Leahy Highlights Student Success

MATTHEW CUTILLO NEWS EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., delivered a Spring Convocation in which he addressed the academic and athletic student success of the previous fall semester, in Pollak Theatre Auditori-
un on Wednesday, Jan. 22. A brief speech preceding Leahy’s address was made by Rekha Datta, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Senior Vice Presi-
dent of Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science.

Noting the recent celebra-
tion of Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. Day, Datta began her remarks with a reflec-
tion on one of the civil rights activist’s many iconic speeches. “We may have all come in different ships, but we are all in the same
boat now,” Datta quoted.

Leahy addressed the crowd with a thanks for as-
ssembling and the acknowl-
edge ment that “there seems to be no perfect time for us to host the Fall Con-
vocation and the Spring
Convocation, so I’m very
grateful for your willingness 
to join us at this time and to stay with us for a little while to hear about what’s on my
mind as we go into the Spring semester.”

Leahy stressed the impor-
tance of holding the convoca-
tion regardless of the conven-
ience, as the event is a way to enhance communication on the campus.

After introductions, Leahy transitioned into acknowledg-
ing the plethora of student achievements accomplished
in the previous Fall semester.

“Every university can, and probably should measure its success by the success of its students, and we had so many examples this fall,” Leahy said.

Recalling the success of the Monmouth Debate Hawks, Leahy mentioned the team’s

President Leahy spoke to University faculty and staff at the Spring Convocation, emphasizing student success in and out of the classroom.

Nursing School Ranked 3rd Best in State

LOWELL KELLY-GAMBLE STAFF WRITER

The Marjorie K. Unter-
berg School of Nursing and Health Studies has been ranked the third best nursing school in New Jer-
sy, according to the 2019 Nursing Schools Almanac report. Monmouth has also been nationally recognized as a Top 100 school, ranking at No. 91 in the United States, and No. 18 for elite nursing schools in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Janet Mahoney, Ph.D., RN, Dean of the School of Nurs-
ing and Health Studies and a Professor of Nursing said, “I felt overwhelmed and very proud when I saw the rank-
ings. Knowing that Monmouth University’s nursing program are the best as we continuously strive for excellence and provide the best learning envi-
ronment for our students to learn is one thing—but I feel very appreciated when others recognize it.”

The factors that determined a certain nursing programs’ academic prestige and value were graduates capability of paying student debt in oppor-
tunity time, professional designations and grant funding received for nursing research from the National Institutes of Health, and the amount of years maintaining a graduate nursing education level.

Depth of nursing programs were weighted by undergrad-
uate and graduate programs, consisting of their degrees, diplomas, and certifications offered. Graduate programs were heavily in terms of pro-
gram enrollment size.

According to the report, data was collected from over 3,000 institutions in the Unit-
ed States. The research team assessed each nursing schools

Debate Team Receives Grant from U.S. State Department

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI SENIOR POLITICS EDITOR

Members of the University’s Debate Team spent winter break in Mumbai, India, training

teachers and students in a policy debate activity as part of a two year grant from the
U.S. Department of State, from Jan. 6 to Jan. 16.

The purpose of the grant is to form debate teams at three schools in Mumbai and to work with the teams through- out the first semester to prepare for a public

Debate competition at the office of the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai in January of 2021.

Chyna Walker, a sopho-
more political science student, and senior political science students Yendi Bello, Julia

Bisby, Madeleine Doe, Jon P. Suttle, Alexis Vasquez, and Esther Welfman played a lead-
ing role in the debate training program. The Debate Hawks will be traveling back to Mu-
bai next January to assist the Mumbai debates in final prep-

aration for the public debate at the office of the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai.

The U.S. Department of State grant was secured by Chyna Walker, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Senior Vice Presi-
dent of Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science; and Joe Patten, Ph.D., Associ-
ate Professor of Political Science and faculty advisor to the Monmouth Debate Team, with assistance from Anthony Laz-
roe, the University’s Director of Career and Cooperative

According to Datta, Lazroe sent information about a call for proposals from the U.S. State Department for a Debate Workshop Grant to help es-


tablish debate clubs for three schools serving underprivi-
leged youth in Mumbai, India.

Given that the Monmouth Debate Hawks had already been engaged in debate men-
ing for students in Asbury Park and other urban school districts, Patten and Datta ex-
plained that they became very interested in exploring and ap-

plying for the grant.

“We worked with Tony Laz-
roe and with his help and the finance office, submitted the proposal, more as a long shot,” said Datta. “Several months later, to our delightful surprise,

we found out that Monmouth was selected for the State De-
partment grant.”

After months of work, col-
aborating with the U.S. Con-
sulate General, satisfying and working with three schools in Mumbai, under a more than 9 hour time differ-
ence between India and the U.S., the team secured the grant to travel to the schools to offer the debate workshops.

“We were over the moon ex-
hited to have our Mumbai de-
bate grant application accepted by the U.S. State Department,” said Patten. “Working with the three schools in Mumbai alongside Provost Datta and Monmouth debaters was one of the greats experiences of my life. And I can’t wait to continue working with our In-
dian debate team partners over the year and return to Mumbai next January to do the big public debate in the U.S. Consulate’s Office.”

The crew of Monmouth’s stu-
dents and faculty brought de-
bate to underprivileged youth, bridging language and cultural barriers, and empowering the Mumbai students to use commu-
nication skills to succeed in life — working, build trust and friendship along the way. Students brought up the debate material so quickly and added their own touch to it, as well as create friendships with them, said Bello. “It was a beautiful cultural exchange and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to go.”

Walker agreed, and said, “I loved seeing the bright colors throughout the city of Mumbai and I especially loved working with all the students and learning just as much from them as they learned from me. I am deeply humbled and grateful that I was able to be a part of this trip and I can’t wait to see what our friends in Mumbai will do in their bright futures.”
The 2020 Library Research Awards Offer Prize Money

Nursing Program Comments on Ranking

Leahy Praises Extracurricular Achievements

The Guggenheim Memorial Library is offering $250 to any undergraduate or graduate winner of their competition.

