



THE OUTLOOK

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Students Promote Safety at "Take Back the Night"

TIFFANY MATTERA
STAFF WRITER

Men and women of the University community gathered to participate in "Take Back the Night" last Thursday, an event that aims to end sexual violence through celebrating survivors of assault, raising awareness, and promoting safety and confidence when walking at night.

Tom McCarthy, University Psychological Counselor, stated in the introduction that although there is sexual assault and violence on men, "tonight we're focusing on women."

"Take Back the Night" was sponsored by Counseling and Psychological Services, Resi-

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Italian Festival Held to Educate on Culture and Cuisine

LAUREN GARCIA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Department of Foreign Language Studies and the Italian Club "L'Ora Del Caffé" hosted the Eighth Annual Festa Italiana at the Wilson Auditorium last Thursday, March 31 from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

Flags from all over the world were hanging from the ceiling and posters advertising the carnevale adorned the entrance to the auditorium. Foods prepared and bought by students were laid out on long white tables on either side of the doors to the auditorium.

The festival is prepared each year by Professor Maria Simonelli, a lecturer of Italian and Latin. She puts the festival together, chooses the people to

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King Rice Moves in as New Men's Head Basketball Coach



PHOTO COURTESY of Jim Reme
Director of Athletics Marilyn McNeil stands with King Rice and President Paul G. Gaffney II at the press conference last Wednesday.

DAN GUNDERMAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

BRETT BODNER
MANAGING EDITOR

After weeks of searching for a new men's basketball coach, the University hired former Vanderbilt University Assistant Coach King Rice to be the new Head Men's Basketball Coach. Rice has become the fifth head coach in University history.

"We seem to have found our man. He was the best fit out of 77 applicants for the job," said President Paul Gaffney II.

Rice has an extensive background in the game of basketball; the University agreed he was the most qualified man to take the position.

He is a native of Bing-

hamton, New York and attended Binghamton High School. Here, he was a McDonald's All-American and was recruited to play for Dean Smith at the University of North Carolina. He played point guard for the UNC Tar Heels from 1988-1991. Some of his achievements in college came during the 1991 season, where he was the team captain and helped lead them to a 29-6 record and an NCAA Final Four appearance. Currently, he is third all-time at UNC in assists and 11th all-time in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

Rice graduated from North Carolina with an undergraduate degree in communication and in 1994 he landed an assistant coaching job with Northern Illinois University. He helped lead the team to postseason on four different occasions, including two NCAA Tournament appearances. At NIU, Rice was known for having a solid relationship

with the players and for spearheading recruitment efforts.

In 1999, Rice moved on to Providence University and was the Assistant Coach for two seasons. Following Providence, Rice was able to land a job with Vanderbilt University, where he spent the previous 10 seasons. While assistant coaching at Vanderbilt, he helped lead the team several NCAA tournament appearances including four of the past five seasons.

Dr. Marilyn McNeil also felt that out of all of the applicants, Rice was the best quality coach for the job.

"I am so proud and so excited about what is in front of you and I think it is going to be a wonderful experience."

Rice continued on pg. 22

Provost Reports Retention is University's Highest

BRETT BODNER
MANAGING EDITOR

Universities across America have become known as a revolving door; new students come to the University each year, and many students leave as well. It is students leaving for other reasons that many universities are trying to fix, especially right here at the Monmouth.

Student retention has become a strong focal point for several universities. It increases importance to college administrators as they try to improve graduate rates and decrease loss of tuition revenue from students that either drop out or transfer to another school.

In 2005, Dr. Robert McCaig,

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Students Prep Community Garden for New Season

MEREDITH VIOLI
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, dozens of community members put on their hats and gloves, grabbed the nearest shovel, and headed outside. But for once, it wasn't for an unexpected snowstorm. The University Community Garden, located on the corner of Beechwood and Brookwillow, held a two-day cleanup event to prepare for their second season.

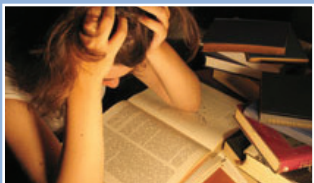
"The last two days we've had volunteers come out and help us work on getting the community garden back in shape for the spring and also doubling the size of what we did last year," said Sean Foran, organizer of the Community Garden. "We've had a great number of volunteers throughout our last two days; we've got an amazing amount of work done for the amount of people that

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News

Stress Awareness Day was held for students to push themselves through the rest of the semester.

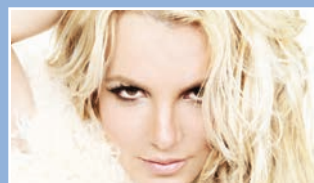
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Opinion

One student informs others about the practicum requirements for communication majors.

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Entertainment

Music star Britney Spears releases her seventh studio album, "Femme Fatale."

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Club & Greek

To promote Relay for Life, there will be the fundraising event "Rock 'n' Raise" this Friday.

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Student Wins Top Graduate Paper at 15th Annual N.J. Communication Conference

BRITTANY HERRMANN
STAFF WRITER

University student Jaclyn Malley of Toms River, NJ, was the recipient of the “Top Graduate Paper” for her scholarly work entitled “Facebook vs. Privacy: Do the Risks Outweigh the Gratifications?” at the 15th Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Communication Association Conference (NJCA) recently at Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ.

Malley is a graduate student enrolled in the CPC Program at the University and anticipates graduating with a Master’s of Arts in Corporate and Public Communication in the fall of 2011.

The University’s Master of Arts in Corporate and Public Communication (CPC) prepares students to develop or enhance the practical and conceptual skills needed to excel as communication specialists in a variety of fields or for entry into post-graduate programs.

The program, facilitated by

graduate faculty possessing a broad range of professional and scholarly credentials, provides an in-depth, balanced study of practice and theory in three areas of concentration: Public Relations, Human Resource Communication, and Public Service Communication.

Graduates of the CPC program can pursue careers in human resources, community relations, government and public affairs, marketing communication, public relations, media relations, and journalism. Upon completion of the CPC program, Malley expects to receive a Public Relations Certificate.

Prior to enrolling in the University’s communication program, Malley served as the programming and production coordinator at Six Flags Entertainment, Inc. in New York City. Malley also worked as an associate producer for the independent film and television company Red Line Films.

Malley is a member of the New Jersey Communication Association

(NJCA) and New Jersey Communications, Advertising, and Marketing Association (NJCAMA). Malley received her B.A. in Communication from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Several other graduate students affiliated with the CPC Program presented their research at this year’s NJCA Communication Conference. Participants enrolled in the conference included students from schools such as Rutgers and Fairleigh Dickinson.

The central theme of the conference was Communication and 21st Century Technologies. The main objective of the conference was to explore how social, professional, political, and cultural worlds shape, and are shaped by, emerging technologies.

Dr. Marina Vujnovic, assistant professor of journalism at the University, remembers Malley as the student who argued with her in her research methods class. “She told me once that she was upset about my initial comments, but realized

shortly after she should listen to advisor suggestions.”

“She said at first it was ‘hard to trust’ others opinions of her work, but once she did, it led to success,” said Vujnovic. Due to their lack of seeing eye to eye, Vujnovic was surprised when Malley then asked her to be her thesis advisor, which she accepted. They are currently working together.

Vujnovic said Malley is, “a very hard worker, diligent, dedicated, and will thrive in whatever she does.”

Malley’s award winning paper went into detail through a study she conducted surrounding the social networking website, Facebook. The study conducted by Malley demonstrated that people on Facebook are not aware of their privacy settings.

More specifically they were unaware of being “more private versus less private,” said Dr. Chad Dell, Chair of the Communication Department at the University.

Dell said Malley’s award on her scholarly paper was a “terrific

honor. It is a challenging award to win because so many students from other graduate programs are nominated as well.”

Dell, who was Malley’s professor last year in a graduate class, singled out her paper as one of five papers to send out to the New Jersey Communication Association.

Malley’s research conducted for her article included studying newspaper articles, trade magazines, as well as going straight to the source itself: Facebook. After studying the topic closely, the final result of her study displays that the public was not making the necessary changes in order to have themselves truly private from those who are not their “friend”.

Privacy on Facebook is a main priority for millions of users, as well as a top concern for those who are applying for internships, jobs, as well as keeping current jobs. Malley’s paper proves the lack of education the majority of Facebook users have on making their accounts completely private.

“Take Back the Night” Targets Sexual Violence

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dential Life, and outside groups like 180 Turning Lives Around and the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The former held a table in front of Wilson Auditorium, since the event was moved inside due to weather conditions, and distributed informative pamphlets on topics concerning predatory drugs, domestic violence, and abusive relationships.

The first guest speaker at the rally was Ellen Bloom, who has worked at rape crisis and organized date rape drug education seminars. “At least one in four women are victims of sexual assault during their academic career,” said Bloom during her presentation.

The following speaker was Courtney McManus, who went on a date in 2000 that went awry. After being pressured to drink and asked to be taken home, she was raped by a man who raped another girl just a few days later. Four trials later she is still fighting. She said that she was once known as a liar, but claims “I know who I am now.”

At the conclusion of her McManus’ story, the microphone was open for poetry and personal stories about ourselves or loved ones. After this

were scheduled readings by students. Tina Onikoyi, senior and President of Lambda Theta Alpha, spoke twice during the session. She commented afterward, “The stories really got to me. I believe sexual violence needs to be exposed and ridden from our society. It’s up to us to make the change we want to see in the world. With events such as Take Back the Night we are reawakened to its necessity every year.”

Next, the Monmouth University Police Department (MUPD) spoke about statistics, safety strategies, and how investigations are held. Ken Walker, Deputy Chief of Police, assured that the campus police can get anywhere on campus within three minutes. Also, he spoke of Sexual Assault Response Teams, typically composed of an advocate, officer, nurse, and forensic examiner, that are present in every Monmouth County hospital. Bruce Johantgen, officer, gave tips like saving MUPD’s number (732-571-3472), walking in groups, being aware of one’s surroundings, and parking in well lit areas. He suggested that people do their own research and find ways to improve their own safety.

Toward the end of the night, the candle light vigil was held. The

candles were extinguished after each phrase, with the last one being, “Turn your light off for anyone who’s ever felt uncomfortable at night.”

During the conclusion, McCarthy said, “Everyone of you here made a statement by being here tonight.” Franca Mancini, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, added, “Don’t let it end here; don’t let it end tonight.”

On the success of the event, Mancini noted, “It was encouraging to see that the campus community came to Take Back the Night and really demonstrated a sensitivity to this important topic. They showed up, and in a community, people do exactly that, they come, they bear witness, and they act when they see something that is harmful to another community member.

“Ultimately, I believe that the message is just that: do something, say something, be there in the same manner that you would want someone to be there for you if you were in need. In this case, we were encouraging awareness around sexual assault and interpersonal violence, but this concept can be applied to our lives in general. We have to step up, speak up, get involved. Each and every one of us has that responsibility.”

Student Wins Psi Chi Best Poster

PRESS RELEASE

University Psychology major Miranda Bobrowski of Perth Amboy, NJ, received the Psi Chi best poster award at the 82nd annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge, MA., March 10-13. Ms. Bobrowski’s winning poster “The Effect of Self-Expansion on Effort” was co-presented with Professor Gary W. Lewandowski and Brent A. Mattingly from Ashland University. Her poster examined how self-expansion influences the amount of effort produced by individuals to solve a cognitive task. Ms. Bobrowski won the Psi Chi Regional Research Award for this presentation.

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology.

Dr. Janice Stapley, chair of the Department of Psychology, presented two posters “Gender differences in preferences for communication technologies” with Dr. Michele Van Volkom; and “Emotional memories of undergraduate students who want to be therapists” co-presented with Keith Gissubel, Red Bank Catholic High School and Red Bank Catholic students Angela Delguercio, Maya Deykerhoff, Arianna Ignieri, and Alexandra Palazzo. The high school students are part of a special program in which AP Psychology students do research internships at Monmouth University.

Monmouth University was very well represented at the meeting, with Professor Jack Demarest presenting a paper “Gender differences in spying on a mate” and a poster session with recent Monmouth University Psychology graduate Ian Cohen. Emma Higgins also gave a paper on “The sunk-cost fallacy in relationships: throwing good investments after bad” that was co-authored with Associate Professor Gary W. Lewandowski. Psychology majors Emily Gately, Caryn Dambra, Stephanie Kocsik, Jackie Abate and May 2010 Psychology graduate Barbara Fulmer also presented posters.

CRIME BLOTTER

STUDENT MISCONDUCT

3/30/11 - 2:48 PM

LOT 6

STUDENT MISCONDUCT

3/30/11 - 11:40 AM

REDWOOD HALL

PULA/STUDENT MISCONDUCT

3/30/11 - 12:22 PM

SPRUCE HALL

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

3/30/11 - 5:00 AM

BEY HALL

HARASSING TEXT MESSAGES

3/26/11 - 3/31/11 - 7:00 PM - 12:50 AM

ONLINE

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

SUN.

MON.

TUES.

3/30-4/5

University Recognizes National Collegiate Stress Awareness Day

ASHLEY CATTANO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Tuesday, March 29, colleges around the country celebrated Collegiate Stress Awareness Day. To participate, the University’s office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) offered students the opportunity to receive self-help information, complete a stress awareness questionnaire and then get feedback from a counselor.

The day was created to look for symptoms of anxiety and address possible depression. Since anxiety is one of the leading issues among college students today, the counselors at CPS want to reach as many students as possible, just to be safe.

After filling out the questionnaire, immediate feedback was given from a counselor on site where they gave suggestions for future ease of stress/anxiety or reassurance that nothing is wrong.

“Often anxiety and depression go hand in hand, a lot of students let it go too far without any treatment,” said Kate Memoli, a psychological counselor.

The questionnaire that is offered asks questions that can help identify a number of disorders such as, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, general

anxiety disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and/or major depression disorder.

The event didn’t bring as many people as the CPS had hoped. “We would like to provide education as much as we can but it’s hard to get students to come visit us,” Memoli said.

“Counseling and Psychological services really cares about all of the students here at Monmouth. Their office is really comfortable and all of the clinicians are really easy to talk to,” junior Stefania Flecca said, “But sometimes the students are afraid to take the leap. The ‘Monmouth Hawks Fly Together’ initiative is helping make that leap a little easier, I think.”

The importance of addressing these early signs of anxiety is what is so important to these counselors. “People should know what stress is and what it can do to you,” Memoli said.

Outside of the CPS office there was a table with pamphlets to help in case speaking to a counselor wasn’t something a student was comfortable with. The pamphlets gave information about anxiety relief, gaining confidence, stress relief tips, and even a stress self-assessment.

Some of the pamphlets were even more specific about “Managing Stress in a Relationship” and “How to be a Student and Still Have a Life”.

The “How to be a Student and Still

Have a Life” pamphlet gives advice to ‘take a time out when things get really stressful’, to ‘sleep at night, not in class’ and to remember that saying ‘no’ is not only alright but it’s necessary sometimes.

Anxiety is very treatable with counseling and medication, if needed. Yet it often goes untreated because “psychology isn’t an exact science” and people often think they can handle it on their own, Memoli said.

People often ask if there is a blood test to prove that they have this disorder or not, but there is no such thing. Anxiety disorders, as well as most psychological disorders, are very subjective and all diagnosed by word of mouth, which makes knowing whether to prescribe medication very difficult.

Memoli explained that there is no quick fix for anxiety if it goes too far, signs are easy to recognize but shouldn’t be avoided. “It’s important to not let stress get the best of you, students need to remember how stress can affect everything if not taken care of,” she said.

