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 prohibited 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 gender 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 students, parents, teachers, and administrators can be linked to locks on their course of his or her lifetime, and do not change throughout the area was well lit, hackers can steal fingerprints from pictures posted on social media. 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...
“Worldwide, women and men stand in solidarity with each other to achieve equality. Despite great progress made possible by generations that came before us, we still have miles to go.”

REKHA DATTA
Professor of Political Science

#MarchWithMU
Students March On International Women’s Day

DALLY MATOS
COPY EDITOR

Over 50 students, faculty, administration, and other members of the University community participated in a demonstration on International Women’s Day on March 8. The program began with a march from the Monmouth University Guggenheim Library to a rally at Wilson Hall, and ended with a movie screening of “She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry” in Porycki auditorium.

“We come a long way in the ‘march’ towards gender equality. Worldwide, women and men stand in solidarity with each other to achieve equality. Despite great progress made possible by generations that came before us, we still have miles to go,” said Rekha Datta, a professor of political science and sociology.

“Women, one in three women will face sexual violence in their lifetime. Gender pay gap is almost ubiquitous. These are the global causes that international women’s day reminds us about in terms of the work that is still to be done. The day is also a reminder for us to celebrate what has been accomplished by the women of our community,” Datta continued.

The march was co-sponsored by a number of student clubs and organizations including Students Advocating Girls’ Education (SAGE), the Gender Studies Club, the Sociology Club, Sexuality, Pride, Education, Community, Truth, Respect, and Unity at Monmouth (S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M.), the Center for Spirituality and Islam, and the Muslim Student Association.

Students and supporters alike gathered near the back steps of the library with an array of signs, such as “Women are more than our bodies,” “Stop victimizing women,” and “Stop bringing women’s bodies to war.” A cameraman from Asbury Park Press invaded the march as it began.

According to Janaya Lewinski, President of S.A.G.E. and a senior political science student, said that the march was inspired by similar events across the country. “Some of the people who helped organize the march, included professors in men’s health counseling, an associate dean, professors in political science and sociology, and student leaders like myself who had attended workshop series on women’s and gender studies,” Lewinski said. “It was so satisfying to see the inauguration of our 45th president,” she commented.

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Chung continued from pg. 1

Hacker continued from pg. 1

Selfies May Leave You Vulnerable to Hackers

PHOTO COURTESY of Kenny Baker

The Outlook

March 22, 2017 University News The Outlook -

While connected technology advances make our lives easier and they also bring about new ways to solve crime and fraud. Security is in the hands of the user, not just technology solutions, so be aware of the latest advice for protecting yourself,” said Chris tensen.

“Think before you post,” said Kyle Frankenbush, a freshman computer science student. “There’s no turning back. Once something is posted online, it’s there forever, even if you try and ‘delete’ it.”

For more information, visit https://www.eff.org/2017/03/selfies-may-leave-you-vulnerable-hackers

Researchers in China announced that hackers can retrieve fingerprints from pictures where finger tips are visible.

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PHOTO TAKEN by Jamilah McMillan

A march, rally, and movie premiere took place on International Women’s Day in an program organized by student organizations.

Mary Harris, a specialist professor in public health counseling, an associate dean, professors in political science and sociology, and student leaders like myself who had attended workshop series on women’s and gender studies,” Lewinski said. “It was so satisfying to see the inauguration of our 45th president,” she commented.

Victoria Borges, a senior social work student, carried a sign that stated, “women equal peace. She sang India Aries song “Video.” “I’m not the average girl on this planet. I’m not the average girl like a supermodel. But I learned to love myself unconditionally, because I am a queen,” she sang.

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Visiting Writer Series Welcomes Liz Moore

LAUREN NIESZ
SENIOR REPORTING EDITOR

The Visiting Writer Series introduced its first installation for the spring semester by hosting creative nonfiction writer, Liz Moore, on Tuesday, Mar. 7 in Wilson Auditorium.

The event opened with two introductions; Michael Thomas, Associate Dean and Director of the Visiting Writers Series, who introduced and assistant professor, Alex Gilvarry.

Gilvarry attended graduate school with Moore and suggested her to Thomas as a possible visiting writer. With little persuasion, Thomas agreed to invite Moore to the University of Monmouth.

Moore currently has three published novels and has received high acclaim and recognition for the talent in these works. She is the winner of the Medici Book Club Prize and Philadelphia’s Athenaeum Literary Award, and her most recent book, The Unseen World, which was published just this past year, was listed in “Best of 2016” lists by The New Yorker, The BBC, and multiple others.

The majority of the Visiting Writers Series has been poetry heavy; however, Moore is an acclaimed creative nonfiction/fiction writer. This is a different flavor for consistent Visiting Writers Series goers. Thomas stated, “We wanted to offer as much styles and genres of literature that appeal to our students and writers, and I think we are doing at the undergraduate and the graduate level.”

Moore, a young writing who published her first work before she finished high school. According to Thomas her age is something that the predomi-

nately college student audience could connect with. He said, “Students can feel some connection with someone her age; she can be a great influence on our young writers, and women too.”

“She comes to a campus and she is very aware of her audience and I think students feel that. They know when a writer is continued the way she is,” he continued.

At the event, Moore read specifically from her most recent work, The Unseen World. Moore indulged the audience in the background of the inspiration for this novel. The novel, which focuses on a father-daughter relationship, uses the 1980’s as a backdrop and was very much a reflection of Moore’s childhood.

The protagonist of the novel, Ada, a homeschooled teenager, has an interesting relationship with her father, David, a computer scientist. In the likeness of Moore’s own childhood, she shared that her father was also a scientist; however, he was not a computer scientist.

Moore spent time around her father’s colleagues and claimed that she was fascinated by the “particular ethos and humor” that they shared. This translation of The Unseen World heavily with the character of David and his workers in the novel.

Moore then continued to read directly from the novel. She explained the main theme or theme of the novel and took questions from different audience sections to explain to the audience. The particular thread she chose to exhibit for the Visiting Writers Series was the theme of Ada’s entrance into the world of advancing technology, the particular ethos and humor that one reading to really change the way they write her characters. She is really generous and loving with her characters and they are very well rounded and living, breathing people.”

“Her novels are about people at some of the hardest points in their lives, but there is a bit of hope in each story. They are not escapist fiction—it’s realism,” Gilvarry said.

The audience is able to relate and connect with Moore’s work. According to Thomas her age is something that the predominantly college student audience could connect with. He said, “It only takes one reading to really change a young writer’s life where they hear from a poet or fiction writer that they are completely changed by.”

The next installation of the event will be on April 4 at 4:30 p.m. in Wilson Auditorium. Monmouth will be welcoming writer of eight novels, including The Master and Brooklyn, Colm Toibin.

Bathroom continued from pg. 1

In February President Trump revoked protections for transgender students initiated by former President Barack Obama. The University’s gender inclusive restrooms will remain.