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Professor Phifer-Rixey Presents Research at National Conference
MEGAN RUGGLES
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Megan Phifer-Rixey, Ph.D., an evolutionary biologist and Assistant Professor in the Biology department, presented as part of the Evolutionary Symposium at the 2019 National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) Conference, on Nov. 14-17 in Chicago.

Phifer-Rixey presented her research, including a collaboration with John Tiedemann, Assistant Dean of the School of Science, to an assembly of biology teachers. Her talk focused on the use of genetic markers to identify the source populations of the migratory Striped Bass, from both off-shore and near-shore areas.

The project used DNA analysis to identify the stock-specific genetic origin of Striped Bass in Ocean County, to determine the contribution of individual stocks. Tiedemann started the project and worked with the Berkley Striper Club, a local fishing club, that is focused on tagging and studying the Striped Bass as they move off the beaches of Ocean County, which inspired his decision to research where the Striped Bass that are harvested in the fall are from.

The club supported the research and contributed fin clips that Tiedemann explained that “The fin clips are brought back to the lab to extract the DNA. We can analyze the DNA isolated from the fish to match it to a library of DNA fingerprints that identify the spawning grounds.”

Phifer-Rixey said, “We started doing the work in my lab in 2018 through the Summer Research Program. I thought this was a good fit because students were able to learn how to do molecular genetics.”

The project allowed for collaborative research within the Biology department. Tiedemann said, “It was a cool project because my students in the Marine and Environmental Policy Program are interested in the fisheries side of it, and Phifer-Rixey’s students are learning all these laboratory techniques to do DNA analysis.”

My students worked with the club to get the fin clips and delivered them to [Phifer-Rixey and her students] to do the analysis,” he continued. Phifer-Rixey explained that the most powerful aspect of this research is the use of genetic information to better inform management. “When the Federal Government makes decisions about catch limits and size limits, research like this helps [policymakers] determine what strategies are going to be.”

“The key with a fishery like this is because it involves so many locations there needs to be engagement across the region,” Phifer-Rixey said.

Spawning grounds are all over the place with the most common being the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River and Hudson River. Through the National Science Foundation (NSF), which has a program where they pay a stipend for high school teachers to come into research labs, with the goal of bringing research skills back to their students, two high school teachers were able to work with Phifer-Rixey in the summers of 2018 and 2019.

Phifer-Rixey’s research is part of Tiedemann’s broader research agenda. His program, “Stripers for the Future,” a research and education campaign, is designed to educate Striped Bass anglers about biology, ecology and conservation.

Debate Established Internationally

DEBATE cont. from pg. 1

“My favorite parts of the trip were meeting many of the students from the two different NGOs and the school,” Wellman added. “All the students were very excited to learn about policy debate and interpersonal skills. I think the students were so impressive with how quickly she picked up the debate skills and how passionate she was about the issue of gender inequality.”

In addition to their hard work with the Mumbai youth, the students were able to go and be with students, he continued. “It was a cool experience,” Phifer-Rixey explained. “My students worked with the team also enjoyed their work with the Mumbai youth, passionate she was about the issue of gender inequality.”

The outcome was impressive. “We ended up pretty small, with 5 or 6 kids. We were able to put up a mock debate with three short days of training.”

The entire team expressed their gratitude for all the support they received from various schools, individuals, and offices at Monmouth: the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; the Business School; the Honors School; the Department of Political Science and Sociology; the Global Education Office, Grants Office, and Finance Office; and the Office of the Provost.

Datta concluded, “I want to acknowledge the support of President Leahy. When we applied for the grant, I was not serving in the role of Interim Provost. But given my responsibilities, I hesitated to take the days off in January. President Leahy encouraged me to go and be with students; he said being with students is important. We thank him and the university community for all the support.”

Story Time at Library

MATTHEW CUTTILLO
NEWS EDITOR

The Guggenheim Memorial Library has begun their weekly Story Time series, in which students from Education, Business, Psychology and Social Work spend time with K-2 children and their parents.

Alex Rodriguez, a senior year social work major, explained the different operations of the library. “We pick a theme, such as today’s ‘pajama day’ theme, and we’ll pick a correlating book,” Rodriguez explained. “We’ll do an arts and crafts project as well that goes hand in hand with the theme. That’s the basis of it.”

The Story Time series has been around for 4 years, according to Rodriguez. “We started off pretty small, with 5 or 6 kids our first year,” Rodriguez said. “Now that we’ve been growing a little bit, we have more co-workers and we probably average up to about 9 or 10 kids.”

Often the same children will come every week, according to the students involved in the meetings. “Usually we have a lot of the same kids,” Rodriguez mentioned. “Some of the kids that come are family with Monmouth employees, so it’s convenient for them. We think the kids enjoy it, they always seem to be having a good time and they especially love the arts and crafts portion.”
The Outlook

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There is a story about a new minor that is being offered, a new course that is coming to campus, or even an explanation as to why tuition rose. But, the paper is not just about educational opportunities. Stories about where and why to get a flu shot or healthy dining options directly impact readers’ wellbeing. One would think that at an educational institution that values the students and claims to hold the First Amendment in high regard, someone, anyone, might have commented on this incident...

We at The Outlook are perplexed and disappointed with the absence of any reaction to an incident like this. We invited our editors to vocalize their support of The Outlook's most important voices.

One editor pointed out that the removal of the newspapers diminished the general readership and exposure that the paper might get from those who picked it up in the Student Center. This publication is a product that the members of the newspaper are proud of as student journalists. Our paper publishes information that is pertinent to the student body and the University community. Maybe one would think that at an educational institution that values the students and claims to hold the First Amendment in high regard, someone, anyone, might have commented on this incident...

There is a story about a new minor that is being offered, a new course that is coming to campus, or even an explanation as to why tuition rose. Our staff described various reasons they wished that faculty members had shown support for us as student journalists. One would think that at an educational institution that values the students and claims to hold the First Amendment in high regard, someone, anyone, might have commented on this incident...

Indeed about the issue, especially since he has expressed his support for The Outlook.