The most important thing we can do is learn how to take care of ourselves, knowing our boundaries and just speaking up if we need help or if a friend needs help. The Office of Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the third floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center and will always have an open door.

Italian Festival Held in Wilson

Italian continued from pg. 1

put on the program, and also chooses the theme for each year.

“She puts a lot of effort into this,” said Ottaviana De Ruvo, President of the Italian Club. “She’s a one man show. Without her, the Italian Club would not be anything. The Italian Club probably wouldn’t have even happened.”

“I like to celebrate,” Simonelli said. “And I like to highlight all my students’ talents and the time that they put into this and I am very grateful for that. This year the theme was ‘Italian Heritage,’ celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Unity of Italy. It is very important to me.”

The Italian Festival is celebrated each year to encourage appreciation and introduce guests and students to the importance of Italian literature, history, music, and culture. The theme of the festival was chosen in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Unity of Italy.

“This celebration intends to introduce our students to the importance of Carnevale in the Italian History, Literature and Culture,” Simonelli said. “Carnevale, mindful of the ancient Roman Saturnalia, was made official in 1296 by the Senate of the Republic of Venice.”

“Carnevale, presenting questions concerning human existence, is an escape from the rules of daily life,” Simonelli said. “Giuseppe Zaccaria states that Carnevale represents, “in reality the mystery that ties inseparably life and death, sacred and profane.” In Luigi Pirandello’s theatre, Carnevale becomes an allegory of everyday life, while, in Carlo Emilio Gadda it symbolizes an interpersonal hiatus. With Cesare Pavese, Carnevale denotes the end of

dreams and the ensuing of death.”

The event was introduced by Dr. Andrea Barberia of the Italian Consul of Newark, and included guest speakers such Dr. Maria Giordano, a professor of Languages and Literature from the University “La Sapienza” Roma, and Simonelli. Dr. Giordano presented “Aecedario dell’Unità d’Italia,” a lecture on the 150 years of Italy’s unification and Dr. Pasquale Simonelli provided a tribute to Enrico Caruso, an Italian opera singer.

Students also gave presentations appropriate for the occasion. There were musical performances by violinists Kandrai and Kassandra Ledesma who gave a recital of the compositions of Antonio Vivaldi, video interviews with Italian immigrants who left their homeland to come to the United States, and the story of an Italian family’s move to Ellis Island.

“The purpose of the Festival is to celebrate the hard work all Monmouth University Italian students put in their study,” Simonelli said. “They are all very committed and deserve that their efforts be recognized. Furthermore, it is beautiful to celebrate the rich culture of this great and rich language and country.”

“Professor Simonelli shows a lot of respect toward all of her students,” said Ronnie Acquaviva, a member of the Italian Club. “They would do anything for her.”

The carnevale was concluded with a traditional dance performed by the Italian Club called “Tarantella Napoletana.” Members danced into the audience and pulled unsuspecting victims up to partake in the celebration, resulting in humorous confusion as the audience members tried to learn the dance as quickly as possible.

Commission on Higher Education Honors University Educational Opportunity Fund Program Seniors

PRESS RELEASE

Every year The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education honors Educational Opportunity Fund Program graduating seniors for their academic achievement. This year, 14 Monmouth University EOF seniors will be recognized. EOF is a state funded program which awards scholarships to NJ students who fit financial and academic criteria. Graduating EOF students from NJ colleges and universities were chosen according to their high cumulative grade point average and overall academic perseverance.

Cynthia Del Aguila, Andre Renaudo, Gloria Wathen, Zeudy Rosario, and Esther Boulos will be honored in the Outstanding Academic Achievement category. The Academic Achievement Award will be presented to Francesca Emma, Carolina Gutierrez, La Tuya Morris, Julio Rodriguez, Michelle Majeski, Candice Hart, Gabriela Vasquez and Matthew Gelormine. Ed Kwiatkowski will be honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Pollak Theatre

! Attention Students & Employees !

Full time students are entitled to 1 free ticket to 2 performing arts series events each year. Part time students are entitled to 1 free ticket to 1 performing arts series event each year. Student tickets for additional events and for the Met or National Theatre of London are only \$5. *Employees are entitled to a \$5 discount off the regular ticket price to any Performing Arts Series Event.

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*Discounts do not apply to the Met Opera or National Theatre of London LIVE in HD



“Two Monuments”

two “monumental” works by Beethoven and Mozart

Sat | Apr 15 | 7:30 pm



Colin Hay

Frontman, songwriter and lead vocalist

Pre-show | Q&A | 6 pm

Sat | Apr 16 | 8 pm



Rossini
Le Comte Ory

Encore:

Sun | Apr 17 | 7 pm



R. Strauss
Capriccio

Sat | Apr 23 | 1 pm

Encore:

Fri | May 6 | 7 pm



Verdi
Il Trovatore

Sat | Apr 30 | 1 pm

Encore:

Sun | May 22 | 7 pm

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University Retention Rate Now 80 Percent

Retention continued from pg. 1

who is Vice President for Enrollment Management, arrived at the University and was impressed with some things the University was doing as well as being unimpressed with some things. One of the things he was unimpressed with was student retention.

In the past, McCaig said, “We waited until students were in trouble until we tried to help them. We relied mainly on bringing in better students as a retention mechanism.” But his view is different. “Retention is about making students understand that they are part of a community and are valued members of that community.”

In 2005, the Enrollment Planning Committee was appointed, made up of vice presidents, deans, faculty, athletics, and associate vice presidents, who make enrollment and retention policy decisions. A proactive retention plan was installed, which lead to the creation of a subcommittee to implement the plan. This subcommittee is called the Retention Plan Implementation Team (RPIT).

RPIT works to increase student engagement and connectedness from the point of recruitment through and beyond graduation, cultivating a campus-wide culture of shared responsibility to value, respect, and serve the students as a first priority, etc.

“We have accomplished almost every action step in the plan. It has now been two and a half years of implementing the plan and we have made tremendous progress, which is evident in the numbers,” said McCaig.

Since 2005, the University has seen an increase in first-to-second year retention, except for one outlier year in 2007, where the rate dropped from 80.1 percent the year before, to 74.6 percent. The most current percentage is 80.2 percent,

which is the highest it has ever been at the University.

This means out of 1,000 students, the university keeps about 802 of them, who will go on to graduate.

The plan takes the first and second year students into serious consideration. According to Associate Vice President for Academic Administration, Susan O’Keefe, a student’s first two years are the most pivotal.

“In the first two years, students are not sure what they want their major to be, so taking the steps

in helping them settle into a major and to adjust to college life is very important because all of this plays into how a student does in the classroom,” said O’Keefe.

Susan Damaschke, Coordinator of First Year Student Retention since June of 2009, was hired to serve as the primary point-person for new student orientation (for first year students) and to help create co-curricular initiatives and programs for first year students.

“My goals are to make a first year student’s experience at Monmouth one that helps them to feel connected to the community, supported by resources on campus, and ready for the opportunities that attending college at Monmouth can bring. Accomplishing these goals should contribute to the University’s goal of retaining students,” said Damaschke.

Damaschke also helps plan social events and traditions for first year students to help them connect to their class and to the University, such as Welcome Week, which

takes place during the critical first week of school, the First Year Service Project, monthly social programs, Farewell to First Year, and many more.

In terms of other private schools in the state of New Jersey, Monmouth is up near the top in terms of freshman retention. According to information provided by McCaig, only Rider, Seton Hall, and Stevens have higher rates than the University’s 80.2 percent.

Like every university, Monmouth has to deal with the fact

that there are students who choose to withdraw from the university and even transfer to other schools. One example is former sophomore student Christina Sullivan, who had many reasons for transferring after her first year. “I fell in love with Monmouth for the wrong reason, for the beauty and not for financial or educational reasons. I had many friends at Rider University and they had a good psychology program as well, so I decided to transfer there this spring,” said Sullivan.

According to Claire Alasio, Associate Vice President for Enrollment, personal grounds are what dominate students’ decisions to leave the University. “Most the reasons we hear in our interviews with students who withdraw are due to personal reasons. It’s different with each student, and everybody involved in RPIT has a part to play in understanding why it is that students leave,” said Alasio.

In addition to students leav-

ing the University, students also transfer into Monmouth from other schools, and some are much happier than they were, like sophomore transfer student Andrew Rodriguez, who left Seton Hall to attend Monmouth last spring. “Seton Hall just was not the place for me. I didn’t feel safe there and I wanted to go to a nicer school that was safer and closer to home. I’m much happier here at Monmouth than I was at Seton Hall, and I’m glad I made the decision to transfer out,” said Rodriguez.

Currently, the four year graduation rate at the University is at 44.3 percent, slightly less than the 2005 cohort, but from 2004-2005 the graduation rose from 36 percent to just over 46.2 percent. What this means is, in a class of 25 students about 14 of them would graduate in four years.

Traditionally, the norm has been that once a person goes to college they will graduate in four years. However, according to Provost Pearson, this has become less of a norm and many schools have seen their four year graduation percentage drop.

“Nationally in 2006, it was estimated that over 50 percent of college students change their major at least one time. When this occurs it makes the likelihood of finishing in four years less likely, as you have to meet the requirements of your major,” said Provost Pearson.

McCaig added that students are

now being asked to do a lot more in four years than they were several years ago.

“We are asking students to have a minor, get excellent grades, be not only members of clubs, but leaders in clubs, to do community service, encourage study abroad, internships, people have to work, and all the students are trying to build as strong a resume as they can possibly build before they are out of school,” said McCaig.

McCaig also said the five and six year graduation rates are significantly higher than the four year graduation rate. The five year percentage is 64 percent, while the six year program is at about 60 percent. Graduating in four years may be slowly becoming a thing of the past, as many schools are seeing higher percentages in five and six year graduation rates.

Pearson said currently, student retention is working on adding another day to the fall semester to sort of give students an opportunity to catch their breath after the first six weeks of school.

McCaig said student retention is one of the most important things that takes place at the University and the staff has improved greatly in this area over the past few years.

“Retention is all about making students understand that they are part of a community and are valued members of that community. It is very important that all employees understand just how important student retention is,” said McCaig.

Currently, the four year graduation rate at the University is at 44.3 percent, slightly less than the 2005 cohort.

Community Participates in Garden Clean-Up Day

Garden continued from pg. 1

came out.” However, this garden held a lot more brown thumbs than green ones. The cleanup process meant a lot of dirt removal and tilling.

“We are doing things like cleaning our plots in the garden, tilling the land to get it prepared for planting, putting floor down in our shed, building shelves, all sorts of things that need to get done,” Foran said.

Last year the garden contained 12 plots, half of which went to the community. This year, the Community Garden members are planning on doubling their plots to 24.

“Half of the plots are going to be dedicated to just growing produce for individuals and organizations in need,” Foran said, “and the other half of the garden is for individuals in the community and the University who want to grow their own.”

Those who use the half of the garden for recreational use still do their part; they spend about an hour a week tending to the half dedicated to the community.

Christa Hogan, Instructor for the School of Social Work, delivered the produce to the local organizations with her three daughters last

year. “I really enjoyed being a part of the garden,” Hogan said. “Compared to what others did, I had only a very small part in its growth and progress.”

Last year, the garden donated over 105 pounds of food to local organizations in the area such as the Monmouth County Food Bank, the Long Branch Senior Center, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

“My three young daughters were especially interested in growing

and harvesting the garden,” Hogan said. “They were so excited to go to the food bank and see what would happen to the food they donated. The workers there were great and explained everything to my girls.”

But this year the garden is doubling their plots, meaning more food.

“This year our goal is to produce a thousand pounds of food,” Foran said. “We actually have the potential to produce more than that but we want to reach our original goal

so this year it’s a thousand pounds.”

And not just any food, the garden works to grow food that everyone can enjoy.

“One thing we try to do is make sure it’s culturally appropriate food,” Foran said, “so we call a lot of the agencies that we donate food to and we ask them what kind of food that the people that come there actually want to use to cook.”

He explained that they usually grow the “traditional” vegetables such as peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, and lettuce among others.

“I think that the garden is a wonderful, worthwhile endeavor,” Hogan said. “So many people benefit, both the gardeners and the recipients of the food.”

The first planting day of the season will take place on Earth Day, April 22.

“It might still be a little cold so we’re going to plant some things that are going to be able to handle the weather,” Foran said. “We’re going to try to have the garden ready by April 31 when we have everything that we need here.”

“I think the garden has a dedicated team working on it and it will flourish,” said Hogan. “I hope to get more involved this year.”

“I think that the garden is a wonderful, worthwhile endeavor. So many people benefit, both the gardeners and the recipients of the food.”

CHRISTA HOGAN
Instructor for the School of Social Work

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- Sections Offered by Term
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Sticking Around for the Whole Ride

THE OUTLOOK STAFF OPINION

As potential students eagerly tour the campus, check out the dining hall, and dorms, and ask questions, there probably are not many of them who are saying to themselves, “Man, I can’t wait to transfer from this school two years from now.”

However, that is precisely what 20 percent of students at our University do. According to College Board, 80 percent of first-year students choose to return to the University after their first year, compared with Rutgers New Brunswick’s 92 percent and Ramapo’s 88 percent.

Moreover, this 80 percent retention rate is the highest that the University has ever had.

One main factor for the lacking retention rate at our University is our high tuition. According to College Board, tuition here totals to about \$39,500, including room and board, books, estimated personal expenses, and transportation. These rates absolutely bury Rutgers’ and Ramapo’s in-state tuition of \$27,500, which includes all of the exact same fees.

After freshman year, when bills begin to pile up and high debt begins to leave its mark, many students feel the need to leave the University. This is when students begin to look toward other less expensive schools all within an hour of our University.

At the same time, the University gives a great deal of financial aid to its students. Eighty-two percent of the freshman class has some fi-

nancial aid, with about 75 percent of each person’s needs met. The average financial aid package here is \$19,500.

Rutgers offered 68 percent of their students’ financial aid, with the average person receiving 63 percent of their need. The average financial aid package for each student is \$14,600.

Plus, being that the University is a smaller school, it is undeniable that students receive more personal attention from their professors in their small sized classes. They are also able to get involved in more activities and network more because the small campus.

Another issue that the University has always been known as a “suitcase school.” When many lonely freshmen are going home on the weekends, still trying to adapt to college life and balancing their homesickness, a big impression is made on their fellow freshmen who have not made many friends yet.

Greek life seems to be one of the only things keeping students on campus on the weekends. This factor makes some students feel the need to transfer to a larger school that offers more possibilities if they choose to not par take in Greek life.

What students will find, however, is that throughout their freshmen and sophomore year, they will make many friends who do not go home on the weekends, and share their want for staying on campus and getting a real “college experience.” There will always be a population of students who go home on the weekends for relationships or family or work, but there are also many more who have created their own life here.

The Student Activities Board also has been planning more activities for students to do on the weekends, such as Glow-Karts, Comedy Nights, Coffeehouse performers, open mics, and movie nights.

Also, orientation leaders are being instructed to help their incoming freshmen get more involved in club and activities, which will bring them closer to other students who share their same interests and want for sticking around campus.

Another lingering issue, which has no quick fix, is the fact that West Long Branch is not the most college-friendly of towns. There are frequent noise complaints, as students and families must live in harmony in the surrounding neighborhoods together, as well as various other issues. In the past, the University has had a Greek row, as many other colleges have, but it was terminated due to the complaints that occurred because of the noise.

Hopefully, as our University continues to expand in enrollment, academic programs, and residence halls, the surrounding community and the University can learn to co-exist. As time goes on, the University will only grow.

