



# THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

ASPA  
2009  
UNIVERSITY  
NEWSPAPER  
OF THE YEAR

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March 16, 2011

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## “Mission: Philosophy” Forms to Bring Back Major

RAY BOGAN  
STAFF WRITER

Twenty-five years ago, the Philosophy Major at the University was dropped due to insufficient enrollment. Now a group called Mission: Philosophy has formed in an attempt to bring it back. The major's future, however, is just as unclear as it's past.

“It's far too broad for enough people to be interested,” said Dr. Don Swanson, Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies. “The major is dwindling all over the country as society becomes more and more specialized,” he added. Swanson had previously served four years as the Chair of the Department of Communication before moving to the Department of Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies.

The Department of Philosophy, Religion and Interdisci-

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## School of Humanities and Social Sciences to Assist Students with Career Possibilities

GINA COLUMBUS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is working towards granting more career possibilities to liberal arts majors, starting with an event titled “The Liberal Arts Advantage: Outstanding Career Possibilities for Liberal Arts Students” on March 23.

The School's event will involve national leaders and alumni to speak to students. John Mattone, Vice President of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Henry Mercer, President and Chief Investment Strategist of Mercer Capital Advisors, Thomas Parr, Creative Director of McCann Worldwide Group, Peter Samaras, Managing Director, Credit Sales of Cantor Fitzgerald, and Courtney Mullins, Talent Ac-

quisition Manager of Enterprise Rent-A-Car will give insight to students on the value of a liberal arts degree and the skills needed in the business world.

Some of these skills include communication practices, such as interviewing, the use of computers, research, ability to write, ability to critically analyze, and more.

This event is part of a project coordinated by Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Stanton Green and Assistant Dean for Career Services William Hill. It aims to teach students these desired skills when searching or applying for a variety of internships, jobs, or networking with career professionals.

Associate Professor of Management Bob Smith, who is also involved in the project and has

a bachelor degree in physics, said the cooperation is meant to broaden the students' outlooks and open up possibilities for them.

“We want to also open the path for the possibility that there are a lot of things they can do, that just depends on general skills that everybody's getting in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students who attend would get that perspective and be challenged to seek out possibilities that they would not think about otherwise,” Smith said.

Green held a summer retreat with the department chairs of the University relating to career skills. This past summer, a central topic related to the

Careers continued on pg. 4

## Bookstore Combating Drop in Textbook Sales

ANTHONY PANISSIDI  
CO-NEWS EDITOR

The University bookstore is part of a nationwide trend, as students from all over the country are turning to textbook rental websites. It appears college bookstores are headed towards a future that does not incorporate textbooks as the “bread and butter” of the business.

Although the University bookstore strives to earn 75 to 80 percent of its profit margin from textbook sales, it is currently hovering on the lower end of that margin, according to Bill Rainey, 60, the store manager.

According to Jeffrey R. Young in his article “As Textbooks Go Digital, Campus Bookstores May Go Bookless,” bookstores are trying new services to generate revenue. These include “dry cleaning, flu-shot clinics, performance space, expanded snack sales, photo printing, [and] study

space.”

Bill Craig, the University's Vice President for Finance, said that the University is aware of the changing trends in the textbook industry. Craig views the bookstore as a convenience to students. “Some students will buy their books online. While the prices may at times be less, it is not necessarily as convenient as buying on campus. The books may not be received before classes start, one needs to be careful if it is the correct edition, and returning the book may not be as easy as returning it to the bookstore,” he said.

While other college bookstores, such as Rutgers, have a contract with an outside bookseller to help draw business, such as Barnes and Noble, Craig said this would not be beneficial to the University. The bookstore's profits would then go to Barnes and Noble, as opposed to helping keep

Textbooks continued on pg. 3

## Guggenheim Library Moving Forward with Mobile Connection

NICOLE FERA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In today's world, technology has made everything available at the tip of students' fingers through the use of smart phones and all they have to offer. Recently, the Guggenheim Library joined this mobile information society, creating a website that is available on most smart phones.

Linda Silverstein, the creator of the new mobile website, said that currently there are two websites that can be accessed on a smart phone from the library's main page. One of the sites is the library catalogue and the other is the basic library website that contains information such as library hours and different events.

“Eventually, the goal is to have one website that can be accessed directly from a smart phone by logging into the main library website, but it's a work in progress,” Silverstein said.

Students can search for different books in the library, see if they're checked out or in-library, find the floor they're located on

or even re-new a book all without having to drive or walk to the library. Silverstein and contributors Wendy Savoth,

Associate Vice President for Information Support and Rob Carsey, Director of Server Operations, said the mobile website has even more great features and can easily accessed with a Hawkdom login, instead of a bar code which most library websites use.

“Students use their Hawkdom logins for everything and we wanted to make things as simple and easy as possible for them,” Silverstein said.

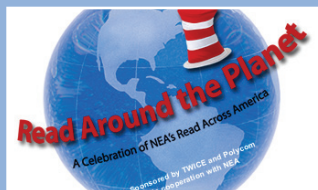
The other features this website

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The Outlook and @muoutlook



### News

University students volunteered for 230 children at the annual “Read Across America.”

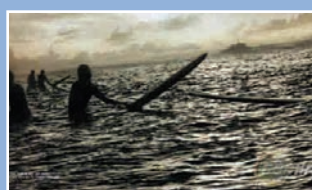
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### Opinion

The idea of gun control laws on college campuses is proposed by a student.

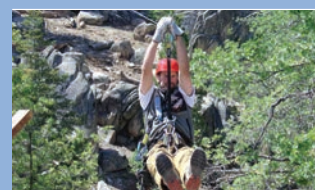
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### Entertainment

One student reviews the newly released sci-fi film, “Battle: Los Angeles.”

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### Club & Greek

The Outdoors Club is going to be taking a zip-lining trip in Hunter Mountain, New York.

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# MU Employee Suddenly Passes

MEGAN DOOLEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

University Traffic Attendant Michael Lerakis, 75, of Tinton Falls, passed away suddenly on Saturday, February 26, 2011. New Jersey State Police stated that Lerakis was struck and killed by a car while walking along the Garden State Parkway in central Jersey that evening.

Lerakis, who was dressed in dark clothing, was struck by a vehicle just before 8:00 pm in the outer north-bound lane in Middletown by mile marker 110, State Police spokesman Brian Polite said. The impact from the vehicle knocked him onto the shoulder, and he was pronounced dead at the scene a short time later. Authorities are unsure as to why Lerakis was walking on the roadway.

State Trooper Eric Mauro said, "We are investigating what led to him being on the roadway."

"He was not a stranded motorist. The individual's car was parked at the (exit) 109 commuter lot. We are trying to determine why he was on the main line instead of where the vehicle was parked."

Mauro reported that the traffic attendant of the University Police Department was returning from a trip to Atlantic City. Mitchell Shade of Oceanport, the driver of the Jetta that struck Lerakis, currently faces no charges since his range of view was impaired due to darkness and nothing could have been done any differently to prevent this incident from happening. "There was nothing suspicious, nothing criminal," according to Mauro.

Originally from Chios, Greece, Lerakis lived in Metuchen, New Jersey for 25 years prior to moving to Tinton Falls in 1998. Before coming to the United States, he performed manual labor as a deck hand on cargo ships. He worked as a security officer for the University Police Department for the past 12 years and was positioned in Lots 11 and 11A located near the Magill Commons Dining Hall. Previous to this location, Lerakis was the Cedar Avenue crossing guard prior to the underpass being built; all of the campus residents knew him because he helped them across the busy road safely. Michael was also the previous owner of The Encore Luncheonette in Metuchen,

New Jersey for 15 years.

Lerakis was very loved and respected by all of the people he worked with, and many students, Chief of Police at the University Police Department, William McElrath said. "Many students would stop and talk with him about the stock market and his experiences owning a restaurant."

"He was an ideal employee, even when the conditions outside were close to a monsoon, he always had a smile on his face and a good word to give," McElrath said.

"Since the incident we have received many calls from students and employees in shock about it all. He truly will be missed," McElrath added.

Lerakis is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Renae Paitakes Lerakis; his daughter, Michele Lerakis Pfeiffer and his son-in-law, Allan Jeremy Pfeiffer.

Visitation for Michael was held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, March 4 at the Bongarzone Funeral Home in Tinton Falls. All other services for Michael were private. In lieu of flowers, donations in his

remembrance may be made to The St. George Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 700 Grand Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.



PHOTO COURTESY of Maureen Coffey

**Michael Lerakis** worked at the University for 12 years and is said to have been well liked by students, staff, faculty and administrators.

# Communication Department to Host Career Event

LAUREN GARCIA  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Department of Communication will be holding a Communication Career Event on Tuesday, March 22 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Students

sionals and get advice on their careers for future reference.

"I'm confident that this event will help students in a number of ways," said Dr. Chad Dell, Chair of the Department of Communication, "It will give students ideas of how

feedback on their resumes, tips for entering the profession, interview techniques, and gain insight from past graduates in their field," said Professor Kristine Simoes, Specialist Professor in Public Relations, "There's going to be a networking event, an internship fair, where companies will host tables and be taking applications from students directly, some looking for our soon to be graduates as potential employees."

The event will be divided into three sections: from 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm, there will be a pro panel discussion that will describe to students what they can do with a communication degree and how they can prepare for a career. The panel will also advise students on how they can be creative in the job market in order to place themselves into positions for jobs that would otherwise be unexpected.

"The panels will focus on professionals in journalism, public relations, radio, television and communication studies who can help students find their way in their chosen field," said Dell.

"The panel discussions are very useful and unique as it will be filled with Communication Department graduate students who work in radio/television, journalism and other communication related fields," said Simoes, "These graduate students will answer all questions our students present have."

The next section will include University Network Connection, which will be held from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. This section will give students the

opportunity to speak with fellow students, alumni, and field professionals in order to establish connections that may be beneficial for future career perusals.

"The networking event will be an opportunity for students to establish a mentor relationship with people in the field who could advise them as they prepare for the job market," said Dell.

Dell also said, "Increasingly, it's not just what you know; it's who you know. The professionals and alumni attending this event are ready and willing to talk with students, advise them, and perhaps steer them toward job opportunities that other might not be aware of."

The third section, which will run from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, is the Internship Opportunities Event where select companies will discuss internship opportunities and will hold interviews for rising juniors and seniors.

"We'll have professionals from Career Services on hand for students who want to have their resume review. Students can participate in short practice interviews, and prepare for those job encounters before they happen," said Dell. "Also, the Internship Fair will present an opportunity for students to talk directly with representatives from a variety of communication-specific companies."

The Communication Career Event was a planned group effort that began with Lucille Maddalena, a member of the Communication Council, approaching Dell with an idea two years ago.

"She wanted to do something that would help current communication

students prepare for and compete in the job market," said Dell. "I liked the idea a lot, and brought in several people to help us move this forward. Assistant Dean Will Hill and Karl Gordinier, both of Career Services, worked with us early in the process to flesh out the event. Jennifer Harris, Associate Director of Alumni Affairs and a communication alumnus, worked closely with us to help bring in communication alumni working in a variety of fields. And the entire faculty and staff of the Department of Communication worked together to locate professionals who would participate, and to organize the event."

"We used Facebook and set up a communication alumni page where we pitched the event about a month ago," said Professor Simoes. "The feedback and positive comments were very encouraging. We've found a lot of our graduate students want to come and give back to the current students to help them."

For any students interested in attending the Communication Career Event, online registration is at <http://tinyurl.com/CommCareer>. Students who register in advance will have a badge prepared for them and a packet with career information that will be beneficial.

"It will be a great opportunity," said Ashley Szarek, a sophomore Radio/Television major, "to not only have the knowledge that you're taking a step towards developing your own career, but also to see where the Communication industry itself is developing and be able to work with that now, as a student."



PHOTO COURTESY of Chad Dell

**Communication** faculty members have been organizing the first Communication Career Event, in hopes of it occurring annually.

will be given the opportunity to network with professionals and with University communication alumni, they will be able to have their resumes reviewed by business profes-

to prepare themselves now while they're still students."

"Besides contacts and networking, students and emerging graduates might be interested in getting

# CRIME BLOTTER

**BURGLARY/THEFT**  
2/21/11 - 3/2/11 - 12:00 PM - 3:52 PM  
MULLANEY HALL

**PULA/STUDENT MISCONDUCT**  
3/4/11 - 2:28 PM  
MULLANEY HALL

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF**  
3/4/11 - 5:18 PM  
BEY HALL

**THEFT**  
3/4/11 - 3/7/11 - 1:00 PM - 12:05 PM  
PARKING LOT 1

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

SUN.

MON.

TUES.

3/2-3/8



# Student Group on Mission to Bring Back Philosophy

**Philosophy** continued from pg. 1

plinary Studies was formed in January 2008. The department’s mission was to strengthen the teaching of philosophy and religion at the University in support of the its mission as a comprehensive teaching institution.

The department began by offering a major in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Philosophy. The department added a minor in religious studies that began in the fall of 2009. There is also a minor that combines Philosophy and Religious studies. Although there is only a minor in Philosophy currently available, part of the mission of this new department is to one day offer Philosophy as a major.

When asked whether or not there should be a philosophy major, Dr. Pasquale Simonelli, a professor in the Philosophy department, said, “Of course there should be a major. Should there be a mind in the human being?” Simonelli added that philosophy is the way of making sense of the whole world. “Philosophy is the mover of history,” said Simonelli.

With the formation of this new department just three years ago and a new group on campus called the Philosophy Revolution, the major’s future, although still uncertain, has certainly become brighter. Both sides have taken action to raise both interest in students and pressure on administration to get a Philosophy major back into the curriculum.

Currently the Department of Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies has been hosting a lecture series open for all students of the University. The lecture series is held as an educational lecture that will hopefully increase interest in Philosophy to students who may be interested in the field. Most recently Dr. Salman Shaikh, Director of Baytul-Iman Academy, NJ, spoke about the Philosophy of Islam and many current events in Islamic Nations.

Dr. Shaikh is a scientist with Bell Labs and has extensive experience in Saudi Arabia as an educator and scholar. The next lecture will take place on Thursday, March 17 from 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm in Wilson Hall room 104. Father Ireneusz Ekiert will speak about the role of the campus chaplain and his multicultural and international journey of study and service.

The last time a Philosophy major was offered at the University was in the early 1980’s. However, the reason as to why this program was dropped from the curriculum remains a mystery. Even a search of the archives from Susan O’Keefe, Assistant to the Provost, could only show that the major was dropped somewhere between 1984 and 1986 due to insufficient enrollment. By the time the major was dropped, there were only two professors teaching in the field.

This lack of specific information became a trend. Neither Dr. Don Swanson nor Dr. Pasquale Simonelli knew more than that it had been dropped due to lack of interest. The inability to directly answer when and why this major was dropped seemed to come from everyone that had interest in the field.

Members of the group Mission: Philosophy, are currently working to raise awareness about the lack of opportunity to study philosophy hear at Monmouth. There are currently five active members in the group; with much support from other students and teachers. Emily Curry, junior, organizes and publicizes for the group. “Most prestigious universities in the nation offer a philosophy major,” said Curry. “We would like to give students an opportunity to study philosophy in a degree setting.”

The field of philosophy has a long tradition of thinkers and achievers. Some of the more notable amongst them include Michael Bloomberg, the current mayor of New York City, Rudi Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, Jay Leno, host of “The Tonight Show,” Alex Trebek, host of “Jeopardy,” and actors Harrison Ford, Richard Gere, and Susan Sarandon.

The goal of a philosopher is to achieve a frame of mind called “Forma Mentis,” a critically holistic point of view. Philosophy trains the mind to look through many different perspectives. Philosophy’s strengths, however, have also become its major weaknesses in today’s society.

In a society that has become extremely specialized, a subject that is so broad and teaches students to look at things from many different angles is just not built to last in the present day.

“Most prestigious universities in the nation offer a philosophy major.”

EMILY CURRY  
Junior

## Bookstore Facing Changes From Competitors

**Textbooks** continued from pg. 1

operating costs of the University down, such as tuition.

Craig said that a group will come together later this spring consisting of members of the bookstore, students, and other interested parties, that will seek to address online competition and book rentals.

“I want to get you guys cheap books. My job is to get you kids books you can afford,” said Megan McCluskey, 39, the textbook manager in the University bookstore. She went on to describe the struggle of staying competitive with online textbook sites, such as Amazon.com.

According to Rainey and McCluskey, fewer students are purchasing textbooks from the bookstore as each year passes. They only expect half of the students in a given class to purchase their required reading materials from the bookstore. “We’re close to midterms and we still have fully stocked shelves,” said McCluskey.

When it comes to setting textbook prices, the bookstore is at the mercy of publishing companies. “We sell textbooks at a price that is 20 to 25 percent higher than the price we pay the publishing companies to get them,” said Rainey. In other words, if the bookstore purchases a book from the publishing company, Cengage for \$120, the bookstore sells it for \$150.

Despite the common perception of a greedy bookstore, every cent of the bookstore’s profit goes towards the operating costs of the University, said McCluskey.

Even as more and more students are discouraged from purchasing their textbooks at the bookstore, publishing companies continue to increase their prices. They do so to make up for the money they are losing to online textbook websites by charging more money from the students who still buy in bookstores. Most notable amongst the publishing companies who follow this tactic are Pearson Education, Cengage, and McGraw-Hill, said Rainey.

Publishing companies raise their prices twice per year on average, in June and November. “I think the reason prices keep going up is to drive kids away from textbooks and eventually towards digital books,” theorized Rainey.

Digital books are much cheaper for publishing companies to produce, according to Rainey, who is also doubtful that this generation will fall for the electronic trend. “Only 40 eBooks were sold all year in a school that has 6,000 students,” said Rainey. However, Rainey believes that this is a transitional stage and future generations will opt for eBooks over textbooks.