The editor reserved the right to withhold any articles deemed inappropriate or otherwise unfit to print in the Op/Ed section. Due to legal restrictions, The Outlook will no longer print anonymous articles.

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Censorship...No Comment

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Start the Semester On a High Note

LAUREN DEMARCO
STAFF WRITER

Starting the semester on a high note will make you feel refreshed and ready to take on hardwork. There are some things that you can do at the beginning of the semester to help you get ahead. You first will have to get adjusted to your schedule by using a calendar to help guide you. It is also a good start to purchase your textbooks early in the semester.

Buying or renting textbooks is a big factor for us college students, such as Chegg or Amazon. There are a lot of good online sites to buy or rent from. These websites are a good opportunity for you to save a little bit of money instead of purchasing books that you may not need after the semester. We can all relate to how much textbooks cost nowadays.

Another thing to prepare for the start of a new semester is to get organized early. Being organized will help you manage stress a little bit better as well as helping your academic responsibilities.

Getting organized is the number one way to start off the new semester on a positive note. By being organized, you will be able to plan ahead and get all your work done.

Even though it is the start of the semester and there might not be a lot of work for classes, try and get ahead by starting assignments or readings. While things are still slow.

Having a chance to get ahead in the semester, will make you feel more prepared and on top of assignments that will come up on a later date.

Getting ahead during the semester will help you get involved such as in a club or sport. Getting involved at the beginning of the semester sometimes helps people manage their time a little bit better.

I know that for me, that having an extracurricular activity helps me focus better with my classes and work. It also looks great to join a club or organization on campus, as well as being a full-time student. So, get out there and get involved!

All of these things can help you get off on the right foot during the first few weeks of the semester. Having and following a plan this semester will lead you to greater outcomes at the end. That major required classes should be one of the first and foremost.

Another thing I know some people like to do is get involved in a minor or major. Having a greater outcome.

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A Peek Inside Our Little Free Libraries

Susan Bucks.

These libraries offer a beautiful opportunity to donate books on your shelf while picking up books you never would have come across elsewhere.

"Exposing children to books in the household really gives them an advantage academically," said Bucks. "From the perspective of a college campus, leisure reading has been shown to promote academic success." She explained that reading outside of assigned textbook material has several benefits such as improving writing skills, critical thinking skills, and empathy.

Bucks said, "Research shows that health studies students, for example, display more empathy and sensitivity when they are novel readers. In our multicultural world, it is really an important skill that we're dealing with coworkers, clients, patients, friends, or just people in the community in general. Having exposure through literature and novels really helps us broaden our ability to relate to people."

"There are no fines or dead lines when it comes to Little Free Libraries," Bucks said, "You can take a book for as long as they like, or return the books, they can just take them."

The University’s Little Free Libraries were placed in memory of Margaret Checton, who worked as the library’s administrative assistant for six years before passing away in May 2018. Checton was also a student in the library and they reside right here on campus: not only is there one outside the library, but there is also one on the first floor of the Plangere Center for the Arts.

The University’s Little Free Libraries were placed in memory of Margaret Checton, who worked as the library’s administrative assistant for six years before passing away in May 2018. Checton was also a student in the library and they reside right here on campus: not only is there one outside the library, but there is also one on the first floor of the Plangere Center for the Arts.

"One of her passions was to get the University students to learn," said University Specialist Librarian Amanda Graves, a senior English creative writing student. "I always find neat ones and donate them to the library."

"The libraries tend to reflect your community’s newest library. In fact, many people who have mastered the craft of donut-making, working in the area of give one's first book away, are..." said Bucks.

The Little Free Library by the parking lot, and you will find nearly two dozen books waiting for a new home.

If you happened to look inside the box on the brisk morning of Thursday, Jan. 23, here is what you would have seen: several James Patterson novels, a publication manual, a historical fiction novel set in the era of the Great Depression, a contemporary young adult novel, and two of them are about Margaret Checton, who is like a briny, but it’s little and free. It’s called...the Little Free Library.

Little Free Library is a non-profit book exchange created with the intent to make it less expensive for people to “take a book, share a book”. Founded in 2009, these mini libraries have grown in prevalence over the years. There are more than 90,000 Libraries internationally, and two of them reside right here on campus: not only is there one outside the library, but there is also one on the first floor of the Plangere Center for the Arts.

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Amanda Graves, a senior English creative writing student, book lover, and future Librarian, finds her way to Monmouth’s Little Free Libraries quite often.

She said, "I took a book a couple days ago. It was a first edition of Slaughterhouse-Five. I always find neat ones and donate them to the library."

Donuts aren't the only dessert that offers impeccable creative freedom. It's a form of expression for me with endless possibilities.

Glazes and sprinkles are more than just toppings. They are what tie in a theme—whether it's pink hearts for Valentine's Day or team colors for the Super Bowl. No matter the theme, vibrant decorations have a way of complementing the flow and ambiance of a room. Donuts come in an array of shapes and colors to complement any theme, which is a very important thing. They take the cake at every event.

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Lifestyles: The Super Bowl’s Main Event

Three words. Super Bowl Sunday. Whether you just rolled your eyes after reading that, or are heavily anticipating the upcoming showdown between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs, there is one thing that most viewers of the event agree on; the commercials have become a phenomenon that put the “super” in Super Bowl.

For many Americans, the Super Bowl has become an honorary holiday since it was first established, according to the NFL, in 1966 when it was called the ‘AFL-NFL World Championship Game.’

“Now 54 years later, the game is a long-established tradition. According to USA Today the most-watched Super Bowl was February of 2015 with 114 million viewers, a close second being February 2018 with 103 million viewers.”

Although recently, “Super Bowl viewership has been in decline since reaching its high in 2015. Last year’s Super Bowl registered 98.2 million, the lowest figure since 2007,” said Professor John Inzero of the Marketing and International Business Department at Monmouth University.

“It is interesting to note that this year viewership for both the NFC (the late game) and AFC championship games was down 20 percent and 7 percent respectively from last year. In part this is explained by the fact that both games were never close at the end, although the Chiefs game saw an amazing comeback and then a route,” further explained Pederson.