With a recent ranking by the U.S. News and World Report of #40 Best College for Undergraduate Education and one of the Princeton Review’s Best 373 Colleges for Undergraduate Education, we are already well on our way to becoming much more than a “suitcase school.”



"I WANT TO ASSURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE'RE WORKING HARD TO RESOLVE OUR BUDGET DISPUTE AND AVOID A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN SO WE CAN GET BACK TO DOING NOTHING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

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Technology: Emptying our Wallets?

BILL TAYLOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In today’s society, almost everything needs to be new and improved. There needs to be an “app” for almost everything we do, and there has never been more connection thanks to social media, text messaging, and iPhone “facetime” which allows users to literally see each other as they talk to one another.

Amazon built a Kindle one way, and it was only a matter of time until Barnes and Noble built an e-reader that is different. As people cannot find jobs right out of college and the cost of living continues to rise, there has to be some price that people pay for all of these upgrades.

As people cannot find jobs right out of college and the cost of living continues to rise, there has to be some price that people pay for all of these upgrades.

As hyper local news sites, such as Patch.com, begin to appear more and more frequently and gain popularity traditional newspapers continue to decrease in circulation. Technology keeps getting better and better and news websites become all the more interactive, catering to the individual rather than the general public.

Smartphone owners are able to receive minute-to-minute updates on the information that is most relevant and interesting to them. It is also received “on the go” rather than taking an hour or so to sit at the table with a morning coffee and turn the pages of the local city’s press.

As soon as flip phones became popular, they were out of style. Why would people push buttons if

they can touch a screen?

Now, technology has done one better and we can take a picture of a check with our phone and to deposit it into our bank account. Most phones have literally become “mini computers” that can do just about anything... except print. Just as newspapers will inevitably end, will those huge computer towers become obsolete once we can figure out how to do away with a keyboard? Apple’s iPad may be just the beginning.

While most devices and tools in American’s lives continue to become newer and more improved, merchandisers continue to cash in. Just as some text books from the school store are out-dated before a semester ends, so too become the video game systems, cell phones,

and computers on the market. We are a society obsessed with making everyday electronic obsessions become smaller, thinner, and more upgraded.

With these changes come costs, and keeping up with the latest trend becomes harder and harder (especially in the economic situation we are currently undergoing).

There are no signs of slowing as the newest technology is undoubtedly right around the corner. The next \$200 must have item will be on the shelves in no time. Many will claim that we are lucky to be in an age where creative and scientific minds can collaborate to create newer and newer technology... until they check those coveted bank accounts and realize how hard it is to pay the water, electric, and cable bills.

Communication Students: Take Charge of Your Opportunities

CHRISTA TAMANINI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you are a student in the University’s Department of Communication, one of the requirements for graduation involves fulfilling a one credit “Co-Curricular Practicum.” Depending on your concentration, this credit can be achieved through work at *The Outlook*, Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), Hawk TV, WMCX-FM, CommWorks or the Monmouth Oral Communication Center (MOCC). However, there is a pre-requisite for this Co-Curricular Practicum. Before any student can sign up for this credit, they must be a member in “good standing” for one full semester prior to the semester in which they plan to earn the credit.

If you register for the journalism practicum and are interested in joining the University newspaper *The Outlook*, one can gain credit by writing articles and completing assignments for publishing. Call me crazy, but it’s an awesome feeling searching for your article the day the paper is printed and finally setting eyes on the section in which your creation premieres.

It is a great way to gather documents for a portfolio that can one day give an employer insight into your work ethic and past experience. *The Outlook* is published weekly and covers all news, sports, features, entertainment and opinions from students and organizations on campus. Experience is not required to join the paper nor does one need to be a communication major seeking a practicum filler in order to join. The newspaper is open and available to all students.

Anyone with a concentration in public relations and journal-

ism that shows more interest in public relations should register to join PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America). Credit can be earned for completing specific public relations assignments directed toward University clubs and associations. Members can gain true insight into public relations project and event planning, along with actual experience suitable for adding color to your resume.

If your interest strays away from public relations/journalism and is focused more on television and radio, then you are in luck. Practicum credits can be achieved for completing assignments at the University student-run television station, HawkTV or at the University student-run radio station, WMCX, 88.9 FM. Both HawkTV and WMCX-FM are open to all registered Monmouth students and are great organizations in which to get involved.

HawkTV offers students knowledge and experience in television education. Students obtain hands on practice and skill with equipment, along with an understanding of “behind the scenes” situations that can one day be vital for their role in the real world of television production.

With 1000 watts of power and a 35 mile radius, WMCX-FM, has a perfect underlying agenda—preparing students for future broadcasting careers. WMCX-FM provides news, talk shows, sporting events, and special interviews, along with a wide variety of music such as rock, punk, indie rock, metal and alternative.

Performance is one of the core elements of communication discipline. If you are a student fascinated with performing arts and the study of performance—

CommWorks should be your new best friend. Group members devote their time performing in an effort to induce entertainment, education and enlightenment to their audience. Joining this organization is a great way for students to boost their performing skills and can also count as that one-credit needed for the Co-Curricular Practicum.

A fairly newer organization on campus is the MOCC (Monmouth Oral Communication Center). The MOCC offers specialized training and instruction; aiding students in public speaking. One of the organization’s main goals is serving students who suffer great apprehension or anxiety when delivering a speech. From tutoring in speech delivery to training in presentation preparation and structure, this organization is a reliable source for students who struggle when speaking publicly.

So what does all this imply? The message is clear. Get involved, and do it fast. As a senior who just barely got her feet wet throughout her years at Monmouth University, I can vouch for everyone and seriously suggest completing this major requirement before senior year. Each of these organizations offers beneficial knowledge, skills and experience that are crucial for one’s future.

As mentioned, these organizations are not just for communication majors and can be worth much more than a single credit for your practicum. In fact, up to six credits can be earned through these programs. Once again, all students are invited to join. So plan ahead and don’t wait until the last minute to get mixed up in one of Monmouth University’s academic degree programs. It can only be an advantage to your future.

Global Warming: Hungry for our Help

MELISSA ROSKOWSKI
OPINION EDITOR

We are all aware that there is a constant strain on our environment and, more importantly, that our actions can provide help or cause further damage. Global warming is one of the biggest environmental issues we face.

As we’ve been dealing with the chilly beginning to our spring season, people joke about whether or not global warming is an actual threat. My goal here isn’t to prove that global warming is an issue; there is plenty of scientific data available to prove the ways in which we are all affected by it. My goal here is to let people know that with all we are doing to combat global warming, our diet is one aspect we need to consider.

Vegetarianism is an often overlooked, but effective way to combat the issue of global warming. When people think about vegetarianism, it’s normally in conjunction with animal rights activism, but the environmental benefits of a veggie diet deserve some thought as well.

Recently, organizations have been touting the idea of “Meatless Mondays” and while it may seem like an attempt at segueing people to vegetarianism, it could be more than that.

In a recent United Nations report, it was found that the meat industry causes 40 percent more greenhouse gas emissions than if you combined the emissions from the entire world’s cars, trucks,

ships and planes. Greenhouse gas emissions, as we know, contribute to global warming.

In this country, similar to many other countries around the world, we often overlook the process it takes to get our food from the farm to our table. The fact is that factory farms create an extreme amount of waste and gases that are negatively impacting our world.

For instance, as found in the United Nations report, the livestock (any animals raised for food – cows, pigs, chickens, sheep, goats, etc.) industry is responsible for 65 percent of human-related nitrous oxide. Though carbon dioxide is the most common greenhouse gas, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), reported that, “Nitrous oxide is about

300 times more potent as a global warming gas than carbon dioxide.”

The second most prevalent greenhouse gas found is methane. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, livestock produces “about 28 percent of all methane emissions from human-related activities.” Methane, it turns out, is also more potent than carbon dioxide – about

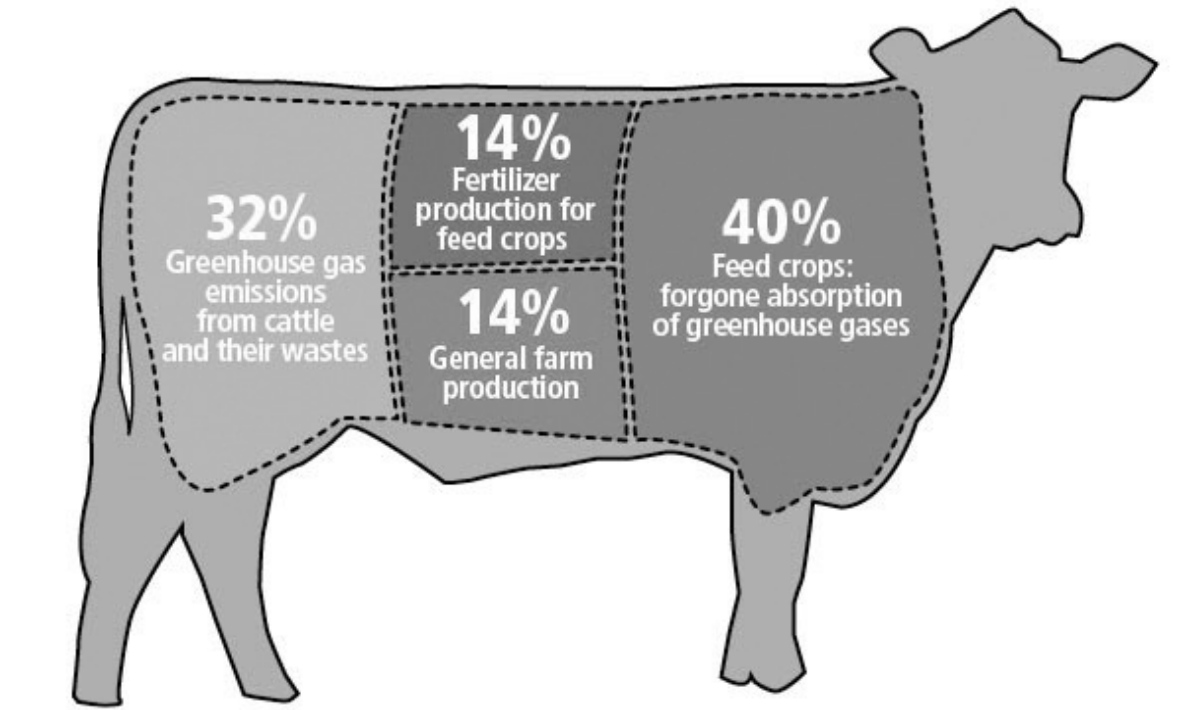
72 times as potent, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Livestock produces both nitrous oxide and methane during their digestive processes. Yes, as weird as it sounds, animal poop is contributing to global warming. Evidently, humans also produce gas during their digestive process, but the amount has an insignificant effect on the environment.

Due to the process industrialized farming has created, our diets directly correlate to the damage done to the environment that ultimately assists global warming.

Now to be fair, changing one’s diet takes a bit more commitment and effort than say, switching to energy-efficient appliances. The good news is that even eliminating meat consumption one day per week can help ease the strain on the environment. “Meat the Truth,” a documentary about climate change, reports that if each American gave up meat for just one day per week, it would have the same effect on reducing greenhouse gases as eliminating 90 million flights from New York to Los Angeles.

As we go through our daily routines, we are reminded of little ways that we can help eliminate environmental problems – turn the water off while brushing our teeth or unplugging appliances we’re not using – but many of us don’t consider the negative effect our diet has on the planet. It’s time we turn to our plates.



The farming industry contributes to greenhouse gas emissions in multiple ways. PHOTO COURTESY of scientificamerican.com

Ex-Vietnam Prisoner of War Visits University

TYLER BREDER
STAFF WRITER

They were known as the “miracle crew,” the men that were shot down over Hanoi, late into the Vietnam War. On December 22, 1972, the men of this crew survived the crash and a stay in the Hanoi Hilton, a North Vietnamese Prisoner of War (POW) camp. Among them was Pilot David Drummond, who, last Wednesday, came to the University in Professor Douglass’ Vietnam Era class to speak about his experiences.

Drummond was born in England and moved to Westwood, New Jersey with his family when he was four years old. He joined the ROTC when he attended college at NJIT, and after his graduation in 1969, he entered into the Air Force.

He served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971, and later in 1972, when he was shot down, and returned to the United States in 1973. Drummond told his story with a darkly humorous tone. He described the events leading to becoming a pilot and eventually, led the class to the night his plane was hit over Hanoi.

Beginning in late December, a series of bombing runs that David was assigned, set for a power plant, some outskirt locations, and a rail yard in the center of Hanoi itself.

It was on the third run to Hanoi that missiles struck Drummond’s aircraft.

He said that from above the clouds, unable to see the ground, watching anti-aircraft missiles rise around him was like looking at telephone poles attached to streams of flame.

One of these, according to Drummond, took out three engines on the left wing of his B-52 and destroyed the electrical system. A call to abandon ship was sounded soon after.

Drummond said that he was fortunate as to how well ejecting and parachuting from a burning aircraft went. It was not long before



PHOTO COURTESY of Sandra Meola

(Left) David Drummond holds up the uniform he wore as a POW in Vietnam. **(Right) Drummond and his wife Jill pose holding the flight suit** worn when Drummond was forced to abandon his plane prior to being captured.

he was picked up by a few NVA soldiers, being saved from a violent group of locals.

He was violently transferred to the Hanoi Hilton prison, where he was subjected to 11 days of solitary confinement. It was here that he was also reunited with other members of the crew from the downed aircraft, where they began their stays as POW’s.

To communicate with each other, the prisoners used a tap code and sign language. Drummond explained that they talked about their favorite movies and foods to occupy their time with.

The most difficult thing Drummond explained he had to deal with, even over physical abuse, was the transition from being a free man to a prisoner. He explained that it was strange going from an individual who makes decisions about their

life to having one’s day completely dictated by another. The objective of the guards was to keep them on edge, with an extremely high stress level. “Nothing can adequately prepare you. You’re totally at their mercy. What are you going to think when they’re standing on the other side of the road pointing a gun at you?” Drummond said.

Other aspects of the war that caused Drummond to stress were the lack of information that he was exposed to and a loss of freedom.

The American troops were treated as war criminals and were forced to sign a document that said Drummond and his fellow troops were bombing hospitals and schools, and committing other war crimes.

Upon hearing the news that the Vietnam War was over, Drummond, as a prisoner, described im-

mediately thinking the guards must be playing a trick. It turned out to be true, however as one of the most recently captured groups, David and his crew were among the last to be released from the prisoner of war camp.

Finally, on March 31, 1973 he and his crew were released. He finished his tour with one final information flight, and afterward he retired from the sky.

Drummond told that it took him over 20 years to speak about his experiences like many Vietnam veterans who find it hard to talk about their war.

He started talking about his experiences when he realized younger generations can learn from them. Drummond has been a guest speaker for a few years in Professor Douglass’ class.

He lived through a multitude of

near disasters and the psychological strain of being a prisoner, and combated post dramatic stress disorder. “The transition from being a regular human being to a prisoner of war, had a huge impact,” Drummond said.

Many of the planes he flew are now in museums along with his helmet which, to this day, is on display in the National Museum of the United Air Force in Ohio. Artifacts from the war were displayed in the classroom as Drummond spoke. Included were his flight suit, prisoner uniform, and the letter that was sent to his wife when he was M.I.A.

Drummond expressed the importance of supporting the men and women serving our country, and to use your political freedom, for it is what our people have fought for, and what stands in the way of oppression.