The students who still purchase their textbooks from the bookstore, such as Cristina Marzilla, 21, a University junior from Freehold, NJ, are also affected and upset over the rising prices of textbooks. “I think it’s crazy they’re so high. This semester, I bought a used textbook for \$109,” she said.

Marzilla would like to see a drop in textbook prices, as she thinks that would be a good way to accommodate students by relieving them of an “unnecessary financial burden.” Marzilla said she could then use the money she saves on textbooks to help pay her tuition bill or save for a new car.

Students who have chosen to buy their textbooks online have no problem voicing their opinions about the prices that they see in the bookstore. Daniel Room, 21, also a University junior from Manalapan, NJ, considers the bookstore’s prices too high when compared to those offered by websites, such as Amazon.com.

“I research the price of the book in the bookstore and online, and almost always buy the book online. Sometimes the total savings can be hundreds of dollars,” said Room. He also mentioned that the only time he would buy textbooks in the bookstore is if the prices dropped, at which point Room would shop in the bookstore for the sake of convenience.

Chegg.com, a textbook rental company, is one such site that has attracted the business of University students, such as Andrea Dooley, 20, a junior from Staten Island. Dooley said she used to buy her books from the bookstore, spending an average of \$500 per semester, but now rents her books from Chegg.com, costing her an average of \$200 per semester.

The failure to sell textbooks has a rippling effect on the rest of the bookstore’s business, as both Rainey and McCluskey have always expected students to use their buyback money at the end of each semester to purchase other items from the store. However, as there are fewer students with books to sell back, fewer students are purchasing University apparel. So far, this has led to a slight drop in clothing sales during this fiscal year, which spans from July 1 to June 30, said Rainey and McCluskey. Furthermore, the bookstore has seen an overall “decline in dollar profits since moving to the MAC,” said Rainey.

Thus far, the bookstore’s way of dealing with Internet sales has been to order fewer textbooks, said McCluskey. The bookstore is actively looking for ways to stay competitive with online textbook sites, as it has already stepped up its advertising game. McCluskey supports the use of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and blogging, as a means by which to accomplish this goal. “We’re not going to fall behind the curve. We’re looking to change our entire business model,” she said.

The bookstore used Facebook to promote some of its clothing items this past Valentine’s Day. “If a student was a fan of the bookstore’s Facebook page, they were able to buy a shirt that said ‘I Heart MU’ for a discounted price of five dollars,” said McCluskey.

Additionally, McCluskey posts pictures of new clothing items on Facebook, hoping for feedback from members of the University community who view the photos. “We were the first department on campus to have a MySpace page,” said McCluskey.

MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY

WHERE LEADERS LOOK *forward*

The Provost’s Film Series 2011

No Man’s Land (2001) Rated R

Academy Award for Best Foreign Language film for 2002.

Thursday, March 17, 2011; 7:30 pm

Pollak Theatre

Panelists: Dr. Marina Vujnovic and Dr. Bojana Beric

Free of charge and open to the Monmouth University community and the general public.

After skirmishes, two wounded soldiers, one Bosnian and one Serb, confront each other in a trench in the no man's land between their lines. They wait for dark, trading insults and even finding some common ground; sometimes one has the gun, sometimes the other, sometimes both. Things get complicated when another wounded Bosnian comes to, but can't move because a bouncing mine is beneath him. The two men cooperate to wave white flags, their lines call the UN (whose high command tries not to help), an English reporter shows up, a French sergeant shows courage, and the three men in no man's land may or may not find a way to all get along. (synopsis taken from IMDb web site)

Contact 732-571-3526

Life is Calling.

How far will you go?

Peace Corps at Monmouth!

Wednesday, March 16th

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.


The Club Rm 107

Interested in using your skills to help a developing country? Eager to learn, firsthand, about a different culture?

Learn about international service from a recruiter and returned Peace Corps volunteer. Peace Corps volunteers work in 76 nations in such diverse fields as education, health, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, information technology, business development, environmental conservation, and agriculture while exploring a new country. 52 Monmouth grads have served in the Peace Corps!

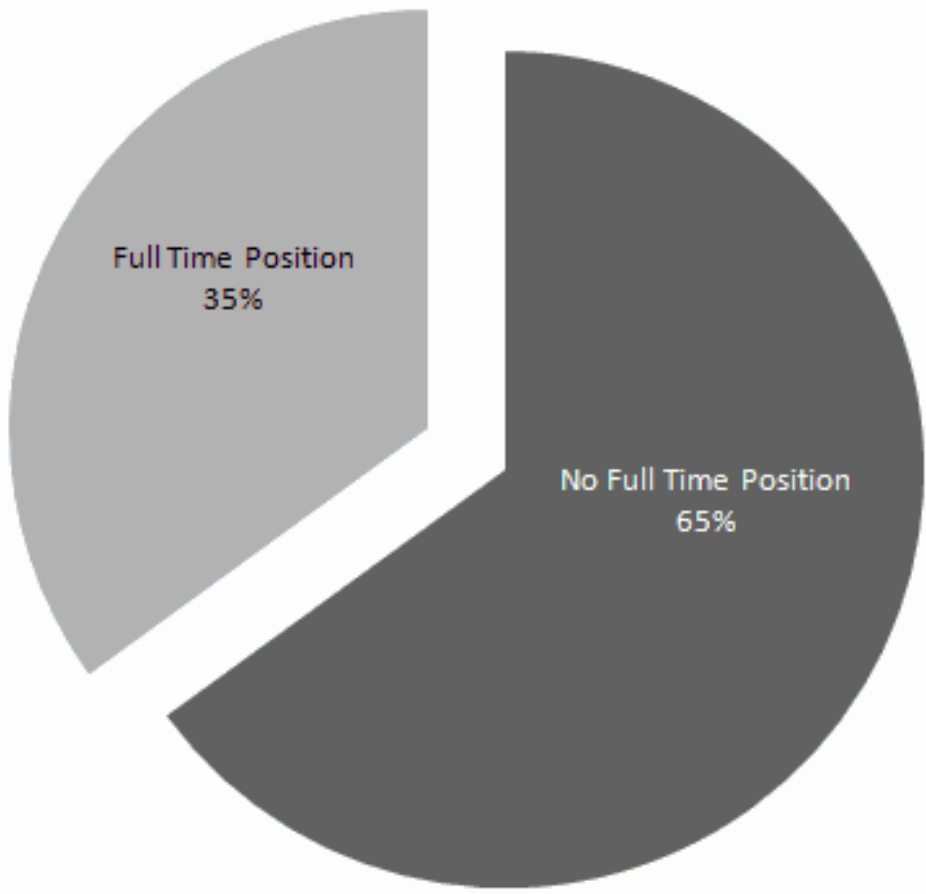
There is a special need for agriculture, environment and education majors this year, especially those with Spanish and French skills!

www.peacecorps.gov





# Undergraduates at Winter 2011 Commencement with Full Time Positions



In a survey conducted by Associate Vice President Academic and Institutional Assessment David Strohmetz, the above data was collected after the 2011 Winter Commencement.

PHOTO COURTESY of Morganne Firmstone

## Career Event to be Held for Liberal Arts Majors

Careers continued from pg. 1

question, “If I want to do ‘blank,’ what do I major in?” This led to the project he and Hill have been working on during the academic year.

“It’s not the major. It’s the skills you learn within the major,” Green said.

Green, who was formerly an anthropology professor, also noted that although the introductory speaker [Mattone] majored in marketing, he is still offering the skills a liberal arts student should carry.

“There are a lot of anthropologists who might work in museums, and that’s fine. But most anthropologists work in corporations... people don’t know this. They might work in Human Resource departments,” he said.

According to Hill, the March 23 event will be helpful to students planning to attend the job fairs that Career Services hosts each April.

“As students learn it’s the skills and the competencies that they bring to the table, it makes a difference to some of these employers. On April 13, Career Services will be running its annual Spring Career Day, and there will be a lot of employers that will be looking for all majors, so we hope armored with this new knowledge that they have the skills necessary to be

successful. That the humanities majors will go to the job fair, and be more confident and more successful in approaching employers and marketing their skills.”

The event will begin at 4:30 pm and is sponsored by the Office of Career Services and the School of Humanities and Social Services. Refreshments will be served.

The Center for Student Success can be found on Facebook. Career Services can also be found on Twitter.

“We’re going to try to use everything possible to get the word out about this,” Hill said. “These generic skills are sought after by many for-profits, business, corporations, and agencies.”

Hill had said the employment struggles graduating students face can be ultimately attributed to the economy.

Associate Vice President of Academic and Institutional Supplement Dave Strohmetz conducted a cap and gown survey to the 432 University students who participated in the 2011 Winter Commencement. 257 students responded to the survey, 167 of them graduating with a bachelor’s degree (64 percent) and 90 graduating with a master’s degree (53 percent). According to the survey, “Thirty-five percent of the baccalaureate graduates reported having a full-time position at the time

of commencement.”

“The economy is the worst any of us have seen in our careers,” Green said, “and in a sense we should be doing this anyway, but it’s especially important now to try to help students as best we can. Everyone thinks Monmouth gives students an excellent education in a general sense, but you need more than that now.”

All students are invited to attend, but the event is geared more towards those who are part of the School for Humanities and Social Sciences. The departments within the school include: History and Anthropology, Art and Design, Psychological Counseling, Communication, Psychology, Foreign Language Studies, Music and Theatre Arts, Criminal Justice, Political Science and Sociology, English, and Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies.

As a general statement, Green said, “I would say in the most broad sense this part of a real major attempt by the University in general to kind of deal with what we know are the issues our graduates are having to deal with. We’re trying to help them – we’re here to educate. But part of education is putting people in a position to be able to prosper and gain employment and earn a living and be happy.”

## Library Sets Up Mobile Connection

Library continued from pg. 1

offers are pop-up windows for different searches, which allows students to keep more than one search open at a time. The website also lets students bookmark different articles and books that they find, making it easy to go back into them for future referencing.

Besides from looking up books and articles found at the library, electronic books and databases are also available, just like on the regular website. Students can even use WorldCat, an inter-library loan system, that allows

them to find the book they need, even if it’s in a different country, and have it sent to the library for their use.

According to Silverstein, all of these features are set up to make the lives of students easier and make information more available, especially since everyone is always so busy and reliant on their smart phone for help. Ravindra Sharma, Dean of the Guggenheim Library, explained that the library is one of the few of their size to offer this kind of mobile site with so many helpful features.

“The site contains 1.5 Bil-

lion records from 150 countries and 10,000 libraries all on your phone,” Sharma explained. Both Silverstein and Sharma were very clear in stating that the purpose of this site is all for the students and helping tradition move forward with advanced technology.

Rachel Gentry, junior, has already used the site on her BlackBerry and found it extremely helpful. “I needed to do research for a topic in class and I simply logged onto the site on my phone and in minutes I had all the information that I needed,” Gentry said.

## Students Volunteer for “Read Across America”

### PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday, March 2, University students celebrated “Read Across America” and Dr. Seuss’s birthday by reading Dr. Seuss books to 230 children at schools and non-profit agencies. “Read Across America” is a national event designed to encourage families, teachers, and communities to make reading a fun, interactive activity, and to help children develop a lifelong love of reading.

Sponsored by the Center for Student Success, students prepared age-appropriate activities for the children under the direction of graduate students Mary Lehr and Sean Foran. Students visited Hope Academy Charter School, Linkages, Spring House, and the Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers signed up from all across the campus but, in particular, from the School of Education and the International Reading Association. Dr. Mary Lee Bass, advisor of the IRA MU Council, was an active supporter of this year’s event. Book donations from faculty and students added to both the children’s and the organizations’ libraries.

Volunteer Nicole Freitas, an Education major and member of the International Reading Association, said, “I wasn’t quite sure what to expect when arriving at the volunteer sites, but once I arrived I knew exactly why I volunteered to participate. The children could not wait for volunteers to read to them and even the parents were able to enjoy a story or two. The parents were extremely thankful that we took the time to reach out to their children. Between the countless thank you’s and the biggest smiles, I knew our time was well spent.”

Karen O’Neill, an intern from the Graduate School of Education (College Counseling and Student Affairs), organized the visit to the Boys and Girls Club where the gym was set up with stations for snacks, arts and crafts, and reading areas for different age groups. The club is designed to provide children with a safe place to go to after school and to provide social, athletic, educational, and art activities. O’Neill said, “I am amazed by how these simple events bring such an enormous return to the children and the University students. When you walk into the gym with 80 children, and watch them dive into the art projects, or cozy up to the readers, you just feel a warm glow from the connection we all made with each other.”

## EARLY / PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Begins on 3/31/11 with new activations every half-hour between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm

### Information and Instructions e-mailed

Students will be able to self-register using the WEBregistration component of WEBstudent.

Students who do not obtain advisor approval will not be able to self-register using WEBregistration and will need to register in person at their academic department or at the Registrar’s Office.

Full details are listed in the information and instructions which were e-mailed to your MU e-mail account in February and March.

#### WEBstudent Screens for Registration :

- Course Schedule Information
- Sections Offered by Term
- WEBregistration Approvals / Blocks
- Course Prerequisite Worksheet
- WEBregistration WORKSHEETS 1 & 2

Other WEBstudent screens that are helpful during Registration include:

- Academic Audit
- Student Schedule
- e-FORMS

Questions . . . contact registrar@monmouth.edu



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Managing Director, Credit Sales, Cantor Fitzgerald

Thomas Parr, MU '85, Art  
Creative Director, McCann Worldwide Group

Henry Mercer, MU '87, History  
President and Chief Investment Strategist, Mercer Capital Advisors

Courtney Mullins, Susquehanna '03, Public Relations  
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William Hill

Assistant Dean, Career Services

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Does Grade Inflation Impose Threats on Students' Futures?

THE OUTLOOK STAFF OPINION

What is better: sitting in a class, barely challenged, and receiving an "A" as a final grade or working hard and learning a substantial amount in class and being satisfied at the end of the semester with a "B" or "C?"

Many students would agree they have coasted on higher grades than they should have been awarded for, throughout their college careers. It seems as though the social trend now throughout universities is to eliminate the sense of competition, and to instead allow students to have a greater sense of self-confidence. Although, the effect of grade inflation is devaluing undergraduate degrees as significant distinctions among grades are disappearing.

Students are beginning to wonder if their grades are really worth their accomplishments or are just pulled out of a hat. The problem with grade inflation is it has a domino effect of getting a job following graduation. Employers may be skeptical, or not impressed by the high marks applicants received in school.

Students are so used to being rewarded for the bare minimum that when lower grades are received, they become dissatisfied. We need to remember that a "C" is average. A "B" means you went above and beyond. An «A» means your work is exceptional. Many University professors want to see students succeed so perhaps this is the reason why they may give out more "A's" than

deserved. Grade inflation also introduces a decreased sense of motivation exerted by students. If students can simply just sit, daydream, and text for an hour and 15 minutes and still receive an "A" at the end of the semester, why bother to fight for a challenge?

While some of us do not feel a presence of grade inflation at the University, just about all departments have some form of variation of inflating grades whether it's by the means of curving class test scores or adjusting numbers towards the end of the semester after paper re-writes and extra credit opportunities have been accounted for.

Undoubtedly, many have taken advantage of "easy A" classes taught by professors who are just "too chill" to challenge their class. Some students end up sitting back and relaxing without learning a thing by the end of the semester. Can we, as students at an institute of higher education allow this to continue happening? There must be a greater accountability for the manner in which students' work is transcribed into final grades.

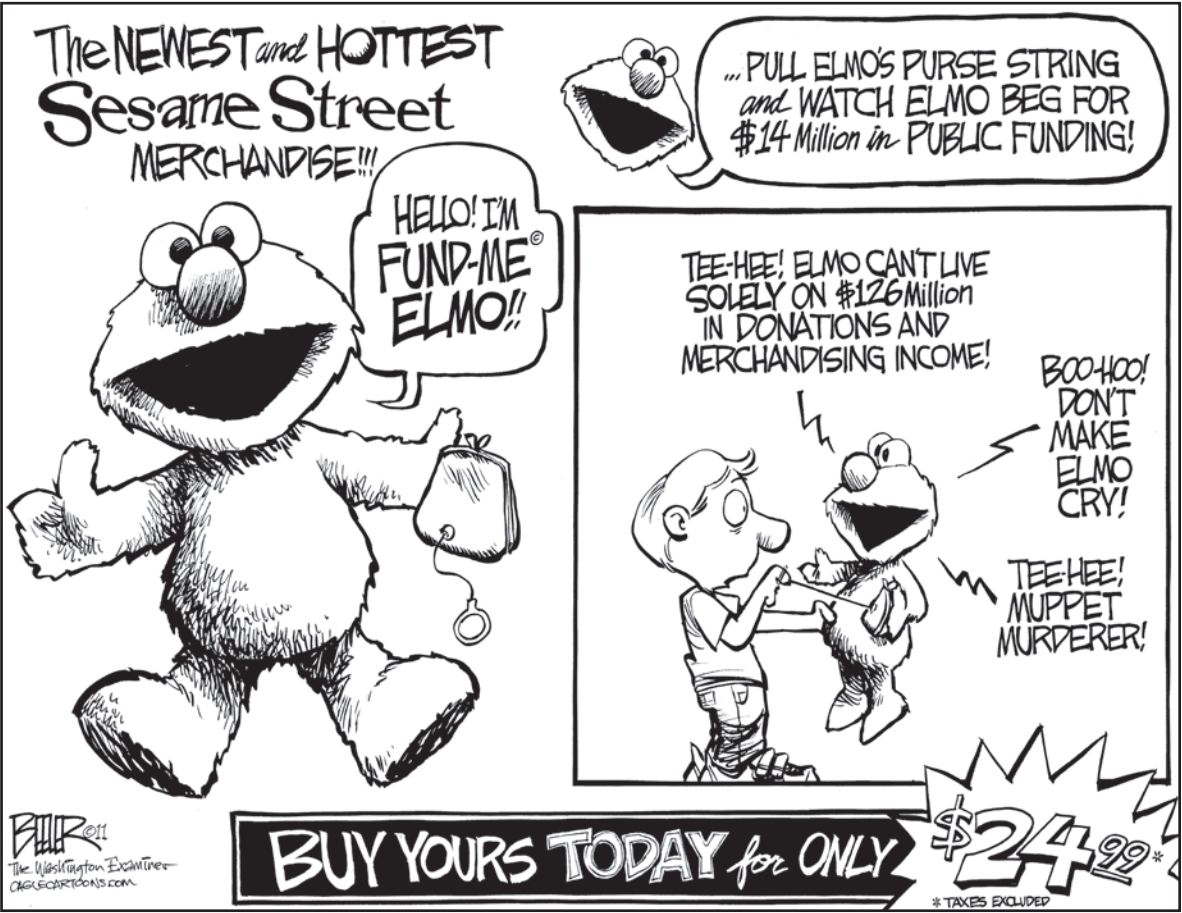
We've all written truly horrid papers, but still received "A's" on them only because we (barely) fulfilled the requirements and "showed effort." Some of us would much rather work harder to receive a grade that is actually deserved. Lower grades challenge us to do better next time and if we're all getting "A's" all the time, what does this say about

our education?

