



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

# OUTLOOK

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## Brown Announces Retirement Interim President Dimenna Takes Over



PHOTO COMPILED by Courtney Buell and Jamilah McMillan

Interim President Grey Dimenna has taken the place of former President Paul R. Brown and will be serving as the President of the University until further notice.

JAMILAH MCMILLAN  
MANAGING/NEWS EDITOR

Paul R. Brown, Ph.D, is no longer the President of the University, as of yesterday, Tuesday, Feb. 28. This was announced to members of the University community through an email and press release sent from the Board of Trustees. Former Vice President of General Counsel, Grey J. Dimenna, will be serving as the Interim President until a new president is selected.

"He [former President Brown] decided to retire under his own volition," said Henry Mercer, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "It was something that he expressed a desire to do. There are certain aspects that, under our bylaws, are confidential, but this is something Brown wanted."

"I didn't come to the decision to retire lightly, and after many discussions I knew the time was right," said Brown, in the press release.

Brown joined the University in 2013. He was the eighth President since the University's establishment in 1933.

"In his three years as President, I believe that Paul R. Brown's implementation of the strategic plan is his finest accomplishment. This initiative resulted in the growth of academic programs and facilities on campus, as well as the national recognition of our Polling Institute and athletic programs," said Austin Skelton, president of the Student Government Association (SGA).

"Personally, Brown's abrupt and sudden retirement leaves me confused, but I am

more than confident that Interim President; Dimenna will continue to lead Monmouth in the right direction. I hope that the next President is able to bring more excitement amongst the student body, and grow our academic programs even further," Skelton continued.

Brown's sudden announcement of resignation caught many individuals by surprise. "I wasn't privy to anything, and the email caught me off-guard. I have worked here for over 30 years, and the only time that I witnessed a similar case [of sudden resignation] was in 1979, when there was a faculty strike, and they wanted the president to resign," said Donald Moliver, Dean of the School of Business, Ph.D.

"However, unlike the 1979 situation, this was a decision made by the Board of Trustees and Brown for reasons only they are privy to," Moliver continued.

Although the resignation may have come as a surprise for most, that was not the case for those involved. "I think it was around the holidays when they approached me about taking the position of Interim President. I know that they have been discussing resignation with Brown for a bit," said Dimenna.

According to Mercer, the Board of Trustees is in no rush to find a successor. "We will be rolling out a national search; we do not have a timeline as of now. Grey will, be taking the reigns, until we find someone with equal stature to all the presidents before him."

"The Board of Trustees feels very fortunate that Grey Dimenna was able to come back as the Interim President, he had success running as President of General Counsel, and he filled a lot of roles," said Mercer. "No one knows the inner-workings of the

school better than Grey."

Dimenna worked at the University for 21 years before retiring in July 2015. According to Moliver, his familiarity with the University is comforting. "Fortunately, we have Grey Dimenna stepping in who knows the University personally. He knows the mission, faculty, the staff, and the trustees," said Moliver. "I think that it is good that we aren't bringing in an outsider who is green. There will be continuity."

According to Dimenna, the first thing that he wishes to do in his new position is reconnect. "I want to listen to the students and the faculty and get a feel for what's going on. I don't have an agenda as of now, but I will be working closely with the Board and continuing to move forward with the strategic plan."

Dimenna asserts that he is not interested in a permanent position.

"I do know Grey Dimenna and I think he is an excellent interim choice," said Don Swanson, a Professor of Communication. "As University Counsel and Vice President he was always heavily involved in day to day decision making and he knows many of the people he will work with. He also served as Chair of the Administrative Negotiation Committee in contract negotiations with the faculty, so he should have a grasp of the concerns of faculty," Swanson continued.

"It is great to be back on campus," said Dimenna. "I have received more hugs today, than I have in a long time. I look forward to being the Interim President. Being the President of a University is pretty exciting; I look forward to it."

## School of Education Receives NAPDS Award

KELLI GALAYDA  
STAFF WRITER

The University's School of Education gained national recognition after being named the recipient of this year's Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement Award from the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) in early February.

The award acknowledges the Monmouth University Partnership, the professional development partnership that has crafted a working relationship between the University and several local P-12 schools, including Freehold Township, Hazlet, Long Branch, Manalapan-Englishtown, Middletown, Ocean, and Eatontown. It will be presented to the Department on March 10 at the NAPDS annual conference in Washington, D.C.

The objectives for the University Partnership are to increase P-12 student learning, provide great teacher preparation, provide professional development for teachers, and to innovate new practice in teacher education, according to the NAPDS award application.

Dr. John Henning, Dean of

the School of Education, explained how his department met these goals. He said, "We work with teachers and administrators on professional development, meaning we help [them] become better at what they do."

According to Henning, many new programs are being piloted within the department. A new requisite by New Jersey state law for education majors requires that students spend an extra semester student teaching in schools, meaning they will undergo a yearlong clinical internship. The University has rolled out the program early, giving students the chance to spend more time gaining experience in the classroom.

Nick Corrado, senior mathematics and secondary education student, testified to the significance of the new program. "The year-long clinical program allowed me to get a tremendous amount of extra experience in the classroom, working with students and faculty," he said. "I was able to learn different classroom strategies and ways to engage the students from an experienced teacher before my student

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## Monmouth Community Reacts to Offensive Social Media Post

JASMINE RAMOS  
CO-POLITICS EDITOR

An Instagram post from Oct. 20 was circulated by students and other members of the University community last week due to its allegedly racist overtones. After being reposted by a student who was offended by the photo, the image reached over 1,000 social media hits in less than one day.

The photo featured a Monmouth junior, Dennie Augustine, holding up a cardboard sign that said, "Need \$ for child support #BlackTrash."

"I was visiting home in October and my friend's friend had a party, and we all know the crazy themes, college students have for parties, so the theme for this party was 'White Trash vs. High Class.' People made signs saying stuff like, 'Lost the keys to my trailer #whitetrash' I thought what I should write on my sign, so I wrote something truthful," said Augustine.

Augustine said her dad left her when she was 7 years old, so, according to her, her sign said something personal. "[Her father] has not paid a dime of child support, so I wrote that. I also

am African American, so I put '#blacktrash' because I wasn't comfortable writing 'white trash' since I am not Caucasian."

The post led former President Paul R. Brown, Ph.D to send a campus wide email Thursday morning. The email stated, "We have received numerous reports of a social media post shared by a student that contains offensive and racially charged language. Monmouth has a strong commitment to diversity, and there is no place in our community for speech or actions that disparage

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