Colleges that Profit, Students Who Don’t

WILL BUNCH
MCT CAMPUS

To paraphrase Steely Dan, five years at college didn’t turn out like she planned.

In 2002, Marianne Hicks, bored with her accounts-receivable job and part-time work as a cook, and eager to reinvent herself as an industrial designer was wooed by a recruiter for the Art Institute of Philadelphia with assurances of job help once she got a degree.

Today, Hicks says, her diploma is about the only thing that she can cling to. Often unemployed since graduating from the for-profit career college in 2007, she’s under the gun from collection agencies for more than \$90,000 in student loans that she can’t repay. She’s staying with a brother because she can’t afford her own place, and a sister is mad at her because she co-signed one of the delinquent loans.

“I was just excited I was going back to school of course they painted a pretty picture,” said the now 44-year-old Hicks, who admits she didn’t know that her loan balance would grow so high and didn’t grasp the problem that her Art Institute credits mostly can’t be transferred to other schools. But she faults the Philadelphia college for teaching outdated skills, and she said that job-placement help amounted largely to forwarding some ads from Craigslist.

And she’s not alone: Her classmate Taryn Zychal, with similar complaints, says she owes close to \$150,000 and is working in a convenience store when not selling her artwork.

Advocates say that the remarkable thing is that horror stories like those aren’t that unusual. Thousands of middle-income students who’ve rushed to for-profit career colleges in recent years have been overwhelmed by aggressive recruitment, loose admission policies, overhyped academic programs, a crippled U.S. economy with few jobs and, finally, their massive taxpayer-funded student debt, with little hope of repayment.

At the same time that enrollment at for-profit colleges many now owned by large, publicly traded firms backed by big banks and investment houses has soared to 11 percent of U.S. higher education, statistics show that these schools now account for a mind-boggling 48 percent of all defaults on federal student loans.

“Like any sector, what Wall Street rewards is quarterly numbers,” said Pauline Abernathy, a former aide in Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter’s administration who’s now Vice President of the Institute for College Access and Success, a nonprofit seeking a clamp-down on abuses by for-profit colleges. “There’s pressure on these schools to increase their ‘new starts’ newly enrolled students regardless of whether the students are qualified, or can repay their loans.”

The front line in the skirmish over for-profit colleges has shifted to Washington, where the Obama administration’s Education Department backed by a coalition of civil rights groups such as the NAACP and the National Council of La Raza is seeking tough new regula-

tions. The proposed rules would restrict or even block federal student aid to for-profit colleges that aren’t training enough students for “gainful employment” that is, jobs in which they’ll earn enough to repay their loans.

Such a rule could not only help future students avoid unmanageable debts but it also has the potential to save U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars, since federal student aid, such as Pell grants and military benefits, is as much as 90 percent or more of the dollars that some for-profit colleges take in, amounting to \$26.5 billion annually.

So, you would think that GOP lawmakers, who swept the 2010 election with promises of massive cost-cutting, would be down with that. Think again.

Instead, legislation aimed at blocking the Obama administration from imposing the rules passed the House with overwhelming Republican support back in February, and although the measure’s prospects seem dim in the Democratic-controlled Senate, the final outcome remains very much in doubt. The industry has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on big-name lobbyists, like former Philadelphia congressman Bill Gray, in a bid to sway the debate.

The leading industry group for the career colleges, the Coalition for Educational Success, argues that the high default rates don’t reflect bad faith on the part of the schools but rather their efforts to take a chance on training more poor and working-class students. Officials with the coalition cite studies showing high

loan default rates at traditional non-profit colleges who would not be affected by the proposed rules when students from similar economic backgrounds are singled out.

“Who are the students that are going to our schools?” asked the coalition president, Penny Lee, a former communications chief for former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell. “Most are the nontraditional, military or minority students that community colleges or other institutions aren’t serving.”

Perhaps because of its large blue-collar population, Philadelphia is something of a hotbed of career-college education, which tends to offer degrees in job-oriented skills such as photography, computer programming and auto mechanics.

Among the major companies in career-college education:

The University of Phoenix, the nation’s largest for-profit higher education firm and a publicly traded company Kaplan University, owned by the Washington Post Corp. (whose flagship newspaper editorializes enthusiastically against stricter federal rules).

The Art Institute of Philadelphia is owned by the Pittsburgh-based Education Management Corp., or EDMC, which has increasingly been embroiled in the controversy over the industry’s practices since the Wall Street behemoth Goldman Sachs helped take the company public and took a 38 percent ownership stake in the late 2000s. Goldman recently paid a \$550 million civil penalty over its role in the subprime mortgage crisis but smelled money in the career-college business.

An expose of EDMC in August by Bloomberg News which reported on a debt-ridden 2007 Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale grad who could find work only as a stripper quoted whistle-blowers who charged that academic standards fell and recruitment grew more aggressive when Goldman came in.

But even some students who enrolled before that allege that the Art Institute oversold its academic and job-placement programs, a problem made worse when they graduated into the teeth of the economic meltdown of 2008.

Officials from the Art Institute of Philadelphia declined requests for a traditional interview and to talk with students of their choosing. Instead, they emailed material that’s given to students saying that it’s “unlikely” that their credits can be transferred, as well as a claim that 87.6 percent of its 2009 grads worked in a field related to their degree, at an average salary of \$26,704.

The school also sent handout profiles of two graduates, one employed as a 3-D artist and one working on visual effects for the HBO series “Boardwalk Empire.”

The stats and the handouts are cold comfort to an unemployed grad like Hicks, who said that she finds herself in a bitter Catch-22: her student debt _ which, unlike a bad mortgage, can’t be used to file for bankruptcy _ has trashed her credit rating, which is checked by most prospective employers, making it even less likely that she can find work to pay the money back.

Said Hicks, wistfully: “I expected to be doing better by now.”



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Why is America so Stressed?

MARIANNE VERNA
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

When you think of some of the things that America is famous for you might think of baseball, rock 'n' roll, and hamburgers. Another item that is making its way up the list is the constant stress that American's feel every day and have felt for decades.

Compared to most countries the anxiety level of American's is much higher. One would think that with all the technology and gadgets that are made to make our lives easier, our stress and anxiety levels would be much further down. If you think that homework, relationships, and what you are going to do this weekend might be the cause of your stress, there are actually a lot of other factors that can be the cause as well.

In a recent study done at UCLA, college students are reaching record highs in stress levels. Some may argue that college students are stressed because they know that the job market in America has reached all-time lows, but the truth is we are growing up in a stressed and anxious world. "Around the turn of the millennium, anxiety flew past depression as the most prominent mental health issue in America, and it's never looked back. With more than 18 percent of adults suffering from an anxiety disorder in any given year, the United States is now the most

anxious nation in the world, according to the National Institute of Mental Health."

In an article from Slate.com they say that most college students aren't too concerned with the job market while they are in school. Like most students can agree, up until your senior year, many students don't begin to think about that.

Many researchers would like to say that college students are anxious because of upcoming assignments and difficult workload, but the truth is that it's not just a college student issue it's an American issue.

With the increase sales of prescribed anxiety and stress related medication it makes you think that we are starting to have this problem under control. "Stress-related ailments cost the nation \$300 billion every year in

medical bills and lost productivity, while our usage of sedative drugs keeps skyrocketing; just between 1997 and 2004, Americans more than doubled their spending on anti-anxiety medications like Xanax

lives. For starters we are taking in massive amounts of information on a daily basis.

Neuroscientists say that our brains were not developed to handle the kinds and amounts of information that are being handed to us on a daily basis.

Most of the stories covered are about things that cause diseases or crimes that take place. Without realizing this, your brain is getting stressed out from this information and leaving you with an unending feeling of anxiety.

Another cause for anxiety that we can all relate to is the need to escape from bad feelings. Many Americans will turn to medication or alcohol in hopes of running away from whatever problems they are having. In reality by doing these things it is actually making your ability to get over them worse. Many people will try to fight off

the bad feelings they are having instead of just letting them run their course. Psychologist Steven Hayes from the University of Nevada, says that by dealing with the problems and letting them pass you by is actually a better way to get through them. The more you try to control the problem the more likely you are to stress out about them.

April is Stress Awareness Month so you might want to take some time this month to celebrate and find ways that you can de-stress from the craziness of school.

Professor Konopack, who is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Health Studies at the University, gave some advice on ways to help reduce stress everyday. "One of the best things that we can do short of reducing that list of stressors is to develop healthy, effective means of managing our stress levels. Whether one chooses aerobic exercise, meditation, creative arts, or some other positive coping method, the focus should be on not necessarily reducing stress itself but on finding ways to make ourselves more resistant to the effects of stress.

Since we are getting closer to the end of the year and final exams are getting closer try to stay calm. Remember that you don't need to stress over these things and if you take them one day at a time things will go a lot more smoothly and you mind and body will benefit from it.



PHOTO COURTESY of collegefashion.net

Eighty-five percent of students out of 2,200 polled reported feeling stress daily.

Changing the Face of Tattoos

JILL BENANTI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Today's culture is changing, it seems that almost everyone has a tattoo or plans to get one in the near future. According to Tattoo Facts and Statistics online, in 1936 *Life Magazine* estimated about six percent of the U.S. population had at least one tattoo. In April 2000, the National Geographic News reported that approximately 40 million U.S. citizens

had at least one. That report was dated 11 years ago. Tattoos used to be taboo but our generation has turned them into something completely different.

At one time, tattoos were looked at as a sign of rebellion. The people that got tattoos were gang members, sailors, soldiers, and rebels. Because of the individuals who got tattoos, getting one was perceived as being tough and dangerous which invoked a feeling of fear in others. That stigma has completely

changed.

Tattoos today are of absolutely anything, they range from a memorial to a deceased friend or family member, to a picture of a heart or a flower. And the individuals who are getting them have changed as well. Kids as young as 16 to senior citizens are getting inked, mothers and daughters get matching ones and best friends get tattoos that symbolize their bond. Because of mainstream society's acceptance of tattoos, getting inked is much



PHOTO COURTESY of deviantart.com

Tattoos are becoming increasingly popular among all age groups.

less taboo. Today, tattoos are thought of as an art form. It is a way to express yourself and your individuality. They are chosen in the same way we choose our clothes, home, cars, or the way we style our hair, to represent us. There are thousands of tattoo parlors across the United States and millions of people who tattoo for a living.

But if you are not looking for a career in the tattoo world, how are tattoos perceived in the professional business world? You constantly hear parents telling their children, "You will never get a good job if you get a tattoo." But is that really the case? In the workplace tattoos still have a stigma attached to them. Despite their growing popularity, there are people who still look at tattoos as a sign of being rebellious and dangerous.

"Although many argue that the tides have changed at the workplace and that the tattoo is now a welcome component, 42.1 percent of managers interviewed by the Vault.com survey found that their opinion of an employee was lowered when they learned about the tattoo."

Tattoos can be nice but it depends where they are and if they are visible during work time", says one manager.

As a result of this stereotype there are more ways to cover up your tattoo if you feel it will affect your chances of getting a good job. Tattoo cover ups range from makeups to skin colored patches that will camouflage your tat-

too with your skin. Depending on where your tattoo is, jewelry, scarfs, and hats are all ways to hide your tattoo. While many people would argue against covering up your tattoo, it gives you a chance to be treated equally. If you are on a job interview it doesn't label you "the one with the tattoo." If the person interviewing you has a negative view on tattoos they will not spend the entire time dwelling over the fact that you have one.

A study by CareerBuilder's shows the risk of tattoos for aspiring professionals, and confirms the conventional wisdom that tattoos are a sign of immaturity, bad judgment and bad taste. Over 42 percent of managers said their opinion of someone would be lowered by that person's visible body art. Personally, I think that the actual figure is much higher. Three out of four respondents believe that visible tattoos are unprofessional.

Of course the types of people who get tattoos have changed drastically over the years. Eventually the stereotype of people with tattoos is going to become completely acceptable because this is a trend that is not going away anytime soon. Our generation has changed the way America dresses, acts, and thinks. Within the years to come having a tattoo is going to be as common as having your ears pierced.

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Pollak Theatre Hosts a 1940s Inspired Performance

ANDREA DOOLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An audience is powerful. The emotions of an audience can be sensed through the air much like a strong smell in a crowded room. The audience last Sunday night in Pollak Theatre had such strong emotions for the people on stage, it gave me the chills.

"In the Mood: A 1940s Musical Revue," now in its 17th year, is a traveling performance of a live band, singers and dancers. The show takes one of the greatest, most booming of times in American history and presents it with passion and beauty.

The "String of Pearls Band" was fantastic from start to finish, playing their own renditions of an array of forties favorites like Etta James' "At Last," and the ever classic "Blue Moon."

The singers and dancers were as energetic and full of life as they were talented. The costumes and choreography are original of the production, and perfectly depicted the classic style of the 1940s.

They portrayed teens of the '40s, young and in love, without a care in the world, until the boys are drafted for the war, and they experience their first heartbreak,

something many members of the audience could relate to.

With each song came a skit from the actors. Many of the scenes were comical, and each scenario progressed from the beginning of the decade until the end, with the introduction to World War II.

Each number had a different set of costumes for the six cast members, and every costume looked like it came straight from Macy's in 1943. The littlest details, like gloves for the women and double-breasted suits for the men made the atmosphere feel that much more like the forties.

It is safe to say I was the youngest member of the audience that night. The theatre was filled to capacity with people who not only were around during the 1940s, but also could remember it distinctly in every aspect of the time.

When I sat in my seat and opened my laptop, the audience members around me automatically noticed. One man tapped me on the shoulder, "you must be a student," he said. When I responded that I was, and was going to take notes for the school newspaper, he told me that that I should try and recall everything I had learned in school about the 1940s, World War II especially. I

could tell he was very passionate about the show we were about to watch, and that he had seen it once or twice, or maybe even three times before.

With every song the band played, you could feel the excitement of the crowd, much like the excitement college students feel when they hear classic '90s music on the radio. For the audience, it was songs that brought them back to a great time in their lives, a simpler time, free from the hold of new technologies.

The most moving moment I've experienced in a while occurred as the show came to a close. Each branch of the United States Armed Forces was acknowledged separately, honoring both the men and women who served. Both active members and veterans were asked to stand. The joy was painted on the faces of the audience, as was the great appreciation for the men and women of each branch. I left the show with a big smile on my face, and an even deeper appreciation for the United States Armed Forces.

The show was about two and a half hours long, and at first I was skeptical. However, I was pleasantly surprised, and truly enjoyed it. It was nice to visit the 1940s, a time when the world wasn't ruled by the blackberry, and "LOL" wasn't a word in the dictionary.



PHOTO COURTESY of picasaweb.google.com

"In the Mood: A 1940s Musical Revue" takes place in the World War II era, when the military enacted a draft that split young couples apart.

Nintendo Adds New Depth to Gaming

MICHAEL MARTIN
ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

I feel like a kid again. Upon purchasing my 3DS, I sped home to open my new toy and see what it had to offer. The answer can be summed up in one simple, endearing word – fun.

After opening the box and getting past the phone book-sized instruction manual and other pamphlets layered on top, I picked up my sleek new hand-held device.

The first thing I noticed was how much more sturdy and hefty it immediately felt compared to my DS Lite. Holding it in my hands, I really got the sense that I was handling a serious piece of hardware. But any intimidation I may have felt was immediately washed away upon flipping it open and hitting the power button.

Familiar to any Wii-owners, an extremely friendly and idiot-proof interface pops up to guide the user through their initiation to the console. Everything on the bottom screen is still touch-activated, and users are forced to utilize this with the provided stylus pen during their setup. The newly widened top screen starts out as a regular wide-screen LCD display, but then the message comes up to make sure your 3D slider is all the way up, and the 3DS shows its true colors.

