School of Education Introduces Research and Support Program for Rett Syndrome

The School of Education announced the Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome (RTT), in collaboration with the New Jersey Rett Syndrome Association (NJRSA) at a conference held in the Wilson Hall Vassallilles room on Friday, Nov. 17.

The purpose of the event was to provide information from interprofessional perspectives on care in RTT, and to educate attendees on the condition, the program and its functionality.

RTT is a rare non-inherited genetic postnatal neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in girls and can be fatal, with welcome remarks and breathing.

The conference began with registration and a light breakfast, with welcome remarks by John Henning, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Education, to open up the event to their guest speakers.

Patricia Remshifski, PhD, CCC-SLP, the Chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Coordinator of the Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome, presented on the program. Remshifski first explained the primary goal, which is to establish a University-based program for research and

The attainment of a diagnosis of Rett Syndrome (RTT) can be confusing and overwhelming for families. The program aims to reduce the time children are without medical care, and to educate the community about the condition.

"The issue is that we've got much better at detecting autism, and it just so happens that its signs are similar and the same time vaccinations are given," said Weisburg.

Weisburg also believes social media to be the catalyst for the changes. People lack the knowledge and ignorance about scientific data can be easily conveyed to mass audiences without fact checks.

"People have a fear of the unknown," said Martin Hicks, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology and student, Brian Reiss.

Another main concern raised by vaccine opponents is the presence and potential toxicity of mercury and aluminum, especially in earlier vaccines, as adjuvants. These are added ingredients that help elicit an immune response from the body to increase immunity, according to Hicks.

"The mercury levels are less than what you'd get from a tuna sandwich," said Weisburg. The aluminum and mercury presence are at levels never high enough to do damage, he assures.

Vaccines use the natural ability of the immune system to fight off bacteria and viruses, according to Hicks. The described vaccine production is a process where the pathogen is either "attenuated," or

Patricia Remshifski presented the Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome (RTT) in Wilson Hall.

"People have a fear of the unknown. When people don't understand the cause of an illness or disease, they have to ascribe it to something." MARTIN HICKS, PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

The Outlook Named Among Least Biased Media Sources

The Outlook was listed among the least-biased sources of news, according to Media Bias/Fact Check (MBFC News), one of the most comprehensive resources for determining media bias.

According to the site, stories and sources for The Outlook have minimal bias, and stories use very few loaded words.

Thescale for MBFC News shows the bias of various media publications. The Outlook, whose ranking is shown here, is listed as one of the least biased sources.

The main source of modern vaccine controversy is a paper published in a scientific journal, the Lancet, in 1998 where Robert Wakerly falsely as- discerned that there was a link between the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism.

According to Jeffrey Weis- burg, Ph.D., a specialist pro- fessor of biology, this paper was promptly retracted, as it contained falsified data with a small patient sample size of only 32 individuals. The study was then repeated by other scien- tists with thousands of other patients, where no correlation between the MMR vaccine and autism was observed.

In response to the accusa- tion that there are monetary conflicts of interest in the new studies, Weisburg stressed that the new studies were undertaken by many financially unrelated parties.

Still, the paper is cited by many anti-vaccine groups as a reason why children should not get vaccines, citing an unjustified fear of causing de- velopmental issues.

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SYNDROME cont. from pg. 1

These families were the in- spiration for the establishment of the program, and the University is able to provide service, academic experience and a per- sonalized education for students working with these families out- side of the classroom.

“We hope to support Rett Syn- drome in the community, and provide treatment for commu- nication while bringing families together,” Rempshifski said. The initial outcomes of the program will include treatment via speech-language services by the Center for Speech and Language Disorders, the estab- lishment of support groups and service learning projects, and education in the form of an an- nual conference, which would include the attendance of profes- sionals from the field of SLP, PT, nursing, as well as physicians.

Various fields were provided at the conference, with presentations from seven different speakers, including the Chief Science Officer of the International Rett Syndrome Foundation, who believes the program will be “tremendously important.”

“It is the best thing for the community to have multidisci- plinary therapy, clinics, physical therapy and speech pathology all at one location to address all of the issues of development. That can really make a difference,” Kaminsky said.

Joan Raso, MSN, RN, a nurs- ing specialist professor and co- ordinator of the Nursing Simu- labation for a number of years at the university. The event at the Raso’s daugh- ter lives with Rett Syndrome, and was able to inform attendees on the reality of living with RTT, and why families often need more help.

“Being the parent of a daugh- ter with Rett Syndrome has brought me full circle,” Raso said. “Rett is a four letter word, and that word is love.” Raso said in her presentation, explaining that she is the caretaker of someone living with Rett can be difficult, it is not any less re- spective.

“I truly know why I am a reg- istered nurse, and I honestly do not know how parents without a medical background manage the day to day care of their daugh- ters. It is a journey of beauty with your radiating sun, unyield- ing and patient and unconditional love,” Raso said.

Carleen Higgins, a graduate student of speech-language pa- thology also volunteered with a young woman living with Rett syndrome through a clinical ex- ternalship.

“I am extremely lucky to be working with this client and her family,” Higgins said. “A lot of people might think that women living with Rett’s are unable to communicate, but that is not true. Just like any 19 to 22 year old, my client is motivated to learn and communicate by what interests her, and with patience training is always possible. It is important now more than ever to have these services available to the community, as these girls are aging out of the school system.”

Theresa Bartolotta, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, a professor of speech- language pathology also presented on international clinical guidelines for the establishment of treatment in individuals with RTT.

In addition to her over 30 years of experience, Bartolotta has a daughter affected by RYT.

“Before she was diagnosed, I had never heard of it before. My personal life and my professional life goals were changing and I was able to do that because of the inroads that I have made for my daughter and what I do.”

The School of Education hosts the Rett Syndrome Symposium, featuring various perspectives on the disease. From left: Joan Raso, Leslie Greenfield, Dr. Patricia Remshifski, and Dr. Theresa Bartolotta.

Vaccines Questioned by Public

VACCINES cont. from pg. 1

neutralized, or where mole- cular indicators like specific proteins are taken and mixed with an adjuvant. This removes the poten- tial harm associated with the pathogen, as it is unable to evoke illness. Hicks said that side effects like flu-like symp- toms or slight fever are nor- mal post immunization—it just means the vaccination is working to prepare the immune system.

The injection of bio- logical indicators essentially teaches the body what disease looks like on a molecular level so that the immune system has the information to defeat pathogen invaders if needed. This is a mechanism that Hicks believes has wider ap- plications as an alternative to traditional medications and drugs for addiction and cancer if the right molecular markers are used.

Immunizations aren’t just monitored and ad- ministered; they’re closely moni- tored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). Regulations on the FDA’s website detail how a proposed vaccine is first presented to the government in an applica- tion, where it describes what the vaccine is, the way the vac- cine is produced, and informa- tion about possible toxicity in animals. If approved, it moves into three stages of clinical trials:

Phase 1 is used to test for toxicity and safety, Phase 2 shows the effectiveness and safety of a range of doses of the treatment, and Phase 3 is where the medicine is admin- istrated to a wide selection of patients to determine its over- all effectiveness.

Afterward, data is analyzed and presented to the FDA, and if given the green light, the vaccine can be administered to the public, only if still moni- tored during something spe- cific to vaccines: Phase 4. This is where mass data is collected in regard to adverse reactions, if any. All in all, it’s a compre- hensive, time-consuming, and costly process to ensure safety and efficacy.