LAUREN NIESZ
SENIOR REPORTING EDITOR

The University’s gender inclusive restrooms will remain.

PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

PHOTO COURTESY of The Outlook

Gender Inclusive Bathrooms Remain At University

a place where everyone is valued and respected.”

The appropriates of society, according to Moore, are transgender youth as kids search for years looking for an identity that is not available to them,” explained Jane Lai, a sophomore English student and the Vice President of Sexuality, Pride, Education, Community, Truth, and Unity at Monmouth (S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M.).

“The male and female binaries, to this day, are extremely strict, harming both men and women. Unfortunately, in many transgender cases, they have to live a large portion of their early life by blindly stumbling through a facet of a text which they don’t know the answers to,” Lai added.

While Lai believes more can be done to help the campus community understand transgender issues, she felt that the bathrooms themselves were a step in the right direction.

“There were some positives,” Lai said. “Some transitioning, as well as people who feel misunderstood and distressed are fighting for their rights for comfort,” said Joy Morgan, a junior communication student and the president of the University’s Young Democrats Club. “The club has multiple political perspectives, including the political views of President Trump. We hope to try to educate and positive conversations about political views without being clearly polarized.”

Morgan added, “I should also across the University to think about how people who are disturbed by this decision and find Trump’s behavior to be disturbing and inhumane. It has also been expressed that decisions like this from Trump shows his inability to move forward with social change and civil rights.”

Lai herself was involved in conversations with Kenneth Womack, the Dean of the University’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences Departments, to try to make further improvements. According to Lai, those improvements have included implementation of SafeZone for training for faculty, and offering more diversity talks on campus.

According to Nancy Mezey, Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs for the Woodrow Wilson School of Humanities and Social Science, SafeZone is a national program that was brought to the University in 2015. “Trainings from the guide, which came and trained apparatus approximately 10 administrators and faculty about gender and sexuality diversity, and create a campus climate where people who claim diverse gender and sexuality feel safe,” she said.

While the University may remain unaffected by the roll-backs of Obama’s executive order, it is one that may have far-reaching ramifications nationwide. One such example is the case of Gavin Grimm, a transgender student in Virginia who sued his school board after it barred him from using the boy’s bathroom.

On Thursday, Mar. 2, unions representing more than one million teachers told the Supreme Court that it should grant Grimm and students like him across the country access to school restrooms that match their gender, despite Trump’s executive order. While Grimm’s case won in a federal appeals court, it was appealed and brought to the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court sent the case back down to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday, Mar. 6. According to an article by The Atlantic on Mar. 6, the decision was made in part because of the Trump administration’s new position on the issues involved in the case. A similar case may not arise at the University as Nagy reminds students that while the executive order may have been issued, the campus is still a place where “everyone is valued and respected.”

“Anyone who may be subjected to behavior or actions contrary to that should seek assistance from my office, the Monmouth University Police, or the Office of Equity and Diversity,” Nagy said.

For more information check out: www.genderinclusive.org
Communication Students Connect with Professionals

Career continued from pg. 1

Throughout many of the panel discussions, the panelists highlighted the importance of taking part in on campus communications clubs as it gives students the chance to begin to practice their craft. “I was particularly impressed with the idea that you should get on the TV panel. They all started their journeys with Hawk TV and classes at Monmouth. And now that they are in the professional world, most of them are still working with each other and continue to rely on one another for new opportunities and connections,” said Robert Scott, specialist professor of communications and writing in the Communication Career Event. Russell Cerminaro, junior communication student and Webmaster at Hawk TV said, “The following week, we saw a lot of new members at our Hawk TV general meeting. So along with meeting and speaking with alumni, now more than ever, I am excited to get involved in extracurricular activities.”

Cerminaro believes that the highlight of the event for him was the panel discussions, as he was able to take away meaningful advice from professionals in the business. “Personally, I liked the TV panel the best. As a TV major looking to work my way into the business, it was the perfect panel to check out. The alumni gave great advice and answered everyone’s questions. They even hung around afterward to speak with people individually,” he said.

The event also allowed professors to reconnect with alumni they had taught and see where their alumni have taken them. “The Communication Career event was a success because of the alumni engagement and the student participation. It was wonderful to reconnect with alumni and learn about their experiences in the work world. Tata Ackaway, CEO and Founder of Social Wise Communications LLC and University alumna, offered some advice for current students regarding the importance of networking as well as the importance of keeping strong connections with your peers. She said, “It’s extremely important to listen and learn from others who are once in your shoes. Every professional who attended the career event wants nothing more than to see fellow Hawks go on to achieve big things,” she said.

You never know what the nities will come out of networking. I recommend using career events as a way to selflessly get all of your career questions answered by people who are currently excelling in a field you dream of pursing.”

There was an Alumni Academy Award Ceremony at 4:30 p.m. followed by the opportunity for students to have their resume reviewed by professionals. The event closed with a Business Insider photo contest where students had the chance to meet with professionals in the field. The networking portion of the event was also a major highlight for many students. Haley Giaconia, junior communication student, was able to hand her resume to professionals in the field and make connections with peers and alumni. “We actually got to speak with individuals that gave us business advice during the event. I spoke with Jenna (Gaudio) from Field and Alex (Appolonia) from Business Insider. This was awesome because I had the chance to give them my resumes, learn about their internship programs in depth, and connect with both of them on LinkedIn. This was the perfect opportunity to make a good first impression and get my foot in the door,” she said.

In the future Aaron Furgason, Chair of the Communication Department, hopes that all communications students will attend. “Networking is such an important tool to success in Communication jobs. The event offers students that opportunity,” he said.

Criminal Justice Networking Event Coming Soon

Over 40 different organizations will be joining the Criminal Justice Department at their 5th anniversary breakfast on March 29 in an effort to help students of all majors build mentorships, secure internships, and establish professional relationships. The event will be held in Wilson Hall from 5 to 9 p.m.

Over 50 officials – 40 percent of which are University alumni – will represent career areas including: law enforcement; homeland security; secret service; the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY); and victim witness units from county prosecutor’s offices.

Nicholas Sewitch, an instructor of criminal justice and Internship Coordinator, organized the event. He said, “These presenters, being Monmouth alumni, prove that going into your career is possible, and it’s not just a dream—you can do it. They are able to point out as role models to current students that opportunity,” he said. “I think that is just fascinating... all genders, sexes, all walks of life, making a difference in everyone’s lives,” Sewitch continued.

The event will host all types of organizations, including those that had the work of such as members representing postal inspection, secret service, the fire department city of New York (FDNY), victim witness units and from county prosecutor’s offices, along with many other dedicated individuals from the area.

“One night, under one roof, almost every single criminal justice career is in one place, and I think that is just fascinating... all genders, sexes, all walks of life, making a difference in everyone’s lives,” Sewitch continued.