The good news is the advertisements were what kept the event buzzing. Forbes estimated that on the Thursday and Friday before last year’s Super Bowl, the ads had already been found and streamed more than 105 million times across several platforms.

Professor John Inzero of the Marketing and International Business Department, explained the immense opportunity this presents for businesses. “To have that many people at one time see your ad is an incredible opportunity for businesses to introduce themselves or a new product, to more deeply brand themselves, or to remind people about a product they loved for so many years,” said Inzero.

Inzero added to, “watch for the Mr.Peanut funeral ad in the upcoming game. It is Planters chance to re-introduce in a really funny way their most famous character.”

Now more than ever, there is a detachment felt between pro-football and millennials. In a 2016 study done by YouGov, 26 percent of young Americans (18-24 years old) said the “best part” of the broadcast is the ads.

“The good news is the ads. This year’s network- ing hosting the Super Bowl FOX, is asking $5.6 million dollars for a 30 second commercial spot. That is up from $5.25 million from last year’s network, CBS.”

With a world saturated in ads, young people invested in social media and influencer culture, want to know, and go, where the next big trend is.

From social, the Super Bowl is an event for young college students to gather and celebrate. At Super Bowl parties although fans are clad with NFL apparel, the conversation on everyone’s tongues often is how amazing, or disappointing the new ad campaigns are for their favorite brands. Sobrano added, “As far as social media goes, I know every year a big movie studio like Disney or Fox releases their biggest movie of the year trailers during the game so movie/entertainment fans are waiting through hundreds of commercials to see the big release of that.”

Pederson said at this year’s Super Bowl, “you will also see political ads from both President Trump and Mike Bloomberg and companies such as Budweiser (who will run four ads), Audi, Frito Lay, Coke, Discover Card, Facebook (a newcomer), Hiene, Hyundai, Proctor & Gamble, New York Life, Pepsi, Pringles, Snickers, Squarespace, Tide, Toyota, WeatherTech, Verizon and a host of others.”

Adorable Adoptables

Meet Kelly
Female! 4 years old!
Loves walks & playing with toys!

Meet Cinnamon
Female! Adult cat!
Pro at high-fives, nose-booping, & more!

Please contact the Monmouth County SPCA for more information at 732-542-5962 or adoptions@monmouthcountysPCA.org
When Justin Bieber’s ‘Yummy’ was released on Jan. 1, fans and critics formed differing opinions on the song. Since this was Bieber’s first single in three years, he aimed to get the song to the number one spot on streaming charts.

It’s no secret that dedicated fans will buy songs multiple times in order to push the tracks higher up on charts. Yet, it is rare to see the artists encouraging this type of behavior.

Not only did Bieber encourage his fans to listen on repeat, but he reposted Instagram stories that one of his fan pages made that read, “Follow Yummy on repeat and stream it

"Don’t Mute it, Play at a Low Volume. Let it Play While You Sleep,” “Buy the Song on iTunes,” “Buy the Song Multiple Times on Justin’s Website. This is important. You must ask. Is this fair for artists to do?”

When thinking about the situation, it doesn’t seem wrong for fans to promote their own material. However, when you dive deeper and look at the facts, it can ultimately believe that it’s morally right.

Bieber’s case is not the first incident of this kind to occur in the music industry, as numerous artists have done similar things. DJ Khaled was guilty of booking a comando tech practice of providing album downloads with purchases of merch or other sales. DJ Khaled was providing a digital download of his album Father of Ashad with the purchase of the energy drink Awake Energy Shot. Billboard disqualified sales of his album, preventing it from reaching the number one spot. These tactics are honestly smart of artists to perpetrate, yet they come at the price of knowing they bought the number one spot rather than earning it.

I see these tactics as ways of playing the system and cheating those who work hard to get their music out to the public and put on the charts. This is not to say that artists like Justin Bieber and Travis Scott do not work equally hard on their music, but that they probably only gained top spots on charts because of it.

The biggest concern for me is that when it comes to cheating the system like this that the artists could miss out on an Oscar, which might not get the recognition they deserve. And while some would argue that the artists are smart for playing the system, we all should know what is right and wrong.

Buying streams does not equate to having more music out to the public and putting up with loud performances, just the price of knowing they bought the number one spot rather than earning it. This stirred up problems with streaming, fans promoting such a practice is common, with the artist not getting involved.

He continued, “What seems to be the issue is Justin Bieber promoting his practice himself. Simply put, the artist is involved with what is traditionally a fan only practice. While spreading music is important for an artist, unfortunately for Bieber, his attempt could come with a horrible effect of what he most likely wanted.

It’s out of the artist’s control when fans go out of their way to buy or stream up their music. However, it is up to the artist to actually promote that behavior, it may do even more harm than imagined.

To contradict myself, I think that when fans go to live concerts and shows and buy merchandise, it is not wrong for them to do so. They want a copy of the artist’s album. This is only because it benefits fans in a clean way, since they will actually listen to and appreciate the album. However, with Justin Bieber and DJ Khaled bought their streams and promoted them as their own.

These artists are role models for younger generations and are looked up to, and the message that they are conveying to their fans is that cheating the system is okay.

Instead of buying streams to promote their songs, they get a number one spot, artists should just stick to releasing the music and relying on the public to like it too.

This means war. No, I’m not talking about the Best Picture nominee Pitt’s (it’s overrated by the way), but the ongoing battle between theater chains and streaming services.

The battleground is set at this year’s Oscars. The side with a great deal of fire power is Netflix, which has taken control of 24 nominations, including Best Picture for The Irishman and Marriage Story.

Meanwhile, the theaters have strength on their side. The other six Best Picture nominations have been screened in cinemas and will stick around until the big showdown in February.

Leading up to the ceremony, AMC Theaters hosted a screening of The Irishman to be on the front and center of the Oscar race. It’s quite hard to picture a world where Netflix wins more awards than the traditional theaters.

Even more, with streaming rights often not being signed to theaters, the Oscar race is still a part of the world’s DNA and a part of the entertainment, as it will be for years to come.

