.

**Virtual Assistants like Alexa spearhead the virtual assistant world as they look toward the future of virtually assisted vehicles.**

**Student Raises Money For Syrian Refugee Children**

**Syrian continued from pg. 1**

The keychains for sale are handmade by high school students about. Instead of being cynical or heartbroken when you read the news, find a way to do something. Doing anything is better than nothing. “There is no such thing as a small impact, small is only the start to something bigger if you set your heart and mind to it,” explained Miller.

Miller has shown her passion for giving back not only from her “Keychains for Children” project, but also from her great involvement in campus activities. Miller is the Secretary and Head of Public Relations for the Monmouth Youth Activist Group (YAG). YAG is a club which focuses on ways to make a change in the world.

“This club has already done so much for other people,” said Miller. “All and any passions are welcomed and I must thank the club for giving me a way to create change with awesome people.”

“Who said you can’t have fun while helping others?” Miller asked. “The whole project that Carly is working on is really a testament to her global awareness,” said Ryan Tetro, an Instructor of Political Science and Sociology and advisor for YAG. “A project like this helps to remind us all that these issues are happening and we can’t just ignore them.”

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**"A project like this helps to remind us all that these issues are happening and we can’t just ignore them."**

**RYAN TETRO  Instructor of Political Science**

**Photios Taken by Carly Miller.**

Carly Miller painted the above keychains and is currently selling them for $2 to aid Syrian refugee children.
Internships: A Glimpse Into Your Future

Many students try to push off the responsibility and task of getting an internship, but that experience is more beneficial than you think. An internship is a preview of what someone's future career will be like. It could be a business, a public relations firm, or student teaching. When deciding whether an internship may be, it is extremely important to figure what you want to spend your school career doing. Then ask yourself what it is like to work that job.

So, when it comes to knowing how to go about the process of obtaining an internship. For many instances, the process depends on the company or firm itself. Students should initiate searches on Google to find businesses and companies that appeal to them.

Collect as much information as you are able to, and familiarize yourself with the work they have done in the past. Some websites provide a phone number or email address for students to reach out and connect with employers. Other websites provide more detailed information about internships explaining the time span of the internship, what the person will be doing, and the responsibilities.

This idea sparked the creation of Junior communication student, Nicolette Pezza's blog: The To You Like.

On her blog, she inspires students to take time for themselves to beings doing something they want to be, despite a busy schedule. She maintains a strict work-life balance that is centered around being the best version of yourself. It is also important to be aware of how much you are taking on to avoid any unnecessary work.

Pezza commented, “I think the most important thing about balancing a busy schedule is to also take time for yourself. For my social media and PR class I created a blog called To You List and it’s centered around being the best version of yourself. I think in college we often get so focused on schoolwork, jobs, and extra curricular activities that we forget even taking 30 minutes a day to do something that genuinely love is just as important. Just by spending your free time doing something you love, learning that it’s okay to say no, and to take an hour of your time each day for yourself, you'll be able to break the cycle of a non-stop schedule and reclaim your college years.

By creating time for yourself amidst a busy schedule, you can balance your schedule better, advised communication student, Nicolette Pezza.
Baseball Opens New Season Against Florida Atlantic

JOHN SORCE
SPORTS EDITOR

February 22, 2017

The blue and white opened their season against Florida Atlantic University (FAU) over the weekend and lost all three games. Dennis got the ball on opening night and threw four innings allowing seven runs (three earned) on six hits while Shea went 3-5 with a homerun and drove in four runs. Freshman shortstop Danny Long became the first true freshman to start a season opener for Monmouth since March 5, 2010, when Danny Avella started at third base at San Diego State.

In the game, Monmouth was unable to execute defensively and with pitcher Chris Gaetano taking 1-2 pitch and drilling it over the right field fence to give Florida Atlantic added two more runs and went onto win 12-10.

Monmouth returns to the field on Friday in Greenville, SC when they take on Furman for the first of a three game series at 4 p.m. A graphic was displayed on the scoreboard after the men’s basketball team clinched their second consecutive MAAC regular season title on Thursday, Feb. 16.

The Outlook
The women's basketball team fell to Marist on Sunday afternoon in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Sophomore guard McKenzie Barker led Monmouth with 16 points and senior center Christina Mitchell had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Freshman guard Rosa Graham was the only other Hawk in double figures with 11.

The game was tightly contested in the first half and was a battle of two teams who were both looking to improve their records. Monmouth led by 16-12 at the half, but the Hawks were never able to extend their lead past five points in the second half.

The Red Foxes hit a three with just 3:37 left on the clock, making the score 75-72, but the Hawks couldn't seem to get their rhythm back. They fell short in the end, dropping their second of the season to Rutgers with a final score of 76-66.

According to Head Coach Eileen Gheen, "We improved since Saturday and look to continue to improve even more for our upcoming game. We're back to working tomorrow with Saturday's game on our mind."
Senior outfielder Dan Shea was one of four Hawks named to the Preseason All MAAC Team, which is more than any other team in the conference.