The networking event has been specifically designed to be unformal but looking presentable is key to a good first impression. Although the event is rather relaxed and primarily focused on open conversation, rather than “sign up here,” Sewitch said it is always a good idea to have a résumé handy.

Mass said, “First impressions still go a long way, so make sure to start off with a firm handshake, and maintain good eye contact.”
A Welcome Letter to Our President

Dear President Grey Dimenna,

As you know, Monmouth University is a wonderful place. The University itself has been thriving recently and we feel that you are returning at an ideal time to continue that legacy. Your previous 21 years of experience and your familiarity with the school will certainly be beneficial in your new role and we look forward to working with you during your time as Interim President.

Monmouth’s campus is constantly improving with various new initiatives, and we have faith that you will continue to help us on our path to success. We are hopeful that you will continue to lead Monmouth in the right direction and aid in the growth of the University.

While there are certainly positives about the current state of the University, there are always room for improvement. We hope that you will continue to listen to student voices and ensure that any pertinent issues are addressed ethically.

We hope that you will put your best foot forward in leading Monmouth in the right direction as far as quality of education, community interactions, and fostering creativity for every single student. We hope that you will continue to promote inclusiveness of all ethnicities, races, and genders represented throughout the student body on campus, and we think that you will do a wonderful job since you are no stranger to Monmouth University and our evolving campus culture.

We would also like to see you continue with the efforts that your predecessor took in encouraging diversity on campus, by way of discussions on the issue. In place of changing the name of Wilson Hall your predecessor asserted that informativeness and your familiarity with the school will certainly be beneficial in your new role and we look forward to working with you during your time as Interim President. Monmouth’s campus is constantly improving with various new initiatives, and we have faith that you will continue to help us on our path to success. We are hopeful that you will continue to lead Monmouth in the right direction and aid in the growth of the University.

Moreover, since you left staff

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Wednesday, March 29th 2017
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wilson Hall
ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

The Criminal Justice Department designed this event to connect students with working professionals in order to explore internship and career opportunities in the fields of criminal justice and homeland security. Presenters include numerous representatives from local, state and federal criminal justice agencies.

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Taking Learning Outside of the Classroom

Photography by Alexandria Afanador

First is Not the Worst: First Generation Students Take Higher Education by Storm

Photography by Miya Fragale

On a campus so enriched with a plethora of diverse events, it would be a shame if students did not attend these events. For many humanities courses at the University, there is a mandatory attendance requirement for students to attend a specific event for the course.

Many students shudder at the word “mandatory” because of their busy and hectic lives. Students choose classes to fit their schedules, making it necessary that there is a mandatory event outside of the class time frame that one has to attend to succeed for most.

Lucia Bailey, a sophomore English major, said, “At times I wish the attendance was not mandatory, because if I am not on campus I find myself driving 45 minutes from my house to get there to attend the event.”

Dr. Susan Starke, associate professor of English, who has supervised her Shakespeare classes to attend simulcasts of popular Shakespeare plays studied in class, said, “As long as the professor offers an alternative assignment for students whose prior obligations literally don’t permit attendance at a special event, it is a reasonable solution.” I put it in the syllabus so students know from the start of the course what they are getting into.”

It seems as though classes in the humanities are more likely to assign these mandatory attendance events to T. E. hore. Dr. Merrily Ervin, Coordinator of School of Science General Education Courses, explains why the School of Science does not require students to attend events outside of class: “Students’ schedules vary and most likely, not all students would be able to attend an event that does not coincide with class time.” Ervin added, “Even if you just offer extra credit for attendance, it is not fair to those who are unable to attend, unless you offer them an alternative way to get extra credit.

However, Bailey, who was required to attend an installation of the Visiting Writers Series for one of her English courses, agrees that these events are applicable to class and enjoyable: “I love going to these events because I feel as if I’ll learn so much information from the authors. I get different perspectives from different authors and see the way they write compared to someone else.”

Professors do not force students to attend out of class events for no reason. In most cases, the events required are relatable to course materials and/or concepts. Most professors require students to go to events because of their relevance to the courses they are teaching.

Starke commented, “Studies show that requiring students to participate in co-curricular or outside-class events related to the course content encourages engagement in the course material and knowledge retention. Students remember these events more than they would remember just another lecture.”

Jesi Halpin, a senior English student, attended a recent Visiting Writers Series for a class, and reflected, “My class read The Unseen World [a novel written by Liz Moore, the event’s writer] this past week and being able to hear Liz Moore read from her book allowed me to understand more about the voice that she used for the book.”

Another aspect of the classroom that requires students to do work on their own time is volunteer work. In his First Year Seminar course, Animals, Life, Death, Kindness, and Sin, Chair of Health and Physical Education and associate professor, Dr. Chris Hirschler, requires his first year students to volunteer hours at the local Monmouth County SPCA.

Hirschler believes that service work outside of the classroom is extremely beneficial to students: “Service-learning experiences improve students’ professionalism, expose them to organizational policies and procedures, and often involve helping those in need.”

“Faculty members incorporate course material that addresses real life problems and situations students will face in the course of their service and in life after Monmouth,” Hirschler continued.

By giving students the responsibility of getting their service hours off-campus and going to these various events, professors are encouraging life skills that students should have and further develop. Furthermore, they are tools that help students understand fully and see a real life application of what they are learning in their courses.

Photography by Miya Fragale

FIRST IS NOT THE WORST: First Generation Students Take Higher Education by Storm

By working diligently, Taffy Lashley keeps up her grades and makes her family proud as the first in the family to go to Monmouth.

NICOLE SEITZ
Staff Writer

The day your acceptance letter to college comes in the mail is a proud day for you and your family, but there is a completely new level of pride and achievement when you are the first child in your family to go to college. Although in 2017, and college seems like a norm to everyone, we still have students who are the “first generation” students.

Being a first generation student means being the first person in your entire family to earn a degree in college. Many parents of first generation students may have only gotten a high school diploma at the most. Some students graduating this May are the first in their families to be able to call themselves a college graduate.

Dr. Robert McCaig, Vice President for Enrollment Management, said, “40.7% of the fall 2016 incoming freshman were first gen students.”

“One of the myths about Monmouth is that we are a rich white kid school. That is so untrue, 30% of the incoming class comes from varying ethnic backgrounds. These are facts, these are real. Our school is very rich in diversity,” according to McCaig.

Joey Afflato, a senior music industry student and first generation student said, “Going away to college and having this experience really means a lot to me especially because my parents didn’t get to have this same experience.”

“I feel the opportunity to go away to college is what they wish they could have had in their own life and opportunity then they had. It is just not fair to them,” DePaola explained.

By giving students the responsibility of getting their service hours off-campus and going to these various events, professors are encouraging life skills that students should have and further develop. Furthermore, they are tools that help students understand fully and see a real life application of what they are learning in their courses.