Vaccines increase “herd im- munity,” which is detailed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as when “a critical portion of a community is immunized against a conta- gious disease.”

This means that a disease will have a hard time gaining a foothold in the group prevent- ing outbreaks from occurring.

“Lack of vaccinations leads to a direct decrease in herd im- munity, which can lead to the resurgence of a viral disease that has already been eradi- cated like polio and rubella,” said Koushik Muralidharan, a sophomore biology student.

“People who are concerned should talk to a pediatrician and take time to do their own research,” said Weisburg. “You’re really dealing with di- saster when you make the deci- sion not to vaccinate.”

The Student Veterans’ Asso- ciation (SVA) planned an event called “Ask-a-Veteran” on Nov. 13. Despite the low attendance of non-military affiliated students, the event turned into a food drive and became an opportunity to plan more charitable programs.

Rocco Puzzo, a communication major and junior student, said, “I felt it was a four letter word, and that word is love.” Raso said in her presentation, explaining that she is the caretaker of someone living with Rett can be difficult, it is not any less re- spective.

“I truly know why I am a reg- istered nurse, and I honestly do not know how parents without a medical background manage the day to day care of their daugh- ters. It is a journey of beauty with your radiating sun, unyield- ing and patient and unconditional love,” Raso said.

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Debate Team Wins Three Awards at On-Campus Tournament

JERRY TROTTA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Monmouth University Debate Team hosted its 5th Annual Jersey Shore Invitational Debate Tournament on campus. Three University teams won awards by advancing into the playoff rounds.

More than 150 participants from 11 universities registered for this nationally-sanctioned tournament, which took place on Saturday, October 19. Registered debaters included students from New York University, George Mason University, Liberty University, Cornell University, the New School, Rutgers University, University of Rochester, Wilkes University, SUNY Binghamton, and Monmouth University.

The University team took home three team awards over the weekend behind the team of sophomore political science students Landon Myers and Chase Petras, who made it into the quarterfinals after a playoff round victory on a 2-1 ballot over New York University.

"I was excited to the quarterfinals," said Myers. "To get there we won an upset against NYU in the elimination rounds. It was my first win in the elimination rounds and I was excited. During the tournament I generally try to be unemotional because there is always that next round of debating and I need to stay focused."

The team of sophomore Alexis Vasquez and senior Chris Doudola also received awards qualifying for playoffs.

"My partner, Matt Cohen, and I were 3-3 for the tournament, meaning that speaker points [points given based on public speaking] would determine if we broke into the playoffs. Once we found out that our speaker points put us over the edge into the playoffs it was a great feeling for us and the team," said Cohen, a political science student.

"Debate is pretty exhausting," said Schwartz, "so it was a double-edged sword," said Cohen, a computer science student. "We were excited, but also a little more tired."

The topic for this year’s Jersey Shore Invitational was Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Increase the Medicaid Allocation of its Budget. Teams compete from the affirmative and negative sides of the debate, according to the topic assigned by the tournament director.

"I was jubilant, but debate teaches you to be humble and gritty because to get an award, you have to take a few on the chin that you realize that you need to keep on trucking through the tough times," said Doudola, a political science student.

"This usually entails scrutinizing in which teams run full debate rounds. Running scrimmages really helps debaters find their footing by exposing them to potential arguments and developing their own cases. Winning a team award and advancing into the playoffs is great because we can see that our hard work preparing for the tournament is making a difference."

Monmouth students won three awards at the third debate tournament of the year.

PHOTO COURTESY of Joseph Patten

The Outlook Categorized as a "Least-Biased" Publication

by spirit, by story selection, confirmation bias, the use of connotation and denotation, loaded words and language, and purr or snarl words.

"While The Outlook isn't publishing the paper with the idea of "what awards will we win?" – our focus, after all, is to bring fair and accurate news to the campus community – when we are recognized by outside entities, it often helps validate what we're trying to do," said John Morato, the faculty advisor to The Outlook and a professor of communication. "In this case, particularly being cited as a 'least-biased' publication is very satisfying."

"When determining bias, there isn't any true scientific formula that is 100 percent objective," according to medias Biaswatchคณะของ The Outlook. "There are objective measures that can be calculated, but ultimately there will be some degree of subjective judgement to determine these. On each page, we have put up a scale with a yellow dot that shows the degree of bias for each source."

"The yellow dot is placed to determine by the ranking of bias in each source. If a source is considered as a 'least-biased' category, the source is rated on a scale of zero to ten. The four numbers are then added up and divided by four to provide an average. That number is then placed on the line, determining its bias."

Publications ranked between zero and two are qualified as "least-biased." Those between two and five are "center biased" on either side, and those between five and eight are "biased." Sources that fall between eight and ten points are registered as having "extreme bias."

According to the site, "When considering bias, we are not just looking at political bias, but also how unusual the publication is in how they provide links to credible, verifiable sources."

The site has also included a voting poll on each page for readers to vote on their opinion of the bias of the source. The poll allows for "two perspectives in which people can decide whom to trust," according to the site, and "allows MBFC News to examine if the public is agreeing or disagreeing with our ratings. If there is a large enough discrepancy, we will re-examine that source and adjust our rating accordingly after a thorough review."
Flu season is upon us, once again making vaccinations a hot topic for discussion. This debate has been present since the invention of vaccines but seems to have grown in recent years following the surge of media and celebrity hence-mongering over their supposed ingredient toxicity, side effects, and alleged links to autism, among other factors. These claims have been put to rest by scientific data time and time again, but the debate seems to keep continuing regardless of the proven effectiveness of immunizations.

As far as the links to autism go, editors seemed unified in refuting the false claim about linking the MMR vaccine to autism. “I have learned from all my doctors/nurses/professors that they do not cause any problems like autism. I have learned that the doctor who said that they caused autism was discredited,” said one editor. Skepticism, more often than not, seems to come from people being uncomfortable injecting foreign substances into their bodies. One editor expressed uneasiness about the health effects from injecting thousands of complex microorganisms into an infant’s body. Another editor stated, “It’s important to understand that vaccines aren’t just by the injection of active bacteria or viruses; instead only key molecules are used to allow our immune systems to respond and deal with them before we get sick.” It’s also important to understand the work that goes into the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval of vaccines, which consist of at least three phases of comprehensive testing for toxicity and efficacy, with subsequent testing in large patient populations. As one editor said, “I understand that there are extensive tests that the FDA run on all medications before it hits the shelves.”

However, there was some disagreement within the Outlook staff, where one opinion raised questions about the FDA’s ability to regulate vaccine safety. “Pharmacy and medical companies have a large portion of the nation’s wealth. It is easy to lobby in favor of a vaccination that will be bought and sold for money.” “I’m not skeptical of [vaccines], I think that vaccinations are extremely important for the health of an individual and the people around them, especially when we reach the point of being able to eradicate diseases (i.e. polio vaccine),” said one editor. The Outlook staff seemed to share this opinion for the most part. This idea is supported by current research. Vaccines boost something known as “herd immunity,” which refers to when a significant portion of the population is vaccinated so that a certain disease. The illness will thus not be able to spread within a group of people as a second layer of protection from vaccination. This is why collectively vaccinated individuals have a lower risk of disease outbreaks, meaning for a healthier, less illness-prone society.