It’s no secret that streaming has taken the competition for theaters, but the battle for theaters against streaming is far from over. This is only because it benefits fans in a clean way, since they will actually listen to and appreciate the album. However, with Justin Bieber and DJ Khaled bought their streams and promoted them as their own.

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This is why theaters are starting to fight back. The reason why theaters are fighting back is that streaming services are stealing big money. It’s no secret that streaming services are stealing big money. It’s no secret that streaming services are stealing big money.

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Instead of buying streams to promote their songs, they get a number one spot, artists should just stick to releasing the music and relying on the public to like it too.
Ah, here we go again! Hollywood will be the center of the world for this year’s Oscars ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. on ABC. There are some great films up for nominations, but what would an Oscars ceremony be without any controversy?

If you recall last year, the Academy Awards did well with inclusion, as many hailed the ceremony’s biggest winner as diversity. Films like BlackKklansman, Black Panther, and Roma lead with nominations in major categories. While Roma swept the floor with three wins in significant categories (Director, Foreign Language Film, and Cinematography), Green Book left with the grand prize of Best Picture.

It was a divisive choice because some thought Green Book was a white savior movie, while others believed it as a lesson in breaking down barriers. Regardless, I enjoyed it much more than Roma and found it worthy of the award. Although last year looked like a step in the right direction for inclusion at the Oscars, the Academy has only chosen two people who are not white. This includes Cynthia Erivo of Harriet for Best Actress and Bong Joon-ho of Parasite for Best Director.

On top of this, films driven by male stories have dominated Best Picture and other important categories. Those flicks are 1917, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, The Irishman, Ford v Ferrari, Jojo Rabbit, and Joker, which leads with 11 nominations. This move involves the Asian family drama with 11 nominations. This move is only nominated because it strikes Hollywood’s ego, as a place that’s liberal and tends to be forward thinking, it’s incredible how backwards they can be. As for the nominations we got, it’s been mixed. There are some great films up for nominations like director Martin Scorsese’s mob drama The Irishman, director Bong Joon-ho’s rollercoaster ride Parasite, the Jojo Rabbit, and Anthony Hopkins led drama The Two Popes, the sincere yet heartbreaking Marriage Story directed by Noah Baumbach, and the exhilarating Christain Bale led race movie Ford v Ferrari. Those are all the films worth checking out ahead of the show.

Then there are the overlooked picks that the Academy loves for some reason. The Nazi comedy Jojo Rabbit couldn’t get a smink out of me. Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is only nominated because it strikes Hollywood’s ego, 1917 was a one shot gimmick, Jojo Rabbit was the second time in Hollywood is only nominated because it strikes Hollywood’s ego, 1917 was a one shot gimmick, Jojo Rabbit was the second time in Hollywood is only nominated because it strikes Hollywood’s ego. Jojo Rabbit is Phoenix. He’s winning awards for his role in Jojo Rabbit, but an Oscar? Malarky! I better get my marriage together because they’re full of twists and turns. If Jojo Rabbit was to win Best Picture, there’s never been an international film to win Best Picture, but Parasite is up for Best Picture. Usually, Best Picture goes to the most popular film and many people have seen Parasite, which is nominated over $143 million worldwide and nearly $30 million in the U.S. However, the Best Picture category is completely wide open. It’s filled with films many have seen and enjoyed, yet not one has been a runaway favorite at award ceremonies leading up to the Oscars. I think the Academy will pick something from Netflix in protest (as good as those films are), which knocks off two. They could choose Once Upon a Time in Hollywood because they’re full of themselves, but I think ultimately they may pick 1917. It won Best Drama at the Golden Globes and a lot of critics like it (even though it’s one of the most boring and safest movies I’ve seen recently). Plus, it’s a movie in colors, which will get people to the cinema.

What will be presented? Below is the list of nominees for major categories in acting and Best Picture.

After the list, I’ll give my pick of who or what I’d like to see win. Perhaps, then the prediction of who or what will most likely win the award.

As for the nominations we got, it’s been mixed. There are some great films up for nominations like director Martin Scorsese’s mob drama The Irishman, director Bong Joon-ho’s rollercoaster ride Parasite, the Jojo Rabbit, and Anthony Hopkins led drama The Two Popes, the sincere yet heartbreaking Marriage Story directed by Noah Baumbach, and the exhilarating Christain Bale led race movie Ford v Ferrari. Those are all the films worth checking out ahead of the show.

Now then are the overrated picks that the Academy loves for some reason. The Nazi comedy Jojo Rabbit couldn’t get a smile out of me. Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is only nominated because it strikes Hollywood’s ego, 1917 was a one shot gimmick, Jojo Rabbit was fine but downright depressing, and Little Women was just okay. So while there are plenty of strong choices, there are also some poor ones. Unfortunately, it’s not a year...
Democratic Candidates Shifting in Presidential Primary

MATT ENGEL CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With just over a week remaining before the Iowa Democratic caucuses, the Monmouth University Polling Institute released its latest political poll, showing that former Vice President Joe Biden continues to lead the field of candidates, as of Jan. 22.

According to the poll, which took information from voters that were either registered Democrats or said they tended to lean Democrat, Biden currently has support from 30 percent, followed by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders (23 percent) and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren (14 percent). Other candidates included businessman and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg (9 percent), former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg (6 percent), Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar (5 percent), and businessman Andrew Yang (3 percent). No other candidate registered more than 1 percent in the University poll.

Of the candidates with double-digit support, Biden and Sanders saw their polls numbers increase by 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, Warren, who has dropped to third place in the race for the Democratic nomination, saw her poll numbers decrease by 3 percent.

Stephen Chapman, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Political Science, said that he believed Biden’s rise in the polls was due to his status as the front-runner of the race, with more voters getting behind Biden as other candidates have recently dropped out.

“He is pretty much the one that most mainstream Democrats who are involved on a day-to-day basis will put their weight behind,” Chapman said of Biden. “In general, you are going to see a thinning of the field at this point.”

As for Warren, who in a Monmouth poll from August was locked in a three-way tie with Biden and Sanders for the top spot in the Democratic field, Chapman stated that the Massachusetts Senator’s drop in poll numbers was “more interesting.” He attributed her polling to her being in the middle of the different ideologies in the Democratic Party, having been considered both more progressive than Biden and more moderate than Sanders.