Professor Alex Gilvary introduced author Liz Moore at the most recent installment of the Visiting Writer’s Series.
Nike recently revealed that they are creating a hijab for Muslim female athletes called "Pro Hijab." It is officially being called the "pro-hijab" which is a fitting name for promoting inclusiveness in a time when many Muslims are being alienated and treated like enemies. The hijab will be sold in stores beginning this spring.

The pro-hijab is a traditional head covering worn by Muslim women for religious reasons, but it often goes unnoticed that wearing the hijab is a personal choice as well. There is a stigma present within Western society associated with the hijab and what it represents.

During the 2016 election process, current President Donald Trump shared what he believed to be the problem with America, "We have a problem in this country it’s called Muslims we know our current president [Donald Trump] was calling "terrorist" and that is the problem with America, “We can’t allow our political correctness to get in the way of our country.”

Nike’s pro-hijab is a response to the current climate of American xenophobia, and it represents the brand’s commitment to promoting inclusiveness. The pro-hijab is a necessary step because it will create a more welcoming environment for Muslim athletes in sports. It is officially being called Nike's pro-hijab, which is a fitting name for promoting inclusiveness in a time when many Muslims are being alienated and treated like enemies. The hijab will be sold in stores beginning this spring.

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The pro-hijab is a traditional head covering worn by Muslim women for religious reasons, but it often goes unnoticed that wearing the hijab is a personal choice as well. There is a stigma present within Western society associated with the hijab and what it represents.

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Response to Outlook: Monmouth is Green

PATRICIA SWANNACK
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

March 22, 2017

We read the recent article re- гarding social media and how to share with you some of the Uni-

versity’s efforts to be green.

The University was the first private institution of higher education to launch an environmental stewardship program that led to a voluntary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), documenting our commitment as an environmental steward in the East Coast. Further, we have increased our carbon footprint. In addition, the University was the only insti-
tution in the region to sign the American College and University Pledge to adopt the American College and University Pledge to adopt the American Pledge to the American Pledge to the American Pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2050.

The University’s waste diversion rate for 2016 was 54.1% and for 2017 was 55.5%. We have also increased our recycling efforts, with an increase in the amount of recyclable materials we collect and coordinate with local waste removal company.

One of Gour-

net Dining’s top priorities includes sustainable development, includ-
ing purchasing food from sustain-
able sources whenever possible and by avoiding the increase in the amount of plastic recycled by at least 10% every year while sourcing alterna-
tive materials to replace the plastics used in their operations. Residen-
tial Life provides trash/recycling information included in their Resi-
dential Life Guidebook and hosts “floor meetings” during the first week of the Fall semester each year, and information is also included on bulletin boards and in hallways in residence halls. The Office of Off-
Campus and Community Services also provides information regard-
ing trash/recycling.

We continue to increase our pur-
chasings of Green Seal and Ecologo certified cleaning products used for housekeeping. All restroom paper products are 100% recycled. All trash can liners are made from 70% post-consumer recycled content.

For those who need help getting

from one another, but these glamor-
ous images can be deceiving. This causes a skewed perception of them, often making them see the one they are looking at on social media and not displaying their own private world?

For example, students with this,

fear of being rejected by them. By engaging in these behaviors, it can lead to low self-esteem.

This is often when people’s minds often convince us that they have a lower sense of self-esteem.

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Wearing What You Are Comfortable In
NICOLE RIDDLE
STAFF WRITER

In the last few years, acceptance of different lifestyles and the challenges of cisnormativity have been seen across all media outlets. As more people are willing to share the details of their journey in finding their identity, they express themselves in various ways. Whether it be through presentations or articles, others are learning about the restrictions we place on ourselves.

With large platforms utilizing their influence in order to represent marginalized people, we all feel more comfortable with their ideas and experiences. Most notably, H&M, a fashion brand popular with both men and women, has introduced its campaign that focuses on the importance of self-expression and wearing clothes that help illustrate one’s unique sense of style.

In turn, advertisements such as these celebrate the experimentation anyone can have with the image they present to others around them, and create a safer environment for those that are typically the outliers. By providing encouragement to step outside any preconceived notions on fashion, people can discover the flexibility of clothing regardless of the section to which it’s assigned. Personally, I enjoy wearing flannel shirts and sweaters from the men’s section of thrift shops because they flow nicely and add a distinctive utilitarian vibe to my ensemble, and draw focus to different areas of my outfit.

However, it’s important to realize that patterns, styles or labels can allow for creativity in fashion and express different emotions that can be interpreted in a variety of ways.

For example, YouTube sensation and LGBTQ+ activist Connor Franta recently shared his thoughts on wearing a dress for the first time: “It was such an out-of-body experience… but I just felt so confident.” What is typically reserved for the opposite sex is what is socialized as what is expected to be beautiful for a woman or person who may be heterosexual. Others who are ignorant on the subject, or people who support this, do not necessarily know how we see others.

Regardless of what personal feelings may be, people that freely express themselves and feel confident in their choices shouldn’t be celebrated and encouraged to further discover ways to express themselves. For instance, those that fall outside of the gender binary may be more likely to develop clothing identities that are presented to them. Clothing can help benefit from being recognized in the realm of fashion. Clothes can be interpreted as art, and we should not stifle the vision of those who wish to create outside of what already exists.

With companies like H&M helping to blur the gender lines that are presented to us, a collective effort between the consumer and the retailer can inject more diversity into the emerging fashion field.

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Ed Sheeran Makes Comeback With Divide

AYSE YASAS
STAFF WRITER

After a yearlong break, Ed Sheeran made a comeback with *Divide*, which dropped March 4. Since his 2014 release of *X*, Sheeran has accomplished a lot, including winning two Grammy's, which has become one of the most popular male artists in the industry and has worked with big names like Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift and One Direction. His fans were impatiently waiting for any of his new material and he came back with one of his best works yet.

The two albums that make up *Divide* was named the best-selling album on 2017 within its first week. This album is definitely different from his previous records because of its diversity. Each track individually unique, which makes sense with the album title being *Divide*.

With "Castle on the Hill" and "Shape of You" singles, it was just a preview of how different each song would be. "Castle on the Hill" takes you back to the English countryside in Suffolk where Sheeran grew up with an incredibly catchy chorus, and "Shape of You" is perfect for pop radio with its fun and dance-y beat; it was originally intended to be written for Rihanna.

The first track on the album is "Eraser," where Sheeran raps and speaks about his struggles with fame and success. It has a darker feel about the problems that he has faced while making his way to the top of the charts. Another song with rap- ping is "New Shape," which is more light-hearted, and it's wonderful to see the out- tic work imbued on posterity. It speaks volumes about his artis- of Shakespeare's plays which is influence his comedic timing, and en- ticles, religion and other people's concerns. So this is very light a topic on the subject but in the end questioning whether his opinion is valid or not.

The next single, which was an- nounced on St. Patrick's Day, "The A -bo". This song is influenced by Irish folk music with a bit of hip- hop which is something that is a bit unexpected, but it works rather well. "Nancy Mulligan," a bonus track, also has Irish influence and it's all about the Romeo and Juliet- esque story of his grandparents getting married.