As an added bonus, herd immunity due to vaccines helps to eliminate certain diseases from the population, as seen with the case of polio. Failure to vaccinate decreases our collective immunity and could mean that the eliminated diseases will make a comeback. This herd immunity is especially important when it comes to certain diseases like the flu being seasonal issues. “It makes sense that flu shots would be given around this time of year, because the colder months are more likely to facilitate the ‘common cold’ under the season’s conditions,” said one editor. Older age and weak immune systems lower our immune response making it easier to get sick. Vaccinations against the flu each year help maintain that immunity to make it hard for a flu outbreak to occur. According to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, because the flu virus mutates and changes so often, “researchers choose viruses for the vaccine based on which ones are likely to be circulating over the course of the coming flu season,” thus giving us immunity to the most likely to make it through that year.

In terms of vaccines being required for students to attend the University, editors seemed to have some more varied opinions. Most believed that certain vaccines, like the MMR immunization, should be required. One editor said, “[for] more basic illnesses, there’s no excuse not to get a shot… all vaccines should be required.” “I think vaccines should be required for the colder months, especially for adults entering college. It helps not only you, but the people you come in contact with… it benefits all,” another editor said.

The Outlook Either the Student-Newspaper or the University’s Office of Student Life reserves the right to withhold any articles deemed inappropriate or otherwise unfit to print in the Op/Ed section. Due to legalities, The Outlook does not necessarily reflect the views of Monmouth University or The Outlook.
Ranking of the Thanksgiving Dinner

EMILY CONDRON
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

College is the first time in my life that I have only played one sport. It feels foreign. I grew up going from one practice to the next, and now I only have one practice to worry about. I miss participating in other sports.

Today, many young children are told that they must play and specialize in one sport and only one sport.

The thought process is “why be average at three sports when you could be great at one?” Some parents want their children to focus on one specific sport so that they can excel and compete at the most elite level. The fact of the matter is that many children do not have the talent or potential at that level. According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), only one percent of high school athletes go on to play at the Division I level, and an even smaller percentage go on to play professionally.

Additionally, many elite, professional, and Olympic athletes grew up playing multiple sports and did not specify and focus on one until high school or even college.

An ESPN article listed “five reasons why you want your kid to be a multi-sport athlete:” fewer serious injuries, less exposure to different forms of injury, exposure to different sport environments, improved range of motion and agility. Assassins of mine that only played badminton, or only played soccer, got injured often.

The tennis coach at Monmouth, Patrice Murray, was a standout athlete when she attended Monmouth and graduated in ’82. She played tennis in the fall, basketball in the winter, softball in the spring.

But that was a different time. College athletics no longer play three sports and only a few have the opportunity to play two. The pressure associated with specializing and training for each specific sport has become more intense. I know of very few athletes who compete on more than one college athletic team.

While they may not be able to play multiple sports in college, many athletes are looking for high school athletes who did not specialize. One of the reasons that many athletes contact me by email and recruited me was because I was multi-sport. In fact, I played the same exact sports as her.

But many college athletes cannot participate in more than one varsity sport, intramural sports offer them an outlet. To fulfill my need for other sports, I will be taking part in the intramural basketball tournament put on by Monmouth.

Specializing in Sports
CAROLINE MATTISE
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Why Thanksgiving Is The Best Holiday
MELISSA BADAMO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I know we all dread the “show’s over?” question our families always ask us on Thanksgiving. If your family is anything like mine, you’ve experienced the cousins fighting over food, the adults arguing over politics, and overall everyone trying to talk to each other at the dinner table.

We’ve all witnessed someone in the family screaming at the TV during the football game and then immediately falling asleep on the couch right after. We’ve watched the same Christmas movie put at the kid’s table with all the little cousins, which makes you wonder if your aunt will hand you crayons and a piece of paper to trace your hand into a turkey.

But in the end, behind the dysfunction, families give us so much to be thankful for. There’s no way more to Thanksgiving than being with those you love every year: If April showers bring May flowers, what does the Mayflower bring? (The answer is pilgrims, for future reference.)

On Turkey Day, we also get a chance to show off our magnifi- cent fall outfits. Thanksgiving is the day when I pull out only the best attire from my autumn wardrobe: boots, a warm sweater, and of course a stylish scarf to match! Black Friday gives us great deals on clothes to add to the wardrobe.

There’s no denying that the best thing about Thanksgiving is that the holidays are just around the corner! So go ahead and blast Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas Is You” and brace yourself for another family get-together!
Amid multiple sexual abuse allegations against Republican candidate Roy Moore, the possibility of Alabama electing its first Democrat to serve in the U.S. Senate since 1979, is becoming more likely.

Because now-Attorney General Jeff Sessions left his seat in the U.S. Senate vacant to serve in President Trump’s cabinet, the state of Alabama is holding a special election on Dec. 12 in order to succeed the incumbent interim-Senator Luther Strange, who had been appointed by former Alabama governor, Robert Bentley, to temporarily replace Sessions.

The Alabama primary elections were held on Sept. 27, resulting in the nomination of Democratic candidate, Doug Jones, to face Republican Moore in White’s general election.

Moore is a former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and has been twice removed by the Alabama Court of the Judiciary for refusing to follow federal court orders. He击败 his opponent in the Republican primary, Luther Strange, by nearly 50,000 votes and had been the likely candidate amongst the country until sexual assault allegations surfaced against Moore on Nov. 9. Moore’s accusers included four women who surrounded Moore before the allegations surfaced, though.

In 2006, in an interview with Bill Press from CSPAN’s After Words, Moore said that “homosexual acts” should be illegal. He made similar comments in 2015, in a video posted to YouTube by Lone Star Q, saying “I think homosexuality should be illegal. There is no right under the Constitution to enlarge the fundamental rights of homosexuals.”

Following the accusations of sexual misconduct, many Republicans have shied away from announcing their support of Moore. Among them, Mitt Romney, former Governor of Massachusetts and Republican presidential candidate who tweeted on Nov. 11, “Innocent until proven guilty is a foundational American belief, not a sexual assault we don’t otherwise count for office and should step aside.”

These allegations have affected Moore where it counts the most, according to analysts, amongst the voters.

Alexis Borriso, a sophomore education student, believes Moore should end his campaign because he’s “not a good person.” Borriso also supports the many allegations raised against Moore, believing nearly 50,000 voters and had been the likely candidate amongst the country until sexual assault allegations surfaced against Moore on Nov. 9. Moore’s accusers included four women who surrounded Moore before the allegations surfaced, though.

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Alexis Borriso, a sophomore education student, believes Moore should end his campaign because he’s “not a good person.” Borriso also supports the many allegations raised against Moore, believing nearly 50,000 voters and had been the likely candidate amongst the country until sexual assault allegations surfaced against Moore on Nov. 9. Moore’s accusers included four women who surrounded Moore before the allegations surfaced, though.

In 2006, in an interview with Bill Press from CSPAN’s After Words, Moore said that “homosexual acts” should be illegal. He made similar comments in 2015, in a video posted to YouTube by Lone Star Q, saying “I think homosexuality should be illegal. There is no right under the Constitution to enlarge the fundamental rights of homosexuals.”

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Monmouth University Store
Support our local Food Drive
Drop off 6 non-perishable food items
Receive a 20% off coupon for Monmouth University Imprinted
Clothing, Giftware and Office Supplies
November 1 to December 22, 2017

The University Store thanks you for helping us help others.
ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO LONG BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

JOURNEY TO RUSSIA AND ESTONIA

Guided Tour with
Dr. Thomas S. Pearson,
Professor
History and Anthropology

Visit:
• Moscow
• Yasnaya Polyana (Leo Tolstoy estate)
• St. Petersburg
• Tallinn

August 18-25, 2018

If interested, please contact Dr. Pearson at (732) 571-8534 or pearson@monmouth.edu

A deposit of $200 for each traveler is due by March 1, 2018.