“Warren’s not a full-fledged supporter of some of the more progressive policies by Sanders,” Chapman said, giving Warren’s slightly more moderate stance on abolishing student loan debt as an example. “Bernie has built allegiances to his previous run for President.”

The question over whether Warren could defeat President Donald Trump in an election became widely discussed, particularly after a CNN report that Sanders claimed in a private meeting that a woman could not win a presidential election. However, the Monmouth poll showed that approximately 74 percent of Democratic voters said they did not consider gender an important part of a candidate’s qualification for the nomination.

“It might make for great TV, but most Democrats seem immune to the ‘he said, she didn’t’ says-dust-up between Sanders and Warren,” said Patrick Gopal, dean of the School of Social Science at the University.

Meanwhile, Warren, who has seen her qualifications for the nomination has already been decided by the time people in New Jersey have the chance to vote for the candidate of their choice. “Since Iowa and New Hampshire have the advantage of going first, they’re going to set the tone for the rest of the primaries, even if they aren’t an accurate reflection of the demographics,” Chapman said. “The media coverage of what happens in Iowa and New Hampshire is going to permeate a little bit more than what’s held in a primary down the road.”

Perry Merse, a first-year student at the University, said that while he did not believe that all primaries should be held on a same day, he also felt that voters and the media paid too much attention to the results in Iowa and New Hampshire.

The poll also addressed concerns by Democratic voters that Iowa and New Hampshire, by having their primary elections first, have an unfair amount of influence in deciding the Democratic nominee. An additional concern is that the mostly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire do not accurately represent the Democratic base, 39 percent of which are people of color, as stated by the most recent survey by the Pew Research Center.

According to the Monmouth poll, 39 percent of Democrats supported a national primary, where all states would hold primary elections on the same day. Just eleven percent believed that the current primary system, where elections are spread out over a period of several months, should remain the same.

“Most Democratic voters would like to see an overhaul of the primary process,” said Murray. “This view appears to be more out of a sense of fairness to the party’s diverse electorate than concerns they might have about the ability of Iowa and New Hampshire voters to properly vet the field.”

All primary election dates are decided by each respective political party’s leaders. No other states, except New Hampshire having historically been given the right to hold the first primary, got to determine when they would hold primary elections before the states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

The debate over when the primaries, even if they don’t happen on the same day, are going to be held continues to permeate a little bit more than what’s held in a primary down the road.”

New Jersey Bans Controversial “Gang Panic” Defense in Courts, Becomes Ninth State in the Nation

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI DEPARTMENTS EDITOR

New Jersey became the ninth state to ban the “gay panic” defense and “trans panic defense” for charges of criminal homicide with those states putting these tactics into their courts, on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

The statue, A1796, was introduced in both the House of Assembly in January 2018, passing the Judiciary Committee and full floor vote unanimously last December.

After resolving Senate amendments, the bill passed both houses on Jan. 13, and signed by Governor Phil Murphy last Tuesday. Under previous law, a homicide which would otherwise be murder could be reduced to manslaughter if the prosecution shows that the motive was committed “in the heat of passion resulting from a reasonable provocation.”

The new prohibition is intended to prevent a defendant from seeking the reduction from a murder charge to a charge of manslaughter committed in the heat of passion, allegedly provoked by the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of the homicide victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

According to the LGBT Bar, a legal nonprofit that has been on the forefront of getting the gay and Trans panic defenses banned nationwide, the controversial practice is defined as: “a legal strategy that asks a jury to find that a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity/expression is to blame for a defendant’s violent reaction, including murder.”

Katherine Parkin, Ph.D., a Professor of History and the Jules Plangere, Jr. Endowed Chair in American Social History, said, “Historically, the position for a defense was to acknowledge that the jurors were imagining themselves in an uncomfortable or threatening scenario, whereby the victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity as a LGBTQ+ person was perceived, their very existence, to be a provocation.”

One of the most known Uses of the tactic was in the murder trials for the 1998 killing of Matthew Shepard, an American college student at the University of Wyoming who was killed and dismembered by his fellow students.

The lawyers for Aaron McKinney, one of two men convicted in the murder of Matthew Shepard, admitted in court that McKinney was driven to a temporary state of insanity after Shepard allegedly made an unwanted sexual advance on him. The jury found him guilty and sentenced him to two consecutive life sentence nonetheless.

“It’s taken a tragically long time to outlaw this shameful defense and is an important part of changing a social and legal culture that protects the right of all New Yorkers to live lives of freedom and respect,” Parkin explained.

Outlawing of a defense predicated on blaming a crime or murder on a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity/expression is a triumph for a justice system that aspires to be just.”

In a joint-statement to their constituents in Monmouth County, Reps. Janine Mazzarella, a New Jersey Assemblywoman, and Reps. Joann Downey and Eric Houghtaling, and Senator Vin Gopal said, “We’re one step closer to permanently closing this dark chapter in New Jersey’s history.”

Currently, only eight other states prohibit the lethal strat- egy in their courts: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, New York, and Rhode Island.
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Monmouth Students Attend APAP Conference

Three Monmouth students had the opportunity to represent the university at the annual Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) Conference in New York City from Jan. 9-14. APAP is the largest international organization of performing arts professionals in the world. Agents, managers, presenters, bookers, venue operators, and talent of all kinds gather in the Midtown Hilton for almost a week of professional development sessions and keynote speakers. The Expo Hall is also opened with hundreds of agency booths of booking literature.

This year’s conference theme was Risk and Resiliency, and many of the professional development sessions discussed themes of self-promotion, perseverance, curiosity, and exploration of new avenues in the industry.

The closing keynote speaker was multi-platinum singer/songwriter Ben Folds. He could not be reached for comment.

Mario Garcia Durham, CEO and President of APAP, said, “Many people help make our conference a success, but our volunteers are perhaps the most significant. With a wide array of duties to provide for over 3,600 attendees, crucial tasks would go incomplete without your hard work. From the complexity of registration to simply helping someone find their way, you provided our attendees with a world-class experience.”