Ireland isn't the only country that gets a shout out though. "Hari - celme" is fairly self-explanatory cause humor is not evi- dence with reading Romeo & Julie--net and more symbolic background, but I thought that didn't make your heart melt like "Per - quited love. It is a story of seeing an old flame with a new parner and realizing how much happier they are without you. It's heart - breaking and it reminds me of every movie with a happy ending but a more realis - tic one.

A true story and tear jerker, "Supermarket Fluo - pers" is the song that will make you cry unless you have a heart made of ice. Writing from his mother's perspective, he talks about the experience los - ing his grandmother. The simple, lyrics would be delivered. How - ever, I was surprised that this high school student understood the language and had delivered it in his plays. This version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was easier to follow than the adult version with the cast of three actors playing Shakespeare's famous play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

By ANNA BLAINE
STAFF WRITER

When high school students are able to perform Shake - speare for young audiences and get them invested, that is a tes - tament to the enduring quality of his plays. I was skeptical at first about the impact that Shakespeare’s plays can have on young people. My experi - ence with reading *Romeo & Juliet* in sixth grade was not a pleasant one, but after watching high school students perform in "A Little Shakespeare," I un - derestimated the adaptability of Shakespeare’s plays which can be modernized and engag - ing to this young generation growing up today. It definitely speaks volumes about his artis - tic work imbued on posterity.

Two River Theater has been presenting "A Little Shakespeare" every year, apart from their regular schedule of garlic festivals, and it’s wonderful to see the out - pouring of love and response to the plays performed by young people. I had the opportunity to see a two performance by high school students from around the Monmouth County area performing "A Little Shakespeare," of The Merry Wives of Windsor, which is currently running performances as well, except it has a cast of three actors.

Thankfully, I was able to see both versions of this play -- one performed by adults and the other performed by teenagers. Although both versions are geared toward a particular de - mographic age group, it struck me that the humor in this com -edy resonates with everyone with a good sense of humor. Each one performed by adults and teenagers. Both versions of this play -- one performed by adults and the other performed by teenagers. Although both versions are geared toward a particular demographic age group, it struck me that the humor in this comedy resonates with everyone who watches it. There seems to be an imme - diate connection between the audience and the actors in character on stage when it comes to the humor expressed through the witty dialogue. Without a moment’s notice there is always laughter in the audience. I consider that a good thing be - cause humor is not supposed to dis - ginge. It has to be sincere and has to be delivered by the actors in a genuine way, including the scene changes, lighting, and props. In particu - lar, I was really impressed by the comedic timing, and en - gagement of these teenage ac - tors. They were able to engage the audience with the humor, which seemed genuine. It seems as if it would be difficult as teenagers to authentically perform adult characters, but they pulled it off. The humor is often lewd and chauvinistic in this play, so I wondered about the expediency of the way these scenes would be delivered. How - ever, I was surprised that these high school students understood the language and had delivered it in their plays. This version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was easier to follow than the adult version with the cast of three actors playing Shakespeare’s famous play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Two River Theater's cast thrived while performing Sheer - an’s work imbued on posterity. The simple, yet detailed lyrics just tug at your heartstrings when he talks about cleaning the hospital room of all of his loved one’s belongings.

While Sheeran was taking his yearlong break, a lot went on in the world of politics. “What Do I Know!” is his take on how the world can change with the power of music, love and positivity. He also mentions how his father told him not to get involved with “poli - tics, religion and other people’s quarrels.” So this is very light a topic on the subject but in the end questioning whether his opinion is valid or not.

*How Would You Feel.* is a slow, soulful song with rap - tics, religion and other people’s concerns. It’s clear that they’re all influenced by his blossoming relationship with his childhood friend, Cherry Seaborn, who he reconnected with through a mutual friend. “Perfect” can easily be a bigger follow up to “Thinking Out Loud,” and it might be what people expect from him. It’s not hard to imagine it being played at several upcoming wed - dings within the next few years as couples have their first dance. John Mayer also plays the guitar solo on “How Would You Feel.” The album comes to an end with bonus track “Save Myself” which somewhat makes you feel his struggles, it’ll be easy to relate. It’s raw and real which makes it so tragically beautiful. It’s refreshing to listen to an artist share so much of their lives through their music even when it comes to more diffi - cult topics.

Overall, this record has exceed - ed my expectations and was well worth the wait. The influence of Sheeran’s roots is present and it only makes sense with him taking a step back from the music industry to try to go back home and remember where he grew up and came from. While a few songs might be what you expect from him, this album is different from anything that Ed has ever done before. It shows his growth as an artist and his dabbling into dif - ferent genres like hip-hop and folk music while still remaining mostly pop. His willingness to take risks and challenge himself sets him apart and continues to help him reach the top of the charts.

"Hearts Don’t Break Around Here" and "How Would You Feel." It’s clear that they’re all influenced by his blossoming relationship with his childhood friend, Cherry Seaborn, who he reconnected with through a mutual friend. “Perfect” can easily be a bigger follow up to “Thinking Out Loud,” and it might be what people expect from him. It’s not hard to imagine it being played at several upcoming weddings within the next few years as couples have their first dance. John Mayer also plays the guitar solo on "How Would You Feel." The album comes to an end with bonus track “Save Myself” which somewhat makes you feel his struggles, it’ll be easy to relate. It’s raw and real which makes it so tragically beautiful. It’s refreshing to listen to an artist share so much of their lives through their music even when it comes to more difficult topics.

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Final Fantasy XV is one of the longest running role-playing games (RPGs) in history. It was first announced as Final Fantasy Versus XIII way back in 2006, it spent about seven years in development, and five years in its final打磨 before it was released. The idea of a Final Fantasy series game being the plot’s poor use of time and features typical of a western RPG game, but with a number of interesting secondary characters, and a well-rounded cast of world-building elements. The story of Final Fantasy XV is divided into two main acts, with the second act being a direct sequel to the first. The game’s protagonist, Noctis Lucis Caelum, is the heir to the throne of the Niflheim empire. Noctis had been away from home since he was a child, and now he must return to his kingdom to claim his rightful place as king.

The main gameplay mechanic in Final Fantasy XV is the action combat system, which allows players to control Noctis and his friends in real-time battles against enemies. The combat system is fast-paced and requires quick reflexes, with the player controlling the camera and timing attacks to any enemies on the screen. The game also features a number of mini-games and side activities, such as fishing, cooking, and car races, which can be completed for extra rewards.

The game received some criticism from some reviewers, with some calling it a disappointing entry in the Final Fantasy series. However, the game was generally well-received, with many praising the game’s world-building, storytelling, and gameplay mechanics. The game was released on November 29, 2016, and has since sold over 4 million copies worldwide.