LOOK OUT
for The Outlook

New issues released on shelves and online every Wednesday!

@MOutlook
fb.com/theoutlook

New website design!

outlook.monmouth.edu
2017 Harvest Results for the Monmouth University Community Garden

The Community Garden, located at the corner of Beechwood and Brookwillow Avenues, is a membership garden where individuals and families “rent” a plot for the growing season (April-October) for $30 to grow their own vegetables and flowers. These local gardeners, and organizations, such as Shore House, then take responsibility to help upkeep our community plots, from which the vegetable harvests are donated to a number of community agencies. This year, harvest donations were provided to:

- Reformation Food Pantry
- The Center
- Christ the King Food Pantry
- St. Brigid’s Pantry at St. James
- St. Dorothea’s Food Pantry
- Food Bank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties
- Ronald McDonald House
- Long Branch Senior Center
- Food Not Bombs
- Mary’s Place by the Sea
- SPCA of Monmouth County

We provide you with a general illustration of how the **2,778.5 lbs. of donated organic produce** breaks down and what its cash value represents to the community. Prices used are the average price per vegetable from local markets. (Total cash value of the donated harvests was about $6,572.81).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetables</th>
<th>Cash Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes – 1,076 pounds ($2,141.24)</td>
<td>Lettuce – 63 pounds ($106.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers – 37 pounds ($66.23)</td>
<td>Melons – 318 pounds ($14.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant – 49 pounds ($73.01)</td>
<td>Herbs – 34.5 ($69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans – 265 pounds ($2,374)</td>
<td>Carrots – 43 pounds ($42.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers – 199 pounds ($447.75)</td>
<td>Peas – 2 pounds ($2.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions --153.5 pounds ($60.37)</td>
<td>Asparagus – 8 pounds ($27.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zucchini/Squash- 265 pounds ($339.2)</td>
<td>Garlic – 45 pounds ($179.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Chard &amp; Kale – 141.5 pounds ($253.3)</td>
<td>Sweet Potatoes – 65 pounds ($51.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberries – 3 pounds ($14.9)</td>
<td>Potatoes – 16.5 pounds ($8.25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Community Garden thanks all our gardeners, volunteers, members of Phi Alpha Honor Society, SGA and the brothers of Sigma Pi Fraternity for all their work during this very successful 2016-2017 growing season. For more information on the Monmouth University Community Garden, or to become a member of the garden, please go to our website: [www.monmouth.edu/communitygarden](http://www.monmouth.edu/communitygarden)
Cold Weather Style

JORDAN SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the leaves start falling off the trees, many of us start wearing more layers as we step outside, and jackets are ultimately essential for any outing, you know the winter season is upon us. Although for some this may not be the most ideal weather, there are ways to look fashionable and stay warm. Although it may seem almost virtually impossible making a cool winter outfit during the summer and fall outfits to heavy jackets that overtake an outfit, there are ways to look fashionable and keep your wardrobe to stay warm this winter.

When speaking with junior social work student Claudia Sanchez, she explained, “As the winter season comes to be it comes to being fashionable during the winter, she shared, “My essential winter clothes are, car- digans, sweaters, scarfs, and tall boots. They are usually something I tend to wear more during the winter season.” Sanchez also noted that wearing layers is important. “I layer my clothing more during these cold months to be fashion- able as well as warm.” Sanchez stated, “I had a few words of advice for anyone looking to alter their wardrobe for the winter; you can make anything look good, even by adding small details to your outfit like a scarf, long sleeve, sweater, sweatshirt. Most of these items can be added to your clothes, ultimately making it look more fashionable,” she said.

Sanchez gave the perspective of ways in which to be fashion- able from a woman’s standpoint while her fashion management student Tom Torrese gave a perspective for men’s fashion during the winter. Torrese stated, “some of my essential pieces for the winter are, boots, jackets, car- digans, long sleeves and even a nice scarf.” He also said that an essential shoe within his winter rotation are boots. Torre-ese also noted that most clothing pieces that can be essential is for people during the winter time don’t have to be ridiculously ex- pensive. Torrese stated, “There are many combinations of clothes that can be worn during the win- ter weather.” Whether you have busy day of class, or a relaxed day with friends, Torrese explained that there are multiple ways in which to stay warm and look fashion- able at the same time.

Finally, while interviewing Monmouth University’s Social media Coordinator Erin Smith, “I’m always a fan of big scarves, hats that even match my winter boots. When asked about how she would layer for the fall, Smith replied, “I always layer my clothes with things that you can easily take on and off to go inside and outside.” This is a major key point to layering clothes that some people still have yet to understand. If you layer more of your body that can remove or add easy- ily, it makes your entire outfit much more versatile. Finally, when asked if she had any advice for wardrobe alterations for the winter Smith said, “Buy staple pieces, such as plain col- ored sweaters, jackets, to wear over and over again.” The staple pieces Smith mentioned are a must have for the winter that we have available to us today, our outfit possibilities are endless.

Just because the weather requires a lot of layers and a big jacket, that doesn’t mean you can’t be stylish.

Spending the Holidays at Two Homes

EMILY CONDRON
STAFF WRITER

Around the holidays, the large majority of people on campus are ecstatic to go home and cele- brate with their loved ones, but there are those students who find the holi- days stressful and difficult.

When struggling with parents who are facing divorce, or in other family situations, we may not always feel welcomed or supported. This is a perspective for men’s fashion

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Just because the weather requires a lot of layers and a big jacket, that doesn’t mean you can’t be stylish.
Their names are Anthony Riggi and James Piros—But you can call them by what their fans scream: Riggi & Piros.

With well over 66 thousand followers on their “verified” Instagram, wreaked repeated buttons on SoundCloud, and a record deal with Armada Music—record label that is home to names like Hardwell and Armin van Buuren—DJ duo Riggi and Piros seem to be dropping beats and taking names wherever they go.

Riggi, one half of the musical pair, took the time to explain the journey that turned their fast names into headliners.

Born and raised Jersey boys, the two grew up just shy of an hour north from Monmouth County in Clifton, where years trace back to their first encounter in first grade. It all started where most premature friendships begin: At recess over a friendly game of basketball, when they were just “Anthony” and “James.”

What set this friendship apart from other elementary interactions was not only their instant connection, but also their passion for all things music at such a young age.

“Since I can remember, our whole lives revolved around music. We were, and still are, completely obsessed,” Riggi said. “We started to play instruments and joined the school’s band, which led to us playing shows and taking names wherever we go.”

Continuing down memory lane, Riggi went on, “When we were 17, back in 2012, we started DJing and producing music together and clearly, named ourselves Riggi & Piros.

A year later, after releasing a handful of free music on their SoundCloud, they got support and positive feedback from all the top DJs in the world such as Tiesto, Hardwell, Steve Aoki, Martin Garrix, and even Guetta, just to grace the surface.

In 2013, they caught attention from a talent management company called, “Bunny Management,” which ultimately led to their record deal with Armada.

“It all happened in a blink of an eye, but after we got signed, head occurred the night of the McGregor vs Mayweather fight, just a few months back,” Riggi said.

“I grew up listening to Lil Jon and all throughout my life,” Riggi let on. “Having a song with someone like him is still unbelievable to me.”

Most 22 year olds are preparing their cap and gowns for graduation, but success for these two looks less like a diploma and more like a turntable.

Ironically, Riggi’s mom was the one who encouraged him to pursue his passion for music, but they each had separate visions in mind.