Another pivotal aspect of the APAP conference are the showcases. A showcase is a 15 minute to hour long demonstration of a performer’s show. The intention is to give agents, venue executives, and arts presenters a taste of what their show would look like, and hopefully get booked. These showcases begin as early as 9 a.m. and usually don’t end until 2 a.m. Many are held within the hosting hotel, but they are also spread out at hundreds of venues across NYC. At check-in, the program details about 600 pages of showcases over the week’s time.

Celebrities such as members of the Zak Brown Band, the King of the Twist Chub Disipo, and many more can also be found exploring the conference and/or performing. Dance troupes, magicians, thespians, prophets, gies, comedians, poets, and a list of other performers converge and wander. Another big reason these industry professionals attend APAP is the Networking Lounge, where they can connect with others and talk business.

Disipo said, “The conference provided several opportunities for us to meet industry professionals and other students, allowing us to expand our networks in the entertainment field.”

Hawryluk continued, “It was so rewarding for the Center for the Arts, and the entertainment industry majors and others interested in the industry.”

Other student volunteers were high school and college aged from across the globe. California, China, Nicaragua. The volunteers were tasked with running the registration booths, monitoring the exposition hall, distributing surveys, scanning attendees into various portions of the conference, and running around to complete tasks.

Hawryluk said, “We were able to experience how booking agents and other performing arts industry professionals find the best talent for possible shows in the future. We were able to see a diverse amount of performers that could potentially come to our University in the upcoming years.”

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Club and Greek Announcements

WMCX

WMCX is a student-run radio station, and we’ve been Rockin’ the Shore since ‘74. Learn how to operate the studio’s machinery, make connections, and host your own show! Meetings are held every Wednesday in Plangere 236 at 3:15 p.m. If you're interested in joining, contact us at wmcxpd@monmouth.edu.

Hawk TV

Hawk TV is looking for vibrant and interested students who want to be reporters, writers, camera operators, anchors, and much more. You do not need to be a communications major to be a part of this organization. If you are interested e-mail us at hawktv@monmouth.edu or meet us on Wednesdays in JP 138 at 3:15 p.m.

The Catholic Campus Ministry

The Catholic Campus Ministry hosts Catholic Mass at the Catholic Center 7:00 p.m. every Sunday night, except the third Sunday of the month. Dinner and discussions are hosted on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, contact David Gasolin at s1211744@monmouth.edu.

The Monmouth Review

The Monmouth Review is an annual collaborative publication that showcases students’ work and we would love to have yours! The deadline for the Monmouth Review is April 1. Art submissions can be sent to monmouthreview@gmail.com. Written submissions can be sent to Melissa Lauria at s1152499@monmouth.edu.
Men’s Basketball Stays Hot at Home

MARK D’AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s basketball remained atop the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) after back-to-back wins this past weekend against conference opponents Niagara and Iona led by junior guard Deion Hammond’s 47 combined points.

The Hawks made it a perfect 7-0 home court at the OceanFirst Bank Center on Friday night against the Purple Eagles of Niagara behind Hammond’s game-high 22 points leading to the 82-71 victory. “This one feels great, especially when your teammates get you involved and get you the ball,” said Hammond. “I feel like everyone was clicking today and it was a great team effort for a win.”

Monmouth was in control from the very beginning of Friday night’s affair as they quickly got out to a 20-5 lead with Hammond scoring nine of those points. It appeared as though the blue and white would run away with this one until Niagara put together a run of their own and eventually took the lead towards the end of the first half.

“We’ve been trying to play for 40 minutes and the way we started the game, I thought we were about to do it tonight,” said Head Coach King Rice. “But we’re still young in areas and probably started to think they had this already.”

However, momentum seemed to sway in favor of the Hawks in the final moments of the half as Hammond finished home an alley-oop in dramatic fashion going into the locker room with a 34-33 advantage.

In a tight game, the story of the second half was the 20 point shooting from the boys of Long Branch which allowed them to pull away after making seven from beyond the arc in the half. Hammond ended by shooting 7-16 or 44 percent from range after a first half that saw them make only 2-10 or 20 percent from behind the three-point line.

Junior guard Ray Salnave registered his first career double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds in Friday’s victory against Niagara before scoring 15 more in Sunday’s contest against Iona.

“All of those points came from the very beginning of the game and probably started to think they had this already.”

“Every Iona-Monmouth game is going to be an exciting game,” said Coach Rice. “Someone might get their doors blown off or it could go back and forth.”

The 94-point performance for the Hawks was their highest total for the season so far as the team shot 44 percent from both the field and three-point range. MU notched a season high with 14 made threes, which is the most since making 16 in 2017 against Ole Miss.

Hammond’s 25 points on 7-14 shooting were the most points scored by a Hawk this season. He also scored 20 plus points 11 times in his career and seven times this year alone.

“I just try to come out every day and do what I do,” said Hammond. “My teammates do a good job of finding me. It’s always good to get a win, especially against Iona, they’re a tough team. We tried to key in on defense. I know in the first half they hit a lot of shots so in the second half that was a focus for us.”

The 12-7 Hawks will now travel to Saint Peter’s on Wednesday night for a match-up with the Peacocks as tipoff is slated for 7:00 p.m.

Women’s Basketball Falls With A Fight

CARLY STEAKIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Women’s basketball failed to get a win in two games last week with a 39-51 loss against Siena on Thursday night and a 53-74 loss to Marist on Saturday afternoon.

In Thursday’s contest the blue and white missed their first 11 shots of the game, but back to back layups by senior forward Alexa Middleton, brought the score to 9-4, with the Hawks’ trailing behind. At the end of the first quarter, the Saints led the game 16-5. Monmouth shot 2-19 in the first quarter and had six shots blocked.

In the second quarter, Monmouth went on a 7-0 run. At halftime, Siena led 26-16, but the closing points of the half came from another Middleton layup. Middleton led the half with ten points.

In the middle of the third quarter, Monmouth went on a 9-0 run, bringing the score to 31-27, with the Saints still leading. To close out the quarter, sophomore forward Lucy Thomas put up four points.

The Hawks scored their first points in the fourth quarter with only 4:17 remaining in the clock which ended a 9-0 Siena run. Monmouth scored 23 points in the second half. Seven of those points came from Middleton, while eight of them came from Thomas.

Overall, the Hawks shot 16-67 or 24.6 percent from the field and 1-21 or 4.8 percent from three-point range. Middleton had her sixth double-double in the last 11 games. She had 17 points and 11 rebounds on the night. Thomas also had her fourth double-double for the season and had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Following Thursday’s loss, Monmouth went on to host Marist on Saturday afternoon. The first points for Monmouth in Saturday’s matchup came from Middleton, who had 14 points for the day, going 5-of-9 from the floor.

The Hawks had 30 points in the first half of the game. 11 of those points came from Thomas, while eight of them also came from Middleton.

In the second quarter of the game, Thomas made three straight baskets, bringing to score to 25-21, Monmouth trailing. She then went on to score five more points and four free throws. At halftime, the teams were tied at 30.

Thomas leading the team, put up 16 points for the day and six rebounds. She scored seven of her 16 points for the seventh time in the Hawks’ last nine games. She has averaged 14.2 points and 8.5 rebounds game in ten conference games.

“I thought we did a better job with shot selection in the first half. It was the best half we’ve shot percentage-wise in a while,” said Head Coach Jody Craig. “In the second half, Marist stepped up. They read screens better and made us pay for how we were playing defensively. They took it to another level, and we didn’t respond to that in terms of our technique or energy. I felt better about our overall play compared to the last couple of games.”

The pair of losses brings the Hawk’s record to 5-14 and 2-8 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). Monmouth will now travel to take on Rider on Saturday, November 21, in New Rochelle, New York for a 2-8 road victory.

“Every Iona-Monmouth game is going to be an exciting game,” said Coach Rice. “Someone might get their doors blown off or it could go back and forth.”

The 94-point performance for the Hawks was their highest total for the season so far as the team shot 44 percent from both the field and three-point range. MU notched a season high with 14 made threes, which is the most since making 16 in 2017 against Ole Miss.

Hammond’s 25 points on 7-14 shooting were the most points scored by a Hawk this season. He also scored 20 plus points 11 times in his career and seven times this year alone.

“I just try to come out every day and do what I do,” said Hammond. “My teammates do a good job of finding me. It’s always good to get a win, especially against Iona, they’re a tough team. We tried to key in on defense. I know in the first half they hit a lot of shots so in the second half that was a focus for us.”

The 12-7 Hawks will now travel to Saint Peter’s on Wednesday night for a match-up with the Peacocks as tipoff is slated for 7:00 p.m.
Swimming Victorious on Senior Day

Sophomore Camryn McHugh claimed three individual victories to make it 16 for her on the season relay with a time of 2:27.06 with Reynolds, Washington, Del Gior- no and Smith combining for the win. "Our team was sharp right from the start, from the first relay and that is a positive sign heading into the MAAC Championships," said Head Coach Matt Mannally. "I think the big thing this year is every time we face a challenge with teams, we have been close with, we've stepped up and I am excited with where we can be.

The women's swim team held their Senior Day on Saturday as they honored their senior class prior to the meet. Seniors that were recognized were Mary Green, Brodie Keelen and Brooke Weber.

Sophomore Camryn McHugh and freshman Talitha Botha were able to secure three individual victories for the Hawks. McHugh won the 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard butterfly, and 200-yard backstroke. Her times for the events were 1:00.75, 58.58 and 2:10.26 respectively. McHugh has now 16 first place finishes this season. Contributing to the victory were Askew, Reynolds, and sophomore Washington and Kevin Del Giorino. The Hawks also won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:48.64.

Indoor Track Breaks Records

Sophia Galvez

The Monmouth University men’s and women’s track & field teams competed at the Dr. Sander Invitational, hosted by Columbia University as well as the Boston Terrier Classic, hosted by Boston University this past weekend (Jan. 24 & 25).

The teams had multiple outstanding performances, most notably being fifth year Kyle Mueller breaking his own school record for the 5000-meter race at the Boston Terrier Classic. Coming in fourth with a time of 14:09.47, he surpassed his previous mark by 15 seconds. Mueller’s previous record was a time of 14:24.37 which he achieved at the 2019 ICAA indoor championships.

Coming off of a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Track & Field Performer of the Week, senior Khalid Slocum continued to bring the heat at the Dr. Sander Invitational. Slocum finished second overall in the long jump event with a mark of 7.21m, awarding him seventh place. As for the women who competed at the Dr. Sander Invitational, junior Chibuzo Amunna finished ninth in the weight throwing event with a throw of 15.39m. Senior Jordan Wilder- muth came in 12th place in the shotput event with a throw of 13.21m. In the triple jump event, senior Mariah Hubbard placed 15th with a distance of 11.31m.

At the Boston Terrier Classic, there were other noteworthy achievements alongside Mueller breaking his own school record. Freshman Ian Moore finished first among collegiate runners and third overall in the 1000-meter race with a time of 2:26.29. Another freshman teammate, Mike Cannon Jr. finished third in the 800-meter with a time of 1:58.15. For the women, sophomore Sarah Brennan also earned two first place finishes in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.53.47.

Contributing to the victory were Askew, Reynolds, and sopho- more Washington and Kevin Del Giorino. The Hawks also won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:48.64.

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, Jan. 29
Men’s Basketball at Saint Peter’s Jersey City, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1
Women’s Basketball at Rider Lawrenceville, NJ 2:00 p.m.

Men’s Tennis vs LaSalle West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Track Villanova Invitational Staten Island, NY 4:00 p.m.

Men’s Tennis vs Wagner West Long Branch, NJ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 2
Men’s Basketball vs Rider West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Men’s Basketball at Fairfield Bridgeport, Connecticut 7:00 p.m.

*conference games
Men’s basketball won their third and fourth consecutive games with victories against conference opponents Niagara and Iona led by junior guard Deion Hammond’s 47 combined points and are now first in the MAAC.