In conclusion, Final Fantasy XV is a highly enjoyable game for fans of the series, and an excellent entry in the Final Fantasy franchise. Whether you’re a long-time fan or a new player, Final Fantasy XV is sure to provide hours of entertainment and enjoyment.

As anticipated, Final Fantasy XV was worth the wait.
Monmouth Students Spring into Break

ABOVE: Sophomores Grace Roeder and Sebastian Rebele spend the day in Boston at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. (Photo courtesy of Grace Roeder)

RIGHT: Senior Brian Gutierrez and his son, Jory, visit Key Biscayne in Miami, Florida. (Photo courtesy of Brian Gutierrez)

BELOW: The new student orientation 2017 elevated staff at the NODA Conference at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. (Photo courtesy of Pooja Shah)

LEFT: Monmouth gets a fresh blanket of snow over spring break. (Photo courtesy of Nouf Almuqahwi)

LEFT: Sophomore Kemal Kansu and his girlfriend visiting the Boca West Country Club in Florida. (Photo courtesy of Kemal Kansu)

RIGHT: Seniors Taylor Pivano visits Disney World over spring break. (Photo courtesy of Taylor Pivano)

LEFT: Junior Taymani Rivera-Kissling visits Mt. Snow in West Dover, Vermont. (Photo courtesy of Taymani Rivera-Kissling)
Moments at Monmouth

LEFT: SENIORS ANTHONY PAPETTI AND STEPHANIE YOUNG HAVE BREAKFAST WITH PLUTO IN DISNEY WORLD. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY PAPETTI)

LEFT: SENIORS LAUREN NIESZ AND AMANDA DRENNAN VISIT DISNEY WORLD OVER SPRING BREAK. (PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN NIESZ)

ABOVE: GRAD STUDENT PARTH NILESH KADAKIA ENJOYS THE VIEW FROM DUQUESNE INCLINE IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PARTH NILESH KADAKIA)

RIGHT: SOPHOMORE MATT AQUINO VISITS THE ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM EXHIBIT IN THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM IN NEW YORK CITY. (PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW)

ABOVE: BLUE HAWK RECORDS VISITS THE GRAMMY MUSEUM IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. (PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE SEITZ)

RIGHT: FRESHMAN DALLY MATOS SEES DEAR EVAN HANSEN ON BROADWAY IN NEW YORK CITY. (PHOTO COURTESY OF DALLY MATOS)

LEFT: JUNIOR ALLY AFANADOR SPENDS TIME AT AVON BY THE SEA OVER SPRING BREAK. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLY AFANADOR)
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Monmouth University supports equal opportunity in recruitment, admission, educational programs, & employment practices, & complies with all major federal & state laws & executive orders requiring equal employment opportunity & / or affirmative action.

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(Coupons must be displayed at checkout)

1 large plain pizza for just $11.99

buy any 1 cold submarine and get a free can of soda or water bottle

1 small plain pizza + 1 can of soda or water bottle for just $10.99

*Cannot be combined with other offers. Toppings are to be charged extra. In store & delivery offer.
Must present coupon to driver for confirmation.*

VALID THROUGH THE WHOLE SEMESTER!
Peace Corps Prep Holds Film Festival

JOY MORGAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Feb. 28th the Peace Corps Prep program held a Peace Corps Film Festival in Wilson Auditorium.

The film festival was open to the entire student body offering any students who are interested in the Peace Corps an opportunity to meet return volunteers, ask questions with parents, and get a closer look at what the Peace Corps program can offer to individuals who serve.

Multiple tables were set up outside of the auditorium, providing an opportunity for individuals to learn more about returned volunteers and service location experience. Many of these tables contained artifacts brought back from the different countries.


Following the guest speakers was a series of brief and semi- nars. Following the evening’s theme of hos- pitality, each video provided perspective- and insight into the family and community- kindness that volunteers receive. The videos discussed the hows and whys of hospitality towards people such as the food a Peace Corps member receives and offers, the family’s pride in their Peace Corps family member, and the hospi- tality shown when open invitation to share their homes and community is given.

This evening was useful consid- ering there were multiple audience members currently awaiting their acceptance into the Peace Corps. ‘We have been preparing for this performance all year show. “We have been preparing a lot of work that goes into each student and president of the fraternity, Sigma Tau Gamma. The Peace Corps Prep program can offer to individuals who are interested in Peace Corps goals of community building projects, they offer service and volunteering here in the United States, social activities, and legislative advocacy for the Peace Corps.

On Sat. Mar. 25, Monmouth University’s a cappella group, The Sea Sharps will be hosting their second annual Acafest, which will feature collegiate a cappella groups from multiple schools across the tri-state area.

This year, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics, the philanthropy of fraternity, Sigma Tau Gamma.

Melanie Doe, senior social work student and president of the Sea Sharps, claims there is a lot of work that goes into each show. “We have been preparing for this performance all year and we cannot wait to show how much our group is grown,” Doe said.

Dr. Pedram Daneshgar, asso- ciate biology professor and ad- viser of the group, noticed the difference in the group from last year’s show to this one. “The group is a lot different from last year. They are a cohesive group that’s more in tune with each other. When they sing to- gether, they seem like they are having more fun than before. They have improved chemistry which makes for better music,” he said.

The Sea Sharps were founded in 2013, and are the University’s only a cappella group. They have been featured on MTV and have made Acafest an annual tradition.

This year, guest groups include The Onyx, Spokes University, The Ten- tones of The College of New Jersey, Tonal Recall from Drew- el University, and many more.

With these different groups, one can expect to see different styles of arrangements, singing, genres of music and certainly different group personalities. With this performance, new and old members reflect on their time with the group, and this might be the last time per- forming in this setting. Chioma Gabriel, a senior chemistry student and the mu- sical director of the Sea Sharps, said that this year’s performance is going to be bittersweet.

“I feel sad because it is my last time performing on stage in a school setting…every perfor- mance is an invitation to my friends and family to come see what I love to do, but I feel ac- complished and happy to per- form with my group. I never thought I would be in an a cappella group in college, and this last performance will be the best and will showcase all of our growth and effort,” Gabriel continued.

Sara Todd, a freshman com- munication student and new Sea Sharp member is enthusiasm- ic about hosting Acafest with the group. “I’m very excited to see what we’ve been working towards to be put together on stage. Hopefully we’ll be able to share a night of fun, mod- ern music with the audience as we showcase not only the Sea Sharps, but the other groups.”

Tickets for the event are $5. For more information about the event please reach out to a member of the Sea Sharps, or email the group at muse- sharps@gmail.com.
The Monmouth University Poll was conducted by telephone from March 2 to 5, 2017 with 801 adults in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with Trump, has he been giving enough attention to the issues that are most important to your family or do you wish he would give more attention to issues that are important to your family?

- Good enough attention - 36%
- Wish he'd give more attention - 57%
- Don't know - 7%

If Yes: As you may know, federal courts put a stop to this travel ban. Should President Trump try to devise a new travel ban plan that the courts would be okay with or should he move on and concentrate on other issues instead?