As for solutions to the inflation issue, professors that give out an abundance of A's should be required to prove the students' work by submitting graded papers, assignments, and tests to department chairs and deans to look over. Also, professors should make it a point to make their standards higher and follow through with those standards so students receive the grades they deserve, not the grades that make them happy.

As for students, we shouldn't accept anything but the upmost quality education we can get our hands on. If this means sitting in a more difficult class, instead of searching RateMyProfessor.com for the easiest possible professor, then we should do so to challenge ourselves and gain as much as we can in the few short years we're attending the University. If you're working hard and deserve those "A's," keep doing so. If you're slacking and just idly gliding by, stop and exert more effort into your work. This is college. It's supposed to be at least a little hard, right?

However, do not panic if you're a student that has diligently earned deserved high marks. Other characteristics are considered when applying for a job, such as confidence, dedication, and communication skills. Grades on transcripts will not make or break you, if you exert other redeeming qualities. Students should not be considered numbers, after all.



HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES OR LETTERS

The Outlook provides the Monmouth University community with information concerning issues in and around the University while serving as a forum for expression of the ideas of its readers.

**Contributions must be submitted (email outlook@monmouth.edu) by 12:00 p.m. Sundays to The Outlook office,2nd floor, room 260, Plangere Center.**

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# Outrageous Water Consumption: An Inconvenient Truth

EUGENIA BROADUS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Is it possible that human activity could alter the weather? There is no doubt that the Earth is warming. Mountain glaciers are melting and ultimately disappearing. The entire Arctic coast is disseminating. The Atlantic has had so many hurricanes that we are running out of letters in the English alphabet for names, having to resort to Greek letters. Of course, the world has varied in weather by itself, naturally, but are we apart of the acceleration of the climate change?

From global warming to “going green” the world has been on notice about the situation of protecting our environment and livelihoods. Our water and air are polluted, our food is unnatural and our energy consumption is ridiculous. Our carbon foot print as a society isn’t just a “foot print” anymore compared to the way we consume energy. According to NationMaster.com in 2007 our consumption of oil doubled. America uses 20,680,000 barrels a day. China isn’t even a close second with only 7,578,000 barrels a day. Russia consumes 2,858,000 barrels a day which ranks 5 among

the top five countries as far as fossil fuels according to Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth.” These figures are disturbing but as a country our water usage is just as despicable.

Water is a natural resource that is renewable yet the supply of it is steadily decreasing. According to National Geographic, “The average American lifestyle is kept afloat by nearly 2,000 gallons of H2O a day, twice the global average; only five percent runs through toilets, taps, and garden hoses at home.” Nearly 95 percent of your water footprint is hidden in the food you eat, energy you use, products you buy, and services you rely on.” The water you drink today has likely been around in one form or another since dinosaurs roamed the Earth, hundreds of millions of years ago.

While the amount of freshwater on the planet has remained fairly constant over time, continually recycled through the atmosphere and back into our cups, the population has put a strain on the accessibility of water. The population has exploded which means that every year competition for a clean, continuous supply of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and sustaining life intensifies.

Freshwater makes up a very small fraction of all water on the planet. The majority of our planet is covered in water, but it’s mainly salt water. Only 2.5 percent of it is fresh, the rest being saline and ocean-based. Even then, just one percent of our freshwater is easily accessible, with much of it trapped in glaciers and snowfields. In essence, only 0.007 percent of the planet’s water is available to fuel and feed its 6.8 billion people.

Due to geography, climate, engineering, regulation, and competition for resources, some regions seem relatively flush with freshwater, while others are facing devastating droughts. In much of the developing world, clean water is either hard to come by or a commodity that requires laborious work or significant wealth. From energy to water our state of air quality is suffering as well due to our addiction to fossil fuels.

Greenhouse gases allow light to come into the atmosphere but trap a portion of the outward-bound infrared radiation and warm up the air. CO2 usually gets top billing since it accounts for more than half of the total of greenhouse gas emissions. When we burn fossil

fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal) in our homes, cars, factories, and power plants, or when we cut down forests, or even when we produce cement we release CO2 the atmosphere. This causes our ozone layer to thin and our air pollution to rise. The “tree huggers” understand the concept of a healthier earth might mean not building a housing complex instead but rather producing more parks and building more trees. As a society we are neglecting our environment.

We have already begun to see the kind of heat wave that scientist say will become much more common if global warming is not addressed by the public. There have been many instances where natural disasters have been associated with global warming such as the heat wave in Europe the summer of 2003 killing 35,000 people. In the summer of 2005 many cities in the American west broke all time records for excessively high temperatures. Reno set a record for most consecutive days at 100 degrees or hotter for 10 days. On July 17, 2005 Las Vegas hit 117 degrees. Tucson, Arizona, tied its record for most consecutive days at 100 degrees or higher with 39 days, as oceans get warmer,

storms get stronger. Collective action is a requisite to address this set of problems. To really reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it would be necessary to reduce energy consumption in a range of economic activities in addition to more effective energy use. A reduction in energy intensity would reduce end use demand and increase efficiency. A reduction in the net carbon would shift toward low carbon options such as renewable, hydrogen and fuel cells biomass energy, and carbon. Lifestyle and behavior changes can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by changing consumption patterns, thus helping conserve resources. We all can change the world by the small things. Don’t let your faucet leak and don’t wash your car the day before it rains. Cut off the lights when you aren’t using them and car pool anytime you can, recycle and support companies with eco-friendly products because every little bit counts. The small things make a big difference.

Even if you are not a believer in global warming why not take these small precautions of just knowing you’re helping the world in a significant way.

## Midterms, Frat Parties and Concealed Weapons?

MELISSA ROSKOWSKI  
OPINION EDITOR

Gun control is one of the issues our country never seems to be able to get a handle on. People are fiercely opposed on almost every aspect that concerns guns, but recent legislation being proposed has taken it to another level altogether. Currently, bills are being considered in numerous states that would allow guns on college campuses. Seeing as how we are living in a time where school shootings are a serious and potential threat, it seems particularly alarming that these bills were even proposed.

Each state proposing this legislature is doing so to varying degrees, but nonetheless it makes you wonder if this idea we’re entertaining is a good one.

Texas is scheduled to find out today whether or not its colleges will now be allowing concealed handgun license holders to bring their weapons to campuses. Florida’s bill regarding the issue of guns on campus was recently shot down, so hopefully Texas will follow suit.

With shootings having become a reality on college campuses in this country, it seems like a misguided idea to allow guns on campuses. Concealed weapons seem especially out of place on a college campus, although there is an entire student organization dedicated to it. Yes, Students for Concealed Carry on Campus is a group that advocates for bills like these to be passed; them and the National Rifle Association, I’m sure.

Promoting violence never seems to resolve any problems and passing this legislation could be very dangerous. According to the Brady Campaign, there are 9,484 gun-related deaths in America each year. Other countries have significantly lower numbers of gun-related deaths; 200 in Canada, 194 in Germany, 60 in Spain, 39 in England and Wales, 35 in Australia, and only 17 in Finland. Judging by the numbers, it seems America has some work to do and allowing guns on college campuses would be detrimental to that effort.

At first thought, it seems a bit unreal that there could be a law passed in this country that has the

potential to put students in danger on a daily basis. That’s not to say everyone who carries a gun would use it to hurt people, but it would give enough flexibility so that people who are mentally unstable or those who would hurt people, could have a weapon on them while in the classroom. It’s a scary thought. Though there has been legislature passed on prohibiting the mentally unstable from owning guns, even President Obama has recently said that the current gun control laws need to be enforced more adamantly.

The opposite side will say that allowing guns on campuses is appropriate because the Second Amendment gives us the right to bear arms. I have also come across people who say that if guns were allowed on campuses, it would be beneficial because people could defend themselves in the case of a shooting. Not that these aren’t valid points, but in the end, this is ultimately increasing the chance for violence on our campuses.

While there are two sides to every story, it simply seems unnecessary to allow any of these bills



PHOTO COURTESY of insiderhighered.com

**College campuses** are not the place to slack on gun control.

to pass. More people with guns should help keep everyone safer? It’s practically an oxymoron. Though shootings have happened, do we really believe that allowing people to carry guns to class every day will alleviate the problem? Seems to me that it would only

serve to make things worse. While the Second Amendment does need to be taken into consideration, so does common sense. There are issues our country faces that come down to whether or not we want to give up our right to be safe and this is one of them.

## The Ideal College Athlete

BRIAN BLACKMON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Athletics have been an important part of the college experience ever since Ivy League schools such as Yale and Harvard first began to incorporate sports into their cultural identities during the middle of the 19th century.

From this not so humble beginning, college campuses across the country continue to rouse the absolute zenith of school spirit in the hearts of students, teachers, and alumni by packing bleachers full of cheering well-wishers to bear witness to the complete palette of Olympic-styled competition.

Baseball, basketball, football, and track are simply the beginning of the long list of potential sporting event offerings celebrated by multitudes of universities, with the only limitation to the roster of these offerings resting in the boundaries of each university’s respective imagination.

Because of the significant amount of attention that sports and its players are accorded by

many universities, there has been a longstanding debate concerning the amount of emphasis colleges place upon athletic achievement, and whether it is at the expense of academic excellence.

As a result of this criticism, athletes who populate the college classroom are often unfairly stigmatized as being noteworthy simply for the brawn that they possess on the inter-collegiate battlefield, and not for their pursuit of intellectual betterment.

I’m sure that there are some athletes, just like there are plenty of non-athletes, who neglect their education for extracurricular pursuits. However, this is far from keeping with the ideal standard that should be pursued.

The ideal college athlete excels in both the academic and the athletic dimensions of their collegiate career, remaining just as competitive and committed to the classroom as they are to the game.

They are devoted to training mind, body, and soul; improving upon their own unique abilities to become a better asset to

their college and classmates.

Their heart might lie in the sport that they immerse themselves in for countless hours of practice every week, but equally precious to them is an unquenchable thirst for knowledge which the hallowed halls of academia helps to quench. When there is brain behind the brawn, they are an unstoppable force.

At the same time that four members of our own men’s basketball team where suspended due to low grades, all you have to do is look toward our women’s basketball team to see the ideals of sportsmanship and academic proficiency expertly achieved in the person of senior Samantha Schanuel, number 44.

Not only does Samantha share in the credit for bringing the Hawks to a record 23 wins so far this season, she did it all while maintaining an almost perfect GPA, earning herself a place in the international business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma last spring.

Samantha Schanuel has clearly earned every single accolade that the University chooses to bestow upon her, and she has

earned every cheer and round of applause issued from the stands when she takes to the court.

Through hard work and an amazing drive for success, she represents the ideal college athlete, presenting a standard of excellence that will be hard to match when she graduates from Monmouth this May.

She also happens to be the nicest person I have ever met.

The purpose of college athletics has never been to eclipse the academic essence of the college experience.

Instead, it is meant as a compliment to the classroom, an environment to foster teamwork and the great sportsmanship ideals championed by the likes of Baron de Coubertin and Dr. James Naismith over a century ago.

In the end it is up to the individual athlete to seek out their own path, and decide upon the amount of effort that they will invest in the academic and athletic dimensions of their life.

For someone like Samantha Schanuel, there has never been anything less than giving it everything she has.

### Letter to the Editor

I would like to say a few words in response to the article in the Feb 9 issue I read. It was entitled “Religion makes Peace on Earth Impossible.” I find this article crude, biased and childish.

In the article, the author addresses that she knows nothing about any religion, yet she still attacks all faiths. I am disappointed that this article was allowed to be published. Newspapers should publish articles that do not attack others; if they are of opinion, than the journalist should do some unbiased research before writing so they at least know what they are talking about.

Religion in and of itself does not cause conflict. The thing that causes wars is the ignorance that people have and their fear of things that are different from what they know. This xenophobia (the fear of strangers) is and was really to blame.

Saying that “Religion makes peace impossible” is making peace impossible in and of itself because you are shut off from other people’s views and are being ignorant of their beliefs. In writing this article, the author is therefore making peace impossible all by herself!

Regards,  
Sarah Opatovsky



# Gov. Chris Christie Combatting High Property Taxes

JOHN FELDMANN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The words “property tax” are the bane of every home-owning New Jersey resident. During the first year of Governor Chris Christie’s tenure, the average property tax increased by 4.1 percent.

Historically this is nothing new, but New Jersey residents have a right to be irate since they are facing the toughest recession since the 1930s.

With the unemployment rate still hovering around nine percent and real wages stagnating for the middle-class American, property taxes are eating up a larger and larger portion of family income.

Hands down, New Jersey hosts the most expensive homes in the country. In 2009, the Tax Foundation conducted a study of properties in all 50 states.

The typical Jersey home was priced at \$364,000. In stark contrast, the median home value in West Virginia came in just under six figures at \$95,900.

Typically, home prices are high on the East and West Coasts (equivalent to those of New Jersey) and decrease as you head toward the Midwest. Yet, New Jersey stands out in that its property taxes eat up a larger portion of home value than any other state in the country. For instance, the median house in California costs

\$467,000, but taxes only consume 0.61 percent of the home’s value and 3.46 percent of income. Contrast that with New Jersey where 1.74 percent of the home-value is devoured, along with 7.02 percent of income.

To combat the unceasing swell in property taxes, Governor Chris Christie signed into law a bill that prevents municipalities from raising taxes beyond 2 percent.

With state aid down by \$5.6 million, many local towns are scrambling to find the revenue to pay for all services provided by municipalities.

However, there is a way out of the fiscal straightjacket. Written into the two percent tax-cap bill is a stipulation that allows municipalities to circumvent the cap.

If a town holds a public referendum and a majority of the townspeople approve the referendum, the local government can raise taxes in excess of two percent. At a

## What Do Property Taxes Fund?

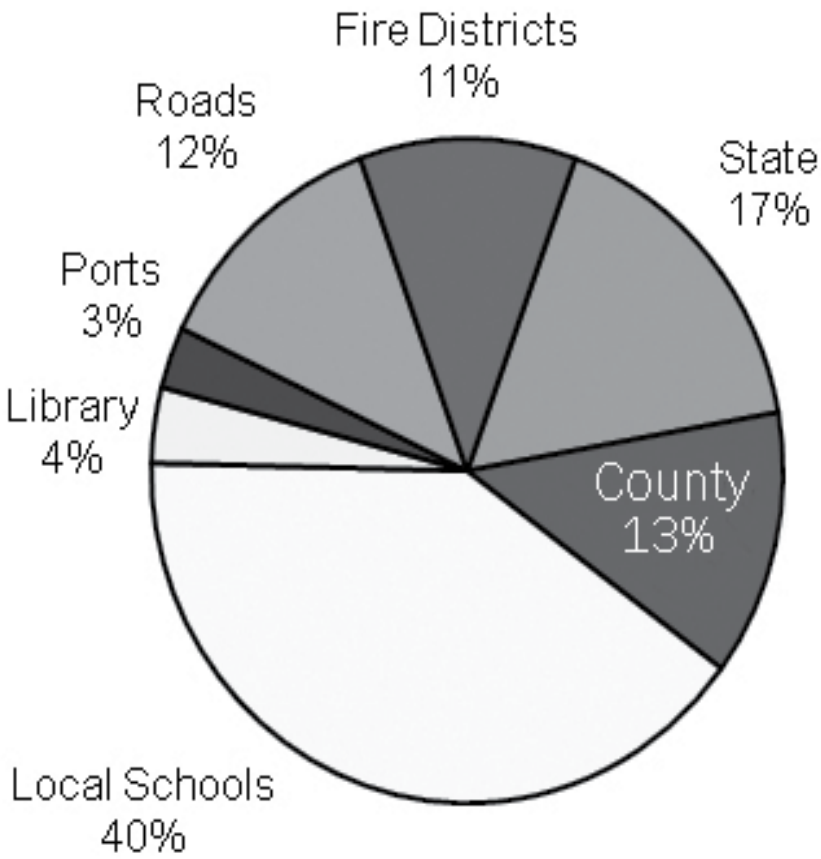


PHOTO COURTESY of Sandra Meola  
**According to statistics** from NJ.com, property taxes in New Jersey are the highest in the country, with 40 percent going towards public schools.

time when every dollar counts, we cannot fall prey to intellectual silliness, pretending that cutting taxes does not count as increasing the deficit and is somehow fiscally conservative.

The deficit simply equals revenues minus outlays.

If taxes are not raised, government services will have to be slashed and unlike the national level there are no large welfare programs to scapegoat.

Unfortunately, Governor Christie’s plan has no mechanism for combating waste and fraud at the local level.

The two percent tax-cap restrains positive spending as well as wasteful spending. It is solving the problem with a sledgehammer instead of a scalpel.

With New Jersey residents paying the highest levels of taxes in the country, a centralized decision to control property taxes may have been prudent.

The decision of whether or not to raise taxes has been handed over to the direct democratic control of those living in the respective municipalities.

A word of caution must be raised. Human beings are rarely rational creatures and will routinely vote against taking more money out of their paychecks.

Long term consequences might not be taken into account, and people may not be aware of the services they would be losing.

# Debate Hawks Help Asbury Park Debate Team Bring Home the Gold from Baltimore

### PRESS RELEASE

The Debate Hawks coached debaters from Asbury Park High School to victory last weekend in Baltimore. The Asbury Park Team won the Triple Crown at the Baltimore Urban Debate League tournament by taking first place trophies for Top School, Top Debate Team, and Top Individual Speaker.

The tournament was held at Carver High School in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, March 5, 2011.

Asbury Park High School Debate Team was launched this year, made possible by a \$7,000 grant from the TD Bank Foundation received by Monmouth University’s Institute for Global Understanding and Monmouth University’s Debate Team.

TD Bank is funding this ground-breaking program between students affiliated with the Monmouth University’s (MU) Debate Team and students attending Asbury Park High School (APHS). The 20 students on Monmouth University’s Debate Team coach the Asbury Park students after school every Tuesday and were hands-on in coaching the students in their first three tournaments.

In Baltimore, the Asbury Team was co-coached by Monmouth University’s Debate Hawk members Brandon Karkovice, Michele Koeck, and MU’s team co-captain Greg Morga. Monmouth University’s Brandon Karkovice said that “it’s been extraordinary to see how far the Asbury Debaters have grown since September”, and that the “sky is the limit for the future of debate at both Monmouth University and Asbury Park High School”.

The Asbury Team did not win any awards at their first two debate competitions, but the third tournament in Baltimore proved to be the charm as the Asbury Bishops won nine team and individual trophies in the novice division, virtually



PHOTO COURTESY of Dr. Joseph Patten  
**The Asbury Park High School Debate Team**, mentored by the University Debate Hawks won nine team and individual awards in Baltimore last weekend.

sweeping all major awards.

Debate teams from eleven High Schools from the Baltimore/Washington D.C. region competed at the tournament.

The students debated from both the affirmative and negative perspectives on the following resolution: Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Reduce its Military and/or Police Presence in Afghanistan.

Each two person team is required to compete in three rounds of debate with each debate round lasting approximately two hours. The Asbury Debate Team of Jaslyn Williams and Christopher Shield received the top team award for coming in first place at the tournament. Asbury had five teams competing at the tournament in-

cluding: 1) Jaslyn Williams and Christopher Shields; 2) Kevin Ewere and Raheem Scott-Griffith; 3) Nora Mondesir and Miguel Nunez; 4) J’Asia Johnson and Iman Hall; and 5) Joyce Jones and Aaliyah Napoleon. Kevin Ewere and Raheem Scott-Griffith took second place, and Nora Mondesir and Miguel Nunez took the third place team award.

The Asbury Team also swept the individual speaking awards with Christopher Shields winning the first place individual speaking award, Raheem Scott-Griffith taking the second place speaking trophy, and Miguel Nunez taking third. First place individual speaker Christopher Shields had this to say, “This past weekend in Baltimore we made a statement to what

our school community can do and what we are made of. Talent and capability have never been a question in our school district. My fellow students and I will go as far as we want to go if we work hard and we just proved that with this successful weekend.”

Also joining the Asbury Team in Baltimore was Melanie Sambataro, a High School Guidance Counselor at Asbury and the assistant coach of Asbury’s Debate Team, and Dr. Joe Patten, the Chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology at Monmouth University, and coach of the Monmouth University Debate Hawks and the Asbury Park Debate Team.

Ms. Christine DeMarsico and Ms. Kim Brightman, both Eng-

lish Teachers at Asbury Park High School, also played a valuable mentoring role at the tournament.

Dr. Rekha Datta, the Director of the Institute for Global Understanding said that “as the initiator of the mentorship project and the co-grant applicant, which led to the creation of the Asbury Park High School Debate Team with the help of the Monmouth Debate Hawks, the Institute for Global Understanding is proud of the accomplishments of the high school as well as the Monmouth students.

Debate Coach Joe Patten said that he was on “cloud nine by the results and inspired by the commitment to excellent demonstrated by both the Asbury and Monmouth University debaters.” He went on to say that this success “was all made possible by the good people at TD Bank who believe in our vision and in the abilities of the students at Monmouth University and Asbury Park High School”.

The major program goal is to help participating Asbury students enhance their critical thinking skills by strengthening written, oral, and technological communication skills, in furtherance of their understanding of public policy theories and issues.

In addition, University students share college experiences with APHS students and mentor them to pursue and attain a college degree.

The University’s Debate Team was named the 2010 Program of the Year in the northeast region of the United States and competes on the national stage against colleges and universities from across the country, including such schools as Cornell University, the US Naval Academy, and Boston College to name a few.

Please see Dr. Joseph Patten if you are interested in learning more about University’s Debate Team. No debate experience is needed and all students are encouraged to join the fun.



# Lautenberg Calls for Federal Disaster Declaration for N.J. Communities Hit Hardest

SANDRA MEOLA  
POLITICS EDITOR

The state of New Jersey has been hit with several severe rain storms since last Sunday, producing flooding and concern among homeowners and officials.

During a visit to a flooded neighborhood in Wayne Township with Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik Friday, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg requested President Obama to work with the state of New Jersey to make a federal disaster declaration.

The declaration could provide financial support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to New Jersey communities hit hardest by the storm, mainly towns in Passaic, Bergen, and Morris counties. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie also toured the flood regions on Friday, urging residents he was going to do everything he could do to help.

“Flooding is expected to continue, which will increase damages and raise clean-up and recovery costs,” Lautenberg, the Vice Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee that funds (FEMA), wrote in a letter to President Obama. “This will be a significant burden for families and local governments that are facing tight budgets. These communities and our citizens deserve all the support that can be provided.”

As the storm’s impact continues to be felt, many New Jersey communities are still recovering from a harsh winter which brought multiple heavy snow storms that resulted in a federal disaster declaration for fifteen counties,” Lautenberg wrote.

The senator also went to Wayne earlier in the week to survey some of the flood damage and meet with residents. New Jersey Transit’s Wayne station has been deemed unusable until further notice after nearly



PHOTO COURTESY of nj.com/star-ledger

**William Street in Little Falls,** Passaic County was devastated by the flooding exerted by the Passaic River.

five inches fell in parts of Morris and Passaic counties.

"Flooding is expected to continue, which will increase damages and raise clean-up and recovery costs," Lautenberg wrote in the letter. "This will be a significant burden for families and local governments that are facing tight budgets. These communities and our citizens deserve all the support that can be provided."

The water is slowly receding and many residents still remain living in shelters funded by the state. Some schools in Paterson, Passaic county remain closed.

The heavy rain over the past week left many towns throughout New Jersey flooded. In Little Falls, a town in Passaic County, evacuation mandates were put into place.

More than 500 homes in Little Falls were flooded by the Passaic River, according to ABC News New York affiliate.

Continued flooding in numerous towns, including Wayne and Paterson, prompted evacuations. Four bridges across the Passaic River were impassable due to the threatening flood waters.

In other parts of Morris and Passaic counties, voluntary

evacuation advisories were put into effect according to Capt. Frank Davis, a spokesman for the State Police. Paterson officials urged residents living near the river to evacuate their home over the weekend. Mayor of Paterson, Jeff Jones, sternly told residents at a press conference, “Please do not wait this out.”

Roads were closed in much of Passaic County including Rt. 20 which runs along the river in Paterson, and Wagaraw Road in Hawthorne.

Flooding also occurred along the Pompton River, Pequannock River, and the Delaware River.

In Pequannock, about 1,300 homes have been affected by flooding.

Despite clear skies in the forecast, statewide officials said flooding will remain a concern for at least the next few days. It's not clear when all affected residents will be able to return to their homes.

Flood warnings still remain in effect for North Jersey, according to Greg Heavener, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

At the end of this week, all rivers are expected to crest and major roads will re-open.

## Second Annual 5K Run/Walk on April 8 to Benefit Kortney Rose Foundation

### PRESS RELEASE

The second annual 5K Walk/Run, sponsored by the Global Understanding Convention and the Political Science Club, will be held Friday, April 8, at 2:30 pm. All are welcome to join the event, which will include refreshments, music, and awards.

Finishing off a week of discourse and celebration during the 10th Annual Global Understanding Convention, this year’s race will benefit the Kortney Rose Foundation ([www.thekortney-rosefoundation.org](http://www.thekortney-rosefoundation.org)).

The first 100 registrants will be guaranteed a free t-shirt. Same-day registration will begin at 1:30 pm in front of Wilson Hall. For the second consecutive year, food and refreshments will be provided by Aramark.

Last year’s inaugural race benefitted not-for-profit organization, Lamp for Haiti, following the devastating earthquake in the Caribbean country on

January 12, 2010.

For more information, or to obtain a registration form, please contact Heather Mistretta in Wilson Hall, Room 321A, [hmistret@monmouth.edu](mailto:hmistret@monmouth.edu), 732-263-5592; or Kristen Gillette, [kgillett@monmouth.edu](mailto:kgillett@monmouth.edu). Completed forms can be faxed to 732-263-5164. Suggested donation is \$10.

The Kortney Rose Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to raising funds to support research and education related to the treatment and cure of pediatric brain tumors.

Enhancing the quality of life of children with brain tumors requires access to excellent specialty care, clinical trials, follow-up care, and rehabilitative services. Improving the outlook for these children requires research into the causes of better treatments of brain tumors.

The goal is to find a balance between the best available treatments with the best quality of life.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE  
Dr. Michael Palladino, Dean

SPRING 2011

### Pre-Professional Health Careers Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 2011  
Wilson Hall Auditorium ♦ 2:30 – 4:00 PM ♦ Refreshments

#### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

<b>Paula Watkins, M.A.S., Director of Enrollment Services, UMDNJ-SOM</b>	<b>2:55pm-3:15pm</b>
<b>Dr. Robert Graebe, M.D., Chairman and Program Director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ</b>	<b>3:15pm-3:35pm</b>
<b>Dr. Gregory Greco, F.A.C.S., Chairman, Department of Plastic Surgery, Monmouth Medical Center, Monmouth Plastic Surgery, Red Bank, NJ</b>	<b>3:40pm-4:00pm</b>

#### ADVISING INFORMATION Dr. Dorothy Lobo- 2:40pm-2:50pm

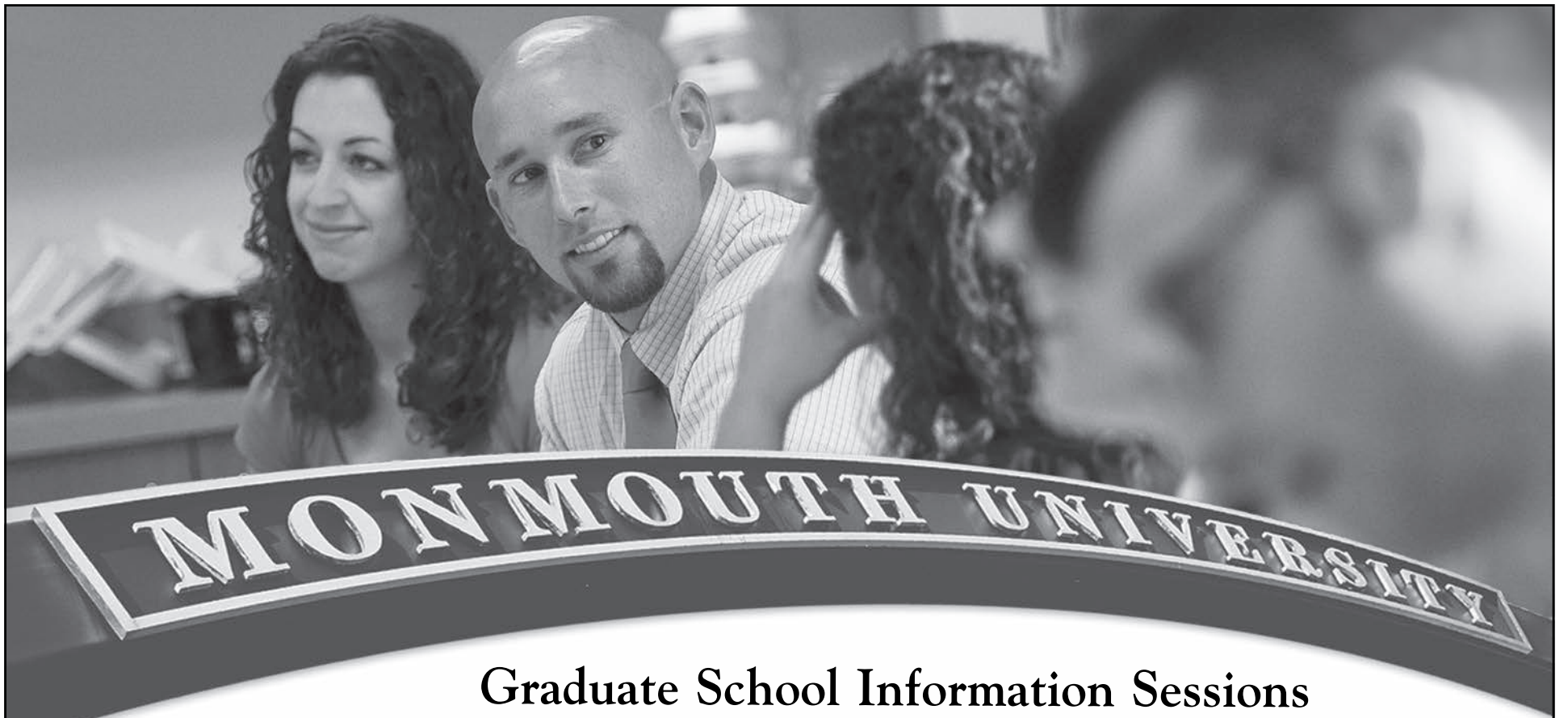
- Pre-Professional Health Advising Office – Howard Hall, Room 312
- Pre-Health Registration Form & E-mail notices - contact Heidi Stein
- Strategies for Verbal and Writing Sections of Tests (MCAT, DAT, etc.) – contact Dr. Bass
- When to Start The Application Process to Professional Schools –contact PPHAC
  - Letters of Recommendation – Supplementary Information Form
  - The Interview
- Foreign Medical Schools – contact Dr. Dunphy and PPHAC
- Affiliation Agreements: contact Drs. Mack and/or Naik
  - Seton Hall University – Physician Assistant Program
  - Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine
  - Monmouth Medical Center Scholars' Program – Drexel University College of Medicine
  - University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (UMDNJ-SOM)
- PPHAC Website - [http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/pre-professional\\_health/default.asp](http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/pre-professional_health/default.asp)

<b>Pre-Professional Health Advisory Committee (PPHAC)</b>	
Dr. James Mack, Professor, Biology and Director of PPHAC	(732) 571-3687
Dr. Bernadette Dunphy, Specialist Professor, Biology	(732) 571-4415
Dr. James Konopack, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing & Health Studies	(732) 923-4674
Dr. Massimiliano Lamberto, Assistant Professor, Chemistry	(732) 263-5698
Dr. Dorothy Lobo, Associate Professor, Biology	(732) 571-5546
Dr. Datta Naik, Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School & Continuing Education, Professor, Chemistry	(732) 571-7550
Mrs. Heidi Stein, Secretary, PPHAC – HH 312	(732) 571-3687
<b>Additional PPHAC Support</b>	
Dr. Mary Lee Bass, School of Education	(732) 571-4490









## Graduate School Information Sessions

- Anthropology  
(begins Fall 2011)
- Business Administration (MBA)  
- Accelerated MBA option
- Computer Science
- Corporate & Public Communication
- Criminal Justice
- Education (MAT, MEd, MEd)  
- Accelerated MAT option

- English
- Financial Mathematics
- History
- Mental Health Counseling
- Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice  
(begins Summer 2011)
- Psychological Counseling
- Public Policy

- Social Work  
- Traditional/Advanced  
Standing MSW
- Software Engineering

**When:** Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Wilson Hall Auditorium

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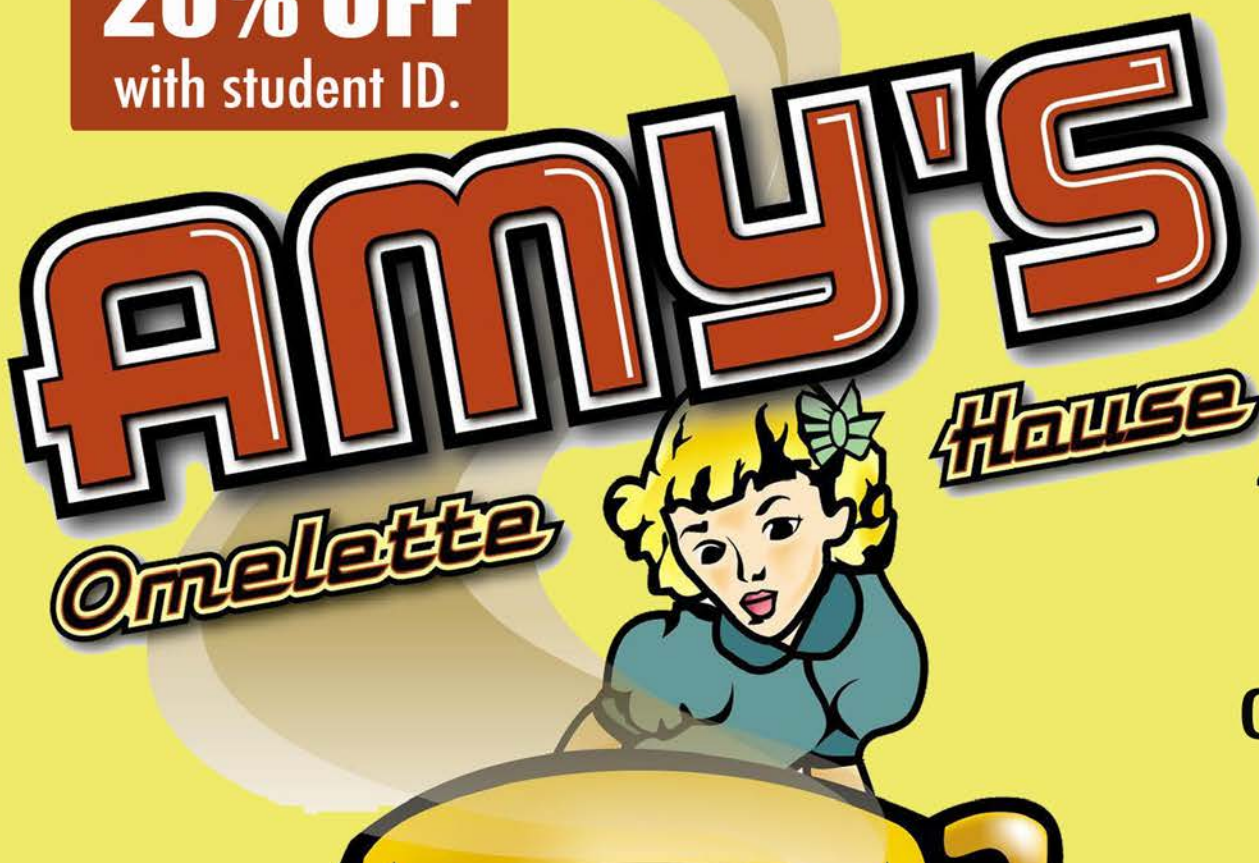
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## A SNEAK PEEK OF "THE CONSPIRATOR" MOVIE HITS THEATRES APRIL 15

AMANDA REMLING  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

"A story that no one knows always interests me," says Robert Redford, director of "The Conspirator." Redford was right. Hold onto your seats because you're about to be transported back in time to 1865. President Abraham Lincoln has just been shot, the streets are filled with chaos, and the men who planned the assassination are on the run.

We all know how President Lincoln was assassinated, but unless you are a civil war era historian, very few people are aware of the injustice that happened afterwards. Robert Redford's direction enlightens us on the true story of what happened to the seven men and one woman that were arrested and charged with conspiring to kill President Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William H. Seward.

It's up to Frederick Aiken (James McAvoy), a former Union war-hero turned lawyer to defend Mary Surratt (Robin Wright), the lone woman accused of conspiring to kill the President. Mary Surratt, a former Confederate, owned the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth and others (including Mary's son John Surratt) met and planned their attack.

When Mary's son goes missing after the attacks, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton (Kevin

Kline) begins a war for revenge, not caring about the law, and rounding up anyone who could have been associated with the attacks on the government. Originally against defending a traitor of the Union, Aiken finds himself doubting Mary's guilt, and struggling to protect her and the rights for a fair trial. Initially resisting to fight for her innocence for fear of incriminating her son, Aiken turns to Mary's daughter Anna Surratt (Evan Rachel Wood) for help. When Mary's son fails to resurface to defend her innocence, Aiken must try to find evidence and witnesses who haven't been bribed or tampered with by the courts in order to save her from the Unions demand for revenge.

Robin Wright stands out as Mary Surratt, portraying her as a strong woman who left the Confederacy after her husband's death, and struggled to provide for her family. We see her fervor as she fights to protect her son and daughter. Wood also does a stellar job as Anna Surratt. The audience feels her pain as her mother is taken into solitary confinement, and bricks are thrown through her windows.

While James McAvoy is captivating as the passionate and handsome Frederick Aiken (a mustache has never looked so good), he fails to fully commit to the time period, and lacks the 1865 accent that every other

character seems to have. Justin Long also jumps on the accent free bandwagon as Nicholas Baker, a war friend of Aiken's. An overall serious movie, Justin Long brings some comic relief to the film. "You had to keep reminding Justin that this was 1865," said Redford in a press conference at the 2011 Associated Collegiate Press National College Convention. "He was just a very fun loving, easy going guy who saw the humor in things. And I felt the film needed that element," says Redford about Long's character, Nicholas Baker.

The audience did find some humor in Long's character's terrible singing voice. More funny moments came from Secretary Stanton's request for the recovering Vice President Johnson: "Keep him away from the liquor." Perhaps the line in the movie was a direct jab from Redford, who mentioned in the press conference that "Johnson was perhaps the weakest President we had in history."

Another comical scene rose from a more serious situation, where the conspirators were brought into the courtroom for trial for the first time. While most of the crowd in the courtroom "booed" the conspirators, one gentleman decided to better show his distaste by hissing. Needless to say, I have also adapted this hysterical noise to show my dislike for others.

While the audience may wish that some scenes could be less choppy and more explored, it is un-

derstandable that Redford had a lot to fit into a short time span. When making the time period look believable in costumes and scenery, the crew did a beautiful job. "Every time Evan [Rachel Wood] sat down, the dress would fall apart a little more," said costume designer, Louise Frogley. They even gained unexpected help from around 50 Civil War re-enactors. These actors showed up every morning dressed in authentic uniforms with accurate props right down to their water canteens.

"The Conspirator" sheds light on one of the toughest times our country has faced, and the hunt for revenge that resulted from it. If you're looking for intense action scenes, a heart breaking love story, or the usual Justin Long comedy then this movie is not for you. However, if you are interested in learning more about the history of this country (while checking out a very foxy McAvoy) then be sure to see "The Conspirator" when it opens in theaters April 15.

*Editors Note: Amanda was granted access to an advanced screening of "The Conspirator," as well as a press conference with Robert Redford (the director), as an attendee of the Associated Collegiate Press National College Convention held in Hollywood, Calif. March 3-6.*

## R.E.M. Drops New Album, But Has No Plans of Going on Tour

ALEX FILLIMON  
STAFF WRITER

The alternative rock band, R.E.M., released their new album "Collapse Into Now" in Europe on March 7 and in the United States on March 8. Ever since the album was first announced for release, fans have been counting down the days until the album was available for download. The 80's alternative rock band includes Peter Buck, Michael Stipe, and Mike Mills.

These musicians are continuing to make their mark in music. Other musicians, such as Patti Smith, Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder, Peaches, Lenny Kaye, and Joel Gibb, are also featured on the album.

If purchased on iTunes, there are three bonus tracks that are included, which are "Discoverer," "Oh My Heart," and "Alligator Aviator Autopilot Antimatter." All of these bonus tracks are live in the studio.

To the fan's disappointment, the band will not be touring the album because the band does not believe that touring helps with album sales. Since everything can be downloaded onto an iPod, selling actual albums will be useless. In an interview with

the New Musical Express, Buck, who is the guitarist, stated that, "to some degree it felt like we'd just been doing kind of the same thing we did last time. You just don't really want to repeat yourself in that way."

In order to promote the new album, the band released 12 long-form music videos from directors including James Franco, Jim Herbert, and the lead singer Stipe. The bassist, Mills, compared their last album, "Accelerate," by saying, "the band wanted this new one to be more expansive. We wanted to put more variety into it and not limit ourselves to any one type of song. There are some really slow, beautiful songs; there are some nice, mid-tempo ones; and then there are three or four rockers." He has spoken about the album's theme, saying: "It's more of a personal record than a political one. Current events do come into our mind when we write, but the themes here are more universal."

"Accelerate," which was released in 2008, contained music that was much faster and more aggressive than other material. *Rolling Stone* gave the album four out of five stars, with critic David Fricke praising the group's aggressive sound, writing,

"Stipe has not sounded this viscerally engaged in his singing and poetically lethal in his writing since the twilight of the Reagan administration."

However, in "Collapse Into Now," versatility is the one component that makes the new album have so many positive reviews. *The Chicago Sun-Times* said that, "Collapse Into Now" does just what that implies — takes the various bits from R.E.M.'s bag of tricks and scrunches them into a crackling, current guitar-band sound. It's a record that sounds like it was made by a band, instead of an icon. In 'All the Best,' Michael Stipe, the lead singer, sings, 'Let's show the kids how to do it fine,' and they do."

Josh Modell of *Spin* wrote, "Here they discover the glow of middle age, warmly acknowledging the past, hello again, Peter Buck's mandolin, while realizing that the present can feel just as comforting. "Collapse" mostly sounds like a familiar friend, reliable in all the best ways, but still capable of quietly insinuating surprises. This album is host to more such complexity than anything since 1998's 'Up,' but 'Collapse Into Now' still sounds like the work of a band caught between old habits and new adventures."

"Collapse Into Now" is R.E.M.'s

15th album. Out of all of the other 14 albums, this one has received the most praise from fans and crit-

ics, including myself. Due to the versatility and uniqueness of the songs, this album will be tough to top.



PHOTO COURTESY OF theinterlude.com

**R.E.M.** released their 15th studio album "Collapse Into Now" March 8 in the States. The album has already earned critical praise.



# This “Battle” Has Several Victories and a Few Losses

**MATTHEW FISHER**  
OUTLOOK FILM CRITIC

Sometimes a movie grabs viewers and places them into the story. It could come from a fake documentary angle like “Cloverfield” or be so intense that one feels unable to escape the danger and disconnect with characters. However, for the new alien invasion flick, “Battle: Los Angeles,” the feature is treated more interactively, like a video game.

Director Jonathan Liebesman takes Chris Bertolini’s script to create a strong video game presence, making this special effects movie appear like a live-action “Call of Duty” or “Halo” movie while scenes act like levels. When a platoon of marines enters L.A., they walk slowly waiting for the enemy to attack them. Suddenly, as aliens blast the soldiers, the action moves around at 360 degree angles as guns blast out at targets like one could do with a game controller. In fact, one could watch this movie without sound and still understand the story, much like playing a game on mute.

Yet, Liebesman also treats this movie as a war documentary with the camera moving as if recording this for history. Character introductions and battle close-ups have a presence of reality featured in pictures or the news as well as wars films like “The Hurt Locker” (minus extraterrestrials). While the focus is on the soldiers, it does affect the rhythm of the story since the aliens are mainly seen at a distance or unfocused with the exception of an interesting autopsy on one of these creatures.

Liebesman generates this alien threat with spacecrafts and ma-

chines, but by pushing the aliens away, it diminishes the fear they represent.

“Battle: Los Angeles” focuses on Marine Staff Sergeant Michael Nantz (Aaron Eckhart), who is about to retire but is still haunted about a botched mission. While training soldiers, Nantz and every other soldier are told to report back to base to assist in the evacuation of Los Angeles as meteors are falling into the Pacific Ocean (as well as other major worldwide coast cities).

When creatures exit the water and blast people to dust, these marines prepare to enter battle. Under the leadership of Second Lieutenant William Martinez (Ramon Rodriguez), Nantz, Corporals Jason Locket (Cory Hardrict), Nick Stavrou (Gino Anthony Pesi), and Kevin Harris (Ne-Yo), Lance Corporals Steven Mottola (James Hiroyuki Liao), Richard Guerro (Neil Brown, Jr.), and Corey Simmons (Taylor Handley), Private First Class Shaun Lenihan (Noel Fisher), and Corpsman Jibril Adukwu (Adetokumbo M’Cormack) are told that they have three hours to fight the aliens and find civilians before a bomb is dropped on the city.

Once in combat, they realize this threat is beyond anything they were told to be prepared for. As some soldiers get picked off, others continue to fight as they slowly discover the intention of this invasion. Despite opposition, Nantz demonstrates his strength to rectifying

the past by fighting to save L.A.

While “Battle: Los Angeles” has a large cast that presents a strong company, the more memorable actors are familiar names. Eckhart works to make Nantz more than the typical ready-to-retire-before-being-called-back-into-action hero. He does fine acting and appears like a soldier, whether shouting codes and silently motioning field commands. In fact, with Eckhart’s rugged character and square jaw, he looks like a real-life G.I. Joe. While nothing special, Eckart does show he can easily enter whatever genre he is placed in.

Meanwhile, Michelle Rodriguez

troops here instead of going back and forth to fill the gaps.

Additionally, Bertolini writes for the military to be the heroes rather than just some average Joe. Considering that the practical view is that the armed forces would be the main line of defense, “Battle: Los Angeles” has a realistic approach to this story featuring men and women in uniform, most likely with the help of a military liaison. (However, this is overly stressed when these soldiers stand in the sunlight after a battle to resemble a commercial or ad for the marines).

It would have helped if the writer had slowly developed the characters for viewers to care more about them. Instead, characters are quickly introduced that they can be hard to remember who is who. Therefore, when a character gets in trouble, it might take a while to realize

which soldier is the one down or fighting back. The troop is there, but certain characters outshine others.

Although, “Battle: Los Angeles” presents a vital threat, until the point is presented, the movie operates like the video game Liebesman presents it as. This in turn makes the movie focus more on action and fights between humans and aliens instead of being equal with characters. Certain fights scenes absorb the chaos and resemble battle but are all over the place and lose viewers. One of the few clear scenes had Nantz defeating a flying alien drone by exploding gas tanks. Here the action was well structured

and planned to present some good thrills even as it was involved in the chaos of this battle. Like a civilian, Michelle (Bridget Monynahan), said to Nantz, “Thank you for that,” it was something that helped to enjoy the film.

The other star of the film was the special and visual effects, which turned this combative sci-fi story into a big budget SyFy movie. Sometimes, the special effects were good and practical like when a slimy alien is dissected. Still, these effects did work to complete the danger of this battle, more so with the flying drones that looked like mechanical bunt cakes as they broke apart and swarmed the city. Beyond this, the set design nicely created the appearance of a war-torn city with rubble lying on the ground and dilapidating buildings all around.

This PG-13 alien invasion tale might appeal to fans of science fiction, or even war movies for that matter. There are certain moments worth investing in, but appreciating video games somewhat helps enjoy the movie. Moviegoers outside this realm might be better revisiting “War of the Worlds” or even “Aliens,” which featured future soldiers fighting the deadly xenomorphs.

“Battle: Los Angeles” appears to be one chapter in a larger saga. Depending on the success of this cinematic battle, more stories could be told of soldiers fighting against these space invaders among different cities like “Battle: New York” or “Battle: London” within film or comics. If this happens, hopefully, the aliens will get more screen time to really generate an extraterrestrial threat and make this alien invasion film out of this world.

**This PG-13 alien invasion tale might appeal to fans of science fiction, or even war movies for that matter. There are certain moments worth investing in, but appreciating video games somewhat helps enjoy the movie.**

as Air Force Tech Sergeant Elena Santos adds some energy with her introduction. Her stamina and presence makes Santos a helpful ally, both on the field and for technical support, while also showing this soldier can be as tough as any of the men among hails of bullets against these aliens.

Bertolini’s script attempts to present a small scale “Independence Day.” Instead of showing all the global attacks from New York to Rio De Janero, “Battle: Los Angeles” concentrates on the “City of Angels.” It takes what could have been part of a story into the main features. This allows viewers to see everything happening to these

## “Hard Corps: Uprising” Scores a 9 out of 10

**NICK SEGRETO**  
STAFF WRITER

Konami is infamous among video gamers for its 2D shooter masterpiece, “Contra,” among many other classic titles. A simple game about two guys fighting off an army of aliens by themselves, with nothing but three lives and a few power ups. It had easy enough controls, but a punishing difficulty that was never forgiving, even with the just-as-famous Konami code. If you like the Contra series, than “Hard Corps: Uprising” on the XBOX360 and PS3 is going to seem very similar. Instead of aliens, it’s giant robots.

The story is very basic. It’s the future, there’s an evil empire called the Commonwealth, and you’re the resistance fighting it. The story is told primarily through the loading screens of the game. Simple, but it does emphasize that it’s literally you against an entire army. It is actually a prequel to one of the Contra games, which explains the familiar game play.

The game has anime style graphics to match the awesome intro video which very strongly captures the element the game tried to capture. Sure it looks a bit off in contrast to the 3D background, but it still looks stylish nonetheless. It’s all action with an anime look and a metal sound. It takes the awesome from so many different genres, puts them in a blender, and the end result is pure awesomeness.

There is one minor gripe that I have right off the bat, though. There are four characters showcased in said anime style opening. First is Bahamut, a former soldier in the oppressive army who turned traitor and sided with the resistance. Second is Krystal, who has less life than Bahamut, but shoots faster. Third is Harley, who is assumed to be a heavy shooter, and fourth is Sayuri, who attacks with a rapid fire sword. In the main game, only Bahamut and Krystal are playable. Harley and Sayuri are downloadable characters that you have to pay extra for.

Konami just loves pulling this stunt, they did it in “Castlevania: Harmony of Despair” although not to the same extent. But come on, it’s a \$15 game and I only get two characters to play with?

Oh well, at least the audio rocks. The epic metal never fails to make things seem all the more incredible than they might actually be. Seriously, play this soundtrack when you see two cats fighting over a scratching post, and it suddenly blows out of proportion.

As for the game itself, it has the markings of a classic. It’s that classic Contra style of kill everything else on the screen, no matter how much else there is. It’s that classic 2D shooter with a variety of different types of guns. Machine guns shoot rapidly, heat can be charged up and do massive damage, laser homes in on all targets, and there’s the classic spread gun that decimates anything



PHOTO COURTESY OF videogamesblogger.com

“Hard Corps: Uprising” takes place in the year 2613, when the world is ruled by an empire known as the Commonwealth.

that crosses your path. It’s vintage Contra, and it definitely appeals to the old school gamers.

The difficulty is through the roof, and mandates playing the same levels several times in order to know what’s coming. However, it isn’t unfair in the difficulty. Everything can be avoided, and rarely do you ever have to make a leap of faith only for a bullet to knock you into a hole and kill you.

The levels are also unique in their own right. Each has a different setting with different obstacles to overcome. The first level is in a desert where staying out of the quicksand is a lifesaver. Level four is all on hover boards, and level five is a stealth level. Variety is aplenty, and it makes the game a very unique

experience.

There are two game modes that “Hard Corps: Uprising” has to offer. Arcade mode is the standard one, with limited lives, limited continues, and a borderline insane difficulty.

However, there is relief for those that need a softer punch. Uprising mode allows you to customize your character by increasing their health, life count, and even weapon upgrades. The points acquired serve as currency, so if level six is beating you up too much, go back and play level one again to get the points for that extra life bar. You’d be surprised at the difference it can make.

As all Contra games are, this is still ridiculously difficult. That’s why this game is best played with

a friend. Unlike “Castlevania: Harmony of Despair,” “Hard Corps: Uprising” allows both online and offline co-op. That means only one of you has to pay for the XBOX and the game, and the other can just freeload!

Loading in between levels is somewhat long, usually a bit longer than it takes to read the text which reveals more of the story. The trade-off is that everything in the level is already fully loaded, so there isn’t a need to wait for the boss to appear, or for the next part of the level to load.

The online is good as well. Unlike some of Konami’s other titles that have been mentioned, there is a very good online system which allows you to pick what kind of game you want to play, rather than just hope you get lucky. Occasionally, it might lag, and that can actually cause a delay in controller reception. Basically, you push a button, and it takes a second for the game to receive the push. You don’t want that when there’s a barrage of missiles coming your way.

So aside from price gouging and minor lag issues, “Hard Corps: Uprising” definitely hits home with the Contra fans. The old school fans will love the insane difficulty, but the softer new school gamers with their quick save features might not be pulled in. Thankfully, Uprising mode is there for those that can’t handle the challenge of arcade mode. “Hard Corps: Uprising” gets a very respectable nine out of 10.



# Future of Lawyers Masked by Nebulous Clouds of Artificial Intelligence

SHAHARYAR AHMAD  
SCIENCE EDITOR

In mid-February, IBM's brain-child Watson used an elaborate set of complex algorithms to defeat Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter on the popular television game show "Jeopardy!" The milestone this supercomputer achieved skimmed beyond the superficial waters of game shows; it shed light on the magnitude of potential for linguistic analysis.

One venue for such advancement is the legal sidebar. In 1978, five television studios filed an antitrust lawsuit against CBS where over six million documents were examined at a total cost of over \$2.2 million, most of it for top lawyers who scrutinized the documents for months on end. Sadly, this scenario has only been reiterating itself over the past few decades.

Quite recently however, artificial intelligence software began coming out of the woodworks and into the hands of legal firms. Blackstone Discovery from Palo Alto, California, for example helped analyze 1.5 million documents at a mere \$100,000 – a savings of over 550 percent in documents per dollar with respect to the former scenario in 1978.

Judge Grimm determined in Victor Stanley v. Creative Pipe that no credible evidence was presented to establish reasonable search efforts. "Common sense suggests," Judge Grimm said, "that even a properly designed and executed keyword search may prove to be over-inclusive or under-inclusive...the only prudent way to test the reliability of the keyword search is to perform some appropriate sampling."



PHOTO COURTESY of eagleionline.com

**It's estimated** that the transition from manual document discovery to e-discovery will promote a man power reduction in which a lawyer would suffice for a job that once required 100.

That is exactly the route that Cataphora, an "information-sifting" company, is taking. Its e-discovery methodology falls into two general categories: linguistic and sociological. The more basic linguistic approach uses specific key words find and sort relevant documents.

More advanced linguistics involves filtering documents through a trove of phrase and word definitions. For instance, a user who types "dog" may find documents that mention its biological name "Canis familiaris,"

"man's best friend," or even the notion of "walk."

The sociological approach adds, John Markoff says, "an inferential layer of analysis, mimicking the deductive powers of a human Sherlock Holmes." Software engineers at Cataphora are using the artificial intelligence of their software to sift through documents to find the actual activities and interactions of people – who did what, when was it done, who talked to whom.

The software then visualizes the

chain of events: identifying pertinent discussions that have taken place across the "digital anomalies" white-collar criminals often create in hiding their footprints usually form switching media from e-mail conversations to instant messaging and even from telephone calls to face-to-face encounters.

"It doesn't use keywords at all," said Elizabeth Charnock, Cataphora's founder. "But it's a means of showing who leaked information, who's influential in the organization

or when a sensitive document like an S.E.C. filing is being edited an unusual number of times, or an unusual number of ways, by an unusual type or number of people."

Last year, another e-discovery company, Clearwell, used software by the law firm DLA Piper to analyze and sort 570,000 documents in two days. It used just one more day to identify 3,070 relevant to the court-ordered discovery motion.

Despite such a marvelous advancement of our time, this software has yet again renewed the debate of the economic consequences of technological progress, for what prospects does the legal field hold for the young lawyers of tomorrow?

Quantifying the employment impact of this technology is indeed no simple ordeal. Mike Lynch, the founder of the e-discovery company Autonomy, believes that "legal is a sector that will likely employ fewer, not more, people in the U.S. in the future."

Lynch estimated that the transition from manual document discovery to e-discovery would promote a man-power reduction in which one lawyer would more than suffice for a job that once required 100.

Mike Lynch further contends that this new generation of software, capable of detecting duplicates and finding important documents on very particulate topics, could "cut the head count by another 50 percent."

In the grand scale however, the face of money will always be the same. But now that technology bears the most investment value, hopefully human values will step in to rescue the legal profession of tomorrow.

## University Roots & Shoots Chapter Holds Collection Drive

MARISSA WEBER  
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER

"Wildlife may not seem important, but they are. Everything in the ecosystem is connected," said Kyle Seiverd, President of Monmouth's Roots & Shoots chapter, about the club's collection drive for supplies to benefit local wildlife rehabilitation.

Roots & Shoots was founded on three pillars: helping the community, animals, and environment. This semester, the group chose to focus on helping animals.

"Wildlife is an important aspect that a lot of people put on the back burner, or almost forget about," said Seiverd, explaining why they chose wildlife over other animals. "Most of the collections done for shelters are for dogs or cats."

Most people are not aware of the role that wildlife plays in the environment. "Regardless of whether or not you see the effects, everything goes full circle," Seiverd continued.

"You might not think of a fox as being beneficial, but they keep the rabbit population in check. Owls do the same for the rodent population."

The collection drive continues until the end of March, and contributions can be dropped off at E-271 (Edison Science Building-Biology Office). Items needed include blankets and stuffed toys, oatmeal (not instant), cheerios, plastic spoons, Dixie cups, Dawn detergent, Windex spray, paper towels, and Tupperware containers.

The drive's beneficiary will be the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MCSPCA) in Eatontown. Gretchen Rell, the shelter's Wildlife Coordinator, is thrilled about the collection

drive, emphasizing her mantra, "It's all about the animals."

"It is my responsibility to place any incoming wildlife with licensed rehabilitators or facilities," said Rell, who has been the Wildlife Coordinator for 19 years. Throughout the seasons, Rell sees a variety of wildlife, including red-tailed hawks, swans, pigeons, squirrels, cottontail rabbits, raccoons, and opossums.

Most animals are brought to Rell because of collisions with cars, trucks, windows, or as abandoned babies. However, any number of causes can lead to an animal needing human intervention.

Recently, the MCSPCA received two red-tailed hawks that were dehydrated and starved. Rell, who said these birds of prey were adults and should have been skilled in hunting, were deprived of food because the snow had long frozen over the ground. These two hawks unfortunately passed away within 24 hours.

However, the success rate is typically quite high, around 80 percent, according to Rell.

So far this year, the shelter has only received birds, but "baby season" for mammals is soon approaching. "Be aware of your surroundings and be on alert for babies in distress. Call immediately to arrange for their care," said Rell.

Many times, however, the babies are not truly orphaned. "Their mother may be out foraging for food, and re-nesting

the babies is often possible." To avoid intervening in situations where it is not necessary, Rell advises the public to call a licensed rehabber or shelter before taking action with wildlife.

Rell is very dedicated to her job and to the animals, but said it is getting harder because of the lack of rehabilitators. In 1998, NJ had over 100 licensed wildlife rehabbers. In the past decade, that number dropped to just over 20.

NJ's wildlife has another factor working against them: development. "The human population is growing exponentially, and we're clearing more and more areas," said Seiverd. "There is a huge pressure put upon wildlife, especially in Monmouth and Ocean counties."

"Wildlife is an important part of the environment, and they were given a place on this earth just like humans and domestic animals," Rell said. "Sometimes,

they require our assistance."

The NJ based non-profit, Animal Rehabilitators Alliance of NJ, has set up a toll-free hotline to help the public deal with wildlife encounters. If you find an orphaned or injured animal, call 1-877-4-SAV-WIL(D).

Donations for the drive can be delivered to room E-271 (Edison Science Building- Biology Department Office) until the end of March. For questions, contact Kyle at 610-850-5161.



PHOTO COURTESY of wildlifenorthamerica.com

**Watch out rabbit!** Foxes help keep the rabbit population in check.







# Go Out On a Limb With the Outdoors Club

## Outdoors Club Has Zip-lining Trip Planned for April

**NICK HODGINS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Outdoors Club will be hosting a zip-lining trip to the longest and highest zip-lining spot in North America located on Hunter Mountain in New York, from April 16-17.

Zip-line Adventure Tours, based at Hunter Mountain, is home to multiple zip-lining tours located throughout their resort. According to their website, the resort features over four miles of zip-line, some reaching as high as 600 feet off of the ground. Those attending the trip will be taking part in the Mid-Mountain Tour, which is considered intermediate compared to what the mountain has to offer.

Greg Cenicola, trip coordinator, said, "The trip is an overnight event that involves each participant to experience the Mid-Mountain Tour at Zipline Adventures at Hunter Mountain. Afterwards the group will be staying overnight at Brookground Campgrounds. On Sunday morning the members are able to relax or go hiking to a nearby waterfall if they wish."

The Outdoors Club currently has all 40 spots filled, but according to Cenicola, this is subject to change depending on if participants drop out.

Cenicola had previously spoken to their advisor, Professor Reynolds, about future trip ideas. "When Reynolds mentioned his experience zip-lining in the Juneau Alaskan rainforests, I immediately thought of Hunter Mountain," Cenicola said. "I suggested zip-lining for the spring trip instead of rafting and Professor Reynolds immediately put me in charge. I made a few calls to the mountain to discuss group deals and found an affordable campground nearby."

Cenicola is hoping to become a supervisor for the Outdoors Club next semester and was thrilled to be able to put such a great trip together.

Depending on the amount of funding received from the Student Government Association, the trip can range anywhere from \$25 to \$60 a student. The club is asking for a \$20 deposit in order to sign up for the trip and will then request more money based on the funding received.

According to Reynolds, the



PHOTO COURTESY of HunterMtn.com  
**Adventurers** zip-line down Hunter Mountain, the longest and highest zip-lining spot in North America.

trip includes customized t-shirts, five meals, camp site, transportation, admission to the zipline facility, hiking, campfire and perhaps cabins, if the budget allows.

Cenicola said, "The trips are a great way to meet new people and take part in exciting new experiences. Last semester I never thought I'd be kayaking through rapids and building campfires; never mind organizing a trip and being in charge."

The Outdoors Club has hosted events in the past such as white water rafting, kayaking, camping, and hiking. The club regularly takes part in park clean-ups nearby where they spend part of the day cleaning up the parks

in addition to enjoying the nice weather, hiking, and biking. They also have a paintball trip in Pennsylvania coming up this Saturday, March 19.

The Club is always looking for more members and more ideas. They are extremely open to trips and if Reynolds is on board, he will do everything he can to make a trip happen just short of paying for it himself. Reynolds said, "You should always be adding to your bucket list."

The club meets at 3:45 pm every other Wednesday on the second floor of Bey Hall. Anyone interested in signing up can send an email to Cenicola at s0741388@monmouth.edu.

### Animal Representatives of Monmouth University: Adopt Sophia!

Meet beautiful Sophia! She is a one-year-old Terrier mix. Sophia was confiscated from a cruelty case, but it does not show; she loves people and is very friendly.

Sophia is always on the go. She is an energetic girl who loves to go on outings with volunteers.

She loves to play with toys and balls anywhere she goes, whether it is to the park or to a volunteer's home for the day. Sophia knows "sit" and "come," and is very motivated to learn even more tricks.

She loves to play with other dogs and it really wears her out!

Come on in to the Monmouth County SPCA and meet Sophia!

The MCSPCA is located at 260 Wall St., Eatontown, NJ 07724. Or call for more information at 732-542-0040.



PHOTO COURTESY of The Animal Representatives of Monmouth University

**Adopt Sophia**, a one-year-old Terrier mix who loves to play and explore.

## Speaking the Dirty Word

**MEREDITH VIOLI**  
STAFF WRITER

On March 1 and 2, the University held an annual event that focuses on discussing one thing: vaginas.

The yearly event, called "The Vagina Monologues," is part of a global movement named "V-Day", which is dedicated to raising funds to end violence against women and girls around the world.

The University has participated in this event for seven years now. This year, 14 female students and three female faculty members braced the stage in Anacon Hall to perform a number of acts originating from the award winning play by Eve Ensler.

"It's a taboo topic, we don't talk about this enough," said senior performer Allison Macanga, "about being female and why it rocks and getting everyone together to celebrate and to talk and share and laugh and cry."

From the first performance, it was easy to see what Macanga meant. Those in the audience who had never seen the play were wide-eyed and open-mouthed when the first "vagina" was uttered.

"When we first brought the Monologues here seven years ago, I heard a lot of people go, 'what did she just say?'" said Vagina Monologues advisor Heather Kelly.

"But now it's almost like vagina is becoming a regular word that you hear around campus, which is wonderful because it is a regular

word, it's a body part."

After a few acts, the audience relaxed, and they even started to respond to what they were hearing, mostly through laughter.

At one point, the performers presented an act focusing on the different kinds of moans women make during intercourse. They featured the "Justin Bieber moan" (Baby, baby, baby oohh), the "Jersey Shore moan" (Oh yeah, cabs are here), and the last one, the "audience moan." The performers made each section of the audience moan, and everyone participated.

Although some of the audience members may have been embarrassed to participate, the performers knew how to handle it.

"I'm not nervous about saying vagina, are you kidding?" Macanga said, "It should be said more often!"

"We're making the statement that the vagina is a body part, it's not a dirty word, it's not a shameful word, we should be able to talk about our vaginas and not feel bad or dirty or shameful doing it," Kelly said.

Kelly explained that during rehearsals the girls were able to familiarize themselves with the word through a variety of vocal exercises.

"One of the things we do as a

warm-up is we sing the "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" song but we add in, you know, vagina," Kelly said while laughing, "So it's 'head, shoulders, knees, vagina, knees, vagina.'"

Towards the end of the night, both the male and female audience members seemed to have left their awkward feelings behind and started having a good time.

"The more that we're able to legitimize the word vagina the more we're able to talk about both the good and the bad things," Kelly said. "You know, we're able to talk

about rape, but we're also able to talk about things that we should be able to talk about as women and realize that it's not a shameful, dirty place."

"I think this is an awesome event for girls and boys," Macanga said, "it's for a great cause to raise awareness and raise money for women and girls who are abused."

In addition to the play, the cast of the monologues honored three local women with the "Vagina Warrior Award". This award goes to local men and women who work

to end violence against women and girls or who volunteer to enhance the lives of women and girls.

This year the award went to Valerie Benjamin, Ellen Bloom, and Susan Levine for their local contributions to women's rights.

The monetary donations received from the event will benefit three different foundations.

"Sylvia's Children" is a foundation dedicated to supporting a school of 1,000 children in Uganda, Africa. According to their website, silviaschildren.com, more than \$400,000 has been raised and sent to the school so they can build a self-sustaining model school. Holmdel entrepreneur, Sylvia Allen, is the founder of the foundation.

"180: Turning Lives Around" is a program that has been working in Monmouth County for 33 years to help end domestic violence and assault in the community. According to 180nj.org, Monmouth County is ranked the second highest county in NJ for the number of domestic violence arrests. Sadly, fifty percent of domestic violence incidents in the county are not even reported.

"180" makes a difference by providing programs and assistance to women and girls who fall victim to this violence.

The third program is the V-Day

"Spotlight" program of 2011. It is the "Women and Girls of Haiti". According to the Haitian government, the natural disaster in Haiti left over one million people homeless. There are now 1,300 refugee camps in Haiti. What many do not know is that thousands of women and girls are being forced to live in high-risk environments because of their current situation.

Women in the camps have come out and told of the many rapes that happen in the camp and their fear of being attacked. Although actual numbers are hard to come by, the 2010 Refugees International Report stated that cases of rape and abortions performed on children as young as ten years old have tripled in Haiti since January. Additionally, there has been reported gang-related violence against women, who are being forced to trade sex for food.

The report also said that as of right now, most Haitian women who are victims of rape are afraid to report it to police. That may be because less than 2 percent of rapists who are reported are prosecuted.

According to vday.org, this campaign will work to raise funds and eventually build three safe houses for survivors of violence. Also, the campaign is working to provide four legal assistance offices and will provide support for 19 community based organizations throughout the country that provide anti-violence work.



# Students to Showcase Variety of Talents

## Sigma Pi Plans to Host Their Annual Monmouth's Got Talent

**JORDAN FUREY**  
STAFF WRITER

Sigma Pi will be hosting Monmouth's Got Talent in April at a date to be announced in order to raise money for alcohol awareness in support of their philanthropy, the SAM Spady Foundation, in the Pollak Theatre.