“She was definitely all for it to be a side hobby. When my parents found out I wasn’t planning on going to college and doing music full time, they were not happy to say the least,” confessed Riggi.

Riggi & Piros have collaborated with artists and household names such as Lil Jon, Waka Flocka, Deorro, Borgore, Borgeous, DJ Carnage; they have official remixes on iTunes for artists such as Tiësto, The Chainsmokers, and Steve Aoki to continue the name-dropping spree.

And speaking of big names, a memory Riggi will sometimes catch himself replaying in his head occurred the night of the McGregor vs Mayweather fight, just a few months back.

“James and I were watching Conor McGregor’s after-party together on TV, just hanging out,” Riggi said. “We were so caught off guard when we heard a familiar sound. Connor walked into the party, jamming to our song ‘Keep Rockin’.”

“I’ve met so many amazing people here so it’s like my own version of a college experience and home at the same time.”

Frankie Mirabella, a senior business management student, pondered before he spoke about his close friend.

“Most of my memories aren’t, like, PG,” Frankie said while laughing. After searching for his words to form into sentences, Frankie took a more serious tone.

“They’re music gives off a really good vibe. As a musician myself, it’s great to have Riggi as a friend because we are able to listen to each other’s sounds and in turn, it helps influence our own music writing.”

Considering the substantial credentials and rising fame, Riggi remains humble and maintains a solid friend group.

Sydney Lasquinta, a senior psychology student, recalls the first time she realized her friend was famous.

“I met Riggi in the Bahamas during Monmouth’s spring break last year. I was hand- ing out “Riggi & Piros” stickers and I grabbed one not re- alizing how big of a deal it was.”

Sydney said, laughing as she remembers her story. “Next thing I know, some kids run up to me, freaking out in awe, asking where I got my stickers.”

When Sydney answered “Riggi” to the strangers’ questions, they laughed in disbelief.

“Turns out Riggi was famous!” Sydney concluded. “I knew he was good at music, but I never knew the extent of the journey together.”

“So what’s it like being called the next Chainsmokers?” We would definitely take that as a compliment,” Riggi said with a wide smile. “Those two guys make awesome music and are basically at the top of the world right now.”

Riggi continued on to mention that if someone come to them the Chainsmokers, then they are definitely “on the right path.”

“Actually,” Riggi said, juggling his memory. “A few years back, The Chainsmokers asked us if we would ever be able to work on a song together. We Skype’d them and the first thing they told us is that they think we are the ‘Kings of Big Room house’ which is a type of dance music.”

It was the greatest compliment the duo has received, especially coming from the type of musicians they aspire to be.

At the end of the day, record deals and famous引起了 their attention, but the boys are simply thankful that they get to embark on this journey together.

Hearing from Riggi’s other half, Piros explained, “at first we were doing music separately and we thought, wait...why not combine our work together? And look, I guess it was a smart choice!”

Piros said he feels utterly “blessed” to be able to do what he loves for a living with his best friend; the feeling is evidently mutual on Riggi’s end.

“If you didn’t catch the hint, basically, keep Riggi and Piros under your radar. Today, they may be known as music’s hidden gem, but as for tomorrow, any- thing goes.”

Like wise of advice: Prepare yourself for Riggi and Piros world domination. These boys will be the silent assassins of the music charts.

In the meantime, download their music, learn the words, vibe with the beats, and follow them on social media for upcoming dates @RiggiandPiros. Your ears are welcome in advance.

Riggi & Piros Instagram
The Square  Pushes Boundaries
MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER
up to ... upon 
how we can approve 
our efforts 
to create a society 
where each 
person is there to 
bring the other up."
[36x44]not only Hela but also an ancient 
into a gladiator type battle with old
Sakaar, Thor is forcibly entered
ragged, dumping zone planet of
Blanchett). When he and his nefari-
or "The Goddess of Death" (Cate
his most powerful threat yet, Hela
It was by removing Thor from the
to the Marvel cinematic universe.
Directed by Marvel newbie
Craig Kyle
the Shadows) and written by Eric
rate" like many of it's contempo-
us examples, Christian finds
himself in the same boat. Ex-
the director desires a so-
cular faces to new additions. As

**Marks Remarks:**

“Östlund encourages us to reflect upon how we can improve our efforts to create a society where each person is there to bring the other up.”

**BRI GID T NOCERA**

**STAFF WRITER**

“I don’t hang with the Avengers anymore,” explains our titular hero Thor (Chris Hemsworth). “It all got too corporate.” This quickly mcn-

tics through the lens of a far
more poignant when it’s applied
to the Marvel cinematic universe.
It was by removing Thor from the
rest of the gang and giving him a
new identity, that Thor: Ragnarok
can become one of the most en-
geaging, downright hilarious, and
best Marvel films ever.

Directed by Marvel newbie Taika Waititi (What Do We in the Shadow) and written by Eric
Pascal’s (ABC’s Marvel television series Agent Carter), Craig Kyle
(animated programs Iron Man: Armored Adventures and Wolverine
and the X-Men: Ragnarok) and
Wyatt Russell (Thor: The Dark World),

The most impressive newcom-

**MARK MARRONE**

**STAFF WRITER**

Starring Claes Bang, Elisabeth Moss and Terry
Notary

A lady stands at the center of a busy plaza filled with people walking to or getting lunch. She asks the people walking by, “Would you like to save a human life?” One person replies with, “I’m busy,” while another says, “Not now.”

A man goes into a 7-11 for a sim card. A homeless woman in the corner of the store asks, “could you spare some change?” The man says he only has credit card, but is willing to buy her something instead. The lady requests, “a chicken ciabatta sandwich with no onions.”

How much do we care about others and how far can it go? Palm d’Or winner The Square puts us in uncomfortable situ-
ations to explore these ques-
tions.

Christian, played by Claes Bang, is a curator at a Swedish
museum of modern art. On his way to work, he attempts to help a lady in “life threatening”
situation.

Rubbing his wallet and phone stolen, Christian tracks down his phone to an apartment containing and idea with one of his em-
ployees. To get his wallet and phone back, Christian will stuff a note into each mailbox
calling the person a thief and demanding his phone back. Eventually, he is able to escort the person to the coming museum called the Square.

The description of the ex-
hibits reads: The Square is a sanctuary of values and Thor. Within it we all share equal rights and obligations. To pro-

marries, writer, producer and editor and director Ruben Östlund, to the situ-
tional惨sions that ques-
tions our moral compass and how we cope in the contemporary arts
in society.

The scenarios Östlund pres-
ents are meant to test our values of our society. For instance, there’s an artist holding a press event in the

during the interview, the
artist is constantly interrupted by a person with Tourette syn-


deny his claim in the interview for everyone?

It’s a difficult choice for Thor, but it’s important for him to en-

dure these challenges to see how committed we are to our

Normally when we stand behind a cause, we may ob-

But, it’s your friend. After all, you have a

The director desires a so-
cular faces to new additions. As

**R TH A R N GA N R O C K S**

**Entertainment**

November 29, 2017

The Outlook

**The museum is filled with pictures of modern art, with a room with ash piles read-
ing in neon lights “we are all dead.”**

Modern art is normally behind humanitarian ideals, but The Square exhibit rep-

tresents the world of modern art museums while the

Ruben Östlund wishes for the audience to squirm in their seats, to feel icicle hand in hand to discover the limits of one’s principles. However, while Östlund’s films are in the right place.

The director desires a so-
cular faces to new additions. As

**Thor Ragnarok**

Thor: Ragnarok wastes a bit too

The characters speak for themselves, and

keeps it simple and lets the char-

Let us remember that Thor is funny,

The Square pushes boundaries

The most impressive newcom-

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MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH

LEFT:
STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO VISIT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART THIS WEEKEND DURING AN ANNUAL TRIP SPONSORED BY THE MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: AMANDA GREEN

RIGHT:
MEMBERS OF MONMOUTH’S ECONOMIC AND FINANCE CLUB TOURING THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE AND FEDERAL RESERVE LAST WEEK.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: PROFESSOR SCOTT

LEFT:
MONMOUTH ORAL HISTORY STUDENTS VISITING THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (FROM LEFT; RALPH PRIMAVERA, ALEXIS MARTIN, MEAGHAN GILLESPIE, STEPHANIE DELAAT, BRENNA DOHERTY, MARA MANZAR)
PHOTO COURTESY OF: PROFESSOR ZIOBRO

RIGHT:
FRESHMAN GUARD MARCUS MCCLARY GOING FOR A LAYUP AGAINST AN OPPONENT FROM UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY AT THE HOME GAME ON MONDAY NIGHT.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: KARLEE SELL

Don’t see your picture this week?
Check back in next week’s issue for more Monmouth students’ photos!

Did you participate in Black Friday or Cyber Monday? If so, what did you buy?

COMPILED BY: NICOLE RIDDLE

Ben Fetter
Junior
"I went online for Cyber Monday and mostly purchased Christmas presents."

Brittany Mirrione
Senior
“Unfortunately, I was working and finishing up school work. But if I did go shopping, I would’ve gone to Kohl’s for great deals on Black Friday.”

Jules Lenaz
Senior
“Black Friday is great for buying big-ticket items and electronics, so I purchased a gaming computer from Costco, and I got an iPhone 8 Plus on Cyber Monday.”

Megan Kudisch
Sophomore
"On Black Friday, I bought some clothes from Forever 21 and makeup from Sephora."

Professor Matt Harmon
Specialist Professor
“I definitely participated in Cyber Monday. I got 90% of my holiday shopping done.”

Professor Scott
Specialist Professor
"I definitely participated in Cyber Monday. I got 90% of my holiday shopping done.”
ARE YOU PLANNING TO LIVE
OFF-CAMPUS NEXT YEAR?

Do you know where or how to begin your rental search? Do you know what to consider when selecting an off-campus rental? Not sure what you need to do?

Before you sign that first or next lease, stop by the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS) to learn more about navigating the process of finding an off-campus rental. OCCS will get you organized and ready to find the rental that is right for you and your friends.

OCCS is located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. You can call OCCS at 732-263-5651 or set up a brief appointment via email: occs@monmouth.edu. You can also find a host of online office resources at the following web addresses:

ATTENTION: FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

If you have had a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan and will be graduating in January 2018 and have not yet completed your Exit Loan Counseling please go to: https://www.studentloans.gov.

If your graduation date is incorrect, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (732) 571-3463 or via e-mail at dorsey@monmouth.edu, or you may visit us in person in Wilson Hall, Room 108.

2017 MUPD CRIME BLOTTER

9/5/2017-11/9/2017
900 - 0900
MUPD
Student Misconduct

11/14/2017
1548
Mullane Hall
Psn of CDS/
Paraphernalia/
alcohol u/age

11/15/2017
b/w 0830 - 1050
Ocean First Bank
Center
Simple Assault/
Student Misconduct

11/19/2017
0044
Beechwood Hall
PULU w/alcohol/
student misconduct

11/14/2017
1617
Hesse Hall
Psn of CDS/
Paraphernalia/
alcohol u/age

11/19/2017
0251
Pinewood Hall
Domestic Violence
Simple Assault

9/5/2017-11/9/2017
732-571-444
MONMOUTH MEN’S BASKETBALL IS LOOKING FOR

STUDENT MANAGERS

FOR THE UPCOMING 2017-18 SEASON!

// MUST BE FULL-TIME MONMOUTH STUDENT
// WILL BE INVOLVED IN DAY-TO-DAY BASKETBALL OPS
// CAN INCLUDE TRAVEL WITH TEAM
// WORK DIRECTLY WITH COACHING STAFF
// CHANCE TO SIT ON BENCH WITH TEAM DURING GAMES
// LOOKING FOR DEDICATED, ORGANIZED STUDENTS

TO APPLY CONTACT ANTHONY MOLISSO - AMOLISSO@MONMOUTH.EDU
NICOLE GOVEL  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth University’s student-run record label, Blue Hawk Records, will hold its first public showcase at House of Independents in Asbury Park, NJ on Friday, Dec. 8 to celebrate the release of their 11th compilation album, Volume I. I

“This is the kind of initiative we want our students to take,” said Director of Monmouth’s music industry program, Joe Rapolla.

“House of Independents is an important venue in the vibrant Asbury Park music scene. Producing and marketing shows in a professional capacity, applying the skills and training they get at the university, and showcasing their talent adds to our students’ real-world experiences that equip them for life after Monmouth,” Rapolla explained.

Blue Hawk Records is a student-run record label based out of Monmouth University. Founded in 2013, the label’s goal is to promote Monmouth University and Blue Hawk Records.

“Recording at Lakehouse was such a privilege,” said senior Olivia Rohlfis of The Nooks. “My band was granted access to one of the best recording studios in the state all because of the Blue Hawk team seeing potential in our original music.”

“Blue Hawk Records has provided me with substantial experience in how a general label functions embellished with the friendly teamwork and talented content we have in the program,” explained Amanda McGuire, rising senior and lead singer of The Nooks.

Through performance crucial tasks with this class to create our compilations, I feel confident about where I fit in the industry,” she continued.

Amanda hopes to pursue a career in the A&R (Artists and Repertoire) and live production fields in the music industry after school.

Volume I, whose title is inspired by the cult-classic movie Spinal Tap, will be available for streaming and digital download Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Monmouth students will be able to attend a release show held in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center at 2:45 p.m. that day. Tickets for the House of Independents showcase are available for $8 on House of Independents’ website and can be purchased the day of show for $10. A portion of the proceeds will support student programming.

PHOTO COURTESY of Alpha Omicron Pi Instagram

Blue Hawk Records Will Release 11th Compilation Album

The Iota Theta chapter of Al- pha Omicron Pi, one of the first ever “Share a Coke with Alpha O’” event on Tuesday, Nov. 14 in Magill Commons.

“Aiming as a way for girls interested in taking part in recruitment to meet one of the six social sororities on campus, the event was another opportunity to do just that for those who missed "Meet the Greeks" earlier in the semester or who wanted to get to know the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi on a more intimate level.

The event took place from 9 p.m. and ended around 11 p.m. and was a less intimidating way for girls interested in joining Greek Life to learn more about what Al- pha Omicron Pi is all about. Our sisters used their social media accounts to promote the event with pictures featuring personalized Coke bottles. Nicole Ingraffia, se- nior and Vice President of Mem- bership Recruitment, put together the event.

“I personally thought of the idea and at first it was hard to get my committee’s consensus because no other event like it has been done before but once we started a vision board everyone loved the idea. Getting the whole chapter on one coke bottle that will be shared among the chapter is a vision board everyone loved the idea. Getting the whole chapter on one coke bottle that will be shared among the chapter is a perfect way to bring us together,” said Nicole Ingraffia.

This is a great idea. Getting the whole chapter on one coke bottle that will be shared among the chapter is a perfect way to bring us together.”

Ingraffia said.

The event allowed girls who were interested in joining Alpha Omicron Pi and other peers who did not know before. “Share a Coke with Alpha O’ was an amazing experience that brought so many girls together. We got to meet so many great girls and were able to help them branch out from their friend groups with the help of pizza and Coca Cola! It was a night full of laughter and smiles that I would love to do again,” said Audrey Kroftof, sophomore, health studies student and sister of Alpha Omicron Pi.

“Eve Hartmann, an sophomore so- cial work student who will be tak- ing over Ingraffia’s position come the new year was pleased with how the event turned out. “We loved seeing everyone at our ‘Share a Coke with Alpha O’ event. Get- ting to meet new girls and become reaquainted with old ones was so fun! We can’t wait to see ev- eryone again in the near future and hopefully at recruitment,” she said.

“I am so glad to be a part of this organization,” said senior Olivia Rohlfis of The Nooks. “My band was granted access to one of the best recording studios in the real world.”

PHOTO COURTESY of Eagle’s Nest

Students Advocating Girls’ Education (SAGE)

SAGE is dedicated to equal access to education and the betterment of the campus community through social jus- tice, gender equality, and feminism. SAGE hosts a number of events on campus to raise money and donate to organiza- tions and communities which improve access to quality edu- cation for women and girls, both locally and globally. They also increase campus awareness of social issues and current events pertaining to women’s rights. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Club President, Kathlin Allsopp, at s1034953@monmouth.edu.

Club and Greek TV News

Hawk TV News

Hawk TV News is looking for vibrant and interested stu- dents who want to be reporters, writers, anchors and much more. You do not need to be a communication major to be apart of this organization.

If you are interested email us at s1933548@monmouth.edu or meet us on Wednesdays in JP 138 at 3:15 p.m.

Students Share a Coke with Alpha Omicron Pi

NICOLETTE PEZZA CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

Sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi used personalized Coca Cola bottles to promote their event.

The outlook...
Everybody’s Crying Wolfe! 
Graduate Student Spotlight on Danielle Wolfe

Danielle Wolfe is a graduate student at Monmouth University. She is a jack of all trades and a university: "One of the greatest lessons that I have learned from my time here is best said with this quote: ‘If the plan doesn’t work, change the plan but never the goal.’ I have career goals that I have set, and although the plans may not always work out, there’s always another way of reaching them.”

Wolfe acknowledges that she has a jack of all trades when it comes to her graduate career. She also remembers vividly what it is like to be an undergrad student frantically trying to do everything. “My greatest advice to undergraduate students is that if you haven’t already, get involved in your campus community. There are so many great clubs and organizations on this campus as well as job opportunities that may change your perspective. She reiterates, ‘My experiences outside of the classroom made all the difference for me. But make sure that if you are getting heavily involved and are taking a lot of classes all at once to take the time for yourself every once in a while.’

Wolfe is a class act and a graduate student leader even as a graduate student. She offers some advice to prospective graduate students. ‘My advice to prospective students in my field is to collect all of the experiences you can. I have been able to work in so many different offices and I am grateful for every experience. It helped me navigate which areas I’d most likely want to become involved with. This is only a minor in childhood studies. As long as you’re on top of your work, take the advice of the great Tom Haverford from Parks and Recreation and ‘Treat yo self!’ She continued.”

Wolfe also encourages prospective graduate students to continue through the struggles. “For those applying to grad school in general: remember to breathe. The applications may be long, the essay may be difficult to write, the interview may be scary, but it’s going to be so worth it.”
Behind the Scenes Heroes: Theatre’s Backstage Production

Not everything is what it seems, especially on the stage. In theatre, the actors may be front and center, but without a dedicated crew behind the scenes, the show could not go on.

Microphones for the performers to be heard and spotlights for the them to shine bright like stars are a couple of aspects, among many more, that are controlled by the technical and artistic staff of a production. Although they are not seen playing their role on stage, they need to work in the same amount of hard work and passion into their roles of the show as the cast and should receive a standing ovation as well.

In honor of the sold-out run of the Monmouth University Theatre Department’s production of Hair, it is time to give credit where credit is due. I am here to light the production and applaud its success.

Anthony DeFilippo, a freshman criminal justice student, played a large part of the backstage staff by operating the spotlight throughout the show’s performance. Hair is an extremely audience interactive show; being on spotlight is already a challenging job, but having to chase around the actors as they move across the entire theatre takes talent and patience. DeFilippo explained, “The most difficult part for me was trying to stay in the light with the spotlight and they would never stay on a certain path…” I had to try and predict and follow them all around trying to make it seem natural and fluent.”

As long as working spot can be tough, DeFilippo did an amazing job and left the love and support from his fellow cast and crewmates. He said, “I always got the reassurance from all the actors of how great of a job I was doing…and when I put the spot on, I can see the joy on their faces.”

Another behind the scenes hero is Kaira Mingino, a sophomore English student. Mingino took on two important parts of the production staff: assistant director and running the deck (backstage) area during each performance.

Mingino stated, “I started assistant directing in high school, when my drama teacher took me under his wing. I always knew theatre was for me, but I couldn’t find my place within it. Once I started directing, I knew I found where I belonged.”

Theatre is not only for those who want to perform, but also for anyone who loves the stage. Whether they are on it or behind it, everyone within a production needs to work collectively to create something spectacular for the audiences. Since an actor needs a crew to perform, the collaboration between the two is crucial and could make or break a show.

Mingino explained that Hair has been the favorite production to take part in thus far because of the strong bond that was formed throughout the process amongst all members of the production.

Mingino continued, “The unity between the cast, crew, and creative team really made for an extraordinary show.”

By having a good connection and positive energy throughout each rehearsal, it is easier to work out the kinks of the show and have everything flawless before opening night.

Special thanks to professor and director of Hair, Sheri Anderson, has trademarked the phrase “Smarter not harder,” throughout the rehearsal process. Basically, by working together as a team to simplify any obstacles, the show will continue to grow and develop into something amazing.

Anderson, DeFilippo, and Mingino are only three of many behind the scenes heroes that truly hold this production together. The number of students and faculty members that put hours on end into this production is both overwhelming and heartwarming. One underlying concept of the show is the ideas of community, peace, love, and happiness. Naturally, good vibes and chemistry developed within the production, which made the final product significantly more rewarding and satisfying.

DeFilippo encourages, “Take the time to do theatre, even if you don’t know. If you like it or not, you’ll meet the greatest people in the world and have an amazing time doing it.”

Is Black Friday Shopping Just a Black Hole?

MARI SOLDO
STAFF WRITER

What causes you to lose sleep and stresses you out to no end? For some people, it’s Black Friday!

After all the turkey, stuffing, and desserts, some are willing to lose sleep and venture out into crowds of people to take advantage of the year’s best deals.

Is all of this really worth it and is Black Friday all it’s hyped up to be?

Time and time in fates that the reason Black Friday is so popular is because it has grown into a phenomenon. It’s also important to note that it’s not all about the super low prices. In fact, most people aren’t even considering anything I desperately need to be waiting in lines for or being surrounded by crowds.

“I think it’s worth it if someone really needs something and it’s a huge deal they’re getting. But if not, I think it’s best to just stay home and enjoy the holiday,” Cardona continued.

On the other hand, the New York Post says that Black Friday really is actually worth spending the time and dedication to being outside or in lines and amongst crowds because of the insanely low prices that come just once a year. The article gives the examples of purchasing an Xbox One for $189 as opposed to $279, or getting a new iPhone and a $250 gift card simply because you buy an iPhone. The article does make it seem as though the deals are worth losing sleep over or going out still stuffed with food.

Specialist professor of communication, Matthew Harmon, said, “I definitely participated in Cyber Monday, I got 90 percent of my holiday shopping done.”

Contrary to what other students said, a freshman social science student, Kayla Cardona, does not go Black Friday shopping and prefers to enjoy the holidays with family. She said, “I don’t shopping because there isn’t anything I desperately need to be waiting in lines for or being surrounded by crowds.”

“I think it’s worth it if someone really needs something and it’s a huge deal they’re getting. But if not, I think it’s best to just stay home and enjoy the holiday,” Cardona continued.

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PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador
The men’s basketball team beat the previous undefeated Albany Great Danes 81-73 after trailing by nine at halftime on Monday night. The win came after a quadruple overtime loss to University of Pennsylvania on Saturday night.

The Hawks were led in scoring by freshman guard Ray Salnave with a career-high 18 points and added three steals on the night. “How Ray [Salnave] played today is just scratching the surface of what he can be,” Head Coach King Rice said. “This is how good he is and I have him in a big role at this point in his career but he’s ready for the challenge.”

A big surprise in the game was when junior guard Mi-cah Seaborn entered the game off the bench in the first half. This was the junior’s first game since being shut down due to injury after the Virginia game. Seaborn finished with 13 points and was a perfect 3-3 from behind the arc.

After falling behind by 17 points in the second half, Albany’s lead would be as high as ten in the second half but MU came back with crucial threes and timely free throws. Monmouth would tie the game after a highly-contested three-pointer by Seaborn.

Senior center Zac Tillman scored to take the lead with 3:10 left and the Hawks would keep the lead for the rest of the game. The Hawks would go 10-12 from the free throw line to lock up the win and to end the three-game losing streak.

For the game, Tillman finished with a season-high 15 points, playing only 15 minutes. Freshman guard Deion Hammond added ten points for the blue and white.

“I used last game as motivation to come out tonight and play harder for my guys,” Salnave said. “The defensive end helped me offensively tonight, and I try to bring energy on defense.”

That last game was on Saturday, the Hawks lost to Penn 101-96 in quadruple overtime. MU was down as much as 15 points in the second half before their defense played lock-down defense to cut the deficit down.

Senior guard Austin Tlighman hit two buzzer-beaters to extend the game, first being a last-second floater to bring the Hawks to the first overtime. The second came in the end of the third overtime, this time being a three-pointer. This was Tlighman’s only second made three this season. The senior finished with his first-career double-double, finishing with 19 points, 12 rebounds, and eight assists.

After being down by 14 at halftime, Monmouth’s defense forced Penn to go 0-9 from field and didn’t allow a point in a span of over four minutes. The Hawks and Penn traded points in the first three overtimes, each scoring 25 points through the first 15 minutes of extra time.

In the fourth overtime, Monmouth would lead 96-91 before Penn went on a 10-0 run to finish the game. The forth overtime was the longest game in MU men’s basketball history.

“It’s a good thing that we got a lot of guys that you’re going to use to put in the games,” Rice said. “I thought we were ready to go in Tuesday.”

George Papas finished with a career-high 16 points and added two threes. Freshman forward Me-lik Martin played a team-high 50 minutes while earning 13 rebounds.

The Hawks (3-4) will look to make it two in a row as they travel to the XL Center to face the University of Connecticut on Saturday. Tip-off will be at 4:00 p.m.
I always talk about how the stars have to align for an athlete to become a professional. I’ve seen players with more talent than me I ever had never make it. Finding the right place to develop, avoiding injury, playing in front of the right coaches, picking the right agent, every little aspect matters. One thing goes wrong and it could all fall apart.

Former Hawk Eric Klenofsky played Goalkeeper of the Year, conference championships, a good enough resume to find an opportunity. I was going to get my shot. I thought. I had seen too many of my friends, with better resumes watch their professional aspirations crumble to not analyze every step I took when it was my turn. This was something I wanted, something I dreamed about all my life. But there are some things you just can’t control.

Aug. 26, 2016 at home against the 20th ranked team in the country, first game of the season. Up 1-0 with a little over thirty minutes to play, corner kick Denver. It was just another play, just another ball I had to deal with. I had seen it a million times before.

Everything had gone according to plan, more or less. I made it to a division one program, I was playing, I was having a good time. This just wasn’t supposed to happen.

I remember trying to push the bone back into place after it happened. “It’s just dislocated,” I thought. “It’s just dislocated,” during the game, which meant I wasn’t going to be able to play in the next couple of months. I would either make it and sign a contract or be completely out of control, that’s my legacy. I had been training mostly on my own, I was filled with uncertainty. I’ve been training this game since I was five years old and I wasn’t used to it. Was it my fault? Was it my fault? Was it my fault? No, it was my fault.

The then emails started to come and my stress levels started to subside a bit. My opportunity was coming. Invitations for about six different combines came. The most significant of the invitations were from the soccer player dreams of, the English Premier League. We would have to sign up for the MLS Combine and the draft explained how the United States but somehow I got a call from my agent. They gave us off for Christmas, one of the biggest keepers of the Year, conference championships, one conference tournament win and a National Collegiate Athletic Association All-American and had a match against Liverpool, one of the biggest clubs in the world offering me a contract. I was speechless.

I had been training mostly with the reserves. It was now prolonged for an undetermined amount of time. This was a good sign.

The next few days were very stressful. When you’re trying to find a professional contract, you’re literally playing for your life, you’re trying to find a professional contract that means everything. When you get to this point as a college senior and you’re trying to find a professional contract, that means everything.

I wasn’t going to be able to get a call from my agent. “You did it, Everton wants to sign you. You’re in it.” That was all I thought while my head was spinning with how fast the ball was going is unimaginable. I couldn’t watch anymore. Stand on the sidelines wasn’t how I thought. The game ended 1-1, I didn’t play my best at the combine, I didn’t have my best game after the last kick was taken knowing that at this point, whether my career was continued or not was completely out of my control, it was an unsettling feeling. I missed. I looked up to the sky for a moment and then put my head on my chest as the tears ran down my face. My college career was over.

I had to do it. Was this the last competitive game I’d ever play? Two regular season championships, one conference tournament win and a National Collegiate Athletic Association All-American and had a match against Liverpool, one of the biggest clubs in the world offering me a contract. I was speechless.

When I landed in England, it was my first time outside of North America. There was a driver waiting for me sent by the club to take me to my hotel. My first reaction, is this real? When I got there, I was in shock. I had flown more miles in two weeks than I had the entire past.

Eric Klenofsky was the 8th Monmouth student-athlete to be selected by an MLS team.

Dec. 26th to explore a bit of Liverpool. As we’re walking on the side of the road, no one around. I get a call from my agent.

You did it, Everton wants to sign you. We’re in negotiations now.” I dropped my phone.

I had been training mostly with the reserves. It was now prolonged for an undetermined amount of time. This was a good sign.

When training was ridiculous. You watch it on television, and you see the highs and lows, and it looks great, but

til you’re in it and your head is spinning with how fast the ball is moving it is unimaginable. I couldn’t watch anymore. Stand on the sidelines wasn’t how I thought. The game ended 1-1, I didn’t play my best at the combine, I didn’t have my best game after the last kick was taken knowing that at this point, whether my career was continued or not was completely out of my control, it was an unsettling feeling. I missed. I looked up to the sky for a moment and then put my head on my chest as the tears ran down my face. My college career was over.

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