- Devise new travel ban - 38%
- Move on to other issues - 50%
- Don't Know - 4%
- Have not heard of the ban - 7%

How much has Donald Trump's agenda during his first month in office focused on important issues important to conservatives activists?

- A lot - 44%
- A little - 29%
- Don't Know - 8%
- Not at all - 19%

If Yes: Based on what you know about this issue, should Sessions resign or not resign at the current time?

- Should Resign - 34%
- Should not resign - 36%
- Don't know - 9%
- Have not heard about it - 22%

How has Donald Trump's agenda during his first month in office focused on important issues important to average Americans?

- A lot - 42%
- A little - 28%
- Not at all - 27%
- Don't Know - 4%

If you see any of President Trump's speech to congress on Tuesday night, or have you not seen it?

- Yes, watched entire speech - 33%
- Yes, watched clips - 21%
- No, did not watch - 45%
- Don't know - 1%

Are you concerned or not concerned that other members of the Trump administration may be too friendly towards Russia?

- Concerned, a lot - 12%
- Concerned, a little - 18%
- Not concerned - 50%
- Don't know - 20%

If concerned: Are you concerned a lot or a little?

- Concerned a lot - 42%
- Concerned a little - 58%
- Not concerned - 12%
- Don't know - 3%

Did you see any of Attorney General Jeff Sessions met with the Russian Ambassador during the 2016 campaign, or not?

- Have you heard that Attorney General Jeff Sessions met with the Russian Ambassador during the 2016 campaign, or not?
- Yes, watch entire speech - 33%
- Yes, watched clips - 21%
- No, did not watch - 45%
- Don't know - 1%

Did you see any of Attorney General Jeff Sessions met with the Russian Ambassador during the 2016 campaign, or not?

- Yes, watched entire speech - 33%
- Yes, watched clips - 21%
- No, did not watch - 45%
- Don't know - 1%

Are you concerned or not concerned that Donald Trump may be too friendly toward Russia?

- Concerned, a lot - 37%
- Concerned, a little - 11%
- Not concerned - 49%
- Don't know - 3%

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Women's Lacrosse Looks Forward to Conference Play

The women's lacrosse team was defended in all three of their matchups over spring break. They competed against three highly rated teams in Virginia, Delaware, and Stony Brook in a doubleheader. The Blue Hens, coached by Coach Shane, concluded non-conference play. The team won four games in each half to easily triumph 19-9 in the second half, which was the final tally was 14-5, giving the Blue Hens a 2-0 lead and drove in her third run with a single in the third, with the Hawks down 4-3.

Monmouth re-took the lead in the fourth on a two-run homer by Reyes. Jimenez (2-for-3, 2 R) had a run and drove in two singles and scored on a single by junior third baseman Morgan Cookman, who dropped the first game to ranked 15th in RPI and 20th in state and Tennessee at Chattanooga, going 3-for-3 with three runs batted in and a run scored. She drove in two in the fifth with a two-run double in the fifth and they scored their ninth run on a sacrifice fly from freshman first baseman Riley Brager.

Junior catcher Morgan Cookman, scoring six runs in the sixth inning, giving the Sycamores a lead they would not relinquish. Junior outfielder Katie Barron picked up an RBI on a successful squeeze bunt, Baron drove in a run with a sacrifice fly, junior outfielder Chloe Howerth hit an RBI triple, and Holzman added an RBI single. Monmouth scored three runs off Bethune-Cookman errors in the contest.

The Hawks had an offensive explosion against Bethune-Cookman, scoring 13 goals in the first half of the game. Jimenez went 5-for-7 with three RBIs, three runs, and two doubles in the two games. "I couldn't be more proud of our team," Salsburg said. "We got offensive production from one through nine and kept attacking throughout both games. Our pitchers did a great job of getting outs and we had some stellar defensive plays."

Senior first baseman Justene Reyes homered against Indiana State and Tennessee at Chattanooga over spring break.

Monmouth once again scored three goals against No. 15 Towson on Sunday Mar 15. Junior midfielder Kate Ryan scored three goals against No. 15 Towson on Sunday Mar 15.

The Hawks were trailing 4-1 in the sixth inning when Shottzarger came up with the bases loaded and belted a grand slam to left that propelled the Hawks to a 5-4 victory, their third straight. The team dropped the second game 7-6 to North Florida despite a six-run fifth inning that saw them score 6-3 later.

"I am proud of our grit today. We found ways to push runs across and get outs when we needed it," Salsburg said.

While we are disappointed in the split, there is no doubt we are trending in the right direction. We have started playing together and for each other, and those two things have impacted us greatly."

The Hawks are now 6-14 on the season and they return to action today as they travel to Stony Brook, NY to take on Stony Brook in a doubleheader.

First pitch for game one is slated for 2 p.m.

Softball Looks to Rebound After Spring Break

JOHN SORCE

STAFF WRITER

The softball team competed in two tournaments over spring break, playing 13 games over a 10 day span in Florida. "We feel like our team," Coach Salsburg said. "We played a very tough first half, but unfortunately couldn't sustain it for a full 60 minutes," Salsburg said. "Boston College did a great job on the draw in the second half, which was the turning point source of the momentum shift."

Monmouth culminated non-conference play on Sunday, Mar. 19 in an afternoon tilt against Towson. The Tigers, ranked 15th in RPI and 20th in the Inside Lacrosse Poll, did not leave any doubt in this contest winning 17-6.

The Tigers roared out of the gate, netting nine straight goals before the Hawks got one of their own. Monmouth tallied one more before the half but the idea of a comeback was slim to say the least judging by the first half performance of Towson.

Towson pounded early in the second half adding two more before their total to extend their lead to 10. Monmouth failed to mount any sort of substantial comeback attempt in the second half and in the end, the Hawks failed to reduce the differential by more than 10, whomever was outshot 33-20 and for the first time this season failed to score on any of their three free position shots.

"We are continuing to improve although the win-loss record doesn't quite show it," Ghent said. "Towson was excellent on the 50/50 balls and used those possessions to get their offense going. We are looking forward to the beginning of MACC play and to use our out of conference experience to prepare us.

The Hawks next take on Quinnipiac as they begin their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference portion of their schedule. Monmouth will be looking to snap a three-game slide and return to their winning ways on Saturday, Mar. 25 at 5:00 p.m. in New Haven, CT.

Senior first baseman Justene Reyes homered against Indiana State and Tennessee at Chattanooga over spring break.

Men's Lacrosse Looks Forward to Conference Play

CHRIS FITZSIMMONS

CHIEF WRITER

The Hawks next opponent was Boston College and that game took place on Wednesday, Mar. 15 in Chestnut Hill, MA. Monmouth once again kept the first half close but eventually succumbed to a talented Boston College team.