The effect can at first be a little disorienting. The way the screen works is similar to that of a hologram sheet used on some Blu-Ray covers and on oldschool playing cards. The screen is simultaneously portraying two images—one for each eye—at slightly different angles. The result is an effect that tricks the brain into seeing depth



PHOTO COURTESY of thehanafudatimes.com

The Nintendo 3DS uses a glasses-free 3D display to great depth in the gamer experience.

where there is none, and without the need for any sort of special glasses.

You might be asking yourself, so why do I need to buy a ridiculously expensive TV and shell out an additional \$400 per pair of glasses if I want movie-quality 3D in my home? Well, that's because the way this technology works makes it only effective when viewed directly and from a short distance, which is perfect for a hand-held gaming console. Viewing the screen from the side will result in the same blurred effect as watching a 3D movie without glasses on.

For those who can't get used to it, there is a slider beside the screen for adjusting or completely turning off the 3D effect.

This could be useful, but I think those who exploit it are missing the point. The effect may seem weird at first, but once you get used to your tweaked depth perception, it becomes completely immersive and engaging.

The best example of this has to be the AR (Augmented Reality) cards that come packed with the system. I've spent hours with these nifty little things, and I still have no clue how they work from a technical standpoint. You aim your 3DS's two frontal cameras (built in for snapping 3D pictures) at a simple playing card with a picture of a "?" box on it.

All of a sudden, you have dragons popping out of your table where the card is sitting, with hills popping up under the tablecloth and

valleys sinking in that you must traverse to hit targets on your freshly-transformed landscape. Other modes include fishing and a whacked-out version of billiards, all of which incorporate fully interactive manipulation of your environment.

Another out-of-the-box application that utilizes the 3D cameras in a fun and inventive way is a game called "Face Raiders." Here, you take a picture of someone's face whom you might find pleasure in humiliating, and the game sends waves of them at you and asks you to shoot them with balls to fend them off.

While they could have come up with a slightly better name for this simulation, it is a perfect

way to show off some of the 3DS's abilities. You'll look ridiculous as you spin around in circles and shoot at flying faces that burst through the walls around the room. On second thought, it might turn out to be more embarrassing for the person playing. But it's a hell of a lot of fun, especially your first couple times playing.

Just in the camera application of the 3DS, not even in a game of any sort, I found a solid amount of enjoyment and hilarity. There is one hidden little feature in the camera app called

"Merge," which utilizes both the outer cameras and inner camera (which will possibly be used for webchatting when the Internet browser comes at a later date). You take a picture of yourself and somebody else at the same time, and the program merges the two together into one abomination. Between taking pictures with my mom and my cat, I have created what could be the start of the most horrifying Facebook album ever.

So, I picked up my 3DS early this afternoon, have been playing with it intermittently throughout the day, and I've barely even touched my copy of "Super Street Fighter IV."

I basically just checked out the tutorial to see how it looks (which, as it turns out, is awesome). I haven't even gotten into the improved Wi-Fi connectivity, built-in pedometer (that awards points for not being a lazy-ass), and Mii Plaza.

If the fact that I've had a blast all day without even touching a real game provides any premonition of this thing's future, then Nintendo might just have another winner on (or in, rather) its hands. The myriad of blockbuster games arriving in the coming months can only be a testament to that.

The screen is simultaneously portraying two images—one for each eye—at slightly different angles. The result is an effect that tricks the brain into seeing depth where there is none [...].

Behind the Scenes in Reality TV

BILL TAYLOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

University senior and communication major, Mallory O'Neil, partook in a "lights, camera, action" experience this past winter break. Her 10-day long paid encounter was a bit more of a 'reality' than many internships, given the fact that she was working on the set of FOX's reality series "Kitchen Nightmares" as a production assistant.

Mallory confessed that "Kitchen Nightmares" is a reality TV show that can be compared to ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," but with a major difference. Rather than fixing broken and unlivable homes, Chef Gordon Ramsay attempts to restructure poorly run restaurants, producing perfectly stable establishments, as Fox's "Kitchen Nightmares" website also outlines.

The same website says that Ramsay and his staff redo the menus, give the restaurant a facelift (paint walls and add some new tables and chairs), and teach the managers and servers how to turn the restaurant from chop liver to filet mignon. Behind the scenes, cameras were set up and the crew began filming the episode. "We had to take over the restaurant and put cameras everywhere," O'Neil said.

This "nightmare" took place in Bridgeport, Conn. at Café Tavolini. During a cold week of filming, O'Neil recalled that she felt it was one of the chilli-

est weeks of the year. "I was not a happy camper," she said as she was asked about the trials and tribulations of interning with a head cold and a fever.

Mallory weathered the elements, knowing how important it was to totally take in the week of filming. She even said that Chef Gordon Ramsay himself gave her his jacket because she was "colder than a scoop of ice cream," mimicking his accent as she laughed about the occurrence. The production assistants worked about 10-hour days while drives to Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island were not uncommon.

"I did whatever they told me to," O'Neil said, "I ran errands and I would go get supplies..." She even found herself Christmas shopping for a busy producer one day.

While dropping off cars and picking up plates and silverware may not seem glamorous, Mallory still needed to know someone to get this role. She had a friend who knew the production director, and through that

friend she was able to send her resume in and get the position. It pays to know people, especially in the television industry.

Back on set, the most minute moves were completely regimented. Mallory remembered how organized the directors and producers were, as they had a schedule that they followed each day which ran very smoothly to her recollection.

There were also trailers where O'Neil and the rest of the crew

spent a lot of their time. According to the production assistant, the owner of the lot where the trailers were located also owned an electric company in Bridgeport. He wanted to pay for the restaurant's electric bill for a year and FOX would not allow that to happen.

"The show has the same structure every episode," said O'Neil, also mentioning that the producers did not think that this contribution went along with the story line. She said that FOX actually told the lot owner that they would rather the electric company buy a commercial spot because they would profit, rather than giving the company time on the actual show and having the restaurant benefit from the transaction. That is the harsh 'reality' of the situation.

There were four or five production assistants each day, and about 10 in total, but Mallory said she made sure she savored the experience and went every day aside from the day she was

sick.

When asked whether she'd rather be behind the scenes or on screen, she said, "On screen. It's much more glamorous... I wouldn't have to stand out in the cold all day." To her, this experience reinforced her desire to be on the screen rather than running errands for the producers. She hopes that the modeling, acting, and singing she has been doing for such a long time will preheat her ability to get fully cooking in a career in showbiz. She also said that she would want something more solid, because the full-time crew spent six weeks in one place and six weeks in another, living out of a suitcase for a lot of their careers.

Unfortunately, *Reality TV Magazine* reported that Café Tavolini went out of business just a couple weeks after Ramsay, O'Neil, and the rest of the crew stopped filming. Looks like 10 days wasn't enough for the battered restaurant. *Reality TV Magazine* states, "in an interview earlier, the owner said he was having financial woes including being unable to pay his rent and taxes."

In the eyes of Mallory O'Neil; however, this was a great experience which constitutes a very important line added to her resume. This illustrious line shows that she has had experience in reality television and will hopefully land her a place in the entertainment industry, which would be a dream rather than a nightmare.



PHOTO COURTESY OF wicz.com

"Kitchen Nightmares" is currently running on its fourth season, and airs every Friday at 9:00 pm on Fox.

"Femme Fatale" is Anything but Danger for Britney Spears

GINA COLUMBUS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When "Femme Fatale" hit stores last Tuesday, I had an eerie feeling I was the only one in my circle of friends running to Best Buy to pick up a copy. All I could wonder is, "How, after 13 years of superstardom, is Britney Spears just not 'it' these days?"

So maybe blasting "Oops I Did It Again" isn't the coolest thing to do in your car with the windows rolled down anymore. Maybe the savvy thing is to snicker at the televised performances and provocative music videos when they air on MTV or online. But, hey, I am a diehard Britney fan and often get fairly defensive of the blonde ambition. Can she move like she used to? No, but the woman is reaching 30 in just a few months, gave birth to two kids and had a mental breakdown a few years prior. She's not going to be the 17-year-old pop princess dancing in Catholic school hallways wearing pigtailed like she once was.

But she doesn't care what I think, or what any of us think for that matter, because "Femme Fatale" once again releases a line-up of dance rhythms, memorable lyrics, and that crazy good feeling that fans – even if they're in the closet – will be moving their hips and shoulders to. Does she surpass her past records? Maybe not entirely, but she still met my expectations as I poorly sang along to every word the second time I played her CD.

"Femme Fatale" opens up with her second single, "Till the World Ends," which is a fair representation of the album's tone. It's safe to say that gone are the

days of bubblegum Britney with soft, low-key melodies – it's all about heavy, electronic techno beats. There's nothing wrong with it, but expect to hear similar sounds in the majority of "Femme Fatale" tracks. Some of these others include "I Wanna Go," "Big Fat Bass," "Gasoline," and of course, "Hold it Against Me."

"Hold it Against Me," Spears' first single, exploded on the airwaves back in January. This is not only an outrageously popular song, but it streams creativity and originality. As unique as the song is, there's proof that Spears has not forgotten her roots; for those who have yet to see the video for this song, YouTube it now!

Romance is not as prominent a theme in this album as it may be in past ones. Several songs revolve around dancing, music, or finding a guy in a club to take home, like "Trouble for Me." However, there is a couple of songs that touch upon falling in love or breaking up, such as "Inside Out," "Seal It With a Kiss," and "Trip to Your Heart."

"Criminal" is a song of forbidden love, and probably one of few songs on the album that showcase Spears' vocals with lyrics such as "He is a villain of the devil's law/ he is a killer just for fun, fun, fun, fun/ that man's a snitch and unpredictable/ he's got no conscience, he got none, none, none, none/ all I know, should've let go, but no/ 'Cause he's a bad boy with a tainted heart/ and even I know this ain't smart."

One high-tempo song, "Gasoline," has even more appealing lyrics: "Spark and it's like gasoline/ I start burning like a machine/ my heart only runs on supreme/ so hot, give me your gasoline."

However, there are a few tracks

on "Femme Fatale" where Spears tries a different pattern, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's a success. "How I Roll" almost sounds like a video game I just can't put my finger on. Could it be "Mario Brothers?" "Hello Kitty?" Or "Frogger?" I don't know what's going on here, but it doesn't work for me. It's almost as if I'm jumping from cloud to cloud preparing to fight off the dragon in the castle with my sword and armor in tow.

"Big Fat Bass" has a stranger melody, and listeners drown in such a dull pattern and hardly any change in lyrics: "I can be the treble baby/ you can be the bass/ you can be the bass/ you can be the bass/ I can be the treble baby."

However, with the "Femme Fatale" deluxe edition, fans get four bonus songs to listen to: "Up N' Down," "He About to Lose Me," "Selfish," and "Don't Keep Me Waiting."

So hold it against me: overall, "Femme Fatale" is another one of Britney Spears' great listens. Despite some repetitive rhythms and

strange electronic sounds, the "...Baby One More Time" entertainer still does that: entertains us with some feel good music that

we'll sing over and over in our heads to get us through the rest of the semester, and pump us up for summer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF vertigoshtick.com

"Femme Fatale," Britney's seventh studio album, continues to move away from her pop roots and more towards a techno-centered sound.

The Man Behind the Mask

EUGENIA BROADUS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The word “Shadow” to the University community is reminiscent of a legacy, while to others the word is not a name, but rather a noun.

Shadow’s presence in the crowds cannot be denied as he pleasantly harasses all of the Hawk fans with his miming shenanigans. Without words, he empowers teams and the crowd with his dramatic movements and spirited encouragement.

One being Elizabeth Kudirka, a graduating senior who played for the women’s basketball team since 2007.

She is known to her team and fans as the emotional leader and she keeps the team’s energy level on overkill, from her demanding speeches in huddles, to her kneetucks during spectacular plays. She provides the excitement that

In addition to being a full-time student and mascot here at Monmouth, he finds the time to student teach history at Long Branch High School from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Menker miraculously also finds the time to be their mascot at Long Branch where he is the Green Wave.

As Shadow, Menker has arguably been the spirit of the University for the last four years. Unlike most mascots, he does not take his entitled breaks as instructed. Menker is encouraged to take a break every 20 minutes.

As a dedicated fan, as well as Shadow, he does not want to miss any action, so instead rests at half-time.

Menker said, “After the game, I’m completely soaked in sweat, it’s almost like I jumped in a swimming pool fully clothed. Being in the suit is extremely exhausting, because in the suit it’s about 50 degrees warmer than

makes for a good mascot.

Although, she recalls several instances upon which she caught him stumbling up and down the stairs. She appreciates his uniqueness.

Menker said, “It’s tough being upbeat when you’re sick or not having a great day, but the fans and the teams depend on my enthusiasm and I feel as if it’s my duty to deliver night in, and night out.”

Menker, not in his navy blue-plush attire and most importantly, not bound to his strict no talking

Kudirka. “Shadow’s the man!” said Okoe-Quansah.

“He has literally been the heart beat of the Hawks. His spirit can live on through another if they ever are as passionate about Monmouth as he was,” Kudirka says.

Before each game, he makes his signature entrance from the tunnel and makes fans rise to their feet for introductions. Standing at five-foot, six inches, the University’s spirit arrives in his jersey sporting the basketball jersey number “00”.

Even though he does not tower over every single fan, his de-

Hawks won, 65-62.

“That game was amazing! The energy in the gym was intense and all the fans knew the game was a must win, so every score was agonizing,” said Menker.

Shadow holds the same stern face throughout the seasons, almost a smile, but could be perceived as a snarly grin to on-looking opponents. His game face is consistent as well as his spirit.

After graduating this May, Menker will pursue graduate school here at the University, but his ultimate goal is to become a profes-



PHOTO COURTESY of Eugenia Broadus

The man behind the Shadow mask, Devin Michael Menker, is a graduating senior majoring in history, political science, and secondary education. Since accepting the mascot position in 2007, he has been a primary spirit leader in the University community.

“He has literally been the heartbeat of the Hawks.”

ELIZABETH KUDIRKA
Senior Basketball Player

any teammate would feed off, or any fan would mimic.

She did not know, as an incoming freshman, her spirited equal would also be a newcomer. Then, the Eyass (Baby Hawk) was new to his duties just as she was familiarizing herself with class schedules and campus life.

Shadow, the man behind the mask, had to learn his new code of conduct on top of his freshman duties.

He is not a collegiate athlete, so you will not be able to find him on any stat sheet, but if you are looking for the one supporting the teams, without words, or disappointing emotions, you can find him.

Dressed in a navy blue, plush hawk suit, in which he wears with undeniable pride, usually accompanied by a six-foot pole he waves as a part of his dramatic effect.

Under the eight-pound hawk head, you will find an exhausted Devin Michael Menker. Menker is a graduating senior who majored in history, political science, and secondary education.

room temperature.” He admits the suit is like a sauna, but he enjoys every second of being the life of the festivities.

He would much rather be interacting with the crowd, versus catching his wind in the locker room. His devotion might seemingly go unnoticed, because his identity to the University community can only be glorified as Shadow.

Menker would not be considered an impressive dancer, or a smooth operator, but anyone with eyes could tell he enjoys his role and never lets up.

Senior Octavia Okoe-Quansah is a dedicated fan and graduating senior who follows University athletics closely stated, “Often times, Shadow would demand my attention while I’m trying to watch the game. I remember one time he repeatedly deterred me from watching the game while continuously motioning for a high-five.”

Okoe-Quansah insisted she knew Shadow never meant harm, but his methods were unavoidable and sometimes annoying; which

mascot code of conduct can tell you the statistics of each team, along with the miniature scouting reports of other team’s offensive and defensive principles in exasperating length.

His speech limitation might have been the reason during the interview; he was not short on words. Menker is an animated fellow, who was more than eager to share his experiences as Shadow.

Shadow is essential to the Monmouth community. “He is an integral part of the successful season we’ve had this year,” said

meanor is still powerful and he demands crowd participation and attention.

Shadow’s devotion is astonishing; he has not missed a men’s or women’s home game since accepting the position in 2007. As much as he would love to travel on away trips, the visiting teams always decline, insisting the mascot competition would be unnecessary.

Menker’s final appearance in the suit happens to be his most memorable game. It was the women’s basketball play-off match up between Robert Morris, where the

sional mascot for the New York Giants or Jets. He has reached out to them and their responses have been promising.

The man under the suit is just like you and I - he has days where he would rather be watching in the crowd rather than pouncing around throughout the Multipurpose Activity Center.

The University’s gymnasiums and playing fields have been his nest for four amazing years, but now he must leave the nest and someone has to replace his spirited decorum.

“I Pity the Fool”

CHRISTA TAMANINI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Friday, April 1 marked the calendar for a month that brings sun and flowers and springtime showers - snow showers? APRIL FOOLS!

Then again, this is only partially a joke for residents of Monmouth County who peaked out their window Friday morning, wondering if Mother Nature was pulling the greatest prank of all time—snow in the spring.

Despite doubts of this “April Fools’ Day” snowstorm, while slushy sleet and rain were heavy at times, New Jersey was more wet than white.

Ironically enough, it was on April 1, 1960 that the U.S. launched the first weather satellite from Cape Canaveral, Florida, opening up the doors to weather forecasting.

Once again, this is no joke, just a wildly peculiar coincidence. So I ask whether this unusual weather was the only April Fools practical joke or hoax that was played on you?

Although April Fools’ Day is not a national holiday, many different

people around the world identify this date as a day filled with jokes galore and absolute absurdity.

Although April Fools’ history is unclear, many anthropologists argue it is a French tradition, which dates back to the 16th century.

It was during this time that the New Year was an eight-day celebration beginning on March 25 and ending on April 1. The French adoption of the Gregorian calendar officially moved the New Year celebration from March 25 to January 1.

From then on, individuals who forgot about the New Year date adjustment were often ridiculed by friends—i.e. APRIL FOOLS!

While this is one of the most common tales of the holiday’s roots, some believe Ancient Romans, along with many others, may have played a role in the initial celebration of All Fools’ Day.

Yet, truth be told, research shows the ambiguity of the holiday’s origin and makes it clear that people really have no idea where

the tradition of pulling pranks came from—they just partake in the foolishness.

Pranks executed on All Fools’ Day vary from the common saying, “Your shoe’s untied,” to the detailed, well thought out plans of deceit.

Some people go to great lengths to fool one another, such as viciously wrapping cars in bubble

Some people go to great lengths to fool one another, such as viciously wrapping cars in bubble wrap or Post-it noting the hell out of something.

wrap or Post-it noting the hell out of something.

Whatever the prank, the swindler typically ends the fabricated story or mischief-like act by shouting “April Fools!”

Usually it is children playing jokes on each other or trying to “pull a fast one” and tricking an adult who may have overlooked the date and forgot about April 1 tricks.

Yet, from one adult to another, it seems as though “grown ups” enjoy foolishness just as much, if not more than children.

The best April Fools prank I have ever heard was played by my aunt, many years ago, on her seventh grade class. Aunt Bev always did have a great sense of humor -always “crackin” jokes with her laughing fuchsia lips.

It was early morning when she executed her trickery. As her first period class switched into her classroom at the sound of the bell, she made sure to construct a serious facial expression as she calmly sat on the edge of her desk, waiting for the students to settle.

What happened next is priceless: she began by telling the students that although she had a fun lesson prepared for them, it would have to wait for another day.

As students sent back looks of confusion, she continued by explaining how there had been a flood in the girls bathroom on

the first floor and due to the excess amount of water in the halls, school officials were calling buses and sending students home early.

The room erupted with noise of the students’ laughter and joy from the good news - some kids even had sprung from their seats, jumping up and down with glee. Aunt Bev was cruel.

She waited so the kids had their fill of celebration to shout “APRIL FOOLS!” From what Aunt Bev proclaims, she’s never seen such a look of disappointment as she did that day. She also cannot tell that story without uncontrollably cracking up.

Whether April Fools’ originated in France or in Ancient Rome—it is wildly celebrated throughout many areas of the world.

Here in America, it is the one day a year that “anything goes” and it is acceptable for everyone to act a fool. This year, April Fools’ Day may have simply been a recount of the arrival of spring and Mother Nature fooling everyone with abnormal weather. All in all, it is a day where people can escape reality and have an excuse to just act silly.

One Spring Break in Guatemala, 10 Days to Change Lives

ASHLEY CATTANO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We chose a different kind of spring break. A group of 16 University representatives came together and traded the cold drinks and hot sand for underprivileged kids and cement blocks. A 10 day trip to Guatemala...just 10 days to change lives for a lifetime.

We all went down there without knowing what to expect, and in turn, touched strangers' hearts with shovels and power tools. As a group, we built a wall to protect those that deserve to be protected while they wait for the care they need and are so grateful for. The choice we made led to an extremely rewarding spring break and new view on the world. An alternative spring break is something no college student actively thinks about. Making the decision to not go to Daytona Beach, or Punta Cana, but somewhere that caused people to gasp and ask "Why are you going there?!" with a disapproving tone just because it is different. Choosing to help others instead of working on your tan lines when you are given a week off from classes is most definitely out of the ordinary and most definitely should be noticed.

While in Guatemala, we learned to be grateful for all of the privileges we have been given in life, and that a smile is *really* worth a thousand words. As a group, we all learned very quickly how much we have here in America; purified water, paved roads, clean air, the comfort of knowing that no one will pick pocket you as you walk down the street, just to name a few. However, it was not hard to envy the people of Guatemala, even after learning about all the disadvantages they face compared to us in their everyday life. No matter what struggles they

faced they were always smiling, always friendly, always happy... even if they were wearing shoes with holes in them, pants that had been washed in the sink outside of their home, or even if they had no idea where their next meal was coming from. More Americans need to smile like that. Salud y Paz is the non-

world. The organization has grown to have clinics in multiple cities in Guatemala and has created a schooling opportunity for local children to learn to speak Spanish and become literate before public school age. These clinics have come to help well over 100,000 patients,

not know outside of campus to another country. However, they came to confess that our group had not only exceeded their expectations, but also helped create an unforgettable experience for them as well. "Seeing all of the students outside of their comfort zones and watching them rise to the many

it easy for me to see how simple it is to give back. It has paved a pathway of understanding that being thankful for the things we are given in life is a little thing that can go a long way. Seeing others smile because of what we were doing made an immediate impact on all of us. Liz Honold, 19, a sophomore, said "You don't realize how much you have until you go to a third world country like Guatemala. The overwhelming happiness I felt every day from the children we were privileged enough to interact with cannot be matched. I promise you that." Our mentor on the trip, Jose Hernandez, who served as the Assistant Administrator at the clinic, spent the whole week with our group. As he was saying goodbye to us, there was not a dry eye on the bus. Jose explained that because we came to his country and helped them, he can now put food on the table for his daughter every night. Hernandez explained, "I can't even find the words to thank you enough," but his words were more than enough to make us all sad that we were leaving. After being given this extremely fulfilling chance, it seems like it would be foolish to not spread this feeling of accomplishment with everyone and anyone. Hopefully it will be easy for others to take advantage of these opportunities on and off campus, because Inzana anticipates continuing this tradition we have started. According to Inzana, "My hope is that this trip inspires these students to challenge themselves as young adults and throughout their lives to find more ways to make a difference in a world that is ever smaller," and I can assure him that his hopes are coming true.



PHOTO COURTESY of Corey Inzana

Salud y Paz is a non-profit Methodist organization that has clinics in multiple cities to create schooling opportunities for local children. Sixteen University students (pictured above), volunteered in Guatemala during their spring break. profit Methodist organization we volunteered for. On Saludypaz.org, they explain that it was created in early 2001 as a project of International Hands of Service, which is a U.S. based nonprofit corporation and organization that procures new and used vehicles, equipment, and supplies for Christian mission projects throughout the providing millions of dollars in medical and dental services. The professional staff members that worked together to coordinate this trip, Hall Director Corey Inzana and University-Adjunct Professor for Political Science and Sociology, Jeffrey Wilhelms, admitted that they were not sure how things would go bringing 12 students they did challenges set before them came to be one of the most fulfilling experiences for me," said Inzana. Andrew Stern, 21, a senior, took advantage of this opportunity as a way to make his last spring break count. "I don't think I could have hand picked a better group of people to spend this week with," Stern said. Personally, this trip has made

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Sigma Pi Plans Blood Drive for SAM Spady Foundation

JORDAN FUREY
STAFF WRITER

Sigma Pi will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, April 19 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Anacon Hall to raise money for alcohol awareness in support of their philanthropy, the SAM Spady Foundation.

The event will be run by the American Red Cross and with Sigma Pi. Andrew Zelnick, Philanthropy Chair of Sigma Pi, has been planning this event.

“Last semester we had a very successful blood drive, collecting 70 pints of blood, and saving over 200 lives. This semester we are really trying to go above and beyond by topping that number and helping save more lives,” said Zelnick.

As a sponsor for a blood drive with the Red Cross, Sigma Pi will be providing a site for the blood drive to take place. Sigma Pi will also be responsible for recruiting donors and publicizing the event so that students, faculty and the surrounding community will know about the blood drive.

The brothers of Sigma Pi will also schedule the appointments for the donors and work with the Red Cross at the actual blood drive itself by handing out refreshments and keeping people informed.

Students or faculty interested in donating blood can show up at the blood drive ready to participate or sign up next week in Magill Commons.

In order to give blood, participants must be at least 110 pounds and at least 16-years-old.

Other aspects of each potential donor's health history are discussed as part of the donation process before any blood is collected. Each donor receives a brief examination during which temperature and pulse are measured.

Here at the University, the American Red Cross usually collects about 60 units of blood twice a year, according to Lauren Montanaro, the college key account manager for the American Red Cross.

The mission of the American Red Cross is to provide a safe and reliable supply of blood to hospitals in America every day. Blood is available to be shipped to hospitals 24 hours a day through the American Red Cross.

The Penn-Jersey Region is the section of the American Red Cross that will be assisting Sigma Pi in their blood drive. This section of the American Red Cross ships blood to roughly 100 hospitals throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.



PHOTO COURTESY of Sigma Pi
Sigma Pi will be hosting the blood drive with the American Red Cross on Tuesday, April 19.

Some common reasons blood is needed for medical treatments include blood transfusions for burn victims, premature babies, cancer treatments, and people involved in bad accidents that have lost a lot of blood.

There is no substitute for human blood. Patients in need of blood rely on blood drives, held by sponsors to help make sure that there is a stable supply of blood for them when they need it.

“Many of our blood donors chose to donate blood for altruistic reasons. Donors understand that it is important to give back to the community and support your local blood supply if you can, because this will ensure that blood is there when it's needed,” said Montanaro.

To find out more information on hosting a blood drive or the benefits of participating in a blood drive, visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Rock Out to Raise Money for Relay

NICK HODGINS
ASSISTANT CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

The Rock ‘n’ Raise Battle of the Bands fundraiser, hosted by Hawk TV and “The Desperate Mamas” Relay for Life team, will be held this Friday April 8 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The event will be held in the TV Studio and lobby of the Plangere Center and costs \$3 to attend.

“The Desperate Mamas” Relay for Life team is made up of women who work in the Plangere Center and work together to raise money to help fight cancer. The name “Desperate Mama’s” is a spin-off from the television show “Desperate Housewives.” Donna Mancini of WMCX and captain of the team said, “We are all on a desperate

mission to raise funds.”

Rock ‘n’ Raise is a Battle of the Bands fundraiser for the “Desperate Mamas” and “Desperate Students” Relay for Life teams. The event is sponsored by Hawk TV, WMCX, and the “Desperate Mama’s.” It will feature live music, food, and games.

There are four bands scheduled to perform at the event; “Johnny Moon,” “Suburban Groove,” “Black Tooth Grin,” and “Whale Pond.”

According to their Facebook page, Suburban Groove was formed in the summer of 2008. “The band delivers a broad variety of genres, from blues to hard rock and everything in between. Suburban Groove promises an experience to take you back to your first

rock and roll exposure.”

Whale Pond is a folk rock band out of Lanoka Harbor, NJ. Taken from their biography on Facebook, Whale Pond refers to the spirit of music as folk; they believe music should have no boundaries. “If you happen to catch one of our shows in the Ocean County area, you can count on seeing Patrick and Geoff, at the very least, perpetual strummers and pluckers of that old standby, the six-string guitar. More than likely you’ll hear some harps and horns tossed in the mix. There might be a drummer. If you’re lucky you might catch Nad Labad on the E-bass. You’d better hope we’ve got Koroviev- and her voice like a machine gun angel. There will be a pair of snakeskin boots, and a bearded fellow or two. This I can promise.”

Dan Villanova, Hawk TV Station Manager, said. “This is the first time that an event of this magnitude has been attempted. The event is a larger M Squared Live. M Square Live was a live music show on Hawk TV that has not been produced since last year.”

Villanova said, “We are expecting a large turnout and we are hoping to get as many people as we can in the Plangere Center to make donations.”

The bands were booked by Kate Nawoyski, Hawk TV News Producer, and Danielle Guagliardo, Hawk Tv Program Director.

For more information you can email hawktv@monmouth.edu. Hawk TV meets Wednesdays at 3:30 pm at the TV Studio in Plangere.

SGA President’s Letter

Fellow Hawks,

The time has come for you all to select next year’s Student Government Association Student Senate as well as your President and Vice-President of the student body. SGA works very hard over the course of the year to improve the school for all students. Though voting is not mandatory, it is important that you do vote so that all of our students are represented when the results come in.

This year, we have races for many positions. Each student can vote for senators in the Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Commuter, and Senator-at-Large positions. You will most likely see campaign materials all throughout this week as the candidates jockey for your votes. The most exciting race comes with the position of President and Vice-President. Because the President and Vice-President have a lot of say in SGA, they must be the strongest of leaders. I encourage you all to read their candidate statements and campaign materials closely

and vote for the individuals you feel are best fit to lead the student body. The candidates for Vice-President are Oscar Sanchez and Jackie Reed. The candidates for President are D.J. McCarthy, Nicole Levy, and Bryan Larco.

Campaigning takes place all this week. You should see many of the candidates around campus petitioning for your votes. SGA is unique because it is one of the few organizations on campus whose representation is determined by student vote. I hope you will find time from Monday, April 11 until Wednesday April 13 at 12:00 pm to vote in this election.

I hope you all are progressing nicely in your classes. There is a lot going on this week with Greek Week and the Global Understanding Convention. Also, I hope you take the opportunity to get out and see some sporting events in the coming weeks. On April 10, the softball team will be playing a doubleheader against St. Francis starting at 12:00 pm. Please get out and support your fellow stu-

dents.

Finally, I want to comment on the crisis in Japan. If you have been following the news, you are aware of the unimaginable horror that the Japanese people have been going through. The effects of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami and radiation leaks will be profound and long-lasting.

Monmouth has a moral responsibility to do what it can to help those who cannot help themselves right now. Therefore, I encourage you to keep an eye out for specific fundraising efforts that the University is sponsoring. Various Aramark locations have collection cans where you can add your change. This money will go directly towards Japan relief efforts. Please do your part to help the Japanese.

Please keep focused in these last few weeks of the semester. We are heading towards the finished line. Let us run through it!

Go Hawks!
Kevin Sanders
SGA President

Animal Representatives of Monmouth University: Adopt Tigger!

Tigger would love to bounce into your heart. She is a two-year-old domestic short-haired cat. Her brother, Slimmer, is also available for adoption.

They are both located at the Monmouth County SPCA’s PetSmart Adoption Center in Ocean Township.

Both of these cats would love to have another brother or sister cat around. They have lovely personalities; just look at Tigger’s tipped head.

Anyone can see that she has character and is begging to play.

Come into the PetSmart Adoption Center and be hypnotized by her beautiful green eyes.

For more information about either one of these cats, call the Monmouth County SPCA at 732-542-0040. If you would like to see other animals, the MCSPCA is located at 260 Wall Street, Eatontown NJ, 07724.

Also, be sure to check out the MCSPCA’s barebeque and event “Rediscovering America’s Dog: The Pit Bull” on April 23.



PHOTO COURTESY of The Animal Representatives of Monmouth University

Adopt Tigger, a two-year-old domestic short-haired cat who is full of love and personality.

Faces of Poverty Art Gallery

PRESS RELEASE

Monmouth University’s First Year Service Project invites you to participate in the upcoming Faces of Poverty Art Gallery artist’s reception of April 7 at 6:00 pm in Anacon Hall. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. Art of all mediums will be used to break common stereotypes of poverty by portraying the unseen faces and stories behind hunger and homelessness.

The gallery will showcase works of art that tell the story of the “Faces of Poverty” that tend to go unnoticed: the single mother supporting four children, those with mental illness, the veterans, the working class poor, and those who have never been exposed to resources to help them succeed.

Bake Sale for Relay for Life

PRESS RELEASE

PRSSA is having a bake sale on Friday, April 8 in the Plangere Center from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm to raise money for Relay For Life. Relay for Life is taking place on the University campus on April 15.

The bake sale will include brownies, cupcakes, cookies, and healthy snack baggies to take to class with you.

Puzzle Piece Sale for Autism Speaks

PRESS RELEASE

On Monday April 11, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, PRSSA and Alpha Xi Delta will be selling puzzle pieces in the Student Center to benefit Autism Speaks. For \$1, you can decorate a puzzle piece and add it to our puzzle as the University helps to find the missing pieces. All proceeds from this sale benefit Autism Speaks.

2011-2012 Student Government Association Candidates

SGA Elections will take place April 11-13!

Presidential Candidates



BRYAN LARCO

“Loco For Larco” I. Leadership Philosophy: We are all a part of a university that is large enough to provide us with high quality educators, sports, clubs, and facilities, yet small enough to walk from end to end and see a familiar face. Monmouth University must be an inclusive university that values the variety in interests, hobbies, and personalities that exist. As president, I vow to acknowledge these qualities that make the Monmouth community special and include them in the manner in which we proceed as a student body, an institution, and community. Monmouth, we ARE ONE. II. Academic Affairs: BRYAN will work with the administration to develop easier ways of registering for classes and ensure sufficient sections of required courses. BRYAN will work with MU’s bookstore to develop E-Book availability and book-renting possibilities to save students money. BRYAN will work to analyze and improve Academic Advising. BRYAN will work to review MU’s testing policies and get rid of 8:30 AM midterm and final exams. BRYAN will work to further recognize and support the arts. BRYAN will work to encourage the hiring of more full-time, quality professors and less adjuncts. III. Campus Life: BRYAN will develop and implement a smoke-free campus policy. BRYAN will work to promote recycling and environmentally friendly policies at MU. BRYAN will continue working with MU’s administration to improve parking on both residential and commuter parking lots. BRYAN will work for the installation of entertainment rental kiosks such as RedBox and GameFly. BRYAN will explore shuttle services to and from MU for students residing in off-campus university housing. BRYAN will work to install an ATM on the residential side of campus. BRYAN will explore weekend shuttles to and from local attractions. BRYAN will work with local businesses to provide MU students with discounts. IV. Dining Services: BRYAN will work to establish more outside food vendors such as Java City and Einstein Bagels. BRYAN will work to improve the quality of food and ensure superior customer service. BRYAN will demand for more vegetarian, kosher, and healthier dining options. BRYAN will work to allow meal-swipes at the Student Center Cafeteria. V. Athletics & Club Sports: BRYAN will work to change current policy and finally fund MU Club Sports. BRYAN will work with the Athletic Department to promote athletic events and accomplishments, enrich Hawk pride, and integrate athletes with the entire student body. VI. Greek Life: BRYAN will work to engage and support fraternities and sororities. BRYAN will attend Greek Senate meetings to support and participate in Greek Life activities. VII. Diversity: BRYAN will ensure the respect of ALL people despite race, sexual orientation, gender, and religion. BRYAN will support LGBTQ initiatives and work with clubs to promote tolerance. BRYAN will engage and support multicultural clubs on campus. PLEASE ELECT BRYAN LARCO FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT! GO HAWKS!

WINN with DJ McCarthy. Winning classes---Improved food---Needed parking---Necessary funding. Being involved with numerous organizations and clubs (SGA, Honors School, Greek Life - Phi Kappa Psi, Relay for Life, Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Resident Life, Athletics and more) at Monmouth University over the last three years has given me the opportunity to see things from many different vantage points and with a clear prospective.

So I would like and ask for your support, to focus on improving the things that will benefit and enrich the everyday experiences of both the students and faculty at Monmouth University. Winning Classes --- I will continue the promotion of mini volunteer and study abroad courses, like the one going to Oxford, England this summer for two weeks or like the class that volunteered in India over winter break.

Improving Food --- I was instrumental in getting the hours extended at the dining hall, now it is time to work on improving the food quality. Food should taste good! Students living on campus have a right to enjoy what they eat --- after all we are paying for it.

Needed Parking --- need I say more? More parking spots are needed! It is a major problem and one that must be addressed.

Necessary Funding --- Let’s enhance Greek Life involvement on campus and provide the necessary funding for our Club Sports and the Monmouth MOB so we can cheer for our great teams.

A vote for DJ will ensure that an involved student will lead a great team, to get your problems and concerns addressed. Helping others has always been important to me and as your President, I will have the opportunity to do just that. My goal will be to make a determined effort towards enhancing your lives through the office of the President. Be assured, I will listen to all your concerns and suggestions and work to make a great place, like Monmouth University, even better. A vote for DJ McCarthy will mean --- we all WINN.



DJ MCCARTHY



NICOLE LEVY

Looking back at my freshman year I can still remember talking with friends about my dream to become president of SGA. Although it’s hard to believe senior year is approaching, it’s time to give back to an organization that has had a profound impact on my college career.

I’ve held numerous leadership positions on senate, including being a member of the executive board for the past two years and receiving the 2009-2010 Distinguished Member Award. My passion and dedication is recognized by my peers, and it would be my honor to represent the student body and help get our voices heard.

As president I would work hard at bridging the gap between commuters and residents, athletes and students, clubs and organizations, and all other aspects of student life. A sense of campus community and school spirit are essential to the college experience, and I will not stop until changes are made that the students believe in.

Additionally, I will focus on the gap between students and administrators in order to create accessible, comfortable and professional relationships. I will always welcome the opportunity to talk to my peers about their concerns and aim to be perceived as approachable and understanding of everyone’s needs.

Unlike others I will never make false promises just to gain support. Instead, I pledge to always give accurate information and explanations that the students deserve. I guarantee a vote for me means a vote for your voice. Leave a lasting footprint in the sands of the shore and vote for Nicole Levy!

Vice Presidential Candidates

Hi everyone! My name is Jackie Reed and I’m running for SGA Vice President. I have served on the Senate since my first semester of freshman year and it has been my dream to eventually hold the office of VP ever since. As a junior now I am able to say that I have served on every level of SGA over the last three years. I have been a senator, committee chair, and served on the Executive Board this past year as Finance Chair. However, I am also involved with many other organizations on campus, which include Shadow’s yearbook and Greeklife as a proud sister of Zeta Tau Alpha. Therefore, not only am I qualified for SGA, but I can also identify with the perspectives of other clubs outside of SGA, which helps me to better represent the student body. As Vice President, my main focus for 2011-2012 would be to continue to improve and expand our spirit initiatives on campus, ensure that we have enough funding to meet all clubs and organizations’ needs, including club sports, so that every student can be involved in what they are passionate about, and most importantly continue to reach out and listen to what the student body wants. As students, Monmouth is our University and should serve the needs of the students. If elected Vice President, I would be dedicated to reaching out and bringing positive change to Monmouth that the students want. My passion is Monmouth and SGA, if you elect me, I will use my dedication and leadership skills to make your passions possible. Thank you and vote for J.Reed!



JACKIE REED



OSCAR SANCHEZ

A vote for Oscar for SGA Vice President is a vote for opportunity. Opportunity to get involved in the decisions that affect the Monmouth students, opportunity to make sure your voice is not only heard, but listened to, and ultimately, the opportunity to make the changes that YOU deserve. With me as your Vice President, the opportunities are endless, because I recognize that it’s not my duty to speak as an individual, but to lead our students as a unit. The purpose of SGA is to serve the students as best as we can. My focus for next year is to make the Monmouth University students aware of the power you all have and get you to act upon it. Whether or not you knew it, you’re already apart of SGA. Just for coming to this University, you’ve earned your right to get involved, speak your mind, and improve the world around you. It’s time to use it! I could clutter this statement with things I want to see changed, but it’s not my sole organization to decide what’s important and what’s not, it’s all of ours. I consider myself a blank slate, open to hearing about ways to improve. The 30 elected senators are representatives of their respective groups, and should serve as liaisons rather than individuals. As an involved member on campus as a Resident Assistant, Peer Learning Assistant, Orientation Leader, treasurer of RHA, and events programming chair of SGA, I know a vast majority of the offices and departments on this campus. These positions have allowed me to establish connections with people that affect students every day. If students want something to change, they need to know who to go to in order for that to occur. As Vice President, I will provide students with those connections, giving them that opportunity. Napoleon once said, “Ability is of little account without opportunity.” With your vote, we will have the ability to make the change we want. Vote for Opportunity. Vote for Oscar.



Do you think it is important to learn another language?

COMPILED BY: ROBYN FLYNN



Pat senior

"I think it is important and helpful in today's society because of globalization."



Harsha freshman

"I don't think it is important."



Shane sophomore

"I think people should learn one because of the way businesses run today."



Brian junior

"I've tried and failed but I do think it's important because it increases career flexibility."



Kyle sophomore

"It would make traveling easier and is good to know in case of an emergency."



Cyrus freshman

"Yes, I think it is important because it expands your horizons."



Will freshman

"It would be cool to be able to communicate with more people."



Challenga senior

"I think it's important because it opens you up to more cultures."



Chris senior

"I think it is very important because our country is so diverse."



Kelly junior

"I'm trilingual, I think it is very important because a lot of jobs are based in other languages."

Campus Activities This Week

wednesday, april 6

Club & Department Photo Day
My Child is Transgendered: Karina Mari 2:30-4pm Afflitto
Stuff n' Fluff "Build a Critter" 2-4pm RSSC Patio

thursday, april 7

Residence Life Open House 7pm Start location: Mullaney
Roommate Wanted 8pm Mullaney Lounge
Yoga 9pm Cedar Basement
Gabriel Iglesias 8:30pm Pollak Theatre - Buy Your Ticket!

friday, april 8

10th Global Understanding Convention Ends
Summer School Applications Due
Senior Exhibition: Opening, Fine Art 7pm 800/Ice House Gallery
Movie: I Love You Phillip Morris 7pm & 11pm Oakwood Lounge
Stars and Smore's 8pm Res. Quad - Weather Pending

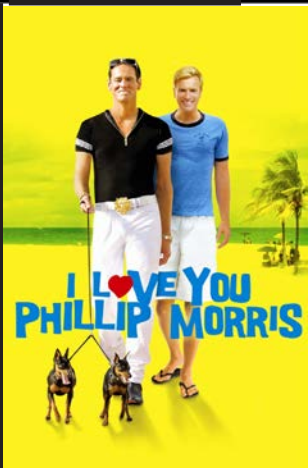
saturday, april 9

Shuttle to Red Bank Birch Hall circle 11am-6pm
Le Comte Ory - Rossini 1pm Pollak Theatre
International Festival 7pm Anacon
April Showers - May Flowers 7pm Res. Quad
Movie: Blue Valentine 7pm & 11pm Oakwood Lounge

sunday, april 10

Klezmer Musicians: The Klezmatics 3pm Pollak Theatre

FREE SHUTTLE
Red Bank
Saturday - Departs:
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11am - 6pm
on a loop



Showings are in
Oakwood
Lounge @
7 & 11 PM



April 8
I Love You
Phillip Morris

WEEKEND
MOVIES

April 9
Blue
Valentine
Free
Admission &
Popcorn



All Lifestyles Included club
2:30pm, Mullaney Lounge
SAB 3:30pm, Carol Afflitto Conf. Room
SGA 2:30pm, SGA Suite
Enviromental Club 3pm, 3rd floor RSSC
IRA 7:30pm, McAllan Hall 123

Meetings Cont.

Tuesdays
CommWorks: 2:30pm Plangere 235
Thursdays
Friends of Socrates 11:30am McAllan, #230

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Coach Gaitley Released From Contract; Takes Head Coach Position at Fordham

BRETT BODNER
MANAGING EDITOR

On Thursday evening, March 31, Head Coach of the Women’s Basketball Team, Stephanie Gaitley, requested to be released early from her contract in order to take the head coaching job at Fordham University.

Gaitley will be returning to the Atlantic 10 Conference, where she coached before with Richmond University from 1985-1991 and St. Joseph’s from 1992-2001.

According to senior Gena Broadus, saying good-bye to their coach was very emotional when Gaitley addressed the team

couple of days. There were certain circumstances that came into play in this decision, but there are no hard feelings on either side. I still love my players and they’re my players for life. I’d still do anything for each and every one of them,” said Gaitley.

It was very clear how the former coach felt about her players. Tony Graham, staff writer for the *Asbury Park Press*, wrote an article on the Hawks Nest blog expressing how much he disagreed with what occurred between the University and Gaitley.

“Under Gaitley MU women’s hoops, I believe, was about to

what Graham said.

“Her leaving could set the program back a lot. She brought in a lot of good recruits and had that team heading in a direction of definite NCAA Tournament berths,” said Kruzitz. “I can’t say enough about how great of a person she is. She is a loving mom and a completely genuine person.”

President Paul Gaffney II will join Dr. Marilyn McNeil in finding a suitable replacement for Gaitley, who will attempt to keep the women’s basketball moving in the right direction. Whoever the next coach is, is going to have some pretty big shoes to fill.

She was hired by the University because she is a renowned instructor of the game and is one of the most personable coaches in the game. Gaitley brought with her a winning attitude that she displayed both on and off the court.

“Coach Gaitley is the most passionate and devoted person I know to the game of basketball. We all know that she loves us and respects us not only as basketball players, but as people,” said senior forward Elizabeth Kudirka. She’s done an amazing job taking Monmouth women’s basketball to the next level, and I know that she’ll continue to do great things wherever life takes her.”

There have been speculations as to why Coach Gaitley chose to leave the University. However, none could be confirmed or denied as McNeil was away at the women’s Final Four in Indianapolis, making her unavailable for comment for this article.

“I’m very grateful for the time I spent at Monmouth and for the relationships I built with the team. I wish them all nothing but the best in their futures and I believe they will still continue to be successful,” said Gaitley.



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics

Stephanie Gaitley had a 57-37 record here at the University and helped guide the Hawks to the NEC Championship game this season.

“She was like a mom to all of us and it really is sad to see her leave. We know how much she loves us and she knows how much we love her. We wish her the best and she will be sorely missed.”

GENA BROADUS
Senior Forward

for the last time and both her and the players shed tears. “She was like a mom to all of us and it really is sad to see her leave. We know how much she loves us and she knows how much we love her. We wish her the best and she will be sorely missed.”

Broadus added that the team will stay in contact with Gaitley and she will keep in touch with them in the future.

Gaitley had a record of 57-37 in her three year tenure as Head Coach of the Hawks. This season, the Hawks finished second overall in the NEC and a berth in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament. She helped build the program back into a winning program in just three seasons.

“It’s been a very emotional

at last become relevant on campus and in the community. You never say never, but I have to wonder when or if it will have that opportunity again,” said Graham. “After all, it only took from 1987 to 2011 to post 23 win seasons. I rest my case. Marilyn McNeil has allowed her stated dream of going to the NCAAs in women’s basketball to walk out the door. Again just my opinion - a very, very bad move here by MU.”

Graham also added that he believes that Fordham will reach the NCAA Tournament under Gaitley before the Hawks do under their next head coach.

Former men’s basketball manager Charles Kruzitz was close with Gaitley, and agrees with

King Rice Introduced as New Men’s Basketball Head Coach

Rice continued from pg. 1

rience,” said McNeil before Rice was introduced last Wednesday afternoon.

Rice stepped up to the podium and said that he was going to do his best not to cry, because his son had bet him that he would be in tears within two minutes.

Rice touched on several different ideas in the press conference including his goals and the current status of the team.

“I am optimistic that we can find success with the very team we have right now, and although I don’t know them yet, I’ve watched tapes and they never hang their heads and always play strong. There’s going to be five seniors on the team, so there’s no reason to suspect we can’t be atop the NEC next year,” said Rice.

One of the biggest issues with the team over the past few seasons has been player academics. Rice addressed the problem and stressed that it is academics that

come first before on court play. “I will always look for kids to smile, on and off the court, and in the classroom, which is a main focus because there can be no other way. The kids can’t just breeze by because the staff’s not full to get on their back, and if we don’t go to class we will be running at 5:00 am,” said Rice.

Not only does Rice report to

A lot of coaches will say don’t set the bar too high. Well, I’m a guy that’s going to set the bar high and I’m going to get after it. I want to be at the top and I’m not afraid to say that.”

KING RICE
Head Coach

bring a new attitude on academics, but he also said he will bring an entirely new system of plays.

“I’m a defensive-minded guy, coming from my playing days at UNC and intend to shut people down on and off the ball. Offensively, I will use many of the principles of Coach Stallings’ (Vanderbilt) offense, with as much as 85 set plays if need be,” said Rice.

He aims to use an aggressive man-to-man defense, in order to

extend the floor. As mentioned, he will use a system similar to Vanderbilt, which consists of getting the ball up the court as quickly as possible and taking the best shot the players can when it is available. This system allowed Vanderbilt to average over 80 points in the past five seasons.

There are high hopes around the University that Rice will be able lead the men’s basketball team back to the ways of winning. Next year, there will be five seniors on the team, which is something Rice feels could lead the team to success next season.

“If you watch the NCAA tournament, you watch the teams with the older guys have the success. Why shouldn’t that be our team next year?” said Rice. “A lot of coaches will say don’t set the bar too high. Well, I’m a guy that’s going to set the bar high and I’m going to get after it. I want to be at the top and I’m not afraid to say that.”

NCAA Self Study in Progress

PRESS RELEASE

In order to compete in NCAA Division I Athletics, a college or university’s athletics program must achieve and maintain certification with the NCAA. As part of this process, Division I programs are required to prepare a self study once every ten years.

The purpose of certification is to provide a means to open the affairs of athletics to the university community and the public. Standards or operating principles have been established for Division I athletics programs that address governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity, gender and diversity issues and student-athlete well-being.

The self study process is intended to provide institutions with an opportunity to involve the campus community in a review of the athletics program that identifies the things that are being done well while also pointing out the opportunities for improvement.

Nearly 80 individuals have been preparing the self study report since fall 2010. Members include University Trustees, faculty, administrators, students, student-athletes, donors and alumni. The report will be submitted to the NCAA on April 29, 2011. A copy of the draft report is available for public review and comment. The report can be accessed at www.monmouth.edu/ncaa.

Comments can be emailed to the following email account – ncaa@monmouth.edu.

Please provide comments before Tuesday April 12 in order for them to be considered in preparing the final report.

An Open Forum will also be held on Monday April 11 in the Multipurpose Activity Center Blue/White Club at 9:00 am.

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Women’s Lacrosse Defeats Wagner for 16th Straight Game

DARIA DELUCCIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth University (7-3) succeeded in another win against Wagner University (2-7) by margin of 14-7 at Friday afternoon’s women’s lacrosse game, continuing their undefeated 16-0 streak against the Seahawks.

Since it was a Northeast Conference game, there was extra pressure to win in order for Monmouth to stay a top of the conference. “We need to stay ahead in the conference. The goal this year is to host the NEC conference finals,” stated junior Olivia Salata.

The Hawks started off the game strong with two goals within the first five minutes. Sophomore Tori Jordan scored the first goal only four minutes into the game, while junior Erica Abendschoen followed up with another goal a mere 17 seconds later. Wagner’s Sam Morin quickly answered the first two goals a minute later, followed by another sudden goal by Annie O’Connor.

According to Head Coach, Denise Wescott, “The plan for this game is to stop numbers 10 and 16. Overall we started the season off better but we need to make sure we produce more in this game and continue the season with more wins.”

Junior Sam Lillo who had three draw controls throughout the game, regained the lead bringing the Hawks ahead 3-2 with 20 minutes of play still left in the first half. Within the next ten minutes, Wag-

ner scored a consistent four more goals, including two free position shots.

That, however, did not stop The Hawks desire for a win. Within the last four minutes of the half, Monmouth scored three more goals, Salata with two and Jordan with her second goal of the game, ending the half in a tie.

Starting off the second half, both the offense and defense came out ready and driven to continue their undefeated streak against the Seahawks. One minute into the second half, senior Rachel Feirstein scored two goals within 38 seconds of each other. Six minutes later, Wagner’s Carolyn Clark scored the Seahawks only goal of the second half.

After halftime it was clear that the team came out determined to finish this game with a win. “We started off a bit sloppy and slow in the beginning, but we picked it up in the second half,” said sophomore Gianna D’Urso, who is one of the top team leaders for caused turnovers with 12 so far this season.

Throughout the final 22 minutes of the game, The Hawks triumphed over the Seahawks defense with six more shots to secure their 16th consecutive win against Wagner. Abendschoen scored two more goals, Lillo and freshman Allison Heath with one goal each, and Feirstein with two more goals, making her the top scorer of the game with 4 goals.

Having an undefeated record against Wagner is a major accomplishment for the University,



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics

Olivia Salata had a career best five points on Saturday afternoon with two goals and three assists.

including a 7-0 record all-time at home. “It feels great to keep the tradition alive and to keep this going every year,” declared Salata. “Wagner always has it out for us. There’s no messing around with them, we always need to come out strong.”

Senior goalie Kirby Mundorf, who struggled in the first half, came back strong after halftime with

seven saves making this her seventh win of the season. Prior to this game Mundorf was ranked second in the NCAA for her save percentage of .532, 13th in goals against average (8.00), and is ranked 5th in saves per game in the NEC with 9.11.

“Our main goal for the rest of the season is to win the rest of our games and play more consistent.

We need to make sure we are one of the four teams going into the playoffs,” stated Wescott.

With this win under their belts, the team looks ahead to hosting another Northeast Conference game against Long Island on Sunday, and their last non- conference match of the season against Rutgers on Tuesday.

Baseball Team Improves NEC Record to 8-4

DAN GUNDERMAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Starting off the new week, the baseball team traveled to Jersey City last Tuesday afternoon, to take on Saint Peter’s College. Although the matchup was a non-conference game the Hawks were eagerly looking for a victory to bring their record closer to .500.

The Saint Peter’s Peacocks, took a large lead early on in the game. This included a four run deficit only in the second inning. The game remained one-sided until the fourth when MU started its comeback.

In that inning, Cal Costanzo and Owen Stewart reached base. Soon after, clutch freshman infielder Jake Gronsky brought home Costanzo on a RBI single. The Hawk comeback would not be limited to just that one run, as in the fifth inning, they would score another three runs. Owen Stewart scored on a walk and then Gronsky again came through with a single, scoring Nick Pulsonetti and Ryan Terry.

Following this three run barrage, MU would further extend its scoring spree and take a lead the following inning. Mike Pearson, the SPC first baseman, mishandled a Ryan Terry grounder, allowing freshman Jon Guida to score.

But the good fortune wouldn’t continue for MU, which saw four runs scored against them in the seventh. An Ariel Rodriguez RBI double scored one, a Preston Alldridge single scored another and a Brian Schroeder RBI double gave SPC two more, effectively making the score 8-5. Although the Hawks put up a fight in this one, the tides would remain against them and they would drop the game by that very score.

John McDonald, the MU starter,

went six and a third and struck out five, but Nick McNamara, coming out of the bullpen was credited with the loss. SPC’s Kevin Croucher earned the win in his four innings of solid pitching for the Peacocks.

Offensively, the Hawks were led by Jake Gronsky. “He has played very well and continues to develop, as all freshmen do,” says Coach Dean Ehehalt. Although MU has seen its share of tight games this season, this game did not seemingly slip away. Coach Ehehalt commented “We did not play solid defense and it made things more difficult.” Although the loss set the Hawks record at two games below .500 (9-11), Ehehalt is confident the Hawks will bounce back from it.

The following day in West Long Branch, the Hawks were set to take on Columbia, and again were out for a win to draw closer to that .500 mark. Starting off on the right note, MU batted through its entire lineup in the first inning, showing an impressive offensive side. In that inning, they scored five runs and earned six hits. Inning highlights include a Jake Gronsky single scoring Jamie Rosenkranz who reached on a triple, Ryan Terry’s first homerun of the season, and Tim Bickford’s sac-fly, and Jon Guida had an RBI single. The early five run lead gave MU the confidence they needed to hold onto the victory, as in the fourth, Jake Gronsky earned another RBI for his season total on another sac-fly.

In the sixth, Jake Gronsky got a double which scored Jon Guida and Josh Boyd. Gronsky would later score on an Ed Martin base hit. At this point, the scoring offensive led to Monmouth grabbing an impressive nine run lead. The only time Columbia got on board was in the seventh when

Alexander Auricchio hit a grand slam. But even this four run surge could not get Columbia back into the game, as behind the four-RBI performance of Jake Gronsky, the Hawks would win 9-4. Chris Perret got his first win of the season in this dominant MU showing and closer Andrew McGee even saw some work on the day.

Just a few days later in their next scheduled weekend series, Monmouth took on Central Connecticut State. Saturday’s doubleheader went extremely well for Monmouth, who swept both games in the crucial NEC matchup. Going from one game under .500 to one above the Hawks were full of confidence for their Sunday matinees versus CCSU.

Game one saw a completely dominant performance put on by Nick Meyers, who went seven and a two thirds innings of no-run baseball. Along the way he sat down eight Central Connecticut players as well. CCSU pitcher Todd Savatsky got into a jam early on as freshman Jake Gronsky reached base with a single and Ryan Terry got a double. But he would work out of the mess with two straight outs, keeping the game scoreless.

The game was one-sided until the fifth inning when Josh Boyd scored on a Jamie Rosenkranz triple. The freshman infielder Jake Gronsky, who has been on fire of late, soon earned a double, scoring Rosenkranz.

Following an eighth inning single off of Nick Meyers, Matt Frazier came into the game as his replacement from the pen. Following a walk, reliable relief pitcher Andrew McGee came in an earned an impressive strikeout. Following that series of events in the eight with the pitching changes, McGee would return in the ninth and earn another save; his fourth on the

season. Savatsky earned the loss and Meyers picked up an impressive win in the afternoon bout.

In the next game, the Hawks threatened in the first but were silenced by two strikeouts by CCSU. The Blue Devils scored in the third inning though, as Jake Matuszak had an RBI single scoring AJ Lowers. But the Hawks were quick to respond, as Ryan Terry scored following a high-action play at second base where CCSU missed the tag on Nick Pulsonetti. In the sixth, Matt Frazier came in the game in a sticky situation, but facing pinch hitter Tyler McIntyre, he recorded a strikeout and got MU out of a huge jam.

MU took a lead in the sixth, when Owen Stewart scored on a CCSU error while Jamie Rosenkranz was at the place and eventually reached base. In the seventh, Ryan Terry reached base and came home on an Ed Martin opposite field dagger that proved to eventually be the difference in the game.

In the seventh, the Blue Devils managed a squeeze a run off of reliever Andrew McGee, but they were able to handle the CCSU comeback. Ed Martin’s hit proved to be a game winner and his performance even proved to have two of the Hawks’ three RBIs. They went on to win 3-2 to seal off the sweep.

Andrew McGee took the win in his inning of work but Dan Smith was the star pitcher of the night while going five and two thirds innings and striking out six.

On Sunday, another two games were set with CCSU, and this time, the Hawks split the afternoon’s events. In game one, the Blue Devils started early, getting an RBI single off of MU starter Pat Light. But traditional Hawk play saw them soon threaten the Blue Devils, as Rosenkranz,

Grosky and Terry reached base. But Nick Nuemann then impressively struck out the side to end the inning.

A fifth inning sac fly increased CCSU’s lead and Jake Matuszak’s RBI single in the sixth the Hawks farther and farther behind. The lead for the Blue Devils would reach 4-0, as a passed ball allowed another runner to score. Although going six innings for the Hawks, Pat Light got the loss, and his record fell to 1-4 on the season. Nuemann threw a complete game shutout for the Blue Devils in his clutch performance for CCSU.

In the second game of the set, the Hawks scored in the first off of a Danny Avella double play. Gronsky then scored on a wild pitch while Owen Stewart was at the plate. A fourth inning low throw to first allowed Cal Costanzo and Jon Guida to score and by then they had a four run advantage. CCSU cut into the lead the next inning on an RBI single and a sac-fly. In the fifth, Owen Stewart had an RBI groundout and Ed Martin had an RBI single pushing the lead to 6-2.

In the sixth, CCSU managed seven runs off of Monmouth following three errors and MU’s lead quickly evaporated. But the seventh inning proved to help MU, as three runs quickly came across the plate. Following a double steal by Chris Perret and Jon Guida, the Hawks managed to squeeze a run across which proved to be the decisive moment of the game. Stephen Frey picked up his first career win in this back-to-back battle and Matt Frazier earned the save. For CCSU, Nick Boyd took the loss in relief.

The Hawks will continue action Tuesday in a matchup versus the professional club the Lakewood Blue Claws, which should draw a nice crowd and be a nice change of pace and a test for the MU club.



Going Their **SEPARATE** **WAYS**



Women's basketball Head Coach Stephanie Gaitley asked to be released from her contract in order to take the same position at Fordham University.

Full Story on page 22