Tickets will be priced at five dollars before the event and seven dollars at the door. First, sec-

Vandervalk, junior, and president of Sigma Pi.

"We are all really looking forward to Monmouth's Got Talent. Right now we are getting ready by finding sponsors for the prizes and setting the date. Every year has had a great turn out so we expect everything to go well this year. It's going to be awesome, so don't miss it," said Vandervalk.

Monmouth's Got Talent is an

supportive and sung along. I had so much fun watching and my friend had a lot of fun singing, and it's all for a great cause. I can't wait to see the acts for this year's Monmouth's Got Talent."

The SAM Spady Foundation in a non-profit organization that was founded in memory of Samantha Spady, a 19-year-old who died of alcohol poisoning in 2004 at Colorado State University. SAM stands for Student Alcohol Management and is aimed towards helping students and also educating students on alcohol awareness to help prevent alcohol poisoning.

The proceeds raised at Monmouth's Got Talent will help fund research and development for the Sam Spady Foundation and also help the foundation fund student alcohol management programs.

The mission of the Sam Spady Foundation is to "educate parents and students on the dangers of alcohol, specifically high risk consumption, and the signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning," according to their website. If you would like to learn more about the Sam Spady Foundation, or would like to donate, you can go to [www.samspadyfoundation.org](http://www.samspadyfoundation.org).

Alcohol is often used by students in college and sometimes they are not properly informed on the effects that it may have.

Stefania Flecca, junior and vice president of Student Government Association, said, "It's really important for students to understand that, while alcohol use is very popular, it can also be very dangerous. As with most things, knowledge is our strongest tool, and will allow us to make the best decisions possible."



PHOTO COURTESY of Sigma Pi

**Sigma Pi** plans on hosting their annual event, Monmouth's Got Talent, this April.

ond, and third place winners will receive prizes donated by local businesses.

Monmouth's Got Talent is a student talent show which any student can participate in. If you can sing, dance, play an instrument, or put together a comedy act, you can perform at this event and hopefully win some prizes.

Monmouth's Got Talent is being put together by Jimmy

annual event that Sigma Pi puts together. In past events, there has been a range from 10 to 15 acts. Students of all ages participate and judges consist of fellow University students.

Traci Luisi, junior, said, "I went to Monmouth's Got Talent last year and it was a lot of fun. I went to support my good friend who was singing as her talent. The audience was really

## SGA President's Letter

Fellow Hawks,

Welcome back to campus! I hope the break was restful and energizing for the coming final weeks of the 2010-2011 school year! It's hard to believe how quickly this year has come and gone already.

SGA is planning for our three upcoming events that will happen over these final weeks. The first event is SGA's annual charity auction and will be held on March 25 in the Versailles and Pompeii rooms in Wilson Hall. The proceeds of the auction go towards a 501c3 non-profit organization called Michael's Feat which aims to bring comfort and care to families of severely-ill newborns. The organization was set up by Adam and Dana Puharic after their son Michael Gerard died from a chromosome disorder known as Trisomy 13. SGA has a long-standing relationship with Michael's Feat and they have been overwhelmed by Monmouth's continued generosity. At the event, great items are auctioned off by an auctioneer including a parking pass, one free week of summer housing, items from professional sports teams, as well as gift certificates and tickets to local events! It is a great night of fun and excitement for all. The

second event that will be held by SGA is the Student Awards Ceremony. This is a great night that gives departments, organizations, and students the chance to give thanks and honor those who are Monmouth's best and brightest. Student organizations and academic departments have gotten forms to nominate students and SGA is working to put all of this together. This event will be held on April 29 in Pollak Theatre. We hope that if you are fortunate enough to receive an award that you come out and honor all of Monmouth's best and brightest.

Also, Springfest is right around the corner! For those of you who do not know, Springfest is an event led by SGA but supported by many organizations. It is essentially a big carnival that is put on the Great Lawn as a last big event before the year ends! Last year was a huge success as many people came out in amazingly beautiful weather. This year's theme is New York and the Springfest committee has worked hard to put it all together! Get ready! It's a blast!

Have a great first week back and GO HAWKS!

Kevin Sanders  
SGA President

## Bracelet Sale to Benefit Autism Speaks

### PRESS RELEASE

PRSSA and Alpha Xi Delta will be selling bracelets to raise money for Autism Speaks. The sale will take place on Monday, March 21 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Plangere lobby. The bracelets, \$3 each, are hand-made and on every one is a puzzle piece charm, the national symbol for autism. Baked goods and candy will also be available for a donation of any amount. All proceeds from this sale will benefit Autism Speaks.

Autism Speaks is a nonprofit organization founded in February 2005 that works to fund research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and a cure for autism. As the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, Autism Speaks also works to increase the awareness of autism spectrum disorders and to advocate for individuals with autism and their families. Their goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders and to find the missing pieces of the puzzle. For more information about Autism Speaks, please visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org).

## Club and Greek Announcements

### Italian Club

The Italian Club will be hosting their annual event "Festa Italia" on March 31 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Wilson Auditorium. Hope to see you all there!

### PRSSA

PRSSA will be meeting in Plangere Room 234 every Wednesday at 3:00 pm.

We have speaker series, career building sessions, and many other awesome events. Hope to see you there!

### Circle K

Circle K will be meeting in the Student Center room 202 Thursdays at 7:30 pm. We hope to see everyone there in order to make the world a better place!

### Hillel

Do you like pizza? If so, come join Hillel every Wednesday for pizza, sponsored by the Chabad, in the Student Center at 3:30 pm. Come and join us for some free pizza!

# summer sessions

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What improvements would you like to see in University dining?

COMPILED BY: MELISSA ROSKOWSKI



Felicia  
sophomore

“The student center should offer more healthy options and longer operating hours.”



Lastny  
senior

“Meals in the student center need to be cheaper.”



Philip  
sophomore

“The quality of food could be improved in the dining hall.”



TJ  
junior

“Later hours in the dining hall, the current ones don’t fit with a student’s lifestyle.”



Frank  
senior

“We should be able to use ‘meal swipes’ in the student center as well as the dining hall.”



Rakesh  
graduate

“More chicken, it is a staple in international cuisine and there is a lack of it in the dining hall.”



John  
junior

“Consistency, the food tastes different depending on what day you go.”



Rebekeh  
junior

“More variety in the dining hall.”



Tina  
junior

“Quicker service in the student center for when you are in between class.”



Kara  
junior

“Healthy options besides salad and maybe include organic produce.”

March 7<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>

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Desperate Mama Diane McQuay x3449

You Got Questions? We Got Answers... Get Them, Tuesday, March 22nd

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How can my resume get me interviews?

Where are these 'networking' opportunities everyone's always talking about?

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Join us for the Communication Career Event on:  
Tuesday, March 22nd, from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Pros Panel Discussions at 1:00 pm and 2:15 pm on what you can do with a Communication degree, and how to prepare for a career. Learn how to be creative in the job market, and position yourself for a job that you didn't initially imagine.

MU Network Connection from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Get some face time with other students, alums and field professionals. Take this opportunity to establish relationships and make mutually beneficial connections.

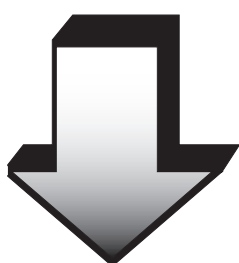
Alums and business professionals can meet with our rising seniors, and make contacts with some of our best and brightest. If you're interested in participating in a panel, the networking event, or both, please email at [cdell@monmouth.edu](mailto:cdell@monmouth.edu).

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## MBA Students: We need your help now!

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## STACEY LANNERT "Speaking Out"

Wednesday, March 23rd  
3:00 pm Pollak Theatre

Stacey Lannert was recently released from prison where she served 18 years for killing the man who raped her for 10 years. That man was her father. Stacey never lost her ability to love life and learn from it even though she was sentenced to life without parole. In 2009, the governor granted her clemency and she walked out of the prison gates. Through the power of love and forgiveness, she created a meaningful life for herself from behind bars. Filled with compassion, hope, humility, and even wit, Stacey's thought-provoking messages serve many purposes.

Stacey has appeared on programs such as The Oprah Winfrey Show, 20/20, and Larry King Live.



Strong, Hopeful and Charismatic, Stacey Lannert does not just speak about overcoming childhood sexual abuse.... she connects with her audience and allows them to feel her pain.

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# The Flash Races Toward A New World

MATTHEW FISHER  
COMICS EDITOR

One of the more fascinating aspects of comics is taking worlds already established and spinning them on their heads.

As previously mentioned, Marvel and DC have done this with "What If?" and Elseworlds respectively. Well, it appears that now, DC is ready to change the actual status quo of their universe with the five-issue event, "Flashpoint."

This game changing story will focus on the Flash (the resurrected Barry Allen), who is plumped into a world even stranger than the one he returned to. Barry has already been through the ringer since his triumphant return to the DC Universe. He has confronted his rogues, both old and new, as well as a murder charge presented by police of the future. What "Flashpoint" presents might be more than Barry is used to handling.

On dcomics.com, "Flashpoint" is described as, "Not a dream, not an imaginary story, not an else-world. This is Flash Fact: When Barry Allen wakes at his desk, he discovers the world has changed. Family is alive, loved ones are strangers, and close friends are different, gone or worse. It's a world on the brink of a cataclysmic war – but where are Earth's Greatest Heroes to stop it?"

The site continued to explain that as the Scarlet Speedster searches for the villain behind this, he will encounter altered versions of iconic superheroes.

While the character of the Flash has been in mega-events before like "Crisis on Infinite Earths" (where Barry died saving the world) and "Infinite Crisis," this time the hero will be involved in more of a solo trial. As the event approaches, "The Flash" series will lead up to "Flashpoint" by slowly unraveling the pieces needed to bring this story forth.

The creative team for "Flashpoint" will be two comic superstars: writer Geoff Johns (also the writer of "The Flash") and artist Andy Kubert.

In an interview with DC Comics' blog, "The Source," Kubert explained the process of bringing this story to life. He said, "We started working on character designs late last spring and it took a good few months to get those going. There were a lot of characters to redesign and we had to coordinate them with DC Direct and all the people involved with that. Sounds simple with re-designing, but it's not. There's a lot of thought, sketches, ideas and themes tossed back in forth with everyone involved. You don't just push a button and out comes a re-design."

Characters that Johns and Kubert are retooling include Batman and Wonder Woman as well as secondary heroes like Deadman, Aquaman, and Abin Sur, a Green Lantern. Even the celebrity thriving but actual reality saving hero, Booster Gold, will have "Booster Gold" #44 act as a jumping on point for his adventure through "Flashpoint."

Besides the five "Flashpoint" issues and four tie-in issues with "The Flash," a total of 15 miniseries will expand upon this new world.

Paying homage to the Superman title, "Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow," categories for these sidestories range from "Whatever Happened to Gotham City?" (i.e. "Flashpoint: Batman Knight of Vengeance") to "Whatever Happened to Science & Magic?" (i.e. "Flashpoint: Secret Seven").

In *Comic Shop News*, Johns (via "The Source") described how "Flashpoint" as a whole will be a rude awakening for the Scarlet Speedster.

"Flash will learn what the universe would be like if the world's

greatest super-heroes never became the world's greatest super-heroes. When, how, and why everything changes and what that means to the future of the DC Universe will be answered in the series," Johns said.

In addition to familiar faces getting spun around, Johns continued to say how readers will also have a chance to be introduced to some new faces like Blackout.

He said, "You won't just see the DC Universe shaken up, you'll see characters you've never met who've come into existence because of the historical damage done to the past."

However, it isn't only the heroes that are being transformed but the villains as well. Enemies of the Flash like Captain Cold will have their own miniseries plus other well known enemies like the deadly Deathstroke.

Recently, it was announced that a Reverse Flash miniseries will be released called "Flashpoint: Reverse Flash #1" and be written by former "Flash" artist Scott Kolins and illustrated by Joel Gomez. At this time, there is nothing known about what this title will be about.

What is interesting is that, according to a solicitation for "Flash" #13 which leads toward "Flashpoint," the Reverse Flash is said to be the Flash of the future yet any clear information about his purpose or connection to "Flashpoint: Reverse Flash" is unknown at this time.

Barry Allen fought the good fight, died, and came back from the dead. While the premise of "Flashpoint" is a doozy for the hero, he has shown that even in the toughest of times, the hero can prevail.

"Flashpoint" and its miniseries/tie-ins won't arrive until May, but the groundwork for this shake-up has begun with "The Flash" #9, out now. Look for the continuation of the "Flashpoint" lead up in "The Flash" #10 on April 13.

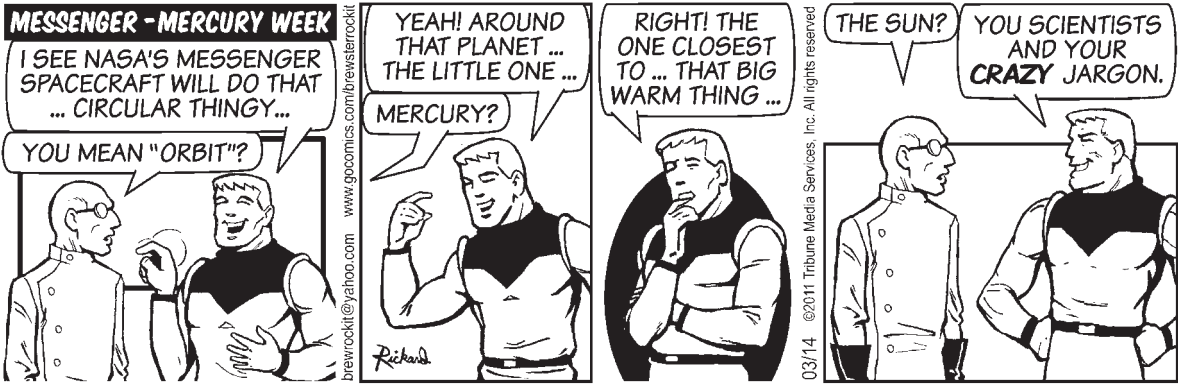
## Five Comic Book Picks For March 16

- 1) "Fear Itself: Book of the Skull" #1
- 2) "Avengers Academy" #11
- 3) "Invincible Iron Man" #502
- 4) "Brightest Day" #22
- 5) "DMZ" #63

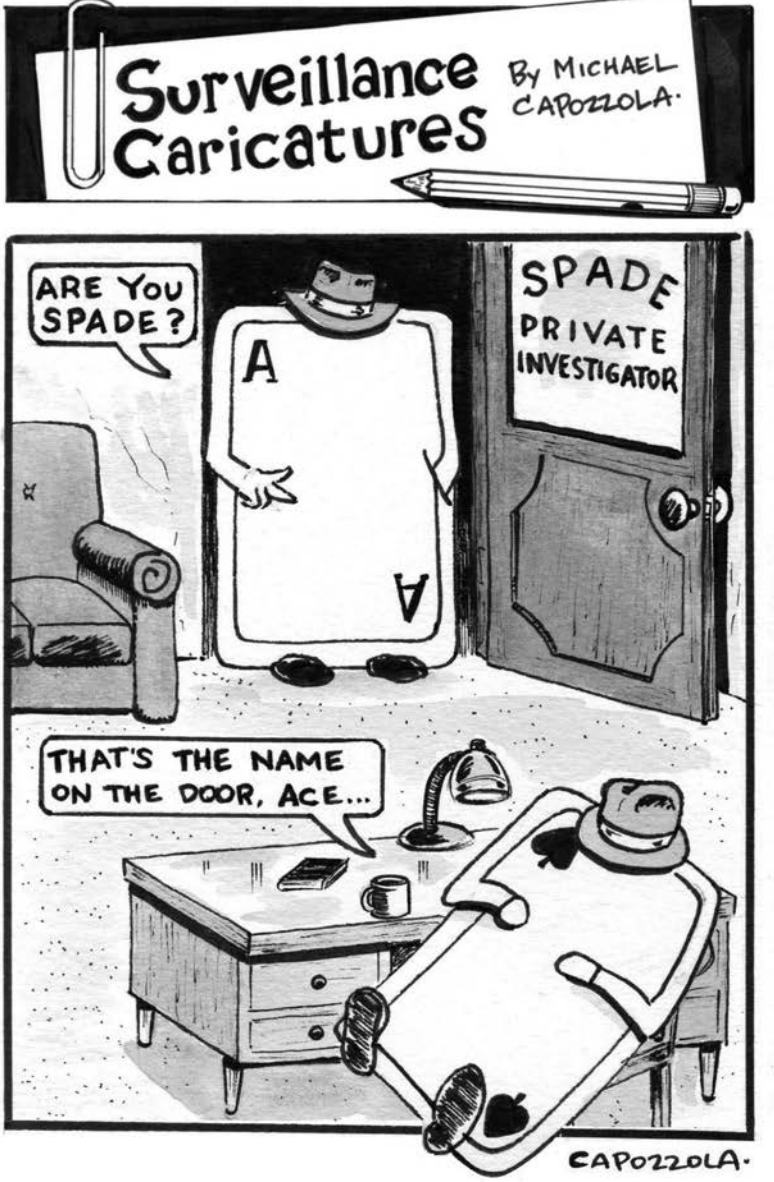
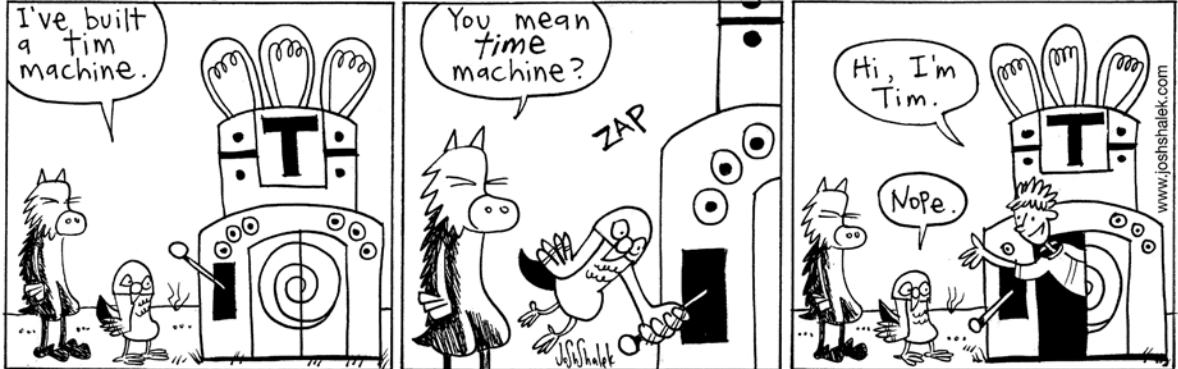
For a full listing of this week's comics visit [diamondcomics.com](http://diamondcomics.com)



Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Kid Shay





# Men's Basketball Begins to Move Out of the Calloway Era

**BRETT BODNER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

As the search for a new head basketball coach continues, the fact that Dave Calloway is no longer the head coach is now beginning to settle in with the team, as well as the rest of the University.

"Well it definitely affects my life. I really couldn't tell you, I don't know if it's a good thing or a bad thing," said sophomore guard Ed Waite. "I felt like he was a good coach. I felt like he should have gotten another chance, because you can't keep blaming the things on one guy when other people aren't getting it done in the classroom, we played two seasons in a row with half the team."

Coach Dave Calloway could not be reached for comment for this article.

Unfortunately for Calloway, the University felt it was time for a change after four consecutive losing seasons and 14 cases of player suspensions, transfers, and other various reasons. Calloway was not able to hang on to a few star caliber players like Travis Taylor and 2006-2007 Rookie of the Year Jhamar Youngblood, who was the team's leading scorer last season and the season before that.

Youngblood was one of the most promising players to enter the program, but following his freshman year he decided to transfer to Rider

University to play. Youngblood blames Calloway's style of play for the reason that people transferred not personal vendettas against the coach.

Youngblood chose to transfer because of the "fact that he [Calloway] admittedly stated that the system wasn't changing for me or any other players. He was a traditionalist, and I don't blame him. It was a style that he had success in as a player and as a coach. Who am I to change a system like that? It was frustrating at times playing a style of basketball that I really didn't want to play," said Youngblood.

Youngblood also added that losing also fueled his decision to transfer and that Calloway may have made some mistakes with recruits he brought in.

"He is an ingratiating man and coach. He was just unfortunate in many recruiting decisions, which may include myself. The style in which he wanted his players to play isn't the style that most players desired to play," said Youngblood.

Travis Taylor could not be reached for comment for this article.

Charles Kruzitz is a former team manager of the Men's Basketball team and he felt that losing players like this really hurt Coach Calloway.

"I can't speak on behalf of Jamar Youngblood but when Travis transferred I feel it really hurt coach. He

really liked Travis and he wanted to make sure he stayed level-headed. He invested a lot in Travis and



PHOTO COURTESY of newjerseynewsroom.com

**Former Head Coach Dave Calloway** led the Men's Basketball team to three NCAA Tournament appearances in 14 years.

treated him great so when he transferred it was like he was stabbed in the back. Coach treated him great

but in return was left high and dry," said Kruzitz.

Kruzitz also touched on the fact that sometimes the players and Calloway didn't see eye to eye, but it is part of the game. "Everybody wants to win at the end of the day and throughout the long season peoples stress levels wear thin."

Despite all of the losing that has occurred over the past five seasons, Calloway was still well liked not only around the university, but around the NEC as well.

Noreen Morris, NEC Commissioner since January 2010, had nothing but nice things to say about Calloway. "Dave is a quality individual, who is so ingrained in the fabric of Monmouth Men's Basketball. He has done a lot to move Monmouth athletics forward and he was also a great ambassador and representative of the NEC," said Morris.

The future of the program is still hanging in the balance.

A new coach has not been named yet and the future of the current players is still to be determined as both Ed Waite and Marcus Ware declined to comment on their future plans.

Ware felt that the "resignation" might be a bad thing for the team. "We came in under him, he recruited us. We looked up to him as a coach and a person in the community," said Ware.

As far as the identity of the next

coach goes, it is still yet to be seen. According to Tony Graham's Monmouth blog *The Hawks Nest* on the Asbury Park Press website, there are several candidates interested in the job.

Some of the candidates are St. Patrick's High School coach Kevin Boyle, University of District Columbia's head coach Jeff Ruland, Navy head coach Billy Lange, and St. Peter's head coach John Dunne to name a few.

There is even the promise of another possible stand out star for the team in the 6'6 forward Andrew Nicholas of Eastern York high school in Pennsylvania. Nicholas has committed to the University and many are hoping he can be one of the pieces in getting the program back on the right track.

A new era of men's basketball is going to begin in a few weeks, whenever the hiring of a new coach takes place.

Kruzitz believes that what happened to Calloway is very unfortunate and feels that the next coach has a lot to live up to.

"He's a great coach who came upon some hard times. It was depressing to hear the news that he was fired. I felt that his biggest critics were the same one signing his praises when the team was clinching NCAA berths and winning games. Whomever the coach is that takes over this team has some big shoes to fill," said Kruzitz.

## Baseball Looks to Bounce Back After a Tough Road Trip

**ED MORLOCK**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth Baseball has started the season 4-6 in 2011. After starting 2-1 against Virginia Commonwealth, the team traveled to Florida for four games and North Carolina for the Keith LeClair Classic.

The Blue and White traveled to Boca Raton, Florida for a three-game series against Florida Atlantic.

In the first game of the series, Monmouth fell 8-4 to FAU. Florida Atlantic scored seven runs in the bottom of the first inning and never looked back. They added an eighth run in the bottom of the second inning and let their pitching and defense control the game from there. Jamie Rosenkranz had two RBI's for the Hawks in this contest. Owen Stewart had a good game for MU, going three for four from the plate. Errors really hurt the Hawks in this game. They made four errors in the field. Nick Meyers took the loss in this one giving up all eight runs, only two were earned.

Monmouth fell to FAU in the second game 6-2. Florida Atlantic jumped out early again in this game. Four runs in the bottom of the first and two runs in the third, along with good defense, gave FAU a 6-0 lead in the game. Nick Pulsonetti went one for three for the Hawks with two RBI's on a two-run homerun in the top of the sixth inning.

FAU completed the sweep in the third and final game of the series, beating the Hawks 9-5. Florida Atlantic had a 5-1 lead after three innings, but the Hawks didn't give up. A four-run fourth inning for the Hawks tied the game at five. FAU was able to add two runs in the fifth and two in the eighth to put the Hawks away. Catcher Ryan Terry had a good game batting for MU, going three for five with two RBI's and a run scored.

MU then traveled to West Palm Beach, Florida for a game against St. Bonaventure. Monmouth was



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics

**Josh Boyd** hit the game winning RBI double against Rutgers on Sunday afternoon.

able to pull out a win in this one by the score of 5-3. Pulsonetti had another good game, going two for five with a pair of RBI's for the Hawks. Andrew McGee improved his record to 2-0 for MU in this game, pitching five innings and allowing only one run.

Monmouth then traveled to Greenville, North Carolina for the Keith LeClair Classic. The Hawks faced off with East Carolina, Liberty, and Rutgers.

The Hawks fell to East Carolina by the score of 4-3. East Carolina broke a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the seventh inning on an RBI triple by Whitehead. Ryan Terry, Ed Martin, and Nick Pulsonetti all had RBI's for MU in this game.

MU's next game was another 4-3 loss, this time against Liberty. Liberty scored two runs in the top of the eighth inning, which proved to be the difference in the game. For Monmouth, Tim Bickford and Jake Gronsky combined for three RBI's.

The Blue and White's last game was against Rutgers. The Hawks pulled out a 3-2 win to improve to

4-6 on the season. Monmouth scored in the top of the ninth inning to take a lead and win the game. Josh Boyd doubled in the top of the ninth inning to knock in the game-winning run. Matt Frazier was the game's winning pitcher. Frazier pitched two scoreless innings to help the Hawks win their fourth game of the season.

The Hawks start their NEC schedule this weekend with a home series against Sacred Heart. On Friday, the two teams face off at 3:00 pm. Saturday there is a double header between the two. The first game starts at 1:00 pm and the second is slated to begin at 3:30 pm. They wrap up the series on Sunday with a 1:00 pm game.

After this series the Hawks go on the road for a couple of conference games. On Tuesday, Monmouth travels to Philadelphia to battle the Temple Owls. Wednesday, March 23, the Hawks travel to Seton Hall for an in-state showdown.

Following those two games, the Hawks return to NEC play for a four-game series against Bryant.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Monmouth University



## Track & Field Season Opener

Fri.-Sat., March 25-26, 2011

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Start Times:  
Hammer - Friday - 2PM Women & 4PM Men

Twilight Open Mike - Friday - 6:30PM

All other events begin at 9:30-9:45AM Saturday



# Women’s Basketball Comes Up Short in NEC Championship Game

DAN GUNDERMAN  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In the last regular season game of the year, the Hawks headed to Hamden, Connecticut to take on Quinnipiac University. The game ended in a six point victory for Monmouth, and also clinched them the second seed in the NEC tournament. With the win, the Hawks finished their regular season at 21-8 and 13-5 within the NEC. The twenty one wins were the most for the Hawks in twenty five years, and is the third highest single-season win total in MU program’s history.

In this back and forth battle, Alysha Womack was one of four Hawks to reach double digits, and she led this group, scoring 17 points while Erin Rooney and Abby Martin each provided 14 points. The trio combined for nearly 50 points of scoring and Martin and Rooney combined for 17 rebounds.

The other Hawk to reach double figures was Alexis Canady, who scored 10 points and also grabbed six rebounds. A 5-0 Womack scoring run with nearly two minutes remaining helped seal the deal for the Hawks, and Rooney had a clutch block and then was sent to the free throw line on the same possession, making one of her key foul shots.

Clutch play from Rooney early on helped Monmouth get on the board, but the four Hawks who scored double figures helped propel MU. By the end of the opening half, Monmouth had already grabbed an 11 point lead. Monmouth’s 51 percent shooting in the second half helped seal the deal, and following a significant QU comeback, a Gena Broadus jumper and Rooney three put Quinnipiac in the books.

Just days later in the first round of the NEC tournament, Quinnipiac made the trip from Connecticut and faced the Hawks at the MAC.

The seventh seeded Quinnipiac team again fell to the Hawks, seeded second, this time at a more significant difference, 55-36. With the win, MU moved onto the next round to face the fourth seeded Robert Morris Univer-

sity squad.

The victory over Quinnipiac also was a historical one, as Monmouth set a record for lowest opposition scoring total in a postseason game. The 19 point victory also was significant, as it was their highest margin of victory in the postseason in 17 years. Abby Martin scored 25 points on the day, and even reached a double-double, grabbing 11 rebounds. Gabby Singer again provided sound shooting, as her three pointer put Monmouth ahead early-on.

A back-to-back battle occurred the next few minutes, but MU managed to hold onto a two point lead at half-time. Despite a horrible shooting half for the Hawks, they still retained the lead. The Hawks seemed to “wake-up” early on in the second half, as Alexis Canady and Abby Martin helped progressively increase their lead. Erin Rooney tallied eight points and six assists, and Alysha Womack had seven points and six boards. Alexis Canady’s six points were key as well in the victory.

Three days later at the MAC, the Hawks took on the #4 RMU squad. In another close game, Monmouth out-maneuvered RMU, and grabbed a three point victory (65-62) to head to the NEC finals.

Their appearance in the finals was their fifth in team history, and first in eight seasons. After the victory, the new MU record read: 23-8, and tied the program’s all-time single season win record. After the first two victories, the Hawks were to then face the top seeded Saint Francis team, on the road.

In the matchup with Robert Morris, Erin Rooney scored 19 points, and Abby Martin had 15 points, seven rebounds while even getting three rejections. Alexis Canady scored 13 points in the victory as well. The game was tied with just minutes remaining, but Alexis Canady connected on two three pointers in a row, which gave Monmouth a slight lead.

Following defeat, RMU ended their season at 16-14, and although their fourteenth loss was crucial, they were



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics

Abby Martin’s strong performance in the NEC Tournament earned her All-NEC All-Tournament recognition.

impressively led by Yohanna Morton’s 28 points. RMU led the game early on, and even increased their lead to double figures with moments remaining in the half. By the time the half ended, MU trailed 33-26.

Robert Morris shot nearly 52 percent in the half, while MU trailed behind at only 37 percent. A quick scoring run in the second half brought the game closer for Monmouth, and Alysha Womack’s three-pointer nearly diminished the RMU lead.

Canady’s three pointer also brought the game to just one point at that time, and with 14 minutes remaining, the Hawks grabbed the lead. Following this, the two teams went back and forth, until Gena Broadus pushed the Hawk lead and put the Colonials out of reach.

On Sunday, March 13, in the NEC final featured the league’s one and two seeds, the Hawks against Saint Fran-

cis. The Hawks struggled throughout the game and ultimately met a disappointing defeat, 72-57.

Saint Francis took an early three point lead, and soon doubled that lead to six points just minutes later, and the Red Flash shot 60 percent early on. NEC Player of the Year Samantha Leach increased the Red Flash lead to nine points following her jumper and by the time the half ended, they led the Hawks by twelve points, 36-24.

MU shot 41 percent early on, and were kept in the game by Martin’s play, but later, Womack brought the lead to only four points. But following Womack’s three, the Red Flash went on a 14-1 scoring run, making the game seemingly out of reach for MU.

At that point, SFU went up by 17 points. A scoring drought didn’t help Monmouth much, and they continued to falter in the second half, and eventually fell by the aforementioned

15 point margin. SFU was paced by Brittany Liley and Leach, who each scored 19 points.

Abby Martin and Alysha Womack each scored 19 points in the defeat, and Erin Rooney contributed 13 points as well. Only four Hawks managed to make the scoring statistics, as Adrianna Allen was the only other Hawk to score.

Abby Martin’s stellar postseason performance was recognized following the game, as she earned herself All-NEC All-Tournament recognition. Martin averaged nearly twenty points per game on the Hawks run to the finals.

Following the NEC final loss, the Monmouth team will not earn a bid in the NCAA tournament, but their season is not over as they will compete in the WNIT (Women’s National Invitational Tournament) at a time and location to be named.

# Brian Sims Speaks to Student-Athletes About Coming Out

MEREDITH VIOLI  
STAFF WRITER

Brian Sims proved his toughness playing four years at defensive tackle for Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. He has bolts in his knees, rods in his ankles, and he even had his left ear ripped off. But his most testing moment came as a captain in his senior year of college, when

he came out of the closet.

He visited the University to share his story with the student-athletes, and to act as a resource for those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or questioning.

“I think a big part of what I do here is just making sure that I’m a resource for student-athletes,” Sims said, “As my story is picked up I hear from a lot of

student-athletes. Just in the time I’ll be here speaking I’ll get a couple of emails from athletes that are either struggling to come out, or are struggling being out.”

Sims used wit and charisma to talk about the issues he faced with being a gay football player. He said he was fortunate enough to have coaches and teammates that accepted his way of life without questions. Except for when his one teammate found out about his homosexuality and jokingly asked him, “Do you think I’m hot?” A question he was too shocked to respond to.

“This is what teams do. You get a group of a bunch of different people together and you share a common goal or a common theme,” he said, “So to athletes, being an out athlete is nothing unique.”

Michelle Melia, Associate Athletic Director and Senior Women Administrator, was the one to set up Sims’ visit.

“Well, Monmouth athletics in general, we want to show a commitment to diversity,” she said, “I did some research on Brian’s background and I thought he was someone who was dynamic and could really relate to our student-athletes here on campus.”

One thing Sims was not wor-

ried about was the reaction of the student-athletes.

He thinks their generation is more accustomed to people who identify themselves as gay. Instead, he was more worried about the response he was going to get from the coaches, who come from a different generation.

“My story as a gay football player is still shocking to a certain type of coach, a certain type of parent or fan,” he said, “there is nothing shocking about it to other athletes.”

However, Melia’s goal was to show student-athletes that having Sims here was to show that the athletic department and coaches accept them for who they are.

“We really have a commitment to accepting all of our students in general here at Monmouth, and for us specifically in athletics, for our student-athletes,” she said, “That we’re accepting of all types of people and we really want to create an environment in which anyone would feel comfortable within the athletic department.”

Sims kept the audience involved asking them to raise their hands if certain traits applied to them, and he kept them alert with various outrageous stories.

Overall, the students seemed

to appreciate him being there, and he even had some athletes come up to talk to him afterwards.

“Some schools, not all schools, trust their student and their athletes to have this sort of conversation,” he said, “I mean, ultimately, people go to college to expand their mind and expand their experiences. When you graduate you’re going to go out into a world that has LGBT people in all areas of it, in all jobs, in all professions. And I’d like to think that I’m a really good resource for LGBT athletes around the country to come to.”

Melia hopes that the student-athletes learned a lot from the discussion.

“I hope that they get a story that they are going to be able to relate to,” she said, “Even if it isn’t about their own story, but maybe a story of someone they know.”

Students around the country will be able to receive advice from Sims even if he doesn’t come directly to their school. He will be featured on a special segment of the hit daytime television show, “The View.”

“They were looking for a gay man who also happened to be a lawyer,” he said while laughing, “I guess I was perfect for the part.”



PHOTO COURTESY of dailylocal.com

Brian Sims shared his story about announcing his sexual orientation in his senior year of college.





SO CLOSE...

YET SO FAR AWAY



Photo Courtesy of MU Athletics

**Women's basketball comes up short in the NEC Championship game, losing to Saint Francis 72-57.**

*Full Story on page 23*





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