The Eagles struck first in the initial minute but the Hawks retooled with a goal of their own three minutes later netted back-to-back goals but Monmouth scored right before half to make the score 3-2. Coming out of the half Bos- ton College, led by Matt Gallo, Monmouth answered to keep the game close. Over the next ten minutes the Eagles went on a tear, registering seven straight goals to make the score 11-3 with 10 minutes to go. The Hawks added two goals in the end but never mounted a mean- ingful comeback attempt and in the end the final tally was 14-5, Boston College.

Boston College received votes in the Mar. 15 Inside Lacrosse Poll. Even though the Hawks lost, the first half proved that the Hawks can compete with highly rated teams. Not to be forgotten in the loss was sophomore goalie Riley Brager's performance. She logged a career-high 14 saves against a total of 23 of the opposing shots in the second half.

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Monmouth downed Yale on Saturday, Mar. 18 in the first game of a doubleheader. The Hawks were trailing 4-1 in the sixth inning when Shottzarger came up with the bases loaded and belted a grand slam to left that propelled the Hawks to a 5-4 victory, their third straight. The team dropped the second game 7-6 to North Florida despite a six-run fifth inning that saw them score 6-3 later.

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Men’s Basketball Falls to Ole Miss in NIT

JOHN SORCE
SPORTS EDITOR

The season came to an end for men’s basketball in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) on Tuesday, Mar. 14 as the fourth-seeded Rebels fell to fifth-seeded Ole Miss, 91-83 at OceanFirst Bank Center.

“It was a big honor for our program to be in the NIT and get a home game,” Head Coach King Rice said. “What we have accomplished as a group with (Vice President/Director of Athletics) Dr. (Marilyn) McNeil at the head has been amazing.”

Monmouth had a 42-29 half-time lead but were outscored by the Rebels in the second half, who shot 65.4 percent from the floor and 7-11 from deep. It was only the second time this season Monmouth lost when having a halftime lead - the other game being the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament semifinal game against Siena on Sunday, Mar. 5.

Senior point guard Justin Robinson finished his Monmouth career with 2,003 points becoming the second player to score 2,000 career points

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Baseball Wraps up Spring Break Trip

ZACH COZENZ
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The baseball team recorded wins over Wofford on Saturday, Mar. 11 and another against George Washington on Sunday, Mar. 12 over spring break.

The Hawks scored four of their six runs in the top of the ninth inning against Wofford, snapping a seven-game losing streak. Senior outfielder Ryan Crowley came up with the biggest blow, which was nice to see today and it is encouraging to see how we’ve done in our careers,” said Robinson, who will end his career with 2,003 points. “Now is the time when we can take a step back and look at what we’ve done. We couldn’t do that throughout the season until that final buzzer went off. It hurts but it’s hard to be down about it.”

Robinson and senior guard Ke’lon Hornbeak combined to make 13 three-pointers. Hornbeak finished with 18 points on 4-for-13 from deep and Robinson had 23 on seven three-pointers and two free throws. Junior guard Austin Tildeman, who made his first career start, and sophomore forward Diago Quintin also scored in double-figures.

The Rebels were led by Sebastican Saiz, who recorded a double-double with 23 points and 11 rebounds. He was 6-9 from the floor and a perfect 10-10 from the free-throw line. Four more Rebels scored in double figures including Breen Tyyree, who is from Somerset and went to high school at St. Joseph’s. He is also the cousin of former New York Giants wide receiver and Super Bowl hero David Tyree.

Senior Head Coach Andy Kennedy also had praise for Rice and what he has been able to do this program. “I’ve known King Rice since both of us were in college and I have great respect for what he’s done,” Kennedy said. “This was a team effort and that’s what it was going to take because I thought they were terribly under-seeded.”

Kennedy continued, “I know based on their resume, there wasn’t a lot of talk this year as opposed to last year in terms of them getting an at-large bid, but I really thought they would be at worst a two seed because that’s a very good team.”

Monmouth ends the season with a 27-7 record and have won 55 games over the last two years. They were 13-2 at home this year and won 24 out of 28 home games over the last two seasons. Robinson and Hornbeak believe that this program will continue to grow.

“We have had this program going up since I stepped foot on campus. Robinson said. “I always joke with Josh (James) and Chris (Brady) about it. We were both the play off field from Coach Rice right now at a time where this program was on the rise and we added Keion to the mix as well. Coach Rice is going to continue to bring in the right guys and keep this program heading in the right direction.”

“This last two years have been real fun with this group,” Hornbeak said. “I love to win, I’ve been everywhere I’ve been. So just the fact that I can share the joy of winning and really make something happen is something we’re supposed to do here, that’s the standard we set.”

Former Rebel Nick Hreshko believes the season and opened up Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play with a 2-2 overtime victory over Quinnipiac in New Haven, CT on Saturday, Mar. 18. Junior attacker Bryce Wasserman was assisted by junior midfielder Chandler Vanderbeek on the game-winning goal after senior goalkeeper Nick Hreshko’s 12th save of the night. Hreshko was named MAAC Defensive Player of the Week on Monday, Mar. 20. The Hawks snapped the Bobcats’ nine-game conference regular season winning streak, dating back to last season.

“Feels good to be on the right side of an overtime game and start conference play with a win,” Head Coach Brian Fisher said. “Tonight was as good as it gets in terms of a big team win.”

Monmouth will continue conference play on Saturday, Mar. 25 when it will host St. Francis at the Great Lawn at 1 p.m. It will be broadcasted on ESPN3.

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, Mar. 22
Softball at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 2:00 p.m.

Baseball at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 4:00 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 24
Outdoor Track & Field
Monmouth Spring Carnival
West Long Branch, NJ TBA

Monday, Mar. 27

Women’s Tennis at VCU
Richmond, VA 1:00 p.m.

Men’s Lacrosse vs Siena*
Hesse Field at the Great Lawn
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Women’s Lacrosse vs Quinnipiac*
New Haven, CT 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 25

Men’s Tennis at Richmond
Richmond, VA 10:30 a.m.

Baseball vs. Quinnipiac*
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

Softball at Columbia
New York, NY 1:00 p.m.

Men’s Tennis at Columbia
New York, NY 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 25

Baseball vs. Quinnipiac*
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

Softball at Columbia
New York, NY 1:00 p.m.

Women’s Lax vs Siena*
Hesse Field at the Great Lawn
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Baseball vs. Quinnipiac*
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

Baseball vs. Quinnipiac*
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

Women’s Lax vs Quinnipiac*
New Haven, CT 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 27

Men’s Golf
Villa Maria Widcol Invitational
White Manor C.C.
Malvern, PA

Women’s Tennis vs. Marist*
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.
Steppin’ up to the plate

Softball looks to bounce back from 4-9 Spring Break tournament record

Senior infielder Rachel Shotzbarger hit a game-winning grand slam on Saturday, Mar. 18 in the Hawks’ 5-4 win against Yale. This win was one of four in the 13-game tournament played over a ten day span in Clearwater, FL.

Full story on page 18

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS